

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

**RABI AL-THANI 18, 1438 AH** 

Iraqi invasion memorial museum faces demolition



**MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017** 

**Outgoing CIA** chief rips into Trump over tweets, Russia



**Ringling Bros** circus closing show after 146 years



*Ibrahimovic* strikes late to rescue Man United





## IN PARIS, TRUMP WARNED OVER MIDDLE EAST PEACE

KUWAIT URGES 'FINAL SETTLEMENT' OF CONFLICT



Max 20° **High Tide** 01:29 & 15:18

08:53 & 20:53

**Low Tide** 

#### **EUROWINGS FLIGHT** LANDS IN KUWAIT AFTER BOMB THREAT

**KUWAIT:** A Germany-bound Eurowings passenger flight from Oman landed in Kuwait yesterday over a bomb threat, but no explosives were found onboard, authorities said. The Airbus A330 from Salalah heading to Cologne, Eurowings flight EW117, landed at 8 am at Kuwait International Airport after the captain received word of the threat, said Mansour Al-Hashemi, a spokesman for Kuwait's civil aviation authority. Security officials found no signs of explosives on the aircraft, Hashemi said. He declined to discuss how the threat was made against the aircraft.

Eurowings said there were 287 passengers and 10 crewmembers onboard the plane, which was being flown by SunExpress on its behalf. Eurowings said the flight was a charter for tour company FTI. The plane was diverted to Kuwait "for security reasons and in consultation with the relevant authorities," Eurowings said in an emailed statement, without elaborating. The airline added that the flight would take off at 1 am today to head to Cologne as legal restrictions on maximum crew working time abarred it from leaving Kuwait sooner. Passengers were put up a hotel in the meantime, it said. — AP



PARIS: (From left) Russian Ambassador to France Alexander Orlov, US Secretary of State John Kerry, French President Francois Hollande, French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, European Union Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini and French State Secretary for European Affairs Harlem Desir pose for a group photo during the Mideast peace conference yesterday. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah is seen in the second row behind Ayrault. — AFP

PARIS: France warned of "serious consequences" yesterday if Donald Trump recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital as representatives from 70 countries met in Paris to try to revive stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts. Neither Israel nor the Palestinians are attending the conference, which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dismissed as "futile". France called the gathering to reaffirm global support for a two-state solution to the seven-decade-old conflict, seen as increasingly reclusive.

The Palestinians have warned that Trump's campaign pledge to move the US embassy to the contested city of Jerusalem could torpedo their chances of obtaining an independent state. French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault warned such a move would have "extremely serious consequences" and predicted the incoming US leader would find it impossible to implement. "When you are president of the United States, you cannot take such a stubborn and such a unilateral view on this issue. You have to try to create the conditions for peace," he told France 3 TV.

In a final statement, the conference warned Israel and the Palestinians against "unilateral steps" on Jerusalem and borders that could threaten a two-state solution. It called on them to avoid steps that "prejudge the outcome of negotiations on final status issues, including, inter alia on Jerusalem, borders, security, refugees". It also said the pre 1967 war borders should provide the basis for negotiations, Ayrault said.

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RIYADH: Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz (right) yesterday decorates Spanish King Felipe VI with the cordon of King Abdul Aziz, the highest Saudi honor for a foreigner.— AFP

MPS FILE GRILLING OVER SPORTS BAN

**KUWAIT:** Three opposition lawmakers yesterday carried out their threat and filed to grill Minister of Information and Youth Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for allegedly failing to do enough to end an international ban on Kuwaiti sports. The lawmakers - Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei and Abdulwahab Al-Babtain - also charged the minister of committing a variety of financial and administrative violations in the two ministries.

The grilling blamed the minister for playing a key role in triggering the international suspension on Kuwaiti sports by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), world football body FIFA and several other federations. They also charged him of failing to take the necessary and appropriate steps demanded by IOC and FIFA to end the suspension, which ultimately barred Kuwait from taking part in the qualifiers for the 2019 Asian Cup last week.

The lawmakers claimed that the minister has refused to implement requirements and standards demanded by the international sports organizations, which have maintained the ban. "The minister did not take the necessary measures to resolve the sports crisis in Kuwait and lift the suspension despite the repeated ultimatums that were given to him," the grilling said. "The minister has caused to deprive a generation from external sports participations," it added.

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KUWAIT: (From left) Opposition MPs Al-Humaidi Al-Subaei, Abdulwahab Al-Babtain and Waleed Al-Tabtabaei, who filed to grill the minister of information and youth, arrive for a session at the National Assembly yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

#### SPANISH KING MEETS SAUDI KING, WARSHIP SALE MOOTED

RIYADH: Spain's King Felipe VI met yesterday with Saudi King Salman, official media said, during a visit coinciding with talks to sell Spanish warships. King Felipe was guest of honor at a lunch hosted by King Salman, who decorated him with the cordon of King Abdul Aziz, the highest Saudi honor for a foreigner, the Saudi Press Agency said. Later they discussed relations between the two nations and how to further develop them "in various fields", it said.

They also reviewed the situation in the Middle East, before Felipe held separate talks with Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed Aljadaan and Minister of Commerce and Investment Majed Al-Qasabi. The Spanish king arrived late Saturday in Riyadh for a three-day stay. Madrid's foreign ministry said its minister Alfonso Dastis, and Public Works Minister Inigo de la Serna, are accompanying Felipe during the visit.

Spanish media have linked this trip to a much-anticipated deal to sell Avante 2200 frigates for an estimated two billion euros (\$2.1 billion). "We can only confirm that negotiations are very advanced to build five warships which would be sold to the Saudi navy," a spokesman for state-owned Spanish ship builder Navantia told AFP. Spain is the seventh largest arms exporter in the world, and Saudi Arabia is one of the biggest buyers of military gear.

This year's budget allocates 191 billion

riyals (\$51 billion) for military spending including equipment and weaponry, down from 205 billion riyals spent in 2016. A separate budget allocation of 97 billion riyals is to pay for new naval bases for the Border Guards, and other security projects. Felipe's father, Juan Carlos, who reigned from 1975 to 2014, has close ties to the Saudi royal family.

A Spanish consortium, Al-Shoula, is building a high-speed railway across the desert to link the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah. The project is behind schedule and is now set to open in 2018. Spanish construction group FCC leads one of three consortia building a \$22.5-billion rapid transit system in the Saudi capital.

If the deal for the five corvettes goes ahead, it would provide jobs for over 2,000 people for several years, said Jose Antonio Fernandez Vidal, a representative of Spain's biggest union, Comisiones Obreras, in the northwestern region of Galicia, which is home to a major shipyard. "We are awaiting this like rain in summer to create jobs in shipyards," he said. Spain's jobless rate of 18.9 percent is the second highest in the European Union after Greece. The contract is not a done deal yet as Saudi Arabia is slashing spending with falling oil prices having led to a drop in revenues. And Spain faces stiff competition. France hopes to sell another type of navy ship to the Saudis, said a source at French defense contractor DCNS. — AFP

#### **BAHRAIN EXECUTES** 3 CONVICTED OVER **POLICE BOMBING**

DUBAI: Bahrain yesterday carried out its first executions since an Arab Spring uprising rocked the country in 2011, putting to death three men found guilty of a deadly bomb attack on police. Bahrain's public prosecution said the death sentences were carried out by firing squad.

Abbas Al-Samea, Sami Mushaima and Ali Al-Singace were found guilty in 2015 of killing two Bahraini policemen and an Emirati officer deployed to bolster the country's security forces in a bomb attack the previous year. A court upheld their death sentences last Monday. Government forces crushed the 2011 uprising with help from allies Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, but the country continues to face low-level unrest.

Bahrain hosts the US Navy's 5th Fleet, which patrols the waters around the Arabian Peninsula and is the naval counterweight to nearby Shiite powerhouse Iran. Bahrain also maintains close ties to Britain, which is building a naval base of its own in the country. Over the past two and a half months, Prince Charles, Prime Minister Theresa May and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson have all paid visits to the island.

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets Saturday in solidarity with the condemned men as rumors spread that their executions were imminent. Images shared on social media showed activists blocking roads with burning debris and hurling petrol bombs in clashes with police. Protests and clashes continued yesterday despite a heavy presence of riot police deployed in predominantly Shiite **Continued on Page 13** 

## HONORS HER SON



In recognition of his contributions to the fields of spinal surgery and orthopedics surgery,

Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi honored Dr Abdulrazzag Al-Obaid

Chief of spinal surgery at the ministry This comes after the patency that was registered in the United States for a new implant innovation in the field of kyphoplasty. The procedure is a minimal invasive procedure used for pathological fracture secondary to osteoporosis or tumors. With the new technology, the balloon is biodegradable and the cement can be injected into the balloon that will dissolve after the cement solidifies. This is important to prevent any complications, like for example to the spinal canal that may lead to nerve damage. The new technology was tested first in the lab and then followed by an animal study. The human study will follow in the near future. The minister of health congratulated Dr Al-Obaid and recognized his efforts and contributions in the development of spinal surgery both locally and at the international level



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives the 2016 statistical manual of the Ministry of Public Works' projects from Minister Abdurrahman Al-Mutawa.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with a number of ministers and state officials.
—Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

## AMIR, CROWN PRINCE RECEIVE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS

#### Premier Meets Harvard Graduates

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Minister of Public Works Abdurrahman Al-Mutawa at Bayan Palace yesterday. During the reception, Minister Al-Mutawa presented to His Highness the 2016 statistical manual of the Ministry of Public Works' projects. Mutawa later presented the manual to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince received National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Minister of Information and Minister

of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, in addition to Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan, Minister of Awaqf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri and Director General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Separately, His Highness the Prime Minister received Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah accompanied by graduates of Harvard University from different nationalities. His Highness the Prime Minister during the meeting praised the graduates' tour in the area and wished them success in achieving their goals in practical life. —KUNA



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with graduates of Harvard University.



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with a delegation from the Kuwaiti-Yemeni relief agency. —KUNA

## DEPUTY FM RECEIVES RELIEF AGENCY DELEGATION

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Sulaiman Al-Jarallah yesterday received a delegation from the Kuwaiti-Yemeni relief agency, which includes the charity organizations operating in Yemen, and is working in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Society for Relief. The meeting reviewed the agency's efforts to deliver the aid provided by the State of Kuwait to the Yemeni people.

The delegation lauded the generous aid Kuwait offers, which reached different parts of the country. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the Affairs of Al-Jarallah's Office Ambassador Ayham Abdullatif Al-Omer, and Assistant Foreign Minister for Followup and Coordination Plenipotentiary Nasser Al-Sabeeh. —KUNA

## KUWAIT REAFFIRMS STANCE ON HAVING ARAB SEAT IN UNSC

**DOHA:** Kuwait has stressed yesterday the importance of reforming the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to improve and bring more transparency to the Council's work. Head of Kuwait's permanent mission to the UN headquarters' in New York, Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi said that part of the reforms should include fair Arab representation at the UNSC, appropriate with the number of Arab countries and Arab issues discussed by the Council's agenda.

Otaibi; coordinator of the Arab Group on the Council reform, added that UNSC reform can only be realized by bringing greater transparency to the work of the Council and increasing its members according to standards and regulations that would create a

fair balance in representation and efficiency in performance. The reform is still under consideration since talks on the matter began 23 years ago, it is important to find new mechanisms to expand membership at the council, he said.

The meeting, which Qatar called for, came after the UNSC failure in carrying out its responsibilities in underscoring the importance of fast reform. Thirty Members are participating in the two-day meeting, along with the President of the 71st UN General Assembly Peter Thomson and the Co-Chairmen of the Inter-Governmental Negotiation on Security Council Reform Ambassador Mohammad Khairi of Tunisia. —KUNA

### AWQAF MINISTER UNDERSCORES SOCIAL UNITY

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti social unity has been a major deep-rooted characteristic of the Kuwaiti people, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri said yesterday. Jabri, who doubles as Minister of Municipal Affairs, made the remark in a keynote speech during the 13th Seminar on Developments of Islamic Thought organized by the Ministry of Awqaf and patronized by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He said that it is imperative to maintain and safeguard social unity in order to wipe out the horrible phenomenon of terrorism, commending the political leadership's effective response to this scourge. The Muslim world has been hit by the pestilence of terrorism and extremism that has pushed many young people to commit murders and launch bombings, thus seriously distorting the image of the tolerant religion of Islam.

However, the minister acknowl-



Mohammad Al-Jabri speaks during the 13th Seminar on Developments of Islamic Thought.—KUNA photos

edged that the causes of terrorism are very complicated, and terror has various forms and manifestations, calling for sharpening antiterrorism efforts and overcoming



Fareed Emadi speaks during the 13th Seminar on Developments of Islamic Thought.

relevant challenges. Meanwhile, Unc

Meanwhile, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Fareed Emadi said the Arab world needs to effectively fight the scourge of extremism and hardline thought. He added that the Muslim world's economic problems and sufferings and political contradictions have been used as a pretext for extremism and terrorism.

Therefore, Islamic and world organizations and foundations should exert more concerted efforts to address the reflections of terrorism and to rebuff extremists' easily refuted justifications and excuses as well as to protect young people from extremist thoughts.

Political Advisor at the GCC Secretariat General Nawaf Al-Mutairi said the swift regional developments have regrettably imposed security and social challenges on GCC member states. He listed such major challenges as growing terrorist and extremist groups and movements and lack of moderation and tolerance. Mutari emphasized that the phenomenon of terrorism needs to be addressed by regional and international efforts. —KUNA

## KRCS CALLS FOR INT'L COORDINATION FOR BETTER HUMANITARIAN SERVICES

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Hilal Al-Sayer yesterday emphasized the momentousness of coordinating among the international humanitarian organizations to provide the best services to those afflicted by catastrophes or wars.

During a meeting with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Gulf Director Saeed Hersi, Sayer stressed the importance of drawing up field programs, boosting partnerships and exchanging data and expertise to overcome the logistic challenges hindering delivery of relief aid to Yemeni governorates. He said that he and Hersi discussed the partnership and cooperation between OCHA and the KRCS. Partnership is of the major strategies of relief work, Sayer said. The meeting also addressed the KRCS's efforts in Yemen, Iraq and Syria, especially for assisting people displaced from Aleppo.

Meanwhile, the OCHA Gulf chief lauded the KRCS's leading humanitarian role. It is one of the chief donor agencies on the world scene, he said. Hersi referred to the society's positive response to relief efforts through cooperation with the regional and the UN organizations. He said they are looking forward to further cooperation with the KRCS. —KUNA



KUWAIT: KRCS' Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer meets with OCHA's Gulf Director Saeed Hersi. —KUNA







### KRCS DELIVERS 1,200 FOOD BASKETS TO DISPLACED IRAQIS IN IRBIL

**IRBIL:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distributed yesterday 1,200 food baskets to displaced Iraqi families residing in camps in the autonomous region of Kurdistan. Kuwait's Consul General in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kandari said that the

aid is part of "humanitarian efforts to mitigate the misery of the Iraqi people." Moreover, Kandari noted that KRCS has launched a comprehensive aid package for displaced Iraqis, which includes providing them with nutritious food baskets, adding that Kuwait's General Consulate will help facilitate the aid process. Meanwhile, KRCS's Director of Disaster Management Yousef Al-Miraj said that KRCS has "delivered humanitarian aid to 1,200 families, all of whom were the recipients of food baskets." On the "varied" aid package, Al-Miraj said that it covers the basic needs of displaced families in Iraq's Kurdistan region. In the meantime, Al-Barzani Charity official Mohammad Baha-el-Din thanked Kuwait for the "copious

amount" of humanitarian aid given to displaced lraqis. Kuwait has doled out an incessant flow of aid to displaced Iraqis since 2015, where some 130,000 food baskets were delivered to displaced Iraqis and Syrian refugees.—KUNA



#### **KUWAITI CITIZENSHIP**

#### **By Attorney Fajer Ahmed**

itizenship means the status of being a legally recognized subject of a particular country. In every country, there are different procedures, requirements and types of citizenships. In some countries it comes in the form of a card or a smaller passport - in others, you do not get a physical document. In some countries, you need to have money and a business to become a citizen, while in others you can get it by working for a certain amount of years, and so on. Therefore, I am not surprised when I get confused questions from readers regarding Kuwaiti citizenship.

Kuwaiti citizenship has rightfully been a very sensitive matter to discuss, but I am here to explain the law behind the citizenship and not the political aspect of it. Being Kuwaiti means monetary benefits as well as political ones. Therefore, Kuwaiti citizenship is in high demand and unfortunately has been a subject of attempted fraud, a very serious crime! Today I hope I will answer questions by my readers about Kuwaiti citizenship.

#### **How difficult?**

Question: Is obtaining Kuwaiti citizenship difficult and if so, how difficult? We applied for citizenship but our application was not accepted and we were told we could not take the matter to court. Is

Fajer: Difficult is all about perspective, but when I personally say it is difficult, I mean the procedure is a lot tougher than other countries in general, but I am sure that there are valid reasons by the Kuwaiti authorities for such procedures, Kuwait is in a very sensitive region and area and these decisions are made to protect Kuwait. As a very patriotic person, I trust that the officials are doing what is best for Kuwait. Citizenship in Kuwait (and many other countries) is seen as a matter of sovereignty and in Kuwait the law states that the matter cannot be taken to court.

#### Passing citizenship over

Question: I am a Kuwaiti woman married to a non-Kuwaiti man. Can I pass over the citizenship to my husband?

Fajer: Generally speaking, no. With that said, there is a law that allows a Kuwaiti woman to pass on her citizenship to her husband if he is Arab and Muslim.

#### Long procedure

Question: I was born to a Kuwaiti father, but I have never been to Kuwait and I do not see my father very often. My father does not want me coming to Kuwait. Can I get Kuwaiti citizenship?

Fajer: Yes you can, but if your father is not willing to cooperate with you, then you will have to go through a long procedure before you can obtain the citizenship. My advice would be to hire a lawyer in Kuwait. It will be a lot easier for the lawyers if you have any official Kuwaiti documents or if your dad registered you previously in Kuwait.

For any legal questions, queries or if you need legal assistance, email ask@fajerthelawyer.com

## LABOR MARKET FLOODED WITH UNNECESSARY WORKERS: MP

#### INFO MINISTER DEFENDS RECENT RECRUITMENTS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf said that he met recently with Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh, who told him that she is fully aware of the demographic imbalance problem and the to amend the labor law and protect Kuwait against visa traffickers.

Hajraf said that he agreed to the statements made by his colleague Safaa Al-Hashem concerning reducing the number of expats in the country within 4-5 years because the labor market is flooded with unnecessary workers. He also criticized the statements made by Egyptian Minister of Manpower and Immigration Mohamed Safaan, who recently announced plans to find jobs for Egyptians in Kuwait. Hajraf noted that it was unacceptable that foreign embassies in Kuwait have been interfering in domestic matters and violating local laws for their people's interests. "Kuwait is the only GCC state where expats do not respect the laws," he underlined.

Separately, Hajraf said that citizens with severe and medium disabilities will be able to do their transactions online without having to visit the disabled authority. He also noted that during Minister Sabeeh, she told him that she closely watches the disabled authority's performance and would never allow delinquency.



MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf

#### **Info ministry**

Meanwhile, and in response to parliamentary inquiries about the number of citizens working for the information ministry versus expats, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said 87 percent of the ministry's employees are Kuwaitis. He also explained that only 311 expats were appointed with contracts, while 897 were hired on temporary one-



**Minister Hind Al-Sabeeh** 

year contracts that are only renewable upon approval from the Civil Service Commission (CSC), "These workers get no incentives or indemnities," he said. Sheikh Salman explained that the same policy is followed at the news and political programs sector. "The same applies to KUNA," he added, noting that the total number of expats working for it was 146, while only 75 worked for the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

#### **Housing units**

Responding to a parliamentary inquiry, Minister of Housing and Minister of State for Services Yasser Abul said the Public Authority for Housing Welfare contracted local qualified companies to build housing units in Jaber Al-Ahmed, Sabah Al-Ahmed and West Sulaibikhat cities, and that foreign companies were only hired for South Mutlaa City.

#### Ultimatum

The Cabinet's economic affairs committee gave the Ministry of Commerce and Industry one month to take proper measures to reorganize the construction material subsidies paid to citizens. Notably, the commerce ministry had prepared a full study under former minister Yousef Al-Ali to organize the KD 30,000 construction material subsidies stated in law number 19/2014. Statistics issued by the commerce ministry said 54 percent of the subsidies paid by the ministry were allocated for construction materials, with KD 62 million during the first half of 2016-2017.

#### Air force division

Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi approved a request by the Defense Ministry to allocate a site to build a new air force division over a total area of 6,250,000 square meters north of the country. Manfouhi also approved a request by the Ministry of Health to allocate a plot to be used as a helipad at Farwaniya Hospital.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi speaks during an event held yesterday to demonstrate the use of e-transactions at the municipality. —Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

### CITIZENS DISCOURAGED FROM JOINING OIL SECTOR: UNION

#### By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Deputy chairman of the oil sector's employees syndicate Abbas Awadh described what recent oil recruits are suffering from as a 'continuation of provocative policies' in the oil sector with the aim of limiting the rights of employees and new recruits. Awadh stressed that holders of diplomas and university degrees were demoted the same way indemnity was previously dealt with. "Such practices are meant to discourage citizens from joining the oil sector and replace them with lesser skilled and experienced expats," he said, noting that the syndicate will never allow privatization of the oil sector. "It seems that senior oil sector officials did not learn their lessons when thousands went on strike," he concluded.

#### E-transactions

Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Municipality Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi

briefed him about using e-transactions in the municipality and how it would cut the paperwork needed on issuing all municipality licenses. Jabri added during an event held yesterday to demonstrate the use of etransactions at the municipality that he saw a presentation showing the details about the project due to be trialed from Feb 1, starting with Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate before using it in all other areas. 'This step will be followed by many others to stop corruption and bureaucracy," he added, noting that the automated services system is capable of rejecting any incomplete transaction, and transactions that used to take six weeks will be processed within two days once the system goes in use. Acting director of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) Qossai Al-Shatti congratulated the municipality and stressed that e-services will be handy for both citizens and engineering firms. Shatti added that CAIT provides technical Mohammed Al-Jabri said Kuwait and operational services to all government establishments.

#### AIRPORT PASSENGER TRAFFIC REACHED 10,848,550 IN 2016

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Official statistics for 2016 showed that total passenger traffic at Kuwait International Airport reached 10,848,550 last year, for both arrivals and departures, the Relations and Security Information Department at the Interior Ministry said in a statement. The arrival figure for Kuwaitis was 1,884,888, while departures were 1,887,753 Meanwhile, GCC nationals recorded 337,340 arrivals and 337,432 departures, while other nationalities saw 3,253,291 departures and 3,147,846 arrivals. It said the number of visas issued at Kuwait airport passports was 216,529, while the fingerprints scanners helped arrest 696 deportees who were trying to reenter the country. In the meantime, 224 people were caught with forged passports, and 164 were carrying passports that do not belong to them. The number of those caught through the fingerprint system and eventually allowed in was 114, 2,744 were sent back, while 1,123 were sent to residency affairs detectives.

#### **Domestic helpers**

Meanwhile, the relations and security information department said domestic help department statistics showed the number of complaints received in 2016 was 1,304, including 48 from domestic helpers, 1,236 from employers and 20 from domestic help offices. It also showed that 1,118 domestic helpers were deported with travel documents, while 1,806 offices were inspected and 39 persons were sent to residency affairs detectives. It said that the number of domestic help offices in Kuwait reached 267, while licenses of 42 were revoked.

#### Injuries

A fire broke out in a house in Qusoor, leaving two people injured, the public relations and information department at Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said.

Kuwaiti official

AFFIRMS COMMITMENT

TO CUSTOM UNION

### KUWAIT, INDIA AMEND DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENT

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance yesterday signed a protocol with India amending the agreement between the two countries to avoid double taxation on income and to prevent tax evasion. The protocol amends the types of Kuwaiti taxes in Article two of the agreement, as well

as Article 26 on exchanging tax data, both on individuals and corporates, the ministry's Undersecretary Khalifa

Hamada said in a press release. He added that Kuwait ratified the form on exchanging tax data of endorsed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD), noting that the Kuwaiti-Indian agreement was effective as of October 17, 2007. He also said that the agreement on encouraging investments between the two Asian countries was put into effect on June 28, 2003. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Ministry of Finance's Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada and Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain shake hands after signing the protocol. —KUNA

### SHEIKHA FARIHA: 'AMIR OF HEARTS' ORCHESTRATED KUWAIT'S PROGRESS

CAIRO: The State of Kuwait is committed to meeting requirements for launching the Arab custom union, a visiting official of the Gulf State affirmed yesterday. Establishing the Arab custom federation was endorsed at the Arab economic summit hosted by the State of Kuwait in 2009, where the top leaders entrusted the Arab Economic and Social Council with setting up the federation for boosting pan-Arab economic merger, said Mona Al-Rashidi, the head of the secretariat bureau of the committees at Kuwaiti General Administration for Customs. She was speaking in a statement on sidelines of the 31st session of the Arab custom committee, due at the Arab League

for three days. —KUNA

**KUWAIT:** The late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah led Kuwait to progress in various fields, mainly including urbanization, said President of the Kuwait Association for the Ideal Family Sheikha Fariha Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Although Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, or "Amir of Hearts", passed away 11 years ago, people will remember him forever, Sheikha Fariha said in a press release yesterday. During his rule, which began in 1977, the late Amir steered the country's advancement and development in vari-

ous domains and sectors, she added. She pointed to the great role and achievements made by the State of

Kuwait during the era of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, she said, adding that he was chosen Head of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) when its rotating session was held in Kuwait. The late Amir played a key role in the promotion of the OIC's position at the world level and worked hard to establish many regulative laws,

she said Having been keen on Kuwait's international presence, the late Amir adopted the country's policy for opening up to the world, and established strong relations with many world countries, thus enabling Kuwait to fulfill its people's expectations

and ambitions, she added. On the Gulf level, it was the late Amir

who came up with the idea of creating the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and suggested a GCC Advisory Council which acts as a legislator for the six GCC member states.

Furthermore, Kuwait, during his era, made considerable progress in terms of revamping women's status and ensuring gender equality as Kuwaiti women obtained political rights; mainly the appointment of the first female cabinet minister in the country's history, Sheikh Fariha boasted. She quoted the late Amir as having emphasized national unity as the most effective way to create miracles and achieve national development and prosperity. —KUNA

#### PRIVATE SECTOR TARGETED FOR TOP **EMPLOYER: MGRP**

KUWAIT: The Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) is hard at work to create of the private sector the major employer of national workforce in the country, through encouraging young people to work in non-government jobs.

The trend is part of the government's efforts to remedy the imbalance in the structure of the local labor market, director of developing national manpower at the MGRP Eman Al-Ansari told a graduation ceremony of 30 job seekers from the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK).

It aims to replace the migrant labor with nationals, Ansari said. The MGRP seeks through manpower development schemes to qualify those seeking jobs in the private sector through training programs in cooperation with various Kuwaiti institutions, she noted. She highlighted the state's high interest in youth as "Kuwait's real wealth," citing a significant saying of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Established amongst the first private higher educational institutions, the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) offers unique experiential education programs which are recognized in the region. The ACK is to "generate human capital equipped with practical knowledge and employability skills that contributes to the economic development and welfare of Kuwait." — KUNA

#### KISR, ACK JOIN FORCES FOR GREATER OIL PRODUCTION

KUWAIT: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) signed an agreement in the field of petroleum engineering, part of efforts to boost oil production. During a press conference held yesterday, KISR's Director General Dr Samira Omar underscored that the agreement signed between both sides will give ACK pupils the opportunity to participate in researches conducted by KISR germane to oil extraction.

Moreover, she noted that such endeavors allow both institutes to share their knowhow with one another, which in turn, results in a more adept workforce. Meanwhile, Director of KISR's Oil Research Department Dr Mina Marafie said that the partnership forged between KISR and ACK will be instrumental in bringing the oil sector's goal for the year 2030 to fruition.

On the agreement, she added that it comprises lectures, workshops and seminars that will prove mutually beneficial for both sides. Similarly, ACK Chairman Abdullah Al-Sharhan noted that the main objective of this agreement is to allow ACK students the chance to partake in activities offered by KISR. He also pointed out that the agreement fits into state plans to bolster the national workforce. —KUNA





KUWAIT: Dr Yousef Al-Amiri, President of the Kuwait House for National Works Museum (center) speaks during the press conference. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



A bust of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein is displayed at the museum.

## IRAQI INVASION MEMORIAL MUSEUM FACES DEMOLITION

### July 1 was ultimatum to vacate building

**By Nawara Fattahova** 

**KUWAIT:** The only museum in Kuwait telling the story of the 1990 Iraqi invasion - the Kuwait House for National Works Museum - may be demolished soon to complete the road development project in the area. This will be a great loss for the country due to its value and cultural role.

The government had given the museum located on Street 70 in Shuwaikh - along with other NGOs in the area, an ultimatum until July 1, 2016 to vacate the building. Today, the Kuwait House for National Works remains in the same location, but in fear of being demolished any day, and its electricity may be cut at any moment. The property on which it is located is state property, so the government can forcibly evict it.

Most other NGOs moved to other locations, as they were given replacement buildings by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, as they come under its umbrella. But the museum is under the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, which is supervised by the Ministry of Information, which hasn't provided a replacement place for the museum to move to.

Dr Yousef Al-Amiri, President of the Kuwait House for National Works Museum, held a press conference vesterday at the museum to call on the government to find a place to move to before unot to sell it. We also have the cigar, diary and

it is demolished. "This museum was launched in 1997, and during these 20 years, I collected all the items including the audiovisual materials. I did everything from my own resources with the support of donations. I have spent over KD 600,000 on this historical work, and they want to demolish everything," he said sadly.

#### Field trips

The museum is very active. "We receive about 150 students daily, who come on school field trips to learn about Kuwait's history. Also, this museum is included on four pages of the curriculum. Moreover, all foreign military delegations visiting Kuwait visit the museum as part of their trips, in addition to other delegations and Kuwaiti visitors and residents. We also have twinning agreements with 27 countries to have a permanent booth for Kuwait at their museums, which is a great achievement for Kuwait," added Amiri. The museum includes many valuable pieces, although it hasn't received any governmental support. "We have a bronze statue of Saddam Hussein, which an American soldier brought for us from Baghdad. We received an offer from a Qatari sheikh who runs a museum there to buy this statue for one million dollars, but I refused, especially after Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed, one of our major donors, asked me

some outfits of Odai, Saddam's son," he added.

"Three years ago, and after long negotiations, the government offered us a 5,000-sq-m plot in Garnata and we paid the fees, but it didn't work out. We are presently located in an area related to Kuwait's history on the seaside, while Garnata is far away, and it may be difficult for foreign visitors to reach us," complained Amiri.

According to him, the ministry of information announced providing an alternative house to move into, but this is only ink on paper. "It's a promise on paper and not in reality. I saw the house but I never received the keys. We communicated with the ministry many times repeatedly, but they never respond. I really don't know what to do and how to deal with the ministry, so this why I call on the media to help us highlight this problem. Also, I know that the government let a private museum have a section at the Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center that hasn't been launched yet, but they didn't give it to our museum," he said. "The government has refused to support our museum financially since it was founded. And today, it's not even providing an alternative place, although the government gave a grant of \$8.8 million to an Arab country for the maintenance of a museum there, while it refuses to even spend on the maintenance of our air-conditioning system that costs only KD

### WHAT DOES THE MUSEUM CONSIST OF?

numerous halls that reconstruct the history of Kuwait from that dark day of August 2, 1990 to the day of liberation, when Kuwait again became a free nation. This is accomplished by the use of light and sound effects, voice reconstructed models, paintings, photographs and documentary films. The visitor can find the following:

#### 1 - Reception Hall

Visitors enter the museum and its control center through the reception hall. The walls of this hall are adorned with hand-drawn portraits of the rulers of Kuwait from the late Sheikh Mubarak Al-Kabeer to our present Amir. It also has a large map of Kuwait made of colored glass.

#### 2 - Kuwait Heritage Hall

In this hall are voice recordings of old folk songs and miniature models of old Kuwaiti buildings. Visitors will gain insight into the ancient history of Kuwait. The main objective of this hall is to disprove Iraq's consistent claims of sovereignty over Kuwait. The source of all records is the Kuwait Institute for Research and Studies.

#### 3 - The Invasion Tunnel (the main exhibit)

Considered the main area of the museum, it narrates the story of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait from Aug 2, 1990 until the liberation of Kuwait on Feb 26, 1991. Using special sound and light effects, it brings to life the systematic destruction by Iraqi soldiers of Kuwait's infrastructure.

#### 4 - Cinema

The cinema is used to screen documentary films about the Gulf War for museum visitors. With a seating capacity of 100, the theater can also be used to conduct lectures and seminars.

#### 5 - Hand-drawn Panorama

The main wall of this hall displays a unique 22-meter-long painting by various Kuwaiti artists that depict the atrocities committed by the invaders, the suffering of the Kuwaiti people during the occupation, and their joy at the liberation of their country. Also highlighted

**KUWAIT:** The museum comprises of are paintings dedicated to the struggle of Kuwait women.

#### 6 - Hall of Martyrs and POWs

This hall describes issues related to Kuwait's POWs and martyrs through pictures and mock-ups. It places emphasis on the negative impact the Iraqi invasion has had on the lifestyle and outlook of the Kuwaiti people as well as the rest of the society. Documents as well as pictures of badlytortured martyrs are on display that incriminate the Iraqi regime for these crimes against the Kuwait people. A special zone will be assigned for the portrayal of a life of anguish and torment the Iraqi people led under Saddam Hussein's regime.

#### 7 - Hall of Peace

This hall contains information on each member of the Arab-Western coalition that contributed to the liberation of Kuwait. Touch screen computers provide additional information about the museum.

#### 8 - Photo Exhibit Hall

A large collection of photographs are displayed as a permanent exhibition for the public, as indelible proof of the atrocities committed by Iraq's ruthless regime.

#### 9 - Story of a Martyr

This section illustrates in drama form the real-life account of one of the martyrs - his capture, interrogation, torture and finally his cold-blooded murder in full view of his family. Also exhibited are many of instruments of torture used during the interrogation.

#### 10 - Open Panorama

Many of the weapons used by the Iraqis during the invasion and in the Gulf War, as well as an Iraqi field command tent are displayed in the museum's garden.

#### 11- Gift Shop

In order to keep their trip to the museum alive in the minds of its visitors, souvenirs, booklets, movies, CDs and stickers outlining the museum's various activifies are available at the gift shop.

## Gulf popular heritage festival kicks off



Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah speaks to the press during the event.

**KUWAIT:** A Gulf popular heritage festival Moreover, he spoke of the greenery galore opened yesterday in Sabah Al-Ahmad vil- found in the village, in addition to numerous lage, drawing a large turnout in an event outstanding services it provides, adding that Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The opening ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Amiri Diwan Advisor and the village's supervisor Mohammad Daifallah Sharar, Deputy village supervisor Sheikh Sabah Fahad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and the director of the village Saif Al-Shallahi, along with a number of government officials. In a statement to the press, Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah said that the festival will allow the people of Kuwait and the Gulf region the chance to

mingle amid a delightful ambiance.

sponsored by His Highness the Amir Sheikh the festival coincides with the 11th anniversary of the passing of late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, Director General of the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi noted that PAY is participating in the festival, which aims to instill in youth values of national unity and patriotism. Mutairi added that he was hopeful that Kuwaiti youth would be able to showcase a favorable image of Kuwaiti culture. The festival will include a plethora of contests and activities designed to illustrate Kuwait's profound maritime heritage. — KUNA





KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah tours the Sabah Al-Ahmad Village after the opening of the Gulf Popular Heritage Festival 2017. — KUNA





## INT'L INVENTION FAIR OPENS TODAY: KSC the Middle East, aims to galvanize the Arab and

**KUWAIT:** The 9th International Invention Fair in the Middle East (IIFME) will take place in Kuwait starting from today with 200 inventors from 36 countries taking part. The three-day event, themed "investor-inventor meeting is to be held under auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah;" it will showcase 150 inventions, Kuwait Science Club (KSC) said.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday evening, head of the organizing committee Talal Al-Kharafi extolled His Highness the Amir for his kind patronage of the gathering and limitless support to youth inventors. "His Highness the Amir's care for science and scientists offers encouragement to the KSC activities meant to foster the skills of talented youth," Kharafi said.

The fair, one of the most significant and largest specialized exhibitions of inventions in Muslim youth into making innovative achievements in the area of scientific research and market their inventions," he pointed out.

The participation of investors in the event will contribute to the promotion of scientific and technological advancement in the Arab world and Arabian Gulf region. "The event will provide an opportunity for revealing the culture of invention to societies and strengthening the existing relationships among the inventors and corporations," Kharafi noted.

It will offer cash awards totaling in value \$100,000; these include a grand prix of \$15,000, the KSC prize - \$10,000, the GCC Patent Office prize - 50,000 Saudi riyals for the three top winners from the GCC countries, the award of the International Exhibition of Geneva - \$15,000, and an award from World Intellectual Property

Organization (WIPO). Meanwhile, Dr Salam Al-Ablani, director of the scientific culture dept. of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), affirmed the commitment of the IIFME to providing the conditions necessary for creativity and innovation in science. "KFAS attaches great importance to such events that provide an opportunity for Kuwaiti young inventors to network with their peers from around the globe," he noted.

Dr Al-Ablani welcomed the participation of investors in the event, saying it opens new horizons for inventors to sell their viable and applicable inventions. Chief of the arbitration panel David Farouqi said his panel is made up of more than 35 world-renowned judges who have long experience in assessing the inventions as per the standards set by the International Exhibition of Geneva. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Head of the organizing committee of the 9th International Invention Fair in the Middle East Talal Al-Kharafi (center) speaks during the press conference.

- Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



## SURVEY SHOWS KUWAIT HAPPIER IN 2017

#### 56% of respondents satisfied with their standard of living

**KUWAIT:** As we enter the New Year, happiness and wellbeing have come into focus in the Middle East and North Africa. A new survey by Bayt.com, the number one job site in the Middle East, and YouGov, a pioneer in online market research, titled the Bayt.com 'Happiness in the Middle East' survey, revealed that more than half (56 percent) of respondents in Kuwait are satisfied with their current standard of living, at least to some degree.

To determine levels of happiness in the Middle East, the survey addressed elements of respondents' personal lives, their professional lives, their current country of residence, and other aspects of life relating to their health and wellbeing.

Respondents rated the top five most important factors that impact their general happiness levels in their country of residence. In Kuwait, general safety and security was stated by more than half of respondents (56 percent) as the most important factors. This was followed by leading a financially stable life (50 percent), employment opportunities (46 percent), ability to maintain healthy personal relationships (34 percent), and attitude and behavior of people in general (34 percent).

#### Happiness with personal life

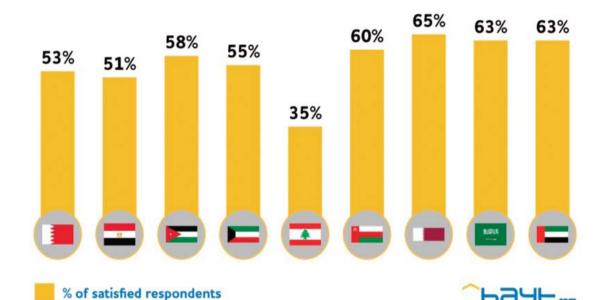
According to the survey, personal life elements that respondents in Kuwait are most satisfied with include relationship with family (84 percent of respondents are satisfied), current physical health (79 percent), mental wellbeing (77 percent), independence to take one's own decisions (69 percent), and support received from family (67 percent).

Health-related factors emerged in the survey as important contributors to Kuwait respondents' happiness and wellbeing. Nearly three quarters (74 percent) of respondents describe their general state of health as good or excellent, and almost half (47 percent) are not currently suffering from any health issues.

#### Happiness with professional life

As for their professional lives, factors that respondents in Kuwait are most satisfied with include support from colleagues and coworkers (54 percent of

#### How Satisfied Are You With Your Life in General?



respondents are satisfied), support from managers (49 percent), work-life balance (46 percent), working hours (45 percent), freedom to take decisions at work (42 percent), and recognition at work (39 percent).

Other factors that contribute to Kuwait respondents' work satisfaction revolve around stress levels, and career advancement. More than four in ten (41 percent) respondents are satisfied with the amount of stress they face at work; and more than a third (32 percent) of respondents are satisfied with the availability of career advancement opportunities.

#### Happiness with country of residence

Across the MENA region, respondents are satisfied with many factors pertaining to their country of residence, including general safety and security (60 percent), ability to maintain healthy personal relationships (65 percent), availability of utilities (62 percent), comfortable weather (60 percent), and opportunities to socialize (49 percent).

Other factors considered by the survey relate to social wellbeing and access to healthcare and other lifestyle ameni-

ties. In Kuwait, respondents are generally satisfied with factors such as availability of utilities (84 percent), general safety and security (71 percent), availability of public transport facilities (59 percent), availability of entertainment avenues (59 percent), and access to healthcare facilities (57 percent).

#### Happiness and stress

Stress is another element of happiness addressed by the Bayt.com survey. For respondents in Kuwait, factors that contribute the most to stress levels are the increase in the cost of living (69 percent), work related issues (57 percent), and inability to maintain a good work-life balance (41 percent). Nonetheless, nearly one quarter (23 percent) of Kuwait respondents have low stress levels.

"Happiness and wellbeing is prevalent across the Middle East and North Africa, and is most likely linked to many personal, professional, and social factors," said Suhail Masri, Vice President of Employer Solutions at Bayt.com. "We, at the Middle East's #1 Job Site, have always believed that improving happiness and wellbeing is a shared responsibility that we should live by as an organization. We have cho-

sen to concentrate on the professional and career-related angle by persistently producing information and services that aim to address our region's needs, especially when it comes to employment and job search. We will continue to monitor the region's satisfaction levels and empower everyone with what they need as professionals and individuals."

"Despite the various socio economic inconsistencies that the MENA region undergoes, it is positive to see that happiness in Egypt and across the general landscape is highly prevalent. Much of the satisfaction that is felt in the Middle East today is connected to many improvements relating to professional opportunities, standards of living, and overall development," said Arleen Gonsalves, Assistant Research Manager at YouGov.

Data for the 2016 Bayt.com 'Happiness in the Middle East' survey was collected online from December 6, 2016 to December 22, 2016. Results are based on a sample of 3,747 respondents. Cities assessed include UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Syria.

### KUWAIT BOURSE WITNESSES RECORD HEFTY CHIPS' BUYING

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Bourse posted yesterday record figures, reaping more profits, buoyed by hefty buying covering most exchanged chips, thus reflecting positively on most of the indices.

According to economic analysts, the current bull trend in the national bourse is largely attributed to liquidity pumped by Kuwait Investment Authority, some local and Gulf investment portfolios, targeting small and medium chips.

This trend is also linked to mounting optimism regarding profits of listed companies, namely banks forecast to post noticeable growth and well calculated purchases of stagnant stocks, amid news of their engagement in new projects. The economists forecast earning pocketing, targeting the enlisted stocks after their prices soared.

Maitham Al-Shakhs, the former chief executive officer at Al-Arabi Company for financial brokerage, said that the bourse status has improved due to several positive factors such as Americana's deal, forecast to shift KD 200 million into the market-out of the KD 235 million transaction. He noted in this respect that Kuwait Investment Authority injected KD 100 million into the market last October.—KUNA

## REQUIREMENT

#### ACCOUNTANT VACANCY

for an Educational Insitution

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Report

## POLICEMAN HURT IN HOT PURSUIT

**KUWAIT:** A traffic policeman was rushed to Adan Hospital for treatment for injuries he suffered after his vehicle flipped over during a chase in Sabahiya. The policeman responded to a call about reckless driving in Sabahiya, but lost control of his car during the chase. Police are looking for the fugitive driver.

#### Maid commits suicide

An Asian maid jumped to her death from the window of a domestic help office in Hawally. Her body was recovered by the coroner. The maid was returned earlier by her sponsor because she wanted to go back to her country. Police have launched an investigation.

#### Hit-and-run

A Pakistani man was rushed to Adan Hospital and admitted inside the intensive care unit (ICU) in critical condition after he was run over on Fahaheel Expressway. Detectives are looking for the culprit, who fled the scene.

#### Duo deported again

Two Bangladeshis, who are very close friends and who were deported from the country six years ago, were arrested and deported once again. Police stopped the two who did not have IDs, but upon inquiries, they were discovered to have been deported twice before. Both had returned to Kuwait using forged passports a year ago. The two were sent to the deportation center.

#### Cop, cabby fight

A police officer and a taxi driver ended up at the police station for exchanging blows. The off-duty officer got into an argument with the Egyptian taxi driver in Mirqab after the taxi driver swerved towards him. The officer then stopped him and got into a fight. — Al-Rai



Abdul Wahab Al-Johairi

## UFIG, UMS JOIN HORECA; EVENT KICKS OFF TODAY

**KUWAIT:** Under auspices of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, the Horeca Kuwait 2017 exhibition kicks off today with participation of over 80 companies specialized in hospitality, catering and hotel equipment. The three-day event is organized by Leaders Group Company for Consulting and Development in collaboration with the Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref.

In this regard, the United Food Industries Group (UFIG) and the United Medical Services Compay (UMS) announced their participation in the exhibition. Speaking about the exhibition, UFIG's Marketing Manager Abdul Wahab Abdullah Al-Johairi stressed that Horeca had proved its significance in supporting hospitality projects over the past few years, especially since Kuwait is witnessing an upsurge in construction and expansion projects. "This is our first participation," he noted, pointing out that Horeca had become a major platform to stay up to date with the latest in the business.

Johairi added that UFIG has over 25 years of experience, adding that it supplies products of brands such as Sable, Roche, Al-Deek Al-Roumi Restaurant, Planet Donuts and Abu Zaid Konafa. "We also have branches in UAE and Qatar and plan to open a new one in Saudi Arabia soon," he explained.

In the meantime, UMS's General Manager Mo'ezz Ali Sadeq stressed that Horeca is very effective in promoting various projects, adding that this was the reason why UMS decided taking part. Sadeq added that UMS provides products that are supplementary to food services such as aluminum containers, plastic utensils and paper products used in serving, storing and transporting food.



Mo'ezz Sadeq



#### Mary W

Al-Qabas

### THANKS TO MINISTERS

This does not go

against personal

freedom, rather

it helps preserve

the society

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

t is impossible that there is nothing positive left in our society and ministries. We thank Allah that there are still some people among us who are optimistic and carry on with their jobs to develop and build a better Kuwait. Our article today sheds

light on recent decisions made by the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Higher Education.

The first decision was issued by the new interior minister Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah to 'ban publication and maintain secrecy of work at the interior ministry.' It is a 100 percent positive decision, and should not be limited to the interior ministry alone. Rather, there should be an agreement between the interior, justice and information ministries, to receive an approval from the cabi-

net and propose a law to be passed in the National Assembly to ban publication of any criminal case that does not complete its legal and judicial process. Any

media outlet, whether it is public, private or an individual should be punished if they publish anything about any case. This does not go against personal freedom, rather it helps preserve the society.

Meanwhile, I would like to express gratitude to the new Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares for his optimism towards reforming higher education. We laud the stand that he took when he ordered the payment of due payments to students of art institutions. Not only that, but he also ordered that every institution must have a closed bathroom for female employees and give them their own keys, and that for privacy reasons. He gave these immediate orders without waiting for complaints or investigations. We hope

that with such a positive approach he will reform what is corrupted at supervisory and scientific posts.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

#### جريدة.

Al-Jarid

#### 'KICK EXPATS OUT'

#### By Dr Hassan Abbas

bserving the government and lawmakers' behavior, one can easily see that they are both at war with expatriates residing in Kuwait. The proposed list of costs for the Ministry of Health's healthcare services for expats is really frightening. believe that whoever proposed them expects expats to leave the country, and cannot wait to see the last one of them out. We can easily see that this expulsion policy is adapted by both cabinet and parliament, and is most probably motivated by relatively old parliamentary enthusiasm on the topic; repeated statements made by former MP Abdullah Al-Tamimi come to mind.

Personally, I am neither with nor against expats because what really matters here is not residency in Kuwait, it is rather how useful those people are. So many expats are more honorable than a Kuwaiti traitor or thief. I believe we all know what happened during the Iraqi Invasion, and most of us have come across first or second hand experiences about expats who sacrificed their lives and possessions for Kuwait, whereas some Kuwaiti traitors helped the Baathi invaders or collaborated to rob their own country.

Dear members of the government and distinguished MPs, expats came to Kuwait upon official contracts and visas in order to rightfully earn a living as one of their rights, and in return respect the obligations in those contracts. Anything else is a violation for the contract agreed upon between Kuwaitis and foreigners. Well, I want to point out that both the government and lawmakers adopt a 'double-standards' and simpleminded view for both citizens and expats. In the case of Kuwaitis, one finds that the government categorizes them to classes A, B and so on, and according to the type of citizenship they hold, the way each category is dealt with varies. On the other hand, it equally views all expats the same, and classifies them all under one single category.

Things should be the other way round. A citizen must be merely viewed as one, while expats should be categorized. Instead of setting laws to deal with expats as one category and classifying them regardless of their levels and standards, they should be divided into those who had been in Kuwait for decades, for instance, those with higher and rare degrees, marginal labor, those married to Kuwaitis and have family relations with them, those who are not related to Kuwaitis, those who have had clean criminal records for years and those who do not have clean criminal records, etc. Therefore, I heartily advise and beg legislators and those making hotshot and rocket-like proposals to be reasonable and up to their responsibilities.

onsibilities. —Translated by Kuwait





KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) launched an awareness campaign recently at the Ministry of Defense's camp in Subhan, in cooperation with EQUATE. They gave instructions on how to prevent fires and other incidents during camping.





KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality inspectors carried out campaigns in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Hasawi recently, during which they removed two truckloads of vegetables, fruits, furniture, used clothes and electric devices; all sold illegally in both areas.

## Kuwait Times 55. International

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017

### India boat accident toll rises to 26

Page 10

Gloomy times in Spain's Podemos as divisions rage



PRAGUE: People hold a banner reading Civil march for Aleppo while taking part in a solidarity civil march for Aleppo yesterday in Prague. —AFP

## DEADLY CLASHES GRIP FLASHPOINT AREA NEAR SYRIA'S CAPITAL

dead and threatening a nationwide Ghadban was killed the next day. truce designed to pave the way towards peace talks. Further east Syrian government troops lost ground to a brutal assault by the Islamic State group near the key Deir Ezzor military airport. The escalating violence across Syria in recent days augurs ill for peace negotiations in Kazakhstan later this

In the Wadi Barada region northwest of Damascus, fresh clashes broke out between rebel groups and advancing government forces, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Regime shelling of the Deir Qanun village killed seven civilians and wounded at least 20 other people, the Britain-based monitor said. Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said it was the "highest toll" there since the nationwide truce came into force on Dec 30. Omar al-Shami, spokesman for the Wadi Barada Media Committee, said shells struck a temporary shelter where displaced women and children had been seeking refuge.

The activist group published gruesome pictures of what it said was the aftermath of the attack, including photographs of bloodstained floors and body parts wrapped in blankets. Fighting has persisted for weeks in Wadi Barada, which is the main source of water for the capital. Local officials struck a truce with Syrian authorities on Friday to allow maintenance teams

**BEIRUT:** Heavy fighting gripped a into Wadi Barada to restore water to flashpoint region near Syria's capital Damascus, but the deal was called yesterday, leaving seven civilians off after chief negotiator Ahmed al-

#### Local deal null

The two sides accused each other of assassinating the retired army officer, who had only assumed his duties to restore the water supply on Saturday. "The agreement was considered null this morning after the regime's multiple violations and especially after the killing of the negotiations official," Shami said. Shami said the government's maintenance workers left Wadi Barada without completing the repairs, leaving 5.5 million in Damascus and its suburbs without water.

An official from Syria's reconciliation ministry earlier said the local deal in Wadi Barada "had not completely collapsed." "We are communicating and pursuing new efforts in parallel with the ongoing military action," the official said. Many of Syria's battlefronts have quieted since the entry into force of the nationwide ceasefire brokered by regime backer Russia and opposition ally Turkey. The deal excludes IS and its jihadist rival, the Fateh al-Sham Front-formerly known as Al-Nusra Front.

Yesterday, IS fighters edged closer to the key Deir Ezzor military airport, despite heavy air strikes by government warplanes. The Observatory said the raids on Sunday killed five civilians, including two women and two children, in Deir Ezzor. It was the second day of the jihadist group's brutal assault on regime-held territory around the city, the capital of the oil-rich province by the same name.

#### **US invited to Astana**

The fresh advance came "despite more than 120 air strikes carried out by regime forces on jihadist positions since Saturday morning, in addition to heavy artillery fire," said Abdel Rahman. IS unleashed a wave of tunnel bombs and suicide attackers against government forces on Saturday, leaving 12 government fighters dead. Another 20 IS jihadists were killed in the clashes.

The extremist Sunni Muslim group has lost swathes of territory in northern Syria to Kurdish fighters as well as to a Turkish-backed rebel alliance, but it remains on the offensive in other parts of the country. In addition to its push in Deir Ezzor, IS recently recaptured Palmyra in central Syria from government forces. The conflict began with protests against the rule of President Bashar al-Assad in 2011 but has since morphed into a multi-front war.

Although they support opposing sides in Syria's war, Moscow and Ankara have worked closely to negotiate the nationwide truce and to prepare talks in the Kazakh capital Astana on January 23. US president-elect Donald Trump's transition team has been invited to take part in the talks, but has not yet officially responded. Attendance by the new president's team would be a strong signal of Trump's determination to improve relations with Russia. —AFP

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#### SUDAN EXTENDS **CEASEFIRE IN THREE CONFLICT AREAS**

KHARTOUM: Sudan yesterday extended a ceasefire for six months in the war-torn regions of Darfur, Blue Nile and South Kordofan, official media said. "The cabinet headed by President Omar al-Bashir decided to extend the ceasefire by six months," Sudan's official news agency reported. In June, Bashir declared a unilateral four-month truce in the three regions, where fighting between government forces and rebels has killed tens of thousands of people.

He extended it in October to the end of the year and again for a month on Dec 31. The conflict in Darfur-a region of the size of France-erupted in 2003 when ethnic minority rebels took up arms against Bashir's Arabdominated government, accusing it of marginalizing the region. Similar conflicts also erupted in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states after neighboring South Sudan broke away in 2011. At least 300,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million displaced in Darfur since the conflict began, the UN says. —AFP

### GAMBIA'S PRESIDENT-ELECT IN SENEGAL 'UNTIL INAUGURATION'

**DAKAR:** The Gambia's president-elect Adama Barrow landed in neighboring Senegal yesterday where he will remain until his planned inauguration this week, Senegalese sources said, following an agreement with west African leaders. The president-elect is due to take power on January 19 when President Yahya Jammeh's mandate runs out, but the long-serving strongman has refused to cede power after disputing the result of a December 1 election won by Barrow.

Senegalese President Macky Sall accepted a request to host Barrow in

Dakar "until his inauguration," the official APS agency said citing an official. "Barrow is in Dakar as of Sunday, just after midnight," the official said. "The Senegalese president accepted the request of his Liberian counterpart Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the current ECOWAS president," it added. A source in the Senegalese presidency confirmed to AFP that Barrow was in Dakar following consultations with heads of state from the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) at a Bamako summit.

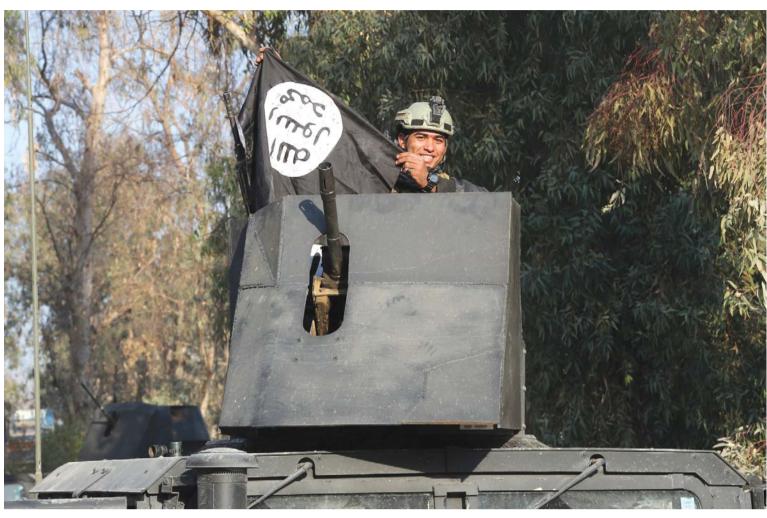
ECOWAS, a 15-nation bloc, has repeat-

edly called on Jammeh to respect the on the European migrant crisis-but result of the vote and leave after 22 years in power. Barrow flew into the Malian capital as a surprise quest at the Africa-France summit after talks broke down Friday between a three-nation west African delegation and Jammeh.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, Sirleaf and Ghana's ex-president John Mahama have appealed to Jammeh to step down twice in person, without success. The leaders of at least 30 nations had gathered in Bamako to discuss jihad on the continent and Africa's impact The Gambia's political impasse dominated events.

The specter of a military intervention has arisen in recent days following declarations by the United Nations and African Union that boots on the ground could get the green light without a rapid resolution of the crisis. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, head of the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel, said on Friday that ECOWAS would ask the Security Council to approve the deployment of troops to The Gambia if Jammeh continues to

refuse to leave office. ECOWAS has made clear in the past that force will not be ruled out as a last resort, but the Nigerian army has denied reports it is preparing troops for a Gambian intervention. There are just three days left of Jammeh's fiveyear term, and he has warned the international community against "undue external interference." Jammeh has said he will not stand aside until the country's Supreme Court decides on his legal challenge seeking to annul the result of last month's polls, which he had initially conceded losing. — AFP



MOSUL: A soldier with elite counterterrorism forces rides atop of an armored vehicle celebrating as he holds a flag of the Islamic State group as Iraqi special forces fight against Islamic State militants to regain control of Mosul University, in the eastern side of Mosul, Iraq. —AP

## MOSUL UNIVERSITY FULLY LIBERATED BY IRAQI TROOPS

yesterday fully liberated the sprawling complex of Mosul University, an Iraqi military spokesman said, a major step in the massive operation to retake the Islamic State group-held city of Mosul. The spokesman for the Joint Military Command, Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool, declared the campus was under the full control of Iragi special forces, officially known as the Counter Terrorism Service, who raised the Iraqi flag over

The troops searched campus buildings and

**BAGHDAD:** US-backed Iraqi government troops removed bombs left by IS militants, Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil of the special forces said. Fadhil added that the troops also entered the nearby Andalus neighborhood, which he expected would be fully retaken later in the day. Iraqi forces had entered the university grounds Friday and managed to secure more than half of the campus the next day amid tough resistance from 15 militants, who mainly deployed sniper and mortar fire to slow down the

Yesterday's progress is the latest in a string of tion in the country. —AP

swift territorial gains in recent weeks by the USbacked Iraqi military. Some 30,000 troops - a force that includes not only Irag's conventional army but an array of other armed groups, including Shiite and Sunni paramilitary troops and Kurdish fighters - are taking part in the Mosul offensive which begun Oct 17. The Islamic State group captured Mosul in 2014 along with nearly a third of Iraqi territory and large parts of neighboring Syria. Iraq's secondlargest city, Mosul is the last major IS urban bas-

## NEW TAXI APP BOOKS A RIDE FOR IVORY COAST MIDDLE CLASS

ABIDJAN: In bustling Abidian, a homegrown company has tapped into the global taxi app revolution that has spawned Uber and other online transport networks. While Uber has already jumped into several African markets from South Africa to Egypt, Africab seeks to provide Ivory Coast's emerging middle class with a locally-owned high-tech and reliable travel option. Africab's clients can use the company app to book its taxis-which cannot be hailed in the road, and it advertises its services only online. Its fixed fares tend to be higher than for regular taxis, but clients benefit from extra perks. A daytime trip that would cost around 2,000 CFA francs (\$3.2, three Euros) in an old cab can cost 3,300 CFA francs in an Africab.

But the start-up's sleek vehicles-which are owned by the company, not by the driver-are all air-conditioned. They are fitted with tablet devices and offer free Wi-Fi internet access. "Brr, it's cold inside!" jests Ivorian comedian Michel Gohou in an advertising video for Africab's fleet. "Africab is the new way of getting around," brags Vangsy Goma, the founder and managing director of the firm. The company, Goma says on Africab's website, seeks "to build an entrepreneurial culture that is based on technology and respects African identity." The idea for Africab came from trying to navigate Abidjan's unruly traffic, says Goma, a native of the Republic of Congo educated in the US and Europe and married to an Ivorian woman.



ABIDJAN: A man speaks with a regular taxi driver in Abidjan. —AFP

#### **Tapping into growth**

"When I came here, I often had difficulty organizing journeys. You had to get out on the street, haggle... or sometimes rent a car and brave the traffic," he said. "The cars (regular taxis) were dilapidated, they are often more than 20 years old. Drivers are badly trained and for the most part, there is no air-conditioning." Until political strife erupted in 2010-11, Ivory Coast had long been the star economic performer in west Africa. But when former president Laurent Gbagbo refused to step down despite an election defeat, 3,000 people were killed in months of conflict. With a 10-percent yearly economic growth rate, the west African country is now back on the rails.

The International Monetary Fund said last month that it was on track towards becoming the continent's fastest-growing economy. Companies like Africab are tapping into the budding optimism that the upward trend has brought. Its launch in February 2016 cost one billion CFA francs (1.5 million Euros, \$1.6 million) in investment, of which 800 million was raised by bank loans. Goma is confident about expanding the firm, with a monthly turnover that rose from 20 million CFA francs in April to 60 million by September and a fast-growing portfolio of business clients.

In coming weeks, he says, Africab taxis will take to the streets of Lome and Cotonou, the capital of Togo and the economic capital of Benin. To make it work, the company is striving to adapt its services to local needs. As is often the case in African towns and cities, many of Abidjan's backstreets and alleys have never been named. To get round this, Africab maps the addresses of clients and familiar landmarks. And in a striking contrast with ordinary taxis, Africab drivers are bound to abide by the highway code.

#### Less stress

Driving on pavements or in emergency lanes to avoid traffic jams is strictly banned, and all company cabbies have to retake both driving and highway code tests. Satisfied client Fatou Bamba, who manages her own company, finds Africab's cars clean and comfortable-plus there's the Internet bonus. "Above all, you're safe... You can work inside an Africab and you don't feel the stress of driving and the traffic jams," Bamba said. Taxi driver Ahi Mian, 32, appears happy to have joined Africab's fleet. "It's better for me. I drove a (regular) taxi before. Here we have fixed hours and the car is air-conditioned. But above all, there's less stress," he says. —AFP

#### IS GAINS GROUND NEAR KEY EASTERN SYRIAN CITY

**BEIRUT:** The Islamic State group gained ground around a key eastern Syrian city yesterday, a monitor said, despite a heavy air strikes by government warplanes. The jihadists pressed their brutal assault on Deir Ezzor for the second day, seizing territory near an air base on the city's edges, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. "IS seized several hilltops that overlook the airport," and clashes gripped the area yesterday, said Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman. The advance came "despite more than 120 air strikes carried out by regime forces on jihadist positions since Saturday morning, in addition to heavy artillery fire," he said.

Around 200,000 people live in Deir Ezzor city, which has been besieged by IS since early 2015 and is the capital of the oil-rich province of the same name. IS already controls more than half the city, but it has sought to capture the remaining government-held territory, including the military

airport. It launched one of its fiercest assaults yet on Saturday, unleashing a wave of tunnel bombs and suicide attackers. At least 12 government fighters and 20 IS jihadists were killed. A military source in Deir Ezzor said that IS was "amassing its forces to attack Deir Ezzor and breach government lines" in order to cut off regime access to the base.

The extremist Sunni Muslim group has lost swathes of territory in northern Syria to Kurdish fighters as well as a Turkishbacked rebel alliance, but it remains on the offensive in other parts of the country. In addition to its push in Deir Ezzor, IS recently recaptured Palmyra in central Syria from government forces. The jihadist faction is excluded from a nationwide ceasefire in Syria, in place since December 30 but increasingly strained by fighting. The truce is meant to pave the way for peace talks later this month in the Kazakh capital Astana. —AFP

#### **CLASHES NEAR DAMASCUS** AFTER NEGOTIATOR KILLING

**BEIRUT:** Heavy clashes erupted overnight between regime and rebel forces near Damascus after the official who negotiated a deal to restore water to the Syrian capital was killed, a monitor said yesterday. Government workers had entered the formerly rebel-held area in the Wadi Barada region near Damascus on Friday to begin restoring water to the capital after weeks of shortages. "Fierce fighting broke out after midnight between regime forces, fighters from Hezbollah and the rebels, after gunmen killed the negotiator, Ahmed al-Ghadban," said Rami Abdel Rahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Ghadban had been on his way to the Ain al-Fijeh spring with maintenance teams, he said. But following the killing of Ghadban, "regime forces and their allies tried to advance to Ain al-Fijeh," bombarding rebel positions with heavy artillery, said Abdel Rahman. The two sides accused each other of killing the retired army officer, who had only assumed his duties to restore the water supply on Saturday. Under the agreement, Ghadban was to oversee teams working to repair the infrastructure that supplies the capital with water in exchange for a cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of rebel fighters willing to do so.

The official SANA news agency reported on Saturday night that "terrorists opened fire" on Ghadban after he left a meeting with armed groups in the village of Ain al-Fijeh. Activists and civil committees in Wadi Barada denounced the killing of Ghadban, which they said had been ordered by the regime with the intention to "kill any hope of a peaceful solution." In a joint statement, they urged rebel factions not to attend peace talks in the Kazakh capital Astana later this month and called for international observers to monitor the ceasefire.

Fighting has persisted in Wadi Barada since the entry into force on December 30 of the ceasefire brokered by Russia and Turkey. The violence caused damage to pipes, leaving more than five million people in Damascus without water. The ceasefire and planned talks are the latest effort to negotiate an end to a conflict that has killed more than 310,000 people since it began with anti-government protests in March 2011. —AFP



AMMAN: Jordan's newly appointed Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, right, and newly appointed Education Minister Omar Ahmad Munif Al Razzaz speak together upon their appointment following a meeting at the Jordanian Royal Palace in Amman yesterday. —AP

### JORDAN MINISTERS UNSEATED IN RESHUFFLE

**AMMAN:** Jordan's interior minister lost his job yesterday after criticism following a deadly jihadist attack, in a government reshuffle that also saw long-serving foreign minister Nasser Judeh cast aside. Ten people including a Canadian were shot dead at the popular Jordanian tourist destination of Karak on Dec 18, in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group. Following the attack, some 50 lawmakers called for a motion to censure interior minister Salama Hammad. Yesterday Prime Minister Hani Mulqi said, in a statement from the royal palace, that Hammad was being replaced by Ghaleb Zohbi, a lawyer who had previously held the same post.

The same statement announced that Judeh, who had served as foreign minister since 2009, was making way for Ayman Safadi, formerly an adviser to the king and deputy prime minister. It did not say why the ministers were being replaced. It is the second reshuffle since Sept 28. Last month's attack in Karak, home to one of the region's biggest Crusader castles, killed seven policemen and two Jordanian civilians as well as a female Canadian tourist. Four assailants were killed by the security forces after an hours-long siege of the castle, where the suspects had fled after opening fire on police.

IS claimed responsibility on Dec 20, saying four "soldiers of the caliphate" used machineguns and hand grenades in the attack. Jordan is part of the US-led military coalition against IS and has carried out air strikes targeting the extremist group. It also hosts coalition troops on its territory. The kingdom was hit by four attacks last year, including a suicide attack in June that killed seven guards near the border with Syria that was also claimed by IS.—AFP

### QUAKER GROUP MARKS CENTENNIAL WITH 'WAGING PEACE' EXHIBIT



PHILADELPHIA: Elizabeth Tinker and Noah Smalls install an exhibit at the African American Museum in Philadelphia. —AP

PHILADELPHIA: The American Friends Service Committee is celebrating 100 years of nonviolent activism with an exhibition, "Waging Peace," that showcases the group's accomplishments while also illustrating work that remains to be done. General Secretary Shan Cretin hopes both aspects of the exhibit inspire visitors. "We don't want to just be looking backward, (but) a lot of the issues that are so urgent today - how we treat immigrants, racial justice issues - are issues we have been working on for nearly our entire history," Cretin said. "We don't believe peace is a destination. We believe it's a path. We always have to be working toward peace and justice in our lives."

Founded by Quakers during World War I, the organization has been promoting peace and justice as an expression of faith in action. The centennial exhibit, on display at the African American Museum of Philadelphia through April 30, is divided into four categories: "Ending Discrimination," "Addressing Prisons," "Just Economies," and "Immigrants Rights." "Ending Discrimination" includes two 8-by-8-foot photos, one showing shows a group of civil activists led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. facing a wall of police officers in the 1960s, the other taken in Baltimore in 2015 after Freddie Gray died in police custody.

There's also a first-person account from a former committee staffer who resisted Japanese internment during World War II. In "Addressing Prisons," visitors can crowd onto a floor mat that mimics the size and shape of the 5-by-7-foot solitary confinement cell that committee employee Ojore Lutalo occupied for more than 20 years. "I really wanted to tell personal stories," said exhibit coordinator and content developer Elizabeth Tinker, an independent museum professional. "We want to encourage discussion," she said. One interactive feature highlights the challenges facing immigrants.

Set up like a giant board game, visitors allow rolls of oversize dice to determine citizenship paths. Millionaires and star athletes have a much easier time than those who have family members already in the US. Asylum seekers with proof of persecution have a much easier time immigrating than those without proof - but it's still not fast or easy. Tinker noted that this one category also illustrates why many people enter the US illegally: What parent wouldn't risk violating the law and leaving their home country if they feared their children were in danger there? she asked. —AP

#### TRUMP CLASHES WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER AS INAUGURATION LOOMS

**NEW YORK:** Donald Trump's feud with civil rights icon John Lewis is highlighting the president-elect's willingness to attack any and all political rivals even with his inauguration less than a week away. The Republican billionaire slammed the Democratic congressman - and his Atlantaarea district - on Saturday, a day after Lewis described Trump as an illegitimate president. Lewis, like a handful of Democratic lawmakers, vowed to skip Trump's Friday swearing-in ceremony.

Trump tweeted that Lewis "should spend more time on fixing and helping his district, which is in horrible shape and falling apart (not to mention crime infested) rather than falsely complaining about the election results." The incoming president added: "All talk, talk, talk - no action or results. Sad!" Trump continued to jab Lewis on Saturday night, charging that the congressman "should finally focus on the burning and crime infested inner-cities of the US." "I can use all the help I can get!"Trump tweeted.

#### **Personal decision**

Trump's response was in line with his aggressive style throughout his unorthodox campaign in which he found political success even while attacking widely lauded figures- a prisoner of war, parents of a slain US



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga. testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. —AP

soldier, and a beauty gueen, among others. Lewis is among the most revered leaders of the civil rights movement and devoted his life to promoting equal rights for African-Americans. He suffered a fractured skull while leading the march in Selma, Alabama more than a half century ago.

"The tweet is unnecessary, it's unfortunate," former Republican National Committee chairman Michael Steele, who is African-American, said on MSNBC. "John Lewis has a walk that very few people in this country - least of all Donald Trump - have ever walked. So you have to respect that and pay attention to that in a real sense," Steele said. One of Lewis' Democratic colleagues, Rep. Ted Lieu, D-Calif., also declared he would skip Trump's inauguration, in part to defend Lewis.

"Trump - who lost the popular vote - has made a series of racist, sexist and bigoted statements. In addition, he has attacked Gold Star parents, veterans such as John McCain and now civil rights icon John Lewis," Lieu said. He added, "For me, the personal decision not to attend the Inauguration is quite simple: Do I stand with Donald Trump, or do I stand with John Lewis? I am standing with John Lewis."

#### **Falling apart**

The weekend clash highlighted the sharp contrast between how many African-Americans view Trump's inauguration compared with that of Barack Obama, the nation's first black president, eight years ago. Trump critics also noted that his aggressive tweet came days before the national holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Trump's assertion that Lewis' district is "falling apart" and "crime infested" is hard to back up with facts.

Georgia's 5th Congressional District, which includes the Atlanta metro region, is considered one of the nation's fastest-growing areas, although its crime and poverty rates are higher than the national average. The district has an 8.2 percent unemployment rate and the median household income is about \$48,000, according to the Census Bureau. The area also covers part of the upscale Atlanta neighborhood of Buckhead, along with the headquarters for Fortune 500 companies such as Coca-Cola and Delta Air Lines, Emory University, Georgia Tech, several historically black colleges and universities and the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, one of the world's busiest.

The Lewis-Trump feud began when the 16-term congressman said he would not attend Trump's swearing-in ceremony. It will mark the first time he skipped an inauguration since joining Congress three decades ago. "You know, I believe in forgiveness. I believe in trying to work with people. It will be hard. It's going to be very difficult. I don't see this president-elect as a legitimate president," Lewis said in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" set to air Sunday. —AP



MANAUS: Special Operations Command personnel stand by an empty prison cell in the Anisio Jobim Penitentiary Complex where 56 inmates were killed during a riot two weeks ago, in Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil. —AFP

## BRAZIL POLICE QUELL DEADLY JAIL RIOT

'At least 10 dead'

**BRASILIA:** Brazilian police yesterday quelled a riot that left at least 10 people dead in a northern jail, the latest of several gruesome gangrelated massacres in the country's overcrowded prisons. Officials raised the death toll from Saturday's riot at the Alcacuz prison from three to 10. They earlier said at least three inmates were beheaded. Security forces stormed the prison in northeastern Rio Grande do Norte state at dawn yesterday and restored order after 14 hours of violence, local authorities said. Officials said members of two separate drug gangs had

come out of different parts of the prison and

clashed violently "There are at least three inmates dead because we were able to see their heads," state prisons manager Zemilton Silva told local media on Saturday. District security authorities said in a statement on Sunday that there were "at least 10 confirmed deaths." "We cannot yet confirm the final number of victims. We are going to verify the extent of the damage," district security official Caio Berreza said on Globo News television. The

prison, just outside the state capital Natal, is built

for a maximum of 620 inmates but currently

houses 1,083, the state justice department said. Brazilian media said the riot was thought to be a clash between Brazil's biggest drug gang, the First Capital Command (PCC), and a group allied to its main rival Red Command. It was believed to be part of a war between drug gangs battling for control of one of the world's most important cocaine markets and trafficking routes. A series of massacres early this month left 100 prisoners dead-many of the active members of gangs, authorities said. —AFP

## KREMLIN COUNTS DAYS TO TRUMP'S INAUGURATION, BLASTS OBAMA

**MOSCOW:** Exulted by Donald Trump's victory in the US, the Kremlin is counting the days to his inauguration and venting its anger at Barack Obama's outgoing administration, no holds barred. Careful not to hurt chances for a thaw in US-Russia relations, President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials have deferred questions about their plans for future contacts with Trump and any agenda for those talks until he takes office on Friday. Trump's open admiration of Putin has brought wide expectations of improved Moscow-Washington relations, but Trump has not articulated a clear Russia policy. His Cabinet nominees include both a retired general with a hawkish stance on Russia and an oil executive who has done extensive business in Russia.

At the same time, Russian officials are blasting the outgoing US administration in distinctly undiplomatic language, dropping all decorum after Obama hit Moscow with more sanctions in his final weeks in office. Moscow calls Obama's team a "bunch of geopolitical losers" engaged in a last-ditch effort to inflict the maximum possible damage to US-Russia ties to make it more difficult for Trump to mend the rift. In a clear effort to avoid risking a rapprochement with Trump, Putin showed a remarkable restraint when the US expelled 35 Russian diplomats over accusations of meddling in the US election campaign. Instead of a usual tit-for-tat response, Putin invited US diplomats' children to a New Year's party at the Kremlin.

Trump's national security adviser, Michael Flynn, and Russia's ambassador to the US were in frequent contact in recent weeks, including on Dec 29, the day Obama hit Moscow with sanctions in retaliation for election-related hacking, according to a senior US official. That call and others suggest that the incoming administration is already laying the groundwork for a possible thaw with Moscow. Moscow similarly refrained from retaliation when the White House last week added five Russians, including the chief of Russia's top state investigative agency, to the US sanctions list. While Putin and his lieutenants hope Trump will open up to Russia, they know any attempt to fix ties will face massive obstacles, including possible strong resistance in the US Congress.

#### **Tense period**

"Any future contacts will have to be prepared quite accurately and thoroughly, as they would follow a tense period," Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. Fyodor Lukyanov, chair of the Council for Foreign and Defense Policies, a group of Russian foreign policy experts, said Syria is one area where a US-Russian rapport is likely. During the call with Flynn, the Russian ambassador invited US officials to a conference on Syria to be held in Kazakhstan later this month, according to a transition official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss the matter. In an interview Friday with The Wall Street Journal, Trump said he might do away with Obama's sanctions if Russia works with the US on battling terrorists and achieving other goals.

The Kremlin would be eager to embrace a US offer of cooperation on Syria. Obama's administration had refused to coordinate action against the IS with Russia, saying Moscow was bent on shoring up Syrian President Bashar Assad. The complexity of the conflict in Syria - where opposition groups backed by regional players are pitted against Assad's troops and often fight each other - makes hopes for quick progress elusive. "Russia and the United States are important players (in Syria) but not the only ones," Lukyanov said. He noted that nuclear arms control is another possi-



**MOSCOW: In this file photo Russian President** Vladimir Putin attends a meeting with Russian prosecutors in Moscow, Russia. —AP

ble area where Moscow and Washington could try to find common ground. While new arms control treaties are unlikely, the two countries may try to find ways to increase global stability, Lukyanov said.

Putin has pushed for the US to recognize Moscow as an equal global heavyweight and to acknowledge that Russia's ex-Soviet neighbors are in its sphere of "vital interests" - demands rejected by the West. Many in Russia hope that Trump could be more inclined to strike a "grand bargain" with Putin, carving up spheres of influence and helping cement Russia's role as a global power. Alexander Lebedev, a multimillionaire Russian owner of Britain's Evening Standard and Independent newspapers, believes that Putin wants a "big deal" that would envisage cooperation in Syria and possible cooperation in other spheres, including the fight against international financial crime. —AP

#### LAWMAKERS URGE MAY TO **CLARIFY BREXIT INTENTIONS**

LONDON: A committee of British lawmakers is urging Prime Minister Theresa May to clarify her intentions on Brexit - particularly whether she intends to keep Britain in the European Union's large single market. The House of Commons' Exiting the EU committee urged May to publish her plan soon and to give lawmakers a vote on whatever deal is concluded with the 28nation EU. Their report was released Saturday, just days before May is to deliver her vision about Britain's post-EU future in a major speech. "This is going to be a hugely complex task and the outcome will affect us all," committee chair Hilary Benn said. "The government needs to publish its Brexit plan by mid-February at the latest, including its position on membership of the single market and the customs union, so that it can be scrutinized by Parliament and the public."

Members of the committee also

warned that the task of preparing for Brexit was placing a "strain" on departments across the British government and said more staff may be required. The committee is seeking a framework of the UK's future trading relationship with the EU as part of the Article 50 negotiations - arguing that transitional arrangements would be needed for trade to continue if a deal

wasn't complete by 2019. It acknowledged, though, that Britain's government may not be in a position to deliver this objective, since it would also depend on the other 27 members of the EU. "The UK's relationship with the EU is deep and complex, not least in terms of the legal rights of parties in both the UK and the EU-27," the report said. "It would be unsatisfactory and potentially damaging to both sides were the UK to leave the EU with no agreement having been reached." — AP

#### **FACEBOOK ANNOUNCES 'FAKE NEWS' OFFENSIVE IN GERMANY**

FRANKFURT: Social media giant Facebook announced yesterday that it will introduce new measures to combat fake news in Germany, as Europe's largest economy and most populous nation enters an election year. "It's important to us that the reports and news posted on Facebook are reliable," a blog post on the Silicon Valley firm's German website read. German politicians have warned that populist parties and foreign nations could use fake news to try and influence parliamentary elections slated for September or October. Facebook's new German initiative

targets "unambiguously wrong reports" being shared on the social media platform. The firm said it would offer a simpler reporting process for users to flag suspected fake news, display warnings next to statements identified as false by independent factchecking organizations, and cut off advertising revenue to fake news sites presenting themselves as real news organizations. Stories flagged with a fake news warning will not be eligible to be converted into an ad seen by other users or "promoted" into other users' feeds for a fee. —AFP

## CONGOLESE M23 REBELS CROSS OVER FROM UGANDA, TAKE VILLAGE

taken refuge in neighboring Uganda crossed the border overnight armed with weapons, the DR Congo government said yesterday. About 200 former members of M23, an ethnic Tutsi group defeated by the Congolese army in 2013, arrived from Uganda

North Kivu province, government spokesman Lambert Mende said.

"How could our Ugandan neighbors, with whom we are bound by very serious commitments, allow people who had been living in refugee camps to cross over-armed-into our

Democratic Republic of Congo army (FARDC) had engaged them in "confrontation... because the Congolese army will not allow anyone to cross the border without authorization-and with weapons".

Following M23's defeat, the govern-

demobilize and reintegrate more than 12,000 former rebels, many of whom lived in Uganda and Rwanda where the UN and Kinshasa say they received support. But the return of the former rebels has stalled, with fewer than 200 of the 1,900 sheltering in Uganda and

KINSHASA: Congolese rebels who had and took over the village of Ishasha, in territory?" he said. Mende said the ment launched a plan to disarm, only 13 out of hundreds left in Rwanda coming back.

Congolese authorities regularly criticize Rwanda and Uganda for allowing "these criminals to circulate freely" within their territory instead of trying them in court. Both countries deny providing backing. —AFP

## GLOOMY TIMES IN SPAIN'S PODEMOS AS DIVISIONS RAGE

#### 'Reproducing age-old behavior patterns'

MADRID: Spain's Podemos was born in 2014 out of rage over austerity politics and buoyed by its promises of change, but the mood has darkened as infighting ravages the far-left party. As it prepares to celebrate its third birthday and inches closer to a crux congress in February, supporters are watching in dismay-and opponents with glee-as Podemos chief Pablo Iglesias spars with his deputy Inigo Errejon over what

internal battle," says Gabriel Colome, politics professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. "They are reproducing age-old behavior patterns typical of other parties." He warned "they do this right, or this project is going to explode."

**Airing dirty laundry** After its emergence in January 2014, Podemos



MADRID: This file photo shows leader of left wing party Podemos Pablo Iglesias (L) and Podemos member Inigo Errejon applauding during The Congress on your Square meeting held at El Pozo cultural center in Vallecas, a neighborhood of Madrid. —AFP

strategy to take. The dispute between the onceinseparable pair has forced party members into one faction or another, played out on social media and in the press, gaining such traction that an apologetic Iglesias warned it could "destroy" Podemos. "It's one thing to have differences, another thing is this hugely exaggerated

rose at meteoric speed to score big in elections just under two years later. In those December 2015 polls, it became Spain's third political force, putting an end to the two-party system but also leaving no grouping with any absolute majority. As coalition negotiations dragged on, rumours of a rift between the charismatic, pony-tailed Iglesias and his baby-faced number two started to emerge. But it was only after repeat June elections saw a Podemos-led coalition lose votes that the rift between the combative Iglesias and more moderate Errejon leapt to the fore. While the aim had always been to overtake the Socialists and become Spain's main left-wing force, exactly how to achieve this was a subject of much debate. Should the party continue its struggle for change-but from within institutions it now occupied such as parliament, and in a moderate way that would attract Socialist voters too, as Errejon

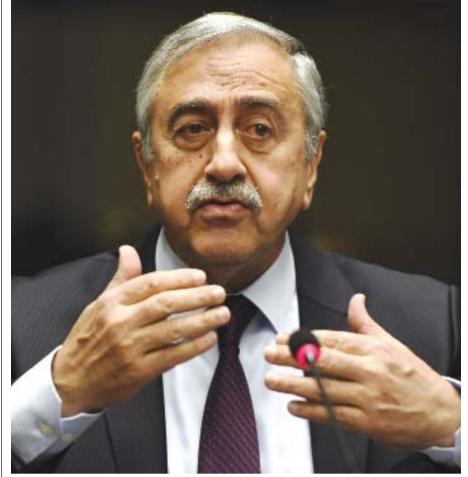
Or should it also go back to the streets, keep resisting and shaking things up as a protest party, as Iglesias wanted? These divergences broke out into the open in September in a war of tweets. "We are already scaring the powerful, that's not the challenge. The challenge is to attract those people who suffer but still don't trust us," Errejon wrote. "Yes comrade @ierrejon but we stopped attracting one million people in June. We seduce more by speaking clearly and being different," Iglesias retorted.

From then on, divisions played out publicly, continuing even as the Socialists (PSOE) imploded and the conservative Popular Party came back to power at the head of a minority government with little support-all of which could have profited Podemos. The situation left supporters in a state of distress. Once an enthusiastic Podemos militant, Tristan Duanel has now stopped all activities for the party, as have others he knows. "We have ended up really bitter," he says. Such has been the dismay that Iglesias felt compelled to apologize last month. "If the press and social media continue to be a stage for us to try and air our dirty laundry, we will destroy Podemos," he recognized.

#### **Two strategies**

The issue will likely be set to rest at the party congress in February, when Podemos members will vote for a new leadership council, a process that may or may not unseat Iglesias, and for what direction to take. With this in sight, Errejon's clan published a policy document on Friday acknowledging there were "two strategies" vying for power. On the same day, Iglesias and his team published their own document, in which they warned that "only a united and strong Podemos will be able to rule."

To further complicate matters, a third movement which is neither behind Iglesias or Errejon has emerged as kingmaker. The more radical anti-capitalists, as they call themselves, want to take to the streets again like Iglesias. But they also feel that the party's power is currently in the hands of too few people, calling for decentralization... like Errejon. "They will be pivotal," says political analyst Pablo Simon. He also struck a positive note, saying all was not lost for Podemos and now was the time to resolve their differences. "The PSOE hasn't recovered and cannot challenge them much, and we're far from new elections," he said.—AFP



GENEVA: Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci gestures as he speaks during a press conference on UN-sponsored Cyprus peace talks at the United Nations headquarters

#### CYPRUS SECURITY TALKS TO CONCLUDE THIS MONTH

NICOSIA: A working group due to convene on Jan 18 to hammer out security arrangements for a post-settlement Cyprus will meet for two to three days only, followed by another round of highlevel talks, a source close to the Turkish Cypriot side said yesterday. Talks in Geneva last week failed to produce a breakthrough in a conflict spanning decades, though the three countries which are stakeholders in Cyprus - Britain, Greece and Turkey - agreed to set up the working group to look at security arrangements after these turned out to be a major sticking point.

The Greek Cypriot side has previously said there was no time frame for the talks. The working group made of technocrats from all countries involved were scheduled to meet at the Swiss resort of Mont Pelerin on Jan 18. "The general agreement is that (working group session) should not take place for more than two or three days," the source told Reuters, requesting anonymity because of the sensitivity of present discussions. This would be followed by a new summit of politicians, possibly at a 'higher level' than the foreign ministers who met in Geneva last week, the source said.

"All this should take place within January." Cyprus was split among its ethnic Turkish and Greek populations since Turkish troops invaded in 1974 in response to a short-lived coup by Greek Cypriot militants seeking union with Greece. But intercommunal violence had simmered since the 1960s when a powersharing system collapsed soon after independence from Britain. There are also unsettled issues on redrawing the boundaries between the two sides, settling property disputes and on how to co-govern. Greece, Turkey and Britain were assigned as "guarantor" powers in a treaty adopted when Cyprus gained independence of London in 1960.

The Greek side seeks abolition of the guarantor system, accusing Turkey of abusing it through its 1974 invasion and the continued stationing of some 30,000 Turkish troops in the north. The Turkish side says some form of presence must be maintained to protect the minority Turkish side from a repeat of the turbulent 1960s. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has said a total pull out of Turkish soldiers from the island is not possible.

Any deal should address how constitutional order should be respected in a united island, as well as protecting it from 'external threats', the Turkish Cypriot source said. Cyprus is on the verge of the volatile Middle East, and less than 100 kilometers away from wartorn Syria. —Reuters

#### POLICE RELEASE THREE AFTER **BRUSSELS ANTI-TERROR RAIDS** attacks in Paris and the suicide bombings

**BRUSSELS:** Belgian police have released three people held overnight following antiterror raids late Saturday in Brussels, local prosecutors said. Police mounted four raids in the Molenbeek district, which was home to several perpetrators of the jihadist attacks in Paris and Brussels, but found nothing, according to the Brussels prosecutor's office. "Three men were arrested and questioned overnight... they were released

afterwards," it said in a statement. Media reports showed armed police set-

of Brussels airport and the metro in March 2016. Belgian authorities stepped up security after the killings and there have been periodic police raids and arrests since then as the investigations have continued.

Belgian-born French national Salah Abdeslam, the only known jihadist to have survived the Paris massacres, hid in Molenbeek and was arrested there four months later, on March 18, 2016, four days before the attacks on the Belgian capital. Some 20 people have been charged in Belgium in connection with the Paris attacks. Investigators say the Paris and Brussels attacks were carried out by the

#### ting up a security perimeter during the operation. The gritty Molenbeek area has gained notoriety recently as the home of several of those who took part in the deadly Islamic State-claimed November 2015 same cell.—AFP CHECHEN LEADER SAYS OVER 50 ISLAMIST INSURGENTS DETAINED MOSCOW: Chechen strongman Ramzan ing in Syria and Iraq. The Chechen leader

Kadyrov said yesterday his forces had detained more than 50 insurgents linked to the Islamic State jihadist group, completing a major security operation. Kadyrov wrote on Instagram on Sunday that security forces had captured an armed group coordinated by a Chechen fighter located in Syria, with the latest arrests taking place in various locations on Saturday.

"Now the whole group of bandits has been neutralized and more than 50 members have been brought to police stations," Kadyrov said, He also posted a video of himself speaking to a group of the captured men in Chechen.

The Moscow-back leader of the North Caucasus region called the operationplanned since last summer-"a big success for the law enforcement agencies." The Russian North Caucasus is one of the major sources of foreign jihadists fightsaid police on Saturday detained several participants of the armed group including an "especially dangerous terrorist" named as Imran Datsayev who threw a hand grenade but was captured alive. He said Datsayev testified that he received orders from Islamic State to kill a police officer and had killed a police sergeant last November.

Russia fought two brutal separatist wars over the past two decades in Chechnya but the region has been largely pacified under Kadyrov's iron-fisted rule. A dwindling group of Islamist insurgents are still fighting the authorities in Chechnya and across the volatile North Caucasus, and sporadically launch eye-catching attacks. Kadyrov, a former fighter against Russia's rule who now supports President Vladimir Putin, regularly announces raids to capture insurgents, which he sometimes personally coordinates.—AFP



PARIS: French elected officials and members of the pro-Israel community speak in front of the Israeli Embassy in Paris yesterday during a rally

## FRANCE SAYS 'SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES' IF US EMBASSY MOVES TO JERUSALEM

PARIS: French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc his campaign to transfer the embassy. Ayrault said yesterday that if US President-elect Donald Trump moves the American embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem it would have "extremely serious consequences." Speaking as 70 countries gather in Paris to try to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, Ayrault told French TV he believed Trump would find it "impossible" to fulfil the pledge he made during

"When you are president of the United States, you cannot take such a stubborn and such a unilateral view on this issue. You have to try to create the conditions for peace," Ayrault said. Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas warned Saturday that peace could be dealt a mortal blow if Trump, who has vowed unstinting support for Israel, moves the embassy to Jerusalem.

Doing so would reverse decades of US policy that has until now maintained that the final status of Jerusalem-whose eastern and largely Arab side has been occupied by Israel since 1967 should be determined in peace negotiations with the Palestinians. The Paris meeting is mainly symbolic, but comes at a crucial juncture for the Middle East, five days before Trump is sworn in as US president.—AFP



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## CHINA'S ZHOU YOUGUANG, LINGUIST TURNED DISSIDENT, DIES AT 111

helped invent the Pinyin system used for writing Chinese worldwide before becoming an outspoken critic of the communist government died Saturday in Beijing. He was 111. Zhou, who was probably China's oldest dissenter, died Saturday at his house in the country's capital, a day after having celebrated his 111th birthday, state media said. "He lived through many eras and helped enlighten ordinary people," the Communist Party mouthpiece the People's Daily said.

Zhou is commonly known as the "father of Pinyin", a system for transliterating Chinese characters into the Roman alphabet introduced in the 1950s and now used by hundreds of millions of language learners in China, as well as abroad. Born to

**BEIJING:** Linguist Zhou Youguang, the man who an aristocratic family in 1906, Zhou experienced the last years of the Qing dynasty and its revolutionary overthrow. He avoided China's civil war between the Communists and Nationalists by going to work for a Chinese bank on Wall Street, twice meeting Albert Einstein while visiting friends at Princeton.

> But following the Communist victory in 1949, Zhou returned home to teach economics and became a close associate of the party's number two, Zhou Enlai. He was attracted to Mao Zedong's Communists because "at that time they promoted themselves as democrats", he wrote in a 2012 autobiography. An amateur linguist who had taught himself some Esperanto, Zhou was assigned in 1955 to co-chair a committee tasked with increasing liter

acy by reforming the Chinese language. He eventually backed a system based on one developed in the Soviet Union, using Roman letters to represent pronunciation alongside marks to indicate tone.

The proposal, named Pinyin-"putting together sounds"-is used in schools across China and has been instrumental in boosting the country's literacy rate from around 20 percent in the 1950s to more than 90 percent today. In recent decades, Pinyin has become key to the easy creation of Chinese characters on computers. But Zhou's contributions did not save him from the chaos of Mao's decade-long Cultural Revolution from 1966, during which intellectuals were persecuted. Zhou, then in his 60s, was sent to work at a labor camp in faraway Ningxia for more than two years, separated from

his wife and son. He has described the two decades from 1960 to 1980 as "wasted", adding: "In all honesty I haven't got anything good to say about Mao Zedong." He had a higher opinion of Mao's successor Deng Xiaoping, who launched market-style reforms which helped transform China into the world's second-largest economy.

But after he retired aged 85, Zhou wrote dozens of books arguing that Deng's reforms were insufficient without political change. "Chinese people becoming rich isn't important," he said. "Human progress is ultimately progress towards democracy." "After 30 years of economic reform, China still needs to take the path of democracy," Zhou said in a 2015 interview. "It's the only path. I have always believed that."—AFP



INDIA: This picture shows Indian rescue workers carrying the body of a man who drowned in a boat accident on the river Ganges near Patna, as

## INDIA BOAT ACCIDENT TOLL RISES TO 26

'MORE PEOPLE FEARED DEAD

NEW DELHI: The death toll from a boat accident authority said. "Workers pulled out 22 bodies in pensation of 400,000 rupees (\$5,900) for the in eastern India rose to 26 yesterday, a senior the night and this morning four more bodies official said, warning of more casualties with res- were recovered," he said by phone. "The boat Modi also condoled the deaths while cancelling cue workers still scouring the waters. The non- capsized not very far from the shore. Some peo- an event he was scheduled to attend in Patna motorized wooden boat, packed beyond capacity with revelers returning from a kite festival, capsized Saturday in the Ganges river near Patna, the capital of Bihar state. The exact number of missing could not be ascertained due to the absence of a passenger list but police said the boat was carrying at least 40 people.

Rescue workers were working round the clock looking for survivors, Anirudh Kumar, joint secretary of the state disaster management

ple managed to swim to safety. But we are fearing the number of dead could go up further." Among those to survive the tragedy was an 18month toddler, now recovering in a city hospital,

The revelers were on their way back from the annual Hindu harvest festival of Makar Sakranti, marked by kite-flying and other festivities. State Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has ordered an inquiry into the accident and announced comfamilies of the victims. Prime Minister Narendra vesterday.

Boat accidents are common in the country, mainly because of overcrowding, poor maintenance, lax regulations and a lack of life jackets and other safety equipment. Some 20 people died after a ferry capsized in a rain-swollen river in India's northeastern state of Assam in September 2015. More than 100 people lost their lives in 2012 in Assam when a boat sank in the Brahmaputra river during a storm.—AFP

## CHINA APPOINTS TIBET GOVERNOR

**BEIJING:** China has appointed a new governor of Tibet, one of the country's most politically sensitive regions, state news agency Xinhua reported yesterday. A thirtyfive-year veteran of the Communist Party, Qi Zhala, 58, has also served as the region's Communist Party vice-secretary and the party boss of regional capital Lhasa, according to his resume, published by party mouthpiece the People's Daily. He replaces Luosang Jiangcun who was named secretary of the region's National People's Congress in the same Xinhua announcement.

Managing the remote Himalayan region

of Tibet remains a difficult issue for China, which has struggled with decades of often violent unrest in protest at Chinese rule, which started when Chinese troops marched into Tibet in 1950.

China says its rule has brought prosperity and stability, and rejects claims from Tibetan exiles and rights groups of widespread repression. Of Tibetan ethnicity, Qi originates from neighboring Yunnan province. He held official posts in Yunnan before transferring to Tibet in 2010. As governor, he is the second-most powerful figure in the region, after the regional Communist party boss.—Reuters

#### S KOREA PROSECUTORS TO DECIDE TODAY ON SAMSUNG HEIR ARREST

**SEOUL:** South Korean prosecutors investigating a major influence-peddling scandal involving impeached President Park Geun-Hye said they would decide today whether to arrest the heir to the giant Samsung group over alleged bribery. Lee Jae-Yong, Samsung Electronics vice chairman and the son of the group's current chairman Lee Kun-Hee, is accused of approving a decision to pay Park's secret confidante Choi Soon-Sil large sums of money to secure favorable decisions. The junior Lee was quizzed through Thursday and Friday as a criminal suspect, and three other senior Samsung executives were also questioned.

"We will reach a decision on Monday... on whether or not to arrest Lee by taking into account the complexity and the significance of the issue," Lee Kyu-Chul, spokesman for a special team of prosecutors probing the scandal, said yesterday. The prosecutors had planned to make the decision on Sunday but legal deliberations took longer than expected "due to the significance of the move", Lee told a televised briefing. The scandal centers on Choi, who is accused of using her close friendship to the president to coerce top Seoul firms into "donating" nearly \$70 million dollars to two non-profit foundations which Choi then allegedly used for personal gain.

Samsung-the biggest contributor to the foundations-is also accused of separately providing millions of Euros to Choi to bankroll her daughter's equestrian training in Germany. The Samsung group has dozens of units ranging from electronics to hotels. Its collective revenues are equivalent to around 20 percent of South Korea's annual economic output. Flagship firm Samsung Electronics is the world's top smartphone maker. Recent health problems concerning the senior Lee, currently bedridden after suffering a heart attack last year, prompted the group to step up restructuring efforts.

Prosecutors are probing whether Samsung's donations were aimed at securing approval for a controversial deal it sought in 2015. The merger of two Samsung units-Cheil Industries and Samsung C&T-was seen as a key step towards ensuring a smooth third-generation power transfer to Lee Jae-Yong. The deal was opposed by many investors who said it willfully undervalued

Samsung C&T's shares. But the National Pension Service-a major Samsung shareholder-approved the deal, which eventually went through. A former welfare minister who at the time oversaw the operations of the pension fund has been arrested for allegedly pressuring the fund's managers to approve the merger. Park is accused of colluding with Choi to extract money from local businesses and letting her meddle in a wide range of state affairs.

She was impeached by parliament last month. The Constitutional Court is currently reviewing the validity of the impeachment. If it upholds the decision, a fresh presidential election must be held within two months. —AFP

## ROADSIDE BOMB KILLS SEVEN AFGHAN CIVILIANS

JALALABAD, Afghanistan: At least seven civilians, including women and three children, were killed when their truck hit a roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, officials said. The villagers were travelling from Pacheer Agam district to a nearby village in Nangarhar province, Hijratullah Rahmani district governor of Pacheer Agam said. "Unfortunately, in the blast, seven civilians, including a woman and three children were killed and one wounded," he said.

No one claimed responsibility, but the interior ministry in a statement blamed "enemies of peace and stabil- Taliban bombings across Afghanistan. —AFP

ity," a term Afghan officials use to refer to Taliban. Nangarhar is also home to Islamic State group fighters, who are trying to expand their presence in Afghanistan by winning over sympathizers, recruiting followers and challenging the Taliban on their own turf.

Afghan civilians are paying a heavy price for the escalating conflict across the country. A total of 2,562 civilians were killed and another 5,835 wounded in the first nine months of 2016, according to a UN report. Last week, over 50 people, mostly civilians, were killed in multiple

## PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE THREATENS MARTIAL LAW

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has threatened to impose martial rule to prosecute his deadly war on drugs, three decades after the nation shed dictatorship with a famous "People Power" revolt. "If I wanted to, and it (the illegal drugs problem) will deteriorate into something really very virulent, I will declare martial law if I wanted to. No one will be able to stop me," Duterte said in a speech on Saturday night. The 71-year-old former state prosecutor said the aim would be "to preserve the Filipino people and the youth of this land".

Duterte won elections in May last year on a pledge to wipe out illegal drugs, promising an unprecedented crackdown to stop the Philippines from becoming what he termed a narco state. The crackdown has left at least 5,700 people dead in just over six months, raising concerns of a breakdown in the rule of law with security forces and vigilantes carrying out extrajudicial killings.

The Philippines' longtime ally, the United States, has led international criticism of the killings, with outgoing President Barack Obama urging Duterte to prosecute his war "the to stop an invasion or a rebellion. right way".

Duterte has reacted furiously to the criticism and vowed to continue his war until illegal drugs are eradicated. Duterte has raised the prospect of imposing martial law previously. However Saturday's comments were the most direct threat.

Martial rule would allow Duterte to use the military to enforce civilian law and detain people at length without charging them. The Philippines last endured martial law during the 20year rule of dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was accused of plundering billions of dollars from state coffers and overseeing widespread human rights abuses.

Marcos declared martial law in 1972, invoking the threats of crime and a communist insurgency, and lifted it in 1981. His rule ended in 1986, when millions took to the streets in the largely bloodless military-backed "People Power" revolt. A new constitution drawn up in 1987 in an effort to avoid another dictatorship specified a single six-year presidential term. It also said the president could impose martial rule for just 60 days and only

Parliament can revoke the measure within 48 hours while the Supreme Court can review its legality.

But Duterte, speaking to local businessmen in his southern home town of Davao city, warned he could ignore the 60-day limit. "The 60-day (limit) will be gone," he said. "And I'd tell you now, if I have to declare martial law, I will declare it not about invasion, insurrection, not about danger. I will declare martial law to preserve my nation-period," he said. Also on Saturday Duterte said he has ordered the military to "blast" Islamic militants who have been on a kidnap-forransom spree, even if hostages would also be killed.

'They say, 'What about the hostage?' Sorry, collateral damage. Then if they are blasted every day, that (kidnappings) would stop, or, at least, places us in a very-and into a parity-So better not get yourselves kidnapped." The Abu Sayyaf, a loose network of militants formed in the 1990s with seed money from Al-Qaeda, preys on southern Philippine waters and has earned millions of dollars from kidnappings-for-ransom. — AFP



BOGOR: Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) speaks as Indonesia's President Joko Widodo looks on as they give a statement to the media following their meeting at the presidential palace in Bogor yesterday. —AFP

## INDONESIA, JAPAN AFFIRM DEEPER TIES DURING ABE'S ASIAN TOUR

BOGOR, Indonesia: Japan and Indonesia yesterday affirmed a deepening of economic and political ties during a visit by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is using a four-nation tour of Asia to underscore his government's role in countering China's assertiveness in the South China Sea. After meeting with Abe, Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said the increase in Japanese investment in Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, has been "very significant," more than doubling to \$4.5 billion in January-September of

He said the countries agreed that their defense and foreign ministers will meet in Indonesia this year under a new forum they established in 2015 to increase maritime cooperation. Jokowi said there were agreements on development of a deepsea port and the Masela gas field in Indonesia, and for preliminary discussions of a Jakarta-Surabaya rail line. He did not give specifics. Abe's trip is largely aimed at taking a leadership role in promoting regional cooperation to counter Beijing at a time of increased tension between China and the US and uncertainty about the policies of the incoming Donald Trump administration.

With the tour, Tokyo wants to send a message that its respect for a rulesbased international system, in contrast to China's more aggressive behavior in the South China Sea, where it has vast territorial claims, makes it the best partner for Southeast Asian countries. The trip has included two of America's main allies in the region, Australia and the Philippines, where Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's hostility to the US has raised doubts about its commitment to the US alliance that Japan is a crucial part of. Australia and Japan agreed to greater military cooperation, and in the Philippines, Abe pledged \$8.7 billion in business opportunities and investment.

Jokowi said that in his meeting with Abe, he asked for Japan to open access for Indonesian agricultural goods, improve access for Indonesian nurses to work in Japan, commence a review of the Indonesia-Japan economic partnership agreement this year, and grant national carrier Garuda rights for a Jakarta-Tokyo-Los Angeles route. After Indonesia, Abe will visit Vietnam, which the US has cultivated stronger ties with as a part of President Barack Obama's pivot to Asia policy. Trump, however, has said he will scrap US involvement in the Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement, which was a signature part of Obama's policy. Wright reported from Jakarta, Indonesia.—AP



#### IN PARIS, TRUMP WARNED OVER...

Continued from Page 1

The Palestinians regard Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, while Israel proclaims the entire city as its capital. The status of the city is one of the thorniest issues in the conflict. President Francois Hollande told the gathering that the prospect of two independent states coexisting side-by-side was "not the dream of yesterday's system". "It remains the goal of the entire international community for the future," Hollande said.

Netanyahu, who insists only direct talks with the Palestinians can bring peace, has dismissed the Paris meeting as "a last gasp of the past". Yesterday he called it a "futile" exercise aimed at "imposing upon Israel conditions that are incompatible with our national needs". Both Netanyahu and Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas have been invited to meet with Hollande to discuss the conclusions of the Paris talks. Abbas is expected to travel to Paris in the coming weeks but Netanyahu has rejected the offer, French diplomats said.

The conference is mainly symbolic, but comes at a crucial juncture for the Middle East, five days before Trump is sworn in as US president. Trump has said "there's nobody more pro-Israeli than I am" and his choice for ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, is a hardliner who says he looks forward to working from "Israel's eternal capital, Jerusalem".

Israel, which is still seething over a critical UN resolution last month, fears the Paris meeting could produce measures hastily put to the Security Council before Trump takes over. The French have stressed they have no such plans. But EU foreign ministers are set to discuss the conference's conclusions today, EU sources said. It was uncertain whether they would issue a statement, with Britain and some central European countries reluctant to upset the incoming Trump administration, a European diplomat said. US Secretary of State John Kerry, who rebuked Israel recently over its settler activity, joined the Paris talks on his farewell tour, along with delegates from the UN, EU and Arab League.

Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said the Paris conference should focus on an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The conference should concentrate on reaching a "final settlement" for the conflict and not only continuing to manage it, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled told the meeting.

This can be realized through incentives to the Israelis and the Palestinians to resume peace negotiations, creating favorable conditions and climate for interaction and economic, educational and vocational cooperation, he said. "This is likely to lay down bases for peace and dismiss all forms of extremism and violence" he added.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled called for setting a

time limit for completing the negotiations, as well as the immediate implementation of any agreement to be concluded for reaching a two-state solution based on relevant UN resolutions, mainly the UN General Assembly's resolution 1994, and the Security Council's resolutions 242, 338, 1397, 1515, 1850 and 2334, in addition to the Arab peace initiative, paving the way for establishing a Palestinian state on the pre-June 1967 borders, with east Jerusalem as its capital.

In order to achieve these goals, the concerned world's bodies - especially the Middle East Quartet, the UNSC's permanent members and the international bodies - have to play an effective role in supporting and implementing them, the Kuwaiti foreign minister noted. He expressed hope that the Quartet would include Arab members to make it more vital and effective.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled expressed deep concern over reports that the new US administration would move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to "Occupied Jerusalem", a matter that is most likely to undermine opportunities for peace and contradict with UNSC resolutions, especially no 478 that states: "Those states that have established diplomatic missions at Jerusalem to withdraw such missions from the Holy City."

At the onset of the address, the chief Kuwaiti diplomat said that the world's public opinion, especially in the Arab region, is closely following the conference and the regional and international momentum it could produce to resume the stalled peace process. Thus, participants in the Paris meeting should seek by all means that the event would lead to the activation of the outcome of previous conferences and initiatives that sought a solution to the Palestinian cause, such as Madrid 1991, Oslo 1993 and Camp David 2000, besides the several resolutions by the UN's General Assembly and the UNSC on the major issue, he said.

The results of not applying UN resolutions and the non-commitment to what have been concluded in relevant international conferences have "aggravated the humanitarian tragedies of the unarmed Palestinian people, and heightened tension in the region", Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled stressed. Moreover, this has been reflected on international peace and stability, as the region started to see the emergence of further crises, such as extremism and terrorism that cannot be dissolved unless the root of the problem, namely the Palestinian issue, is settled, he noted.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said that this year marks the 69th anniversary of the Palestinians' Nakba, suffering and pain, and the 50th anniversary of the occupation of Arab territories in 1967. He also highly appreciated the peace initiative offered by Hollande to save the Mideast peace process, recalling France's stances in support of the Palestinian cause on international levels. — Agencies



A horse walks through deep snow yesterday in its paddock near Ruderatshofen in southern Germany. — AFP

#### Bahrain executes 3 convicted over police bombing

Continued from Page 1

areas. Witnesses said shops were shuttered in Daih, where the 2014 bombing happened. Garbage bins were seen overturned and set alight in the streets.

One police officer was wounded when several people shot at a police patrol in Bani

Jamra, west of the capital Manama, the Bangladeshi man in 2010. A number of Interior Ministry said yesterday. It gave no further details. The Ashtar Brigade, a Shiite militant group that claimed the 2014 police attack and a number of other bombings in Bahrain, took responsibility for the attack on the police officer on social media.

Bahrain's last execution was of a

death sentences have been issued since then. The three put to death yesterday were the first who had held Bahraini citizenship executed since 1996, though they were technically stateless at the time of their deaths after being stripped of their citizenship when convicted. — AP

#### MPS FILE GRILLING OVER SPORTS BAN

**Continued from Page 1** 

IOC, FIFA and several international sports federations suspended Kuwaiti sports bodies in Oct 2015 over alleged government interference in sports. Sheikh Salman and other sports dignitaries had directly accused Kuwaitis with leading positions in international sports and prominent figures leading Kuwaiti sports bodies of orchestrating the suspension, which they described as illegal.

Exploiting the presence of a totally pro-government National Assembly in the past few years, the government introduced a number of legislative amendments including a 2016 law that complicated the suspension crisis. Sheikh Salman implemented the law in August by dissolving the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Kuwait Football Association and several sports federations over alleged misappropriation of public funds and administrative violations.

But with the election of the new Assembly in November, the picture has partially changed. Opposition MPs pressured the minister and the government to accept to change the controver-

sial laws to be compatible with the Olympic Charter and to write to the IOC and FIFA requesting a temporary lifting of the ban until the law has been amended.

Both the IOC and FIFA rejected Kuwait's request. IOC demanded three conditions to lift the ban - the amendment of the laws, withdrawing of all court cases and reinstating all dissolved sports bodies.

Sheikh Salman refused to accept the second and third conditions, and only promised to withdraw the court cases as part of a comprehensive settlement with IOC, which rejected the offer outright. IOC even said the Kuwaiti sports situation had deteriorated further and demanded concrete steps to lift the ban.

The three lawmakers recounted the minister's involvement in sports since he was appointed minister in 2012 and how he played a key role in changing a milestone sports law issued in 2012 and which was compatible with the Olympic Charter. They said the minister was instrumental in getting sports legislations passed in the previous Assembly and which eventually led to the suspension of Kuwait. They questioned the minister about enacting those legislations without consulting the IOC, and then later compounded the situation by dissolving local sports bodies recognized by international sports organizations.

The grilling also accused the minister of squandering public funds and not taking any measure to stop it at the youth and information ministries and at the public sports authority. It also accused the minister of committing a number of administrative violations in several appointments in the information ministry. Finally, the grilling charged that the ministry played an active role in issuing a number of laws and decisions that negatively impacted the freedom of press and speech in Kuwait, citing the electronic crimes law as an example.

Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said the grilling will be placed on the agenda of the Jan 31 session and if the minister wants to delay the debate, he has to seek approval from the Assembly. The debate of the grilling could lead to a vote of no-confidence, which will lead to the minister's dismissal if approved by half of the Assembly's 50 elected members.



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## KASICH TO DOUBTERS: I'M NO LAME DUCK

n less than a year's time, Ohio Gov John Kasich has gone from an "adult in the room" alternative in a fractious Republican presidential field, to a potential convention spoiler in Cleveland, to now facing a hostile new president who reached down personally to seize control of the state GOP. The rollercoaster ride has left many wondering whether Kasich's political star and personal influence have faded. To this, Kasich had a direct answer this week: "You know (how) they talk about lame duck? They never met me."

With his characteristic defiance, Kasich has reemerged in recent weeks after a period of retreat that followed a painful decision to concede his presidential ambitions for a second time. The 64-year-old Republican has vetoed what would have been one of the nation's most restrictive abortion laws and Republican-backed legislation further delaying Ohio's alternative-energy mandates. He has resumed his public schedule in Ohio and scheduled appearances over the next week in Atlanta for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and in Washington to discuss health care with senators and attend President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration.

Kasich is Republicans' singular 2016 presidential contender never to fall in line behind Trump. His actions cost Kasich control of the Ohio Republican Party on Jan. 6, when then-Chairman Matt Borges was pushed out by Trump's favored candidate after the president-elect made personal phone calls to some central committee members.

"The governor faces some unusual political problems because of the fallout of the presidential election," said John Green, of the University of Akron's Bliss Institute. University of Dayton associate political science professor Nancy Martorano Miller said, "I think the rest of the state GOP is trying to walk that line between the two of them, because we don't know how this is going to play out. The big question marks are how is President Trump going to react to places and things and people that didn't line up behind him?"

That Kasich aides remain engaged on social media and that Kasich is writing op-eds and a book suggest the former congressman isn't done running for office, Miller said. In other words: This, too, is politics. "They may be banking on a strategy that things go horribly wrong for the Republican Party in the next two years," she said. "It's a risky bet."

#### Voter Support

But Kasich has sustained voter support in his closely divided bellwether state. A Monmouth University Poll in October found that Kasich's anti-Trump stance hadn't hurt his overall favorability rating, though he has lost some support among fellow Republicans and gained some among Democrats.

During public events this week, Kasich espoused a message that's equal parts John F. Kennedy and Mr. Rogers, urging people to ask not what politicians can do for them, but to "stick your nose in somebody else's business" to help solve society's tough problems. Bracing the state for a painful budget cycle, he says that every person is special and that the country needs people engaged in their communities to effect change.

Nazek Habatfha, 35, of Dublin, is a graduate student and Islamic youth leader who petitioned for Kasich's eventual veto of the renewable energy bill. She said Kasich impressed her as he weathered the year's political blows without seeming to betray his values. "Sometimes doing the right thing is not necessarily doing the popular thing. That's really the position that John Kasich is in, as I view it, and I hope that we will look back at John Kasich and say he was that minority voice that stood up for what is right," said Habatfha, a Hillary Clinton voter. "Right now, popular opinion is not on his side." — AP



John Kasich

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## Warren embraces role as foil to Trump

onald Trump's election has propelled Sen Elizabeth Warren into an even sharper partisan spotlight as she embraces her role as a top Democratic foil to the Republican president-elect. In just the past few weeks, Warren has penned a scathing 16-page critique of Trump's nominee for education secretary, Betsy DeVos; grilled his pick for housing secretary, Ben Carson; co-sponsored legislation requiring the president and vice president to disclose and divest any potential financial conflicts of interest; and signed onto legislation to block the creation of a federal religious registry.

The Massachusetts Democrat is leaning on every lever of power she has - from her fundraising prowess to her social media accounts - to position herself as a leading voice of a party in political exile. "My priorities haven't changes since the day I got into office," Warren said in an interview with AP. "I see my job as making sure the voices of ordinary people aren't drowned out in Washington by those who have money and power."

Her list of grievances with Trump is long and growing longer. But in a shift from the campaign, when Warren lobbed Twitter grenade after Twitter grenade to get under Trump's skin, she says her criticism is now more focused on her top priority: The economic well-being of middle- and working-class families.

She has excoriated Trump's pick for Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin, saying he profited from the foreclosure crisis; called out Trump's Department of Labor nominee, fast food entrepreneur Andrew Puzder, after hearing from workers who said they were underpaid, had their wages stolen, and were forced to work in unsafe conditions; and vowed to fight to protect President Barack Obama's healthcare law and preserve the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which she helped create.

"The Republicans have put us on the path to repealing the ACA (Affordable Care Act), and that will make a profound difference in the lives of millions of Americans," Warren told the AP. "I'm all for making the ACA better, but not for throwing it out. What the Republicans are doing is irresponsible and cruel."

committee - PAC for a Level Playing Field - she has doled out hundreds of thousands of dollars in the past two years to Democratic candidates and committees in

#### Long view

Warren is taking the political long view. She is an aggressive fundraiser, and through her political action



Elizabeth Warren

committee - PAC for a Level Playing Field - she has doled out hundreds of thousands of dollars in the past two years to Democratic candidates and committees in the hope of strengthening the party's hand in future elections. "The Democrat's agenda is the American people's agenda," she said. Warren won't say whether she is prepping for a possible 2020 run for president, although she has announced plans to run for re-election in 2018, making the case for a second term in part by again pointing to "Donald Trump and his team of billionaires, bigots, and Wall Street bankers" in an email to supporters.

Massachusetts Republicans have labeled Warren a "hyperpartisan bully more interested in scoring political points than delivering actual results." But among voters in her home state where she remains popular, the reaction to Warren's spikes-up approach is more nuanced. "I'm just tired of all the fighting," said Tim James, 26, of Newton, who works in macroeconomics. "I don't agree with a lot of the things that Trump had to say ... but we've had about eight years or so of gridlock in Washington, and I think that it's important for us to try to put some of the more divisive rhetoric to the side." Jay Fiset, a 30-year-old chef from Somerville, also said that while Trump and Warren may be political polar opposites, it's time to ditch the campaign.

"They're going to but heads," he said. "But I think that they should come together and try and figure out the problems rather than pinpointing who's doing what wrong." Others see a reason to applaud every Warren missive. "She should definitely keep going hard after him because he hasn't admitted to anything yet. He hasn't apologized for anything," said Dencis Pena, 37, of Boston, who works in the insurance industry. "Until he changes and shows he actually understands the facts, people should not let him off the hook." — AP

## IRAN WARY OF RISING US 'HOSTILITY'

year after its nuclear deal took effect, Iran is increasingly concerned over the arrival of US President-elect Donald Trump, who has threatened to tear up the historic accord. Analysts say it is unlikely the Trump administration will completely dismantle the agreement, which he described as "the worst deal ever negotiated". A series of cabinet appointments, however, have signalled Trump is likely to take a hard line on Tehran. And that will ratchet up pressure on Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, who is making the nuclear deal a centrepiece of his re-election bid this year.

"Some of the people who are taking office in the executive branch have a long history of being against Iran," said Foad Izadi, a professor of international studies at Tehran University. "We are going to see a harsher policy toward Iran during the Trump administration," he said. On Sunday, Iran's top negotiator in the nuclear talks accused Washington of doing "whatever it can to slow down Iran's progress" after the deal. "In the last 12 months, we have witnessed delays and the disrespecting of promises by the US and some countries. Their hostility increases by the day," Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghoti told reporters.

In confirmation hearings ahead of Trump's January 20 inauguration, several of his cabinet nominees made clear their opposition to a further softening of ties with Tehran. Secretary of state nominee Rex Tillerson said he would recommend a "full review" of the nuclear agreement.

#### 'Stupid' to tear up deal

Defense secretary pick James Mattis said Washington needed to "live up" to its word on the accord, but also described Iran as "the biggest destabilizing force in the Middle East". Despite his fierce rhetoric and the views of senior cabinet members, Trump is not likely to try to reverse the deal, experts say. "The situation may become worse, but the (nuclear deal) will not be torn up, simply because that's stupid," said Nasser Hadian, another professor of international relations at Tehran University.

The agreement, which lifted a wide range of international sanctions in exchange for limits on Iran's nuclear program, took effect on Jan 16, 2016 following years of talks. Negotiated by Tehran and six world powers including the United States, Russia and China, the agreement was widely seen as a major victory for international diplomacy. That would make reneging on the deal nearly impossible and fraught with huge risks, analysts say. "Even the American hawks are all saying don't tear it up," Hadian said.

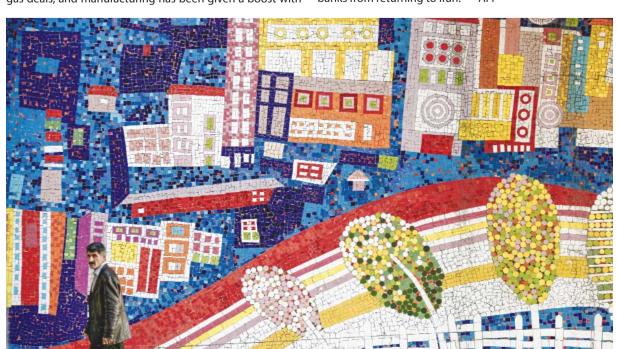
Instead, Hadian said, the Trump administration is likely to put pressure on Iran in areas outside the nuclear agreement, including with more sanctions based on its human rights record, ballistic missile program and alleged support for "terrorism" in the Middle East. That may be bad news for Rouhani, who is hoping to point to the agreement and the end of Iran's international isolation as he seeks re-election in a presidential vote in May. Rouhani, a moderate, managed to push through the deal despite vocal opposition from hardliners, largely by touting its potential economic benefits for Iranians stung by years of sanctions.

#### Rouhani 'oversold' accord

In some areas, the deal has started paying off. Iran more than doubled its oil exports to more than 2.5 million barrels per day last year, earning \$29 billion in the nine months leading to Dec 20. Energy giants including France's Total and Anglo-Dutch Shell are lining up to seek oil and gas deals, and manufacturing has been given a boost with

the return of France's PSA, which operates joint ventures with local carmakers.

The lifting of sanctions also allowed the signing of two huge contracts for the purchase of 100 aircraft from European aerospace giant Airbus and another 80 from US rival Boeing. But ordinary Iranians have yet to see much improvement in their daily lives. While the economy grew by six percent between March and September last year and inflation was brought back below 10 percent, joblessness continued to rise, with 12.7 percent of the working population unemployed. Among those under 29, more than a quarter were out of work. Many Iranians believed the nuclear agreement would see a surge in economic activity, including foreign investments, "but a lot of those hopes have not materialized," Izadi said. Iranian officials have accused Washington of failing to abide by the spirit of the deal, including with a raft of other sanctions related to non-nuclear issues that have helped deter major Western banks from returning to Iran. — AFP



An Iranian man walks along a street past a mosaic mural on the first anniversary of the nuclear agreement in the capital Tehran on Saturday. — AFP

#### **STRUGGLING FOREST** SACK MONTANIER

LONDON: Nottingham Forest have sacked their French manager Philippe Montanier after just seven months in charge, the struggling English Championship club said on Saturday. "Nottingham Forest can confirm that the club have parted company with head coach Philippe Montanier," the Midlands

outfit said on their website (www.nottinghamforest.co.uk). The former double European Cup winners are struggling in England's second-tier and were recently the subject of a takeover attempt by a U.S.-owned consortium. Forest have taken two points from their last 21 and Saturday's 0-0 draw with Birmingham City left them 20th, three points above the relegation zone. The 52-year-old Montanier, who has also been in charge at Stade Rennes, Real Sociedad, Valenciennes and Boulogne, is the seventh permanent manager to leave Forest since the club was taken over by businessman Fawaz Al Hasawi in July 2012. Forest have put academy man-

ager Gary Brazil in charge until a successor is named. — Reuters

#### CRISIS-RIDDEN VALENCIA EASE RELEGATION FEARS

MADRID: Valencia moved four points clear of La Liga's relegation zone as goals from Martin Montoya and Santi Mina sealed a first league win in nine games in a 2-1 victory over Espanyol yesterday. The home fans once again called for Singaporean owner Peter Lim to leave the club before kick-off after a disastrous campaign that has seen two coaches and the sporting director leave the Mestalla. However, there was finally some relief on the pitch in the first game since interim coach Voro Gonzalez was put in charge until the end of the season as Montoya rounded off a fine team move to give Valencia the perfect start after 17 minutes. Mina sealed a first home win in La Liga since September 17 minutes from time when he forced home the rebound after Diego Lopez clawed Dani Parejo's free-kick off the line. David Lopez ensured a nervy finish when he pulled a goal back with five minutes to go, but Valencia clung on to gain some breathing space from the bottom three. At the other end of the table, Real Madrid will look to extend their lead and a Spanish record 40-game unbeaten run when they travel to third-placed Sevilla later.—AFP

#### MARSH OUT OF PAKISTAN ODIS

**MELBOURNE:** Australia's fast bowling all-rounder Mitchell Marsh has been ruled out of the remainder of the one-day international series against Pakistan with a shoulder injury, the country's cricket board said yesterday. The 25-year-old Marsh was named in Australia's 16-man squad for the four-test series in India and will hope to recover in time for the tour starting next month. Marsh has had problems with his right shoulder, which has restricted his bowling ability, and he pulled up sore after Australia's six-wicket loss against Pakistan in yesterday's second one-day international at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. "Mitchell has had an ongoing shoulder injury which we have been managing but it is now at a point where he is unable to function at the level required," Cricket Australia physio David Beakley said in a statement. "He now requires a period of rest and rehabilitation in order to return to full fitness." Cricket Australia did not name a replacement for Marsh but added batsman Peter Handscomb to the Australia ODI squad with Chris Lynn ruled out of the third ODI in Perth due to an ongoing neck injury. Lynn, who also missed yesterday's second ODI at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, will travel to Brisbane to consult with a specialist. —Reuters

#### JACK, DEGALE FIGHT TO DRAW IN SUPER-MIDDLEWEIGHT CLASH

**NEW YORK:** Badou Jack knocked out a tooth and almost knocked out the referee but he couldn't convince the judges Saturday that he did enough against James DeGale to become the unified super-middleweight champ.

Both boxing champions suffered knockdowns in the action-packed title fight which ended in a draw after two judges scored it 113-113 and the other had it 114-112 in favour of DeGale.

The fighters retained their belts and each complained afterwards that they had won the fight at the Barclays Center arena. World Boxing Council champion Jack was knocked down in the opening round when he got hit by a left hand.

It was the third time he had been knocked down in his career, but he gained a measure of revenge by knocking out one of DeGale's teeth in the 10th round.

DeGale barely survived the final round when he was knocked down by a right uppercut on the chin. He managed to get up but threw very few punches during the rest of the 12th round.

"I thought I won the fight," said Sweden's Jack inside the ring immediately following the fight. "I finished stronger. His knockdown was a flash knockdown."

International Boxing Federation champ DeGale was standing next to Jack and had heard enough.

"Don't listen to this rubbish. I threw the cleanest shots," said DeGale, who is the first Briton to win both Olympic gold and a professional world title. "I got huge respect for

this man. He is tough, he's durable, he's skillful. You are the man. I won that fight."

DeGale said he felt those punches from Jack in the 12th. He managed to gather his senses and buy some time by getting into a clinch. "I was kind of hurt. I am willing to do it again," DeGale said.

#### 'BAD FOR BOXING'

One of the strangest moments in a brutal, but thrilling, fight took place at the end the fifth round, when Jack accidentally punched Arthur Mercanti Jr., sending the referee staggering across the ring.

Mercanti shook it off, took a couple of sips of water, and returned to action for the sixth round.

Jack's promoter Floyd Mayweather also complained about the scoring.

"This is the second time in a row Badou has gotten a bad decision," Mayweather said. "James DeGale is a hell of a fighter, but tonight he didn't win. At the end of the day, I don't know what the judges are looking at. "This is bad for boxing."

Mayweather my win out in the end as the two will probably have to set up a rematch to determine who is the best 168pound fighter in the world. On the undercard, Gervonta Davis knocked out Jose Pedraza in the seventh round to capture the IBF junior lightweight title.

The 22-year-old Davis won his 17th straight fight with no losses with a dominating performance against the Puerto Rican, who was making the third defence of his title. — AFP



**Graeme Storm** 

## STORM PIPS MCILROY FOR 'DREAM' SA OPEN TRIUMPH

JOHANNESBURG: Graeme Storm of England defeated world number two Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland in a play-off yesterday to win the South African Open 83 days after losing his European Tour card.

Storm, 249 places below McIlroy in the world listings, regained the right to compete only because American Patrick Reed was sidelined for playing insufficient events last season.

This is a dream come true. The whole experience this week has been absolutely incredible," said Storm after his triumph at Glendower Golf Club in Johannesburg.

"I also have to thank Patrick Reed. I got my playing card back because he did not play enough events and I have embraced the second chance with both hands."

"I am in shock," he admitted after winning a competition first staged in 1893, and the second oldest national golf championship after the British Open. "What can I say? This is surreal. I have just beaten a golfer who is the best in the world right now." Gracious loser McIlroy said: "Obviously it is disappointing to finish runnerup, but Graeme has played well all week and what a story it is for him. "He thought he had lost his card at the end of last year and now he is standing with a trophy in his hands after the first event of this year. I am delighted for him.

"I wish I could have done a little more, but it is not a bad way to start the season and gives me something to build on in the weeks ahead." Storm, whose only other European Tour triumph came 10 years ago in the French Open, won with a par four at the third extra hole when McIlroy missed a seven-foot putt.

It was the third time McIlroy, who trails Australian Jason Day in the world rankings, had been involved in a European Tour play-off, and the third time he failed.

Three strokes ahead going into the final round, Storm carded a 71 while McIlroy, second overnight, fired a 68.

Storm had a let-off at the penultimate hole of the final round, which he parred, when McIlroy dropped a stroke having taken two shots to get out of a greenside bunker.

They finished on 270 — 18 under par-one stroke ahead of Englishman Jordan Smith, who closed with a 68. The play-off was confined to the 18th and McIlroy twice survived wayward drives to salvage pars, and match the steadier Storm. McIlroy was short and just off the green with his second shot at the third extra hole, then narrowly missed a par putt while Storm reached

the green in two and two putted for victory. Storm closed with a round of two birdies and one bogey over the 6,942-metre (7,100-yard) parkland track. Taking anti-inflammatory tablets to ease a back pain he suffered since Thursday, McIlroy birdied five holes and bogeyed one in his final round.

It was his second South African Open appearance, eight years after missing a play-off by one shot when a virtual unknown.

Defending champion Brandon Stone of South Africa, on the back foot after an opening 74, closed with a 71 to finish 11 shots adrift of Storm and McIlroy. — AFP

LATE BIRDIE RUSH PUTS THOMAS SEVEN AHEAD IN HAWAII

**HONOLULU:** Justin Thomas overpowered Waialae Country Club over the previous two days but his patience was tested early in the third round on Saturday before he caught fire to stretch his overnight lead to seven shots at the Sony Open in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The American parred the first eight holes before he finally clicked into gear with consecutive birdies, followed by a strong finish as he carded a five-under-par 65 for a 22-under total of 188 in the PGA Tour's first full-field event of the year.

His aggregate of 188 tied the record low for 54 holes on the PGA Tour, set by Steve Stricker at the 2010 John Deere Classic. "Just patience," the long-hitting 23-year-old told Golf Channel when asked what had been the key to his bogey-free round. "I didn't hit my iron shots as well I felt like today as I did the first two days.

"I had a lot of scoring opportunities and scoring clubs, I just hit really poor iron shots to 25-30 feet. But it was great. I managed my day really well and to shoot five-under not having my best stuff was great. And going bogey-free was awesome."

Thomas, who opened with a magical 11under 59 at Waialae to take control of the tournament, is seeking his third victory of the young season, and a second in a row, and will head into the final round seven clear of fellow

American Zach Johnson (65).

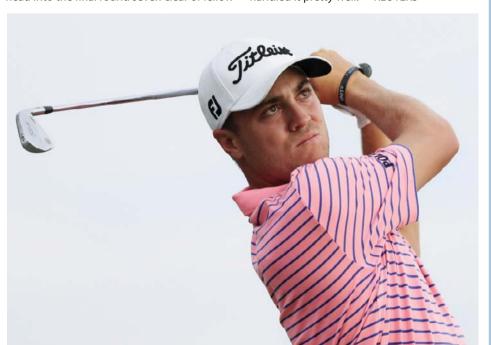
England's Olympic champion Justin Rose (66) is a further stroke back at 14-under, level with Americans Gary Woodland (68) and Hudson Swafford (66).

American journeyman Kevin Kisner, who made the cut right on the number, narrowly missed a 10-foot eagle putt on his final hole that would have earned him a 59 and settled

for a 60 that left him nine shots off the pace. Thomas, five strokes clear overnight after setting a PGA Tour record low for 36 holes with a 17-under total of 123, had to wait until the par-five ninth before he picked up his first shot of the day with a comfortable two-putt

He then birdied the driveable par-four 10th, getting up and down from a greenside bunker, and the par-four 14th, where he hit a superb second shot from the right rough to within three feet of the cup, to extend his lead to six strokes.

Thomas also birdied the 16th, draining a 10-footer, and the par-five last, where he missed the fairway off the tee and clipped palm trees fronds with his second shot before hitting a wedge to 14 feet and sinking the putt. "I just have to go out and do what I did today," Thomas said of Sunday's final round. "I played with a big lead today and felt like I handled it pretty well."—REUTERS



HONOLULU: Justin Thomas of the United States plays his shot from the 17th tee during the third round of the Sony Open In Hawaii at Waialae Country Club on Saturday in Honolulu, Hawaii. —AFP



#### LEWIS SCORES 3 TDS AS PATS ADVANCE TO AFC TITLE GAME

**FOXBOROUGH:** The New England Patriots are headed back to a familiar spot: The AFC championship game. Dion Lewis had a 13yard touchdown reception, a 98-yard kickoff return for a score, and a late 1-yard touchdown to help the Patriots hold off the Houston Texans 34-16 on Saturday night and advance to an NFL-record sixth straight conference title game.

New England will host the winner of tonight's Pittsburgh-Kansas City matchup next Sunday for the right to play in the

Super Bowl in Houston on Feb. 5. "Whoever we play next week is going to be a great football team," Tom Brady said. "We're going to have to play better than we played tonight on offense." Lewis became the fifth Patriots player to score three touchdowns in a playoff game. He's also the first player in the Super Bowl era to score on a rush, a catch and a kick return in a postseason game.

"I just approached it that I would be in there on every play. That's just the way I prepare," Lewis said. "So when it does happen, I won't be surprised. I'll always be ready." Bill Belichick's Patriots (15-2) survived a gritty effort by the Texans' topranked defense, which intercepted Brady twice. Houston's special teams also forced a third turnover. But the Texans (10-8) couldn't find enough traction on offense to take full advantage of the Patriots' mistakes, settling for field goals on both of Brady's picks.

New England led just 17-13 at the half. but pushed its lead to 24-13 early in the third quarter on a 19-yard touchdown pass from Brady to James White. Houston's

Brock Osweiler was intercepted three times after that, and the Texans managed only a field goal the rest of game.

It was the first breakout game of the season for Lewis, who spent the first eight games of the season on injured reserve recovering from offseason surgery on his left knee. Brady finished 18 of 38 for 287 yards and two touchdowns and was showered with chants of "MVP! MVP!" and "Brady! Brady!" late in the game. Julian Edelman was Brady's most dependable target, catching eight passes for 137 yards.

Osweiler was just 23 of 40 for 198 yards with the two turnovers. "You need to capitalize on great opportunities against a football team like this," Osweiler said. "That's my fault, I'll clean that up."

When New England did have the ball in the first half, it gave Houston a steady diet of Lewis early with LeGarrette Blount coming off an illness that limited him during practice this week. Without Blount to contend with, the Texans applied pressure to Brady. A.J. Bouye intercepted a slightly overthrown ball by Brady late in the first quarter on a pass that bounced out of the hands of receiver Michael Floyd. That led to a 27-yard field goal that cut New England's lead to 14-6. On the ensuing kickoff, Lewis coughed up the ball on a hit from Akeem Dent. Eddie Pleasant fell on it at the Patriots 12, and two plays later, Brock Osweiler hit C.J. Fiedorowicz from 8 yards out to cut the deficit to 14-13. Brady only threw two interceptions during the regular season. With his 28 touchdown passes, that was the lowest touchdown to interception ratio in NFL history. — AP

## MURRAY TAKES AIM AT AUSTRALIAN OPEN JINX

MELBOURNE: Andy Murray sets out over the years, and I just haven't mantoday to end a record run of Australian Open final defeats as his great rival Novak Djokovic vies to become the tournament's greatest champion of all-time. World number one Murray is looking to avoid becoming the first man in the post-1968 Open era to lose six Grand Slam finals at the same major. His coach Ivan Lendl lost five finals at the US Open before he broke through in New York in 1985. Murray, who opens his campaign with a match against Ukraine's Illya Marchenko on Rod Laver Arena, says he's in a better position this time to finally break through for his maiden Australian Open. "I obviously feel pretty confident after the way the last season finished," Murray said. "I do love it here. I love the conditions. I have played really well here

aged to get over the final hurdle.

"But I think I'm in a decent position to do it. I think I have a chance to win here." Murray is coming off a magnificent 2016 which included a second Wimbledon crown, a successful Olympic title defence and knocking Djokovic off the top spot to become world number one for the first time.

Murray is drawn to meet Japanese fifth seed Nishikori or Swiss legend Roger Federer in the quarters and 2014 winner Wawrinka in the semis.

#### SIX OF THE BEST

He has Lendl back in his team and is conscious he has to keep improving to keep his rivals at bay to hold on to the world's top ranking.

keep moving on, the game will get better. I'll obviously get older, the young guys will continue to improve, and also Novak and Roger (Federer) and Stan (Wawrinka) and Rafa (Nadal) and all the guys at the top are still going to be

wanting to get there," he said. "So that's why having someone like Ivan on my team who has been in that position before and knows what that's like has been important.

"I need to continue to improve. I need to keep working hard."

Murray knows that Djokovic will be gunning for him in the year's first Grand Slam where he has a fantastic record of six finals and six victories going back to 2008. The 12-time Grand Slam champion

"The reality is, in sport, that things record for Australian titles if he wins for a seventh time in Melbourne.

> The Serb is currently tied with Australia's Roy Emerson on six Australian titles. "One of the reasons I'm here is to try to win every match that I play, and eventually the title," Djokovic said.

Djokovic faces a potential bananaskin in the first round against experienced Spaniard Fernando Verdasco. Verdasco, ranked 40, has beaten Djokovic four times in their 13 encounters and the Serb had to save five match points in beating him earlier this month in the semi-finals in Doha.

Last year, Verdasco knocked out compatriot Rafael Nadal in a five-setter first round thriller in Melbourne.

Should Djokovic get off to a winning can take outright ownership of the start he is seeded to face Brisbane

International winner Grigor Dimitrov in the fourth round, powerful Austrian eighth seed Dominic Thiem in the quarters and Canada's big-serving third seed Milos Raonic in the semi-finals.

Outside the top two, the main hopes rest with reigning US Open champion Stan Wawrinka, who won in Melbourne in 2014, Raonic and Japanese hope Kei Nishikori. Grand Slam warriors Federer and Nadal should also be in the mix, but they lack match time and their rankings have slipped.

Seventeen-time Grand Slam great Federer, who at 17 is out of the top 10 for the first time since late 2002, is easing his way back after six months out with a knee injury, while 14-time Grand Slam winner Nadal is coming off another injury-hit season. — AFP

#### COMEBACK KING HAAS READIES FOR MELBOURNE PARK RETURN

RAFAEL NADAL SAYS

NO PLANS TO RETIRE

**MELBOURNE:** Tommy Haas's body has been carved open by the surgeon's knife and pockmarked by pain-killing injections over the course of a 20-year career, but the 38-year-old German is still looking forward to putting himself through another punishing grand slam campaign.

Haas will return to the court for the first time since October 2015 as a wildcard at the Australian Open after a long rehabilitation following surgery for a torn ligament on his right foot.

The ligament repair last April was his ninth major surgery, having been under the knife for a litany of shoulder complaints and other problems with his elbows, hips and ankles. Haas's previous comeback from surgery on a troubled right shoulder was in mid-2015 but it lasted only four months before he was sidelined with the foot injury. Rather than feel his body might be telling him something, the aborted comeback only reinforced Haas's determination to bow out on what he called his "own terms". "I think it's very important for any athlete, it doesn't matter what sport you are in or whatever it is you may do, it's important to find that right time or that moment for you, when you feel it's over, to move on and do something else," he told

**MELBOURNE:** Rafael Nadal isn't planning to

give up tennis anytime soon. Johanna Konta

won't take too seriously her dominating win in the Sydney International last Friday. And

Sam Stosur, who has never done well at her

home Grand Slam tournament, isn't getting

too down on herself after her preparation -

or lack of it- for Melbourne Park. Following

are some thoughts and impressions from

players who spoke yesterday, the day before

pulling out of the French Open before the

third round with left wrist injury and another

rest at the end of the season. Just don't ask

him if he's ready to pull out a rod and reel, or

a 9-iron. "If I don't believe that I can be com-

petitive, and when I mean competitive, is

fighting for the things that I fought for dur-

ing the last 10 years, I will be probably play-

ing golf or fishing at home," Nadal said. "I am

being honest ... I am here because I believe ...

I can fight for the things that really motivate

me." Given his history with injuries, Nadal

was asked if he was playing pain free. "What

do you mean 'pain-free'?" he said. "I am not

the start of the Australian Open:

reporters at Melbourne Park on Sundav.

"It's very important just to be back on tour, back here at the Australian Open, it's been a while since I've played here.

"I'm very excited about the chance to go out on the court one more time ... I've had great memories here.

"As this year goes on ... I'm just very excited to see what's in store for me. "And then (later) know exactly the right time to say goodbye." Twice named the ATP Tour's Comeback Player of the Year,' in 2004 and 2012, Haas is a three-times semi-finalist at Melbourne Park, the last trip to the final four coming in 2007.

He will kick off his latest return in tough conditions on Tuesday, with a scorcher forecast for his first round match against 47th-ranked Frenchman Benoit Paire.

Named tournament director for Indian Wells last year, Haas has a comfortable retirement waiting but said he still dreamed of going deep at a tournament one more time. But as the oldest player in the men's draw, he could be forgiven the old cliche of taking it one match at a time at Melbourne Park. "Now it's really about playing point for point, game for game," he said. "I'm very stoked about the next opportunity." — Reuters

really say that I did something wrong. She

was just playing amazing tennis." Konta said

yesterday she's not reading too much into

home major wasn't helped with first-round

losses at Brisbane and Sydney "I can't change

it, it is what it is," Stosur said of her early exits.

"I'm not going into my first round freaking

out that I haven't had more than two match-

es. Like I said, I've done everything else that I

can. Obviously it would have been really nice

to have played more. But I'm pretty sure I'm

not the only person in that situation from the

first two weeks of the year." The 18th-seeded

Stosur has a tough first-round match against

**SIMONA HALEP** 

round last year at Melbourne Park. This year

she'll have the distinction of opening play on

the main Rod Laver Arena today, against

American Shelby Rogers. "I hope is going to

be better this year ... it's special to open the

tournament on the biggest stadium. I'm not

thinking very much at that thing. I just have to

go there. I know the opponent pretty well."

Halep beat Rogers in straight sets in the third

round at the 2015 US Open in their only previ-

**TOMMY HAAS** 

The 38-year-old German veteran has said

The fourth-seeded Halep lost in the first

Heather Watson of Britain.

ous meeting.



MELBOURNE: Angelique Kerber of Germany hits a return during a practice session ahead of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

## KERBER LURKS AS SERENA CHASES RECORD SLAM

those plaudits. "Obviously to have beaten a player like Aga, I'm definitely very pleased with the level I played," Konta said. "But we all know that it's not a given. It doesn't decide and a host of dangerous players out to derail her how you will do in the next event. I'm taking it as a positive from the week itself, but I'm at the Australian Open, warning she is in Melbourne to win. The American gets her quest looking to, again, work hard here and really try to do the best that I can here." for an Open-era record 23rd Grand Slam title underway in a difficult first-round clash against

> seeded two, is in fighting mood despite being bundled out in the second round of her only warm-up tournament, the Auckland Classic. "I didn't come here to lose in the first round, or the second round, or at all," she said on Saturday. "If I can play the way I've been practising, it will be fine. "I've been spending so much time on the court. It feels really good to be back, just hitting on Rod Laver (Arena), hitting on all the stadiums, it's a good feeling. I love it here."

> If she gets past Bencic, Williams could then encounter either in-form Briton Johanna Konta, who won this week's Sydney International, or sixth seed Dominika Cibulkova in the quarterfinals. And then there's Germany's Kerber, who is scheduled to meet her in the final as the newlyengaged Williams looks to better Steffi Graf's 22 Grand Slam singles titles by winning her seventh Australian crown. Kerber stunned the tennis great at Melbourne Park last year, upsetting her in the decider for her first major title before later replacing her as the world number one.

> Kerber gets her campaign started against Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko on a Monday evening centre court clash. But she has not had a good start to 2017, falling to Ukraine's Elina Svitolina in the Brisbane International quarter-finals, then slumping out in round two of the Sydney International to Russian teenager Darya Kasatkina. Despite this, she is confident of finding her best form over the next fortnight.

> "For me, I'm expecting the same as I was expecting the years before-going out there trying my best, fighting till the last point," she said. "This is always how I'm playing, how I am. This

#### **KONTA ON A HIGH**

Aside from Kerber, Polish world number three Agnieszka Radwanska, who lost to Williams in last year's semi-finals, Romanian pocket-rocket Simona Halep and Spain's Garbine Muguruza all pose a threat. The form players are British ninth seed Konta and Brisbane International winner Karolina Pliskova, ranked five.

Konta, who made the semis last year and was named the WTA's most improved player for 2016, has blossomed and is encouraged by winning in Sydney. "I'm definitely very pleased with the level I played," she said. "But we all know that it's not a given. It doesn't decide how you will do in the next event."

Czech Republic's Pliskova is another dangerous floater but like Konta is taking nothing for granted despite her stellar early season efforts.

MELBOURNE: Serena Williams has vowed to "I would definitely not take me as a favourite of month. Also out on maternity leave is two-time make life difficult for top seed Angelique Kerber this tournament," said the tall 24-year-old, who Australian Open winner Victoria Azarenka, along won the girl's singles title at Melbourne Park in 2010. Several notable players are missing, including two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova who was injured by a knife-wielding intruder at her home in the Czech Republic last

A surprise run to the semi-finals at last

The chatter reached fever pitch last Friday,

however, when Konta simply demolished

world number three Agnieszka Radwanska in

the city of her birth to claim her second tour

title. Konta's huge improvement over the last

year has come on the back of intensive work

on the mental side of her game, so it was no

surprise that she was not buying into talk of

played," she said of the Sydney International

final. "But we all know that it's not a given. It

doesn't decide how you will do in the next

event. I'm taking it as a positive from the week

itself, but I'm looking to, again, work hard here

Australian Open back in 1972 and her 1977

Wimbledon triumph remains the last in a

Virginia Wade was the last Briton to win the

and really try to do the best that I can here."

"I'm definitely very pleased with the level I

grand slam titles on Sunday.

with five-time major champion Maria Sharapova, who is suspended until April after failing a drugs test at last year's tournament. World number eight Madison Keys is another absentee after minor wrist surgery. — AFP

#### Switzerland's Belinda Bencic in forecast swelter-**RAFAEL NADAL** SAMANTHA STOSUR The takeaway: Rafa is not about to call it ing heat tomorrow. Competing in her 15th Australian Open, It will be one the few matches she has played the highest-ranked Australian woman in the Dark Horse Johanna Konta quits anytime soon. Nadal, a 14-time major after a four-month lay-off. But the 35-year-old, winner, is coming off two lengthy injury laydraw has never made it past the fourth round offs last year, including 2 1/2 months off after at Melbourne Park. Her preparation for her

KEEPING IT ALL IN PERSPECTIVE **MELBOURNE:** Johanna Konta did her best to downplay expectations yesterday but there was no quieting the chatter around Melbourne Park that, for the first time in decades, Britain has a genuine contender for the Australian Open women's crown. Having been born and raised until her early

ing WTA Finals.

teens in Sydney has clearly helped the 25year-old to a higher profile in a host nation desperate for local success, even by proxy, but there are good reasons why the ninth seed is attracting such attention. year's tournament was followed by a season where Konta won her maiden title at Stanford and moved into the top 10 for the first time, just missing out on a spot at the season-end-

That win sparked a memorable season for Kerber, who followed it up by claiming the US Open, where Williams crashed in the semi-finals and has barely played since.

will not be changing."

#### **TRICKY OPENER**

grand slam by a British woman.

"It's always been my dream to be at the top of the game," Konta added when asked about whether she could keep her career on an upward trajectory.

"As a possibility, of course. But I think there's a lot of work to be done between reality and dreams. I think there's work to be done there." The work starts again tomorrow in a first round tie against Kirsten Flipkens, who beat Konta in their one previous meeting and reached the Wimbledon semi-finals in 2013.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge, the opportunity to play her again. She's a great player," Konta said. "She's been around the tour

for a long time. That's by no accident." Konta split with coach Esteban Carril last

December soon after her sports psychologist Juan Coto, a friend of the Spaniard, died suddenly at the age of 47.

Belgian Wim Fissette, a former mentor of grand slam champion Kim Clijsters, has taken up the coaching reins and Konta was pleased with how the relationship was going.

"I guess we're doing well together," she laughed. "I think he's a very calm individual, but he's also quite funny. So far we're having a good time." Having a good time is clearly important to a player like Konta, who struggled to deal with the pressures of the game before she embarked on her meteoric rise. "I am extremely grateful and really am enjoying what I do," she said. "I really love playing. I love learning. I just try to make the most out of every single day, and therefore really just max-



**MELBOURNE: Johanna Konta of Britain hits** a return during a practice session ahead of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

#### injured, no. Pain-free is a long time ago." **JOHANNA KONTA**

The Sydney-born British player, a surprise semifinalist at Melbourne Park last year, won the Sydney International final against Agnieszka Radwanska last Friday, a victory so dominating that the Polish player, ranked third in the world, said: "I can't remember playing someone like this on that level, that consistent for the whole match. I couldn't



**MELBOURNE: Eugenie Bouchard of** Canada hits a return during a practice session ahead of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday. —AFP

2017 will be his last year on tour - he's taking over as tournament director at Indian Wells. Haas, who plays Benoit Paire of France in the first round, wants to go out with some dignity after a career of injuries. He has been ranked as high as No. 2, won 15 ATP Tour titles, reached the semifinals of the Australian Open three times and Wimbledon once, and won a silver medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. His career has been stalled by injuries since he had shoulder surgery two years ago and right foot surgery in the middle of last year. "I think it's important to find that right time, or that moment for you when you feel it's over and it's time to do something else," Haas said yesterday. "For me it's very important just to be back on tour and back here at the Australian Open. It's been a while since I've played here and I'm excited to get the opportunity to go out on the court one more time and compete." And to keep playing, hoping that his best is once again around the corner. "When you are a dreamer, and a lot of us are, you obviously like to play at your best level again, maybe play against some of the top players somewhere on a big stage and play a great matches," Haas said. "Maybe get far in a tournament one more time." — AP



### AUSTRALIA LOOK TO SPIN, VERSATILITY, TO TURN INDIA TIDE

**MELBOURNE:** Australia have included uncapped Mitchell Swepson and recalled Ashton Agar in a four-man spinbowling unit for the test tour of India, part of a versatile squad they hope can turn the tide of their recent results in the country. The Australians, who have lost their last nine series in India, also recalled all-rounders Mitchell Marsh and Glenn Maxwell to allow flexibility to deal whatever conditions they face in the four tests starting next month. Top order batsman Shaun Marsh, Mitchell's brother, was also recalled after losing his place in the side for the series against South Africa and Pakistan through injury. Jackson Bird was included in the

16-man squad as a third pace option along with Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc, despite being dropped for the final Test against Pakistan to allow two spinners to play in Sydney.

The Australians will review their fastbowling resources after the second Test in Bangalore. "We don't know what pitch conditions we will come up against in each of the venues but wanted to make sure we have plenty of options available to us" head selector Trevor Hohns said. "We know India is an incredibly tough place to tour and to succeed in, but we have a squad here which we believe can perform well enough in those conditions to give a good account of itself.

"No country has performed all that could play a part over there. If he doeswell over there in the last 10 years or more, but somehow, some way, someone has to turn the tide."

Leg spinner Swepson and left-arm orthodox spinner Agar, who played two tests in England in 2013, will act as backup to off spinner Nathan Lyon and leftarmer Steve O'Keefe. Swepson, who has played 14 first class matches, won out over Adam Zampa because he is the more attacking of the two spinners, Hohns said.

"He is an exciting young leg spinner, he gives the ball a very good rip, he's a wicket-taking leg-spinner," he added. "Given the opportunity, we think he

n't, he'll gain a lot from being there." Hohns described Agar, who scored 98 with the bat on debut in the 2013 Ashes, as a "good all round package" who offered yet more versatility to the squad.

Mitchell Marsh edged out all-rounder Hilton Cartwright, who made his debut in the Pakistan series, because of his superior bowling, Hohns said.

Maxwell, a fast-scoring batsman who has been largely restricted to the shorter forms for his country, played the last of his three tests two years ago.

"Glenn is very experienced in Indian conditions, he's generally regarded as a good player of spin bowling, he's a good fielder and his off-spin is handy," said Hohns. Opener Matt Renshaw and Peter Handscomb, who both impressed after making their debuts in the home summer, were also included, the latter offering back-up to the single specialist wicket-keeper, Matt Wade.

The first test starts in Pune on Feb. 23 and is followed by matches in Bangalore, Ranchi and Dharamsala. Squad: Steve Smith (captain), David Warner, Matt Renshaw, Usman Khawaja, Shaun Marsh, Peter Handscomb, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Matt Wade, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Jackson Bird, Nathan Lyon, Stephen O'Keefe, Ashton Agar, Mitchell Swepson. — Reuters

#### PAKISTAN RECORD FIRST ODI WIN IN AUSTRALIA IN 12 YRS

**MELBOURNE:** Pakistan beat Australia by six wickets in the second one-day international at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday, their first ODI win on Australian soil for 12 years. The win was also Pakistan's first ODI victory at the MCG since 1985 and levels the five-match series at 1-1.

Australian captain Steve Smith won the toss and chose to bat first on a flat-looking wicket, but Pakistan's opening pair Mohammad Amir (3-47) and Junaid Khan (2-40) bowled superbly to help restrict the home side to 220 all out. They were backed up by left arm spinner Imad Wasim (2-37), whose 10-over spell in the middle of the innings tied the batsmen down and slowed the scoring. The modest total never looked enough once Pakistan captain Mohammad Hafeez (72) and fellow opener Sharjeel Khan (29) had put on 68 for the first wicket. Babar Azam chipped in with 34 before Shoaib Malik (42 not out) and Umar Akmal (18 not out) guided the visitors home with 2.2 overs to spare. "I think the bowlers did a great job for us," said Hafeez, who was also named man of the match.

"We wanted to get a total on the board that we were comfortable with because the ball wasn't coming onto the bat.

The bowlers took wickets at the right time and kept the pressure on." Australia went into the match without a recognised spinner and were made to pay the price on a two-paced wicket that favoured the slower bowlers. Their seam attack did its best to restrict the Pakistan batting, with Josh Hazelwood (0-32) the most impressive despite not taking a wicket, and

James Faulkner (2-35) effective with his changes of pace. But the other bowlers were ineffective and expensive, with off-spinner Travis Head going for 23 runs off his 2.4 overs.

#### **IMPRESSIVE**

Amir and Junaid Khan set the tone early with their impressive opening spells. Junaid, brought into the team in place of Wahab Riaz, induced an edge from the dangerous David Warner (16) to leave the Australians on 31-1. Junaid soon added the scalp of Usman Khawaja when he edged to first slip Sharjeel Khan, who took a fine catch low to his left. Australia promoted all-rounder Mitchell Marsh up the order but the experiment failed as he scooped the first ball he faced from Amir to Imad at cover to leave the home side 41 for three.

Head then joined Smith in the middle and hit five boundaries on his way to 29 before he edged Hasan Ali to Mohammad Rizwan with Australia on 86 for four. Smith (60) brought up a hard-fought 50 from 91 balls with only two boundaries and no sixes, but with eight overs to go he got an inside edge onto his pads and then stumps to give Imad his second wicket. There was a steady procession of wickets until Faulkner skied a ball to point off Amir to leave Pakistan needing only 221 to level the series. Smith said the Australians had paid the price for attacking too early and losing key wickets before the spinners came on to bowl. "We were probably about 40 runs too short-the bowlers did a pretty good job of trying to contain them, but we just weren't good enough," he said. — AFP



MELBOURNE: Scoreboard after the Australian innings in the second one-day international against Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday.

Australia	
U. Khawaja c Sharjeel b Junaid	17
D. Warner c Rizwan b Junaid	16
S. Smith b Imad	60
M. Marsh c Imad b Amir	0
T. Head c Rizwan b Hasan	29
G. Maxwell b Imad	23
M. Wade b Malik	35
J. Faulkner c Asad b Amir	19
M. Starc run out (Junaid)	3
P. Cummins c Rizwan b Amir	0
J. Hazelwood not out	0
Extras (lb7, w11)	18
Total (48.2 overs)	220
Fall of wickets: 1-31 (Warner), 2-40 (Kha	waja), 3-41
(Marsh), 4-86 (Head),	
5-128 (Maxwell), 6-193 (Smith), 7-199	(Wade), 8-
207 (Starc), 9-212 (Cummins),	
10-220 (Faulkner)	
Bowling: Amir 9.2-0-47-3 (1w), Junaio	d 8-0-40-2
(3w) Imad $10-0-37-2$ $(2w)$	

(3w), Imad 10-0-37-2 (2w),

11 7.0.20.1 11-f 10.0.45.0 (1) M-1	1. 4.0
Hasan 7-0-29-1, Hafeez 10-0-45-0 (1w), Mali	K 4-0
15-1	
Pakistan	
Sharjeel Khan c Wade b Faulkner	29
Mohammad Hafeez c Hazelwood b Faulkner	72
Babar Azam c Hazelwood b Starc	34
Asad Shafiq c Wade b Starc	13
Shoaib Malik not out	42
Umar Akmal not out	18
Extras (lb6, w7)	13
Total (4 wickets, 47.4 overs)	221
Fall of wickets: 1-68 (Sharjeel), 2-140 (Babar),	3-142
(Hafeez), 4-195	
(Shafig)	
mil it is the last of the	

Did not bat: Mohammad Rizwan, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Amir, Hasan Ali, Junaid Khan Bowling: Starc 10-1-45-2 (2w), Hazelwood 10-2-32-0 (1w), Cummins 10-1-48-0 (1w), Faulkner 9-0-35-2, Head 2.4-0-23-0 (1w),

Marsh 6-0-32-0 (2w) Pakistan win by 6 wickets.



MELBOURNE: Australia's Josh Hazlewood (C) appeals for an LBW decision against Pakistan batsman Mohammad Hafeez (R) as fellow batsman Sharjeel Khan (L) looks on during their one-day international (ODI) cricket match at the MCG in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

PUNE: India's captain Virat Kohli celebrates after India won the first one-day international cricket match against England at The MCA International Cricket Stadium in Pune yesterday. — AFP

## KOHLI, JADHAV HUNDREDS HELP INDIA ECLIPSE ENGLAND'S 350

**PUNE:** Virat Kohli and Kedar Jadhav hit centuries and combined in a 200-run stand to help India comfortably chase down a steep target of 351 against England and win the first one-day international by three wickets yesterday. India's chase seemed over when England reduced them to 63-4 in the 12th over but captain Kohli and local boy Jadhav turned the match on its head with the hosts reaching the target with 11 balls to spare to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. The touring side, who lost a five-match test series 4-0 before returning home for Christmas, would have felt confident of victory after posting 350-7.

Half-centuries from Jason Roy, Joe Root and Ben Stokes took England to their highest ODI total against India, who won the toss and opted to bowl first.

England lost Alex Hales early but opener Roy (73) and Root, who top-scored for his side with 78, added 69 for the second wicket to lay a solid foundation.

Roy was given out leg before on 18 off paceman Umesh Yadav but reviewed successfully to overturn the decision with replays showing the ball was missing the stumps. Stokes provided the late assault with a 40-ball knock of 62, studded with two fours and five sixes, as India bled 105 runs in the last eight overs.

#### **IDEAL START**

Left-arm seamer David Willey gave England the ideal start with the ball by dismissing Indian openers Lokesh Rahul and Shikhar Dhawan inside the first six overs. Yuvraj Singh, playing his first ODI in over three years, and former skip-

per Mahendra Singh Dhoni did not last long either as India were left staring at a heavy defeat. But Kohli, playing his first match as India's fulltime captain across all formats, and Jadhav then took the attack to the England bowlers.

Kohli, who was the highest scorer in the recent Test series, was stranded on 99 for three deliveries before he danced down the pitch to hit paceman Chris Woakes for a six and bring up his 27th ODI hundred, which came in 93 balls. Jadhav, who struggled with cramp towards the end of his knock, guided the same bowler to

third man for a boundary to bring up his second ton off 65 balls.

Stokes dismissed Kohli after a 105-ball 122, studded with eight fours and five sixes. Jadhav was out after a 76-ball 120, with 12 fours and four sixes, to fast bowler Jake Ball, the most successful English bowler with three for 67. Hardik Pandya, unbeaten on 40, and Ravichandran Ashwin (15 not out) combined in a crucial eighth-wicket stand of 38 at the end to take India home. The second match of the series will be played at Cuttack on Thursday. — Reuters

#### **SCOREBOARD**

PUNE, India: Final scoreboard of the first one-day international between India and England in Pune yesterday.

England	
J. Roy st Dhoni b Jadeja	73
A. Hales run out (Bumrah)	9
J. Root c Pandya b Bumrah	78
E. Morgan c Dhoni b Pandya	28
J. Buttler c Dhawan b Pandya	31
B. Stokes c Yadav b Bumrah	62
M. Ali b Yadav	28
C. Woakes not out	9
D. Willey not out	10
Extras (b1, lb11, w6, nb4)	22
Total (7 wickets; 50 overs)	350
Fall of wickets: 1-39 (Hales), 2-108 (Roy), 3	-157 (Morgan),
4-220 (Buttler), 5-244 (Root), 6-317 (Stokes	s), 7-336 (Ali)
Bowling: Yadav 7-0-63-1 (1nb, 3w), Par	ndya 9-0-46-2,
Bumrah 10-0-79-2 (3nb, 1w), Jadeja 10-0-5	50-1, Ashwin 8-
0-63-0 (2w), Jadhav 4-0-23-0, Singh 2-0-14	l-0.
Did not bat: A. Rashid, J. Ball	

S. Dhawan c Ali b Willey V. Kohli c Willey b Stokes 122 Y. Singh c Buttler b Stokes 15 M.S. Dhoni c Willey b Ball 6 K. Jadhav c Stokes b Ball 120 H. Pandya not out 40 R. Jadeja c Rashid b Ball 13 R. Ashwin not out 15 Extras (b1, lb4, w 11) 16 Total (7 wickets; 48.1 overs) 356 Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Dhawan), 2-24 (Rahul), 3-56 (Singh), 4-63 (Dhoni), 5-263 (Kohli)

Bowling: Woakes 8-0-44-0 (2w), Willey 6-0-47-2 (3w), Ball 10-0-67-3 (4w), Stokes 10-0-73-2 (2w), Rashid 5-0-50-0, Ali 6.1-0-48-0, Root 3-0-22-0.

Did not bat: J. Bumrah, U. Yadav Result: India won by three wickets Series: India lead the three-match series 1-0

#### **SCOREBOARD**

WELLINGTON: Scoreboard yesterday on the fourth day of the first test between New Zealand and Bangladesh at the Basin Reserve:

#### Bangladesh, 1st Innings 595-8 decl. New Zealand, 1st Innings(Overnight: 292-3) Jeet Raval c Kayes b Kamrul 27 Tom Latham Ibw b Shakib 177 Kane Williamson c Kayes b Taskin 53 Ross Taylor c Mahmudullah b Kamrul 40 Henry Nicholls c Mehedi b Shakib 53 Colin de Grandhomme c Kayes b Roy B.J. Watling c Kayes b Mahmudullah 49 Mitchell Santner b Roy Tim Southee Ibw b Mahmudullah Neil Wagner c Kayes b Kamrul Trent Boult not out Extras (10b,3lb,16w,1nb) 30 Total (all out) Overs: 148.2.

Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-131, 3-205, 4-347, 5-366, 6-

Bowling: Mehedi Hasan 37-5-116-0 (1w), Subashis

398, 7-471, 8-473, 9-504, 10-539.

Roy 26.2-6-89-2 (1nb), Taskin Ahmed 29-4-141-1 (2w), Kamrul Islam 26-4-87-3 (1w), Shakib Al Hasan 27-2-78-2, Mahmudullah 3-0-15-2.

#### Bangladesh, 2nd Innings Tamim Iqbal b Santner 25 Imrul Kayes retired hurt 24 Mominul Haque not out 10 Mahmudullah c Watling b Wagner 5 Mehedi Hasan run out Extras (1nb) 1 TOTAL (for three wickets) 66

Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-63, 3-66. To bat: Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfigur Rahman, Sabbir Rahman, Kamrul Islam, Taskin Ahmed,

Bowling: Trent Boult 4-0-21-0, Tim Southee 3-1-12-0, Mitchell Santner 6-0-19-1, Neil Wagner 5.3-1-14-1.

#### NEW ZEALAND STRIKE BACK AT BANGLADESH

India

L. Rahul b Willey

**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand stormed back into the first Test against Bangladesh yesterday, with three guick wickets to back up a Tom Latham century and set the stage for an intriguing final day in Wellington. After being on the back foot for most of the first four days, New Zealand were boosted by reducing Bangladesh to 66-3 in their second innings, at 122 by stumps.

"Funny things can happen on that last day as it did against Pakistan in that last series," Latham said, referring to the dramatic finish to the November Test when New Zealand took nine wickets in the final session to beat Pakistan.

Bangladesh were also sweating over Imrul Kayes, who was injured on 24 and taken to hospital for hip x-rays.

Captain Mushfiqur Rahim, unable to field because of an injured hand, was confirmed as being available to bat if required.

Bangladesh have never beaten New Zealand and pace bowler Taskin Ahmed said their chances of a breakthrough victory were damaged with the loss of three wickets in the last five overs on Sunday.

Bangladesh had been hoping to declare on Monday in time to give New Zealand a challenging target, but Taskin said that may change. "It depends on the situation. Obviously we are looking for a win but it depends. It's a pretty flat wicket and when the batsmen get set it's easy to score."

A short-pitched barrage by the Bangladesh quicks and poor shot selection against part-time spinner Mahmudullah stopped the New Zealand first innings at 539.

The tourists built on the 56-run lead to be 66 for three at stumps in their second innings with Mominul Haque not out on 10 and Tamim Iqbal out for 25. After New Zealand resumed the fourth day at 292 for three, opener Latham batted on to 177 to ensure the follow-on mark was comfortably passed. BJ Watling (49) and Mitchell Santner (73) reduced the deficit to less than 100, with Santner and Trent Boult (4 not out) frustrating Bangladesh with a 35-run partnership for the final wicket.

#### **BOUNCER BARRAGE**

Santner lofted Shakib Al Hasan over the longon boundary for six, his third of the innings, to overtake his previous best 71 against India at Kanpur four months ago.

tail with short balls. Santner took one fierce blow to the head from Taskin Ahmed and Neil Wagner was hit three times by Kamrul Islam drawing blood from his chin. Wagner, New Zealand's short-ball specialist, passed a concussion test and replaced his helmet after the third blow only to be dismissed two balls later for 18.

Bangladesh tried to rattle the New Zealand

Despite the pace barrage, it was part-time spinner Mahmudullah who broke through the Watling-Santner partnership.

The pair put on 73 after Latham's dismissal to reach 471 for six when Mahmudullah came into the attack and the innings was all over 68 runs later. Mahmudullah's first ball was short-pitched and well off-line which Watling went to smack to the boundary only to scoop it into the hands of wicketkeeper Imrul down the leg side.

With his fifth ball, Mahmudullah had Tim Southee trapped in front for one. Wagner was caught behind trying to hook his way out of Kamrul's bouncer onslaught to give Imrul his fifth catch, a Test record for a substitute wicketkeeper. Latham, who spent 463 minutes at the crease, was trapped in front for 177 by Shakib Al Hasan. —AFP



#### **KUWAIT TIMES NBA POWER RANKINGS**

#### By Ahmad Jabr

KUWAIT: In addition to its usual coverage of the NBA, Kuwait Times introduces a new feature this year: the NBA Power Rankings. It is a weekly list ranking each team based on its performance during the week. The actual record for each team (put between brackets, for games played as of Sunday morning in Kuwait's local time) plays a role in the assessment process but is not the main factor for deciding each team's ranking, thus making it different from traditional league standings. This week's edition features changes in the top ten, including a new number one. (For any comments or suggestions, e-mail the writer at: a.jabr@kuwaittimes.net)



1- Golden State Warriors (34 - 6) Last week:

**2** - The lethal combination of balanced offense (second in the league in offensive efficiency) and strong defense (third in the league in defensive efficiency) is driving the Warriors' case for the title this year, but they know that they need to beat the Cavs tonight in order to have the confidence boost necessary to achieve that ultimate goal.



2- Cleveland Cavaliers (29 - 10) Last week: 1

- Kyle Korver finally found his rhythm and went for 18 points (four three-pointers) to lead the Cavs to victory on Friday and snap a twogame skid. They need all of their power tonight as they prepare to go against a Warriors squad looking to avenge their Christmas Day loss.



3- San Antonio Spurs (31 - 9) Last week: 4 -The Spurs came up short against the Suns in the NBA's annual showdown in Mexico City, after Phoenix's guard Devin Booker took advantage of being guarded by Tony Parker instead of the two-time reigning NBA Defensive Player of the Year Kawhi Leonard for most of the game. Booker finished with 39 points to Leonard's 38.



4- Toronto Raptors (26 - 13) Last week: 6 -The Raptors made a statement with their win

over the Celtics on Tuesday, and look poised as a relatively easy schedule ahead can help them further tighten their hold over the second place in the Eastern Conference standings. They received good news last week when it was announced that key summer free-agent acquisition Jared Sullinger, who has been out since October with an injury, was cleared for team practice.



5- Houston Rockets (31 - 11) Last week: 3 -

The Rockets lost consecutive games for the first time this season following defeats against the Grizzlies and Timberwolves, which also came after a nine-game winning streak. The matchup against Memphis seems to be a bad one for Houston, and they hope to avoid facing them in the playoffs.



6- Boston Celtics (25 - 15) Last week: 5 - The Celtics recovered from their loss to the Raptors on Tuesday with wins against the Wizards and Hawks. Isaiah Thomas made sure that Al Horford's return to Atlanta on Friday would be a triumphant one by scoring the buzzer-beating go-ahead basket.



7- Los Angeles Clippers (28 - 14) Last week:

8 - Saturday's win over the Lakers capped a six-game winning streak which came after a six-game skid. Strong play from DeAndre Jordan, Chris Paul and JJ Redick helped the Clippers maintain a perfect record over the past couple of weeks, and they hope to keep winning as they prepare to welcome injured forward Blake Griffin back to the lineup.



8- Utah Jazz (26 - 16) Last week: 7 - The Jazz has the best defense in the league, and exhibit a 9-1 record with Gordon Hayward, George Hill and Rudy Gobert play together. Injuries continue to hinder their ambitions this season: Rodney Hood left Saturday's game against the Magic with a hyperextended knee.



9- Memphis Grizzlies (25 - 17) Last week: 10 - With their win over the Rockets on Friday, the Grizzlies now boast a 4-0 record against Houston and the Golden State Warriors this season. They play the Rockets again on Saturday.



10- Oklahoma City Thunder (24 - 17) Last week: 9 - Getting tired of hearing so much about Russell Westbrook's triple-doubles? Neither are we. His triple-double in Friday's loss to the Timberwolves is his 19th this season (56th overall), breaking a tie with Magic Johnson for the most in a season since 1967-68. It was not enough to secure a victory for his team though as he struggled to shoot (7of-23 field goals) and couldn't protect the ball (10 turnovers).



11- Atlanta Hawks (22 - 17) Last week: 11 -The loss to the Celtics snapped Atlanta's sev-

en-game winning streak, and it was also the first defeat since the Hawks decided to pull forward Paul Millsap off the trading block. According to reports, Atlanta is looking to sign veteran shooter Gary Neal after trading away sharpshooter Kyle Korver.



12- Milwaukee Bucks (20 - 18) Last week: 15 - The Bucks are finally starting to find ways to

win without relying heavily on Giannis Antetokounmpo. Michael Beasley scored 28 points and Jabari Parker finished with 22 to help the Bucks upset the Spurs on Tuesday in a game in which the 'Greek Freak' was limited to playing only nine minutes due to illness.



13- Indiana Pacers (20 - 19) Last week: 12 -The Pacers won five straight games before

falling to the Nuggets on Thursday in London, England. Their offense has been solid during that stretch (good for second in the NBA), and while their defense wasn't remarkably bad, they allowed Denver to score 140 points.



14- Washington Wizards (20 - 19) Last

week: 16 - John Wall's game-winning shot in the Wizards' win over the Bulls on Tuesday was his first go-ahead field goal in the last five seconds of the 4th quarter/OT in his NBA career. He was 0-of-16 on such shots entering the night (per ESPN Stats and Information).



15- Chicago Bulls (20 - 21) Last week: 14 -Jimmy Butler returned to help his team beat the Pelicans on Saturday after missing two games with illness; which the Bulls lost to the

Wizards and Knicks. He finished with 28 points in 39 minutes, and went 3-of-4 from the threepoint line and 7-10 from the free-through line.



16- Portland Trail Blazers (18 - 24) Last week: 18 - Coach Terry Stotts made the necessary defensive adjustments since the Blazers finished 2016 with the league's worst defense. They improved to third in the league in defensive rating since losing to the Raptors on Dec 26, and held the Cavs, who rank fifth in offensive rating, to only 86 points en route to victory on Wednesday.



17- Charlotte Hornets (20 - 20) Last week:

13 - No loss probably hurt in their current four-game skid as much as their defeat to the 76ers on Friday. Their defense has been subpar during that stretch, and couldn't stop Joel Embiid on Friday as he went for 24 points and shot 12-14 from the free-through line.



18- New Orleans Pelicans (16 - 25) Last week: 20 - Following Monday's win over the Knicks, Anthony Davis had four straight games with at least 20 points and 15 rebounds. Only three players have had a streak of five games or longer in the last 30 seasons: Hakeem Olajuwon, Charles Barkley and Kevin Love (per ESPN Stats and Information).



19- New York Knicks (18 - 22) Last week: 19 - The Knicks recuperated a little with their win

over the Bulls after a frustrating loss to the 76ers. Derrick Rose admitted that his team needs to play better defense, and suggested that coach Jeff Hornacek should 'go hard' on them in that regard.



20- Detroit Pistons (18 - 24) Last week: 17 -

Coach Stan Van Gundy tweaked his starting lineup on Saturday, starting center Aron Baynes over the injured Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, alongside big man Andre Drummond. But it didn't do much for the team on both ends, as they finished with only 77 points and allowed the Jazz to score 110.



21- Minnesota Timberwolves (14 - 26) Last week: 27 - Karl-Anthony Towns recorded his 11th career game with at least 25 points and 15 rebounds on Friday. Over the past 30 seasons, only three other NBA players have more such games before turning 22: Shaquille O'Neal (31), Dwight Howard (12) and Tim Duncan (12) (per ESPN Stats and Information).



22- Phoenix Suns (13 - 27) Last week: 24 -Beating the Spurs is impressive, and doing that in a grand stage such as the Arena Ciudad de Mexico is even more remarkable. Devin Booker scored 39 points in each of his team's games played in Mexico (a win over the Spurs and loss to the Mays).



Sacramento Kings (16 - 23) Last week **21** - Recent reports suggest that DeMarcus

Cousins intends to sign a contract extension with the Sacramento Kings worth an estimated \$207 million over five years, paying him more than \$40 million annually. Meanwhile, the Kings are still trying to figure out how to improve their rebounding, which ranks 23rd in



24- Denver Nuggets (15 - 23) Last week: 22 - Italian star Danilo Gallinari felt at home in the Nuggets' victory against the Pacers in London, England on Thursday, finishing with 18 points. The win snapped Denver's five-game losing streak and ended the Pacers' five-game win-



ning streak.

25- Orlando Magic (17 - 25) Last week: 23 -The Magic has so far won only one game out of four in their current six-game Western Conference road trip which still includes stops in Denver and New Orleans. They return home for three games after that against tough

opponents: the Bucks, Warriors and Bulls.



26- Philadelphia 76ers (12 - 26) Last week: 28 - Joel Embiid's quest to make the 2017 NBA All-Star Game is gaining momentum, and he even received an unlikely endorsement from WWE's Triple H. He is putting All-Star numbers to support his claim as well: he's had eight consecutive games with at least 20 points despite playing fewer than 30 minutes in each game. That's the longest streak of its kind in the shot-clock era, which began in 1954-55



27- Dallas Mavericks (12 - 27) Last week: 25

(per the Elias Sports Bureau).

- Dirk Nowitzki is beginning to return to form, scoring a season-high 26 points against the Timberwolves on Monday and following it up with 18 in Thursday's win over the Suns; a game in which Deron Williams finished with 23 points and 12 assists.



28- Los Angeles Lakers (15 - 29) Last week: **26** - The Lakers had an ugly 134-94 loss at San Antonio on Thursday, which was their fifth by a margin of at least 40 points over the last four seasons (per the Elias Sports Bureau).



29- Miami Heat (11 - 30) Last week: 29 - The Heat are officially in rebuilding mode and not only have they made their star point guard Goran Dragic available, but they are also reportedly willing to listen to trade offers for center Hassan Whiteside who signed a long-

term contract last summer.



30- Brooklyn Nets (8 - 31) Last week: 30 -There is nothing much interesting happening in the land of the Nets, other than perhaps reports saying that former number one pick Anthony Bennett is close to signing with Turkey's Fenerbahce after Brooklyn released him last week.



MEXICO CITY: Phoenix Suns' T.J. Warren (C) vies for the ball with San Antonio Spurs' LaMarcus Aldridge (R), during an NBA Global Games match at the Mexico City Arena, on Saturday, in Mexico City. — AFP

## SUNS BEAT SPURS 108-105, CLIPPERS DEFEAT LAKERS

**MEXICO CITY:** Devin Booker scored a career-high 39 points for the second straight game in Mexico City as the Phoenix Suns beat the San Antonio Spurs 108-105 on Saturday in the fifth regular-season game in the country. Booker was 12 of 22 from the field and Eric Bledsoe added 17 points and 10 assists. Coming off a loss to Dallas in their Mexican opener Thursday night, the Suns overcame an 11-point deficit to snap a two-game losing streak. Kawhi Leonard had 38 points for the Spurs (31-9). Booker made two baskets in the last minute, including a dunk off a break with Bledsoe to put the Suns up 106-103. Leonard made two free throws to get San Antonio within one, P.J. Tucker made two free throws for Phoenix, and the Spurs' Danny Green missed an open 3pointer to seal the win for the Suns.

#### **CLIPPERS 113, LAKERS 97**

DeAndre Jordan scored 24 points on 12-of-13 shooting as the Los Angeles Clippers shot 52 percent to cruise past the Lakers on Saturday. Jordan had 21 rebounds and Chris Paul added 20 points and 13 assists to help the Clippers improve to 6-0 in 2017. They are off to their best start since going 7-0 to begin 1974 when the franchise was located in Buffalo. Their streak is the longest active one in the NBA. Jordan Clarkson scored 21 points for the Lakers.

#### **BULLS 107, PELICANS 99**

Jimmy Butler scored 28 points in his return from the flu while Dwyane Wade had 17 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter in Chicago's victory over New Orleans. Butler returned after missing two games, and had 19 points in the first half. Taj Gibson added 15 points and 16 rebounds to help the Bulls snap a three-game losing streak. Anthony Davis had 36 points, 14 rebounds and three blocks for New Orleans.

#### **JAZZ 114, MAGIC 107**

Gordon Hayward scored 23 points to help Utah beat Orlando, a victory tempered by the loss of Rodney Hood to a right knee injury with 1:44 remaining. On a fast break after Rudy

Gobert blocked Nikola Vucevic's shot, Hood was hurt when his right knee buckled as he went up for a layup. Hood screamed in pain and clutched the knee immediately upon falling. The Jazz said it was a hyperextended knee and Hood was walking gingerly but without assistance in the locker room. Gobert added 19 points and 19 rebounds for Utah. Hood had 14 points. Elfrid Payton had a careerhigh 28 points and added nine rebounds and nine assists for Orlando.

#### **WIZARDS 109, 76ERS 93**

John Wall had 25 points, seven rebounds and seven assists while Bradley Beal added 20 points as Washington used a second-half spurt to beat Philadelphia. The 76ers had won three straight for the first time in more than three years. They played without rookie star Joel Embiid. He sat out to rest after scoring 24 points Thursday night against Charlotte. Jahlil Okafor, who hadn't played in the last three games, had a seasonhigh 26 points for the 76ers. — AP

### **NBA results/standings**

Washington 109, Philadelphia 93; Phoenix 108, San Antonio 105; Chicago 107, New Orleans 99; LA Clippers 113, LA Lakers 97. **Atlantic Division Northwest Division** W **PCT** GB Utah 26 16 Toronto 26 13 .667 Oklahoma City 17 .585 1.5 **Boston** 25 15 .625 1.5 Portland 18 24 .429 8 **NY Knicks** 18 22 .450 8.5 Denver 15 23 .395 Philadelphia 13.5 26 Minnesota .350 11 Brooklyn 31 .205 18 8 **Pacific Division Central Division** Golden State 34 .850 Cleveland .744 29 10 LA Clippers 28 14 .667 Milwaukee 20 18 .526 8.5 Sacramento 16 23 .410 17.5 19 Indiana 20 .513 LA Lakers 15 29 .341 21 Chicago 21 27 Phoenix 13 .325 21 Detroit 18 24 .429 12.5 **Southwest Division Southeast Division** San Antonio 31 .775 Atlanta .564 22 17 Houston 11 .738 Washington 20 19 .513 Memphis 25 17 .595 20 2.5 Charlotte 20 .500 **New Orleans** 16 25 .390 15.5 Orlando 25 .405 30 Miami .268

## CLERMONT INTO EURO CUP Q-FINALS, SARACENS DRAW

PARIS: Clermont edged Bordeaux-Begles to qualify for the European Champions Cup quarter-finals yesterday as defending champions Saracens left it late to snatch a thrilling draw with Scarlets.

France fly-half Camille Lopez kicked three penalties for Clermont in an error-strewn game in which they were reduced to 13 men early on. Irish counterpart Ian Madigan booted two of his own penalties as the visitors ran out 9-6 victors in western France.

Clermont, with 21 points in Pool 5, joined Irish provinces Munster and Leinster, from Pools 1 and 4 respectively, in the last eight. But there was no automatic qualification for Saracens, who were chasing a 14th Champions Cup win in a row.



COLOMBES: Leicester Tigers' Graham Kitchener, top, catches the ball on a line out on top of Racing Metro's players during their European Rugby Champions Cup match at Yves Du Manoir Stadium in Colombes, north of Paris, France, Saturday. — AP

They had to rely on an injury-time try from England winger Chris Ashton, converted by Owen Farrell, to snatch a 22-22 draw in Llanelli. Scarlets had dominated much of the game and looked set for a memorable victory over the champions.

But a turnover at the death handed Saracens the opportunity they needed. Winger Nathan Earle scored the English side's first try thanks to fine offloading skills from full-back Alex Lowzowski.

Dan Jones kept the penalties ticking over for a 9-5 halftime lead for Scarlets, stretching that with his fourth early in the second half.

But Lowzowski again turned provider, his break and inside pass seeing Ashton scoot through for his first try. Scott Williams hit straight back, lining up a long, flat pass from scrum-half Aled Davies to cross under the posts.

crucial break and found the ubigitious Ashton on his shoulder to break Scarlets' hearts. Saracens, on 20 points, now top

Farrell and Jones traded penalties

before the England fly-half made a

Pool 3, with second-placed Toulon playing Sale later Sunday. There's still all to play for in Pool 2,

headed by Connacht (18 pts) but with Wasps (17) in the driving seat with a final group match at hapless Zebre who have lost all five games, shipping 290 points. Connacht have to travel to four-time champions Toulouse where both sides will still be in contention to make the last-eight. —AFP

#### AUSTRIAN SKIER SCHEYER WINS DOWNHILL, VONN 13TH UPON RETURN

**ALTENMARKT-ZAUCHENSEE:** Christine Scheyer of Austria upset the pre-race favorites to win a women's World Cup downhill yesterday, while Lindsey Vonn placed 13th in her first race in nearly 11 months. Not being able to push out of the start gate as usual, the American was more than half a second off the lead at the first split and finished 1.54 behind the Austrian.

"I have a little start routine with my poles and I couldn't really do that with my right hand," Vonn said. "I also kind of lost grip on my pole after the last jump."

The four-time overall champion, who holds the women's record of 76 victories, was out nursing a knee injury and a broken arm since February last year. The fracture in her right upper arm also damaged nerves, which was still limiting mobility of her hand.

After announcing a few days ago that she had come to win, Vonn still saw the positives of her comeback race after 322 days. "All things considered it's about what I would expect," she said. "I felt like I was skiing pretty well, just maybe not quite on the limit yet."

Vonn had three weeks left, including speed weekends in Germany and Italy, to find her best form for the world championships in St. Moritz, Switzerland. "That's definitely a huge goal of mine," she said. "For now I am happy. It's not really a matter of results. It's a matter of just being happy to be racing again. Of course I had higher expectations of myself but considering the conditions and the fact that we had a training run and the race today, I think

it was pretty good." Scheyer, whose pre- Stuhec of Slovenia, who had won all vious best was ninth in last month's downhill in Val d'Isere, became the unusual winner of an unusual race. After heavy snowfall had canceled the program for the past three days, the mandatory training session had to be held just hours before the race.

#### **FASTEST TIME**

Scheyer impressed in training as she posted the second fastest time, but went one spot better in the race. In only her fourth World Cup downhill start, she beat Tina Weirather of Liechtenstein by 0.39 seconds. Jacqueline Wiles of the United States was 0.54 behind in third for her first career podium.

Defending overall champion Lara Gut of Switzerland finished fourth, while Ilka

three previous downhill races this season, came fifth.

"It's hard to describe," said Scheyer, who started in speed racing this season after recovering from two severe knee injuries. "I just wanted to have a good training run. After that, I was hoping for a top-10 finish." In her training run, Vonn held back and got out of her tuck well before finishing 2.71 seconds off the fastest time, posted by Ester Ledecka of the Czech Republic.

"It was definitely getting a lot faster from the training run to the race," Vonn said. "I had a hard time pushing the limit with the flat lights and the bumps." While the podium remained far out of reach for Vonn, teammate Wiles stepped in to grab her second career top-10 result. A late starter with bib No. 26, Wiles beat Gut by 0.01 to bump the Swiss overall champion, who was sitting in third, off the podium. "I try to always have confidence in myself," Wiles said. "For me to be able to come out today and have a successful run the way I did, is pretty awesome."

Wiles' win also felt like a victory for Vonn, whose foundation starting financially supporting Wiles this season. "I am very happy for Jackie," said Vonn. "This is an incredible result for her. I am super happy." In training, Nadia Fanchini of Italy and Edit Miklos of Hungary crashed and were airlifted to hospital. Austria team doctor Anton Wicker said Fanchini broke her right upper arm and had a fracture of the spinous process, while Miklos suffered a right-knee injury. — AP



FRANCEVILLE: Zimbabwe's forward Nyasha Mushweki (R) advances with the ball past Algeria's defender Rami Bensebaini and Algeria's midfielder Adlene Guedioura (C) during the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations group B football match between Algeria and Zimbabwe in Franceville yesterday. — AFP

#### MAHREZ SCORES TWICE BUT ALGERIA HELD BY ZIMBABWE

FRANCEVILLE: Riyad Mahrez scored twice but Algeria had to settle for a 2-2 draw with rank outsiders Zimbabwe as their Africa Cup of Nations campaign got off to a slow start in Franceville yesterday.

Newly-crowed African player of the year Mahrez gave Algeria an early lead in the Group B match but Kudakwashe the left-hand edge of the box. Mahachi quickly equalised and a penalty before the half-hour mark scored by Nyasha Mushekwi had the Warriors in front. In an action-filled encounter Zimbabwe-whose build-up to the finals was overshadowed by a row over bonuses-were just eight minutes away from claiming a famous victory before Mahrez

struck again to secure a share of the spoils. While Mahrez saved Georges Leekens' side from a humiliating defeat, the draw was not the best start ahead of games against Tunisia and another pre-tournament favourite Senegal.

Those two sides were due to meet each other in Franceville later on Sunday, at 1900 GMT. Amid calls from opponents of the government in Gabon to boycott the Cup of Nations there was a sparse crowd in the 20,000-seat stadium in the south-eastern city. Those who were there witnessed a cracking match, with Zimbabwe recovering brilliantly from a nightmare start.

They lost striker Knowledge Musona to an early injury and then fell behind in the 12th minute as Leicester City star Mahrez ran onto Islam Slimani's pass and cut inside Costa Nhamoinesu in the area before curling a delightful shot in off the far post with his left foot.

But Zimbabwe were level only five minutes later, South Africa-based Mahachi beating goalkeeper Rais Mbolhi with a speculative low strike on his left foot from

Remarkably, they went in front half-hour mark approached, Mushekwi sending Mbolhi the wrong way from the penalty spot after a foul in the area by Mokhtar Belkhither.

Zimbabwe won 2-1 in the only previous meeting of the nations at the tournament, 13 years ago, and they missed chances to go further in front in this game.

Only a great save by Mbolhi prevented Khama Billiat from adding to the lead after he had turned Algerian captain Aissa Mandi inside out at the start of the second half. Algeria then stepped up the pressure and Ramy Bensebaini headed against the bar and Elisha Muroiwa struck the frame of his own goal as he attempted to clear a Faouzi Ghoulam cross.

In between those two incidents Algeria appealed for a penalty as Mahrez went down when he collided with goalkeeper Tatenda Mkuruva in the box.

Zimbabwe looked like they might hold on, but substitute Cuthbert Malajila shot straight at Mbolhi with a great chance and Algeria went straight downfield to equalise, Mahrez's shot from 20 yards going straight under Mkuruva and in.— AFP

## HAMSIK CLOSES IN ON MARADONA'S RECORD

MILAN: With Diego Maradona in Naples to celebrate the 30th anniversary of his side's first title win, Marek Hamsik closed in on the Napoli legend's goalscoring record.

Hamsik netted his eighth goal in all competition this season to help Napoli beat Pescara 3-1 yesterday and keep up the pressure on the top two. The Slovakia international needs just nine more to equal Maradona's record of 115 goals for Napoli.

Maradona is still revered in Naples after leading the team to its only two league titles in 1987 and 1990 and that was evident when he was greeted by more than 100 fans upon his arrival in the city on Friday night.

Napoli struggled to get past a well-organized Pescara side in the first half but broke the deadlock immediately after halftime as Lorenzo Tonelli headed in a free kick. It was the defender's second goal in as many matches after sitting on the bench for the first half of the season.

Napoli doubled its lead less than two minutes later as Hamsik volleyed in a brilliant chipped pass from Piotr Zielinski.

The home side was in full control and had chances to extend its advantage as Jose Callejon carved out space for himself before firing narrowly wide and Jorginho saw his effort tipped onto the bar by Pescara goalkeeper Albano Bizzarri. Dries Mertens got Napoli's third five minutes from time following a one-two with Allan. Pescara netted a late consolation as Gianluca Caprari converted a penalty in stoppage time after Elseid Hysaj fouled Alexandru Mitrita. Napoli moved four points behind Juventus, which visits Fiorentina later, and is three points below Roma.

#### **UDINESE 0 ROMA 1**

Roma recorded another slender win to hours at least. It was Roma's third 1-0 win in its past four victories. Radja Nainggolan scored the only goal, in the 12th minute, volleying Kevin Strootman's ball over the top across into the bottom left corner. Edin Dzeko should have extended Roma's lead six



NAPLES: Napoli's Belgian forward Dries Mertens (L) fights for the ball with Pescara's Croatian defender Dario Zuparic during the Italian Serie A football match between SSC Napoli and Delfino Pescara yesterday at the San Paolo Stadium in Naples.— AFP

minutes later but he blazed his spot kick over the bar after Marco Davide Faraoni had been penalized for handball.

Dzeko should have sealed the match 10 minutes from time but he headed wide from close

range. Francesco Totti came off the bench short-

ly after the hour, making it a 25th consecutive year that he has played in Serie A.

The 40-year-old almost set up Roma's second with his first touch as he spooned up the ball toward Nainggolan, who just failed to meet it six yards from goal.— AP

## MCGINN HAS GOAL, 3 ASSISTS AND CANES BEAT ISLES 7-4

**MAPLE LEAFS 4, SENATORS 2** 

by stopping 35 shots in a victory over Ottawa at

Canadian Tire Centre. The win pulled the Maple

Leafs into a tie with the Senators in the Eastern

**CANADIENS 5, RANGERS 4** 

beat New York at the Bell Centre. Alex Galchenyuk,

Brian Flynn, Alexei Emelin, Max Pacioretty and Paul

WILD 5, STARS 4

remaining as Minnesota held off Dallas for a victory

at American Airlines Center. Zucker, who also had

an assist, scored his 11th goal of the season after a

pass from Mikael Granlund, who had two assists,

deflected off Kari Lehtonen's stick and then off

**DUCKS 3, COYOTES 0** 

simply to win games, they are staying remarkably

true to their promise. Hampus Lindholm scored in

the first period, Nick Ritchie added an insurance

If the Anaheim Ducks' New Year's resolution was

Jason Zucker scored the winning goal with 6:45

Montreal rallied from a third-period deficit to

Conference standings.

Byron scored for Montreal.

Zucker's chest.

Curtis McElhinney made his debut with Toronto

**NEW YORK:** Rookie Brock McGinn had a goal and three assists, while Lee Stempniak scored the game-winner early in the third as the Carolina Hurricanes remained virtually unbeatable at home, downing the New York Islanders 7-4 on Saturday. Carolina scored 21 goals in a four-game homestand sweep of Boston, Columbus, Buffalo and the Islanders, improving to 14-1-1 in its last 16 games at PNC Arena. The Islanders, playing their third game in four nights, led by two goals early in the second but could not keep pace with a fast Carolina team without injured defensemen Johnny Boychuk and Travis Hamonic as the Hurricanes registered 45 shots.

#### **PANTHERS 4, BLUE JACKETS 3**

Jonathan Marchessault scored the go-ahead goal to lead Florida to a win over Columbus at the BB&T Center. In a battle of backup goalies-James Reimer for Florida and Joonas Korpisalo for Columbus-the Panthers prevailed over the Blue Jackets. The Panthers got a goal and an assist from Vincent Trochek as well as goals from two polar opposites, Jaromir Jagr, who is second in NHL history in points, and defensive forward Shawn Thornton, who rarely gets on the board. Columbus got goals from Scott Hartnell, Cam Atkinson and Boone Jenner.

#### **PREDATORS 3, AVALANCHE 2**

Filip Forsberg and Mike Fisher scored goals in the third period, Pekka Rinne had 28 saves and Nashville beat Colorado. Cody McLeod also scored a day after Nashville acquired him from Colorado. The Avalanche honoured him with a video tribute early in the first period, and then he dropped the gloves with Jarome Iginla early in the second period.

#### **BRUINS 6, FLYERS 3**

Brad Marchand has played in 500 NHL regularseason games, and his milestone performance was certainly one of his best. Marchand scored two goals and three assists to lead Boston to a victory over Philadelphia at TD Garden.

#### **RED WINGS 6, PENGUINS 3**

Andreas Athanasiou took the puck in his own end and kept it all the way until he fired a shot over the glove of Marc-Andre Fleury. The unassisted tally snapped a 3-3 tie at 1:46 of the third period, which proved to be the game-winner in Detroit's victory over Pittsburgh at Joe Louis Arena.

goal and backup goalie Jonathan Bernier made 26 saves as the Pacific Division-leading Ducks won for the sixth time in seven 2017 games with a 3-0 victory over the Coyotes.

#### KINGS 3, JETS 2 (OT)

Jeff Carter scored the game-winning overtime goal and Anze Kopitar registered three assists as Los Angeles defeated Winnipeg. Carter took a feed from Jake Muzzin and beat Jets goaltender Michael Hutchinson for his team-leading 23rd goal of the season at 1:36 of the extra session.

#### **OILERS 2, FLAMES 1 (SO)**

Edmonton got shootout goals from Leon Draisaitl and Mark Letestu in a win over Calgary. Brian Elliott made 26 saves for the Flames. Oilers goalie Cam Talbot made 24 stops and was perfect in the shootout.

#### **BLUES 4, SHARKS 0**

St Louis played a physical brand of hockey and received stellar goaltending from one-time San Jose farmhand Carter Hutton en route to the win. Hutton stopped 23 shots for his fifth career shutout as San Jose was blanked at SAP Center for the second time in 21 games. The Sharks were last shutout at home by Pittsburgh on Nov. 5. — Reuters



NEW YORK: New York Islanders' Thomas Hickey (14) dives between Carolina Hurricanes' Noah Hanifin (5) and goalie Cam Ward (30) as he chases the puck during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Saturday, in Raleigh, N.C. — AP

## BURKE NETS AS RB LEIPZIG ROUT RANGERS

**LEIPZIG:** Scottish international Oliver Burke-his country's most expensive transfer-netted for Bundesliga side RB Leipzig in their 4-0 hammering of Glasgow Rangers in a friendly yesterday.

Mark Warburton's Rangers, second in the Scottish Premiership and who play Motherwell in the fourth round of the Scottish Cup next Saturday, were well beaten at the Red Bull Arena.

Striker Timo Werner scored the opener and then set up two more as Denmark's Yussuf Poulsen netted twice in the rout.

This was Leipzig's final warm-up for the resumption of the Bundesliga next Saturday and was a confidence booster having been hammered 5-1 by Ajax a week ago in a friendly.

In falling snow and sub-zero temperatures, Werner put the hosts ahead on 21 minutes, rounding Rangers goalkeeper Wes Foderingham to fire home, despite the efforts of Rangers defender Danny Wilson.

Werner then turned provider when his pass put Burke, who cost Leipzig a reported 15 million euros (£13m, \$15.8m) from Nottingham Forest in August, into space.

The Scottish international fired home on 43 minutes before being substituted at half-time.

Werner then set up Poulsen on 63 minutes for Leipzig's third, just after new signing, 18-year-old French defender Dayot Upamecano, came on. Poulsen netted his second with clinical finishing on 80 minutes. Leipzig are second behind Bayern Munich in Germany's top flight in their debut Bundesliga season, but have a tough start to 2017. They host Eintracht Frankfurt on Saturday, then play Hoffenheim and Borussia Dortmund with all three opponents in the top six of the German league. — AFP



SPANISH LEAGUE Malaga v Real Sociedad

beIN SPORTS

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE Torino FC v AC Milan belN SPORTS 4 HD

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP **Ivory Coast v Togo** beIN SPORTS

22:00 Congo v Morocco beIN SPORTS

# SS Season Kuuualt Cimes

Kerber lurks as Serena chases record Slam



Kohli, Jadhav tons help India eclipse England's 350



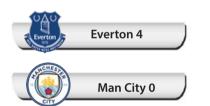
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MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017

MAHREZ SCORES TWICE BUT ALGERIA HELD BY ZIMBABWE

LIVERPOOL: Manchester City's Chilean goalkeeper Claudio Bravo puts out a hand but cannot stop Everton's Belgian striker Kevin Mirallas's shot beating him for their second goal during the English Premier League football match between Everton and Manchester City at Goodison Park in Liverpool, north-west England yesterday.— AFP

## GUARDIOLA ROCKED AS EVERTON CRUSH CITY



**LIVERPOOL:** Pep Guardiola suffered the largest league defeat of his managerial career as Manchester City slumped to a 4-0 loss against Everton yesterday.

Romelu Lukaku and Kevin Mirallas put Everton in control at Goodison Park before teenager Tom Davies scored his first goal for the club and debutant Ademola Lookman completed the rout after coming on as an 89th minute substitute.

It was another chastening experience for City boss Guardiola, who wasn't used to

such humiliation in his trophy-laden spells at Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

The defeat was City's fourth in their last eight league games and left them 10 points behind leaders Chelsea.

Lukaku's 12th goal of the season contin-

ued his rich vein of form and the Belgian striker was too hot for City's error-prone defence to handle through a torrid afternoon for Guardiola and company.

As has been the case so often this sea-

son, Lukaku's opener in the 34th minute showed up frailties in City's defence and goalkeeping as Davies intercepted a Gael Clichy pass just inside the visitors' half and found Mirallas sprinting into the City area.

With Yaya Toure slow to respond to the runner, and Nicolas Otamendi playing Everton on side from a deep position, Mirallas was able to pick out Lukaku, who

finished with a clinical left-foot strike.

The opening goal had drawn an instant response from Guardiola's team as Sergio Aguero came within a whisker of connecting with Kevin De Bruyne's low cross just six yards from goal.

And Raheem Sterling, from a cleared City corner, just missed the home goal with a powerful half-volley from outside the area.

Although the game had been finally balanced, City had enjoyed the better chances, even before the opening goal. After 11 minutes, Sterling failed with a strong penalty appeal after he went down under slight contact from goalkeeper Joel Robles as he appeared poised to score from another perfect cross from the excellent De Bruyne.

And the Everton keeper was again forced into action, with a strong block to thwart David Silva as the Spaniard looked set to con-

vert yet another decisive pass from De Bruyne.

In first half stoppage-time, City almost snatched what would have been a deserved equaliser after Clichy's left-wing cross found Bacary Sagna whose athletic leap allows him to power a goal bound header which was nodded off the line by Davies.

Better was to come for Everton a minute into the second half when Lukaku sparked the move that led to the second goal, his through ball being touched by City defender John Stones into the path of Ross Barkley.

The England midfielder produced a superb pass for Mirallas whose equally excellent shot from 15 yards flew beyond the dive of Bravo.As City struggled to gain a foothold, Silva's free-kick found ex-Everton defender Stones, booed by his former supporters with every touch, who headed directly at Robles.

But for all their possession, City struggled to place Robles under pressure. On a rare occasion that the home defence allowed Aguero too much space on the edge of their area, the Argentinian's low shot was turned behind expertly by Robles. Any lingering hope of a comeback evaporated in the 78th minute when Davies capped a brilliant midfield display with a deserved goal, his first for the club - the move having been started when he collected the ball in his own half.

Davies carried the ball half the length of the field, exchanged passes with Barkley and then lifted the ball over Bravo, with Lukaku ensuring the ball crept over the line.

Lookman, signed from Charlton this month, added a fourth goal in stoppage-time after Seamus Coleman had charged down a poor attempted clearance by Stones. — AFP

## IBRAHIMOVIC RESCUES MAN UTD IN LIVERPOOL DRAW



MANCHESTER: Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored an 84th-minute header as Manchester United prevented Liverpool from recapturing second place in the Premier League table in a 1-1 draw vector day.

Paul Pogba stood to be United's fall guy at Old Trafford after conceding a soft first-half penalty for handball, which James Milner converted, only for Ibrahimovic to save his blushes.

Ibrahimovic's 19th goal of the season extended United's unbeaten league run to seven games, but after winning the previous six, momentum has been lost.

Jose Mourinho's side remain sixth, four points off the Champions League places, while Liverpool rose one place to third, seven points below leaders Chelsea and beneath Tottenham Hotspur on goal difference.

After draws against Sunderland and

Plymouth Argyle and a defeat at Southampton, Liverpool have gone four games without victory at the start of a calendar year for the first time since 1993.

But with United five points below them, Jurgen Klopp's men remain the more likely champions.

An abdominal injury to Nathaniel Clyne

saw Liverpool's 18-year-old right-back Trent Alexander-Arnold given a full league debut and he had the onerous task of handling the livewire Anthony Martial. Martial scored a memorable goal against

Liverpool on his United debut last season and he fashioned the first opening with a deep cross for the leaping Ibrahimovic, who could only volley wide.

Ibrahimovic gave the visiting fans a heartin-mouth moment when he chased down Dejan Lovren's weak back-pass, with Simon Mignolet's clearance striking him and looping onto the roof of the net.

United appeared to be taking control and in the 19th minute Henrikh Mkhitaryan bisected the Liverpool defence with a neatly judged pass for Pogba, only for the Frenchman to scuff wide with his left foot.

Liverpool's play had been more conspicuous for misplaced passes than anything else,

Plymouth Argyle and a defeat at but errors from Phil Jones and Pogba enabled Southampton, Liverpool have gone four them to take the lead in the 27th minute.

Jones's heavy touch allowed Roberto Firmino to rob him on the edge of the box, obliging Marcos Rojo to tidy up at the expense of a corner.

Pogba inexplicably leapt with his hands above his head as he defended Milner's setpiece and the Liverpool number seven tucked the ensuing spot-kick past David de Gea for his sixth penalty of the season.

United twice threatened an equaliser before half-time, Ibrahimovic blasting a free-kick towards the bottom-left corner and Mkhitaryan taking aim from Ander Herrera's pass, but Mignolet saved twice.

Mourinho took remedial action at the interval, sending on Wayne Rooney for his 450th league appearance and withdrawing Michael Carrick, with Herrera dropping into the holding role.

United spurned a great chance to equalise when, having robbed Alexander-Arnold on halfway, Martial sprinted into the box to meet Mkhitaryan's low cross, only to miscue his attempt at a back-heel.

But with Carrick off, United's back four was exposed to counter-attacks. Divock Origi saw a shot deflected wide, a missed header by



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's English midfielder Michael Carrick (L) vies with Liverpool's German midfielder Emre Can (2L) during the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Liverpool at Old Trafford in Manchester, north west England, yesterday. — AFP

Jones allowed substitute Philippe Coutinho to slip in Firmino, obliging De Gea to block, and Georginio Wijnaldum headed Emre Can's cross over.

fine header over Mignolet from Antonio

headed Emre Can's cross over. for aft It was left to Ibrahimovic to ride to semi-f United's rescue, the Swede steering a arrive

Valencia's cross after Marouane Fellaini's header came back off the post.

header came back off the post.

The noise that Mourinho had called for after United's mid-week League Cup semi-final first-leg win over Hull City duly arrived, but Liverpool withstood the crescendo. — AFP

Egypt to cut subsidies, boost revenues under reform package

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**US politics trumps** forex markets

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**New Porsche Panamera** range launched in Kuwait

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#### KFH Group traded \$11.4bn in sukuk market in 2016

WASHINGTON: In this March 3, 2016 file photo, a jogger passes by the Arlington Memorial Bridge at sunrise in Washington. Donald Trump talked during his campaign about making America's infrastructure great again, and his inauguration will put the spotlight on some glaring needs in the nation's capital. —AP

## INFRASTRUCTURE MESS PRESENTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRUMP

AS INAUGURATION LOOMS, DOUBTS PERSIST OVER CAMPAIGN PROMISES

wanted to make America's infrastructure great again. As president, he'll have plenty of ways to get started in his new home town.

The Arlington Memorial Bridge, Washington's most recognizable span over the Potomac River, is in such bad shape that it will be closed to all vehicle traffic during Friday's inauguration. Hundreds of thousands will rely on the Metro subway to reach the Capitol and the National Mall, and they'll get a firsthand look at a system that's deteriorated significantly during the past eight years and has repair needs measured in the billions.

Even the Washington Monument is shut down because of a broken elevator. Visitors won't be able to ride to the top again until at least 2019. Political leaders in the region, mostly Democrats, say the city's infrastructure mess presents an opportunity to Trump and Republicans in Congress to show they can govern and deliver on one of the new president's touted campaign promises. But as Trump gets ready to take office, they're not optimistic that he's ready to

"It'll be in his face. He'll see the worn-out infrastructure right here where he lives," said Eleanor Holmes Norton, a Democrat who's the District of Columbia's delegate in

**WASHINGTON:** As a candidate, Donald Trump said he Congress. "But we don't yet have, especially for the first 100 days, any indication that he wants to start off with a plan. Trump has promised to employ millions of workers to

rebuild the nation's highways, bridges, tunnels and airports and make them "second to none" in the process. It's an unquestioned need. Nationwide, governments are

short \$1.4 trillion of the money needed to make necessary repairs to infrastructure - including drinking, wastewater and mass transit systems - through 2025, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. That's the problem with the Arlington Memorial Bridge,

which connects the Lincoln Memorial with Arlington National Cemetery and is arguably the region's most pressing need. One of the five spans that bring vehicles across the Potomac River into traffic-choked Washington, it will be forced to close by 2021 without a reconstruction, expected to cost at least \$250 million. The National Park Service won a \$90 million federal grant last year to start the project, but is still looking for a way to come up the rest of the money.

"It's the absolute poster child for our crumbling infrastructure nationally," said Rep. Don Beyer, a Democrat who represents the Virginia side of the bridge. "We're allowing our national capital to crumble before our eyes and the eyes of the whole world. It's pretty embarrassing."

During the campaign, Trump positioned himself as capa- Barack Obama's first inauguration - Metro was in much betble of addressing the public works problem because of his business background. But his plans have been open-ended and short on specifics, and many Republicans in Congress

are not eager to approve large-scale infrastructure spending. A paper circulated after the election recommended using \$137 billion in federal tax credits to generate \$1 trillion in private-sector infrastructure investment over a decade. Such private investors are typically interested only in projects that create revenue, such as tolls. That solution isn't practical with many infrastructure projects.

Said Beyer, "I do not want to make Arlington Memorial Bridge a toll bridge." Mayor Muriel Bowser said she hopes the inauguration will be "an opportunity to focus the incoming administration's attention" on the 85-year-old bridge. Vehicles weighing 10 tons or more have been barred from using it since 2014, and during the inauguration, it will be closed to all but pedestrians. Metro, the city's beleaguered subway system, has handled past inaugurations smoothly. The system changes its schedule on Inauguration Day, opening earlier than usual and running trains at rush-hour levels throughout the day. Some downtown stations will be closed for security reasons.

But in 2009 - when 1.8 million people attended President

ter shape. Since then, ridership has declined and service has become less reliable amid a series of calamities, including track fires, derailments and collisions. Metro's leaders say the system needs major new spending to reverse the decline. But elected officials in Maryland, Virginia and the city can't agree on a regional tax to fund the system. Republicans in Congress have been hostile to the suggestion of more federal dollars, saying Metro's problems result from poor management.

To balance Metro's budget, general manager Paul Wiedefeld has proposed laying off workers, raising fares, reducing service and asking local governments for bigger subsidies. The Washington Monument is one thing that will get fixed regardless of whether Trump or Congress takes action. Billionaire philanthropist David Rubenstein came to the rescue of the monument with \$3 million to fix the elevator, just as he paid for major repairs to the 555-foot obelisk after it was damaged in a 2011 earthquake.

Norton said going big on infrastructure could be a political win for Trump. "He seems to understand, if you engage in building something, it tends to generate its own wealth," Norton said. "And by wealth he means jobs, so it would be a perfect way for him to proceed."—AP

#### UK WANTS RECIPROCAL MARKETS DEAL WITH EU

BERLIN: Britain and the EU should reach a deal allowing reciprocal access to each other's markets-though London cannot compromise on regaining immigration control, finance minister Philip Hammond said yesterday.

London and Brussels should not fight against each other's red lines but work in the space in between to find an agreement on Brexit, the chancellor of the Exchequer told Germany's Welt am Sonntag newspaper. Hammond said Britain had not taken a firm position on post-Brexit EU immigration, but the message from the June referendum vote to leave the bloc was: "we must control our immigration policy".

He said European Union citizens would be free to travel to Britain and do business therebut the debate was over the right to work, settle and set up business.

"Clearly we need people to come and work in our economy to keep it functioning," he said. But as for having no control, "that has to stop". British Prime Minister Theresa May is to set out details of the government's Brexit negotiating strategy

Hammond said Britain wanted market access without Brussels politics. "We are optimistic that we will be able to reach an agreement that gives reciprocal access to each other's markets. The logic is there," he said. He hinted that London was ready to push through aggressive cuts to business taxes to ensure British-based firms remained competitive in the face of EU tariffs.

Hammond hoped Britain would remain "in the mainstream of European economic and social thinking", but said it would have to change course "if we are forced". "The British people are not going to lie down and say, too bad," he said. "If we have no access to the European market, if we are closed off", then short-term economic damage could follow, but Britain would then be



**Philip Hammond** 

forced to change its model "to regain competitiveness". Britain plans to hand in its two-year notice before April. Hammond said he was expecting to start "substantive negotiations" in the following months.

"We are ambitious to do this as quickly as possible," he said, and "move seamlessly" to the new arrangement in 2019, though there could be an "interim period" before it kicks in.

In a thinly veiled threat that Britain could use its corporate tax as a form of leverage in Brexit negotiations, Hammond told Welt am Sonntag he hoped Britain would remain a European-style economy with corresponding tax and regulation

"But if we are forced to be something different, then we will have to become something different," Hammond said when asked directly about Britain's plans to lower corporate tax. "If we have no access to the European market, if we are closed off, if Britain were to leave the

European Union without an agreement on market access, then we could suffer from economic damage at least in the short-term," he said. "In this case, we could be forced to change our economic model and we will have to change our model to regain competitiveness," Hammond said. "We will change our model, and we will come back, and we will be competitively

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said the EU must consider limiting Britain's access to its market if London fails to accept the bloc's 'four freedoms' in Brexit negotiations.

The EU's single market emerged from the 1992 Maastricht Treaty on European integration. This enshrines the EU's "four freedoms" - of movement of goods, capital, people, and services. British Prime Minister Theresa May has repeatedly said she will not reveal her Brexit negotiating strategy before triggering Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty, a step expected by the end of March. May has said she wants Britain to regain control over immigration, restore its sovereignty and also establish the best possible trading relations with the EU.

But senior EU leaders have warned Britain there could be no "cherry picking", and Merkel has urged the 27 remaining EU states not to allow themselves to be divided. Hammond said in the interview Britain had not taken a firm position yet on what form of immigration controls it wants.

"But we are aware that the message from the referendum is that we must control our immigration policy," he added. Hammond said Britain did not want to close its doors completely to EU citizens who wanted to work in the UK. "Clearly we need people to come and work in our economy to keep it functioning," Hammond said. "But we must have overall control." — Agencies

### KUWAIT OUTPERFORMS AS SAUDI STALLS, DUBAI SLIPS

#### **MIDEAST STOCKS**

**DUBAI:** Stock markets in the Gulf diverged yesterday with Saudi Arabia stalling near a six-week low and Dubai retreating on profit-taking, while Kuwait continued to outperform. Kuwait's stock market gained 1.9 percent with the largest logistics firm in the Gulf, Agility, and National Bank of Kuwait each climbing 3.0 percent.

Kuwait's index is up 8.2 percent since Jan. 1, outperforming the region after a long period of sluggish performance. "Sentiment is very positive in the market but no change in fundamentals," said Bader Al-Gahnim, head of regional asset management at Kuwait-based Global Investment House. "From an economic perspective the country is well positioned due to prudent fiscal management and a

lower fiscal break-even oil price." Saudi Arabia's index added 0.1 percent. Nine of the top 10 performers were from the insurance segment with Wafa Insurance in the lead, jumping 9.1 percent. Interest in the sector has risen partly because of local media reports late last year that Saudi Arabia was looking at the possibility of including haj and umra pilgrims in a compulsory health insurance scheme.

Almarai rose 0.4 percent after the Gulf's largest dairy company reported a 1 percent increase in fourth-quarter net profit to 488.5 million riyals (\$130 million), roughly in line with analysts' forecasts. Sales rose marginally and the cost of sales fell. Analysts at NCB Capital said that despite the relatively flat earnings and revenue growth, strong margin expansion from lower operating expenditure and improving sales in Almarai's poultry segment were important positives.

The company, one of the few in Saudi Arabia that give forward guidance, said it would "continue to focus on costs control, efficiency gains and cashflow preservation while maintaining its strategic direction of profitable growth". However the results revealed the dairy and juice segment had suffered its first year-on-year decline in sales, according to NCB Capital. This sent some other food producers lower, with Saudia Dairy and Foodstuff dropping 3.4 percent.

Bank Aljazira, the first bank to report earnings in the kingdom, reported a 4.4 percent drop in fourth-quarter net profit to 152 million riyals. Aljazira cited higher

impairment charges for credit losses. The bank's stock closed 0.4 percent higher after trading lower for most of the session. However, some other banks were knocked lower, with Saudi British Bank dropping 1.4 percent. Egypt's main index rose to yet another record close in healthy trading volume. The index has risen 56 percent since the currency was floated on Nov 3. Arabian Cement jumped its 10 percent daily limit for a third consecutive session to 9.91 Egyptian pounds. — Reuters

## New Porsche Panamera range launched in Kuwait

#### Panamera concept comprehensively enhanced

**KUWAIT:** A sports car and luxury saloon in one, the new Panamera launch phase has officially begun. Porsche Centre Kuwait, Behbehani Motors Company, marked the introduction of the new generation by unveiling two all-wheel drive versions: the Panamera 4S and Turbo to attendees at a special event in Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa.

In its second generation, the Panamera has been redeveloped down to every last detail. Modifications to the engine, transmission, chassis and overall design concept, make it a performance icon in the luxury class. The new model further extends the boundaries between an ambitious sports car and a comfortable cruising car with technical highlights such as rear axle steering, electromechanical roll stabilisation and a threechamber air suspension.

Meanwhile, inside a completely new display and control concept greets the driver and passengers upon entry. In many areas, touchsensitive surfaces replace classic hard keys, and high-resolution displays merge into the interior. The digitalisation of the Porsche interior, which began with the 918 Spyder, is now available in the Stuttgart-based manufacturer's four-door saloon.

Speaking at the launch event, Roger Kyriacou, General Manager of Porsche Centre Kuwait, Behbehani Motors Company said: "In the new Panamera, our customers and enthusiasts will experience a fundamentally redesigned car with new turbo engines, sharper exterior design, intuitive interior features and innovative technologies. All models launched here today are more powerful than previous versions, whilst also significantly improving fuel economy and reducing emissions. As a result, this four-door saloon is a unique offering and an embodiment of comfort, performance, luxury presented in the most beautiful form. The enhancements applied to the new Panamera make it a true segment leader, one that I am sure will be well received here in Kuwait."

#### New engines and transmission

All Panamera engines have been redesigned to produce more power, whilst significantly improving fuel economy and reducing emissions. Two new twin-turbo engines have been introduced, combined with the brand's first eight-speed Porsche Doppelkupplung (PDK) transmission. The eight-speed PDK enables an



even better gear ratio spread alongside a reduction in fuel consumption, because the seventh and eighth gears are designed as engine speed-reducing overdrive gears, with all models reaching their top speed in sixth gear. The Panamera 4S and Turbo apply their power to the road via Porsche Traction Management (PTM) - a permanent, fully variable all-wheel drive system. Tuned to the specific driving situation, PTM sensors continually monitor wheel speeds and perfect performance on dry roads as well as in wet conditions.

#### **New design philosophy**

At first glance, the unique concept and performance credentials of the four-door sports car are reflected in a new design which creates a stylistic link to Porsche's design icon, the 911. Recognizable sports car aesthetics which make up the typical Porsche flyline in the new Panamera include pronounced shoulders, athletic flanks and an extremely fast roof line that is 20 mm lower at the rear. LED headlights and larger wheels also add to a sporty look.

The sharpened exterior includes a completely new front-end design, with a crossbar in the radiator grille emphasizing the car's width and an arrow-shaped bonnet that features a prominently contoured powerdome.

The rear of the vehicle now further highlights the Panamera's four-door coupÈ credentials, distinguishing it from a conventional saloon. Features, such as the three-dimensional LED rear lights that include integrated fourpoint brake lights, interconnected by a narrow LED strip, result in a distinctive night design.

#### **Refined chassis**

In keeping with the overall concept of the Panamera, the chassis unites the cruising comfort of a luxury saloon with the performance of a true sports car. This is achieved by supplementing the basic layout with innovative systems such as an adaptive air suspension with new three-chamber technology and Porsche Active Suspension Management (electronic damper control), the further enhanced Porsche Dynamic Chassis Control Sport system including Porsche Torque Vectoring Plus, as well as a new electromechanical steering system. The integrated 4D Chassis Control system analyses and synchronises all chassis systems in real time for even better handling. In combination with improved brake performance, Porsche is now also introducing rear axle steering adapted from the 918 Spyder and 911 Turbo to its Panamera range.

#### Behind the steering wheel

The luxury saloon drive experience is taken to a new level, through the functionality and easy interaction of the new Porsche Advanced Cockpit. Its intuitive user interface, makes operation of the communication, convenience and assistance systems easier than ever. The 12.3-inch display touchscreen marks the next stage of development for the Porsche Communication Management (PCM) system. For the benefit of the driver, front and rear passengers, classic hard keys and conventional instruments have been significantly reduced. Instead they have been replaced



with touch-sensitive panels and individually configurable displays.

In addition, the Porsche Panamera offers the best layout variability of any model in the luxury class, making it the most practical for everyday use with a 40:20:40 split of the folding rear bench backrests (495 to 1,304 litres of luggage capacity). Raising the comfort experience of the Panamera to an entirely new level are new equipment options such as the panoramic tilt roof, massage seats, ambient lighting and a 3D high-end sound system from Burmester.

#### Panamera 4S

The 2.9-litre V6 twin-turbo engine of the Panamera 4S is a completely new development, which produces 440 hp, available at 5,650 rpm and represents a 20 hp increase from the previous model. Reaching 100 km/h in just 4.4 seconds (4.2 seconds with the Sport Chrono Package), the Panamera 4S has a top speed of 289 km/h. A NEDC combined fuel consumption of 8.2 - 8.1 I/100 km (186 -184 g/km CO2) means that the new Panamera 4S offers a fuel saving of up to 1.0 I/100 km or 11 per cent in comparison to the first generation model.

#### Panamera Turbo

With its powerful petrol engine, the Panamera Turbo's new 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 develops 550 hp at 5,750 rpm, with a maximum torque of 770 Nm between 1,960 and 4,500 rpm. It has 30 hp more than its predecessor as well as a torque increase of 70 Nm. The new Panamera Turbo accelerates to 100 km/h in 3.8 seconds, whilst with the Sport Chrono Package the sprint time is down to 3.6 seconds. The new turbo model features a top speed of 306 km/h and a power-to-weight ratio of just 3.6 kg/hp. A lower combined fuel consumption of 9.4 - 9.3 I/100 km, is up to 1.1 I/100 km less than that of the previous model (NEDC), therefore equating to CO2 emissions of 214 - 212 g/km.

Engine response can be further increased using the standard Mode Switch with the Sport Response Button. The Mode Switch, which was first introduced in the Porsche 918 Spyder, is an intuitively operated rotary ring on the steering wheel, which can be used to activate one of four driving modes (Normal, Sport, Sport Plus or Individual). Located at the centre of the switch is the Sport Response Button. It can be used to free up the maximum power potential of the Panamera at the press of a button.

Presenting a harmonious balance between sporty performance, comfort and luxury, the new Panamera has been developed for sports car drivers who appreciate four doors and four seats. Achieving a new lap record of 7 minutes 38 seconds on the legendary N<sub>1</sub>rburgring-Nordschleife circuit and a unique design concept that replicates the brand's iconic 911, the revamped model is a truly attractive offering in its segment. With a range of derivatives set to be launched throughout the year, the new Panamera 4S and Turbo are available now at Porsche Centre Kuwait.

#### IRAN SELLS 11 MILLION BBL CONDENSATE TO S KOREA

**DUBAI:** Iran exported 11 million barrels of condensate to South Korea in December, partly delivered from tankers located outside the Gulf, the Iranian oil ministry's news website SHANA said yesterday. "Three South Korean companies bought a total of 11 million barrels of gas condensates from Iran in December, so the Asian country remains the biggest receiver of condensate from Iran," SHANA said.

The report was published as a denial of a Reuters story that quoted a source with knowledge of Iran's preliminary tanker schedule as saying Iranian condensate exports were set to fall 17 percent to a five-month low in January, as main buyer South Korea cut purchases by nearly half and takes more barrels from Qatar. "It appears that Reuters"

report is based on monitoring of vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz (at the mouth of the Gulf), while Iran had several supertankers full of condensate located since earlier in open seas and near China that covered some of these sales," SHANA said.

Although Reuters' report referred to January sales, SHANA did not give condensate export figures for January. Iran, a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, does not publish monthly data on its condensate and crude exports. Iran scored a victory when it was exempted from an OPEC deal agreed in November to reduce production by 1.2 million bpd, and traders have expected it to raise output slightly and boost exports to reclaim market share. —Reuters

### **ECHOES OF THATCHER** IN UK RAILWAY BATTLE

LONDON: Rona Jeff loved her job as a PR consultant for an education charity in central London. But last month she quit. Her train commute had become so unbearable it was ruining her health.

should have taken just over an hour, but was regularly taking 4 1/2 hours because of cancellations, slow-downs and strikes. She rarely saw her husband, gave up a photography class, repeatedly cancelled plans with friends, missed a theatre performance after saving up for tickets. Finally, the stress was wrecking her sleep: "It got to the point where I was ill."

Southern Rail, one of more than a dozen privatized railways that bring commuters into London, has seen 25 days of strikes over 10 months. Even when staff are not officially striking, workers have been calling in sick en masse and refusing overtime, causing trains to be cancelled and timetables cut. When trains do run, nearly 40 percent are late.

For a labour dispute on a railway with just 4,000 employees, the costs have been colossal. Hundreds of thousands of people are regularly affected. A university study last month estimated the dispute had so far cost the economy 300 million pounds.

Officially, the argument is over a seemingly small issue: who should open and close train doors. That task now sometimes falls to conductors who ride in train carriages; Southern says train drivers can do it themselves.

The unions say that would be dangerous. Management says it is the practice on other lines and deemed safe by regulators. It would mean trains could sometimes run without a guard on board, although the "It became untenable to try to go to company says it has no plans to reduce work," said Jeff, whose journey into London staff and will keep "supervisors" on trains to from Brighton on England's south coast help passengers. Despite the narrow issue, both sides accuse their opponents of having far bigger aims, turning it into the most consequential industrial action in Britain for decades.

> Members of the ruling Conservative party say militant unions are deliberately fomenting commuter chaos for political reasons. Unions and the opposition Labour Party say the government is prolonging the feud to break the back of the labour movement.

> And it could get worse. Unions are threatening more strikes against other railways. Conservative politicians are calling for changes to laws to make such strikes more difficult, or even ban them, a step which would be seen as a broad attack on labour.

> Already the worst industrial dispute on Britain's railways since privatisation, it lends Prime Minister Theresa May's new tenure an echo of the era of her hero Margaret Thatcher, who transformed and polarised Britain by crushing its coal miners.

> Since Thatcher left office in 1990, Britain has experienced nearly three decades of labour peace, with only a fraction of the thousands of days per year lost to strikes that were typical from the 1950s through the 1980s. —Reuters

### News

in brief

#### **Qatar National Bank** Q4 net profit up 8.3%

DUBAI: Qatar National Bank (QNB), the Gulf's largest lender, reported a 8.3 percent increase in fourth-quarter net profit, according to Reuters calculations yesterday. The bank's net profit was 2.75 billion rivals (\$755 million) in the three months to Dec. 31, compared with 2.54 billion riyals in the corresponding period of 2015, Reuters calculations showed, using financial statements in lieu of a quarterly earnings breakdown. EFG Hermes forecast the bank would make a net profit of 2.99 billion riyals during the quarter, while SICO Bahrain forecast a quarterly net profit of 3.44 billion riyals. For 2016 as a whole, QNB, now the largest bank in the Middle East and Africa by assets, reported a net profit of 12.4 billion rivals, up 10 percent from 2015, according to a statement. QNB's board proposed a cash dividend for 2016 of 3.5 riyals per share and a bonus share dividend which would award one free share for every 10 shares currently owned.

#### Saudi's SAFCO reports 25% drop in profits

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia Fertilizers Co (SAFCO), a unit of Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC), reported yesterday a 24.85 percent drop in its fourth-quarter net profits, to 284.5 million Saudi riyals (\$75.85 million), blaming lower product prices and higher costs. The firm, which reported a fall in profits in 13 of the preceding 14 quarters according to Reuters data, was forecast by five analysts on average to make a profit of 273.76 million riyals in the three months ended Dec 31. Saudi companies issue brief earnings statements early in the reporting period before publishing more detailed results later. Like many petrochemical firms in the kingdom, SAFCO's earnings have been hit hard by falling oil prices, which have dragged down product prices and reduced the benefits to their margin of subsidized energy and feedstock costs.

#### SAUDI'S ALMARAI Q4 NET PROFIT UP 1%

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia's Almarai, the Gulf's largest dairy company, reported a 1 percent increase in fourth-quarter net profit yesterday, broadly in line with analysts' forecasts, and said cost controls would continue to be a priority. Almarai said net profit totalled 488.5 million rivals (\$130 million) in the three months to Dec. 31, up from 483.7 million riyals in the year-earlier period.

Six analysts polled by Reuters had forecast on average that Almarai would make a quarterly net profit of 519 million riyals. Almarai said earnings were hit by a 12.4 million rivals impairment of assets, changes in foreign exchange rates and higher funding costs during the quarter.

Improving efficiency and cost control measures would remain a priority "given the changing economic environment and the increasing competitive conditions," Almarai said.

It reported quarterly sales of 3.61 billion riyals in the fourth quarter, up 0.7 percent from a year earlier. Saudi retailers had to contend last year with government austerity measures imposed to curb a state budget deficit, including utility price increases and reduced financial allowances for public sector employees. Almarai said on Dec. 6 that its board had recommended a cash dividend of 0.9 riyal per share for 2016, lower than the cash dividend of 1.15 riyals for 2015. — Reuters

### **EXCHANGE RATES**

#### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

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

**GCC COUNTRIES** Saudi Riyal 81.881 Qatari Riyal 84.334 ani Riyal 797,427 Bahraini Dinar 815.330 **UAE Dirham** 83.599

**ARAB COUNTRIES** 16.073

Egyptian Pound - Cash Egyptian Pound - Transfer Yemen Riyal/for 1000 Tunisian Dinar 133,590 Jordanian Dinar 432.400 Lebanese Lira/for 1000 2.046 Syrian Lira Morocco Dirham 2.188 30.839

Turkish lira

**EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES US Dollar Transfer** 306.850 323.270 Euro Sterling Pound 379.270

87.300

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

69.340

**Selling Rate Rate for Transfer US** Dollar 306.550 Canadian Dolla 230.500 384.385 Sterling Pound 322.080 Euro Swiss Frank 300.105 **Bahrain Dinar** 812.640 **UAE Dirhams** 83.855 Qatari Riyals 85.080 Saudi Riyals 82.675 Jordanian Dinar 433.540 **Egyptian Pound** 16.830 Sri Lankan Rupees 2.060 Indian Rupees 4.530 Pakistani Rupees 2.924 Bangladesh Taka 3.887 Philippines Pesso 6.143 Cyprus pound 168.345 3.600 Japanese Yen Syrian Pound 2.435 Nepalese Rupees 3.825

Malaysian Ringgit

Chinese Yuan Renminbi 31.240 Thai Bhat 9.535 Turkish Lira 87.725

Indian Rupee

#### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

**CURRENCY** BUY **Europe** British Pound 0.369279 0.379279 Czech Korune 0.003802 0.015802 Danish Krone 0.038891 0.043891 Euro 0.313975 0.322975 Norwegian Krone 0.031398 0.036598 Romanian Leu 0.070497 0.070497 Slovakia 0.009229 0.019229 Swedish Krona 0.029450 0.034450 Swiss Franc 0.292152 0.303152 Turkish Lira 0.082529 0.092829 Australasia Australian Dollar 0.213906 0.225908 New Zealand Dollar 0.205822 0.215322 America Canadian Dollar 0.222898 0.231898 Georgina Lari 0.138751 0.138751 **US Dollars** 0.303100 0.307500 US Dollars Mint 0.303600 0.307500 Asia Bangladesh Taka 0.003578 0.004160 Chinese Yuan 0.042632 0.046132 Hong Kong Dollar 0.040270 0.037520

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 0.002944 0.003114 Nepalese Rupee Pakistan Rupee 0.002620 0.002910 0.006083 0.006383 Philippine Peso 0.000053 0.000059 Singapore Dollar 0.206584 0.216584 South African Rand 0.016294 0.024794 Sri Lankan Rupee 0.001651 0.002231 0.009393 0.009573 Taiwan 0.008228 0.008778

Thai Baht Arab Bahraini Dinar 0.808282 0.816782 **Egyptian Pound** 0.013279 0.022532 Iranian Rival 0.000085 0.000086 Iraqi Dinar 0.000181 0.000241 Jordanian Dinar 0.428238 0.47238 Kuwaiti Dinar 1.000000 1.000000 Lebanese Pound 0.000153 0.000253 Moroccan Dirhams 0.020263 0.044263 Nigerian Naira 0.000407 0.001042 0.791501 0.797181 Omani Rival 0.083569 0.085019 Qatar Riyal Saudi Riyal 0.080833 0.082133 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 0.001079

## GULF BANK HOLDS RED AND SALARY ACCOUNT DRAW

FAHED AL-AZMI RECEIVES KEY TO NEW CADILLAC ESCALADE



Susana Al-Barrak, Manager, Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank handing over the keys to the winner.

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank would like to congratulate Fahed Mohammad Al-Azmi, the lucky winner of the Red and Salary Account quarterly draw held on the 5 January 2017 at The Avenues during the exciting event when Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account KD1 million prize set a new Guinness World Records Achievement for the "largest prize linked to a bank account" in the world!

The lucky new red and salary car winner was welcomed at the Cadillac showroom in Al-Rai Area by Susana Al-Barrak, Manager, Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank. Al-Barrak presented the winner the key to the brand new Cadillac Escalade.

During 2016, Gulf Bank's Salary Offer consisted on instant gifts up to KD 200 and quarterly draws in which it gave away 4 Cadillac cars to the following

quarterly lucky winners: 1st quarterly winner (March 31, 2016): Salem Saleh Salem Alajmi (Cadillac CTS)

2nd Quarterly winner (June 30, 2016): Mariam Adel Fahad Alkhamees (Cadillac SRX)

3rd Quarterly winner (September 29, 2016): Ahmad Abdul Azeez Qasem Al-Matrood (Cadillac

4th Quarterly winner (January 5, 2017): Fahed Mohammad Al-Azmi (Cadillac Escalade).



The new Cadillac Escalade car at Al-Danah yearly millionaire draw event.

## INDIA AIRLINES SOAR AS EXPERTS WARN OF TURBULENCE AHEAD

#### SPICEJET ACQUISITION UNDERSCORES MARKET POTENTIAL

**NEW DELHI:** A major acquisition by Indian budget airline SpiceJet this week underscored the vast potential of the world's fastest-growing aviation market, but experts say woefully inadequate infrastructure and high operating costs could threaten the industry's rapid expansion.

India's burgeoning middle classes are taking to the skies in ever greater numbers, with passenger growth of 20 percent in 2015 according to industry body IATA-nearly double China's 11percent increase over the same period.

Low-cost airlines are rushing to expand their fleets to take advantage of that growth, encouraged by a fall in fuel prices that last year pushed several private operators into profit for the first time. SpiceJet, India's fourth biggest airline with a 13-percent market share, said Friday it was buying up to 205 Boeing planes worth \$22 billion to fuel a major expansion of its domestic

Experts say the country's aviation sector holds vast untapped potential, with just 100 million of India's 1.2 billion people taking to the skies last year. But they warn that India's rickety infrastructure could hold back future growth, with just 90 of the country's more than 460 airports currently operational.

"Consistent 20-percent-plus growth per se is not a cause for celebration if the institutional framework is weak," said Kapil Kaul, South Asia head of industry advisory and research firm CAPA."This only increases safety and security risks. And skill shortages are also emerging. An urgent fix is required." CAPA has warned that India could face a capacity crisis unless it builds 50 new airports over the next decade.

To avoid that, the government is trying to revive some of the hundreds of disused regional airports-among them a number of "ghost airports" that were built by the government but never used. That is because most airlines opt to increase flights to popular locations rather than adding new routes, analysts say. KPMG and industry body FICCI recently named 44 such airports that could quickly be brought into use in a research report.

In 2015 the government announced a plan to "take flying to the masses" by making air travel affordable for millions more Indians, reviving struggling airports and connecting rural areas.

The policy aims to slash airfares to 2,500 rupees (\$37) per hour of flying on many regional routes through a slew of tax incentives and subsidies. The first round of bids for these subsidized regional routes are due to start this week, with winners getting a three-year exclusive on flying rights. Auctions for routes will be conducted twice a year.

#### 'Costliest and toughest'

High operating costs represent the second major threat to the industry.

High fuel import taxes mean that about 50 percent of an Indian airline's costs go towards fuel, while a scarcity of pilots has pushed up salaries to global levels. "Most of the large cost heads in Indian aviation like fuel, leases, maintenance, airport charges and interest rates are some of the highest in the world," said Amber Dubey, India head of aerospace and defense at global consultancy KPMG. "There are shortages of commanders and bringing in expat pilots is costly and time-consuming... Overall, the Indian market is one of the costliest and toughest to operate in." — AFP

#### EGYPT TO CUT SUBSIDIES, BOOST REVENUES UNDER REFORM PACKAGE

CAIRO: Egypt will make further cuts to energy subsidies, raise taxes and seek more international financing as it pursues economic reforms this year, Finance Minister Amr El-Garhy said vesterday.

Speaking at a Cairo press conference, Garhy said the steps are part of ongoing economic reforms the country urgently needs. The International Monetary Fund approved last year a \$12 billion loan after Egypt floated its pound and cut energy subsidies. The finance minister also revealed that the IMF loan carries an interest rate of 1.5 to 1.75 percent.

The reforms come as Egypt faces major economic challenges after the political turmoil that followed the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime leader Hosni Mubarak. Economic growth has slowed, investment has fallen sharply and currency reserves have plunged. Egypt's government agreed in November to slash fuel subsidies as part of the IMF reform package but because the country floated its currency at the same time, the subsidy bill ballooned, Garhy said.

The cost of subsidies rose "as a result of the exchange rate we currently have and... that we as a state import a large part of our petroleum needs," he said, without providing figures. "This, right now, is the biggest challenge" the government faces on the economy, Garhy said. The Egyptian pound, which had been pegged at 8.83 to the dollar before November, was trading at more than 18 pounds to the dollar yesterday. Garhy said the government was also planning to raise the rate of the value added tax by one point to 14 percent as of July. Egypt introduced VAT in September and in December also raised tariffs on hundreds of imported items by up to 60 percent as it seeks to boost government revenues.

Garhy said the IMF deal had raised investor confidence in Egypt, especially as the fund regularly reviews the implementation of the reform package. IMF oversight and twice-yearly reviews "allow all investors... to be assured of the level of seriousness of this (reform) program," Garhy said. The full details of the IMF deal have not yet been disclosed, but as well as providing the interest rate Garhy said yesterday that each tranche would be repaid within 10 years of disbursement, with a 4.5-year grace period. Egypt will also seek to raise more money on international markets, he said, starting with a roadshow from today to promote dollar bonds in the United Arab Emirates, United States and Britain. —AFP



NEW DELHI: This file photograph shows an aircraft of Indian airline SpiceJet making a final approach for landing at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. — AFP

## DAVOS ELITES STRUGGLE FOR Answers as Trump era dawns

been in years. Stock markets are booming, oil prices are on the rise again and the risks of a rapid economic slowdown in China, a major source of concern a year ago, have eased.

And yet, as political leaders, CEOs and top bankers make their annual trek up the Swiss Alps to the World Economic Forum in Davos, the mood is anything but celebratory.

Beneath the veneer of optimism over the economic outlook lurks acute anxiety about an increasingly toxic political climate and a deep sense of uncertainty surrounding the US presidency of Donald Trump, who will be inaugurated on the final day of the forum. Last year, the consensus here was that Trump had no chance of being elected. His victory, less than half a year after Britain voted to leave the European Union, was a slap at the principles that elites in Davos have long held dear, from globalisation and free trade to multilateralism.

Trump is the poster child for a new strain of populism that is spreading across the developed world and threatening the post-war liberal democratic order. With elections looming in the Netherlands, France, Germany, and possibly Italy, this year, the nervousness among Davos attendees is palpable.

"Regardless of how you view Trump and his positions, his election has led to a deep, deep sense of uncertainty and that will cast a long shadow over Davos," said Jean-Marie Guehenno, CEO of International Crisis Group, a conflict resolution think-tank. Moises Naim of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace was even more blunt: "There is a consensus that something huge is going on, global and in many respects unprecedented. But we don't know what the causes are, nor how to deal with it."

The titles of the discussion panels at the WEF, which runs from Jan. 17-20, evoke the unsettling new landscape. Among them are "Squeezed and Angry: How to Fix the Middle Class Crisis", "Politics of Fear or Rebellion of

DAVOS: The global economy is in better shape than it's the Forgotten?", "Tolerance at the Tipping Point?" and "The Post-EU Era".

The list of leaders attending this year is also telling. The star attraction will be Xi Jinping, the first Chinese president ever to attend Davos. His presence is being seen as a sign of Beijing's growing weight in the world at a time when Trump is promising a more insular, "America first" approach and Europe is pre-occupied with its own troubles, from Brexit to terrorism. British Prime Minister Theresa May, who has the thorny task of taking her country out of the EU, will also be there. But Germany's Angela Merkel, a Davos regular whose reputation for steady, principled leadership would have fit well with the WEF's main theme of "Responsive and Responsible Leadership", will not.

#### 'REJOICING IN THE ELEVATORS'

Perhaps the central question in Davos, a four-day affair of panel discussions, lunches and cocktail parties that delve into subjects as diverse as terrorism, artificial intelligence and wellness, is whether leaders can agree on the root causes of public anger and begin to articulate a response.

A WEF report on global risks released before Davos highlighted "diminishing public trust in institutions" and noted that rebuilding faith in the political process and leaders would be a "difficult task". Guy Standing, the author of several books on the new "precariat", a class of people who lack job security and reliable earnings, believes more people are coming around to the idea that free-market capitalism needs to be overhauled, including those that have benefited most from it.

"The mainstream corporate types don't want Trump and far-right authoritarians," said Standing, who has been invited to Davos for the first time. "They want a sustainable global economy in which they can do business. More and more of them are sensible enough to realise that they have overreached."—Reuters





UNDER THE PATRONAGE AND PRESENCE OF

H.E. Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Homoud Al-Sabah

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs



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for HOSPITALITY & FOOD INDUSTRIES 16 - 18 JANUARY

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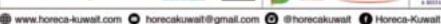












## KERRY DEFENDS TRADE PACT ON LAST TRIP AS US DIPLOMAT

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam: Secretary of State John Kerry, making his last trip as the top US diplomat, defended the 12-nation trade pact that the incoming administration said it would scrap and urged countries to refrain from provocative acts in the South China Sea.

"I can't predict what the new administration is absolutely going to do with the trade, but I can absolutely tell you that the fundamental reasons for the TPP haven't changed," Kerry told students of University of Technology and Education in southern Ho Chi Minh City on Friday, referring to the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement. He said the US cannot grow unless it's able to sell goods to the rest of the world.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Kerry admitted that the future of the TPP, the centerpiece of the Obama administration's pivot to Asia, is in doubt when Donald Trump is sworn in as president next week. He, however, believed that U.S commitments to the region will not change.

"Shift in our administrations in Washington is not going to alter or fundamentally undermine the commitments of the United States to prosperity and stability and security of the Asia-Pacific," he said, adding that "our friendship doesn't depend on individuals or personalities."

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama had dedicated a significant portion of his last term to TPP, which

he said would allow the US to impose higher labor, environmental and human rights standards and protection for intellectual property as well as give US businesses access to some of the fastest growing economies.

The deal would have slashed 18,000 taxes that other countries impose on American goods and services, he said. "But unfortunately, Congress did not take action on the agreement that the Obama administration negotiated, and that's unfortunate because early indications are that other countries are prepared to move forward without the United States," Earnest told reporters in Washington. "It means that other country's products are going to be cheaper for

some countries to import, and that's going to put US businesses at even greater disadvantage."

Kerry said that the US and Vietnam have shared support for security and freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea, which Vietnam along with China and four other government claims in whole or in part. "We believe all countries in the region, whether big or small, that they all refrain from provocative acts that add to tensions or might lead to greater militarization of the area," he said.

He also repeated the US opposition to coercion or threat of force "by any state to assert its claim over another... and I'm confident that the next administration will continue to adhere with the same good faith to that policy."

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea. The US has challenged Beijing's assertiveness and the construction of islands in the disputed waters by sending warships close to the man-made features. Kerry, a Vietnam War veteran, also praised relations with his former foes, saying two-way trade had jumped from just \$451 million 20 years ago, when US-Vietnamese ties were normalized, to more

than \$45 billion.

The number of Vietnamese students studying in the US also has increased from 800 to 21,000, while American visitors to the communist country rose from 60,000

to half a million.

Kerry, however, urged greater respect for human rights in Vietnam. The USand some European governments often criticize Vietnam for arresting or jailing people who peacefully express their views. Hanoi has said it only jails law breakers.

Kerry and Sen John McCain, who was held prisoner of war when his Navy jet was shot down over Hanoi during the war, were key participants in the efforts to normalize relations in 1995. —AP



Sunday 15 January 2017

Index	Change		Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price index		115.15	6,222.83	6,107.68	6,224.48	6,107.68	
Weighted Index	A.	6.56	398.62	392.06	398.64	392.06	
KSX 15		17.73	926.41	908.68	927.86	907.24	

Volume	731,267,858
Value (KWD)	53,493,416
Number of Trades	11,565

KSX 15		A 1	7.73	926.41		908.68		
				Trades				
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	CI	ange
MARIN IKARUS	60 44.5	54 42.5	388236 3,628,930	22,429 157,007	31	60 44.5	A	5.0 2.0
IPG	390	390	1,000	390	1	390	A	25.0
NAPESCO ENERGYH	850 52	850 50	2,143 1,369,350	1,822 70,000	50	850 52	_	3.5
GPI	55	52	12,331,833	660,521	192	54	A	2.0
ABAR Oil & Gas	100	100	60,000 17,781,492	6,000 918,168	2 314	100 842.90	_	0.0 25.72
Oil & Gas			17,761,492	310,100	314	042.90	Α.	20.72
KFOUC	222	216	165,983	36,426	16	222		10.0
BPCC ALKOUT	540 0.0	530 0.0	670,518 0	355,379 0	23 0	530 670	_	10.0
ALQURAIN	260	250	1,111,501	283,282	55	255	A	9.0
Basic Materials			1,948,002	675,087	94	1094.98	A.	25.74
KCEM	440	430	120,000	52,225	5	440	A	10.0
CABLE	315 420	310 410	6,000 315,853	1,885	3 28	315 420	A	10.0
SHIP	194	184	363,700	68,917	27	194	A	8.0
PCEM PAPER	960	950	150,000	143,101	13	950 295		0.0
MRC	295 64	295 61	86,000 30,000	25,370 1,860	9	64	A	5.0 4.0
ACICO	295	285	1,091,578	314,086	44	295		10.0
GGMC HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300 120	=	0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	Ξ	0.0
NICBM	212	210	17,651	3,708	2	212	*	-2.0
EQUIPMENT NCCI	0.0	0.0	9,217,490	579,511 0	186	62 42.5	_	0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	-	0.0
SALBOOKH	73	71	1,610,205	115,225	66	71		1.0
AGLTY EDU	0.0	0.0	1,003,162	672,788	33	680 208	_	0.0
CLEANING	57	51	10,879,822	601,032	186	56	A	4.0
KGL	69	64	3,821,247	255,925	112	66		1.0
KCPC HUMANSOFT	0.0 3,060	0.0 3,060	0 38,000	0 116,280	0 2	174 3,060	_	0.0 80.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	-	0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	_	0.0
GFC MAYADEEN	37.5	36.0	55,000 21,505,594	2,010 665,067	6 272	37.5 31.5	A	1.5
CGC	580	540	72,068	40,387	16	560		-20.0
MTCC UPAC	700	700	0 27 343	19 140	2	56 700	_	0.0
ALAFCO	240	240	27,343 24,027	19,140 5,766	2	240	Ξ	0.0
MUBARRAD	71	67	816,768	56,637	33	70	.A.	1.0
LOGISTICS SCEM	75 88	73 86	9,715,022	720,718	189 5	74 88	-	2.0
GCEM	80	80	55,500 1,129,306	4,784 90,344	36	80	_	0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	-	0.0
FCEM RKWC	82 94	79 92	4,288,224 30,000	346,344 2,772	62	81 94	A	1.0
SPEC	85	82	7,000	582	6	82	¥	-2.0
Industrials			66,476,560	5,037,885	1,350	1417.42		22.06
KSH NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142 64	=	0.0
PAPCO	95	95	44,267	4,205	1	95	=	0.0
CATTL	224	208	13,058	2,831	8	224	•	6.0
DANAH POULT	92	0.0	14,299,437	1,294,050	273	90 196	_	0.0
FOOD	2,600	2,600	21,020	54,652	3	2,600	_	0.0
Consumer Goods			14,377,782	1,355,739	285	1143.40	A	8.68
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	-	0
ATC YIACO	0.0 295	0.0 250	0 673,250	171,801	21	920 260	w	-10
Health Care			673,250	171,801	21	1176.77	W.	-7.18
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,160	-	0
кнот	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	265	_	0
SULTAN CABLETV	0.0	0.0	2,943,525	188,915	88	65 50	_	0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	_	0
IFAHR OULAFUEL	0.0	0.0	0 310 768	0 30 501	0	192	_	0
OULAFUEL MUNTAZAHAT	126 84	122 81	319,768 734,510	39,501 61,024	26 37	126 83	_	6
JAZEERA	690	670	92,923	63,418	10	680	w	-20
SOOR	122	118	184,552	22,156	21	122		4
FUTUREKID ALRAI	0.0	0.0	710,858	96,557	33	120 134	w	-2
ZIMAH	55	53	11,195,091	605,374	251	54	A	4
Mezzan Consumer Services	950 s	930	15,385 16,196,612	14,391 1,091,335	5 471	950 935.66	A	3.73
ZAIN OOREDOO	430 1,160	420 1,160	3,863,744 10,000	1,642,633 11,600	103	430 1,160	A	10
HITSTELEC	57	52	26,541,978	1,473,406	314	57	Â	3
VIVA Telecommunication	900	890	114,630 30,530,352	102,604 3,230,243	35 <b>455</b>	900 665.12	A	10 15.17
							-	
NBK GBK	680 244	660 236	2,310,069 1,898,766	1,544,957 458,782	83 63	680 244	A	20 4
CBK	425	425	4,900	2,083	1	425	-	0
ABK	305	295	46,887	14,067	6	305	A	5
ALMUTAHED	415	410	194,900	79,926 556,637	17	415	A.	10
KIB BURG	214 310	212 305	2,620,770 583,707	556,637 178,356	17	214 310	A	5
KFIN	600	570	10,022,825	5,894,905	294	590	A	10
BOUBYAN AUB	415	400	6,599,738	2,681,055	176	410	A	5
ITHMR	204 47.0	200 45.5	2,027,450 24,533,388	407,755 1,135,962	43 315	204 45.5	_	1
WARBABANK	222	218	1,363,453	300,486	106	220	-	0
Banks			52,206,853	13,254,970	1,165	879.23	<u>A</u>	10.46
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290 720	_	0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0						

AINS

KUWAITRE

WETHAQ

BKIKWT

Insurance

0.0

106

0.0

0.0

39.5

0.0

574,750

593,489

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change		
SOKOUK	42.5	40.5	16152729	676,293	152	42.5	A	2.5	
KRE	72	71	2,760,768	196,384	42	72	A	2.0	
URC	102	95	235,288	23,399	18	100	<b>A</b>	3.0	
NRE	124	112	12,343,875	1,479,693	146	122	A .	8.0	
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	360	-	0.0	
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	445	_	0.0	
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	_	0.0	
MASSALEH	51	51	100	5	1	51	A .	3.0	
ARABREC	39.5	37.0	5,711,704	219,968	122	38.5	A	1.5	
ERESCO	45.5	43.5	3,824,913	171,473	76	45.5	Α.	2.0	
MABANEE	890	880	131,500	116,375	13	890	A .	10.0	
INJAZZAT	80	79	524,930	41,519	5	80	A	3.0	
INVESTORS	29.0	26.5	37,210,069	1,044,596	318	29.0	A	2.5	
IRC	35.0	33.0	4,314,526	150,366	59	35.0		2.5	
ALTIJARIA	82	80	2,233,983	180,970	57	81	_	0.0	
SANAM	43.5	40.5	399,851	16,735	25	42.0	Δ.	1.0	
AAYANRE	72	70	158,840	11,120	8	72		1.0	
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	69	_	0.0	
ALAQARIA	33.5	32.5	760,289	24,930	30	33.5	A	2.0	
MAZAYA	126	120	16,929,863	2,084,631	241	122	A	2.0	
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	O	11.0	_	0.0	
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	_	0.0	
TIJARA	60	59	409,841	24,269	15	60		1.0	
TAAMEER	29.0	28.0	7,599,482	215,899	130	28.0	_	0.0	
ARKAN	90	87	1,014,000	89,435	14	87	*	-3.0	
ARGAN	196	192	50,800	9,754	4	192	À	2.0	
ABYAAR	28.0	26.5	52,712,448	1,438,701	323	27.5	Ā	1.0	
MUNSHAAT	64	59	11,631,386	726,940	157	64	Ā	5.0	
FIRSTDUBAL	79	74	4,968,247	385,390	109	75	Ā	1.0	
KBT	55	51	10,380,656	557,143	210	55	Ā	5.0	
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	_	0.0	
MENA	28.5	26.0	24,654,455	658,041	262	26.5		0.5	
ALMUDON	47.5	45.5	8,774,224	409,944	118	47.5	Α.	2.5	
MARAKEZ	37.0	34.5	178,138	6,265	32	36.0	A	1.0	
REMAL	67	64	14,564,130	953,516	230	64	Ψ.	-1.0	
AWJ	80	79	1,587,400	126,176	33	79	_	0.0	
Real Estate			242,218,435	12,039,931	2,950	979.84	A	27.43	
KINV	93	89	2,412,615	218,035	89	89	Α.	1.0	
FACIL	170	166	327,452	55,263	21	170	Ā	4.0	
IFA	42.5	40.5	15,758,587	655,380	164	42.0	Ā	2.0	
NINV	110	104	5,974,193	640,034	144	108	A	2.0	
KPROJ	510	500	1,495,802	748,851	35	510	Ā	10.0	
COAST	48.0	45.0	17,070,828	798,269	255	47.5	A	2.0	
SECH	55		17,442,451		***********			2.0	
SGC	89	52 89	50	935,960	219	54 89			
ARZAN	A 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1					11.00.10.00	-	0.0	
MARKAZ	40.5	38.5	5,145,615	204,857	113	40.0	A .	1.5	
	95	94	58,978	5,593	48	95	A .	4.0	
KMEFIC	32.5	28.5	932,334	28,216		30.0	-	0.0	
ALAMAN	56	55	1,455,502	80,065	45	56	A	2.0	
ALOLA	62	58	26,843,159	1,598,440	289	59		-1.0	
ALMAL	24.5	23.0	31,064,529	738,920	346	24.0		0.5	
GIH	41.0	39.0	25,158,358	1,003,147	324	41.0		2.5	
AAYAN	42.0	40.0	25,838,086	1,052,244	334	40.5		0.5	
BAYANINV	49.5	49.5	2,070,510	102,490	50	49.5	A	2.5	
OSOUL	59	57	362,375	21,014	17	57		-1.0	
KFIC	43.0	43.0	5,500	237	3	43.0	_	0.0	
KAMCO	95	89	262,100	23,708	20	93	*	-1.0	
NIH	76	72	2,618,865	192,728	78	72	A	1.0	
UNICAP	53	51	4,397,902	228,212	55	52		1.0	
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	_	0.0	
ALDEERA	40.0	38.0	2,739,466	108,211	56	40.0		2.5	
ALSALAM	60	58	9,136,430	544,394	132	60		2.0	
EKTTITAB	47.5	45.5	5,493,700	255,124	96	46.0		0.0	
ALMADINA	52	50	4,578,012	234,557	94	51	A	1.0	
NOOR	56	52	6,919,328	372,086	109	54	A .	3.0	
TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	_	0.0	
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,500		0.0	
TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	-	0.0	
KSHC	38.5	36.5	6,101,133	230,091	99	38.5		2.0	
ASIYA	39.0	37.5	1,075,851	40,859	38	38.0	_	0.0	
GNAHC	45.0	42.5	3,503,009	154,743	64	45.0	A .	2.5	
AMWAL	29.0	27.5	2,113,543	59,453	51	28.0		0.5	
ALIMTIAZ	130	126	8,745,545	1,118,764	129	128	A	2.0	
MANAZEL	37.0	35.0	14,355,116	518,841	175	35.5	Α.	1.0	
NIND	140	136	6,833,970	940,797	92	136	A	2.0	
BIIHC	30.0	28.5	8,706,401	255,862	113	29.5	A	1.0	
SENERGY	40.0	38.5	3,688,276	145,502	87	39.5	A	1.5	
AGHC	74	67	4,114,101	290,087	113	71	A	2.0	
KPPC	53	51	2,494,387	129,806	72	52	Ā	1.0	
TAHSSII AT	47.0	47.0	2,494,367	94	2	47.0		1.5	

INOVEST	85	80	3,801,945	316,563	60	85	Α.	5.0
Financial Service	s		282,698,453	0 0 0 1081.97 —  321 10.081 8 244 △  3.492 61.839 38 160 △  7.000 60.639 14 87 △  24.813 132,559 60 754.21 △  0 0 0 100 —  0 0 0 162 —  0 0 0 460 —  36.833 113.395 46 45.0 △  36.932 140,494 19 76 △  36.0932 140,494 19 76 △  36.001 4,731 10 87 ▼  0 0 0 0 350 —  0 0 0 0 90 —  0 0 0 1,220 —  0 0 0 0 158 —  0 0 0 0 54 —	15.32			
Investment Instru	iments		0	0	0	1081.97	-	0.00
ASC	246	240	41,321	10,081	8	244	A.	2.0
osos	160	160	386,492	61,839	38	160	A	10.0
HAYATCOMM	87	87	697,000	60,639	14	87	A	5.0
Technology			1,124,813	132,559	60	754.21	A	37.16
SANAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100		0.0
AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	162	_	0.0
ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	_	0.0
EFFECT	45.5	43.0	2,536,833	113,395	46	45.0	A.	2.0
AJWAN	76	74	1,850,932	140,494	19	76	A	5.0
MASAKEN	90	86	54,001	4,731	10	87		-3.0
DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	_	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	-	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	_	0.0
FLEX	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.0	_	0.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	-	0.0
AMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	54	_	0.0
Parallel Market			4,441,766	258,620	75	1243.18	- Ai	14.16

2.000

35,400

1,679

253,536

47.0

190

48.0 — 0.0

1.5

0.0

47.0

46.0

48.0

0.0

TAHSSILAT

**JEERANH** 

455 — 0.0

36

22,922

24,365

39.5

355

44 1053.86 V -4.12

▲ 4.0

-2.5

**EKHOLDING** 

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net



HANOI: US Secretary of State John Kerry (left) arrives with Vietnam's acting Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, before their meeting on Friday in Hanoi.—AP

1	N	lation	**************************************	and the second	The state of the s	ait 🗀	وطني NBI	
		~ 0	ancia					
1			Daily					
1		At	02:00 PM	Previous	Day			
	10 050	Glo	bal St	ock In	dices	•		
Index	Previo	us Close	Last	Price	Che	inge	Daily Performance	
Dow Jones	19,8	91.00	19,8	85.73	-5.27		-0.03	0.62
NASDAQ	5,54	17.49	5,57	4.12	26.63		0.48	3.55
S&P 500	077600	70.44	175500	4.64	4.20		0.18	1.57
Financial Times DAX		21.04		37.81 29.18	45.44 108.14		0.62	1.29
CAC 40	-	33.97		2.49	58.52		1.20	1.24
Swiss	8,37	75.02		2.19	77.17		0.92	2.83
Nikkei 225	19,1	34.70	19,2	87.28	152.58	<b>A</b>	0.80	0.90
Topix		35.41	1,54	14.89	9.48	<b>A</b>	0.62	1.73
Hang Seng		29.02		37.38	108.36	<b>A</b>	0.47	4.26
Straits Times	2,99	3.00	April 1997	25.07	32.07	A	1.07	5.01
		ME	NA Sto	ock In	dices			
Index	Previo	us Close	Last	Price	Cha	inge	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	6,10	7.68	6,22	2.83	115.15		1.89	5.89
Saudi Arabia		21.77	17.00	7.29	-14.48	•	-0.21	-4.00
Dubai		20.59		8.45	-42.14		-1.13	5.37
Abu Dhabi	-	31.28	17 A j = 2 A	4.77	-6.51		-0.14	2.97
Bahrain Oatar	- 100	09.47		42.03	3.48 32.56	A .	0.29	-0.71 2.61
Oman		52.48		14.05	-18.43	÷	-0.32	-0.35
Lebanon		15.95	597.975	7.03	-8.92	· ·	-0.73	0.27
Jordan	2,17	76.91	2,17	0.16	-6.75	•	-0.31	0.31
Egypt	13,2	23.90	13,3	13,343.11			0.90	7.12
Morocco	12,8	73.79	12,722.60		-151.19	*	-1.17	10.56
Tunisia	5,54	10.01	5,54	16.38	6.37	<b>A</b>	0.11	0.93
		oal Cu			- 300			
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australia: Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.1691	3.2584	3.0604	2.6750	3.2854	373.12	4.3416
Saudi Riyal	0.08218		0.2678	0.2515	0.2198	0.2700	30.66	0.3568
US Dollar	0.30690	3.7347		0.9392	0.8210	1.0083	114.51	1.3324
Euro	0.32676	3.9763	1.0647	4 4434	0.8748	1.0737	121.88	1.4204
Sterling Pound Swiss Franc	0.37383	4.5492 3.7040	0.9918	0.9314	0.8129	1.2301	139.67	1.6251
Japanese Yen	0.00268	0.0326	0.0087	0.0082	0.0072	0.0088	113.39	0.0116
Australian Dollar	0.23033	2.8029	0.7505	0.7040	0.6153	0.7567	85.94	317 1.12
	MEN	NA Cur	renci	es Exc	hange	Rate		
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30690	3.7347	0.3740	3.6264	0.3831	3.6572	18.7900
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2584		12.1691	1.2187	11.8162	1.2484	11.9166	61.2252
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08218		0.1001	0.9710	0.1026	0.9792	5.0312
Bahraini Dinar	2.6736	0.82052	9.9850		9.6955	1.0243	9.7778	50.2366
Qatari Riyal	0.2758	0.08463	1.0299	0.1031		0.1057	1.0085	5.1814
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.80103	9.7479	0.9762	9.4652		9.5456	49.0434
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08392	0.1988	0.1023	0.9916	0.1048	0.1946	5.1378
Egyptian Pound	0.0332	50500 1	0.0.2	- 10		0.0204	0.1946	
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	oal Int	onth		onth	1-1	Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.75	1,13	10000000	44		75		.06
US Dollar	0.72	0.76	1.	02	1.	33	1.	.69
Euro	-0.39	-0.38	-0	.34	-0	.23	-0	.09
Sterling Pound	0.24	0.26		35		52		.77
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.78	17.55	.72		.66	1, 11507	.50
Australian Dollar Japanese Yen	-0.02	-0.04		.03		02	-	.68
- panae 100	0.02	-	obal B			(F)		CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
Country	2-1	rear	terrove ne	rear .	Andres in	Year	30-	Year
La	1	19		90		40		.99
United States		19	-1.	90	Z.	40	2.	
United States Europe United Kingdom	-0	.74	-0	.49 56	0.	33	1.	.05

Commodities

Change

-0.01

-0.02

-0.10

0.00

0.00

Last Price

51.59

54.06

52.31

1197.26

16.79

51.60

54.08

52.41

1197.26

16.79

Cuwait Oil

Brent

West Texas

iource: National Bank of Ku

Yearly

-3.12

-1.07

-2.56

3.79

5.07

-0.02

-0.04

-0.19

0.00

0.00

## US POLITICS TRUMPS FOREX MARKETS

#### **NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT**

The week started on a continued strength in the US dollar as markets were eager to listen to the first postelection speech of president-elect Trump. To markets' disappointment, the press conference did not provide any further details as to the potential fiscal policies causing a major setback to the Dollar and to risk in general.

Although there was a very brief mention of a "major border tax on companies leaving the US" and that Obamacare will be repealed and replaced "almost simultaneously", overall markets were however disappointed at the lack of substance around policy in particular.

In this whole political mess, markets chose to ignore another set of important news around the balance sheet unwinding comments out of the Fed and the positive comments from the Fed chair Yellen. Indeed, the later was largely positive, saying that "unemployment has now reached a low level, the labor market is generally strong and wage growth is beginning to pick". The Fed Chair also said that Dodd-Frank bank regulation made "important changes" and that she would not want to see it "rolled back".

Moreover, Philadelphia Fed President Patrick Harker mentioned that the Fed can start considering stopping balance sheet reinvestment and later start unwinding the balance sheet when the Fed funds rate gets to 100 basis points. St Louis Fed President James Bullard reiterated by saying that the "committee may be in a better position to allow reinvestment to end or to otherwise reduce the size of the balance sheet".

Last but not least, Chicago Fed president Charles Evans expects that president-elect Donald Trump's stimulus policies to "increase growth over the next two years." He stated that policymakers "look forward to refining that when we actually see proposals that are moving forward and likely to be implemented." As improvements in the economic outlook materialize, the US would need "less accommodation". He also said earlier in the month that three rate hikes this year is "not implausible".

In summary, the US dollar traded broadly lower during the week while stocks struggled in a tight range as markets continue obsessing over the new president elect political moves.

On the other side of the ocean, politics also remain the major driver of the economy. In the UK, Prime Minister Theresa May renewed hard "Brexit" fears as she seems leaning against Britain keeping "bits" of its EU membership. Markets interpreted her

**By Hayder Tawfik** 

urozone economic growth has seen some

strength since the last quarter of 2016. It

was led by an acceleration in the German

domestic

1.9 percent.

was significantly faster than most economist

predicted. This economic growth was under-

pinned by a recent report on rising employ-

ment and improving business sentiment. The

country has also benefited from the European

Central Bank's monetary stimulus and weaker

Euro against the US dollar. The general picture

is that a consumption- driven upswing in

Germany, which is going to stay in place as long

as the ECB continues its expansionary monetary

policy. Also, there has been some positive con-

tribution from demand from outside the euro

last year and public expenditure increased 4.2

German consumer spending rose 2 percent

area at the start of year.

expanded about half a

percent in the October-

December period from the previous three

months, when it grew

0.2 percent, according

to the Federal Statistics

Office. The overall 2016

gross domestic product

for Germany grew by

area's growth engine,

Germany, the euro

economic growth over the period from October

to December of last year. Germany's Gross

the single European Market. She reiterated being "tempted to say that the people who are getting it wrong are those who print things saying I'm talking about a hard Brexit, or it is absolutely inevitable it is a hard Brexit. I don't accept the terms soft and hard Brexit." Adding to the tension were comments from Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon who stated she was not "bluffing" when speaking about a second independence vote in Scotland.

In the same fashion, markets ignored better than expected UK economic figures indicating that the economy continues to perform relatively well despite the political uncertainty. Although data on industrial production, manufacturing output and exports all came in above consensus, investors have continued to shy away from the Pound in the wake of the unclear path of the government towards the European negotiations.

In summary, on the currency front, the dollar index had a volatile week opening the week at 102.24 and reached a 25 day low of 100.72. The index managed to close the week at 101.22.

The pound sterling opened the week at 1.2266 and reached a low of 1.2036 against the US dollar. However, the Pound recovered with the release of positive economic data and managed to close the week at 1.2180.

Despite many election posing threats in 2017, the euro was able to recoup some of its losses during the week. The currency's rally was not triggered by events within the eurozone, but by events in the US and the UK. After managing to reach a short lived high at 1.0684, the Euro closed the week at 1.0647.

On the commodities front, news was out that Saudi Arabia has cut February term crude supplies to refiners in India and Southeast Asia, seeking to comply with an OPEC deal, but it has held most of its exports to the rest of Asia steady for a second month according to market reports. Oil prices fell slightly after the US Energy Information Administration said crude oil production this year is expected to rise by 110,000 barrels to 9 million barrels per day compared with a year ago due to the rise in oil prices. Also, Gold moved on the Dollar weakness and extended a recent rebound towards the \$1,200 level.

#### **Job markets**

Job openings increased marginally to 5.52 million in November from a revised 5.45 million in October and below market expectations of 5.59 milwords as a sign that the Prime lion. Over the month, quits rate was Minister prioritizes control of the unchanged at 2.1 percent and the laycountry's borders over the access to offs and discharges rate was the fourth quarter. Wholesale invento- Europe.

EUROPEAN ECONOMY

**REGAINS MOMENTUM** 

product

unchanged at 1.1 percent. The elevated level of job openings suggests that the labor market conditions remain strong.

Another evidence of a healthy labor market is jobless claims coming at 247,000 this week, an increase of 10,000 from the earlier week's level. This marks 97 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1970.

On a different front, US retail sales accelerated in December on the back of a stronger demand for motor vehicles and provided further evidence that the economy ended the fourth quarter with positive momentum. In the previous month, retail sales rose

ries were revised upwards to show an increase of 1.0 percent on a monthly basis in November. That was the largest increase since November 2014. Moreover, the component of wholesale inventories that goes into the calculation of gross domestic product rose 0.7 percent in November.

Producer price growth in the US came in line with economist estimates in the month of December at 0.3 percent and 1.6 percent on a yearly basis, the largest yearly gain in just over two years. The increase in producer prices was primarily due to a jump in energy prices, which spiked by 2.6 percent during the previous month. Excluding

The eurozone unemployment was unchanged at 9.8 percent in November from the prior month comexpectations. This is the lowest rate since July 2009 and also declined from the 10.5 percent seen in November 2015. The rate of youth unemployment increased to 21.2 percent from 20.9 percent previously, although there was a net reduction from the 21.8 percent seen a year ago. German unemployment held at a record low of 4.1 percent and the French unemployment rate fell to 9.5 percent from 9.7 percent. In contrast, the Italian unemployment rate increased to 11.9 per-

ing in line with consensus market

sector will make a decent contribution to 4Q GDP.

Currently, the annual rate of manufacturing growth is 1.2 percent, but the PMI is historically consistent with annual growth of around 3 percent on a yearly basis. Certainly, the pound's fall will boost international competitiveness and therefore should be supportive for exports of manufactured

#### **UK house prices**

UK House prices in the final quarter of the year were 2.5 percent higher than in the earlier quarter. The annual rate of growth increased, rising for the second consecutive month, from 6.0 percent in November to 6.5 percent in December. Slower economic growth, pressure on employment and a squeeze on spending power, together with affordability constraints, are expected to reduce housing demand during 2017.

UK house prices should, however, continue to be supported by an ongoing shortage of property for sale, low levels of house building, and exceptionally low interest rates. Total UK home sales however have started to depict a different picture as in the three months from September to November, sales were 9 percent lower than in the same period last year.

#### Japanese consumer confidence The Japanese consumer confidence

jumped in December from the previous month, improving for the first time in three months hitting the highest level in more than three years. The news comes amid a solid performance from Tokyo's equity market and a weak yen. On the other hand, the index is still in contraction at 43.1 in December up by 2.2 from the previous month.

#### **Chinese inflation**

Chinese consumer inflation rose at a slower but steady pace, while producer prices improved sharply, pointing to improved productivity and growth in the economy. The consumer price advanced 2.1 percent on a yearly basis, after climbing 2.3 percent in November. China's producer prices however, rose the most in more than five years in December as prices of coal and other raw materials soared, adding to expectations that global inflation may be stronger in 2017. The producer price index jumped 5.5 percent in December from a year earlier, the most since September 2011, compared with a 3.3 percent increase in

#### **Kuwait**

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30535 The USDKWD opened at 0.30535

November.

'Trade doesn't kill jobs' Even if jobs did return, Western consumers are likely to balk at paying the higher prices that companies would have to charge to reflect the higher input prices-everything from wages to property leases and electricity tariffsof making those goods at home. Take televi-

sion manufacturing. Had that stayed in

America, experts say, each set would cost hun-

dreds of dollars more than they do now on

average, limiting their affordability.

Households would have stuck with one TV in

the living room, instead of several dotted around the home. "Trade doesn't kill jobs, it protects consumption," Hicks said, while also stressing that globalization had created millions more jobs in Western nations' services and logistics sectors than it has destroyed in industry. So if those manufacturing jobs are gone foreverand new developments such as machine learning and nanotechnology portend a "Fourth Industrial Revolution"-what can be

developed world? Some ideas are in their policy infancy, such as a universal basic income, but others are wellknown and perhaps more pressing than ever,

done to assure the future of workers in the

including better education and re-training. Such discussions will inform the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, coming up in the same week that sees Trump inaugurated as the 45th US president on January 20.

"We are at some kind of turning point in history," WEF founder Klaus Schwab said. "We need new concepts. We cannot have just populist solutions."—AFP

date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to

one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the



NEW YORK: The statue of George Washington on the steps of Federal Hall faces the facade of the New York Stock Exchange. —AP

0.6 percent from a small gain of 0.2 percent in November. The increase in sales was supported by holiday shopping in December, reflecting a boost in confidence after the election and a solid increase in hourly pay. For all of 2016, sales climbed 3.3 percent, exceeding the 2.3 percent advance a

#### Wholesale inventories

The final figures for US wholesale inventories in November increased more than expected posting their largest increase in two years and sugfood and energy prices, core producer prices increased by 0.2 percent in December after rising by 0.4 percent

#### **Europe & UK**

Investor confidence surprisingly turned positive and implies more growth potential ahead in the euro zone. The index for the Euro zone climbed by 8.2 points and reached the highest value since August 2015. It came at 18.2 from 10.0 in the previous month. At the same time, economists expect more economic upside potengesting inventory investment would tial for Eastern Europe and Austria due again support economic growth in to its strong ties with the east of

cent from 11.8 percent and also rose from 11.5 percent a year ago, which will maintain concerns surrounding structural Italian weaknesses.

#### **UK** manufacturing

UK manufacturing output has increased in November, increasing 1.3 percent on a monthly basis, well ahead of the market expectations of a 0.5 percent increase. The increase in production was due to an increase in mining and quarrying output following the end of a maintenance period in the oil and gas industry and an increase in manufacturing. The industrial output in total was up 2.1 percent in November, suggesting the yesterday morning.

## ROBOT ARMS REPLACE FACTORY HANDS

PARIS: Donald Trump has been crowing as companies including Ford renounce plans to move factories to Mexico. But the main beneficiaries of this shift back to the US aren't saying much by way of celebration-industrial robots don't tend to speak.

While globalization's detractors blame countries such as China and Mexico for stealing the factory jobs of the West, experts point to less obvious culprits which are harder to scapegoat and to overcome in an interconnected economy with complex supply chains.

Since US manufacturing employment peaked in the late 1970s, according to Michael Hicks of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University in Indiana, "95 percent of job losses were due to productivity improvements including automation and computer technology, rather than trade".

Indiana is one of the rust-belt states where Trump triumphed in November, and the president-elect has promised a punitive border tax against outsourcing companies as he bids to become "the greatest jobs producer that God ever created".

But while the US economy is pumping out manufactured goods in record volumes, it is achieving that feat with 7.3 million fewer factory hands than in 1979, government figures show. Automation has transformed the productivi-

ty of manufacturing since industrial robots first started painting, cutting, welding and assembling in the 1960s. And experts point to more recent innovations such as artificial intelligence, management apps and 3D printing as new threats to shop-floor workers as well as to white-collar staff.

#### 'Political theatre'

Hicks-who has known former Indiana governor Mike Pence, Trump's incoming vice president, for years-dismissed recent announcements by Ford, Indiana air-conditioning brand Carrier and others as "political theatre". "The apparent change of heart of these American companies is due to the hard math of expected tax cuts and regulatory changes (under the Trump administration)," he told AFP in a phone interview, noting that under company projections, robots rather than wages will account for the bulk of planned investment that is being redirected from Mexico to the US.

Vows to renegotiate trade pacts, or declare China a currency cheat, played well for Trump on the campaign trail but trends such as automation have already rendered much lowskilled US labor obsolete. The total output of US manufacturing rose more than 250 percent from 1980 to 2015, but its workforce slumped by roughly 40 percent in that time, according to analysis by the Brookings Institution in Washington.

"These diverging lines-which reflect the sector's improved productivity-highlight a huge problem with Trump's promises to help workers by reshoring millions of manufacturing jobs," Brookings expert Mark Muro wrote in a blog post.

"America is already producing a lot. And in any event, the return of more manufacturing won't bring back many jobs because the labor is increasingly being done by robots." Annual data from the International

Federation of Robotics show an inexorable rise in the worldwide use of industrial robots. China is now the biggest market for them.

#### BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

- The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:
- 1. Ali Salh Naser Abdulla Alnajdy 2. Igbal Atshan Khalaf Fares
- 3. Zahrah Khamees Mahmoud Zlzaabi Huda Sayed Hadi Syed Mohd Alawi
- 5. Sheikh Nawal Mohammed Al-Jaber Al-

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw



1804080

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bankis Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bankis products and

#### percent according to the German statistics office. More so investment was up 1.7 percent and construction gained 3.1 percent. Exports grew 2.5 percent, with imports 3.4 percent higher than in 2015. Household consumption benefited from a drop in the unemployment rate to the lowest level since the country's reunification more than a quarter of a century ago. At the same time, government spending was boosted by costs related to the provision of assistance and shelter for more than 1 million refugees. Also, industrial production in the

In the coming months, consumer spending in Germany may come under pressure as inflation rates rise. Prices are already increasing at the fastest pace in more than three years. While more than 90 percent of German companies

euro-area rose 1.5 percent in November from a

month earlier, its second consecutive increase.

currently don't see "strong effects" on them from Brexit, general elections in the fall, which will pit the ruling party of Chancellor Angela Merkel against a strengthening populist movement, are adding to uncertainty. For 2017, I expect a continuation of the upswing, even though momentum should be damped somewhat by the upcoming elections in Germany, France that might add to political uncertainty."

Also we have seen even Italy growing out of its economic weakness of the past few years. Italian industrial output increased more than estimated in November, signaling a possible acceleration in economic activity. Production rose 0.7 percent from October when it increased a revised 0.1 percent on a monthly basis.

Both companies consumptions grew more optimistic last month amid expectations of a better growth outlook. The manufacturing confidence index rose in December to the highest in a year. However, the latest indications from the labor market and inflation do not bode well for Italy's outlook. Joblessness rose in November to 11.9 percent, the highest in almost a year and a half. Consumer prices posted last year a 0.1 percent fall on an annual basis, the first yearly decline since 1959 when the consumer-price index decreased 0.4 percent.

As for France, it is same story as Italy and, where there has been signs of economic activities picking up cross the board. Most recent economic data shows that consumption and private investment have been the main factors behind the economic pick-up. This has clearly been seen through the last quarter of 2016. It seems that like the Italians and British, the French have had enough of economic austerity and have really ignored the excitement of the election year and started doing some private spending's. They have ignored the threat of the National Front making any significant changes to the French election results. May be thy have taken the lead from their American and the British voters.

All of these economic activities have become major events that some central banks official and governments in the Eurozone taking note of them. In my opinion it all depends how the new US president outlines his economic and foreign policies in the weeks ahead. As for the global financial markets, they have resigned to the fact that whenever happens, inflation and interest rates are on the rise and these can only be good for global and European economic growth in the coming years. @Rasameel



## QATAR AIRWAYS TRAVEL FESTIVAL AVAILABLE FOR 1 MORE DAY

exceptional offers across the airline's

**DOHA:** Qatar Airways' world-travellers on 16 January 2017. Travellers booking still have 1 day to take advantage of Qatar Airways flights still have the opportunity to redeem discounts on global network, with the Qatar Airways people travelling together, special Travel Festival running until midnight companion fares and kids fly free offer



to more than 150 destinations.

Exceptional deals can be found on flights to London from KD 111, per person, Geneva from KD 137, per person, and New York from KD ,234 per person. World-travellers are encouraged to visit gatarairways.com or contact their nearest Qatar Airways sales agent to book.

New for the 2017 Qatar Airways Travel Festival are exclusive partnerships with AccorHotels and Visa. Travellers who book with AccorHotels via the Qatar Airways website will receive exclusive offers on accommodation, while Visa card holders avail a further 15 per cent off flight discounts at the time of booking.

With over 500 prizes available throughout the festival there are still a number of exciting prizes to be won for those travellers booking online, including free upgrades to the World's Best Business Class, Silver and Gold Privilege Club memberships and up to 100,000 Omiles. Double Omiles can also be earned on flights booked by Privilege Club members. Prizes to be availed within Hamad International Airport, Qatar Airways' hub include access to the Al-Maha Lounge, Qatar Duty Free retail vouchers and spa vouchers to be used in The Airport Hotel. Qatar Airways Holidays is also providing fantastic deals on hotels and accommodation across a number of the airline's 150 destinations.

Qatar Airways Chief Commercial Officer, Dr Hugh Dunleavy, said: "The Qatar Airways Travel Festival is still running and travellers should hurry to take advantage of extraordinary deals across our global network. The Travel Festival is designed to inspire our travellers to go places together with their nearest and dearest, and we've packaged the festival to cater for everyone. Treat your loved one to ultimate luxury with a companion fare on the World's Best Business Class or take the family on a holiday with our kids fly free offer. Whoever you choose to take with you in 2017, we look forward to welcoming you on board as we make memories when we go places together."

Enjoy award winning journeys to Far East Asia from KD 99 per person, to Europe from LCY KD,111 per person or to the US from LCY KD,220 per person. Travellers can take advantage of easy connections through the Qatar Airways' hub in Doha, and find themselves in over 150 exciting destinations worldwide.

Passengers taking advantage of the Qatar Airways Travel Festival are encouraged to turn two holidays into one by planning a stopover in Doha, with a new transit visa scheme offering visitors a free transit visa for up to 96 hours on your way to or from your final destination. Combine a quick visit to Doha, with its historic sites and fivestar shopping and resorts, with a dream holiday - only available to Qatar Airways passengers.





## Infiniti Al Babtain Holds Infiniti KUWAIT AFTERSALES COMPETITION

the authorized distributor of Infiniti vehicles in the State of Kuwait conducted the first 'Infiniti Service Consultant Skills Contest' on January 9, 2017. The contest was created by Infiniti Middle East this year in pursuit of excellence and to further motivate aftersales associates to deliver leading total ownership experience for their customers. Participants were tested on brand, product, total ownership concepts, service processes and Infiniti vehicle technology.

After a gruelling written test and quiz round, the finalists Bader Jihad Jadallah and Mudassar Hussain contended for the winner title in the final practical test session over two rounds: 'Customer Reception and Estimate' and 'Closeout and Vehicle Delivery'. The contest was attended by top management of Al Babtain Group including COO, Mohamed Shalaby and Group HR GM Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain as well as senior management. Representing Nissan Gulf

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co, were Surendra Acharya, DGM - Aftersales, NGF and Shailendra Singh, Regional Parts Manager, NGF; who praised Al Babtain for their flawless coordination of the event.

> Giving the opening speech, Shalaby said 'Training is important to our organization for all staff from top management to the entry level as it empowers our people to develop themselves to perform consistently and better every day. This is how we have become market leaders and intend to remain so. The Infiniti brand is the flagship of our organization and we are proud of the quality of our Sales and Service. By introducing the Service Consultant skills contest this year, Infiniti Middle East has clearly demonstrated the importance of developing the frontline staff who deal with our valued customers on a daily basis and are vital to consistent and improved customer satisfaction. The contest will serve as a learning platform for our service advisors to measure their talents and enhance their skills. It

is not just about winning or losing, it is about learning and improving."

Abdulmohsen remarked 'Aftersales service plays a vital role in customer satisfaction and retention and is key to strengthening the bond between the organization and customers. Al Babtain is strongly committed to the development of its staff and this is especially important for our frontline staff who are the first to welcome our customers and therefore are the face of our organization. The Infiniti Service Consultant skills contest is an opportunity for our service consultants to evaluate their skills and empower themselves with the right tools and knowledge to perform their jobs better. I wish the contestants all the best and exhort them to utilize the occasion to develop their talents.' At the end of an exhausting but exhilarating contest, Mudassar was declared the winner. Infiniti Al Babtain wishes him the best in the regional contest in Dubai.



### GCC MARKETS REMAINED RESILIENT IN 2016

#### **KFIC Annual Report on Global and GCC Markets**

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance and Investment Company (KFIC) clarified in its financial annual report that the International markets closed the year 2016 in bullish territory after enduring a difficult start to the year, with positive economic data coming from Advanced Economies and Emerging Markets, Geopolitical events continued to impact economies on a global standpoint, with the ongoing war in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and numerous terrorist attacks in Turkey creating major security uncertainty around the Middle-East and Europe.

In the United States, the USFederal Reserve was expected to raise interest rates in June 2016, but due to the surprise decision of Brexit, the Fed decided to delay raising interest rates until December 2016, and markets reacted positively towards this news. Donald trump shocked the world as he won the presidential race to the white house, against all expectations, and US equities also rallied due to the fresh fiscal policies which he would introduce such as ease banking regulation, reducing taxes, and spending heavily on rebuilding infrastructure. A trend toward stronger US economic growth and inflation could be accelerated by President-elect Trump's fiscal plans. Despite the disruption of Brexit, Europe has continued to progress towards a path of slow but steady growth as the ECB has continued to add more stimulus and has continued to boost the quantitative easing measures. Emerging Markets have also performed positively, with the exception of China's economy which has gone through a rebalancing phase and has slowed down due to the fall in commodity prices (further weakened by oil's collapse beginning in 2014).

#### **GCC** economies

GCC nations have endured a difficult time economically as the slump in oil prices has forced governments to adjust to the new era of lower oil prices. Countries have been encouraged by agencies such as the IMF to accelerate structural reforms to diversify their economies away from Petrochemicals, boost the functional role of the private sector, and create jobs for their swiftly growing labor forces. Another strategy implemented by GCC governments was to issue international bonds to ease the burden on fiscal reserves and improve overall market liquidity. Saudi Arabia made headlines when it issued international bonds at a grand scale believed to be worth \$17.5 billion, which was the biggest bond sale from an emerging market nation. Qatar also raised \$9 billion in sovereign bonds, Abu Dhabi sold \$5 billion worth of sovereign bonds, and Kuwait's planned bond issue worth \$9.9 billion has been delayed until 2017.

In Saudi Arabia, strict austerity measures were implemented which included reducing minister's salaries, decreasing capital expenditures, and delaying paying contractors for construction projects. The Saudi budget for 2017 indicates that austerity measures will continue to take place as subsidies on utilities such as water and electricity will be partially reduced and fuel prices are expected to rise by +40 percent. Major spending increases were set aside for Healthcare which increased by +15 percent and Education & Training by +5 percent from 2016. The 2017 budget is expected to see costly subsidies on utilities such as water and electricity cut, while fuel prices are expected to rise a further +40 percent. In Kuwait, plans were made to introduce income tax, spending cuts and privatization on many public services to attract more foreign investment and boost the economy. However, the parliament was dissolved with cabinet members disagreeing over austerity measures due to fiscal budget constraints and this has delayed the release of the 2017 budget details. In the UAE, the cabinet approved the AED 48.7 billion budget allocated for 2017 which was up by +2.6 percent compared to the previous 2016 budget. The main focus on the budget was to boost infrastructure spending by +27.0 percent as compared to the prior year.

Oman's 2017 budget assumed an average oil price of \$45.0/bbl. The ministry has vowed to focus on issuing international bonds as a method of boosting funds. Oman also has plans to sell major stakes in a string of state companies over the next several years such as Muscat Electricity Distribution Co, which will be completed in the first half of 2017. Qatar's 2017 budget intends to reduce the government's deficit and support growth measures through higher capital spending. Capital project spending will be targeted at transportation and infrastructure +21.2 percent of total spending, health +12.3 percent and Education +10.4 percent. The government also reiterated that it will continue to finance the fiscal deficit through domestic and external debt instruments and not draw down on accumulated reserves. Meanwhile, Bahrain has scaled back 22 municipal projects due to be completed within 2017-2018 as a result of budget cuts. This all comes at a time where Bahrain was stripped of its investment grade credit rating by S&P to "BB" with a stable outlook, from "BBB-" with a negative outlook, which in essence sets it to junk

## KFH GROUP TRADED \$11.4BN IN SUKUK MARKET IN 2016

#### AL-ROSHOOD: KFH PRIMARY DEALER IN IILM, GLOBAL MARKET MAKER

KUWAIT: "Kuwait Finance House Group (KFH-Group) volume traded in the Sukuk market reached \$11.4 billion for the year 2016. Such volume is yet another outstanding achievement to be added to KFH record as a primary dealer and a global Sukuk market maker" said Abdulwahab Essa Al-Roshood, Group Chief Treasury Officer at KFH.

He added, in a press release, that the bank managed in 2016 to achieve remarkable development in the Sukuk market at the regional and global levels as it motivated and encouraged a number of conventional and Islamic financial institutions to enter the market. KFH occupied a great share of the secondary market short-term Sukuk trading issued by International Islamic Liquidity Management (IILM) since KFH was nominated "Primary Dealer".

He emphasized that this volume of trading has contributed significantly to the increase of liquidity and to the support of Islamic financial markets. Sukuk boost Islamic finance, strengthen its pillars and highlight KFH role as a pioneer in this market.

He reiterated the focus on the Group efforts, indicating that managing KFH Group efforts contributed in reinforcing leadership in the Sukuk Market, especially that the Group banks



**Abdulwahab Essa Al-Roshood** 

are spread over key regions including Turkey, Malaysia and Bahrain.

Al-Roshood stated that Sukuk are the most significant and powerful low risk investment financing tool which contributes effectively to the process of encountering liquidity crises. Sukuk are characterized as instruments of high liquidity, active secondary market, flexibility and

good returns. Sukuk represent a significant investment outlet for banks and an effective tool to manage liquidity in accordance with CBK regulations. In addition, Sukuk contribute in increasing shareholders profit.

He highlighted that Sukuk contribute significantly in financing income generating and productive projects, thus activate economic growth, indicating several countries worldwide voice interest and mull deliberately issuing sovereign Sukuk in an attempt to plug their budget deficit.

Meanwhile, International Islamic Liquidity Management, IILM expressed appreciation for KFH's excellent and strong performance, indicating that KFH has contributed strongly to the distribution of the IILM Sukuk.

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

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

#### AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-NAJMA ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of account, all your dreams will be Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw on January 15, 2017.

The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are: Sabria Rajb Hassan Ali - KD 7000, Abdulrahman Shaker Ali Mohammed — KD 7000, Mohammad Mazafar Haji Mohammad Din — KD 7000, Ahmad Sanded — KD 7000, AbdelHameed Ahmed Shawa— KD

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever With the revamped Al-Najma turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-

Najma account **Amazing** 

news from Al-Tijari... Al-Najma account

daily prize in Kuwait!

With Al-Najma you have more Quarterly draws to win great chances to win greater prizes \* Each KD 25 kept in your

prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000 account gives you one chance to

1ST QUARTER — KD 100 000, 2ND QUARTER — KD 150 000, 3RD

Daily draw to win KD 7000

QUARTER — KD 200 000, 4TH OUARTER — KD 250 000.

\* Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.

\* Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features

\* ATM card

\* Issue a credit card against your account

\* Obtain all CBK banking services You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

### SECURITY: THE VITAL ELEMENT OF THE INTERNET OF THINGS

By Scott Manson

e're now experiencing a new wave of technology that's being defined by connected devices everywhere. It's all a part of the Internet of Things (IoT). These connected devices are impacting our lives on a daily basis, changing everything from the way we pro-



nected "things" by the year 2020. Each of these devices could either be an asset you want to protect and enable, or a threat vector. The ultimate goal of IoT is to increase operational efficiency, power new business models, and improve quality of life and by connecting everyday objects and networking them together, we benefit from their ability to combine simple data to produce usable intelligence. To capitalize on the vast opportunities that the IoT brings doesn't just require networked connections but secure networked connections. Cybersecurity is not just a top consideration with the IoT, but one that is foundational to delivering on the promise of the vision. Protecting all of the interactions of the IoT is crucial in enabling people and organizations to benefit from these advances.

In today's world of IoT, cybersecurity needs to be top of mind as the number and type of attack vectors will continue to increase as will the amount of data, creating a daunting challenge for companies and those responsible to defend the infrastructure. No longer is it a matter of if attacks will happen, but when. Incentives for attackers are extremely large, and all organizations need to understand how these attackers pursue valuable data.

#### **IoT Cybersecurity Challenges**

The IoT is exponentially increasing the number and type of attack vectors, creating many new and unforeseen challenges for organizations and those responsible for defending the infrastructure. Some of these challenges include:

 Increased attack surface. With billions of new devices now connected to the IoT and more devices connecting all the time, the ability to gain visibility into these attack vectors, let alone close them to malicious actors, is increasingly difficult.

• Threat diversity. Due to the variety of objects adversaries can target, many of which are in insecure locations, attackers are able to devise new methods we have yet to face and blend sophisticated techniques to accomplish their missions.

• Threat sophistication. Threats have already become stealthier, evading initial point-in-time detections and using nearly imperceptible indicators of compromise to reach their target. Cybersecurity systems that rely exclusively on point-in-time defenses and techniques can't keep up with unfolding attacks.

• Differentiated Enforcement and Remediation. IT and OT networks are managed with different priorities in mind. Cybersecurity policies that are intended for one environment often do not translate well to the other. This presents serious tradeoffs between protection and continuity of operations.

• Complexity & Fragmentation. Networks and their components constantly evolve and spawn new

attack vectors - mobile devices, web-enabled and mobile applications, hypervisors, social media, web browsers, and home computers - making cybersecurity a complex problem to address. The inherent diversity of IoT networks further expands this to new device types.

• Shortage of skilled resources. Adding to these challenges is the lack of in-house technology skills necessary to maintain a strong security posture to keep up with a rapidly developing and evolving threats. For 2016, the world-wide shortage of security professionals is estimated at more than a million, increasing to 1.5 million by 2019 which indicates how much demand there is for security talent. Since the demand is greater than the supply, many organizations struggle to attract and retain security professionals and, consequently, this further constrains security teams.

#### What's Needed

What's needed is a new, threat-centric and operational approach that is as pervasive as the loT and the threats themselves. This new approach must span a range of attack vectors and address the full attack continuum - before, during, and after an attack. With this model we can protect computer systems, networks, and data. I believe that the right approach for loT cybersecurity should deliver on three key imperatives -visibility-driven, threat -focused, and platformbased. Here are my reasons why:

Visibility-Driven: We must be able to accurately see what is happening in the environment in real-time to gain knowledge about the environment and threats. Visibility needs to come from the network fabric, endpoints, mobile devices, applications, virtual environments and the cloud. A real-time, accurate picture of devices, data and the rela-

tionships between them is crucial to making sense of billions of devices, applications, and their associated information.

#### Threat-Focused

We need to presume compromise and hone our ability to identify threats based on understanding normal and abnormal behavior, identify indicators of compromise, make decisions and respond rapidly. Policies and controls are important to reduce the surface area of attack, but threats still get through. We need to focus on detecting, understanding and stopping threats. With advanced malware and zero day attacks this is an on-going process that requires continuous analysis and real-time cybersecurity intelligence, delivered from the cloud, that is shared across all technologies for improved efficacy.

Platform-Based: In this new IoT environment, security is now more than a network issue; it requires an integrated system of agile and open platforms that cover the network, devices and the cloud. These platforms need to be extensible, built for scale and centralized management for unified policy and consistent controls. We need to move from deploying simple point cybersecurity appliances to integrating a true platform of scalable, easy to deploy services and applications.

The promise of the IoT can only be fully realized when fears about the very real security implications are assuaged. Organizations across an array of industries are embracing IoT, each with unique needs and requirements. While there is no "one size fits all" approach to cybersecurity, with a comprehensive approach to security, organizations are free to capitalize on the IoT to improve business, government, and safety in extraordinary ways. — By Scott Manson is Cyber Security Leader for Middle East and Turkey, Cisco.

## SOPHOS ANNOUNCES SPECIAL PARTNER INITIATIVES FOCUSED ON SMB IN ME

**DUBAI:** Sophos yesterday announced a new initiative for small and medium sized businesses (SMB) in the Middle East. The special training and incentive initiative for channel partners is designed to enable them to address small and medium businesses as a focus for their go-to-market activities

Speaking on the new initiative, Harish Chib, vice president, Middle East and Africa, Sophos said, "With the growing volume of sophisticated and targeted threats across the world, small businesses without dedicated security resources are particularly challenged to stay secure. They often do not have adequate skilled security staff on board and have invested more on managing business challenges than on IT security infrastructure. The strategy of adding layer upon layer of security technologies is really no longer practical or effective. It is costly and complex and out of reach for a vast majority of businesses. Hence, we felt it is important to cater to this segment."

"Our intention is to help incentivize our channel partners to better serve and support our customers in this market segment with security knowledge and expertise. Channel partners, who meet these targets will incentivized and rewarded by Sophos for their efforts, where they will be able to earn back by way of price discounts and credit for certification training," Chib added.

Sophos also announced a special pricing and rebate promotion for channel partners



Harish Chib

targeting the small and medium business end users. As part of this special incentive, partners can get a return through reduced

pricing and extra training initiatives. "Sophos is a 100% channel driven IT Security Company offering synchronized security through our next-generation portfolio of endpoint, network or cloud security solutions. As part of our 'Channel First -Channel Only' sales strategy, we are committed to providing simple and comprehensive security solutions to not only the midmarket enterprises but also the SMB segment and the channel partners that serve them. We are confident that our new training and incentive initiative will encourage our regional channel partners and gear them to cater to the ever-growing SMB segment in the Middle East," Chib explained.

Within the Middle East and Africa, Sophos has built its regional channel part-

ner program based on feedback from its distributors and reseller channel partners. The regional partner program is well segmented into four different on-boarding levels with different skills certifications, sales and target activities, and rewards.

Partners are now able to manage all Sophos solutions for every customer through the company's centralized management platform, Sophos Central. Within Sophos Central is Sophos Central-Partner, a specialized dashboard that allows partners to distribute licenses, add new customers on demand, cross- and upsell services, drive recurring revenue and have a clear, real-time perspective on all customer activities. Partners can respond to security incidents faster and track alerts of all levels directly from the dashboard, so time spent handling incidents, including minor ones, is more productive and effective.

The primary objective of the Sophos partner program is to equip partners with training and resources that enable them to sell, market, distribute and implement the company's award-winning cloud, network, server and end-user protection solutions to organizations of all sizes. It provides access to the company's portfolio of market-leading endpoint and network security products, which have been engineered keeping its partners in mind.

#### The Sophos Partner Program for Middle East and Africa

The partner program consists of four levels: Authorized Entry Level, Silver, Gold and Platinum, based on sales performance each level increases in commitment to selling Sophos products and value delivered to customers. The program includes offerings

• Simple deal registration and discount structure: Sophos's partner program is easy to implement, predictable, equitable and reliable. Partners can either interact with Sophos directly or use the Partner Portal to do so, which offers a set of tools to simplify deal registration and get pricing

 Strong product and solutions portfolio:
 Our partners have complete access to Sophos's award-winning network, server and end user protection solutions, including Sophos Cloud

• Sales and marketing tools: Partners can benefit from a flexible and generous partner program, with dedicated support, deal registration protection and competitive

• Training and certification: Focus on training and technical enablement helps partners increase the skill and competency of their sales and technical professionals, providing them with the knowledge to successfully sell, demo, deploy, support and service Sophos products

The Partner Program for MEA illustrates Sophos commitment towards being a truly channel first company that creates programs and incentives for better channel enablement and to accelerate Sophos partner profitability.



JAKARTA: A customer browses through used electronic items at a market on the outskirts of Jakarta, Indonesia. The waste from discarded electronic gadgets and appliances has increased by two-thirds in East Asia over five years, posing a growing threat to health and the environment unless proper disposal becomes the norm. —AP

## E-WASTE IS RISING IN ASIA DANGEROUSLY: UN STUDY

#### GADGET MOUNTAIN THREATENING HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT

**JAKARTA:** The waste from discarded electronic gadgets and electrical appliances has reached severe levels in East Asia, posing a growing threat to health and the environment unless safe disposal becomes the norm.

China was the biggest culprit with its electronic waste more than doubling, according to a new study by the United Nations University. But nearly every country in the region had massive increases between 2010 and 2015, including those least equipped to deal with the growing mountain of discarded smartphones, computers, TVs, air conditioners and other goods.

On average, electronic waste in the 12 countries in the study had increased by nearly two thirds in the five years, totaling 12.3 million tons in 2015 alone. Rising incomes in Asia, burgeoning populations of young adults, rapid obsolescence of products due to technological innovation and changes in fashion, on top of illegal global trade in waste, are among factors driving the increases.

"Consumers in Asia now replace their gadgets more frequently. In addition, many products are designed for low cost production, but not necessarily repair, refurbishment or easy recycling," said the study. It urges governments to enact specific laws for management of electronic waste or rigorously enforce existing legislation.

Only South Korea, Taiwan and Japan have long established recycling systems based on laws introduced in the 1990s. Open dumping of lead- and mercury-laden components, open burning of plastics to release encased copper and unsafe backyard operations to extract precious metals are the norm in most countries including Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia, which also lack laws governing the treatment of electronic and electrical waste.

The study said open burning and unsafe recycling is associated with a slew of health problems for workers and communities near recycling operations They include infertility, childhood development problems, impaired lung function, liver and kidney damage, inheritable genetic damage and mental health problems.

Backyard recyclers are after gold, silver, palladium and copper, mainly from printed circuit boards, but the crude acid bath extraction process releases toxic fumes and is also inefficient, recovering only a portion of the valuable material.

Asia as a whole is the biggest market for electronics and appliances, accounting for nearly half of global sales by volume, and produces the most waste. Guiyu, a heavily-polluted rural town in China that specializes in dismantling consumer electronics, some of it exported from rich countries, has become synonymous with the costs of a throwaway high-tech world.

China has cleaned up Guiyu and other centers like it but the Basel Action Network, which brought Guiyu to international attention, said most of the dangerous practices continue in Guiyu albeit concentrated within a new industrial park on its outskirts.

Ruediger Kuehr, one of the study's authors, said the amount of waste being generated is higher than governments estimate, partly because of their narrower definitions, and should be a wake-up call to policymakers and consumers. "We are all benefiting from the luxury of these electrical and electronic products to a certain extent, it makes our lives easier, sometimes more complicated," he said. "However if we want to continue like this we must be reusing the resources contained in electronic and electrical equipment"—AP

## CUBA SEES EXPLOSION IN INTERNET ACCESS AS TIES WITH US GROW

HAVANA: Two days before Christmas, Luis Gonzalez received a little Chinese modem from Cuba's state-owned telecommunications company. The 55-year-old theater producer connected the device to his phone and his laptop computer, which instantly lit up with a service unimaginable in the Cuba of just a few years ago - rela-

tively fast home Internet.

"It's really easy to sit and find whatever you need," Gonzalez said as he sat in his living room updating his Facebook account, listening to Uruguayan radio online and checking an arriving tourist's landing time for a neighbor who rents rooms in their building in historic Old Havana. "Most Cubans aren't used to this convenience."

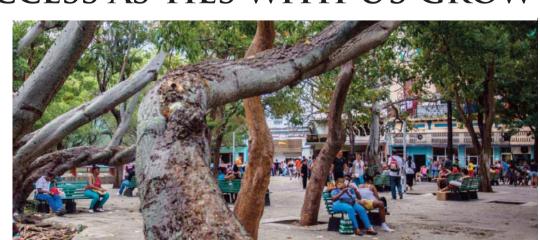
Home Internet came to Cuba last month in a limited pilot program that's part of the most dramatic change in daily life here since the declaration of detente with the United States on Dec. 17, 2014.

While Cuba remains one of the world's least internet-connected societies, ordinary citizens' access to the internet has exploded over the last two years. Since the summer of 2015, the Cuban government has opened 240 public Wi-Fi spots in parks and on street corners across the country. Cubans were previously restricted to decrepit state internet clubs and hotels that charged \$6-\$8 for an hour of slow internet. In a country with an average monthly salary of around \$25, the price of an hour online has dropped to \$1.50, still steep but now well within the range of many Cubans with private income or financial help from relatives abroad.

The government estimates that 100,000 Cubans connect to the internet daily. A new

feature of urban life in Cuba is the sight of people sitting at all hours on street corners or park benches, their faces illuminated by the screen of smartphones connected by applications such as Facebook Messenger to relatives in Miami, Ecuador or other outposts of the Cuban diaspora. Connections are made mostly through access cards sold by the state monopoly and often resold on street corners for higher prices.

The spread of connectivity has remotely reunited families separated for years, even decades. It's fueled the spread of Airbnb and other booking services that have funneled millions in business to private bedand-breakfasts owners. And it's exposed Cubans to a faster flow of news and cultural developments from the outside world supplementing the widespread availability of media spread on memory drivers. —AP



HAVANA: People use a public wifi hotspot in Havana. Cuba depended on slow, expensive satellite Internet until 2013, when it opened a fiber-optic cable to Venezuela that connected the island to the global online infrastructure. —AP

#### SENIORS WITH MEMORY PROBLEMS MAY STRUGGLE WITH DRIVING

related attention and decision-making issues may struggle with driving tasks, according to a Canadian study. Not all patients with mild cognitive impairment, the early stage of memory loss, have issues with driving, the researchers write in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease. However, patients with added impairments, such as difficulty with multi-tasking or making quick decisions, are particularly likely to have trouble with tasks like staying in lanes and making left turns in traffic, the researchers write.

"Driving is a highly complex task that requires the integration of multiple cognitive functions, such as attention, memory, and visuospatial ability, all of which can be affected by mild cognitive impairment," said senior author Tom Schweizer, director of the neuroscience research program at St Michael's Hospital in Toronto. "Despite this,

**NEW YORK:** Seniors with memory problems and there are no validated tools or guidelines to help assess the driving safety of patients with mild cognitive impairment," Schweizer told Reuters Health by email.

To study how mild cognitive impairment affects driving ability, Schweizer and colleagues recruited 24 patients with memory loss. They divided participants into two groups: one group with only memory problems, and another group with other cognitive problems too, such as issues with attention, reasoning/planning, or visual perception. Twenty cognitively healthy participants in the same age range acted as a comparison group.

The participants underwent cognitive testing as well as a driving simulation that tested their ability to perform a range of tasks such as driving straight, making turns, and making left turns with oncoming traffic. Overall, patients with mild cognitive impairment committed more than twice as many driving errors as the cognitively healthy drivers. Memory impaired patients were more likely to cross the center line of the road and stray out of the legal driving lane than healthy drivers. They were also more likely to make mistakes turning left with oncoming traffic, but they had no issues with turning right, or turning left with no traffic.

#### **Cognitive impairment**

When researchers analyzed data on the two groups separately, however, they found that seniors with only memory issues were not more likely than healthy drivers to make errors. Patients with multiple cognitive impairments, however, were at much greater risk of errors, including crossing the center line, missing stop signs, and straying out of the driving lane. These individuals were also much more likely to make errors during left turns. A diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment alone "does not mean that someone should stop driving, but it is important to monitor for declines," said Jennifer Davis, a clinical neuropsychologist at Rhode Island Hospital who studies cognitive issues and driving.

Mild impairment is often a symptom of Alzheimer's disease and is likely to get worse over time, "so it is also important to help patients and families identify when it might be time to stop driving," Davis, who was not involved in the study, noted by email. "Families are encouraged to monitor driving by riding with their family member as a passenger," Davis advised, adding, "If concerns arise, be sure to see your doctor and consider taking a formal road test." "These results highlight the importance of physicians talking to their patients about driving, even when cognitive deficits are very mild in nature," said Schweizer. New tools are needed to help doctors better assess driving, he added. —Reuters



SUFFOLK: In this file photo, David Nelms, a hydrologist with the US Geological Survey, gestures to an extensometer that's being installed in

## COULD TREATED SEWAGE BE A TOOL AGAINST SEA-LEVEL RISE?

#### 'We need to view this, if successful, as a significant improvement

water to the ground. But the laws of physics support it: Pump millions of gallons into a sandy aguifer deep below the Earth's surface, and its porous layers will expand like a sponge. The ground above it will rise, fortifying at least some of the land against the ocean's reach.

For decades, geologists have known that extracting large amounts of water can cause the ground to sink over time, sometimes by dozens of feet in places like California. Pumping it back in has slowed this subsidence and even slightly boosted ground levels in other places, experts say.

This approach could soon be tested in Virginia's Hampton Roads region, which is more threatened than any other place on the Atlantic Coast by the combination of sinking land and rising seas. The area's local sanitation department has proposed pumping millions of gallons of purified wastewater deep into the ground.

Combating sea-level rise is a shared threat along this stretch of the coast, but it's not the primary driver of this project, said Ted Henifin, general manager of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District. The primary motivation is to more effectively respond to water quality requirements for the Chesapeake Bay.

#### **Pumping wastewater**

The district currently sends treated sewage into rivers that feed the bay. But persistent pollution levels prompted the Environmental Protection Agency in 2010 to phase in new limits

rise, the idea seems a little counterintuitive: Add found in the water. The district can meet the house gases have warmed the oceans, melting standards of a different federal law - the Safe Drinking Water Act - by pumping wastewater, purified to the point of being drinkable, deep underground.

Putting treated sewage into the ground isn't new. Orange County, California, has done it since the 1990s, mainly to keep salt water out of its aguifers. And water injection has been discussed as a tool to boost land levels and fight against tidal flooding in cities such as Venice, Italy, according to Tom Burbey, director of the hydrologic sciences program at the National Science Foundation. (That plan was eventually abandoned in favor of floodgates).

Virginia's coastal region needs to hold on to as much dry land as it can. The area along the bay and Atlantic Ocean is afflicted by what's known as relative sea-level rise, which measures the cumulative effect of sinking land and rising water. The population of 1.7 million people is the country's second most vulnerable to this predicament, behind New Orleans. Neighborhoods already endure routine flooding, as does the world's largest naval base in Norfolk. Sea levels have risen so much that utility lines that stretch from piers to docked ships sometimes must be shut off during high tides.

By some estimates, the area could lose five feet by century's end, according to The Center for Sea Level Rise at Old Dominion University in Virginia. Even a three-foot loss could permanently inundate as many as 176,000 residents, according to a 2012 report from the Hampton Roads

SUFFOLK, Virginia: As a tool against sea-level on the total load of nitrates and phosphorous Planning District Commission. Increasing greenthe polar ice caps and causing rising sea levels But scientists also blame humans, at least in part, for the sinking ground.

In the Hampton Roads region, slightly more than half the relative sea-level rise is caused by subsidence that's mostly due to humans pumping water out of the ground, according to the US Geological Survey. (The other cause is the land settling back down after being pushed up by glaciers during the last ice age.)

#### **State permits**

The Hampton Roads Sanitation District wants to inject an initial million gallons a day during a pilot project in 2018, said Henifin, the general manager. If all goes well, injection levels would eventually rise to 120 million gallons. Regular sampling at well sites would show if the injected water meets drinking standards. The district still needs federal and state permits for the pilot project. And it will require approval from the Justice Department, which issued a consent decree in 2009 to address overflows from the sewer system.

But the idea has so far survived the scrutiny of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a conservation group. "We need to view this, if successful, as a significant improvement," said Peggy Sanner, the foundation's assistant director for Virginia and senior attorney. "Drinking water standards are higher than what comes out of the pipe right now," she added. "And millions of pounds of pollutants would not go into the bay."— AP

#### STRONGER MALPRACTICE LAWS MAY NOT PREVENT SURGICAL COMPLICATIONS

**NEW YORK:** More aggressive malpractice climates don't necessarily protect patients from surgical complications, a new study suggests. Supporters of medical malpractice laws that make it easier for patients to sue doctors say these protections are necessary to improve care. But in the current study, the risk of litigation didn't translate into better outcomes, said study leader Dr Karl Bilimoria, director of the Surgical Outcomes and Quality Improvement Center at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago.

"It doesn't really work - malpractice environment doesn't influence doctors to provide better care," Bilimoria said by email. "Rather, it may lead to defensive medicine practices where more tests and treatments are ordered unnecessarily just to try to minimize malpractice risk." Bilimoria and colleagues examined state-specific data on medical malpractice insurance premiums, average award size and the number of claims for every 100 physicians in each state

They also examined 2010 data on the odds of death, complications or repeat operations within 30 days surgery for patients insured by fee-for-service Medicare, the US health program for the elderly and disabled. The study included data on about 890,000 Medicare members who received care at almost 3,200 hospitals nationwide. Half were at least 74 years old.

During the study period, the average annual malpractice premium for general surgeons was roughly \$47,000. More aggressive malpractice laws and larger malpractice awards did not reduce patients' risk for any of the postoperative complications studied, the researchers report in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons. No individual state malpractice law was consistently associated with improved post-operative outcomes.

Instead, in states where doctors faced greater risk from malpractice claims, patients were 22 percent more likely to develop sepsis, a potentially life-threatening bloodstream infection, the study found. Patients in states where doctors had the

most litigation risk were also 9 percent more likely to develop pneumonia, 15 percent more likely to suffer acute kidney failure and 18 percent more likely to have gastrointestinal bleeding.

#### **Different outcomes**

The study can't prove how specific laws cause specific outcomes, the authors note. It's also not clear from the results whether patient outcomes led to certain state laws or if the reverse was true, and certain state policy shifts created different outcomes for patients. Still, the results add to a growing body of evidence suggesting that tort reforms aren't associated with better outcomes, said Michelle Mellow, a law professor at Stanford University in California who wasn't involved in the study. "This study contributes further evidence that liability pressure doesn't spur doctors to get better results for patients, but neither does adopting reforms to limit liability," Mellow said by email.

It's not surprising that the study didn't find a consistent link between malpractice environment and surgical complications because these associations can be specific to certain procedures or fields within medicine, said Dr William Sage, a law and medicine professor at the University of Texas at Austin who wasn't involved in the study.

"The only things that are really clear are that too many patients are injured, too few of those receive compensation, and the whole process is slow and miserable for both physicians and patients," Sage said by email. "We also know that tort reforms capping damages at low amounts discourage most people from suing because lawyers won't take the cases, which in turn reduces the malpractice insurance premiums that physicians pay both of which are pretty obvious."

Some previous research suggests that one type of law, that compares doctors' results against national averages, can help improve outcomes in below-average states, said Dr Anupam Jena, a researcher at Harvard University in Boston who wasn't involved in the study. —Reuters

#### UGANDA DETECTS BIRD FLU

**KAMPALA:** Uganda announced yesterday it had detected bird flu among migratory birds, without specifying whether it was the particularly virulent H5 strain detected this season in countries worldwide. The agriculture ministry said bird flu had been detected in two spots, one near Entebbe, on the banks of Lake Victoria, and another in the Masaka distict about 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of Kampala. Five domestic ducks and a hen in Masaka were also infected, leading authorities to call for all poultry to be kept inside to avoid further contagion from migratory birds, it said.

In a statement, Christopher Kibazanga, minister for agriculture, animals and fisheries, said local wildlife authorities on January 2 had reported the "mass death of wild birds, seen by fishermen at Lutembe beach at the shores of Lake Victoria near Entebbe". Another report arrived on January 13

from the Masaka district, and in both cases the specimen tested positive for "the highly pathogenic avian influenza that affects both humans and animals and which causes a high number of deaths in both species", the statement

The ministry said the outbreak was a first for Uganda but did not specify which flu strain it was. In 2016 51 countries declared the outbreak of one of the virulent H5 and H7 strains of bird flu, according to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). These include H5N1, H5N2, H5N5, H5N6, H5N9, H7N1, H7N3, H7N7 et H7N8. Europe is battling the spread of H5N1, culling millions of birds on farms and moving them indoors to avoid contagion from infected wildlife. The strain can be transmitted to humans, and is held responsible for the deaths of several hundred people since 2003. —AFP

## DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD COULD HARM IOWA SOCIAL PROGRAM

**DES MOINES, Iowa:** lowa's governor has proposed cutting funding for needy kids as part of his plan to defund Planned Parenthood, a rare step even as Republican-dominated states grapple with whether to sacrifice federal dollars in order to lessen the organization's influence. According to budget projections reviewed by The Associated Press, Gov Terry Branstad has recommended taking \$2.8 million previously given to child and family services so it can be redirected to create a roughly \$3.3 million program that distributes family planning money to organizations that do not perform abortions.

None of Iowa's family planning money is used to fund abortions, and the state's funding for Planned Parenthood goes to other women's health services such as birth control counseling and health exams. Iowa receives more than \$3 million in federal Medicaid funding that it must spend on family planning services, and some of that is tied to Planned Parenthood.

Branstad, who is expected to resign soon from his lowa job to become President-elect Donald Trump's ambassador to China, told legislators in an address last week that he supports removing state funding for Planned Parenthood to redirect it to other groups. His office later confirmed to the AP that the governor backed the creation of a state-run program that would pass up millions of federal Medicaid dollars for family planning services. Branstad's office said it would pay for the state-run program by tapping into the Social Services Block Grant, a separate pot of federal money that provides aid to vulnerable children, adults and families. Ben Hammes, a spokesman for Branstad, originally insisted that services provided by this roughly \$15 million fund would not be affected. He backtracked after reviewing documents provided by AP.

Amy McCoy, spokeswoman for the Iowa Department of Human Services, said core services such as foster care wouldn't be affected by Branstad's proposed cut, which would take effect for the budget year beginning in July. But she confirmed the governor's plan would mean less funding for preventative programs that reduce the chance of children entering welfare and the juvenile justice system. In the end Branstad's overall budget for child and family services for the next budget year - which will be about \$127 million - will be \$2 million less than what's estimated for this current budget. The governor has also asked state agencies to cut about \$110 million from the current \$7.2 billion to plug a shortfall of available cash.

#### **Preventative funding**

Rachel Lopez, a spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, the Iowa affiliate of the national organization, criticized Republicans - including Branstad and Lt Gov Kim Reynolds, who will succeed him. "As parents and public servants entrusted to care for the health and well-being of all lowans, it's appalling that they will sacrifice the most defenseless lowans on the taxpayers' dime - all for the sake of politics," she said in a statement.

Lynette Jacoby, who leads social services in Johnson County - one of the state's largest counties - called the potential loss of preventative funding a blow for at-risk kids in Iowa but also a "setback for many of these families that are benefiting from these programs." At a speech earlier this month, Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady noted such services help children turn their lives around and save the state millions of dollars in the process because it avoids court costs.

A handful of states have considered drop-



LOS ANGELES: In this file photo, Planned Parenthood supporters rally for women's access to reproductive health care on "National Pink Out Day" at Los Angeles City Hall. —AP

ping Medicaid money altogether to try to defund Planned Parenthood, a move that leaves statehouses on the hook for finding new money to pay for family planning services that used to be covered. Texas stopped receiving Medicaid money for family planning services several years ago, while Missouri considered it

last year. Democrats have held at least partial control of lowa government for nearly 20 years, keeping previous defunding attempts at bay. But after the November election, Republicans now control both chambers of the Legislature and the governor's office. Several abortion restriction bills are expected this year. —AP

## HEALTH & SCIENCE

## THE BALD AND THE BOLD: EAGLES' RESURGENCE COMES AT A PRICE

PORTLAND, Maine: The eagle has landed on chickens and rare birds, with talons at the ready. The resurgence of the bald eagle is one of America's greatest conservation success stories. They have come back so strong that in some areas, they are interfering with efforts to preserve more jeopardized species, such as loons and cormorants, wildlife biologists say. And their proliferation is leading to encounters at livestock farms that sometimes end badly - and illegally - for the eagles. Federal protections mean farmers can do little to keep them away, said Ken Klippen, a poultry scientist and former farmer who heads the National Association of Egg Farmers.

"It's a fully protected bird. If you have foxes, coyotes, raccoons, a farmer can do something about that," he said. "But if it's a bald eagle? His hands are tied." The Pennsylvania Game Commission investigated a case in which an eagle was shot dead in the East Penn Township area in 2015. In Steuben County, New York, a sheep farmer and two other people were accused of poisoning sheep carcasses to kill eagles that threatened lambs. And authorities investigated suspicious deaths of 18 bald eagles in Maryland and Delaware last year. Bald eagles were chosen as an American symbol in 1782 and underwent a steep decline in the early and middle 20th century, pushed to the brink of extinction by pesticides, habitat loss and indiscriminate hunting.

A 1930 issue of Popular Science stated that the birds had died off so much that it was possible they would soon "be seen only on coins and the coat of arms of the United States unless drastic action" saved them. Such action came in the form of federal protections, including the 1940 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, which prevents almost everyone from so much as disturbing the birds and still stands today. The eagles recovered so much that they were removed from the endangered species list in 2007. Today, Audubon Society bird counts show their numbers are climbing, and scientists with the society say they will probably continue to do so. Counters found about 30,000 of them in 2015, more than double the 1995 count. They live in every state but Hawaii.

#### Breeding colonies

In Maine, where the breeding population of great cormorants is small and efforts to save them are underway, the bald eagles are a problem, said Chris DeSorbo, director of the raptor program at the Biodiversity Research Institute in Portland. Cormorants are seabirds that are widely distributed around the globe, but North America has only a few breeding colonies from Maine to Greenland, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Common loons, decimated by hunting, also sometimes fall victim to eagles and are the subject of repopulation efforts in New England and elsewhere.

"Eagles are very opportunistic predators. They are going to try to take advantage of an easy meal wherever they can," DeSorbo said. "In this case, I think seabird colonies can represent a low risk food resource for them." In other areas, the eagles are assuming a role they played centuries ago - agricultural pest. And it's not just chickens they're getting. Lee Straw, a Maine farmer who raises sheep on an island, said his weaker lambs sometimes fall prey to eagles.

"There's nothing you can do," Straw said. "It's survival of the fittest anyway." Such predation is to be expected because bald eagles are apex predators, said Mark McCollough, an endangered species biologist with the federal Fish and Wildlife Service. The service doesn't consider it a problem, but rather indicative of the species' success at rebuilding. "Yes, eagles are having an effect on other species of wildlife," he said. "But that's natural. Predation like that probably occurred here hundreds of years ago."

The birds are continuing to come back because of protection of wetlands, the increase in water quality and reforestation of farmland, said Geoff LeBaron, a Massachusetts ornithologist and the director of the Audubon Society's annual Christmas bird count event. They haven't yet reached the point where overpopulation is a legitimate concern, he said. "At some point it will reach carrying capacity," he said. "But I think there's plenty of room for more eagles."—AP



AT SEA: This handout photo shows an image taken from a helicopter of crew members of the Yushin Maru, part of the Japanese whaling fleet, scrambling to cover their harpoon at sea in Antarctic waters.—AFP photos

## SEA SHEPHERD FINDS JAPANESE SHIP 'WITH SLAUGHTERED WHALE'

**SYDNEY:** A Japanese ship has been caught with a slaughtered whale in the Antarctic in defiance of an international court decision against Tokyo's hunts, activist group Sea Shepherd said yesterday. The conservationist organization-whose two vessels departed Australia last month for the Southern Ocean to disrupt the hunt-said it spotted the Nisshin Maru in the Australian whale sanctuary around the nation's Antarctic territory. The Japanese fleet set sail on November 18 last year in defiance of a worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling and international opposition. Sea Shepherd released photographs of a dead minke whale on the deck of the Nisshin Maru, a factory ship, adding that the vessel's crew covered the carcass with a tarp when its helicopter approached.

The dead whale is the first to be documented since the ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), said Sea Shepherd. It has spent more than a decade harassing Japanese harpoon ships during the Southern Hemisphere summer. "The fact that the Japanese crew went to cover up their harpoons and the dead minke whale on deck just shows that they know what they're doing is wrong," the captain of Sea Shepherd's MY Steve Irwin, Wyanda Lublink, said in a statement.

The news came a day after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull in Sydney, with their talks focusing on trade and defence. Japan is a signatory to the International Whaling Commission's moratorium on whaling in force since 1986. But it exploits a loophole allowing whales to be killed for the purposes of "scientific research".

Australia's Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg said in a statement his government was "deeply disappointed" Japan had returned to whaling in the Southern Ocean this summer. "We will continue our efforts in the International Whaling Commission to strongly oppose commercial whaling and so-called 'scientific' whaling, uphold the moratorium on commercial whaling and promote whale conservation," he added.

In 2014 the United Nations' ICJ ordered Tokyo to end the Antarctic hunt, saying it found permits issued by Japan were "not for purposes of scientific research". Japan cancelled its 2014-15 hunt after the ruling, but restarted it the following year under a new program with a two-thirds cut in the target catch number-saying the fresh plan was genuinely scientific. Tokyo claims it is

trying to prove the whale population is large enough to sustain a return to commercial hunting. But the meat from what it calls scientific research often ends up on dinner tables. No one was available for comment at Japan's Fisheries Agency. —AFP



AT SEA: (Above and below) These handout photos show images taken from a helicopter of protected minke whales onboard the Nisshin Maru.



## WATCH THE PICNIC BASKET: BEAR SIGHTINGS SURGE IN CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD, Connecticut: Keep an eye on the picnic basket. Bear sightings are surging across Connecticut. The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection says there were about 6,700 black bear sightings in 2016, a 49 percent increase over the pre-



HARTFORD, Connecticut: In this July 5, 2015 photo provided by the Hartford Police Department, a black bear sits perched in a tree in Hartford, Conn.

vious year. Compare that to only about 450 sightings in 2000. State wildlife biologist Paul Rego said black bear populations in Connecticut and other states have been increasing as land once used for farming has reverted back to forest. About 58 percent of the state is forest now, compared with 29 percent in 1860 when farming was hitting its peak and black bears had disappeared from Connecticut.

"Bears are responding to better habitat now," Rego said. A count by the International Union for Conservation of Nature puts the number at about 850,000 to 950,000 black bears in North America. The population surge in Connecticut since the early 1980s - when bears returned to the state after more than a century - has prompted discussion of possible control measures, but no action is planned, Rego said. The state's had a few reports of bears being aggressive toward people over the years, but none has involved serious injuries.

Jeff Grody was working at his West Hartford home one July morning when he heard noises and went to investigate. What he found was startling: a big black bear that had broken through a screen door and was in his den room. —AP



Kuwait - Times
248 33 199





## STATEMENT FROM THE TAJIK EMBASSY IN KUWAIT

he embassy of Tajikistan in Kuwait released the following statement, which includes a briefing by Sirodjidin Aslov, Tajikistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs in connection with the adoption of the UN General Assembly resolution entitled: 'International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development':

On 21 December 21 2016 the UN General Assembly adopted with consensus a resolution A/RES/71/222 entitled "International Decade for Action: Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028", sponsored by the 177 UN member states. As you might be aware, the initiative for proclamation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" was launched for the first time by Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan which took place last year in April in the Republic of Korea.

In accordance with the resolution (OP3) the period from 2018 to 2028 is proclaimed as the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" to commence on 22 March 2018 and terminate on 22 March 2028 (22 March - World Water Day).

Speaking at the Water Forum the President stated that "... the modern global challenges and threats, including the financial and economic crisis, population growth, climate change, increase of natural hydro-meteorological phenomena, water scarcity

and, as a result, increasing levels of poverty, spread of infectious diseases, child and maternal mortality still require the mobilization of our efforts and relevant

In this regard, the Head of State proposed that after completion of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015", to work on preparation of a new Decade, which will become a solid platform and promote coordination and promotion of all efforts to address the issues and problems related with water resources. In addition, the new Decade is aimed to continue implementation of the indicated steps of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life, 2005-2015", enriching it with new measures and efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

It is widely known that the initiative to proclaim the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015" was also launched by the President of Tajikistan in 2003. That year, by the initiative of Tajikistan, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, according to which the period of 2005-2015 was proclaimed as the International Decade for Action "Water for Life". Subsequently, as part of this decade Tajikistan initiated to proclaim 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation.

Within the framework of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" and in accordance with the resolutions of the UN General Assembly three inter-

active dialogues of the UN General Assembly were convened in 2010, 2013 and 2015. In addition, the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations prepared and convened in Dushanbe the following important events:

The Mid-term Comprehensive Review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", June 2010; High-level International Conference on Water Cooperation, August 2013; and High-level International Conference on the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", June 2015.

This year in July, the UN Secretary-General issued a report on the implementation of the International Decade for Action "Water for Life", 2005-2015 (A/71/260). According to this report "The Decade was responsible for many accomplishments. No other 10-year period in the history of the United Nations has witnessed as many water-related activities and achievements". Furthermore, the Decade, as the report says, "has shown where the shortfalls lie and what slows down progress on water-related goals and targets. There are still a myriad of constraints on human, institutional and financial resources".

In accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution the objectives of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" will be mainly focused on: sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for the

achievement of social, economic and environmental goals; implementation and promotion of related programs and projects; furtherance of cooperation and partnership at all levels in order to help to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, the resolution highlights the importance of promoting efficient water usage at all levels, taking into account the water, food, energy, environment nexus.

In addition, the resolution identifies the following objectives to be pursued: improving knowledge generation and dissemination, facilitating access to knowledge and exchange of good practices, generating new information relevant to the water-related Sustainable Development Goals; pursuing advocacy, networking and promoting partnership and action by different actors to implement the water-related goals and targets; strengthening communication actions at various levels for the implementation of the water-related goals.

This resolution invites the Secretary-General, with the support of UN-Water, to take appropriate steps to plan and organize the activities of the Decade at the global, regional and country levels, taking into account the outcomes of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015, and the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.



(From Left) Ayman Al-Ali, Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Hamad Journalism Excellence Award; Glen Mulcahy, the guest speaker; and Dr Amir Zeid, Director of RISE Center.



Glen Mulcahy



Dr Amir Zeid

## AUK'S RISE CENTER HOLDS LECTURE ENTITLED 'MOBILE, VR AND AI - THE FUTURE OF DISRUPTION IN MEDIA'

he Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences and Engineering at the American University of Kuwait presented a lecture entitled, "Mobile, VR and AI - the Future of Disruption in Media" presented by the renowned Glen Mulcahy, Head of Innovation at RTE, Irish national broadcaster, and founder of the "MOJOCON" conference for mobile journalism. The lecture gave a fresh perspective on how technology is incorporated in media, journalism and news reporting. The lecture has been facilitated by the Organizing Committee of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Hamad Journalistic Award.

RISE Director Dr Amir Zeid gave his welcom-

ing remarks noting that nowadays, technology is finding its way into everything, with media and news reporting being no different. Taking over, Mulcahy began to clarify that broadcasters in most places are not catching up fast enough with new trends; they not only tend to ignore them, but they are in denial, taking no effective action to address them. Mulcahy aims to empower journalists to be complete storytellers on their own, as opposed to relying on a full crew. Technology has advanced to the level that regular consumer products are competent enough to produce broadcast-quality reports. This not only saves money, but even the paperwork required for authorizations and permits

are drastically reduced from a broadcaster's perspective.

Moving on to newer and more futuristic technologies, the speaker then discussed 360 recording cameras and the impact of VR (Virtual Reality). Viewers are no longer bound by the fixed angle that the producers want them to see, but through 360 technologies, the experience is extensively more immersive-especially if seen through a VR headset. Drones are also being used to provide coverage for news reporting, which not only catches hard-to-reach angles but is four times cheaper than sending a professional camera man on a helicopter.

While technology has contributed to the advancement of many professions, Glen warned that AI (Artificial Intelligence) is reaching worrying levels. Big conglomerates are using the data collected from us to provide media tailored around our interests and online activities which could be thought of as a borderline impeachment of privacy. It also predicted that by 2029, AI will pass the Turin test; this essentially means that we will not be capable of differentiating between a human

and an AI computer.

Bringing the lecture to an end, the speaker wanted to remind the audience that broadcasting networks need to up their game and

start incorporating methods and technologies of this new era for news reporting, agreeing with Einstein that, "We cannot solve a problem by using the same thinking that created the problem in the first place."

The AUK Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences, and Engineering (RISE) serves as AUK's primary source for research and development activities, a bridge to industry, and an important venue for community outreach. RISE adapts an integrative model by forging connections between academic disciplines, local and international innovators, academia and industry, as well as technology and society.



Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa welcomes you to savor authentic Turkish cuisine from griddled meats to aromatic desserts specially prepared by the hotel's Turkish chefs every Monday from 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm. For reservations and more information, please call 22269666.



ocial worker Pani Anthony has been conferred on the prestigious title Ambassador of Harmony to Russia by Michael Gorbatov, Vice Consul of Consulate General of Russia at a glittering ceremony held under the slogan Youth Icon of the Year 2017, attended by academicians, industrialists, youth and the public. He has been in the forefront of creating awareness among the underprivileged communities and among youth in vital areas such as educational awareness, women's empowerment and environmental issues.





**NSH** WITH SPARKLING LIGHT: DAY OF EMOTIONS

he benevolent presence of Padmashri Dr Ravi Pillai added more joy to the celebrations in NSH that filled the day with uncontrollable emotions. Dr Pillai's speech, felt a rare memorable treasure, won a huge thunderous applause from the several hundreds of employees and the large audience. The NSH Vice President Sabu, in his inspiring extempore, appreciated these long serving employees - P V Santhosh Kumar, Henry Rajan, Padma Kumar and T H Abdul Rahiman - highlighted their achievements, quoting them as the finest example of team work in this single largest employer in the Middle East.

The oil and gas business conglomerate that accommodates more than 90,000 employees around the globe, most of them being Indians, presently has projects worth USD 4 bn. NSH is renowned for its technical expertise, innovative edge, commitment to safety and quality and excellence across all aspects of its multifaceted operations including Building and Infrastructure works, Refineries,

Petrochemicals, Fertilizers, LNG Terminals, Steel, Mining, Power, Pipeline projects. To its credit, NSH has the best "best". Recipient of the Safe Contractor in the World, in the Ras Gas job in Qatar by the world renowned Oil and Gas giant Exxon Mobile.

The recipients of the long service awards recalled their memories and expressed their gratitude for NSH playing the Good Samaritan



role for its employees. It has to be noted that recently NSH was honored with the Best Employee Welfare Award, received from the CFO of KNPC

General Manager Harikumar, Project

Managers Abdul Rahiman, Dileep Kumar Raroth gave their inputs. Santhosh Babu, V G Nair, Manoj Kumar, Ratha Krishna Pillai, Prakash, Harish, KR Mohan were among those present.





Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah hosted a Palestinian Music Concert at the Amricani Cultural Centre this past Wednesday. The event featured vocalist Maher Al-Ateely and professional Dabkeh performers. As the concert gained further excitement, audience members joined the dance.























00:50 Gator Boys 01:45 Weird Creatures With Nick 06:49 River Monsters 07:36 Night

08:00 Night 08:25 America's Cutest Pets 09:15 Wild Animal Repo

10:10 Weird Creatures With Nick 11:05 Tanked America's Cutest Pets

12:55 Gorilla School 13:20 Gorilla School Wild Animal Repo 14:45 Gator Boys 15:40 Weird Creatures With Nick

16:35 Tanked

17:30 River Monsters Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 19:20 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 20:15 Tanked 21:10 Weird Creatures With Nick

22:05 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet 23:00 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet 23:55 Gator Boys



00:00 | Escaped My Killer 01:00 The Haunting Of... 02:00 My Haunted House 03:00 Diabolical Women 04:00 | Escaped My Killer 05:00 The Haunting Of...

06:00 My Haunted House 07:00 The First 48 08:00 Evil Up Close 09:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook 10:00 Homicide Hunter

11:00 Private Crimes 15:00 Evil Up Close 16:00 The First 48 17:00 Homicide Hunter

18:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook 19:00 Crimes That Shook Australia 20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia

21:00 The First 48 22:00 Evil Up Close



00:05 What Happened Next? 00:30 Invent It Rich 01:20 Invent It Rich 02:10 Storm Chasers 03:00 Storm Chasers 03:50 Ultimate Survival 04:40 Ultimate Survival 05:30 Ultimate Survival How It's Made 06:40 How It's Made 07:00 Do You Know? 07:15 Doki

07:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild 08:00 K9 Cops 08:45 How It's Made 09:05 How It's Made 09:30 Invent It Rich 10:20 Mythbusters

11:10 Storm Chasers 12:00 K9 Cops

17:40 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up 18:30 How Do They Do It? 18:55 How Do They Do It? 19:20 What On Earth? 20:10 The Liquidator 20:35 The Liquidator 21:00 Gold Rush 21:50 Deadliest Catch

22:40 Sean Conway - Running 23:30 Fast N' Loud Teenage Witch

00:00 Blood And Glory: The Civil 04:15 The Hive War In Color 01:00 Monster Quest 02:00 Ancient Impossible

03:00 How 2 Win 03:50 Ancient Aliens 04:40 Serial Killer Earth 05:30 Blood And Glory: The Civil 06:20 Warriors 07:10 The Universe

08:00 Monster Quest 09:00 Ancient Impossible 10:00 How 2 Win 11:00 Ancient Aliens 12:00 Serial Killer Earth 13:00 Monster Quest 14:00 Ancient Impossible

15:00 How 2 Win 16:00 Ancient Aliens Serial Killer Earth 18:00 The Universe 19:00 Patton 360 20:00 Mud Men

21:00 America's Book Of Secrets 22:00 Ancient Aliens



00:40 Blood Relatives 01:30 Paranormal Lockdown 02:20 The Haunted 03:10 True Nightmares 04:00 Judgment Day: Prison Or

Parole 04:48 Suspicion 08:00 I'd Kill For You 08:50 I Almost Got Away With It 09:40 Vanity Fair Confidential 10:30 Suspicion

11:20 Blood Relatives 12:10 Nowhere To Hide 13:00 I'd Kill For You 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It 14:40 Vanity Fair Confidential 15:30 Suspicion 16:20 Blood Relatives

18:00 Momsters: When Moms Go

18:50 I Almost Got Away With It 19:40 Vanity Fair Confidential 20:30 Evil Ónline 21:20 Blood Relatives

17:10 Evil Online



00:00 Siba's Table 01:00 Private Chef 02:00 Chopped 03:00 Food Network Star 04:00 Guy's Grocery Games 05:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin

The Kitchen The Pioneer Woman 08:00 Siba's Table 09:00 Anna Olson: Bake

From The Best-Selling Author of

The Notebook and Dear John



00:10 Hank Zipzer 00:35 Binny And The Ghost 01:00 Violetta 01:45 The Hive

01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A 02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 02:40 Hank Zipzer 03:05 Binny And The Ghost 03:30 Violetta

04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 05:10 Hank Zipzer 05:35 Binny And The Ghost 06:00 Violetta 06:45 The Hive

06:50 Mouk 07:00 Jessie 07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir 08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts

08:20 Elena Of Avalor 08:45 Bunk'd 09:10 Gravity Falls 09:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place 10:25 A.N.T. Farm

11:15 Good Luck Charlie 12:05 Shake It Up 12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse 13:00 Welcome To The Ronks 13:15 Gravity Falls 13:40 Hank Zipzer 14:05 Star Darlings

14:10 Austin & Ally 15:00 Jessie 15:25 Jessie 15:50 Rolling To The Ronks 16:15 Sunny Bunnies16:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug

And Cat Noir 16:45 Elena Of Avalor 17:10 Bunk'd 17:35 Descendants Wicked World 17:40 Girl Meets World

18:05 Bizaardvark 18:30 Liv And Maddie 18:55 Best Friends Whenever 19:20 Disney Mickey Mouse 19:25 The Next Step 19:50 Austin & Ally

20:20 Shake It Up 20:45 Backstage 21:10 Liv And Maddie 21:35 Cracke 21:40 The Next Step 22:05 Best Friends Whenever

20:15 Star Darlings

00:20 Henry Hugglemonster 00:35 The Hive

00:45 Loopdidoo 01:00 Henry Hugglemonster 01:15 Calimero 01:30 Art Attack 01:50 Zou 02:05 Loopdidoo 02:20 Henry Hugglemonster 02:35 Calimero 02:50 Zou

03:05 Art Attack 03:30 The Hive 03:40 Loopdidoo 03:55 Henry Hugglemonster 04:10 Art Attack 04:35 Loopdidoo 04:50 Calimero

05:30 Henry Hugglemonster

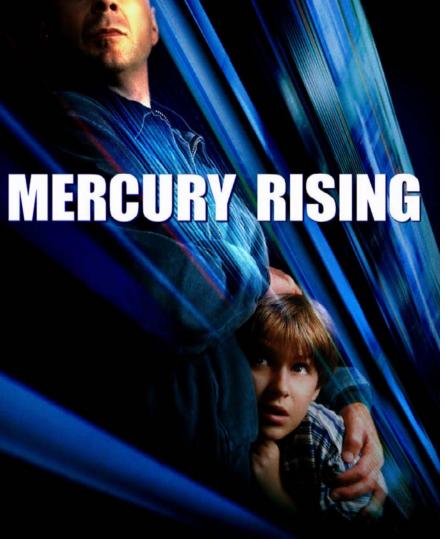
05:05 Art Attack

21:00 Unbungalievable 21:05 Goldie & Bear 21:35 Miles From Tomorrow 22:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 22:25 Gummi Bears

06:00 Danger Mouse 06:25 Gravity Falls 06:50 The 7D

07:15 Counterfeit Cat 07:40 Supa Strikas 08:35 Star Wars Freemaker

08:10 K.C. Undercover Adventures 09:00 Lab Rats 09:50 Danger Mouse 10:20 Supa Strikas 11:10 Counterfeit Cat 11:35 Pair Of Kings



#### MERCURY RISING ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

08:55 Pawn Stars

09:20 Storage Wars

09:45 Storage Wars

11:50 Time Team

13:30 Ax Men

12:40 Swamp People

14:20 Mountain Men

16:00 Counting Cars

16:25 Counting Cars

16:50 Pawn Stars

17:15 Pawn Stars

17:40 Storage Wars

18:05 Storage Wars

CHOICE

05:15 Agatha Christie's Partners In

10:00 Agatha Christie's Partners In

18:30 Pawn Stars

19:20 Ax Men

00:10 The Chase

01:00 Emmerdale

01:30 Emmerdale

Crime

02:00 Coronation Street

02:30 Alphabetical 03:25 Midsomer Murders

06:10 Don't Tell The Bride

08:00 Midsomer Murders

10:55 Don't Tell The Bride

Alphabetical

09:30 Tracey Ullman's Show

07:10 Alphabetical

12:45 Emmerdale 13:15 Coronation Street 13:45 Coronation Street 14:10 Don't Tell The Bride 15:10 Come Dine With Me Couples

16:00 Endeavour 17:50 Safe House 18:45 Emmerdale 19:15 Coronation Street 19:45 Coronation Street 20:10 Come Dine With Me Couples

21:00 Endeavour 22:50 Emmerdale 23:15 Coronation Street

Kuruvita

23:40 Coronation Street

people **E** 

15:10 Ice Road Truckers

10:10 American Pickers

11:00 Billion Dollar Wreck



07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

06:50 Shipping Wars My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita 07:15 Shipping Wars 23:20 Rustic Adventures Italy 07:40 Counting Cars 23:45 Rustic Adventures Italy 08:05 Counting Cars 08:30 Pawn Stars

> 00:20 World's Deadliest 01:10 Monster Fish 02:00 Hippo vs Croc

02:50 India's Lost Worlds 03:45 Wild 24

05:35 Hippo vs Croc 06:30 India's Lost Worlds 07:25 Wild 24

08:20 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet 10:10 I. Predator 11:05 World's Deadliest

18:55 Storage Wars: Best Of 12:55 Swamp Lions 20:10 American Pickers 14:45 Wild 24 21:00 The Curse Of Oak Island 21:50 Hunting Hitler

18:25 World's Deadliest 19:20 Wild 24 20:10 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet 21:00 World's Weirdest (2015)

21:50 Killer Shots

NATIONAL **GEOGRAPHIC** CHANNEL

00:10 Continent 7: Antarctica Attempt 02:00 Facing..

02:55 Beyond Magic With DMC 03:50 Continent 7: Antarctica 04:45 Big, Bigger, Biggest

NAT GEO

04:40 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet

09:15 World's Weirdest (2015)

12:00 Hunting The Hammerhead

13:50 India's Lost Worlds 15:40 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet 16:35 World's Weirdest (2015)

22:40 World's Deadliest 23:30 Hunting The Hammerhead

01:00 Reagan: The Assassination

03:00 Dark Was The Night 05:00 Love Under The Stars 07:00 A Kind Of Magic 09:00 Big Eyes 11:00 The Silent Mountain

13:00 Invasion Day 15:00 Healing 17:00 Big Eyes 19:00 Extracted 20:30 The Reluctant Fundamentalist

23:00 The Snitch Cartel

#### OM MOVIES HD ACTION

05:40 Megacities 06:35 Nazi Underworld

07:30 Killing Reagan

10:15 The Border

15:00 Facing... 16:00 The Border

20:00 The Border

00:00 Bates Motel

Murder 03:00 Mistresses

Weekend

04:00 Royal Pains

06:00 Prison Break

08:00 Unforgettable

10:00 Prison Break

13:00 The Fosters

14:00 Heartbeat

18:00 This Is Us

19:00 The Fosters

21:00 Homeland

22:00 Tyrant

23:00 Tyrant

20:00 Criminal Minds

09:00 Heartbeat

Attempt

09:20 Big, Bigger, Biggest

11:10 Highway Thru Hell

13:00 Nazi Underworld

17:00 Highway Thru Hell

20:50 Highway Thru Hell

21:40 Dirty Rotten Survival

22:30 Continent 7: Antarctica

01:00 How To Get Away With

02:00 How To Get Away With

05:00 Good Morning America -

07:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

11:00 Unforgettable12:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

15:00 Live Good Morning America

17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

ON FIRST HD

COMEDY

02:30 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll

04:30 The Tonight Show Starring

07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

00:00 Two And A Half Men

04:00 The Bill Engvall Show

00:30 Happy Endings

03:00 New Girl

Jimmy Fallon

03:30 Baby Daddy

05:30 Trophy Wife

08:30 Trophy Wife

09:00 New Girl

Jimmy Fallon

06:30 Living With Fran

08:00 The Bill Engvall Show

09:30 The Last Man On Earth

11:00 The Tonight Show Starring

10:00 The Mindy Project

10:30 Living With Fran

12:00 \$#\*! My Dad Says

13:00 Trophy Wife

13:30 Living With Fran

15:00 The Mindy Project

16:30 \$#\*! My Dad Says

19:30 The Mindy Project

20:00 Two And A Half Men

21:00 Happy Endings

22:30 You're The Worst

01:00 The Silent Mountain

23:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll 23:30 Two And A Half Men

ON MOVIES HD

DRAMA

17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

15:30 Happy Endings

16:00 Happy Endings

18:00 New Girl

19:00 Dr. Ken

22:00

18:30 Baby Daddy

12:30 The Bill Engvall Show

14:00 Baby Daddy14:30 The Last Man On Earth

06:00 Til Death

OM FIRST HD

18:00 Dirty Rotten Survival

19:00 Continent 7: Antarctica

12:05 Dirty Rotten Survival

14:00 Reagan: The Assassination

00:00 Mercury Rising 02:00Sharknado 2: The Second One

03:45 Dragon Blade 06:00 Sherlock Holmes Surrogates

12:15 Heatstroke 14:00 Sherlock Holmes 16:15 Navy Seals: The Battle For New Orleans 18:00 Last Action Hero

10:00 Last Action Hero

20:15 Blown Away 22:15 Public Enemies OM MOVIES HID

COMEDY 00:00 Adventures Of A Pizza Guy

02:00 National Security 04:00 Coneheads Kicking And Screaming 08:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic 10:00 Coneheads

12:00 National Security 14:00 10 Things I Hate About You 16:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic

The Bad News Bears (2005) 20:00 The A-Team 22:00 My Man Is A Loser

### **MOVIES**

01:00 The Hidden Face 02:45 The Fisher King

05:00 Breathe In 06:45 | Believe In Miracles 08:30 Seabiscuit

11:00 Breathe In 13:00 A Perfect Day

15:00 Foreverland Seabiscuit 19:30 Finding Forrester 21:45 Identity 23:30 Hustle And Flow

#### OM MOVIES III

01:00 The Gift 03:00 Big Game 05:00 Some Girls 06:45 The Longest Ride

09:00 Big Game 10:30 Spectre 13:00 Racing Hearts 15:00 A Birder's Guide To

Everything 17:00 Paper Towns 19:00 Point Break

21:00 In The Heart Of The Sea 23:15 Focus **MOVIES HID** 

01:30 Mamma Moo And Crow 03:00 Cher Ami 04:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote

06:00 Savva 07:30 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure 09:15 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run

10:45 The Tale Of The Princess Kaguya 13:00 Cher Ami

14:30 Blackie And Kanuto 16:00 The Three Dogateers18:00 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run

20:00 The Boxcar Children 22:00 Blackie And Kanuto 23:30 The Three Dogateers

#### MOVIES HID **FAMILY**

00:15 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of 02:00 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts

03:30 Nancy Drew 05:30 One Christmas Eve 07:30 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts 09:00 Step Dogs

11:00 Nancy Drew 13:00 Open Season: Scared Silly 15:00 The Amazing Wizard Of 17:00 The Boxtrolls

19:00 The Last Song 21:00 Get Santa 23:00 The Amazing Wizard Of



I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL HD

## THE LONGEST RIDE ON OSN MOVIES HD

14:30 Storm Chasers 11:00 15:15 Mythbusters Siba's Table 16:00 Dóki 16:20 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild 14:00 Chopped The Kitchen 16:45 Do You Know? 15:00 17:00 Atlas 4D

17:50 World's Toughest Expeditions With James Cracknell 18:00 Iron Chef America 19:00 Restaurant Stakeout 18:40 Nextworld 19:30 How It's Made 19:55 How It's Made 20:20 Mythbusters

22:00 World's Toughest Expeditions With James Cracknell 22:50 What Happened Next? 23:15 What Happened Next?

21:10 Atlas 4D

14:05 How It's Made

CHANNEL 00:20 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up 01:10 Mega Trains

Discoveru

02:00 Guy Martin's Last Of The 02:50 Guy Martin: Wall Of Death 03:40 Fast N' Loud 04:30 The Liquidator 05:00 How Do They Do It? How Do They Do It? 06:00 Deadliest Catch

07:40 Fast N' Loud Big Giant Swords 09:20 The Liquidator 09:45 How Do They Do It? How Do They Do It? 10:35 Fast N' Loud 11:25 Misfit Garage

16:50 Fast N' Loud

Street Outlaws 13:05 How Do They Do It? 13:30 The Liquidator The Liquidator 14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier 15:10 Deadliest Catch

10:00 The Kitchen The Pioneer Woman Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 16:00 Anna Olson: Bake 17:00 Chopped

20:00 Mystery Diners 21:00 Restaurant Takeove DISCOVERY

00:15 Origins 00:40 Prototype This 01:30 The Gamechangers: Inventing The World 02:20 Powering The Future 03:10 Mythbusters 08:00 How Do They Do It?

08:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 09:14 Mythbusters 10:02 Powering The Future 10:50 How Do They Do It? 11:14 Food Factory 11:38 Mythbusters

Mythbusters 13:14 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 14:02 How Do They Do It? 14:26 Food Factory 14:50 Powering The Future

15:38 Mythbusters 16:26 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 17:14 Mythbusters

18:02 Powering The Future 18:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 19:40 Mythbusters 20:30 American Titans 21:20 How Do They Do It? 21:45 Food Factory

06:00 Art Attack 06:30 Henry Hugglemonster 06:45 Loopdidoo 07:15 Calimero 07:30 Loopdidoo Henry Hugglemonster

08:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons 08:05 PJ Masks Goldie & Bea 08:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 08:45 Miles From Tomorrow 08:55 Sofia The First 09:20 Doc McStuffins

Goldie & Bear 09:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 10:00 PJ Masks 10:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 10:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons Sofia The First Sofia The First Doc McStuffins 11:00

11:30

12:20 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 12:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West Gummi Bears 13:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 14:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 14:35 Jake And The Never Land 15:00 Jake And The Never Land

Doc McStuffins

**Pirates** 15:30 Little Mermaid 15:55 Unbungalievable Miles From Tomorrow 16:30 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates** The Lion Guard

17:20 Goldie & Bear 17:50 PJ Masks Sofia The First 18:40 Doc McStuffins 19:05 Jake And The Never Land 19:30 Little Mermaid

20:00 PJ Masks

20:30 PJ Masks

12:30 Future-Worm! 12:55 Lab Rats Elite Force 13:45 Atomic Puppet 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse 14:15 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron 14:40 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 15:05 Lab Rats Elite Force

15:30 Disney Cookabout 15:55 Danger Mouse 16:25 K.C. Undercover 16:50 Future-Worm! 17:15 Gravity Falls 17:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island 18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 18:10 Supa Strikas 18:35 Supa Strikas

19:00 Atomic Puppet19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything 19:55 K.C. Undercover 20:20 Counterfeit Cat 20:45 Mighty Med 21:10 Pickle And Peanut 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse 21:45 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution

00:20 Time Team 01:10 Pawn Stars 01:35 Storage Wars: Best Of 02:00 Storage Wars 02:25 Storage Wars 02:50 Storage Wars 03:15 American Pickers 04:05 Pawn Stars

**HISTORY** 

23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

04:30 Pawn Stars 05:00 Mountain Men

22:35 Boyster

22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man

18:35 The Food Files 06:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters 06:25 Big Rig Bounty Hunters

17:40 Poh & Co 18:10 The Food Files

20:00 The Wine Show 21:40 Poh & Co 22:05 The Food Files 22:30 The Food Files 22:55

00:10 The Wine Show 01:00 My Sri Lanka With Peter 01:25 Rustic Adventures Italy 01:50 Rustic Adventures Italy 02:15 Home Strange Home Lee Chan's World Food Tour 03:30 My Restaurant In India 03:55 The Wine Show Gok's Chinese Takeaway 05:35 Fish Of The Day

The Food Files 06:50 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita 07:15 Rustic Adventures Italy 07:40 Rustic Adventures Italy 08:05 Home Strange Home Lee Chan's World Food Tour 09:20 My Restaurant In India 09:45 The Wine Show 10:35 Gok's Chinese Take 11:25 Fish Of The Day 11:50 The Food Files

06:00 The Food Files

12:40 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita 13:05 Rustic Adventures Italy 13:35 Rustic Adventures Italy 14:00 Home Strange Home Lee Chan's World Food Tour 15:25 My Restaurant In India 15:50 The Wine Show 16:45 Gok's Chinese Takeawa

The Food Files

19:05 Lee Chan's World Food Tour 19:30 My Restaurant In India 20:50 Gok's Chinese Takeaway



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Kuwait Times

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017



#### KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (12/01/2017 TO 18/01/2017)

SHARQIA-1		A MONSTER CALLS	7:15 PM	AVENUES-1		360°-3	
MOANA	11:45 AM	A MONSTER CALLS	9:30 PM	WARRIOR'S GATE	12:30 PM	ASSASSIN'S CREED	11:30 AM
MOANA	2:00 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	11:45 PM	WARRIOR'S GATE	3:00 PM	ASSASSIN'S CREED	1:45 PM
MOANA	4:15 PM			WARRIOR'S GATE	5:30 PM	SING	4:15 PM
DANGAL -Hindi	6:30 PM	FANAR-1		WARRIOR'S GATE	7:45 PM	ASSASSIN'S CREED	6:45 PM
THE GREAT WALL	9:45 PM	THE GREAT WALL	11:30 AM	WARRIOR'S GATE	10:15 PM	ASSASSIN'S CREED	9:15 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	3:30 PM	THE GREAT WALL	2:00 PM	WARRIOR'S GATE	12:30 AM	ASSASSIN'S CREED	11:45 PM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu	6:30 PM	SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA	4:15 PM	KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	7:30 PM		
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	9:30 PM	THE GREAT WALL	6:00 PM	KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	10:30 PM	AL-KOUT.1	
THE GREAT WALL	12:15 AM	ASSASSIN'S CREED	8:15 PM	WARRIOR'S GATE	1:15 AM	A MONSTER CALLS	1:15 PM
THE GREAT WALL	12.13 AW	THE GREAT WALL	10:45 PM	WAITIONS GALE	1.13741	A MONSTER CALLS	3:30 PM
CHAPOIA 2		KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	3:30 PM	AVENUES-2		A MONSTER CALLS	5:45 PM
SHARQIA-2	12.45 DM	GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu	6:30 PM	MOANA -3D-4DX	1:15 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	8:00 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	12:45 PM	KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	9:30 PM	MOANA -3D-4DX MOANA -3D-4DX	3:45 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	10:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	3:00 PM	3		MOANA -3D-4DX MOANA -3D-4DX	6:00 PM	THE GREAT WALL	12:30 AM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu	4:00 PM	ASSASSIN'S CREED	1:00 AM			THE GREAT WALL	12.30 AIVI
A MONSTER CALLS	5:15 PM	FANAR 3		THE GREAT WALL -3D- 4DX	8:15 PM	AL KOLITA	
A MONSTER CALLS	7:30 PM	FANAR-2	4 0 0 0 1 4	THE GREAT WALL -3D- 4DX	10:30 PM	AL-KOUT.2	42.00.014
THE GREAT WALL	7:30 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	1:30 PM	ASSASSIN'S CREED -3D- 4DX	12:45 AM	THE GREAT WALL	12:00 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	9:45 PM	MOANA	4:15 PM			MOANA	2:15 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	12:05 AM	BAIRAVAA - Tamil	6:30 PM	AVENUES-3		MOANA	4:30 PM
		PATRIOTS DAY	9:45 PM	THE GREAT WALL	1:30 PM	MOANA	6:45 PM
SHARQIA-3		PATRIOTS DAY	12:30 AM	THE GREAT WALL	4:15 PM	THE GREAT WALL	9:15 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	1:15 PM			THE GREAT WALL	7:00 PM	THE GREAT WALL	11:30 PM
MOANA	1:45 PM	FANAR-3		THE GREAT WALL	9:45 PM		
PATRIOTS DAY	4:00 PM	SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA	11:45 AM	Gautamiputra satakarni -telugu	1:30 PM	AL-KOUT.3	
MOANA	4:30 PM	SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA	1:45 PM	Gautamiputra satakarni -telugu	4:15 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	12:45 PM
THE GREAT WALL	6:45 PM	DANGAL -Hindi	3:30 PM	Gautamiputra satakarni -telugu	7:00 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	3:30 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	6:45 PM	Gautamiputra Satakarni -Telugu	3:45 PM	Gautamiputra satakarni -telugu	9:45 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	6:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	9:00 PM	DANGAL -Hindi	6:45 PM	THE GREAT WALL	12:30 AM	NOTHU+FRI+MON	
PATRIOTS DAY	11:45 PM	NOTHU+FRI+MON				PATRIOTS DAY	9:30 PM
		KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	7:00 PM	AVENUES-4		KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	3:30 PM
MUHALAB-1		DANGAL -Hindi	10:00 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	12:15 PM	KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	6:30 PM
THE GREAT WALL	1:00 PM	THE GREAT WALL	1:15 AM	A MONSTER CALLS	2:30 PM	KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	9:30 PM
DANGAL -Hindi	3:45 PM			A MONSTER CALLS	4:45 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	12:15 AM
DANGAL-Hindi	7:00 PM	MARINA-1		Special Show "LEVEL UP"	4:45 PM		
THE GREAT WALL	10:15 PM	THE GREAT WALL	1:15 PM	DANGAL -Hindi	7:00 PM	AL-KOUT.4	
THE GREAT WALL	1:30 PM	MOANA	3:30 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	10:15 PM	WARRIOR'S GATE	12:30 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	4:00 PM	MOANA	5:45 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	12:30 AM	WARRIOR'S GATE	3:00 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	7:00 PM	THE GREAT WALL	8:00 PM			WARRIOR'S GATE	5:15 PM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu	10:00 PM	THE GREAT WALL	10:15 PM	A MONSTER CALLS-CINESCAPE 11-2D	5:00 PM	THE GREAT WALL	7:30 PM
THU+FRI+MON	10.00 FW	THE GREAT WALL	12:30 AM	A MONSTER CALLS-CINESCAPE 11-2D	7:15 PM	WARRIOR'S GATE	9:45 PM
THE GREAT WALL	12:45 AM	THE GREAT WALL	12.50 AW	THE GREAT WALL-CINESCAPE 11-3D	9:30 PM	WARRIOR'S GATE	12:05 AM
THE GREAT WALL	12:43 AW	MARINA-2		A MONSTER CALLS-CINESCAPE 11-2D	11:45 PM	WAITHOUS GALE	12.03 /101
MUHALAB-2		A MONSTER CALLS	12:15 PM	A MONSTER CALES CINESCALE 11 20	11.751111	BAIRAQ-1	
PATRIOTS DAY	11.20 444	A MONSTER CALLS	2:45 PM	360°- 1		A MONSTER CALLS	12:15 PM
	11:30 AM	A MONSTER CALLS A MONSTER CALLS	5:00 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	1:30 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	2:30 PM
GAUTAMIPUTRA SATAKARNI -Telugu	2:00 PM	A MONSTER CALLS A MONSTER CALLS	7:15 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	4:15 PM	A MONSTER CALLS A MONSTER CALLS	4:45 PM
FRIMOANA	2:15 PM						
MOANA	4:45 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	9:30 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	7:00 PM 9:45 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	7:00 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	7:00 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	11:45 PM	PATRIOTS DAY		A MONSTER CALLS	9:15 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	9:45 PM	*******		PATRIOTS DAY	12:30 AM	A MONSTER CALLS	11:30 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	12:30 AM	MARINA-3	4 00 014	2600 2		DAIDAG 2	
		PATRIOTS DAY	1:00 PM	360°-2	11 20 11:	BAIRAQ-2	1.00.014
MUHALAB-3		ASSASSIN'S CREED	1:30 PM	WARRIOR'S GATE	11:30 AM	THE GREAT WALL	1:00 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	12:15 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	3:45 PM	DANGAL -Hindi	1:45 PM	MOANA	3:30 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	1:45 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	6:30 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	5:00 PM	MOANA	5:45 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	2:30 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	9:15 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	8:15 PM	MOANA	8:00 PM
A MONSTER CALLS	4:45 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	12:05 AM	DANGAL-Hindi	11:30 PM	THE GREAT WALL	10:15 PM

#### **CHANGE OF NAME**

I, Danny Ameerkhan S/o Abdul Khader Ameerkhan holder of Indian PP No. J3624269 hereby change my name as Muhammad Ameerkhan, with immediate effect. (C 5256) 13-1-2017

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

**Sharing** accommodation for Filipino Bachelor ONLY near Big Jamiya Farwaniya. Available already, Contact 66826412 or 97512782 9-1-2017

#### **EMERGENCY (1)** 112

**Automated** enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988



PRATER	HIMINGS
Fajr:	05:20
Shorook	06:43
Duhr:	11:58
Asr:	14:53
Maghrib:	17:12
Isha:	18:33

## Flight Schedule

#### Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

#### **DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

	Arrival Flig	ghts on Monday 16/1/2017		QTR	1078	Doha	14:10		Departure F	lights on Monday 16/1/2017		FDB	076	Dubai	14:05
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	KAC	693	Muscat	14:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC	414	Bangkok	14:35	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40	KNE	382	Taif	14:50
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	FEG	932	Alexandria	14:55
KAC	102	London	00:55	KAC	542	Cairo	14:45	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:50	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:30	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
FDK	803	Damascus	01:00	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	FDK	804	Damascus	01:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
KAC	742	Dammam	01:00	KAC	286	Dhaka	15:20	KAC	417	Manila	02:00	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	15:20
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	KAC	285	Dhaka	02:25	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	THY	773	Istanbul	02:25	QTR	1079	Doha	15:40
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:50	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:55	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	KAC	154	Istanbul	15:55	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:35	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	JZR	554	Alexandria	16:10
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	JZR	535	Cairo	16:10	OMA							
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:25		644	Muscat	03:55	KAC	357	Kochi	16:20
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	788	Jeddah	16:30	KKK	6505	Istanbul	03:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
OMA	643		02.55	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	16:35	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:30
FDB	069	Muscat Dubai	02:55	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
				KAC	118	New York	17:00	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10	SAW	706	Damascus	16:55
MSR ETD	612	Cairo Abu Dhabi	03:10	SVA	510		17:00	QTR	1077	Doha	04:40	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
	305		03:10			Riyadh		CEB	0019	Manila	05:20	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
CEB	0018	Manila	03:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	QTR	1087	Doha	05:50	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
KAC	358	Kochi	03:30	JZR	777 875	Jeddah Dubai	17:45	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00	KAC	343	Chennai	17:40
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	UAE		Dubai	18:00	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30	KAC	363	Colombo	17:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	03:45	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10	KAC	153	Istanbul	06:50	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20	UAE	874	Dubai	06:50	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
UAE	873	Dubai	04:55	KAC	502	Beirut	18:45	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
JZR	503	Luxor	05:10	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	KAC	165	Rome	06:55	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
KAC	354	BLR	05:20	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	RJA	643	Amman	07:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	KAC	353	BLR	18:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:45	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	541	Cairo	07:15	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	620	Doha	19:50	KAC	163	Paris	07:25	KAC	205	Islamabad	18:25
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	KAC	166	Rome	19:55	KAC	173	Munich	07:35	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
KAC	364	Colombo	06:05	KNE	381	Taif	19:55	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	FDB	064	Dubai	19:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	694	Muscat	20:00	KAC	563	Amman	08:00	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:10	BAW	156	London	08:40	QTR	1081	Doha	19:50
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	FDB	054	Dubai	08:55	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:45	KAC	117	New York	09:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20					KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	KAC	383	Delhi	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	KAC	174	Munich	20:45	JZR	534	Cairo	09:15	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55	KAC	101	London	09:35	KAC	775	Riyadh	20:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	FDB	5053	Dubai	21:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	KAC	501	Beirut	10:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	21:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	KAC	613	Bahrain	10:10	QTR	1089	Doha	21:35
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	DLH	634	Doha	21:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	KAC	161	Geneva	10:35	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	KAC	787	Jeddah	10:40	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25	IRA	666	Esfahan	11:00	MEA	403	Beirut	22:13
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	ETD	919	Abu Dhabi/Bahrain	22:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25	JZR	528	Asyut	22:25
FEG	953	Asyut	12:35	JZR	241	Amman	22:45	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	12:05	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:50	KAC											
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50		164	Paris	22:55	JZR	776	Jeddah Mangaloro	12:05	FDB	5054	Dubai Pabrain	22:30
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:10	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
KAC	614	Bahrain	13:30	JZR	555	Alexandria	23:20	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55	KAC	381	Delhi	22:45
KAC	564	Amman	13:40	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:45
FEG	931	Alexandria	13:55	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:50	FEG	934	Sohag	13:35	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55	KAC	162	Geneva	23:50	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	BBC	143	Dhaka	23:55	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

#### CROSSWORD 1492

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#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Electronic equipment that provides visual images of varying electrical quanti-
- 4. A cookout at the seashore where clams and fish and other foods are cooked--usually on heated stones covered with sea-
- weed. 12. A conspicuous disparity or difference
- as between two figures. 15. Headdress that protects the head
- from bad weather. 16. Indicative of or announcing some-
- thing to come. 17. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot
- palm used in India for writing paper.
- 18. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
- 19. A genus of orb-weaving spiders including common garden spiders and barn spiders.
- 20. Any of various fissiped mammals with nonretractile claws and typically long muzzles.
- 22. Acquire or gain knowledge or skills. 24. Deprive (infants) of mother's milk.
- 25. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agri-
- culture and patron of scribes and schools. 26. Preaching the gospel of Christ in the manner of the early church. 28. A nation in Asia.
- 31. An accidental hole that allows some-
- thing (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
- 32. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- 33. On or toward the lee. 37. A hard gray lustrous metallic element
- that is highly corrosion-resistant. 41. A depression in an otherwise level sur-
- 46. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
- 47. A statistical method for making simultaneous comparisons between two or
- 49. A particular environment or walk of life.
- 51. Long-tailed brilliantly colored parrot
- of Central and South America. 52. A region of Malaysia in northeastern
- Borneo. 53. A city of central China.
- 54. Any of various strong liquors especially a Dutch spirit distilled from potatoes.
- 56. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
- 58. Widely cultivated in tropical and subtropical regions for its fragrant flowers and colorful fruits.
- 60. Capital and largest city of Iraq. 68. A particular geographical region of
- indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
- 69. A large commercial and industrial city
- in northeastern Texas. 72. Made of fir or pine.
- 73. Singing jazz.
- 74. Washing out a hollow organ (especially the stomach) by flushing with water.
- 75. An elaborate song for solo voice. 76. Mentally healthy.
- 77. Capital of Armenia.
- 78. An unfledged or nestling hawk.

#### **DOWN**

1. A soft whitish calcite.

2. (the feminine of raja) A Hindu princess

- or the wife of a raja
- 3. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- 4. An event that occurs when something passes from one state or phase to anoth-
- 5. (Irish) The sea personified.
- 6. A member of a widespread group of Amerindians living in northeastern South
- 7. Long coarse hair growing from the crest of the animal's neck.
- 8. The whiteness that results from removing the color from something.
- 9. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan
- 10. (Sumerian) Goddess personifying earth.
- 11. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
- 12. A gland in which gametes (sex cells) are produced.
- 13. (law) A defense by an accused person purporting to show that he or she could not have committed the crime in ques-
- 14. A city in Veneto.
- 21. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
- 23. A principle or condition that customarily governs behavior.
- 27. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad
- 29. Brittle flat bread eaten at Passover. 30. (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue. 34. lons are accelerated along a linear
- path by voltage differences on electrodes along the path.
- 35. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or
- 36. A genus of Mustelidae.
- 38. Russian founder of the Bolsheviks and leader of the Russian Revolution and first head of the USSR (1870-1924).
- 39. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves. 40. Lacking either stimulating or irritating
- characteristics. 42. New Zealand timber tree resembling
- the cypress. 43. A shot in billiards made by hitting the
- cue ball with the cue held nearly vertical-44. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked
- on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 45. Type genus of the Anatidae. 48. A salt or ester of vanadic acid.
- 50. Hard ticks. 55. Sell or offer for sale from place to
- place. 57. A room or establishment where alcoholic drinks are served over a counter.
- 59. (of e.g. celestial bodies) Above the horizon. 61. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
- 62. Wild or seedling sweet cherry used as
- stock for grafting. 63. Being six more than forty.
- 64. Mentally or physically infirm with age. 65. Characterized by lightness and insubstantiality.
- 66. Type genus of the Majidae. 67. By bad luck.
- 70. A river in north central Switzerland
- that runs northeast into the Rhine. 71. A room equipped with toilet facilities.

STAR TRACK

#### Aries (March 21-April 19)

Be wise in your communications with an authority figure today. You may find someone you meet is too secretive for your taste. Your thoughts and ideas go against his or her power-oriented manner and you are not afraid to speak up. Social invitations and romance are in the forecast tonight and you may want to take some time to get a new suit or dress for the occasion. One or two good friends may have come to your attention lately and you busy yourself with ways in which to bring everyone together in a future reunion type of gathering. Perhaps two or more of your friends were roommates at college or had a first job together right after high school. It would be good to see old friends and catch up on the latest news.

## Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Many changes are about to take place in your life, and this month you have time to adjust before the real pull or push begins. You may feel like making a complete change by breaking away and starting fresh in every area of your life. It would be better to go with the flow and understand that the new changes scheduled in your life now are best affected by keeping a positive attitude. Make a concentrated effort to instill the practice of balance. Look for ways to make a positive difference in someone else's life and you will be doing the same for yourself. Good luck follows you around today. This day may be stressful in some ways, but you get quite a lot accomplished. You receive a lot of positive interactions with your loved one this evening. This is a good time.

#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find yourself distracted and wishing you were at home with your own personal projects this morning. You get down to business and get more accomplished than you expected with some personal project. In a gathering with family members this afternoon, you sway others with your view of a particular venture. If you are not in some profession involving speech, law, politics or the ministry, you might consider these options. The evening brings some interesting conversations around the dinner table concerning future goals and plans. All present contribute their desires and have fun in expressing their wishes for themselves. Some of the conversations tonight lead to memories of the past and analyzing the present and possibilities of the future.



#### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your personality shines and you have a chance to lead the way toward a brighter day when surrounded by friends and allies. Celebrate your successes and focus your energy on using your influence to inspire progress. This is your time to go after what you want. Try something different if you are bored or dissatisfied. You remember your obligations. Richard bach says, "here is the test to find whether your mission on earth is finished: if you're alive, it isn't." spend extra time listening to your inner voice in meditation. If you are simply trying to respond to outside influences or direct your life according to an external focus you will feel frustrated. You are better prepared for challenges when you are centered within yourself.



#### Leo (July 23-August 22)

Others inspire you and you are good at listening to your dreams. It is time to adjust your life path in harmony with your highest needs. You can gain support for a personal project by finding people that have the same interest. If you are single, you should spend some time in thinking about what you want from a love partner. Your dream love will be introduced to you at the end of this month. Because you will know what you want romantically, you will naturally attract this person. If you are involved in a love relationship now, determine what the goals might be and start talking about those present and future goals. Consider running a garage sale this next weekend. You are due some shelf cleaning and may be surprised at the money you gain.



#### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your wish for socializing may come true as the phone rings before you can get out of bed this morning. Harmonious ties to others are what you yearn for; refinement and elegance are what you seek. Family and security are things that rattle your chain more than ever. These are areas where you make new beginnings and bold moves. A partner has a mesmerizing impact on you and you may find yourself learning how to fly a plane or climb a mountain, or simply learning how to work in clay. Try to understand that time is not wasted if you are doing something you really like to do rather than doing something you are paid to do. The therapeutic result from creative endeavors at this time cannot be measured. Pause for calm reflection this evening

#### **Wordsearch Puzzle**

#### Fantasy World 2

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

G	Е	Ν	Т	R	R	Н	М	0	U	Ν	Т	Α	Ι	Ν	S
Ν	٧	Ε	0	E	0	S	Е	Χ	Α	S	L	G	D	- 1	0
-1	-	L	٧	- 1	R	М	Ν	Т	Ν	Т	R	0	L	L	Н
K	L	L	L	E	Т	W	R		S	Ε	Ρ	0	Е	S	Т
Μ	-	L	Н	Α	-1	0	0	Α	Н	Ε	R	D	1	W	Н
S	1	С	Е	Z	В	С	Ρ	Ε	Н	S		W	Н	0	R
G	R	Ν	Α	Ρ	D	L	Α	L	Т	D	Ν	R	S	R	0
Α	0	R	0	L	S	D	Α	F	1	R	С	М	Е	D	Ν
-1	D	В	0	Т	S	Т	С	Т	М	0	Е	Α	Ν	Α	Е
W	R	G	L	Μ	Α	Ρ	Н	Α	S	L	S	G	R	Ν	F
Α	Α	D	Α	Е	D	U	Α	Т	Κ	Υ	S	1	0	F	Т
G	G	Ν	Н	Е	Т	W	R	L	С	Α	R	С	С	R	R
0	0	Α	М	Α	R	K	Е	Т	Α	W	R	С	1	Α	U
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HTIARWOEGALLIVBE ARCHERS **DWARF** ARMOR ARROWS **EVIL** AXE **FAERIES** BARD **GOBLET** BLACKSMITH GOLD COINS BOW GOOD

HEADSMAN

KING

KNIGHT

COURT

DRAGON

CRYSTAL BALL

LORDS MAGIC MARKET MINOTAUR MOUNTAINS PALACE POTION **PRINCESS** SHIELD SILVER

TROLL UNICORN VILLAGE WAGON WAND WIZARD WRAITH

SPELL

SWORD

THRONE

### **Libra (September 23-October 22)**

You have plenty of enthusiasm today. There is the luck of the draw for your choice in such things as education, travel, publishing, art, theater or sports. Travel desires come from remembering times past and experiences enjoyed. You will be able to make plans for travel through your career acquaintances or the group with which you enjoy a long-time hobby choice. Your life outlook is positive and ready for new life experiences-fasten your seat belt. You need time away from routine matters. You may be inspired to pass on some of your unique experiences and knowledge in teaching survival techniques or in guiding a group. You will more than likely attract the outdoor type and you may find your friends discussing the next fishing trip.



#### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have a light heart and a good laugh-others enjoy your company. After the religious service is completed this morning, you may decide to go with the gang or family to the neighborhood specialty restaurant. Today, you will enrich others as you enrich yourself. Mostly, you will feel renewed and rejuvenated. You may find yourself feeling more private and in a stay-at-home mood later this afternoon. For now, you enjoy the company of friends and family. Literary aspirations may strike you and you consider starting a journal or making notes for a short story or some bit of poetry. You are in a tranquil frame of mind and enjoy having friends or family around to interact with; you appreciate your friends and family.



#### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Feeling two ways at once takes up most of the day. For example, although many things are positive, guite a few problems may occur as well. Your childlike expectations may have to be examined, particularly if you are to turn short-term relationships into long-term ones. You could find yourself traveling soon. Actually, there have been so many changes in the road system around your city, you might want to drive around and see what changes are taking place now. There is talk of a new freeway or toll road. The new and the unusual are the things that instinctively appeal to you. You are able to find just the right words to confide what is in your heart to a loved one this evening. A loved one picks the entertainment tonight.



#### **Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

You infect others with your eagerness to teach. If you are helping young adults or children to better their grade averages, this year you may see some positive results. Much of the turnaround in one student is due to your enthusiasm for knowledge, which is contagious. You might somehow be encouraged to become an investigator of sorts, someone that does research before reporting the news. You make sure the facts are right and you are patient enough to find the answers needed to turn an ordinary report into an impressive report. This afternoon you may decide to take advantage of an opportunity that can provide you information for one of your research subjects. There are opportunities to increase your finances now.



#### Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

An electronic glitch could lower your productivity this morning, but the problem is soon fixed. Through your free, independent thinking, attractive personality, kindliness and ability to be all things to all people, you make many people happy to be in your company. You are in a class by yourself and set an example that others remember and mimic. You need beauty, cheerfulness and humor in your surroundings and you enjoy being around lots of people. You have your own way of handling things but are smart enough to hold your voice when there is a need to do so. Sophistication and connections are the main keys to your emotional contentment just now. Your magnetic personality attracts all sorts of people to your side; you are smart so choose.

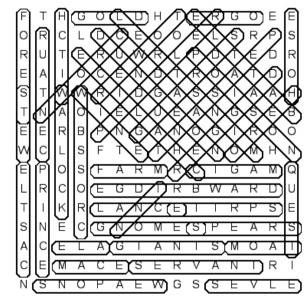


#### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Work may seem to slow down, but you keep on track and gain in productivity. Monetary issues resolve in your favor and your position strengthens. Your dreams and wishes for more education or travel keep coming into play today. Again, there will be an opportunity for exciting travel. For now, you could get your needs met by visiting the library or attending a lecture. Your sense of protection and emotional nourishment comes from your good friends, ideals and social interactions. You may find that a transition is actually easier than you imagined. Being more in touch with people will give you a sense of belonging. This could be a period of greater social involvement, especially with neighbors and brothers and sisters

#### Yesterday's Solution

### Fantasy World 1



ALE **ELVES** BATTLE FARM CASTLE **FOREST** CENTAUR GIANTS CHALICE **GNOMES** CROSSBOW GOLD **GUARDS** CROWN DAGGER HERO DRAWBRIDGE HORSE DUNGEON INN

QUEST LANCE SERVANT MACE SPEARS MAGIC MINSTREL SPRITE MOAT STEW TOWER **OGRE** PEASANT WARLOCK PEDDLER WEAPONS POISON WINE PRINCE WITCH

The hidden message is: THE LORD OF THE RINGS

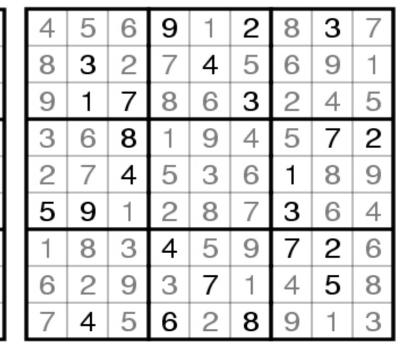
#### Yesterday's Solution

M	0	В		N	G	A	N	A	S	A	N		В	Α	G
Е	R	R		0	R	G	Α	N	D	I	Е		U	M	Α
S	О	Α	P	W	Е	Е	D			G	Е	Н	R	I	G
I	N	G	Α		Е	D	I	T	О	R		Α	G	R	Α
С	О	G	N	Α	С		R	Е	L	Е	N	T			
			Α	L	Е	P			Е	T	Α	M	I	N	Е
M	Е	С	С	Α		I	N	С	Α		В	Α	С	О	N
Α	L	Е	Е		G	Α	Е	Α		T		K	Е	N	О
N	I	С	Α	D		F	Α	R		Н	I	Е	M	Α	L
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Α	Т	L	Α	N	T	Α		В	Α	I	С		N	Е	С
			G	L	U	T	Е	Α	L		Α	L			
Α	R	С	Н	I	L			О	P	Α	L	Е	S	С	Е
F	U	L	Α	N	I		D		A	W	Α	I	Т	Е	D
A	L	Α	S		P	Е	D	I	С	Α	В		Α	В	Α
R	Е	N	T		A	N	T	A	K	Y	A		В	U	M

#### **Daily SuDoku**

	1							
8	7		3					
8 3 7	5				8			9
7	4	1		2		6		
				9				
		8		5		7	4	2
5			2				7	8
					9		6	1
							5	

#### Yesterday's Solution



Sabah Hospital

**Amiri Hospital** 

**Chest Hospital** 

**Adan Hospital** 

**Ibn Sina Hospital** 

**Al-Razi Hospital** 

Kaizen center

Rawda

**Adaliya** 

Khaldiya

Shamiya

Shuwaikh

Nuzha

Qadsiya

Dasmah

Shaab

Qibla

Mirqab

Sharq

Salmiya

Jabriya

Bayan

Mishref

Sabah

Jahra

**W** Hawally

**New Jahra** 

**West Jahra** 

**South Jahra** 

**North Jahra** 

**North Jleeb** 

Ardhiya

**Firdous** 

**Omariya** 

N Khaitan

**Fintas** 

**Bneid Al-Gar** 

**Ayoun Al-Qibla** 

**Maidan Hawally** 

**Abdullah Salem** 

**Industrial Shuwaikh** 

Kaifan

**Physiotherapy Hospital** 

**Maternity Hospital** 

Farwaniya Hospital

**Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital** 

INFORMATION

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

**Hospitals** 

**Clinics** 

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

22517733

22517144

24848075

24849807

24848913

24814507

22549134

22526804

24814764

22515088

22532265

22531908

22518752

22459381

22451082

22456536

22465401

25746401

25316254

25623444

25388462

25381200

22630786

24810221

24770319

24575755

24772608

24775066

24775992

24311795

24884079

24892674

24719048

24710044

23900322

Soor Center

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

## Call MSAL hotline 128

#### **PHARMACIES** ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya 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

NUWAISIB

MANAGISH

WAFRA

SALMY

MUTRIBA



Lebanon

Liberia

Libya

Lesotho

00961

00231

00218

00266

Yugoslavia Zambia

Zimbabwe

00381

00260

00263

21

20

19

04

06

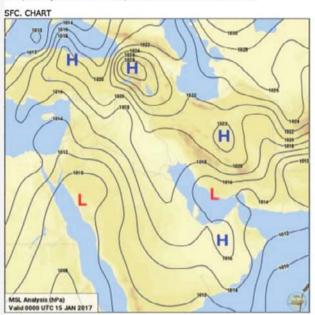
05

05

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 15/01/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 20 °C

By Day: Partly cloudy with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h with a chance for scattered light rain later on By Night: Partly cloudy with light to moderate south easterly changing to north easterly later on wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h with a chance for scattered rain



Four-Day	Forecas

	- 14	4	*	*
Expected Weather	sunny + scattered clouds	sunny + scattered clouds	partly cloudy	partly cloudy
Min Temp °C	08	07	08	08
Max Temp °C	21	20	20	22
Wind Direction	north easterly to northerly	north westerly	north westerly to light variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 32	12 - 32	08 - 30	08 - 28

Station	MIN °C	Max °C
	REC	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	11	21
KUWAIT AIRPORT	04	20
ABDALY	05	18
BUBYAN	06	19
JAHRA	07	20
FAILAKA ISLAND	08	18
SALMIYAH	12	18
AHMADI	12	18
JAL ALIYAH	06	19
QAROH ISLAND	15	18
UMM AL-MARADEM	14	17

Varnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Max Temp (°C)	19		
Min Temp (°C)	04		
Max Rel Hum (%)	64		
Min Rel Hum (%)	31		
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 NW		
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm		

-	Sunset	17:11	
Prayer T	imes		
Fajr		05:20	
Sunrise		06:44	
Zuhr		11:57	
Asr		14:52	
Sunset		17:11	
Isha		18:33	

## **PRIVATE CLINICS**

Ophthalmologi	sts					
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444					
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222					
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171					
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999					
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700					
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223					
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223					
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)						
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510					
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660					
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478					
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996					
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988					
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166					
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426					
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz  General Practitio						
General Practitio	ners					
General Practitio	ners 24555050 Ext 123					
General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24555050 Ext 123 24719312					
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465					
General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465					
General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528					
General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781					
General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781					
General Practitio Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501					
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955					
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955 ii 22616660					

**Psychologists** 

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surge	eons						
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272						
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700						
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60						
Family Doctor							
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581						
Psychiatris	its						
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047						
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0						
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians							
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581						
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321						
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539						
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406						
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272						
Dr. Salem soso	22618787						
General Surg	eons						
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044						
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 25327148						
Internists, Chest	& Heart						
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939						
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300						
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004						
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515						
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446						
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3						

info@soorcenter.com

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Paediatricians Paediatricians				
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898			
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300			
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444			
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099			
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514			
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100			
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282			
Dermatology				
Dr. Mohammed Salam				
Bern University	23845955			
Dentists				
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581			
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2			
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226			
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444			
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557			
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888			
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755			
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111			
Neurologists				
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324			
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875			
Gastrologists				
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464			
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030			
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135			

Kaizen center

25716707

**Noor Clinic** 

23845955

	Endocrinologist				
_	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330			
	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888				
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924				
	Physiotherapists & VD				
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291				
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288			
	Rheumatologists:				
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060				
31	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722200			
	Dr. Knaled Al-Jarallan	25722290			
	Internist, Chest & I				
	Internist, Chest & I	Heart 24555050 Ext 210			
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William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

INTERNATION CALLS		<b>P</b>	4
Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria Andorra	00213 00376	Macau Macedonia	00853 00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla Antiga	001264 001268	Majorca Malawi	0034 00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia Australia	00374	Maldives Mali	00960 00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan Bahamas	00994 001242	Marshall Islands Martinique	00692 00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh Barbados	00880 001246	Mauritius Mayotte	00230 00269
Belarus	001246	Mexico	00209
Belgium Belize	0032	Micronesia Moldova	00691 00373
Benin	00501 00229	Monaco	00373
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan Bolivia	00975 00591	Montserrat Morocco	001664 00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana Brazil	00267 0055	Myanmar (Burma) Namibia	0095 00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria Burkina	00359	Netherlands Netherlands Antilles	0031
Burundi	00226 00257	New Caledonia	00599
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon Canada	00237	Nicaragua Nigar	00505 00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands Central African	001345	Niue Norfolk Island	00683 00672
Chad	00236 00235	N. Ireland (UK)	00672
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China Colombia	0086 0057	Norway Oman	0047 00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo Cook Islands	00242 00682	Palau Panama	00680 00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia Cuba	00385 0053	Paraguay Peru	00595 0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic Denmark	00420 0045	Portugal Puerto Rico	00351 001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti Dominica	00253 001767	Romania Russian Federation	0040 007
Dominican Republic		Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena Saint Kitts	00290 001869
Egypt El Salvador	0020 00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea Eritrea	00240 00291	Saint Vincent Samoa US	001784 00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia Falkland Islands	00251	San Marino Sao Tome	00378 00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji Finland	00679 00358	Scotland (UK) Senegal	0044 00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone Singapore	00232 0065
French Polynesia Gabon	00689 00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia Germany	00995	Solomon Islands Somalia	00677 00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar Greece	00350 0030	South Korea Spain	0082 0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada Guadeloupe	001473 00590	Sudan Suriname	00249 00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden Switzerland	0046 0041
Guinea Guyana	00224	Switzerland Syria	0041
Haiti	00509	Serbia Talaman	00381
Holland (Netherlands) Honduras	0031 00504	Taiwan Tanzania	00886 00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary Ibiza (Spain)	0036 0034	Togo Tonga	00228 00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean Indonesia	00873 0062	Tunisia Turkey	00216 0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq Ireland	00964 00353	Uganda Ukraine	00256 00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	
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Jamaica Japan	001876 0081	Uruguay USA	00598 001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan Kenya	007 00254	Vanuatu Venezuela	00678 00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait Kyrgyzstan	00965 00996	Virgin Islands UK Virgin Islands US	001284 001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	001340
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967



## Stella Maxwell wants her own emoji

he Victoria's Secret Angel admits she'd love to be depicted in tiny graphic form, complete with her own iconic little wings. Asked which emoji she wished existed, she said: "One of myself, with little wings maybe." And if the 26-year-old beauty was ever able to design her own set of the lingerie company's iconic wings, she knows exactly what she'd like. She said: "[They would be] black, lacy and tight - super-sexy. "They wouldn't be that big though. It's not about size but how pretty they look." Stella had a great time walking in the annual Victoria's Secret fashion show in Paris last year, but was concerned about a wardrobe malfunction when she walked for the second time. She explained: "The bejeweled, sheer body suit was my favorite but I felt like it started to ride down my body. I had this feeling to try to pull it up but then I was like, 'Don't start doing that on the runway'. But it was epic and I don't think you could see it falling down, so it was all good." While Stella admits to working out every day for two weeks before the shows, one thing she would never do as part of her preparations as to have a facial in case her skin reacted badly. She told LOOK magazine: "I didn't have the oxygen facial but Bella Hadid did and said it was amazing. I try not to play around with my skin too much before an event in case it breaks out. Everyone's skin is different."

## Emma Stone's love balancing act

mma Stone thinks it is possible to have a career and find love. The 'La La Land' star - who is still very close with her ex Andrew Garfield despite their split - says balancing a career in the film industry and having a family and love life is all "just about prioritizing". She said: "I don't think it's mutually exclusive, career or love. Meryl



Streep seems very in love with her husband. "That's a very great family and she's the best there is. So people can find a way to do both, it's just about prioritizing." However, the 28-year-old actress doesn't believe in a "happily ever after" but insists that doesn't mean a person can't be "happy in a different way". She added: "There is no happily ever after, there isn't always the kiss at the end and it's not always perfect. That's heartbreaking, but the most heartbreaking things in life are the truest. I do love a bittersweet story and I don't find it sad, necessarily. I find it bittersweet, it's realistic in a way that it doesn't all come true, for anyone, ever. "It's not exactly how you pictured it like, 'Oh my God. My life's so perfect.'That's why it makes me so crazy to look at social media, when you see people like, 'It's just the best life ever. I couldn't be happier.' You're like, 'Shut up, that is not true.' Not everything comes together in the best way ever every day. Happily ever after ... that's not the reality of life, but you can be happy in a different way than maybe you originally hoped or expected. I love that. Emma has received rave reviews for her role in the feel good musical movie but admits

she can be her own worst critic sometimes. She told the Sun on Sunday newspaper: "Stop talking about the [Oscar] buzz! Depending on what emotional state I'm in sometimes I'm like, 'All right kid, you did the best job you could', then at other times I'm like, 'You are literally the worst actor that ever lived. "How is anyone ever going to think anything other than that? I used to be really like a mean mum to myself. I used to be really hard on myself in a cruel way - and now the cruelty has gone."

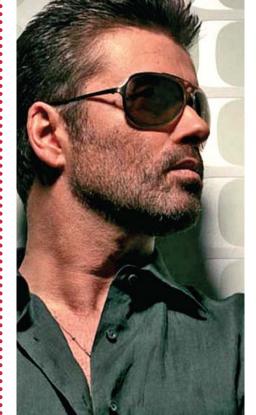
## SELENA GOMEZ NOT WORRIED ABOUT BELLA HADID

elena Gomez isn't worried about upsetting Bella Hadid with her relationship with The Weeknd. The 'Heart Wants What It Wants' hitmaker was spotted kissing the 'Can't Feel My Face' singer earlier this week, prompting his ex-girlfriend Bella to unfollow her on Instagram. One source said: "Selena was always the girl who stayed away from a lot of the Taylor Swift crew, except for Taylor. She preferred to be one-on-one with Taylor and didn't like being a part of the whole squad thing." Whilst another added to Us Weekly magazine: "Selena is not good friends with either Gigi or Bella. She knows them through other people, but they are just acquaintances. "She is friendly with them, but not friends with them ... Selena and Gigi were never fond of each other, so Selena definitely doesn't have any stipulations about hooking up with or dating Bella's ex." Meanwhile, despite the





pair splitting two months ago, 20-yearold model Bella still has feelings for her ex. An insider shared previously: "She is actually not over The Weeknd. She still loves him. They are on fine terms, but she is bitter about the romance with Selena. "She was not happy when all of that gossip went everywhere between The Weeknd and Selena. It really hurt her seeing Selena be all up on her man. She still feels like they have a connection." It comes after it was claimed The Weeknd - real name Abel Tesfaye - has had a crush on Selena for some time. A source said: "Abel though always had a thing for Selena. He thinks she is extremely talented and sexy. "They recently started talking before the holidays but she has been on his radar before. They are on the same level with expectations and think the other is really fun. They are taking things slow and getting to



## George Michael's anti-depressant addiction?

eorge Michael was reportedly addicted to anti-depressants. Former lover Carlos Arturo Ortiz believes an "overdose" may have been the cause of the 'Careless Whisper' singer's tragic death at his home in Oxfordshire on Christmas Day after he previously confessed to being hooked on prescription medication. He said: "[I thought] something was going to happen to him. I had an intuitive feeling about it last year. And it seems very coincidental to me that he was found dead on Christmas Day because he told me he hated Christmas as there were never any children around. For me it is, sadly, a possibility he may have overdosed. "George's death knocked me sideways, although it didn't surprise me. I found him a lovely down-to-earth man, but also a very melancholic person who I feared might one day take his own life. He told me he was addicted to anti-depressant medicine and trying to wean himself off it and confessed he was unhappy. "We talked about his superstar status and I told him I thought that with his fame and talent and money he had all he needed to be happy in life. But when he started talking about the anti-depressants he took I asked him outright if he was happy in life and he replied, 'No, I'm not."

## AMBER HEARD IS 'SMITTEN' WITH ELON MUSK

he 'Magic Mike XXL' star is reportedly thrilled she can now go public with the 45-year-old businessman after her divorce with Johnny Depp was finalized. A source told the Sunday



Mirror newspaper: "Amber is over the moon about her divorce but she is even happier about being able to go public with Elon. "She was telling friends over Christmas how smitten she is with Elon. They are already planning a lot of adventures

together and she's relieved she can move on with her life. It's an exciting new chapter for both of them." Amber and Elon are said to have been growing close for some time now after they were

seen "spending a lot of time" together last summer. Of their meet up in Miami, Florida, one eyewitness said: "They were seen arriving to, and leaving, the same room many times, but always separately." Whilst another added: "Amber was there with her sister. She has been friends with Elon for four years. She had rented a standard suite at the hotel, and he had a bungalow, a poolside duplex room. "He offered Amber and her sister use of his room so they could use the pool and have extra privacy, as he was working on a rocket launch." And another shared: "They all happened to be staying at the Delano. The group hung out at the hotel, rather than in public, understandably, due to all the recent press scrutiny." Amber and Johnny's divorce was finalized on Friday, with her

lawyer sharing: "This is a great day, all Amber wanted was to be divorced and now she is." Elon recently divorced actress Talulah Riley for a second time after the couple rekindled their romance in 2013 following a year's split.

## Chelsea Handler is too opinionated



helsea Handler claims men don't want to date her because she's opinionated. The 41-year-old ■talk show host - who has previously dated rapper 50 Cent and TV boss Ted Harbert - is "loud and proud" but knows some people find her intimidating. Explaining her love of Glennon Doyle Melton's book 'Love Warrior', she said: "This is a book I always recommend to all the women in my life. "It's a memoir about growing up as an opinionated girl and the effect that has on the way people treat you, particularly how some men will treat you. "I very much identify with that - I've dealt with it my whole life. "It's the reason why I'm single. Many men are put off a woman who has an opinion. "Apparently a lot of people find me intimidating but I'm loud and proud... in my opinion." Meanwhile, Chelsea has called for internet trolls to have their accounts suspended, or even be prosecuted for their comments. She told ELLE magazine: "There's a strong argument for having heated discussions and disagreeing with somebody in an intelligent, respectable way, but the anonymity afforded to us by being online makes people nasty and behave with real vitriol... "We have to begin holding people accountable for the language they use online. If you say horrible things, your account should be blocked. If you issue a death threat,

it's a criminal act."

## Jeff Goldblum, is expecting second child with wife Emilie Livingston

eff Goldblum and Emilie Livingston are expecting their second child together. The 64year-old actor and his 34-year-old wife - who welcomed son Charlie Ocean Goldblum into the world in July 2015 are set to expand their family in April. Emilie shared a throwback picture of herself on Instagram and wrote: "Round our newest addition to the Goldblum family, arriving early April. #growingfamily and #love (sic)." Emilie has since made her Instagram page private. The couple tied the knot in November 2014 in front of their family and friends at the Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles. A source close to the actor said of the big day: "It was a night filled with love, music, and lots of laughs." And Jeff has previously admitted he was like a "teenager" with a crush when he first laid eyes on his Olympic gymnast wife. He said: "I was immediately thrilled by her and walked over. The next couple of days I pursued her. I talked to my friends about her. "I was like a teenager. She makes me and



Charlie laugh. I like the way I make her laugh too. It's important to me, the way we make each other laugh."The actor admitted he never considered having children until he met Emilie. He said: "I never seriously considered it until now. I'm at a different place now. I was enthusiastic to marry Emilie and try to have a baby. "Charlie was born on Independence Day, July 4, while we were shooting 'Independence Day: Resurgence' in Albuquerque! My dad had a younger brother, my uncle Chuckie, whom he adored. 'Charlie' is a form of 'Chuckie'. My uncle was my exact height, looked like me. Chuckie died in his 20s as a pilot in World War II." Meanwhile, Jeff loves spending as much time as possible with his wife and their son. He previously said: "Charlie gets bathed every night at 6:20, the three of us together in the bathtub. It's just delightful. "He goes to bed at the same time every night and takes his naps at the same time. He's been sleeping through the night since he was four months old."



## Stevi Ritchie and Chloe-Jasmine Whichello have reconciled

he former 'X Factor' stars - who called off their engagement in September - are back together and more loved up than ever. A source told The Sun Online: "Despite calling off their engagement, Chloe-Jasmine and Stevi are giving things another go." It was recently rumored that Stevi was set to return to 'Celebrity Big Brother' after he was spotted near the hotel the contestants staved in before entering the house, but he was actually just accompanying Chloe, who was there to interview contestants. The insider added: "The reason why everyone thought Stevi was going in to the 'CBB' house was because he was spotted outside the hotel that all the celebs stay in. "Actually, he was there to support Chloe, who was asked to do some fun interviews with the contestants before they entered the house. "Despite splitting up, Stevi still loves and cares deeply for Chloe and wanted to be there to support her. "Similarly, Chloe knows that Stevi will

always protect her and stand by her, and she wants things to work between them." Stevi and Chloe met as contestants on 'The X Factor' in 2014 and were due to tie the knot in July. However, the pair didn't make it down the aisle as they split up temporarily in April following a series of blazing rows. They got back together a few months later and held an unofficial ceremony on board a boat in July to prove their love for one another. But they ended their relationship for a second time in September, after Chloe, 25, failed to turn up to Stevi's 36th birthday. A source said at the time: "Stevi and Chloe have split up again. He was absolutely devastated when she stood him up on his birthday even though they had made plans to go out and celebrate. That was almost two weeks ago and he hasn't heard a word from her in that time, he's so upset. "Stevi is also very confused because she hadn't explained why she was a no-show so now he has just assumed that they are over."

## Stephanie Davis is 'so in love' with her newborn son

he 23-year-old actress welcomed a baby boy into the world on Friday and took to Instagram one day later to share a



her finger. She captioned the sweet snap: "The day my world became complete. "Ive been overwhelmed and so in love with you. Words could never describe. Thank you for all your support! (sic)." While

Stephanie insists her ex-boyfriend Jeremy McConnell, 26, is the newborn's father, he has expressed his doubts but said he will support the baby if it turns out to be his. He told The Sun Online: "I am delighted that Steph has safely had the baby, of course if he is my son I will absolutely step up and do what I can to support him." And Jeremy insisted he has been in touch with his former girlfriend, but she has snubbed his attempts to speak about the situation. He added: "Any timescale for that is in Steph's hands now. "I did reach out to her some weeks ago but didn't hear back." A spokesperson for the actress confirmed on Friday that she had given birth in Liverpool following a 48-hour labor. They said: "We can confirm our client Stephanie Davis today gave birth to a baby boy in Liverpool. Mother and baby are doing fine." Stephanie has not yet revealed her baby's name, even though she has known what she wants to call her son since August. She said last year: "I've picked my boy's name! It's not Albi but that will definitely be a middle name. "I'm going to keep it a secret for now but I will say it's something "We got it when a guy started talking to me while I was with my friends other and knew, so thanks to him! they want a proper lad's name."

## down plans for a Spice Girls reunion tour after stopping the rom performing their old songs. 2-year-old fashion designer has tedly called on her lawyers to her bandmates - Mel B, Emma her should carried the stopping the rom performing their old songs. 2-year-old fashion designer has tedly called on her lawyers to her bandmates - Mel B, Emma her should carried the stopping the romand Carried the stopping the stopping the romand carried the stopping the stopping the romand carried the stopping the romand ca



involved as she has a writing credit on the hits and co-owns the companies which control the band's legacy and finances." It comes after it was claimed the group - which also includes Mel C had changed their plans because Geri, who is pregnant with her second child, wants to focus on her family. An insider shared: "Geri's priorities have changed. Her baby is due later this year and rather than force a reunion, she's needs to concentrate on more personal matters. "Getting all the girls in the studio at the same time proved a tough task. What they needed was one main boss-style figure to pull the strings otherwise they would be constantly in limbo."

## Zoey Deutch and Avan Jogia have split up



■he 'Year of Spectacular Men' co-stars - who started dating over five years ago - ended their relationship late last year, according to E! News. A source told the publication that the split was "amicable" and added: "They broke up four months ago and remain friends." Zoey, 22, and 24-year-old Avan first publicly confirmed their relationship by attending the 2012 Kids' Choice Awards together. Both are being kept busy with their careers right now, as Zoey has two new movies, 'Before I Fall' and 'Rebel in the Rye' due to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival this month. And Avan recently took to the catwalk at the Dolce & Gabbana fashion show in Milan. The pair will next be seen on the big screen together in the indie film 'The Speaking previously about their private relationship, Avan said: "Maybe I've been lucky but I think that it's mostly a choice. I think if you continuously choose to court the public's attention to your relationship, you run the risk of asking them to pry more out of it, but it would also be a bit strange to totally ignore your significant trying to find the line that's most comfortable is important. If you don't want to be a spectacle don't make it a spectacle, and hopefully mostly you'll be left alone."

## Paris Jackson grateful for show axe

aris Jackson is grateful that Sky has axed an "insulting" TV show about her father Michael Jackson. The British broadcaster has decided against airing an episode of the series 'Urban Myths' featuring Michael, Elizabeth Taylor and Marlon Brando after concerns were raised by Paris over the decision to cast Fiennes, a white British man, as the chart-topping pop star who died in 2009 aged 50. She tweeted: "I'm surprised the family's feelings were actually taken into consideration for once, we all really do appreciate it more than y'all know." Michael's nephews TJ and Taj Jackson also took to social media after the decision, with TJ writing: "Thank you to everyone who made their voices heard. As I said it wasn't comedy, it was mockery with no taste. A great victory for

his legacy!" and Taj adding: "Thank



you to the fans, you continue to fight for my Uncle Michael's legacy and thank you to the media, for covering the extreme backlash (sic)."The episode featured Michael taking a road trip from New York to Los Angeles with Elizabeth Taylor and Marlon Brando following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. But Paris, 18, was horrified

by the casting and previously took to Twitter to write: "I'm so incredibly offended by it, as I'm sure plenty of people are as well." What's more, Paris accused the makers of the show of intentionally insulting her father and Elizabeth. She wrote: "It angers me to see how obviously intentional it was for them to be this insulting, not just towards my father, but my godmother liz as well (sic)" Following Paris' public complaints, Sky released a statement which said: "We have taken the decision not to broadcast 'Elizabeth, Michael and Marlon', a half hour episode from the Sky Arts 'Urban Myths' series, in light of the concerns expressed by Michael Jackson's immediate family. "We set out to take a light-hearted look at reportedly true events and never intended to cause any offence. Joseph Fiennes fully supports our decision."

## Lamar Odom: 'I was basically just committing suicide'

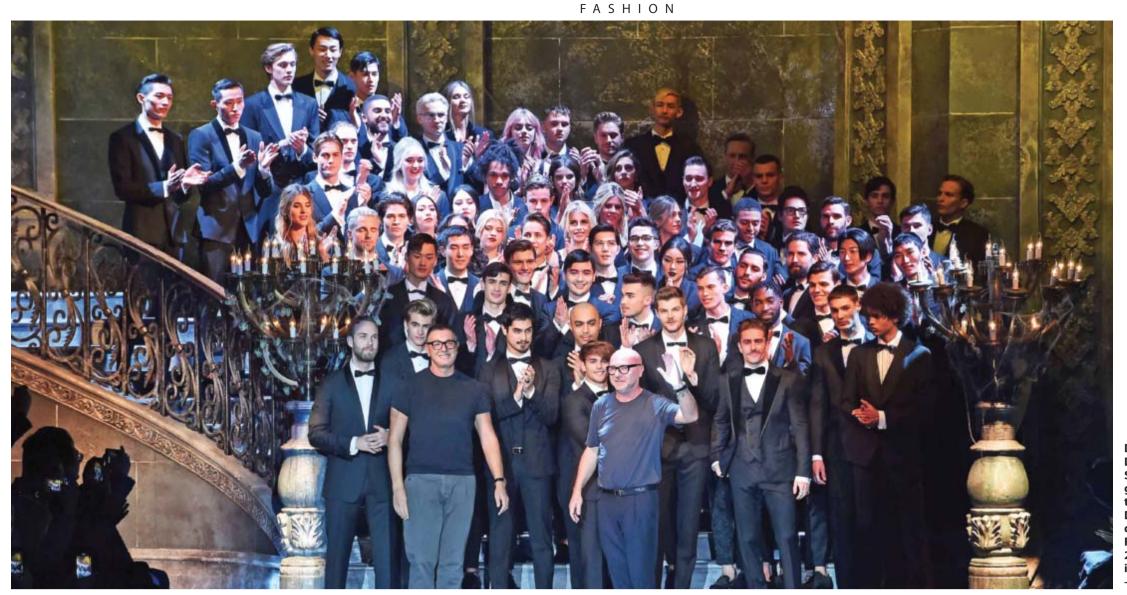
**amar Odom** was "basically just committing suicide" when he ■binged on drugs and alcohol at a brothel in 2015. The 37-year-old former basketball player - who was previously married to reality TV star Khloe Kardashian - collapsed and almost died following an overdose at the Love Ranch in Nevada and Lamar believes it was a cry for help as he had hit rock bottom. In a preview for an upcoming episode of 'The Doctors', he said: "Did I feel ashamed about some of the choices I made? I was basically just committing suicide." Speaking about his state of mind at the time, he said: "Being in that damn brothel and thinking I was going to just rest a little bit. I wasn't in a good place mentally before that incident happened. Me and my wife at the time were going through some things. I was in a dark place. "I guess they say everything happens for a reason. I guess the reason is I'm here. I can tell the story." Lamar recently spent one month in rehab in

San Diego and a source said: "He is doing so great and looking forward to the New Year. "He went to continue making sure he stays sober and on the right path. It was something he chose to do. He also wanted to feel 100 percent again. He did not relapse, but felt like he wanted to get away and start fresh for the New Year." Meanwhile, Lamar - who was married to Khloe for four years before she filed for a divorce in 2013 after he allegedly cheated on her with strippers - recently admitted the only thing missing in his life is Khloe, and he is desperate to win her back. Speaking about what he wants for his future, he said: "Honestly? I want my wife back." The stars will be among the performers at the awards ceremony at The O2 Arena in London on Wednesday February 22nd

## Robin Thicke calls police over custody row



obin Thicke called police after Paula Patton allegedly violated their custody order. The 'Blurred Lines' hitmaker was accompanied by LA County Sheriff's deputies to his ex-wife's Malibu home on Friday morning, along with a copy of their agreement, after she ignored his calls to take six-year-old Julian for the night, but he still left without the youngster. The showdown came a day after a court refused to limit his custody to daytime monitored visits after the 'Baggage Claim' star sought an emergency order because Julian had complained he had been spanked with excessive force by his father. And when the officers went inside Paula's house to speak with Julian, TMZ reports the youngster told them he was scared of his father and didn't want to go with him. The deputies told Robin they would not take the child against his will. However, a source told the website the couple are close to "reaching some middle ground" on dealing with their custody issues. It was previously claimed Julian had complained to school officials that Robin had spanked him more than once, prompting the staff to report the incident to the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), who opened an investigation. The 41-year-old actress - who split from Robin in 2015 after 10 years of marriage - began denying the singer access to their son before filing for the emergency order. And according to legal documents, she told her 39-year-old former spouse: "Julian is scared of you." The 'Warcraft' actress explained in her declaration that, the day before Julian confided in school staff, he had told her that Robin spanked him "really hard", and when he demonstrated and hit her on the back, it was very painful - but the youngster said he'd been struck even harder. And a school official also submitted a declaration which stated Julian told her Robin frequently "punches" him very hard, while a nanny claimed the 'Back Together' singer had smoked marijuana on several occasions in front of the little boy. Paula also accused her ex-husband of showing up to Julian's kindergarten graduation last June drunk at 8.30am and was "hooting and hollering and making inappropriate jokes" in the Catholic church. However, Robin insisted in his own legal documents that his physical punishments to his son are "consistent with the law" and previously agreed with Paula. He stated: "On a very rare occasion and only as a last resort, I will use light spanking, but it is consistent with the lawopen hand on the butt. This is the type of discipline to which Paula and I agreed during our marriage." He also claims the dispute has arisen after he stopped Paula from attending his father Alan Thicke's funeral last month. He said in documents: "Paula did not have a positive relationship with my father and often made negative comments to me about my father. As such, she was not welcome at his funeral."



Designers Domenico
Dolce (left) and
Stefano Gabbana
greet the audience at
the end of their show
Dolce Gabbana
during the Men's
Fall-Winter 20172018 fashion week
in Milan.
— AP/AFP photos

## Dolce&Gabbana, Versace and Giorgio Armani kickoff Milan Fashion Week







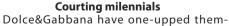






revenue. Here are some highlights Saturday of menswear previews for next fall and winter on





selves, moving the young millennial crowd that has populated their front row in recent seasons onto the runway. Pop star Austin Mahone, dapper in a tux with tapered legs, set the mood, dancing up and down the runway throughout the show, making the moves on the ladies, who included Sylvester Stallone's three daughters.

Dolce&Gabbana's show was titled "The New Princes" and it's clear that they are catering to a young, selfie-savvy generation bred on social media. In an ultimate branding move, the designing pair created a pair of faceQ app-like images of themselves on jackets and sweaters. Alongside the brand's trademark tailored suits, the new collection includes zany plush animal head hoods or backpacks, and Rasta knit hats or crowns over baseball caps, fun-loving Harajuku touches for a generation that prizes its juvenile side. Jeans and jackets were covered with appliques, with royal motifs from crowns to hearts emerging as decorative emojis. The collection was a fast and furious display of graphic prowess with humanized animal motifs alongside the brand's typical religious imagery, a display as breathless as the new generation of star power on the runway.







Models present creations by Dolce Gabbana during the Men's Fall-Winter 2017-2018 fashion week in Milan.















#### **Cross cultural**

The new Versace man is both a traveler who means business and a sportsman who knows how to relax. His suits fit close to the body, paired with dark glasses and two-toned sneakers, topped with double-breasted overcoats, knitted blanket jackets or belted trenches. After hours, he relaxes with hoodies under bomber jackets, worn with the day's trousers or athletic pants. And on the weekend, he hits the outdoors

in plaid shirts and shearling coats.

Models crisscrossed the runway beneath arched gates, suggesting a Middle Eastern market. The exotic vibe also was reflected in ethnic patterns that cut diagonally along jackets, or were put tile-like on bombers. Versace's neoclassic Greek patterns were replaced this round with photographic prints of classical sculptures. "This is a collection about the different tribes of Versace men," Donatella Versace wrote in show notes, "and the powerful positivity that can happen when men from different places, different cultures join together."

#### **Classics reinterpreted**

Giorgio Armani has reinterpreted classics through the decades with a modern edge for his youthful Emporio Armani line. Armani is hewing to the traditional menswear and womenswear calendars, but blurring the line on the runway. Many of the looks were feminized, like flowing knitwear or curved hemlines on short jackets. Trousers tended to be ample and pleated, and Armani employed luxurious fabrics like velvets for men and lots of fur, both as trim and full fur coats.

Double-breasted suits with soft hemlines and loose trousers recalled a 1940s cool, while fur collars on overcoats harkened to a 1970s mod. Armani mixed geode-like patterns with plaids, sticking with gray scale to black for a contemporary urban feel. Thick, furry neck warmers framed the face, while molded brim hats topped the sophisticated silhouette. Hair was slicked back and footwear had thick traction soles. Bags included big pockets on cross-body halters. The color palette was classic: gray, black, tan and olive green. — AP





**Models present creations for fashion** house Versace during the Men's Fall-Winter 2017-2018 fashion week.















Models present creations by Italian designer Giorgio Armani during the Men's Fall-Winter 2017-2018 fashion week in Milan.













Italian designer Giorgio Armani poses with models at the end of his show **Emporio Armani** during the Men's Fall-Winter 2017-2018 fashion week.





This file photo shows a circus performer hanging upside down during a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus performance in Washington, DC. — AP/AFP photos

## The big top comes down: Ringling Bros circus is closing

fter 146 years, the curtain is coming down on "The Greatest Show on Earth." The owner of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus told The Associated Press that the show will close forever in May. The iconic American spectacle was felled by a variety of factors, company executives say. Declining attendance combined with high operating costs, along with changing public tastes and prolonged battles with animal rights groups all contributed to its demise. "There isn't any one thing," said Kenneth Feld, chairman and CEO of Feld Entertainment. "This has been a very difficult decision for me and for the entire family."

The company broke the news to circus employees Saturday night after shows in Orlando and Miami. Ringling Bros has two touring circuses this season and will perform 30 shows between now and May. Major stops include Atlanta, Washington, Philadelphia, Boston and Brooklyn. The final shows will be in Providence, Rhode Island, on May 7 and in Uniondale, New York, at the Nassau County Coliseum on May 21. The circus, with its exotic animals, flashy costumes and death-defying acrobats, has been a staple of entertainment in the United States since the mid-1800s. Phineas Taylor Barnum made a traveling spectacle of animals and human oddities popular, while the five Ringling brothers performed juggling acts and skits from their home base in Wisconsin. Eventually, they merged and the modern circus was born. The sprawling troupes traveled around America by train, wowing audiences with the sheer scale of entertainment and exotic animals.

#### Another era

By midcentury, the circus was routine, wholesome family entertainment. But as the 20th century went on, kids became less and less enthralled. Movies, television, video games and the internet captured young minds. The circus didn't have savvy product merchandising tie-ins or Saturday morning cartoons to shore up its image. "The competitor in many ways is time," said Feld, adding that transporting the show by rail and other circus quirks - such as providing a traveling school for performers' children- are throwbacks to another era. "It's a different model that we can't see how it works in today's world to justify and maintain an affordable ticket price. So you've got all these things working

The Feld family bought the Ringling circus in 1967. The show was just under 3 hours then. Today, the show is 2 hours and 7 minutes, with the longest segment - a tiger act - clocking in at 12 minutes. "Try getting a 3- or 4-year-old today to sit for 12 minutes," he said. Feld and his daughter Juliette Feld, who is the company's chief operating officer, acknowledged another reality that led to the closing, and it was the one thing that initially drew millions to the show: the animals. Ringling has been targeted by activists who say forcing animals to perform is cruel and unnecessary. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, a longtime opponent of the circus, wasted no time in claiming victory. "After 36 years of PETA protests, which have awoken the world to the plight of animals in captivity, PETA heralds the end of what has been the saddest show on earth for wild animals, and asks all other animal circuses to follow suit, as this is a sign of changing times," Ingrid Newkirk, president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, wrote in a statement.

Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, acknowledged the move was "bittersweet" for the Felds but said: "I applaud their decision to move away from an institution grounded on inherently inhumane wild animal acts." In May of 2016, after a long and costly legal battle, the company removed the elephants from the shows and sent the animals to live on a conservation farm in Central Florida. The animals had been the symbol of the circus since Barnum brought an Asian elephant named Jumbo to America in 1882. In 2014, Feld Entertainment won \$25.2 million in



Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey performers are seen during a show Saturday in Orlando,  ${\sf Fla.}$ 

settlements from groups including the Humane Society of the United States, ending a 14-year fight over allegations that circus employees mistreated elephants.

#### 'Dramatic drop'

By the time the elephants were removed, public opinion had shifted somewhat. Los Angeles prohibited the use of bull-hooks by elephant trainers and handlers, as did Oakland, California. The city of Asheville, North Carolina nixed wild or exotic animals from performing in the municipally owned, 7,600-seat US Cellular Center. Attendance has been dropping for 10 years, said Juliette Feld, but when the elephants left, there was a "dramatic drop" in ticket sales. Paradoxically, while many said they didn't want big animals to perform in circuses, many others refused to attend a circus without them.

"We know now that one of the major reasons people came to Ringling Bros was getting to see

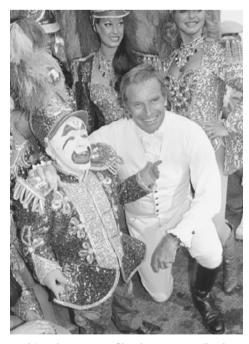
elephants," she said. "We stand by that decision. We know it was the right decision. This was what audiences wanted to see and it definitely played a major role."

The Felds say their existing animals - lions, tigers, camels, donkeys, alpacas, kangaroos and llamas - will go to suitable homes. Juliette Feld says the company will continue operating the Center for Elephant Conservation.

Some 500 people perform and work on both touring shows. A handful will be placed in positions with the company's other, profitable shows - it owns Monster Jam, Disney on Ice and Marvel Live, among other things - but most will be out of a job. Juliette Feld said the company will help employees with job placement and resumes. In some cases where a circus employee lives on the tour rail car (the circus travels by train), the company will also help with housing relocation. Kenneth Feld became visibly emotional while discussing the decision with a reporter. He said

over the next four months, fans will be able to say goodbye at the remaining shows.

In recent years, Ringling Bros tried to remain relevant, hiring its first African American ringmaster, then its first female ringmaster, and also launching an interactive app. It added elements from its other, popular shows, such as motorbike daredevils and ice skaters. But it seemingly was no match for Pokemon Go and a generation of kids who desire familiar brands and YouTube celebrities. "We tried all these different things to see what would work, and supported it with a lot of funding as well, and we weren't successful in finding the solution," said Kenneth Feld. — AP



In this July 19, 1978 file photo, actor Charlton Heston is shown with Ringling Bros and Barnum and Bailey Circus clown Prince Paul during the City of Hope's Celebrity Circus opening in Inglewood, Calif.



This file photo shows Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey circus elephants during Barnum's FUNundrum in New York.



Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey performers are seen during a show Saturday in Orlando, Fla.



A Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey clown juggles for fans during a pre-show for fans.