

Info minister launches two new broadcast vehicles



Thousands throng Tehran funeral of Rafsanjani



Detroit auto show kicks off with trade plea to Trump



Late TD lifts Clemson to coveted collegiate crown



OUTRAGE AS SPEAKER ENDS SESSION AFTER HEATED ROW

MPS THREATEN TO GRILL YOUTH MINISTER • DISPUTE OVER 'ALIEN' PANEL HEAD



Min 08°
Max 23°
High Tide 11:52 & 22:20
Low Tide 05:16 & 16:53

150 FILS
NO: 17107
40 PAGES



MOROCCO BANS PRODUCTION AND SALE OF NIQABS

RABAT: Morocco has banned the production and sale of burqa full-face Muslim veils, apparently for security reasons, media reports said yesterday. While there was no official announcement by authorities in the North African nation, the reports said the interior ministry order would take effect this week. "We have taken the step of completely banning the import, manufacture and marketing of this garment in all the cities and towns of the kingdom," the Le360 news site quoted a high-ranking interior ministry official as saying. It said the measure appeared to be motivated by security concerns, "since bandits have repeatedly used this garment to perpetrate their crimes".

Most women in Morocco, whose King Mohammed VI favors a moderate version of Islam, prefer the hijab headscarf that does not cover the face. The niqab, which leaves the area around the eyes uncovered, is also worn in Salafist circles and in more conservative regions in the north, from where thousands of jihadists have gone to fight in Syria and Iraq.

In some commercial districts of Casablanca, the country's economic capital, interior ministry officials on Monday conducted "awareness-raising campaigns with traders to inform them of this new decision", the Media 24 website said.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: MP Safaa Al-Hashem speaks during a parliament session at the National Assembly yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Zlazz

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday adjourned the Assembly session following a heated argument between pro-government MP Hamad Al-Harashani and opposition lawmaker Jamaan Al-Harbash that involved other MPs. The argument began after Harbash criticized the previous Assembly as a rubberstamp house that triggered a strong response from Harashani, a member in the previous house.

Ghanem immediately adjourned the session for the day, but a number of opposition MPs said what happened in the session was orchestrated by the government to prevent the Assembly from studying and approving a draft law that could have helped lift an international suspension on Kuwaiti sports. At least two lawmakers, Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei and Abdulwahab Al-Babtain threatened they will file to grill Minister of Information and Youth Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah over the issue. Babtain said he is likely to file his grilling next week.

During the session, 10 opposition lawmakers filed a motion calling on the Assembly's sports and youth panel to study and approve a draft law on sports and bring it to the session to allow the Assembly to vote on it. But it could not do so because the session was adjourned due to the arguments. Kuwait national football team has until today to be included in the qualifying rounds for the Asia Cup 2019, provided the sports laws are amended to be compatible with international sports charters.

Continued on Page 13

News

in brief

Nine dead, UAE envoy hurt in Kandahar blast

KANDAHAR: At least nine people were killed in an explosion in the governor's compound in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province yesterday during a visit by the UAE ambassador, local media reported. The UAE foreign ministry said envoy Juma Mohammed Abdullah Al-Kaabi and other UAE diplomats were wounded in the "terrorist attack". Afghanistan's Tolo News said the blast left nine people dead and 16 others wounded.

Saudi Arabia unblocks military aid to Lebanon

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia and Lebanon have agreed to hold talks on restoring a \$3-billion military aid package that Riyadh froze last year, a Lebanese source said yesterday. "The blockage is lifted," said an official in the delegation of Lebanese President Michel Aoun, who held talks in the Saudi capital with King Salman. In February, the kingdom halted the military aid program to protest what it said was "the stranglehold" which the Iran-backed Shiite group Hezbollah had on the Lebanese state. The program, funded by Riyadh, would provide vehicles, helicopters, drones, cannons and other military equipment from France.

Iran says it finally receives hajj invite

TEHRAN: Iran said yesterday it had finally received an official invitation from Saudi Arabia for its pilgrims to attend this year's hajj, two weeks after Riyadh announced it. "The Iranian delegation will travel to Saudi Arabia on February 23... and we hope to get tangible results," hajj affairs representative Ali Ghazi Askar told the Mizan Online news website. "For the time being, nothing is certain and we will attend the hajj as long as the situation is prepared for us," he said. The tone of the invitation is "not that much different from past letters", Askar said earlier. "All matters regarding the hajj - including accommodation, food, medical affairs, transport, pilgrims' security, banking and consular issues - must immediately be studied and appropriate solutions put forward."

UAE to invest \$163bn to diversify energy

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates announced yesterday plans to invest 600 billion dirhams (\$163 billion) in projects to generate almost half the country's power needs from renewables. "Our aim is to balance our economic needs with our environmental goals," Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum said on Twitter as the Gulf state unveiled its "Energy Strategy 2050". The country's energy mix by 2050 will comprise 44 percent from renewables, 38 percent from gas, 12 percent from clean fossils and six percent from nuclear energy, said Sheikh Mohammed.

FIFA APPROVES 48-TEAM WORLD CUP



ZURICH: FIFA President Gianni Infantino speaks during a press briefing after a meeting of the FIFA executive council yesterday at FIFA headquarters. — AFP

ZURICH: FIFA voted to expand the World Cup to 48 teams from 2026 in a victory yesterday for its president Gianni Infantino but derided by critics as driven by money and politics. In a deeply divisive move which will enrich scandal-tainted FIFA's coffers, its ruling council unanimously adopted an expanded format with 16 groups of three nations that will bring "benefits without negatives", said Infantino. "We have to shape the World Cup of the 21st Century... football is more than Europe and South America," the FIFA president said after the vote. "Many more countries will have the chance to dream."

It represents the first major change to the World Cup since the tournament was boosted from 24 to the current 32 teams for the 1998 tournament in France. But its many critics strongly oppose the latest move and it was branded a "money grab and power grab" by New FIFA Now, a group campaigning for reform of FIFA. Infantino took over the body 11 months ago with a vow to repair the damage done during Sepp Blatter's tenure by growing football across the globe.

Enlarging the World Cup was the centerpiece of that vision, but opponents say a bigger tournament will dilute the quality of play and overburden already exhausted players, particularly in Europe's money-rich leagues. Football's powerful European Club Association reiterated its strong opposition, describing the current World Cup model as "the perfect formula". "We understand that this decision has been taken based on political reasons rather than sporting ones and under considerable political pressure, something ECA believes is regrettable," the body which represents Europe's leading clubs said in a statement.

Javier Tebas, president of the Spanish La Liga, made no attempt to hide his disgust. "FIFA is doing politics. Gianni Infantino is doing politics," he thundered.

Continued on Page 13

TRUMP NAMES SON-IN-LAW AS SENIOR WHITE HOUSE ADVISOR

IVANKA TO QUIT BUSINESSES

NEW YORK: Donald Trump yesterday named son-in-law Jared Kushner as senior White House advisor, rewarding the man widely credited as the brains behind his election but courting serious legal and ethical concerns. The baby-faced real estate developer and magazine publisher, who turned 36 yesterday, will be the youngest top member of the administration, working closely with chief of staff Reince Priebus and chief strategist Steve Bannon. "Jared has been a tremendous asset and trusted advisor throughout the campaign and transition and I am proud to have him in a key leadership role in my administration," announced the Republican president-elect.

The appointment was announced two days before Trump is set to give his first news conference since the November election, in which he will detail plans for his own company and potential conflicts of interest while in the White House. Kushner, who is married to Trump's eldest daughter Ivanka, was credited with masterminding a data-driven campaign that focused on message tailoring and harnessing social media to an unprecedented extent.

The transition said that Kushner, whom Forbes estimates is worth \$1.8 billion with his parents and brother, will forego his salary while serving in the administration. The announcement made no direct reference to nepotism laws or other potential conflicts of interest for

which Kushner has hired a legal team. A federal law, passed after then-president John F Kennedy appointed his brother as attorney general, prohibits any president from hiring a relative.

Meanwhile, Ivanka will step down from the Trump Organization and her own label, US media reported yesterday. They suggest an effort by Ivanka Trump, vice president of development and acquisitions at the Trump Organization who set up her own company that sells clothes, shoes and jewelry, to comply with ethics laws. Ivanka came under fire shortly after the election, when her company used her appearance in a family television interview to market a \$10,000 gold bracelet that she wore during the segment.

Given Trump's reliance on Kushner, advisors have already spent weeks saying there could be more leeway for a White House rather than a cabinet job. But The New York Times at the weekend spotlighted what it called the "ethical thicket" that Kushner would have to navigate while advising his father-in-law on policy that could affect his business holdings. Under his leadership, real estate group Kushner Companies has completed more than \$14 billion in transactions and \$7 billion in acquisitions since 2007, according to its website. He and his brother co-founded an investment company.



Jared Kushner

Continued on Page 13

SWISS MUSLIM GIRLS MUST SWIM WITH BOYS: COURT

STRASBOURG, France: Muslim parents in Switzerland cannot refuse to send their daughters to school-run swimming lessons with boys, Europe's top rights court said yesterday, dismissing a challenge by a Turkish-Swiss couple claiming the rule violated their beliefs. The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) accepted that the refusal by Swiss authorities to exempt the couple's two daughters from the compulsory lessons interfered with their freedom of religion. But the interference, it ruled, was justified by the need to protect the children from social exclusion.

School has become the focal point in several high-profile battles between Swiss authorities and Muslim families who say their religion prevents their children from participating in some mixed activities. Last year, a high-profile case involving Muslim pupils in the northern canton of Basel refusing to shake hands with their female teachers caused an uproar.

School plays "a special role in the process of social integration, particularly where children of foreign origin were concerned," the ECHR, which is based in the French city of Strasbourg, said. Swimming lessons are "not just to learn to swim, but above all to take part in that activity with all the other pupils", it added. Several parents in Switzerland have incurred fines in recent years for keeping their daughters home from obligatory swimming lessons.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Prosecutor General Advisor Dherar Al-Asousi and newly-appointed lawyers at the Public Prosecution. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Prosecutor General Advisor Dherar Al-Asousi.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah poses with Advisor Mubarak Al-Rifai.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah poses with Advisor Mohammad Al-Duaij.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah poses with Advisor Rujuib Al-Rujuib.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Prosecutor General Advisor Dherar Al-Asousi, Advisor Mubarak Al-Rifai, Advisor Mohammad Al-Duaij and Advisor Rujuib Al-Rujuib.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the Public Authority for Communications and Information Technology Salem Al-Uthaina and Wireless Mobile Data Company representatives.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq.

AMIR, CROWN PRINCE MEET NEW LAWYERS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah have separately received the Prosecutor General Advisor Dherar Al-Asousi yesterday. During the receptions, Asousi presented the newly-appointed lawyers at the Public Prosecution, Advisor Mubarak Al-Rifai, Advisor Mohammad Rashed Al-Duaij and Advisor Rujuib Al-Rujuib.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received Chairman of the Public Authority for Communications and Information Technology Salem Al-Uthaina, as the Wireless Mobile Data Company (WiMD) is getting ready to launch its free Wi-Fi service in Al-Mubarakiya traditional Market.

Uthaina was accompanied by representa-

tives of WiMD: Abdulrahman Khaled Al-Ghunaim, Suad Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, Abdulaziz Ahmad Al-Ghnam, Ahmad Abdulaziz Al-Ghnam, Mishal Adel Al-Ibrahim, Heitham Abdulrahman Al-Ghunaim, and Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The meeting was attended by Deputy Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

First of its kind

After the meeting, Uthaina told the press that His Highness the Amir gave his blessings to this first of its kind cooperation between private and public sectors in the realm of Wi-Fi network technology. Al-Mubarakiya Market will be the first location to be provided with a free Wi-Fi service, other locations will follow, Al-Uthaina pointed out.

Chairman WiMD Mishal Adel Al-Ibrahim added meanwhile that the whole country will be provided with the same free Wi-Fi service, as a step towards eventually turning Kuwait in to a smart country. The opening ceremony of this service will be in cooperation with Public Authority for Communications, Kuwait Municipality, and Al-Asma Governorate.

Wireless Mobile Data Company (WiMD) is a young and aspiring privately owned company (licensed sub-ISP) offering high speed wireless internet and data solutions to residential and corporate customers in Kuwait. WiMD wants to make broadband available everywhere, even on the road.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir met with Chairman of the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO), and Amiri Diwan

Advisor Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq. The meeting came on the occasion of Maatouq's win of the 'Person of the Year 2016 for Social Responsibility' award in recognition of his distinct efforts in supporting humanitarian projects and social responsibility. Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince received Director General of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Phone call

In other news, His Highness the Amir received a phone call from Acting President and Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea Hwang Kyo-ahn. During the phone conversation, they discussed bilateral relations between both friendly nations, several issues of mutual

interest and the latest regional and international developments.

The Korean leader wished His Highness the Amir good health and wellbeing, and Kuwait everlasting progress and welfare. His Highness the Amir thanked Hwang Kyo-ahn for this communication that reflected close relations between both friendly nations, wishing him well-being and his country more development.

Separately, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences yesterday to Germany's current president Joachim Gauck over the death of former German President Roman Herzog. Two cables of similar sentiments were sent to the German president by His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. —KUNA

KUWAIT CONDEMNS SINAI TERRORIST ATTACK

KUWAIT: Kuwait strongly condemns the terrorist attack that targeted a security checkpoint in Al-Arish city, northern Sinai, Egypt, which killed and wounded a number of policemen and civilians. Kuwait stands by and supports Egypt in all security measures it takes to preserve its security and stability, an official source at the foreign ministry affirmed, reiterating Kuwait's firm and principled stand against all forms of terrorism and violence.



It also expresses sincere condolences to the Egyptian leadership, government, people, and families of the victims, wishing a speedy recovery for the wounded. At least six policemen were killed and nine others injured in a car bomb attack on a security checkpoint in Al-Arish city, northern Sinai earlier.

According to Egyptian security sources, four civilians were also injured in the attack, adding that the explosion was followed by exchange of gun fire between armed men and security forces. The sources noted that the militants also attacked an ambulance as it was taking the wounded to the hospital. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Ministry of Interior's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad meets with Ambassador of South Africa Mzolisa Bona.



Ministry of Interior's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad meets with GCC officials. —Interior Ministry photos

COOPERATION ESSENTIAL TO ENHANCE SECURITY: OFFICIAL



Ministry of Interior's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad meets with Ambassador of Italy Giuseppe Scognamiglio.

KUWAIT: Ministry of Interior's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad has stressed the importance of fruitful and constructive cooperation in enhancing all security fields. Fahad made his remarks in a press statement Monday following his meeting with the Ambassador of South Africa Mzolisa Bona, affirming Kuwait's solid cooperation ties with South Africa.

The meeting discussed a number of subjects of joint interests, he said, expressing his aspiration to increase cooperation and coordination between the two countries, particularly in advanced technology, a field in which South Africa has significant expertise.

Meanwhile, Bona affirmed his country's aspiration toward a fruitful coordination with Kuwait in technology, especially in light of the integrated development and diversity in a number of reputable security institutions. He also expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Kuwait for the care and generosity it provides to his fellow countrymen.

Later, Fahad discussed with the Ambassador of Italy Giuseppe Scognamiglio a number of security subjects related to benefiting from criminal, laboratory, and crime scene sciences. The two sides also discussed scientific and specialist trainings, coastal science, and ways to benefit

from advanced equipment in the security field. Moreover, Fahad expressed his aspiration toward further technical collaboration between the two countries.

In other news, Fahad received Dr Mohammad Al-Ghailani, Head of the GCC permanent mission to the United Nations in Vienna, and Dr Adnan Al-Tamimi, Head of the GCC Center for the Management of Emergencies. Director General of the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department Brigadier Adel Ahmad Al-Hashash, and Director of Drug Control General Department Colonel Waleed Al-Duraie attended the meeting.

LEARN AND LEAD: ZAIN'S 'GENERATION Z' GRADUATE PROGRAM SELECTS FIVE CANDIDATES TO COMMENCE ONE-YEAR INTERNSHIP

BRAINCHILD OF ZAIN GROUP VICE CHAIRMAN BADER AL-KHARAFI

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces the selection of five talented Kuwaiti nationals to participate in the company's year-long graduate training program, dubbed 'Generation Z'. The recently revamped program is targeted at candidates who display high levels of entrepreneurial flair, who will be able to inject a startup mindset during their time at Zain Group.

The successful candidates were handpicked following a rigorous assessment process and will be placed on the year-long course, which will test their knowledge, enhance their learning through targeted development, and support them to cultivate their ideas in ways that are customer-centric and relevant.

The 'Generation Z' Youth Empowerment Initiative is the brainchild of Zain Group Vice Chairman Bader Al-Kharafi, a keen supporter of developing and empowering Kuwaiti youth and builds on the Zainers 2.0 graduate program that was launched in September 2015, which has witnessed several graduates gain successful employment opportunities with Zain Group as full-time staff.

Zain Group ensured the details of the 'Generation Z' program were shared with relevant potential candidates throughout Kuwait by promoting it extensively on Zain Group's career page online, and by placing further details on other social media outlets. In November 2016, the company produced and launched a commercial on YouTube to promote the activity and to appeal to aspiring 'Generation Z' applicants. The video may be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf6_8wydnCc

Successful operations

Commenting on the commencement of the innovative new program, Zain Group Vice-Chairman, Bader Al-Kharafi said, "We believe entrepreneurship is an important way to help

commercial entities grow and capture new market opportunities. It combines having a daring attitude, with the ability to identify market opportunities and translate them into successful commercial operations.

The Vice-Chairman continued, "I welcome the five graduates joining us, and congratulate them for their selection. Over the weeks and months ahead, we look forward to charting how they progress, and are keen to witness their contribution to Zain's entrepreneurial outlook and digital lifestyle aspirations."

The selection process for the 'Generation Z' program showcases the extent to which Zain went to identify the right caliber of participant. There were over 150 initial applications, with 40 making it through to pre-interview assessment. Of those 40 candidates, 30 were selected to attend the Assessment Day held on 4 January, 2017. This interaction consisted of a structured face-to-face interview, group exercise and a case study presentation on online gaming. Candidates had to present their findings to a large audience of assessors including the Zain Group Vice-Chairman, and at the end of the day, the successful five candidates were selected.

The candidates will enjoy their first day of the program on 10 January, 2017, marking the commencement of their rigorous year-long training schedule. Over the period they will be challenged, tested, enlightened and forged into young professionals ready to lead. The ultimate goal of the program is for graduates to design and pitch a new value proposition for Zain, which if approved, will be implemented commercially.

During the course of the program participants will be helped to cultivate ideas in ways that are customer-centric and relevant. They may have an idea that needs some additional work or are looking to bounce the idea off new colleagues. Zain offers ways to push that thinking further. Developmental areas of interest to Zain include Big Data, digital services, mobile money, data analytics, and innovation.



KUWAIT: Five Kuwaiti nationals selected to participate in Zain's training program pose with Scott Gegenheimer, Chief Executive Officer of Zain Group (left) and Bader Al-Kharafi, Zain Group Vice Chairman (right).



KUWAIT: The new digital external broadcasting vehicles Al-Seif. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and other officials are seen in attendance.

INFO MINISTER LAUNCHES SEIF, RAWDATAIN BROADCAST VEHICLES

AL-QURAIN TV LAUNCHES JAN 29



Rabia Al-Jumah

ARAB WOMEN JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

KUWAIT: The first conference of Arab women journalists stressed the importance of enhancing the role of women journalists as active and influential members in media fields, as one of its recommendations in its concluding meeting yesterday.

The conference, which focused on media and violence as its theme, came out with other few recommendations, most importantly opening communication channels among various Arab media organizations on different platforms in order to ensure delivering a vital message to the youth, which focuses on rejection of violence.

Rabia Al-Jumah, Deputy Chairman of Arab women journalists - Kuwait branch, told the press yesterday that the conference also touched on the importance of implementing media work ethics to deliver an honest and transparent message to the public. Building better societies and enhancing the status of women in their communities are among the conference's recommendations.

The Arab women journalist conference was held on January 8-9 under the sponsorship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the attendance of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. The conference saw the participation of 17 Arab countries. —KUNA



Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah speaks during the event.



Kuwait TV Director Amani Al-Enezi speaks.



Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah checks one of the new vehicles.



By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Television is now ready to compete with international channels after the ministry of information provided some of the latest outdoor broadcast solutions for media crew at government TV channels. Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, the Minister of Information and the Minister of the State for Youth Affairs, launched the two digital external broadcasting vehicles at a ceremony in the courtyard of the television building.

He said that the new vehicles, called Al-Seif and Al-Rawdatain, embody the supreme care of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who support the improvement of the potentials of the media and its capabilities.

"This equipment complements the ministry's plan to acquire a technical infrastructure that was initiated four years ago, when we renovated the satellite broadcasting stations and TV studios. The ministry has also been training its staff to use these latest technologies to serve the community in Kuwait and to relay the achievements of all other state institutions," Sheikh Salman said.

Kuwait TV Director Amani Al-Enezi spoke about the differences between the current TV production process and how groundbreaking it was for directors in the past. She, on behalf of the directors, was grateful for the presence of such modern equipment and cameras that help them be more creative.

Concurring with the start of celebrations of Kuwait's national days from the 29th of this month, Kuwait TV will change the name of its Kuwait Plus channel to Al-Qurain. Around 85 percent of programs will be based on old footages and local TV archives. Meanwhile, 15 percent will be new productions of heritage and cultural shows.

In Brief

HASHEL TENURE RENEWED

KUWAIT: The Cabinet has approved a request by Deputy Prime Minister and Anas Al-Saleh to renew the tenure of Mohammad Al-Hashel, the Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait for an additional five years' period starting from April 1, 2017. The decision became effective after it was published in the latest issue of Kuwait's national gazette "Kuwait Al-Youm."



LIVE AMMUNITION DRILL

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry said yesterday that Kuwait Coastguard will conduct a shooting drill using live ammunition in the country's territorial waters during January 15-17. The exercise will be carried out from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm near the Islands of Qaru and Umm Al-Maradem, it said in a press release. — KUNA



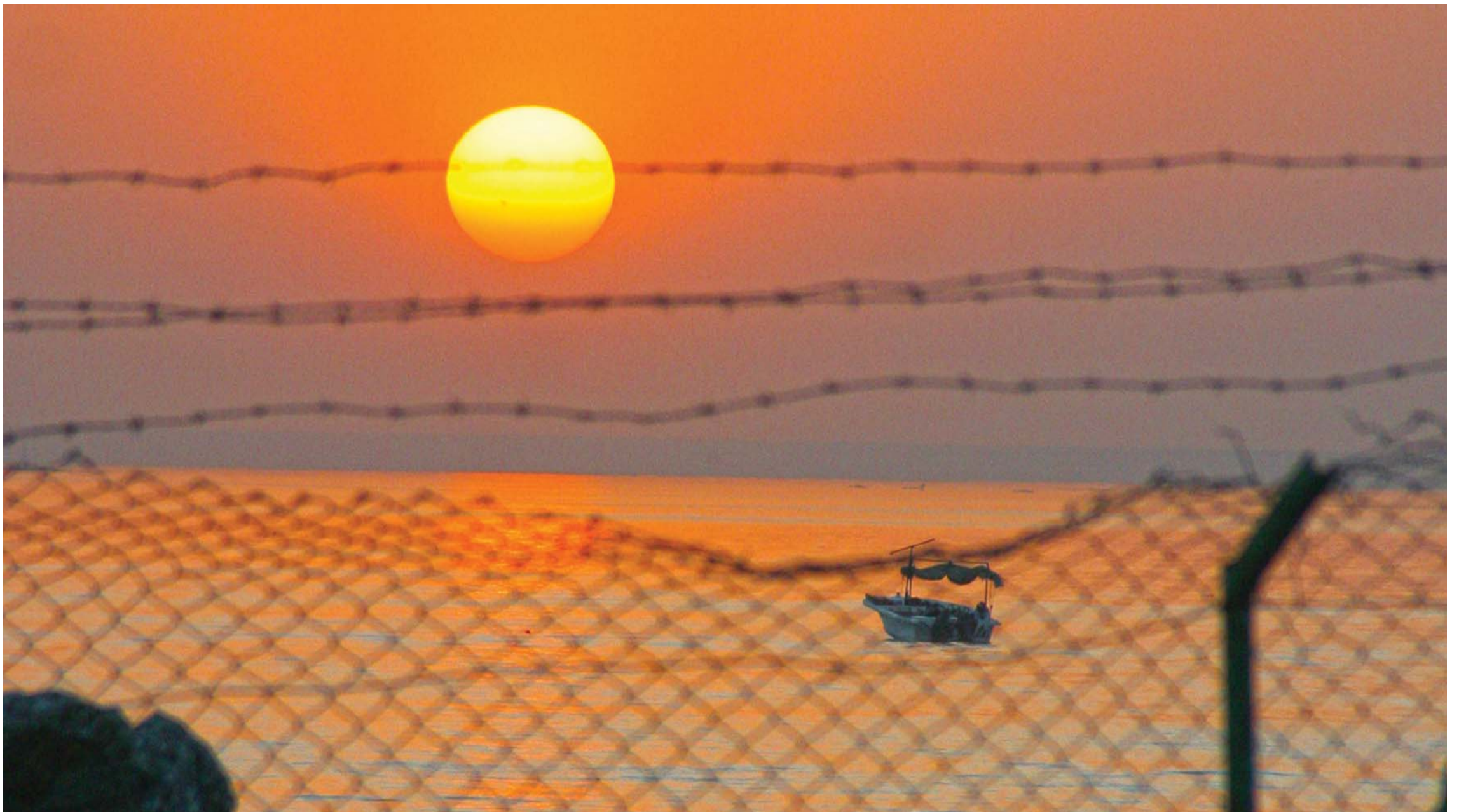
PROFESSOR HONORED

KUWAIT: Gland Endocrinology professor at Kuwait University's medical faculty Dr Kamal Al-Shomar had earned an award for excellence from the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists for 2017. Dr Shomar is also in charge of the glands ward at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital. He earned the award for his researches and studies in the realm. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: This undated photo shows a motor boat sailing into the sunset in Kuwait. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Supported by **Australian Embassy in Kuwait** In cooperation with **Kuwait Times**

Colours of Australia

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

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..

Sponsored by **CROWNE PLAZA KUWAIT AL THURAYA CITY**, **ACK Australian College of Kuwait**, **VIVA**

• 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 Kuwait Times and collect the drawing sheet.
• Drawing sheets will be given to schools FREE of charge.
• Only drawing sheets provided by the Kuwait Times will be permitted for use in the competition.
• You may use any drawing material such as colour pencils, paint or crayons.

If you are interested in participating, please fill in the form and send it to Kuwait Times, P.O. Box 248352021, Kuwait. For more information, please visit our website at www.kuwaittimes.net or call us at 248352021. For more information, please visit our website at www.kuwaittimes.net or call us at 248352021. For more information, please visit our website at www.kuwaittimes.net or call us at 248352021.



KUWAIT: KUNA's Director General Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah meets with Chadian Ambassador to Kuwait Ahmed Agbash. — KUNA

KUNA CHIEF MEETS CHADIAN AMBASSADOR, KUWAITI EXPLORER

KUWAIT: Kuwait News Agency's (KUNA) Director General Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah received Chadian Ambassador to Kuwait Ahmed Agbash at his office yesterday. The two sides discussed issues of mutual concern in media and means of boosting cooperation in the field. During the reception, Sheikh Mubarak stressed the important role of media in bringing nations closer, especially in the age of internet and technology. Meanwhile, Agbash hailed KUNA's fast and transparent coverage of regional and international news.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij then received Kuwaiti explorer Abdulmohsin Al-Baghli, who recently concluded a motorcycle trip to Russia. The two sides discussed difficulties faced in the trip, including the extremely cold weather conditions and heavy snow in Siberia.

Baghli went on a two-month trip last September, where he passed through the Gulf countries then to Iran by sea, followed by Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Russia. The explorer is set to start the second round of his trip in April, to raise the Kuwaiti flag in the Russian Far East. The receptions were attended by KUNA's Deputy Director General for Administrative and Financial Affairs and Communications Abdulhameed Malak and Deputy Director-General for the Editorial Sector and Editor-in-Chief Saad Al-Ali. — KUNA



KUNA's Director General Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah meets with Kuwaiti explorer Abdulmohsin Al-Baghli.



KUNA's Director General Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah receives a present from Kuwaiti explorer Abdulmohsin Al-Baghli.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL TO MULL FUTURE PLANS FOR AL-SAWABER COMPLEX

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Head of the structural plan committee at the Municipal Council Ali Al-Moussa announced holding a workshop about the municipality's vision and future plans for Al-Sawaber Complex next Monday. "Being in the heart of Kuwait City and covering a large area, Al-Sawaber is very important and can be used for many activities that will eventually help turn Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub," he said.



Ali Al-Moussa

"The ad called for an extraordinary general assembly meeting to be held on Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 4:00 pm at the union's headquarters to elect a new board of directors," he explained, adding that the ad also urged members to pay their subscriptions by Jan 17. He added the publish-

er also urged all readers to disregard any other ads.

Watri added that the previous caretaker committee headed by Saleh Ahmed Al-Anboee had concluded its tenure on Dec 3, 2016 and the current one was selected by the general assembly on Dec 4, 2016 that decided holding an extraordinary general assembly meeting on Feb 4, 2017 to elect a new board of directors.

Road projects

The Ministry of Public Works' (MPW) road engineering sector yesterday announced launching the new phase of a media campaign titled 'Everybody Knows' under the supervision of assistant undersecretary Ahmed Al-Hessan with the aim of highlighting the sector's statistics and current and future achievements. In this regard, Hessan stressed that the sector is keen on communicating with the media since he assumed office, with the aim boosting awareness and communication with the public and transparently provide information about MPW projects.

KUWAIT ADHERES TO HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES: DIPLOMAT

CAIRO: Kuwait is committed to adhering to the Arab charter on human rights, the country's permanent envoy to the United Nations (UN) Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim said yesterday. The Kuwaiti diplomat made the remarks in a speech during the 12th session of the Arab Human Rights Committee, where a national report provided by Kuwait was discussed.

Moreover, he noted that Kuwait has made a raft of legislative decisions to reinforce fundamental values and human rights, adding that "progress still needs to be made on this issue." On Kuwait's participation in the session, Ghunaim said that it reflects an earnest desire to benefit from the most exemplary practices and efforts in the field of human rights. He also thanked the Arab Human Rights Committee for its valued contributions to

human rights efforts through its abidance by the Arab human rights charter.

In a speech of his own, Chairman of the Arab Human Rights Committee Dr Hadi Al-Yami heaped praise on Kuwait's rich democratic history and vibrant society. Yami underscored that respect of human rights is often an indicator of a nation's level of development and ability to manage its internal and external affairs.

Meanwhile, a statement issued after the session noted that Kuwait was able to respond to all queries posed by the committee and has provided all the information needed. The Arab Human Rights Committee is devoted to examine human rights conditions in the Arab world, monitoring how much progress is made on the issue in the region. — KUNA

Crimes

report



KUWAIT: A wrecked sedan and a damaged water tanker truck are seen following an accident reported at Wafra Road yesterday.

MOTORIST KILLED IN WAFRA ROAD ACCIDENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A 28-year-old citizen was killed while an Asian driver was injured in an accident reported on Wafra Road yesterday. The deceased man was driving a sedan which collided with a water tanker truck, driven by the Asian. The coroner recovered the deceased man's body after paramedics pronounced him dead on the scene. The truck's driver was taken to hospital for treatment. An investigation was opened to determine the cause of the accident.

Patrol car torched

Criminal detectives arrested two suspects who torched a patrol car at the central prison, the Interior Ministry's relations and security information department said in a statement issued to the press. It added that the first suspect is an inmate jailed for possession of drugs, while the second suspect is a bedoon, a former inmate, who had contacts with the first suspect.

Fire near university

Fire broke out in a store near Sabah Al-Salem University area, which belongs to a private company. Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Ardhiya and back-up centers responded. Firefighters found containers on fire, as well as two bulldozers parked near them. The fire was put out in record time to prevent it from spreading further. Separately, firefighters tackled a blaze reported at a 100-square-meter garage in Industrial Shuwaikh yesterday. No injuries were reported.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department launched a field inspection of the machinery used in clearing road. Jamal Al-Fadhli, the cleaning manager at the Capital municipality, said extensive campaigns will be launched to develop cleaning mechanisms and inspectors will have to work two shifts. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

We rent fully Furnished Apartments in Kuwait

By AAA Housing

From more than 30 years, we provide furnished apartments with services for long term contracts in different locations in Kuwait

Salmiya, Jabriya, Salwa, Maheboula Fintas & Mangaf areas

- Housekeeping
- 24 Hours Security
- Maintenance
- Recreational Facilities
- Satellite cable
- DSL Internet Connection

For Additional information, please Contact us

Office: +965 22268700 / +965 22465888

Mobile: +965 99224057

Fax: +965 22268780 / +965 22433625

Website: www.aaahousing.com

Email: house@aaahousing.com



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

URGENT VACANCIES

Are you Interested in Joining a Leading group & Tire Brand for a Position of Deputy Divisional Manager - Tires

DEPUTY DIVISIONAL MANAGER - TIRES

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business or Mechanical Engineering.
- 5 Years Minimum Experience in the same Field.
- Strong Communication, Analytical, Technical skills.
- Pleasant Personality with Leadership Qualities.
- Good communication skills in English and Arabic.
- Holding Valid Kuwait Driving License.
- Visa 18 (Transferable).
- Age not more than 40 Years.

TIRE SALES EXECUTIVE

APPLICANTS MUST HAVE:

- Young, Dynamic & Highly Motivated.
- 3-5 Years of Proven Sales Experience in Local Market.
- Graduate in Science or Mechanical Engineering.
- Desire to Grow and Having Knowledge of Fleet and Government Business.
- Preferably Bilingual.
- Holding Valid Kuwait Driving License.
- Transferable Residency.
- Age Below 35 Years.

The right candidates can send their CV to E-mail: hrd@kaico.net

LEARN, THINK... BECOME champions

Achieve your potential with our diverse programs:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Accounting | Finance |
| Communication and Media | Graphic Design |
| Computer Engineering* | Information Systems |
| Computer Science | International Relations |
| Economics | Management |
| Electrical Engineering | Marketing |
| English | Social and Behavioral Sciences |

AUK also offers a Pre-University Intensive English Program (IEP)

* The BE Degree Program in Computer Engineering is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (ABET).



LEARN
THINK
BECOME

Tel: 1-802040 / (+965) 2224-8399, Ext: 3148 Fax: (+965) 2224-8379 | admissions@auk.edu.kw
www.auk.edu.kw | [American University of Kuwait](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanUniversityofKuwait) | [@AUKtweets](https://twitter.com/AUKtweets) | [@auk_kuwait](https://www.instagram.com/auk_kuwait) | [theAUKvideo](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkUjv8o8)

The American University of Kuwait received its Institutional Accreditation from the Private Universities Council (PUC), Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, and has a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire - USA).



Crime

Report

ACADEMIC ASSAULTED

KUWAIT: An academic at Kuwait University was beaten and insulted by an unidentified person, thought to be a student, who chased him and forced him to pull aside. The suspect opened the door of the victim's car, pulled him out and beat him, all the while swearing at him, then fled. The academic went to Mubarak Hospital for treatment, then went to the police station and lodged a complaint.

Search for 'the boss'

A Lebanese man asked Hawally police to help him get his car back from his wife. A security source said the Lebanese told police his wife took his car for a spin and ignored his calls. The man gave police the title of his car, which is in his name, adding, "All I want is my car back." When police asked whether his wife lives with him, he said she does, "but she wants to be the boss and I cannot stop her!" Police attempted to call the woman but she did not respond, so detectives were asked to find and arrest her.

Marital problems

A female citizen got into an argument with her Lebanese husband in a Hawally park and insulted and threatened him in front of everyone. She then took their children and left, after threatening him once again not to come close to her or the children. The husband went to the police station and asked them to protect him from her. Police registered a case, and the woman is being summoned for questioning.

Thieves caught

Hawally detectives arrested two bedoons who robbed taxi drivers in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. Many complaints were received by Jleeb police about two young men who got in a taxi, then as soon as the car moved, they pulled knives at the cabbie and asked for his money. If he refused, he was beaten up, and his money and mobiles were stolen. The two suspects were arrested in their residence and victims identified them.

Drug possession

Airport customs officers arrested a citizen who works as a flight attendant with cocaine, marijuana and three bottles of liquor. The suspect arrived from Germany, and during inspection, the illicit substances were found. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department. — Al-Rai



الجريدة

Al-Jarida

DEVIATION OF MPs

By Khalid Al-Tarrah

No matter what the reasons and circumstances are, and if the dialogue deviates, our conviction and compliance with the constitution remain deep and fixed. Rather, we are more adherent to it, because it is the pride of Kuwait, the country and people. The deviation of some of those who were elected by the people to represent them at the National Assembly from values and democratic dialogue is not an easy or acceptable matter, especially when the deviation becomes a flagrant violation of national interest.

A former member of parliament, an academic and a lawyer who seems to have studied Islamic sharia, human rights, Hezbollah and the bloody methodology of "Syria's butcher", which is not yet available in the scientific arena, selected an adversarial and insulting stance towards Saudi Arabia, which represents a strategic depth for us in Kuwait, while he continues his defense of Iran and Syrian regime of "Bashar the Butcher".

It is for sure the fault is not in democracy, rather in odd practices and the government's laxity since the summer in confronting this "lightweight" as described by the writer Abdulrahman Al-Rashid. Yes, this former MP drew the media and political interest in Kuwait and outside, but this does not mean that he is one of the heroes of freedom and defenders of freedom of expression that are guaranteed in the constitution, and it seems that he read it in reverse or in a language that is not Arabic. The historic lesson that awaits the former MP, who is a fugitive, is to face the verdicts against him with the courage of a man of law and articulate, and not con-

test judicial rulings through video recordings, and get ready for a suitable security reception following an exhausting trip to appear at the public prosecution, as he is the one who publicly insulted a brotherly country and the law too. This does not relieve the government from its responsibility to take a decisive stand against him and others who are defending Hezbollah, which is considered a terrorist organization, so maybe his voters and others learn the lesson to safeguard the cohesiveness of Kuwait society.

There are strict parliamentary values and practices such as those adopted by the British House of Commons, which has restrictions on members of parliament and sets the punishment, so that immunity does not become a refuge for whoever wants to harm democracy and brotherly countries, as the case was with MP George Galloway before the launch of Desert Storm, when he verbally insulted the British foreign minister and lauded Saddam, and due to this, he was not allowed to attend sessions for a while and was forced to apologize officially to the foreign minister in the house.

We hope that any similar odd practices be buried as they reflect lack of loyalty to the homeland, Kuwait. As for that former MP, we wish him a pleasant stay in Iran and Syria if he decides not to face the justice of courts in Kuwait, or join the university that granted him the PhD, which he refused to name during an interview, to be able to export the Iranian revolution and the butcher of Syria to his sectarian surroundings.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

WHAT IF?

By Ali Mahmoud Khajah

We have many government-proclaimed non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Kuwait, such as those representing graduates, lawyers, engineers, journalists and others that have great roles in non-government activities. Some of these societies are parts of regional or international organizations that help enhance their activities and make them more comprehensive. The Kuwait government has provided many of these societies with land and annual budgets.

Such government-provided privileges entail some kind of follow-up, because it would be illogical that the state funds NGOs without monitoring their activities to make sure these funds are not spent on non-accrued purposes. Let us take Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) as an example. It is a humanitarian society proclaimed by Kuwait in 1966, and joined the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1991.

This means that KRCS is a Kuwaiti government-proclaimed society that, at the same time, works under the umbrella of an international organization - IFRC. So, what if we hypothetically assume that KRCS officials commit some financial violations and these are detected by the government's auditors as ones committed by members of the board of directors, whom I fully trust? But this is just an assumption. What if they embezzled funds or used the headquarters for purposes other than those the society had been founded for?

According to Kuwaiti laws, this allows the government to impose some penalties such as dissolving the board of directors, appointing a new one, referral to public prosecution and other penal measures to hold those responsible for public fund violations legally accountable. Let us also assume that IFRC contacts the Kuwaiti government ordering the reappointment of the dismissed board of directors to avoid exclusion from it. What will the situation be like, then? Will we urge the government to reappoint the violators and public fund usurpers or will we commend the measures taken by the government?

This is exactly what is happening today with international sport organizations; ones that I will not discuss the evident corruption prevailing in. I will ignore this to discuss the content of their correspondence and demands to reappoint local sport unions the Kuwaiti government has indicted for clear financial violations. Yielding to such demands made by local unions would compel us in the future to turn blind eyes to any financial violations out of fear of international organizations.

Therefore, no matter what the cost is, accepting such a suspicious condition will open wide for all international organizations to interfere in various local activities in the future and impose their own will, tailored according to their strong relations with some Kuwaitis, on the Kuwaiti people and government. And, as a Kuwaiti, this will not deter me from violating public funds as long as I have strong ties with international organizations that share the same interests as me!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Ghadeer Al-Awadi

NBK DEDICATES 6 BRANCHES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CUSTOMERS

KUWAIT: Driven by its mission to introduce the best banking solutions for customers and in support of the Central Bank of Kuwait instructions and regulations that urge banks to provide tailored services for people with special needs, NBK has dedicated 6 fully-equipped branches in various governorates to accommodate people with special needs.

NBK's Head of Branches, Ghadeer Al-Awadi stated that the bank is committed to develop inclusive banking services that cater to all segments, including customers with special needs; whether the blind, deaf or people with physical disability. That's why 6 branches were fully equipped as per the highest international standards to welcome and accommodate customers with special needs from the moment they arrive until the moment they leave.

Awadi added that the bank currently offers designated services in all branches for this segment, like: reserved and clearly marked parking spaces, as well as wheelchair friendly access to the branch and ATMs. Yet, NBK has recently implemented additional services and measures across selected branches, which are: Fahaheel Al-Saheli, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Cinema Salmiya, Saad Al-Abdullah, Rehab and Head Office to further support our customers with special needs.

Besides, the 6 branches are managed by a team of well-trained staff to communicate in sign language, in addition to services for the visually impaired and disabled customers such as Braille printing facilities inside the branch, iPads providing speech to text functionality for visually-impaired, easily accessible safe deposit boxes, and debit and credit cards with photo functionality for easy identification, when requested.

Moreover, NBK's ATMs are equipped with Braille key-pads and a headset jack for voice guidance commands to assist customers in conducting their transactions privately, as well as employing extra security measures inside the ATM room to guarantee customers' safety and personal wellbeing at all times.

Awadi concluded by affirming that this step stems from the bank's strict adherence to CBK's latest instructions and regulation to equip one branch in each governorate to serve people with special needs, as well as translates NBK's mission to deliver world-class banking services that cater to all segments.



Ooredoo officials pose for a group photo with members of the Proteges campaign.

OOREDOO PROUD OF PROTÉGÉS ACHIEVEMENTS

AS PART OF ITS ONGOING SUPPORT FOR YOUTH

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, the fastest network in Kuwait, is proud of the achievements of the 6th generation of the Proteges youth development program. The mentor-based program focuses on giving students an unparalleled experience to hone their skills and instill the values of leadership and innovation in them.

Commenting on this, Ooredoo Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Alalayoub said: "We take great pride in our sponsorship of Proteges; an effective and life changing program that allows youth to gain essential and practical skills and knowledge that will allow them to grow with a stronger sense of direction. Moreover, youth have long been a key element of our Corporate Social Responsibility strategy and by taking part in this initiative we are given the chance to directly contribute to the development of our youth's skills and know-how, and in turn their future as decision makers and the leaders of tomorrow's Kuwait".

The 6th generation of the Proteges titled their project 'Waseelah', an Arabic word that means 'path' or 'way'.

Waseelah is a platform that strives to raise awareness that all talents are influential, and motivate the general public to express themselves through various forms of art. It has culminated in the musical production entitled the Key of Life, which uses music and acting to demonstrate the types of classical Arabic music.

Ooredoo Kuwait has also played an active role in supporting Proteges activities, which include the lecture presented by Professor Fathi Al-Khamisi's on the revolutionary work of the Egyptian musician Sayed Darwish, and the introductory session that was held with the main mentors for this season of Proteges.

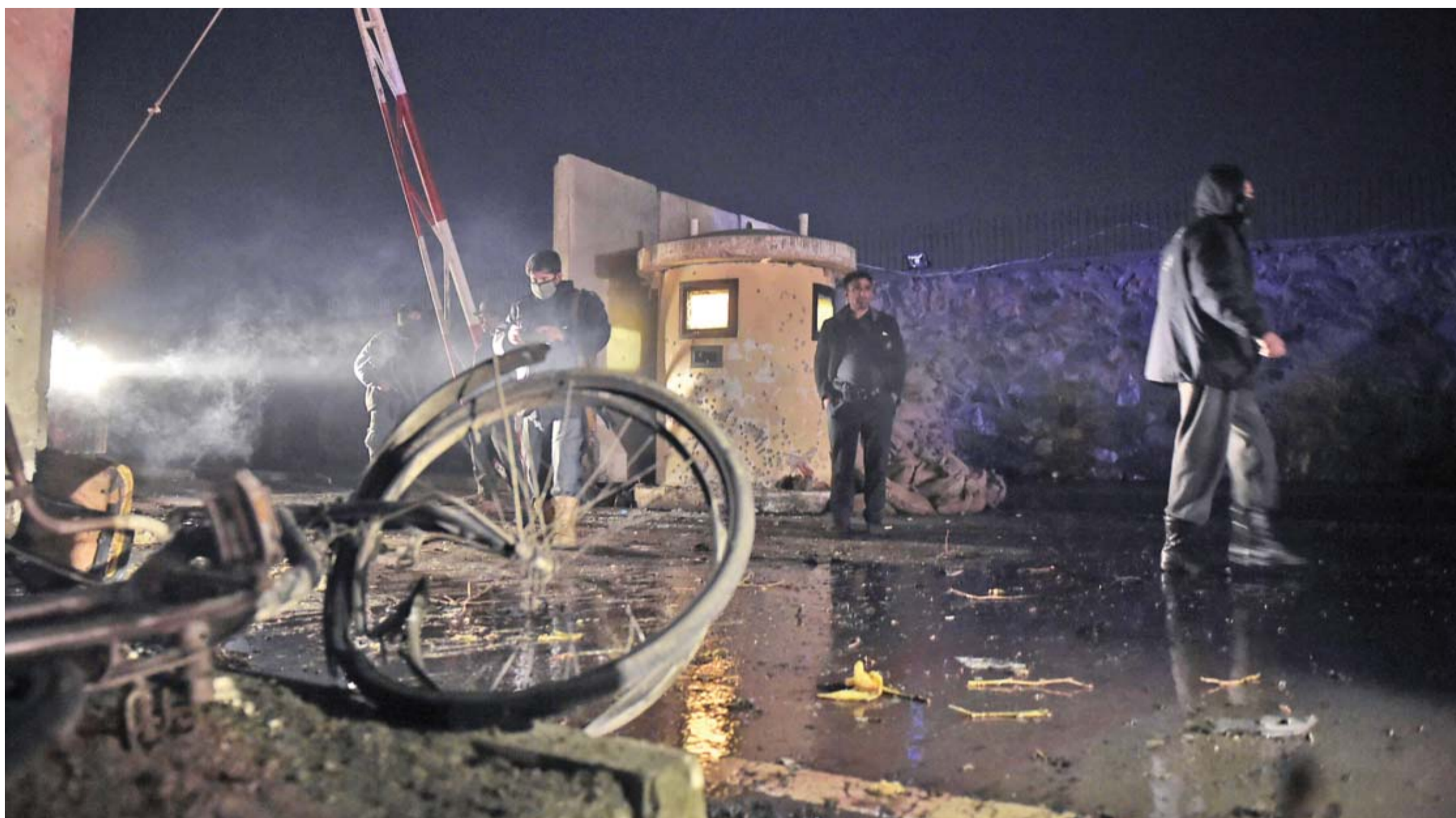
The Proteges program was launched in 2010, with the objective to mentor youth between the age of 16 and 24 by local iconic figures in different fields. The program aims to reinforce the social and personal skills of youth, develop their self-awareness and improve their critical and creative thinking. The program includes workshops, projects and open discussion circles. This year's program was kicked off early July and will continue for 6 weeks.



Mijbil Alalayoub



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017



KABUL: Afghan security personnel stand in front of damaged gate after twin blasts struck near the Afghan parliament in Kabul yesterday. — AFP

TWIN TALEBAN BLASTS NEAR AFGHAN PARLIAMENT

30 DEAD, 80 INJURED

KABUL: Twin Taliban blasts struck near the Afghan parliament in Kabul yesterday, killing at least 30 people and wounding 80 in a rush-hour attack that shattered a relative lull in violence in the capital. The bombings came just hours after a Taliban suicide bomber killed seven people in Lashkar Gah, the capital of the volatile southern province of Helmand, as the militants ramp up attacks. The blasts in Kabul tore through employees exiting a parliament annex, which houses the offices of lawmakers, leaving the area littered with bloodied bodies.

"A suicide bomber on foot caused the first

explosion, leaving a number of innocent workers killed and wounded," Zabi, an injured parliament security guard, said. "The second one was a car bomb. The vehicle was parked on the other side of the road and flung me back when it detonated," he said. The blasts left 30 people dead and 80 wounded, some of them in serious condition, health ministry spokesman Waheed Majroh said, warning that the toll was expected to rise.

The dead included at least four policemen who were killed in the second explosion when they rushed to help the victims of the first blast, a security official said. The carnage underscores growing

insecurity in Afghanistan, where around 10,000 US troops are helping struggling Afghan forces to combat a resilient Taliban insurgency as well as Al-Qaeda and Islamic State militants. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said they were behind the Kabul explosions, adding the victims were mostly Afghan intelligence agents. The insurgents are known to exaggerate battlefield claims.

The parliament complex has been a prime target for insurgents. In June 2015 Taliban militants attacked the old parliament building, sending lawmakers running for cover in chaotic scenes relayed live on television. That incident

ended two hours later when all seven attackers, including a suicide car bomber, were gunned down by Afghan forces. The Taliban are pressing ahead with nationwide attacks despite the onset of winter, when fighting usually ebbs, as international efforts to jumpstart peace talks falter.

Repeated bids to launch peace negotiations with the Taliban have failed and a fierce new fighting season is expected to kick off in the spring. Afghanistan last week welcomed the Pentagon's decision to deploy some 300 US Marines to Helmand, where American forces engaged in heated combat until their mission

ended in 2014. The Marines will head to the poppy-growing province this spring to assist a NATO-led mission to train Afghan forces, in the latest sign that foreign forces are increasingly being drawn back into the worsening conflict.

The situation in Afghanistan will be an urgent matter for the new US president, even though America's longest war got scarcely a passing mention in the bitterly contested presidential election. President-elect Donald Trump has given few details on his expected foreign policy, with even fewer specifics on how he will tackle the war in Afghanistan. — AFP

OBAMA SAYS GOODBYE IN LAST PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

WASHINGTON: Barack Obama closes the book on his presidency yesterday, with a farewell speech in Chicago that will try to lift supporters felled by Donald Trump's shock victory.

Obama's last trip on Air Force One will be a pilgrimage to his adoptive hometown, where he will address a sell-out crowd not far from where he accepted the presidency eight years ago.

Diehard fans—many African Americans—have braved Chicago's frigid winter to collect free tickets, which now sell for upwards of \$1,000 a piece on Craigslist.

The First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife Jill Biden will come along on for the ride. Obama's cross-country trek would be a sentimental trip down memory lane, were it not slapping in the middle of a tumultuous presidential handover.

Trump has smashed conventions,

vowed to efface Obama's legacy and hurled personal insults left and right. The 2016 election campaign has raised serious questions about the resilience of US democracy. In a virtually unprecedented move, US intelligence has accused the Kremlin of tipping the electoral scales in Trump's favor.

Democrats, cast into the political wilderness with the loss of the White House, the Senate and the House of Representatives plus a majority of statehouses, are struggling to regroup.

With an approval rating hovering around 55 percent, Obama will hope to steel them for new battles ahead. Lead speechwriter Cody Keenan said the address will be about Obama's vision for where the country should still go. "It's not going to be like an anti-Trump speech, it's not going to be a red meat, rabble rousing thing, it will be statesman-like but it will also be true to him," Keenan said. "It will tell a story." — AFP

NEW YEAR OFFER FROM AL BABBAIN

3 + 1 FREE

2017

Buy 3 Dunlop or Maxxis tires renowned for their high endurance and modern technology & get the 4th tire for FREE.

Offer starts from Jan 9th until April 8th, 2017

GULFEX
ALBABBAIN GROUP

Hotline 1822500 | Al Rai 24764061 / 2/3 | Shuwaikh 24824256
 Canada Dry St. 24838784 (1) | Canada Dry St. 24923502 (2)
 Fahaaheel 23927102 | Ahmadi 23988842 | Jahra 24551392
 Ardiya 24622898 | Khaitan 24756775 www.babbain.com

AL MULLA EXCHANGE
الصيرفة المول

REMIT TO WIN
ELECTRONIC ITEMS DELIVERED IN INDIA

Grand prize: \$20,000

Do a transaction to India and you hold a golden chance to take home electronic items of your choice. Free delivery done in India

1st Prize	\$20,000	SAIFUDDIN AHMED SAIF
2nd Prize	\$10,000	YOUSUF ALI AHMED AHMED
3rd Prize	\$5,000	MUHAMMAD MOJIB MUHAMMAD
4th Prize	\$2,500	SAIF MUHAMMAD SAIF
5th Prize	\$1,250	SAIF MUHAMMAD SAIF
6th Prize	\$625	MUHAMMAD SAIF MUHAMMAD
7th Prize	\$312.50	MUHAMMAD SAIF MUHAMMAD
8th Prize	\$156.25	SAIF MUHAMMAD SAIF

184 0123

JUDGE TO SENTENCE MAN FOR PLOTTING TO JOIN TERROR GROUP

CENTRAL ISLIP, New York: Was he a dedicated Islamic radical who proudly proclaimed his commitment to jihad, unaware his words were secretly being recorded by the FBI? Or was he a misguided, mildly autistic teenager who didn't understand what he was doing? A federal judge in New York is set to decide how much prison time Justin Kaliebe deserves for plotting to join al-Qaida in 2013. Now 22, Kaliebe was a 16-year-old high school student who had recently converted to Islam from Roman Catholicism when he landed on the radar of undercover agents on the hunt for would-be radicals on suburban Long Island.

FBI agents and New York City police officers watched him for 18 months before arresting him four years ago after

he went to Kennedy Airport intending to fly to Yemen, where he would join the terrorist group al-Qaida. Kaliebe pleaded guilty within a month of his arrest. His sentencing was delayed for four years while the court held hearings into whether he understood the gravity of his crime. Kaliebe's attorney argued that his client has Asperger's syndrome, which is on the spectrum of autism, and also had developmental issues and a troubled home life.

Federal prosecutors asked US District Court Judge Denis Hurley to give him 24 years. They said the undercover agents interacting with Kaliebe made video recordings of him talking admiringly about terrorists Anwar al-Awlaki and Osama bin Laden as leaders who "bore witness to the truth with their

blood." Just days before his arrest, Kaliebe pledged in one of those secretly recorded conversations that he would rather go to prison than abandon his plan to join Islamic militants. "One of my highest goals in life is to fight with the mujahedeen. And I define victory as martyrdom ... or victory on the ground," Kaliebe said.

When the agent asked him to reconsider and stay home, Kaliebe refused. "If the cops were to come right now and would force me out of this car and arrest me, it would still be better for me to go to prison than for me to stay here and live a life, a demeaning life," he said. Kaliebe briefly cooperated with prosecutors after his arrest, but then declined to assist in their investigation of another Long Island man, Marcos Alonso

Zea, who was ultimately convicted of helping the teen develop his plan to link up with militants in Yemen. Zea is now serving 25 years. Defense attorney Anthony La Pinta said he will ask the judge to sentence Kaliebe to the time he has already served.

"Mr. Kaliebe's circumstances present extraordinary and compelling personal, medical and psychological mitigation," La Pinta said. "He was a young misguided, autistic, teenager who never expressed any interest to harm the public." In court, Kaliebe was described as a loner and a child of divorce who shuffled between his parents' homes growing up. He converted to Islam around 2010, drawn in by the fellowship he found at Brentwood, New York, mosque. An imam said he complained about his home life

and at one point asked him if he could live at the mosque.

"He was known as the weird kid from the beginning, and children treated him that way," his sister, Jami Kaliebe, testified last summer at a pre-sentencing hearing. "I never really knew him to have a true friend." In a letter to the judge, prosecutors conceded the Kaliebe had painful childhood experiences, but they said he knew what he was doing when he allied himself with Zea, an extremist. They said the teenager willingly chose a violent path, and knew what he faced if arrested. "Rare is the case where a defendant is so aware of the unlawfulness of his conduct as to actually quote the federal criminal code that applies to him during the commission of his offense," prosecutors said.—AP

NORWEGIAN MASS MURDERER BREIVIK MAKES NAZI SALUTE

'REVIEWING THAT HIS SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IS INHUMANE'

SKIEN, Norway: Norwegian mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik made a neo-Nazi salute as he walked into a courtroom at a high-security prison where judges yesterday began reviewing a ruling that his solitary confinement is inhumane. Dressed in a dark suit, the bearded Breivik stared briefly at reporters while making the salute but did not speak. Judge Oystein Hermansen asked Breivik not to repeat the salute, saying it insulted the dignity of the court. "It also disturbs what we are dealing with here, so I ask you not to repeat it," Hermansen said, brushing aside attempts by Breivik to defend his action.

The 37-year-old right-wing extremist, who killed 77 people in a bomb and shooting rampage in 2011, sued the government last year, saying his solitary confinement, frequent strip searches and the fact that he was often hand-

cuffed during the early part of his incarceration violated his human rights. But lawyers representing the government said he enjoys better prison conditions than some inmates in Norway. The government is appealing a surprise decision in April by the Oslo District Court, which sided with Breivik's claims that his isolation in the maximum-security Skien prison breaches the European Convention on Human Rights.

The ruling said "the prohibition of inhuman and degrading treatment represents a fundamental value in a democratic society. This applies no matter what - also in the treatment of terrorists and killers." It also ordered the government to pay Breivik's legal costs of 331,000 kroner (\$41,000). However, it dismissed his claim that his right to respect for private and family life was violated by restrictions on contacts with other right-wing extremists.

Safety reasons

Speaking for the state, Fredrik Sejersted said the government's view is that Breivik's prison conditions do not violate his human rights in any actual or legal sense. Describing the killer as Norway's most expensive prisoner, Sejersted said that "in many ways they are better than (those) of other prisoners to compensate for the fact that he cannot make contact with other inmates." "That is far from violating human rights," he said. Breivik was convicted of mass murder and terrorism in 2012 and given a 21-year prison sentence that can be extended for as long as he's deemed dangerous to society. Legal experts say he will likely be locked up for life.

He is being held in isolation in a three-cell complex where he can play video games, watch TV and exercise. He has also complained about the quality of the prison food, having to eat with plastic utensils and not being able to communicate with sympathizers. The government has rejected his complaints, saying he is treated humanely despite the severity of his crimes and that he must be separated from other inmates for safety reasons. Breivik had carefully planned the attacks on July 22, 2011. He set off a car bomb outside the government headquarters in Oslo, killing eight people and wounding dozens.

Dressed in a police uniform, Breivik then drove to the island of Utoya, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) away, where he opened fire on the annual summer camp of the left-wing Labor Party's youth wing. Sixty-nine people there were killed, most of them teenagers, before he surrendered to police. At the time of the attacks, Breivik claimed to be the commander of a secret Christian military order plotting an anti-Muslim revolution in Europe, but now describes himself as a traditional neo-Nazi who prays to the Viking god Odin. He also made a Nazi salute to journalists at the start of his human rights case last year.

The massacre shocked the oil-rich, quiet Scandinavian country and many feel Breivik has had too much attention and visibility. The case is being heard by the Borgarting Court of Appeals in a makeshift courtroom in the gym of Skien prison in southern Norway, where Breivik is incarcerated. Six days have been reserved for the hearings. Judge Hermansen said a ruling is expected in February. This story has been corrected to give the judge's name as Hermansen, not Hermanstein.—AP



NORWAY: Norwegian mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik (2L) stands in the courtroom next to his lawyers Mona Danielsen (L) and Oystein Storrvik during the appeal hearing in Borgarting Court of Appeal at Telemark prison in Skien, Norway, yesterday.—AFP

FIVE KILLED AS AIR STRIKE HITS YEMEN SCHOOL

SANAA: An air strike by the Saudi-led coalition on a primary school in rebel-held northern Yemen yesterday killed five people including two children, medical and military sources said. The headmaster and two other staff members were among those killed in the air raid in the district of Nihm, north-east of the capital Sanaa, which also left 13 wounded, the sources said.

A medical source at Kuwait Hospital in Sanaa confirmed the casualty toll. A government military official said the school was hit by two missiles by mistake, accusing the Shiite Huthi rebels of keeping armored vehicles nearby.

Rights groups have repeatedly criticized the coalition over the civilian casualties inflicted by its air strikes on rebel-held regions. In August, an air strike on a Koranic school in the northern Saada province killed 10 children and wounded 28 others, prompting a UN call for a swift investigation. The Arab coalition launched a military campaign against the Iran-backed rebels in March 2015 in support of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi. More than 7,000 people have been killed in the conflict.—AFP

COLOMBIA BRIDGE COLLAPSE KILLS 11

BOGOTA: Eleven people including an 18-month-old child plunged to their deaths and 13 were injured when a suspension bridge collapsed in central Colombia, officials said. The bridge collapsed and flipped over on Monday as people were crossing it in a rural area popular with holidaymakers near the town of Villavicencio.

"According to the information we have, 11 people were killed" including various minors, the head of the UNGRD state disaster management agency Carlos Ivan Marquez said. Local government official Hilton Gutierrez told the Blu Radio station that one of those killed was an 18-month-old child whose mother was carrying him across the bridge. Authorities at first reported seven people dead and four more died later from their injuries.—AFP

FINAL IRAN NUCLEAR TALKS BEFORE TRUMP TAKES OFFICE

VIENNA: Iran and major powers took stock yesterday of their 2015 nuclear deal, with Donald Trump's imminent inauguration and the death of a moderate former Iranian president raising worries about its future. Trump, who takes office on January 20, has vowed to dismantle the "disastrous" accord, which saw Iran drastically reduce its atomic activities in exchange for the lifting of painful sanctions. The death of Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Sunday aged 82 removed a widely respected backer in Iran of the deal at a time when frustration about the slow pace of sanctions relief is growing.

Iranian news agency ISNA called his passing a "great loss for the moderates", describing the ayatollah and president from 1989 to 1997 as "the sheikh of moderation." Yesterday's meeting in Vienna, the city where the hard-fought deal was struck in July 2015 — brought together senior diplomats from Iran and the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. It is the fourth such gathering to review progress implementing the accord since it came into force in January 2016 and was requested by Iran in December after US sanctions legislation was renewed for a decade.

US restrictions under the Iran Sanctions Act targeting mostly Tehran's oil and gas sectors remain suspended but the Islamic Republic still saw the move as a violation of the nuclear deal. There is also disappointment in Iran that many of the economic benefits that President Hassan Rouhani, 68, promised would come from the deal have fallen short. This could hurt Rouhani's chances of winning a second term in elections in May, particularly with Rafsanjani, a key supporter, now gone.

Iran has been able to ramp up its vital oil exports to pre-sanctions levels and signed deals to splurge billions of dollars on dozens of new aircraft made by Airbus and Boeing. However Iran's ability to do more business with the outside world is being hampered by US sanctions related

to non-nuclear issues such as "terrorism" and missiles remaining in place. Fearful of falling foul of these and being slapped with hefty fines, this has made foreign banks reluctant to facilitate major transactions with Iranian firms.

All eyes on Trump

All bets could be off in any case if Trump tears up the agreement, one of outgoing President Barack Obama's signature foreign policy achievements. Like many fellow Republicans, Trump is deeply suspicious of Iran and the 70-year-old looks set to be a close ally of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu, whose country is widely assumed to have nuclear weapons itself, fiercely opposes the nuclear deal with Iran, saying it will fail to prevent its arch foe getting the bomb.

Trump has not publicly discussed the subject in detail since his election victory in November, but his pick to head the CIA, Mike Pompeo, has made his opinions clear. "I look forward to rolling back this disastrous deal with the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism," Pompeo tweeted the day before his nomination.

However, unilaterally ripping up the agreement might not be so easy, not least because the deal was endorsed by Russia, with whom Trump wants to improve relations, and the rest of the UN Security Council. Russia's envoy in Vienna to the UN, Vladimir Voronkov, appeared laid-back on Thursday.

"The election campaign is one thing, but a new stage when he enters office is another," he told the Russian news agency TASS. "Then he (Trump) will get an opportunity to have another look at the document, to the practice of its implementation to find his position on it in the future," he said. A Western diplomat involved in yesterday's meeting said he did not expect any Trump representatives to attend this time. "It would be surprising for someone not yet in place to take part," the envoy said on condition of anonymity.—AFP



TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei leads a funeral ceremony held for the former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in the capital yesterday.—AFP

THOUSANDS THROUGH RAFSANJANI FUNERAL

TEHRAN: Hundreds of thousands of mourners attended the funeral yesterday of Iran's ex-president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, whose death leaves a hole in the upper reaches of power for the country's moderates. It took more than two hours for the cortege to make its way through the crowds to the south Tehran mausoleum where Rafsanjani was laid to rest. Tehran city officials estimated that at least two-and-a-half million people took to the streets to bid farewell, which would make it the largest funeral attendance since the death of the Islamic revolution's founder Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989.

Pallbearers accidentally knocked the former president's trademark white turban off the coffin as they carried it into the burial chamber at Khomeini's mausoleum. Rafsanjani, who served as president from 1989 to 1997, was a father figure for Iran's moderate and reformist camps. His death is a blow for President Hassan Rouhani, whose 2013 election was largely due to Rafsanjani's support.

Rouhani, who spearheaded the thaw with the West that culminated in a 2015 nuclear deal, faces a tough re-election battle in May amid disappointment over the smaller than anticipated economic dividends of the lifting of international sanctions. Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led the eulogies to Rafsanjani at Tehran University despite their "differences".

Rafsanjani fell out of the regime's highest inner circle following the 2009 re-election of hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, when he spoke out against the use of lethal force on protesters who claimed the vote was rigged. Rouhani attended the funeral but so too did his conservative rivals, parliament speaker Ali Larijani, and his brother, judiciary chief Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani. One of Iran's most controversial figures in the West, the head of the elite Revolutionary Guards' foreign operations division, Major General Qassem Soleimani, also attended.

Tehran prayer leader Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani passed out and had to be treated at the scene by Health Minister Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, an ophthalmologist by training, Iranian media reported. Reformist former president Mohammad Khatami, an ally of Rafsanjani but long out of favor with the regime, was not part of the official delega-

tion. Some Twitter users said he had been prevented from attending.

'Hail Khatami'

State television coverage of the funeral procession captured a few seconds of chants of "Hail Hashemi (Rafsanjani), hail Khatami," before the broadcaster drowned it out with solemn music. Video clips published on social media showed pockets of mourners in the streets chanting slogans in support of both Khatami and fellow reformist Mir Hossein Mousavi. Mousavi and Mehdi Karubi, two of the losing candidates in the 2009 election, have been under house arrest since 2011 for leading the so-called Green Movement protests that the regime calls "sedition".

Khatami is under a strict media ban and is often prevented from attending public events. Rafsanjani's family thanked people for their support after the procession. "As every moment of Hashemi's life helped the country find its path, the impressive farewell of people to him can... point the return of society to the path of moderation and unity," it said in a statement quoted by the Tabnak website.

Black banners were raised in Tehran and some posters showed the supreme leader and Rafsanjani together smiling. Another poster said "good bye, old combatant". Since Rafsanjani's death, messages of condolence have poured in both from at home and abroad. Even the White House sent a message, unprecedented since the 1979 revolution that led to cutting of ties between Tehran and Washington.

"Former president Rafsanjani was a prominent figure throughout the history of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States sends our condolences to his family and loved ones," spokesman Josh Earnest said. "He was a consequential figure inside Iran. But you know, for what potential impact this could have on Iranian policy, I wouldn't speculate."

Yesterday was declared a public holiday in Iran and all public transport in Tehran was free for the day. Rafsanjani headed the Expediency Council, a key advisory and arbitration body. Khamenei must now appoint a successor and his choice will go a long way towards determining Rouhani's room for maneuver in the face of state institutions that are dominated by conservatives.—AFP



TEHRAN: Iranians gather around a hearse carrying the coffin of Rafsanjani during his funeral ceremony.

NEW 2017 TRAILBLAZER..

POWERFUL PERFORMANCE, FIERCE DESIGN



Starting from
KD 6995

PREMIUM FEATURES:



**V6 ENGINE 3.6 LITER
275 HP "MOST POWER-
FUL IN ITS CLASS"**



**SPORTY EXTERIOR
DESIGN & LED
DAYTIME RUNNING
LAMPS**



**REMOTE VEHICLE &
AC SYSTEM START**



**MYLINK INFOTAINMENT
SYSTEM WITH 7" COLOR
TOUCH-SCREEN AND
APPLE CARPLAY**

TEST DRIVE IT TODAY

FIND NEW ROADS

CHEVROLET



Call Center: 24969000

Safat Alghanim (Al Rai): Working Hours: (Saturday-Thursday) 8:30am - 10:00pm / (Friday) 9:30am - 10:00pm - Sharq, Fahaheel, Ahmadi: Working Hours: 8:30am - 12:30pm and 4:00pm - 8:30pm
Shuwaikh: Working Hours: 8:30am - 12:30pm and 4:00pm - 10:00pm - Fleet: 24969754 - KFH: 24397736/7 Working Hours: 8:00am - 2:30pm and 4:00pm - 7:30pm

chevroletalghanim.com

[/ChevroletAlghanim](https://www.facebook.com/ChevroletAlghanim)

[@ChevroletKW](https://www.instagram.com/ChevroletKW)

[@ChevroletKW](https://www.twitter.com/ChevroletKW)

[@ChevroletAlghanim](https://www.instagram.com/ChevroletAlghanim)

Alghanim
AUTOMOTIVE
Khalid Ahmad Alghanim & Sons

SWEDISH MINISTER HOPES TRUMP BACKS UN CHIEF ON AVERTING WARS

UNITED NATIONS: Sweden's foreign minister said Monday she hopes US President elect Donald Trump will support a strong United Nations and new Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' focus on preventing potential conflicts from turning into costly wars. Margot Wallstrom said in an interview with The Associated Press that Trump, who takes over the presidency from Barack Obama on Jan 20, should be judged by his actions - and not his tweets or past state-

ments. "So we are hoping that it will be a rational approach that will help us," Wallstrom said with a laugh. "We believe that the strong UN will be good also ... to make America stay great."

Trump has been critical of the 193-member world organization. Days after the UN Security Council approved a resolution last month condemning Israeli settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, Trump tweeted: "The United Nations has such great potential but right

now it is just a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time. So sad!" Sweden currently holds the rotating presidency of the Security Council and Wallstrom flew to New York to preside over a meeting yesterday at which Guterres will for the first time discuss his ideas for promoting a more peaceful world.

Wallstrom said conflict prevention is a top priority for Sweden and for Guterres, who took over as UN chief from Ban Ki-moon on Jan 1. She said Guterres has

made "the call for peace his signal to the world" and the United Nations must work with him to improve ways to prevent conflicts. "We used to say that if you want peace prepare for war, but I think that instead we have to admit that if you want peace you have to prepare for peace - and that's what we're interested in," she said. "Today, most problems know no national borders," Wallstrom said. "If you think conflict prevention is expensive, try war." During her meeting with Guterres

earlier Monday, Wallstrom said, they both agreed that "early warning has to be followed by early action."

She said there is a lot of uncertainty not only about Trump's support for the UN but about how he will take on the traditional US leadership of NATO. Trump criticized NATO during the presidential campaign and suggested the US might not defend partners that don't fulfill financial obligations to the longstanding US-European military alliance. —AP

FORMER GERMAN PRESIDENT ROMAN HERZOG DIES AGED 82

'A PATRIOT WHO SERVED THE COUNTRY IN MULTIPLE POSTS'

BERLIN: Former German president Roman Herzog, best remembered for urging "a jolt" of political and social reform in his country, has died at the age of 82, the presidential office said yesterday. He died in the early hours yesterday in a hospital near his hometown in the southwestern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, a spokeswoman said. Herzog, a former conservative

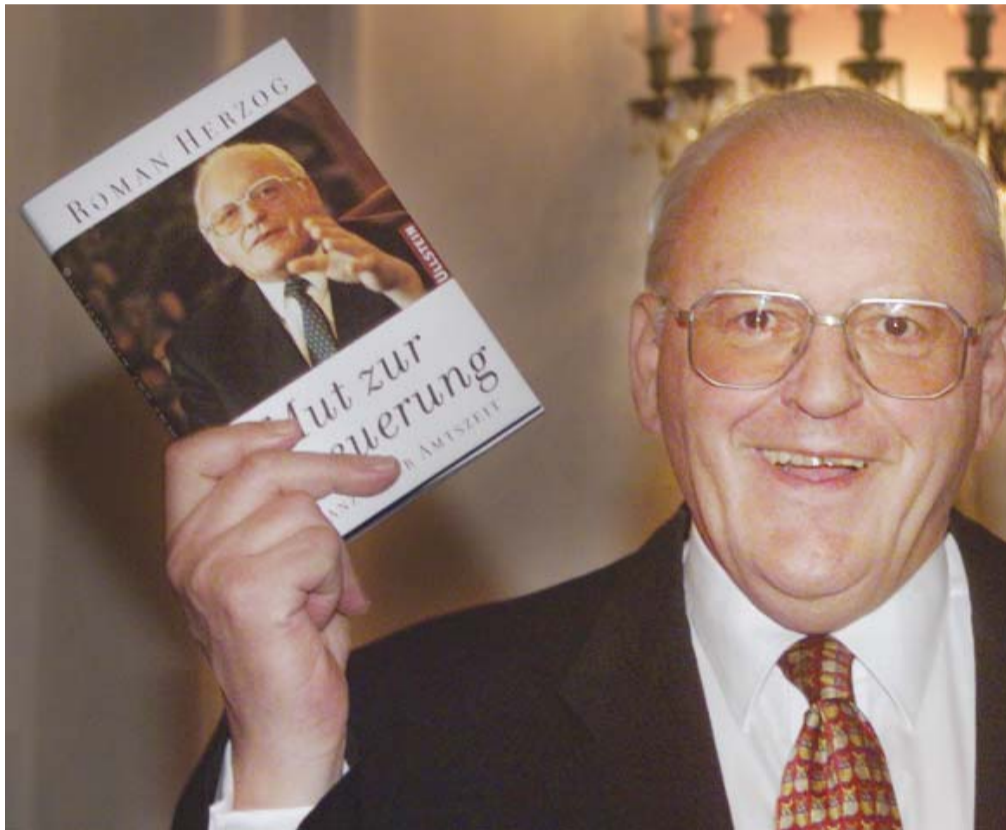
regional politician and chief judge of Germany's constitutional court, served as head of state, a largely ceremonial but influential post, from 1994-99. He is best remembered for the phrase "Germany needs a jolt" from his 1997 Berlin speech "Moving into the 21st century" in which he warned that a country scared of change would go under in a globalised world.

"Everyone is addressed, everyone has to make sacrifices, everyone has to participate," he implored the nation, a year before centre-left chancellor Gerhard Schroeder would take power and implement sweeping social welfare and labor reforms.

Germany's current chancellor Angela Merkel praised Herzog as a "patriot" who had served the country in multiple posts and was "plain-spoken, unpretentious, humorous, and quite self-ironic." Herzog, who was born in the southern state of Bavaria and grew up under the Nazi regime, is also remembered for travelling to Poland as soon as he assumed his post to ask for forgiveness on the 50th anniversary of the 1944 Warsaw uprising.

The following year, half a century after the liberation of the Nazi death camp Auschwitz, he attended a Jewish ceremony at the site. The World Jewish Congress yesterday honored Herzog as a "great fighter for the rule of law and for a free and tolerant society". Herzog had "distinguished himself with his great openness and friendship toward the Jewish community and for promoting its role in German civil society," said Maram Stern, the WJC's deputy CEO, in a statement. Germany's serving President Joachim Gauck, a former pastor and east German civil rights activist, called Herzog "a striking personality who influenced and helped shape Germany's image of itself and its society."

"With expertise, wisdom and great life experience, he served our country and its liberal constitution." Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier who is set to take over the presidency next month described Herzog as "a straightforward, honest, and intelligent man who was not afraid to speak the truth on hard issues but also never lost his profound sense of humor." Gauck offered his condolences to Herzog's second wife, Alexandra Freifrau von Berlichingen. Herzog had two sons with his first wife, Christiane, who died in 2000. —AFP



BERLIN: In this file photo German President Roman smiles during the presentation of his book titled *Courage for Renewal* in Bellevue castle in Berlin. —AP



FRANCE: Former French Prime Minister and candidate for the left-wing primaries ahead of the France's 2017 presidential elections Manuel Valls shakes hands with supporters as he arrives for a public meeting in Lievin. —AFP

FRENCH EX-PM VALLS STRUGGLES TO IGNITE PRESIDENTIAL RUN

PARIS: The worries are mounting for former French PM Manuel Valls as he bids to clinch the Socialist party nomination for this year's presidential election: sliding poll numbers, disappointing crowds and a muddled message. After shunting aside his long-time boss, deeply unpopular President Francois Hollande, Valls was hoping for a smooth run to the nomination in the Socialist primary vote later this month. But since Hollande decided not to run for re-election in December, the 54-year-old Spanish-born centrist has fallen from clear favorite to a man with a serious political fight on his hands.

A new poll on Monday showed Valls losing momentum as the primary votes on Jan 22 and 29 draw closer, with his leftist rival and ex-ministerial colleague Arnaud Montebourg beating him in some scenarios. "I'm trying to embody a reformist left-wing which rejects liberalism but tries to make progress at the same time," Valls said in an interview with France 2 television last week. This was reflected in his program, unveiled to little fanfare on Jan 3, that contained few of his formerly bold reform ideas.

'Taboo-breaker'

The father-of-four came to national prominence as a tough-talker who wanted to modernize his party by shrinking state spending, helping businesses and extending working hours. His record as prime minister for two and half years under Hollande includes pushing through liberalizing economic policies considered too rightwing by many Socialists. But now he needs the support of leftwing grassroots voters, many of whom prefer the traditional big state Socialist agenda of Montebourg, a former industry minister, or Benoit Hamon, an education minister.

"I know that lots of people liked me when I was a taboo-breaker. At five percent (in the polls) but of course I've changed. I haven't changed my convictions but I've grown wiser," Valls said last week. Only a few hundred people turned out to a Valls

event at the weekend in northern France. "He's Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde," joked the green candidate in the presidential election, Yannick Jadot, on Monday. In focus particularly is his declaration that he wants to phase out executive powers that allow the prime minister to force legislation through parliament-having used it six times while in office.

An aide in Hollande's camp, quoted by Le Monde newspaper this week, was even more biting in his assessment of Valls' campaign, which has already changed its slogan once. The president has apparently concluded that Valls does not have a project. "His project was to get rid of me" is what he says, the aide was reported as saying on Monday. The same criticism was leveled at Hollande this week by a former speechwriter who accused the head of state of wanting to become president but having no idea what to do with the power once in office.

Grassroots rebellion?

Valls is still hoping that party will not take the path of Britain's Labor party, which has lurched to the left since Jeremy Corbyn's election in 2015. Strong performances in three televised debates in the next fortnight could help change the momentum of the contest. But even if he does make it through the primary contest, a far tougher test awaits Valls in the first round of voting in the presidential election in April. Polls currently forecast the Socialist party candidate to finish fourth or fifth, behind two other former Socialists who are running as independents, the centrist Emmanuel Macron and the hard-left Jean-Luc Melenchon. Surveys currently tip rightwing Republicans candidate Francois Fillon to win and face far-right nominee Marine Le Pen in the second-round run-off in May, though analysts caution against making predictions. With the full range of candidates still unknown and politics in Western nations delivering frequent upsets, the race remains open and could well tighten in the months ahead. —AFP

KREMLIN DEPLORES US BLACKLIST ADDITIONS, ANOTHER STEP TO SOUR TIES

MOSCOW: Russia yesterday criticized Washington's blacklisting of a high-ranking official and the suspects in the murder of ex-spy Alexander Litvinenko as a move by the outgoing administration to further sour bilateral ties. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters the US decision to blacklist Investigative Committee chief Alexander Bastrykin and Litvinenko's alleged assassins, lawmaker Andrei Lugovoi and Dmitri Kovtun, represented "further steps in the artificially created degradation of our relations."

"We deeply regret the fact that a lingering period of unprecedented degradation in our bilateral ties occurred during (US President Barack) Obama's second presidential term," Peskov said. "We are convinced that this does not coincide

with our interests or that of Washington."

The US Treasury on Monday added Bastrykin, Lugovoi and Kovtun to the Magnitsky Act sanctions list in the latest spike of diplomatic tensions between Moscow and Washington. State Department spokesman John Kirby said the additions followed "extensive research" and targeted individuals with "roles in the repressive machinery of Russia's law enforcement systems, as well as individuals involved in notorious human rights violations." Washington has accused the Kremlin of orchestrating cyber attacks aimed at influencing the results of November's White House race.

US intelligence agencies last week released a report saying that Russian President Vladimir Putin personally ordered a hacking campaign and media manipulation to

upend the campaign of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. Moscow, which branded the report baseless and amateurish, has repeatedly rejected the accusations, over which Obama last month expelled 35 Russian diplomats allegedly involved in espionage and due to "harassment" of US diplomats in Russia.

Absurd sanctions

Lawmaker Lugovoi dismissed his being included on the sanctions list as "absurd", telling Russian media he was "perplexed" by the decision. "I think that Obama is now rushing before handing over ... to harm and spite Russia in any way he can, and this has led to absurd things," RIA Novosti state news agency quoted him as saying. Litvinenko, an ex-spy turned Kremlin critic, died of radiation poisoning in 2006 aged 43, three weeks after drinking tea laced with radioactive polonium at an up market London hotel.

An inquiry last year found that Lugovoi and Kovtun were likely to have carried out Litvinenko's poisoning on the instructions of the Russian security services-accusations Lugovoi has dismissed as "nonsense." The Magnitsky Act was originally passed to allow US officials to impose sanctions on Russians implicated in the 2009 prison death of Russian tax fraud whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky. But more individuals have been blacklisted over the years. The list now includes 44 people whose assets are frozen under US jurisdiction, and who are barred from doing business with Americans or receiving US visas. —AFP



GENEVA: Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades arrives on the second day of UN-sponsored Cyprus peace talks yesterday in Geneva. —AFP

MOROCCO FACES POLITICAL IMPASSE AFTER TALKS COLLAPSE

RABAT: Morocco is facing an unprecedented political deadlock after the Islamist prime minister broke off talks on forming a coalition government following three months of fruitless effort. The impasse apparently rooted in a power struggle between the Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD) and figures close to the royal palace threatens to provoke a political crisis and possibly even new elections. King Mohammed VI tasked Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane with forming a new government after his PJD won the most seats in October elections. The PJD rose to power after the king relinquished some of his near-absolute power following Arab Spring-inspired protests in 2011, with Benkirane heading a previous coalition government for five years.

The PJD faced a serious challenge from the secularist Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM) in October's vote, which campaigned against the "Islamization" of Moroccan society and came a strong second. Since the vote Benkirane has been haggling to rebuild his coalition, which had brought together a range of parties including other Islamists, liberals and ex-Communists. But he has proven unable to secure the 198 of 395 seats needed for a majority and in a surprise statement on Sunday said he was breaking off talks with two parties, the centre-right National Rally of Independence (RNI) and the Popular

Movement (MP). Analysts say the talks have become a power struggle between Benkirane and RNI chief Aziz Akhannouch, a billionaire outgoing agricultural minister who is close to the king. "Akhannouch's objective seems clear: to deprive Benkirane of oxygen," political analyst Mohamed Ennaji said. Mohammed Madani, another political analyst and law professor in Rabat, said the failure of the coalition talks reflects a wider power struggle.

"Akhannouch is not acting alone, he is the spokesman for the centre of power," Madani said. "It's about showing that what counts is not electoral success but closeness to the palace."

In the king's hands?

The PJD was the first Islamist party to win an election in Morocco and the first to lead a government, raising concerns among many in a country that has traditionally been among the more secular of Arab nations. Its 2011 win came after the king-whose family claims descent from Islam's Prophet Mohammed and has ruled Morocco since the early 1600s-gave up some of his power after thousands took to the streets in peaceful demonstrations inspired by the wave of uprisings across the Arab world. Among the reforms were a requirement for the king to nominate a prime minister from the party that won the most seats in Morocco's parliament. — AFP

Marketing Manager
Oasis Investment Co. LLC
Kuwait

You will be responsible for meeting all ministries, government bodies and consultants to get HVAC products specified in their vendor list, as well as, responsible for marketing promotions, conducting seminars etc.

Apply Now [JB3606921](#)

Unit Head - Internal Audit
Yiaco Medical Company
Kuwait

You will be responsible for the identification and reporting on all significant control weaknesses, through the application of a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improving the effectiveness of risk management, processes, controls and decision making.

Apply Now [JB3606341](#)

Manager - Learning and Development - Australian College of Kuwait - Kuwait

You will be responsible for the overall management of the learning and development unit, day-to-day management of the Learning and Development unit, assigning workflow for the design of quality professional training materials including workbooks, training aids, audio and visual support materials, etc.

Apply Now [JB3605991](#)

Finance Manager
Manpower Middle East
Kuwait

You will be responsible for reporting to the Country Manager and Regional CFO, controlling all financial aspects of company strategy, analyzing figures and implementing recommendations based on these findings, with the most profitable outcomes, managing and leading a team of two people through month end, year-end and annual budgeting.

Apply Now [JB3604529](#)

Brand/Marketing Manager
Mobile 2000
Kuwait

You will be responsible for the growth and positioning of the brand in the market, including the continual improvement of existing products and launching new initiatives, managing the product costing and define the distribution Network for getting the Brand lines into the market.

Apply Now [JB3603310](#)

Assistant Manager
American Employees Welfare Association (AEWA) - Kuwait

You will be responsible for administering association business practices and implementing policies, supporting the General Manager with store operations and with directing finances and recommendations of business management and maintaining AEWA inventory to include ordering, stocking, tracking, and sales.

Apply Now [JB3605150](#)

Area Manager
Al Muzaini Exchange Co.
Kuwait

You will be responsible for the administration and daily operations of the branches which entire to you including Transactions, Customer Service, Security and Safety of the branch in accordance with the company objectives and developing relationship with new customers (individual and corporates).

Apply Now [JB3605918](#)

Buyer
Kout Food Group
Kuwait

You will be responsible for negotiating and building relationships with manufacturers and suppliers, researching new or alternate materials/suppliers or origins of materials, preparing PO justifications, PO and approvals and training and developing myself and my staffs skills.

Apply Now [JB3605709](#)

Clinical Coordinator
Al Mada Derme Esthetique Clinique - KSA

You will be responsible for insuring high quality, well-coordinated patient flow in the clinic according to Al Mada guidelines and mission, creating the schedules for the clinic (Drs, nurses, staff), collaborating with Administrative team in clinical program goal setting, progress evaluations, and ongoing problem solving.

Apply Now [JB3605340](#)

HR & Admin Manager
DAG
KSA

You will be responsible for managing and monitoring Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the work, implementing strategies to achieve targets set, managing all HR related transactions and ensure they attended to in a timely manner, as well as, providing timely and accurate information to the external and internal auditors.

Apply Now [JB3605338](#)

Human Resources Senior Manager - Niagara College KSA (NC KSA) - KSA

You will be responsible for development of NC KSA HR policies, procedures and projects with local expertise and ensuring efficient implementation, maintaining awareness and knowledge of contemporary HR practice and providing suitable interpretation to managers and staff within the organization.

Apply Now [JB3605557](#)

Marketing Manager
Change Actions
KSA

You will be responsible for developing and implementing marketing plans for the organization's products/services in order to meet established sales or market share targets, conducting market research, overseeing product development and design, setting prices and launching new products.

Apply Now [JB3605389](#)

Public Relations Officer (PRO)
Middle East Container Repair Co LLC - UAE

You will be responsible for collecting and providing periodical updates from the government authorities on all Labor and Immigration rules to HR Dept, preparing, submitting, following up and collect new employment and business visas, applying for additional quotas with MOL, and renewing, updating and maintaining employees and their dependents visas, etc.

Apply Now [JB3606422](#)

Chief Accountant
GMS
UAE

You will be responsible for leading accounting team in different locations with ERP accounting system in all aspects of Company's books, including Receivables, Payables, Cost Accountancy and General ledger, working with outside accounts, consultants in various international jurisdictions to ensuring accurate and timely closure of books.

Apply Now [JB3606946](#)

Finance Principal
Janus Global Operations
UAE

You will be responsible for providing information and guidance to enable optimal business decisions across the Commercial Sector for Janus Global Operations, as well as, working closely with the CFO and finance team, focusing for the position will be profitability enhancement from pricing of proposals through analysis of financial performance of each project.

Apply Now [JB3606286](#)

Customer Support
Health Mart LLC
UAE

You will be responsible for developing and maximizing business opportunities across the UAE in the field of Home and Healthcare products, Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation and medical furniture, working very closely with managing director in securing new business and developing and growing the business.

Apply Now [JB3606340](#)

Accountant and Auditor
New Ways Trading and Contracting - Qatar

You will be responsible for gathering the company money from the market and to follow up our invoices with the main contractors, performing and controlling the full audit cycle including risk management and control management over operations' effectiveness, financial reliability and compliance with all applicable directives and regulations.

Apply Now [JB3607014](#)

Finance Supervisor - Financial Accounting
Qatar Airways - Qatar

You will be responsible for performing General ledger and fixed assets accounting functions. Update chart of accounts and perform monthly review of balance sheet schedules, assisting in periodic audits undertaken by external auditors or internal auditors across the network.

Apply Now [JB3607279](#)

HR Manager (Qatari National)
Elan Qatar
Qatar

You will be responsible for implementation of overall HR planning process and ensure that all HR activities are in line with defined policies and procedures of the company, and overseeing all day to day HR issues and activities in alignment to the organizational vision and goals.

Apply Now [JB3605291](#)

Assistant Financial Analyst
The Blue Group
Qatar

You will be responsible for current IT and communications network and systems, providing a strategic overview to meet future business and system needs whilst managing a team to ensure seamless service, overseeing any Information System installations ensuring backup systems operate effectively.

Apply Now [JB3604526](#)

www.bayt.com

Register > Upload your CV > Apply

EIGHT PHILIPPINE FISHERMEN SHOT DEAD IN PIRACY TROUBLED WATERS



PHILIPPINES: In this photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, members of the Philippine Coast Guard bring bodies of Filipino fishermen who were killed by suspected pirates in waters near Zamboanga City, southern Philippines yesterday. —AP

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines: Eight local fishermen have been found shot dead in their boat off the piracy-plagued southern Philippines, the military said yesterday. The outrigger boat was attacked in the Moro Gulf off the Zamboanga peninsula on Mindanao island on Monday night, it said, citing an account by one of seven survivors. A photograph released by the military showed the wooden fishing boat, recovered by the coast guard yesterday, with a bloodied corpse atop another corpse. "The other (crew) members jumped off the boat and survived," regional military spokesman Major Filemon Tan said.

Tan said authorities suspect the fishermen were killed either as part of an extortion attempt or due to rivalry with the crew of other fishing boats. The survivors swam to a small island, while the five unidentified gunmen left the area aboard their own boat, the spokesman added. The waters off southwest Mindanao are troubled by piracy, including by

Abu Sayyaf Islamic militants based on Basilan island and the Sulu island group near the port of Zamboanga. The International Maritime Bureau said in a report yesterday the number of maritime kidnappings worldwide hit a 10-year high last year.

It cited the Sulu Sea between eastern Malaysia and the Philippines as an increasing dangerous region. The Abu Sayyaf boarded at least one cargo ship and several coal barges last year, abducting dozens of Indonesian, Malaysian and other foreign crew members.

Some were later freed after the reported payment of ransoms. Tan did not say if the Abu Sayyaf had any role in Monday's attack. It came a week after suspected Abu Sayyaf gunmen on board two boats tried to board a Philippine-registered container ship off Basilan. The ship's hull was hit by bullets but it continued on its course with all 27 crew members safe after the gunmen failed to board the vessel, Tan said. —AFP

AFGHANS PUSH FOR TALEBAN 'SAFE ZONE' TO OUTFLANK PAKISTAN

'A BID TO TACKLE THE 15-YEAR INSURGENCY'

KABUL: Afghan officials are pushing to create a "safe zone" for Taliban insurgents in a bid to wean them away from traditional sanctuaries inside Pakistan, in a radical and contentious strategy to de-escalate the conflict. The plan underscores desperation in Afghanistan for out-of-the-box solutions to tackle the 15-year insurgency, as peace bids repeatedly fail and US-backed forces suffer record casualties in stalemated fighting. If implemented, the strategy aimed at undercutting Pakistan's influence over the Taliban could, for better or for worse, be a game changer in a strife-torn nation where ceding territory to insurgents is seen as tantamount to partition.

"I urge the Taliban to return to Afghanistan. We should make a safe zone for them and their families," Kandahar police chief Abdul Raziq told a gathering of religious scholars and tribal elders

some observers dismissed the strategy as "illogical" as the Taliban already control vast swathes of Afghan territory. Raziq did not respond to repeated requests for an interview, but a senior security official said that the government's goal "is to bring the Taliban from Pakistan to Afghanistan." "We will separate a territory for them to come with their families. Then whether they want to fight or talk peace, they will be relieved from the pressure of Pakistan," he said, speaking anonymously.

'Double game'

Pakistan began supporting the Taliban movement of the 1990s as part of its policy of "strategic depth" against nemesis India. Seen by many Afghans as the biggest obstacle to lasting peace, Islamabad has long been accused of playing a "double game" in Afghanistan: endorsing

Taliban figures call to make the insurgency independent of Pakistan's powerful intelligence agency, which they accuse of manipulating the group. "The presence of our movement's key decision makers and institutions inside Pakistan means they can impose things that are against the interests of our movement and Afghanistan," Sayed Tayyeb Agha wrote in a letter last year to Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhundzada.

"To be able to make independent decisions, our leadership... should leave Pakistan," the former head of the Taliban's political commission added in the letter. Afghanistan's National Security Council did not officially confirm the government strategy, saying only: "The Taliban are allowed to relocate to Afghanistan under state protection." The Afghan security official said the government was in contact with Taliban leaders over the proposal, a fact corroborated by militant sources in Pakistan. He refused to specify the potential location for the safe zone, and whether it will be immune from aerial bombardment or ground assault, but insisted no areas with military installations will be handed over.

Flawed strategy?

Speculation that the government was furtively trying to cede territory recently grew when local media cited secret military documents revealing Afghan forces were planning to retreat from two Helmand districts during a winter lull in fighting. Afghan officials dismissed the report, while also rejecting longstanding claims that the Taliban leadership council-Quetta Shura-has relocated to Afghanistan. But multiple insurgent sources said that prominent members, including the Taliban's military chief Ibrahim Sadr, recently moved to an undisclosed location in Afghanistan. "Ibrahim also urged Haibatullah to come to Afghanistan but he refused," a top Quetta Shura member said.

Obaidullah Barakzai, an MP from Uruzgan province, argued that giving the Taliban a permanent address in Afghanistan would make it easier to convince them to participate in an "Afghan-owned, Afghan-led peace dialogue without interference from our neighbor." However Timor Sharan, an analyst at the International Crisis Group, said the strategy was flawed. "It's like asking the Taliban to leave their brick-built houses and settle in a tent in the desert with half-hearted guarantees that they will not be bombed," Sharan said. "The Taliban need to receive a strong assurance from coalition forces, in particular the US, before making the move." But the Afghan security official insisted there was no military solution to the conflict. "If this plan does not work, Afghanistan will be ready for another tough year of fighting," he said. —AFP



AFGHANISTAN: This file photo shows Afghan Taliban fighters as they listen to an unseen Mullah Mohammad Rasool Akhund, the newly appointed leader of a breakaway faction of the Taliban, at Bakwah in the western province of Farah. —AFP

last month. "We can no longer rely on foreign governments and embassies to end the war. The Taliban belong to this country, they are sons of this soil." That Raziq, arguably the most powerful commander in southern Afghanistan and long one of the staunchest anti-Taliban figures, would suggest such an idea amplified the shockwaves it created.

"The government shouldn't be giving safe zones to terrorists," warned former Helmand governor Sher Mohammed Akhundzada, while

Washington's war on terrorism since the 9/11 attacks, while nurturing militant sanctuaries. After years of official denial, a top Pakistani official in 2016 admitted for the first time the Taliban enjoys safe haven inside his country, which Islamabad uses as a "lever" to pressure the group into talks with Kabul.

However, Pakistan has hosted multiple rounds of talks ostensibly to jumpstart a peace process-without result. The "safe zone" strategy appears to have taken shape as prominent



HONG KONG: Hong Kong's former chief executive Donald Tsang and his wife Selina arrive at High Court for his corruption trial in Hong Kong yesterday. —AFP

HONG KONG'S FORMER LEADER ABUSED POWER

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's former leader Donald Tsang abused power and was "hopelessly compromised" while in office, prosecutors said yesterday in opening arguments at his high-profile corruption trial. Tsang, 72, held the leadership post of chief executive for seven years from 2005 and is the highest ranking Hong Kong official to be taken to court for graft. While Hong Kong has earned a reputation as one of the world's most open and transparent markets, Tsang's is the latest in a string of misconduct cases which are fuelling public suspicion over cozy links between authorities and business leaders.

"This case is about integrity, honesty, standards of conduct in public life," said prosecutor David Perry at Hong Kong's high court. Tsang "exploited his position as chief executive," said Perry, in what he termed a "classic conflict of interest." Perry said Tsang "abused" his power to further his personal interests instead of acting on behalf of the Hong Kong public. The former leader has pleaded not guilty to three charges of misconduct and bribery relating to his time in office, each of which carries a maximum jail sentence of seven years.

He is accused of failing to disclose his plans to lease a luxury penthouse in the

neighboring city of Shenzhen from a major investor in a broadcaster-which at the time was seeking a license from the Hong Kong government. Tsang allegedly approved the company's application for the license, and also failed to declare that an architect he proposed for a government award had been employed as an interior designer on the flat. Another of the investor's companies also paid for a refurbishment of the flat, said Perry, including a gym, tea room and calligraphy room. Perry called Tsang's behavior "a betrayal of public trust."

Tsang, wearing a trademark bow tie, sat solemnly in court, coughing often during the afternoon session. In 2012 he apologized for separate allegations that he accepted inappropriate gifts from business friends in the form of trips on luxury yachts and private jets. Hong Kong's unpopular current leader Leung Chun-ying also faces allegations of corruption over receiving a reported payment of HK\$50 million (\$6.5 million) from Australian engineering firm UGL before he took office.

In 2014, Tsang's deputy Rafael Hui was jailed for seven-and-a-half years after being found guilty of taking bribes from Hong Kong property tycoon Thomas Kwok. —AFP

HRW URGES PAKISTAN TO INVESTIGATE ABDUCTION OF BLOGGERS AND ACTIVISTS

ISLAMABAD: Human Rights Watch yesterday asked Pakistan to urgently investigate the apparent abductions of four bloggers who campaigned for human rights and religious freedom, saying their near simultaneous disappearances raised concerns of government involvement. The statement came as leftwing and liberal activists prepared to hold protests throughout the country demanding the bloggers' release. The missing men are Salman Haider, a poet and academic, and bloggers Waqas Goraya, Aasim Saeed, and Ahmad Raza Naseer. The four went missing from various cities between Jan 4 and 7.

Pakistan is routinely ranked among the world's most dangerous countries for journalists, and reporting critical of security policies controlled by the powerful military is considered a major red flag, with reporters at times detained, beaten and even killed. Rights groups say Pakistani activists and journalists find themselves routinely caught between the country's security establishment and militant groups including the Taliban. "The Pakistani government has an immediate obligation to locate the four missing human rights activists and act to ensure their safety," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

"The nature of these apparent abductions puts the ... government on notice that it can either be part of the solution or it will be held responsible for its role in

the problem." The interior ministry said over the weekend it will investigate the disappearance of Haider, but made no reference to the others. A security source has denied intelligence services were involved in the disappearances. Liberal activists were set to hold protests in major cities yesterday afternoon, using the hashtag #RecoverAllActivists to generate support on social media.

Dawn, the country's leading English-language daily, meanwhile issued a strongly-worded editorial. "The sanitized language - 'missing persons,' 'the disappeared,' etc - cannot hide an ugly truth: the state of Pakistan continues to be suspected of involvement in the disappearance and illegal detentions of a range of private citizens," it said. "It is simply not enough for government and police officials to claim that the disappearances are being investigated. Haider and the other recently missing activists need to be returned to their families immediately."

In April 2015, prominent activist Sabeen Mahmud was killed by militants who said they carried out the attack because she promoted liberal, secular views. In April 2014, unidentified gunmen attacked but failed to kill Hamid Mir, one of the country's most recognized TV anchors. His employer and his family later accused the director general of the powerful Inter-Security Intelligence agency of involvement. —AFP



THAILAND: Supplies are lowered from an army helicopter to a rescue boat in the Chaiya district of Thailand's southern province of Surat Thani yesterday. —AFP

FLOODS SEVER OVERLAND ROUTES TO THAI'S SOUTH

SURAT THANI, Thailand: Overland routes to Thailand's flood-hit south were severed yesterday after two bridges collapsed following days of torrential rain that has killed at least 25 people, including a five-year-old girl. The heaviest January rains for three decades have lashed the country's south for more than a week, affecting 1.1 million people across eleven provinces. The unseasonal downpours have also put a dampener on Thailand's peak tourist period, prompting cancellations on popular resort islands including Samui and Phangan. The Highways Department said the main road heading down Thailand's southern neck was closed after two bridges collapsed in Prachuab Kiri Khan province.

Trains south have also been stopped by the rising floodwaters, increasing demand on already stretched flights to and from the flood-ravaged region. The death toll has crept up in recent days as floods have reached roof-top level in some areas. A five-year-old girl became the latest victim when a flash flood hit a van she was travelling in late Monday in Prachuab Kiri

Khan province. "Her family climbed to the roof of the van to avoid the water but she fell in with her mother," relief worker Rawiroj Thammee said. "The girl was swept away... villagers found her body 200 metres from the van yesterday morning."

'Lost everything'

January usually sees visitors flocking to southern Thailand's pristine beaches as monsoon rains abate and temperatures ease. But the region has been battered by what the Thai junta describes as the heaviest January rainfall in 30 years. In flood-hit areas of Surat Thani province, a tourist gateway to the party islands of Samui and Phangan, villagers said a week of rain had brought an unprecedented deluge. "Every year it floods, but not like this," Channan Ingkaew, a village leader in Chaiya district said. "There are 100 houses in my village, but we all had to leave and everything inside was lost... the water kept coming and coming, almost two meters high."

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha yesterday said

residents should have heeded evacuation warnings issued ahead of the floods. "Many people do not want to leave, they want to stay home," he said, adding their reluctance was making the relief effort more pressing. Prayut, who also heads the ruling junta, said unbridled growth of towns and cities without planning for drainage was making Thailand increasingly vulnerable to floods.

Vast tracts of the south-an agricultural hub for rubber, palm oil and fruit plantations-have been left under water while flash floods have caused deaths and widespread damage. Television images have shown villagers wading through muddy water in remote flooded hamlets, with a few salvaged belongings held above their heads.

Soldiers have been deployed to provide relief packages and rescue stranded people in the worst-hit areas. Patients were evacuated by canoes as a hospital was swamped with waters in Prachuab Kiri Khan province. The rain is forecast to slacken over the next 24 hours. —AFP

TRUMP NAMES SON-IN-LAW AS SENIOR WHITE...

Continued from Page 1

He is an active investor in technology companies and sits on the boards of several start-ups, as well as the left-leaning Democrat mayor of New York's broadband task-force. Kushner's lawyer said he would resign as CEO of Kushner Companies and "divest substantial assets in accordance with federal guidelines". "Mr Kushner is committed to complying with federal ethics laws and we have been consulting with the Office of Government Ethics regarding the steps he would take," said Jamie Gorelick, a partner at firm WilmerHale and a former deputy attorney general under president Bill Clinton, in a statement.

Kushner, his wife and three children have also reportedly settled on a home in the same upscale Washington neighborhood where outgoing President Barack Obama will live as his youngest daughter finishes high school. Fiercely loyal and discreet to a fault, Kushner has been a permanent fixture by his 70-year-old father-in-law's side, proving himself one of Trump's most trusted advisors despite his lack of political experience.

Such is his influence that transition officials told the Obama White House that foreign policy matters that need to be brought to the president-elect's attention

should be relayed through Kushner, the New York Times reported. Trump told the Times in November that Kushner, an Orthodox Jew, was so talented that he could help "do peace in the Middle East". "Every president I've ever known has one or two people he intuitively and structurally trusts," former secretary of state Henry Kissinger told Forbes late last year. "I think Jared might be that person," he added.

In stark contrast to his father-in-law, Kushner shuns the limelight and rarely speaks to the media. But like Trump, he took over the family real estate business and shifted its focus to Manhattan. A child of privilege, he grew up in a family of Democrat donors in New Jersey, before studying at Harvard and New York University. He was still a student when fellow Trump aide Chris Christie, then a US attorney, jailed his father for tax evasion, witness tampering and illegal campaign contributions.

Kushner picked up the pieces and took up the reins of the family business. Ten years ago he also added The New York Observer lifestyle newspaper to his portfolio and revived its fortunes by taking it online. So fierce is his loyalty that Kushner has repeatedly defended Trump against accusations of anti-Semitism, publishing an op-ed last July that referenced his Holocaust survivor family. — Agencies

SWISS MUSLIM GIRLS MUST SWIM WITH BOYS...

Continued from Page 1

The case in Strasbourg was brought by Aziz Osmanoglu and his partner Sehabat Kocabas, a Turkish-Swiss couple living in Basel, who were among a handful of parents fined in 2010 for refusing to allow their daughters to take part in swimming lessons. All of the girls concerned were aged under 10. Osmanoglu and Kocabas argued that forcing their daughters - aged seven and nine at the start of the dispute - to attend classes

that included boys until they reach puberty violated their faith.

The couple unsuccessfully appealed the fine through the Swiss courts, after which they took their case to Europe's rights court. The ECHR found the authorities had tried to accommodate the parents' beliefs by, for instance, allowing the girls to wear the full-body "burkini" swimsuit. The fine of 1,400 Swiss francs (\$1,375) imposed on the couple, after a warning, was "proportionate to the aim" of getting them to comply with the regulation, the court added. — AFP

OUTRAGE AS SPEAKER ENDS SESSION AFTER...

Continued from Page 1

"What happened today was a comedy play through which the government wanted to prevent a vote on the motion" submitted by 10 MPs regarding the sports draft law, Subaei said after the session. He threatened that lawmakers will use their constitutional tools, a clear reference to grilling. Babbain said that they tried all they could to lift the sports suspension, but some quarters are clearly obstructing these efforts.

He held head of the sports and youth committee MP Saadoun Hammad partly responsible for the problem, adding that it appears that the sports issue is dominating the political scene. He questioned if the argument in the Assembly was a sufficient reason to adjourn the entire session. Babbain said he is convinced that the sides in the conflict want the problem to remain unresolved for some unknown reason and "we will not accept this". The lawmaker said he has been preparing material to grill the information and youth minister and

will complete the grilling next week, without saying when he is likely to submit it, adding the grilling will center around his role in the sports suspension.

Before adjourning the session, the debate focused on arguments over claims by MP Safa Al-Hashem that she was elected unanimously as head of the negative phenomena committee (alien practices committee), amid strong protests by other members. Hashem said she chaired the first meeting of the panel, being the oldest member, but Islamist MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, a member of the committee, said he was older than her and he should have chaired the meeting. Several lawmakers called for the Assembly office to resolve the problem.

Also, Health Minister Jamal Al-Harbi told the session that he has referred the case of the death of former MP Falah Al-Sawwagh to the public prosecution after he found there was a clear medical error in his surgery. The Assembly extended for another month for the investigation committee to report on the case.

FIFA APPROVES 48-TEAM WORLD CUP

Continued from Page 1

"To be elected he promised more countries at the World Cup. He wants to honor his electoral promises. But the promises made to professional football, he's not sticking to. It is without our agreement and it makes us very angry." European governing body UEFA offered a tepid acceptance, saying it decided to back the plan once "it was clear that all other confederations were overwhelmingly in favor".

The new format envisages 80 matches - 16 more than the current set-up - but crucially will still be played over the same 32 days, a nod to opponents who fear player burnout. Two teams from each group will advance to a 32-nation knock-out round. A confidential FIFA report seen by AFP projects a 48-team tournament would bring a cash boost of \$640 million above projected revenues for next year's finals in Russia.

Africa and Asia could be the big winners with a rise in their number of World Cup places - currently five for Africa and between four and five for Asia. A source close to FIFA told AFP that Europe could get 16 places, an increase of three, with Africa earning nine and South America securing seven. Infantino said no decision was made on how the extra places would be allocated, but assured all regions "will get more" berths.

The council weighed five proposals during the meeting at FIFA's snow-covered Zurich headquarters, including maintaining the status quo of 32 teams. Defending Infantino, CONCACAF chief Victor Montagliani said there was unanimous backing because the debate was based on "facts and the figures, not on a wink and nod". "Maybe the time has come where we don't do things on winks and nods anymore," added the head of North and Central America's governing body, in a clear jibe at the disgraced Blatter administration.

Some have pointed to Euro 2016 - which expanded to 24 nations - as evidence that competition can remain fierce with more countries involved, noting the stunning achievements of football minnows such as Iceland and Wales. Bidding to host the 2026 tournament has not yet opened, but FIFA yesterday opened the door to shared hosting among up to three countries. Montagliani, a Canadian, said a joint US-Canada-Mexico bid was "possible", while Morocco has also been mentioned as a possible candidate.

Yesterday's landmark decision is the latest overhaul of the World Cup, which has seen its global popularity and financial might surge since the inaugural edition in 1930. That contest, won by Uruguay, had just 13 countries. The World Cup expanded to 24 teams in 1982 in Spain before moving to its current 32-team version in 1998. — AFP

MOROCCO BANS PRODUCTION AND SALE...

Continued from Page 1

In Taroudant in southern Morocco, authorities ordered traders to stop making and selling burqas and to liquidate their stock within 48 hours, the reports said. Retailers in the northern town of Ouislane were said to have received similar instructions.

It was unclear if Morocco plans to follow in the footsteps of some European countries such as France and Belgium where it is illegal to wear full veils in public. The reports were met with a muted response in the absence of official confirmation, though Salafists expressed concern that the measure could be expanded to include the niqab. "Is Morocco moving towards banning the niqab that Muslim women have worn for five centuries?" Salafist sheikh Hassan Kettani wrote on Facebook. "If true it would be a disaster," he added.

Hammad Kabbaj, a preacher who was barred from standing in parliamentary elections in October over his

alleged ties to "extremism", denounced the ban as "unacceptable". In comments on Facebook, he mocked the "Morocco of freedom and human rights" which "considers the wearing of the Western swimsuit on the beaches an untouchable right".

Oussama Boutaher, a coordinator that defends Islamist prisoners, said the burqa ban amounted to "discrimination". "This shows that we are considered second-class citizens. It attacks individual freedoms even though Morocco has signed a number of international protocols on human rights," he told AFP. "Our example isn't Afghanistan, but the prophet and his followers," added Boutaher, who also rubbished the idea that curbing the sale of the burqa would improve security. But lawmaker Nouzha Skalli, a former family and social development minister, welcomed the ban as "an important step in the fight against religious extremism". The High Council of Oulemas, the country's top religious authority, has yet to comment on the issue of banning full-face veils. — AFP



Kuwait Times

Premier Brands

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

best OFFER

SAMSUNG Galaxy J5
J510
LTE 5.2" 16GB

الآن 56 دك 900
قبل 69 دك 900



iPhone 6
4.7 inches
LTE

Gift Worth 6KD
Case + Screen Protector

16GB
Value Of 133 دك 900
GB Worth 6,000 دك 900
Price 139,900 دك 900



iPhone 7
4.7 inches
LTE

Jet Black/Silver/Gold

128GB
234 دك 900





بست AL-YOUSIFI

Credit: Start from SKD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khaldon str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)



OPENING TOMORROW

Block 11, Street 58, - Homoud Al Abdul Aziz Al Sinan Street, Al Hoor Complex, Mezzanine Floor, - Fahaheel Kuwait.

Tel. 23927352






Kuwait Times

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

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

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

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

Focus

SAUDI-IRAN CRISIS,
ECONOMY STRAIN
OMAN NEUTRALITY

Caught between two vast neighbors locked in a regional struggle, Oman has long been to the Middle East what neutral Switzerland is to global diplomacy. But now its policy of being "friends to all and enemy to none" is under heavy strain. Oman has never found it easy to balance relations with Saudi Arabia to the west and Iran to the north, but worsening rivalry between the region's dominant Sunni and Shiite powers is testing its cherished policy of non-alignment more than ever. That policy has been felt far beyond the small but strategically-located sultanate on the Strait of Hormuz, through which 40 percent of the world's seaborne crude oil flows. Oman helped to mediate secret US-Iran talks in 2013 that led to the historic nuclear deal signed in Geneva two years later. It has also helped to free American hostages in Yemen. Omanis believe this Swiss-style peacemaker role is vital in helping to prevent the Middle East from sinking even deeper into chaos.

"We hope Oman will stick to the same policies. A full-blown conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia would be a disaster for everyone," said Tawfiq Al-Lawati, a member of Oman's consultative Shura Council. However, an assertive Saudi Arabia, which is leading a bombing campaign against Iranian-allied rebels in Yemen, has insisted that the Gulf Arab monarchies draw closer together to confront Tehran.

At the same time, Oman is struggling with a vast budget deficit largely due to low global prices of its oil exports. Muscat is therefore looking to raise trade with Iran, following the easing of international sanctions on Tehran under the nuclear deal, to buttress its economy. As a result, Muscat has had to walk a diplomatic tightrope. "With Saudi Arabia we do sometimes have disagreements and with Iran too," said Lawati. "But there is still more bringing us all together."

Muscat surprised neighbors last week by agreeing to join a Saudi-led military coalition - not the one fighting in Yemen but a separate, larger grouping. This is officially aimed at fighting Islamic State and other militants but suspected of serving also as a counter to Tehran around the Muslim world. Gulf Arab citizens hailed the decision as a sign that their nations were finally closing ranks against the perceived Iranian menace. Oman had "returned to the bosom of the Gulf," said prominent Saudi columnist Turki Al-Dakhil.

King Salman is expected to visit Muscat shortly, Saudi and Gulf sources have said, in what would be a sign of strengthening relations. "In grave times, clear positions are needed," said a Gulf Arab official. "We of course know Oman will stand with us."

'Still Neutral'

And yet Oman may struggle to please its wealthier fellow Gulf Arabs consistently. They interpret neutrality as disregard for the Gulf's shared security during wars in Iraq, Syria and Yemen where Riyadh and Tehran back opposing sides. Joining the Saudi-led alliance signals Oman's concern over the spread of Islamic State and Al Qaeda militants who have vowed to carry out attacks on the Gulf Arab monarchies.

But a transformation of the foreign policy balancing act does not appear to be in prospect. A former Omani diplomat, who declined to be named, described the move as a "largely symbolic" gesture to accommodate Riyadh and said it would involve "little material commitment". Ahmed Al-Mukhaini, a former Assistant Secretary General for the Shura Council, suggested the move may give Oman more influence to calm strained regional nerves but "would not compromise our independence". "It might even give Oman more leverage, more space, to play a better role in this coalition and the region. By joining the coalition Oman is shielding itself from criticism from Saudi Arabia," he added.

Pipeline Politics

There are economic risks to a Saudi rapprochement. Any perception that Muscat is allying with Riyadh may irk Tehran, analysts say. Iran has billions of dollars of foreign reserves in Omani banks and could pull the plug on promised projects in the sultanate. The nuclear deal has offered hope of a leap in trade between Oman and its gas-rich neighbor. Muscat expects the end of sanctions to speed the completion of a liquefied natural gas pipeline, which it hopes will feed energy-intensive industries.

"Oman needs the economic cooperation that Iran has pledged ... The two countries' planned subsea gas pipeline is an important part of the sultanate's plans for economic improvement," said Giorgio Cafiero, CEO of Gulf State Analytics. Oman sees foreign investment from Iran, including a car factory, a hospital complex and a nanotechnology plant, as helping economic diversification away from oil, he added. —Reuters

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



TWO FACES OF GM: ELECTRIC AND TRUCKS

General Motors Co Chief Executive Mary Barra says often that the auto industry will change more during the next decade than it has in the past half-century, as she highlights how GM will keep up. In 2016, it has invested nearly \$1 billion to buy a self-driving car technology startup, Cruise Automation; invested \$500 million into ride services company Lyft; launched a new car-sharing brand, Maven, and a new electric car, the Chevrolet Bolt.

The automaker is also expanding the array of services available via the high-speed mobile internet connections embedded in millions of GM vehicles. None of those high-profile moves, however, are likely to have much near-term impact on the No. 1 US automaker's bottom line. For now and for years to come, GM will make money the way it did 60 years ago: By selling large vehicles built on steel frames, with V8 engines driving the rear wheels. In 1957, that technology was sold as a Chevy Bel Air. Today, it is packaged as a Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck or a Cadillac Escalade SUV.

The company makes more than 90 percent of its profits, before interest and taxes, in its North American auto operations. The bulk of those profits come from sales of trucks and SUVs, analysts and company executives said. "That business model has worked and continues to work," GM President Dan Ammann told Reuters. "We believe that model will keep going, particularly in places where we are strongest, for a long time."

GM is pursuing a two-pronged strategy, aimed at the increasingly divergent segments of its home market. In big cities along the coasts, GM is widening its efforts to capture urban consumers who are shifting away from traditional vehicle ownership and some day may get around by summoning self-driving cars with a smartphone. "We're at the very infancy of that," Ammann said. Ride sharing today accounts for less than 1 percent of all miles traveled in the United States. But if buying rides by the mile takes off, it could be a "significant" opportunity, he said. Earlier this week, GM's Cadillac luxury division launched in New York what it said was the industry's first service allowing customers to pay a monthly fee to drive any of the brand's models. GM has a different plan for the heartland - the red states that backed Donald Trump for president, where trucks and SUVs sell by the hundreds of thousands and electric cars sell by the hundreds - or less. GM is investing billions in US factories to expand production of large trucks and SUVs.

Defending the V8 truck franchise is critical to GM. More than 90 percent of GM's pickup trucks are sold with V8 engines, said Dan Nicholson, head of the company's propulsion systems engineering operations. As of now, he said, GM does not have a V8 that can comply with the 2025 emissions standards - put in place by the outgoing Obama

administration - without turning off customers who like the trucks as they are.

The Alliance for Automobile Manufacturers, which includes GM, is lobbying the incoming Trump administration to revise those standards. GM is meanwhile working on improving the fuel efficiency of its V8 engines, Nicholson said, but current fuel economy rules could force the company to limit availability and raise the price of trucks equipped with the larger engines. Rival Ford Motor Co, with its F-150 pickup, has already made the transition to V6 turbo engines - which now sell in larger volumes than its V8 trucks - along with aluminum body panels that reduce weight and boost fuel economy.

Dual Audiences, Messages

GM's dual marketing strategies - one for the heartland, the other for the coasts - will be on display at the Detroit Auto Show this week. The automaker will feature new SUV models including a large Chevrolet Traverse and a revamped GMC Terrain compact SUV. On Chevrolet's show stand, the electric Bolt hatchback will be presented as one of the brand's family of SUVs, along with the hulking Chevrolet Suburban.

At a scheduled Jan 10 presentation, GM also will have a dual message for investors: Trucks make the money, and the investments in alternatives to that business are still modest and pose no threat to GM's promises of profitability. The automaker has assured investors it will boost pre-tax profit margins to 9 to 10 percent by early in the next decade, and buy back \$9 billion worth shares for the period 2015-2017. The company's current results need no explanation, Ammann told Reuters. "It's a very strong performance," he said. For urban customers, and an increasing number of younger customers who are less interested in car ownership, GM is preparing alternatives at a measured pace. The electric Bolt illustrates GM's approach. Tesla Motors Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk has said he intends to build 500,000 of his planned Model 3 electric sedans annually by 2020. That would be about six times the number of battery electric cars sold in the US last year, based on data from the Electric Drive Transportation Association, a trade group.

Suppliers have said that GM, by contrast, plans to build about 20,000 to 30,000 of its Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicles annually. Many are expected to serve in Lyft ride hailing fleets. GM officials have not said how many Bolts the company will build. But Mike Abelson, GM's vice president for strategy and global portfolio planning, told Reuters that it will err on the side of building too few than too many to suit consumer demand. "We'd rather have the problem of working fast to increase volume" than building too many cars that languish on dealer lots, he said. —Reuters

VW LATE TO THE PARTY

Embattled German automaker Volkswagen announced another step toward its corporate transformation on Monday, unveiling a new fully electric, autonomous prototype bus to join a coming family of electrified vehicles. The reimagining of the iconic VW "hippy bus" popular in the 1960s and 1970s is expected to hit the roads at some point after 2020. The plug-in concept van called the ID Buzz stands for the new Volkswagen, Herbert Diess, head of the division which produces VW's namesake cars, announced at the start of the Detroit auto show.

The van, a sleeker more futuristic version of the 20th century relative, embodies what Volkswagen aims to be: "modern, positive, emotional, future-oriented," he said. But auto industry analysts say questions hang over the company's efforts to reinvent itself after the emissions scandal known as "dieselgate" that involved one of the largest US consumer class action cases ever and eroded the company's reputation.

Under a corporate plan announced in November, the company hopes to charge headlong into the already crowded American SUV market, develop new ride-hailing and digital technologies and begin producing millions of electric and hybrid cars over the next decade - all sectors in which competitors have had lengthy head starts. Jack Nerad, executive market analyst at Kelley Blue Book, said the VW plan, dubbed "Transform 2025+," seemed to have less to do with the company's bottom line than it did with healing the blight on its reputation. "It almost strikes me as a public relations ploy versus an actual business strategy, something to take people's minds off of what was so bad," he told AFP. Volkswagen shocked the world in 2015 when it admitted to deliberately configuring software on 11 million diesel cars worldwide to defeat pollution tests while emitting up to 40 times the permissible levels of harmful nitrogen oxide during actual driving. On the eve of the auto show, federal police arrested a VW executive in Miami on charges in the emissions scandal. He was due to appear in court Monday on charges of lying to federal regulators investigating the case.

Changing 'radically'

Volkswagen, which also produces the luxury Audi and Porsche brands, already reached agreements to fix or replace all the models sold in the US that had the defeat software, for a total of about \$16 billion, including funds for environmental cleanup in California. The com-

pany also is nearing a \$2 billion settlement with US authorities to resolve the criminal probe, The New York Times reported Friday, citing people familiar with the negotiations.

Just over a year after the scandal broke, Diess unveiled the three-pronged plan in which he said the company's namesake line of cars would "change radically". "Very few things will stay as they are," he announced in November. Speaking to reporters in Detroit on Sunday evening, Diess said Volkswagen's move into new markets was well timed. "We will have our major offensive in the 2020 when we think EVs will get in to volume," he said, referring to electrified vehicles. "We have a very good stronghold in China where we have probably the main market for EVs. They will be strong."

In turning over a new leaf, however, Volkswagen appears to be late to the party. While VW-branded cars have long had only a sliver of the US market at around two percent, competitors have seen record US sales driven by consumer demand for SUVs and light trucks, which made up nearly two-thirds of sales in 2016. VW's US sales declined 7.6 percent last year to just under 323,000 units.

And other players have long been in the race to produce mass-market, purely electric vehicles, including Chevrolet and Tesla, which are launching models in the US this year priced around \$30,000. While growing fast, the US market for hybrid and battery-electric vehicles is still very small, estimated at just under three percent in 2016, according to LMC Automotive.

Short memories

"I don't see the market going to electric nearly as fast as they think it could or will, certainly not in North America," Nerad of Kelley Blue Book said. "In North America, they haven't been a strong player for a long, long time anyway." IHS Markit said last month that electrified vehicle sales might not reach 35 percent of the global market before 2040. Sandy Schwartz, president of the Cox Automotive consultancy, said the US market still holds prospects for a turnaround for Volkswagen.

"I think people have a short memory. If they produce great cars, if they can really produce products that people want, they'll get this part behind them," he told AFP. "I think there's a chance they could reemerge but it is not going to happen in a year or two. This is going to take time before they get this behind them." —AFP

AFTER RAFSANJANI, IRAN AT POLITICAL CROSSROADS

Former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will be buried in the shrine of the ayatollah who led Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, the same man who once proclaimed "the revolution is alive as long as Rafsanjani is alive". The direction of that revolution and Iran's cleric-ruled political system looks less clear following Rafsanjani's death Sunday at 82.

He long served as a balance in the extremes of Iranian political thought, a go-between for reformers who seek outreach to the world and hardliners who press for confrontation with the West. Without his behind-the-scenes influence advocating pragmatism, some fear that one side may feel free to try to overcome the other - in particular, that hardliners could take off the gloves against moderates who have made gains in recent years. President Hassan Rouhani's nuclear detente with world powers is seen as embodying Rafsanjani's realist vision. Rouhani is all but certain to stand for re-election in May. With Rafsanjani's death, that vote now takes on an even greater importance - as does the decision looming in the coming years on who will replace Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "The political gravitas that Rafsanjani had went beyond political factions," said Adnan Tabatabai, an Iran analyst based in Germany who is the CEO of the Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient. "He was one of the pillars, one of the powerbrokers that everyone knew that as long as he's there, somehow there will be a balance preserving the system."

Rafsanjani's life mirrored Iran's modern history. He served as the right-hand man of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the

charismatic leader of the 1979 revolution. He led the military during the ruinous war with Iraq in the 1980s. He helped launch Iran's nuclear program and then pushed for reconciliation with the West. In the years after Khomeini's 1989 death, Rafsanjani represented one of an ever-shrinking number of leaders directly tied to the Islamic Revolution. Even the nation's sworn enemy, the Iranian opposition group in exile called the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, acknowledged his role as the "one of the two pillars and key to the equilibrium" of the country.

The condolences coming from Gulf Arab countries on Rafsanjani's death show how even Iran's rivals saw him as someone with whom they could work, analysts say. Internally, however, his legacy remains mixed. He was massively wealthy and a veteran at maneuvering within Iran's opaque political system. He was considered a protector of the moderates, but many reformers distrusted him because he was such an insider and because of accusations he was involved in killing dissidents during his eight-year presidency. Hardliners distrusted him because of his support of moderates and sought to sideline him, but he was too powerful and entrenched to be discounted.

Domestic policy

"I do think having one of the major revolutionary political heavyweights passing will have ramifications in a major level in terms of how domestic policy is shaped," said Ellie Geranmayeh, a policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations. "Without him being in the picture, it

means that the other political heavyweights in the system now have more force to push for their ideas."

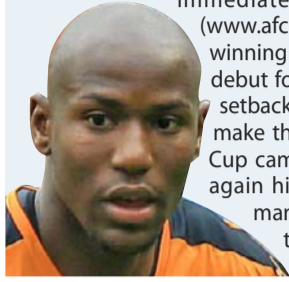
That may not immediately affect the presidential election. Rouhani is expected to compete on the back of the nuclear deal, and there are no major hardliners immediately known to be planning to challenge him. However, there were clear worries that without Rafsanjani, tensions could rise between reformers and hardliners, weakening Iran on the eve of Donald Trump's presidency in the United States. Trump has threatened to renegotiate the nuclear deal and challenge Iran militarily if provoked in the Arabian Gulf.

Columnist Firouz Mahboobi warned in the Monday's pro-reform newspaper Noavaran that reformers and hardliners must avoid any "ill-considered and rash behavior" that could disturb the election. The two camps must act with "intelligence and broadmindedness". He said it is a dangerous time to lose Rafsanjani "given his role in balancing domestic policy and defusing the plots of unfriendly countries," particularly with Trump about to be inaugurated.

Rafsanjani's loss likely will be a greater factor whenever it becomes time to select Iran's next supreme leader. Under Iran's theocratic government, voters democratically elect lawmakers and a president. However, the government is ultimately overseen by clerics. At the top is the office of the supreme leader, who is head of state and the highest-ranking political and religious figure in the country. —AP

AFOBE GETS CLEARANCE TO PLAY FOR BOURNEMOUTH

LONDON: Bournemouth striker Benik Afobe will not be stopped from playing for his club during the African Nations Cup finals after electing to miss the tournament in Gabon. His club said yesterday they had received clearance from the Democratic Republic of Congo to use Afobe, who pulled out of selection for the tournament in order to cement his place with Bournemouth. "AFC Bournemouth have received clearance from DR Congo, which will enable Benik Afobe to resume playing for the club with immediate effect," the club said in a statement on their website (www.afcb.co.uk). Afobe, who switched international allegiance after winning under-21 caps for England, had been expected to make his debut for the Congolese next week and his withdrawal was a huge setback for the team. They would have been entitled to ask FIFA to make the 23-year-old Afobe sit on the sidelines until their Nations Cup campaign was over but have chosen not to. Afobe's decision again highlighted the contentious club versus country dilemma many players have faced with the Nations Cup taking place in the middle of the European club season. — Reuters

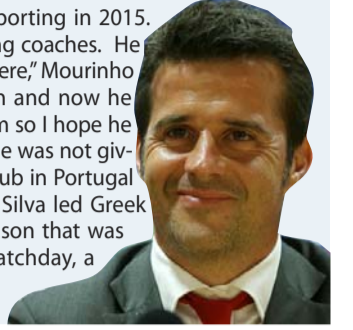


WAHBI KHAZRI CLEARED TO COMPETE AT NATIONS CUP

TUNIS: Tunisia's Wahbi Khazri will be fit to play at the African Nations Cup despite suffering an ankle injury in a friendly international on Sunday, the Tunisian Football Federation said yesterday. The 25-year-old Sunderland winger was carried off on a stretcher in Cairo on Sunday when his team lost to Egypt in a warm-up match before the weekend start of the tournament in Gabon, raising an alarm about his availability. "It's not a serious injury. It's a benign ankle sprain, he will be able to play in Gabon," the federation said in a statement on its website. Khazri is one of Tunisia's best hopes for the tournament despite a lack of game time for his Premier League club over the last few months. Tunisia face Senegal, Algeria and Zimbabwe in Group B at the Nations Cup. They face Senegal in their opening game on Sunday. — Reuters

MOURINHO BACKS SILVA TO SUCCEED AT HULL

OLD TRAFFORD: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho vouched for fellow Portuguese Marco Silva's competence and backed the new Hull City head coach to succeed ahead of first leg of EFL Cup semi-final between the teams at Old Trafford. Critics have questioned the process behind Hull's appointment tomorrow of the 39-year old, who guided Portuguese club Estoril to second division title in 2012 before winning the Portuguese Cup with Sporting in 2015. "He is known in Portugal as one of the good young coaches. He went to Greece and nobody knows what he did there," Mourinho said of Silva. "Nobody knows he was a champion and now he comes to the big one. It's a big opportunity for him so I hope he loses three matches and wins every (other) one. "He was not given a top job immediately. He did well at a small club in Portugal then he went to Sporting, one of the top three." Silva led Greek side Olympiacos to their 43rd league title last season that was capped by a run of 17 victories from the first matchday, a European record in the 21st century. — Reuters



INDIA'S OLYMPIC BODY SEEKS TO CLARIFY CONTENTIOUS AWARDS

NEW DELHI: Already threatened with being suspended and stripped of its government funding, the Indian Olympic Association has stepped back from a proposal to appoint two tainted former officials as honorary life presidents. Tirlochan Singh, a senior IOA official, said IOA president N. Ramachandran wrote a letter to the sports minister on Monday explaining that the honorary awards, which caused a furore within the Indian sports community, were just a proposal and not been bestowed. India's sports ministry earlier said government recognition of the IOA would be revoked unless the honorary positions for Suresh Kalmadi and Abhay Singh Chautala were withdrawn. Kalmadi and

Chautala, former IOA presidents, had been unanimously proposed for the positions, which were largely ceremonial and did not give any voting rights, during an annual IOA meeting last month in Chennai. There was no immediate comment by India's Sports Minister Vijay Goel yesterday. Kalmadi spent time in jail on corruption charges relating to the 2010 Commonwealth Games before being released on bail. Chautala is facing trial on finance-related matters. While Kalmadi said he would not accept the IOA's honorary post until he was cleared in court, Chautala reportedly said he'd leave a decision on the award to the International Olympic Committee. — AP

KENYA SETS UP DOCTORS NETWORK TO FIGHT DOPING

NAIROBI: Athletics Kenya (AK) has drawn up a list of accredited doctors who will be responsible for examining samples from elite athletes and ensure they are not tempted to use banned drugs, AK's chairman said yesterday. The initiative is part of Kenya's effort to clean up its image after a series of doping cases brought the nation to the brink of being barred from the 2016 Rio Olympics. After last-gasp measures to reassure the international authorities, Kenyan athletes were allowed to participate in Brazil and secured the biggest haul of medals by a nation renowned for middle and long distance runners. "This plan is such that a first sample of trusted and skilled Kenyan doctors has been identified to form the Kenyan

Doctors Network," AK Chairman Jackson Tuwei told reporters. "Their responsibility is to take care of Kenyan top-level runners and limit bad medical practices and doping promotion behaviour by some Kenyan health professionals," he said. AK has prepared a list of 109 top athletes who would benefit from support by the doctors and drafted regulations that would make it mandatory for the elite athletes to use the network. "Failure to comply will result in impossibility for the athletes to represent Kenya in international competitions," he said. The new rules will come into effect later this month. "We therefore ask the athletes, coaches, officials, managers and health professionals to follow this strictly," Tuwei said. — Reuters



NO 39 LEXUS RC F DENSO KOBELCO SARD CLINCHES VICTORY AT GT500 CLASS RACE WINS 2016 AUTOBACS SUPER GT SERIES

TOKYO: A strong and consistent run by the No. 39 LEXUS RC F DENSO KOBELCO SARD, driven by Heikki Kovalainen and Kohei Hirate, in Round 8 of the 2016 AUTOBACS SUPER GT series kept the Lexus camp in the driver's seat throughout the final leg of the GT500 class race. The final round was held at the Twin Ring Motegi in Tochigi Prefecture, Japan, where other Lexus racers too put up a strong fight for the big prize. Pole positions in the final race were dominated by Lexus cars as No. 6 LEXUS RC FWAKO'S 4CR and No. 19 LEXUS RC FWeds Sport ADVAN took the second and third spots. No. 36 LEXUS RC Fau TOM' Sand No. 37 LEXUS RC F Kee Per TOM'S battled fiercely to take the fourth and fifth positions. Round 8 came at the back of a historic rescheduling, when the aftermath of the Kumamoto Earthquakes pushed Round 3 from its original date, leading to a reshuffle that saw both the Round 8 qualifier and race taking place on the same day. The changes had little impact on No. 39 LEXUS RC F DENSO KOBELCO SARD's performance as it extended its pole position from Round 3 to the Round 8 qualifier. The No. 39 LEXUS RC F DENSO KOBELCO SARD was in command from the onset, with close contest coming from No. 6 LEXUS RC FWAKO'S 4CR and No. 37 LEXUS RC F Kee Per TOM'S in the initial half. Competitor car No. 1 lost its shine and was left starting in the eighth spot. Smooth work at the pit stop meant that No. 39 LEXUS RC F DENSO KOBELCO SARD was back to the racing track in the leading position, as driver Heikki Kovalainen braced for the final laps of the all-important race. A brief moment of worry for the lead racer emerged in the form of No. 6 LEXUS RC FWAKO'S 4CR when the car started to close in, but driver Heikki Kovalainen's expert skills ensured that the he sped past the checkered flag like a tracer bullet. The second pole finisher came in just behind 0.472 seconds. The celebrations were special for Heikki Kovalainen who recorded his first win after he started competing in the previous season of SUPER GT. Adding to this, the victory also handed the pair of Heikki Kovalainen and Kohei Hirate the season's Drivers Championship title. Yoshitsugu added: "We would like to take this



Kohei Hirate expressed his emotions: "I am happy to have won the championship, but more than anything, I wanted to end the season with a win, and I am very happy that goal was realized." Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said: "We are beaming with pride and happiness after having witnessed a decisive win by the No. 39 LEXUS RC F DENSO KOBELCO SARD. What makes this victory special is the strong and consistent performance that the team carried from the previous round (Round 3), where five Lexus teams dominated the top positions, from the sixth all the way up to the runners-up spot. Throughout the final race, our Lexus teams were a force to reckon with as the winning pair gave their competitors few chances to dislodge them from the leading position. We congratulate the racers and support staff for their tireless efforts throughout the competitive season."

opportunity to thank our fans for their constant support. Motorsport events are an important training ground, where our engineers work closely with racers to process their feedback and incorporate the on-field experience into the cars. This dedication and collaborations with sports personalities, car enthusiasts and valued customers inspire us on a quest for creating 'ever-better' cars." **Race Notes:** • No. 39 LEXUS RC F DENSO KOBELCO SARD (HeikkiKovalainenand KoheiHirate) • Race: 1st, 53 laps • Best Lap: 1'39.971 • No. 6 LEXUS RC FWAKO'S 4CR (Kazuya Oshima and Andrea Caldarelli) • Race: 2nd, 53 laps • Best Lap: 1'40.272 • No. 19 LEXUS RC FWeds Sport ADVAN (YuhiSekiguchi and Yuji Kunimoto) • Race: 3rd, 53 laps • Best Lap: 1'40.621



LA PAZ: Peugeot's French pilot Sebastien Loeb works on his car at the bivouac in Uyuni, Bolivia, after Stage 7 of the 2017 Dakar Rally between La Paz and Uyuni, on Monday. — AFP

REIGNING CHAMP EXTENDS DAKAR LEAD IN BOLIVIAN MUD

UYUNI: Frenchman Stephane Peterhansel won Monday's Dakar Rally special after narrowly edging Peugeot teammate and compatriot Sebastien Loeb in the first part of the rain-hit seventh stage between La Paz and Uyuni in Bolivia. Reigning champion Peterhansel was just 48 seconds faster over the 161km route but almost doubled his overnight lead in the overall standings on Loeb, to 1min 57sec. The 2009 champion, South Africa's Giniel de Villiers, in his Toyota was third some 3mins 33sec behind Peterhansel over the special. "It's the second stage won on the rally. You take everything you can get. We'll tally up the numbers after," said Peterhansel, a record six-time Dakar winner in both the car and motorbike categories. "It's going to be a scrap but it was already like that last year. With Seb but also with Cyril (Despres), who isn't far behind (fourth at 14min 01sec). And then there's Nani (Roma) who remains super quick and navigates well." Spaniard Roma, the 2014 win-

ner and a former motorbike champion, is third overall at 11min 07sec in his Toyota. American Ricky Brabec became the sixth different winner in as many stages in the bikes race as he finished close to two minutes ahead of Portugal's Paulo Goncalves. KTM rider Sam Sunderland was 4mins 43sec down on Brabec in third on the day, but the Briton remains the overall leader after gaining time on Chile's Pablo Quintanilla. Sunderland is 17min 45sec clear of the Husqvarna rider. Bolivia's stages in the gruelling 9,000km race have been badly affected by the weather with Friday's run from Tupiza to Oruro shortened, Saturday's stage cancelled and Monday's run cut from 320km to 161km after more torrential rain. Organisers confirmed yesterday's stage due to feature a 492km timed section would also be altered slightly due to flooding that has left a section of the route impassable, shaving around 70km off the planned special. — AFP



TAYLOR EYES RECORD OF LATE MENTOR CROWE

WELLINGTON: Ross Taylor goes into the first Test against Bangladesh tomorrow on the brink of equalling his late mentor Martin Crowe's record for New Zealand centuries.

Less than a year after Crowe died of lymphoma aged 53, Taylor's bid, in his return following eye surgery in late November, has become a focal point for New Zealand cricket fans. "Even people in the supermarket come up and mention it," Taylor said, ahead of the two-Test series opener at Wellington's Basin Reserve. Taylor, 32, has 16 centuries to his name while Crowe, who was a key adviser and close friend, holds the New Zealand

record with 17. New Zealand won their first five Test series against Bangladesh but drew their two Tests on tour in 2013, when Taylor posted his highest score yet against the team with an unbeaten 54 in the first game. At the Basin Reserve, Taylor averages a shade under 56 and he has scored centuries there against the West Indies in 2013 and India in 2009.

In his last Test in Hamilton in November, Taylor scored a century against Pakistan before having a small, benign growth removed from his left eye. Batting second would be a preference at green-topped Basin Reserve, which has a history of assisting

the fast bowlers early before flattening out.

But Taylor said New Zealand cannot afford any complacency against Bangladesh, despite the tourists' lack of match play on green wickets.

"Over the last few years they haven't played a lot of Test cricket away from home so it's going to be difficult on that wicket," he said. "We can't take them lightly and I'm sure their fast bowlers will be licking their lips. When there is a bit of green grass it brings the teams a bit closer together."

The tourists have lost all three one-day internationals and three Twenty20s and the two Tests offer a

chance for redemption. But 21-year-old fast bowler Taskin Ahmed, who is expected to make his Test debut, said Bangladesh were looking forward to taking to the green Wellington pitch. "The bowlers are pretty happy-it's greenish and hard, good to bowl on. We're going to enjoy it," he said. Bangladesh have confirmed they have a full squad to call on with captain Mushfiqur Rahim back to fitness after missing most of the limited-overs games with a hamstring injury.

Opener Imrul Kayes has recovered after crashing into an advertising hoarding in Tauranga in the second Twenty20 on Sunday. — AFP

WASHINGTON BEATS MONTREAL, FLORIDA DEFEATS NEW JERSEY

MONTREAL: Alex Ovechkin tied Canadiens great Maurice "Rocket" Richard with his 544th career goal to lead the Washington Capitals to a 4-1 victory over Montreal on Monday night for their sixth straight win. Ovechkin, who has won the Maurice Richard Trophy as the league's goal-scoring leader six times, tied Richard for 29th place on the NHL's all-time scoring list. He also had two assists and his three points moved him within one of 1,000 career points. Evgeny Kuznetsov, Brett Connolly and Nicklas Backstrom also scored for Washington while Braden Holtby finished with 22 saves. Holtby's career-best shutout streak ended at 169 minutes 12 seconds when Tomas Plekanec scored at 7:18 of the third period. Capitals coach Barry Trotz worked his 1,400th regular season game and picked up his 684th win.

PANTHERS 3, DEVILS 0
Roberto Luongo made 28 saves for his 73rd career shutout to lead Florida past New Jersey. Luongo, top among active goalies in shutouts, got his first of the season to move three behind Ed Belfour and Tony Esposito for ninth all-time. Retired Devils great Martin Brodeur holds the NHL record with 125. Reilly Smith, Jussi Jokinen and Vincent Trocheck scored for Florida, which won for the third time in five games. New Jersey was shut out for the third time this season and for the first time at home since a 1-0 loss to Washington last March 25th. Cory Schneider finished with 26 saves for the Devils, who lost their third straight.

JETS 2, FLAMES 0
Connor Hellebuyck made 28 saves for his third shutout of the season as Winnipeg won for the third time in four games. Dustin Byfuglien and Blake Wheeler scored for the Jets. Hellebuyck now has five shutouts in his two-year NHL career. Chad Johnson stopped aside 25 shots for the Flames, who had won five of their previous seven. The Jets were playing for the first game since rookie star Patrik Laine was lost indefinitely due to a concussion suffered in Saturday's 4-3 loss to Buffalo. Drew Stafford took Laine's spot on the top line with center Mark Scheifele and right wing Nikolaj Ehlers, a trio that spent some time together last season.

STARS 6, KINGS 4
Jiri Hudler scored the tiebreaking goal with 12:16 to play as Dallas blew a late two-goal lead before hanging on for a wild win. Hudler, Tyler Seguin and Devin Shore had a goal and an assist apiece for the Stars, who ended a three-game losing streak despite giving up four goals to the Kings in just over 10 minutes spanning the final two periods. Brett Ritchie, Jamie Oleksiak and Patrick Shore also scored for Dallas. Drew Doughy scored the tying goal on the power play early in the third period, chasing Dallas goalie Kari Lehtonen. But Hudler capitalized on a turnover behind the Kings' net and scored the first goal of his first season with the Stars moments later. Nick Shore scored a short-handed goal for the Kings, while captain Anze Kopitar and Dustin Brown both broke lengthy goal-scoring droughts during the Kings' rally. — AP



TAMPA: Clemson Tigers players pose after defeating the Alabama Crimson Tide 35-31 in the 2017 College Football Playoff National Championship Game at Raymond James Stadium on Monday in Tampa, Florida. — AFP

WATSON, CLEMSON DETHRONE TOP-RANKED TIDE, 35-31

TAMPA: College football's first national championship rematch was even better than the original, with an incredible twist at the end.

Deshawn Watson and Clemson dethroned the champs and became the first team to beat Nick Saban's Alabama dynasty in a national title game, taking down the top-ranked Crimson Tide 35-31 Monday night in the College Football Playoff. Watson found Hunter Renfrow for a 2-yard touchdown pass with a second remaining to give the Tigers their first national championship since 1981. A year after Alabama won its fourth title under Saban with a 45-40 classic in Arizona, Clemson closed the deal and denied the Tide an unprecedented fifth championship in eight seasons.

"That has to be one of the greatest games of all time," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. The lead changed hands three times in the fourth quarter, but Watson got the ball last. Likely playing in his final college game, the junior quarterback threw for 420 yards and three touchdowns. In two games against Alabama and the most ferocious defense in college football, Watson has thrown for 825 yards and accounted for eight touchdowns. He was sacked four times and took some cringe-inducing shots from All-Americans Jonathan Allen and Reuben Foster.

"You know, I never got the sense that he was rattled," Allen said about Watson. Swinney, the native Alabamian and former Crimson Tide walk-on receiver, has built an elite program at Clemson that was missing only one thing. Now the Tigers can check that box, too.

"Eight years ago we set out to put Clemson back on top," said Swinney, who can turn postgame interviews into a rousing sermon. "We came up a little short last year, but today on top of the mountain, the Clemson flag is flying."

After three quarters of vicious hits and tight defense, Tigers-Tide II ended up looking a lot like the first meeting when the teams combined for 40 points in the fourth quarter.

Clemson took its first lead when Watson found Mike Williams for a 4-yard touchdown a minute into the fourth quarter to make it 24-21.

The Tigers took a 28-24 lead with 4:38 left in the fourth quarter when Wayne Gallman surged in from a yard out. The Tide's offense, which had gone dormant for most of the second half, came to life with the help of a sweet call from newly promoted offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian. Receiver ArDarius Stewart took a backward pass

from Jalen Hurts and fired a strike to O.J. Howard for 24 yards. On the next play, Hurts broke free from a collapsing pocket and weaved his way through defenders for a 30-yard touchdown run to make it 31-28 with 2:07 left.

More than enough time for Watson. "I was calm," Watson said. He said he thought about Vince Young's last-second touchdown for Texas that derailed the Southern California's championship run in the 2005 championship game at the Rose Bowl. He told his team: "Let's go be great." Watson hooked up with Williams and Jordan Leggett, who made great catches for big gains to get to first-and-goal with 14 seconds left.

A pass interference on Alabama made it first-and-goal at the 2 with six seconds left. Time for one more play to avoid a game-tying kick and potential overtime. Renfrow slipped away from the defense at the goal line with the help of some traffic created by his teammates - or maybe it was an illegal pick? - and was alone for an easy toss. It was the walk-on receiver's second TD catch of the night, adding to the two he had last season against Alabama.

When it ended, Clemson's 315-pound defensive lineman Christian Wilkins did a cartwheel and Ben Boulware, one of the toughest linebackers in the country, was in tears.

"Don't call it an upset," Swinney said. "We expected to win this game." The Tigers had

snapped Alabama's 26-game winning streak and beaten a No. 1 team for the first time ever.

"It's been 35 long years!" Boulware screamed. "It's coming home baby! It's coming home!" Alabama was 4-0 in national championship games under Saban. It was 106-6 in games it led at half and 96-0 when entering the fourth quarter with a double-digit lead as the Tide did Monday night. Clemson overcame all those odds.

The Tide jumped out to a 14-0 lead behind two long touchdown runs by Bo Scarbrough in the first half. The 230-pound sophomore back was pretty much Alabama's whole offense for a while, running for 93 yards on 16 carries while Hurts and the passing game struggle. Scarbrough left in the third quarter with a leg injury, but the Tide finally found some other help. Hurts hooked up with O.J. Howard, one of last year's heroes for 'Bama, for a 68-yard touchdown pass to make it 24-14 late in the third quarter.

"Look, there's not one play in the game that makes a difference in a game," Saban said. "We could have done a lot of things a lot better. But I have to say that I was proud of the way our guys competed in the game, and just sorry for all of them that we didn't finish it better." Last season Alabama met its match in Clemson, but prevailed. This time, Clemson made sure the sequel had a different ending. — AP



TAMPA: Quarterback Deshaun Watson #4 of the Clemson Tigers poses with cheerleaders after defeating the Alabama Crimson Tide. — AFP



NEWARK: Michael Sgarbossa #48 of the Florida Panthers loses his stick as Sergey Kalinin #51 of the New Jersey Devils defends on Monday at Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey. The Florida Panthers defeated the New Jersey Devils 3-0. — AFP

NHL results/standings

Dallas 6, Los Angeles 4; Winnipeg 2, Calgary 0; Washington 4, Montreal 1; Florida 3, New Jersey 0.

Western Conference						Eastern Conference							
Central Division						Atlantic Division							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		
Chicago	26	12	5	120	104	57	Montreal	25	10	6	125	97	56
Minnesota	25	9	5	123	85	55	Boston	21	17	5	105	105	47
St. Louis	21	14	5	114	118	47	Ottawa	21	14	4	99	102	46
Winnipeg	20	20	3	118	126	43	Toronto	18	13	8	120	116	44
Dallas	17	16	8	109	125	42	Florida	18	16	8	98	113	44
Nashville	17	16	7	112	110	41	Tampa Bay	19	19	4	118	127	42
Colorado	13	25	1	79	130	27	Buffalo	15	15	9	89	109	39
							Detroit	17	18	5	100	115	39
Pacific Division						Metropolitan Division							
San Jose	24	14	2	105	90	50	Columbus	28	7	4	132	85	60
Anaheim	21	13	8	113	113	50	Pittsburgh	26	8	5	139	109	57
Edmonton	21	14	7	120	113	49	Washington	26	9	5	115	84	57
Calgary	22	19	2	114	119	46	NY Rangers	28	13	1	146	107	57
Los Angeles	20	17	4	102	105	44	Philadelphia	21	15	6	123	129	48
Vancouver	20	19	3	105	121	43	Carolina	18	15	7	104	108	43
Arizona	12	22	6	86	128	30	New Jersey	16	18	8	95	124	40
							NY Islanders	15	15	8	106	117	38

JAGUARS HIRE MARRONE, BRING BACK COUGHLIN, EXTEND CALDWELL

NEW YORK: Jacksonville's coaching search landed someone from its past and present. The Jaguars can only hope the old-school combination leads to better results in the future. Owner Shad Khan hired Doug Marrone as head coach Monday and brought back Tom Coughlin to oversee football operations. Marrone replaces Gus Bradley, who was fired in late November after going 14-48 in three-plus seasons.

The Jaguars (3-13) also gave general manager Dave Caldwell a two-year contract extension. So Marrone, Coughlin and Caldwell are now signed through 2019, giving the new regime a three-year window to, at the very least, make Jacksonville relevant in the AFC South. "I have confidence that one day soon we'll look back on today's news as the moment that inspired and ultimately established the Jacksonville Jaguars as a football team that wins, week to week and season to season," Khan said in a statement. "The results

will speak for themselves in time, but with Tom coming in to join Dave and Doug, there is no question the Jacksonville Jaguars are a stronger football team today."

Marrone and Caldwell will report to Coughlin, meaning Jacksonville's first coach is now in charge and will have final say in personnel decisions.

Marrone is the fifth head coach in franchise history, following Coughlin (1995-2002), Jack Del Rio (2003-11), Mike Mularkey (2012) and Bradley (2013-16). "I think Doug has earned the respect of the offensive players, and I'm excited for him to get this opportunity and the direction of this team," quarterback Blake Bortles told AP in a text message.

DECISION MAKER

Coughlin, a winner of two Super Bowls in 12 seasons with the New York Giants, will serve as executive vice president of football operations. Coughlin, who led the Jaguars to four

playoff appearances in his first five years, will have final say in the NFL draft and in free agency. Caldwell has been the primary decision maker in all personnel moves the last four years. "I am honored to welcome Tom Coughlin back to Jacksonville, where winning was customary under his leadership," Khan said. "I know he expects the same in his return to head our football operations, and that's good news for us and Jaguars fans everywhere. The extension of Dave Caldwell's contract speaks to his excellent work thus far and the continued importance of complementing our talented and promising roster."

Khan, who hired Jed Hughes of Korn Ferry International to help with the search, also interviewed Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, Tampa Bay defensive coordinator Mike Smith, New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Arizona offensive coordinator Harold Goodwin for the head coaching job. He ended up keeping Marrone, who

served as Jacksonville's interim coach for the final two games. The Jaguars won one and blew a late lead in the season finale at Indianapolis. Players seemed to rally around him, but after the loss to the Colts, rookie cornerback Jalen Ramsey said a "complete flip will serve us good."

Marrone and Coughlin could provide that. They surely will bring a different vibe, a much more disciplined approach that will put more emphasis on winning games than Bradley did. "I can see what they're doing," veteran tight end Marcedes Lewis told AP. "These are good moves for a young team, a team that needs to be held to a certain standard. Marrone's a good man. He's good for the culture."

"It's not like we're bringing in a brand new coach and he's going to wipe the face of the earth of everything we've built," Marrone likely will keep offensive coordinator Nate Hackett, providing some stability for the inconsistent Bortles. The 2014 first-round draft pick has had

three play callers in three seasons. Marrone has been Jacksonville's assistant head coach/offensive line coach since January 2015. He joined the team after two seasons as Buffalo's head coach. He guided the Bills to a 15-17 record before opting out of his contract because of uncertainty over potential organizational changes. The Bills went 9-7 in Marrone's second season in 2014, the franchise's only winning record since 2004. The 70-year-old Coughlin led the Jaguars to a 68-60 record in eight seasons. Coughlin resigned last January after a dozen years with the Giants, but made it clear he wanted to return to the NFL. He served as a senior adviser to the league's football operations department this season.

"He's got so much experience on myself or on any coach that we have in this building and he's a great individual, so I think you can always learn from people," Caldwell said after Bradley was fired. "There's always a place for knowledge." — AP

'HUMAN HEADLINE' KYRGIOS FACES AUSSIE OPEN TEST

MELBOURNE: Nick Kyrgios is often associated with tantrums and even tanking, but he has a chance to create some positive headlines by making a deep run at the Australian Open.

The antics of Kyrgios, who is returning from a ban for "lack of best efforts" during a notorious match in Shanghai, have doused expectations of a title run at his home Grand Slam.

But despite his discipline problems, Kyrgios, dubbed a "human headline" by Australian media, is coming off his best year yet when he won three titles and broke into the top 15.

Kyrgios has shown a liking for Melbourne Park where he reached the quarter-finals in

2015, equalling his best Grand Slam performance yet. And the 21-year-old says he has benefited from his sessions with a psychologist, which he agreed to in return for a shorter ban after his Shanghai meltdown.

"Obviously I'm not going to tell you what we talk about, but I think it's helping me for sure," the world number 14 said before this month's Hopman Cup in Perth.

"I'm just trying to learn a bit more about myself and obviously just trying to figure out ways to enjoy the sport a little bit more and just enjoy the grind of it." The pressures of tennis took their toll in Shanghai, when Kyrgios lost

points on purpose and argued with fans during his second-round defeat to Mischa Zverev.

The incident in October came just days after Kyrgios had lifted the third trophy of his career at the Japan Open in Tokyo.

"I needed to shut down, really, after a very long and tough year," he said. "I'm still learning about myself and things like (scheduling)."

BASKETBALL INJURY

Kyrgios's return at the exhibition-level Hopman Cup was not without incident and he appeared hampered by a left knee injury which he picked up playing basketball.

In his match against America's Jack Sock, Kyrgios moved listlessly and inexplicably volleyed a Sock shot which was sailing out from well behind the baseline, dumping his forehand into the net. But Kyrgios, who remains without a coach, has played down concerns about his injury and said his 6-2, 6-2 defeat to Sock would have no bearing on the Australian Open.

"I don't think losing in an exhibition Hopman Cup is going to hinder my performance too much for the Australian Open," he said.

"I'm not the type of guys who needs plenty of matches before a Grand Slam. Apart from his form and fitness, the biggest question for

Kyrgios is whether he can control his combustible temperament in the heated atmosphere of Melbourne Park.

Opponents are wary of his rocket serve and forehand but they also know that fidgety Kyrgios is easily distracted and is prone to losing his cool. It does not augur well for Kyrgios's bid to become the Australian Open's first home-grown champion since Mark Edmondson in 1976.

He said: "Being the focal point brings added attention and pressure. But I'm not going to knock that. It's a positive thing, and it means I've achieved a position where people care." — AFP



MELBOURNE: Andy Murray of Britain (R) talks with coach Ivan Lendl during a break in his tennis training session at the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne yesterday. Top players from around the world are arriving in Melbourne in the lead up to the Australian Open from January 16 to 29. — AFP

MURRAY: AUSSIE OPEN IS NOT A PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIER

LONDON: Andy Murray says he does not have a mental block when it comes to the Australian Open despite losing the final of the opening Grand Slam of the season five times.

The 29-year-old world number one whose season opened with a defeat in the Qatar Open to Novak Djokovic told The Times in an interview he had also pondered over whether he should accept the knighthood he received in the New Year's Honours list. Murray, who is in Australia preparing for next week's Aussie Open, is adamant he no longer has issues over tournaments he has yet to win.

"I don't feel like I have mental hurdles now," said Murray.

"I feel like I'm past that, to be honest.

"I just go there and give my best to win. So long as I give my best effort,

I don't judge myself or feel like I've failed here (Melbourne) or anything like that."

Murray, who had a memorable year in 2016 becoming Britain's first tennis number one of the professional era and won Wimbledon and defended his Olympic singles title, admitted he had conferred with those closest to him but not his brother Jamie over whether to accept the knighthood when he was offered it in the middle of December.

"I spoke to a few of the people closest to me. I didn't have too long, but obviously you think about something like that because I do feel like it's obviously a big honour to be offered that, but with that comes maybe a little bit more responsibility," said Murray. "I'm still very young, I'm still competing and obviously don't want anything to distract me or affect my performance on the court."

"I kept it fairly quiet and just spoke to the people that I was closest with and explained what the situation was. I just tried to get the best advice possible."

Murray is clear, though, how he wishes to be addressed by his rivals on the circuit.

"A few of the players have been chatting to me about it and asking how it works, what does it mean and what do we call you," Murray said.

"Andy is fine."

Murray, whose win in the 2012 US Open was the first in a Grand Slam by a British tennis male since Fred Perry in 1936, says another thing that has changed as he has matured is how he reacts to personal criticism. "When you are comfortable like that with who you are, someone saying that you're boring or miserable or whatever it is, it doesn't affect you like it does when you are younger and you are still not sure of yourself," said Murray. "When you are growing up in the spotlight and you don't know exactly who you are or what you're going to become, that's probably a bit more difficult."

Murray, who says he likes to organise his schedule so he can see his daughter Sophia and wife Kim every fortnight, received a flood of congratulations when he became number one but two phone messages, left by two sporting giants, in particular touched him. "I got one from Alex Ferguson and one from Jose Mourinho," said Murray. "That was pretty cool. I obviously watch a lot of football and they are two of the most respected and best managers in one of the hardest sports to succeed in at the highest level. That was pretty nice." — AFP

FIVE MEN TO WATCH AT THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN

MELBOURNE: Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic will be big favourites for the Australian Open when it begins in Melbourne on Monday. Here are five players who might challenge the world's top two.

MILOS RAONIC

The tall, serious Canadian ended 2016 as world number three as he continued his steady rise up the rankings, and it is surely only a matter of time before he wins a Grand Slam. Raonic, 26, laid down a marker for the season at last year's Australian Open when he ousted Stan Wawrinka before falling to Andy Murray in a thrilling five-set semi-final in which he was hampered by injury. Six months later, he reached his first Grand Slam final at Wimbledon before losing to Murray again. Raonic rounded off the year with a last-four spot at the ATP World Tour Finals in London and he heads into 2017 with a new coach, former Wimbledon winner Richard Krajicek.

STAN WAWRINKA

"The Stanimal" is riding high after winning his third major at the US Open and the powerful Swiss has the tools to triumph in Melbourne, as he memorably proved in 2014. Wawrinka has forced his way into tennis's upper echelons in the past three seasons but now aged 31 faces the challenge of staying there and even improving as a group of younger players matures. The world number four with the brutal, one-handed backhand appears to enjoy the conditions at Melbourne Park, and it was a surprise when he lost to Raonic in the last 16 a year ago.

ROGER FEDERER

The superlative Swiss has lost none of his popularity but, at 35, only his most ardent fans would rate him as a leading contender for the Australian Open, where he will be making his 69th Grand Slam

appearance. Federer is feeling his way back after a six-month injury lay-off, the longest of his career, which he ended with a mixed performance at the Hopman Cup team tournament in Perth last week. Federer does not seem to be contemplating retirement, however, and he remains stubbornly optimistic of a last hurrah to add to his record 17 Grand Slam titles. Federer's ranking has dropped to 17 after his long absence, meaning he faces a tougher draw.

RAFAEL NADAL

Like Federer, Nadal's aura and results are on the wane and it has been more than two years since he last won a major, at his favoured French Open in 2014. The 30-year-old Spaniard didn't make it to any of the Grand Slam quarter-finals last season, and his tally of two tournament wins was his lowest in 12 years as he dropped to ninth in the world. Nadal has won only one of his 14 major titles at the Australian Open, when he beat a tearful Federer in an epic, five-set final in 2009. He will certainly look to improve on 2016, when he was sent packing by fellow Spanish left-hander Fernando Verdasco in the first round.

ALEXANDER ZVEREV

Wawrinka dubbed Zverev the "future of tennis" after losing to the German in last year's St Petersburg final, and it is a label that seems apt for the 6ft 6in (1.98 metre) 19-year-old. Nicknamed "Sascha", he is already ranked 24th, has a string of scalps to his name including two victories over Federer, most recently at the Hopman Cup. What's missing so far is a deep run at a Grand Slam tournament, and Zverev was unlucky to come up against Murray in the first round in Melbourne last year. This time around, he will be under close scrutiny for signs that he is making good on his vast potential. — AFP

KUZNETSOVA FALLS IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY: Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova won an all-Russian battle against Svetlana Kuznetsova to oust the defending champion straight sets in the second round of the Sydney International yesterday.

Pavlyuchenkova beat world number nine Kuznetsova 7-5 6-3 to set up a quarter-final clash against Canadian Eugenie Bouchard who caused another upset by defeating number three seed Dominika Cibulkova.

On a bad day for seeded players, ninth seed Italian Robert Vinci also fell to Czech Barbora Strycova 6-2 6-3. Pavlyuchenkova came into the match having lost five of the last six meetings against Kuznetsova and twice fell back in the opening set. The 31-year-old double grand slam winner was serving for the set at 5-4 before Pavlyuchenkova reeled off the last three games to bag the set.

"I'm really happy, especially because she's not only defending champion but my fellow (countrywoman) and she's top 10 and she's had a really incredible year last year," Pavlyuchenkova said.

"I think I did everything well. I wasn't serving as well as I did yesterday; I was a little upset with that, but I'm so happy that even with a lower first serve percentage, that I was able to win the match in two sets.

"I had zero expectations here; I was just trying to enjoy the tennis, but it's working good so far."

Next up for the Russian will be former Wimbledon finalist Bouchard who completed her fourth consecutive hard-court win against world number six Cibulkova with a 6-4 6-3 victory. It will be the first WTA quarter-final appearance for the Canadian in 10 months since Kuala Lumpur, where she lost in the final of the Malaysian Open.

"Any time you play one of the best players in the world... it's like a standard of where you're at," Bouchard said after taking her head-to-head record over Cibulkova to 4-1. "I feel like I could play better tennis. I feel at times we both kind of were making unforced errors, but we were also pressuring each other to make mistakes. I think I served okay. There are things I would have liked to do better... But overall, it was just me pushing myself and trying to do something on every point that helped me get through." — Reuters



SYDNEY: Eugenie Bouchard of Canada hits a return to Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia in their women's second round match at the Sydney International tennis tournament in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

CROATIAN PAIR TUNE UP FOR OPEN WITH KOOYONG WINS

MELBOURNE: Croat pair Ivo Karlovic and Borna Coric both posted victories yesterday as the Kooyong Classic began with injured Frenchman Richard Gasquet, one of the top drawcards, pulling out. The pre-Australian Open tune-up was forced into a last-minute schedule change when Gasquet withdrew citing an abdominal injury.

Karlovic was originally set to face German veteran Tommy Haas, 38, but was switched to play France's Gilles Simon, who had been due to take on Gasquet. The 37-year-old Croatian beat Simon 6-4, 6-7 (1/7), 10-7 in a tournament using the match tiebreak system in testing summer

conditions. "I had a few tough games but I was able to win them so I am really happy with my serve and with the game coming into the Australian Open," Karlovic said.

"It was a little bit windy and it was also hot, which I was not used to because I've been in Europe the last two to three months."

Fellow Croat Coric, 20, coming off a four-month injury break, beat Australian Andrew Whittington 6-3, 6-4. "It was a solid match, nothing special but I was hitting it okay and in the second set a little better," he said. Simon said it was difficult to adjust his game plan, expecting to face

Gasquet but instead playing big-serving Karlovic. "It's more about the strategy, playing Richard or Ivo is like the complete opposite," he said.

"It's hard to play against Ivo, tough to find a rhythm but I think I did a good job in difficult conditions." In Tuesday's final men's match at the Kooyong club, which for years hosted the Australian Open, Polish substitute Jerzy Janowicz beat Haas 5-7, 6-4, 10-4.

The four-day event has brought back women for the first time in two decades, with local teenage hope Destanee Aiava losing to Romanian Sorana Cirstea 6-1, 7-6 (7/4). — AFP

AUSTRALIAN PLAYER HIT WITH SEVEN-YEAR CORRUPTION BAN



SYDNEY: This file photo taken on January 11, 2010 shows Australian tennis player Nick Lindahl playing a return to Marcus Baghdatis of Cyprus at the Sydney International tennis tournament. Australian tennis player Lindahl was yesterday banned for seven years and fined US\$35,000 over corruption allegations with two others also sanctioned, just days out from the first Grand Slam of the year. — AFP

SYDNEY: Australia's Nick Lindahl was yesterday banned for seven years and fined US\$35,000 for corruption with two others also sanctioned as tennis authorities step up their fight against match-fixing ahead of the first Grand Slam of the year. Lindahl, who reached a career-high ranking of 187, was found guilty of contriving or attempting to contrive the outcome of an event and failing to cooperate with a Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) investigation.

The case related to his offer to throw a match at a Futures tournament in Australia in 2013 and a refusal to provide his mobile phone for forensic investigations on the TIU's request. "Although Mr. Lindahl, 28, retired from the sport in 2013, today's decision prevents him from resuming playing professional tennis for the seven years of the ban," the TIU said in a statement.

"He is also prohibited from attending any tournament or event organised or sanctioned by the governing bodies of the sport for that period." Lindahl was convicted in an Australian court last year for "using corrupt conduct information" and fined Aus\$1,000 over the same incident.

Two other players, Brandon Walkin and Isaac Frost, were also disciplined after being found guilty of corruption at the same tournament. Walkin, ranked 1,066, was slapped with a six-month suspension for passing a corrupt proposal to another party on behalf of Lindahl. His punishment was suspended for six months, meaning he is free to continue playing.

Frost, ranked 1,515, was found guilty of refusing to supply his phone for analysis. He has already served a one-month suspension, the TIU revealed, with no further action tak-

en. The sanctions come just days after police in Australia said an 18-year-old had been charged with match-fixing at a tournament in Victoria last October. He was widely named in local media as Oliver Anderson, an emerging star who is the reigning Australian Open boys champion and was reportedly approached to drop a set.

LIFE BAN

The claim underlined concerns about corruption in tennis as the world's leading players assemble in Melbourne for the first Grand Slam of the season, starting next week. Reacting to the Anderson news, world number one Andy Murray urged severe punishments for anyone found cheating.

"If it's happening, there should be the most severe punishments for whoever is involved in it," Murray said, in views backed by his rival Novak Djokovic. Last month, Spanish police arrested 34 people, including low-ranking players, from a network that fixed matches in Spain and Portugal. And in September, South African player Joshua Chetty was banned for life after being found guilty of match-fixing charges.

Last year's Australian Open was blighted by bombshell media allegations that match-fixing was rife and that authorities had done little to counter the issue.

Citing leaked files, the BBC and Buzzfeed said players who had reached the top 50 had been repeatedly suspected of fixing matches but had never faced action.

It sparked an independent review headed by barrister Adam Lewis QC, a London-based expert on sports law, aimed at shaking up the Tennis Integrity Unit. — AFP

EVOLUTION OF 3-POINT SHOTS SPARKS RECORD SCORING

WASHINGTON: Welcome to the new age of NBA scoring. Russell Westbrook could become the first player in 55 years to average a triple-double over a season. Three teams are on pace to shatter the record for 3-point attempts. And 40- or 50-point games are coming in epic numbers.

A growing emphasis on 3-point shooting, aided by rule changes that encourage more outside activity and a growing sense that potential rewards from beyond the arc outweigh the risks, have seen the NBA evolve into a haven for long-range sharpshooters and versatile playmakers.

Oklahoma City star Westbrook leads the NBA with 31.4 points a game and averages 10.6 rebounds and 10.3 assists in a bid to become only the second player to average a triple-double for a season-Oscar Robertson achieving the feat with 30.8 points, 12.5 rebounds and 11.4 assists over

79 games in the 1961-62 campaign. "With a player like that, you just prepare for the best, hope for the worst. He's at a different level," Houston Rockets guard Patrick Beverley told the NBA's website.

"It's more of a containment, try-to-contest type of game with Russ. Just try to contain him getting into the paint, try to contest everything he puts up. It's like that more with the star players... If I can get them to shoot contested threes, we'll take that." But don't ignore Houston's James Harden, who joined Westbrook and Michael Jordan on Sunday as the only players in the past 40 years with multiple 40-point triple doubles in the same season.

And it's not just Westbrook and Harden. Eight players have scored 50 points in a game this season, matching an NBA record. And that's without any from

four-time Most Valuable Player LeBron James, Kevin Durant, Kevin Love, Kyrie Irving or 3-point hotshot Stephen Curry.

Where mid-range jumpers were once all the rage, now the outside is in.

In 2004, the NBA changed rules to outlaw hand checking above the free throw line, giving quicker players an extra edge. Big men had won four of the prior five NBA Most Valuable Player awards. Phoenix guard Steve Nash took the next two and outside play has grown in scale and importance since then.

"The game is changing, of course, with no hand checking, with that rule being out it makes it difficult," Beverley said.

Extending the perimeter threat forces defenders to guard more area, opening inside opportunities or allowing more 3-point chances. Shots from beyond the arc are on record pace-more than 30 percent

of all shots. "The thing that has really opened up is the number of threes people take," Detroit Pistons coach Stan Van Gundy told NBA.com.

"It has changed a great deal. And with the floor spread out, any time you've got to cover more ground it gets a lot tougher." Up-tempo play produces more possessions and therefore more scoring chances in all games.

"It's difficult with the Westbrooks and guys like that who attack so much and so often," Alan Anderson told NBA.com. "It's impossible to stop anybody, but you try to make them feel you without them feeling you-because if they feel you, it's a foul."

The Rockets, led by Harden with 28.2 points and an NBA-best 11.8 assists a game, take a league-high 39.8 3-point attempts a game, on pace to shatter their record average of 32.7 from 2014-15. Defending cham-

pion Cleveland and the lowly Brooklyn Nets are also on record pace.

'EVEN-CRAZIER NUMBERS'

It's enough to make even the most devoted fan of defense surrender.

"I would say it's looking like it is impossible," Nuggets coach Mike Malone said of defending. "I don't know how you guard Russell Westbrook. With the rules and the respect he gets from the officials, it's almost impossible." Statistic-oriented FiveThirtyEight.com found there have not been more 40-point games at this point in the NBA season since the 1980s Los Angeles Lakers "Showtime" era. "It may be that this season's jaw-dropping statistical feats are a product of all that evolution," wrote FiveThirtyEight.com's Neil Payne. "We could just be witnessing the beginning of a trend toward ever-crazier numbers." — AFP

NATIONS CUP GODFATHER LE ROY LOOKING TO PLAY SPOILERS' ROLE

CAPE TOWN: Claude Le Roy's record breaking relationship with the African Nations Cup will continue next week when he leads Togo at the tournament in Gabon just months after taking over as their coach and securing them an unexpected spot at the finals. Togo were a long shot for qualification midway through the campaign but after the 68-year-old arrived in April, they snatched one of the two berths reserved for the best runners-up on the last weekend of qualification.

"We initially had a one percent chance and it got better as the other results went our way. In the end it was almost unimaginable," he said. The Frenchman is considered as the Godfather of the Nations Cup, having first guided Cameroon at the 1986 event before going on to coach in a further seven editions.

In a total of 35 matches, he has lifted the trophy only once — when Cameroon won the 1988 edition-but delivered a record of consistency that will strike fear into Togo's much-vaunted opponents.

Togo are the outsiders in Group C, given little chance by the pundits, after being paired with the holders Ivory Coast, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Morocco in the town of Oyem. They start against the Ivorians on Monday. In eight previous tournaments, Le Roy has guided his teams to at least the quarter-finals on seven occasions. The only failure was with DR Congo in 2013. Le Roy has also coached

Senegal and Ghana at the finals and two years ago took Congo-Brazzaville into the last eight, for the first time in 22 years, only to see his side squander a 2-0 lead and lose to neighbours DR Congo in their quarter-final tie. A life long love affair with African football, and an itinerant lifestyle, began when he landed the job in Cameroon, recommended by Albert Batteux, one of France's most successful coaches.

"They announced me as coach and made me do a press conference before I ever signed a contract. It was all very surreal. But we didn't lose a match for three years and it was a real adventure. I was hooked to the continent after that and I owe it a lot," he said in a recent interview. Le Roy's winning formula has always been to get as immersed in the country as much as possible.

He has called other European coaches who flit in for matches and then go home again "Club Med coaches". With his toothy grin, round glasses, blond fringe that flops over his face and a penchant for black t-shirts, Le Roy often looks something of an oddity. But there are few who do not take the wily Frenchman seriously.

"There aren't many differences between coaching in Europe and Africa except that one day you might be having lunch with the head of state and then the next day you are standing alongside some dusty field looking at a prospective player," he added. — Reuters



NEW YORK: New York Knicks center Kyle O'Quinn (9) tangles with New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) during the second half of an NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday. The Pelicans defeated the Knicks 110-96. — AP

PELICANS BEAT KNICKS THUNDER DEFEAT BULLS,

NEW YORK: Anthony Davis poured in 40 points, grabbed 18 rebounds and blocked three shots to lead the New Orleans Pelicans to a 110-96 win over the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden on Monday. It was the fifth time this season Davis scored at least 40 points, second most to Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook, and his 25th double-double. Davis was forced to leave the game late in the third quarter with a hip injury he sustained after a hard foul from Kyle O'Quinn. The Knicks, losers of eight of their last nine games, were without guard Derrick Rose, whom team officials would only say was "not with the team."

Rose was listed in the starting lineup, but was not in the locker room before the game. He was replaced by Brandon Jennings, who scored a team-high 20 points. Davis scored 18 points in the third and hauled in eight rebounds before being forced to leave with 1:16 left in the quarter. Davis went crashing into the first row of the baseline stands after he was contacted from behind by O'Quinn, who was assessed a flagrant-2 foul and ejected.

THUNDER 109, BULLS 94

Russell Westbrook amassed 21 points, nine rebounds and 14 assists, and Oklahoma City cruised to the victory. Steven Adams scored 22 points, and Enes Kanter had 20 points for the Thunder. Dwyane Wade had 22 points, and Michael Carter-Williams added 15 for the Bulls. Chicago's Jimmy Butler, who was named the NBA's Eastern Conference Player of the Week earlier Monday, played just 28:48 and finished with

NBA results/standings									
Oklahoma City 109, Chicago 94; Minnesota 101, Dallas 92; New Orleans 110, NY Knicks 96.									
Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Toronto	24	13	.649	-	Utah	23	16	.590	-
Boston	23	14	.622	1	Oklahoma City	23	16	.590	-
NY Knicks	17	21	.447	7.5	Portland	16	23	.410	7
Philadelphia	10	25	.286	13	Denver	14	23	.378	8
Brooklyn	8	28	.222	15.52	Minnesota	12	26	.316	10.5
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	28	8	.778	-	Golden State	32	6	.842	-
Indiana	20	18	.526	9	LA Clippers	26	14	.650	7
Chicago	19	19	.500	10	Sacramento	15	22	.405	16.5
Milwaukee	18	18	.500	10	LA Lakers	15	26	.366	18.5
Detroit	18	21	.462	11.5	Phoenix	12	26	.316	20
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Atlanta	21	16	.568	-	San Antonio	30	7	.811	-
Charlotte	20	18	.526	1.5	Houston	30	9	.769	1
Washington	18	18	.500	2.5	Memphis	24	16	.600	7.5
Orlando	16	23	.410	6	New Orleans	15	24	.385	16
Miami	11	28	.282	11	Dallas	11	27	.289	19.5

one point. He went 0-of-6 from the field, 0-of-2 from three-point range and was removed in the second half because of an illness.

TIMBERWOLVES 101, MAVERICKS 92

Karl-Anthony Towns had 34 points and 11 rebounds, and Minnesota held on to top Dallas. Andrew Wiggins scored 13 points and Ricky

Rubio added 13 points and a season-high 15 assists for Minnesota, which snapped a four-game losing streak in a battle of teams at the bottom of the Western Conference standings. Harrison Barnes scored 30 points for the Mavericks, who fell for the sixth time in eight games. Dirk Nowitzki added 26 points, hitting a season-high five three-pointers. — Reuters



Claude Le Roy's

NBA HEADS TO LONDON, MEXICO CITY TOMORROW

NEW YORK: The NBA has never gone global quite like this. The league will play somewhat of a unique doubleheader tomorrow with games in London and Mexico City, the first time it will stage multiple international games in different countries on the same day in the regular season.

Indiana and Denver are the new teams getting to take what's become an annual trip to Britain, while the Phoenix Suns will be hosting the first of a two-game trip south of the border. The NBA has played 165 international games dating to 1978 and during the preseason has had multiple games on the same day from different countries. But this is the first time doing it when the games count.

"We thought having two regular-season global games on the same day for the first time was another great way to celebrate the popularity of our game with fans around the world," Deputy Commissioner Mark Tatum said.

Tatum said the league likes to return to cities that are passionate about basketball and that their players and teams want to visit, and both of tomorrow's cities have become regular stops.

The game at the O2 Arena is the seventh in the regular season dating to 2011, when the NBA wanted to increase its popularity

in Britain ahead of the 2012 Olympics. All have been sold out. The previous games have all featured an Eastern team with a shorter trip across the Atlantic. This time it gives the Pacers, who have played exhibition games in China, Philippines, Taiwan, Germany and Spain, their first chance to play overseas in the regular season.

"I think it's a great opportunity to go over and represent the Pacers organization and the NBA and play a regular-season game," said Indiana coach Nate McMillan, a U.S. men's basketball assistant when it won Olympic gold in London. "Both teams will be playing their guys. It's not like a preseason game."

Mexico also was a preseason-only stop when the NBA first visited there 25 years ago. Now it not only gets official games but this year two of them, as the Suns will host Dallas tomorrow and San Antonio on Saturday. "A new experience, a different culture, different fans, especially all three teams that are going are on the border," the Suns' P.J. Tucker said.

"So I'm pretty sure there's a bunch of fans down there for each team. Just for us, as a team to go down to another country during the season is pretty cool." The London game will be played at 3 p.m. EST and the Mexico City contest at 10 p.m. — AP

WARRIORS' ZAZA PACHULIA HAS KERR, NOT CRITICS IN HIS HEAD

OAKLAND: Zaza Pachulia heard all the negative noise from his Golden State Warriors fans, and he began taking it personally. He was the new guy at the start of this NBA season, the lone non-All-Star in Golden State's decorated starting lineup. He was no Andrew Bogut, the imposing big man he replaced, and fans got nasty with their frustration.

Now, Pachulia constantly recalls what coach Steve Kerr preaches: The only thing that matters is how the Warriors feel about each other, not what anyone outside thinks or says.

Not that it was easy for Pachulia to ignore the scrutiny. "That was one of the biggest challenges I've had. I've never been in this situation," he said on Monday. "It's a lot of responsibility, I understand it. It was very emotional for me at the beginning. I was kind of taking it very personal. But that's where mental toughness kicks in."

"I'm fortunate I have friends who have been in this situation throughout the league, but most importantly, the biggest help came from my coaching staff."

With Kerr in his ear, Pachulia has made an effort to tune out the critics. As expected, the Warriors have needed time to jell this season, and Pachulia's been at the center of the devel-

opment. Early on, the center from Georgia took a passive approach, and also found himself in subpar shape. Now he's getting more comfortable, and is emerging at the perfect time. The Warriors are headed into the second half, and Pachulia has found his place complementing Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant, Draymond Green, and Klay Thompson.

Last month, Pachulia had season-bests of 15 points and 14 rebounds in a win at Brooklyn, and he believes that helped him turn a corner. He has four straight games scoring in double figures entering Tuesday's home matchup with Miami after doing so just twice in his first 32 games.

RIGHT ON TARGET

In a victory at Sacramento on Sunday, Pachulia made a jaw-dropping, no-look backward heave that was right on target to Curry and led to an easy basket by the league MVP.

"He's tried some crazy stuff before, but he made a good, timely read as the best way to get me the ball," Curry said. "It was right on target, one bounce into my lap and I was able to finish it. I'm sure Coach will make sure he's not experimenting too much more with that."

Pachulia's enjoyed being part of the "fancy stuff" these pass-happy Warriors get up to - Golden State wracks up 30-assist performances at an astonishing rate.

"Zaza's got a little flair to him," Kerr said on Monday. "He likes making plays like that. Not that he's constantly making them, but he's got a little of that in him. I know he had fun with that play." Never before had the big man been part of a team with so many great players, and finding his way with this group made for a daunting adjustment. That core of talent is the reason he chose to join Golden State for his 14th season.

"No disrespect to Dallas, Milwaukee, but we weren't this type of team. No one was expecting a championship from us," Pachulia said. "This team is different, right? Let's be honest. So every time you make a mistake on the court, and that's very normal, especially in the beginning, it looks like 10 times, 100 times worse."

"Fans are spoiled here because of the types of seasons they had - last year, where they broke the record even though they lost in the Finals, it was amazing. The year before they won the championship, so they were feeling really comfortable with the players and the personalities they had." — AP

CAPTAIN MOUKANDJO SHOULDERS DEPLETED CAMEROON HOPES

LIBREVILLE: Benjamin Moukandjo insists he feels no pressure taking over the Cameroon captaincy as the forward prepares to lead a diminished squad into the Africa Cup of Nations this weekend.

The 28-year-old striker with French Ligue 1 strugglers Lorient was handed the armband by the Indomitable Lions' coach Hugo Broos and has since seen established stars such as Liverpool defender Joel Matip and Schalke striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting choose to dodge the tournament in Gabon.

Now Moukandjo finds himself as one of only a handful of players based in Europe's

leading leagues to be in the Cameroon squad as they look to improve on a dismal recent record in the tournament.

"I am proud, but it doesn't really change things," Moukandjo recently told beIN Sports France of becoming captain. "There is no extra pressure. Of course it comes with responsibility. There are five or six potential captains in the team and we all try to communicate with one another."

Moukandjo played a part in Cameroon's ill-fated adventure at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and scored once as Cameroon made an early exit from the last Cup of Nations in

Equatorial Guinea two years ago.

He has since turned into one of the most consistent goal-scorers in France's top flight, with 20 goals in 36 league appearances for Lorient since the beginning of last season.

A decade has now passed since he arrived in France, having started out at the Kadji Sports Academie in his home city of Douala, where the Cup of Nations' all-time top scorer Samuel Eto'o began his glittering career. Moukandjo has played for half a dozen French sides having started at Rennes and been relegated with both Monaco and Nancy. His current side are scrapping to

avoid the drop this season and will greatly miss him during the Cup of Nations, when interest from elsewhere could increase if he does well. Linked with a big-money move to several English Premier League clubs over the past year, Moukandjo must nevertheless remain fully focused on his country as they go to Gabon as outsiders despite being four-time winners of the trophy.

"We don't fear anyone but we respect all the teams who have qualified. We are going there to try to win our matches and go as far as possible," said Moukandjo as Cameroon prepare to face Burkina Faso, minnows

Guinea-Bissau and the hosts Gabon in Group A in Libreville.

"It is going to be a great competition. It has been a while now since we made it past the first round. Our main aim this time will be to do that and go further," added the player whose goal handed Cameroon a precious draw in Algeria in World Cup qualifying in October. "If we can get out of the group then we will look at our target again and reassess it as we go along. People will look at our group and say we should get out of it but we still need to go and win the matches." — AFP



LIVERPOOL: File photo shows Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp, centre, and Plymouth Argyle manager Derek Adams shake hands on the final whistle of their FA Cup. — AP

KLOPP DEMANDS LIVERPOOL RESPONSE AT SOUTHAMPTON

SOUTHAMPTON: Jurgen Klopp has urged Liverpool to make amends for their FA Cup flop by delivering a dominant display in today's League Cup semi-final first leg against Southampton.

Klopp fielded Liverpool's youngest ever line-up against Plymouth in the FA Cup third round on Sunday and the raw rookies failed to impress as the fourth-tier minnows easily held on for a goalless draw at Anfield. Liverpool can still advance in the FA Cup when they face Plymouth in a replay, but that is on the back burner for now as the Reds focus on their other road to Wembley.

After losing to Manchester City on penalties in last season's League Cup final, Liverpool are one step away from a return to Wembley and Klopp will send out a stronger line-up at St Mary's as he looks to get his side back on track.

Aware of accusations that he and his players were guilty of complacency against Plymouth, the Liverpool manager said: "The question I asked this morning in the dressing room was 'Could we have done better?' 100 per cent yes with this line-up."

"I don't expect perfection but I have high expectations because I see them every day in training and I was convinced we could play really well."

"I have absolutely no problem with criticism but it was not about underestimating an opponent." Liverpool are hoping to add to their record haul of eight League Cup trophies by winning the competition for the first time since 2012.

That would also be a first piece of major silverware for Klopp, who arrived on Merseyside in October 2015, after Liverpool's defeats in the League Cup and Europa League finals last term.

But before they start to prepare a space in the Anfield trophy cabinet, Liverpool

have to beat Southampton and then Manchester United or Hull, who meet in the other semi.

'NO PRESSURE'

"There is no more pressure on us. It is an opportunity. It is always a new day," said Klopp, who welcomes back Brazil playmaker Philippe Coutinho after an ankle injury.

"I said to the lads last year it would not be the last final they would be involved in and this is the first chance to prove this."

Although Klopp's side have lost and drawn on their last two visits to St Mary's, they thrashed Southampton 6-1 at the same venue in the League Cup quarter-finals last season.

And Liverpool's hopes of advancing to Wembley will be aided by the absence of Southampton defender Jose Fonte.

Southampton manager Claude Puel has confirmed Fonte will not be part of his squad after the club captain handed in a transfer request amid reports of possible bids from Manchester United, Manchester City and Liverpool.

Fonte was absent for Saturday's FA Cup draw against Norwich and Puel has decided to leave him out again.

"Jose won't participate for this game. We will see for the next game. It is important to keep stability," said Puel, whose club haven't reached the League Cup final since a 1979 defeat against Nottingham Forest.

"We do not know the future of Jose, it is a difficult situation in the market. I respect Jose, it is not an easy situation for the staff or players. It is difficult."

"It is an opportunity also for Jose to view different opportunities and it is important to respect this." "For me, it is important to keep stability in defence first, and second, we will see what the situation of Jose in this market is." — AFP

LEICESTER HIT HARDEST BY AFRICAN DEPARTURES

LONDON: Manchester United and Liverpool have each lost an important player, but in the Premier League it is Leicester City for whom the Africa Cup of Nations is the biggest inconvenience. While United centre-back Eric Bailly has been called up by the Ivory Coast and Liverpool have lost Senegalese flier Sadio Mane, Leicester have had to cede Riyad Mahrez, Islam Slimani and Daniel Amartey. Fifteenth in the table, Leicester are fighting to avoid being dragged into a relegation dogfight and left-back Christian Fuchs says it is a chance for the squad's fringe players to prove their worth.

"These are very essential players for us," Fuchs told local newspaper the Leicester Mercury.

"We can talk about how it will hurt us and make us weaker, but it is the time for the other guys to step up and show they are needed." Mahrez, 25, was named African Player of the Year last week for his starring role in Leicester's 5,000-1 title triumph, having also been named England's Players' Player of the Year for last season. Although he has gone off the boil this term, the quicksilver Algerian winger remains a key figure for Leicester and with seven goals in all competitions he is the club's leading scorer.

He is joined in Algeria's squad by Slimani, who has scored six goals since his club-record £29 million (\$35.3 million, 33.4 million euros) switch from Sporting Lisbon.

Completing the triumvirate is Ghana midfielder Amartey, but his compatriot Jeff Schlupp remains at Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri's disposal after missing out on selection by Avram Grant. While the three absentees will be missed, Ranieri can count himself lucky that Nigeria are not among the 16 teams assembled in Gabon. Nigerian forward Ahmed Musa scored twice as Leicester came behind to beat Everton 2-1 in the FA Cup on Saturday and his international team-mate Wilfred Ndidi has just arrived in a £15 million move from Genk. Bailly's departure leaves Manchester United light in central defence, particularly with Marcos Rojo having sustained a muscular injury during Saturday's 4-0 FA Cup win over Reading.

CHELSEA SPARED

Mane will be missed by Liverpool, having scored nine goals since arriving from Southampton to help Jurgen Klopp's side climb to second place in the table. Chelsea, the league leaders, have learnt to rue the Africa Cup of Nations in the past, having seen stars such as Didier Drogba, Michael Essien and Salomon



LEICESTER: This file photo taken on October 18, 2016 shows Leicester City's Algerian striker Islam Slimani (L) and Leicester City's Algerian midfielder Riyad Mahrez as they warm up ahead of the UEFA Champions League Group G football match between Leicester City and FC Copenhagen at the King Power Stadium in Leicester, central England. Manchester United and Liverpool have each lost a key player, but Leicester City stand to be the most inconvenienced by the Africa Cup of Nations in the Premier League. United centre-back Eric Bailly has been called up by the Ivory Coast and Liverpool have lost their Senegalese flier Sadio Mane, but Leicester have had to cede Riyad Mahrez, Islam Slimani and Daniel Amartey. — AFP

Kalou wrenched from their grasp mid-season. But with Nigerian Victor Moses the only African player in Antonio Conte's first-team squad, they will be completely unscathed by the latest edition of the tournament.

Yaya Toure having retired from Ivory Coast duty and Kelechi Iheanacho's Nigeria having not qualified, Manchester City are in the same boat. Kenya's non-qualification means Tottenham Hotspur will retain the services of midfield destroyer Victor Wanyama and Arsenal have lost only Egyptian reserve Mohamed Elneny.

Everton have also released only one player, but Senegalese midfielder Idrissa Gueye has become a vital cog since his close-season switch from Aston Villa. Crystal Palace manager Sam Allardyce will be lamenting in-form winger Wilfried Zaha's decision to switch allegiances

from England to the Ivory Coast, particularly having also lost Bakary Sako to Mali.

Stoke City have lost three players—Wilfried Bony (Ivory Coast), Ramadan Sobhi (Egypt) and Mame Biram Diouf (Senegal) — and West Ham United must do without Cheikhou Kouyate (Senegal) and Andre Ayew (Ghana). The tournament could have weighty consequences at the foot of the table. Sunderland will miss Lamine Kone (Ivory Coast), Didier N'Dong (Gabon) and Wahbi Khazri (Tunisia), while bottom club Hull City are now without Ahmed Elmohamady (Egypt) and Dieumerci Mbokani (DR Congo). "It will put us at risk as far as numbers in our squad go, but some of these players could be back in three weeks," said Sunderland manager David Moyes. "We just don't know how long they will be in the tournament." — AFP



ZURICH: Malaysian Mohd Faiz Subri celebrates with the trophy after winning the FIFA Puskas Award award during the FIFA Awards 2016 gala at the Swiss TV studio in Zurich, Switzerland. — AP

MALAYSIA DELIGHTS IN FAIZ'S GOAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian soccer fans heaped praise on Mohd Faiz Subri yesterday after the Penang FA player received the Puskas Award for the best goal of 2016 at a FIFA ceremony in Zurich. Mohd Faiz's long-range, swerving free kick was overwhelmingly voted goal of the year and will restore some pride in Malaysian football, which has suffered a decline over the past four decades.

Mohd Faiz, the first Asian to win the annual award since it was first handed out in 2009, was a virtual unknown before his Feb. 16 wonder goal and he joins an elite club that includes Cristiano Ronaldo, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Neymar. Social media was flooded with congratulatory messages for the Malaysian Super League player, including from Prime Minister Najib Razak and other national leaders. "Your achievement in the #FIFAPuskasAward 2016 will inspire all Malaysian footballers and also makes the country proud!" the prime minister said in a Twitter post.

Laurence Loh, deputy president of the Penang Football Association, said the award-winning goal was no fluke as the forward has

scored similar goals playing in the lower divisions. "That means he must have trained very hard," Loh said, adding that Mohd Faiz was inspired by Ronaldo to hone his free kick skills.

The trophy, which was given out late on Monday in Switzerland, will give new hope to Malaysian fans, long frustrated by their country's decline in the sport. The national team are ranked 161st out of 209 countries, a far cry from their time as a regional powerhouse and Olympic contender in the 1970s.

Malaysia qualified for the 1972 Munich Games where they beat the United States 3-0 but lost by the same score to West Germany and 6-0 to Morocco.

The match that defined the "Golden Era" was their 2-1 victory over South Korea which earned them a spot at the 1980 Moscow Olympics. However, Malaysia eventually boycotted the Olympics over Russia's 1979 invasion of Afghanistan.

That was the last time Malaysia qualified for the Olympics. Away from the pitch, local football is still reeling from a nationwide match-fixing scandal in the mid-1990s. — Reuters

PREMIER LEAGUE BIG GUNS GET FAVOURABLE FA CUP DRAWS

LONDON: Holders Manchester United and Premier League leaders Chelsea were both handed favourable home draws on Monday against second-tier opposition in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

United host nearby Wigan Athletic, the 2012-13 FA Cup winners, at Old Trafford while Chelsea will also be strong favourites to go through when they play Brentford at Stamford Bridge in a west London derby.

Wigan are just one place off the foot of the Championship and in a relegation battle. Brentford are mid-table. If Plymouth Argyle can pull off a shock in their home replay with Liverpool their reward will be a home tie with Wolverhampton Wanderers, also of the Championship.

Manchester City travel to either Bolton or Crystal Palace and local pride will be at stake when Derby host Premier League champions Leicester City.

Tottenham Hotspur will expect to beat Wycombe Wanderers, of the fourth tier, at White Hart Lane, but Arsenal face a potentially tricky away trip to either

Southampton or Norwich City.

Sutton United, the lowest-ranked team left in the competition, will play home to Cambridge or Leeds if they win their replay against AFC Wimbledon.

The ties will take place January 27-30. Draw for the fourth round of the FA Cup:

Tottenham v Wycombe
Derby v Leicester
Oxford v Birmingham or Newcastle
Sutton or AFC Wimbledon v Leeds
Liverpool or Plymouth v Wolves
Southampton or Norwich v Arsenal
Ipswich or Lincoln v Brighton
Chelsea v Brentford
Manchester United v Wigan
Millwall v Watford
Rochdale v Huddersfield
Sunderland or Burnley v Bristol City or Fleetwood
Blackburn v Barnsley or Blackpool
Fulham v Hull
Middlesbrough v Accrington Stanley
Bolton or Crystal Palace v Manchester City
Matches to be played January 27-30. — AFP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP		
Southampton v Liverpool	22:45	beIN SPORTS
ITALIAN CUP		
Fiorentina v Chievo Verona	19:30	AD SPORTS 3 HD
Juventus v Atalanta	22:45	AD SPORTS 3 HD
SPAIN COPA DEL REY		
Cordoba CF v Alcorcon	21:00	beIN SPORTS
Villarreal v Real Sociedad	21:00	beIN SPORTS
Alaves v Deportivo La Coruna	21:00	beIN SPORTS
Barcelona v Athletic de Bilbao	23:15	beIN SPORTS

Sports

Watson, Clemson
dethrone
top-ranked
Tide, 35-31



Australian
player hit with
seven-year
corruption ban



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017

LEICESTER HIT HARDEST BY AFRICAN DEPARTURES

Page 19



MELBOURNE: Tennis player Serena Williams (centre L) and her sister Venus (centre R) pose with Australia Open ballkids in Melbourne yesterday. Top players from around the world are arriving in Melbourne in the lead up to the Australian Open tennis tournament which will be held from 16-29 January. — AFP

TEENAGED RUSSIAN OUSTS KERBER IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY: Top-ranked Angelique Kerber lost her opening match at the Sydney International yesterday, upset 7-6 (5), 6-2 by Darya Kasatkina in a setback ahead of her Australian Open title defense next week.

Kerber, who won last year's Australian and US Open for her first major titles, has opened the new season with one win in two tournaments in Brisbane and Sydney. The Australian Open starts Monday in Melbourne.

"The first matches of the year are always tough, and I'm still not feeling my rhythm," Kerber said. "I made too many mistakes. I was not feeling the ball."

"It's the second tournament of the year. We have still a lot to go, so I will not do a big drama about that match." Kasatkina broke Kerber's serve five times and registered her first win ever against a top five player.

"Difficult to explain because I beat No.1 in the world and . doesn't happen every day," the

19 year-old Russian said when asked about her emotions after the career-high win. "I think I get some confidence."

She moved into a quarterfinal against sixth-seeded Johanna Konta, who beat Daria Gavrilova 6-1, 6-3 Eugenie Bouchard continued her resurgent run heading into the season's first major with a 6-4, 6-3 win over WTA Finals champion Dominika Cibulkova to reach the quarterfinals in Sydney.

Bouchard improved her career record to 4-1 against Cibulkova, who was ranked No. 5 and was voted the WTA's comeback player of the year in 2016 after her title win at the season-ending championship.

"Any time you play one of the best players in the world it's like a standard of where you're at," said Bouchard, who had a wild-card entry in Sydney. "Every time I have played a match with Domi, we have had the toughest battles."

"I have won, I guess, more often than not,

but everyone is a really tough battle." Bouchard had an early break in the second set, but dropped serve and allowed Cibulkova, a finalist at the 2014 Australian Open, a way back into the match.

But the Canadian star broke again quickly and held onto the advantage, and later attributed her recent improvement to a reunion with coach Thomas Hogstedt.

Bouchard had a breakout season in 2014, reaching the semifinals at the Australian Open and French Open before making the final at Wimbledon. But she has only gone past the fourth round at a major once since then and slipped to No. 46 at the end of last year.

After winning back-to-back matches at a tournament for the first time since August in Cincinnati, she will play a quarterfinal against Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, who beat defending champion Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-5, 6-3.

"I have taken a couple of solid steps this week, but I'm far from where I want to be," Bouchard said. "Even though I won, to me, I could do a lot of things better." Former No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki beat Yulia Putintseva 6-0, 7-5 to move into a quarterfinal against Barbora Strycova, who ousted No. 9-seeded Roberta Vinci 6-2, 6-3.

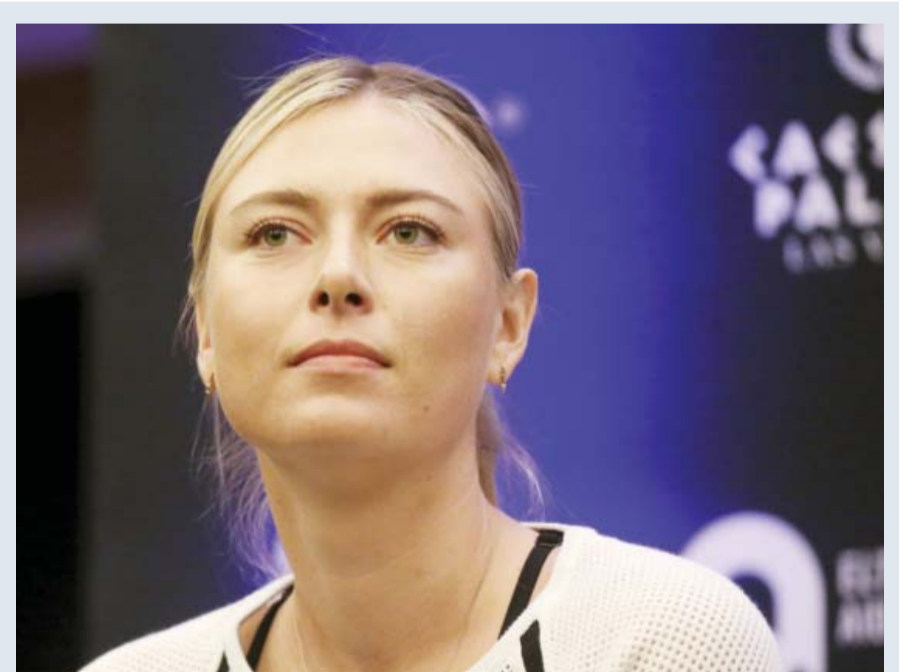
No. 2-ranked Agnieszka Radwanska had a 7-6 (1), 6-1 win over Christina McHale and will next play Chinese qualifier Duan Yingyang, who beat Coco Vandeweghe 6-3, 6-2 to make the quarterfinals.

In men's first-round matches, Alex De Minaur beat Benoit Paire 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (1), Andrey Kuznetsov was leading 2-6, 6-1, 3-0 when No. 7-seeded Martin Klizan retired, and No. 6 Gilles Muller advanced over Alexandr Dolgoplov.

At the Hobart International, third-seeded Monica Niculescu moved into the quarterfinals by beating Kirsten Flipkens 6-3, 6-2, and Veronica Cepede Royg had a 6-3, 0-6, 6-4 win over Andrea Petkovic.

At the ASB Classic in Auckland, New Zealand, fifth-seeded Spaniard Albert Ramos-Vinola lost 6-1, 7-5 in the first round to friend and training partner Joao Sousa, and No. 8-seeded Marcos Baghdatis beat Adrian Mannarino 6-4, 6-4.

Ramos-Vinola, ranked 27, and Portugal's Sousa, ranked 44, are both based in Barcelona and are supporters of the city's rival football clubs and Sousa described their match as "a kind of a derby." "On court we are no friends but off court we are," he said. — AP (See Page 17)



LAS VEGAS: In this Monday, Oct. 10, 2016 file photo, Maria Sharapova speaks to members of the media prior to a World Team Tennis exhibition in Las Vegas, US. Sharapova will return from her 15-month doping ban at a tournament in Germany in April. — AP

SHARAPOVA TO MAKE COMEBACK AFTER 15-MONTH DOPING BAN

BERLIN: Five-times grand slam champion Maria Sharapova will return to competitive action following a 15-month doping ban at the Stuttgart Grand Prix in April, the Russian said yesterday.

The Florida-based Sharapova was originally banned for two years after testing positive for meldonium at last year's Australian Open.

The former world number one, one of the highest paid athletes in the world in the past decade, admitted she had used meldonium for years and was not aware it had been banned since the start of 2016.

Her suspension was later cut to 15 months on appeal. "I could not be happier to have my first match back on tour at one of my favourite tournaments," Russian Sharapova, who won the indoor clay event three years running from 2012, said on the tournament website.

"I can't wait to see all my great fans and to be back doing what I love."

She will return to action in time to contest the season's second grand slam at Roland Garros. The French Open begins on May 22.

"I'm really happy for Maria that she's back after a long break. Particularly pleasing for me is that it's going to be our audience that gets to watch her comeback live," said tournament director Markus Guenthardt.

"(It)...is certain to be one of the sporting and emotional highlights of our anniversary tournament."

Sharapova, who will turn 30 on April 19, had earned \$29.7 million in 2015 as the world's highest paid female athlete. She had called the International Tennis Federation's (ITF) original ruling "unfairly harsh" as an independent tribunal had found that she had not intentionally violated anti-doping rules. — Reuters



SYDNEY: Darya Kasatkina of Russia hits a return to Angelique Kerber of Germany in their women's singles second round match at the Sydney International tennis tournament in Sydney yesterday. — AFP



New Chevrolet Trailblazer: Ready for anywhere

OIL MARKETS BULLISH ON HIGHER PRICES IN 2017



DETROIT: An Alfa Romeo 4C Coupe and Spider are displayed at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on Monday. — AP

AUTO SHOW KICKS OFF WITH TRADE PLEA TO TRUMP
 INDUSTRY GIANTS DISPLAY NEW MODELS, TECHNOLOGY

DETROIT: Auto executives rushed to offer fresh evidence of US investments at the start of the Detroit auto show on Monday, amid pressure from President-elect Donald Trump to repatriate manufacturing jobs. Trump, who has threatened and singled out for scorn automakers seeking to sell Mexican-built cars on the US market, cast a long shadow over the 29th annual US auto showcase, a key opportunity for companies to display new models and technology. Car industry executives representing Asian, German and American brands all touted US investments, as the automotive conclave opened to media and industry insiders. It opens to the public on January 14.

Early in the day, Trump offered an encouraging tweet praising Fiat Chrysler and Ford for their plans to invest in American auto plants. "Thank you Ford & Fiat Cl," Trump tweeted.

Trump campaigned last year by blasting the North American Free Trade Agreement and other trade policies he blamed for the loss of American manufacturing jobs, and has not

hesitated to criticize specific companies. Ford last week scrapped plans to open a new \$1.6 billion factory in Mexico. Late Sunday, Fiat Chrysler announced it was creating 2,000 jobs in the United States, investing \$1 billion in factories in two states key to Trump's victory, Ohio and Michigan.

'We owe a lot'

That move came just days after Trump lambasted Toyota in yet another tweet. The Japanese car maker said Monday it would invest \$10 billion in US plants over the next five years. "This investment also includes our new headquarters in Plano and research into autonomous vehicles and robotics," Toyota spokeswoman Amanda Sawyer Roark said in an email to AFP.

While representatives of German car makers touted the virtues of free trade on Monday, Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne struck a conciliatory tone with Trump. "I appreciated the comment that he made today," he said. "We haven't

forgotten how we got here. We owe a lot to this country." Trump's actions appeared to already be having an impact beyond the spate of investment announcements. Marchionne said for now it would be "foolish" for Fiat Chrysler to make additional investments in Mexico, pending clarity from an incoming administration about its trade plans. Carlos Ghosn, chief of the Renault-Nissan alliance offered a different take, saying moving back to the US made business sense as a hedge against currency volatility.

"What we heard so far from the Trump administration is: America's first, jobs in the US. What you're hearing from us is: no foreign exchange risk," Ghosn said. "I don't think there's going to be a lot of disruption."

'He's very accessible'

Ford piled on Monday with more news of expanded US production, saying it will reintroduce the iconic Bronco sports utility vehicle and Ranger pickup truck, which it will build at a Michigan factory, displacing the production

of Focus sedans, which will relocate to Mexico. Ford Executive Chairman Bill Ford said while production decisions were based on business needs, he was having "frequent" conversations with the president-elect to keep him informed of what the company was doing.

"He's very accessible, very easy to talk to," Ford said. He said discussions had covered "trade policies, currency fluctuations, tax policy, all the things that would affect our business."

"I found him to be very informed and very respectful of our position." Representatives of the German car industry stressed that free trade agreements are economically advantageous. Members of the German automotive group VDA urged the president-elect to preserve trade liberalization.

"Cooperation and accessible markets, free trade and direct investments are two sides of the same coin, bringing prosperity and jobs to people on both sides of the Atlantic," Matthias Wissmann, president of the group, said in Detroit. Late Sunday, Volkswagen brand chief

Herbert Diess said his company planned to keep manufacturing in Mexico. But he also emphasized that the German company could expand its capacity at its Chattanooga, Tennessee plant. VW also plans to build electric vehicles in the United States. Volkswagen is still struggling to move past an emission-cheating scandal. Over the weekend, FBI agents arrested former VW executive Oliver Schmidt, who faces charges that he knowingly lied to US regulators. Swedish automaker Volvo also signaled it plans more investment in the US market. Volvo, whose biggest shareholder is Chinese, plans to begin production on a second generation S60 mid-size sedan in 2018, Volvo CEO Hakan Samuelsson said.

Production from that factory largely will be of cars that can be exported. Half the German cars produced in the US are exported, with about a quarter going to Europe and a quarter to Asia, according to the VDA. "We assume that the new administration will aim to strengthen US industry," Wissmann said. — AFP

OMAN IN TALKS TO OBTAIN DEPOSIT FROM GULF STATES

MUSCAT/DOHA: Oman is negotiating with wealthy Gulf Arab states to secure a multi-billion dollar deposit in its central bank that would boost its foreign exchange reserves and head off any pressure on the rial, two sources have told Reuters. Omani officials met in recent weeks with officials of the finance ministries of Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia to discuss the proposed deposit, the sources said, declining to be named because the matter is not public. The talks are at an early stage but "signs so far are positive", said an Oman-based source close to the discussions. He added: "This can lessen the risk of devaluation."

A Qatari official confirmed that negotiations were under way. "What is being discussed is in the region of billions of dollars," he said. "It is in the collective interest of the region to keep the exchange rate intact." Asked to comment, Oman's central bank executive president, Hamood Sangour Al-Zadjali, referred questions to the Omani finance ministry. However, he said the central bank was encouraging local banks to attract deposits of foreign exchange.

Officials of the finance ministries of Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia did not respond to telephone calls and emails requesting comment. The proposed Omani deposit would be a fresh effort by the richer countries in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to support the less wealthy members in order to prevent financial instability from spreading around the region.

The finances of all six countries have been hurt by the plunge of oil prices since mid-2014, which has slashed their export revenues. Oman, which lacks the huge oil and financial reserves of its neighbors, has

been hit particularly hard. This has caused speculation among bankers that Oman could eventually have to abandon its rial currency's three-decade-old peg of 0.3849 to the US dollar.

DEPRECIATION

Since early 2015, the rial has depreciated in the forwards market as some banks have hedged against the risk of a devaluation, although the Omani currency has come well off forward market lows hit in early 2016. The Omani central bank's net foreign assets rose 3.2 percent from a year earlier to 7.40 billion rials (\$19.2 billion) in October, according to the latest official data. Oman is running a deficit on its trade of goods and services of nearly \$13 billion, the International Monetary Fund estimates.

The government is also believed to have about \$40 billion of assets in two sovereign wealth funds, according to private estimates, but it wants to avoid running these funds down as they generate long-term income and invest in industries that are strategically important for Oman's economy.

Geopolitics may contribute to any decision to go ahead with the Omani deposit. Last month Oman, traditionally on friendly terms with Iran, said it had joined a Saudi-led coalition of Muslim countries fighting terrorism, a move praised by other GCC states as closing ranks with them against Iran. The Qatari official said the Omani deposit would be separate from a pledge by wealthy Gulf states in 2011 to provide \$10 billion each to Oman and Bahrain to fund economic development projects in those countries over 10 years. A small fraction of that money has been disbursed so far. — Reuters

EGYPT'S COST-OF-LIVING SOARS AS CURRENCY DIVES

CORE INFLATION JUMPS TO 25.86% IN URBAN AREAS

CAIRO: Annual consumer price inflation in Egypt's cities soared to a second straight eight-year high in December, hitting 23.3 percent on the back of the government's decision to float the pound, effectively halving its value.

Core inflation also jumped to 25.86 percent in the urban areas, the official CAPMAS statistics agency said yesterday. Urban consumer inflation hit an eight-year high of 19.4 percent in November, the month when Egypt abandoned its currency peg of 8.8 to the US dollar in a dramatic move that has since seen the currency depreciate roughly by half. It accompanied the Nov 3 move with a 300 basis point interest rate hike to fight inflationary pressures.

Despite the hike, however, inflation has risen sharply and is expected to climb further this year as the government pushes on with economic reforms, including fuel subsidy cuts and the implementation of a value-added tax. Those moves were required to secure a \$12 billion International Monetary Fund loan.

In cities and towns, food and beverage inflation touched 28.3 percent in December. Healthcare inflation stood at 32.9 percent while transportation was 23.2 percent.

"Egypt now is in the eye of the policy restructuring cycle, and the price is higher inflation and an overall fiscal deficit pending a structural change in government spending and general repricing of goods and services," Arqaam Capital said in a research note.

"A reversal of over 50 years of comprehensive government support will take time," it said, predicting inflation to remain high in the first half of the year, averaging 20 percent in 2016/17 before

declining to 18 percent in 2017/18. The Egyptian government is under pressure to revive the economy, keep prices under control and create jobs to avoid a backlash from the public.

The government predicted last month that the Egyptian pound would strengthen in the coming months and promised to ensure basics were available and affordable. The government has expanded its social security network and

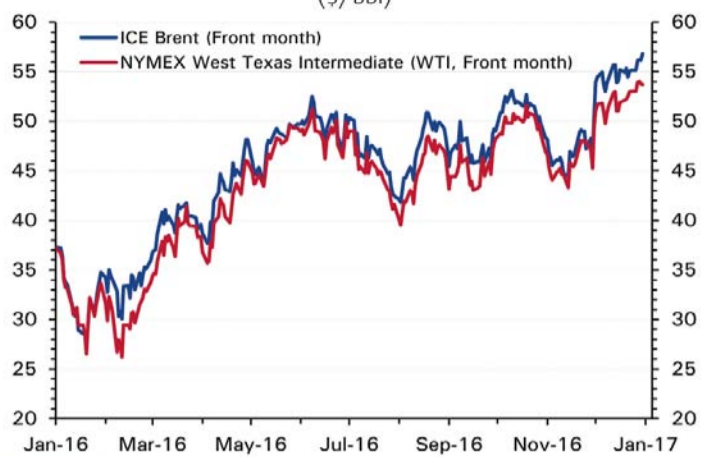
some 70 million Egyptians have access to state subsidized bread.

But Egypt's non-oil business activity shrank for the 15th consecutive month in December as inflation caused purchase costs to rise at a near-record pace. Economists expect the rising inflation to erode spending power, hit economic growth and prompt further hikes to interest rates, which are already up to 15.75 percent. — Reuters



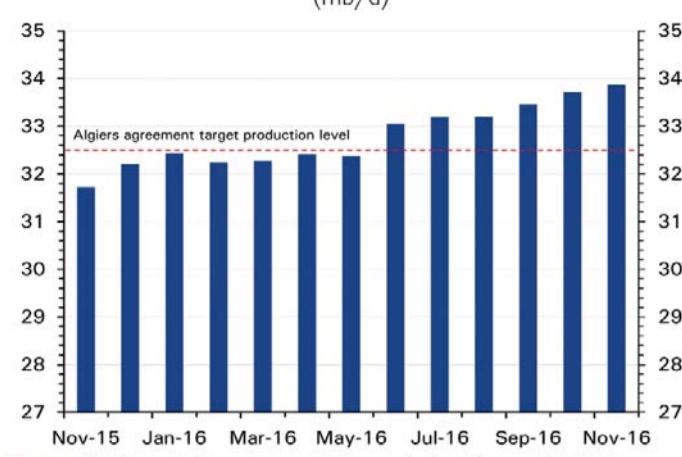
CAIRO: A vegetable vendor sells produce at a market in Cairo. Egypt is seeing a dramatic jump in the country's annual urban consumer price inflation. — AP

Chart 1: Crude oil prices (\$/bbl)



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

Chart 3: OPEC crude oil production (mb/d)



Source: OPEC secondary sources; Note: excludes Libya and Nigeria

OIL MARKETS BULLISH ON HIGHER PRICES IN 2017

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: 2016 closed with oil prices in the high 50's and markets optimistic that agreed upon OPEC/non-OPEC crude production cuts will lead to firmer prices in 2017. Brent crude, the international benchmark, was up at close to \$57 per barrel (bbl) by year's end, a rise of 52.4 percent in 2016; West Texas Intermediate, the US crude marker, ended the year at \$53.7/bbl, up 45 percent on the start of the year.

Looking at the forward price curve out to 2020 for Brent, price gains would appear to be front loaded, however, with the curve moving from a traditional contango structure (i.e. the price for Brent delivery is higher in the future than it is now) in the first half of 2017 into backwardation and then contango again towards the tail end of the curve. This would seem to reflect the dynamics of the current market, where physical supplies are expected to be tight in 1H17 as supply is reined in and the market moves from a surplus to a projected deficit. Further out, things are more uncertain, but in all likelihood, higher oil prices will spur higher production from US shale producers, many of whom are already locking in hedges, resulting in more downward pressure on prices. Nevertheless, the contrast with the situation at the beginning of 2016 is striking indeed, especially considering that prices were, at one point last January, flirting with \$26/bbl when historically high global crude inventories and persistent oversupply weighed heavily on sentiment.

Then, OPEC, including a newly sanctions-free Iran, and Russia were turning on the taps in an effort to maximize market share. It was as if producers were engaged in a rhetorical race to the bottom. But twelve months is a long time in the oil markets, and while markets are still awash in crude, sentiment has turned perceptibly bullish. For that, the markets have OPEC to thank. The 13-member group's decision on 30 November to cut production, after an 8-year hiatus, in a last ditch attempt to reduce global crude stocks and unwind the 2-year supply glut was a timely and dramatic intervention. Led by Saudi Arabia, OPEC agreed to reduce its output by 1.2 million barrels per day (mb/d) to 32.5 mb/d for a period of 6 months, effective January 2017. According to the terms of the agreement, all members, with the exception of Iran, Nigeria, Libya and Indonesia, which has since left the group, are required to reduce output by 4.5 percent from October's reference production level. They will all be subject to a strict monitoring program by a committee chaired by Kuwait to ensure compliance. At the same time, 11 non-OPEC countries led by Russia and including Mexico, Kazakhstan and Oman have also agreed to pare back production, by 558,000 b/d, this year.

According to recent reports, Saudi Arabia, and its GCC allies have already instructed their respective refinery customers to expect fewer deliveries beginning this month. The Kuwaiti press reported last week that the country's production will be officially cut by 130,000 b/d to 2.75 mb/d in January. Russia has also instructed its oil companies to curb their output.

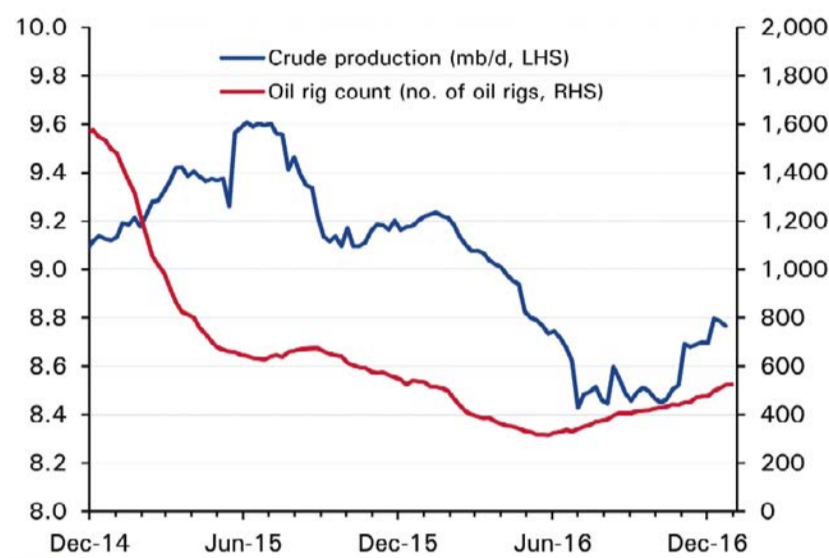
However, OPEC, for its part, may need to consider more severe cuts than its members initially signed up for, judging by the group's aggregate production figure of 33.87 mb/d in November. The latter is 150,000 b/d higher than the group's October reference baseline, thanks to returning Libyan and Nigerian crude sup-

plies. Saudi Arabia and its GCC neighbors most likely will have to offset these gains with larger production cuts of their own if the group intends to keep to within its target range.

Moreover, data out of the US in December revealed that oil drillers were returning idled rigs back online at the fastest rate since March 2014, with 65 oil rigs added by the end of the month, bringing the total US oil rig count up to 525—the highest since last January. US crude production is back up to around 8.7 mb/d, despite 2 consecutive weeks of declines. US shale's gains prompted the International Energy Agency (IEA) last month to revise up its forecast for US production growth in 2017 by 70,000 b/d.

On the demand side, the IEA has just revised up its global oil demand forecast for 2016 and 2017. The agency now estimates that growth will come in 120,000 b/d higher at 1.4 mb/d in 2016 and 100,000 b/d higher at 1.3 mb/d this year thanks to better-than-expected US crude demand and revisions to Russian and Chinese crude data.

Chart 4: US crude oil production and oil rig counts



Source: US Energy Information Administration (EIA)

Highlights

- 2016 ended with oil prices in the mid-to-high \$50's, up by more than 52% in the case of Brent.
- Markets are optimistic that in 2017, announced OPEC/non-OPEC production cuts will ease the supply glut of the past two years.
- Global demand growth in 2017 was revised up by the IEA to 1.3 mb/d on better-than-expected US demand figures.
- Assuming full OPEC/non-OPEC compliance and better crude demand than the market could move into a deficit of around 0.6 mb/d in 1H17.
- All eyes will be on US shale's response to higher prices in 2017 as production is already up by 4 percent (0.3 mb/d) from its 2016 low.



GENEVA: A sign of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is pictured yesterday at its headquarters in Cologne near Geneva. The World Economy Forum (WEF) annual meeting will take place from 17 to the 20 of January 2017 and will be focus on Responsive and Responsible Leadership. —AFP

TURKISH LIRA DROPS TO FRESH LOWS DESPITE CB SUPPORT

ISTANBUL: The Turkish lira slumped to new lows yesterday, passing 4.0 to the euro for the first time and extending a slide since the start of the year, as a deputy prime minister repeated a warning that the economy was under attack.

Islamic State and Kurdish militant bombings, an economic slowdown and political uncertainty over plans to bolster President Tayyip Erdogan's powers have all unsettled investors. The central bank's reluctance to hike interest rates to stem the lira's falls has only compounded the concerns.

The bank responded to the lira slide by cutting forex reserves, in a move adding \$1.5 billion liquidity to the financial system, and vowed additional steps if necessary. The statement helped stem the lira losses. The lira hit a low of 3.7870 against the dollar, from a close of 3.7130 on Monday, bringing losses since a failed coup in July to 24 percent. It stood at 3.7575 at 1137 GMT after the central bank comments, still a daily loss of 1.2 percent.

"Instead of tightening monetary policy directly, the Bank prefers to tighten TL liquidity conditions and ease FX liquidity conditions, which might be perceived as a smoothening step, but might not reverse the actual course," said BGC Partners chief economist Ozgur Altug.

The lira also hit a low of 4.0054 against the euro, from a close of 3.9231

on Monday. It stood at 3.9740 after the central bank statement. Deputy Prime Minister Nurettin Canikli, who has said the economy was being targeted by "sabotage and attacks", singled out a report from ratings agency Moody's saying banking profits would be hit by increased non-performing loans.

"This is actually an attack. They will not be able to succeed in any way," he said in a speech in Ankara. The Moody's report had no validity and there was zero risk of the banking sector's asset quality worsening, he added. Erdogan's demands for lower borrowing costs to boost growth are seen as constraining the central bank's ability to raise rates. Those demands are unlikely to abate after the economy shrank 1.8 percent in the third quarter.

The central bank (CBRT), which left rates on hold last month, is expected to come under fresh pressure from financial markets to raise them when it meets on Jan. 24. "(The) lack of policy reaction keeps the depreciation pressure alive, as CBRT remains put and does not react either through lira or FX liquidity policy tools," said Turk Ekonomi Bank strategist Erkin Isik.

Plans for constitutional reform that would create an executive presidential system, handing Erdogan more powers, meanwhile passed another hurdle yesterday when parliament voted to debate details of the proposal. — Reuters

ALGERIA SAYS FUND TO COVER BUDGET DEFICITS DECLINING

ALGIERS: Resources for the state fund intended to cover Algeria's budget deficits had declined by 59.5 percent at the end of 2016 from the previous year because of falling oil prices, Finance Minister Hadji Baba Ammi said. State finances were already under pressure in Algeria, where the government had forecast foreign exchange reserves would reach \$114 billion by the end of last year, from \$144 billion in 2015 and \$178 billion the previous year.

Oil and gas earnings make up 94 percent of total exports and 60 percent of the state budget in the North African state. Algeria set up its oil savings fund, the Fund for the Regulation of Receipts (FRR), 17 years ago.

It allocates revenue calculated from the difference between a reference price for oil of \$37 a barrel and the market price at which it is actually sold.

Algeria's government had maintained high levels of public spending and domestic subsidies before crude oil prices started sliding in mid-2014.

Resources for the fund reached 840 billion dinars in December last year, down from 2,072 billion dinars in 2015. Baba Ammi told the parliament finance committee on Monday, according to the state news agency APS. The government had expected oil and gas earnings to drop to \$27.5 billion by the end of 2016 from \$35.7 billion in 2015 and \$60 billion in 2014.

The government has approved a 14 percent cut in its budget for 2017 and endorsed higher taxes in a bid to cope with lower energy revenues. It also promises to maintain a subsidy system, a sensitive issue, that will cost \$18 billion this year. — Reuters

OIL PRICES STEADY AFTER FALLS ON WEAKER DOLLAR

LONDON: Oil prices stabilized yesterday after a sharp sell-off as a fall in the dollar triggered a bout of short-covering, but analysts said the market remained vulnerable to further falls.

Rising oil prices through December encouraged investors to buy large volumes of crude oil futures contracts and many of these "long" positions are likely to be unwound unless the market stays strong, analysts and brokers say. "I see this as a dead cat bounce," said Ole Hansen, head of commodity strategy at Saxo Bank in Copenhagen. "Oil is unlikely to recover until the longs have been reduced."

Tamas Varga, analyst at London broker PVM, agreed: "We are seeing some short covering on the back of a weaker dollar," Varga said. "We might see stronger prices today after yesterday's big fall, but the market should weaken in coming days. I believe we are going lower."

Oil is priced in dollars, so a weaker dollar tends to encourage buying by consumers holding other currencies. Brent crude was up 10 cents a barrel at \$55.04 by 1220 GMT. US light crude oil was up 10 cents at \$52.06.

Both crude contracts fell more than \$2 a barrel, or around 4 percent, on Monday on doubts that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other key oil producers would cut output as promised to try to reduce a global oversupply. OPEC members such as Saudi Arabia appear to be reducing production but it is not clear whether other big producers such as Iraq will follow suit.

Iraq said yesterday it would raise crude exports from its main Basra port to an all-time high in February. Supplies are also increasing in North America. The average Canadian rig count for December 2016 was 209, up 36 from the 173 counted in November 2016, and up 49 from the 160 counted in December 2015, said Matt Stanley, a fuel broker at Freight Services International in Dubai.

"A 30 percent increase in Canadian rigs in a year ... The bear in me is well and truly back," Stanley said. In the United States, energy companies last week added rigs for a 10th week in a row, extending the drilling recovery into an eighth month as crude prices remained at levels at which many US drillers can operate profitably. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.615
Indian Rupees	4.510
Pakistani Rupees	2.934
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.053
Nepali Rupees	2.823
Singapore Dollar	212.790
Hongkong Dollar	39.563
Bangladesh Taka	3.893
Philippine Peso	6.173
Thai Baht	8.601
Malaysian Ringgit	223.230

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.881
Qatari Riyal	84.334
UAE Dirham	797.427
Bahraini Dinar	815.330
UAE Dirham	83.599

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.250
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.073
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.232
Tunisian Dinar	133.590
Jordanian Dinar	432.400
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.046
Syrian Lira	2.188
Morocco Dirham	30.839

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	306.850
Euro	323.270
Sterling Pound	379.270
Canadian dollar	229.680
Turkish lira	87.300

Swiss Franc	302.020
Australian Dollar	222.200
US Dollar Buying	305.650

GOLD	
20 Gram	238.24
10 Gram	122.04
5 Gram	57.97

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

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 Peso	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 COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
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	BUY	SELL
Australian Dollar	0.213906	0.225908
New Zealand Dollar	0.205822	0.215322

America	BUY	SELL
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	BUY	SELL
Bangladesh Taka	0.003578	0.004160
Chinese Yuan	0.042632	0.046132
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037520	0.040270
Indian Rupee	0.002789	0.005523

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
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	BUY	SELL
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	0.002063	0.044263
Nigerian Naira	0.000407	0.001042
Omani Riyal	0.791501	0.797181
Qatar Riyal	0.083569	0.085019
Saudi Riyal	0.808033	0.882133
Syrian Pound	0.001303	0.001523
Tunisian Dinar	0.128697	0.136697
Turkish Lira	0.082529	0.092829
UAE Dirhams	0.082215	0.083915
Yemeni Riyal	0.000999	0.001079



Roland Krueger with QX50 Concept at NAIAS 2017



INFINITI PREVIEW 'CO-PILOT' TECHNOLOGIES AT 2017 NAIAS

QX50 CONCEPT PREVIEW FIRST PRODUCTION-READY 'CO-PILOT' SYSTEM

DETROIT: INFINITI yesterday previewed 'co-pilot', an evolving suite of autonomous drive support technologies, at the 2017 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in Detroit, USA.

Central to the strategy for the development of all future 'co-pilot' systems is that they should ensure the driver retains ultimate control over their vehicle - in keeping with INFINITI's focus on driver engagement.

Empowering rather than replacing the driver, 'co-pilot' will act as a 'co-pilot' and take on the management of less rewarding driving tasks, such as ensuring safe progress in stop-start traffic on the highway or keeping track of the position of surrounding vehicles.

The 'co-pilot' technologies showcased at NAIAS feature on the QX50 Concept, which demonstrates how a future INFINITI premium mid-sized SUV could look and also makes its

debut at the show. Since its inception in 1989, INFINITI has brought pioneering driver-assistive technologies to the customer. The company has been responsible for a series of world-first semi-autonomous technologies, including Predictive Forward Collision Warning, drive-by-wire Direct Adaptive Steering and Active Lane Control.

Roland Krueger, President of INFINITI, commented: "INFINITI customers love to drive and

our approach to autonomous driving reflects this. Equipping drivers with their very own co-pilot, the QX50 Concept lights a path to the future integration of INFINITI's autonomous drive 'co-pilot' technologies, reimagining how the driver interacts with the car."

'co-pilot' is designed to improve on-road safety by supporting the driver in identifying and responding to other road users and potential hazards. The technologies draw on

inputs from laser scanners, radar and camera to read the road ahead and monitor the vehicle's surroundings, and allow the car to react accordingly. 'co-pilot' wraps up all of INFINITI's existing and near-future autonomous drive support technologies under one brand. The QX50 Concept's 'co-pilot' system previews the first production-ready incarnation of this technology package ahead of its roll-out - and further development - in the coming years.



REMIT THROUGH AL MULLA EXCHANGE, WIN ELECTRONICS ITEMS IN INDIA

KUWAIT: Al Mulla Exchange Company is successfully running its unique promotion for the Indian community to let them enjoy wonderful prizes back home.

The promotion, which started from 06th November 2016 will last until 29th January 2017. It gives customers transacting to India a chance to win LED TVs, refrigerators, washing machines and electronic items of their choice delivered at their home address in India, there are now only 4 draws remaining!

One winner will be chosen every week through an electronics draw, and the prizes will be delivered to the customers' address in India through their strategic partner and leading electronic store Reliance Digital. There are a total of 12 lucky winners, 8 of whom have already selected through the draw.

The winners are:

- 1st draw Krishna Kumar Raju
 - 2nd draw Penchalaiah Maruthoti Ramaiah
 - 3rd draw Mohammed Mujib Talhurankal
 - 4th draw Sayed Mustafa S O Mangalbhai
 - 5th draw Daniel Renjith E Manuel
 - 6th draw Mohammed Shameer Pukkayil
 - 7th draw Chand Mohammed Kalan
 - 8th draw Lijo varghese Varghese
- Speaking to the media, Rakesh Joshi,

General Manager, Al Mulla Exchange, congratulated the winners and asked those who haven't had the chance to take part to make use of the golden opportunity before January 29.

Regarding the draw, he said that this is the first time ever that winners in a draw have received the prizes delivered in India. Explaining about the prizes, Joshi said the Indian community is an important part of our customer base and the latest promotional initiative is part of an ongoing scheme aimed at rewarding our customers from Indian community. We are also running other promotions for the Philippines and the Jordanian communities in Kuwait.

Al Mulla Exchange has a reputation for running exceptional promotions to not only achieve business objectives, but also as a token of gratitude to the customers. The company has been recording tremendous success in Kuwait, with a growing number of branches across the length and breadth of the country.

"We look at our growth as the result of the trust and support that our customers have given us, and are extremely indebted to them. This is our way of sharing a part of our success and happiness with them for their lasting loyalty."

AUTOMAKERS OVERHAUL PRODUCT PLANS TO BET MORE ON SUVs

DETROIT: Global automakers are reworking their product strategies and investments for the United States to bring more sport utility vehicles to showrooms amid a sharp turn away from small- and medium-sized cars, executives at Detroit's auto show say. Carmakers from Toyota Motor Corp to General Motors Co to Volkswagen AG are adding more SUVs to their product plans, amid forecasts that SUVs and pickup trucks could soon make up two-thirds of US light vehicle sales, up from 56 percent in 2015 and just under 60 percent last year.

"The shift to trucks is profound," said Mike Jackson, chief executive of AutoNation Inc, the largest US auto dealership chain. Sedans are not only losing sales volume, but automakers and dealers are offering bigger discounts to move them out of showrooms, industry executives said. Profit margins on SUVs and trucks are fatter. The average incentive for a midsize car in September was 14.1 percent, according to Kelley Blue Book, compared with 7.4 percent for a midsize crossover.

The shift has forced some automakers to slash production capacity dedicated just a few years ago to small cars, and put a new emphasis on designing vehicles and assembly plants that can switch quickly from building cars to SUVs. Volkswagen's Audi unit, for example, builds a small Q2 SUV and its A3 sedan on the same assembly line, Dietmar Voggenreiter, head of sales and marketing for Audi, said in an interview. "We will always have an SUV and a sedan" on the same production line, he said.

Automakers are bringing SUVs into segments that previously were only for cars. Case in point is Nissan Motor Co's Rogue Sport, revealed on Monday at the North American International Auto Show, an Americanized version of the small Qashqai SUV Nissan has sold for several years in Europe and Asia. "The increasing shift of cars to crossovers finally drove our decision to bring this car to the US," said Michael Bunce, vice president of product strategy for Nissan's US arm. The Rogue Sport will be sold alongside the slightly larger Rogue, appealing to consumers who previously would have had only small cars to choose from. The cars to SUV shift is hitting luxury brands, as well. At German luxury automaker BMW last year, about 43 percent of



DETROIT: A Nissan Sentra Nismo (left) and a GT-R are shown at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit on Monday. — AP

US sales were SUVs. In December, that percentage neared 50, said Ian Robertson, the German luxury brand's global sales chief. "I think that tells you where the trend is in the US, probably on a 50-50 level," Robertson told Reuters. At Toyota Motor Co, SUVs and trucks will account for about 63 percent of US sales in 2017, said North America CEO Jim Lentz, predicting its RAV4 SUV could top the Camry this year as its best-selling US vehicle.

Honda Motor Co is working to expand production of SUVs for the US market, shifting production of the Acura MDX sport utility to a factory in Ohio to make room for additional production of higher volume Pilot SUVs and Ridgeline pickup trucks, Chief Executive Takahiro Hachigo said.

Cheap gasoline is emboldening some automakers to add more SUVs based on body-on-frame pickup truck designs - after years of shifting SUVs to lighter, car-like unitized body construction. Ford Motor Co is reviving its Bronco SUV. It was last built in 1996 after gaining notoriety as the vehicle used during O.J.

Simpson's police pursuit. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV on Sunday outlined plans to bring back a body on frame SUV for its Jeep line.

The focus on SUVs leaves carmakers who have an overcapacity of sedans in a weak position. Ford's announcement last week to scrap a planned Mexico factory was attributed to falling US demand for sedans.

"The sedan market is under real pressure. If you don't have SUVs in all categories you are in serious difficulty," warned Lex Kersemakers, CEO of Volvo Cars USA, whose flagship US model is the XC90 SUV. Lexus global chief Takuo Fukuuchi said the idea of building a luxury car brand around a large sedan such as the Lexus LS unveiled in Detroit is now "under assault."

Mark Reuss, head of global product development, said the automaker is looking for ways to offer attributes of SUVs in more designs that are more innovative than the square-backed vehicles that dominate the category now. "You'll see them in the next year," he said, vehicles that offer "an alternative to a box." — Reuters

MEXICO SEEKS TO TAME PRICES AFTER PROTESTS

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's government, business leaders and agricultural groups agreed on Monday to prevent increases in the cost of basic goods after a gasoline price hike sparked daily and sometimes violent protests. As thousands marched again in Mexico City, President Enrique Pena Nieto did not signal any backpedaling on the government's unpopular decision to increase gasoline prices by up to 20.1 percent.

But he was joined by business leaders at his official residence in Mexico City to announce an agreement to keep the prices of other goods under control.

"The business sector is making the commitment to help in order to not resort in an indiscriminate increase in prices," Pena Nieto said. "This is possible because gasoline, for the majority of products, represents just a fraction of production costs," he said.

The agreement published by the administration warns the government will "watch for and sanction any abuse." The government, meanwhile, will apply austerity measures including a cut in the salaries of senior officials by 10 percent in addition to a previously announced 1.7 percent budget reduction.

While the Business Coordination Council backed the deal, the powerful COPARMEX trade confederation refused to join. "It is

more important for such an agreement to be the fruit of a real and broad social consensus, and not just serve as a communications or public relations strategy," COPARMEX said in a statement.

Mexicans have held daily protests since the government increased the cost of a liter of gasoline on January 1 as part of a deregulation of fuel prices.

Some protesters clashed with police while

others looted stores, leaving at least three people dead and some 1,500 arrested. More protests took place on Monday, including thousands in the capital where people shouted "Pena Out!" Pena Nieto has defended the price increase, saying it was necessary to avoid cuts in health care and welfare programs after global oil prices went up. Mexico imports more than half of the gasoline it consumes. — AFP

EGYPT RISES BUT FOREIGN FUNDS SELL; SAUDI DOWN

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Egypt's stock market rose strongly yesterday but foreign funds were net sellers for a second time since the Egyptian pound was floated on Nov 3. Gulf markets diverged with Saudi petrochemical shares hit by weak oil prices. The Egyptian blue chip index added 1.8 percent to 13,015 points, a fresh all-time closing high, but trading volume fell slightly below its seven-day average. Foreign investors, heavy buyers of Egyptian shares since the currency was floated, were net sellers by a small margin after also selling on Sunday this week. Mohamed El Nabrawy, head of asset management at Egypt's HC Securities & Investment, said foreign funds had been extremely underweight in Egypt for several years and were likely to remain interested in the market, so he did not expect their profit-taking to trigger a major pull-back by stocks. Yesterday some stocks favored by local

investors were the top gainers, with Arabian Cement jumping 9.9 percent to 7.75 Egyptian pounds. Beltone Financial placed a "buy" recommendation on the stock with a fair value of 12.60 pounds, citing higher cement prices and a healthy pricing environment as dynamics in the sector improved.

GULF

Riyadh's index pulled back 1.0 percent to 7,008 points, nearing technical support on its mid-December low of 7,002 points. A little over half of listed petrochemical producers declined after Brent oil futures retreated about 4 percent overnight. Advanced Petrochemical dropped 2.0 percent.

Analysts at HSBC said in a note that most valuations of Gulf petrochemical shares under their coverage had caught up in recent weeks with improved fundamentals

and higher oil prices, offering limited room for positive earnings surprises. But Sahara Petrochemical rose 2.6 percent to 13.80 dirhams. Analysts at Riyad Capital raised their 12-month target price to 16.0 riyals from 15.0 riyals on expectations of an earnings revival in 2017, citing the company's strong association with top global producers such as Dow Chemicals and improved operating rates at its facilities.

Retailer Jarir Marketing pulled back 1.5 percent after gaining 0.2 percent on the previous day, when it reported a 3.5 percent increase in fourth-quarter net profit and a 17.7 percent jump in revenue as sales of electronic goods rose. Dubai's index edged up 0.1 percent after a weak start. Trading volume was strong with most activity focused on companies with share prices around 1.0 dirham - stocks often traded by short-term speculative investors. — Reuters

تَانِكُو
TANKCO

STRATEGIC & INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
In the OIL & GAS - FIREFIGHTING & SAFETY

- Corporate or Individuals - Corporate preferably in the same field. Individuals with high net worth, sophisticated investor in private equity.
- INVESTMENT HORIZON - 3 to 5 years with business activities in GCC & MENA region.
- Attractive Return on Investment with expected both preferred and common distribution.

Interested parties may please contact us at " tankco@ivacis.com "

STOCKS RISE; STERLING REELS FROM BREXIT PAIN

LONDON: World stock markets nudged back towards recent multi-month highs yesterday, aided by a rally in commodity prices, although sterling slid for a second straight day on concerns over Britain's future ties with the European Union. European stock markets, which had opened broadly lower, edged back towards recent one-year peaks, while US stock futures traded marginally higher.

The recovery in share prices came as commodities such as copper gained on further signs of a pick-up in China's economy, while oil prices stabilized after falling almost 4 percent on Monday on doubts that key oil producers would cut output as promised to reduce oversupply.

Brent crude oil prices rose 0.4 percent to \$55.14, moving away from Monday's low of \$54.74. Resource stocks were the biggest gainers in European share markets, with the sector up 2.8 percent, while Britain's blue-chip FTSE index hit a record high on sterling weakness.

Britain's currency hit a fresh 10-week low against the dollar and an eight-week low against the euro after weekend comments by British Prime Minister Theresa May that she was not interested in Britain keeping "bits" of its EU membership. A revival in worries that Britain could be headed for a "hard Brexit", in which it chooses to take full control of immigration and give up access to the single market, reverberated across financial markets, lifting demand for safe-haven assets such as German government bonds and gold, which rose to its highest level in over a month.

ed across financial markets, lifting demand for safe-haven assets such as German government bonds and gold, which rose to its highest level in over a month.

EYES ON TRUMP

With little in the way of major US data on the calendar, attention was turning to a news conference today by US President-elect Donald Trump, his first since winning the election.

On Monday, declines in energy and financial stocks weighed on the S&P 500 and helped stall the Dow's pursuit of the 20,000 milestone ahead of earnings season and expected US policy changes under Trump. "Cautiousness ahead of

the news conference is turning into a bit of optimism, if you look at how Trump's tweets are playing out in the market," said Naeem Aslam, chief market analyst at Think Markets UK.

"Investors are optimistic after the news on Jack Ma - if he's going to create a million jobs in the US, perhaps there won't be too much negative sentiment towards trade-related policies." Alibaba Executive Chairman Jack Ma met Trump on Monday and laid out the Chinese e-commerce giant's new plan that it hopes will create 1 million US jobs.

CHINA PLANS

How US relations play out with China, the world's second biggest economy, are also a key focus for currency markets, injecting a degree of nervousness. The dollar dipped against the euro and yen, and was virtually flat against a basket of six major peers, at 101.93, holding below last week's high of 103.82, its highest level since 2002. "The market is increasingly nervous about Donald Trump's press conference -

for FX markets what will be particularly important will be his plans ... for the trade policy, for the relationship with China," said Commerzbank currency strategist Esther Reichelt, in Frankfurt.

"The Fed has stressed this enormous uncertainty, so ... the main driver right now (for the dollar) is not monetary policy, because monetary policy will react to what we're going to hear from Donald Trump in the next couple of weeks." In Asia, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan advanced just 0.5 percent, while Chinese stocks were little changed, largely shrugging off further signs of improvement in the industrial sector. Data showed producer inflation surged to a more than five-year high in December as raw materials prices soared.

A fall in the Turkish lira meanwhile grabbed the spotlight in emerging markets. The lira slumped 1.6 percent to a fresh record low of 3.77 against the dollar, having weakened almost 7 percent since the start of the year on the weakening economy and militant attacks. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Tuesday 10 January 2017

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▲ 62.52	6,014.36	5,951.84	6,014.73	5,940.70
Weighted Index	▲ 0.28	388.71	388.43	391.11	387.16
KSX 15	▼ -1.79	903.73	905.52	913.42	902.84

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
671,532,931	48,305,903	9,882

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
MARIN	60	58	408361	23,735	16	58	▼ -5.0
IKARUS	42.0	41.0	828,399	34,697	21	42.0	▲ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	820	820	105,000	88,100	6	820	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	44.0	41.0	598,257	25,513	33	43.5	▲ 0.0
GPI	49.5	48.5	10,174,023	496,873	208	49.0	▲ 0.5
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	▲ 0.0
Oil & Gas			12,114,040	666,918	284	795.29	▼ -3.37
KFOUC	198	194	317,145	62,304	17	198	▲ 6.0
BPPC	510	500	1,289,253	654,620	32	510	▲ 10.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	670	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	232	232	114,442	26,551	7	232	▲ 2.0
Basic Materials			1,720,840	743,475	56	1033.23	▲ 12.76
KCEM	420	420	49,324	20,716	1	420	▲ 10.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	315	▲ 0.0
CABLE	415	410	349,438	144,180	38	415	▲ 0.0
SHIP	188	182	509,900	94,145	20	186	▲ 0.0
PCEM	920	900	168,964	153,868	12	920	▲ 10.0
PAPER	295	270	25,000	7,145	9	295	▲ 5.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
ACICO	285	275	77,000	21,620	6	285	▲ 10.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
HCC	120	120	2,100	252	1	120	▲ 2.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
NICBM	214	210	11,250	2,385	4	214	▲ 4.0
EQUIPMENT	62	59	2,566,057	154,692	65	61	▼ -1.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.5	▲ 0.0
GYPSEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	70	68	247,566	16,877	14	68	▼ -1.0
AGLTY	670	640	4,058,921	2,700,059	101	660	▲ 20.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	51	49.0	1,235,500	61,585	32	50	▼ -1.0
KGL	65	64	335,100	21,517	20	65	▲ 0.0
KKPC	174	174	5,000	870	1	174	▲ 6.0
HUMANSOFT	2,980	2,880	424,911	1,256,040	41	2,980	▲ 0.0
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	▲ 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0
GFC	37.5	35.5	202,009	7,374	15	35.5	▼ -1.5
MAYADEEN	29.5	28.0	18,895,383	542,506	231	29.0	▲ 1.0
CGC	560	550	119,853	66,819	11	560	▲ 10.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0
UPAC	700	690	15,150	10,392	6	700	▲ 10.0
ALFAFO	240	240	8,400	2,016	1	240	▼ -2.0
MUBARRAD	69	67	634,100	42,593	18	69	▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	74	73	2,053,100	150,668	60	74	▲ 0.0
SCEM	84	82	499,801	41,086	11	84	▲ 2.0
GCEM	81	77	1,114,800	88,978	21	81	▲ 3.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
KCEM	80	79	5,450,057	433,671	76	80	▼ -1.0
RCWM	82	82	1,100	101	1	82	▲ 1.0
SPEC	84	82	147,880	12,225	14	84	▲ 2.0
Industrials			39,207,484	6,054,939	830	1382.13	▲ 8.08
KSH	142	138	12,000	1,668	5	138	▲ 2.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0
IPACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0
CATTL	208	204	314,435	65,397	9	208	▲ 4.0
DANAH	88	85	7,049,271	608,910	201	86	▼ -1.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,600	2,600	978,115	2,543,099	14	2,600	▲ 0.0
Consumer Goods			8,353,821	3,219,074	229	1121.88	▲ 1.43
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0
YIACO	305	295	15,460	4,631	2	295	▼ -25
Health Care			15,460	4,631	2	1197.72	▼ -17.97
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,180	▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	62	59	3,462,498	211,937	83	62	▲ 2
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	▲ 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	▲ 0.0
QULAFUEL	128	122	22,281	2,722	7	128	▲ 0
MUNTAZHAT	85	80	8,898,976	573,872	152	85	▲ 5
JAZEERA	720	690	610,245	424,422	23	700	▼ -10
SOOR	122	118	31,162	3,748	11	118	▼ -2
FUTUREKID	120	116	51,780	6,014	2	120	▲ 10
ALRAI	138	136	260,000	35,380	11	138	▲ 2
ZIMAH	48.5	47.0	5,740,753	275,192	112	48.0	▲ 1
Mezzan	950	940	180,580	170,477	24	940	▼ -10
Consumer Services			17,228,285	1,703,763	425	937.71	▲ 14.26
ZAIN	430	420	2,039,503	865,650	107	420	▼ -5
QOREDOO	1,160	1,140	16,851	19,535	7	1,140	▼ -20
HITSTELEC	47.5	44.5	17,148,296	800,335	171	47.5	▲ 3
VIVA	900	890	38,737	34,495	34	890	▲ 0
Telecommunications			19,243,377	1,720,016	319	634.54	▲ 2.64
NBK	680	670	2,011,106	1,351,370	91	670	▼ -10
GBK	238	236	487,411	115,874	33	238	▲ 0
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420	▲ 0
ABK	300	295	225,000	87,000	11	300	▲ 0
ALMUTAHED	410	400	97,413	39,404	10	405	▲ 0
KIB	208	206	724,500	149,847	19	208	▲ 2
BURG	305	300	488,996	147,253	18	300	▼ -5
KFIN	570	550	8,520,459	4,760,472	204	560	▲ 10
BOUBYAN	405	400	178,715	17,776	19	400	▲ 0
AUB	200	196	1,758,340	348,143	40	198	▲ 0
ITHMR	44.0	43.0	12,396,650	538,739	173	43.5	▼ -1
WARBABANK	222	218	1,838,577	424,952	90	220	▲ 0
Banks			28,825,167	8,014,829	708	855.18	▼ -0.59
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	▲ 0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	670	▲ 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	455	▲ 0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▲ 0.0
FTI	49.0	49.0	21,500	1,054	5	49.0	▲ 0.0
WETHAQ	37.5	37.5	849,613	31,860	19	37.5	▲ 2.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
Insurance			871,113	32,914	24	1024.79	▲ 9.60

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	40.0	39.0	115,594	455,828	114	39.0	▼ -0.5
KRF	70	69	4,765,087	333,019	46	70	▲ 1.0
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	▲ 0.0
NRE	120	112	7,437,134	896,348	127	116	▲ 2.0
SRE	360	360	500,000	180,000	6	360	▲ 5.0
TAM	445	440	51,804	22,906	8	445	▲ 0.0
AREFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
MASSALEH	46.0	44.5	193,000	8,809	7	46.0	▲ 2.5
ARABREC	35.5	34.5	4,206,326	147,039	73	35.0	▲ 2.5
ERESCO	44.0	43.0	2,291,872	99,054	50	43.5	▲ 0.0
MABANEE	890	880	356,267	315,936	26	890	▼ -10.0
INJAZZAT	78	78	236,856	18,475	3	78	▲ 0.0

All-New 2017 Ford F-150 Raptor Makes its Middle Eastern Debut from Alghanim Auto's Stand at Kuwait's "AutoMoto 2017"

- Ford F-Series is America's best-selling truck for 40 consecutive years and America's best-selling vehicle for 35 years; with more than 26 million trucks sold since 1977
- The all-new 2017 F-150 Raptor is the toughest, smartest, most capable Raptor ever, and re-defines what it means to be the only purpose-built, high-performance off-road truck
- Alghanim Auto showcases early build unit specifically for F-150 Raptor fans and customers who would like to book their favourite performance truck

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait, January 10, 2017 – Kuwait's Ford F-150 fans and visitors of the AutoMoto 17 show in the 360 Mall are in for a special treat this weekend when the all-new 2017 Ford F150 Raptor makes its Middle Eastern debut out of the Alghanim Auto Ford stand. Ford and Alghanim Auto are showcasing the latest version of the F-150 Raptor performance truck to the public for the first time in the Middle East.

Taking place at 360 Mall this Thursday January 12th through the 21st, Auto Moto has been recognized as the Annual Kuwait Motor Show, attracting a large base of car enthusiasts in Kuwait. Alghanim Auto's participation stems from its brand philosophy to bring the latest exciting Ford products to Ford enthusiasts in Kuwait while engaging with the local community.

"Alghanim Auto is committed to deliver the latest Ford products and service excellence to our customers in Kuwait, and working with Ford Middle East to bring the region's first 2017 F-150 Raptor to our truck enthusiasts in Kuwait demonstrates just that," said Tim Zimmerman, Vice-President, Alghanim Auto. "We are excited to be part of this year's Auto Moto show with the latest 2017 lineup and are looking forward to welcoming our customers in Kuwait to the Alghanim Auto stand."

Customers visiting the stand can have a closer look at the latest generation of this highly anticipated off-road monster. Going on sale later this quarter, this gives customers who are interested in the all-new 2017 Raptor to register their interest and pre-book a vehicle from one of Alghanim Auto's sales consultants present on-site.

Besides the all-new F-150 Raptor, the Alghanim Auto stand will showcase other A-list performance models such as the sporty Focus ST, the legendary Mustang Shelby GT350, the Taurus S.H.O sport sedan, in addition to the latest Ford SUV models including the all-new Ford Edge and the new Explorer.

The all-new 2017 F-150 Raptor is designed to be up-to 500lbs lighter than its previous generation using aluminum alloy for the outer body and bed. The latest generation of the performance truck has been improved for a better off-road experience and is now lean, mean, and ready to conquer punishing terrains thanks to an all-new twin-turbo, intercooled DOHC 24-valve high-output 3.5L EcoBoost® engine with direct fuel injection with 450HP* and 510lb-ft of torque*; mated to an all-new 10-speed transmission that provides exceptional launch and full-throttle capability and power efficiency.

All new advanced four-wheel-drive torque-on-demand transfer case with Terrain Management System™ automatically manages power and torque distribution to where it provides the best traction and optimizes driving performance.

The all-new F-150 Raptor also comes with 44% larger Fox Racing Shox with 9-stage bypass damping work to control suspension travel helping prevent the truck from bottoming out over rough terrain. The all-new 2017 Ford F-150 Raptor offers five selectable terrain modes, allowing the driver to optimize Raptor dynamics depending on the external environment.

Other technologies on the truck feature Sync3®, LED multi-purpose screens and a 360-view camera.

Ford's latest 2017 model range is available at Alghanim Auto, the only importer contractually authorised by Ford to sell new Ford vehicles, genuine Ford and MotorCraft® parts, and provide aftersales support to Ford customers in Kuwait.

All current Ford owners and customers can visit the Ford Alghanim New Vehicle Showroom, Service and Spare Parts Center in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, opposite from the Classical Car Museum and Sirbb Circuit. The showroom is open Saturday through Thursday from 9am to 10pm and 2pm to 8pm on Fridays; meanwhile, the Service Center is open from 7am to 7pm every day except Fridays. For added convenience, the Express Service welcomes customers till 10pm and 2pm to 7pm on Fridays.

To get in touch with Ford Alghanim, please call the customer care center at 1898900; visit www.fordalghanim.com or contact us via social media on @fordalghanim (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook)





NEW CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER: READY FOR ANYWHERE

NEW PREMIUM LOOK COMBINED WITH SOPHISTICATED MATERIALS AND FINISH

KUWAIT: Chevrolet Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, is proud to launch the new 2017 Chevrolet Trailblazer at its showrooms in Rai, Shuwaik, Sharq, Fahaheel and Ahmadi, for customers to test drive and purchase. The new 2017 Chevrolet Trailblazer brings together superior levels of refinement, styling, comfort and technology with class-leading performance and drivability to meet the versatile needs of increasingly discerning drivers. The midsize sport utility vehicle is ready to take its driver anywhere by offering off-road capabilities combined with premium ride and handling dynamics.

REDESIGNED EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR

On the outside, the new Trailblazer's more angular lines exude a refined toughness, while retaining strong proportions that underline its go-anywhere capability. Most notable of these features are the front grille, bumper and lamps that come with daytime running lights, giving a unique light signature to the model.

Inside, the Trailblazer boasts a newly designed dashboard and front console with a contemporary

feel, enhanced by soft-touch materials and contrast stitching. The full seven-seater's "theater-style seating" allows second- and third-row occupants a better all-around view, while individually controlled air-conditioning ensures maximum comfort in the summer months.

A DYNAMIC, REFINED SUV ON THE MOVE

The new Trailblazer comes with a 3.6L engine tuned to offer better performance and improved fuel economy, which produces 275 horsepower, the most powerful in its class, and 350 Nm of torque.

Complementing the improved engine is a tougher, more rigid chassis and fully boxed frame, which are designed to improve ride stability and drive comfort through unparalleled driver control.

Additionally, the new Trailblazer features Electric Power Steering (EPS) that makes steering effort lighter in the city and at parking speeds. This is achieved by reducing power assist proportionately as speed builds, so the driver gets a properly weighted steering feel at highway speeds. Over long distances, this technology makes up the track gradient and reduces judder generated by the imbalance of

wheels. To ensure the ride is as quiet as it is refined, the Trailblazer benefits from a new wind noise package that was developed with newly redesigned door, window and windshield seals; front door glass that is 10 percent thicker; and a new aerodynamic headlamp design. As a result, the Trailblazer is 8 percent quieter on the road than its predecessor.

PREMIUM FEATURES

Safety remains Chevrolet's number one priority. The new Trailblazer comes with a host of active and passive safety features that include the Traction Control System (TCS), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Panic Brake Assist (PBA), Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD), Electronic Stability Control (ESC), Hill Descent Control (HDC), Hill Start Assist (HSA), Anti-Rolling Protection and Trailer Sway Control. This is in addition to front airbags for the driver and passenger.

Other technological features which can be found on the Trailblazer include Side Blind Zone Alert, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Forward Collision Alert, Front Parking Assist, and the Tire Pressure Monitoring System. It also features the

remote-start function, a useful feature in the region's hot climate. The engine can be started using the key fob, allowing the cabin to be cooled sufficiently before occupants enter the vehicle.

Recognizing the importance of connectivity to today's drivers, the new Trailblazer is fitted with new technologies usually found in the premium segment, such as Apple CarPlay. This allows the driver or passengers to project a simplified version of their smartphone screen onto the car's color touchscreen. Complemented by Siri Eyes Free and voice recognition software, the driver can give verbal commands - ensuring his or her hands never have to leave the steering wheel.

CHEVROLET COMPLETE CARE

All 2017 Trailblazer owners will receive a new level of customer experience courtesy of Chevrolet Complete Care. The comprehensive after sales package promises additional value with competitive and transparent maintenance pricing; one-hour servicing; 2 days advanced booking; a regional 3-year/100,000-km warranty; and 4 years of regional 24x7 roadside assistance.

CHINA VOWS TO CONTAIN CORPORATE DEBT LEVELS

SURGING PRICES ADDING TO STRONGER GLOBAL INFLATION VIEW

BEIJING: China vowed yesterday to contain high company debt levels and further cut excess coal and steel capacity, as Beijing attempts to maintain solid and more balanced economic growth while avoiding destabilizing asset bubbles.

The world's second-largest economy likely grew around 6.7 percent last year roughly in the middle of the government's target range-but it faces increasing uncertainties in 2017, the head of the country's state planning agency told a news briefing. Global investors are buzzing over whether China's leaders will be willing to accept more modest growth this year, amid worries about the risks from years of debt-fueled stimulus driven by the political obsession with meeting official targets.

China's credit growth has been "very fast" by global standards, and without a comprehensive strategy to tackle the debt overhang there is a growing risk it will have a banking crisis or sharply slower growth or both, the International Monetary Fund said in October.

"Although the domestic economy is stable and improving, it still faces contradictions and problems," said Xu Shaoshi, the top official at the National Development and Reform Commission NDRC.

"We have the confidence, conditions and ability to ensure the economy operates within a reasonable range," Xu said. China will not allow debt of non-financial firms to rise beyond current levels, and will step up efforts to encourage companies to restructure their debts. China's corporate debt has soared to 169 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

China's leaders are likely to accept growth this year of around 6.5 percent, policy insiders say. In theory, that would give the government more room to focus on tackling the nation's debt pile, and on tamping down speculation that was seen last year in the housing, commodities and debt markets.

But an official tap on the brakes that is too vigorous would threaten to stall economic momentum.

SPECULATORS

After a rough start to 2016, China's economy performed better than many economists had expected, with higher government infrastructure spending, a housing rally and record lending by state banks fuelling a construction boom. Producer prices, in particular, saw a stunning turnaround, emerging in September from nearly five years of deflation and helping to boost inflationary pressures worldwide.

mandated cuts in industrial capacity have helped fuel the spike in prices. But some analysts worry the strong gains may also be driven by growing speculation in commodities futures markets, adding to the broader risk of bubbles in China's economy even as leaders attempt to control explosive debt growth.

"I don't think there's an inflation issue in China, it's an asset bubble," said Commerzbank senior emerging market



QIANAN, China: A man rides a bike past smoke spewing from the sprawling complex that is a part of the Jiujiang steel and rolling mills in Qianan in northern yesterday. Top economic planner pledged yesterday to continue cutting steel and coal production that have been a source of trade friction with many countries. —AP

That helped put the long ailing manufacturing sector on steadier footing, boosting profits and giving factories more cash flow to whittle down a mountain of debt.

Data yesterday showed producer prices continued to rise as 2016 drew to a close, with producer inflation surging 5.5 percent in December year-on-year, the fastest in more than five years, as the prices of coal and building materials soared.

Along with a rebound in demand, state-

economist Zhou Hao in Singapore.

While the NDRC's Xu said yesterday that China will put more pressure on coal and steel firms to reduce overcapacity this year, analysts at ANZ predict higher prices and fatter profits may thwart those efforts. "Producers are tempted to fire their engines again in the face of rising prices. The government will not fully welcome the rapid recovery of the PPI," said ANZ economists David Qu and Raymond Yeung in a note.

GLOBAL REFLATION

For the first time in nearly five years, economists at HSBC have raised their forecast for global growth and inflation, encouraging by robust manufacturing activity, a resilient China and above all the fiscal boost expected to come in the United States under incoming President Donald Trump.

Hopes of stronger spending under Trump are sparking expectations of stronger U.S. economic growth and inflation, with more interest rate hikes seen from the Federal Reserve.

A sharp jump in borrowing costs would heighten the risk of loan defaults, though China's producer price recovery has not yet started filtering into consumer prices, suggesting its central bank will not be under pressure to tighten monetary policy as soon, analysts say.

"A sharp increase in inflation at the start of 2017 may fuel speculation that rising price pressures will soon force the People's Bank into more aggressive policy tightening. But we think the pick-up will mainly be driven by movements in commodity prices and is unlikely to be sustained," economists at Capital Economics said in a research note. Commerzbank's Zhou said that a bubble in commodities, led by coal and steel prices, could complicate policy decisions if economic growth slows and some easing of monetary conditions is needed.

But policy insiders already expect a tilt towards more conservative monetary policy this year as top leaders struggle to strike a balance between supporting the economy with ample credit and slowly trying to defuse the risks posed by the rapid debt build-up.

The NDRC's Xu said yesterday China will further push forward its debt-to-equity swap programme this year as it looks to cut the debt burden on companies.

The PBOC has reaffirmed it would keep liquidity in the financial system stable while taking steps to prevent asset bubbles and financial risks in its annual work meeting for 2017. —Reuters

Start your new year with determination
Get a 500 KD discount from CBK when you buy Infiniti car QX70 or Q50*

QX70 Q50

in addition to a wonderful package

- One Year Full Insurance
- 3 Years Third party insurance and Free roadside assistance
- External body protection for the vehicle & window tinting
- Open mileage warranty

Book a test drive by visiting Infiniti showroom (Al Rai and Ahmadi)

INFINITI
Commercial Bank of Kuwait
Al-Tijari
1-888-225-club.com

AL-TIJARI EXCLUSIVE OFFER FROM INFINITI AL-BABTAIN

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced its cooperation with Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company, the authorized agent of Infiniti vehicles in Kuwait by launching special and distinct offer on selected models of the luxury vehicles Infiniti with the advent of the new year.

The offer provides customers with the chance to get an instant discount of KD 500 when getting Infiniti vehicle models Q50 or QX70 financed by the Bank. In addition to the above discount, customers will enjoy further benefits including one year free comprehensive insurance, five year warranty open mileage, third party insurance and free window tinting and body protection.

The Bank always endeavors to offer distinctive financing services and discounts to its customers by cooperating and entering into partnerships with several retailers and companies which provide excellent products & services.

Infiniti is a leading brand of luxury vehicles and it is manufactured by Japan-based Nissan Motor Company targeting premium customers who are looking for a fantastic car with amazing performance, incomparable comfort and advanced safety precautions.

Customers wishing to avail this exclusive offer or to get more details on the above vehicles can visit Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Company's Infiniti Showroom at Al-Rai, Fourth Ring Road.



PARIS: (From R) French employers' association MEDEF president Pierre Gattaz, general secretary of the French General Confederation of Labour union (CGT) Philippe Martinez, CFDT general secretary Laurent Berger, and FO general secretary Jean-Claude Mailly listen to the French President delivering a speech during his New Year wishes to employment and business representatives at the Elysee Presidential Palace in Paris yesterday. —AFP

FRENCH INDUSTRY OUTPUT RISES BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

PARIS: French industrial production posted a surprisingly strong rebound in November, adding to a brightening outlook among both consumers and companies to signal a sharper-than-expected pick-up in activity in the eurozone's second-biggest economy.

The 2.2 percent rise in French industrial output, which beat even the most optimistic forecast in a Reuters poll of economists, comes after better-than-expected consumer spending figures for the same month. It suggested an acceleration in French economic activity at the end of the year after two insipid quarters marred by strikes, bad harvests and diminishing tourism.

"This strong reading comes as a positive surprise, although manufacturing surveys had been pointing to a pick-up in sectoral momentum at

the end of 2016," Unicredit economist Tullia Bucco said in a note. Surveys from the official statistics office INSEE have flagged a surge in morale to multi-year highs amongst both companies and consumers at the end of the year. A low euro has also boosted exports to an 18-month high, with private surveyer IHS Markit flagging an acceleration in factory activity in December.

In November, a 3.4 percent rise in transport material production, which includes cars and aircrafts, was particularly noteworthy, INSEE data showed.

The boost comes as Germany, the euro zone's largest economy, is also showing signs of unexpected strength. Industry experts and records of aircraft movements show a record burst of activity at Airbus plants in France and Germany at the end of the

year to whittle down record order backlogs, with December deliveries on track to set a monthly record for the Toulouse-based company.

French car sales have also ended the year on a strong note. Economists took heart in the strong French data, with Barclays' Francois Cabau raising his fourth-quarter gross domestic product forecast to 0.5 percent from 0.4 percent, while JPMorgan's Raphael Brun-Aguerre lifted his projection of annualised GDP to 2 percent from 1.25 percent.

However, Natixis' Philippe Waechter said the significant increase in GDP in the final quarter will not be enough to boost full-year output well above 1.1 percent, below the government's official forecast of 1.4 percent. "But it puts French activity on the right track for 2017," he said. —Reuters

WHATSAPP, GMAIL ROPED INTO TOUGHER EU PRIVACY PROPOSAL

BRUSSELS: Online messaging and email services such as WhatsApp, iMessage and Gmail will face tough new rules on how they can track users under a proposal presented by the European Union executive yesterday.

The web players will have to guarantee the confidentiality of their customers' conversations and ask for their consent before tracking them online to serve them personalized ads. The proposal by the European Commission extends some rules that now only apply to telecom operators to web companies offering

calls and messages using the internet, known as "Over-The-Top" (OTT) services, seeking to close a perceived regulatory gap between the telecoms industry and mainly U.S. Internet giants such as Facebook, Google and Microsoft. Yesterday's proposal would allow telecom companies to use customer metadata - such as the duration and location of calls - to provide additional services and make more money, something they are barred from doing under the current rules.

The review of the so-called e-privacy law

will also force web browsers to have their default setting as not allowing personalised online advertising based on browsing habits. Instead, users will be asked to opt in to allow websites to place cookies on their browsers. "It's up to our people to say yes or no," said Andrus Ansip, Commission vice-president for the digital single market.

Cookies are placed on web surfers' computers and contain bits of information about the user, such as what other sites they have visited or where they are logging in from. They

are widely used by companies to deliver targeted ads to users.

Online advertisers have warned that overly strict rules would undermine many websites' ability to fund themselves and keep offering free services. They say the data they use cannot identify the user and is therefore low risk, making asking for consent every time too onerous. The proposal scraps the obligation on websites to ask visitors for permission to place cookies on their browsers via a banner every time they land on it if the user has

already consented through the privacy settings of the web browser.

The "cookie banner" has been lambasted as ineffective because people tend to accept them without necessarily reading what that entails. Companies falling foul of the new law will face fines of up to 4 percent of their global turnover, in line with a separate data protection law set to enter into force in 2018.

The proposal will need to be approved by the European Parliament and member states before becoming law. — Reuters



STAVANGER: 98-year-old Judith Haaland sits next to her decades-old radio set in Stavanger, Norway. In a move likely to be watched closely by other nations, the Norwegian government will begin shutting off the FM signal today. By the end of the year, national networks will be available only on Digital Audio Broadcast, or DAB. — AP

DEAD AIR: NORWAY TO PHASE OUT ANALOG RADIO IN FAVOR OF DAB

STAVANGER, Norway: For some radio listeners in Norway, there will be dead air starting today. The mountainous nation of 5 million will become the first in the world to phase out analog signals in favor of Digital Audio Broadcasting, or DAB.

The move has provoked concern for the elderly and motorists, while others will be nostalgic for the crackling sound of old radio. Judith Haaland, 98, remembers the radio broadcasts from London during World War II and Norway's king stiffening the resolve of his countrymen under German occupation. Now blind and living alone, her radio has been her tether to the outside world.

"I remember April 9, 1940, planes flying overhead and Quisling coming on the radio saying he had taken control of the government with the help of the Germans," said Haaland, recalling the rule of Norwegian Nazi collaborator Vidkun Quisling. "After that we listened to broadcasts from London."

In a move likely to be watched closely by other nations, the Norwegian government will begin shutting off the FM signal on Wednesday. By the end of the year, national networks will be available only on DAB. Switzerland and Britain are both considering a switch to digital networks.

Norway claims the move will free up cash for broadcasters to invest in programming, while providing a clearer and more reliable network that can better cut through the country's sparsely populated rocky terrain.

There are already 26 nationwide DAB channels, including versions of the five stations that will soon be removed from the airwaves, and 70 percent of Norwegian households regularly tune in digitally. In an email, Culture Minister Linda Hofstad Helleland said she was "quite comfortable" that the nation of "early adapters" was ready to embrace the digital future.

But critics say that Norwegians are being forced to expensively upgrade their technology and warn that emergency messages could be missed, especially in cars, as up to 20 million analog receivers are rendered obsolete.

Between 2.2 and 2.3 million cars have no DAB. Motorists will either have to splash out on a new radio costing in the region of 4,000

kroner (\$468) or buy an adapter for around 1,500 kroner (\$175). A DAB radio for the home costs around 1,000 kroner (\$117), though consumers can also pick up the signal through their television sets or the internet.

"Norway is not prepared for this. There are millions of radios in homes, cottages and boats that won't work anymore and only around 25 percent of cars in Norway have digital radios or adapters," said Svein Larsen of the Norwegian Local Radio Association.

According to a December poll published in the Dagbladet daily, two thirds of Norwegians think the government is moving too quickly. Others fear elderly people could be left isolated. "This radio goes with me everywhere," said Haaland, gripping her small analog handheld device. "I listen to it in bed at night and it is with me when I wake up. When they close down the FM network I will have to get another new DAB or I will be cut off from the world."

Her son has already bought and programmed one digital radio to replace the decades-old set in her living room. She admits that the new buttons are easier to use than the dials from the analog model. But she frets that not all elderly Norwegians will have the cash or support to make such an easy switch. There is also something less tangible. For almost 100 years, analog radio has provided the soundtrack to her life. She laughs as she recalls listening in 1981 when Norway beat England 2-1 in a soccer match, and Bjoerge Lillelien delivered one of Norway's most famous radio broadcasts: "Lord Nelson, Lord Beaverbrook, Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Anthony Eden, Clement Attlee, Henry Cooper, Lady Diana. Maggie Thatcher can you hear me. Your boys took a hell of a beating," he shouted down the airwaves, his voice cracking in a mixture of Norwegian and English.

Marius Lillelien was next to his commentator father during that World Cup qualifying match. Today he is head of radio at the national broadcaster, NRK. "Of course there is a lot of nostalgia in radio. That's one of the reasons this switch is so controversial. But that means people love radio and nostalgia is an asset to us whether we are broadcasting in analog or on DAB." — AP

APPLE PROVED A PHONE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD IN 10 YEARS

JOBS' 'MAGICAL PRODUCT' PUT COMPUTERS IN BILLIONS OF POCKETS

SAN FRANCISCO: Few people realized it at the time, but the world shifted fundamentally a decade ago when Steve Jobs pulled the first iPhone from Apple's bag of technological tricks.

"Every once in a while, a revolutionary product comes along that changes everything," Jobs declared as he paced across a San Francisco stage. It obviously wasn't an empty boast. We all know now that Jobs' "magical product" has reshaped culture, shaken up industries, put computers in billions of pockets and made it possible to do just about anything with a few taps on a screen. Besides its then 3.5-inch touch screen, the first iPhone featured a browser for on-the-go web surfing and built-in apps to check email and get directions.

GOING MOBILE

Apple has sold more than 1 billion iPhones since its debut, spawning millions of mobile applications and prodding other technology companies to make similar smartphones that have become like phantom limbs for many of us. We use iPhones and their copycats to instantly share video and pictures with friends and family from almost anywhere. We use them to figure out where we are going. We use them to find the best deals while shopping in stores and to pay for stuff at the checkout stand. We use the phones to a hail ride, to tune instruments, to monitor our health and help find our next jobs.

Phones have gotten so smart that they even talk back to us via helpful digital concierges such as the iPhone's Siri and the recently introduced Assistant on Google's Pixel phone.

"iPhone is an essential part of our customers' lives, and today more than ever it is redefining the way we communicate, entertain, work and live," Apple's current CEO, Tim Cook, boasted in a retrospective that the Cupertino, California, company posted on its website.

ROADKILL IN ITS WAKE

The iPhone's revolutionary touch screen doomed the BlackBerry, another once-popular internet-connected phone. Mobile phones and their tablet cousins triggered a downturn in personal computer sales that is still unfolding. An estimated 219 million desktop and laptop computers shipped worldwide last year, down from 264 million in 2007, according to the research firm Gartner Inc. Meanwhile, nearly 1.9 billion mobile phones shipped last year, up from 1.15 billion in 2007. All told, Gartner estimates about 5 billion mobile phones are currently in use around the world compared to 1.3 billion PCs.

The eroding popularity of PCs spurred shake-



SAN FRANCISCO: In this Jan 9, 2007, file photo, Apple CEO Steve Jobs holds up an iPhone at the MacWorld Conference in San Francisco. Jobs introduced the first iPhone a decade ago. Jobs' "magical product" reshaped culture, shook up industries and made it seem possible to do just about anything with a few taps on a screen while walking around with the equivalent of a computer in our pocket. — AP

ups at powerful tech companies such as Microsoft, Intel, Hewlett-Packard and Dell, none of which adapted nimbly to the mobile world unleashed by the iPhone. Then-Microsoft's CEO Steve Ballmer scoffed at Apple's glass-and-metal gadget, telling USA Today in April 2007 that "there's no chance that the iPhone is going to get any significant market share. No chance." Microsoft wound up squandering the \$7.6 billion that it spent to buy phone maker Nokia in a futile attempt to catch up to the iPhone. Ballmer stepped down as CEO three years ago and was replaced by Satya Nadella, who introduced versions of Microsoft's popular Office programs that worked on Apple's iPad - a tablet based on the iPhone.

A HUGE HIT ... AND THEN A STALL

The iPhone's success helped make Jobs a revered figure for many, and one whose October 2011 death was mourned around the world. The device has established Apple as the world's most profitable company with earnings of \$45.7 billion on sales of \$216 billion during its latest fiscal

year. (Prior to the iPhone's release, Apple posted an annual profit of \$2 billion on sales of \$19.3 billion.) Its stock-market value is hovering around \$635 billion, thanks to a split-adjusted stock price that's risen by nearly a factor of 10 since the iPhone's debut.

Lately, though, the iPhone appears to be losing some steam. People are keeping older models for longer before upgrading or switching over to competing phones that run on Google's Android software. Apple suffered its first-ever decline in iPhone sales in its last fiscal year, causing the company to miss its revenue projections and hitting Cook with a 15 percent pay cut.

Most smartphones now run on Android, partly because Google gives away the software. That has helped iPhone rivals woo price-conscious consumers, especially outside the US, with phones that are much cheaper than the iPhone, whose latest models now cost more than \$649 to \$849. In his statement, though, Cook promised the iPhone is "just getting started. The best is yet to come." — AP

DIFC LAUNCHES 'FINTECH HIVE'

DUBAI: Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), the financial hub for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region, and Accenture, a leading global professional services company, yesterday announced the region's first FinTech accelerator in Dubai. This Smart News Release features multimedia.

Set to launch in the first quarter of 2017, FinTech Hive at DIFC, will bring cutting-edge financial services technology to MEASA markets, while providing a platform that brings financial and technology firms together to increase access to, improve customer experience and drive operational efficiencies in the financial services sector.

The global FinTech sector has attracted more than \$50 billion in investment since 2010, but currently the MENA region only attracts around 1 percent of that. The DIFC Accelerator intends to bridge the gap by creating a platform that identifies leading technology entrepreneurs and companies through a competitive process and then offering them the opportunity to develop, test and modify their innovations in collaboration with top executives from DIFC and regional financial institutions.

His Excellency Essa Kazim, Governor of Dubai International Financial Centre said, "We are proud to be launching FinTech Hive at DIFC following the recent announcement of the world's first government accelerator programs. The UAE National Innovation Strategy and Dubai Plan 2021 steer us to be among the smartest cities in the world. With our founding Membership in the Global Blockchain Council and today's launch, DIFC is pioneering innovative developments in the MEASA's financial services sector, while taking our economies to new horizons."

Sushil Saluja, Accenture's senior managing director for Financial Services, Europe, Africa, Middle East and Latin America region, said, "DIFC is uniquely positioned to become the regional hub for FinTech. The accelerator program will identify the best entrepreneurs within the financial services industry and grant them invaluable access to and feedback from potential customers and funders."

FinTech Hive at DIFC will start with a 12 week 'accelerator program'. It intends to catalyse the growth and efficiency in a variety of areas including trade finance, alternative finance such as P2P payments, and Sharia based services. Emirates NBD and Mashreq will be the first local financial institutions to join the accelerator program, while HSBC and VISA are the first international financial services providers. — AP



Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Gate

BLOCKCHAIN, COGNITIVE COMPUTING, CLOUD TO SHAPE FUTURE OF FINANCE

SAN FRANCISCO: Blockchain, cognitive computing and cloud are some of the technologies that will shape the finance industry the most in the digital age, banking and technology chief executives told a financial conference on Monday. IBM Corp's president and chief executive Ginni Rometty said that cognitive computing, or computer systems that can mimic the way the human brain works, will be the "ultimate way" finance firms will become more competitive in the future. "I think the advantage is going to go to who has the best insights," Rometty told delegates.

Over the past few years financial institutions have been struggling to take advantage of vast amounts of data that they store, which is held unevenly across their numerous databases.

"We all have mounds and mounds of data, but getting data to produce insight, that is the holy grail," Cathy Bessant, chief operations and technology officer at Bank of America Corp, told Reuters on the sidelines of the Fintech Ideas Festival. Financial institutions have also been ramping up investment into developing blockchain technology, the distrib-

uted data-base system that first emerged as the software underpinning cryptocurrency bitcoin. "Blockchain is so profound it will do for trusted transactions what the internet did for information," IBM's Rometty said, describing it as one of the most transformative technologies for finance.

Biometrics and cloud computing were also among the technologies cited as having the most impact for the sector. Tim Sloan, chief executive of Wells Fargo & Co, said the bank was moving away from passwords and adopting technology such as voice recognition to identify customers.

He also called for greater adoption of cloud technology to "test projects through, much more quickly." Sloan took over as chief executive of Wells Fargo in October, in the wake of a \$185 million regulatory settlement between the bank, regulatory authorities and a Los Angeles prosecutor over its staff opening as many as 2 million accounts without customers' knowledge.

"Innovation plays a very important role for me as the new CEO of Wells Fargo as we rebuild trust in the company," Sloan said. — Reuters

SNAPCHAT BECOMES LATEST TECH FIRM TO PICK LONDON

LONDON: Messaging app Snapchat said it would make London the home of its international operations, delivering another vote of confidence in Britain's tech standing as the country prepares to leave the European Union. The company, which has 150 million daily users globally, will book sales in countries where it has no local entity in Britain rather than routing them through lower tax jurisdictions like Ireland and Luxembourg as some other US tech companies do.



The logo and a page of mobile app "Snapchat" displayed on tablets in Paris.

Snap Inc, which plans to go public this year in the biggest US stock market debt since 2014, said the UK's strong creative industries made the country "a great place to build a global business".

Despite the uncertainty sparked by the Brexit vote, London has remained attractive to global tech firms due to its pool of talent in the creative and tech sectors, many of whom have come from Europe and further afield. The city's position as a global financial hub

also provides access to funding for startups and capital for larger companies.

Since the referendum decision in June, companies like Google, Facebook and Amazon have increased their investment, to the delight of Theresa May's government.

"We believe in the UK creative industries," Claire Valoti, general manager of Snap Group in the UK, said yesterday. "The UK is where our advertising clients are, where more than 10 million daily Snapchatters are, and where we've already begun to hire talent."

Snapchat started in 2012 as a free mobile app that allows users to send photos that vanish within seconds. It now employs more than 75 staff in London, up from just six a year ago. Google said in November it would hire another 3,000 engineers and other staff in a 1 billion pound investment in London. Facebook is expanding its presence by 50 percent, saying its engineers wanted to be in London, a city with an "amazing ecosystem" of technology and creative companies.

The additional tech jobs may be dwarfed by the number of jobs that could go in the financial sector if banks relocate to remain in the bloc, and tech firms have expressed concern about how Brexit could affect them. Leading tech firms and start-ups say they need to attract the best people, warning that restrictions on the movements of people would make London less attractive in the long term. Major US tech firms including Facebook, Google and Apple have been criticised for the way they handle their tax affairs, opting to locate their European HQ in Ireland to take advantage of one of the lowest corporation tax rates in the EU. — Reuters

GLOBAL WARMING IS TOP THREAT TO POLAR BEARS

WASHINGTON: US wildlife authorities released on Monday a broad plan to try to save Arctic polar bears from going extinct, as global warming melts away their icy habitat at an increasing pace. With just 22,000 to 31,000 polar bears estimated to be left in the world, the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Polar Bear Conservation Management Plan calls for a series of actions to save these iconic creatures. Above all, it calls for reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, which arise from the burning of fossil fuels and contribute to a warming climate.

"This plan outlines the necessary actions and concrete commitments by the (Fish and Wildlife) Service and our state, tribal, federal and international partners to protect polar bears in the near term," said Greg Siekaniec,

Alaska Regional Director of the FWS. "But make no mistake; without decisive action to address Arctic warming, the long-term fate of this species is uncertain."

The plan also calls for reducing conflicts between humans and bears, along with protecting their habitat and minimizing the risk of contamination from oil spills. Close management is urged for polar bear hunting, or a practice known as "subsistence harvest" that is legal for indigenous people and involves killing less than four percent of the bear's total population per year. "Most of these actions are already under way, in partnership with Alaska Native communities, nonprofit groups, and industry representatives who participated in the plan's creation," said a statement from the FWS.

The plan focuses on the two US subpopulations of polar bears that live off the coast of Alaska. But its efforts should also help conserve polar bears in the rest of their northern range, which includes Russia, Canada, Norway and Greenland. Polar bears were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2008 because of the loss of sea-ice habitat. Since then, conditions in the Arctic have deteriorated due to global warming.

The area of the Arctic covered by sea ice in October and November 2016 was the lowest on record for that period. "If greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise at the current rates throughout the 21st century, polar bears will likely disappear from much of their present-day range," the FWS statement warned. —AFP



CHURCHILL, Canada: This file photo taken on Nov 14, 2007 shows a polar bear walking on the frozen tundra on the edge of Hudson Bay, waiting for the Hudson Bay to freeze over. —AFP

MONGOLIA SEEKS TO CRUSH BLACK MARKET FOR FOSSILS

FLAMING CLIFFS, Mongolia: For years, herder Gelegrash had a sideline bringing tourists to see a dinosaur skull hidden near the Flaming Cliffs in Mongolia's Gobi desert. Then, one day, it was gone. It is one of thousands of ancient fossils that have disappeared from the country since American explorer Roy Chapman Andrews - supposedly the inspiration for the movie character Indiana Jones - discovered dinosaur eggs there nearly a century ago.

Paleontologists and smugglers

sands of dollars for them on the open market. In his yurt near the red sandstone cliffs, Gelegrash laughed about the skull's potential value: "If I had known it was worth so much, I would have sold it myself."

The dinosaur repatriation drive began when the husband of the country's then culture, sport and tourism minister Oyungerel Tsedevdamba learned a New York auction house was to sell a rare, nearly complete Tarbosaurus bataar speci-

ally told AFP. "Nobody had claimed dinosaurs from abroad before."

Smugglers and thieves

Since Chapman Andrews' discovery, hundreds of expeditions have travelled to Mongolia to look for fossils, some with official blessing, others digging them out illegally and smuggling them out of the country. It is nearly impossible to prevent thefts from Mongolia's vast steppe, said Surenjav Munkhsaikhan, 31, who manages the national park

For now the only way she knows a fossil has been stolen is when customs agents catch a smuggler, or one of Gelegrash's fellow herders complains about losing their source of income. "We never caught or arrested any of those thieves," she said. The Tyrannosaurus Bataar in New York - estimated to be 70 million years old - was far from the first fossil to leave Mongolia, but quickly captured the national imagination, and Mongolia's President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj took the case directly to the US government.

In 2012, a US federal prosecutor filed a lawsuit seeking the forfeiture of the relic from the firm that auctioned it. The case ended in victory - two years after the suit was filed, the fossil headed home to Mongolia. More importantly, the ruling was an important step towards undermining the entire underground trade, Oyungerel told AFP. The US was the "end point where all fossils were going - we wanted to shut down that market."

Lenin's footsteps

Mongolia has since recovered around 30 fossils "directly from the smugglers' hands", Oyungerel said. Some collectors have also begun to return their fossils voluntarily, among them Cage, who bought his T. bataar skull at auction for \$276,000 before learning it had been smuggled out of Mongolia. Authorities were once slow to recognize the value of Mongolia's paleontological heritage, according to Oyungerel, while Mongolians regarded dinosaurs as "just bones".

But last year, a museum dedicated to the recovered specimens opened in Ulan Bator's former Lenin museum, a holdover from the country's Communist past. A monumental bust of the founder of the Soviet Union used to occupy center spot in the exhibition hall but now lies in pieces behind the building, with T. Bataar standing in his place.

The museum has reserved space for more recoveries. Among those the most symbolically important targets are Chapman Andrews' specimens, now in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York. When he took them, he signed a contract promising to return them to the country. But AMNH officials are reluctant to give up their prized specimens, according to sources familiar with the matter, citing concerns about Mongolia's ability to manage the collection.

Similar arguments have been cited elsewhere over other demands for heritage restitution, such as Greece's Elgin Marbles, now in the British Museum in London, or the Benin Bronzes of Nigeria, now scattered between museums in Britain, Germany and the US. The AMNH declined a request from AFP for comment. Surenjav and Gelegrash hope that the fossils can one day return to their original resting place in the Mongolian desert. The herder admits the campaign has changed his perception of dinosaur remains. He used to value them for a different use: "They're good for health," he said, as he poked at a small, white fossil sticking out of the red earth. "I sometimes ground them up and gave them to my livestock." —AFP



This aerial picture taken on June 27, 2016 shows two tourists on the Flaming Cliffs in the Gobi desert.



This picture taken on July 2, 2016 shows people visiting a museum displaying dinosaur fossils returned from overseas in Ulan Bator. —AFP

alike have descended on the sands ever since. Now the Mongolian government is mounting a campaign to reclaim the lost relics, hoping to bring home fossils long held in foreign museums and the curiosity cabinets of private collectors - such as Hollywood star Nicolas Cage - who pay hundreds of thou-

men - a smaller, fiercer cousin of Tyrannosaurus rex. Palaeontologists confirmed that all known specimens of the fearsome reptile had come from Mongolia's Nemegt basin, raising the question of how it ended up in Manhattan. Removing fossils from the country is illegal, but "nobody knew what to do exactly", Oyungerel

where Chapman found the eggs. She is the only full-time guardian of over 10,000 hectares of fossil-rich desert, working with police and her volunteer deputy Gelegrash to combat crimes ranging from illegal mining to the theft of rare plants. She patrols the area on an old motorbike, but "really wants some drones", she said.



MAGDEBURG, Germany: A fritillary butterfly sips some nectar at the butterfly house of the Elbauenpark park yesterday. —AFP

PETROL TAXES DROP GLOBALLY DESPITE CLIMATE CHANGE

PARIS: The average tax on petrol in 157 nations fell 13 percent from 2003 to 2015, even as the world acknowledged the need to slash greenhouse gases from fossil fuels, researchers reported Monday. Over 13 years, consumption of gasoline rose in countries that lowered taxes or raised subsidies, they said in a study published in the journal Nature Energy. Though only a third of the nations analyzed took such measures, this was enough to tilt the global total in the direction of a net drop in gas taxes.

"Despite all the commitments to fight climate change, governments are failing to discourage fossil fuel consumption," said lead author Michael Ross, a professor from the University of California at Los Angeles. "At the global level, we are moving in the wrong direction," he told AFP. Under the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, 196 nations vowed to cap global warming at under two degrees Celsius - a goal that scientists say is achievable only if the world economy moves rapidly to cleaner energy.

With only 1 C of warming so far, Earth has seen a crescendo of heat waves, drought, flooding and storm surges, driven by rising seas. Experts have long argued that cutting subsidies for oil, gas and coal - and creating incentives, such as taxes, to curb their use - are essential tools for that transition. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the UN's climate science panel and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have all advocated such measures. But fossil fuel subsidies remain colossal: Nearly half a trillion dollars in 2014, according to the IEA,

with the IMF reporting \$333 billion in direct consumer subsidies in 2015.

Oil exporters blamed

Factor in so-called environmental and social costs - health destroyed by pollution, damage to ecosystems - and the true bill is widely considered to be several times higher. But trying to get a handle of how much countries tax or subsidize gasoline was a hugely challenging task, the researchers said. "Many taxes and subsidies are indirect or hidden in the budgets of state-owned enterprises," said Ross. Some countries announce reforms and then fail to carry them out. To get a global overview, Ross and his team first compiled a monthly log of 13 years of retail gasoline prices in 157 countries. The list of countries accounts for 97 percent of the world population, and 98 percent of greenhouse gases. Then, using early 2003 as the benchmark, the researchers looked to see which countries, in 2015, had raised or lowered gasoline taxes or subsidies. "The problem tends to be oil-exporting countries," Ross said, pointing to Nigeria, Algeria, several Arab Gulf nations and Angola. He also pointed to the United States, where - despite relatively high taxes - "the federal tax on gasoline was last raised in 1993." The US remains the world's top oil consumer. China's rapid transition toward clean energy - even as it continues to build new coal-fired power plants - is driven in large measure by concerns over respiratory health and traffic congestion, Ross said. "China leaps out as the country that has, by far, made the most significant reforms," he said. —AFP

RED MEAT LINKED TO BOWEL DISEASE

PARIS: A diet rich in red meat has been linked to a heightened risk of a bowel inflammation called diverticulitis, according to a study published yesterday. The findings do not constitute evidence that meat is what causes the ailment, researchers said, but ought to be considered in designing healthier diets. Diverticulitis is a common condition which occurs when small pockets lining the intestine - called diverticula - become irritated. It accounts for some 200,000 hospital admissions every year in the United States alone, at an annual cost of about \$2 billion.

New cases are on the rise, especially among young people. About four percent of those affected develop severe or long-term symptoms, such as piercing of the gut wall, abscesses, and fistula, the abnormal joining together of hollow spaces within the body. Despite its prevalence and impact, little is known about what causes diverticulitis, though previous research found links to smoking, obesity and chronic use of anti-inflammation drugs.

A lack of fiber in the diet has also

been a suspect, but other possible food-related causes have remained untested. For the new study, published in the journal Gut, researchers led by Andrew Chan at Massachusetts General Hospital combed through 26 years of medical records for 46,500 men in the United States. Every four years, the men were asked to detail their intake of fish, poultry and red meat. Over the 26-year period, 764 men developed diverticulitis. This group tended to eat a lot of red meat.

They also smoked more, exercised less, and took more painkillers than others in the trial, the study found. But after these other disease risks were taken into account, the meat-eaters were nearly 60 percent more likely to be afflicted by the condition than men who ate the least amount of red meat, the study found. The link was purely observational, meaning that no cause-and-effect can be shown, and that something else may be to blame. But the evidence may be useful as "practical dietary guidance" for people at risk of diverticulitis, the authors said. —AFP

OH DEER: MONKEY CAUGHT IN FLAGRANTE DELICT-DOE

PARIS: Scientists yesterday revealed the "highly unusual" behavior of a male monkey filmed trying to have sex with female deer in Japan - a rare case of inter-species nookie. Sex between different species is uncommon - particularly among very distant relations. Such mating is mostly fruitless or yields sterile offspring. But exceptional cases are known to occur, chiefly in domesticated and captive animals, scientists reported in the journal Primates.

In their study - only the second on the phenomenon - a Japanese macaque or "snow monkey" was filmed mounting at least two female Sika deer, much larger than itself. Without penetration, the

young monkey makes sexual movements while riding on the does' backs on Japan's Yakushima Island. On some occasions its impertinence was tolerated but at other times the deer bolted and ran. The monkey ejaculated on the backs of the does, which licked the seminal fluid, researchers said.

"No ambiguity is possible, it is clearly sexual behavior," study co-author Marie Pele of France's CNRS research agency told AFP. Furthermore, the monkey appeared to "guard" the targets of its affection, chasing away other male macaques. The scientists speculated the behavior may be driven by "mate deprivation" in a community where competition for females is stiff, boosted by a surge of hor-

mones in the breeding season.

"This young macaque... did not have access to (macaque) females, but was very excited. It took advantage of the presence of the doe," Pele said. Snow monkeys and Sika deer live in close proximity at Yakushima - the deer eat food the monkeys drop from the trees, and sometimes feed on their feces. The team said further study is necessary to understand the origins of interspecies sexual behavior, including zoophilia - when humans are sexually attracted to animals. The only other study on interspecies sexual behavior was the much-publicized 2014 report of fur seals forcing themselves on penguins in Antarctica, the authors said. —AFP

AFRICA'S FIRST GRID-CONNECTED BIOGAS PLANT POWERS UP

NAIVASHA, Kenya: A commercial farm in Kenya has become Africa's first electricity producer powered by biogas to sell surplus electricity to the national grid, cutting the carbon emissions associated with oil-powered generation. The Gorge Farm Energy Park in Naivasha produces 2 megawatts (MW) of electricity - more than enough to cultivate its 706 hectares of vegetables and flowers, and with sufficient surplus to meet the power needs of 5,000-6,000 rural homes.

The new plant generates not only electricity, but also heat for the farm's greenhouses, with fertilizer as a by-product. Gorge Farm, approximately 76 km northwest of Kenya's capital, Nairobi, is owned by the Vegpro Group, a leading East African exporter of fresh vegetables and its second largest exporter of roses. Biojoule Kenya, the independent power producer that operates the Gorge Farm plant, signed an agreement to sell electricity to Kenya Power & Lighting Company (KPLC) - the country's sole power distributor - in 2016.

Biojoule Kenya sells the power to Gorge Farm and to KPLC for \$0.10 per kilowatt hour (kWh). Diesel-generated power, by contrast, costs \$0.38 per kWh

to produce. "The Gorge Farm plant is physical proof that locally produced feedstock can be used to generate clean and cost-effective power for all Kenyans," said Mike Nolan, chief operating officer at Tropical Power, a developer of biogas and solar plants in Africa. It supplied engines for the plant in conjunction with Clarke Energy, a UK-based engine service provider.

Slashing diesel use

The plant produces biogas through anaerobic digestion, a process in which crop residue from the farm is digested by micro-organisms. The biogas produced is burned in two engines, producing both electricity and heat in a process called cogeneration. Producing the same amount of energy using diesel would require 5 million litres of fuel annually, Nolan explained, plus the extra fuel required to transport the diesel inland from the port of Mombasa.

Tropical Power says the biogas plant contributes to a 7,000-tonne reduction in carbon dioxide emissions per year, since the farm does not have to use electricity from the grid produced by oil-fired power

stations. Cogeneration currently makes up a tiny fraction of renewable power sources in Kenya, at 0.7 percent in 2015, according to the Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KEMGEN), the country's biggest power company. Geothermal was the biggest contributor to the electricity generation mix, with 49 percent, followed by hydropower at 44 percent. But some experts see room for considerable biogas expansion. "The potential for biogas generated electricity in Kenya is significant," said Helen Osiolo, a policy analyst at the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis. She believes biogas could generate between 29 and 131 MW of power, but says the biggest challenge is that the government will not pay enough for it.

"There are concerns that the tariff is too low to attract substantive investor interest," Osiolo said. In addition, agricultural and municipal waste is in demand for other uses such as fertilizer, which may limit the expansion of biogas generation. Even though anaerobic digestion of waste to produce biogas is an established technology in Europe and Asia, the concept is still new in Africa at large scale.

The technology had been deployed in 45 sites globally before debuting at the Gorge Farm plant.

Source of fertilizer

Osiolo says a further barrier to the expansion of the use of biogas is the perception that it requires a substantial amount of raw material in order to produce any meaningful energy output. However, according to Tropical Power, if organic material or crops from 1 percent of Kenya's landmass were deployed in anaerobic plants connected to the grid, it would produce the equivalent of the country's entire current effective installed electrical capacity of around 1,800 MW.

There are further benefits, according to Tropical Power's Nolan. The 50,000 tonnes of Gorge Farm's residue that can be used annually for biogas can produce 35,000 tonnes of a natural fertilizer by-product. That can be used to improve the crop yield of local farms, displacing synthetic fertilizer, he said. Nolan said that Tropical Power's experience with the grid operator has been straightforward. "Our site is located very close to the grid interconnection point and so engineering challenges were minimized," he said. —Reuters

SMOKING COSTS \$1TN, SOON TO KILL 8 MILLION A YEAR

GENEVA: Smoking costs the global economy more than \$1 trillion a year, and will kill one third more people by 2030 than it does now, according to a study by the World Health Organization and the US National Cancer Institute published yesterday. That cost far outweighs global revenues from tobacco taxes, which the WHO estimated at about \$269 billion in 2013-2014. "The number of tobacco-related deaths is projected to increase from about 6 million deaths annually to about 8 million annually by 2030, with more than 80 percent of these occurring in LMICs (low- and middle-income countries)," the study said.

Around 80 percent of smokers live in such countries, and although smoking prevalence was falling among the global population, the total number of smokers worldwide is rising, it said. Health experts say tobacco use is the single biggest preventable cause of death globally. "It is responsible for... likely over \$1 trillion in health care costs and lost productivity each year," said the study, peer-reviewed by more than 70 scientific experts.

The economic costs are expected to continue to rise, and although governments have the tools to reduce tobacco use and associated deaths, most have fallen far short of using those tools effectively, said the 688-page report. "Government fears

that tobacco control will have an adverse economic impact are not justified by the evidence. The science is clear; the time for action is now."

How to quit

Cheap and effective policies included hiking tobacco taxes and prices, comprehensive smoke-free policies, complete bans on tobacco company marketing, and prominent pictorial warning labels. Tobacco taxes could also be used to fund more expensive interventions such as anti-tobacco mass media campaigns and support for cessation services and treatments, it said. Governments spent less than \$1 billion on tobacco control in 2013-2014, according to a WHO estimate.

Tobacco regulation meanwhile is reaching a crunch point because of a trade dispute brought by Cuba, Indonesia, Honduras and Dominican Republic against Australia's stringent "plain packaging" laws, which enforce standardized designs on tobacco products and ban distinctive logos and colorful branding. The World Trade Organization is expected to rule on the complaint this year. Australia's policy is being closely watched by other countries that are considering similar policies, including Norway, Slovenia, Canada, Singapore, Belgium and South Africa, the study said. —AFP

ARMENIA ALARM AS ABORTIONS OF GIRLS SKEWING POPULATION

YEREVAN: Ani Kirakosyan says she is afraid of getting pregnant because if the ultrasound shows the fetus is a girl she will have to consider having an abortion. In ex-Soviet Armenia - where families traditionally prefer sons - women are often pressured to have sex-selective abortions to get rid of girl babies. "Relatives were consoling me when I gave birth to my first daughter," said Kirakosyan, a 27-year-old resident of the Armenian capital, Yerevan. "But when my second daughter was born, my mother-in-law told me that there must be no more girls, that I must finally bear my husband a son."

The majority-Christian Caucasus country of some three million has the third highest rate of abortions of female fetuses in the world, a figure that rose sharply after the breakup of the Soviet Union. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has reported that there were 114 boys born to 100 girls in 2012. The natural norm would be 102-106 male births to 100 female ones. Sex-discriminatory abortions become more prevalent with second and subsequent children, and account for around 1,400 unborn girls each year.

"In 10 to 20 years, we will face a shortage of women and - combined with a dramatic decline in fertility rates - that will lead to a serious demographic crisis," warned Garik Hayrapetyan, UNFPA Armenia's assistant representative. "By 2060, some 100,000 potential mothers will not have been born in Armenia. We will become a society of single men."

Armenia trails only China, which ended its one-child limit a year ago, and its Caucasus neighbour, majority-Muslim Azerbaijan, where 53 percent of newborn children were boys in the first quarter of 2016, according to offi-



YEREVAN: A picture taken on Dec 28, 2016 shows Garik Hayrapetyan, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Armenia's assistant representative, speaking during an interview. —AFP

cial figures. Some analysts have linked the shared trend for sex-selective abortions in Armenia and Azerbaijan to their violent territorial dispute since 1994 over the Nagorny Karabakh region, suggesting it has promoted a sense of insecurity and a desire for male defenders. The UNFPA attributed Armenia's sex-discriminatory abortions to "patriarchal structures" and a trend for smaller families, as well as easy access to prenatal scans and abortions.

'More backstreet abortions'

Abortion is still the primary means of family planning in Armenia, as it was in the Soviet era, and it is available free of charge on the state health service. In mid-2016, the Armenian parliament adopted legislation

aimed at reversing the female feticide trend. The new measures include doctors compulsorily questioning women on their motives for wanting an abortion and refusing those driven by gender selection. The legislation also bars terminations after 12 weeks unless there is a risk to a woman's health, she was raped or is a single mother.

But Armenian women's rights groups have denounced the new legal measures, saying they will not work in a patriarchal society and will only lead to more illegal and unsafe abortions, endangering women's health. "If we forbid abortions, there will be more backstreet abortions and higher female mortality rates," Anush Poghosyan of the Yerevan-based Women's Resource Centre told

AFP. "We have to address the problem's origin - that is patriarchal mentality and widespread poverty - and not its consequence," she said. "If women and men were given equal opportunities, if a woman could be as successful as a man, as influential and as financially independent, no parent would distinguish between having a son or a daughter."

The UNFPA's Hayrapetyan said that recent media discussion of the problem has encouraged debate about the reasons behind cultural norms. "The paradox in Armenian society is that many people may not want having a daughter before she is born, but once she is here, a daughter is just as loved and cherished as a son," he said. —AFP

AUSTRALIA 'DINGO'S GOT MY BABY' FATHER DIES

SYDNEY: Michael Chamberlain, whose nine-week-old baby was snatched by a dingo from an Australian campground in a story made into an Oscar-nominated film starring Meryl Streep, has died, his family said yesterday. The 72-year-old, who fought for decades to prove a native wild dog took the infant and his wife did not kill her, passed away reportedly after suffering complications from acute leukemia. "Given Michael's death was unexpected, I would ask that the media please consider that Michael's wife and all of his children are deeply grieving and need some space," his now ex-wife Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton said in a statement.

Azaria disappeared from a tent near Uluru, or Ayers Rock, in 1980 in an incident that sparked decades of debate in Australia

over whether her mother Lindy, who was jailed for murder, was responsible for the death. She always insisted a dingo grabbed the baby, but her version was widely doubted by the Australian public until a coroner finally ruled in 2012 that a wild dog did take the child.

The convictions of Lindy Chamberlain and Michael, who was given a suspended sentence for being an accessory, were overturned in 1988 after the chance find of a piece of Azaria's clothing near a dingo lair. An inquest was subsequently reopened after new information from the Chamberlains' counsel about dingo attacks, including a nine-year-old boy who was killed by a wild dog in 2001 and a two-year-old girl who died in 2005. —AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199





Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



AL-MUTHANA NURSERY PARENTS GET-TOGETHER HELD



The Al-Muthana Nursery held a get-together with parents last December 29, 2016 in its Assembly Hall. Bannered by the theme "It's A Magical World", the children came to the nursery wearing the costume of their favorite super heroes or fantasy characters. The gathering is an annual activity of the Nursery to enable the parents watch their children perform in production numbers and to have the chance to meet and greet other parents. Each age group prepared a presentation, Pre-KG, with their "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head" dance number, which the parents loved. The 3-year old group did the "Mexican Hat Dance" with the gusto in their colorful attire and the 2-year old group presented song and dance number for the songs "Skidamarink" and "I Have Two Hands" with so much cute movements. There was an intermission song number from Rozanne Machado "Let it go". In each age group, there were children awarded with special recognition as "Best in Costume". The following

were the winners: Ali Khalil Shait (Superman), Mohammed Nasr (Astronaut), Hassim Engin Aktas (Superman), Hashem Ali Al Handal (Alladin), Adam Lucas (Pirate), Leen Omar (Princess Aurora), Yousef Fadi (Jack Sparrow), Maha Ahmed Sultan, Gabriel Hany and Eli Samer were awarded as "Best in Santa Claus" attire. There were also door prizes for the parents such as computer printer, fax machine and gadgets. In her speech, the nursery Administrator, Angie Lantaca expressed her gratitude to all sponsors who helped the events become a success. There were Imran Naseem - Manager of Royal Digital Computer Center, Engr. Ahmed Nasr - Division Head of Hassan Opticians, Ayman Shara'a of SEBAMED and Roland Catubig. She also acknowledged the support of the Director in Al-Muthana with the teaching and non-teaching staff, Elda, Fran, Doaa, Merla, Annette, Fatma, Nida, Marycris, Gina, Letty, Julie and Sally. Al-Muthana Nursery is a child-oriented nursery which emphasize in helping develop a confidence and well-rounded children activities year round.

WRITERS' FORUM, KUWAIT HOLDS MONTHLY MEETING

Writers' Forum, Kuwait held its first monthly meeting of 2017 on the evening of 6 January 2017 at the residence of Umesh Sharma. The meeting started on a casual and lighter note. Members greeted and wished each other a happy New Year and exchanged their cordial talks. The meeting was presided over by the Urdu poet Afroz Alam who recently returned from a 45 days literary tour to various cities of India where he participated in several Mushairas and Seminars. Ravin Singh was the Chief Guest of the evening. In the first session dedicated for articles and stories, Sunil Sonsi presented his article on the famous poet and lyricist Sahir Ludhianvi, Maimuna Ali Chougale on the renowned Urdu writer Ismat Chughtai and Biswa Ranjan presented his philosophical

article in Oriya followed by discussions. During the second session, members recited their poems and compositions in different languages including Umesh Sharma, Ameer Uddin and Nazneen Ali in Hindi, Vibheesh Tikkodi in Malayalam, Sayed Qamar Minto, Ibrahim Sange Raja and Kamaal Ansari in Urdu and Rajesh Verlekar in English. Mohan Singh read the English poem written and sent by his daughter, Parminder Kaur. In the end, the chief guest Ravin Singh presented his speech of appreciation. Afroz Alam, in his Presidential address shared his experiences of his literary tour to India followed by appreciation of the efforts of the forum towards the noble cause of national integration. Ali Chougale graced the occasion by his presence. All the members and guests conveyed their thanks to Umesh Sharma for the warm hospitality.



DR MALLIKA SARABHAI ATTENDS NANDHANAM ARANGETRAM 2016

Nandhanam Kuwait conducted "Arangetram 2016" at the American International School, Maidan Hawalli on 30th December 2016. The program was inaugurated by A K Srivastava, Second Secretary (Information,

Press and Culture) Indian Embassy, who appreciated Nandhanam, for their efforts to demonstrate the artistic culture and heritage in its original form. Dr Mallika Vikram Sarabhai, one of India's leading choreographers, dancers and social

activists was the special guest for the event. Nayana Santhosh, Director of Nandhanam Kuwait, Srivastava released the Souvenir - Arangetram 2016. The live accompaniment team, a regular and feature of Nandhanam Kuwait's arangetrams, comprised Bijesh Krishna (Vocal), Venugopal Kurumassery (Mridangam), Suresh Nambuthiri (Violin). This year 50 students had their Arangetram in Bharatanatyam, Mohiniyaattam and Kuchipudi dance forms and 22 other students performed Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi. The event kicked off with a lovely rendering of a Ganesha Sthuthi by the Live accompaniment team. There on the students performed the Arangetram Kacheri to the Thillana followed by padam, varnam, keerthanam, kavadinthalu lasting for

over 2.5hrs brilliantly supported by the Live Accompaniment team. The faculties of Nandhanam, Kalamandalam Bijusha, Kalamandalam Sangeetha and Kalamandalam Alenblesseena accompanied on the Nattuvangam. Dr Mallika Vikram Sarabhai expressed her concerns on the tendency of compromising values of Indian culture in all areas of life. The authenticity and appreciation of Indian culture and values help India and Indians to stand tall strong and unique in comparisons to rest of the world. Dr Mallika handed over mementoes and certificates to Arangetram participants. She also handed over mementoes to the teachers, the musicians as a gesture of appreciation from Nandhanam Kuwait for their efforts in presenting Arangetram 2016 in its traditional man-

ner. Nayana Santhosh and Bindhu Prasad handed over a memento to Dr Sarabhai. Nandhanam Kuwait also appreciated the makeup artists Jayan V Narayanan, Shaji Sebastian and Anil Sopanam. At the end, Nandhanam

Kuwait students from Mangaf, Salmiya, Abbasiya, Reggai and Abu Khalifa batches expressed their appreciation and love to the Arangetram students with a very well-choreographed dance to bring the evening to a beautiful close.



MARINA HOTEL TRAINS INTERNS IN COLLABORATION WITH LOYAC

Marina Hotel Kuwait collaborated with LOYAC to provide training and development opportunities to two students, Maryam Sh A Bohamad and Ebtelhal Khaled Eziz Anber. During this time, the interns understood the fundamentals of working in a hotel and acquired hands-on knowledge of key functions across the various departments of the hotel with a focus on the Front Office and Housekeeping.

This annual initiative by the Marina Hotel in association with LOYAC reflects the hotel's proactive contribution to the development of the youth. The internship program at Marina Hotel encouraged interns to gain practical work experience in areas that strengthened their aptitude. The students found the hotel's team very friendly and helpful and commented that they would like to intern at Marina Hotel Kuwait next year as well.

Nabil Hammoud, General Manager of Marina Hotel said: "We are very pleased to cooperate with LOYAC, given its long history in creating career opportunities for youth at national levels. The interns' experience of being part of a

team will help them develop their character, build more confidence and prepare them in the future for whatever decision they make. We are lucky to have the opportunity to host such talented and ambitious students and wish them all success in their careers."

"Encouraging young nationals to acquire knowledge has always been a part of our agenda. We want to give eager and talented minds the opportunity to understand and practice the business essentials of the hospitality sector," he added.

The interns were allotted tasks and provided with hands on experience of a professional ambience with its daily functionalities. They gained invaluable insight into work-life and environment, while benefitting from a professional service orientation. At the end of their internship period, the interns were assessed and given feedback on their performance by their direct mentor. This collaboration is an annual internship program which offers college, university and high school students the opportunity to acquire first-hand experience in the hospitality industry.



INDONESIA FUTSAL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 'LIGA FUTSAL' WINNERS



Indonesia Futsal Association in Kuwait (IFA-K) recently hosted the closing ceremony of Liga Futsal 2016. The winners were announced as follows:
Winners of adults' futsal
1st winner: Batusai FC
2nd Winner: Mancing Mania FC
3rd Winner: PPK FC
4th Winner: Bonex FC
Winners of kids' futsal
1st winner: Riggae FC
2nd winner: Pip FC
3rd winner: Banyumas FC
4th winner: Mangaf FC



OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 00:15 Combustion
02:15 Rampage: Capital Punishment
04:00 The Machine
06:00 Tomorrowland
08:15 Memorial Day
10:15 I Am Number Four
12:15 Metro
14:15 Tomorrowland
16:45 Robot Overlords
18:45 I Am Number Four
20:45 War Of The Worlds
23:00 Green Street 3: Never Back Down

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
00:55 Gator Boys
01:50 River Monsters
02:45 Gorilla School
03:10 Gorilla School
03:40 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
04:35 Tanked
05:25 Mutant Planet
06:15 Gator Boys
07:02 River Monsters
07:49 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
08:36 Night
09:00 Night
09:25 America's Cutest Pets
10:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
11:10 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
12:05 Tanked
13:00 America's Cutest Pets
13:55 Gorilla School
14:20 Gorilla School
14:50 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
15:45 Gator Boys
16:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
17:35 Tanked
18:30 River Monsters
19:25 Rugged Justice
20:20 Lone Star Law
21:15 Tanked
22:10 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
23:05 Rugged Justice

BBC FIRST

- 00:35 Casualty
01:30 Undercover
02:35 Prey
03:30 Orphan Black
04:15 Silent Witness
05:10 Casualty

Discovery Family

- 21:13 Important Things With Demetri Martin
21:37 Ridiculousness
22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
22:30 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail

Discovery Family

- 00:15 Destroyed In Seconds
00:40 Ultimate Survival
01:30 Invent It Rich
02:20 Don't Drive Here
03:10 David Baddiel On The Silk Road
04:00 Destroyed In Seconds
04:25 Destroyed In Seconds
04:50 Ultimate Survival
05:40 How It's Made
06:05 How It's Made
06:30 Storm Chasers
07:20 Mythbusters
08:00 Do You Know?
08:15 Kenny The Shark
08:35 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
09:00 K9 Cops
09:45 How It's Made
10:05 How It's Made
10:30 Invent It Rich
11:20 Mythbusters
12:10 Storm Chasers
13:00 K9 Cops
13:50 Ultimate Survival
14:40 How It's Made
15:05 How It's Made
15:30 Storm Chasers
16:15 Mythbusters
17:00 Kenny The Shark
17:20 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
17:45 Do You Know?
18:00 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
18:50 Guinness World Records
Smashed UK
19:40 Invent It Rich
20:30 How It's Made
20:55 How It's Made
21:20 Mythbusters
22:10 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
23:00 Guinness World Records
Smashed UK
23:50 What Happened Next?

Disney Channel HD

- 00:00 Binny And The Ghost
00:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 The Hive
01:45 Loopedidoo
02:00 Henry Hugglemonster
02:15 Calimero
02:30 Art Attack
02:50 Zou
03:05 Loopedidoo
03:20 Henry Hugglemonster
03:35 Calimero
03:50 Zou
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 The Hive
04:40 Loopedidoo
04:55 Henry Hugglemonster
05:10 Art Attack
05:35 Loopedidoo
05:50 Calimero
06:05 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Zou
07:00 Art Attack
07:30 Henry Hugglemonster
07:45 Loopedidoo
08:00 Zou
08:15 Calimero
08:30 Loopedidoo
08:45 Henry Hugglemonster
09:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons
09:05 PJ Masks
09:15 Goldie & Bear
09:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:45 Miles From Tomorrow
09:55 Sofia The First
10:20 Doc McStuffins
10:35 Goldie & Bear
10:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:00 PJ Masks
11:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:30 Sofia The First
12:00 Doc McStuffins
12:30 Doc McStuffins
12:55 Doc McStuffins
13:20 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
13:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
14:15 Gummi Bears
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:30 Little Mermaid
16:55 Unbungleable
17:00 Miles From Tomorrow
17:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
17:55 The Lion Guard
18:20 Goldie & Bear
18:50 PJ Masks
19:15 Sofia The First
19:40 Doc McStuffins
20:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
20:30 Little Mermaid
21:00 Sofia The First

Discovery Family

- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
01:35 The Hive
01:45 Loopedidoo
02:00 Henry Hugglemonster
02:15 Calimero
02:30 Art Attack
02:50 Zou
03:05 Loopedidoo
03:20 Henry Hugglemonster
03:35 Calimero
03:50 Zou
04:05 Art Attack
04:30 The Hive
04:40 Loopedidoo
04:55 Henry Hugglemonster
05:10 Art Attack
05:35 Loopedidoo
05:50 Calimero
06:05 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Zou
07:00 Art Attack
07:30 Henry Hugglemonster
07:45 Loopedidoo
08:00 Zou
08:15 Calimero
08:30 Loopedidoo
08:45 Henry Hugglemonster
09:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons
09:05 PJ Masks
09:15 Goldie & Bear
09:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:45 Miles From Tomorrow
09:55 Sofia The First
10:20 Doc McStuffins
10:35 Goldie & Bear
10:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:00 PJ Masks
11:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:30 Sofia The First
12:00 Doc McStuffins
12:30 Doc McStuffins
12:55 Doc McStuffins
13:20 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
13:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
14:15 Gummi Bears
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:30 Little Mermaid
16:55 Unbungleable
17:00 Miles From Tomorrow
17:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
17:55 The Lion Guard
18:20 Goldie & Bear
18:50 PJ Masks
19:15 Sofia The First
19:40 Doc McStuffins
20:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
20:30 Little Mermaid
21:00 Sofia The First

Disney Channel HD

- 00:00 Binny And The Ghost
00:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

- 14:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
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 Future-Worm!
18:15 Lab Rats vs Mighty Med
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Supa Strikas
19:35 Supa Strikas
20:00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Counterfeit Cat
21:45 Mighty Med
22:10 Pickle And Peanut
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
22:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
23:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
23:35 Boyster

Discovery Family

- 00:00 El News
00:15 Live From The Red Carpet
02:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
03:05 Hollywood Cycle
03:55 Hollywood Cycle
04:45 LA Clippers Dance Squad
05:40 LA Clippers Dance Squad
06:30 Celebrity Style Story
07:00 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
07:55 El News
08:10 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
09:10 El News
10:10 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
11:10 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
12:05 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
13:00 El News
13:15 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
13:40 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
14:10 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
15:05 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
16:00 El News
16:15 So Cosmos
16:45 Celebrity Style Story
17:15 Live From The Red Carpet
19:05 Botched
19:30 Botched
20:00 El News
21:00 Live From The Red Carpet
23:00 Fashion Police

Discovery Family

- 00:00 Restaurant Stakeout
01:00 Mystery Diners
01:30 Mystery Diners
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 Anna Olson: Bake
10:30 Anna Olson: Bake
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Anna Olson: Bake
17:30 Anna Olson: Bake
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Iron Chef America
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Man Fire Food
21:30 Man Fire Food
22:00 Man v Food
22:30 Man v Food
23:00 Iron Chef America

Discovery Family

- 00:00 Restaurant Stakeout
01:00 Mystery Diners
01:30 Mystery Diners
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
07:00 The Kitchen
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
08:30 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table
09:30 Siba's Table
10:00 Anna Olson: Bake
10:30 Anna Olson: Bake
11:00 The Kitchen
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:30 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Siba's Table
13:30 Siba's Table
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 Anna Olson: Bake
17:30 Anna Olson: Bake
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Iron Chef America
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Man Fire Food
21:30 Man Fire Food
22:00 Man v Food
22:30 Man v Food
23:00 Iron Chef America

Discovery Family

- 00:15 Coronation Street
00:40 Coronation Street
01:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
01:20 Emmerdale
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Alphabetical
04:25 Endeavour
06:15 Safe House
07:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
08:05 Alphabetical
09:00 Endeavour
10:30 Royal Stories
11:00 Safe House

Discovery Family

- 00:00 Fast N' Loud
01:20 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
02:10 Gold Rush
03:00 Deadliest Catch
03:50 Sean Conway - Running Britain
04:40 Fast N' Loud
05:30 The Liquidator
06:00 How Do They Do It?
06:30 How Do They Do It?
07:00 Deadliest Catch
07:50 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
08:40 Fast N' Loud
09:30 Big Giant Swords
10:20 The Liquidator
10:45 How Do They Do It?
11:10 How Do They Do It?
11:35 Gold Rush
12:25 Deadliest Catch
13:15 Sean Conway - Running Britain
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: Trading Up
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 Still Alive
22:50 Kings Of The Wild
23:40 Venom Hunters

Discovery Family

- 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 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
10:50 Kirby Buckets
11:20 Kirby Buckets
11:45 Gravity Falls
12:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:00 Counterfeit Cat
13:30 K.C. Undercover
13:55 K.C. Undercover
14:20 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures

- 11:55 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
12:50 Alphabetical
13:45 Emmerdale
14:15 Coronation Street
14:45 Coronation Street
15:15 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
16:10 Alphabetical
17:00 Murdoch Mysteries
17:55 Murdoch Mysteries
18:50 Safe House
19:45 Emmerdale
20:15 Coronation Street
20:45 Coronation Street
21:10 Alphabetical
22:00 Murdoch Mysteries
22:55 Murdoch Mysteries
23:50 Emmerdale

Discovery Family

- 00:00 Monster Quest
01:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
02:00 How The States Got Their Shape
03:00 Ancient Impossible
04:00 America's Book Of Secrets
04:50 Ancient Aliens
05:40 Monster Quest
06:30 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
07:20 How The States Got Their Shape
08:10 The Universe
09:00 Ancient Impossible
10:00 America's Book Of Secrets
11:00 Ancient Aliens
12:00 Monster Quest
13:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
14:00 How The States Got Their Shape
15:00 Ancient Impossible
16:00 America's Book Of Secrets
17:00 Ancient Aliens
18:00 Monster Quest
19:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
20:00 How The States Got Their Shape
21:00 Ancient Impossible
22:00 America's Book Of Secrets
23:00 Ancient Aliens

Discovery Family

- 00:30 American Pickers
01:20 The Curse Of Oak Island
02:10 The Curse Of Oak Island
03:00 Hunting Hitler
03:50 Storage Wars
04:15 American Pickers
05:05 Pawn Stars
05:30 Pawn Stars
06:00 Mountain Men
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 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
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
17:25 Counting Cars
17:50 Pawn Stars
18:15 Pawn Stars
18:40 Hunting Hitler
19:30 The Curse Of Oak Island
20:20 Ax Men
21:10 American Pickers
22:00 Mountain Men
22:50 Sean Bean On Waterloo
Ozzy & Jack's World Detour

Discovery Family

- 00:20 Rustic Adventures Italy
00:45 Rustic Adventures Italy
01:10 Home Storage Home
02:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
02:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
02:50 Street Food Around The World
03:15 Street Food Around The World
03:40 Winerodads
04:05 Great Escapes
04:30 Miguel's Feasts
04:55 The Food Files
05:20 The Food Files
05:45 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
06:10 My Dubai
06:35 What's For Sale?
07:00 What's For Sale?
07:25 Food School
07:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
08:15 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
08:40 Street Food Around The World
09:05 Street Food Around The World
09:30 Winerodads
09:55 Great Escapes
10:20 Miguel's Feasts
10:45 The Food Files
11:10 The Food Files

Discovery Family

- 00:20 Rustic Adventures Italy
00:45 Rustic Adventures Italy
01:10 Home Storage Home
02:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
02:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
02:50 Street Food Around The World
03:15 Street Food Around The World
03:40 Winerodads
04:05 Great Escapes
04:30 Miguel's Feasts
04:55 The Food Files
05:20 The Food Files
05:45 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
06:10 My Dubai
06:35 What's For Sale?
07:00 What's For Sale?
07:25 Food School
07:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
08:15 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
08:40 Street Food Around The World
09:05 Street Food Around The World
09:30 Winerodads
09:55 Great Escapes
10:20 Miguel's Feasts
10:45 The Food Files
11:10 The Food Files

Discovery Family

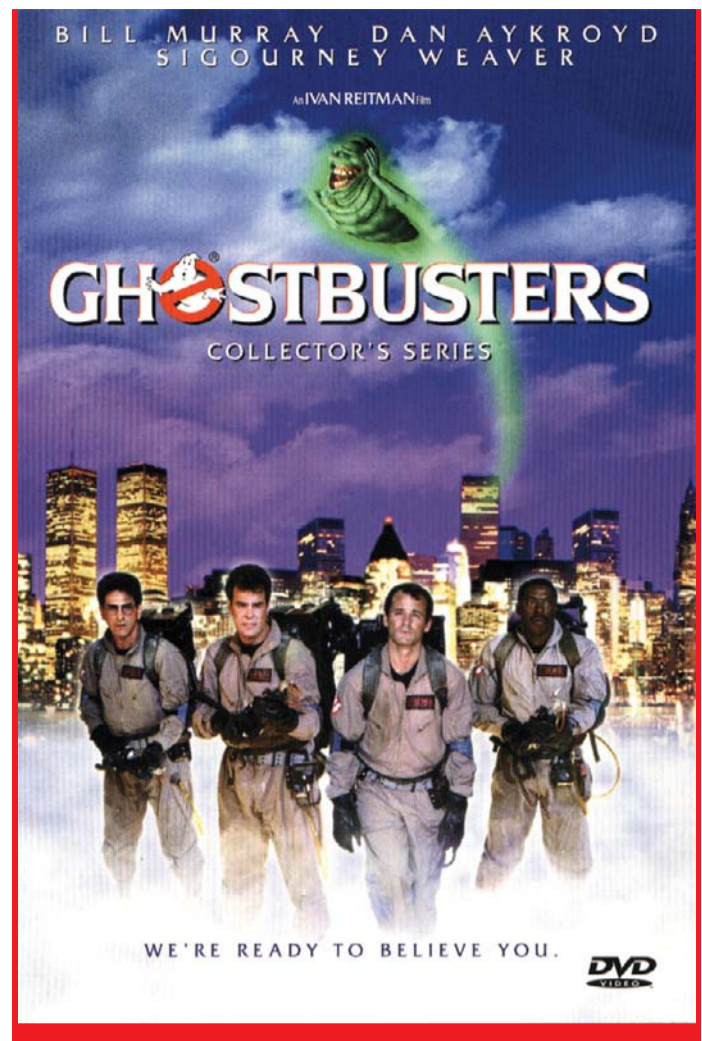
- 00:00 Inside Out
02:00 Hotel For Dogs
04:00 Clockstoppers
06:00 American Girl: Isabelle Dances Into The Spotlight
08:00 Alone For Christmas
10:00 Inside Out
12:00 American Girl: Isabelle Dances Into The Spotlight
14:00 Snow Day
16:00 Bark Ranger
18:00 American Girl: Saige Paints The Sky
20:00 Jem And The Holograms
01:15 No Escape

Discovery Family

- 00:15 No Escape
03:00 Risen
04:45 Everest
06:45 Joy
09:00 Everest
11:00 Creed
13:15 The Best Of Me
15:15 Miss You Already
17:15 Big Stone Gap
19:00 Captive
21:00 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
23:15 Inherent Vice

Discovery Family

- 00:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll
00:30 Two And A Half Men
01:00 Two And A Half Men
01:30 Happy Endings
02:00 Happy Endings
02:30 You're The Worst
03:00 You're The Worst



GHOSTBUSTERS ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

- 11:35 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
12:00 My Dubai
12:25 What's For Sale?
12:50 What's For Sale?
13:15 Food School
13:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
14:05 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
14:35 Street Food Around The World
15:00 Street Food Around The World
15:30 Winerodads
15:55 Great Escapes
16:25 Miguel's Feasts
16:50 The Food Files
17:20 The Food Files
17:45 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
18:15 My Dubai
18:40 What's For Sale?
19:10 What's For Sale?
19:35 Food School
20:05 Great Escapes
20:30 Miguel's Feasts
21:00 The Food Files
21:25 The Food Files
21:50 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
22:15 My Dubai
22:40 What's For Sale?
23:05 What's For Sale?
23:30 Food School
23:55 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet

OSN FIRST HD

- 10:00 New Girl
10:30 Dr. Ken
11:30 Living With Fran
12:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
13:00 Tii Death
13:30 Angie Tribeca
14:00 Breaking In
14:30 Living With Fran
15:00 Baby Daddy
15:30 Dr. Ken
16:30 Happy Endings
17:30 Tii Death
18:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
19:00 New Girl
19:30 Baby Daddy
20:00 Young & Hungry
21:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
22:00 Happy Endings
23:00 Family Guy

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:20 Megacities
01:10 The Border
02:00 Highway Thru Hell
03:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
03:55 Continent 7: Antarctica
04:50 The Border
05:45 Born To Ride
06:40 Access 360 World Heritage
07:35 Live Free Or Die
08:30 Highway Thru Hell
09:25 Bad Trip
10:20 Born To Ride
11:15 Years Of Living Dangerously
12:10 Continent 7: Antarctica
13:05 Air Crash Investigation
14:00 Bad Trip
15:00 Highway Thru Hell
16:00 Live Free Or Die
17:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
18:00 Continent 7: Antarctica
19:00 Air Crash Investigation
20:00 Live Free Or Die
21:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
21:50 Continent 7: Antarctica
22:40 Air Crash Investigation
23:30 Live Free Or Die

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:30 Search For The Giant Octopus
01:20 Hippo vs Croc
02:10 India's Lost Worlds
03:00 Black Mamba: Kiss Of Death
03:50 Savage Kingdom
04:45 Ultimate Animal Countdown
05:40 World's Wildest Encounters
06:35 Black Mamba: Kiss Of Death
07:30 Savage Kingdom
08:25 Ultimate Animal Countdown
09:20 World's Wildest Encounters
10:15 World's Deadliest
11:10 Monster Fish
12:05 Natural Born Monsters
13:00 Shark Alley
13:55 Game Of Lions
14:50 Savage Kingdom
15:45 Ultimate Animal Countdown
16:40 Expedition Wild
17:35 World's Deadliest
18:30 Monster Fish
19:25 Natural Born Monsters
20:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown
21:10 Expedition Wild
22:00 World's Deadliest
22:50 Monster Fish
23:40 Natural Born Monsters

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

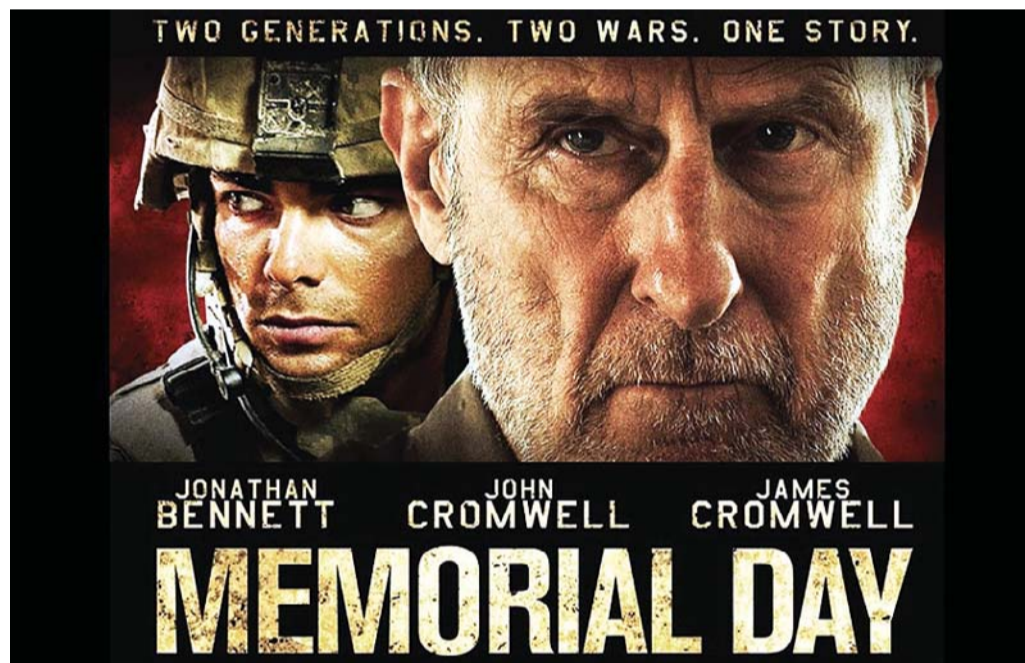
- 00:15 The Babymakers
02:00 Ghostbusters
04:00 Jack
06:00 Under The Tuscan Sun
08:00 All About Steve
10:00 Jack
12:00 Ghostbusters
14:00 Superfast
16:00 All About Steve
18:00 Ghostbusters II
20:00 Hits
22:00 Army Of Darkness

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 01:30 Two Men In Town
03:30 Trash
05:30 WarGames
07:30 The Rainmaker
10:00 Wuthering Heights
12:00 Two Men In Town
14:00 Grand Central
16:00 Neil Young: Heart Of Gold
18:00 Wuthering Heights
20:00 Eight Men Out
22:00 Love & Mercy

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 00:30 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
02:00 Ghatotkach - Master Of Magic
03:45 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby
05:30 Miffy The Movie
07:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
08:30 Bolts And Blip
10:15 Pixies
12:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
13:30 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby



MEMORIAL DAY ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 06:00 The Musketeers
07:00 Casualty
08:00 Casualty
08:50 Death In Paradise
09:45 Call The Midwife
10:40 The Musketeers
11:35 Casualty
12:30 Death In Paradise
13:25 Call The Midwife
14:20 The Musketeers
15:15 Casualty
16:15 Death In Paradise
17:10 Stella
18:05 The Musketeers
19:00 Doctors
19:30 Doctors
20:05 Death In Paradise
21:00 New Tricks
22:00 Sherlock
23:35 Orphan Black

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 00:05 Tosh.0
00:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:00 The Half Hour
01:25 South Park
01:50 South Park
02:15 Tosh.0
02:40 Inside Amy Schumer
03:05 South Park
03:30 South Park
04:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
04:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:15 Key And Peele
05:40 Impractical Jokers
06:05 Ridiculousness
06:30 Tattoo Disasters
06:55 Tattoo Disasters
07:20 Catch A Contractor
08:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
09:05 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 Tattoo Disasters
12:25 Tattoo Disasters
12:50 Idiotstter
13:15 Workaholics
13:40 The It Crowd
14:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
14:55 Ridiculousness
15:20 Tattoo Disasters
15:45 Tattoo Disasters
16:10 Idiotstter
16:35 Ridiculousness
17:00 Impractical Jokers
17:30 Workaholics
17:55 Tosh.0
18:25 Workaholics
18:50 Frankenfood
19:15 Frankenfood
19:39 The It Crowd
20:03 Tattoo Disasters
20:27 Tattoo Disasters
20:50 Idiotstter

- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:10 Hank Zipzer
01:35 Binny And The Ghost
02:00 Violetta
02:45 The Hive
02:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:40 Hank Zipzer
04:05 Binny And The Ghost
04:30 Violetta
05:15 The Hive
05:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:10 Hank Zipzer
06:35 Binny And The Ghost
07:00 Violetta
07:45 The Hive
07:50 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 Cat Noir
09:20 Elena Of Avalor
09:45 Star Darlings
09:50 Liv And Maddie
10:15 Jessie
11:30 16 Wishes
13:00 The 7D
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Liv And Maddie
14:50 Shake It Up
15:15 Shake It Up
15:40 Dog With A Blog
16:30 Good Luck Charlie
16:55 Good Luck Charlie
17:20 Girl Meets World
17:45 Girl Meets World
18:10 Elena Of Avalor
18:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
19:00 The Next Step
19:25 Descendants Wicked World
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Star Darlings
20:00 Bunk'd
20:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
20:30 Austin & Ally
20:55 Descendants Wicked World
21:00 Backstage
21:25 Tsum Tsum Shorts
21:30 Elena Of Avalor
21:55 Best Friends Whenever
22:20 Jessie
22:45 Jessie
23:10 Jessie
23:35 H2O: Just Add Water

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:30 Fast N' Loud
01:20 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
02:10 Gold Rush
03:00 Deadliest Catch
03:50 Sean Conway - Running Britain
04:40 Fast N' Loud
05:30 The Liquidator
06:00 How Do They Do It?
06:30 How Do They Do It?
07:00 Deadliest Catch
07:50 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
08:40 Fast N' Loud
09:30 Big Giant Swords
10:20 The Liquidator
10:45 How Do They Do It?
11:10 How Do They Do It?
11:35 Gold Rush
12:25 Deadliest Catch
13:15 Sean Conway - Running Britain
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: Trading Up
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 Still Alive
22:50 Kings Of The Wild
23:40 Venom Hunters

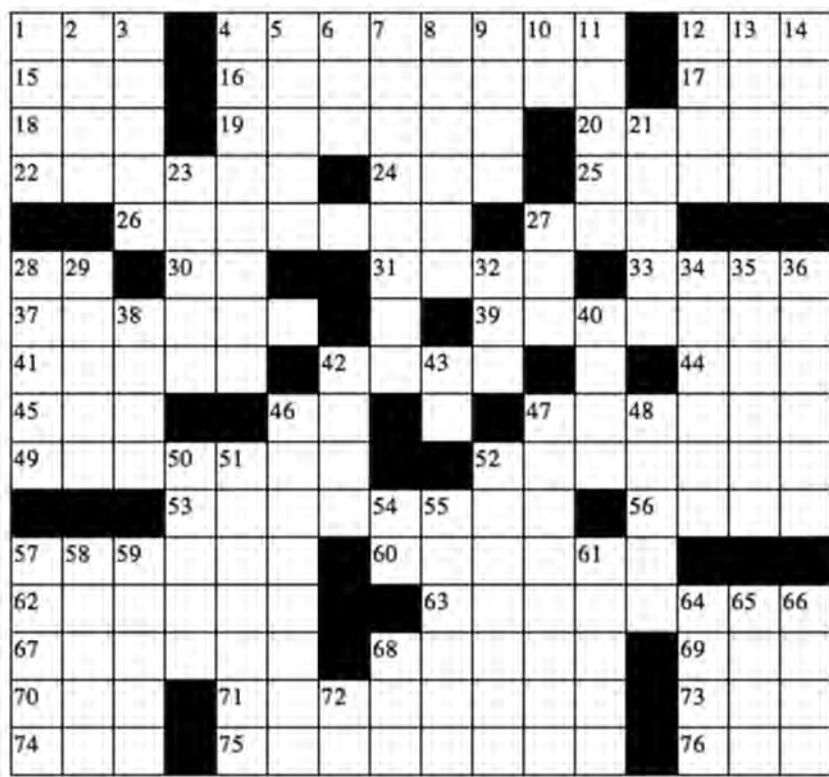
Disney Junior

- 00:00 Sofia The First
00:30 Sofia The First
00:55 PJ Masks



CREED ON OSN MOVIES HD

CROSSWORD 1487



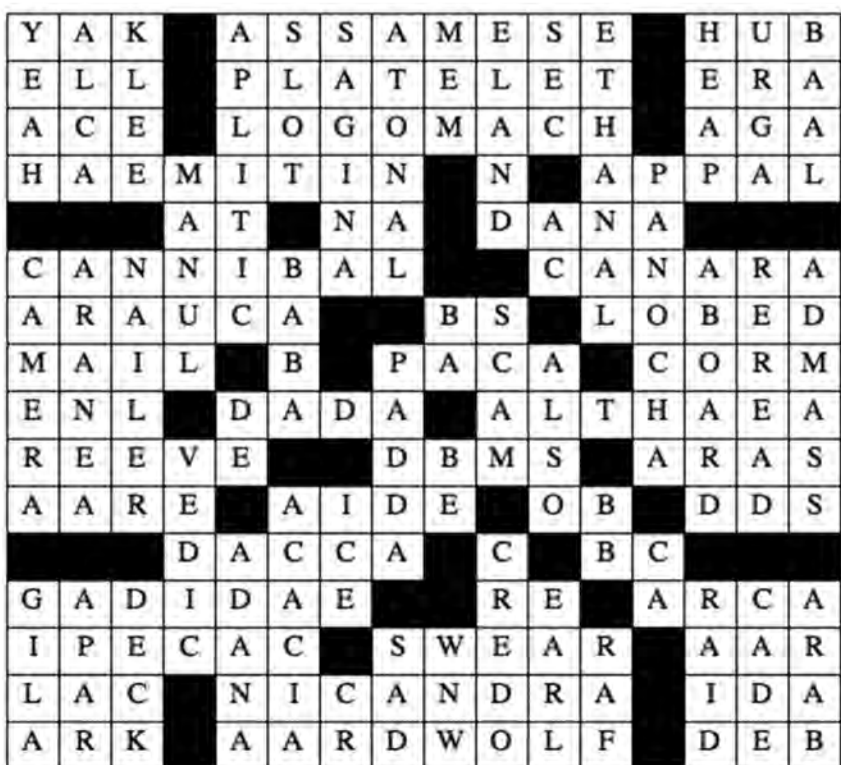
ACROSS

- Any of various units of capacity.
- Genus of European perennial herbs yielding medicinal alkaloids.
- Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- A statement that deviates from or perverts the truth.
- Relating to or being a palace.
- Mythical bird of prey having enormous size and strength.
- Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
- A genus of tropical American plants have sword-shaped leaves and a fleshy compound fruits composed of the fruits of several flowers (such as pineapples).
- In a gay manner.
- Italian printer who designed the Bodoni font (1740-1813).
- Alsatian artist and poet who was cofounder of Dadaism in Zurich.
- Strike with disgust or revulsion.
- Goddess of fortune.
- Being nine more than ninety.
- (Sumerian) Goddess personifying earth.
- A metrical unit with unstressed-stressed syllables.
- Fertility goddess in ancient Greek mythology.
- Prolific Flemish baroque painter.
- Short-nosed rat kangaroo.
- Large long-armed ape of Borneo and Sumatra having arboreal habits.
- A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
- Horn projecting mouth of a bird.
- Pacific shark valued for its fins (used by Chinese in soup) and liver (rich in vitamin A).
- An early form of streetcar that was drawn by horses.
- A telephone connection.
- A lake in northwestern Russia north of St. Petersburg.
- The 15th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- An authoritative person who divines the future.
- Period extending from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6.
- A deep bow.
- (informal) Roused to anger.
- A member of a people living in southern Benin and Togo and southeastern Ghana.
- Hatred of marriage.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
- A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
- A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
- United States tennis player (born in Czechoslovakia) who won several singles championships.
- Quick and energetic.
- Type genus of the Canidae.
- Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
- Low stingless nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
- Type genus of the Otariidae.
- A speech defect that involves pronouncing s like voiceless th and z like voiced th.
- A state in midwestern United States.
- Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
- The act of grasping.
- Large genus of African trees bearing kola nuts.
- Any group or radical of the form RCO- where R is an organic group.
- Remote and separate physically or socially.
- Consisting of or made of wood of the oak tree.
- The compass point that is one point east of due south.
- Something unusual -- perhaps worthy of collecting.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
- Blatant or sensational promotion.
- Land received by fee tail v 1.
- Pertaining to or associated with agony (especially death agonies).
- Used as a Hindi courtesy title.
- A word or expression used for some particular thing.
- A shoe for swimming.
- A hemoprotein composed of globin and heme that gives red blood cells their characteristic color.
- The presence of a virus in the blood stream.
- The front limb (or homologous structure in other animals such as a flipper or wing).
- An expensive vessel propelled by sail or power and used for cruising or racing.
- Type genus of the Phocidae.
- Headlight that provides strong beam for use in foggy weather.
- A Japanese warrior who was a member of the feudal military aristocracy.
- A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
- A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living around Cayuga Lake in New York state.
- (Welsh) Lord of Annwn (the other world).
- Indigo bush.
- A republic in eastern Africa.
- (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
- A Chadik language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- A United States unit of weight equivalent to 2000 pounds.
- A soft silver-white or yellowish metallic element of the alkali metal group.

DOWN

- (pathology) An elevation of the skin filled with serous fluid.
- A pen that has a small metal ball as the point of transfer of ink to paper.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

The morning presents a frustrating time at home and work. Listen carefully. Someone may be coloring his or her story and you may have to dig under to understand the whole truth. You sense the desire to choose a negative direction and, fortunately, you will choose the reverse. This day is noted as one of your best days this month; perhaps you will have to stretch beyond your usual talents, but you can do it. In learning how to eliminate the stress in your life, you create better health practices and set examples for others. The afternoon offers an easier trend. The evening may tempt you to party but you may decide instead to relax at home. A good book or music has a way of making you feel you are in sync with the world and all that is in it.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You make wise decisions today that will increase your finances. A separate issue may come up regarding a joint venture. This will need a bank review so that both of you come out equal. You may have a valid point when it comes to a discussion today-now is not the time to try and prove a point. Confusion and uncertainty reign until the twenty-second so when you are feeling unclear do not even attempt to explain an issue. Be careful of what you discuss in a group setting. Big ears may also have a big mouth. Dive into your hobby this evening. Alternatively, you could choose to work on your car-tinkering with the motor, changing the oil-an activity you may find comforting. This form of relaxation is valuable for you.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could be in the public eye, especially with superiors or in relation to your work. This is a good day for dealing with the subtle, sublime and complex matters of life-work or home. You may find that you enjoy your job or the responsibility it requires more than usual. Your concentration and considerate action is positive. Challenges can be rewarding in many ways and you may find many appreciative followers. You are able to tackle tasks that require real discipline. You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation this afternoon. Someone may compliment you on your tastes or belongings. While listening to someone else's problems this afternoon, you will be able to be helpful to that person. You spread goodwill.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

If you are a homeowner, it is good to homestead your home if you can. If you do not know about this, check it out through a real-estate company. Today, you look for ways to complete your tasks at a faster rate of speed than usual-and of course, with accuracy. If you really want something strong enough, you tend to create it. Make a list of what you need to do in order to achieve your goals. A new relationship may seem too good to be true. Perhaps you are prone to suspicion at this time, and if so, try to relax. Because of the energy available for now, it could be hard to find any logical thinking. Of course, if you are already involved within a relationship, it may have pleased you that someone has been flirting with you. Enjoy a quiet evening.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Great advances in canine sperm banks may assure you of having the same type or temperament of animal for years to come. This subject may be an interesting topic during a morning break in the workplace-some laugh and some join in with your same line of thought. You are on the right track with some project today and you are very hopeful in fine-tuning the end result. A double-duty piece of furniture has your attention this afternoon. You value quality merchandise and may find yourself making large as well as small purchases tonight, especially after you see the post-holiday sales. You may have an opportunity to take charge of a volunteer situation this evening in which you will excel. An open mind and an open heart will lead you into interesting places.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your awareness in submitting and presenting ideas and projects is particularly good at this time. Use your creative and original ideas to promote your work, your company or yourself. What is going on behind the scenes and all confidential matters are going to impact this day. Prepare to reorient your viewpoint and direction during the next six months. You can close the door on many of the issues that have been difficult to understand before now. Make every effort to balance your energies. Delegate some of the responsibilities. You could find a disagreement with a family member today but hold back from expressing your opinion just now as this has more of a tone of misinterpretation than anything else. Stop and really listen one more time.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Be as self-confident and assertive as you like-you will achieve whatever you set your mind to accomplish. Getting your message across to others is easy and you may be thinking something is wrong because the questions are too easy. Give yourself credit; you have learned many important things pertaining to your work. Your timing should be good and the day is perfect for interactions with others, particularly if meetings are scheduled. Good results happen. Because you have plenty of sympathy and understanding, you may find yourself volunteering as a counselor or giving some type of assistance to the elderly. Artistic work or hobby is inspired this evening. You may want a room or part of the garage to yourself for the assembly process.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Pension, insurance, health or investment plans come to your attention this day. You will have an opportunity to join or reject these plans and reviewing the options can be most beneficial. You can expect a little extra support from the people around you today. A feeling that anything is possible if you set your sights high enough characterizes the cycle you have just begun. There is optimism, faith and a desire to explore all sorts of projects and challenges. You delight in creating a peaceful home life and when things are out of balance, you work to set things straight. When you sing or involve yourself in some form of music or creative activity you get rid of negative energy. Involve yourself with some new music or a new recipe this evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Now is the time to take your first plane ride or enjoy the upcoming weekend tour to unfamiliar places. Be clear about your intentions and your expectations and you will see personal conflicts disappear. Your love relationship has undergone some positive changes and will continue to gain in strength as long as you both remain honest. Your activities move at a fast pace and there is just no time for emotional clogs. Use your energy to benefit your best interest and maintain a sense of strength and balance. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much now-your reality must match your income. Some budgeting plans may seem strict for now but you work to set an example and guide others. It will soon be time to reassess the budget. Take notes.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Consider setting a few dollars aside each week or each month during this year. Get serious about it and this time next year will be the time you achieve some long-term dream. At least, this sort of thinking is a wise way to save for a special trip or the purchase of some special item. It is also not too soon to begin planning. While you are working today, you may have times of brain escape where you think of some science fiction scenario that would make a good story. You could keep a notepad close by for future reference toward that story. Sign up for a creative writing class and feed the brain. Practical thinking ends this day as you work to complete unfinished tasks. You might enjoy a psychic reading for yourself today.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Stress can cause mistakes as well as accidents on the job. Pace yourself and take breaks until the pressure has been relieved. Peace of mind is precious and in order to think clearly and be at top speed you must make sure all avenues of your life are in balance. While working with others it is beneficial to have your timing right and this may improve soon. This afternoon you will find your concentration is in focus and the duties of business can be accomplished quickly. You may have a strong need to be respected on the home front. Your power depends on how you listen to others as well as how you relate what is important to you. Clear communication will show others your interest and enable you to express your goals. Laughter is good.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is good luck for you in the work world if you can learn a technique in order to deal with people that ask too many questions. You have a variety of forceful inner resources that spell gain and advancement. Your intuition comes into play this afternoon as you notice ways to improve your business or the business of the place where you work. Read the financial pages of your newspaper carefully today-there are hints about what you can expect over the remainder of this month. If you have questions about your health, have it checked soon for your own peace of mind. It is very important that if you become confused or frustrated you pull back and examine your nutrition, exercise and mental focus. A friend calls to invite you to a future party.

WORD SEARCH

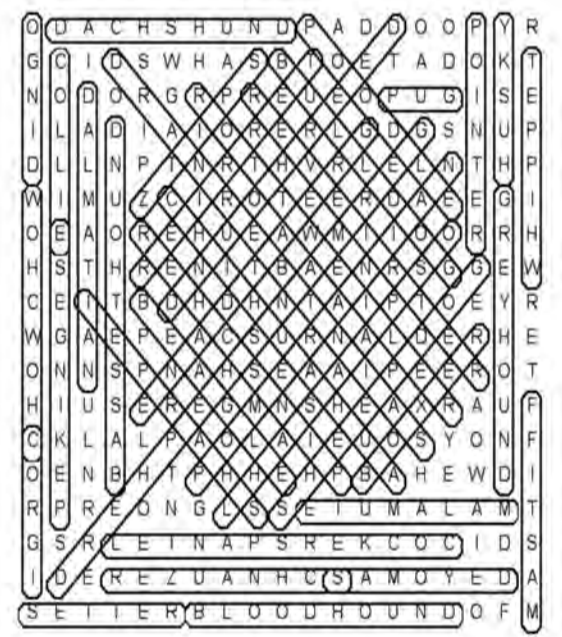
Easter

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 34 letters spell a secret message.



- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ASH WEDNESDAY | DEATH DISCIPLES | JESUS LAST SUPPER | PENITENCE PRAYER |
| BREAD BUNNY | EGG HUNT EGGS | LENT MARY MASS | RESURRECTION ROAST |
| CALVARY CELEBRATION | EUCCHARIST FAMILY | MEAL NEW TESTAMENT | SACRAMENT SATURDAY |
| CHOCOLATE CHRIST | FASTING FESTIVAL | PALMS PARADE | SUNDAY THURSDAY |
| CHURCH CROSS | FRIDAY HOLIDAY | PARADE PASSOVER | TOMB TRADITION |
| CRUCIFIXION CUSTOM | HOLY WEEK | PENANCE | VIGIL |

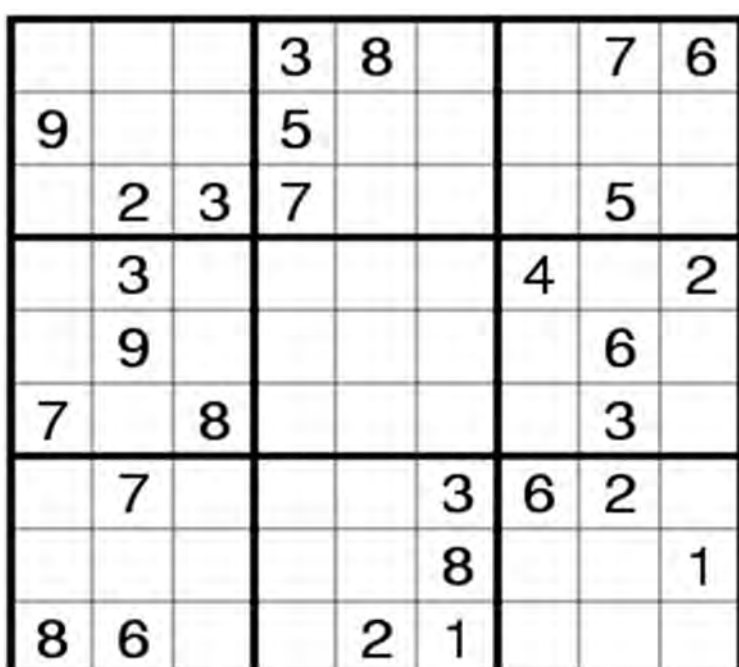
Dogs



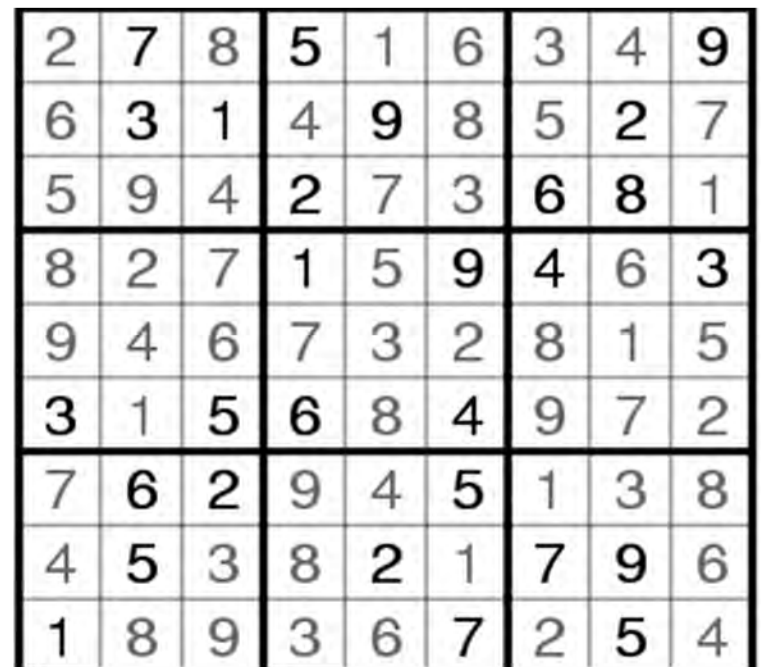
- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| BASSET HOUND | DACHSHUND | MASTIFF | SAMOYED |
| BEGLE | DALMATIAN | PEKINGESE | SCHNAUZER |
| BLOODHOUND | DEERHOUND | PINSCHER | SETTER |
| BOXER | DINGO | POINTER | SHAR PEI |
| BULLDOG | GERMAN SHEPHERD | POMERANIAN | SHEEPDOG |
| CHIHUAHUA | GREAT DANE | POODLE | SPITZ |
| CHOW CHOW | GREYHOUND | PUG | TERRIER |
| COCKER SPANIEL | HUSKY | RETRIEVER | WHIPPET |
| COLLIE | LHASA APSO | ROTTWEILER | |
| CORGI | MALAMUTE | SAINTE BERNARD | |

The hidden sentence is: A DOOR IS WHAT A DOG IS PERPETUALLY ON THE WRONG SIDE OF.

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



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



PHARMACIES
ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

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

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 10/01/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 22 °C

By Day: Mostly sunny with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h
By Night: Cold with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h

Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	sunny + high clouds	sunny + scattered clouds	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
Min Temp °C	09	09	08	07
Max Temp °C	23	21	20	18
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 30	15 - 40	15 - 38	15 - 38

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

Warnings & Weather Watches
no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	12		21	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	11		22	
ABDALY	09		21	
BUBYAN	11		17	
JAHRA	12		23	
FAILAKA ISLAND	12		19	
SALMIYAH	13		19	
AHMADI	13		18	
JAL ALIYAH	09		21	
QAROH ISLAND	16		19	
UMM AL-MARADEM	16		19	
NUWAISIB	12		22	
WAFRA	11		21	
MANAGISH	09		21	
SALMY	07		20	
MUTRIBA	09		21	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	23
Min Temp (°C)	08
Max Rel Hum (%)	100
Min Rel Hum (%)	53
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	43 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Prayer Times

Fajr	05:20
Sunrise	06:44
Zuhr	11:55
Asr	14:48
Sunset	17:07
Isha	18:29

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

PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists

Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223

Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)

Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426

General Practitioners

Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae	25333501

Urologists

Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons

Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60

Family Doctor

Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
------------------	-------------------

Psychiatrists

Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0

Gynaecologists & Obstetricians

Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787

General Surgeons

Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148

Internists, Chest & Heart

Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisani	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians

Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282

Dermatology

Dr. Mohammed Salam	23845955
--------------------	----------

Dentists

Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisani	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111

Neurologists

Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875

Gastrologists

Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist

Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924

Physiotherapists & VD

Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288

Rheumatologists:

Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290

Internist, Chest & Heart

DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
-------------------	------------------

Consultant Cardiologist

Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC
Assistant Professor Of Medicine	Head, Division of Cardiology
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555
MD, PH.D, FACC	
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	



Certainly not an 'Afterthought'!

FIVE GUYS. ONE VOICE. THE AFTERTHOUGHT.

Interviewed by Nejouad Al-Yagout

The Afterthought was once known as Kuwait's best-kept secret. Now, however, this electric band - composed of five members: Bassam "Buzz" Shuhaibar, Zakariya "Zak" Musawi, Husain Al-harbi, Aziz Baqer and Omar Salem - is a priority for Kuwait's choice of musicians, whether for Nuqat at 360 Mall or Shakshooka Market. At their latest event for Qout Market at Shaheed Park, they drove the crowd so wild, that when they ended their segment, the audience kept chanting: "One more song! One more song!"



Omar Salem, rhythm/lead guitar is pictured at ACK. — Photo by Abdulaziz Safar Ali

What makes The Afterthought magical is that the band members are not just there to perform. Yes, performance matters - which is evident in their professionalism and ability to captivate an audience with the energetic field they create on stage. But more importantly, they adore music. Their passion is so expansive, they manage to transcend labels while inviting the audience to develop an ear for music not confined to one genre. In doing so, they elevate our frequency.

I am honored that I got to interview "Buzz", who is representing the band for this feature, and certain that his answers will blow you away, as they did me! You have been warned...

Kuwait Times: Musicians translate an intangible force within themselves into lyrics or melody, sometimes simultaneously. This is - in turn - projected into the outer world, but then it goes right back inside and touches our innermost core. Is this why it resonates so profoundly for many souls globally?

Buzz: I have always maintained that music is the only truly international language. Many argue that that accolade belongs to mathematics, but numbers and symbols differ from country to country and culture to culture. Conversely, when you draw a musical note on a staff and place it in front of a musician, that note is going to be interpreted - and subsequently played - exactly the same way in Mongolia as it would be in the Ivory Coast. As such, music becomes the ultimate medium of communication, one that is more far-reaching than any other.

The subjectivity of music is another reason it resonates universally. Each genre has its unique soul which will attract interest from a certain population. This is especially

true today, where individuality is prized above all else: as our own experiential diversity defines who we are, so does the music we listen to. And we will inevitably interpret it our own way.

That "intangible force" you refer to can be incredibly strong. Some, like myself, focus on the lyrics and the message they deliver. This is what drives my writing process: whenever the band begins work on a new song, the melody is developed in a basic enough way where I have a workable structure to add words to. I rarely sit down with a theme in mind; rather, I tend to wait and see what lyrics will form based on the balance (or "scansion") of the melody and fine-tune them until I am happy with the flow. That first line is always the hardest, but once it's done the rest of the song tends to write itself. That being said, I always try to make sure that my lyrics read like standalone poetry, so their effect would not be diminished without any accompanying music. Eddie Vedder and Bono are two masters at accomplishing this.

Whilst lyrics are extremely important, so too is musical arrangement. Some may focus on the individual instrument of their choice, whilst others will be moved by the holistic experience of the rhythm itself. This reinforces my earlier comment related to the universality of music; one doesn't have to be from Latin America in order to appreciate a great salsa/merengue track, because once that beat kicks in, you are going to feel it.

KT: In movies, the soundtrack can reflect the mood of the characters or the genre. We know we are watching a horror or thriller when eerie music is playing; additionally, a song can tell us the exact moment a couple fell in love, without even a word having been uttered. Is your choice of the songs you play reflective of your mood in a given moment, or do you practice and then present the songs to the audience, accordingly?

Buzz: I can vouch for the sincerity of the music we write. I would go as far as to say it is representative of a particular phase or state of mind that was experienced at a given period during our lives. If you were to trace the origins of almost every song we have ever written since 1997, it would more-or-less read like a discographic diary. I say "almost" because once-in-a-while I like to push the cre-

ative boundaries and challenge myself with "empathy writing" - where I put myself in a situation that is on the opposite side of the emotional spectrum that I happen to be experiencing at the time. I also like to project whatever mood I'm in onto a metaphorical or allegorical canvas, which ends up being as cathartic as it is creative.



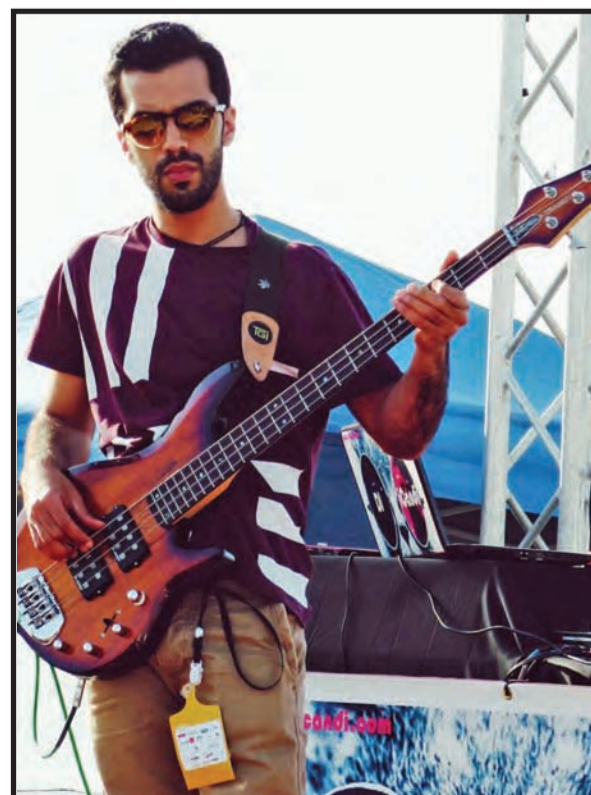
Bassam "Buzz" Shuhaibar, co-founder front man, lead vocals, lyricist and composer is pictured at ACK. — Photo by Abdulaziz Safar Ali

Insofar as the song choices we make, we tend to just go with the flow. We focus a lot on covering bands we love, whilst gradually introducing more originals into our setlists. Our inspiration is drawn from rock, grunge, 80's and even folk. We have a standard song "bank" that we draw from for every gig, but the choices are made based more on mood rather than design. We also try to learn new material in between, especially when there is an occasion associated with the show, e.g. the winter holiday season or the passing of a musical legend, such as the recent tragic death of George Michael. We will learn a song or two and perform them in tribute. For example, we performed "Plush" by Stone Temple Pilots towards the end of 2015 in order to recognize the demise of their lead singer, Scott Weiland. We plan on doing the same vis-à-vis Michael.

KT: Some musicians draw attention to particular causes with the aim of heightening social awareness, while others use their forum of expression to help others escape from the mayhem of our planet. Do you think music should be used as social activism or simply a way to leave behind our sorrows and let its majesty propel us to another paradigm?

Buzz: That's the beauty of music. It is multi-faceted, pliable, malleable... So my answer to your question is "all of the above". Bob Dylan became the unofficial spokesperson for a generation during the Vietnam War in the 60's and 70's; Rap/Hip-Hop became the cultural representation of a marginalized minority in the 80's; Geldof and Band Aid raised awareness of the dire famine situation in Africa in an unprecedented way... the list goes on. Music is an incredibly powerful platform from which to sound off on the global challenges being faced.

Music can also transcend space and time. How many instances has a track come on that immediately reminded you of a milestone or special event in your life? They say smell is the scent most strongly associated with memory; I say sound comes in a very close second.



Husain Al-harbi, bass guitar and logistics manager is pictured at Taste of Q8 Food Festival. — Photo by Ghaneema Qudmani

MUSIC & MOVIES



Zakariya "Zak" Musawi, co-founder rhythm/lead guitar, keyboards, backing vocals and composer is pictured at Shakshooka Market, Secret Garden. — Photo by Abdulaziz Safar Ali

To drive the point home: I remember the first time I heard the song "Black" by Pearl Jam. I was 17, and a friend of mine lent me a copy of their debut album, "Ten". This was amusing because back then I was really into hip-hop and R'n'B, so the concept of grunge or rock was as offensive as it was abstract. I decided to give it a go, so I let it be my wake-up alarm for the morning. I was awakened by the unmistakable tones of "Why Go" and began my morning routine. I was brushing my teeth by the time "Black" came on, and I remember stopping midway and sticking my head out the bathroom door to get a better listen. There was this incredible electrical energy buzzing through me, and I was hooked. To this day, if I ever hear or perform it, I become that 17-year-old kid all over again.

KT: Though the music scene in Kuwait has been catapulted to higher realms, some people think that music has corruptive tendencies. What would you say to those who are afraid of it?

Buzz: I cannot blame them, because it is human nature to fear the unknown or what is not understood. Those who may not appreciate music have their reasons, which I fully respect. What I can say is, I promise we don't bite! Levity aside, I am always pleasantly surprised at the diversity of our audiences throughout the years. Their energy and unwavering support are what make it all worthwhile. After all: no fans... no band.

I am equally impressed with how what was once a nascent and reluctant music scene has now thrived into a full-on burgeoning community. When Zak and I started out, in the late 90's, a Kuwaiti rock band was an extremely rare

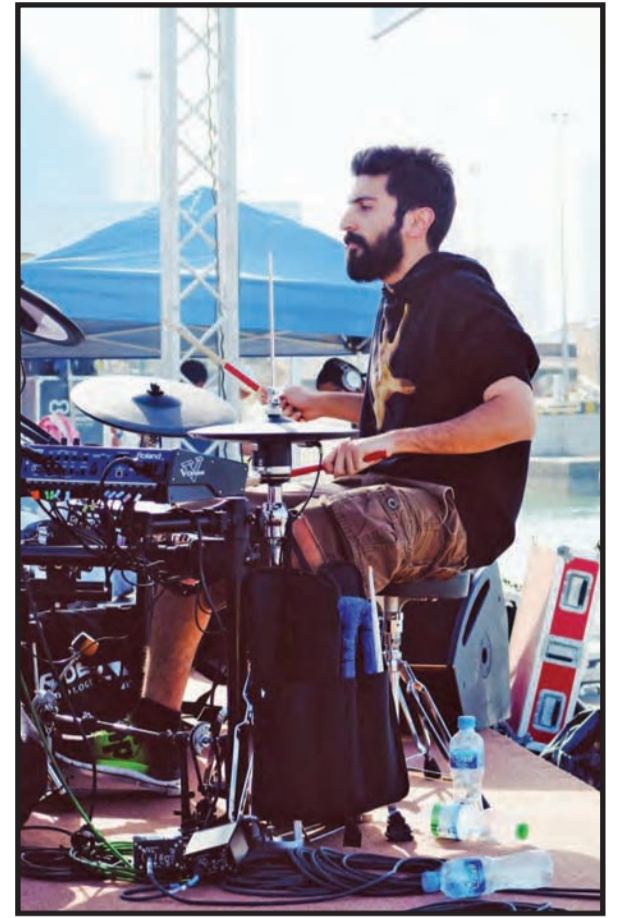
species. Now there are plenty of local groups covering every aspect of the musical spectrum, which makes me as happy as it does proud.

KT: Finally, Bocelli refers to singing as an instrument. So, singers and musicians waltz in the same space. Is the marriage of voice and sound what makes a song strike such a potent chord?

Buzz: Absolutely. Even the lyrics themselves are unnecessary if the overall mood is effectively translated by instruments. However, being a vocalist and lyricist myself, I would be lying if I said I didn't feel that words are extremely important as well. They are the guiding, thematic force of a song and will influence what direction the voice takes. Intonation, power, intimacy... each should be governed by the message the song is trying to convey. Nothing is more gratifying than positive feedback after a performance, where a listener claims they reacted in some physical way (e.g. tears) or felt inspired in one form or another. If my lyrics can strike the intended nerve, my mission has been accomplished.

For more information, follow them on social media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/theafterthoughtrox
Instagram: @afterthoughtrox
Snapchat: @afterthoughtrox
Website: www.theafterthought.rocks



Aziz Baqer, drums/percussion is pictured at Taste of Q8 Food Festival. — Photo by Ghaneema Qudmani



Actress Isabelle Huppert, winner of Best Actress in a Motion Picture - Drama for 'Elle,' and director Paul Verhoeven, winner of Best Foreign Language Film for 'Elle,' pose in the press room at the 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards at The Beverly Hilton Hotel on January 8, 2017 in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP

VERHOEVEN HAS LAST LAUGH ON 'UPTIGHT' HOLLYWOOD

For years he has been the butt of cinematic snobbery, shunned by Hollywood after the "crazed, lurid spectacle" of his flops "Showgirls" and "Starship Troopers", which were roundly panned by critics. But after his latest film "Elle" was the big winner at the Golden Globes with "La La Land", Dutch director Paul Verhoeven is at 78 finally being rehabilitated. His twisted take on the rape-revenge thriller won best foreign film and best actress for its mesmerizing French star Isabelle Huppert, a double victory that was seen as one in the eye to the Oscar nominations committee who have snubbed it.

"How many times in my life have I been rejected, even here in the Netherlands," he told Dutch public broadcaster NOS on Monday. "So it is really great to finally get something." The man who reinvented the sci-fi genre with "RoboCop" in 1987 and "Total Recall" two years later before the scandalous success of "Basic Instinct", had become something of a Hollywood pariah. He told AFP that several A-list American actresses turned down "Elle" because it strayed dangerously far from accepted boundaries with its rape victim heroine tracking down her attacker to extract her own pleasure from him.

'You can't be erotic'

After struggling for years to get the studios interested in the dark, ambiguous comedy, he finally got it made in France. Dutch critic Diederik van Hoogstraten, of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association who decided the Globes, said Verhoeven would never have been allowed to make in the

film in the US "without changing the script". "He didn't want to change it because they had a problem with the theme of the film," he added, blaming what Verhoeven called America's "moral politics" for frustrating him.

The director also accused Hollywood of being uptight, shying away from "challenging" films about sex. "You cannot be provocative, you cannot be controversial, you cannot be sexual, erotic, in a direct way," he told AFP. With "Elle" now being showered with almost universal praise despite its slippery subject matter, some US critics are going so far as to argue that Verhoeven's two supposed turkeys, "Showgirls" and "Starship Troopers", were misunderstood masterpieces.

"Showgirls" in particular has been proclaimed a cult classic, with the Canadian critic Adam Nayman arguing in his book "It Doesn't Suck" that it was a brilliant satire on the debasement of the American Dream. The late French director Jacques Rivette was always a believer, calling it in 1998 "one of the greatest American films of the last few years". The influential US magazine the Atlantic last year described "Starship Troopers" as one of the "most misunderstood movies ever", urging doubters to "open themselves to the rigour and intensity of Verhoeven's approach and you'll get the joke 'Starship Troopers' is telling" about US jingoism.

Triumphant return

British critic Jonathan Romney said "Elle" is "definitely considered a major triumphant return to form for

Verhoeven, although a lot of people were very impressed by the seriousness and modesty of his 2006 war film 'Black Book'—which has been voted the best Dutch film ever. "I was never convinced by 'Showgirls' myself, and maybe I wasn't able to see past the surface, but to me it looked awkward and kitsch," Romney added.

"But a lot of people take it seriously as a statement on America or as some sort of feminist text. There's even a scene in Mia Hansen-Love's latest film 'Eden' (which also stars Huppert) in which a bunch of cinephiles earnestly discuss its merits." But already the beginning of a backlash against Verhoeven's new-found respectability appears to be brewing. While Variety critic Owen Gleiberman urged people to see Elle, "this audacious, paradigm-smashing movie" and its bravura performance from Huppert, he stuck the knife into its creator.

Far from being a feminist film, he said, its heroine who turns the tables on her rapist is merely "Verhoeven's sadomasochistic caveman version of sex-positive feminism." "My puzzlement over the rapture it has inspired begins with a question that's been percolating around in my brain ever since it was released—where's the outrage?" he added. — AFP

Jolie, Pitt agree to settle divorce in private

Angelina Jolie Pitt and Brad Pitt, once Hollywood's most celebrated couple, have reached an agreement to keep details of their high-profile divorce and child custody dispute private, US media reported yesterday. The estranged Hollywood film stars have "signed agreements to preserve the privacy rights of their children and family by keeping all court documents confidential and engaging a private judge to make any necessary legal decisions and to facilitate the expeditious resolution of any remaining issues," Jolie and Pitt said in a statement obtained by CNN.



"The parents are committed to act as a united front to effectuate recovery and reunification." Jolie and Pitt have been in the midst of a bitter public divorce and custody battle over their children, some of which has played out on gossip television and in the tabloids. Jolie Pitt, 41, who filed court papers in September to end their marriage, is seeking sole custody of the couple's six children. Pitt was cleared by the FBI and social workers over allegations that he struck one of his children during a flight that month from France to Los Angeles. Pitt, 53, who won a best film Oscar for producing "12 Years a Slave", is seeking joint legal and physical custody.

He has been granted visits supervised by a therapist as part of a temporary custody agreement. Under a current arrangement, Jolie has physical custody of the children—three of whom are adopted—at a rented LA house. The A-listers—given the celebrity moniker "Brangelina"—got married in France in August two years ago, but had been a couple since 2004. — AFP

In this May 28, 2014 file photo, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt arrive at the world premiere of "Maleficent" in Los Angeles. — AP



The cast and crew of "La La Land" poses in the press room with the award for best motion picture - musical or comedy at the 74th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan 8, 2017, in Beverly Hills, Calif.—AP

'La La Land' sweeps nominations at Baftas

Fresh from its success at the Golden Globes, modern-day musical "La La Land" led the nominations for Britain's Bafta film awards announced yesterday, with 11 nods including best film, actor and actress. "Arrival" and "Nocturnal Animals" both received nine nominations for the awards, which take place in London on February 12, while "Manchester by the Sea" had six. Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone are both nominated for their star roles in "La La Land", which took seven Golden Globes on Sunday, while Damien Chazelle is nominated for best director and best original screenplay. Sci-fi movie "Arrival" is up for best film, best director for Denis Villeneuve and best actress for Amy Adams, as well as best adapted screenplay.

Tom Ford received nominations for best director and adapted screenplay for "Nocturnal Animals", while Jake Gyllenhaal is up for best actor and Aaron Taylor-Johnson is up for best supporting actor. Kenneth Lonergan has been nominated for best director for his unflinching "Manchester by the Sea", which is also on the list for best film, while Globe-winner Casey Affleck is nominated for best actor and Michelle Williams for supporting actress. Ken Loach's anti-austerity

drama "I, Daniel Blake" took five nominations, including best film and supporting actress for Hayley Squires. Coming-of-age movie "Moonlight", which won best drama at the Globes, is up for best film an original screenplay while Mahershala Ali and Naomie Harris are nominated for best supporting actor and actress respectively.

A list of the main nominations:

Best film:

"Arrival"
"I, Daniel Blake"
"La La Land"
"Manchester by the Sea"
"Moonlight"

Best director:

Denis Villeneuve for "Arrival"
Ken Loach for "I, Daniel Blake"
Damien Chazelle for "La La Land"
Kenneth Lonergan for "Manchester by the Sea"
Tom Ford for "Nocturnal Animals"

Leading actor:

Andrew Garfield for "Hacksaw Ridge"

Casey Affleck for "Manchester by the Sea"
Jake Gyllenhaal for "Nocturnal Animals"
Ryan Gosling for "La La Land"
Viggo Mortensen for "Captain Fantastic"

Leading actress:

Amy Adams for "Arrival"
Emily Blunt for "The Girl on the Train"
Emma Stone for "La La Land"
Meryl Streep for "Florence Foster Jenkins"
Natalie Portman for "Jackie"

Supporting actor:

Aaron Taylor-Johnson for "Nocturnal Animals"
Dev Patel for "Lion"
Hugh Grant for "Florence Foster Jenkins"
Jeff Bridges for "Hell or High Water"
Mahershala Ali for "Moonlight"

Supporting actress:

Hayley Squires for "I, Daniel Blake"
Michelle Williams for "Manchester by the Sea"
Naomie Harris for "Moonlight"
Nicole Kidman for "Lion"
Viola Davis for "Fences" — AFP

Ben Affleck on Meryl Streep - 'She's not overrated'

Donald Trump may not be a fan of Meryl Streep but Oscar-winning director and actor Ben Affleck is one of many Hollywood stars coming out in her support. Affleck, on the red carpet in Los Angeles for his new gangster movie "Live By Night", was asked what he thought of Streep's indictment of the US president-elect in a lengthy speech at the Golden Globe awards show on Sunday. Trump responded on Twitter by calling the actress "overrated" and a "Hillary flunky." "I thought Meryl was magnificent and I think if there's one thing that we know to be true on earth—literally and truly one thing—it's that Meryl Streep is not overrated," Affleck told reporters on Monday.

Celebrities including Sarah Jessica Parker, Bette Midler and Julianne Moore also have backed Streep. "Live by Night",

which Affleck wrote, produced, directed and starred in, is set in the Prohibition era and is adapted from the Dennis Lehane novel of the same name. It follows Joe Coughlin, a military veteran and police chief's son, as he slowly descends into the world of gangsters. The film also stars Sienna Miller and Elle Fanning.

"I think gangster films have a specific American quality to them," Affleck said. "They're about ambition, morality, getting ahead, pulling yourself up by your bootstraps and fighting the other guy and we're a competitive country." Unlike some of Affleck's previous films, including Oscar-winning "Argo," "Live by Night" has not fared well with critics and has a 32 percent rating on review aggregator rottentomatoes.com. — Reuters

FASHION

'Power and elegance': Japan's boxer turned designer Yanagawa

After making the challenging switch from boxing ring to catwalk, Japanese fashion designer and former boxer Arashi Yanagawa talked about rolling with the punches during Men's Fashion Week in London. "Being flexible and continually learning is something that I take from both boxing and styling," Yanagawa told AFP as he put the finishing touches to his collection in a cluttered studio space in east London.

The 41-year-old heads up a fashion label he created called John Lawrence Sullivan-named after the legendary 19th century US boxer who is considered the first heavyweight champion of the modern era. After boxing for several years, "I felt I had achieved what I set out to. I was ready for a new challenge," said a smiling Yanagawa, dressed in a camouflage shirt, dark green leather trousers and a black cap. "Another passion of mine since childhood had always been fashion, so it felt right that I take up a path in design. I wanted to take the lessons I had learnt from boxing-hard work and perseverance, and channel this into a new adventure," he said.

'Power and elegance'

Yanagawa's style is a mix of classical and eccentric, fluid and virile, and displays a passion for leather as well as hints from his past-some of his bags resemble punching balls. He now has three stores in Japan and is planning to expand abroad but the journey was not always easy, especially for

someone starting out with no training. "The biggest challenge when I started was discovering the right factories and fabric mills to work with," he said. "As with any new designer it is very important to find people that you have good chemistry with, who you trust and are right for the brand."

After several years in an ultra-competitive business, Yanagawa began making a name for himself in Tokyo and was praised in a 2008 article in *The Business of Fashion*, a top industry publication. "Despite his non-fashion background, or perhaps because of it, Arashi is at the vanguard of a group of promising, young menswear brands that are taking Tokyo by storm," the report said. Boxing is never far away for him and he draws parallels with the world of fashion. "On the face of it both might seem quite simple: left, right punching, or dressing someone in clothes," he said.

"However as you delve deeper it's a lot more complex. There are many different styles, techniques and variations." Asked about his influences, Yanagawa cites David Bowie-the late rock legend who died a year ago yesterday. "I find his generation of musicians very inspiring. They represent traits which I incorporate each season, expressing power and elegance in unison," he said. — AFP



Japanese fashion designer and former boxer Arashi Yanagawa poses for a picture at a fashion studio in east London. — AFP

LONDON FASHION WEEK SHAKE UP TRADITION WITH MIXED CATWALKS

Men and women are sashaying down catwalks together at London Fashion Week, in a shake-up of tradition backed by celebrated designers including Vivienne Westwood. The 75-year-old style icon is no stranger to challenging fashion formats-turning a 2015 London show into an anti-austerity and climate change march-and deemed her latest move a response to the unisex reality of fashion. "My very first fashion shows were always men and women. It's particularly unisex now because this time you've got lots of men in dresses."

"You've seen women for a hundred years in trousers but it's all switched around equally now," Westwood told AFP, as her new autumn-winter 2017 collection hit the catwalk at the Seymour Leisure Centre in London's Marylebone neighborhood. Westwood is not unique in choosing to unite her menswear and womenswear collections on the catwalk-at least 10 houses have used Fashion Week in London to present collections for both genders.

While London may not have the glamour of Paris, Milan or New York, it is certainly making the most of its experimental reputation. Within the fashion world this mixing of men's and women's shows has been dubbed "co-ed"-a play on the "co-educational" term used for mixed schools.

Fashion for a 'worldwide audience'

This shift in strategy is changing the way fashion houses run their business, including Burberry. The British fashion heavyweight announced in 2016 it would cut its runway schedule from four to just two shows a year. Burberry said it aimed to create a "seasonless, immediate, and personal" format with the change, with the collection available in-store and online immediately after the show. "The changes we are making will allow us to build a closer connection between the experience that we create with our runway shows and the moment when people can physically explore the collections for themselves," said Christopher Bailey, Burberry CEO.

In essence, fashionistas of the 21st century are demanding much quicker access to collections. In the same spirit, Burberry has merged its three lines (Brit, London and Prorsum) to create one label, which the fashion house said was "designed for a worldwide audience". Paul Smith has also followed the trend and, while absent from London, it will present both its men's and women's collections in Paris on January 22.

The fashion house has been creating menswear since 1970, with womenswear launching in 1994, and it said combining them was "a natural step to reinforce the correlation between the two lines. Paris will also see Kenzo, part of the LVMH group, unite its men's and women's collections after first testing the formula last June.

'Virtually impossible' to create separate shows

For Hywel Davies, fashion program director at London's prestigious Central Saint Martins design school, the "co-ed" trend is both a financially-sound move but also fits in with the industry's openness to change. "It is about the industry looking how to best present their vision and putting men and women show together makes commerce sense. Why pay for two shows when you can communicate your message in one?" he told AFP. "I think it is a positive thing that the fashion industry is constantly churning and looking at new ways of communicating its ideas. Change is good. It would be great if more fashion brands considered other ways of presentation instead of just catwalk shows," Davies added.



British fashion designer Vivienne Westwood (right) greets the audience following her show on the final day of the Autumn/Winter 2017 London Fashion Week Men's fashion event in London.

Financially necessity is even more relevant for smaller brands, such as Sibling, a funky brand created by three British designers which moved to mixed shows with its spring-summer 2015 collection. Creating a show for both men's and women's collections is "a much more realistic process, as well as from a production and design point of view," said Sid Bryan, one of the label's stylists. "The timeframe work into a January show and a February show, with men followed straight by women, is virtually impossible. We're a small team," he told AFP. — AFP



FASHION



Models present creations by British designer Vivienne Westwood on the final day of the Autumn/Winter 2017 London Fashion Week Men's fashion event in London.



Models present creations by British fashion house Sibling during a catwalk show on the third day of the Autumn/Winter 2017 London Fashion Week Men's fashion event in London.

Givenchy's Giacomettis to go under hammer in Paris

Sculptures and furniture by the Giacometti brothers are expected to raise up to seven million euros (\$7.3 million) when they go under the hammer in Paris in March. French designer Hubert de Givenchy is selling 21 works by the Swiss artist and decorator Diego Giacometti as well as a sculpture by his more celebrated brother, the artist Alberto Giacometti, said auction house Christie's.

The aristocratic Givenchy, founder of the fashion house that bears his name and who will turn 90 next month, told

the French daily Le Figaro that he was getting rid of part of his personal collection at the Chateau du Jonchet southwest of the French capital.

"However, I am keeping some of my (Giacomettis) which are useful" to have around the house, he added. Alberto Giacometti is best known for his elongated "thin men" sculptures, while his younger brother Diego, who died in 1985, is best remembered for his animal bronzes. — AFP

Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017

Certainly not an 'Afterthought'!

36



This file photo taken on April 05, 2011 shows a woman looking at Le jardin d'Hiver, 1968-1970, (Winter garden), a work by French artist Jean Dubuffet in the new permanent collection of the national Modern Art Museum at the Georges Pompidou center, also known as Beaubourg, in Paris. The French capital's distinctive Centre Pompidou modern art museum, inaugurated on January 31, 1977, is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2017. — AFP



This image provided by Harper's Bazaar shows the cover of the February issue featuring Madonna. — AP photos

Harper's Bazaar marks 150th year with fashionable women list



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 in Washington.

Madonna, Emma Stone, Willow Smith and first lady Michelle Obama are among 150 women chosen by editors of Harper's Bazaar as the world's most fashionable. The magazine's first-ever such list comes in celebration of its 150th anniversary. Editor-in-Chief Glenda Bailey said Monday. Madonna was chosen as cover girl for the group in the February issue.

The list, released yesterday, is comprised of Hollywood A-listers, music elite, fashion designers, celebrity stylists, Instagram It ladies and other mavens. Star power definitely prevails: Rihanna, the former Kate Middleton, Liu Wen, Kristen Stewart, Naomi Campbell, Miranda Kerr, Kendall Jenner and big sister Kim Kardashian West, Kaia Gerber and her mother, Cindy Crawford, Beyonce, Zendaya, Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, Adele, Gwen Stefani, Riley Keough, Lupita Nyong'o, Amal Clooney, Gia Coppola, Cindy Sherman, Roopal Patel and Olivia Palermo.

Editors of the Hearst magazine around the world - it has 32 editions worldwide - voted for their favorites. "Our lists were more or less the same," Bailey said in an interview. "These women are renowned for style around the world. And they all have such very different styles. This is in praise of the individual." The

magazine plans a cocktail party to celebrate that fact and its listees the weekend of the Screen Actors Guild Awards ceremony Jan 29. A series of other events to mark its 150th year are planned. — AP



In this file photo, musician Madonna poses for photographers upon arrival at the World premiere of the film "The Beatles, Eight Days a Week" in London.



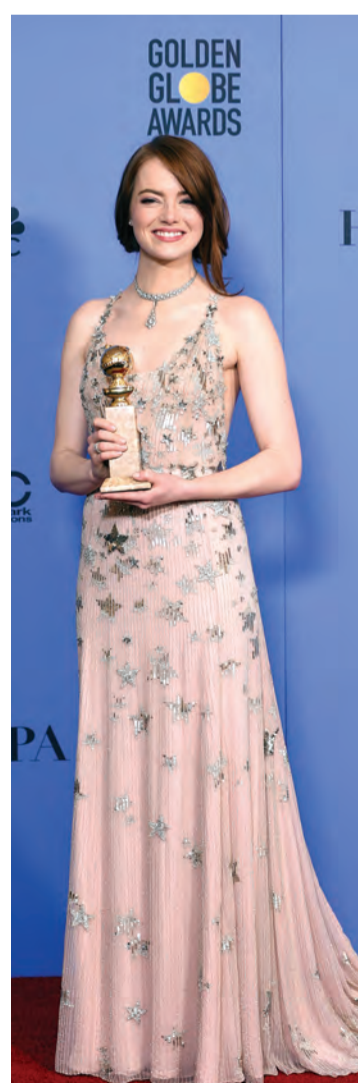
Miranda Kerr arrives at the InStyle and Warner Bros. Golden Globes after party.



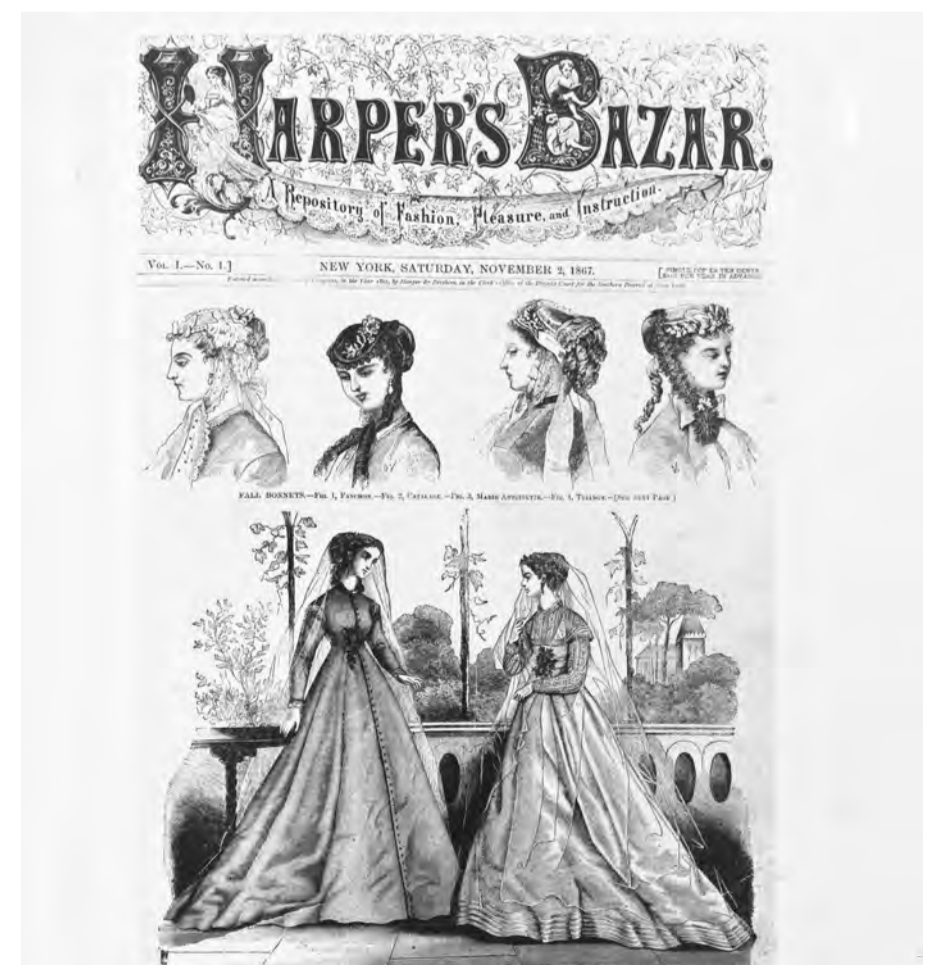
File photo shows Amal Clooney arrives at the InStyle and Warner Bros Golden Globes after party.



Naomi Campbell arrives at the 74th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.



In this file photo, Emma Stone arrives at the 74th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.



This image provided by Harper's Bazar shows the first cover of the magazine dated Nov 2, 1867.