

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

RABI AL-THANI 10, 1438 AH

Kuwaiti cardiologist innovates to treat ailments



Casey Affleck and the limits of Hollywood's tolerance



Rooney equals record, Millwall claim FA Cup upset



Ronaldo celebrates as **Real Madrid** equal record

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DEPORTATIONS SURGE AS 29,000 EXPELLED IN 2016

MPS CALL FOR DEPORTING 100,000 EXPATS ANNUALLY



Max 20° **High Tide** 07:27 & 19:42

Low Tide 01:28 & 12:40

TANKER BOMB KILLS 48 IN SYRIA TOWN

BEIRUT: A massive tanker truck bomb ripped through a market by a courthouse in the rebel-held Syrian town of Azaz yesterday, killing 48 people and wounding dozens near the Turkish border. The attack appeared to be the deadliest yet in the town in northern Aleppo province, which has been regularly hit by bombings targeting rebels and civilians. The Britainbased Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least fourteen rebels were among the dead, but most of those killed were civilians, including five religious judges belonging to various rebel factions.

Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said identification of the dead was being hampered by the fact that some bodies were completely burned in the blast. Video from the scene showed huge clouds of smoke rising from a street filled with debris and twisted metal, which bulldozers were working to clear. Raging fires were burning in several vehicles, and the fire brigade was battling to put them out with a giant water tanker and hoses. Azaz has been repeatedly struck by bomb attacks, including in November when rebels said 25 people-civilians and opposition

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AZAZ, Syria: Rescue workers arrive at the scene after dozens were killed when a car bomb went off in a busy market in this rebel-held town along the Turkish border yesterday. — AP

KUWAIT: Well-informed security sources said that 29,000 expats had been deported in 2016 - almost 80 expats daily - which indicates deportation has been accelerated more than ever. The sources added that the reasons for deporting those expats varied between residency law violations and criminal violations such as traffic law violations, felonies and crimes.

According to the report in Al-Qabas daily, the deportation prison management takes good care of deported expats and all the deportation prison inmates only remain in detention for a maximum of a week until a ticket is provided and other paperwork is finalized. The sources added that flight tickets for deported expats are usually booked from travel agencies at the prison. "However, some deportees remain in prison for a month or two because of financial claims and obligations against them, as they have to attend court hearings," explained the sources, noting that good quality catering and cleaning services are provided.

Statistically, the sources explained that 26 percent of deportees are Indians, 22 percent are Egyptians, 13 percent from the Philippines, 13 percent Ethiopian, 6 percent Sri Lankan and 5 percent are Bangladeshis. "These six nationalities form 80 percent of the deportees, while those from other nationalities form only 20 percent," the sources concluded.

Meanwhile, a number of lawmakers said that for security, economic and social reasons, it has become a must to immediately act in order to adjust Kuwait's demography, according to a report in Al-Rai daily.

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News

Banker names Saleh '2017 Finance Minister'

KUWAIT: The Banker magazine, a sister issue of the internationally renowned business newspaper The Financial Times, has designated Kuwaiti Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh as the Finance Minister of the Year 2017 for the entire Middle East. The Banker editorial honored Saleh, who doubles as Deputy Prime Minister, with the award which aims to celebrate officials worldwide



who best managed to stimulate growth and stabilize their economies during turbulent times. In The Banker's opinion, Saleh is responding to these challenges with "an ambitious program of reforms in partnership with other government agencies" which materialize the government's strong will to balance public finances as well as diversify the economy".(See Page 2)

Kuwait Stock Exchange appoints new chairman



Al-Saqqaf

RIYADH: The Kuwait Stock Exchange has selected a new chairman for its board of directors, following the appointment of its previous chairman as oil minister in December, it said in a statement yesterday. The bourse named as chairman Mohammed Ahmed Al-Saqqaf, a member of the board's executive committee and nomi-

nation and remuneration committee. HH the Amir appointed previous chairman Essam Abdul Mohsen Al-Marzouq to head the oil ministry and the ministry of electricity and water. (See Page 21)

Kardashian breaks silence about heist

LOS ANGELES: Kim Kardashian is finally speaking about being robbed at gunpoint in Paris last October, in classic Kardashian fashion: In a promotional video for the new season of her hit reality TV show. In the clip for "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," on the E! Channel, she tearfully recalls the night masked gunmen broke into her hotel room, bound and gagged her before locking her in the



Kardashian

bathroom and stole jewelry worth a reported \$10 million. "They're going to shoot me in the back," Kardashian West, 36, tells her sisters in the clip. "There's no way out. It makes me so upset to think about it." (See Page 37)

Trump slams anti-Russia 'fools'

US INTEL REPORT: PUTIN SOUGHT TO HELP TRUMP

WASHINGTON: US President-Elect Donald Trump condemned Russia critics yesterday, calling those who oppose better relations with Moscow "stupid" people and "fools" in his latest Twitter tirade.

His attack comes a day after the Republican president-elect met the country's leading intelligence agency chiefs - including the director of national intelligence, James Clapper, and CIA chief John Brennan who told him that Russian President Vladimir Putin directed a vast cyberattack and leaking campaign aimed at helping install Trump in the White House.

"Having a good relationship with Russia is a good thing," he tweeted yesterday. "Only 'stupid' people, or fools, would think that it is bad!" "When I am President," he added, "Russia will respect us far more than they do now and both countries will, perhaps, work together to solve some of the many great and pressing problems and issues of the WORLD!"

But the formal announcement of former Indiana Senator Dan Coats as

Trump's pick for US director of national intelligence, also yesterday, may go at least a little toward reassuring those critical of Trump's praise for Putin and desire to improve relations with Moscow. After their meeting with Trump on Friday about findings that undermine the legitimacy of his election, intelligence officials released a declassified report describing an unprecedented Russian cyberattack as part of an ongoing effort to subvert American

democratic institutions. **Continued on Page 13**



Donald Trump

Vladimir Putin



US NOT RULING OUT TERRORISM IN FLORIDA AIRPORT SHOOTING

MIAMI: The US authorities are not ruling out "the terrorism angle" as a potential motive of the Iraq war veteran accused of killing five people at the Fort Lauderdale International Airport, officials said yesterday. Police interrogated the suspect, 26-year-old Esteban Santiago, throughout much of the night after the shooting rampage that killed five people, wounded six and sent thousands scrambling for safety before the authorities shut down the airport, a major gateway to the Caribbean and Latin America.

"We continue to look at all avenues and all motives for this horrific attack," George Piro, the special agent in charge of Miami's FBI field office, told journalists. "We are continuing to look at the terrorism angle in regards

to the potential motivation behind this attack." Piro said the suspect appeared to be acting alone and that "every indication is that he did follow (Transportation Security Administration) procedures in checking in the weapon," a nine-millimeter semi-automatic handgun he had declared and stowed inside his checked luggage.

The incident occurred in the baggage claim area of Terminal 2, as passengers collecting their luggage were interrupted by the alleged gunman, who withdrew his weapon before opening fire on his victims. Santiago had traveled from Alaska to Fort Lauderdale, with a stopover in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In November, Santiago had walked into the FBI's Anchorage office

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POLICE KILL TWO SAUDI MILITANTS

RIYADH: Saudi security forces yesterday shot and killed two suspected militants including an explosive belt maker during a police operation in the north of the capital, the interior ministry said. Suspect Tayeh Al-Saihari, who had been wanted by authorities for his alleged involvement in

jihadist attacks, was spotted in a house in a northern Riyadh neighborhood, a ministry spokesman said. In a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, the spokesman said that Saihari was with Talal Al-Saidi, also wanted by the authorities on suspicion of belonging to jihadist groups.

Security forces surrounded the house at dawn and ordered the suspects to surrender but they refused and opened fire on the police who then launched an assault, killing them both, he said. The interior ministry said two explosive belts "ready to be activated" were found in the house in the Yasmin neighborhood, as well as a homemade bomb and material that could be used to make explosives. It said that Saihari had "prepared the explosive belts that were used in suicide attacks", including the killed in Riyadh. deadly bombing of a headquarters of the special forces in 2015



Pictures released by Saudi Press Agency show two militants

and near the Prophet's (PBUH) Mosque in Madinah last July. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack that killed 15 people. But no one claimed responsibility for a July 2016 attack in Madinah, in which four security guards were killed. Since late 2014, IS has claimed a series of bombings and shootings against Shiites in the Sunni-majority kingdom, as well against security forces. — AFP

BANKER PICKS ANAS AL-SALEH 'FINANCE MINISTER OF 2017'

KUWAIT: The Banker magazine, a sisterly issue of the internationally renowned business newspaper The Financial Times, has designated Kuwaiti Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh as the Finance Minister of the Year 2017 for the whole Middle East.

The Banker editorial is honoring Saleh, who doubles as Deputy Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, in its annual release, proclaiming the Finance Minister of the Year, earning the relevant award which aims to celebrate officials, worldwide, that have best managed to stimulate growth and stabilize their economy during turbulent times.

Strong positions

According to the editorial, "Kuwait is weathering the lower commodity price environment well, particularly when compared to its oil-producing peers. Backed by strong fiscal and external positions, the country (Kuwait) is expected to register gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 2.5 percent in 2016. Improvements to the investment environment, coupled with the government's strong commitment to capital spending, have gone some way to supporting this growth".

That being said, long term challenges remain as the "heavy dependence on oil-related revenues will hit the country's finances much harder in the coming years". However, in The Banker's



Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh

opinion, Minister Al-Saleh is responding to these challenges with "an ambitious program of reforms in partnership with other government agencies" which materialize the government's strong will to balance public finances as well as diversify the economy."

Minister Saleh is praised for introducing changes that "represent the kind of long-term vision that is required during a deeply challenging time for oil producers across the globe," The Banker editorial said. The Banker elaborated on the State of Kuwait's reform program, including re-pricing of goods and services as well as introducing of value-added tax-masterminded by Minister Saleh in coordination with other government agencies.

Reform plan

It said, in part quoting Minister Saleh as saying, "The reform plan, comprising more than 40 initiatives over the short and medium term, materializes the government's strong will to balance public finances as well as diversify the

"Such diversification will focus on increasing national and foreign sectors' contribution to the economy through development of the public-private partnership projects, fostering small and medium-sized enterprises, initiating a nation-wide privatization strategy as well as increasing the ease of doing business in our country.

Further steps to rein in public spending includes improving government efficiency, rationalizing subsidies and reforming the public sector wage system. Taken together, this represents one of the boldest reform programs among the GCC states. — KUNA

KUWAIT PLAYS KEY ROLE IN RESTORING STABILITY TO OIL MARKET: OPEC

VIENNA: Kuwait has been playing a leading and constructive role in OPEC so as to restore stability and balance to the global oil market, said the organization's Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo on Friday.

Due to this key role, Kuwait has gained respect of both OPEC and non-OPEC member states, he said in an interview ahead of his visit to some GCC states, including Qatar and Kuwait, starting from today. Kuwait's efforts contributed to reaching the historic agreement to cut OPEC's oil output by 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd), he stressed. The deal, approved during a meeting Vienna late November 2016, also led to the decrease of non-OPEC production by 600,000 bpd.

Choosing Kuwait to chair the Ministerial Monitoring Committee, that coordinates efforts amongst the 24-member group of OPEC and non-OPEC states, reflected the country's status in stabilizing the global oil market, he said.

Kuwait was amongst the first five states that established OPEC and has been an effective member in achieving stability, Barkindo noted. He revealed that the ministerial committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of cutting oil production will hold its forthcoming meeting on January 21, under the chairmanship of Kuwait.

He also noted that he would meet with Kuwait's Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq during his scheduled visit to the country today to speak about the committee's meeting and other matters on recent developments in the global oil market.

Asked about oil producers' abidance by the Vienna agreement, Barkindo said OPEC and non-OPEC member states are committed to implementing the decision. He added that he was in constant contact with officials of these states, indi-



OPEC's Secretary General Mohammad Barkindo

cating that some OPEC members, including Saudi Arabia, were leading countries in cutting their oil production in accordance with the agreement.

There are two teams tasked with monitoring Moscow's abidance, that is a non-OPEC member, by reducing its oil production by 300,000 bpd, as a move to achieve stability in the global oil market, he affirmed.

Regarding setting oil price at \$55 per barrel, he said there is no certain targeted price in OPEC's policy, adding that the organization concentrates on regaining stability and balance in markets. Last November, OPEC member states' oil ministers agreed to cut production by 1.2 million bpd as of January 1, this year.

Some non-OPEC producers also vowed to decrease their output by 600,000 bpd, as Russia announced that it would cut production by 300,000 bpd. According to last November's meeting in Vienna, OPEC member states agreed to maintain the level of production at 32.5 million bpd. — KUNA

KUWAITI CARDIOLOGIST INNOVATES STRATEGY TO TREAT HEART AILMENTS

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti physician Ahmad Al-Mhawesh has devised a program for maximal immunity against heart disease, which has been approved by global heart foundations. Speaking to the press yesterday, Mhawesh, who is a researcher at the British Heart Foundation and a specialist in prevention of heart disease, said that only a quarter of immunity programs meets guidelines provided by global heart foundations.

Moreover, he noted that he has been feted in a conference of the British Heart Foundation for his groundbreaking work to develop pioneering research on heart science. On his research, which was overseen by some of the world's leading cardiologists, he said that it aimed to uncover whether heart immunity programs in Britain are on par with international standards.

The Kuwaiti physician also added that 90 percent of heart disease symptoms can be averted by preventing risk factors including smoking and a sedentary disposition. He also spoke of his firmness to provide immunity programs backed by scientific facts, which in turn, will be instrumental in establishing a 25 percent decline in the rates of premature deaths. —KUNA



LONDON: Kuwaiti physician Ahmad Al-Mhawesh (right) attends an event organized by the British Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation. - KUNA

CONFERENCE ON RISING VIOLENCE OPENS TODAY

KUWAIT: The Arab Media Women Union (AMWN) is set to hold its inaugural conference today entitled, 'Media and Violence.' It is sponsored by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Speaking yesterday, AMWN's Chairperson Asmaa Habashi said that the conference, to be attended by Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, will feature discussions over how media can be used to stifle the rise in violence and promote harmonious co-existence. Moreover, she noted that the conference also includes a documentary that will chronicle recent achievements by the Arab Media Union, where a bevy of notable media personalities will be honored.

On the conference, Habashi revealed that a series of panel discussions will be held to shed light on women's rights and aspirations, as renowned Arab female

media personalities from 17 nations are expected to convene.

Meanwhile, AMWN's Deputy Chairperson Rabaa Al-Jumaa said that as the host nation of the conference, Kuwait has proved to be a pioneer in the media world for years on end. She also noted that the conference will bring issues germane to women's rights to the limelight, adding that women in the media world have proven themselves to be a force to be reckoned with.

On discussions to be held during the conference, Jumaa underscored that it will bring Arab women in the media world closer together, giving them an opportunity to share their know-how with each other. The AMWN Deputy Chairperson added that former Kuwaiti Minister of Information Mohammad Al-Sanousi will be a guest speaker, where the media icon will speak of his illustrious career and will also touch on the correlation between media and violence. — KUNA

Photo



KUWAIT: Kuwaitis play Dama or 'Turkish draught'; a variant of the draughts (checkers) board game which is common in Kuwait and many other Middle Eastern countries. — Photo by Joseph Shagra



Local **spotlight**

SHEIKH MOHAMMED AL-KHALED, YOU HAVE DONE YOUR PART



By Abdullah Bowair

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verybody is aware of the legacy of Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Sabah ever since he became the minister of interior. Yes, your excellency, you were the right man in the right position. You would not have been chosen if it was not for your great efforts. No one can argue that those efforts kept both citizens and expats safe and secured. Last Muharram, you managed to secure the lives of Husseiniya visitors and people living in Kuwait. You were the first to arrive at Al-Sadeq mosque after His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah when the terrorist explosion took place there. At that time, His Highness gave a practical lesson to the entire world about how a ruler should share his people's joys and sorrows.

Despite realizing the dangers and possible consequences of the explosion, you were keen on showing up and enforcing the law on everybody. You provided security all over Kuwait, on streets and at the borders. You have been and will always be a knight who would not hesitate to punish those who would put Kuwait's security at risk or jeopardize lives. You helped list new materials as narcotics and have always stressed that 'there is no courtesy when it comes to security.' Just like the interior ministry, the ministry of defense is now blessed with you as one of its leaders. I am sure it will benefit from your experience and skills as you always help develop any ministry through your achievements and creativity.

MP SLAMS MINISTER OVER 'MARGINAL STATE' COMMENT

AIRPORT PASSENGERS' CAPACITY UP BY 5 PERCENT

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Riyadh Al-Adasani stressed that His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah should hold his Cabinet members accountable for their responsibilities and to respect diplomatic norms when making statements affecting foreign relations. "We do appreciate our historic relations with Egypt, but we do not accept Justice Minister Dr Faleh Al-Azab making a televised statement in which he said that without Egypt, [Kuwait] would be a marginal country," he said. The lawmaker further threatened to make the minister himself 'a marginal one', likely hinting to filing a grilling motion against him, unless he rectifies his statements.

Final statement

Chairman of the parliament's budgets and final statements committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad said that the committee met the finance minister to discuss the ministry's final statement for the fiscal year 2015-2016 and the State Audit Bureau's related reports. Abdulsamad stressed that the committee recommended acting on the Audit Bureau's remarks. He also noted that due care should be given to assessing the fees to be collected for utilizing public lands, especially since KD 6 million has not so far been collected.

Air traffic

Kuwait International Airport's civil aviation deputy manager for aviation safety affairs Emad Al-Jolowi said air traffic through Kuwait airport increased in 2016 and that 11,762,305 passengers used the airport; a five



MP Riyadh Al-Adasani

percent increase compared to the previous year. Jolowi added that the total number of flights was 104,172, a 2 percent increase, and that arriving passengers totaled 922,507 while 839,798 departed. He explained that the total number of inbound flights was 52,239, while outbound ones were 51,933.

Five million loaves

Production engineer at Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Co Farah Al-Horaiti said that the bakeries produce five million loaves of white and brown bread daily with an average weight of 95 gm and a diameter of 18.5 cm per loaf. Horaiti added that the company's bakeries mainly produce bread, while other products such as buns are produced in the main factory in Subhan and distributed to sale outlets.

Logistic area

Kuwait Municipality intends to remove Sharq industrial area from its current location and turn it into a logistics area to serve the financial and commercial hub the municipality intends to build in Mirqab. Separately, the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) urged the municipality to remove a high-voltage tower from Al-Zour plant to Jabriya W plant.

Solar power

The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) extended the deadline set to submit bids for a tender to build Al-Abdaliya Solar Power Plant for another month, ie from Jan 4 to Feb 5. The Abdaliya Integrated Solar Combined Cycle Project was submitted to the Higher Committee for Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) Projects as part of an unsolicited proposal. The project will develop the first solar thermal power plant in Kuwait. Notably, seven consortiums from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Japan, France, Korea, US, UK and Germany have so far qualified for the project and the authority is still study-

Road projects

Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahamn Al-Mutawa said that an integrated plan to resolve the problem of loose gravel along various roads will be submitted to the parliament soon and that the plan would include using a new asphalt mixture and more control over contractors. In other news, the ministry's assistant undersecretary Ahmed Al-Hassan said KD 253 million of the current fiscal year's budget of KD 383 million had been spent so far. "This is 66 percent of the budget," he underlined, noting that a press conference will be held next week to explain plans on spending the balance as well next year's assessed budget of KD 622 million.

Local spotlight

INCREASE IN MEDICAL FEES



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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ealth Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi announced new increases in fees for health services by mid-February. The new price list released by the ministry of health shows a significant increase in fees for those who enter Kuwait on visit visas. Local newspapers published the list of the new charges.

This issue has two sides. Firstly, the state has the right to refuse to be a center of free treatment for non-residents and temporary visitors who come on visit visas to meet their relatives in Kuwait. I know Arab expat residents here who used to bring in their relatives on visit visas only for treatment, and take advantage of the free or cheap medicines and services. In my view, this is a mistake, because no country in the Gulf provides visitors complimentary medical treatment. No way!

I use medical services in Dubai, for instance. Every time I go there and need to see a doctor, I simply pay the full fees for consultation and therapy and never seek medical treatment free of charge, because it doesn't exist for casual visitors, not unless they have medical insurance that covers them abroad.

So there is no cause for alarm, because it makes no sense that some people bring in their friends and relatives from outside Kuwait to utilize services that should only be allowed for residents. It is very clear now that there is no room for visitors to take advantage of the reduced fees for treatment. The decision is also fair for the people living in Kuwait, especially considering the severe congestions witnessed at medical facilities. The greatest increase will be in the cost of treating tumors - KD 5,000 for visitors - and the reason for this is that the cost of treatment for such illnesses is high and treatment continues for long.

The second aspect is of those who are angry over the increase. They see the interests of their relatives and not that of the state and its residents. A solution for all is possible if all governments set up a health policy for everyone. Health insurance in Western countries is a luxury, but it is still a dream for many people in some Arab countries.

In Kuwait, not everyone has medical insurance, whether citizens or residents, except for some private sector employees and retired citizens. Meanwhile, all citizens in Qatar enjoy this service, knowing that Qatar is the highest spender on healthcare among Arab states, with a per capita rate of \$1,700 per citizen. The numbers indicate that health insurance expenses in Arab countries exceed more than \$30 billion annually.

Health insurance must be provided for every employee, whether citizen or resident, because it will create strong competition between the public and private sectors. Maybe the interior ministry can encourage private health insurance for visitors who wish to use medical services here and are ready to pay. The increase in fees is coming soon, so it is time to say goodbye to free medical treatment.







FOUL MEAT FOUND IN SHUWAIKH WAREHOUSE

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Ministry of Commerce and Industry inspectors managed to seize 4,500 tons of meat unfit for human

consumption, which was found inside a company's warehouse in Shuwaikh. The meat was about to be distributed to various restaurants and central markets, said Eid Al-Rasheedi, the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for

Commercial Control and Consumer Protection. "After sending samples to Ministry of Health's labs, tests showed that the meat was unfit for human consumption," Rasheedi said.

MAN CONFESSES OF ROOMMATE'S FATAL STABBING

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Detectives managed to identify and arrest the murderer of an Egyptian man who was earlier rushed to Adan Hospital by his roommates with a fatal stab wound, the Ministry of Interior's (MoI) relations and media security department said. Security sources said one of the two roommates, who had claimed that he arrived home with the injury, confessed to stabbing him over some old disputes. The second roommate was also arrested as an accomplice and for withholding information from the police.

Environmental violations

The Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd ordered the environment police to be very strict in dealing with environmental violations such as dumping construction waste in residential areas or in those under construction. Fahd also pointed out that according to article 133 of law 42/2014, amended by law number 99/2015, "those who dump any kind of waste in non-designated locations or dumpsters will be fined KD 50-500".

No injuries

A vehicle burst into flames along Fahaheel Expressway, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene and managed to control the fire without any casualties. An investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.



KUWAIT: A vehicle damaged by fire is seen at Fahaheel Expressway.



SAN DIEGO: The Kuwait Environment Protection Society's Chairperson Wajdan Al-Ugab (right) poses with the center's officials.—KUNA

KEPS BONDS WITH US RESERVE

KUWAIT: Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) has worked out a long-distance 'partnership program' with a major center for conserving wildlife in Saint Diego, California, the United States of America. The society chairperson, Wajdan Al-Ugab, said in a statement yesterday that the partnership would be beneficial for students and visitors to the society's educational center which simulates the nature.

The two sides will exchange programs, information about the marine life in the two countries as well useful proposals and ideas, via the internet and other digital means, she said. The US center is a coastal reserve, rich in botanic species. Personnel at the society headquarters in Kuwait can examine the creatures, namely green turtles, in the US reserve. — KUNA

NASSER MOHAMEMD AL-SAYER FOODSTUFF COMPANY JOINS HORECA

KUWAIT: Preparations for the Horeca Kuwait 2017 exhibition are steadily progressing, and the event is attracting more companies to take part, since it is an event which provides a golden opportunity to exchange expertise to meet the local market's needs and future expansion plans.

In this regard, Nasser Mohamemd Al-Sayer Foodstuff Company announced its intention to join other companies specialized in hospitality, hotel equipment, catering, transportation, cooking gas and design, which have already



Abdul Kareem Waheed

signed up to take part in Horeca Kuwait 2017 exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, Al-Sayer Company's Commercial Manager Abdul Kareem Waheed said that Al-Sayer's refreshments factory was established in 1977, and that it started by acting as the exclusive agent of RC Cola, Maaza and Club Soda brands. At the same time, the factory won the franchise rights to bottle Royal Crown and Magic energy beverages.

Waheed added that the factory then started manufacturing Pet Cups of Alza juices and bottled water, as well as Kix and DNA power beverages. The factory was awarded the ISO 9001, ISO2-14001, HACCP2 and OHSAS 18001 awards, he added.

Nasser Mohammed Al-Sayer Foodstuff Company (WLL) was founded in 1958 and started as a wholesale company distributing foodstuff mainly imported from Europe and the Middle East such as Loaker, Astra, Cavalier, Cedrinic and Banat brands, Waheed noted. "Ever since its establishment, the company has come a long way through its strict and healthy storage systems as well as the distribution of its products in fully-refrigerated trucks that keeps food fresh," he added.

Waheed also noted that Al-Sayer has a long experience in providing the Kuwaiti markets with kitchens and kitchen equipment since 1994, adding that it is the exclusive agent of Modular, True, Alma, Bezzera, Ordao, Franke, Caplain, Corec and Hamilton Beach products.

Horeca Kuwait 2017 has so far attracted over 80 companies due to display their products in the presence of a group of international experts and chefs and a large group of company and hotel owners. The exhibition is organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref on January 16-18, 2017.









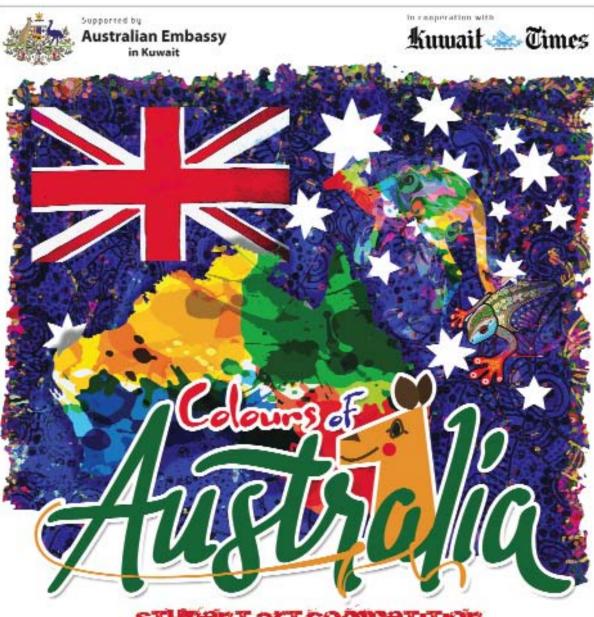








KUWAIT: Traffic police launched several inspection campaigns in various governorates, resulting in filing 29,566 traffic citations, impounding 46 vehicles and five bikes, arresting 38 motorists for committing serious traffic violations, deporting an expat for driving without a license, and referring 12 suspects to other relevant authorities.



STUDENT ART COMPETITION

12 December 2016 to 26 January 2017

HELLO ARTISTS

Welcome to the student art competition. We hope you are ready to produce a beautiful painting and win valuable prizes. The theme for your painting is



Australia is a land of many colours, in the diversity of its landscape, animals, food and people. Show us what you think of when you imagine Australia!

Good Luck To You...

Spansaced by -







- Competition is open to students from (6 · 9 years.) (10 · 13 years) (14 years and above) and students with special needs. The competition is open to all schools in Kuwait (Government and Private)
- 10 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation. All schools participating in the competition will receive a certificate of appreciation.
 Any schools or individuals interested in participating are welcome to visit the office of Kirwait Times and collect the

You may use any drawing material such as colour pencils, paint or crayons

 Drawing sheets will be given to schools FREE of charge. Only drawing sheets provided by the Kuwalt Times will be permitted for use in the competition.

INFORMATION MINISTRY LISTS DETAILS OF BANNED, RESTRICTED COMMERCIAL ADS

LAW BECAME EFFECTIVE AFTER BEING PUBLISHED IN OFFICIAL GAZETTE

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Information released the following law which became effective after it was published in Kuwait Al-Youm - the state's official gazette - recently. It regulates the process of advertising in the local media in terms of banned topics. The list includes banning tobacco ads, prohibition politically or religiously motivated advertisements, and requiring a ministry license to publish ads for weapons of mass destruction, among others. The following is a full transcript for the new law:

Information Ministry ministerial decision no. 167/2016 with regards to banning publication and broadcast of commercial ads and others.

Article One

It is stipulated that to publish or broadcast any commercial advertisement or others in print, newspaper or audiovisual and electronic media the following conditions apply:

- The ad should not violate active legislations.
- The ad should not violate rules of public order or general ethics.

Article Two

It is not allowed to publish any commercial advertisement or others in printed matter, newspapers and audiovisual and electronic media if they included the following:

- Slogans that glorify countries over others.
- Photos that glorify some political or religious personalities in countries that have political or religious
- Slogans that glorify or support some religious or political parties in Kuwait or abroad.
- Compromising national unity, Islamic values and principals and the status of religious symbols.
- Fireworks, explosives, detonators of all types, sound weapons, teargas bombs or those that cause temporary blindness.
- Material of security nature.
- Urging juveniles to commit violence or crimes.
- Harassing children being cared for by the Social Affairs and Labor Ministry.

Derogation of the disabled or dis-



criminating between them and their healthy peers.

- What nurseries are doing in violation of the internal rules that regulate the work of those nurseries, especially ads related to the follow-
- 1. Accepting children who are above four years old.
- 2. Giving refresher courses for children, or opening a club for them.
- **3.** Opening sports classes inside the nursery.
- Selling books of sorcery.
- Buying citizens' civil IDs for

• Practicing sorcery and healing

underwriting on their behalf in shareholding companies of all types. • Cigarettes, tobacco and its derivatives.

Article Three

- It is not allowed to publish or broadcast any commercial advertisements or others in printed matter, newspapers and audiovisual and electronic media until after obtaining a license from the interior ministry if they contain the following:
- Selling and dealing with all types of metal and air weapons.
- Selling surveillance cameras and tapping systems.
- Services presented by companies using the interior ministry's automated systems.
- Weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical, biological).
- Masks or individual protection equipment related to mass destruction weapons, or systems that are related to radiation, chemical or biological gauging.

Article Four Publishing or broadcasting any commercial advertisement in printed matter, newspapers and audiovisual or electronic media if they include the following:

- Fund operations and financial facilities such as loans, auto buying or things sold on credit (so called cashing), or payment or debts until after obtaining a prior approval from the commerce and industry ministry.
- Marketing offers related to sales, gifts or free prizes, or collecting funds on behalf of others, or selling real estate out of Kuwait, until after obtaining prior approval from the ministry of commerce and industry.
- Spiritual treatment and healing without license from the health min-
- Medicines, stimulants, herbs, cosmetics and material related to health mentioned in law 38/2002 until after obtaining a license from the health ministry.
- Publicity from or about an educational establishment, university or unaccredited college without approval from the ministry of higher education or private universities
- Offering private lessons for any educational stage, prepare or offer notes, research or model answers until after obtaining a prior license from the education and higher education ministry.
- Holding a charity bazaar in order to collect money or suchlike until after obtaining the approval of the social affairs and labor ministry.
- Collecting donations for local or foreign bodies until after obtaining the approval of the social affairs and labor ministry.
- Renting ships or carrying out sea trips until after the approval of the communications ministry.
- Promoting food prepared in private homes, as well as drinks, until after the approval of the municipality.

Article Five

The licensed commercial advertisement should include the licensing body and license number in a clearly visible place.

Article Six

Decrees 50/2010 and 80/2016 shall be null and void.





His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah



Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled



Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh



Cabinet Affairs Minister Sheikh **Mohammad Al-Abdullah**



Social and Economic Affairs Minister Dr **Hind Al-Sabeeh**



Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouq



Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud



Information and Youth Affairs Minister Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah



Housing Minister Yasser Abul



Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi

GOVERNMENT NAMES MEMBERS OF STATE'S SUPREME COUNCILS

LIST INCLUDES MINISTERS, SENIOR OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: Following the Cabinet's formation that succeeded last November's parliament elections, the government formed its supreme councils which oversee the process of discussing and approving regulations that govern its work in various fields, including petroleum, development and privatization. The following is the list of supreme councils and their respective members - who consist of cabinet ministers and other senior state officials - as published in last week's edition of the state's official gazette 'Kuwait Al-Youm':

• The Supreme Petroleum Council:

- 1- His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (Chairman).
- 2- First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. 3- Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh.
- 4- Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.
- 5- Minister of State for Economic Affairs Dr Hind Al-Sabeeh.
- 6- Minister of Oil, Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzoug.
- 7- Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel

• The Supreme Council for **Planning and Development:** 1- His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh

- Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (Chairman).
- 2- Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh.
- 3- Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.
- 4- Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.
- 5- Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Dr Hind
- Al-Sabeeh. 6- Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled
- Al-Roudhan. 7- Minister of Education and Minister of 6- Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares.

The Civil Service Council:

- 1- His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (Chairman). 2- Deputy Prime Minister and Finance
- 3- Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

Minister Anas Al-Saleh.

- 4- Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Dr Hind Al-Sabeeh.
- 5- Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan.
- 6- Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares. (Note: a decision was later issued to deputize Minister Saleh to chair the council).

• The Supreme Council for Privatization: 1- His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh

- Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (Chairman).
- 2- Minister of State for Economic Affairs Dr Hind Al-Sabeeh.
- 3- Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Utilities Affairs Yasser
- 4- Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan.
- 5- Minister of Oil Essam Al-Marzoug. (Note: a decision was later issued to deputize Minister Sabeeh to chair the council).

• The Supreme Council for Family Affairs (newly formed):

- 1- His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (Chairman). 2- Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-
- 3- Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Dr Hind Al-Sabeeh.

Humoud Al-Sabah.

- 4- Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi. 5- Minister of Education and Minister of
- Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares.

Awqaf Minister Mohammad Al-Jabri

Mohammad Al-Jabri

7- Five experienced persons appointed by the Prime Minister for a three-year renewable

(Note: a decision was later issued to deputize Minister Sabeeh to chair the council).

• The Supreme Council for **Citizenship Verification:**

- 1- Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah (Chairman).
- 2- Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.
- 3- Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.
- 4- Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Faleh Al-Azb.
- 5- Secretary General of the Cabinet Abdullatif Al-Roudhan.
- 6- Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah.



Central Bank's Governor Dr Mohammad Al-



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah



National Assembly Affairs Minister Dr Faleh Al-Azb.



Education Minister Dr Mohammad Al-Fares.

BUSINESS **COUNCIL LAUNCHES** WEBSITE

DUBAI: Kuwait Business Council in Dubai (KBC) announced yesterday that it launched an official website to provide adequate information and data on Kuwaiti business ventures in Dubai and the northern parts of the UAE.

According to a statement by the Council, the information on the website will be displayed both in the Arabic and English languages. The website will also offer documents allowing business personnel to become members of the council, KBC said. The **Kuwait Business Council** was formed in 2016 under the umbrella of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.— KUNA





Report

WORKER DIES IN MINA ABDULLAH MISHAP

KUWAIT: An Egyptian man was killed when he fell under a pile of sand he was unloading from a truck at a factory in Mina Abdullah. Security sources said that his colleagues were not quick enough in digging him out.

Man falls into grave

An overweight citizen fell into an open grave at Sulaibikhat cemetery. Security sources said the man felt sick and dizzy after attending a funeral, and accidentally fell into the grave. Firemen had to be dispatched to the scene to pull him out safely.

Smuggling foiled

An Asian woman was arrested on arrival at Kuwait International Airport with possession of one kilogram and a half of qat she had hidden in some foodstuff. The woman was taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Employee mugged

An Egyptian man working for a private company reported that two unidentified robbers stopped him on his way home, assaulted him and stole a bag he had with three passports and KD 4,000 in cash in it. A case was filed and investigations are underway to identify and arrest the suspects. Separately, a search is on for seven unidentified robbers who assaulted an Asian man and stole gold bracelets and KD 250 in cash from him.

Sexual assault

A female citizen reported that someone she knows and with whom she was dining out with at a Salmiya restaurant started touching her body and tried to kiss her forcibly inside a cabin in the restaurant. She added that she reprimanded him several times, but had to leave and file a report when he went too far.

Camp robbed

A camp guard reported that three unidentified people attacked him with a knife and stole a power generator and a TV set from the camp. A case was filed and detectives were sent to take fingerprints from the scene.

Drunk driving

Two citizens - including a police cadet - were arrested, when under the effect of alcohol and drugs, they drove a vehicle in a reckless manner. They stopped at a green traffic light and sped off when it turned red. Security sources noted that a police patrol chased the suspects before they were forced to pull over. A case was filed. — Translated by Kuwait times from the Arabic press

ZAIN COLLECTS TONS OF DONATED CLOTHES FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

In collaboration with Kuwait Society for Relief

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the collection of over 10.5 tons of donated clothes for Syrian refugees. The clothes were donated as part of a humanitarian campaign Zain launched in collaboration with Kuwait Society for Relief and the Union of Kuwait University Students.

This humanitarian and social initiative, launched by Zain for the third consecutive year, aims at supporting Syrian refugees who are in urgent need of clothes during the harsh winter conditions. The campaign also delivers the company's commitment to continually support charitable causes as part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy, as well as encourage Zain employees and Kuwaiti youth to take part in the spirit of giving.

The campaign continued throughout two weeks, where four donation boxes were placed in Zain's main headquarters in Shuwaikh, the College of Arts in Kaifan, the College of Social Sciences in Shuwaikh, and the College of Engineering and Petroleum in Khaldiya. Zain employees and Kuwait University students collected over 10.5 tons of clothes, and they were sent to Syrian refugees by Kuwait Society for Relief.

Zain believes in extending a helping hand to support those who are less advantaged. The company strongly believes that similar charitable programs help infuse a sense of responsibility into members of the society, to help support those who are in need of aid.

As part of Zain's aid to refugees, a team of volunteering employees recently participated in a humanitarian visit to aid Syrian refugees and displaced families in Lebanon as part of Zain's ongoing humanitarian strategic partnership with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS). The team visited multiple KRCS-supported destinations to offer aid and support, including the Lebanese Bakeries project, Dar Al Zahra Hospital, Orange Nassau hospital, the water plant project, the thermal insulation project, as well as visiting and distributing aid relief kits to five different camps.

Zain's core values are built to give to the less fortunate, and the company is keen on participating in various internal and external charitable initiatives that promote the culture of giving and highlight how people can exert little effort while making a huge difference in others' lives.





الجريدة

A GLOOMY FUTURE

By Hassan Al-Essa

Al-Jarida

blogger recently re-posted Al-Rai TV's interview with MP Adnan Abdulsamad, the Head of the parliament's budgets committee. Though the interview was a few months old, the figures that he had mentioned did not change, nor did the government deny them. He said that, in addition to his salary and bonus, an undersecretary annually receives around KD 60,000 as allowances in return for extra tasks as being a part of work teams, committees, boards of directors, etc. Samad added that, in addition to his KD 5,500 monthly salary, a foreign advisor annually gets KD 9,20,000 as bonuses, and a senior official working in a body related to public funds gets the same, and that his deputy gets much more.

Such figures are few examples of profiteering in state departments. It is one of innumerable forms of corruption that are often considered non-discussable taboos because it is linked to some influential people. These taboos were kept under lids till the interview took place, about which nobody was concerned during

the previous years of oil affluence. Everyone was drugged with grants and salary incentives that flooded Kuwait after the Arab Spring as a means to 'keep a hand in each mouth' (bribe works miracles). However, despite the government's warnings, I have so far not heard any governmental statements that can correct or deny Abdulsamad's comments when he addressed minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah as the head of the Civil Services Commission. The lawmaker warned that the 'knife has reached the bones,' but it seems like this knife is going to pierce through many of this country's citizens.

We have repeatedly asked senior officials to set good examples for people to follow in distress, to show more loyalty and to fight corruption in departments under their jurisdiction. Until then, citizens will not stop giving and sacrificing for their and their kids' future. The gap is widening and the government has no vision on bridging it. Your future is very gloomy.

Translated by Kuwait Times

چرپدة.

Al-Jari

NEW YEAR OR NEW WORLD?!

By Prof Ghanem Al-Najjar

busy with wishes and resolutions, while others checked horoscopes and predicted events and changes, some of which might prove right, while others will prove them wrong, as is the nature of everything. However, 2017 might mark new aspects and headlines of a new era in human history.

Towards the end of the 1980s and after the Soviet Union broke apart and 15 new states resulted from the process and by the end of the Cold War, strategic experts expected a new era with the end of a bipolar system to form a new unipolar international one led by the US, which was immediately tested during the Desert Storm or Kuwait Liberation War in 1991. One of the main aspects of this new system was then known as 'humanitarian intervention', by using power to serve rights.

This did not last long, though. The promised new system failed in 'Operation Restore Hope' in 1994 in Somalia. Ever since, much water has run under bridges. The sure thing is that the so-called new system was nothing but a mirage, where the Soviet Union was substituted with global war on terrorism and we are still up to our necks in it and the tragic consequences witnessed everywhere worldwide might be a result thereof. Another symbolic result was the drowning of hundreds of thousands in various oceans while trying to flee devastating and brutal wars that are more like results than they are causes.

Total statistics so far push us back to be nostalgic, call for nationalism and have popular leaders go out to political arenas, especially in Western systems that create the world's balance. What we are currently witnessing in the West is more of a tendency towards extremism, enclosure, rejection and building walls to exclude immigrants. It is very probable that Donald Trump, for instance, will not succeed in building a wall along the 2,000-km-long border with Mexico.

However, what is more important than logistics needed to construct projects like this is that they indicate what is yet to come. If the colonial West is considering detachment and retroversion, what open world are we talking about, then? What is even more important is the mentality behind such projects; one that, if it continues multiplying, we are doomed to witness further destruction, disintegration and marginalization of the human race. Though I believe that an international system based on such factors is doomed to failure, so much drowning, blood, grief and pain for millions might bring the world back to some balances and quests to get humanity out of such a state of loss.

The real problem is that the human race is the only one that annihilates itself without due reason, in most cases.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



OOREDOO HOLDS SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING SEMINAR FOR GSSCPD EMPLOYEES



KUWAIT: Ooredoo, the fastest network in Kuwait, held a training session for the employees of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development at Ooredoo's head office in Kuwait City. The session was presented by Senior Manager of Social Media, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Sponsorship Yousef Al-Shallal.

Ooredoo was selected due to its leadership and innovation in the field of social media in the private sector, especially as one of the fastest-growing accounts in Kuwait. The training session covered a number of key areas, such as setting strategies to increase engagement on social media, setting clear goals, and handling customer interaction on social media accounts.

The training program was conducted in coordination with the United Nations Development Program in Kuwait. The training session was concluded with questions and answers, in addition to an open discussion about the latest trends, concerns and problems facing individuals handling social media accounts for corporate and government entities.

Empowering youth is among Ooredoo's top priorities through its CSR strategy. The company has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, to support youth projects and initiatives. Ooredoo is continuously working with the Ministry to enrich youth experience in a variety of fields, with a focus on volunteerism.



Kuwait Times 55. International

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017

SMALL PERCENTAGE OF US HATE CRIMES AIMED AT WHITES

Akufo-Addo takes oath as **Ghana president**

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BOUAKE, Ivory Coast: A delegation of mutineer soldiers stand at the entrance to the deputy prefect's residence yesterday for talks with the defense minister one day after soldiers rose up and seized control of Ivory Coast's second city. — AP

IVORY COAST ARMY REVOLT SPREADS

GOVT SEEKS TO DEFUSE TROOPS' MUTINY AS UNREST GROWS

entered Ivory Coast's military headquarters and fired into the air inside the compound housing the defense ministry on Saturday, a diplomatic source said, and the defense minister sought to negotiate an end to their two-day revolt. The uprising began early on Friday when disgruntled soldiers mainly former rebel fighters - demanding wage increases and bonuses seized Bouake, the second-largest city, then spread to at least four other cities and towns later in the day.

Residents and soldiers reported shooting in Man, Toulepleu, Bondoukou and Abidjan, a city of nearly 5 million residents where the president, administration and parliament are based. "There's a lot of shooting in the air inside the ministry of defense," said the diplomatic source who saw and spoke to the mutineers. "It's in the hands of the bad guys." Rogue soldiers had also erected makeshift barricades around the nearby military headquarters, the source said. President Alassane Ouattara was visiting neighboring Ghana for the swearing-in of its new president, after

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast: Mutinying soldiers — which he returned to Abidjan in the after- — night in the northern city of Korhogo and — some demobilized combatants. Nearly all 📑 noon for a special cabinet meeting. Yesterday saw the revolt rapidly gain momentum as angry soldiers took to the streets in town after town, often firing their guns in the air and warning residents to return home. Defense Minister Alain-Richard Donwahi travelled to Bouake yesterday in an attempt to negotiate with the mutiny's leaders and quell the uprising. "I came, as promised, to meet with our brothers. I am there to reassure them, as the president asked me to," Donwahi said before meeting with leaders of the revolt. "We are going to listen and find a solution."

Standoff

Ivory Coast - French-speaking West Africa's largest economy - has emerged from a 2002-11 political crisis as one of the continent's rising economic stars. However, years of conflict and a failure to reform its army, thrown together from a patchwork of former rebel fighters and government soldiers, have left it with an unruly force hobbled by internal divisions.

Heavy gunfire was heard during the

early on Saturday in Bouake. The revolt then spread to the Akouedo military base located in a residential section of Abidjan, where gunfire was confirmed by a soldier inside the camp and a local resident. Another diplomatic source said armed dissident soldiers - some of whom blackened their faces with ashes or wore scarves around their heads - blocked a main road near the camp and threatened people in passing cars. Loyalist troops sought to reinforce security in Abidjan. A Reuters reporter saw elite Republican Guard soldiers deployed on two of the three bridges spanning the lagoon that divides the city's northern and southern halves. Members of a special police and military security unit were positioned near the third bridge, the first diplomat said.

Abidjan residents, meanwhile, rushed to supermarkets to buy bottled water and other provisions, fearing violence could eventually paralyze the city. A Reuters reporter in Bouake, who met some of the mutineers, said they were composed of low-ranking soldiers but also included

appeared to be former members of the New Forces rebellion, which had used Bouake as its de facto capital and controlled the northern half of Ivory Coast from 2002 until the country was reunited following a 2011 civil war.

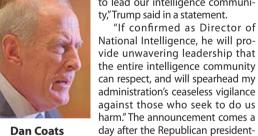
Defense Minister Donwahi arrived in Bouake in the early afternoon accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Issiaka Ouattara, known as Wattao, a former rebel leader who is now the deputy commander of the Republican Guard. Troop reinforcements were sent towards Bouake on Friday after word of the revolt reached the army headquarters in Abidjan, creating a standoff with renegade soldiers holding positions at the entrance to the city.

Soldiers from the country's UN peacekeeping mission were also blocked on the outskirts of Bouake yesterday after mutineers refused to let them enter. During a similar uprising in 2014, when hundreds of soldiers barricaded roads in cities across Ivory Coast demanding back pay, the government agreed a financial settlement. — Reuters

TRUMP PICKS COATS FOR INTEL DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON: President-elect Donald Trump yesterday formally announced former Indiana Senator Dan Coats as his pick for US director of national intelligence. A mild-mannered former ambassador to Germany who also served on the Senate Intelligence Committee, Coats was widely tipped for the job coordinating 16 intelligence and security agencies - a position Trump may slim down. "Dan has clearly demonstrat-

ed the deep subject matter expertise and sound judgment required to lead our intelligence community,"Trump said in a statement.



Dan Coats

elect met the country's leading intelligence agency chiefs - including the current director of national intelligence, James Clapper, and CIA chief John Brennan - who told him that Russian President Vladimir Putin directed a vast cyberattack against mainly Democratic organizations aimed at helping install Trump in the White House.

But the selection of Coats, 73, may go some way toward reassuring those critical of Trump's praise for Putin and stated desire to improve relations with Moscow. Coats - who served as a Republican senator from Indiana from 1989 to 1999, and then from 2011 to the end of his term on Tuesday - was one of six US legislators and three White House aides blacklisted by Moscow in 2014 in reprisal for US sanctions placed on the country for its seizure of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. — AFP

MICHELLE OBAMA ISSUES EMOTIVE PARTING MESSAGE

WASHINGTON: Michelle Obama urged young Americans not to fear the future but fight for it, delivering an emotive farewell speech Friday in which she said being first lady was the greatest honor of her life. After eight years in the White House, the 52-year-old will be leaving

with her husband Barack Obama on Jan 20, when Donald Trump is sworn in as president. "For all the young people in this room and those who are watching, know that this country belongs to you, to all of you, from every background and walk of life," she said in the East Room of



WASHINGTON: First lady Michelle Obama smiles as she speaks at the 2017 School Counselor of the Year ceremony in the East Room of the White House on Friday. — AP

the White House. "Being the first lady has been the greatest honor of my life," she said at an event for School Counselor of the Year. "I hope I have made you proud."

As first lady, Obama focused her public role on encouraging healthy lifestyles, education for girls and in supporting military families. But it was as a role model for minorities that the first African-American first lady wielded the most influence - most spectacularly by denouncing Donald Trump's attacks on immigrants and Muslims during the White House race. "If you or your parents are immigrants, know that you are part of a proud American tradition," she told the audience. "With a lot of hard work and a good education, anything is possible, including becoming president. That's what the American dream is all about," she said. "Know that religious diversity is a great American tradition too," Obama said. "Our glorious diversity is what makes us who we are."

'Don't be afraid'

During last year's campaign Obama was a vociferous critic of Trump. She made no direct reference to the president-elect Friday but the mogul's victory framed her remarks. "You cannot take your freedom for granted," Obama said. "You have to do your part to protect and preserve those freedoms. So don't be afraid - you hear me young people?

Don't be afraid, be focused, be determined, be empowered... lead by example, with hope, never fear."

In a speech delivered in New Hampshire in October, a few weeks before the election, the first lady had denounced, her voice trembling with emotion, what she called Trump's "frightening" attitude towards women. "It has shaken me to my core in a way that I couldn't have predicted," Obama said, in a takedown of the now president-elect that sent shockwaves around the country and beyond. "This is not normal. This is not politics as usual. This is disgraceful. It is intolerable," she charged.

In addition to her work combatting obesity and assisting veterans' families, over the last two years Obama has spoken more pointedly on questions of race and inequality in American society. A recent Pew Research poll found that 72 percent of Americans hold a favorable opinion of the first lady.

But despite her political superstar status and a reputation for style, wit and tact, Obama has repeatedly said she has no electoral ambitions herself. "Michelle will never run for office," Barack Obama reiterated in an interview several weeks ago. "She is as talented a person as I know. You can see the incredible resonance she has with the American people. But I joke that she's too sensible to want to be in politics." — AP

S.No	Position	EXP
1	Construction superintendent-	15 yrs
2	QC Manager	10 yrs
3	RMS Manager	10 yrs
4	HSE Manager	10 yrs
5	Sr. MEP Engineer	15 yrs
6	Planning Engineer	10 yrs
7	Sr. Quantity Surveyor	10 yrs
8	Civil Engineer	8 yrs
9	Civil Engineer - PEB	12 yrs
10	Site Engineer - MEP	10 yrs
11	Safety Officer	7 yrs
12	Land Surveyors	12yrs
13	Document Controller	7 yrs
14	Supervisor(Civil)	12 yrs
15	Store Keeper	
16	Drivers	

TURKISH PM VISITS IRAQ AMID SPAT OVER TROOPS

BAGHDAD: Iraq and Turkey's prime ministers held talks yesterday in Baghdad which both said reflected progress in resolving a bitter row over the presence of Turkish troops in northern Iraq. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said at a joint press conference after meeting Turkey's Binali Yildirim that the issue would be solved soon. "The prime minister and the delegation accompanying him confirmed that this issue will be solved in a satisfactory manner soon," he said.

Turkey has for some time maintained troops at a base near Bashiqa, a town just northeast of Mosul, and reinforcements dispatched there in 2015 led to a deterioration in relations between the two neighbors. Baghdad has accused Turkey of violating its sovereignty but Ankara has insisted rebels from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) who are based in northern Iraq should be dealt with. Yildirim yesterday said Abadi had provided such assurances. "This is very important for us. We were very pleased with this and it shows in the best way what we can do in the fight against terror," he told reporters. The PKK, a Turkish organization, and its local allies control key areas in the Sinjar region, which lies between Mosul and Syria, south of the Turkish border. Ankara has blamed a number of recent deadly attacks in Turkey on the PKK and has hinted it would not hesitate to cross the border to hunt down the Kurdish separatists.

Mosul battle

Abadi said he had a deal with the autonomous Iraqi Kurdish region for its forces to establish control over the Sinjar

area. "It should be under the full control of Iraqi forces and any outside forces are not allowed to control this area," Abadi said. Yildirim said his government was committed to respecting and supporting Irag's sovereignty. Tens of thousands of Iraqi forces on Oct 17 launched a broad offensive, the country's largest in years, to retake Mosul from the Islamic State jihadist group.

The Turkish troops based outside Bashiga, which was recaptured from IS in Nov 2016, have offered some artillery support but largely stayed out of the battle. Ankara has insisted Mosul must keep its Sunni Arab Muslim majority which it had before IS took over the city from woefully unprepared Iraqi troops in 2014. Yildirim suggested that Turkey would pull its troops out of Bashiga once the battle for Mosul is over. —AFP



BAGHDAD: Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim (left) and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi hold a joint press conference after the Turkey-Iraq High Level Strategic Cooperation Council meeting at the governmental palace yesterday. — AFP



DOUMA, Syria: A Syrian man rides a bicycle past destroyed buildings in this rebel-held town on the eastern outskirts of the capital Damascus yesterday. —AFP

US GOES FROM BANDLEADER TO BYSTANDER IN SYRIA WAR

ADMIN NO LONGER EVEN CLAIMING TO PLAY LEADING PART

WASHINGTON: Stung by years of failure to stop Syria's bloodshed, the United States is now but a bystander to the civil war as President Barack Obama leaves office. Secretary of State John Kerry still is speaking sporadically with Russian, Turkish and Arab foreign ministers about ceasefire efforts, and there are occasional consultations with the opposition. But less than two weeks before Donald Trump's presidency begins, the outgoing administration is no longer even claiming to play the leading part in the peace mediation that it spearheaded unsuccessfully for years. Formal contacts with Russia and others in Geneva, the main meeting point for the US-led diplomacy, have ended.

Leadership has been ceded to Russia and, to a lesser degree, Turkey and Iran. After helping Syria's military oust the remaining rebels in Aleppo last month, Moscow has cast itself as the would-be peacemaker, clinching a new truce without Washington's help and announcing Friday that it was starting to draw down its forces in the region. Russian envoys also are organizing the first talks between the Syrian government and opposition in nearly a year, set for later this month in Astana, Kazakhstan.

"We still are at the proverbial table," State Department spokesman John Kirby said Friday. "We may not be at the table in Astana, we may not be at the table in Moscow, I understand that. But it's not like we are walking away from Syria." He added later: "We aren't connected to this piece of it. It's not like we're pulling out from the whole puzzle."

With no indication about how the incoming Trump administration intends to proceed on Syria, US diplomats are wary of engaging in any new initiatives that would require a sustained American role. As a result, it is ambivalent about attending even in an observer role the proposed peace meeting. Turkey has told the US its presence would be acceptable. American officials said, but Washington has yet to make a decision.

Drawbacks

The diminution of the American role could have drawbacks. Obama demanded almost six years ago that Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad leave power and allow for a democratic transition. But Obama's reticence to plunge the US into another Mideast war meant the United States never had the capability to shape such an outcome. Its increasingly marginal role in recent months means it could have even less capacity to help shape Syria's future and safeguard vital American interests, such as Israel's security and fighting the Islamic State group.

On the other hand, Obama hands the baton to Trump without any large-scale military or diplomatic engagement in Syria. The president never wanted to own the conflict, which has killed up to a half-million people and prompted millions to flee as refugees. And his reticence to intervene at least means Trump will have flexibility, which Obama didn't have in inheriting the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

In a farewell news conference Thursday,

Kerry insisted the administration hadn't given up on Syria and that he hoped the warring sides could get to "real negotiations" on a peace agreement. But some officials were frustrated by the administration essentially withdrawing from the process. For example, Kerry hasn't spoken to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov since Dec 27. Their discussions occurred almost daily at some points last year.

Two US officials said the administration was content to let the Russians, Turks and Iranians now try their hand at the complicated task of forging peace in Syria. The prevailing attitude, they said, was to let those countries find out for themselves the difficulty of the task. Russia, which backs the Syrian government, and Turkey, a strong supporter of Syria's moderate opposition, brokered the current shaky cease-fire, which came into effect on Dec 30. The truce has mostly held but not altogether halted fighting: the government and opposition have blamed each other for violations. The truce doesn't include areas in Syria controlled by IS.

The US is pressing on with its effort in that campaign, and Trump and his national security advisers have said it will be a top priority for them. The Obama administration has an undisclosed number of special operations troops, presumably around 200-250, in Syria. They are advising and assisting what the Americans call the Syrian Democratic Forces, which is comprised of Syrian Kurds and Arabs. Some of the Americans are embedded with the SDF in northern Syria. — AP

FORCES CLOSE IN ON TIGRIS IN IS STRONGHOLD MOSUL

MOSUL: Iraqi special forces closed in on the Tigris river that runs through central Mosul yesterday, advancing in parallel with other troops and forcing Islamic State to retreat in its last major stronghold in the country. Islamic State has been driven out of more than half the areas it held east of the Tigris river, which bisects the city, but is still in control of the west. It will be harder for the militants to defend Mosul once Iraqi forces reach the river.

The battle for the city has yet to be won but is beginning to make quicker progress. Iraqi counter-terrorism forces pushed to within several hundred meters of the Tigris and a strategic bridge on Saturday, the closest they have been, after staging an unprecedented nighttime assault the day before in a nearby district, a spokesman said. Advances in recent days have driven militants out of several additional areas east of the river.

The counter-terrorism service (CTS) spokesman said new tactics and better coordination were helping. "Counter-terrorism forces have been sent about 500 metres from the fourth bridge," Sabah Al-Numan told reporters east of Mosul. A coalition spokesman said on Twitter that Islamic State had damaged the fourth bridge in a "desperate act" as they lost

ground. The bridge has already been hit by U\S-led air strikes to prevent the militants sending reinforcements across the city.

CTS seized the Ghufran district, also known as Al-Baath, and entered adjacent Wahda, Numan said. A separate military statement said Iraqi federal police had recaptured a hospital complex in Wahda in southeastern Mosul, a significant turnaround after U.S.-backed army units were forced to withdraw from the site last month under fierce counter-attacks from Islamic State. CTS and federal police "are now moving in parallel on both axes" in southeastern Mosul, Numan said.

"We are proceeding side by side ... and advancing at the same level. This is a very important factor, thanks to which Daesh (Islamic State) has not been able to move its fighters. It has to support one axis (front) at the expense of another." "We have worn down the terrorist organization with this type of advance." Senior CTS commanders met yesterday at a makeshift outpost in eastern Mosul where life in areas recaptured from Islamic State is slowly returning to normal despite heavy damage to homes and infrastructure. Residents lined the streets and vendors sold produce. eggs and meat in areas where clashes raged just a few weeks earlier. — Reuters



BARTELLA, Iraq: An Iraqi man carries his children near this town as people return to their liberated neighborhoods in eastern Mosul yesterday. — AFP

PALESTINIANS BURY ALLEGED ASSAILANTS KILLED IN ATTACKS

HEBRON: Around 1,500 mourners attended the funerals yesterday in the West Bank city of Hebron of two alleged Palestinian assailants killed by Israeli troops last year. Hatem Shaludi, 25, and 16-year-old Mohammed Rajabi were both shot dead in September during separate alleged stabbing attacks on Israeli soldiers in the occupied city. Israeli authorities returned their bodies

for burial by their families on Friday. Since Oct 2015, 246 Palestinians, 36 Israelis, two Americans, a Jordanian, an Eritrean and a Sudanese have been killed in a wave of violence, according to an AFP count. Most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks, according to Israeli authorities. Others were shot dead during protests or clashes, while some died in Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip. Since the start of the violence, Israeli forces have confiscated the bodies of killed Palestinians, often for several months, as a means of deterrence and

to prevent clashes during funerals. Israel is still withholding the remains of seven Palestinians, from east Jerusalem and the West Bank, including three from Hebron which is a frequent hotspot. Mourners at yesterday's funerals carried pictures of the deceased, Palestinian national flags and banners of various Palestinian groups, including the Islamist militant movement Hamas. It was not known, however, if either Shaludi or Rajabi were directly linked to

Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip. Israel said last week that it would not release the bodies of Hamas militants killed during attacks on Israelis but would instead bury them itself. The decision by the security cabinet followed the release by Hamas of video footage showing a mock birthday party for Israeli soldier Oron Shaul, believed by the army to have been killed in the 2014 Gaza war. The government did not elaborate on the burial plan, but said that the same meeting discussed ways of getting back the remains of Shaul and another soldier killed in the Gaza war and obtaining the release of two Israeli civilians missing in Gaza and believed to be held by Hamas. In September, a senior Israeli official said that Israel had been holding since the war 18 Palestinians from Gaza as well as the bodies of 19 others and had "offered to swap them for the bodies of the two Israeli soldiers". He said that Hamas turned down the offer. —AFP



HEBRON: Relatives pray over the bodies of Palestinians Hatem Al-Shalodi (left) and Mohamed Al-Rajabi before their funeral yesterday. — AFP

HEAVY SNOWFALL PARALYSES ISTANBUL

celled and the Bosphorus closed to shipping day, causing havoc on roads as travellers sought

ISTANBUL: A heavy snowstorm paralyzed life in traffic. Almost 65 cm of snow fell on parts of the to leave the city for the weekend. For those not Istanbul yesterday, with hundreds of flights can-



ISTANBUL: People play in the snow at Taksim Square during heavy snowfall yesterday. — AFP

travelling, the snow provided a rare chance to see Istanbul's famous minaret and dome-studded skyline cloaked in white.

Flag carrier Turkish Airlines (THY) cancelled some 610 flights from the main Ataturk International Airport as well as from Sabiha Gokcen airport, with the snow causing poor visibility and high winds. Rival carrier Pegasus cancelled 192 flights out of Istanbul. Turkish Airlines also cancelled 62 flights scheduled for today. Four THY intercontinental flights - from India, the Maldives, South Africa and Vietnam - bound for Istanbul were diverted to the southern city of Gaziantep north of Syria, the Dogan news agency said. Some 76 incoming flights were diverted to other airports.

Almost 6,000 travellers are being accommodated in hotels in Istanbul after their flights were cancelled, reports said. Coastguards also ordered a halt to shipping traffic in both directions through the Bosphorus Strait - one of the world's busiest sea thoroughfares. The municipal ferry company Sehir Hatlari which handles the regular passenger crossings between the European and Asian sides of the city announced that all its routes had been suspended for the day.

The metro in Istanbul will meanwhile operate all night to compensate for the difficulties on the city's roads. Forecasters predicted that the snowstorm would continue throughout the day before dwindling in the evening. Temperatures were expected to stay well below freezing in the days to come. — AFP

SMALL PERCENTAGE OF US HATE CRIMES AIMED AT WHITES

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico: The horrific beating of a mentally disabled white man in Chicago by four black assailants broadcast on social media is highlighting anti-white hate crimes at a time of increased racial strife in the United States. But federal statistics and experts say anti-white incidents remain a smaller percentage of overall hate crimes. Anti-black hate crimes are still the largest number of cases. According to the 2015 FBI hate crime statistics, the latest available, there were 613 anti-white-related crimes out of 5,850 total cases. That's around 10.5 percent of all reported hate crimes, and within the yearly average, federal numbers show.

By comparison, the FBI reports there were 1,745 anti-black hate crimes or about 30 percent of all reported incidents. Jews were the most targeted religious group that year and were victims of 11 percent of all hate crimes. It's not clear how many anti-Jewish hate crime victims also may have been attacked because of their race. That data also suggested that blacks and Jews remain disproportionally targets of hate crimes compared to their population as opposed to whites. African-Americans are

only 13 percent of the US population, while non-Hispanic whites are 61 percent.

The FBI defines a hate crime as a "criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity." Filing reports for the federal count is voluntary, but guidelines call for reports to be submitted even if they list zero hate crimes.

Even then, experts say the FBI data on hate crimes isn't a full picture since anti-black cases are skewed lower by the lack of reporting participation by some southern law enforcement agencies. Some large Florida cities, like Miami, reported no hate crimes to the FBI in 2015, said Brian Levin, the director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, California State University. "I doubt that cities as diverse as those had no hate crimes," he said.

Brutal beating

In Chicago, two men and two women - all black are facing hate crime charges in connection with the brutal beating of a mentally disabled white

man that was streamed on Facebook Live. The video shows the victim is tied up and the suspects are making racial slurs and references to his mental capacity, Chicago Police Commander Kevin Duffin said. The suspects are accused of forcing the victim to drink toilet water and kiss the floor, stuffing a sock into his mouth, taping his mouth shut and binding his hands with a belt.

The 18-year-old victim, who is from a Chicago suburb, suffers from schizophrenia and attentiondeficit disorder, authorities said. The victim also was taunted with profanities against white people and President-elect Donald Trump. Eighteen-year-olds Brittany Covington, Tesfaye Cooper and Jordan Hill, and 24-year-old Tanishia Covington also face kidnapping and battery charges in connection with the attack.

The case heightened political tensions on social media and opened yet-to-be healed wounds from a nasty presidential election campaign. Some conservatives suggested the attack highlighted growing anti-white violence and was linked to the Black Lives Matter movement, although police said there was no indication of any connection. The FBI does classify attacks based on disability as a hate crime. Federal numbers show 88 incidents related to attacks on disability in 2015.

In addition to underreporting, Levin said strong federal data of the race and ethnicity of assailants is incomplete because of the lack of consistent reporting. The 2015 FBI data showed that of the 734 total reported offenses committed against whites a single incident could have multiple offenses like assault or theft - 46 percent of those were committed by blacks. In contrast, of the 2,125 reported offenses committed against blacks, 58 percent of those who committed by whites.

Still, despite the data, Levin said the Chicago beating is resonating because it was shown via social media and racial relations are tense following the November election. Live streams and 140 Twitter characters inflame the fires. Levin described the situation as "a logjam of motivations" for conflict, saying it's like nothing he's ever seen. "We are seeing the coarseness that exists in society generally, those embers, have crossed the fire lines to all parts of the racial, ethnic and ideological spectrum," Levin said. —AP

PROTESTS, TRUMP THREATS: **ROCKY 2017 FOR MEXICO**

MEXICO CITY: Mexico is already having a year to forget. Mexicans woke up from their New Year celebrations on Jan 1 with the highest increase in gasoline prices in years that sparked daily protests and looting that left at least three people dead. On top of that, Ford scrapped a new car factory, the peso fell to new lows and, to cap the terrible week on Friday, US President-elect Donald Trump renewed his vow to make Mexico pay for a border wall. "Everything has come together like a perfect storm," said the president of the binational American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, Jose Maria Zas.

Trump's wall threat prompted former president Vicente Fox to respond with an Fbomb for the second time since last year, while the economy ministry rejected any threats against investors. President Enrique Pena Nieto, whose approval rating was already below 25 percent, used his nationally televised New Year's address late Thursday to defend the gasoline price increase and promise to seek "positive relations" with the Trump administration.

Pena Nieto said the 20.1 percent hike in gasoline prices was linked to an increase in international oil prices. The government is ending fuel subsidies and hopes that prices will go down when the market begins to dictate how much drivers will pay in March. Maintaining "artificial" prices, Pena Nieto said, would have forced the government to cut welfare and healthcare programs. Pena Nieto asked his nation: "What would you have done?"

Who's behind looting?

For now, Mexicans have held protests, blocked highways and service stations, clashed with police, and looted hundreds of stores. The looting intensified on Wednesday and Thursday ahead of the Jan 6 Three Kings' Day, as people stole televisions, clothes and toys from department stores. Hundreds of people have been arrested. Fewer incidents were reported on Friday. Luis Carlos Ugalde, director general of the political consultancy Integralia Consultores, said it was unclear whether the violence was organized by political or of public anger.

"What's clear is that there are many groups in many regions of the country who are willing to use any event, any situation, to spread problems of violence," Ugalde said. The looting has cost businesses millions of dollars but Raul Feliz, analyst at the Economic Research and Teaching Center in Mexico City, said investors are more concerned about something else. "Investors are more worried about what Trump is doing than the protests, though it will be another negative factor if they get out of control and spark general chaos," Feliz said.

Negotiate to 'reduce fears'

While he has yet to take office, Trump who becomes president on Jan 20 - has already caused the peso to fall with his pledge to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and his threats to slap tariffs on companies that ship jobs to Mexico. The peso tumbled by 3.02 percent this week, trading at 21.55 pesos per dollar. "The uncertainty surrounding the trade policy that Mexico faces with Trump clouds the outlook and makes any calculation difficult," Feliz said. "The most important thing is to see how he will change the rules, because if he opts for tariffs on imported goods he could bring the Mexican economy into recession," Feliz said.

This week, the Republican billionaire threatened US automaker General Motors and Japanese rival Toyota, both of which make cars in Mexico, with stiff import taxes. In a veiled reference to Trump's tweets, the Mexican economy ministry said Friday it "categorically rejects any attempt to influence the investment decisions of companies on the basis of fear or threats".

But Mexico appears to want cordial relathis week, Pena Nieto brought back his former finance minister, Luis Videgaray, naming him foreign minister to lead negotiations with the incoming US administration. Videgaray had resigned in September after it was revealed that he had organized Trump's widely-criticized pre-election meeting with Pena Nieto in Mexico City a



PUEBLA, MEXICO: A police officer throws a stone at demonstrators protesting against the rise of fuel prices on Friday. —AFP

TO CELEBRATE INAUGURAL OR NOT? TRUMP CRITICS DIVIDED

WASHINGTON: It's typically an unquestioned honor to participate in the inauguration of an American president. Who wouldn't want to be part of such a historic event? This time, though, it's different. The sharp divisions over Donald Trump's election have politicians, celebrities and even high school students debating whether taking part in the inauguration is a political act that demonstrates support for the new president and his agenda or a nonpartisan tribute to democratic traditions and the peaceful transfer of power.

Among critics of the president-elect, everyone from Hillary Clinton and Hollywood A-listers to the band director at tiny Madawaska Middle/High School in northern Maine and singers in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir is wrestling with this issue - and reaching different conclusions. Bill and Hillary Clinton served belated notice this past week that they'll be on the inaugural podium when Trump takes the oath of office Jan 20. At least two legislators have said they'll boycott the ceremony.

In Utah, singer Jan Chamberlin was so dismayed by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's decision to perform at the swearing-in that she decided not only to sit out the event but to resign from the choir she dearly loves. "The president-elect does not represent anything that reflects my moral views," says Chamberlin, who voted for independent Evan McMullin. She said she's concerned that participation in the inauguration will tarnish the choir by creating a false impression that the church supports Trump.

A fellow choir member, Cristi Brazao, who also didn't support Trump, posted on her Facebook page that she'll be singing at the inauguration because "my mission as a singer has always been to soften hearts, to bridge gaps, to make connections and also to make friends". Similar debates have played out among the dancers of the Radio City Rockettes and members of the marching band of historically black Talladega College in Alabama after inaugural planners announced that the groups would be performing. For Ben Meiklejohn, director of the 30-student Pride of Madawaska Marching Band, performing for an inaugural concert at the Lincoln Memorial will give his teenage musicians the experience of a lifetime and has nothing to do with politics. — AP



COOPER



B. COVINGTON T. COVINGTON





JUDGE REFUSES TO RELEASE 4 ACCUSED OF BEATING YOUTH

Suspects portrayed as hardworking, responsible, religious

CHICAGO: A Chicago judge refused to allow four black people caught on cellphone footage taunting and beating a mentally disabled white man to post bail and leave jail, saying they are accused of such "terrible actions" that they are a danger to society. "Where was your sense of decency?" Cook County Circuit Judge Maria Kuriakos Ciesil asked them on Friday during their first court appearance, sounding baffled that the suspects could be charged with such cruelty toward the 18-year-old victim.

The beating was captured on cellphone video by one of the assailants and has since been viewed millions of times on social media. The graphic footage shows the suspects taunting the victim with profanities against white people and President-elect Donald Trump. Prosecutors offered new details of the assault, explaining that one of the suspects demanded \$300 from the mother of the victim, who is schizophrenic and has attention-deficit disorder. They also said the beating started in a van when the same attacker became angry that the mother had contacted him asking that her son be allowed to come home.

A prosecutor told the judge that the suspects forced the victim to drink toilet water, kiss the floor and then allegedly stuffed a sock into his mouth and taped it shut as they bound his hands with a belt. The four are charged with two counts of committing a hate crime - one because of the victim's race and the other because of his mental disabilities. On the video, the male suspects use knives to cut the victim's

hair and his sweatshirt. One of the females can be seen laughing. A female also laughs as she punches the victim.

One of the men pulls the cord from the victim's sweatshirt around the victim's neck and holds him up while the victim groans in pain, according to a document read in court. The victim can be heard screaming when one of the men walks up to him with a knife and asks if he should "shank" him. At one point, the prosecutor said, someone on the video can be heard saying that he did not care if the victim was schizophrenic. The four suspects were identified as Brittany Covington and Tesfaye Cooper, both of Chicago, and Jordan Hill, of suburban Carpentersville. All are 18. A fourth suspect was identified as Covington's 24-year-old sister, Tanishia Covington, also of Chicago. They stood quietly as the prosecutor read the allegations. Some of their relatives also listened, including a woman who wiped tears from her eyes.

Defense attorneys portrayed the suspects as hardworking, responsible and religious. Cooper, for example, takes care of his twin brother, who is in a wheelchair. Tanishia Covington has two small children. Her sister attends college and has a job. Hill, the judge was told, goes to church with his grandmother. All four have experienced brushes with the law, some for serious and violent crimes. Hill, for example, was arrested as a juvenile in 2015 on allegations of armed robbery, possession of a stolen vehicle and residential burglary. Chicago police said they did not know the disposition of those arrests by subur-

ban officers. Tanishia Covington was arrested in 2007 on attempted armed robbery and aggravated battery charges. Police records do not show any convictions as a juvenile. As an adult, she was arrested on charges of battery and aggravated assault, but those charges were dropped. The uproar over the beating intensified the glare on Chicago after a bloody year of violent crime and protests against Mayor Rahm Emanuel and a police department that has been accused of using excessive force and hushing-up wrongdoing. The department has also been the subject of a long civil-rights investigation by the Justice Department, which is expected to report its findings soon.

The incident also stirred emotions still raw after a presidential campaign that split the nation. Some conservatives suggested it was linked to the Black Lives Matter movement. Police said there was no indication of any connection. The incident began New Year's Eve, when the victim and alleged assailant Jordan Hill met at a suburban McDonald's, and then called his parents later to say he was staying with Hill for a sleepover.

Instead, Hill drove the victim around in a stolen van for a couple of days, ending up at a home in Chicago, where two of the other suspects lived, police said. The victim's parents reported him missing Monday evening, two days after last hearing from him. The victim eventually escaped and a police officer spotted him wandering down a street, bloodied and disoriented. —AP

FBI RELEASES IPHONE FILES OF SHOOTER

WASHINGTON: The FBI on Friday released 100 pages of heavily censored documents related to its agreement with an unidentified vendor to hack into an iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino, California, shooters, but it did not identify whom it paid to perform the work or how much it cost. The records were provided in response to a federal lawsuit filed against the FBI by AP, Vice Media and Gannett, the parent company of USA Today.

The media organizations sued in September to learn how much the FBI paid and who it hired to break into the phone of Syed Rizwan Farook, who along with his wife killed 14 people at a holiday gathering of county workers in December 2015. The FBI for weeks had maintained that only Apple Inc. could access the information on its phone, which was protected by encryption, but ultimately broke or bypassed Apple's digital

locks with the help of an unnamed third party. The FBI, in its records release Friday, censored critical details that would have shown how much the FBI paid, whom it hired and how it opened the phone. The files had been marked "secret" before they were turned over under the lawsuit. The files make clear that the FBI signed a nondisclosure agreement with the vendor. The records also show that the FBI received at least three inquiries from companies interested in developing a product to unlock the phone, but none had the ability

to come up with a solution fast enough for the FBI. The FBI also said in contracting documents that it did not solicit competing bids or proposals because it thought widely disclosing the bureau's needs could harm national security. The lawsuit was filed months after the FBI's sudden announcement in March that it had purchased a tool from an unidentified third party to open Farook's phone. The disclosure aborted a court fight that began when a federal judge had directed Apple to help the FBI break into the phone. The suit by the media organizations argued there was no legal basis to withhold the information and challenged the adequacy of the FBI's search for relevant records. — AP



EL DORADO, Kansas: This Jan 28, 2014 still image from jail surveillance video shows two immigration agents in an altercation with Justine Mochama, an international student from Kenya, for refusing to be fingerprinted before deportation at the Butler County Detention Facility. —AP

VIDEO SHOWS PRISON TUSSLE BETWEEN AGENTS, KENYAN

WICHITA, Kansas: A judge has granted a civil trial for a Kenyan man who alleges immigration agents violently attacked him at a Kansas jail for refusing to be fingerprinted before deportation, an incident captured on jailhouse surveillance video. The lawsuit by Justine Mochama, an international college student who overstayed his visa, has languished in federal court in Kansas for almost three years. But on Tuesday, US District Judge Kathryn Vratil refused to throw out his claims that two agents from US Immigration and Customs Enforcement used excessive force during the January 2014 altercation.

"It is a good outcome and hopefully it sends a message to ICE that you can't beat up a pretrial detainee because you want his fingerprints - even if you are frustrated or mad with him. You don't have authority to do that," said Matthew Hoppock, the attorney who represents Mochama. Mochama's lawsuit claiming his constitutional rights were violated initially listed the Department of Homeland Security and various other parties, but the judge decided the case could only go forward against the two ICE agents involved in the altercation.

The US attorney's office declined comment. ICE spokesman Shawn Neudauer said Friday the agency does not comment on pending litigation but takes seriously all allegations of employee misconduct. At the time of the incident Mochama had already been in custody for six months waiting to be deported to Kenya, and had filed a petition for release pending deportation. He wanted his attorney to first look at a form ICE before putting his fingerprint on it, as the ICE agents wanted. — AP

ENDGAME LOOMS IN EFFORTS TO REUNITE CYPRUS AFTER 43 YEARS

NICOSIA, Cyprus: The division of Cyprus is now in its 43rd year. Next week may mark the decisive moment when the small eastern Mediterranean island nation starts to be stitched back together again.

After 19 months of talks aimed at reunifying the internationally recognized Greek Cypriot south with the breakaway Turkish Cypriot north, the final details of a peace deal are set to be thrashed out, potentially bringing some good news to a region wracked by conflict and distrust.

But many hurdles remain - hurdles that have not been cleared in previous reunification attempts. The Conference on Cyprus is scheduled to start on Jan. 12 in Geneva, and is intended to hammer out some of the toughest aspects of a peace deal - including how to ensure security for both Greek and Turkish Cypriots once an aimed-for federation is established. The leaders of Greece, Turkey and the former colonial power Britain - the so-called guarantors are widely anticipated to make an appearance at the summit.

Making sure there's no repeat of the events of 1974 is key. In the summer of that year, Cyprus was split into two after Turkey invaded in the wake of a Greek-backed coup that aimed to unite the island with the rest of Greece. Following the invasion, the country was cleaved along ethnic lines with the Turkish Cypriots controlling 36.5 percent of Cyprus' land mass backed by more than 35,000 Turkish troops deployed in the north. A Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence is recognized only by Turkey. Before the official opening of the summit, Greek Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci have earmarked three days from Jan. 9 to clear up a string of outstanding issues - including the pivotal matter of how much territory each side will control in a federation.

Here's a look at where things stand: **MY LAND, YOUR LAND**

Talks almost broke down in November because Anastasiades and Akinci couldn't agree on how much territory the Greek and Turkish federal zones would control.

The difference was marginal - just a percentage point. Its impact was immense. Greek Cypriots say enough territory must be returned under their control in order to allow at least 90,000 Greek Cypriots displaced by the 1974 invasion to reclaim lost homes and property in a relatively short time. The argument is that an agreement on those lines would reduce the financial burden of a peace deal by limiting the compensation amounts that will have to be paid to those not able to reclaim their homes and land. It would also potentially boost Greek Cypriot support for a deal when it's put to a vote - a previous peace deal in 2004 was rejected by Greek Cypriots in a referendum.

Turkish Cypriots, on the other hand, want to limit the numbers that relocate. Telling Turkish Cypriots to leave what they have considered home for decades is unlikely to go down well with many in any subsequent referendum.

Both Anastasiades and Akinci are expected to produce maps showcasing

their intentions. Anastasiades said without maps to sort out a final deal, talks won't move to the top issue - security.

GUARANTORS

There's another layer when it comes to Cyprus, an island that's seen its share of big power intrigue through the centuries, from Alexander the Great's invasion in the fourth century BC, through Roman times, the Crusaders and most recently the British. Legally, negotiations that touch on Cyprus' security must include Greece, Turkey and Britain because Cyprus' 1960 constitution accorded them "guarantor" status. The idea was to have the three protect the fledgling democracy at its independence from British rule which had followed four years of a guerrilla campaign by Greek Cypriots aimed at unifying the island with Greece something the minority Turkish Cypriots deeply opposed.

Turkey invoked its intervention rights from its status as a guarantor in 1974.

SECURITY

Trust is therefore essential. Turkish Cypriots fear that the majority Greek Cypriots could overwhelm them in the future. That's why they are insisting that Turkish troops should remain as a bulwark.

Greek Cypriots, meanwhile, have worries over the might of Turkey and insist that a country outside the European Union - of which Cyprus is a member - should neither keep troops on the island nor the right to militarily intervene. EU officials have backed that notion.

Turkey's increasingly authoritarian ways and recent security problems, evidenced further in the New Year's Day attack in Istanbul that killed 39 people, have done little to either assuage Greek Cypriot fears or foster trust. United Nations officials are reportedly trying to work out a formula that would answer the security fears of both sides.

SUMMIT

Word is that Greece, Britain and Turkey will be represented at the Cyprus Conference at the highest levels. Top EU officials including Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and Foreign Policy chief Federica Mogherini are said to be going, too. Anastasiades said that UN Security Council members may also attend on the sidelines if they so wish. UN envoy Espen Barth Eide has said the talks may expand to include issues that affect EU-Turkey relations, such as what to do with all the refugees who have fled Syria for Europe. Akinci has said that if a deal is struck in Geneva, it may take a few more months to thrash out the legal details before accord is put to a vote in

STAKES ARE HIGH

A peace deal would bolster regional security and ease cooperation in tapping potentially huge oil and gas reserves beneath the Med seabed. For the wider region, a deal could be a beacon of hope.

Greeks and Turks, Muslims and Christians working things out could send a powerful message of peace.— AP



NICOSIA: A UN soldier stands by an abandoned building inside the UN buffer zone, Green Line, that divided the Greek, south, and Turkish, north, Cypriots controlled areas in the divided capital Nicosia in the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus. —AP file photo



LESBOS: A child plays in the snow at the Kara Tepe camp on the island of Lesbos following heavy snowfalls yesterday. The number of migrants arriving in Europe by two main sea routes in 2016 plunged by almost two-thirds to 364,000 compared with the previous year, EU border agency Frontex said Friday. —AFP

FRENCHMAN ACQUITTED OF HELPING MIGRANTS

IMMIGRATION PLAYS KEY ROLE AHEAD OF ELECTIONS

NICE, France: A French court on Friday acquitted a man for helping migrants who had sneaked into the country from Italy as immigration issues play a major role ahead of this year's elections.

"In France today we have the right to save people in distress," said researcher Pierre-Alain Mannoni, who had faced a six-month suspended jail sentence for aiding Eritrean migrants who came into France from Italy. The prosecutor said during the trial in November in the southern city of Nice that people had a "duty" to help, "but not help (illegal immigrants) to stay and circulate" in the country. The judge ruled Friday that the 45-year-old researcher at French national research centre CNRS had helped three young Eritrean women to "protect their dignity". A law in effect since 2012 grants immunity to those who help illegal migrants who are not paid if people's lives are considered in peril. "You can help people," Mannoni said after the ruling. "I recommend it, it does a lot of good!"

He is one of three people in the area to appear in court recently for illegally assisting migrants travelling up through Europe after crossing the Mediterranean in rickety boats. Their cases have pitched the spirit of solidarity against the letter of the law at a time when border controls and migration have become hot political issues.

The right-wing president of the Riviera region, Christian Estrosi, has repeatedly criticised activists who help migrants. He said on Facebook that Friday's ruling was "an insult to the work of the security forces who put their life in danger to protect ours." Estrosi added that some jihadists had been able to enter France after passing themselves off as migrants. Mannoni was arrested at a toll booth near the southern town of Menton in October with the three Eritreans including a minor that he wanted to lodge. Another activist, farmer Cedric Herrou, appeared in the Nice court on Wednesday facing an eight-month suspended prison term for moving some 50 Eritreans into a disused holiday village owned by the state. Security forces emptied the camp after three days.

Folk hero

In addition to the suspended sentence, public prosecutor Jean-Michel Pretre called for Herrou's vehicle to be confiscated and for his driving licence to be restricted to driving only for professional use. Herrou, 37, has become something of a folk hero around the French-Italian border for driving

The verdict in his case is expected on February 10. In early December an appeals court in Aix-en-Provence upheld a fine of 1,500 euros (\$1,580) against a 73-year-old retired professor for helping

French police, and then putting them up.

two Eritreans avoid a police check The controversy comes less than four months ahead of the first round of France's presidential elections. The Socialist government came under harsh criticism for allowing the infamous "Jungle" migrant camp to develop near the northern port of Calais, which the authorities finally closed in October. — Agencies

GABRIEL CALLS FOR SALAFIST PREACHERS TO BE EXPELLED

BERLIN: Mosques in Germany run by ultraconservative Islamists known as Salafists must be banned, their communities broken up and their preachers expelled, German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel told Der Spiegel magazine. "On this question I am for zero tolerance," Gabriel said when Spiegel put it to him that the Tunisian who killed 12 people in a Christmas market attack in Berlin had been in touch with Salafist hate preachers.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack, in which a failed asylum seeker from Tunisia, Anis Amri, drove a truck into a Christmas market. "Salafist mosques must be banned, the communities broken up, and the preachers expelled. And as quickly as possible," Gabriel told Spiegel in an interview published yesterday. Germany has seen sharp increases in the number of Salafists in recent years. In November, the head of the Bundesverfassungsschutz domestic intelligence agency told Reuters his organization estimated there were about 40,000 Islamists in Germany, including 9,200 Salafists.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's government, to which Gabriel's Social Democrats (SPD) belong as junior coalition partner, has proposed new security measures in response to the Berlin attack, triggering fierce debate in an election year.

The SPD is expected to choose Gabriel, their long-standing chairman who is also economy minister, to run against Merkel for chancellor in September's federal election, senior party sources said on Thursday.

Germany's insistence on austerity in the eurozone has left Europe more divided than ever and a break-up of the European Union is no longer inconceivable, German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel told Der Spiegel magazine. Gabriel, whose Social Democrats (SPD) are junior partner to Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives in her ruling grand coalition, said strenuous efforts by countries like France and Italy to reduce their fiscal deficits came with political risks. "I once asked the chancellor, what would be more costly for Germany: for France to be allowed to have half a percentage point more deficit, or for Marine Le Pen to become president?" he said, referring to the leader of the far-right National Front.

"Until today, she still owes me an answer," added Gabriel, whose SPD favours a greater focus on investment while Merkel's conservatives put more emphasis on fiscal discipline as a foundation for economic prosperity. The SPD is expected to choose Gabriel, their long standing chairman who is also economy minister, to run against Merkel for chancellor in September's federal election, senior party sources said on Thursday.

Asked if he really believed he could win more votes by transferring more German money to other EU countries, Gabriel replied: "I know that this discussion is extremely unpopular." "But I also know about the state of the EU. It is no longer unthinkable that it breaks apart," he said in the interview, published yesterday. "Should that happen, our children and grandchildren would curse us," he added. "Because Germany is the biggest beneficiary of the European community economically and politically." — Reuters

UK ENVOY WHO QUIT TOP EU POST QUITS SERVICE

LONDON: A senior British diplomat who warned that negotiating a European Union exit could take 10 years has guit the civil service, days after stepping down as the UK's envoy to the bloc, the gov-

ernment said yesterday. Ivan Rogers unexpectedly resigned as Britain's permanent representative in Brussels on Tuesday, months before divorce talks are due to start, fueling opposition claims that the government's plans for Britain's EU exit are in disarray. Rogers came under pressure following last month's leak of his suggestion that it could take up to a decade to strike a new

trade deal. Politicians who support Brexit called him

overly negative. Tim Barrow, a former UK ambassador to Russia, has been appointed to replace him.

In a farewell email that was leaked to the media, Rogers told his staff to beware of politicians' "illfounded arguments and muddled thinking." Britain's Foreign Office said Rogers had not sought a new post, "and has therefore resigned from the civil service with immediate effect." Prime Minister Theresa May says she will invoke Article 50 of the EU's key treaty, triggering two years of EU exit talks, by March 31. May has refused to reveal details of Britain's goals or negotiating strategy, saying that would weaken its hand.—AP

AT LEAST 20 DIE IN COLD SNAP ACROSS EUROPE

WARSAW: A cold wave across Europe has left at least 20 people dead in the past two days, including several homeless and migrants, authorities said yesterday, with the frigid temperatures expected to continue through the weekend. Russia meanwhile celebrated the coldest Orthodox Christmas in 120 years, and Istanbul was covered with a blanket of snow.

Ten of the latest victims of the cold perished in Poland where sub-freezing conditions remain with minus 14 degrees Celsius (seven degrees Fahrenheit) forecast yesterday. "Seven people died on Friday in what was the deadliest day this winter," said spokeswoman Bozena Wysocka from the Polish government centre for security (RCB). "We recorded three other victims the previous day," she said. "This takes to 53 the number of hypothermia victims since November 1."

has been blamed for seven deaths, including five homeless people, two of them Polish nationals, authorities said. There was heavy snowfall in central Italy and also in the southeast where the airports at Bari and Brindisi as well as in Sicily were closed Saturday morning. Temperatures in Moscow fell to minus 30 degrees overnight and to minus 24 in Saint Petersburg where police found the body of a man who had died of hypothermia. And in Bulgaria on Friday the frozen bodies of two Iraqi migrants were discovered by villagers in a mountain forest in the southeast of the country near the border with Turkey. Authorities expect the toll to rise as weather conditions are set to remain unchanged this weekend.

In Italy in the past 48 hours the cold

Snow in Istanbul The winter snow storms reached Turkey, paralysing its biggest city Istanbul where hundreds of flights were cancelled on Saturday. Traffic through the Bosphorus strait was also disrupted. Greece likewise has seen fierce cold weather this past week. In the north near the Turkish frontier a 20-year-old Afghan migrant died of the cold on Tuesday. With more than 60,000 mainly Syrian refugees on its territory, Greece has moved many migrants to prefabricated houses and heated tents. The temperature in Athens yester-

day was zero degrees Celsius and down to minus 15 in the north of the country. The coldest temperature in Europe so far this winter was recorded on Friday in the Swiss village of La Brevine at minus 29.9 degrees.

That was still much warmer than the village's record of the coldest temperature ever in Switzerland at minus 41.8 degrees on January 12, 1987. —AFP



MILNA: A homeless sleeps under blankets in front of the entrance of a bank, in Milan yesterday. — AP

US Marines to return to Afghanistan province

WASHINGTON: Some 300 US Marines will States still has some 8,400 military per-resurgent Taleban. In early December increased by 10 percent in one year. head to Helmand province in Afghanistan this spring to help a NATO-led mission to train Afghan forces, the Marines said Friday. The move puts Marines back in Helmand, who left in 2014 as NATO withdrew its forces and let Afghan troops lead the fight against the Taliban.

They were among the first US forces sent to Afghanistan after the 2001 terror attacks in the United States. Several thousand were deployed in Helmand, an opium-producing region, where they engaged in bitter combat with the Taliban insurgency. The administration of outgoing President Barack Obama had hoped to withdraw most US military forces from Afghanistan by now, leaving behind just a small force. But the United

sonnel in the country, and is now returning the Marines to Helmand.

At the request of US Central Command (CENTCOM) and the US forces in Afghanistan, "approximately 300 Marines will deploy to Helmand Province Afghanistan in Spring 2017 in support of the NATO-led Resolute Support mission," a statement from the Marine Corps said.

The Marines "will train and advise key leaders within the Afghan National Army 215th Corps and the 505th Zone National Police," it added. "Advising and assisting Afghan defense and security forces will assist in preserving gains made together with the Afghans."

The Afghan army and police are struggling in their struggle against a General John Nicholson, the chief US and NATO commander in Afghanistan, said that Kabul directly controls about 64 percent of the country's population of 30 million, down slightly from 68 percent earlier in 2016. He said that the Taleban have been especially active in Helmand province and are working opium with

"There's a nexus here between the insurgency and criminal networks that's occurring in Helmand that makes Helmand such a difficult fight," he added. Afghanistan is by far the world's largest opium producer. The UN estimates 2016 production at 4,800 to 6,000 tons, up sharply from 3,300 tons in 2015, while cultivated areas have

Hazara miners killed

Unidentified gunmen killed eight members of Afghanistan's Hazara minority who were working as miners in the northern province of Baghlan, a local government official said.

Faiz Mohammad Amiri, governor of Taleh va Barfak district, said the eight dead and three other wounded, who all came from Daykundi province in central Afghanistan, had been pulled out of a vehicle and shot on Friday. He blamed the Taleban, which controls the district where the incident occurred but the insurgent movement denied any involvement.

"The people working in this mine had

our permission and we had good relations," Taleban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said. "They hadn't created any problems." He blamed "arbakis" or members of informal local militias, in the area for the killings. Hazaras are a Persianspeaking, largely Shia minority, who have faced a long history of discrimination and violence in mainly Sunni Afghanistan.

Last year, scores of Hazara were killed in a series of attacks in Kabul, some claimed by Islamic State in an apparent attempt to stir sectarian tensions. The incident underlines the dire security situation in the country, where government forces now control only two-thirds of national territory and violence is a daily occurrence. — AFP

CLOCK RUNNING DOWN ON PAKISTAN MILITARY COURTS

FALLEN ENTERTAINER ROLF

HARRIS FACES UK ABUSE TRIAL

secret military courts to try civilians on terrorism charges expired yesterday, but the government has been silent on its renewal, following criticism from lawyers that it led to abuse and curtailed human rights. Lawmakers amended the constitution in January 2015, responding to an attack by Pakistani Taliban fighters on a military-run school that killed 134 children, but inserted an expiry clause to keep the measure temporary.

The amendment was criticised for handing significant judicial control to the powerful military, which has ruled the country of 190 million people for about half of its existence. Now experts say Pakistan's government would be reluctant to push for a renewal amendment just over a year ahead of a general election due by May 2018. "But if the civilian judicial system fails to perform, and things go back as they were before 2015, we may have no choice but to clamour for a similar amendment," said human rights lawyer Yasser Latif Hamdani.

A government spokesman and interior ministry officials did not respond to telephone calls to ask about the future of the courts. A proposal to replace the military courts with "speedy-trial courts" was being considered, an interior ministry official said on condition of anonymity, without elaborating.

LONDON: Australian-born entertainer

Rolf Harris, who was a fixture on British

television for six decades, will go on trial

in London tomorrow for alleged assaults

children until his fall from grace, will

appear at the trial via video link. The case

will focus on alleged incidents between

1971 and 2004, amounting to seven

counts of indecent assault and one of sex-

ual assault. The jury will be sworn in on

Tuesday, and the case is expected to last

up to five weeks, delving further into the

reality behind his polished public per-

sona. Harris has already been stripped of

honours in Australia and Britain, where

Queen Elizabeth II ordered the removal of

his CBE (Commander of the British

Empire) — an honour one step below a

He painted an 80th birthday portrait of

the queen in 2005 and seven years later

took part in her diamond jubilee celebra-

tions. Although Harris gained celebrity

status in Australia, he left the country for

He was held in great esteem in Britain.

Harris, 86, who entertained millions of

At the time the law was introduced,

against minors.

knighthood.

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani law allowing MPs and the military argued that civilian courts were too slow for terrorism cases needed to be dealt with swiftly, since many judges, fearful of revenge, were reluctant to deliver verdicts.

A total of 275 cases have been referred to the military courts and 12 convicts executed, the interior ministry says. The tribunals have sentenced 161 people to death and handed jail terms, mostly life sentences, to 116. "Military courts should never have the jurisdiction to try civilians, nor should they ever have the authority to impose death sentences," rights group Amnesty International said in a report after the courts were established. At least 27 convicts filed appeals with civilian courts, alleging coercion of confessions and denial of access to lawyers and evidence, Reuters research and media reports show.

Besides the opaque nature of the military courts, they have diverted focus from the need for wider judicial reform, lawyers say. "The end of military courts will make no huge difference, as they weren't conceived to fix the criminal justice system or end terrorism," lawyer Babar Sattar told Reuters. The measure sought to keep the military from getting too entangled in the criminal justice process, he said, while hastening proceedings for those arrested in military operations. "It was an instrument of convenience," Sattar said. — Reuters

Britain in 1952 aged 22 where he went to

Kangaroo Down, Sport" with him.

The entertainer was also known for his

quick sketches on television, accompanied

by the catchphrase: "Can you tell what it is

vet?" Harris even featured in a child abuse

prevention video called "Kids Can Say No"

in 1985. In his later career Harris continued

in family entertainment, hosting "Animal

Hospital" on the BBC from 1994 and 2003,

as well as art shows. The claims against him

stemmed from a police operation launched

in the wake of allegations against another

BBC presenter of the same era-Jimmy

Savile-who died in 2011 and was found to

have used his celebrity status to sexually

abuse dozens of children. — AFP



HAMBANTOTA: A Sri Lankan police personnel leads a monk from a protest in the southern port city of Hambantota yesterday. Sri Lankan nationalists, monks and local residents are protesting the creation of an industrial zone for Chinese investments on the island. —AFP

PORT DEAL WITH CHINA FUELS FIERCE CLASHES IN SRI LANKA

POLICE TEAR GAS PROTESTERS; 21 INJURED

art school. He met his wife Alwen Hughes there and the pair married in 1958, with a AMBALANTOTA, Sri Lanka: Sri poodle as a bridesmaid. Harris performed Lankan police used tear gas and his songs at gigs in London and landed water cannons yesterday to break work at the BBC, securing his own televiup violent clashes between governsion show in the 1960s. His top musical note came in 1969 with the hit "Two Little marching against what they say is a Boys", about two young boys who grow plan to take over private land for an up to fight in a war together. The Beatles industrial zone in which China will also performed a version of Harris'"Tie Me have a major stake. At least 21 peo-

> ple were injured. The clashes took place as Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was attending an opening ceremony for the industrial zone, located near the port city of Hambantota, about 240 kilometers (150 miles) southeast of the capital, Colombo. The clashes began when government supporters started throwing rocks at villagers who were marching to the ceremony site. The protesters, organized by the opposition and led by Buddhist monks, responded by throwing rocks at the government supporters. A group that appeared to have been transported to the area by the government joined in attacking the protesters with poles. Twenty-one people, including three police officers, were taken to a government hospital in Hambantota, a hospital official said.

Sri Lanka's government has signed a framework agreement for a 99-year lease of the Hambantota port with a company in which China will have 80 percent ownership. Officials also plan to set up a nearby industrial zone where Chinese companies will be invited to set up factories. The villagers and monks are

opposed to it and demand their residential and farmlands be spared.

A court had issued a restraining order on the protest, saying it could ment supporters and villagers lead to unrest, but the protesters defied it. Wickremesinghe inaugurated the industrial zone despite the clashes. Speaking at the ceremony, China's ambassador to Sri Lanka, Yi Xianliang, said that his country hopes to invest \$5 billion in the region within the next five years, and that the new industries are expected to generate 100,000 jobs.

China invested over \$1.2 billion in the port in what some analysts call its "string of pearls" strategy in countries surrounding its rival India. Although the project has seen losses since 2010, Sri Lanka's government, at first critical of the enterprise, approached China to seek help to make it viable.

Lawmaker D.V. Chanaka, one of the protest organizers, said he fears the port area will become a "Chinese colony." "We are against leasing the lands where people live and do their farming, while there are identified lands for an industrial zone," Chanaka said. "When you give away such a vast area of land, you can't stop the area from becoming a Chinese colony."

After the lease expires, it can be negotiated for another 99 years, according to the framework agreement, whose terms are still being negotiated. The government also has proposed to lease 15,000 acres (6,070 hectares) in Hambantota dis-

HAMBANTOTA: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe (left) and Chinese ambassador Yi Xianliang look on during the opening ceremony of an industrial zone project in the southern port city of Hambantota yesterday. —AFP

trict and adjoining Moneragala district for the industrial zone.

The Rev. Magama Mahanama, from a group calling itself the Monks Organization to Protect National Assets, said that the clergy, following an ancient tradition, would issue a decree to the government to stop the leasing. Historically, kings in predominantly Buddhist Sri Lanka are said to have abided by decrees issued by Buddhist monks.

"It's a way of conveying the message that the monks are not for it," Mahanama said. "Ninety-nine years means at least two generations. When they (the Chinese) take root here, what's the guarantee that we will have it back? There is a major threat of cultural erosion and demographic change."

Wickremesinghe, speaking to reporters earlier in the week, said the partnership arrangement was necessary to free Sri Lanka from the debt incurred to build the port. He blamed the debt on former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, whose government was friendly to Beijing. Wickremesinghe said the industrial zone was necessary to make the port and the nearby Chinesefinanced airport, also running at a heavy loss, viable. — AP



NEW DELHI: Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa offers floral tributes at the Mahatma Gandhi memorial in New Delhi. Costa is on an official visit to India. — AFP

INDIAN LAWMAKER HELD FOR RAPING MINOR GIRL

NEW DELHI: Indian police have arrested a lawmaker from northeastern Meghalaya state on charges of raping a 14-year-old trafficked girl, an officer said yesterday.

Julius Dorphang, a militant commander turned legislator, was arrested in neighboring Guwahati city late Friday after evading police for several days. "He was arrested last night and has been charged with raping a minor girl and human trafficking," Vivek Syiem, a police officer in Meghalaya's capital Shillong, told AFP.

The victim has accused the 51-year-old politician of sexually assaulting her twice in December after she was sold to him by traffickers. The girl told police she was kept at a guesthouse and has accused seven other

people, including a guesthouse employee, of trafficking and selling her to the legislator. The guesthouse is owned by a state minister's son, according to Syiem. Dorphang founded a militant group in Meghalaya in 2000 seeking greater rights for two tribal groups, before laying down arms in 2007 and entering politics. Meghalaya is one of seven northeastern states mired in decades of armed insurgencies ranging from tribal disputes to separation from India.

Traffickers in India lure thousands of vulnerable children from impoverished families on false promises of jobs before selling them off to prostitution rings and domestic or commercial establishments. — AFP

MUMBAI HAWKER LAW TARGETS MIGRANTS

MUMBAI: India's western Maharashtra state has passed a law requiring street hawkers to have lived in the state for 15 years before they can apply for a license, in a move vendors say unfairly targets poor migrants. Officials in Maharashtra's capital Mumbai this week passed the law, which also lists conditions for surveying vendors and demarcating hawking zones.

Workers' organizations say many hawkers, who have migrated from rural areas to Mumbai to seek work and escape poverty, cannot afford property in Mumbai, India's financial and commercial capital. "Many hawkers have been here for generations, yet do not own homes and do not have domicile certificates. This is the state's way of pushing out these migrant workers without explicitly asking them to leave," said Salma Sheikh of the Azad Hawkers' Union.

She said Mumbai's hawkers will protest the new policy and challenge the domicile condition in court. Arbind Singh, coordinator for the National Association of Street Vendors of India lobbying group, said the new law will only divide the hawkers and further alienate migrants. "It's unconstitutional for the state to insist on a 15-year domicile. As per the constitution, anyone can move anywhere within the country for their livelihood," he said. "Do they ask doctors or lawyers or film actors to prove they

have lived in the state for 15 years before letting them work? This is clearly discriminatory and targets poor migrant workers," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Vendors selling everything from snacks and tea to toys, clothes and shoes are a common sight in India's cities. They spread their wares on pavements, outside schools and temples, and carry them in baskets on trains and at traffic lights. Only about 14,000 hawkers in Mumbai are licensed, while the number unlicensed is estimated at about 150,000. — Reuters



JAMMU: A homeless Indian sleeps covered with a blanket under a flyover on a cold winter day in Jammu yesterday. Some 800 million people in the country live in poverty, many of them migrating to big cities in search of a livelihood and often ending up on the streets. —AP

AKUFO-ADDO TAKES OATH AS GHANA'S NEW PRESIDENT

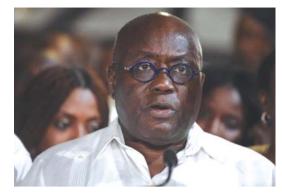
ACCRA: Nana Akufo-Addo was sworn in as Ghana's new president yesterday, promising to stamp out government corruption and kickstart the private sector. The 72-year-old former human rights lawyer took the oath of office at a ceremony in Independence Square in the capital Accra in front of more than 6,000 guests and a roaring crowd.

Wearing a traditional robe draped over one shoulder, Akufo-Addo waved a gold sword-a symbol of Ghana's presidency-before giving his inaugural address as head of state.

"We no longer have any excuses for being poor," Akufo-Addo said. "We must restore integrity in public life. State coffers are not spoils for the party that wins an election, but resources for the country's social and economic development," Akufo-Addo said.

The new president underlined his campaign promise to support entrepreneurs and attract investors to the country, which has suffered from lacklustre growth in recent years.

"We will reduce taxes to recover the momentum of our economy," Akufo-Addo said. "Ghana is open for business again." Eleven African heads of state



ACCRA: This file photo shows President-elect and candidate of the opposition New Patriotic Party Nana Akufo-Addo reading his acceptance speech after being declared elected by the **Electoral Commission at the just concluded pres**idential elections in Accra. — AFP

attended the ceremony, as well as the outgoing president John Dramani Mahama, and former leaders John Rawlings and John Kufuor.

inauguration, with major roads in and around the venue cordoned off. Traders set up stalls nearby hoping to cash in on the ceremony by selling Ghana flags and white, red and blue paraphernalia from Akufo-Addo's New Patriotic Party.

Akufo-Addo's electoral victory-and the peaceful transition of power-cemented Ghana's position as a beacon of stability in an often turbulent region.

'Gold standard for democracy'

One international observer described the West African country as a "gold standard for democracy in Africa". The new president told AFP that after smooth handovers of power in his home country and places such as Nigeria, leaders wanting to stay in office at all costs were "fighting the tide of history".

In Nigeria-known for contested elections and their violent aftermath- Goodluck Jonathan made an unprecedented concession to Muhammadu Buhari in 2015. But in the week of Akufo-Addo's election, beaten president Yahya Jammeh of The Gambia promised to challenge the results of elec-

Accra police enforced tight security during the tions that he had previously accepted. Elsewhere on the continent, there are numerous examples of leaders wanting to amend the constitution to ensure more years in power. Buhari and other African leaders will meet for talks after the inauguration to discuss the crisis in The Gambia caused by Jammeh's refusal to step down.

"A major decision on the impasse is expected to be taken at that all-important meeting," Buhari's spokesman Garba Shehu told reporters in Abuja.

"President Buhari is the chief mediator in the crisis and he is committed to ensuring that the logjam is resolved." Akufo-Addo has vowed to put Ghana "back on the path of progress and prosperity" after an economic slump under Mahama that led to an International Monetary Fund bail-out.

This week Mahama defended his record, saying his government had been up against "strong headwinds" that caused growth to slow, public sector debt to rise and the cedi currency to fall.

But the 58-year-old encouraged Ghanaians to get behind Akufo-Addo and on Wednesday showed his successor round the seat of government, Flagstaff House, in Accra. — AFP

TAIWANESE LEADER HEADS TO AMERICAS AS CHINA WATCHES

NEW TRUMP TEAM SET TO IRK BEIJING

Americas starting yesterday will be scrutinized by Beijing for signs that the incoming US president's team will risk its ire by further engaging with the self-ruled island China considers its territory. President Tsai Ing-wen pledged to bolster Taiwan's international profile as she set off on a trip to reinforce relations with diplomatic allies in Central America, a task that has taken on new urgency as Beijing ramps up efforts to diplomatically isolate Taipei.

Speaking to reporters before her departure, Tsai said the visits to Honduras, Nicaragua,

BEIJING: The Taiwanese leader's trip to the Beijing as China's government and maintains Beijing called routine exercises, China's first and only unofficial relations with Taiwan.

US lawmakers often meet with Taiwanese presidents when they transit through the US most recently in June, when Tsai met in Miami with Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida.

This time, it was not clear if Tsai would meet Trump, though some observers said a meeting with Trump's transition team could happen despite the risk of Beijing's anger. "It should not surprise anyone if the incoming president's advisers who will be working on Asia policy meet with President Tsai," said Ross Feingold, a

only aircraft carrier and a fleet of warships sailed past Taiwan's south, prompting Taipei to deploy fighter jets to monitor the fleet.

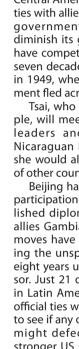
"I'm confident that both Taiwan and the US want this transit to be low profile," said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "There is nothing to be gained by irritating Beijing." In Central America, Tsai will focus on strengthening ties with allies to fend off Beijing's efforts to draw governments away from Taipei and further diminish its global presence. Beijing and Taipei have competed for allies for much of the nearly seven decades since the end of China's civil war in 1949, when the defeated Nationalist government fled across the Taiwan Strait.

Tsai, who is leading a delegation of 120 people, will meet with most of the four countries' leaders and attend the inauguration of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. She said she would also interact with the heads of state of other countries at the inauguration.

Beijing has intervened to prevent the island's participation in international forums and established diplomatic relations with former Taipei allies Gambia and Sao Tome and Principe. The moves have been seen as effectively abandoning the unspoken diplomatic truce that lasted eight years under Tsai's China-friendly predecessor. Just 21 countries and governments, mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean, now have official ties with Taipei. Observers were watching to see if any of the four Central American nations might defect despite Tsai's efforts, but say stronger US support under Trump's administration would help balance future diplomatic losses. "We should expect that in the Trump administration the US would be more vociferous and emphatic about Taiwan's participation in inter-

Although the US does not challenge China's claim to sovereignty over Taiwan, Washington remains Taiwan's main source of weapons, with \$14 billion in approved arms sales since 2009, and is bound by law to consider threats to the island's security a matter of "grave concern."

If Beijing aggressively pursues existing Taipei allies, leveraging its growing economic, military and political clout, the competition could prove too expensive for Taipei and prompt Tsai to seek even deeper ties with the US. "She may think now that it's America or bust," said Sean King, a Taipei-based senior vice president at consulting firm Park Strategies. "She's probably going to lose these peripheral countries eventually anyway, so why not go for the gusto and get as



national organizations," Feingold said.

close to the US while she can?" — AP



SOUTH KOREA PROTESTORS DEMAND PARK'S REMOVAL

SEOUL: Hundreds of thousands of protestors returned to the streets of Seoul yesterday, demanding impeached President Park Geun-Hye's immediate removal and the salvaging of a sunken ferry which left more than 300 dead. Park was impeached by parliament last month over an influence-peddling scandal and the Constitutional Court now has to decide whether to confirm the impeachment.

The corruption scandal has brought huge numbers of protesters onto the streets every week demanding Park's removal and she is also under fire over her response to the Sewol ferry accident in 2014. "Park step down, salvage the Sewol," the protestors, estimated to number half a million by organizers, chanted as they marched toward the presidential Blue House, the prime minister's office and the Constitutional Court.

At 7 pm (10:00 GMT) hundreds of yellow balloons were released and the protestors blew out the candles they were carrying as a symbolic gesture asking that Park clarify the mystery surrounding her seven-hour absence at the time of the ferry sinking. Unconfirmed media reports have suggested a wide range of theories regarding Park's whereabouts, including a romantic liaison, participation in a shamanistic ritual, cosmetic surgery or a 90-minute haircut.

The protesters also urged the government to speed up its efforts to salvage the ship to determine the exact cause of the disaster.

Regarding the corruption case, Park has repeatedly denied accusations she colluded with a longtime friend. Choi Soon-II. to strong-arm donations worth tens of millions of dollars from top firms which were then funnelled to dubious foundations. The president still has her supporters however, with an estimated 30,000 demonstrators staging a counter-protest Saturday outside the office of a special prosecutor investigating the scandal.

Waving national flags and chanting military songs, the protesters dismissed the impeachment move as a conspiracy spawned by "pro-North Korean" leftists seeking to topple the conservative government. —AFP



Members of a rescue team help a family evacuate a flooded zone in the southern Thai village of Chauat yesterday.—AFP

TORRENTIAL RAINS SUBMERGE Thai south, toll hits 18

NAKHON SI THAMMARAT , Thailand: Heavy rains continued to hammer Thailand's flood-ravaged south yesterday, bringing the death toll up to 18 and leaving thousands of villages partially submerged, authorities said. The flooding, which was roof-high in some areas, has affected nearly one million people in ten southern provinces since it started a week ago, the

Interior Ministry said in a statement. At least 18 people have died and one is missing, it added, with the rains turning roads into rivers, inundating farmland and damaging more than 1,500 schools in the region. The downpour is expected to persist for at least two more days, according to Thailand's Meteorological Department, which warned of flash floods. "The situation is very bad today and tomorrow. It's still raining heavily," said Junjuda Pornsri, a meterological official.

Military bases across the region have been mobilized to help evacuate flood victims, provide temporary shelters and distribute emergency aid, the government said yesterday. In hard-hit Nakhon Si Thammarat province, two army helicopters were deployed to airlift food to families trapped inside their homes in Cha-uat district. Bapha Suthiphanya, a 60-year-old who has spent the past three nights in a makeshift government shelter in the district, said she was forced to evacuate her home after the waters rose above her head. "I was so shocked and scared. I've never

seen water like this and I also cannot swim," she told AFP.

Peak tourist season

The monsoon rains are unusually heavy for this time of year in Thailand, which normally sees a three-month stretch of relatively dry and cool weather starting in November. It is high season for tourists who flock to the kingdom's island resorts,

powering a crucial sector of the economy. But the deluge has already disrupted beach holidays in several traveller hotspots, including the popular islands of Samui and Phangan. Hundreds of tourists have had their flights delayed, while train and bus services on the mainland have also been suspended. Yet some travellers are refusing to let the storm stop the fun, with photos doing the rounds on social media of tourists coasting through flooded streets on pool floats, sipping drinks. — AFP



Taipei-based senior adviser at DC. International

Advisory, a consulting firm whose chief execu-

tive has been consulted by the Trump transition

team. "China might issue its usual statements of

displeasure ... but it really doesn't depart from

precedent," Feingold said. "A meeting with Trump

low-key to avoid further inflaming tensions with

China, which has been angered by Tsai's refusal to endorse Beijing's concept that Taiwan and the

mainland are part of a single Chinese nation.

Regardless, Tsai is likely to keep the US stops

Beijing says failing to endorse the one-China

would be the biggest precedent changer."

TAIPEI: Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen delivers a speech before traveling to visit Central

TAIPEI: Pro-China protesters waving placards reading "Independence will get you nowhere" greeted Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong and three rebel lawmakers as they arrived in Taipei yesterday. Wong, along with Hong Kong legislators Nathan Law, Eddie Chu, and Edward Yiu, is attending a political forum hosted by Taiwan's New Power Party (NPP), which is advocating for recognition of Taiwan as a nation.

American allies including a US transit yesterday. —AP

Guatemala and El Salvador would "show the

international society that Taiwan is a capable

Francisco, stops that will irk Beijing, which has urged Washington to prevent Tsai from landing

in the US to "refrain from sending any wrong sig-

nal to the Taiwanese independence forces."

She will transit through Houston and San

Beijing regards the self-governing island as

part of China and officials complained after

President-elect Donald Trump last month

breached diplomatic protocol by speaking by

phone with the Taiwanese leader. Trump raised

and responsible partner for cooperation."

The two-day event aimed at linking democracy movements in Hong Kong and Taiwan has provoked a hostile reception from pro-unification groups on the island over what they see as a joint independence movement. Television footage showed a scuffle when one of the more than 200 protesters at the Taipei airport broke through the police line and attempted to throw a punch at the Hong Kong activists. Around 50 pro-China protesters also gathered at Hong Kong's airport for Wong's departure.

"This really is a bit outrageous," Wong said of the reception in Taiwan. Wong led massive prodemocracy rallies in Hong Kong in 2014 bringing tens of thousands onto the streets calling for reform amid concern that Beijing is tightening its grip on the semi-autonomous city.

The city's government recently launched a legal bid to unseat a number of pro-democracy lawmakers including Law, the youngest ever legislator in Hong Kong. Beijing has also been ratcheting up pressure on democratically-elected Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and her Beijing-sceptic Democratic Progressive Party, which has refused to acknowledge the concept there is only "one China."

The two sides split in 1949 after a civil war and Taiwan has been a self-governed island since. However, Beijing still sees it part of its territory to be brought back into its fold. China's Taiwan Affairs Office last month denounced this weekend's forum as a collusion between independence advocates that is doomed to fail. The NPP emerged from a 2014 student occupation of Taiwan's parliament protesting a trade deal with China that known as the Sunflower movement.

Its most well-known politician is death-metal rocker Freddy Lim, who unseated a veteran lawmaker to win a seat in January's election. "Rather than attempting to suppress democracy in Taiwan and Hong Kong, we hope the Beijing government can spend the time to consider democratisation of its domestic society," said NPP's Huang Kuo-chang at the forum. — AFP



TAIPEI: Pro-Taiwan and China unification activists chant slogans outside a venue during a political forum hosted by Taiwan's New Power Party (NPP) in Taipei yesterday.—AFP





A sailboat is silhouetted against the setting sun on Friday off the coast of Key West, Florida. — AP

Trump slams anti-Russia 'fools'

Continued from Page 1

Although Trump accepted the possibility that Moscow was involved in hacking US targets including the Democratic National Committee, the president-elect held fast to his rejection of the intelligence community's conclusion that Russia interfered in the election. He told the New York Times before the meeting that the accusations are part of a "political witch-hunt" against him.

He blamed Democrats for the hacking, accusing the Democratic National Committee of "gross negligence" in another series of tweets yesterday. "Only reason the hacking of the poorly defended DNC is discussed is that the loss by the Dems was so big that they are totally

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embarrassed!" Trump, who has ridiculed the country's intelligence agencies, repeated his view that the findings show "absolutely no evidence" any hacking affected the election results. "Voting machines not touched!"

Moscow denies the hacking accusations. Yesterday, a top Russian lawmaker accused US President Barack Obama's administration of undermining US democracy instead. "The Democratic process in the United States is undermined not by Russia, but by the Obama administration and the media which supported (Democratic nominee Hillary) Clinton against Trump, Alexei Pushkov, former parliamentary foreign relations committee chairman, tweeted." The threat to democracy is the United States." — AFP

TANKER BOMB KILLS 48 IN SYRIA TOWN

Continued from Page 1

fighters - were killed in a car bombing of a rebel headquarters. The rebels accused the Islamic State group of being behind that attack. The group is present elsewhere in Aleppo province and has sought to advance on Azaz in the past. In October, at least 17 people were killed in a car bomb attack on a rebel checkpoint, the Observatory said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for yesterday's attack, but Osama Al-Merhi, a lawyer at the scene of the blast, pointed the finger at IS. "These kinds of crimes are only committed by the terrorist group Daesh," he said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. "They are the ones who target civilians and the cadres who are building this country," he told AFP.

The blast comes during a fragile nationwide ceasefire brokered by government ally Russia and rebel backer Turkey. The truce came into effect on Dec 30, and is intended to pave the way for new peace talks in Kazakh capital Astana, which regime ally Iran is also helping organize. But the ceasefire and the planned talks have been threatened by ongoing violence in the rebel-held Wadi Barada region outside Damascus, which is the main water source for the capital.

Overnight, the Observatory said seven Syrian soldiers and two civilians were killed in clashes. Fighting in the region has continued despite the truce, which does not apply to IS or former Al-Qaeda affiliate Fateh al-Sham Front, known previously as Al-Nusra Front. The government says Fateh al-Sham is present in Wadi Barada, and blames rebels there for cutting water to Damascus since Dec 22. Rebels deny the jihadist group is in the region and say the mains supply was severed after government strikes hit pumping facilities in the area. The damage has left 5.5 million people in Damascus and its suburbs without water, according to the UN. Yesterday, state media said maintenance teams had arrived in the area 15 km northwest of Damascus and were "prepared to enter" to begin repair work. A source close to the regime said a temporary ceasefire had been agreed to allow the repair crews to enter, though it could take days before the mains supply is restored.

More than 310,000 people have been killed in Syria since the conflict began in March 2011 with anti-government protests. The fighting has displaced more than half the population, internally or abroad, and proved stubbornly resistant to international attempts to broker a political solution. Turkey and Russia want to convene negotiations in Astana later this month, but rebels have suspended participation in preparatory talks, blaming regime "violations" in Wadi Barada.

Elsewhere, an alliance of Arab and Kurdish fighters backed by US special forces moved to within four kilometers of the Tabqa dam held by IS, the Observatory said. The monitor said the Syrian Democratic Forces had taken the last IS-held village between them and the dam on the Euphrates, which is the country's largest. The dam is just 500 m from the town of Tabqa, where many senior IS commanders have been based. — AFP

US NOT RULING OUT TERRORISM IN FLORIDA...

Continued from Page 1

exhibiting "erratic behavior" that led agents to contact local police, who took him to a medical facility for a mental health evaluation, Piro said. However, he was not placed on a no-fly list, Piro added.

A former member of the Puerto Rico and Alaska National Guard, Santiago served in Iraq from April 2010 to February 2011. He ended his service in August. Investigators were probing Santiago's recent travel. "Indications are that he came here to carry out this horrific attack," Piro said, adding that officials had not yet "identified any triggers". The suspect, who earlier complained that the CIA was forcing him to watch Islamic State videos, allegedly opened fire randomly with a semi-automatic handgun Friday shortly before 1:00 pm (1800 GMT).

Following the initial gunshots, a deputy officer came into contact with the gunman after approximately 70 to 80 seconds, Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel told reporters. Santiago was detained without law enforcement having fired any shots, the sheriff added. An aunt, Maria Luisa Ruiz, told the NorthJersey.com news site that Santiago became a father to a baby boy in September - and that he was having mental problems. "Like a month ago, it was like he lost his mind," Ruiz said. "He said he saw things. My family and I are in shock right now," she added. "It's sad, but we have to confront the situation." FBI agents later interviewed Ruiz, CNN reported. In addition to those killed and wounded, up to 40 people went to the hospital for various other injuries such as falling and sprains, Israel said. Three of the wounded were still in the intensive care unit. The sheriff empha-

sized that if people "are suffering from a mental illness or they're on a no-fly list or they're a convicted felon, they flat out shouldn't be allowed to own handguns or rifles."

The shooting renewed anxieties about airport security a concern that has loomed large in the post-9/11 era - and shed new light on ongoing US gun-control debates. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who represents the Florida district that includes the airport, said the incident brought into question federal rules that allow firearms to be carried on a plane in checked baggage.

Speaking to CNN, the congresswoman said "baggage claim areas are not secure" and that the incident should prompt close review of "whether or not you should be allowed to check a firearm at all" - as well as how passengers traveling with firearms should be able to retrieve their weapons after landing. "If there is still exposure to the traveling public of someone who wishes to do them harm and, like this individual, was reunited with their firearm and was able to wreak havoc... it absolutely needs to be addressed."

Senator Chris Murphy, a Democrat from Connecticut, rebuked the government for not taking legislative action to tighten gun laws. "Political cowardice is the accomplice of every mass shooter," he wrote on Twitter. "The utter silence of Congress in the face of this carnage has become consent." The Fort Lauderdale airport was open again yesterday, aiming to run at about 85 percent of its normal capacity, according to the airport director. Airport personnel were also busy conducting the complicated task of returning nearly 20,000 pieces of luggage and other personal items abandoned by passengers fleeing at the time of the shooting, officials said. — AFP

DEPORTATIONS SURGE AS 29,000 EXPELLED IN 2016

Continued from Page 1

Accordingly, the lawmakers demanded deporting a million expats within 5-10 years with an annual rate of 100,000 expats, which means their rejection of the minster of social affairs and labor's suggestion to adjust the population structure within 15 years.

"Unless the government is serious in solving the problem and reducing the number of marginal workers, the society will continue to suffer from imported crimes," the lawmakers warned, calling for setting a certain quota per nationality because it is unacceptable that half of the expatriates living in Kuwait belong to only one nationality.

In this regard, MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei called for setting a well-studied strategic law to organize Kuwait's demography and increase the number of citizens to over 50 percent of the population. "This means reducing the number of expats by 10 percent annually and getting rid of those the Kuwaiti market does not need," he underscored.

MP Mohammed Al-Huwailah said that like other GCC states, Kuwait is suffering from demographic imbalances and that this can only be resolved by good planning. "This does not need 15 years as the minister said," he underlined, noting that the problem can be resolved within five years by setting a well-structured plan.

Commenting on the same, the head of the parliamentary human rights committee MP Adel Al-Damkhi called for holding visa traffickers legally accountable and for incriminating human trafficking. He also called for appointing more Kuwaitis in the government sector. MP Osama Al-Shaheen said it was unacceptable that expats form two-thirds of the population. "Generally speaking, we are not against expats and do not deny the contributions of some, but the fact that Kuwaitis are outnumbered calls for a serious stand," he said.





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Focus

OBAMA SET FOR PARDON FRENZY AS HE LEAVES OFFICE

Rastafarian, a former Taleban captive and thousands of minor drug traffickers have one thing in common: Their names have been submitted to President Barack Obama for clemency before he leaves office in two weeks. Some US presidents have used this regal power of leniency in a pointed way near the end of their term in office. On the last day of his term in 2001, Democratic president Bill Clinton granted pardon in a highly controversial move to late fugitive trader Marc Rich, whose ex-wife had been a major donor to Democrats.

Sixteen years later, Obama is fielding pressure from all sides to grant unlikely pardons or commutations of sentences to people whose supporters say have been unjustly sentenced or sought out by the justice system. Among them is Bowe Bergdahl, a US Army sergeant held captive for five years by the Taleban before his release in a prisoner swap, who is due to be court-martialed for desertion.

Leonard Peltier, a Native American activist convicted for the 1975 deaths of two FBI agents in what his supporters say was a setup, is also hoping to enjoy Obama's good graces. Then there's Edward Snowden, who made the shattering revelation in 2013 of a global communications and internet surveillance system set up by the United States. The 33-year-old, a refugee in Russia, is backed by numerous celebrities like actress Susan Sarandon and singer Peter Gabriel, as well as Amnesty International and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Preventive clemency

If Obama fails to pardon Snowden, his supporters say he may face the death penalty under the incoming administration of Republican Donald Trump, who has called him a "terrible traitor". In another leak case, Chelsea Manning is serving a 35-year sentence in solitary confinement for handing 700,000 sensitive military and diplomatic documents to WikiLeaks, some of them classified. Activists say her sentence is excessive and point to the psychological frailty of the transgender soldier who has already made two suicide attempts.

Even though the White House has dismissed a possible pardon for Snowden and Manning, their supporters are still hoping for a final magnanimous gesture from a president about to leave the constraints of his high office on Jan 20. But both cases present unique challenges: Snowden has yet to be sentenced and merely faces espionage charges in the US, while Manning has an appeal pending before military court.

The US Constitution allows a president to pardon "offenses against the United States" and commute either shorten or end - federal sentences. Obama has so far granted 148 pardons since taking office in 2009 fewer than his predecessors, who also served two terms, George W Bush (189) and Bill Clinton (396). But he has surpassed any other president in the number of commutations, 1,176.

Or posthumous mercy

Most of those who benefited from the president's clemency were minor drug dealers no longer considered a threat. Obama has promised to use his clemency powers to help serve penal justice, rather than to grant special favors. "I don't think we will see high-profile names on the list of President Obama's final clemency grants," Mark Osler of the University of St Thomas told AFP. "It is most likely they will be the types of cases he has previously commuted: Nonviolent narcotics offenders." He noted that last-minute clemency is a recent phenomenon. "Up until President Clinton, they usually spread them out over their full term. Hopefully, in the future presidents will return to that practice, which seems less prone to abuse," Osler said.

Presidents can theoretically pardon people before they are even sentenced. In 1868, president Andrew Johnson granted a "full pardon and amnesty" to Confederates of the 11 southern states who unsuccessfully fought the Civil War to succeed from the union. Citing this precedent, some have urged Obama to preventively pardon defeated Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton over her use of a private email server while serving as secretary of state in light of Trump's threats to have her prosecuted.

Obama could also be tempted to grant amnesty to his onetime "favorite general," James Cartwright, who lied to the FBI about his discussions with journalists about Iran's nuclear program. Some pardon requests can be far-fetched, such as one for the late Marcus Garvey, a Jamaican political leader who backed Pan-Africanism and helped inspire the Rastafarian movement. Supporters are seeking a posthumous pardon for Garvey, who died in 1940. He was convicted of mail fraud in the United States and later deported back to Jamaica. Some Rastafarian followers consider him to be a prophet. — AFP

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READ NEWS LIKE A SPY IN AGE OF TRUMP

By Peter Van Buren

S President-elect Donald Trump is clearly antagonistic toward the mainstream media. That attitude is unlikely to change after Inauguration Day. His disdain for journalists and reluctance to release details about his finances and business ventures may force journalists to rely increasingly on anonymous sources, a strategy that reputable news organizations have long frowned upon. So in the age of Trump, how should a reader approach coverage that relies primarily on anonymous sources? Read the news like a spy.

By not naming a source, a journalist asks you to trust them. Did they talk to an intern or a policymaker? Every source has an agenda; if we as readers don't know the source we have a hard time parsing out and then evaluating that motivation. Remember the way the press covered decisions that led to the 2003 Iraq War via articles based on unnamed sources, all with tall tales of Weapons of Mass Destruction?

Anonymous sources certainly have their place. During the Watergate scandal, Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein used a contact named Deep Throat to verify details about US President Richard Nixon's involvement in the break-in of the Democratic National Committee's headquarters, theft of top-secret documents and bugging of phones. Legitimate sources need to be protected from retaliation in return for informing the public, especially where national security whistleblowing is concerned.

Many readers feel they have only two options: take the reporter's word for it, or not. The result is a steady flow of insider stories that get blasted through aggregated media, which simply repeat others' work. They then abandon the story as online roadkill for us to Tweet about. We tend to either label what we read as bogus, or scream at people who label what we believe as bogus.

The unique circumstances of Trump's business background mean legitimate anonymous sources will likely have to play a significant role in reporting over the next four years. At the same time, the echo-like nature of the web, coupled with partisan outlets and equally partisan readers, opens the door to more unscrupulous or mistaken use of anonymous sources.

So how can readers exercise intelligent skepticism? One way is to apply some of the same tests intelligence officers use to help them evaluate their own sources. Since an article's unnamed sources are fully unknown to you as the reader, not every test applies, but thinking backwards from the information in front of you to who

could be the source is a good start on forming a sense of how credible what you are being told might be.

'Position to know'

For example, is a source in a position to know what they say they know, what intelligence officers call spotting? A story claiming bureaucrats are unhappy with the new president might be legitimately sourced from a contact in the human resources office of a large cabinet agency. But how many people's opinions would that source be in a position to know, beyond cafeteria gossip? Tens out of a workforce of tens of thousands? So if the finished story reads "State Department officials are unhappy with the incoming administration," how credible is such a broad statement? Is it news what a handful of people think?

The "position to know" idea scales up sharply when a source says they are privy to important conversations: how would they know the contents of a call the president-elect made to a foreign leader? Only a very few people would be in the room for something like that. Would any be likely leakers? Any article that cites a source who claims to know the "why" behind some action, what was in the head of a decision maker, should be subject to special skepticism. Key officials are generally not in the habit of explaining their true motivations outside a tight inner circle. In your own

Legitimate sources risk something by talking, such as loss of a good job, maybe even jail. Is what they will get out of the leak worth the risk they are assuming? On the other hand, sources may push out fake leaks intended to influence public opinion. Often times these take the form of excerpts from classified documents. What would an anonymous source hope to achieve by such a leak, at the risk of prison? If you the reader can't suss out the mystery source's likely agenda - what they want - then you're the guy at the poker table who can't tell who the rube is, and needs a mirror to find out. Agenda-driven information can still be true, but is always worth a good sniff test by a discerning reader.

Another test you can apply is if the information being handed over fits the "is the juice worth the squeeze" test of credibility. For example, a source claims Candidate X had a police officer beaten up after she ticketed his car. Would a candidate really risk headline news that he ordered a beating of a cop just to retaliate for a minor traffic ticket? Careful readers also have to ask themselves whether they want to believe such a thing badly enough to overlook its improbability.

Expectability

Similarly, is what you are reading consistent with other information on the subject? Does the new info track known facts, what intelligence officers call expectability? Overall, the further away from expectability a story stretches, the more obligation to be skeptical. While anything can have a potential explanation, falling back on "it might be true" or "you can't prove it's not true" are typical enablers of bogus news, or misleading and inaccurate reporting.

How might this all work in practice? For example, a story published by ThinkProgress, a news site affiliated with the Democratic-leaning think tank the Center for American Progress, claimed the Trump Organization pressured the Kuwaiti ambassador to move a reception from the Four Seasons to the new Trump International Hotel in Washington as a way to curry favor. (The Kuwaiti ambassador denied this claim in both the ThinkProgress article and a subsequent article in Politico)

Who inside Trump's group (his daughter Ivanka?) and the embassy (the ambassador's personal aide?) would be privy to such a sensitive interaction, have the pull to speak one-on-one with an ambassador, and then wish to leak it? Would Trump risk creating a smoking gun of corruption over catering fees? Would the embassy want to put itself on front pages and potentially muddy relations over the same? Or would the journalist or the article's source be working an agenda to discredit a politician by piggy-backing on an existing narrative Trump's critics are predisposed to agree with?

In the end, an intelligence officer rarely knows what is 100 percent true, so they assign a rating to information, such as high, medium or low confidence, and act on the information (or not) in line with that. A reader can never know with certainty the truth about an anonymously-sourced story. But while anything is possible, only some things are probable, and that's usually the way you bet.

The kind of "who done its", "why did they do its," deep suspicions and flying accusations of the election season are unlikely to disappear on Inauguration Day. Partisan divisions, perhaps the sharpest in modern American history, will drive the media. Every news outlet will face pressures to break news ahead of the competition. In 2017, engaging with the media is not longer a passive process. Caveat Lector - let the reader beware.

NOTE: Peter Van Buren, a 24 year State Department veteran, is the author of "We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People". His next book is "Hooper's War: A Novel of WWII Japan".

HEALTHCARE BATTLE COULD DECIDE BALANCE OF POWER

■he messaging battle is on over repealing and replacing US President Barack Obama's health care law, and the balance of power in Washington may be at stake. Democrats believe they already lost the public opinion fight over the law once, when they pushed through the Affordable Care Act in the first place, and Republicans grabbed hold of the issue to drive Democrats into the minority. Democrats are determined that this time, they'll come out on top.

For their part, Republicans are painfully aware that they're embarking upon the task of repealing and replacing the complex law at their peril. If Democrats get their way, the GOP will own every problem and complication that results from the rework, and there are certain to be many. For both sides, the repeal-and-replace fight represents a risky and unexpected do-over nearly seven years after Democratic majorities in the House and Senate passed the law on a party-line vote. A voter backlash helped send Democrats into the minority in the House in the 2010 midterms, and Republicans have been using the issue to political benefit ever since. In November's elections, Donald Trump and GOP House and Senate candidates ran on promises to repeal the law and replace it with something better.

Now, Democrats have a chance to fight the messaging war anew, even as they continue to champion the health care law as good policy that's helped the country. And Republicans, who've had political success in attacking the law without offering a unified solution of their own, have a chance to present their ideas and make policy, but risk giving away their political advantage if they become the ones voters blame for problems in the health system.

The side that meets the challenge most effectively will help determine who prevails in the 2018 midterms, and in the next presidential election four years from now. On Wednesday, as he unveiled Democrats' new attack line against the GOP - "Make America Sick Again" - Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said that after the health law passed, voters blamed it for every problem related to health care, "and our Republicans colleagues and their message machine did it". "Now, they're gonna own it," Schumer said of the GOP. "And all the problems in the health care system, and there have been many throughout the years, no one has solved all of them, are gonna be on their back."

Blame

Schumer made his comments after Democratic lawmakers met with Obama to discuss combating GOP efforts to undo the law, a new legislative initiative which got under way Wednesday with a procedural vote in the Senate. Obama's message: Not to cooperate with GOP replacement plans that don't offer a good solution for the 20 million Americans who gained health coverage under the law. He advised keeping the focus on those who benefited from the Affordable Care Act, such as people with pre-existing conditions who got coverage, and who might be hurt if their coverage were taken away.

And, he took on blame for Democrats' failure to sell the public on a law that by some measures has achieved its goals. "I will take the responsibility for not having fully communicated with the American people for why this is an extraordinary victory for them," Obama said. Even as Obama huddled with Democrats, Vice President-elect Mike Pence was meeting with Republicans across the Capitol, emerging to offer assurances that Republicans would make good on their repeated promises to repeal the law.

"The American people know who owns Obamacare It's the first half of the title. It is Obama and the party of Obama," Pence insisted, "What President-elect Trump and I and the leaders in the Congress are determined to do is to keep faith with the American people." Inside the meeting with House Republicans, Pence offered a more urgent message, advising Republicans to "go back to districts and lay the predicate that the Democrats own this thing," said GOP Rep Dave Brat of Virginia.

Trump himself castigated Democrats on the issue over Twitter, while offering notes of caution to his own party, writing Thursday, "The Democrats, lead (sic) by head clown Chuck Schumer, know how bad ObamaCare is and what a mess they are in. ... time for Republicans & Democrats to get together and come up with a healthcare plan that really works."

Some Republicans are painfully aware that their own political fortunes could be at risk if they fumble the issue. "I'm here because of Obamacare," said GOP Rep Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, crediting the issue with his victory in 2012. And now, Cramer says, he risks losing his seat over Obamacare, "if we let our voters down in places like North Dakota by not acting decisively and swiftly."

Yet for now, even as they move toward repealing the law as early as next month, Republicans don't have a replacement plan, or even a timeline for offering one. There's likely to be a yearslong transition period between the repeal and the replacement, but many House Republicans, who stand for re-election every two years, believe it's urgent to get the replacement done before the 2018 midterms, or risk voter wrath. "If it hasn't been done by the 2018s, it's like, 'What are you doing?" said GOP Rep Mark Amodei of Nevada. "If after five years of Republicans saying it sucks, we don't do a good job of transitioning and replacing, then Katy bar the door." — AP



WENGER REGRETS WILSHERE LOAN

LONDON: Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger is now regretting his decision to allow Jack Wilshere to go on loan to Bournemouth this season after Francis Coquelin's injury left him with only two senior central midfielders available in Aaron Ramsey and Granit Xhaka. Coquelin joined long-term absentee Santi

Cazorla and Mesut Ozil on the sidelines and with Egypt's Mohamed Elneny heading to the African Nations Cup, Wenger is short of options for Saturday's FA Cup clash against Preston North End. "Yes, I could use Wilshere now. What looks unfair at some moment in the season is that you know at some stage you could need the player," Wenger said when asked if he regretted allowing the 25-year-old to leave. "But even at the start you need to have the right balance between competition and numbers and chances for the player to play. And still today I think it was the right decision for him to go." Xhaka has been in the spotlight for the wrong reasons recently after conceding a penalty at Bournemouth on Tuesday and against Stoke City last month.—Reuters

UK ANTI-DOPING BOSS CRITICAL OF TEAM SKY

LONDON: The head of UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) has criticised Team Sky over their inability to prove what was in a package delivered to a team doctor during a 2011 race. UKAD is investigating the package, intended for Bradley Wiggins during the 2011 Criterium du Dauphine, and Team Sky principal Dave Brailsford was grilled about it during a British parliamentary hearing last month. He could only say he had been told it contained a legal decongestant, Fluimucil, but in a BBC interview published on Saturday, outgoing UKAD chairman David Kenworthy said his evidence was underwhelming. "What you had here was an incident which occurred in 2011 and the hearing was in December 2016, so five years ago people can remember a package that was delivered to France," Kenworthy said. "They can remember who asked for it, they can remember the route it took, who delivered it, the times it arrived. "Everybody can remember this from five years ago, but nobody can remember what was in the package. That strikes me as extraordinary. "It's very disappointing. We're still continuing the investigation." — AFP

FROOME TURNED DOWN TUE ON 2015 TOUR

LONDON: Britain's triple Tour de France champion Chris Froome declined a therapeutic use exemption (TUE) during the 2015 race because he didn't think it was right morally, he told the BBC on Friday. The 31-year-old Kenyan-born rider's revelation comes in the wake of hacked medical records showing his former Sky team-mate Bradley Wiggins had been granted TUEs to take the banned anti-inflammatory drug triamcinolone before the 2011 and 2012 Tours de France and the 2013 Giro d'Italia. Froome, who did take TUEs twice previously to treat asthma prior to the key Tour de France lead-

up, the 2013 Criterium Dauphine and the 2014 Tour de Romandie both of which he won, said he decided against accepting the TUE on the 2015 Tour de France as it didn't sit well with him. "I didn't feel having a TUE in the last week of the Tour was something I was prepared to do," he told the BBC. "It did not sit well morally with me." Froome, who is eyeing a rare Grand Tour double this year (the Tour de France and the Vuelta) having failed in his attempt last season, said the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) could end the debate about TUE's by making the rules surrounding them clearer.—AFP

WORLEY TRUMPS SHIFFRIN FOR MARIBOR GS VICTORY

MARIBOR: Giant slalom specialist Tessa Worley got back to winning ways yesterday, clinching a French record 11th career win in her favorite discipline.

Worley had been beaten by Mikaela Shiffrin at two GS races last week. But with the American leading again after the opening leg, Worley used a near-perfect final run to grab her third win of the season.

"It feels better for sure," said Worley about winning again. "I can't say I was disappointed as second places are awesome. But to be able to fight back to the top feels great." Worley had the fastest second-run time to beat Sofia Goggia by 0.16 seconds as the Italian skier earned her seventh podium of the season. Defending overall champion Lara Gut of Switzerland came 0.25 behind in third. Firstrun leader Shiffrin was still 0.13 seconds ahead of Worley at the final split time of her second run but finished 0.42 off the lead in fourth. "It was a superfast course and I didn't quite match the speed that it's carrying," Shiffrin said. "So, you know, I am still learning."

Shiffrin, who held a slim 0.07-second lead over Goggia after the first run, was aiming to become the first American woman to win three straight races in the discipline since Tamara McKinney in March 1983. Worley won the world GS title in 2013 but her career suffered a setback when she tore the ACL and damaged the meniscus in her right knee 10 months later. She failed to win another race for three years, but has meanwhile become a strong favorite for the World Cup discipline title this season.

STRONGER

Worley extended her lead over Shiffrin to 85 points, with Gut 190 points back in third. "I am feeling better again since last year. I do

things a little faster, a little stronger," Worley said. "It's also a question of confidence. I have more confidence now and I can attack a little more." That showed in her final run, in which she nearly slid off course but recovered with her left hand in the snow. "I was kind of on the edge there but it is the risk you have to take because the level is so high," said Worley, whose victory made her the most successful French woman in the discipline, overtaking Carole Merle who had 10 wins in the 1980s and '90s. In what was likely her last race, former overall champion Tina Maze of Slovenia started her opening run in race style and was only 0.69 off Shiffrin's time at the first split. But 46 seconds into her run she stopped to hug her coach and boyfriend, Andrea Massi. She then skied on at a leisurely pace and clicked out of her skis just before finishing. Maze walked over the line, threw her goggles, gloves and poles into the stands with thousands of cheering Slovenian fans.

The two-time Olympic champion hadn't competed since March 2015 after taking last season off to consider her future. In October, she announced her retirement after doing one more event, yesterday's race in her home country. However, in an interview with The Associated Press two days ago, Maze didn't rule out a return next season, which includes the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics in South Korea. "The most important thing is to live in the moment, not in the past and not in the future," Maze said yesterday.

Sabrina Simader became the first skier from Kenya to compete in a World Cup race. Simader, who moved to Austria with her mother as a three-year-old, finished 8.14 seconds behind Shiffrin and failed to qualify for the final run. A slalom on the same course is scheduled for today. — AP



ADELBODEN: From left, Austria's Marcel Hirscher, second placed, France's Alexis Pinturault, the winner, and third placed Philipp Schoerghofer, of Austria, celebrate on podium after an alpine ski, men's World Cup giant slalom in Adelboden, Switzerland, yesterday. —AP

PINTURAULT EDGES HIRSCHER TO WIN WORLD CUP SLALOM

18 at Aspen, Colorado.

ADELBODEN: In a race peppered with World Cup history, Alexis Pinturault held off hard-charging Marcel Hirscher to win Switzerland's classic giant slalom yesterday.

Pinturault won a pulsating duel by just 0.04 seconds after five-time defending overall champion Hirscher put pressure on by posting the fastest second run.

With his 19th career World Cup win, the 25-year-old Pinturault broke a tie with Alpine ski icon Jean-Claude Killy for most victories by a Frenchman in the circuit's half-century of racing.

Killy won his first race almost 50 years ago to the day when the same storied Adelboden hill staged the first giant slalom of the debut World Cup season.

"Jean-Claude is still Jean-Claude. He has his own history, I have mine," said Pinturault, playing down comparisons with a great who swept the downhill, giant slalom and slalom gold medals at the 1968 Grenoble Winter Olympics.

"(It's) just something unbelievable, and almost unbeatable," said Pinturault, who took a giant slalom bronze at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Hirscher is a regular history-maker, and scored his 100th World Cup podium finish Saturday - tied for second on the all-time list with Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg.

GETTING OLDER

"It's something special," said 27-year-old Hirscher, who leads the season-long World Cup standings in pursuit of a record sixth overall title. Girardelli also won five, between 1984 and '93.

"I'm sure that when I'm getting older, 50 or 60 years, hopefully it will be great to hear that a young athlete is catching or beating my record," Hirscher said.

Neither Hirscher nor Pinturault has won a major title in giant slalom but that looks likely to change at the world championships next month, also in Switzerland at St. Moritz. Pinturault has three wins in the discipline this season, when Hirscher was runner-up each time. The Austrian, a two-time worlds silver medalist in GS, also won the Italy's classic at Alta Badia last month.

Saturday's race was the last before the worlds GS on Feb. 17 and the two standouts were far ahead of the rest. Hirscher's Austrian teammate Philipp Schoerghofer finished third, trailing 1.94 behind Pinturault. Wearing bib No. 1, Pinturault was 0.70 ahead of Hirscher when leading the morning first run. Schoerghofer had been second fastest.

Hirscher set an impressive second-run target and Pinturault acknowledged hearing the crowd's noisy roars for his rival from the start gate. "I heard he took the lead and also that he made a huge second run," the Frenchman said.

Pinturault's lead dropped at each time check, and Hirscher smiled ruefully on seeing he had lost. He held up a thumb and forefinger slightly apart to show how close it was.

Only two GS races and a maximum 200 points remain to be won in the World Cup season. Hirscher's 44-point lead will hold in a two-month wait for the next race at Kranjska Gora, Slovenia. The finals week race is scheduled Mar.

Pinturault joined a stellar list of skiers who have won on Adelboden's snow-covered cow pastures. It includes Hirscher, Girardelli and other greats such as Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden, Alberto Tomba of Italy and Hermann Maier of Austria. The two men who have won every major.

Alberto Tomba of Italy and Hermann Maier of Austria. The two men who have won every major gold medal in GS since 2009 skipped Saturday's race. Ted Ligety of the United States, the 2014 Olympic champion, a three-time world champion and Adelboden winner in 2013, is nursing back pains.

The 2010 Olympic gold medalist and 2009

world champion, Carlo Janka, chose to focus on upcoming downhill races and his home world championships. That left Switzerland to endure another tricky day in GS nearly six years after its last podium placing, when Janka won at Kranjska Gora.

The home team's best hopes today, Justin Murisier and Gino Caveziel, both skied out of the first run in sight of a big finish-area crowd on the steep final section. Switzerland's only finisher was 23rd-placed Manuel Pleisch, more than four seconds behind Pinturault and Hirscher in a class of their own. — AP

BRITISH BIKER SAM TAKES DAKAR LEAD

MARIBOR: From left, Italy's Sofia Goggia, second placed, France's Tessa Worley, the

winner, and third placed Lara Gut, of Switzerland, celebrate on podium after an

alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom in Maribor, Slovenia, yesterday. — AP

ORURO: British biker Sam Sunderland seized the overall lead in the Dakar Rally's motorcycle category on Friday after rivals lost their way in the high plains and dunes of Bolivia.

In the cars, Stephane Peterhansel regained the lead with Peugeot team mate Sebastien Loeb, the nine times world rally champion, taking his second stage win of 2017 and moving up into second place. Peugeot's Cyril Despres, who had led overnight, dropped to third place. "I tried to really focus on the navigation," said Dubai-based Sunderland, who finished the fifth stage with a 12 minute lead over Chilean Pablo Quintanilla. "There were one or two really tricky places. Sometimes it works out OK and sometimes you have problems. Today it worked out OK for me," added Sunderland, the fifth different motorcycle stage winner in five days.

Bad weather on the first all-Bolivian stage of the event between Tupiza and Oruro

meant the day's action was shortened to 219km from 447km. Quintanilla and early leader Joan Barreda, who was hit with a one-hour penalty on Thursday for refuelling in an unauthorised area, lost their way in the dunes after 150km of the special stage.

The Dakar, one of the world's toughest endurance challenges which ends in Buenos Aires on Jan. 14 after stages in Paraguay and Bolivia, saw another retirement before the stage started with former winner Carlos Sainz pulling out. Spain's twice world rally champion, whose son and namesake races in Formula One, had rolled his Peugeot into a ravine on Thursday and the car was too badly damaged to be repaired in the time available. The Dakar Rally started out as a gruelling race from Paris across the Sahara to the Senegalese capital but switched to South America in 2009 for security reasons. —Reuters



ORURO: Competitors arrive in Oruro, Bolivia, at the end of Stage 5 of the 2017 Dakar Rally, on Friday. — AFP

ZAIN SPONSORS KUWAITI MOTORBIKE CHAMPION IBRAHIM AL RUBAIAN

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its sponsorship of Kuwaiti motorbike champion Ibrahim Al Rubaian during his participation in Dakar Rally 2017. Al Rubaian is the first Kuwaiti racer to participate in this rally, considered the biggest and most challenging in the world, which commenced from Paraguay, South America.

Zain expressed its pride in supporting the Kuwaiti champion as part of its belief in the competencies of Kuwaiti athletes. Al Rubaian displayed impressive skill and determination during his past participations in several regional and international competitions, which saw him attaining many titles that add to Kuwaiti sporting accolades. Al Rubaian represents Kuwait for the first time in Dakar Rally, which is considered the biggest and most challenging motorsport rally in the world. Racers will travel 10,000 Kilometers in harsh and rocky roads throughout 14 days in three South American countries; Paraguay, Bolivia, and Argentina.

Zain wishes the Kuwaiti racer all the best of luck during his participation in the rally, which started on January 3rd. The company is proud to support local talents, and remains committed to supporting and sponsoring different types of sports, emphasizing its dedication to the elevation of Kuwaiti youth and sports.



Zain officials seen with Ibrahim Al Rubaian.



MISBAH BEMOANS BOWLING FLAWS IN PAKISTAN'S SERIES LOSS

wickets in all three tests was responsible for their series loss in Australia and the situation will not improve unless players get more exposure to conditions Down Under, captain Misbah-ul-Haq said yesterday. Misbah's team arrived in Australia with their hosts in disarray after a 2-1 home series loss to South Africa and the tourists were confident they could at least take one test in the series, if not emulate the Proteas.

Despite the odd patch of competitiveness, Pakistan were largely outclassed and their demise was completed at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday when they crumbled to a 220-run defeat to lose the series 3-0. "Our bowling is always our strength but in this series I was a bit disappointed that we couldn't take 20 wickets in any of the tests," the 42-year-old Misbah told reporters. "That's why we were so behind in every game, that's important for you in Australian conditions. "It's difficult for any Asian side to come here and take 20 wickets in a test match. That's an art and we could not do that and that mainly cost us the series."

If most of the Pakistan tour highlights came from batsman, the biggest disappointment was probably leg-spinner Yasir Shah, who arrived on his first tour Down Under with a big reputation but departed with eight wickets at a cost of 672 runs. He was not the first vaunted spinner from South Asia to struggle to adapt to the conditions.

ALIEN CONDITIONS

Saturday's defeat was Pakistan's 12th straight in Australia through four series sweeps since 1999 and Misbah said youngsters identified as test prospects had to be given a chance to taste the conditions earlier in their careers.

"If we are not touring more often in Australia and South Africa, this could happen again and again," he said.

"I've already suggested that some of our players should be sent to Australia on a regular basis to play games here... this is the only way we can improve.

"If you are coming here after four or five or six years, seven or eight guys are coming here for the first time. We are going to struggle."

Pakistan's bowling woes were not helped by the number of injuries with pace spearhead Mohammad Amir in the treatment room for much of the series.

"To win in Australia, your fitness is vital, in any other country you can survive but in Australia you need supreme fitness," Misbah added.

Misbah, who has said he will return to Pakistan before deciding on his future, thought the manner of the defeat in the second test in Melbourne, where the tourists were dismissed for 163 on the final day, had been another decisive factor. "The last day of the MCG was the biggest disappointment of the tour and we got demoralised from that and could not recover," he said. "This is how it is. Australia is not an easy place." — Reuters

AUSTRALIA'S SMITH WARNS OF 'DIFFICULT SERIES' IN INDIA

SYDNEY: Skipper Steve Smith is switching his focus to the difficult challenges confronting his new revamped team in India after polishing off a Test series clean sweep over Pakistan yesterday. Australia crushed the tourists by 220 runs by tea on the final day in the third Sydney Test to inflict 12 straight Test defeats over Pakistan in Australia, stretching back to 1995.

Smith has led Australia to four Test victories and a three-game one-day series win over New Zealand since the nadir of an innings debacle to lose their home series against South Africa in Hobart in November. The Australians have looked a vastly different team with the inclusion of young batsmen Matthew Renshaw and Peter Handscomb, but now face their moment of truth on a gruelling four-Test series in India, starting next month. Smith said having a new set of players may help deal with the mental scars of past tours to India, where Australia have not won a Test match since 2004 and have lost the last seven.

"It helps in a way (with the new guys), but the guys also haven't experienced the conditions as well which is going to be a tough one too," Smith told reporters after the Sydney Test win. "It's a completely different place to play, playing on those wickets is nothing like playing here in Australia. "Guys will have to adapt quickly and find a way to be successful in those conditions."

'A GREAT CHALLENGE'

Smith, who was a member of the Australia team that was hammered 4-0 in India in 2013, said he was anticipating a testing time ahead. "It's going to be a very difficult series going over there," he said. "We're under no illusions it's going to be tough. We're going to have to play some very good cricket if we want to compete over there. "It's going to be a great challenge and learning curve for this group."

Smith said he expected the core of the current team to play in India. "A few of us have been there before and we know it's difficult to play in their own backyard. They're a very good team," he said. "There's obviously going to be a few people added to the squad. We're going to have to play incredibly well over there."

Selectors will meet next week to chose the touring party but coach Darren Lehmann has confirmed there will be no reserve wicketkeeper in India, leaving Matthew Wade and Peter Nevill in a battle for one spot in the side. "We're pretty lucky with Pete Handscomb being able to be back up (wicketkeeper), that probably allows us to take a specialist and then him as back up," Lehmann told reporters.

Smith said Australia's fortunes turned after the nightmare in Hobart, where they went down by an innings and 80 runs to South Africa inside four days forcing drastic team surgery. "It was pretty tough times to be honest. You lose your first two Tests of an Australian summer and you are not in a good place," Smith said. "It wasn't great times but I'm really proud of the way the guys have come in and turned it around since then. "I think it was when we all got together as a group and trained for the first time in Adelaide. "Straight away I felt a shift in attitude and energy and enthusiasm amongst the group and we were able to put all of that out in the middle and get the performance we were after."

Rookie opener Renshaw scored 184 in the first innings of the Sydney Test against Pakistan, while number five batsman Handscomb finished with two centuries and a series average of 114.66 against Pakistan. —AFP



SYDNEY: The Australian team pose for a photo with their trophy after defeating Pakistan in their cricket Test match in Sydney, Australia,

AUSTRALIA ROMP TO EMPHATIC VICTORY FOR SERIES SWEEP

of the third test to claim an emphatic victory by 220 runs and a 3-0 series sweep yesterday.

Two months after being plunged into crisis and overhauling their side in the wake of a series humiliation at the hands of South Africa, Australia reasserted their dominance of home tracks in some style.

The tourists had shown great fight at various points of the series but, handed a test record victory target of 465 to chase, wilted in the Sydney Cricket Ground sunshine and lost their final nine wickets for 189 runs. Paceman Josh Hazlewood led the way with three for 29, striking with two early wickets and again to remove final batsman Imran Khan with the new ball as Pakistan were dismissed for 244.

"These last three matches, that's what we're about, that's sort of cricket we want to play," said Australia captain Steve Smith, who was named Player of the Series. "We want to score big runs, bowl well, we've held our catches. It's been a great turnaround and I've been very proud of the last few weeks."

Pakistan, who briefly topped the test rankings last year, have now lost six straight tests, one to West Indies in Sharjah, two in New Zealand and three in Australia. It was also a 12th straight defeat over four series in Australia in the last two decades. "It was a tough series, full credit to Australia, they obviously outplayed us in every department,"

skipper Misbah-ul-Haq said. 'They bowled well, they caught well and they batted well. They utilised the conditions very well." The tourists had been on the back foot from the first day in Sydney, when Man of the Match David Warner knocked off a century before lunch, and only some disruptive wet weather allowed them to stave off defeat until the fifth. They managed 315 between showers in response to Australia's first innings 538-8 declared but the writing was on the wall when the hosts reeled off 241 in less than three hours in their second dig on day four.

Hazlewood struck in the first over of the final day, removing the dangerous Azhar Ali, caught and bowled for 11, and soon trapped Babar Azam leg before for nine.

MISTIMING MISBAH

Younus Khan, who hit an unbeaten 175 in the first innings, made 13 before he was caught playing a false shot off Nathan Lyon, leaving him 23 runs short of becoming the 13th batsman, and first from Pakistan, to record 10,000 runs in test cricket.

Nightwatchman Yasir Shah also perished with 13 runs to his name when he edged behind off spinner Steve O'Keefe (3-53) to send Pakistan into lunch on 128-5.

Paceman Mitchell Starc removed Asad Shafig for 30 in the fifth over after the break and O'Keefe sent back Misbah for 38 and

SYDNEY: Australia ended Pakistan's resistance Wahab Riaz in the 40 minutes before tea, the waveform. Mohammad Amir, who is carrying efore the scheduled tea break on the final day 🔝 latter clubbing three successive fours off Lyon 📉 a rib injury, then ran himself out for four for his 12.

Should the 42-year-old Misbah decide to retire, he will not want to be reminded of his final stroke in test cricket, a mistimed heave which looped into the waiting hands of Lyon at mid-off. Wahab was less to blame for his exit, given out caught behind when a review revealed a tiny spike in the Snickometer

before Hazlewood performed the coup de grace by having Imran caught in the cordon.

Sarfraz Ahmed fired his 11th test half century to frustrate the Australians and finished unbeaten after a 70-ball 72. The hosts had won the day-night opening test in Brisbane by 39 runs and the second test in Melbourne by an innings and 18 runs. — Reuters

SCOREBOARD

SYDNEY: Scoreboard after the fifth day of the third Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday:

Australia first innings 538 for 8 declared (M. Renshaw 184, D. Warner 113, P. Handscomb 110; W. Riaz 3-89) Pakistan first innings 315 (Y. Khan 175 not out, A. Ali 71: J. Hazlewood 4-55) Australia second innings 241 for 2 declared (U.

Khawaja 79 not out, S. Smith 59) Pakistan second innings (55 for 1 overnight)

A. Ali c and b Hazlewood 11 S. Khan c Warner b Lvon 40 Y. Shah c Bird (sub) b O'Keefe 13 B. Azam Ibw b Hazlewood 13

Y. Khan c Hazlewood b Lyon M. ul-Haq c Lyon b O'Keefe 38 A. Shafiq b Starc 30 S. Ahmed not out 72 W. Riaz c Wade b O'Keefe M. Amir run out (O'Keefe) I. Khan c Bird (sub) b Hazlewood Extras (nb1) Total (all out, 80.2 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-51 (Sharjeel), 2-55 (Azhar), 3-67 (Babar),

(Younis), 5-96 (Yasir), 6-136 (Shafiq), 7-188 (Misbah), 8-202 (Riaz), 9-224 (Amir), 10-244 (Imran) Bowling: Starc 17-2-57-1 (1nb), Hazlewood 18.2-7-29-3,

O'Keefe 17-4-53-3, Smith 1-0-5-0 Result: Australia won by 220 runs.



SYDNEY: Pakistan batsman Asad Shafiq (L) pulls the ball to square as Australia's Matthew Wade (C) and Peter Handscomb (R) look on on the final day of the third cricket Test match at the SCG. in Sydney. —AFP

LYNN, STANLAKE IN AUSTRALIA ODI SQUAD AGAINST PAKISTAN

SYDNEY: Australia's captain Steven Smith, center, shakes hands with his counterpart

Pakistan's Misbah-ul-Haq after Australia defeated Pakistan in their cricket Test match

SYDNEY: Australia dropped George Bailey and Aaron Finch and called up newcomers Chris Lynn and Billy Stanlake in a 14-man squad yesterday for their five-game oneday international series against Pakistan starting next week.

in Sydney. —AP

Bailey and Finch along with all-rounder Hilton Cartwight were left out after playing in the Chappell-Hadlee ODI series against New Zealand last month. Usman Khawaja, batsman Lynn and fast bowler Stanlake took their places. "We believe this squad is an exciting combination that covers all bases for us over the course of the five matches against Pakistan," interim chief selector Trevor Hohns said.

"This is an extremely important series for us as we have the Chappell-Hadlee Series in New Zealand and in mid-year the ICC Champions Trophy, a tournament which we won in 2006 and 2009." Hohns said the selection panel was impressed by the pace of the giant Stanlake.

"Stanlake is an exciting prospect who bowls with genuine pace and is a player who has made a terrific return to action for the Adelaide Strikers in the Big Bash League after a lengthy time out through injury," Hohns said. "Billy is back playing again and playing well and we believe that now is the right time to give him a chance to stretch himself." Hohns said the panel also believed the time was right to bring the explosive-hitting Lynn into the national ODI team. "Lynn is in superb form for the Brisbane Heat and although that is a different form of the game we believe it is right that we give him the chance to show whether he can convert his wonderful ballstriking ability to ODIs," he said.

Lynn has played in five Twenty20 internationals, the most recent of them against India in Sydney in January last year, while fast bowler Stanlake features in a senior national roster for the first time. Test batsman Khawaja returns to the ODI squad after last playing in an ODI against Ireland in Benoni, South Africa, in September. Hohns said star paceman Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood were expected to have some time off during the ODI series ahead of next month's Test tour to India.

The squad has been selected for all five matches in the series, in Brisbane (January 13), Melbourne (January 15), Perth (January 19), Sydney (January 22) and Adelaide (January 26). Australia - Steve Smith (capt), David Warner, Pat Cummins, James Faulkner, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Chris Lynn, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Billy Stanlake, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade, Adam Zampa. —AFP



Chris Lynn



PERTH: (L-R) Richard Gasquet and Kristina Mladenovic of France celebrate with their trophy after defeating Coco Vandeweghe and Jack Sock of the US in the mixed doubles final on day seven of the Hopman Cup tennis tournament in Perth yesterday. —AFP

MLADENOVIC, GASQUET GIVE FRANCE ITS SECOND HOPMAN CUP TITLE

PERTH: Kristina Mladenovic and Richard Gasquet clinched France's second Hopman Cup title, beating Americans CoCo Vandeweghe and Jack Sock 4-1, 4-3 in the deciding mixed doubles match in the tournament final yesterday.

Earlier, Vandeweghe beat Mladenovic 6-4, 7-5 after Gasquet saved a match point in the third set tiebreaker and held on for a 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (6) win over Sock to give France the early lead in the exhibition tournament.

The mixed doubles was played under the Fast4 format of four-game sets, no deuces and a five-point tiebreaker when sets are tied at 3. France shut out the American team in the second-set tiebreaker 5-0.

The French pair had defeated Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic of Switzerland in the deciding mixed doubles on Friday night to advance to the final. The US has won the Hopman Cup a record six times in the tournament's 29-year history.

"I was just trying to keep the team alive, that's the whole concept out here," Vandeweghe said after saving break points in two consecutive service games in the second set to send the final to the mixed doubles decider. Sock broke Gasquet's service in the 11th game of the deciding set of the opening men's singles, helped by Gasquet's double-fault on break point. But Gasquet came back to break Sock in the next game and send it to a tiebreaker.

Gasquet said he didn't panic when he faced a match point. "I tried to focus on myself and be tough mentally," Gasquet said. "It's very difficult. I know him very well. He's a great friend of mine. But on the court, it doesn't count." The men's match lasted 2 1/2 hours.

"I let it slip away at the end," Sock said. "I was holding fairly comfortably for a while. So when I got the break I felt pretty good about it. And then later when I had the match point, I played way too tentatively."

Organizers announced earlier yesterday that the tournament would remain in the Western Australian state capital for at least the next five years. The state government extended its contract with the International Tennis Federation and Tennis Australia to host the exhibition event at Perth Arena until at least 2022. — AP

RUTHLESS PLISKOVA CRUSHES CORNET, WINS BRISBANE TITLE

NISHIKORI SETS SIGHTS ON SLAM TITLE

BRISBANE: A ruthless Karolina Pliskova won all but five points in the first six games to set up a 6-0, 6-3 rout of Alize Cornet in the Brisbane International final yesterday night, an ideal buildup to the first Grand Slam tournament of the season.

The US Open finalist will return to a careerhigh No. 5 ranking for the Australian Open, which begins Jan 16, after winning her first Brisbane title and seventh on the WTA tour.

The first set lasted less than 20 minutes, with third-seeded Pliskova not dropping a point on serve until the last game. Cornet, who was unseeded and ranked No. 41, didn't get on the scoreboard until she held to open the second set. The 24-year-old Pliskova had a breakout season in 2016, reaching her first Grand Slam final beating both Venus and Serena Williams before losing to Angelique Kerber at the US Open - and helping the Czech Republic win the Fed Cup.

On the men's side, Milos Raonic's title defense ended in a semifinal loss to Grigor Dimitrov, a day after his come-from-behind win over Rafael Nadal. Top-seeded Raonic beat Roger Federer for the title here last year, avenging a loss to the Swiss star in the 2015 final, and appeared to be on course for a third straight Brisbane final when he had set point in the first-set tiebreaker against Dimitrov.

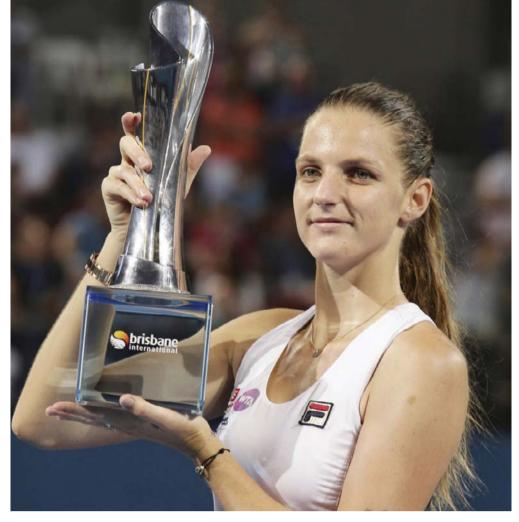
But the 25-year-old Dimitrov fended off that set point and converted his own moments later. He broke Raonic's serve twice in the second set on the way to a 7-6 (7), 6-2 win.

Raonic didn't blame the late finish Friday against Nadal, or the toll that playing the 14time Grand Slam winner took on his body, for his lapses yesterday. Dimitrov "made it obviously very difficult (and) I didn't turn around and bring the performance I needed to bring," Raonic said. "I was just a tidbit slow."

Raonic made the semifinals at the Australian Open last year, reached his first Grand Slam final at Wimbledon and finished the year at No. 3 in the rankings. But he hasn't won a title since his success in Brisbane last year. He thinks his preparation can change that in 2017.

"I feel very good about it," he said. "I'm on that right track - I feel like if I can avoid that hiccup, I can have a very, very good time in Melbourne." The No. 17-ranked Dimitrov improved his record to 3-1 in career meetings against Raonic and set up a final against Kei Nishikori, who beat U.S. Open champion Stan Wawrinka 7-6 (3), 6-3 to reach the final for the first time at the seasonopening tournament.

Nishikori has a 3-0 record against Dimitrov,



BRISBANE: Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic poses with the trophy after winning the final match against Alize Cornet of France 6-1, 6-3 at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia, yesterday. — AP

who lost the 2013 Brisbane final to Andy Murray and was ousted by Federer in his last two trips to Brisbane. Wawrinka, who won the Chennai tournament in India in the first week of the season for the three previous years, had treatment on his left ankle in the first and second sets but didn't expect it to cause him any trouble at the Australian Open.

Third-seeded Nishikori took full advantage, converting his first break point in the second set to take a 3-1 lead when Wawrinka missed consecutive backhands. The No. 2-seeded Wawrinka broke back immediately, but dropped his serve

again in the next game.

Wawrinka beat Nishikori in the semifinals of the U.S. Open last year; his only win in their past four matches. Now they're tied 4-4 in career meetings. Nishikori was making his seventh trip to Brisbane, and playing a semifinal for the fourth time. "I tried many times, and this is first time to get Sunday, so I'm really happy," the 2014 US Open finalist said. "And especially beating Stan today, it was a good start of the year. Tomorrow it's going to be maybe tougher match, but I look forward to playing the final." —AP

SINIAKOVA CAPTURES MAIDEN TITLE WITH SHENZHEN WIN

KUWAIT THIRD IN

UAE MOTOR RACE

SHENZHEN: Katerina Siniakova overcame a slow start to win her maiden WTA Tour title with a 6-3 6-4 victory over Alison Riske in the Shenzhen Open final yesterday.

The Czech world number 52 had beaten op-10 players Simona Halep and Johanna Konta on her way to the final and fulfilled her promise as a junior with a first senior title after losing her two previous WTA finals in Bastad and Tokyo last year.

The 20-year-old Siniakova suffered an early break but fought back against her American opponent by reeling off four straight games to take control of the opener before she broke twice in the second set on the way to a 78-minute triumph.

"It's been a really great week for me and

KUWAIT: Racing champion Meshaal Al-

Fahad came third yesterday in Tal

Mer'eb four-wheel motorcycles' champi-

onship in Umm Al-Qaiwain, the United

In the open category, the UAE racer

Mohammad Al-Qassemi came first, fol-

lowed by his fellow citizen, Amer Al-

Sulaimi. Al-Fahad who represented

Arab Emirates.

I'm so glad that I won this time because this match was really tough. I didn't play my best but I'm really happy that I did it," Siniakova said at the presentation.

"It's a great start to the year for me. I ope my performance continues to go up and get better."

The 39th-ranked Riske lost her fourth final, including a third defeat in a title decider in China, as her wait for a first trophy since 2014 continues. "She was the better player today and for sure deserved to win the title," Riske said.

"I'm very pleased with my week, even if I did lose today. It's a step in the right direction and I look forward to my next tournament and the rest of the year." —Reuters

Basel Salem Al-Sabah Motor Racing

Club, told KUNA by telephone that the

racing, held in Liwa, Umm Al-Qaiwain,

drew a large number of top racers from

They represented the GCC countries,

the United States of America and

Up to 50 racers took part in the race.

various countries.

Australia.— KUNA

IRVING, LOVE RETURN AS JAMES, CAVS BEAT NETS

NEW YORK: LeBron James scored 36 points, carrying Cleveland while Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love had slow starts in their return to the lineup, and the Cavaliers beat the Brooklyn Nets 116-108 on Friday night. Irving added 32 points and Love had 17 points and 13 rebounds, but both shot poorly early as the Nets kept it competitive for 11/2 quarters. James helped the Cavs open a double-digit lead by halftime and they led comfortably most of the rest of the way in the opener of a six-game trip. The Cavs were still working to finalize a trade with Atlanta to acquire shooting guard Kyle Korver. Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue said before the game he didn't have any new information about when that would happen. Bojan Bogdanovic scored 23 points for the Nets, who have lost five straight and 10 of 11. Love missed a loss to Chicago on Wednesday and was limited in the previous game after suffering from food poisoning on New Year's Day, Irving had sat out the last three games with right hamstring tightness.

GRIZZLIES 128, WARRIORS 119, OT

Mike Conley scored 27 points and Memphis rallied all the way back from 24 down, stunning Golden State in overtime for its second victory over the Warriors this season. Golden State squandered Stephen Curry's 40 points with an awful fourth quarter and watched Conley knock down a key jumper with 55 seconds left in OT. Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph each made two quick baskets as the Grizzlies hit their initial five shots in the extra period and snapped Golden State's nine-game home winning streak. Conley tied it on a 17-footer with 7.4 seconds left in regulation, and a heavily guarded Curry missed from way back before the buzzer. Kevin Durant had 27 points and 13 rebounds but missed five free throws in the Warriors' sixth defeat of the season. The Grizzlies handed Golden State a 110-89 loss on Dec 10.

CLIPPERS 106, KINGS 98

Austin Rivers scored 24 points and Los Angeles won its third straight game by defeating Sacramento. Rivers made four 3-pointers and the Clippers hit 13 overall in beating the Kings for the ninth straight time in Sacramento. Los Angeles hit five 3s in the fourth quarter, when it outscored the Kings 31-25. J.J. Redick drained five 3s and scored 20 points for the Clippers. DeAndre Jordan had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Chris Paul added 14 points and 12 assists. Paul made six free throws in the final minute to secure the victory. He missed the previous four games and seven of the past eight with a left hamstring injury. The Clippers won for the third time in nine games. DeMarcus Cousins had 25 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Kings. Sacramento has lost two straight and four of five since a season-high fourgame winning streak.

LAKERS 127, HEAT 100

Lou Williams scored 24 points and Luol Deng added 19 points and 14 rebounds as Los Angeles topped Miami for only its fourth victory in 20 games. Goran Dragic scored 16 points for Miami

before getting ejected along with Los Angeles' Jordan Clarkson after a third-quarter scuffle in which both players appeared to be narrowly stopped from throwing punches. With the Heat's leading scorer in the locker room, the Lakers seized control in the fourth quarter of just their second win in 10 meetings with Miami. Williams led a decisive 19-4 run while scoring 16 points in the final period. Willie Reed had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Heat, who have lost seven of eight overall and nine of 10 on the road. D'Angelo Russell scored 19 points, rookie Brandon Ingram had a career-high 17 and Julius Randle added 15 for the Lakers, who had their highest-scoring performance of the season.

ROCKETS 100, MAGIC 93

Ryan Anderson had 19 points, all in the second half, and Eric Gordon scored 17 off the bench as Houston extended its winning streak to seven games with a victory over Orlando. Anderson led five Rockets players in double figures. He hit five 3pointers on a night when Houston attempted 49 of them and made 15. Patrick Beverley also scored 17 points, while leading scorer James Harden had an off shooting night and finished with 14. D.J. Augustin led five Magic players in double figures with 19 points. Aaron Gordon added 18, while Serge Ibaka had 16 points and 12 rebounds.

CELTICS 110, 76ERS 106 Avery Bradley had 26 points and nine rebounds, and Boston rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Philadelphia. Isaiah Thomas added 24 points, and Al Horford scored 14 of his 19 in the final period. The Celtics have won nine of their last 11 and four straight at home. Boston was trailing by two when Horford got wide open in the corner and hit a goahead 3-pointer with 17.2 seconds left. Joel Embiid led the 76ers with 23 points, eight rebounds and six assists. Ersan Ilyasova scored 20. Philadelphia

led by 14 in the first half before the Celtics took the lead early in the fourth quarter.

KNICKS 116, BUCKS 111

Carmelo Anthony had 26 points and 10 assists, including a clutch 3-pointer late in the fourth quarter, and New York stormed back from 18 down to beat Milwaukee and stop its six-game losing streak. Kristaps Porzingis returned after a three-game absence due to a sore left Achilles tendon and added 24 points for the Knicks, who trailed by 13 heading into the fourth. With less than a minute remaining, Anthony drained a 3 to put New York in front 112-111. On the ensuing possession, Lance Thomas stripped Giannis Antetokounmpo, leading to a fast-break dunk by Courtney Lee. New York rebounded from a last-second loss to the Bucks on Wednesday when Antetokounmpo hit a step-back jumper at the horn that gave Milwaukee a 105-104 win at Madison Square Garden. This time, Antetokounmpo and Jabari Parker had 25 points apiece for Milwaukee. Greg Monroe chipped in with 19. The Knicks used a 12-0 run to cut the Bucks' lead to one early in the fourth.

WIZARDS 112, TIMBERWOLVES 105

John Wall had a season-high 18 assists and scored 18 points to help Washington beat Minnesota for its ninth straight victory at home. Andrew Wiggins had 41 points on 16-of-30 shooting for the Timberwolves after scoring eight points Tuesday night in a loss to Philadelphia. Bradley Beal had 22 points for Washington, and Marcin Gortat hit all nine of his field goal attempts and scored 19 points. The Wizards have won 10 of 15 overall. Karl-Anthony Towns added 18 points and 10 rebounds for Minnesota, which has dropped six of eight. Gorgui Dieng added 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Zach Lavine had eight points on 3of-14 shooting.— AP

NBA results/standings

LA Lakers 127, Miami 100; Memphis 128, Golden State 119 (OT); La Clippers 106, Sacramento 98; NY Knicks 116, Milwaukee 111; Boston 110, Philadelphia 106; Cleveland 116, Brooklyn 108; Washington 112, Minnesota 105; Houston 100, Orlando 93.

	Eastern Cor	iference	9			Western Co	nference	е		
	Atlantic D	ivision			Northwest	Division	1			
	W	L	PCT	GB	Utah	22	15	.595	-	
Toronto	24	11	.686	-	Oklahoma City	21	16	.568	1	
Boston	22	14	.611	2.5	Portland	16	22	.421	6.5	
NY Knicks	17	19	.472	7.5	Denver	14	22	.389	7.5	
Philadelphia	9	25	.265	14.5	Minnesota	11	25	.306	10.5	
Brooklyn	8	27	.229	16		Pacific Di	vision			
	Central Di	vision			Golden State	31	6	.838	_	
Cleveland	27	8	.771	-	LA Clippers	25	14	.641	7	
Milwaukee	18	17	.514	9	• • •					
Indiana	19	18	.514	9	Sacramento	15	21	.417	15.5	
Chicago	18	18	.500	9.5	LA Lakers	14	26	.350	18.5	
Detroit	17	21	.447	11.5	Phoenix	12	25	.324	19	
	Southeast I	Division	1			Southwest	Division	1		
Atlanta	20	16	.556	-	San Antonio	29	7	.806	-	
Charlotte	20	17	.541	0.5	Houston	29	9	.763	1	
Washington	17	18	.486	2.5	Memphis	23	16	.590	7.5	
Orlando	16	22	.421	5	New Orleans	14	23	.378	15.5	
Miami	11	27	.289	10	Dallas	11	25	.306	18	



BRISBANE: Sania Mirza of India (L) and Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the US kiss their trophy after beating Russia's Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina in their women's doubles final match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane yesterday. — AFP



MOORE, THOMAS SET PACE AT KAPALUA AFTER INSPIRED PAIRING

HAWAII: Ryan Moore and Justin Thomas inspired one another in a low-scoring pairing as they moved one stroke clear of a tightly bunched leaderboard in the second round of the SBS Tournament of Champions in Hawaii on Friday.

The two Americans fired matching six-under-par 67s at the Kapalua Resort on the island of Maui to post 12-under totals of 134 in the PGA Tour's opening event of the year. Overnight leader

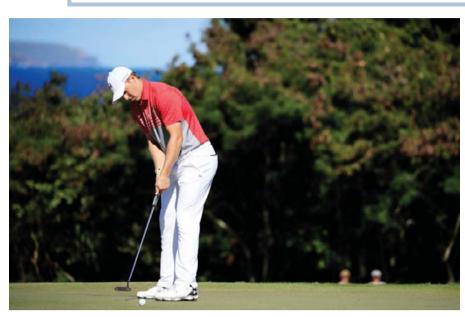
back, level with fellow American Patrick Reed, who fired a best-of-the-day 65 that was built on a consummate driving display. Defending champion Jordan Spieth piled up nine birdies, along with a double-bogey at the eighth and a triple at the 17th, en route to a 69 that left him joint 19th in the elite 32-man, winnersonly field. Moore, a five-times winner on the PGA Tour, very nearly holed out with

before tapping in for a birdie to snatch the outright lead. Moments later, Thomas rolled in a seven-footer to join him at 12 under.

"We had a good time out there," Thomas told Golf Channel. "We were kind of feeding off each other a little bit." Moore finished with a flourish, recording four birdies in his last five holes. "I just made putts, hit a couple of nice wedges

Jimmy Walker carded a 70 to sit one shot his third from 80 yards at the par-five last that were tap-ins which was nice, but I got the putter rolling on the back side," said the 34-year-old from Washington state. "I burned a lot of edges (with the putter) yesterday and in the early part of my round today, so it was nice to see them start going in." Reed, who beat Walker in a playoff to win the title at Kapalua two years ago, reached every green in regulation for the first time in his PGA Tour career and birdied four of

the last five holes to set the early clubhouse lead. "I swung within myself so I could have control and that just led me to having a lot shorter putts on the holes," said Reed. "The most impressive thing for me today was the driver. "I was able to really have control of the driver, I could hit it anywhere I wanted to and when I feel like I have confidence in hitting my driver straight, then it just leads to the rest of the bag." — Reuters



LAHAINA: Jordan Spieth of the United States on the third green during the second round of the SBS Tournament of Champions at the Plantation Course at Kapalua Golf Club on Friday in Lahaina, Hawaii. —AFP

SPIETH MAKES 9 BIRDIES AND HAS 2 BAD HOLES AT KAPALUA

KAPALUA: Jordan Spieth made nine birdies Friday with the kind of round that should have put him in contention at the SBS Tournament of Champions.

Except for two holes, he might have been. Instead, Spieth left Kapalua thinking more about a high finish than a title defense. He made a double bogey on the par-3 eighth when his ball caught a wicked lie in the bunker and his next shot buried in deep rough. What really irritated him was a bad drive on the 17th, compounded by not getting the right yardage and laying up into a hazard, leading to triple bogey.

"I'll struggle for the next couple hours getting over 17 kind of throwing me out of the tournament," Spieth said after his 69. "Just feel like it's going to be too big of an uphill battle. But I can get myself probably 12- to 14-under par the next two days and finish in the top five. So that becomes the next goal."

He spoke outside the scoring trailer, still running hot enough to rule himself out so quickly. Spieth was at 5-under 141. He was six shots behind not long after he finished, and he would likely not be too much further back. His words illustrated the irritation. Spieth thought his 7-iron on No. 8 had a chance to be close until it took a hop into bunker on the downslope. He blasted out across the green, and the ball had so much spin that it buried in the rough. He couldn't control the spin on that one as it raced across the green into the rough. Spieth had to make a 5-footer for double bogey.

His caddie, Michael Greller, set a short goal

of making five birdies the rest of the way. "We got five on the next five," Spieth said after rolling in four birdies from inside 10 feet and one from about 35 feet across the 11th green. He missed a couple of other chances on the 14th and 15th, but still was only one shot behind until the 17th.

Trying to hammer a tee shot, he hit a toehook into the hazard. "Hitting a ball where I did on 17 with about a 95-yard fairway is as bad a shot as I'll hit this year," he said. And then he compounded the mistake. Spieth said he and Greller rushed the next one and didn't get the right yardage, and it didn't help that he caught a flier with a 7-iron out of the rough. It bounded into the gorge dividing the fairway and green for another penalty shot.

Spieth rebounded with a fifth shot to about 4 feet, and then he missed the putt.

"What we should have done was take the time for us to sit back, look at the options, make sure that this next shot's in play and have Michael maybe walk off the 185-, 190some-odd yards we had to the end and say, 'Hey, this needs to pitch at 160.' I just took a 7iron, caught a flier and ripped it, thinking I had way more than I did," he said.

"It was kind of a rookie move." For the secd round of the year there were plenty of positives, starting with those nine birdies set up by an impeccable wedge game. Even so, it was difficult to ignore a double bogey and triple bogey that wrecked a round that otherwise matched the brilliant weather. "Just because we were in contention," Spieth said, "and now pretty surely out of it." — AP

ZOUMA TO RETURN AS CONTE RESTS PLAYERS FOR CUP CLASH

LONDON: Antonio Conte is set to bring Kurt Zouma and Michy Batshuayi into the Chelsea side for today's FA Cup third-round tie with League One side Peterborough United. The Blues manager will rest a number of his first-team players against the third tier outfit, four days after seeing their 13-league game winning run come to an end with a 2-0 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur. Conte revealed he plans to start Zouma in his defence against Peterborough, 11 months after the French defender ruptured cruciate knee ligaments facing Manchester United. The 47-year-old Italian also confirmed Batshuayi will start up front, most likely in place of leading

striker Diego Costa. Zouma has been back in training for weeks, with Conte cautious in bringing him back into the first-team fold after such a severe injury. The former Italy national coach has confirmed he is looking to buy new players in January, but not in central defence. He hinted 22-year-old Zouma was ready to come into his three-man backline for Premier League games should injuries occur to David Luiz, Gary Cahill or Cesar Azpilicueta.

"I don't think we need another central defender," said Conte. "Kurt Zouma is ready to start. I'm pleased for him. He's in the starting XI. Also for him, it's a good opportunity to show me he's in good form. "His injury was very bad, very bad. I knew this and I talked with my club about it and for this reason we knew Kurt needed more time to recover. "But now he's in good shape and ready to play and restart his career." Batshuayi has been forced to wait for his chance since arriving in a £33 million move from Marseille at the start of the season. Conte admits it has taken the 23-yearold Belgium international longer than he had hoped to adapt to the rigours of English football. "Diego is doing very well but playing a lot. For Michy it's a good opportunity to show me his promise," said Conte. "It's not easy to arrive in England in this league and adapt when he's a striker and young player, because this league is very physical. "But he's working a lot and I'm seeing he's improving and getting the

idea about our football. "It's a good opportunity to show that he

deserves to play more in future." Peterborough lie eighth in League One and travel to Stamford Bridge on the back of a good run of form that has brought three wins followed by three draws in their last six matches. That has lifted confidence among Grant McCann's side and the manager insists he will not be asking his side to change their style for the meeting with the Premier League leaders.

"I'm not making changes just because it's Chelsea," said McCann. "We have nothing to lose so we will try and get between Chelsea's lines, win some corners and get some shots off on goal. "We will try and play on the front foot, like we do in every game. "We are going there full of confidence and we gave the players two days off in order to freshen their minds and bodies.

"It's a massive match for the club and we don't want to leave anything behind on the



SPANISH LEAGUE	
Athletic de Bilbao v Deportivo	14:00
beIN SPORTS	
Real Betis v CD Leganes	18:15
beIN SPORTS	
Celta de Vigo v Malaga CF	20:30
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Villarreal v FC Barcelona	22:45
beIN SPORTS	
ITALIANI CALCIO LEAG	HE

beIN SPORTS	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGU	JE
Udinese v Internazionale	14:30
beIN SPORTS	
SS Lazio v Crotone	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
Chievo Verona v Atalanta	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
Genoa CFC v AS Roma	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
Sassuolo Calcio v Torino	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
Pescara v ACF Fiorentina	17:00
beIN SPORTS	
AC Milan v Cagliari Calcio	20:00
beIN SPORTS	
Juventus FC v Bologna FC	22:45
beIN SPORTS	

MARCHESSAULT, PANTHERS **DEFEAT PREDATORS 2-1**

SUNRISE: Jonathan Marchessault scored in the third period, James Reimer made 28 saves and the Florida Panthers beat the Nashville Predators 2-1 on Friday night. Greg McKegg also scored for the Panthers, and Jaromir Jagr got his 1,137th career assist on Marchessault's 12th goal of the season. The Panthers held a moment of silence before the game for the victims of the shooting earlier in the day at the Fort Lauderdale airport. The arena was darkened and the airport code FLL was illuminated on the scoreboard. Craig Smith scored for Nashville, and Juuse Saros stopped 32 shots. The Predators have lost five of their last seven games

Reimer got the start in goal when Roberto Luongo experienced some upper-body discomfort during warmups. Luongo then left the bench during the first period and was ruled out for the game. Bobby Segin, a former UConn goalie and now an account executive for the Panthers, was the emergency goalie.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, DEVILS 2

Nazem Kadri sparked Toronto's four-goal first period with a power-play score, leading the Maple Leafs to another victory. Kadri and Tyler Bozak each had a goal and an assist, Auston Matthews scored his 21st goal and fellow rookie Connor Brown embarrassed Devils goaltender Cory Schneider with a short-handed goal while helping the Maple Leafs to their sixth win in seven games (6-0-1). Toronto's Frederik Andersen made 30 saves, giving up late goals to PA Parenteau and Jon Merrill in the final 3:24. Brown got his ninth of the season at 13:17 of the first. Devils defenseman Damon Severson played the puck from center ice back to Schneider, and the goaltender was about to play the puck behind the net when Brown stole it and slid it in as the crowd groaned.

AVALANCHE 2, ISLANDERS 1, OT

Nathan MacKinnon scored 4:43 into overtime, and the Avalanche got their first win at home in more than seven weeks. MacKinnon also assisted on Gabriel Landeskog's first-period goal, and Calvin Pickard finished with 35 saves for Colorado. It was the Avalanche's first home win since Nov. 14. They had lost 10 of 11 overall, with their only victory in the last four weeks coming in Chicago on Dec 23. The Avalanche held the Islanders in check after the last three visiting teams scored six times each at Pepsi Center. Johnny Boychuk had New York's only goal, and Thomas Greiss made 37 stops.

DUCKS 3, COYOTES 2, OT

Ondrej Kase scored at 4:24 of overtime, sending Anaheim to the win. Kase was stopped by Mike Smith, but the goaltender bobbled the puck and Kase swiped it from him in the crease and swept it into the open net, handing the Coyotes their ninth straight loss. Joseph Cramarossa and Chris Wagner scored for Anaheim, and John Gibson stopped 21 shots. The Ducks have won three in a row and four of five. Martin Hanzal and Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored for Arizona, and Smith finished

BLACKHAWKS 2, HURRICANES 1

Scott Darling made a season-high 39 saves, Jonathan Toews and Artemi Panarin scored and Chicago held on for its second straight win. Darling, who backs up Corey Crawford, faced Carolina for the second time in a week in the Blackhawks' second home game in two nights after beating Buffalo 4-3 in overtime on Thursday. The consecutive wins against the Sabres and Hurricanes come in the aftermath of a 1-4-1 slump. Cam Ward made 22 saves in his 15th straight start for Carolina, which won 4-2 at St. Louis on

Thursday. Victor Rask had Carolina's goal,



FLORIDA: Florida Panthers defenseman Jason Demers (55) is checked by Nashville Predators center Colton Sissons (10) during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Friday, in Sunrise, Fla. — AP

NHL results/standings

Colorado 2, NY Islanders 1 (OT); Chicago 2, Carolina 1; Florida 2, Nashville 1; oronto 4, New Jersey 2.

	We	stern	Confe	erence			Ottawa	20	13	4	94	98	44
Central Division						Toronto	18	12	8	117	111	44	
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	Boston	20	17	4	98	101	44
Chicago	25	12	5	115	102	55	Tampa Bay	19	17	4	114	117	42
Minnesota	24	9	4	118	80	52	' '						
St. Louis	20	14	5	110	115	45	Florida	17	15	8	95	109	42
Nashville	17	15	7	110	105	41	Detroit	17	17	5	97	109	39
Winnipeg	19	19	3	113	122	41	Buffalo	14	15	9	85	106	37
Dallas	16	15	8	100	117	40		Met	ropoli	tan D	ivisio	n	
Colorado	13	25	1	79	130	27	Columbus	27	6	4	126	79	58
	- 1	Pacifi	c Divis	ion			Pittsburgh	25	8	5	133	107	55
Anaheim	21	12	8	112	111	50	3		_	_			
San Jose	23	14	2	99	87	48	NY Rangers	27	13	1	141	103	55
Edmonton	20	13	7	115	107	47	Washington	24	9	5	110	83	53
Calgary	21	18	2	111	116	44	Philadelphia	20	15	5	118	125	45
Vancouver	20	18	3	104	118	43	Carolina	17	15	7	100	105	41
Los Angeles	19	16	4	94	96	42	New Jersey	16	17	7	94	119	39
Arizona	11	22	6	84	127	28	•						
	Ea	stern	Confe	rence			NY Islanders	15	15	7	105	115	37
	A	tlant	ic Divi	sion			Note: Overtim	e loss	es (OTL	.) are	worth	one p	oint in t
Montreal	24	9	6	119	90	54	standings and	are no	t inclu	ded i	n the l	oss colu	umn (L).

connecting against Darling on the Hurricanes' 31st shot with 4.2 seconds left in the second.

CANUCKS 4, FLAMES 2

Markus Granlund had two goals and an assist, Ryan Miller made 44 saves and the Canucks earned their sixth straight victory.

Michael Chaput and Loui Eriksson also scored for Vancouver in the opener of a home-andhome series that ends Saturday night in Calgary. The Canucks have their longest winning streak since December 2013. Michael Frolik scored twice for Calgary, Mikael Backlund had two assists and Brian Elliott stopped nine shots.—AP

in the



EMPOLI: Empoli's Guido Marilungo, second from left, tries to score during a Serie A soocer match between Empoli and Palermo, at the Carlo Castellani stadium in Empoli, Italy, yesterday. — AP



GERMANY SET TO REGAIN FIFA COUNCIL SEAT IN EUROPEAN ELECTION

NYON: Germany is set to regain a place on FIFA's ruling council in an election champion, prefers the current 32-team conduct linked to 2006 World Cup organizers led by Franz Beckenbauer, forced by corruption allegations linked to the 2006 World Cup.

German soccer federation president Reinhard Grindel is the only contender in an April 5 election to fill a vacant FIFA seat, UEFA said Friday. Grindel's likely path to a senior FIFA role was confirmed in the same week he criticized FIFA president Gianni Infantino's plan to expand the World Cup to 48 teams at the 2026

format. A former federal lawmaker, Grindel must pass a FIFA integrity check to be an official candidate to replace his German federation predecessor, Wolfgang Niersbach.

Niersbach resigned from FIFA last month after losing an appeal against his one-year ban for unethical conduct. FIFA's ethics committee ruled that Niersbach failed to report possible misorganizers led by Franz Beckenbauer, who also captained and coached West Germany to World Cup titles.

Beckenbauer and other officials are being investigated by Swiss federal prosecutors, German tax officials and the FIFA ethics committee.

Grindel is not implicated in any allegations about the 2006 tournament, a huge success in Germany which was called the nation's "summer fairytale."

He is poised to join several new European members on FIFA's strategysetting council after UEFA's April election meeting in Helsinki, Finland.

Four more FIFA seats are being voted on by European soccer federations and, of the five applicants, only Vitaly Mutko, the Russian deputy prime minister and head of the 2018 World Cup organizing committee, is a current member seeking to keep his place. The new contenders for four-year FIFA mandates through

2021 are: former AC Milan player Dejan Savicevic of Montenegro; Sandor Csanyi, a UEFA executive committee member from Hungary; Geir Thorsteinsson, president of Iceland's soccer federation; and Costakis Koutsokoumnis, the Cyprus federation president. Mutko must also pass an integrity test while under ethics committee scrutiny over allegations in World Anti-Doping Agency investigations that he helped cover-up doping by players in

KLOPP HOPES RESERVES CAN AVOID FA CUP SLIP-UP

LIVERPOOL: Jurgen Klopp cited fixture congestion as the chief reason for fielding an almost unrecognisable Liverpool line-up in the third round of the FA Cup at Exeter last season. A year on, the 49-year-old German is following the same path against League Two (fourth tier) opposition from the south-west of England once more, this time in the form of Plymouth.

Klopp has to factor in the effects of the demanding Christmas schedule, which forced his side to play two matches in less than 48 hours last weekend, beating Manchester City 1-0 on the Saturday before conceding two penalties in a 2-2 draw at Sunderland.

He also has to consider the fact Liverpool play the first leg of their EFL Cup semi-final at Southampton on Wednesday, meaning rotation to keep players fresh is inevitable. Klopp has indicated Loris Karius, dropped midway through last month after mistakes brought heavy criticism, will return in goal, in order to give Simon Mignolet a breather.

"There is a big chance Loris will play," said Klopp. "He has been training outstandingly well which is good to see.

"It's difficult to speak about these things in public because it becomes a story but we cannot ignore the pressure you make. "That's how it is, we have to cope with it, deal with it. "That is why you see I made the change and I am sure Loris will benefit from this step back, or step aside.

'NO ONE WILL BE DAUNTED'

"Simon has done a really, really outstanding job for us since he's been playing again and forced Loris to train at the highest level because we have two really good goalkeepers. It was good for him."

ZURICH: Cristiano Ronaldo's remarkable

run of success can continue with a fourth

FIFA award as the world's best player

tomorrow. A European champion with club

and country last year, the Real Madrid and

Portugal forward is favored to beat great

rival Lionel Messi and France forward

Antoine Griezmann when winners of the

rebranded Best FIFA Football Awards are

long duel for FIFA's top individual prize.

However, Ronaldo is set to complete a hat-

trick of major awards for 2016 after taking

home trophies presented by UEFA and

France Football magazine's prestiguous

player, and the best coaches in men's and

women's soccer. Voting is by national team

captains and coaches, selected journalists

and - for the first time - an online poll of

fans. Each category counts for 25 percent

FIFA will also name the best women's

Messi leads Ronaldo 5-3 in their career-

presented in Zurich.

Golden Ball.

Klopp will also rest a number of key firstteam players who picked up relatively minor injuries during or before the holiday period, including James Milner, Jordan Henderson, Joel Matip and Daniel Sturridge. It means there will be opportunities for players who have largely been on the fringes, such as midfielder Kevin Stewart, and for young players seeking to gain match experience, such as defender Trent Alexander-Arnold. At least, unlike a year ago, Liverpool start their FA Cup thirdround tie with home advantage.

That ought to give Klopp a chance of avoiding the scares of last season, when his team of fringe players and youth products had to come back from behind twice to draw 2-2 at Exeter before winning the replay. Plymouth, FA Cup semi-finalists in 1984 and quarter-finalists as recently as 2007, are second in League Two, having responded well to the disappointment of losing to AFC Wimbledon in last season's promotion play-off final. Manager Derek Adams has reshaped his squad considerably since last season's promotion failure, signing 14 players on a permanent basis during the summer and two more since the January transfer window opened. Perhaps the most intriguing of all the arrivals are former Cameroon Under-20 international defender Yann Songo'o, who has played club football in Spain and the United States, and striker David Goodwillie, who has rather lost his way since winning three caps for Scotland between 2010 and 2011. "I'm sure no-one will be daunted by it and we're going up there to enjoy it," said Plymouth midfielder David Fox. "There's no pressure on us at the end of the day. "We've got a huge following going, backing us and we're going to really enjoy it." —AFP



LIVERPOOL: Leicester City's Robert Huth, left, and Everton's Seamus Coleman battle for the ball during the English FA Cup, third round soccer match at Goodison Park, Liverpool, England, yesterday. — AP

LEICESTER HIT BACK AS MUSA DOWNS EVERTON

LIVERPOOL: Leicester fought back to move into the FA Cup fourth round as Ahmed Musa's double clinched a 2-1 win at

Claudio Ranieri's side fell after the break, but Musa had come off the bench as a first half and settle a hard-fought third away games without a win in all competitions and ensured the

England striker Jamie Vardy was missing for Leicester, but Ranieri gave a debut to Nigeria midfielder Wilfred Ndidi, who completed his £15 million (\$18 million, 17 million euros) move from Genk this week. The 20-year-old was keen to make a positive first impression as he tried his luck with a long-range effort that was deflected to safety

Demarai Gray's pace caused problems for Everton and the Leicester winger forced a decent save from Joel Robles in the early stages. Foxes striker Leonardo Ulloa came off with an injury late in the first half, with Musa on in

Chances were limited for Ronald Koeman's side as they struggled to find any rhythm and Belgian striker Lukaku wasted their best opportunity just before the

Koeman sent on Gerard Deulofeu at half-time and the former Barcelona winger made a key contribution when Everton took the lead in the 63rd minute. Surging down the wing, Deulofeu raced past Leicester defender Ben Chilwell and whipped over a cross that Lukaku tapped in from closerange. But Everton's lead was short-lived as Musa equalised with a scrambled effort that went in off the post from Gray's cross three minutes later. Suddenly, Leicester were clicking into gear and they scored again in the 71st minute when Danny Drinkwater's pass sent Musa clear to drive in his

Schmeichel preserved Leicester's lead as the Danish keeper kept out a long-range strike from Kevin Mirallas in the closing moments. —AFP

Everton yesterday.

ehind to Romelu Lukaku's strike substitute and the Nigeria forward made the most of his opportunity. He scored twice in five minutes to notch his first goals since October round tie at Goodison Park. Musa's heroics ended Leicester's run of 10 English champions avenged their Premier League defeat against Everton on Boxing Day.

by the massed Everton defence.

his place.

interval.

fourth goal of the season.

An excellent save from Kasper

CITY ROUTS WEST HAM TO REACH FA CUP 4TH ROUND

LONDON: Manchester City put a smile back on Pep Guardiola's face as they swaggered into the FA Cup fourth round with a 5-0 demolition of West Ham on Friday. Guardiola showed signs of feeling the strain of City's inconsistent season when he snapped at reporters during a series of tetchy interviews following Monday's win against Burnley.

The Spaniard was also forced to backtrack this week after appearing to suggest he wouldn't be in management much longer and seeming to admit City weren't as big a club as rivals Manchester United. But the City manager's image issues looked a lot less problematic after his team destroyed West Ham with a three-goal blitz in the space of 10 minutes at the London Stadium.

Yaya Toure's penalty opened the floodgates before Havard Nordtveit's own goal and a David Silva strike effectively finished the third round tie before half-time.

City, who last won the FA Cup in 2011, added two more after the interval through Sergio Aguero and John Stones to ensure Guardiola enjoyed a memorable first taste of the famous old competition. Guardiola won the domestic cup in his first seasons in charge of Barcelona and Bayern Munich and often selected strong teams in the process.

He treated the FA Cup no differently and sent out a star-studded line-up featuring Sergio Aguero after he started on the bench against Burnley.

Guardiola's side quickly showed they meant business when Silva's stinging shot was blocked by West Ham goalkeeper Adrian.

PRESSURE REWARDED

City were dominating possession and a flowing move started by Toure deep inside his own half ended with Silva setting up Raheem Sterling for a shot that was blocked by Winston Reid at the last moment.

Aguero brought a fine save from Adrian from the resulting corner and City's pressure was rewarded in the 33rd minute.

Pablo Zabaleta, usually a right-back, was deployed in City's midfield and the Argentine took advantage of a rare chance to get forward when he surged onto Silva's reverse pass and went to ground after the slightest contact from Angelo Ogbonna.

West Ham complained Zabaleta had dived, but Toure ignored the fuss as the Ivory Coast midfielder emphatically dispatched the spot-kick.

At times this season, City have had an alarming habit of switching off at the back and Michail Antonio nearly took advantage of another lapse in concentration when he raced clear, only to see Willy Caballero palm his shot to Sofiane Feghouli, who somehow fired wide of the open goal.

That proved West Ham's last chance of making City sweat as Guardiola's side stepped on the gas to kill off the tie.

In the 42nd minute, City doubled their lead when Toure was allowed time and space for cross that was turned into his own net by Nordtveit under pressure from Sterling.

Just 60 seconds later, the visitors punished more slack West Ham defending to deliver the knockout blow as Silva was left all alone to control Sterling's cross and take a clever touch to deceive Adrian before slotting into the empty net.

City weren't finished yet and Aguero was on the scoresheet five minutes after half-time when the Argentina star turned in Toure's shot to take him to third on his club's all-time scoring list and send West Ham fans streaming to the exits in droves.

With City in complete control there was an air of an exhibition match about the closing stages, but there was still time for Stones to score his first goal for the club with an 84th minute header from Nolito's corner. —AP



LONDON: Manchester City's Raheem Sterling, left, vies for the ball with West Ham's Havard Nordtveit during the FA Cup third round soccer match between West Ham United and Manchester City at the London stadium in London, Friday. — AP

of the points. Here is a look ahead to the awards ceremony:

CRISTIANO RONALDO After Messi in 2015, it was Ronaldo's turn to win the Champions League in 2016 as the prolific scorer netted 16 goals in the competition. He also got the decisive penalty in a shootout after a 1-1 draw with Griezmann's Atletico Madrid.

But where he really dominated Messi was on the national-team stage. Ronaldo captained Portugal to a long-awaited first title at the European Championship - two weeks after Messi's Argentina again lost the Copa America final to Chile.

Portugal seemed a long way from glory, and faced a humiliating group-stage exit, before Ronaldo's two goals helped salvage a 3-3 draw with Hungary. He also netted in the 2-0 semifinal win against Wales.

In the final against host France, Ronaldo went off injured in the first half, then returned to the bench for extra time as with his knee strapped - he passionately urged teammates on to a 1-0 win. For good measure, Ronaldo scored a Club World Cup final hat trick against Kashima Antlers in December, but that was after FIFA voting had closed.

LIONEL MESSI

Messi looks to extend a streak of being winner or runner-up in nine straight seasons since placing second behind Kaka of Brazil in 2007.

Last year, Messi and won a Spanish league and Cup double with Barcelona. Yet there was another painful Copa America final loss - a third straight year Argentina lost a major final without scoring - and a Champions League quarterfinal exit against Atletico. Nearing his 30th birthday, Messi's prolific scoring rate has not slowed, and 10 goals in the Champions League group stage means that Ronaldo's season record of 17 - set in 2013-14 - is within his sight this year.

FIFA AWARD AS WORLD'S BEST **ANTOINE GRIEZMANN**

RONALDO FAVORED TO WIN 4TH

Griezmann's goals helped get France and Atletico Madrid into major finals in 2016. In the Champions League final in Milan, Atletico trailed 1-0 to its city rival when Griezmann missed with a penalty kick that struck the crossbar. Still, he confidently converted his kick in the penalty shootout.

Griezmann's six goals at Euro 2016 made him the tournament top scorer. In a tricky round of 16 match, his two goals overturned an early Ireland lead, and he also struck twice - including a coolly taken penalty - against favored Germany in the semifinals. However, he missed two good chances in the final against Portugal as France 1-0 in extra time.

COACHING AWARD

Could the coach of a provincial club side beat the men who coached European champions Real Madrid and Portugal?

Yes, when that coach is Italian Claudio Ranieri and his team, unheralded Leicester City, won an English Premier League title that delighted and stunned fans worldwide. Zinedine Zidane started 2016 having never coached a senior match. The newly appointed Madrid coach won a Champions League title within five months and started 2017 riding a 37-match unbeaten run.

Fernando Santos marshalled one of the less obviously talented Portugal teams of recent years to win Euro 2016 despite winning only one of its seven matches during the 90 minutes.

WOMEN'S AWARDS

Germany's Olympic gold medal-winning team is favored to sweep the awards.

Midfielder Melanie Behringer is challenging two past FIFA award winners: defending champion Carli Lloyd of the United States and five-time winner Marta of Brazil. All three coaching candidates are previous FIFA award winners: Silvia Neid of Germany, last year's winner Jill Ellis of the United States and Pia Sundhage of Sweden.

FIFA AWARDS FIFA has added a Fan Award to its annual ceremony, and all three candidates from an online poll are European.

Liverpool and Borussia Dortmund, whose fans sang You'll Never Walk Alone before a Europa League match at Anfield; Dutch club ADO Den Haag, whose fans brought soft toys to children supporting rival team Feyenoord; and the Iceland fans at Euro 2016 for their inspirational clapping salute to players after games.

A fans' vote will also decide the Puskas Award for best goal. The candidates are: Marlone of Corinthians, Daniuska Rodriguez of the Venezuela women's Under-17 team, and Mohd Faiz Subri of Malaysian side Penang. FIFA will also present a Fair Play award, and members of the players' union FIFPro worldwide have voted to select a World XI team. — AP

Worley trumps
Shiffrin for
Maribor GS win



Ruthless Pliskova crushes Cornet, wins Brisbane title



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Australia romp to emphatic victory for series sweep

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MANCHESTER: Manchester United's English striker Wayne Rooney (R) has a shot saved by Reading's Omani goalkeeper Ali Al-Habsi (L) during the English FA Cup third round football match between Manchester United and Reading at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

ROONEY EQUALS RECORD AS MAN BEAT READING

LONDON: Wayne Rooney stands one goal away from becoming Manchester United's outright record goal-scorer after equaling club great Bobby Charlton's mark of 249 yesterday.

With the 79-year-old Charlton watching from the stands, Rooney guided in Juan Mata's cross after seven minutes as the defending FA Cup champion swept aside second-tier Reading 4-0 in the third round.

English Premier League teams Bournemouth, West Bromwich Albion and Stoke City all bowed out to lower-league opponents.

Third-tier Millwall, Cup finalist in 2004, caused the biggest shock by thumping a much-changed Bournemouth 3-0, West Brom went down at home to Championship team Derby County 2-1,

while Wolverhampton Wanderers, also from the second tier, ensured Stoke lost in the third round for the first time since 2009 by winning at Britannia Stadium 2-0.

In all-Premier League matches, Ahmed Musa scored twice as Leicester fought back from a goal down to defeat Everton 2-1 while in the battle of the new managers, Marco Silva saw his Hull side get the better of Paul Clement's Swansea with a 2-0 victory. Silva, appointed on Tuesday in place of the fired Mike Phelan, would have noted the large number of empty seats at Hull's KCOM Stadium with home fans staying away in protest against the club's owners.

Non-league sides Sutton United and Lincoln City earned replays but there was no fairytale for

the lowest-ranked team in the competition Stourbridge as it went down at Wycombe 2-1. Arsenal played Preston in the late game.

MANCHESTER UNITED 4, READING 0

Rooney's latest milestone - he is the record scorer for England - came in front of Old Trafford fans who have adored him, on and off, since he joined as a teenage prodigy from Everton in 2004. "To do it at such a massive club like Manchester United, it is a really proud moment for me," Rooney said. "It was not something I could have imagined. You don't think that far ahead, but I have been at this club a long time, it is a huge part of my life, and it is an honor to be up there alongside Sir Bobby."

United manager Jose Mourinho, who won the FA Cup when in charge of Chelsea in 2007, was effusive in his praise of Rooney.

"A more special day will arrive," he said. "It was great but I want one more goal. He is an amazing guy in the group and we all want him to do that. To have Wayne as the top scorer in a club like this is magnificent for him."

The game will be not be so fondly remembered by former United defender Jaap Stam, whose Reading side he coaches was outclassed.

Rooney set up Anthony Martial for 2-0 not long after he scored the opener. United, winning for the eighth consecutive game in all competitions, added two more in quick succession after the break through Marcus

Rashford, his second coming after a mistake from goalkeeper Ali Al Habsi.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION 1, DERBY COUNTY 2

Tom Ince, son of former England midfielder Paul Ince, struck a fine winner to upset top-flight West Brom. The hosts led through a Matt Phillips long-range strike but Derby hit back in the second half as Darren Bent levelled and Ince curled home a superb free kick.

MILLWALL 3, BOURNEMOUTH 0

Bournemouth made 11 changes from its last game and suffered an embarrassing defeat against a side in ninth place in League One. — AP

REAL MATCHES BARCELONA'S RECORD OF 39 UNBEATEN GAMES

MADRID: Real Madrid tied Barcelona's Spanish record of 39 games unbeaten in all competitions by crushing Granada 5-0 in La Liga yesterday.

Francisco "Isco" Alarcon scored twice and Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema, and Casemiro added on at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Madrid was six points ahead of second-place Barcelona, which plays fifth-place Villarreal today. Ronaldo, who was rested in Madrid's 3-0 first-leg win against Sevilla in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday, scored with a close-range header off a cross by Marcelo.

Before the match, he was honored in a ceremony to mark the Ballon d'Or award he earned last month for world player of the year. Former Madrid players who won similar awards participated, including Luis Figo, Brazilian striker Ronaldo, and coach Zinedine Zidane.

"It was important to begin the year like this," Zidane said. "We have to keep this pace the rest of the year." Madrid's last setback was a 2-0 loss at Wolfsburg in the quarterfinal first leg of the Champions League in April. Since then, it has won 30 games and drawn nine under Zidane, a run that included three titles.

Zidane, who has lost only twice since taking over Madrid a year ago, already matched the club record of 34 games without a defeat set in 1989 under coach Leo Beenhakker.

The Spanish unbeaten record set by Luis Enrique's Barcelona last season ended with a loss to Madrid at Camp Nou in April.

"It gives us great satisfaction to equal this record," Zidane said. "We have no limits and we will do everything possible to keep this going."

will do everything possible to keep this going."
Madrid, which has won eight of its last nine league games, will have a chance to take the record outright in the second leg at Sevilla on

Thursday. Isco opened the scoring with a low shot from inside the area after a mistake by the Granada defense while trying to move the ball forward, and Benzema - in an offside position - added to the lead off the rebound of a shot by Luka Modric.

has scored in seven consecutive games against Granada. He has a total of 10 goals in 11 matches against the team from southern Spain. Ronaldo increased the lead after Marcelo

Benzema, who also was rested against Sevilla,

cleared a defender in the left side before making a perfect cross into the area, and Isco netted again from close range after a low cross by Modric from the right flank for 4-0. Casemiro scored the final goal nearly an hour

in after a free kick by James Rodriguez, who entered in the second half after impressing against Sevilla midweek. Madrid was still without injured defenders Sergio Ramos and Pepe, as well as forward Gareth Bale.

Granada remained second-to-last in the 20-team standings. Third-place Sevilla played at sixth-placed Real Sociedad later.

EIBAR 0, ATLETICO MADRID 2

Atletico avoided losing even more ground to Real Madrid thanks to second-half goals by Saul Niguez and Antoine Griezmann.

Nigue scored with a header after a cross by Filipe Luis in the 54th, and Griezmann sealed the victory from close range in the 74th.

The result moved Diego Simeone's team to fourth place, but still nine points behind Madrid. It was Atletico's second win in a row after it earned only four points in five straight league matches. Winless in four league games, Eibar stayed in eighth place. — AP

DJOKOVIC ENDS MURRAY'S 28-WIN STREAK IN QATAR

DOHA: Novak Djokovic made an immense statement in his bid to rule men's tennis again when he defeated Andy Murray, the man who deposed him as world number one, 6-3 5-7 6-4 in an epic Qatar Open final in Doha yesterday.

Looking back to near his peerless best at times in a game of searing quality, the Serbian missed out on three match points and had to repel a roaring Murray comeback before ending the Briton's 28-match, five-tournament winning streak. In their first meeting since Murray won their season-ending climax at the ATP World Tour finals, the Briton ran into a rejuvenated Djokovic who, despite having problems with his racket hand and receiving two warnings for his behaviour, prevailed thrillingly in their 36th contest.

The world number two said it was "the dream start" to 2017 in his build-up to the defence of the Australian Open title later this month and defeat provided food for thought for Murray, who lost for the 25th time against his old rival.

"It was close, a very physical battle. All the way to the last shot, you never know with Andy. It's no strange occurrence for us to play three sets for three hours," Djokovic told Eurosport.

"It means a lot. For the last three months of 2016, I haven't felt that confident on court and didn't play that consistent. But to start 2017 with a win over the world number one and my biggest rival was a dream start so I'm hoping I can get the best out of it."

Djokovic had looked out of sorts as he struggled to tame Spaniard Fernando Verdasco in Friday's semi-final and he started inconsistently again, also requiring treatment to a bleeding right thumb in the third game.

right thumb in the third game.

Yet Djokovic began playing with an authority that he had not displayed all week and was so frustrated after losing one 29-shot rally that he was warned for hitting the ball away petulantly

towards his box. Still, he pressurised Murray, mak-

ing his breakthrough in the eighth game as the Scot surrendered the crucial break with a mis-hit forehand. When Djokovic cashed in on a sloppy service game, in which Murray delivered two double faults, to take a crucial 4-3 lead in the second set, he looked unstoppable. He seemed certain to wrap up the victory serving at 5-4 but a couple of missed backhands and courageous aggression from Murray led to him missing out on his three match points. The Briton pounced to

break serve-a feat he has now achieved in an impressive 112 successive matches. Djokovic received a point penalty for smashing his racket which handed the 11th game to Murray and the Scot rammed home his ascendancy by breaking again to take the second set.

Yet just when Murray seemed to be taking control physically, with Djokovic looking increasingly weary, the Serbian produced an inspirational game to break to love at 3-3. — Reuters



DOHA: Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with the winner's trophy after beating Britain's Andy Murray during their final tennis match at the ATP Qatar Open in Doha yesterday. — AFP

Saudi leads rally in Q4 2016

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah Account sets Guinness World Records

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Qatar Airways celebrates solid growth of 2016

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The G 500 4x4 now available at Mercedes Kuwait



BARCELONA: People pass by a Pull & Bear shop on the first day of the winter sales in Barcelona yesterday. —AFP

BIG PAY GAIN, SLOWER HIRING IN US

OBAMA'S FINAL JOBS REPORT PAINTS A ROSY PICTURE OF ECONOMY

WASHINGTON: Americans' paychecks rose in December at the fastest pace in more than seven years as steady hiring and low unemployment led some businesses to pay more to attract and

Employers added 156,000 jobs, a decent total that shows that moderate hiring remains sustainable 71/2 years after the recovery from the Great Recession began. The report provided the last major snapshot of the economy Presidentelect Donald Trump will inherit from President Barack Obama.

The figures also reflect the job market's vast improvement from the deep layoffs and surging unemployment rate that prevailed when Obama took office in January 2009. Last month, the jobless rate was just 4.7 percent, up from a nine-year low of 4.6 percent in November, but far below the painful 10 percent peak of October 2009. Employers have added jobs for 75 straight months - the longest streak on record. Even so, the job market remains a mixed picture. Hiring slowed last year, with the economy adding 2.2 million jobs, the smallest full-year gain since 2012. Job growth averaged 180,000 a month enough to lower the unemployment rate over time - but down from 229,000 in 2015.

And many people, particularly men without a college education, have suffered as the job market has shifted away from blue collar work in manufacturing and mining toward industries that either require higher skills, like information technology, or that pay less, such as health care. The proportion of men in their prime working years who either have a job or are looking for one has continued to drop.

In addition, the number of part-time workers who would prefer full-time work, while declining, remains well above its pre-recession level. Those weak spots will likely challenge Trump as much as they did his predecessor. "More people are back at work than at any point since the recession," noted Jed Kolko, chief economist at the job site Indeed. "However, Trump will inherit an economy that's riding high but faces longterm challenges. Fewer adults are at work than before the recession, manufacturing is lagging despite an uptick in December and the acceleration in wage growth, while great for workers,

could raise inflation fears." Hourly pay jumped 2.9 percent from a year earlier, a welcome change from the sluggish wage growth that has been a longstanding weak spot in the economic recovery.

Many companies will likely raise prices to offset the cost of raises, which in turn would lift inflation. If inflation accelerates, the Federal Reserve may raise short-term interest rates at a

faster pace this year. "Pay raises, while good for workers, represent cost increases for firms," Andrew Chamberlain, chief economist at employment website Glassdoor. "The Fed pays attention to that." Paul Saginaw, co-founder of Zingerman's, a mail order food store and deli based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, says he thinks hiring has become more competitive in the past several years. The company, which has 740 permanent employees, is staffing up to open a new restaurant. In Ann Arbor, home of the University of Michigan, "everybody's hiring most of the time," Saginaw said. "It's an employees' market right now."

Hiring last month was led by the health care sector, which added 43,000 jobs, mostly in doctors' offices and hospitals. Manufacturing resumed hiring after four months of job cuts,

Restaurants and bars gained 30,000 positions. Transportation and warehousing, fueled by online shopping during the holiday season, added 15,000. On the other hand, construction and mining companies shed jobs. A broader gauge of unemployment, which includes the part-time workers who would like full-time work as well as people who have stopped looking for jobs, dipped to 9.2 percent from 9.3 percent. That's the lowest level since April 2008.

Unemployment

Though the unemployment rate has returned to its pre-recession level, the proportion of Americans in their prime working years who are either working or looking for work remains far below where it was before the recession began. When people stop looking for a job, they're no longer counted as unemployed. Those "dropouts" have contributed to a declining unemployment rate over the past eight years.

Trump spotlighted that trend as a shortcoming in Obama's record and charged during the election campaign that the unemployment rate was a "hoax." He now faces the steep challenge of bringing back those who have left the workforce.

Since the election, Trump has successfully pressured several manufacturers to keep some jobs in the United States, including Ford and United Technologies' air conditioning unit Carrier. Even so, and despite last month's increase in factory jobs, manufacturing employment declined by 45,000 in 2016.

For many employers, finding qualified software developers, data scientists and other IT professionals is a top priority. The insurance company Progressive is stepping up its high-tech hiring to implement its Snapshot program, which uses a smartphone app and plug-in devices to track customers' driving habits. Erin Hendrick, a recruiting manager at Progressive, says this enables Progressive to customize its premiums.

"You might not think of technology when you think of an insurance company," she says. "But we have a strong need for IT developers, data analysts, and data scientists."

Consumers and small businesses have become more confident since the election, which could lead to increased spending and hiring. Consumer confidence reached a 15-year high last month.

And purchases of costly items like homes and cars have been strong, though they're threatened by higher interest rates. But if hiring and wage gains continue, they could offset at least some of the depressive effects of higher borrowing costs. —AP

BOURSA KUWAIT SELECTS ALSAQQAF AS CHAIRMAN

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait announced its set strategy to develop a competitive that Mohammed Ahmed AlSaggaf was selected uncontested to assume the role of Boursa Kuwait's Chairman of the Board of Directors. AlSaggaf succeeds Essam Abdul Mohsen AlMarzouq who occupied the Chairmanship role from April 2016 until his official resignation from the Board following his appointment to a Ministerial office.

Khaled Abdulrazak AlKhaled, Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chairman of Boursa Kuwait highly congratulated AlSaggaf and welcomed him as the new Chairman of Boursa Kuwait Board. Alkhaled also stressed the importance of the role that AlSaqqaf has been playing since the critical stages of the start of Boursa Kuwait.

AlSaqqaf expressed his gratitude to the Members of the Board, thanking them for their trust and confidence. He also acknowledged the great effort and work that have been invested by Boursa Kuwait management teams, and the continuous significant support of the CMA.

Additionally, AlSaqqaf affirmed that the company will continue to implement leading regional stock exchange for the State of Kuwait, one which incorporates international level processes and standards that can position BKSC to effectively and positively contribute not only to the national economy in particular, but also the regional one as well.



Mohammed Ahmed AlSaqqaf

It is worth noting that AlSaggaf's core competencies are in corporate strategies and leadership supported by over 25 years' experience in international and regional investments. He was the Chairman of Boursa Kuwait Board Nomination and Remuneration Committee and a member of the Board Executive Committee.

AlSaqqaf has extensive experience in real estate developments. Funds establshment, developing local capital market's products, managing change management initiatives, and the applications of corporate governance and best practices. Furthermore, Alsaggaf has strong background and experience in risk management and leading senior corporate management teams. He has served in many boards and committees in the business disciplines of Hospitality, Architecture & Design, Real Estate, and Investments.

Alsaggaf has held many senior positions since 1997 including the CEO position of several investment and real estate companies. AlSaqqaf holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial & Systems Engineering from the University of Southern California (USC) and Business Leadership and Advanced Management Concepts as part of his EMBA program with the renowned International Institute of Management Development (IMD) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

CITIES VIE TO HOP ON HYPERLOOP RAIL

One on Friday disclosed a list of locations around the world vying to put near-supersonic rail transit system to the test. The startup company keen to revolutionize the way people and cargo travel said that 35 contenders remained from a field of 2,600 teams in a Hyperloop One Grand Challenge launched in May 2015.

Viable submissions had to be condoned by government agencies that would likely be involved in regulating and, ideally, funding the futuristic rail. Projects in the running included hyperloop rail connecting Sydney and Melbourne; Shanghai and Hangzhou; Mumbai and Delhi, and London and Edinburgh.

There were also 11 US teams in contention. "There has been a lot of talk about reviving the infrastructure in the United States," Hyperloop One co-founder and engineering president Josh Giegel told AFP at Consumer Electronics Show.

"If that is the plan, there is a good chance we would start working with

LAS VEGAS: US startup Hyperloop them," he said, referring to the few months, but we want to focus incoming administration of Donald Trump. Hyperloop One wants to get three systems underway, according to chief executive Rob Lloyd. "The end goal is to increase our pipeline of real projects," said Hyperloop One senior vice president of global field operations Nick Earle.

Dubai late last year agreed to a deal to evaluate construction of a hyperloop link that could slash travel times to Emirati capital Abu Dhabi to minutes.

The cash-flush city state, which has hosted other hi-tech transport pilots, said it would conduct a "feasibility study" with Hyperloop One to sound out the scheme.

The company executives said that a hyperloop test system is being constructed in the desert outside of Las Vegas.

Hyperloop One had originally promised a full-scale demonstration by the end of 2016, after a success-

ful test of the propulsion system. "We are not only proving it will work, which we will do in the next on cutting down cost and manufacturing time," Lloyd said.

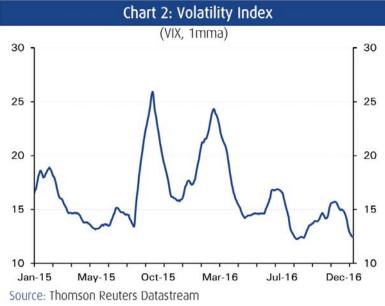
The startup's reasons for being at the Consumer Electronics show included collaborating with the selfdriving car industry to make sure autonomous vehicles will interoperate with the hyperloop system, loading themselves into pods to be whisked off to far-away destinations, according to Earle.

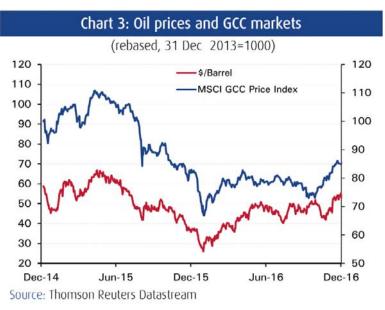
"A self-driving Uber would be able to go inside the hyperloop and come out the other side," Earle said.

"It's like broadband internet for transportation" with self-driving vehicles carrying cargo or people in a real-world spin on data packets being taken quickly from one point to another over the internet, he maintained.

Hyperloop One, which has so far raised more than \$160 million (145 million euros), was set on an idea laid out by billionaire Elon Musk, the entrepreneur behind electric car company Tesla and private space exploration endeavor SpaceX. —AFP







SAUDI LEADS RALLY IN Q4 2016

NBK GCC MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: Regional markets saw a solid performance in the last quarter of 2016. The GCC MSCI total return index advanced a notable 16 percent on the quarter and managed to close the year up 9.5 percent thanks to a stellar performance by the heavily weighted Saudi market in 4Q16. Other markets didn't fare as well and some ended the quarter flat. Total GCC market capitalization stood at \$951 billion at the end of the quarter, having gained \$106 billion during 4Q16 and \$50 billion in 2016.

Internationally, most developed equity markets made strong gains in 4Q16 led by the US. The MSCI World total return index, which captures the performance of equities in developed markets, gained 5 percent in 4Q16, closing the year up 10 percent. Volatility continues to come off the levels seen in late 2015 and earlier in 2016, despite the occasional spikes around big events like the US election and Fed meetings.

The US election was a key catalyst during 4Q16, with the surprise outcome setting the pace for the quarter and year. US equities welcomed the Trump victory with enthusiasm, with the S&P 500 and DJIA repeatedly breaking new highs; the indices were up 3 percent and 9 percent, respectively, in 4Q16. The mid-December Fed rate hike was almost entirely priced in, but equity markets were buoyed further by a more hawkish Fed outlook.

European stocks also put on a strong performance in 4Q16 despite several political, security and financial sector hiccups. The Euro Stoxx 50 advanced 10 percent on the quarter supported by continued flow of positive economic data and the ECB's decision to extend its bond buying program..

At the same time, investors turned negative on emerging markets (EM), as outflows from EMs rose dramatically. EM equities retreated-1 percent in 4Q16, though they still recorded a gain of 10 percent in 2016. According to the IIF, the Trump victory gave rise to the longest period of retrenchment of flows since the start of the series in 2005. Net outflows from emerging equity markets (which do not include flows to the GCC) were \$8.1 billion in November, compared to a monthly average inflow of \$5.5 billion year-to-date (ytd). Despite these outflows coming off in recent weeks, EM markets are still bracing for a more hawkish Fed, a stronger USD and potential trade tensions that might materialize under the new US administration.

Regionally, the recovery in oil markets continued to provide support to GCC stocks, with equities continuing to show strong links to crude prices (Chart 3). OPEC's recent agreement to cut oil output have boosted oil prices with Brent now hovering around \$50/barrel, double their January 2016 low. But despite their recovery, oil prices remain relatively low and a concern for regional fiscal sustainability and growth. A prolonged period of low oil prices could force governments to further reduce capital spending and benefits, and further pressure liquidity. This has been more of a concern for investors in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Bahrain than in other markets.

Driven by a successful bond sale, the Saudi market put on a stellar performance in 4Q16. The government's record \$17.5 billion international bond sale appeared to shift sentiment in the market. The Tadawul-All-Share index was up 33 percent qtd and closed the year up 5 percent. According to EFG Hermes, net inflows to Saudi equities in October were \$427 million compared to a monthly average of \$63

Table 1: GCC markets indicators						
	Market cap (\$ bn)	Average daily turnover (\$ mn)	Growth in 9M16 profits (% y/y)	Price/ earnings per share		
Bahrain (Bourse)	19	2	-5	11.2		
Kuwait (Boursa)	84	46	-6	15.8		
Oman (MSM)	22	9	6	11.5		
Qatar (QSE)	155	65	-12	14.2		
Saudi (Tadawul)	447	1194	-5	17.6		
Abu Dhabi (ADX) & Dubai (DFM)	223	237	-1	12.4		
GCC	951	1553				

Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream and Thomson Reuters Eikon

million since January 2016. Markets had been concerned throughout most of 2016 about declining liquidity, delayed payments to contractors and tightening austerity. Corporate earnings also showed signs of weakness as profits of listed companies for 9M16 were off by 5 percent y/y. While the purchasing managers' index (PMI) remained in expansionary territory, it fell to its lowest level ever in October before rebounding in November.

Kuwaiti equities registered good gains with the value-weighted index up 8 percent qtd. The long-awaited acquisition of a controlling stake in Americana by a UAE-based investor boosted sentiment. Also, corporate earnings of listed companies surprised on the upside in 9M16 despite having declined 6 percent y/y. A sample of 11 blue chip companies announced net profits 19 percent higher than the mean estimate. Volumes were also up in 4Q16 after reaching record lows the previous months. The daily average traded value was \$ 46 million in 4Q16 compared to \$22 million in 3Q16.

UAE equities underperformed in 4Q16, impacted by the broader EM retrenchment. Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) general index was up 1.6 percent qtd and closed the year up 5.6 percent. Meanwhile, Dubai Financial Market (DFM) general index advanced by 1.6 percent qtd and maintained its lead for the year regionally, up 12.1 percent. With their relatively large foreign investor base and representation in EM indices, UAE equities were hurt by the sharp EM outflows. Inflows to UAE markets in October, the last month for which this data is available, were \$50 million compared to a monthly average of \$165 million since January 2016.

Qatari equities lost ground early on in the quarter before bouncing back up on the OPEC deal. The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) general index was unchanged in 4Q16, ending the year also flat. Sentiment in Qatar has suffered on a lack of clarity regarding potential cuts in government spending and declining liquidity. Meanwhile, corporate earnings for 9M16 continued to reflect weakness with a sample of listed companies' profits down 12 percent compared to a year ago, the biggest decline in the region. Foreign flows to Qatar in October were strong for the third consecutive month as money managers continued to amend portfolio allocations following the recent FTSE upgrade to "emerging market" status.

GCC remains undervalued compared to other emerging markets. Price-to-earnings per share (P/EPS) for global emerging markets is around 19, above P/EPS for any of the GCC markets (Table 1). Regionally, UAE equities continue to look the most underpriced among the main GCC markets especially following the rallies in Saudi and Kuwaiti in 4Q16. Saudi equities are the most expensive by that measure.

Market liquidity increased notably in 4Q16, led by a jump in activity in the Saudi market. The daily turnover in 4Q16 averaged \$1.2 billion, up by 50 percent from 3Q16 average. The rise in sovereign bond issuances domestically since the beginning of the year had directed liquidity away from equities. With GCC governments now looking to raise debt internationally rather than just depend on domestic borrowing, activity in the equity markets might see further pick up.

GCC markets will continue to follow up on governments' fiscal and reform plans for the coming years, as well as oil price developments. Internationally, with a new US administration, investor's focus will be on the US in the coming few months, as they seek to ascertain the shift in key policies (monetary, fiscal, regulation, trade...) and their implications for capital markets globally.

China forex reserves fall for 6th month

BEIJING: China's foreign exchange reserves fell to near new Trump administration. The yuan depreciated 6.6 shore up the yuan and curb capital outflows, sparking rear lows in December, but held just above the critical \$3 trillion level, as authorities stepped in to support the weakening yuan ahead of US President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration. China's reserves shrank by \$41 billion in December, slightly less than feared but the sixth straight month of declines, data showed on Saturday, after a week in which Beijing moved aggressively to punish those betting against the currency and make it harder for money to get out of the country.

Analysts had forecast a drop of \$51 billion. For the year as a whole, China's reserves fell nearly \$320 billion to \$3.011 trillion, on top of a record drop of \$513 billion in 2015. While the \$3 trillion mark is not seen as a firm "line in the sand" for Beijing, concerns are swirling in global financial markets over the speed with which the country is depleting its ammunition to defend the currency and staunch capital outflows.

Some analysts estimate it needs to retain a minimum of \$2.6 trillion to \$2.8 trillion under the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) adequacy measures. If pressure on the yuan persists, analysts suspect China will continue to tighten the screws on outflows via administrative and regulatory means, while pouncing sporadically on short sellers in forex markets to discourage them from building up excessive bets against the currency.

But if it continues to burn through reserves at a rapid rate, some strategists believe China's leaders may have little choice but to sanction another big "one-off devaluation like that in 2015, which would likely roil global financial markets and stoke tensions with the

percent against the surging dollar in 2016, its biggest one-year loss since 1994, and is expected to weaken further this year if the dollar's rally has legs.

Adding to the pressure, Trump has vowed to label China a currency manipulator on his first day in office, and has threatened to slap huge tariffs on imports of Chinese goods. That has left Chinese eager to get money out of the country, creating what some researchers describe as a potentially destructive negative feedback loop, where fears of further yuan falls spur outflows that pile fresh pressure on the currency.

"For 2016 as a whole we estimate total capital outflows to have been around \$710 billion." Capital Economics' China economist Chang Liu told Reuters in an email. Capital Economics estimated net outflows in November and December alone were \$76 billion and \$66 billion, respectively.

The main reason China's forex reserves fell in 2016 was because the central bank used them to stabilise the yuan, the country's foreign exchange regulator said in a statement after the data. With the dollar gaining ground, a decline in the value of other currencies held by China also contributed to the decline, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said. "Forex reserves are likely to fall again in January," China's SWS MU Fund Management said in a note, predicting the U.S. economy and the dollar would continue to strenathen.

CLAMPDOWN ON OUTFLOWS TIGHTENS

China has stepped up efforts in recent weeks to

speculation it wants a firm grip on the currency anead of Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20 and the long Lunar New Year holidays at the end of the month.

State banks have bought yuan and sold dollars and regulators have tightened restrictions on individuals and companies who want to move funds out of the country, while denying they are imposing fresh capital controls. This week the central bank also set higher daily guidance rates for the yuan, hiking it the most in a decade on Friday, and Beijing was suspected of pushing up yuan borrowing costs in Hong Kong to discourage offshore investors from making bearish bets on the currency.

SAFE said in late December that net cross-border capital outflows were expected to narrow in the fourth quarter in 2016, while the People's Bank of China (PBOC) said last week that it would push reforms of the yuan regime, while keeping the currency basically stable in 2017.

The PBOC also raised reporting requirements for overseas transfers last Friday. The reporting threshold for cash and overseas transfers was cut to just 50,000 yuan (\$7,230) from 200,000 yuan.

Regulators recently said they would step up monitoring of individual foreign exchange purchases to close loopholes, but the \$50,000 yearly quota would not change. While the yuan has soared this week as China bears down on the market, a Reuters poll showed it is expected to slide at least 4 percent this year, largely as expectations of interest rate hikes in the United States drive the dollar higher. — Reuters

ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 36TH 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 36th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 2nd January, 2017 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with



two winners per draw. The campaign will run until 27th June, 2017.

The winners this week are:

1) Bushra Hussain Ali Al-Mulla, Qurain Branch 2) Mostafa Ahmad Yasan Mahdi, Salmiya Branch

Indonesian Rupiah

Syrian Pound

Tunisian Dinar

Turkish Lira

0.040270

0.005523

UAE Dirhams

Yemeni Riyal

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to

ABK are entered into a separate draw. The next 'Double Your Salary' draw will be held on 9th January, 2017 where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.

For more information about Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit eahli.com or contact a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO. **ASIAN COUNTRIES** Japanese Yen Indian Rupees Pakistani Rupees 4.510 2.934 Srilankan Rupees 2.053 Nepali Rupees 2.823 Singapore Dollar 212.790 Hongkong Dollar 39.563 Bangladesh Taka 3.893 Philippine Peso Thai Baht 8.601 Malaysian Ringgit 223.230 **GCC COUNTRIES** Saudi Riyal 81.881 Qatari Riyal 84.334 ani Riyal 797,427 Bahraini Dinar 815.330 **UAE Dirham** 83.599 **ARAB COUNTRIES** Egyptian Pound - Cash Egyptian Pound - Transfer 16.073 Yemen Riyal/for 1000 Tunisian Dinar 133,590 Jordanian Dinar 432.400 Lebanese Lira/for 1000 2.046 Syrian Lira Morocco Dirham 2.188 30.839 **EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES**

306.850 323.270

379.270

87.300

US Dollar Transfer

Euro Sterling Pound

Turkish lira

Swiss Franc	302.02
Australian Dollar	222.20
US Dollar Buying	305.65
	GOLD
20 Gram	238.24
10 Gram	122.04
5 Gram	57.97

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD							
e for Transfer	Selling Rate						
Dollar	306.550						
adian Dolla	230.500						
ling Pound	384.385						
0	322.080						
ss Frank	300.105						
rain Dinar	812.640						
Dirhams	83.855						
ari Riyals	85.080						
di Riyals	82.675						
danian Dinar	433.540						
ptian Pound	16.830						
	DOLLARCO e for Transfer Dollar ladian Dolla rling Pound o ss Frank larin Dinar E Dirhams ari Riyals di Riyals danian Dinar ptian Pound						

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	306.550
Canadian Dolla	230.500
Sterling Pound	384.385
Euro	322.080
Swiss Frank	300.105
Bahrain Dinar	812.640
UAE Dirhams	83.855
Qatari Riyals	85.080
Saudi Riyals	82.675
Jordanian Dinar	433.540
Egyptian Pound	16.830
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.060
Indian Rupees	4.530
Pakistani Rupees	2.924
Bangladesh Taka	3.887
Philippines Pesso	6.143
Cyprus pound	168.345
Japanese Yen	3.600
Syrian Pound	2.435
Nepalese Rupees	3.825
Malaysian Ringgit	69.340

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	31.240
Thai Bhat	9.535
Turkish Lira	87.725

BAHRAIN	EXCHANGE CO	OMPANY WLL
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
	Europe	
British Pound	0.369279	0.379279
Czech Korune	0.003802	0.015802
Danish Krone	0.038891	0.043891
Euro	0. 313975	0.322975
Norwegian Krone	0.031398	0.036598
Romanian Leu	0.070497	0.070497
Slovakia	0.009229	0.019229
Swedish Krona	0.029450	0.034450
Swiss Franc	0.292152	0.303152
Turkish Lira	0.082529	0.092829
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.213906	0.225908
New Zealand Dollar	0.205822	0.215322
	America	
Canadian Dollar	0.222898	0.231898
Georgina Lari	0.138751	0.138751
US Dollars	0.303100	0.307500
US Dollars Mint	0.303600	0.307500
	Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003578	0.004160
Chinese Yuan	0.042632	0.046132

0.037520

0.002789

Hong Kong Dollar

Indian Rupee

Japanese Yen	0.002515	0.002695
Kenyan Shilling	0.002984	0.002984
Korean Won	0.000244	0.000259
Malaysian Ringgit	0.064568	0.070668
Nepalese Rupee	0.002944	0.003114
Pakistan Rupee	0.002620	0.002910
Philippine Peso	0.006083	0.006383
Sierra Leone	0.000053	0.000059
Singapore Dollar	0.206584	0.216584
South African Rand	0.016294	0.024794
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001651	0.002231
Taiwan	0.009393	0.009573
Thai Baht	0.008228	0.008778
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.808282	0.816782
Egyptian Pound	0.013279	0.022532
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.428238	0.47238
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000153	0.000253
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020263	0.044263
Nigerian Naira	0.000407	0.001042
Omani Riyal	0.791501	0.797181
Qatar Riyal	0.083569	0.085019
Saudi Riyal	0.080833	0.082133

0.001303

0.128697

0.082529

0.082215

0.000018

0.000024

0.001523

0.136697

0.092829

0.083915

0.001079



A group picture of Gulf Bank employees at the event



Salma Al Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources, receiving the Guinness World RecordTM award on behalf of the Bank

GULF BANK'S AL-DANAH ACCOUNT SETS GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

ACHIEVEMENT DURING ANNUAL MILLIONAIRE DRAW EVENT



The photo booth was very popular at the event

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is pleased to have successfully completed the biggest annual draw event in Kuwait, on Thursday, 5 January at The Avenues Mall. In exciting news, this year Gulf Bank was honored to receive a well-respected and esteemed international recognition from Guinness World Records live during its draw event, in addition to naming Kuwait's new Al-Danah millionaire, Salary and Red cash and car winners, and winners of "Catch the Cash" money box competition. The event was hosted by the notable radio

host and media personality Khaled Al-Ansari and Gulf Bank team member Mohammad Al-Sarraf. The special guest for the evening was the popular Kuwaiti actor/comedian "Weld Al Deera" - Khaled Al-Agrooga. With his signature humor and effusive persona, Weld Al-Deera had the audience laughing and enjoying the event. As with all Gulf Bank draws, this entire event was conducted in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

Guinness World Records

To start the draw event, Gulf Banks' Al-Danah account prize of KD 1 million was named the "Largest Prized Linked to a Bank Account in the World." The award was presented by Guinness World Records representatives; Hoda Khachab, Official Adjudicator, and Talal Omar, Country Manager - Middle East and North Africa. Gulf Bank solidly beat the previously established world record of \$2.1 million linked to a bank account.

The Guinness World Records is the ultimate authority in record-breaking achievements. It was established in the early 1950s and the first edition went on to become a bestseller in the United Kingdom. Today, more than 60 years later, the Guinness Book of World Records is one of the most recognized and trusted brands in the world.

Guinness World Records has an expertly trained Records Management Team who undertake substantial research and verification checks to confirm whether a new record title has been achieved. Guinness World Records maintains the highest standards and strict policies governing what makes a world record. All Guinness World Records must fulfill some key criteria such as: measurability; breakability; standardization; verifiability; uniqueness; and universality.

Applicants must first submit a standard application with the required evidence to verify the achievement in question. In October 2016, a claim was submitted to Guinness World Records about Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account KD 1 million prize. The dedicated Records Management Team at Guinness World Records Headquarters reviewed the application, carefully assessing it to confirm whether or not the proposal could be accepted. Then, the Guinness World Records team conducted their research based on the above listed qualifications and verified that indeed Gulf Bank's Al-Danah KD 1 million prize is the largest prize linked to a bank account in the world.

Receiving the Guinness World Records award on behalf of the Bank was Mrs. Salma Al Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources. Al-Hajjaj said, "Gulf Bank is exceptionally proud to have received this distinction from Guinness World Records. Our Al-Danah account prize of KD 1 million has long been known to be the largest annual prize in Kuwait, but to now know that we are the largest prize linked to a bank account in the world is truly terrific news. Or, as the Guinness officials said, Gulf Bank is now 'officially amazing."

Al-Hajjaj continued, "On behalf of the Bank, I would like to thank the Guinness World Records for being here to present this award to us. I would also like to thank the Gulf Bank team for their dedication to the Bank and their tireless efforts to ensure we maintain the highest standards of service and innovation at the Bank; this award would not be possible were it not for their ongoing commitment. This award is a great honor for Gulf Bank and for our beloved country Kuwait."

Highly anticipated draw event

For the first time in Kuwait, Gulf Bank introduced the 'Catch the Cash' competition during Al-Danah millionaire draw adding even more excitement to the event. The Bank offered attendees the chance to win up to KD 3,000 in this unique challenge. Attendees signed up to participate in the competition prior to the start of the draw event. Names were then selected at random by the event hosts and the competitors entered the box and tried to catch as many flying notes as possible in 10 seconds. These notes were then counted on stage and exchanged on the spot for cash.

Salary, Red Accounts and **Cadillac Escalade winners**

Lucky Gulf Bank's Salary and red account holders also won cash prizes of KD 1,000 each.

Halima Waleed Saleh Baroon, holder of a salary account won KD 1,000 and Huda Hussein Mohammad Mohammad, holder of

red account won a prize of KD 1,000 as well. Additionally, Fahed Mohammad Al-Azmi was lucky enough to be selected as the winner of the brand new Cadillac Escalade. He will soon visit the Bank in person to receive the key to his brand new car.

The KD 1 million Al-Danah prize winner Gulf Bank representatives Meshari Shehab,

Assistant General Manager, and Tareq Al-Saleh, Assistant General Manager, then took to the stage with the hosts to start the Al-Danah millionaire prize portion of the event. Kuwait's highly anticipated prize of KD 1 million, now recognized as the largest prize linked to a bank account in the world, was randomly selected, under the oversight of the Ministry of Commerce representative and the representative from Guinness World Records, to be Sayed Mustafa Sayed Ali Al Mousawi. Congratulations to Kuwait's newest Al-Danah millionaire!

Activities and fun took center-stage

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah millionaire draw event this year was dynamic and full of surprises. Attendants and participants enjoyed a full show that started at 5:00pm with kids' activities that ranged from face painting to henna, balloons and mascots.

Attendees were also treated to a special musical performance by "The Concert". They also enjoyed the photo booth attraction and the social media competition that went along with the photo booth.

Will you be the 2018 millionaire?

In order to participate in Al-Danah millionaire draw 2018, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing a minimum of KD 200. Chances of winning can be increased by adding to the amount deposited in Al-Danah account. This will also maximize your chances of winning up to KD 500,000 quarterly, and one of the two KD 1,000 cash prizes which are drawn each working day.



TO THE RED ACCOUNT WINNER OF THE KD1,000 CASH DRAW

Huda Hussain Mohammad Mohammad

Congratulations to the winners!





Fahed Mohammad AI Azmi was lucky winner of the brand new One of the participants of the unique competition "Catch the Cash"



بلك الخليج GULF BANK

Big crowd at the event in the Avenues



The popular actor and comedian Weld Al Deera had the audience laughing and enjoying the event



The event hosts (from the left): Gulf Bank team member and musician Mr. Mohammad Al Sarraf, the popular Kuwaiti actor/comedian "Weld Al Deera", and the radio host Khaled Al Ansari

BOURSA KUWAIT LOSES 27% OF LIQUIDITY IN 2016

AL-SHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: During 2016 Boursa Kuwait lost about 27.5 percent of its liquidity versus 2015 during which it lost -35.2 percent versus 2014 liquidity. Liquidity during these three years was originally weak and is continuing weak. What is being circulated currently about likely measures of governmental intentions to intervene by injecting liquidity to purchase stocks, i.e. stimulating the demand side, or intervene to purchase to create support, is a repetition of the same old sins. The impact will be temporary and most funds will go into the wrong direction. The resulting funds will be withdrawn from the market and market conditions will return to a worse condition than before.

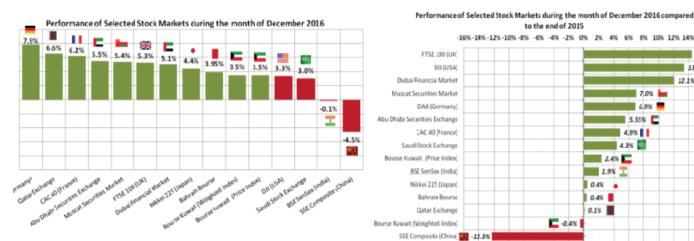
Trust abatement over nine years needs a professional vision but not a provisional stimulus injection. Assuming that the government is willing and able to inject one billion Kuwaiti dinars liquidity, the amount is slightly less than 4 percent of the market value of listed companies; its cycles, i.e. multipliers, will be short-termed with a temporary impact. The disappearance of the impact will be followed by more abatement of trust. All former similar experiments failed. The only exception was when the government focused more on the supply side and reduced the volume of stocks supply, or planned withdrawal of a large number of companies from trading starting in 1986.

By the end of 2016, the number of listed companies was voluntarily reduced to 184 companies down from 217 listed on 09/06/2011. The share of 95 companies (49.7 percent of listed companies including 7 companies withdrawing during the year) scored only 2.8 percent of the market liquidity.

The negative impact affected the confidence in the Boursa Kuwait significantly. If intervention is inevitable and funds are available, a professional effort is required to purchase the biggest number of non-liquid companies at lower prices and a comfortable margin from the real prices, after study and evaluation, and it is fine if prices offered are slightly higher than the market prices.

Company Name

The National Bank Of Kuwait



experiences. Reduction of confidence has been guite long, the economic and geopolitical conditions are tough and 2017 year envisages to start a continued contracting monitory policy-lifting interest rates. Pressure on lower liquidity and consequently assets prices will continue. Intervention is supposed to be planned and professional to stop the transfer of assets price crisis to the banking sector; if that happens its confrontation cost will be several multiple.

Monetary and economic Indicators

The periodical statistical bulletin of the Central Bank of Kuwait from July to September 2016 published on its website provides some economic and monetary indicators whose developments deserve follow up and documentation. For instance, the balance of trade -commodity exports minus commodity imports-, achieved surplus in the third quarter of 2016 in the amount of KD 1.422 billion with Kuwait commodity exports during this quarter scored about KD 3.736 billion of which 88.9 percent were oil exports. Value of commodity imports -excluding the military- scored about KD 2.314 billion. The balance of trade achieved surplus in the first quarter of this year in the amount of KD 417 million, and KD 1.199 billion in the second quarter.

CLOSE

2016

DIFF

percent) for the same period.

The bulletin indicate continued rise of the weighted interest rates of balances on deposits to about 1.641 percent in the third quarter from 1.631 percent in the second quarter of this year, rise rate by 0.6 percent in the quarter and the weighted interest rates of balances on loans remained stable at 4.466 percent for the same period. Volume of private sector deposits at local banks scored about KD 34.131 billion (KD 34.659 billion in the second quarter), a quarterly drop rate by -1.5 percent, on the other hand, claims on private sector increased to KD 36.619 billion up from KD 36.195 billion in the end of the second quarter achieving a quarterly growth rate by 1.2 percent.

GCC States and a different era

Throughout 8 years from the oil market prosperity era (2006-2013), GCC states increased their public expenditures at a compounded annual growth rate of 15.2 percent without listening to any advice to stop the non-recommended financial expansion that the prosperity of oil market will not be for long.

Neither did they learn from a painful similar experience they encountered after their financial expansion between mid-1970s and their end. It is almost two and half years since oil market has entered its recession cycle. With the high level of their public expenditures, the higher ceiling which a barrel of oil might possibly score in the future is below the breakeven price of most budgets. They have become forced to cover the financial deficit by barrowing or withdrawing from reserves in addition to compressing their expenses with consequences that are not acceptable by the public general.

The only merit for the oil market prosperity era was that despite extravagant spending, most of them managed to achieve surpluses that increased its sovereign funds which scored about US\$ 2558 billion on 30/06/2016 according to Sovereign Wealth Funds Institute report issued in September 2016. Despite the huge figure, its distribution among 6 GCC states and the late developments to their various funds puts these states in different positions in terms of the duration that their sovereign funds can provide to secure their financial stability.

The UAE sovereign fund -most of it belong to Abu Dhabi- scored \$ 988 billion on 30/06/2016 according to the above source. Its volume between June 2015 and June 2016 increased by \$ 32 billion perhaps due to the prosperity of global stock markets during that period. The Saudi fund, the second, in the amount of \$ 598.4 billion as of in 30/06/2016 lost in one year about \$ 70.6 billion i.e. dropped from \$ 669 billion on 30/06/2015 to about \$ 598.4 billion on 30/06/2016.

The third largest sovereign fund in the region is the Kuwaiti fund which remained constant at \$ 592 billion between June 2015 and June 2016. Perhaps the reason is due to the fact that withdrawing does not come directly from future generations reserves but is carried on the general reserve and will subsequently influence the future generation fund. The biggest addition during a year belonged to the Qatari sovereign fund whose volume rose to \$ 335 billion on 30/06/2016 from \$ 256 billion on 30/06/2015. The source did not give any justification for this substantial addition of US\$ 79 billion in a year

A completely different category, which includes Oman and Bahrain, has small sovereign funds. This would reduce significantly the timeframe of their capability to absorb the oil market shock. The Omani sovereign fund, although its volume rose to \$ 34 billion on 30/06/2016 from \$ 19 billion on 30/06/2015, remains equal to 10.1 percent of the volume of the Qatari sovereign fund in the region. The Bahraini fund has \$ 10.6 billion only. Therefore, and taking into consideration the size of the sovereign fund, the size of public expenses, and seriousness of reform efforts in each estate, we can rank the six states in accordance with their ability to absorb the Oil market shock as follow: UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, KSA, Oman and Bahrain.

In the end we have to mention three remarks. First, those figures are attributed to their source and we cannot confirm their accuracy. Second, those funds of whatever size do not guarantee the sustainability of the financial condition for any of the six states unless most of their public expenses are funded from their own revenues only and not by deductions from their assets or barrowing by their guarantee. Third, success in confronting the oil market requires very essential and innovative solutions without excluding anyone from fair contribution of its share from its burdens.

Comparative Performance of Selected Stock Markets 2016

2016 ended and December performance was largely positive and included most sample markets, with 12 markets achieving big gains, while two markets only achieved negative performance, one very slightly. This positive and strong performance was sufficient to enhance the gains of the 7 winning markets since the beginning of the year until the end of November. It also promoted the performance of 5 losing markets in the end of November to the positive zone with the end of December. That positive performance occurred despite the beginning of rising interest rates started, for different justifications. While the Gulf region markets prospered because of oil agreement which lifted prices by more than 20 percent in less than a month and by more than 100 percent compared with January 2016 rates while other markets gained because of better-than-expected economic performance indicators. The biggest gainer in December was the German market which gained about 7.9 percent in one month; this was adequate to take it from the negative zone in the end of November compared with its level at the beginning of this year and about 6.9 percent gain at the end of the year.

14.4% 🛞

13.4%

12.1%

6,9%

5.55%

2.4%

1.9%

0.4%

0.4%

0.1%

The second biggest gainer in December was the Qatari market with approximately 6.6 percent gains and were adequate to move it from the negative zone at the end of November to the positive zone in the end of December, though very marginally for 2016 not exceeding 0.1 percent. Abu Dhabi, Muscat and Dubai Markets all achieved gains in December by more than 5 percent and strengthened their positions in the positive zone, i.e. they achieved more gains in 2016.

The British market led the list of winning mar-

kets in 2016 with approximately 14.4 percent gains, perhaps to make up for the pound sterling losses in large part. The USA market came second with 13.4 percent gains despite the gains of the US dollar. Dubai market came third by 12.1 percent gains. While the Indian market made a slight loss in December by -0.1 percent, it did not affect its continuation in the positive zone and achieving gains by 1.9 percent in 2016. The Chinese market achieved the highest losses in December by around -4.5 percent which strengthened its position in the bottom of the losing markets by about -12.3 percent in 2016.

The weighted index of Boursa Kuwait associated it in the negative zone although it achieved gains by about 3.5 percent in December as it remained losing by -0.4 percent in 2016 while the price index of Boursa Kuwait settled in the positive zone rising by 2.4 percent since the beginning of the year.

January will witness transition of power to President Trump and although this transition raises a lot of concerns arising from the prospects of tension in the economic and political relations on a global level, we believe that their effects, if any, will not show up on the performance of markets in the same month. Nevertheless, we believe that the hotness of December was an exception which will not recur in January. Therefore the performance in January will be fluctuating, either positive weak or negative weak.

Weekly performance of Boursa Kuwait

The performance of Boursa Kuwait for the last week (4 working days due to the New Year holiday), was more active compared to the previous one, where all indexes showed an increase, the traded value index, the traded volume index, number of transactions index, and general index, AlShall Index (value weighted) closed at 369.5 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing an increase of about 6.5 points or about 1.8 percent compared with its level last week, which is the end of 2016.



HIGHER WAGES PUSH STOCKS TO RECORDS, DOW MISSES 20,000

NEW YORK: So close! The Dow Jones industrial average missed the 20,000 mark by a fraction of a point Friday as US stock indexes rose after the government said wages jumped in December. Two other major indexes set records.

Stocks wavered between gains and losses in the morning after the December jobs report, which showed less hiring than analysts hoped to see. Bond yields rose sharply, as the continued job gains should encourage the Federal Reserve to keep raising

interest rates. Indexes turned higher as investors concluded that the rising wages will lead to more spending on technology and consumer goods. Industrial companies rose as investors hoped for greater economic growth. Sam Stovall, a US equity strategist for S&P Capital IQ, said there was good news for most industries. That's because workers are being paid more, but the report won't push the Fed to raise rates quickly in order to stave off inflation.

"Consumers are earning a bit more and as a result can spend more," he said. "But ... people are not too worried the Fed will have to slam on the brakes."

At about 12:40 pm the Dow peaked at 19,999.63, but later lost steam. It finished up 64.51 points, or 0.3 percent, at 19,963.80. The S&P 500 rose 7.98 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,276.98. The Nasdag composite jumped 33.12 points, or 0.6 percent, to 5,521.06.

The small-cap Russell 2000 index slid 4.65 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,367.28. Stocks finished the week with a big gain as investors remained optimistic about the US economy. The S&P 500 climbed 1.7 percent. That was a marked change from last year, when the index lost 6 percent as the market got off to its worst opening week in history.

The Labor Department said US employers added 156,000 jobs in December, which was solid but slightly disappointing. However the government said hourly pay jumped 2.9 percent from December 2015, the biggest monthly increase in seven years. Overall, job growth remained steady in 2016 but slowed a bit from 2015.

The biggest gains went to companies that stand to benefit from higher wages and greater spending by consumers. Among technology companies, Facebook rose \$2.74, or 2.3 percent, to \$123.41 and Apple gained \$1.30, or 1.1 percent, to \$117.91. Amazon had its second big gain in a row and added \$15.54, or 2 percent, to \$795.99 while travel website TripAdvisor picked up \$1.57, or 3.2 percent, to \$50.77.

Industrial companies, which have

climbed since the presidential election two months ago, also fared well. Machinery and equipment maker Honeywell rose \$1.77, or 1.5 percent, to \$118.53.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.42 percent from 2.35 percent. Higher bond yields mean higher interest rates, which allow banks to make more money on lending. Investment banks and other financial firms did better than the rest of the market Friday afternoon. SunTrust Banks rose 63 cents, or 1.1 percent. to \$55.53 and Goldman Sachs jumped \$3.58, or 1.5 percent, to \$244.90. Companies that pay large dividends, including phone companies and real estate investment trusts, lagged the market as bond yields rose. Those stocks are often compared to bonds because of the steady income they provide. AT&T gave up 84 cents, or 2 percent, to \$41.32 and Crown Castle International fell \$1.74, or 2 percent,

Amgen climbed and Sanofi and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals fell after a court moved to block sales of Sanofi and Regeneron's cholesterol drug Praluent. A federal jury ruled in March that Praluent infringes on two patents that belong to Amgen. Both are costly biotech drugs designed to be injected once or twice a month. Sanofi and Regeneron said they will appeal the ruling, which came from U.S. District Court in Delaware.

Amgen stock gained \$3.80, or 2.5 percent, to \$156.78 while Regeneron slid \$22.24, or 5.8 percent, to \$358.68 and Sanofi lost \$1.18, or 2.8 percent, to \$40.32.

The dollar rose to 117.02 yen from 115.62 yen after a dip Thursday. The euro slipped to \$1.0532 from \$1.0590. US crude oil rose 23 cents to close at \$53.99 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, which is used to price oil sold internationally, added 21 cents to close at \$57.10 a barrel in London.

In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline slipped less than 1 cent to \$1.63 a gallon. Heating oil rose 1 cent to \$1.70 a gallon. Natural gas rose 1 cent to \$3.29 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold fell \$7.90 to \$1,173.40 an ounce. Silver sank 12 cents to \$16.52 an ounce. Copper rose 1 cent to \$2.55 a pound. The FTSE 100 index in Britain inched up 0.2 percent. It's risen nine days in a row and is at all-time highs. Germany's DAX edged up 0.1 percent and the CAC-40 of France rose 0.2 percent. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 0.3 percent while the Kospi in South Korea added 0.4 percent. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng advanced 0.2 percent. — AP

362.9 195.0 349.7 0.0 195.0 358.2 ommercial Bank Of Kuwait l-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait 196.4 212.6 356.6 214.7 uwait International Bank 214.7 (1.0)(1.0)hli United Bank 361.0 Burgan Bank 283.4 Banking Sector 384.1 379.3 379.3 112.6 251.3 119.5 1114.2 Commercial Facilities C 114.0 259.4 112.6 3.2 2.2 0.0 International Financial Advisor 251.3 119.5 122.1 1114.2 uwait Investment Projects 1114.2 54.0 Investment Sector 313.5 311.7 0.6 311.7 0.6 Kuwait Insurance Company 61.7 61.7 0.0 61.7 0.0 ulf Insurance Company 170.9 83.6 l-Ahleia Insurance Company 170.9 83.6 170.9 83.6 0.0 0.0 145.0 145.0 0.0 145.0 0.0 uwait Real Estate Company 106.3 100.1 100.1 nited Realty Company 197.8 205.1 195.8 195.8 Real Estate Sector 618.1 110.5 618.1 110.5 618.1 110.5 0.0 0.0 efrigeration Industries Co ulf Cable & Electrical Industrie 153.9 149.9 149.9 Industrial Sector 174.7 172.4172.41.3 778.4 145.8 uwait Hotels Company 145.8 2522.6 145.8 0.0 The Public Warehousing Co Mobile Telecommunications Co - ZAIN 11.6 6.3 603.6 541.1 11.6 541.1 874.3 822.1 822.1 6.3 Services Sector 178.3 89.0 Livestock Transport & Trading Co 178.3 anah Aalsafat Foodstuff Company 88.0 65.3 2561.9 Luwait United Poultry Co 2561.9 0.0 887.1 887.2 887.2 (0.0)(0.0)Food Sector 358.3 298.4 358.3 302.4 358.3 302.4 Sharjah Cement Co 0.0 mm Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries Non Kuwaiti Companies 223.8 222.6 222.6

THU

29/12/2016

362.9

05/01/2017

Such a procedure is investment that achieves return to public fund that is capable of waiting for some time and capable of exerting effort to restructure some of these companies financially such as merging and liquidating most of them. The human resources of KIA is capable of performing this and it will acquire a lot of experience and capability through it. The supply reduction will limit demand on good listed companies which will reduce investment risks at the Boursa Kuwait and lifts the confidence level and creates a better operating environment for the market making companies who would start their awaited work. It might be incredible what is currently being circulated about intentions of the intervention of the national fund, but we are with intervention without repeating previous failed

This means the balance of trade achieved a surplus in the first three quarters of this year of about KD 3.038 billion, or about KD 4.051 billion for the entire year. This surplus is lower by -41.8 percent than its counterpart in 2015 in the amount of KD 6.964 billion.

Consumers prices during the third quarter achieved positive growth by about 1 percent. Their average scored 142.3 (2007=100) rising from 140.9 in the second quarter which is tolerable. This growth is attributable to the dominance of the impact of rising transportation prices (due to lifting subsidy from gasoline prices in September 2016) from an average of 123.2 to an average 128 (+3.8 percent) for the same period, and the rise in restaurant and hotels prices from an average of 140.4 to an average of 144.1 (+2.6

The following tables summarize last week's performance of Boursa Kuwait

Description	Week 1	Week 51	Diff
Description	05/01/2017	29/12/2016	%
Working days	4	5	
AlShall index (38 Companies)	369.5	363.0	1.8%
Boursa Kuwait index (price)	5,831.2	5,748.1	1.4%
Value Trade (KD)	80,726,974	89,335,848	
Daily average (KD)	20,181,743	17,867,170	13.0%
Volume Trade (Shares)	885,556,523	941,428,027	
Daily average (Shares)	221,389,131	188,285,605	17.6%
Transactions	18,070	20,935	
Daily average (Transactions)	4,518	4,187	7.9%

Most Active Sectors & Companies		
Description	Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors	KD	Market
ALIMTIAZ INVESTMENT CO. K.S.C.C	8,795,706	10.9%
HUMAN SOFT HOLDING CO. K.S.C.C	5,743,873	7.1%
NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT	5,566,715	6.9%
MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY K.S.C (ZAIN)	5,379,640	6.7%
KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE	4,987,127	6.2%
Total	30,473,061	37.7%
Description	Value Traded	% of Total
Sectors	KD	Market
FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR	22,538,597	27.9%
BANKS SECTOR	17,148,739	21.2%
INDUSTRIALS SECTOR	15,631,448	19.4%
REAL ESTATE SECTOR	12,040,358	14.9%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR	6,595,285	8.2%

ALSHALL INDEX	Week 1	Week 51
	05/01/2017	29/12/2016
Increased Value (# of Companies)	18	11
Decreased Value (# of Companies)	5	16
Unchanged Value (# of Companies)	15	11
Total Companies	38	38





Al Baker and Boeing Commercial Airplanes President and CEO Ray Conner following the announcement of Qatar Al Baker and a number of high-profile delegates officially open The Oryx International School in November.

QATAR AIRWAYS CELEBRATES SOLID GROWTH OF 2016

Airline Launches 14 New Destinations, welcomes 19 New Aircraft into fleet

DOHA: Qatar Airways is celebrating a successful year of continued growth achieved in 2016 through strategic network, fleet and partnership expansions.

Airways' landmark order in October.

At a time when a number of airlines are downsizing, Qatar Airways continued to see strong growth and inaugurated 14 new destinations across its global network and welcomed 19 new aircraft to its fleet, taking the count to 192, as well as placing a record aircraft order to power future growth. Qatar Airways has made a number of strategic investments in other airlines and airline groups, while investing heavily in the continued evolution of its own passenger experience. Lauded for its success, Qatar Airways received a number of awards throughout the year, confirming it as one of the world's leading carriers for business and leisure travel. Fans or followers can enjoy a video created by the airline, highlighting it's most special moments here.

The airline also celebrated its strong financial performance, having finished the 2016 fiscal year with an operating profit of more than QAR 3 billion - the best yet for the Qatar Airways Group.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker, said: "I am extremely proud of the success that Qatar Airways has achieved together with our employees and partners in 2016. I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude to all staff for their discipline and tireless pursuit for excellence. I'd also like to extend my gratitude to our loyal passengers for their continued support. Our passengers will see a continuation of our commitment to providing the very best travel experiences in the year to come. This past year has truly been an exceptional year and, and as we turn to 2017 to celebrate Qatar Airways 20th Anniversary, I look forward to celebrating future successes with our employees, partners and passengers in the years to come as we go places together."

Route expansion

Qatar Airways is one of the fastest growing airlines in aviation history, with the airline now serving over 150 destinations following the inauguration of 14 new destinations in 2016 alone. Providing even more choice for travellers, the airline introduced exciting destinations such as Adelaide (Australia), Atlanta (USA), Birmingham (UK), Boston (USA), Helsinki (Finland), Los Angeles (USA), Marrakech (Morocco), Pisa (Italy), Ras Al-Khaimah (UAE), Sydney (Australia), Windhoek (Namibia), Yerevan (Armenia), Krabi (Thailand) and Mahe (Seychelles).

Fleet expansion

Qatar Airways took delivery of 19 new aircraft in 2016, creating a total fleet of 192 aircraft. Having been the global launch customer of the A350,

Qatar Airways continued to deliver on its fleet expansion and renewal strategy, having placed a record \$11.7 billion order for 30 B787-9 Dreamliners and 10 777-300ERs, as well as signing a Letter of Intent for up to 60 737 Max 8s valued at \$6.9 billion. The landmark order, combined with previous orders results in a total of 350 Airbus and Boeing aircraft to be delivered to the airline over the coming years valued at more than \$90 billion. Qatar Airways enjoys one of the youngest fleets in the world, averaging just five years, and the combination of its short and long haul mixed fleet provides the airline with the operational agility to maximize efficiency and profit by putting the right aircraft on the right route - every time.

Qatar Airways' private jet arm, Qatar Executive, was the global launch customer for the Gulfstream G650ER, and placed an order for a further three G650ERs - the fastest and longest range private jet aircraft in the world - at the Farnborough Airshow in July. The latest order will make Qatar Executive the largest dedicated G650 operator globally.



Al Baker accepting the prestigious Skytrax World Airline Awards in July.



Qatar Airways became the first airline in the world to operate scheduled A350 flights to Australia when it inaugurated services to Adelaide in May.



Qatar Airways was announced Airline with the Best Business Class at the Business Traveller Awards Middle East 2016.

6 WAYS THE US JOB MARKET HAS EVOLVED OVER OBAMA'S 8 YEARS

WASHINGTON: When President Barack Obama took office in January 2009 in the midst of the Great Recession, the economy was hemorrhaging jobs. Employers were panicking in the face of plummeting demand and a financial crisis that had frozen credit.

In March 2009 alone, 823,000 jobs disappeared. When the bleeding finally stopped in February 2010, 8.7 million jobs were gone. The unemployment rate hit a painful 10 percent - a quarter-century high - in October 2009.

Eight years later, the job market is in infinitely better shape. The unemployment rate is 4.7 percent. Jobs have been added for 75 straight months, the longest such streak on record.

But many other trends, not all of them positive, have reshaped the job market over the past eight years:

A SMALLER SHARE OF AMERICANS HAVE JOBS

Hiring has been solid yet still hasn't kept up with population growth. The proportion of Americans with jobs essentially the flip side of the unemployment rate - dropped a full percentage point under Obama. An aging society has turbocharged retirements. And many workers, especially less-educated men, have become discouraged about finding jobs with decent pay and have stopped looking.

AUTOMATION AND GLOBALIZATION ERASE ROUTINE JOBS

Routine work on factory assembly lines and as office clerks has declined, in some cases lost to computers, robots and inexpensive imported goods. Factory jobs have fallen 2.4 percent since January 2009. The number of people working as office administrators is down 2.5 percent.

MORE HIGH- AND LOW-PAYING JOBS

Those routine jobs typically paid middle-income wages. As they have faded, both higher- and lower-paying jobs have grown faster. The number of jobs in computer networking and software development has soared 42 percent in eight years. Data analysis has enjoyed job growth of 18 percent. On the lowerpaying end, jobs at restaurants and hotels have jumped 19 percent.

MOST NEW JOBS GO TO COLLEGE GRADUATES

The ranks of employed college graduates jumped 22 percent under Obama, while the number of employed people with only a high school degree fell 4 percent. That partly reflects demographic trends: Older, less-educated Americans retire and are replaced by younger people more likely to have college degrees. But it also points to rising demand for high-skilled workers.

SLOW PAY GROWTH

Over the past year, average hourly pay has risen 2.9 percent, the healthiest increase in seven years. Yet for most of the recovery since the Great Recession, wages have struggled, growing closer to 2 percent. In a more robust economy, pay gains are typically close to 3.5 percent a year.

MORE PART-TIMERS

Thanks in part to strong hiring gains at restaurants, bars, hotels and retailers, more Americans have part-time jobs. In many cases, they prefer it that way. The number of part-timers who would prefer full-time work has fallen nearly 30 percent under Obama. And the number of people working part-time by choice - a much larger number- has grown 13 percent in the past eight years. —AP

MEXICAN PLANT WORKERS BLAME TRUMP FOR DASHED DREAMS

VILLA DE REYES, Mexico: Word spread quickly through cellphone messages and shouts between co-workers that Ford Motor Co. had canceled its new \$1.6 billion car plant at its sprawling 700-acre high desert site in north-central Mexico.

"When I saw it on the phone, (I thought), 'Well, no, it can't be," said Higinio Salazar, a security guard who spent the past five months logging traffic into and out of the site and hoped to have steady work for months to come. "It was on

orders of Mr Trump," he said bitterly.

That was not the case, Ford insists, but the perception here in Mexico's burgeoning auto assembly region was largely that President-elect Donald Trump, who had promised for months to bring manufacturing jobs back to the US while at the same time disparaging Mexicans, had made good before even settling into the White House. Trump took a shot at Toyota on Thursday over its move to make Corollas in this region, though the Japanese company defended its plan.

Ford's announcement sent shockwaves across Mexico, which has become tightly meshed with the US economy since the advent of the North American Free Trade Agreement, sending 80 percent of its \$532 billion in exports across the border in 2015. The US government says \$100 billion of that was in vehicles and parts, making Mexico the biggest exporter of automotive products to the United States. Mexico's auto plants now account for 20 percent of all light vehicles built in North America, industry figures say.

State officials in San Luis Potosi did not find out much earlier than Salazar that plans had been scrapped for the long-awaited plant, which promised 2,800 direct jobs and more than 10,000 indirect ones through Ford's supply chain. State Economic Development Secretary Gustavo Puente Orozco said Ford told state officials about an hour before CEO Mark Fields made the announcement Tuesday.

Puente said Ford made very clear it was a

"definitive cancellation," citing supply and demand rather than politics. "They told us that it was a market issue - the issue that the Ford Focus that was the vehicle they thought to build, this light vehicle they planned to build in San Luis Potosi, they say the demand had dropped,"

Low gas prices have Americans turning again to larger vehicles and Focus sales have fallen victim to that trend. Fields said Ford will produce the Focus at an existing plant in Hermosillo, Mexico, and use some of the savings to invest \$700 million in an existing Michigan plant to make hybrid, electric and autonomous vehicles.

Puente said.

The San Luis Potosi plant was well past the theoretical stage and there were high hopes the state would see further economic growth from the opening of its third auto plant - General

Motors Corp. has been producing the small Aveo and Trax vehicles up the road since 2008 and a BMW plant nearby is scheduled to begin pro-

duction in early 2019.

The steel bones of Ford's plant had begun to rise and signs designated the future spots for each part of the operation, from "stamping" to "final warehouse."

On Wednesday, Fernando Rosales Ortuno, who deals in hydraulic hoses for Parker Hannifin Corp. was pacing the site's perimeter with cell-phone pressed to his ear trying to arrange for a trailer to get hauled away. It's essentially a portable store that had been set up to service the big machines preparing the site.

He had hoped that once Ford was up and running, the plant might become a long-term client. — AP



Workers leave the Ford construction site after they were sent home early the day after the U.S. auto company cancelled plans to build its plant in Villa de Reyes, outside San Luis Potosi, Mexico, Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017. An average worker in Mexico costs automakers \$8 an hour, including wages and benefits, compared to the \$60 an hour that Ford said it was spending on an auto worker in the U.S. at the end of 2015. —AP

Kuwait Times 55_______ Sunday, January 8, 2017

MERCEDES-BENZ G 500 4X4²

THE G 500 4X42 NOW AVAILABLE AT MERCEDES KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Concept car turn series production model, the Mercedes-Benz G 500 4x4² has arrived in Kuwait and is available at A R Albisher and Z Alkazemi Company, the authorized general distributor of Mercedez-Benz in Kuwait today announced.

A new highlight in the rich history of the G-Class, the G 500 4x4² is a pure new creation in the G-Class family which understands the need for extreme off-road driving with no boundaries, while preserving the legendary Mercedes-Benz comfort and style.

Inspired by the Mercedes-Benz G 63 AMG 6x6 superior all-wheel-drive powertrain, the new series is powered by an all-new Mercedes-Benz biturbo V8 engine with 422 hp and a choice of 22-inch wheels or 18-inch



Mercedes-Benz

beadlock wheels, carbon-fibre fender flares and roof spoilers with LED lighting body parts, and seductive designo Exclusive range for the interior. Portal axles from the legendary 6x6 with a newly-developed variable chassis and one reduced portal axle increases the ground clearance from 240mm to 450mm, ensuring the machine powers up, or through, any terrain.

Commenting on the arrival of the G 500 4x4² to Kuwait, Michael Ruehle, Chief





Executive Officer of A.R. Albisher and Z Alkazemi Company said: "So popular among customers that it entered series production, the G 500 4x4² is proving the ultimate machine for outdoor thrill seekers. It drives through bends so dynamically that occupants feel as though they are in a sports car rather than a cross-country vehicle, while optimized tyres conquer even the trickiest of off-road trips. Given the longstanding admiration the region has for the G-Class, this new

model is testament to the fact Mercedes-Benz will never rest on outstanding."

The chassis is fundamentally based on the series-production G model and offers a perfect symbiosis of sporty dynamism and relaxed comfort, both on the road and off. During dynamic cornering the sporty setting performs sterling work, as the tauter connection of the chassis allows higher cornering speeds. If the driver is more in the mood for pleasurable cruising, the COMFORT set-

ting effortlessly dampens all the unevenness in the ground. In extreme situations such as abrupt evasive manoeuvres, the system automatically switches over to the firm setting for the sake of maximum possible handling safety. The comfortable setting also helps during off-road sessions, because the wheels retain better surface contact. Even on heavily contoured off-road terrain, every surface traction possibility can be utilised

BOURSA KUWAIT LAUNCHES BETA VERSION OF WEBSITE

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait has announced the launch of a beta (trial) version of its new website (http://beta.boursakuwait.com.kw/), which became operational on 2 January 2017 to coincide with the first day of trading of the New Year. The new site, which is in Arabic and English, contains a much greater range of information than before, including new charts, 'live' data and news updates of Boursa Kuwait. Information accessibility is a key theme and the revised homepage is designed to make it much easier for visitors to find market information.

Boursa Kuwait has tion. A key element of the website is a section which explains Boursa Kuwait's regulations and trading system, reinforcing the company's long-term commitment to creating open and transparto coincide with the first

Boursa Kuwait's current website will continue to operate as normal for the time being. The beta version will operate alongside the current website so that Boursa Kuwait can obtain feedback and comments from visitors in order to fine-tune the new site which should meet traders' needs and aspirations before its official launch later this year.



KFH FINANCIAL BROKERAGE WINS 'BEST ISLAMIC BROKERAGE COMPANY 2016'

WORLD FINANCE RECOGNIZES CONTRIBUTIONS TO ISLAMIC FINANCE

KUWAIT: KFH Financial Brokerage, a subsidiary of KFH-Capital has been awarded "Best Islamic Brokerage Company" for the year 2016 by London based WORLD FINANCE magazine that underlines the institutions that demonstrate remarkable contributions to Sharia-compliant investing across the world. The Islamic Finance Awards celebrate the brightest names in the Islamic Finance arena, and offer an insight into the latest and greatest developments.

Chairman KFH Financial Brokerage, Abdullah Eissa Al-Ali stated on receiving the award, that the award is a recognition of the instrumental role assumed by KFH Financial Brokerage in offering added value services to customers at Kuwait Stock Exchange. It confirms the professional and prestigious status of the company in trading assets and commodities in the local and global markets, not to mention reflects the confidence of customers in the innovative solutions that meet their aspirations.

He indicated that the company offers financial brokerage services to its customers in the Kuwait Stock Exchange through a qualified and specialized team round the clock. The company utilizes the best technology and sharia-compliant financial products for the best interest of customers.

Moreover, KFH Financial Brokerage is considered as one of the companies licensed from the Capital Markets Authority to practice the financial brokerage business at Kuwait Stock Exchange, along with trading assets and commodities in the local and international markets under license from the largest commodities markets in the world.

Voted by a panel of experts, and with input



from WORLD FINANCE readers, KFH Financial Brokerage was awarded 'Best Islamic Brokerage Company'. The evaluation was also based on a number of indicators and specific criteria.

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

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



Abdullah Eissa Al-Ali

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

BAHRAIN INDUSTRY LEADERS PARTNER TO LAUNCH MOBILE PAYMENT SERVICE

MANAMA: Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Batelco, Bahrain's leading telecom provider, and Arab Financial Services (AFS), one of the region's leading electronic payments outsourcing service providers, to launch the Kingdom's first ever mobile payment service.

The new service uses secure Near Field Communication (NFC) tags to eliminate the need for cash or cards by allowing customers to shop simply by tapping their mobile phones at the checkout counters of participating merchants. The launch marks a key milestone for the Bahrain retail market, potentially revolutionising customer shopping experiences with secure, real-time payments now possible directly from their mobile phone.

To use the new service, customers subscribe for an Ithmaar Bank prepaid eCard at their nearest Batelco shop or Ithmaar Bank branches and receive their NFC tags, which can then be used at participating merchants.

Batelco Bahrain CEO Eng Muna Al-Hashemi stressed on the new service translating Batelco's drive to introduce the bestin-class digital solutions using cuttingedge technology.

"Batelco has continuously embedded innovation as a central to its strategy with the aim of delivering first class customer experience. This new service is a step forward towards this aim, opening exciting

opportunities in the future as technology, digital banking and customers' needs continue to evolve," she added.

"Batelco and Ithmaar Bank customers can now enjoy a hassle-free transaction at the partnered retail outlets through this convenient and reliable service," she added. Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, said the new service builds on the Bank's history of innovation and its commitment to offering customers a premium Islamic banking experience.

"Ithmaar Bank played a pioneering role in the establishment and subsequent development of Islamic banking in the region," said Abdul Rahim. "We developed this new service with AFS, the technology provider, in line with our long-standing commitment to continuously improving our products and services, and are pleased to be partnering with Batelco to help make this innovative service available to as many people as possible," he said.

Arab Financial Services CEO B Chandrasekhar commented, "AFS has been a leader in providing innovative payment services in MENA region for over three decades. We are proud to launch the first of its kind NFC enabled mobile payments solution in Bahrain and are delighted to partner with Batelco and Ithmaar Bank for this service. We have plans to introduce more innovative products to create an enhanced customer experience."



(From left): Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, Batelco Bahrain CEO Eng Muna Al-Hashemi and Arab Financial Services CEO B Chandrasekhar.



LAS VEGAS: Super Armor phone cases by Luvvitt are displayed at CES 2017 at the Las Vegas Convention Center on Friday in Las Vegas, Nevada. CES, the world's largest annual consumer technology trade show, runs through today. — AFP



Onanoff representative Angela Lucarelli wears the Buddyphones at CES 2017 at the Las Vegas Convention Center on Friday in Las Vegas, Nevada. The headphones, specifically designed for children, are currently available



A man watches as someone flies the remote control Mi Drone from Xiomi, a Smart Drone with 4k UHD camera and autopilot controls during the 2017 Consumer Electronic Show (CES) in Las Vegas. — AFP

HOW MOBILE VIDEO IS CHANGING THE WAY WE WITNESS CRIME

NEW YORK: Mobile video is changing the way we witness crime, from live footage of a mentally disabled man tortured by four assailants, to a recording that led to the manslaughter conviction of an Israeli soldier, to the body cameras designed to keep police accountable.

We're all still wrestling with the implications. In theory, such videos should make it easier to hold criminals, including police officers who violate the law, accountable. In practice, that hasn't always worked out the way proponents had hoped, although smartphone video played a big role in elevating public awareness of police violence.

And sometimes the presence of a camera might actually encourage criminal activity, or at least deter bystanders from helping victims.

SCENE OF THE CRIME

It's not clear how any of that might have played out in an incident on this week, when attackers used Facebook Live to stream the beating and torture of a man with mental health problems. They threatened him with a knife, cut off his clothing and forced him to drink from a toilet.

The assault went on for up to two days, according to police, though it's unclear how much of it was streamed on Facebook Live. Police have arrested four people in connection with the crime. Last year, an Ohio woman plead not guilty to charges of rape, kidnapping and other crimes for live-streaming the rape of a friend on Periscope, Twitter's live-streaming app. Prosecutors said Marina Lonina continued to film the assault despite the victim's cries for help, caught up in the attention the livestream was getting. Lonina's attorney said she was recording the attack as evidence.

During a Thursday press conference about the Chicago assault - itself livestreamed on Facebook - Chicago Police Cmdr. Kevin Duffin noted, "I can't understand why anyone puts anything on Facebook."

FACEBOOK'S ROLE

Facebook says it does not allow people to "to celebrate or glorify crimes" on its site. It has already removed the original video of the Chicago incident for that reason.

But the social network does allow crime video when people share it "to condemn violence or raise awareness about it," the company said in an emailed statement.

That can lead to tricky assessments of intent. Facebook, for instance, wrote in a blog post that it would allow a violent video posted by someone who used it to help find the shooter, but would remove it when posted by another person who mocked the victim or celebrated violence.

Facebook generally tries to avoid making such judgments, preferring to

rely on algorithms that automatically filter out banned content such as pornography. When it makes exceptions, it often wades into difficult territory - such as the time it was forced to restore the Pulitzer Prize-winning "napalm girl" photo after removing it because it features a naked child, blind to the photo's historical context and significance.

"We understand the unique challenges of live video," Facebook wrote in its July blog post after footage of a dying Philando Castile, bleeding inside a car after he was shot by police, went viral. The social network says it keeps a team on-call 24 hours a day to respond to reports of inappropriate video - though its reactive approach means that some material could easily go unreported.

Facebook Live is an important product for Facebook, and in recent months the company has gone to great lengths to promote it with notifications, sidewalk ad displays and TV commercials. The vast majority of live streams don't involve crime, and Facebook is unlikely to rein back the product just because of a few difficult

READY FOR YOUR CLOSE-UP

Online crime footage has been around much longer than live streams. While live broadcast gives them a sense of immediacy, many live videos only go viral well after the fact. So it may not really matter whether a video is live or not, just that it's a concrete record of a crime that happened, visible to all who dare to click.

Even then, video evidence doesn't necessarily lead to criminal convictions. In South Carolina, a white police officer was charged with the 2015 shooting of an unarmed black man after a traffic stop. A video shot by a bystander clearly shows Keith Scott being shot eight times in the back. But the jury was unable to reach a verdict and forced a mistrial.

In another case in Ohio, the two sides in the trial clashed over a video from a police officer's body-worn camera that showed him shooting an unarmed man following a traffic stop. That case also ended in mistrial. The officer, Ray Tensing, will be retried.

As for users, a quick trip down memory lane confirms that some people will do almost anything in front of a camera to get online attention. Before Twitter gutted its quirky videosharing app Vine, a popular phrase among users was "do it for the Vine," the idea that people will do anything usually weird, comical things - just for

the sake of a six-second Vine video. But it wasn't just fun and games. Fights and violence also found a home on Vine under the hashtag #SmackCam - a 2013 "internet trend" that had people recording and posting videos of themselves hitting people in the face. — AP

LAS VEGAS: Goal Zero's Yeti 1400 lithium portable power station is displayed at CES 2017 at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

ROBOTS SHOW THEIR 'PERSONALITY' AT CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW

LAS VEGAS: Professor Einstein rolls his eyes, sticks out his tongue, and can give a simple explanation of the theory of relativity. With his lifelike rubbery "skin" and bushy mustache, he can almost make you forget he's a robot.

The Einstein robot is among dozens roaming the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas that can be your companion, educator or babysit your children. While robots have been around for years, advances in technology and artificial intelligence have allowed developers to give them traits that enable the devices to be seen as members of the family. "We make robots that have personality and come to life," said Andy Rifkin, chief technology officer of Hanson Robotics, the Hong Kong-based firm which is bringing the \$299 Einstein robot to consumers this year. Einstein is the first commercial product from Hanson, which became known for producing humanoid robots like the flirtatious "Sophia," which has life-like facial and eye expressions and can converse through cloud-based artificial intelligence.

Einstein, which is knee-high and responds to voice commands, can help kids with their homework, play games and answer questions about math and science. "This is different from other robots," said Rifkin, who noted that the "emotional bond" can be an important element in helping kids learn. Most other robots at CES look like the mechanical objects people expect from science fiction, but many have personality too.

'SPARK OF LIFE

Kuri, a knee-high rolling robot set to hit the US market, is touted as a home companion which can entertain kids and allow users to monitor their homes through a smartphone application. "You have to make an effort to give a robot personality and character, otherwise it's too cold," said Mayfield Robotics chief executive Michael Beebe. "Kuri adds a spark of life to the home. The joy of incorporating a robot in the home is unique and magical."

Mayfield, a 40-person California startup owned by German conglomerate Bosch, plans to deliver Kuri by December for \$699 to US consumers. Kuri learns to recognize family members and can notify its owners through a smartphone when a child arrives home.

Kuri "speaks only robot"-meaning beeps and bloops, according to Beebe-but also offers a range of emotional expressions by rolling her head and moving her eyes. She can also play music to recorded sound, which Beebe uses to tell the robot to tell his dog to get off the couch. AvatarMind, a robotics firm with offices in

soon-to-be-released iPal "social robot" which can play games, converse in natural language, sing songs and monitor home security. A little taller than one meter (3.5 feet), iPal can self-navigate

and use its arms while singing or dancing.

China and California, used CES to showcase its

CEO John Ostrem said the robot-which is

being released in China early this year and in the US later in the year-can act as a companion for children or the elderly, and could be used as an assistant for commercial applications for information in shopping malls or hospitals. Ostrem said that "an interesting application is for chil-

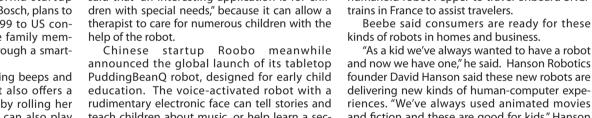
teach children about music, or help learn a second language. Chen Yi, the vice president of Roobo, said the voice system is better for young children than using a tablet or smartphone.

"Parents do not want their children using a smartphone or tablet because of the screen," he said, adding that the robot's screen filters out harmful blue light.



Also at the show was a chess-playing robotone which picks up the pieces and moves themfrom Taiwan's Industrial Technology Research Institute. The robot can also pour perfect cups of coffee. Japan's Softbank Robotics meanwhile announced a partnership that will allow its humanoid robot Pepper to travel onboard SNCF trains in France to assist travelers.

"As a kid we've always wanted to have a robot and now we have one," he said. Hanson Robotics founder David Hanson said these new robots are delivering new kinds of human-computer experiences. "We've always used animated movies and fiction and these are good for kids," Hanson said. "With a robot we can add more dimension to the interaction. This is a new, natural way to interact with our computers." — AFP



2017 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada on Friday. — AFP

LAS VEGAS: Mayfield Robotics CEO Michael Beebe poses with his Kuri robot, launched at the

Virtual reality seeks momentum at CES gala

LAS VEGAS: Virtual reality sought its stride Friday at the Consumer Electronics Show, where despite being a hot topic there was little sign it is racing into mainstream culture. Show floor space devoted to virtual reality abounded with companies diving into the market with headsets, content, or tools for better creating or delivering immersive experiences.

Last year at CES, virtual reality was an eyegrabbing sensation. This time around there was a focus on what it is going to take to get it into the hands of the masses.

Shawn DuBravac, chief economist at the Consumer Technology Association behind the annual show, was confident that sales of mixed reality gear would grow, and the range of uses expand far beyond video games. "There is a lot of investment going into content," DuBravac said. "Sales will eventually come."

SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

Taiwan-based HTC used CES to announce initiatives aimed at getting developers to create more VR experiences and revealed plans for arcades in public venues so more people could give it a try. HTC had a 'great' year with its Vive VR head wear and Steam online game venue but was "really just scratching the surface," said Vive general manager Daniel O'Brien.

"Our goal is to build the largest VR platform in the world," O'Brien said. "2016 was a coming out party for VR; 2017 is developing it in the marketplace and continuing to evolve the product." Vive is up against PlayStation VR and Facebookowned Oculus Rift. Each company has been wooing software developers and refining its hardware to better entice users.

HTC said that later this year it will release a Vive Tracker device that lets digital versions of real-world objects easily be put into fantasy worlds. O'Brien also said that HTC is working on a wireless version of its headset, to sate a strong desire to be able to move around untethered to computers while using Vive.

Rikard Steiber, head of Viveport virtual reality app shop, said that more than 3,000 titles for the Vive platform would be available by the end of this year. The vision is to have Viveport serve all VR platforms, including those of Oculus and Sony, according to Steiber.

VR ARCADES

HTC said it will launch what it billed as the



LAS VEGAS: A woman climbs a mountain in a VR experience at the Tsinghua Tongfang exhibit booth during the 2017 Consumer Electronic Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

world's first virtual reality app subscription service, likened to "Netflix for VR." The goal is to help developers reach audiences and make money, ideally inspiring the creation of more VR content, according to HTC executives.

HTC also planned to bring VR to the masses in arcades in shopping malls, downtowns or other public locations.

The company envisioned thousands of Viveport Arcades in operation by the end of this year. Sony Corporation chief executive Kazuo Hirai revealed at CES that the Japanese consumer electronics company had sold more than 53.4 million PlayStation 4 consoles, which can power it virtual reality head gear. He said that Sony aimed to continue the console momentum with more services and content, including VR games.

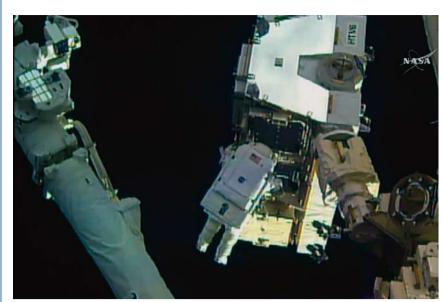
Sony Pictures was among more than two dozen companies that used CES to announce the creation of a Virtual Reality Industry Forum. The Forum said its goal is to "further the widespread availability of high-quality audiovisual VR experiences."

The group wants standards and formats that allow rich VR content to be equally accessible from the array of devices, avoiding "fragmentation" that has plagued audio-visual media in the past, according to a release. "We believe this is crucial for the market to take off," Sky broadcast strategy chief engineer Chris Johns said in the release. "We all expect that 2017 will be the year when intense consumer interest in VR spurs a quantum leap in the user experience." CES featured the largest collection of VR technology ever at a trade show, according to Gartner analyst Brian Blau.

"There is a bit of the cart being before the horse," Blau said. "A lot of people have learned about it, but people aren't really buying it." He described the VR scene at CES as the first incarnation of an ecosystem of devices, applications and services in what was a big step for the technology. "There is nothing like putting it on and

experiencing it," Blau said of VR. "The disappointing part is that it is quite expensive. VR will be held back a bit until quality goes up and price goes down." — AFP

SPACEWALKING ASTRONAUTS TACKLE BATTERY WORK OUTSIDE STATION



CAPE CANAVERAL: In this still image taken from video provided by NASA, astronaut Peggy Whitson takes a spacewalk outside the International Space Station on Friday. —AP

CAPE CANAVERAL, Astronauts went spacewalking Friday to hook up fancy new batteries on the International Space Station's sprawling power grid. Before venturing out, Commander Shane Kimbrough and Peggy Whitson got a hand from a robot that took care of most of the grunt work. Remotely using robotics aboard the 250-mile-high lab, flight controllers in Houston spent the past week replacing decade-old, nickel-hydrogen batteries with better charging lithium-ion ones. Handling all those batteries each about half a refrigerator in size was cumbersome and time-consuming.

On Friday, it was up to Kimbrough and Whitson to wire up the three new lithium-ion batteries, delivered last month by the Japanese. Spacewalkers will plug in three more next Friday, part of a long-term effort to energize the station's aging solar power system. NASA expects it will take two to three years to change out all 48 nickel-hydrogen batteries that make up the solar

Florida: power system. The lithium-ion batteries are so efficient, only 24 will be needed altogether, saving space for other items during supply runs.

The space station's robotic handyman, long-armed Dextre, removed the old batteries and popped in the new ones in a series of maneuvers that began on New Year's Eve. Dextre - short for dexterous - also loosened bolts holding down special metal plates that were launched with the new batteries. Installing these plates, along with power and data cables, fell to Kimbrough and Whitson. NASA's chief astronaut, Christopher Cassidy, said from Mission Control that sticky bolts often stymie astronauts, so everyone was grateful to hand over the chore to Dextre.

Riding on the end of the station's robot arm, Dextre and its 11-foot arms also made easy work of the battery transfers from one end of the station to the other, a distance spanning approximately half a football field. "Most of that's behind us," Cassidy said as the spacewalk got underway, "and we're looking forward to a relatively, hopefully, I don't want to jinx us, but a smooth day of battery operation." Spacewalks are high-risk activities, NASA managers noted, and so reducing crew time outside is always preferable.

In fact, almost as a reminder, Mission Control's main contact for the spacewalkers was Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano, who nearly drowned in 2013 when his helmet flooded with water from his space suit's cooling system. He directed Kimbrough and Whitson's every move. Most of the old batteries will be junked along with other station trash, burning up in the atmosphere later this month in the Japanese supply ship that delivered the new batteries. More lithiumion batteries will arrive on future cargo craft. Whitson, meanwhile, now ties the record for most spacewalks by a woman - seven. At age 56, she's the world's oldest and most experienced spacewoman ever.—AP

BAT-FRIENDLY TEQUILA, RESEARCH PLAY ROLE IN SPECIES' RECOVERY

'FIRST BAT REMOVED FROM LIST OF ENDANGERED SPECIES'

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico: Wildlife officials say it might be time for a toast now that a once-rare bat important to the pollination of plants used to produce tequila is making a comeback. The US Fish and Wildlife Service on Thursday proposed removing the lesser longnosed bat from the endangered species list. Mexico delisted the bat in 2015, and if approved in the US, this would be the first bat ever removed from the nation's list of threatened and endangered species. Federal offi-

cials said it has taken 30 years of conservation efforts by biologists and volunteers in Mexico and the US as well as tequila producers in Mexico to rebuild a healthy population.

There were once thought to be fewer than 1,000 lesser long-nosed bats in 14 known roosts throughout the region. Now, there are about 200,000 of the nectar-feeding animals and dozens of roost sites. Jim deVos, assistant director of wildlife management at the Arizona Game and Fish Department, called the proposed delisting a great achievement. "Many entities in both the U.S. and Mexico have worked tirelessly toward recovery and this announcement stands as testimony that dedicated efforts and sound management practices can lead to recovery of endangered species," he said in a statement.

The flying mammal ranges from Mexico to southern Arizona and New Mexico. It depends on the nectar of agaves, cactuses and other flowering plants in the desert region. In Mexico, tequila producers who rely on agaves are integrating more harvest and cultivation practices in recognition that the bats are key pollinators. Some are even marketing "bat-friendly tequila." In southern Arizona, residents for a decade have monitored night-time bat use of hummingbird feeders. This provided biologists with a clearer understanding of migration timing and allowed for the opportunity to capture bats and affix radio transmitters that aided in finding roost sites.

Nectar trail

Federal land managers in New Mexico and Arizona, including at the US Army's Fort Huachuca, are including forage plants such as agaves, saguaros and other cactuses in their resource management plans to help the species. Limiting human access to caves with roost sites and abandoned mines in the US also has benefited bat populations, officials said. Recovery efforts also have included education aimed at changing attitudes about bats and improving identification of different species.

Historically, the lesser long-nosed bat was a victim of early campaigns to control vampire bats over rabies concerns and their effects on livestock. According to a recent assessment, the Fish and Wildlife Service says the threats to the lesser long-nosed bat have been eliminated or reduced to the point that the bat has recovered and no longer meets the definition of an endangered or threatened species. Biologists also considered the potential effects that climate change may have on the "nectar trail" that the bats follow as they migrate.

They say the bat is flexible and adaptive enough to remain viable under changing conditions. The Fish and Wildlife Service is taking comments on the proposal through March 7. A final decision will follow. A species of buckwheat once found in only one spot in southeastern New Mexico also has been proposed for delisting. The agency pointed to the discovery of additional populations of Gypsum wild-buckwheat and efforts to limit grazing and off-roading in the areas where the plant is found.—AP



ARIZONA: This photo provided by the US Fish and Wildlife shows nectar-feeding lesser long-nosed bats attracted to a hummingbird feeder during a citizen science bat migration monitoring project in southern Arizona.—AP

RED PANDA TRIPLET DIES AT PHILADELPHIA ZOO by a brain parasite. Officials are examining

BRITAIN'S HEALTH SERVICE

PHILADELPHIA: This photo provided by the Elmwood Park Zoo shows a red

panda named Shredder, left, and his brother Slash, right, at the zoo in

NORRISTOWN: A red panda, a species listed as endangered, has died at a suburban Philadelphia zoo. It was the second of triplets at the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown to die. The zoo says Shredder, a 2-vear-old male, died Wednesday. A necropsy found an enlarged heart and thickened heart walls, both signs of heart disease. A sibling, Clinger, died in December 2015 from encephalitis caused

Norristown, Philadelphia. —AP

the surviving triplet to ensure he's healthy. Fewer than 10,000 red pandas live in the wild. The triplets came to the zoo in the spring of 2015 from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. The institute website says that despite sharing a name, red pandas aren't closely related to giant pandas. They are smaller and have no close living relatives.—AP

IN A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS LONDON: Britain's health service is said Mike Adamson, chief executive of engulfed in a "humanitarian crisis" that

requires the support of the Red Cross to use Land Rovers to transport patients, the charity said yesterday. Founded in 1948, the National Health Service (NHS) is a source of huge pride for many Britons who are able to access care for free from the cradle to the grave. But tight budgets, an ageing population and increasingly complex medical needs have combined in recent years to leave many hospitals struggling during the winter season, sparking headlines about patients being left to wait on trolleys for hours or even days.

In a statement on its website next to appeals for help in Yemen and Syria, the British Red Cross said it was now "on the front line, responding to the humanitarian crisis in our hospital and ambulance services across the country." "This means deploying our team of emergency volunteers and even calling on our partner Land Rover to lend vehicles to transport patients and get the system moving," the British Red Cross. The NHS has always been an emotive issue in Britain one of the richest countries in the world - and was once described by a former finance minister as the "closest thing the English have to a religion".

In recent years charities and opposition politicians have warned that government cuts to social care have resulted in more elderly and vulnerable patients being treated in hospital rather than at home, putting a huge burden on the service. The Red Cross said it was working alongside the health service to support people in their homes to free up beds. "We've seen people sent home without clothes, some suffer falls and are not found for days, while others are not washed because there is no carer there to help them," Adamson said. A spokeswoman for NHS England said plans were in place to cope with increased pressure during the winter and that beds were not as full as this time last year.—Reuters

UN HOPES HAITI ELECTION WILL OPEN DOOR FOR CHOLERA AID

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations is million for a special fund set up by the UN. "I vate sector and numerous foundations are struggling to get pledged aid for Haiti's cholera epidemic victims but hopes nascent political stability will inspire confidence in donors and investors. In early December, the United Nations for the first time apologized to Haitians for its role in the epidemic. It announced a plan to help the victims' families and bolster the fight against the disease, hoping to mobilize \$400 million over two years. But donations have only trickled in, said David Nabarro, a British doctor who is special adviser to the UN on the organiza-

tion's sustainable development agenda. "Money remains a serious problem," he said Thursday. "I have never found it so hard to raise money for an issue as I am finding it to raise money for this."According to independent experts, cholera was introduced to Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, by infected Nepalese UN peacekeepers deployed there after a devastating 2010 earthquake. Since then, the disease has killed more than 9,400 Haitians and infected more than 800,000 people.

Cholera causes severe diarrhea and can be spread through contaminated food and water. Nabarro singled out France and South Korea "for special praise" in the response to the cholera outbreak in Haiti. The two countries have respectively pledged 600,000 euros (\$636,000) and \$1

am not disheartened," Nabarro said, forecasting that more countries would contribute to the fund within the next two or three months.

Harvest in Davos?

The UN has mobilized between \$60 million and \$100 million to improve the country's inadequate sanitary infrastructure, and more than \$10 million to speed up the emergency response to the epidemic. Only \$2 million has been made available for measures aimed to help the hardest-hit communities, such as infrastructure construction and education grants. A UN team is currently in Haiti to evaluate its needs and coordinate the aid program with local

Nabarro, who led the international response to the recent Ebola outbreak that killed more than 11,000 people in West Africa, plans to attend the World Economic Forum's annual meeting later this month in the Swiss ski resort Davos to try to convince potential donors and investors to set up what he called a "long-term consortium" for Haiti. A high-level meeting, focused on improvement of Haitians' access to clean water and sanitation, is scheduled on January 18 in Davos. The World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the pridue to participate.

Nabarro sees reason for optimism in the election of the new Haitian president, Jovenel Moise, after a long-running electoral crisis. That closes a period of great political instability and raises Haiti's prospects of "moving out of the phase of humanitarian aid into longer-term development assistance," he said. "There has been a successful presidential election and this makes a lot of difference to the ability of development banks to move money to a country," he explained. On Tuesday Moise's victory in the November 20 election was made official, bringing to an end a political crisis that began in October 2015.

Nabarro cited "very positive signs for the future" and a cautious optimism among private investors. "We are delighted that the election was found valid," he said. "We believe this is a signal to the rest of the world that Haiti is back on track politically."Moise, 48, a banana exporter who has never held office, will be inaugurated on Feb 7. He takes the helm of a deeply divided country, both socially and politically, whose finances are drained. A flare-up in cholera cases after Hurricane Matthew devastated the country in October has been contained. But the epidemic persists due to a chronic lack of sufficient financing.—AFP

US STRIKES DEAL TO EXPORT EGGS TO BIRD FLU-STRICKEN S KOREA

CHICAGO: The United States has reached an agreement that is expected to open the door for its first-ever exports of shell eggs to South Korea, as the North Asian country labors through its worst outbreak of bird flu in history, US government and industry officials said on Friday. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been negotiating with South Korea's government to enable shipments ahead of peak egg demand in the upcoming Lunar New Year

holiday season. Jim Sumner, president of the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council, a trade group, said the two sides reached an agreement over health statements. They were in talks after South Korea lifted a ban on imports of US shell eggs that it imposed when the United States grappled with its own bout of bird flu in 2015, according to the USDA. In South Korea, more than 30 million birds have been culled, most of them egg-laying hens, since

the outbreak began in November. The losses have pushed up egg prices and created a shortfall. "I think there will be a lot of eggs on the way to Korea immediately," Sumner said. "It'll be boatloads." He declined to give a dollar estimate. South Korea's embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a phone message seeking comment. Different strains of bird flu, which can be spread to poultry by wild birds, have been detected across Asia and in Europe in recent weeks.

Some egg distributors in South Korea have said plans by Seoul to subsidize fresh egg imports were too little, too late to alleviate the shortage before the end-January holiday season. A South Korean industry source with direct knowledge of the matter said one group of wholesalers had already reserved a Korean Air Lines charter flight. with a capacity of 100 tons, to bring fresh eggs from the United States around Jan 16.

"They are very desperate for eggs," Sumner said. In an email sent to members of the US egg industry and provided to Reuters, the USDA said it had "completed discussions related to the export of shell eggs" with South Korea. Agency representatives had no immediate comment beyond the notice. US egg exports would help farmers cope with an oversupply that is depressing prices."It's fantastic news," Ken Klippen, president of the National Association of Egg Farmers, said about the agreement.Korean "people need the eggs; we have a surplus," he said.—Reuters

HEALTH & SCIENCE

KENYA DOCTORS REJECT **OFFER AS STRIKE** HITS SECOND MONTH

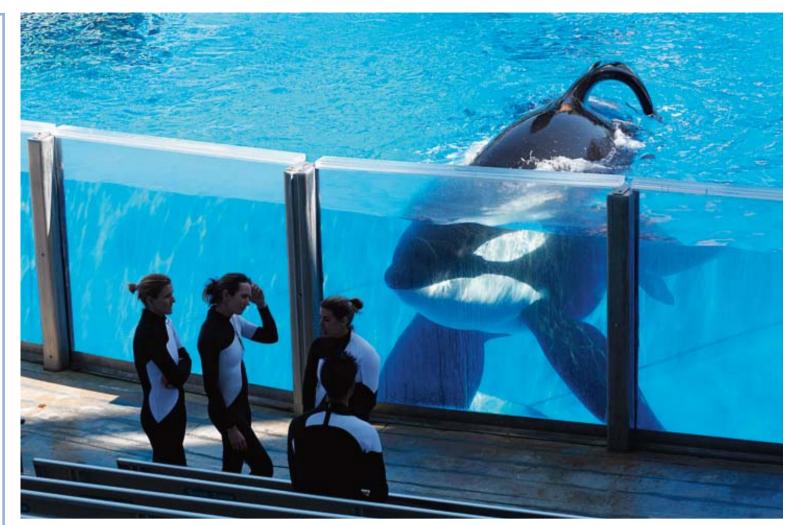
rejected the government's offer of a 40 percent pay rise in the latest bid to end a month-long strike that has crippled public hospitals across the country. Thousands of doctors in the country downed tools on December 5 to demand a 300 percent pay rise that they say was agreed in a 2013 collective bargaining agreement (CBA), and several rounds of negotiations have failed as the medics dig their heels in. Nurses are also striking, although some returned to work in mid-December after reaching a separate deal with authorities.

Union officials on Wednesday met with President Uhuru Kenyatta who offered to raise minimum salaries from 140,244 shillings (1270 Euros, \$1350) a month to 196,989 shillings. "The union officials today presented that offer to the doctors for deliberations and they humbly rejected it," the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists and Dentists Union (KMPDU) wrote on its Twitter account. The union said the offer failed to take into account other agreements mentioned in the CBA, from the need to better equip hospitals to funding research and addressing the security of doctors at work.

"The issue of discussion is not increase in salaries or allowances for that matter, it is implementation of the CBA," said cardiologist and union member

NAIROBI: Kenyan doctors on Friday Elijah Ogolla. KMPDU secretary general Ouma Oluga said that while the strike was still on, doctors were open to further negotiations. Another meeting between the government and the union officials was due to take place later Friday. The strike has been devastating for sick Kenyans whose only other option is private healthcare, which is out of reach for most. Poor salaries and working conditions have led to an exodus of Kenyan doctors to other African countries and abroad, that prompted the Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU) to warn of "catastrophe" in the health sector in 2014.

The strike has received wide support from the media and citizens on social networks. Editorials have called for government to pay doctors a decent wage and end the damaging strike, while Kenyans on Twitter point to endless corruption scandals while the doctors struggle for wage increases. The latest move to outrage the union was a decision by lawmakers just before Christmas to award themselves each 10 million shillings as an exit package ahead of 2017 elections. "When the government loots it has no limits but when doctors ask for fair pay the president says he has limits," the union tweeted earlier this week alongside an image of the newspaper headline announcing the bonus.—AFP



FLORIDA: In this file photo orca whale Tilikum, right, watches as SeaWorld Orlando trainers take a break during a training session at the theme park's Shamu Stadium in Orlando, Florida. —AP

TILIKUM, THE KILLER WHALE, DIES AT SEAWORLD ORLANDO

'He lived a tortured existence in captivity'

ORLANDO, Florida: Tilikum the orca has died after more than two decades at SeaWorld Orlando, where he gained notoriety for killing a trainer in 2010 and was later profiled in a documentary that helped sway popular opinion against keeping killer whales in captivity. He will not be replaced. He was the first of SeaWorld's orcas to die since the company announced the end of its orca breeding program in March 2016. In a statement announcing Tilikum's death early Friday, SeaWorld officials said he had serious health issues including a persistent and complicated bacterial lung infection. Tilikum was estimated to be 36 years old. A necropsy will determine the cause of death.

The 2010 death of SeaWorld trainer Dawn Brancheau during a performance with Tilikum after a "Dine with Shamu" show shocked the public and changed the future of orcas at SeaWorld parks. Brancheau was interacting with Tilikum before a live audience at SeaWorld Orlando when he pulled her from a platform by her arm and held her underwater. An autopsy report said Brancheau drowned but also suffered severe trauma, including multiple fractures. Former SeaWorld orca trainer John Hargrove said Tilikum's death offered some closure in the violent death of his friend and colleague. But he said Tilikum also finally found relief.

"Tilikum has been sick, very sick, for so long, and after everything he's had to endure, this is to me like he's free," said Hargrove, who left SeaWorld in 2012 and was featured in the documentary "Blackfish." "He lived a tortured existence in captivity. I think all the whales do, but if you had to pinpoint one of them, hands down I would say Tilikum." Animal rights advocates who want orcas and other marine mammals at SeaWorld parks released into sea pens or coastal sanctuaries said

led only to tragedy. Lisa Lange, senior vice president for the group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, urged SeaWorld to release its remaining orcas and marine mammals to "spend the rest of their lives in as natural a setting as possible."

'Blackfish'

SeaWorld supporters found something worthwhile in Tilikum's time at the park. "His story is a complicated one, but I also think he represented his species well," said Grey Stafford, president of the International Marine Trainers' Association. He's also a former SeaWorld employee, though he never worked with Tilikum. "In retrospect, there are a lot positives to say." SeaWorld President and CEO Joel Manby said, "Tilikum had, and will continue to have, a special place in the hearts of the SeaWorld family, as well as the millions of people all over the world that he inspired."

According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration figures, male killer whales in the wild typically live about 30 years and females typically live about 50 years. Institutions displaying marine mammals and their critics disagree over whether orcas' life expectancy in captivity differs from their life span in the wild. Tilikum had been SeaWorld's most prolific male orca, siring 14 calves since his arrival at the park about 25 years ago. He was noticeable for his size at more than 22 feet and 11,800 pounds. He was born off the waters of Iceland and brought to Sealand of the Pacific in Canada after being captured.

'Unspeakable pain'

While at Sealand in 1991, Tilikum and two female orcas were responsible for the death of a part-time trainer who fell into their pool and

Tilikum was snared in a business model that was submerged by them. Tilikum was moved to SeaWorld Orlando in 1992, and Sealand later closed. SeaWorld's decision to end the breeding program and phase out the theme parks' traditional orca performances came three years after the release of the documentary, "Blackfish," which chronicled Tilikum's life and Brancheau's death. Her death was not the only one linked to Tilikum at SeaWorld.

In 1999, a naked man who had eluded security and sneaked into SeaWorld at night was found dead the next morning draped over Tilikum in a breeding tank in the back of Shamu Stadium. "Blackfish" argued that killer whales in captivity become more aggressive toward humans and each other. Because of it, several entertainers pulled out of planned performances at SeaWorld parks and animal rights activists increased their demonstrations outside the parks. SeaWorld attendance dipped, company profits fell and Southwest Airlines ended its 25-year relationship with the theme park company. Gabriela Cowperthaite, who directed "Blackfish," said in an email that it's time to focus on other whales in captivity.

'He lived a horrible life, he caused unspeakable pain, so at least his chapter is over," she said. In March, SeaWorld's CEO acknowledged that the public's attitude had changed about keeping killer whales captive. "We needed to move where society was moving," Manby said. Tilikum's death was another blow for SeaWorld employees already reeling from job cuts announced last month across SeaWorld Entertainment Inc.'s 12-park system, Stafford said. He worried the loss of employees trained to care for marine mammals may inadvertently weaken other conservation efforts, such as a captive breeding program proposed for endangered porpoises called vaguitas in the waters off Mexico. "That human experience isn't likely to be replaced," Stafford said. —AP



ARGENTINE WILDFIRES **DEVASTATE PAMPAS**

LA ADELA, Argentina: Firefighters in Argentina said Thursday they were bringing under control three wildfires that have devastated nearly a million hectares of the country's famous pampas, or plains. Driven by strong winds, high summer temperatures and drought, the fires sent huge swathes of farm and pasture land up in smoke in the central provinces of La Pampa and Buenos Aires, two of agricultural powerhouse Argentina's most productive regions.

The wind grew even stronger Thursday, leaving firefighters struggling to extinguish the fires and stop them from spreading to populated areas. Provincial fire management coordinator Marcelo Mosiejchuk reported "major difficulties" in fighting the fires. But he later said: "There were three hotspots and one has been stopped from spreading." "The other two are still active but we expect we will cut off the perimeter of the fire between Friday and Saturday," Mosiejchuk said.

He said no lives were in danger from the fires. No human deaths or evacuations have been reported. The blazes killed wild animals and livestock and cut off several roads. The biggest fire was about 20 kilometers south of the village of La Adela, population 4,000. It was started by a lightning strike on New Year's weekend and is 10 kilometers across, according to firefighters.—AFP



Kuwait 🗻 Times 248 33 199







Osama Abdel Bari poses with his mother and brother Ameer.

Osama Abdel Bari poses with his colleagues Hassan Nasser and Hana Fekry.



The ceremony's organizers Yasmeen and Aya.

OSAMA ABDEL BARI CELEBRATES GRADUATION

sama Hassan Abdel Bari recently celebrated his graduation from the Modern University for Technology and Information (MTI), Cairo Mokattam, with a 2.9 GPA in mass communication, and specializing in radio and television. Osama aspires to specialize in movie direction.

MTI organized a special graduation ceremony at the Cairo Marriott Hotel which was attended by teaching staff members, the graduates, their parents and friends. The organizing committee was headed by students Yasmeen and Aya, and the ceremony included various activities aside from the awarding ceremony.

Osama received heartiest congratulations from his mother, his brother Ameer, his aunts as well as teaching staff member Omar Al-Ebiary; who is also a close friend of his and was honored during the same ceremony for receiving his Master's degree. Congratulations Osama and best wishes for a bright future and happy life.



Osama Abdel Bari poses with teaching staff member Omar Al-Ebiary.



ZAIN ANNOUNCES FIFTH WINNER OF 4 PRIZES IN 'PAY ONLINE AND WIN'

ain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the winner of the fifth week of its "Pay Online and Win" draw that will see a weekly postpaid winner of four valuable prizes when paying their bill using Zain's website or app as well as a grand prize at the final draw at the end of

Zain announced Ahmad Mohsen Hadher Al Saiedi winner of 4 valuable prizes in the fifth week of the draw, including iPhone 7, Touch Hotspot LTE-A with free 1.5 TB Prepaid Internet line valid for 3 months, and a PlayStation 4 (1 TB).

The draw, held weekly until the 22nd of January 2017, will see one weekly winner of four valuable prizes, including iPhone 7, Touch Hotspot LTE-A with free 1.5 TB Prepaid Internet line valid for 3 months,

and an entertainment device. The grand prize winner, announced at the end of the campaign, will receive iPhone 7, iPhone 7 Plus, Touch Hotspot LTE-A with free 1.5 TB Prepaid Internet line valid for 3 months, and a PlayStation 4 (1 TB).

Postpaid customers will get one chance to enter the weekly draws as well as the final draw for every KD1 paid through Zain's digital channels, including the company's website (pay.kw.zain.com) and Zain's app available for iOS and Android.

Zain launched this exciting promotional campaign to reinforce its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best products and services to meet its customers' personal and professional telecommunications needs, who are considered Kuwait's biggest family of subscribers.



THE INDIAN DENTISTS' ALLIANCE IN KUWAIT CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

he Indian Dentists' Alliance in Kuwait celebrated its 10th anniversary on December 9, 2016 at the Maha Ballroom of the Regency Hotel, in a set-Kuwait. The Indian dentists and their fami lies were resplendent in their formal Indian attires and under the patronage of the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, welcomed the Kuwaiti dignitaries and guests from the Health Sector, principals of local schools, officials of other Indian Associations in Kuwait, sponsors and other guests. The Asst. Undersecretary (Dental Affairs) Dr Yousef Al Duwairy, released the Oral Health Guide Vol.5, titled "Lifestyle and Oral Health" on this occasion. The guide which will be made available to schools, clinics and other establishments in Kuwait, focuses on dental diseases that affect people at various stages of life in relation to their lifestyle and advice on how to prevent and manage them. It has articles written in both English and Arabic and therefore could reach out to and be useful for, a wider section of the local community. A coffee table style book of photographs which chronicles the various events of IDAK over the past 10 years was also released during this celebratory evening. The evening was



attended by Dr Sabiha Al Mutawa, Dr Adel Ayed, Dr Jawad Behbehani, Dr Pramod Soparkar, Dr Sami Al Manea and our platinum sponsor Advanced Technology Company (ATC) amongst others.

The highlight of the evening was the presence of Padma Bhushan Professor B M Hegde, former Vice Chancellor of Manipal University. The doyen of holistic medicine whose oratory skills are legendary, offered simple tips to stay fit and healthy. He held the audience captive during his keynote address. The second part of this evening was the cultural show titled 'Reflect10nz 2016', where the den-

tists and their families put on face paint and costumes to bring vibrancy to the stage. In a variety of Indian dances, they proved to their audience that they are multi-faceted - as choreographers, dancers, stylists, make-up artists, costume designers, and stage decorators. Many in the audience could not believe that those hands that give anesthesia injections, do root canal treatments, perform surgeries, place crowns and braces could also set the stage on fire. The dentists were ably supported by their equally talented spouses and children. The evening ended with a grand gala dinner.



ISK CLASS OF 1990 ORGANIZES PICNIC

SK '90 batch organized a fun-filled family picnic for its members and family on Dec 9, 2016 at Kabd Farmhouse. Everyone was kept on their toes with active games conducted by MC Cindy Fernandes. Children and adults participated with great enthusiasm and zest. Warm and finger-licking food was provided by the caterers. Being a cold weather, few enjoyed a swim in the heated pool. The evening was very lively with some music and dance conducted by the kids. The highlight of the day was the football match played by the men and the teens. At the end of the day prizes were distributed and vote of thanks was given by Floyd Paes.

Greetings



appy Birthday to Abdul Jabbar
Abdullah. May Allah shower His blessing on him and give him happiness, long life and prosperity.
Blessings from his wife Mumtaz Begum, daughters Shamsath Begum, Safah Begum, Nishath

Begum, son-in-law Barkath Ali, Elahi and Mubeen Basha.

NOTICE FROM THE EMBASSY OF INDIA IN KUWAIT

he Government of India has extended the date for registration as OCI card holders by erstwhile PIO cardholders till 30 June 2017. The conversion of PIO cards into OCI cards will be done free of charge for applications which are submitted till 30 June 2017. All concerned in Kuwait may please take advantage of the extended dateline.

Il photos submitted for What's On should be minimum 200dpi. Articles must be in plain text and should include name and phone numbers. Articles and photos that fail to meet these requirements will not be published.

Please send them to news@kuwaittimes.net

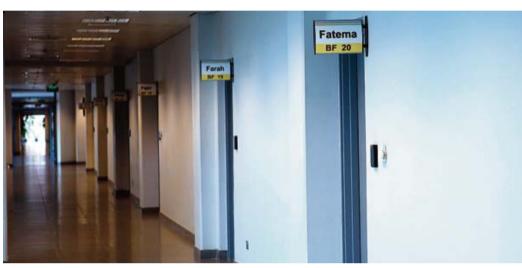














BOX HILL KUWAIT DEFINES THE CONCEPT OF 'WOMEN COLLEGE'

Providing the best educational environment for females

By Faten Omar

eep-rooted traditions in Kuwait make families feel comfortable with the idea of "Women College" and that is what Box Hill College-Kuwait (BHCK) provides. "Many Women feel that BHCK is a perfect place to express themselves freely. The best educational environment for females can only be found here where education is one of the most critical areas of empowerment for women," Professor Ali Arifa, President of Box Hill College Kuwait, said.

Box Hill College Kuwait (BHCK) is the sole private higher education institute exclusive to women in Kuwait, founded in 2007. It operates as an extended campus of Box Hill Institute (BHI), Australia. "BHCK offers six diploma programs in the fields of Management, Marketing, Banking Services Management, Graphic Design, Interior Design and Decoration and Website Development. The programs are accredited under the Australian Qualifications Framework and by the Kuwait Private Universities Council and Ministry of Higher Education. BHCK offers students pathways to employment as well as undergraduate degree programs through transfer and articulation agreements with local Kuwaiti Universities. The Australian Qualification Framework establishes a set of standards which assures nationally consistent, highquality educational programs for those

studying within the Australian system," Professor Arifa commented.

Professor Arifa explained that BHCK is unique in its friendly and caring environment. "Here at BHCK we all know each other by name, every student gets individual attention by faculty members and management," he said. "Five hundred students are currently studying in BHCK. We consider ourselves as a big family. We are small and small is good."

All nationalities

Box Hill College Kuwait accept students from all nationalities and provides honor students with special financial arrangements to make sure that everyone gets a chance to learn and prosper.

The program disciplines currently offered by BHCK require two years of post-secondary full time study exclusive of any preparatory requirements. Adding "BHCK graduates earn same qualification earned by BHI graduates where they can continue further their studies at BHI, Australia, and get their credits transferred automatically."

The special about BHCK, is also we have the teaching hours is more civilize than other colleges; the classes will finish at 3 pm unless students are enrolled in evening program.

BHCK's campus offers state-of-the-art classrooms with interactive learning technologies, swimming pool, gyms, exhibition halls, etc. All this is put in the hands of stu-



Professor Ali Arifa, President of Box Hill College Kuwait, speaks to Kuwait Times.
—Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

dents to create a student life that encourages personal growth and promotes professional, ethical, intellectual, and physical development through various activities, events, workshops, guest speakers, exhibitions career fairs, and clubs. "The college also invites the most successful alumni to give lectures to inspire current students." Professor Arifa added: "It is our commitment to provide students an experience of growth, change and opportunity - the opportunity to learn new things, meet new people,

exchange ideas and debate issues. Many people will be there to guide you along the way. Faculty will inform and challenge you. Staff and administration will assist you. Fellow students will inspire you. More than 800 BHCK graduates have already secured work in Kuwait's public and private sectors, 60 percent of our graduates have been accepted to local and international universities to complete their Bachelor's degree. As a final message to each high school graduates who aims to join a college that will consider

her a name and not a number, join BHCK family and enjoy a life learning experience that will be your first door to a bright future."

Ambassador's support

About the Australian Embassy's role, Professor Arifa praised the support of the Australian Ambassador Warren Hauck and his wife Georgina Harrison. "Ambassador Hauck and Mrs Georgina are always attending our events and support the students. They appreciate the effort that has been done and make our students feel special."

BHCK and the Australian Embassy will continue to take innovative academic initiatives, and support activities that develop life-long competences and skills in students. Faculty, staff, and the College's top management are all committed to providing students with an experience of rich learning and opportunities rendering the BHCK experience a well-rounded educational experience.

Professor Arifa is currently the President of Box Hill College - Kuwait. He graduated with a PhD degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, in 1996. He previously served at Kuwait University as a Faculty Member in the College of Business administration, as the Chairman of its AACSB maintenance of accreditation, and as the Director of its affiliated Business Administration Consulting Unit-Center of Excellence in Management. He also served in several Universities in different countries.





AOU HONORS KUWAIT'S BRANCH

he Arab Open University (AOU) represented by its headquarters and eight branches operating in a number of Arab countries congratulated the Kuwait AOU branch represented by Dr Naif Al-Mutiri, Branch Director, on winning of the branch in the competition of maintaining the efficiency of the AOU buildings for the academic year 2015-2016. The competition between the five completed branches buildings was organized by the Advisory Committee of the AOU buildings.

This came in an honoring ceremony organized by the AOU on the sidelines of the 26th meeting of the AOU Board of Trustees in presence of Prince Turki bin Talal, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the AOU buildings, Professor Ali Fakiro, Deputy Chairman of the Chairman of the AOU Executive Committee, Professor Moudi Al-Humoud, President of the AOU, Professor Mohammad Hamdan, Advisor of the AOU and Chairman of the Competition Committee, and a num-

ber of members of the AOU Board of Trustees, Vice Presidents of the AOU, Deans, and Academic Coordinators of the AOU Kuwait Branch.

The ceremony witnessed a number of speeches commending the efforts of the Kuwait branch management for winning in the competition, lauding all branches' efforts in the AOU's achievement, and wishing success to all. At the end of the ceremony, Prince Turki bin Talal and Professor Moudi Al-

Humoud presented an honoring Shield to Dr Naif Al-Mutiri as the AOU Kuwait branch won in the competition. The Headquarters of the AOU recently hosted the 26th meeting of the AOU Board of Trustees. The meeting addressed the approval of the previous meeting minutes, follow-up of the implementation of decisions, discussion of a number of academic, administrative, and financial reports and a number of regulations and suggestions.

It is worth mentioning that the Kuwait AOU branch celebrated graduation of a new class in presence of Prince Turki bin Talal, Representative of Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz, Chairman of the AOU Board of Trustees. The ceremony was also attended by Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malik Al-Sabah, Dr Habeb Abel, General Secretary of the Private Universities Council, AOU Vice Presidents and a number of Shiekhs, ambassadors, and foreign diplomats in Kuwait.

MOVIES

01:30 Starship Troopers 03:45 Black Rose 05:15 Swelter 07:00 Mutant World 08:45 Christmas Twister

10:30 Reign Of Fire 12:15 Independence Day 14:45 X-Men: First Class 17:00 Mutant World 19:00 Blunt Force Trauma

21:00 S.W.A.T.

00:00 Lone Star Law 00:55 Gator Boys 01:50 Gator Boys 02:45 Tigers Attack

03:40 Tigers Attack 04:35 Hunt For The Russian Tiger 05:25 Extinct Or Alive: The Tasmanian

06:15 Tigress Blood 07:02 Untamed & Uncut 07:49 Big Fish Man 08:36 Night

09:00 Night

09:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 10:15 Treehouse Masters 11:10 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia 12:05 Lone Star Law

13:00 Big Fish Man 13:55 Bondi Vet 14:20 Bondi Vet 14:50 Mutant Planet 15:45 Mutant Planet 16:40 Mutant Planet

17:35 Mutant Planet

18:30 Mutant Planet 19:25 Mutant Planet 20:20 Treehouse Masters 21:15 The Pool Master 22:10 Wildest Islands Of Indonesia

23:05 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet

BBG FIRST

00:00 Sherlock 01:40 Eastenders 02:45 Poldark

03:40 Poldark 04:35 Sherlock

22:30 The Half Hour 22:54 DI Hughley: The Endangered List 23:42 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail

04:05 Art Attack

04:30 The Hive

04:40 Loopdidoo

05:10 Art Attack

05:35 Loopdidoo

05:50 Calimero

06:05 Art Attack

07:00 Art Attack

07:45 Loopdidoo

08:15 Calimero

08:30 Loopdidoo

09:50 Goldie & Bear

11:00 Sofia The First

12:00 The Lion Guard

12:30 Goldie & Bear

14:00 PJ Masks

15:20 Doc McStuffins

15:45 Sofia The First

16:10 Goldie & Bear

17:05 Doc McStuffins

18:00 The Lion Guard

18:55 Doc McStuffins

20:30 Sofia The First

21:00 The Lion Guard

21:30 The Lion Guard

22:00 Unbungalievable

22:35 Miles From Tomorrow

23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West

23:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

22:05 Goldie & Bear

18:25 PJ Masks

06:45 Zou

08:00 Zou

04:55 Henry Hugglemonster

06:30 Henry Hugglemonster

07:30 Henry Hugglemonster

08:45 Henry Hugglemonster

10:15 Miles From Tomorrow

09:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West

09:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

11:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital

13:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

14:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates

17:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates

20:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates

13:30 Miles From Tomorrow

14:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West

16:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

19:20 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

19:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West

Discovery

00:40 The Carbonaro Effect 01:05 The Carbonaro Effect 01:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 02:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 03:10 Storm Chasers

00:15 Destroyed In Seconds

04:00 Storm Chasers 04:50 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 05:40 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 06:30 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 07:20 How It's Made 07:40 How It's Made

08:00 Kenny The Shark 08:25 Kenny The Shark 08:50 Adventure 8: Zoo Games 09:15 Adventure 8: Zoo Games 09:40 How It's Made 10:05 How It's Made

10:30 How It's Made 10:55 How It's Made 11:20 How It's Made 11:45 How It's Made 12:10 How It's Made 12:35 How It's Made 13:00 How It's Made

13:25 How It's Made 13:50 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 14:40 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 15:30 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 16:20 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud 17:10 Beyond Survival With Les Stroud

18:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 18:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 19:40 Dynamo: Magician Impossible 20:30 Dogs: The Untold Story 21:20 Bahama Blue

23:00 Destroyed In Seconds 23:25 Destroyed In Seconds 23:50 Destroyed In Seconds

22:10 Mermaids: The New Evidence

23:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons Discoverv CHANNEL 00:00 Binny And The Ghost 00:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage 00:30 Gold Rush

Witch 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage 01:10 Hank Zipzer 01:35 Binny And The Ghost

01:20 Wheels That Fail 01:45 Edge Of Alaska 02:35 Edge Of Alaska 03:25 Edge Of Alaska 04:15 Edge Of Alaska 02:00 Violetta



SWELTER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

07:00 Doctors 07:30 Holby City 08:25 Death In Paradise Call The Midwife 10:25 Doctor Who 11:30 Eastenders 12:30 Death In Paradise 13:25 Call The Midwife

06:05 Death In Paradise

14:20 Doctor Who 15:15 Eastenders 16:15 Death In Paradise 17:10 Call The Midwife 18:00 Doctor Who 19:00 Doctors

19:30 The Detectorists 20:05 Death In Paradise 21:00 New Blood

22:00 New Blood 22:55 Orphan Black 23:40 Silent Witness

COMEDY 00:05 The Half Hour

CENTRAL

00:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 01:00 Tosh.0 01:25 Tosh.0 01:50 Tosh.0

02:15 Tosh.0 02:40 Another Period 03:05 Chappelle's Show 03:30 Ugly Americans

04:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 04:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 05:15 Key And Peele Impractical Jokers

06:05 Ridiculousness 06:30 Framework 07:20 Hungry Investors 08:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Impractical Jokers

09:30 Ridiculousness 09:55 Tosh.0 10:20 Key And Peele 10:45 Workaholics 11:10 The It Crowd

11:35 Ridiculousness 12:00 Framework 12:50 Lip Sync Battle 13:15 Workaholics 13:40 The It Crowd

14:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On

14:55 Ridiculousness 15:20 Framework 16:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show

16:35 Ridiculousness 17:00 Impractical Jokers 17:30 Workaholics 17:55 Tosh.0 18:25 Workaholics

18:50 Catch A Contractor 19:39 The It Crowd 20:03 Framework

20:50 The Jim Gaffigan Show 21:13 Key And Peele 21:37 Ridiculousness 22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 02:45 The Hive 02:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

03:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage 03:40 Hank Zipzer 04:05 Binny And The Ghost 04:30 Violetta 05:15 The Hive

05:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage 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 Mouk

08:00 Dog With A Blog 08:25 Dog With A Blog 08:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts 08:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And

09:20 Elena Of Avalor 09:45 Star Darlings 09:50 Liv And Maddie 10:15 Jessie 10:40 Jessie

11:05 Jessie 11:30 The Little Mermaid 13:00 The 7D 13:10 Shake It Up

13:35 Shake It Up 14:00 Shake It Up Shake It Up 14:50 Shake It Up 15:15 Backstage

15:40 Backstage 16:05 Bizaardvark 16:30 Dog With A Blog 16:55 Dog With A Blog 17:20 Stuck In The Middle 17:45 Best Friends Whenever 18:10 Elena Of Avalor

18:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 19:00 The Next Step 19:25 Let It Shine: Rap Battle Edition

21:05 Disney Cookabout 21:30 Elena Of Avalor 21:55 Best Friends Whenever 22:20 Jessie

23:10 Jessie 23:35 H2O: Just Add Water



00:00 The Lion Guard 00:30 The Lion Guard 00:55 PJ Masks 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster

01:45 Loopdidoo 02:00 Henry Hugglemonster

02:15 Calimero 02:30 Art Attack 02:50 Zou 03:05 Loopdidoo 03:20 Henry Hugglemonster 03:35 Calimero

03:50 Zou

05:05 Edge Of Alaska 06:00 Edge Of Alaska 07:00 Deadliest Catch 07:50 Wheeler Dealers

08:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder 09:30 The Weapon Hunter 10:20 The Liquidator 10:45 How Do They Do It?

11:10 How Do They Do It? 11:35 Salvage Hunters 12:25 Marooned With Ed Stafford

13:15 Treasure Quest: Snake Island 14:05 How Do They Do It? 14:30 Storage Hunters UK 14:55 The Liquidator 15:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier

16:10 Big Giant Swords 17:00 Deadliest Catch 17:50 Fast N' Loud 18:40 Wheeler Dealers 19:30 How Do They Do It?

19:55 How Do They Do It? 20:20 Big Giant Swords 21:10 Storage Hunters UK 21:35 The Liquidator 22:00 Mega Trains 22:50 Life After: Chernobyl 23:40 Free Ride



00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA 07:00 Supa Strikas

07:25 Supa Strikas 07:50 Counterfeit Cat 08:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 08:15 K.C. Undercover 08:40 Atomic Puppet

09:10 Lab Rats 09:35 Danger Mouse 10:00 K.C. Undercover 10:25 Lab Rats 10:50 K.C. Undercover 11:20 Lab Rats

11:45 K.C. Undercover 12:10 Lab Rats 12:35 K.C. Undercover 13:00 Tarzan 14:45 Lab Rats 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse

15:15 K.C. Undercover 15:40 Counterfeit Cat 15:50 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 16:05 K.C. Undercover 16:30 Atomic Puppet

16:55 Lab Rats 17:25 Danger Mouse 17:50 Star Wars Rebels 18:15 Future-Worm! 18:40 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 19:10 K.C. Undercover

21:20 Lab Rats 21:45 Mighty Med 22:10 Pickle And Peanut 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse 22:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy 23:10 Ultimate Spider-Man

19:35 Tarzan

23:35 Boyster

00:00 E! News

01:00 Botched 01:55 Hollywood & Football 02:50 E! News 03:50 Botched By Nature 04:40 Botched By Nature 05:35 Botched By Nature 06:30 Celebrity Style Story 07:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad

00:30 Celebrity Style Story

07:50 E! News 08:20 LA Clippers Dance Squad 09:10 E! News 10:05 LA Clippers Dance Squad 10:55 Botched 11:45 Botched

12:35 Botched 10:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 13:00 Botched 13:30 WAGs Miami 14:20 WAGs Miami 15:15 Mariah's World 16:10 Mariah's World

17:05 Mariah's World 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 20:00 E! News 21:00 Mariah's World

22:00 Mariah's World 23:00 So Cosmo 23:30 Botched

00:00 Man Fire Food 00:30 Man Fire Food 01:00 Restaurant Stakeout 02:00 Mystery Diners 02:30 Mystery Diners

03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 04:00 Man Fire Food 04:30 Man Fire Food 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games

06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin 06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin 07:00 Chopped 08:00 Barefoot Contessa 08:30 Barefoot Contessa

09:00 The Pioneer Woman 09:30 The Pioneer Woman 10:00 Siba's Table 10:30 Siba's Table 11:00 Anna Olson: Bake 11:30 Anna Olson: Bake

12:00 Man Fire Food 12:30 Man Fire Food 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

14:00 Chopped15:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics 15:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics 16:00 The Pioneer Woman 16:30 The Pioneer Woman

17:00 Siba's Table 17:30 Siba's Table 18:00 Anna Olson: Bake 18:30 Anna Olson: Bake 19:00 Man Fire Food

22:30 Private Che

19:30 Man Fire Food 20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 20:30 Diners. Drive-Ins And Dives 21:00 Siba's Table 21:30 Siba's Table 22:00 Private Che



00:05 Coronation Street 00:30 Coronation Street 00:50 Coronation Street 01:15 Coronation Street 01:35 Coronation Street 02:00 5 Star Family Reunion 02:45 Tracey Ullman's Show

03:15 Coronation Street 03:40 Coronation Street 04:05 Coronation Street 04:30 Coronation Street 04:55 Coronation Street

05:15 Alphabetical 06:05 Big Star's Little Star 07:00 5 Star Family Reunion 07:50 Surprise Surprise 08:45 Jericho 09:40 Royal Stories

10:05 Royal Stories 10:30 Black Work 11:15 Black Work 12:00 Black Work 12:50 Murdoch Mysteries 13:40 Murdoch Mysteries

14:30 Tracey Ullman's Show 15:05 Surprise Surprise 16:00 5 Star Family Reunion 16:55 Royal Stories

17:25 Royal Stories 17:50 Jericho 18:40 Tracey Ullman's Show 19:15 Alphabetical

20:05 Surprise Surprise

21:00 5 Star Family Reunion 21:55 Murdoch Mysteries 22:45 Murdoch Mysteries

> 00:00 Serial Killer Earth 01:00 Serial Killer Earth 02:00 Serial Killer Earth 03:00 Serial Killer Farth 04:00 Serial Killer Earth 04:50 Serial Killer Earth 05:40 Serial Killer Earth 06:30 Serial Killer Earth 07:20 Serial Killer Earth 08:10 The Universe 09:00 Serial Killer Earth 10:00 Serial Killer Earth 11:00 Serial Killer Earth 12:00 Serial Killer Earth 13:00 Serial Killer Earth

14:00 Serial Killer Earth 15:00 Serial Killer Earth 16:00 Serial Killer Earth 17:00 Serial Killer Earth 18:00 Serial Killer Earth 19:00 Serial Killer Earth 20:00 Monster Quest 21:00 Stan Lee's Superhuman 22:00 How 2 Win 23:00 In Search Of Aliens

HISTORY.

01:20 Ice Road Truckers 02:10 Hunting Hitler 03:00 Counting Cars 03:25 Car Hunters 03:50 American Restoration 04:40 Leepu And Pitbull 05:30 Storage Wars: Best Of 06:00 Battle 360

07:00 Swamp People 07:50 Ax Men 08:40 Counting Cars 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 Inside Alcatraz: Legends Of The 12:50 Time Team

13:40 Swamp People 14:30 Ax Men 15:20 Mountain Men 16:10 Ice Road Truckers 17:00 Counting Cars 17:50 Pawn Stars 18:15 Pawn Stars 18:40 DB Cooper: Case Closed?

20:20 Ax Men 21:10 American Pickers 22:00 Pawn Stars 22:25 Storage Wars: Best Of 22:50 Storage Wars 23:15 Storage Wars

23:40 Counting Cars

people ED 00:20 The Food Files

00:45 Gok's Chinese Takeaway 01:35 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 02:00 My Restaurant In India 02:25 Rustic Adventure Argentina 02:50 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt 03:15 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia 03:40 Miguel's Feasts 04:05 Billionaire's Paradise 04:55 What's For Sale?

05:45 Home Strange Home 06:35 Wineroads 07:00 Cesar To The Rescue

07:50 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita 08:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita 09:05 Gok's Chinese Takeaway 09:55 A Is For Apple 10:20 Carnival Eats

10:45 My Restaurant In India 11:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The 12:00 The Food Files 12:25 The Food Files 12:50 Rustic Adventures Italy

13:15 Rustic Adventures Italy 13:40 My Restaurant In India 14:05 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure 14:35 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure

15:00 The Wine Show 15:55 Eat: The Story Of Food 16:50 What's For Sale? 17:20 What's For Sale? 17:45 Home Strange Home 18:40 Wineroads

19:10 Cesar To The Rescue 20:05 Eat: The Story Of Food 21:00 What's For Sale? 21:25 What's For Sale?



VACATION ON OSN MOVIES HD



Jessica Jake Catherine James Tracy and James
BIEL GYLLENHAAL KEENER MARSDEN MORGAN BROLIN

ACCIDENTAL LOVE ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

21:50 Home Strange Home 22:40 Wineroads 23:05 Cesar To The Rescue 23:55 My Restaurant In India

NATIONAL **GEOGRAPHIC** CHANNEL HD 00:20 Nazi Underworld

01:10 Mega Factories 02:00 Air Crash Investigation 03:00 Do Or Die 03:25 Do Or Die 03:55 Desperate Hours 04:20 Desperate Hours 04:50 Beyond Magic With DMC

05:45 The Chinese Hajj 06:40 Continent 7: Antarctica 07:35 Hubble's Amazing Journey 08:30 Startalk 09:25 Nazi Death Camp: The Great

Escape 10:20 WW2 Hell Under The Sea 11:15 The Border 12:10 Locked Up Abroad 13:05 Live Free Or Die 14:00 Dog Whisperer 15:00 Dog Whisperer

16:00 Years Of Living Dangerously 17:00 Continent 7: Antarctica 18:00 Killing Reagan 20:00 Do Or Die 20:30 Do Or Die 21:00 Continent 7: Antarctica 21:50 Killing Reagan

23:30 Do Or Die 23:55 Do Or Die NAT GEO

00:30 The Kill Zone 01:20 Monster Frog 02:10 Wild 24 03:00 World's Deadliest 03:50 Monster Fish 04:45 Africa's Blood River

05:40 Wild Kalahari 06:35 Secret Life Of Predators 07:30 Monster Fish 08:25 Monster Fish 09:20 Animals Gone Wild

10:15 Animal Fight Club 11:10 World's Wildest Encounters 12:05 Murder, Mayhem & Meerkats 13:00 Lion Ranger 13:55 World's Deadliest 14:50 Monster Fish 15:45 Man And The Wild

16:40 Borneo's Secret Kingdom 17:35 Wild Kalahari 18:30 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet 19:25 Swamp Men 20:20 Man And The Wild

21:10 Borneo's Secret Kingdom 22:00 Wild Kalahari 22:50 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet

23:40 Swamp Men MOVIES)

DRAMA

00:00 God's Pocket 01:30 Assassin's Bullet 03:30 Selma 06:00 A Stranger In Paradise 08:00 A Mother Betrayed 10:00 6 Ways To Sundown 12:00 Assassin's Bullet 13:45 Selma

16:00 No God No Master

Rigby: Her OM FIRST HID COMEDY

18:00 6 Ways To Sundown20:00 A Good Marriage22:00 The Disappearance Of Eleanor

00:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers 01:30 Happy Endings 02:00 Happy Endings 02:30 Saturday Night Live 04:00 2 Broke Girls 04:30 Life In Pieces 05:00 Angie Tribeca

05:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 06:30 Breaking In 07:00 Til Death 07:30 Living With Fran 08:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 09:00 Angie Tribeca 09:30 Breaking In

10:00 2 Broke Girls 10:30 Life In Pieces 11:00 Young & Hungry 11:30 Living With Fran 12:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 13:00 Til Death

13:30 Angie Tribeca 14:00 Breaking In 14:30 Living With Fran 15:00 Life In Pieces 15:30 Life In Pieces 16:00 Young & Hungry

16:30 Happy Endings

17:00 Happy Endings

18:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 19:00 New Girl 19:30 Baby Daddy

17:30 III Death

23:00 Girls

23:30 Girls

20:00 The Last Man On Earth 20:30 The Last Man On Earth 21:00 Two And A Half Men 21:30 Two And A Half Men 22:00 Happy Endings 22:30 Happy Endings

OF FIRST HID 00:00 Grimm 01:00 The Americans

02:00 Better Call Sau 03:00 Better Call Saul 04:00 Grimm 05:00 Royal Pains 06:00 Good Morning America - Weekend

07:00 Prison Break 08:00 The Amazing Race 09:00 The Night Shift 10:00 Royal Pains 11:00 Prison Break 12:00 The Blacklist

13:00 Wicked City 14:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 15:00 The Amazing Race 16:00 Royal Pains 17:00 Live Good Morning America

Weekend 18:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 19:00 The Night Shift 20:00 Wicked City 21:00 This Is Us

22:00 The Catch 23:00 Better Call Saul

ON MOVIES HE

FAMILY 00:00 Storm Rider

02:00 Strange Magic 04:00 Emma's Chance 06:00 Pet Pals In Windland 08:00 Strange Magic 10:00 Storm Rider

12:00 Emma's Chance 14:00 Capture The Flag 16:00 The Good Dinosaur 18:00 American Girl: Grace Stirs Up

Success 20:00 Peter Pan Live!

22:15 Big Baby ON MOVIES LIP

00:00 Vacation 02:00 Insidious: Chapter 3 04:00 Still Alice 06:00 Infinitely Polar Bear 08:00 Chloe And Theo

10:00 San Andreas 12:00 Big Stone Gap 14:00 Jackie & Ryan 16:00 The Last 5 Years 18:00 Alex Of Venice

20:00 Insurgent 22:00 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.

MOVIES HID COMEDY

07:00 A Lot Like Love 09:00 Accidental Love 11:00 The Butcher's Wife 13:00 Shanghai Noon 15:00 Lovesick

U1:00 Someone Marry Barry

03:00 Shanghai Noon

17:00 Accidental Love

21:00 Hot Pursuit

19:00 The Invention Of Lying

05:00 The Butcher's Wife

23:00 Freaks Of Nature **OFFI** MOVIES **FESTIVAL**

00:30 True Confessions 02:30 Cobain 05:30 The Hurricane 08:00 One Fine Day 10:00 Half Of A Yellow Sun

12:00 The Fold 14:00 Escobar: Paradise Lost 16:00 Beyond The Edge 18:00 Half Of A Yellow Sun 20:00 Hidden Agenda

22:00 Erin Brockovich MOVIES HID

KIDS 00:30 Snow Queen 02:15 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure

03:45 Barnyard 05:30 Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest 07:00 Worms 08:45 Blue Elephant 2

10:30 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure 12:15 Snow Queen

13:45 Barnyard 15:30 The Nutcracker Sweet



Kuwait Times SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017



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Airlines

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Purchase Manager experience 20 years in construction field looking for job in one of the leading co. Tel: 99061637 (C 5253) 7-1-2017

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26 years, Height 5.06" (154 cm), Slim, Fair, MSC (Microbiology), working as "Research Assistant" at Kuwait University. We, parents looking for religious, qualified and well employed Shia Muslim boy under age 32, who is working in Kuwait and preferred from India. Those seriously

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I, SHEEMA ALTAF SAIN W/o ALTAF ABDUL WAHAB SAIN, holder of Indian Passport No. J3509095 and Civil ID No. 282102803398 want to change my name to SHEEMA BASHARAT FAZILI. Hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of SHEEMA BASHARAT FAZILI.

URGENTLY REQUIRED SUPERVISOR (FOREMAN)

- Nationality: Pakistani, Indian (or) Filipino
- Minimum 3 Years of Experience in the Field of Construction/Heavy Equipments
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Please define the needed job in the email subject and send your CV to

careers@future-services.net constructions@future-services.net (or) Contact Mr. Saleem, Phone: 22420607 - 66188210

LOST

Lost British Passport by name Peter Brian Steveson, bearing passport No. 504707693, at the Kuwait Airport or Car Park on December 20th around 5 pm. If found please call 66825077. (C 5252) 3-1-2017

FOR SALE

PRADO 4 cylinder, Model GX-L 2005, Golden color (wheel Rim-CD-Rear A/C) good condition, no damage, 174000 km, Cash KD 3000. Call: 97800987. (C 5251) 28-12-2016



PRAYER TIMINGS Fajr: 05:19 Shorook 06:43 **Duhr:** 11:54 Asr: 14:46

17:05

18:27

Maghrib:

Isha:

Airlines

13:40

development. Demonstrated ability to reach out to clients, commercially astute and have excellent communication skills in generating significant revenues and shape the growth of the company future business.

The Ideal Candidate should have excellent knowledge of business /contracts

Business Development (Female)

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A reputed company with Middle Eastwide operational

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176

Damascus

Dubai

13:45

Amman

564

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Sunday 8/1/2017

Route

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMA	YTION
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Departure Flights on Sunday 8/1/2017

Route

KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	KAC	155	Istanbul	13:50
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	KAC	513	Tehran	00:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	FDB	076	Dubai	14:05
KAC	102	London	00:55	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:50	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	542	Cairo	14:45	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	742	Dammam	01:00	KAC	672	Dubai	14:50	THY	773	Istanbul	02:25	KAC	693	Muscat	14:30
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	KAC	285	Dhaka	02:25	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	15:05	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:55	KAC	561	Amman	15:00
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	MEA	407	Beirut	02:55	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
MEA	406	Beirut	01:55	KAC	286	Dhaka	15:20	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	MSC	406	Sohag	03:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:35	QTR	1079	Doha	15:40
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:05	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:50	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	KAC	154	Istanbul	15:55	KKK	6505	Istanbul	03:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	JZR	535	Cairo	16:10	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	JZR	554	Alexandria	16:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	KAC	1543	Cairo	16:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	KAC	788	Jeddah	16:20	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	412	Bangkok	02:50	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	KAC	357	Kochi	16:20
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	FDB	051	Dubai	16:25	MEA	409	Beirut	04:10	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:30
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	522	Al Najaf	16:35	QTR	1077	Doha	04:40	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05	KAC	792	Madinah	16:55	KAC	10	London	04:45	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
MEA	408	Beirut	03:10	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:55	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	KAC	118	New York	17:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
MSR CEB	612	Cairo	03:10	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	CEB	0019	Manila	05:20	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
	0018	Manila Kochi	03:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	1087	Doha	05:50	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
KAC QTR	358 1076	Kochi Doha	03:30 03:30	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45	JZR FDB	560 070	Sohag Dubai	06:05 06:30	KAC	363	Colombo	17:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	03:45	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10	KAC	153	Istanbul	06:50	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
PGT	4860	Istanbul	04:05	KAC	502	Beirut	18:20	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	JZR CLX	177 612	Dubai	18:20 18:20	RJA	643	Amman	07:05	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
KAC	514	Tehran	04:35	MSR	620	Luxembourg Cairo	18:30	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	354	BLR	05:20	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	KAC	353	BLR	18:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	QTR	8512	Doha	07:15	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
QTR	8511	Doha	05:45	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	541	Cairo	07:15	KAC	205	Islamabad	18:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	JZR	483	Istanbul	19:35	KAC	773	Riyadh	07:30	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	FDB	064	Dubai	19:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	06:25	KAC	103	London	19:50	KAC	563	Amman	08:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:15
BAW	157	London	06:40	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	617	Doha	08:00	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC	694	Muscat	20:00	KAC	679	Dubai	08:10	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	OMA	647	Muscat	20:10	BAW	156	London	08:55	QTR	1081	Doha Hang Kang	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	FDB	054	Dubai	08:55	CLX ABY	612	Hong Kong	19:50
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	KAC	562	Amman	20:40	KAC	743	Dammam	09:00	GFA	124 218	Sharjah Bahrain	20:05
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	MSR	606	Luxor	20:45	KAC	117	New York	09:00	KAC	383	Delhi	20:15 20:30
KAC	362	Colombo	09:05	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:45	JZR	534	Cairo	09:15	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	172	Frankfurt	20:45	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	KAC	775	Riyadh	20:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50	KAC	101	London	09:45	OMA	648	Muscat	21:10
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:55	DLH	634	Doha	21:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	KAC	501	Beirut	10:00	KAC	741	Dammam	21:45
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:45
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
IRC MSC	528 415	Ahwaz	10:05	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	KAC FDB	614 056	Bahrain Dubai	10:10 10:35	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
GFA	415 213	Sohag Bahrain	10:15 10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45		056 482	Istanbul	10:35	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	KAC	676	Dubai	21:45	JZR KAC	482 661	Abu Dhabi	10:35	KAC	351	Kochi	22:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05	QTR JZR	1082 125	Doha Bahrain	22:00 22:05	QTR	1071	Doha	10:33	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:10
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	JZR KLM	125 417	Amsterdam	22:05 22:05	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:40	KAC	413	Bangkok	22:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:05	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
KAC	618	Doha	11:50	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:15	IRC	529	Ahwaz	11:05	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	JZR	241	Amman	22:45	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
KAC	744	Dammam	12:10	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	JZR	555	Alexandria	23:20	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:45
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	KAC	156	Istanbul	23:25	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05	KAC	381	Delhi	22:45
FDB	075	Dubai	12:50	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40	KAC	791	Madinah	12:05	JZR	502	Luxor	22:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	KAC	1544	Cairo	23:40	MSC	404	Asyut	12:15	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
KAC	680	Dubai	12:55	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	KAC	521	Al Najaf	12:50	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:50	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:55	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

CROSSWORD 1484

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72	\top	\top		73	\top	\top	\top	\top	\top	74	1	75	\top	\top	†
76	T	\top		77	T	T	\top	\top	\top	T		78	T	T	T

ACROSS

- 1. Gone by.
- 4. An early Christian church designed like a Roman basilica.
- 12. Not reflecting light.
- 15. The part of the alimentary canal between the stomach and the anus.
- 16. Of or relating to the United States of America or its people or language or cul-
- 17. Title for a civil or military leader (especially
- 18. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
- 19. Feeling or expressing remorse for misdeeds.
- 20. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
- 21. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was
- formed by an explosion. 23. Remaining after all deductions.
- 25. A city in northern India.
- 26. Enchanter's nightshade.
- 28. Not out.
- 30. An association of nations dedicated to economic and political cooperation in southeastern Asia.
- 31. Exhibiting or restored to vigorous good health.
- 35. A medicine that induces nausea and vomit-
- 40. French naturalist who proposed that evolution resulted from the inheritance of acquired characteristics (1744-1829).
- 44. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
- 45. Jordan's port.
- 47. Affected manners intended to impress oth-
- 48. A fractional monetary unit in Bangladesh and India and Nepal and Pakistan.
- 50. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- 51. The seat within a bishop's diocese where his cathedral is located adv. 52. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
- (trade name Clinoril). 54. (informal) Of the highest quality.
- 57. A landlocked mountainous republic in southeast central Asia north of Afghanistan.
- 62. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake
- 65. (computer science) A measure of how densely information is packed on a storage medium.
- 67. Rock star and drummer for the Beatles (born in 1940).
- 68. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 71. A vast multitude.
- 72. The basic unit of money in Albania.
- 73. Someone who eats lightly or eats snacks between meals.
- 75. Dignified manner or conduct. 76. An agency of the United Nations affiliated
- with the World Bank. 77. Inflammation of the conjunctiva of the eye.
- 78. A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

- 1. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- 2. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners. 3. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flow-
- 4. (Scotland) A small loaf or roll of soft bread. 5. A primeval personification of air and breath.
- 6. Roman statesman and philosopher who was and advisor to Nero (circa 4 BC - 65 AD).
- 7. Inflammation of the iris.
- 8. French lexicographer (1801-1881).
- 9. Water frozen in the solid state. 10. A high-kicking dance of French origin performed by a female chorus line.
- 11. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
- 12. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 13. Title for a civil or military leader (especially
- in Turkey). 14. An official language of the Republic of
- South Africa. 22. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped
- cucumbers and spices. 24. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or
- of Malaysia. 27. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable
- timber and resinous juice. 29. (Hinduism and Buddhism) The beatitude that transcends the cycle of reincarnation.
- 32. A domed or vaulted recess or projection on a building especially the east end of a
- church. 33. A French river.
- 34. Remove from memory or existence.
- 36. A Portuguese province on the south coast of China and two islands in the South China Sea.
- electronic communication in which a computer user can compose a message at one terminal that is generated at the recipient's terminal when he logs in.
- 38. Being ten more than one hundred ninety. 39. A state in the eastern United States.
- 41. A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken
- in southeastern Asia. 42 4-wheeled motor vehicle
- 43. Long-tailed brilliantly colored parrot of Central and South America.
- 46. A commercial bribe paid by a seller to a purchasing agent in order to induce the agent to enter into the transaction.
- 49. Wife of Ramachandra.
- 53. A spirit believed by Muslims to inhabit the earth and influence mankind by appearing in the form of humans or animals.
- 55. Money in the form of bills or coins.
- 56. Place in a grave or tomb.
- 58. An Australian boomerang. 59. A city in north central Nigeria.
- 60. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
- 61. A particular environment or walk of life.
- 63. In bed.
- 64. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh. 66. A broad highway designed for high-speed traffic.
- 69. Apparent power to perceive things that are
- not present to the senses. 70. Of a light yellowish-brown color n 1.
- 74. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.

Yesterday's Solution

G	I	В	Е		С	0	A	R	S	Е	N		В	Е	N
Α	R	Α	М		Α	R	M	0	U	R	Y		Α	L	Α
G	Α	В		L	В		U	G	L	I		С	Α	В	G
A	N	Α	S	Α		D	R	Α	I	N			L	Е	Α
		R	Α	В	В	I		I	N	G	Е	R			
G	В		L			R	О	N	D	0		Α	V	Е	R
Е	U	D	Е	R	M	Α		E	Α		M	I	Α	M	I
N	R	Е	M		0	С	Α		С	Н	Α	L	L	I	S
I	I	I		Т	N		L	Н		Е	N	S	I	L	Е
P	Α	S	С	Н	Α			E	С	R	U		D	Е	N
Α	L	T	Α	I	С		В	Α	О	В	A	В			
			D	0	0	D	Α	D		Α	L	Α	S	K	Α
Т	Е	В	Е	Т			N	Α	I	L		S	Α	Е	K
Α	G	Α		Е	T	Н	I	С	S		С	Е	I	В	Α
P	I	С		P	Е	R	S	Н	I	N	G		D	Α	В
Α	S	Н		Α	N	Т	Н	Е	S	I	S		Α	В	Α

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You find yourself feeling more private and in a conservative mood; however, you will find yourself in the workplace, catching up with unfinished business. You may be performing some research regarding new, advanced and state-of-theart equipment or inventions during the day. This afternoon you may decide to check out your financial situation. A touch of financial genius can result in phenomenally successful investments. One way or another, changes in your financial status are in the offing-taxes, investments, debts or legacies may play a part in this. This evening, neighbors give you useful ideas for adding to your income. Married life or marital prospects continue to be positive. Continue working on building security for the future.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Communication technologies interest you as well as medical technologies. The new, the futuristic, the ultramodern are the hallmarks of your lifestyle as this time gets underway. Ideas and technologies that change the way people live are major focuses in your life. A classroom guiz or technique may be the thing you will want to concentrate on this afternoon. You may have another test soon or you are preparing for one. There are changes coming that will help you with your education and there are also changes that are positive in your job position. There is every chance of an unexpected opportunity to gain a bit of money. This may be the payback of a loan or winning from some small wager or a gift from a friend or family member.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Self-discipline and a sense of self-respect become important issues in your life-a new phase begins for you now. You take more of a progressive part in the workplace, striving to make a positive difference. You lend your own expertise, thoughts and ideas to make improvements in work. Through more education, you will bring in better financial opportunities for yourself. This afternoon you make decisions about future education. For stress relief you might enjoy working on repairs around your home or tidying a garden. If you have never had a garden, start small. You may even get each family member to be responsible for his or her own square of land. Of course, plans could be made toward this as weather may not permit planting just now.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Perhaps the way in which something works has had you stumped and your curiosity may get the best of you. The fun of the achievement is sometimes the reason for the quest, and you certainly seem to be on a quest. This is a high-achievement time that will need some concentration. Your self-discipline is good, so this is a time to tackle activities requiring focus. Plans for travel would be best delayed until next month. You may feel it is time to instigate methods that will encourage you and your family to recycle. The urge to set new routines in order to eliminate clutter or unnecessary steps for time-consuming chores will be successful. With your honesty and your plea for help to family and loved ones, you will obtain the support you need.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a successful day. You will begin to realize that the many areas in your life that have been uncertain are now near completion. You have strong control over your life-there is no stopping for trivial pursuits. You may be thinking about or already involved in a self-employed business. Your energies may adapt best to business management consulting. Examples would be advice on career decisions, tax and tax-shelter matters, insurance, service for the elderly, etc. This day represents new beginnings and your attitude is all about new beginnings and creating opportunities to advertise. Do not push others as hard as you push yourself; they have their own new beginnings. You are respected for your efforts and your aspirations.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Frustrations hide around every little corner today. Do try to concentrate on your own particular path of responsibilities. You gain energies and inner knowledge from your meditations, and a deep breath to ask for guidance may be all you need for the day. You can experience a form of unity with the pure source of eternal energy. With each life experience on this earth, you are able to expand your energies. When these energies are misused, you could become self-destructive and confused during a misunderstanding. You can remove the problems when you act from your higher self. A more positive life is within your reach! The energies are different this evening and the night is full of the sound of laughter. You enjoy company tonight.

WORD SEARCH

Clothing

Find and circle all of the clothing items that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional piece of clothing.

S	R	E	Т	Α	E	W	S	S	W	Т	S	
Ρ	Α	Ν	Т	S	E	L	S	R	S	Т	Ν	
S	Т	1	U	S	L	Α	Ε	E	S	Α	Α	
Т	Т	0	S	Α	S	S	٧	Ρ	K	Ν	Е	
М	L	R	R	Υ	Α	Н	0	P	Ī	K	J	
В	1	Е	0	Ν	0	1	L	1	R	Т	S	
Н	٧	Т	D	Н	F	R	G	L	Т	0	Т	
0	1	Α	Т	R	S	Т	U	S	1	Ρ	0	
Е	L	R	Α	Е	W	R	Ε	D	Ν	U	0	
S	K	С	0	S	Ν	S	S	Е	R	D	В	
R	S	S	Е	0	Н	S	Т	Е	В	0	R	
Ρ	Α	R	K	Α	J	Α	С	K	E	Т	С	

BELTCARDIGAN BELT **JACKET** BLOUSE **JEANS BOOTS MITTENS CARDIGAN OVERALLS** CORDUROYS PANTS **DRESS PARKA**

GLOVES

HAT

SCARF SHIRT SHOES SHORTS SKIRT SLIPPERS ROBE SOCKS

SUIT

SWEATER TANK TOP UNDERWEAR VEST

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today and tomorrow are opportunities to make extra money and to have people pay you back for some of the things they have borrowed. A conventional economical approach is the best way to start your family's income plan. You may find yourself involved in deep conversations regarding finances. Some of the time it will be with friends and some of the time it will be with strangers. This display of dialogue is similar to a convention setting where people express their views or ideas. All these conversations are stimulating and you will be responsible for creating ideas and motivating people to reassess their potentials. You are motivated to use your creative mind as you hear comments and are caught up in the passion of inventions.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You appear perhaps more charming than usual at this time. Now could be the time to ask someone for a date, apply for a particular job or otherwise make your talents known. Financial and work progress is important today. You could meet with a person who knows the ins and outs of economic planning, so it would be worth your while to spend some time picking up a few tips. The same goes for career developments. Your path of self-development becomes more meaningful and sets you apart from the general crowd. Work achievement and ambition are what energizes and motivates you-as well as a few sweet words from your beloved. This is the perfect time to show off your abilities, excel



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

and succeed. Tonight is all about the animals.

Your intuition is active today. Are you keeping a notebookthe idea of a notebook for you in particular will provide you with a doorway to your private self. You may not be familiar with this side of yourself. Ideas are clear and strong. This is a time when your inner path of self-development becomes focused. Diplomacy is necessary but there is also a good expression of compassion from yourself and others. In your home this evening, you may find ways to offer areas of retreat so that everyone can have his or her very own private space. This will afford you or others the privacy for creative development. This may only mean a partition with a desk on one side or some handing



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

flower baskets for privacy to read or listen to headphones.

There seems to be a lot of energy in the atmosphere today. You may feel as though you could accomplish anything and you probably can. The energy seems to be hot, which says things move quickly-pay attention in people and vehicle traffic. If you are aware and positive, the results will be positive. Have a list to go by, if you can, and stick to it. You have a plethora of quick answers, great wit and a surplus of insights that can help relieve a multitude of problems. You could achieve the best sales quota or be the best customer service employee; whatever the case, you know just how to help those that come to you. This afternoon a celebration is the place to be and you will be pleased with those who want to help you celebrate.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Discussions surrounding an increase in salary or benefits may present some insights into your job. All is positive, but changes are needed. In order to make the changes, you may have to go to the drawing board. Congratulations! You see where a change is needed and set out to convince others through intelligent presentation. You always have a smile on your face and to others it seems as though you have a handle on your future goals. If you need a confidence-booster, you will get it today. You may have opportunities that will help some young person or a special friend through some difficult problems. Laughter is one of the best healers, and you may be able to teach a young person an easier way to enjoy life.

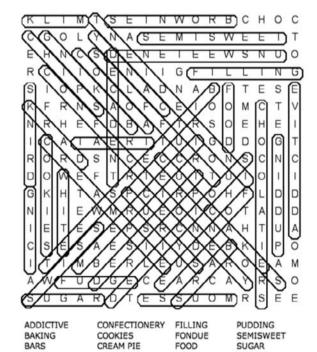


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You hate to let things drop until you have understood all the avenues of a situation, but sometimes you have to walk away. This is what happens today as a sale or transaction is completed. Never fear, the next proposal will have more profitable results. If you stay to shuffle the details for too long, you could miss the next good sale or proposal. Owning your own phone number for the rest of your life may be a topic of conversation before work ends. A professional woman will not only appreciate your talents but also encourage your ambitions. Laughter is a big part of the afternoonyou may enjoy a meal later today with a couple of good friends. At home you will find a lighthearted evening continues.

Yesterday Solution

Chocolate



CANDY CHIPS DESSERT UNSWEETENED MILK CHOCOLATIERS MOUSSE

CUPCAKE

DECADENT

DELICIOUS

DARK

BITTERSWEET

BROWNIES

Daily SuDoku

SANDALS

9		6				5		1
9 4					3		8	
	1			8				
			2	1			7	
6								4
	2			3	7			
				7			5	
	3		8					9
1		7				8		9

Yesterday's Solution

The hidden message is:

CHOCOLATE ORIGINATES FROM THE SEEDS OF THE THEOBROAMA CACAO TREE

FUDGE

ICING

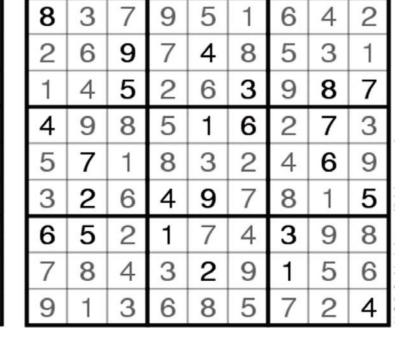
ICE CREAM

INGREDIENT

SWISS

SYRUP

TRUFFLES



Sabah Hospital

Amiri Hospital

Chest Hospital

Adan Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital

Al-Razi Hospital

Kaizen center

Rawda

Adaliya

Kaifan

Shamiya

Shuwaikh

Nuzha

Qadsiya

Dasmah

Shaab

Qibla

Mirqab

Sharq

Salmiya

Jabriya

Bayan

Mishref

Sabah

Jahra

W Hawally

New Jahra

West Jahra

South Jahra

North Jahra

North Jleeb

Ardhiya

Firdous

Omariya

N Khaitan

Fintas

Bneid Al-Gar

Ayoun Al-Qibla

Maidan Hawally

Abdullah Salem

Industrial Shuwaikh

Khaldiya

Physiotherapy Hospital

Maternity Hospital

Farwaniya Hospital

Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital

INFORMATION

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

Hospitals

Clinics

Call MSAL hotline 128

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

22517733

22517144

24848075

24849807

24848913

24814507

22549134

22526804

24814764

22515088

22532265

22531908

22518752

22459381

22451082

22456536

22465401

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25381200

22630786

24810221

24770319

24575755

24772608

24775066

24775992

24311795

24884079

24892674

24719048

24710044

23900322

Soor Center

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

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

STATE OF KUWAIT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 6819 - 6817 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

Valid From 7 AM To 7 PM

DAY: Saturday 07/01/2017

BY DAY: Sunny with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h

BY NIGHT: Cold with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 20 km/h and some high clouds will appear

WEATHER WARNING		
STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC
KUWAIT CITY	21 °C	10 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	21 °C	05 °C
ABDALY	21 °C	06 °C
BUBYAN	21 °C	05 °C
JAHRA	22 °C	08 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	21 °C	08 °C
SALMIYAH	20 °C	12 °C
AHMADI	20 °C	12 °C
NUWAISIB	21 °C	08 °C
WAFRA	22 °C	05 °C
SALMY	19 °C	05 °C

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Just 1995	LX
- Cold	
MSL Analysis (hPa)	1016

		4 DAYS FOI	RECAST			
DAY	ACTA 1000	WEATHER	Temperatures			12421045 307955 3079
	DATE		MAX.	MIN.	Wind Direction	Wind Speed
Sunday	01/08	Sunny+high clouds	22 °C	07 °C	VRB	06 - 20 km/h
Monday	01/09	Sunny + chance for fog	24 °C	09 °C	VRB	06 - 22 km/h
Tuesday	01/10	Sunny	20 °C	08 °C	NW	15 - 35 km/h
Wednesday	01/11	Partly cloudy	19 °C	06 °C	NW-VRB	08 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES		
Fajr	05:19	
Sunrise	06:43	
Zuhr	11:54	
Asr	14:46	
Sunsct	17:05	
Isha	18:27	

All times are local time unless otherwise stated. UP.0

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	20 °C
MIN. Temp.	07 °C
MAX. RH	60 %
MIN. RH	21 %
MAX. Wind	NW 43 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

2017/01/07 07:51 UTC V1.00 T2.4 ق.ت.خ.ع/1-2



PRIVATE CLINICS

Opinina iniologi.			
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444		
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222		
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171		
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999		
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700		
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223		
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223		
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-Daaory	25731988		
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166		
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426		
General Practitioners			
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123		
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312		
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920		
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465		
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528		
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781		
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501		
Urologists			
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534		
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955		
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad	i 22616660		
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120		
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427		

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surgeons				
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272			
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700			
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60			
Family Doctor				
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581			
Psychiatris	its			
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047			
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0			
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians				
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581			
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321			
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539			
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406			
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272			
Dr. Salem soso	22618787			
General Surg	eons			
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044			
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 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			

info@soorcenter.com

www.soorcenter.com

Paediatricians Paediatricians				
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898			
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300			
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444			
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099			
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	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. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444			
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557			
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888			
Dr. Abidallah 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 Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135			

Kaizen center

25716707

Noor Clinic

23845955

	Endocrinologist				
_	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330			
	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888	3			
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924	ļ			
	Physiotherapists	&VD			
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291				
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288			
	Rheumatologists:				
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060)			
1	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290			
	Internist, Chest & Heart				
	DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210			
	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667				
	Consultant Cardio				
	Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555			
	Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123				

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

Italy

Lebanon

Liberia

Libya

Lesotho

00961

00231

00218

00266

Yugoslavia

Zambia

Zimbabwe

00381

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GOSSIP

Kim and Kanye West visit Jay Z and Beyonce

ccording to X17Online.com, the pair were spotted at Jay Z and Beyonce's Holmby Hills home just months after Kayne blasted his former friend and collaborator for not supporting him after Kim was robbed at gunpoint in Paris. In an onstage rant at one of his 'Saint Pablo' concerts, Kanye slammed the 46-year-old producer - who has daughter Blue Ivy, five, with Beyonce - for not visiting after Kim's ordeal in October, and claimed his own children, North, three, and Saint, 13 months, have never met Jay's little girl. He fumed: "Don't call me, after the robbery, and say, 'How you feeling?' You want to know how I'm feeling? Come by the house. "Bring the kids by the house like we're brothers. Let's sit down. I can't take this bro. Our kids have never even played together." And Kanye, 39, also insisted

there won't be a follow-up to their 2011 album 'Watch the Throne,' because of conflicts between Apple - which has a close relationship with Drake - and Jay's own streaming service Tidal. Launching into Drake's song 'Pop Style', on which he originally had a verse, he told the audience at his gig: "Let me tell y'all something. There will never be a 'Watch The Throne 2'. That's the reason I wasn't on this song. "I wasn't on the song cause of Hov. 'Cause of some Tidal/Apple problem. And that is getting me tight every time I perform."



her relationship 'light and fun'

Jennifer Lopez wants to keep

■he thrice-married star has been Drake has previously been linked to unlucky in love in the past and doesn't want to rush into getting serious with Drake, 30, who she recently started dating. A source told HollywoodLife.com: "She has NOT been gushing about her new romance to friends or family, and instead has been trying to play it all cool. She wants to keep things between them easy, light and fun. "She knows Drake is a bit of a player, so to help her avoid getting whipped on him, she is trying to take things slow and not put any pressure on him. The last thing Jennifer wants is for Drake to do something to make her look foolish or feel like she has been played." Jennifer, 47, has eight-year-old twins Max and Emme with her former husband Marc Anthony and was also previously married the more surprised." to Cris Judd and Ojani Noa. She was also engaged to Ben Affleck but they ended their romance in 2002 and she recently split from on/off boyfriend Casper Smart.

Serena Williams, Rihanna and Taylor Swift and Rihanna is said to be "very unhappy" with the 'Hotline Bling' hit maker's new relationship. An insider previously said: "Jen and Drake have tried to keep their romance under wraps by suggesting they are just working together, but the truth is they are an item." "They have been seeing each other for a number of weeks and her friends are saying she is already smitten. The age gap doesn't bother them. They have fun together and that's all that matters. "People in Rihanna's circle are saying she is very unhappy about the whole thing. Only a few months ago she and Drake were still together. Jen is one of her friends in the industry which made her all

KHLOE KARDASHIAN IS IN LOVE WITH TRISTAN THOMPSON

■he 32-year-old reality TV star has been dating the 25-year-old basketball player for the past few months and has confessed that she is head over heels for him. Writing on her website, Khloewithak.com, she said: "At this moment, a few days into 2017, I feel incredibly clear and probably the happiest I've been in years. It's such a great feeling that I have my happy back! It's from a genuine place and the most peaceful place I've been in for longer than I can even remember. I think maintaining this peace and happiness is my biggest goal for the new year. "I think when you're in love you definitely feel happy and healthy too. I like that my relationship is very normal and doesn't need to be so public all the time. People aren't wrong for putting all of their personal business out there, but I've learned from my mistakes and don't need to do that anymore." Khloe also admitted that she has cut

down on her use of social media because she wants to be "in the moment" but still plans to keep in touch with her fans. She explained: "Recently, I've pulled away a little. So much tough has gone down in my family over the past year that I've removed myself from social media a bit more and focused on what's important in my life. "I want to be in my moment a little more going forward. I still want to share my life with people, because I have such amazing fans that I love connecting with through my app and social media. I think being able to share my life in a way, while still keeping so many great memories for myself, is a sign of maturity and evolution. "So going into 2017, I wish you all a happy, peaceful year and hope that you live your life the way you want to!"



Zoe Saldana feels lonely on set



he 'Guardians of the Galaxy' star is disappointed with how little women there are on the set as actresses and also as part of the crew. She said: "I feel lonely on set. And it's not just that you're the only woman in the cast. There are very few women on the crew. You hardly ever get to work with a female director. "Some female producers try to blend in with their male colleagues and won't stand up to them. You're completely outnumbered. And you take a hit in your paycheck as a woman too. I'm so tired of it." And the 38-year-old actress admits she thought of other actresses as "competition" in the earlier stages of her career. She added: "Like all other young actresses, I saw other women as competition. If there were 50,000 of us going out for the role, and if I got it, I must be the best." And Zoe - who has two-year-old twins Cy and Bowie with her husband Marco Perego - hopes she can be a role model to younger women and feels there is

"hope" in the future. She told Time magazine: "I feel I have a greater chance of setting an example for young women when I do movies [that take place] in the future because I'm less likely to be boxed in. I'm not playing someone's girlfriend. I can be tougher. The future represents hope. "I look at the films I love so much, like the beautiful Jane Austen adaptations, but someone like me doesn't exist in those narratives - at least not in a way that I would want to be a part of. Honestly, it makes me sad. I think about how someone like me would have been treated."

ANNA KENDRICK TERRIFIED OF

MODERN DATING APPS

he 31-year-old actress has been in a relationship with cinematographer Ben Richardson for over two years and is very relieved not to be single as she'd hate to have to rely on apps like Tinder to find love. She said: "It seems completely terrifying. I think Tinder is an app designed by Satan to destroy us all, I don't think I'd be able to do it." But if she did have to resort to the app, the 'Trolls' star would rather someone "ghosted" her - simply stopped contact - than tell her face-to-face that they weren't interested. She said: "I'm totally pro-ghosting. I know that people say, 'Well I'd rather someone just tell me they didn't like me rather than completely disappear and never contact me again' but I'm actually not adult enough to deal with that - I'd rather figure it out and save a little face, actually." And if an app user sent her a saucy picture, Anna knows how she would deal with the unwanted attention. She advised: "Find a way to send it to their mum or at least threaten it. "Because even if you didn't know their mum, they'd have still had that moment of panic - that would be satisfying." The 'Pitch Perfect' actress is aware that her career has caused some of her relationships to "wilt" because she is simply too busy to give people her full attention. She told Britain's Glamour magazine: "When you get this busy, you end up with the people in your life who are willing to put up with it. Anybody else ends up falling away. "I do feel guilty for basically letting all my relationships wilt - but luckily everybody who matters is understanding."



GOSSIP



Ed Sheeran wishes he'd said no to being turned into a wax statue

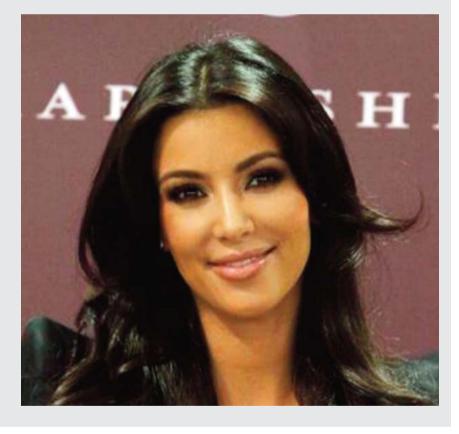
■he 'Thinking Out Loud' hit maker had to prodded in several areas for his doppelganger, which is on display at the wax museum in Times Square in New York City, and if he knew that he would have to bare his "dad bod" he would have turned it down. Speaking on the Radio 1 Breakfast Show with Scott Mills on Friday, he said: "The waxwork was one of those things, where they said, 'Do you want to be a Madame Tussauds waxwork?' and I was like, 'Yeah!' and then on the day, they pretty much stripped you naked and poked at you for five hours. "I was like, I really wish I said no to this. It was the most awkward thing and it was literally at a time where I had a proper dad bod as well. It was all taking pictures, prodding you." At the time his statue was unveiled, the flame-haired hunk said he was most impressed that the creators chose to make

the statue well endowed. Taking to Twitter, he wrote: "Met my waxwork at Madame Tussauds, he didn't say much but he's got a bulge so it's all good. (sic)" To create his double, Ed had to wear skin tight shorts and a vest and be measured and prodded for three hours to ensure the finished result was an exact double of the singer. Before it was revealed to the world, the 'Shape of You' hit maker anticipated that his parents would find the wax work, which can be seen wearing a trademark checked shirt and holding a guitar, strange. He said: "I'm excited for my parents to see it. I think it'll be quite weird for me but I think [even weirder] for my parents to see what they created."

Kim Kardashian West feared she would be shot by her attackers

gunpoint in her hotel in the French capital last October and Kim admitted she feared they were going to kill her. In a new clip for her reality TV show, 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians', which returns to E! in March, Kim can be seen telling her sisters about her thoughts during terrifying incident. Kim said: "They're going to shoot me in the back. There's no way out. It makes me so upset to think about it." 2016 was a tough year for Kim and her husband Kanye West - who have children North, three, and Saint, 12 months together - as Kanye was rushed to hospital in Los Angeles in November after a meltdown brought on by sleep deprivation and exhaustion. In the new clip, Kim - who was in New York at the time - can be seen receiving the news by phone and say-

■he 36-year-old star was robbed at ing: "Don't scare me, please. What's going on. I think he really needs me, and I have to get home." Speaking about their relationship in the new episode, Kim added : "We're so close. We feel each other's pain." Meanwhile, Kim took some time out of the spotlight following her ordeal and friends say it has helped her to cope. An insider explained to PEOPLE: "Taking time off after the robbery has really changed Kim. And for the better. She initially was just too shocked and traumatized to deal with anything but her kids. "As time went on, she realized that she actually loved her slower life. She feels very grateful that she has been able to spend the past few months just focusing on her kids. Kim thinks they are growing too fast and she has enjoyed spending more quiet time with them."



Carrie Fisher, Debbie Reynolds laid to rest

earlier this week but on Friday, some on a flight from London to Los Angeles, while Debbie, 84, passed away one day later after reportedly suffering a stroke. Carrie's brother Todd Fisher, daughter Billie Lourd and Billie's reported boyfriend, Taylor Lautner, were among the mourners at the service. The day before the burial, Carrie and Debbie were remembered at a private memorial at Carrie's home in Los Angeles, where Meryl Streep performed the song 'Happy Days Are Here Again' by Ben Selvin and The Crooners. Speaking about the ceremony, a friend close to the family said: "By the end everyone was singing. "Billie wanted the people her mother loved to at her in that living room one last time. "The only

he 'Star Wars' actress was cremated things missing were Carrie and Debbie." The ceremony is believed to have been of her ashes were buried alongside attended by over 150 guests, including her mother at Hollywood's Forest Lawn Gwyneth Paltrow, Tracey Ullman, comedian Memorial Park. Carrie, 60, died on Stephen Fry and Carrie's beloved dog Gary, December 27, after suffering a heart attack who all dined on fried chicken, green vegetables and cornbread. The close friend said the service brought back fond memories of days spent at the house with Carrie and her mother. The source said: "Debbie would sit in the corner, and everyone there would come up and pay homage. Even the biggest stars were starstruck by her. Carrie would walk around barefoot with a can of Coca-Cola, making sure everyone was having a good time, saying the funniest things you've ever heard."



KENDALL JENNER HAS BEEN SUFFERING WITH ANXIETY

he 21-year-old model admitted that she has been struggling with the debilitating condition and "security concerns" have made it worse. Writing on her website KendallJ.com, she said: "Anxiety was a huge hurdle for me to deal with this past year (and security concerns didn't help), but I think I'm finally learning how to cope." The entire Kardashian/Jenner family have stepped up their security after Kendall's sister Kim Kardashian West was robbed at gunpoint in her Paris hotel room last year. Kendall also admitted that she desperately misses her family and friends when she is away from home for work. She said: "The hardest part about my job is being away from home so often I miss my sisters, the rest of my family and my friends so much when I'm away. But, it makes the time we have together that much more special." However, the star has plenty to celebrate as 2016 was a huge year for her career, as she covered US Vogue, took part in the Victoria's Secret fashion show and travelled the world. She wrote: "The fact that I was on the cover of any Vogue was mind-blowing, but the September Issue was beyond anything I could've imagined! I can't wait to see where 2017 takes my career, but I know I have big plans! "Rome, Paris, Turks & Caicos, Cannes, Vail, Barcelona and more this year was such a whirlwind of travel it's hard to keep track of it all! I'm so lucky that my job takes me to all the places I want see."

Vivica A Fox has ended her feud with 50 Cent

■he 52-year-old actress and the 'In Da Club' rapper dated in 2003 and had a bitter break-up, but after years of fighting, Vivica recently reached out to her 41-year-old ex and they have now put their differences behind them. Speaking on the 'Wendy Williams Show', she said: "I ran into him at the Knicks game. It is so time for this to be over with, as far as beefing back and forth... I walked over to him, and I said, 'Happy New Year.' "Someone has to be the bigger person. I gave him a hug, we talked for a few minutes, and that was that. "As much as we've been through, I will always have love for him. He was literally my true love. "I hated to have to beef with him, but I don't let nobody mess with me. I am no punk." Vivica and 50 Cent - whose real

name is Curtis Jackson - had a far from perfect relationship and their most recent argument saw the brunette beauty imply the musician is gay whilst appearing on US show 'What Happens Live' in 2015. Shortly after the televised interview, 50 Cent hit out at his ex on social media. She recently said: "I will always have a very special place in my heart for him just because at one point I was in love with him, I dated him. "It was crazy, we only dated for less than six months, but it lasted on and off for years. "You know sometimes you've dated someone and no matter how much you cared for them, you just know you're not right for each other - and that's OK."





Ciara has dropped her defamation lawsuit

ast year the 31-year-old singer sued her former fiance, the ■father of her two-year-old son Future Jr. - for \$15 million for defamation, accusing him of libel and slander after he lashed out at her on Twitter but Ciara has now decided to drop the case. She has filed documents at the Superior Court in Fulton County, Georgie, to dissolve the case "with prejudice", meaning she cannot re-file it, TMZ reports. Although the pair are not believed to have worked out a financial settlement, the website reports it is likely that they have come to a custody arrangement for their son and want to move on amicably. In her previous documents, Ciara claimed the angry messages Future wrote about her on social media damaged her "positive reputation" and portrayed her as "controlling, dishonest, mali-

cious, unreasonable, evil, and conniving." She also claimed his disparaging comments "scared away an international cosmetics company she thinks would have paid her \$500,000". Future whose real name is Nayvadius DeMun Wilburn previously took to Twitter to launch a furious rant against Ciara, claiming that she was denying him access to their son. After claiming that he pays \$15,000 in child support every month, Future went on to insist that he just wants to see his son and has run out of patience. He said: "I just want baby future that's all. I been silent for a year and a half..l ran out of patience. "Get ready for this classic. Handling my business staying focus making music surrounded by real love & family (sic)."

JENNIFER HUDSON MET ARETHA FRANKLIN TO DISCUSS A ROLE

rumored for months to be in line to portray 'The Queen of Soul' in a biopic and she has now confirmed that she has spoken with the 'Respect' hit maker about her life story. In an interview with The Daily Telegraph newspaper, Jennifer spilled: "It is my dream role, and she and I have met and there are ... very exciting discussions happening. However, Jennifer is remaining tightlipped on any other details about the proposed project, only stating: "I cannot talk about that." Jennifer previously won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her performance in 2006 musical movie 'Dreamgirls' and taking on Aretha as an alter ego would be sure to put her in Academy Award contention again. The 'Spotlight' singer is keeping busy in her career and is a coach on the new series of 'The Voice UK' along with Will.i.am, Sir Tom Jones and Bush front man Gavin Rossdale. Jennifer first found fame as a contestant on 'American Idol' in 2004 and she admits that experience and judge Simon Cowell's rejection of her as "too big in every way" makes her the ideal candidate to help the aspiring pop stars she will mentor. The star who is engaged to WWE commentator David Otunga, with whom she has seven-year-old son David Jr. shared: "I actually loved being able to sit back and be sung to for once. Above all I'm obsessed by music, so getting to hear new talent and learning about all the different styles of voices has been totally fascinating. I

he singer-and-actress has been don't get to do that a lot. If a note goes wrong (though), my body reacts, I've got sympathy for them but there's no point lying."



FEATURES

Casey Affleck and the limits of Hollywood's tolerance



howered in accolades and tipped for Golden Globes and Oscars glory, Casey Affleck is finally leaving behind two decades at the fringes of movie stardom to become a major player. Acclaimed for his performance in Kenneth Lonergan's "Manchester by the Sea," the 41-year-old seems poised to join his more famous brother Ben and childhood friend Matt Damon in the rarified air of Hollywood superstardom. But the buzz around this year's awards season has brought renewed attention to an episode in his past that could yet derail what initially appeared to be an inexorable march to Tinseltown's top table.

In 2010, Amanda White and Magdalena Gorka, the producer and cinematographer on his poorly-received directorial debut, mockumentary "I'm Still Here," sued Affleck for what they described as repeated sexual harassment. Affleck, who has always vehemently denied any wrongdoing, employed the services of celebrity lawyer Marty Singerknown as "Hollywood's guard dog" and settled for an undisclosed amount in both cases. The twin \$2 million lawsuits painted the actor at best as a manipulative ringmaster, an image at odds with his own self-projection as a fame-shy artist toiling away on the edges of an industry that has long overlooked his talent.

Among the most egregious of the allegations-all of which Affleck rejects White says the star got an assistant cameraman to expose himself, despite her protestations, during a flight. On one occasion during filming in Costa Rica, White couldn't get into her room, her lawsuit alleged, because Affleck and the film's star, Joaquin Phoenix, were having sex with two women on the other side of the locked door. Affleck was married at the

time to Phoenix's sister, Summer, with whom he has two children, although the couple have since split.

'Shocked and repulsed'

Gorka left the project after treatment described in her lawsuit as "the most traumatizing of her career," accusing Affleck and other crew members of openly talking about engaging in sexual acts with her. She said on one occasion when the crew stayed at an apartment in New York, she was "shocked and repulsed" when she awoke to find Affleck, whose breath "reeked of alcohol," in bed with her, arms around her.

Affleck's publicist Mara Buxbaum said there would be no new statement on the case, but Affleck's side of the story has long been public knowledge. Responding to White's lawsuit back in 2010, his attorney filed documents claiming she had launched her legal action as part of "extortionate tactics in her effort to obtain more compensation than she was legally entitled to." Entertainment media have compared the case with the woes of Nate Parker, a breakout star alongside Affleck of last year's Sundance Film Festival, whose directorial debut "The Birth of a Nation" sold for a record \$17.5 million.

Parker, 37, was acquitted of raping a fellow student in 2001 while at Penn State and managed to get on with life, but the case exploded across the front pages last summer-torpedoing his Oscar hopes-when it emerged that the alleged victim had killed herself. "Considering the fact that Parker's career has taken a fatal hit, we have to ask why Affleck's history continues to be hidden paragraphs deep, or swept under the rug entirely," entertainment writer Amy Zimmerman, one of the first to delve back into Affleck's case, wrote in the Daily Beast in November.

Second chances

While at pains to point out the more serious nature of the accusations against Parker, Zimmerman suggests that race may be a factor in the easier ride Affleck has enjoyed. "I think being a white man grants you a lot of second chances, whether you're a Hollywood star or just, say, a college athlete," she said. The Hollywood Hills are littered with the carcasses of careers that have ended in scandal, but for every Bill Cosby or Charlie Sheen, a Roman Polanski, Woody Allen or Mel Gibsonnominated at this year's Globes-has fallen, only to eventually end up back on his feet. Chris Beachum, managing director of awards prediction website Gold Derby, believes Parker's lower profile, rather than his race, might have sealed his fate among Hollywood's VIPs.

"It was more that they don't know him. He's brand new, first film (as director), whereas Casey they've known a lot longer. They've known Ben and they've known his buddy Matt Damon, and he's been working since he was a teenager," he said. Anne Helen Petersen, a culture writer at Buzzfeed, described "Manchester by the Sea" as "a devastating meditation on the way that some mistakes can never be left behind." Whether Affleck finds life imitating art may depend on his response to the resurfacing of the allegations. "People say whatever they want. Sometimes it doesn't matter how you respond," Affleck told Variety in a November interview. — AFP

Gurgaon

Film Review

brooding crime thriller in which a kidnapping exposes the avarice, sibling jealousy, and murderous past that plague a property mogul's clan, "Gurgaon" is another entry into the school of designer genre films from India that first drew festival attention through Anurag Kashyap's prolific output. First-time director Shanker Raman, obviously a fan of Kashyap, shares the latter's fascination with psychotic human behavior, but leaves tension on a low simmer while barely scratching the surface of characters' vile motives. What's more interesting is his insight into how extreme gender inequality is in Indian society. The film's moody noir sheen may help it travel beyond the domestic market, where it stands small chance against mainstream entertainment.

Raman was an experienced DP and wrote the feature screenplays for Indian films "Autumn" and "Frozen," both non-mainstream family dramas with political nuance. For his directorial debut, he aspires to grander themes, opening with a portentous title sequence that pontificates on the predatory temperament of even civilized man, and how his violation of nature's laws will have consequences. Although the film's generalized condemnation of corrupt developers and their threat to the ecosystem offer some social context for the central family feud, the dramatic arc is too small to soar to epic heights.

The titular Gurgaon is a district in the northern Indian state of Haryana, one of the most economically developed regions in South Asia. Property magnet Kehri Singh (Pankaj Tripathy, masterly) welcomes his adopted daughter Preet (Ragini Khanna, radiant) home from architectural studies in the U.S. His eldest son Nikki (Akshay Oberoi) is considerably less cordial, openly insulting her for being "picked from a rubbish heap." Like any pampered scion of a selfmade man, Nikki is desperate to prove himself to his dad, yet never lives up to the high expectations. His big idea of opening an upmarket gym in one of the family's rural lots gets the thumbs down because Kehri is saving the land for Preet to design a premium condominium complex that will give the backwater location a modern makeover.

To blow off steam, Nikki borrows 10 million rupees from a bookie to bet on a horse, only to lose it all. With the help of his wussy younger brother Chintu, he hatches a devious scheme that not only can ease his financial woes, but also hurt his father in the worst way. Not surprisingly, nothing goes according to plan, and one crime begets many others. The premise has some parallels with Kashyap's "Ugly," in that human cruelty is revealed to be bottomless, and violence is almost a knee-jerk reaction. Unfortunately, also like "Ugly," the plot runs amok, featuring too many sidekicks, like the two malcontent henchmen Nikki hires, plus

Kehri's brotherin-law Bhupi and the governor who's backing the township redevelopment, to name but a few.

As if unsure where these characters fit into the greater picture, Raman keeps them on the dramatic sideline, waiting to assume pivotal roles that never materialize. What gives the yarn its emotional intensity is Nikki's rabid hatred of Preet. His resentment at being spurned in favor of a daughter must be understood within the context of India's deeply patriarchal traditions, as a kind of emasculation. Even more unsettling is the eventual revelation of why Kehri dotes on a girl he has no blood ties with-reasons that are far from progressive or kind. Raman could have mounted more suspense when uncovering Kehri's past, or furnished the character's superstition and karmic view with deeper psychological shadings. Instead, the director opts for a more conventional genre exercise that culminates in a sepia-toned montage of Kehri's ruthless rags-to-riches path, in an obvious emulation of "The Godfather." Maybe it's the distancing long shots, or the melodramatic score, but the sequence doesn't attain the desired tragic grandeur of Coppola, or even Kashyap's "Gangs of Wasseypur."

Other attempts at symbolism, such as a hunting scene that alludes to the prologue's statement on the laws of the jungle, are contrived and gratuitous. While the film is spattered with deadly assaults and bloodshed, the violence is not so graphic or stylized as to be voyeuristic, and thankfully, the finale packs quite a punch. Tripathy delivers a low-key but sinister presence as the kingpin who keeps his cards close to his chest, his savage gaze boring holes into people's minds even as his face remains inscrutable. Swarthily handsome Oberoi oozes bad-boy sexiness, injecting physical potency into Nikki's loose-cannon behavior.

As Nikki's trophy girlfriend Sophia, gorgeous Gujaratispeaking Belarusian actress Anna Ardor serves as a constant reminder of how entitled brats like him belittle and abuse women. It's not clear whether Raman's background as a DP influences the cinematography, but Vivek Shah's lensing is a mellow and sublime dance of light and shadows in stylish but far-from-cozy interiors. Naren Chandavarkar and Benedict Taylor's thoughtful score comprises mostly ambient music, interspersed with songs composed and sung with heart-rending pathos by Cyli Kharre.--Reuters



Actor Jeff Bridges putS his hands in a block of cement during a Hand and Footprint Ceremony at the TCL Chinese Theater in Hollywood, California. — AFP

Jeff Bridges cements place in Hollywood

scar-winning actor Jeff Bridges was described as "royalty" by his peers on Friday as he sunk his hands and feet into the cement at Hollywood's TCL Chinese Theatre. The 67-year-old actor, who has been nominated for a Golden Globe this year for "Hell or High Water," was surrounded by fellow actors and industry heavyweights, including Sharon Stone and Chris Pine, during the ceremony. "He is a pillar. He is a backbone. He may as well be royalty," said Pine as he introduced the veteran actor. "Even within the business, actors are fangirling over Jeff Bridges all the time, including myself."

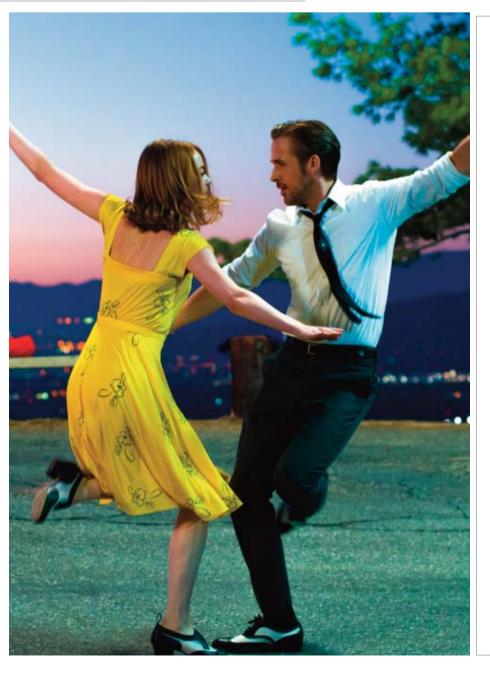
Pine added that Bridges, who won an Oscar in 2010 for his performance in "Crazy Heart," just "breathes love." "He has a heart miles and miles wide. His bandwidth for love, compassion and positivity is something to really behold," Pine said. Bridges, dressed in a suit and tie, recalled coming to the iconic theater as a kid and joked that his brother Beau had told him to "bliss out" and enjoy the imprint ceremony. The actor has been a Hollywood leading man since the 1970s and is notably known for playing Jeff "The Dude" Lebowski in the 1998 Coen Brothers cult comedy classic "The Big Lebowski."--AFP

'La La Land' Wins Best Film at AACTA International Awards

a La Land" has dominated the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) International Awards with trophies for Best Film and Best Lead Actress for Emma Stone. "La La Land" topped "Arrival," "Hacksaw Ridge," "Lion" and "Manchester by the Sea." Nominees attending Friday night's ceremonies at the Avalon Hollywood included Mel Gibson, Nicole Kidman, Dev Patel, Luke Hemsworth, Kenneth Lonergan, Harvey Weinstein, Sacha Baron Cohen and Joel Edgerton. Among those taking the stage were host Daniel MacPherson and presenters Isla Fisher, Ruby Rose, Julian McMahon, Alan Dale, Radha Mitchell, Damon Herriman, Luke Bracey and Simon Baker.

Gibson received the award for Best Direction for World War II drama "Hacksaw Ridge," which dominated at AACTA's domestic Awards in Sydney last month with nine awards, including Best Direction. "Manchester by the Sea" received two AACTA International Awards with Kenneth Lonergan receiving the Award for Best Screenplay, and Casey Affleck receiving the Award for Best Lead Actor.

The Weinstein Company's drama "Lion" took awards for Dev Patel for Best Supporting Actor, while Australian actress Nicole Kidman received the Award for Best Supporting Actress. — Reuters



'Arsenal'

Film Review

rsenal," a pulpy crime drama about desperate characters and excessive carnage in Biloxi, Miss., is memorable primarily for some random scraps of loopy dialogue, the credible evocation of a sleazy demimonde rife with white-trash lawbreakers, and yet another Nicolas Cage performance that could be labeled Swift's Premium and sold by the pound. Decked out in a putty nose, a bad wig, and a fake mustache that resembles an exhausted caterpillar, Cage plays a moodswinging, coke-addled crime boss with the same manic gusto that lately has distinguished his work in scads of other easy-paycheck misadventures.

And while his over-the-top shtick is perilously nearing the end of its shelf life, Cage routinely dominates each film in which he appears, even when, as happens here, he is off screen for extended periods. Adrian Grenier and Johnathon Schaech are the nominal leads, competently playing disparate siblings whose frayed family ties are sorely tested by the machinations of Jason Mosberg's screenplay. JT (Grenier), an upright family man who owns and operates a construction company, is committed to covering the back of his ne'er-do-well brother, Mikey (Schaech).

Unfortunately, Mikey has been far too close for far too long to Eddie King (Cage), a seedy gangster given to angry outbursts, ferocious violence, and twisted moralizing. (When JT aims an F-bomb in his direction, Eddie expresses disapproval: "Didn't your mom teach you boys how to speak with distinction?") Even more unfortunately, Eddie impulsively decides he could wrangle a hefty ransom from JT by employing Mikey, willingly or otherwise, as a hostage. "Arsenal" isn't big on explaining things, so don't expect to find out why an undercover cop (John Cusack) is-conveniently-JT's BFF, or how the straight-arrow JT so easily evolves into a two-fisted, gun-wielding avenger. Director Steven C.

Miller more or less plays fairly by the rules of the genre, to the point of adding his own spin to the Law of Chekhov's Gun. (In this case: Don't introduce a stun grenade in the first act if you're not going to detonate it in the third). But his self-consciously stylized depiction of gruesome mayhem-lots of slow-mo beatings, shootings and blood-spurting, often underscored with gospel choirs-is just so much pointless flash and filigree. As the closing credits roll, you may find yourself thinking that if Miller had just let everyone bleed out and die in real time, the movie might have been 10, maybe 15 minutes shorter. — Reuters

FASHION



LONDON: Models present creations by British designer Christopher Shannon on the second day of the Autumn/Winter 2017 London Fashion Week Men's fashion event in London yesterday. — AFP photos



Topman Design the rave at London Fashion Week

ritish clothing brand Topman Design revived the country's 1990s rave culture for its London Fashion Week show on Friday, dazzling the catwalk with fluorescent colors, psychedelic prints and underground attitude. Celebrating the anarchic house music scene that spontaneously swept the country and shocked the authorities, the High Street giant transformed the stately Selfridges department store in the heart of London into a warehouse party.

The establishment bastion shook to the booming sound-track of US artist Trevor Jackson, as models-sporting greasy hair, oily skin and various piercings-paraded between concrete columns and imposing metal sculptures. The winter 2017 collection was "heavily influenced by the pubbing and clubbing scene," according to the label, featuring pub paraphernalia, hand-drawn prints and 90s "rave graphics and neon." "This gives the look of working in the outdoors all day and clubbing all night," said Topman.

Garments on display included oversized sweatshirts, hood-

ies, quilted nylon tracksuits, PVC trench coats, loud knitwear and neon trainers. For comfort at work and on the dance floor, expansive was the order of the day with exaggerated baggy jogging trousers and ultra-flared jeans, recalling the look of the dance floor-inspired guitar bands of the era, such as The Stone Roses and Happy Mondays.

'Explosive'

"With this super fun, youthful and stylishly scruffed-up collection, Topman Design has proven once again why it is a firm favorite for so many millennial,"-children born between the early 1980s and early 2000s-said the GQ review, calling the collection "explosive." At the nearby Royal Institute of British Architects, luxury brand Barbour offered a predictably more

somber show, echoing its refined setting. The label offered cautious twists on its classics, pairing its iconic wax jacket with a blue plaid shirt and a short scarf, drawing inspiration from the "lumber sexual" look popular among urban males.

The brand also showcased a limited edition of the famous jacket with lines by Scottish poet Robert Montgomery poems emblazoned on the back. Its garments were available for immediate sale under the "see now, buy now" policy, which has become increasingly common over recent seasons. London Fashion Week Men's will feature more than 50 shows as the country's blossoming male fashion industry shows little sign of being dented by the Brexit shock. Male fashion sales in Britain rose by 4.1 percent to £14.1 billion (\$17.3 billion, 16.5 billion Euros) in 2015, boasting faster growth than ready-to-wear female sales, but still only accounting for 25 percent of total clothing sales, market research group Mintel said.

The data provider estimates that 2016 sales will grow by 4.4 percent with sales realizing £14.7 billion. The growth is in line with the wider economy, which has seemingly brushed off the immediate consequences of the June vote to leave the European Union, but 2017 could prove more challenging, according to Mintel. "Over the medium term, the sector is likely to feel the impact," it said. "Clothing is expected to face an even tougher year in 2017 as many retailers are forced to increase prices as a result of currency fluctuations," it added, explaining that manufacturers could face rising costs due to sterling's fall. — AFP









Jeff Bridges cements place in Hollywood

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A picture shows electric windmills as the sun sets in Nantes, western France.--AFP

Inside the enigmatic Globes voting bloc

illions of television viewers will tune in today to watch the Golden Globe Awards, one of Hollywood's biggest and glitziest affairs that sets many movies on the path to Oscars glory. But few are likely to know who actually decides on the winners. This year, the voters include a Russian former bodybuilder turned actor, an ex-Miss Universe from South Africa and an ex-engineer from Egypt. They are all members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a somewhat opaque group of about 90 journalists - and one of the most exclusive and secretive clubs in Tinseltown.

Though some members of the HFPA work for well-respected foreign media outlets, many are freelancers employed by obscure publications. Founded in 1943 by a small group of foreign journalists seeking more access to the showbiz world, the association over the years has mushroomed into a formidable institution. Over the years, the Globes - which honor the best in film and television - have been dismissed by some as a publicity tool for Hollywood studios who wine and dine HFPA members year-round with an eye towards awards night.

But the sheer magnitude of the event - and the momentum it can create for some films ahead of the all-important Oscars - has upped its credibility. "It used to be considered a joke in Hollywood," said Howard Suber, who has taught film at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) for 51 years. "It ceased being a joke when it became a show with good ratings and every manager, publicist, producer, studio exec saw that it was another way to advertise their goods," he explained. "It's still considered an inside joke in terms of who these people are, but it's treated seriously because it's on television," he added.

Who belongs to the HFPA?

Becoming a member of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association is not that simple. Any foreign journalist seeking entry must be sponsored by two members, and a newcomer's application can be rejected if one member of the association vetoes it. Once admitted, members have to produce six articles a year to maintain active status, all the while gaining unfettered access to press conferences and special events. Several major media outlets, including France's Le Monde, The Times of London and the New Zealand Herald, have complained in the past of being shut out.

Past scandals

The association has also been embroiled in a number of scandals. In 2011, outgoing publicist Michael Russell filed a lawsuit alleging he had been sacked for denouncing shady practices within the association. In his suit, which was settled for an undisclosed amount, Russell

claimed that "HFPA members abuse their positions and engage in unethical and potentially unlawful deals and arrangements which amount to a 'payola' scheme."

The group's former president Philip Berk, who has been with the HFPA for decades, in 2014 took a voluntary leave of absence after fellow members became upset over what was written about them in a memoir he published. One of the most memorable scandals to rock the HFPA came in 1982 when Pia Zadora accepted a Golden Globe for her performance in "Butterfly" before a gobsmacked Hollywood. Just weeks before, Zadora's then-husband, billionaire businessman Meshulam Riklis, had invited members on an all-expenses paid trip to Las Vegas for a private screening of his wife's film. HFPA

members denied that the junket had influenced their

Even Ricky Gervais, who has hosted the show four times including last year, has poked fun at the association and insinuated that the studios can influence the voters. "The Golden Globes are to the Oscars what Kim Kardashian is to Kate Middleton. Bit louder, bit trashier, bit drunker, and more easily bought," he told the audience in 2012.

'Wizard of Oz'

In recent years, the organization has embarked on a course toward more respectability and sought to attract younger members. It has also earned accolades for its charity work. Current president Lorenzo Soria, who has been with the HFPA since 1989, said four new members were admitted last year, including two who work for publications in China. Soria, who spoke briefly with AFP, said the shrinking pool of foreign correspondents worldwide made it harder to recruit new members. "Keep in mind that ... not many publications can afford to have correspondents the way they did in the past," he said.

A Globes victory can help cast the spotlight on films that might otherwise be overlooked for the Oscars, which take place in late February. "The Academy is pretty mainstream in its taste when it comes to foreign films," said Fredell Pogodin, a publicist who specializes in foreign-language and documentary films. "That's not always the case with the HFPA members. I find their

choices very often more interesting than the Academy's."

Still, some say the association has a long way to go before achieving the credibility of the Oscars. "They are the Wizard of Oz," said Suber. "They hide behind this curtain and everyone believes that they are really powerful. But then you pull the curtain back and what you see is a little old man with a microphone." — AFP



Jimmy Fallon, host of the 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards, poses with Miss Golden Globes 2017 (from left) sisters Sistine, Scarlet and Sophia Stallone after rolling out the red carpet during Golden Globe Awards Preview Day at the Beverly Hilton on Jan 4, 2017 in Beverly Hills, California. The awards will be held today. — AP