

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



ESTABLISHED 1961

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

ANNIVERSARY
55
Years
Kuwait Times

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017

JAMADA ALAWWAL 10, 1438 AH

www.kuwaittimes.net

Workers hold sit-in over unpaid salaries, 'extortion'



Qatar Petroleum boss says Trump 'very positive' for oil sector



Snapshots of football clubs in Kuwait



Brady fairytale as Patriots fightback seals Super Bowl



INFO MINISTER 'RESIGNS' AFTER GRILLING OVER SPORTS BAN

CABINET HAILS SHEIKH SALMAN, BLASTS INTERPELLATION



Min 06°
Max 21°
High Tide 09:18 & 17:48
Low Tide 02:40 & 14:07



150 FILS
NO: 17134
40 PAGES

ROOF WORKS CAUSE CULTURAL CENTER BLAZE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The fire department yesterday said construction work on the titanium roof of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center caused the fire that ripped through the complex yesterday. Firefighters on a crane sprayed water onto the building, a structure covered with geometric Islamic patterns. The department said in a statement on Twitter that the fire was put out and caused no injuries. It added five fire departments helped battle the blaze, which sent thick smoke pouring from the futuristic-looking, waterfront complex.

Head of the Amiri Diwan's Financial and Administrative Affairs Abdulaziz Ishaq said firefighters responded promptly and effectively when the fire broke out as a result of construction work. Ishaq, who also heads the committee in charge of the cultural center, added that the building was completely evacuated at the time of the blaze, which only resulted in material damage. He thanked the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) and all those involved in dealing with the mishap.

Parts of the roof were seen to be missing after the blaze, but it was unclear if that was the result of the construction work or the fire. The center was launched in October with a performance at its 2,000-seat opera house by Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli. Broadway musical "Cats" was due to open on Thursday at the sprawling 214,000-sq-m center, located in the heart of Kuwait City. (See Page 4)



KUWAIT: Firefighters work at the site of a fire at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center yesterday. — AP

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Information and Youth Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah yesterday submitted his resignation to the Cabinet two days before a scheduled no-confidence vote against him following a grilling over Kuwait's sports ban. Government sources and MPs said Sheikh Salman quit after about 31 MPs said they will support the no-confidence vote against him scheduled for tomorrow, meaning that he will be voted out of office. The motion against him needs the support of only 25 MPs. Approving a no-confidence motion means the minister will be automatically dismissed.

The Cabinet, which met yesterday, did not make any announcement on the resignation, but a statement charged that the grilling last week included a number of constitutional and legal violations. The statement also commended the minister and praised his defense during the 10-hour marathon grilling by opposition MPs Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, Abdulwahab Al-Babtain and Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei over the international sports ban and alleged financial and administrative violations.

The official announcement of the resignation is expected to be made today. An Amiri decree will be issued accepting the resignation and possibly assigning other ministers to the two portfolios. Reports said that State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah will be given the information post, while Commerce Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan will get the youth portfolio.

During the grilling, the lawmakers accused the minister of failing to lift the 15-month suspension on Kuwait sports and of playing a role in issuing the legislation that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and FIFA cited for slapping the suspension in Oct 2015.

Continued on Page 13

NEW

Tassyoura Breakfast

KUWAITI BREAKFAST 5.950 KD OMELETTE, FOUL, LEBNEH, CHICKEN LIVER, FRESH VEGETABLE, QIMAR, DARABEEL, BAQSAM, JAM & HONEY, SERVED WITH TANDOR BREAD	
LEBANESE BREAKFAST 5.950 KD FIRED EGG, GRILLED HALLOUM, SAUSAGE, LEBNEH "TRADITIONAL LEANNESS", MAKDOOS, COLD CUT, QIMAR & HONEY. SERVED WITH LEBANESE BREAD	
JORDANIAN BREAKFAST 4.900 KD WHOLE EGG, FOUL, FALAFEL, MUSABAHA, WHITE CHEESE, OLIVE OIL, ZATAR, SERVED WITH TANDOR BREAD	
INDIAN BREAKFAST 4.750 KD LENTIL MIX, QEEMA, TAWA CHICKEN, EGG TOMATO, YOGHURT MINT, SERVED WITH CHAPATTI	

tassyourakw

2290 9999

Gulf Road, Next to Kuwait towers



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

AMIR RECEIVES AL-AHMADI GOVERNOR

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. Sheikh Fawaz presented His Highness the Amir with a memorial gift from the people of Al-Ahmadi Governorate on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's assumption to power, the 56th anniversary of the independence of Kuwait, and the 26th anniversary of Kuwait's Liberation. Sheikh Fawaz later presented a similar gift to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Separately, His Highness the Amir received the head of the Financial Controllers Agency Dr Abdulaziz Dkheel Al-Dekheel, who presented to him a special report regarding executive measures taken to implement legislative dues, in accordance with the provision 23-2015 law, concerning establishing a financial controller's agency. Dekheel later presented a copy of the report to His Highness the Crown Prince.

In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His

Highness the Crown Prince also hosted Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince then met with Minister of Health Jamal Mansour Al-Harbi.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf received Chief of the Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and, separately, member of the municipal council Osama Al-Otaibi. His Highness also received the new ambassadors of Cyprus, the Comoros and Morocco.— KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Head of Financial Controllers Agency Dr Abdulaziz Dkheel Al-Dekheel.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the new ambassador of Morocco.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the new ambassador of Comoros.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the new ambassador of Cyprus. — KUNA photos



KUWAIT: Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic visits the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center.—KUNA photos



Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic tours the Scientific Center.

EUROPE CAN'T HOST HUGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES: CROATIAN PRESIDENT

KUWAIT: Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic yesterday said the world should understand Europe did not have full resources to host huge number of refugees, thus forcing some countries to close their borders. "Countries of the world should understand that Europe does not have all necessary capabilities to help everybody, which force some European countries to close their doors in face of refugees," she said.

She attributed this action to these countries' "inability to provide decent living conditions" for the refugees, Grabar-Kitarovic said in a statement to KUNA and Kuwait TV following the opening of the Croatian Embassy in Kuwait, before she left the country yesterday. She called for seeking sustainable solutions to organize immigration coupled with ending conflicts that forced those people to flee to save havens. Grabar-Kitarovic said she discussed refugee issue with the Kuwaiti leaders she met. "Croatia is a transit for immigrants and refugees who fled from conflicts in their countries. They stay for a short period of time and then move to other European countries, particularly Germany which

received a large number of them in past years," she said. Grabar-Kitarovic, meanwhile, affirmed backing to Kuwait's quest to waive Schengen visa, while urging Kuwaitis to seize investment opportunities in her country. Croatia fully supports Kuwait's bid to exempt its citizens from the European Union's (EU) Schengen visa, Grabar-Kitarovic said.

She said her visit to Kuwait aimed at discussing a host of international issues of mutual concern, specially peace and fight against terrorism. The visit, the first by a Croatian President since the European country's independent in early 1990s, aimed at promoting bilateral relations and cooperation. She expressed content after His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah decorated her with the Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer. Grabar-Kitarovic also presented His Highness the Amir with the Grand Order of King Tomislav, the most prestigious state order of Croatia, in recognition of his role in supporting international peace and security.

The Croatian president termed as "constructive and positive" her meetings with parliament speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other senior officials. Grabar-Kitarovic said the Croatian government was adopting "serious measures" to attract foreign investors, including from Kuwait.

"Croatia is a country open for trade, we have investments ... in many domains including ship building, defense industries, agriculture and food products, in addition to a giant food industry complying with the Islamic Sharia," she said. She added that there was a small Muslim community in Croatia, which was contributing to development of the country.

Asked about Britain's leaving of the European Union, Grabar-Kitarovic said the will of majority of the British people should be respected although "we are not happy about it." On the opening of NATO's Regional Center in Kuwait last month, she said she knew very well the importance of this center in the region specially that she used to be an assistant secretary for general diplomacy in NATO before becoming president. — KUNA



Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic tours the Scientific Center.

FARMS REMOVED TO MAKE WAY FOR RAILWAY PROJECT

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Forty three land plots in Wafra and Abdali were withdrawn and their lease contracts were terminated because they are on the route of the planned railway line and regional road, announced Faisal Al-Hasawi, Director of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR). Hasawi added that he asked relevant authorities to remove all obstacles from these routes, adding that coordination is in progress in this regard with Kuwait Municipality, the Finance Ministry, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Fatwa and Legislation Department to finalize all legal and executive procedures needed for the project.

Social aid

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Subaih denied that any court orders had been issued mandating the ministry to pay Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis any social aid. She also noted that updating the database of beneficiaries may take six to 12 months. Subaih explained that 2,227 citizens had benefited from the aid until 854 cases were temporarily suspended pending further study and evaluation of whether or not they meet the conditions.

Health insurance

The Ministry of Health's official spokesperson Dr Ahmed Al-Shatti reassured that the issue of the health insurance company has been settled by the ministry, which notified the company in writing to collect the fees paid by expatriates. The ministry had announced last week resolving the issue that caused crowding at health insurance payment centers around the country.

Contractors excluded

Kuwait Oil Company's (KOC) CEO Jamal Jaafar said that over 50 local and international contractors had been excluded from dealing with KOC because they no longer match the new conditions and regulations. He also stressed that the exclusion would remain in effect until these contractors rectified their performance and meet the conditions agreed upon in the contracts signed with them.

AMIR'S VISION FOR RENEWABLES TO SPARE \$2.5 BILLION

KUWAIT: The growing demand for energy globally and rising rate of consumption locally highlight need to implement far-sighted vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to tap into renewable energy resources. The vision, aiming to meet 15 percent of the local consumption through renewables until 2030 will spare up to more than \$2.463 billion annually, experts estimate. Minister of Oil and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq has recently said the demand for energy in Kuwait will go up to one million barrels a day (bpd), nearly a quarter of the country's total output, by 2035 when the total population hits 5.5 million.

Marzouq's projection is based on the strategy of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), which targets producing four million bpd. His Highness the Amir's vision is expected to spare at least 150,000 bpd daily worth \$6.750 million a day or \$2.463 billion annually. The figures are based on oil price of \$45 per barrel (pb) set in the state budget for FY 2017-18. Since the oil prices are reasonably expected to go up twofold to \$90 in the coming 18 years, His Highness the Amir's vision will undoubtedly spare up to \$4.9 billion a year.

\$15.750 million

With a total population of 4.42 million people in early 2017, Kuwait consumes 350,000 bpd worth \$15.750 million based on the current oil price of \$45 pb, according to the statistics of the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI). Since His Highness the Amir announced his vision at the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Doha, Qatar, on December 4, 2012, growing numbers of state institutions, particularly the oil sector, the main energy consumer, have started implementing the vision. Since the solar energy is the most viable among renewables in Kuwait, the renewable energy projects focused on investing, and made outstanding progress, in this field. Besides, the costs of investment in this regard are less by 12 percent than other fields, according to experts.

The first such pilot projects is Al-Shaqaya which has been implemented by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) since 2013. The project, costing KD four billion (\$13.083 billion), envisages producing clean energy equivalent to about 12.5 million barrels of oil a year when its third stage completes in 2030.

It will cover 3-4 percent of the annual energy consumption of the country in 2030; the output capacity of its first stage, which will complete in 2018, amounts to 70 megawatts; the second 1,000 mw in 2020, and the third 2,000 mw in 2025. Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) is working with the Ministry of Electricity to complete the second stage of the project.

Sidra 500

Another pilot project in the exploitation of solar energy is Sidra 500, being carried out by Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) in Om Qadir, west Kuwait. The project, costing KD 30 million went operational last October; it produces 10 mw of energy, equivalent to 500,000 barrels of oil over two decades. Half of its production will go to the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the remaining five mw will be used in the industrial operations in Om Qadir oil wells. The third solar energy project is Al-Debdeba being implemented by KPC inside Al-Saqaya complex. It envisaged capacity amounts to 1,000 mw which will cover 15 percent of power needs of the oil sector when it completes in 2021.

In keeping with His Highness the Amir's vision, KFAS started implementing other green energy projects such as the introduction of solar panels as source of electricity to a number of consumer cooperatives and 150 houses in 2016 and 2017. The Ministry's committee on leveraging the uses of renewable energy approved 56 clean energy projects in last January.

The country also plan to exploit the wind energy in order to cover another 15 percent of its energy needs by 2030; one percent of this target was met in 2015. The far-sighted vision of His Highness the Amir falls in the framework of the country's quest for curbing the carbon dioxide emissions, reducing reliance on oil as pillar of its economy, and achieving sustainable economic development. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting yesterday. —KUNA

KUWAIT CABINET LAUDS INFO MINISTER'S REPLIES TO GRILLING

GRILLING CONTAINED 'CONTROVERSIAL AND IRREGULAR POINTS'

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday praised the Information Minister's replies to the MPs during the recent parliamentary interpellation session, namely the "irrefutable" information he stated in response to the legislators. The ministers, during their weekly meeting, re-affirmed that the inquiry was marked with "controversial and irregular points," according to a statement read post the session, also noting that the MPs who grilled the minister deviated from constitutional and legal norms.

They extolled the Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for his "convincing responses, irrefutable information and non-controversial facts" he had stated during the inquiry session. The ministers examined Tuesday's grilling session, during which Minister Sheikh Salman was quizzed before ten MPs presented a non-confidence motion against him according to article 143 of the parliament by-law, along with "with other repercussions witnessed in latest days."

The ministers expressed support for Minister Sheikh Salman shortly after

National Assembly Speaker voiced identical views on process of the grilling saying it was politically motivated and that the interpellators did not stick to the scheduled inquiry topics. On January 15, three MPs requested grilling the minister over his purported responsibility for international suspension of national sports, alleged violation of freedom of the press and wrongdoings at the financial and administrative levels. Article 100 of the Kuwaiti Constitution entitles every member of the National Assembly to question the prime minister and cabinet members in regard to matters falling within their jurisdictions. His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chaired the weekly session, held at Bayan Palace.

Positive visit

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, reading the statement after the session, said the ministers were briefed about current "positive visit" to the country by the Croatian president, noting it would contribute to boosting mutual cooperation between the two friendly countries in vari-

ous fields. They were also informed about a message addressed to His Highness the Amir from the UAE President inviting His Highness to partake in the World Governments Summit due in Dubai in end of this month, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah addressed the ministers during the session about His Highness the Amir's participation in the annual camel race, held in Riyadh on February 1, as part of the 31th edition of Al-Janadriyah Cultural Festival.

The ministers examined a recommendation by the economic affairs committee on reports by auditors' bureaus at the ministries and government departments, affiliate authorities and independent institutions for the fiscal year (2015-2016). They also studied a brief analytical statement about results of advance auditing of State authorities for first half of the 2016-2016 fiscal year for tackling some of the mentioned remarks.

Terrorist attacks

Meanwhile, the Cabinet condemned a recent attack that targeted a Saudi warship

while it was on a patrolling mission west of Al-Hudaydah Yemeni Port. The cabinet said in a statement following its weekly meeting that Kuwait stands side by side with Saudi Arabia in all measures it is taking to maintain its security and stability and to fight these terrorist acts.

Two persons were killed and three others injured yesterday when boats driven by Houthi rebels attacked a Saudi vessel, patrolling off Hudaida Port in Yemen, the coalition supporting legitimacy in Yemen said.

The cabinet also deplored a "terrorist" attack that targeted Louvre Museum in central Paris in which a French soldier was injured. It reiterated Kuwait's support to precautionary measures being taken by the French government to fend off similar terrorist incidents that aim at disrupting France's security and stability.

Finally, the Kuwaiti cabinet denounced a recent bombing in Manama as a "terrorist act." It called on the international community to exert more concerned efforts to fight terrorism that intends to disrupt security and stability and intimidate innocent people. —KUNA



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem with Speaker of the UAE National Council Amal Abdullah Al-Qubaisi sign a cooperative agreement. —KUNA

PARLIAMENT SPEAKER MEETS WITH UAE NATIONAL COUNCIL'S CHIEF

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday held talks with visiting Speaker of the UAE National Council Amal Abdullah Al-Qubaisi and her accompanying delegation. During the meeting, they discussed how to coordinate mutual parliamentary positions in continental and international parliamentary events and fora, especially Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meetings due in Dhaka early April. Several heated issues and subjects in

regional and international arenas were also considered during the meeting.

Following the talks, the Kuwaiti and UAE parliament speakers signed a cooperative agreements in parliamentary, legislative and legal fields, in addition to training, development, research and information systems. Afterwards, the Kuwaiti speaker held a luncheon banquet in honor of the visiting UAE guest and her accompanying delegation. —KUNA

DRUG DEALERS ARRESTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti citizen and an Egyptian man were arrested for drug trafficking, said security sources. Case papers indicate that narcotic detectives were tipped off concerning the Egyptian's intention to sell five kilograms of meth for KD 50,000. He was ambushed and arrested red-handed along with the citizen. Detectives added that on searching the suspects, they found five kilograms of marijuana, 400 grams of powder used in manufacturing meth and 1,200 meth bags ready for sale.

Robbers caught

Seven Arab men were arrested in Salmiya for multiple robberies, said security sources. Following a Salmiya resident's report that he had been robbed by unidentified people, detectives identified the suspects. The seven (four Egyptians and three Lebanese) were arrested and admitted that they committed the crime. The suspects also confessed that they lured victims by first asking for help, and

when the person approaches, they would tie him up, assault him and then steal his belongings. The victim also identified the robbers in a lineup.

Fatal crash

A citizen died when he lost control over his vehicle and it turned over then caught fire along the Fourth Ring Road. A case was filed to investigate the cause of the accident.

Appointments

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah yesterday issued a ministerial decision appointing Major General Mahmoud Mohammed Al-Awadhi as assistant undersecretary for border security affairs, Major General Salem Nawaf Ahmed Al-Sabah as assistant undersecretary for administrative affairs, Major General Zuhair Essa Al-Nasrallah as assistant undersecretary for backup services affairs and Major General Mohammed Yousif Soud Al-Sabah as assistant undersecretary for marine borders affairs.



KUWAIT: Drugs caught with two persons arrested yesterday for trafficking.

RECENT EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST DISCUSSED AT GUST

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: A specialist in political Islam discussed the recent turn of events in the Middle East, the Islamic State problem and the attitude of the West at a 'cross-cultural diwaniya' organized yesterday by the French Embassy's Institute Francais at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST). Dr Francis Burgat, the guest of honor at the event, is a senior scientific researcher at the Institute for Research and Studies on the Arab and Muslim World. He was the former head of the French Institute of Archeology and Sciences in Sanaa and Damascus for six and five years respectively. He is currently a member of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

Part of the discussion at the diwaniya included the contents of his book titled 'Understanding Political Islam.' "We are living in a new world wherein social deterioration and cultural violence are prevalent," Burgat said. "When we are targeted by vio-

lence, our intuitive reaction is to blame the one that created the violence. When something happens, what is the share of the blame of the quiet and the guilty? In France, when a terrorist crime is committed, it is easy to blame the guiltiest party - he is responsible for this and that, because he has the ideology pushing him into the dark. Here is a man to blame - he is mad not with religion, but simply because he is a mad person," he said.

Burgat said to say there is good and bad in Islam is wrong, since there are good and bad Christians too. "The people involved in misrepresenting Islam are not Muslim. They do not understand the meaning of the Quran. If we buy their approach, the world will go nowhere. We must look in the mirror and see ourselves there - the dysfunctional institutions. In French, there is a saying: 'If you will not allow me to be a full citizen, then I will be a citizen fully apart.' This is the case now and we have to accept that we discriminate against people," he argued.



KUWAIT: Dr Francis Burgat (second from left) speaks during a seminar organized by the French Embassy's Institute Francais at GUST.

—Photo by Joseph Shagra

MEETING TO DISCUSS EXPRESSWAY CONNECTING KUWAIT CITY WITH SUBBIYA

By Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works announced it will hold a preliminary meeting on Feb 19 for companies taking part in the tender of constructing and maintaining the Northern Regional Highway between Abdali expressway and Subbiya road, which will be used to reach Mutlaa residential area and Silk City in Subbiya.

Landfill sites

For unknown reasons, Kuwait Municipality and the Central Tenders Committee postponed bidding for a tender to build and maintain a special building for landfill sites' employees along the Seventh Ring Road.

Trafficking charges

A consul from the US Embassy yesterday attended a hearing at the court of appeals reviewing a challenge against a death sentence issued against a US citizen for drug trafficking. Notably, the suspect had been arrested on arrival with drugs, but later a court said that except for 11 gm of cocaine, he was not incriminated for the rest of the material deemed as drugs. The suspect's lawyer Dr Khaled Al-Kaffa argued that the cocaine had been added to the material caught with his client and demanded checking the arrest report.

Violations

During tours of various areas from 7 am till 9 pm Sunday, Ministry of Electricity and Water inspectors detected 412 electricity and water consumption violations.



NO INJURIES IN CULTURAL CENTER BLAZE

KUWAIT: Firefighters tackled a blaze at the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center yesterday. No injuries were reported in the incident, while the flames caused only material damage, according to a statement released by the Kuwait Fire Services Directorate. The

fire broke out as a result of construction work, head of the Amiri Diwan's Financial and Administrative Affairs Abdulaziz Ishaq later confirmed in a statement. Senior officials arrived to the site shortly afterwards to inspect the situation. The incident was not expected

to cause delays at scheduled shows to be hosted at the center. Broadway musical "Cats" was due to open at the Center on Thursday, according to its website. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat, KUNA and KFSD



BANGLADESHI WORKERS HOLD SIT-IN OVER UNPAID SALARIES, ALLEGED CHEATING



By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: About 300 Bangladeshi workers staged a peaceful sit-in protest yesterday at their accommodation camp in Mangaf over unpaid salaries and what they claim to be extortion in exchange for their residency visas. The workers - cleaners and porters - are protesting by refusing to go to work, saying that they have not been paid for three to four months. "How can we survive here in Kuwait without money? We have to eat every day," said one protester who asked that his name not be used. Industrial action, including strikes and peaceful protests, by expatriate workers is illegal in Kuwait, and organizers and participants can face fines, jail time or deportation.

The workers also claim that a company manager, also a Bangladeshi, is taking money for visas without the company's knowledge. The cleaners and porters claim that the manager forces all staff to pay an illegal fee of KD 600 for the renewal of their iqamas. He also makes them pay a fee of KD 200 when they ask to go on annual leave (KD 100 on leaving and KD 100 on joining back). Some of the workers claimed to have paid KD 2,650 to get visas from a 'local visa trader' in Bangladesh, but were again asked to pay more for the visas once they arrived in Kuwait.

"Since he [the manager] joined the company two years ago, this has been his practice," one of the protestors alleged. "Some workers complained, but no one listened. So we thought that after this protest, our voices will be heard and that he'll be dismissed. And hopefully, our delayed salaries will be paid," said Shihab, who's acting as the workers' spokesperson. When contacted, the manager of the company declined to comment.

Another elderly worker said he paid KD 629 for his iqama renewal. "I paid KD 300 at first, then he came back to me asking for another KD 230. Then after a month, he asked for KD 100 again, but I was only able to give KD 74. A month later, I gave him another KD 25," he said. "This is too much. Many of us only draw a KD 60 salary per month. How can we survive if this crime is not stopped?" he asked.

Abdul Latif Khan, First Counselor at the Bangladeshi Embassy in Kuwait, said they sent two embassy officials yesterday afternoon to see the condition of the workers. "We have already spoken with the company officials. Rest assured that we will be taking necessary action," he said. However, a friend of some of the workers disputed this claim, noting that no one from the embassy had visited the workers or intervened.

In my view

THE HIJAB IN THE WESTERN MEDIA



By Labeed Abdal

local@kuwaittimes.net

The hijab is one of the issues commonly tackled by the Western media. Although Muslim women have not always faced hardship, the matter has now turned into a liberty cause in Western society. This matter is undoubtedly becoming a source of harassment for Muslims in schools, workplaces and public venues, where they serve in public and private establishments. A compromise has been reached in Britain for female officers to verify the identity of female witnesses wearing Niqabs, allowing judicial proceedings to move more swiftly.

In France, there have been many forms of rejection, including school principals refusing to accept female Muslim students. However, French courts have stated that students have some rights on the grounds that they are French citizens. In Germany, hostility towards Muslims comes from Neo-Nazi groups that are already spreading throughout Europe, going so far as framing Muslim immigrants for crimes they commit.

Western media have used stereotypical images of Muslims to depict them as terrorists and barbarians

Italy's Prime Minister rejected 'Anti-Hijab' calls, stressing that Mary, mother of prophet Jesus (PBUH), wore a hijab, leading nuns worldwide to wear the garment. The message wearing a hijab conveys, whether in Islam, Christianity, or Judaism, is that a woman rejects harassment, is loyal to her husband or father and that there is no way to gain any form of pleasure from her.

However, Western media have used stereotypical images of Muslims to depict them as terrorists and barbarians who brutally assault women and children. They ignore the fact that all cultures and religions include moderate, radical and extreme people. Linking Islam and Muslims to horrific terrorism is unjust, because Islam is a religion of peace, love and clemency.

KUWAIT TO RECRUIT PALESTINIAN TEACHERS AFTER ELIMINATING LAST STANDING HURDLE

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry gave a green light to the Education Ministry to recruit Palestinian teachers months after Kuwait officially recognized the Palestinian passport as a valid document. The move will allow the government to recruit Palestinian teachers for the first time in nearly three decades.

It will also provide relief for hundreds of Palestinians living in Kuwait. The Interior Ministry announced in October 2016 that it would official recognize the Palestinian passport. Prior to this Palestinians living in Kuwait holding passports issued by the Palestinian Authority could not have an iqama (visa) issued directly on their passports. They needed a workaround, typically an Egyptian travel

document, to which the work visa would be attached. But in 2016, Egypt announced that it would stop renewing such documents for Palestinian passport holders. The shift in Kuwait government policy, however, will eliminate the need for the workaround.

More importantly, it opens the door for the recruitment of Palestinian labor into Kuwait. "Following the decision by the Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister last October to treat Palestinians holding Palestinian passports like all other Arab residents holding Arab passports and to allow them to bring their wives and children into the country, there is no objection to the Ministry of Education recruiting Palestinians

in accordance with your wishes and needs and under the laws governing the residency of foreigners in the country," the Interior Ministry said in a letter quoted by Al-Rai yesterday.

The Education Ministry is looking to expand recruitment of Arab teachers by hiring nearly 400 teachers from Palestine - either directly from Palestinian territories or Palestinians living in Kuwait. Palestinian teachers have a long history in education in Kuwait. They were among the first Arab teachers to teach in Gulf state, and the earliest mission to arrive to the country dates back to the 1930s.

Palestinian teachers constituted a majori-

ty among public school teachers in Kuwait until the 1990-91 Iraqi Invasion. The Palestinian Authority's support for then-Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait led to souring relations and following liberation, a mass exodus of Palestinian manpower from the country.

After liberation and the rebuilding, Kuwait turned to other Arab countries, mainly Egypt, to fill the huge void left by the absence of Palestinian teachers in public schools. Kuwait and Palestine restored diplomatic relations in 2004, but Kuwait did not recognize the Palestinian Authority's passport for security reasons until October of last year.

THE NEW GENERATION
FORTUNER

ALWAYS A BETTER WAY
TOYOTA

DISTINCTIVELY CHANGED - 180 DEGREES

Come and Experience The all-new Fortuner.
Redesigned. Regenerated. Revolutionized.

The all-new Fortuner is a harmonious combination of ruggedness and refinement - blended perfectly with unmatched luxury and unparalleled power. The distinctive exterior, the upscale and plush interior and intelligent technology will not only make the drive highly enjoyable but will also give you a sense of superiority. Go ahead - drive the change.

- Alloy Wheels 18 inches
- LED headlights with DRL
- Power Back Door
- Drive Mode Select
- 7 inch front display
- Smart key with push start
- Wooden steering and dashboard
- Cooler Box

5 YEARS UNLIMITED MILEAGE WARRANTY | T-CONNECT SERVICE FOR 3 YEARS
The offer includes retail sales only.

LIVE EVERY MILE

* Terms and conditions apply

Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L.
ONE OF THE AL-SAYER GROUP HOLDING COMPANIES.

tconnect

MUSAADA
INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

2016

5

1803803
toyota.com.kw

toyotaku

AI-RAB: 4th Ring Road • AL-AHMADI: Eastern Ahmadi • AL-JAHRA: Industrial Area • SHUJAIYAH: Al Tital Showroom • FLEET SALES - AL RAB: Ext. 2012/3/4/6/7/9

Crime

Report

MAID NOT FULLY PAID FOR 11 YEARS

KUWAIT: Escorted by a lawyer from her country's embassy, a Sri Lankan housemaid reported that she had not received the majority of her salary for 11 years, said security sources. The maid said that her sponsor only gave her about ten percent of her monthly salary to send it to her family and kept the remaining 90 percent. This continued until she decided to leave Kuwait and asked him for the money he told her he had saved for her, but he denied ever saying so. The Public Authority for Manpower contacted the sponsor, who promised to pay back the money to the maid as long as she returns back to work for him.

Suicide attempt

A Filipina housemaid attempted suicide at her sponsor's house in Bayan by swallowing a large number of painkillers, said security sources, noting that the maid was rushed to Mubarak Hospital where she received immediate gastric lavage. A case was filed.

Wife's killer sentenced to death

The criminal court yesterday sentenced a citizen to death for killing his wife by setting her on fire inside her vehicle in Mina Abdullah, said security sources. Case papers indicate that firemen were dispatched to rescue the couple from the burning vehicle and found out that the wife had died while the husband sustained hand burns. Criminal investigators found out that the husband had committed the crime over some family disputes and faked the incident to make it appear as an accident. Separately, the criminal court adjourned a case in which four expats are accused of murdering a ruling family member and his friend in Salwa. The next hearing was set on Feb 12.

Deported

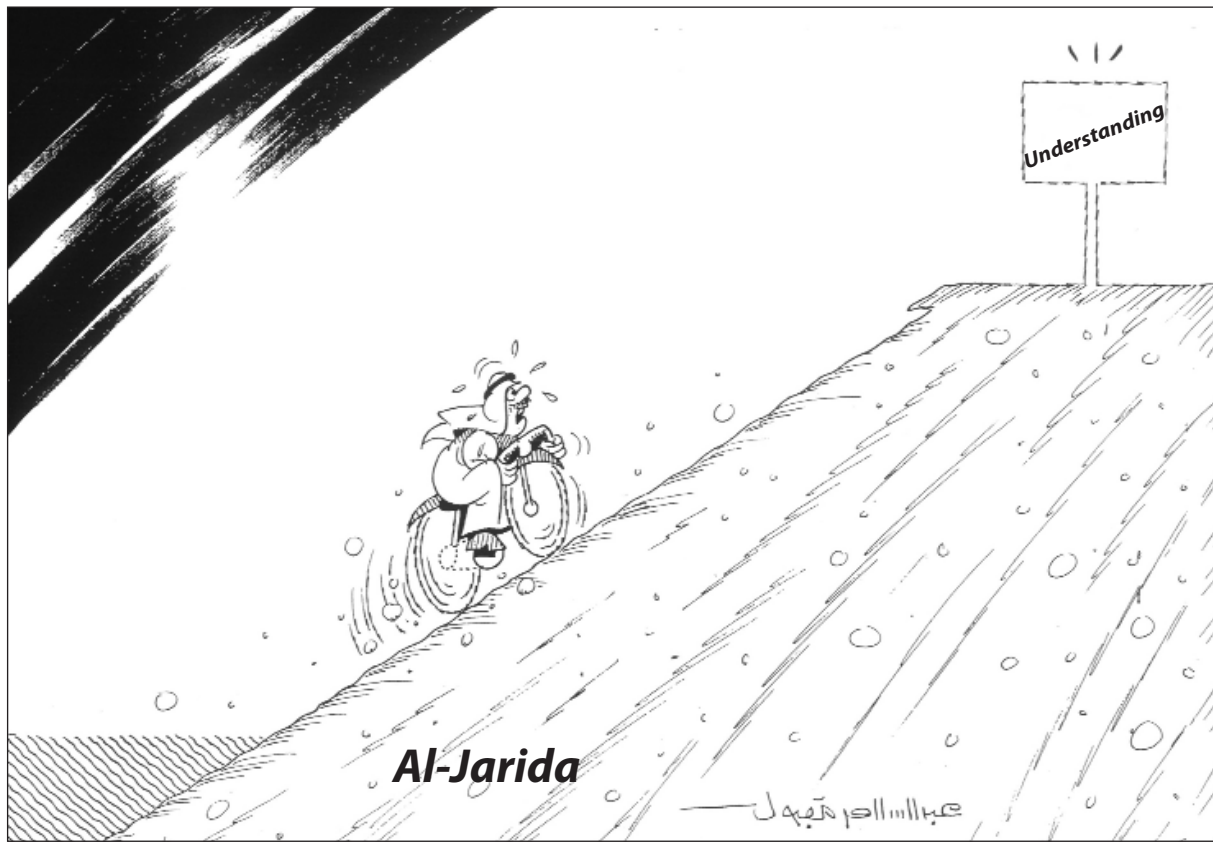
A Bangladeshi driver was arrested and referred to deportation for tearing a copy of the Holy Quran, said security sources, noting that a Lebanese man passing by saw the suspect and reported the incident.

Theft

A citizen reported that a Syrian man working at his company stole KD 5,000 and vanished. A case was filed and a search is on for the suspect.

Mugging

A Tunisian woman filed a case at Maidan Hawally police station reporting that a citizen had stopped, assaulted and threatened her with a knife before he stole three mobile phones from her in addition to her ATM card. The woman added that the suspect later withdrew a sum of money from her account. Further investigations are in progress and a search is on for the suspect. Meanwhile, an Iranian reported that five unidentified robbers had assaulted him and stole his two mobile phones and KD 200 and left him unconscious near his house in Salmiya.



الجريدة

Al-Jarida

TRUMP AND GCC-IRANIAN CONVERGE

By Dr Hassan Jouhar

The implications of a GCC-Iranian rapprochement through Kuwaiti diplomacy are of great significance, both in timing and content. It is worth support from all parties. The recent visit of Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to Tehran, and the positive statements made by Saudi and Iranian officials, ought to be well-invested, especially after President Donald Trump took over the White House.

We have repeatedly called for having normal, coherent, interest-based relations between the countries on both banks of the Arabian Gulf, especially as the odds of a Trump victory, and the geopolitical uncertainty it would cause, increased.

For years now, the Gulf region has been losing financial revenues, not only because of falling oil prices, but also the wars in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, which have caused astronomical costs and combustible sectarian mobilization. Trump's election only made things worse.

The new President's personality is his own business, but will surely see the US run with a broker's mentality that depends on tension and war as the easiest forms of political blackmail. He even suggested that the US take

from GCC oil revenue that makes up half of the GCC states' budgets.

Such direct threats were not directed at the GCC states alone. Trump also used blackmail in Central America, Europe and the Far East. Even the US's closest allies - Germany, the EU and Japan - are reconsidering political and economic priorities to deal with the new US regime. So why should we in the Gulf be the weak flank when we need to do nothing more than review our outlook?

Disagreements between the GCC countries and Iran are clear. Even the doctrinal issue can still be politically and emotionally applied. No-one on either Gulf bank is capable of changing the other side's doctrine. Iran is incapable of occupying GCC states and Saudi Arabia is incapable of occupying Iran. So why go in endless circles, leading nowhere, that cause everyone to lose? The region witnessed its most prosperous times when Iranian-GCC relations flourished. If both sides converge it will surely benefit all and might even help solve regional conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and probably, Egypt and Libya.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

CABINET'S RESIGNATION AND FOUR SCENARIOS

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

There are four possible scenarios by which the government could face a parliamentary session held to call for 'no-trust' in the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud.

These scenarios are purely impartial, though one should take sides during this very murky phase of our political history. As anyone can see, the government has scores of options while the opposition can only accelerate its grilling motion, its only tool against a minister. The four scenarios are:

1 The dissolving of parliament by placing a 'lack of cooperation' motion, before filing a proposed grilling motion against HH the Prime Minister by any lawmaker. A number of independent or pro-government MPs will probably race to file grilling motions against a number of other ministers, just as happened in 1986. This will be followed by a dissolution and calls for early parliamentary elections, which are unlikely to happen.

2 The second scenario is a limited reshuffle giving Sheikh Salman a different portfolio. This would render the grilling motion useless, and with the opposition only achieving a 'PR victory.' It would also be an incomplete victory for the independent and pro-government MPs, who suddenly declared their support for the no-trust motion.

3 The third scenario most resembles the current situation, which suggests the government, along with a large number of MPs, will not attend the session. It would therefore lose quorum and be adjourned until further notice. It would convey that the government is capable of imposing its own agenda by 'killing' the session.

4 The fourth scenario, which is easier, is the resignation of cabinet after its meeting, held only two days before the no-trust parliamentary session. The prime minister would form a new cabinet with over 80 percent of the current ministers and a slight adjustment of portfolios. It would be a new cabinet with the same players changing positions.

It is obvious from the four scenarios that the government holds the upper hand, and has various options to quash the grilling motion. This raises a question: given the government has more options than the new opposition, why did it willingly abdicate them during the session, despite its comfortable majority? I personally believe the government will opt for the easiest option and submit its resignation.

— Transited by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) participated in the fourth annual 'Qout Market' which took place recently at Al-Shaheed Park.

THE GREEN FLAME GAS COMPANY ATTENDS HORECA KUWAIT 2017

KUWAIT: The Green Flame Gas Company (GFGC) participated in Horeca Kuwait 2017; a very important key attraction in the hotel and restaurant industry. Engineer Bashar Al-Qattan was present at the company's booth among the sales department officers.

Qattan has stated the importance at the exhibition to present and introduce the GFGC is a leading company in the state of Kuwait and Gulf Countries, in the field of designing and building gas piping net-

works with specifications that serve all important sectors such as residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

The Green Flame Gas Company has obtained (ISO) 9001 Certified in 2008, 2009 and (ICC) in 2007 and (NFPA) in 2008. The Green Flame Gas Company is a company that adheres to the international specification and high standard that gives the company the edge among one of the best companies in Kuwait.



'AL-TIJARIA' ORGANIZED BEACH CLEANING CAMPAIGN IN COOPERATION WITH LOYAC

KUWAIT: In compliance with its corporate social responsibility program and as part of fulfilling corporate governance principles for companies, The Commercial Real Estate Company 'Al-Tijaria' organized a beach cleaning campaign in cooperation with LOYAC at Dine Zone Complex in Fintas last Saturday.

The campaign received a great response by having over 30 volunteers from different ages prepared with their necessary cleaning tools, hygiene gloves and trash bags. All volunteers were able to successfully clean the beach and disposed over 20 big trash bags. Rawan Adnan, Marketing and Leasing Manager in The Commercial Real Estate Company stated that the company organizes such campaigns

that help in maintaining a clean environment every year in order to help visitors enjoy healthy and safe environment.

She further complimented the fast and immediate response of LOYAC management and volunteers to cooperate with The Commercial Real Estate Company in this CSR initiative.

She also added that: "Al-Tijaria is constantly enhancing its positive role in corporate social responsibility and is committed to preserve for a healthier well-being and a cleaner environment." She expressed her gratitude to all the volunteers for their participation and cooperation in saving the nature in Kuwait and advise the public to keep the beaches clean and dispose the trash in the allocated places.

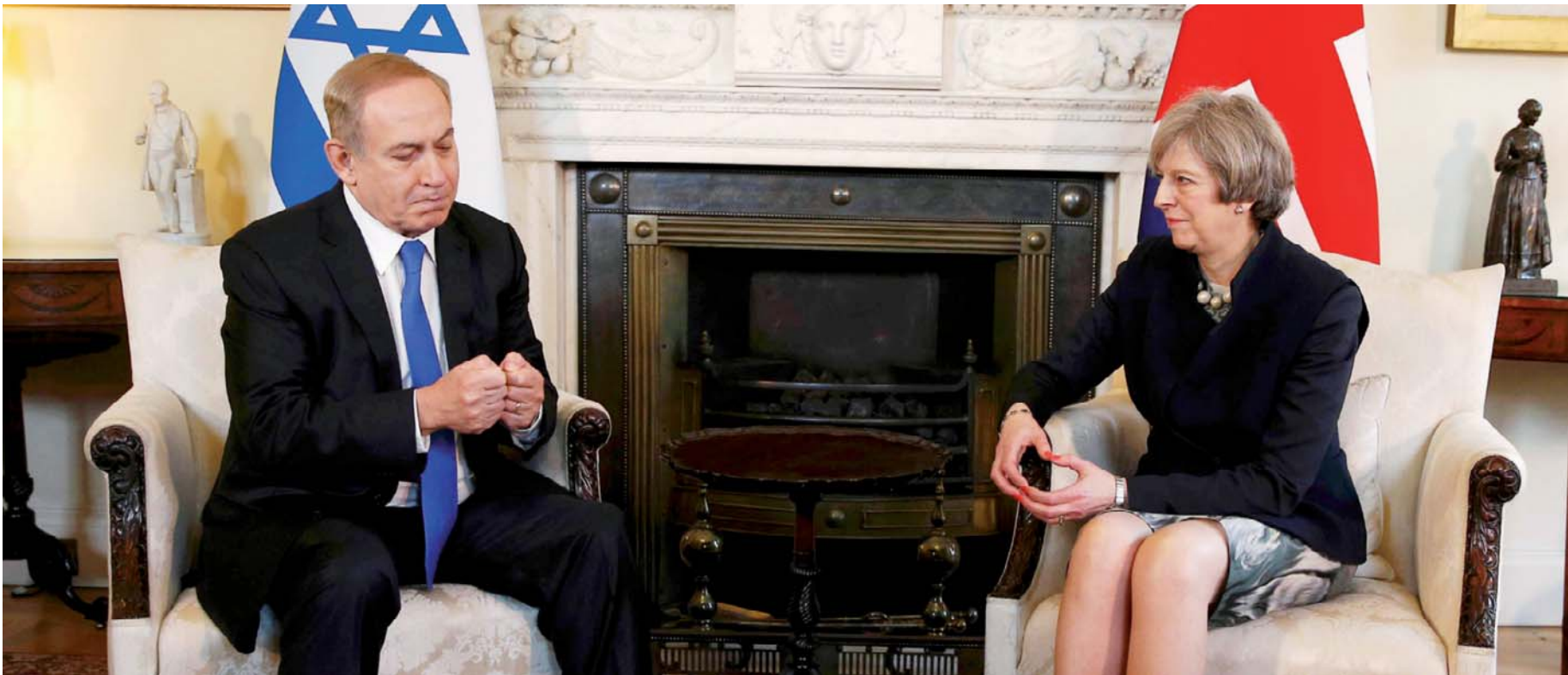




Independence protests as ex-Catalan chief stands trial

BIBI: NATIONS SHOULD BACK IRAN SANCTIONS

ISRAELI AND BRITISH PM TALK ABOUT SECURITY ISSUES



LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May listens to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during their meeting inside 10 Downing Street in central London yesterday.—AFP

LONDON: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that all "responsible nations" should back new sanctions against Iran, speaking during a meeting with his British counterpart Theresa May in London. He said he welcomed US President Donald Trump's "insistence on new sanctions against Iran. I think other nations should follow suit, certainly responsible nation," as he accused Iran of "provocation after provocation". "Iran seeks to annihilate Israel, it says so openly, it seeks to conquer the Middle East, it threatens Europe, it threatens the West, it threatens the world," he said.

"I'd like to talk to you on how we can ensure that

Iran's aggression does not go unanswered," he told May. Trump last week said Iran was now formally "on notice" after a recent missile test and has voiced opposition to the Iran nuclear deal. Netanyahu is a fierce opponent of the deal with world powers, including Britain, in which Iran pledged to curb its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief. A spokeswoman for May said the two leaders would "talk about a range of security and international issues, including the Middle East peace process." She said May would raise Britain's concern about how the "continued increase of settlements activity undermines trust."

There has been a sharp acceleration in Israeli settlement expansion plans since Trump took office last month, with more than 6,000 new homes announced in less than a fortnight. British Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood warned on Wednesday that the plans made the two-state solution "much harder to achieve". Britain voted in favor of a UN Security Council resolution passed in December demanding a halt to settlement construction. The vote prompted Israel to temporarily scale back relations. But Britain refused to sign the final statement of a Middle East peace conference held in Paris last month that was strongly opposed by Israel.—AFP

BRAZILIAN CITY WITH NO POLICE ASKS FOR MILITARY RESCUE

RIO DE JANEIRO: The governor of Vitoria in eastern Brazil called yesterday for federal troops to come to the rescue after police went on strike, leaving the city at the mercy of criminals. The acting governor of Espirito Santo state, Cesar Colnago, asked President Michel Temer "to send the National Force and the army to safeguard the security of citizens," a statement on the governor's website said. Police, aided by relatives and sympathizers blockading police stations, have been protesting against unpaid salaries since early Saturday.

With no patrols on the streets over the weekend, assaults and other crime have multiplied, Brazilian media reported. Globo television yesterday broadcast cellphone footage of burned and smashed buses, looted shops, and a crowd running in panic from what appeared to be gunshots. Students meant to be heading to their first day of school stayed at home and classrooms will remain shuttered "depending on the security situation," a spokesman for the mayor's office in Vitoria, which is capital of Espirito Santo state, said. State security chief Andre Garcia said on his Facebook page that the police chief had been replaced and that the new commander was tasked with "restoring order and discipline."

Talks would take place with the disgruntled officers "but with the fundamental condition that police are put on the streets," he said. "All possible means will be used to police the streets." Greater Vitoria has a population of more than 1.8 million people and is north-east of Rio de Janeiro on Brazil's central Tropical coast. The state has a population of 3.9 million.—AFP

40 years
 inspired by your trust



For the last 40 years, we have been journeying in the path of excellence and innovation to bring you better banking solutions suited to your needs. We are inspired by you.

Burgan Bank Group:
 Kuwait - Turkey - Algeria - Iraq - Tunisia - Lebanon

follow us on: Burgan Bank Official page @burganbankgroup Burgan Bank @burganbankkuwait
 For more information call 1804080, or visit www.burgan.com



TURKEY DETAINS OVER 750 IN ANTI-IS RAIDS

ISTANBUL: Turkish security forces have detained over 750 people suspected of links to the Islamic State extremist group in Turkey's biggest ever crackdown against the organization, state media said yesterday. Some 450 suspects were picked up in the initial phase of the nationwide operation on Sunday but the number held has now risen to 763, the Anadolu news agency said. It said raids took place in 29 of Turkey's 81 provinces and documents, weapons and ammunition were also seized.

The operation came just over a month after 39 people, mainly foreigners, were killed on New Year's night when a gunman went on the rampage inside a plush Istanbul nightclub. The IS jihadist group claimed the massacre, its first clear claim for a major attack in Turkey although it had been blamed for several bombings in 2016. Turkish police have over the last few years launched numerous raids against IS suspects but a nationwide operation on this

scale against the group is unprecedented.

Anadolu quoted Turkey's police directorate as saying that IS was looking to stage a "sensational action" inside the country for propaganda purposes, with media organizations seen as a possible target. No further details were given. Turkey was long accused by its Western allies of not doing enough to stop the flow of jihadists across its borders and emergence of IS cells in its own cities. Ankara denies the charges, saying it listed IS as a terror group since 2013.

However, observers say Turkey has markedly stepped up its actions against the group in the last few months. Police captured alive the suspected Reina nightclub attacker, Abdulgadir Masharipov, an Uzbek national, on Jan 16 after more than two weeks on the run and observers believe he may provide crucial intelligence. According to media reports, Masharipov had also considered attacking Istanbul's main Taksim Square as well as the offices of the opposition Cumhuriyet newspaper.—AFP



AL-BAB, Syria: Two fighters from the Free Syrian Army stand next to an armored pickup truck, one carrying a machine gun, near the town of Bizaah northeast of the city of Al-Bab, some 30 kilometers from the Syrian city of Aleppo.—AFP

AFGHAN DIPLOMAT KILLED BY HIS GUARD IN PAKISTAN

KARACHI: An Afghan diplomat was shot and killed by his security guard inside the consulate in the Pakistani port city of Karachi yesterday, officials said. Mohammad Zaki Abdu, the third secretary at the consulate, died of his wounds shortly after the shooting, according to the consulate's spokesman, Haris Khan. "We were working at our office when we heard gunshots," he said. "Everybody was running in panic." The guard, identified only as an Afghan national named Rahatullah, was taken into custody, said Pakistani police official Azad Khan.

Both officials said the motive behind the killing was not yet known. Pakistan has long been a hotbed of Islamic militancy. Foreign missions are provided extra security and also frequently hire their own private guards.

Rahatullah was the slain diplomat's personal bodyguard, and it wasn't clear whether the Afghan Consulate had hired him officially, said Khan, the police official. Noor Wali Khan Noor, a Foreign Ministry official in Kabul, said a delegation from the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad has been dispatched to Karachi to investigate the incident.

Pakistan's Foreign Office said police intervened immediately after the shooting, which took place in the lobby of the consulate. It said Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry spoke by phone with the Afghan ambassador to offer condolences and assistance in the investigation. Afghanistan and Pakistan have long accused each other of tolerating Islamic militants who operate along their porous border.—AP



KARACHI: Pakistani paramilitary soldiers stand beside an ambulance carrying the body of an Afghan diplomat outside the Afghan consulate in Karachi yesterday.—AFP

SUDANESE PRESIDENT CRITICIZES IRAN AND EGYPT

CAIRO: Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir accused Egyptian intelligence of supporting Sudan's opposition forces, and vowed to take a border dispute between the two neighbors to the United Nations Security Council if negotiations fail.

Al-Bashir, who came to power in 1989 coup and is the only sitting head of state facing genocide charges at the International Criminal Court, also accused Iran of attempting to spread Shiite Islam in Sudan in an extensive interview with Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya TV network. A close ally of Saudi Arabia, al-Bashir spoke at length about what he called Iran's expansionist plans in the region - saying the United States essentially "handed over" Iraq to Iranian control by ousting Saddam Hussein.

"Americans set up a Shiite state in Iraq," he said, adding that Iran now controls four Arab capitals, including Damascus, Lebanon's Beirut through Hezbollah and Yemen's Sanaa through Shiite rebels that control the capital. Sudan severed diplomatic ties with Iran in January last year in solidarity with Riyadh after the Saudis engaged in a public feud with Tehran. The dispute was

triggered when angry crowds attacked Saudi diplomatic missions to protest the kingdom's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric. Al-Bashir depends heavily on Saudi financial aid and has contributed jets and troops to the Saudi-led military coalition battling Shiite rebels in Yemen. The charges against the autocratic ruler stem from reported atrocities in the conflict in Darfur, in which 300,000 people were killed and 2 million displaced.

On Egypt, al-Bashir has had fluctuating relations with the country's army chief-turned-president Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. He said that the disputed Halaib Triangle on the Red Sea coast is Sudanese land which the Egyptians occupied in 1990. "If they insist there are no negotiations, we will be forced to seek the Security Council track," he said. He also accused Egyptian intelligence of providing shelter to Sudanese government opponents. Al-Bashir told the network that he will not run in the 2020 presidential elections. The 73-year-old underwent a heart procedure last month and has reneged on previous promises not to run in earlier presidential elections.—AP

IS BESIEGED IN LAST BASTION IN SYRIA'S ALEPPO PROVINCE

PRO-REGIME FORCES PILE PRESSURE ON JIHADISTS

BEIRUT: The Islamic State group is "completely besieged" in its last major stronghold in Syria's Aleppo province, a monitor said yesterday, as pro-regime forces piled pressure on the jihadists on several fronts. IS fighters were cut off in Al-Bab after forces loyal to the government of President Bashar al-Assad severed a road into the northern town, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. "Al-Bab is now completely besieged by the regime from the south, and the Turkish forces and rebels from the east, north and west," said the Britain-based monitor.

It came after "the regime's forces and allied militia seized the only and last main road used by the jihadists between Al-Bab and Raqa," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said, referring to the jihadists' de facto capital in Syria. Regime forces were backed by fighters from Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah and by Russian artillery, said the Observatory, which relies on a network of sources on the ground for its reports. The town of Al-Bab, 25 kilometers south of the border with Turkey, is seen as a prize by nearly all sides in the complex war.

Since December, Turkey-backed rebel fighters

known as the Euphrates Shield alliance have edged towards Al-Bab from the north. In Jan, Turkey's air force began carrying out joint bombing raids around Al-Bab with Assad's ally Russia. The two parties back opposing sides in the war but have joined forces in recent months to try to bring an end to the conflict.

Multiple fronts

Assad's regime has refocused on IS since fully recapturing Aleppo city in Dec, in the biggest blow to rebel forces fighting to topple his regime for nearly six years. IS is among several jihadist movements that have shot to prominence during the conflict, which has left more than 310,000 people dead and has forced millions more from their homes. Assad's forces were also locked in fighting with IS in the central province of Homs at the weekend, the Observatory said. It reported that the troops had captured the Hayyan oilfield west of the celebrated desert city of Palmyra.

They also fought back against IS around Al-Seen military airport northeast of Damascus, said the monitoring group. IS is facing simultaneous offensives in Syria and Iraq against its

self-proclaimed Islamic "caliphate". On Saturday, US-backed Kurdish and Arab fighters announced a new phase in their campaign to capture Raqa, but said they needed more weapons to win. The Syrian Democratic Forces launched their offensive for the key jihadist stronghold in Nov and have taken some ground further up the Euphrates Valley but are still some distance away.

SDF fighters have received training and air support from the US-led coalition against IS. Last week Washington said it had provided them with armored sports utility vehicles for the first time. US President Donald Trump, who made fighting "radical Islamic terrorism" a central plank of his election campaign, was due to visit US Central Command yesterday, meeting officers who will spearhead his new strategy to defeat IS. The military command plays a key role in Operation Inherent Resolve—the

US-led mission to "degrade and defeat" IS—which has resulted in 17,861 strikes across northern Syria and Iraq since Aug 2016. In late Jan, Trump ordered generals to begin a 30-day review of the US strategy to defeat the jihadist group.—AFP

HUNDREDS MARCH IN QUEBEC IN TRIBUTE TO MOSQUE SHOOTING VICTIMS

QUEBEC CITY: Several hundred people braved snow and cold Sunday in Quebec City to honor the six men shot to death a week earlier while praying at a local mosque. "No to Islamophobia, Yes to Peace," "Open Your Heart" and "No to Terrorism" were the messages on some of the signs and banners carried by marchers, many of them Muslim. The victims included two Algerians, a Tunisian, a Moroccan and two Guineans, all holding Canadian citizenship as well. They had been attending evening prayers at their mosque when a gunman stormed in and unleashed a barrage of bullets from a pistol and a semi-automatic rifle.

Eight other men were wounded—three remain hospitalized—in one of the worst attacks on the Muslim community of a Western nation. The suspect, Alexandre Bissonnette, 27, surrendered to police and was charged with six murders and five attempted murders. The march Sunday began not far from the mosque, at Laval University, where the presumed killer was a student, before proceeding to the national assembly of the French-speaking province. In a display of solidarity, organizers paired Muslim and non-Muslim marchers for the procession.

Mohamed Yangi, president of the Islamic Cultural Center of Quebec, where the mosque was located, said the march provided an opportunity to show a "unified" Quebec. He said he wanted to work with political leaders to help "eliminate messages of hate." Canadian politicians, led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, have denounced the words or acts of those who target Muslims. On Friday, at the funeral of three victims, Trudeau blasted radio commentators and politicians who have fanned tensions.—AFP



QUEBEC CITY: Several hundred people march in solidarity for the victims of the mosque shooting in Quebec City.—AFP

TRUMP TO VISIT CENTCOM, WITH SIGHTS ON BATTLING ISLAMIC STATE

PALM BEACH: President Donald Trump travels to US Central Command yesterday, meeting officers who will form the tip of the spear in implementing his new strategy to defeat the Islamic State group. After a three-day break in southern Florida, Trump will stop off at Centcom headquarters in Tampa on his way back to Washington. The military command is responsible for an area that includes the Middle East and Central Asia. It plays a key role in Operation Inherent Resolve—the US-led mission to "degrade and defeat" the Islamic State group—which has resulted in 17,861 strikes across northern Syria and Iraq since August 2016.

Apart from seizing territory and declaring a caliphate, the Islamic State

group has claimed responsibility for attacks in Africa, Europe, the United States, Southeast Asia and across the Middle East. It's seen as influencing attackers in San Bernardino, California, who killed 14 people in December 2015, and the attacker of an Orlando nightclub, who left 49 dead in June last year. In late January, Trump ordered generals to begin a 30-day review of the US strategy to defeat the Syria and Iraq-based militant group.

Trump had made fighting "radical Islamic terrorism" a central plank of his election campaign and the issue is emerging as the organizing principle of his foreign and domestic policies. He used potential cooperation in the fight against the Islamic State group as a rea-

son to embrace Russia and has tried to implement an order banning refugees and nationals of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States. The ban has spurred an unprecedented battle with the courts. On Sunday, Trump tried to pin the blame for future attacks on the federal judge who blocked his executive order.

"Just cannot believe a judge would put our country in such peril. If something happens blame him and court system. People pouring in. Bad!" Trump said. He did not offer evidence for the suggestion that would-be terrorists are flocking to the country. Most experts express more concern about Americans becoming radicalized and carrying out IS-inspired attacks, rather than the group

dispatching clandestine agents around the world. Hundreds of Trump's own diplomats have voiced their opposition to the ban.

Taking the fight to ISIS

The contours of Trump's policy to fight the Islamic State group abroad are still coming into focus. On Jan 28, he signed a presidential memorandum that called for a review including any "recommended changes to any United States rules of engagement." That could overshadow a tougher approach, but it is one that some experts believe could fuel radicalization.

During Trump's first days in office, US special forces carried out a raid against Al-Qaeda in Yemen which resulted in the

deaths of one US soldier, 14 jihadists and as many as 16 civilians.

Trump also called for the "identification of new coalition partners"—a likely nod toward Russia. Moscow has deployed aircraft, naval assets and troops to Syria, but has so far trained its fire on rebels with the aim of propping up Bashar al-Assad's regime. After substantial territorial gains, IS is now on the back foot, struggling

to hold onto the Iraqi city of Mosul and with its "capital" in Raqa under threat. But the battle is approaching a fork in the road. Trump has reportedly shelved his predecessor Barack Obama's plans for taking Raqa with the help of Kurdish forces and must soon decide how to proceed.—AFP

REPUBLICANS SEEK DISTANCE FROM TRUMP'S COMMENTS ON PUTIN, US

WEST PALM BEACH: US President Donald Trump has long expressed a desire for improved relations with Moscow, but his latest comments about Russian President Vladimir Putin and the US are leading some fellow Republicans to take a step back from the president - on this issue at least. Told by Fox News' Bill O'Reilly during an interview that the Russian leader is "a killer," Trump said the US has killers, too. "What do you think? Our country's so innocent?" Trump said during the taped interview broadcast during Sunday's Super Bowl pregame show.

Trump has praised Putin and signaled that US-Russia relations could be in for a makeover under his leadership, even after US intelligence agencies concluded that Russia meddled in the 2016 US presidential campaign to help Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton. During Putin's years in power, a number of prominent Russian opposition figures and journalists have been killed. Trump says in the interview that he respects a lot of people, including Putin "but that doesn't mean I'm going to get along with him. He's a leader of his country. I say it's better to get along with Russia than not.

And if Russia helps us in the fight against ISIS, which is a major fight, and Islamic terrorism all over the world - that's a good thing," Trump said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. "Will I get along with him? I have no idea." O'Reilly then said about Putin: "But he's a killer, though. Putin's a killer." Trump responded: "There are a lot of killers. We've got a lot of killers. What do you think? Our country's so innocent?" When O'Reilly says he doesn't know any US government leaders who are killers, Trump said "take a look at what we've done, too. We've made a lot of mistakes" and then he referenced the Iraq war.

The Kremlin voiced anger over O'Reilly's characterization. Dmitry Peskov, a spokesman for President Vladimir Putin, refused to comment on Trump's reply but lashed out at Fox, calling O'Reilly's remarks "unacceptable and offensive." "We would like to receive an apology to the president from this respected organization," Peskov told reporters yesterday, referring to Fox News. At home, Republicans and Democrats took exception to Trump's comparison of Russia and the US "Putin's a former KGB agent. He's a thug. He was not elected in a way that most people would consider a credible election," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said.

"The Russians annexed Crimea, invaded Ukraine and messed around in our elections. And no, I don't think there's any equivalency between the way the Russians conduct themselves and the way the United States does." Added Sen. Ben Sasse, of Nebraska, one of Trump's Republican critics: "There is no moral equivalency between the United States of America, the greatest freedom living nation in the history of the world, and the murderous thugs that are in Putin's defense of his cronyism. O'Reilly also asked Trump to back up his claim that some 3 million to 5 million illegal votes were cast in the election. Trump didn't answer directly, but

shifted to assert that immigrants in the US illegally and dead people are on the voter rolls.

"It's really a bad situation, it's really bad," Trump said. There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud in the Nov. 8 election. Trump won the Electoral College vote but lost the popular vote by nearly 2.9 million votes to Clinton. Trump recently announced on Twitter that he would call for a "major investigation" into voter fraud. He said during the Fox News interview that he will set up a commission to be headed by Vice President Mike Pence and "we're going to look at it very, very carefully."

Asked earlier about Trump's promised investigation, McConnell said he saw no federal role because states historically have handled voter fraud investigations. "I don't think we ought to spend any federal money investigating that," he said on CNN.

On other issues, Trump said in the interview that California's consideration of legislation to become a statewide sanctuary for people living in the country illegally is "ridiculous." He suggested withholding federal funding as a possible punishment. Plans to enact a complete replacement for the Affordable Care Act could slip into next year. "I would like to say by the end of the year, at least the rudiments, but we should have something within the year and the following year." Living in the White House is "a surreal experience in a certain way, but you have to get over it, because there's so much work to be done."—AP



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, US President Donald Trump waves as he walks with First Lady Melania Trump and their son Barron during the inauguration parade on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington. —AP

ENGLISH VS FRENCH TENSIONS TURN DEADLY

YAOUNDE, Cameroon: Only one high school student out of 4,000 showed up on the first day of Cameroon's new term in Bamenda, the English-speaking city at the heart of a deadly conflict over language in this bilingual West African country. Teachers have joined a strike led by lawyers resentful over the official use of French in the English-speaking part of the country. Recent protests have called for "ghost town" strikes in major cities. The government shut down the internet in the English-speaking region, digital advocacy group Access Now has said.

Tensions are so high that 10 people were killed in demonstrations over language discrimination in Bamenda in December. The government sent in 5,000 troops to stabilize the city. Two officials with the Cameroon Anglophone Civil Society Consortium have been charged with terrorism and rebellion against the state for their role in the recent protests and face the death penalty if convicted. The government has banned the consortium's activities. Another activist, Bibixy Mancho, faces the same charges.


Amnesty International has called for the release of Nkongho Felix Agbor-Balla and Fontem Aforteka'a Neba, saying that "this flagrant disregard for basic rights risks inflaming an already tense situation." Hundreds have been arrested, including protesters who stopped the singing of the Cameroonian national anthem, dismissing it as a foreign song. Some hoisted a new flag, declaring that they are no longer part of French-speaking Cameroon. Longtime President Paul Biya has said he is open to negotiations but will never accept any attempts to destabilize national unity.

Over the weekend, state media reported that teachers' union leaders had agreed to suspend the strike and that classes would resume yesterday, though opposition outlets said the report was incorrect. As the strike continues, one student, 17-year-old Oben Ashu, said he's afraid his education - and his future - will be compromised. "They should give us the room to go back to school and be studying while the government and the teachers sit down in a table and discuss how the problem can be solved," Ashu said. Cameroon is made up of areas that were once colonies of France and Britain until the early 1960s.

English speakers constitute only 20 percent of Cameroon's population, though the constitution says English and French should be equally important. But most official documents are still available only in French, and teachers with little English ability are often sent to English-language areas of the country. The protests began late last year when lawyers asked that French-speaking judges be transferred out of English-speaking regions, saying justice cannot be rendered when the judge, the lawyer and the suspect cannot communicate. When the lawyer's requests were not granted, they went to the streets and refused to defend clients in court.

Teachers also got involved, saying there is an overbearing influence of French in schools in the English-speaking regions. The impasse is frustrating students and parents who feel caught in the middle. "I am just pleading, government help us, so that our children, Cameroonians of tomorrow, should go back to school so that this country should be stabilized and peaceful," said parent Ndirp Victor. Bernard Okalia Bilai, governor of the southwest region, has warned the striking teachers that they will not receive their salaries unless they return to the classroom.


In response, Cameroon's government has ordered the recruitment of 1,000 bilingual teachers and the transferring of teachers out of the English-speaking region if they are not fluent in the language. Still, the chairman of Cameroon's main opposition political party cautioned the president and his government against taking the situation too lightly, saying that "if this thing stretches out ... it might be a little too dangerous for our country."—AP




Innovation that excites


WINNING IS GUARANTEED IN FEBRUARY

INSTANT PRIZES WORTH KD 100,000
IN ADDITION TO A DRAW FOR AMAZING PRIZES







NISSAN SUNNY
NOW STARTING FROM
3,299 KD




NISSAN SENTRA
NOW STARTING FROM
3,999 KD




NISSAN ALTIMA 2017
NOW STARTING FROM
5,450 KD

Visit us in Al-Rai and Al-Ahmadi Showrooms, Al-Rai showroom now open from 8:30 am till 8:30 pm - KFH/Shuwalkh T: 24397731 www.nissankuwait.com 



1 804 888
Customer Care Center

شركة عبد المحسن عبد العزيز البابتين ذ.م.ك.
Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co. W.L.L.



EU SAYS UKRAINE RIVALS MUST STICK BY MINSK ACCORDS

BRUSSELS: The EU yesterday insisted all parties must fully implement the Minsk ceasefire accords to restore peace in Ukraine, after US President Donald Trump stoked fresh concerns he could take a softer line on Russia. Trump repeated over the weekend he wanted to work with President Vladimir Putin to fight the Islamic State group, and drew fire from across the US political spectrum by playing down alleged political assassinations in Russia. The White House also

raised eyebrows by referring to "Ukraine's long-running conflict with Russia"—a framing of the situation that former national security advisor Susan Rice publicly criticized as a "distortion of... recent history".

Russia annexed the Ukrainian region of Crimea in March 2014 and has supported separatists in the east of the country. Asked about the US administration's remarks, EU foreign affairs head Federica Mogherini said she could not

speculate about their meaning but she was clear what the European Union's position was. The 28-nation bloc would "continue not to recognize" the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia, Mogherini said as she arrived for an EU foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels. The EU also recognizes "the need to fully implement the Minsk agreements, including or starting from a ceasefire and restoring calm to east Ukraine," she said. "I cannot say where the US adminis-

tration stands... I can only say where the EU stands on this," Mogherini added. British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson stressed there could be no easing of sanctions on Russia until peace was restored in Ukraine. "The UK will be insisting that there is no case for relaxation of the sanctions, there is every case for keeping up pressure on Russia," Johnson said as he went into the meeting. He said everyone was concerned by the recent upsurge in fighting between

government troops and pro-Moscow rebels in the east.

Russia annexed Crimea after pro-EU protesters ousted pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich, sparking a conflict which has cost nearly 10,000 lives and plunged EU ties with Moscow into a deep freeze. Trump meanwhile has repeatedly said he wants to improve relations with Putin, appearing to downplay events in Ukraine to the dismay of historic US allies in Europe. —AFP



PARIS: French presidential election candidate for the right-wing Les Republicains (LR) party Francois Fillon (2L) steps in a car as he leaves his home yesterday in Paris. —AFP

SCANDAL-HIT FILLON STAYS IN RACE FOR PRESIDENCY

PARIS: French conservative presidential candidate Francois Fillon yesterday vowed to fight on for the presidency despite a damaging scandal involving taxpayer-funded payments to his wife for work as a newspaper alleges she did not do. At a news conference in Paris, Fillon, 62, apologized to France for what he said was an error of judgment regarding the employment of family members, though he said his wife's work as parliamentary assistant over 15 years had been genuine and legal.

Announcing he would not pull out of the election, due to take place in April and May, he said: "A new campaign starts this evening." "I am the only candidate which can bring about a national recovery," he said. Fillon, a former prime minister, called the news conference after members of his own center-right party, The Republicans, urged him to quit the race to give the party time to find a replacement candidate. Before the

scandal surfaced in a weekly satirical newspaper nearly two weeks ago, opinion polls had shown Fillon to be the clear favorite to win the election, a two-stage ballot held on April 23 and May 7, over the far-right leader Marine Le Pen. Since then his approval ratings have plummeted and he is now seen failing to reach the May knockout.

A survey by Pollster Opinionway published yesterday showed independent centrist Emmanuel Macron, a former investment banker, challenging Le Pen in the runoff vote and winning comfortably. The weekly Le Canard enchaîné alleged that Fillon had approved hundreds of thousands of euros to be paid to his British-born wife Penelope for fraudulent work as a parliamentary assistant. Fillon denied his wife had not properly carried out the duties of a parliamentary assistant and said the campaign against him and his wife was exceptionally virulent. — Reuters

GREEK MINISTER, MIGRANTS FACE OFF IN CAMP PROTEST

ATHENS: Greek Immigration Minister Yiannis Mouzalas yesterday faced off with dozens of angry migrants who barred entry to an Athens camp in protest at poor living conditions. The demonstration broke out at the Hellinikon camp near Athens, which houses hundreds of predominantly Afghan migrants who had announced a hunger strike hours earlier. Television footage showed young children perched atop the camp's iron gate as Mouzalas tried to persuade dozens of protesters to let him into the facility. "We are human. We are not animals," one of the protesters shouted at the minister.

Mouzalas said some of the protesters had tried to punch him, and accused a radical left-wing group of fomenting the demonstration. "There is no hunger strike (the protesters) tried to stop food deliveries and the dispatch of sick persons to hospital," the minister told reporters. "Whoever feels repressed in this facility is free to go," he said. The anti-fascist Keerfa group, which

organized the protest, says the migrants lack hot water and are given food unsuitable to their dietary customs. A disused Olympic park, Hellinikon houses over 1,500 migrants who say the run-down stadiums are unsuited to long-term habitation.

A former member of Doctors of the World, Mouzalas was eventually allowed in after a shoving match with the migrants, many of them teenagers. Some 60,000 people, including many young Syrians, Afghans and Pakistanis, have been stuck in Greece for the past year, languishing in camps after countries along the migrant route into Europe shut their borders. At the start of the major influx in 2015, Afghans were originally viewed as refugees and allowed to continue their journey from Greece to other countries in Europe. But many now face deportation—despite growing insecurity that saw civilian casualties in Afghanistan hit a record high in 2016 — after a disputed deal between EU and Kabul to send migrants back. —AFP

THREE DEAD IN BERLIN GAY SAUNA CLUB FIRE

BERLIN: A fire that raged through a sauna club in Berlin popular with gay men left three people dead and one injured, emergency services said yesterday. The blaze broke out late Sunday in the "narrow and winding" warren of small private rooms, complicating the search for victims, the fire brigade said. Several doors had to be rammed open to check whether anyone had fallen unconscious as the thick smoke and fire spread through the club, which occupies the ground floor and cellar of a high-rise building and neighbors a care home for the elderly.

"It was a lot of work to break into each room and to check for victims," a fire

brigade spokesman said in a statement, adding that 80 rescue workers had been dispatched to the scene. A man suffering from smoke inhalation was pulled from the wreckage and taken to hospital. The Steam Works club in the central Schoeneberg district is made up of saunas and common areas, as well as 60 small rooms, each with a bed inside, and is a well-known meeting place for Berlin's gay scene. When firefighters arrived, about 25 club guests who had fled the blaze were standing on the street, some dressed only in towels, and directed emergency service workers to where victims might be. The cause of the blaze was not immediately clear. —AFP



BERLIN: Policemen stand in front of a sauna club in Berlin yesterday, where three men died in a fire the night before. —AFP

INDEPENDENCE PROTESTS AS EX-CATALAN CHIEF STANDS TRIAL

FORMER LEADER ACCUSED OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

BARCELONA: Thousands of protesters shouting "down with Spain's justice system" turned up yesterday in Barcelona at the trial of Catalonia's former leader Artur Mas, accused of civil disobedience for holding an independence referendum in 2014. The trial has stoked pro-independence sentiment in the wealthy, northeastern region of Catalonia at a time of high tensions between the local separatist government and Madrid.

Shouting "independence, independence," "down with Spain's justice system" and "we want to vote," several thousand Mas supporters gathered on a large palm tree-lined avenue next to the courthouse where the trial of the ex-Catalan president and two former associates began.

They are accused of serious civil disobedience and misconduct for having organized a symbolic, non-binding referendum in Nov 2014 despite a ban by Spain's Constitutional Court, which deemed it illegal. Prosecutors want them banned from holding public office for nine to 10 years, but their defense argues they were merely defending "the right to freedom of expression" of Catalans, many of whom want a say in the future of their 7.5-million strong region. "We are determined to go forward. We did what had to be done in 2014 and we would do it again if the circumstances allow it again," Mas told a press conference in Barcelona on Sunday.

Defending democracy

Catalonia, a region with its own language and customs, has long demanded greater autonomy. But in recent years, tensions with Madrid have markedly increased, as have calls for outright independence, culminating with the election in 2015 of a pro-independence government in Catalonia backed by a majority separatist parliament. A watershed moment was in 2010, when Spain's Constitutional Court watered down a special statute awarded to Catalonia in 2006 under the Socialist government, giving it more powers.

Supporters of independence slammed what they said was "judicial harassment" and asked for a referendum similar to the one organized in



BARCELONA: Former President of the Catalan Government and leader of Partit Demòcrata Europeu Català (Catalan European Democratic Party) PDECAT Artur Mas (between R and A letters) poses with other members of Catalan Government, the Catalan Parliament, Catalan mayors and party members before his arrival at the TSJC (Superior Court of Catalonia) in Barcelona yesterday. —AFP

Scotland in 2014. After the Constitutional Court banned that, Mas and his associates held the non-binding vote for which they are on trial. Catalonia's current government has promised to hold a referendum in September—a binding one this time, with or without Madrid's consent. But how exactly it will go ahead is unclear, as the conservative government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy insists that this type of local, one-region-only referendum is unconstitutional, and has vowed never to allow it.

Last week, reports emerged in several nation-

al dailies that Madrid was considering drastic measures to stop a vote, such as closing schools where polling booths could be set up or taking control of the police, which is normally managed by regional authorities.

The government neither confirmed nor denied the reports. The Catalans themselves, meanwhile, remain divided — 44.9 percent want independence while 45.1 percent don't, according to a recent poll conducted by a Catalan public institute. A large majority, however, wants a referendum. —AFP



BUCHAREST: Romania's prime minister Sorin Grindeanu speaks before the assembly during a parliament session in Bucharest, Romania, yesterday. —AP

ROMANIA GOVERNMENT FEELS HEAT AFTER RECORD DEMOS

BUCHAREST: Pressure intensified on Romania's government yesterday after half a million people joined the biggest nationwide protests in almost three decades, with many calling for it to quit. Demonstrators vowed no let-up as a no-confidence opposition motion was set for its first reading in parliament, although the government's majority means it is unlikely to pass. The sixth straight evening of demonstrations on Sunday came despite the left-wing government scrapping the measure that started it all: an emergency decree weakening anti-corruption laws.

Brandishing banners, waving flags and blowing whistles and vuvuzela horns, protesters said they believed the government was still not to be trusted, with many chanting "Resign! Resign!" "They are corrupt. We want justice... The government will still try something (with the decree)," Emma, 24, one of around 250,000 protesters that media estimated were in downtown Bucharest, said. "They are liars and bad people," her friend Nicole, 25, shouted above the racket at Victory Square, the epicenter. "The government has to fall... We are going to come back here every night." Despite the protests, which are the biggest since people power brought down Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and the com-

munist system in 1989, the government remained defiant.

Prime Minister Sorin Grindeanu said his Social Democrat party (PSD), which won a resounding election victory only in December, has "a responsibility to the people who voted for us" and would stay. PSD head Liviu Dragnea—already barred from office for a voter fraud conviction and currently on trial for alleged abuse of power, a charge he denies—said he believed the protests were being instigated by unspecified powerful forces. "Who is organizing this? Hard to say but I hope that the state institutions have this information," Dragnea said in a television interview. "I reproach myself for not having understood that this is a much better organized plan than a simple spontaneous movement."

Get out of jail

The government decree, which had been scheduled to enter into force on Feb 10, was to make abuse of power a crime only punishable by jail if the sums involved exceeded 200,000 lei (44,000 euros, \$47,500). One Monopoly-inspired placard on Sunday read: "Do not collect 200,000. Go straight to jail." The government still also aims, via a separate decree to be reviewed by

parliament, to free some 2,500 people from prison serving sentences of less than five years.

Grindeanu has argued the measures were meant to bring penal law into line with the constitution in the EU member state and reduce overcrowding in prisons. But critics see the moves as a brazenly transparent attempt to let off the many officials and lawmakers who have been ensnared in a major anti-corruption drive in recent years. That push, which won Romania kudos abroad, has seen almost 2,000 people convicted for abuse of power and a serving prime minister and a string of ministers and lawmakers go on trial.

Justice Minister Florin Iordache said that a bill taking into account all the grievances about the decree would be published later Monday and be debated with opposition parties and civil society groups. But demonstrators said they would continue to protest. "If we hit the streets again this evening (the government) won't be able to resist. It's today or never," wrote user Galbus on Facebook group "Corruption Kills". Political analyst Cristian Tudor Popescu compared the government to a "thief who tries to be pardoned if he brings back what he has stolen." —AFP

**System Administrator
 Specialist - Multi Technology
 Solutions - Kuwait**

You will be responsible for configuring, managing, and maintaining a multi platforming Windows Servers 2008/2012 environment, cluster environment, troubleshooting blade servers and Microsoft Hyper-V, discovering upcoming operating systems or platform configuration updates.

Apply Now [JB293667](#)

**Brand Manager
 Beauty Palace
 Kuwait**

You will be responsible for collecting and analyzing consumer and marketing insights and competition strategies to make recommendations to the management, mobilizing and working with other departments, partner agencies, and distributors to build a broader business strategy and meet deadlines.

Apply Now [JB2616837](#)

**Parent Liaison (Bilingual)
 ABC of Kuwait
 Kuwait**

You will be responsible for acting as a liaison between our company's clinical/educational departments, administration and our clients, parent meetings to explain ABC's services, following up communication with parents and managing services waiting list, coordinating trainings, assessments and the enrollment of new clients.

Apply Now [JB3616816](#)

**Procurement Co-ordinator
 FCCI
 Kuwait**

You will be responsible for co-ordinating, between departments for approvals & liaising with vendors for deliveries and document submission. The role also involves co-ordinating with IT for development & improvement of the system for the team. Sourcing & logistics co-ordination will be part of the responsibility at times.

Apply Now [JB3616109](#)

**Dynamics AX Developer
 SOS HR Solutions
 Kuwait**

You will be responsible for reviewing projects, management plans and documentation to ensure that the IT projects comply with the SDLC processes and from a deliverables and project management deliverable quality perspective, participating whenever necessary in the software vendor evaluation process.

Apply Now [JB3274010](#)

**Sales Consultant (HR Services)
 SOS HR Solutions
 Kuwait**

You will be responsible for acquiring companies that have no significant revenue history by selling our assessment products and services, initiating and developing a strong relationship with companies who have assessment needs, meeting clients to define their needs and recommend a solution, presentations and demos to potential clients.

Apply Now [JB3595723](#)

**Finance & Customer Service
 Representative - Blueprint
 Holding Co. - Kuwait**

You will be responsible for sending the following to clients/buyers: thank you emails, reports, construction updates, payment updates, maintaining & updating the following: sales sheets - client's information sheet / client's folder, saving original reservation forms and a copy of the clients identification information.

Apply Now [JB3615821](#)

**HR / Finance Officer
 Isam Kabbani Group
 Kuwait**

You will be responsible for ensuring the provision of a successful and proactive HR and Finance function, entering expenses into ERP, preparing proper records for the consumption of fuel and petty cash, reporting, generation, preparing monthly salaries for labour based on time cards received etc.

Apply Now [JB3615743](#)

**Instrument & Control
 Technician - Kindasa Water
 Services - KSA**

You will be responsible for calibrating pressure transmitters, switches and valves, performing corrective and preventive maintenance on the plant's instruments control system, monitoring and checking the operational performance and characteristics of the various field instruments, checking and calibrating liquid analyzers.

Apply Now [JB3460528](#)

**Qualitative Researcher
 The Research Base
 KSA**

You will be responsible for carrying out interviews in person, by phone or Skype, with a range of stakeholders over a three-week period, beginning immediately after the training. Interview questions will be both qualitative and quantitative and seek to understand what challenges and opportunities are being faced both by employers and the migrant workers.

Apply Now [JB3616774](#)

**Head of Teaching and
 Learning - Niagara College
 KSA**

You will be responsible for overseeing the development and execution of all foundation and vocational diploma programs while providing strategic leadership in a positive, energetic and dynamic manner and building a strong, unified team of faculty who will meet the educational mission of the College.

Apply Now [JB3615823](#)

**Finance Manager
 Al Razi Pharma Industries
 KSA**

You will be responsible for maintaining a documented system of accounting policies and procedures, managing outsourced functions, overseeing the operations of the treasury department including the design of an organizational structure adequate for achieving the department's goals and objectives.

Apply Now [JB3616205](#)

**Business Manager
 Phanes Group
 UAE**

You will be responsible for structuring, implementing and managing an integrated IT policy (back-up, security, daily IT issues, monthly reporting etc.), drafting, implementing, and monitoring the process to ensure compliance to policies (in collaboration with legal team), anticipating business needs early on and proactively addressing them.

Apply Now [JB3617026](#)

**Architect
 Delhi Arch
 UAE**

You will be responsible for operating as the main point of contact between all ID site activities and the remote design team, reporting at all times and as instructed in due course to the Project Design Architect (PDA), conducting supervision responsibilities in adherence to guidelines as indicated in the supervision manual.

Apply Now [JB3616771](#)

**Accountant/ Office
 Administrator - PrimeXM
 UAE**

You will be responsible for handling a variety of tasks including accounting/book-keeping, PRO (obtaining all documents needed from UAE government and authorities, processing work visas and related paperwork) and Office Administrator (facilities, premises, contract related, pantry supplies, etc.).

Apply Now [JB3616773](#)

**Property Sales Consultant
 Aurum Real Estate Brokers LLC
 UAE**

You will be responsible for identifying the real estate market, acting as an intermediary in negotiations between buyers and sellers over property prices and settlement details, and during the closing of sales, generating lists of properties for sale, their locations and descriptions, accompanying buyers during visits and inspections of property.

Apply Now [JB3616622](#)

**Planning Manager - Generic
 Engineering Technology
 Qatar**

You will be responsible for providing estimates of project costs and durations at all stages of the architect's methodology of work, from conceptual design to construction documents, contributing to value engineering and constructability reviews, managing the resolution of planning phase risk associated with the clarity, specificity, and completeness of construction documents.

Apply Now [JB3576020](#)

**Architect
 ASTAD Project Management
 Qatar**

You will be responsible for providing, with full responsibility and accountability, a technical service to ASTAD in all areas of architecture, fit outs and FF&E works, during definition and execution stages, ensuring that all designs are in compliance with the latest local / international codes / standards, national / international company requirements and procedures.

Apply Now [JB3617031](#)

**Digital Marketing Professional
 Nabina Trading Fsl.
 Qatar**

You will be responsible for planning and executing all web, SEO/SEM, marketing database, email, social media and display advertising campaigns, designing, building and maintaining our social media presence, measuring and reporting performance of all digital marketing campaigns, and assess against goals (ROI and KPIs).

Apply Now [JB3616227](#)

**Quantity Surveyor
 Abdullah Abdulghani & Bros
 Co. W.L.L (AAB) - Qatar**

You will be responsible for checking the tender documentation and reporting on irregularities, producing valuations correctly and on time (Conquest or Excel), including budgetary valuations and any projected future costs which will involve regular communication with the PQS and/or Architect, keeping of diary for due payments, raising of invoices and collection of due money in conjunction with the Finance Department.

Apply Now [JB3616974](#)

www.bayt.com

Register > Upload your CV > Apply

US-BOUND BHUTANESE REFUGEES LEFT IN LIMBO

JHAPA, Nepal: Kalimaya Magar had given away most of her belongings as she prepared to leave the refugee camp in Nepal for a new life in the United States. But after more than two decades of waiting, her departure—originally scheduled for this week—was cancelled in an instant after US President Donald Trump issued a temporary ban on refugee arrivals. The US has been the largest recipient of Bhutanese of ethnic Nepali origin who say they are fleeing persecution in the tiny Himalayan kingdom. More than 90,000 have been welcomed into the US since 2007, when talks to secure their return to Bhutan collapsed.

Over 10,000 still live in camps across

Nepal but Trump's controversial order on refugee resettlement has plunged many into limbo.

"My hope for freedom from this life as a refugee is only a dream now," Magar said at Beldangi camp last week. The 41-year-old was due to be resettled in Vermont with her husband and children. A notice circulated to refugees at the camp last week said "there would be no departure-related processes from Feb 3 until further notice", and referred to the order signed by the US president.

While the travel ban on refugees has since been suspended by a US court, those at the camp were unsure what that meant for them. "We've heard rumors,

but have no official information about if or when we might be able to go," Magar said yesterday.

A State Department spokesperson said they have been informed about the court ruling, but did not specify its impact on the Bhutanese resettlement program. "We are working closely with our legal teams as well as our interagency and overseas partners to comply with the order," the spokesperson said.

Cold comfort

More than 100,000 ethnic Nepalis fled Bhutan in the early 1990s after the Buddhist kingdom made national dress compulsory and banned the use of the

Nepali language. The majority were resettled in the US while thousands more found new homes in Europe, Australia and Canada, among other destinations. Trump's order on Jan 27 unleashed chaos and confusion around the world after it barred refugees from entering the US for 120 days and indefinitely blocked those from Syria.

The UN refugee agency UNHCR, which has publicly criticized the ban, estimates more than 20,000 people worldwide were slated for resettlement in the US during that window. A US federal judge on Friday suspended the presidential order pending a wider legal review.

An appeals court on Sunday refused a government request immediately to reinstate the ban. But its cold comfort for Aitemaya Tamang, who was told a day before she was to depart to join her family in the US that her resettlement had been suspended.

Tamang, who was only a toddler when she fled Bhutan, had packed her bags and attached labels marked with her destination: North Carolina. "I am shocked and worried," the 26-year-old said from her hut in the camp, her bags on the floor. "I wanted to go because I want to work and earn for my family and send my son to a good school. Now I don't know what will happen."—AFP



MANILA: Secretary Ismael Sueno, left, of the Department of Interior and Local Government and Philippine National Police Chief Director General Ronald Bato Dela Rosa, at the wreath-laying ceremony to mark the police force's 26th Foundation at the PNP General Headquarters in suburban Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines, yesterday.—AP

PHILIPPINES RESUMES ASSAULTS ON REBELS AFTER TALKS SCRAPPED

MILITARY ACCUSED OF VIOLATING CEASE FIRE

MANILA: Philippine troops have resumed assaults against communist rebels, killing at least one guerrilla, after President Rodrigo Duterte scrapped peace talks with the insurgents, military officials said yesterday. Duterte had lifted the government's six-month-old cease-fire Friday and the next day discarded the talks being brokered by Norway. Those moves came after the Marxist guerrillas abandoned their own truce and killed six soldiers and kidnapped two others in new flare-ups in the 48-year insurgency. The government and the rebels separately declared cease-fires last year to foster the peace talks, which progressed steadily for months before rapidly deteriorating in recent weeks.

Yesterday, rebel adviser Luis Jalandoni accused the military of violating the government's cease-fire by deploying troops in 500 villages, occupying village halls and schools, and continuing surveillance operations that he said inevitably led to clashes. The guerrillas want to continue with talks set for Feb. 22-25 in Europe to negotiate a possible joint cease-fire agreement, Jalandoni said, adding the govern-

ment has not issued the formal notice required to terminate the talks. "We're saying the peace talks are still possible in the absence of a cease-fire," Jalandoni told radio DZMM by telephone from Europe.

Peace talks

Troops have resumed combat operations after Duterte lifted the cease-fire, military spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said. The operations were in response to complaints from villagers of rebel extortion and efforts to rescue the kidnapped soldiers, he said. Army troops clashed with about 20 New People's Army guerrillas Sunday in Occidental Mindoro province south of Manila, killing one rebel, and on Saturday, troops and policemen arrested a rebel couple in Misamis Occidental province in the south for a multiple attempted murder case, the military said. At least four other combat operations occurred elsewhere.

In Compostela Valley province in the south, guerrillas were suspected of setting ablaze a banana plantation packing warehouse in Pantukan town late Sunday, military officials

said, and a rebel consultant, Ariel Arbitrario, was taken into custody for questioning by troops yesterday at a checkpoint in southern Davao city, Duterte's hometown. Duterte called the insurgents terrorists for their brutal attacks on troops and threatened to re-arrest several rebel leaders who were temporarily freed to join the peace talks. Jalandoni, however, said the 17 freed rebels are protected by a 1995 agreement under which the government agreed to grant them immunity from arrest while serving as peace talks consultants.

All have returned to the Philippines after joining a recent round of talks in Rome and should not be arrested, he said. Duterte has said he may reconsider his decision if there was a compelling reason, but he did not elaborate. The setback in the talks is the latest reality check for Duterte, whose signature crackdown on illegal drugs has been tainted by an extortion scandal involving police and alleged extrajudicial killings. He has said he would use the military to enforce anti-drug laws instead of police, adding to the pressure on forces already fighting communist rebels and a Muslim insurgency in the south.—AP

THAILAND BLAMES PM DEATH THREATS ON LAOS SUSPECTS

BANGKOK: Thailand's national security chief said yesterday that a group of Laos-based Thais wanted for spreading anti-monarchy messages had made death threats against the prime minister and his deputy. The allegation comes as Thailand seeks to extradite the group for slandering the royal family—an offence punishable by up to 15 years in prison per count. "The threats came from Thais who are disloyal to the monarchy and ran away to live in Laos...It is the same group that held radio programs defaming the monarchy," national security chief Thaweeep Netniyom told reporters in Bangkok.

The group allegedly issued the death

threats against Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha and his deputy, defense minister Prawit Wongsuwan, on social media. "They did it to hit back at the government that wants to prosecute them," Thaweeep said. Thailand's military government has tried in vain to extradite a number of royal insult suspects who have fled abroad since its 2014 coup. Neighboring Laos has yet to publicly comment on Thailand's efforts to bring the royal defamation suspects home.

Less majestic prosecutions have skyrocketed under the royalist junta, with courts handing down record jail sentences, often for comments posted online.—AFP

ONE IN 14 CATHOLIC PRIESTS ACCUSED OF ABUSE IN AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY: Seven percent of Catholic priests were accused of abusing children in Australia between 1950 and 2010 but the allegations were never investigated, "shocking and indefensible" data showed yesterday during an inquiry into pedophilia in the church. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse heard that 4,444 alleged incidents of pedophilia were reported to church authorities and in some dioceses, more than 15 percent of priests were alleged perpetrators.

Australia ordered the Royal Commission in 2012 after a decade of growing pressure to investigate allegations of child abuse across the country, with the inquiry now in its final phase after four years of hearings. "Between 1950 and 2010, overall seven percent of priests were alleged perpetrators," said Gail Furness, the lawyer leading questioning at the inquiry in Sydney. "The accounts were depressingly similar. Children were ignored or worse, punished. Allegations were not investigated. Priests and religious (figures) were moved," she added.

"The parishes or communities to which they were moved knew nothing of their past. Documents were not kept or they were destroyed. Secrecy prevailed as did cover ups." The average age of the victims at the time was 10 for girls and 11 for boys. Of the 1,880 alleged perpetra-

tors, 90 percent were men. The St John of God Brothers religious order was the worst, with just over 40 percent of members accused of abuse. The commission has spoken to thousands of survivors and heard claims of child abuse involving churches, orphanages, sporting clubs, youth groups and schools.

The church in Australia set up the Truth, Justice and Healing Council to coordinate its response. "These numbers are shocking, they are tragic, they are indefensible," its chief executive Francis Sullivan told the commission. "This data, along with all we have heard over the past four years, can only be interpreted for what it is: a massive failure on the part of the Catholic Church in Australia to protect children from abusers. "As Catholics we hang our heads in shame."

The inquiry has embroiled Australia's most senior Catholic cleric George Pell, now the Vatican's finance chief, who was questioned over his dealings with pedophile priests in Victoria state in the 1970s. Pell was also accused of historic sex abuse claims when he was the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney in 2002, but was later cleared of any wrongdoing. He has denied all allegations. Since being set up, the commission has made over 300 referrals to police but so far there have only been 27 prosecutions with 75 cases pending.—AFP

JAPAN RESUMES WORK ON US BASE ON OKINAWA

TOKYO: The Japanese government yesterday resumed work on building a controversial US airbase on Okinawa Island, sparking angry protests and scuffles with police. The Japanese and US governments want the Futenma airbase located in a crowded city on the island moved to a sparsely populated area in the north for safety reasons. But many Okinawans want it off the island altogether. Okinawa governor Takeshi Onaga had tried to block efforts to reclaim land for the new offshore facility and he and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe filed rival lawsuits to try to settle the issue.

But in December the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the central government, giving the green light to move ahead on construction. "The government's position was entirely supported by the Supreme Court ruling," top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told a regular briefing yesterday. He said that during a visit Friday and Saturday by US Defense Secretary James Mattis, the two sides reaffirmed that the new facility "is the only solution". Japanese TV footage showed construction vessels carrying gigantic concrete blocks offshore, where workers will soon start

dropping them into the water for landfill purposes.

Tokyo and Washington first proposed moving the Futenma airbase, a Marine Corps facility located in the middle of the city of Ginowan, in 1996. But the plan has been mired in local opposition. Campaigners want a replacement built elsewhere in Japan or overseas, saying they can no longer tolerate the heavy American military presence on Okinawa due to noise, accidents and crimes by US service members. Yesterday, dozens of protesters were seen trying to block heavy trucks and machines from entering the construction site, scuffling with riot police.

Okinawa, which accounts for less than one percent of Japan's total land area, hosts about 28,000 US troops—more than half of the approximately 47,000 American military personnel stationed in Japan. Islanders have complained for decades that the rest of the country ignores their burden. "Does the government really see Okinawans as Japanese? I am extremely angry," said Susumu Inamine, mayor of the city of Nago that has jurisdiction over the construction area.—AFP

RECORD COCAINE BUST IN AUSTRALIA



NEW SOUTH WALES: This photo shows packages of cocaine seized from a yacht off the New South Wales coast by the Australian Federal Police, yesterday.—AFP

SYDNEY: Australia has made its largest cocaine haul ever after seizing a yacht carrying 1.4 tons of the drug with an estimated street value of Aus\$312 million (US\$239 million). The boat was stopped off the New South Wales coast on Feb 2 and six men were arrested, police said yesterday, following a two-and-a-half year joint investigation between Australia and New Zealand. "This is the largest cocaine haul ever seized in a single operation in Australia's history," said Immigration Minister Peter Dutton. Police allege the yacht sailed from New Zealand to a "mothership" in the South Pacific to pick up the drugs last month.

A 63-year-old New Zealand man and a 54-year-old Swiss-Fijian dual national who were aboard the yacht were taken into custody, while four men aged between 32 and 66 were arrested in Sydney. The haul is the second record-breaking bust in recent weeks, with police dismantling a cocaine ring in Dec in a joint operation with Tahiti. That was previously the largest haul of its kind, with the sting netting 1.1 tons of the drugs in Tahiti and Sydney worth hundreds of millions of dollars, all destined for Australia.

With high street prices making Australia an attractive destination for drug-smugglers, police say they have stopped more than 11 tons of illicit substances bound for the local market in the past 18 months. "We hope that this operation sends a strong message to anyone thinking of smuggling drugs: no matter how innovative or complex their ways are, our evolving detection methods and resources, including at sea, will keep up with them," said Australian Federal Police deputy commissioner of operations Michael Outram.—AFP



OKINAWA: Anti-US base protesters stage a rally outside of the US Marine Camp Schwab against the construction work in the Henoko coastal area in Nago, Okinawa prefecture yesterday.—AFP



GAZA: Palestinians run for cover as smoke rises following an Israeli air strike on a Hamas post in the northern Gaza Strip yesterday. — AFP

ISRAEL STRIKES HAMAS AFTER 'PROJECTILE' FIRED

JERUSALEM: Israel struck a number of positions of Islamist movement Hamas in Gaza after a "projectile" fired from the Palestinian enclave yesterday hit a border area, the Israeli army said. One Palestinian was injured and taken to hospital, according to medical sources in Hamas-run Gaza. Two Hamas posts were targeted by Israeli tank fire, a Palestinian security source said, while air strikes later hit targets in northern Gaza, sending a column of black smoke into the air, an AFP reporter said.

"(An) initial inquiry suggests a projectile launched from the Gaza Strip landed in an open area," an Israeli army statement said, causing no injuries or major damage. "The (army) will not tolerate rocket fire towards civilians and will

continue to ensure security and stability in the region," army spokesman Peter Lerner said in another statement.

A Palestinian security source later said Israeli artillery targeted two Hamas bases east of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza after a border patrol came under fire. The last rocket fire from Gaza into Israel occurred in October. Since the devastating conflict of 2014, Israel and Hamas have observed a fragile ceasefire along the largely closed border. Missiles and rockets are occasionally fired at Israel but are often attributed to other Islamist groups inside impoverished Gaza. The Israeli army usually retaliates by striking the positions of Hamas, which it holds responsible for the territory. — AFP

INFO MINISTER 'QUITS' AFTER GRILLING OVER...

Continued from Page 1

The minister categorically denied the allegations and charged that Kuwaitis in key posts in international sports organizations were behind orchestrating the ban.

Tabtabaei, Babtain and Subaei said in separate statements that the minister submitted his resignation, and expressed readiness to cooperate with the new minister to resolve the problems highlighted in the grilling. But Assembly Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanem said yesterday that he has not been informed of any resignation of the information minister and the no-confidence session tomorrow

is still valid, unless he is notified today.

In another development, the Assembly's interior and defense committee yesterday approved key amendments to the nationality law that stipulate that no citizenship can be revoked without a final court verdict. The amendment also states that no one can be deported after revoking his/her citizenship without a final court ruling. It also states that revocation of citizenships should not extend to wives and children.

Meanwhile, the Assembly's foreign relations committee discussed yesterday Iraqi moves towards the Khor Abdullah waterway. Head of the panel MP Ali Al-Deqbasi said the Assembly will debate the issue on Feb 14.

TRUMP HITS OUT AT RISING OPPOSITION TO TRAVEL BAN

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump lashed out yesterday at signs of rising public opposition to his controversial travel ban as tech giants threw their weight behind a push in US courts to roll it back. With the ban suspended since Friday, the legal battle has moved to San Francisco where a US court of appeals ordered the administration to submit a brief yesterday defending Trump's Jan 27 decision. The president's executive order summarily denied entry to all refugees, and travelers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen - a move critics charge will damage US interests.

Despite initial public support, two new polls show that a majority of Americans now oppose the ban - findings that Trump angrily dismissed as media lies. "Any negative polls are fake news, just like the CNN, ABC, NBC polls in the election," he said on Twitter. "Sorry, people want border security and extreme vetting." Trump, who spent the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, is said to be increasingly frustrated with his staff's failure to contain the fallout from the ban's botched rollout, which sparked chaos at US airports and drew international condemnation, the New York Times reported.

The order slapped a blanket ban on entry for nationals of the seven mainly-Muslim countries for 90 days and barred all refugees for 120 days. Refugees from Syria were blocked indefinitely. But Friday in Seattle, a federal district judge ordered the temporary nationwide suspension of the president's order, allowing the thousands of travellers who were suddenly barred from US soil to start trickling back in.

Mounting opposition

In an additional blow, a slew of Silicon Valley giants led by Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft and Twitter filed a legal brief late Sunday in support of the lawsuit. The 97 companies speaking out against Trump's travel ban said it harms recruiting and retention of talent, threatens business operations, and hampers their ability to attract investment to the United States. The ban "inflicts significant harm on American business, innovation, and growth," said the brief, whose backers also include Airbnb, Dropbox, eBay, Intel, Kickstarter, LinkedIn, Lyft, Mozilla, Netflix, PayPal, Uber and Yelp.

A group of prominent Democrats including former secretaries of state John Kerry and Madeleine Albright joined their voices to the criticism on Monday, in a legal filing to the San Francisco appeals court. "We view the order as one that ultimately undermines the national security of the United States, rather than making us safer," they said. "Reinstating the executive order would wreak havoc on innocent lives and deeply held American values." Specifically, the Democrats said Trump's travel ban could endanger US troops in the field, disrupt counterterrorism cooperation and feed Islamic State group propaganda.

'Frustrating'

Top Republicans also have also shown renewed signs of discomfort with the new president, with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell chiding Trump on Sunday for attacking the judge who suspended the ban. "I think it is best to avoid criticizing judges individually," he said on CNN. Trump



TAMPA: US President Donald Trump speaks following a visit to the US Central Command and Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base yesterday. Trump met officers who will form the tip of the spear in implementing his new strategy to defeat the Islamic State group. — AFP

had blasted Judge James Robart in a series of angry tweets. "Just cannot believe a judge would put our country in such peril. If something happens blame him and court system. People pouring in. Bad!"

The appeals court in San Francisco on Sunday refused to overrule Robart, and ordered the administration to present a brief by 2300 GMT yesterday. Vice President Mike Pence called the setback "frustrating." "We will move very quickly," he told Fox News on Sunday. "We are going to win the arguments because we will take the steps necessary to protect the country, which the president of the United States has the authority to do."

The attorney generals for the states of Washington and Minnesota, which won the temporary stay of Trump's ban, have asked the appeals court to refuse to reinstate it. Before now, they argued, no US president has imposed "a categorical bar on admission on a generalized (and unsupported) claim that some might engage in misconduct," they argued. "The order flouts Congress's clear command prohibiting nationality-based discrimination," they said.

Arrivals

With the ban suspended, travelers from the targeted countries holding valid visas have begun arriving on American soil. In New York, 33-year-old Sudanese doctor Kamal Fadlalla rejoiced - after a week blocked in his home country, he was back in the Big Apple with friends and colleagues. "It feels great," Fadlalla told AFP on Sunday at John F Kennedy International Airport. "It was a tough week actually."

Iranian graduate student Sara Yarjani, who was initially deported under Trump's order, arrived in Los Angeles. "I am so grateful to all the lawyers and others that helped me," she said tearfully. The State Department has said visa holders from the seven countries are allowed to travel to the US as long as their documents have not been "physically canceled". — AFP

Kuwait Times

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
 ads@kuwaittimes.net
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Happy New Deal

Best Offer

HP-2135 Deskjet
Ink Advantage

13 KD .900

- Print speed Upto 20 PPM
- Resolution 4800x1200 Color
- Resolution 1200x1200 Black
- Upto 1000Pages

BEST DEAL

PRINT-COPY-SCAN

NEW

159 KD .900

- 1TB HDD
- 6 GB RAM
- Windows 10
- 2GB Graphic Card

INTEL LATEST PROCESSOR 7th GEN

CORE I5 inside

BUNDLE WORTH 15KD

16GB FLASH DRIVE

Phab2
ZA190049AE Gold
ZA190063AE Gray

59 KD .900

- 13MP & 5MP
- LONG BATTERY LIFE
- 32GB Storage
- 3GB RAM

4G

SMART PHONE TAB

Get Gift Worth 15 KD

Lenovo Z38C01384 Back Cover
Lenovo Z38C01384 Screen Protector
X-Mini Max-Dual
Speaker

best بست
AL-YOUSIFI اليوسفي

Credit: Start from 5KD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalid str.) • Shuwaikha (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road)

• Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaeel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

PEUGEOT PARTNER .. FOR UNEXPECTED PROFITS

From **K.D 95** Monthly

- Service package
- Extended Warranty
- 3rd Party Insurance & Registration

MOTION & EMOTION

الشركة الكويتية لاستيراد السيارات ذ.م.م.
Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. W.L.L.

Working Hours: From Saturday - Thursday
From: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Call:
5501 5636 - 6902 4472

www.kalco.net
[/PeugeotKw](https://www.facebook.com/PeugeotKw)
[@PeugeotKw](https://www.instagram.com/PeugeotKw)
[PeugeotKw](https://www.linkedin.com/company/PeugeotKw)

Kuwait Times
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Focus

IN INDIA, ICE TOWERS COULD TURN DEADLY LAKE INTO WATER BANK

The government of Sikkim in India's northeast is lowering the risk of a devastating flood by draining water from a dangerously overfull glacial lake - with plans to turn the excess water into towers of ice for farmers to use in the warmer months. The water level in the South Lhonak glacial lake is expected to lower by 2 m from its previous depth of 20 m by the end of the winter, thanks to a process of siphoning that began last September, experts and Sikkim government officials said.

A sensor that monitors sudden fluctuations in the water level also has been installed near the lake, which lies at an altitude of over 5,400 m and is accessible only by a five-day trek over high passes. But perhaps the most innovative part of the operation is that, under current plans, some of the water drainage pipelines will have their final sections raised vertically. As pressure forces water out of the raised tip into sub-zero air, the flow will form ice cones.

Over the past three winters a similar project in Ladakh, designed by environmental engineer Sonam Wangchuk, has created an ice cone 20 m high, and five smaller ones of about 4 m. Wangchuk, who is now working on the Sikkim project, said that in late spring meltwater from the cones can be collected in tanks and fed onto planted land using a drip-irrigation system. The largest ice cone in Ladakh supplied about 1 million liters of water, he said.

The cones resemble stupas, or towers used in Buddhist worship, that are found across Ladakh and also in Sikkim. "Creating the ice stupas is an effort to help the farmers get water when they need it the most. We are also exploring ice climbing, ice skating, ice hockey and ice sculpture of the stupas in order to develop a new form of winter tourism in Ladakh," Wangchuk said.

Less Risk, More Water

The potential danger posed by the Sikkim lake was first assessed in 2013 by scientists from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) in Hyderabad. They reported that by 2008 the surface area of the lake had increased to more than five times its size in 1977, from about 17 hectares to nearly 100 hectares. According to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), a regional intergovernmental organization, rapid increases in the volume of glacial lakes are usually the result of faster glacial melt associated with climate change.

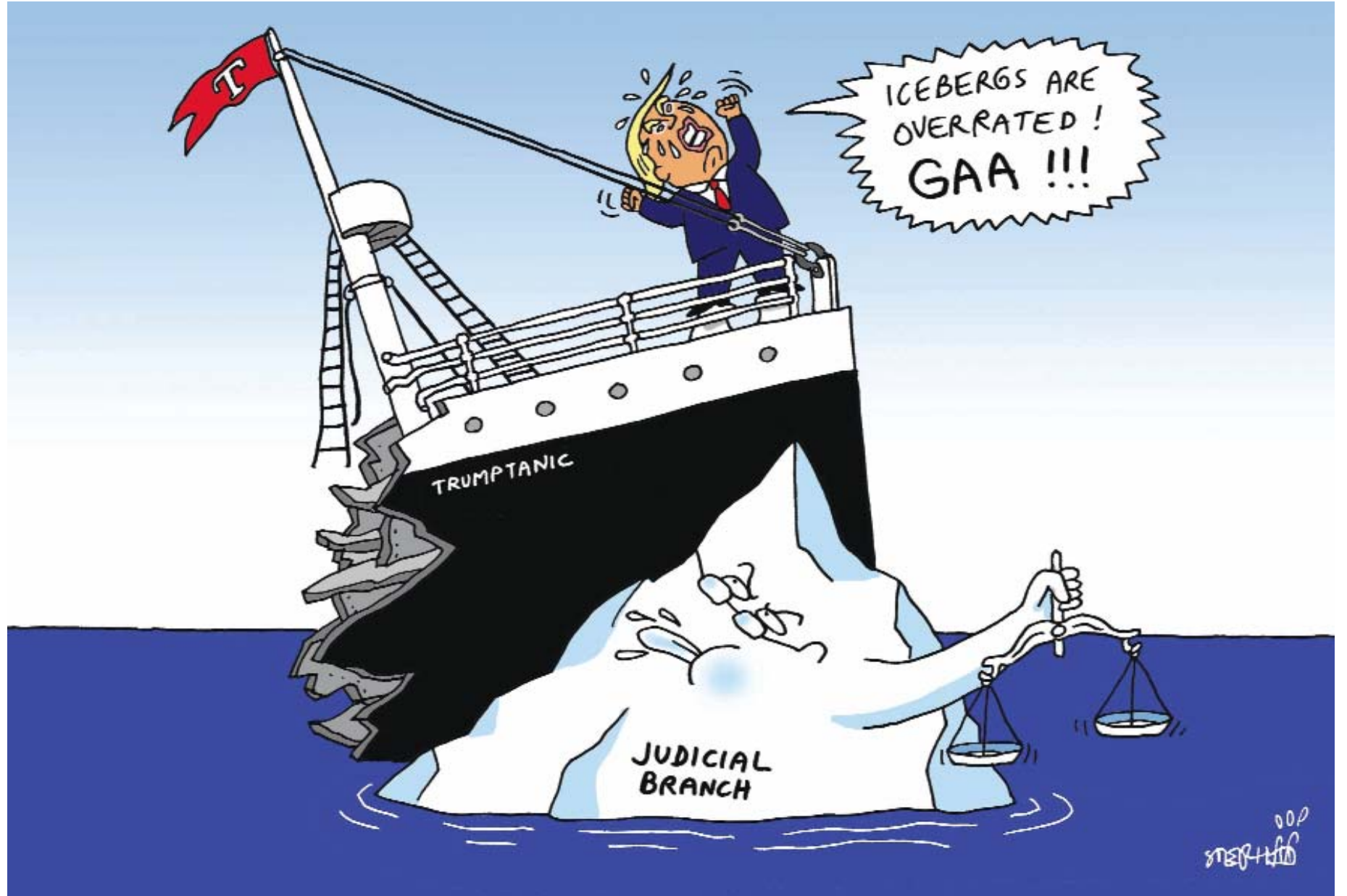
The risk such lakes present is that the rocky moraines at their feet could give way suddenly under the pressure of the water, triggering a massive outburst flood that would drain most of the lake at once. The NRSC scientists estimated that the South Lhonak lake had a 42 percent probability of bursting and causing devastating floods downstream in populated areas, a risk they rated as "very high". They estimated its volume to be nearly 20 billion liters, although measurements in 2014 by the team that installed the monitoring system, from the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, a national government body, suggested that the lake could contain as much as 53 billion liters of water.

The South Lhonak lake is one of 203 glacial lakes in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region - out of a total of more than 8,700 - identified as potentially dangerous by ICIMOD in a 2010 report. To help deal with the threat, Sikkim's Department of Science and Technology and Climate Change has begun working with Wangchuk - an engineer from Ladakh in Kashmir - to drain the water from the glacial lake, said Dhirren Shrestha, a department official.

Wangchuk said that three sets of high-density polyethylene pipes are being used to carry away water, enabling a total discharge of 150-180 liters of water per second. A second stage of the operation is scheduled for May and June this year, when engineers plan to install up to 16 pipelines to lower the water level in the lake by a further 3m. Eventually, however, some of the water will be captured rather than simply flow away, as Wangchuk works to recreate an innovation he previously experimented with in Ladakh in Kashmir - turning some of the siphoned water into massive towers of ice.

As it flows out of the raised end of a discharge pipe, "(it) freezes as it falls to gradually form an ice cone," Wangchuk explained. He and his team will begin work on the project in November with engineers and experts from Sikkim. Shakil Romshoo, who heads the Earth Sciences department of Kashmir University, said that draining a glacial lake normally is done during the summer, when the drained water can be stored or used for irrigation or small-scale hydroelectric power generation. "Ice stupas, if feasible under the Sikkim conditions, (are) just one of several short-term storage methods for storing excess water from a glacial lake during the winter," Romshoo said. — Reuters

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwaittimes.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.



FOR STREET KIDS, SCHOOL IS IN A CONTAINER

To get street children in the western Indian city of Thane into school, civic officials first forced their parents to send them to regular state schools. The kids showed up late or not at all, and dropped out quickly. So the officials decided on 'signal schools', or small schools that would be close to where the kids lived - on the street, near a traffic signal. Partnering with a non-profit, they opened the first such school last June in a remodelled shipping container under a flyover at one of the busiest traffic signals in Thane, just outside Mumbai.

This time, the kids stayed. "It was a Herculean task to get the parents to send their kids to school, as for them it meant the loss of a pair of hands to earn extra money," said Manish Joshi, a deputy commissioner at the Thane municipal corporation. "But they came around, and the community has also really embraced the program. For a city with a space crunch and a migrant population on the streets, this is the best solution."

There are no official data for the number of street children in India, with some charities estimating it to be about 1 million. Most accompany their families as they migrate from rural areas to the cities in search of better prospects. Mumbai, India's financial hub, has long been a magnet for migrants. There are more than 37,000 street children in the city, according to a 2013 study by charity ActionAid and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Unable to

afford even the cheapest housing, migrants often spill into nearby cities, including Thane, where they end up on the pavements and under flyovers, doing odd jobs, selling trinkets and begging at traffic signals to make ends meet.

Rush Hour

India's landmark Right to Education Act (2009), which guarantees free education till the age of 14, spurred government officials and charities to get street children into school. But their lack of a permanent residence and their lifestyles are a challenge, said Bhatu Sawant, head of non-profit Samarth Bharat Vyaspith, which runs the Signal School in Thane. To set up the school, civic officials cleared a space under the flyover and fenced it off. They set up a small play area at one end with a swing set and a slide, and placed a guard at the gate.

The container, 30 feet by 10 feet, is painted in bright colors, with the alphabet and numbers, and is fitted with fans and lights. The classroom can accommodate about 35 children, and there is also a teacher's room, and shelves against the walls. Since the kids help their parents sell trinkets and flowers during the rush hour in the morning and evening, the school operates from about 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. The staff spent the initial months teaching the kids about the importance of cleanliness and grooming, to not fight over food or

hold out their palms as they were taught to by their parents when they were sent to beg. "You can't put these kids in a regular school and expect them to adjust. The school has to adapt to their lives," Sawant told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "But just because they are on the streets, it doesn't mean they can't get an education. If these kids don't go to school, we have to take the school to them," he said.

For the 27 kids in the Signal School, there is a book library and a toy library, and a wash area so they can bathe every day. There are lockers to keep their uniforms and books, so they don't get damaged or stolen on the street.

A doctor comes for regular checks, and a barber gives the boys a haircut every month. The kids' nails are cut. At the school, the doors and windows muffle the sounds of the traffic outside. Inside, the children sit on the floor cross-legged in groups, with a teacher, going over their Math, English and writing exercises.

Outside, on a mat, younger children sit in a circle with another teacher, listening to a story. "Initially, it was very hard - they were not used to sitting in one place for so long, and they would fight or curse, or just go to sleep," said Arti Param, who trains the four full-time teachers and a handful of volunteer teachers. "We also had to teach their parents the importance of sending their kids to school, so their children don't have

to live on the street like them," she said.

School Bus

India's literacy rate rose to 73 percent in 2011 from 65 percent a decade earlier, and enrolment rates in schools have climbed. But at least 6 million children aged six to 13 are still out of the school system, according to a 2014 survey. Devendra Fadnavis, chief minister of Maharashtra state, of which Mumbai is the capital, said last month the state would try and replicate the Signal School for street children elsewhere.

In Thane, Sawant has asked civic officials for two more remodelled containers for a pre-school and a high school. He also plans to bring children at other traffic signals on a school bus from June. But there are bigger challenges, he said. "In the eyes of the state, they are still encroachers on the street, even if they have lived here for 20-25 years," he said. "And if the parents are unable to make ends meet here, they will move elsewhere, and the children's education becomes the casualty again," he said.

The municipal corporation is considering skills training for the parents, and may help them find jobs and homes, Joshi said. But in a city of high rents and little affordable housing, this is a challenge, he said. "This school has been such a success, it's drawing more migrants who want this opportunity for their children," Joshi said. "The real challenge is addressing migration and homelessness." — Reuters

FREE TUITION DOESN'T MEAN FREE COLLEGE

They don't mean to sound ungrateful, but ... New York public college students who would stand to gain from the nation's most ambitious free-tuition proposal are quick to point out a sobering reality from their own meager finances: Free tuition doesn't mean free college. Take Brooklyn College senior Florencia Salinas, who despite having her tuition nearly covered in full through scholarships and grants, still expects to graduate with a daunting \$50,000 in debt. Or Buffalo State College junior Avery Edwards, who despite similar financial aid expects to owe \$20,000 after collecting his degree next year.

That's because tuition, at around \$6,500 a year, is just about a third of the typical four-year student's total public college bill in New York. Room and board are the bigger-ticket items at nearly \$13,000 a year, and student fees and books tack on another \$3,000. Those extra expenses would not be covered under Democratic Gov Andrew Cuomo's Excelsior Scholarship proposal, which would pay only the difference between financial aid and tuition at State University of New York or City University of New York campuses for full-time students from families earning \$125,000 or less.

Students interviewed by AP said that any tuition help is welcome, but they could also use help paying for the many other costs of a college education. "It's less that my parents would have to pay. It's less that I would have to pay," said Nigel Peters, a sophomore at Buffalo State College, part of the state's sprawling public college system, which includes 64 State University of New York and 24 City University of New York institutions. But "enough?" he said. "No, not at all."

The 19-year-old's parents in Queens work overtime to keep the financial burden off of him and his twin sister, who attends college in Delaware. His mother, who already juggles positions in accounting and retail, recently picked up a third job, at an arena box office. They make too much to get aid now, he said, but "we don't make enough so that my parents don't have to work their backs off to put me and my sister through school."

He would welcome tuition help, he said, especially with plans to pay his own way his senior year. But even if it's covered by then, Peters said, he still will likely work at his minimum-wage job over breaks and need loans to pay for everything else. Most of Salinas' debt comes from housing costs, so the Cuomo plan probably wouldn't have helped her graduate in better financial shape. The 22-year-old computer science major said she would rather see the state put the money into the faculty and facilities at CUNY.

Student debt

Cuomo's proposal, which still faces approval by lawmakers, is one of an increasing number of plans across the country that seek to address the nation's suffocating \$1.2 trillion in student debt. Democratic Rhode Island Gov Gina Raimondo has proposed making two years of community college or the final two years of a four-year degree free at a

public college in that state. A plan from Democratic Colorado gubernatorial candidate Mike Johnston would require volunteer service as a condition of two free years of college or job training.

All differ from independent Vermont Sen Bernie Sanders' no-tuition plan, which became a major issue during the presidential campaign. Sanders' plan would have eliminated tuition at public universities and colleges, while Cuomo's "last-dollar" approach pays the tuition after awards from the state and federal sources of aid are applied.

It's a distinction that troubles advocates for lower-income students, who say the program, while expanding aid to the middle class, won't improve anything for them because their tuition is already covered. They warn it might hurt needy students if it takes away some of the flexibility they now have to use federal Pell awards for expenses other than tuition. "Our goal is to provide the most students with the greatest opportunity," Cuomo spokeswoman Dani

Lever said, "and that goal is met by the Excelsior Scholarship program."

The New York program also comes with a push to get students to tap into existing state and federal financial aid programs that could lower their costs even more. SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher estimated New Yorkers leave \$174 million of federal aid untouched each year. Lawmakers at a budget hearing last month also worried that the \$163 million estimated cost of the New York proposal is too low. Cuomo budget officials said they based the estimate in part on free community college programs in other states. The program would also draw on the state's existing \$1 billion Tuition Assistance Program.

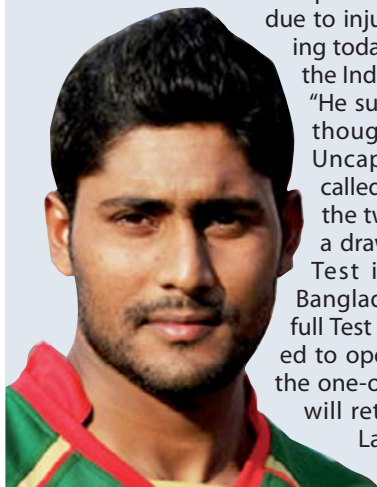
SUNY enrolls 403,000 undergraduate students and CUNY 245,000 students. Based on 2014-15 enrollment, about 40,000 students who meet the criteria would begin to have their tuition paid. Said state Sen Kenneth LaValle, a Long Island Republican: "All the bean counters say there's no way." — AP



In this Feb 1, 2017 photo, Brooklyn College students walk between classes on campus in New York. — AP

BANGLADESH'S IMRUL OUT OF INDIA TEST

DHAKA: Bangladesh suffered a blow before their maiden Test match in India when opening batsman Imrul Kayes was ruled yesterday due to injury. "Imrul pulled his thigh muscle while fielding today during the two-day warm-up match against the India A team," said chief selector Minhajul Abedin. "He suffered the same injury in New Zealand, so we thought it appropriate that he did not continue." Uncapped batsman Mosaddek Hossain has been called in as a replacement. Imrul did not bat during the two-day match against India A, which ended in a draw. It was the only warm-up fixture before the Test in Hyderabad, the first to be played by Bangladesh on Indian soil since the tourists gained full Test status 17 years ago. Soumya Sarkar is expected to open the innings along with Tamim Iqbal when the one-off match gets underway on February 9. Imrul will return to the side for next month's tour of Sri Lanka provided he is declared fit.—AFP



ANGRY BATSMAN HURLS STUMP, KILLS TEEN

DHAKA: A 14-year-old cricketer has died in Bangladesh after he was hit by a stump thrown by an angry batsman during a friendly game between neighbourhood teams, police said yesterday. Faisal Hossain was fielding in the southeastern port city of Chittagong when the batsman was given out, assistant police commissioner Jahangir Alam told AFP. "The batsman was furious when he saw that he was stumped or bowled out. He grabbed a stump and threw it in the air. The stump hit part of the neck and head of Faisal who was fielding close to the wicket," he said. "He collapsed on the ground in pain and was declared dead after he was taken to a hospital." The batsman has been detained and will be prosecuted for causing unintentional death, police said. Clashes are common over cricket in Bangladesh, where the sport is taken seriously even at village level. Last May, a batsman wielding a stump allegedly beat a 16-year-old cricketer to death in Dhaka after the teenager taunted the umpire over a no-ball delivery.—AFP

MATHEWS TO MISS AUSTRALIA TOUR

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews will miss the upcoming Twenty20 series in Australia after injuring his hamstring against South Africa last month. Mathews sustained the injury in a Twenty20 international at Wanderers on Jan. 22, when he completed a half century despite limited mobility to lead Sri Lanka to victory by three-wickets. The selection committee will meet on Tuesday to decide on the composition of the squad and who should replace him as skipper, Sri Lanka Cricket (www.srilankacricicket.lk) said on its website. The Sri Lankans will start the tour against a Prime Minister's XI in Canberra on Feb. 15 before Twenty20s against a weakened Australia team in Melbourne, Geelong and Adelaide. The series has been somewhat devalued by the fact that Australia's top players will be in India preparing for a test series rather than playing against the Sri Lankans.—Reuters



SKIING

VONN GOES HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH GUT

ST MORITZ: American star Lindsey Vonn and Swiss hope Lara Gut will set up a mouth-watering world championships in St Moritz when they go head-to-head in the women's opening super-G today.

Both Vonn and Gut come into the race on the back of a couple of crashes on the World Cup circuit, but the pair have both vowed that nothing would be left in the changing room come the secondary speed event of the February 6-19 world champs.

"My body is pretty sore from hitting the nets too many times," acknowledged Vonn. "The super-G is right away, so hopefully with my training I'll get my confidence back." Gut was last season's overall World Cup winner, and Vonn admitted that she was a "great competitor and has had a great season so far."

"Everyone's going to be pulling for her here in Switzerland!" While Vonn recovers from a broken arm and injured hand, Gut is working to get her leg back in shape after a fall in the Cortina super-G on January 29. "I'm 100 percent fit," maintained the Swiss racer who stormed to prominence as a teenager at the 2009 worlds in Val d'Isere.

"I'm better, there's nothing injured or broken. It could have been better: to have gone skiing for a week rather than spending it with the physio! The big challenge is to rehab my leg and get back as soon as

possible. I'm here to ski.

"It's here I made my first podium, so I'm obviously really happy that I'm back here."

Vonn said injuries were part and parcel of ski racing, noting the absence of male competitors Aksel Lund Svindal, Ted Ligety, Steve Nyman and Valentin Giraud Moine.

"I don't know what you can do to change it. It's a risk of our sport, but I hope the injuries become less," she said.

"It's kind of like car racing, we're always going to find a way to go fast no matter what rules you change, our goal is to win races and skiers will always be pushing the limit to find that success.

"I don't know what the solution is, but it's definitely hard as an athlete to watch so many athletes getting injured, including myself." Other rivals to Vonn and Gut include Ilka Stuhec, who claimed the first super-G of her career at Cortina d'Ampezzo, when Vonn trailed in out of the top 10.

Italian Sofia Goggia should also be in the reckoning for a podium finish while Austria's Anna Veith is also back with a vengeance after a long injury lay-off.

"It's great to have Anna back," said Gut. Veith seems to have regained the form which saw her win the overall World Cup titles in 2014 and 2015 under her maiden name Fenniger before being sidelined with a serious injury.—AFP



JOHANNESBURG: In this Saturday, June 24, 1995 file photo, South Africa's scrumhalf Joost van der Westhuizen lets fly a pass during the World Cup final against New Zealand at Ellis Park in Johannesburg. Joost van der Westhuizen, who won the 1995 World Cup with South Africa as Nelson Mandela looked on, has died after a six-year-battle with motor neuron disease.—AP

RUGBY

SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY LEGEND VAN DER WESTHUIZEN DEAD

JOHANNESBURG: South African rugby legend and World Cup winner Joost van der Westhuizen, who died yesterday aged 45, will be remembered as one of the greatest scrum-halves of all time. Many former internationals rate the Springbok standout second only to former Welsh great Gareth Edwards among international scrum-half superstars. His duels with fellow scrum-halves George Gregan of Australia and Justin Marshall of New Zealand two decades ago captivated spectators and worldwide TV audiences. "He will always be remembered as an incredible rugby player," Gregan said during a dinner in honour of Van der Westhuizen.

Marshall also attended the function and said: "Joost was a magic player. When on song, he could win a game almost single-handedly." Van der Westhuizen lost a long battle against motor neuron disease, the incurable nervous-system condition, after being rushed to hospital on Saturday. South Africans cherish memories of the finest moment in a success-filled career when he set up the Joel Stransky drop goal which won the 1995 Rugby World Cup for the Springboks.

Watched by then state president Nelson Mandela at the Ellis Park stadium in Johannesburg, Van der Westhuizen delivered a long pinpoint pass from the base of the scrum as the clock ticked down in extra time. Stransky

calmly kicked the goal to give South Africa a 15-12 win over the Jonah Lomu-inspired New Zealand All Blacks to become world champions for the first time.

When the Springboks gathered in 2015 at Ellis Park to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the World Cup triumph, Van der Westhuizen attended in a wheelchair.

Van der Westhuizen was also part of the Springboks team that finished third when defending the world title in England four years later. His Test career ended on a low note in 2003 when a South African team beset by pre-World Cup problems lost heavily to New Zealand in the quarter-finals. First capped by the Springboks in 1993, he made 89 international appearances and scored 38 tries, a remarkable total for a scrum-half. Traditionally, the role of a No. 9 was to feed scrums and forage for the ball at rucks, mauls and loose play, then pass it to his fly-half.

But Van der Westhuizen, tall and dark haired with matinee-idol looks, helped create a new breed of scrum-halves who greatly expanded the role. "An incredible player and fighter to the end. The first of the new age 9s," tweeted Ireland and British and Irish Lions legend Brian O'Driscoll.

Instead of always feeding the fly-half, the Springbok would launch solo raids, catching defences off guard. Blessed with a strong

physique, Joost was able to shrug off would-be tacklers and many of his Test tries came off runs from deep positions. He was a product of the famed Pretoria-based Blue Bulls, a team that for decades had been among the dominant forces of South African provincial rugby. After retiring as a player, Joost followed the employment route of many other former Springboks and worked for Johannesburg-based SuperSport as a TV analyst.

CAREER ENDED ABRUPTLY

But his media career ended abruptly when a video emerged of him engaged in sex play with a mystery blonde and snorting a white substance, presumed to be cocaine. Having initially denied he was in the video, Van der Westhuizen confessed and publicly apologised for lying. "What I did went against all my principles," he said.

Another report claimed the former Springbok had an affair, while his wife was in hospital, with an ex-national athletics champion. His wife divorced Van der Westhuizen, only for her and their two children to reunite with him and assist his battle against motor neuron disease. When Van der Westhuizen felt a weakness in his right arm during 2008, he attributed it to the after-effects of an old rugby injury. But later, while playing in a swimming pool with his personal doctor, the weakness became more obvious.—AFP

GOLF

HIDEKI MATSUYAMA WINS PHOENIX OPEN PLAYOFF

SCOTTSDALE: Hideki Matsuyama was the last man standing at golf's biggest party - again. Matsuyama won the Waste Management Phoenix Open on the fourth hole of a playoff for the second straight year, outlasting Webb Simpson on Sunday at TPC Scottsdale.

Matsuyama won with a 10-foot birdie putt on the short par-4 17th, the same hole where the 24-year-old Japanese star finished off Rickie Fowler a year ago. "I just had faith and believed that my chance would come again, and I just waited and waited, had patience," Matsuyama said. "Finally, that last one went in."

Matsuyama closed with a 5-under 66, paring the final three holes to match Simpson at 17-under 267. On the par-4 18th in regulation, Matsuyama's 20-foot birdie try to win in regulation stopped just short. "I don't know how it stayed out," Matsuyama said. "But you can't be short on a putt like that." Simpson birdied three of the last four for a 64, the best round of the day. "To shoot 7 under on Sunday, birdieing 17 and 18 is a great feeling, knowing I had to do it," Simpson said. "But Hideki is a great player, obviously. I knew he'd be a tough competitor in the playoff. I wish I could have a couple of putts back and hit them a little harder."

The tournament drew an estimated 58,654 fans Sunday to break the weekly record with 655,434. The previous mark of 618,365 was set last year. A record 204,906 packed the grounds Saturday.

Matsuyama has thrived in the party atmosphere, tying for fourth in 2014 and tying for second in 2015 before winning the last two years. "There's nothing like it in golf," Matsuyama said. "Playing in front of the number of fans and gallery this past week, great motivation. I just try to have fun with it, and at the same time, keep my focus." Matsuyama and Simpson took advantage of third-round leader Byeong Hun An's collapse. Three strokes ahead of Matsuyama and four ahead of Simpson with nine holes left, An bogeyed Nos. 10

and 11 and closed with two more on 17 and 18. The South Korean player had a 73 to finish sixth at 14 under. "Just didn't work out today," An said.

Matsuyama won his second PGA Tour title of the season and fourth overall. He has won five worldwide events in the last 3 1/2 months, also taking the WGC-HSBC Champions in China, two tournaments in Japan and Tiger Woods' unofficial Hero World Challenge. "It's been a good run," Matsuyama said. "I'm going to ride it as long as I can." He's the sixth player to successfully defend a title in the event and the first to do it at TPC Scottsdale. The other five are Hall of Famers Ben Hogan (1946-47), Jimmy Demaret (1949-50), Lloyd Mangrum (1952-53), Arnold Palmer (1961-63) and Johnny Miller (1974-75).

Matsuyama broke a tie with Shigeaki Maruyama for the most victories by a Japanese player, and became the first to win playoffs in an event two straight years since Ernie Els in the Sony Open in Hawaii in 2003-04.

Matsuyama and Simpson matched pars on the first three extra holes, playing the 18th twice and the par-4 10th before heading to 17. Simpson's drive on the 332-yard hole ended up on the right edge of the green, with a bunker blocking his path to the back pin position.

"That pin is so hard," Simpson said. "That is the one place you can't really be." Instead of trying to hit over the bunker, he putted and left himself a 25-footer that burned the right edge.

Simpson and Matsuyama each eagled the par-5 third to stay in early contact with An. Matsuyama hit a 254-yard shot to 2 1/2 feet, and Simpson a 272-yarder to 5 feet. Louis Oosthuizen finished a stroke back after a 65. The South African birdied Nos. 14, 15 and 17, then hit in the right bunker on 18 and scrambled to save par.

"I will take a lot out of this week, especially on putting," Oosthuizen said. Fowler also shot a 65 to match J.J. Spaun (67) at 15 under.—AP

ZAIN MAIN SPONSOR OF KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE FESTIVAL

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the Kuwait International Arabian Horse Festival 2017. The event is organized by the Arabian Horse Center - Bait Al Arab under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Zain's support to this international competition came in line with the company's belief in the importance of taking part in projects and initiatives that strengthen the valuable Arabian identity and cherished Kuwaiti culture, reflecting the vital role of the private sector in contributing to the preservation of the heritage, culture and history of Kuwait.

Zain took part in awarding the winners of the 6th International Championship - Arabian Horse Breeder Award, which attracted many purebred Arabian horse owners from inside and outside of Kuwait, as well as a large number of Arabian horse admirers from the public. The festival will also feature the All Nations Cup - Straight Egyptians competition that will be organized late February.

Zain stressed its keenness in providing the needed support and encouragement to all activities and initiatives that further pushes the national economic and touristic development

about preserving the breed of the Arabian horse. The Arabian Horse Center - Bait Al Arab is considered an official organizer of horse breeding competitions both on local and international levels, and partners with the Hunting and Equestrian Club and ECAHO (European Conference of Arab Horse Organizations).

The Kuwait International Arabian Horse Festival 2017 mainly aims at raising awareness



Snapshots of Kuwait's football clubs

By Faten Omar

Fifteen football clubs in Kuwait are members of the Kuwait Football Association. The clubs are Al-Arabi, Al-Fahaheel, Al-Jahra, Al-Kuwait, Al-Nasr, Al-Salmiya, Al-Shabab, Al-Qadsiya, Al-Yarmouk, Kazma, Khaitan, Al-Sulaibikhat, Sahel, Al-Tadhamon and Burgan. Kuwait Times has compiled details about each of these clubs.



QADSIYA

Qadsiya Sporting Club are one of the most popular clubs in Kuwait. They were founded in 1953 and called Al-Jazira, before being renamed Qadsiya SC on Oct 20, 1960. Their chairman is Khaled Fahd Ahmad. Qadsiya have two monikers - The Kings and The Yellow Castle. They currently play in the VIVA Premier League and have won the title 17 times, a league record.

Qadsiya play in the Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium in Hawally. They began playing in the 1961-62 season and finished second three years in a row behind Al-Arabi. This started a rivalry between the two teams, and the annual league match between them came to be known as the 'Kuwaiti Clasico'. Their first league title came in 1968-69.

Since 2002, Al-Arabi have never won the league, which allowed Qadsiya to dominate the football scene by winning the league three times after Al-Arabi SC's last run. They then lost the title for three straight years to Kuwait SC, before winning it again four times in a row, making Qadsiya the second team in Kuwait to win the league four straight times.

Qadsiya SC have been to the final of the AFC Cup twice - in 2010 and 2013 - but lost both matches; first to Al-Ittihad Aleppo of Syria in 2010 and Kuwait SC in 2013. In the 2013-14 season, Qadsiya won their 16th title. In 2014, Qadsiya won the AFC Cup for the first time in their third final appearance.

Al-Qadsiya's players include Khalid Al-Ebrahim, Abdulrahman Al-Enezi, Khaled Al-Qahtani, Amer Al-Fadhel, Dhari Said and Saud Al-Ansari as defenders; Saleh Al-Sheikh, Talal Al-Amer, Mohammad Al-Fahd and Mohammad Al-Fadhli as midfielders; Saud Al-Mejmed and Bader Al-Mutawa (captain) as forwards and Nawaf Al-Khalidi and Ahmed Al-Fadhli as goalkeepers.



AL-ARABI

Al-Arabi Sporting Club are based in Mansouriyah at Sabah Al-Salem Stadium, which is the second largest stadium in Kuwait. They were called Al-Uruba in the beginning of 1953, and changed their name to Al-Arabi in 1960. The team plays in the VIVA Premier League.

As winners of the Kuwait Amir Cup in 2008, Al-Arabi were the first Kuwaiti team to compete in the AFC Cup. Arabi have 57 official trophies to their name in Kuwaiti club football history (55 domestic and two GCC). Arabi have not won a league title since the 2001-02 season. They finished with the same points as Kuwait SC in the 2014-15 season, but the title went to Kuwait based on the results of the matches between the two teams. Arabi are the only team in Kuwait to have never lost in the Kuwait Super Cup. Arabi hold records of playing in the final of the Kuwait Crown Prince Cup four consecutive times, tied with Kuwait SC, and in the Kuwait Amir Cup final 11 consecutive times from 1962 to 1973, more than any Kuwaiti team.

Al-Arabi's nicknames are Al-Za'eem (The Boss), El-Akhdhar (The Green), the Green Castle and Castle of Trophies. Their chairman is Jamal Al-Kazemi, and are managed by Miodrag Jesic.

Hamad Askar and Jesic are the coaches of Al-Arabi. Their players include Ahmed Al-Rashidi, Ahmed Saleh, Ahmed Abdullah, Badr Al-Tahir, Issa Walid, Fahd Al-Farhan, Meshaal Al-Anzi, Mohammad Freeh, Mohammad Amin, Mubarak Al-Balushi, Nader Anzi and Obaid Munawar as defenders; Abdulaziz Salimi, Abdullah Al-Shamali, Abdullah Haddad, Mohsen Turkmani, Jassim Karam Ahmed, Ahmed Younis, Ali Maqseed, Badr Tariq, Fahd Pasha, Gul Damaho, Khalaf Ahmed Khalaf,



Qadsiya vs Fahaheel

Mahmoud Mohammed Dashti, Mohamed Jarragh, Mubarak Nassar, Omar Al-Sanea and Talal Mustafa as midfielders; Ali Abdullah Shahman, Ali Ashkanani, Amin Chermiti, Hussein Musawi, Marzouk Zaki, Mishari Al-Kandari and Mohammed Bo Abad as forwards and Adnan Latif, Ahmed Dashti, Hamid Al-Qallaf, Mohammed Ghanem, Saud Qina and Sulaiman Abdul Ghafoor as goalkeepers.



KUWAIT SPORTING CLUB

Kuwait SC are a Kuwaiti professional football club founded in 1960. The team's nicknames are White Pearl, White Lion and the Brigadiers. They are managed by the Frenchman Laurent Banide and Chairman Abdulaziz Al-Marzouq.

Kuwait have won the Kuwaiti Premier League 11 times, with the most recent one in 2013. Kuwait SC have 37 trophies to their name in Kuwaiti club football history. Kuwait SC play in the Al-Kuwait Sports Club Stadium in Kaifan. Kuwait are the first Kuwaiti club to ever win an Asian title - the AFC Cup in 2009, 2012, 2013. They are also one of the first sports clubs to have been estab-

lished in Kuwait.

The team's players include Abdullah Rifai, Adel Raheli, Ahmed Sabeeh, Fahd Al-Hajri, Fahd Awad, Fahad Al-Rashidi, Hamoud Fahd Mohammed Ansari, Hussein Al-Shammari, Mohammad Al-Farsi and Sami Al-Sane as defenders; Abdulhadi Khamis Khudair, Abdullah Buraiki, Ali Al-Kandari, Ibrahim Shihab, Fahd Saleh Al-Anzi, Hussein Harb, Jarah Al-Ateeqi, Khalid Ajab, Mohamed Camara, Nasser Al-Qahtani, Sherida Khalid Al-Sherida, Waleed Ali Jumah and Yousef Khubaizi as midfielders; Ahmed Mohammed Al-Sager, Ahmed Dahi, Ahmed Al-Shammari, Firas Al-Khatib, Jumaa' Saeed and Talal Al-Mutairi as forwards and Abdulrahman Husainan and Musab Al-Kandari as goalkeepers. Kuwait is coached by Khaled Al-Shammari, and the head coach is Mohammed Abdullah.



AL-SALMIYA SPORTING CLUB

Al-Salmiya SC are a Kuwaiti professional football club based in Salmiya. They have won the Kuwaiti Premier League four times, most recently in 2000. Salmiya were founded in 1964 and the club's logo is inspired by the location of Salmiya on the map of Kuwait, with green

representing the land, while the color blue represents the sea. Their nicknames are Al-Samawi and Terrible Troublers.

Salmiya have won nine official championships (four Premier League titles in 1980-81, 1994-95, 1997-98, 1999-2000, two Kuwait Amir Cup titles in 1992-93 and 2000-01, two Kuwait Crown Cup titles in 2000-01 and 2015-16 and one Kuwaiti Division One title in 1971-72).

Salmiya's Chairman is Turki Alyousef Al-Sabah and their manager is Wolfgang Roff. The team's players include Abdulaziz Al-Massad, Ahmed Abdul Ghafoor Ashkanani, Fahd Abdulaziz Al-Mojamad, Fahd Al-Otaibi, Nawaf Rashid Jawad, Saud Dmeed and Yousef Dandan as defenders; Abdul Aziz Ghali, Abdulwahab Al-Qattan, Abdulrahman Al-Riahi, Abdul Razak Al-Bati, Adel Matar, Ahmed Jamil Al-Balushi, Ahmed Asfour, Badr Al-Sammak, Ghazi Faisal Algahada, Hammad Al-Obaidly, Ibrahim Keita, Jarah Latif, Khaled Mjehm, Mishal Hamid, Mohammed Obaid Al-Azmi, Mohammed Jawad, Mubarak Al-Khadari, Nayef Zuwid, Rashid Mohammed Al-Rashid, Sulaiman Abdul Redha, Tarek Mohsen Al-Shammari, Turki Al-Mutairi and Igor as midfielders; Badr Al-Jasser, Dhari Al-Harbi, Fahd Aayed Al Rashidi, Faisal Al-Anzi, Faraj Al-Zoubi, Mohammed Suwaidan, Uday Al-Saifi, and Omar Al-Msobhi as forwards and Khaled Al-Rashidi and Nawaf Al-Mansour as goalkeepers. Their coach is Mohammed Dhelees.



Arabi Sports Club vs Kuwait Sports Club



Kuwait Sports Club and Salmiya Sports Club in action.



Qadsiya vs Tadhamon

Qadsiya vs Sulaibikhat



KAZMA

Kazma Sporting Club are a Kuwaiti football club founded in 1964. Kazma play in Al-Sadaqa Walsalam Stadium in Adailiya. Their chairman is Asaad Al-Banwan. The club is named after the area of Kathma. In 630, the battle of 'That Alslasil' took place in Kathma, which is located 40 km north of Kuwait City on the coast. Kazma have won the Kuwait Premier League four times. Kazma faced FC Barcelona in a friendly match at the end of the 2009-10 season, drawing 1-1 after Bojan Krki scored in the 80th minute for Barcelona, before Abdullah Al-Dhafiri equalized in the 90th minute with a fine effort for Kazma. On April 19, 2013, Kazma SC were relegated for the first time in their history after losing to Al-Arabi SC 3-0 in the final game of the 2012-13 season.

The team's players include Mohammad Khamis, Diego Guerra, Wallace, Ahmed Duedar, Nasser Al-Wuhaib, Abdullah Dashti, Sultan Salbakh, Ahmed El-Esh, Abdulwahab Al-Khatlan, Mohammed Abdullahif, Abdulrahman Al-Mousaad and Alex Lima as defenders; Nawaf Al-Humaidan (captain), Saeed Murjan, Hossam Abdel-Aal, Mohammed Al-Hadhoud, Talal Al-Fadhel, Hamad Harbi, Bader Al-Salem, Abdulrahman Abdulwahab, Meshari Khamis and Jhasmani Campos as midfielders; Salah Ashour, Yousef Nasser, Fahd Salem, Nasser Faraj, Ali Al-Mashmum, Abdullah Al-Dhafiri, Fahd Al-Fahd, Patrick Fabiano and Fahd Al-Adwani as forwards and Shehab Kankoune, Hussain Kankoune, Fawaz Al-Dosari and Abdulaziz Fathi Kamil as goalkeepers.



KHAITAN

Khaitan Sporting Club are a Kuwaiti professional football club named after Khaitan, a suburb of Kuwait City. Khaitan were founded in 1965. Khaitan are the first Kuwaiti club to win the Division One league, which is the second tier championship after the VIVA Premier League. Their chairman is Mounir Al-Otaibi and their manager is Mohammed Al-Ansari.

Khaitan's players include Adnan Salbukh, Mohammed Al-Sabti, Youssouf Matar, Abdullah Al-Bloushi, Ahmad Abdullah, Ahmad Al-Derbas, Hamad Al-Hasawi, Saad Al-Otaibi, Zaid Al-Olayan and Radson da Silva Ferreira as defenders; Abdullah Hamad, Yahya Mohammed, Omar Al-Haghan, Mohammed Ali, Jalal Al-Fadhli, Musaed Khaled, Raed Abdulrazak, Salem Aman, Sami Al-Rashidi and Tiago Luz da Silva as midfielders; Mohammed Yousef, Sultan Farhan, Musaed Al-Fawzan, Salomon Azhajabi, Suleiman Al-Jarallah, Mohammed Al-Hasawi, Abdullah Ahmad, Ahmed Khalaf Al-Khalidi, Nayef Al-Mutairi, Abdulrahman Al-Majed, Sultan Farhan and Rodrigo as forwards; Ahmed Eidan Al-Khalidi as the goalkeeper and Hamed Al-Shaibani as captain.



AL-FAHAHEEL

Al-Fahaheel Sporting Club are a Kuwaiti football club also known by its nickname The Falcons. Fahaheel were founded in 1964. They were relegated from the Premier League in 2007, but have since returned back to the league. The chairman of Fahaheel is Mohammed Hamad. Fahaheel won the Kuwait Amir Cup in 1986.

The team's players include Mohammed Awad, Abdalaziz Al-Azmi, Ali Nader, Nawaf Ziad, Abdullah Al-Armali, Ali Farhan, Ghazi Al-Otaibi, Nawaf Jawad, Saud Al-Hajri, Yaqoub Yousef and Ahmed Al Tawerghi as defenders; Khalid Abdullah, Abdullah Al-Enezi, Turki Al-Mutairi, Ali Saraj, Mohammad Fahd Assad, Mohammad Adnan, Saad Bani, Badr Al-Enezi, Mohammad Al-Ajmi, Nasser Hamad Gzai, Nasser Al-Enezi, Saud Freyan, Zakaria Harakat and Mohammad Khair as midfielders; Salem Al-Failakawi, Hussain Saraj, Moctar Quedraogo, Mehdi Harb, Mishary Al-Ajmi and Mohammad Rakan as forwards and Hassan Al-Sahli and Ahmed Al-Qabandi as goalkeepers.



AL-JAHRA

Al-Jahra Sporting Club are a Kuwaiti professional football club based in Jahra, and play home games at Al-Shabab Mubarak Alaiar Stadium. They were found-

ed in 1966 as Al-Shuhada club and in 1972 became Al-Jahra. Their nickname is 'Sons of Martyrs'. Al-Jahra's chairman is Daham Al-Shammari and manager is Skender Gega.

They won the Kuwaiti League (the old name of Kuwaiti Premier League) once, in 1990. They have participated in the Kuwaiti Premier League 21 times. Al-Jahra reached the Kuwait Amir Cup final twice in recent times, in 1996 and 2002, where they lost to Al-Arabi 1-2 and Kuwait 0-1.

Al-Jahra Sporting Club also offers various sports such as basketball, volleyball and boxing and prides itself in fencing. Al-Jahra have bagged both national and international fencing gold medals; training some of Asia's best fencers under the guidance of head coach Captain Abdullah.

The team's players include Nawaf Fayeze, Sultan Atshan, Aurens Al-Shammari, Nino Santos, Sedat Berisha, Ahmed Hassan Hamoud and Athbi Al-Saili as defenders; Mohamed Saad, Abdulrahman Al-Sarbal, Talal Adnan, Mashaal Owaid, Meshaal Mlabesh, Saud Al-Sarbal, Andre Macanga, Abdulaziz Nasser, Talal Al-Shammari, Khaled Nayef and Fahad Thunayan as midfielders; Humoud Melfi, Mohammad Dahash, Saud Al-Ghemlas, Youssef Walid (captain), Ibrahim Al-Otaibi, Saad Al-Waleed and Vinicius Lopes as forwards and Abdullah Ali Suaidan, Sattam Al-Hussaini and Bandar Manhar as goalkeepers.



AL-NASR

Al-Nasr Sporting Club are a Kuwaiti professional football club founded on June 8, 1965. They are based in Ardiyah and play home games at Ali Al-Salem Al-Sabah Stadium. They are also known as 'Al-Inabii' and 'Falcons'. Their chairman is Falah Ghanem and manager is Jose Rachao. Nasr have participated in the Kuwaiti Premier League 26 times. They were promoted to the Kuwaiti Premier League three times as champions of Division One. Nasr are based near Ishbeleyah (Sevilla); their building and stadium is near Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah International Stadium, which is the home ground of the Kuwait national football team.

Al-Nasr's team players include Mohammad Abdullah, Deghaim Al-Rashidi, Salih Saif, Ahmad Faisal, Meshaal Faihan, Abdullah Abdulaziz, Musaed Abdullah, Jaber Al-Fadhli, Abdullah Mshaleh, Ramzi Ben Younes and Majeed Talal as defenders; Jarrah Al-Dhafiri, Abdallah Jumah, Omar Qambar, Zabin Al-Enezi, Abdullah Al-Mehtebe, Abdulrahman Al-Enezi, Abdulaziz Al-Mutairi, Abdulaziz Al-Subaie, Rashid Al-Hayyan, Ahmad Al-Rashidi and Ghazi Al-Quhaidy as midfielders; Faisal Al-Adwani, Abdulaziz Farraj, Ibrahim Al-Adwani, Ali Ashkanani, Abdulaziz Al-Daoud, Abdulaziz Al-Dhafiri and Saud Al-Mejmed as forwards and Mohammad Al-Dhafiri, Suleiman Al-Mutairi, Mohammad Al-Salal and Ahmed Al-Khalidi as goalkeepers.



AL-SHABAB

Al-Shabab Sports Club are a professional football club based in Ahmadi. Al-Shabab's logo demonstrates that good behavior comes first, depicted by two hands shaking, education second depicted by an open book, and sports third, depicted by a ball. Shabab were founded on Dec 15, 1963 in Ahmadi. They currently play in the VIVA Premier League.

Shabab's chairman is Yaqoub Ramadan and manager is Subotic Nebojsa. The players include Ahmed Al-Najar, Yaqoub Saad (captain), Hamad Al-Baseiri, Jassem Al-Shimmeri, Abdulrahman Al-Bannay, Aqeel Jaber, Theeb Al-Qahtani as defenders; Mohammed Ashkanani, Khaled Abdelquddous, Khamis Shimmeri, Abdullah Mamdouh, Abdulaziz Nasser, Abdullah Hassan, Issa Khalid, Salah Farhan, Youssef Al-Khatlan, Ahmad Al-Saidi, Adel Tawfeeq, Abdullahif Al-Raes as midfielders; Rudi, Fahad Al-Otaibi, Masoud Ferydoon, Saif Faleh, Mohammed Al-Abadd, Abdullah Al-Harbi, Abdullah Al-Mutawa, Talal Hdeban, Michel, Mauricio Jose, Naif Al-Otaibi, Mohammed Humoud and Saud Swayed as forwards and Talla Humoud, Saleh Mahdi, Ammar Al-Balushi and Suleiman Haider Mirza as goalkeepers.



AL-YARMOUK

Al-Yarmouk are a professional sports club based in Mishref. Yarmouk were established on Feb 28, 1965 on Failaka Island and were the only Kuwaiti club established outside mainland Kuwait at that time. The club's

chairman is Fahd Ghanim and manager is Ahmed Abdulhamid.

Yarmouk were relocated to mainland Kuwait after the 1990-1991 Gulf War, which resulted in the displacement of many inhabitants of Failaka. Therefore, due to inadequate facilities after the liberation of Kuwait, it was inevitable that the team had to move to a better and more sustainable location. Other reasons - besides the Gulf War - for the relocation of the club, was due to the insufficient means of transportation for teams and players to travel to Failaka Island for away matches during the regular season.

Yarmouk have given rise to a plethora of talented Kuwaiti football players during the course of their history. They have only bagged four trophies since their establishment, two of which were the Amir Cup in 1970 and 1973, which is usually regarded as the most prestigious and important trophy in Kuwaiti football. The other two trophies were second division titles won in 1968 and 1989.

Yarmouk went through a major renovation project in 2006, as part of a grand scheme to regenerate interest within the local Mishref community. A new stadium was built there are plans for a second phase of renovation. Yarmouk also built new swimming facilities as well as an indoor arena for basketball, handball, volleyball and other indoor sports such as table tennis. A track and field team is also financed by the club's department. There is also an extra outdoor football field for training and for youth matches.

The club's main two colors are navy blue and white, representing the sea, which was a major part of Failaka Island's culture. The logo represents the ancient Greek ruins located in Failaka Island, known as Ikaros during the time of Alexander the Great. Yarmouk have used this logo and colors as a representation of their potential strength to achieve success.

The team's captain is Ahmad Hani and players include Hashim Adnan, Majeed Abusidu, Abdullah Al-Taheer, Hamad Humoud, Nawaf Osama, Saleh Al-Jomaa, Ali Adel, Abdullah Waleed Ali, Ahmed Al-Failakawi, Hussein Al-Eidan, Saad Al-Mutairi, Mubarak Al-Nemsh, Khalid Al-Mouezri, Wallace Costa Alves, Youssouf Al-Youha, Fahad Basha, Saleh Al-Buraiki, Bader Al-Mutairi, Abdulrahman Al-Bader, Bader Al-Samak, Abdullah Al-Failakawi, Abdulrahman Al-Youssouf, Mohammad Haaheeb, Nawaf Al-Shammari, Abdulaziz Al-Qattan, Bader Diab, Issam Jomaa, Abdulwahab Al-Qattan, Abdullah Al-Hajji and Abdulrazzaq Al-Butti as defenders; Mohammad Jassem, Abbas Al-Qallaf, Mahdi Saleh, Mamadou and Youssouf Adel as midfielders, Hashem Al-Ramzi, Muhammad Al-Ansari, Ahmad Al-Beloushi, Abdulrahman Al-Awadi, Youssouf Najaf, Faraj Laheeb, Abdullah Al-Dafeeri, Hussain Sami, Jarrah Al-Zuhair and Madiou Konate as forwards and Ali Yasin, Mohammed Al-Mutairi and Fawaz Al-Fadhli as goalkeepers.



AL-SULAIBIKHAT

Al Sulaibikhat Sporting Club are a football club located in Sulaibikhat. They are also known as the Red Rockets. Sulaibikhat were founded in 1972 and are currently managed by Thamer Enad. The club's chairman is Mohammad Al-Hajri.

Sulaibikhat's players include Sattam Al-Shammari, Jassim Al-Houli, Mishal Dheyab, Talal Ashour, Fahad Mriehg, Faisal Dashti, Hamad Jassim, Youssouf Turki, Mishari Faihan, Rodrigo, Mohammad Al-Enezi and Nasser Al-Hajri as defenders; Bader Al-Rashidi, Afas Al-Hajri, Turki Al-Shaya, Abdullah Sahan, Abdulrahman Ashwan, Bader Enad, Mishary Enad, Sami Enad, Abdullah Al-Awadi, Mohammed Fahad and Mubarak Saad as midfielders; Hamad Al-Azmi, Ahmad Al-Rashidi, Mohammed Abdullah Oda, Paulo Ventura, Wilson Antonio, Hamad Harbi, Abdulaziz Ghali, Ahmed Al-Asfour and Nawaf Al-Otaibi as forwards and Tariq Al-Kandari, Talal Al-Fadhli, Jalal Al-Fadhli and Abdulaziz Al-Hamar as goalkeepers.



AL-SAHEL

Al-Sahel Sporting Club are a professional football club based in Abu Halifa, founded in 1967 with Muhammed Al-Thalab as chairman.

The team's players include Ismail Alassane, Saad Dmid, Mishaal Al-Bloushi, Mohammed Isa, Saud Al-Otaibi, Hassan Salem, Saad Al-Hajri, Dawud Abdulaziz and Zayd Al-Eidan as defenders; Mansour Al-Ajmi, Ibrahim Kankoune, Hussein Al-Ajmi, Abdullah Farhan, Yassine Naoum, Mutlaq Hizam, Obaid Al-Otaibi, Ibrahim Jadal, Mohammad Al-Dhafiri, Saqer Nahar, Suleiman Saleh, Farraj Al-Zoubi, Nasser Rakan, Ahmad Atiq and Fahad Al-Daihani as midfielders; Ali Al-Dosari, Samir Sarsar, Salah Fajri, Saleh Al-Mutairi, Mishari

Barrak, Mohamed Jadeed and Efosa Ona Francis as forwards and Ali Kazem, Talal Al-Jarki, Faisal Al-Asfor and Waleed Hamadi as goalkeepers.



AL-TADHAMON

Al-Tadhamon Sporting Club are a football club based in Farwaniya, founded in 1965. Tadhamon's players include Husain Udailam, Bader Wared Al-Dafeeri, Yakoub Al-Ansari, Muhanna Lafi, Zair Al-Mutairi, Yousef Botaiban, Fahad Al-Hajri, Abdulrazzaq Ashwan and Majeed Awadh as defenders; Mohammed Ibrahim (captain), Mohammed Salem, Abdulaziz Al-Failakawi, Saad Al-Mutairi, Bader Al-Mutairi, Abdullah Ashwan, Sorin Virgil Oproiescu, Bader Fahd, Humoud Majeed, Abdulaziz Ashwan, Fahad Nooh, Fawaz Al-Mutairi, Musaed Raheel, Suliman Daud, Waleed Salem and Ahmed El-Merghany as midfielders; Thiago, Meshaal Naif, Abdullah Khaled, Hamed Al-Rashidi, Elias Kanu, Saleh Waleed and Issa Sanogo as forwards and Waleed Wared Al-Dafeeri and Hamad Badeer as goalkeepers.



BURGAN SC

Burgan Sports Club are a newly established sporting club in Kuwait, registered to compete in the VIVA Premier League, Kuwait Amir Cup, Kuwait Crown Prince Cup, Kuwait Super Cup and Kuwait Federation Cup from the 2014-15 official football season. The chairman of the club is Hamlan Al-Hamlan and the manager is Hamad Al-Harbi.

Before Burgan were registered, they had played many friendly matches and entered friendly competitions, several against KOC FC and against universities ranging from AUK to Kuwait University. Their first victory was in 2011.

Their final match as an unregistered team was against Kuwait Military Government FC that they lost 3-2, before joining official competition in the VIVA Premier League. Burgan have started to scout and build age group teams from under-14, under-16, under-18 and under-21. Boys from ages 9 to 12 join immediately for the under-12 team due to a lack of members. Burgan's crest is a shield of honor of Kuwait and sports, with the Kuwait map and flag and a football representing all kinds of sports. Their first logo was introduced in 2007 and was replaced in 2014 after being allowed by the KFA to compete in the Kuwait league. The 2014 logo has a larger sized body with a lighter color, and the 2007 date was added to it. On March 19, 2016, the club announced their new logo, and became the first Kuwaiti team to have a circular Logo.

Their players include Azaz Al-Shemali, Nana Nafihou, Majeed Mustafa, Sultan Al-Shammeri, Othman Al-Heem, Mafiz Al-Shammeri and Saad Al-Ajmi as defenders; Rashid Al-Moussawi, Tarik Lugman (captain), Mubarak Al-Matoug, Essam Al-Ajmi, Yousef Al-Moussawi, Nasser Failakawi, Mubarak Al-Shemali, Hamad Al-Harbi, Mohammed Koule and Abdulaziz Omar as midfielders; Saleh Al-Harbi, Faisal Al-Ajmi, Khalaf Al-Enezi, Abdulaziz Al-Shemali, Marzouq Zaki and Abdullah Al-Haddad as forwards and Ahmad Khanfar, Mishaal Al-Rashidi and Yousef Al-Sarraf as goalkeepers.

PS; Kuwait's national team made one World Cup appearance - in 1982 - managing a draw with Czechoslovakia but losing to England and France. During the match against France, a goal was scored by the French because some Kuwaiti players stopped playing, having heard a whistle. The goal was initially awarded by the referee, who had not blown the whistle, but Kuwait walked off the pitch in protest. They eventually resumed playing only after the intervention of Sheikh Fahd Al-Ahmad when he walked down the pitch to speak to the fourth official, and the referee's subsequent decision was to disallow the French goal.

Qadsiya play in the Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium in Hawally. They began playing in the 1961-62 season and finished second three years in a row behind Al-Arabi

AUSTRALIA CONFIDENT WADE WILL BE FIT FOR INDIA TOUR

WELLINGTON: Australia are confident wicketkeeper Matt Wade will be fit for the upcoming test tour of India and have no plans to call up another gloveman as a precaution, according to coach Darren Lehmann.

Wade, who took over as first choice wicketkeeper from Peter Nevill last November, missed two one-day internationals against New Zealand last week because of back spasms despite being

initially named as stand-in captain for Steve Smith.

Lehmann, though, said Wade had already departed for the pre-series training camp in the United Arab Emirates.

"He'll be fine. He's got on the plane," he told reporters in Hamilton. "If there was any doubt, he wasn't going to get on the plane. So that's a good thing."

The 29-year-old Wade was replaced behind the stumps for the defeats in

Auckland and Hamilton by middle order batsman Peter Handscomb, who also stood in when the wicketkeeper was taken sick during the third test against Pakistan in January.

Lehmann said Handscomb's performances were convincing enough not to warrant a call-up for Nevill, who has been in fine form with the bat in domestic cricket.

"He was a bit rusty when he only got

10 minutes notice at Eden Park," Lehmann added. "(But) he kept well (in Hamilton)."

Wade will be assessed after his flight and his match fitness tested in warm up matches in the UAE and Mumbai.

"Unless something flares up during the Dubai leg or tour game, we'll stay status quo. The bonus with the squad is you've got someone who can keep pretty well. That's handy, having that just in

case something happens."

Wade was required as stand-in captain in New Zealand because Smith suffered an ankle injury but Lehmann said the Australia skipper was already in Dubai and batting.

Australia, who last won a test in India in 2004, start the series on Feb. 23 with the first test in Pune, which will be followed by matches in Bangalore, Ranchi and Dharamsala. — Reuters

HOW INDIAN POWER PLAY HELPED BANGLADESH RISE

NEW DELHI: When India host a Test match against Bangladesh for the first time this week, it marks the culmination of a political power play which helped change the dynamics of world cricket. The invitation to the one-off match in Hyderabad was a long time coming but the tourists remain grateful to their hosts for pushing their claim for Test status, a move that was beneficial to both sides. "I think it was a very far-sighted move. Some would say it was political in terms of getting one more vote... in the ICC. That's a cynical way of looking at it," said Dileep Premachandran, editor-in-chief of Wisden India. "Others would say he (Jagmohan Dalmiya) recognised the kind of passion that people in Bangladesh have for the game and, in the long run, the sport would benefit hugely from that."

The virtually unanimous decision to make Bangladesh the 10th Test-playing nation was taken by the International Cricket Council (ICC) in June 2000. But it was India's aggressive championing of Bangladesh's cause that proved decisive, led by Dalmiya who was ICC president in 2000 after years at the helm of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). By working with Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Dalmiya had already loosened the grip of the game's traditional elite England and Australia, with the 1987 and 1996 World Cups co-hosted by the three South Asian teams. And he knew that the presence of another of India's neighbours at cricket's top table would change the dynamic once and for all when it came to decisions such as where to hold major tournaments.

While the first three ODI World Cups all took place in England, the last three Twenty20 world championships have taken place in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka with the South Asian bloc now able to call the shots. India, which is the largest contributor to the ICC coffers, even has a guarantee of staging at least one major tournament every two years. When Dalmiya died last year, Bangladesh's board said its "entry into the Test arena was the result of his

foresight and sincere cooperation".

BUILDING THE ASIAN BLOC

Senior cricinfo editor Sharda Ugra said Dalmiya "upset a lot of countries" by championing Bangladesh's cause but understood the benefits of building an Asian bloc that could challenge the established order. "Dalmiya was the first Asian ICC president, he was the first one from outside the old bloc of countries that were there. He had to fight a massive battle," Ugra told AFP.

"His whole talk was that of globalising the game but ultimately it was to sort of strengthen his powerbase."

Rajeev Shukla, a former top BCCI official who is now chairman of the Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 tournament, agreed that Bangladesh's admission into cricket's elite had major ramifications.

"Getting Bangladesh into Test cricket was a significant move," Shukla told AFP, saying that Dalmiya was one of a number of BCCI chiefs who helped Bangladesh achieve its goal.

More recently, England and Australia were at the forefront of a push to create a two-tier Test system but the idea was shot down by India, much to the relief of Bangladesh who are ranked ninth out of the 10 teams. But despite both championing their admission into Test cricket and then saving them from the ignominy of playing in a second division, India are the last team to host Bangladesh in a five-day match. Some experts say India did extend earlier invites but Bangladesh preferred to host the games themselves, to maximise television revenues. Ugra however said India had ironically shown less respect to Bangladesh than countries who were lukewarm about their admission in the first place. "A lot of other countries have paid a lot more respect and attention to Bangladesh... than India has," she said. "You keep going and visiting their country, which financially helps their board no doubt, but at the same time you need to show the respect to host them regularly." — AFP



OTTAWA: Britain's Daniel Evans returns the ball during a Davis Cup tennis match against Canada's Vasek Pospisil in Ottawa, Ontario, Sunday. —

TENNIS

BRITAIN, SPAIN ADVANCE IN DAVIS CUP, RAIN HALTS ARGENTINA

PARIS: Britain was defaulted into the Davis Cup quarter-finals Sunday while Spain edged Croatia to advance and defending champion Argentina battled Italy into a decisive fifth match at a rain-hit tie. Canada's Denis Shapovalov hit chair umpire Arnaud Gabas in the face with a ball and was defaulted in the deciding match, handing Britain's Kyle Edmund a 6-3, 6-4, 2-1 triumph and giving Britain a 3-2 victory in the first-round tie at Ottawa. "It was a strange way to finish," Edmund said. "I've never been part of something like that." Shapovalov, a 17-year-old Israeli-born Canadian, apologized to Gabas in the referee's office as the umpire was being treated for bruising and swelling of his left eye before being taken to a nearby hospital.

"No one is nicer or carries themselves better for a 17 y/o than Shapovalov," Canadian teammate Vasek Pospisil tweeted. "Everyone can see that today was an accident."

Pospisil had blasted 25 aces in a 7-6 (7/3), 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5) victory over Dan Evans to level at 2-2 for Canada, which was without injured world number four Milos Raonic.

Britain won Saturday's doubles match. Edmund lost to Pospisil in Friday's singles and Shapovalov fell to Evans. "It's a shame that it has happened that way and I feel for the young lad because he's a great talent and he has learned a harsh lesson today," British Davis Cup captain Leon Smith said. "I thought Kyle, from what we saw Friday to the way he came out today, he was absolutely fantastic."

Britain, the 2015 champions playing without top-ranked Andy Murray, advanced to a quarter-final matchup April 7-9 against France with that winner facing either Spain or Serbia in a September semi-final.

SPAIN TO FACE SERBIA NEXT

Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta swept Croatian journeyman Nikola Mektic in straight sets to clinch a 3-2 victory and set up a mouthwatering quarter-final clash with Novak Djokovic's Serbia.

Carreno Busta defeated world number 319 Mektic 7-6 (7/4), 6-1, 6-4 in the deciding rubber in Osijek as five-time champions Spain rallied from a 2-1 overnight deficit to knock out last year's runner-up.

Roberto Bautista Agut had earlier fought off a spirited challenge from Franko Skugor, winning 6-1, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) to level the contest.

"I'm very happy. Roberto was exceptional to get two points," said 26th-ranked Carreno Busta, who atoned for Friday's shock loss to world number 223 Skugor in the opening singles rubber. "I have had some beautiful experiences this weekend and hope for more of the same in the future."

Rafael Nadal sat out after reaching the final of last month's Australian Open, but the 14-time Grand Slam champion could well return for an April showdown with former world number one Djokovic. Serbia swept to a 4-1 victory over Russia in Nis as Dusan Lajovic beat Konstantin Kravchuk 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in a truncated fourth rubber before the hosts conceded the final match.

Heavy rain in Buenos Aires interrupted Sunday's first match before Argentina's Carlos Berlocq defeated Italy's Paolo Lorenzo 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, to level the tie at 2-2.

Argentina's Guido Pella and Italy's Andreas Seppi will meet in the decisive singles match starting Monday at 1400 GMT. Holders Argentina are without Juan Martin del Potro and Federico Delbonis, the men who won the reverse singles to beat Croatia in last year's final.

DARCIS LEADS BELGIUM

In Frankfurt, Steve Darcis knocked off German

teenager Alexander Zverev in four sets to send Belgium into the quarter-finals and a potential showdown with the reigning champions.

Darcis, who famously dumped Nadal out of Wimbledon in 2013, dropped the first set to 19-year-old Zverev before rallying for a 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (10/8) win to hand Belgium an unbeatable 3-1 lead. The Belgians, who were playing without world number 11 David Goffin, then completed

the job with Rubel Bemelmans brushing aside Mischa Zverev 7-5, 6-1.

In ties that were already settled by Sunday, the United States, the 32-time champions, finished off Switzerland 5-0 in Birmingham, Alabama, while 28-time champions Australia rounded out a 4-1 win over the Czech Republic and France completed a 4-1 victory over Japan.—AFP

NHL

CAPITALS DEFEAT KINGS, RANGERS BEAT FLAMES

WASHINGTON: Marcus Johansson and Brett Connolly each had a goal and an assist as the Washington Capitals chased shutout king Peter Budaj on their way to a 5-0 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Sunday. The NHL-leading Capitals snapped the Kings' winning streak at five and Budaj's shutout streak at 147:21. Washington backup Philipp Grubauer stopped 38 shots while Lars Eller, T.J. Oshie and Justin Williams also scored. Despite being outshot 38-20, Washington was opportunistic on offense and leaned on Grubauer to stymie the Kings on the way to his third shutout of the season. Budaj, who leads the NHL with seven shutouts, was pulled after allowing four goals on 15 shots in two periods.

RANGERS 4, FLAMES 3

Calgary veteran Kris Versteeg got ejected after losing his jersey during a fight and waved to jeering fans at Madison Square Garden as he skated off Sunday in the Flames' loss. Chris Kreider and Jesper Fast scored 3:12 apart in the middle of the third period to help the Rangers win for the fifth time in seven games overall and improve to 5-0-1 in their last six against Calgary. Versteeg, a two-time Stanley Cup champi-

on with Chicago and not known as a brawler, tangled with Pavel Buchnevich in the third period. Versteeg's jersey got pulled over his head during the scrap, and he adjusted it while heading to the penalty box. But an official came over to talk with Versteeg and the 30-year-old forward was tossed because, by rule, his jersey hadn't been properly tied down. He waved to the crowd as he left the ice. Michael Grabner had a goal and an assist and Rick Nash also scored for the Rangers.

OILERS 1, CANADIENS 0, SO

Leon Draisaitl scored the only goal in a shootout as the Oilers stopped a three-game slide. Cam Talbot had 22 saves as Edmonton (29-18-8) salvaged the finale of a three-game trip that included only one regulation goal for the Oilers. The Canadiens (30-16-8) dropped to 1-3-1 in their last five games. The Atlantic Division leaders were coming off a 3-2 loss to Washington on Saturday. Edmonton star Connor McDavid, playing in his 100th NHL game, had a breakaway in overtime, but he was denied by Al Montoya. Talbot also turned away a big drive for Shea Weber at the other end. Montoya finished with 32 saves. — AP



MONTREAL: Goaltender Cam Talbot #33 of the Edmonton Oilers stops Max Pacioretty #67 of the Montreal Canadiens in a shootout during the NHL game at the Bell Centre on Sunday in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The Edmonton Oilers defeated the Montreal Canadiens 1-0 in a shootout. — AFP

'SAD' COOK QUILTS AS ENGLAND TEST CAPTAIN

LONDON: Alastair Cook resigned as England Test captain yesterday after a record 59 matches in the role, saying it was "a sad day" but the right decision for the team.

Yorkshire batsman Joe Root is the strong favourite to take over with an announcement expected in the next fortnight, as England build towards the Ashes in Australia at the end of the year. Cook, England's leading scorer in Tests with 11,057 runs, became captain in August 2012 and led his country to Ashes glory on home soil in 2013 and 2015 as well as series wins in India and South Africa.

"It's been a huge honour to be England captain and to lead the Test team over the past five years," Cook, 32, who intends to carry on playing Test cricket, said in a statement.

"Stepping down has been an incredibly hard decision, but I know this is the correct decision for me and at the right time for the team." Cook's decision to stand down follows England's 4-0 series defeat in India at the end of last year, which put pressure on him to quit.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said a "proper process" had started to appoint a successor, with the team not in Test action again until July.

Cook, who also led England in a record 69 one-day internationals between 2010 and 2014, is the country's most capped Test skipper and has scored more Test centuries than any previous captain. He was named Wisden

Cricketer of the Year in 2012 and ICC (International Cricket Council) World Test Captain in 2013. He tendered his resignation to England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Colin Graves on Sunday.

"It's a sad day personally in many ways, but I want to thank everyone I've captained, all the coaches and support staff and, of course, the England supporters and the Barmy Army who follow us home and away and have given us unwavering support," Cook added.

"Playing for England really is a privilege and I hope to carry on as a Test player, making a full contribution and helping the next England captain and the team however I can."

'ONCE IN A GENERATION'

England's director of cricket Andrew Strauss said Cook had made a "fantastic contribution" and "deserves to be seen as one of our country's great captains".

"We now move on with the process of appointing the right successor," Strauss said.

"There are a number of established players who are playing formal or informal leadership roles and whilst we've rightly not spoken to anyone in relation to the Test captaincy so far, we can now talk fully and openly within the team.

"We expect to be able to make an announcement before the team head to the West Indies on 22nd February." — AFP



LONDON: This file photo taken on August 23, 2015 shows England's captain Alastair Cook posing with the replica Ashes Urn as England celebrate their series victory over Australia at The Oval cricket ground in London. Alastair Cook resigned as England Test captain yesterday.— AFP

PREVIEW

REFRESHED BARCA SEEK TO CONTINUE CUP DOMINANCE

MADRID: Holders Barcelona have a fourth consecutive Copa del Rey final in sight when Atletico Madrid visit the Camp Nou today with the daunting task over overturning a 2-1 semi-final, first leg deficit.

Stunning solo goals from Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi put Barca well in command of the tie before half-time at the Vicente Calderon tomorrow.

And both are well-rested for the return as Suarez sat out Saturday's 3-0 win over Athletic Bilbao, whilst Messi took a rare break for the final 25 minutes after netting his 31st goal of the season.

"It is important to realise that to reach our three objectives we need the

whole squad," said Barca boss Luis Enrique with his side going for a second treble of league, Cup and Champions League in three years.

One key member of the Barca squad will be missing for Atletico's visit, though, as Neymar is suspended.

Messi will also have to be careful as a yellow card would rule him out of the final should Barca advance.

The hosts are also likely to also be without Gerard Pique and Rafinha. Pique came off at half-time after picking up a groin strain, whilst Rafinha broke his nose in a collision with Barca 'keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen at the weekend.

However, Andres Iniesta and Sergio

Busquets are close to returning from hamstring and ankle injuries respectively. Atletico were a team transformed in the second-half of the first leg as they roared back into the tie after the introduction of Fernando Torres at the break.

Antoine Griezmann halved the arrears, whilst Torres and Kevin Gameiro all came close to levelling near the end.

Torres's impact continued as he scored his first La Liga goals since September with a double in Saturday's 2-0 win over Leganes.

"We know the game on Tuesday will be extremely difficult, but it is in the hard games where our pride comes out and we hope to experience one of those

magic nights on Tuesday," said the former Liverpool and Chelsea striker.

However, the size of the task awaiting Diego Simeone's men is underlined by the fact Torres scored twice the last time they won at the Camp Nou during in his first spell at the club in 2006.

Atletico will also be without suspended captain Gabi.

Defender Lucas Hernandez returned to training on Sunday after he was arrested in the early hours of Friday morning on suspicion of domestic violence. However, the Frenchman is unlikely to be involved in Simeone's squad.

Tomorrow's other semi-final is more

delicately poised at 0-0 between Alaves and Celta Vigo. Celta had the weekend off as their La Liga clash with Real Madrid was postponed after high winds caused structural damage to their Balaidos stadium.

Alaves even made a petition to the Spanish Football Federation to have the second leg postponed, claiming Celta's extra time to prepare handed them an unfair advantage.

The Basques, though, have home advantage and are full of confidence after virtually securing their place in the top flight for next season with a 4-2 win at Sporting Gijon on Sunday despite resting a swathe of key players. — AFP

SAINT-ETIENNE BEAT LYON IN FIERY DERBY

PARIS: Saint-Etienne inflicted a third league defeat in four matches on faltering bitter rivals Lyon and bolstered their European aspirations with a 2-0 victory in Sunday's tempestuous Rhone derby. Kevin Monnet-Paquet scored a ninth-minute opener at Saint-Etienne's Stade Geoffroy Guichard and Romain Hamouma slotted in a second on 22 minutes as Les Verts closed to within a point of fourth-placed Lyon. The visitors finished with nine men as substitute Rachid Ghezzal and Corentin Tolisso were dismissed in stoppage time to further sour a dreadful evening for Lyon.

"It was a negative result and the behaviour was unworthy of a derby notably in the first half," complained Lyon coach Bruno Genesio of the fiery clash. "All defeats are difficult but it's even harder to swallow in a derby because pride is at stake."

Saint-Etienne, who face Manchester United in the Europa League last 32 this month, have won three games in a row in Ligue 1, while Lyon's Champions League hopes look doomed after falling 12 points behind the top three. "This was surely our best start since the beginning of the season and just what was needed in a derby," said Saint-Etienne coach Christophe Galtier. "There was a lot of determination, with a collective force. The players really went after this victory."

Both sides suffered French Cup last-32 exits in midweek, although Lyon were boosted by the return from injury of leading scorer Alexandre Lacazette. But an ear-

ly defensive blunder from Emanuel Mammana proved fatal for Lyon as Saint-Etienne won back possession on the edge of the area with Monnet-Paquet firing through the legs of Anthony Lopes.

Tolisso headed against the crossbar after he was left unmarked from a Nabil Fekir cross, but a rash decision from Lopes resulted in the hosts grabbing a second goal shortly after.

The Lyon goalkeeper raced out of his box to try and cut out a through ball but lost out to Hamouma, who calmly skipped round the Portugal international to double Saint-Etienne's lead.

With the visitors heading towards a third straight loss to Saint-Etienne at Le Chaudron (The Cauldron), Lyon capitulated in the closing stages as Ghezzal picked up two yellow cards in quick succession before Tolisso saw red for a wild lunge at Fabien Lemoine. On Saturday, Monaco moved three points clear at the top of the table with a 3-0 victory over title rivals Nice.

Valere Germain opened the scoring at the Stade Louis II before Radamel Falcao struck twice as Nice lost for just the second time this season. Paris Saint-Germain climbed above Nice into second on goal difference after winning 3-1 at Dijon.

Lucas struck first in Dijon, but the hosts equalised just two minutes later through Julio Tavares. Thiago Silva then bundled in from a corner on 81 minutes, while Edinson Cavani grabbed his 22nd goal of the campaign to secure victory. — AFP



TURIN: Inter Milan's Argentinian forward Mauro Icardi from (c) falls as he vies for the ball with Juventus' Italian defender Leonardo Bonucci (l) and Juventus' Swiss defender Stephan Lichtsteiner during the Italian Serie A football match between Juventus and Inter Milan on Sunday at the Juventus Stadium in Turin. — AFP

SOCCER

CUADRADO SENDS JUVE SIX POINTS CLEAR

ROME: Juan Cuadrado broke his Serie A duck for the season with a sensational strike that sent Juventus six points clear of Napoli thanks to a 1-0 win over Inter Milan on Sunday. Title hopefuls Roma, currently third at seven points behind, can move back up to second place with a win over Fiorentina in their delayed game today.

But the Giallorossi, still reeling from a 3-2 defeat to Sampdoria last week, are now under huge pressure not to drop further points following another defiant display from the 32-time champions in Turin.

Inter travelled west hoping to build on a superb spell of form that has seen Stefano Pioli's men claim 25 points from their last 10 games.

But poor finishing and dogged Juve defending kept Inter at bay in a promising first half before Cuadrado put a smile on coach Massimiliano Allegri's face with a slightly-deflected shot that beat Samir Handanovic at his top corner on 45 minutes.

Juve held on amid an at times bad-tempered second half, Ivan Perisic seeing red in the final minute, to secure an 18th win that kept them on course for a record-setting sixth consecutive title. Inter, chasing a coveted Champions League place, remain fifth at 12 points adrift and five points behind Roma.

Juventus threatened from the start, Swiss midfielder Stephan Lichtsteiner allowed to waltz into the area to deliver a cross that found the head of Mario Mandzukic.

The Croat headed on for Paulo Dybala to hit a spectacular overhead kick that forced Handanovic into a two-handed block.

Dybala was one of three Argentinians, along with Juve striker Gonzalo Higuain and Inter striker Mauro Icardi, being watched in Turin by national team coach Edgardo Bauza.

When the Juve playmaker pounced on a loose ball soon after, he curled a shot over Handanovic that came off the crossbar.

RUMBLING

Inter were rumbled, and finally moved up a gear but Roberto Gagliardini fired just over on the volley and Joao Mario drilled inches wide of Gianluigi Buffon's post as the relieved 'keeper looked on.

Perisic then turned provider for Gagliardini to head straight at Buffon, who was alert to Perisic's header from seven yards out moments later.

Juve went on the counter and a galloping Mandzukic stole in behind Jeison Murillo to meet a cross on the bounce and send a diving

header a metre wide. Icardi then glanced a shot wide Buffon's far post after a great Perisic delivery from the left, but Juve came fighting back. Miralem Pjanic's sublime free kick had Handanovic in a flap to save at the crossbar, but the hosts' persistence paid off when Cuadrado pounced on a poor clearance to fire through several bodies from 25 yards out and beat Handanovic at his near post.

Juve should have doubled their lead eight minutes after the restart but Handanovic produced a spectacular parry to deny Bosnian Pjanic at the near post.

Geoffrey Kondogbia replaced Marcelo

Brozovic and Eder came on for an ineffective Antonio Candreva on the hour and the extra legs provided Inter with an initial spur.

Yet Inter ran out of steam and were thankful to Handanovic for blocking Higuain's drive after he turned on Dybala's pass in the area.

Eder went on the counter, but with options open nearby the Italy striker wasted the chance when he got caught in traffic.

At the final corner Handanovic ran upfield but the 'keeper earned a caution for his clumsy effort and Inter's frustration was completed when Perisic saw red in the fourth and final minute of added-on time. — AFP

HAMSIK CHASES MARADONA RECORD, REAL DATE LOOMS

ROME: Marek Hamsik says he remains in awe of Argentina legend Diego Maradona but the Slovakia midfielder won't hold back as the former Napoli hero's 115-goal club record comes into sight.

Hamsik and Dries Mertens struck memorable hat-tricks in a 7-1 rout at Bologna on Saturday as Napoli boosted their hopes of a first title since Maradona inspired the southerners to the second of their two titles in 1990. The Slovakian international's first Serie A hat-trick took his Napoli tally to 111 goals in nine seasons, only four short of the record Maradona set during a successful but controversial spell in 1984-1991.

The big win, with Mertens grabbing his third hat-trick of the season, left Napoli six points shy of leaders Juventus after the Turin giants' 1-0 win over Inter Milan.

But Napoli are up to second and morale is high a week before the Italians face Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu for the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie. Maradona's name remains inextricably linked to Napoli but Hamsik will not let sentiment get in the way as he eyes the great Argentine's 25-year-old record.

"It was my first hat-trick in Serie A and I'm delighted," Hamsik, who sports a mohican style haircut and numerous body tattoos, said. "Maradona is unique, there are no players like him, but I want to overtake his record. I could target it this year but if not I will target it in the future."

With nine goals in 23 appearances-sev-

en less than Serie A's surprising new leading scorer Mertens-and 15 games remaining in the league Hamsik should have time to finish his season on a personal high.

But for the 29-year-old Napoli's title push takes priority: "It was crucial for us to win, especially after our (1-1) slip-up at Palermo last week. "We wanted to score as many goals as possible. We started really well, in six minutes we'd already made the difference." Napoli are the most prolific scorers in Serie A, banging in 55 goals in 23 games And coach Maurizio Sarri hasn't even welcomed Arkadiusz Milik back yet.

The Polish striker hit four league goals in a handful of opening league games before succumbing to a cruciate knee ligament injury while on international duty last October. He is being primed to return in time for the daunting trip to Real next week. "What a game! I can't wait to play against Genoa," Milik wrote on Facebook.

Napoli are now unbeaten in 12 consecutive Serie A games and 17 matches in all competitions. But for Naples-born former Italy defender Fabio Cannavaro, who played for Napoli at the start of his career before spending three seasons with Real in 2006-2009, they will soon face the acid test.

"Napoli's visit to the Bernabeu will be a test of their maturity," Cannavaro told La Gazzetta dello Sport. "No one can question Real's international pedigree but it will be interesting to see how Napoli's game stands up." —AFP

DEENEY — FROM JAIL TO PREMIER LEAGUE RICHES

LONDON: Watford striker Troy Deeney's "light bulb" moment came when the cell door slammed and he contemplated a 10-month jail term for affray five years ago, he told AFP.

The 28-year-old, locked up for assaulting a student outside a pub, entered prison with words from his mother ringing in his ears that it was at times like that she wished he had not been born.

But Deeney rebuilt his life and his career



Troy Deeney

and two years after he was released having served three months, he was appointed Watford captain, a role he retains to this day. "The light bulb moment for me came when the door closed and my real world had stopped," Deeney, who lost his father just before the attack which sent him to prison, told AFP. "It was survival mode after that. People will go 'right yeah survival mode' and say that's a bit drastic but it was that. "All my feelings and emotions cut off as I said to myself 'you've got to get through this next few months'."

"I didn't have enough time to sulk or cry and do all the things you would think are natural reactions.

"If my mum died now I'd be a mess. I'd be crying all over the place and drinking loads of beer like everyone else would. I didn't have that luxury."

Deeney said incarceration transformed him for the better. "I always knew I would come out better but it was about how I went about doing it," said Deeney.

"Part of the course was alcohol dependency which was compulsory if I was to be eligible for a tag (to wear on early release). "I got into speaking, I used to be closed and have a lot of anger in me, at the group sessions. "I still speak to a psychologist. People feel sorry for themselves and think the world owes them something and then you realise it's not that bad."

Deeney, now teetotal, was particularly close to the man he called his father, Paul Anthony Burke-his biological father left home early on. He has a tattoo which bears Burke's date of birth and death.

It was to Burke that Deeney's thoughts

turned when Watford gained automatic promotion to the Premier League in the 2014/15 season.

"I just cried," admits Deeney. "I remember I found out on the bus that we got promoted as other results went our way-everyone went crazy."

He added: "I always wanted to be a footballer and always liked the idea of playing in the Premier League. I had played in League One (the third tier) with Walsall, then the Championship.

"My dad and granddad would be so proud. I rang my wife (Stacey and mother of their two children, Myles and Amelia) and said I'm going there to his graveside.

"However, at 6 in the evening it was shut so I went out with the team. "Then the next morning I went with a thermos of tea to the cemetery and had a cup of tea and sat there talking to his gravestone."

Deeney, who has set up his own foundation to help seriously ill children and distributes football kit to youngsters on the tough estate where he once lived in Birmingham, says he has used his prison experience to advise young offenders.

"I would probably stay away from talking in prisons because I had a career going in and I had one going out," said Deeney, who invited two of the prison guards to the Championship play-off final in 2014 as a way of thanking them for encouraging him to go to the prison gym and keep fit.

"I can't resonate with a lot of people there as there are a lot who have lived on that same road (crime) and once they are out they go back to doing the same thing.

"Driving out there in a Range Rover probably doesn't sit well with them," added Deeney, who nevertheless stays in touch with two of the inmates he considers friends. Deeney spoke to AFP after speaking at Sport Industry NextGen in partnership with Barclays. — AFP

Live Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

SPAIN COPA DEL REY	
Barcelona v Atletico de Madrid	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE	
Roma v Fiorentina	22:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
FRENCH LEAGUE	
Montpellier v Monaco	21:00
beIN SPORTS	
Caen v Bordeaux	21:00
beIN SPORTS	
Paris Saint v Lille	23:00
beIN SPORTS	
ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE	
Wigan Athletic v Norwich	22:45
beIN SPORTS	

Sports

S African rugby legend Van der Westhuizen dead



Cook quits as England Test captain



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017

SNAPSHOTS OF KUWAIT'S FOOTBALL CLUBS Pages 16 & 17



HOUSTON: New England Patriots' Julian Edelman is upended by Atlanta Falcons' Philip Wheeler, during the first half of the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game Sunday, in Houston. — AP

BRADY FAIRYTALE, PATRIOTS FIGHTBACK SEAL SUPER BOWL



HOUSTON: Tom Brady inspired the greatest comeback in Super Bowl history on Sunday as the New England Patriots stunned the Atlanta Falcons 34-28 in an epic overtime duel. In an extraordinary finale to the most challenging season of his career, Brady confirmed his right to be regarded as the best quarterback gridiron has ever seen with a fifth Super Bowl crown. Brady rallied the Patriots brilliantly to overturn a 28-3 third quarter deficit, completing a thrilling win on a night of improbable drama at Houston's NRG Stadium.

Brady, 39, collapsed to the turf with emotion after James White burrowed over from close range to score the winning touchdown on the opening drive of overtime. "We all brought each other back," Brady said. "We never felt out of it. It was a tough battle." The win capped a tumultuous season for Brady, who was banned at the start of the campaign for four games over the

"Deflategate" saga. National Football League commissioner Roger Goodell-widely viewed as Brady's arch-nemesis-was subjected to deafening boos as he presented the Patriots with the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Brady, who threw for 466 yards and two touchdowns, shrugged off suggestions that the win amounted to a personal redemption.

"This is all positive," he said. "It took a lot of mental toughness. We're going to remember this for the rest of our lives." The Falcons meanwhile were left shellshocked after snatching a defeat from the jaws of victory which ensures they remain on the list of teams never to have won a Super Bowl.

"There's nothing you can really say," said dejected Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan. "That's a tough loss. Obviously very disappointed, very close to getting done what we wanted to get done, but it's hard to find words tonight."

BACK FROM THE DEAD

The Patriots had looked dead and buried after the Falcons scored three first half touchdowns and an early score in the third quarter to power 25 points clear.

No team had ever come back from more than 10 points to win the Super Bowl before, and the Patriots looked to be heading for a crushing defeat as the Falcons ran riot.

But Brady, who had looked a pale imitation of himself for much of the game, suddenly fired into life in the second half to produce a performance that will go into National Football League folklore.

The Falcons, who had gone into the game boasting one of the most potent offenses in history, were left distraught and still waiting for their first Super Bowl crown. They had appeared to be roaring to the championship with quarterback Ryan pulling apart the Patriots in the first half.

The Falcons scored touchdowns through Devonta

Freeman and Austin Hooper before Robert Alford picked off Brady for an 82-yard interception score. The Patriots could only muster a Stephen Gostkowski field goal to go into half-time 21-3 down.

A shellshocked Brady looked bereft after his interception blunder and it got worse for the Patriots early in the third quarter.

The misfiring Patriots offense again squandered their next possession and Atlanta were back on the charge, powering forward with a nine-play drive that ended with Ryan lobbing a six-yard pass to Tevin Coleman for a touchdown.

New England grabbed what looked like a consolation score when Brady found running back White to make it 28-9. But Gostkowski missed the extra point afterwards, and it seemed as if all Atlanta had to do was ride out the clock.

But a further Gostkowski field goal made it 28-12 and when Brady hit Danny Amendola for a six-yard touchdown, with a successful two-point conversion to follow, it had suddenly become a one-score game.

Now the Falcons were flustered and a crucial drive faltered and the Patriots won the ball back.

An epic drive hinged on a logic-defying 23-yard reception to Julian Edelman, who somehow gathered a deflected pass to put the Patriots in enemy territory.

Brady marched his team forward and White scampered in from one yard to make it 28-26. Another two-point conversion followed to make it 28-28 and take the game to overtime for the first time in Super Bowl history. The Patriots won the toss and elected to receive and with momentum clearly on their side, there was only going to be one outcome. Brady, just as he had done in his first Super Bowl victory in 2002, nervelessly led his team forward and soon they were camped on the Atlanta line. It was left to White to score his third touchdown of the night to clinch an amazing victory. — AFP

PATS' BRADY NAMED SUPER BOWL MVP AFTER RECORD COMEBACK

HOUSTON: New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady was named the Most Valuable Player of the Super Bowl on Sunday after leading his team on a record comeback over the Atlanta Falcons in the National Football League championship game. Brady, a five-times Super Bowl winner and four-times MVP of the championship game, completed 43 of 62 passes for 466 yards, two touchdowns and one interception in the 34-28 overtime victory, the first Super Bowl decided in extra time. The 39-year-old Brady set Super Bowl records for completions and yards gained passing as he directed the Patriots on a monumental comeback from a 28-3 third-quarter hole—the largest deficit ever overcome in a Super Bowl.

"We all brought each other back. We never felt out of it. It was a tough battle," Brady said on the field after James White plunged past the goal line for the winning touchdown. "They (Atlanta) have a great team, I give them a lot of credit. We just made a few more plays than them."

Asked whether his fifth Super Bowl title was the best, Brady replied: "They're all great. This team resembled a lot of teams from the past that had a lot of mental toughness, great defense. Everyone rose to the occasion in the second half and overtime."

Brady, who was suspended for the first four games of the regular season over his role in the AFC title game controversy over under-inflated balls two seasons ago despite fighting the punishment in court, was asked if this was redemption. "This is all positive, man. This is unbelievable." Brady was surrounded by his wife, super model Gisele Bundchen, their kids and his father and mother, who has been battling illness the last 18 months.

"They're all happy," Brady said about having his family with him. "It's nice to have everybody here. It's going to be a great celebration tonight." Brady then shouted out to the Patriots fans as he brandished the Lombardi Trophy: "Thank you to all our fans. Everyone back in Boston, New England, we love you. You've been with us all year. We're bringing this sucker home!" — Reuters

Kuwait Times 55th Anniversary BUSINESS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017

North Korean economics 101:
How much is a dollar worth?

Page 23

Tata completes purge
of ex-chairman Mistry

Page 22



Oil prices to remain
weak; new recession
approaching: Expert

Page 23

INDONESIA GROWTH UP; Q4 FIGURES DISAPPOINT

Page 24



ZHUHAI: Photo shows a scale model of the COMAC C919 passenger aircraft on display at the Airshow China 2014 in Zhuhai, southern China's Guangdong province. China's first homegrown big passenger plane will make its maiden voyage in the first half of this year, state media said yesterday, as the country seeks to challenge foreign giants Airbus and Boeing. — AFP

MADE-IN-CHINA PLANE TARGETS 2017 DEBUT

BEIJING: China's first homegrown big passenger plane will make its maiden voyage in the first half of this year, state media said yesterday, as the country seeks to challenge foreign giants Airbus and Boeing. The C919 narrow-body jet is expected to "realize its blue-sky flight dream" in the first six months of 2017, the People's Daily newspaper reported, with the installation of onboard systems almost completed.

The plane, produced by the state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corp of China (COMAC), was originally scheduled to make its debut journey in 2015, but the date was repeatedly pushed back as it underwent additional testing and certification. For China, the aircraft represents at least eight years of effort in a state-mandated drive to reduce the country's reliance on European plane maker Airbus and Boeing of the United States and compete directly against them for market share. The first C919 rolled off the assembly line in November 2015 after workers spent more than a year putting together the single-aisle aircraft, which can seat 168 passengers.

It is hoped the plane will take market share in the lucrative seg-

ment from the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320. In November COMAC said it had received 570 orders from 23 customers. China is one of the Western manufacturers' key battlegrounds, with its travelers taking to the skies in ever-growing numbers. The country's airlines will need nearly 6,000 new planes worth \$945 billion over the next two decades, Airbus said in its 2016-2035 Global Market Forecast. Boeing's expectations are even more optimistic, for 6,800 aircraft costing \$1 trillion.

To win favor locally both have built partnerships with Chinese firms, even as Beijing hopes to oust them with homegrown aircraft. Airbus has a completion and delivery centre in Tianjin, where workers install furnishings and apply paint to aircraft for the domestic market. It also buys parts such as exit doors, brake blades and wing sections from Chinese suppliers. Boeing last year announced plans to open a facility with COMAC to paint and install cabins for 737-model planes, the Chinese firm said. COMAC has also developed a smaller regional jet, the ARJ21, which took to the skies in its first commercial flight last June. — AFP

APPLE, GOOGLE, UBER JOIN FIGHT AGAINST TRAVEL BAN

SEATTLE: Dozens of tech companies, including behemoths like Apple, Google and Facebook, are siding with Washington state and Minnesota as they fight President Donald Trump's ban on refugees and travelers from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States. The companies filed briefs late Sunday with a federal appellate court saying the Trump executive order hurts their businesses.

In their court filing with the San Francisco-based 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals, a total of 97 companies said Trump's travel ban "hinders the ability of American companies to attract great talent; increases costs imposed on business; makes it more difficult for American firms to compete in the international marketplace." The travel ban would prompt businesses to build operations outside the United States, said the companies. The long list of enterprises looking to join the fight against Trump are among the country's biggest, most high-profile businesses like Uber, eBay and Netflix. The businesses are looking to help Washington and Minnesota as they sue Trump. The states have said the ban harmed residents and effectively mandated discrimination.

The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals this weekend denied the administration's request to immediately set aside a Seattle judge's ruling that put a hold on the ban nationwide. Trump's order applied to Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen - countries the administration said raise terrorism concerns. The order sparked nationwide airport protests and caused confusion for many foreigners trying to reach the United States. Trump has said he's trying to protect Americans. The government says the president has the authority to decide who can enter the country.

However the companies, in their court filing, said Trump's executive order would destroy the entrepreneurial spirit that fuels American businesses. Immigrants make many of the nation's greatest discoveries, and create some of the country's most innovative and iconic companies, the court filing said. "The experience and energy of people who come to our country to seek a better life for themselves and their children—to pursue the 'American Dream'—are woven throughout the social, political, and economic fabric of the nation." — AP

REMITTANCES FROM EGYPTIAN EXPATS RISE AFTER POUND FLOAT

CAIRO: Remittances from expatriate Egyptians rose 11.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2016, the central bank said yesterday, with most of the increase coming after it floated the pound in a dramatic bid to unlock foreign currency inflows. The central bank said in a statement remittances had risen 15.4 percent to \$1.6 billion in December 2016 from \$1.4 billion in December 2015. Total remittances amounted to \$4.6 billion in the fourth quarter of 2016, up from \$4.1 billion in the same peri-

od of 2015. Around 72 percent, \$3.3 billion, of fourth-quarter remittances were sent after the float, the bank added. Egyptians working abroad send back billions of dollars a year in remittances, an important source of hard currency for a country that has seen tourism, foreign investment and exports dwindle in the political turmoil that followed the 2011 revolt.

The central bank floated the Egyptian pound on Nov 3, aiming to unlock foreign currency inflows and crush a black market

for dollars that had discouraged people from channeling foreign currency through the banking system. Expatriates had turned to the black market as the spread between the official pound to dollar exchange rate and the parallel rate widened. The uptick in remittances suggests that the flotation, and subsequent steep depreciation in the pound, has succeeded in encouraging Egyptians to send more money home through the formal economy. —Reuters



RAS LAFFAN, Qatar: A picture shows the Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar's principal site for production of liquefied natural gas and gas-to-liquid, administrated by Qatar Petroleum, some 80 kilometers north of the capital Doha. — AFP

QATAR PETROLEUM CHIEF SAYS TRUMP 'VERY POSITIVE' FOR OIL

DOHA: The head of energy giant Qatar Petroleum has shrugged off fears that any potential protectionist policies pursued by US President Donald Trump would impact on global oil and gas markets. Saad Al-Kaabi who heads state-owned QP, the largest exporter of Liquid Natural Gas and one of the biggest oil companies in the world-said yesterday he expected US policy to remain similar to that exercised under previous presidents.

"Projects that we get into are projects that we get into for 25 to 30 years," he said. "They survive seven, eight presidents or whatever. The president is a businessman. Bringing in foreign investment into the US is something that I think he would want. "As far as I have seen, as far as the oil and gas business is concerned, he's been very positive for oil and gas." Fears have been raised elsewhere about a new protectionism being used by Washington. China, Germany and France's leadership have warned in recent weeks against tougher trade rules being imposed by the US.

QP already has joint ventures with America's ExxonMobil, whose former chief

executive Rex Tillerson is now Trump's secretary of state. And trade between cash-rich Qatar and the US is set to grow after Doha's government said last year that it wanted to invest \$35 billion in the US by 2020. The tiny Gulf state is a keen ally of the US as well, hosting around 10,000 American troops at the Al-Udeid air base. Kaabi added that his company would pursue a growth strategy for the foreseeable future, including major international projects, as it adjusts to depressed global energy markets in recent years.

"As far as our strategy is concerned we are in a growth mode and we are going to continue to be in a growth mode for quite a while," he told international journalists at QP headquarters in Doha. "Some will be national, the majority will be international." Among the projects QP is looking at overseas is gas and oil exploration off the coast of Cyprus, he said. QP, together with ExxonMobil, Italy's ENI and France's Total, were last month selected to negotiate a licence to explore for gas in Cyprus. Kaabi added that he believed Qatar would be a leader in the LNG market "for a long time". — AFP

EURO FADES IN FACE OF FRENCH ELECTION RISKS

DOLLAR STEADIES AFTER BLOW FROM WAGES DATA

LONDON: The euro fell around half a percent yesterday as concerns over French politics ahead of presidential elections set for April and May drew investors' focus back to a year of political risks to Europe's established order. The dollar was broadly steadier after a poor set of wages data on Friday quashed speculation of a near-term rise in US interest rates and sealed the currency's fourth straight weekly fall, its worst start to a year in three decades.

In a relatively slow start to the week, the Aussie dollar was the other biggest mover among the G10 group of major currencies, down almost half a percent after a weaker batch of retail sales numbers. The euro ground lower in the European morning to trade as weak as \$1.0734, compared with two month highs above \$1.08 hit last week. That came as bond market investors swapped French debt for the perceived safety of Germany and in spite of a strong batch of German industrial data which added to signs of an improving euro zone economy. "I think there was just a load of position adjustment this morning," said Jane Foley, a strategist with

Rabobank in London. "There has been a lot of talk about the strong data in Europe but the other backdrop is the politics. A few weeks ago, the market was convinced (conservative presidential candidate Francois) Fillon would win and that certainty has evaporated." A source close to Fillon said he would launch a fightback later against the fake-job scandal that has threatened to engulf his campaign. Polls show the 62-year-old former prime minister has lost his status as favorite to win the presidency to centrist Emmanuel Macron, and that far-right leader Marine Le Pen - the chief risk for markets - has also gained ground.

Pressures on dollar

Equity markets, and the overall strength of US economic data, continue to back the bullish dollar calls that dominated at the end of last year. But a lack of detail on expected pro-dollar tax and spending initiatives, combined with concern over the Trump White House's attitude to the dollar and global trade and security, has kept the currency retreating.

"I'd like to hope that we naturally go back to buying the dollar, that seems the logical argument underneath it all," said Richard Benson, co-head of portfolio management with currency fund Millennium Global in London. "At some point, equities in the US should drag yields higher. The market is really just looking for another story." Signs of more inflation and better growth in Europe have helped to cool any further selling of the euro, although against that there are the worries of populist challenges in a series of elections this year.

On Sunday Le Pen began her bid to be elected president in May, promising she alone could protect the French against Islamist militants and globalization. German industrial orders saw the biggest monthly increase in around 2 1/2 years in December, data yesterday showed. Speculators trimmed their bullish dollar bets for a fourth straight week through Jan 31, with net long positions falling to their lowest since late October, according to data from the Commodity Futures Trading Commission released on Friday and calculations by Reuters.—Reuters

GLOBAL EQUITIES ENDS FIRST MONTH ON A POSITIVE NOTE

KUWAIT: Global equities ended the first month of the new year on a positive note up 2.7%. The rally was led by emerging markets, which was up 5.45%. US equities closed the month of January up 1.8% as measured by the S&P500, as Donald Trump took power as the 45th president of the United States on January 20th. Within the MENA region, Kuwait's equities were the top performer up 12.4%, while Saudi's Tadawul All Share Index closed in the red, down 1.51%. Commodities were mixed in January, with Gold up 5.5% and Brent Oil down 2.0%. Although OPEC and 11 non-OPEC producers cut production by 1.5 million barrels a day, production picked up in other regions, including US shale oil, weighing down on prices.

In the US, economic indicators continued to post optimistic signs of growth. Real GDP grew 2.1% in Q4, as US retail sales posted another strong month to end 2016; retail sales increased 0.6% last month after rising only 0.2% in November. American manufacturers ended 2016 optimistic as the US ISM Manufacturing Index hit the highest level in two years. The index climbed to 55, signaling expansion, while the US ISM nonmanufacturing remained at 57.2 in December. Nonfarm payrolls came in at 227,000 jobs in January versus the expected 175,000, while unemployment edged higher to 4.8%.

Durable goods orders fell 0.4% for second month in a row. Housing starts jumped in December by 11.3%, at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.226 million, marking the best year since 2007. Existing home sales declined from the previous month and came in below the forecast, but sales for the full year were the strongest since 2006. Newhome sales declined last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 536,000.

UK inflation

The UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) ended 2016 at 56.1, recording the fastest growth in more than two years but ended January slightly down at 55.9. UK inflation rose to 1.6% in December year-on-year, up from 1.2% in November year-on-year. Consumer confidence for the month of January was recorded at -5, up from the previous month at -7. Retail sales in December dropped 1.9% from the previous month making it the biggest monthly fall in the last four and a half years.

UK equities closed the month down 0.6%, as measured by the FTSE 100. The Euro-zone Manufacturing PMI was at 55.2 in January compared to 54.9 in the previous month. This indicates that the Euro-zone manufacturing is in expansionary range. The Services PMI remained unchanged at 53.7 for the month of January. The indicator showed improvement in business activity, although a bit slower. Consumer confidence rose slightly to -4.7 from -4.9. European equities in January dropped 0.4%, as measured by the Stoxx Europe 600.

Japan posted a trade surplus of JPY 313 billion for the month of November. The surplus was helped by cheaper oil imports and an improvement in exports. Exports for the month of December were up year on year 5.4% while imports were down year on year 2.6%. The Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index dropped to 52.7 in January from 52.8 in December. Japan's consumer price index dropped to 0.3% in December from 0.6 in November. The unemployment rate decreased to 3.1% in December.

Japanese equities

Japanese equities were slightly down in January, as measured by the Nikkei 225, falling 0.4% for the month. China's exports fell more than expected in December as global trade remained sluggish. Exports decreased 6.1% year-on-year in dollar terms, while imports rose 3.1%. The Caixin manufacturing purchasing managers' index, a private gauge of nationwide factory activity, rose to 51.0 in January from 51.9 in December. The Caixin non-manufacturing purchasing manager's index also increased for the month of January to 54.6 from December's figure of 54.5.

Although emerging market equities performed well in January, up 5.5%, Chinese equities, as measured by the Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index, only gained of 1.8%. The GCC equity market started the year well with gains of 1.1%, supported by the Kuwait equity market. Bahrain and Dubai markets also performed well, advancing 6.8% and 3.2%, respectively. Egypt's index continued to improve in 2017, increasing 2.7% in January. Abu Dhabi had a minimal gain of 0.1%, while Saudi Arabia's equity market posted negative returns.

TOYOTA, SUZUKI WORKING TOGETHER IN GREEN AND SAFETY TECHNOLOGY

TOKYO: Japanese automakers Toyota and Suzuki, which began discussing a partnership in October, said yesterday they would work together in ecological and safety technology - a rapidly growing area in the industry. Toyota Motor Corp, the maker of the Camry sedan, Prius hybrid and Lexus luxury models, and Suzuki Motor Corp, which specializes in tiny cars, announced the decision, following approval by the company boards, and signed a memorandum of agreement, both sides said. Another area for possible collaboration is information technology as well as supplying each other with products and components. The next step would be to come up with specific cooperation projects, they said.

Suzuki does not have a hybrid, electric car or fuel cell vehicle in its lineup. Self-driving cars are also a growing focus in the industry. Toyota President Akio Toyoda praised Suzuki's pioneer spirit. "I am truly thankful for having been given this opportunity to work together with a company such as Suzuki, which overflows with the spirit of challenge."

Toyota looks forward to learning much," he said in a statement. Developing futuristic technology is costly, and the automakers can hope to reduce costs by working together. Toyota and Suzuki have encouraged others to join the partnership.



TOKYO: Japan's Suzuki Motor Corporation Vice Chairman Yasuhito Harayama (2nd left) and other managing directors hold a press conference to announce the company's financial results in Tokyo yesterday. Separately, Toyota and small car maker Suzuki agreed yesterday to begin detailed discussions on their technology tie-up as well as mutual supply of products and components after they announced initial plans in October to forge a possible partnership.—AFP

"We now stand at the starting point for building a concrete cooperative relationship. I want to give this effort our fullest and to aim at producing results that will lead Toyota to conclude that it was the right thing for Toyota to

have decided to work together with Suzuki," said Suzuki Chairman Osamu Suzuki.

Suzuki said the company had courted Toyota on such a partnership for years. Toyota leads the world in selling gas-electric

hybrids, headed by the Prius, and it is also working on fuel cells and electric vehicles. Emissions regulations are tightening around the world, amid growing concerns about the environment and global warming.—AP

SAMSUNG GROUP TO DISBAND CORPORATE STRATEGY OFFICE

SEOUL: Samsung Group said it will disband its corporate strategy office after a special prosecution probe ends, setting a timeline on a pledge to wind up the office that has been criticized for its role in a national graft scandal. The smartphones-to-biopharmaceuticals business empire is currently being investigated by the South Korean special prosecutor's office as part of a wider probe into the scandal that threatens to permanently unseat President Park Geun-hye.

Special prosecution has classified Jay Y Lee, third-generation leader of South Korea's top conglomerate, and head of the corporate strategy office Choi Gee-sung as suspects in its bribery investigation on

suspicions that Samsung paid money to organizations linked to Park's confidant, Choi Soon-sil, to pave the way for a 2015 merger of two affiliates.

Samsung's corporate strategy office has come under scrutiny amid suspicions that its top officials, tasked with setting the group's long-term agenda such as an ongoing ownership restructuring, were involved in the lobbying process. The office is seen as a key organ through which the founding Lee family exerts control over various affiliates. "Action will be taken following the conclusion of the special prosecutor's investigation," Samsung said in a brief statement, adding

that preparations are already underway. It did not elaborate on details including how the conglomerate plans to perform the functions that are currently performed by the strategy office. Lee, who assumed leadership of Samsung after his father Lee Kun-hee was incapacitated by a May 2014 heart attack, said at a December parliament hearing over the graft scandal that he plans to disband the office but did not give a specific timeline. The special prosecution's investigation is currently set to conclude by Feb. 28 but the office said separately on Monday it is considering seeking a 30-day extension.—Reuters

TATA COMPLETES PURGE OF EX-CHAIRMAN MISTRY

MUMBAI: Indian salt-to-steel giant Tata completed its purge of former chairman Cyrus Mistry yesterday by removing him from the board of the conglomerate's holding company. Mistry was axed as chairman of the holding company Tata Sons in October and then forced out of its operating companies as group patriarch Ratan Tata set about eradicating his influence in the 150-year-old conglomerate.

Mistry's dismissal from the Tata Sons board at a special meeting in Mumbai on Monday saw him stripped of his last official position in the group, which has annual revenue of \$103 billion. "The shareholders of Tata Sons Limited, at the extraordinary general meeting held today, passed, with the requisite majority, a resolution to remove Cyrus P Mistry as a Director of Tata Sons Limited," Tata said in a statement.

Mistry became a Tata Sons director in 2006 and succeeded Ratan Tata as chairman in 2012. But their relationship quickly deteriorated, with the 79-year-

old Tata said to be unhappy at the direction Mistry was taking the group. Tata took interim charge following Mistry's dismissal in October as the pair engaged in bitter public mudslinging, including accusations of corporate malfeasance. Mistry also dragged Tata Sons to India's National Company Law Tribunal, claiming that he was unfairly sacked as the world-renowned group descended into turmoil and its global reputation took a hit.

Mistry had asked the tribunal to halt yesterday's meeting but it refused. The next hearing is due to be held on February 13. Ratan Tata eased fears about the group's future recently by announcing that company veteran Natarajan Chandrasekaran, the respected chief of software giant Tata Consultancy Services, would become Tata's new chairman. He will take up his role later in the month. Tata, which was founded under British colonial rule, operates in more than 100 countries. It owns Britain's Tetley Tea and Jaguar Land Rover, and the Anglo-Dutch steel firm Corus.—AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.711
Indian Rupees	4.544
Pakistani Rupees	2.914
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.032
Nepali Rupees	2.839
Singapore Dollar	218.090
Hongkong Dollar	39.378
Bangladesh Taka	3.829
Philippine Peso	6.135
Thai Baht	8.724

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.534
Qatari Riyal	83.977
UAE Dirham	794.049
Bahraini Dinar	811.880
UAE Dirham	83.245

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.650
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.375
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.227
Tunisian Dinar	134.900
Jordanian Dinar	430.560
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.037
Syrian Lira	2.179
Morocco Dirham	31.020

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	305.550
Euro	331.370
Sterling Pound	383.770

Canadian dollar	235.850
Turkish lira	83.260
Swiss Franc	309.890
Australian Dollar	236.340
US Dollar Buying	304.350

GOLD

20 Gram	249.430
10 Gram	127.630
5 Gram	64.660

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	305.200
Canadian Dolla	235.535
Sterling Pound	383.520
Euro	330.666
Swiss Franc	304.265
Bahrain Dinar	809.060
UAE Dirhams	83.485
Qatari Riyals	84.705
Saudi Riyals	82.315
Jordanian Dinar	431.630
Egyptian Pound	16.680
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.031
Indian Rupees	4.546
Pakistani Rupees	2.912
Bangladesh Taka	3.855
Philippines Peso	6.141
Cyprus pound	167.605
Japanese Yen	3.705
Syrian Pound	2.425

Nepalese Rupees	3.830
Malaysian Ringgit	69.805
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.870
Thai Bhat	9.690
Turkish Lira	82.000

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.375977	0.385977
Czech Korune	0.004194	0.016194
Danish Krone	0.040261	0.045261
Euro	0.324756	0.333756
Norwegian Krone	0.033255	0.038455
Romanian Leu	0.084681	0.084681
Slovakia	0.009153	0.019153
Swedish Krona	0.030897	0.035897
Swiss Franc	0.301805	0.312805
Turkish Lira	0.076815	0.087115
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.226856	0.238856
New Zealand Dollar	0.217638	0.227138
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.229464	0.238464
Georgina Lari	0.138004	0.138004
US Dollars	0.301805	0.305850
US Dollars Mint	0.301950	0.305850
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003646	0.004230
Chinese Yuan	0.043167	0.046667

Hong Kong Dollar	0.037310	0.040062
Indian Rupee	0.002703	0.004926
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002635	0.002815
Kenyan Shilling	0.002998	0.002998
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.065442	0.071442
Nepalese Rupee	0.003080	0.003250
Pakistan Rupee	0.002712	0.003002
Philippine Peso	0.006080	0.006380
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.211975	0.221975
South African Rand	0.016784	0.025284
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001678	0.002258
Taiwan	0.009655	0.009835
Thai Baht	0.008364	0.008914

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.803906	0.812406
Egyptian Pound	0.010118	0.019371
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000186	0.000246
Jordanian Dinar	0.425296	0.434296
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000148	0.000248
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020089	0.044089
Nigerian Naira	0.001266	0.001901
Omani Riyal	0.787216	0.792895
Qatari Riyal	0.083116	0.084566
Saudi Riyal	0.080393	0.081693
Syrian Pound	0.001296	0.001516
Tunisian Dinar	0.130188	0.138188
Turkish Lira	0.076815	0.087115
UAE Dirhams	0.081765	0.083465
Yemeni Riyal	0.000993	0.001073



SHANGHAI: People ride bicycles of Ofo (left) and Mobike on the street in Shanghai. —AFP

WANTED: HIGH-TECH GRADS TO WORK WITH AUSTRALIA FARMERS

COUNTRY IS LOOKING TO BECOME ASIA'S FOOD BOWL

SYDNEY: Parts of Australia's farming industry are rushing to recruit a new generation of tech-savvy graduates as the sector swaps its bucolic past for a future of drones, robots and automated sensors. The push comes as cutting-edge machinery is used to plug a labor shortage on the nation's remote farms that threatens to derail its ambitions to become Asia's food bowl.

"For the first time in many years, we're finding it easier to attract graduates because agriculture, particularly technology in agriculture, is back on the radar," said Felicity Hennessy, general manager of innovation at agribusiness Ruralco. For years, potential recruits to Australian agriculture have been turned off by the harsh image of traditional farming, but a marked acceleration towards automation has picked the interest of young generations, with jobs available to do everything from developing crop-protecting drones to crunching data on cattle nutrition.

"The proliferation of drones and sensors are the key drivers," said Hennessy, adding that Ruralco's graduate program had seen a rise in the number and quality of applicants. While Australia is among the world's leaders in robotics for outdoor use, having given birth to the first

robot to round up cattle, the A\$4 billion agriculture technology industry is still in its infancy. It is mainly just a few companies that are big enough to recruit. The nation's largest cattle firm Australian Agricultural Company (AACo) is one of the local firms in the sector that has regularly been hiring tech-savvy youngsters.

"Interest in agriculture is rising, from engineers to science-type graduates," said Gerard Davis, who heads a team of seven in an innovation department at AACO that started under three years ago. Data from Rimfire Resources, a recruiting firm specialized in farming, showed 4,600 agricultural jobs were advertised on the internet in 2016, from an average of 3,750 in the past three years. "It is difficult to say whether the increase is driven by technology, but there is a clear shift for off-the-farm roles," said Nigel Crawley, a director at Rimfire Resources.

Down on the farm

New degrees such as agri-sciences are being added by universities, with a sharp rise in students who do not have a farming background. City-born engineering student Michael Forrai had never set foot on a farm, but as part of his studies is now testing weed-spraying functions

on robots in wheat fields near Emerald, a remote town in the state of Queensland.

"I had never heard of Emerald before and really would have never expected to work on a farm," said the 30-year-old student from the University of Sydney. "Now, I see it as an amazing opportunity ... I am definitely considering staying in agricultural robotics." But competition is stiff for agricultural companies looking to recruit engineers or tech graduates. "We have to be looking all the time," said Matt Pryor, the founder of water and livestock sensors maker Observant, citing companies in aerospace, automotive, finance, healthcare and e-commerce vying for the candidates.

Observant provides web-based software to allow farmers to check water levels remotely. The system collects data from soil moisture sensors, weather stations and cameras. The 13-year-old company employs a staff of 12, having added three technicians last year. "We changed our mindset from being position-focused to talent-focused and that can be tough because you may take somebody before the business is ready," said Pryor. "In a competitive market, you have to be at market price or above," he said, declining to give more details. —Reuters

ELASTIC BAND: CHINESE SPECULATORS PING GLOBAL RUBBER PRICES TO FIVE-YEAR HIGH

TOKYO: First, Chinese speculators came for coking coal and iron ore, catapulting markets into orbit. Now, they're carpetbagging a different commodity, pushing it to its fastest price rise in more than a quarter of a century - rubber. Traders say Chinese investors are punting on global rubber demand surging on revived growth in China stoking the auto sector, allied with hope a President Trump stimulus will stoke the US economy.

The world's biggest tyre maker, Bridgestone, has already warned it may have to lift product prices. These bets are likely to continue once China is fully back in business after the Lunar New Year break, traders say. They come just as output in key Southeast Asia producer countries enters a seasonal drop - exacerbated by recent floods in Thailand - and have made rubber an even hotter property than top-demand commodities like lead and steel.

Asia benchmark rubber futures at the Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM) hit their highest levels in more than five years last week and climbed 26 percent in January before giving up some gains during the Chinese New Year holiday - their biggest monthly leap since at least 1990. That's already stoked interest in new production in places like India. "There was a round of speculation on rubber in China in January," said Quan Shuwen, an analyst at the Shanghai office of Japanese brokerage Okachi. "Supplies are quite tight, demand from downstream enterprises is gradually getting stronger in China, which will very likely further push up prices."

Over the past four months, rubber prices have more than doubled in a wild swing propelled by China's cash-rich investors, underlining their ability to move markets after similar surges in commodities like coking coal and iron ore. While uncertainties shroud what President Trump plans to do to boost the US economy, the bet isn't a blind wager as far as China is concerned. Beijing recently renewed incentives to boost demand for smaller, environment-friendly cars in what is the world's biggest

auto market. It also introduced tighter rules on how much freight trucks can carry, a move likely to increase demand for trucks - and their tyres.

Prices high for months

The rally has been further fuelled by concerns over output in Thailand, the world's biggest rubber producer. After flash floods that affected the country's main rubber growing region, the Rubber Authority of Thailand estimated it would cut the country's rubber output in 2017 by 7.6 percent. Thai rubber exporters say they have enough of the commodity stockpiled to ensure only minimal disruption to scheduled shipments. Still supply concerns linger, dealers said, as the industry moves into its 'wintering season' - the dry winter season from February to May in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia when output drops.

"With wintering season approaching and healthy tyre demand in China, prices will likely stay at high levels until March or April," said Shinichi Kato, president of rubber material dealer Shinichi Kato Office. The spike in rubber prices hasn't gone unnoticed by farmers elsewhere in Asia. In India, industry officials told Reuters rubber output is likely to jump 15 percent in 2017-2018, its highest in four years, as the higher prices prompt farmers to start tapping trees they had previously abandoned.

The rally, however, is bad news for tyre makers as it eats into profits and trims margins - a hit that tyre makers in Japan and South Korea warn that they may pass on to customers. "It's our basic policy to raise tyre prices to reflect higher raw material costs, but decisions will be made after taking market conditions, including rivals' moves, into account," said Fusamaro Iijima, a Bridgestone spokesman. At a major Korean tyre maker, a person with knowledge of the matter - speaking on condition of anonymity - said raw materials price increases are typically reflected in end-product prices two or three months down the line. —Reuters

OIL PRICES TO REMAIN WEAK; NEW RECESSION APPROACHING: EXPERT

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Oil prices will remain weak and a new recession is approaching, warned a financial expert at a seminar in Kuwait City. "The global economy is nearing the end of the economic cycle, which means that the growth seen since 2009 is nearing an end and the world will soon enter another recession. This is normal and part of the historic economic cycle over the past 200 years," said Tariq Al-Rifai, CEO of Quorum Centre for Strategic Studies, a Kuwaiti think-tank.

Rifai provided providing key findings of the center's research at the Union of Investment Companies (UIC) seminar on 'The Instability of the Financial System and the Coming Global Financial Crisis' at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday. "The solutions applied to fix the problems of the last crisis were not adequate enough to prevent them from happening again. In fact, they have made the risks bigger than they were in 2008. It also means that the next financial crisis will be worse than the previous one," he said.

Debts are not responsible for the crisis. "There is a misconception that there needs to be lower debt levels in the global economy. In fact, debt is the backbone of the financial system and lower debt results in a financial crisis. This is why central banks around the world have been buying record amounts of debt to support the global economy (with little success). Fortunately in Kuwait, we don't suffer from a debt problem," Rifai pointed out.

Rifai is not very optimistic about oil prices. "Oil prices will remain weak for several more years. In fact, Quorum Centre expects the price of oil to resume its decline towards \$20 per barrel, which is more in line with oil's



historical trading range. The problem in Kuwait is that everything is related to oil prices, so any price drop affects the whole economy. The price of oil is not affected by political situations and wars, but by the derivatives market," he explained.

Rifai also discussed what low oil prices will mean to Kuwait and the rest of the GCC. "Kuwait recently announced that it expects this year's budget deficit to be KD 5.2 billion, which assumes the price of oil will remain at current prices. However, if Quorum's outlook is correct, the government's budget deficit will be much larger. Other GCC countries will see their budget deficits significantly rise as well," he noted.

The analysis by Quorum shows how low oil prices globally directly affect real estate and stock prices in Kuwait. With this in mind, Rifai has a positive outlook for Kuwaiti banks. "The



KUWAIT: Tariq Al-Rifai, CEO of Quorum Centre during the presentation addresses the audience during the seminar. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

Kuwaiti banking sector is in a much stronger position than it has ever been in the past, thanks to Central Bank regulations. I cannot say the same about European banks, that are suffering till today from the previous crisis. Kuwaiti banks are much safer than European banks and Kuwaitis are better off banking in

Kuwait than Europe at this point in time," he said.

The Union of Investment Companies in Kuwait regularly hosts economic and financial seminars and conferences with the aim of informing analysts and investors about local, regional and global market and investment trends and issues.

GERMAN INDUSTRY ORDERS RISE AT A STRONGEST PACE

BERLIN: Higher demand for capital goods at home and abroad drove the biggest monthly increase in German industrial orders in around 2-1/2 years in December, suggesting factories will support growth in Europe's biggest economy in the coming months. The much stronger than expected data, released by the Economy Ministry in Berlin, gave some reassurance that Germany's economic upswing will carry into 2017 despite growing political uncertainties such as a protectionist US trade agenda.

"What a sensationally strong quarter in the manufacturing sector", Sal Oppenheim economist Ulrike Kastens said, adding that the figures were pointing to an overall economic recovery in the euro zone. "Despite the political uncertainties, the German econ-

omy is showing a more than robust development," Kastens said, adding she now expected quarterly growth of around 0.6 percent in the first quarter after 0.5 percent in the final quarter of 2016.

Contracts for goods 'Made in Germany' were up by 5.2 percent on the month, the Economy Ministry said. That was the biggest monthly increase since July 2014 and was far stronger than the Reuters consensus forecast for a rise of 0.5 percent. Domestic demand jumped by 6.7 percent while foreign orders increased by 3.9 percent, with bookings from euro-zone countries soaring by 10.0 percent. The data for November was revised down to a fall of 3.6 percent from a previously reported drop of 2.5 percent. —Reuters

NORTH KOREAN ECONOMICS 101: HOW MUCH IS A DOLLAR WORTH?

PYONGYANG: To get a feel for how North Korea's economy works, go buy a roll of toilet paper. Or start up a mobile phone network. As capitalist-style markets have grown more important in North Korea, so has a market-friendly exchange rate for the much-coveted US dollars, euros and Chinese yuan that lubricate the North's economy. But the official and unofficial rates are totally out of whack. And as one big investor recently found out, the difference can mean hundreds of millions of dollars in lost profits.

Dueling exchange rates are a common issue for developing countries that have an official premium rate set by the government, often for political purposes that don't reflect economic realities and are therefore often ignored in the marketplace. The discrepancy can severely hamper foreign investment, undermine confidence in the local currency and contribute to corruption and economic instability. But nowhere in the world is the gap bigger than North Korea, according to Steve Hanke, a professor of applied economics at the Johns Hopkins University who specializes in hyperinflation. "The North Korean won's black market premium is the highest in the world: A fantastic 6,440 percent," he said. For comparison's sake, the black market premium for the Syrian pound is "only" 144.3 percent of the official rate, he said.

What does such a system look like on the ground? If you pick up that roll of toilet paper in a shop catering to foreigners, tourists or the relatively affluent elite in the capital, it would probably have a price tag in the 200-

400 won range, or \$2-4. The prices in won are calculated according to the official exchange rate. In reality, though, you can't actually pay in won, at least not at that rate. Typical Pyongyang residents, meanwhile, are more likely to do their shopping at a place like the Kwangbok Department Store, which does take won and therefore uses an entirely different pricing system. Here, a roll of toilet paper costs 1,400 won.

An exchange booth right next to the checkout counter posts the day's rates - not the official 108-or-so won to the dollar, but a whopping 8,000-plus. "The official rate is a political rate," Hanke said. "It is, therefore, totally arbitrary and no one really knows how it is determined. The black-market rate is a free-market rate. The supply and demand for dollars and won on the black market calls the tune and sets the rate." Most North Koreans don't have foreign currency to begin with and don't shop in upscale stores, so the system is fairly invisible most of the time.

On a larger scale, it has major ramifications. One of North Korea's biggest recent success stories has been the rapid spread of mobile phones, now in the millions, thanks to capital and expertise invested by the Egyptian conglomerate Orascom. The venture, Orascom Telecom Media and Technology, was hugely profitable, but rather predictably hit a big wall when it tried to get its earnings out of North Korea. In late 2015, it announced a huge loss after North Korea insisted it use the unofficial rate to convert its profits into dollars, turning what

would have been \$450 million into a mere \$8 million. CEO Naguib Sawiris resigned on Jan. 1 this year. Sawiris refused to comment to the AP until after the company releases its next financial report. But the company, which has staff working out of a hotel in Pyongyang, is apparently still waiting to get even its \$8 million out of North Korea.

The importance of the unofficial exchange rate has grown tremendously since the 1990s, when the collapse of the Soviet bloc and natural disasters that devastated harvests took North Korea's economy to the verge of collapse. Citizens who previously relied on the government for their needs had to learn how to fend for themselves. The result was the rise of an unofficial, but by now well-established, capitalist-style market, where prices are competitive and determined by supply and demand. Transactions are primarily made in cash. Outside experts estimate that half or even more of all economic activity in the North is done in this gray zone.

The transformation has not been without its shocks. In 2009, leader Kim Jong Un's father, Kim Jong Il, ordered a revaluation of the won, effectively cutting two zeros off the value of each bill. That appears to have been an attempt to reassert control over nouveaux riches who had profited too much from the gray market and were seen as a potential political threat. That put the country through a severe bout of hyperinflation from late 2009 to early 2011. Monthly inflation peaked at 496 percent in March 2010, according to Hanke's calculations, and the value of the

won on the black market collapsed.

To the surprise of many, the won appears to have rebounded and stayed within a fairly stable range, both officially and at the unofficial rate, since Kim Jong Un assumed power in late 2011. "This is a major quandary, and an apparent success story of the Kim regime," said William Brown, an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and non-resident fel-

low at the Korea Economic Institute of America. "I think for the time being people are getting used to monetary stability and that is allowing a big increase in market activity and growth." He warned, however, that the stability could be fragile. "Some kind of shock would instantly cause people to trade in their won for dollars and the exchange rate and won prices would soar," he said. —AP



PYONGYANG: This undated picture released by North Korean news agency, KCNA (Korean Central News Agency) shows North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un visiting newly built Pyongyang Orphans' Primary School. —AFP

INVESTORS SEEK CLARITY ON US FED POLICY

EUROPEAN SHARES RISE BUT LAG GAINS IN ASIA

LONDON: Investors sought clarity yesterday in the face of a host of economic and political uncertainties but gave the benefit of the doubt to shares and the dollar, lifting both. A heavy week of corporate earnings was a major driver on stocks markets. In the currency market, the question was how Friday's US labor market data will affect the pace of Federal Reserve interest rate rises. Far more jobs were added last month than expected, though hourly wages barely budged. Oil prices rose on news that new

US sanctions on Iran could be extended to affect crude supplies.

French government bonds, meanwhile, underperformed German benchmarks with a gap not seen in four years after French far-right party leader Marine Le Pen launched her bid for the presidency with a vow to fight deregulated globalization. But there was no overarching theme to yesterday's market moves, highlighting how correlations between financial market assets have broken down in recent months as investors sense the

era of ultra-loose monetary policy may be winding up. The pan-European STOXX 600 index rose 0.2 percent, led higher by basics resources shares and after some positive company results.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.6 percent, with Taiwan leading the pack by adding 0.9 percent. Japan's Nikkei rose 0.2 percent, with banks rising after US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to scale back regulations in the financial industry

that were implemented after the financial crisis. Trump meets Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Feb 10 and 11, with trade and currencies likely to be on the agenda. China's CSI 300 stocks index rose 0.3 percent, though investors were cautious after the central bank unexpectedly raised short-term interest rates on Friday.

In debt markets, French 10-year government bond yields rose 1.6 basis points to 1.1 percent. German equivalents, the euro-zone benchmark, dipped 2 bps to a two-week low of about 0.4 percent, pushing the gap between the two to its widest in four years. "The likelihood of Le Pen winning is unlikely, but the situation in France is certainly raising fears among investors," said DZ Bank rates strategist Christian Lenk. "French bonds will continue to underperform even though a lot is priced into the market."

ing any pick-up in inflation would be slight. This led some analysts to conclude the Fed would be in no hurry to raise interest rates. Currency investors are also awaiting details on expected pro-dollar tax and spending initiatives pledged by Trump. However, San Francisco Fed President John Williams said later in the day that the central bank can prepare to raise rates this year without knowing the details of any new US fiscal policies.

Yesterday, the euro weakened 0.3 percent to \$1.0747 while the yen gained 0.1 percent to 112.60 per dollar and sterling dipped 0.2 percent to \$1.2450. Oil prices rose, partly due to the dollar's relative weakness, but also on concern about any extension of new US sanctions imposed on major oil producer Iran over that country's missile program. "The move by the US to impose new restrictions on Iran ... does raise the risk of further tensions disrupting (oil) supply," ANZ bank said. Brent crude, the international benchmark, rose 9 cents a barrel to \$56.92. Gold rose 0.2 percent to \$1,222 an ounce. —Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report										
Monday 06 February 2017										
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low					
Price Index	▲ 14.81	6,701.73	6,686.92	6,751.34	6,644.87					
Weighted Index	▲ 5.05	426.88	421.83	428.17	422.65					
KSX 15	▲ 14.62	980.84	966.22	982.14	969.22					
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
MARIN	66	62	808100	37,728	12	65	▼ -2.0			
IKARUS	38.0	38.0	260,000	9,880	7	38.0	▼ -2.5			
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	370	— 0.0			
NAPESCO	820	820	75,736	62,104	3	820	▼ -50.0			
ENERGYH	49.5	48.0	1,364,939	65,637	67	48.0	▼ -3.0			
GPI	55	51	6,849,123	362,563	181	53	— 0.0			
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	— 0.0			
Oil & Gas			9,157,896	537,912	270	849.44	▼ -31.78			
KFOUC	360	335	614,133	214,312	56	350	▲ 10.0			
BPCC	590	570	1,409,562	826,683	32	590	▲ 20.0			
ALKOUT	690	690	14,946	10,313	1	690	▼ 10.0			
ALQURAIN	295	285	1,372,125	400,676	50	290	▲ 5.0			
Basic Materials			3,410,766	1,451,984	139	1292.32	▲ 20.62			
KCEM	500	490	280,000	138,000	18	490	▼ -5.0			
REFRI	310	300	411,311	127,352	7	310	▲ 5.0			
CABLE	580	560	864,294	492,437	69	570	▲ 20.0			
SHIP	238	230	117,108	27,849	8	238	▲ 10.0			
PCEM	1,080	1,060	49,693	53,562	5	1,080	— 0.0			
PAPER	310	310	21,257	6,590	2	310	▼ -15.0			
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	81	— 0.0			
ACICO	310	290	1,780,984	532,697	136	295	▲ 5.0			
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	325	— 0.0			
HCC	170	158	122,000	19,773	6	170	▲ 10.0			
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	— 0.0			
NICBM	222	216	803,251	175,934	44	218	— 0.0			
EQUIPMENT	67	62	3,137,443	200,456	90	63	▼ -3.0			
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.5	— 0.0			
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	— 0.0			
SALBOOKH	78	75	801,196	61,034	37	77	▲ 1.0			
AGLTY	740	720	1,399,767	1,017,374	58	730	▲ 10.0			
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	— 0.0			
CLEANING	52	50	2,531,174	129,955	80	52	▲ 2.0			
KOL	64	62	1,476,057	93,597	48	64	▲ 3.0			
KPC	198	196	8,000	1,574	2	196	▼ 4.0			
HUMANISOFT	3,000	3,000	576,020	1,728,060	58	3,000	— 0.0			
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	— 0.0			
GFC	38.0	38.0	1,500	57	1	38.0	▼ -2.5			
MAYADEEN	33.5	31.5	11,140,054	364,578	138	33.0	▲ 0.5			
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500	— 0.0			
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	— 0.0			
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	770	— 0.0			
ALAFCO	250	250	10,000	2,500	1	250	— 0.0			
MUBARRAD	79	76	114,849	8,873	10	79	▼ -1.0			
LOGISTICS	76	72	4,233,479	313,412	113	76	▲ 4.0			
SCEM	88	87	35,101	3,084	4	88	— 0.0			
GCEM	86	84	230,100	19,339	6	86	▲ 2.0			
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	— 0.0			
FCM	88	86	1,113,560	97,433	34	88	▲ 2.0			
RKWC	102	99	14,864	1,480	3	100	▲ 1.0			
SPEC	100	93	1,388,165	132,336	65	96	▼ -2.0			
Industrials			32,661,227	5,749,356	1,043	1463.82	▲ 4.30			
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	162	— 0.0			
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	— 0.0			
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	— 0.0			
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	230	— 0.0			
DANAH	95	89	10,926,277	996,724	261	91	▼ -3.0			
FOOD	2,620	2,600	76,215	199,080	7	2,620	▲ 20.0			
Consumer Goods			11,002,492	1,195,804	268	1125.17	▼ -1.11			
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	— 0.0			
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	— 0.0			
YIACO	280	250	16,325	4,397	5	265	▲ 5			
Health Care			16,325	4,397	5	1200.09	▲ 5.06			
KCIN	1,180	1,180	10	12	1	1,180	▲ 40			
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	265	— 0.0			
SULTAN	90	85	469,147	41,243	25	89	▼ -1			
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.5	— 0.0			
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0.0			
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	— 0.0			
OULAFUEL	128	124	104,758	13,183	25	124	▼ -2			
MUNTAZAHAT	89	86	1,753,737	153,822	79	89	▲ 3			
JAZEERA	670	660	45,061	30,190	8	670	▼ -10			
SOOR	122	122	11,927	1,455	11	122	▼ -4			
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	118	— 0.0			
ALRAI	168	164	671,903	111,057	28	166	▲ 2			
ZMAH	68	61	3,774,360	239,340	122	68	▲ 2			
Mazzah	980	970	448,941	435,598	29	980	▲ 10			
Consumer Services			7,279,844	1,025,901	328	985.15	▲ 5.36			
ZAIN	520	500	7,909,112	4,024,023	154	510	▲ 10			
OOREDOO	1,240	1,240	181	224	1	1,240	— 0.0			
HITSTELEC	56	51	11,311,010	607,903	227	53	▼ -1			
VIVA	890	870	50,092	44,095	33	870	▼ -20			
Telecommunications			19,270,395	4,676,244	415	676.31	▼ -6.10			
NBK	720	710	2,102,470	1,505,218	51	720	▲ 20			
GBK	255	248	868,968	217,235	22	250	▲ 2			
CBK	480	450	31,000	14,510	8	480	▲ 25			
ABK	315	315	51,000	16,065	6	315	— 0.0			
ALMUTAHED	445	435	14,505	6,317	5	445	▲ 5			
KIB	220	218	618,880	135,734	31	220	▲ 2			
BURG	325	320	993,484	322,879	86	325	— 0			
KFIN	620	610	2,689,805	1,645,212	71	620	▲ 10			
BOUBYAN	415	410	486,199	200,242	30	415	— 0			
AUB	222	218	3,047,127	969,598	76	222	▲ 6			
ITHMR	65	60	50,815,974	3,148,643	713	62	— 0			
WARABANK	240	234	1,978,534	469,904	141	240	▲ 2			
Banks			63,697,946	8,351,557	1,240	955.94	▲ 12.76			
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	— 0.0			
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	630	— 0.0			
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	455	— 0.0			
WINS	100	100	22,175	2,218	3	100	— 0.0			
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	— 0.0			
FTI	65	62	636,195	41,090	36	65	▲ 5.0			
WETHAQ	57	55	144,550	8,060	10	57	▼ -2.0			
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0			
Insurance			802,926	51,367	49	1122.06	▲ 2.04			
Global										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
SOKOUK	54	49.5	17818774	899,603	241	51	▼ -1.0			
KRE	77	74	5,860,534	445,248	112	77	▲ 2.0			
URC	106	99	2,920	303	7	102	— 0.0			
NRE	124	118	6,913,678	849,696	125	124	— 0.0			
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	— 0.0			
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	470	— 0.0			
AREEC	188	178	415,479	76,848	19	188	▲ 10.0			
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	— 0.0			
ARABREC	49.5	46.0	15,056,666	709,013	259	46.5	▼ -2.0			
ERESCO	51	49.5	3,588,17							

AFRICA MINING SECTOR MEETS AMID COMMODITY PRICE COMEBACK

CAPE TOWN: Investors and mining firms gathered yesterday at Africa's biggest industry conference amid a newfound optimism that the uptick in commodity prices could shore up investment after years of downturn. The annual four-day Mining Indaba in Cape Town takes place as demand in China, one of the world's biggest consumers, begins to stabilize. Commodities like iron, copper and tin are soaring to new heights, raising hope among analysts that this year's conference may spur funding for new mining ventures.

"A lot of these prices are up 100 percent from what they were a year before, some only fifty percent, but some three or four hundred percent, so this should be the biggest Indaba we've seen in a couple (of) years," said Peter Major, mining analyst at Cadiz Corporate Solutions. The devastating price slump saw several commodity-dependent economies across Africa stagnate, with companies cutting jobs and some shutting down operations. Africa's biggest copper producers Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were among the worst hit, with thousands of jobs lost over the last three years.

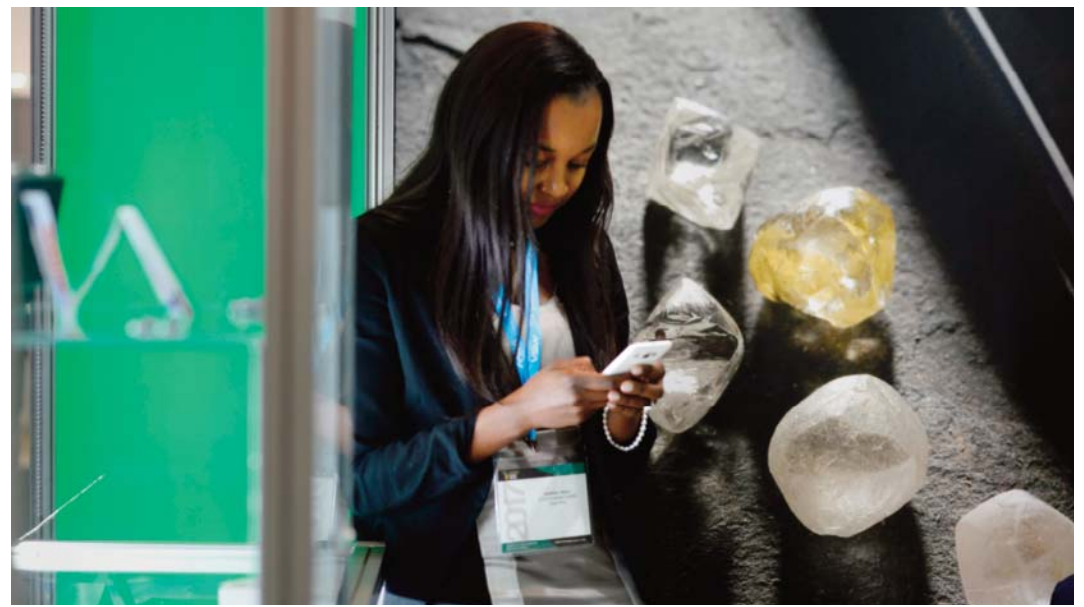
The jobs bloodbath also hit South Africa, the continent's most diversified economy which is battling poor growth. The World Bank's latest commodities forecast, however, confirms the worst is finally over, with prices on a solid climb thanks to strong Chinese demand and a tightening supply. Copper prices jumped 10 percent in the last quarter

of 2016, "the first double-digit quarterly gain in nearly five years", the report said. The bank is now projecting metals prices to rise by 11 percent in 2017, a significant improvement from an earlier forecast of just 4 percent.

US boost?

"Policy efforts by China to boost commodity-intensive infrastructure and construction sectors were a key driver of demand last year," the report said. "Prices also received a boost following the US election on expectations of higher infrastructure investment and increased optimism for the global economy." By the end of 2016, iron ore was selling at \$80 a ton, nearly double its price a year earlier, and metals like zinc were both up for the fourth straight quarter. Although the mood was shifting, Major warned against being overly excited about improvement, saying it looked like an "over-recovery" and adding "I don't trust it". Rene Hochreiter, an analyst at Noah Capital Markets, said the prices would return to the mean "sooner or later".

"There might be a bit of euphoria at the moment with it shooting over the mean and it will come back down, but that doesn't mean it's going to go negative," he said. "I just hope this time it's not a false start," he added. "I've seen too many of those and I don't want to get too excited, but it feels a lot better than it has for a number of years." Recovery optimism has also been reflected in conference numbers, with delegate registrations up year-on-



CAPE TOWN: A participant stands in front of a poster showing diamonds on the first day of the Mining Indaba 2017 Conference yesterday at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in Cape Town. The Mining Indaba is the world's foremost conference on mining in Africa. — AFP

year for the first time "in quite a few years", according to organizers. Slow mining production had been cited as one of the major contributors to South Africa's poor growth, currently at an annual-

ized 0.2 percent. The country exports a slew of resources including platinum, gold and diamonds, but companies must navigate a volatile strike-prone labor force and legislative red tape. — AFP



LONDON: President of the Ile-de-France region, Valerie Pécresse (2nd left) speaks during a media briefing named 'Europe, where to next?' in central London yesterday. — AFP

BREXIT HAVING NEGATIVE IMPACT ON UK BUSINESS

LONDON: More than half of British business leaders believe the vote to leave the European Union has had a negative impact on their companies but most firms are confident they can survive the change, according to a survey yesterday. Britain's economy has performed more strongly than expected since the Brexit vote last June, but an Ipsos Mori survey of more than 100 of the country's top 500 firms found that 58 percent felt the vote to leave had taken a toll.

According to the survey, more than two thirds of those questioned said they had already taken action to respond to the vote, including putting contingency plans in place and analyzing the impact the different relationships Britain could have with the EU following its renegotiation. Of those taking action, 10 percent said they were moving business outside of Britain. "Our annual survey of FTSE 500 business leaders provides a unique insight into

what the business world is thinking ahead of Brexit," Ipsos Mori Chief Executive Ben Page said. "Unfortunately, it looks like business in this country is already feeling the pain of the economic upheaval of leaving the EU."

Britain's business leaders were some of the most vocal supporters of EU membership in the run up to the vote, arguing that access to a single market of 500 million people would enable them to grow their companies, and the economy, in the future. However the survey found a more positive response when asking about the longer term impact on business, with nearly all confident they could adapt to Brexit. "Thirty two percent of respondents said they think their business will start to feel the positive effects of leaving the EU in five years' time," Page said. "And the number of (business) captains that think it will remain a negative impact reduces to 45 percent when looking at long range forecast." — Reuters

INVESTORS SHUN FRENCH BONDS

SHAREHOLDERS SEEK SAFETY IN GERMANY

LONDON: Investor uncertainty about France's presidential election took its toll on French bonds yesterday, lifting the premium investors' demand for holding French over German government bonds to its highest in almost four years. The move came after far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen launched her presidential bid, vowing to fight globalization and take France out of the euro-zone. French 10-year bond yields rose to 17-month highs while nervous investors pushed yields on safe-haven German bonds to their lowest level in almost two weeks.

Buoyed by the election of President Donald Trump in the United States and by Britons' vote to leave the European Union, Le Pen's anti-immigration, anti-EU party is seeking to tap in to similar voter dissatisfaction in France. Le Pen laid out her presidential election manifesto at the weekend, pledging to curb migration drastically, take France out of the euro zone and hold a referendum on EU membership. France would default on its sovereign debt if it unilaterally converted its euro-denominated obligations into new francs following Le Pen victory, a senior executive at ratings agency Standard & Poor's told the Economist.

Le Pen's strong showing in the opinions polls has rattled investors at a time when conservative Francois Fillon, once the favorite to win presidential elections in April and May, is embroiled in a scandal over salary payments to his wife. Rising centrist star Emmanuel Macron, meanwhile, is as yet untested. Fillon will hold a news conference at 1500 GMT yesterday, a source close to him said. "The likelihood of Le Pen winning is unlikely, but the situation in France is certainly raising fears among investors," said DZ

Bank rates strategist Christian Lenk. "French bonds will continue to underperform even though a lot is priced into the market."

France's 10-year bond yield rose 4 basis points to about 1.14 percent, its highest level in about 17-months. In contrast, Germany's benchmark 10-year Bund yield fell 2 bps to 0.39 percent, pushing the French/German yield gap

spread pushed out to 73 basis points - its widest level in almost four years. Data on Friday showing tepid wage growth in the United States also boosted demand for German bonds, overshadowing further signs of economic strength. German industry orders rose 5.2 percent in December, the biggest monthly rise since July 2014, data yesterday showed. — Reuters



LYON: Far-right leader presidential candidate Marine Le Pen gestures as she speaks during a conference in Lyon, France. — AP

TOYOTA LIFTS ANNUAL OUTLOOK BUT EYES TRUMP UNCERTAINTY

TOKYO: Japanese auto giant Toyota yesterday revised up its full-year forecast but warned of an uncertain outlook with the car industry bracing for possible protectionist policies under US President Donald Trump. The company, which lost its crown as the world's top-selling automaker last year, said a drop in the value of the yen had allowed it to lift its earnings, despite a fall in its nine-month net profit.

It said net profit declined 24 percent to 1.43 trillion yen (\$12.7 billion) from a year earlier, the first April-December decline in five years. However, the maker of the Prius hybrid forecast a full-year net profit of 1.7 trillion yen, up from its earlier estimate of 1.55 trillion yen. That was already up from an earlier 1.45 trillion yen outlook. In a statement it said the upward revision was "based on the current trend of financial results, due to changes in foreign currency exchange rates and the upward revision of our sales plans".

Japanese exporters have enjoyed a boost since Trump's November election as the yen has

weakened on expectations his big-spending, tax-cutting agenda would fire inflation and force the Federal Reserve to hike interest rates. A weaker yen boosts exporters' bottom lines by making their products relatively less expensive overseas, while inflating the value of their earnings abroad when repatriated. Still, Toyota's latest forecast is far below the record 2.31 trillion yen net profit in the year to March 2016.

The Japanese auto industry faces uncertainty over Trump's drive to support US firms over foreign imports, a stance that has raised fears of a possible global trade war. He has targeted Toyota with strong criticism of its ongoing project to build a new factory in Mexico, threatening it with painful tariffs. "It is difficult to forecast the impact of the Trump administration at this time," Toyota executive Tetsuya Otake told reporters.

'Prosperity'

Shigeru Matsumura, an analyst at SMBC Friend Research Center, said the outlook for the

Japanese auto industry faced "political risks" over Trump. "Toyota and other Japanese carmakers have tough steering to do on their strategies in North America," he said before the earnings announcement. Toyota CEO Akio Toyoda met Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday ahead of a Japan-US summit this week, with the auto trade row one of the key issues.

Toyota, whose company last month announced plans to invest \$600 million and create 400 jobs at one of its US plants, declined to comment on details of his meeting with Abe, but said: "We discussed the current situation." Shigeru Hayakawa, a senior executive and board member, said: "Dialogue between the leaders of the two countries will be important from now on. We hope they will communicate aiming for the prosperity of the two economies." Toyota's vehicle sales in April-December ticked up to 7.7 million units, from 7.6 million, with increases in Japan, Europe and Asia, the statement said.

But vehicle sales fell in the Middle East and Africa, while the key North American market remained flat after cheap oil hit demand for Toyota's fuel-efficient offerings including the Prius. Separately, Toyota and small car maker Suzuki agreed yesterday to begin detailed discussions on a technology tie-up as well as mutual supply of products and components after announcing initial plans in October.

"What the companies have agreed on is to create a partnership which will be win-win for both parties, not one in which Toyota would rescue Suzuki," said Suzuki chief executive Yasuhiro Harayama. Stiff competition at home and abroad has pushed some Japanese automakers to eye tie-ups. Nissan last year bought a one-third stake in Mitsubishi Motors, forging an alliance that will challenge some of the world's biggest auto groups. Nissan is scheduled to announce its nine-month results on Thursday, while Honda said last week its net profit for the period jumped 18.9 percent as it upgraded its full-year forecasts. — AFP



DETROIT: Toyota President Akio Toyoda introduces the 2018 Toyota Camry at the North American International Auto show in this Monday, Jan 9, 2017 file photo. — AP

UK'S CHINA EXPORT DEALS DON'T ADD UP

SOLIHULL: Each aluminum Land Rover body that rolls along the production line at Solihull carries a lengthy sheet of paper giving the vehicle's specifications. At the top of the "build card" is the name of the country for which the vehicle is destined. In recent years around one in five of the cards has had "China" printed on it. "I often think 'how rich are the people in China?' They buy so many," said line worker George Baker, amid a cacophony of forklift horns, beeping machinery and trumpeting line stoppage alarms.

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), owned by India's Tata Motors, increased sales to China from around 250 million pounds in its 2009 financial year to almost 8 billion pounds in 2014-2015, allowing it to more than double its UK workforce. Jaguar's success, and deals to export other British goods and services worth billions of pounds, are cited as examples of the opportunities for selling into China and of how the government can help "open the door for British companies".

Exploiting those opportunities is especially urgent since Britain voted last year to leave the European Union, a fact well understood by Prime Minister Theresa May, who needs fast-growing markets like China to make up the numbers that may be missing soon from its European trade. But the impressive deals touted by the government are not quite what they seem, a Reuters analysis of the figures shows. The value of announced deals to export British goods and services to China since 2010 adds up to 36 billion pounds, according to official government releases over the period, often issued around the time of ministerial visits to Beijing.

However, a Reuters examination of company statements, corporate filings and interviews with executives shows the value of actual exports from those deals have totaled less than 6 billion pounds. The upshot: government figures are giving an overly rosy picture of the state of UK-China trade, economists said. "If you look at these headline deals and they have a big number on them, I think that's not really very informative," said Holger Breinlich, professor of international economics at the University of Nottingham. "You have to look at the small print and what's being spent in the UK."

The Reuters analysis highlights the challenges British companies face in China, with whom the UK has a ballooning deficit, and how even a post-Brexit free trade deal may fail to accelerate exports. The government declined to comment on the conclusions reached for this story. A spokeswoman for the Department of International Trade said the announced trade and investment deals would "help retain or even grow jobs in the UK, and will have benefits for the Exchequer too".

Chinese challenges

There are a variety of reasons why the deals have turned out smaller than announced. For one thing, more than 3 billion pounds worth of deals were preliminary agreements that were never completed. In other cases the amounts cited were for the overall value of a project in which the UK entity had a small role. For example, in 2013, the government touted a 6-billion-pound deal between Oxford University and China Construction Bank (CCB) to help fund research into regenerative medicine. — Reuters

AUSTRALIA HOME MARKET BOOM MAY 'BE STARTING TO CRUMBLE'

HOME BUYERS HOLDING BACK

SYDNEY: After a long pause, the auctioneer commissioned to sell a northern Sydney beachside apartment for in excess of A\$800,000 (\$614,391) puts his gavel away, unable to entice a single bid. Across town, in the city's trendy inner western suburbs, the owner of a warehouse converted into a three-level home drops his reserve price for the property's sale. There are just two potential buyers at the auction, and they have declined to enter the kind of bidding war that has caused home prices in Australia's two biggest cities, Sydney and Melbourne, to double since 2009.

The auction stand-offs may indicate that the Sydney market, which has been defined by researcher Demographia as the second most unaffordable in the world after Hong Kong, has finally hit a peak. As the buyers have drifted off, the sellers have also started to back away and the number of home listings is down 25 percent from a year ago, according to CoreLogic RP Data. This is all yet to show up in a decline in prices in Australia. In the nation's eight biggest cities, home prices surged a further 0.7 pct in January even as the volume of transactions was lower. But some real estate experts and hedge fund investors say that it may be only a matter of time before prices also start to crumble.

A sharp correction would heap stress on those who have paid a high price to enter the big east coast property markets, while damaging the country's financial institutions as home loans account for up to 60 percent of the major banks' total loan books. The property sector is also a major employer and generator of demand, a particularly important pillar of the economy during a subdued period for the mining sector. One big concern is the drop off in the number of Chinese buyers, following a crack-down by Beijing on capital outflows and Australia's tightened restrictions on lending to foreigners. Individuals taking the maximum \$50,000 a year out of China now have to commit to not spending it on real estate and risk being investigated by the Chinese authorities if they break that pledge.

And the impact isn't only being felt in Australia. In Canada's Vancouver, which has been a big target market for Chinese buyers for some years, the number of transactions dropped 40 percent last month, compared to the same month a year earlier. A sudden increase in the number of sales agents splitting off from the big realtors to set up their own firms, and the arrival of new online players, is being seen by some in the industry as a contrarian signal of an overheated market. "It's that classic top-of-the-mar-



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

ket mindset," said property valuer Gavin Hegney, from Gavin Hegney Property. "I'm making money hand over fist, I could do this myself."

Chinese tour numbers halve

Hong Kong-based hedge fund manager Apt Capital Management has shorted Australian banks because of their exposure to a property market it believes is out of step with Australia's economic strength. It is forecasting a severe correction. Apt Capital strategist Amy Reynolds said interest rate rises or a drying up of foreign investment were the most likely triggers for a future downturn in prices.

"Our models indicate that house prices would need to fall by around 30 pct to come back into line with Australia's economic fundamentals and their own long-term averages," Reynolds said. Esther Yong, director at Chinese language property portal AC Advertising, said the curbs on lending to foreigners and Beijing's restrictions had quelled interest, leaving only the most committed buyers. "It's been very slow for the last two to three months," Yong said. She said numbers on Chinese property tours - on which part of a holiday is dedicated to looking at property - are half what they were a year ago.

Australia's foreign investment rules guide overseas investors to buy new properties, such as "off-the-plan" apartments that are yet to be constructed or through sales at auctions of new homes. At one new apartment auction on Sydney's North Shore attended by Reuters, it

took 50 minutes for the price to be bid up by \$50,000, with two foreign investors reverting to small incremental bid rises. That sober behavior is in contrast to the buying frenzies of the past three years that saw hopeful bidders queuing up to take part.

Among the new entrants into the market are British online realtor Purplebricks, which launched in Sydney in January, and BRICKX, which allows investors to trade small stakes in properties in well known locations, such as Bondi Beach and Port Melbourne. The BRICKX properties advertise an estimated annual return on equity of up to 19 pct but that would largely be reliant on the boom years repeating themselves. "It's a guide to what has been achieved over the last five years," said BRICKX Chief Executive Anthony Millet. "Investors in this country are pretty switched on and well educated."

'Just deserts'

Not everyone is bearish. Realtor Ausnet Financial Services Ltd, which plans a backdoor listing using the corporate shell of a dormant copper explorer, has hired six former agents from listed realtor McGrath Ltd and says it is hoping to build to a salesforce of 600 while opening a storefront on Sydney's Bondi Beach. Its prospectus shows two years of losses and no forecasts. "We think there's still a bit of steam in the Sydney market," said Ausnet Chief Executive Paul Niardone, a former public relations executive.

The number of sales agents vying for the business in Australia's east coast, home to most of the country's population including the major cities of Sydney and Melbourne, has jumped 10 percent. But in Australia's most populous states, New South Wales and Victoria, the number of homes listed for sale per registered real estate agent dropped to just under 1 property per agent in 2016 from 1.3 per agent in 2015, according to Reuters analysis of publicly available data.

If the heat continues to seep out of the market, agents will be among the first to be hit. McGrath has suffered from the departure of about three dozen agents in recent months, resulting in an earnings downgrade and a share price tumble to about one-third its issue price almost 14 months ago. In an explosive internal email reviewed by Reuters, which a spokesman said was authentic, McGrath founder and major shareholder John McGrath said agents who had left his firm had "no loyalty, gratitude or style and will get their just deserts when the dust settles". — Reuters



BURGAN BANK LAUNCHES NEW VISA DEBIT CARDS

KUWAIT: Borgan Bank, the second largest bank in Kuwait recently announced further expansion of its debit cards portfolio with the launch of two lifestyle products, Visa Infinite and Visa Signature, to cater to the discerning needs of its premium clients. Borgan Bank is the only bank in the region to offer these prime variants of debit cards to its account holders. The new Visa Infinite debit card would be offered to the ultra-wealthy Private banking clients giving them instant access to customized, dedicated services with unprecedented convenience, and tailored benefits like a complimentary 'Harrods Black Card', 'Gold Card membership from Hilton Honors'.

The new Visa Signature Debit Card would be offered to the affluent Premier customers of the bank and come with a wide range of benefits that include complimentary access to more than 550 lounges across 300 airports around the world, free travel insurance for the cardholders and their immediate family, local and global concierge services amongst others.

Importantly in keeping with the

bank's commitment to offer its customers, innovation and cutting-edge technology, all new debit cards of the bank would now come with "Tap & Pay" benefit significantly enhancing the shopping experience as customers would just need to top their card in front of a contactless terminal in order to pay. On this occasion Raed Al Haqhaq, Borgan Bank Kuwait Deputy CEO said that "this launch is a reflection of continued investment and commitment to our valued customers who are truly global and want access to rewards and services across the world".

Ahmed Gaber, General Manager, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain, Visa, said: "Visa is delighted to partner with Borgan Bank to introduce two exceptional new debit cards into the Kuwaiti market. Our debit products enable cardholders to manage their finances while benefiting from the convenience, security and promotions offered by Visa. These cards go one step further to provide affluent cardholders with a level of access and privilege that have become the hallmark of Visa Infinite and Visa Signature."

DRIVE THROUGH A WORLD OF GIFTS WITH HONDA ALGHANIM

KUWAIT: Staying true to its tradition of always offering the best promotions for its customers to provide them the opportunity to own exceptional cars in terms of performance, technology and style at unbeatable prices and packages, Honda Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda vehicles, products, motorcycles, power products and marine engines, has launched a brand-new promotion exclusively during the month of February to coincide with the year's most anticipated national festivities.

Fans of technological innovation and luxury are welcome to visit Honda Alghanim's showrooms to select the car that best suits their preference and lifestyle. In addition to owning their favorite Honda car, customers have the opportunity to delight in the wonderful surprises and prizes that are in store for them during the month of February including cash prizes of up to KD 1,200, a three-year warranty as well as complimentary vehicle registration and insurance.

Increasing the exciting buzz during the month of February, Honda Alghanim also offers a special discount on Honda accessories that reaches up to 30% in order to provide those who wish to personalize their new Honda drive unique ways to do so at an equally attractive price. Honda has recently launched its new marketing campaign under the slogan "Designed for You" which reflects Honda's commitment on offering products that comprise the latest technologies and innovative engineering to equip customers with an exceptional and quality-centric experience.

'Making Dreams a Reality'

This objective is based on Honda's global vision that is adopted and applied in every Honda branch around the world which works on turning the "Power of Dreams" to "Making Dreams a Reality." During its exclusive February offer, Honda Alghanim offers the best Honda drives including the Odyssey and Odyssey J, two models that have proven to be the family car choice due to their spaciousness that is ideal for dropping and picking up one's children from school as well as loading up the entire week's grocery supplies.

Apart from its large and comfortable interior, the Odyssey's superior and secure

performance reaffirms its position as a family favorite. Another family car that has more grit and power is the Honda Pilot, a sporty SUV that is enriched with the latest technological features. Customers may also choose the Honda Accord, an icon in elegance and speed due to its powerful engine, outstanding technological features and other factors that make it a preferred option for those who wish to add a dash of finesse in their everyday drives.

Another featured Honda model is the CRV, a prime example of artistry due to its unique exterior design, technological features and other elements that have sealed the CRV as the ultimate drive for those who truly value a solid, strong and sleek ride. The younger crowd would delight in the Honda City, the ideal drive for the youth as it reflects their generation's vivacity, modernity and unique style.

One of the factors that Honda is keen on is providing exceptional safety features in its products, a factor that is achieved by using the strongest and sturdiest material in the manufacturing of Honda cars as well as making use of the latest smart technological features including sensing and warning systems, front and side airbags, cameras and other features that make every driver truly feel that their Honda drive is designed for them.

Customers are encouraged to visit any of the Honda showrooms for a chance to book a test drive and get full details from our sales representatives. Honda Alghanim Al-Rai showroom operates from Saturday till Thursday 9:00 AM till 10:00 PM, on Friday from 9:30 AM till 10:00 PM. The showroom in Shuwaikh operates from Saturday till Thursday 9:00 AM till 10:00 PM. Alghanim Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda automobiles, motorcycles, power products, and marine products in Kuwait, is committed to providing customers with flexible payment solutions and efficient and cost-effective services.

The cars service center's waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers with digital satellite TV, free wireless internet and relaxing massage chairs. The Service Center is open from Saturday till Wednesday from 7:30 AM till 8:30 PM, on Thursday from 7:30 AM till 6:30 PM and on Friday from 2:00 PM till 7:00 PM. For more information, please call 1822777.

EIGHT MERCEDES-BENZ KUWAIT SALES CONSULTANTS CERTIFIED BY DAIMLER

KUWAIT: Highlighting its commitment to providing the best qualified sales consultants in the automotive industry, Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company, the authorized General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait has announced the certification of an additional eight sales consultants through Daimler's global certification program. The newly qualified consultants were congratulated in a ceremony held at Albisher & Alkazemi Co's Mercedes-Benz Showroom in Kuwait this month, where they were awarded certificates & badges confirming their successful completion of training.

The ceremony was attended by members of both AR Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co and Mercedes-Benz Cars Middle East office Dubai, including Mohammad Abdul Rahman Al-Bisher, Partner and Director of AR Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co; Michael Ruehle, General Manager of AR Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co; Kay Schleaf and Inderjit Gandhi, Senior Managers at AR Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co; Andreas Buckmann, Director Sales and Marketing Passenger Cars at Mercedes-Benz Cars Middle East in Dubai; Phil Mayling, Head of Sales for Mercedes-Benz Cars Middle East, and other managers from AR Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co.

During the presentation ceremony Mohammad Albisher said that the two year "Daimler C-Sales" course run by Daimler Regional Training Centre includes modules on sales techniques and product knowledge of all Mercedes-Benz products, a developmental plan



to enhance the application of theoretical knowledge to daily customer service and business dealings, as well as a number of e-learning modules and tests. Concluding with a formal assessment run by third-party Assessors from the UK, each Sales Consultant who successfully passes the training receives the title of "Certified Sales Consultant".

Congratulating the certified sales consultants, Mohammad Albisher & Michael Ruehle said: "It is through internationally renowned training programs such as this that we are able

to ensure Mercedes-Benz customers enjoy the same standards of excellence in Mercedes-Benz showrooms around the world. We admire the dedication, persistence and willingness to learn that our successful sales consultants have displayed and congratulate them on this significant achievement." The "Certified Sales Consultants" include: Mohamed Elgabby, Firas Younis Tammam, Ahmed Al Mrabea, Jana Al-Rashed, Kayeys Mneimne, Raed Abou Hamze, Mohamed Deyaa Hamad and Ssanka Wishwajith.



DUBAI: Grand Hyper, a Division of Regency Group Dubai, opens its 42nd retail store in Muhaisnah Dubai on Feb 2nd 2017. The shop was inaugurated by Saeed Bin Subeih Al Falasi in the presence of Group Chairman Shamsudheen Bin Mohideen, Director N V Mohammed, Director A P Abdussamed, Director AP Abdul Rahman, Musthafa Usman, CEO Mahamood TP and General Manager Abbas Khan. The Store is the largest store in Muhaisnah area with an area of 52,000 sq.ft.

FORD HIRES MUSA TARIQ AS VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF BRAND OFFICER

DUBAI: Ford Motor Company yesterday announced the hiring of leading brand expert Musa Tariq as vice president and chief brand officer as part of its expansion to an auto and a mobility company and its drive to go further in connecting and engaging with today's consumers. Tariq, 34, is elected a Ford Motor Company officer and begins work Jan 30. In this new role, Tariq is responsible for further building and differentiating the company's Ford brand, one of the most valued in the world.

He will work with Marketing, Communications and company leaders across the world to define, build and communicate the Ford primary brand and what it stands for with all stakeholders. His work will complement the successful vehicle nameplate brand marketing and communications work already in place. "As we grow our business, we're also expanding our focus on and investment in building and differentiating our iconic Ford brand, which is known, loved and trusted around the world," said Mark Fields, Ford president and CEO.

"Our opportunity is to connect with even more consumers and stakeholders - some who

never have done business with Ford before - through compelling and culturally relevant marketing and communications. Musa has led transformational work at some of the world's most admired brands, and he is a leader known for challenging convention. We're excited for him to bring his expertise, knowledge and passion to Ford." Tariq will report jointly to Stephen Odell, Ford executive vice president, Global Marketing, Sales and Service, and to Ray Day, Ford group vice president, Communications.

Prior to joining Ford, Tariq was Apple's Global Marketing and Communication director for Retail. In this role, he launched several initiatives that enhanced the retail experience in more than 490 Apple stores and for more than 65,000 Apple Retail employees around the world. Prior to Apple, Tariq was the senior director of Social Media and Community at Nike, as well as the global head of Digital Marketing and later the first-ever director of Social Media at Burberry. Tariq started his career in marketing and advertising, serving in leadership roles at JWT and Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising.



Musa Tariq

JAPAN'S TROUBLED 'SPACE JUNK' MISSION FAILS

TOKYO: An experimental Japanese mission to clear 'space junk' or rubbish from the Earth's orbit has ended in failure, officials said yesterday, in an embarrassment for Tokyo. Over 100 million pieces of garbage are thought to be whizzing around the planet, including cast-off equipment from old satellites and bits of rocket, which experts say could pose risks for future space exploration.

Scientists at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) were trying to test an electrodynamic 'tether'—created with the help of a fishing net company—to slow down the orbiting rubbish and bring it into a lower orbit. The hope was that the clutter built up after more than five decades of human space exploration would eventually enter the Earth's atmosphere and burn up

harmlessly before it had a chance to crash into the planet.

The 700-meter (2,300-foot) long tether—made from thin wires of stainless steel and aluminium—was due to be extended out from a cargo ship launched in December carrying supplies for astronauts at the International Space Station. Problems arose quickly, however, and technicians tried for days to remedy

the situation but only had a one-week window to carry out the mission before the vessel reentered the Earth's atmosphere before dawn on yesterday.

"We believe the tether did not get released", leading researcher Koichi Inoue told reporters. "It is certainly disappointing that we ended the mission without completing one of the main objectives," he said. The disap-

pointment is the latest failure to hit JAXA and comes just weeks after the agency had to abort a mission that sought to use a mini-rocket to send a satellite into orbit. The agency also abandoned a pricey ultra-high-tech satellite launched in February last year to search for X-rays emanating from black holes and galaxy clusters after losing contact with the spacecraft. —AFP



AXILSPOT LAUNCHES ITS IN-WALL ACCESS POINTS IN MEA REGION

DUBAI: AXILSPOT, a global vendor in enterprise wireless networking, yesterday unveiled its latest Dorado In-Wall Access Points in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) to help businesses streamline their operational processes and enjoy consistent and uninter-

Commenting on the launch, August Chen, AXILSPOT Director of Global Sales, said, "We are excited to enter the highly competitive yet fast growing and upwardly mobile, wireless networking segment in Middle East and Africa. AXILSPOT provides smarter and safer wire-like WLAN solutions for all sizes of enterprises, including wireless bridges, outdoor and indoor coverage solutions, conquering every obstacle that drags enterprise mobility behind. The Rscan smart array antenna, FlowPath, VisualSec, TurboRf technologies are solving all security and user experience problems. Easy and flexible WLAN management can save enterprises significant time and IT maintenance costs."

"The MEA region, being one of the most advanced consumer economies of the globe, is very important for AXILSPOT. We will strive to amplify the growth of digitization in the MEA countries with our cutting edge, disruptive wireless networking solutions for end-to-end networking requirements of enterprises," Zhou added. AXILSPOT has flagged off its operations in the region's enterprise wireless segment by launching Rscan range of products in December 2016. The company has also announced its intention to appoint both regional and in-country distributors across the Middle East and Africa.

The new ASW3 300M Multi-Service In-wall Access Point features: Integrated chip, 2*2 MIMO chip supports high data throughput and robust load capacity, providing performance and stability Smart RF and network optimization, auto channel and power adjustment as well as wireless, QoS supports more concurrent users, eliminates network congestion and latency guarantee high bandwidth services. Centralized management, unified management podium manages in-wall access points, shrinking the workload of maintaining and managing large scale deployments

Other key features include: Wireless data rate 300Mbps; RJ11 interface; RJ45 interface; VoIP phone Interface; USB power charging port; PoE switch power supply; Software, hardware, application controller supported. AXILSPOT is focused on partner driven go-to-market mechanisms and ensures maximum profitability for partners. AXILSPOT has already established its India office in New Delhi, and its next local office will be in Middle East and Africa region before the summer of 2017.



August Chen, Director, Global Sales, AXILSPOT



Bruce Zhou, CEO, AXILSPOT

rupted high speed internet connectivity. The new 5-in-1 ASW3 300M Multi-Service In-wall Access Point offers multi-interfaces support cable access, PoE output, VoIP, telephone and USB charge and is primarily designed for the hospitality sector in the MEA region.

HUAWEI AND MINISTRY JOIN FORCES TO BOOST ICT SKILLS

ENABLING KUWAITI STUDENTS HARNESS THEIR POTENTIAL

KUWAIT: Huawei Technologies Kuwait announced yesterday the signing of a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs to advance the ICT skills of Kuwaiti youth as both parties share the common goal of helping the young generation succeed in a competitive environment. The MoU was signed by HE Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, Under Secretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs of Kuwait, and Mohammad Diab, Managing Director - Sales and Business Development at Huawei Technologies, Kuwait, during a formal ceremony at the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs yesterday.

The agreement paves the way for closer



collaboration between Huawei Technologies Kuwait, a Chinese, multinational telecommunications equipment and services provider and the fastest growing smartphone company in the world, and the Kuwaiti Government to boost ICT skills of students and open up new career opportunities for them.

As part of the MoU, the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and Huawei Technologies Kuwait will coordinate efforts around two of Huawei's flagship CSR programs, 'Seeds for the Future' and the local Information and Communications Technology Training Center launched in Kuwait in October 2016. Both programs reflect Huawei Technologies Kuwait's long-term commitment to the country, where it has seen remarkable growth in the last years.

It will be the very first time that local talents partake in Huawei Technologies Kuwait's fully sponsored 'Seeds for the Future' program, first launched in 2008 and now rolled out internationally. The Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and Huawei Technologies Kuwait will jointly identify 15 exceptional young Kuwaiti talents from universities across the country to attend a two-



week study trip to China, every year. During the trip, the students immerse in the Chinese culture and language, learn first-hand about the latest cutting edge technologies and exchange knowledge in Huawei's own technology labs in Shenzhen's Headquarters.

The Information and Communications Technology Training Center in Kuwait serves as a knowledge hub that provides free training programs to Kuwaiti students during a two-week period. By providing hands-on knowledge and professional Huawei Technologies Kuwait trainers, the newly established center aims at enabling youth to seek employment in the private sector, also in alignment with the government's vision. Commenting on the MoU, Mohammad Diab said: 'Helping shape the future of youth is

too important a responsibility for any partner to handle alone.

That is why we are delighted to join efforts with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs as a champion of the progress of the Kuwaiti youth. We are certain that this MoU will further enhance the collaborative ties that already exist between Huawei Technologies Kuwait and the Government of Kuwait and serve as an impetus for skills-building, knowledge transfers and career development. As part of its global responsibility program, Huawei remains committed to creating opportunities for Kuwaiti youth, and ultimately contributing to building a better connected world. To learn more about Huawei's CSR programs, please visit Huawei online at www.huawei.com

SOPHOS POSITIONED AS A LEADER IN GARTNER MAGIC QUADRANT FOR EPP

DUBAI: Sophos (LSE: SOPH), a global leader in network and endpoint security, yesterday announced that Gartner, Inc has once again positioned Sophos as a Leader in the Gartner Magic Quadrant for Endpoint Protection Platforms 1 (EPP). With the recently launched next-generation anti-exploit product Sophos Intercept X and the continued enhancement of the cloud-based management platform Sophos Central, Sophos offers a broad portfolio of endpoint security products that are proven to be effective against today's sophisticated threats. Sophos has held a Leader position in this report since 2007.

According to the report, the next wave of cyber-threats will be fileless. "Advanced attackers have been exploiting script-based attacks for years. Common Windows utilities, such as the command line interface, PowerShell, Perl, Visual Basic, Nmap and Windows Credential Editor, can be exploited to compromise machines without dropping any executable files, evading all traditional forms of malicious file detection."

In response to this, Gartner recommends that "EPP buyers should look for vendors that focus on memory exploit protection, script analysis and behavior indicators of compromise. Ultimately, we [Gartner] believe that vendors that focus on detecting behavior indicative of attacker tradecraft (that is, tools, tactics and techniques) will be the most effective."

"For the last several years Sophos has built products that integrate exploit prevention, behavior analytics and pre-execution heuristics. The launch of Intercept X added

signatureless anti-exploit and anti-ransomware capabilities with root cause analysis to run along-side and complement existing endpoint protection products," said Dan Schiappa, senior vice president and general manager of the endpoint and network security groups at Sophos.

"We believe that our continued placement as a Leader in this highly competitive

market reflects our ability to continually innovate and deliver quality products in response to the changing threat landscape. Not only have our products been proven in customer deployments worldwide but they are also assessed by independent third party testing to demonstrate their effectiveness against the threats that Gartner cautions are on the rise."

Schiappa continued, "Sophos believes that the only way to successfully protect against the growth of sophisticated threats is to use an ensemble of products that work together and share threat and security status for faster detection and more immediate response. This is the core tenant of our synchronized security strategy. It is only by taking a new 'best of breed system' approach to close the gaps that exist in the traditional multi-vendor single product deployments that companies will more effectively protect their critical data assets. Today we include network security, endpoint security and encryption products in this synchronized security strategy and we will continue to expand its capabilities."

Sophos continues to deliver on its strategy to integrate endpoint protection platforms and endpoint detection and response capabilities into the Sophos Central management platform to deliver a more effective solution. Sophos believes this strategy is consistent with the prediction in the report that states "By 2019, EPP and EDR capabilities will have merged into a single offering, eliminating the need to buy best-of-breed products for all but the most specialized environments."



Dan Schiappa

FACEBOOK, GOOGLE, OTHERS LAUNCH DRIVE AGAINST FAKE NEWS IN FRANCE

PARIS: Social media companies Facebook, Google and a group of news organizations launched an initiative yesterday to tackle fake news stories in France, with the media in the spotlight as the country's presidential election approaches. Facebook said it would work with several leading French news organizations, including Agence France-Presse, BFM TV, and newspapers L'Express and Le Monde to ensure that false news items were not published on its platform.

Google also said it was part of the initiative, dubbed "Cross Check" by the partners. Facebook has faced criticism that it did not do enough to prevent false information being republished on its platform during last year's US presidential campaign, and in response has set up measures to

try to tackle the problem. There have been similar concerns that people could disseminate false information on Facebook in the build-up to the French election, which takes place in April and May.

In the United States, Facebook has said users would in future find it easier to flag fake articles as a hoax, and added that it will work with organizations such as fact-checking website Snopes, ABC News and the Associated Press to check the authenticity of stories. Last month, Facebook also set up an initiative against fake news in Germany, where government officials had expressed concerns that false stories and hate speech online could influence a parliamentary election in September in which chancellor Angela Merkel will seek a fourth term in office. —Reuters

GENES POINT TO WHO DEVELOPS LUNG DISEASE, STUDY FINDS

PARIS: Scientists unveiled a trove of newly-discovered gene variants yesterday to help predict who will most likely develop a killer lung disease, both among smokers and non-smokers. The world's biggest probe of the genetics of lung health yielded 43 new gene variants linked to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a major cause of death. COPD is a bundle of incurable lung ailments, including emphysema and chronic bronchitis. People with the wrong genetic makeup who also smoke are especially at risk, a team of scientists wrote in the journal *Nature Genetics*. "As a result of this work, we can now better

predict who will develop COPD opening up the possibility of using this information in prevention," said Martin Tobin from the University of Leicester, one of the leaders of the research team.

"This genetic information guides future treatments including the development of new drugs." According to a 2015 study in the *Journal of Global Health*, there were an estimated 384 million COPD cases globally in 2010. It claimed about 2.9 million lives that year, making it the fourth most common cause of death-predicted to reach third place by 2030. About 90 percent of COPD deaths occur in low- and middle-income coun-

tries, and some 40 percent of deaths are attributable to smoking. Despite it being a strong risk factor, not all people who smoke develop COPD, and not all people who do develop it are smokers. This is largely due to genetic differences, said the research team.

Defusing a time bomb

By nearly doubling the number of genetic variants associated with lung disease, they discovered that people in the highest genetic risk group had a 3.7 higher chance of developing COPD than those in the lowest. As many as 72 out of 100 smokers in the genetic high-

risk group will develop lung disease, the team said. "By quitting smoking in early adulthood, COPD could be prevented in five out of ten people" at high genetic risk, said the University of Leicester. "The breakthrough advance could help defuse a 'ticking time bomb' for serious lung disease, with over a billion smokers worldwide at risk," it added in a statement.

Genes are sections of DNA carrying codes for building the proteins an organism needs to function. Sometimes the same gene varies from one person to the next, accounting for distinct features such as straight or curly hair, eye

color, and vulnerability to diseases. "Given how common COPD is, we know surprisingly little about the reasons why one individual develops the condition whilst another does not," said fellow research leader Ian Hall from the University of Nottingham. "The study of genetic variation between individuals provides a powerful way to understand these mechanisms which underlie disease risk, which in turn will provide a stimulus for drug development." The study involved more than 100 scientists trawling through the genetic signatures of 350,000 people from 13 countries. —AFP

YOUNG ALBANIANS SCARRED BY ROGUE COSMETIC TREATMENTS

'OPEN INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTE BASED ONLY ON COMPLAINTS'

TIRANA: Emira Sela covers her face with her hand to hide a disfiguring abscess, the traumatic result of unregulated cosmetic treatments now rampant across Albania. The 31-year-old began to worry when wrinkles appeared on her face. Sela's hairdresser told her that a simple injection, costing around 60 euros (\$65), would banish the signs of ageing. "She assured me that I would not risk anything. She even listed well-known names" of women who had undergone such treatment, said Sela. "I did not think twice, I trusted her without asking questions," said the blonde woman with green eyes, her voice trembling. Albanian hair and beauty salons lacking expertise and medical supervision are offering such cosmetic treatments, unregulated in a legal

vacuum, much to the alarm of qualified doctors.

A single injection of a product whose content and dosage Sela knew nothing about was enough to ruin her life in late August. Despite antibiotics she has permanent pain, fever and nausea, while the abscess on her right cheek forces her eye to half-close and her face is nearly paralyzed. "I am so disfigured that I tried to commit suicide," said Sela, who lost her job in a bank. Her only hope now is corrective surgery at an Italian hospital, scheduled for this month.

Desiring Kardashian look

"There are more and more impostors with syringes," said Panajot Papa, a plastic surgeon at a private clinic in Tirana. "The problem is also the

products... Forbidden in Europe, they enter illegally from Turkey or China." Eriona Shehu, a dermatologist at Tirana's university hospital, said these unregulated synthetic products, such as injected liquid silicone and acrylamide, were being offered at temptingly low prices. "Cosmetic interventions have become a lucrative industry. The patient is only a customer, exposed to a number of risks," Shehu said the desire to look like voluptuous US reality television star Kim Kardashian was "destroying the lives of young Albanian girls looking for beauty".

Albanian doctors say the typical age of clients for such procedures is between 16 and 28. In the country of about three million people, the demand for cosmetic interventions rose more than 50 percent in 2015, according to a study published by Albania's economic magazine *Monitor*. Promotional offers can be seen everywhere, such as a beauty salon advertising 20-percent reductions for three people coming together for treatment during the holiday season. Monika Fida, another dermatologist working in a regulated healthcare setting at the university hospital, says such offers are a trap, promoting procedures carried out "without any medical supervision".

Papa says he has treated a dozen young women aged between 20 and 27 who suffered complications after having their lips and cheekbones swollen with injected liquid silicone for 40 to 50 euros. The product has been banned for cosmetic use in countries such as Italy and France for more than 15 years. Papa said such botched interventions left these women prone to particularly bad swellings during their menstrual period, requiring further treatment and he warned they may suffer such symptoms for life.

Closing legal gap

Albanian doctors are worried about foreign practitioners who come from Italy, Turkey and Greece to work just for a weekend. "They may not have a diploma, qualification or license for these kind of interventions or for assuming the responsibility of a patient's medical follow-up," said Besim Boci, head of the otolaryngology department at Tirana's university hospital. Due to legal loopholes, the judiciary cannot step in. A spokesman at Tirana's main tribunal, Alba Nikolla, admits that it is currently impossible to "open investigations and prosecute based only on complaints" against practitioners.

But authorities are set to tackle this with a draft law to control cosmetic products and beauty salons, which is due to be introduced in parliament in the next few months. The law complies with the requirements of the European Union, which Albania aspires to join, and will enable authorities to shut down rogue establishments using synthetic products. When health is adversely affected, practitioners could be imprisoned for three to 10 years.

Such regulations could go some way to easing the trauma of women like Elisa Lura, a 22-year-old economics student. She underwent a laser treatment to restore her natural look after paying 50 euros to a neighborhood salon for permanent eyebrow tattoos, which went wrong. But the laser made things much worse. "Everything is spoiled!" she said of her face now covered with painful scars. —AFP



TIRANA, Qarku Tiran's: Dermatologist Monika Fida (not pictured) gives to a woman a lip augmentation injection of hyaluronic acid at her clinic. —AFP photos



TIRANA, Qarku Tiran's: Dermatologist Monika Fida (r) examines a woman at her clinic.



KOLONTAR, Hungary: This file photo taken on October 6, 2010 shows civil protection service workers cleaning sludge-covered streets in Kolontar about 160 kms southwest of Budapest, after a wave of toxic red mud swept through the small village. —AFP photos

HUNGARY COURT ORDERS RETRIAL OVER 2010 TOXIC SPILL

BUDAPEST, Hungary: A Hungarian court yesterday ordered a retrial of 15 employees at an alumina plant who were cleared last year of criminal wrongdoing over the country's worst toxic spill in 2010. The court overturned the January 2016 acquittals of Zoltan Bakonyi, the former director of the MAL alumina plant in the western town of Ajka, and 14 employees. Prosecutors had appealed the original verdict, arguing that judges had committed procedural irregularities and that the disaster could have been prevented if MAL's management had intervened in time. The deadly disaster occurred on October 4, 2010, after the plant's holding reservoir burst its walls, sending 1.1 million cubic meters (38.8 million cubic feet) of poisonous red sludge into villages in western Hungary.

Ten people died and 150 were injured, many with horrendous chemical burns. The mud-a caustic byproduct of produc-

ing alumina, which is used to make aluminum-also wiped out almost all life in nearby rivers, and even spread to the Danube. After a 40-month trial, the 15 employees were cleared of negligence, waste management violations and damage to the environment, sparking an outcry from victims of the spill. Prosecutors had demanded prison sentences for all the accused, but the court found that the disaster had been caused by a "loss of stability in the undersoil".

The fault lay with the designers of the reservoir and the authorities responsible for carrying out checks, rather than the company's staff, the court said. Yesterday's ruling by a court in Győr, which lies north of Ajka, is not subject to appeal. Despite vast sums spent on depolluting the region, it still bears traces of the tragedy. Hundreds of hectares of land remain sealed off and cannot be used for cultivation. —AFP



KOLONTAR, Hungary: An aerial view of the village of Kolontar, nearby the Torna stream, some 160 kilometers southwest of the Hungarian capital Budapest, after a wave of toxic red mud of the Ajkai Timfoldgyar plant swept through the village.

KENYA'S DISABLED MOTHERS NEGLECTED DUE TO DEARTH OF DATA

NAKURU, Kenya: Everline Achieng has a disability you only notice when she stands. She walks with the support of a crutch since losing the use of her right leg at the age of eight due to an unknown illness that also put an end to her education. In 2010, three years before the government introduced a free maternity services program, she delivered twins by caesarean section at the Rift Valley General Hospital, but they died after developing breathing problems. On top of suffering the loss of her babies, Achieng had difficulties in hospital as the bed she was given was high and fixed. "It was a painful struggle climbing onto it," she recalled.

At the hospital where she delivered, since renamed as Nakuru Level 5 Hospital, the wards are now equipped with adjustable beds - a sign that health services are becoming more inclusive. But one thing has not changed: the lack of data on disabled expectant mothers. In 2013, health functions were devolved to Kenya's 47 counties, which are bound by the 2010 constitution to implement health policies developed at the national level, including free maternity services. But rights activists say those services have not been adapted for disabled women, partly because the government is not gathering information on them.

Achieng is counted as one of the nearly 5 percent of the Kenyan population suffering some form of disability, as captured in a 2007 national survey. But that data is now around a decade old - and more recent censuses, such as the 2014 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, do not include information on disabled men, women or children.

Hidden needs

In hospitals, the patient sheet filled in by pregnant women has no question asking if they have a disability. Information gathered by county hospitals is fed into the Ministry of Health's database, which can be used by other ministries and development agencies. But the oversight in the data collection makes it impossible to tell how many disabled mothers are delivering at hospitals.

Dr John Murima, medical superintendent at Nakuru Level 5 Hospital, could not provide figures on disabled women giving birth at the public facility. "We use certain tools to capture data for patients - for example, their general health. But we do not have a tool that captures people with disability as a patient," he said. Given that governments and donors rely on data to identify development concerns, Kenya's lack of statistics on disabled

people accessing health services means their needs are at risk of being ignored, experts warn. President Uhuru Kenyatta introduced the Free Maternity Services Programme in mid-2013, aimed at relieving all women of having to pay user fees for delivery at public hospitals.

Annually, 1.6 million women in Kenya deliver babies, according to the health ministry. Of these, around 1 million give birth in public hospitals, while 200,000 do so in private hospitals and 400,000 deliver at home or in unhealthy conditions. Even women who do not pay into the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), a state health insurance scheme, are eligible for free delivery.

Last October, the health ministry extended free maternity services under a program called "Linda Mama, Boresha Jamii" ("take care of a mother, improve the family"). Under this initiative, expectant mothers who cannot afford insurance cover can now access antenatal, delivery, post-natal and health services for their child for a year.

Dr Peter Kimuu, head of the health ministry's policy, planning and health-care financing department, said those eligible must register first for a free NHIF card. "Every woman has a right to access equal and quality health services in any hospital," he said. But for

Achieng, the unique needs of disabled mothers extend beyond free maternity services. "We really need help to start income-generating activities to be able to afford a healthy lifestyle," she said.

'Private affair'

The global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), launched last year, state that countries should promote gender equality by eliminating all forms of discrimination against women. But without data to demonstrate the scale and urgency of the problem, securing funding for programs to support disabled women is likely to take longer than the 15-year life span of the SDGs, argued George Gongera, a professor of strategic management and international relations at the Co-operative University College of Kenya.

Dr David Ole Sankok, chairperson of Kenya's National Council of Persons with Disabilities, which is charged with collecting data on disabled people, said no audit had been done on women with disabilities seeking maternity care. But trying to gather such information could draw strong reactions from the target group, he warned. "This is a private affair and you can't start asking if she has a disability. She will begin to think that she is not supposed to be pregnant because of her disability," said Sankok.

Despite the sensitivity of the issue, medical staff are being trained to handle disabled patients better, and the council is pushing for prescriptions to be offered in braille for the blind, he added. Stephen Obama, Nakuru County coordinator for persons with disabilities and development, said programs targeting disabled women must be implemented urgently if they are to enjoy good maternal health. "Poverty is a major problem facing persons with disabilities and for a pregnant woman it becomes even more complicated because they have special needs to meet, like healthy food - and that means money which they don't have. We want government to note this as a troubling issue," he said.

Last year, the Ministry of Health recognized the poor state of data collection in a key investment framework, noting that it is problematic for planning and monitoring. Faith Njahira, a disability rights advocate, said the government should utilize information collected by community health workers from households - which includes disabilities among family members - to compile disaggregated data. That would be a key step towards recognizing the problem, said Gongera. "It is very difficult to consider an issue, even when it is an emergency... when you have no data to show," he said. —Reuters

CHINA PROMOTES TRADITIONAL MEDICINE TO COMBAT AIDS

BEIJING: China will double the number of AIDS patients it treats with traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), officials have said, part of a broader push to increase the use of the ancient practice in the country's medical system. The promotion of TCM is part of a five-year plan from the State Council, China's cabinet, to tackle HIV/AIDS. "The number of people living with AIDS who are treated with traditional Chinese medicine should be twice what it was in 2015," the State Council said on its website Sunday.

The plan outlined collaboration between traditional Chinese medicine departments and national health and family planning commissions "to find a therapeutic regimen which combines traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and Western medicines". The TCM push aligns with a recent effort by the government to make the practice a priority for both development and publicity. TCM, dating back thousands of years,

treats ailments using herbal mixtures and physical therapies such as acupuncture and cupping. The science behind such remedies has long been questioned. Last month medical researchers disputed a study claiming that acupuncture could cure babies of colic. In late December the Chinese legislature passed its first TCM law, which will allow practitioners to be licensed and make it easier for them to open clinics.

There are about 450,000 TCM practitioners across the country, according to the State Council Information Office. The government sees the practice as a cost-saving alternative to modern healthcare. The new initiative to tackle HIV/AIDS will aim to reduce "AIDS-related homosexual behavior" by at least 10 percent and mother-to-children transmission rates to less than four percent. In a 2015 report China told the UN that it had 501,000 cases of HIV/AIDS as of the end of 2014. —AFP

SCIENTISTS FIND CROP-DESTROYING CATERPILLAR SPREADING RAPIDLY IN AFRICA

LONDON: Scientists tracking a crop-destroying caterpillar known as armyworm say it is now spreading rapidly across mainland Africa and could reach tropical Asia and the Mediterranean in the next few years, threatening agricultural trade. In research released yesterday, scientists at the Britain-based Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) said the pest, which had not previously been established outside the Americas, is now expected to spread "to the limits of suitable African habitat" within a few years.

The caterpillar destroys young maize plants, attacking their growing points and burrowing into the cobs. "It likely travelled to Africa as adults or egg masses on direct commercial flights and has since been spread within Africa by its own strong flight ability and carried as a contaminant on crop produce," said CABI's chief scientist Matthew Cook. Armyworm, known as "fall armyworm" in the United States due to its tendency to migrate there in autumn, or fall, is native to North and South America and can devastate maize, a staple crop crucial to food security in large parts of Africa.

Suspected outbreaks have already erupt-

ed in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and South Africa and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said last week it had spread to Namibia and Mozambique. The CABI research found evidence of two species of fall armyworm in Ghana for the first time and scientists are now working to understand how it got there, how it spreads, and how farmers can control it in an environmentally friendly way.

"This is the first time it has been shown that both species or strains are established on mainland Africa," Cook said. "Following earlier reports from Nigeria, Togo and Benin, this shows they are clearly spreading very rapidly." While armyworm mainly affects maize, it has also been recorded eating more than 100 different plant species, causing major damage to crops such as rice and sugarcane as well as cabbage, beet and soybeans.

Cook warned that outbreaks can cause devastating losses and mounting debts for farmers and said urgent action is now needed to help farmers figure out the best strategies to control the pest. South Africa's agriculture ministry said last week it was registering pesticides for use against armyworm. —Reuters

TRADE IN AFRICAN LION BONES FOR ASIAN MARKET FACES SCRUTINY

JOHANNESBURG: Wildlife traffickers in a major African park have been offering rewards for a full lion carcass, raising concerns that poachers are increasingly targeting a vulnerable species because of demand in some Asian countries for lion bones used in traditional medicine. The report from Mozambique's Niassa National Reserve comes amid debate about whether the legal, annual export of bones from hundreds of captive-bred lions in South Africa to China and Southeast Asia could spur the market, possibly leading to the illegal killing of wild lions for their bones as well. African lion bones are a relatively recent substitute in tonics for the bones of Asian tigers, whose numbers were depleted by poachers.

There have been "multiplying anecdotal reports of lions harvested for body parts" along with "increasing examples of whole skeletons being taken," said Paul Funston, senior lion program director for the Panthera conservation group. He said he believes the phenomenon is linked to increased Chinese demand rather than the long-time use of lion parts in some traditional cultures in Africa. "It seems to start with teeth and claws, which probably mainly have trinket value, and migrates to bones and carcasses once a market is established," Funston said.

Predators of prey

Lions face other threats, including human encroachment on habitats and the poaching of antelopes and other animals for food, which deprives the predators of prey. The number of African lions in the wild has dropped by more than 40 percent to about 20,000 in the past two decades, according to estimates. The Niassa wildlife park has at least a third of Mozambique's population of 2,700 lions. Colleen Begg, a leader of a carnivore project there, said the local use of lion parts is not a major concern yet and that lion poachers appear to be catering to the Asian market.

"We have middlemen coming in and offering a motorbike or \$1,500 for a full lion carcass. This started about



MADIKWE: In this file photo lions yawn in the Madikwe Game Reserve, South Africa. —AP

18 months ago and is a real worry as, through poison and snares, they are now directly targeting lions. Most of our information comes through informers, but last year a poacher was caught with lion bones," Begg wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

"There is no doubt that poaching trade routes for ivory, pangolin scales, lion bones, rhino horn are very similar and the lion bones, teeth and claws are all going out the same way and are found in confiscated shipments that also contain ivory and rhino horn from Mozambique," Begg said. Last year, Mozambican police seized a haul of rhino horn as well as six kilograms (13 pounds) of lion claws and teeth in suitcases at the international airport in the capital, Maputo, according to media reports. In January, poachers cut through fences at an animal park in neighboring South Africa's Limpopo province and decapitated and chopped the paws off three male

lions. Similar cases have been reported in recent weeks. Police said Friday they arrested a Mozambican and four South Africans after receiving information that people were selling lion heads in the province, South Africa's News24 website reported.

Lion teeth

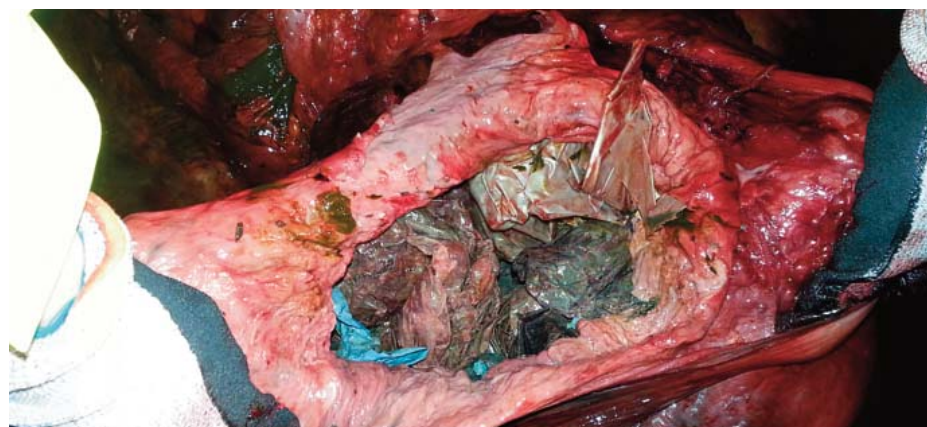
Recent South African cases "have the hallmark of domestic consumption for the local traditional medicine trade," said Vivienne Williams, a researcher at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and the lead author on a 2015 lion bone study. Sometimes, lion teeth and claws are used as talismans and lion paw bones feature in healers' divination sets, she said. Williams said she is aware of cases "where Asian nationals have been arrested at airports with undeclared lion teeth and claws" and that more research is needed to firmly establish any link between an appar-

ent surge in lion poaching and the Asian market. South Africa has proposed a 2017 export quota of 800 skeletons of captive-bred lions, many of which are killed by paying clients in a practice described by critics as "canned hunting."

South Africa's environmental affairs department raised a concern that runs counter to that of some conservationists, saying a ban on the trade in captive-bred lion bones could trigger more poaching of wild lions. Richard Thomas, spokesman for TRAFFIC, a conservation group, said the legal industry must be closely monitored. "We don't fully understand the dynamics of the lion bone trade, and while it may not currently be having a perceived impact on wild lions in South Africa, we simply don't know whether that'll be the case there in the future or whether it's presently the case elsewhere in the continent," he said. —AP



OSLO: Researchers from the university begin dissecting a two-ton whale that was beached in shallow waters off Sotra, an island west of Bergen, some 200 kilometers (125 miles) northwest of Oslo. —AP photos



OSLO: Researchers show plastic bags found inside the stomach of a two-ton whale that was beached in shallow waters off Sotra.



OSLO: Researchers lay out plastic bags found inside the stomach of a two-ton whale that was beached in shallow waters off Sotra.

ZOOLOGISTS SAY DEAD WHALE IN NORWAY FULL OF PLASTIC BAGS

COPENHAGEN, Denmark: Norwegian zoologists have found about 30 plastic bags and other plastic waste in the stomach of a beaked whale that had beached on a southwestern Norway coast. The visibly sick, 2-ton goose-beaked

whale was euthanized, Terje Lislevand of Bergen University said Friday. "The (whale's) stomach was full of plastic," Lislevand said, adding that its intestine "had no food, only some remnants of a squid's head in addition to a thin fat

layer." Lislevand says the non-biodegradable waste was "probably the reason" why the male whale repeatedly beached last Saturday in shallow waters off Sotra, an island west of Bergen, 200 kilometers (125 miles) northwest of

the capital of Oslo. Its size - about 6 meters (20 feet) - showed the whale was an adult. The UN estimates that 8 million tons of plastic trash are dumped into the world's oceans each year, he said. —AP

CLINIC

PAGE

248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

د. فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال

M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



Ahmedi Governorate launched celebrations for Kuwait's National Holidays by decorating government buildings with colors of Kuwait's flag and portraits of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

PEFK ORGANIZES ORAL HEALTH CARE AWARENESS SEMINAR FOR STUDENTS

Pakistan Employment Forum Kuwait (PEFK), Medical Assistance Division, organized an oral health care seminar recently for young students in International School of Pakistan Khaitan with coordination of Bushra Karamat, The Principal of International School of Pakistan Primary Section and Vice Principal of Primary section

Nadiya Muhammad, PEFK Medical Assistance Division prepared and conducted the event by Dr Huda Shams, Dr Yasir Jameel. PEFK Medical Assistance Division is dealing with career assistance, guidance and counseling in Medical field for Job seekers and Students. Anjum Masoud, the Principal of ISP, Bushra Karamat, The Principal

of ISC Primary, Vice Principal of Primary section Nadiya Muhammad, Vice Principal of Juniors/Seniors Classes Uzma Amir and Founder President of PEFK Muhammad Irfan Adil, along with school staff graced the event.





Dr Esmaeili Receives a silver medal.



Dr Esmaeili's booth at the fair.

AUK ENGINEERING PROFESSOR RECEIVES SILVER MEDAL AT 9TH INTERNATIONAL INVENTION FAIR OF MIDDLE EAST

Dr Seyed Esmaeili of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the American University of Kuwait was awarded a silver medal for his invention at the 9th International Invention Fair of Middle East (IIFME) which took place in Kuwait from the 16th to 19th of January, 2017. Held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, IIFME is the second largest international exhibition for inventions after the International Invention Exhibition of Geneva. Nearly 200 inventors from 36 countries across the globe participated with 150 inventions.

Dr Esmaeili's invention, entitled: Reversible Adjustable Eyeglasses with Polarized and/or Prescription Lenses, basically

consists of eyeglasses that can be adjusted to provide two different looks. Rotatable side arms and a rotatable secondary frame provide a mechanism to interchange the interior and exterior sides of the glasses which can differ in color, pattern, or both. A correct lens orientation indicator on the secondary frame ensures correct configuration of the glasses. The proposed mechanism is both easy to manufacture and user friendly.

Dr Esmaeili received both US and European patents for his invention. He had also designed and modeled the glasses using a 3D printer. The invention was well received by the inventors, the judging committee, as well as the public at the IIFME.

The British ambassador visits Gulf British Academy in Kuwait

The British Ambassador to Kuwait Matthew Lodge recently visited Gulf British Academy. He was taken on a tour of the school and met with staff and students.



British ambassador with the principal Mrs. Norma Taylor and Director of Administrative Affairs Marwan Al Ali.



Educational and administrative staff in the Gulf British Academy with the ambassador.

FAMILY LAW IN A NUTSHELL

In this special legal presentation, Atyab Al Shatti and Najmah Brown from Al-Adwani Law Firm will provide an overview of the Family Law system in Kuwait. Learn about the marriage contract, divorce, alimony, child custody, and child support, in addition to recent

updates in Kuwaiti family law. The presentation takes place on Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 pm. Address: Villa No 67, Street 413, Block 4, Shuhada Area, Kuwait.

IISM CELEBRATES 68TH REPUBLIC DAY

National festivals stir a sense of pride and set the mood for celebration. India, with its diversity joins hands to bring out its best on these occasions. One such humble attempt was made by India International School Mangaf on the eve of 68th Republic Day.

The tiny tots of Kindergarten, clad in tricolor and soldiers' attire rendered patriotic songs eulogizing the great soldiers who sacrificed their lives for our mother country. The whole event in the Kindergarten section was organized under the guidance of the section Head, Nilofer Qazi.

A special assembly was organized by I and II graders with much patriotic fervor wherein students sang and danced to the tune of 'Maa thuje salaam', 'Vandemaataram' and 'Desh mere rangila' against saffron, white and green backdrop. The speech delivered highlighted the importance of the Indian constitution. Dressed in

tricolor, with flag colored fans in hands, the students cheered the ongoing performances. The ambience echoed the pitch of nationalism.

In this regard, Fancy Dress Competition was organized for class II, and an Interclass Collage Competition, depicting national symbols of India, was conducted for grades III to V. The mighty effort which was put up by students and teachers alike was appreciated by the School Director, Malayil Moosa Koya, Principal, F M Basheer Ahmed, Vice Principal, Narinder Kaur and the Vice Principals, Saleem, Sophy John and Indulekha Suresh.



OSN MOVIES
ACTION

- 01:00 Bullet
- 03:00 Mercy
- 05:00 Taken 3
- 07:00 Deep Rising
- 09:00 Dragon Blade
- 11:00 I Am Number Four
- 13:00 Taken 3
- 15:15 Batman: Bad Blood
- 16:45 Last Action Hero
- 19:00 Automata
- 21:00 Fast & Furious 7
- 23:30 No Way Out

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 00:55 Gator Boys
- 01:50 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
- 02:45 Bondi Vet
- 03:40 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 04:35 Tanked
- 05:25 Great Animal Escapes
- 06:15 Gator Boys
- 07:02 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
- 07:49 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 08:36 Gorilla School
- 09:25 Groomer Has It
- 10:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 11:10 Great Animal Escapes
- 11:35 Great Animal Escapes
- 12:05 Tanked
- 13:00 Groomer Has It
- 13:55 Bondi Vet
- 14:50 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 15:45 Gator Boys
- 16:40 Great Animal Escapes
- 17:35 Tanked
- 18:30 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
- 19:25 Rugged Justice
- 20:20 Up Close And Dangerous
- 21:15 Tanked
- 22:10 Great Animal Escapes
- 23:05 Rugged Justice

BBC FIRST

- 00:45 Casuality
- 01:40 Undercover
- 02:40 In Plain Sight
- 03:30 Ripper Street

- 07:20 Catch A Contractor
- 08:15 Catch A Contractor
- 08:40 Catch A Contractor
- 09:05 Disaster Date
- 09:30 Ridiculousness
- 09:55 Ridiculousness
- 10:20 Key And Peele
- 10:45 Disaster Date
- 11:10 Ridiculousness
- 11:35 The It Crowd
- 12:00 Gym Rescue
- 12:50 Important Things With Demetri Martin
- 13:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 13:40 The It Crowd
- 14:05 Catch A Contractor
- 14:30 Catch A Contractor
- 14:55 Ridiculousness
- 15:20 Bondi Ink
- 16:10 Comedy Central Presents Comedy 3alwagel
- 16:35 Ridiculousness
- 17:00 Ridiculousness
- 17:30 Disaster Date
- 17:55 Lip Sync Battle
- 18:25 Key And Peele
- 18:50 Lip Sync Battle
- 19:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 19:39 The It Crowd
- 20:03 Sweet Inc.
- 20:50 Disaster Date
- 21:13 Idiotstier
- 21:37 Important Things With Demetri Martin
- 22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 22:30 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
- 22:54 The Jim Gaffigan Show
- 23:18 Broad City
- 23:42 Broad City

Discovery Family

- 00:15 Destroyed In Seconds
- 00:40 Ultimate Survival
- 01:30 Nextworld
- 02:20 Baby Animals
- 02:45 Baby Animals
- 03:10 World's Toughest Expeditions With James Cracknell
- 04:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 04:25 Destroyed In Seconds
- 04:50 Ultimate Survival
- 05:40 How It's Made
- 06:05 How It's Made
- 06:30 Dirty Jobs
- 07:20 Mythbusters
- 08:00 Kids vs Film
- 08:25 Dick N' Dom Go Wild
- 08:50 Too Cute! Pint-Size
- 09:40 How It's Made

- 12:15 Good Luck Charlie
- 12:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 13:05 Shake It Up
- 13:30 Shake It Up
- 13:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 14:00 Welcome To The Ronks
- 14:15 Gravity Falls
- 14:40 Hank Zipzer
- 15:05 Star Darlings
- 15:10 Austin & Ally
- 15:35 Jessie
- 16:00 Bunk'd
- 16:25 Kirby Buckets
- 16:50 Rolling To The Ronks
- 17:15 Sunny Bunnies
- 17:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 17:45 Elena Of Avalor
- 18:10 Stuck In The Middle
- 18:35 Descendants Wicked World
- 18:40 Girl Meets World
- 19:05 Bizaardvark
- 19:30 Liv And Maddie
- 19:55 Best Friends Whenever
- 20:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 20:25 The Next Step
- 20:50 Austin & Ally
- 21:15 Star Darlings
- 21:20 Shake It Up
- 21:45 Backstage
- 22:10 Liv And Maddie
- 22:35 Cracked
- 22:40 The Next Step
- 23:05 Best Friends Whenever
- 23:30 Jessie
- 23:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts

Disney Junior

- 00:00 Sofia The First
- 00:30 Sofia The First
- 00:55 PJ Masks
- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:35 The Hive
- 01:45 Loopedidoo
- 02:00 Henry Hugglemonster
- 02:15 Calimero
- 02:30 Art Attack
- 02:55 Zou
- 03:05 Loopedidoo
- 03:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:35 Calimero
- 03:50 Zou
- 04:05 Art Attack
- 04:30 The Hive
- 04:40 Loopedidoo
- 04:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:10 Art Attack
- 05:35 Loopedidoo
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:05 Art Attack

- 13:15 Megastorm: World's Biggest Typhoon
- 14:05 How Do They Do It?
- 14:30 Auction Hunters
- 14:55 Auction Hunters
- 15:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 16:10 Boy To Man
- 17:00 Deadliest Catch
- 17:50 Fast N' Loud
- 18:40 Misfit Garage
- 19:30 How Do They Do It?
- 19:55 How Do They Do It?
- 20:20 Boy To Man
- 21:10 Auction Hunters
- 21:35 Auction Hunters
- 22:00 The Island With Bear Grylls
- 22:50 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
- 23:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown

Disney XD

- 00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA
- 07:00 Danger Mouse
- 07:25 Gravity Falls
- 07:50 Atomic Puppet
- 08:15 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 08:25 Counterfeit Cat
- 08:40 Supa Strikas
- 09:10 K.C. Undercover
- 09:35 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures
- 10:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 10:25 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 10:50 Danger Mouse
- 11:20 Supa Strikas
- 11:45 Supa Strikas
- 12:10 Counterfeit Cat
- 12:35 Pair Of Kings
- 13:00 Pair Of Kings
- 13:30 Future-Worm!
- 13:55 Lab Rats
- 14:20 Lab Rats
- 14:45 Atomic Puppet
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution
- 15:40 Supa Strikas
- 16:05 Lab Rats
- 16:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 16:55 Danger Mouse
- 17:25 K.C. Undercover
- 17:50 Future-Worm!
- 18:15 Gravity Falls
- 18:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:10 Supa Strikas
- 19:35 Supa Strikas
- 20:00 Atomic Puppet
- 20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Counterfeit Cat
- 21:45 Mighty Med
- 22:10 Pickle And Peanut
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 22:45 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution
- 23:10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
- 23:35 Boyster

- 02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Chopped
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 06:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 07:00 The Kitchen
- 08:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 08:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 09:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 10:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 10:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 11:00 The Kitchen
- 12:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 13:00 Siba's Table
- 13:30 Siba's Table
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 The Kitchen
- 17:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 17:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 18:00 Chopped
- 19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:00 Man Fire Food
- 21:30 Man Fire Food
- 22:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 22:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 23:00 Iron Chef America

itv HD CHOICE

- 00:15 Coronation Street
- 00:40 Coronation Street
- 01:10 The Chase
- 02:00 Emmerdale
- 02:30 Coronation Street
- 03:00 Coronation Street
- 03:30 Couples Come Dine With Me
- 04:25 Vera
- 06:15 Grantchester
- 07:10 The Chase
- 08:05 Couples Come Dine With Me
- 09:00 Vera
- 10:30 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
- 11:00 Grantchester
- 11:55 The Chase
- 12:50 Couples Come Dine With Me
- 13:45 Emmerdale
- 14:15 Coronation Street
- 14:45 Coronation Street
- 15:15 The Chase
- 16:10 Couples Come Dine With Me
- 17:00 Murdoch Mysteries
- 17:50 Together
- 18:20 Together
- 18:50 Grantchester
- 19:45 Emmerdale
- 20:15 Coronation Street
- 20:45 Coronation Street
- 21:10 Couples Come Dine With Me
- 22:00 Murdoch Mysteries
- 22:50 Together
- 23:20 Together
- 23:50 Emmerdale



AFTER THE BALL ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

- 09:05 Counting Cars
- 09:30 Pawn Stars
- 09:55 Pawn Stars
- 10:20 Storage Wars
- 10:45 Storage Wars
- 11:10 American Pickers
- 12:00 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
- 12:50 Time Team
- 13:40 Swamp People
- 14:30 Ax Men
- 15:20 Mountain Men
- 16:10 Shipping Wars
- 16:35 Shipping Wars
- 17:00 Counting Cars
- 17:25 Counting Cars
- 17:50 Pawn Stars
- 18:15 Pawn Stars
- 18:40 Hunting Hitler
- 19:30 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 20:20 Ax Men
- 21:10 American Pickers
- 22:00 Mountain Men
- 22:50 Leepu And Pitbull
- 23:40 Swamp People

NAT GEO people HD

- 00:20 Carnival Eats
- 01:10 Chocolate Covered
- 02:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 02:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 02:50 Rustic Adventures Italy
- 03:15 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 03:40 Wineroads
- 04:05 Great Escapes
- 04:30 Miguel's Feasts
- 04:55 A Is For Apple
- 05:20 Glamour Puds
- 05:45 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 06:10 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 06:35 Grandma's Boy
- 07:00 The Shellbourne
- 07:25 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 07:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 08:15 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 08:40 Rustic Adventures Italy
- 09:05 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 09:30 Wineroads
- 09:55 Great Escapes
- 10:20 Miguel's Feasts
- 10:45 A Is For Apple
- 11:10 Glamour Puds
- 11:35 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 12:00 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 12:25 Grandma's Boy
- 12:50 The Shellbourne
- 13:15 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 13:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 14:05 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
- 14:35 The Shellbourne
- 15:00 Chocolate Covered
- 15:30 The Food Files
- 15:55 Great Escapes
- 16:25 Miguel's Feasts
- 16:50 A Is For Apple
- 17:45 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 18:15 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 18:40 Tripping Out With Allie & Georgia
- 19:10 Chocolate Covered
- 19:35 The Food Files
- 20:05 Great Escapes
- 20:30 Miguel's Feasts
- 21:00 A Is For Apple
- 21:50 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
- 22:15 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 22:40 Tripping Out With Allie & Georgia
- 23:05 Chocolate Covered
- 23:30 The Food Files
- 23:55 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 00:00 The Motel Life
- 01:45 Invasion Day
- 03:30 The World Made Straight
- 05:30 Red Wing
- 07:30 Jappeloup
- 10:00 The Rescuers
- 12:00 Finding Nemo
- 14:00 The Boxrolls
- 16:00 The Tigger Movie
- 18:00 Sky High
- 20:00 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls
- 22:00 Marvel Super Hero Adventures: Frost Fight
- 23:30 The Tigger Movie

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 00:00 The Rescuers
- 02:00 Max
- 04:00 Beyond The Mask
- 06:00 Finding Nemo
- 08:00 Santa's Little Helper
- 10:00 The Rescuers
- 12:00 Finding Nemo
- 14:00 The Boxrolls
- 16:00 The Tigger Movie
- 18:00 Sky High
- 20:00 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls
- 22:00 Marvel Super Hero Adventures: Frost Fight
- 23:30 The Tigger Movie

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:15 The Aderrall Diaries
- 02:00 Victor Frankenstein
- 04:00 Ricki And The Flash
- 06:00 Madoff Part 1
- 08:00 Madoff Part 2
- 10:00 Ricki And The Flash
- 12:00 Miracles From Heaven
- 14:00 I'll See You In My Dreams
- 16:00 Dad's Army
- 18:00 The Angry Birds Movie
- 19:45 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II
- 22:00 Spectre

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 01:00 Afternoon Delight
- 03:00 Baby Mama
- 05:00 After The Ball
- 07:00 The Grand Seduction
- 09:00 Baby Mama
- 11:00 After The Ball
- 13:00 The Grand Seduction
- 15:00 Kicking And Screaming
- 17:00 All About Christmas Eve
- 19:00 Dirty Work
- 21:00 Burying The Ex
- 23:00 The Ladies Man

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 00:00 Ex Machina
- 02:00 The Birdcage
- 04:30 Balkid Begins
- 06:30 The Martian
- 09:00 Interstellar
- 12:00 The Martian
- 14:30 Creed
- 17:00 The Village
- 19:00 War Horse
- 21:30 The Imitation Game
- 23:30 Bridge Of Spies

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 00:15 Memory Loss
- 01:45 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 03:30 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery



FAST & FURIOUS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 04:25 Orphan Black
- 05:10 Casuality
- 06:05 New Tricks
- 07:00 Casuality
- 08:00 Casuality
- 08:50 Death In Paradise
- 09:45 Stella
- 10:35 New Tricks
- 11:30 Casuality
- 12:30 Death In Paradise
- 13:25 Stella
- 14:20 New Tricks
- 15:15 Casuality
- 16:15 Death In Paradise
- 17:10 Stella
- 18:05 New Tricks
- 19:00 Doctors
- 19:30 Doctors
- 20:05 Death In Paradise
- 21:00 Call The Midwife
- 22:00 Silent Witness
- 23:05 Silent Witness

- 10:05 How It's Made
- 10:30 Nextworld
- 11:20 Mythbusters
- 12:10 Too Cute! Pint-Size
- 13:00 Ultimate Survival
- 13:50 How It's Made
- 14:15 How It's Made
- 14:40 Dirty Jobs
- 15:30 Kids vs Film
- 15:55 Dick N' Dom Go Wild
- 16:20 Mythbusters
- 17:10 Nextworld
- 18:00 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
- 18:25 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
- 18:50 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
- 19:40 Destroyed In Seconds
- 20:05 Destroyed In Seconds
- 20:30 How It's Made
- 20:55 How It's Made
- 21:20 Mythbusters
- 22:10 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
- 22:35 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
- 23:00 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
- 23:50 Destroyed In Seconds

- 06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:45 Zou
- 07:00 Art Attack
- 07:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 07:45 Loopedidoo
- 08:00 Zou
- 08:15 Calimero
- 08:30 Loopedidoo
- 08:45 Henry Hugglemonster
- 09:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 09:05 PJ Masks
- 09:15 Goldie & Bear
- 09:30 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 09:45 Miles From Tomorrow
- 09:55 The Lion Guard
- 10:20 Doc McStuffins
- 10:35 Goldie & Bear
- 10:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 11:00 PJ Masks
- 11:15 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 11:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 11:35 The Lion Guard
- 12:00 Sofia The First
- 12:30 Doc McStuffins
- 12:55 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 13:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 13:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 14:15 Gummi Bears
- 14:40 Sofia The First
- 15:10 Little Mermaid
- 15:35 PJ Masks
- 16:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 16:30 The Lion Guard
- 16:55 Unbungalievable
- 17:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 17:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:55 The Lion Guard
- 18:20 Goldie & Bear
- 18:50 PJ Masks
- 19:15 Sofia The First
- 19:40 Doc McStuffins
- 20:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:30 Little Mermaid
- 21:00 Sofia The First
- 21:30 Sofia The First
- 22:00 Unbungalievable
- 22:05 Goldie & Bear
- 22:35 Miles From Tomorrow
- 23:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 23:25 Gummi Bears
- 23:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons

Disney Channel HD

- 00:00 Kirby Buckets
- 00:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:10 Hank Zipzer
- 01:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:00 Violetta
- 02:45 The Hive
- 02:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:40 Hank Zipzer
- 04:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 04:30 Violetta
- 05:15 The Hive
- 05:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 06:10 Hank Zipzer
- 06:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 07:00 Violetta
- 07:45 The Hive
- 07:50 The 7D
- 08:00 Jessie
- 08:25 Jessie
- 08:50 Rolling To The Ronks
- 09:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 09:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 09:45 Bunk'd
- 10:10 Stuck In The Middle
- 10:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 11:00 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 11:25 A.N.T. Farm
- 11:50 A.N.T. Farm

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:30 Fast N' Loud
- 01:20 Wheeler Dealers
- 02:10 Gold Rush
- 03:00 Everest Rescue
- 03:50 Killing Fields: Burden Of Proof
- 04:40 Fast N' Loud
- 05:30 Auction Hunters
- 06:00 How Do They Do It?
- 06:30 How Do They Do It?
- 07:00 Deadliest Catch
- 07:50 Wheeler Dealers
- 08:40 Fast N' Loud
- 09:30 Boy To Man
- 10:20 Auction Hunters
- 10:45 How Do They Do It?
- 11:10 How Do They Do It?
- 11:35 Gold Rush
- 12:25 Everest Rescue



DAD'S ARMY ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 00:30 Salmon Wars
- 01:20 Croc Inside Out
- 02:10 Maneater Manhunt

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:30 Salmon Wars
- 01:20 Croc Inside Out
- 02:10 Maneater Manhunt

CLASSIFIEDS



Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (02/02/2017 TO 08/02/2017)

Channel	Programme	Time	Channel	Programme	Time	Channel	Programme	Time
SHARQIA-1	SPLIT	1:00 PM	OZZY	SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS	3:45 PM	MARINA-3	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	12:45 PM
SHARQIA-1	SPLIT	3:15 PM	SHARQIA-2	FRI	1:30 PM	MARINA-3	MONSTER TRUCKS	3:00 PM
SHARQIA-1	KAABIL- HINDI	5:30 PM	SHARQIA-2	LIVE BY NIGHT	12:45 PM	MARINA-3	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	5:15 PM
SHARQIA-1	SPLIT	8:30 PM	SHARQIA-2	RAHAF	1:30 PM	MARINA-3	MONSTER TRUCKS	7:30 PM
SHARQIA-1	xXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	10:45 PM	SHARQIA-2	LIVE BY NIGHT	12:45 PM	MARINA-3	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	12:05 AM
SHARQIA-1	SPLIT	12:45 AM	SHARQIA-2	RAHAF	1:30 PM	AVENUES-1	DANGAL -Hindi	12:00 PM
SHARQIA-2	KUNG-FU YOGA	12:15 PM	SHARQIA-2	FRI	1:30 PM	AVENUES-1	KAABIL- HINDI	3:15 PM
SHARQIA-2	KUNG-FU YOGA	2:30 PM	SHARQIA-2	LIVE BY NIGHT	12:45 PM	AVENUES-1	JOMONTE SUVISHESHANGAL- Malayalam	6:15 PM
SHARQIA-2	KUNG-FU YOGA	4:45 PM	SHARQIA-2	RAHAF	1:30 PM	AVENUES-1	NO SUN+TUE+WED	6:00 PM
SHARQIA-2	MONSTER TRUCKS	7:00 PM	SHARQIA-2	RAHAF	1:30 PM	AVENUES-1	SUN+TUE+WED	6:00 PM
SHARQIA-2	KUNG-FU YOGA	9:15 PM	SHARQIA-2	RAHAF	1:30 PM	AVENUES-1	DANGAL -Hindi	9:15 PM
SHARQIA-2	SPLIT	11:30 PM	SHARQIA-2	LIVE BY NIGHT	12:45 PM	AVENUES-1	KAABIL- HINDI	12:30 AM
SHARQIA-3	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	12:30 PM	FANAR-3	DANGAL -Hindi	11:30 AM	AVENUES-2	MONSTER TRUCKS -3D -4DX	12:45 PM
SHARQIA-3	MONSTER TRUCKS	2:45 PM	FANAR-3	MONSTER TRUCKS	2:45 PM	AVENUES-2	MONSTER TRUCKS -3D -4DX	3:00 PM
SHARQIA-3	MONSTER TRUCKS	5:00 PM	FANAR-3	MONSTER TRUCKS	5:00 PM	AVENUES-2	MONSTER TRUCKS -3D -4DX	5:15 PM
SHARQIA-3	RAEES- HINDI	7:15 PM	FANAR-3	DANGAL -Hindi	7:15 PM	AVENUES-2	MONSTER TRUCKS -3D -4DX	7:30 PM
SHARQIA-3	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	10:15 PM	FANAR-3	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	10:30 PM	AVENUES-2	MONSTER TRUCKS -3D -4DX	10:00 PM
SHARQIA-3	RAEES- HINDI	12:30 AM	FANAR-3	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	12:45 AM	AVENUES-2	xXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE -3D -4DX	12:15 AM
MUHALAB-1	DANGAL -Hindi	12:15 PM	FANAR-4	KUNG-FU YOGA	11:45 AM	AVENUES-3	RAEES- HINDI	11:30 AM
MUHALAB-1	xXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	1:30 PM	FANAR-4	KUNG-FU YOGA	2:00 PM	AVENUES-3	RAEES- HINDI	2:30 PM
MUHALAB-1	FRI	1:30 PM	FANAR-4	KUNG-FU YOGA	4:15 PM	AVENUES-3	RAEES- HINDI	5:30 PM
MUHALAB-1	RAEES- HINDI	3:30 PM	FANAR-4	KUNG-FU YOGA	6:30 PM	AVENUES-3	RAEES- HINDI	8:30 PM
MUHALAB-1	RAEES- HINDI	6:30 PM	FANAR-4	KUNG-FU YOGA	8:45 PM	AVENUES-3	RAEES- HINDI	11:30 PM
MUHALAB-1	xXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	9:30 PM	FANAR-4	xXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	11:00 PM	360°-1	SPLIT	11:30 AM
MUHALAB-1	SPLIT	11:30 PM	FANAR-4	xXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	1:00 AM	360°-1	SPLIT	1:45 PM
MUHALAB-2	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	12:15 PM	FANAR-5	RAEES- HINDI	12:00 PM	360°-1	SPLIT	4:15 PM
MUHALAB-2	MONSTER TRUCKS	2:30 PM	FANAR-5	RAEES- HINDI	3:00 PM	360°-1	SPLIT	6:45 PM
MUHALAB-2	MONSTER TRUCKS	4:45 PM	FANAR-5	KAABIL- HINDI	6:00 PM	360°-1	SPLIT	9:15 PM
MUHALAB-2	KAABIL- HINDI	7:00 PM	FANAR-5	RAEES- HINDI	9:00 PM	360°-1	SPLIT	11:45 PM
MUHALAB-2	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	10:00 PM	FANAR-5	RAEES- HINDI	12:05 AM	360°-2	DANGAL -Hindi	1:15 PM
MUHALAB-2	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	12:15 AM	MARINA-1	RAEES- HINDI	12:00 PM	360°-2	MOANA	1:45 PM
MUHALAB-3	xXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	11:30 AM	MARINA-1	SPLIT	2:45 PM	360°-2	FRI	8:00 PM
MUHALAB-3	SPLIT	1:30 PM	MARINA-1	RAEES- HINDI	5:00 PM	360°-2	DANGAL -Hindi	4:30 PM
MUHALAB-3	KUNG-FU YOGA	3:45 PM	MARINA-1	SPLIT	8:00 PM	360°-2	DANGAL -Hindi	7:45 PM
MUHALAB-3	KUNG-FU YOGA	6:00 PM	MARINA-1	SPLIT	10:15 PM	360°-2	DANGAL -Hindi	11:00 PM
MUHALAB-3	KUNG-FU YOGA	8:15 PM	MARINA-1	SPLIT	12:30 AM	360°-3	LIVE BY NIGHT	12:45 PM
MUHALAB-3	SPLIT	10:30 PM	MARINA-2	xXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	11:30 AM	360°-3	SING	3:30 PM
MUHALAB-3	SPLIT	12:45 AM	MARINA-2	KUNG-FU YOGA	1:30 PM	360°-3	SING	5:45 PM
FANAR-1	OZZY	11:30 AM	MARINA-2	KUNG-FU YOGA	3:45 PM	360°-3	SING	8:00 PM
FANAR-1	THU+SAT+MON	11:30 AM	MARINA-2	KUNG-FU YOGA	6:00 PM	360°-3	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	10:00 PM
FANAR-1	SPLIT	11:30 AM	MARINA-2	KUNG-FU YOGA	8:15 PM	360°-3	LIVE BY NIGHT	12:45 AM
FANAR-1	SUN+TUE+WED	11:30 AM	MARINA-2	xXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	10:30 PM			
FANAR-1	SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS	1:45 PM	MARINA-2	xXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	12:45 AM			

REQUIRED

A Salmiya clinic
 seeks the employment of female nurses
 with valid professional licenses in Kuwait
 for handsome salaries plus commission.

For inquiries calls: 67760001

CHANGE OF NAME

Devapatla Arifulla S/o
 Devapatla Mahaboob Basha,
 holder of Indian Passport No.
 K2097549 & Civil ID No.
 277123004783 has change
 my name Shaik Arifulla to
 hereinafter in all my dealings
 and documents I will be
 known by name of Shaik
 Arifulla Basha. (C 5266)
 6-2-2017

LOST

It is notified for information
 that my Original Grade Sheet
 cum Certificate of Performance
 Certificate for the Secondary
 School Examination 2013-15
 (CBSE 10th) of the year 2015
 and Roll No. 8106889 issued by
 CBSE has been actually lost in
 Kuwait. Jenny Sara George, C/o
 George K Thomas, New
 Khaitan, Kuwait. Tel. 99587315.
 (C 5264)

**Automated enquiry
 about the Civil ID card is
 1889988**

EMERGENCY 112

PRAYER TIMINGS

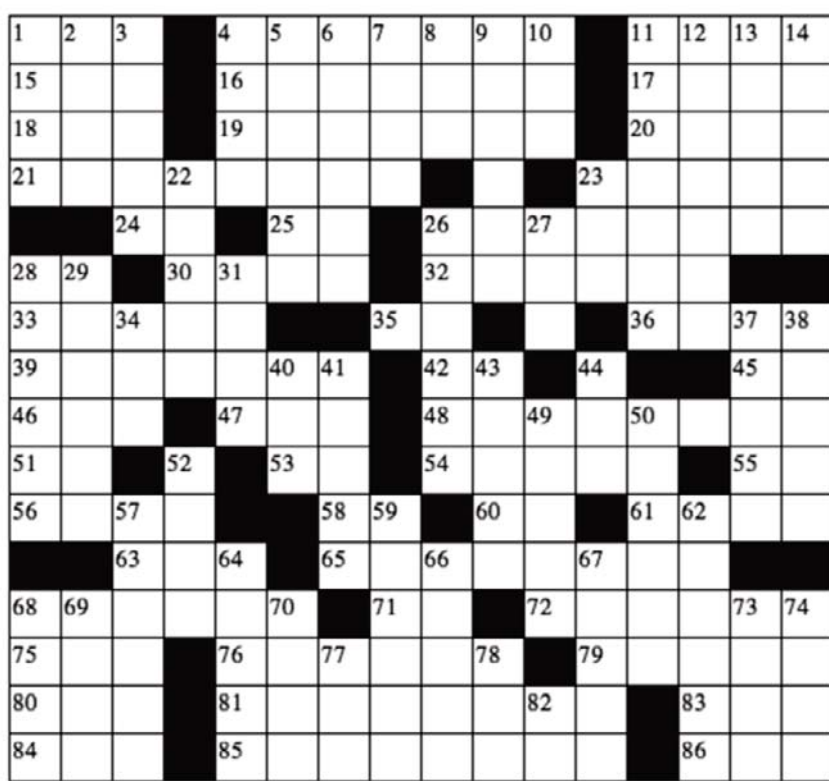
Fajr: 05:13
Shorook: 06:34
Duhr: 12:02
Asr: 15:08
Maghrib: 17:31
Isha: 18:49

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule **DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 7/2/2017				Departure Flights on Tuesday 7/2/2017			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	FDB	076	Dubai	14:05
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	JZR	324	Al Najaf	14:25
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	BON	102	Sarajevo	14:55
MSC	411	Asyut	01:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	561	Amman	15:00
KAC	102	London	01:25	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	15:20
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	KAC	513	Tehran	15:25
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KAC	777	Riyadh	16:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	745	Dammam	16:00
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
RJA	644	Amman	03:05	KAC	357	Kochi	16:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:30
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
KAC	358	Kochi	03:30	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	03:45	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:55	KAC	615	Bahrain	17:35
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	KAC	343	Chennai	17:40
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
JZR	529	Asyut	05:15	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	354	BLR	05:20	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:35	SVA	511	Istanbul	18:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:45	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	205	Islamabad	18:25
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	CLX	7785	Luxembourg	18:30
KAC	364	Colombo	06:05	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	06:25	NIA	252	Alexandria	18:55
BAW	157	London	06:40	FDB	064	Dubai	19:05
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:15
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	QTR	1081	Doha	19:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	361	Colombo	20:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MSR	607	Luxor	21:05
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:10
AVV	651	Asyut	10:10	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	21:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:35
IRA	675	Lar	10:40	DLH	634	Doha	21:35
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	KAC	351	Kochi	22:00
QTR	8511	Doha	12:00	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:10
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	KAC	413	Bangkok	22:15
FDB	075	Dubai	12:50	KAC	203	Lahore	22:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
KAC	680	Dubai	12:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:45
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:30	KAC	381	Delhi	22:45
KAC	564	Amman	13:40	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
				ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
				NIA	152	Doha	23:10
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:20
				PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35

CROSSWORD 1514



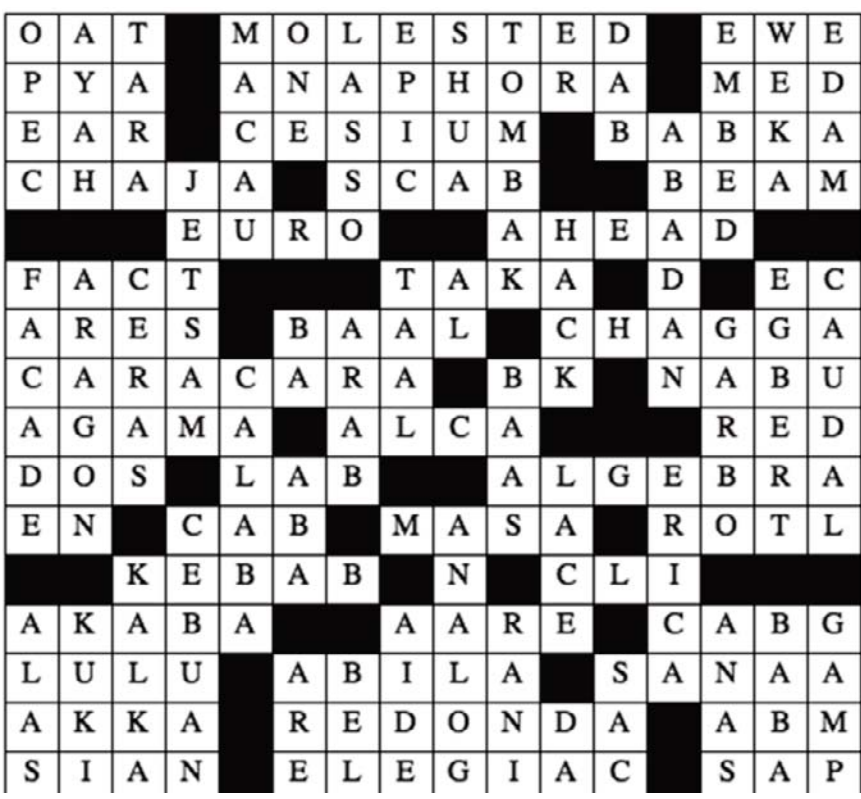
ACROSS

1. Brief episode in which the brain gets insufficient blood supply.
4. Line of defense consisting of a barrier of felled or live trees with branches (sharpened or with barbed wire entwined) toward the enemy.
11. A substance for packing a joint or coating a porous surface to make it impervious to gas or liquid.
15. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
16. Send out rays or waves.
17. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
18. A serve that strikes the net before falling into the receiver's court.
19. Of or in or belonging to the cavity of the abdomen.
20. Expressed without speech.
21. Able to be converted into ready money.
24. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
25. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
28. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
30. Ulcerated chilblain on the heel.
32. Any warm-blooded vertebrate having the skin more or less covered with hair.
33. (used of persons or the military) Characterized by having or bearing arms.
35. A state in New England.
36. A large quantity of written matter.
39. Covered with paving material.
42. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
45. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.
46. The quantity that can be held in a mug.
47. A master's degree in business.
48. Inclined to a healthy reddish color often associated with outdoor life.
51. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
53. A public promotion of some product or service.
54. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
55. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
56. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
58. Before noon.
60. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
61. The elapsed time it takes for a signal to travel from Earth to a spacecraft (or other body) and back to the starting point.
63. The capital and largest city of Japan.
65. A white solid mineral that occurs naturally as periclase.
68. Motivation based on ideas of right and wrong.
71. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
72. A male servant (especially a footman).
75. The cry made by sheep.
76. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
79. The basic unit of money in Nigeria.
80. An oral poliovirus vaccine (containing live but weakened poliovirus) that is given to provide immunity to poliomyelitis.
81. Large arboreal boa of tropical South America.
84. (meaning literally 'born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
85. A great raja.
86. A unit of force equal to the force exerted by gravity.

DOWN

1. A fine grained mineral having a soft soapy feel and consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate.
2. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
3. An honorary arts degree.
4. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
5. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
6. Medium-sized penguins occurring in large colonies on the Adelle coast of Antarctica.
7. A flat thin rectangular slab (as of fired clay or rubber or inoleum) used to cover surfaces.
8. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
9. A republic in southern Europe on the Italian Peninsula.
10. (of champagne) Moderately dry.
11. Arranged in or consisting of laminae.
12. (Hawaiian) A small guitar having four strings.
13. About three feet long exclusive of tail.
14. The Uralic language spoken by the Yeniseian people.
22. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
23. (Australian and New Zealand) A disparaging term for English immigrants to Australia or New Zealand.
26. A member of the Semitic speaking people of northern Ethiopia.
27. A doctor's degree in dental medicine.
29. A river that rises in northern Colombia and flows generally eastward to the Orinoco in central Venezuela.
31. Severe diabetes mellitus with an early onset.
34. One millionth of a gram.
37. Declare invalid.
38. The location of something surrounded by other things.
40. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
41. A woman of refinement.
43. A republic in northeastern Africa on the Red Sea.
44. A container.
49. A confusion of voices and other sounds.
50. Type genus of the Caricaceae.
52. Gully or streambed in North Africa and the Middle East that remains dry except during rainy season.
57. Behave in a certain manner.
59. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
62. Very attractive.
64. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
66. British physicist (born in Hungary) noted for his work on holography (1900-1979).
67. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
69. A long thin piece of cloth or paper as used for binding or fastening.
70. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
73. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
74. A university in Connecticut.
77. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
78. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
82. A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Networking through social affairs can be quite successful. You may want to plan a get-together with co-workers in order to build firm relationships. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on a definite significance. This is a good day for practical ideas and planning. You may receive special attention regarding your particular achievements as well. People will find your sense of humor in fine form, particularly if you have to make a speech. Some of the on-job stress has lessened and this afternoon, although there is still work to be done, you may exhibit quite a bit of wit. Some news surrounding a new investment may come to your attention, but you would be wise to listen to the whole story and read the fine print before making any decisions.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There is success in teamwork today. You may be sought after to co-lead a team in order to get a particular order completed as quickly as possible. Your management and directional abilities are in high focus. Ideas of group cooperation and communion or mass images could further your career. You are good at encouraging swift, positive responses. This afternoon you may find a disagreement can be heard and because you are a good listener, the party complaining will come up with the obvious answer. Taxes, investments, and other financial ties or obligations grab your attention this evening and as you work on your own taxes a family member may need your help with accounts and taxes. Relax this evening with soft music or perhaps... Bubbles.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Although you may resent the continued long hours at this time, your patience and perseverance is paying off. The positive aspects promised you this year are gathering forces. A continued nose-to-the-grindstone attitude will work in your best interest at this time. This is the month of advancement in business. A social event this evening reveals you at your most elegant. You may find the words for a poem or short story this evening. You will have a grasp for spiritual ideas and the ability to present or communicate these to others. Your inner resources and emotions are accented. Expect a sense of support and goodwill from those around you. Your talents captivate a loved one this evening. You may be entertaining more than one person soon.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Ideas and technologies that change the way people live-not just one person, but many-are a major new focus in your life. You will not sit by and watch, while others work. You are becoming more and more interested in learning ways in which you can expand your knowledge. This is a time for new accomplishments, during which insights and breakthroughs in organization and determination are in order. There is a revolution within the established order-new ideas and ways to do and use things become clear. You may find yourself involved in an exercise program, either in a group or by a videotape in your home. There could be friction today and tomorrow with those you love. It might be a good idea to stay out of their way for now.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

If you need advice, no matter what the subject matter, today and tomorrow would be the best times to seek such help. There is a need to be appreciated for your hard work and to be the center of attention as well. This may just be for recognition of your work. Most of us need recognition in order to continue our work with a sustained quality. You are appreciated but you may not hear their praises just now. Just keep on doing your good work. This also includes the work you do for the good of humanity as well as your own personal achievements. Your own inner need for change and growth may be threatened by someone older or by circumstances. Make a real effort to communicate or convey your ideas. Casual friends are who you want to be with this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a rewarding day. A loan can be approved, complaints or misunderstandings will be corrected and positive energy will boost your morale. Travel, educational or legal plans look good. The only obstacles may be your own inner fears or doubts. You may be able to convey your message to others with only a few words. Poetry and art may be possible now. Be aware that you need to separate business from pleasure. Make every effort to do so. There is optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances at the deepest emotional levels at this time. Romance can be enjoyable if you leave the little complaints out of the picture. This can be an expansive, creative and even romantic phase, a time you will look back on with pride.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are full of wit and ready for a day with or without challenges. A good attitude works in your favor as others value you for your independence and unique qualities. As long as you keep up the momentum, you should be able to reach your objective. You are given an excellent opportunity to expand your work experience. This is a wonderful time to repay anything that you owe to others, in the form of money, goods or other obligations. You might feel love or value for an older person and inspire some healing attitudes that have been long overdue. If you feel your emotions may be moving in unacceptable directions this afternoon, reestablish your priorities. By the end of this month emotions will calm. Do not sign any legal documents this afternoon.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

If you refuse to become involved in a negative conversation with a troublemaker today, there can be no problems. Choose today to be open to another way of seeing a difficult person or situation. The word this day in the workplace is flexible: this will bring you success. You will be very shrewd when it comes to money. Deep thoughts will lead to stunning insights, which in turn will help you along the road to profit. You could be a financial wizard! Opportunities for mending any emotional drifts among family members are positive now and can successfully be accomplished through your positive attitude. Phone calls, letters and long conversations over a cup of tea can be very enlightening. Being more in touch gives you a sense of belonging.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

There is a lot of energy for achieving whatever you set out to accomplish. Depending on your quality of rest the prior day, you could be annoying or pleasant to others at this time. If there are troubles with communication, back off for a while and watch things develop; then you can give your opinions or suggestions. Keep your positive side up because there are many good opportunities to express yourself. You are in a great mood of self-enjoyment this afternoon and can appreciate your own achievements. You could come up with new and interesting solutions. It is almost as though there is a little magic somewhere between your ears. The flirtations of someone new may be flattering but wisely ignored today. A visitor comes with good news.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may be making headway in the work world. Breaks to exercise can be real energizers. You can continue with a focus on business affairs all day long. You may have the opportunity to improve your home surroundings or plan a move. These energies are strong through the end of the month and if you were looking to sell your home, this would be a good time. Your best buys or any improvement toward repairs could be made now as well. The importance of a good foundation in home and finances is what makes you happy and this is the time to make sure all is as you want it to be. This evening you make sure you spend time in an interactive mode with the family and loved ones. You like the way your family makes you feel.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find a good price on some item that will help you in your business. Check out the people involved and perhaps get a reference from someone that has used the product; then make your decision. A member of your group or a co-worker may irritate you today but this person did not set out to do so. Because of your concern for others, he or she will probably never know you were irritated. You are a good leader and will eventually find the right words or example that will help in this situation. You are also good at encouraging others to move forward and this may be what you find yourself doing in the afternoon. Finally, the evening is yours and a loved one has a lot to offer you on this, your special day.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is one of your best days this month. You may enjoy probing into your inner workings or some good solid gossip. You appear perhaps more refined than usual and now would be a good time to apply for a job, or otherwise make yourself known. A difference of opinion may occur between you and a co-worker today. Never fear, you are able to stabilize the situation and create an opportunity for the other person to feel good about expressing an opinion. Others value you for your ability to make practical decisions concerning group issues. You have a natural sense of what the public wants. Remember what it took to get positive results and refer to the process when you have days that seem negative. Enjoy the company of loved ones tonight.

WORD SEARCH

Livewire Puzzles

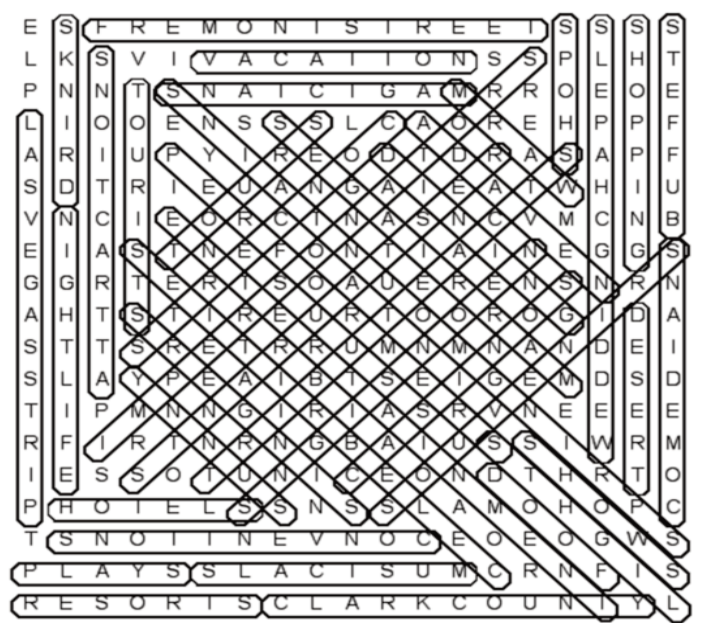
Find these words. They are some of the puzzles made by Livewire Puzzles since 1979. The remaining letters spell a Dutch Proverb.



- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| ABRACADABRA | EQUALIZER | PENTANGLE | THE RACK |
| ARROW | EUREKA | PINETREE | TOUCH WOOD |
| ASTROKNOT | FIRECRACKER | PRETZEL LOGIC | TRAPEZE |
| BALL AND RING | FLIGHT TEST | SHOCKWAVE | TRIPLE CROWN |
| BEDBUG | GRAND PRIX | SHORT CIRCUIT | TRIPLE PLAY |
| BRIDGE THE GAP | HANDCUFFS | SILENT PARTNER | TRIPWIRE |
| CENTPEDE | HAVE A HEART | SLEIGHT OF HAND | TROUBLE CLEF |
| CHINESE RINGS | KING TUT | SLINGSHOT | VIRUS |
| CORKSCREW | MELEDA | SOMETHING FISHY | WEATHERVAIN |
| CRYSTAL CLEAR | MOTHBALLS | SPUTNIK | WEDGE |
| DEAD END | MOUSETRAP | SQUARING OFF | WOODEN OPEN |
| DOUBLE VISION | NUT HOUSE | | |

Yesterday's Solution

Las Vegas



- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| ATTRACTIONS | ENTERTAINMENT | NEON SIGNS | SINGERS |
| BUFFETS | FOOD | NEVADA | SOUVENIRS |
| CASINOS | FREMONT STREET | NIGHTLIFE | SPRING MOUNTAINS |
| CELEBRITIES | HOTELS | PERFORMERS | SUNNY |
| CLARK COUNTY | IMPERSONATORS | PLAYS | TOURISTS |
| COMEDIANS | LAS VEGAS STRIP | RESTAURANTS | TOURS |
| CONCERTS | LIGHTS | RESTAURANTS | TRIBUTE ACTS |
| CONVENTIONS | MAGICIANS | SHOPPING | VACATION |
| DESERT | MARRIAGES | SHOPS | WARM |
| DINING | MUSICALS | SHOWS | WEDDING CHAPELS |
| DRINKS | | | |

The hidden message is: ELVIS PRESLEY IMPERSONATOR

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



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

Hospitals

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

Clinics

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



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

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

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



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

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



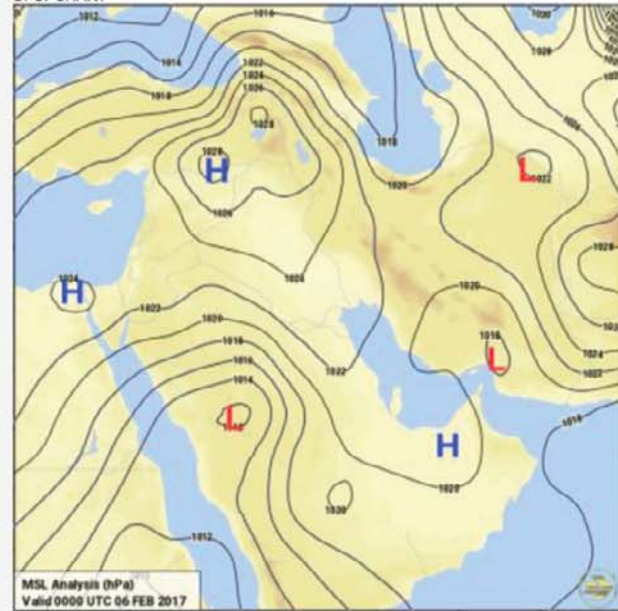
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 06/02/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 20 °C

By Day : Sunny with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear
By Night : Cold with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather				
Min Temp °C	04	05	07	13
Max Temp °C	21	22	22	24
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly to light variable	south easterly	southerly changing to north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	06 - 26	12 - 35	15 - 35

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

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	10		20	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	05		20	
ABDALY	02		21	
BUBYAN	04		18	
JAHRA	06		20	
FAILAKA ISLAND	07		19	
SALMIYAH	11		18	
AHMADI	11		18	
JAL ALIYAH	05		19	
QAROH ISLAND	13		17	
UMM AL-MARADEM	13		17	
NUWAISIB	08		20	
WAFRA	08		21	
MANAGISH	05		19	
SALMY	05		19	
MUTRIBA	02		21	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	18
Min Temp (°C)	-1
Max Rel Hum (%)	44
Min Rel Hum (%)	14
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	28 SW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	06:36
Sunset	17:29

Prayer Times

Fajr	05:14
Sunrise	06:36
Zuhr	12:02
Aer	15:07
Sunset	17:29
Isha	18:48



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

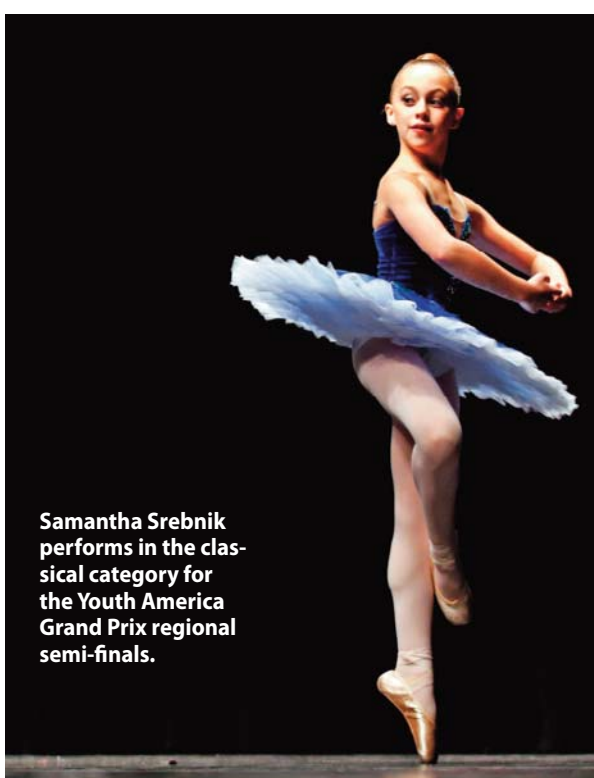
Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688 info
---------------------------------	------------------------------------------------

FEATURES



Talented young dancers compete in Chicago



Samantha Srebnik performs in the classical category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals.

Hundreds of ballet dancers between the ages of nine and 19 auditioned in Chicago at the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals this weekend. Chicago is one of 12 cities around North America selecting finalists who will compete at New York University's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts and at Hunter College's Danny Kaye Playhouse in April. Other cities are Las Vegas, San Diego, Toronto, Houston, San Francisco, Dallas, Salt Lake City, Indianapolis, Denver, Boston and Philadelphia.

Throughout the weekend in Chicago, the students attend workshops, competitions, and dance classes. The organization awards more than \$250,000 a year in scholarships to send young dancers to leading schools and dance companies to continue their training. The Grand Prix also conducts auditions in several other countries including Belgium, France, Italy, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Japan. — AP

Young ballet dancers warm up.



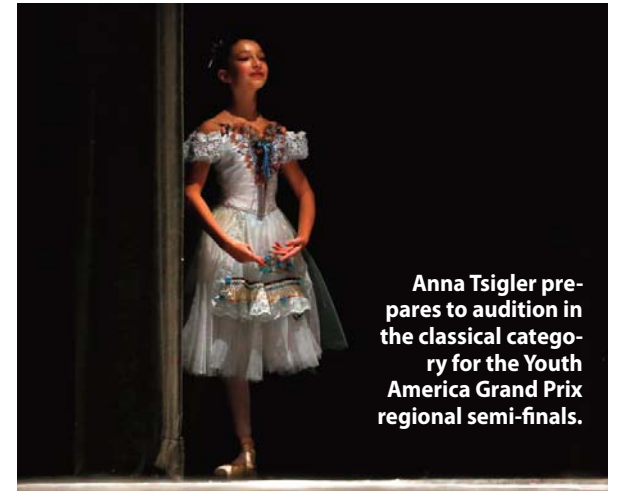
Anna Tsigler performs in the classical category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals.



Young ballet dancers warm up.



Mackenzie Miller auditions in the classical category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals.



Anna Tsigler prepares to audition in the classical category for the Youth America Grand Prix regional semi-finals.



Leaked emails tarnish golden-boy Beckham

David Beckham's squeaky-clean image as a British cultural icon has taken a battering following the leaking of expletive-strewn emails in which he apparently raged about not receiving a knighthood. The former England football captain is said to have sworn in emails to his PR team after being told he would not be made "Sir David" by Queen Elizabeth II because of concerns about his tax affairs. A spokesman for the 41-year-old said the emails, released by the Football Leaks website, were "hacked and doctored" to give a "deliberately inaccurate picture".

But there has been a backlash against Beckham from sections of Britain's tabloid media. Yesterday's Daily Mail spoke of the "Shame of Saint Becks", with a columnist pronouncing him "a foul-mouthed, determined egotist" who had used charity work as part of an "increasingly desperate" bid for a knighthood. Reports which emerged on Friday said the former Manchester United and Real Madrid star refused to put his own money into his humanitarian 7 Fund and tried to obtain reimbursement from the UN children's agency UNICEF for expenses met by his sponsors.

Outspoken television host Piers Morgan told his 5.47 million Twitter followers the revelations were "sickening" and exposed Beckham as a "fraud". Beckham has not spoken publicly since the story broke, although he was pictured cradling his five-year-old daughter Harper on the Instagram account

of his son, Brooklyn. Cynics said even that was a crass attempt to show his best, fatherly side at a time of bad headlines.

Miami project

For a man who takes such care of his public image, it is likely to be a deeply distressing situation. Beckham has maintained a high profile since retiring from the game in May 2013 following a brief stint with French side Paris Saint-Germain. He continues to carry out charity work and fronts several advertising campaigns. He has faced problems finding a stadium deal for the football club he plans to launch in Miami, but Major League Soccer chiefs confirmed recently that the team remains in line to become the league's 24th franchise. He has managed to shake off previous scandals, both on and off the pitch.

He became a national pariah after his dismissal against Argentina was unfairly blamed for England's elimination from the 1998 World Cup, but fought back to become England captain. Reports of an extra-marital affair in April 2004 were dismissed and did not tarnish Beckham's image as a loving husband to pop star turned fashion designer Victoria Beckham and father to their four children. Beckham received an OBE from the queen in 2003, a lower honor than a knighthood.

His wife also received an OBE in the 2017 New Year Honors list despite her label being threatened with closure after failing to file company accounts. She was criticized in British tabloid newspapers for telling her



David Beckham

family she would be receiving the award before the official announcement.

Brand Beckham

Born in Leytonstone, east London, Beckham was a member of the fabled "Class of 92" crop of young players who emerged at United, along with Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and Gary and Phil Neville. Blessed with an extraordinarily accurate right foot, Beckham was renowned for his dead-ball prowess and his seemingly limitless stamina, as well as his ever-changing hairstyles. He won six Premier League titles, two FA Cups and the 1999 Champions

League with United, creating both injury-time goals as Alex Ferguson's side stormed back to beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in the final.

After his relationship with Ferguson deteriorated, he joined the Real Madrid "Galacticos" to great fanfare in 2003, but would win only one league title during his time in Spain. Beckham moved to Los Angeles Galaxy in a trailblazing trans-Atlantic move in 2007 and won two MLS Cup titles, whilst also spending time on loan at European giants AC Milan and PSG. He captained England for six years and played at three World Cups, his 115 caps making him his country's third most-capped player behind Peter Shilton and Wayne Rooney.

"If you had told me as a young boy I would have played for and won trophies with my boyhood club, Manchester United, proudly captained and played for my country over one hundred times, and lined up for some of the biggest clubs in the world, I would have told you it was a fantasy," he said in 2013. Beckham's global celebrity turned him into a one-man marketing phenomenon with a glut of lucrative endorsements. He is the face of firms including Adidas, fashion chain H&M and Haig Whisky and his shared fortune with Victoria, dubbed "Brand Beckham", is believed to exceed £500 million (\$624 million, 582 million euros). — AFP

TISSOT BELLA ORA: IT'S TIME TO DECLARE YOUR LOVE



Romance is in the air

Declare your love with a very special timepiece this Valentine's Day. The Italian name of the Tissot Bella Ora, means beautiful watch and is inspired by Italy, its romantic cities and the name the country has made for itself in the world of fashion. This model fits into that world as naturally as the hands turn clockwise on the dial. It has a natural elegance thanks to the pure simplicity of the mother-of-pearl dial. The distinctive pink and red hues give a romantic touch to the Tissot Bella Ora, a special edition set to thrill your beloved on one of the most special days of the year. This watch is the perfect accessory to complement any outfit, dressed up or down, making it the ideal gift.

Passion

A passionately red strap complements the clean dial, which is only broken by a

sensual red mother-of-pearl inlay, for the index at midnight and echoed in the crown; a glamorous addition to the watch. A warm, luxurious edge enhances the otherwise sleek and stylish piece with a rose gold PVD execution. It's time to speak straight to their heart with this Tissot Bella Ora.

Features

- Swiss Made
- Quartz movement with battery end-of-life (EOL) indicator
- 316L stainless steel case
- Scratch-resistant sapphire crystal
- Water-resistant up to a pressure of 3 bar (30 m / 100 ft)
- Leather strap with standard buckle
- All rose-gold execution is PVD coating
- Dimensions: 31.4mm - 28mm



FEATURES

HOTTEST TICKETS AT THE BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL

The Berlin film festival, one of Europe's top cinema showcases, gets under way Thursday, bringing a parade of stars to its famed red carpet. Nearly 400 movies will be screened during the 11-day gathering. Here's a preview of highlights from the Berlinale, now in its 67th year, that are already generating a buzz.

Portraits of the artist

Right from opening night, the festival will throw a spotlight on biopics and documentaries that explore famous creative lives. Etienne Comar's debut feature "Django" is focused on the Gypsy-jazz great Django Reinhardt and the little-known story of his family's persecution by Nazis in occupied Paris. Geoffrey Rush plays Swiss sculptor and painter Alberto Giacometti in "Final Portrait", directed by Hollywood actor Stanley Tucci. Canadian folk artist Maud Lewis comes to life in "Maudie" starring Sally Hawkins as the beloved painter with a debilitating illness and Ethan Hawke as her devoted husband. Long before there was Damien Hirst and shark preserved in formaldehyde, there was Joseph Beuys and his dead rabbit. The documentary "Beuys" explores the controversial life of one of Germany's most important post-war artists. And veteran German filmmaker Volker Schlöndorff ("The Tin Drum") tells the story of his friend Max Frisch, played by Stellan Skarsgård, in "Return to Montauk" based on the Swiss novelist and playwright's life.

'No country for old women'

Agnieszka Holland ("Europa Europa") returns with "Spoor", a humor-tinged "feminist fairy tale" about an eccentric retiree facing bloody high jinx in her male-dominated village. The prize-winning filmmaker says the movie, with its unflinching look at the failings of post-communist Polish society, could have been called "No Country for Old Women", a play on the Coen brothers' classic. Holland is one of four female filmmakers in competition this year, including Britain's Sally Potter who has brought together Patricia Clarkson, Emily Mortimer, Bruno Ganz and Kristin Scott Thomas for "The Party", set during one night in contemporary London.

Rounding out the list are Teresa Villaverde, whose "Colo" looks at a family buffeted by Portugal's economic crisis, and Ildiko Enyedi with "On Body and Soul", a tender love story set in a slaughterhouse in Budapest.

Trump talk

Berlin has a reputation for being the most politically minded of the big film festivals. With actors and directors from around the world in front of the microphones, expect many to sound off on Brexit, populism, fake news and, of course, Donald Trump. Festival director Dieter Kosslick refused to mention the US president's name as he discussed this year's line-up. But he said the choice of films was a "kind of protest" against the global state of affairs. "But despite all the discontent in the world, this is a program that says 'yes' to life. The artists describe everyday apocalypses, but not without escape routes," he said.

Refugees on and off screen

Quirky Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki will present "The Other Side of Hope" about a Syrian refugee who winds up in Helsinki. But off-screen too, the festival has also launched initiatives to help the more than 100,000 asylum seekers who have arrived in Berlin since 2015. Fundraisers, screenings for newcomers accompanied by local volunteers and educational events for refugee kids have all been folded into the program.

And after George Clooney popped in to talk to German Chancellor Angela Merkel about the migrant influx during last year's festival, Richard Gere, in town to present his new



Cinema enthusiasts line up to buy tickets for the Berlinale film festival just before the ticket sale starts at Berlin's Potsdamer Platz square yesterday. — AFP photos



Cinema enthusiasts line up to buy tickets for the Berlinale film festival just after the ticket sale started at Berlin's Potsdamer Platz square.

thriller "The Dinner", will have an audience with the world's most powerful woman to discuss Tibetan rights.

Bears and Wolverines

Eighteen movies will duke it out for the Golden and Silver

Bear top prizes, to be awarded on February 18 by a jury led by Dutch filmmaker Paul Verhoeven ("RoboCop", "Elle"). But while the contenders are expected to pack a dramatic punch, the festival has a long tradition of popcorn fare too. This year's biggest blockbuster is the latest Wolverine installment

of the X-Men superhero series, "Logan" starring Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart and Richard E. Grant, which will have its world premiere. — AFP

Main line-up at 67th Berlin film festival

The 67th Berlinale, Europe's first major film festival of the year, opens Thursday with 24 international productions screening in the main showcase. Eighteen pictures will vie for the Golden Bear top prize at the event which runs from February 9 to 19, with a jury led by Hollywood director Paul Verhoeven ("Basic Instinct", "Elle") selecting the best film. Twenty-two of the 24 features in the main showcase are world premieres and two are directors' feature debuts.

The Berlinale Special sidebar section features other notable films that are given gala screenings. Here is the complete list including the official English title, director, well-known stars and countries where the films were produced:

Main showcase

- "Ana, mon amour", Calin Peter Netzer, winner of the 2013 Golden Bear, Romania/Germany/France
- "Bamui haebyun-eseo honja" (On the Beach at Night Alone), Hong Sang-soo, South Korea
- "Beuys", Andres Veiel, Germany (documentary on controversial 20th century German artist Joseph Beuys)
- "Colo", Teresa Villaverde, Portugal/France
- "The Dinner", Oren Moverman starring Richard Gere, Steve Coogan, Laura Linney and Rebecca Hall, US
- "Django", Etienne Comar, France (debut feature, opening film, biopic on the life of Gypsy jazz great Django Reinhardt)
- "El bar" (The Bar), Alex de la Iglesia, Spain (out of competition)
- "Felicite", Alain Gomis, France/Senegal/Belgium/Germany/Lebanon

- "Final Portrait", Stanley Tucci starring Arnie Hammer, Geoffrey Rush and Clemence Poesy Britain/France (out of competition, biopic on Swiss artist Alberto Giacometti)
- "Hao ji le" (Have a Nice Day), Liu Jian, China (animated feature)
- "Helle Naechte (Bright Nights), Thomas Arslan, Germany/Norway
- "Joaquim", Marcelo Gomes, Brazil/Portugal
- "Logan", James Mangold starring Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart and Richard E Grant, US (out of competition, latest Wolverine installment of the X-Men superhero series)
- "Mr Long", Sabu, Japan/China/Taiwan/Germany
- "The Party", Sally Potter starring Patricia Clarkson, Emily Mortimer, Bruno Ganz and Kristin Scott Thomas, Britain
- "Pokot" (Spoor), Agnieszka Holland, Poland/Germany/Czech Republic/Sweden/Slovakia
- "Return to Montauk", Volker Schlöndorff starring Stellan Skarsgård, France/Germany/Ireland
- "Sage femme" (Midwife), Martin Provost starring Catherine Deneuve, France/Belgium (out of competition)
- "T2 Trainspotting", Danny Boyle starring Ewan McGregor and Robert Carlyle, Britain (out of competition)
- "Testrol es lelekrol" (On Body and Soul), Ildiko Enyedi, Hungary
- "Toivon tuolla puolen" (The Other Side of Hope), Aki Kaurismäki, Finland/Germany
- "Una mujer fantástica" (A Fantastic Woman), Sebastian Lelio, Chile/US/Germany/Spain
- "Viceroy's House", Gurinder Chadha starring Hugh Bonneville, Gillian Anderson and Manish Dayal, India/Britain

(out of competition)
"Wilde Maus" (Wild Mouse), Josef Hader, Austria (debut feature)

Berlinale Special highlights

- "the bomb", Kevin Ford, Smriti Keshari, Eric Schlosser, US (multimedia installation) "Es war einmal in Deutschland..." (Bye Bye Germany), Sam Garbarski, Germany/Luxembourg/Belgium "In Zeiten des abnehmenden Lichts" (In Times of Fading Light), Matti Geschonneck, Germany "La libertad del diablo" (Devil's Freedom), Everardo Gonzalez, Mexico (documentary)
- "La Reina de Espana" (The Queen of Spain), Fernando Trueba starring Penelope Cruz and Mandy Patinkin, Spain
- "Le jeune Karl Marx" (The Young Karl Marx), Raoul Peck, France/Germany/Belgium
- "The Lost City of Z", James Gray starring Charlie Hunnam, Robert Pattinson and Sienna Miller, US
- "Masaryk" (A Prominent Patient), Julius Sevcik, Czech Republic/Slovakia
- "Maudie", Aisling Walsh starring Sally Hawkins and Ethan Hawke, Canada/Ireland (biopic on Canadian artist Maud Lewis)
- "The Trial: The State of Russia vs Oleg Sentsov", Askold Kurov, Estonia/Poland/Czech Republic (documentary)
- "Ultimos dias en La Habana" (Last Days in Havana), Fernando Perez, Cuba/Spain. — AFP



American labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta points to a photograph of her, Cesar Chavez and Fred Ross in Bakersfield, California. — AFP photos



American labor leader and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta.

Dolores Huerta: Little-known militant icon with a big part in history

"Who has the power? People have the power!" Small, slender Dolores Huerta, with her soft but firm voice, was whipping up a crowd at a Los Angeles rally against an oil pipeline in North Dakota. Dozens of people boisterously echoed her words. "She's an icon," actress Jane Fonda told AFP. Fonda, who had organized the protest, has frequently crossed paths with the indefatigable militant Huerta, an activist in an impressive array of movements: for union, feminist, ecologist and human rights-and for nonviolence. At 86, the inspiration for Barack Obama's "Yes We Can" slogan-he awarded Huerta the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor remains largely unknown to the wider public.

She was a comrade-in-arms of Cesar Chavez, the famous leader of farm worker protests. Yet while he has had streets named after him and a monument raised in his honor, Huerta remains largely in the shadows. But now, a documentary called "Dolores," previewed at the Sundance Film Festival last month, wants to give Huerta her proper place in history. The film, co-produced by guitarist Carlos Santana, has "an important message that women's participation in history also has to be recorded and memorialized," she said in an interview from the offices of her foundation in Bakersfield, in the heart of California farm country. "Hopefully it will inspire more women to get involved."

Women's role minimized

"I call it HIS-tory," she said. "It's easy to see in the last election-we had a woman that was superbly qualified to be president of the United States that was not elected even if she won the popular vote, and you had a man who had no experience in governing at all that was elected." "It shows how women in

our societies are devalued and disrespected," Huerta said. Director Peter Bratt says Huerta, the descendant of Mexican immigrants who was raised by a single mother during the Depression, "has impacted our democratic evolution in the last 50 years."

"Dolores" traces the birth of the United Farm Workers (UFW), co-founded in the 1960s by Huerta and Chavez. It revisits their struggle for the basic human rights of farm workers: fresh water, functioning toilets, safe working conditions, regular rest breaks, unemployment insurance and a minimum wage. Huerta and Chavez organized strikes, spectacular marches on the California legislature, and a nationwide grape boycott to protest the poor conditions facing vineyard workers, notably their exposure to toxic pesticides.

Arrests and beatings

This mother of 11 children (she was twice married, and also had children by Chavez's brother Richard) marched for abortion rights alongside Angela Davis and Gloria Steinem. She has been arrested more than 20 times, has been beaten, and was seriously wounded by the police during a 1988 protest in San Francisco. Twenty years earlier, she stood on a podium alongside Robert F Kennedy, the president's brother, just minutes before he was assassinated in Los Angeles in 1968.

That incident left her with a fierce commitment to nonviolence and a passionate dislike for firearms. "It was very emotional for me to see the movie," she said. "I relived a lot of things." She added: "Many issues it addresses are still relevant, like police violence, discrimination against women, the use of pesticides..." The documentary also shows the sacrifices made: those who lost their lives, were beaten or jailed after clashes with police, the children who sometimes had to raise them-

selves as their mother criss-crossed the country on behalf of her many causes.

"But it is very satisfying to think we've built a strong movement," she said, speaking from the monument to Chavez at UFW headquarters on a bucolic property in the town of Keene. The UFW's influence has faded, however, since Chavez died in 1993. But enough about the past, says Huerta. The subject of "Dolores" would have liked for the documentary to "be less about the past and more about the future." She mentioned the many works of her foundation, including a door-to-door campaign to register people to vote, anti-discrimination work in schools, and the defense of gays and lesbians in the very conservative region around Bakersfield.

With the arrival in the White House of Donald Trump, Huerta-whose hectic days feature an unending series of protest rallies, training sessions and meetings with VIPs-is girding for "many, many fights." She fears the new administration could roll back gains on environmental protection, women's right to abortion, gun control, minimum wages and more. "We've faced tremendous obstacles with President Nixon, Reagan when he was governor of California, the agribusiness," she said, adding: "This is the nature of struggles: You take two steps forward and one step back. But you keep going." Huerta's parting message for her fellow citizens: "Get yourselves organized, go to your neighborhood, talk to people, get involved. "A lot of people are going to march and protest, but at the end of the day you have to translate that to voting." — AFP

Ricky Gervais' shtick gets tricky in Trump and Brexit era

Playing a brash, bigoted bore in the Trump and Brexit era is double trouble for comedian-actor Ricky Gervais. "I use irony, saying the wrong things so that hopefully people will understand the right things," Gervais told Reuters. "But now it's too dangerous. I get the wrong round of applause! I have to be so careful about what I say." Still, the man best known for the British television "mockumentary" show "The Office" and acerbic stints as a Golden Globes host says he feels he has finally found his voice as a stand-up comic - and the election of Donald Trump as president has helped.

"Trump has made me a better stand-up because everything is much more poignant now," said Gervais, who is as well known in Hollywood as he is in his native Britain. "Anything you do about truth, stupidity, anger, humanity, world issues - it's so much in the forefront of people's minds about what's happened." Gervais, 55, embarks next week on his first stand-up tour in seven years. It starts in Britain after a single date in New York last week while promoting the Feb. 10 Netflix US release of "David Brent: Life on the Road," a film sequel to the British version of "The Office." Gervais says his stand-up act has never been explicitly political. He started working on new material before Britain voted to leave the European Union in June 2016.

Instead, he riffs on "opinions versus facts, social media where people would rather win than be right, and how sneakily freedoms are crushed." "My shtick has always been me saying the wrong things," he said. "My stand-up has always been a brasher, more arrogant, less informed bigoted, bore than myself." Twelve years on, in "Life on the Road," David Brent is now a cleaning product salesman with a female boss who has not given up on his dream of being a rock star. He embarks on a self-financed UK tour, followed by a documentary crew.

"It's the same old David Brent but a bit older and not the boss," said Gervais, who wrote, directed and stars in the show. "Now he's almost bullied. I am torn with David Brent. I like his positivity and the fact that he falls over and gets up again." Just as Gervais drew from his own experience to create the mundane life depicted in the original "The Office" in 2001, he also mined his past for the sequel. "In a previous life, I was also a failed rock star so I use all my successes and failures equally," he said. — Reuters



Writer/director Ricky Gervais and partner Jane Fallon attend the David Brent: Life on the Road New York Special Screening at Metrograph in New York. — AFP

FEATURES



Workers print books and flyers at a printing company in Kurdish-majority Qamishli in northeast Syria. — AFP photos



A worker oversees the printing of books at a printing company.



Kurds discuss a book at a library in Kurdish-majority Qamishli in northeast Syria.

For Kurds in Syria, world novels finally speak their language

Kurds never obtained their cultural, social or political rights throughout their long history in the Middle East'

Abdou Shehu sits in an office in Kurdish-majority Qamishli in northeast Syria, surrounded by copies of the first Western novel available in the city in his own language. The novel is "Snow" by French writer Maxence Fernine, the first fruits of a new project to translate international works of literature into a language that was effectively banned in Syria until recently. The 29-year-old is working as part of the "Hunar" project, named for the Kurdish word for pomegranate, launched two months ago to translate literature into the Kurdish language in Kurdish-majority parts of Syria.



A Kurdish man carries a book on Kurdish folklore at a library.

For years, Syria's Kurds were banned from using their language in official settings and prevented from learning it in schools or publishing magazines or books in the tongue. The restrictions were parts of a larger program of constraints placed on Kurds, who make up around 10 percent of Syria's pre-war population, including depriving them of Syrian nationality. "I spent three months in a prison in Damascus in 2009, and was threatened with expulsion from university, because I was found with books in Kurdish," said Shehu.

"Our language and our culture were banned by the authoritarian Baath party, which wanted to get rid of the Kurds and their culture," he added. But Syria's central government no longer has much sway over the Kurdish-majority regions of the country, in the north and northeast.



A Kurdish man reads a book at a library in Kurdish-majority Qamishli.

'Very few authors'

It withdrew its security forces from Kurdish-majority regions in 2012, a year after the uprising broke out against President Bashar al-Assad. And since then, the Kurds have walked a careful line between the government and rebels, while focusing on building a semi-autonomous region. Kurdish officials have reclaimed their tongue, reintroducing the Kurmanji dialect of their language into the school curriculum and restoring Kurdish names to villages and towns.

The project has already translated three more works, including "The Epic of Gilgamesh", a poem from ancient Mesopotamia and among the earliest known literary writings in the world, from Arabic, and a study of the Kurdish people, from English. Those books will soon go into publication, and work will continue with new volumes, which are chosen by a committee that weighs various criteria, including whether the works are relevant to Kurdish life. It is a non-profit initiative, and funded by private donors, with translators working on a volunteer basis. The translated version of "Snow" has already gone on sale, for just over one US dollar a piece, enough to cover the costs of printing, according to Shehu.

After translation, each work is reviewed by a committee for approval, which tried, without success, to reach Fernine to obtain copyright permissions before



A Kurdish woman picks out a book, translated from French to Kurdish, at a library in Kurdish-majority Qamishli.

publication began. After decades of marginalization, today very few Kurdish authors write in their mother tongue, encouraging avid readers like Shehu to translate works from other languages. "There are only very few authors who write literature in Kurdish," writer Hussein Zido, 45, said.

"Kurds never obtained their cultural, social or political rights throughout their long history in the Middle East," he said. The "Hunar" project aims to save the Kurdish language from extinction by translating books from the rest of the world into Kurdish, Shehu said. "We're doing our best not only to translate literature, but also philosophy and thought... so that Kurds can read world literature in their mother tongue." To swell the body of homegrown books, Malfa Ali, one of the founders of the project, is also compiling traditional Kurdish folktales and songs to put them into print.

The 37-year-old said he spends long exhausting hours collecting these tales directly from the storytellers themselves. They have never been formally recorded because publishing Kurdish-language books was forbidden. "We'll start gathering all the stories told in the area and then we'll move on to the songs," he said. The project also hopes one day to produce a complete dictionary of the Kurdish language, including words and phrases from the tongue's spoken form.



A Kurdish woman reads a book at a library in Kurdish-majority Qamishli.

Protecting Kurdish

Kurdish areas have seen a cultural revival since 2012, with new cultural associations and magazines taking life. Syrian authorities forced the Kurdish magazine "Sormi" to close down in its original Arabic-language form in 2008, but since the uprising it has reopened, this time publishing in Kurdish. The latest issue of the bi-monthly, which relaunched in 2015 offering readers articles by Kurdish authors, is themed "Identity and Language". "The Kurdish language is the first thing we have to protect. It never had its chance before, despite representing the identity of a whole people," said Abbas Musa, a member of the magazine's editorial team.

"We're striving to offer something different and varied to those interested in culture," he said of the magazine, which is published in Qamishli and distributed in two other cities. The 31-year-old said he hoped high-brow articles in Kurdish would show his mother tongue is "not weak". Fellow "Sormi" editor Bahar Murad, 39, also translates children's stories from English to Kurdish. In his office at the culture magazine, he points to a recent translation of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". He wants to see children reading in their mother tongue, he said. "They've asked me to translate Little Red Riding Hood." — AFP



In this June 2, 1953 file photo, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II wearing the bejeweled Imperial Crown and carrying the Orb and Scepter with Cross, leaves Westminster Abbey, London, at the end of her coronation ceremony.



In this June 8, 1980 file photo, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and US President Ronald Reagan walk into St George's Hall at Windsor Castle, England.

Queen Elizabeth II marks sapphire jubilee

Queen Elizabeth II, the world's longest-reigning monarch, set a new record yesterday as the first British sovereign to reach their sapphire jubilee, marking 65 years on the throne. The head of state, now 90, became queen aged 25 upon the premature death of her father, King George VI, in 1952. As usual on Accession Day, Queen Elizabeth was at her country estate in Norfolk, eastern England.

"The queen is spending the day privately at Sandringham House," a Buckingham Palace spokesman told AFP. The monarch was working on the "red boxes"—the red briefcases of official government papers—and reflecting on her father's passing. On Sunday, she was seen smiling as well-wishers gave her flowers outside church. Prime Minister Theresa May said the country would join in giving thanks for the queen's lifetime of service to Britain and the wider Commonwealth.

"It is a testament to her selfless devotion to the nation that she is not marking becoming the first monarch to reign for 65 years with any special celebration but instead getting on with the job to which she has dedicated her life," she said. "She has truly been an inspiration to all of us and I am proud, on behalf of the nation, to offer our humble thanks and congratulations."

Coins, stamps and gun salutes

Despite her reluctance to celebrate publicly, the occasion was being marked in Britain. Gun salutes were fired at the Tower of London, in the capital's Green Park and around the kingdom, while the bells of Westminster Abbey, where she was crowned in 1953, rang out. Sapphire is the 65th-anniversary gemstone and a photograph was re-

sued of the sovereign wearing a suite of sapphire jewelry from 1850, which was given to her by her father in 1947 as a wedding gift. "She has very kind eyes with a mischievous glint," said photographer David Bailey after taking the portrait in 2014.

The Royal Mint marked the anniversary with specially-designed commemorative coins, ranging from a £5 coin to a £1,000 solid gold coin, which weighs one kilogram (2.2 pounds) and costs £50,000 to buy. The £5 (\$6.25, 5.80-euro) coins feature the imperial state crown, rotated to show off

the Stuart sapphire. They also bear words from the famous quote in her 21st birthday speech to the Commonwealth back in 1947: "My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service." Meanwhile the Royal Mail issued a £5 stamp in a sapphire blue color.

'Difficult to dislike'

"It's very, very difficult to dislike her," Andrew Gimson, author of "Gimson's Kings and Queens", told AFP. "She's never answered back, she's always been above politics." Elizabeth became Britain's longest-serving monarch ever in September 2015, surpassing the reign of her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria, a record she said was "not one to which I have ever aspired". She also became the longest-reigning living monarch in the world in October last year following the death of Thai king Bhumibol Adulyadej. Her three big jubilees—at 25, 50 and 60 years—were the silver (1977), golden (2002) and diamond (2012) jubilees, which were celebrated with major public events.

Besides Britain, she has also been the monarch of Australia, Canada and New Zealand for 65 years. She suffered from a heavy cold over Christmas, missing two Sunday church services, but is generally in rude health. However, with her advancing age, Queen Elizabeth is gradually handing over more responsibilities to younger royals. Her 34-year-old grandson Prince William, second in line to the throne after his father Prince Charles, is stepping down as an air ambulance pilot this year to carry out more royal duties on his grandmother's behalf. — AFP



This photo by English photographer David Bailey of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, taken for the GREAT campaign in 2014, and is now reissued, by Buckingham Palace to celebrate her Sapphire Anniversary, marking the 65th anniversary of the monarch's accession to the throne. — AFP photos

Ski resort brings winter cheer to Iraq displaced

'The skiing is fantastic. The snow is fantastic. The hospitality has been brilliant'



Iraqis play with snow at Korek Mountain resort near the city of Rawanduz in the Arbil Governorate of Iraqi Kurdistan. — AFP photos



A skier looks on at Korek Mountain resort.



Iraqis play with snow at Korek Mountain resort.



Skiers gather at Korek Mountain resort.



Skiers gather at Korek Mountain resort.



Iraqi Kurds perform a traditional dance at Korek Mountain resort.

In the fledgling ski resort of Korek in war-torn Iraq, the only battles are snow fights between visitors who often leave their traumatic memories at the foot of the slopes. That's what Fawaz Behnam and many of the children and adults frolicking in knee-deep powder around him like about the idyllic tourist spot. He and his family were in Mosul when the Islamic State group seized the city in 2014, forcing them to flee, leaving their home and their jewelry shops behind.

"We were very tired and we want to have some fun. Look at the people here enjoying themselves, not like in Mosul," said the 35-year-old, his face flush from the bright sun and cold wind. Korek lies in Iraq's northern autonomous region of Kurdistan, where hundreds of thousands of Iraqis displaced by the 2014 jihadist offensive have found refuge.

"You can see the great atmosphere," said Behnam's brother-in-law Anmar Munir, a young accountant who also lives in the Kurdish city of Dohuk, further west. "People are relaxed and enjoying themselves. This of course takes us away from the atmosphere of murder, displacement and persecution," he said. About 120 kilometers (75 miles) to the west, Iraqi forces have spent the past four months battling jihadists to retake Mosul, IS's last major stronghold in the country. Fawaz and Anmar are among the luckiest displaced who can afford to travel to Korek but hundreds of thousands are spending their third winter in displacement camps.

Frontier destination

At a snow festival organized in Korek by the regional government last week, groups of young people, some in proper winter attire but many wearing flimsy city shoes, broke into traditional dance and enjoyed some of the activities available there. Dozens queued for a ride on a Zip-line, others raced each other on sleds and the most adventurous signed up for their first skiing class on a baby piste but the most popular sports remained snow fighting and selfie snapping. Nader Rusty, a spokesperson for the regional government's tourism ministry, has other ambitions for Iraq's only mountain resort than just offering relief to victims of conflict.

"We organize this snow festival every year. It's very important to improve tourism in general and winter tourism in particular," he said. Conflict-torn Iraq is best known for its searing temperatures and not exactly a tourist magnet but Korek is hoping to make a name for itself as a frontier skiing destination. 2014 was supposed to be a takeoff year for Kurdistan's tourism industry and Korek was one of its flagship projects.

However the devastating human and economic impact of the IS offensive that year and the subsequent war to retake lost territory left Kurdish dreams in tatters. "Our target was seven million (tourists) by 2025 but because of the war, our plan has changed," said Nader Rusty.

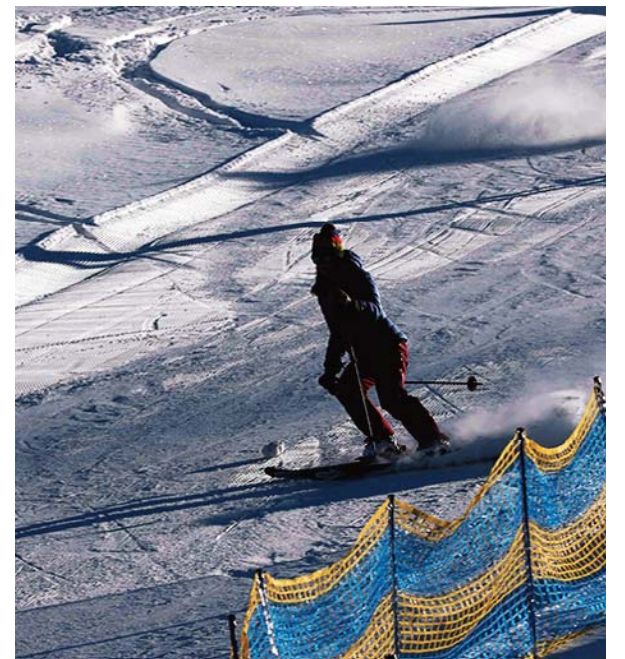
Have n

For now Korek lacks a ski lift but it boasts a state-of-the-art Austrian-built cable car and swanky chalets. James Willcox, a cofounder of adventure travel company "Untamed borders", was in Korek for the snow festival with a group he believes was on the first ever commercial skiing trip to Iraq. "We were skiing nearer to Haj Omran, where the mountains are bigger and we were lucky that there has been lots of snow this week," he said. "So we took one day to come here to ski, to listen to the music, to eat and to enjoy the festival," said Willcox, who also organizes holiday trips to places such as Somalia and Chechnya.

Rohan Lord came all the way from New Zealand to ski in Iraq. "The skiing is fantastic. The snow is fantastic. The hospitality has been brilliant," he said. When asked about the conflict unfolding in Iraq, he said: "We were nervous, there's no doubt about it." For Mohammed Ghanem, a student from Fallujah—a city west of Baghdad which Iraqi forces retook from IS jihadists last year—the main appeal of Korek is precisely its remoteness from war. "There is no nature like this (in Fallujah), nor any such safety. There are only explosions. You never feel safe and when you go out you are scared of car bombs or of being detained," he said. — AFP



Iraqis play with snow at Korek Mountain resort.



A woman skis at Korek Mountain resort.



An Iraqi Kurd flies his powered parachute over Korek Mountain resort.



An Iraqi Kurd flies his powered parachute over Korek Mountain resort.



Iraqi Kurds enjoy an amusement ride at Korek Mountain resort.



Iraqis play with snow at Korek Mountain resort.

Lifestyle

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017

Ski resort brings winter cheer to Iraq displaced

39



Country music artist Luke Bryan sings the national anthem before the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game between the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons, Sunday in Houston. — AP/AFP photos



Musician Lady Gaga performs onstage.



Lady Gaga descends to the stage during the halftime show of the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game.



Musician Lady Gaga performs onstage.



Lady Gaga lights up Super Bowl with inclusion message

Lady Gaga dazzled the Super Bowl on Sunday with a high-tech, tightly choreographed half-time show celebrating American diversity and unity as she chose the power of showbiz over direct provocation. Performing at American football's title match—generally the most watched US television event of the year—the pop diva electrified NRG Stadium in Houston with a pulsating medley of her greatest hits. From the outset, Gaga served notice this was no ordinary halftime show—she began her performance from the lip of the stadium, an army of 300 drones forming a twinkling American flag in the sky.

Then she took flight. The singer, clad in a sparkling silver bodysuit and knee high boots, leapt from the edge of the retractable roof onto the stage with the help of some sturdy wires—and the performance was nonstop from there. Ahead of the show, all eyes were on Lady Gaga to see whether she would use the platform to rip into President Donald Trump at a tense time in US politics. Even with Vice President Mike Pence in attendance, Gaga—a sworn foe of Trump—kept with the game's guidelines to steer clear of overt politics.

Instead the singer, known for her audacious outfits, delivered what seemed to be a more subtle message. "How are you doing tonight, Texas? How are you doing tonight, America?" Gaga asked. "We're here to make you feel good," she said. She opened with "This Land is Your Land," the anthem by leftist folk legend Woody Guthrie that has come to be seen as an alternative national anthem for the United States.

Gaga then mixed up her biggest songs—from "Let's Dance" and "Poker Face" to "Born This Way"—an anthem of inclusion in which she speaks of acceptance of people



Musician Lady Gaga performs onstage during the Pepsi Zero Sugar Super Bowl LI Halftime Show at NRG Stadium.

regardless of ethnicity or sexual orientation. She was backed up by an upbeat, ethnically diverse cast of dancers, who at one point joined in a group hug. "No matter gay, straight or bi... You're Lebanese / You're orient," she sang. "Whether life's disabilities left you outcast, bullied or teased / Rejoice and love yourself today!"

Future for drones
With just 13 minutes at her disposal, Gaga could not pull off many costume changes but by the end had stripped off her metallic dress to perform in hot pants, football shoulder pads and the stiletto-heeled boots. She even changed her makeup, using peel-off crystals to alter

her look to match her choice of song. In keeping with her recent theme of family connection, Gaga—long associated with her oozing sexuality—shouted out to her parents as she sang her recent ballad "Million Reasons" and played the piano. Her dancers made up for Gaga in terms of outfits, switching from flashy club attire to placid white.

Gaga literally dropped the mic—and caught a football at the end of the show as fireworks shot into the air. Given that the Super Bowl is the most coveted advertising venue of the year, the drone army—designed by chip-maker Intel—ended in another show of Americana, commercialism, as they created the logo of sponsor Pepsi. Intel described the half-time show as the most elaborate televised use ever of drones.

"The potential for these light show drones is endless," Intel executive Josh Walden said in a statement, saying the company planned to explore more ways to use the technology. Hours after the Super Bowl, Lady Gaga announced a world tour, her first in three years other than concerts of pop standards in duet with 90-year-old crooner Tony Bennett. Lady Gaga will open the tour on August 1 in Vancouver and play 47 stadiums and arenas across North America and Europe until the end of the year. She was also announced as a headliner in September of the latest Rock in Rio festival in Brazil. — AFP



Musician Lady Gaga performs onstage.

