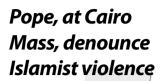


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Defiant North Korea test-fires ballistic missile



Marcelo rescues Madrid; Ronaldo misses penalty



TONS OF DEAD FISH LITTER Min KUWAIT'S BEACHES, BAY



28° Max 36° **High Tide** 03:01 & 13:50 Low Tide 08:33 & 21:16

'Don't buy fish from Unlicensed, Unofficial Outlets'



By Badriya Darwish

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salute the decision by the Ministry of Interior to start military conscription for Kuwaitis who turn 18. The decision was taken in 2015, but will be implemented from May 10. It's a big move for young people in Kuwait.

Instead of speeding in their cars on Gulf Road or sitting around cafes smoking shisha, developing bad habits and killing time, they will get realworld military training, and hopefully some personal discipline. When I see the way many of the youth here behave in the malls or on the streets, I say it's good - let them be recruited and trained.

But there are some things on the other hand to be considered. Firstly, it's premature to judge the system or the training and especially the quality of what these young men are expected to learn. Will it be the quality of Sandhurst or West Point? Will these young men emerge one year from now with a clear sense of responsibility



Photo shows thousands of dead fish washed ashore along Kuwait beach near Doha area.

UAE BATTLE-HARDENED MILITARY EXPANDS INTO AFRICA, MIDEAST

ter known for its skyscrapers and pampered luxuries, but its small size belies a quiet expansion of its battle-hardened Its new overseas bases on the African military into Africa and elsewhere in the continent show this country, which US Middle East. The seven-state federation ranks as one of Washington's most prominent Arab allies in the fight against the Islamic State group, hosting some 5,000 American military personnel, fighter jets and drones.

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates is bet- muscle amid its suspicions about Iran. Already, the UAE has landed expeditionary forces in Afghanistan and Yemen. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis calls "Little

By Meshaal Al-Enezi, Agencies

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) has detected considerable number of dead fish on the beaches and within

Kuwait Bay - urging Environment Public Authority (EPA) to act and stop the dumping of sewage water into the bay. PAAAFR said over five tons of dead fish were removed from Kuwait beaches.

Continued on Page 13



towards their country and to themselves? Are we going to see all strata of society participating? Or will some use wasta and connections to avoid conscription?

Secondly, will these conscripts be allowed to serve past the mandatory one year if they choose and make it a career for themselves? Or is it only a yearlong program and bye-bye? Because once you bring back men who have served in the military, it's not always easy to fit

them into civil service or the private sector. Men who learn military ways often find it difficult to adapt and integrate into civilian life.

Thirdly, we don't know if many of these young men would be planning to continue their education at university. Won't this one year of service disrupt their enthusiasm for higher education? Already, we are suffering from having too few college-educated young men in Kuwait. We don't want to discourage young men from becoming bankers, engineers, doctors, lawyers, mechanics, etc.

Also, some men who serve in the military adopt a mentality of total obedience to authority. So will the entire Kuwaiti nation stop questioning and criticizing its leadership in generations to come? Will we even have a parliament 20 years from now? Anyway, most developed, industrialized nations such as Japan, UK, Germany, France and Canada either don't have conscription or have abolished like Sweden. it, Nevertheless, it's not a bad idea to instill some discipline and contain these young men, but I hope that the standards and quality of training will be up to what Kuwait needs for now and the future. Only time will tell.

But the practice gunfire echoing through the deserts near bases outside of Dubai and recent military demonstrations in the capital of Abu Dhabi show a country increasingly willing to flex its own

Sparta," has even larger ambitions.

Protectorate to protector

The UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms, only became a country in 1971. It had been a British protectorate for decades and several of the emirates had their own security forces. The forces merged together into a national military Continued on Page 13

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The people are peers in human dignity and have, in the eyes of the Law, equal public rights and obligations. There shall be made no differentiation among them because of race, origin, language or religion.

- Article (29) -





Article29_kwt



SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017



By Muna Al-Fuzai

Local Spotlight

muna@kuwaittimes.net

e Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) confirmed the discovery of significant quantities of dead fish, demanding that the Environment Public Authority pays attention to Kuwait Bay, which is the second largest incubator of fish wealth in the world, and follow up the harmful materials that are dumped in the sewers.

Kuwait Bay, also known as 'Jon Al-Kuwayt' and where Kuwait city is located on its shores, is suffering from an environmental problem that needs attention and quick serious action. Kuwait Bay has several major activities existing around it, including commercial and industrial ones, and all these factors have led to the existence of pollution, thus creating major change in the features of this area and the water, which led to the death of fish in several occasions.

I believe that the phenomenon of fish death is not new in the world, but the recurrence of it at the same place means there is a flaw and need for treatment. This condition also raises concerns about the presence of toxic substances in the marine environment that threatens fish and human health. In Kuwait we, rely on seawater to eat, drink and shower.

We all recall the most famous incident of fish death that hit the waters of Kuwait Bay in 2001, which led to the death of over three thousand tons of fish, as estimated at that time. We should not allow that to happen again. The reasons for the collective death of fish vary between natural and human causes; which happen primarily due to the impact of human activities and erroneous environmental practices through the discharge of human, agricultural, industrial and other pollutants directly into coastal waters without treatment, which may lead to accumulation of toxins and death of fish.

For example, Sulaibikhat Bay (the southwest sector of the bay) is the most vulnerable area due to its exposure to anthropocentric activities such as reclamation, sewage inflow and other activities. The area near Shuwaikh Port is suffering also due to reclamation processes. Right now, there is a decision to prevent fishing in the vicinity of Kuwait Bay so fishermen cannot be accused of getting rid of fish by throwing it back in the gulf. The International Journal of Environmental Science and Development, Vol 5, No 6, December 2014 Issued an Environmental Assessment of Water Quality in Kuwait Bay prepared by N Al-Mutairi, A Abahussain, and A Al-Battay - chapter IV 'conclusions and recommendations.' It clearly mentioned that Kuwait Bay is suffering from different kinds of pollutions either from local or regional sources. Most significant influencing factors are desalination and power plants, and sewage outlets along the southern coast of Kuwait Bay. This study is really worth looking at and evaluate the status of Kuwait Bay before it is too late.

MP Khalil Al-Saleh said recently that the issue of fish death on the coast requires a serious action by the government, announcing the adoption of the Parliamentary Environment Committee of a proposal to investigate the case. He pointed out that the relationship between increasing rates of cancer in Kuwait and water poisoning and environmental pollution should be studied. I believe that this matter is urgent and must not pass without study and investigation. I hope the parliament committee will reveal the reasons of the recent deaths of fish.









KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality carried out a campaign recently to clean the Kuwait Bay beach from tons of dead fish washed ashore after being killed due to rising pollution rates in the area.

SEARCH FOR NEW GARBAGE **CONTAINER INCINERATOR**

KUWAIT: Following the arrest of a GCC national and a bedoon for setting fire to 30 garbage containers in Jahra a while ago, another unknown incinerator set fire to 16 more dumpsters within two days, said security sources. They noted that investigations are in progress to identify the new incinerator after discovering that he was connected to the previous one and used the same mixture of drugs found with the prime suspect (methamphetamine). Detectives added that search was in progress for the main supplier of the mixture, who apparently had the arsons committed for distraction to allow other pushers to sell the drugs they had.

Drug possession

Detectives recently arrested a citizen and two women (a citizen and an Iranian) with the possession of 47 illicit pills in Salmiya, said security sources, noting that the three suspects were already drugged on arrest. Meanwhile, a GCC national was recently arrested in Saad Al-Anbdullah area with the possession of 35 packets of methamphetamine and heroin, said security sources.

DUI

Two female citizens were recently arrested for dinking, driving under the influence and possessing of alco-

Crackdowns

Several inspection campaigns were launched over the weekend in various governorates and resulted in arresting 57 people (including citizens and expats) who are wanted for financial claims worth over KD 500,000, said security sources.

Theft

A Jordanian couple were recently arrested for begging in a shopping mall, said security sources, noting that the suspects claimed they were Emiratis who had arrived for tourism but lost all their money, which made so many citizens sympathize with them because they were 'GCC nationals'. Detectives explained that a lot of complaints were made about a man, woman and kid using a vehicle with a UAE license plate number, and asking passersby for KD 50 to fuel up. The suspect reportedly asked the donors for their bank account numbers so that he could wire the money back when he returned to UAE. However, following a two-day surveillance, the suspects were arrested and detectives found out that they were Jordanians residing in UAE and spoke the dialect well. A case was filed.

HOSPITALS PREPARED FOR ASTHMA CASES DURING DUSTY WEATHER

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health (MOH) yesterday declared a state of alert in all casualty centers at public hospitals, and prepared them to receive and treat patients suffering from asthmas who might be affected by the current dusty weather. MOH stressed in a statement that minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi had issued clear instructions to all ministry facilities to be fully prepared to deal with any possible cases. The ministry also advised both citizens and expats, namely those with asthmas or respiratory diseases to stay indoors and avoid the dust.

Food tested

Commenting on social media reports about pesticideinfected fruits and vegetable allegedly imported from some Arab states to Kuwait, Kuwait Municipality announced taking some samples from Sulaibiya market in order to have them tested in its food labs and make sure they were safe for human consumption. The results are to be announced at a later date.

Inaccurate reports

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's (MSAL) Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Abdul Aziz Shuaib stressed that the ministry is committed to executing and respecting court orders. He also criticized media reports claiming that the appeals court had annulled Siddiq Coop Society's board elections for manipulation,

hol, said security sources, noting that a highway patrol officer had noticed a vehicle being driven in an unsteady course and dangerously changing lanes. When he ordered the driver to pull the vehicle over, he noticed that both she and her companion were inebriated while the smell of alcohol was emitting from inside. They also possessed two bottles of imported liquor and KD 3,460 in cash. The suspects said that they were returning from a party in a chalet.

Officer insulted

An Iraqi man was recently apprehended for resisting arrest and insulting an environment police offcer who had stopped his companion for smoking inside a shopping mall, said security sources. They noted that the suspect snatched away his friend's ID from the officer's hands and threatened him, claiming to have been working for the police force for 15 years.

- Translated from the Arabic press

adding that the reports are inaccurate.

Great loss

Chairman of Kuwait Farmers Union Barrak Al-Sabeeh stressed that referring the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources' (PAAFRA) Deputy Director for Fauna Affairs Faisal Al-Siddiqi retirement is a 'great loss' for the entire sector because he is a rare expert in agricultural affairs with a long career and experience.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality workers closed two stores and issued 30 citations during recent crackdowns on restaurants and shops in Sharq.



KUWAIT TIMES WEEKLY COMMODITY PRICES SURVEY

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: In 2014, Kuwait Times started a campaign to investigate the price change of some basic commodities starting a month prior to the holy month of Ramadan. The weekly survey covers the prices of seven different kinds of commodities (per kilogram) bought from a co-op society, for the purpose of comparing the prices on a weekly basis. These are popular items whose prices usually increase during Ramadan. This year, we also added eggs and milk to the previous list which contains: Minced meat, chicken, tomatoes, lemons, and cucumbers.

When comparing the prices registered last Thursday with the **This year we added two other items:** prices registered in the survey conducted on May 2014, we noticed that the price of most commodities has increased, except for lemons and cucumbers.

The prices of the items are as follows:

- One kg of fresh minced meat (beef) costs KD 2.750
- One kg of fresh Saudi chicken costs KD 1.760
- One kg of local tomatoes costs 550 Fils
- One kg of African lemons costs 660 Fils
- One kg of local cucumbers costs 50 Fils

- One liter local milk (KDCow) 430 Fils
- One carton of eggs containing 30 eggs KD 1.100

Kuwait Times will be following the prices of these foodstuff, in order to check if any increase occurred during this period and until the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. Follow Kuwait Times next week to read the next investigation report.

The prices are the same in all coops for the same kind and brand, but may differ in other supermarkets. Also, coops hold weekly food festivals, including special discounts on fruits and vegetables for one day a week.

HOUSING MINISTER PREPARES TO FACE GRILLING MOTION NEW ELECTRICITY RATES, DATES REMAIN UNCHANGED

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yasser Abul continued preparations to discuss the grilling motion filed against him by MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri, as he met with Public Authority for Housing Welfare officials to prepare answers to all inquiries. Well-informed sources said that Abul would brief the cabinet on his opinion about those inquiries and that he would be ready for the motion after discussing the grillings filed against His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The sources added that Muwaizri inquired about allegations of financial violations in certain contracts. Meanwhile, the housing authority will declare the name of the company that won a contract to provide consultancy services for road grids and infrastructure at South Sabah al-Ahmed City project in June.

Educational directors

The Ministry of Education's (MOE) administrative sector recently addressed the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) request to appoint directors for the six educational areas after reducing their deputation period from three years to one. MOE also requested reviewing the 'limited monthly payment' contracts signed with bedoons and others, requesting entitling them to fully paid annual leaves and maternity leaves similar to those given to other MOE employees.

Meanwhile, Minister of Education and Higher

Education Dr Mohammed Al-Fares received a letter from Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Faleh Al-Azab informing him of the parliament's approval of a proposal made by MP Dr Mohammed Hadi Al-Huwilah to build special training centers where teachers could receive special training courses on using modern technology in teaching, giving due care to teaching English and computer sciences starting with primary schools.

Disability allowance

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor And Minister of State For Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh stressed that the total number of non-Kuwaiti disabled children of Kuwaiti mothers registered with the disability authority were 1,352, and that they all receive all privileges as per law number 8/2008 including healthcare, education and vocational rights. Sabeeh added that the total number of those who deserve housing grants were 31,672, while there are 4,468 unemployed mothers taking care of disabled people and receive monthly aids as per decree number 23/ 2013. Sabeeh added that 12,273 disabled people received monthly allowances.

Sports corruption

MP Rakan Al-Nisf stressed the need to conduct an investigation concerning US allegations that Kuwaiti officials were involved in bribery and corruption cases in both the FIFA and the Asian Olympic Council. "Kuwait has to investigate how far those scandals are related to suspending Kuwait's international sports activities," he underlined, pointing to confessions made by FIFA's former auditing committee member and the chairman of Guam Federation about receiving briberies from Kuwaiti officials to affect the decisions made by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). "Those confessions include highly important information," he added, urging the public anti-corruption authority to investigate the matter.

Retirement

Ministry of Public Works' (MPW) Undersecretary Awatif Al-Ghuinaim said both citizens and expats who had been in service for 34 years would be referred to retirement by September. In another concern, Ghunaim said that MPW's technical committee had finished technical studies of biddings made to build a ministries complex in Jahra, and that the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) has been contacted with the name of the contractor who made the lowest bid of KD 329 million. Ghunaim added that statistics showed that the total number of expats working for MPW was 744, out of a total of 12,919 employees, that is only 5.7 percent, and that they received total monthly salaries of KD 406,396.

Electricity tariffs

The Ministry of Electricity and Water's (MEW) Undersecretary Mohammad Bousherhi explained that the new electricity fare would be 5 fils per megawatt and that it be in effect on May 22 in commercial buildings (shops and markets), August 22 in investment buildings (apartment buildings), November 22 in government sector (state departments) and February 22, 2018 in all other sectors. "Private houses will be fully exempted from the fare increase," he underlined, noting that citizens living in apartments rented in investment buildings would pay the new fare if they owned a private residence. Boushehri stressed that the parliament had refused a proposal to impose additional fares in private residences (government houses).

Livestock company

Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, as well as Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting







KUWAIT WITNESSES RACE TO PEAK OF HIGHEST SKYSCRAPER

PARIS: Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Sami Mohammad Al-Suleiman hosts Kuwaiti graduates from Science Po. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Some 550 young racers of vari- country's highest tower. Valuable awards

KUWAITI STUDENTS GRADUATE AS 'NGO LEADERS' FROM FRANCE'S SCIENCES PO

PARIS: In a solemn yet joyful ceremony Friday evening, some 18 Kuwaiti students received their diplomas and graduated - several with honors attesting to the ongoing commitment of the State of Kuwait to emphasize education as a cornerstone to youth development and the future of all our partner, the KFAS. — KUNA

of the nation. The ceremony was held at France's world-renowned Institute for Political Studies (IEP), commonly known as 'Sciences Po.'

The students took part in an intensive course here to prepare them to be future "leaders" in the non-governmental sector and continue Kuwait's long tradition of charitable and humanitarian work at home and abroad. The graduation ceremony was co-presided by Kuwaiti Ambassador to France, Sami Mohammad Al-Suleiman and Vanessa Scherrer, Vice-Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs at Sciences Po.

The graduating students "showed strong commitment to their courses", Scherrer said, and "are now equipped to move forward towards rewarding careers." In commencement remarks, she told graduates that "you succeed in life from hard work" but also "when you put passion into what you do. You are now NGO professionals and I am sure you will go very far in life."

"I want to congratulate you on your graduation ... You made it! This is your first link with Science Po. But I hope it won't be your last," Scherrer said. She emphasized that the current "batch of students" were not the only Kuwaitis at Science Po. and there were several others in graduate and undergraduate programs at the school, which is known in France as a springboard to high office and has been attended by most of France's political elite and many others in senior positions in government administration and elsewhere. The program followed by the students was under the aegis of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and Scherrer expressed her thanks and appreciation for the collaboration established between her Institute and the Kuwaiti entity. "I would like to thank first Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah will take part in the parliament's financial affairs committee's meeting today to discuss licensing the establishment of a Kuwaiti shareholding company to trade in livestock. In this regard, parliamentary sources said that the government still questions the economic value of a new livestock company, noting that the market does not need a new company as the current one was enough.

ous ages took part yesterday in the vertical marathon ending at peak of Kuwait's iconic

skyscraper Al-Hamra Tower in the capital. Following the four-hour race, the organizer Yousuf Al-Fares said that the number of the contestants in the race, held for the third year, doubled due to support from companies and national institutions that contributed with various prizes and services. The racers contested to the top of the were given to the winners till the fifth rank.

Ali Al-Mislem came first in the men's race. In the women, top winner was Aris Martinez. Ahmad Shalabi and Rami Shalabi won the competition for singles. Hamra Tower is tallest (440 m) building in Kuwait and the 23rd highest one in the world. The tower was included in the list of the best inventions of 2011 by TIME magazine. — KUNA



LOCAI

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017



PANTENE: Officials attend a ceremony marking the inauguration of two schools and laying corner stone of an orphanage house at the Kuwait Charitable Village. — KUNA

INDONESIA, KUWAIT COOPERATE MAINLY IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

PANTENE: Indonesia and Kuwait cooperate in diverse sectors chiefly humanitarian and charitable fields, said a Kuwaiti diplomat yesterday. Nasser Al-Khaldi, First Secretary at the Kuwaiti Embassy, said Kuwait since His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah assumed the top post, in 2006, has expanded its external humanitarian activities.

He was speaking at a ceremony marking inauguration of two schools and laying corner stone of an orphanage house at the Kuwait Charitable Village-run by the Kuwaiti-Indonesian Charitable Society, which operates under umbrella of the International Islamic Charity

Organization with contributions by Kuwaiti donors. The United Nations has called Kuwait a global humanitarian center and designated His Highness the Amir as leader of humanitarian action. Indonesia hosts a village for the 2004 tsunami victims, named after the late Amir Sheikh Jaber in Banda Aceh, another after the current Amir-in Western Java.

The First Secretary Al-Khaldi lauded the prime humanitarian role undertaken by the Kuwaiti-Indonesia relief association. Its chairman Ahmad Al-Holi, in a statement addressed on his behalf by the representative, Khalil Al-Ghaith, affirmed that the society seeks to support the Indonesian people. Saeed Mislem, director of the Kuwaiti Charitable Village in Pantene, indicated at another successful project, executed with Kuwaiti contributions; an academy that opened in 2005, accommodating 835 students.

The ceremony was attended by Sheikha Mariam Al-Sabah, spouse of the late Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and Sheikha Aisha Mubarak Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, leading Kuwaiti waqf officials as well as philanthropists. The Kuwaiti Charitable Village is located 60 kilometers from the capital Jakarta. It is run by the Kuwaiti-Indonesian society. — KUNA

KUWAIT'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS LAUDED IN LONDON

LONDON: Kuwait had reinforced its position in the international humanitarian field as a leader in this domain, earning the respect of the global community in return, said a report by a British entity Saturday. In its report 'An **Emerging Philanthropic Superpower?** Kuwaiti humanitarian efforts in Syria and beyond,' the Conservative Middle East Council (CMEC) said that Kuwait's efforts to establish itself as a world leader in humanitarian assistance should be admired.

According to the CMEC, the publication by Timothy Stafford, a former UK Parliamentary staffer who worked in the office of Theresa May prior to her ministerial career, showed how Kuwait-under the leadership of His Highness of the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah-has proved itself a global leader in humanitarian aid. The publication also revealed that Kuwait was now the third largest donor to the international effort to tackle the Syrian refugee crisis. Only the United States and United Kingdom, whose population and economies are far bigger, has given more generously.

The findings come just two weeks after the most recent Syrian pledging conference. Co-hosted by Kuwait, the country pledged an additional \$200 million in aid to help Syrian refugees over the next three years. The CMEC was established in 1980 as entity that helps conservative MPs to better understand matters connected with the Middle East region. —KUNA

ISLAMIC FORUM CALLS FOR ESTABLISHING WAQF ASSOCIATIONS

OXFORD: Participants in the eighth forum on waqf issues yesterday urged Muslim nations to establish waqf associations. The conferees in a statement at end of their gathering, held at Oxford Center for Islamic Studies, said states could supervise such associations, financial resources of which could be employed for funding education, research centers and vital activities - not financed by the state budget. They called for establishing a panel of scholars, auditors and economists to draft legislations for these associations.

They expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, President of Oxford University Lord Chris Patten and Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank Bandar Hajjar. Identical sentiments were addressed to the sponsor of the forum, the Kuwaiti Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri and the State of Kuwait ambassador the UK, Khaled Al-Duwaisan.

On Friday, Director of the center Dr

Farhan Nizami said that His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah played a critical role in supporting the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OCIS). He lauded Kuwait's role in supporting humanitarian and social projects around the globe, affirming that this effort displayed the GCC country's keenness on the welfare of the international community. OCIS has several prominent Kuwaiti figures within its board of trustees including former Foreign Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Dr Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah amongst others, said Dr Nizami, adding that the center, established in 1985, was recognized by the English Monarchy led by Queen Elizabeth II.

The scholarships and programs offered by the center play a huge role in spreading the good word about the religion of Islam and Kuwait, in this regard, is helping the OCIS to achieve this vital goal, said the Director. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah donated 10 million pounds in 2010 to help establish a building for the OCIS, a recognized independent center for the University of Oxford. - KUNA

KUWAITI TEAM ENDS HUMANITARIAN **MISSION IN SOMALILAND**



HARGEISA, Somalia: A Kuwaiti medical team yesterday concluded a humanitarian mission in Hargeisa, capital of Somaliland, with a package of generous aid for hospitals and charities. The Shifaa (healing) medical team declared 'sponsoring' and equipping a new building for children at the government hospital.

The team has also given donations to a relief association, for programs aimed at protecting natives from



HARGEISA, Somalia: Members of the Kuwaiti team returning from a humanitarian mission in Somaliland. — KUNA



epidemics and food parcels to more than 10,000 people in famine-stricken regions. Moreover, the team made a deal to equip an operations room at a hospital affiliated to the international charity, Al-Rahma.

They have also checked 600 patients in the region of Somaliland, Somalia, and provided medical supplies for them. They also provided a local hospital with medicines and medical equipment for more than 300 children. Somaliland is a self-declared state internationally recognized as an autonomous region of Somalia.

On Friday, the Kuwaiti medical team checked 600 patients in the region of Somaliland, Somalia, and provided medical supplies for them. The team was keen to treat a large number of patients in the region as it visited patients' houses, and paid for costs of their treatment. The team has provided a local hospital with medicines and medical equipment for more than 300 children

Meanwhile, health minister of Somaliland Soleeban Ahmad extolled Kuwait's humanitarian support for the region. Somaliland is a self-declared state internationally recognized as an autonomous region of Somalia For his part, Abdulmonem Tolba, head of an international hospital in Hargeisa, thanked the State of Kuwait for its key role in helping countries which are in distress.

On Thursday, the team, in collaboration with Kuwait's International Mercy Society, distributed humanitarian and food aid to a northern town in Somalia. It doled out about two tons of rice, floor and oil to needy families. Team's doctors examined many cases and paid for the costs of treating them. Different humanitarian cases in Somalia need intensifying governmental and non-governmental efforts to protect children from diseases, said Falah Al-Ajmi, a team member. — KUNA

OXFORD: The Oxford Center for Islamic Studies. — KUNA



Kuwaiti publications at the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies.

KUWAIT OPENS NEW SCHOOL IN HASSAN SHAM CAMP

new school in Hassan Sham camp for displaced Iraqis in western Irbil governorate, a Kuwaiti diplomat said yesterday. Kuwait's General Consul in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kanderi said that his country was keen on

their education despite the current circumstance in the country.

The school, which will cater to the needs of some 500 students, is the fourth facility funded by Kuwait

try will continue its mission to help Iraq as instructed by the Kuwaiti leadership and in cooperation with the Iragis and the authorities in Irag's Kurdistan. Kuwait recently opened several schools in Irbil and State (IS) in the city of Mosul. — KUNA

IRBIL: The State of Kuwait funded the opening of a enabling children of displaced Iraqis to continue in Irbil, said Kanderi who affirmed that the GCC coun- also helped provide necessities to some 20,000 Iraqi students in the governorate. The displaced Iraqis are feeling from operations carried by the Iraqi army and allies since late 2016 against the so-called Islamic



IRBIL: A new Kuwaiti school in Hassan Sham camp for displaced Iraqis. - KUNA

Kuwait 🗠 Times 🎫



In Brief

LIMITED FIRE AT UNIVERSITY

KUWAIT: A limited fire erupted in the complex of Sabah Al-Salem University City in Al-Shadadiyah on Friday. Kuwait University said in a statement that the fire broke out at a residential unit occupied by a contractor, however the blaze was put out in 15 minutes with the dousing canisters installed on site. The fire did not affect construction works at the site. The university complex is being built on a six million square meters plot of land. It will be the largest in the Middle East with an accommodation capacity of 40,000 students. —KUNA

Photo



'JUNIOR VOLUNTEER CLUB'

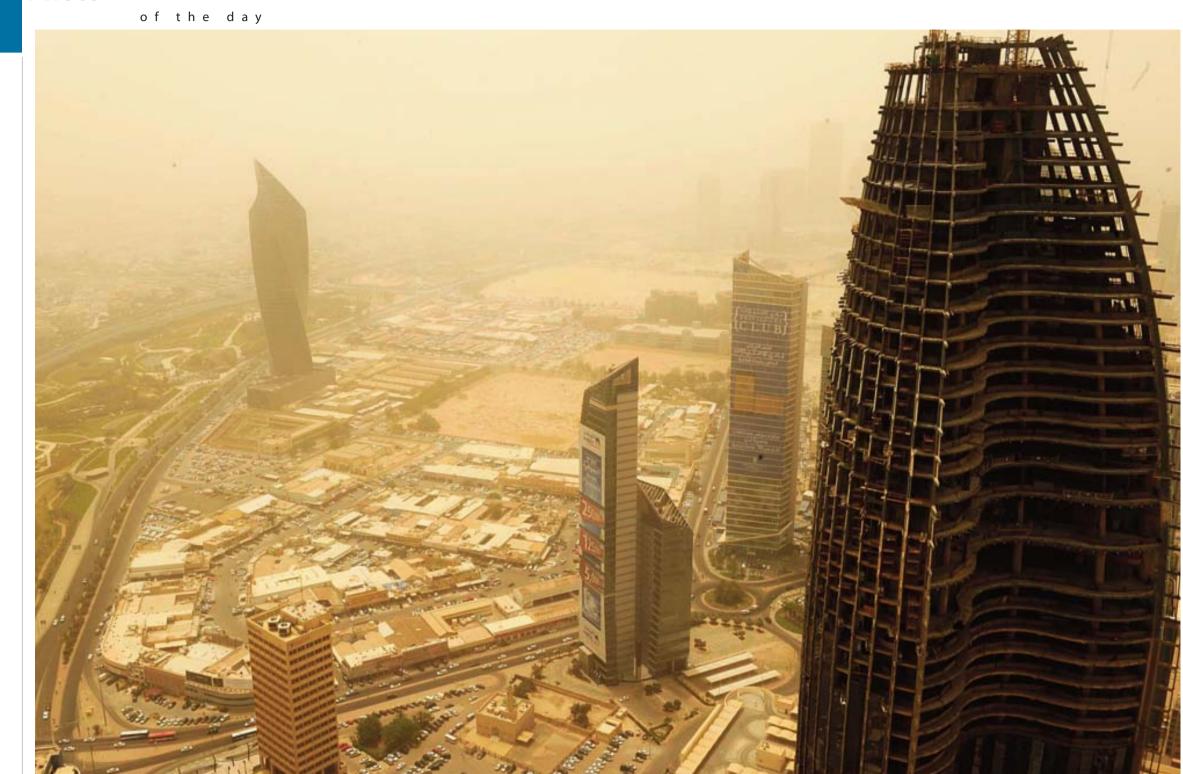
KUWAIT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday said that registration for the "junior volunteer club" opens tomorrow for a month. The project is to instill the culture of voluntary work in the minds of the young and to promote their sense of collective action, cooperation and leadership, head of the young and the volunteers at the KRCS Dr Musaed Enezi said. Children at five to 12 years old are welcome to register, he added. Volunteers will be taught the seven Fundamental Principles that express the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's values and practices, Enezi said. —KUNA



KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP BY 93 CENTS

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil was up by 93 cents to \$48.22 per barrel Friday after being at \$47.83 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. At the global level yesterday, the prices were up due to investors' confidence on OPEC approving to extend the agreement regarding decreasing production to eliminate supplies excesses in global markets for the second half of this year. The price of the Brent crude went up by 27 cents to \$51. 71 pb as well as the American light crude also up by 18 cents to \$49.15 pb. —KUNA







ARAB STATES BROADCASTING UNION OPENS ACADEMY

HAMMAMET: Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) opened yesterday the academy for media training, aimed at developing the information sector in the ASBU member states. ASBU Chairman and Kuwaiti Information Ministry's Undersecretary for Media Planning and Knowledge Development Mohammad Al-Awwash, during the inauguration session, said establishing the academy was first proposed during the Arab media forum, hosted by Kuwait in 2015.

"Since then, the idea has developed into an integrated project designed to support Arab radio and television networks," said Awwash. Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abulgheit noted the necessity of the academy for overhauling the Arab media, adding that it would contribute to cementing cooperation among various Arab media outlets and establishments. Abdulrahim Suleiman, the ASBU General Director, indicated that the academy would serve the purpose of intensifying training of personnel in the sector. The academy will include television and radio studios, training halls and production divisions.

Kuwait wins awards

In other news, Kuwait won several awards at the finale of the 18th Arab Festival for Radio and Television, organized by the ASBU. Kuwait won the first places in the best social drama and late night feature categories as well as the second places in the awareness and children programs categories. Kuwait Television (KTV) produced the programs.

On the occasion, ASBU Chairman and Kuwaiti Information Ministry's Undersecretary for Media Planning and Knowledge Development Mohammad Al-Awwashi lauded the Kuwaiti achievements, saying that the win by KTV was well deserved. He also told KUNA the Kuwaiti win contributed to the success of the current festival which saw the participation of 1,200 media personnel and was held under the slogan "Al-Quds (Jerusalem) as Capital of Arab Media for 2017."

Meanwhile, KTV executives Yousef Al-Srraie and Saad Al-Findi both said in separate statements that the Kuwaiti win at the festival was a result of hard work and determination on part of all those involved in the participating media programs.

The two officials affirmed that Kuwait would continue to partake in upcoming editions of the Arab Festival for Radio and Television, stressing that this was part of the GCC country's efforts to push for more excellence in the Arab media field. —KUNA

EU COMMITTEE TO VISIT KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA

BRUSSELS: The chairman of the European Union's Political and Security Committee (PSE), Walter Stevens, will lead a large 30-member delegation for a visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia this week, EU sources said on Friday. The visit will begin in Kuwait on May 2, where the PSE delegation will hold a series of meetings with Kuwaiti government officials and parliamentarians, said the sources requesting anonymity.

The discussions in Kuwait will cover bilateral ties and

regional issues including developments in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Palestine, Libya and the Horn of Africa. The PSE delegation will travel to Riyadh on May 3 for meetings with officials of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Saudi Government, the sources told the Kuwaiti news agency. Observers in Brussels note that this will be the first visit of the PSE to the Gulf region.

The mission points to the growing political and security cooperation between the 28-member EU and

the 6-member GCC which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The PSE is responsible for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CSFP) and the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). It helps EU foreign ministers to reach decisions. PSE is composed of EU member states' ambassadors based in Brussels. It meets twice a week, and more often if necessary. —KUNA

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KUWAIT: Ambassador of the Netherlands to Kuwait Frans Potuyt hosted a reception recently to celebrate the birthday of Dutch King Willem-Alexander. Government officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



POPE TAWADROS II HAILS KUWAIT'S RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

KUWAIT: Pope Tawadros II, the Pope of Alexandria, has praised Kuwait's religious tolerance and expressed admiration for the warm hospitality accorded to him during his recent visit to the country. In an interview aired yesterday on Kuwait Television, the top Coptic cleric expressed admiration for His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the other top Kuwaiti leaders.

. Relations at the official and public levels between Egypt and Kuwait are deep and historic, he said, noting the two peoples are

bonded with a single destiny. "This a rare coin these days," he said when alluding to presence of diverse religious and ethnical communities living and working in Kuwait peacefully. The first Coptic Church built outside Egypt was in Kuwait in 1961.

Pope Tawadros II urged all relevant authorities in the Arab world to educate the new generations about values of tolerance. He made a personal invitation to His Highness the Amir and all other Kuwaiti leaders to visit him at his cathedral in Al-Abbasiyah, Cairo. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Pope Tawadros II, the Pope of Alexandria is interviewed by Kuwait Television. — KUNA

KIB PRESENTS WORKSHOP ON 'PUBLIC Relations and Business' at GUST

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently presented a lecture entitled 'Public Relations and Business' at Gulf University of Science and Technology (GUST), as part of the Bank's ongoing support of the University's Public Relations (PR) Club for the academic year 2016-2017.

During the two-day workshop, Fahad Al-Sarhan, Team Leader at the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB spoke to the students about KIB's approach to public relations, shedding light on the role of corporate communications within the Bank's business model and the important role this department plays in any financial institution. Furthermore, the workshop featured the participation of team from Weber Shandwick Public Relations, who presented the students with an overview of the public relations industry, addressing international best practices within the field.

The Kuwait-based team also showcased a number of local and global case studies highlighting the key role of public relations in preserving and enhancing the reputation of any company or organization.

Meanwhile, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said: "This initiative seeks to introduce the students to the basics of public relations, whilst also highlighting the key role PR plays in the business world across all sectors and industries. It goes without saying that today public relations and corporate communications have become key components of any successful corporate strategy."

Najia also pointed out that KIB has always sought to support various student programs and initiatives, within the Bank's encompassing social responsibility program. KIB focuses on supporting the youth segment by promoting education and learning across all areas. Through its youth program, KIB sponsors various youth-led initiatives and youth clubs which aim to promote the personal and professional development of students.







KUWAITI CREATES FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE TIES WITH FRANCE

PARIS: At a time of growing world tensions and widespread global misunderstandings, a Kuwaiti national has taken on the mission of seeking to promote closer ties between peoples by creating 'The Bridge of Cultures' foundation between France and Kuwait, a move which will enhance the already solid ties between these two nations.

In an inaugural event for the new Foundation, senior Kuwaiti and French officials gave their blessing and support this week to former KUNA journalist and diplomat, Nawaf Naman, to pursue what they said was "a noble goal" and "a productive initiative." Kuwaiti Ambassador to Paris Sami Mohammad Al-Suleiman was the guest of honor at the event and he was accompanied by an important Kuwaiti delegation of top diplomats to support their compatriot's project.

"I would like to praise this productive initiative by Nawaf Naman to extend another bridge between the two friendly peoples of Kuwait and France," Al-Suleiman said at the launch of The Bridge of Cultures Foundation.

The Ambassador remarked that the hosting of the launch in the "prestigious" French National Assembly building was "a distinguished indication that reflects the excellent relations between Kuwait and France in various areas." The French host of the event, senior Parliamentarian Jean-Francois Mancel, also warmly welcomed the cultural initiative, which he said would bring the two countries closer together.

"I laud the idea of Nawaf Naman, the President of 'Bridge of Cultures', which is an association that has a vocation to permit Kuwait and France to meet each other, to better understand each other and to like each other in all areas," Mancel stated. Explaining his initiative. Naman said that more bridges were needed between nations at a time of instability and when "the cultural dimension is present in three-quarters of major world conflicts" and, this, despite better communications and a huge technological improvement and ease of contact between peoples and nations. There is a glaring need for more contacts through "conferences, round tables, cultural, artistic and sporting events," as well as through personal contacts via "institutional visits, press trips and meetings between nationals," Naman affirmed. The foundation would also promote "economic contacts and student exchanges," as well as a mechanism for "decentralized cooperation" and pairing of twin-cities and towns. Additionally, the cultural body would work with public entities to promote development projects between States in the economic and cultural spheres. Naman stressed that his Foundation had no intention of overlapping into the political or diplomatic area and he intended to work "intelligently" with State institutions in both countries.

Indeed, as Ambassador commented on some of the "State-to-State" cooperation agreements that have been in place for some time and which are governed by specific accords. He indicated that there were already long-standing and strong ties between the two nations and that culture was one area where cooperation between France and Kuwait started very early.

"It is fortunate that the first bilateral cooperation agreement between the two countries was the cultural, scientific and technical cooperation agreement signed between Kuwait and France on September 18, 1969," he remarked, noting that things have progressed on several levels since then.

He highlighted two specific but not exclusive areas of this cooperation: "Regular Education" whereby Kuwait has sought to support experimental teaching of French in public schools and this has now been expanded since 2015, when French was made a requirement in some 7th Grade classes over the past two years. "This experience has been a remarkable success," the Kuwaiti envoy said, adding that the Ministry of Education was considering generalizing the policy for all primary schools.

A second area Al-Suleiman highlighted was Higher Education, where he noted France was ranked 10th for receiving Kuwaiti foreign students, who number 140 in graduate and postgraduate programs here in various fields including French language, Law, Economics, Medicine, Accounting etc.

Work is ongoing to increase the number of students and also on recognition of French diploma equivalencies in Kuwait, the Ambassador noted. Al-Suleiman also underlined Kuwait's lasting commitment to supporting culture in France and also French initiatives on an international scale. France's 'moral and financial support' to the Arab World Institute (IMA) is wellknown and appreciated, as is Kuwait's generosity in support the Islamic Department in the worldfamous Louvre Museum.

Kuwait also has come out strongly in support of protecting cultural heritage in conflict zones and last March contributed some \$5.0 million to an international fund sponsored by France and the UAE to help safeguard, rescue, renovate and protect cultural artifacts in dangerous areas, particularly in the Middle East. — KUNA



PARIS: A group photo taken from the French - Kuwaiti foundation's launching ceremony. —KUNA Photos



Kuwaiti Ambassador Sami Al-Suleiman (left) and the foundation's president Nawaf Naman.



DEFIANT NORTH KOREA TEST-FIRES BALLISTIC MISSILE



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CAIRO: Pope Francis is surrounded by security as he rides an uncovered Popemobile before the start of a mass yesterday at a stadium in Cairo. — AFP

POPE, AT CAIRO MASS, URGES UNITY AGAINST FANATICISM

PONTIFF DENOUNCES ISLAMIST VIOLENCE, POPULISM, HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

CAIRO: Pope Francis warned against religious fanaticism yesterday, wrapping up a brief trip to Cairo where he urged Muslim leaders to unite against violence by Islamic militants threatening to rid the Middle East of its ancient Christian communities. Francis' trip comes three weeks after Islamic State killed at least 45 people in attacks on two Egyptian churches. He has used the visit to launch a strong appeal for religious freedom and to accuse extremists of distorting the nature of God. After a dense first day of meetings with political and religious leaders, the highlight yesterday was a Mass in the Air Defense Stadium, where Vatican officials said 15,000 people gathered, among them Coptic bishops and senior Anglican figures. Crowds arrived early, waving Egyptian and Vatican flags and braving intense security measures to welcome Francis, who toured the sun-drenched stadium in a golf buggy to the sound of hymns performed by a choir and orchestra. He blessed Egypt as one of the earliest nations to embrace Christianity and repeated his plea for tolerance. "True faith leads us to protect the rights of others with the same zeal and enthusiasm with which we defend our own," he told the crowd in the heavily guarded arena. "The only fanaticism believers can have is that of charity. Any other fanaticism does not come from God and is not pleasing to him," he said in his homily. In a series of speeches during his two-day stay, the pope has delivered his bluntest denunciations yet against religious violence, and has appeared to endorse Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's campaign against Islamist militants. However, he nuanced his message by lamenting the rise of "demagogic forms of populism"-a possible reference to right-wing nationalist parties in Europe pushing anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim agendas. He also defended human rights-which non-governmental organizations have accused Sisi's administration of abusing. "History does not forgive those who preach justice, but then practice injustice," he

said in a speech on Friday, sharing the stage with Sisi, who warmly applauded his words.

Strict security

The unusual choice of venue for yesterday's religious service highlights the security concerns surrounding the trip. Helicopter gunships circled the perimeter of the stadium and armored military vehicles patrolled the streets of the Egyptian capital on Saturday. Police in white uniforms were positioned every few meters (yards) on a Nile bridge that the pope crossed. The 80-year-old pope himself declined the use of an armored limousine, preferring instead to travel in an ordinary Fiat car with its window wound down so he could be closer to onlookers. Francis had lunch with Egyptian bishops and was later leading prayers at a Catholic seminary in the south of Cairo before heading back to Italy in the late afternoon. The visit was the first by Francis to Cairo but the second by a Catholic pope. Pope John Paul II came to Egypt in 2000, a year before the September 11 attacks on the United States that convulsed Western relations with the Muslim world. Egypt's Christians comprise 10 percent of the 92 million population, making them the largest Christian community in the Middle East. Most Egyptian Christians are Coptic Orthodox, while barely 200,000 are members of Churches within the Roman Catholic fold. While Egypt has escaped the sort of sectarian violence that has decimated ancient Christian communities in Syria and Iraq, it is under threat from Islamic State militants who launched a campaign in December to wipe out Egypt's Christians, carrying out three church attacks that have killed more than 70 people. The campaign presents a challenge for Sisi, who has vowed to crush Islamist extremist and is fighting a longrunning insurgency in North Sinai, where Islamic State murders have forced hundreds of Copts to flee. Sisi, who declared a three-month state of emergency after the Palm Sunday church attacks, appealed for more international cooperation to combat terrorism when he met Francis on Friday. — Reuters



Announcement from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry





Consumer Protection Department

RUSSIANS URGE PUTIN TO QUIT

MOSCOW: Several hundred Russians lined up in central Moscow yesterday under the gaze of riot police to hand over handwritten appeals for President Vladimir Putin to quit, as similar protests took place in other cities. Putin, who has dominated Russian politics for 17 years, has not said whether he will run in presidential elections in March 2018. But the 64-year-old politician, who enjoys high popularity ratings, is widely expected to do so.

Yesterday's protest in the capitalcalled "We're sick of him"-was organized by the Open Russia movement founded by Kremlin critic Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Once Russia's richest man, he was freed by Putin in 2013 after spending a decade in jail for fraud, a charge Khodorkovsky said was politically-motivated. One of hundreds shepherded into a queue behind metal barriers by police before handing over their petitions one-by-one, Anna, a 16-year-old Moscow schoolgirl, said she hoped Putin would get the message and not run again. "Nothing positive has happened in our country on his watch and I have the sense that things

are getting worse, and that the main problem is the fact that those in power are the same," she told Reuters.

Her preference for president was opposition politician Alexei Navalny, who spent 15 days in jail last month after helping organize the biggest anti-government protests since 2012, which ended with over 1,000 arrests. Yesterday's event, held in bright sunshine, was more modest, though authorities were taking no chances. A Reuters reporter counted at least 30 police buses and coaches in the area, packed with hundreds of riot police. Videos posted by Russian media showed police in riot gear detaining protesters in St Petersburg, where activists reported over 100 arrests. There was no official confirmation of the arrests.

Police said 250 people had showed up in Moscow, the Interfax news agency reported, while Maria Baronova, an Open Russia activist, said at least 500 people had handed over a petition. Irina Glushkova, 64, standing in the same line as the schoolgirl, said she and many others simply didn't agree with how Putin governed. — Reuters

IMPORTANT SAFETY N

POTENTIAL RISK OF EXPLOSION

With connectors on gas cooking appliances of the brands:

BOSCH

SIEMENS

BSH Home Appliances FZE is conducting a voluntary safety campaign regarding certain gas cooking appliances. The reason is potential damage to installed gas connectors. In certain circumstances, gas can escape in an uncontrolled manner and in extremely rare cases a risk of explosion can arise.

This concerns the following gas cooking appliances in Kuwait:

Brand	Product Type	Production Period (Month-Yea		
Bosch	Built-in Hob (width 60 cm)	01/2009 -10/2011		
Bosch	Freestanding Gas Cooker	08/2006 -10/2011		
Siemens	Built-in Hob (width 60 cm)	01/2009 -10/2011		
Siemens	Freestanding Gas Cooker	08/2006 -10/2011		

BSH Home Appliances FZE calls on all customers of the listed gas cooking appliances to check whether their appliance is affected by this safety campaign. BSH is offering every owner of an affected appliance the free replacement of the gas connector by an authorized service technician at the owner's home ...

Check whether your appliance is affected as follows:

Please note down the model number (E-Nr.) and batch number (FD) on the type plate on your appliance (see diagram on the right).

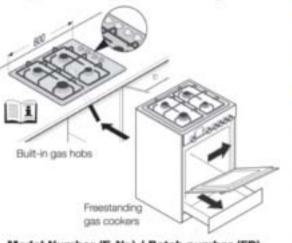
Then check on www.gascookingsafety.com whether your model is affected. If you need further help you can also call the Authorized Technical Service phone number.

Please note: To avoid any potential hazard until the gas connector is replaced, owners of an affected appliance should turn off the gas supply to the appliance and no longer use it.

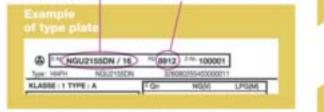
We apologise for any inconvenience caused. If you have trouble checking whether your appliance is affected or if you have any further questions, please contact us via the website or by calling the authorized technical service phone number.

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Kuwait Times 55______ INTERNATIONAL ____

in brief

UN SECURITY COUNCIL BACKS NEW WESTERN SAHARA TALKS ATTEMPT

UN SEES NEW DYNAMIC FOR POLITICAL DEAL

ALGIERS: The United Nations Security Council has unanimously backed attempts to restart talks between Morocco and the Polisario independence movement over the Western Sahara conflict and has extended its peacekeeping mission for another year. The resolution late on Friday came after the UN mission confirmed the Polisario had withdrawn troops from disputed territory's Guerguerat area, where they faced off since last year with Moroccan forces. Rabat pulled back its forces earlier this year.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres earlier this month called for Morocco and the Polisario Front, who fought a war over the region until a 1991 ceasefire, to enter new negotiations that would include proposals from both sides. "This action should improve the prospects of creating an environment that will facilitate early implementation of Mr Guterres's determination to relaunch the negotiating process," the UN spokesman said in a statement noting Morocco's early pullback and confirming Polisario withdrawal.

A vast desert area bordering the Atlantic Ocean, Western Sahara has been contested since 1975 when colonial Spain left. Morocco claimed the region, but Polisario fought a guerrilla war for independence until the UN-backed ceasefire. UN talks have long failed to broker an agreement on how to decide on self-determination. Morocco wants an autonomy plan under Moroccan sovereignty. But Polisario wants a UN-backed referendum including on the question of independence. The UN resolution on Friday extended the UN peacekeeping mission, known as MINURSO, until April 30, 2018 and called on the parties to show political will and to resume negotiations for a fifth round of talks.

It supported a "new dynamic and new spirit" to reach a mutually acceptable political solution. Past attempts to broker a deal have been fallen apart over the referendum terms, including who should be allowed to vote and whether questions of independence or autonomy should be on the ballot. The Security Council has also been split. France backs former colony Morocco, the United States was more cautious and Polisario's self-declared Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic was supported by former non-permanent members Venezuela and Angola. Earlier this year, Morocco also returned to the African Union regional bloc

as a way to lobby diplomatic support for its autonomy plan for the disputed territory.

Friday's UN Security Council resolution noted the need for more support for Sahrawi refugees who fled the conflict and have since lived in camps in the south of Algeria. Since the 1991 ceasefire, the region has effectively been split by an earthen wall separating an area controlled by Morocco that it claims as its southern provinces, and territory controlled by the Polisario with a UN-mandated buffer zone between them.

Tensions rose last year when UN peacekeepers intervened in a standoff after Moroccan forces crossed beyond the earthen wall in Guerguerat near the Mauritania border and Polisario responded by dispatching troops to the area. — Reuters

ONLINE VIDEOS OF KILLINGS POSE TRICKY PROBLEM FOR FACEBOOK

SAN FRANCISCO: Posting a smartphone video online has never been so easy-even if the video shows a murder. After two recent cases that shocked the world, this has become a tricky but urgent problem for Facebook to tackle. On Monday, a 20-year-old Thai man broadcast live video on the world's most popular social media platform, showing him killing his baby daughter before his own suicide. The previous week, a US man dubbed the "Facebook Killer" fatally shot himself after three days of a frantic nationwide manhunt. Steve Stephens, 37, had posted a video on Easter Sunday, saying he intended to kill. He followed up two minutes later with video showing the fatal shooting of an elderly grandfather whom he had seemingly chosen at random in Cleveland, Ohio. In a third video 11 minutes later, streamed live from Stephens' car, he said he intended to kill others.

Facebook denounced the "horrific crime," saying it had "no place" on its platform. But the video of the shooting wasn't taken down by Facebook for more than two hours after it was posted. The Thai murder video remained on Facebook for close to 24 hours. Critics say the social media giant has been too slow to react, and questioned whether Facebook Live-a strategic area of development for the company-should be disabled. After the Cleveland killing, Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg pledged to "keep doing all we can to prevent tragedies like this from happening." But he conceded: "There is a lot of work to do here."

Vulnerable

Facebook's video functions have also been used to broadcast rapes. This week, three men in Sweden were sentenced to prison for gang-raping a woman and livestreaming the attack. Other shocking content includes the suicides of young people who broadcast their deaths on Facebook Live or competing applications like Twitter's Periscope and Live.me. Any online platform that lets users freely publish content will face these problems, but Facebook is particularly vulnerable given its huge user base, said Lou Kerner, a partner at Flight VC and a social media specialist. Facebook had 1.86 billion users as of the end of December. There are no "easy answers," he said.



SKOPJE: Protesters demonstrate in front of the local EU building in Skopje, days after nationalist protesters stormed the building in anger over a vote for a new speaker.— AFP

MACEDONIA NATIONALISTS ARE 'PLAYING WITH FIRE': EX-ENVOY

Macedonian political crisis takes violent turn



Kyrgyz landslide kills 24 BISHKEK: A landslide swept over part of a village in Kyrgyzstan yesterday, killing 24 people, including nine children, the emergencies ministry said. The landslide hit the village of Ayu in the Osh region of the mountainous Central Asian country at around 06:40 am and covered six houses with inhabitants inside, the emergencies ministry said in a statement. "All 24 citizens of Kyrgzystan, nine of them children, died under the landslide in the south of the country," emergencies ministry spokeswoman Elmira Sheripova said. A total of 266 rescue workers including medics and soldiers were at the scene, Sheripova said. The emergencies minister, Kubatbek Boronov, flew to the site on the orders of President Almazbek Atambayev to take "all possible measures to alleviate the consequences of the landslide and give all necessary help to families of the dead", according to a statement on the president's website. Atambayev himself in an emotional address published on the presidential YouTube channel called on villagers to heed government warnings to leave their homes during extreme weather.

Drone strike kills 3

ADEN: A presumed US drone strike in south Yemen yesterday killed three suspected members of Al-Qaeda, a Yemeni security official said. The strike targeted a car in which the suspects were travelling in the Rawda region of Shabwa province, according to the official who did not want to be identified. Since President Donald Trump took office in January, the United States has intensified its air war against Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, regarded by Washington as the most dangerous branch of the extremist group. The Pentagon said on April 3 that it had carried out more than 70 strikes against jihadist targets in Yemen since February 28. Al-Qaeda has taken advantage of the chaos caused by more than two years of civil war to expand its presence in Yemen.

China deports US citizen

SHANGHAI: China has deported a US citizen who was convicted of espionage this week after being held without trial for two years, removing a source of friction between Washington and Beijing. Sandy Phan-Gillis was arrested in March 2015 while about to leave mainland China for the Chinese-ruled, former Portuguese colony of Macau. A court on Tuesday ordered her deportation after sentencing her to three-and-a-half years in prison for espionage. She left China on Friday from the southern city of Guangzhou and arrived in Los Angeles on the same day, her husband said in a statement. The Chinese government has not released details of the charges against Phan-Gillis. Her lawyer told Reuters on Tuesday he could not reveal details of the case because it involved istate secrets.î Her husband, Jeff Gillis, said China had accused Phan-Gillis of visiting the country twice on spy missions in 1996 and working with the US Federal Bureau of Investigation to capture two Chinese spies in the United States and turn them into double agents.

Turkey kills 14 militants

ANKARA: Turkey's military said it killed 14 members of the militant Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in air strikes in northern Iraq yesterday, as Ankara steps up a push against the group and their affiliates in Iraq and Syria. Turkey has intensified attacks on the PKK in northern Iraq and its Syrian-Kurdish affiliate, the YPG, in northern Syria. President Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday that as many as 220 militants had been killed in recent strikes elsewhere n northern Iraq. Six militants were k area of Sinat-Haftan and eight in the countryside around Adiyaman in two separate air strikes in northern Iraq yesterday morning, the military said in a statement. The PKK, which has carried out a three-decade insurgency against the Turkish state, has camps in the mountains of northern Iraq. Both the United States and Turkey consider it a terrorist organization. However, the NATO allies disagree on the Syrian-Kurdish YPG, which the United States sees as a useful partner in the fight against Islamic State in Syria. Erdogan considers the Syrian-Kurdish fighters to be a terrorist group and is concerned their advances in northern Syrian could fuel the Kurdish insurgency at home.

"They're going to struggle to stop it from occurring. The question is how fast they can take it down."

Most social networks ban violent and shocking content. but given the volume of postings, they mostly rely on users to identify and report them. Facebook said it has "thousands" of people combing through the "millions" of items posted weekly in more than 40 languages, adding that it was trying to speed up the process. However, it's unlikely the network will impose a delay of a few seconds to verify content before broadcast, the way some television channels do for live events, said Roger Kay, an analyst with Endpoint Technologies Associates.

"When you have more than a billion people connected to each other," you are "well beyond the scope of what a human can do," he said. Artificial intelligence technology is improving but still not good enough and would create too many "false positives." "I don't know if there's a real human or technical solution. You can punish the breach, but some people don't care," Kay said, giving as examples the Islamic State jihadist group which has been posting violent and inflammatory content online for years, or those who just want their 15 minutes of fame.

'Social responsibility'

Kerner said even if Facebook is not legally responsible for the actions of users, it has a "social responsibility to address it in an appropriate manner." But Kay pointed out that any restrictions on content require "moral judgment" on what should be permitted. "I'm pretty sure Facebook doesn't want that role," he said. The social media network has a difficult balancing act, risking criticism if seen as too lax toward content, but also facing heat for being too restrictive. It has been accused of censorship in the past, such as last year when it blocked the iconic 1972 image of a Vietnamese girl fleeing a napalm attack, because she was naked.

Facebook later reinstated the photo, citing its historical importance. Facebook also found itself embroiled in controversy last summer when it blocked a video showing the death of an American black man who had been shot by police, which was broadcast live by his girlfriend. Zuckerberg later reversed the decision, saying the video, while shocking, shines "a light on the fear that millions of members of our community live with every day." — AFP



PHUKET: Chiranut Trairat, (second from left) mother of an 11-month-old baby girl, stands next to her daughter's portrait before her funeral in Phuket, Thailand yesterday. Her distraught husband hanged their daughter on social media website Facebook Live and then killed himself, police said. — AP

BELGRADE: Nationalists in Macedonia are "playing with fire" in refusing to relinquish power and the European Union should consider halting its accession process in order to break a dangerous deadlock, said the former envoy who helped avert civil war in the Balkan country. A long-running political crisis in the former Yugoslav republic turned violent on Thursday when supporters of the ruling VMRO-DPMNE party, some in balaclavas, stormed parliament after a new major-

ity in the assembly elected an ethnic Albanian as speaker, a first step towards replacing the nationalist-led government.

The events, in which one ethnic Albanian MP was brutally beaten and several other deputies left bloodied, raised fears that the political crisis was spiraling out of control and may plunge the country back into ethnic conflict 16 years after Western diplomacy averted full-blown civil war. The nationalists of former Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski are blocking the formation of a new government led by the opposition Social Democrats, accusing them of doing a deal with the country's ethnic Albanian minority that risked tearing the country apart by allowing wider official use of the Albanian language.

Pieter Feith, who as NATO's Balkans troubleshooter at the turn of the century helped negotiate a peace deal to end months of clashes between Macedonian security forces and ethnic Albanian guerrillas in 2001, warned of further escalation. The nationalists, he said, "are playing with fire. The next step I could imagine, but God forbid, if arms are going to be handed out and circulated as they were in 2001, you are quickly on the abyss of civil war," Feith said in a telephone interview late on Friday.

Feith also served as an EU envoy in the region and is currently a senior diplomatic adviser at the European Institute of Peace, which supports EU mediation and conflict-resolution efforts. The Dutch diplomat suggested the EU, which has lost diplomatic leverage across the Balkans due to an increasingly apparent reluctance to expand further into the region, was considering sanctions. "There is also perhaps room for sanctions, some form of travel ban or financial measures directed specifically against the leadership of VMRO," Feith said. Asked if he was advocating sanctions or if they were being considered by the EU, Feith replied: "I think the latter."

'Draw a line'

A spokeswoman for the EU could not immediately be reached for comment, but German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel also hinted at possible punishment, telling reporters in Malta: "We are sending clear signals ... but of course there a lot of other measures

which we hope don't have to be launched." The EU's leverage in Macedonia and across the Balkans has been diminished by the bloc's waning enthusiasm for enlargement, the promise of which had helped stabilize and reform the region after the bloody breakup of socialist Yugoslavia. Feith said Gruevski's nationalists were "simply not listening." "Are we going to continue this charade or are we going to draw a line and say that the accession process has ended or is about to end? That's the question that I think needs to be faced," he said.

Social Democrat leader Zoran Zaev, who heads the new parliamentary majority and was hurt during Thursday's violence, said on Friday he expected the new speaker, former guerrilla Talat Xhaferi, to assume his duties and notify the president of the new majority. President Gjorge Ivanov, an ally of Gruevski, has so far refused to give Zaev the mandate to form a government. The VMRO narrowly won a snap election in December, held under a deal to end two years of political crisis triggered by a wiretap scandal that appeared to expose widespread abuse of office. But Gruevski, who was accused by critics of becoming increasingly autocratic during a decade in power, failed to revive a coalition deal with the largest ethnic Albanian party, which threw its support behind Zaev instead. —Reuters

Orban accepts EU demands

BRUSSELS: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban told leaders of his centre-right EU political group yesterday that he would comply with demands from Brussels to change measures branded an attack on academic freedom, the party said. There was no immediate confirmation from Orban. But the apparent easing of tensions with Budapest came as EU national leaders met in Brussels to demonstrate unity ahead of Brexit negotiations. They agreed formal guidelines for those talks with Britain without further discussion. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is also part of the conservative bloc, said actions would speak louder than words. 'For me, and I believe this is also the case for the Commission, what matters are the actual results,' she told a news conference after the Brussels summit. Orban, in power since 2010, has regularly bashed the EU and is accused in Brussels along with leaders of some other ex-communist countries such as Poland, of willingly accepting EU funds, while rejecting EU values or a share of refugees. The Hungarian leader appeared to be in appeasing mode yesterday.

BRAZIL'S INDIGENOUS TRIBES PROTEST AGAINST LAND THEFT

BRASILIA: Fed up with endless encroachment on their ancestral lands, leaders of Brazil's many indigenous tribes went to the capital Brasilia to speak out this week. But they had trouble finding anyone to listen. More than 3,000 tribal members massed on the esplanade outside the government complex in Brasilia for the 14th annual "Free lands" event.

But their freedom had limits: when they tried to approach Congress on Tuesday, they were pushed back in clouds of tear gas." They're prejudiced," said Alvaro Tucano, one of the tribal members taking part in a week-long camp outside the government complex. "I have never seen such a conservative Congress as the one there is today." The clash provided surreal scenes of men in traditional headdresses with bows and arrows facing off against blackclad riot police.

Those who were there say the contrast reflected the permanent disconnect between Brazil's state and the descendants of the country's original inhabitants. Nearly 900,000 indigenous tribe members currently live in Brazil, or 0.4 percent of the entire

population, divided into 305 ethnic groups. The statistic that matters most, however, is the 12 percent of Brazil their recognized lands cover, much of it in the Amazon. Although most of the world sees the region as one of the planet's greatest natural wonders, the powerful Brazilian agricultural industry values the sparsely populated lands mainly for logging and converting to farmland for soy and cattle.

The government is committed to protecting those lands-in theory. But the fact that many of the borders are not officially demarcated effectively deprives the tribal members of legal rights. The result is constant pressure on the indigenous peoples and frequent clashes. At least 137 tribal people were murdered in 2015, according to the Indigenous Missionary Council, run by the Catholic Church. The number of those killed since 2003 reaches above 890.

To their chagrin, the official ultimately responsible for protecting vulnerable indigenous groups in the country's conservative government, Justice Minister Osmar Serraglio, belongs to Brasilia's influential pro-agriculture political wing. — AFP



BRASILIA: Indigenous people march at the Esplanade of the Ministries in Brasilia during a nationwide strike called by unions opposing austerity reforms. — AFP

Kuwait Times 55._____ INTERNATIONAL

TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS: A CHAOTIC DISCOVERY OF POWER

WASHINGTON: From his resounding set- Defense departments? All of his predecessors backs in Congress to his stunning policy flipflops, Donald Trump has faced a steep learning curve in his opening months at the White House. Although the new US president has shown a capacity to change both his tone and positions, he has struggled to convey a clearly articulated worldview. With the arrival of the symbolic milestone of 100 days in power on Saturday, a cold, hard reality is setting in for the billionaire businessman who promised supporters he would "win, win, win" for them.

At this stage of his presidency, Donald Trump is the least popular leader in modern US history-even if his core supporters still fully back him. The 70-year-old president, whose election victory unleashed a political shockwave around the world, is still clinging to the take-no-prisoners, unpredictable, impulsive style that made him a property mogul and reality TV star. But the onetime anti-establishment candidate who promised to "drain the swamp" in Washington appears to have recognized-with a mix of naivete and craftiness-that he has one of the most difficult jobs in the world. In just his first few weeks in office, Trump suffered some crippling blows.

Federal courts halted his proposed travel ban and Congress failed to adopt health care reform. "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated," he said during his efforts to have Obamacare-his Democratic predecessor's signature domestic policy achievementrepealed and replaced. And following talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping about North Korea, he said that "after listening for 10 minutes, I realized it's not so easy."

Tweets-a-plenty

The demands and constraints of the Oval Office-where every word uttered counts-are quite different from the daily stump speeches Trump made on the campaign trail. Where to turn for advice? What kind of relationship to build with Congress, even when it's controlled by his own party? How much latitude to afford the usually powerful State and

have said it: moving into the mansion at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is a shock to the system. "There's just something about this job as president every president faces you know, that you think one thing going in and then the pressures of the job or the realities of the world, you know, are different than you thought," George W Bush said recently. Aside from his unwavering penchant for morning tweetstorms, often influenced by the ebb and flow of headlines on Fox News, Trump has already changed.

In the choice of his teams as well as in some negotiations, a sort of "presidentialization" seems to be unfolding-albeit haltingly. Elevated to the highest office in the United States with no prior political, diplomatic or military experience, Trump says his everevolving approach works.

"I do change and I am flexible, and I'm proud of that flexibility," he said shortly before authorizing air strikes against the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad over what Washington says was a sarin gas attack on civilians. On China, Russia and NATO, his about-faces have reassured some Americans to some extent, as well as some of Washington's allies.

"When a president moves from being so wrong to being so right on such important questions, the sensible response is not to carp but to celebrate, however cautiously," The Washington Post said in an editorial, reminding readers of the harsh, dark tone of Trump's inaugural address. But his approach also includes risks. From Syria to North Korea, what is the risk of dragging the United States into a military conflict with an unpredictable outcome, a situation Trump warned against on the campaign trail? How would the Republican president react if a major terror attack were to happen on US soil, as it did on 9/11?

'Trumpism?'

Both style and substance reveal that Donald J. Trump is an American president like no other before him.In a disconcerting interview given to Time magazine in March, in



WASHINGTON: First lady Melania Trump sits with a group of children to color and draw following a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening of the Bunny Mellon Healing garden at Children's National Hospital in Washington on Friday, April 28, 2017. The garden is dedicated to the first ladies of the United States. — AP

which Trump defended his controversial, farfetched or just plain false statements one by one, he said: "What am I going to tell you? I tend to be right." More than three months after he took office, many of his detractors still deem comments by the novelist Philip Roth in an interview with The New Yorker in late January to be on the money.

He described a president "ignorant of government, of history, of science, of philosophy, of art, incapable of expressing or recognizing subtlety or nuance... and wielding a vocabulary of 77 words."Trump's numerous policy

pivots and resets also raise questions about the very definition of his fluid brand of "Trumpism"-which revolves around his ubiquitous "America First" slogan, a seemingly simple idea that is nevertheless tough to explain. The internal squabbles within the Trump White House have meanwhile not helped the president move forward with articulating his long-term vision. Within a group that includes the ultra-conservative Steve Bannon, one thing stands out: the prime positioning of his family, especially daughter Ivanka and son-inlaw Jared Kushner.

The successful nomination of conservative federal judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court stands as the major success of the first 100 days of the 45th president of the United States. All too aware that he doesn't have much to show for those days, Trump lashed out with a tweet decrying the "ridiculous standard of the first 100 days"-one his own team has repeatedly said is vital.

Now Trump-who regularly talks about possibly running for re-election-has more than 1,300 days ahead of him until his first term ends. — AFP



HYDERABAD: Indian Hindu priest Ranga Rajan instructs devotees during a ceremony to Lord Balaji, known as the 'Visa God', at the Chilkur Balaji Temple in

PROGRESS AND DISTRUST LIVE SIDE BY SIDE, 25 YEARS AFTER LA RIOTS

SOUTH LOS ANGELES STILL PLAGUED WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

LOS ANGELES: Twenty-five years after deadly riots erupted in Los Angeles when four white police officers were acquitted in the videotaped beating of black motorist Rodney King, an undercurrent of distrust pulses in a city that says it has worked hard at police reforms. South Los Angeles, the mostly African-American area where the violence started in 1992 - including the brutal beating of a white truck driver that was broadcast live on television - is still plaqued with many of the economic problems that contributed to the unrest. Long before the advent of the Black Lives Matter movement, the name Rodney King became synonymous with the use of excessive force in policing minority groups. King, who was then 25, was battered by a squad of officers after a traffic stop in March 1991, an incident that was caught in graphic detail on a bystander's video. Residents of South Los Angeles will gather on Saturday to mark the anniversary with a march starting from the intersection of Florence and Normandie, where the violence broke out when a crowd attacked truck driver Reginald Denny.

Angeles church will bring together the African-American and Korean-American communities. Korean-American-owned businesses were particularly targeted by rioters in 1992, ransacked at a disproportionately high rate. The rioting killed more than 50 people and caused an estimated \$1 billion in damage over six days. Current and former city officials point to changes that they say have reduced strains between police and the community. But blight still mars South Los Angeles, where many residents struggle to find work and earn enough to live on, and many in Los Angeles think that riots are not just a thing of the past. The last quarter-century has brought sweeping changes to the way the Los Angeles Police Department operates, according to current and former city officials, reducing some of the mistrust many residents feel toward law enforcement. Bernard Parks, the city's police chief from 1997 to 2002 and later a city councilman, said one of the most important changes he made was taking away the power of supervisors to quash misconduct complaints against officers. "I found the greatest complaint people

Saturday at a prominent South Los had about the system wasn't necessarily the outcome but that they weren't necessarily able to make a complaint," Parks said in a phone interview.

Much more segregated

More broadly, Mayor Eric Garcetti and other current officials credit a federal consent decree imposed on the Los Angeles Police Department in 2001 with helping to reform it. "Los Angeles in 1992 was a different place." Garcetti told CBS News on Friday. "It was much more segregated." But in an indication of strained relations, the last two years have seen a number of Los Angeles police shootings culminate in protests at police commission meetings. "The police department has definitely changed. There's still a lot of work to be done, but I credit a lot of the changes to the community and those activists who have picked up the mantle from the activists in 1992," said writer and commentator Jasmyne Cannick, who has been a high-profile critic of the LAPD. Unemployment in South Los Angeles, the epicenter of the 1992 riots, stands at 13 percent, compared with 10 percent for all of Los Angeles County, according to the UCLA Center for Neighborhood

Knowledge. In 1990, the closest year to the riots for which data is available, unemployment in South Los Angeles was at 15 percent. In some residential blocks of South Los Angeles, storefronts that were destroyed are still vacant, highlighting the morass in the neighborhood. Many residents are worried about a recurrence of rioting, especially after the destructive unrest that broke out in Baltimore, Ferguson, Missouri, and other US cities after police killings over the

Rangareddy district yesterday. President Donald Trump will certainly despise this scene: Hundreds of Indians gather daily at a Hindu temple in southern India as they pray to get their wish granted for a US visa. —AFP

INDIANS THRONG TEMPLE TO CRACK TRUMP'S VISA CURBS

HYDERABAD: Hundreds of Indians gather daily at a 500-year-old Hindu temple in southern India where they pray for a single wish-an increasingly elusive US visa. The Chilkur Balaji temple dedicated to Lord Balaji-a reincarnation of Hindu god Vishnu-on the outskirts of Hyderabad city, has long been a one-stop solution for prospective Indian immigrants seeking US visas, earning it the sobriquet of 'visa temple'. But temple officials say the place has seen an increase in visitors since the election of US President Donald Trump, who this month signed an order seeking to reform the "H-1B" work visa system. The "H-1B" visas are highly sought after by aspiring Indian immigrants but Trump's push to make the permits available only to the most-skilled or highestpaid applicants has many worried.

Software engineer Shreekanth Angirekula was among the fortunate ones, having recently secured a US visa after repeated rejections."It's a miracle. I couldn't get a visa for the last two years but after visiting the temple everything went off smoothly," Angirekula, 33, told AFP. "I am not superstitious but there was definitely divine intervention," he said. More than 100,000 devotees visit the temple every week, for visas and other reasons. They proffer their passports and a flower before the deity as they circumambulate the inner sanctum of the temple 11 times while chanting Hindu hymns.

Once the wish is granted, worshippers must return to make 108 rounds of the sanctum. Chief priest Ranga Rajan said devotees come from across the country in pursuit of visas. "Same passport, same documents, same embassy and same applicant, but their visas were rejected before coming to the Lord," Rajan said. "It's all Balaji's blessings," he said, adding "it's not superstition but spiritualism". The temple's supposedly magical powers gained repute in the 1980s after a group of engineers visited the temple to pray for visas. They were all granted their wish, and soon, hordes of aspirants followed in their wake. "I have applied for the visa for (my) studies and I hope Balaji will make it happen," student Raja Shekhar Reddy said. "This visit has boosted my confidence," he said. — AFP

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A separate commemoration on

past three years.

Nearly 60 percent of Los Angeles residents think another riot is likely in the next five years, according to a survey released this week by Loyola Marymount University. It was the first time in 20 years researchers found an increase in the share of residents who gave that answer. Henry Keith Watson, 53, who took part in the beating of Denny, the truck driver, as the Los Angeles riots began and who was later convicted of misdemeanor assault, is among those who see the city as still dealing with the same problems as in 1992. "What do you think has changed?" Watson said in an interview at his house in South Los Angeles. "Please tell me." — Reuters



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FRENCH HOPEFUL LE PEN NAMES NATIONALIST AS PM

PARIS: French far-right presidential hopeful Marine Le Pen yesterday chose defeated first-round candidate Nicolas Dupont-Aignan as her prime minister, a bid to attract his voters and help her to victory over centrist favourite Emmanuel Macron. Dupont-Aignan is a nationalist whose protectionist economic policies are close to those of the National Front's Le Pen and who, like her, wants to reduce the powers of European Union institutions.

He scored 4.7 percent of votes in the first round on April 23, and announced on Friday, as widely expected, that he was backing her for the decisive May 7 second round. The alliance could help draw in other voters from the edges of the mainstream right, but it risks alienating some of the far-left support she needs if she is to upset the odds and win France's most important election in decades.

"We will form a government of national unity that brings together people chosen for their competence and their love of France," Le Pen told a Paris news conference, sitting side-by-side with her choice for premier. The first round elimination of two other main presidential candidates, the far-left's Jean-Luc Melenchon and conservative Francois Fillon, was greeted with relief by investors and EU partners of France, a founder of the bloc, a key member of the NATO defence alliance, and the world's fifth largest economy.

Le Pen had for months seemed sure of a second round place, even though the race was closely fought, and polls ahead of round one showed Macron with a far greater chance than Fillon of beating her next Sunday. Melenchon, for his part, offered the prospect of a second-round choice between two candidates who would tear up international trade treaties and whose presidencies could be fatal to a European Union already weakened by Britain's departure.

Macron and Le Pen between them accounted for only 45 percent of the first round vote, and the battle is now on for the remainder. Polls show Macron winning next Sunday with about 59-60 percent, but the momentum has been with Le Pen, who has clawed back about five percentage points over the past week.

End of traditional loyalties

The presidential contest has blown apart traditional party loyalties. Voters now have a stark choice between a resurgent far right, once a pariah in French politics, and a man whose political movement is less than a year old and who has never held elected office. It sets Macron's enthusiasm for the



PARIS: Former French presidential election candidate for the right-wing Debout la France (DLF) party Nicolas Dupont-Aignan (left) and French presidential election candidate for the far-right Front National (FN) party Marine Le Pen, shake hands at the end of a joint statement at FN headquarters in Paris yesterday. —AFP

unwind EU institutions and restrict imports EU leaders in Brussels. Macron served as

EU and call for pro-business reforms to to protect jobs. "The May 7 election is about boost growth against Le Pen's desire for a European choice," said outgoing President France to close its borders to immigrants, Francois Hollande, speaking at a meeting of

Hollande's economy minister from 2014 to 2016 before turning his back on the Socialist government to prepare his own presidential bid. Dupont-Aignan, who stood in the election for his party 'Stand up France' said he had signed an agreement on the future government with Le Pen that took into account some "modifications" of her program. A copy of an alliance document put on social media by a TV journalist included no significant policy changes.

Dupont-Aignan is less hardline than Le Pen in some areas such as reintroduction of the death penalty, and in 2013 he said on twitter that his party "cannot align ourselves with the extreme right".

However he is seen as having hardened his position on immigration since. The 56 year-old whose power base is in the suburban and semi-rural Essonne region south of Paris has long been sought by Le Pen as a potential ally. His party is an offshoot of the conservative mainstream right, claiming to represent the pure 'Gaullist' tradition of post-war president Charles de Gaulle. Macron, on a campaign trip in central France where he called politicians who do not back him "morally weak", said yesterday the alliance between Dupont-Aignan and Le Pen clarified the choice on offer to voters. — Reuters

MACRONS AGE GAP - 'UNUSUAL' TO FRENCH, TITILLATES ABROAD

PARIS: Brigitte Macron, as the 64-year-old wife of the man tipped to become France's youngest-ever president, is getting used to being in the media spotlight. But the elegant blonde is also having to endure unwelcome scrutiny from a foreign press fascinated by the age gap between her and Emmanuel Macron, the talented student she first met when he was 15 and she a married mother of three. "A cougar at the Elysee?" asked Britain's Times newspaper as Macron, 39, ramped up his campaign against far-right rival Marine Le Pen.

In Germany, the Bild mass circulation daily marveled: "She's 24 years older! How can such a marriage work?"Breathlessly dubbing the couple's romance "the love story of the century", Britain's Daily Mail this week published a picture of the teenager kissing his drama coach on the cheek after starring in a play that she directed. "Sealed with a kiss!" it said of a gesture that could not be more ordinary in such a setting in France.

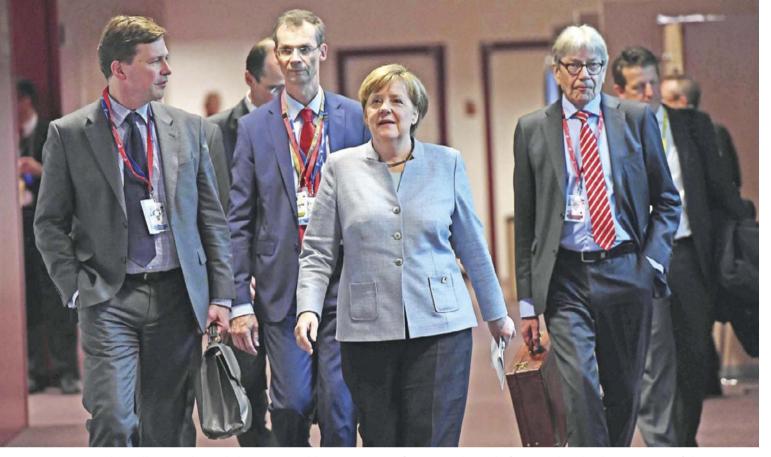
In their home country-where the private lives of public figures are off limits to the media by tacit agreement, though that is changing-the Macrons have been described as an "unusual couple". The closest France came to titillation was a rumor that Macron was using his wife as a cover for being gay, and even that he had a gay extramarital affair. The rumor was quickly dispelled with a joke by the candidate himself. Neither has shied away from discussing the bond they formed as teacher and student in the northern city of Amiens.

Macron has acknowledged that "given the age difference" the couple had to decide early on that they would not have children.

But, he told French television, "I did not need biological children and grandchildren" to be able to enjoy loving relationships with his wife's three children and seven grandchildren. The young Macron's family, displeased by the budding romance, banished him to Paris, but the pair kept the fire burning, spending hours on the phone together, Brigitte said in the documentary. The couple have appeared on the covers of society magazines, with Paris Match showing them cavorting on the beach in the seaside resort of Biarritz. Sophie des Deserts, writing for the French edition of Vanity Fair, said: "This couple in reverse shows an evolution in society-it's not a powerful man with a younger wife. That says things about Emmanuel Macron's personality." Scholars point out that history is full of high-profile women with younger men, citing Cleopatra, Catherine the Great and Elizabeth I.

Renaissance couple

France has its renaissance couple: Diane de Poitiers and King Henri II, who was 20 years her junior. The king married Catherine de Medici, but openly preferred Diane, setting her up in the magnificent Chenonceaux chateau on the River Cher. Fixation on the age gap is viewed at home as a mixture of ageism, sexism and voyeurism. After all, commentators note, the age gap is similar to that



BRUSSELS: German Chancellor Angela Merkel arrives to address a press conference at the end of a special EU leaders' meeting of the European Council to adopt the guidelines for the Brexit talks, in Brussels vesterday. — AFP

EU LEADERS SHOW 'FIRM UNITED

Obsession

"He was not like the others," Brigitte says in a recent documentary about her husband. "I was totally captivated by this boy's intelligence-that's the teacher in me speaking." Then: "Little by little he overcame all my resistance." The candidate, for his part, detailed their romance in his autobiography, titled "Revolution": "I was hooked, it was an obsession: to live the life I've chosen with the woman I loved, to do everything to win that." He admitted that the start to the relationship was "clandestine"-after all, she divorced in order to marry him two years later, in 2007.

between US President Donald Trump, 70, and his 47-year-old wife Melania.

Italy-whose flamboyant former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi is nearly 50 years older than his current girlfriend-is not too fussed over the Macrons. A headline in the daily La Stampa reads: "Brigitte and Emmanuel are a couple-that's all". And after the sensationalism subsided in Britain, Zoe Williams, a columnist for The Guardian newspaper, urged cooler heads to prevail. "Ditch the outrage over Macron's marriage age gapwe all have fascists to fight," she wrote, referring to Le Pen and her anti-immigration National Front (FN) party. — AFP



LYON: Supporters of French presidential candidate for the En Marche! movement Emmanuel Macron gather in Lyon yesterday ahead of the second and final round of the presidential election on May 7. — AFP

COMMON LANGUAGE SPELLS **DIVISIONS IN THE BALKANS**

SARAJEVO: Nicotine addicts in Bosnia are warned three times on their cigarette packets that "Pusenje ubija" ("Smoking kills") but this isn't an attempt to hammer home the health message. The warning is printed in each of Bosnia's three official languages, Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian, even though the words are the same in each case, albeit one written using a different but widely known alphabet. But the linguistic distinction is seen by many as artificial and driven by a wish to stir up nationalism.

A group of intellectuals from Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia drew up a declaration in late March claiming they speak a "common language" in the four ex-Yugoslav republics. "It's as clear as day," said Fedja Isovic, a Bosnian playwright behind a popular regional sitcom, in which he says more than 300 Balkan actors "all speak their mother tongue" without any difficulty of comprehension between dialects. "Only linguistic-nationalist hordes think differently," he said. From

Zagreb to Podgorica through Sarajevo and Belgrade, around 15 million people speak the language that was standardized in the 19th and 20th centuries and was widely known as Serbo-Croatian during the communist Yugoslav era, written in either the Latin or Cyrillic alphabet. But after the bloody breakup of the Yugoslav federation in the 1990s, nationalist elites tried to widen the linguistic gap between the newly-born countries.

Croatia introduced words such as "zracna luka" instead of "aerodrom" for airport, while a spokesman is a now a "glasnogovornik" (literally "loudspeaker") instead of "portparol". Montenegro, after declaring independence from Serbia in 2006, created two new letters in its alphabet. In impoverished Bosnia, still deeply ethnically divided more than 20 years after the war that left 100,000 people dead, authorities circulate documents in three, often identical versions-a significant cost for the country of 3.5 million people. — AFP

FRONT' AHEAD OF BREXIT TALKS

'Before discussing future, we have to sort out our past'

BRUSSELS: European Union leaders vowed yesterday to stand shoulder-to-shoulder behind their negotiating team during the divorce proceedings with Britain and warned that demands from British Prime Minister Theresa May will be dealt with "firmly." The 27 EU leaders in Brussels finalized the cornerstones of their negotiating stance within minutes of starting a short summit, a month after the British leader triggered two years of exit talks on March 29. The negotiations themselves are to open shortly after Britain holds an early election on June 8. "Guidelines adopted unanimously. EU27 firm and fair political mandate for the #Brexit talks is ready," EU Council President Donald Tusk tweeted.

The leaders say there can't be any discussions on the future relationship between the EU and Britain before some key issues are settled. Those include how much Britain owes the bloc, what to do about the Irish land border with Britain and, Tusk said, making sure the welfare of citizens and families living in each other's nations will be a priority. The guidelines halted British hopes of having future trade relations being discussed concurrently all through the talks. Tusk said "before discussing the future, we have to sort out our past. We will handle it with genuine care but firmly." Some at the summit were already considering how to deal with possible British negotiating tactics. "Maybe the British government will do its utmost to split the 27 nations and it is trap we need to avoid," said Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel. Ever since the June 23 referendum last year in which Britons narrowly voted to leave the bloc, the remaining 27 EU nations have shown a rare exceptional unity. In contrast, citizens in Britain have been divided because of the momentous event looming. Now, the EU is also intent on making Britain pay the divorce bill, which some EU officials have put as high as 60 billion euros (\$65 billion). "If you are no longer part of a club, it has consequences. A Brexit for free is not possible," Michel said.

To kick off the negotiations, Tusk wants to center on the millions of people living in each other's nations who would be immediately affected. All sides "need solid guarantees for all citizens and their families who will be affected by Brexit on both sides. This must be the No 1 priority," Tusk said. Some 3 million citizens from the 27 nations live in Britain while up to 2 million Britons live on the continent, all facing massive uncertainly on such issues as health benefits, pensions, taxes, employment and education.

Tusk said the sustained unity of the 27 will help May since she will have political certainty throughout the talks. "Our unity is also in the UK's interest," he said. "I feel strong support from all the EU institutions, including the European Parliament, as well as all the 27 member states. I know this is something unique and I am confident it will not change." Over the past years, the bloc has often been bitterly divided over issues like the financial crisis, the euro debt crisis, bailouts to financially-strapped members like Greece, and how to deal with the hundreds of thousands of migrants entering the bloc.

At their summit, the leaders are set to acknowledge that Northern Ireland could join the bloc in the future if its people vote to unite with EU member state Ireland.

The two share the same island, and the difficulties of re-establishing a land border are immense and politically fraught. Two European officials said a statement on the Northern Ireland issue is likely to be added to the minutes of the summit, which is being held without May. The officials asked not to be identified because the issue was not yet settled. Future relations between Ireland and Britain, including how the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland would work with the UK outside the bloc, have emerged as a key problem to be addressed during the Brexit talks. — AP

GHANA TO ROLL OUT FREE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

ACCRA: Ghana is planning to make senior high school free for all teenagers, whatever their background, in a move experts say could transform the lives of millions of youngsters, particularly girls. President Nana Akufo-Addo has promised to introduce the measure in September to fulfill a campaign pledge made during last December's election that brought him to power. Currently, access to senior high school in Ghana depends on passing an entrance exam, available places and, crucially, being able to afford the fees.

Akufo-Addo said last month that free schooling meant "more and more of our girls get access to affordable and quality education which is turn speeds up the development of our country. "Achieving excellence in girls' education is a must if we are to shed off the evils of poverty, ignorance, and disease and put our country on the path of progress and prosperity," he added. Girls in Ghana currently lag behind boys in school attendance by just over two years.

UN statistics from 2015 indicated girls spent an average of 5.8 years in school compared with 7.9 for boys. Across sub-Saharan Africa, the figures were 4.5 and 6.3; globally the average was 7.7 and 8.8. The need for girls to finish school has been the subject of many global campaigns, which have highlighted their impact on improving problem areas such as euros) a year in fees and books for a private junior child mortality and wages.

Boost standards

The West Africa head of the Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED), Dolores Dickson, said girls in Ghana faced similar barriers to stay in school as in other developing countries. Poorer families were more likely to focus on a boy's education, believing that a girl will be more helpful around the home, she added. Public primary and junior high school in Ghana is free, although there are still costs for items such as uniforms and exercise books. But when girls were given the chance to finish school, it benefitted everyone, she said. Camfed has given secondary school scholarships to more than 67,000 girls in Ghana.

They "invest back in their families, paying for healthcare and other siblings to go to school", said Dickson. Access to education should become 'just as natural as breathing or.. having a meal a day" so "you don't have to think about it", she added. Raymond Osei, who lives in Cape Coast, 150 kilometers from the capital, Accra, said his 13year old daughter, Charlotte, would be going to senior high regardless. But eradicating fees would ease the burden on family finances, said the banker, who pays about 1,600 cedi (\$380, 350

high school. "For those lower income earners, it was a big blow when it (senior high school) wasn't free. Some of them end up dropping out because they cannot get enough money," he said.

'Fantastic opportunity'

Education consultant Prince Armah said the free senior high initiative was a positive move but issues of equality still needed to be addressed across Ghana. Wealth gaps between rural and urban areas, the more affluent south and the poorer north, has an impact on schooling. Government statistics from 2015 exams showed non-deprived districts outperformed deprived districts, with approximately 25 percent of candidates receiving above average grades. In deprived districts, it was less than 12 percent. Some 400 million cedi has been set aside for the scheme in this year's budget. Exact details of how the initiative will work are yet to be revealed. But Camfed's Dickson said if Akufo-Addo's plan is successful, it will be "a fantastic opportunity for this generation". "It means that access to education is no longer a challenge, no longer a barrier. We know the power of what education can do," she added. "If this works people will go into the school system and have access to the school system irrespective of where you are born and who you are born to."- AFP

Kuwait <u>Fimes</u> 55.



This file photograph taken on October 31, 2011, shows US Marines carrying a wounded colleague, who was hit by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), to a medevac helicopter of US Army's Task Force Lift "Dust Off", Charlie Company 1-171 Aviation Regiment, to be airlifted in Helmand province. — AFP

US MARINES RETURN TO Afghanistan's Helmand

LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan: US Marines returned to Afghanistan's volatile Helmand yesterday, where American troops faced heated fighting until NATO's combat mission ended in 2014, in the latest sign foreign forces are being increasingly drawn back into the conflict. The deployment of some 300 Marines to the poppy-growing southern province, first announced in January, came one day after the resurgent Taliban announced the launch of their "spring offensive", and as the Trump administration seeks to craft a new strategy in Afghanistan.

Commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan General John Nicholson attended a handover ceremony marking the return of the prestigious force, the Marines first to be deployed in Afghanistan since 2014, an AFP photographer said. Part of a troop rotation, they will arrive in stages, eventually numbering some 300 who will take part in NATO's train, assist and advise mission.

Helmand for years was the centrepiece of the US and British military intervention in Afghanistan-only for it to slip deeper into a quagmire of instability. The militants effectively control or contest 10 of Helmand's 14 districts, blighted by a huge opium harvest that helps fund the insurgency. Around 30,000 people fled fighting in the province in 2016, mostly fleeing to provincial capital Lashkar Gah, with the city at times practically besieged. The roads from neighboring districts are heavily mined by the insurgents.

The US has around 8,400 troops in Afghanistan with about another 5,000 from NATO allies. Nicholson has called for a few

thousand more to help break the stalemate against the insurgents. Pentagon chief Jim Mattis warned of "another tough year" in Afghanistan when he visited Kabul this week as part of consultations on the Trump administration's review of Afghan policy. Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, a retired Afghan general based in Kabul, was optimistic. "If the Afghan forces and the US Marines jointly fight the phenomenon of the terrorism in southern Helmand, we will have tangible results," he told AFP.

Afghan quagmire

Most US forces in Afghanistan are taking part in NATO's training mission, seeking to boost embattled Afghan forces who have been straining to beat back the militants since international forces ended their combat mission in 2014.

Afghanistan has seen intensified Taliban attacks across the country, leaving Afghan forces-already beset by killings, desertions, and vacuums in leadership and moralestretched on multiple fronts. They have faced soaring casualties, up 35 percent in 2016 with 6,800 soldiers and police killed, according to a US watchdog.

Last week the Taleban delivered a stinging blow, with militants dressed in Afghan army uniforms slaughtering at least 135 young recruits at a base near northern Mazar-i-Sharif city, according to official figures-though multiple sources have said the death toll is much higher. The attack is believed to be the deadliest by the Taliban on a military target since they were driven from power in 2001. The group vowed more in the statement announcing their so-called "spring offensive" Friday. — AFP

INTERNATIONAL

NOTORIOUS AFGHAN WARLORD URGES END TO 'UNHOLY WAR'

HEKMATYAR ADDRESSES FOLLOWERS IN PUBLIC SPEECH

MEHTAR LAM, Afghanistan: In his first public speech since signing a peace deal with the Afghan government, one of Afghanistan's most notorious warlords yesterday called for the Taleban to stop fighting and begin negotiations.

"I invite you to join the peace caravan and stop the pointless, meaningless and unholy war," Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said to a gathering of his followers and Afghan politicians in Laghman province, east of the capital, Kabul. "I want a free, proud, independent and Islamic Afghanistan," he said.

In February the United Nations Security Council agreed to drop sanctions against Hekmatyar, paving the way for him to return openly to Afghanistan. The Afghan government requested the move as part of a peace deal with Hekmatyar and his militant group, Hezb-i-Islami, in September.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani welcomed Hekmatyar's public return, saying the former strongman would cooperate with the government. "Hezb-i-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's return will have remarkable effects on peace, stability, prosperity and development in all aspects," Ghani's office said in a statement. The deal has been criticized by some Afghans and human rights groups for the pardon it granted to Hekmatyar and many of his fighters. Hekmatyar's return "will compound the culture of impunity", Human Rights Watch researcher Patricia Gossman said of the deal, calling it an "affront" to victims of abuses.

A controversial figure from the insurgency against the Soviets in the 1980s and the civil wars of the 1990s, Hekmatyar is accused of ordering his fighters to bombard Kabul, leading to many casualties, besides other abuses. His faction of Hezb-i-Islami has played a relatively small role in the current conflict, in which the Taleban have a leading role in battling the Westernbacked government in Kabul.

In hiding for nearly a decade and a half, Hekmatyar had been designated a "global terrorist" by the United States, which has been leading an international military mission in Afghanistan for the past 15 years. American and other Western leaders praised the deal with him, however, hoping it could help lead to wider peace in Afghanistan. — Reuters



KABUL: Afghan warlord and ex-prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar gestures as he speaks at a rally in Laghman province yesterday. —AFP

IN KASHMIR, SOCIAL MEDIA BECOMES A BATTLEGROUND

SRINAGAR: An unprecedented ban on Whatsapp, Facebook and Twitter in Indian Kashmir has highlighted social media's role in energizing an insurgency that has roiled the disputed Himalayan region for decades. Authorities in the Kashmir valley this week ordered internet service providers to block 15 social media services for at least one month, saying they were being misused by "antinational and anti-social elements".

The move followed an upsurge in violence in the region, where authorities say social media are being used to mobilise stone-throwing protesters behind increasingly frequent civilian attacks on government forces. Anti-India sentiment runs deep in the predominantly Muslim Kashmir valley, one of the world's most heavily militarized spots, where most people favour independence or a merger with Pakistan. One senior police officer said the power of social media to mobilize large groups of civilians was "worrying the security forces much more than the armed militants".

"Social media is misused to mobilize youth during anti-militant operations," said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Rebel groups have been fighting Indian forces in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR: An unprecedented ban on Whatsapp, Facebook and Twitter in Indian Kashmir has highlighted social media's role in energizing an insurgency that has roiled the disputed Himalayan

The local government already frequently blocks mobile internet services in the volatile Kashmir valley, but it is the first time they have banned specific social media services in the interests of public order. The Kashmir valley has been tense since April 9, when eight people were killed by police and paramilitaries during election day violence. Since then, students angered by a police attempt to detain suspected protest ringleaders on college grounds have held regular demonstrations, frequently clashing with police. Kashmir's tech-savvy young — 70 percent of the population is under 35 — have increasingly turned to social media to express their anger as well as to mobilise demonstrations.

"If they (the government) take away our means of communication and protest we will keep finding new ones," said Asim, a university student who gave only his first name. Political scientist Noor Ahmed Baba told AFP the conflict was now "playing out in the social media space". — Reuters



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N KOREA FIRES MISSILE, DEFYING US THREAT

SEOUL: North Korea test-fired a ballistic missile yesterday in apparent defiance of a concerted US push for tougher international sanctions to curb Pyongyang's nuclear weapons ambitions. The latest launch, which South Korea said was a failure, came just hours after US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned the UN Security Council of "catastrophic consequences" if the international community-most notably China-failed to pressure the North into abandoning its weapons program.

Military options for dealing with the North were still "on the table", Tillerson warned in his first address to the UN body. The launch ratchets up tensions on the Korean peninsula, with Washington and Pyongyang locked in an ever-tighter spiral of threat, counter-threat and escalating military preparedness. US President Donald Trump, who has warned of a "major conflict" with North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un's regime, said the latest test was a pointed snub to China-the North's main ally and economic lifeline. "North Korea disrespected the wishes of China & its highly respected President when it launched, though unsuccessfully, a missile today. Bad!" Trump tweeted. The US is deploying a naval strike group led by an aircraft carrier to the Korean peninsula, and a missile-defence system called Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) that officials say will be operational "within days".

North Korea recently conducted its biggest-ever firing

drill and has threatened to "bury at sea" the US aircraft carrier, amid signs it could be preparing for a sixth nuclear test.

South Korea's defence ministry said it suspected Saturday's missile test had failed after a brief flight, while the US military's Pacific Command confirmed the rocket did not leave North Korean territory.

South Korea condemned the launch, with foreign ministry spokesman Cho June-Hyuck saying that if the North continued to "play with fire", it would "face strong punitive steps in various levels", including from the UN Security Council. Japan has lodged a "serious protest and criticism" to the North, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters after a national security council meeting.

Risk of nuclear attack 'real'

China pushed back at Tillerson's call at the UN Security Council for it to do more to rein in Pyongyang, arguing that it was unrealistic to expect one country to solve the conflict. 'The use of force does not solve differences and will only lead to bigger disasters," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

His country, he said, should not be "a focal point of the problem on the peninsula" and stressed that "the key to solving the nuclear issue on the peninsula does not lie in the hands of the Chinese side". Russia joined China in appealing for a return to talks and de-escalation. - AFP



PAJU: South Korean Army K-9 self-propelled howitzers move during the annual exercise in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea, yesterday. — AP



MANILA: Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) stand together as they pose after the signing ceremony of the 2017 ASEAN summit in Manila yesterday. — AP

ASEAN LEADERS WRESTLE OVER CHINA AT SUMMIT DUTERTE FACES PUSHBACK IN CHINA'S DIPLOMATIC WIN

insists it has sovereign rights over nearly all of it.

SLAIN MALDIVIAN BLOGGER'S FATHER SEEKS FOREIGN PROBE

COLOMBO: The father of the murdered Maldivian blogger Yameen Rasheed pleaded for an international investigation on Friday, saying he had no confidence in the government to deliver justice.

Hussain Rasheed, 54, was speaking in neighboring Sri Lanka where he is meeting foreign diplomats to put pressure on the Maldives government to carry out an independent investigation. A tearful Rasheed described seeing the body of his 29-year-old son, who had been murdered hours earlier at his home by unidentified attackers.

"His throat was slit, there were 14 stab njuries that I counted, but later we saw he had been stabbed in 35 places and part of his skull was missing," Rasheed told reporters in Colombo.

The government has promised an investigation, but Rasheed said he could not trust them to deliver justice. "I heard about 18 people have been killed in the Maldives like this in the past three years, but no one has been prosecuted."

Yameen Rasheed, who poked fun at the nation's politicians on his blog The Daily Panic, was found in the stairwell of his Male apartment with multiple stab wounds to his chest and neck. He died in hospital.

He had lodged complaints with the police about death threats he had received in December, but they were not taken seriously. On Friday his father said Maldives police had acted suspiciously, washing down the scene of the crime and having the blood-splattered wall repainted. They also prevented anyone from taking pictures. The United Nations has already called on the Male government to order an independent investigation into the killing of Rasheed, the third media figure to be targeted in the troubled archipelago nation in the last five years.

Blogger Ismail Rasheed narrowly escaped death when he was stabbed by an unidentified attacker in 2012. A journalist with the independent Minivan News, Ahmed Rilwan, was likely abducted in August 2014 and has been missing ever since. The Maldives regime has already faced censure from the UN over the arrest and jailing of a former president and a former defence minister. — AFP

PAKISTAN PM FIRES ADVISOR **OVER NEWSPAPER LEAK**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Prime Minister Newspaper Society for "necessary disci-Nawaz Sharif yesterday sacked one of his special advisers and sanctioned powerful army rejected Sharif's directive as "incomplete". The report's findings and recommendations threaten to reopen a rift between the army and the civilian government at a time when relations between the two have been relatively stable. An article published in the Englishlanguage Dawn newspaper in October, detailing high-level security talks, had angered the army and led to the firing of then-Information Minister Pervaiz Rashid, who was a Sharif ally. The military's tough response, which included asking intelligence agencies to identify the journalist's sources, drew widespread criticism from rights groups who accused it of curtailing Pakistan's press freedoms. The prime minister's office said Sharif had "approved the recommendations" from the report into the leak, which included the removal of Syed Tariq Fatemi, Sharif's special assistant on foreign affairs, from his post. Sharif's office, in a statement, added Rao Tehsin Ali, principal information officer at the information ministry, will also be sanctioned on the basis of the report, which has not yet been published.

plinary action". But the army swiftly rejected Sharif's directive. "Notification another bureaucrat after an inquiry into on Dawn Leak is incomplete and not in a newspaper leak, but the country's line with recommendations by the Inquiry Board. Notification is rejected. the military's spokesman, Major General Asif Ghafoor, said on Twitter. He did not elaborate on what other actions the government should take. In October, the prime minister's office said the story was "planted" and termed it a "breach of national security." The Dawn newspaper has stood by the author. Dawn journalists could not be reached for comment. Quoting anonymous sources, the Dawn article said civilian government officials called for the military not to interfere if civilian authorities tried to arrest members of anti-India militant groups such as Jaishe-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba. Westerns powers and India have criticised Pakistan over its links with home-grown Islamist militant groups which carry out attacks in neighboring India, though Islamabad denies supporting them. Relations between the civilian government and military have often been strained in a country where several prime ministers, including Sharif himself, have been ousted in coups. The appointment of Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa as the country's new military chief in November led to easing of tensions between Sharif's government and the military. — Reuters

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte faced pushback yesterday at a regional summit over his efforts to weaken Southeast Asian resistance to Chinese expansionism in the contested South China Sea, diplomats said.

Duterte was due to release a chairman's statement at the end of the one-day Association of Southeast Asian (ASEAN) leaders meeting that ignored an international tribunal ruling rejecting China's sweeping claims to the strategically vital waterway. Ahead of the summit Duterte said the Philippines and other nations were helpless to stop Chinese artificial island building in areas they claimed, so there was no point discussing it at diplomatic events such as yesterday's summit.

But diplomats said other ASEAN nations, unhappy with intense Chinese lobbying of the Philippines, had sought to toughen up the chairman's statement and there were hot debates on the issue leading up to yesterday's summit. "It can't be seen that ASEAN has totally given in to Chinese pressure," a Southeast Asian diplomat in Manila for the event told AFP.

China has been turning reefs and shoals in areas of the sea claimed by the Philippines and other nations into artificial islands, and installing military facilities there.

The United States has criticised the construction work, warning against militarisation in the waterway where \$5 trillion in annual trade passes. ASEAN members Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei also claim parts of the sea, but China

The Philippines, under previous president Benigno Aguino, had lobbied hard at ASEAN summits for the bloc to voice its strong opposition to the Chinese expansionism, and official

statements at those events often reflected that. Aquino also filed a case at a UN-backed tribunal asking it to reject China's claims and artificial island building. The tribunal last year ruled largely in the Philippines' favour. But the ruling came after Duterte took power.

China win

Duterte steadfastly refused to use the verdict to pressure China, instead pursuing warmer relations and billions of dollars' worth of trade and aid. In a speech to open the summit, Duterte made no reference to the South China Sea. Duterte's chairman's statement, which is meant to reflect the views of all ASEAN leaders, will voice concern but not mention the ruling nor China directly, according to excerpts of the latest draft yesterday obtained by AFP.

China, through its ambassador to Manila, had this week been campaigning to weaken it further, delegates and diplomats told AFP. "The lobbying is quite intense. They (China) want it further watered down," one diplomat told AFP. China had wanted ASEAN to remove a reference to "respect for legal and diplomatic processes", and it was taken out of the South China Sea section of the latest draft of the chairman's state-

ment. Filipino diplomats said the phrase was important because "legal and diplomatic processes" encompassed the entire process of the filing of the case in the tribunal until its resolution. Nevertheless, the new draft statement reintroduced a call for no further "land reclamation and militarization" of the sea.

Diplomats said the reinclusion of the reference to land reclamation and militarisation meant that some ASEAN countries were not comfortable with "total acquiescence" to China.

"This has to be reflected in the statement," one diplomat, who did not want to be named, told AFP. Another diplomat said Vietnam had insisted the references to the land reclamation and militarisation be reintroduced. The chairman's statement was due to be released vesterday afternoon, after the ASEAN leaders finished their meetings and ahead of an informal dinner. The summit was also being closely watched for how Duterte, who has shocked with curse-laden tirades against the United States and other critics of his deadly drug war, handles hosting his first major diplomatic event.

Duterte's drug war, which has claimed thousands of lives and led to warnings by rights groups about a possible crime against humanity, has been widely condemned in the West. But he has enjoyed support from some of his Southeast Asian guests this week, including Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and Indonesian President Joko Widodo. — AFP

The Dawn newspaper, its editor Zafar Abbas and article author, Cyril Almeida, have been referred to the All Pakistan

FRENCH AMPHIBIOUS CARRIER VISITS JAPAN

SASEBO: As tension spikes on the Korean peninsula, a French amphibious assault carrier sailed into Japan's naval base of Sasebo yesterday ahead of drills that risk upsetting China, which faces US pressure to rein in North Korea's arms programs.

The Mistral will lead exercises next month near Guam, along with forces from Japan, the United States and Britain, practicing amphibious landings around Tinian, an island about 2,500 km (1,553 miles) south of the Japanese capital of Tokyo.

The drills, involving 700 troops, were planned before yesterday's test-firing of a ballistic missile by North Korea, in defiance of world pressure, in what would be its fourth successive unsuccessful missile test since March. Japan and the United States are worried by China's efforts to extend its influence beyond its coastal waters and the South China Sea by acquiring power-projecting aircraft carriers, a concern shared by France, which controls several Pacific islands, including

New Caledonia and French Polynesia. Even as they seek stronger economic ties with China, both France and Britain, which has two navy helicopters aboard the Mistral, are deepening security cooperation with Japan, a close US ally that has Asia's second-strongest navy after China. The Mistral forms part of an amphibious task force mission, the Jeanne d'Arc, that is "a potent support to French diplomacy," the country's defence ministry said in a statement.

Officials and children's welcome dances greeted the Mistral in Sasebo, on the western island of Kyushu, a major naval base for Japan's Maritime Self Defense Force (MSDF) and the US Navy. The Mistral, which left France in February, can carry up to 35 helicopters and four landing barges, besides several hundred soldiers. It will stay in Sasebo until May 5.

This month China launched its first domestically-built aircraft carrier. It joined the Liaoning, bought from Ukraine in 1998, which led a group of Chinese warships through waters south of Japan in December. China's military ambitions, however, have been overshadowed in recent weeks by tension on the Korean peninsula as Pyongyang conducts longrange missile tests, and prepares for a possible sixth nuclear test.

"We did not expect the start of our visit to coincide with a North Korean missile launch, France's ambassador to Japan Thierry Dana said on the Mistral's bridge. "Cooperation between our four nations in upholding laws, peace and stability in the region will display our readiness to deal with North Korea," he added.

In a show of force, the United States has sent the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier group to nearby waters, where it will join the USS Michigan, a guided missile submarine that docked in South Korea on Tuesday. The Carl Vinson entered the Sea of Japan on Saturday, where it completed naval drills with two Japanese warships dispatched from Sasebo, an MSDF spokesman said. — Reuters



SASEBO: A French navy ship arrives at the Sasebo naval base in Sasebo, southwestern Japan yesterday. — AFP

UAE BATTLE-HARDENED MILITARY EXPANDS...

Continued form Page 1

force that took part in the 1991 US-led Gulf War that expelled Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait. The UAE sent troops to Kosovo as part of the NATO-led peacekeeping mission there starting in 1999, giving its forces valuable experience working alongside Western allies in the field.

Following the Sept 11, 2001, attacks, it deployed Special Forces troops in Afghanistan to support the US-led war against the Taleban. Emirati personnel there combined aid with Arab hospitality, working on infrastructure projects in villages and meeting with local elders. Today, the UAE hosts Western forces at its military bases, including American and French troops. Jebel Ali port in Dubai serves as the biggest port of call for the American Navy outside of the United States.

Bulging ranks

The UAE decided in recent years to grow its military, in part over concerns about Iran's resurgence in the region following the nuclear deal with world powers and the Islamic Republic's involvement in the wars in Syria and Yemen. In 2011, the UAE acknowledged working with private military contractors, including a firm reportedly tied to Blackwater founder Erik Prince, to build up its military. The Associated Press also reported that Prince was involved in a multimillion-dollar program to train troops to fight pirates in Somalia, a program by several Arab countries, including the UAE.

"As you would expect of a proactive member of the international community, all engagements of commercial entities by the UAE Armed Forces are compliant with international law and relevant conventions," Gen Juma Ali Khalaf Al-Hamiri, a senior Emirati military official, said in a statement on the state-run WAM news agency. Media in Colombia have also reported that Colombian nationals working as mercenaries serve in the UAE's military. In 2014, the UAE introduced mandatory military service for all Emirati males between the ages of 18 to 30. The training is optional for Emirati women. "Our message to the world is a message of peace; the stronger we are, the stronger our message," Dubai ruler and UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum wrote at the time on Twitter.

War in Yemen

In Yemen, UAE troops are fighting alongside Saudi-led forces against Shiite rebels who hold the impoverished Arab country's capital, Sanaa. Areas where the UAE forces are deployed include Mukalla, the provincial capital of Hadramawt, and the port city of Aden, where the internationally recognized government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi is stationed. Additionally, the UAE appears to be building an airstrip on Perim or Mayun Island, a volcanic island in Yemeni territory that sits in a waterway between Eritrea and Djibouti in the strategic Bab Al-Mandeb Strait, according to IHS Jane's Defense Weekly.

That strait, some 16-kilometers wide at its narrowest point, links the Red Sea and the Suez Canal with the Gulf of

Aden and ultimately the Indian Ocean. Dozens of commercial ships transit the route every day. Already, the waters have seen Emirati and Saudi ships targeted by suspected fire from Yemen's Shiite rebels known as Houthis. In October, US Navy vessels came under fire as well, sparking American forces to fire missiles in Yemen in its first attack targeting the Houthis in the years-long war there. "More incidents at sea, especially involving civilian shipping, could further internationalize the conflict and spur other actors to intervene," the Washington Institute for Near-East Policy warned in March.

UAE forces and aid organizations have also set foot on Yemen's Socotra Island, which sits near the mouth of the Gulf of Aden, after a deadly cyclone struck it. It too represents a crucial chokepoint and has seen recent attacks from Somali pirates. The UAE has suffered the most wartime casualties in its history in Yemen. The deadliest day came in a September 2015 missile strike on a base that killed over 50 Emirati troops, as well as at least 10 soldiers from Saudi Arabia and five from Bahrain. Meanwhile, Emirati forces were involved in a Jan. 29 Yemen raid ordered by US President Donald Trump that killed a US Navy SEAL and 30 others, including women, children and an estimated 14 militants.

Expanding to Africa

Outside of Yemen, the UAE has been building up a military presence in Eritrea at its port in Assab, according to Stratfor, a US-based private intelligence firm. Satellite images show new construction at a once-abandoned airfield the firm links to the Emiratis, as well as development at the port and the deployment of tanks and aircraft, including fighter jets, helicopters and drones. "The scale of the undertaking suggests that the UAE military is in Eritrea for more than just a short-term logistical mission supporting operations across the Red Sea," Stratfor said in December.

UAE officials did not respond to repeated requests for comment on its military operations or overseas expansion. South of Eritrea, in Somalia's breakaway northern territory of Somaliland, authorities agreed in February to allow the UAE open a naval base in the port town of Berbera. Previously, the UAE international ports operator DP World struck a deal to manage Somaliland's largest port nearby. Further afield, the UAE also has been suspected of conducting airstrikes in Libya and operating at a small air base in the North African country's east, near the Egyptian border.

Meanwhile, Somalia remains a particular focus for the UAE. The Emiratis sent forces to the Horn of Africa country to take part in a United Nations peacekeeping mission in the 1990s, while their elite counterterrorism unit in 2011 rescued a UAE-flagged ship from Somali pirates. The unit has also has been targeted in recent attacks carried out by Al-Qaeda-linked militants from Al-Shabab. A UAE military expansion into Somalia is also possible, as Trump recently approved an expanded military, including more aggressive airstrikes against Al-Shabab in the African nation. The UAE recently began a major campaign seek donations for humanitarian aid there. — AP

TURKEY BLOCKS WIKIPEDIA

ARTICLES LINK ANKARA AND TERROR GROUPS

ISTANBUL: Turkey yesterday blocked all access inside the country to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia reportedly for articles claiming links between Ankara and terror groups, the latest restriction on a popular website to hit Turkish users. Turkey's Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK) said it had implemented the ban against Wikipedia.org, without making clear the reason for the move.

Turkish state media said the ban was imposed because Wikipedia had failed to remove content promoting terror and accusing Turkey of cooperation with various terror groups. There was no indication as to when the ban might be removed, with a formal court order expected to follow in the coming days. Reacting to the ban, Wikipedia's founder Jimmy Wales wrote on Twitter: "Access to information is a fundamental human right. Turkish people, I will always stand with you to fight for this right."

A block affecting all language editions of the website in Turkey was detected from 0500 GMT after an administrative order by the Turkish authorities, according to the Turkey Blocks monitoring group, which follows internet restrictions in the country. Residents in Istanbul were unable to access any pages of Wikipedia yesterday morning without using a Virtual Private Network (VPN), AFP correspondents said. "The loss of availability is consistent with internet filters used to censor content in the country," Turkey Blocks said.

'Law No. 5651'

The BTK confirmed the ban in a statement but gave no details. "After technical analysis and legal consideration based on the Law No 5651, an administrative measure has been taken for this website Wikipedia.org," it said. Law 5651, passed in 2014 by parliament, bolstered the BTK's control over the internet and was seen at the time by freedom of expression activists as an erosion of online liberties. The incident quickly spawned its own separate Wikipedia entry -"Wikipedia blocked in Turkey".

Quoting Turkey's transport and communications ministry, the state-run Anadolu news agency said the ban was imposed because Wikipedia had failed to take down content purporting to show Turkey "on the same level as and cooperating with" terror groups. It said Turkey had kept in contact with Wikipedia but the site had failed to remove the content in question. Should the content be removed, the order would be lifted and access restored, it said. No further details were given but Turkey has long taken a hard line against what it calls "terror propaganda" in favor of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Critics of Turkey, including Kurdish militants, have accused Ankara of occasionally collaborating with jihadists in Syria, a claim fiercely rejected by the government.

'Security measures'

Turkey has become notorious over the last years for temporarily blocking access to popular sites, including Facebook and Twitter, in the wake of major events such as mass protests or terror attacks. In March 2014, YouTube was banned for several months in Turkey after the site was used to broadcast purported footage of a security meeting on Syria. In the summer of 2013, severe restrictions were imposed on social media during huge protests against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was prime minister at the time.

Savvy internet users frequently resort to the use of VPNs to get around these bans, though there have been reports that the use of VPNs has also started to be blocked. The government says such measures are always temporary and needed for national security but critics see them as another restriction on civil liberties under Erdogan. In November 2016, Turkey imposed restrictions lasting several hours on the messaging service WhatsApp as well as on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and other sites following the controversial arrests of pro-Kurdish MPs. — AFP

Tons of dead fish litter Kuwait's beaches...

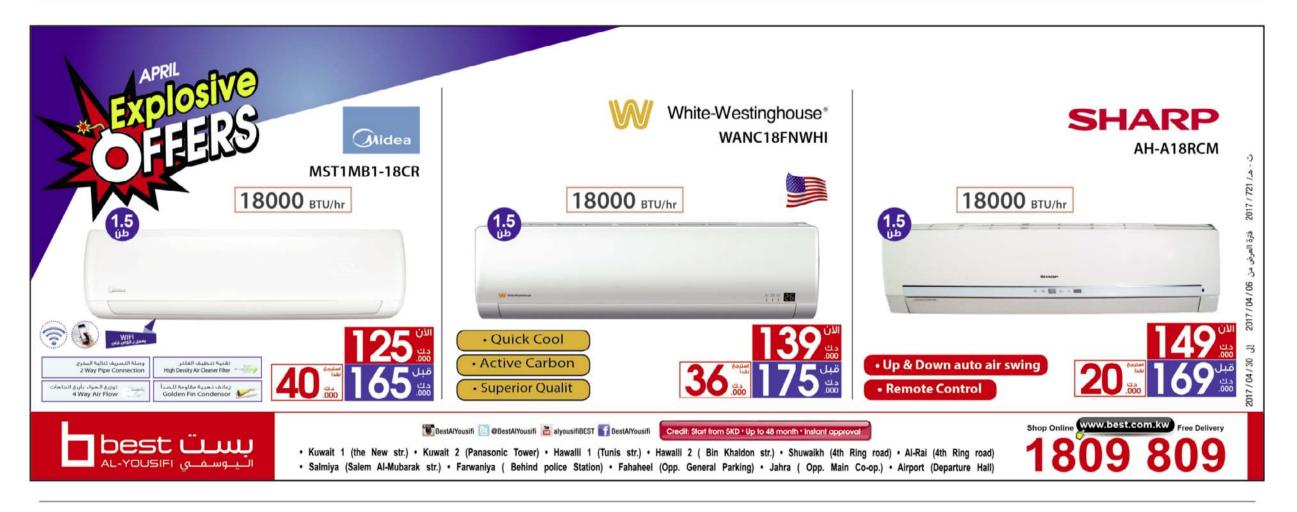
Continued form Page 1

Informed sources alleged that some fishermen might have been using explosives to kill the fish so as to collect them later. Meanwhile, Kuwait Fishermen Union has issued a statement expressing both sadness and alarm over the phenomenal death of fish and strongly refuted the accusations made by EPA - blaming fishermen for it. In its statement, the Union urged EPA to investigate the cause of deaths transparently, instead of making groundless accusations. Several lawmakers have criticized the relevant officials who had been exchanging accusations without actually solving the problem - which they said has almost

become an annual one. The Ministry of Health yesterday quashed social media reports claiming that it issued 'warning against eating seafood', especially contaminated fish that can cause cancer. Neither the Ministry, nor its Food Lab has issued such statements, spokesman Dr Ahmad Al-Shatti, said in a press release.

"The Lab receives local and imported fish referred to it by the Kuwait Municipality. So far, it has not examined the dead fish," he added. The Ministry is coordinating and cooperating with the bodies concerned with food safety and the Environment Public Authority (EPA), Shatti said. He urged citizens and expats not to buy fish from the unlicensed and unofficial outlets.







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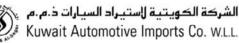
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Focus

BRITAIN FEARS BREXIT IMPACT OF MACRON VICTORY IN FRANCE

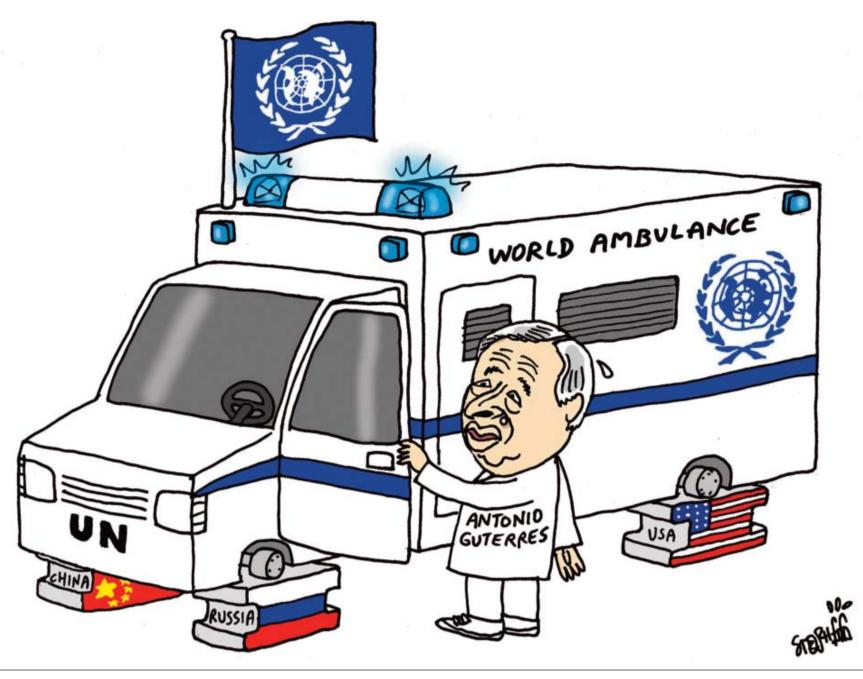
By Florence Biedermann

arine Le Pen's performance in France's presidential race cheered Brexit supporters, but many fear the likely winner Emmanuel Macron will play hardball in Britain's negotiations on leaving the European Union. EU leaders are relieved at the prospect of a victory for Macron, a pro-European centrist, in a run-off on May 7 against eurosceptic far-right leader Le Pen. But for commentators on all sides of the political divide in Britain, Macron spells bad news for Prime Minister Theresa May as she embarks on Brexit talks after her own expected re-election in June.

"Emmanuel Macron would be bad for Brexit and Theresa May," said the eurosceptic Daily Telegraph newspaper, which is close to May's Conservatives. "French presidential favourite Macron may drive hard bargain in Brexit talks," said the left-leaning Guardian.May formally notified the EU on March 29 of Britain's intention to end its 44-year-old membership, following the shock referendum vote for Brexit last June. In order to curb mass migration into Britain, she intends to pull Britain out of Europe's single market, while still pressing for access for British firms.

But several EU leaders have warned Britain cannot "have its cake and eat it". Macron dedicated a chapter to Europe and its benefits in his election manifesto, and on Brexit, said he would defend the integrity of the single market. "All companies who have access to it must be subject to the same rules," he said. In a rare honor for a presidential candidate, Macron met May in London in February, where he promised "a fair execution of Brexit protecting French and European interests". But he told a rally of expatriate voters afterwards: "The best trade deal for Britain... is membership of the EU."





'PHASED APPROACH': HOW TO READ EU BREXIT GUIDELINES

By Alastair Macdonald and Jan Strupczewski

uropean Union leaders approved on Saturday guidelines for their chief Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, setting priorities that the Union of 27 governments staying in the bloc wants to achieve in talks on Britain's withdrawal. Below are key points of the 8-page guidelines:

'Phased approach'

If "sufficient progress" towards agreeing the terms of an "orderly withdrawal" on March 29, 2019, is made in a first phase of talks starting probably in June, the EU27 could launch talks on how a long-term future free trade relationship could work. That represents a compromise between the position of EU hardliners, who want no trade talks until the full Brexit deal is agreed, and British calls for an immediate start. The chairman of EU leaders, Donald Tusk, told reporters the EU could assess if progress was "sufficient" as early as autumn, but officials noted the decision would ultimately be a political one and hinge on a recommendation from Barnier. Barnier's recommendation will depend on progress in talks on Britain's contributions to the EU budget and on the way London would treat some 3 million EU expats now living in Britain.

submit to supervision by the European Court of Justice and other EU authorities. "Any such transitional arrangements must be clearly defined, limited in time, and subject to effective enforcement mechanisms. Should a timelimited prolongation of Union acquis be considered, this would require existing Union regulatory, budgetary, supervisory, judiciary and enforcement instruments and structures to apply," the guidelines say.

Sticking together

The EU 27 will stick together against British efforts to divide and conquer and is prepared to play hardball against Prime Minister Theresa May's threat to walk out without a deal. Brussels thinks Britain needs a deal more than the EU. "In accordance with the principle that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, individual items cannot be settled separately. The Union will approach the negotiations with unified positions, and will engage with the United Kingdom exclusively through the channels set out in these guidelines and in the negotiating directives. So as not to undercut the position of the Union, there will be no separate negotiations between individual Member States and the United Kingdom on matters pertaining to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union."

a tax haven. "Any free trade agreement should be balanced, ambitious and wide-ranging. It cannot, however, amount to participation in the Single Market or parts thereof, as this would undermine its integrity and proper functioning. It must ensure a level playing field, notably in terms of competition and state aid, and in this regard encompass safeguards against unfair competitive advantages through, inter alia, tax, social, environmental and regulatory measures and practices. "Any future framework should safeguard financial stability in the Union and respect its regulatory and supervisory regime and standards and their application."

Rights and benefits

Britain cannot have a better deal outside than inside the EU that would be a slippery slope to others leaving the Union. The guidelines stress there can be no "cherry picking" from the benefits of single market membership without accepting freedom of movement for EU workers. "Preserving the integrity of the

'BREXIT bill'

Britain must pay its share of potential losses from guarantees given by the EU, among other things. Until it leaves, the actual bill probably can't be calculated with accuracy. The main thing for the EU is to agree this year on a methodology of how to calculate it and then put the latest numbers into the formula when Britain leaves in March 2019. "A single financial settlement including issues resulting from the MFF (Multiannual financial framework - the EU's 7year budget which ends in 2020) as well as those related to the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Development Fund (EDF) and the European Central Bank (ECB) - should ensure that the Union and the United Kingdom both respect the obligations resulting from the whole period of the UK membership in the Union. The settlement should cover all commitments as well as liabilities, including contingent liabilities."

'Border trouble'

The EU doesn't want to disturb peace in Northern Ireland, where there will be a new EU

'Macron as the enemy'

The Financial Times daily laid out several reasons why Macron as president "could make matters a good deal tougher for the British in Brexit talks". "He is a convinced European" who will likely offer few concessions-particularly on access to the single market for Britain's dominant financial services sector. "Some analysts believe that as a former Rothschild banker, he will want to do everything possible to maximize Paris's position as a financial centre after Britain's departure," the FT said. Others take a more emotive view. "I see Macron as the enemy," said Nigel Farage, the former leader of the UK Independence Party (UKIP) who was a key player in the Brexit vote, and now backs Le Pen. "He wants Brussels to be even stronger, and I can't see that it's in our interests when the Junckers and others are all lining up to try and punish Britain," Farage told LBC radio, referring to European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker.

Simon Tilford, deputy director of the Centre for European Reform, acknowledges that "on the face of it, it looks bad "Macron has taken quite a tough line on the whole issue of Brexit, arguing that the EU needs to take a tough line with Britain in order to set an example to other countries that might be tempted to follow a similar route," he said. "Whereas Marine Le Pen has expressed understanding for the British position." However, he said "a tough line is not necessarily bad for Britain if it forces Britain to compromise and to be more honest about the trade-offs it faces". He added: "From a European perspective, Britain has absolutely no incentive, or no interest, in the kind of political instability, or even chaos, that could follow the election of Marine Le Pen." - AFP

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'Transitional arrangements'

Britain could have a few years after March 2019 when it does not have to give up all benefits of membership, to ease the shift for people and businesses. But in that case it would have to accept EU rules, eg on free migration, and

'No dumping'

Free trade will be a good outcome but Britain should not expect to get that if it seeks competitive advantages for its companies by state subsidies or by tearing up EU environmental or labor standards or setting itself up as Single Market excludes participation based on a sector-by-sector approach. A non-member of the Union, that does not live up to the same obligations as a member, cannot have the same rights and enjoy the same benefits as a member. In this context, the European Council welcomes the recognition by the British Government that the four freedoms of the Single Market are indivisible and that there can be no 'cherry picking'. The Union will preserve its autonomy as regards its decision-making as well as the role of the Court of Justice of the European Union." land border. It is also paying attention to British military bases in Cyprus and is giving Spain a special say on the fate of the British territory of Gibraltar, which is not part of the UK but is in the EU. "In view of the unique circumstances on the island of Ireland, flexible and imaginative solutions will be required, including with the aim of avoiding a hard border, while respecting the integrity of the Union legal order. In this context, the Union should also recognize existing bilateral agreements and arrangements between the United Kingdom and Ireland which are compatible with EU law."—Reuters

FRANCE'S LE PEN STRUGGLES WITH FEAR OF FAR-RIGHT

By Adam Plowright

rance's far-right leader Marine Le Pen faces the biggest test yet of her six-year drive to improve the image of her party as she seeks to entice new voters needed to make her president. Her task was underlined on Friday when her National Front (FN) party removed its interim leader Jean-Francois Jalkh after reported comments about a Holocaust denier. To stand a chance of winning, Le Pen will need to convince people like pensioner Jacques Villain and student Marina Campana ahead of the final round of the presidential election on May 7.

Both of them backed defeated candidates in the first round last weekend and now face a choice between Le Pen and pro-European centrist Emmanuel Macron in the run-off. Villain, a retired pensioner in Nice, supported defeated conservative Francois Fillon while Campana, a 19-year-old who attends university in the southern city, voted for far-left firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon. But both ruled out a vote for Le Pen, saying the main reason was her association with racism which she attempted to erase when she took over FN in 2011.

'Bad memories'

Villain, out for a walk on the famed waterfront promenade in Nice that was the scene of a deadly Islamistinspired truck rampage last July, said he would vote for Macron out of duty, not conviction. "The National Front is not a normal party," he said. "It brings back bad memories" of France's past. Campana said ahead of a campaign rally by Le Pen in Nice on Thursday: "There are things she says on immigration and security and I just don't agree." Their views are far from universal-some voters encountered in the traditionally right-wing city said they would switch to Le Pen-but there remains wariness among a large part of the electorate. This explains in part why polls show Le Pen would lose the second round by a large margin, 40 percent to 60 percent for Macron, if it were held today. One in four Fillon supporters and fewer than one in five Melenchon voters currently plan to vote for her, according to an Ifop poll released Thursday.

Tricky balancing act

This dynamic gives the 48-year-old Le Pen a tricky balancing act ahead of the runoff: keeping her core far-right supporters happy, while appealing to a wider electorate who need to be reassured. She gave a hint of this on Thursday evening as she addressed the rally in Nice that mixed attacks on Macron-the candidate of the banks and



NICE: French far-right leader and presidential candidate Marine Le Pen addresses supporters during an election campaign rally in Nice, southern France. —AP

"oligarchs" with messages to moderate voters. The tone was markedly different from her speeches of the last fortnight which dwelt extensively on immigration, the threat from radical Islam and the perceived loss of French identity.

She quoted Jean Jaures-a famed former Socialist leader beloved on the left-and namechecked Charles de Gaulle, the founder of the French republic and hero on the right. "I don't look at your origins, your religion, your sexual orientation, or the color of your skin. That doesn't interest me. What interests me is you," she said at one point. Le Pen also addressed anxiety among voters about her plans to pull France out of the European Union and replace the bloc with a club of independent nations. "I've heard the fears expressed," she said, explaining how she would invite European leaders immediately after her election to talks to repatriate powers to national capitals.

The former lawyer would then call a referendum on the deal. "Nothing will be done without you, nothing will be done against you," she said. Notably absent was her propos-

al to withdraw France from the euro-zone and return to the franc-one of her signature policies backed by only a minority of voters, polls show. Herve Le Bras, a veteran sociologist and expert on the far-right in France, says conservative voters, particularly the elderly, are still wary of the FN which they view as too radical. "They are in favor of changing things, but not for turning the table upside down," he said.

He said he thinks Le Pen was disappointed by her firstround score of 21.3 percent and says the FN has progressed slightly nationwide, "but it's not a tidal wave". "I think she was very disappointed and is hoping to make up for it with a bigger score in the second round," he said. Le Pen had announced Monday she was stepping aside as FN leader in order to focus on the presidential campaign. On Friday, her stand-in Jalkh was hastily replaced by Steeve Briois, mayor of an FN-controlled town in northern France, after Jalkh was accused of praising the work of a convicted Holocaust denier. The party says Jalkh denies calling academic Robert Faurisson's research "rigorous". —AFP

TOULOUSE MISSES PLAY-OFFS

AFTER CASTRES MAULING

PARIS: Castres' Argentinan fly-half Benjamin Urdapilleta orchestrated a

six-try, 52-7 thrashing of Toulouse yesterday that deprived the 19-time

French championship winners a place in the play-offs for the first time

since 1976. Urdapilleta scored his team's fourth try and also contributed

22 points with his unerring boot in helping consign Toulouse to a ninth

defeat in 10 matches that leaves them rooted in 12th position in the

table, above only relegated clubs Grenoble and Bayonne. The

result saw Castres move provisionally up to fourth on 63

points, with their final regulation season match at Brive

next weekend decisive for their progress to the season-

ending play-offs. Alex Tulou, for Castres, and ex-All Black

Luke McAlister, for Toulouse, each crossed for first-half tries.

point performance by the home side. —AFP

But with Urdapilleta chipping away at the scoreboard, the

floodgates soon opened in the second-half, Julien

Caminati (2), Brice Mach and Julien Dumora all cross-

ing the whitewash in a totally dominant, bonus-



FRITTELLI PASSES LARRAZABAL TO TAKE LEAD IN CHINA OPEN

BEIJING: Dylan Frittelli continued his impressive recent form yesterday after carding a bogey-free eight-under-par 64 to take a three-shot lead into the final day of the China Open. Challenge Tour graduate Frittelli, who finished a season best tied for fifth at Shenzhen last week, followed up his clubhouse record-equaling 63 at Topwin Golf and Country Club on Friday with a eight birdies to finish 19-under. Overnight leader Pablo Larrazabal stretched the lead to four shots early in the day but two bogeys on the front nine saw him slip behind the South African Frittelli, who is in search of his first European Tour title. "I like to think I would keep the same game plan tomorrow and maybe adjust on the back nine depending on the situation," Frittelli said. "Pablo played great out there today as well. He's not going to lie down, he is one of the toughest guys to get into a dog fight with on the European Tour. So I'm definitely going to be wary of him tomorrow." The 33-year-old Spaniard recovered with three consecutive birdies from the 10th to post 70 on day three, the nearest challenger on the leaderboard. He was followed by 2014 winner Alexander Levy of France at 12-under-par for the tournament. —Reuters

NIBALI GIVEN PLATFORM TO DEFEND GIRO TITLE

PARIS: Bahrain-Merida have given their captain Vincenzo Nibali every chance of defending his Giro d'Italia title by naming a squad for the centenary edition starting next Friday entirely crafted around the Sicilian climber. The team was announced yesterday and features two strong climbing mates for Nibali in compatriot Franco Pellizotti and Spain's Javier Moreno. Race organizers for the climber-friendly threeweek tour-with six mountaintop finishes-have even

programmed stage five to finish at Nibali's hometown of Messina. The 32-year-old is one of six Italians in the Bahrain team and is the nation's top cyclist, having clinched the Giro in 2013 and 2016, the Tour of Spain in 2010 and the Tour de France in 2014. Bahrain-Merida Giro line-up: Bahrain: Vincenzo Nibali (ITA), Valerio Agnoli (ITA), Manuele Boaro (ITA), Enrico Gasparotto (ITA), Javier Moreno (ESP), Franco Pellizotti (ITA), Luca Pibernik (SLO), Kanstantsin Siutsou (BLR), Giovanni Visconti (ITA) — AFP





HOLLIDAY HOMER CAPS HUGE YANKEES COMEBACK

NEW YORK: Matt Holliday hit a three-run homer in the 10th inning and the New York Yankees completed a stunning rally from an eight-run deficit, outslugging the Baltimore Orioles 14-11 on Friday night. In a game of home run derby, Starlin Castro tied it with a two-run drive that capped a three-run burst in the ninth off Brad Brach. Then in the 10th, Holliday hit the eighth home run of the evening - five by the Yankees - with one out off Jayson Aquino (1-1). Down 9-1 in the sixth, the Yankees pulled off their biggest comeback since overcoming a 9-0 gap to beat Boston 15-9 in 2012. On the first true spring-like day in New York, the ball was flying. Featured were all kinds of monster shots - cleanup men Jacoby Ellsbury and Mark Trumbo connected for grand slams, and Yankees fan favorite Aaron Judge homered twice. Manny Machado launched a 470-foot homer, the longest in the majors this year, and Welington Castillo also homered for Baltimore. Aroldis Chapman (1-0) pitched the 10th as the Yankees won their third straight and tied Baltimore at 14-7 for the AL East lead.

DODGERS 5, PHILLIES 3

Japan's Kenta Maeda found his form during seven solid innings to lead Los Angeles past Philadelphia. Maeda (2-2) entered with an 8.05 ERA and had failed to reach the sixth inning in any of his four previous starts. The second year right-hander struck out a season-high eight and limited Philadelphia to five hits, a walk and two runs as Los Angeles snapped the Phillies' six-game winning streak. The Phillies pushed a run across in the eighth against two relievers, but Kenley Jansen struck out the side in the ninth for his sixth save. Jerad Eickhoff (0-2) gave up nine hits and five runs. It was the first time Eickhoff had given up more than three runs in his last 13 starts.

RED SOX 5, CUBS 4

Andrew Benintendi hit a solo homer off Jake Arrieta during a five-run first inning as Boston held on to beat Chicago. Every Red Sox starter had at least one hit, and Hanley Ramirez, Mitch Moreland, Jackie Bradley Jr and Christian Vazquez also drove in a run each. Left-hander Drew Pomeranz (2-1) got the win with six innings of two-run ball, surrendering solo homers to Kris Bryant and Albert Almora Jr. in the early innings before settling in. He allowed six hits and two walks while striking out seven. Boston has won its last nine interleague games at Fenway Park. Arrieta (3-1) logged his shortest start since Aug. 28, 2014, lasting only 4 1/3 innings and giving up 10 hits and three walks with five strikeouts.

BRAVES 10, BREWERS 8

Freddie Freeman's two-run home run snapped a tie in the ninth and Atlanta rallied from a four-run deficit in the final three innings. Freeman hit his eighth homer off Brewers closer Neftali Feliz (0-3), who was summoned to pitch the ninth in a tie game. Adonis Garcia led off the inning with a double and Freeman hit a 1-1 pitch over the wall in center field. Jose Ramirez (1-1) pitched a perfect eighth and Jim Johnson worked the ninth

MLB results/standings

San Francisco 4, San Diego 3; La Dodgers 5, Philadelphia 3; Colorado 3, Arizona 1; St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 5; Minnesota 6, Kansas City 4; Atlanta 10, Milwaukee 8; Houston 9, Oakland 4; LA Angels 6, Texas 3; Boston 5, Chicago Cubs 4; Chicago White Sox 7, Detroit 3; Pittsburgh 12, Miami 2; Seattle 3, Cleveland 1; Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 4; NY Yankees 14, Baltimore 11 (10 innings); NY Mets 7, Washington 5.

		an Leag n Divisio				Nation Easterr	-		
	w	L	PCT	GB	Washington	16	7	.696	-
Baltimore	14	7	.667	-	Philadelphia	11	10	.524	4
NY Yankees	14	7	.667	-	Miami	10	11	.476	5
Boston	12	10	.545	2.5	Atlanta	9	12	.429	6
Tampa Bay	12	12	.500	3.5	NY Mets	9	13	.409	6.5
Toronto	6	17	.261	9		Centra	l Divisi	on	
	Centra	al Divisio	on		Chicago Cubs	12	10	.545	-
Chicago White So	x 12	9	.571	-	St. Louis	12	11	.522	0.5
Cleveland	12	10	.545	0.5	Milwaukee	12	12	.500	1
Detroit	11	11	.500	1.5	Pittsburgh	10	12	.455	2
Minnesota	11	11	.500	1.5	Cincinnati	10	13	.435	2.5
Kansas City	7	15	.318	5.5		Wester	n Divis	ion	
	Weste	r <mark>n Divis</mark> i	on		Colorado	15	9	.625	-
Houston	15	8	.652	-	Arizona	15	10	.600	0.5
LA Angels	13	12	.520	3					
Seattle	11	13	.458	4.5	LA Dodgers	12	12	.500	3
Oakland	10	13	.435	5	San Francisco	9	15	.375	6
Texas	10	13	.435	5	San Diego	9	16	.360	6.5

for his fourth save in six chances. Atlanta trailed 8-4 after six innings but scored six runs in the final three innings against Milwaukee's bullpen. The Brewers' Matt Barnes, who had not allowed a run in 12 1/3 innings this season, gave up three runs in the seventh to spark the Atlanta comeback. The Braves scored another run in the eighth to tie the score.

RAYS 7, BLUE JAYS 4

Logan Morrison hit a two-run homer, Evan Longoria and Corey Dickerson added solo shots and Tampa Bay connected three times in the eighth inning to beat struggling Toronto. Derek Norris added a solo homer in the ninth. He had two hits and two RBIs. Kevin Pillar homered and reached base five times for the Blue Jays, who lost their third straight. Toronto's 6-17 start is the worst in franchise history. Pillar's leadoff drive off Austin Pruitt (3-0) in the seventh gave the Blue Jays a 3-1 lead. Dickerson homered off Marcus Stromani in the eighth and Longoria's shot against Jason Grilli (1-3) tied the score, giving Toronto its bigleague high eighth blown save.

MARINERS 3, INDIANS 1

Ariel Miranda allowed two hits and pitched into the sixth inning while Robinson Cano and Ben Gamel homered as Seattle defeated Cleveland. Miranda (2-2) didn't give up a hit until Jose Ramirez's one-out homer in the fourth. The left-hander, making his first career appearance against the Indians, struck out seven in 5 1/3 innings Cano hit a two-run homer in the fourth and Gamel added a solo shot in the sixth, a towering drive to right. Three pitchers combined to strike out 14 against the defending AL champions. Edwin Diaz recorded the final four outs, three on strikeouts, for his fourth save. He struck out Edwin Encarnacion with a runner on to end the eighth and pitched a perfect ninth. Carlos Carrasco (2-2) gave up both home runs and struck out seven in eight innings.

ASTROS 9, ATHLETICS 4

Charlie Morton struck out a career-high 12 and George Springer singled home the tying run in his return from a leg injury as Houston handed Oakland its fifth straight loss. Khris Davis hit a three-run homer in the first and a solo shot in the third, putting Oakland ahead 4-3 with his ninth home run this season. Springer, back from a strained left hamstring that forced him to miss four games, singled to tie the score in the fourth. Houston took a 6-4 lead in the fifth on Evan Gattis' RBI single and Alex Bregman's sacrifice fly. Carlos Beltran had reached on a throwing error by second baseman Jed Lowrie, one of a season-high three errors by the A's that led to three unearned runs against Jharel Cotton (2-3).

CARDINALS 7, REDS 5

Dexter Fowler and Jedd Gyorko homered and Yadier Molina short-circuited a rally with a bases-loaded pickoff to lead St Louis to its ninth win in 11 games. The Cardinals moved above the .500 mark for the first time since winning its season opener against the Chicago Cubs. The Reds have lost eight of nine. Lance Lynn (3-1) allowed six hits and one run over six innings to record his third straight win for St Louis. He struck out five and walked two. Fowler hit a two-run homer off Tim Adleman (0-1) in the third inning to break a 1-1 tie. Gyorko pushed the lead to a 4-1 with a solo blast in the sixth.

ANGELS 6, RANGERS 3

Albert Pujols hit a tiebreaking three-run home run in the eighth inning as Los Angeles beat Texas. Mike Trout also homered for the Angels, who led 1-0 after Yunel Escobar went deep on the first pitch of the game. Pujols' third homer of the season came on his first pitch from Jeremy Jeffress (0-2), who had already allowed a single to Kole Calhoun and walked Trout. Deolis Guerra (1-1) picked up the win after a striking out two in a scoreless seventh inning. Jose Alvarez worked a perfect ninth, getting his first save in his 157th career game.

METS 7, NATIONALS 5

Josh Edgin relieved Mets closer Jeurys Familia with the bases loaded in the ninth inning and got Bryce Harper to hit into a game-ending double play, stopping New York's six-game losing streak. The Mets had lost 10 of 11 and put star slugger Yoenis Cespedes on the disabled list before the game with a strained hamstring. Travis d'Arnaud then homered twice and had five RBIs for the Mets. D'Arnaud hit a two-run homer in the second and a three-run drive in the fourth off Max Scherzer (3-2), who lasted six innings. Jacob deGrom (1-1) struck out 12 in his third consecutive double-digit strikeout game and the 13th of his career.

WHITE SOX 7, TIGERS 3

Geovany Soto broke open a tie game with a two-run single in the eighth inning, helping Chicago beat Detroit. Anthony Swarzak (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the White Sox, who won their fifth straight. Tigers reliever Alex Wilson (0-1) allowed two hits and two unearned runs in the eighth. Detroit third baseman Nick Castellanos committed two errors in the inning, and three in the game, leading to Soto's go-ahead hit.

PIRATES 12, MARLINS 2

Francisco Cervelli drove in three runs and Pittsburgh scored eight times in the second inning. Jordy Mercer homered and had two RBIs, Josh Harrison had three hits and knocked in two, and Andrew McCutchen also drove in a pair of runs for the Pirates, who snapped a sixgame losing streak to the Marlins. Pittsburgh set season-highs in runs and hits by the fourth inning finishing with 18 hits and all eight starting position players recording at least one while Jose Osuna had four and Gift Ngoepe also had three. Pirates starter Jameson Taillon (2-0) allowed one run and five hits in five innings lowering his ERA to 2.08. Adam Conley (1-2) allowed nine runs in 1 2/3 innings for Miami, which has lost three straight.

TWINS 6, ROYALS 4

Miguel Sano and Joe Mauer hit consecutive two-run doubles in the eighth inning as Minnesota handed Kansas City its eighth straight loss. Sano also had a two-run homer in the fourth. He has eight hits in his last 11 at-bats. Sano's double high off the top of the left-center fence with the bases loaded scored Eddie Rosario and Byron Buxton. Two pitches later, Mauer doubled off Joakim Soria (1-1) down the right-field line to score Max Kepler and Sano. Kepler had reached on a fielding error on Royals rookie right fielder Jorge Bonifacio. Craig Breslow (1-0) retired the only batter he faced to pick up the win. Brandon Kintzler earned his sixth save in as many chances.

ROCKIES 3, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Trevor Story homered and rookie Kyle Freeland pitched six effective innings, helping Colorado move past Arizona into first place in the NL West. The Rockies (15-9) moved a halfgame ahead of the Diamondbacks (15-10) atop the division in the opener of the threegame series. Colorado also ended a threegame losing streak. Freeland (3-1) gave up a run and six hits with two walks. He struck out two and lowered his earned run average to 2.93. Chris Rusin, Adam Ottavino and Greg Holland combined for three scoreless innings, with Holland earning his 10th save. Arizona left-hander Robbie Ray (2-1) struck out nine in 6 2/3 innings, but allowed three runs and five hits with three walks.

GIANTS 4, PADRES 3

Rookie Christian Arroyo homered and Brandon Belt had three hits including a double as San Francisco beat San Diego. Arroyo, playing in his fifth game since being called up on Monday, homered for the second time in three games leading off the bottom of the eighth inning off Ryan Butcher (1-1). Joe Panik made a diving over-the-shoulder catch on Yangervis Solarte's popup in short center field for the first out in the top of the ninth as Mark Melancon pitched a scoreless inning for his fifth save. Derek Law (3-0) worked a scoreless eighth. — AP



LED BY BEAL AND WALL, WIZARDS ARE MOVING ON

ATLANTA: John Wall refused to give in. Even as Dennis Schroder took off the other way, ahead of everyone for what looked like an uncontested layup, Wall managed to chase him down. On a night when Wall set a career playoff-high with 42 points, his remarkable defensive play was a big reason the Washington Wizards moved on to the second round of the playoffs with a 115-99 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Friday night. "That's a sign of a champion," Washington coach Scott Brooks said. "He gave us everything he had."

The Wizards will face the top-seeded Celtics in the Eastern Conference semifinals. Game 1 is Sunday in Boston. After the home team won the first five games of the opening-round series, the Wizards finally broke through on the road to end Atlanta's season. It was a much-needed confidence boost heading into a series lacking the home-court advantage. "We can win on the road," said Bradley Beal, who also came up big in the series-clinching victory with 31 points. "Just being able to withstand their run and coming together and getting the win on the road, that's the biggest thing."

NEVER TRAILED

Washington never trailed in Game 6, building a 22-point cushion early in the third quarter. Atlanta made a game of it, launching a furious comeback that closed the gap to 93-90 with more than eight minutes remaining. Schroder, one of the NBA's fastest players, had a chance to cut it to a single point when he picked off Beal's errant pass. But Wall came up from behind, timed his leap perfectly and swatted the ball away.

Then, at the offensive end, he split two defenders with a behind-the-back dribble and a crossover, somehow getting the driving shot to fall as he slammed into burly Paul Millsap. The Hawks missed a 3-pointer, Wall countered with a pull-up jumper, and just like that the Wizards were up 97-90. They pulled away from there, getting 19 points from Wall in the final period. Brooks is just as impressed with what Wall, as well as Beal, provide beyond the stat sheet.

"We have a lot of good players who help us win games, but his leadership and Brad's leadership have been great for our young players," the first-year Wizards coach said. "I couldn't ask for two better guys to lead our team." Wall and Beal will certainly lead the way against the Celtics, who bounced back from losing the first games at home to beat No. 8 seed Chicago 4-2.

The Wizards split their four regular-season meetings against Boston, each team winning twice at home. While the Celtics surprisingly edged out defending NBA champion Cleveland for the top seed, they finished only four games ahead of No. 4 Washington in the East.

Boston looked downright vulnerable against the Bulls until Rajon Rondo went down with a broken thumb, missing the last four games of the season. The Celtics won them all, including a 105-83 clincher Friday night. Atlanta coach Mike Budenholzer said Wall and Beal are a challenging 1-2 punch for any team to defend.

"When you have multiple pick-and-roll players, multiple ball-handlers, that can move you side to side," he said. "And they're different, too, so how you want to guard one isn't how you want to guard the other. ... No doubt they've both improved and both are playing well. Those guys are a handful." Wall averaged 29.5 points in the six games against the Hawks. Despite struggling early on with his shot, Beal finished the series at 25.8. —AP



SALT LAKE CITY: Los Angeles Clippers forward Luc Richard Mbah a Moute, rear, and Utah Jazz forward Joe Ingles (2) vie for a rebound during the first half in Game 6. — AP

PAUL SCORES WILLFUL 29, AS CLIPPERS FORCE GAME 7

PHILLY GIVES EVERYONE THE BOOS THEY WANTED

PHILADELPHIA: The City of Brotherly Love turned a boring event into an entertaining show. About 100,000 vocal fans gave everyone what they wanted and expected from Philadelphia: Boos! Tired of hearing about tossing snowballs at Santa Claus 49 years ago or how they cheered Michael Irvin's career-ending injury in 1999, Philly fans let everyone have it during the second and third rounds of the NFL draft Friday night.

They booed NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, of course, whenever he popped on stage. They jeered Cincinnati's selection of Oklahoma running back Joe Mixon and even Cleveland's pick of Notre Dame quarterback DeShone Kizer. But former Cowboys receiver Drew Pearson stole the show and earned the loudest boos of all. Pearson began with: "How 'bout them Cowboys!" He then trolled fans by thanking them "for allowing me to have a career in the NFL" and bragging about the "five-time world champions." Pearson pumped his fist and screamed over the boisterous crowd to announce Dallas' second-round pick: Colorado cornerback Chidobe Awuzie. He said Goodell encouraged him to talk about the Cowboys-Eagles rivalry. "It was fun," Pearson said. After that, it seemed every team representative tried to incite louder boos. Former Redskins linebacker London Fletcher told fans he expected more "for as many hits as I put on your running backs and receivers." Fletcher ended by proclaiming: "Hail to the Redskins!" NFL executive vice president Troy Vincent, a former Eagles All-Pro cornerback, jokingly waved him off the stage. Former Giants linebacker Jessie Armstead raised both fists in the air to show off two Super Bowl rings. So he heard it, too. Almost every pick that wasn't related to the Eagles got booed. An estimated crowd of 100,000 people gathered on Thursday and many were back for the second night.

E-S!" and singing "Fly, Eagles, Fly!" Eagles long snapper Jon Dorenbos drew a rousing ovation when he announced the team's third-round pick and declared Eagles fans were the best in the country. They also cheered when the team selected injured Washington cornerback Sidney Jones in the second round. The Huskies secondary saw three members - cornerbacks Kevin King and Jones and safety Budda Baker - taken in the first 11 picks. King, one of five players who were on

King, one of five players who were on hand and were not taken in the opening round, went to Green Bay with the first pick of the night and talked about learning from Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers and wanting to earn a gold, Hall of Fame jacket. The most notable selection occurred when the Bengals took Mixon at No. 48 overall. Mixon was uninvited to the scouting combine because he was videotaped punching a woman in the face, breaking bones. He hit Amelia Molitor during an altercation at a restaurant, and was suspended from the team for a year. Mixon came back and had two strong seasons. In 2016, he was an All-Big 12 performer who set the school record for all-purpose yardage in a season. Fans in the draft theater booed lustily when Bengals Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz announced the choice. Cincinnati has a history of bringing players with off-field problems to the roster. "For some of our fans, probably (they'll) pause for a second," Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said. "But this thing's got to move forward, and he's got to move on. He's lived with this since the day it's occurred." Another running back who dropped to Round 2 was Florida State All-American Dalvin Cook. He slipped from the first round because of off-field issues and some injury concerns. Cook fills the void created by Adrian Peterson's departure. Cleveland finally got its quarterback at No 52 with Kizer. The Browns have started 26 guarterbacks since 1999, when they returned as an expansion team. —AP

SALT LAKE CITY: Clippers coach Doc Rivers put it simply when he said Chris Paul willed his team to victory with the season on the line. Paul scored 29 points and the Los Angeles Clippers forced a Game 7 in their NBA first-round playoff series with a 98-93 victory over the Utah Jazz on Friday night. The Clippers will host the only do-or-die game of the first round Sunday, with the winner advancing to face the Golden State Warriors.

"It's just Chris," Rivers said. "He is as competitive as a human being as I've ever been around. When you put that with the talent and the will, that's why he has performances like this in big games. "Chris was amazing. He just willed the game for us." Los Angeles began to edge away in the third quarter and appeared to be in control when Austin Rivers capped a 9-2 run with a step-back 3-pointer that pushed the lead to 91-77 with 3:58 remaining. He hit another with 1:29 left to make it 96-86, but Gordon Hayward scored seven straight to bring the Jazz within three before Joe Johnson missed a 3-pointer in the waning seconds. Paul pushed Los Angeles throughout the night and just wouldn't let the Clippers lose. The ninetime All-Star dominated and finished with eight assists, three rebounds and two steals. DeAndre Jordan added 13 points and 18 rebounds.

'STAY IN THE MOMENT'

"We do it together," Paul said. "I came to (Jordan) during one of those timeouts in the fourth and said let's find a way. We've been in these situations time and time again. Some of us since we were kids playing AAU. You've just been in that situation. High school basketball. College basketball. It's the same game, it's just a lot more people at the games. You just go out there and try to stay in the moment."

The Clippers overcame a slow start to finish at 49 percent shooting from the field. The Jazz went in the opposite direction, getting sloppy with the ball in the third quarter and making numerous defensive mistakes. They also shot just 41.0 percent from the field and were 7 for 26 from behind the arc. Hayward led the Jazz with 31 points, George Hill added 22 and Rudy Gobert finished with 15 points and nine rebounds.

"I thought we were competing," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "I'm not sure if we got tired or got tired of missing. They were the more energetic team. Their physicality on the defensive end, we didn't respond offensively the way that we needed to, or as forceful as we needed to be. "When you're not aggressive enough with your frame of mind, I don't think you shoot the ball as well."

The Clippers took a 47-45 lead into halftime after closing on an 8-2 run, including a pair of jumpers by Luc Mbah a Moute. The Jazz jumped out to a 22-13 lead and looked to be on the brink blowing the game wide open before the offense went cold and the Clippers ripped off an 11-0 run. Utah shot just 3 for 13 from 3-point range in the first half and missed several wide-open attempts. — AP

'FLY, EAGLES, FLY!'

They turned the Art Museum area into a giant tailgate party, chanting "E-A-G-L-



PHILADELPHIA: Philadelphia Eagles' fans cheer during the second round of the 2017 NFL football draft. —AP

CELTICS ELIMINATE BULLS 105-83 TO REACH SEMIS

CHICAGO: The Boston Celtics kept reminding each other not to let up as they closed in on a lopsided victory and a trip to the NBA's Eastern Conference semifinals. No need to worry about that. Avery Bradley scored 23 points, and the hot-shooting Celtics pounded the Chicago Bulls 105-83 to win their first-round series 4-2 on Friday night. The top-seeded Celtics simply torched Chicago to finish off a tougherthan-anticipated series and advance in the playoffs for the first time since 2012. Boston regrouped after dropping the first two games at home and will meet Washington in the Eastern semifinals.

"Once we started to get the game at hand and in control, we all just kept repeating to stay focused, to keep it going, to keep pushing," Al Horford said. "We didn't want to give them any life. We were as focused and we were enjoying the moment." Bradley finished one point shy of a playoff career high he set in Game 5. He nailed three 3-pointers and the Celtics hit 16 of 39 from long range.

Gerald Green scored 16 in his fourth straight start and Isaiah Thomas had 12 before heading home to Washington state for his sister Chyna's funeral on Saturday. Her death in a car accident the day before the playoff opener dealt a blow to the Celtics. But Boston rallied around its star player and regrouped when it looked like the series might slip from reach.

"Bigger things than basketball happen and that takes precedent," coach Brad Stevens said. "I was really proud of our guys, how they treated each other and how they stuck together. Nobody pointed fingers and we're a great support network for one another, especially Isaiah. I think they appreciated being counted out."

Jimmy Butler led Chicago with 23 points. But the Bulls never really found their rhythm over the final four games with point guard Rajon Rondo sidelined by a broken right thumb. Dwyane Wade shot just 1 of 10 in a two-point effort that could be his final appearance for the Bulls. He has a \$23.8 million option on the two-year deal he signed last summer to leave Miami and come home to Chicago.

The Celtics set the tone by hitting 3s on their first three possessions on the way to a 13-point halftime lead. They buried Chicago in the third, outscoring the Bulls 34-18. Things got so lopsided that Thomas gathered his teammates near the baseline late in the quarter and screamed: "That's a wrap for these (expletives)!" "We came out and moved the ball around, we got open looks and they were going down for us," Bradley said. "It felt good to be playing Celtic basketball again. We were all smiling and having fun and that's how it's supposed to be."—AP



CHICAGO: Boston Celtics' Gerald Green (30) dunks as Chicago Bulls' Nikola Mirotic, left, and Jimmy Butller react during the first half in Game. — AP

PLAYERS FROM BIG 12 SLOW IN NFL DRAFT ONCE AGAIN

DALLAS: Let's just say the phone isn't ringing off the hook for Big 12 players so far in the NFL draft. Only five players from the conference were selected through the third round Friday night, and it appeared the Big 12 was headed toward having the fewest picks among the power five leagues again. The Big 12 started off with Texas Tech quarterback Patrick Mahomes going 10th to the Kansas City Chiefs on Thursday. The next player to go was troubled Oklahoma running back Joe Mixon, 48th overall to the Cincinnati Bengals on Friday. This was the first year since 2008 that the Big 12 had only one first-round choice. The league's two picks through two rounds were the fewest since the old Southwest Conference and Big Eight merged to form the Big 12 in 1996. In the third round, Kansas State outside linebacker Jordan Willis went to the Cincinnati Bengals at No. 73 overall, Texas running back D'Onta Foreman went to the Houston Texans at No 89 and West Virginia cornerback Rasul Douglas to the Philadelphia Eagles at No. 99.

Among the top Big 12 players still on the board for the final four rounds Saturday were Oklahoma wide receiver Dede Westbrook, Oklahoma State defensive lineman Vincent Taylor and running back Samaje Perine of Oklahoma. The Southeastern Conference led the power five conferences with 30 players taken through three rounds, followed by the Big Ten (19), Pac-12 (16), Atlantic Coast Conference (11) and Big 12 (five). Last year the Big 12 had 26 players taken in the seven rounds, tied with the ACC for fewest among power-five leagues and about half the 51 taken from the Southeastern Conference.

The Big 12 had 25 draftees in 2015, also the fewest among the power fives. Mahomes on Thursday was the second quarterback taken, with the Chiefs trading up from No 27 to get him at No 10. "It makes you feel great," Mahomes said. "It makes you feel like they really believe in you. They really believe in your abilities. They believe in you more as a person. They know that you're just going to come in and work as hard as you can just to contribute to the team anyway possible."

Mahomes led the FBS with 421 passing yards per game, and he threw for 41 touchdowns against 10 interceptions. The Bengals traded down in the second round on Friday and took Mixon , putting them back in the spotlight as a place known for giving second and third chances. The 5-foot-10 running back was one of the top players available at his position, but teams were wary because of his history. Mixon was suspended for his freshman season after punching a female student and breaking bones in her face. The crowd in Philadelphia booed when Mixon's selection was announced. Coach Marvin Lewis said the team was aware of how the public would react to the pick. Cincinnati needed a running back after Rex Burkhead left for New England. —AP





SOCHI: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton steers his car during the third practice session of the Formula One Russian Grand Prix at the Sochi Autodrom circuit. — AFP

'ettel on pole for Russia GP in a Ferrari one-two

admitted it felt "fantastic" to lead Ferrari to their first front row lock out in nine years after he took pole position in yesterday's thrilling qualifying session for the Russian Grand Prix. The four-time world champion's blistering fastest lap and Ferrari team-mate Kimi Raikkonen's second place on the grid brought to an end rivals champions Mercedes long and dominant supremacy in qualifying.

The 29-year-old German outpaced Raikkonen by 0.059 seconds with another Finn, Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes, third fastest with less than a tenth of a second separating the top three. Britain's Lewis Hamilton was fourth fastest, the first time Mercedes failed to have a car on the front row for 31 races. "If you have a rhythm here it feels fantastic," said Vettel, who has won the last nine races at which he started from pole position. "And I

SOCHI: Championship leader Sebastian Vettel am glad I got it back. It is great to have both cars on the front row, but it is only part of the job done. "I knew it would be tight, I knew I would be the first one crossing the line. I got Valtteri's time-and he did not manage to improve-and when I got the message I had got it... I was over the moon. "In qualifying, Mercedes have been very, very strong. I am sure it will be very close tomorrow, especially over the long run

'UPPER HAND'

"We will see, but for now we are full, of joy. We are back-at least if you talk about the front row!" It was Vettel's first pole this year, his second for Ferrari and the 47th of his career. Ferrari also achieved a front row lockout for the first time in 127 races going back to the 2008 French Grand Prix, where Raikkonen took pole. "It's hard to understand how we're

going to make it better, said Raikkonen.

Vettel's success also brought to an end Mercedes' run of 18 straight pole positions dating back to last year's Monaco Grand Prix. "To be honest, Ferrari have had the upper hand all weekend, but as always Sunday is the day that counts," said Bottas. Hamilton, rarely away from the front row, said he had plenty of homework overnight. "I need to find out what we are missing," said the former three-time world champion.

Australian Daniel Ricciardo was fifth for Red Bull ahead of Brazilian Felipe Massa of Williams, Dutch teenager Max Verstappen in the second Red Bull and German Nico Hulkenberg of Renault. Mexican Sergio Perez was ninth for Force India ahead of his teammate Frenchman Esteban Ocon. On a warm sunlit day at the Black Sea resort, with a track temperature of 40 degrees Celsius, the opening Q1 session saw Mercedes top the times.

Vettel and Raikkonen were second and third for Ferrari behind Bottas and Hamilton while a late accident saw two cars-Briton Jolyon Palmer's Renault and German Pascal Wehrlein's Sauber-go off and into the tyre barriers. That signaled an early exit for the pair along with Belgian Stoffel Vandoorne of McLaren Honda, Swede Marcus Ericsson of Sauber and grumbling Frenchman Romain Grosjean of Haas. The luckless Palmer had earlier had the engine in his Renault car changed between final practice and the start of qualifying. When Q2 began, Raikkonen was the early fastest man as the teams prepared their tires-to be used again on Sunday to start the race-before Bottas took over top spot in 1:33.264. The session ended with Bottas ahead of Raikkonen and Hamilton third ahead of Vettel while out went Spaniard

Carlos Sainz of Toro Rosso and Canadian rookie Lance Stroll of Williams.

Also out went local hero Russian Daniil Kvyat of Toro Rosso, Dane Kevin Magnussen of Haas and two-time champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso in his McLaren Honda. The top ten shootout began with the two Mercedes waiting in the pit lane and then, on a warm-up lap, a bizarre scrap between Hamilton and Hulkenberg, the German appearing to hold up the Englishman. "He's driving quite dangerously," said Hamilton, while Raikkonen went fastest and Vettel second for Ferrari before Bottas grabbed second. Hamilton, fighting his car for rear grip, was only fourth after the first runs, the Mercedes men clearly affected by Hulkenberg's antics. All four pole-contenders were soon out on fresh rubber for their final showdown-and Ferrari's takeover at the top.— AFP



VONN SETS SIGHTS ON OLYMPICS, RECORDS, RACING AGAINST MEN

DENVER: Always the consummate planner, Lindsey Vonn has every detail scribbled in a calendar from now until her season starts in November. Workouts, upcoming trips, ski camps, appointments - all of the ordinary stuff. The bigger-ticket items? Now those are simply memorized. In the twilight of her career, the four-time overall World Cup champion has a priority list of aspirations before even thinking of stepping away: Break Ingemar Stenmark's wins record (once thought untouchable). "Defend" her downhill crown at the Winter Olympics in South Korea (she didn't get that chance in Sochi because of a knee injury). Compete against the men in a World Cup race (should skiing's governing body ever give the idea a thumbs up). "I'm not going to stop until I reach my goals," Vonn said. "There's too much I have left to accomplish." At the moment, her plan is to race at least through the 2018-19 season - health willing, of course. But right now, the 32-year-old Vonn feels, knock on wood, guite healthy. She hasn't been able to say that very often. A quick glance at her medical chart: Bruised hip in training crash before Olympics (2006), sliced right thumb on champagne bottle while celebrating a victory (2009), severely bruised shin (2010), serious knee injuries (2013-14), broken left ankle (2015) and fractures near her left knee joint in a crash (2016).



BELO HORIZONTE: In this Nov 10, 2016 file photo, Brazil's Neymar celebrates after scoring his side's second goal against Argentina during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match. — AP

COURT DOCUMENTS DETAIL **GRAFT IN BRAZILIAN SPORTS**

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil and superstar ate, computer-savvy, media-connected Neymar were the first to qualify for next year's World Cup, save for Russia which gets an automatic berth as the host. Winning a record sixth World Cup might help some forget the humiliating 7-1 loss to Germany three years ago in the World Cup semifinals. But as the soccer team soars, more details are emerging in Supreme Court documents describing a corrupt infrastructure in Brazilian sports and its governing bodies.

Plea-bargain testimony shows staggering kickbacks tied to the World Cup and the last year's Rio de Janeiro Olympics, detailed in testimony by executives and former executives of Odebrecht, the Brazilian construction company at the center of a billion-dollar graft scandal.

"People can stand so much, and obviously the hardcore fans continue unbothered," soccer historian David Goldblatt told The Associated Press. "I think now there are many Brazilians who feel less affectionate toward the game. They know that rather than showing off the best of Brazil, often it's showing off the worst."

FINANCED THROUGH CORRUPTION

Testimony shows that at least six of Brazil's 12 World Cup stadiums were built or financed through graft. Former Odebrecht vice president Benedicto Barbosa da Silva testified that the company didn't want to be involved with World Cup stadiums because there were sure they would become "white elephants."

Many did, including stadiums in Brasilia, Manaus, Cuiaba, Natal, and Recife, Brasilia's has been used as a bus terminal. FIFA required only eight stadiums, but politicians, construction companies, and sports officials pushed for more. FIFA and the International Olympic Committee say construction projects are left to local organizers, though sports venues must meet stringent Olympic or World Cup specifications.

"There is an increasing number of liter-

young Brazilians who are struggling away and don't buy the football, the sports myth any longer," added Goldblatt, the author of "The Ball is Round: A Global History of Football," and "Futebol Nation." In Rio de Janeiro, former mayor Eduardo Paes was the moving force behind last year's Olympics. Now he's being investigated for taking at least 15 million reals (\$5 million) in payments to push construction projects linked to the games.

In December, Paes unexpectedly called off plans to teach in New York at Columbia University after a court froze his assets as a prosecutor investigated if he waived environmental rules for the billionaire developer of Rio's Olympic golf course. He has denied all charges.

Sergio Cabral, a former governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro and an early Olympic booster, has been jailed on corruption charges and awaits trial. "Brazil's double-whammy has given us a shove toward a place where people still want to watch sports mega-events like the Olympics and World Cup, but no one wants to actually host them," Jules Boykoff, who teaches sports politics at Pacific University, told The Associated Press.

The IOC has two remaining bidders for the 2024 Olympics - Paris and Los Angeles. The vision of rising costs is prompting fewer to bid, and some that do are not the high-profile cities the IOC would prefer. Boykoff, a former professional soccer player, said the Olympics and World Cup remain riveting because of the "inspiring athletes." But even some of those are being stained by doping and financial shenanigans.

NEYMAR TRIAL

Neymar is to stand trial in Spain on corruption charges related to his transfer to Barcelona four years ago. He could face a two-year prison sentence, but would likely serve a suspended sentence and a fine of about \$10 million.—AP

'IS IT WORTH IS?'

Most recently, she broke her right arm in a November training run. It required surgery and led to nerve damage so severe she could hardly wiggle her fingers at first and had to tape the ski pole to her glove in order to race. She's still trying to recover full sensation. "All the obstacles I've faced, it makes me appreciate things that much more," Vonn said in a recent interview as she hosted a camp in Denver designed to empower girls to reach their goals. "But I can't worry about injuries. If you worry about it, you're always going to ski scared." That's never been an issue with Vonn.

"There are a lot of athletes who achieve amazing results and when they get hurt, especially multiple times, they ask themselves, 'Is it worth it?" US Alpine director Patrick Riml said. "Her hunger to become a better athlete and win more races is as big as it was when she was 20 years old. "Her determination, her drive to become better, to win more races, it's unbelievable." Vonn has a number in mind - 86. That's how many World Cup wins Stenmark accumulated during the Swedish great's extraordinary career. Vonn is currently at 77.

"If I ended my career today, I'd still be really satisfied with what I've done," said Vonn, who broke Austrian great Annemarie Moser-Proell's women's record of 62 World Cup wins in January 2015. "But I think to beat a record like his (Stenmark), it would be very significant." These days, everything is geared toward the Winter Olympics in South Korea. After capturing downhill gold at the 2010 Vancouver Games, she missed the Sochi Games because of a knee injury. "My main goal is to defend or repeat - I don't know what you call it," she joked.

Vonn raced on the Olympic course in early March, finishing second in both the downhill and super-G. In Pyeongchang next February, she said she will compete in the downhill, super-G, giant slalom and the combined, but skip the

ST MORITZ: In this March 16, 2016, file photo, Lindsey Vonn, of the United States, and Peter Fill, of Italy, hold the downhill cups at the Alpine Ski World Cup Finals. — AP

slalom. According to her crammed calendar, this recent block of time was reserved for rest. She and her boyfriend, Kenan Smith, a former assistant wide receivers coach for the Los Angeles Rams, recently escaped to the beach in the Turks and Caicos Islands .

'TECHNICAL DISCIPLINES'

Soon on her to-do list, test out new Head skis and boots in Europe. Vonn's been hurt so much that she really hasn't had a chance to try out the latest equipment. "I need to get up to date," Vonn said. "I know that if I can fine-tune some of the details, I can find some more time in my racing." That will certainly come in handy against a crop of talented skiers that includes freshly minted World Cup overall champion Mikaela Shiffrin, who grew up holding Vonn in high esteem, the same way Vonn did with 1998 super-G Olympic gold medalist Picabo Street.

"There's clearly no one out there in the tech-

nical disciplines, especially the slalom, that's on Mikaela's level," said Vonn, who lives in Vail, Colorado. "She's had an incredible career so far." One day Shiffrin could be chasing Vonn's marks. At 22, Shiffrin already has 31 World Cup wins. For a comparison, Vonn had four at the same age. "It would be great if Mikaela's able to break it," said Vonn, whose foundation partnered with "ZGirls" to host confidence-building programs.

Another item high on Vonn's priority list competing against the men. She's lobbying hard for such a chance, but so far the International Ski Federation (FIS) has yet to sign off. Riml said he will push for rules alterations at the FIS meetings in May to possibly give Vonn and other female skiers that opportunity down the road. "All the men say, 'We don't think she's going to beat us,' which is what they're going to say, and also that, 'It will be great for our sport," Vonn said. "So, what's the harm? "Hopefully, we're able to accomplish it before I retire." — AP

THIEM BEATS MURRAY TO MAKE BARCELONA FINAL

BARCELONA: Dominic Thiem claimed his first win over world number one Andy Murray to book his place in the final of the Barcelona Open yesterday 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. The Austrian will face Rafael Nadal, who is looking for his 10th title in Barcelona, or Argentina's Horacio Zeballos today. Murray squeezed past Albert Ramos-Vinolas in a three-hour encounter on Friday and looked flat-footed as Thiem roared through the opening set with three breaks of serve in just over half an hour.

The Scot had to stave off another break

point in a marathon opening game to the second set. But he held on and then jumped at his chance to break for 5-3 before serving out to take the match to a decider. Murray, though, still looks a pale shadow of the player that rose to number one on a spectacular run at the end of last year as he struggles for form and fitness after an elbow injury. Thiem had to battle back from a break down in the third, but constantly put pressure on the Murray serve and broke another three times in the deciding set to seal his place in the final. —AFP



CHELSEA AND SPURS FACE NEW TITLE TESTS

LONDON: Antonio Conte will hope Diego row. City have had two closely-fought Costa justifies his faith in having him rather than Everton's Romelu Lukaku as his main striker and deliver another three points in Chelsea's chase for the title today. Chelsea face their biggest challenge in their remaining five matches at Everton, who are on a run of eight successive home victories. However, Conte will hope they extend their lead over rivals Spurs to seven points before Tottenham kick-off in the north London derby with Arsenal later today.

Arsenal, who are still in the race to try and secure a Champions League spot, five points adrift of fourth-placed Manchester City and with a game in hand, at least have restored some battered morale with two wins this week including a gutsy victory over Manchester City in the FA Cup semifinal. Both City and fifth-placed Manchester United are also in action on Sunday and would hope to both pick up three points as they play two relegation candidates in Middlesbrough and Swansea respectively.

Conte is adamant he wouldn't swap the temperamental Costa, who has 19 goals to his name this season, including a welcome return to form with a double against Southampton on Tuesday, with Lukaku, who tops the scoring charts with 24. "As I've said before, for me my players are the best in the world. I wouldn't change my players with any other players." His Everton counterpart Ronald Koeman was not happy at all with his players' attitude in the goalless draw with West Ham last weekend and is looking for a vast improvement.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

"It is always difficult if you have already the seventh position in the pocket and maybe they get a little bit more holiday or end-of-season feeling," said Koeman. "That is what I don't like." Spurs will be seeking to win the 50th Premier League meeting with Arsenal to keep the pressure on Chelsea. For Argentine manager Mauricio Pochettino beating Arsenal is necessary not for bragging rights but to keep their dreams alive of winning the title.

"My feeling is now, when you are so close-only four points the gap-I will be very disappointed if we don't win the title," said Pochettino. "My challenge or my aim is not to be above Arsenal. My aim is to be above 19 teams and to be first, to be on the top." Arsenal counterpart Arsene Wenger has a greater spring in his step since his players rediscovered their fighting spirit and he still hasn't even give up hope of a top three finish. "We have an opportunity to be in there only if we win our games, we don't have to speculate at all," said the 67-year-old Frenchman. For the Manchester clubs, victories would see them leapfrog thirdplaced Liverpool, who play Watford tomor-

matches already with Middlesbrough and with the latter having beaten Sunderland in midweek Pep Guardiola's side may find it a tough task to take all three points. United host a Swansea side that at least comes into the game having beaten Stoke last weekend to stay in touch with fourth from bottom Hull.— AFP



ENGLISH PREMIER LEA	GUE
Man United v Swansea City	14:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Everton v Chelsea	16:05
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Middlesbrough v Man City	16:05
beIN SPORTS HD 8	
Tottenham v Arsenal	18:30
beIN SPORTS HD 2	

SPANISH LEAGUE	
Osasuna v Deportivo La Coruna	13:00
beIN SPORTS	
Real Betis v Deportivo Alaves	17:15
beIN SPORTS	
SD Eibar v CD Leganes	19:30
beIN SPORTS	
Celta v Athletic de Bilbao	21:45
beIN SPORTS	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE AS Roma v SS Lazio 13:30 beIN SPORTS 2 FR Bologna v Udinese Calcio 16:00 **beIN SPORTS** Genoa CFC v Chievo Verona 16:00 **beIN SPORTS Empoli v Sassuolo Calcio** 16:00 **beIN SPORTS** Citta di Palermo v Fiorentina 16:00 beIN SPORTS MAX 4 FR Cagliari Calcio v Pescara 16:00 **beIN SPORTS Crotone v AC Milan** 16:00 beIN SPORTS 2 FR 21:45

Internazionale v SSC Napoli beIN SPORTS HD 1 FR

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA FC Augsburg v Hamburger 16:30 **beIN SPORTS** TSG 1899 Hoffenheim v Eintracht 18:30

beIN SPORTS

FRENCH LEAGUE Caen v Olympique de Marseille 16:00 **beIN SPORTS** Dijon v Girondins de Bordeaux 18:00 **beIN SPORTS** OGC Nice v Paris Saint-Germain 22:00 **beIN SPORTS**



BERGAMO: Juventus' Argentinian forward Gonzalo Gerardo Higuain (2ndL) vies with Atalanta players during the Italian Serie A football match Atalanta vs Juventus at the "Atleti Azzurri d'Italia" stadium. —AFP

LAST-GASP ATALANTA SNATCH POINT FROM WASTEFUL JUVE

MILAN: Swiss midfielder Remo Freuler bundled a timely leveler past Gianluigi Buffon at the death to grab a deserved share of the spoils for Atalanta in a 2-2 draw with Juventus on Friday. A great diving header from Dani Alves looked to have secured the three points for Juventus after Massimiliano Allegri's treble-chasers fought their way back when Atalanta midfielder Leonardo Spinazzola's own goal levelled Andrea Conti's first-half opener for the hosts. But Atalanta would not give up the fight, and when Buffon first pushed away Freuler's last-gasp drive, he could do little when the midfielder pounced on the rebound to fire in a last-gasp equalizer.

Juve's third draw of the campaign left the Turin giants, on course for a record sixth consecutive scudetto, nine points ahead of Roma, who face Lazio in the derby today. Juve travelled to Bergamo well aware of the danger from Atalanta, who took full points from Napoli, Roma and Inter Milan at their Atleti Azzurri d'Italia stadium earlier this season. And by the end of a confident first-half, Juve-who face Monaco away in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal next week-had reason for concern.

The hosts started with a flurry, Hans Hateboer narrowly failing to reach captain Alejandro Gomez's inviting low cross in from the left in the opening minutes. Juve struggled to find their rhythm, and after Rafael Toloi forced Buffon into action with a long-range effort the visitors had to wait until after the 25th minute to catch a sight of goal. A cross fell kindly for Gonzalo Higuain, but the Argentina striker's volley was no trouble for Etrit Berisha in the Atalanta net.

Juve were finally celebrating when Alves, timing his run to perfection to meet Pjanic's delivery towards the back post, dived to head past a flailing Berisha. But all the good work was

undone when Freuler kept his cool to fire off Buffon, collect the ball after it came off Andrea Barzagli and bundle home an 89th minute equalizer. — AFP

MOURINHO THANKS VAN GAAL FOR TIRELESS UNITED SPIRIT

MANCHESTER: Jose Mourinho's depleted Manchester United side face Swansea at Old Trafford yesterday with the manager praising the spirit shown by his exhausted squad. Louis van Gaal, Mourinho's predecessor as United manager, is not remembered with any fondness by the majority of the club's supporters. But Mourinho believes the Dutchman succeeded in pulling together a squad of strong characters, although their resilience is now being tested as United maintain their bid for a top-four finish in the Premier League and success in the Europa League.

"The group was a nice group, honestly," said Mourinho, who served as a novice coach under then Barcelona manager Van Gaal at the

Cup and win the League Cup, has taken its toll on the team physically.

Central defenders Phil Jones and Chris Smalling remain out injured for the Swansea game, with Marcos Rojo having suffered a season-ending knee ligament injury. That led Mourinho to joke he might name himself in the starting side, along with youngster Axel Tuanzebe whose entire first-team experience amounts to 22 minutes as a substitute against Wigan in the FA Cup.

United may have Juan Mata, sidelined since the middle of March, available for Swansea but France international Paul Pogba remains out with a leg muscle injury and is being saved for Thursday's Europa League semi-final with Celta Vigo. Mourinho will also be without Belgium international Marouane Fellaini, who starts a three-match suspension, after his red card for head-butting Sergio Aguero in the midweek goalless derby draw away to Manchester City.

CELTIC HAMMER RANGERS 5-1

GLASGOW: Celtic scored five goals at Ibrox for the first time as they cruised to a 5-1 thrashing of Rangers in the final Old Firm fixture of the season vesterday. Scott Sinclair slotted home from the penalty spot in the sixth minute before Leigh Griffiths' rocket shot doubled the Scottish champions' first-half lead.

Callum McGregor added a third shortly after the break with Dedryck Boyata heading home a fourth. Kenny Miller pulled one back late on for Rangers before Mikel Lustig made it 5-1 to equal Celtic's biggest victory at Ibrox, a 4-0 win back in 1897. It is Celtic's fifth win in six Old Firm meetings this season and leaves third-placed Rangers trailing the champions by 36 points. An explosive start at Ibrox saw Celtic gifted a penalty as Myles Beerman cut down Patrick Roberts on the edge of the box with the winger running away from goal. Referee John Beaton seemed to take an age to point to the spot after looking to fourth official Bobby Madden for some assistance.

RANGERS OVERRUN

Sinclair then calmly sent Wes Foderingham the wrong way for his 25th goal of the season. Ugly scenes followed as a Rangers supporter ran on to the pitch for an angry confrontation with Scott Brown and referee Beaton and Rangers defender James Tavernier needed to intervene to keep the man away from the Celtic captain.

The Rangers midfield was being completely overrun and it came as no surprise when Griffiths, starting in the absence of

the injured Moussa Dembele, make it 2-0 in the 18th minute. The Scottish striker was sent scurrying away down the left by Stuart Armstrong and as the Rangers defence backed off he let fly with an unstoppable shot from the edge of the box that rocketed into the top corner.

With Miller sprawled on the deck following a heavy challenge from Jozo Simunovic, Celtic raced up the pitch and came close to adding another as Griffiths smashed his shot off the crossbar with Sinclair firing the follow-up wide from close range. The only thing missing from Celtic's performance was better finishing with Sinclair somehow contriving to fire wide from close range moments later before Roberts fired over with a long-range effort.

Things weren't to improve for Rangers after the interval as wave after wave of Celtic attacks led to McGregor making it 3-0 in the 52nd minute. Roberts reacted quickest to a loose ball in the box and prodded it to McGregor who sent his low shot under the legs of Tavernier and beyond Foderingham. The Celtic support didn't have long to wait to celebrate again as Boyata made it 4-0 in the 66th minute. Foderingham hesitated in coming for a Griffiths free-kick that was floated into the box and the Belgian defender leapt highest to send a downward header bouncing through the legs of the 'keeper.

Rangers pulled one back through Miller in the 81st minute. The veteran played a neat one-two with substitute Joe Garner before firing low past Craig Gordon. —AFP

CHIELLINI'S 300TH

Making his 300th Serie A appearance, Giorgio Chiellini was caught out by Freuler, who forced Buffon to save with his legs. Juve finally awoke from their slumber, but after Chiellini swept a great cross towards the back post Juan Cuadrado missed the target with his side-footed volley. Chiellini was involved again with a great block on Leaonardo Spinazzola, but the veteran defender was powerless when the ball fell to Gomez to fire over for Conti, who jumped to meet the ball and fire inside the near post.

When Juve levelled five minutes after the restart they had Spinazzola to thank after he headed past Berisha from Miralem Pianic's free kick, following a scything tackle on Dybala from behind. Juventus took command, two efforts in quick succession from Dybala and Higuain keeping Berisha on his toes. But Allegri's men were ultimately wasteful. Juve's penalty claims just before the hour, when Toloi jumped to challenge Bonucci at a free kick and caught the ball with his raised hand, were waved away despite protests because Mario Mandzukic was in an offside position. Gasperini added some firepower when he replaced Jasmin Kurtic with Franck Kessie on 66 minutes, but Juve remained a threat. Sami Khedira almost produced a stunner, his wellstruck volley spinning towards the top corner before Berisha came to the rescue. The German came close again with a header from Miralem Pjanic's corner that forced Berisha to parry.

Spanish giants in the late 1990s. "Good people, good boys, committed people. "I think Mr Van Gaal left a good group of boys with very good relations between them and I got that in my hands." The Portuguese added: "I think they missed happiness, they missed trust, they missed belief. They missed this extra bit that brings resilience, brings you fight. They have it.

"So next July 9, when we meet again for next season, it's a stronger group. So the new players when they arrive will find a group more ready to go for big things," the former Chelsea manager explained. "But the reality is that we are fighting to win the Europa League and we are fighting to try to finish fourth, so let's go." The arduous season, which has also seen United reach the guarter-finals of the FA

'PLAY EVERY FEW DAYS'

Amazingly, given their schedule, the Etihad stalemate extended United's unbeaten league run to 24 games-equaling their best such sequence in a single top-flight season. For all the fatigue within the squad, United defender Matteo Darmian has insisted he and his teammates will not use tiredness as an excuse for any poor results between now and the end of the campaign.—AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho (C) arrives with the substitutes including Manchester United's English striker Wayne Rooney (L) during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Manchester United at the Etihad Stadium. —AFP

KFH CONGRATULATES JET SKI CHAMP AL-ABDULRAZZAQ

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) participated in receiving the Jet Ski world champion Yousef Al-Abdulrazzaq at Kuwait International Airport in recognition of his victory in achieving the first place in the Dubai 2017 Jet Ski Marathon. Al-Abdulrazzag hailed KFH's support and sponsorship which resonated significantly in Kuwait obtaining further achievements in international forums, indicating such achievements would put more responsibility in future competitions. He added that KFH spares no efforts in putting Kuwaiti National teams and individual athletes at the forefront of its priorities and pledges to continue motivating them to achieve more titles for the country. KFH is committed towards supporting the youth and the society of Kuwait as part of the bank's social responsibility.





MBAPPE RALLIES MONACO

PARIS: Kylian Mbappe delivered another crucial goal for Monaco as the Ligue 1 leaders fought back to defeat Toulouse 3-1 yesterday and move three points clear at the top. Ola Toivonen struck immediately after half-time as Toulouse threatened to derail Monaco's title hopes at the Stade Louis II, but Kamil Glik equalised for the home side on 49 minutes.

Mbappe then struck his 14th league goal of a remarkable breakthrough season to fire Monaco ahead just past the hour before Thomas Lemar sealed an eighth victory in a row.

Monaco could take a huge stride towards landing a first French league crown since 2000 on Sunday, when thirdplaced Nice-unbeaten at home this seasonhost Paris Saint-Germain. The principality outfit will now turn their attention to Europe as Monaco prepare to welcome Juventus in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final next Wednesday.

Leonardo Jardim restored a host of regulars-including Mbappe, Radamel Falcao and Bernardo Silva-to the Monaco side three days after fielding a youthful line-up in their midweek 5-0 French Cup semi-final defeat at PSG. But Toulouse, who beat Monaco 3-1 in the reverse fixture, nearly went in front when Christopher Jullien flashed a header narrowly wide of Danijel Subasic's left-hand post.

Toulouse goalkeeper Alban Lafont saved from both Benjamin Mendy and Silva,

before Toulouse captain Issa Diop produced a vital lunging block to deny Mbappe as Monaco gradually took control. Sweden international Toivonen had scored just once this year, but the striker capitalised on woeful defending as Jemerson fluffed an attempted clearance to steer the visitors into a surprise 46th-minute lead.

Monaco's response was immediate though, and they were level just three minutes later as Polish centre-back Glik rose to power in a cross from Joao Moutinho-the defender notching his sixth goal this term. An unmarked Toivonen spurned a chance to nod Toulouse ahead for a second time when he headed tamely at Subasic, while Lafont then pulled off a stunning reflex stop to thwart Falcao from close range. But the 18-year-old was beaten far too easily at his near post on 64 minutes as Mbappe pulled the trigger from a tight angle, his 24th goal in all competitions handing Monaco the lead.

Lemar provided breathing space with Monaco's third on 75 minutes, the midfielder calmly side-footing home on the half-volley from Nabil Dirar's floated cross to end Toulouse's resistance. Falcao almost added a fourth as the Colombian barged his way into the box, only to hammer the ball against the base of the post. Reigning champions PSG could return alongside Monaco at the summit today, but Lucien Favre's Nice should prove a tough proposition having lost just twice this campaign.— AFP



MADRID: Real Madrid's Brazilian defender Marcelo (L) celebrates a goal with Real Madrid's defender Sergio Ramos during the Spanish league football match Real Madrid CF vs Valencia CF at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. — AFP

VARDY STRIKES TO HAUL Leicester to safety



WEST BROMWICH: Jamie Vardy scored the goal that effectively ensured Leicester City would remain in the Premier League as the outgoing champions won 1-0 away to West Bromwich Albion yesterday. England striker Vardy's first-half goal, his third in as many seasons at The Hawthorns, gave the Foxes their first win in four league games and took them to 40 points, a total widely regarded as enough to avoid relegation in most seasons.

Leicester, however, had looked in danger of the drop when former assistant manager Craig Shakespeare took over from sacked title-winning boss Claudio Ranieri in February. As well as helping secure Leicester's top-flight status, Vardy's 10th goal in 15 games for club and country also strengthened Shakespeare's bid to land the manager's job beyond the end of the season. Vardy's recent form has been in sharp contrast to that of Midlands rivals West

tried his luck for Leicester from long range but his effort was deflected wide by Jake Livermore. Twelve minutes later Leicester needed Schmeichel at his acrobatic best to tip over a header from Chris Brunt. West Brom's ex-Leicester defender McAuley was then left wearing a bandage after a nasty clash of heads with Yohan Benalouane.

SUICIDAL PASS

Leicester claimed the lead two minutes from half time thanks to the opportunism of their front two. Rondon played a suicidal square pass which was intercepted by Shinji Okazaki, who found strike partner Vardy with a superb, first-time ball. The England man kept his composure to beat goalkeeper Ben Foster with a firm shot. West Brom forced two corners in stoppage time but both came to nothing with the second one glanced wide by Rondon.

Leicester might have doubled their lead two minutes into the second half when Albion were again undone by the pace of Vardy. He tore down the left and crossed for Okazaki, who was arriving late at the far post. But the Japanese striker could not stretch far enough to force the ball home. Brunt had a shot charged down and Claudio Yacob sent the follow-up just wide

MARCELO SCORES LATE WINNER TO RESCUE REAL AND RONALDO

MADRID: Real Madrid needed another late winner to edge closer to the La Liga title as Marcelo was the hero in a 2-1 home victory over Valencia yesterday. Cristiano Ronaldo opened the scoring midway through the first half but also saw a penalty saved by spot-kick specialist Diego Alves early in the second period. Former Madrid man Dani Parejo looked to have handed Valencia an unlikely point with a stunning free-kick eight minutes from time.

Real stormed forward and needed just four minutes to find the winner when Marcelo cut inside and fired into the far corner. Real now lead Barcelona by three points at the top of the table with four games to go for both sides. Barca, though, can move back to the summit of La Liga with victory in the Catalan derby later at Espanyol. Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane accepted his side nearly paid the price for taking their foot off the gas at 1-0.

"It is true that we were in a comfort zone for 30 minutes, the fans were the same," said the Frenchman. "After Valencia scored they started to push the players on once more and it was a completely different match." The Brazilian Marcelo added: "We put our heart and soul into it and showed who we are "With the fans behind us we are hard to beat here." Zidane recalled eight of the side that started last weekend's 3-2 El Clasico defeat to Barcelona and had been rested for a 6-2 thrashing of Deportivo la Coruna in midweek. However, the habitual first team nearly got off to the worst possible start. Captain Sergio Ramos was returning from suspension after his 22nd career red card in the Clasico and his weak header allowed Santi Mina through on goal inside the first minute.

SUNDERLAND RELEGATED AS 10-YEAR PL STAY ENDS

SUNDERLAND: Sunderland's 10-year stay in the Premier League is over after Josh King's late strike gave Bournemouth a 1-0 victory that condemned the Black Cats to relegation yesterday. David Moyes' side slumped out of the English top-flight with a whimper as the latest dismal display in a wretched campaign ended with King's winner in the 88th minute. frustrations.

Criticised by fans for his negative tactics and charged by the Football Association following his crude comments to a television reporter, it would be no surprise if Moyes parts company with Sunderland during the closeseason. With injuries ravaging his squad, Moyes had to make four changes to the team that lost at Middlesbrough on Wednesday as Sunderland chased a first home league win since December 17.

OUT OF SORTS

Moyes' men desperately needed an early goal to steady their nerves and they went close when Fabio Borini's swerving effort drew a good save from Artur Boruc. Sunderland rode their luck when King was denied the opening goal in freak circumstances as his curling shot hit the crossbar, rebounded onto a post and then bounced into the grateful arms of goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

Jermain Defoe's failure to score since February has been instrumental in

Brom, who have now failed to score in five successive league games for the first time in their history.

Yesterday's match started at a frantic pace with Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel forced to make an important catch in the opening minute when Salomon Rondon headed an Allan Nyom cross back across goal. Leicester broke to the other end with Vardy catching Gareth McAuley in possession to force a corner which the visitors could not turn into a chance. In the sixth minute, Wilfred Ndidi as West Brom pressed for an equalizer.

West Brom went even closer when Craig Dawson met a Nacer Chadli corner with a firm header but his effort took a deflection and looped over. Leicester had another opportunity to increase their advantage just before the hour mark when Riyad Mahrez cut in from the right but fired into the side netting. James Morrison then headed straight at Schmeichel from a cross by substitute James McClean as the hosts threw everything at Leicester in the closing stages.— AFP

WEST BROMWICH: Leicester City's English striker Jamie Vardy (R) vies with West Bromwich Albion's Northern Irish defender Jonny Evans during the English Premier League football match between West Bromwich Albion and Leicester City at The Hawthorns stadium. — AFP

CHARACTERISTIC FASHION

Keylor Navas came out to block the Valencia striker's first effort before his follow-up hit the outside of the post. Fabian Orellana also screwed a great chance wide as Valencia enjoyed the better of the early stages. However, Ronaldo punished their profligacy in characteristic fashion as he bulleted Dani Carvajal's cross into the far corner on 27 minutes.

That goal took Ronaldo's tally in league football to 367 goals to surpass legendary English striker Jimmy Greaves in Europe's top leagues. However, even the four-time World Player of the Year struggles to beat Alves from the spot. Madrid were awarded a penalty when Luka Modric went down under slight contact from Parejo 11 minutes into the second half. And for the third time in four penalties against Alves, Ronaldo was denied by the Brazilian.

Ronaldo then missed an even easier chance as he bundled over and then crashed into the goalpost from Marco Asensio's enticing cross. At the other end Navas's search for a clean sheet continues as for the 15th straight game the Costa Rica international was beaten, this time by Parejo's dipping free-kick to set up a grandstand finish. Yet, for the seventh time in La Liga this season, Madrid struck late to maintain the upper hand in the title race as Marcelo used his weaker right foot to fire across and past the helpless Alves to joyous scenes of relief at the Bernabeu. Earlier, Adrian Ramos scored Granada's first goal under interim boss Tony Adams but a 2-1 defeat at Real Sociedad relegated them after a six-year stay in the top flight. Granada have now lost all four games since Adams replaced the sacked Lucas Alvarez and face Real Madrid next weekend. — AFP

Sunderland's downfall and the England forward was still out of sorts. He blazed high over the bar midway through the half and then, played in by Didier Ndong's header, he volleyed straight at Boruc from a good position. Sunderland were just as error-prone at the back and more poor defending let in King for a shot that was cleared off the line by Donald Love just before half-time.

Bournemouth wasted two chances to seal Sunderland's fate early in the second half, with Marc Pugh firing wide with an opportunistic effort before Steve Cook headed over from Ryan



SUNDERLAND: Sunderland's Wahbi Khazri, left, and Sunderland's Jermain Defoe show their dejection as their side concede during their English Premier League soccer match against AFC Bournemouth at the Stadium of Light. — AP

SHARAPOVA FALLS ON DOPING COMEBACK

STUTTGART: Maria Sharapova lost in the semifinals in Stuttgart yesterday, her controversial comeback from a 15-month doping ban ending in defeat to one of her biggest critics. Sharapova, a five-time Grand Slam winner and former world number one, lost 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 to Kristina Mladenovic as the Russian exited her first tournament back from a ban after testing positive for meldonium at the 2016 Australian Open.

"She's a tough player and was very aggressive from the first ball," said France's Mladenovic after their titanic duel over two hours, 38 minutes. "I was struggling early on, but just stuck in there and fought, so I am very happy that it paid off." Mladenovic has been a vocal critic of Sharapova's return to tennis and on the eve of their semi accused her of getting "extra help", having been handed wild cards to play at the Stuttgart, Madrid and Rome tournaments.

Having started her comeback with a world ranking of zero on Wednesday, due to her ban, reaching the semi-final means Sharapova has already moved up to 260th in the world. She will learn on May 16 whether she will be given a wild card for the main draw at Roland Garros. Sharapova made light work of Mladenovic in the first set, which lasted just 35 minutes. But Mladenovic, ranked 19th in the world, rallied superbly at 2-0 down in the second, holding her serve and breaking Sharapova in what turned into a battle of nerves.

Mladenovic showed the first signs of cracking when what should have been a simple return spiraled harmlessly off her racquet as she served with the advantage at 5-5. But she held her composure and went 6-5 ahead, having defended three break points, as her superbly weighted drop shot wrong-footed Sharapova. The French player then took the second set, which lasted 64 minutes, breaking Sharapova by converting her first set point. The deciding set followed serve until 3-3, but Sharapova had to hold her nerve, defending a break point at 40-30 down in the fourth game with a ferociously hit ace and a fist pump. Mladenovic seized the advantage by converting her fourth break point and then came from 40-0 down in the seventh game to take a commanding 5-2 lead. Sharapova rallied to pull it back to 5-4, but Mladenovic was not to be denied her first win over the Russian and converted her first match point. Mladenovic will now face either fourth seed Simona Halep of Romania or Germany's Laura Siegemund, a wild card, in today's final. — AFP



STUTTGART: Russia's Maria Sharapova fails to return the ball to France's Kristina Mladenovic during their semi-final tennis match at the WTA Porsche Tennis Grand Prix.—AFP



WOLFSBURG: Bayern's team celebrates with a mock-trophy becoming the new German champion after the German first division Bundesliga football match between VfL Wolfsburg and Bayern Munich. —AFP

JERMAN

BERLIN: Bayern Munich were crowned Bundesliga champions for the fifth straight season yesterday after Robert Lewandowski scored twice in their 6-0 thrashing of 10-man Wolfsburg. After second-placed RB Leipzig had earlier been held to a goalless draw by Ingolstadt, Bayern wrapped up the title as victory at Wolfsburg left them ten points clear with three games left. "Five times in a row, that's unbelievable. We completely deserve to be champions," Bayern's chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge told Sky after the club secured their 27th league title.

The league triumph is consolation for Wednesday's 3-2 German Cup semi-final defeat at home to Borussia Dortmund, which robbed coach Carlo Ancelotti the chance of emulating predecessor Pep Guardiola with the domestic double in his first season. Bayern were barely made to work for their win as David Alaba drilled home a trademark free-kick on 19 minutes to put the visitors 1-0 up after a foul on Thomas Mueller.

Lewandowski doubled the lead on 36 minutes when Kingsley Coman's cross was flicked on by Mueller and the Poland hot-shot fired home from 16 meters out. He bagged his second and Bayern's third goal just before the half-time whistle after Coman delivered another cross unopposed from the left wing to make it 3-0. The floodgates opened late on as Arjen Robben netted on 66 minutes before Wolfsburg's Luiz

Gustavo, a former Bayern player, was sent off for a second booking on 78 minutes.

NUMERICAL ADVANTAGE

Bayern exploited their numerical advantage as Mueller banged home Lewandowski's final pass before Joshua Kimmich hit their third. Bayern's title win was made possible by Leipzig's draw at the Red Bull Arena, where Ingolstadt defender Alfredo Morales was sent off with four minutes left to play. Dortmund, who face Eintracht Frankfurt in the German Cup final on May 27, hold onto third place, which would mean a direct Champions League place next season, despite their goalless draw at home to Cologne. Both Dortmund Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, the league's top-scorer with 27 goals, and Cologne's Anthony Modeste, who has 23 league goals, drew blanks at Signal Iduna Park. Hoffenheim, coached by Julian Nagelsmann, 29, the youngest coach in Bundesliga history, can leapfrog Dortmund if they beat Eintracht in Frankfurt today. Werder Bremen's remarkable finish to the season continues as they earned a 2-0 win to home to Hertha Berlin to stay sixth.

Bremen remain on course for a Europa League place having risen from bottom in September after losing their first four games. Werder striker Max Kruse's dream April continued as he netted Bremen's second after Fin Bartels's opener for his eighth goal in six games this month. Bremen are now unbeaten in their last 11 games. Mainz remain just a point from the bottom three after Japan striker Yoshinori Muto scored their consolation goal in a 2-1 home defeat as Lars Stindl and Nico Schulz scored for Borussia Moenchengladbach. Bottom side Darmstadt again delayed their relegation with a 3-0 win at home to Freiburg. Torsten Frings-coached Darmstadt picked up their third straight victory thanks to goals by Felix Platte, Jerome Gondorf and Sven Schipplock. Darmstadt are still eight points from safety with three games left. — AFP

SHEIKH AHMAD DENIES BRIBERY CLAIM

Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah of Kuwait has denied claims made in a US federal court that he paid six-figure bribes to FIFA voters. "Sheikh Ahmad is very surprised by such allegations and strongly denies any wrongdoing," the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said in a statement issued yesterday on behalf of its president.

The sheikh's influential roles in sports politics include the OCA presidency since 1991, a FIFA Council seat since 2015, and president of ANOC, the global group of national Olympic bodies, since 2012. He

GENEVA: Asian Olympic leader Sheikh has been an International Olympic Committee member for a quarter of a century. Long seen as a key power broker in Olympic and soccer votes, Sheikh Ahmad is under pressure just nine days before he faces re-election for his own FIFA seat in a poll of Asian soccer federations.

> Two separate FIFA bodies can remove the Kuwaiti royal from the vote in Manama, Bahrain. The FIFA ethics committee can provisionally suspend him and the independent Review Committee can rule him ineligible on ethical reasons. Sheikh Ahmad has informed FIFA's ethics investi-

WASHINGTON: In this Monday, Oct 26, 2015 file photo, Asian Olympic leader Kuwaiti Sheik Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah speaks during an interview with the Associated Press at the Washington Hilton.— AP

gators and "put himself at their disposal," the IOC said in a statement Saturday.

"And even though it is not related to any IOC matter he has also informed the IOC Chief Ethics and Compliance officer," said Mark Adams, spokesman for IOC President Thomas Bach. Sheikh Ahmad was widely hailed as a "kingmaker" for his winning streak in Olympic elections. This week he became one of the highest profile sports officials drawn into the sprawling US federal investigation of bribery and corruption soccer revealed two years ago.

FIFA audit committee member Richard Lai, an American citizen from Guam, pleaded guilty on Thursday to wire fraud conspiracy charges related to bribes that helped officials gain influence in international soccer. Lai admitted receiving around \$1 million in bribes from various Asian soccer leaders, including what the Department of Justice described as a "faction" from Kuwait seeking to gain influence in FIFA elections.

PUBLIC TRANSCRIPTS

Though Sheikh Ahmad was not named in Department of Justice and Brooklyn court documents, a transcript of Lai's hearing quoted him saying "co-conspirator #2 was also the president of Olympic Council of Asia." Co-conspirator #3 was described as having a "highranking" role at OCA, and also linked to the Kuwait soccer federation. According to the published transcript, Lai said he "received at least \$770,000 in wire transfers from accounts associated with Co-Conspirator #3 and the OCA between November of 2009 and about the fall of 2014."

"I understood that the source of this money was ultimately Co-Conspirator #2 and on some occasion Co-Conspirator #3 told me to send him an email saying that I need funds so he could show the email to Co-Conspirator #2," Lai said in court. The leader of Guam's soccer federation for 16 years, Lai said he was approached by the Kuwaiti officials after a bitter Asian FIFA election in 2009. He agreed to help recruit other Asian officials that voted in FIFA elections who would help Kuwait's interests.

Lai "understood that at these meetings Co-Conspirator #3 or his assistants would offer or make bribe payments to these soccer officials," the DoJ alleged. The Guam businessman also pleaded guilty to failing to disclose foreign bank accounts and agreed to pay more than \$1.1 million in forfeiture and penalties. He was released on bail with a \$1 million bond to return to Guam and will be sentenced at a later date.

Lai was suspended for 90 days by the FIFA ethics committee, which is now reviewing Sheikh Ahmad's case ahead of his candidacy for the May 8 election in Bahrain. The OCA said Sheikh Ahmad "will vigorously defend his integrity and reputation and that of any organization that he represents in any relevant legal review." Sheikh Ahmad, who often works from the Olympic home city of Lausanne where ANOC has offices, seems to risk being arrested in Switzerland. Swiss authorities arrested nine FIFA officials in Zurich in two rounds of hotel raids in 2015 at the request of US authorities. The American federal investigation of corruption linked to FIFA has indicted or taken guilty pleas from more than 40 people and marketing agencies linked to soccer in the Americas since 2015. Lai's case marked the first major step into Asia, and his admission in court Thursday suggests other soccer officials potentially recruited by the Kuwait faction could be targeted by US federal investigators. —AP

OILERS TAKE LEAD, **BLUES DRAW LEVEL**

ANAHEIM: Cam Talbot made 39 saves and Patrick Maroon scored a power-play goal as the Edmonton Oilers moved halfway to the NHL Western Conference finals with a 2-1 victory over the Anaheim Ducks in Game 2 of their secondround series Friday night. Andrej Sekera scored an early goal for the Oilers, who took the first two games on Pacific Division champion Anaheim's home ice. Talbot was the difference in Game 2, making all manner of impressive saves while Anaheim dominated the last 30 minutes. Jakob Silfverberg scored and John Gibson stopped 21 shots for the Ducks, who had gone 18 games without a regulation defeat before this series. Anaheim has never recovered from an 0-2 series deficit, losing all seven series after digging that early hole.

BLUES 3, PREDATORS 2

Vladimir Tarasenko scored twice, including the tiebreaking goal with 3:51 left to help St Louis tie the Western Conference semifinal series at one game apiece. Jori Lehtera also scored for the Blues, and Jake Allen stopped 22 shots - including 14 in the third period. Ryan Ellis had a goal and an assist and James Neal also scored for Nashville, which had its franchise-high five-game postseason winning streak snapped. Pekka Rinne finished with 17 saves. Game 3 is Sunday at Nashville, Tennessee. Tarasenko's game-winner came on lucky bounce. Jaden Schwartz led the rush and initially tried to pass it to Carl Gunnarsson, but the pass was off the mark and bounced off of Gunnarsson's foot right to Tarasenko's stick. It was the first lead for St Louis in 116:09 of the series. —AP





Inflation surge to turn heat on ECB to slash stimulus

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British economy slows as **Brexit weighs on spending**

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Lexus GS F emerges as people's choice

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REFORM WHEN OIL PRICE IS SUSTAINABLE

JAKARTA: Models pose with Chevrolet cars on display at the Indonesia International Motor Show in Jakarta yesterday. Indonesia has forecast vehicle sales in 2017 to reach 1.1 million units, growing at a rate of five percent, as Indonesia's economy is expected to recover from a prolonged market slump plaguing the market in the last few years. — AFP

GROWTH HITS 3-YEAR LOW IN TRUMP'S Consumer spending drops, hiring costs rise

WASHINGTON: US growth slid to its lowest level in three years in the first quarter, a disappointing start to Donald Trump's presidency as it reaches the 100 day mark. GDP increased 0.7 percent in the first three months of the year as consumer spending and government expenditures tumbled to their lowest levels in years, the Commerce Department reported Friday, presenting preliminary data.

Though only slightly below the 0.8 percent increase in the same quarter of last year, the result was down sharply from the 2.1 percent expansion seen in the fourth quarter of 2016. It was well below analysts' expectations of 1.1 percent GDP growth. The last time first guarter expansion was more disappointing was a 1.2 percent drop in 2014.

Trump, who marks 100 days in office Saturday, rose to power on a message of nationalist economic revival. He has also taken credit for increased consumer and business confidence, growing employment and record gains for stocks in recent months. But "just because people feel happy doesn't mean they will act on those feelings, and they clearly didn't during the first quarter," economist Joel Naroff said in a commentary on the report.

Record lows

The White House has been promising a return to three percent economic growth, which it says will generate the revenue needed to pay for multi-trillion-dollar tax cuts unveiled this week. But economists question the likelihood that the economy can-or should-grow that fast, especially without fueling high inflation. But the GDP report was replete with record lows.

Consumer spending fell to its lowest level in nearly eight years, adding only 0.3 percent, with spending on services at their lowest in four years, and durable goods orders their lowest since 2011, as auto sales fell 0.45 percent. Defense spending contracted by four percent, its lowest pace in nearly three years, helping drive down overall government expenditures by 1.7 percent, the lowest quarterly result in almost four years. Spending on non-durable goods also contracted 2.5 percent, the lowest reading since 2011. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the low growth meant the United States should adopt the Trump administration's proposals to slash taxes and regulation. "We need the president's tax plan, regulatory relief, trade renegotiations and the unleashing of American energy sector to overcome the dismal economy inherited by the Trump administration," Ross said in a statement. But it remained unclear how many recent economic events could be credited to-or blamed on-the president. Economists note that first quarters in recent years have trended below average. Growth has averaged one percent in first quarters over the last seven years, well below average growth in other quarters, according to Jim O'Sullivan of High Frequency Economics. In addition, preliminary estimates of GDP are subject to revisions of an average of 0.6 percentage points. Analysts also cautioned that the most recent numbers may have suffered some distortion, with a rebound likely in the next quarter. Unseasonably warm weather in the first two months of the year drove down spending on utilities, and delayed tax refunds also put less cash in consumers' pockets, all of which weighed on consumption. lan Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics said if these distortions were excluded, growth would probably have been closer to two percent. He said he expects three percent growth in the second guarter "as the statistical and weather issues unwind."

Business investments were a bright spot, increasing 4.3 percent for the quarter. But that was a significant slowdown from the brisk 9.4 percent in the prior guarter. A recovery in oil prices helped sustain growth in this category, with mining, exploration, shafts and wells skyrocketing by 449 percent, an all-time record, up from 23.7 percent in the prior quarter.

"The health of business investment bolsters our confidence that the first guarter is a temporary slowing," Barclays economists said in a research note. "The rise in equipment investment indicates that firms are expanding capacity in anticipation of rising demand."

Employment costs mount

With the Federal Reserve holding a two-day monetary policy meeting next week, the weak growth figures were sure to figure into expectations for the pace of interest rate moves this year. But a Labor Department report also released Friday pointed in a different direction from GDP. The employment cost index rose 0.8 percent for the quarter-which Shepherdson noted was the biggest gain in nearly a decadetwo-tenths above an analyst consensus forecast. "Fed hawks will seize on this report." Shepherdson said. "All the action in the headline ECI is due to a 0.9 percent jump in wages and salaries in the private sector." This confirms anecdotal reports in the Fed's economic survey from companies that have been obliged to raise wages and benefits in an effort to attract gualified candidates to job openings. — AFP

FIRST DIRECT UK-CHINA TRAIN COMPLETES 12,000 KM RUN

BEIJING: Laden with whisky and baby milk, the first freight train linking China directly to the UK arrived in the eastern Chinese city of Yiwu yesterday after a 12,000-kilometre (7,500-mile) trip, becoming the world's second-longest rail route. The journey is the latest effort in China's drive to strengthen trade links with western Europe along a modern-day "Silk Road" route.

"The train arrived at around 9:30am (0130 GMT) to Yiwu on Saturday," the Yiwu Tianmeng Industry Company told AFP. The world's top trading nation launched the "One Belt, One Road" strategy in 2013, and has since poured millions into constructing vast infrastructure links.

The train-which was also carrying pharmaceuticals and machinery-departed London on April

YIWU: A freight train transporting containers laden with goods from London, arrives at Yiwu railway port station in Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang province yesterday. — AFP

10 and passed through France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan during its 20-day trip before arriving in Yiwu in eastern Zhejiang province, a major wholesale centre for small consumer goods.

The new route is longer than Russia's famous Trans-Siberian railway, but about 1,000 kilometres shorter than the record-holding China-Madrid link, which opened in 2014. London is the 15th city to be linked to a new freight network offered by the state-run China Railway Corporation, which says its services are cheaper than air transport and quicker than shipping. The journey should be 30 days faster than moving the goods by ship, the provincial government had said, but the pilot run took two days more than the 18 days expected. And the train, named the East Wind, has much less carrying capacity-just 88 shipping containers, according to the Yiwu government, compared to the 10,000 to 20,000 containers cargo ships can carry.

It is unclear how much the venture cost, and some experts have questioned whether the ambitious project makes economic sense. "It is hard to say at this stage what the economic return will be, as the economic benefits will come over a long time," He Tianjie of Oxford Economics Hong Kong told AFP. "However, the train is in some aspects more convenient and flexible. It can make multiple stops, allowing for the pickup and offloading of cargo along the way. — AFP

LONG ROAD AHEAD FOR TRUMP'S OFFSHORE DRILLING ORDER

executive order seeking to find new ocean expanses in the Atlantic and the Arctic for offshore drilling isn't likely to reach its goals anytime soon, but instead will kick off a yearslong review and legal battle.

Trump signed the order Friday aimed at dismantling a key part of former President Barack Obama's environmental legacy. "This executive order starts the process of opening offshore areas to job-creating energy exploration," he said. "It reverses the previous administration's Arctic leasing ban and directs Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to allow responsible development of off-shore areas that will bring revenue to our treasury and jobs to our workers."

Despite Trump's assertion that the nation needs to wean itself of foreign oil, US oil imports have declined in recent years as domestic production boomed amid improved drilling techniques opening up once unreachable areas. And environmental law and policy experts questioned Trump's authority to reverse Obama's withdrawal of certain areas in the Arctic or Atlantic to drilling, a question likely to be decided in the courts. "It's not quite as simple as the president signs something and it undoes the past," said Sean Hecht, a University of California, Los Angeles environmental law professor. For instance, Obama used his authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to protect Arctic areas from oil

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's drilling late last year, a move Trump's order seeks to undo. At the time, Obama administration lawyers said they were confident that move would be upheld in court.

Legal experts say the law has never been used by a president to remove protections, just to create them. Trump's order also directed Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to conduct a review of marine monuments and sanctuaries designated this past decade. Obama issued monument proclamations under the Antiquities Act, including the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument in the Atlantic, which protected that swath of sea from drilling.Legal scholars said Trump would enter uncharted waters if he seeks to undo a national monument proclamation in an effort to remove environmental protections.

Under Trump's order, Interior Secretary Zinke will start to review the government's plan that dictates which federal locations are open to offshore drilling, known as the 5-year plan. The administration can redo the 5-yearplan, but it's a long process. Zinke said the leases scheduled under the existing plan would remain in effect during the review, which he estimated would take years before any new leases are possible. Still, Pam Giblin, an Austin, Texas-based environmental attorney who represents energy companies said Trump's order is welcome to her clients despite the limitations they see. — AP

WANT A CHANCE TO WIN KD 250,000 FROM AL-DANAH?

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO DEPOSIT TO ENTER THE DRAW

last day to deposit and enter Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account's second quarterly draw for the prize of KD 250,000 which will be held on June 29, 2017.

Gulf Bank invites its Al-Danah account holders to deposit today to increase their chances of winning the draw. The Bank also invites both Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis to open an Al-Danah account today and deposit in order to qualify for the next draw prize of KD 250,000.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws, quarterly draws, and the final and biggest draw of the year, which is the annual 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars draw. For the daily draws, two winners are awarded with KD 1,000 each, for every working day in the week. The quarterly draws each include a large cash prize with the prize amount increasing every quarter. The quarterly prizes

KUWAIT: Today Sunday, April 30, is the are as following: KD200,000 in the first quarter - which took place on March 30;

KD250,000 in the second quarter to take place on June 29; KD 500,000 in the third quarter, which will take place on September 28, followed by the largest yearly prize for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars, which will take place on January 11, 2018. In fact, our annual prize of KD 1 Million set a Guinness World Records achievement as the 'largest prize linked to a bank account payout in the world'.

Overall, Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is the best because:

• Kuwait's single largest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million in the world, according to Guinness World Records

• Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD 500,000 • Two winners of KD 1,000 every

working day

• Offers the most opportunities to win • Only account that transfers your chances to win from the previous year onto the following year.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the draw within two days.

To take part in the Al-Danah 2017 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches for



also log on to www.egulfbank.com/aldanahwinners or the

assistance and guidance. Customers can Gulf Banks social media channels to learn more about Al-Danah and its winners. Only Al-Danah makes millionaires!

UNITED PROMISES TO REFOCUS ON PASSENGERS

CHICAGO: United Airlines set out to repair its image, with its chief executive promising to refocus on customers as the company announced changes following the infamous dragging incident that caused worldwide outrage. The airline will now offer passengers up to \$10,000 in compensation to be bumped off overbooked flights, and reduce overbooking in the first place.

Those and other changes, which the airline called "substantial," are the result of a two-week internal probe of the April 9 incident, video of which went viral. Passenger David Dao was pulled from his seat and dragged off the full plane by airport security in Chicago to make room for airline crew. The 69-year-old doctor suffered a concussion, and a broken nose and teeth, according to his lawyers. In an interview Thursday with NBC News, United chief executive Oscar Munoz said the airline will refocus its business by "putting the customer at the center" and avoiding issues in which employees, passengers and law enforcement are placed in "impossible situations."

Video of Dao's ordeal captured by fellow Flight 3411 passengers-which included images of the doctor bloodied-triggered widespread indignation. After initial missteps in which the company appeared to at least partially blame Dao, the carrier and Munoz apologized repeatedly and launched the internal review to find out what went wrong. "We breached public trust, and it's a serious breach," Munoz told NBC News. The carrier's report highlighted 10 changes, including increasing its cash enticement to \$10,000, effective Friday, to get customers to voluntarily give up their seats on overbooked flights. The crew on Flight 3411 had only offered \$1,000, the report said.

Modest changes

United also pledged to reduce overbooking-the practice of selling more tickets than seats on a plane to account for no-shows-on certain flights "that historically have experienced lower volunteer rates," United spokeswoman Maggie Schmerin said. Such flights include those that are the last of the day and on smaller planes, both of which were factors on Flight 3411. Without enough volunteers to take later flights, airlines are forced to involuntarily "bump" passengers off overbooked flights. "It is our goal to reduce involuntarily denied boarding to as close to zero as possible," Schmerin said. Seth Kaplan, managing partner of the trade publication Airline Weekly, said the changes announced Thursday will help improve United's image, but he characterized many of them as modest. —AFP

INFLATION SURGE TO TURN HEAT ON ECB TO SLASH STIMULUS

HOUSEHOLD LENDING AT ITS HIGHEST SINCE THE CRISIS

BRUSSELS/FRANKFURT: Inflation surged and growth continued to accelerate in the eurozone, a plethora of indicators showed on Friday, keeping pressure on the European Central Bank to start dialling back its lavish stimulus measures as early as June.

Underlying inflation-the price indicator most watched by the ECB-blew past expectations to hit a three-year high. Household lending rose to its best rate since the global financial crisis while a measure of money in circulation, an indicator of coming economic activity, also jumped, suggesting that overall growth may be stronger than expected. Still, the inflation figures were influenced by one-off factors-including Easter spending-so the ECB will probably maintain its plan to move only in increments and taking only the smallest of steps in June.

The ECB kept its ultra-easy policy stance steady on Thursday, even leaving the door open to more easing, arguing that underlying inflation is not showing any signs of a convincing upward trend, raising the risk that a premature exit would unravel its work. While markets expect the ECB to tone down its language in June, removing its bias for further easing, ECB President Mario Draghi gave no hint of such moves on Thursday, only venturing to say that economic risks have receded.

Conservative policymakers, long opposed to the ECB's stimulus, have warned that generous asset buys risk overheating the economy, could inflate asset bubbles and may push up inflation too quickly.

Confounding expectations, core inflation, or prices excluding food and energy, increased by 1.2 percent this month, higher than any analysts in a Reuters poll had predicted. While some of the rise may be due to pricing around Easter, the rate is the highest since the summer of 2013.

Overall inflation meanwhile rose to 1.9 percent in April from 1.5 percent, essentially hitting the ECB's own target of price growth just below 2 percent. "In May the inflation rate will no longer be affected by the Easter holiday (so) core inflation should then drop again to 0.9 percent," Commerzbank said.

"The inflation rate as a whole will also fall back to 1.5," Commerzbank predicted.

The euro jumped over a half a percent on the data with investors pricing in a more hawkish stance from the ECB at its next meeting.

Next move

Though no actual tightening is seen for months to come, the ECB could remove all or some of its references to more easing, arguing that risks were balanced. It is then seen deciding in September, at the earliest, whether to extend its asset buying scheme beyond this year. "The ECB will not read too much into these (inflation) data. While we still see it tapering its asset purchases next year, the process will be fairly slow and interest rate hikes are a long way off," Capital Economics Chief European Economist Jennifer McKeown said.

Fighting ultra-low inflation into the fifth straight year, the ECB has cut rates deep into negative territory and plans to buy 2.3 trillion euros worth of bonds by the end of the year, all in the hope of boosting growth, which would then generate inflation. Although price have come up quickly this year, the ECB has warned that much of this is due one-off energy price rises and inflation will then dip back.

Indeed, the ECB's own survey of professional forecasters put core inflation at just 1.1 percent this year, predicting only incremental rises for years to come. Still, household lending, another indicator of economic activity, hit its highest rate since 2009 last month while bushiness lending also jumped, suggesting that the ECB's cash is making its way into the real economy.

Indeed, economic sentiment hit a near ten year high this month and Spanish GDP growth accelerated to an annual 3 percent this year, all pointing to relatively healthy growth. — Reuters

ETIHAD AVIATION GROUP, EMIRATES RED CRESCENT SUPPORT UMRAH



ABU DHABI: Etihad Aviation Group (EAG) Secretary-General for Local Affairs at has taken part in an exciting philanthrop- Emirates Red Crescent, added: "We have ic collaboration with Emirates Red enjoyed a long-term partnership in phil-Crescent, to support a group of 15 travellers in experiencing the holy pilgrimage of Umrah. Last week, nationals from Sudan, Yemen, Morocco, Bangladesh, Palestine, India and Pakistan were provided with flights and accommodation for the four-day trip to Saudi Arabia between April 15 - 19. This initiative was part of the airline's contribution to philanthropic activities, providing those from less privileged backgrounds with an opportunity to experience Umrah. The group also visited significant historic sites during their trip. Umrah is a holy pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, performed by Muslims and can be undertaken at any time of the year. Khaled Al-Mehairbi, Senior Vice President of Abu Dhabi Airport Operations and Chairman of the Sports and Social Committee at Etihad Airways, said: "Supporting this group for Umrah is iust one of Etihad Airways' opportunities to make a greater contribution to communities in the region, and is part of our commitment to support the Year of Giving. Over the years, we have supported many worthy causes, which will continue during 2017."

anthropic and humanitarian work with Etihad Aviation Group. This latest initiative support the efforts of the UAE and Emirates Red Crescent in the Year of Givina."

Rashed Mubarak Al-Mansouri, Deputy

Al-Manar Hajj & Umrah Travel Agency developed the Umrah package consisting of flights, visas, five-star hotel accommodation within Makkah and Madina as well as transportation between the two cities.

2017 was officially declared as the Year of Giving by the UAE's President, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. Etihad Aviation Group has a detailed strategy for supporting the Year of Giving's three pillars of social responsibility, volunteering and serving the nation, and last week committed to donating one dirham per ticket sold in the UAE in support of the national initiative.

EAG has a strong track record of being a socially responsible organization. In 2016, EAG conducted dozens of community engagement initiatives in many countries including India, Kenya and Serbia, as well as the local community in the UAE. Last year, EAG employees also volunteered over 4,300 hours of time in support of charities and communitv causes.

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muza	ini Exchange Co.
A	SIAN COUNTRIES
Japanese Yen	2.772
Indian Rupees	4.730
Pkistani Rupees	2.908
Srilankan Rupees	2.004
Nepali Rupees	2.964
Singapore Dollar	219.690
Hongkong Dollar	39.243
Bangladesh Taka	3.716
Philippine Peso	6.128
Thai Baht	8.891
c	SCC COUNTRIES
Saudi Riyal	81.428
Qatari Riyal	83.867
Omani Riyal	793.009
Bahraini Dinar	810.810
UAE Dirham	83.136
А	RAB COUNTRIES
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.150
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.777
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.226
Tunisian Dinar	133.540
Jordanian Dinar	430.030
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.034
Syrian Lira	2.176
Morocco Dirham	30.823
EUROPEAN	& AMERICAN COUNTRIES
US Dollar Transfer	305.150
Euro	332.310
Sterling Pound	391.510
Canadian dollar	227.130
Turkish lira	85.240

	GOLD
ing	303.950
llar	232.220
	308.230

Swiss Franc Australian Do **US Dollar Buy**

20 Gram

10 Gram 5 Gram

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

260.990

133.410

67.550

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.800
Canadian Dolla	226.525
Sterling Pound	392.135
Euro	328.485
Swiss Frank	305.110
Bahrain Dinar	808.430
UAE Dirhams	83.380
Qatari Riyals	84.605
Saudi Riyals	82.175
Jordanian Dinar	429.815
Egyptian Pound	16 978
Sri Lankan Rupees Indian Rupees	2.005
Pakistani Rupees	2.907
Bangladesh Taka	3.742
Philippines Pesso	6.121
Cyprus pound	168.208
Japanese Yen	3.795
Syrian Pound	2.420
Nepalese Rupees	3.950
Malaysian Ringgit	70.185

Chinese Yuan Renminbi Thai Bhat Turkish Lira	44.745 9.860 84.130		Indonesian Rupiah Japanese Yen Kenyan Shilling Korean Won	0.000018 0.002682 0.002945 0.000259	0.000024 0.002862 0.002945 0.000274
BAHRAIN EXC	CHANGE CON	IPANY WLL	Malaysian Ringgit	0.065645	0.071645
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	Nepalese Rupee Pakistan Rupee	0.003014 0.002692	0.003184 0.002982
CONNENCT	Europe	JEEL	Philippine Peso	0.002892	0.002982
British Pound	0.383340	0.393340	Sierra Leone	0.000038	0.000044
Czech Korune	0.004321	0.016321	Singapore Dollar	0.213235	0.223235
Danish Krone	0.040485	0.045485	South African Rand	0.017413	0.025913
Euro	0.325889	0.334889	Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001636	0.002216
Norwegian Krone	0.031665	0.036865	Taiwan	0.009958	0.010138
Romanian Leu	0.073011	0.073011	Thai Baht	0.008510	0.009060
Slovakia	0.009130	0.019130			
Swedish Krona	0.030477	0.035477		Arab	
Swiss Franc	0.299342	0.310342	Bahraini Dinar	0.802580	0.811080
Turkish Lira	0.078977	0.089277	Egyptian Pound	0.014043	0.019951
			Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
	Australasia		Iragi Dinar	0.000195	0.000255
Australian Dollar	0.222210	0.234210	Jordanian Dinar	0.4248948	0.433894
New Zealand Dollar	0.208110	0.217610	Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
	America		Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.00252
Canadian Dollar	0.220906	0.229905	Moroccan Dirhams	0.020378	0.044378
Georgina Lari	0.137777	0.137777	Nigerian Naira	0.000396	0.001031
US Dollars	0.300950	0.305350	Omani Riyal	0.785917	0.791597
US Dollars Mint	0.301450	0.305350	Qatar Riyal	0.082978	0.084428
000000000	01001100	01000000	Saudi Riyal	0.080260	0.081580
	Asia		Syrian Pound	0.001293	0.001513
Bangladesh Taka	0.003419	0.004003	Tunisian Dinar	0.124511	0.132511
Chinese Yuan	0.042801	0.046301	Turkish Lira	0.078977	0.089277
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037132	0.039882	UAE Dirhams	0.081629	0.083329
Indian Rupee	0.004272	0.004960	Yemeni Riyal	0.000992	0.001072

Kuwait 🗠 Times 🍜



KFH A STRATEGIC PARTNER OF 15TH AAOIFI CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: To further solidify its commitment towards the support in the development of the Islamic banking sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain and internationally. Kuwait Finance House Group (KFHG) participated as a strategic partner in AAOIFI's 15th Annual Sharia Conference that was held on the 12th and 13th of April at the Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel in Manama.

The Conference, considered one of the most prominent in the region, focused on the legal and governance aspects of Islamic finance. It was organized by the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Financial and Islamic Institutions (AAOIFI) and sponsored by the Central Bank of Bahrain, with the participation of 40 Islamic finance experts from 16 countries including the GCC, Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Algeria, Pakistan, Canada, America and others.

A number of important issues were discussed related to the Islamic finance industry, such as the drafting of legal documents in line with international standards and Islamic practices.

Abdulhakeem Al-Khayyat, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Finance House-Bahrain, on behalf of the Group, said: "KFH Group are always keen to support the various financial events taking place regionally, with a special focus on Islamic banking conferences that have a positive impact on the banking sector in general. Our sponsorship of this conference

reflects the Group's support as a leading Islamic financial institution in the region."

Al-Khayyat praised the pioneering role played by the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions in organizing this annual conference and expressed his aspiration for further cooperation with this body in future initiatives and conferences.

AAOIFI's 15th annual sharia conference was attended by a host of Islamic leaders including prominent scholars, bankers, experts, lawyers, accounting professionals, senior managements of central banks and regulatory and supervisory authorities, academics, and members of the media. It also witnessed attendance by a number of ministers, ambassadors, CEOs of Islamic financial institutions and research and training centers and consultancies as well as representatives of international and regional organizations. A number of legal, and governance-related topics were discussed at this year's conference including topics relating to both theoretical and practical perspectives, such as regulatory and supervisory frameworks for the Islamic finance industry.

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 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of

excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.





JAKARTA: A boy admires a special custom-made car on display at the Indonesia International Motor Show in Jakarta yesterday. Indonesia has forecasted vehicle sales in 2017 to reach 1.1 million units, growing at a rate of five percent, as Indonesia's economy is expected to recover from a prolonged market slump plaguing the market in the last few years. — AFP

GERMAN ECONOMY BOOMS AS PROTECTIONIST THREAT GOES POP

HAMBURG: When port manager Axel Thursday. Chancellor Angela Merkel has Mattern looks out onto the Elbe River from even fuelled expectations of a future EU-US his office in Hamburg's historic warehouse trade deal, saying she was "very encouraged" district, he can literally count the rising number of container ships leaving Germany's biggest harbor. There is an export boom underway, the ships tell him. China, in particular, is "buzzing", Mattern says. The sharp increase in demand for "Made in Germany" goods from around the world is pushing Europe's largest economy into overdriveand, not coincidently, helping dispel worries about rising protectionism under US President Donald Trump. Some German companies are even considering expanding into the United States, while others reckon the world is big enough for them to thrive even if American trade borders do get tricky. In the first two months of 2017, overall German exports rose 7 percent on the year to 201.2 billion euros (\$219.57 billion), driven by a broad-based uptick in demand for top quality German products such as cars and machines. The trade boost comes on top of Germany's vibrant domestic economy which is already supported by a robust labour market, a growing population and record-low borrowing costs, enabled by the European Central Bank's loose monetary policy. Soaring private consumption, increased state spending on refugees and higher construction drove an expansion of 1.9 percent last year, the strongest rate in half a decade and the fastest among the Group of Seven industrialized countries. The economy is still doing well. But it is the jump in trade that most bodes well for 2017. A breakdown of trade data from the Federal Statistics Office compiled for Reuters shows exports to the United States.

BRITISH ECONOMY SLOWS AS BREXIT WEIGHS ON SPENDING HOUSING PRICES FALL AS CONSUMERS REIN IN SPENDING

LONDON: Britain's economy slowed in the first three months of the year as concerns about the UK's exit from the European Union spurred inflation and forced consumers to rein in spending.

The economy expanded 0.3 percent from the previous quarter, below the 0.4 percent that was expected and less half the 0.7 percent it grew at the end of 2016, the Office for National Statistics said Friday. The pound has fallen about 20 percent against the dollar and euro since Britain voted to leave the EU, pushing up the cost of many imported goods. That seems to be hurting consumers - potentially bad news for the government only a few weeks before a general election.

In another signal that what was once the fastest-growing major economy is hitting the skids, Britain's second-biggest mortgage provider said Friday that house prices fell for a second consecutive month.

"Rising inflation is eating into household spending power and that now looks to be holding back GDP considerably," Paul Sirani, chief market analyst at Xtrade, said in a note to investors. "The marked dent in GDP stems from consumers tightening their belts in the face of rising living costs and businesses becoming more cautious over investments."

Until recently, Britain's economy has defied expectations of a post-Brexit slump, leading the government to attack opponents for being overly pessimistic. The economy expanded 2 percent last year, the fastest rate among the Group of Seven industrialized nations.

Prime Minister Theresa May has called early elections for June 8 in an effort to increase her majority in Parliament and strengthen her hand in negotiations with the EU and bolster the economy.

But the UK economy is heavily dependent of consumer spending and inflation is eating away at disposable income. Consumer price inflation rose to 2.3 percent in the 12 months through March, from very low levels in 2015.

The recent slowdown in economic growth was driven by consumer-focused industries such as retail, accommodation and the sale and repair of vehicles, all of which declined in the first guar-

ter, according to the ONS. And when it comes to the biggest investment of all - buying a home people are becoming more cautious.

Average house prices across the country fell 0.4 percent in April, after a 0.3 percent drop the previous month, according to a monthly index compiled by Nationwide Building Society.

Nationwide's chief economist, Robert Gardner, said that monthly figures can be volatile, but the softening reflects pressure on household budgets. "Given the ongoing uncertainties around the UK's future trading arrangements and the upcoming election, the economic outlook is unusually uncertain, and housing market trends will depend crucially on developments in the wider economy," he said.

The British Banker's Association piled onto the string of poor news with a report showing that the annual growth in consumer borrowing had slowed. Eric Leenders, BBA managing director for retail banking, said the figures mirrored "the dip seen in retail sales volumes as price rises appear to have started biting into consumers' spending." — AP



Germany's most important single export destination after the bloc of European Union countries-jumped 9 percent in the first two months of the year to 17.9 billion. Those to China leapt 14 percent to 12.6 billion euros.

SELF-CONFIDENCE

The US increase comes despite some of the new president's "America First" campaigning. Trump's protectionist rhetoric and the dispute about the benefits of free trade are likely to rank high on the agenda of the Group of 20 summit to be held in Hamburg in July. Concerns among managers in Europe's economic powerhouse, however, have already eased. "We're very relaxed about this whole debate about Trump and protectionism," Mattern said. "If Mr Trump doesn't want to buy German goods anymore because he thinks he can produce everything at home, we'll just find other buyers."

Corporate Germany's self-confidence is backed by data. A survey of some 43,000 consumers in 52 countries conducted by Dalia Research and Statista showed "Made in Germany" is viewed as the most appealing seal of quality in the world. Senior German government officials also sound less alarmed about U.S. policy after meetings with US counterparts in recent weeks-a notion echoed by ECB President Mario Draghi on

talks were being looked at after her recent trip to Washington.

German business leaders such as Anton Boerner from the BGA trade association point out that Trump's protectionist threats, including broad-based introduction of punitive tariffs on imports through a border adjustment tax, have failed to translate into policy so far.

"There are no concrete measures and this means 'business as usual' for companies-at least for now," Boerner told Reuters. While uncertainty remains high and is limiting overall private sector investment, at least some companies seem to be viewing political risks as the new normal-and they are pushing ahead with investment.

A survey by the lfo institute shows German industrial companies plan to increase investment by 5 percent this year, up from 3 percent in 2016.

NEW SITES

Among them are Mittelstand companies, the largely family-owned firms that form the backbone of German industry and make up roughly 98 percent of German export companies.

"We plan to open at least one, probably two new production sites in the U.S.," said Josef Minster, CEO of Schlemmer Group, an automotive supplier specialising in cable protection systems.

The Bavarian-based firm wants to increase its market share in North America and benefit from an expected upturn in the automobile sector there. Schlemmer is also preparing a takeover of a small US firm which is not yet selling its high-quality niche products abroad.

"Together with our expertise and global sales network, we expect to benefit quickly from scaling effects," Minster said, adding that the takeover would be one of the biggest in the history of the company, founded in 1954. Schlemmer traditionally aims to produce near its customers' factories to keep the production chain short. Rollercoaster manufacturer Mack Rides, in contrast, builds every ride in the tiny southern town of Waldkirch in the Black Forest region before shipping them to amusement parks around the world.

Mack Rides plans to invest in its German production site, located near its own theme park called Europa-Park close to the French border, to meet rising global demand. "We're currently experiencing a sharp upturn in demand from Asia and the Emirates, but also from Europe and the United States," said CEO Christian von Elverfeldt.

The 237-year-old family-run firm has an export rate of 95 percent, meaning rising protectionism and import tariffs surely would be bad for business, the manager admits. But Elverfeldt said customers value his company's quality and innovation-such as the recent development of a roller coaster ride with virtual reality glasses. — Reuters

JAKARTA: A family tests a Mercedes Benz car on display at the Indonesia International Motor Show in Jakarta yesterday. —AFP

BAIL OR BUST? ALITALIA SPLITS A NATION, PARALYSES ROME

ROME/MILAN: Italians are watching their flag carrier Alitalia go into yet another financial tailspin, and a growing number of them believe it would be better for the country if it crashed.

Outraged at repeated state bailouts that have cost taxpayers more than 7 billion euros (\$7.62 billion) over a decade, many Italians are taking to social media to urge the government to resist the political temptation to rush to its rescue again. "In electoral terms, Alitalia is worth nothing. It's a dead weight," Angelino Ghinelli tweeted into a social media storm that has not gone unnoticed in Rome, where ministers have so far shown a strong reluctance to make any guarantees.

"Enough with saving Alitalia," wrote Cinzia Briguglio, one of around 1,000 signatories to an online petition that sprang up this week, calling for the government not to get involved.

Consumer groups have also chimed in, including one, Codacons, which has threatened to ask Italy's Corte dei Conti, a judicial auditor, to examine any state bailout. The court can fine officials, including ministers, for wasting public funds. An opinion poll published on Friday, four days after Alitalia workers voted to reject a union-backed rescue plan proposed by management, shows that 77 percent of Italians believed the airline should be left to fail.

"It's clear Italians are opposed to governments

systematically running up deficits to deal with companies in crisis," Natascia Turato, director of Index Research, said in a comment the firm posted online, along with its poll results. Without state support, Alitalia appears headed for collapse. Rival airlines show little interest in buying it, and creditors refuse to lend more money after workers last Monday voted down a rescue plan that would have cut 1,700 jobs and trimmed salaries.

Rome has thrown Alitalia a short-term lifeline, a bridging loan of up to 400 million euros to see it through a bankruptcy process, under which an administrator will decide if it can be sold as a

going concern or should be liquidated. However, the government has ruled out renationalising the former state-owned business, once a symbol of Italy's post-war economic boom but now struggling to compete at home against low-cost carriers Ryanair and EasyJet. Italian Finance Minister Pier Carlo Padoan has gone a step further, saying the government is unwilling, directly or indirectly, to invest any capital in it. But with a general election due by May 2018, few Italians believe the ruling Democratic Party will really stand by and watch Alitalia crash and its 12,500 workers lose their jobs.

READING THE MOOD

Former prime minister Matteo Renzi, who is charting his way back to power, has said he will come up with a plan to rescue the airline by mid-May, assuming he emerges from this weekend's Democratic Party primaries as its newly re-elected leader. The hardening of public opinion against Alitalia, though, makes the political calculations difficult-and neither Renzi nor his party's main political rival, the 5 Star Movement, has advanced any concrete proposals for Alitalia. Five Star's leaders have refused to be drawn on whether they would be willing to see public money put into the company. — Reuters





REFORM WHEN OIL PRICE IS SUSTAINABLE

e have not limited the number of draft bills at the National Assembly, which want to maintain prices of commodities and services at their level prior to the recession of the oil market in 2014 fall, but by two numbers, i.e. more than 10. This means a general case of denying that the oil market lost about 60 percent of its price level and that the reduction in oil prices is a long-term fact this time. There are several justifications for this orientation. First, the financial deficit is not real but a book one. Second, there is skepticism over the constitutionality of amending prices. The last one is the endless debate about the government's overspending. The last one, the strongest in our opinion, is unfortunately correct. The ability to pass such proposals by laws has confirmed momentum because they submitted by all political spectra at the National Assembly, despite the wide differences among them. While the danger lies in the fact that sustaining this condition for the public finance is impossible with its cost to be paid by the overwhelming majority of ordinary people.

Goals of such laws are limited to revoking increased prices or intentions to increase prices of goods or commodities such as gas or the electricity unit. Not only that, the matter extended to the interest of the loans of the retirees and the pressure to reduce retirement age. As our concern is with the financial and economic aspects, we would like to stress that the government's weak position is not debatable. The defense of reducing negative taxes -subsidies- without prudence in using funds makes them in constant retreat. We however assume that the government is not the State and preserving the State's sustainability is the task of all. Therefore, the reform process should be fought in two fronts: fundamental reform for the expenditures side by severe punishment to the government's overspending and gradual reinforcement of the revenues side. More importantly still is some rationalization to consumption as long as our goal is the State's sustainability.

At the threshold of the third millennium a decisive advice has been offered to the two executive and legislative authorities that the reform timing is now, i.e during oil market prosperity. If they listened to this opinion presented from numerous parties, public spending would have not exceeded KD 8 billion by 2015. If that was achieved Kuwait would be remote from the current crisis of the general budget deficit and the sustainability of public finance would be possible at the current oil prices, or even lower. If it happened, Kuwait would have been closer to the financial condition of Norway.

Unfortunately, that has passed and became history and regret is futile. More dangerous still are the government's relucnumber of the second highest listed companies in the region after the Saudi market which contains 176 companies.

It seems that the Boursa Company had a good start being supported by its high liquidity during the current year, until now. Withdrawal of small and dangerous companies should reduce risks of trading in the Boursa and increase trust in its trading. We do not encourage its resistance though it entails some income losses in the near term. The positive effort should be confined to replacing withdrawing companies by convincing large and solvent companies to be listed at the Boursa. The last experience shows the weight of 8 new listed companies which equaled the weight of 51 withdrawing or will withdraw companies.

IMF Economic Development Report

IMF issued a report on economic development on April 18, 2017. Its figures contain

ALSHALL INDEX

AL-SHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

anticipated to grow at 3.5 percent in 2017, as compared to 3.1 percent in 2017. This grow is anticipated to reach 3.6 percent in 2018. The projected rise in growth rates will include the developed countries, emerging economies and the low-income states. The underlying drive of that growth is the improvement in the industry and trade sectors.

The developed economies will raise their growth rates from 1.7 percent in 2016 to 2 percent in both 2017 and 2018, with the highest growth rate in the American economy, which is the biggest economy in the world by 2.3 percent and 2.5 percent in 2017 and 2018 respectively. The emerging and developing economies will raise their rates from 4.1 percent in 2016 to 4.5 percent and 4.8 percent in 2017 and 2018 respectively. The main support will come from the exceptional growth of the Indian economy by 7.2 percent and 7.7 percent in 2017 and 2018. The irony is the projections of continsome discrepancies. The global economy is ued loss of the Chinese economy of a mar-

gin from its growth rates, which will drop from 6.7 percent in 2016 to 6.6 percent in 2017 and 6.2 percent in 2018, though policy makers in China believe in achieving higher arowth rates.

That optimistic view for the economic growth excludes the GCC states for 2017. Bahrain alone, for instance, and despite the big deficit in its current account 3.6 percent of its GDP- adjusted its growth rates upwards from 1.8 percent in a former report to 2.3 percent in the current report. The report maintained the same growth rates in both the former and the current reports for KSA and Qatar; weak for KSA at 0.4 percent for this year. Qatar on the other hand achieved the highest growth rates among the GCC states at 3.4 percent in both reports. The report reduces the growth rates projected for other three GCC states in 2017. UAE which is the lower growth rate, or from 2.5 percent in a former report to 1.5 percent in current report; Oman from 2.6 percent to 0.4 percent, and only Kuwait received the highest reduction in the growth rate along with all the other indicators, that lagged behind, from 2.6 percent to negative growth at 0.2 percent in the current report.

All other factors, which contributed to weakened growth of GCC states, apply to Kuwait. Weak oil prices and instability in the region are among the common factors. But the negative growth in our opinion is due to its inability to adopt and financial or economic reform policies. Even that shy and modest step it adopted in the reform road is/or will be abandoned. It also lagged in the indices of corruption perceptions, business practices climate, competition and transparency. There should be a minimum limit of awareness and concern to avoid some future risks.

Kuwait International Bank (KIB)

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced results of its operations for the first quarter of the current year, which indicate that the bank's net profits, after deducting taxes, scored KD 7.61 million, increased by KD 879 thousand, or by 13 percent, compared with KD 6.73 million for the same period in 2016. The rise in net profits is due to the decrease in total provisions by about 41.1 percent and the rise in total operational profit prior to deducting provisions by about KD 1.2 percent.

Bank's total operational incomes increased by higher value than the rise in operational expenses by KD 389 thousand, or by 2.5 percent, to KD 15.9 million compared with KD 15.51 million for the same period in 2016. Due to the rise in the item of investment income by KD 1.5 million to KD 2 million (which form 12.4 percent of total operational incomes) versus KD 420 thousand (about 2.7 percent of the total). While, the remaining operational items of incomes decreased by about KD 1.1 million to KD 13.9 million compared with KD 15.1 million.

Total operational expenses rose by KD 284 thousand, or by 4.4 percent, and scored KD 6.73 million compared with KD 6.45 million in the same period of 2016, due to the rise in the item of staff costs by KD 360 thousand to KD 4 million (KD 3.63 million). While the total provisions dropped by KD 841 thousand, or by 41.1 percent, as mentioned, to KD 1.2 million (KD 2.04 million). This explains the rise in the net profit margin to 45.4 percent compared with 40.4 percent in the same period of 2016.

The bank's financial statements indicate that the bank's total assets increased by KD 64.5 million, or by 3.5 percent, to KD 1.911 billion (KD 1.846 billion in the end of 2016), and increased by KD 128.5 million, or by 7.2 percent, when compared with the same period of 2016, which scored KD 1.782 billion. Item of financing receivables rose by KD 29.6 million, or by 2.3 percent, to KD 1.298 billion (67.9 percent of total assets) versus KD 1.268 billion (68.7 percent of total assets) in the end of 2016. And rose by KD 113.2 million, or by 9.6 percent, compared with the same period of 2016, when it scored KD 1.185 billion (66.5 percent of total assets), in the same period of 2016. Percentage of total financing receivables to total deposits scored 80.8 percent compared with 79.6 percent. But item of dues from banks dropped by KD 3.9 million, or by 1 percent, to KD 389.4 million (20.4 percent of total assets) versus KD 393.3 million (21.3 percent of total assets) in the end of 2016. It dropped by 12.4 percent, or by KD 55.2 million, compared with KD 444.6 million (24.9 percent of total assets) in the same period of 2016. Figures indicate that the bank's liabilities (without including total equity) increased by KD 66.5 million, or by 4.2 percent, to KD 1.657 billion versus KD 1.591 billion in the end of 2016. It rose by KD 121.6 million, or by 7.9 percent, compared with the total in the end of the first quarter of the previous year. Percentage of total liabilities to total assets scored 86.8 percent compared with 86.2 percent. Result of analyzing financial statements calculated on annual basis indicates that all bank financial indexes scored increase compared with the same period of 2016. The average return on equities relevant to the bank's shareholders (ROE) increased to 12.1 percent versus 11 percent. Likewise, the average return on capital (ROC) increased to 29.4 percent compared with 26 percent. Also, the average return on assets (ROA) increased to 1.6 percent compared with 1.5 percent. EPS scored 8.1 fils versus 7.2 fils. (P/E) scored 7.3 times versus 6.8 times as a result of increased the share market price by 21.4 percent compared with its price on March 31, 2016, against less rise in profitability of (EPS) by 12.8 percent from its level in the end of March 2016.

The following tables summarize last we

Description	Week 17	Week 16	Diff
Description	26/04/2017	20/04/2017	%
Working days	4	5	
AlShall index (36 Companies)	382.3	388.0	-1.5%
Boursa Kuwait index (price)	6,854.3	6,813.5	0.6%
Value Trade (KD)	76,603,889	133,327,744	
Daily average (KD)	19,150,972	26,665,549	-28.2%
Volume Trade (Shares)	700,443,567	1,445,481,141	20.10
Daily average (Shares)	175,110,892	289,096,228	-39.4%
Transactions Daily average (Transactions)	16,075	28,403 5,681	-29.3%
Dany average (Transactions)	4,019	5,081	-29.5%
Most Active Sectors & Compan	ies		
Description		Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors		KD	Market
KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE		9,325,792	12.2%
HUMAN SOFT HOLDING CO. F	K.S.C.C	5,948,501	7.8%
ALIMTIAZ INVESTMENT CO. 1	K.S.C.C	5,591,049	7.3%
NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAI	5,287,576	6.9%	
KUWAIT REAL ESTATE COMP	PANY	4,364,197	5.7%
Т	otal	30,517,115	39.8%
Desc	ription	Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors		KD	Market
BANKS SECTOR		23,500,656	30.7%
REAL ESTATE SECTOR		16,866,114	22.0%
FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTO	R	15,898,368	20.8%
NDUSTRIALS SECTOR	11,637,280	15.2%	
FELECOMMUNICATIONS SEC	3,907,150	5.1%	

Week 17

26/04/2017

Week 16

20/04/2017

tance to stop expenses waste and the popular proposed laws adopted by the national assembly. These actions push us in the direction of the bad Venezuelan conditions reaching of which is only a matter of time, one, two or three decades.

To avoid repeating the sin of the beginning of the current millennium we should have a break or a pause during which a neutral party is entrusted with making projections on figures. After that making any decision in any direction is fine if the conviction is to guarantee the State's financial sustainability and its stability regardless of its financial policies.

The Boursa and withdrawals

There is a debate over the withdrawal of listed companies from the official market in Boursa. Due to the large number of withdrawing companies or the ones wanting to withdraw, controversy over this phenomenon is stigmatized as negative trend. We have monitored that phenomenon from 1/04/2011, when the number of listed companies reached the maximum and scored 217 companies. Though any conclusive judgment of this phenomenon may not be precise, yet we still believe it is a positive development and in favor of the Boursa for the medium term. As of the date of preparation of the report, 42 companies withdrew and another 9 companies had fixed withdrawal date making the total at 51 companies.

Meanwhile, 8 new companies have been listed. The market capitalization value of withdrawing companies at their withdrawal date and those that will withdraw as of 31/03/2017, scored KD 1.308 billion, i.e. 4.6 percent of market capitalization value of all market in the end of the first quarter of 2017. But in terms of percentage, they form 23.6 percent in the peak date, which means they are mostly small companies, non-liquid and losers. Including, 6 companies are out of these negative descriptions because they may be relatively large, a gainer or both. But for a certain reason they are not liquid and their market price is falling without justification which keeps their listing without a purpose, therefore they decided to withdraw.

On the other hand, only 8 companies have been listed with a market capitalization value of KD 1.292 billion in the end of the first quarter of the current year. This amount is almost equal to the value of all withdrawing companies or those wanting to withdraw. The liquidity of their shares is higher than those withdrawing ones. Despite the withdrawals, the current number of listed companies is 178 companies, and will be reduced to 169 companies during the current year unless new companies are listed, after the withdrawals of listed companies that wanted to withdraw the

Increased Value (# of Companies)				8	3	
Dec	Decreased Value (# of Companies)			21	22	
Unchanged Value (# of Companies)				7	11	
Tot	al Companies		36		36	
		WED	THU	DIFF	CLOSE	DIFF
	Company Name	26/04/2017	20/04/2017	%	2016	%
1	The National Bank Of Kuwait	400.3	400.3	0.0	362.9	10.3
2	The Gulf Bank	201.5	203.2	(0.8)	195.0	3.3
3	Commercial Bank Of Kuwait	365.9	398.7	(8.2)	349.7	4.6
4	Al-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait	203.0	199.7	1.7	196.4	3.4
5	Kuwait International Bank	258.4	265.7	(2.7)	214.7	20.4
6	Ahli United Bank	408.9	399.4	2.4	361.0	13.3
7	Burgan Bank	297.9	307.2	(3.0)	283.4	5.1
8	Kuwait Finance House	1183.1	1223.5	(3.3)	1172.1	0.9
	Banking Sector	407.6	412.9	(1.3)	379.3	7.5
9	Commercial Facilities Co	116.9	121.3	(3.6)	112.6	3.8
10	International Financial Advisors	356.6	356.6	0.0	251.3	41.9
11	National Investments	130.9	133.4	(1.9)	119.5	9.5
12	Kuwait Investment Projects	924.8	913.7	1.2	1114.2	(17.0)
13	Coast Investment & Development	62.2	62.9	(1.1)	52.6	18.3
	Investment Sector	287.6	287.6	0.0	311.7	(7.7)
	Kuwait Insurance Company	54.7	54.7	0.0	61.7	(11.3)
	Gulf Insurance Company	313.6	313.6	0.0	382.1	(17.9)
	Al-Ahleia Insurance Company	180.2	191.5	(5.9)	170.9	5.4
17	Warba Insurance Company	75.4	75.4	0.0	83.6	(9.8)
	Insurance Sector	131.2	134.0	(2.1)	145.0	(9.5)
	Kuwait Real Estate Company	95.2	103.4	(7.9)	100.1	(4.9)
19	United Realty Company	183.5	203.9	(10.0)	191.7	(4.3)
	National Real Estate Company	243.1	233.9	3.9	238.5	1.9
21	Salhiah Real Estate Company	1534.4	1514.2	1.3	1433.4	7.0
	Real Estate Sector	199.2	202.0	(1.4)	195.8	1.7
	The National Industries	109.0	107.2	1.7	109.0	0.0
	Refrigeration Industries Co	738.7	783.9	(5.8)	618.1	19.5
	Gulf Cable & Electrical Industries	175.9	183.9	(4.4)	149.9	17.3
25	Contracting & Marine Services Co	36.7	37.3	(1.6)	39.1	(6.1)
	Industrial Sector	192.9	199.8	(3.5)	172.4	11.9
26	Kuwait National Cinemas	878.8	941.6	(6.7)	778.4	12.9
27	Kuwait Hotels Company	137.5	137.5	0.0	145.8	(5.7)
28	The Public Warehousing Co	2406.1	2445.0	(1.6)	2406.1	0.0
29	Mobile Telecommunications Co - ZAIN	634.8	666.0	(4.7)	541.1	17.3
30	Safat Energy Co	13.5	15.0	(10.0)	11.1	21.6
	Services Sector	885.2	916.1	(3.4)	822.1	7.7
31	Livestock Transport & Trading Co	170.0	173.3	(1.9)	178.3	(4.7)
32	Danah Aalsafat Foodstuff Company	90.0	92.0	(2.2)	89.0	1.1
33	Kuwait Food Co	2424.0	2384.6	1.7	2561.9	(5.4)
	Food Sector	839.8	828.4	1.4	887.2	(5.3)
	Sharjah Cement Co	375.0	375.0	0.0	358.3	4.7
	Gulf Cement Co	310.5	354.8	(12.5)	302.4	2.7
36	Umm Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries	625.4	588.6	6.3	551.8	13.3
	Non Kuwaiti Companies	229.9	235.8	(2.5)	222.6	3.3
	General Index	382.3	388.0	(1.5)	363.0	5.3

The weekly performance of Boursa Kuwait

The performance of Boursa Kuwait for the last week (4 working days due to the Al-Israa and Al-Miraj holiday) was less active compared to the previous one, where all indexes showed a decrease, the traded value index, the traded volume index, number of transactions index, and the general index. AlShall Index (value weighted) closed at 382.3 points at the closing of last Wednesday, showing a decrease of about 5.7 points or about 1.5 percent compared with its level last week, while it increased by 19.3 points or about 5.3 percent compared with the end of 2016.





LEXUS GS F EMERGES AS PEOPLE'S CHOICE

2017 MIDDLE EAST CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

exus continued its winning streak at the







OPEN, REWARDS BY FLYDUBAI MAKES ITS DEBUT AT ATM

KUWAIT: Dubai-based carrier, flydubai, showcased for the first time at the Arabian Travel Market its new rewards program "OPEN".

The program, launched six months ago, has been well received across the region and is gaining more popularity as it adds more partners and offers for its members.

The program, which is designed to make earning and spending reward points simple and straightforward, with no minimum balances or blackout dates, has attracted members from more than 200 nationalities to date. The highest number of members came from India with 12%



rewards by flydubai

of the overall membership. The sec- came from Pakistan followed by Saudi ond largest number of members Arabia, Russia and the UAE; a reflection of the diversity of the flydubai network and its customer profile. Commenting on the newly launched rewards program, Ghaith Al-Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer of flydubai said: "We have redefined the way people travel around the region giving them the freedom to choose what to spend when they fly for business or leisure. We hope that our passengers have seen the benefits of this simple and straightforward rewards program and continue to enjoy the latest offers and partnerships."

Since the launch of the program 50 percent of the accrual and redemption of the reward points came from its "OPEN" members residing in the UAE followed by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Lebanon. Around 60% of the "OPEN" rewards members are between the ages of 31 and 50, while 25 percent are between the ages of 21 and 30.

Nahed Al-Kheily, Vice President of Ancillary Revenue at flydubai said: "flydubai is committed to introducing product innovations that enhance the overall customer experience. We've designed this rewards program to be less restrictive, instantly rewarding, transparent and straight-to-thepoint. OPEN was designed to reward members for every dollar they spend with us. We are expanding our partnerships with more hospitality, lifestyle and retail brands enabling our OPEN members to earn reward points for their transactions and continue to redeem these points to pay for flydubai flights, upgrades and optional extras for any trip, on any day, to any destination."

OPEN, rewards by flydubai has launched a first of its kind co-branded credit card with Dubai Islamic Bank in the UAE which allows card members to earn up to three times more points on purchases locally or internationally.

LONGEVITY



JOHN PRAKASH VAS WINS KD 4000 IN BURGAN **BANK'S VALUE ACCOUNT DRAW**

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank yesterday announced JOHN PRAKASH VAS as the winner of the Value Account KD 4000 draw. The winner expressed his excitement of winning the cash prize of KD 4,000.

Dedicated to offer the best in-class services, Burgan Bank's Value Account presents customers with exceptional features which were specifically designed to suit the needs of expatriates living in Kuwait. Account holders will be able to enjoy matchless benefits that include receiving a free credit card for one year, application for a loan, in addition to a chance to enter the quarterly draw to win KD 4000 as well as other discounts from selected merchant stores. Burgan Bank will continue presenting exclusive services and draws with an aim of exceeding customers' expectations while offering them chances to win valuable cash prizes all year round.

Opening a Value account is simple, interested Individuals with salaries starting from KD 150 and above are eligible to open a Value Account. Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant

Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

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

'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed. The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years. Burgan Bank, a subsidiary

MICHELIN PILOT SPORT 4 KUWAIT: The new MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S is an ultra-high performance tire which replaces the MICHELIN Pilot Super Sport, which is widely recognized as the industry-leading ultra-high-performance tire for original equipment and replacement applications. It offers the best of the MICHELIN Pilot Super Sport further enhanced by MICHELIN Pilot Sport Cup 2 tire learning.

Designed for sports cars and high performance saloons, the MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S offers unparalleled driving pleasure thanks to its exceptional steering precision and directional stability. It provides maximum performance and safety on all surfaces due to its optimized tread footprint which grips the road in all situations, even the most extreme.

MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S also displays excellent braking performance on both dry and wet surfaces, thanks to the use of Bi-Compound Technology. The outer part of the tread uses a new hybrid compound that promotes grip on dry ground while the inner side uses a new compound with silica and so-called functional elastomers which allow the tire to offer consistent grip on wet surfaces. This high performance on dry and wet surfaces, often conflicting characteristics in the world of super sports tires, here have advanced together. They fully express the Michelin Total Performance philosophy, which is to advance simultaneously several criteria on the same tire, whatever the technology challenge. Leading independent testing The MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 $\tilde{\mathsf{S}}$ is the result of a unique know-how developed by engineers passionate about their work and redefines the standards of the category. Adapted for driving at the highest levels on road and on track, it has already positioned itself as the number one in its class. In tests conducted by the independent organization T.V S.D in Germany, the MICHELIN

Pilot Sport 4 S surpassed its five major competitors in key performance areas.

MICHELIN LAUNCHES NEW

Dry braking

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S takes only 33.66m to brake from 100 km/h to a complete stop, when the best of its direct competitors takes nearly a metre more (+0,83m).

Wet braking

On a wet track 27.73m is enough for the MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S to brake from 80 km / h to 0. This shows it once again as the best at almost 2.5m (+2,41m) shorter than the worst performer.

Lap time

On a 2.6 km circuit, the MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S proved to be between 0.4s and 1.39s faster per lap. It's almost a second quicker on average over this relatively short distance. One second disciplines worldwide and uses this competitive environment as a laboratory for development of future tire technologies, which are then used in the development of its production tires. Data collected during racing, mostly from 'confidential' tire technologies or rubber compound recipes, enable Michelin's engineers to validate their findings.

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S, which is set to be one of the most successful sports tires ever designed by Michelin for the general public, uses construction methods and materials directly developed in competitions such as the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) and its flagship event the 24 Hours of Le Mans, Formula E and the World Rally Championship.

The distinctive design of the tread has been developed following the success of the tires used in Formula E, which are the first 18-inch tires to be used on open-wheeled race cars.



External tests realized by DEKRA Test Center in June and July 2016 in 255/35-19 96Y XL. BRIDGESTONE Potenza S001, CONTINENTAL SportContact 6, DUNLOP Sport Maxx RT 2, GOODYEAR Eagle F1 Asymmetric 3, and PIRELLI PZero Nero GT bought on European replacement market in 2016 by TÜV SUD.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

focus on the corporate and financial institu- of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a tions sectors, as well as having a growing strongly positioned regional Bank in the retail, and private bank customer base. MENA region.



may seem insignificant; however the driving experience will be completely different.

Longevity

Wear tests conducted by the Dekra Test Center demonstrated that the new MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S has the best longevity in its class.

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S is also among the first tires in this category to score an A rating on the European labelling scale (19 inch tire) in braking distance on wet surfaces. This label is intended to inform tire buyers of the performance of the tires they are planning to buy and also gives them information on the energy efficiency of the tire and its road noise level. The MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S also passes a new milestone in terms of rolling resistance as two-thirds of the range are graded C.

The passion, on road and track Michelin is involved in several motor sport

Designed to equip the most distinguished sports cars

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S has been developed to satisfy the owners of cars from manufacturers including BMW M, Ferrari, Ford, Mercedes-AMG and Porsche. Michelin is working hand in hand with the world's leading car manufacturers to provide the most suitable tires to complement the performance of their most exclusive models and as a result, more than 60 original equipment homologation projects are currently under development.

Velvet-like sidewalls

Like all of Michelin's latest high-end tires the MICHELIN Pilot Sport 4 S uses 'Michelin Premium Touch Design' to enhance the appearance of the sidewall design. This is a sign of the recognition and esteem in which these tires are held in the exclusive automotive world.

GULFSAT, IQ TELEPORTS SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

DEAL ON SPACE BROADCASTING THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE

KUWAIT: Gulfsat Communications Company (Gulfsat), the region's leading company specialized in providing communications and TV broadcasting and re-broadcasting through satellites, has announced the signing of a cooperation agreement with IQ Teleports in the Kurdistan province of Iraq being specialized in the supply and distribution of TV channels in the region. Under the agreement, Gulfsat will provide its new partner with a comprehensive package for broadcasting through a wide range of TV channels, while IQ Teleports will benefit from Gulfsat's services in space broadcasting and media content through satellites. This agreement will reflect positively on Gulfsat's expansion in the Iraqi market and the entire Middle East and North Africa region through its partners.

The agreement was sides by both parties during Gulfsat's active participation at the 23rd CABSAT - the foremost exhibition for the broadcast content delivery, digital media and satellite industries exhibition that was held at the Dubai World Trade Center in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The agreement was signed on behalf of Gulfsat by its chairman and chief executive officer, Mohammed Al-Haj, and on behalf of IQ Teleports by its chief executive officer, Hiwa Fariq Mustafa.

A New Phase of the Company's Presence in Iraq

Following the signing of the agreement, Gulfsat's Chairman and CEO, Mohammed Al-Haj, stated that the agreement with IQ Teleports paves the way for the company to join a network of partners operating in the entire MENA region and with whom Gulfsat considers itself privileged to work with.

The agreement, Al-Haj added, moves from



working on its own in the market of Kurdistan in Iraq to a phase in which it provides its services through a strong and active partner who enjoys a deeprooted presence in that market. "In IQ Teleports" he added, "we found a dynamic harmony

Chairman and CEO in service delivery Mohammed Al-Haj

that fits perfectly within our own operating strategy. IQ Teleport has a deep footprint, a long-standing presence and intimate knowledge of its market. Its management is keen to keep pace with the latest technical developments within the sector. This can only add valuable services in terms of technical and technological support for the TV channels operating within the package and reflects positively on the level of market, sales, technical support and other aspects. All these factors stand to strengthen Gulfsat's presence in a vibrant geographical region. I can say that, in this new relationship, I already hear the echo of our vision for a dynamic growth in the various markets."

Gulfsat and an added value

In turn, Hiwa Fariq Mustafa, IQ Teleport CEO, said; "We are happy to announce the signing of the cooperation agreement with Gulfsat, which is a major milestone in the progress of our companies, for Gulfsat is leading company specialized in providing communication services, TV space broadcasting and re-broadcasting services."



KUWAIT: Chairman and CEO Mohammed AI-Haj and IQ Telephort CEO Hiwa Fariq Mustafa with both Gulfsat and IQ Teleport teams.

Mustafa lauded the sophisticated technical services of the company in media content broadcasting and TV broadcasting through satellites at the highest technological standards, not to mention the freedom from piracy and space interference, all of which ensure the finest TV broadcasting content delivery.

He went on to say: "I seize this opportunity to thank Gulfsat for selecting us as their partner in the Province of Kurdistan, Iraq". He expressed appreciation for the Company's specialized human resources and their earnest desire to adopt the highest professional standards in dealing with its customers, enabling it to expand throughout the MENA region. He said he hoped the agreement would lay down a solid foundation for a long-term cooperation with Gulfsat and help strengthen its foothold and presence in the Iragi market in general. He added that he looked forward to IQ Teleport's benefiting from any future services that Gulfsat provides and that will help IQ Teleports to keep abreast with the developments taking place in this dynamic sector.

Partnerships with customers

In turn, Gulfsat's chairman and CEO, Mohammed Al-Haj, said that the agreement signed with IQ Teleports serves as a model of the kind of relationship Gulfsat is keen to establish and develop into full-fledged partnerships with customers. This business model reflects the vision behind the Gulfsat's strategy of catering for customer requirements and providing them with the most advanced services in the field of communications, TV and media content broadcasting and re-broadcasting through satellites. This equation, he went on, is consistent with the role Gulfsat plays and will continue to play as a major specialized company in the region. Al-Haj concluded by saying that " while this sector witnesses rapid developments in those services, Gulfsat is keen to provide secure broadcasting and combat media content piracy through a package of technological tools that help protect the rights of all parties and safeguard and support intellectual, publishing and distribution rights".

Kuwait 🗠 Times 🍜

TECHNOLOGY

FACEBOOK GEARING UP TO FIGHT POLITICAL PROPAGANDA

that governments or other malicious nonstate actors are using its social network to

NEW YORK: Facebook is acknowledging influence political sentiment in ways that could affect national elections. It's a long way from CEO Mark Zuckerberg's asser-



CALIFORNIA: In this file photo, conference workers speak in front of a demo booth at Facebook's annual F8 developer conference in San Jose, California. — AP

tion back in November that it was "pretty crazy" to think that false news on Facebook influenced the US presidential election. It's also a major sign that the world's biggest social network is continuing to grapple with its outsized role in how the world communicates, for better or for worse.

In a paper posted online on Thursday, Facebook security researchers and its chief security officer said the company will monitor the efforts of those who try to hurt "civic discourse" on its service, whether that's governments or other groups. It is also looking to identify fake accounts, and says it will notify people if their accounts have been targeted by such cyberattackers.

"(We) have had to expand our security focus from traditional abusive behavior, such as account hacking, malware, spam and financial scams, to include more subtle and insidious forms of misuse, including attempts to manipulate civic discourse and deceive people," the report states. It was written by

researchers Jen Weedon and William Nuland and Facebook exec Alex Stamos and titled "Information Operations and Facebook."

Election meddling

The team defined "information operations" as any actions taken by governments or other actors to "distort domestic or foreign political sentiment" to achieve a strategic purpose. Such operations can include the dissemination of false news and disinformation and the use of fake-account networks aimed at manipulating public opinion through a variety of means.

Using the 2016 US presidential election as an example, Facebook said it uncovered "several situations" where malicious actors used social media to "share information stolen from other sources, such as email accounts, with the intent of harming the reputation of specific political targets." The company did not name the actors or the victims, but it said its data "does not contradict" a

January report by the US Director of National Intelligence that Russia tried to meddle with the US election.

More to do

Jonathan Albright, a professor who studies data journalism at Elon University in North Carolina, urged journalists and others back in February to look not just at the role of Facebook in spreading false or misleading information, but also at the sources of such information. That is, to attempt to identify both the producers of this material and those who spread it using social networks and other means.

Facebook's paper addresses the amplifiers of such content - the fake accounts that "like" and share false news stories, for example. The company has also announced steps to support legitimate journalism and news literacy. But the paper does not delve into ideas about attacking false news and propaganda at the source, including by banning such content from the site. — AP

YOUTUBE AD BOYCOTT COULD SPELL TROUBLE FOR ALPHABET'S GOOGLE

SAN FRANCISCO: YouTube's inability to keep big-brand ads off unsavory videos is threatening to transform a rising star in Google's digital family into a problem child. It's not yet clear whether a recent ad boycott of YouTube will be short-lived or the start of a long-term shift away from the video service - one that could undercut Google's growth and that of its corporate parent, Alphabet Inc.

Alphabet's first-quarter results, released Thursday, provided few clues. Major advertisers didn't start pulling their money from YouTube until the three-month period was nearly over. The company's earnings rose 29 percent to \$5.4 billion while revenue climbed 22 percent to \$24.8 billion. Shares surged nearly 5 percent, to \$933, in Thursday's extended trading.

Cloud over YouTube

But the fallout from the YouTube boycott is likely to be felt through the rest of this year. Skittish advertisers have curtailed their spending until they are convinced Google can prevent their brands from appearing next to extremist clips promoting hate and violence. "There is no entity in the world that is more risk averse than a senior marketing person," says Larry Chiagouris, a marketing professor at Pace University in New York. "They don't want to go with a media choice that presents problems for a brand, and they don't have to because they have many other choices."

Google CEO Sundar Pichai told analysts during a Thursday review of the first quarter that the company has had "thousands and thousands" of conversations with advertisers as YouTube takes steps to

overall to a better place," Pichai said. At another point, he assured analysts that YouTube is still experiencing "extraordinary" growth without providing specifics. Even if YouTube continues to lose advertisers, it won't leave a huge dent in Alphabet's earnings.

That's because marketers are expected to keep feeding the company's golden goose -Google's dominant search engine. Ads appearing alongside the billions of search results Google churns out each day still generate most of Alphabet's revenue even as it expands into other fields. But ad spending has been accelerating at a rapid pace on YouTube over the past two years as brands sought to connect with its audience of more than 1 billion people. Now it looks like things might taper off.

Taking the gloss off

Before the boycott began, YouTube's ad revenue after subtracting commissions was expected to rise 26 percent this year to \$7 billion, based on estimates from the research firm eMarketer. Alphabet doesn't disclose YouTube's finances. Advertisers began to flee YouTube last month, after The Times in London and other media outlets turned up evidence that their brands were appearing alongside clips promoting terrorism and racism. The findings alerted advertisers that YouTube didn't have adequate technology or staffing to shield brands from some of the appalling material that gets posted on a site that receives 400 hours of video per minute. "This is an ostrich situation where the ostrich just pulled its head out of the sand," says Harry Kargman, CEO of Kargo, which helps man-



SAN FRANCISCO: In this file photo, Anthony Levandowski, head of Uber's self-driving program, speaks about their driverless car in San Francisco. — AP

UBER SELF-DRIVING CAR EXEC STEPS ASIDE DURING GOOGLE LAWSUIT

protect their brands. "We are evolving age ad campaigns on mobile devices. —AP



LOS ANGELES: This file photo shows signage inside the YouTube Space LA offices in Los Angeles. — AP

WAYMO'S LAWSUIT MIGHT TRIGGER CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

SAN FRANCISCO: The executive running Uber's self-driving car division is stepping aside while the company defends itself against charges that he provided the project with technology stolen from a Google spinoff. Anthony Levandowski, an autonomous vehicle expert who defected from Google last year, notified Uber's staff of his decision in a Thursday email. The change was made in tandem with Uber CEO Travis Kalanick, according to the email.

Although Levandowski will remain at Uber, he won't be overseeing a crucial autonomouscar project while the ride-hailing service is locked in a legal showdown with Waymo, a rival started by Google eight years ago. Instead of reporting directly to Kalanick, Levandowski now will be under the supervision of a former subordinate, Eric Meyhofer, appointed to replace him during the Waymo battle. Waymo filed a lawsuit in February accusing Levandowski of illegally downloading its blueprints for a navigation technology known as lidar before founding a startup that he later sold to Uber for \$680 million. That deal brought to Uber most of the employees now working in the company's Advanced Technologies Group that's building self-driving cars.

Waymo is seeking a court order that would force Uber to stop its work on autonomous vehicles on the grounds that the project has been drawing on trade secrets taken by Levandowski before he left Google. Uber has denied its selfdriving cars are using Waymo's technology. A hearing on Waymo's request for an injunction against Uber is scheduled for May 3. If a federal judge sides with Waymo, it could hobble Uber's efforts to catch up in the still-developing field of robot-driven cars. Such vehicles could revolutionize transportation, including the rapidly growing ride-hailing industry.

In his email, Levandowski told employees to keep him out of any discussions about Uber's work on its lidar system while reminding them that all of the company's self-driving car technology "has been built independently, from the ground up." By recusing himself, he wrote, "I hope to keep the team focused on achieving the vision that brought us all here." Levandowsk has added to the intrigue swirling around the high-profile case by invoking his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination, raising the possibility that Waymo's civil lawsuit might trigger a criminal investigation into what happened. — AP

BRITISH INVENTOR TAKES FLIGHT IN 'IRON MAN' SUIT

VANCOUVER: British inventor Richard Browning lifted off from the shore of Vancouver Harbor on Thursday in a personal flight suit that inspired references to comic superhero 'Iron Man.' Using thrusters attached to his arms and back, Browning flew in a circle and hovered a short distance from the ground, captivating attendees at a prestigious TED Conference. The personal flight suit is capable of propelling wearers much higher and faster, according to its creators.



VANCOUVER: Gravity founder Richard Browning fields questions about his personal flight suit at a TED Conference in Vancouver, Canada. — AFP

"The hypothesis was that the human mind and body, if properly augmented, could achieve some pretty cool stuff," the extreme athlete and engineer said at the gathering a short time earlier. Browning told of experimenting with various numbers and arrays of essentially miniature jet engines on his limbs. Along the way, he said, there were more than a few crashes to the ground. "The whole journey was about trying and failing, and learning from that," Browning said.

The first reasonably stable, six-second flight with the gear inspired his team to press on. His startup, Gravity, formally debuted about a month ago with an early-version suit called Daedalus. A 55-second video clip of the suit in action has logged more than a million views since being posted on YouTube about three weeks ago.

Browning said he is already getting interest from investors and some in the British military who told him they had given up on the flight feature of an 'Iron Man' suit until seeing his human-propulsion gear. "I don't think anyone is going to be going down to Wal-Mart with it or taking anybody to school for quite a while, but the team at Gravity is moving it along," Browning said. He dreams of a flight suit that one day will allow its wearer to launch from a beach, soar along the coast and then perhaps hop into a helicopter in the air to continue their journey.

Browning has already seen the early-version flight suit compared to 'Iron Man' armor worn by Marvel Comics character Tony Stark, but stressed that his goal is firmly rooted in the real world. He also described the project as part of a personal journey, inspired by an engineer father with a love for flying machines, but who died when he was just a teenager. —AFP



NEW YORK: In this file photo, actress Laverne Cox attends the 'Orange Is the New Black' FYC Screening at DGA Theater in New York. — AP

HACKER THREATENS TO RELEASE STOLEN COPIES OF NETFLIX SERIES

SAN FRANCISCO: A hacker claims to have stolen the upcoming season of Netflix's hit series "Orange Is The New Black," and is demanding that the video streaming service pay an unspecified ransom to prevent all the new episodes from being prematurely released online. The hacker, operating under the name The Dark Overlord, has already purportedly uploaded the first episode to an illegal file-sharing service. The Associated Press could not legally confirm the authenticity of that uploaded file.

New episodes of "Orange" are scheduled for official release on June 9. Netflix said that a small production vendor that works with several major TV studios had suffered a breach. The Los Gatos, California, company described it as an "active situation" that's being investigated by the FBI and other authorities. Pirated copies of "Orange" could dent Netflix's subscriber growth and the company's stock price.

In the ransom note, The Dark Overlord claimed to have stolen series from other studios, too, by breaking into a single company. The purported hacker promised to also release those titles unless "modest" ransoms are paid. Rumors of a massive leak of Hollywood films and TV episodes have been circulating online for months, fed by purported screenshots of the footage and a copy of a proposed deal to delete the stolen material in return for tens of thousands of dollars in electronic currency. —AP

HEALTH & SCIENCE =

FOCUS TURNS TO SENATOR WITH DOC GUILTY OF MEDICARE FRAUD

WEST PALM BEACH: A prominent Florida eye doctor accused of political corruption was convicted of Medicare fraud Friday, increasing the odds that federal prosecutors could pressure him to testify against New Jersey Democratic Sen Bob Menendez. Dr Salomon Melgen faces 15 to 20 years in prison on 67 counts, including health care fraud, submitting false claims and falsifying records in patients' files, unless he offers or accepts a deal before his sentencing, scheduled for July 14. The senator denies any wrongdoing.

The doctor, 62, collected more money from Medicare than any other physician in the nation - \$21 million - at the height of the fraud in 2012. He showed no reaction when the verdict was read and was immediately taken into custody. Several of his family members burst into tears outside the courtroom. "It's not fair," said his wife, Flor Melgen. "He's a good doctor." Defense attorney Kirk Ogrosky said he's considering an appeal. "He cares very deeply about his patients and tried very hard to help them," Ogrosky said. "He had hopes the jury would see it differently."

Unneeded tests and treatments

Acting US Attorney for the Southern District of Florida Benjamin G Greenberg said in a statement that Melgen will "be held accountable for perpetuating a massive fraud scheme that caused millions of dollars in losses." The senator's defense attorney, Abbe Lowell, said he spoke with Menendez after the verdict, "and he is saddened for his long-time friend and is thinking of his family on this difficult day." "As we have known for the past two years, the issues involved in Dr. Melgen's case in South Florida had no bearing on the allegations made against the Senator, and this verdict will have no impact on him," Lowell's statement said.

Melgen and Menendez face trial on Sep. 6 in New Jersey on charges the doctor bribed the senator for favors, including intervention in a billing dispute with Medicare. Prosecutors convinced jurors the doctor stole up to \$105 million from the federal medical insurance program between 2008 and 2013 by performing unneeded tests and treatments on mostly elderly and disabled patients.

Melgen's attorneys argued that the Dominican-born, Harvard-trained doctor was a kind and caring physician. They acknowledged that he made billing and treatment mistakes, exposing him to potential lawsuits and possibly losing his medical license. But they said they were unintentional, and therefore not a crime. Prosecutors countered that anybody can make an occasional mistake, but Melgen's actions were too numerous to be honest. For example, the doctor frequently billed Medicare for tests and treatment of prosthetic eyes. Prosecutors also pointed to tests run in seconds that were supposed to take five minutes or more. That made the tests unusable for diagnosis, but enabled him to bill Medicare up to several hundred dollars each for as many as 100 patients a day. He pocketed millions more by splitting single-use vials of an expensive eye drug into four doses and billing the government for each one, they said.

Melgen became politically active in 1997, when he treated Florida Democratic Gov. Lawton Chiles, who appointed him to a state board. He was soon hosting Democratic fundraisers at his 6,500-square-foot (605-squaremeter) North Palm Beach home. That led to his friendship with Menendez, during which Melgen paid for trips he and the senator took to France and to the doctor's home at a Dominican resort. Menendez reimbursed Melgen \$58,500 after the trips became public knowledge.

Federal prosecutors say Melgen's gifts to Menendez were actually bribes. In return, they say, the senator obtained visas for the married Melgen's foreign mistresses, interceded with Medicare officials investigating his practice, and pressured the State Department to intervene in a business dispute he had with the Dominican government. "Dr. Melgen's case focused solely on the day-to-day operations of his medical practice and the private care of his patients - specifics of which the Senator could not be aware, nor has it ever been suggested otherwise," Lowell's statement said.

"From the beginning, Senator Menendez has been clear that he has always acted in accordance with the law and in his appropriate legislative oversight role as a member of Congress. When all of the facts are heard, he is fully confident that a jury will agree and he will be vindicated." —AP

SOUL-SEARCHING SCIENTISTS STRUGGLE TO GET THEIR MESSAGES TO PUBLIC

VIENNA: "We mortals do not understand you." That's the heartfelt cry from former UN climate chief Christiana Figueres, pleading with scientists to use everyday language to help counter growing public mistrust. Figueres was giving one explanation of why scientists are struggling to get their message across to a skeptical public at a major conference in Vienna this week.

Delegates made time for soulsearching at the meeting in the Austrian capital, conceding that they bear part of the blame for alienating some people. Just days

VIENNA: "We mortals do not understand you." That's the heartfelt cry from former UN climate chief Christiana Figueres, pleading with scientists to use everyday

This has contributed to an erosion of support for science since a high point in the 1960s when humans planted a flag on the Moon. Led by the United States, a trend has grown since then to challenge certain basic tenets that enjoy overwhelming expert consensus-the benefits of childhood vaccination, evidence for species evolution, and the perils of global warming. One prominent doubter, Science jargon

The "politicization" of science is a major part of the problem, conference delegates said. Not only do politicians cherrypick convenient findings, so creating the impression that research is partisan, but also some scientists have trespassed into what Langenberg described as the "public bazaar of opinions". Advancing any view or judgment is a no-no in the evidence-based research sphere, founded on the cardinal acceptance that nothing is ever certain.

The EGU meeting, which gathers annually to scrutinize the latest

tions of what you do and try to translate it into decisions, into policies," she said. "And if we don't understand there's nothing we can do about it." Unlike the awe-inspiring Moon quest, many of today's science problems tackle complex, controversial and unpleasant themes that touch on humanity's very survival.

Challenging power

Some research fields threaten major economic interests-for example the coal and oil industries' vulnerability to climate science showing a need to curb fossil fuel use, or that of soft drink manufacturers to health warnings about sugar. "There's huge economic interest at risk," said Christine McEntee, executive director of the American Geophysical Union. This can cause vested interests to "speak out and skew the science. That has eroded trust."

Another contributor is a modern media focus on entertaining narrative. "You can't beat narratives with facts," lamented Langenberg. "Humans like stories, they tell stories, they listen to stories and they are influenced by stories, and unfortunately whether these stories are factual doesn't really matter all that much," she said. "Many of us think that facts speak for themselves, but I think that is a misconception. Facts actually need trust and that is something we need to gain." So what is



RIDGEFIELD: In this Oct 9, 2013, file photo, supporters on both sides of the coal export issue attend a Millennium Bulk Terminals Longview Environmental Impact Statement Scoping meeting at the Clark County Fairgrounds Event Center. —AP

COAL TERMINAL WOULD BOOST GLOBAL CLIMATE-WARMING GAS

SEATTLE: A coal-export terminal proposed in Washington state would increase cancer risks for some residents, make rail accidents more likely and add millions of metric tons of climate-changing greenhouse gas globally every year, according to an environmental study released Friday. Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview wants to build the facility along the Columbia River near the city of Longview to handle up to 44 million tons of coal a year. Coal would arrive by train from Montana, Wyoming and other states to be stored and loaded on ships heading to energy-hungry markets in Asia.

dance with regulatory requirements." Agencies will use the review to decide more than 20 permits needed before the coal terminal can be built. The review found coal dust pollution from trains would not be major because emissions levels would be below state and federal standards. But pollution from locomotives would raise the cancer risk for one lowincome neighborhood. Residents also would see more noise and traffic delays at rail crossings without a quiet zone or other measures, the study said.

At full capacity, the project would add 16 more trains through the area and



WASHINGTON: This file photo taken on April 22, 2017 shows activists holding signs during the March for Science April 22, 2017. —AFP

after a historic March for Science in Washington, the experts owned up to failures including remoteness and condescension-and operating in an "echo chamber of likeminded people".

"I think it's the conceitedness, in a way," said Heike Langenberg, chief editor of the journal Nature Geoscience. "The problem is that scientists have not spoken at an even level with people who are out there," she told AFP on the sidelines of a European Geosciences Union (EGU) meeting of more than 14,000 experts in 22 Donald Trump, is now in the White House. He has described climate change as a hoax and linked childhood vaccines to autism.

Since taking office, Trump has moved to curb science spending and gag government researchers. A 2012 study in the American Sociological Review reported a dramatic loss of scientific faith among US conservatives, from nearly 50 percent who reported a "great deal" of trust in 1974 to only 35 percent four decades later. Liberal views have consistently hovered around the 50-percent mark. research in Earth and space science, this year atypically held an introspective debate entitled "Make facts great again: how can scientists stand up for science?" The motivation was a clear trend of "growing distrust of experts (and) rejection of inconvenient facts," said EGU president Jonathan Bamber, a glaciologist. Communicating science effectively has never been more important, said delegates. Diplomat Figueres made a plea on behalf of policy-makers.

"We are the ones who need to understand and take the implicathe answer? Scientists have to go back to

basics — thorough vetting and peer review to limit research mistakes and fraud, and resisting the temptation to exaggerate findings in a quest for prestige or funding. "It's important for the science community to be responsible in the way they communicate the science, so as not to sensationalize their own findings and not to try and just go for a headline rather than a much more... sober and factual presentation of findings, the EGU's Bamber told AFP.

"What we can do, and should do, is keep emphasizing what science can't do and can do," added Langenberg. "We very rarely can provide complete and final truth, that's important to stress"-so that people are not left frustrated by the process. "Science is search, and the search will go on." —AFP

BANGLADESHI GIRL WITH 3 LEGS 'WALKS, RUNS' AFTER SURGERY

SYDNEY: A toddler born with three legs-because body parts of a twin had grown inside her-was returning home to Bangladesh on Friday after complex and rare surgery in Australia enabled her to walk and run, her doctor said. Three-year-old Choity Khatun was given little prospect of survival until she was brought to Melbourne last year by Australian charity Children First Foundation. A team of surgeons spent several months mapping out a procedure to reconstruct her anatomy.

"A twin had grown out of her pelvis but the twin was only part of a twin... The problem is there's no rulebook for this because she's a very unique individual so you have to try and work out what was where," Chris Kimber, the paediatric surgery head at Monash Children's Hospital, told AFP.

"When Choity arrived in Australia, she was very malnourished, she couldn't walk properly at all," said Kimber. Working in consultation with experts from Europe and the United States, the surgeons planned a procedure that involved removing the remains of the third leg-part of which was earlier cut off in Bangladesh-as well as taking out, disconnecting and reconnecting other organs.

Choity's condition meant that body parts from a twin developed in her perineum-the area between the anus and the vulva. Surgeons spent countless hours examining her under anaesthetic and found she had two rectums, anuses, vaginas and uteruses. She was also incontinent.

'She's pretty good'

The surgery, which Kimber said was "extremely rare", was finally carried out in November and involved eight doctors who specialize in genital and pelvic reconstructions working on the girl for eight hours. "We spent three or four months thinking about it, presenting it to other doctors, getting ideas from around the world, and then based on lots of world opinion, we were able to come up with something that clearly works," he added.

A key triumph for the surgeons, including Kimber, was that they were able to help her become continent, which Kimber said was "extraordinary".

"She's pretty good," he added. The little girl is also partially blind, but an ophthalmologist's examination at the hospital found her sight could not be improved. But she has sufficient sight to now walk and run like other children, to the delight of her 22-year-old mother.

"Everything is good now... she can play like every baby," Shima Khatun told broadcaster Channel Nine on Thursday, adding that she was looking forward to returning to her village outside Dhaka with her daughter and being reunited with her husband. —AFP



MONROVIA: In this file photo dated Tuesday, Sept 30, 2014, a medical worker sprays people being discharged from the Island Clinic Ebola treatment center. —AP

11 DEAD OF MYSTERY ILLNESS IN LIBERIA

MONROVIA: United Nations officials say at least 11 people have died from a mysterious illness in Liberia, and tests have been negative for the Ebola virus. The World Health Organization said Friday that authorities are looking into whether the people were sickened by something they ate or were exposed to a chemical or bacteria. Five others remain hospitalized in Sinoe County, about 250 miles outside the capital, after complaining of abdominal pains. Two are critically ill. The cases over the past week have evoked painful memories in Liberia, where more than 4,800 people died during the Ebola epidemic. Those who fell sick this week all had attended a relative's funeral. That was how many Ebola victims contracted the disease when they came in contact with victims' corpses. —AP

The yearslong fight over the deepwater port comes as President Donald Trump has vowed to revive the struggling coal industry and lifted restrictions on mining coal and drilling for oil and natural gas. Environmentalists, tribes and others have fiercely opposed the project, which could increase US exports of coal by 40 percent, because of concerns about global warming, coal dust pollution and potential damage to fisheries on the river.

Businesses, some labor groups and other supporters say the project would create jobs, add tax revenue and boost the local economy. The governor of Wyoming, the nation's leading coal-producing state, previously traveled to the Pacific Northwest to pitch the importance of coal exports to the governors of Washington and Oregon. The environmental review by the state Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County analyzed potential harm to fish habitat, wetlands, water quality, local communities and more. Of 23 environmental issues, 19 would face harmful effects, and some could not be offset or reduced, officials said.

Impact on people's health

"All of those issues are concerning, but especially the impact to people's health is problematic," ecology department director Maia Bellon said in an interview. In a statement, Millennium CEO Bill Chapman said, "We have carefully designed the project to protect air and water quality, fish and wildlife, groundwater and people in accorincrease the number of ships by 1,680 a year. The increased rail traffic "would increase the potential for train accidents," the review said. The project also would result in a net annual increase of nearly 2 million metric tons of greenhouse gases when the exported coal is burned in Asia. Regulators called on developers to offset that pollution by buying carbon credits or investing in renewable energy projects.

Critics said the request oversteps state law and would set a bad precedent. Kris Johnson, president of the Association of Washington Business, said state law was designed to offset harmful effects near a project and within the state - not worldwide. The ecology department defended the analysis, saying Washington law requires it to look at global effects. "For us to do a thorough review that we've done here is exactly what the law expects of us," Bellon said. Jan Hasselman, an attorney with Earthjustice who represents groups opposed to the terminal, said local leaders should deny permits for the project.

"Any other outcome would be scientifically and legally unsupported," he said. The Army Corps of Engineers is expected to release its review this year. A local Native American tribe called on the corps to reject the project. "The proposed coal terminal is another threat to our way of life, culture, and subsequently our future generations' right to the use and enjoyment of natural resources within our homelands," a Cowlitz Indian Tribe statement said. —AP

GOP PRE-EXISTING HEALTH PLAN CONDITIONS SPAWNS WORRIES

WASHINGTON: From cancer to addiction, doctors and patient groups are warning that the latest Republican health care bill would gut hard-won protections for people with pre-existing medical conditions. Some GOP moderates who may seal the legislation's fate are echoing those concerns. In a strongly worded statement this week, the American Medical Association said the Republican protections "may be illusory." The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network said the plan could take the nation back to a "patchwork system" that pushes costs on people with life-threatening conditions.

Such stark messages may be connecting with lawmakers anxious about making the right decision on issues that touch every family. Rep. Patrick Meehan, R-Pa., said the rewritten bill "doesn't change the fundamental concerns I had at the outset ... making sure people with serious medical conditions could get affordable and adequate coverage." Count him among the GOP moderates who remain opposed. And veteran Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., said Friday he's "not comfortable" with the bill and would like to see it changed. A former chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Upton said he was concerned people with pre-existing medical problems could face unaffordable premiums. The Affordable Care Act passed under President Barack Obama requires insurers to take all applicants, regardless of medical history. Patients with health problems pay the same standard premiums as healthy ones.

The latest version of House Republicans' American Health Care Act would allow states to opt out of the requirement for standard premiums, under certain circumstances. If a state maintains safeguards such as a high-risk pool, it can allow insurers to use health status as a factor in setting premiums for people who have had a break in coverage and are trying to get a new individual policy. Critics of the Republican approach say there is no requirement that a state must provide an affordable coverage option for those consumers. —AP

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HEALTH & SCIENCE

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

DINERS MAY HAVE TO WAIT LONGER FOR RESTAURANT CALORIE COUNTS

WASHINGTON: Consumers hoping to find out how many calories are in that burger and fries may have to wait - again. New government rules to help people find out how many calories are in their restaurant meals are set to go into effect next week after years of delays. But they could be pushed back again if grocery stores, convenience stores and pizza delivery chains get their way.

Originally passed as part of the health care overhaul in 2010, the law requires restaurants and other establishments that sell prepared foods and have 20 or more locations to post the calorie content of food "clearly and conspicuously" on their menus, menu boards and displays. The restaurant industry has backed the law, but the delays have come as the other businesses that never wanted to be included say it is burdensome and have fiercely lobbied against it.

Facing a May 5 compliance deadline set by the Food and Drug Administration last year, those groups are eyeing a massive spending bill that Congress will have to pass in the next week to keep the government open. They're hoping to either delay the menu labeling rules again or include legislation in the larger bill that would revise the law and make it easier for some businesses to comply.

At the same time, the FDA is signaling it may act on the issue even sooner. In a typical first step before a rule or decision is announced, the agency has sent language to the White House for review that would delay the compliance date. FDA spokeswoman Deborah Kotz said in a statement Friday that the agency is "aware of the concerns" about the upcoming deadline and "is taking these concerns seriously as it considers how to best fulfill its public health mission while minimizing regulatory burden." A delay would be the latest of many. The FDA took more than four years to write the rules, and establishments originally had until the end of 2015 to comply. That was pushed to 2016 and then to May 2017.

Burden for some

The idea behind the menu labeling law is that people may pass on that bacon double cheeseburger at a chain restaurant, hot dog at a gas station or large popcorn at the movie theater if they know that it has hundreds of calories. But grocery stores and convenience stores have said the rules would be more burdensome for them than they would be for restaurants, which typically have more limited offerings and a central ordering point. The majority of prepared foods in grocery stores will have to be labeled from the salad bar to the hot food bar to cookies in the bakery. The industry groups are backing legislation by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., that would narrow labeling requirements for supermarkets by allowing stores to use a menu or menu board in a prepared foods area instead of putting labels on individual items. It would also allow restaurants like pizza chains that receive most of their orders remotely to post calories online instead of at the retail location, as the rules now require.

McMorris Rodgers, a member of House leadership, has been pushing for her legislation to be included in the spending bill. But if it's not included, a delay by the FDA could give Congress the needed time to pass it. With the nutrition-minded Obama administration out of office and President Donald Trump promising to repeal burdensome regulations, the businesses that have spent years asking for relief think they may finally have a chance to win some concessions. Jon Taets of the National Association of Convenience Stores says his group is doing "a full court press" to get some changes.

The American Pizza Community, an advocacy group for pizza companies, is also pushing for a revision. They say the FDA rules, which require menu boards in restaurants, don't make any sense because most of their customers don't come into the store. The law "works for fast food and sit-down restaurants, but it does not work for pizza companies," says Tim McIntyre, an executive at delivery giant Domino's and head of the pizza group.

Nutrition advocates who worked closelv with the Obama administration say the rules should go forward. Margo Wootan, a lobbyist at the Center for Science and the Public Interest who helped negotiate the original legislation with the restaurant industry, says the rules are important because people get a third of their calories from eating out and restaurant portions tend to be larger. "Congress and the Trump administration should listen to the millions of Americans who want to make informed choices when eating out rather than the whining of a few special interests," she says. The National Restaurant Association also came out against a delay Thursday, saying an existing patchwork of state and local laws "will be even more burdensome." Many restaurants have already posted the calorie labels, but they aren't required to until next week. —AP



The undated photo provided by the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology shows the entrance to the archaeological site of Vindija Cave in Croatia. — AP

DNA FROM DIRT: TRACING ANCIENT HUMANS FOUND IN 'EMPTY' CAVES

BERLIN: No bones? No problem! Scientists say they've figured out a way to extract tiny traces of ancient human DNA from dirt in caves that lack skeletal remains. The technique could be valuable for reconstructing human evolutionary history, according to the study published Thursday in the journal Science. That's because fossilized bones, currently the main source of ancient DNA, are scarce even at sites where circumstantial evidence points to a prehistoric human presence.

"There are many caves where stone tools are found but no bones," said Matthias Meyer, a geneticist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, who coauthored the study. The researchers collected 85 sediment samples from seven caves in Europe and Russia that humans are known to have entered or even lived in between 14,000 and 550,000 years ago. By refining a method previously used to find plant and animal DNA, they were able to search specifically for genetic material belonging to ancient humans and other mammals.

Scientists focused on mitochondrial DNA, which is passed down the maternal line, because it is particularly suited to telling apart closely related species. And by analyzing damaged molecules they were able to separate ancient genetic material from any contamination left behind by modern visitors The researchers found evidence of 12 mammal families including extinct species such as woolly mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, cave bear and cave hyena.

Genetic traces

By further enriching the samples for human-like DNA, however, the scientists were able to detect genetic traces of Denisovans - a mysterious lineage of ancient humans first discovered in a cave in Siberia - and Neanderthals from samples taken at four sites. Crucially, one of the sites where they discovered Neanderthal DNA was a cave in Belgium, known as Trou Al'Wesse, where no human bones had ever been found, though stone artifacts and animal bones with cut marks strongly suggested people had visited it.

Eske Willerslev, who helped pioneer the search for DNA in sediment but wasn't involved in the latest research, said the new study was an interesting step, but cautioned that it's difficult to determine how old sediment samples found in caves are. "In general (it) is very disturbed and unless you can show that's not the case you have no idea of the date of the findings," said Willerslev, an evolutionary geneticist at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Meyer said the new method greatly increases the number of sites where archaeologists will be able to find genetic evidence to help fill gaps in the history of human evolution and migration, such as how widespread Neanderthal populations were and which stone tools they were able to make. Scientists may also be able to greatly expand their limited knowledge of the Denisovans, whose DNA can still be found in Melanesians and Aboriginal Australians today, by using the new procedure. "In principle, every cave where there's evidence of human activity now offers this possibility," Meyer told The Associated Press.

SPACECRAFT SURVIVES UNLIKELY TRIP BETWEEN SATURN, RINGS



This image made by the Cassini spacecraft and provided by NASA on March 12, 2006, shows two of Saturn's moons, the small Epimetheus and smog-enshrouded Titan, with Saturn's A and F rings stretching across the frame. —AP

CAPE CANAVERAL: NASA's Cassini spacecraft has survived an unprecedented trip between Saturn and its rings, and has amazing pictures to show for it. Flight controllers regained contact with Cassini on Thursday, a day after it became the first craft to cross this hazardous region. The rings are made up of countless icy particles, any of which could have smacked Cassini. The spacecraft's big dish antenna served as a shield as it hurtled through the narrow gap, temporarily cutting off communications. "We are just ecstatic," project science engineer Jo Pitesky said by phone from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Cassini skimmed 1,900 miles (3,100 kilometers) above Saturn's cloud tops, closer than ever before, and came within 200 miles (320 kilometers) of the innermost visible ring. Scientists say the pictures show details never seen before - there's an incredible close-up, for instance, of the gigantic swirling hurricane at Saturn's North Pole. After 13 years of Cassini orbiting the planet, "Saturn continues to surprise us," Pitesky said. Given their importance, data from the crossing are being sent to Earth twice, to make certain nothing is lost. It takes more than an hour for the signals to travel the approximately 1 billion miles (1.6 billion kilometers) between Saturn and Earth.

Iwenty-one more crossings are planned about one a week - before Cassini's fatal plunge in mid-September. The next one is Tuesday. Some of those passages will bring Cassini even closer to the planet as well as the innermost D ring. The gap between the rings and the top of Saturn's atmosphere is between 1,200 and 1,500 miles across (1,900 to 2,400 kilometers). While risky, this 4 1/2-month grand finale is expected to yield a treasure trove of science. There's little to lose, even if the spacecraft is lost, given that its fuel tank is practically empty, according to NASA. Cassini was launched in 1997 from Cape Canaveral, Florida, and reached Saturn in 2004. — AP



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SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017



INDONESIAN EMBASSY HOSTS TOURISM PROMOTION GALA DINNER

The Indonesian Embassy in Kuwait hosted an 'Indonesian Tourism Promotion Gala Dinner' in Al-Jahra Ballroom, JW Marriott Hotel, Kuwait City recently, which was attended by 43 VIP's from various travel agencies, airline companies and representatives from tourism institution along with 3 other journalists from Kuwait Times newspaper, Al-Qabas newspaper and Al-Anba newspaper who recently just came back from Indonesia and visited 3 big cities which are Jakarta, Yogyakarta and Bali.

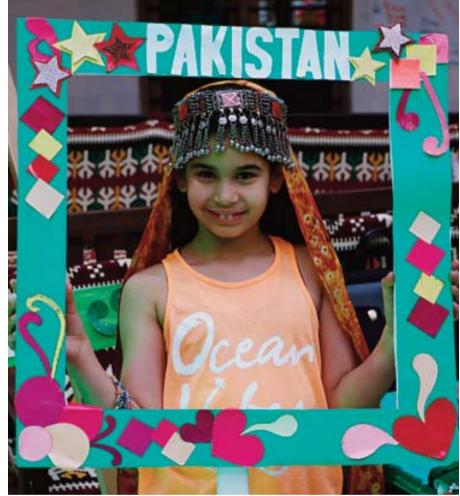
The Ambassador of Indonesia, Tatang Razak warmly welcomed the guests who seemed to be very enthusiast from the minute they walked into the ballroom where they were received with cocktails and Indonesian decorations with many banners not only about Indonesian natural beauty but also about Indonesian development such as in education where Indonesia now has almost 4000 universities and the progress of Indonesia's technology in the field of aerospace, train and military weapons which products have been bought by many countries. Before enjoying the dinner, the participants were presented by a video presentation as shown in the banners and also testimonies from all the journalist who recently just came back from a 10 days familiarization trip in Indonesia and visited 3 big cities mentioned above.

Furthermore, Ambassador Tatang Razak will facilitate business matching and One on One meeting between Kuwait travel agencies who attended the gala dinner and 72 Indonesian travel agencies in Dubai from 24th-27th April 2017 on the sidelines of the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2017. There, will also be discussed the plans of a familiarization trip to Indonesia for Kuwait travel agencies. More than 12 millions of tourists from many countries visit Indonesia every year, almost 300 thousands from the Middle East but only 7 thousands from Kuwait because not many Kuwaitis know about Indonesia and the tourism sector contributed approximately \$12 billion/year (5 percent of the National income).











Loyac concluded its 'Big World in Small Hands' program featuring participation of 11 embassies in Kuwait and sponsored by Dow company. Each participating embassy presented several cultural activities in order to introduce children to their respective cultures. What's On Submission Guidelines

> All photos submitted for What's On should be minimum 200dpi. Articles must be in plain text and should include name and phone numbers. Articles and photos that fail to meet these requirements will not be published.

> > Please send them to news@kuwaittimes.net

WHAT'S ON





A general view of the audience.

Participating student

GUST CONCLUDES THIRD ENGLISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE CONFERENCE

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) concluded the Third edition of its Annual GUST English Language and Literature (GELL) conference, which was organized by its English Department, and sponsored by GUST, the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS), and That Al-Salasil.

Carrying the theme 'Translingualism,' which defines words and other aspects that are relevant in more than one language, the conference took place on GUST's campus. Leading the event were internationally renowned academics Professor Lawrence Venuti, Professor Stephen Kellman, Dr Mai Al Nakib, Joumana Haddad, Professor Roumyana Slabakova and Professor Jason Rothman, in addition to 40 other academics from Kuwait and the region. The conference aimed to promote academic exchange and circulation of research among GUST students, staff, faculty, and the general public by exploring translingualism across literature, linguistics, translation and creative writing, with special emphasis on the Arab region.

GUST President, Professor Donald Bates, said, "Every year, this conference gets bigger and bigger - evidenced by the growing number of participants and lecturers. We as educators always look for ways continue to learn and improve how we deliver lessons - which is to the benefit of the students. I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard on making this a success and hope that everyone who participated and joined in found the workshops useful."

The first three days of the conference featured lectures, presentations, videos, and poetry readings focusing on four categories: Literature, Creative Writing, Language and Linguistics, and Translation. Some of the lectures and presentations included: Border Crossing in Language and Literature, by Dr Inas Mahfouz and Dr Kathy Nixon, of the



GUST President Professor Donald Bates

American University of Kuwait, The Reversing Arrow of Time: Chrono-psychology of Shakespeare's Hamlet and Macbeth, by Professor Gayane Hovhannisyan, of the Higher College of Technology in Muscat, and Translating the Muslim Woman in a Cross-Cultural World, by Dr Banan Daraiseh, of the Arab Open University in Kuwait.

The conference also dedicated time for student panels on the last day to support their research. Presentations from GUST and international students included topics such as: Transculturalism in Michael Ondaatje's Work: Anil's



English Department Head and GELL Organizer Dr Cathy Daniel

Ghost by GUST student Sara Chama, and Hold the Reins, by GUST student Fajer Al-Sabah.

English Department Head and GELL Organizer, Dr Cathy Daniel, said "This year's theme of Translingualism provided an opportunity for us to bring prominent keynote speakers from both literature and linguistics, and provided a venue for academics in literature, linguistics, and creative writing to share their work, dialogue with their peers, and exchange ideas and theories."



Keynote Speaker Professor Stephen Kellman

GELL workshops and seminars aim to contribute to the enhancement of the university's academic environment, along with the development of its faculty, staff, students, and the community as a whole. Scholars from across the globe shared their expertise in the field, and presented collaborations of academics from world-wide institutions, further facilitating research into literature language. The event was free of charge and attended by the GUST community and the general public.



AUK FACULTY-LIBRARIAN TEAM ATTEND WORKSHOP BY THE AMICAL CONSORTIUM

he American International Consortium of Academic Libraries (AMICAL) sponsored a workshop entitled, 'Co-design: Integrating Information Literacy into your Disciplinary Course' for teams of faculty and librarians from March 31 to April 1 at the American University of Paris. AUK participated with a faculty-librarian pair Zainab Al-Attabi, Reference and Instruction Librarian and Professor Stavros Hadjisolomou, First Year

Experience Unit. The AUK team was selected along with 15 other (library-faculty) pairs from American-modeled colleges and universities located across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Central and Southern Asia.

The two-day workshop was led by Samantha Godbay, Education Librarian and Xan Goodman, Health Sciences Librarian, both from the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. The speakers discussed the idea of integrating the information literacy framework by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) into an existing curriculum.

Asma Al Kanan, the AUK Library Director said, "The AUK team acquired an understanding of the Framework and co-developed drafts for course outcomes based on ACRL's Framework, in addition to an implementation plan to integrate library instruction into AUK's First Year Experience course: "Essentials of Learning" in the form of multiple instruction sessions. The goal is to co-teach the course in upcoming semesters".

She further stated that once implemented, the Librarian-Faculty team will be the first team to co-design a course at AUK. The team look forward to setting a positive example and encourage other departments to collaborate with the library on interdisciplinary curriculum co-design. The AUK Library is a member of the AMI-CAL Consortium. AMICAL's mission is to advance learning, teaching and research through the collaborative development of library and information services and curricular resources at member institutions. Throughout the years, AMICAL has been providing/sponsoring several professional development opportunities for librarians and faculty from member institutions.

BEE'AH'S CAMPAIGN FOR 'RECYCLING JUST GOT EASIER' SPARKS COMMUNITY ACTION

Bee'ah, the Middle East's leading and award-winning environmental management company, announced the conclusion of its successful Sharjah-wide campaign titled, 'Recycling Just Got Easier'. Designed to supply green and blue, bio-degradable, recycling bags to the public across four Sharjah Cooperative Society outlets, the campaign achieved outstanding results since its launch.

In an endeavor to educate the residents of Sharjah on effective wastemanagement solutions, Bee'ah supplies blue and green recycling bags to reduce the adverse effects of the improper disposal of waste. The bags are available across all Sharjah Co-op branches and come in four different sizes: small, medium, large and extra-large. Bee'ah has designed these biodegradable bags to be cost-efficient for the consumer as every resident can now afford to play their part in a sustainable future for the next generation.

The colored bags make segregating waste from recyclables easy, serving as a visual reminder to sort general waste in the green bags and recyclables in the blue bags. Furthermore, Bee'ah has introduced a yellow, biodegradable, zipper bag for the disposal of all hygiene products. Khaled Al-Huraimel, Group CEO of Bee'ah, explained, "A central component of Bee'ah's mission is to inspire communities towards a better future. In this regards, the innovative approach to the Co-op campaign reached new heights. As an evi-



dence-based company that transforms and enhances the lives of people within the community in tangible ways, the pre- and post-campaign numbers speak for themselves. By inspiring and educating the next generation about shared responsibility towards the environment, it inspires each individual to lead environmental change."

The initiative focused on three basic principles-reduce, reuse and recycle, providing a concise and comprehensive approach to environmental education and recycling adoption. The bio-degradable recycling bags for this particular campaign were available at Sharjah Cooperative Society outlets located in Halwan, Gharayen, Al-Khan and Sweihat. Since the launch of the marketing campaign, the Halwan branch has witnessed a 70 per cent increase in orders while Gharayen and Al-Khan observed a 60 per cent increase. In addition, the Sweihat location has seen the orders increase by 50 percent.

More than 84,000 pieces of green and blue recycling bags were used to spread awareness about the campaign. Bee'ah created videos and informative posts on social media platforms to spark community engagement. Having achieved the highest diversion rate in the Middle East, diverting 70 per cent of waste from landfill, the 'Recycling Just Got Easier' campaign represents the latest step in the company's efforts to increase residential recycling across the emirate and the nation.



Ahmad Mohammad Al-Saqqaf School's students spend a 'Day as a Banker' at KIB

Under the umbrella of its pioneering financial literacy program, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently hosted a group of students from the Ahmed Mohammad Al-Saqqaf School for Boys, who took part in the Bank's unique 'Day as a Banker' initiative. Taking place at KIB's head office branch, the initiative was designed to introduce students to the world of banking, giving them a close-up look at the inner workings of a branch.

The 'Day as a Banker' initiative provided students with a unique opportunity to spend an entire day at a branch and experience firsthand the life of a banker, by allowing them to carry out several basic roles and tasks within the branch, including serving as tellers and greeters. Throughout the day, KIB staff closely mentored the students, providing them with a basic overview of the fundamentals of Islamic banking and giving them the chance to practically apply their newly-learned saving skills.

Speaking on the margins of the visit, Fahad Al-Sarhan, Team Leader of Corporate Communications at KIB, said: "KIB always strives to develop initiatives and activities that directly engage with children and youth throughout the community, in order to promote greater financial literacy and enhanced economic awareness amongst the younger generations. Through this particular initiative, we were keen on providing students with a unique educational experience which not only develops their financial knowledge, but also encourages them to consider pursuing a career in the banking sector in the future."

KIB's financial literacy program is considered to be the first of its kind in Kuwait, comprising a series of activities and initiatives that seek to promote financial literacy across all segments of the community. In particular, the Bank focuses on instilling basic values of saving and good money management in children and youth. KIB organizes field visits to schools across Kuwait throughout the year, in order to spread economic awareness amongst students and foster a more financially-conscious generation.

O/N MOVIES ACTION

- 00:45 REC 4: Apocalypse 02:45 Survivor 04:45 San Andreas 07:00 Echo Effect 09:00 Seventh Son 11:00 Survivor 13:00 San Andreas 15:00 Batman: Bad Blood 17:00 Pompeii 19:00 Lucv 21:00 Mad Max: Fury Road 23:00 Into The Grizzly Maze 00:50 Gator Boys 01:45 Devoured: Man-Eating Super Snake Returns 02:40 Snake Sheila 05:15 In Search Of The King Cobra 06:02 Snake Sheila 06:27 Snake Sheila 06:49 Gator Boys 07:36 Swamp Brothers 08:00 Swamp Brothers 08:25 Lone Star Law 09:15 Treetop Cat Rescue 09:40 Treetop Cat Rescue 10:10 Voodoo Shark 11:05 Meet The Penguins 12:00 Cute To Killer 12:55 Bondi Vet 13:50 North America 14:45 Wildest Islands 15:40 North America 16:35 Tigers Attack 17:30 Tigers Attack 18:25 North America 19:20 Predators Up Close With Joel
- Lambert 20:15 Rugged Justice 21:10 Pit Bulls & Parolees 22:05 Lone Star Law 23:00 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert 23:55 Gator Boys
 - BBC FIRST
- 00:10 SS-GB 01:15 Eastenders 01:45 Doctors
- 02:15 Last Tango In Halifax: Christmas



TV PROGRAMS

Discovery CHANNEL 00:30 Gold Hush: Parker's Trail 01:20 Wheels That Fail 01:45 Running Wild With Bear Grylls 02:35 Running Wild With Bear Grylls 03:25 Running Wild With Bear Grylls 04:15 Running Wild With Bear Grylls 05:05 Running Wild With Bear Grylls 06:00 Running Wild With Bear Grylls 07:00 Gold Divers Street Outlaws 07:50 08:40 Fast N' Loud 09:30 Marooned With Ed Stafford 10:20 Storage Hunters 10:45 How Do They Do It? 11:10 How Do They Do It? 11:35 What On Earth? 12:25 Sydney Harbour 13:15 The Wheel: Survival Games 14:05 How Do They Do It? 14:30 Storage Hunters 14:55 Storage Hunters UK 15:20 Gold Rush 16:10 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown 17:00 Gold Divers 17:50 Fast N' Loud 18:40 Street Outlaws 19:30 How Do They Do It? 19:55 How Do They Do It? 20:20 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown 21:10 Storage Hunters UK 21:35 Storage Hunters UK 22:00 Supertruckers 22:50 Biketacular 23:40 Running Wild With Bear Grylls 00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA 07:00 Supa Strikas 07:25 Supa Strikas 07:50 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution 08:15 Gravity Falls

08:40 Walk The Prank

09:05 Two More Eggs

09:10 K.C. Undercover

10:50 Annedroids

11:20 Supa Strikas

12:35 Mech-X4

11:15 Two More Eggs

11:45 K.C. Undercover

15:15 Milo Murphy's Law

15:40 K.C. Undercover

16:05 Walk The Prank

16:30 Atomic Puppet

17:50 K.C. Undercover

19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse

21:30 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

19:10 Star Wars Rebels

22:10 Star Wars Rebels

22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

23:10 Ultimate Spider-Man

22:45 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron

18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much

16:55 Lab Rats

17:25 Mech-X4

18:40 Mighty Med

19:35 Teen Beach 2

21:45 Mighty Med

Everything

Revolution

23:35 Boyster

12:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

13:00 The Incredibles14:55 Star vs The Forces Of Evil15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse

Everything

09:35 Milo Murphy's Law

10:25 Lab Rats Elite Force

10:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much

23:00 Rob & Chyna



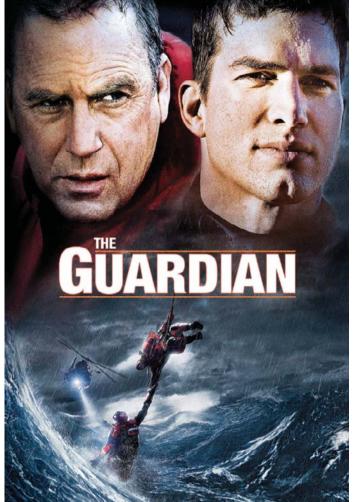
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 01:00 Man Fire Food 01:30 Man Fire Food 02:00 Restaurant: Impossible 03:00 Mystery Diners 03:30 Mystery Diners 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 05:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 05:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 06:00 Guy's Grocery Games 07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin 07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin 08:00 Chopped 09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics 09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics 10:00 The Pioneer Woman 10:30 The Pioneer Woman 11:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts 11:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts 12:00 Anna Olson: Bake 12:30 Anna Olson: Bake 13:00 Man Fire Food 13:30 Man Fire Food 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 15:00 Chopped 16:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics 16:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics 17:00 The Pioneer Woman 17:30 The Pioneer Woman 18:00 Siba's Table 18:30 Siba's Table 19:00 Anna Olson: Bake 19:30 Anna Olson: Bake 20:00 Man Fire Food 20:30 Man Fire Food 21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 22:00 Tia Mowry At Home 22:30 Tia Mowry At Home 23:00 Dinner At Tiffani's 23:30 Dinner At Tiffani's



CHOICE 00:20 Coronation Street

00:45 Coronation Street 01:10 Coronation Street 01:35 Coronation Street 02:00 The Moorside 03:00 Coronation Street 03:25 Coronation Street 03:45 Coronation Street 04:10 Coronation Street 04:30 Coronation Street 04:55 Guess This House 05:45 The Chase 06:35 The Chase 07:25 Gino's Italian Escape 07:50 Surprise Surprise 08:45 Come Date With Me Australia 09:35 Come Date With Me Australia 10:05 Come Date With Me Australia 10:30 The Moorside 11:30 Vera 13:10 Broadchurch 14:10 Broadchurch 15:05 Guess This House 16:00 It's Not Rocket Science 16:55 The Moorside 17:55 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans 18:50 Doctor Thorne 19:45 Guess This House 20:45 Vera 22:30 The Moorside 23:30 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans





THE GUARDIAN ON OSN MOVIES HD

08:40 Counting Cars

09:05 Counting Cars

10:20 Storage Wars

10:45 Storage Wars 11:10 The Curse Of Oak Island

12:00 The Curse Of Oak Island

16:10 Alaska Off-Road Warriors

19:30 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The

12:50 Billion Dollar Wreck

13:40 Swamp People

15:20 Mountain Men

17:50 Pawn Stars

18:15 Pawn Stars

20:20 Mountain Men

22:00 Pawn Stars

21:10 American Pickers

23:40 Big Easy Motors

00:50 Carnival Eats

03:20 Hotel India

Michel,Ķ

22:25 Pawn Stars South Africa

NAT GEO

00:00 Andv And Ben Eat Australia

00:25 Andy And Ben Eat Australia

01:15 My Restaurant In India

02:05 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen

02:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen

04:10 Chocolate Perfection With

02:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia

01:40 Chasing The Sun

22:50 Storage Wars: Barry's Best Buys

people

Superstition..

17:00 Ultimate Wheels

18:40 Billion Dollar Wreck

14:30 Ax Men

09:30 Pawn Stars

09:55 Pawn Stars

12:00 Mars Needs Morrs 14:00 Finding Nemo 16:00 Gnomeo & Juliet 18:00 The Rescuers 20:00 Because Of Winn Dixie 22:00 Tom And Huck

O/N MOVIES FESTIVAL

01:15 The Bronx Bull 03:00 The Disappearance Of Eleanor Rigby: Her 05:00 The End Of The Tour 07:00 Love & Mercy 09:00 Memories 11:00 Land Of Mine 13:00 The End Of The Tour 15:00 Healing 17:00 Half Of A Yellow Sun 19:00 The Disappearance Of Eleanor Rigby: Him 21:00 Blue Sky 23:00 Mystic River



KIDS 00:15 Harriet The Spy 02:00 Albert 03:45 Yugo & Lala 2 05:15 Alpha Dogz: Pups United 07:00 Jock The Hero Dog 08:30 Bamse And The City Of Thieves 10:00 Egon And Donci 11:30 Albert 13:15 Yugo & Lala 2 15:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote

17:00 Egon And Donci

19:00 Cher Ami

00:15 Destroyed In Seconds 00:40 React To That 01:05 React To That 01:30 Redesign My Brain 02:20 Redesign My Brain 03:10 Dirty Jobs 04:00 Dirty Jobs 04:50 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud

04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 05:10 Hank Zipzer 05:35 Binny And The Ghost 06:00 Binny And The Ghost 06:25 Hank Zipzer 06:45 The Hive 06:50 The 7D 07:00 Jessie 07:25 Jessie 07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts 07:55 Austin & Ally 08:20 Rolling With The Ronks 08:45 The Zhuzhus 09:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 09:35 Elena Of Avalor 10:00 Stuck In The Middle 10:25 Disney The Lodge 10:50 Bunk'd 11:15 Bizaardvark 11:40 Monsters, Inc 13:10 Welcome To The Ronks 13:20 Liv And Maddie 13:45 Liv And Maddie 14:10 Liv And Maddie 14:35 Liv And Maddie 15:00 Liv And Maddie 15:25 Jessie 15:50 Jessie 16:15 Austin & Allv 16:40 Austin & Ally 17:05 Eco Club 17:10 Elena Of Avalor 17:35 Liv And Maddie 18:00 Girl Meets World 18:25 Aladdin & The King Of Thieves 19:55 Welcome To The Ronks 20:05 Stuck In The Middle 20:30 Bizaardvark 20:55 Bunk'd 21:20 Elena Of Avalor 21:45 Disney The Lodge 22:10 Girl Meets World 22:35 That's So Raven 23:00 Good Luck Charlie 23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage



Witch

SURVIVOR ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

FRAMED. ABANDONED.

Specia 03:15 The Musketeers 04:10 Doctor Who 05:00 SS-GB 06:00 The Musketeers 07:00 Doctors 07:30 Eastenders 08:00 Holby City 08:55 Father Brown 09:45 Stella 10:35 Death In Paradise 11:30 Doctors 12:00 Eastenders 12:30 Father Brown 13:20 Stella 14:15 Death In Paradise 15:10 Doctors 15:45 Eastenders 16:15 Father Brown 17:10 Stella 18:00 Death In Paradise 19:00 Doctors 19:30 Eastenders 20:05 Father Brown 21:00 New Blood 22:00 In Plain Sight 22:55 In Plain Sight 23:45 Class



00:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath 01:00 Campus Nightmares 02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos 03:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back 04:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath 05:00 Campus Nightmares 06:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos 07:00 The First 48 08:00 The First 48 09:00 Gangs Of Britain With Gary And Martin Kemp 10:00 Monster In My Family 11:00 Monster In My Family 12:00 Evil Up Close 13:00 Evil Up Close 14:00 Evil Up Close 15:00 It Takes A Killer 15:30 It Takes A Killer 16:00 It Takes A Killer 16:30 It Takes A Killer 17:00 Homicide Hunter 18:00 Homicide Hunter 19:00 Crime Stories 20:00 Crime Stories 21:00 The First 48 22:00 Homicide Hunter 23:00 Crimes That Shook Australia



00:15 The Half Hour 00:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition 01:05 Kroll Show 01:30 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show 02:20 The Alternative Comedy

05:40 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 06:30 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 07:20 How It's Made 07:40 How It's Made 08:00 Doki 08:25 Doki 08:50 Kids vs Film 09:15 Kids vs Film 09:40 How It's Made 10:05 How It's Made 10:30 How It's Made 10:55 How It's Made 11:20 How It's Made 11:45 How It's Made 12:10 How It's Made 12:35 How It's Made 13:00 How It's Made 13:25 How It's Made 13:50 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 14:40 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 15:30 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 16:20 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 17:10 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 18:00 Redesign My Brain 18:50 Redesign My Brain19:40 Deception With Keith Barry 20:30 Zoltan The Wolfman 21:20 North America 22:10 Wild Mexico 23:00 Destroyed In Seconds 23:25 Destroyed In Seconds 23:50 Destroyed In Seconds



00:40 A Haunting 01:30 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall 02:20 The Darkest Of Nights: People Magazine 03:10 The Perfect Murder 04:00 Pandora's Box: Unleashing Evil 04:48 I Almost Got Away With It 08:00 I'd Kill For You 08:50 I'd Kill For You 09:40 I'd Kill For You 10:30 I'd Kill For You 11:20 I'd Kill For You 12:10 Suspicion 13:00 A Crime To Remember 13:50 A Crime To Remember 14:40 A Crime To Remember 15:30 Swamp Murders 16:20 Swamp Murders 17:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen 18:00 Evil Online 18:50 Evil Online 19:40 Evil Online 20:30 Evil Online 21:20 Evil Online 22:10 Your Worst Nightmare 23:00 Blood Relatives 23:50 Evil Kin



00:10 Hank Zipzer 00:35 Binny And The Ghost 01:00 Binny And The Ghost

DISNEW

00:20 Henry Hugglemonster 00:35 The Hive 00:45 Loopdidoo 01:00 Henry Hugglemonster 01:15 Calimero 01:30 Art Attack 01:55 Zou 02:05 Loopdidoo 02:20 Henry Hugglemonster 02:35 Calimero 02:50 Zou 03:05 Art Attack 03:30 The Hive 03:40 Loopdidoo 03:55 Henry Hugglemonster 04:10 Art Attack 04:35 Loopdidoo 04:50 Calimero 05:05 Art Attack 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster 05:45 Zou 06:00 Art Attack 06:30 Henry Hugglemonster 06:45 Loopdidoo 07:00 Zou 07:15 Calimero

07:30 Loopdidoo 07:45 Henry Hugglemonster 08:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh 08:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 08:50 Goldie & Bear 09:15 Mickey And The Roadster Racers 09:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 10:10 Doc McStuffins 10:35 Sofia The First 11:00 The Lion Guard 11:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers 11:55 PJ Masks 12:20 Goldie & Bear 12:50 Miles From Tomorrow 13:15 Doc McStuffins 13:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 13:50 The Lion Guard 14:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh 14:45 Doc McStuffins 15:10 Goldie & Bear 15:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers 16:05 PJ Masks 16:35 The Lion Guard 17:00 Miles From Tomorrow 17:25 Sofia The First 17:55 Goldie & Bear 18:20 Doc McStuffins 18:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 19:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 19:45 PJ Masks 20:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 20:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 20:50 PJ Masks 21:05 Goldie & Bear 21:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers 22:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 22:30 Miles From Tomorrow 23:00 Miles From Tomorrow 23:25 Miles From Tomorrow

23:55 PJ Masks

FHD 00:00 E! News 00:30 Celebrity Style Story 01:00 WAGs Miami 01:55 WAGs Miami 02:50 E! News 03:50 Celebrity Style Story 04:20 Celebrity Style Story 04:50 Just Jillian 05:40 Just Jillian 06:30 Celebrity Style Story 07:00 La Clippers Dance Squad 07:50 E! News 08:20 La Clippers Dance Squad 09:10 E! News 10:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 10:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 11:45 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 12:35 So Cosmo 13:25 So Cosmo 14:15 So Cosmo 15:15 Botched 16:10 Botched 17:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 20:00 E! News 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 22:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

00:00 Monster Quest

01:00 Monster Quest 02:00 Monster Quest 07:10 The Universe 08:00 Monster Quest 09:00 Monster Quest 10:00 Monster Quest 11:00 Monster Quest 19:00 Bible Secrets Revealed 20:00 Ancient Top 10 21:00 Million Dollar Genius 22:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files 23:00 Engineering Disasters



00:30 American Restoration 01:20 Ice Road Truckers 02:10 Mummies Alive 03:00 Big Easy Motors 03:25 Big Easy Motors 03:50 Ultimate Wheels 04:40 Fifth Gear 05:30 Storage Wars Texas 06:00 Hoard Hunters 07:00 Ultimate Wheels 07:50 Ice Boad Truckers

"PAUL DANO & JOHN CUSACK ARE PHENOMENAL

JOHN CUSACK



LOVE & MERCY ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

05:00 Restoration Man 05:50 Route Awakening 06:20 Fish Of The Day 06:45 My Dubai 07:15 Billionaire's Paradise: Inside Necker Island 08:10 A Is For Apple 08:35 The Food Files 09:05 Carnival Eats 09:30 Carnival Eats 10:00 Places We Go 10:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia 10:55 Lucky Chow 11:20 Chasing The Sun 11:50 Chasing The Sun 12:15 Andy And Ben Eat Australia 12:40 Andy And Ben Eat Australia 13:10 Croatia's Finest 13:40 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 14:05 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 14:35 The Shelbourne 15:00 Billionaire's Paradise: Inside Necker Island 15:55 Gok's Chinese Takeaway 16:50 Restoration Man 17:45 Lucky Chow 18:15 Fish Of The Day 18:40 Fish Of The Day 19:10 Access 360 World Heritage 20:05 Gok's Chinese Takeaway 21:00 Restoration Man 21:55 Lucky Chow 22:20 Fish Of The Day 22:45 Fish Of The Day 23:10 Places We Go 23:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia NAT GEO HD 00:30 Secrets Of The Mediterranean

01:20 Bandits Of Selous

02:10 A Penguin's Life

03:00 Jobs That Bite!

03:50 Wild Case Files

06:35 Night Stalkers

07:30 Monster Fish

08:25 Monster Fish

Animals

05:40 India's Wild Edens

10:15 Man And The Wild

13:00 A Penguin's Life

13:55 Jobs That Bite!

14:50 Wild Case Files

15:45 Animal Fight Club

16:40 Wild Congo (2017)

17:35 India's Wild Edens

19:25 Hunter Hunted

20:20 Animal Fight Club

21:10 Wild Congo (2017)

22:00 India's Wild Edens

23:40 Hunter Hunted

00:00 Toy Story 3

04:00 Storm Rider

10:00 Toy Story 3

06:00 Mars Needs Moms

08:00 Home On The Range

02:00 Peter Pan

22:50 Dr Oakley: Yukon Vet

OM MOVIES HD

FAMILY

18:30 Dr Oakley: Yukon Vet

04:45 Planet Carnivore (2017)

09:20 America's National Parks

11:10 Animals Gone Wild Compilations

12:05 David Attenborough's Rise Of

21:00 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic 22:45 The Adventures Of Don Quixote



01:45 D-lox 03:30 Enemy Of The State 05:45 The Guardian 08:15 The Legend Of Zorro 10:30 Eight Men Out 12:30 Enemy Of The State 14:45 The Fugitive 17:00 S.W.A.T. 19:00 X-Men: The Last Stand 21:00 X-Men: First Class 23:15 Rise Of The Planet Of The Apes



UU:40 Prototype I his 01:30 Nextworld 02:20 Nextworld 04:48 How Do They Do It? 06:00 Food Factory 08:00 How Do They Do It? 08:26 Prototype This 09:14 Nextworld 12:26 Mythbusters 16:26 Food Factory 18:26 How Do They Do It? 20:30 Space Pioneer 21:20 Space Pioneer 22:10 Space Pioneer 23:00 Invisible Worlds 23:50 Invisible Worlds



00:30 Diagnose Me 01:20 My 600lb Life 03:00 Leah Remini: It's All Relative 03:25 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids 03:50 Promzillas 04:35 Little People, Big World 05:20 Toddlers & Tiaras 06:10 Toddlers & Tiaras 07:00 Super Soul Sunday 07:50 The Undateables 08:40 Little People, Big World 09:30 Little People, Big World 09:55 Little People, Big World 10:20 Sister Wives 11:10 Love, Lust Or Run 11:35 Cake Boss 12:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life 12:25 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids 12:50 Super Soul Sunday 13:40 Oprah's Master Class14:30 Randy To The Rescue 15:20 Outdaughtered: Busby Quints 16:10 Toddlers & Tiaras 17:00 Little People, Big World 17:25 Little People, Big World 17:50 Sister Wives 18:15 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids 18:40 Love, Lust Or Run 19:05 Cake Boss 19:30 Are You Fitter Than A Pensioner? 20:20 My Big Fat Fabulous Life 20:45 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids 21:10 Super Soul Sunday

CLASSIFIEDS <u>Kuwait</u> Times SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017



12:00 PM

2:00 PM

4:00 PM

6:00 PM 8:00 PM

10:00 PM

12:05 AM

11:30 AM

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12:00 PM

2:00 PM

4:00 PM

4:00 PM

7:15 PM

10:30 PM

3:00 PM

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (27/04/2017 TO 03/05/2017)

SHARQIA-1 THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH
SHARQIA-2 THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THU BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu FRI BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi NO THU+FRI BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi NO THU+FRI BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi NO THU
SHARQIA-3 FREE FIRE FREE FIRE FREE FIRE THE LOST CITY OF Z MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON) FREE FIRE FREE FIRE
MUHALAB-1 FREE FIRE FREE FIRE THU BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu FRI BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi NO THU+FRI FREE FIRE BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi FREE FIRE FREE FIRE FREE FIRE
MUHALAB-2 THE LOST CITY OF Z FAST & FURIOUS 8 FRI THE LOST CITY OF Z FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8 THE LOST CITY OF Z
MUHALAB-3 THE BOSS BABY NO FRI THE BOSS BABY NO FRI THE BOSS BABY

NO THU+FRI

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THU

THU

BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion - Telugu

BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu NO THU BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu NO THU FREE FIRE NO THU
FANAR-1 FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8 MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON) MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON) FAST & FURIOUS 8
FANAR-2 THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY FREE FIRE FREE FIRE FREE FIRE FREE FIRE
FANAR-3 FREE FIRE FREE FIRE MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH
FANAR-4 THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THU BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu FRI BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi NO THU+FRI BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi
FANAR-5 MINE SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic FR BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi NO THU SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic THU BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu MINE
MARINA-1 THE LOST CITY OF Z THE LOST CITY OF Z WELAANE -Lebanese WELAANE -Lebanese WELAANE -Lebanese THE LOST CITY OF Z
MARINA-2 FAST & FURIOUS 8 FREE FIRE FRI FAST & FURIOUS 8

BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu

•	
	FAST & FURIOUS 8
6:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8
9:45 PM	MARINA-3 FREE FIRE
	THE BOSS BABY
1:00 AM	THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY
	FREE FIRE
12:15 PM	FREE FIRE FREE FIRE
3:00 PM	
5:45 PM	AVENUES-1
8:30 PM 10:30 PM	MONOLITH MONOLITH
12:30 AM	NOTHU+FRI
	SAFRA 5 NJOOM THU+FRI
1:00 PM	MONOLITH
3:00 PM 5:00 PM	MONOLITH MONOLITH
7:00 PM	MONOLITH
9:00 PM 11:00 PM	MONOLITH
1:00 AM	AVENUES-2
	THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX (2D+3D+4DX)
12:45 PM	THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX
2:45 PM 5:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX
6:45 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX
8:30 PM 10:15 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX
12:05 AM	AVENUES-3
	FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8
11:30 AM	THU
1:30 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu FRI
1:30 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi
1:30 PM	NO THU+FRI BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi
4:45 PM	NO THU+FRI BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu
8:00 PM	THU+FRI
11:15 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi NO THU
	Special Show "BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -T
1:00 PM 1:30 PM	9:00 PM THU
1.50 FIVI	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi
3:30 PM	AVENUES-4 FAST & FURIOUS 8
4:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8
6:45 PM	THU BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi
10:00 PM	NOTHU
1:15 AM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi NO THU+FRI
	Special Show "THE BOSS BABY"
12:15 PM 3:00 PM	THU+FRI BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi
5:45 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi
8:00 PM 10:15 PM	AVENUES-5
12:30 AM	FREE FIRE
	THE BOSS BABY NO SUN
12:30 PM	Special Show "THE BOSS BABY"
1:30 PM	SUN THE BOSS BABY
3:15 PM	THE BOSS BABY
6:00 PM	NOTHU

	8:45 PM 11:30 PM	Special Show "THE BOSS BABY" THU	6:00 PM
		FAST & FURIOUS 8	8:15 PM
	12:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:00 PM
	2:00 PM 4:00 PM	AVENUES-6	
	6:00 PM	COLOSSAL	1:00 PM
	8:00 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion - Telugu	3:30 PM
	10:00 PM	NOTHU	
	12:05 AM	COLOSSAL	4:00 PM
		THU	
	1:00 PM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu	6:45 PM 10:00 PM
	3:00 PM	COLOSSAL	1:15 AM
	3:00 PM	AVENUES-7	12.00 DM
	5:00 PM	MINE MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON)	12:00 PM 2:30 PM
	7:00 PM	WELAANE - Lebanese	4:45 PM
	9:00 PM	MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON)	7:00 PM
	11:00 PM	WELAANE - Lebanese	9:15 PM
	1:00 AM	WELAANE -Lebanese	11:30 PM
		AVENUES-8	
	11:45 AM	SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	11:30 AM
	11.437.00	THE LOST CITY OF Z	1:30 PM
	2:00 PM	HEADSHOT	4:30 PM
	4:15 PM	THE LOST CITY OF Z	6:45 PM
	6:30 PM	HEADSHOT	9:45 PM
	9:15 PM	THE LOST CITY OF Z	12:05 AM
	12:05 AM	AVENUES-9	
		FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 PM
	11:30 AM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	3:15 PM
	2:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	6:00 PM
	2 20 514	GHOST IN THE SHELL	8:45 PM
	2:30 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:15 PM
	2:30 PM	AVENUES-10	
		FREE FIRE	12:00 PM
	5:45 PM	BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic	2:15 PM
		SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE	4:30 PM
	5:45 PM	FREE FIRE	6:30 PM
	9:00 PM	FREE FIRE FREE FIRE	8:30 PM 10:30 PM
	5.001 M	FREE FIRE	12:30 AM
Te	ugu″		
		AVENUES-11	10.00 014
	12:15 AM	THE BOSS BABY -CINESCAPE 11-2D THE BOSS BABY -CINESCAPE 11-2D	12:30 PM 2:45 PM
	12:15 AIVI	THE BOSS BABY -CINESCAPE 11-2D	5:00 PM
	11:30 AM	THE BOSS BABY -CINESCAPE 11-2D	7:15 PM
	2:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8 -CINESCAPE 11-2D	9:30 PM
		FAST & FURIOUS 8 -CINESCAPE 11-2D	12:15 AM
	2:00 PM	200 1	
	5:15 PM	360 ∞- 1 THE BOSS BABY	11:30 AM
	5.15 FM	THE BOSS BABY	1:45 PM
	5:15 PM	THE BOSS BABY	4:00 PM
		THE BOSS BABY	6:15 PM
	8:30 PM	THE BOSS BABY	8:30 PM
	11:45 PM	THE BOSS BABY FREE FIRE	10:45 PM
			1:00 AM
	11:45 AM	360 ∞- 2	
	1:45 PM	MONOLITH	12:15 PM
		MONOLITH	2:15 PM
	1:45 PM	MONOLITH	4:15 PM
	3:45 PM	MONOLITH MONOLITH	6:00 PM 8:00 PM
	6:00 PM	MONOLITH	10:00 PM
	0.001111	MONOLITH	12:05 AM



FOR RENT In Farwaniya Governorate A deluxe Complex • 3 bedrooms • A big space between 90 - 108 m2 • Car park • Security guards - 24 hours Contact: 60900554 - 99412885 LOST CHANGE OF NAME

Original document policy No. 6330019031, Abdul Mohsen Khan, the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan, Gulf Zone is reported to have been lost. Anyone finding the same or claiming any interest in it should communicate with the Manager Kuwait State Life Office - Ph: 22452208. (C 5304) 27-4-2017

11:30 AM

I, Sajida Samir Kazi D/o Gulam Hussain holder of Indian Passport No. P7110390 & Civil ID No. 279093004633 has changed my name to Sajida Gulam Hussain hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5303) 27-4-2017



Flight Schedule

THE LOST CITY OF Z

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

		Ihts on Sunday 30/4/2017	T !	MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	A	•	Flights on Sunday 30/4/2017		JZR	124	Bahrain	•
rlines	Fit	Route	Time	AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	SAW	702	Damascus	
R	125	Bahrain	00:10	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	13:35	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	THY	767	Istanbul	
Y	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	
C	786	Jeddah	00:30	QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	
2	267	Beirut	00:35	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	UAE	872	Dubai	
2	504	Beirut	00:45	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	KAC	673	Dubai	
	102	London	00:55	KAC	618	Doha	14:20	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	
I	635	Doha	01:00	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45								
	858	Istanbul	01:15	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35	FDB	060	Dubai	
	539	Cairo	01:25	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	QTR	1079	Doha	
-								ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:50	KAC	775	Riyadh	
	853	Dubai	01:40	KAC	788	Jeddah Alau Dhalai	14:55	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	563	Amman	
	642	Amman	01:45	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	
	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30	KNE	530	Jeddah	
	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25	OMA			04:05	KAC	619	Doha	
1	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:30		644	Muscat					
	1086	Doha	02:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10	OMA	646	Muscat	
	553	Alexandria	02:10	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	
	211	Bahrain	02:15	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	
	418	Manila	02:50	FDK	801		16:00	KAC	417	Manila	04:20	KAC	615	Bahrain	
A						Damascus		PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25	FDK	802	Damascus	
	643	Muscat	03:05	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15								
	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45	RJA	641	Amman	
1	612	Cairo	03:15	VIZ	204	TEQ	16:20	KAC	103	London	05:00	KAC	675	Dubai	
	069	Dubai	03:15	JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	FDB	052	Dubai	
	382	Delhi	03:15	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35	CEB	019	Manila	05:30	JZR	266	Beirut	
	860	Istanbul	03:25	KAC	118	New York	16:55	QTR	1077	Doha	05:35	QTR	1073	Doha	
	1076	Doha	03:40					UAE	874	Dubai	06:15	JZR	240	Amman	
	1544	Cairo	03:50	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05								
	018	Manila	03:50	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	KAC	361	Colombo	
				GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25	KAC	357	Kochi	
J	510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	UAE	858	Dubai	
	873	Dubai	04:15	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	QTR	8512	Doha	06:50	KAC	381	Delhi	
	346	Ahmedabad	04:15					FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	KAC	283	Dhaka	
	358	Kochi	04:50	CLX	612	Luxembourg	17:45	JZR	164	Dubai	07:05	KAC	343	Chennai	
	784	Jeddah	05:00	QTR	1080	Doha	18:05								
,	770	Istanbul	05:05	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	KAC	521	Al Najaf	07:35	SVA	511	Riyadh	
(170	Bahrain	05:10	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50	JZR	184	Dubai	
1	8511	Doha	05:20	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50	GFA	216	Bahrain	
				FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	BAW	156	London	08:20	JZR	538	Cairo	
	344	Chennai Trivon drum	05:30	KAC	776		19:10	KAC	741	Dammam	08:30	KAC	785	Jeddah	
-	332	Trivandrum	05:40			Riyadh		FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	QTR	1081	Doha	
	362	Colombo	05:50	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20								
V	157	London	06:05	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	08:35	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	
	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	KAC	117	New York	09:00	MSR	621	Cairo	
	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	09:00	CLX	612	Luxembourg	
	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	620	Doha	19:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15	GFA	218	Bahrain	
-	156	Istanbul	07:05					KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	FDB	064	Dubai	
				FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	163	Rome	09:20	ABY	124		
	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	104	London	20:00							Sharjah	
	354	Bangalore	07:50	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	KAC	691	Muscat	09:30	FDB	058	Dubai	
	384	Delhi	08:00	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	KAC	331	Trivandrum	
	855	Dubai	08:25	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	101	London	09:45	UAE	876	Dubai	
	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	KAC	353	Bangalore	
	125	Sharjah	09:00	-				KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	DLH	634	Doha	
	528	Ahwaz	09:10	KAC	164	Rome	20:55								
	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	564	Amman	21:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	OMA	648	Muscat	
	665	Shiraz	09:20	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:05	IRC	529	Ahwaz	10:10	MEA	403	Beirut	
				ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10	KAC	617	Doha	10:15	KAC	301	Mumbai	
	055	Dubai	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25	KAC	203	Lahore	
	512	Riyadh	10:00		859		21:15	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30	QTR	1089	Doha	
	415	Sohag	10:15	UAE		Dubai		QTR	1071	Doha	10:35	DHX	171	Bahrain	
	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35								
	404	Beirut	10:55	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	KAC	205	Islamabad	
	668	Manila	11:00	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	
	341	Damascus	11:00	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15	KAC	155	Istanbul	
				AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	ALK	230	Colombo	
	561	Sohag	11:10					MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	KAC	383	Delhi	
	522	Al Najaf	11:20	BBC	043	Dhaka	22:30								
	742	Dammam	11:45	JZR	241	Amman	22:55	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00	UAE	860	Dubai	
	165	Dubai	11:50	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	VIZ	203	Baghdad	12:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	
/	701	Damascus	12:30	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	
	871	Dubai	12:45	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	JZR	528	Asyut	
-	774	Riyadh	12:45					JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10	KAC	783	Jeddah	
-				PIA	205	Lahore	23:40								
	766	Istanbul	12:50	THY	764	Istanbul	23:45	PAL	669	Manila	13:10	QTR	1083	Doha	



CROSSWORD 1593

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
15	\square	\square		16	\top	\square	1	\square	\top	\square	\top		17	\top	$^{+}$
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		27		28		29	\top	\square		30	\top	\top	1	1	\uparrow
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37	\top	38			39	40	41		42	\top	\top	\square	43	44	45
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66	67	68		69		\square			70	\top	\square		71	72	73
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ACROSS

- 1. Not reflecting light.
- 4. The condition of having no arms. 12. A master's degree in business.
- 15. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times
- (born in 1942). 16. Talking idly or incoherently.
- 17. Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
- 18. A midnight meeting of witches to practice witchcraft and sorcery.
- 20. English monk and scholar (672-735).
- 21. Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
- 22. An elaborate song for solo voice.
- 23. To declare or affirm as true.
- 25. A tricyclic antidepressant drug (trade name Elavil) with serious side effects.
- 27. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- 29. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment. 30. Humorously vulgar.
- 31. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores. 33. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- 35. English aristocrat who was the first wife of Prince Charles
- 37. Studies intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills (rather than occupational or professional skills).
- 39. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
- 42. (of hair) Made smooth by applying a sticky or glossy substance.
- 46. Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.
- 49. Perennial of southern Europe cultivated for forage and for its nectar-rich pink flowers that make it an important honey crop.

DOWN

- 1. An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
- 2. (botany) Of or relating to the axil. 3. The inner and thicker of the two bones of the
- human leg between the knee and ankle. 4. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from
- aba cloth 5. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 6. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- 7. The superior of an abbey of monks. 8. Having a claw or claws.
- 9. Step on it.
- 10. The first beta blocker (trade name Inderal)
 - used in treating hypertension and angina pectoris and essential tremor.
- 11. Semi-parasitic herb with purple or white or pink flowers.
- 12. Herbs and subshrubs.
- 13. Take in a sail with a brail.
- 14. (archaic) Of persons.
- 19. A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
- 24. A state in the eastern United States.
- 26. A tablet placed horizontally on top of the capital of a column as an aid in supporting the architrave.
- 28. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- 32. A large fleet.
- 34. Wearing or provided with clothing.

44. Selected as the best.

- 36. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
- 38. Of or relating to o occurring in a tube such as e.g. the fallopian tube or eustachian tube.
- 40. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- 41. An informal conversation.
- 43. German mathematician who created the Klein bottle (1849-1925).

STAR TRACK



If you are working in the health industry, you may decide to add more education regarding nutrition. You may have an explosion of interest in alternative healing methods, parapsychology, astrology, tarot, reincarnation, afterlife experiences, etc., etc. You can become involved in your own healing or in someone else's healing. This may cause you to investigate these healing techniques so as to have a wider scope of understanding in the healing sciences. You may have some ideas that would aid the health care programs. You may decide to write a member of congress or your legislator about your findings and ideas. Today seems to be discovery day and you could discover insights into day-to-day problems as well.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Planetary changes have made it possible for decision-making moments to be quite successful. Now is the time to add your signature to a document, confer with others about some important change or proposal and make definite plans for travel. Beginning anything new at this time will have a most positive outcome. You have a good musical talent and may decide to express yourself with music in nearby entertainment areas but not as a profession. This is a great way to relax. You usually wait to perform until asked but this is not necessary; you are talented and humble. You are also intuitive and can use your talents to your best abilities. You may enjoy leading a small choir in some charity event. Enjoy your party tonight.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find yourself going head-to-head with someone older over matters of honesty and integrity. To assuage the fear of being deceived or misled, you might busy yourself in some detective work. You work very hard to complete a particular project this afternoon. If you are interested, this may be a good time to make or request some changes in your professional plans. A friend may bring you to a new place after work and you enjoy the discussions that surround subjects other than work. You come to a new realization that all of us should be concentrating on smelling-the-roses rather than passing them by in such a hurry. This is a good time for learning a new hobby or expressing your talent in a revived hobby.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This morning you take care of career needs or business matters. Considering and appreciating your past gains, rather than focusing on your recent losses, is likely to occupy much of your mental thinking. This is a high-cycle day for you and much can be accomplished. Matters of participation away from the job in clubs or organizations may have you analyzing just where you want to spend your energies. Travel may be in your thoughts and the last week of this month would be a perfect time for planning a short trip or vacation. At home this evening, you will be thinking about weekend projects that you enjoy. You look for ways to attract the but terflies to your garden and may decide on creating a butterfly garden.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a great time to be with others and to work together. You may be asked to help familiarize a new person with some of the work in your office. In-depth conversations find you at your mental best. You are capable when solving the difficult situations. You have insight into your emotions and drive and you can talk about feelings with great insight. You could find that you are valued for your feelings and your ability to find what is needed in difficult situations. It may be difficult however, to make definite plans regarding extracurricular expenses. Easy does it-this too shall gain your wise attention! Do not become preoccupied with a moneymaking idea and accept it as a winner! You are going in the right direction when you consider all the angles

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Relationships are capable of transforming you. This is a time of real inner growth through other people. You will have an opportunity to work on your unconscious needs and motivations today as someone around you may talk of his or her discoveries. This will prompt you to start thinking-you may have recently heard some motivational speech, recorded interview or lecture. There could be some research breakthrough today. You make progress in the technical field at this time. You could be most persuasive with others regarding this breakthrough. Anything in your life that has outlived its usefulness is likely to be changed, lost, given away or abandoned. Now is the time to clear away any difficulties and protect the things you hold dear.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Matters involving legacies, inheritance, legal matters and insurance are on your mind today. You may be planning to organize your finances and are preoccupied with the details, or you could have inherited an amount of money that you feel should be invested. Whatever the case, this is certainly a good time to pay attention to these matters and safeguard your future needs. A round table discussion in the workplace may require you to listen closely-take notes. Buy yourself some time before giving an answer as you need time to consider all the angles. You will be most persuasive with others when you do make up your mind. It's easy to see what you value and care about these days. Your sense of appreciation is sharp and in high focus.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is an important day because it can open opportunities for you to make changes or corrections in the direction of your path. Be observant to the opportunities when they arise. Practical, effective ideas are the ones that make the most sense now-putting them to good use is a focus for you. There is optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances at the deepest emotional levels. Be patient with friends or family this evening. Your opinions are probably correct, but others may not be ready for the complete truth. You may find yourself at odds if you become too sharp with your words. Make it a point to lighten up and laugh at yourself as well as the quandaries of life. Perhaps you could take a turn at being cook this evening-or order in.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your job identity may be in the category of a technician, detective, medical practitioner, etc. People are curious about what you do. Often, you will find yourself asking questions and becoming involved in other people's hopes and dreams. Be careful that your time is not totally absorbed by another-you could forget your job. Material things are foremost on your mind this afternoon. A shopping trip is in order. This may mean a social event is coming up soon or it is just time to revamp your wardrobe. This evening you carry through with some promise to a friend or group. Perhaps you are visiting someone or helping to return a favor. Whatever the case, this evening you work to complete whatever responsibilities you have set for yourself.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Find tools that will help you practice expressing the real person on the inside of you. Material things are foremost on your mind in many respects. For now there is an emphasis on the real rather than the ideal. Stagnation is not the name of your game and you look for ways to enhance and improve your career. A new and challenging job within your company may be your next move. Be wise in managing your finances this afternoon. There is a feeling that anything is possible if you set your sights high enough. There are also optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances at the deepest emotional levels. A social affair can be enjoyed this evening with your co-workers. You will be able to network as well as create good feelings between associates.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You show a very determined and practical frame of mind today. You rarely reach conclusions without a great deal of cautious deliberation. This day calls for just that, a cautious deliberation. You have a fixed opinion now based on some strong likes and dislikes that may cause you to become a bit obstinate. Give yourself time to think things through before responding too quickly. You are wise to view a situation from a different perspective. There is a need to get away from routine so that you will have some time to think through a few choices or decisions. A pioneering instinct takes hold later as you are promised some work with a new technology. This project may call for a team effort, which will relieve you of some stress.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You have the opportunity to set up situations in the workplace so that you can compete with yourself in different ways. You find ways to work faster or work in ways that will bring customers or clients to your fine direction. Some product can be demonstrated and sold with a better understanding in convenience and usefulness. There may be a great deal of financial panic with your monetary situation now. You should show caution as to what types of financial activities or sort of investments you discover. There is optimism and faith along with a feeling that anything is possible. Family members are congenial and helpful this evening with lots of excellent suggestions. There are plans in the works for a backyard barbeque soon.

- 50. A short sleeveless outer tunic emblazoned with a coat of arms.
- 52. A less than average tide occurring at the first and third guarters of the moon.
- 54. Witnessed at first hand.
- 55. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
- 56. A tax on employees and employers that is used to fund the Social Security system.
- 57. A federal agency that supervises carriers that transport goods and people between states.
- 58. A constitutional monarchy in southeastern Asia on Borneo and the Malay Peninsula.
- 60. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- 62. Tag the base runner to get him out.
- 66. A tub in which clothes or linens can be washed.
- 70. (Greek mythology) The Titan who was father of Atlas and Epimetheus and Prometheus in ancient mythology.
- 74. Genus of erect herbs of the Middle East having showy flowers.
- 75. Of or relating to Oman or its people.
- 78. A rapid series of short loud sounds (as might be heard with a stethoscope in some types of respiratory disorders).
- 79. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- 80. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling). 82. Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
- 83. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- 84. Extreme mental retardation. 85. South American armadillo with three bands of
- bony plates.

- 45. An artistic form of nonverbal communication. 47. An open receptacle for holding or displaying or serving articles or food. 48. Israeli statesman (born in Russia) (1898-1978).
- 51. Any member of Athapaskan tribes that
 - migrated to the southwestern desert (from Arizona to Texas and south into Mexico).
- 53. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
- 59. (Babylonian) The sky god.
- 61. South American cavy.
- 63. The address where a person lives.
- 64. A mountain peak in the southern Sinai Peninsula (7,500 feet high).
- 65. The sciences concerned with gathering and manipulating and storing and retrieving and classifying recorded information.
- 67. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- 68. A mark left by the healing of injured tissue. 69. Thin fibrous bark of the paper mulberry and Pipturus albidus.
- 71. Waterproofed canvas.
- 72. The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.
- 73. A person with unusual powers of foresight. 76. A unit of time equal to 60 seconds or 1/60th of
- an hour. 77. A legal document codifying the result of
- deliberations of a committee or society or
- legislative body.
- 81. The square of a body of any size of type.

Yesterday's Solution

S	L	S		Т	E	T	R	Α	Р	0	D		L	L	M
С	A	Т		В	U	S	H	В	A	В	Y		v	A	S
Α	D	Α	Μ		S	Н	0	Α	L		Ν	Α	Ι	v	E
В	Е	R	E	F	Т			С	E	L	E	R	I	Α	С
			S	Н	0	D		U	F	Α		G			
С	Α	R	Ι	Α	Μ	Α		S	Α	K	Η	Α	R	0	v
0	Р	E	С		Α	D	D		С	Н	Α	L	Α	Z	A
S	Ρ	Α		В		Α	Α	R	E		K		С	Α	N
Т	Α	D	J	Ι	K		Ν	Ι		Р	E	Α	K	E	D
Α	L		Α	G	Α		Α	G		R	Α	D		Ν	A
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D	Е	Α	F		S	E	Α		Е	Т	Ν	Α			
A	Μ		Α	G	Α	R		Ι	С	E		Ν	Α	B	U
С	В	С		Α	L	E	C	Т	U	R	Α		L	Α	G
С	Е	0		S	Р	Α	R	E	R	I	В		G	Α	L
Α	D	0		Ρ	Α	L	0	Μ	Е	Т	Α		Α	L	I

WORD SEARCH

80's Radio Hitmakers

Find and circle all of the 1980's music artists that are hidden in the orid. The remaining letters spell the name of a hit song by the Bangles.

W	E	Т	S	А	Т	S	R	A	С	E	н	Т	R	K	L	1	S
в	R	1	R	R	н	0	к	0	Ν	т	Е	L	Е	А	T	V	Е
L	А	F	А	Е	E	С	Ν	Е	×	С	0	L	D	J	Y	0	L
0	S	F	Е	Ν	Ρ	L	Ν	1	Ν	Е	Е	Т	R	A	Е	J	G
Ν	U	А	F	G	0	А	D	1	в	0	т	Ν	0	G	Ν	Ν	Ν
D	R	Ν	R	1	L	F	R	А	J	А	А	т	W	0	R	0	А
1	Е	Υ	0	Е	1	Ρ	D	Y	V	Е	S	Т	Е	0	U	в	в
Е	к	S	F	R	С	т	L	U	С	1	А	1	Ν	G	0	Е	Е
С	т	1	S	0	E	L	0	0	R	L	D	s	L	0	J	U	М
н	н	S	R	F	-E	W	Y	1	Κ	А	С	в	М	0	R	А	Y
I.	Е	Е	А	в	Ν	L	А	т	R	А	Ν	А	0	Y	н	т	A
С	F	Ν	Е	в	L	Е	А	Ν	Ν	т	D	D	т	W	Т	Q	D
А	1	Е	Т	1	Е	L	L	D	G	Ν	Е	н	U	Е	1	U	Е
G	×	G	в	Ν	к	R	А	А	Е	С	М	1	Ρ	R	Н	Е	в
0	×	s	х	Ν	1	L	L	s	н	1	н	М	U	Е	А	Е	А
L	L	Е	С	Т	F	0	S	1	С	Ν	0	U	А	Q	1	Ν	R
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ASIA	ERASURE	NENA	THE FIXX
BANGLES	EURYTHMICS	NEW ORDER	THE MOTELS
BERLIN	FALCO	PRINCE	THE POLICE
BILLY JOEL	FOREIGNER	QUEEN	TIFFANY
BILLY OCEAN	GENESIS	QUIET RIOT	TOM PETTY
BLONDIE	HEART	ROXETTE	TONI BASIL
BON JOVI	INXS	SCANDAL	TOTO
CHICAGO	JOURNEY	SOFT CELL	VAN HALEN
DAVID BOWIE	KAJAGOOGOO	TALK TALK	WANG CHUNG
DEBARGE	MADNESS	TEARS FOR FEARS	WHAM!
DURAN DURAN	MADONNA	THE CARS	
	BANGLES BERLIN BILLY JOEL BILLY OCEAN BLONDIE BON JOVI CHICAGO DAVID BOWIE DEBARGE	BANGLES EURYTHMICS BERLIN FALCO BILLY JOEL FOREIGNER BILLY OCEAN GENESIS BLONDIE HEART BON JOVI INXS CHICAGO JOURNEY DAVID BOWIE KAJAGOOGOO DEBARGE MADNESS	BANGLES EURYTHMICS NEW ORDER BERLIN FALCO PRINCE BILLY JOEL FOREIGNER QUEEN BILLY JOEL GENESIS QUIET RIOT BLONDIE HEART ROXETTE BON JOVI INXS SCANDAL CHICAGO JOURNEY SOFT CELL DAVID BOWIE KAJAGOOGOO TALK TALK DEBARGE MADNESS TEARS FOR FEARS

4

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6

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	9				2	8		9
		5				4		1
5			3			1		2
		8	2				4	7
	8	9		4	3			3
			5	1				8
4			1			3	8	4
9				5				6
		-						

4

70's Songs

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AKTSLANDGT	RETXRR	TISN
(FAMEYSSALGF	OTRACH	OMEE
ANGIE FAME BABE FREE BIRD BAD BLOOD GREASE BETH HEART OF GLASS BROWN SUGAR HOT STUFF CAR WASH HOTEL CALIFORNIA CONVOY ISLAND GIRL CRACKLIN' ROSIE JIVE TALKIN' CROCODILE ROCK LAYLA DANCING QUEEN LE FREAK DREAMING LOLA DREAMS	LOVIN' YOU LOWDOWN MACARTHUR PARK MAGGIE MAY MISS YOU MONEY NIGHT MOVES OHIO POP MUZIK RHIANNON RHINESTONE COWBOY	RICH GIRL ROXANNE SAD EYES SIR DUKE STAYIN' ALIVE SUPERSTITION THE JOKER TRAGEDY VENUS WATERLOO YOUR SONG

The hidden song is: TIE A YELLOW RIBBON 'ROUND THE OLE OAK TREE

			Yeste	rday's :	Solutio	n		
9	5	4	2	6	1	7	8	3
1	6	3	8	5	7	9	4	2
2	8	7	9	3	4	5	1	6
7	2	5	4	9	8	6	3	1
3	4	1	5	7	6	2	9	8
8	9	6	3	1	2	4	5	7
4	3	2	7	8	5	1	6	9
6	7	8	1	4	9	3	2	5
5	1	9	6	2	3	8	7	4

Kuwait - Times 55.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2017

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 22517733 Rawda Adaliya 22517144 Khaldiya 24848075 Kaifan 24849807 Shamiya 24848913 Shuwaikh 24814507 **Abdullah Salem** 22549134 22526804 Nuzha **Industrial Shuwaikh** 24814764 22515088 Qadsiya 22532265 Dasmah **Bneid Al-Gar** 22531908 Shaab 22518752 Qibla 22459381 **Ayoun Al-Qibla** 22451082 Mirqab 22456536 Sharq 22465401 25746401 Salmiya Jabriya 25316254 25623444 **Maidan Hawally** Bayan 25388462 Mishref 25381200 W Hawally 22630786 24810221 Sabah

DAY: Saturday

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop

ADDRESS	PHONE
Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
Khaldiya Coop	24833967
Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
Ferdous Coop	24881201
Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265
Salmiya-Amman St	25647075
Hawally-Beirut St	22625999
Hawally & Rawdha Coop	22564549
Jabriya-Block 1A	25340559
Jabriya-Block 3B	25326554
Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25721264
Mishrif Coop	25380581
Salwa Coop	25628241



29/04/2017

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

STATE OF KUWAIT

METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

Valid From 7 PM To 7 AM

29/04/2017 1200 UTC

H

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

INFORMATION

BY NIGHT: Haze and partly cloudy with light to moderate south easterly changing to south westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h with a chance for scattered rain

BY DAY: Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north easterly becoming south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h causing raising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery

WEATHER WARNING			No Current Warnings
STATION	MAX. REC.	MIN. EXP.	SFC. CHART
KUWAIT CITY	38 °C	29 °C	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	40 °C	28 °C	Tota
ABDALY	42 °C	28 °C	
BUBYAN	31 °C	25 °C	- DA
JAHRA	43 °C	30 °C	1014 L
FAILAKA ISLAND	37 °C	26 °C	1012
SALMIYAH	31 °C	25 °C	1006
AHMADI	33 °C	26 °C	() / J (
NUWAISIB	38 °C	28 °C	er marker have
WAFRA	42 °C	28 °C	02
SALMY	40 °C	29 °C	MSL Analysis (hPa) Valid 1200 UTC 29 APR 2017
		4 DAYS	FORECAST

PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania Algeria	00355	Luxembourg Macau	00352 00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina Armenia	0054	Malaysia Maldives	0060 00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas Bahrain	001242	Martinique Mauritania	00596 00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00222
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize Benin	00501	Moldova Monaco	00373 00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia Botswana	00387 00267	Mozambique	00258 0095
Brazil	00257	Myanmar (Burma) Namibia	0095
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	
Burundi Cambodia	00257 00855	New Caledonia New Zealand	00687 0064
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand Nicaragua	0064
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African Chad	00236	Norfolk Island N. Ireland (UK)	00672 0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan Palau	0092 00680
Congo Cook Islands	00242	Palau Panama	00680
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus Cyprus (Northern)	00357	Philippines Poland	0063 0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti Dominica	00253	Romania Russian Federation	0040
Dominican Republic		Rwanda	007 00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia Saint Pierre	001758
England (UK) Equatorial Guinea	0044	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent	00508 001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia Falkland Islands	00251	San Marino Sao Tome	00378 00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00239
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana French Polynesia	00594	Sierra Leone Singapore	00232 0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	0065
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany Ghana	0049 00233	Somalia South Africa	00252 0027
Gibraltar	00233	South Korea	0027
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada Guadeloupe	001473 00590	Sudan Suriname	00249 00597
Guadeloupe Guam		Sarmanic	
Guatemala	001671	Swaziland	00268
	001671	Swaziland Sweden	00268 0046
Guinea	00502 00224	Sweden Switzerland	0046 0041
Guinea Guyana	00502 00224 00592	Sweden Switzerland Syria	0046 0041 00963
Guinea Guyana Haiti	00502 00224 00592 00509	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia	0046 0041 00963 00381
Guinea Guyana	00502 00224 00592 00509	Sweden Switzerland Syria	0046 0041 00963
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands)	00502 00224 00592 00509 0031	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary	00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain)	00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0036	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary	00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland	00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India India Ocean Indonesia	00502 00224 00592 00309 0031 00504 00354 00354 00354 0091 00873 0062	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran	00502 00224 00592 0030 0031 00504 00852 0036 00354 00354 0091 00873 0062 0098	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey Turkey	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 0090
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India India India Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq	00502 00224 00592 0030 0031 00504 00852 0036 00354 00354 0091 00873 0091 00873 0092	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Tunisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran	00502 00224 00592 0030 0031 00504 00852 0036 00354 00354 0091 00873 0062 0098	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey Turkey	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India India Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Ireland	00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 00354 0091 00873 0091 00873 0092 0098 00964 00964	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Turisia Turkey Turkey Uganda Ukraine	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India India Ocean India Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Iraq Ireland Italy	00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00304 00352 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873 0062 0098 00934 009353 00394	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Tanzania Thailand Tonga Tonga Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Turisia Turisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine Ukraine	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00976
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Iraq Ireland Italy Ivory Coast Jamaica	00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00352 00362 00354 0091 00873 0092 0098 00964 00353 00394 00353 00354 00964 00353 003964 00353 003964 00353 003964 00353 00354 00355 00396 00397 00387 00387 00387 00387 00398 00399 00390 00387 00387 00387 00398 00399 00387 00387 00387 00387 00398 00398 00388 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 <tr< td=""><td>Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Turiidad Turiidad Turisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine Uhited Arab Emirates United Kingdom</td><td>0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 001</td></tr<>	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Turiidad Turiidad Turisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine Uhited Arab Emirates United Kingdom	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 001
Guinea Guyana Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Ocean India Ocean Indonesia Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Ira	00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00352 00362 00354 0091 00873 00922 00353 00353 00353 00353 00354 00353 00354 00353 00354 00353 00354 00353 00354 00355 00354 00355 0355	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Thailand Tonga Tokelau Tokelau Trinidad Turkiy Turkey Uganda Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Kingdom UsA USA	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 001 00998
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Iraq Ireland Italy Ivory Coast Jamaica	00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00352 00362 00354 0091 00873 0092 0098 00964 00353 00394 00353 00354 00964 00353 003964 00353 003964 00353 003964 00353 00354 00355 00396 00397 00387 00387 00387 00387 00398 00399 00390 00387 00387 00387 00398 00399 00387 00387 00387 00387 00398 00398 00388 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 00398 <tr< td=""><td>Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Turiidad Turiidad Turisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine Uhited Arab Emirates United Kingdom</td><td>0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 001</td></tr<>	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Turiidad Turiidad Turisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Ukraine Uhited Arab Emirates United Kingdom	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 001
Guinea Guyana Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India India Ocean India Indonesia Iran Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Ireland Italy Ivory Coast Jamaica Japan Jordan Kazakhstan	00502 00224 00592 00509 00504 00352 00362 0034 00354 0091 00873 00922 00353 00353 003253 001876 0081 00925 001876 0081 00962 00962	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Tanzania Thailand Tonga Tonga Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tirinidad Turisia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Uganda Ukraine Uhited Arab Emirates United Kingdom Uruguay USA Uzbekistan	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 001 00598 001
Guinea Guyana Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Ocean India Ocean India Ocean Indonesia Iran Iraq Ireland Italy Ivory Coast Jamaica Japan Jordan Kazakhstan	00502 00224 00592 00509 00504 00352 00362 0034 00354 0091 0093 00924 0093 0093 0094 0093 0094 00353 0039 003254 0094 0039	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau United Arab Emirates United Arab Emirates United Kingdom Uruguay Usa United Kingdom Uruguay Vanuatu Vanuatu Venezuela	0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00688 00216 0090 00688 00256 00380 00976 00380 00976 0044 00598 001 00998 001 00998 00678 00582
Guinea Guyana Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Iceland India Ocean India Indian Ocean India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Ira	00502 00224 00592 00594 00504 0031 00304 00352 0034 00354 0091 00873 00924 009353 00353 00353 00353 00353 00353 00362 001876 0081 00962 007 00254 00686 00965 009965	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Turkey Turalu Uganda Ugan	0046 0041 00963 00381 00381 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 00930 00668 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 001 00998 00582 00844 00598 001284 001384
Guinea Guyana Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Iceland India Ocean India Indonesia Iran Indonesia Iran Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Jordan Japan Jordan Kazakhstan Kenya Kiribati Kuwait Kuwait	00502 00224 00592 00594 00504 0031 00362 0034 00353 00964 00353 00364 00353 00964 00353 00353 00364 00353 00353 00364 00353 00364 00353 00364 00353 00364 00365 00965 00965 00966 00965 00965 00965 00965 00965	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Tanzania Thailand Tonga Tonga Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Turkey Turalu Uganda	0046 0041 00963 00381 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 0090 00668 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 001 00998 00582 00844 001284 001380
Guinea Guyana Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Iceland India Ocean India Indian Ocean India Indian Ocean Indonesia Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Iraq Ira	00502 00224 00592 00594 00504 0031 00304 00352 0034 00354 0091 00873 00924 009353 00353 00353 00353 00353 00353 00362 001876 0081 00962 007 00254 00686 00965 009965	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Tokelau Turkey Turalu Uganda Ugan	0046 0041 00963 00381 0028 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216 009380 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 00678 00582 00844 00598 00542 00543
Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Hong Kong Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Ocean India Ocea	00502 00224 00592 00509 00504 00352 00362 0034 00354 0091 0093 0094 0093 0093 0094 0093 0094 0095 0095 00964 00353 001876 0081 00962 007 00254 00965 00965 00965 00965 00856 00856 00371	Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Tanzania Thailand Tonga Tonga Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Turiaia Turiaia Turiaia Turkey Tuvalu Uganda Uganda Ukraine Uganda Ukraine Ulganda Ukraine Ulganda Ukraine Ulganda Ukraine Ulganda Ukraine Ulganda Ukraine Ulganda Ukraine Ulganda Ukraine	0046 0041 00963 00381 00255 0066 00228 00676 0090 001868 00216 00380 00256 00380 00976 0044 00598 001 0098 001 00598 001 00598 0012 001380 0012 0012 0013 001382 001284 001284 001284 001380

Fintas	23900322
N Khaitan	24710044
Omariya	24719048
Firdous	24892674
Ardhiya	24884079
North Jleeb	24311795
North Jahra	24775992
South Jahra	24775066
West Jahra	24772608
New Jahra	24575755

24770319

			Temperatures				
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	MAX.	MIN.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed	
Sunday	04/30	Partly cloudy+ dust + scattered rain	36 °C	28 °C	NE-SE	15 - 40 km/h	
Monday	05/01	Partly cloudy+ dust + scattered rain	38 °C	25 °C	SE	15 - 40 km/h	
Tuesday	05/02	Partly cloudy	38 °C	24 °C	SE	12 - 35 km/h	
Wednesday	05/03	Partly cloudy + light rain	40 °C	25 °C	SE-E	10 - 32 km/h	

TOMORROW PI	RAYER TIMES			
Fajr 03:42				
Sunrise	05:08			
Zuhr	11:45			
Asr	15:21			
Sunset	18:23			
Isha	19:47			

		20 0	000		10	02 1111/11
RI	ECORDE	D YESTEF	RDAY AT K	UWAI	T AIF	RPORT
MAX. Temp.					37	°C
	M	N. Temp.			22	°C
	Μ	IAX. RH			32	%
	Ν	1IN. RH			13	%
	M	AX. Wind		SE	39	km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.				0	mm	
2017	7/04/29 14	:48 UTC	V1.00	Г2.4	8	ق.ت.خ.ع/1–

L

Ű

Jahra

	Ophthalmologi	sts		
Ī	Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444		Dr. M
	Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222		Dr. Ab
	Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171		Dr. At
	Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999		
	Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700		Dr Di
	Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223		
_	Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223		
	Ear, Nose & Throat	(ENT)		Dr. Es
	Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510)	Dr Eis
	Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660		
	Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478		DrAd
	Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996		Dr. Ve
	Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988		Dr. Fo
	Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166		Dr. Ma
	Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426		Dr. Al
	General Practition	ners		
	Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123	;	Dr. Sa
	Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312		
	Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920	_	Dr. Ar
	Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465		Dr. M
	Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528	_	
	Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781		Dr. Ac
	Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501	_	Dr. M
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MUSIC & MOVIES

Badshah takes Kuwait music lovers by storm



Popular Indian rapper speaks during the press conference yesterday in Kuwait. — Photo by Sajeev K Peter

By Sajeev K Peter

Popular Indian rapper Badshah took music lovers in Kuwait by storm on Friday evening at the Shaheed Park open air ground with his pulsating vocal range of rap delivery. Performing during the musical show presented by Indian Youth Society Kuwait, Badshah kept all spellbound. "Rap in India is a small genre compared to other music genres. My humble attempt is to broaden its scope and reach by making it more popular," Badshah told a post-event press conference yesterday at Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza.

Aditya Prateek Singh Sisodia, better known by his stage name Badshah, has come a long way ever since he debuted into the world of rap in 2006 on a growing fan - especially the youth. Today, he is popular as an Indian rapper for his Hindi, Haryanvi and Punjabi songs though he sings in Marathi, Benagli and Gujarati. He is known for hits such as Chul, 2 Many Girls and the recent hit 'DJ Waley Babu,' featuring Aastha Gill which was ranked number one on Indian i-tunes charts within 24 hours of the release.

The song also crossed a million views on Youtube

within 30 hours. "I want to foray into other Indian languages also including south Indian languages though language remains as a major stumbling block for me," he said. "I was overwhelmed by the huge response from the crowd yesterday in Kuwait. That included many Kuwaiti music lovers. I am quite happy," he said.

Poetry and rhythm

Rap is a shortened form of poetry and it is a musical form of vocal delivery that incorporates rhyme, rhythmic speech and street vernacular. "I could make a mark as a rapper and I wanted to continue to do what I am doing right now without compromising the quality of my music," he explained. Badshah's music has been featured in Bollywood soundtracks for movies such as the 2014 film 'Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania,' and Sonam Kapoor starrer 'Khoobsurat'. He has also collaborated with artists such as Gippy Grewal, Diljeet Dosanjh, Manj Musik, Raftaar, Navv Inder and Aastha Gill among others.

Talking about his foray into Bollywood, Badshah said, "In fact I was rapping my way into Bollywood

movies. I polished my songs for Hindi movies. However, I have an identity as a rapper even though most of my popular songs are being taken in movies. Obviously, Bollywood is a big platform for any artist," he said. Before becoming a full-time musician, Badshah received formal education to become a civil engineer from PEC University of Technology, Chandigarh. Talking about his transition from a civil engineer to a rapper, Badshah quipped, "During my training as an engineer, I was exposed to new Punjabi music inspiring me to take on rap writing and singing."

"There is no training institute today on how to rap. You learn through listening and singing. At the end of the day, if you are talented, you become a rapper," he pointed out. My first song 'Mercy' from my debut album O.N.E. became the third most viewed video in the whole world. It was a great moment for me. I am proud of speaking on behalf of the genre I represent," he said. Badshah said his new album will be released in September. "Whatever I make, I make it with passion and a conviction."

'**Yep, I'm Gay':** Happy 20th out anniversary, Ellen DeGeneres

Which a headline of "Yep, I'm Gay" on the cover of Time magazine and the same declaration on her sitcom, Ellen DeGeneres made history 20 years ago as the first prime-time lead on network TV to come out, capturing the hearts of supporters gay and straight amid a swirl of hate mail, death threats and, ultimately, dark times on and off the screen.

The code-named "The Puppy Episode" of "Ellen" that aired April 30, 1997, was more than just a hit. It was one of those huge cultural "where were you" moments for anybody remotely interested in TV, or the advancement of LGBTQ people working in TV, or who were itching to come out of their closets at home at a still-perilous time.

Variety summed it up this way: "Climaxing a season of swelling anticipation, Ellen Morgan (the bookstore-managing alter ego of Ellen DeGeneres) finally acknowledges her lesbianism tonight in an 'Ellen' hour that represents television's most-hyped coming out since Little Ricky came out of Lucy 44 years ago." The hype was real, fed by DeGeneres' personal desire to end her secret-keeping at age 38 and to bring her TV character along for the ride.

The off-screen act came first in Time by slightly more than two weeks, but "Puppy" was months in the making under lock and key, something that failed to matter when the script leaked and the world then waited. Why risk it all? Because DeGeneres, one of America's sweethearts then and now, was done with the lying and the hiding. "It became more important to me than my career," she said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "I suddenly said, 'Why am I being, you know, ashamed of who I am just to be successful and famous in society's eyes?" The hate was also real. There was pulpit-pounding from conservatives, including full-page newspaper ads (the late Rev. Jerry Falwell called her "Ellen DeGenerate"). There was nasty mail all around, including some for guest star Oprah Winfrey suggesting that she "go back to Africa." After "Puppy" wrapped, cast, crew and live audience were hustled out of the Burbank, California, studio because of a bomb threat. Winfrey, who played Ellen's therapist, told the AP she had no clue that "I would get the worst hate mail of my career." She praised DeGeneres for having the courage to produce a "seminal moment for anybody who was hiding behind anything." The episode was watched by an estimated 44 million viewers. It won an Emmy for writing, a Peabody as a landmark in broadcasting and numerous other accolades. The attention coincided with a new and very public relationship for DeGeneres with her girlfriend at the time, Anne Heche, herself new to the out life. The following season, DeGeneres' fifth, was the last. It was a failure in terms of ratings. The network took to slapping "adult content" warnings on the show, something DeGeneres knew nothing about ahead of time. The season was bashed by some as unfunny and "too gay," as was the out-andproud DeGeneres herself as she lived life big with Heche offscreen. Sponsors fled

and the show was canceled.

DeGeneres went into a "hole," a deep depression, where she stayed without work for more than three years. Laura Dern, among the guest stars on "Puppy" and happy to be included, didn't work for a year after she played the out love interest to whom Ellen Morgan finally came out. (Both Dern and Winfrey join DeGeneres on Friday on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" to mark the anniversary). Ellen Garcia in San Pedro, California, is a gay, 47-year-old office administrator for a mental health nonprofit. She was 27 and out to just close friends and co-workers when she watched.

"How you feel about yourself, and how you feel about how society views you, plays a huge factor and that's why this show was so significant, because it brought all those things out," she said. "It made me feel normal." So what made it the right time for DeGeneres? Well, nothing, she said. "There was every indication that I should not do it. My publicist at the time said, 'Don't do it.' The studio, the network, everyone said (it)," she recalled. "I said, 'You know, look, you may lose a show but you have thousands of other shows revolving through this door that come to you and you'll have another show. This is my career. If I'm willing to lose my career for this, you have to let me do this."

The doing wasn't easy. The first draft of "Puppy" was rejected by the show's Disney point person. It took forever for script approval, with "Puppy" finally hitting air as the fourth season's third-to-last show, a full hour as opposed to the usual half-hour. DeGeneres had thrown a bash at her California house for cast members and writers months earlier, at the top of the fourth, declaring then that she wanted to come out, but nobody was sure how it would all play out. "I remember these walks from our offices to the Disney offices to see the big guys," recalled Dava Savel, one of the executive producers and writers. "We walked with her and it was kind of like the Bataan Death March. We were like, 'Ohhh, here we go.' I remember Ellen crying on the way back when Disney finally gave her the OK." History was made. Friends gathered around TVs. The gay rights advocacy group GLAAD organized watch parties after an ABC affiliate in Alabama declined to air "Puppy." DeGeneres herself made a spectacular comeback, eventually, now the host of her own daytime talk show and still America's sweetheart at age 59. (President Barack Obama awarded her the nation's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, last year.) Numerous gay leads followed on TV, yet advocates hope for still more diversity and accuracy in story and character development. None of that mattered the night of April 30, 1997. Eric Marcus, creator and host of the podcast "Making Gay History" and author of a 2002 collection of oral history of the same name, put it this way: "For everyday people, Ellen made gay OK."—AP



In new Gorillaz album, dark political vision comes true

reating the latest album of his virtual band Gorillaz, Damon Albarn had what he considered a dark, sci-fi vision-Donald Trump as president of the United States. Then it came true. "I wanted to make a kind of science fiction record. But more a social fiction, sort of anticipation," said the Britpop icon best known as the frontman of Blur. "There were several options and I chose the worst case scenario," he told AFP over a meal on a visit to Paris. "I wanted to make a social fiction record, but reality hit."

Gorillaz has been an outlet for Albarn's more experimental side, breaking free from guitar pop to explore trippy, futuristic sounds. Created in 2001, Gorillaz is a virtual band with four fictional members -- 2D, Murdoc, Russel and Noodle. The real-life, but behind-the-scenes, members are Albarn and the comic book artist Jamie Hewlett, who has matched the music with an elaborate visual representation that includes cartoon videos. Preparing "Humanz," the group's fifth album which came out on Friday, Albarn started in 2015 by imagining the United States ruled by Trump, then considered a reality television celebrity with little chance of landing the world's most powerful job. "I did not believe Trump would be president, but I wanted to imagine what would happen," Albarn said.

into an exploration of the reaction to Trump's shock victory. "Hallelujah Money," a trip-hopinfused single with the powerful voice of Mercury Prize-winning singer Benjamin Clementine, attacks the power of money without naming the president directly, although the video showed an elevator in a representation of his Trump Tower home.

The song gives way to an antidote in the album's final track, "We Got the Power," a call to love and unity. "It's a simple answer, I know, but it is probably the truth, especially now," Albarn said of the closing song. "You know I can't resent the people who made this choice," he said, referring both to supporters of Trump and, in his own country, the narrow majority that voted to pull Britain from the European Union.

Paltrow brings Goop to print with Conde Nast

A ctress and lifestyle maven Gwyneth Paltrow announced Friday she is launching a print magazine based on her style website Goop with publishing group Conde Nast. A statement from the US publishing group said Goop would launch as a quarterly magazine in September as part of a "multi-platform content experience that will include print, digital and social initiatives."

The partnership will include "a steady stream of co-produced, co-branded digital content that will be distributed across select Conde Nast titles' websites, goop.com and the brands' social channels," the statement said. Paltrow, an Oscar-winner in 1999 for her role in "Shakespeare in Love," launched goop.com in 2008 focusing on fashion, wellness, travel, recipes, parenting, and cultural issues.

Anna Wintour, Conde Nast artistic director and editorin-chief of Vogue, said in the statement that "Goop and Conde Nast are natural partners and I'm excited (Paltrow) is bringing her point of view to the company. We all look forward to working with her and her team." Paltrow said in the statement the tie-up is "an opportunity for us to push our boundaries visually and deliver Goop's point of view to consumers in new, dynamic ways."— AFP



Joyful and painful

Albarn reached out for American voices to create the album, including Mavis Staples, the classic R&B singer and civil rights activist, as well as hip-hop pioneers De La Soul, the rapper Pusha T and the innovative R&B artist Kelela. With an underlying chaos that evokes the film scores of Ennio Morricone, of whom Albarn is an admirer, "Humanz" also has songs co-written by artists ranging from electronic legend Jean-Michel Jarre to fellow Britpop star Noel Gallagher.

"I kinda wanted it to be something urgent, and joyful and painful at the same time," Albarn said of the album, which transformed

'You're gonna be dead'

Albarn is passionate when discussing Brexit, saying, "You can't imagine how depressing it is for us." "It's hard to express how angry I am," he said. "People who voted Brexit, as with American people who voted for Trump, are people who don't travel," he said. "They're blind! Genuinely blind! They genuinely think that closing borders and becoming nationalistic is a really good idea." "I don't want the next generations to grow up having less access to the world," he said. "We're a little island. A little island must be open."

"The people who voted for this are the old. What are you doing? Voting for your grandchildren's future? You're gonna be dead in 10 years! Dead!" His anger subsided as he gazed down at a plate that had just been put in front of him. On it were two soft-boiled eggs surrounded by slices of smoked salmon on a bed of arugula. "I have never seen eggs presented like that in my life. Have you?" he said with a laugh. "It's quite artistic-science fiction," he said. "I should have stated a story with that." — AFP

Get to know the new Wonder Woman and Spider-Man

You know the names and you've met them briefly before, but this summer Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman and Tom Holland's Spider-Man take center stage in blockbusters all their own. Both face the gargantuan task of revitalizing brands and properties that could use some help: For "Wonder Woman," the thus critically-derided DC Comics films, and for "Spider-Man: Homecoming," Sony hopes its lone comic book property can launch its own extended universe. Good thing they're both superheroes. Get to know a bit more about the actors who are playing some of summer's biggest superhero roles:

Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman

The 31-year-old Israeli model and actress teased audiences with a bit of her Diana Prince/Wonder Woman in "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," but on June 2 fans will get to explore the origins of the Amazonian warrior in "Wonder Woman." The film takes Diana from her home island of Themyscira and into the throes of World War I, along with American soldier named Steve Trevor (Chris Pine).

Gadot's Diana, she says, is a powerful warrior with high emotional intelligence, although she doesn't quite understand the gender and social norms of WWI-era London. Gadgot calls it a "beautiful naiveté." "She sees the world in such a healthy way," Gadot says. "Diana Prince basically stands for everything I stand for: love, peace, justice, truth. I keep on saying that if each and every one of us had a little bit of Wonder Woman in us the world would be a better place."

Tom Holland as Spider-Man

Like Wonder Woman's brief appearance in "Batman v Superman," Holland made his debut in a small, but memorable, part in "Captain America: Civil War," when Robert Downey Jr.'s Tony Stark enlists the Queens teenager for some help. Unlike Wonder Woman who has never had a big screen movie to herself, audiences have now had three Spider-Mans in the past 15 years: Tobey Maguire, Andrew Garfield and Holland.

The 20-year-old British actor says that his Peter Parker/Spider-Man is fairly similar to both Maguire's and Garfield's takes, but with one important difference: Holland was actually in the right age range to play a high school student. (Maguire was 27 when his first Spider-Man came out, and Garfield was 29).

To prepare for "Spider-Man: Homecoming," out July 15, Holland even went undercover to a Queens, N.Y. high school to try to understand what American high school life is like. The biggest difference? Girls and no uniforms - quite a departure from the all-boys school he attended in the UK. "I really think people will enjoy the Peter Parker side of the story," Holland says. "With superhero movies I feel like you're always looking for more superhero. But in this movie I hope it will be the reverse ... the Spider-Man part is just an added bonus." — AP



In this combination photo, Gal Gadot arrives at the premiere of the 'Fast & Furious 6' in Universal City, California, left, and Tom Holland attends the premiere of 'In the Heart of the Sea' in New York. — AP



In this photo released by Warner Bros., Oprah Winfrey, left, and Laura Dern appear with host Ellen DeGeneres at a taping of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" in Burbank, California.



MUSIC & MOVIES

13 REASONS SPARKS CRITICISM OF TEEN SUICIDE DEPICTION

t's a scene as painful to watch as it is graphic: A 17year-old girl climbs into a bathtub with a razor. We see her slice into her skin, we see the blood pour out, hear her cry and struggle to breathe. Then she is still. The suicide of the heroine in Netflix's new popular series "13 Reasons Why" shouldn't come as a shock, since it's depicted in the final episode of a

made the show - feel very strongly that we did the exact opposite," said writer Brian Yorkey, who won a Tony Award and a Pulitzer Prize for the musical "Next to Normal," which grappled with mental illness. "What we did was portray suicide and we portrayed it as very ugly and very damaging."

The 13-episode drama, co-produced by actress

would consistently flash the National Suicide Prevention hotline. "Graphic details about suicide we know historically

are not recommended," said Phyllis Alongi, the clinical director of The Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide . "I understand what the producers are saying but it could really be unsafe and I think we need to be a little more responsible." Netflix and the show creators point out that several mental health professionals were consulted and they offer a 30-minute show called "Beyond the Reasons" that delves deeper into the tougher topics portrayed, as well as a site with links to resources.

The show is rated TV-MA, which means is may be unsuitable for children under 17, and three episodes that contain explicit material have "viewer discretion advised" warnings. But some mental health professionals are going further, with the National Association of School Psychologists declaring, "We do not recommend that vulnerable youth, especially those who have any degree of suicidal ideation, watch this series." Critics of the show argue that depression and mental illness - keys to understanding suicide - are rarely mentioned and the fact that its heroine, Hannah, gets to tell her story after her death sends a potentially dangerous message.

They're also upset that the school guidance counselor depicted on the show seems to blame the victim. The Jed Foundation and Suicide Awareness Voices of Education joined forces to create 13 talking points for young adults and guardians to discuss while watching the series, including warnings that the way the counselor is portrayed is "not typical" and that "leaving messages from beyond the grave is a dramatization produced in Hollywood."

Braced for backlash

School systems across the country are alerting parents, making them aware that their teens may be streaming the series, urging them to watch it with them, and providing information to help them talk about it. In the upstate New York community of Grand Island, school administrators warned that the series "sensationalizes suicide." Indiana's largest school district warned in an email that the series "does not accurately model what we would want or hope individuals do if they are struggling or in crisis."

In Maryland, principals in the Montgomery County public school system noticed teens talking about the series and wanted to make sure parents had resources to handle tough questions. A warning letter and links to resources eventually went out to all 35,000 middle schoolers. "There's a lot to take in and digest. If you're a young, growing mind being informed by what you see, this could have an impact," said Derek Turner, spokesman for the district. "So we're giving them tips

and tools." According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide was the second leading cause of death for children and young adults ages 10 to 24 in 2014.

Dr. Helen Hsu, a clinical psychologist in Fremont, California, whose work involves suicide prevention in schools, helped shape some of the "13 Reasons Why" scripts. She said not showing Hannah's suicide would be almost "coy and avoidant" and that medical studies aren't definitive about the risks of suicide contagion. Plus, there are already graphic how-to guides online. "If you think your child can't find this in one second on the internet already in the past 10 years, you are sadly mistaken," she said.

"To say this is going to trigger that is sort of naive. What I really emphasized in the script writing was I said. 'It has to focus on that it's not glamorous, that it's ugly, it's painful and I really want you to focus on the pain of her parents and the people left." While suicide has been depicted on TV shows, the youth of the roles in "13 Reasons Why" is pioneering. It has clearly struck a nerve: The show has 340,000 Twitter followers and 2.4 million likes on Facebook.

Gomez, who has talked openly about her own mental-health struggles, said she was braced for a backlash: "It's going to come no matter what. It's not an easy subject to talk about. But I'm very fortunate with how it's doing." Yorkey said creators wanted to tell a young adult story in "a more honest way that it has ever been told on television." "I understand it's hard to watch," he said. "It was supposed to be hard to watch because these things are incredibly hard to endure and we wanted to say, 'These things are happening in kids' lives. You can keep quiet about them. You can keep kids from watching shows about them. It's not going to stop them from happening in kids' lives and you should be talking about that." — AP



This image released by **Netflix shows Katherine** Langford in a scene from the series, '13 Reasons Why,' about a teenager who commits suicide. — AP

series built around the character's death. But knowing that it is coming doesn't make it any easier. That stomach-turning scene has triggered criticism that it romanticizes suicide and prompted many schools across the country to send warning letters to parents and guardians.

The show's creators are unapologetic, saying their frank depiction needs to be "unflinching and raw." "Many people are accusing the show of glamorizing suicide and I feel strongly - and I think everyone who and singer Selena Gomez, is based on Jay Asher's young-adult 2007 bestseller about a high school student who kills herself and leaves behind 13 audiotapes detailing the events that led to her death, including sexual assault, substance abuse and bullying. Per usual, Netflix released all 13 hours of the series at once - on March 31 - leaving suicide prevention specialists' worried teens might binge the entire series without a chance to fully absorb the issues and ask questions. They also say they wish the show



housands of music fans descended on the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival on Friday to see some hometown favorites who've made their mark nationally. Pianist, vocalist and New Orleans native Harry Connick Jr. closed out the festival's largest venue while morning. But she probably didn't man-Aaron Neville's distinctive voice shut down the Blues Tent. Attendee Nancy Davis and her husband, Richard Ashmore - whom she met at Jazz Fest in 1985 arrived before dawn to celebrate the anniversary of their meeting and her 40th year of "festing," she told The Advocate. Her first festival in 1977 was memorable, she said, because she managed to see performances by both Ella Fitzgerald and Stevie Wonder. "You just can't beat it," Davis said. She said she attends all seven days of the festival every single year. "I'm hooked." Laura Valliant, 64, and about 30 other people meet for breakfast at the same restaurant each year before the festival opens. "Once a year, you just see people that you don't see the rest of the year, and it's like a family reunion," said Valliant, who also goes to the festival every day it's open. "There's the music and the food, but it's really about the people." But the

music is the thing for close friends Sandi Gumpert, 46, and Susan Parker, 61, who have been attending Jazz Fest together for more than a decade. Gumpert said she was wanted to see Johnny Sansone, one of the first acts scheduled Friday







This file photo shows Blink 182 arriving for the 59th Grammy Awards pre-telecast in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

Hundreds displaced as luxury festival in Bahamas implodes

that was advertised as the ultimate in luxury imploded Friday just as it was to begin, leaving hundreds of party-goers displaced and angry. With tickets costing up to \$12,000 and VIP packages that rose to \$250,000, the Fyre Festival offered a weekend on a private island being entertained by top names in music while staving in luxurious villas where guests would be wined and dined. But visitors said they were forced to deal with subpar accommodation that included sleeping in "disaster relief tents" and being fed cheese sandwiches rather than gourmet cuisine.

The festival had promoted itself on Instagram with sensual images of famous models lying on the sand. But after finding out that the promised "cultural moment created from a blend of music, art and food" was not to be, some visitors also turned to social media to vent fury. "This has been one of the most ridiculous things I have ever experienced and if you know me, that is saying a whole lot," Twitter user DylanACOP wrote. "It is complete and total chaos. Everyone is running around frantically looking for answers and none of the staff can help. Even they are in the dark," he tweeted.

Another Twitter user, William N. Finley IV, said he saw a man pass out in the airport "because it's so hot since they locked us in." The festival, which had been due to take place over two weekends, abruptly announced in an online statement Friday that it was being "postponed" with no new date. "Due to circumstances out of our control, the physical infrastructure was not in place on time and we are unable to fulfill on that vision safely and enjoyably for our guests," it said.

The festival said it was offering charter flights back to Miami to festival-goers, whose packages included transportation. "We ask for everyone's patience and cooperation during this difficult time as we work as quickly and safely as we can to remedy this unforeseeable situation," the statement said. Guests said they were asked to sign slips of paper to ask for refunds.

Apology from government

Some visitors blamed the government of the Bahamas, a country of more than 700 islands and cays where tourism is the largest

new music festival in The Bahamas industry. The event on the private island of Exuma was organized by rapper Ja Rule and tech entrepreneur Billy McFarland who together launched Fyre Media in 2015. The tourism ministry, which had assisted with advertising, said it did not organize the Fyre Festival and that it was "extremely disappointed." "We offer a heartfelt apology to all who traveled to our country for this event," it said in a statement.

> "Hundreds of visitors to Exuma were met with total disorganization and chaos," it added, saying that ministry representative were helping visitors return home. Ja Rule told the local newspaper The Tribune that he and McFarland had pumped \$20 million into the event, assuring that it was not a scam. "Heartbroken is an understatement," he wrote to the paper via WhatsApp. "God knows my heart and intentions were in the right place. Now I just want everyone to get home safe and get refunded."

Seizing on festival boom

A press release in December promised a "once-in-a-lifetime experience." "Think the hottest artists, the most beautiful water in the world, yachts, jet skis, and more than \$1 million of real treasure and jewels hidden on the island," it said. The chaos had started to become apparent Thursday, when one of the headlining acts, rockers Blink-182, said it was not coming. "We're not confident that we would have what we need to give you the quality of performances we always give our fans," the band wrote.

Other acts in the lineup were electronic favorites Major Lazer and rising hip-hop acts Migos and Desiigner. New music festivals have been sprouting up at a fast pace in the United States, increasingly becoming a rite of passage for young people of sufficient means. McFarland also faced criticism over the social networking startup Magnises, which charges users a \$250 annual fee for discounted access to exclusive events. The news site Tech Insider reported in February that the startup was not delivering the promised perks, with several members reporting unwanted charges on their credit cards. — AFP

age to hear every song because of her personal goal of "1.75 bph" - seeing 1.75 bands per hour.

"I always try to go see new people," she said, while sipping a Bloody Mary. "The diversity is fabulous," Parker said. Packed crowds for some of the bigger acts often draw the most complaints from attendees. But there was room for spectators as Connick started his closing act and as Nas began to perform with his guests, the Soul Rebels. The seven-day festival wraps over two weekends, ending May 7. Besides 11 stages of music, the fest this year features a cultural exchange area dedicated to Cuba that will have music, foods and crafts from the country. — AP

Meschiya Lake and the Little Big Horns perform during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival at the Fair Grounds in New Orleans.



Harry Connick, Jr. performs during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival at the Fairgrounds.



Jennie McColl and Bern Pagan, both from the DC area, dance during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival at the Fairgrounds.



Nas and The Soul Rebels perform during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival at the Fair Grounds in New Orleans.



Kristin Diable and the City perform during the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.



RAP, A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE, IN SERVICE OF ENDANGERED ONES

Rap has been called a universal language-but it can also be a tool to preserve languages at risk. In small communities around the world, indigenous people have been embracing rap as a means of communication, giving new lifeblood to their languages while reaching unexpected new audiences. The artists' backgrounds and motivations are diverse-but one common thread is a realization of the power of hip-hop.



Born in the street culture of The Bronx in the 1970s, hip-hop has since spread across the world and become, stylistically at least, a lingua franca embraced by many young people. In Colombia's mountainous northern department of Antioquia, indigenous teenage brothers Brayan and Dairon Tascon first encountered rap several years ago when they spotted a street performance in the central square of the town of Valparaiso.

They found an energy and immediacy in rap, which they adapted to their own language of Embera, estimated to be spoken by fewer than 100,000 people in Colombia and Panama. In videos posted on YouTube, the duo take the moves of early rappers, punching their hands forward as if to say "yo." But instead of gold chains they are sporting the colorful threaded necklaces and headbands of the Embera people.

The songs, with hip-hop beats and occasional traditional flute, show pride in the culture-"We are speaking well, representing well, and showing the beauty," goes one lyric in Embera. "Some people previously thought that rap was simply music about drugs and violence. But for us music is about drugs and violence. But for us music is about how we speak and how we live," Dairon Tascon said by telephone. Dairon voiced pride that, through YouTube, their videos have gained tens of thousands of views and generated interest far beyond Colombia.

The politics of language

Native hip-hop has increasingly emerged as a sub-genre in the United States and Canada, with rappers-much like some of the African American trailblazers of the musical form-often taking up inequalities through their lyricism. Minneapolis and St. Paul, with its vibrant music scene and indigenous heritage, has become one of the hotbeds of native hip-hop. Local rapper Tall Paul mixes English with Anishinaabemowin. His track "Prayers in a Song" reflects on his struggles to learn his ancestral tongue, one of the oldest Native American languages, which he employs in the chorus to ask for spiritual strength.

"I feel regarding language and the obligation of revitalizing something sacred / Failure to carry through is disgracing a nation," he raps in an English verse. Separately in the far north of Norway, Nils Rune Utsi, who goes by the stage-name SlinCraze, has found in rap a new form of storytelling in his Sami language. "A rap song has so many more lyrics than a regular song. Of course you can write a great song, but you have to compress it into the song and chorus. With rap, if you have the lyrics, you get to write much more and if you have a story, you can get very detailed," SlinCraze told AFP by Skype.

Growing up chubby, the 26-year-old said he was bullied and found an escape in hiphop, especially the angry rhymes of Eminem. SlinCraze has since found a more political use of rap. His song "Suhtadit," or "Arguing," shows the influence of Eminem with rapidfire lyrics over ominous backing riffs. The video is full of symbolism as a pastor preaches to the crowd and a masked group takes aim at reindeer, whose herding has historically been a way of life for the Sami. "Yes, I am Sami," SlinCraze raps. "They destroy our signs, step on our language, they do whatever they want / Because they can."

Broadening an audience

SlinCraze said he wrote the song in outrage after reading a newspaper account of a girl whose jacket was set alight because she was Sami. With no more than 20,000 people who speak his dialect of northern Sami,

SlinCraze acknowledged that he risked limits in his audience. But he expressed delight in drawing listeners to his music even if they cannot understand the lyrics. Initially SlinCraze gave little thought to language preservation, but as he builds a fan base he said he has made a more concerted effort to revitalize Sami words rather than borrowing from Norwegian and English.

At the same time, he is working on his first EP in Norwegian. He said that he and other artists have "basically lifted up the Sami culture" in Norway after decades in which the government tried aggressively to integrate indigenous people. "It's kind of stupid to say, but it's now more of a hipster thing. A lot of kids are now not afraid to show they are Sami-they are proud of it," he said. "So it's very cool to see this development among the younger people, and of course the elder people who lost their language and are more interested in regaining their identity."—AFP



Director Philippe Lioret, center, attends a panel discussion during Colcoa French Film Festival day 4 in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

LA's French film fest debuts stunning **Nazi escape** tale

oseph Joffo's childhood came to an end at the age of 10, when his father gave him and his brother 5,000 francs each and instructions to flee Paris and escape the Nazis. The boys were told they must never let anyone know they were Jews as they went on the run-by foot, train and ferryfrom Hitler's feared SS secret police in occupied France. Joffo's 1973 autobiographical novel "A Bag of Marbles" recounted their incredible journey, their capture and subsequent escape, and became a global phenomenon, made into a film and a graphic novel.

Now a lavish remake by Canadian filmmaker Christian Duguay ("Boot Camp," "Joan of Arc") starring French singing and screen legend Patrick Bruel gets its North American premiere at the Colcoa festival of French Film in Los Angeles on Saturday. Opening in 1941 in occupied Paris, "A Bag of Marbles" introduces cinemagoers to Joseph (Dorian Le Clech) and Maurice (Batyste Fleurial) at age 10 and 12 as they scramble home to the barbershop run by their father, Roman (Bruel).

Roman realizes that the boys' best chance to escape the coming Nazi roundup is to leave the close-knit family and flee to their older brothers in the demilitarized "zone libre" on the French Riviera. Always just one false move from tragedy, they survive on every scrap of ingenuity and courage they can muster as they try to make their money-the equivalent of about \$815 each-last and overcome extraordinary odds to elude the Nazis. "The most important thing is how strong the brothers' relationship was," Bruel, 57, told AFP. "Because they

oseph Joffo's childhood came to an end at the were so strong together, they made it. Because reage of 10, when his father gave him and his they loved each other, they made it."

Very scary

Although Jacques Doillon's 1975 version of Joffo's story is regarded as a masterpiece, Duguay and his partners felt the story had enough untapped potential to warrant a remake that would follow the book more faithfully. Initially unenthusiastic about the prospect of starring in another war movie after 2007's "A Secret," Bruel was persuaded when he learned it would show the Holocaust from children's point of view.

"We must never let people forget what happened, and we have to try to do our best to tell, inform, show, talk, explain," he said. "Kids are a fantastic way to talk to kids. The identification of the two little boys can resonate in the minds of kids of the same generation." The film's release comes with the rise of the far right in Europe and the United States, and particularly the success of Front National leader Marine Le Pen in the French presidential election's first round last week, serving as a reminder of the perils of untrammeled populism.

"Ten days before the election, in France we are all very scared of seeing Marine Le Pen being president because it's possible," Bruel said in a Q&A at Colcoa just ahead of his interview with AFP. "The extreme right goes all over Europe, everywhere. What is happening everywhere is very scary."Bruel, who has made ten studio albums and more than 50 films, found stepping into Roman Joffo's shoes relatively easy, as his own two boys are the same age as the movie's young stars.

Pressure

The atmosphere was tense during parts of the filming, which took place just days after Islamists massacred 137 people in cafes, restaurants, a concert hall, kosher supermarket and the Stade de France in Paris. Bruel's children had been in the stadium just a few days before it was targeted by three suicide bombers from the Islamic State group. "Emotionally, everybody was very under pressure, so we didn't have to go very far into our deep emotions to be in the situation," Bruel said.

Joffo, now 86, didn't initially intend to publish "A Bag of Marbles," wanting simply to "leave a testimony" to his children and to exorcize his own demons. A friend persuaded him to send it to publishers and, after more than a dozen rejections, a small publishing house agreed on an initial print run of 30,000 copies. They sold in less than a month and the book went on to sell 20 million copies.

Bruel remembers Joffo breaking down in tears after seeing the movie for the first time, turning to the star saying: "You went further than what an actor can do-you gave me back my father." "We had a lot of good times. He's a funny guy. He's a very light person," Bruel said of his meetings with Joffo." "He came on the set and we had lunch and we talked. He was happy that they cast me to be the father."— AFP

Hijab Cosplay



Muslim cosplay enthusiasts Azlyna Zaina, left, and Raja Mohd Rusydi, dressed as 'Power Rangers' cosplay characters, take part in the 'Hijab Cosplay' event in Subang Jaya, outside of Kuala Lumpur. — AFP photos







Azlyna Zaina, left, a young Muslim cosplayer dressed as a character from the "Power Rangers", looks on as participants pose for photographs.





Cosplay enthusiasts pose for the photographs during the 'Hijab Cosplay' event.

Kuwait 🗠 Times 🎫



This picture shows the All-Thidsa molam band performing on stage at the Wonderfruit T music festival in Chonburi.



This picture shows a festivalgoer looking inside the Molam Bus at the Wonderfruit music festival in Chonburi.



This picture shows a singer from the All-Thidsa molam band performing on stage at the Wonderfruit music festival in Chonburi. — AFP photos



This picture shows Nattapon Siangsukon, a Thai DJ better known by his stage name Maft Sai, speaking during an interview before a practice session in Bangkok.



This picture shows festival goers dancing to the All-Thidsa molam band performing on stage at the Wonderfuit music festival in Chonburi.

Farm-to-festival: Thai folk music strikes a global chord

ipsters in flowing skirts and crop tops sway to the Thai band's hypnotic groove at an exclusive music festival in Thailand, while a clutch of cleaning staff quietly look on from the fringes. "I had no idea foreigners like molam," says 55-year-old Saengyan Promduang, referring to the folk tunes unique to her rural home region that are captivating the wellheeled crowd outside Bangkok. Alternately sunny and haunting, the molam sound was once sneered at by wealthy Thais as 'poor people music' from the rice-farming northeast, a region with closer cultural links to Laos.

But fresh takes on the centuries-old musical tradition have

delic rock and funk played by American soldiers deployed in the region.

60s revival

Molam's rising global profile today has much to do with two vinyl-obsessed DJs who started digging up 60s-era Thai folk records a decade ago and spinning the vintage beats in Bangkok. "Most of the people I met in Bangkok during that time would ask me, 'why do you play and collect molam records? It's poor people music, it's music for taxi drivers," recalled Nattapon Siangsukon, a Thai DJ better known by his stage name Maft Sai. But the Isaan

Maft Sai told AFP as the band members trickled into their Bangkok studio space for a rehearsal. "It is quite honest music, and people can feel that." The group's new record, 'Planet Lam', has woven more modern layers into the traditional sounds, playing with dub and electronica elements. Experimentation has also held the key to success for Rasmee Wayrana, an Isaan native who has melded sultry molam vocals with a jazzy back-up band and is building a growing fanbase at home and abroad.

For Khun Narin's Electric Phin Band, another molam group on the European festival circuit, fame came through a very 21st century stroke of fortune. The motley crew of musicians were used to

DRCONGO, HOME TO A TENTH OF THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES

haven't once spoken my mother tongue Kilokele in the 62 years I've lived in Kinshasa.

None of my nine children speak it," says Charles Tongohala. Tongohala's native tongue is one of 450 spoken in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a sprawling nation of 71 million people whose lingos-almost all of them spoken, not written-account for nine percent of the world's 5,000 languages. He was a boy when he moved to DR Congo's capital from a northeastern village home to the Lokele fisher people, who live along the banks of the giant Congo river and speak Kilokele.

Now retired, Tongohala worked for Congo's river transport company. Daniel Mukebayi, another Kinshasa resident, speaks Tshiluba, the language of the Luba people of central DR Congo, mainly the Kasai region. Mukebayi and his wife taught their 10 children Tshiluba, and he recalls that in 1974 his son Michel spoke it perfectly though he was only four. "But now that he's married and has his own family he never speaks his own language and his children only know how to speak French and Lingala," the language commonly spoken in Kinshasa, a teeming city of 10 million.

When the former Belgian colony became independent in 1960, authorities chose French as the official language, though even today not all of the population understands it. Later on, during an official "return to authenticity", the authorities promoted the use of four "national" languages for primary schooling-Lingala (a language used by the army and in Kinshasa and the northwest), Kikongo (west), Tshiluba (centre) and Swahili (east). Those languages are also used in regional courts and cohabit with French in some media.

But Lingala and Swahili, which are also spoken in neighboring countries, are far more widely used today than the other two. In 2000 French linguist Claude Hagege warned in a book that pushing regional languages, such as Swahili, over lesserknown tongues could wind up killing minor indigeneous languages. Take the wife of Mukebayi's son Michel, Cocotte Kolo. She was also born a Luba but can't speak Tshiluba; she is fluent in Swahili, Kinyarwanda (spoken in Rwanda and eastern DR Congo), Lingala and French. "Sometimes I'm ashamed, sometimes I'm afraid because I feel as if I've lost my markers," she says.

The rich stick to French

While some people like her speak several local languages, the upwardly mobile will often teach their children only French-or French and English. The death of a language "is due to the rural exodus and the demographic, economic and cultural weight" of its speakers, said linguist Kadima Nzuji of Brazzaville's Marien Ngouabi university.

So while there are relatively few speakers of Kinande and Kitetela, both have a good chance of survival because they are spoken by a dynamic trading community, he said.

Kambayi Bwatshia, who lectures in history at Kinshasa's UPN university, said "old people speak in

started winning over Bangkok's hipster elite and are making waves in the world music scene. It is a stark turnaround from decades of cultural condescension towards the region known as Isaan-home to rice farmers and the millions of migrants who fill Bangkok's working class. Like many from their region, the cleaners left their fields for better pay working for affluent Thais and ex-pats in the capital. In February their work took them to 'Wonderfruit', an upscale art and music festival held in a field several hours south of Bangkok.

"I'm not surprised they like molam, but I am proud," said Komkang Thaptham, 43, letting her garbage bag rest on the ground as she watched homegrown rockers from All-Thidsa band put on a show for a mix of urban Thais, tourists and expats. In its simplest form molam features witty-and often bawdy-lyrics about rural life warbled over the rhythmic swells of the kaen, a bamboo reed organ played by mouth. But the genre has changed its tune with the times, going electric in the 1960s and filtering in the sounds of psyche-

club nights started pulling crowds, inspiring Maft Sai and fellow DJ Chris Menist to invite a colourful collection of molam veteranssome on the brink of retirement-to the capital for live shows.

In 2012 they minted the Paradise Bangkok Molam International Band, a six-piece ensemble that has five European tours under its belt, including stops at the UK's hallowed Glastonbury festival. The group has dropped molam's trademark vocals but captures its mesmeric feel with two Isaan legends driving foot-tapping grooves on the kaen and phin, a pear-shaped lute native to the northeast. The band still draws bigger crowds abroad than on home soil. But Thais are increasingly catching on, with Bangkok hipsters giving the two molam masters Kammao Perdtanon and Sawai Kaewsombat – who are twice the age of the youngest band member-a rock star welcome when they strode onto the stage at a recent show.

21st century twist

"At the end of the day when music is good it speaks for itself,"

playing rural wedding gigs in northern Thailand. But they were propelled to international fame after an American producer stumbled across clips of their raucous village parties on YouTube. Entranced by the electric phin riffs booming out of their homemade PA system, he flew out to Thailand to track the group down and record their first album in 2014.

The band has been busy since releasing a second record with the US label, touring Europe twice and keeping day jobs as rice farmers, students, janitors and factory workers when back home. While some traditionalists lament modern molam's departure from its acoustic roots, others see its evolution as the next chapter in an art form that has always been about change. "It refreshes itself all the time," said Arthit Mulsarn, the curator of a roving exhibit, known as the 'Molam Bus Project', that chronicles the history of the genre. "I don't think molam is better or worse now, I think it just changes as time changes." — AFP the language of the village to survive" while young people, "especially in big urban centers, adapt to their environment." Hailing the work of the Christian missionaries who chronicled local languages from the 19th century on, both academics said the documents they penned would soon be all that remained of dying minority tongues.

Years of war and poverty too have contributed to the disappearance of some of Congo's least spoken languages-the backdrop to John le Carre's 2006 spy novel "The Mission Song", which centers on an interpreter of the country's dying tongues. "When you could travel home to the village on the boats I'd be able to speal Kilokele with people from my generation," said Tongohala. But that was more than a quarter-century ago. — AFP



This picture shows people walking along a wall filled with graffiti near a railway station in downtown Hanoi. — AFP photos



This picture shows Danny Daos, a graffiti writer, drawing at his shop in Ho Chi Minh City.



This picture shows An, a graffiti artist and vendor of spray cans, posing in front of a portrait of US rapper Ice Cube at his home workshop in Ho Chi Minh City.



This picture shows Nguyen Nhu Huy, an independent curator, speaking during an interview with AFP at his home workshop in Ho Chi Minh City.



This picture shows sitting in an alley filled with graffiti in Ho Chi Minh City.



This picture shows a man spraying graffiti work on a wall in Hanoi.



A cosplay enthusiast takes part in the 'Hijab Cosplay' event in Subang Jaya, outside of Kuala Lumpur. — AFP

Congolese plantation sprouts art centre to help the poor

here is no tap water, electricity or shops in Lusanga, a Congolese town once known as Leverville where the Dutch-British conglomerate Unilever long ran a profitable palm oil plantation. But the 15,000 onetime workers living on the land recently found new hope in a stark contemporary art centre called the "White Cube" which stands somewhat strangely on the African skyline. Funded in part by chocolate sculptures and aimed at redressing the wrongs of the colonial past, the project seeks to promote local art and crafts while helping breathe new life into sustainable farming.

The town in the southwest of the Democratic Republic of Congo was built after British soap-makers William and James Lever bought a huge plantation in 1911 in what was then known as the Belgian Congo. It had been acquired by the Belgian state from King Leopold, who had been the founder and sole owner of the Congo Free State. He made a massive personal fortune from ivory and rubber and is blamed for causing millions of deaths in the process.

After acquiring a string of soap firms, the Levers eventually turned their company into a global conglomerate which two decades later became Unilever. By 1930 it employed a quarter of a million people and was the largest company in Britain. But in the early 1990s, the corporation closed down its Congolese plantation and soap-making facilities.

Art's turn to help

Now in Lusanga the art centre "will help us turn our backs on misery," said Maman Aimee, wife of a former plantation worker. Yet this month there were no hotels or inns available for the guests who travelled 570 kilometers from the Congolese capital, Kinshasa, for the April 22 opening of the centre. They had to sleep with the locals or put up tents. The six-meter high centre itself, which still lacks a roof, is to be



Rezon Martens, the artistic director of the Dutch Institute for Human Activities (IHA), attends the inauguration of the 'White Cube' gallery in the town of Lusanga on a former plantation of the English-Dutch company Unilever in the Democratic Republic of Congo. — AFP photos

used as a gallery for local artists. Its backers say it is a symbol of the museums built in the West in the 20th century thanks to the huge profits made from exploiting natural resources in the African colonies.

"Plantation workers have helped the art world. Now it's up to the art world to help the plantation," said Dutch artist Renzo Martens. He is one of those behind the Lusanga International Research Centre for Art and Economic Inequality (LIRCAEI) which launched the scheme in partnership with the



People attend the inauguration of the 'White Cube' gallery in the town of Lusanga.

local Congolese Plantation Workers Art League. To fund the gallery, local artworks made of clay were scanned and reproduced in Europe and North America in chocolate. Their sales raised around \$60,000 (55,000 euros).

The funds have been set aside to start a new plantation of thousands of palm oil trees, cocoa trees, avocados and more. Some will also be used to fund art projects and to fight deforestation. Local resident and upcoming artist Lisette Mbuku, who plans to use the cash from the sale of a sculp-

ture to open a small store, believes the art work will be more profitable than the trees. But there are those who remain skeptical. Congolese artist Witshois Mwilambwe Bondo, for instance, said the presence of Martens at the inauguration highlighted the persistance of "a slightly colonial relationship." "To get things done we have to have a white man here," he said. — AFP



Dancers perform during the inauguration of the 'White Cube' gallery in the town of Lusanga.



Artists perform during the inauguration of the 'White Cube' gallery in the town of Lusanga.