

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017

RABI AL-THANI 27, 1438 AH

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Mothers of Kuwaiti kids protest against allowance halt



Palestinian teen's case casts spotlight on Israel detentions



'La La Land' dances away with record 14 Oscar nods



Venus, Federer back in the thick of a **Grand Slam**





NATO OPENS NEW CENTER IN KUWAIT TO BOOST GULF TIES

11:33 & 21:42 **Low Tide**

05:05 & 15:59

Min 07° **Max** 18° **High Tide**

FM to deliver letter to Tehran • Trump 'fully' committed to NATO







KUWAIT: (Top) A general view shows the meeting between members of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) and the Islamic Cooperation Initiative (ICI) attended by NATO members at the newly-opened NATO Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Regional Centre in Mishref. (Above left) HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. (Above right) HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Stoltenberg open the new NATO-ICI Regional Center in Mishref. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat, AFP and KUNA

KUWAIT: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg yesterday called for boosting security cooperation with the Gulf states as the Western military alliance opened its first office in the region. "It will be a vital hub for cooperation between the alliance and our Gulf partners," Stoltenberg said at the inauguration of the center in Kuwait in the presence of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. The center is based on the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI), which was launched by the NATO leaders in 2004 and aims to boost security links with the Middle East, in particular Gulf Arab states.

Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates are members of ICI, while the remaining two Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states - Saudi Arabia and Oman - plan to join. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah said the region is facing serious challenges that require cooperation with international organizations.

"We face common security threats like terrorism, weapons proliferation, and cyber attacks. And we share the same aspirations for peace and for stability," Stoltenberg said. "So it is essential that we work more closely together than ever before. We have now developed individual cooperation programs with all our Gulf partners," he said. Stoltenberg said that over the past year, NATO has trained hundreds of Iraqi officers in Jordan to better fight the Islamic State group. "We are now extending our training and capacity-building efforts into Iraq itself," he said.

NATO continues to fight terrorism in other ways, including with direct support to the anti-IS coalition, he said. The center will strengthen the military-to-military cooperation and the fight against terrorism and extremism, Stoltenberg said. The center will help the Gulf states by providing advanced training courses on cyber security, energy security, chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Kuwait's foreign minister added he will visit Iran to deliver a letter from HH the Amir on the troubled ties between the Islamic republic and its Arab neighbors in the Gulf. The letter from HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to be delivered today deals with "Gulf-Iranian relations and the basis of dialogue and cooperation" between the two sides, said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled. "Gulf states have a true desire that relations with Iran are normal and based on international law," he told reporters after attending the inauguration of the NATO center. "We are partners in this region and have common interests and huge potential," Sheikh Sabah said, calling for a "normalization of ties and opening dialogue".

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Extreme cold weather till Jan end: Saadoun

KUWAIT: Extreme cold weather will be prevalent in Kuwait starting today until the end of the month, said Adel Al-Saadoun, a Kuwaiti astronomer and historian. Speaking to KUNA, Saadoun said that the current cold weather was due to northwesterly winds, which usually bring temperatures down, especially in the early hours of the morning. Saadoun added that Kuwait's desert and open areas will also see a sharp drop in temperature.

Dubai center penalized for hosting Kardashian

DUBAI: UAE authorities have penalized a center for disabled people in Dubai for hosting US reality television star Kim Kardashian, describing its invitation as "pointless", media reported yesterday. The social development ministry said that the Rashid Centre for the Disabled violated regulations after receiving Kardashian without a permit, the Emirat Al-Youm newspaper said. The ministry said it would not have granted a permit because it is "pointless to receive her". During Kardashian's visit, the students wore T-shirts featuring her picture that the management said were distributed by the American star. The center's administration said it did not seek permission because time was limited. The ministry said it was still investigating the case, warning that the penalty could extend to closing the center.

Real drop cross for

Mideast clothing deal

DUBAI: The club crest of Spanish soccer team Real Madrid will be altered to remove the traditional Christian cross from clothing apparel sold in some Middle East countries under a regional deal. Marka, a retailing group in the United Arab Emirates, has been granted exclusive rights to "manufacture, distribute and sell Real Madrid products" in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman, the company said in a statement yesterday. (See Page 19)

THREE-WAY BID TO BOOST SYRIA TRUCE



ASTANA: Kazakh Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov (center) reads a final statement on Syria peace talks as UN envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura (right) looks through his papers yesterday. — AFP

GOVT GIVEN ULTIMATUM OVER FUEL, FEES HIKES

MP THREATENS TO GRILL PM

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee yesterday gave the government two weeks to provide its views over two draft laws that would effectively prevent the government from raising charges or fuel prices. Rapporteur of the committee MP Safa Al-Hashem said the two bills relate to prevent the government from raising charges on public services or hiking fuel prices without a law by the Assembly, while the second calls to scrap the recent hike in petrol prices.

Hashem said Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh, who attended the meeting, pointed out that the second draft law is

not in line with the constitution. The lawmaker criticized the government for ignoring the first three points in the economic reforms package and going directly to implement the fourth point, which is hiking charges and prices.

She said that the committee has decided to invite the governor of the Central Bank for a discussion over the government's plan to raise debt through issuing bonds in the international market and the cost of the process, adding that the committee wants to inquire why the government always accepts recommendations by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

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ASTANA: Russia, Iran and Turkey agreed to bolster a fragile truce in Syria yesterday but a lasting political solution to the conflict appeared distant after two days of talks between Damascus and rebels. The three main sponsors of the negotiations in Astana announced the creation of "a trilateral mechanism to observe and ensure full compliance with the ceasefire" in place since late December. The three powers also agreed armed rebel groups should take part in a new round of peace talks set to be hosted by the United Nations in Geneva next month.

"There is no military solution to the Syrian conflict and... it can only be solved through a political process," said the final statement by Russia, Iran and Turkey, read out by Kazakh Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov. The two days of meetings in Astana - which have left the West sidelined - were mainly a Kremlin

initiative and come as Russia has made itself the main powerbroker in Syria with its game-changing military support for leader Bashar Al-Assad.

The meeting was expected to see the first face-to-face negotiations between the regime and the armed opposition since Syria's conflict erupted in 2011, but the rebels backed out and mediators were forced to shuttle between the two sides. Rebel negotiator Mohammad Alloush told AFP the "intransigence of Iran and the regime" was responsible for "no notable progress" in the negotiations.

Regime negotiator Bashar Al-Jafaari said after the end of the talks that the meeting "succeeded in achieving the goal of consolidating the cessation of hostilities for a fixed period paving the way for dialogue between Syrians".

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DUBAI AIRPORT STILL TOP FOR INT'L TRAFFIC

CEO OFFERS TO HELP US HUBS

DUBAI: Dubai International cemented its title as the world's busiest airport for international passengers in 2016, with a 7.2 percent increase in traveller numbers to 83.6 million, its operator said yesterday. Dubai Airports said "near record numbers" in December had pushed annual traffic at the

Gulf hub to 83,654,250 passengers, February it was expanding its annual compared with 78,014,838 in 2015. The airport, which serves as the home of Emirates airline, became the world's



Paul Griffiths

busiest in terms of international passenger traffic in 2014. "With our new forecast for 89 million passengers in 2017, DXB is closing the gap on Atlanta and Beijing for the top spot in overall traffic," Dubai Airports chief executive Paul Griffiths in a state-

The airport announced in capacity to 90 million passengers with

the opening of a new concourse. **Continued on Page 13**



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with board members of the Arabian Horse Center.—KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Dr Yousef Al-Ibrahim and Founder of 'The Proteges' program Shamlan Al-Bahar, along with students and other officials from the program.

AMIR APPLAUDS EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE EQUESTRIAN GALA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah commended the Arabian Horse Center for its efforts to hold a ceremony slated for next month, to be held under the auspices of His Highness the Amir. In a meeting with the honorary Chairman of the Arabian Horse Center Mohammad Al-Marzouq and the head of the center's Board of Trustees Alaa Al-Roumi yesterday, His Highness the Amir wished the center continued success.

Moreover, Marzouq thanked His Highness the Amir for his persistent support, noting that next month's gala is set to be a monumental one in terms of the expected turnout and wide participation. On the success of the center, he attributed it to the support of His Highness the Amir, as he hoped that the ceremony will leave the audience with something to remember. He also pointed out that the center holds numerous cultural events, activities and championships year-round. Similarly, Roumi spoke of the center's growth over the years, noting that it is home to around 8,000 pure Arabian horses.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir received Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters (NCCAL) Ali Al-Youha, as well as NCCAL Advisor Dr Mohammad Al-Roumaihi.

The officials informed His Highness the Amir on the cultural activities organized by the NCCAL recently. They also briefed His Highness on the council's future plans. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah lauded the NCCAL for their relentless efforts in spreading culture and arts. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-**Humoud Al-Sabah and NCCAL officials**

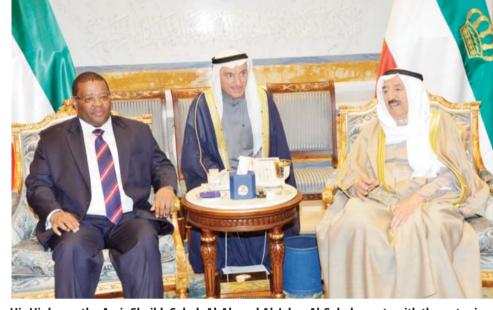
of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir also received the outgoing Swazi Ambassador to Kuwait Mlondi Dlamini. The envoy later met with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as well. The meeting was attended by head of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikha Itimad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Amir and

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah have separately met with His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Furthermore, His Highness the Crown Prince received Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Capital Market Authority Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf, as well as Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.

In the meantime, His Highness the Crown prince received Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Dr



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the outgoing Swazi Ambassador to Kuwait Mlondi Dlamini.

Yousef Al-Ibrahim and Founder of 'The Proteges' program Shamlan Al-Bahar. Bahar, along with the community's officials, offered His Highness the Crown Prince an explanation over activities designed to allow youth the opportunity to hone their skills, which drew applause from His Highness the Crown Prince.

His Highness the Crown Prince commended Kuwaiti youth for doing the nation proud, describing them as the cornerstone of national development. The meeting was attended by head of protocols at His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also met with Dr Salah Kassab Al-Thufairi who presented him with a copy of his doctorate on educational management development, and Dr Jawad Fadel Abu Al-Hassan who presented him with a copy of his doctorate on human knee improvement. His Highness the Crown Prince appreciated their efforts. —KUNA



QARUH ISLAND MARKS LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY

Island, Qaruh holds a significant place in the hearts of Kuwaitis for being the first land to be liberated from the Iraqi Invasion in 1991. The Island celebrated

KUWAIT: Despite being Kuwait's smallest yesterday its 26th anniversary of liberation. Located around 37 kilometers from the Kuwaiti mainland, the island's name 'Qaruh' was derived from the presence of tar (Qar) residues on the Island. —KUNA











BEIRUT: Lebanese President Michel Aoun receives Representative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.— KUNA

AMIR CONVEYS GREETINGS TO LEBANESE PRESIDENT

BEIRUT: Representative of His tions in all fields. Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah conveyed greetings yesterday on behalf of the Amir to Lebanese President Michel Aoun congratulating him on assuming the new post. Sheikh Mohammad conveyed a verbal message to the Lebanese leader, inviting him to visit Kuwait in the near future to boost the exceptional bilateral rela-

After the meeting, Sheikh Mohammad said he was honored to meet the Lebanese leader, describing bilateral relations as strong and unique on many levels. Sheikh Mohammad also expressed gratitude and appreciation for the warm welcome and reception he received during his meeting, wishing the best for the Lebanese leadership and people. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah also met with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. —KUNA



Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah visits Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri.





KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (eighth from left), NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (seventh from left), and other officials pose for a group photo during the opening of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Regional Center yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and KUNA

FOREIGN MINISTER URGES INCREASED EFFORTS TO FIGHT 'TERROR SCOURGE'

ICI CENTER VITAL HUB FOR NATO-GULF COOPERATION: STOLTENBERG

KUWAIT: It is imperative to bolster cooperation with regional and international organizations to cope with grave threats, chiefly, the 'scourge of terrorism,' Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said yesterday.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled made the remarks in a speech during the opening ceremony of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Regional Center, held under the auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who was also in attendance. Moreover, he spoke of Kuwait's firm belief in how instrumental the new center, located in Mishref's Diplomatic Zone, will be in strengthening cooperation, which in turn, will uphold global peace and security. In his speech, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister thanked state officials for their contributions to such a monumental event, commending all those involved for their "diligent efforts" to hold the ceremony.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled noted that Kuwait joined the ICI back in 2004 and ties with NATO have since blossomed to include fields such as strategic analysis and disaster management. He added that the idea to initiate the ICI center came about in 2012 and was subsequently approved during a NATO summit in May of that year, as he touted this center as the "first of its kind" in the region.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled highlighted a plethora of joint activities held by NATO and Kuwait, including conferences, meetings and lectures, in addition to the impending formation of a special Kuwaiti delegation to NATO.

On "pervasive challenges and threats", he said it behooves Kuwait to step up efforts to enhance its ties with the international community to stifle the rise of terrorism, adding that the new center will be a Launchpad for increased cooperation.

Vital hub

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg had earlier inaugurated the NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) regional center,



A handout picture released by the NATO Media Library yesterday shows Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah signing an agreement with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

saying it was designed to contribute to longterm regional stability. "Today I am honored to celebrate the opening of the ICI-NATO Regional Centre. In doing so, we mark two important milestones: A milestone in the friendship between NATO and Kuwait; And a milestone in the blossoming partnership between NATO and the entire Gulf region," he said in his inaugural speech while opening the ICI center in Kuwait.

He said this Centre is a historic first: NATO's first such presence in the Gulf region. It will be a vital hub for cooperation between the Alliance and our Gulf partners, as well as with Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the Gulf Cooperation Council, including in our important fight against terrorism.

He said that they will work together in a range of different areas, including: strategic analysis; civil emergency planning; military-to-military cooperation. "We owe a debt of gratitude to Sheikh Thamer Ali Al-Sabah. So I thank him for his leadership and steadfast support. I also want to thank the State of Kuwait in hosting and the people of Kuwait for your generosity and in hosting this Centre, for being such a strong and valued NATO

partner and for your long-standing leadership in promoting regional security," said the NATO chief. Stoltenberg stressed that the partnerships will strengthen through this Centre are vitally important to NATO. "Because the security of Gulf countries is directly linked to the security of all Allies, we face common security threats like terrorism, weapons proliferation, and cyber-attacks. And we share the same aspirations for peace and for stability. So it is essential that we work more closely together than ever before," he said. "We have now developed individual cooperation programs with all our Gulf partners. Because modern security institutions and well-trained local forces represent our best weapons in the fight against violent extremism," he said. The NATO chief said he is extremely pleased that the three other ICI partners are represented here today: Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. "I am also glad to welcome the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation, and the representatives from Saudi Arabia and Oman," he added.

Regional stabilityIn the meantime, Chairman of the National



A handout picture released by the NATO Media Library yesterday shows Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Security Bureau (NSB) Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah said that Kuwait is steadfast in its efforts to promote regional peace and security. Speaking during the ceremony, Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali noted that the center, which was Kuwait's brainchild, aims to align the views of ICI member nations on various issues, through courses, lectures and workshops to be held in the new ICI center.

On topics to be covered in courses offered by the center, he said it includes electronic security and crisis management, adding that the world is rife with political and economic conflicts with ripple effects all across the globe. Moreover, Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali said that conflict abounds in the Gulf region despite an abundance of wealth, as he underscored the significance of closer ties between Kuwait and NATO.

Senior officials

Other officials who attended the ceremony included Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Secretary General of the GCC Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah, in addition to a number of GCC and Foreign diplomats.

After Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, and NATO's Secretary General Stoltenberg delivered speeches, an accord for the establishment and operation of the ICI center was signed between Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and Stoltenberg. A documentary, showcasing Kuwait's efforts in hosting the center, was displayed during the event.

Stoltenberg met with Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled after his arrival to Kuwait on Monday evening. During the meeting, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled reaffirmed keenness to expand cooperation with the NATO, adding that Kuwait's cooperation with the organization witnessed a turning point when the Arab Gulf country joined the Islamic Cooperation Initiative (ICI) in 2014. Stoltenberg thanked Kuwait for hosting the Regional Center, commending the Arab Gulf country's "important and constructive" role to security and stability at the regional and international levels. —KUNA



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (right) and Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah attend the meeting.

NATO OPENS NEW CENTER...

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, Stoltenberg said the new US administration was "fully committed" to the Western military alliance despite strong criticism from President Donald Trump. "I am absolutely certain that President Trump and the new US administration will be fully committed to NATO and to the transatlantic partnership," Stoltenberg said. The NATO chief also said he had received assurances from both Trump and his Defense Secretary James Mattis of continued US support for the

"I spoke with President Trump a few days after he was elected in November and he conveyed a very strong message to me that he personally was very commit-

alliance.

ted to NATO and the transatlantic partnership," Stoltenberg said. He said he also spoke with Mattis on Monday, "who expressed strong support to NATO". "I am absolutely certain that the new US administration ... will support strengthening NATO," he said.

The NATO chief said he totally agreed with Trump and Mattis that European financial contributions to NATO must increase. "European allies have to spend more, have to invest more on defense... We have seen some progress but there is a long way to go," Stoltenberg said. The Pentagon said on Monday that Mattis reassured NATO allies that Washington had an "unshakeable commitment" to the military alliance, despite Trump having previously deriding the organization as "obsolete". — Agencies



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg meet with Chairman of the National Security Bureau (NSB) Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah speak as they arrive to attend the meeting.



Members of NATO countries attend a meeting between members of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) and the Islamic Cooperation Initiative (ICI) at the NATO Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Regional Center.



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah poses for a picture with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg following their meeting.



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (right) talks with Chairman of the National Security Bureau (NSB) Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, during the meeting.



Representatives from NATO countries attend a meeting between members of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) and the Islamic Cooperation Initiative (ICI) at the NATO Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) Regional Center.

PANEL MEETS AGAIN TO DISCUSS SAWABER'S FATE

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: A Municipal Council committee tasked with following up with the structural plan for the Sawaber area will discuss during its next meeting recommendations with regards to the municipality's vision for the area and how it is going to be used. Committee Chairman Ali Al-Mousa said members will discuss the possibility of issuing a decision by the Municipal Council to privatize the area located in the heart of Kuwait City. A decision would also be needed to find a quick solution for the problems of residents still living in the complex and who have not evacuated their apartments yet, according to Mousa. The committee also seeks to coordinate with the Finance Ministry and government bodies on the possibility of putting up the site for investment, he added.

There are plans to demolish all buildings that constitute the Sawaber residential compound and turn the wide area it inhabits either into a touristic destination or a financial center. The Cabinet had issued a decree last year for the removal of all residents of the complex by March 2016. Most tenants have evacuated since then, but there have been conflicting reports that

some of them still refuse to accept financial compensations or alternative homes located in Northwest Sulaibikhat to leave their properties.

Built in 1981 with designs by famed architect and urban planner Arthur Erickson, Al-Sawaber represents a distinct architectural, economic and cultural period in Kuwaiti history. It is one of the first high density complexes in the country. Located on approximately 245,000 square meters of prime real estate property in the heart of Kuwait's financial district, the complex includes 33 buildings and more than 520 residential apartments.

New locations

The Justice Ministry asked lawyers and all litigants to go to family courts in their new locations designated by the ministry from Feb 1. The courts will start receiving lawyers and the public at various departments in the new locations, as the family appeals court in Mubarak Al-Kabeer will more from the Ahmadi Courts Complex to block 2 in Sabah Al-Salem. The Ahmadi family appeals court will move from Sabahiya to Mahboula, while courts in Hawally will move to block 34 in Hawally near Qadisiya Sports Club.



KUWAIT: This file photo shows Al-Sawaber Complex (right) in Kuwait City.

KUWAIT HAS RICH, DEEP **CIVILIZATION: RESEARCHERS**

KUWAIT: Two Kuwaiti researchers lectured Monday about discoveries of relics in Kuwait, and affirmed that Kuwait has "rich and deep" civilization. Dr Sultan Al-Duweesh, director of antiquities and museums at the National Council for Culture, Art



KUWAIT: Dr Sultan Al-Duweesh (right) and Dr Hamed Al-Mutairi attend a lecture about ancient writings in Kuwait. — KUNA

and Letters (NCCAL), gave a lecture about ancient writings in the land of Kuwait. Dr Hamed Al-Mutairi, director of surveillance and excavation at NCCAL, talked about

results of excavation of the Gulf mission. The ancient writings are one of the major discoveries in Kuwait, Al-Duweesh said following the lecture. Excavations in Kuwait discovered four major writings: Sumerian, Aramaic, Old Arabic and Greek, he said. "There is no doubt that the land of Kuwait is rich with different antiquities which began from the stone age and the bronze age as well as other historic ages," added Duweesh. The most ancient writings were the Sumerian of the Dilmun civilization, and discovered in Failaka Island, he said. "We have found 20 Sumerian documents in Failaka, all talking about importance of Dilmun and the big trade relations between Dilmun and old Irag, he said. Some of these documents also described the area of Dilmun.

Meanwhile, Mutairi said discoveries of antiquities in Kuwait were evidence on existence of population, social and economic activities in ancient times. He talked about discoveries made at Saeeda Village in Failaka Island, like pottery ovens, weights of fishing nets, bones of animals and fish, and glassy bracelets. Mutairi said a mosque of Saeeda Village was discovered in 2001. This mosque, he said, consisted of two corridors and a yard. It is surrounded by a number of rooms. This is one of the oldest mosques discovered in Kuwait, he said. — KUNA

TREES HELP PROTECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES FROM SANDSTORMS



KUWAIT: The second phase of a project to plant trees at various archaeological sites in Bahra in Subbiya north of the country started yesterday, with participation of a number of government and voluntary bodies, such the Green Line Group, the Teaching Staff Society and the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR). Teaching Staff Society member Dr Shamlan Al-Qenae said the first phase involved planting trees and plants to secure archaeological sites in Failaka against sandstorms that affect and gradually bury them. Qenae added that more trees and fungal plants were planted yesterday in Subbiya to do the same. Green Line Group's President Khaled Al-Hajri said the tree planting was done on a request from the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) in a bid to protect archaeological sites and hold the soil around them together. Hajri added that a second

perimeter of those trees and plants would be planted in another phase.

Waste management

In other news, the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) said it intends to allocate certain collection points for agricultural waste for recycling. PAAAFRS deputy director for botanical wealth Faisal Al-Siddiqi said the authority had been receiving many complaints about agricultural waste dumped in yards and alleys. "Such acts cause pollution and lead to flies, insects and stray animals that pose a threat to human health," he warned, adding that the waste also causes bad odors that sometimes get carried elsewhere by the wind. Siddiqi added that, accordingly, the Municipality was contacted to allocate special sites to collect waste in Kabd and Wafra to recycle and reuse it as fertilizer and fodder.



KUWAIT: Women and their children demonstrate outside the National Assembly's building yesterday in protest against a decision to cut their social allowances. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

STATELESS WOMEN PROTEST AGAINST SUSPENDED ALLOWANCES

DEATH SENTENCE FOR OUR FAMILIES

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: For the second day in a row, a number of stateless mothers of Kuwaiti children demonstrated outside the National Assembly's building in protest against a Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) decision to suspend their social allowance. Demonstrators threatened to organize a sit-in unless the ministry revokes the decision they described as a 'death sentence for our families'. Protestor Um Hamad said she is a non-Kuwaiti and mother of three Kuwaiti children. "Undersecretary Hassan Kathem told us that we do not meet the conditions because our children do not work. How can my seven-year-old child work?" she asked, noting that Kathem promised to write a memo requesting to amend the law.

Another stateless mother, Um Abdullah, said she is a Kuwaiti citizen's ex-wife. She added she pays KD 350 in rent and KD 100 in installment for her car. "After this unfair decision, me and my kids will become homeless and I might go to prison," she said, noting that the decision was like a death sentence for over 3,000 families that had been receiving the social allowance.

"Is MSAL's social allowance given to us the reason behind Kuwait's budget deficit? How will we feed our children, how will we pay rent and how will we be able to educate our kids so that they can find jobs?" Um Hussein exclaimed,

adding that the decision also affected Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis.

'Chaotic' bonus payments

Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan issued a new administrative decision to stop the process by which annual bonuses were paid to ministry employees who are rated as 'excellent' in their job evaluation reports; a process that was described to be 'chaotic'. According to directive number 2/2017, hardworking employees and irresponsible ones used to be treated equally and they all got the bonuses according to the moods of their bosses. The new directive quoted a Civil Service Commission (CSC) stipulation which says that public employees have to actually work a minimum of 180 days a year to get the bonus. The directive also explained that employees working shifts will have to work at least 70 percent of those shifts to get the bonus. Moreover, the directive explained that actual working days would be calculated after deducting all leaves and vacations, except sick leaves. Commenting on the decision, observers said that it was a very bold one at a time when other ministers have failed in tackling this issue.

Bad services

Minister of Public Works Abdulrahman Al-

Mutawa stressed that the ministry is keen on finishing maintenance operations in Hadiya and Riqqa. Speaking during a tour of both areas accompanied by MPs Nayef Al-Merdas and Majed Al-Mutairi, Mutawa stressed that both areas' residents were suffering from bad public services. He added that maintenance would include changing the entire rainwater and sewage drainage grids and that the work would be done as soon as possible.

Subpar performance

Chairman of the parliament's budgets and final statement committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad said that a meeting was held with Education Minister Mohammed Al-Fares to discuss the State Audit Bureau's report about Education Ministry's budget for the fiscal year 2015-2016. Abdulsamad said that the committee recommended setting up an auditing department within the ministry. The committee also stressed that despite spending over KD 15 billion on education in the last 10 years, the outcome of educational facilities was subpar, and more efforts were needed to improve educational quality. The committee recommended reconsidering the recruitment of expatriate teachers and instead hire bedoons (stateless) to tackle the lack of teachers in some subjects (rare specialties) such as physics and mathematics.



BOGUS DOMESTIC HELP OFFICE BUSTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residency detectives arrested a gang that ran a bogus domestic help office by harboring absconding persons and making them work in violation of the law. The gang, mostly consisting of Ethiopian nationals, used to send absconding domestic helpers to other employers, then the maids later escaped and returned to the office again. Five Ethiopians reported as absconding were arrested and sent to concerned authorities. Meanwhile, the domestic help department at the Interior Ministry held several inspection tours in all governorates and placed stickers to close down several offices in violation of the law.

Fake passports

Criminal investigators recently arrested an Iranian national on charges of forging Portuguese passports for himself and his kids, based on which they got residency visas as Portuguese citizens, said security sources. Case papers indicate that investigations went underway based on information that detectives received, which indicated that the man had changed his and his children's nationality. After contacting the Arab and International Criminal Police Department and the INTERPOL, it was discovered that the new passports that the suspect obtained were fake. Based on that, the suspect was arrested and later confessed that he paid an amount of money to an unidentified person who helped him forge the passports, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. Police searched the suspect's home and found 12 fake Portuguese passports, three Iranian passports and seven cancelled Kuwaiti passports.

Liquor 'factory' stormed

Ahmadi security led by Director General Brig Abdullah Saffah Al-Mulla busted a local liquor 'factory' in Khairan residential area. The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said that after police confirmed information received earlier about the brewery, patrol officers stopped a vehicle driven by an Asian man who left the house. Police searched the vehicle and found 480 bottles, 12 cooking gas cylinders and other equipment inside. When police entered the house, 400 sacks each containing 12 bottles - 4,800 bottles in total -60 drums, seven steel distilling drums, five steel burners, 29 cardboard boxes, 50 gas cylinders, 30 sacks of sugar and five boxes of yeast were found. The suspect and the material were sent to concerned authorities.



HAVANA: Kuwaiti students pose for a group photo with Cuba's President of the National Institute for Water Resources Ines Maria Chapman. — KUNA

CUBAN, ALBANIAN OFFICIALS HAIL KFAED'S SUPPORT TO DEVELOPMENT

HAVANA/TIRANA: Senior Cuban official praised yesterday Kuwait's efforts and role in supporting development in her country through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED). President of the National Institute for Water Resources Ines Maria Chapman made her statements after meeting Kuwaiti visiting students touring the institute.

Chapman hailed as well the humanitarian role played by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in supporting communities and developing economies in most countries around the world. The Director added Kuwaiti-Cuban relations, dating back to 1974, remain exceptional, deep, and historic.

On a different front, Chapman said KFAED provided five loans to Cuba totaling at KD 31 million, noting that four of those loans were for water related projects. The fifth loan presented by KFAED to Cuba focused on the establishment of 34 semielectric power stations in various areas in Cuba, she added. Meanwhile, the visiting Kuwaiti students toured the National Institute for Water Resources and were briefed by senior officials on the role of the institute. Earlier the students visited Morro Castle in Havana which shares its name with structures in Santiago de Cuba and the Castillo de San Felipe del Morro in San Juan,

Puerto Rico. The students also visited popular Feira

Shop in central Havana, and were briefed on its heritage and history. The students' tour is part of the "be amongst the outstanding ones" a cooperation between the Ministry of Education and KFAED, which kicked off in 2010. It involves the annual selection of a number of high achieving 11th grade students who are sent on accompanied trips to see first-hand KFAED and Kuwaiti developmental contributions and efforts.

Vital projects

Separately, Albanian officials credited KFAED contributions for helping their countries develop several vital projects. They made their statements yesterday during a visit by Kuwaiti students, organized by KFAED in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. They added that last March saw the signing of a loan agreement with the Kuwaiti Fund to restore the Vlora River road at a total cost of KD 12 million (\$48.8 million)

The Albanian Fund officials hoped that the two sides will continue such cooperation in the future to help bolster bilateral relations. The visit by the students aims to highlight the fund's projects in Albania since 1993.

Seven loans were provided by the fund to Albania worth KD 33.438 million, (\$113.6 million) to finance projects within agriculture, transportation, and infrastructure. On an annual basis, KFAED organizes trips to showcase Kuwait's huge role in providing assistance to other countries. — KUNA

In Brief

US DOLLAR STABLE AGAINST KD 0.304

KUWAIT: The rate of the US Dollar against the Kuwaiti Dinar was stable at KD 0.304, the same case with the euro which stood at KD 0.327, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The CBK said that the Sterling Pound went up to KD 0.381 while the Swiss Franc was stable at KD 0.305. The Japanese Yen stood firm at KD 0.002. — KUNA



No H5N8 **HUMAN INFECTION**

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health emphasized Monday that no human infection of the deadly H5N8 virus was detected in Kuwait. The ministry's Assistant Undersecretary Dr Majeda Al-Qattan stated that no reports about receiving H5N8-inftected people were received from hospitals and medical centers and institutions across the country. Qattan assured that the highly contagious H5N8 is spreading among poultry, but the likelihood of human infection is low. — KUNA

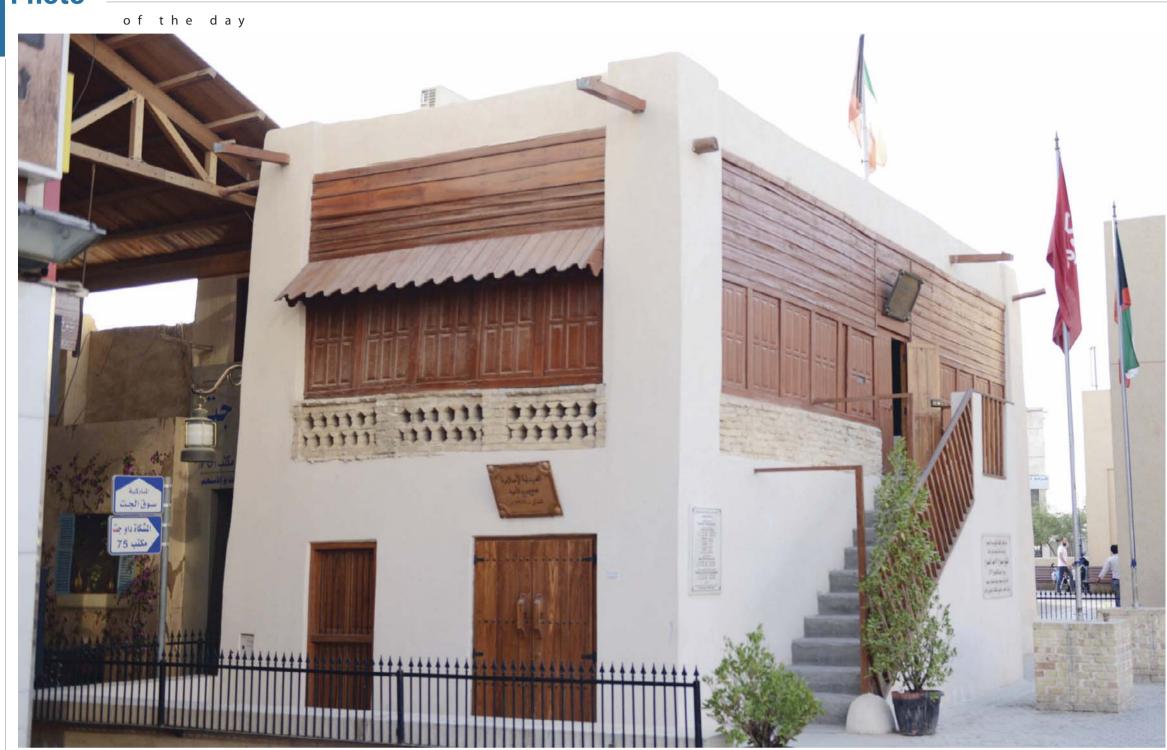


KUNA CHIEF MEETS ENVOYS

KUWAIT: Director General and Chairman of KUNA Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah met yesterday with the Algerian Ambassador to Kuwait Abdulhamid Abdawi, as talks centered on increased cooperation in the media sector. Moreover, the KUNA Chairman also received Egypt's Ambassador to Kuwait Yasser Atif, as the Egyptian diplomat commended KUNA's efforts to bolster relations with Egypt. — KUNA



Photo



KUWAIT: 'Kushk Mubarak' in the historical Souk Al-Mubarkiyah. Established circa 1897, the kiosk was used by Kuwait's seventh ruler Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah (Mubarak the Great) as the seat of government during the early years of his reign before the construction of Seif Palace. The property was renovated by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters and reopened to the public in 2011 as a historical monument. — KUNA photo



IRBIL: Member of KFAED's mission Sheikh Ahmad Ali Al-Sabah meets with Iraq's Kurdistan officials. — KUNA

KUWAIT ALLOCATES \$10 MILLION FOR Syrian refugees in Iraq's Kurdistan

IRBIL: Kuwait has allocated \$10 million for Syrian refugees in Irag's Kurdistan province, an official from Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) said Monday. Sheikh Ahmad Ali Al-Sabah, member of KFAED's mission visiting Iraq's Kurdistan, said that the financial aid would be used to carry out projects for Syrian refugees in collaboration with UNHCR, the UN refugee agency.

He said the visit of the mission aimed at evaluating the refugee projects in the

province, and added that the \$10 million after a meeting with the mission, said the would be used to improve public services in

three camps in Dahuk and Irbil. Dr Hanan Hamdan, head of UNHCR office in Kuwait, said her agency was happy with the cooperation with KFAED to support the Syrian refugees in Iraq's Kurdistan. She said the visit aimed at studying the remaining details related to special agreements to support the Syrian refugees in camps in the province. Governor of Irbil Nawzad Hadi, in remarks

refugee camps needed further funding to overcome problems caused by the large number of refugees.

He said the hospital in the province in general and Irbil in particular were stretched with the large number of patients. Dr Omar Al-Kanderi, the State of Kuwait General Consul in Irbil, reaffirmed Kuwait's keenness to help the Syrian refugees either bilaterally or through the UN agencies. — KUNA

HEALTH MINISTRY STRESSES **IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DETECTION OF CERVICAL CANCER**

KUWAIT: A senior official at Kuwait's Ministry of Health on Monday affirmed the significance of the early detection of cervical cancer so as to control the disease in its first phases. Speaking at a news conference, head of media office of Ministry of Health Dr Ghalia Al-Mutairi said a campaign entitled 'Do not turn your back to cervical cancer' will kick off next month and will run throughout the year. The campaign aims to raise women's awareness on risks and symptoms of the disease, she added.

The ministry is currently considering importing cervical cancer vaccine which is used at the private sector hospitals, she noted. She pointed out that the campaign coincides with other events that mark World Cancer Day on February 4 and the Gulf Cancer Awareness Week on February 1-7 every year. Meanwhile, Dr Abdelmohsen Al-Anjari, a consultant for obstetrics and gynecology, said the total cases diagnosed with cervical cancer in Kuwait has reached 350 over 10 years and 38 cases were detected in 2013.

Only married women are vulnerable to the disease which is caused only through the process of intercourse, he emphasized. He said the cervical cancer turns slowly into a cancer cell, indicating that the disease can be treated when it is detected early. He urged necessarily married women to make cervix screening annually.

Dr Waleed Al-Jassar, a consultant for obstetrics and gynecology at Kuwait University's Faculty of Medicine, said Kuwait would be amongst the region's countries that imports cervical cancer vaccine. Providing vaccine to young people will strengthen their immune systems and decrease disease rates, he said. He stated that Australia gives vaccines to both men and women as males are the transmitters of the disease. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Ministry of Health officials attend a press conference held to announce an awareness campaign against cervical cancer. — KUNA





Report

BODY FOUND IN MALL PARKING LOT

KUWAIT: The body of an Egyptian was turned to the coroner after he was found dead in a car behind a mall in Farwaniya. Police received a call about a person sleeping in his car, so patrols went to the area. When they knocked on the window, there was no response, so they obtained a warrant and smashed the glass. Paramedics at the scene declared him dead. Police are investigating the cause of death, because there may be foul play involved.

Woman raped

A Thai woman told police a man tricked and raped her. The victim said a man she knows, who had promised to marry her, invited her for dinner, but instead of going to the restaurant, he took her to an isolated area and raped her. She filed a complaint at Salmiya police station. Separately, a case was reported involving a driver who took a flight attendant to a mall, then invited her for a cup of coffee in his apartment, where he raped her. Detectives are working on the case to identify the suspect.

Policeman caught with drugs

A policeman and his friend were arrested with shabu, chemical narcotic pills and two liquor bottles. A police patrol spotted the car the two were in being driven unsteadily, so they stopped it and found them in an abnormal state. The car was searched and the drugs were found.

Flag dishonored

A citizen charged with desecrating the Kuwaiti flag was sent to state security for questioning.

Wife charged

A Jordanian man told police his wife insulted him, threw his mobile phone at him and damaged it. A case was filed and referred to the concerned authorities for investigations.

Neighbors' fight

A Syrian woman accused her Lebanese neighbor of beating her following previous differences. She gave police his details along with a medical report to back her claims. The suspect is being sought by detectives for questioning. — *Translated from the Arabic press*



Nawaf Najia

KIB SPONSORS THE LATE KHALIFA AL-JERI ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

KUWAIT: In an effort to help raise environmental awareness amongst the younger generations, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its sponsorship of the 'Late Khalifa Al-Jeri Environmental Award,' organized by Al-Jeri Group. The Award is initially set to take place across the Group's own schools throughout the current academic

year, and will later expand to include all schools in Kuwait.

Launched as part of a memorandum of cooperation signed between Al-Jeri Group and the United Nation's associated Renewable Energy Developmental Organization (REDO), the Award will feature sixteen schools competing in ten different categories. A number of awareness workshops are also set to take place in parallel, seeking to encourage environmental conservation amongst students.

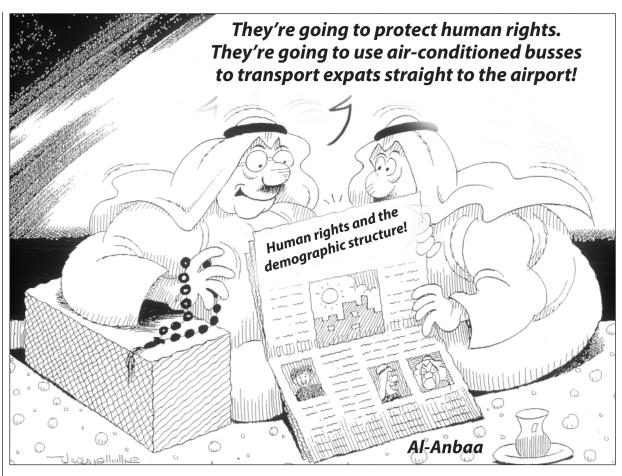
Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, said "KIB's sponsorship of this Award stems from our strong belief in the importance of its message of environmental consciousness - especially given that it focuses on promoting conservational awareness within schools and amongst students. At KIB we are acutely aware of the need to spread environmental education amongst the younger generation, in an effort to help them build a sustainable and healthy future for their country."

GREEN FLAME GAS CO PRESENTS LATEST GAS EQUIPMENT AT HORECA

KUWAIT: The Green Flame Gas Company participated in the Horeca Kuwait 2017; an important event and an annual attraction in the hotel and restaurant industry. Engineer Bashar Al-Qattan was present at the company's booth along with the Sales Department officers.

Bashar has stated the importance at the exhibition to present and introduce the GFGC is a leading company in the state of Kuwait and Gulf Countries, in the field of Design and Built the Gas Piping Network with specification that serve all important sectors such as Residential, Commercial and Industrial. Would also like to highlight that the Avenues Mall was one of the Companies Land Mark Project in addition to the 14 international companies that the company represented in Kuwait for the Gas field.

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



الجريدة.

WHAT'S ON THIS EVENING?

Building new

cultural establishments

is a great feat that

Kuwait deserves.

By Mudaffar Abdullah

ibrant cultural activities are slowly advancing in Kuwait but they still need more care and management - they can be utilized within a touristic recreational policy that a certain body can invest in. For starters, the parliament is due to discuss Kuwait's demography on Feb 2; I

hope the discussion will focus on visa traffickers instead of on expats. Yes, indeed I do. Now, we can take our family members out to theatres and various recreational venues around the country. A week hardly passes nowadays without a cultural activity is held, as various cultural bodies like the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), Yarmouk and the

American Cultural Centers, Sabah Al-Ahmed Heritage Village, the Sheikh Jaber Cultural Center and the Writers Syndicate have been so active.

What we can do today is take care of recreational activities for both citizens and residents or even tourists. Starting at the airport where special media and publicity centers should be put to promote those establishments' programs. Transportation services should also be created to carry people to the venues

where the activities are held. Building new cultural establishments is a great feat that Kuwait deserves. However, it would be a wasted effort unless they are properly managed. We do lack enough training for human resources specializing in recreation. Jaber Al-

Ahmad and Abdullah Al-Salem centers are so huge and call for considering the issue of training.

Archaeological expeditions have become more active in recent years and in 2016 alone, over seven teams from Gulf Cooperation Council countries and other foreign states visited Kuwait to dig out a lot of regional history and encourage more people to visit Failaka,

Subbiya and other areas on safe and well-organized excursions. For those describing this movement as 'shamelessness,' we have to assert that it is art. All of these artistic activities take place in theatre, galleries, crafts, cinema, workshops for kids, inter-cultural communication and making cultural and music agreements, seminars and symposiums. It is unacceptable to summarize all these efforts in one abusing and unjust word like 'shamelessness.'

—Translated by Kuwait Times

needlab kuwait matter

الانياء

Al-Anh:

TRUTH ABOUT HATE

By Salah Al-Sayer

aying that the West antagonizes Islam is baseless and is mainly built on illusions to spread hate among human beings. The West long ago surpassed the issue of religious beliefs and thus built states and communities governed by law. One can live in Europe for years without being asked about his religion. People there respect the individual's right to choose or change beliefs. You might even find a family with a Christian father, Jewish mother, Buddhist son and an atheist daughter, because these individuals believe and follow the Arab saying of "Everyone has

The West hates
and detests radical
political Islam
that antagonizes
the entire world

the freedom of belief and may Allah help him!"

"Be it atheists, Muslims or Jews, no one should be deprived of rights because of their religion," said Thomas Jefferson, the second president of the United States (1801-1809). In Canada, the first mosque was built in 1938. The British elected a Muslim man of Pakistani origin as London's Mayor. There are over 2,500 mosques in Germany. A Muslim of Somali origin was elected as the Senator of Minnesota in the United States. The French government allocated Ä 9 million to equip mosques with security surveillance systems to protect Muslim worshippers. The government funds Islamic centers in Norway, and there are many such examples.

As a matter of fact, the West hates and detests radical political Islam that antagonizes the entire world. One look at the actions of the Islamic State (IS) group or Taliban are enough for believers, and spares them a lot of explanation and slipslops. Neither the West nor the East antagonizes Islam as a religion. Religions are no longer a motive for hate among civilized peoples that had never experienced Islamophobia and suspicions about Muslims until after the rise of political Islam in the Middle East. It also started after the spread of political Islam's terrible practices, starting from the US embassy hostages crisis in Tehran after Khomeini's Islamic revolution, all the way through the September 11th attacks and the repeated assaults on innocent people in Europe in the name of Islam.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Sponsored By

ZAIN MAIN SPONSOR OF NEEDLAB KUWAIT MATTERS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of NeedLab Workshop Series, an educational initiative that takes place in several countries around the world starting from Kuwait. The event aims at introducing a unique architectural-social experience using advanced technology.

Zain's sponsorship of this initiative came under its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility umbrella, which closely focuses to contribute in the development of the education sector and technological innovation. The company partners with leading organizations locally and globally to invest in education, an essential element of the further progress of national economy.

NeedLab aims at increasing general awareness about architecture and local craftsmanship, as well as strengthen the skills and talents of architecture students and introduce them to the role of advanced technology solutions in the development of the modern design methods.

NeedLab kick-started with a workshop that was hosted last weekend in the College of Engineering and Petroleum of Kuwait University. The event will also feature a series of workshops and lectures featuring a number of experts, designers, and architects, both from local and international levels. Additionally, participants will build a pavilion plaque using locally produced materials, responding to the climate and visualizing the effect using augmented

77777

a conversation between

nature and technology

reality. The pavilion will be built in Shaheed Park at the end of the workshop.

Zain's support to NeedLab springs from the company's core Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy. The company believes that supporting initiatives such as this one provides young people with skills and tools necessary to help them highlight and develop their

skills, ultimately contributing to the further progress of national economy.

As a leading national company, Zain firmly believes in the importance of contributing to the progress of the education sector, and looks to empower and prepare the nation's youth for the important roles they will play in the further progress of the country.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) sponsored a campaign organized recently by the Farwaniya Governorate to distribute winter clothes to municipality workers and people in need.

International

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017

HOPES FADE FOR JUSTICE FOR SRI LANKA'S LOST JOURNALISTS

UK parliament must approve start of talks on Brexit

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WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump during a reception with Congressional leaders on January 23, 2017 at the White House. — AFP

TRUMP UNDERCUTS BIPARTISAN EFFORT

NO EVIDENCE FOR PRESIDENT'S CLAIM OF RAMPANT VOTER FRAUD

WASHINGTON: Even as President Donald Trump starts reaching out to lawmakers and business leaders to sell his policies, he's still making false claims about election fraud. During a reception with lawmakers at the White House Monday evening, Trump claimed the reason he'd lost the popular vote to his Democratic rival was that 3 million to 5 million immigrants living in the US illegally had voted. That's according to a Democratic aide familiar with the exchange who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

There is no evidence to support Trump's claim. He made a similar statement on Twitter in late November that he had won the electoral college in a "landslide" and "won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally."

Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by nearly 2.9 million votes despite losing the electoral college. The assertion appeared to be part of a developing pattern for Trump and his new administration in which falsehoods overshadow outreach efforts.

After a contentious weekend, Trump began his first full week as president bounding from

one ornate room of the White House to another as he played host to business, labor and Congressional leaders. Again and again, he ordered aides to summon journalists from their West Wing workspace at a moment's notice for unscheduled statements and photo opportunities

Business friendly

Yesterday, Trump summoned the heads of the big three American automakers, General Motors, Ford Motor Co and Fiat Chrysler, for a breakfast meeting at the White House. He pledged to scrap regulations and reduce taxes on corporations that keep jobs in the US, though he did not specify his plans for either.

His administration, he said, will "go down as one of the most friendly countries" for business. The president was also expected to take executive actions yesterday related to manufacturing. Trump has moved swiftly to center his first full week in office on jobs and the economy. On Monday, he signed an order withdrawing the United States from the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership, using one of his first actions in office to reject a center-

piece of Barack Obama's attempts to counter China and deepen US ties in Asia.

For Trump, the move was a fulfillment of a central campaign promise. He has repeatedly cast the 12-nation trade pact - which was eagerly sought by U.S. allies in Asia - as detrimental to American businesses "Great thing for the American worker what we just did," Trump said in brief remarks as he signed a notice in the Oval Office. The Obama administration spent years negotiating the Pacific Rim pact, though the mood in Washington on trade soured over time. Obama never sent the accord to Congress for ratification, making Trump's actions Monday largely symbolic.

The start of Trump's first full week in office had begun as a reset after a tumultuous weekend dominated by his and his spokesman's false statements about inauguration crowds and their vigorous complaints about media coverage of the celebrations. While Trump's advisers have long accepted his tendency to become fixated on seemingly insignificant issues, some privately conceded that his focus on inauguration crowds was unhelpful on the opening weekend of his presidency.

In addition to his executive action on TPP, Trump signed memorandums freezing most federal government hiring - though he noted an exception for the military - and reinstating a ban on providing federal money to international groups that perform abortions or provide information on the option. The regulation, known as the "Mexico City Policy," has been a political volleyball, instituted by Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984.

Day one proposals

The actions were among the long list of steps candidate Trump pledged to take on his opening day as president. But other "Day One" promises were going unfulfilled, including plans to propose a constitutional amendment imposing term limits on members of Congress and terminating Obama's executive actions deferring deportations for some people living in the US illegally.

Spokesman Sean Spicer said Monday that Trump intended to follow through on his proposals, though on a more extended timeframe to ensure maximum attention for each move.

Yet he appeared to suggest that Trump would not move quickly - or perhaps at all - to reinstate deportations for young immigrants protected from deportation under the Obama administration.

Spicer said Trump's focus would be on people in the US illegally who have criminal records or who pose a threat. "That's where the priority's going to be, and then we're going to continue to work through the entire number of folks that are here illegally," he said. Spicer - making his first appearance at the briefing room podium since his angry tirade against the press on Saturday - also appeared to back away from Trump's assertion that he could move the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

While presidential candidates have long made similar pledges, all have abandoned the idea over concerns that following through would further inflame tensions in the volatile region. "We are at the early stages in this decision-making process," Spicer said of the possible embassy relocation. "If it was already a decision, then we wouldn't be going through a process." — AP

IRAQ CLERIC WARNS US ON ISRAEL EMBASSY MOVE

NAJAF: Moving the US embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would be a declaration of war on Islam, influential Iraqi cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr said yesterday. "Transferring the US embassy to Jerusalem would be a public and more-explicit-than-ever declaration of war against Islam," he said in a statement. In a break with previous administrations, new US President Donald Trump has pledged to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's

capital and relocate the US embassy there from Tel Aviv. Sadr, a firebrand Shiite cleric whose militia once fought US occupation forces in Iraq, called for the "formation of a special division to liberate Jerusalem were the decision to be implemented." Sadr said the Cairobased Arab League as well as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the world's main pan-Islamic body, should take a decisive stand on the issue or dissolve themselves. The Najaf-based cleric also called "for the immediate closure of the US embassy in Iraq" should Washington go ahead with its promised embassy transfer in Israel. Sadr supporters protesting against the lack of services and widespread corruption in the Iraqi state stormed the so-called "Green Zone" in Baghdad twice last year. The protesters entered the parliament buildings and the prime minister's office but did not attempt anything against the US embassy there, which is

Washington's largest foreign mission.

The United States works with Iraq on a range of issues, notably with military backing for the Iraqi offensive to retake large parts of the country seized by the Islamic State group. The final status of Jerusalem is one of the thorniest issues in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel considers Jerusalem-including the eastern Palestinian sector it annexed in 1980 — as its indivisible capital. The Palestinians want to make east Jerusalem the capital of their future state. The White House on Sunday appeared to play down suggestions that a move was imminent, with press secretary Sean Spicer saying: "We are at the very beginning stages of even discussing this subject." — AFP



JAMMEH 'ALLOWED TO KEEP' HIS LUXURY CARS COLLECTION

BANJUL: Gambian ex-president Yahya tion victory. "What is very clear is that Rolls Royce and one (Mercedes) Benz" Jammeh could leave with them. Jammeh will be allowed to keep his collection of 13 luxury cars and fly them out to his exiled home in Equatorial Guinea, a spokesman for new president Adama Barrow said yesterday.

Barrow's spokesman confirmed to AFP an agreement had been struck to facilitate Jammeh's exit on Saturday in order to end a weeks-long impasse caused by the exleader's refusal to recognize Barrow's elec-

arrangements were made and the government was fully prepared and supportive of ex-president Jammeh to leave and as a result they found it is better to leave with all his properties instead of coming down and checking properties," spokesman Halifa Sallah told AFP.

An airport source who saw the cargo being prepared on Saturday night when Jammeh flew out of the country said "two

were loaded onto a Chadian cargo plane, while others await shipment. The spokesman added that the decision was also aimed at minimizing return visits by Jammeh. "He leaves with all his properties so he is not coming up and down to check," Sallah said. Another Barrow spokesman had alluded angrily to the luxury cars on Sunday, but did not say that the new president had agreed that

Yesterday, the source added, "10 cars" were still earmarked for future shipment, which diplomats and others familiar with the matter confirmed included a Bentley, Land Rovers, a red Mini Cooper, and another Mercedes. "No information or orders have been given by this new government to stop shipping the cars," the airport source told AFP. He described Jammeh's entourage as struggling between the choice of two larger

Bentleys or three smaller cars, eventually opting for the Mercedes and the Rolls Royces on the night he left the country. "They were trying to check which one fits. If they took the bigger cars they could only take two," he said. The news is likely to anger Gambians who have also learnt Jammeh took off with \$11 million of state funds, leaving the coffers nearly empty. An "entry-level" Rolls Royce costs \$250,000, and most Gambians live on less than \$2 a day. — AFP

FEARS FOR MOSUL CIVILIANS AS IRAQ PLANS WEST BANK ASSAULT

MOSUL: Three quarters of a million civilians living in west Mosul are at "extreme risk", the United Nations warned yesterday as Iraqi forces prepared for a push into the jihadist bastion. A hundred days into a massive offensive to retake the Islamic State group's last major stronghold in Iraq, federal forces and jihadists took up positions on either side of the Tigris River that divides Mosul. The three months it took to reconquer Mosul's east saw some tough fighting, but even deadlier battles are expected on its west bank, which is home to the narrow streets of the Old City and some of IS's traditional redoubts.

"We hope that everything is done to protect the hundreds of thousands of people who are across the river in the west," the United Nations' humanitarian coordinator for Iraq, Lise Grande, said in a statement. "We know that they are at extreme risk and we fear for their lives." Iraqi forces have retaken all central neighborhoods in east Mosul, and yesterday were clearing Rashidiyah, which lies on the northern edge of the city and is the east bank's last area still to be secured.

Tens of thousands of other security personnel are deployed north, south and west of Mosul, meaning that the jihadists are trapped in the city where their leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi proclaimed his "caliphate" in 2014. Residents of west Mosul and civil activists told AFP on Monday that IS fighters had forced civilians along the riverfront to leave their shops and homes.

Bridges bombed

"The group forced us to leave our homes... without allowing us to take our belongings," a resident of Al-Maidan said. "It deployed gun positions and posted snipers on roofs and at windows." Facing them across the river are some of Iraq's most seasoned elite forces, whose engineers some reports said were already working on assembling pontoon bridges for a cross-riv-

All bridges across the Tigris in Mosul were either bombed by IS or hit by air strikes carried out by the US-led coalition that has helped Iraq reclaim about two thirds of the territory it lost to IS in 2014. The Iraqi forces have over the course of their battle against Daesh (IS) in this country developed the capability to do bridging, including bridging while under fire," coalition spokesman Colonel John Dorrian said. The coalition has meanwhile sought to prevent IS from moving on the Tigris, destroying more than 100 boats in the Mosul area over a period of six days, it said. The UN had feared an exodus of unprecedented proportions before the Mosul offensive began on October 17, but while 180,000 people did flee their homes, the majority stayed.

It now estimates that 750,000 people still live in Mosul's west bank, either because they did not want to leave their homes or were prevented from doing so by IS, which has routinely used civilians as human shields in this conflict. "We don't know what will happen in western Mosul but we cannot rule out the possibility of siege-like conditions or a mass exodus," Grande said in the statement.

Death blow

"To date, nearly half of all the casualties from Mosul are civilians. It's terrifying to think of the risks families are facing," she said. The Norwegian Refugee Council, which assists some of the displaced families, also said the lack of access to west Mosul was a source of great concern, given the humanitarian crisis that fighting in the east had already caused. — AFP



MOSUL: Iraqi students run in a school yard at a school in Mosul's eastern Gogiali neighborhood on January 23, 2017, as scores of schools resumed their activities in the areas government forces recently recaptured from the Islamic State (IS) group during the government's ongoing military operation against Islamist jihadists. — AFP

CONFIDENT ABOUT SAUDI MILITARY AID TO LEBANON, FRENCH FM SAYS

RIYADH: French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said yesterday he was confident that a Saudi-funded military aid package for Lebanon would be restored. On a visit to Riyadh where he is to meet senior Saudi officials, Ayrault said the package was needed to help bring stability to Lebanon. "It's a country that should be helped," Ayrault told reporters. "And I know that the Lebanese army is a factor for unity. So it's true that aid can help stabilize things."

The \$3 billion aid package is to see Riyadh fund the transfer of vehicles, helicopters, drones, cannons and other military equipment from France to the Lebanese army. It is seen as a crucial show of support for Lebanon's military and will provide a boost to French efforts to increase arms sales in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia halted the program last year in protest at what it said was "the stranglehold of Hezbollah on the state" in Lebanon. Asked if the package would be restored, Ayrault said things were moving in "a good direction. So I am confident." The potential turnaround comes after a visit to Riyadh earlier this month by Lebanese President Michel Aoun, who was elected in a November vote that ended a two-year deadlock between Iran- and Saudi-backed blocs in

the Lebanese parliament.

A member of Aoun's delegation said during the visit that Riyadh and Beirut had agreed to hold talks on how to move forward with the package. Ayrault arrived in Riyadh late Monday to reaffirm the "strategic partnership" between France and Saudi Arabia. Ayrault, on his first ministerial visit to the kingdom, "will discuss the main regional issues, particularly the situations in Yemen, Iraq, Libya and Syria," the French foreign ministry said in a statement. — AFP



BEIRUT: Lebanese President Michel Aoun, left, meets with French presidential candidate and former French Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron, at the Presidential Palace. — AP



RAMALLAH: In this Thursday, Jan 5, 2017 photo, Palestinian Hamza Hamad, 16, rides his horse at his home, in the village of Silwad. — AP

PALESTINIAN TEEN'S CASE CASTS LIGHT ON ISRAELI DETENTIONS

CONTROVERSIAL POLICY TOWS LINE BETWEEN INJUSTICE AND CAUTION

SILWAD: High school student Hamza Hamad spent 10 months in an Israeli jail for alleged links to the Islamic militant Hamas group, but was never charged with a crime. The 16-year-old is one of the youngest among thousands of Palestinians who have been held in so-called administrative detention in half a century of Israeli military occupation. The teen's case spotlights one of Israel's perhaps most contested policies, under which it can hold suspects for months or sometimes several years without charges. Israel says the policy is a key tool in preventing attacks on civilians, but rights activists av it violates due process.

Numbers of detainees have fluctuated, from a few dozen to hundreds at any given time, with spikes during violent periods. Detainee figures are up again since October 2015, when Palestinians, mostly acting on their own, began stabbing or ramming cars into Israelis in a series of deadly attacks.

Israeli officials also indicated they would expand the use of administrative detentions to deter possible attacks inspired by the extremist Islamic State group. Israel's security Cabinet approved the idea after a Palestinian, with purported sympathies for the group, rammed his truck into soldiers earlier this month, killing four.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu compared it to truck ramming attacks in Europe, which has seen some debate about administrative detentions as a means of countering a militant threat. France and Britain used administrative detentions in conflicts in Algeria and Northern Ireland, but no longer permit it. Instead, they impose some controls on some suspects who have not been charged, including house arrest. The United States has held suspected militants without trial at its Guantanamo naval base in Cuba.

Open-ended military occupation

Rights activists say Israel's practice stands out because it presently uses administrative detentions as part of an open-ended military occupation. Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in 1967, but attempts have failed to negotiate the terms of a Palestinian state on occupied lands. "These exceptional measures are still being used in a very routine way," said Sari Bashi of the group Human Rights Watch. "Military necessity can become greater during times of tension and escalation, but administrative detention needs to be an absolute last resort," she said. "Israeli practice suggests that it is being abused."

Israel says it needs a means of deterrence. It says more than 1,300 Israelis have been killed since the second Palestinian uprising began in 2000. Administrative detention is only permitted if a trial could compromise intelligence sources, the Justice Ministry said. Judges monitor any extension of the initial term, usually six months, and detainees can appeal to the Supreme Court, the ministry said.

Lawyers say a proper defense is impossible because they and their clients can't see the state's purported evidence. Hamad was first arrested in August 2015, at the age of 15, and held for 22 days at a Jerusalem compound where interrogators beat him and asked about weapons, said his mother, Worood. Last February, a month after Hamad's 16th birthday, Israeli soldiers seized him again from his home in the village of Silwad. He was taken to the nearby Ofer detention center. His four-month stretch in administrative detention was renewed twice before his release in December.

In an interview earlier this month, the teen said there had been "no reason" for his detention. He said he was held in a cell with nine other minors, most of them not administrative detainees. The tedium of watching TV and walking in the yard was only interrupted by a weekly Arabic lesson. Hamad said he'll try to graduate this year, even though he lost two semesters in school, and was most passionate about tending to his horse, mule and two dozen chickens.

Israel's Shin Bet security service said Hamad is an activist in Hamas and has ties with senior figures in Hamas and in Tanzim, an offshoot of Hamas' rival Fatah. "His testimony raises suspicions that he acted toward advancing terror activities against Israeli targets," the agency said. It gave no specifics and did not mention Hamad's father. Muayyad, who is serving seven life terms for his role in the killing of seven Israeli soldiers as a member of a Hamas cell in the second uprising. Hamad's mother, an English teacher, said she told her son and his two younger siblings to get a good education and do well in life. "From the beginning, after Muayyad was arrested, I raised my kids not to repeat this experiment," she said. Palestinian activists say Israel currently holds more than 700 administrative detainees, while Israel's prison service said there were 554 in December, a discrepancy apparently stemming in part from quick turnover and different counting methods.

Special attention

Some cases have received special attention. In recent years, administrative detainees launched hunger strikes, some for more than two months, with grave risks to their health, to win release. Some said open-ended detention is harder to bear than a prison term. EU diplomats last month voiced concern about what they said is Israel's extensive use of administrative detention, singling out two hunger strikers and Mohammed Abu Sakha, a trainer at the Palestinian Circus School. The school runs an after-school program, teaching basic circus arts and other skills to 280 youths, including mentally disabled children.

The diplomats issued their statement days

before Abu Sakha, 25, received a third six-month

term. Abu Sakha will be released in June, at the earliest. A cousin said the greatest challenge for Abu Sakha, a tight-wire artist, is not being able to work out in detention. "Now he is just sitting," said the relative, Alaa Abo Alrob, 22. The Shin Bet alleges that Abu Sakha is active

in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a faction that - like Hamas - has carried out attacks against Israelis. The agency said his activities "pose a threat" to security, but gave no specifics. Pnina Sharvit Baruch, a former Israeli army legal adviser, said the overall security situation helps determine who is placed in detention and that different criteria might be used at different times

"If everything is rather calm, you would say only very serious cases would warrant administrative detention," said Sharvit Baruch, a researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies. At times of heightened threat, "you could also detain people that are considered less dangerous," she said. HRW's Bashi said individual cases are difficult to assess because purported evidence is kept secret, but that patterns of arresting dissidents, journalists and rights activists suggest "we should be very skeptical." "And I cannot think of a single reason why a child should be placed in administrative detention," she said. — AP

Under the cover of night, Syrian WOUNDED SEEK HELP FROM ISRAEL

GOLAN HEIGHTS: It happens nearly every night. After dark, the Syrian wounded come to known locations on the Israel-Syria front in the Golan Heights, driven by desperation to seek help from an enemy army. Israeli soldiers on lookout or patrol spot them waiting by the fence and whisk them away to a rear position where army medics soon arrive, according to army officials operating in the area that was seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel refuses to accept refugees fleeing the nearly six-year conflict in Syria, a country with which it remains technically at war. But it has allowed in more than 2,600 Syrians for medical care. On one bitterly cold January night, gunfire and explosions could be heard in the near distance as Israeli medics dressed the injuries of two Syrian men, one suffering a head wound. "We're doing everything we can to save their lives, to stabilize them and evacuate them to hospital," said Captain Aviad Camisa, deputy chief medical officer of the Golan brigade.

The medics lift the wounded men onto an army ambulance which slowly drives off down a dirt road. A Syrian family-two grandparents, a mother, father and a child aided by a walker-pass by as they prepare to cross back into Syria in the dead of night. "Some of the stories stir your emotions. When children come, as a father, it touches me personally," Camisa said.

Full of risks

Millions have fled and hundreds of thousands have been killed in Syria's conflict, which shows only fitful signs of being resolved. The trail to Israel is full of risks. Those who spoke to Reuters at Ziv medical Center in Safed, northern Israel, did so freely but asked not to be identified by name or have their faces photographed or filmed for fear of retribution back home.

The Israeli army helped facilitate access to the hospital, perhaps concerned to counter the negative image it has in most of the Arab world. One man, his legs pierced by shrapnel, survived a bomb attack in his village in which 23 people were killed. "In the past we used to know Israel as our enemy. That's what the regime used to tell us," he said. "When we came to Israel we changed our minds, there is no enmity between us.

"In the end we discovered that our regime is the enemy of us all," he said, referring to Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad. In a nearby room sits a seven-year-old Syrian girl, her mother by her side. She was hit by shrapnel from a mortar shell about two months ago and suffered life-threatening injuries; her internal organs and three of her limbs were badly hurt. "In the first weeks we try not to ask them many questions because we are afraid that it will be more stress," said Issa Fares, an Israeli Arab Christian social worker at the hospital, where many of the staff are

native Arabic speakers. Israel has not formally taken sides in the Syrian conflict. It opposes the presence of Iranian forces and the Lebanese militia Hezbollah ranged alongside Assad, but is also alarmed by the hardline Islamist groups fighting against him. — Reuters

TRUMP'S HEALTH SECRETARY FACES NEW SENATE HEARING

WASHINGTON: A second Senate committee is ready to interrogate President Donald Trump's pick for health secretary, a nominee who's backed by Republicans but under fire from Democrats for his support for tearing down President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and his past stock trades.

Trump's selection, Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga, 62, is a veteran conservative congressman and orthopedic surgeon from Atlanta's suburbs who has long favored voiding Obama's 2010 law and wrote his own proposed substitute for it. Chairman of the House Budget Committee until recently, he's also favored revamping Medicare and Medicaid, which Democrats vehemently resist and Trump as a presidential candidate said he opposed.

Democrats at yesterday's Senate Finance Committee hearing were expected to pursue questions raised at an earlier hearing this month about Price's stock acquisitions. That followed a Wall Street Journal report that over the past four years, Price traded more than \$300,000 worth of shares in around 40 health-related companies, even as he pushed legislation that could affect the firms' values.

In a new detail Democrats seemed likely to raise, congressional records show that Price bought shares last March in three drug firms - Amgen, Bristol Meyers Squibb and Eli Lilly - that each benefited from a tax deduction for having facilities in Puerto Rico. That provision expired on Jan 1. Last June, Price introduced a bill to

permanently extend that deduction. The measure went nowhere but would have benefited the three companies.

Scuttling Obama's law

Yesterday's Senate Finance Committee hearing comes as GOP lawmakers intent on repealing Obama's law continue trying to figure out how they would replace it. That remains a top priority for Trump and congressional Republicans, and GOP lawmakers plan a retreat in Philadelphia later this week to discuss what to do. Trump has been pressuring Republicans to move quickly on legislation scuttling Obama's law and replacing it.

The hearing also follows an executive order Trump issued Friday, his first day in office, that vaguely empowers federal officials to curb fiscal burdens Obama's overhaul imposes and give states more flexibility to interpret it. That could let agencies take steps like stopping fines of people who don't buy coverage or easing the law's requirement that insurers cover birth control, but there could be procedural and political pitfalls to exercising those powers. In prepared remarks, committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, praised Price for having "the experience and qualifications" needed for the post. He accused Democrats of a "level of partisan rancor" he said he'd not seen before in trying to derail Price and other Trump nominees.

The top Democrat on the panel, Ron Wyden of Oregon, called Price "the architect of repeal and ruin" in prepared



WASHINGTON: Health and Human Secretary-designate Rep Tom Price, R-Ga, arrives on the West Front of the US Capitol on Friday, Jan. 20, 2017, in Washington, for Donald Trump's inauguration ceremony as the 45th president of the United States. — AP

remarks. He said Price's plan would "tell vulnerable Americans that their health care will go only as far as their bank accounts will take them."

Enormous power

As head of the huge Health and Human Services Department, Price would have enormous power to decide how Obama's law is interpreted and enforced. For example, he could weaken the statute's requirements that people buy insurance and larger employers provide it to workers by granting broader exemptions, or reduce the extent of coverage insurers must provide for 10 types of mandated health services.

Obama's law has provided coverage to 20 million people by creating online marketplaces for those without employerprovided coverage and subsidizing many of them, and expanding Medicaid to more lower-income people. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated last week that repeal without a replacement would cost 18 million people their insurance in the first year and spike premiums for individual coverage - not provided by companies - by up to 25 percent.

Price has signed a government ethics agreement to sell his stock, but Democrats have suggested he's gotten special deals and inside information for some purchases. Price has said he's done nothing wrong. A bipartisan Finance panel staff memo obtained by The Associated Press said that in disclosure forms he's filed, Price undervalued around 400,000 shares of stock he purchased last August in an Australian drug company.

The memo said Price reported the shares were worth \$50,000 to \$100,000, based on the purchase price then. Those shares were worth up to \$250,000 when he filed his forms to the Finance committee, the report said. Price said his figures were a "good faith valuation" but agreed to recalculate the value, the memo said. The shares are in Innate Immunotherapeutics Ltd, which Democrats have accused Price of purchasing based on insider information. Price has denied that. The Senate Health committee held an initial hearing on Price last Tuesday, but only the Finance Committee has the jurisdiction to vote on his nomination. The full Senate would then vote on confirmation. — AP

ELDER BUSH OUT OF INTENSIVE CARE, WIFE BARBARA RELEASED

CHICAGO: Former US president George HW Bush was being transferred out of intensive care on Monday as he recovered from pneumonia, while his wife Barbara was discharged from the hospital after a bout of bronchitis, doctors said. The 41st president and former first lady were admitted to Houston Methodist Hospital on Wednesday.

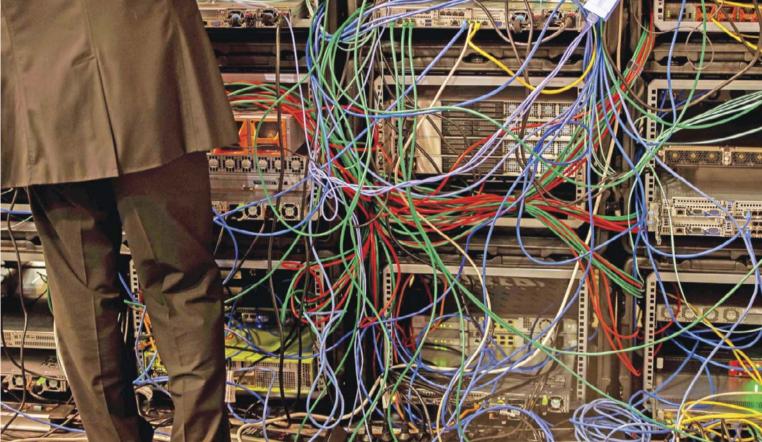
George HW Bush, 92, was suffering from bacterial pneumonia and was intubated during a 48-hour period to help him breathe. He is now breathing on his own and could be discharged as early as Friday or this weekend. Barbara Bush, 91, who had viral bronchitis, was hospitalized as a precaution. Physicians Amy Mynderse and Clint Doerr said at a news conference that the two were recovering well, but full recovery could take another week or two. "X-rays continue to improve, so no obvious re-accumulation of material in his airways that would then again put him behind the eight ball (at a disadvantage)," Doerr said about the former president, adding that he will need a "fairly aggressive combination of breathing medications" and a full course of antibiotics.

Bush has Parkinson's disease, which has left him in a wheelchair, but doctors said it was not a major factor in this latest illness. His is a less-common version of Parkinson's that only affects the lower body. Advanced age was of greater concern. "This age group doesn't have as much reserve as a decade ago, let alone 40, 50 years ago. It doesn't take much, from a respiratory standpoint, to get into trouble," Doerr said.

'Therapy for each other'

Barbara Bush was discharged but expected to return to remain by her husband's bedside, where she has been for much of their hospitalization. "They really, truly are therapy for each other," Mynderse said. "When she's not there, he's looking for her." The couple "thank their fellow Americans and friends from around the world for their prayers and good wishes," Bush family spokesman Jim McGrath said in a tweet. He posted a photo showing the former president sitting in a hospital bed, dressed in a gown and smiling. Barbara Bush is at his side, her hand on his arm, wearing a lavender sweater set and her trademark pearls. The former president and first lady have received many messages of support, the doctors said, including from a family who hand-delivered a get-well card. The card is in Bush's hospital room, they said. The couple has been surprised by the public concern. Mynderse said that before she headed to the Monday news conference, George HW Bush asked her: "People want to know about me?" "They're very grateful for the love that people showed them, and just are extremely humbled and I think a little bit awed by how beloved they are," Mynderse said.

The Bushes were the only former White House residents who did not attend Friday's inauguration of Donald Trump, due to their health. The couple watched the ceremony from the hospital. Their son George W Bush, the 43rd US president, had a prime seat on the inaugural platform in Washington. — AFP



EU SECURITY CHIEF ISSUES WAKE-UP CALL OVER GROWING CYBER THREATS

'Cybercrime cost the economy nearly 60 billion euros

BRUSSELS: EU security commissioner Julian King says Europe faces a growing threat of cyber attacks from criminals and those plotting to destabilize the 28-nation bloc politically. In an interview with AFP, King urged the European Union to shore up its defenses in the face of a mounting danger. He gave the example of the European Commission, the EU's powerful executive, which was hit by a 20-percent surge in cyber-attacks last year.

"Cybercrime cost the European economy nearly 60 billion euros (\$64 billion) in 2016" and the bill will continue to rise, King said ahead of a cyber security conference in the northern French city of Lille yesterday. "An increasing number of ambassador to Paris said. "So the first thing we can do is to shine a light to what is going on in order for people to realise what is going on," said King, who will likely be Britain's last top EU official as the country prepares for Brexit.

US spy chiefs have pointed to suspected Russian hacking in the American presidential election and say the Chinese government runs cyber espionage against the US government, allies and corporations. Experts in Europe have also warned of the risk of interference in upcoming French and German polls. Bolstering European "resilience" to cyber-threats requires a response from all players, King said. Private citizens, he said, must follow bank security guidelines, while the public and business sector must ensure the security of their networks and member states reinforce cooperation.

'Ransom on line'

The EU Commission "has just launched a new public-private partnership which we hope will generate 1.8 billion euros (\$1.9 billion) in investment in research" in cybersecurity, he said. King highlighted for example initiatives involving the private sector and Europol, the EU police agency, to fight "ransom on-line," where criminals demand money from individuals or firms to unblock computers they have hacked.

"There is a whole range of software. We can provide the tools to unblock them without the user being forced to pay. More than 2,500 computers were decrypted this way for free in Europe last year," he said. He said the Commission itself experienced a 20-percent increase in cyber attacks last year. "We are targeted and sometimes they are rather serious attacks," he said without elaborating on the nature of the incidents or any damage they caused. "Our efforts are more effective if we avoid giving all the details," he said.

More biometric information

In his other work in fighting terrorism, King admitted that sharing information among member states "runs up against issues of internal organization or different traditions among member states," but he said the mindset is changing. He said there are plans to improve the exchange of information that allow EU states to identify

suspects. The EU this week wants to make progress in managing the information so that police officers, border quards and others can consult on one data base all the files they have access to. The EU will also work on setting up a "unified system" for managing biometric and other information. "In recent attacks, including the one in Berlin, we see that the suspects used aliases," King said. "With biometric information, we have the possibility of bolstering our defenses against these abuses," he said. — AP

BRUSSELS AIRPORT BOMBERS hackers use cyber space to spread doubt about TARGETED US, JEWS: PROBE our political systems," he said. "The people who are trying to do that, with criminal or other objectives, would like to work in the dark," the **BRUSSELS:** The Islamic State suicide bombers European commissioner and former British who attacked Brussels airport last year targeted alleged confession," the source said.

passengers travelling to the United States and also Jewish people, several sources told AFP. The Belgian-led investigation believes a check-in counter for an American carrier was one of the targets in the March 22, 2016 attacks, the sources said on condition of anonymity. They also suspect that travelers to Israel may have been in the crosshairs, and that airport security camera footage shows one bomber apparently pursuing Hasidic Jews seconds before one of the blasts.

Islamic State (IS) bombers Najim Laachraoui and Ibrahim El Bakraoui killed 16 people at Zaventem airport. Around an hour later Bakraoui's brother Khalid attacked a metro station near EU headquarters, killing another 16. One source close to the investigation told AFP, which contacted investigators in several countries, that one of the airport bombers "attacked the Delta Airlines check-in".

"We know they wanted to target Americans," said the source, who asked not to be named. "It's clear they had quite specific targets." Asked if these targets included the check-in counter for a flight to Israel, he replied: "We know they were obsessed with the Israelis too." The possibility that they targeted Russian travelers was an "option" that had to be clarified, he said.

'Wanted to kill a Jew'

There were casualties from at least 40 nationalities in the Brussels attacks, but investigators and sources believe the Zaventem bombers had specific targets. "Even early on (in the investigation) there were indications that they targeted US, Russian and Israeli check-in counters," a US law enforcement source told AFP on condition of anonymity. "That understanding has held up with later investigations, including with Abrini's

Mohamed Abrini is the so-called "man in the hat" who fled the airport without detonating his suitcase bomb after his accomplices set off theirs. He was captured a month later. Four Americans were killed at the airport and several injured, while two Israelis aged 23 and 28 were treated in Jerusalem after the attacks. Israeli media identified the pair as members of the Belz Hassid ultra-Orthodox religious sect, who had been scheduled to fly from Brussels airport to Ben Gurion. Sources close to the investigation added that camera footage never released to the public showed that Laachraoui had been standing among some 60 high school students before deciding to pursue two Orthodox Jews.

"The attacker seemed to rush towards two Orthodox Jews," one of the sources said. "He really, clearly wanted to kill a Jew." A US government source said separately that Lachraoui was targeting a Hasidic Jew. Hasidic men are easily recognizable because they wear dark suits over white shirts, have long beards, hats and curly sidelocks. Investigators "are very confident they (bombers) were targeting US, Russia and Israel," the US government source said. Israeli security measures have dramatically increased since the attacks, an airport source added.

A Belgian press report said investigators had found an electronic message from Khalid El Bakraoui saying flights departed every Tuesday from Brussels to the United States, Russia and Israel, but investigators would not confirm that. However the attack did occur around 8:00 am on a Tuesday, shortly before scheduled flights to all three countries by United, American, Delta, El Al, Brussels Airlines and Russia's Aeroflot, according to airport and other sources. — AFP

STORMS KILL 20 IN SOUTH US

HOUSTON: In this photo provided by Office of George HW Bush on Monday Jan 23,

2017, former President George HW Bush and his wife Barbara pose for a photo at

ADEL: Bonnie and Wayne Collier were jolted awake in their mobile home by a cellphone weather alert early Sunday. They jumped up, turned on the TV, saw a tornado warning and decided to run. "We heard the Code Red," said Bonnie Collier, 65. "He told me, 'Get up. We've got to get out." Quickly, they headed to a friend's nearby building just down the road from their mobile home near Cecil, Georgia. There they met up with their son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren - ages 5, 7 and 9.

Houston Methodist Hospital. — AP

They arrived just ahead of a tornado, part of an unusual midwinter barrage of tornadoes and thunderstorms that killed at least 20 across the Deep South over the weekend. "My husband yelled, 'Get under the tables!' and then it just came right over the top of us like a freight train." When they emerged, the home they had been sleeping in was blown clear across the street, flattened and shattered to pieces. Her car and his pickup truck were buried under debris.

Smiles and tears

"If we had been five minutes later, they probably would have found us out here somewheres dead." Collier returned Monday to pick through the wreckage, pulling out clothes and family photos with a mix of smiles and tears. She laughed as 5-year-old granddaughter Rylee ran up, holding a photo and excitedly shouting "Mimi! This one's of you." But moments earlier, she choked back sobs talking about how she could have lost much more than her home.

"Material things can be put back and replaced and family can't. And I'm just glad we got out OK," she said, wiping away a tear. Mobile homes were especially vulnerable to the storms, with seven people alone killed early Sunday in one trailer park community a few miles away - Sunshine Acres - in the community of Adel.

Just the day after Devocheo Williams moved into Sunshine Acres, his mobile home - and many of those around him were demolished as the winds descended before dawn with terrifying swiftness. "The whole trailer park was gone in 15 seconds," Williams said, describing a funnel cloud that appeared to loop back around and hit the place a second time. "It looked like a ball of fire was going 100 mph." Williams said

INTERNATIONAL

REPORTING LIKE A DALIT GIRL: A PUBLICATION SHOWS HOW

MUMBAI: Covering elections in the archy and find little representation in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, seen as the country's key battleground state, is generally a test for journalists for its intrigue and drama. No one is more prepared for the upcoming poll than the all-woman, all-Dalit team of 'Khabar Lahariya' (News Wave), a regional-language weekly that reports from some of the state's most disadvantaged areas that do not generally make the news.

It was founded in 2002 by a non-profit group, Nirantar, that works in women's literacy and with low-caste Dalits, who are on the bottom rung of India's social hiermedia. "The mainstream media only carried stories about the big cities, and the reporters were mostly educated, Englishspeaking men belonging to upper castes," said co-founder Shalini Joshi. "Dalit women are the most marginalised, so we made a conscious decision to only hire them, so they could report news that is truly local," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Initially, six women with some basic education were hired in Chitrakoot in southern Uttar Pradesh, and trained to report and write stories, and take pictures. The publication was printed

every week in the nearest big city, Allahabad, five hours away by road. From a print circulation of about 10,000 copies, readership has grown with the digital shift, Joshi said. Published in the local languages of Bundeli, Awadhi and Bhojpuri, the topics range from dowries and farmer compensation to politics and cricket. "To people in these districts, English and Hindi are the languages of the elite, of those in power, whereas the local language is seen as second-class," Joshi said.

Intimidated

Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous They have been threatened and intimidated

state, also has among the highest crime rates, with violence rife against women and lower-caste people. The month-long Uttar Pradesh polls starting Feb. 11 will see Mayawati, a former leader known as the Dalit Queen, pitted against the ruling party. Khabar Lahariya's reporters struggled initially, as they would not be invited to press conferences, and their calls not be returned, Joshi said. But they persisted, taking on politicians and local leaders. There are now 30 women reporters in 10 districts in the state. "It's very hard to be a journalist there, (especially for) a woman of a lower caste.

many times," Joshi said. Dalits and other lower-caste people make up nearly a fourth of India's 1.3 billion population. As far back as 1996, Kenneth J. Cooper, then a reporter for the Washington Post in India, wrote about being unable to find a single Dalit journalist in the country. Ten years later, a survey found no Dalits among more than 300 senior figures in the media. Meanwhile, Khabar Lahariya plans to expand to more districts in Uttar Pradesh, and other states including Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, Joshi said. "After all these years, they are still the only Dalit women journalists in their districts," she said. — Reuters



FARINDOLA: The coffin of Alessandro Giancaterino, one of the victims of the avalanche which buried the Hotel Rigopiano, is shoulder carried outside the San Nicola church during the funeral service. — AP

ITALY AVALANCHE TOLL AT 15 AS HELICOPTER CRASH ADDS PAIN

FARINDOLA: The death toll from an avalanche that swamped an Italian mountain hotel rose to 15 yesterday, with 14 still missing, as a nearby helicopter crash dealt another blow to a region reeling from earthquakes and the heaviest snowfall in decades. The emergency response helicopter, which had six people onboard, came down near Campo Felice, a popular ski resort 120km (75 miles) east of Rome, during the evacuation of an injured skier.

There were reports of a loud explosion being heard. "The area where it came down is hard to access at the best of times, and thick fog is making it even more difficult," a police spokesman told AFP. "Several teams are trying to get there." Campo Felice, located at 710 meters altitude but with pistes up to just over 2,000 meters, is close to the epicentres of earthquakes that struck the region last Wednesday and were followed by the killer

Police said there was no apparent link between the crash and the seismic activity or the avalanche. But it came as firefighters and mountain police grappled with their aftermath. A team of first responders who had been helping the rescue effort at the Hotel Rigopiano was dispatched to the helicopter crash site. The tally of bodies found in the ruins of the Rigopiano rose to 15 on the sixth day of an increasingly forlorn search through the snow-covered wreckage.

Eleven staff and guests survived the disaster, two men who we outside when the avalanche struck and nine people, including four children, who were found on Friday. Rescuers have refused to give up hope of finding more people alive with morale amongst the exhausted rescuers having been boosted on Monday when three live puppies were retrieved from under the rubble.

Italian authorities are meanwhile investigating the chain of events leading to the avalanche to see if the tragedy could or should have been avoided. A preliminary manslaughter investigation has been opened with the prosecutor in charge looking into whether environmental risks were properly taken into account during the construction and subsequent renovation of the hotel. Events on the day of the disaster itself, when guests were unable to leave because of snow-blocked access roads, are also in the spotlight.

Tunneling into wreckage

The local council had only one functioning road-clearance vehicle and had deployed it to reach isolated hamlets with elderly residents rather than clearing the road to the hotel. A second snow plough had broken down earlier in the month and staff were awaiting authorization to get a 25,000-euro (\$26,845) repair done.

The hotel, a four-star spa facility where George Clooney once stayed, was built into a hillside at 1,200 meters altitude on the eastern slopes of Monte Gran Sasso. Campo Felice is on the other side of the near 3,000-metre peak that dominates the region. The survivors pulled from the ruins on Friday were all treated for mild hypothermia, suggesting anyone still alive nearly four days later would have had to have found some way of keeping warm.



KABUL An Afghan refugee who was deported from Germany arrives with his belongings at the international airport. — AFP

GERMANY SENDS SECOND BATCH OF AFGHAN REFUGEES TO KABUL

KABUL: Deported after years of living in Germany, 26 young Afghans arrived in Kabul yesterday with only one thought in mind: fleeing this war-torn country. Escorted by 80 German police officers, their plane landed shortly after 7.30 am (0300 GMT) — the second batch deported under a disputed Afghan-EU deal signed last October and aimed at curbing the influx of migrants.

"What would you have me do here? There is only death!" said 19-year-old Ramid Afshah, returning from Germany after five years-a country it had taken him six months to reach. Airport police spokesman Mohammad Adjmal Fawzi said at least one of the 26 was "suffering" and showing signs of psychological distress, adding: "He could be brought back to Germany."

Several of the migrants told AFP they had been arrested Monday morning at dawn and sent to Kabul with just a small piece of luggage or a backpack containing their belongings. "The police came to pick us up yesterday morning at 4 am and we were treated like animals," said Arash Alkozai, 21.

Alkozai, who had come to Germany when he was 16, was living in Munich with his family before taking a room in the city. After leaving school he had studied auto repair, all the while learning to speak his adopted tongue "perfectly". "I cannot say anything negative about this country that helped me. I respect its decision but now I'm living a nightmare. I've left behind my three-month pregnant girlfriend, I won't find work here and there's no security," he said.

Afghanistan has been battling an insurgency since a US-led coalition toppled the hardline Taliban in late 2001. The conflict caused some 9,000 deaths or injuries among civilians in the first nine months of 2016, according to the United Nations, which is to publish its annual report by the end of the month. In 2015 the number of civilians killed or wounded was more than 11,000, the highest recorded since 2009, with children paying a particularly heavy price, according to UN figures.

Some 250 people staged a protest against the deportations at Frankfurt airport on Monday night, Sarmina Stuman of the Afghan Refugees Movement told AFP. "Afghanistan is simply at war, which is why we are protesting against expulsions to a country like Afghanistan," she said. In December German interior minister Thomas de MaiziËre justified the expulsion of Afghans in order to preserve the "right" of asylum in the country, the only one in Europe to open its doors wide to refugees. — AFP

UK PARLIAMENT MUST APPROVE START OF TALKS ON BREXIT: COURT

Landmark judgment also said regional lawmakers have no say

LONDON: The British government must win parliament's approval before starting talks to leave the EU, the Supreme Court ruled vesterday, in a landmark judgment that also said regional lawmakers had no say. While the ruling is a blow to Prime Minister Theresa May, the government insisted it would do "nothing" to change the timetable for triggering Article 50 — the formal procedure for leaving the EU-by the end of March at the latest.

But the main opposition Labour party and the Scottish National Party (SNP) have said they will table amendments to any government legislation to start Brexit, which could potentially cause a delay. "The Supreme Court rules that the government cannot trigger Article 50 without an act of parliament authorizing it to do so," Supreme Court president David Neuberger told a packed courtroom in London.

He said a majority of the 11 judges had agreed that withdrawing from the EU meant there would have to be changes to Britain's domestic laws, and therefore national parliament had to be consulted. The government had argued that it enjoyed executive powers to withdraw from international treaties. Lawmakers in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales have no say in the process, however, the judges said, in a setback for Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. SNP leader Sturgeon has argued that since Scotland voted to stay in the EU, it should not be taken out "against its will" and has warned it is "very likely" she will call a referendum on independence. Northern Ireland also voted against Brexit. "UK ministers are not legally compelled to consult the devolved legislatures... Relations with the EU are a matter for the UK government," Neuberger said.

'Parliament must deliver'

Attorney General Jeremy Wright said the government was "disappointed" but the ruling was widely expected and draft legislation is already being prepared in order to meet May's Brexit timetable. Brexit minister David Davis will address MPs later on Tuesday to provide details. "Supreme Court has spoken. Now parliament must deliver will of the people we will trigger A50 by the end of March. Forward we go!" Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, a leading Brexit advocate during the referendum campaign, said on Twitter.

The lead claimant, investment fund manager Gina Miller, said: "No prime minister, no government can expect to be unanswerable or unchallenged." She added: "Today's decision has created legal certainty based on our democratic process." David Greene, a lawyer for another claimant, hairdresser Deir Dos Santos, hailed the ruling as a "victory for democracy and the rule of law".

Yesterday's decision follows a High Court ruling against the government in November, in a case which attracted protests, as well as death threats and racist taunts against Miller. "I have been shocked by the levels of personal abuse I have received from many quarters," the 51-year-old businesswoman said outside court. She said people in power should be "much quicker" in condemning this abuse. Anger was also directed at the High Court judges, with one newspaper branding them "Enemies of the People".

Opposition amendments

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said his party would not "frustrate" the process for invoking Article 50 but would seek to amend the legislation. "Labour is demanding a plan from the government to ensure it is accountable to parliament throughout the negotiations and a meaningful vote to ensure the final deal is given parliamentary approval," he said.

The party wants provisions included in the bill urging the government to negotiate tariff-free access to the EU's single market and agree to abide by EU-level protection of workers' rights. May has said she wants to leave the single market in order to be able to restrict immigration and negotiate a new customs deal with the EU, but will seek "maximum possible access" for British companies. She has also said Britain will incorporate all existing EU legislation and then parliament will get to choose which laws to adopt, repeal or amend. May has promised to give both Houses of Parliament a vote on the final deal but some parliamentarians are concerned that this could come at the last minute and effectively give them no choice but to approve. — AFP



LONDON: Gina Miller, co-founder of investment fund SCM Private (C) makes a statement following the judgment in a case to decide whether or not parliamentary approval is needed before the government can begin Brexit negotiations, outside the Supreme Court, opposite the Houses of Parliament. — AFP

Brexit: What we know

LONDON: Britain is set to become the first European Union member to leave the bloc following a referendum last year in which a majority voted for Brexit. Here is what we know so far, following yesterday's rul-Minister Theresa May must seek parliamentary approval before she can start parliament for a vote. Brexit negotiations.

Referendum

On June 23, 2016, Britons voted by 52 percent in favour to 48 percent against leaving the EU, although most voters in Scotland, Northern Ireland and London backed remaining part of the bloc. Former prime minister David Cameron, who took office in 2010, called the referendum in a bid to end longstanding divisions in his Conservative party and stem the rise of the UK Independence Party (UKIP) but his campaign to stay in the EU failed. He resigned hours after the referendum results came in.

Timing

Cameron's successor May has said she wants to trigger Article 50 — the formal procedure for leaving the EU under the Lisbon Treaty-by the end of March. The government has said this timetable will not change even though the Supreme Court ruled yesterday that parliament will have to first pass a bill authorizing May to begin Brexit negotiations.

Finance minister Philip Hammond has said he expects negotiations to begin before the summer. Article 50 foresees a maximum twoyear time period for the negotiations. If no deal is in place by then, Britain would have to leave without any agreement on future ties with the EU, unless the timeframe can be extended by unanimous agreement of all member states. The EU's top Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier has said there should be an agreement in place by 2018, ahead of the 2019 European Parliament elections.

Parliament

Lawmakers are widely expected to give their go-ahead for the government to begin Brexit talks, although the main opposition Labour Party has said it wants to table amendments to the proposed legislation. This could, in theory, delay the start of Brexit. Most MPs

supported Britain staying in the EU but many have said they will now respect the result of the referendum. The government has said it expects no change and has already prepared draft legislation. May has also promised that ing by the Supreme Court that Prime any final deal on Britain's future relations with the EU would go before both chambers of

Transition deal

In a major speech on January 17, May said she wanted a "phased approach" to ensure stability for businesses between the moment Britain leaves the EU and the implementation of its new relationship with the bloc. "We will seek to avoid a disruptive cliff edge," she said. May added that all existing EU laws that apply in Britain will be turned into British laws under a "Great Repeal Bill" and parliament will then be able to choose which ones to keep, reject or amend.

Immigration

May has said she will make cutting immigration a priority in negotiations, after the issue dominated the referendum campaign. Hundreds of thousands of people, mainly from eastern and southern Europe, move to Britain each year. May has given no detail of what the new entry criteria will be for Europeans and has refused to confirm that EU citizens already in Britain can stay after Brexit until similar guarantees are offered to Britons living elsewhere in the bloc.

Trade

May said she wants "maximum possible access" for British companies to the single market even though Britain will not be a member, and also called for a new customs arrangement with the EU. She has said full customs union membership would prevent Britain from striking its own trade deals with other countries but said the nation could remain a signatory to some parts of the customs union. May has also warned EU member states against pushing for harsh exit terms for Britain, saying it would be "an act of calamitous self-harm" for the EU. She has threatened that she could "change the basis of Britain's economic model"-for example by slashing business taxes-if British companies were excluded from accessing the single market. — AFP

THOUSANDS OF CAMBODIANS TO EVACUATE AFTER US BOMBS FOUND

PHNOM PENH: Thousands of Cambodian villagers will be evacuated after two US tear gas barrel bombs from the Vietnam war era were found near a primary school, a demining team said yesterday. The 200-kilogram bombs are thought to have been dropped by US warplanes in February 1970 against communist forces on Cambodia's southeastern border with Vietnam.

Heng Ratana, director general of the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC), said villagers, including 200 students, will have to be evacuated before deminers move into the vil-

lage in Svay Rieng province. "We will have to evacuate students because the bombs contain chemical and explosive substances," he told AFP. Heng Ratana said the two barrel bombs are believed to be packed with CS-a form of tear gas that was extensively used by American forces to smoke out enemies from jungle hideouts.

The bombs are believed to be among a total of four pieces of ordnance dropped over the province by US warplanes in February 1970. Locals told CMAC that two of the bombs exploded and damaged a Buddhist dinning hall in the province at the time. Nearly three decades of civil war starting in the 1960s left Cambodia, along with neighboring Laos, one of the most heavily bombed and mined countries in the world.

Between the late 1960s and early 1970s, the United States dropped upwards of 2.7 million tons of bombs on Cambodia during its efforts to cut off supply routes to northern Vietnam. Unexploded ordnance has killed nearly 20,000 people and maimed tens of thousands of others since 1979, according to official estimates. — AFP



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NUDE PAINTING OF S KOREA PRESIDENT SPARKS VIOLENCE

SEOUL: A nude painting of impeached a prostitute stares boldly out at the view-South Korean president Park Geun-Hye met a violent end at the country's parliament yesterday, reports said, as supporters tore the work-which evokes Edouard Manet's Olympia-off the wall and destroyed it. The image was part of an exhibition at the National Assembly featuring works by 22 artists lampooning Park and her confidante Choi Soon-Sil, who is at the centre of the corruption scandal that led to Park's impeachment.

In Manet's 19th-century original, on display in the Musee d'Orsay in Paris, a naked white woman widely identified as er while a black servant brings her flowers. In Lee Koo-Young's version, entitled "Dirty Sleep", Park's features are transposed onto a nude Asian woman who clasps a missile from the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system to her bosom.

Park last year agreed with the US government to deploy the system in South Korea in response to the threat of missiles from the nuclear-armed North, infuriating China. She is also depicted dozing as the Sewol ferry-which went down with the loss of nearly 400 lives three years ago-sinks outside her window. Two reaction". Pyo Chang-won, the opposipuppies cavort on her thighs and Choi takes the place of the servant.

'Violent reaction'

A group of some 20 Park supporters went on a rampage at the exhibition, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported, wrecking the work. A 63-yearold member of a rightist group was arrested and another was being sought by police, it said. On its website the Musee d'Orsay describes Manet's painting as a "profanation of the idealized nude", adding that it "provoked a violent tion lawmaker who organized the exhibition, has been referred to an ethics panel by his own Democratic Party over the picture, which provoked accusations of sexism and bad taste. However, he defended the painting. "It surely does not suit my taste," Yonhap quoted him as saying. "But I believe it is within the boundary of the freedom of arts."

Painter Lee is one of nearly 10,000 artists on a "blacklist" drawn up by the conservative government for voicing criticism of Park. Those named are said to have been deprived of government subsidies and private investment, as well as being placed under state surveillance. The Constitutional Court last month urged Park's defense counsel to clarify the mystery surrounding her seven-hour absence during the Sewol disaster. Unconfirmed media reports have suggested a wide range of theories about her whereabouts, including a romantic liaison, participation in a shamanistic ritual, cosmetic surgery or a 90-minute hair styling. Park flatly denied those allegations as groundless, asserting that she kept monitoring the tragedy and issuing orders to rescue any survivors. —AFP

HOPES FADING FOR JUSTICE FOR LOST SRI LANKAN JOURNALISTS

DOZENS OF JOURNALISTS REMAIN DEAD, MISSING AFTER CIVIL WAR

COLOMBO: Hope is fading fast that Sri Lanka's of journalists were killed, abducted and tortured, of dozens of journalists during and after the

government will take action against those or fled the country fearing for their lives. Scores responsible for the deaths and disappearances more were killed or disappeared during the civil war that ended in 2009 with the defeat of Tamil



HOMAGAMA: In this Monday, Jan 23, 2017 photo, Sandya Ekneligoda, wife of disappeared journalist Prageeth Ekneligoda, turns pages of their wedding album while speaking to the Associated Press at her residence. — AP

country's long civil war, activists and relatives said yesterday. President Maithripala Sirisena campaigned on a promise of ending a culture of impunity when he defeated former President Mahinda Rajapaksa in a January 2015 election. During Rajapaksa's nine-year tenure, dozens

Tiger rebels. Two years into Sirisena's presidency. there is little sign that the suspects, mostly military soldiers, will be punished.

Yesterday, dozens of journalists and activists gathered in Colombo to commemorate the missing and write postcards to Sirisena demanding that he appoint a presidential commission to investigate the abductions. The campaign was organized to mark what organizers call "Black January," a commemoration of the killings and abductions of journalists and the destruction of television studios that occurred in the month of January between 2005 and 2010.

Corruption, nepotism

Among those participating was Sandya Ekneligoda, who has fought for seven years to discover what happened to her abducted husband, Prageeth Ekneligoda. Prageeth, a journalist and cartoonist, wrote about corruption, nepotism and Rajapaksa's leadership of the military campaign against the rebels. He was abducted two days before a 2010 presidential election in which he actively supported Rajapaksa's rival. Ekneligoda said the Sirisena government brought hope for justice, but its recent steps have dented her confidence. One reason, she said, was a speech by Sirisena in which he criticized police for holding the soldiers suspected in Prageeth's abduction longer than necessary. Days after the speech, a court released the suspects on bail and the military promptly reinstated them to their earlier positions, which Ekneligoda said was a clear message that the suspects have the state's backing.

"Clearly the manner of the president today is not what we saw when we brought him into power in 2015. He has a totally different attitude," she told The Associated Press. Sirisena has said his speech was not meant to influence the court. During the country's 26-year civil war, both the government and the Tamil Tiger rebels were accused of killing and abducting critics. The government's war victory in 2009 ended the rebels' campaign for an independent state for ethnic minority Tamils. — AP



MEHERPUR: In this photograph taken on January 20, 2017, Bangladeshi father and fruit vendor Tofazzal Hossain (top R-standing), who has sparked a debate over assisted suicide, is seen with his family. — AFP

BANGLADESHI DAD SEEKS MERCY KILLING OF ILL SONS, GRANDSON

DHAKA: Desperate to end their suffering, AFP. An AFP correspondent's attempt to ask an impoverished Bangladeshi father has begged permission to kill three terminally ill members of his family, sparking a rare debate about euthanasia in a deeply conservative society. "I have taken care of them for years. I took them to hospitals in Bangladesh and India, I sold my shop to pay for their treatment but now I'm broke," said Tofazzal Hossain as he describes his years-long struggle to cope with the costs of looking after his two sons and grandson. "The government should decide what it wants to do with them. They are suffering and have no hope of recovery. I can't bear it any longer."

Hossain, a fruit vendor from the rural west of the country, wrote to his local district administration pleading for them to either help care for his loved ones-who suffer from an incurable form of muscular dystrophy-or "allow them to be put to death with medicine", he told AFP. One of Asia's poorest countries, Bangladesh lacks any kind of free health care and medical treatment is often beyond the reach of the tens of millions of inhabitants who live below the poverty line.

Incurable diseases

An estimated 600,000 Bangladeshis suffer from incurable diseases, yet the country has just one palliative care centre and no hospice services.

This leaves few treatment options for Hossain's sons, aged 24 and 13, and eightyear-old grandson, who are afflicted with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. This rare genetic disorder is characterized by proaressive muscle degeneration and patients rarely live beyond 30 years of age.

Hossain said his sons were aware of their condition but could do little for themselves, unable to move and confined to their beds. The grandson can still go to the washroom, but his condition is worsening. "I told them about the letter. I told them (about seeking permission for their deaths). They did not take it seriously. Perhaps they did not understand the severity of the situation," he said.

His eldest son, 24-year-old Mohammad Abdus Sabur, said he spent his days watching television and talking with their father. "I tell father not to worry too much," he told the son about his father's desperate appeal was met with stern rebuke from Hossain, who said it would hurt them. Mahbubul Alam, a doctor who has treated the Hossain family, said there was no cure for their condition and they lived in extreme pain. "It's a humanitarian case. Everyone should come forward (and help)."

An act of murder

A government official who visited the family after Hossain's appeal grabbed national headlines said the request was "the plea of a helpless father". "He asked for their medical assistance, or permission to kill them. But who will give the permission to kill?" he told AFP. Authorities were trying to find ways to help Hossain bear the cost of their care, the official added.

Their plight has sparked a rarely-seen debate about euthanasia in Bangladesh, where even attempted suicide can land one in prison. So-called "mercy killing" is forbidden both under the secular law of the land, and by religious code adhered to by the Muslim-majority population. "Euthanasia is completely illegal in Islam. It is the government's duty to take responsibility for every citizen," top Islamic cleric and scholar Fariduddin Masoud told AFP.

The overwhelming majority of Bangladeshis not only disapprove of mercy killings but would oppose the mere discussion of it, said Nur Khan Liton, head of local rights group Ain O Salish Kendra. "They consider it an act of murder. It's the duty of the government and society to look after these victims," he told AFP. But sympathy for Hossain's family has run deep on social media, where many have offered thoughts and prayers amid calls for the government to improve its paltry health services.

Nezamuddin Ahmed, the head of Bangladesh's sole palliative care centre in the capital Dhaka, said it was time for an "honest discussion" about the issue and improving care for those suffering from incurable diseases." I think this will lead to healthy debate about assisted death," he said. "But before launching into this, the government should strengthen palliative care services here. There has to be something we can all do to ease the suffering of these helpless people." — AFP

CHINA SAYS IT WILL NOT BACK DOWN ON SOUTH CHINA SEA

BEIJING: China warned Washington yesterday that it would not back down over its claims in the disputed South China Sea, following vows by the Trump administration to defend US and international interests there. China's artificial islands in the sea, some with the potential for military use, are considered a potential flashpoint and tough comments from White House spokesman Sean Spicer and Trump's nominee for secretary of state have raised the temperature.

"China has indisputable sovereignty over the South China Sea islands and their adjacent waters," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular press briefing, adding that the country is "firm in safeguarding our rights and interests". "The United States is not a party to the South China Sea issue."

Spicer said Monday that the US "is going to make sure we protect our interests" in the sea. "If those islands are, in fact, in international waters and not part of China proper, yeah, we'll make sure we defend international interests from being taken over by one country," he said. Trump's nominee for secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, said last week China's access to the islands might be blocked-raising the prospect of a military confrontation.

China lays claim to a vast swathe of the South

China Sea within a so-called "nine dash line." including waters claimed by several of its neighbours. Under President Barack Obama's administration, Washington insisted it was neutral on the question of sovereignty over the islets, reefs

But, while calling for the dispute to be resolved under international law, the US supported freedom of navigation by sending naval patrols through Chinese-claimed waters. Hua said China "firmly upholds freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea in accordance with international law" and urged the US to "fully respect the efforts of regional countries to safeguard peace and stability".

'Not worried'

Despite the recent escalation in rhetoric, China is "not worried" about rising tensions with Washington, Hua said. Beijing asserts sovereignty over almost all of the resource-rich region despite rival claims from Southeast Asian neighbors and has rapidly built reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes. Though it lags behind the US in raw military power, experts say China is counting on a strategy of deterrence to keep the world's most powwin a conventional frontal conflict with the US," Valerie Niquet of French think tank Foundation of Strategic Research told AFP.

"China is therefore seeking to develop capacities that would restore its freedom to maneuver by pushing Washington to hesitate before a potentially costly intervention in Asia." On Tuesday leading Chinese newspaper the Global Times called for the country to expand its nuclear arsenal to "force the US to respect it". Citing Trump's calls for the US to acquire more atomic weapons, the popular paper, known for its inflammatory rhetoric and hawkish views, said that Beijing's nuclear forces "must be so strong that no country would dare launch a military showdown" with it.

In recent days, Chinese social media has carried pictures purporting to show an advanced intercontinental ballistic missile system deployed in the northeast. The Dongfeng-41 is reportedly a nuclear road-mobile missile thought to have a payload of 10-12 warheads and a range of 14,000 kilometers, according to the Global Times. The newspaper said some media claimed the People's Liberation Army leaked the photos as a warning to Trump. "They think this is Beijing's response to Trump's provocative remarks on China," it added. — AFP



MANILA: Environmental activists display placards as they picket the Chinese Consulate to protest alleged military build-up by China on the disputed group of islands at the South China Sea, in the financial district of Makati east of Manila. — AP

AFGHANISTAN ORDERS ARREST OF VP GUARDS IN ABUSE CASE al's office, told AFP. "The team has also

KABUL: Afghanistan's attorney general has ordered the arrest of nine bodyguards of Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum for sexually abusing and torturing a rival, an official said yesterday. Dostum, a former warlord who has a catalogue of war crimes to his name, has been accused of abducting Ahmad Ishchi in November last year during a traditional game of Buzkashi, or polo using an animal carcass, in the northern

province of Jowzjan. Dostum allegedly kept Ishchi as a hostage in his private compound for five days, where he was said to have been tortured and sodomized. The country's attorney general launched an investigation into the allegations after local media said Ishchi underwent a medical examination at the US air base at Bagram north of Kabul to confirm the abuse.

"The investigating team has issued an arrest warrant against nine of Mr Dostum's bodyguards who were involved in the case," Jamshid Rasuli, the spokesman for the attorney generasked Mr Dostum to either respond to the queries himself or through his legal channels. But he has not responded yet," he said.

Dostum was not immediately available for comment but has previously denied the allegations, proposing to resolve the matter by the traditional mediation of tribal elders rather than through conventional courts. The controversy has once again drawn attention to how Afghan warlords and strongmen operate with impunity, hobbling Western-backed efforts to restore peace and rebuild the nation after decades of conflict.

Observers have been skeptical the government will sack or bring charges against Dostum, who has survived all previous allegations of abuse. Despite his human rights record, Dostum was invited to join the National Unity Government in 2014 in an attempt by President Ashraf Ghani to attract the support of his mostly ethnic Uzbek constituency. —AFP





Two persons watch the sun setting on the Old City of Jerusalem, with the Dome of the Rock mosque in the center. —AFP

THREE-WAY BID TO BOOST SYRIA TRUCE

Continued from Page 1

There were, however, no concrete details given immediately on the three-way mechanism to strengthen the ceasefire and how it would resolve the thorniest hotspots. UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura said his organization was ready to assist in developing the mechanism and "ensure that it helps strengthen the quality of the ceasefire". The rebels have called for a halt to regime attacks on Wadi Barada, an area 15 km northwest of Damascus, but Jafaari insisted operations would continue there.

There was profound rancor and mudslinging between the delegations from Damascus and the rebels. It also remained to be seen how the sides could patch up differences on the role of the talks' three organizers, Russia, Turkey and Iran. A member of the rebel delegation told AFP on Monday that the group would agree to have Russia serve as a guarantor of the current ceasefire but not Iran, which controls troops on the ground fighting for Assad. The Syrian regime, meanwhile, said it would refuse to hold government-level talks with Turkey and sign any document bearing the signature of a Turkish official. — AFP

GOVT GIVEN ULTIMATUM OVER FUEL, FEES HIKES

Continued from Page 1

Hashem said that the government does not have any studies on the impact of hiking charges or imposing taxes and called on the government to submit such studies.

She said the government has failed to stop squandering of public funds used to send patients for treatment abroad that cost public coffers KD 1 billion, adding that the government agreed to allow the withdrawal of \$7 billion from state reserves for armament deals.

Opposition MP Mohammad Al-Mutair warned yesterday that he will file to grill Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah if the government fails to resolve a number of important issues, especially reinstating the revoked citizenships and scrapping the hike in petrol prices and the planned increase in power and water prices. He said that the prime minister is responsible for the policy of the government, and accordingly, if these issues remain unresolved, he will file to grill him. Mutair said that he will wait until after national holidays late next month before filing to arill him.

Another opposition MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri also strongly criticized the prime minister for holding "side meetings" with MPs in a bid to divide the Assembly. Muwaizri also criticized Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem over his statement regarding a request by several lawmakers to meet HH the Amir, saying this is unacceptable and that the door of the Amir is always open for all lawmakers. The lawmaker said that practices by Ghanem show that he is trying to return to his previous behavior, "which is totally unacceptable", adding that he had warned him against this in the opening session of the Assembly. Muwaizri said MPs will not allow Ghanem to return to his previous style, because lawmakers have their own opinions and these must be heard.

DUBAI AIRPORT STILL TOP FOR INT'L TRAFFIC

Continued from Page 1

Griffiths said at the time that Dubai Airports was expecting to receive 85 million passengers in 2016 something he blamed on the economic, political and terror-related turmoil of the past year. "We know that the global economy has slowed a little bit and the propensity for travel has dropped, but I think that 2016 was quite an unparalleled year," Griffiths told AP. "Fortunately, our numbers are still holding up."

Griffiths also said Dubai International Airport - often lauded by US President Donald Trump during his campaign - would welcome a call from the Trump administration on ways to improve American airports. Situated on transcontinental air routes, Dubai is one of several Gulf-based airports to experience prodigious growth in recent years. More than 100 airlines fly to around 260 destinations from the international hub. The rapid growth has angered US carriers, which allege Emirates, Abu Dhabi-based Etihad and Qatar Airways receive unfair government subsidies. The three Gulf airlines repeatedly have denied the allegations.

Asked about Trump's protectionist stance, Griffiths said it would hurt consumers the worst. "The result of that is reduced choice for the consumer and higher prices," he said. He added that the Dubai airport would welcome any discussions with US officials about how to improve their airports. "If America and President Trump would like some of the expertise from Dubai, I'm sure we'd be pleased to assist." Griffiths said— Agencies



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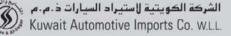
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TAJIK WOMEN TRAIN TO SHOULDER WORK MEN LEFT BEHIND

earing blue overalls, trainee mechanic Marjona Abdulloeva carefully examines a car chassis at a government-run training center in Tajikistan, an ex-Soviet republic hit hard by the recession in Russia. The 20-year-old hopes to be the first woman to earn a car mechanic's diploma at the Dushanbe centre, as a growing number of women seek work to help make ends meet in the socially conservative and impoverished country.

Undeterred by the social stigma of shedding their traditional home-based role, the women are stepping into jobs left vacant by menfolk, many of whom moved to Russia to find work. "Repairing cars is considered man's work, but I do not care what my friends think about my choice," Abdulloeva told AFP. "The work you do should interest you. I want to make a life for myself."

Russian recession

Historically heavily reliant on Russia, the Muslimmajority nation of some eight million has been hit by the two-year recession suffered by its ex-Soviet masters. At least 860,000 Tajik citizens - the vast majority men are working in Russia, according to Russian migration authorities, sending back good wages to provide for their families at home.

But many have been thrown out of work as Russia's economy was hit by plunging oil prices and Western sanctions over Moscow's actions in Ukraine. The collapse in the Russian ruble's value has also left a sharp dent in the money they send home. In 2015, the amount of money transferred back to Tajikistan fell to \$1.3 billion from \$3.8 billion a year earlier when remittances represented nearly half of the country's GDP, according to the Russian Central Bank.

'Don't look back'

To make ends meet, women have had to find new sources of income. Women make up about 60 percent of the new enrollees at the Dushanbe training center, said its director Shukhrullo Salomov. "Many of them choose typically male professions, successfully complete their courses and don't look back," he told AFP. Even with a qualification, the job market is tough: Although Tajikistan has significantly reduced poverty in the last decade, unemployment remains stubbornly high.

"Of the 130,000 young people that finish school every year, more than 60,000 enter the ranks of the unemployed," Saimuddin Dustov, a Moscow-based Taiik analyst, told AFP. In theory this could prompt women like Abdulloeva to head abroad too. But they could face a double stigma if they leave the country to find work: Both xenophobia, which Tajik men say they suffer abroad, but also suspicions about exactly what kind of work they are doing. "Young women migrants often find themselves targets of (Tajik) society's suspicion if they find work abroad, because some female migrants fall into prostitution," said researcher Alla Kuvatova, who studies gender issues in the country.

Social pressure

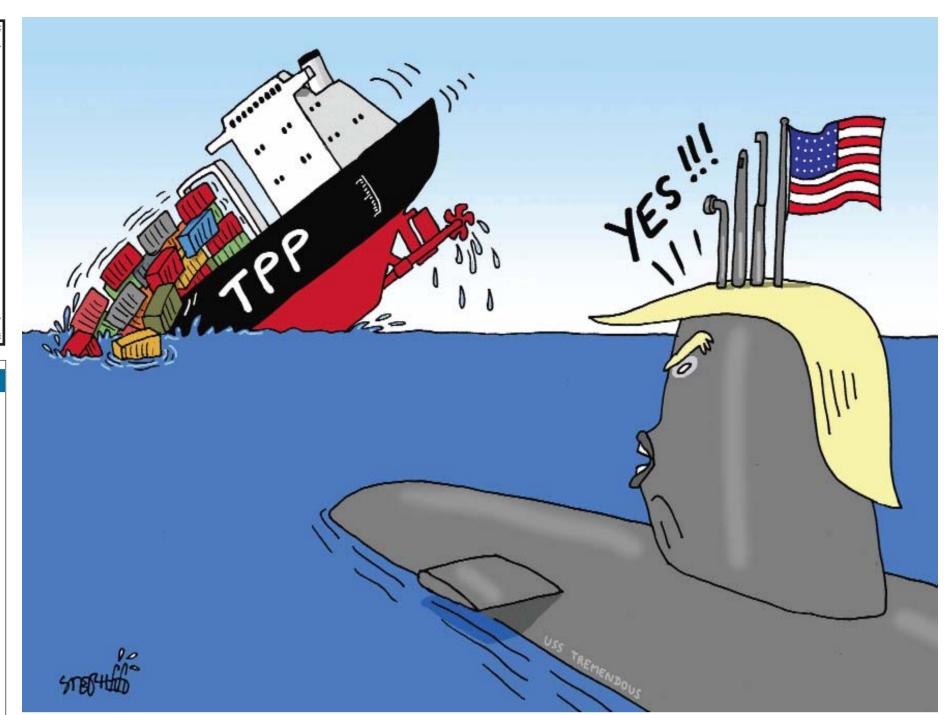
Even at home, Tajik society "doesn't welcome" women taking up work that is usually done by men, she added. A 2010 census, whose data was published in 2013, showed that about 1.1 million women in Tajikistan work, most of them in agriculture. In his December address to the nation, veteran President Emomali Rakhmon summed up the sentiment, deploring that women were "more often than not doing heavy, physically taxing work".

Rakhmon, who came to power during a ruinous fiveyear civil war in the country during the 1990s, called on the service industry to employ more women instead. Taxi driving has drawn some of Tajikistan's unemployed but few women have been able to get into the business. "Behind the Wheel", a 2013 award-winning short documentary film, tells the story of a Tajik woman, who quit taxi driving after repeated arguments with male clients, preferring to fix tyres instead. "Of thousands of taxi drivers in the major cities - Dushanbe, Khujand and Kulyob probably fewer than 10 are women," said analyst Dustov.

No regrets

Despite grim employment prospects across the board, however, many women graduates from the Dushanbe training centre don't regret their choices to attend courses. Zarina Nabieva, who trained as a plumber, said her new skills had already helped her save money on handymen. "We are not looking to take anyone's place," the 47-year-old said. "Everything we do, we do for the well-being of ourselves and our families." — AFP

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BREXIT PLANS UNLIKELY TO BE SLOWED BY DEFEAT

rime Minister Theresa May's plans to start the process of Britain leaving the European Union by the end of March are unlikely to be hindered or slowed by yesterday's Supreme Court ruling the government must seek parliamentary approval. In the ruling, judges on Britain's top judicial body upheld an earlier High Court decision that lawmakers had to give their assent before May can invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty which formally starts two-years of

However, the legal defeat, while an inconvenience and embarrassment for the government, is not expected to delay its Brexit timetable or, as some investors and pro-EU supporters hope, make it possible to stop Britain leaving the bloc. Part of this is because the opposition is divided. "We will not block Article 50," Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the main opposition Labour Party which campaigned against Brexit, said last week. "All Labour MPs (members of parliament) will be asked to vote in that direction next week, or whenever the vote comes up."

Not all Corbyn's colleagues may go along, but May can get the votes she needs for overall passage. However, what the decision could do is give an opportunity for Labour and other lawmakers who oppose a "hard Brexit" - an agreement with the EU that puts immigration curbs above access to the single market - to have a greater influence on what the final deal should look like.

Senior ministers in May's Conservative government, which had been expecting to lose the case, have already drawn up a series of options, including a short, tight bill which will quickly be put before parliament's lower chamber, the House of Commons.

Although before June's referendum the vast majority of MPs in the Commons

backed staying in the EU, most now say they would back Brexit, especially those in England and Wales whose constituents had strongly backed leaving the bloc. MPs voted overwhelmingly to support the timetable of May's Conservative government for invoking Article 50 before April in a non-binding vote in December. Sources from both May's ruling



A man carries a box, resembling Ready Brek porridge, but with the logo modified to read 'Ready Brexit' as he arrives to queue to enter the Supreme Court opposite the Houses of Parliament in central London yesterday. — AFP

Conservatives and the opposition Labour Party have told Reuters there was scope for a bill to be accelerated through parliament, without restricting debate, to ensure it could pass before the end of March.

Labour, though, faces a particular problem as many of its traditional working class supporters voted to leave the bloc and have been wooed in recent years by the anti-EU UK Independence Party (UKIP). Whilst not blocking Brexit, Corbyn, who himself was an EU critic for many years, has said he would fight for Britain to have full access to the single market "with reasonable management of migration". Labour could try to amend any bill to ensure this, attracting support from some Conservative MPs, who oppose a "hard Brexit", and other smaller parties such as the Scottish Nationalists and Liberal Democrats.

The greatest potential threat to May comes from parliament's unelected upper chamber, the House of Lords, where many peers remained strongly opposed to Brexit and do not have voters to worry about. If the Lords were to vote against approving the triggering of Article 50, the Brexit timetable could be severely delayed. However, the government is confident the bill will pass through the Lords because there would be a constitutional crisis if unelected peers were to thwart the will of the people expressed both through the referendum and from their representatives in the Commons. — Reuters

ZIMBABWE IN-LAWS STEAL HOUSES FROM WIDOWS

s Maliyaziwa Malunga mourns her dead husband, she also battles against his relatives who plot to seize her house in a custom that affects thousands of women in Zimbabwe each year. A Human Rights Watch report released on Tuesday details how in-laws in the country routinely expect to take property and money from bereaved widows soon after their husbands die.

When Malunga's husband died in 2013, his relatives locked her in her home, forced her to open her cash box, and stole \$4,000 and the title documents to her property. "I lock my doors always fearing some of those in-laws will come and harass me," Malunga, who is still in a legal tussle to fight off the relatives, told AFP. "It is so painful to go to courts and it is stressful. I lose sleep, my blood pressure is high and I have lost weight because of stress," the 53-year-old said.

HRW said Zimbabwean widows who are thrown out of their homes by their in-laws often have little chance of justice because many marriages are under customary law and not registered. "My advice is for married women to go to court and have a wedding certificate and we will not have problems like this one," said Malunga. "Widows must fight for their rights, they should be strong and should not give up," she added, recalling that her husband's relatives engaged in fistfights over her house in Chitungwiza, outside Harare.

'Happy to see us suffer'

The HRW report called for the government to protect vulnerable, often elderly widows. "The impact of property grabbing on widows is devastating," said its author Bethany Brown. "Women whose property was taken from them spoke of homelessness, destitution and loss of livelihoods". The report is based on interviews with 59 widows across Zimbabwe's 10 provinces last year." (My brother-in-law) has taken all of my fields," Deborah, 58, from Mashonaland East, told researchers. "Now, he says that I cannot walk on 'his' fields... Maybe he is really happy to see us suffer."

The Legal Resources Foundation (LRF), an organization helping widows in Zimbabwe, said it alone had handled at least 1,700 cases in the last three years. "Women have to register their estates and they should do so immediately after the deaths of their husbands," Lucia Masuka-Zanhi, legal programs director at LRF, told AFP. "Women can assert their rights through the courts and each case will be decided on its facts."

The government said it supported better protection for

widows and would act to enforce the law more widely. "This practice contravenes the law which entitles the surviving spouse to inherit property," Ivan Dumba, an official from the ministry of women affairs, told a press conference in Harare where the report was launched. "We will increase

the volume to condemn such practices... It is critical we investigate this issue as we need to get to the bottom of it." HRW said that, according to Zimbabwe's 2012 census, there were about 590,000 widows in the country, and that most women over 60 were widowed. — AFP

HOUSING BIAS TURNING GHETTOIZE INDIA CITIES

n the inauguration of US President Donald Trump, an Indian real estate company ran an advertisement with the slogan 'Homes that don't discriminate', calling for an end to prejudice in India's housing market based on gender, religion or caste. While the ad was unusual, the sentiment was familiar to millions of Indians who have tried to rent or buy city homes only to be denied because they were single, ate meat, were of a certain caste or from a cer-

Informal rules and discrimination by Indian landlords to keep out religious minorities and single people are eroding the multi-cultural nature of India's cities and dividing communities into ghettos, analysts say. "It's 2017 - and we're still encountering discrimination," said Rishi Dogra of NestAway Technologies that ran the ad. "People should be able to move freely and find a living space anywhere in the country," said Dogra, marketing head for the company founded by four young male graduates after they had trouble finding a home in Bengaluru.

Such discrimination has forced many people to the suburbs, making Indian city centers less diverse and cosmopolitan, with high rents already making them unaffordable to poorer workers. Mumbai, India's financial hub and a magnet for migrants from across the country, has traditionally had enclaves for Catholics, Parsis, Bohri Muslims and others. They set up housing societies, or co-operatives, to help other community members.

As the city grew and drew more migrants, powerful housing societies have often denied homes on the basis of religion, caste, food preferences and even professions. The divide grew after bloody Hindu-Muslim riots in 1992-93 and still persists, said Zakia Soman, a co-founder at Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan, a non-profit organization for Muslim women. A Facebook group called 'Indians Against Discrimination' was set up in 2015 after a young Muslim woman was asked to leave her flat a week after she moved in, because of her religion.

"When it comes to living spaces, we have become very insular," Soman said. "The city is getting increasingly ghettoized as a result, weakening our social fabric and polarizing us further. That doesn't bode well," she said. Local courts have ruled against discrimination by housing associations in several cases, but there have also been contradictory rulings.

Discrimination

In a 2005 case, India's top court ruled in favor of a Parsi housing society in Ahmedabad, saying it could limit its membership to Parsis and not admit others. "The constitution guarantees our right to equality, but housing societies can still frame their own guidelines which may be discriminatory," said Vinod Sampat, a real estate lawyer. A draft housing policy for Maharashtra state, where Mumbai is located, has dropped a clause that prevents discrimination in housing. This may leave those looking to rent or buy property with fewer protections, Sampat said. Government officials have said non-discrimination is already protected by the constitution, so there is no need for the clause. —- Reuters

CORINI RESIGNS AS PALERMO COACH

PALERMO: Eugenio Corini resigned as Palermo coach yesterday after guiding the Sicilian club to only one win in seven matches. The move came two days after Palermo was beaten 1-0 at home by Inter Milan. "This is a decision that I've taken with integrity and lucidness, which makes me feel great pain, but which seems the fairest and most logical option right now," Corini

said, according to the ANSA news agency. Corini was hired in November as Palermo's third coach of the season. Davide Ballardini coached the club for the opening two rounds then was replaced by Roberto De Zerbi, who was fired to make room for Corini. With only two wins in 21 matches, Palermo is one point above last-place Pescara in Serie A. Palermo president Maurizio Zamparini has made about 60 coaching changes in 30 years as a club owner. Last season alone, Zamparini changed coach eight times. No immediate replacement was named, although there were reports that Zamparini was considering rehiring

CRICKETER SUNNY DENIED BAIL IN SNAPS CASE

DHAKA: A court refused to grant bail to Bangladeshi cricketer Arafat Sunny yesterday after he was charged with posting "intimate" photos of his girlfriend on social media. Metropolitan magistrate Zakir Hossain said another court which deals with internet-related crime would instead hear the bail application, meaning the 31-year-old spinner would remain behind bars on remand at a Dhaka prison. "The court directed us to move to the cyber court to seek bail. It also asked the jail authorities to look after the health of Sunny as he was sick," Sunny's lawyer M. Muradduzaman told AFP. Police arrested the left-arm bowler in a Dhaka suburb on Sunday after his longtime girlfriend Nasrin Sultana, 23, filed a complaint two weeks ago. In her complaint Sultana said Sunny opened up a fake Facebook account in her name and posted "intimate photos" which she found "offensive and defamatory". She also claimed that they had been married since 2014 and filed a separate lawsuit against Sunny on Monday, accusing the player of seeking dowry worth millions from her family. —AFP

RYAN MASON MAKING 'EXCELLENT PROGRESS'

LONDON: Hull City midfielder Ryan Mason is making "excellent progress" after fracturing his skull but will remain under close observation in hospital, the Premier League club said yesterday. The 25-year-old suffered serious injury when he accidentally clashed heads with Chelsea's Gary Cahill in the 14th minute of the 2-0 loss at the Premier League leaders on Sunday. Mason was rushed to the nearby St Mary's Hospital in west London and underwent surgery. "The club can confirm that Ryan Mason continues to make excellent progress after sustaining a skull fracture in Sunday's game against Chelsea," said a Hull statement. "He will continue to be closely monitored by staff at St Mary's Hospital over the next few days, whilst also remaining in contact with our medical team to assess his progress." Hull said they would only release more information when there are changes to Mason's condition, adding: "We also ask that people respect Ryan and his family's privacy whilst he remains in hospital.' Hull announced Monday that Mason was conscious and able to speak following a visit by captain Michael

FORMULA ONE'S NEW OWNERS PLAN US STREET RACE

Ballardini. —AP

LONDON: Formula One's new owners plan to add a street race in the United States in an attempt to improve a sport which they feel stagnated under Bernie Ecclestone's control. Chase Carey, who ended Ecclestone's four-decade reign as F1's chief executive, told The Associated Press yesterday that the sport will no longer be run as a "one-man show."

Carey, though, will be as dogged as the 86-year-old Ecclestone in negotiations with circuits, insisting that less-lucrative races in heartlands like Britain will have to prove they can become more profitable rather than being allowed to renegotiate hosting fees. International sports and entertainment firm Liberty Media, which is controlled by 75-year-old tycoon John Malone, completed its takeover of F1 on Monday from investment fund CVC Capital Partners.

Driving growth in the United States is seen as a priority for Liberty, which also owns baseball's Atlanta Braves and has investments in cable TV companies. F1 currently only makes one stop during the season in the United Sates - to Austin, Texas - but adding a street race is high on Liberty's agenda. "We would like to add a destination race in the US in a location like New York, L.A., Miami, Las Vegas," Carey said in a telephone interview. "We think we can create something that will be a really special event. Obviously the US is all upsides for us. We haven't invested in the way we need to build the US market."

ONE-MAN SHOW

The sport has remained stuck in the past, making "events feel a little tired," while the modern media landscape was not grasped by Ecclestone, according to Carey. "Bernie really ran a one-man show," Carey said. "I don't plan to run a one-man show."

Although Ecclestone remains on board as an honorary chairman and will be an F1 adviser, power clearly now rests with Carey, who is a veteran Fox executive. "The last half dozen years I think the business has not reached its potential," Carey said. "With all the things you need to do to be competitive in an increasingly fragmented online world, you need an organization doing many things at the same time."

Carey, who played rugby at Colgate and holds a Masters degree from Harvard, is a friend of Rupert Murdoch. He has worked

closely with the media mogul since 1988 and was a former president of 21st Century Fox. Ecclestone was criticized for overlooking historic popular race venues to move into new, wealthier markets including Abu Dhabi, Bahrain and Azerbaijan, which held its first race last year. The German Grand Prix has been dropped from the 2017 calendar because of Hockenheim's financial difficulties, while the British race at Silverstone is at risk because of hosting costs. "Western Europe is important for us and to some degree we have to engage to make those races bigger and better than they are while respecting their heritage," Carey said, while ruling out cut-price deals to keep historic races.

"We are willing to invest in the sport but we are the new guys so everyone wants to come in and figure it's a chance to renegotiate. So I don't think that's the right mindset. We think these races (in places like Britain and Germany) should be bigger and more profitable and we are willing to work with promoters to figure out how to achieve that. That's our goal."

The takeover, which gives F1 an enterprise value of \$8 billion and an equity value of \$4.4 billion, comes as the series is poised for a shakeup. Changes such as wider tires, car design, louder engines, and more overtaking opportunities are set to make F1 more exciting in a bid to win back a large chunk of unhappy fans amid flagging attendances at some races.

"We can certainly do things to make the race day more engaging, more exciting make the race itself more exciting," Carey said. "I have gone around and talked to lot of people and hear many of the same things about predictability, rules too complicated, engineers overtaking drivers, the engines could be faster, louder, cheaper.

"And so there are a number of things we can do to improve the race, the race day." Such as tapping into the "excitement and buzz" found at the NFL's showpiece game and turning races into week-long festivals in host cities.

"What I would like to have is 21 Super Bowls," Carey said. "Priority 1 is to make the races bigger and better. We have some great races like Singapore, Mexico and Abu Dhabi but we have to make all the races have an energy and excitement that really makes them unique events."—AP



Dawson and club officials.—AFP

SINGAPORE: This is a Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014 file photo of Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone, center, as he walks with his wife, Fabiana Flosi, left, at the Marina Bay City Circuit for the Singapore Formula One Grand Prix. Bernie Ecclestone's reign of Formula One ended after Liberty Media officially completed its takeover of the series on Monday.— AP

F1 NEEDS FRESH START FROM 'ONE-MAN DICTATOR': CAREY

ECCLESTONE, THE RACING NAPOLEON, FORCED INTO EXILE

LONDON: Bernie Ecclestone's four-decade reign as a "one-man dictator" of Formula One had to end if the sport is to have the fresh start it needs, new chairman and chief executive Chase Carey says.

Ecclestone's time as the colourful ringmaster of the Grand Prix circuit was effectively finished on Monday when US-based Liberty Media completed its takeover of motorsport's most prestigious brand in a deal valued at about \$8 billion.

While the 86-year-old Ecclestone, a former car salesman, was widely credited with transforming Formula One into a multibillion global business, there have been growing complaints in recent years that the sport has failed to modernise under the Englishman's no-nonsense leadership.

There has also been the view inside and outside the sport-and a concern shared by Carey-that it is wrong for one man to wield as much power as Ecclestone did in Formula One. Despite sidelining Ecclestone to an advisory role as "chairman emeritus" Carey stressed to the BBC that he had "tremendous respect" for Ecclestone and will value his

input. But he said that F1 "needs to be run differently than for the last four or five years". "He has run this sport for his entire adult

"He has run this sport for his entire adult life and I respect completely that this is a difficult change," Carey said.

"We have tried to deal with him with the respect he's due, which is why we offered him the chairman emeritus title. "I have been sincere in saying I value his help and advice as we go forward. "He calls himself a dictator. He has run it as a one-man dictator for a long time. I think the sport needs a fresh perspective. "But he has a lot to continue to offer and he will always be part of the F1 family."

INNOVATION

The American Carey, a vice-chairman of the 21st Century Fox media conglomerate, has a proven record in expansive sport-media growth and expertise in the value and exploitation of sports rights, notably in the US market, where Formula One has struggled to gain a foothold.

"Bernie is a one-man team. It was not right in today's world," added Carey.

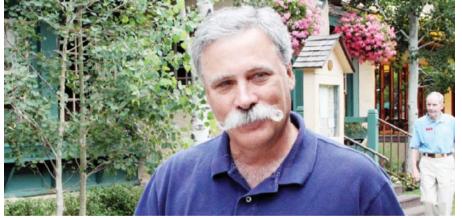
today's world, added Carey.
"The decision-making is not as effective as

it needs to be. Clearly it has to be improved. One of the benefits we bring is a fresh start."

Carey added that Formula One had not grown as much as it needed to and that Liberty could exploit new technologies to do just that. But he stressed the new owners would protect historic races, insisting there would still be a British Grand Prix amid speculation the Silverstone course-which has had several run-ins with Ecclestone over staging fees-would be stripped of the event in 2019.

"We needed a sport that while respecting what made it great has a sense of energy and innovation," Carey said.

"In many ways, in a simplistic sense, the sport said 'no' too much and we have to start saying 'yes'-not gimmick it up but find ways to do new and exciting things to have the sport continue to grow and interest and excite people." As part of the new management structure, Carey will have highly respected former Mercedes F1 team boss Ross Brawn and Sean Bratches, once a sales executive with North American sports television channel ESPN, running the sporting and commercial sides of F1 respectively under him. —AFP



IDALHO: In this Thursday, July 11, 2013 file photo, Chase Carey, President and Chief Operating Officer, 21st Century Fox, walks during a break at the Allen & Company Sun Valley Conference in Sun Valley, Idaho. Formula One's new owners plan to add a street race in the United States in an attempt to improve a sport which they feel stagnated under Bernie Ecclestone's control.—AP

PACQUIAO SAYS 'NOTHING FINAL' ON NEXT FIGHT

MANILA: WBO welterweight world champion Manny Pacquiao said yesterday the details of his next fight have yet to be determined, despite widespread reports he will face Australian Jeff Horn. Asked in an interview with ABS-CBN television about a Horn fight, Pacquiao, said "not yet done, the negotiation is not yet done". "We are still negotiating about that. Nothing is really final, the date, who is the opponent. There are a lot of offers from other countries." Pacquiao's promoter, Bob Arum, has been widely quoted in international media as saying that the 38-year-old Filipino dubbed "Pac-Man" will get into the ring with Horn in April, possibly in Australia, but Pacquiao himself has not confirmed this.

The Philippine boxing hero, who parlayed his sporting fame into election to the influential Senate last year, also reiterated his willingness to fight mixed martial arts star Conor McGregor if his potential superfight with Floyd Mayweather fails to materialise. "It could be possible if there is an intention to negotiate (for) the fight but

definitely in boxing, not in an MMA fight," he said. But the 1.69 metre (5ft 6in)-tall Pacquiao also said he was not giving up his position as a playing coach in the Philippines' highly-competitive professional basketball league, despite criticism of his hardcourt performance and Senate duties.

Pacquiao, who plays for the Mahindra Floodbuster team but who has missed practice because of his other roles, said he was not giving up his place on the squad.

"I just make sure that whatever I do outside does not affect my work in Senate," he said. Pacquiao has previously used his fame to earn a fortune as a TV host and has even made forays into singing and acting. The Filipino southpaw briefly retired from the ring after beating American Tim Bradley in Las Vegas in April but soon made a comeback, saying he still felt like a youngster.

In his last fight in November, Pacquiao reclaimed the World Boxing Organization welterweight title for the third time with a unanimous-decision victory over former champion Jessie Vargas in Las Vegas. —AFP



YEONGAM: This is a Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010 file photo of Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone, centre, poses for a photo with from left, McLaren driver Lewis Hamilton, Ferrari driver Fernando Alonso, Red Bull driver Mark Webber, McLaren driver Jenson Button, 2nd right, and Red Bull Sebastian Vettel at the Korean International Circuit venue for the Korean Grand Prix in Yeongam, South Korea, Bernie Ecclestone's reign of Formula One ended after Liberty Media officially completed its takeover of the series on Monday. — AP



RUSSIA COULD MISS 2018 WINTER GAMES: IPC CHIEF

remain banned for next year's Winter Paralympics in Pyeongchang, the president of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has revealed.

After a World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) report unearthed evidence of state-sponsored doping in Russian

LONDON: Russian athletes could sport, the IPC banned the country from competing at last year's Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

> Russia has since made efforts to get its house in order, but IPC president Philip Craven said he cannot guarantee the country will be allowed to compete

"I don't know and I don't think many people do," he told the BBC, in comments published on Tuesday, when asked if Russian competitors would be allowed to return.

"I'm not looking for someone to say sorry, but let's get it fixed."

Whereas the International Olympic

Committee allowed individual sports federations to decide whether or not to suspend Russian athletes from the Rio Games, the IPC opted for a blanket ban. Russian athletes will be absent from this week's IPC Para Alpine World Championships in Tarvisio, Italy, where Craven was speaking, but he hopes

they will return to the fold before long. "Russia is a great sporting nation and without them being here, they are

"But we can't have nations competing when their performances have been tarnished by what's gone on

missed in a sporting sense," he said.

105-GAME LOSING STREAK WEIGHS DOWN RUSSIAN HOCKEY TEAM

KURGANOVO: It's been 105 games and more than three years since one Russian women's pro hockey team last won, and its whole season is a struggle to stay positive.

"We're totally screwed," goalie coach Irina Votintseva said after a 5-1 loss on Monday, the latest failed attempt to shake off the unwanted record.

When the Sverdlovsk Region Select Team from Russia's Ural mountains last won, 4-3 in a shootout in October 2013 against Kometa Mozhaisk, Barack Obama was less than a year into his second term as US president, Úkraine still administered Crimea and Russia was looking forward to hosting the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Since the streak began, the club has changed its coaches, almost all of its players and even its name. Its roster is now packed with young players - some as young as 16 - who embrace any sign of

"We were losing games by big scores, but now not so much. We've started scoring," forward Regina Yumaguzhina, who at 18 is already an assistant captain, said at training last week. "We're angry and we want (to win), and no one's giving up."

On Saturday, the team had its best chance of victory in more than a year. With two minutes remaining of the third period on home ice against Biryusa Krasnoyarsk, Yumaguzhina scored to reduce Biryusa's lead to 3-2. Sverdlovsk's players pushed to send the game to overtime, but couldn't score another goal.

"We'd like things to be better, of course," head coach Yulia Perova said.

Sverdlovsk's players don't live luxuriously. Most are paid about 15,000 rubles (\$250) a month, plus free accommodation, and many are training to be teachers outside the rink. On the ice, it's far from glamorous, too. Many games are played in near-empty arenas with little media interest, except when video of a prolonged brawl between Sverdlovsk and Biryusa players in October went viral in Russia (Sverdlovsk lost the game 9-2).

A losing streak like Sverdlovsk's is rare in hockey - for comparison, the NHL record stands at 17 games, set by the San Jose Sharks. In international soccer, the European mini-state of San Marino has yet to win a game in qualification for the European Championship or World Cup despite more than two decades of trying. However, it was victorious in an officiallyrecognized friendly game against similarly tiny Liechtenstein back in 2004.

Unlike San Marino, however, Sverdlovsk has a genuine history of success.

Back in 2000, under its previous name Spartak Mercury, the club won the Russian championship and its players were mainstays on the Russian national team. Eight years ago, however, a dispute over coaching styles caused many players and staff to leave. Deprived of its stars and many promising juniors, the club never really recovered. Perova was brought in last year to help turn the club around and is the only female head coach in the Russian women's pro league.

Since she took over, matters have marginally improved, with fewer blowout losses, and one young goaltender has even made the Russian junior national team.

Still, time may be running out. The club is financed by the regional government - a common arrangement for pro hockey in Russia - and some at the club worry the authorities may lose patience and pull their funding, forcing the club to close.

With perhaps the toughest job in world hockey, Perova said her recipe for motivating players is simple. "First, love what you do and the rest will come," she tells them. "If you want to learn, you first have to play hockey, love the game, play your best. Then all the fame, fortune and wins will come by themselves." — AFP

TOKYO VENUE UNDER FIRE FOR

BARRING FEMALE MEMBERS



Tiger woods

WOODS HOPES TO SHAKE OFF RUST WITH BUSY CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES: Tiger Woods said Monday he is confident that his battered 41-year-old body can withstand the rigours of playing in four golf tournaments over the next five weeks. The 14-time major winner, who returned to golf in December at the Hero World Challenge following a 15-month injury layoff, has committed to a hectic schedule which will see him open his 2017 season at this week's Farmers Insurance Open in San Diego.

"I have played one time in the last 18 months," American Woods said during a news conference Monday at the Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles. "I just need to get in some tournament golf. I am looking forward to it." After the Farmers at the Torrey Pines course, Woods will fly off to United Arab Emirates for the Dubai Desert Classic from February 2-5, followed by the Genesis Open at Riviera on February 16-19.

He then travels home to Florida to take part in the Honda Classic in Palm Beach Gardens (February 23-26). The Farmers Open will be Woods' first full field tournament since undergoing back surgery in 2015.

Asked if he is physically up to the task with all the injuries he has endured the past several years, Woods said: "That is a concern but I am looking forward to it. I feel I am strong enough to handle the workload.

READY FOR THE MASTERS

"I sat out long enough. I have been on the sidelines so long." Woods admitted Monday that he once doubted whether he would ever return to golf. "There was a time when I didn't know if I could ever swing a golf club again and play with my kids," he said.

The former world number one Woods may be far from his top form, but he says he still has his sights set on competing in the majors and his first order of business is the Masters in April.

"I am hoping to get everything right so I can play," he said. "I am thinking about it (Masters) now." Woods has won the PGA Tour's Torrey Pines tournament seven times in 1999, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2013.

"It was the first PGA tournament I went to," Woods said. "So I got exposed to pro golf

Woods last won a major title at the 2008 US Open at Torrey Pines by beating Rocco Mediate in an epic 19-hole playoff despite playing with a gimpy left knee that later required surgery.

event in Akron, Ohio. When he tees it up at historic Riviera in just over three weeks it will be his first appearance in the event in 11 "I have always loved playing this course. I

His last PGA title was at the 2013 WGC

just never played it well," Woods said. "I played here as a junior, an amateur and a professional. It is special place."

Last month, Tiger Woods played golf with then-President-elect Donald Trump at Trump International Golf Club in Florida.

Woods described Trump as a big hitter and said the 70-year-old was able to walk the entire 18 holes with him.

"For a person who is 70 he hits it hard," said Woods. "He keeps himself in pretty good shape. We walked all 18 holes and had a great time." Asked if Trump could shoot a score of under 80 at the Riviera course, Woods paused, smiled and said, "Not today. It is too wet out who has won three tournaments so far this there." In addition to finding his form, Woods will be facing in 2017 a new crop of rising young stars such as top ranked Aussie Jason Day, Japanese ace Hideki Matsuyama, fourtime major winner Rory McIlroy, eight-time PGA Tour winner Jordan Spieth and the hottest player on the Tour Justin Thomas,

season. Woods says he hasn't lost the fire and passion for the game that made him one of the best of all-time. "I am very excited about getting the season started. I miss playing and competing," said Woods, whose 14 major titles is second to only Jack Nicklaus' record of 18. — AFP

BENGALS' JONES ISSUES APOLOGY AFTER POLICE RELEASE VIDEO

CINCINNATI: Cincinnati Bengals player Adam "Pacman" Jones has apologized through his attorneys after Cincinnati police released video showing his raucous, often-vulgar reaction to his latest arrest.

"Adam Jones is deeply embarrassed and remorseful for his conduct and language after being arrested in early January," the statement said. "Mr. Jones has the utmost respect for law enforcement and the difficulties police encounter on a daily basis."

The statement from attorneys Timothy Schneider and Alex Triantafilou that was released Monday night says that Jones "sincerely apologizes" to the officers, Bengals organization and the fans. It adds that Jones is committed to counseling and anger management.

He was arrested after an altercation at a downtown hotel the night after Cincinnati's season ended with a 6-9-1 record. The 33year-old cornerback was charged for the confrontation and for allegedly spitting on a nurse as he was processed at the county jail.

Cincinnati police released a video on Monday showing Jones' behavior in the back seat of a police car as he was taken to the jail. Jones asks what charges he's facing and when he's told two misdemeanors, he unleashes a stream of profanity toward the police officers. At one point, Jones tells one: "I hope you die tomorrow."

The Bengals took the unusual step of issuing an apology; the team usually declines comment on pending legal cases.

"We are extremely disappointed with Adam's behavior," the team said. "The behavior in the video is not what we expect from our players. The club is aware that Adam has put forth his own apology. However, we also offer an apology to the public and to our loyal fans." Jones has said he'll be exonerated of the charges.

Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters said recently he wanted to know what punishment the NFL plans for Jones, whose case was continued until Feb. 10. The NFL could suspend Jones for the start of next season under its player conduct policy. A league spokesman said recently the case was under review. Arrests and suspensions had nearly ended Jones' career before the Bengals signed him in 2010.

The former West Virginia star was the sixth overall pick in the 2005 draft. His off-field problems started with a strip club melee in Las Vegas in 2007. He pleaded the equivalent of no contest to a misdemeanor charge, but was blamed for instigating violence that led to someone else shooting two club employees, one of whom was left paralyzed from the waist down. He was ordered to pay more than \$12.4 million in damages. The NFL suspended Jones for the 2007 season.

He was traded to the Cowboys, and was suspended again in 2008 for six games over an alcohol-related altercation with a bodyguard that the Cowboys provided. — AP



Adam Jones

President Thomas Bach proposing an alternative venue. The membership policy "is quite contrary to the spirit of the Olympic Games," said Eiko Ohya, chairwoman of the council. The Kasumigaseki Country Club, a private club in neighbouring Saitama prefecture, lets women play Monday

Kasumigaseki Country Club which does

with the sport's domestic governing

body, the Japan Golf Association-said

yesterday that it had sent a letter to

International Olympic Committee (IOC)

The Japan Golf Council, unaffiliated

not accept women as full members.

through Saturday but bars them from becoming full members and from playing on Sundays. The council has not received a response from the IOC but feels it is mak-

ing headway after Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike recently criticised the policy. The council wants the venue to be moved to Wakasu Golf Links, a public course on Tokyo Bay located much closer

to the Olympic Village. Beyond the membership issue, the council believes Wakasu would be more cost-effective due to its proximity to central Tokyo and have greater legacy value

for the people because it is a public

TOKYO: A Japanese nonprofit group has course. The uproar adds to a list of troudemanded the golf tournament of the bles for Japanese organisers, who had 2020 Tokyo Olympics be shifted from the recently been considering moving three other venues because of soaring costs before sticking to their planned locations at a lower price.

In a statement, the Tokyo 2020 organising committee noted that Kasumigaseki had hosted various national competitions, including the 1999 Japan Women's Open, and that it fully met the requirements for hosting Olympic-level golf competitions. But the committee added that it "would continue studying the club owner's policy on the membership eligibility and responses to the public discussion."

Hiroshi Imaizumi, general manager at the Kasumigaseki Country Club, told Reuters that the club had about 215 female Monday-Saturday members. He said the club was not considering changing its membership system now but would think about it if it were contacted by the IOC.

Several notable country clubs have changed their policies to allow female members in recent years.

In 2014, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews decided to allow women to join after 260 years of exclusion, and Augusta National, home of the US Masters, ended its men-only membership in 2012. — Reuters



TOKYO: Japan Golf Council Chairwoman Eiko Ohya, center, listens to a reporter's question with vice chairmen, Yutaka Morohoshi, left, and Masayuki Tamaki, during a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo, yesterday. The course that will host the 2020 Olympic golf tournament says it is open to changing its membership policy to include women. The Kasumigaseki Country Club came under scrutiny recently when the International Olympic Committee inquired about the club's membership practice. —AP

BRITON COOKE QUESTIONS SKY'S DRUG-FREE CREDENTIALS

Cooke questioned Team Sky's drug-free credentials and said she was "sceptical" of Bradley Wiggins' use of Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) in powerful evidence delivered to a British Parliamentary committee yesterday.

The 33-year-old former Olympic and world champion launched a fierce attack on measures in place to combat doping which she described as "the wrong people fighting the wrong war, in the wrong way, with the wrong tools".

Painting a damning picture of how "a sport run by men for men" is governed, Cooke was the latest prominent figure to appear before parliament's Culture, Media and Sport Committee which is investigating doping in sport.

Team Sky chief Dave Brailsford and British Cycling's former technical director

LONDON: Former British cyclist Nicole Shane Sutton, whose evidence Cooke said did not "ring true", also gave evidence to the committee.

> Cycling has been rocked by revelations that a mysterious jiffy bag containing medication was transported to France by British Cycling women's team manager Simon Cope for Wiggins and Team Sky at the 2011 Criterium race.

> It has also been revealed that Wiggins, who suffers from asthma, applied for three TUEs for the substance triamcinolone acetonide between 2011 and 2013. "Taking TUEs just before major events, it raises questions for me," Cooke said. "It makes me sceptical of what they have done. "I find the stance of being the cleanest team, yet Dave Brailsford not being able to say what a rider took, definitely makes it hard to back up that claim." Brailsford told the committee the

bag contained Fluimucil, a legal decongestant, although no written evidence has been provided to back this up.

Cope said he did not know what he was transporting. "I do find it very surprising that Simon Cope transported something internationally without knowing what was in it," she told MPs.

"I find that astonishing and the fact that when British Cycling were asked for the records they weren't able to find the documentation, I find that surprising."

Cooke supplied written evidence followed by an hour's testimony via video link from Paris.

KNEE INJURY

She revealed that she had obtained four TUEs during her career, three for a knee injury and one for asthma, using the same drug as Wiggins although,

unlike him, she did not race immediately after her injections. "I was aware that this was performance-enhancing and I had a significant discussion about that with the medical team and the coaching team before we agreed it should be administered. It was a case of injection or surgery," she said. In her earlier written evidence, Cooke was critical of the way the whole process is overseen. "If the TUE process were to be reliably controlled, then an athlete would not be able to abuse its use out of competition to prepare for a big event...It would not be lost on many of the unscrupulous that a TUE was a very convenient way of masking a

doping programme," she said. Cooke also hit out at what she said was sexism at the heart of British cycling, pointing out that Cope, whose salary as women's coach came from the public purse, should have been concentrating on his own job rather than delivering the package to Wiggins.

"Cope was doing what he was told to do," she said. "Shane Sutton states he approved Cope's trip with the jiffy bag. Nobody in the organisation anywhere would have asked the question - hasn't Cope got another job to do?"

Cooke frequently stressed that there was a lack of governance and accountability at the heart of British cycling and UK Sport. She also bemoaned the sexism that existed. "The facts are they did nothing for the women. Whilst a deluxe program ran out for the men's London 2012 bid, Emma Pooley and myself self-funded our flights to and accommodation in Australia," she said. Asked if sexism was culturally embedded in British cycling she said: "Yes I do". —Reuters



NEW ORLEANS: New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) shoots against New Orleans Pelicans forward Terrence Jones (9) and guard Langston Galloway (10) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, in New Orleans. The Pelicans won 124-122. — AP

LONDON WELSH KICKED **OUT OF PRO RUGBY**

LONDON: Cash-strapped London Welsh were kicked out of professional rugby union yesterday and removed immediately from England's second-tier Championship.

England's governing Rugby Football Union (RFU) said the club's "untenable" position left it with little alternative given London Welsh's failure to provide it with sufficient assurances about its finances. Monday saw a judge dismiss an attempt by British tax authorities to London Welsh, once one of English rugby's major teams, wound up after the club went into liquidation in December An earlier hearing was told the club owed more than £90,000 (\$112,000, 104,000 euros) in tax. London Welsh were granted a temporary licence that expired on January 21, with a new board asked to provide evidence of funds to pay creditors and a business plan.

But English rugby chiefs were unconvinced and RFU chairman Andy Cosslett said Tuesday: "It is deeply regrettable that we should arrive at this point, but with London Welsh in liquidation and unable to satisfy conditions to compete in The Greene King IPA Championship as a professional club, participation in the competition became untenable.

"We know this will be an extremely dis-

take a leaf out of Glasgow's book by beating the major powers in Europe when the

Hogg was a member of the Glasgow

side that thrashed two-time European

champions Leicester 43-0 at the English

giants' Welford Road ground on Saturday

Six Nations gets underway next month.

appointing day for everyone connected with London Welsh, including players, staff and supporters, and the sadness at the loss of this club from the professional ranks will be shared throughout the game."

Founded by a group of Welshmen living in London in 1885, London Welsh's greatest days came more than 40 years ago.

They supplied seven players to the victorious 1971 British and Irish Lions squad in New Zealand, a figure that remains a record for the number of players from one club in a Lions squad.

London Welsh greats John Dawes, JPR Williams, Gerald Davies, John Taylor and Mervyn Davies all starred for Wales during their golden era of the 1970s.

But the club, now in English rugby's second-tier Championship, had two disastrous one-season stays in the elite Premiership.

These coincided with an ill-fated threeyear spell in Oxford where they moved when their longstanding home of Old Deer Park in Richmond, southwest London-to which they have since returned-was deemed unsuitable for top-flight rugby.

Tuesday's decision does not affect the status of London Welsh Amateur RFC, which will continue as a voting member of the RFU. — AFP

MIAMI: Hassan Whiteside #21 of the Miami Heat drives to the basket during a game against the Golden State Warriors at American Airlines Arena on Monday in Miami, Florida. — AFP

Warriors stunned by Heat, AVS TUMBLE TO PELICAN

LOS ANGELES: Dion Waiters hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key in the final second. giving the lowly but suddenly hot Miami Heat a 105-102 upset of the NBA's best team, Golden State Warriors, on Monday night at American Airlines Arena. Waiters matched his career high with 33 points for the second consecutive game. Golden State's Kevin Durant tied the score with 11.7 seconds left on a baseline dunk, setting the stage for Waiters' heroics with six-10ths of a second left. The Warriors (38-7) had their seven-game win streak snapped. It was only Golden State's fifth loss in regulation this season. The Heat (15-30) have a season-best four-game win streak, as they completed a 4-0 homestand.

PELICANS 124, CAVALIERS 122

Terrence Jones, subbing for the injured Anthony Davis, tied his career high with 36 points and guard Jrue Holiday added a season-high 33 points and 10 assists to overcome a 49-point effort by Kyrie Irving and spark New Orleans to a victory over Cleveland at the Smoothie King Center. The Pelicans led by 20 points at halftime and by 17 two minutes into the fourth quarter, but they had to hold on for the victory as Irving led the Cavaliers back with 35 second-half points. The loss was the sixth for the Cavaliers in their last 10 games. The Cavaliers also got 26 points from LeBron James and 22 points and 16 rebounds from Kevin Love.

CLIPPERS 115, HAWKS 105

Things are looking up for Los Angeles, which won for the first time since losing Chris Paul to thumb surgery and is on the verge of getting Blake Griffin back. Austin Rivers scored 27 points and Jamal Crawford helped hold off a comeback bid by Atlanta in the fourth quarter as the Clippers defeated the Hawks 115-105 on Monday night. Crawford, who had been in a slump, hit a 3-pointer after Atlanta had pulled within 102-98 with three minutes left and followed with two more late baskets as he scored 14 of his 19 points in the second half.

KINGS 109, PISTONS 104

DeMarcus Cousins powered for 22 points and 14 rebounds, and Sacramento snapped a five-game losing streak with a victory over Detroit at The Palace. The Kings own just two wins in their past 10 games, both against Detroit. Sacramento also ended a six-game losing streak at The Palace. Its last victory in Michigan occurred Feb. 10, 2010. Ty Lawson tied his season high with 19 points off the bench for the Kings. Sacramento also had four other players in double figures: Willie Cauley-Stein and Darren Collison supplied 12 points apiece, Garrett Temple chipped in 11 and Matt Houston and a snap a five-game losing streak Barnes added 10.

SPURS 112, NETS 86

Patty Mills scored 10 of his 20 points late in the first half when the short-handed Spurs took control, and San Antonio rolled to a rout of Brooklyn. Mills missed five of his first six shots, and he returned to action when the Spurs trailed by one with about 5 1/2 minutes remaining in the second quarter. Mills helped the Spurs surge ahead to a 52-42 halftime lead in differing ways. The reserve guard sandwiched two 3-pointers around a 19-footer and a 20-footer in a span of 2:15, and San Antonio's lead never dipped into single digits again. Mills finished three shy of his season high by shooting 7 of 13 and making four 3pointers.

WIZARDS 109, HORNETS 99

John Wall scored 24 points and Markieff Morris added 23, and Washington rolled to a victory over Charlotte at the Spectrum Center. Wall outplayed Charlotte's Kemba Walker in a head-to-head battle of All-Star hopeful point guards. He had 18 points in the first half, helping the Wizards pull out to a 12-point halftime lead. Walker scored 21 points but struggled, going 7 of 24 from the field. The Wizards have now won five of their last six. They were in control throughout the game, leading by as many as 16 points in the third quarter and 15 midway through the fourth.

BUCKS 127, ROCKETS 114

A late 11-0 run helped Milwaukee hold off

with a victory at the Bradley Center. Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 31 points and Jabari Parker had 28 to lead the Bucks, who shot 58.2 percent from the floor and made 11 of 23 3-point attempts. Houston shot 50.6 percent. making 39 of 76 shots, 14 of 35 3-point tries. Patrick Beverley (18 points) knocked down four from long distance, while Ryan Anderson and Eric Gordon added three apiece.

THUNDER 97, JAZZ 95

Russell Westbrook drilled a jumper to break a tie with 1.4 seconds left as part of his 22nd triple-double of the season and lifted Oklahoma City to a victory over Utah. Russell Westbrook had 38 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds. Victor Oladipo added 18 points and Enes Kanter chipped in with 14 off the bench. Oklahoma City snapped Utah's sixgame winning streak.

KNICKS 109, PACERS 103

Carmelo Anthony hit a baseline jumper with 23.4 seconds remaining, and Courtney Lee sank four consecutive free throws during the final 15.1 seconds, leading New York to a victory against struggling Indiana. Anthony led the Knicks with 26 points, Derrick Rose had 20 points and six assists, Indianapolis native Lee added 14, Willy Hernangomez scored 14 and Justin Holiday had 13. Paul George led Indiana with 31 points and seven rebounds, Myles Turner had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Al Jefferson added 13 off the bench. — Reuters

NBA results/standings

Oklahoma City 97, Utah 95; Milwaukee 127, Houston 114; New Orleans 124, Cleveland 122; NY Knicks 109, Indiana 103; San Antonio 112, Brooklyn 86; LA Clippers 115, Atlanta 105; Miami 105, Golden State 102; Sacramento 109, Detroit 104; Washington 109, Charlotte 99.

	Eastern Conf Atlantic Div		9			Western Cor Northwest I			
	W	L	PCT	GB	Utah	29	17	.630	-
Toronto	28	16	.636	-	Oklahoma City	26	19	.578	2.5
Boston	26	17	.605	1.5	Denver	18	25	.419	9.5
NY Knicks	20	26	.435	9	Portland	19	27	.413	10
Philadelphia	15	27	.357	12	Minnesota	16	28	.364	12
Brooklyn	9	35	.205	19		Pacific Div	/ision		
	Central Div				Golden State	38	7	.844	_
Cleveland	30	13	.698	-	LA Clippers	30	16	.652	8.5
Indiana	22	22	.500	8.5	Sacramento	17	27	.386	20.5
Chicago	22	23	.489	9					
Milwaukee	21	23	.477	9.5	Phoenix	15	29	.341	22.5
Detroit	21	25	.457	10.5	LA Lakers	16	32	.333	23.5
	Southeast Di	visior	1			Southwest [Division	1	
Atlanta	26	19	.578	-	San Antonio	35	9	.795	-
Washington	24	20	.545	1.5	Houston	34	14	.708	3
Charlotte	23	22	.511	3	Memphis	26	20	.565	10
Orlando	18	28	.391	8.5	New Orleans	18	27	.400	17.5
Miami	15	30	.333	11	Dallas	15	29	.341	20

arguably the most remarkable result in the history of continental club rugby union. Victory saw the Warriors into the quarterfinals of the Champions Cup, Europe's premier club tournament, for the first time in their history. The win was secured in grand style, Glasgow scoring six tries to inflict only Leicester's second home European defeat of all time. Now Scotland fullback Hogg wants the national side to throw off their shackles

after years of fearing the worst against Test rugby union's leading nations. Their first chance comes when they welcome Ireland, now a major force in global rugby union, to Murrayfield for a Six Nations opener on February 4. Hogg, asked if Scotland could match Glasgow's progress, said: "I don't see

"Finn Russell has been playing awesome at 10 for Glasgow, so if we can get outside him for Scotland, I think we'll be grand," he added ahead of Ireland's

LONDON: Stuart Hogg hopes Scotland can visit to Edinburgh next month.

HOGG WANTS SCOTLAND TO

FOLLOW GLASGOW'S LEAD

'SCARED'

"I'm not going to lie, there was times in years gone by when we were scared about what was going to happen. "But now we're confident about going down and getting the job done. We believe we have the playing staff, the structures and the coaching staff to get us victories. "We will concentrate on Ireland first up and then after that we will look at the next opposition."

Glasgow coach Gregor Townsend will take over as Scotland boss at the end of the season and now the challenge for Vern Cotter in his final campaign in charge of the Dark Blues is to make sure the confidence several of his key players have gained at club level is not lost when they return to the international arena.

"If we can harness that feel-good factor the guys are enjoying at club level and replicate it here, we feel that definitely gives us a chance," said defence coach Matt Taylor, who works with both Glasgow and Scotland. "The boys have come in with a spring in their step. They're really excited and full of confidence-and I'm sure that will translate into performances in the Six Nations."—AFP

IMPATIENT CHINESE CHASE GLORY AT ALL COSTS

BEIJING: European clubs Inter Milan, Aston Villa and Sochaux have had a high turnover of managers since Chinese takeovers, sparking fears that their trigger-happy new owners have little patience and no strategy.

"Many buyouts are irrational and defy the laws of the market," Zhou Jiming, a football analyst and director at the official China Sports Journal, told AFP. "The majority of investors lack patience," he said. That certainly appears to be the case with Aston Villa, currently under their third manager, after a takeover by Chinese businessman Tony Xia last June. Xia spent 38 million euros (\$40 million) to hire Roberto Di Matteo as manager, hoping the 2012 Champions League winner would be able to lift Villa's flagging fortunes.

But Di Matteo was sacked just 11 games later and replaced by Steve Bruce. Meanwhile Inter Milan, who are owned by Chinese electronics retailer Suning, in November named Stefano Pioli as their third manager in just four months, in a desperate bid to restore their reputation. Their struggles prompted Chievo president Luca Campedelli to question Suning's commitment to football, mocking the Chinese accent and saying it was

"not enough just to pay wages".

Even as China's willingness to splash out on foreign talent has drawn top managers such as Manuel Pellegrini (Hebei Fortune), Andre Villas-Boas (Shanghai SIPG) and Sven Goran Eriksson (Shenzhen FC) to the country, many have not made it past a few months. Eriksson was ousted from Shanghai SIPG despite leading them to a third-place finish in the 2016 Chinese Super League, Fabio Cannavaro was dismissed from Guangzhou Evergrande just six months into the job while Jean Tigana fared even worse at Shanghai Shenhua, sacked after only five games in charge in 2012.

LEICESTER LESSON

Chinese investors in football would do well to look at Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, the Thai president of Leicester City, reigning English Premier League champion, for pointers, said analyst Zhou. "He has done a lot of substantive, solid basic work, and the success has been there. Chinese investors lack this kind of involvement," he said. The shopping magnate bought the club in 2010, overseeing the greatest rags to riches story in football when his 5,000-1 shots won the Premier League last year.

According to Peter Kenyon, former chief executive of Manchester United and Chelsea, "The smart people understand it's not about acquisition, it's... what you do with it (afterwards).

"I think we are going to see good purchasers and bad purchasers but the ones that I've been involved with are longterm, they've got a strategy," said Kenyon, who now advises on football business deals. Some Chinese owners have proven to be patient: West Bromwich Albion, bought in September by entrepreneur Guochuan Lai, retained its manager, as did French side Auxerre, currently one place off the foot of French second division, following a takeover by China's ORG Packaging in October. "The smart ones... want to have a say, but understand it's not about them picking the team. It's a serious investment", said Kenyon, who has worked on some Chinese acquisitions, including the Wanda Group's purchase of a 20 percent stake in Atletico Madrid in 2015.

That level of seriousness has been the case with Chinese fund IDG Capital Partners which acquired a 20 percent stake in the French club Olympique Lyonnais (OL) as part of a "long-term" investment, according to the firm.

GLOBAL GOAL

OL president Jean-Michel Aulas said IDG carried out "a real investigation" before arriving at a decision and has since put "no pressure" on the club's recruitment of Chinese players.

"We have never imagined controlling Lyon. We are not good, not competent to manage a football club," said Li Jianguang, who led the operation at IDG. Chinese President Xi Jinping, a football fan, wants the country to host and win a World Cup, a target which has prompted a flood of money into top-flight teams as well as heavy investment and promotion of the sport nationally. Chinese Super League clubs, encouraged by the government's vision of turning China into a football superpower by 2050, have broken the Asian transfer record five times in less than a year, with Shanghai SIPG paying 60 million euros to lure Oscar from

The push to buy European clubs is part of a larger drive to secure China's place in the global football arena, a quest with heavy political overtones. "Sport gives you huge visibility, so if it's successful it reflects well on them, and well on the country," Kenyon said. "If it's not successful it reflects really badly." — AFP

BRIEFS

Sunderland sign Lescott

LONDON: Sunderland have signed central defender Joleon Lescott on a contract until the end of the season, the Premier League basement side said yesterday. The 34-year-old played under Sunderland manager David Moyes at Everton and has now followed former Toffees team-mates Victor Anichebe and Steven Pienaar, who also know Moyes from their time on Merseyside, to the Stadium of Light. "Joleon Lescott has joined Sunderland AFC on a short-term contract," said a club statement. "The defender has put pen to paper on a deal with the Black Cats until the end of the season." Sunderland are a point adrift of relegation rivals Hull and Crystal Palace at the bottom of the Premier League after a 2-0 loss away to West Bromwich Albion on Saturday.

Toure dismisses lure of China

LONDON: Yaya Toure says he wants to remain at Manchester City and is not interested in moving to China, amid reports of a big-money offer from the Chinese Super League. Reports last week said Toure, 33, had rejected an approach from a Chinese club that would have seen him paid around £430,000 (\$536,000, 499,000 euros) a week. With his contract up at the end of the season, the former Ivory Coast midfielder faces an uncertain future, but he says he has no interest in joining the likes of Oscar and Carlos Tevez in China. "I always say that if I went to China I would end up feeling angry there," Toure said, in comments carried by several British newspapers on Tuesday. "Do you play football because you love football or do you play because you want to make money? What's the purpose? "Me, I just want to play football because I enjoy it, I love playing. I enjoy helping my team-mates, I enjoy playing against the big players and teams. I want to carry on in that way.

Algeria coach quits

PORT GENTIL: Algeria's George Leekens became the first coaching casualty of the African Nations Cup, resigning yesterday after his team were eliminated less than three months after taking the job. "Given the pressure exerted on the federation and the national team, I prefer to stop my contract. For the good of all, I prefer to leave even if I do it with a sore heart while wishing all the success in the world to the national team," said a statement on the Algerian Football Federation website (www.faf.dz). Algeria failed to win a game in Group A, finishing with a 2-2 draw against Senegal in Franceville on Monday for only a second point from three matches. They had been among the pre-tournament favourites but were held in their opening game by outsiders Zimbabwe and lost to neighbours Tunisia. It was the second spell in charge of the Algerian team for the 67-year-old who has also coached the national sides of Belgium and Tunisia.

CELTIC ON VERGE OF BECOMING HISTORY BHOYS

GLASGOW: Celtic stand on the verge of reaching a historic milestone when they return to league action today. The runaway league leaders have been in cold storage for the past three weeks as the Scottish Premiership took a winter break but took a step closer to a domestic treble on Sunday with a 3-0 defeat of Albion Rovers in the Scottish Cup.

That result means the Hoops could now equal a club record run of 26 domestic games unbeaten at the start of a season with a draw or a win against St Johnstone today. That record was set by the legendary Lisbon Lions side managed by Jock Stein, who became the first British club to lift the European Cup in 1967, and present day manager Brendan Rodgers admitted it was a honour for the current crop to be mentioned alongside them. "To be talked of in the same breath as guys who created the legend of this club would obviously be a huge privilege," Rodgers said. "I haven't really thought on it, to be honest, I just try to look to win our games, irrespective of what the consequences of that means. "But, of course, anywhere you're mentioned in that same breath as those guys, it gives a great privilege but we have a lot of hard work to do and St Johnstone will be a tough test for us.

"They've done very well with Tommy and particularly away from home they've done well, so we know it will be a good test of our qualities but it's another game we're looking forward to."

The match against St Johnstone should also see club captain Scott Brown reach his own personal landmark with the midfielder set to make his 400th appearance for the Hoops. Brown joined Celtic from Hibs in 2007 and Rodgers was full of praise for the 31-year-old's contribution to the club

old's contribution to the club. "It's a remarkable achievement by a topclass professional," he said. "I didn't know that's what it was but to play that number of games at a club this size, your professionalism, enthusiasm, energy for the game and commitment to being a top professional has to be there. "I've said it on many occassions since I've walked in the door here. My impressions of him were very positive. He's a remarkable leader. "They take a great lead from him, the players in the changing room. He's at the very front from the first steps we make on to the training field. "The warm-up, right from the start he sets an incredible example in his performance level and I think he'll go on and make a raft of more appearances. "He shows a great example to the players and he's been playing at the top of his game this season, so 400 will be great for him but I feel there's more to come as well."— Reuters



LIBREVILLE: Tunisia's midfielder Wahbi Khazri (R) challenges Zimbabwe's midfielder Willard Katsande during the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations group A football match between Zimbabwe and Tunisia at the Stade de l'Amitie Sino-Gabonaise in Libreville on Monday. —AFP

TUNISIA ADVANCE AS ALGERIA BOW OUT

LIBREVILLE: Tunisia trounced Zimbabwe 4-2 in Gabon Monday to reach the Africa Cup of Nations quarter-finals as star-stacked Algeria were eliminated after the first round.

Naim Sliti, Youssef Msakni, Taha Yassine Khenessi and Wahbi Khazri scored in Libreville as the Tunisian Carthage became the first side at the 2017 finals to score four goals in a match. Algeria drew 2-2 with a virtual Senegal 'B' side in Franceville at the same time with star striker Islam Slimani finally finding form to bag a brace. This was the second 2-2 draw for the Algerian Desert Foxes after a similar result against Zimbabwe, and a 2-1 loss to neighbours Tunisia in between proved costly.

Many pundits had placed Algeria among the title favourites given the presence of stars like new African Footballer of the Year Riyad Mahrez, Slimani and Yacine Brahimi.

Pre-tournament fears about the defence proved well founded, however, as they conceded two goals in each group game.

Senegal, breaking a pre-match promise of coach Aliou Cisse that he would field a full-strength side, equalised first through Papa Diop and Moussa Sow.

Assured of finishing first before the last mini-league matches, Senegal topped the Group B standings with seven points followed by Tunisia (six), Algeria (two) and Zimbabwe (one).

Senegal stay in southeastern Gabon to face Cameroon Saturday three hours after Burkina Faso and Tunisia meet in the first quarter-final in Libreville.

THRILLED

Cameroon beat Senegal on penalties in the 2002 final in Mali and hosts Burkina Faso also won on penalties when they met Tunisia in a 1998 quarter-final. Ghana are also through to the last eight and the other three quarter-finalists will be decided today with six countries in contention.

All the Group C teams-Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, defending champions Ivory Coast and Togocan advance to the knockout phase.

In Group D, either record seventime champions Egypt or Mali will accompany Ghana to the quarterfinals. Henryk Kasperczak coached Tunisia to the 1996 final during a previous spell in charge and was thrilled

with the victory over Zimbabwe.

"We regained possession well during the first half and created scoring chances," said the Poland-born handler. "It was a satisfactory performance and I congratulate my players. Now we face Burkina Faso, a quality team with good technique and attacking combinations."

Zimbabwe coach Callisto Pasuwa said: "We lost the match in the early stages due to a lack of concentration.

"I think we have potential, but must prepare better. A lesson from this tournament is that players have to remain focused throughout a game." Tunisia scored four goals in a Cup of Nations match for the fourth time as they ripped the Zimbabwe defence to shreds during a first-half goal fest which ended with the winners 4-1 ahead.

The tempo inevitably slowed after half-time with both teams playing for the third time in nine days and Ndoro

scored the lone second-half goal.

Algeria coach Georges Leekens took some consolation from the early exit as Algeria continued to underperform at the Cup of Nations since a lone title when 1990 hosts.

"I had warned that Senegal were one of the big favourites and we showed that we could respond in difficult circumstances, which is important for the future," he said.

"Overall it is a disappointment, but we need to use this to grow in the future," he added as Algeria are left to focus on trying to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

"I am still sure of what I have to do. It was not a gift for me to come here but we will make it to Russia. I think my players showed they could react."

Slimani gave Algeria the lead on 10 minutes and after Diop levelled just before half-time, he struck again early in the second half only for Sow to equalise within a minute.—AFP

SEVILLA TITLE CHALLENGE 'A REALITY': SAMPAOLI

BARCELONA: Sevilla have serious aspirations to win La Liga for the first time since 1946 after gate-crashing the usual two-horse race between Real Madrid and Barcelona, their coach Jorge Sampaoli said yesterday.

Sevilla are second in the standings, one point ahead of champions Barca and one behind Real Madrid, who they beat this month to become the first team to topple Zinedine Zidane's side since last April.

Real have a game in hand on both their title rivals.
Argentine Sampaoli has proved a roaring success at
Sevilla since taking over from triple Europa League
winner Unai Emery last year although up to now he
has been cautious about his team's title hopes.
But after securing their higgest ever points total in

But after securing their biggest ever points total in the first half of a season following Sunday's 3-2 win at Osasuna, a fifth straight league victory, the coach said he was deadly serious about the title tilt.

"We're not being deluded, it's a reality, we're going to fight for the title. We may not have the strength in the end and we may not be capable of doing it but we're going to fight for it," Sampaoli told radio station Onda Cero. "Our hope is to take an extra step forward. We have managed to instill an idea of play which the players like and enjoy, the idea of playing the same way against every team, always taking the initiative, and our aim is to be even stronger in the second half of the season."

Sampaoli had no playing career and earned his reputation as a coach in Peru, Ecuador and Chile before taking charge of the Chile national team in 2012, leading them to the Copa America, their first major trophy, in 2015.

He took his first foray into European soccer last year to succeed Emery, who had been head-hunted by Paris St Germain after leading Sevilla to an unprecedented three Europa League triumphs in a row.—Reuters



IBRARRA: Peru's player Luis Adrian Ugarriza (L) vies for the ball with Venezuela's player William Velasquez during their South American Championship U-20 football match in the Olimpico stadium in Ibarra, Ecuador on Monday. — AFP



PORT-GENTIL: Egypt's soccer players attend a training session at the Stade de Sogara in Port-Gentil, Gabon, yesterday, ahead of their African Cup of Nations Group D soccer match against Ghana. — AP



OWEN URGES RASHFORD TO BIDE TIME AT MAN UNITED

LONDON: Former Manchester United striker Michael Owen believes Marcus Rashford can be the club's first-choice centre-forward for "years to come", but told AFP he will have to be patient.

Rashford, 19, exploded onto the scene with United last season, scoring eight goals in his first 18 appearances and breaking into England's Euro 2016 squad. This season, Zlatan

used either on the flanks or on the bench and he has scored only three Premier League goals, but Owen believes he is in exactly the right place. "Wayne (Rooney) and Ibrahimovic at some point are going to retire and it's who's going to take the mantle on as the regular number nine?" Owen said at the launch of the

Star Sixes tournament in London on Tuesday. "As soon as those two players are no longer at the forefront for Manchester United, which isn't going to be very long, then it'll be really interesting to see who's the next person to carry the can. "One of those in line for it is Rashford. I'd say he'd be foolish to move now because he could be the number nine for Manchester

Star Sixes tournament in London on Tuesday. "As soon as those two players comes."

United for years to come, once his turn comes."

Owen, who spent three years at United, believes training alongside players like Ibrahimovic, Rooney and Anthony Martial will prove beneficial to Rashford in the long-run. "It depends how you look at it," said the former England striker. "Unfortunately, he's got a load of traffic in front of him.

Fortunately for him, he's at a place where he's going to be playing and honing his skills with the best, so you'd think that that would help him." Owen is due to play in an England team captained by Steven Gerrard at Star Sixes, a six-a-side indoor tournament for former international players taking place at London's O2 Arena in July.—AFP

BARCELONA CHIEF RELAXED DESPITE MESSI SPECULATION

BARCELONA: Barcelona sporting director Robert Fernandez insists he is sure Lionel Messi will sign a new deal with the Catalan giants despite continued speculation over the five-time World Player of the Year's future. Messi has just 18 months left on his current contract and would have no shortage of lucrative offers should he decide to leave the club where he has spent the entirety of his glittering career.

However, Fernandez believes negotiations over a new deal are progressing "very well." "There were many comments and people who want to intoxicate this situation, but we have been working on it for a long time and we are calm," he told Catalan radio station Rac1.

Simmering tensions between the Barca board and squad boiled over a fortnight ago when the club's CEO Oscar Grau claimed Barca had to negotiate any new contracts with "common sense" given their spiralling wage budget.

However, star striker Luis Suarez, who recently signed a new deal to 2021, responded angrily to those comments. "With Messi what you have to do is give him a new contract, not have common sense," said the Uruguayan.

Messi, who will turn 30 in June, has been in spectacular form this season, scoring 28 times in just 26 appearances.

"Leo has got to the stage where he seems he is better now than he was two, three, four or five years ago. That is the feeling he gives us, that he gets better all the time and plays as he wants," added Fernandez.

"There is no doubt that Leo is the best player in the world. That is the reality." As well as Suarez, Barca have handed new deals to Neymar, Sergio Busquets and Javier Mascherano in the past year.

And Fernandez is hopeful of also pining down captain Andres Iniesta, Ivan Rakitic and Marc-Andre ter Stegen in the coming

"I am very calm, but I was very calm in the case of Mascherano, Neymar, Busi (Busquets), and I am very calm with the subject of Andres, Ivan, Marc and Leo because I have a lot of confidence that they are going to remain with us," he added.

"I am totally convinced that the four players will continue at Barcelona."—AFP



SPAIN COPA DEL REY
Eibar v Madrid 21:15
belN SPORTS
Vigo v Real Madrid 23:15
belN SPORTS

ITALIAN CUP

Juventus v Milan 22:45
bein SPORTS

FRENCH CUP

Monaco v Lorraine 23:00
belN SPORTS

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP
Egypt v Ghana 22:00
belN SPORTS
Uganda v Mali 22:00
belN SPORTS



IBARRA: Argentina's player Juan Marcos Foyth vies for the ball with Bolivia's player Carlos Abelardo Ribera during their South American Championship U-20 football match at the Olimpico stadium in Ibarra, Ecuador on Monday.—AFP

INJURY-HIT REAL WAIT ON RONALDO FOR CUP COMEBACK

MADRID: Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane hopes Cristiano Ronaldo will shrug off a foot problem in time to lead the European champions' bid to overcome a Copa del Rey deficit at Celta Vigo today. Zidane's squad, down 2-1 from the quarter-final first leg at home, has been hit by a series of injuries with Marcelo and Luka Modric joining Gareth Bale, James Rodriguez, Dani Carvajal and Pepe on the sidelines after limping off in Saturday's 2-1 win over Malaga.

Ronaldo also suffered a blow to his right foot at the weekend, but Zidane expects the World Player of the Year to feature as Real aim to keep their quest for a first ever treble on course in Galicia.

"It is something that has bothered him until now, but he is fine. It is just a knock," said Zidane yesterday. "He will be with us tomorrow." After a glorious 2016 for club and country, Ronaldo has endured a frustrating start to the new year. The Portuguese has scored just once from open play and was even jeered by sections of the Santiago Bernabeu crowd on Saturday. "We all want the same thing, which is to do our best to win things," added Zidane.

"Whistles have always been heard in this stadium and others, and that isn't going to change. The only thing I will say is that we need the fans on our side." Zidane admitted his annoyance at the crowd's reaction and the number of injuries that have blighted Madrid throughout the season, despite tasting defeat for the first time in the campaign just nine days ago at Sevilla. However, the Frenchman challenged the less heralded members of the Madrid squad to take their chance to shine at Celta Vigo. "It does annoy me that some players are out, but we can't do anything about it," he said.

"Throughout the season players will get injured and now we have to continue with those that are ready. "It is a difficult, but great game to play. Now and again we also like to come from behind in these types of games."

In contrast to Madrid's ailing squad, Celta should be well rested to spring another surprise after coach Eduardo Berizzo made eight changes from the side that won at the Bernabeu last week for Sunday's 1-0 defeat to Real Sociedad. "The game on Wednesday has a real importance," said Berizzo. "It is a game of life or death and to prepare for that game it is necessary to hand a rest to those that have accumulated many matches."

BARCA IN COMMAND

The other three quarter-final ties to be completed this week look far more predictable. Barcelona ended a 10-year wait for a victory away at Sociedad thanks to Neymar's penalty last week to carry a 1-0 lead into their second leg at the Camp Nou tomorrow.

The Catalans have also been afflicted by injury with Sergio Busquets set to miss the next few weeks due to ankle ligament damage. Andres Iniesta and Rafinha are also doubtful, but Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar are expected to start again up front after all three scored in Sunday's 4-0 rout at Eibar.

Sociedad may also have their La Liga visit to the Bernabeu on Sunday in mind as they chase Champions League football.

Atletico Madrid have the healthiest lead of all as they carry a 3-0 advantage into their second leg at Eibar on Wednesday. And Alaves are on course to reach the last four for just the third time in their history as they welcome second-division Alcorcon with a 2-0 first-leg lead yesterday. — AFP

CHRISTIAN CROSS DROPPED FROM REAL LOGO IN ME

DUBAI: The club crest of Spanish soccer team Real Madrid will be altered to remove the traditional Christian cross from clothing apparel sold in some Middle East countries under a

regional deal.

Marka, a retailing group in the United Arab Emirates, has been granted exclusive rights to "manufacture, distribute and sell Real Madrid products" in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman, the company said in a statement yesterday.

But Marka Vice Chairman Khaled al-Mheiri told Reuters by phone the crest would be altered due to cultural sensitivities. "We have to be sensitive to parts of the Gulf that are sensitive to products that hold the cross," said al-Mheiri, who owns a Real Madrid cafe in Dubai. The six Gulf Arab countries Marka will sell and distribute Real Madrid products in are all Muslim-majority The redesigning of the crest would require only a minor change with the original featuring a very small Christian cross at the top of a crown on the crest.

The agreement allows Marka to sell clothing apparel such as t-shirts, polo shirts and swim wear featuring the Real Madrid name



and crest. Sales will start by March, al-Mheiri said. The deal does not cover replica jerseys, which are sold in Dubai featuring the cross. Real Madrid did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment. But it is not the first time the symbol has been altered.

In 2014, Real Madrid removed the Christian cross from its crest when used by its sponsor the National Bank of Abu Dhabi. Dubai-based airline Emirates is Real Madrid's main shirt sponsor, whilst the club is also sponspored by Abu Dhabi investment fund IPIC. — Reuters



PORT-GENTIL: Democratic Republic of the Congo supporters arrive to attend the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations group C football match between Togo and DR Congo in Port-Gentil yesterday. — AFP



Granit Xhaka

ARSENAL'S XHAKA INTERVIEWED BY COPS

LONDON: Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka was interviewed by police after allegedly racially abusing a worker at Heathrow airport, British media reported yesterday.

The incident happened on Monday, little more than 24 hours after Xhaka was sent off in a Premier League match against Burnley, a dismissal that will probably incur a four-game ban.

Xhaka had travelled to the airport to see off a friend flying to Germany, but reacted badly when his companion was refused entry after arriving late for the flight at Terminal Five, the reports said.

The Independent reported that a witness said the 24-year-old Switzerland international had racially abused a member of

staff in German. "Police were called at 19:29hrs on Monday, 23 January following an allegation that a member of staff had been racially abused at Heathrow Airport, Terminal Five," a Metropolitan Police spokesman said.

"The allegation was made by a third party. Officers attended and spoke with a man in his 20s. He was not arrested. He voluntarily attended a west London police station where he was interviewed under caution."

Xhaka has now been sent off nine times in three seasons. If he is banned for four games he will miss Arsenal's FA Cup fourthround clash with Southampton and league matches against Watford, Chelsea and Hull City. — Reuters

HOT SHOT WARNER HAPPY TO REST FOR TOUGH INDIA TEST

SYDNEY: Australia's player of the year David Warner has welcomed a rest before touring India next month saying it's tough preparing for sub-continental conditions.

Warner, who won back-to-back Allan Border medals on Monday night, has been excused from the three one-day games in New Zealand starting next week after a hectic southern summer.

"We're running ragged in the outfield ... we're giving everything we can, and I've run as hard as I can for every ball," the 30-year-old told reporters after the medal ceremony. "So that does take its toll," the opening batsman added. Warner said he would fly out on February 5, "So I've got a bit of time at home which is great".

"I'm grateful that you know Cricket Australia allowing me to get over some little niggles and having a little bit of rest at home to get me ready for India and there's

no excuses there."

Australia has won Test and one-day

series against Pakistan after losses to South Africa and a tough tour of Sri Lanka and Warner admitted to feeling the strain.

"I felt probably the first two especially one-dayers this series with Pakistan, I've felt quite, not lazy, but my feet weren't moving," he said.

"Sometimes they don't move at all, but

they were just quite fatigued.

Australia face Pakistan in Adelaide in their final one-dayer tomorrow having already wrapped up the series 3-1. With a need to get on the front foot batting in India, Warner said he could look forward to

training after the break.

"We are going to be working our backsides off physically and mentally as well before we even think about playing the game of cricket (in India)," the vice-captain said. "That's what gets you mentally tough and ready for those conditions. It's not the wicket it's not the opposition, the conditions.

Ecclestone, the racing Napoleon, forced into exile



Tokyo venue under fire for barring female members



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Impatient Chinese Chase Glory at all Costs

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MELBOURNE: Switzerland's Roger Federer hits a return against Germany's Mischa Zverev during their men's singles quarter-final match on day nine of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

Federer rolls into all-Swiss semi

MELBOURNE: Roger Federer was just one step away from his first Grand Slam final in 18 months yesterday after he demolished giant-killer Mischa Zverev to set up an Australian Open semi-final with Stan Wawrinka.

Federer, 35 and considered past his prime after an injury-ruined 2016, rolled back the years with a masterful 6-1, 7-5, 6-2 win in just 92 minutes on Rod Laver Arena. The four-time champion will next take on his Swiss Davis Cup team-mate and world number four Wawrinka in what promises to be an enthralling semifinal showdown.

Federer, to his surprise, has now won five matches in his comeback from a six-month injury break, with hopes rising of a record-extending 18th Grand Slam title in Melbourne. "I felt I was always going to be dangerous on any given day in a match situation. But obviously as

away with energy," Federer said. "I think now that I'm in the semis, feeling as good as I am, playing as good as I am, that's a huge surprise to me.

"If someone would have told me I'd play in the semis against Stan, never would I have called that one for me. For Stan, yes, but not for me."

It will be the Swiss legend's record 13th Australian semi-final appearance and 41st Grand Slam semi-final. It was a dominant performance from Federer, hitting 65 winners to just 13 unforced errors and breaking lefthander Zverev's serve six times.

"I think it definitely went as good as it possibly could have gone," Federer said. "I think I played great. Mischa has had a wonderful tournament."

Zverev, ranked 50, had pulled off one of the major

the tournament would progress, maybe I would fade upsets of the tournament with a fourth-round win over world number one Andy Murray, and he didn't play badly against Federer, making only 13 unforced effors.

Zverev didn't win a game in their most recent meeting at 2013 Halle, but he broke Federer's serve in the fourth game of the second set and won a total of eight games. Federer ripped through the opening set in just 19 withering minutes, breaking Zverev's serve twice and not having one break point on his own service.

The Swiss legend helped himself to 18 winners with just five errors as he laid down the markers for Zverev.

Zverev was backing up after his superb tactical success over world number one and five-time finalist Andy Murray. But this was a far different proposition as Federer's speed around the court, shot variation and attacking intent flummoxed the German.

Zverev bravely remained true to his serve-volley game, coming to the net, but often being passed by crisp Federer volleys.

Zverev picked up his game in the second set and broke Federer with three break points in the fourth before the Swiss quickly broke back.

Zverev's serve again came under attack and he fell three break points down with Federer hitting two sublime backhand winners to take the break.

He raced to three set points on his next service before taking a two sets lead in a total of 55 minutes.

Federer uncorked another gorgeous backhand pass to take the decisive break in the fifth game of the final set. Zverev was taken to 10 deuces in the seventh game before Federer broke on his sixth break point for a 5-2 lead and to serve out for the match.— AFP

VANDEWEGHE OVERCOMES NERVES AND MUGURUZA TO MEET VENUS

MELBOURNE: "Fake it 'til you make it," Coco Vandeweghe said after her fourth round upset of world number one Angelique Kerber this week and if the American is indeed hiding her nerves under a patina of confidence, she's doing a great job of it.

The big-hitting 25-year-old world number 35 blasted her way past seventh seed Garbine Muguruza 6-4 6-0 at the Australian Open yesterday to reach the semi-finals of a grand slam for the first

time. French Open champion Muguruza was left simply stunned. "I think she played unbelievable. Three times we played in the past, she didn't show this

level," the Spaniard said. "I have zero regrets about my performance. I think when you play with someone that has the power to disturb like this, to hit these kind of shots, and has a good day, I mean, it's difficult honestly."

Vandeweghe said the "calming voice" of her experienced coach Craig Kardon had helped ease her nerves before the contest but also posited that perhaps the butterflies in her stomach were neces-

"Maybe I play better nervous and scared," she said. "I don't know. I think I don't shy away from a challenge neces-

sarily. I never have. Growing up, I've always just been wanting to prove people wrong in a lot of different regards.

"I think it's more I take it as a challenge. I take it as an enjoyable challenge. It's what I want to do. It's where I want to

"To face the best players is definitely an accomplishment, to say for myself that I've gotten to the point that I've beat and face these top players."

That competitive edge may have derived from growing up in a family where sporting excellence was the norm. Her grandfather was former New York Knicks basketball player Ernie Vandeweghe, she is the niece of former NBA player Kiki Vandeweghe and her mother Tauna was a swimmer who represented the United States at the 1976 Olympics.

"In my family, if you think you're too high, you'll get put down really fast. They're good about that," she said. "It's a very competitive family, whether it's just playing cards around the table, or if it does end up coming to sports. But, you know, I like to think I'm smart enough not to mess with anyone in their said sport that they like to play.

"They're quick to bring me back down off my pedestal if I get too high." Next up for Vandeweghe in the semi-finals is fel-



MELBOURNE: Coco Vandeweghe of the US serves against Spain's Garbine Muguruza during their women's singles quarter-final match on day nine of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne yesterday.— AFP

low American Venus Williams, 11 years grew up watching," she said. "But to do it her senior and seven-times a grand slam champion.

"It's a dream to play someone you

at this stage of a grand slam is kind of crazy. I mean, I can't really put it into words." — Reuters

MURRAY LEFT OUT OF BRITAIN'S DAVIS CUP TEAM

LONDON: Andy Murray was left out of Great Britain's initial four-man team for next week's Davis Cup World Group first-round meeting with Canada, which was announced yesterday.

Captain Leon Smith says Murray needs rest following his shock Australian Open fourth-round defeat at the hands of Germany's Mischa Zverev.

But he has not ruled out drafting the world number one into the team if he changes his mind about competing in the Ottawa match, which begins on "We will continue to speak with Andy in the com-

ing days regarding his potential involvement and if he decides he would like to be part of the team, then we can of course change the nominations as necessary," said Smith.

In Murray's expected absence, Dan Evans, Kyle Edmund, Jamie Murray and Dominic Inglot are due to line up for Britain at the TD Place Arena.

The winners of the tie will play either France or Japan in the quarter-finals in April, with the losers facing a relegation play-off after the US Open in September.

Murray's next tournament is scheduled to be the Dubai Duty Free Championships at the end of February.

He inspired Britain to glory in the 2015 Davis Cup-their first triumph in the tournament since 1936 but they fell to eventual champions Argentina in last year's semi-finals. — AFP

Linuait Times 55. Linuait Times

CAESARS TRAVEL GROUP: SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Ailing lira fails to rally after Turkey rate hike

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Hogan to leave Etihad Group in H2 of 2017

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RIYADH: A general view of the construction site under the contract of French company ALSTOM as part of the Riyadh metro main line in the Saudi capital. — AFP

AUSTRALIA INVITES CHINA AS TRUMP DUMPS TPP EU-CANADA TRADE DEAL CLEARS CRUCIAL HURDLE

SYDNEY: Australia said yesterday it was working to recast the Trans-Pacific Partnership without the United States and opened the door for China to sign up after President Donald Trump ditched the huge trade pact.

The deal included a dozen Asia-Pacific nations which together account for 40 percent of the global economy, but Trump declared Monday he had "terminated" it in line with election pledges to scrap the "job killer" pact. Canberra is floating a "TPP 12 minus one", with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull saying his government was in "active discussions" with other signatories including Japan, New Zealand and Singapore on how to salvage the agreement.

"It is possible that US policy could change over time on this, as it has done on other trade deals," Turnbull told reporters in Canberra, adding that the nominee for US secretary of state Rex Tillerson and Republicans supported the TPP.

tary of state Rex Tillerson and Republicans supported the TPP.

"There is also the opportunity for the TPP to proceed with-

out the United States," he added.

"Certainly there is the potential for China to join the TPP."
The agreement, the biggest trade deal in history, was seen as a counter to China's rising economic influence. It was signed last year but has not gone into effect. Trade Minister Steven Ciobo said Australia, Canada, Mexico and others had canvassed for a pact without the US at a World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Davos.

"There would be scope for China if we were able to reformulate it to be a TPP 12 minus one, for countries like

Indonesia or China or indeed other countries to consider joining," Ciobo told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"This is very much a live option and we are pursuing it and it will be the focus of conversations for some time to come." New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English noted that Beijing "hasn't been slow to spot the opportunity" to cast itself as a free trade supporter.

There was a willingness toward "making an effort to find out what we can do with TPP, rather than just dropping it and waiting and hoping to get a call (from Washington) about bilateral agreements sometime", he told reporters in Wellington. Trump said he would pursue bilateral deals with TPP signatories to secure terms more favorable to the US. But English said a US-New Zealand pact would be challenging given Trump's insistence that Washington would dictate terms.

Chinese interest

Beijing has long been noncommittal on the idea of joining the TPP, choosing to back an alternative trade pact, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a more modest deal that calls for lower and more limited regulatory standards. It includes the 10 members of the Southeast Asian grouping ASEAN plus China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, but notably excludes the US. At a regular press briefing yesterday, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying remained coy about Beijing joining the TPP, simply noting that China supports "open,

transparent, and win-win" trade pacts. RCEP talks were pressing ahead, she said, stating they "should be concluded at an early date"

Alan Oxley, the first Australian to chair the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the World Trade Organization's predecessor, said Chinese involvement in the TPP was unlikely at this stage.

"China's certainly interested in the long run... but the prospect of them tying into the TPP now, given their own domestic economic problems, has got to be considered very low," Oxley, who heads the Australian APEC Study Centre at RMIT University, told AFP.

The most likely option for TPP nations was "let the dust settle" and wait for possible changes in US attitudes toward multilateral pacts, he said.

Analysts in Japan said the TPP would not make sense without the US. "Japan thinks it's worth patiently maintaining the (TPP) framework even until the United States possibly comes back to it under the next administration," Yoko Takeda, chief economist at Mitsubishi Research Institute, told AFP. Trump's decision to walk away from it "could be a negotiating bluff," he said.

EU-Canada trade deal

Meanwhile, a contested EU-Canada free trade deal cleared a key hurdle yesterday as EU lawmakers defied rising antiglobalization sentiment to back one of Europe's most ambitious accords. Members of the European Parliament's powerful trade committee voted 25 in favour of the deal, known as CETA, with 15 against, during a heated session in Brussels that was interrupted by a protestor.

CETA now goes to a showdown vote in a full session of the European Parliament on February 15, where the EU leadership hopes for a symbolic show of support for a global trade system in the face of rising protectionism championed by new US President Donald Trump. Boosters of CETA describe it as a new kind of deal that not only breaks the usual barriers but enshrines high standards for international trade. "With CETA, we are rejecting unfettered globalization and laying the foundations for a new era of rules-based trade," social democrat MEP David Martin, a key backer of the deal, told AFP. But CETA's opponents slam it as a gift to multinationals who will use the deal to lower health and environmental standards and circumvent government regulation.

"It's a defeat," Greens MEP and French presidential candidate Yannick Jadot told AFP after the packed committee session. "The European Parliament has ignored all the lessons of Trump's victory and the Brexit vote in giving more power to corporations and reducing the power of citizens," Jadot said.

The EU and Canada formally signed the landmark free trade deal in October after seven years of tough talks, overcoming last-minute resistance from a small Belgian region that blocked its national government from approving the

SAUDI CONTINUES REBOUND, KUWAIT RISES, EGYPT DROPS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's stock market continued rebounding yesterday in a generally strong Gulf region, while a drop by shares in real estate firm Emaar Misr dragged down Egypt. The Saudi index climbed 1.1 percent, adding to Monday's 1.7 percent gain. With the fourth-quarter earnings reporting season more or less over, many Saudi firms have posted flat or weak profits because of government austerity steps and a sluggish economy. Over half a dozen major firms, including food maker Savola and several banks, missed analysts' estimates by wide margins.

But stocks in most companies which missed estimates have recovered strongly, suggesting investors are looking towards improvement in the non-oil economy this year as the government's introduction of austerity measures slows. Mouwasat Medical Services jumped 3.5 percent after saying its board was recommending a cash dividend of 2.5 riyals per share for 2016, up from 2 riyals in the previous year. The company reported an estimate-beating 34.2 percent rise in fourth-quarter profit last week.

Savola surged 3.3 percent. It had dropped 2.0 percent on Sunday after reporting a shock fourth-quarter net loss, but

jumped 5.4 percent on Monday. Kuwait's index climbed 0.9 percent as trading volume remained extremely high, though it fell slightly from Monday's level. The index is up 17 percent since the end of last year, causing funds and individual speculators to pile into the market to catch the momentum.

Dubai's index rose 0.3 percent as GFH Financial, a speculative favorite and the most heavily traded stock, jumped 11.2 percent. It also soared during the day on Monday but gave up all its gains by the close on that day. In Qatar, the index rose 1.0 percent as Islamic bank Masraf Al Rayan, the most heavily traded stock, rose 4.6 percent to a 14-month high. Egypt sank 0.9 percent as Emaar Misr dropped 4.3 percent to 2.67 Egyptian pounds, confirming a break of technical support at 2.80 pounds, the bottom of its range since mid-November.

tom of its range since mid-November.

That triggered a bearish right triangle formed by the highs and lows since November and pointing down to the area of 2.30 pounds. Sidi Kerir Petrochemicals jumped 10 percent to 19.89 pounds, however. Last week Beltone Financial raised its fair value estimate for the stock to 32.3 pounds from 17.68 pounds, citing stronger global oil prices among other factors. — Reuters

TRUMP URGES US AUTOMAKERS TO MAKE BIG PUSH FOR NEW PLANTS

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump pushed the chief executives of General Motors Co, Ford Motor Co and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV yesterday to increase production in the United States and boost American employment.

Trump opened a meeting with GM CEO Mary Barra, Ford CEO Mark Fields and Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne at the White House, saying he wants to see new auto plants built in the United States. "We have a very big push on to have auto plants and other plants," he told reporters.

The new Republican president, who took office last Friday, vowed to cut regulations and taxes to make it more attractive for businesses to operate in the United States. "I want new plants to be built here for cars sold here!" Trump said in a tweet



WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump speaks to automobile leaders during their meeting in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington yesterday. — AP

ahead of the meeting with automakers, saying he would discuss US jobs with the chief executives. US automakers have been reluctant to open new US auto plants in recent years, but they have expanded some operations at existing plants.

Trump has criticized automakers for building cars in Mexico and elsewhere and has threatened to impose 35 percent tariffs on imported vehicles. The meeting is the latest sign of Trump's uncommon degree of intervention for a US president into corporate affairs as he has repeatedly pressured automakers and other manufacturers to "buy American and hire American."

Yesterday's gathering was the first time the CEOs of the big three automakers have met jointly with a US president since a July 2011 session with former Democratic President Barack Obama to tout a deal to nearly double fuel efficiency standards to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. Fiat Chrysler is the Italian-American parent of the former Michiganbased Chrysler. White House spokesman Sean Spicer said on Monday that Trump was looking forward at the meeting "to hearing their ideas about how we can work together to bring more jobs back to this industry." US and foreign automakers have been touting plans to boost American jobs and investments in the face of Trump's comments. Trump, a New York real estate developer, often singled out Ford's Mexico investments for criticism during his election campaign. — Reuters

AILING LIRA FAILS TO RALLY AFTER TURKEY RATE HIKE

CB KEEPS MAIN POLICY RATE ON HOLD

ANKARA: The Turkish central bank yesterday hiked its main interest rate by 75 basis points in a bid to boost the ailing lira but failed to impress markets looking for even sharper action. The monetary policy committee of the bank said the overnight lending rate was being lifted to 9.25 percent from 8.5 percent, the second rate hike since November last year.

But the committee kept its one-week repurchasing (repo) rate unchanged at 8.0 percent and the overnight borrowing rate was kept at 7.25 percent. But with markets hoping for even more and taken aback by the absence of any move in the repo rate, the lira initially lost 1.95 percent in value against the dollar after the announcement.

It later stabilized to trade at 3.77 to the greenback, a loss in value of 0.5 percent. Some economists expected interest rates to be increased by 100 basis points or a full percentage point-after the lira lost seven percent of its value against the dollar in the first four weeks of 2017 alone. The decision had been seen as a critical test of the bank's credibility. Investors were hoping for a significant rate hike to stem the lira's falls,

HAMBURG: Iranian state-owned animal

feed importer SLAL has purchased about

130,000 tons of feed barley in an international tender which closed last week and

had sought up to 180,000 tons, European

SLAL made no purchase of 120,000 tons

of corn in the tender which closed on

Thursday because of a lack of offers, they

said. SLAL had required offers to be placed

in a sealed envelope in a submission box in

Iran instead of offer submissions by email

or fax. This prevented many trading houses

LONDON: Gold slipped from a two-

month peak yesterday as investors took

stock of US President Donald Trump's first

policy moves and a recovery in the dollar

from recent lows. Trump formally with-

drew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership

trade deal on Monday and told US manu-

facturing executives he would impose a

hefty border tax on firms that import

products after moving American factories

overseas. "It's all been flagged and it's all

playing out according to the well-

rehearsed script of Trump and his advis-

ers," Robin Bhar, Societe Generale's head of

take a bit of profit," Bhar said, adding that

price was stuck in a \$1,120-\$1,220 range.

Trump's protectionist statements and a lack

of detail on policy have led some investors

The high in gold is an opportunity to

metals research, said.

The optional-origin barley was pur-

traders said yesterday.

from submitting offers.

despite President Tayyip Erdogan's vocal aversion to high borrowing costs. "It hasn't quite convinced the markets ... My sense is that further interest rate hikes are likely in the coming months," said William Jackson of Capital Economics in London.

The bank increased the rate at its late liquidity window, where it has been increasingly encouraging lenders to source lira, to 11 percent from 10 percent. Economists had largely expected an increase, with estimates ranging between a hike of 50-300 bps. "Inflation expectations, pricing behavior and other factors affecting inflation will be closely monitored and, if needed, further monetary tightening will be delivered," the bank said in a statement. The lira has lost a quarter in value against the dollar over the last year, alarming the government ahead of a referendum expected in April on changing the constitution to give President Recep Tayyip Erdogan more power.

'Tighten further'

The bank said in a statement that domestic demand in Turkey was on a "weaker" course,



IRAN'S SLAL BOUGHT ABOUT

130,000 T BARLEY IN TENDER

GOLD RETREATS FROM LATE 2016

HIGHS ON DOLLAR RECOVERY

chased at around 185 euros (\$198.5) a ton

c&f in two 65,000 ton consignments. A series

of origins come into question but Australia

was seen as likely. The tender had sought

shipment in February and March. Iran has a

large surplus of milling wheat after a good

harvest this summer but has been regularly

grain purchasing in recent years and its

renewed activity may be a sign that the

country's imports are returning to tradi-

tional patterns after Tehran reached a

nuclear sanctions deal with Western pow-

to opt for gold, which is often seen as an

alternative investment during times of

geopolitical and financial turmoil. It rose to

its highest level since Nov. 22 during

Tuesday's session before giving back gains.

Spot gold was down 0.4 percent at \$1,212.6

an ounce from an earlier high at \$1,219.59.

U.S. gold futures slipped 0.2 percent to

\$1,213. The dollar index, which measures

the greenback against a basket of curren-

cies, inched up 0.2 percent at 100.340. In

the previous session, it hit a more than sev-

"Regardless of Trump, the main story for

gold is negative interest rates in the US. We

are not expecting the Fed to raise rates in

March and it's just going to be two hikes

and that's roughly priced in to the market,"

said Dominic Schnider of UBS Wealth

Management in Hong Kong. — Reuters

en-week low of 99.899.

SLAL has taken a back seat in Iran's

importing animal feed grains.

ers, traders said. — Reuters

warning a "significant rise in inflation" was expected in the short term. The bank pointed to food price volatility as one of the main factors that could drive up prices after inflation was reported at 8.5 percent in December, compared with 7.0 percent the previous month. "The committee decided to strengthen the monetary tightening in order to contain the deterioration in the inflation outlook," it said.

Economists said the decision showed the bank was not convinced by the need for radical action to halt the plunge in value of the lira. "We feel the bank still thinks that this Turkish lira depreciation will be a temporary one and its impact on inflation will be temporary," said Ozgur Altug, chief economist at BGC partners in Istanbul. Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek said on Twitter the move indicated the bank was tightening monetary policy and willing to "tighten further", adding: "Price stability remains the top priority."

'First priority economy'

The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) has dominated Turkish politics since winning its first majority in 2002 and the economy's strong performance and investment in public infrastructure has been a pillar of its success.

Hurriyet daily's well-connected columnist Abdulkadir Selvi said the economy would be the first priority on the government's agenda as the country headed to the referendum.

"The aim of the government is to breathe life into the economy before the referendum to calm the public," Selvi wrote yesterday. The lira's performance has been the worst of any emerging markets currency with the country hit by multiple challenges in the last 18 months, including terror attacks raising fears over security and political instability.

Since the failed coup on July 15 which tried to overthrow Erdogan, the government has launched widescale purges, detaining, sacking or suspending thousands of people in the public sector. Ankara insists it is dealing with an extraordinary threat but critics say Erdogan's opponents are also being targeted. The fragile economy has also been hit by a series of poor data including last week's unemployment rate which rose to 11.8 percent in October, the highest in more than six years.

EGYPT COMMITTED TO REPAYING \$3.5BN TO FOREIGN FIRMS: GOVT

LONDON: Egypt is committed to repaying the \$3.5 billion it owes in arrears to foreign oil companies but a foreign currency shortage has made the drawing down of those debts more difficult, Petroleum Minister Tarek El Molla said yesterday.

"We are committed and we will continue decreasing the numbers as we have done over the last three years," El Molla told Reuters. Insufficient foreign currency reserves mean that the repayment schedule was taking time, he said. He said, however, Cairo was making monthly payments to foreign operators, enabling it to prevent overall debts from growing further.

El Molla said Egypt would resort to the spot market and to inter-governmental deals to close the gap between its gas production and consumption through imports of liquefied natural gas.

State-run EGAS issued an import tender in late October for 96 LNG cargoes for delivery in 2017 and 2018, with an option to buy 12 additional cargoes in 2017. "As we go during the course of the year, we will see what are the remaining quantities that we need to close the balance of the month and the balance of the season," he said. "Therefore, we'll go on as we need and as it may require on smaller tenders or we might have some direct deals."

Once a net gas exporter, Egypt turned into a major importer of LNG as growing demand outstripped production. The country is currently producing 4.45 billion ft3 of gas a day, El Molla said. But the discovery by Eni of the giant 850 billion cubic meters Zohr oilfield in 2015 is likely to transform its fortunes.

The field is expected to come into production at the end of the year and will save Egypt billions of dollars in hard currency that would otherwise be spent on imports. Egypt scrapped plans for a third floating and storage regasification unit (FSRU) due to plans to increase its natural gas production. — Reuters

Indian Rupee



PHNOM PENH: A Cambodian worker (R) rides his motorbike past a building under construction in Phnom Penh yesterday. From glitzy malls and high-rise flats to fivestar hotels, a luxury building boom in Phnom Penh is transforming a capital once reduced to a ghost town into one of Asia's fastest growing cities. —AFP

SHALE REVIVAL LOOMS OVER OIL PRICES AND SPREADS

LONDON: Saudi Arabia's energy minister has predicted production cuts by OPEC and non-OPEC countries will reduce global oil inventories by 300 million barrels by the middle of 2017. Six months of full compliance with the agreement would cut inventories to their five-year average and make any extension of the accord unnecessary, according to Khalid Al-Falih.

Crude exporters have been talking up compliance with the pact over the last two weeks to validate market expectations and steady prices. But traders have become more wary as the initial surprise from the ambitious OPEC and non-OPEC deals fades and the market becomes more watchful.

The focus has shifted to questions of compliance and the resurgence of shale production in the United States.

SOFTER SPREADS

Spot crude prices have stalled since the middle of December and calendar spreads have been weakening after both jumped following the deals. The calendar spread for WTI between June and December 2017 has fallen to around \$1 per barrel contango from flat on Dec 12. Brent's time spread for the second half of 2017 has also fallen to around 55-60 cents contango from flat on Dec. 13. Nearby price discounts in Brent and WTI are still not wide enough to cover the cost of storing and financing barrels in the second six months of the year. On balance, traders expect the market to record a supply deficit and draw down stocks of crude and refined products during the first half and into the second.

But the weaker calendar spreads imply that traders expect a somewhat higher level of inventories in the second half than before. Prices and spreads arguably overreacted to the surprising ambition of the OPEC and non-OPEC agreements and the market is now correcting.

SHALE REDIVIVUS

Compliance with the OPEC and non-OPEC deal appears to be fairly high though it will be some weeks before it can be assessed properly. But OPEC and non-OPEC compliance is only one half of the story. Traders are watching the rebound in shale drilling carefully to see how many extra barrels will make their way onto the market. Shale producers have added 108 extra rigs over the last 13 weeks, after adding 72 extra rigs over the previous three months, and 28 in the three months before that.

Even under conservative assumptions about drilling times and delays in the arrival of fracking crews, those extra rigs will all be adding to new production by the middle of 2017. Most forecasters believe US oil production will increase this year though there is considerable uncertainty about the extent. The US Energy Information Administration forecasts onshore production from the continental United States will rise by around 300,000 barrels per day (bpd). Output is set to increase from a low of 6.62 million bpd in September 2016 to 6.92 million bpd by December 2017, according to the EIA ("Short-Term Energy Outlook", EIA, January 2017). The International Energy Agency predicts US light tight oil production will rise by 170,000 bpd in 2017 ("Oil market report", IEA, January 2017). And Saudi Arabia's energy minister Falih put the increase in US shale output at around 200,000 bpd this year in a recent interview.

MARKET SHARE AGAIN

Shale production increases of 200,000 to 300,000 bpd would be easily absorbed by rising global oil demand and will not worry OPEC too much. But shale output has often surprised, usually on the upside, as producers have proved more innovative, efficient and resilient than expected. The EIA has already revised its forecast for

lower-48 oil production (excluding the Gulf of Mexico) at the end of 2017 up from 6.42 million bpd at the time of its October outlook to 6.92 million bpd in the January edition. If US onshore output rose by 500,000 bpd or more in 2017, which is possible, the drawdown in stockpiles might prove more gradual. If US shale output starts rising briskly, OPEC would almost certainly be forced to respond by allowing its output curbs to expire and starting to raise production again to protect market share. — Reuters

LIBYA NEEDS \$19BN TO BOOST OIL OUTPUT TO 2.1M BPD BY 2022

LONDON: Libya needs \$19 billion in investment over the next five years in order to meet its goal of boosting production to 2.1 million barrels per day (bpd), its oil chief told Reuters yesterday.

Libya's production has been slowly inching up since a deal was brokered in mid-2016 to end a multi-year blockade of its eastern oil export terminals by a section of the Petroleum Facilities Guards. The crash in output has crippled the OPEC member's economy that depends on oil sales for revenues. Output has been fluctuating around 700,000 bpd since the restart of the major western oilfield, Sharara, that was blocked

by a different set of protesters. The second largest western field, El Feel, remains shut. Sharara is currently producing 161,000 bpd, Sanalla said. National Oil Corp chief Mustafa Sanalla said he expects production to rise to around 1.2 million bpd by the end of this year should the security situation remain stable and as the central bank and treasury unlock funding.

A deal was reached for tranches of funding to be released every three months in 2017. Sanalla declined to give a figure. "This (output goal) requires urgent money to be allocated to make the repairs of the infrastructure," Sanalla said. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES Japanese Yen Indian Rupees 4.494 Pakistani Rupees 2.919 Srilankan Rupees 2.043 Nepali Rupees Singapore Dollai 215.490 Hongkong Dollar 39.446 Bangladesh Taka Philippine Peso 6.144 8.687 Thai Baht

GCC COUNTRIES Saudi Riyal 81.654 Qatari Riyal 84.101 ani Riyal Bahraini Dinar 813.070 **UAE Dirham** 83.367

> ARAB COUNTRIES 19.350

Egyptian Pound - Cash Egyptian Pound - Transfer Yemen Riyal/for 1000 1.229 **Tunisian Dinar** 134.510 Jordanian Dinar 431.200 2.040 Syrian Lira 2.182 . Morocco Dirham 31.003

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer 306.000 329.560 Sterling Pound 380.360 Canadian dollar 230,770 Turkish lira

Australian Dollar 232.870 **US Dollar Buying** 304.800 **GOLD** 20 Gram 247,740 10 Gram 126.790

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

69,600

Selling Rate Rate for Transfer US Dollar 305.650 Canadian Dolla 230.220 379.810 Sterling Pound 328.770 Euro Swiss Frank 306,490 **Bahrain Dinar** 810.255 **UAE Dirhams** 83.610 Qatari Riyals 84.830 Saudi Riyals 82.435 Jordanian Dinar 432.270 **Egyptian Pound** 16.511 Sri Lankan Rupees 2.040 Indian Rupees 4.489 Pakistani Rupees 2.915 Bangladesh Taka 3.871 Philippines Pesso 6.138 Cyprus pound 167.850 Japanese Yen 3.665 Syrian Pound 2.425 Nepalese Rupees 3.800

Malaysian Ringgit

44.870 Chinese Yuan Renminbi Thai Bhat 9.625 Turkish Lira 81.470

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY BUY **Europe British Pound** 0.372786 0.382785 Czech Korune 0.004111 0.016111 Danish Krone 0.039972 0.044972 0.322801 0.331801 Euro Norwegian Krone 0.032405 0.037605 Romanian Leu 0.084806 0.084806 Slovakia 0.009174 0.019174 0.030385 0.035385 Swedish Krona Swiss Franc 0.299606 0.310606 0.077162 0.087462 Turkish Lira Australasia Australian Dollar 0.223417 0.235417 New Zealand Dollar 0.213816 0.223316 America Canadian Dollar 0.224376 0.233376 Georgina Lari 0.138207 0.138207 **US Dollars** 0.301900 0.306300 **US Dollars Mint** 0.302400 0.306300 Asia Bangladesh Taka 0.003667 0.004251 0.046635 Chinese Yuan 0.043135 Hong Kong Dollar 0.037388 0.040118

0.002832

0.005512

Indonesian Rupiah 0.000018 0.000024 Japanese Yen 0.002594 0.002774 Kenyan Shilling 0.003003 0.003003 Korean Won 0.000250 0.000265 Malaysian Ringgit 0.065229 0.071229 Nepalese Rupee 0.003146 0.003316 Pakistan Rupee 0.002762 0.003052 Philippine Peso 0.006059 0.006359 0.000068 0.000074 Sierra Leone Singapore Dollar 0.209238 0.219238 South African Rand 0.016289 0.024789 Sri Lankan Rupee 0.001696 0.002276 0.009670 0.009850 Thai Baht 0.008332 0.008882

	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.805100	0.813600
Egyptian Pound	0.013197	0.022450
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000182	0.000242
Jordanian Dinar	0.426542	0.435542
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000148	0.000248
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020137	0.044137
Nigerian Naira	0.001268	0.001903
Omani Riyal	0.788384	0.794064
Qatar Riyal	0.083239	0.084689
Saudi Riyal	0.080513	0.081813
Syrian Pound	0.001298	0.001518
Tunisian Dinar	0.129493	0.137493
Turkish Lira	0.077162	0.087462
UAE Dirhams	0.081888	0.083588
Yemeni Riyal	0.000995	0.001075



SEOUL: This file photo taken on October 27, 2016 shows visitors looking at Samsung Galaxy S7 and S7 Edge devices during the Korea Electronics Grand Fair at an exhibition hall in Seoul. — AFP

SAMSUNG SAYS Q4 PROFITS UP 50% DESPITE NOTE 7 RECALL

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics' profits leaped in the fourth quarter, it said yesterday, despite the humiliating Galaxy Note 7 recall that hammered the reputation of the world's largest smartphone maker.

The South Korean tech giant took another blow when prosecutors began investigating its involvement in a corruption scandal, which has seen the country's president impeached, and sought the arrest of the firm's de facto leader Lee Jae-Yong. In a statement, the group's flagship subsidiary Samsung Electronics said it posted operating profits of 9.22 trillion won (US\$7.9 billion) during the October to December period, up 50.2 percent year-onyear. Net profits for the quarter were 7.09 trillion won, up 120 percent.

Earnings were "driven by the components businesses, mainly the memory business and the display panel segment", it said, with the stronger US dollar also boosting profits. Analysts say memory chip prices have been driven up by stronger demand as Chinese smartphone makers release devices with high resolution cameras and bigger storage in a bid to catch up with Samsung and Apple. As the market leader in multiple segments Samsung's own chip division "is the biggest benefactor", said Tom Kang, research director at Counterpoint Technology. Samsung said it expected "huge growth" in the sector, and

looking forward to 2017, Greg Roh, an analyst at HMC Investment Securities, told AFP: "We are expecting Samsung to post recordhigh profits this year on the back of rising chip prices." For the full year 2016, the firm said in a statement, "Samsung achieved solid results despite the Note 7 discontinuation in the second half"-the only reference to the debacle that saw the company withdraw its much-publicized device, originally intended to compete with Apple's iPhone.

Samsung was forced to discontinue the Galaxy Note 7 in October after a chaotic recall that saw replacement devices also catching fire. In total 3.1 million smartphones were recalled as authorities in the US and elsewhere banned them from use on planes and even from being placed in checked luggage.

Earlier this week Samsung blamed faulty batteries from two different suppliers for the incidents, which the firm previously estimated would cost it \$5.3 billion. Samsung has also come up with elaborate step-by-step safety verification procedures for future products to prevent similar disasters, although some analysts remained sceptical. The findings suggested a lack of attention to product testing and a tendencv to rush to market for competitive reasons at the expense of quality control, said Jan Dawson, chief analyst at Jackdaw Research. — AFP

WARBA BANK NAMES CLEMENTS CHIEF RETAIL BANKING OFFICER

KUWAIT: Warba Bank has announced yesterday that, with immediate effect, Simon Clements has been named Chief Retail Banking Officer, taking over the responsibilities for Warba's Retail Banking Group.

In this role as Chief Retail Banking Officer, Clements will work toward enhancing customer experience and developing new and personalized products and services for our customers, significantly bettering our capability to support the Bank's growing presence in the regional retail banking market.

Clements joined Warba Bank in July 2014 as Chief Operations Officer with a track record of extensive professional experience as having previously held senior executive positions heading operations and technology divisions at a number of leading banks throughout Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

He has over 30 years of experience in operations, IT and retail banking functions in financial institutions during which he has developed and implemented winning strategies. In more recent years, he has successfully managed the retail operations



at two major banks in the region delivering enhanced growth and profitability through the execution of aggressive

Clements started his career with major US bank, Chemical Bank (now JP Morgan Chase), where he progressed to the position of VP, UK operations after having successfully established the bank's branches in Hong Kong and the Philippines. He holds a business degree from Manchester University in the UK.



JOHNSON & JOHNSON CAUTIOUS IN **OUTLOOK, SHOPS DIABETES CARE**

KUWAIT: Johnson & Johnson edged Wall Street profit expectations for the fourth quarter but announced a lower-than-expected 2017 forecast and said it would start shopping its diabetes care businesses.

Johnson & Johnson said yesterday that it would start seeking a possible sale, joint venture or operating partnerships for LifeScan Inc., Animas Corp and Calibra Medical Inc. to spark future growth and maximize shareholder value. The maker of Band-Aids, medical devices and prescription drugs also said it expected full-year adjusted earnings of \$6.93 to \$7.08 per share on \$74.1 billion to \$74.8 billion in sales.

Analysts expect, on average, earnings of \$7.11 per share on \$75.07 billion in revenue, according to FactSet. Shares of the world's biggest maker of health care products slipped in early morning trading. For the final quarter of 2016, J&J's earnings jumped 19 percent to \$3.81 billion. Adjusted earnings came in at \$1.58 per share. That topped average analyst expectations by two cents, according to Zacks Investment Research. The conglomerate also saw revenue climb about 1.7 percent to \$18.11 billion in the period, led by growth in consumer products and prescription drugs, its largest business. The total matched Street forecasts.

A surge in beauty product sales helped worldwide sales of the consumer segment grow 3.4 percent to \$3.43 billion. Pharmaceutical revenue climbed 2.1 percent to \$8.23 billion even though sales of top-seller Remicade slipped.

The biologic immune disorder drug's revenue dropped 3.3 percent to \$1.62 billion in the quarter. Remicade treats rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, Crohn's disease and colitis and has made tens of billions of dollars for J&J since its 1998 launch.

But it is facing competition from Pfizer's Inflectra, a near-copy of the injected biologic drug. Shares of the New Brunswick, New Jersey, company slipped \$1.16 to \$112.75 in premarket trading yesterday. The company's shares had climbed around 19 percent in the last 12

UAE REAL GDP GROWTH POISED TO STRENGTHEN IN 2017 AND 2018

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Chart 1: UAE real GDP

(% y/y)

KUWAIT: Following two straight years of softer growth, real GDP in the UAE is set to gather pace in 2017 and into 2018 as the non-oil sector is likely to stage a healthy recovery and offset some of the moderation in the oil sector. We foresee real GDP growth edging up from an estimated 2.5 percent in 2016 to a solid 3.0 percent in 2017 and 4.0 percent in 2018. Whilst we may see gains in the real oil economy capped by planned oil production cuts, the healthy recovery in non-oil activity is likely to more than make up for that, as we see the hospitality and construction sectors propelled forward especially in the run-up to the Expo 2020 event in Dubai.

Growth in the oil economy is expected to be limited in at least the near-to-medium term on the back of planned production cuts. On 30 November, OPEC agreed to an oil production cut for the first time in eight years, in an attempt to prop up oil prices. The 13-member group agreed to cut output by 1.2 million barrels per day for six months starting January 2017. To that effect, we see real growth in the oil sector slowing from an estimated 2.4 percent in 2016 to 1.6 percent in 2017 before rising to around 2.8 percent in 2018 as production is gradually restored to its pre-production cut levels.

The non-oil economy is forecast to witness a healthy bounce in 2017 and maintain that stronger momentum going into 2018, as the transport, construction and tourism sectors (some of the biggest contributors to non-oil GDP growth) gather pace. Activity in the residential real estate sector is also seeing signs of stabilization, after almost two years of slowing growth. We anticipate a jump in real non-oil growth from around 2.6 percent in 2016 to 3.6 percent and 4.5 percent in 2017 and 2018, respectively. The latest data on the UAE's Markit Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), a good gauge of nonoil sector growth, also suggest that non-oil sector activity is set to rise in the near-to-medium term. The headline PMI rose from 53.3 in October to 54.2 in November, as relatively stable local economic conditions helped offset the weakness in external demand. The PMI's employment component also trekked upwards, rising to a fourmonth high of 51 and dispelling fears of weaker business and employment conditions.

Overall non-oil economy

Much of the resilience of the non-oil economy continues to stem from Dubai's hospitality and construction sectors. The number of passengers passing through Dubai International Airport continues to hold strong. In October, this number reached 6.4 million passengers, up 2.7 percent year-onyear (y/y). Despite the ongoing decline in average daily room rates at hotels in Dubai over the past year, the demand for hotel rooms remained relatively solid as reflected in the average occupancy rate, which came in at a still high 75.6 percent in October.

Dubai's construction sector will also continue to be a key driver of non-oil growth. Construction activity is expected to remain robust, especially as Dubai prepares for the Expo 2020 event. Projects include the construction of buildings, metro expansions, roads and bridges. The construction sector is also set to benefit from plans to foster the UAE's Vision 2021 and long-term strategy to establish a post-oil "knowledge economy" via the "UAE Strategy for the Future" blueprint. The strategy aims to bolster the nation's non-oil economy and enhance its economic diversification.

The resilience in Dubai's non-oil economy is reflected in the Emirates NBD Dubai Economy Tracker Index (DET) (Chart 4). The DET is a forward-looking index similar to the PMI which tracks non-oil activity in Dubai. It recently witnessed a healthy pick-up thanks to buoyant levels of activity in the travel & tourism and wholesale & retail trade segments.

Dubai residential property price

Following almost two years of slowing growth amid tighter regulations, higher housing supply and risk aversion, residential property price growth in Dubai appears to have largely stabilized. According to the latest data published by Asteco, prices of apartments fell by approximately 2.0 percent y/y in 3Q16 versus a decline of 2.8 percent y/y in 2Q16; prices of villas fell by 3.4 percent y/y in 3Q16 versus the 4.0 percent y/y decline in the previous quarter (Chart 5). We expect the stabilization period to continue at least until the end of 2017, after which we may see resi-

dential price growth pick up on the back of stronger demand.

The value of real estate transactions continued to trend lower throughout 2016, while growth in the number of transactions remained subdued but steady; the latter may be reflective of the pockets of strength in the "more affordable" housing sector. The recent surge in the real estate transaction value may also be indicative of a nascent recovery in the luxury housing segment.

Inflation to face some upward pressure

After continuing to trend lower for most of 2016, inflation in the consumer price index (CPI) has been gaining some traction of late, as housing inflation (which weighs more heavily in the index) appears to be reversing its downward trend. The latest numbers showed overall inflation rising from 1.4 percent y/y

2008

14

12

10

1010

2010

2012

Source: UAE National Bureau of Statistics, NBK estimates

2014

Chart 2: Dubai & Abu Dhabi real GDP

(% y/y)

- Abu Dhabi

ment's abundant financial reserves that stand at over 200 percent of GDP, the fiscal deficits have been manageable. This has widely helped both Dubai and Abu Dhabi maintain their high levels of public spending, particularly on infrastructure projects. In Dubai, infrastructure spending is expected to accelerate in the run-up to the Expo 2020 event.

Nonetheless, the major emirates have embarked on some fiscal adjustment and reform, including subsidy cuts and the introduction of fees on certain services. According to official reports, Abu Dhabi has cut back or delayed spending on a number of projects designated as low-priority. Efforts have also been made to rely more heavily on the private sector for implementation of some projects.

Furthermore, it increasingly looks like the UAE will be one of the

Oil Non-oil —Total

2016e

2018f

Thanks to the UAE govern- to a projected 5.7 percent in 2017 and 6.8 percent in 2018.

Non-oil exports may continue to face some headwinds going forward due to the stronger dirham. The stronger dollar has led to an appreciation in the dirham's tradeweighted index, increasing the cost of exports and making it a more expensive place to visit and invest in. Trade with Asian markets has been most affected by the stronger dirham, which has seen their currencies weaken against a stronger US dollar.

Tourism, however, has been less affected, given that a majority of tourists are from the GCC, and so has investment in real estate, which depends far more on UAE nationals. The gains in the tourism and real estate sectors are expected to more than offset the costs of a stronger dollar. This should help non-oil exports continue to log in a decent performance.

Banking liquidity

Following almost two years of moderation, we expect lending activity to gradually rise in 2017 and 2018 as growth in the real estate and construction sectors improves.

The latest data is pointing to early signs of stabilization in lending activity. In October, lending growth remained modest and relatively stable at around the 6.0 percent mark for the third straight month. Whilst we may see loan growth ease somewhat on the back of the 25 bps policy hike in mid-December, which came on the heels of a similar increase in the US Federal funds rate, we expect growth to recover soon after as loan demand, particularly in the construction and real estate sectors, picks up.

Growth in bank deposits has been trending gradually upwards, but any significant gains have been mitigated by weaker government deposit growth, which has been weighed down by lower oil receipts. However, with oil earnings set to pick up in 2017 and 2018, this should give government deposit growth a boost. Deposit growth jumped from 3.3 percent y/y in August to 5.0 percent y/y in September before steadying at around that mark in October; the recent recovery in oil prices and bond issuances could be behind the improvement in growth.

Growth in the broad money supply (M2) remained soft throughout 2016. In October, it stood at 3.1 percent y/y. Growth in this segment may continue to be capped in the near term following the December hike in the policy rate. However, with deposit growth set to pick up, we should subsequently see growth in banking liquidity edge higher as well. Both the three-month and one-month interbank rates have reached multi-year highs recently on tighter liquidity constraints and following the key policy rate hike in December. We should see these rates ease, at least in the medium term, as liquidity conditions improve.



1011 1012 1013 1014 1015

Source: Dubai Statistics Center, Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

in September to 1.9 percent in October. As well as seeing some upward pressure from housing inflation, a mild acceleration in food inflation recently also pushed the overall inflation rate higher. However, food inflation remained soft after coming in at 2.3 percent y/y.

Nov-12

Nov-13

Looking ahead, we expect CPI inflation to gradually edge higher in 2017 and average at around 3 percent for the year, as a recovery in global oil markets pushes inflation in the transport & communications segment up and housing inflation gathers pace. With the housing market seeing some nascent signs of a recovery, we may see those gains gradually feed into housing inflation over the course of

Fiscal balance

2017 and 2018.

We expect the fiscal balance to remain in deficit, albeit a manageable one, in 2017 before returning to a surplus in 2018 on the back of higher revenues. The fiscal balance slipped into a deficit in 2015 for the first time in six years, after a drop in oil prices sent oil revenues tumbling. But against a backdrop of a global recovery in oil markets, together with some fiscal reforms, the deficit is seen narrowing from an estimated 3.3 percent of GDP in 2016 to 1.1 percent in 2017, before turning into a slight surplus of 0.5 percent of GDP in 2018.

first GCC nations to implement a VAT. The first phase of implementation, scheduled for 2018, will include UAE companies with annual revenues greater than \$1 million (Dh 3.75 million).

Nov-15

50

Nov-16

At 5 percent, the VAT is expected to generate around \$3.3 billion (Dh 12 billion) in tax revenues or around 1 percent of GDP. In an attempt to preserve foreign assets, the UAE has also tapped into international debt markets to plug its budget gap. In April, Abu Dhabi sold \$5 billion in sovereign bonds, the first issuance since 2009.

Thus far, sovereign issuance has been at the level of individual emirates rather than at the federal level. This is about to change, with the UAE in the process of finalizing a federal debt law by early 2017 allowing the federal government to issue bonds. With investors globally in search for yield amid a low global rate environment, UAE bonds are likely to attract healthy demand.

Current account surplus

The surplus in the current account balance is projected to expand for the first time in four years in 2017, as oil export earnings recover and non-oil export growth gathers steam.

We foresee the current account surplus rising from a six-year low of around 4.6 percent of GDP in 2016

SME market reform Small and medium-sized enter-

prises (SME) account for over 95 percent of companies in Dubai and are a major driving force behind the emirate's economy. Yet, the SME sector was hindered by the absence of a robust and fair bankruptcy law, with knock-on effects on the banking sector. This is expected to change thanks to the introduction of a long-awaited bankruptcy law in 4Q16.

Under the previous regulatory umbrella, any unpaid debt or a bounced check would land the owner in prison and do little to help resolve arrears. The weaker external environment and a vulnerable trading sector have led to a jump in defaults and bringing the issue to attention of policymakers.

Under the new insolvency law, banks and company owners will be able to negotiate ways to restructure their debts. This should help improve banks' credit quality and instill confidence in SMEs, and subsequently boost lending to the sector.

Markets

Both the main Abu Dhabi and Dubai markets rallied toward the end of 2016 on a recovery in oil prices and the agreed merger between the National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank, which could make it the second largest bank in the Middle East. Increased enthusiasm following the US presidential elections also helped lift UAE markets, as it has global and regional markets, on the expectations that the new administration will usher in a wave of expansionary fiscal policy and boost US and global growth.

Dollar steadies, sterling rides out Brexit ruling

LONDON: The dollar steadied yesterday, recovering from a dip on fears that US President Donald Trump's focus on protectionism over fiscal stimulus suggested his administration might be content to gain a competitive advantage through a weaker currency. The talk of trade wars came in the face of more data pointing to a revival in activity worldwide. A survey of Japanese manufacturing showed the fastest expansion in almost three years, as French business activity hit a 5-1/2 year peak.

European stocks gained 0.3 percent as the upbeat data combined with a 2-1/2 year high in commodity stocks and on a 1 percent jump in Italian stocks following a merger deal for two of

its banks. They made additional ground as Britain's top court ruled that the UK government must get parliamentary approval to start the Brexit process, though sterling briefly dipped on news Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland's assemblies would not have to give their assent.

It was largely fine-tuning however. Both the euro and sterling had already been pushed back by the dollar as it clawed back from an overnight tumble that had taken the dollar index below the 100 point threshold, "Most of the PMIs around the world have been quite strong so there is no bad news here, but the protectionism above stimulus story (from Trump) has given the dollar bulls reason for pause," said Saxo bank's head of FX strategy John Hardy.

"The dollar rally needs to find some support pretty soon otherwise we are facing a potentially serious correction." Sentiment had taken a knock on Monday when US Treasury Secretary nominee Steven Mnuchin told senators that he would work to combat currency manipulation but would not give a clear answer on whether he thought China was manipulating its yuan.

In written answers to a Senate Finance Committee, Mnuchin also reportedly said an excessively strong dollar could be negative in the short term. The dollar duly skidded as far as 112.52 yen, breaking last week's trough and the

> 929.084.716 74,931,516 15,280

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-1.0

1.0

-2.0

lowest since late November. Its 1.7 percent loss on Monday was the largest since July 29 though it had recovered to stand at 113.21 yen by 1015 GMT.

SCEPTICISM GROWS

While Trump promised huge cuts in taxes and regulations on Monday, he also formally withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal and talked of border tariffs. "It's interesting that markets did not respond positively to a reaffirmation of lower taxes and looser regulation, reinforcing the impression that all the good news is discounted for now," wrote analysts at ANZ in a note.

"As week one in office gets underway,

there is a growing sense of scepticism, not helped by the tone of Friday's inaugural address and subsequent spat with the media." Doubts about exactly how much fiscal stimulus might be forthcoming had helped Treasuries rally. Yields on 10-year notes steadied at 2.42 percent in European trading, having enjoyed the steepest single-day drop since Jan.

Two-year yields were around 1.16 percent, narrowing the dollar's premium over the euro to 183 basis points from a recent top of 207 basis points. The recent drop in the dollar boosted industrial metals including copper and iron ore, while gold was near two-month high at \$1,212 an ounce. — Reuters

ا جلوبل |Global **Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report** Tuesday 24 January 2017

SOKOUK

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URC

muex		nange	Closing	Last Closing	riigii	LOW
Price index	A	62.73	6,742.35	6,679.62	6,742.35	6,593.30
Weighted Index	A .	3.20	425.54	422.34	425.67	417.74
KSX 15		8.10	985.86	977.76	988.43	966.00

	02:10		0,010.00	911 12:00	0,000.00	
A	3.20	425.54	422.34	425.67	417.74	Value (KWD)
A	8.10	985.86	977.76	988.43	966.00	Number of Trades
		Trades				Trade

				Trades	-				
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	t Change		
MARIN	57	56	283830	16,127	9	57	٧	-2.0	
IKARUS	51	48.0	1,605,730	79,354	58	51	A	2.0	
IPG	395	395	1,500	593	1	395		-5.0	
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	890	-	0.0	
ENERGYH	53	50	1,174,884	60,311	53	52		-2.0	
GPI	65	59	12,012,318	744,408	201	64		1.0	
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	-	0.0	
Oil & Gas			15,078,262	900,792	322	916.15	Ä	9.24	
KFOUC	236	230	159,200	36,946	14	236	-	0.0	
BPCC	570	550	393,080		23	560	_	-10.0	
				218,756					
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	670	=	0.0	
ALQURAIN Basic Materials	300	290	987,888 1,540,168	294,292 549,994	45 82	295 1175.76	V	-5.0 -11.5	
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	435	-	0.0	
REFRI	315	305	61,400	19,112	5	315	_	0.0	
CABLE	475	450	384,100	177,691	47	470		5.0	
SHIP	218	208	106,614	22,746	14	218	A	4.0	
PCEM	990	980	61,002	60,302	8	990		10.0	
PAPER	300	285	59,360	17,068	12	300		10.0	
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	-	0.0	
ACICO	330	300	1,231,520	384,861	54	310	-	0.0	
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	-	0.0	
нсс	120	120	1,056	127	1	120		10.0	
КВММС	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	-	0.0	
NICBM	216	210	420	90	2	216	_	0.0	
EQUIPMENT	75	70	4,635,186	336,420	130	73	_	0.0	
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.5	_	0.0	
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	_	0.0	
SALBOOKH	79	76	888,864	68,729	31	79	A	1.0	
AGLTY	730	700	1,924,066	1,368,549	73	710	v	-20.0	
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	_	0.0	
CLEANING	58	55	2,187,966	123,342	65	58	_	2.0	
						1.00.00			
KGL	70	68	1,140,196	79,275	42	69	¥	-1.0	
KCPC	196	196	5,000	980	2	196	-	0.0	
HUMANSOFT	2,980 176	2,960 174	291,713	863,596	72	2,980	A	20.0	
NAFAIS	111.00		124,000	21,816	7.5-11	174		4.0	
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	_	0.0	
GFC	45.0	45.0	6,887	310	2	45.0		2.0	
MAYADEEN	38.0	34.0	36,389,984	1,315,488	395	37.0	:.A	0.5	
CGC	500	500	10,000	5,000	2	500		-10.0	
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	-	0.0	
UPAC	850	850	10	9	1	850	A	20.0	
ALAFCO	246	240	129,230	31,385	12	244		-4.0	
MUBARRAD	84	81	2,454,635	203,727	61	84	A	-2.0	
LOGISTICS	83	80	5,790,281	471,385	119	82	-	0.0	
SCEM	88	88	5,000	440	1	88	-	0.0	
GCEM	84	82	300,000	25,053	12	83	_	0.0	
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	_	0.0	
FCEM	87	86	414,000	35,718	18	87	-	0.0	
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	-	0.0	
SPEC	96	91	1,763,500	165,502	72	94		-2.0	
Industrials			60,365,990	5,798,718	1,255	1448.58	.A.	7.19	
			144.154						
KSH	150 47.0	132	198,150	27,359	29	150	÷	8.0	
NSH	70000	47.0	8,200	385	1	47.0	•	-2.5	
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	-	0.0	
CATTL	244	232	5,050	1,172	2	244	A	2.0	
DANAH	108	100	20,586,792	2,128,837	355	108		9.0	
POULT	190	182	148,246	28,087	3	190		8.0	
FOOD Consumer Goods	2,620	2,600	151,855 21,098,293	394,890 2,580,730	5 395	2,620 1179.91	A	28.62	
Sonsamor Goods			21,000,200	2,000,100	000	1110.01		20.02	
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	275	-	0	
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	-	0	
YIACO	285	270	57,650	15,942	7	285	A	15	
Health Care			57,650	15,942	7	1229.04	.A.	10.78	
KCIN	1,180	1,180	50	59	1	1,180	-	0	
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	265	=	0	
SULTAN	85	79	1,353,553	109,796	56	85		5	
CABLETV	47.5	47.5	1,000	48	1	47.5	-	0	
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	Ξ	0	
		0.0	0	0					
IFAHR OULAFUEL	0.0	132	37,364	5,057	33	192 136	-	-4	

PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	-	0.0
CATTL	244	232	5,050	1,172	2	244		2.0
DANAH	108	100	20,586,792	2,128,837	355	108	•	9.0
POULT	190	182	148,246	28,087	3	190		8.0
FOOD	2,620	2,600	151,855	394,890	5	2,620		20.0
Consumer Goods	3		21,098,293	2,580,730	395	1179.91	A	28.62
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	275	_	0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	-	0
YIACO	285	270	57,650	15,942	7	285	A	15
Health Care			57,650	15,942	7	1229.04	Á	10.78
KCIN	1,180	1,180	50	59	1	1,180	-	0
кнот	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	265	_	0
SULTAN	85	79	1,353,553	109.796	56	85		5
CABLETV	47.5	47.5	1,000	48	1	47.5	-	0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	_	0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	_	0
OULAFUEL	140	132	37,364	5,057	33	136	W	-4
MUNTAZAHAT	92	88	4,062,307	364,211	61	90	-	0
JAZEERA	680	660	124,878	84,161	13	680		20
SOOR	134	128	456,005	59,448	49	128		-10
FUTUREKID	130	120	105,000	12,650	3	130		4
ALRAI	142	136	312,450	43,198	15	142	A	4
ZIMAH	65	56	13,102,071	815,431	213	65	A	5
Mezzan	980	970	311,963	302,631	16	980	A	10
Consumer Service	es		19,866,641	1,796,690	461	982.63	A	10.85
ZAIN	495	475	9,635,765	4,689,156	233	490		10
OOREDOO	1,260	1,200	126,509	159,234	14	1,240	-	0
HITSTELEC	68	63	53,391,868	3,483,581	636	66		-2
VIVA	900	890	87,734	78,430	56	890	_	0
Telecommunicati	ons		63,241,876	8,410,402	939	707.93	¥	-1.83
NBK	730	700	6,100,748	4,343,851	160	720		10
GBK	290	280	1,945,134	553,770	66	285		-5
СВК	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	425	-	0
- Maria Carlos (

ABK

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UNC	110	104	4,221	440	3	100		-2.0
NRE	132	126	7,195,035	923,307	89	130	A	2.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	370	_	0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	_	0.0
AREEC	172	168	20,350	3,420	2	172	A .	2.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	52	_	0.0
			13,588,775	The state of the s			_	
ARABREC	54	52		724,762	165	54	Α.	4.5
ERESCO	53	49.5	15,518,012	794,853	247	52	Δ.	2.0
MABANEE	900	890	100,362	89,423	10	900	A	10.0
NJAZZAT	87	84	796,268	68,297	19	84	¥	-1.0
NVESTORS	35.5	31.5	54,800,419	1,856,437	455	35.5	A	2.5
RC	46.0	42.5	6,034,964	269,125	126	46.0	Α	1.0
ALTIJARIA	87	85	5,150,593	442,778	89	87	A	1.0
		-					_	
SANAM	53	49.5	476,718	23,864	19	52	₹:	-2.0
AYANRE	83	79	518,835	41,380	24	81	Ψ.	-3.0
AQAR	69	69	121,955	8,415	4	69	A	1.0
ALAQARIA	43.5	43.5	1,248,690	54,318	10	43.5	A	2.5
MAZAYA	126	122	2,620,073	326,167	57	126	-	0.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	_	0.0
HEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	_	0.0
All the second s	63	7,000	906,636		28		_	
IJARA		62		56,729		63		2.0
TAAMEER	38.0	33.5	19,055,875	693,048	232	38.0		2.5
ARKAN	93	91	140,002	12,908	7	93	A	1.0
ARGAN	200	196	20,100	3,940	2	200	-	0.0
ABYAAR	36.5	33.0	51,720,641	1,819,033	425	36.5	A	2.5
MUNSHAAT	73	67	5,726,705	405,290	159	71	w.	-1.0
IRSTDUBAL	78	75	1,804,946	138,284	60	78	-27	0.0
		15000			-		=	_
KBT	61	57	12,737,688	761,416	209	60	*	-1.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	216	-	0.0
MENA	38.0	33.5	11,365,189	409,543	221	37.0		1.5
ALMUDON	69	60	11,113,972	717,808	267	67	A	2.0
MARAKEZ	39.5	37.5	175,000	6,628	26	39.0	A	0.5
REMAL	67	63	14,041,293	911,245	231	65	w	-1.0
AWJ	86	83	2.035.500	171,177	46	84	v	-2.0
Real Estate	- 00	03	254,831,126	12,775,091	3,555	1088.09	A	11.2
real Estate			234,031,120	12,775,081	3,333	1000.09	A	11.2
			3			1.00		
CINV	108	99	537,960	54,091	41	104	A	2.0
ACIL	182	176	1,479,005	267,044	42	180	-	0.0
FA	56	50	17,407,173	918,945	321	55	A	1.0
VINV	130	116	10,688,572	1,316,307	264	126	A .	4.0
(PROJ	560	550	355,658	195,991	14	560	Α.	10.0
COAST	60	54	23,438,427	1,327,363	365	58	A	1.0
SECH	68	62	12,220,064	809,149	230	67	_	0.0
SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	_	0.0
ARZAN	49.5	45.5	3,409,699	164,519	92	49.0	A .	1.5
MARKAZ	108	106	58,640	6,236	2	108	A .	6.0
KMEFIC	36.0	32.0	765,642	25,236	18	36.0	A	1.5
ALAMAN	61	56	9,730,787	571,024	211	60		-1.0
ALOLA	65	61	11,487,253	723,042	160	63		-1.0
ALMAI.	30.0	26.5	57,600,347	1,653,031	579	29.0	_	0.0
SIH	58	53	11,683,791	647,610	254	55		-3.0
AAYAN	56	50	35,396,587	1,927,357	377	56	A	5.0
BAYANINV	62	58	3,801,136	229,032	103	61		0.0
	1000				11.75.75		77.7	1115,015
OSOUL	68	65	1,676,068	111,101	46	67	_	0.0
KFIC	53	48.0	53,500	2,685	5	53	A	2.0
KAMCO	90	85	296,570	25,400	15	89	٧	-1.0
NIH	79	76	639,435	49,423	34	78	A	1.0
JNICAP	60	57	6,459,767	379,462	110	59	w	-2.0
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	_	0.0
100000000000000000000000000000000000000	51		5,594,487	THE PERSON NAMED IN		1000000	-01	
ALDEERA		47.5	- Constitution of Constitution	275,187	125	48.5	-	0.0
ALSALAM	65	61	7,654,062	480,513	144	63	Ψ.	-1.0
EKTTITAB	55	51	4,811,607	256,301	108	54		-2.0
ALMADINA	59	55	16,200,001	933,903	258	58	W	-2.0
NOOR	64	57	11,971,974	725,026	191	62	A	1.0
TAMINV	265	265	7,590	2.011	2	265	_	0.0
EXCH	0.0	0.0		0	0	158		0.0
			0				-	
TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	-	0.0
KSHC	54	49.0	7,735,096	400,691	176	53		1.0
ASIYA	44.5	42.0	1,149,650	49,038	47	44.0		-0.5
SNAHC	52	46.5	10,103,409	497,697	192	50	A .	1.0
AMWAL	35.0	30.5	2,897,140	95,978	89	34.5	Α.	1.5
ALIMTIAZ	136	130	13,361,598	1,784,596	187	134	w	-2.0
	100		29,158,463					
MANAZEL	62			1,476,410	419	53	A .	3.0
matrix.	53	47.5		T10.507077 (73.5050)				10.0
Printer Commence	160	148	13,917,036	2,135,226	205	160		
BIIHC	160 32.0	148 29.0	13,917,036 10,229,576	2,135,226 312,749	163	30.5	₹	
BIIHC SENERGY	160 32.0 55	148 29.0 50	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635	2,135,226 312,749 556,204	163 187	30.5 55	W A	5.0
BIIHC SENERGY	160 32.0	148 29.0	13,917,036 10,229,576	2,135,226 312,749	163	30.5	₹	5.0
BIIHC SENERGY AGHC	160 32.0 55	148 29.0 50	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635	2,135,226 312,749 556,204	163 187	30.5 55	W A	5.0 -1.0
BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC	160 32.0 55 74	148 29.0 50 73	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201	163 187 25	30.5 55 74	¥ *	5.0 -1.0 2.0
BIIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC FAHSSILAT	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24	163 187 25 123	30.5 55 74 60 48.5	¥ *	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5
BIIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0	163 187 25 123 1	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0	¥ ¥ Å	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0
BIIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0	163 187 25 123 1 0	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202	¥ 4 4	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0
SHIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC FAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 0 9,636,637	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901	163 187 25 123 1 0 0	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202	¥ A A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 10.0
BIHC SENERGY AGHC APPC TAHSSILAT SEERANH SEKHOLDING OFFH	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 0 9,636,637 629,968	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93	¥ 4 4	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 10.0
BIHC SENERGY AGHC APPC TAHSSILAT SEERANH SEKHOLDING OFFH	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 0 9,636,637	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901	163 187 25 123 1 0 0	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202	¥ A A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 10.0
SIIHC SENERGY GHC CPPC CAHSSILAT EERANH EKHOLDING SFH	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 0 9,636,637 629,968	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93	¥ A A A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 10.0
BIIHC SENERGY AGHC PPC AHSSILAT EERANH EERANH SEH NOVEST Financial Service	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 0 9,636,637 629,968	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93	¥ A A A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 10.0 -1.0 8.22
BIIHC SENERGY AGHC PPC AHSSILAT EERANH EERANH SEH NOVEST Financial Service	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04	¥ A A A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 10.0 -1.0 8.22
SHIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC TAHSSILAT IEERANH EKHOLDING SFH NOVEST Financial Service:	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04	¥ A Y A Y	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 10.0 -1.0 8.22
SHIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING 3FH NOVEST Financial Service: nvestment Instru	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97	V A A A V A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 10.0 -1.0 8.22
BIIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC TAHSSILAT IEEERANH EKHOLDING GFH NOVEST Financial Service: Investment Instru ASC DSOS	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070 0	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740 0	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97	V A A V A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 10.0 -1.0 8.22 -10.1
BIIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC TAHSSILAT IEEERANH EKHOLDING GFH NOVEST Financial Service: Investment Instru ASC DSOS	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080 0	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97 232 190 96	V A A A V A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 10.0 -1.0 8.22 -10.1
SIIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC FAHSSILAT ISEERANH EKHOLDING SFH NOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC DSOS HAYATCOMM	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070 0	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740 0	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97	V A A V A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 10.0 -1.0 8.22 -10.1
SIIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC FAHSSILAT ISEERANH EKHOLDING SFH NOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC DSOS HAYATCOMM	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070 0 49,500 685,407 113,500	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,667 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740 0 11,689 126,157 10,788	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080 0	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97 232 190 96	V A A V A A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 10.0 -1.0 8.22 -10.1
SHIHC SENERGY AGHC KPPC FAHSSILAT SERANH SCHOLDING ASFH NOVEST Financial Services INVESTMENT INSTRU	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s ments 240 190 96	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92 232 184 95	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070 0 49,500 685,407 113,500 828,407	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,667 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740 0 11,689 126,157 10,788 148,634	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080 0	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97 232 190 96 842.62	V A A V A A A	5.00 -1.00 2.00 0.55 0.00 0.00 10.01 -1.00 8.22 -10.01 10.01 21.7
SHIHC SENERGY AGHC RPPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING 3FH NOVEST Financial Service: nvestment Instru ASC DSOS HAYATCOMM Fechnology SANAD	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s s ments 240 190 96	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92 232 184 95	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070 0 49,500 665,407 113,500 828,407	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740 0 11,689 126,157 10,788 148,634	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080 0	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97 232 190 96 842.62	V A A V A A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 10.6 -1.0 0.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0 10.0
SIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC TAHSSILAT IEEERANH EKHOLDING SFH NOVEST Financial Service: Investment Instru ASC SEOS HAYATCOMM IECHNOlogy EANAD AFAQ	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s s ments 240 190 96	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92 232 184 95	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070 0 49,500 665,407 113,500 828,407	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740 0 11,689 126,157 10,788 148,634	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080 0 12 50 9 71	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97 232 190 96 842.62	V A A V A A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 10.0 -1.0 8.22 -10.1 10.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.
SHIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING 3FH NOVEST Financial Service: nvestment Instru ASC DSOS HAYATCOMM Fechnology SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s ments 240 190 96	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92 232 184 95	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070 0 49,500 665,407 113,500 828,407	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740 0 11,689 126,157 10,788 148,634	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080 0 12 50 9 71	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97 232 190 96 842.62	V A A V A A A	-0.55.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1
SHIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING 3FH NOVEST Financial Service: nvestment Instru ASC DSOS HAYATCOMM Fechnology SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s s ments 240 190 96	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92 232 184 95	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070 0 49,500 665,407 113,500 828,407	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740 0 11,689 126,157 10,788 148,634	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080 0 12 50 9 71	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97 232 190 96 842.62	V A A V A A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 -1.0 0.0 10.0 -1.0 10.0 10
SIIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC FAHSSILAT IEEERANH EKHOLDING GFH NOVEST Financial Service INVESTMENT INSTRU ASC DSOS HAYATCOMM FECHNOlogy SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s ments 240 190 96	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92 232 184 95	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070 0 49,500 685,407 113,500 828,407	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740 0 11,689 126,157 10,788 148,634	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080 0 12 50 9 71	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97 232 190 96 842.62	V A A A A A	5.0 -1.0 2.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0
SHIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING SFH NOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC DSOS HAYATCOMM Fechnology SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s ments 240 190 96	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92 232 184 95	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070 49,500 665,407 113,500 828,407 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,657 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740 0 11,689 126,157 10,788 148,634	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080 0 12 50 9 71	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 202 93 785.04 1081.97 232 190 96 842.62	V A A A A A	5.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1.0 -1
SHIHC SENERGY AGHC (PPC TAHSSILAT JEERANH EKHOLDING SFH NOVEST Financial Service Investment Instru ASC DSOS HAYATCOMM Fechnology SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN MASAKEN	160 32.0 55 74 61 48.5 0.0 0.0 202 93 s s ments 240 190 96 0.0 0.0 48.0 74 90	148 29.0 50 73 56 48.5 0.0 0.0 194 92 232 184 95	13,917,036 10,229,576 10,422,635 912,311 7,132,249 500 0 0 9,636,637 629,968 372,712,070 49,500 685,407 113,500 828,407 0 0 607,018 10,490 144,500	2,135,226 312,749 556,204 67,201 423,667 24 0 0 1,930,901 58,376 23,865,740 0 11,689 126,157 10,788 148,634	163 187 25 123 1 0 0 136 19 6,080 0 12 50 9 71	30.5 55 74 60 48.5 48.0 202 93 785.04 1081.97 232 190 96 842.62 100 162 460 48.0 74 90	V A A A A A A	5.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
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For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.glo	balinv.net
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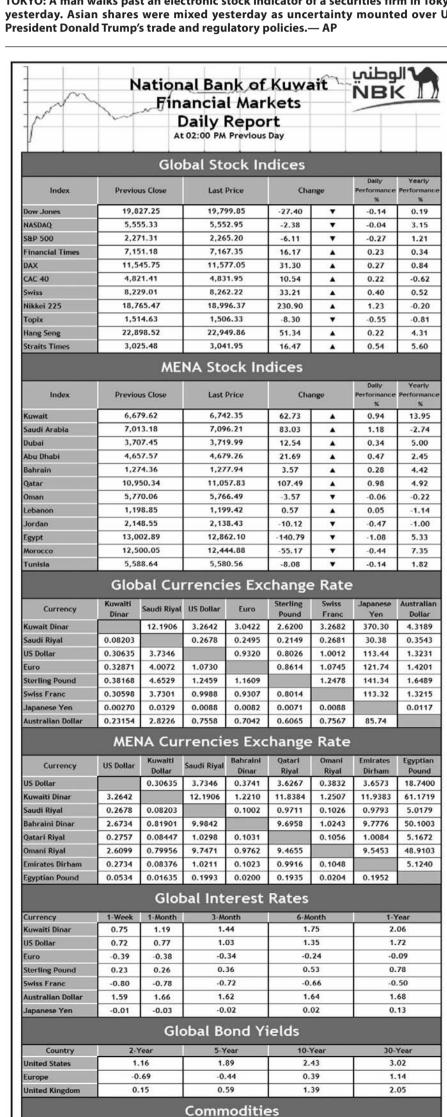
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TOKYO: A man walks past an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian shares were mixed yesterday as uncertainty mounted over US



CAESARS TRAVEL GROUP: SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

AN INTERACTION WITH CAESARS TRAVEL GROUP CEO P N J KUMAR

By Jins M Jose

KUWAIT: In an industry where biggest is not always the best, Caesars Travel Group incorporated in the year 1992 started with a small profile is heading to become a competitive as well as innovative company at par with the key players in the aviation industry in Kuwait. Business in every industry is dealing with increased competition and travel agencies are no exception, therefore, it's always a curiosity to know more about Caesars Travel Group that within the span of these 25 years, how they have managed to grow to the current levels apart from the many turbulences happening in the aviation industry at the moment. In an interview with Kuwait Times, CEO of Caesars Travel Group, P.N.J. Kumar, who is working with the industry for the last 25 years in a dignified position and is the backbone of the steady growth of Caesars Travel Group, spoke about how the group has grown as one of the biggest travel services providers, dealing with many diversified activities under one travel platform. Excerpts:

KT: How did you manage to develop your company as one of the leading travel companies with rapid expansions that we have noticing now?

A: Caesars Travel Group's aim is to become one of the key supporters of our valued clients and keeping this aim in mind, my first vision was to give them maximum accessibility for approaching our offices, that's the result why we have opened these many number of offices with a slogan of "interior to interior", means, offices in residential areas to give the privilege for our passengers to visit our offices without depending on transport.

Q: How Caesars can play a key role in supporting the passengers?

A: The concept of a travel office is not just issuing tickets to passengers but there are many information/supports that a travel agent has to give to the passengers, especially in this confused situation where there are many sorts of advanced technology is in practice now. This needs academically qualified staff that has got the interacting skills with passengers which is one of the main visions of our company. Secondly, we are trying our level best to cater to all sorts of services, starting from ticketing to holidays, ground services and many more, which is available under one roof of Caesars, that's the other tool which are trying to support passengers other than running a mere ticketing office.

Q: Currently, passengers always complain about the travel agency fares with airline website fares as travel agency fares are always high, why? A: There is always a science behind it which we find it very difficult to convince the passengers. In brief, I have to say that airlines are taking an upperhand over travel agents now and trying to reach the passengers directly which is causing lots of bad name to travel agents, tarnishing our image in the industry. If a passenger directly accessing through an airline web site, mostly getting better fares than the travel agency offers to them, the reason being an airline is going to save lots of middlemen expenses, especially the charges they are supposed to pay for the reservation system (it is technically called us Global Distribution System-GDS) and this will give them an advantage of putting lower fares in their web sites. As a travel agent, I have to say that they are trying to avoid the travel agents where once upon a time, these airlines were established in the market due to the same travel agent support. Yes, I agree that passengers are getting lower fares when purchasing tickets through airline websites but at the same time, you have to understand that how many of them losing their money when trying to change their reservations as it's always a trap that the rules and regulations put in the website of airlines are so tough that many of them never go through it, just only looking at the fares and later, losing their entire money paid to the airlines which will never happen when they are purchasing their tickets through travel agents as we are always responsible to them.

Q: How you count the Low Cost Carriers, offering competitive fares than the full serviced carriers?

A: At this point in time, I don't believe there is much difference between Low Cost Carriers with Commercial Carriers. You will not be surprised when I have to say that sometimes, commercial carriers are offering more competitive fares than Low Cost Carriers, having the privilege of food and other facilities on board which the Low Cost Carriers are not offering. There are certain Low Cost Carriers which has started serving food on board. Based on this conflicting situation, it's my assumption that within few years, the terminology between LLC and fullfledged carriers will totally vanish from the aviation field and everyone will follow the same practice of following the rules of low cost carriers such as buying the services such as food, seat selection, baggage etc. which has already started by the commercial carriers at the moment.

Q: It's a common complaint during these days from passengers that for the same sector and class of travel on a particular day on the same aircraft, passengers have to pay different prices for purchasing their tickets and many of them are upset with the travel agents, blaming that you are the culprits behind it?



Caesars Travel Group CEO P N J Kumar

A: it's a very good question as this is really affecting the goodwill of travel agents, passengers cursing us and there are many occasions that the passengers are coming to the travel offices to make issues about it. The new science of airline is that whoever buying the ticket in advance will get the maximum competitive fare and that too, there are many classes for the best bargain prices among these competitive fares. If the passenger purchases a ticket few hours before the journey, the cost will be double compared to those who have purchased in advance and it is no surprise that the money paid by the passengers occupying the next seat in the same aircraft may have paid different prices for the same seat and ultimately, it's the usual discussion among passengers that the travel agent is taking advantage out of it. We always educate the passengers to take the tickets in advance to avail of the benefit of cheaper prices, but in Middle East, it's not possible for every passenger to plan their travel dates in advance as there are many personal problems and professional limitations. Many of the passengers still have the wrong notion that travel agents are fixing the cost of air tickets whereas we are only the silent spectators to the airline fixing the prices who escape from dealing with these hassles. Otherwise, they should come forward to make awareness in the market which very seldom few airlines are doing at the moment.

Q: Do you think, airlines are taking advantage of passengers by charging different rates as per their whims and fancies?

A: In the passenger's perspective, you are right and the travel agent's credibility has also affected due to this price wars among airlines. If an airline can operate with the fares by slashing down, which means they are able to run the airline by meeting their expenses with these fares, why are they then increasing the fares without any logic during seasonal times, which means to a passenger, trying to utilize the situation at maximum.

In this situation, travel agents are also finding it very difficult to convince the passengers as they used to see us always as an airline office and the enmity is targeted towards the travel agents. According to me, let the airline adjust their fares based on the seasons but only reasonably and not exorbitant increase, the reason being passengers can easily understand that when they introduce the low fares, at which they can operate without any interruptions and by increasing the same, they are really cheating the passengers by collecting huge amounts, giving the impression to the passengers that it's a game to gain more money. Airline managements should understand that the passengers are their revenue grosser and to play with their sentiments is not at all advisable as in this industry, once the trust is lost, everything is lost and that's what is going on now.

Q: Missing baggage is very common with airlines now and most of the airlines are not giving compensation to passengers, how do you see about it?

A: This is mainly happening due to the disorganized way of airline booking procedures by overbooking the flights, resulting in offloading the baggage, sometimes, offloading the passengers even. As per the rules of IATA convention, airline has to compensate the passengers in such occasions but unfortunately, the rules are in the log book only, very few of them are taking care of such situations. Yes, the passengers can lodge the complaint but there are cases that these airlines will not respond to them for months and years!

These days the passengers are also to be blamed because there is no proper identification on the baggage. Once the new generation bags are introduced to the market, it seems to me that most of the passengers are very reluctant to put these details on their bag which is one of the reasons, it is difficult for an airline to identify it.

Therefore, it's my suggestion to all passengers that you should strictly put some identification on your bags as this will help the airline to find out your baggage easily from any location wherever if it is misplaced. (**To be concluded**)



CHARLESTON: In this March 17, 2016 file photo, BMWs manufactured at the company's plant in Greer, SC, are driven onto a ship in Charleston, S.C — AP

HOW A TRUMP TARIFF COULD SIDESWIPE AUTO INDUSTRY

DETROIT: The threat from President Donald Trump to tax Mexican-made cars sold in the US would throw the industry into disarray, analysts say, forcing some uncomfortable choices: Raise car prices or swallow the cost. Stop selling Mexican-made cars in the US but risk losing customers. Move production to the US but make less money.

"I don't think the auto industry would turn up its feet and die, but it would be a terrible shock. It would create mayhem with their profitability," said Marina Whitman, a business professor at the University of Michigan and a former vice president at General Motors Co.

Before he was to host a breakfast meeting early yesterday with the heads of General Motors, Ford Motor Co. and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Trump demanded on Twitter that automakers they build new factories in the US. "I want new plants to be built here for cars sold here," his tweet said. He has warned of a "substantial border tax" on companies that move manufacturing out of the country and promised tax advantages to those that produce domestically.

For more than two decades, Mexico has been an oasis for the auto industry, offering cheap labor and access to dozens of markets through free-trade deals. Whitman says Detroit automakers can't build small cars profitably in the US, where a unionized auto worker can make \$58 an hour in wages and benefits. By comparison, a Mexican auto assembly worker makes a little more than \$8.

That helps to explain why automakers have announced \$24 billion in Mexican investments over the last six years, according to the Center for Automotive Research, a Michigan think tank. In all, \$50.5 billion in vehicles and \$51 billion in auto parts were shipped to the US from Mexico in 2015, US government data show.

Mexico's auto sector, while still smaller than the US, is growing at a faster clip. Mexico's vehicle production capacity is expected to rise 49 percent to 5.5 million vehicles by 2023, according to LMC Automotive, a forecasting firm. US capacity will grow 13 percent to 14.2 million vehicles in the same period. But Trump could change that. In frequent tweets targeting the auto industry, he has proposed both a 35-percent tariff on Mexican-made imports and a

"border tax," which would tax companies' imports. That's forcing automakers to consider a number of options.

STAY THE COURSE

Abandoning Mexico and moving production to the US, as Trump demands, would cost the industry billions and scuttle plans that are years in the making. Audi, for example, just opened a plant in Mexico that it decided to build five years ago. "It's very difficult to turn on your heels quickly in the auto industry," said Laurie Harbour-Felax, a manufacturing consultant and president of Harbour Results Inc.

In recent weeks, Volkswagen, GM, Toyota and BMW have all said they won't shift their production plans, while stressing the amount they've invested in the U.S. BMW, for example, said it's proceeding with a \$1 billion plant in Mexico that will make the 3 Series sedan starting in 2019. The German automaker also noted that its SUV plant in South Carolina is its largest plant worldwide.

Trump's border tax would hurt some automakers more than others. Volkswagen, for example, imports 32 percent of the vehicles its sells in the US from Mexico, according to LMC. But Honda imports just 11 percent, and that's expected to fall this year after it moves production of the CR-V SUV from Mexico to Indiana.

In early January, Ford made the surprise announcement that it would halt construction of a \$1.6 billion plant in Mexico slated to build the compact Focus. It also announced plans to invest \$700 million of that savings into a Michigan plant where it will make new electric and autonomous cars.

Ford said declining sales of small cars, not Trump, influenced the Mexico plant decision, and the company will still make the Focus in Mexico at a different plant.

But Ford CEO Mark Fields noted that Trump's promise to lower corporate taxes and ease regulations would make it more attractive to do business in the US Fields also said he's not worried about the possibility of tariffs Others appear more nervous. Speaking to reporters at the Detroit auto show, Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne said his company might withdraw from Mexico altogether if tariffs got too high. — AP

EUROZONE STARTS YEAR WITH STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH

Manufacturers driving solid performance, but risks loom

LONDON: The eurozone started 2017 by maintaining solid economic growth as a weaker currency boosted orders for goods and services, a survey showed, but rising political risks could soon take their toll. Growth in Germany's private sector slowed slightly in January but in France activity rose to levels not seen in more 5-1/2 years on expectations the country's presidential election will yield a more business friendly environment.

Campaigning on plans to cut corporate tax and slash public spending, conservative former prime minister Francois Fillon is leading the polls to win a May 7 runoff in France's two-round presidential election. But a surge in support for populist and eurosceptic political parties across the continent could rekindle some of the concerns about fragmentation that were evident in 2012, Fitch ratings agency warned.

"Using a composite financial shock of banking, bond and stock markets, we find that the real economic costs would be high in all large euro zone members," said Gergely Kiss, a director in Fitch's economics team. Uncertainty from rising protectionist sentiments after the Brexit vote in June and Donald Trump's US election win meant economists in Reuters polls have said the bloc does not have enough momentum to withstand any major political change.

Elections are also due this year in Germany, the Netherlands and possibly Italy. European

stocks gained 0.3 percent as markets were comforted by the euro zone growth data, combined with a 2-1/2 year high in commodity shares and on a 1 percent jump in Italian stocks following a merger deal for two of its banks.

MOMENTUM MAINTAINED

IHS Markit's Euro Zone Flash Composite Purchasing Managers' Index, seen as a good overall growth indicator, only dipped slightly from December's five-year high of 54.4 to 54.3, comfortably above the 50-point line that indicates growth.

A Reuters poll had predicted a modest uptick to 54.5. "While the PMI edged slightly down in January, this should not be taken as a sign of weakness. Momentum in the euro zone economy remains fairly strong," said Bert Colijn at ING.

Markit said the PMI, if maintained, pointed to first quarter economic growth of 0.4 percent, in line with a Reuters poll published earlier this month. A sub-index measuring prices charged spent its third month above the break-even mark although it ticked down to 51.6 from December's 51.7, which was the highest since July 2011.

Any signs of ongoing inflationary pressures, however weak, will be welcomed by policymakers at the European Central Bank who for years have been unable to get prices to rise anywhere near as fast as they would like. Prices in the 19-member bloc rose 1.1 percent in December on a

year earlier. The ECB wants inflation below, but close to 2 percent and has bought more than a trillion euros worth of eurozone government bonds, putting cash into the banking system with the aim of stimulating price rises in the economy. "In all, the survey has brought some more encouraging news. But, as headline inflation rises and political uncertainty damages investment, we still see growth slowing somewhat this year," said Jennifer McKeown at Capital Economics. Activity in the bloc's manufacturing industry increased at the fastest pace since April 2011. Its PMI was 55.1, up from 54.9 and above the median forecast of 54.8 in a Reuters poll of 48 economists.

An index measuring output, which feeds into the composite PMI, nudged down to 55.9 from December's 32-month high of 56.1. New export orders, which includes trade amongst member countries, held steady at last month's 54.8, the highest reading since the start of 2014.

"The weakening of the euro provides some tailwind here, as businesses report that stronger new orders in manufacturing are often coming from outside the euro zone," Colijn said.

The PMI for the bloc's dominant service industry slipped to 53.6 from 53.7, confounding the prediction for a rise to 53.9. But in a sign that growth will probably be maintained in coming months, the PMIs showed an increase in demand. The new business index rose to 53.6 from 53.5, its highest in a year. — Reuters

UK OFFSHORE WIND COSTS FALL NEARLY A THIRD IN FOUR YEARS

LONDON: The cost of producing electricity from wind farms off the coast of Britain has fallen 32 percent in the past four years, meeting a government target four years early, an industry report released yesterday said.

Britain plans to increase its offshore wind capacity to help bridge a looming electricity supply gap as old nuclear plants and coal-fired power stations close. Offshore wind farm costs fell to an average of 97 pounds (\$120.82) per megawatt-hour (MWh) in the 2015-2016 financial year, from 142 pounds/MWh four years earlier, the report commissioned by the Offshore Wind Program Board said.

This means the industry has met ahead of schedule a government target to cut costs to below 100 pounds/MWh by 2020. It also puts the cost of offshore wind close to that of new nuclear plants, with the government contract awarded to France's EDF for its Hinkley C reactor project in southwest England at 92.50 pounds/MWh. "Thanks to the efforts of developers, the UK's vigorous supply chain and support from government, renewables costs are continuing to fall," Britain's energy minister Jesse Norman said in a statement with the report.

"Offshore wind will continue to help the UK to meet its climate change commitments, as well as delivering jobs and growth across the country," he said. — Reuters

ABK REVAMPS MASTERCARD GOLD ANNUAL FEES - ZERO FOR LIFE!



KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has relaunched its Mastercard Gold credit card. The new card, which is available now and completely free for customers, offers unbeatable value, with annual fees reduced from 40KD to zero for life. The new Mastercard Gold customer membership includes a wide range of regularly renewed exciting and exclusive offers and benefits, as well as a comprehensive Mastercard Gold travel insurance package.

redesigned with a fresh new look and is fully up to date with the very latest international security protocols.

The card itself has also been completely

For special needs customers the card can include a photo ID to increase customer card security and protection. For more information about Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit eahli.com or contact a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



KUWAIT SLIPS IN AGILITY EMERGING MARKETS RANKINGS

HURT BY BUDGET GAP AND STRUGGLES TO FIND NEW REVENUE, ENCOURAGE PRIVATE-SECTOR GROWTH

first budget deficit in 17 years, Kuwait fell to No 26 in Agility's closely watched index of the world's 50 top emerging markets. Kuwait dropped three spots in the 2017 Agility Emerging Markets Logistics Index despite the fact that its business conditions ranked 10th-an area of the Index that was dominated by Gulf states.

The Index, now in its eighth year, ranks emerging economies based on their size, business conditions, transport infrastructure and ocean/air connections - factors that make them attractive to logistics providers, freight forwarders, shipping lines, air cargo carriers and distributors. Agility also surveyed more than 800 supply chain industry professionals for their views logistics markets.

China and India topped the Index at No. 1 and No. 2. Among Gulf countries, United Arab Emirates (3), Saudi Arabia (5), Qatar (12), Oman (13) and Bahrain (13) ranked highest. Bahrain climbed five spots in the latest Index and was among the countries showing the biggest gains.

Transport Intelligence (Ti), a leading analysis and research firm for the logistics industry, compiled the Index for

BAAR, Switzerland: After running its Agility. Ti noted that all Gulf economies are dealing with a "new normal" of low oil prices and are struggling to diversify their economies, find new sources of revenue, and wean their populations from subsidies and welfare state benefits.

> Kuwait has announced ambitious plans to stimulate private sector job creation, spur competition, attract foreign investment and use public-private partnerships to drive big development projects. Many of those plans remain in the early stages or have yet to produce

> Kuwait scored poorly - 31st-in logistics infrastructure and transport connections behind countries such as Peru, Kenya and Ukraine.

2017 Index highlights:

Turkey improved and ranked No. 9, moving up one spot ahead of Russia, despite fallout from an attempted coup and extremist violence.

Logistics executives picked Syria, Libya and Iraq, all in the grip of violence and war, as the three emerging markets countries with the least logistics potential.

Iran, emerging gradually from years of international isolation, leaped eight spots to No. 18 in Index. In Agility's survey of logistics executives, Iran climbed to 9th from No. 15 among countries with the most potential to grow as logistics markets. Iran's gains were the largest of any country in the 2017 Index or the survey.

China, the world's second-largest economy, remains the world's leading emerging market ahead of India, which climbed past UAE to No. 2 in the latest rankings. In the survey, supply chain executives identified the direction of China's economy as the factor most likely to drive global economic and trade growth in 2017. Seventy-six percent said China's economy is slowing, but only 17% said the slowdown is significantly hindering the transport and logistics sector. Nearly 66% said slower growth will not alter their plans in China.

Outside of the Gulf countries and Turkey, Egypt (20) and Morocco (22) were the MENA countries ranking highest in the Index. Algeria (31) and Jordan (33) improved their rankings slightly in the latest Index. Tunisia (42) slid five spots; Libya (46) and Lebanon (47) each fell three spots.

Robust growth and long-anticipated tax and economic reform pushed India to No. 2 in the Index and impressed logistics executives responding to the survey. Even so, India's surprise decision to remove high-denomination bank notes from circulation and encourage cashless payments could be jarring for the economy in 2017.

Despite upbeat views of India and Iran, industry professionals sounded notes of caution about the broad outlook for emerging markets. Nearly 69% expressed concern that the UK's Brexit vote and the failure of global and regional trade initiatives signal a threat to trade. A sizeable minority - 43% — said the International Monetary Fund is too optimistic in forecasting 4.6% growth for emerging markets in the coming year.

Africa's biggest economies - Nigeria and South Africa - were among the countries that fell most sharply in the Index. Smaller African markets - Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Kenya improved their rankings in 2017.

Brazil held its No. 7 Index ranking despite a painful recession and the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff. In the survey, logistics executives again picked Brazil as the the market with the most logistics potential after

India and China. One reason for their optimism: nearly 57% expect commodity prices to rebound in 2017, although most do not expect significant increases.

Transport Intelligence (Ti), a leading analysis and research firm for the logistics industry, compiled the Index.

John Manners-Bell, Chief Executive of Ti, said: "Uncertainty and volatility have characterized many emerging markets in 2016. This has been compounded by the political environment in Europe and the US, which will have direct consequences on trade with Latin America, Asia and Africa. However there have been many positives too-for example, the strong performance of India. More than ever, the Index identifies and contrasts those markets which will prosper from the most vulnerable and poorest performing."

Note: 2016 Index results were recalculated for 2017 because five countries -Iran, Ghana, Myanmar, Angola and Mozambique were added. After recalculation, Kuwait's original 2016 ranking was adjusted to No 23. Ti calculated 2016 scores for each of the new countries to provide a basis for year-to-year comparisons.



This file photo taken on January 20, 2015 shows Australian James Hogan President and CEO of Etihad Aviation Group and Vice President of Alitalia speaking during a press conference in Rome to promote the new Alitalia service. — AFP

JAMES HOGAN TO LEAVE ETIHAD AVIATION GROUP IN H2 OF 2017

ABU DHABI: The Etihad Aviation Group Board of Directors yesterday announced that James Hogan will step down as President and Chief Executive Officer of the company in the second half of 2017. The Board and Mr. Hogan first initiated the tran-May of the Etihad Aviation Group, a diversi-

fied global aviation and travel organization. Commenting on Hogan's time at Etihad Mohamed Mubarak Fadhel Al-Mazrouei, Chairman of the Board of the Etihad Aviation Group said: "We are very grateful to James. In just ten years, he has overseen the growth of the company from a 22 plane regional carrier into a 120 aircraft global airline and aviation group, with seven airline equity partnerships which together serve more than 120 million guests every year. It is a business which has set new benchmarks for service and innovation. Under his leadership, the company has provided new opportunities for thousands of Emiratis and has been a critical element in the remarkable progress of Abu Dhabi and the UAE. We look forward to James' continued association

with Abu Dhabi in new ways." James Hogan commented: "Along with the Board and my 26,000 colleagues, I am very proud of what we have built together at Etihad and of the company's substantial contribution to the UAE and to the development of Abu Dhabi. The last decade has seen incredible results but this only repre-

sents a first chapter in the story of Etihad." Commenting on current priorities for the business, Mazrouei said: "To position the company for continued success in a challenging market, the Board and management team will continue an ongoing, company-wide strategic review. We must ensure that the airline is the right size and

the right shape. "We must continue to improve cost efficiency, productivity and revenue. We must progress and adjust our airline equity partnerships even as we remain committed to the strategy."

Last month, Etihad Airways unveiled plans to create a new European leisure airline group in a joint venture with TUI AG. A new codeshare agreement with Lufthansa and an aircraft leasing agreement between airberlin and Lufthansa were also announced. As a minority shareholder, Etihad is actively participating in the next phase of Alitalia's restructuring plan.

Mazrouei added: "Etihad is a great business with strong fundamentals and a deeply experienced aviation and airline management team. These assets, along with a realigned organization, provide more agility and added focus as Etihad enters the next phase of its development."

Hogan will join an investment company along with Etihad Aviation Group CFO James Rigney, who will also leave the company later this year. A global search for a new Group CEO and a new Group CFO is already underway.

The Group has developed a senior management structure with strength in depth, led by a highly-regarded senior team. This team includes Peter Baumgartner, CEO, and Richard Hill, COO, of Etihad Airways; Bruno Matheu as CEO of Airline Equity Partners;

and Jeff Wilkinson as CEO of Etihad Airways Engineering. Darren Peisley is Acting Managing Director of Hala, the company's destination marketing and global loyalty unit. A further strengthening of the Group structure was announced earlier this sition process last year with the formation in month with the creation of Etihad Airport Services led by Managing Director Chris Youlten. In addition, the Group Chiefs leading the core corporate functions include Kevin Knight, Strategy and Planning; Ray Gammell, People and Performance; Rob Webb, Technology and Innovation; and Harsh Mohan, Executive Affairs.

Notable Highlights — 2006-2016

Hogan took the helm at Etihad Airways in 2006, with a mandate to develop a safe, best-in-class airline, operating on a sustainable commercial basis and contributing to the future economic success of Abu Dhabi.

The Group operates on a core commitment to safety. The airline has had a 100 per cent safety record under Hogan and was recognised in January 2017 as one of the ten safest airlines in the world.

Its core airline operation today serves 18.5 million guests, reaching 112 destinations with a fleet of 120 aircraft, with another 178 on order. It has been named World Travel Awards' World's Leading Airline for each of the last eight years and was recently recognised by Skytrax as one of just nine five-star airlines in the world. It won the prestigious Air Transport World Airline of the Year award in 2016.

Its strategy of minority equity investments in key strategic partners - Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, airberlin, Alitalia, Etihad Regional, Jet Airways and Virgin Australia has created the world's seventh largest airline grouping, serving more than 120 million passengers a year, with a fleet of more than 700 aircraft reaching almost 350 unique destinations.

The airline's codeshare and equity partnerships are a core element of its growth, delivering 5.5 million passengers onto Etihad Airways' flights in 2016.

Etihad Aviation Group's diversified operations now cover a range of businesses, each of which is significant in its own right. They include Etihad Cargo, Etihad Airways Engineering, Hala Abu Dhabi, Etihad Airport Services, Etihad Flight College and the Global Loyalty Company, which is bringing together a range of frequent flyer programs, in addition to the core Etihad Airways operation.

The Group now has more than 26,000 Its award-winning employees. Emiratization programs, for roles including Cadet Pilots, Technical Engineers and Graduate Managers, have helped increase the number of Emirati employees from less than 100 when Hogan joined to more than

3,000 today. It is estimated that during 2016, the Group delivered a core economic contribution of more than \$9.6 billion to Abu Dhabi; this is expected to grow to \$18.2 billion by 2024. It works closely with the Tourism & Culture Authority, as well as other key stakeholders, in developing Abu Dhabi and the UAE as a world class destination for business and leisure travellers.

CADILLAC ALGHANIM WOWS THE CROWD AT GULFRUN EXHIBITION

ESCALADE PLATINUM EDITION, ATS-V AND CTS-V SHOWCASED

KUWAIT: Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the sole distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, continues to participate in interactive events that offer fans and customers alike an exclusive look to the luxurious world of Cadillac. Among the latest of such offering is Cadillac Alghanim's outstanding participation in the Gulf Run event, which took place at Murouj, from the 19th to the 21st of January. Attendees were welcomed to visit Cadillac's stand and marvel at the rangetopping Platinum Collection of the Escalade, and the brand's inaugural luxury performance cars, the Cadillac ATS-V and CTS-V.

The Escalade Platinum Collection is designed to provide passengers with unsurpassed comfort and convenience. Heated and cooled 18way power front seats are standard, and include a massaging function on the driver's seat. A pair of seven-inch LCD screens, embedded in the front head rests, supplement the overhead 9inch screen, while a cooled center console compartment can keep chilled beverages handy. Platinum models also include premium floor mats and Platinum-branded door sill plates.

The Escalade adds even more sophistication, with advanced technology and hand-tailored craftsmanship, differentiating itself from other luxary SUVs; in addition to a powerful 6.2L V8 with Active Fuel Management, Spark Ignition Direct Injection (SIDI) and Variable Valve Timing (VVT), which also includes aluminum block construction.

Meanwhile, the ATS-V is the first-ever in its segment - offered as a coupe and sedan - to introduce class-leading twin-turbocharged power and a comprehensive suite of design and performance systems, expanding the ATS product line and advancing the V-Series legacy with its first turbocharged entry. Rated at a SAE-certified 464 horsepower (346 kW) and 445 lb-ft of torque (601 Nm), the twin-turbocharged engine is the segment's highest-output six-cylinder and enables 0-60 performance in 3.8 seconds and a



top speed of 189 mph. It is backed by a sixspeed manual - with Active Rev Match, no-lift shifting and launch control - or a paddle-shift eight-speed automatic transmission featuring launch control and Performance Algorithm Shift.

Building on the V-Series legacy and leveraging the strength of the award-winning CTS architecture, the Cadillac CTS-V is considered the most capable V-Series ever: A luxury sedan with sophisticated road manners and unprecedented performance, with true track capability straight from the factory. Backed by Cadillac's paddle-shift eightspeed automatic transmission featuring launch control and Performance Algorithm Shifting, the CTS-V is powered by a new supercharged 6.2L V-8 engine SAE certified at 640 horsepower (477 kW) and 630 lb-ft of torque (855 Nm).

Premium care program Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive's For more information, please call 24969000.

showcases the company's commitment to enhance customers' unique Cadillac experience by offering customers peace of mind with a comprehensive insurance program. In addition, all Cadillac owners will enjoy service and maintenance for four years or 100,000 km, warranty for 4 years or 100,000 km, 24-hour roadside assistance anywhere in the Middle East for four years (unlimited miles) plus a courtesy transportation and a replacement vehicle upon availability.

Adding to the luxury experience, Cadillac offers its customers in Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim the highest quality of services. The service center is equipped with a large variety of the most advanced equipment operated by a team of skilled professionals and effective consultants who ensure timely service.

Visit Cadillac Alghanim showroom today at the Fourth Ring Road next to Safat Alghanim.

ASHOK LEYLAND CONFERRED THE 2016 DEMING PRIZE

RECOGNITION FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF TQM

KUWAIT: Bahrah Trading Company (BTC) one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Company proudly announces that their principal associate Ashok Leyland India have won the prestigious "2016 DEMING PRIZE" awarded by the Union of Japanese Scientists and Engineers, becoming the first commercial vehicles manufacturer in India and the second in the world to win this hall mark of Total Quality Management (TQM). The award ceremony was recently held at Japan.





Prestigious Deming Prize

Winning the Deming prize, known as the equivalent of Nobel prize in the field of quality management is a remarkable and coveted achievement and a strong testimony to the high quality of products from Ashok Leyland.

One of the most fully-integrated manufacturing companies

Ashok Leyland, with a history spanning over six decades of producing, marketing and servicing commercial vehicles in India for both domestic and international markets are the path breaking pioneers that developed transport infrastructure in India.

Producing a wide range of trucks and buses at the state of the art facilities across India in the mid-east, Ashok Leyland products signify reliability and lasting value for money.









Globally leading truck and bus manufacturer

Over 70 million passengers use our buses to get to their destinations every day while over 700,000 trucks keep the wheels of economies moving. With the largest fleet of logistics vehicles deployed in the Indian Army and significant partnerships with armed forces across the globe, to help keep bor-

ders secure. Ashok Leyland's manufacturing footprint spreads across the globe with 8 plants; including one at Ras Al-Khaimah (UAE). Our Joint



Venture partners include Nissan Motor Company (Japan) for Light Commercial Vehicles, John Deere (USA) for Construction Equipment, Continental AG (Germany) for Automotive Infotronics and the Alteams Group for the manufacture of high-press die-casting extruded aluminum components for the

automotive and telecommunications sectors. Bahrah Trading Company representing Ashok Leyland in Kuwait, shares the joy of this mementos occasion and conveys their hearty congratulations.

PHILIPS PROFITS MORE THAN DOUBLE IN 2016

yesterday its bottom-line profit more than doubled in 2016, buoyed by gains from the flotation of its lighting business and the strong performance of its health technology division. Net profit soared by 126 percent to 1.49 billion euros (\$1.6 billion) last year, while sales edged up by just one percent to 24.5 billion euros. On a comparable basis, or adjusted for changes in the composition of the group, sales expanded by three percent.

"Overall, 2016 was a defining year," said chief executive Frans van Houten, pointing to the listing of Philips Lighting and deals to sell the Lumileds LED and automotive businesses. Philips is best known for the manufacture of light bulbs, electrical appliances and television sets.

But it has pulled out of these activities in face of fierce competition from Asia to focus on health technology such as computer tomography and molecular imaging, as well as household appliances such as electrical toothbrushes and kitchen equipment.

The group, which sold its first light bulb a few years after it was founded in 1891, listed its Philips Lighting division at the end of May, netting proceeds of 750 million euros. Philips still holds a stake of 71.23 percent but intends to sell it entirely in the future. In December, it announced the sale of an 80.1-percent stake in its Lumileds LED lighting business to funds managed by US-based Apollo Global Management for \$1.5 billion.

New deals

In the fourth quarter alone, Philips booked net profit of 640 million euros, compared with a loss of 39 million euros a year earlier. Fourth-quarter sales rose by two percent to 7.24 billion euros, driven by higher revenues in the health tech division.

Amsterdam-based Philips said it continued to focus on long-term strategic partnerships in the health sector that saw it clinch 15 new deals valued at 900 million euros in 2016 -- with four in the fourth quarter alone. These included a 74-millioneuro decade-long agreement with Russia's Expert Group for imaging systems to improve heart care and a 15-year deal with US-based Banner Health for high-tech in-hospital and home-based care equipment.

In China, profits were boosted in particular by the sale of oral healthcare and air purifying equipment, where Philips claims to be the "number one brand." It said it would propose a dividend of 0.80 euros per ordinary share at Philips' annual general meeting in May. Philips pointed out however that in the United States it was "currently in discussions on a civil matter with the US Department of Justice, representing the Food and Drug Administration,

arising from past inspections in and before 2015." The issue mainly relates to defibrillators, with Philips warning "while discussions have not yet concluded, we anticipate a meaningful impact on the operations of this business."

Van Houten yesterday however played down the issue, saying defibrillator manufacturing is a "relatively small business in the US." Dutch news agency ANP said FDA inspections at the time found "imperfections" in the defibrillator manufacturing process but the "appliance's quality was not in doubt." "When these discussions come to a close we will inform the market of exactly what it means," Van Houten told Bloomberg news when pressed on the issue. Meanwhile, Philips Lighting announced Monday it clocked 185 million euros in profit in 2016, down 23 percent from the year before, blaming brand licensing fees, separation costs and financial expenses for the loss. — AFP

SOFTWARE GIANT SAP SEES SILVER LINING IN GLOBAL UPHEAVAL

BERLIN: Software giant SAP said yesterday that Brexit and geopolitical upheaval would boost rather than hinder future growth as it upped sales and profit targets for the next few years. SAP, the German Dax index's biggest company by market capitalization, said demand for its cloud services in a changing world would provide the bulk of coming growth. The company made the forecast as it released its 2016 results, which showed net profit at 3.6 billion euros (\$3.9 billion), up 18 percent on 2015's figure, as revenues grew six percent to 22 billion euros.

In a conference call yesterday, CEO Bill McDermott disagreed with analysts' fears that geopolitical turbulence, especially Brexit, could lower corporate spending on IT. "Public or private sector entities, they are going to need digital transformation to handle new processes and new outcomes" in a changing world, he said. In a separate statement, McDermott pointed to "strong software sales, fast cloud growth and operating income expansion" as factors giving him "enormous confidence in our accelerated 2020 ambition." Using non-IFRS accounting rules-excluding certain costs but always used by SAP to provide forecasts-the firm increased underlying, or operating, profit 4.0 percent to 6.6 billion euros.

Get onto my cloud

Revenues on software and cloud services grew 8.0 percent at constant exchange rates, close to the upper bound of SAP's guidance. "Cloud growth and software revenue remain robust," DZ Bank analyst Harald Schnitzer commented on the

LIMA: This file photo shows Facebook CEO and chairman

Mark Zuckerberg at the Lima Convention Centre to speak

ZUCKERBERG CHARITY

BUYS AI STARTUP TO

BATTLE DISEASE

SAN FRANCISCO: A charitable foundation backed by Mark

Zuckerberg and his wife said Monday it has bought a

Canadian artificial intelligence startup as part of a mission

to eradicate disease. The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative did not

disclose financial terms of the deal to acquire Toronto-based

Meta, which uses AI to quickly read and comprehend scien-

tific papers and then provide insights to researchers. Meta

capabilities will be unified in a tool made available for free

to scientists. "We are very excited about what lies ahead,"

Meta co-founder and chief executive Sam Molyneux said in

September pledged \$3 billion over the next decade to help

banish or manage all disease, pouring some of the Facebook

founder's fortune into innovative research. "This is a big goal,"

Zuckerberg said at a San Francisco event announcing the

effort of the philanthropic entity established by the couple in

2015. "But we spent the last few years speaking with experts

who think it is possible, so we dug in." In the field of biomedi-

cine alone, thousands of research papers are published daily,

initiative science president Cori Bargmann and chief technolo-

gy officer Brian Pinkerton said in a post on the charity's

lions of papers, finding connections and patterns at scales and

speeds impossible for humans to match unassisted, according

to Bargmann and Pinkerton. "Meta will help scientists learn

from others' discoveries in real time, find key papers that may

have gone unnoticed, or even predict where their field is

headed," Bargmann and Pinkerton said. "The potential for this

Al at home

Meta artificial intelligence can analyze insights across mil-

Zuckerberg and his doctor wife, Priscilla Chan, in

at a session of the APEC CEO Summit in Lima. — AFP

figures, applauding "remarkable" growth in cloud sales which saw SAP outstrip competitors. The German company has been elbowing its way into the cloud computing sector-managing customers' digital information at a distance for a monthly feefor several years. Such relationships contrast with its classic software business, under which clients buy a license for an SAP program once at high cost and then manage their own data on their own servers.

Revenues from cloud subscriptions and associated support services remain five times smaller than software in SAP's books. But the newer business area grew 31 percent in 2016, compared with 4.0 percent for classical software sales. Looking forward, the firm hopes cloud subscriptions will prove a more predictable source of revenue and outpace software income in 2018. Finance director Luka Mucic looked forward to "yet another year of profitable growth in 2017," with "high level 2020 ambition" in the firm's statement.

SAP forecasts that its revenues from the cloud will reach between 3.8 and 4.0 billion euros in 2017, up from 3.0 last year. Total revenues would reach as high as 23.6 billion euros, compared with 22 billion in 2016, the firm continued, for an operating profit of up to 7.0 billion-up from 6.6 in 2016. The company offered all its forecasts under non-IFRS accounting and at constant exchange rates. By 2020, SAP hopes to hit 28-29 billion euros in revenue-an increase from its previous prediction of 26-28 billion-with an operating profit of between 8.5 and 9.0 billion, upping the lower bound by 500 million euros. — AFP



SEOUL: Dennis Hwang (left), art director of Niantic Inc, and Lim Jae Boem, chief executive of Pokemon Korea, pose for photographs during a news conference in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday. — Reuters

YAHOO DELAYS SALE OF CORE BUSINESS

TO VERIZON

SAN FRANCISCO: Yahoo said Monday its \$4.8 billion deal to sell its core internet assets to US telecom titan Verizon has been delayed several months. The closing originally set for this quarter has been pushed into next quarter due to "work required to meet closing conditions," the California online pioneer said in a statement, adding that it was "working expeditiously to close the transaction as soon as practicable. The news came in an earnings release showing Yahoo swung to a profit of \$162 million in the final three months of last year. The deal with Verizon, which would end Yahoo's run of more than 20 years as an independent company, has been thrown into doubt following disclosures of two huge data breaches. Yahoo said it is ramping up security as it grapples with the aftermath of epic hacks. "Our top priority continues to be enhancing security for our users," Yahoo chief executive Marissa Mayer said. She added that "approximately 90 percent of our daily active users have already taken or do not need to take remedial action to protect their accounts, and we're aggressively continuing to drive this number up." Yahoo boasted having more than a billion users monthly in 2016, with more than 650 million of those people connecting from mobile devices.

Hack aftershocks

The US Securities and Exchange Commission has opened an investigation into whether Yahoo should have informed investors sooner about two major data breaches, The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday, citing people familiar with the matter. US law requires companies that fall victim to such hacks to disclose them as soon as they are deemed to affect stock prices. Yahoo announced in September that hackers in 2014 stole personal data from more than 500 million of its user accounts. It admitted another cyber attack in December, this one dating from 2013, affecting more than a billion users. The SEC's investigation is focusing on why it took Yahoo several years to reveal the 2013 and 2014 attacks. The data breaches have been a major embarrassment for a former internet leader that has failed to keep up with Google, Facebook and other rising stars. The cyber attacks, and how notifying users was handled, has also raised concerns by investors that Verizon may seek to pay a lower price for Yahoo or even back out of the deal. When companies are in the process of being acquired, earnings that hit or surpass targets typically don't knock matters off course. "The bigger things are the breaches; those have Verizon reconsidering the deal," analyst Rob Enderle of Enderle Group said. "I think the merger is at risk; the delay would point to that as still a possibility."

Courting Mavens

The earnings report showed Yahoo swung to profit a year after a massive \$4.4 billion loss in the same period a year earlier, resulting from a large write-down on the value of its holdings. Revenue in the fourth quarter rose to \$1.47 billion from \$1.27 billion a year earlier. Yahoo reported a loss of \$214 million for the full year on revenue that inched up to \$5.2 billion from \$5 billion in 2015, according to the earnings report. Mayer has been driving a shift to mobile, video, social and native advertising offerings at Yahoo, and revenue in those areas-which she dubbed "Mavens," continued to climb. Mavens revenue for last year slightly topped \$2 billion as compared to \$1.7 billion in 2015.

"I'm very pleased with our Q4 results and incredibly

proud of the team's execution on our 2016 strategic plan, particularly given the uniquely eventful past year for Yahoo," Mayer said. Yahoo shares were up a little more than one percent to \$42.88 in after-market trades that followed release of the earnings figures, which topped Wall Street expectations. Mayer will quit the company's board after its merger with Verizon, according to an SEC filing, though she is expected to remain with the core Yahoo business. Yahoo is selling its main operating business as a way to separate that from its more valuable stake in Chinese internet giant Alibaba. The share-tending entity, to be renamed Altaba, Inc, will act as an investment company.--AFP

POKEMON GO UNLEASHED ON GAME-MAD SOUTH KOREA

GAME RELEASED SIX MONTHS LATE

SEOUL: Nintendo Co's smash hit Pokemon Go was unleashed on South Korea yesterday, six months after it was released elsewhere in the world, a delay caused by security fears over Google Maps. The popularity of augmented-reality Pokemon Go around the world has generated crowds of people in parks and other public places as users search for monsters to train, but with temperatures well below freezing, there was no sudden, noticeable buzz on the streets of Seoul.

"We have waited very long and worked very hard to launch Pokemon Go in South Korea," said Lim Jae Boem, chief executive of Pokemon Korea.

The game was jointly developed by Nintendo and Niantic Inc. Pokemon Go relies on Google Maps to work. But in most of South Korea those functions have been limited by the government, which is technically still at war with North Korea, for national security reasons. Neither Niantic nor Pokemon Korea specified how they managed to work around the Google Maps challenge.

"We used various publicly accessible data sources," said Dennis Hwang, art director of Niantic Inc. There was a slight hitch in the morning when the game was unavailable for download, but that was soon cleared up. One group of people had their eyes fixed to their smart phones near Seoul's central Gwanghwamun Square where Pokemons are said to appear often. "It was sad that it came to Korea a bit late but I'm glad that I can play the fun game translated into Korean," said Kim Ga-on, 10, who was playing separately with his mother and sister. "It's good exercise and it's fun to catch Pokemons."

South Korea is the world's fourth-biggest gaming market after China, the United States and Japan, according to Amsterdam-based research firm Newzoo. In July, some impatient Pokemon fans rushed to Sokcho, a city close to the border with North Korea - an area where the game can be played as it has not been classified as South Korean territory in Google Maps data. Nintendo's stock closed down 1 percent yesterday. Hysonic Co Ltd, the company in charge of the game release, rose 30 percent. — Reuters



PARIS: Inscription reading Autonomous shuttle is seen on an experimenting self-driving shuttle linking two train stations, yesterday in Paris. — AP

PARIS EXPERIMENTS WITH DRIVERLESS BUSES

PARIS: Paris began its first experiment with driverless buses on Monday, with city officials saying they were eager to prepare for the coming "revolution" of autonomous vehicles. Two box-shaped electric vehicles capable of carrying around 10 people have been deployed-within the safety of a special lane-on a bridge connecting two railway stations to the east of the city centre. "Autonomous vehicles represent a revolution for every city on the planet... which will change our urban environment and public space in a spectacular fashion over the next 20 years," Paris deputy mayor Jean-Louis Missika told reporters.

The test unveiled Monday, which will last three months, is the first stage of the city's embrace of self-driving vehicles which use a combination of lasers and cameras to detect other objects and people around them. The head of the Paris transport network, Elisabeth Borne, said she envisaged the buses being used one day to connect homes and railway stations in the suburbs, which are served by overland

trains known as RERs. "We dream one day of having buses like these parked near RER stations which would come to collect passengers on demand," she told reporters at the launch.

told reporters at the launch.

The advent of self-driving vehicles poses a series of regulatory, ethical and economic questions which policymakers will have to grapple with as the technology improves and grows more widespread. One of them is: What happens to the humble bus driver? "We need to start thinking from today about how to train drivers so they can shift into the new jobs created by autonomous vehicles," Missika, who is a transport expert in the mayor's office, said.

In October, delivery drivers got an uncomfortable glimpse of the future when a self-driving truck built by Uber's Otto unit successfully delivered a beer shipment. Cars with some autonomous functions are already on our roads, and more than a dozen automakers including BMW, Kia, Volkswagen and General Motors are racing to get fully self-driving cars to market by 2020. — AFP

CHINA'S ALIBABA QUARTERLY REVENUE SURGES 54% TO \$7.7BN

BEIJING: Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba said yesterday its revenues leapt 54 percent year-on-year for the quarter ended in December, spurred by rapid growth in Chinese online shopping. Revenue for the company, seen as a benchmark for China's increasingly crucial consumer sector, reached 53.25 billion Yuan (\$7.7 billion) in the quarter, it said in a statement. Its net income attributable to ordinary shareholders was 17.9 billion Yuan (\$2.57 billion) in the quarter, up 43 percent over the same period the previous year.

The result "demonstrates the strength of the Chinese consumer and Alibaba's ability to create value across our vast ecosystem", said Daniel Zhang, chief executive officer of Alibaba Group. Alibaba is China's dominant player in online commerce, with its Taobao platform estimated to hold more than 90 percent of the consumerto-consumer market. Its Tmall platform is believed to handle over half of business-to-consumer transactions. But China's largest online shopping portal has been on the defensive since the office of the US Trade Representative put Taobao on its annual blacklist in December, saying it was not doing enough to curb sales of fake and pirated goods. Although inclusion on the blacklist carries no penalties in itself, it dealt a blow to Alibaba's efforts to improve its image and boost international sales. In January the company's billionaire founder Jack Ma met Donald Trump and made a bold pledge to create one million jobs in the US, a move which analysts said was intended to win goodwill and hedge against political risks. The company, often compared to eBay or Amazon of the United States, has expanded outside its core e-commerce business into sectors ranging from sports to entertainment.

Revenue from digital media and entertainment jumped 273 percent to \$585 million due to increasing earnings from mobile services such as news feeds and game publishing and consolidating its management team, it said. In October Alibaba Pictures took a minority shareholding in Steven Spielberg's Amblin Partners, a film creation company that includes DreamWorks studios. Sales in Alibaba's core commerce unit rose 45 percent year-on-year to \$6.7 billion.—AFP

kind of platform is virtually limitless."

Zuckerberg said last month that he built an artificial intelligence-imbued software "butler"-named Jarvis-that even plays with his family. The Facebook chief took on the personal project last year, devoting about 100 hours to making a system inspired by "Iron Man" film character Jarvis as a virtual assistant to help manage his household. Jarvis is not a physical robot, but an application Zuckerberg can access through his phone or computer to control lights, temperature, music, security, appliances and more.

The software learns his tastes and patterns, as well as new words or concepts, and can even entertain his one-year-old daughter Max, according to Zuckerberg. Zuckerberg plans to continue improving Jarvis, and says he expects AI technology to improve greatly in the coming five to 10 years. AI is getting a foothold in people's homes, starting with devices such as Amazon Echo and Google Home speakers that link to personal assistants to answer questions and control connected devices. — AFP

MEASLES OUTBREAK STRIKES LA'S ORTHODOX JEWISH COMMUNITY

LOS ANGELES: A measles outbreak has largely been limited to unvaccinated peoinfected at least 18 people in the Los Angeles area, health officials said Monday, noting that most of those affected could show no proof of vaccination. Officials indicated that at least 16 of the cases involved people of the same social group, with local media saying most belonged to the Orthodox Jewish community. "We can say that the outbreak has

ple in a single social group and the disease is spreading among personal contacts in the group," Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, interim health officer at the LA County Department of Health, said.

"There have been no infections spreading in the general community." The outbreak of the highly contagious virus comes six months after California's

measles outbreak that originated at Disneyland in 2014 sickened 145 people across the United States and dozens more in Canada and Mexico. That episode led to the new law in California that requires that all children be vaccinated unless a doctor submits an exemption for medical reasons.

Personal and religious belief exemp-

strict vaccine law went into effect. A tions are not allowed under the new law. Gunzenhauser said the new outbreak of measles is affecting individuals older than 12 years old, who would not be directly concerned by the new law. He said the first person was diagnosed in early December and 16 more cases were reported in the last three weeks of 2016. The last case was diagnosed last week.

Measles is a highly contagious virus

that lives in the nose and throat of an infected person, and can linger in the air for hours, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Symptoms include a reddish rash, white bumps inside the cheeks, a fever, runny nose and cough. Severe complications can occur, leading to miscarriage in pregnant women as well as the risk of death by pneumonia or brain swelling.—AFP



PENNSYLVANIA: The Pro-Life Coalition of Pennsylvania holds a rally in July 2016. —AFP

TRUMP BANS FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FOREIGN NGOS SUPPORTING ABORTION

'The president takes a stand for the unborn'

Monday signed a decree barring US federal funding for foreign NGOs that support abortion, re-launching a battle that has long divided Americans. "The president, it's no secret, has made it very clear he's a pro-life president. He wants to stand up for all Americans, including the unborn," White House spokesman Sean Spicer said. "The reinstatement of this policy is not just something that echoes that value, but respects taxpayer funding as well."

The restrictions prohibit foreign non-governental organizations that receive US family planning assistance from using non-US funding to provide abortion services, information, counseling or referrals. They are also barred from engaging in advocacy to promote abortion. The move comes just two days after women led a massive protest march in Washington-with satellite rallies across the country and around the world-to defend their rights, including to abortion. And it also comes a day after the 44th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark US Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in 1973.

Women will suffer Trump's move deepened concern among

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on already apprehensive US family planning and women's rights organizations.

> "The world's most vulnerable women will suffer as a direct result of this policy, which undermines years of effort to improve women's health," said Planned Parenthood president Cecile Richards. "This will cause clinic closures around the world-resulting in more unintended pregnancy and unsafe abortion, not less." She vowed her group, the biggest US provider of family planning, will "never stop fighting" for access to reproductive health services

> Trump's executive order is a "clear assault on both access to health care and free speech," the American Civil Liberties Union said. Stenny Hoyer, a Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, sharply criticized Trump for using his first week in office "to attack women's health." "It should be no surprise to the millions of women and men who gathered in protest this weekend across the country-and around the world-that Republicans are focused more on making it harder for women to access health care than on the serious economic and security challenges we face," he said.

Anti-abortion forces

Meanwhile, anti-abortion activists cheered the move. "Recognizing and affirming the universal ideal that all human beings have inherent worth & dignity, is vital to making America great again," tweeted Family Research Council leader Tony Perkins, reprising Trump's campaign slogan. The restrictions were first put in place in 1984 by Republican president Ronald Reagan. Later eliminated by Democratic president Bill Clinton, they were reinstalled by his Republican successor George W. Bush, and annulled again after Barack Obama took office.

Galvanized by Trump's November 8 election, abortion opponents in states where Republicans hold power moved swiftly last month to adopt draconian anti-abortion measures that in some cases pose challenges to constitutional liberties. And the new president has surrounded himself with senior officials openly hostile to abortion rights. While signing the executive order, he was surrounded by a dozen men, including Vice President Mike Pence, who has long sought to dry up federal funding for Planned Parenthood. Trump, meanwhile, has pledged to nominate an anti-abortion justice to the Supreme Court, which could lead to overturning Roe v. Wade.—AFP

INDONESIA: This file picture shows a helicopter operated by Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) dropping water over a fire in Kampar, Riau

INDONESIAN PROVINCE DECLARES ALERT AS HAZE FEARS GROW

JAKARTA: An Indonesian province that suffers annual outbreaks of haze-belching fires said yesterday it was declaring an early alert to prevent blazes burning out of control after forecasters predicted a dry 2017. Riau, on the western island of Sumatra, announced the move after a few "hotspots"-areas of extreme heat detected by satellites which often indicate fires-were sighted this month. It came a day after President Joko Widodo urged local authorities to take early steps to prevent a repeat of the haze crisis of 2015.

The fires occur every year on Sumatra and the Indonesian part of Borneo island, typically during the months-long dry season later in the year. The fires are deliberately started to clear land quickly and cheaply for palm oil and pulpwood plantations. The 2015 blazes were among the worst on record and sent clouds of toxic smog floating across Southeast Asia, leading large numbers to fall ill. A US academic study estimated that the crisis may have led to over 100,000 premature deaths.

The alert status in Riau-below the more significant "state of emergency", which typically indicates a large number of fires burning fiercely-was set to remain in place until April and allows the province to request more resources from central government. "We are preparing helicopters for waterbombing to help the regional government," disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said. Several provinces were criticized in 2015 for failing to declare emergencies quickly enough.

The blazes typically start earlier in Riau due its high concentration of carbon-rich peat land and a widespread practice of using fire to clear land. The Meteorology, Geophysics and Climatology Agency has predicted that this year will be drier than 2016, when an unusually long rainy season prevented major outbreaks of fires. Widodo urged efforts to stop the blazes including setting up fire prevention task forces. He told a meeting of ministers and senior officials: "It is only January but it is already looking dry, therefore we cannot be careless."—AFP

DWARF GALAXIES SHED LIGHT ON DARK MATTER

PARIS: The first sighting of clustered dwarf galaxies bolsters a leading theory about how big galaxies such as our Milky Way are formed, and how dark matter binds them, researchers said Monday. Theorized but never seen, the bundled galaxies were discovered using the largest optical survey of the night sky ever compiled, they reported in the journal Nature Astronomy. Seven clusters of three-to-five galaxies are each 10 to 1,000 times smaller than the Milky Way. Unlike our home galaxy, all have long-since stopped giving birth to new stars.

"We suspect these groups are gravitationally bound and thus will eventually merge to form one larger, intermediatemass galaxy," said lead author Sabrina Stierwalt, an astrophysicist at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Charlotteville, Virginia. The findings shed light on several big questions about how structures such as galaxies formed in the early Universe, she said. A leading theory predicts that, after the Big Bang some 13.7 billion years ago, smaller things joined together to form bigger ones.

But there has been frustratingly little observational evidence of such mergers occurring on a scale as small as dwarf galaxies, Stierwalt explained. One reason is that dwarf galaxies are hard to see. Only two-known at the Magellanic Clouds-are visible to the naked eye. As of a decade ago, no more than a dozen had been identified by astronomers. And even as bigger telescopes made their discovery commonplace, those found were either isolated "field dwarfs," or "satellite dwarfs" being cannibalized by larger galaxies. "Independent groups of only low-mass galaxies-like the ones we found-reveal a possible formation mechanism for larger ones such as our Milky Way," Stierwalt said. The clusters are between 200 million and 650 million light years away from Earth. "That sounds like a lot, but it is relatively nearby given the vast size of the Universe," she said.

Hunting dark matter

The researchers spotted the galaxies by combing through a massive library of star maps compiled under a project known as the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, made public in 2008 and upgraded regularly since. The team then used telescopes-including one at the Apache Point Observatory in New Mexico, and the Walter Baade Telescope at the Los Campanas Observatory in Chile-to confirm their findings. Dwarf clusters are also natural laboratories for better understanding the mysterious substance known as dark matter, thought to account for a quarter of the Universe. the study found. Likely made up of unknown sub-atomic particles, dark matter can only be inferred through its gravitational pull on other objects in space. — AFP

DOUBT OVER EVEREST'S TRUE HEIGHT SPURS FRESH EXPEDITION

NEW DELHI: Scientists will take the tape measure to Mount Everest to determine whether a massive earthquake in Nepal really did knock an inch off the world's tallest peak. India's top surveyor said yesterday a team of scientists would be sent to neighboring Nepal to measure Everest in the hope of putting to rest a debate about the true height of the towering mountain. A deadly 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal in 2015, killing thousands and altering the landscape across the Himalayan nation.

Satellite data at the time suggested the impact of the quake reduced Everest's peak-which officially stands at 8,848 meters above sea level-by anywhere between a few millimeters and an inch. But lingering doubt among the scientific community has prompted a fresh expedition to size up the

peak, said India's surveyor general Swarna Subba Rao. "We will re measure it," Rao was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency, adding the team would set off in two months. "Two years have passed since the major Nepal earthquake and there's doubt in the scientific community that it did in fact shrink."

The exercise will require a month for observation and roughly another fortnight for the data to be officially declared. Another official told AFP that a five-member team would depart for the expedition at winter's end, and would take measurements using instruments on the ground to gauge the peak's real height. The earthquake, Nepal's deadliest disaster in more than 80 years, is also believed to have shifted the earth beneath the capital Kathmandu several meters to the south.—AFP

BANGLADESH PLANTS MILLION TREES TO CUT LIGHTNING TOLL

DHAKA: Bangladesh has begun planting one million palm trees nationwide to help prevent hundreds of people being killed by lightning strikes every year, a top official said yesterday. Authorities last year declared lightning a natural disaster as official tallies recorded more than 200 deaths in 2016, with 82 people dying on a single day in May. Experts say the real number was actually much higher, with one independent monitor saying 349 people were killed by lightning strikes in 2016. Many people living in rural areas do not report deaths to the police.

Disaster officials have spent several months looking at ways to reduce the toll and the tree planting program is likely to be the first of several measures brought in by the government. "We've already started planting palm trees in rural areas in an effort to reduce the number of deaths due to lightning," Shah Kamal, the government's disaster management secretary, said. "We'll plant one million palm trees by June this year." Experts say the high death toll stems

in part from a lack of trees whose branches can absorb the impact of lightning.

While the trees are damaged, it means the electric charge does not course through the earth. Kamal said a similar program in Thailand had already yielded results, adding that a team of Bangladeshi officials had also travelled to Vietnam to study how authorities there protect farmers along the Mekong delta. A top meteorologist who has conducted some research on lightning said the tree planting should help ultimately help reduce the number of deaths, but the benefits would only be felt some way down the line.

"Palm trees take years to grow. But definitely, this is a good move by the government. It will reduce deaths," Shah Alam, a former head of Bangladesh Meteorological Department, said. Alam said the number of lightning strikes has increased in Bangladesh amid increased deforestation in rural areas where farmers often chop down trees so they can grow more rice and other crops.—AFP



JAPAN: Japan's H-IIA rocket carrying the Kirameki-2 satellite is launched from Tanegashima Space Centre in southern Tanegashima island, Kagoshima prefecture, yesterday. —AFP

JAPAN LAUNCHES SATELLITE TO MODERNIZE MILITARY **COMMUNICATIONS**

TOKYO: Japan yesterday launched a satellite to modernize its military communications and reportedly to better monitor North Korean missile launches. The Kirameki-2 will enable ground, sea and air units of the military-known as the Self-Defense Forces-to communicate directly with each other, a defense ministry official said. "We'll be able to exchange a large amount of data more quickly," the official said.

"We currently share information with voice and by fax" due to limitations in the speed and capacity of the three civilian satellites the ministry currently uses, he said. An H-IIA rocket carrying the satellite, which means "sparkle" in English, blasted off from the southern island of Tanegashima at 4.44 pm local time (0744 GMT). Public broadcaster NHK said the ministry would be able to swiftly share information about ballistic missiles launched by North Korea or videos of Japanese troops deployed overseas.

Japan is on constant alert for moves by North Korea, which conducted two underground nuclear tests and more than 20 missile test-launches last year. Kirameki-2 is one of three defense communications satellites that will replace the current civilian ones.

The total cost for the three comes to 230 billion yen (\$2.48 billion), the ministry said. The ministry planned to launch Kirameki-1 last year but it is undergoing repairs after being damaged when being transported to a launch site in French Guiana. Its launch is now scheduled for March 2018 at the earliest.—AFP

KENYAN IRRIGATION APP AIMS TO CUT WATER WASTE, CROP LOSSES

KUNENE, Kenya: Dressed in brown overalls, gumboots and a hat, John Njeru kneels and scoops up a handful of soil at his small farm in central Kenya, where he grows tomatoes, spinach and carrots. "Not only has there not been enough rain in the past few months, it's also been unevenly distributed," he said, picking through the earth in his hand. "This destroys our crops." Dealing with more unpredictable and irregular rainfall associated with climate change is a challenge for many farmers, and one made worse by water-wasting, inefficient irrigation systems, experts say.

But scientists from Kenya's Meru University of Science and Technology have come up with one way to deal with the problem: a mobile app that monitors the need for water in fields and controls irrigation equipment to deliver just what is needed. "Farmers in the region traditionally water crops with cans or buckets", an inefficient way of getting water to plants, said Daniel Maitethia, an electronics lecturer at Meru University.

"The lack of measuring also means they water crops unevenly so some may get too much water, and others not enough," he said. The "sensor-based automatic irrigation system" app, launched last year, uses seniors placed throughout a field to determine if soil is moist enough.

If it's too dry, a control unit uses solar panels to open the valve of a water tank, then close it again when the soil is damp enough. Initially tested at the university's own farm, the irrigation system is now being rolled out to the public - including farmers like Njeru. "We can't yet quantify how many farmers are using the app, but hope to expand it to thousands across Meru County - and potentially the rest of the country if the system proves successful," Maitethia said. The combined app and irrigation system cost 50,000 Kenyan shillings (\$480) per quarter of an acre, including solar panels and two drip irrigation lines. The system can be expanded to an additional quarter acre for 5,000 Kenyan shillings (\$48).

Cost and benefits

While Maitethia acknowledges the upfront cost of the system is high, he believes it will not only curb water waste but save labor costs as it does not require farmers to physically monitor it. "If there is a glitch in the system, the farmer receives a text message notifying him of the problem," he explained. "A technician employed by the university will then help the farmer remotely with instructions, or physically come to the farm if needed." Depending on the severity of the problem, a consultation with a technician can cost the farmer up to 500 Kenyan shillings (about \$5).

Njeru, who paid 75,000 Kenyan shillings (\$721) to install the app and irrigation system on his 1.5-acre farm, said that "although the app is expensive, it's a cost worth paying when I compare my current harvest to previous years." "I used to lose up to 70 percent of my produce as a result of dry weather and inefficient irrigation, compared to only 10 percent now," he said. Njeru used to occasionally hire other farmers to help water his farm on a day-to-day basis. Now he no longer needs to do so, he said. "That saves me 20,000 Kenyan shillings (\$192) per month," he said. —Reuters

NEW BIRD FLU VIRUS TYPE CONFIRMED ON TURKEY FARM

HAMBURG: A bird flu outbreak in north Germany this week was of a new subtype called H5N5, the first time the strain has been confirmed on a German farm, the country's national animal disease centre said yesterday. The H5N5 strain was found on a turkey farm in Germany in Steinburg in the northern state of Schleswig-Holstein, the Friedrich Loeffler Institute said, The H5N5 strain has been found previously in wild birds in the Netherlands, Italy, Montenegro and Italy and Croatia, the institute said. It has also been found in wild birds in Germany this week.

The institute is not changing its bird flu risk assessment, it said. There have been no recorded cases of H5N5 spreading to humans, it added. The contagious H5N8 bird flu strain has been found in hundreds of wild birds in Germany in recent weeks and isolated outbreaks on farms have been occurring despite tougher hygiene rules and orders to keep poultry indoors in high-risk areas.

But German outbreaks are at a much lower level than in France, where a mass culling of around 800,000 ducks was undertaken after bird flu hit southwest France, the country's main foie gras producing region. A series of European countries as well as Israel have found cases of H5N8 bird flu in the past few weeks and some ordered poultry flocks be kept indoors to prevent the disease spreading. Different bird flu strains have also spread in Asia in recent weeks leading to the slaughter of millions of birds in South Korea and Japan, and some human infections in China. —Reuters

AUSTRALIA ZOO URGES PEOPLE TO CATCH DEADLY SPIDERS AS ANTIDOTE RUNS LOW

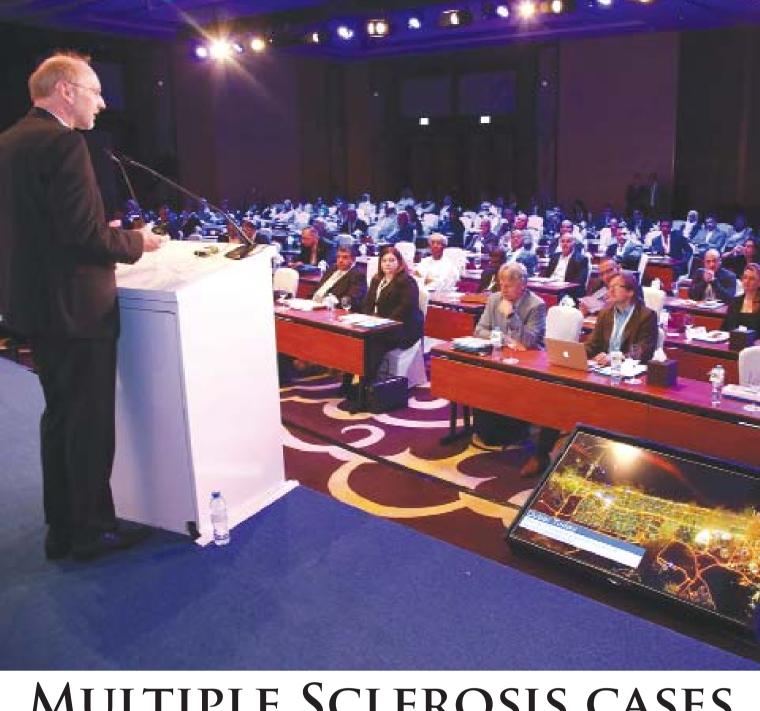
SYDNEY: An Australian zookeeper vester- killer is the Sydney funnel-web spider. day urged people to catch and donate found in the Sydney region and as far north deadly funnel-web spiders, to help replenish stocks of antidote running low after a spate of spider bites. The Australian Reptile Park, the country's sole supplier of funnelweb venom to antidote producers since 1981, relies on the public to hand in spiders that are milked for the venom used to produce an antidote.

The anti-venom program was now at risk after too few spiders were donated last year and a recent heat wave encouraged more spider activity and bites, the park's general manager, Tim Faulkner, said yesterday. "We rely on community support to keep this program alive," Faulkner said in a telephone interview. "We have tried to catch enough spiders ourselves and we just can't."

Funnel-web spiders live throughout southeastern Australia, but the only known

as Newcastle and south to Illawarra, the park says on its website. "The large fangs and acidic venom make the bite very painful," it said, noting that a major bite can cause death within an hour if left untreated.

After milking the spiders, the park delivers the venom to a division of the blood plasma and vaccine maker CSL Ltd, which converts it into the life-saving antidote. Australia has had two funnel-web spider attacks in two weeks, media have said, one of them involving a woman bitten by a spider while she was asleep. Despite the terrifying reputation of Australian wildlife, nobody has died from the bite of a funnelweb spider since the anti-venom program began in 1981. Catching venomous spiders is safe, as long precautions are followed, Faulkner said. — Reuters



MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CASES ON THE RISE IN KUWAIT

Raed Alroughani, Consultant Neurologist and Director of MS Clinic at Al Amiri Hospital said, "Multiple Sclerosis is a rising concern in the Kuwait. The diagnostic process has improved despite the complexity and variability of symptoms which may vary from one person to the other. It can be a challenging condition to live with, but new treatments have considerably improved the quality of life of people with the condition." His remarks were highlighted at a medical conference that was organized by Bayer recently in the United Arab Emirates.

The event focused on the prevalence and management of multiple sclerosis in the region. The event included prominent medical experts from Kuwait, and the region as well as senior representatives from Bayer. According to recent studies, in Kuwait, the disease has a prevalence rate of 85.05 for every 100,000 persons. Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic condition which can affect the brain and/or spinal cord, causing a wide range of potential symptoms, including problems with vision, limb movement, sensation or balance. It is caused when an individual's own immune system attacks healthy cells and tissue.

When this occurs, myelin - the protective insulation surrounding nerve fibers of the central nervous system (CNS) - is destroyed. Ultimately, this damage interferes with nerve communication between neurons in the CNS. During the event, medical experts highlighted that recent studies suggest a moderate-to-high prevalence of multiple sclerosis in the region nearby (31-55 MS per 100,000 individuals), with more prevalence increasing in recent years. Multiple sclerosis' signs and symptoms may differ considerably from person to person and over the course of the disease depending on the location of affected nerve fibers.

Amongst these symptoms are numbness in limbs, partial or complete loss of vision in one or both eyes, tingling or pain in body parts, fatigue, dizziness, double vision, slurred speech, and loss of bladder control. "There is no cure for multiple sclerosis, however, treatment focuses on relieving the condition's symptoms. They work to alter the course of the disease by halting the disease activity through controlling the relapse, disability progression and MRI changes. Successful management of the disease requires early intervention.

Auto injectors

That is why efforts need to be concentrated on driving stronger awareness initiatives in Kuwait in addition to patient education programs that ultimately aim at enhancing patients' adherence to treatment and enhancing their quality of life," added Dr. Raed Alroughani. Phil Smits, Bayer Middle East's Vice President also said, "Being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis is a critical life event, however with the new treatments in hand, patients can alleviate the conditions that arise from the disease. In the field of multiple sclerosis, Bayer has grown to develop a strong commitment to patients by continuously investing to support their varied needs.

We pride ourselves with more than 29 years of history in delivering data and patient insights for effective treatment. Moreover, the company has developed a 360∞ support system for multiple sclerosis patients which focuses on driving patient education and training needs. We have also developed auto injectors to make the drug injection experience comfortable and more importantly, safe for patients." As part of its patient commitment, Bayer's BETACONNECT auto injector, designed to deliver tailored, actionable information based on patient data to provide a more personalized approach to patient support, is the first component of an innovative dose delivery system for multiple sclerosis treatment.

Patients may choose to use BETACONNECT independently or as part of a complete software based system designed to track injection history and share important treatment information with healthcare providers. "At Bayer, we are pleased to continue facilitating leading discussions that focus on best practices in multiple sclerosis care and management. We believe that the only way this disease can be brought under control is through the joint efforts and close collaboration of all entities across the healthcare spectrum. We are guided by a clear determination to provide sustainable solutions that place patients at the core," added Phil Smits.



Kuwait 🜦 Times 248 33 199





OOREDOO AWARDS ITS EMPLOYEES



uwait's fastest network, held an awarding ceremony for its distinguished employees in the second and third quarters of 2016. The awarding ceremony took place in Ooredoo's head office

Monday afternoon. Commenting on this, Acting Chief of **Human Resources** and Administration Services Omar Al-

Bassam said, "Our strong performance and leading position in the market is the direct result of our employees' outstanding performance, hard work and dedication. Rewarding our employees for their excellent performance is one way to express our pride in their achievements and to recognize their hard work."

He added, "Any company's achievements begin with a solid investment in its human resources, and we at Ooredoo have a comprehensive human resources policy to train employees and improve their capabilities, talent and expertise," he added. Ooredoo Star Awards are presented to outstanding

> employees every quarter. A special committee assesses all employees and selects winners based on certain

competence and performance criteria. The awards are given to employees in the categories of most outstanding persons in technology, finance, marketing, human resources, customer care and other departments within the company. Other categories include VOCE (Voice of the Customer Experience) and Ooredoo Way Accomplisher for outstanding performance.



A female winner receiving her prize from Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Thani and the administration



A winner receiving his prize from Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Al Thani and the administration



A winner with Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Aal Thani and the adminis-



A female winner receiving her prize from Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdullah Aal Thani and the administration

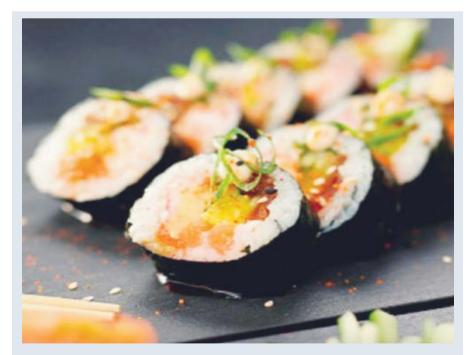


Omar Al-Bassam speaking during the ceremony





Frederic Debord delivering his speech



ASIAN THEMED NIGHTS AT JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL & SPA

umeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa invites you to try signature Asian themed nights with a buffet of exotic offerings in Garden Cafe all day dining Restaurant. With selections

such as Asian salads, sashimi counter, stir fry station, Asian BBQ, assorted dumplings, and a hot buffet including desserts. Every Thursday from 7 pm to 11:30 pm.

GOVT OF INDIA BANS THURAYA PHONES

he Government of India has banned the use of Thuraya phones in the country. All State Police Agencies have been asked to seize Thuraya/Iridium sets in India and take

action as per provisions of the law. This Press Advisory is issued for the benefit of foreigners going to India and asking them not to carry Thuraya/Irridium satellite phones into India

IRELAND VISA APPLICATION CENTRE LAUNCHED IN KUWAIT

esidents of Kuwait can now apply in Kuwait City for visas to Ireland at a modern and centrally-located Visa Application Centre launched in cooperation with the Embassy of Ireland. Applicants can visit the VFS Global centre, located at Level 30, Arraya Center, Alshuhada Street, Kuwait City, Kuwait, to submit visa applications. The centre was formally inaugurated by HE Patrick Hennessy, Ambassador of Ireland to Kuwait, on 19 Jan 2017. Kuwait is the first country in the Gulf region where applicants can apply for a visa to Ireland from the professionally appointed VFS Global Visa Application Centre.

The new Ireland Visa Application Centre caters to the growing needs of outbound travellers from the country. With Ireland being a popular destination for tourism, business and higher education, travellers from Kuwait will experience enhanced convenience and ease when applying for their visas through customer-centric and professionally managed services offered at the centre. VFS Global has been serving the Government of Ireland since 2004, and currently serves the client in 10 countries from 41 visa application centres globally. The company has been operating visa processing services in Kuwait since 2005, and today serves 13 client governments in the

Speaking at the launch, HE Patrick Hennessy, Ambassador of Ireland to Kuwait, said, "I warmly welcome the new visa service launched in cooperation with VFS Global. It means those living in Kuwait will be able to apply in person for an Irish visa, and will benefit from this smooth and efficient service. I'm

sure it will result in many more of our Kuwaiti friends choosing to visit Ireland, whether for business, education or tourism." Vinay Malhotra added, COO - Middle East & South Asia, VFS Global, "We are delighted to launch this centre for the Government of Ireland in Kuwait that will provide streamlined visa services and uncompromised service quality to travellers to Ireland. The launch of this centre serves the needs of the ever-expanding travel trade in this region and we are confident it will deliver services that exceed the expectations of our client."

The key features of the centre include: Convenient and centrally-accessed location Professional staff with local language capability to handle queries and applications Well-appointed centre for enhanced comfort of applicants

Automated queue governance for smooth flow of applicants

Dedicated website for easy access to information including visa categories, requirements, check-list and applicable fees 100% secure handling of passports, docu-

ments and personal information Door-step delivery of passports Premium Lounge for personalised and comfortable service









AUB distributes Iftar meals in Ramadan

AUB sponsors 'Color Your Life' activity

AUB'S 2016 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM HAILED AS A GREAT SUCCESS

hli United Bank's (AUB) 2016 corporate social responsibility program has been hailed as a great success. The Bank participated in an extensive and diversified range of activities throughout the year that added value to the wider social community in Kuwait. Throughout the year, the Bank took part in a number of events which included its underlying support to children with autism, an event that took place at the Arabian Gulf beach, and was patronized under the President of Civil Development Society, Sheikha Dr. Maimouna Al-Sabah under the theme of "You're welcome, Run with Us, Supporting our children."

A large number of the Bank's executive management and staff participated, who found that this event was a strong platform to create a good level of awareness around autism in Kuwait. As part of its continued efforts to reinforce its services to special needs clients, AUB organized a wide number of specialized training courses throughout the year that aimed at providing an educational base for employees to learn more about sign language, with a primary objective of facilitating communications with special needs customers, and helping them receive the best possible banking services that are in line with their varied needs.

In a clear message that supports the importance of encouraging special needs athletes, and showcasing their true potential, AUB supported the Kuwait Paralympics team that participated in the Paralympics which took place in Brazil from Sept 7 to 19, 2016. This popular initiative was widely endorsed by representatives from the Kuwait Disabled Sports Club, who have commended the Bank's support towards its athletes. At the same time, it also shed light on the overall developmental role the Bank plays to facilitate the necessary needs for special needs citizens, a core social segment of the wider community that is able to represent Kuwait in a number of activities, whether sports, cultural and scientific amongst others.

The Bank continued the social responsibility program during 2016 with an entertaining event that was held under the theme of "Color your life", which was held at the Al-Kharafi Children Special Needs Center. The event was held to celebrate World Special Needs Day which is marked on Dec 3 each year, and included a variety of fun filled activities, where children of all age groups participated with the objective of creating an encouraging and competitive spirit amongst participants. The event also included distribution of gifts to all those who took part.

The Bank has placed healthcare amongst its list of priorities. To that extent, AUB launched its annual initiative, in line with World Humanitarian Day, which was held on the 19 Aug 2016, where a number of the Bank's female employees volunteered in a visit to the Hayat Breast Cancer Association, which is also known as "Ruqayah Abdulwahab Al Qatami Association." In a special event that was held by Hayat Breast Cancer Association in Al Shuwaikh District, AUB's volunteering team met patients as well as cancer survivors, with an objective of communicating with them, supporting their treatment and recovery process as well as distributing gifts to raise their morale.

In an humanitarian initiative that aims at supporting social wellbeing and giving amongst members of the society, AUB organized a number of blood donation drives which were in support of the Blood Bank. The blood donation campaigns, which were held at the Bank's headquarters, were widely received and well attended by the Bank's employees, who donated their blood. The initiative reflects the overall increased awareness levels around the importance of driving reserves at the Blood Bank, and supporting its role of saving patient lives who require transfusions.

AUB has also sponsored the national

blood donation campaign which was launched earlier by the Central Blood Bank under the theme "Be the first to donate blood". The event was held in line with the World Donors Day, which is celebrated on June 14 each year. The Bank sponsored the second gastroenterology

Ramadan. The program was developed in cooperation with LOYAC, which aims at strengthening ties amongst members of the society, and encouraging a sense of happiness during the holy month. Special needs comes at the core of the Bank's activities during the year, where AUB celebrated Girgean with the Kuwait Down

tribution in a fun filled atmosphere.

AUB's initiative to sponsor the celebration that marked Kuwait as the capital of Islamic culture, which was organized by the Ministry of Education in November 2016, was part of its support toward spreading the Islamic culture and reinforcing its values, and human nature, which is

bers of society that require care and appreciation for their many years of professional service and expertise. The Bank has reaffirmed its leading social position in similar events which aims at improving retired professionals' lives and is line with its overall objective of providing banking services that meet their needs.

In line with the Bank's strategic imperatives of empowering youth, being the backbone of the country's future, AUB has welcomed the sponsorship of the charity dinner organized by Mentor Arabiaheld under the patronage His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The dinner was attended by the Representative of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al Sabah - Deputy Minister of AmiriDiwan, HM Queen Silvia of Sweden - President of Mentor International, HRH Prince Turki Bin Talal Bin Abdelaziz Al Saud -Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mentor Arabia, and Faisal Al Mutawa, the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mentor Arabia, with the objective being to participate in the organization's efforts in safeguarding youth from drug abuse, and raising more awareness around its dangers across society.

The event was attended by a number of senior executives from AUB who have shared their gratitude and respect towards the role that the Mentor Arabia plays in empowering the youth and protecting them from negative practices, namely drug abuse while creating a sense of awareness amongst the youth around the dangers of drugs. This is in line with the Bank's social role and its commitment toward the younger members of the society. Richard Groves, Chief Executive Officer of Ahli United Bank, said, "Since the Bank's operations were launched 75 years ago, and as the first bank to operate in Kuwait accommodating the most important milestones across the Kuwaiti economy throughout its history.

AUB was able to develop a strong footprint across the local banking sector and support its economic development. At the same time, the Bank has ensured that its social development role in Kuwait grows. Social responsibility has long been a core part of the Bank's strategy, especially when the Bank operates under the Shari'a law, which adds more depth and value to the Bank's overall role in society." Grovesadded, "Our understanding on the social role reflects our commitment to establishing a robust social role. To that extent, our commitment continues to drive more comprehensive social responsibility activities, through a diverse range of initiatives that help achieve a more sustainable society, and which helps create an understanding and culture of social obligation."



In collaboration with LOYAC, AUB sponsors 'Service is My Joy'

by the Kuwaiti Gastroenterology Board during May 2016. The event aimed at qualifying the skills and potentials of all Kuwaiti doctors and increasing their overall knowledge base. In line with World Diabetes Day which is held on 14 Nov each year, AUB organized a health drive for its employees, in cooperation with Dar Al Shifa Hospital.

The hospital's team visited the Bank's main branch, and were given a large conference room to conduct the necessary tests that aim at preventing diabetes. These included measuring blood glucose levels, blood pressure as well as BMI levels. Moreover, a live discussion with the hospital's nutritionist was facilitated, where a range tips were provided to the staff after performing the tests on them and raising their awareness levels around diet and nutrition that suit their health needs and helps prevent diabetes or manage their conditions. Dar Al Shifa Hospital's team provided booklets that included the necessary information around the disease, its complications and prevention mechanisms.

An integrated social program

As part of its annual drive, AUB launched its integrated social responsibility program during the Holy Month of

Syndrome Society and Souad Al Sabah Special Needs Care Center, where the Bank distributed gifts as well as shared

the joy of Ramadan with the participants. Throughout the month, the Bank also organized a Quran recitation competition at its headquarters. The competition included 4 groups - male and female employees, employees' children, and children from the general public. As part of its continued efforts to support the society and contribute in charitable initiatives during the holy month of Ramadan, AUB launched a program that aimed at breaking the fast for fasting underprivileged individuals near its

branches across Kuwait. AUB, being a core member of Kuwaiti society, participated in the national celebrations, with an aim of spreading happiness and joy across social groups. The Bank organized a special celebration to mark Kuwait's National Day, which was held at the Bank's complex. The celebration included a segment of national songs in front of a large crowd. The Kuwaiti flag was also distributed amongst the audience, along with sweets. The Bank also organized an open day for its employees and their families at Al Shaheed Park, which included a wide range of surprises and entertaining segments and gifts dis-

considered a core aspect of the Bank's management philosophy. AUB sponsored the "Service Is My Joy" Program within the framework of its strategic partnership with LOYAC Kuwait. The Bank's latest alliance reflects its effort to reinforce its extensive range of social activities and underlying support for Kuwaiti society.

The 'Service Is My Joy' initiative aims at helping various social segments. The initiative involves participants aged 16 and above taking part in volunteering committees and collaborating with a number of volunteering centers such as KAACH, Paradise Institute and Abeer 2. Throughout the program, activities range between learning how to perform first aid at the Kuwait Red Crescent Society as well as providing support services to the elderly. As part of its efforts to support all members of the society, AUB sponsored the first national conference that focuses on investing the capabilities of retired professionals.

The conference was held on the 30 May 2016 under the patronage of Mr Marzouq Ali Al Ghanem, Parliament Speaker, and was attended by a number of the country's officials. AUB's support is reflected in supporting retired professionals due to their leading roles over a number of years who are also considered important mem-



AUB's blood donation campaign

OVI MOVIES **ACTION**

01:00 Duplicity 03:15 Black Rose 05:00 Memorial Day 07:00 Reign Of Assassins 09:15 Ladder 49 11:30 Jurassic Hunters

13:30 Sword Of Vengeance 15:30 Fantastic Four 17:30 Reign Of Assassins 19:30 Ladder 49

21:45 Ant-Man

00:00 Lone Star Lav 00:55 Gator Boys

03:40 Lone Star Law

13:55 Going Ape

14:20 Going Ape

21:15 Tanked

01:50 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants 02:45 Going Ape 03:10 Going Ape

04:35 Tanked 05:25 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker 06:15 Gator Boys 07:02 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants

07:49 Lone Star Law 08:36 Meet The Orangutans 09:00 Meet The Orangutans

09:25 Pit Bulls & Parolees 10:15 Lone Star Law 11:10 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker 12:05 Tanked 13:00 Pit Bulls & Parolees

14:50 Lone Star Law 15:45 Gator Boys 16:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker 17:35 Tanked

18:30 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants 19:25 Wild Animal Rescue 20:20 The Pool Master

22:10 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker

23:05 Wild Animal Rescue **FIRST**

00:05 Ripper Street 01:00 Doctors 01:30 Call The Midwife

02:25 Silent Witness 03:30 Silent Witness 04:35 Ripper Street

05:40 Impractical Jokers 06:05 Ridiculousness

06:30 Bondi Ink. 07:20 Life Or Debt 08:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On 09:05 Impractical Jokers

09:55 Tosh 0 10:20 Key And Peele 10:45 Workaholics 11:10 The It Crowd 11:35 Ridiculousness 12:00 Life Or Debt 12:50 Brotherhood 13:15 Workaholics

09:30 Ridiculousness

13:40 The It Crowd 14:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 14:55 Ridiculousness 15:20 Urban Tarzan

15:45 Urban Tarzan 16:10 Brotherhood 16:35 Ridiculousness 17:00 Impractical Jokers 17:30 Workaholics 17:55 Tosh.0 18:25 Workaholics 18:50 Lip Sync Battle 19:15 Lip Sync Battle

20:03 Life Or Debt 20:50 Brotherhood 21:13 Impractical Jokers Ridiculousness The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 22:30 The Meltdown With Jonah And

19:39 The It Crowd

Kumail 22:54 Key And Peele 23:18 Another Period 23:42 Another Period

Discovery

00:15 What Happened Next? 00:40 Ultimate Survival 01:30 Nextworld 02:20 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records 02:45 Australia Smashes Guinness

World Records 03:10 Guinness World Records Smashed UK 04:00 What Happened Next? 04:25 What Happened Next?

04:50 Ultimate Survival 05:40 How It's Made 06:05 How It's Made 06:30 Storm Chasers 07:20 Mythbusters

13:05 Shake It Up 13:30 Shake It Up 13:55 Disney Mickey Mouse

14:00 Welcome To The Ronks 14:15 Gravity Falls 14:40 Hank Zipzer 15:05 Frozen: Magic Of The Northern Lights 15:10 Austin & Ally 15:35 Austin & Ally

16:00 Jessie

16:25 Jessie 16:50 Rolling To The Ronks 17:15 Sunny Bunnies 17:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir

17:45 Elena Of Avalor 18:10 Bunk'd 18:35 Descendants Wicked World 18:40 Girl Meets World 19:05 Bizaardvark 19:30 Liv And Maddie

19:55 Best Friends Whenever 20:20 Disney Mickey Mouse 20:25 The Next Step 20:50 Austin & Ally 21:15 Star Darlings 21:20 Shake It Up 21:45 Backstage 22:10 Liv And Maddie

23:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts DISNED &

00:30 Doc McStuffins 00:55 PJ Masks 01:35 The Hive

02:00 Henry Hugglemonster 02:15 Calimero 02:30 Art Attack

04:05 Art Attack 04:30 The Hive 04:40 Loopdidoo 04:55 Henry Hugglemonster 05:10 Art Attack



REIGN OF ASSASSINS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

08:00 Do You Know?

08:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild

09:00 My Cat From Hell

09:45 How It's Made

10:05 How It's Made

12:10 Storm Chasers

13:00 My Cat From Hell

13:50 Ultimate Survival

14:40 How It's Made

15:05 How It's Made

15:30 Storm Chasers

17:45 Do You Know?

18:00 Wildest Africa

18:50 Finding Bigfoot

20:30 How It's Made

20:55 How It's Made

21:20 Mythbusters

22:10 Wildest Africa

23:00 Finding Bigfoot

23:50 What Happened Next?

19:40 Nextworld

17:20 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild

16:15 Mythbusters

17:00 Doki

10:30 Nextworld

11:20 Mythbusters

08:15 Doki

06:00 The Musketeers 07:00 Doctors 07:30 Doctors 08:00 Doctors 08:30 Holby City 09:25 Stella 10:20 The Musketeers 11:20 Doctors 11:55 Doctors

05:30 Doctors

12:30 Death In Paradise 13:25 Stella 14:20 The Musketeers 15:15 Doctors 15:45 Doctors 16:15 Death In Paradise

17:10 Stella 18:05 The Musketeers 19:00 Doctors 19:30 Eastenders 20:05 Death In Paradise

21:00 Poldark 22:00 Call The Midwife 22:55 Ripper Street

23:50 Wallander

crime &investigation

00:00 The First 48 01:00 It Takes A Killer 01:30 It Takes A Killer 02:00 Deadly Wives 03:00 Killer Kids 04:00 The First 48 05:00 It Takes A Killer

05:30 It Takes A Killer 06:00 Deadly Wives 07:00 Killer Kids 08:00 Gangs Of Britain.. 09:00 Evil Up Close 10:00 Gangs Of Britain..

11:00 Homicide Hunter 12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 14:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 15:00 Crimes That Shook Britain

16:00 Evil Up Close 17:00 The First 48 18:00 Homicide Hunter 19:00 Gangs Of Britain... 20:00 Gangs Of Britain... 21:00 Nightmare In Suburbia

22:00 The First 48 23:00 Evil Up Close

CENTRAL COMEDY

00:05 Tosh.0 00:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 01:00 Key And Peele

01:25 South Park 01:50 South Park 02:15 Tosh.0 02:40 Inside Amy Schumer 03:05 South Park 03:30 South Park

04:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah 04:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On

05:15 Key And Peele

00:00 Binny And The Ghost

00:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 01:10 Hank Zipzer 01:35 Binny And The Ghost 02:00 Violetta

02:45 The Hive 02:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 03:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

03:40 Hank Zipzer

04:05 Binny And The Ghost 04:30 Violetta 05:15 The Hive 05:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

05:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

06:10 Hank Zipzer 06:35 Binny And The Ghost 07:00 Violetta 07:50 Mouk

08:00 Jessie 08:25 Jessie 08:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And

Cat Noir 09:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts 09:20 Elena Of Avalor 09:45 Bunk'd 10:10 Gravity Falls 10:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place

11:00 Wizards Of Waverly Place 11:50 A.N.T. Farm 12:15 Good Luck Charlie 12:40 Good Luck Charlie

06:45 Zou

07:00 Art Attack 07:30 Henry Hugglemonster 07:45 Loopdidoo 08:15 Calimero 08:30 Loopdidoo

08:45 Henry Hugglemonster 09:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons 09:05 PJ Masks 09:15 Goldie & Bear

09:30 Jake And The Neverland Pirates 09:45 Miles From Tomorrow 09:55 The Lion Guard 10:20 Doc McStuffins 10:35 Goldie & Bear

10:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 11:00 PJ Masks11:15 Jake And The Neverland Pirates 11:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons

11:35 Sofia The First 12:00 Sofia The First 12:30 Doc McStuffins 12:55 Doc McStuffins

13:20 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 13:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 14:15 Gummi Bears 14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 15:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates

16:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates16:30 Little Mermaid 16:55 Unbungalievable 17:00 Miles From Tomorrow 17:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 17:55 The Lion Guard

18:20 Goldie & Bear 18:50 PJ Masks 19:15 Sofia The First 19:40 Doc McStuffins 20:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 20:30 Little Mermaid

21:00 Doc McStuffins 21:30 Doc McStuffins 22:00 Unbungalievable 22:05 Goldie & Bear 22:35 Miles From Tomorrow 23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West

23:25 Gummi Bears 23:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons Discovery CHANNEL

00:30 Fast N' Loud 01:20 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up 02:10 The Island With Bear Grylls 03:00 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive

03:50 Venom Hunters

04:40 Fast N' Loud 05:30 The Liquidator 06:00 How Do They Do It? 06:30 How Do They Do It? 07:00 Deadliest Catch

07:50 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up 08:40 Fast N' Loud 09:30 What On Earth? 10:20 The Liquidator 10:45 How Do They Do It? 11:10 How Do They Do It? 11:35 The Island With Bear Grylls

12:25 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive

13:15 Venom Hunters

02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 14:05 How Do They Do It? 03:00 Man Fire Food 14:30 The Liquidator 03:30 Man Fire Food

04:00 Chopped

07:00 The Kitchen

09:00 Siba's Table

09:30 Siba's Table

11:00 The Kitchen

13:00 Siba's Table

13:30 Siba's Table

15:00 Chopped

18:00 Chopped

20:00 Chopped

16:00 The Kitchen

05:00 Guy's Grocery Games

06:00 Barefoot Contessa

06:30 Barefoot Contessa

08:00 The Pioneer Woman

08:30 The Pioneer Woman

10:00 Valerie's Home Cooking

10:30 Valerie's Home Cooking

12:00 The Pioneer Woman

12:30 The Pioneer Woman

14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

17:00 Valerie's Home Cooking

17:30 Valerie's Home Cooking

19:00 Iron Chef America

21:00 Food Network Star

23:00 Iron Chef America

00:15 Coronation Street

00:40 Coronation Street

02:30 Coronation Street

03:00 Coronation Street

04:25 Murdoch Mysteries

05:20 Murdoch Mysteries

07:10 Don't Tell The Bride

09:00 Murdoch Mysteries

06:15 Grantchester

01:10 The Chase

02:00 Emmerdale

CHOICE

03:30 Come Dine With Me Couples

08:10 Come Dine With Me Couples

22:00 Kitchen Casino

14:55 The Liquidator 15:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier 16:10 What On Earth? 17:00 Deadliest Catch

19:30 How Do They Do It? 19:55 How Do They Do It? 20:20 What On Earth? 21:10 The Liquidator 21:35 The Liquidator 22:00 Blowing Up History

08:15 Counterfeit Cat

09:10 K.C. Undercover

10:50 Danger Mouse

11:20 Supa Strikas

11:45 Supa Strikas

12:10 Counterfeit Cat

12:35 Pair Of Kings

13:00 Pair Of Kings

13:30 Future-Worm!

14:45 Atomic Puppet

15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse

16:05 Lab Rats Elite Force

18:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island

20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much

19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse

16:30 Disney Cookabout

16:55 Danger Mouse

17:50 Future-Worm!

18:15 Gravity Falls

19:10 Supa Strikas

19:35 Supa Strikas

20:00 Atomic Puppet

Everything 20:55 K.C. Undercover

21:20 Counterfeit Cat

22:10 Pickle And Peanut

22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

23:10 Ultimate Spider-Man

22:45 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron

21:45 Mighty Med

Revolution

23:35 Boyster

17:25 K.C. Undercover

15:15 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron

15:40 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much

13:55 Lab Rats

14:20 Lab Rats

Revolution

Everything

10:00 Lab Rats

10:25 Lab Rats

Supa Strikas

09:35 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures

17:50 Fast N' Loud

18:40 Wheeler Dealers

22:50 Mega Shippers 23:40 Impossible Engineering

00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA 07:00 Danger Mouse 07:25 Gravity Falls 07:50 The 7D 08:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

22:35 Cracke 22:40 The Next Step 23:05 Best Friends Whenever 23:30 Mako Mermaids

00:00 Doc McStuffins 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster

01:45 Loopdidoo

02:50 Zou 03:05 Loopdidoo 03:20 Henry Hugglemonster 03:35 Calimero 03:50 Zou

05:35 Loopdidoo 05:50 Calimero

06:05 Art Attack 06:30 Henry Hugglemonster

00:00 E! News

00:15 Mariah's World 01:05 Mariah's World 01:55 Mariah's World 02:50 E! News 03:50 WAGs 04:45 WAGs 05:40 WAGs 06:30 Celebrity Style Story

07:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take The **Hamptons** 07:55 E! News 08:10 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons

09:10 E! News 10:10 Kourtney And Khloe Take The 11:10 Kourtney And Khloe Take The **Hamptons**

12:05 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons 13:00 E! News 13:15 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons 14:10 Kourtney And Khloe Take The

Hamptons 15:05 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons 16:00 E! News

16:15 Mariah's World 17:15 Mariah's World 18:10 Mariah's World 19:05 Mariah's World 20:00 E! News 21:00 Botched 22:00 Hollywood & Football

23:00 Hollywood & Football

tood

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 01:00 Man Fire Food 01:30 Man Fire Food 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 10:00 Murdoch Mysteries 11:00 Grantchester 11:55 Don't Tell The Bride 12:55 Come Dine With Me Couples 13:45 Emmerdale 14:15 Coronation Street 14:45 Coronation Street 15:10 Don't Tell The Bride 16:10 Come Dine With Me Couples 17:00 Doctor Thorne 17:50 Shetland 18:50 Arthur & George 19:45 Emmerdale 20:15 Coronation Street 20:45 Coronation Street 21:10 Come Dine With Me Couples 22:00 Doctor Thorne

22:50 Shetland

23:50 Emmerdale 00:00 Ancient Aliens

01:00 The Universe 02:00 Patton 360 03:00 Mud Men 04:00 America's Book Of Secrets 04:50 Ancient Aliens 05:40 Ancient Aliens

06:30 The Universe 07:20 Patton 360 08:10 The Universe 09:00 Mud Men 10:00 America's Book Of Secrets

11:00 Ancient Aliens 12:00 Ancient Aliens 13:00 The Universe 14:00 Patton 360 15:00 Mud Men

17:00 Ancient Aliens 18:00 Ancient Aliens 19:00 The Universe 20:00 Patton 360 21:00 Mud Men

22:00 America's Book Of Secrets 23:00 Ancient Aliens HISTORY.

UU:30 American Pickers 01:20 Time Team 02:10 Mountain Men 03:00 Swamp People 03:50 Storage Wars 04:15 American Pickers

05:05 Pawn Stars 05:30 Pawn Stars 06:00 Mountain Men 07:00 Ice Road Truckers 07:50 Shipping Wars 08:15 Shipping Wars 08:40 Counting Cars 09:05 Counting Cars

09:30 Pawn Stars

09:55 Pawn Stars

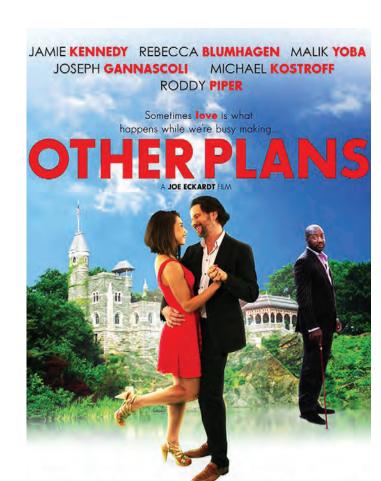
10:20 Storage Wars

10:45 Storage Wars



CHRIS EVANS ALICE EVE

BEFORE WE GO ON OSN MOVIES HD



OTHER PLANS ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

11:10 American Pickers 12:00 Hunting Hitler 05:40 Real Angry Birds 12:50 Time Team 06:35 Snake Paradise 13:40 Swamp People 14:30 Ax Men

15:20 Mountain Men 16:10 Ice Road Truckers 17:00 Counting Cars 17:25 Counting Cars 17:50 Pawn Stars

18:15 Pawn Stars 18:40 Mountain Men 19:30 Swamp People 20:20 Ax Men 21:10 American Pickers

22:00 Counting Cars 22:25 Car Hunters 22:50 Forged In Fire 23:40 Forged In Fire

NAT GEO people III

00:20 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 00:45 Street Food Around The World 01:10 Street Food Around The World 01:35 Wineroads

02:00 Glamour Puds 02:25 Places We Go 02:50 Places We Go 03:15 My Restaurant In India 03:40 My Restaurant In India

04:05 Tom's Istanbul Delight 04:30 David Rocco's Dolce India 04:55 Cesar's Recruit: Asia 05:20 Carnival Eats 05:45 Eat Street

06:10 A Is For Apple 06:35 Eat: The Story Of Food 07:25 Miguel's Feasts 07:50 Glamour Puds 08:15 Places We Go

08:40 Places We Go 09:05 My Restaurant In India 09:30 My Restaurant In India 09:55 Tom's Istanbul Delight 10:20 David Rocco's Dolce India

10:45 Cesar's Recruit: Asia 11:10 Carnival Eats 11:35 Eat Street 12:00 A Is For Apple 12:25 Eat: The Story Of Food

13:15 Miguel's Feasts 13:40 Glamour Puds 14:05 Places We Go 14:35 Places We Go 15:00 My Restaurant In India 15:30 Sara's Australia Unveiled

16:00 Tom's Istanbul Delight 16:30 Grandma's Boy 17:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia 17:25 Carnival Eats 17:50 Eat Street 18:15 A Is For Apple 18:40 Eat: The Story Of Food 19:35 Miguel's Feasts

20:05 Tom's Istanbul Delight 20:30 Grandma's Boy 21:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia 21:25 Carnival Eats 21:50 Fat Street 22:15 A Is For Apple

22:40 Eat: The Story Of Food

23:30 Miguel's Feasts 23:55 Glamour Puds NATIONAL **GEOGRAPHIC**

CHANNEL HD 00:20 Access 360 World Heritage 01:10 Sea Of Hope 02:00 Wicked Tuna 03:00 Air Crash Investigation

03:55 Live Free Or Die 04:50 Sea Of Hope 05:45 The Great Food Revolution 06:40 Paranatural 07:35 Dog Whisperer 08:30 Dino Mania

09:25 Seconds From Disaster 10:20 The Great Food Revolution 11:15 Cesar's Recruit: Asia 11:40 Desperate Hours 12:10 Sea Of Hope 13:05 Reagan: The Assassination

Attempt

15:00 Dino Death Match 16:00 Dog Whisperer 17:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia 17:30 Hacking The System 18:00 Operation Sumatran Rhino 19:00 Explorer 20:00 The Real Saddam Hussein

21:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia

14:00 Seconds From Disaster

21:25 Hacking The System 21:50 Operation Sumatran Rhino 22:40 Explorer 23:30 The Real Saddam Hussein **NAT GEO**

00:30 Shark Attack Experiment(Cut 01:20 Tigers Of The Snow 02:10 Wild Russia 03:00 Snake Paradise 03:50 Dangerous Encounters

∪4:45 Dangerous Encounters

07:30 Dangerous Encounters 08:25 Dangerous Encounters 09:20 Real Angry Birds 10:15 Battle Of The Swamp Dragons 11:10 Deadly Instincts 12:05 Man Ánd The Wild

13:55 Tiger On The Run 14:50 Dangerous Encounters 15:45 Dangerous Encounters 16:40 World's Deadliest 17:35 America's Deadliest 18:30 Badass Animals

13:00 When Sharks Attack

19:25 Man And The Wild 20:20 Dangerous Encounters 21:10 World's Deadliest 22:00 America's Deadliest Badass Animals

23:40 Man And The Wild

MOVIES

00:00 Sunlight Jr. 02:00 Life Of A King

04:00 Frontera 06:00 The Harvest 08:00 First Response 10:00 Every Thing Will Be Fine

12:00 Life Of A King 14:00 Red Wing 16:00 Boychoir 18:00 Every Thing Will Be Fine 20:00 Lucky Them

22:00 Haunting In Hollow Creek MOVIES HD

UU:UU PET PAIS IN VVINGIANG 02:00 Big Baby

04:00 House Arrest 06:00 Max 08:00 The Wild Thornberrys Movie 10:00 Pet Pals In Windland

12:00 Max 14:00 Bark Ranger 16:00 Minions 18:00 Goosebumps

20:00 Clockstoppers 22:00 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls

OF MOVIES HID

00:00 Captain America: Civil War 02:30 True Story 04:15 Insurgent 06:15 Before We Go 08:00 90 Minutes In Heaven

10:00 Insurgent 12:00 Daddy's Home 14:00 Love The Coopers 18:00 A Kind Of Murder 19:45 Joy

22:00 Spotlight ON MOVIES HE

01:00 Other Plans 03:00 Norbit 05:00 Passed Away

07:00 Baby Mama 09:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect Snogging 11:00 Passed Away 13:00 Norbit 15:00 All About Steve

17:00 Angus Thongs And Perfect

Snogging 19:00 Ghostbusters

21:00 Blue Streak 23:00 Bad Words **OVI** MOVIES

FESTIVAL 00:30 Black Swan

02:30 The Truth About Emanuel 04:15 Ironweed 06:45 Walking On Sunshine 08:30 Bottle Rocket 10:00 The Fold

12:00 The Truth About Emanuel 14:00 Ricki And The Flash 16:00 Middle Of Nowhere 18:00 The Fold 20:00 Changeling

22:30 The Express

OM MOVIES HD KIDS

00:45 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold 02:15 The Three Dogateers

03:45 Jock The Hero Dog 05:15 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic

07:00 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels

08:45 The Adventures Of Don Quixote



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017

THE BYE BYE MAN

15:55

KAC

10:45 PM





AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film

FANAR-1

Kuwait Times

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (19/01/2017 TO 25/01/2017)

CHAPOIA 1		DALLEDINA	1.20 DM	AVENUES-1	
SHARQIA-1	12:30 PM	Ballerina Ballerina	1:30 PM 3:30 PM	SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA	11:30 AM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film		BALLERINA	5:30 PM	THE GREAT WALL	1:30 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	2:30 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	7:30 PM	SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA	1:30 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	4:30 PM				
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	6:30 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	9:45 PM	A MONSTER CALLS	3:45 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	8:30 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	12:30 AM	PATRIOTS DAY	6:00 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	10:30 PM	FANAD 2		A MONSTER CALLS	8:45 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:30 AM	FANAR-2	12.45.014	THE GREAT WALL	11:00 PM
		AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:45 PM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	1:15 AM
SHARQIA-2		AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	2:45 PM		
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	1:00 PM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	4:45 PM	AVENUES-2	
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	3:00 PM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	6:45 PM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE -3D -4DX	12:15 PM
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	5:00 PM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	8:45 PM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE -3D -4DX	2:15 PM
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	7:00 PM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	10:45 PM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE -3D -4DX	4:15 PM
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	9:00 PM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:45 AM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE -3D -4DX	6:15 PM
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	11:00 PM	FANADO		xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE -3D -4DX	8:15 PM
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	1:00 AM	FANAR-3	10.00.011	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE -3D -4DX	10:15 PM
		DANGAL-Hindi	12:30 PM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE -3D -4DX	12:15 AM
SHARQIA-3		THE GREAT WALL	4:00 PM		
BALLERINA	12:00 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	6:15 PM	AVENUES-3	
DANGAL -Hindi	2:00 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	9:30 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	1:00 PM
BALLERINA	5:15 PM	THE GREAT WALL	12:45 AM	THE GREAT WALL	1:30 PM
THE GREAT WALL	7:15 PM			PATRIOTS DAY	4:00 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	9:30 PM	FANAR-4	12.15 DM	KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	4:00 PM
PATRIOTS DAY	12:15 AM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	12:15 PM	KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	6:45 PM
*******		xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	2:15 PM	3	
MUHALAB-1	44 45 444	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	4:15 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	9:45 PM
DANGAL-Hindi	11:45 AM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	6:15 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	12:30 AM
BALLERINA	3:00 PM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	8:15 PM		
BALLERINA	5:00 PM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	10:15 PM 12:15 AM	360°-1	
BALLERINA	2:00 PM	XXX. RETURN OF AANDER CAGE	12.13 AIVI	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:00 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu	4:00 PM 7:00 PM	MARINA-1		AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	2:00 PM
KHAIDI NO. 150 -Telugu DANGAL -Hindi	7:00 PM 9:45 PM	THE GREAT WALL	11:45 AM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	4:00 PM
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	1:00 AM	BALLERINA	2:30 PM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	6:00 PM
XXX: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	1:00 AW	MOANA	4:45 PM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	8:00 PM
MUHALAB-2		THE GREAT WALL	7:00 PM	NO FRI	
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:00 PM	PATRIOTS DAY	9:15 PM	Special Show "xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE"	8:00 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	2:00 PM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	12:05 AM	FRI	
AL ATR-Kuwaiti Film	4:00 PM	XXX. NETONIVOI XXIVDEN CAGE	12.03 AW	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	10:00 PM
BALLERINA	4:00 PM	MARINA-2		AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:05 AM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	6:00 PM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:00 PM		
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	8:00 PM	AL ATR — -Kuwaiti Film	2:00 PM	360°-2	
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	10:00 PM	BALLERINA	4:00 PM	DANGAL -Hindi	1:45 PM
AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:05 AM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	6:00 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	5:00 PM
ALTHI ROWGICT IIII	12.0371111	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	8:00 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	8:15 PM
MUHALAB-3		AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	10:00 PM	DANGAL-Hindi	11:30 PM
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	12:15 PM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film	12:05 AM		
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	2:15 PM			360°-3	
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	4:15 PM	MARINA-3		THE BYE BYE MAN	11:45 AM
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	6:15 PM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	12:45 PM	SURF'S UP 2: WAVEMANIA	2:00 PM
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	8:15 PM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	2:45 PM	SING	4:15 PM
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	10:15 PM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	4:45 PM	THE BYE BYE MAN	6:30 PM
xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	12:15 AM	xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	6:45 PM		6:30 PM 8:45 PM
		xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	8:45 PM	THE BYE BYE MAN	
FANIAD 4		VV DETLIDALOF VANDED CACE	10.45 DM	THE BYE BYE MAN	11:00 PM

xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE

xXx: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Iddin Kunhi Pallibali Abbas S/o Abbas Pallibali, Passport No. L1458495 & Civil ID No. 281060107647. have changed my name as Aboobakkar Siddiq vide affidavit dated 14.12.2016 before notary Sirajuddin, Mangalore (C 5259)

I, Jamil Lobo wife of Patrick Lobo holder of Indian Passport No. G3196491 and Civil ID No. 282062803579 has changed my name to Jamil Avelino Férnandes hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Jamil Avelino Fernandes. (C 5260) 23-1-2017

ACCOMMODATION

Sharing accommodation for Filipino Bachelor ONLY near Big Jamiya Farwaniya. Available already, Contact 66826412 or 97512782 19-1-2017

FOR SALE

For sell new white faux fur (artificial) coat size M And pre owned like new black leather coat size M made in Turkey, Tel. No: 55020291



Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

02:00

KNE



NOTICE January 17, 2017



Mr. Jovon Joe Fernandes son of Mr. Conceicao Fernandes, resident of H.No 30, Gonsua Vaddo Betalbatim, Majorda Salcete, South Goa, Pin: 403713, Goa, India and Ms. Levia Fernandes daughter of Mr. Paul Fernandes, resident of H No 235, Pacheco, Majorda, Salcete, Goa both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice. Communications in this regard can be made by Email (sscons@indembkwt.org, welfaresection@indembkwt.org) / letters / telephonic calls (00965 - 22533315, 00965 - 22533125).

(Dr. Sushil Kumar) Second Secretary (Consular) and Marriage Officer Embassy of India, Kuwait.

Ph .00965-22533315 - 00965-22533125 Email:sscons@indembkwt.org welfaresection@indembkwt.org

REQUIRED

We are looking for a

Young Male Secretary for a newly established Company

- Excellent in Microsoft Office especially word and excel
- Bilingual Arabic and English

05:19

Please send your CV to info@lamande.com



06:41 **Duhr:** 12:00 Asr: 15:00 Maghrib: 17:20 Isha: 18:40

382

Taif



14:50



Arrival Flights on Wednesday 25/1/2017

11:30 AM

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Manila

1:15 AM

417

	Arrival Fligh	ts on Wednesday 25/1/2017	,	KAC	154	Istanbul	15:55	KAC	41/	Manila	02:00	KNE	382	laif	14:50
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	SAW	705	Damascus	16:00	THY	773	Istanbul	02:25	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
JZR	267			SVA	504	Madinah	16:00	KAC	285	Dhaka	02:25	KAC	561	Amman	15:00
		Beirut	00:30												
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	JZR	535	Cairo	16:10	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:55	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KAC	102	London	00:55	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10	MSC	406	Sohag	03:30	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
												GFA			
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	788	Jeddah	16:20	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:35		222	Bahrain	15:25
FDK	803	Damascus	01:00	JZR	357	Mashhad	16:25	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	IRC	6512	ABD	15:30
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:25	KKK	6505	Istanbul	03:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:40
						•						-			
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	FDB	051	Dubai	16:25	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	16:35	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	RJA	640	Amman	16:55	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	KAC	118	New York	17:00	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	QTR	1077	Doha	04:40	KAC	777	Riyadh	16:00
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	KAC	103	London	04:45	JZR	554	Alexandria	16:10
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45	CEB	0019	Manila	05:20	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	SYR	341	Damascus	17:55	QTR	1087	Doha	05:50	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:30
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00	JZR	560	Sohag	06:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	06:25	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30	SAW	706	Damascus	16:55
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20	UAE	874	Dubai	06:50	SVA	505	Madinah	17:00
KAC	204	Lahore	07:15	KAC	502	Beirut	18:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	KAC	153	Istanbul	06:50	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:40	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50	RJA	645	Amman	07:05	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
												-			
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	KAC	512	Mashhad	19:20	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:05	KAC	363	Colombo	17:40
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
KAC	362	Colombo	09:05	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30	KAC	541	Cairo	07:15	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	778	Riyadh	19:35	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC	563	Amman	08:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	BAW	156	London	08:40	SVA	511		18:15
														Riyadh	
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	104	London	19:50	JZR	702	Taif	08:45	KAC	353	BLR	18:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	620	Doha	19:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:55	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
IRC	6511	ABD	09:55	KNE	381	Taif	19:55	KAC	743	Dammam	09:00				
												KAC	205	Islamabad	18:25
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KAC	694	Muscat	20:00	KAC	117	New York	09:00	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
IRA	665	Shiraz	10:40	OMA	647	Muscat	20:10	JZR	534	Cairo	09:15	SYR	342	Damascus	18:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC	513	Tehran	09:30				
												FDB	064	Dubai	19:05
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	KAC	562	Amman	20:40	KAC	101	London	09:35	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:15
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:15	MSR	606	Luxor	20:45	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:45	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55				
												MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50	JZR	482	Istanbul	10:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:15	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05	-			
KAC	744	Dammam	12:10	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
												GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20	KAC	613	Bahrain	10:10	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
FDB	075	Dubai	12:50	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20	KAC	787	Jeddah	10:15				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25	JZR	356	Mashhad	10:25	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:55
												KAC	545	Cairo	21:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	OMA	648	Muscat	21:10
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45	KAC	161	Geneva	10:35				
KAC	614	Bahrain	13:30	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	21:30
												QTR	1089	Doha	21:35
KAC	564	Amman	13:40	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:05	KAC	501	Beirut	10:55	DLH	634	Doha	21:35
KAC	514	Tehran	13:55	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15	IRC	6522	Lamerd	11:00				
JZR	703	Taif	13:55	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:45
										9		DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55	JZR	241	Amman	22:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00	IRA	664	Shiraz	11:40	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	12:05	KAC	351	Kochi	22:00
												ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	JZR	555	Alexandria	23:20	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05				
KAC	414	Bangkok	14:35	PIA	239	Sialkot	23:40	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:10	KAC	203	Lahore	22:15
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45	IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:30	KAC	413	Bangkok	22:15
												MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
IRC	6521	Lamerd	14:40	KAC	162	Geneva	23:50	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55				
KAC	542	Cairo	14:45	BBC	043	Dhaka	23:55	IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
KAC	672	Dubai	14:50					JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10	JZR	528	Asyut	22:25
				_	amantus FILE	to an Wadnesday 25/6/20				•				•	
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55			ts on Wednesday 25/1/20		KAC	511	Mashhad	13:15	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:45
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:15	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	KAC	381	Delhi	22:45
						•									
KAC	286	Dhaka	15:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	FDB	076	Dubai	14:05	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
OMA	645	Muscat	15:35	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15	JZR	502	Luxor	22:55
0.00				FDI	004	Damassus	01:55	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30	ETD	310	Al- DI-I-	23:05
	857	Dubai	15:45	FDK	804	Damascus	UL							Anii Dhani	
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	FDK	804	Damascus								Abu Dhabi	
	857 127	Dubai Sharjah	15:45 15:50	TXC	1624	IQA	02:00	KAC	693	Muscat	14:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

CROSSWORD 1501

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
15			П	16				1					17	T	
18	1			19			1	1			20	21			T
22			23			24	1			25					
26					27				28			ы			
			29	30					31		32		33	34	35
36	37	38		H			39			40					
41													42		T
43				44			45	46	47		48	49			T
50	1		51				52		1	53		54		1	T
55					56	57		58	T		59	T		60	T
			61	62				63	13				64		
65	66	67		T		68	69			70				71	72
73				74	75	-			76				77		
78				79									80		1
81				82									83		1

ACROSS

- 1. (of securities) Not quoted on a stock
- exchange. 4. A genus of Carangidae.
- 12. The cry made by sheep. 15. Type genus of the family Myacidae.
- 16. Grown for its thickened edible aromatic
- 17. Any of various trees of the genus Ulmus. 18. A drug combination found in some overthe-counter headache remedies (Aspirin
- and Phenacetin and Caffeine). 19. A refund of some fraction of the amount paid.
- 20. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- 22. Indian statesman and leader with Gandhi in the struggle for home rule.
- 24. The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
- 26. The content of cognition. 29. The United Nations agency concerned with
- civil aviation. 31. Of or relating to or characteristic of Tibet or
- its people or their language. 36. Someone who walks at a leisurely pace.
- 40. Shrub bearing oval-fruited kumquats.
- 41. Clover ferns.
- 42. The second day of the week. 43. The capital and largest city of Japan.
- 44. A bachelor's degree in science.
- 45. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
- 48. A populous province in northeastern China.
- 50. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
- 52. A progressive disease of the central nervous system marked by increasing lack of coordination and advancing to paralysis and death within a year of the appearance of symptoms.
- 54. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
- 55. Projectiles to be fired from a gun. 56. A radioactive element of the actinide
- 58. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- 60. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
- 61. (prefix) Within. 63. Away from the mouth or oral region.
- 65. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
- 68. A committee in the executive branch of government that advises the president on foreign and military and national security.
- 70. Having a woven pattern. 73. A river in north central Switzerland that
- runs northeast into the Rhine. 74. Someone who puts to good use.
- 77. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which
- the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- 78. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement. 79. Former usage synonymous with Antedon.
- 80. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
- 81. A long projecting or anterior elongation of an animal's head.

- 82. Heavy and compact in form or stature. 83. A loose sleeveless outer garment made
- DOWN 1. Of or relating to Oman or its people.
- 2. Written on a typewriter. 3. A hidden storage space (for money or provi-
- sions or weapons). 4. A very light brown.

from aba cloth.

- 5. Towards the side away from the wind.
- 6. A person with albinism.
- 7. Wheelwork consisting of a connected set of rotating gears by which force is transmitted or motion or torque is changed.
- 8. Studies intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills (rather than occupational or professional skills).
- 9. Neckwear consisting of a long narrow piece of material worn (mostly by men) under a collar and tied in knot at the front.
- 10. A state in midwestern United States. 11. The act of scanning.
- 12. A man who is the lover of a girl or young
- 13. Voluntary contributions to aid the poor. 14. A woman hired to suckle a child of some-
- one else. 21. Norwegian composer whose work was
- often inspired by Norwegian folk music (1843-1907).
- 23. A bar or bars of rolled steel making a track along which vehicles can roll.
- 25. (Norse mythology) Ruler of the Aesir. 27. A town in southeastern New Mexico on the
- Pecos River near the Mexican border. 28. A highly unstable radioactive element (the
- heaviest of the halogen series). 30. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped
- 32. German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
- 33. A resort city in western Florida. 34. Naked freshwater or marine or parasition protozoa that form temporary
- pseudopods for feeding and locomotion. 35. Grandson of Amaterasu and first ruler of
- Japan.
- 37. A woman of refinement. 38. A cleaning implement for sweeping.
- 39. One of several parallel sloping beams that support a roof.
- 46. Fearless daring. 47. Baby bed with high sides.
- 49. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
- 51. A white native of Cape Province who is a descendant of Dutch settlers and who speaks Afrikaans.
- 53. Amphibians that resemble lizards. 57. A gum resin from the conium hemlock tree.
- 59. The mountain peak that Noah's ark landed on as the waters of the great flood reced-
- 62. An intricate traditional dance in India performed by professional dancing girls.
- 64. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann. 66. Swift timid long-eared mammal larger than a rabbit having a divided upper lip and long hind legs.
- 67. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 69. Speaking a Slavic language.
- 71. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- 72. God of love and erotic desire.

76. Type genus of the Suidae

75. Having a toe or toes of a specified kind.

Yesterday's Solution

A	P	C		В	L	A	C	K	C	A	P		Α	L	P
L	Α	Н		L	1	N	E	A	R	L	Y		G	Α	L
A	P	Α	C	E		Α	L		Е	М	Α	N	Α	T	E
S	Α	L	Α	A	M		1	Α	Е	A		E	P	Н	A
		K	Е	R	0	U	Α	C		N	E	R	Е	1	D
0	В		C			S	C	Н	W	Α	N	N			
M	Α	L	Α	C	C	Α		Α	E	С		S	S	P	Е
A	Z	Α	L	Е	A		В	I	В		E	T	Н	Е	R
Н	Α	N		1	N	D	R	A	w	N			1	R	S
A	R	D	E	В			Α	N	0	Α		C	Α	K	Е
			P	A	S	S	Е		R	1	Α	L			
0	N	C	Е		U	P			M	A	T	0	Α	K	A
W	Α	T	Е	R	L	0	0			S	Т	A	G	Е	D
E	S	Е		Α	L	1	D	A	D		Α	K	Α	В	A
N	Α	N		С	Е	L	Е	R	1	Α	C		M	Α	N
S	L	Е		Е	N	Т	R	Е	N	C	Н		A	В	A

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Remember that last week was a week of cleaning up old debts, decorations and old business, etc. This week could be in focusing on new business. New advertising ideas or jingle suggestions and upbeat slogans are ripe for developing. Regarding this year's contribution for a charity, it would be good to consider a year to help support a food bank in your city. The pressures you have been feeling lately are about to end-problems have been repaired, completed or deleted. A young person or persons could need encouragement-perhaps anticipation of change is what you feel. This young person is getting an award, or perhaps, going out on a first date. Special words of optimism are worth the extra effort on your part.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There is a tendency to be too strict with yourself, to insist that whatever does not contribute to security and other long-term goals is trivial. Your ambition is intensified. You should be able to get much accomplished, especially if you spend some quiet time becoming focused before you begin a project. When you go through this process of becoming focused you and others are continuously surprised and pleased with the discoveries and insights you gain. Your mental discipline should come easily and obstacles will disappear when you shine the light of knowledge on them. You may want to change your plans this evening. Good feelings and a special time with someone you love are possible now. A sense of support and harmony creates happy times.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The workday and work habits come into sharp focus now. This is a progressive period in which many work problems are easy to solve. Be as cooperative as you can today. Working with others will be easy. Helpful precautions can be employed for important matters when using a backup system or a comprehensive support system. This is a great time to learn to lighten up and take life as it comes. Your taste in art and appreciation of life in general are heightened. This is a great time to just sit back and enjoy what you have. Remember that this is a planning month and rewards from your past efforts may not come when you expect them. There is an opportunity to understand those around you and to have a special time with someone you love.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Today, you may see things differently. You have an attitude of completing what you begin. It is easy for you to handle difficulties and you think about how you might keep today's frame of thinking for future situations. All that is needed is a gentle trying. You are just plain witty this afternoon and the ideas roll off your tongue. This is a real time for communication-in any form. Your mind is clear. Today and throughout the week, you will make money when you least expect it-perhaps by using your gifts of persuasion. Work is easy to get through, whether it is a new customer or a change in employment-you know how to handle whatever develops. You have the ability to handle difficulties calmly and efficiently. Follow your intuition.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This has been a high-energy month-much has been accomplished. Continue to complete unfinished business before the day is ended. Avoid creating interruptions for yourself-if possible. A period of great mental activity and heightened communication with others begins. You may find yourself on a committee or a school board meeting this evening. Intellectualism, the exchange of ideas and the idea of being smart as a fox are the things that have a special appeal. In order to make a difference in a school board meeting tonight, the footwork will have to be away from the meeting place. You will be successful in this endeavor, but do not overextend this interest-remain flexible. To your relief you will find others want to help carry on the job.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are able to sway others to your way of thinking. Finally, something very important to you in the workplace is being recognized. Your friends are running behind schedule on a project and may need your help. This is a great time to play or work with others. Your sense of humor is in fine form as you make the hours seem like minutes. There are social and political benefits in pleasing these friends or co-workers of yours, but your true calling today is in that sense of willingness to open your heart up to others in that loving way of yours. Be careful not to indulge too much in rich foods or alcohol. You also seem to want to spend a large amount of money-perhaps buying everyone's meal for a get-together on the home front.

WORD SEARCH

Geometry

Find and circle all of the Geometry words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message.

R	A	D	1	U	S	E	Q	U	10	L	A	T	E	R	A	L	E	P	Y	
E	C	A	F	S	A	R	0	G	A	H	T	Y	P	T	P	Н	L	A	G	
0	R	R	H	0	M	B	U	S	E	P	T	0	0	T	0	N	C	C	D	
A	E	L	G	N	A	1	R	T	R	E	C	B	L	N	L	0	R	H	1	
C	0	N	G	R	U	E	N	T	A	R	E	T	S	E	Y	1	1	0	0	
E	T	U	C	A	V	E	R	E	H	P	S	u	S	M	G	T	C	R	Z	
L	1	V	0	S	E	E	E	D	D	E	T	S	U	G	0	A	P	D	E	
M	R	1	N	N	N	G	T	Q	R	N	B	E	C	E	N	U	0	S	P	
H	A	A	E	E	R	E	S	E	U	D	T.	T	X	S	T.	Q	L	E	A	
H	R	R	1	A	R	E	T	A	L	T.	R	D	A	U	0	E	Y	T	R	
T	T	A	G	E	M	E	T	C	C	C	A	E	L	N	T	H	Н	A	T	
1	C	C	S	0	M	E	Y	E	U	U	U	N	R	E	Y	Y	E	N	M	
S	S	A	E	1	1	L	н	M	M	L	P	F	G	P	G	В	D	1	t	
S	В	0	R	S	1	E	F	T	T	A	0	Y	0	U	E	S	R	D	D	
E	S	E	S	N	R	E	L	H	0	R	1	T	R	E	L	S	0	R	P	
C	P	0	D	C	R	E	G	L	M	P	E	D	M	A	Q	A	N	0	0	
A	F	E	L	E	E	1	T	U	A	N	A	U	N	U	M	0	R	0	L	
N	R	R	N	1	E	L	L	N	U	R	L	T	A	E	C	1	H	C	N	
T	R	C	1	Н	D	A	E	S	1	0	A	R	S	1	D	E	D	S	T	
V	E	R	T	E	X	S	E	S	V	T	E	P	M	E	R	0	E	H	T	

ACUTE **APOTHEM** AREA BASE BISECT CIRCLE CIRCUMFERENCE CONE

CONGRUENT

CYLINDER

DIAMETER

EQUILATERAL **FORMULA** HEIGHT HYPOTENUSE INTERSECT ISOSCELES LEGS MIDPOINT OBTUSE PARALLELOGRAM

EQUATION

EQUIANGULAR

PERIMETER PERPENDICULAR SLANT POLYHEDRON SLOPE PYRAMID PYTHAGORAS QUADRILATERAL RADIUS RHOMBUS SCALENE SECANT

SPHERE THEOREM TRANSVERSAL TRAPEZOID TRIANGLE VOLUME

Libra (September 23-October 22)

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but realities demand you tend to business. The crowd may ignore you and leave you to take care of business. Time seems to be slowed but you are pleased to accomplish the tasks set before you. You are able to complete unfinished business and you pace yourself for the next project. You see the lighter side of most issues and create a sense of gratitude for others to absorb as well. You may have insights or breakthroughs with regard to your living situation or life circumstances. People rely on your independence and unique qualities. A relative may express the desire for you to visit-you should consider the possibility of family camping at a nearby campground as you schedule in a visit.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Any old business is completed this morning and you could find yourself in a planning committee meeting before the end of the morning. It is a good time to get down to the basics and take care of integrating some of the changes the overall company has anticipated in the past. Obligations may come to your attention later in the day that involve someone older or in authority. Teamwork is the active word today. This can be a positive time. Your thinking is resourceful, original and along the technical lines of business. The old way of doing things demands a change. You have a natural sense of what the public wants at this time. Plan a trip to the country soon, perhaps a bed-and-breakfast sort of accommodations-relaxation.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Perhaps you are in management-you know that we can all find ways to improve. The energies today are pushing you to encourage others to be better achievers. The rewards are in the feeling of accomplishment and soon you will be able to show visiting managers just how enthusiastic and accomplished a team of professionals can become. For you, the time is now for examining and thinking about what is important and of lasting value-bringing your own goals into focus. If you do not have clear short-term and long-term goals, you need to refocus. Relax; new talents are working their way to your attention. A good exercise program that has begun this week is fun and you look forward



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

to having a more firm body and a cache of good energy from proper foods.

Your workload increases today with a successful outcome. This is a good day for money and you may even find yourself talking about money. You may feel that you can afford to purchase some item you have been wanting for a long time. Compare prices and then go for it! You will be learning the secrets of your success this year and this day holds one of the hints. Listen to what others tell you and hold on to it for a while, especially from those that are unbiased-absorb the words. Ambitious schemes and the pursuit of success and status take on a high priority. Co-workers are eager to share job tips this afternoon. You have noticed a health problem that has been bothering you begins to clear up now. Spending time with friends is enjoyable tonight.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Going into work this morning is a fun happening! You are in control and you look forward to the work that needs accomplishing; after all, it is the best attitude to take. Surprises happen all day and many of those surprises come from you. Because you are talented in many types of artistic ways, you make suggestions for improving business as well as possibly creating the next fun advertising scheme. You have a good sense of humor; use it to teach the people you work with to lighten the day a bit. Create an advertisement that will be remembered in positive ways. Writing a proposal or creating an artistic presentation is where you will see many profits. Put down your pen and go out with the gang

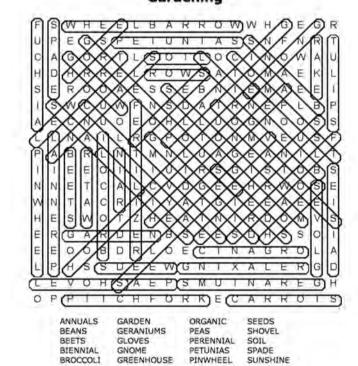


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You will be presented with a financial opportunity now and you will want to investigate this opportunity as it looks most profitable. You are alert and quick-witted and your self-assured attitude will bring success. You seem to attract good luck in money matters and if you have found a few extra dollars to invest, you might be surprised at the results. Church or spiritual matters that you have planned and looked forward to may be on your mind this afternoon-you look forward to a planning committee meeting. In your business and personal life, anything that does not serve you successfully should be considered part of the past. It may be the only successful way to move in a forward direction. Healings are possible at this time.

Yesterday Solution

Gardening



MARIGOLDS FUCHSIA The hidden message is: WHERE FLOWERS BLOOM SO DOES HOPE

CARROTS

DAISIES

DIGGING

FERTILIZER

COMPOST

GROW

HOES

HOSE

LILACS

HORTICULTURE

HYDRANGEA

Daily SuDoku

_							_	
8			2				3	
		4	-			5	2	6
2					7			
	9			1				7
			9		8	7		
7				6			8	
	1		6					5
4	3	5				6		
	2				3			9

Yesterday's Solution

PITCH FORK

PLANTING

RELAXING

RAIN

RAKE

ROSES

TOMATOES

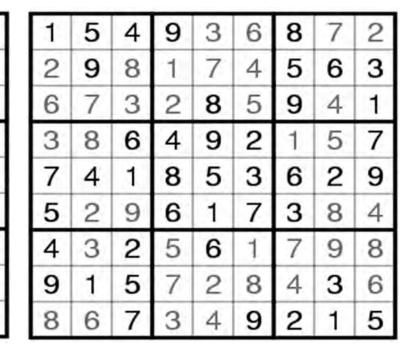
VEGETABLES

WHEELBARROW

TROWEL

TULIPS

WEEDS



00370

00352

00853

00389

00261

0034

00265

0060

00960

00223

00356

00692

00596

00222

00230

Lithuania

Macau

Majorca

Malawi

Malaysia

Maldives

Marshall Islands

Martinique

Mauritania

Mauritius

Mali

Malta

Luxembourg

Macedonia Madagascar

INTERNATIONAL

CALLS

Afghanistan

Albania

Algeria

Andorra

Angola

Anguilla

Armenia

Australia

Azerbaijan

Bahamas Bahrain

Austria

Antiga Argentina 0093

00355

00213

00376

00244

001264

001268

0054

00374

0061

0043

00994

001242

00973

00880

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: Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Clinics

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

22517733

22517144

24848075

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22549134

22526804

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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

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

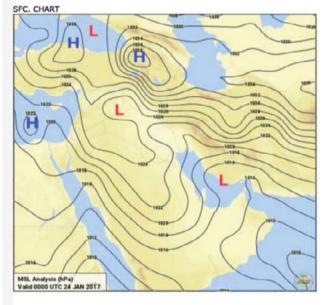


Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 23/01/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

May Temperature 19 °C Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Max Temperature 18 °C

By Day: Sunny with light to moderate freshening gradually at times specially over coastal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h By Night: Cold with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h



	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	*	*	*	*
Expected Weather	Mostly sunny	partly cloudy	clouds to increase + scattered rain+dust over open areas	partly cloudy
Min Temp °C	09	11	14	12
Max Temp °C	19	20	24	21
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	south easterly	south easterly changing to north westerly later on	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 28	15 - 40	20 - 45	08 - 28

	warnings or weather watches
no	warnings or weather watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast		
Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	10	19
KUWAIT AIRPORT	08	18
ABDALY	05	17
BUBYAN	06	18
JAHRA	08	19
FAILAKA ISLAND	08	18
SALMIYAH	11	17
AHMADI	10	17
JAL ALIYAH	05	17
QAROH ISLAND	13	18
UMM AL-MARADEM	13	17
NUWAISIB	07	19
WAFRA	08	18
MANAGISH	06	17
SALMY	04	16
MUTRIBA	05	18

Max Wind	d Speed (km/h	1)	39 N
TOTAL R	AINFALL IN 24	HR	0 mm
*	Sunrise		06:41
-	Sunset		17:19
Prayer T	imes		
Fajr		05:1	9
Sunrise		06:4	1
Zuhr		12:0	0
Asr		14:5	9

17:19

18:39

17

10

38

Max Temp (°C)

Min Temp (°C)

Sunset

Isha



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
General Practition	ners
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
	22011331
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad	22639955
	22639955 li 22616660
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad	22639955 li 22616660

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surge	eons
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doc	tor
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatris	sts
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & O	bstetricians
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						
Neurologis	ts						
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324						
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875						
Gastrologis	ts						
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464						
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030						
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135						

Kaizen center

25716707

Noor Clinic

23845955

	Endocrinologi	st
_	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
	Rheumatologis	its:
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060	
31	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
	Di. Kilaleu Al-Jarahan	23/22290
	Internist, Chest &	
	Internist, Chest & DR.Mohammes Akkad Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicin Head, Division of Cardiology	Heart 24555050 Ext 210
	Internist, Chest & DR.Mohammes Akkad Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicin Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	24555050 Ext 210 ne 25339667
	Internist, Chest & DR.Mohammes Akkad Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicin Head, Division of Cardiology	24555050 Ext 210 ne 25339667

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

Barbados Belarus	08800	Mauritius	00230
	001246	Mayotte	00269
Polaium	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
		Oman	00968
Colombia	0057	Pakistan	
Comoros	00269		0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00372	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
			00900
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Germany	00000	South Africa	
Ghana	00233		0027
•	00233	South Korea	0027 0082
Ghana		South Korea Spain	
Ghana Gibraltar	00350		0082
Ghana Gibraltar Greece	00350 0030	Spain	0082 0034
Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland	00350 0030 00299	Spain Sri Lanka	0082 0034 0094
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Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala	00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502	Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden	0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046
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Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti	00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509	Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia	0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381
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Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong	00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852	Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand	0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255
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Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain)	00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354	Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga	0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228
Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India	00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091	Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad	0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690
Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean	00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873	Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia	0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868
Ghana Gibraltar Greece Greenland Grenada Guadeloupe Guam Guatemala Guinea Guyana Haiti Holland (Netherlands) Honduras Hong Kong Hungary Ibiza (Spain) Iceland India Indian Ocean Indonesia	00350 0030 00299 001473 00590 001671 00502 00224 00592 00509 0031 00504 00852 0036 0034 00354 0091 00873 0062	Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Suriname Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syria Serbia Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo Tonga Tokelau Trinidad Tunisia Turkey	0082 0034 0094 00249 00597 00268 0046 0041 00963 00381 00886 00255 0066 00228 00676 00690 001868 00216
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MUSIC & MOVIES

'La La Land' ties record with 14 Oscar nominations

omantic showbiz musical "La La Land" topped the Oscars nominations list yesterday with a whopping 14 nods, tying the all-time record set by "Titanic" and "All About Eve." The movie-a whimsical tribute to Hollywood's Golden Age of musicals, set in modern-day Los Angeles-earned nods for best picture, director for 32-year-old Damien Chazelle, and for its two stars, Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone. In second place were sci-fi movie "Arrival" and coming-of-age drama "Moonlight," tied at eight nominations each. This year's crop of nominees clearly reflected a push by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to show more diversity after the #OscarsSoWhite controversy of the past two years, with multiple black actors and filmmakers earning nods.

For best actor, Gosling will be vying for a golden statuette at the February 26 Oscars bash along with Golden Globe winner Casey Affleck ("Manchester by the Sea"), Andrew Garfield ("Hacksaw Ridge"), Viggo Mortensen ("Captain Fantastic") and Denzel Washington ("Fences"). In the best actress category, France's Golden Globe winner Isabelle Huppert was nominated for her performance in the rape-revenge thriller "Elle," along with Stone, Ruth Negga ("Loving"), Natalie Portman ("Jackie") and Meryl Streep, who earned her 20th nomination for "Florence Foster Jenkins.'

Industry watchers had predicted that Chazelle's "La La Land"-buoyed by a record seven Golden Globe awards earlier this month-will triumph at the nominations. But few thought it would tie for the all-time record set by "Titanic" and "All About Eve." "La La Land" will vie for best picture honors with eight other films (current rules allow for up to 10 nominees in this category) including "Arrival," grim family drama "Manchester by the Sea" and "Moonlight." Others in the coveted top category are the film adaptation of August Wilson's play "Fences," Mel Gibson's bloody WWII drama "Hacksaw Ridge," the western "Hell or High Water," the real-life tale of NASA's black female mathematicians

"Hidden Figures" and Garth Davis's family drama "Lion."

Tough competition for supporting actress In the running for best supporting actress

are three black actresses: past nominee Viola Davis for "Fences," Oscar winner Octavia Spencer for "Hidden Figures" and Naomie Harris for "Moonlight." They will compete against past Oscar winner Nicole Kidman ("Lion") and Michelle Williams ("Manchester by the Sea"), who was nominated three times before. In the best supporting actor category, Jeff Bridges ("Hell or High Water") will take on Mahershala Ali of "Moonlight," Dev Patel ("Lion"), Lucas Hedges ("Manchester by the Sea") and Michael Shannon ("Nocturnal

The foreign films nominated are "Land of Mine" (Denmark), "A Man Called Ove" (Sweden), "The Salesman" (Iran), "Tanna" (Australia) and "Toni Erdmann" (Germany). The nominations were revealed in the predawn hours in Los Angeles in an online broadcast, not at the traditional press conference. Unlike previous years, this year's nominees include a number of black actors and filmmakers, a move that should ease the diversity row that has cast a shadow over the Oscars for the past two years.

Almost half the 683 people invited last year to join the 6,000 plus Academy members that bestow the Oscars were women and nearly as many people of color. All 20 nominees in the main acting categories at last year's Oscars were white for the second year running, prompting calls to boycott the glitzy event and an angry social media backlash under the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite. The Academy's board of governors has vowed to double the number of female and ethnic minority members by 2020. Late night funnyman Jimmy Kimmel will host the Oscars on February 26. — AFP



This file photo shows the cast and crew of 'La La Land,' winner of Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy posing in the press room during the 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP

After life performing Tchaikovsky, conductor keeps discovering



This file photos show French ballerina Leonore Baulac of the Paris Opera Ballet performing during llyich Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake (Lac des cygnes) at the Bastille Opera house, in Paris. — AFP photos

NOMINEES IN MAIN OSCARS CATEGORIES

Best picture "Arrival"

"Fences" "Hacksaw Ridge" "Hell or High Water" "Hidden Figures" "La La Land' "Lion" "Manchester by the Sea"

Best director

"Moonlight"

Denis Villeneuve, "Arrival" Mel Gibson, "Hacksaw Ridge" Kenneth Lonergan, "Manchester by the Sea" Barry Jenkins, "Moonlight"

Best actor

Casey Affleck, "Manchester by the Sea" Andrew Garfield, "Hacksaw Ridge" Ryan Gosling, "La La Land" Viggo Mortensen, "Captain Fantastic" Denzel Washington, "Fences"

Best actress

Isabelle Huppert, "Elle" Ruth Negga, "Loving" Natalie Portman, "Jackie" Emma Stone, "La La Land" Meryl Streep, "Florence Foster Jenkins"

Best supporting actor

Mahershala Ali, "Moonlight" Jeff Bridges, "Hell or High Water" Lucas Hedges, "Manchester by the Sea" Dev Patel, "Lion" Michael Shannon, "Nocturnal Animals"

Best supporting actress

Viola Davis, "Fences" Naomie Harris, "Moonlight" Nicole Kidman, "Lion" Octavia Spencer, "Hidden Figures" Michelle Williams, "Manchester by the Sea"

Best foreign language film

"Land of Mine" (Denmark) "A Man Called Ove" (Sweden) "The Salesman" (Iran) "Tanna" (Australia) "Toni Erdmann" (Germany)

Best animated feature

"Kubo and the Two Strings" "Moana' "My Life as a Zucchini" "The Red Turtle" "Zootopia"

Best documentary feature

"Fire at Sea" "I Am Not Your Negro" "Life, Animated" "OJ: Made in America"

Best original screenplay

"Hell or High Water" - Taylor Sheridan "La La Land" - Damien Chazelle "The Lobster" - Yorgos Lanthimos and Efthimis Filippou "Manchester by the Sea" - Kenneth Lonergan "20th Century Women" - Mike Mills

Best adapted screenplay

"Arrival" - Eric Heisserer "Fences" - August Wilson "Hidden Figures" - Allison Schroeder and Theodore Melfi "Lion" - Luke Davies "Moonlight" - Barry Jenkins and Tarell Alvin McCraney Best cinematography: "Arrival" - Bradford Young "La La Land" - Linus Sandgren "Lion" - Greig Fraser "Moonlight" - James Laxton "Silence" - Rodrigo Prieto

Best original score

"Jackie" - Mica Levi "La La Land" - Justin Hurwitz "Lion" - Dustin O'Halloran and Hauschka "Moonlight" - Nicholas Britell "Passengers" - Thomas Newman

Best original song

"Audition (The Fools Who Dream)" from "La La Land" "Can't Stop The Feeling" from "Trolls" "City of Stars" from "La La Land" "The Empty Chair" from "Jim: The James Foley Story" "How Far I'll Go" from "Moana" Best visual effects: "Deepwater Horizon" "Doctor Strange" "The Jungle Book"

Number of nominations for films with three

or more nods "La La Land" - 14 "Arrival" - 8 "Moonlight" - 8 "Hacksaw Ridge" - 6 "Lion" - 6 "Manchester by the Sea" - 6 "Fences" - 4 "Hell or High Water" - 4 "Hidden Figures" - 3

"Jackie" - 3 -- AFP

"Kubo and the Two Strings"

"Rogue One: A Star Wars Storv"

s a boy in Saint Petersburg, Semyon Bychkov would scrounge to buy second-hand Tchaikovsky scores with pocket change from lunch money given by his mother. Living in a com-

munal apartment with other families in the city then called Leningrad, he recalls that by age 12, he would spend nights in the kitchen-the only room with both lights and privacy-waving an imaginary baton as if guiding orchestras to Russia's most treasured composer. Bychkov went on to become a renowned conduc-

tor, fleeing the Soviet Union for the West after reaching adulthood to escape anti-Semitism and official suspicion of his political views. Now 64, the maestro has put together a Tchaikovsky festival at the New York Philharmonic, an in-depth exploration through performances from yesterday until February 11. Scholars have persistently debated whether Tchaikovsky was uniquely Russian or an extension of the Western classical tradition.

Although he sees both sides, Bychkov stresses Tchaikovsky's connection to national identity, saying that even Russians with little education revere the composer. "Say Tchaikovsky and their eyes begin to swell," Bychkov, who speaks with clear delight about the 19th-century composer, told AFP. The former music director of the Orchestre de Paris who holds conducting posts in London at both the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Academy of Music, Bychkov says his passion for Tchaikovsky never

faded despite his difficult past with his homeland.

Not so with Shostakovich, arguably Russia's greatest 20th-century composer, who struggled under the stifling control of the Soviet authorities. "There was a period of about five years that I could not hear the sounds of his music, let alone perform it, because it brought me back to what I left," Bychkov says. Tchaikovsky, however, "is in a way something that has always been in my life and always will."

New look at final work

Although Bychkov's relationship with Tchaikovsky never ebbed, it has evolved. "The music remains the same," he says. "We change the way we perceive it, or the way we interpret it." He points to Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, or "Pathetique," which the composer premiered in 1893 days before his death. Tchaikovsky officially died from cholera, but many have long speculated that he killed himself after the discovery of his homosexuality. Bychkov-who will close the Tchaikovsky festival with "Pathetique," which he recently recorded for Decca Classics with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra also believed the suicide

But he began questioning the theory in recent years after studying the original score, deciding that Tchaikovsky wanted the last movement to be more dynamic and have a faster tempo than how orchestras have historically performed it. "Its coda, which offered a proof of resignation, in fact for me is not a resignation at all but a protest against dying," Bychkov says. However, "whether he committed suicide or not, I don't think we will ever know."

Balance between famous and obscure

Bychkov has included some of Tchaikovsky's comparatively obscure works in the festival, including Piano Concerto No. 2, to be played by Yefim Bronfman, and the "Manfred" Symphony based on Lord Byron's poem. Orchestras have often shied away from the complex "Manfred" Symphony, which evokes the Alps over nearly one hour. The legendary conductor Arturo Toscanini condensed it. Bychkov says directors should be confident in each piece they choose because it "simply cripples the creation" if they try to alter it.

"It is our challenge to bring it to life in a way that will reveal that it is a genuine masterpiece." Bychkov will also conduct Symphony No. 5, one of Tchaikovsky's most recognizable works besides his ballet suites for "The Nutcracker" and "Swan Lake." For Bychkov, even the most famous works can deliver new meaning. "If performances have real commitment, real conviction and a real quality, music that is very familiar will be revealed in a new light-first to ourselves, and then to an audience." — AFP

#LivetheOscars with OSN

SN, the region's leading pay-TV network, is gearing up for the 89th Academy Awards, bringing you at-the-minute coverage of the nominations and exclusive live access to the main event, in a month-long celebration of all things 'Oscars'.

You won't miss a beat, with the live 2017 Oscar nominations kicking off yesterday on OSN.com and OSN Play, giving on-the-go access to the live event. Then, on February 27, from 4:30 pm (KSA) on OSN Movies Festival HD and simultaneously streaming on OSN Play, watch OSN's live and exclusive coverage of the 89th Academy Awards, as host Jimmy Kimmel takes to the stage. Viewers can also revel in all the pre-event glitz and glamour, with Red Carpet coverage starting from 1am (KSA) with E! Entertainment's Live from the Red Carpet, and Fashion

In the lead up to Hollywood's biggest night and all month long, OSN Movies Festival HD brings a stellar lineup of Oscar winning and nominated blockbusters from years gone by to your living room. Every night in February, from 6pm (KSA), enjoy films -such as 2016 winners Spotlight (Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay); The Revenant (Best Director and Best Actor); The Danish Girl (Best Supporting Actress); Bridge of Spies (Best Supporting Actor) and the movie that swept the Oscars taking the prize in six categories, Mad Max: Fury Road (Best Makeup, Best Sound Editing, Best Sound Mixing, Best Production Design, Best Film Editing, and Best Costume Design).

The month-long Academy Award action continues vith 'Oscars on demand' content throughout February. Winning and nominated titles will be available on OSN Store; whilst OSN On Demand and OSN Play will have dedicated folders of the biggest blockbusters.

Missed the Oscars live, or want to relive the excitement? Catch a repeat of the main event at 7pm and 11pm (KSA) on February 27 on OSN Movies Festival HD and OSN Play. For detailed schedules and to join the conversation, visit www.osn.com Get social with OSN on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @OSN #livetheOscars



FASHION

Dior designer debuts Paris couture as Dunst talks girl power













Dunst speaks on women's movement

a movie's real power to shape attitudes," she said.







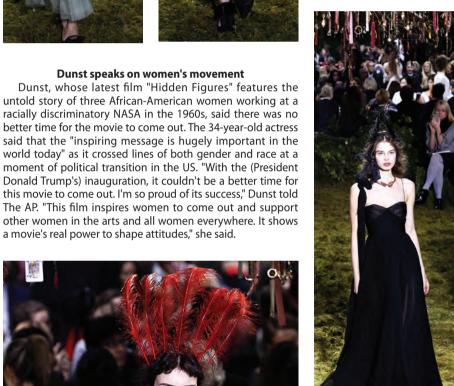






Fairytale music conjured up a sensuous, magical atmosphere at Chiuri's spring-summer show that didn't fully translate to the couture. Taking over the creative reins of such a historic house as Dior is a daunting task, and so who can blame the talented Italian-born designer for playing it a little safe? The finely executed styles - floppy hoods, smooth signature peplums, feather tiaras, delicate sheer black animal masks and butterfly chokers - were pared down on sometimes minimalist

The tulle and silk velvet gowns strongly evoked a fairytale or black-magic theme echoed by the forest decor and "Thought Tree" glistening with Tarot cards and gold coins. The binary palette - of mainly white and black, with flashes of satin red and forest green - highlighted a fairytale morality of good and bad, producing some of the show's most beautiful looks. Full, floor-length skirts hid the elfin-like models' legs, so that they appeared to float across the mossy runway floor.































FASHION































Models present creations for Schiaparelli during the 2017 spring/summer Haute Couture collection on January 23, 2017 in Paris.

Schiaparelli goes Chinese

Popstar Kylie Minogue and actress Thandie Newton were front row for Schiaparelli's couture feast - held in the old Place Vendome atelier-apartment of fashion icon Elsa, who died in 1973. Once the place where writer Jean Cocteau and artist Salvador Dali mingled, on Monday fashion insiders were presented a spring-summer show that revisited the design house's shocking pink as well as art deco and 1930s designs. The show channeled the Asian styles that the eccentric couturier would wear around the famed apartment - including silk Japanese kimonos and Chinese hanfus.

The signature "lobster dress" - influenced by Surrealist Dali - was revisited with inserts alongside menswear jacket silhouettes that riffed on geometry. The house, which was this was art. The haphazard lighting was, in fact, the work of

revamped a few years ago, still has some way to go before the designs gain confidence and liberate themselves from the overly referential.

Iris Van Herpen

Blurring the lines between fashion and art, Dutch Wunderkind Iris Van Herpen's cerebral couture collection explored imperfections and "gaps" in fashion and in science. The catwalk of short-circuiting lines of electricity was lit patchily so that the eyes of the spectator had to keep readjusting to focus in on the 16 organic, diaphanous creations.

It had fashion insiders initially looking bemused as they tried in vain to take photos of the show. But they soon realized

German artist Ester Stocker to create visual distortion - to create "a conflict of light and shadow," so said the house. The theme of imperfection was handled perfectly in the couture,

which played on textures in black and white.

High-tech material formed bumps and glistened as if wet on flat-fronted mini dresses that evoked gossamer and weightlessness. Elsewhere, fragmented patterns resemble the grooves of a fossilized shell. Copper-plated diagonal high heels also disrupted the balance of the shoe, leaving a rectangular gap for the very thought-provoking show.

Ralph & Russo

Rapper Nelly and Dunst hit the eclectic Ralph & Russo couture show that revamped the bygone glamour days of the 1950s. Silken full skirts in white and pastel shades successfully sparkled down the runway worn on models with sharp, Asianstyle bobs. But the 55 styles felt incongruous as a whole.

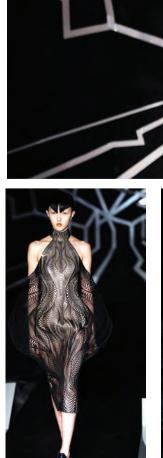
Uber-minis of the 1960s sexual revolution met with designs that showcased the clubbing visor and exposed midriff of the 1990s. Elsewhere, one structured pink satin gown embodied 1980s decadence and almost evoked the TV show "Dynasty." Still, there were plenty of red-carpet gowns to satisfy the nascent house's burgeoning clientele that includes Beyonce and Gwyneth Paltrow. — AP

























































Kuwait Times 55.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2017

'La La Land' ties record with 14 Oscar nominations





This photo taken shows Chinese people visiting a lantern display for the upcoming Lunar New Year at a park in Beijing. The Lunar New Year, known locally as the Spring Festival, falls on January 28 this year and marks the Year of the Rooster in the Chinese calendar. — AFP

Cock of the walk: Trump to thrive in Year of the Rooster



Feng shui master Alion Yeo posing as he speaks with AFP in Hong Kong about the predictions for the Year of the Rooster as the 2017 Lunar New Year approaches. — AFP photos



Feng shui master Thierry Chow holds up a metal rooster in her Hong Kong office.

president Donald Trump will strut through the marriage or how to fight a major battle. ear of the Rooster, thriving as Hong Kong geomancers predict 2017 will be marked by the arguments and aggression-characteristics attributed to the animal. With Trump at the top of the pecking order, the volatile traits of the rooster-combined with the year's signature element of fire-mean rocky times ahead, particularly in the western world, feng shui masters say. "The rooster likes to pick fights, loves to have verbal arguments and is combative," Hong Kong soothsayer Thierry Chow told AFP. Trump's inauguration was met with mass protests in the US and he has already riled China, prompting fears of a trade war between the world's top two economies.

Chow predicted he would ruffle more feathers in his first year as president. "There will be a lot of strikes and even riots," says Chow. Although born in the Year of the Dog, Trump can afford to be cocky due to his flock of faithful followers and his personal "bazi" element of earth, which is compatible with the fire element defining 2017. According to the philosophy of feng shui, all events are dictated by the varying balances in the five elements that make up the universe: metal, wood, water, fire and earth. "Bazi" are fate-setting traits linked to the exact time and date of a person's birth. "The year will have all these elements, these people, these things and environment which will help him personally as a president," says Chow.

Celebrity feng shui master Alion Yeo said the US economy would benefit due to the rooster's signature element of metal, which also represents money and stocks. "Trump's 'bazi' shows he will be prosperous, so the US stock market will perform well in 2017," Yeo said. But he says Trump's good luck will only be temporary as the elements turn against him in future years. "He will have a good run in 2017, but this won't be the case for 2018 (the Year of the Dog)," says Yeo.

'Communicate with the heavens'

Feng shui-literally meaning "wind-water"-is influential in many parts of Asia, where people adjust their lives and carefully position items such as a cup of wine or pieces of ivory in offices and homes to maximize their luck and wealth. Those who practice the ancient philosophy were highly sought-after by Chinese dynastic rulers as far back as 1,000 years ago. "We were government workers in the past and would help the emperors ask the heavens whether the year was going to be a good one or not," Yeo said. One traditional method was to shake three coins in a turtle shell and see which way they fell in order to judge important topics, including picking dates for

turtle shell. Others use a metal shell replica. To divine the future, Yeo says the geomancer's heart must be "very quiet". "Whether or not you can communicate with the heavens is a gift," he adds. Yeo says the world will be like a "sick ox" in 2017, with an even less favorable outlook than tumultuous 2016. "It can barely even get up to eat the grass around it," he says, adding that Europe will fare particularly badly.



The rooster's metal element signifies western countries, especially Europe, and will come under pressure from the year's fire element, explains Yeo. Brexit and the refugee crisis will drive more chaos for the continent in 2017, says Chow, who uses the "flying star" system to make her predictions based on constellation positions. "I wouldn't say things are calming down," she said. "It will be a year of very heated arguments." — AFP

A man walking past potted kumquat plants, a symbol of good luck and prosperity, on sale in Hong Kong.



People looking at a stall in Hong Kong selling decorations for the Year of the Rooster as the 2017 Lunar New Year approaches.



Soft toys for sale at a stall in Hong Kong ahead of the Year of the Rooster as the 2017 Lunar New Year approaches.



A woman (right) taking a selfie with a man (center) in traditional Chinese dress as he hands out "laicee" packets in Hong Kong for the Year of the Rooster as the 2017 Lunar New Year approaches.