



Kuwaitis celebrate 11 years of Amir's reign



'Awesome' Serena beats Venus to set Slams record



Kuwait Times AUSTRALIA TODAY Special Supplement: Australian National Day

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TRAVELERS DETAINED, BARRED FROM FLIGHTS TO US AFTER TRUMP BAN

7 COUNTRIES HIT • SYRIANS BANNED INDEFINITELY • CHRISTIANS EXEMPT

Min 06°
Max 19°
High Tide 13:52
Low Tide 07:23 & 19:08



(Left) US President Donald Trump - with Vice President Mike Pence (left) and Defense Secretary James Mattis (right) watching - signs an executive action on 'extreme vetting' at the Pentagon in Washington on Friday. (Right) An Iraqi man stands next to an ad for a 13-day trip to the United States at a travel agency in the capital Baghdad yesterday, a day after Trump signed the executive order to suspend refugee arrivals and impose tough controls on travellers from seven mainly-Muslim countries, including Iraq. — AP/AFP

IMMIGRATION CURBS CAUSE CHAOS, PANIC, ANGER WORLDWIDE

MIX OF DESPAIR, RESOLVE FOR US MUSLIMS

WASHINGTON: Four days after President Donald Trump was inaugurated, mental health counselors hosted a webinar on how their fellow American Muslims could cope. They surveyed the political landscape: a White House framing Islam itself as a threat, a surge in anti-Muslim hostility and suspicion of immigrants in general. The counselors offered tips such as limiting time on social media. And they cautioned against withdrawing in discouragement, worried about losing whatever foothold Muslims have gained in public life since the crucible of Sept 11. "It's very easy to tell a story of victimization, fear, feeling ... not welcome in our own home," said Ben Herzig, a Massachusetts therapist with a specialty in Muslim mental health. "But the narrative of Islam in American can be a positive one." While many express alarm at Trump's statements, Muslim leaders are

pushing back. They are organizing protests, hosting elected officials at their mosques, building ties with other faith groups and encouraging Muslims to run for elected office. Many of these initiatives had been planned before the general election, but have taken on a new urgency since then.

Trump signed an executive order Friday setting "new vetting measures" to keep "radical Islamic terrorists" out of the United States. The order indefinitely stopped Syrian refugee and immigrant entry into the US, suspended all refugee entry for four months and suspended refugee admissions for three months from countries with terror concerns, naming majority-Muslim nations including Iraq, Syria and Iran. The new president and his supporters say his measures are needed to strengthen national security.

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NEW YORK: In this Jan 25, 2017 photo, Muslim women shout slogans during a rally against President Donald Trump's order cracking down on immigrants living in the US at Washington Square Park. — AP

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's sweeping ban on people seeking refuge in the United States and visitors from seven Muslim countries caused confusion and panic among travelers yesterday, with some turned back from US-bound flights. Some who were already in the air when Trump signed the executive order were detained on arrival, the New York Times reported. Immigration lawyers in New York sued to block the order, also saying numerous people have already been unlawfully detained.

The new Republican president on Friday put a four-month hold on allowing refugees into the United States and temporarily barred travelers from Syria and six other Muslim-majority countries. He said the moves would protect Americans from terrorism, in a swift and stern delivery on a campaign promise. The ban affects travelers with passports from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. "I'm establishing new vetting measures to keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the United States of America. Don't want them here," Trump said. "We only want to admit those into our country who will support our country and love deeply our people," he said.

Trump's executive order specifically says no visas will be issued for 90 days to migrants or visitors from the seven Muslim-majority countries. It also bars Syrian refugees from the United States indefinitely, or until Trump himself decides that they no longer pose a threat. "This is big stuff," he declared at the Pentagon, after signing the executive order entitled "Protection of the nation from foreign terrorist entry into the United States." Trump's order also cut the number of refugees the US plans to resettle in fiscal year 2017 - which is calculated from last October - from 110,000 to 50,000.

The action prompted fury from Arab travelers in the Middle East and North Africa who said it was humiliating and discriminatory. It drew widespread criticism from US Western allies including France and Germany, Arab-American groups and human rights organizations. Iran condemned the order as an "open affront against the Muslim world and the Iranian nation" and vowed to retaliate. Of the seven countries targeted, Iran sends the most visitors to the United States each year - around 35,000 in 2015, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

The ban extends to green card holders who are authorized to live and work in the United States, according to Gillian Christensen, a Homeland Security spokeswoman. It was unclear how many green card holders would be affected, but exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis. Legal residents of the United States were plunged into despair at the prospect of being unable to return to the United States or being separated from family members trapped abroad. Immigration lawyers worked through the night to help stranded travelers and enforcement at entry points was uneven.

"I never thought something like this would happen in America," said Mohammad Hossein Ziya, 33, who came to the United States in 2011 after being forced to leave Iran for his political activities. Ziya, who lives in Virginia, has a green card and planned to travel to Dubai next week to see his elderly father. "I can't go back to Iran, and it's possible I won't be able to return here, a place that is like my second country," he said. Saleh Taghvaeian, 36, teaches agricultural water management at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, said he feared his wife will not be able to return from Iran after a visit.

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KUWAIT DROPS 36 PLACES IN LATEST DEMOCRACY INDEX

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait dropped 36 places in the 2016 Democracy Index compared to a year before, the second sharp fall in international indices in less than a week after the state dropped 20 spots in the 2016 Corruption Perception Index.

Kuwait ranked 121st out of 167 countries worldwide and eighth among Arab countries in the latest edition of the Democracy Index released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), down from 85th worldwide and second in the Arab World in the 2015 index. Most notable was the fact that the drop in Kuwait's ranking also meant a demotion of its category. The United States was also demoted from a 'full democracy' to 'flawed democracy'.

Meanwhile, the top five democratic nations according to the index are Norway, Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Denmark respectively. The bottom five are Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Chad, Syria and North Korea. In the Arab World, Tunisia remained in first place (69th worldwide) followed by Lebanon (102), Morocco (105), Palestine (110), Iraq (114), Mauritania (117), Jordan (117), Kuwait (121), the Comoros (124) and Algeria (126).

In the 2016 Democracy Index, the average global score fell to 5.52 from 5.55 in 2015 (on a scale of 0 to 10). Some 72 countries experienced a decline in their total score compared with 2015, almost twice as many as the countries which recorded an improvement (38). The other 57 countries stagnated, with their scores remaining unchanged compared with 2015.

PLENTY OF ROOM FOR 'BAD DUDES' AT GUANTANAMO

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba: It's been almost a decade since the last detainee landed at Guantanamo Bay. Most of the jail's camps are now mothballed and the inmate population is down to just 41. But after years of shrinking operations at the notorious military prison, commanders are now bracing for a potential U-turn under the new administration of President Donald Trump.

Trump has said he wants to load up Guantanamo with "some bad dudes," and a draft executive order circulated by US media this week suggests he is poised to indefinitely halt all detainee releases, including five men who had been cleared for transfer under his predecessor Barack Obama. "We are planning for all contingencies," prison spokesman Captain John Filostrat said. "We are able to transfer detainees - or take more detainees - at a moment's notice."

Trump has also said it would be "fine" if US terror suspects were sent to Guantanamo for trial, and the executive order arguably opens the possibility that Americans, even those arrested in the United States, could end up here. Filostrat, who stressed he has not received any new orders, said Guantanamo could easily take about another 200 detainees if needed. Trump has provided few specifics about his Guantanamo plans, but the draft executive order says the facility is a "critical tool" in the fight against "radical Islamist groups."

About 780 men have been held at Guantanamo since it opened in 2002, and most of the basic infrastructure that housed them remains. New inmates would be primarily housed in Camp 6, a medium-security facility that opened in 2006 at a cost of \$37 million, where the bulk of the current 41 inmates are detained. The facility sits close to the blue Caribbean coast and its outer perimeter is a chain-link fence covered with sniper netting and topped with razor wire.



In this Feb 2, 2002 file photo, a detainee from Afghanistan is carried on a stretcher before being interrogated by military officials at the Camp X-Ray detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba. — AP

Other new arrivals could be held in Camp 5, a detention facility that was closed last year as the population dwindled. It currently is being repurposed as a medical center. Filostrat said other prison camps could quickly be reactivated if need be, though most likely not the infamous Camp X-Ray. — AFP



KUWAIT: This file photo shows His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivering a speech after his inauguration ceremony. — KUNA



In this file photo, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivers a speech during his inauguration ceremony.

KUWAITIS CELEBRATE 11 YEARS OF AMIR'S REIGN

SHEIKH SABAH ATTENDS, PATRONIZES KUWAITI FLAG HOISTING CEREMONY

KUWAIT: Kuwaitis mark today 11 years since His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah stood before the parliament to take his oath of office as the 15th ruler of Kuwait. His Highness Sheikh Sabah is a distinguished ruler who received both executive and legislative backing along with the support of the people at the start of his reign and continues to do so.

Born on June 16, 1929, the fourth son of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was handpicked as a potentially astute statesman. After studying at the local Mubarakiya School, his father sent him to the West to pick up on diplomatic skills he would soon be able to master.

Upon his return in 1954, Sheikh Sabah was immediately handed the role of forming one of the sides of a committee tasked with restructuring state bodies despite being only 25 years old. A year later, he was appointed head of the state social affairs and labor unit, a position he would later thrive in.

Labor migration

At a time of heavy regional and international labor migration into Kuwait, he was responsible for regulating the relationship between employees and business owners. He was also behind the formation of specialist training centers, sports clubs, welfare centers for women, children, the elderly and special needs cases and a traditional arts center.

In 1957, after being tasked with overseeing the state publishing department, the first edition of cultural magazine Al-Arabi was published. It was to later become a huge hit amongst Arab readers and helped put Kuwait on the map as a serious advocate of culture and knowledge.

A publications' and media law, that placed Kuwait as the top Arab country in the World Media Index was another of his contributions. Two years after Kuwait's independence in 1961, he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs - a position he would continue to fill over a 40-year period.

Wise judgment

His reign as foreign minister was marked by numerous shifts and turbulent circumstances. But thanks to his wise judgment the then minister Sheikh Sabah was able to steady the ship. After raising Kuwait's flag for the first time at the United Nations in 1963, he immediately set out to cover his role with fervor, becoming instrumental in his policy as a regional.

His first task was to bring together the conflicting sides in Yemen's civil war, including Saudi Arabia and Egypt who were backing separate sides in the struggle. All the parties were involved in reconciliation talks hosted by Kuwait. As the fighting continued between the north and the south of Yemen, he later paid a visit to both resulting in the signature of a peace agreement in 1972. In 1980 he also mediated reconciliation between Yemen and its western neighbors Oman. He was also faced with difficult regional conditions which he managed to sail through smoothly like the eight-year-old Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s and Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in 1990.

Prime minister

The role of forming a government, in the place of Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah, was given to him in 2001 after which he was appointed prime minister two years later. This is when his focus on economic affairs began. He launched a local fund for SMEs in order to support the youth. On international affairs, he looked eastwards to sign a total 10 agreements, MoUs and giant business projects with China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore in 2004.

On January 2006, former Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah passed away. His successor was Sheikh Saad, however his extreme sickness prevented him from becoming ruler. It is then that the cabinet sat down to agree that Sheikh Sabah would be the new ruler - a decision that later received the parliament's backing as well. His Highness the Amir's development plans for Kuwait are truly underway. Some projects have been completed while some are in the pipeline, including Jaber Hospital, Mubarak Port, and the giant Jaber Bridge which links the north to Kuwait City, Al-Zour refinery, and the new airport.

On September 2014, and after Kuwait hosted three

international conferences which helped raise billions of dollars in an unprecedented step for humanitarian efforts on the Syrian refugee crisis, His Highness was handed a 'Humanitarian Leader' award by UN chief Ban Ki-moon.

Philanthropy

Throughout his 11-year reign His Highness the Amir oversaw the handing out of many other relief aid, grants and loans worth tens of millions to nations around the world, particularly to the Palestinians and impoverished countries in Africa and Asia. His love for his people was at its most evident when, moments after terrorists' bombed Imam Al-Sadeq mosque leaving behind 26 people dead, he showed up unguarded and unarmed to oversee rescue efforts. It was then he made the famous quote "those are my children." In 2016, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah continued to support the Syrian refugees, cohosting the fourth international donors conference for Syria which was held in the British capital London in February.

His Highness Sheikh Sabah also took part in humanitarian world summit which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May of 2016. Late 2016, His Highness Sheikh Sabah added another milestone to his credential, receiving King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on his first visit to Kuwait since becoming Monarch of Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait rejoices on the day that their ruler celebrates eleven year in office. A humanitarian, a champion of the weak, a man of compassion and a patriot - long live His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Redefined progress

Through his 11 years of reigning as the highest authority in the land, His Highness the Amir had redefined progress in Kuwait, launching several projects that focused on the welfare and development of the country, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem said yesterday. Speaking on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of His Highness the Amir's reign, Ghanem affirmed that the leader of Kuwait had steered the nation into safety despite regional and international challenges.

With the presence of terror in the region as a security test and dropping oil prices as an economic challenge, His Highness the Amir fended off these troubles, making sure that they would not affect the people living in Kuwait, said Ghanem who commended His Highness Sheikh Sabah on his wise decisions and clear vision.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah has decades of experience under his belt, a fact that led to international acknowledgement of regional and international peers, said the parliament Speaker who wished His Highness the Amir and the Kuwaiti people further progress and development.

Progress and development

Meanwhile, Senior officials at Kuwait National Guard (KNG), Information Ministry, and Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) marked the 11th year of His Highness the Amir's reign. The senior official praised His Highness the Amir, who began his reign on January 29, 2006, for his ever wise decisions that led to the progress and development of Kuwait.

Deputy Chief of the KNG Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah lauded His Highness the Amir's long political career that spanned over five decades. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah had achieved international recognition for his efforts through the UN honoring of him as a humanitarian leader and Kuwait as a global hub for humanitarian efforts.

He also lauded His Highness the Amir's efforts during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, affirming that Sheikh Sabah was a key figure, along with late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and late Father Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, in liberating Kuwait in 1991. Sheikh Meshaal took the opportunity to wish His Highness the Amir evermore progress and wellbeing.

Relentless efforts

In the meantime, Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah

said that history will remember His Highness Sheikh Sabah for his relentless efforts in the regional and global scenes. Kuwaitis must follow His Highness the Amir's vision for 2035, said the minister stressing that the current occasion must be celebrated through the nation's determination to further develop Kuwait under the banner held by the Kuwaiti leadership. Also reflecting similar sentiments, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah said that His Highness the Amir played an integral role in bringing Kuwait into the forefront of international efforts for peace and security.

Whether it was a local, regional, or international issue, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah also made it his mission to make Kuwait as a nation that contributed to the welfare of the global community, said KUNA's Director who wished His Highness more progress in years to come.

Flag hoisting ceremony

His Highness the Amir will attend and patronize a ceremony to hoist the Kuwaiti flag at Bayan Palace today. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and senior officials of the state will attend the event. — KUNA



Then Parliament Speaker the late Jassem Al-Kharafi congratulates His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during his inauguration ceremony, in this file photo.



Diplomats attend His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's inauguration ceremony at the National Assembly, in this file photo.



Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem



Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah



Director General and Chairman of the Board of Kuwait News Agency Sheikh Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah

MP HAYEF URGES COLLABORATION AMONG COLLEAGUES

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: In a series of posts he made on his Twitter account, MP Mohammad Hayef stressed that MPs and the government belong to the same country and that they both serve the country's greater good regardless of any electoral benefits or gains. He also stressed that MPs have no fear of dissolving the current parliament because they have already done their part in so many issues such as citizenship withdrawals. Hayef urged his colleagues to be united and avoid making individual decisions about grilling motions or any other issues.

"The opposition must have one word," he said, adding that opposition members should cooperate and consult with each other. Hayef also noted that an opposition group consisting of 26 MPs (which was formed last December at MP Mohammed Al-Muttair's Diwan) met this week to discuss the grilling motion filed against Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, stressing that 'Shura' (consultation) is a main principle in Islam and that people are stronger together.

Commenting on the citizenships withdrawal issue, Hayef hailed the efforts of Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah in this regard, and stressed that MPs have the right to call for a meeting with all parties involved to discuss various issues. "The opposition is in pursuit of all means of reform in order to solve the citizenships issue and amend the elections law," he underlined, pointing out that each step forward made by the government in this direction will be met with two from MPs, which implies willingness for full cooperation.

MPs' immunities

The parliament's legislative committee is scheduled



MP Mohammad Hayef

to meet at 9:30 am today in order to discuss lifting the immunity of four MPs; Dr Waleed Al-Tabtabae, Dr Jam'an Al-Harbash and Mohammed Barrak Al-Mutair in relation with investigating cases number 946/2011 and 383/2011 in which they are facing charges of breaking into the parliament's building. The committee will also discuss a fourth request to lift the immunity of MP Ahmad Al-Fadhli in relation to court cases. The committee will discuss amendments proposed to law number 111/2015 (the juveniles law) to raise the juvenile's legal age back to 18.

Meanwhile, the parliament's educational committee will meet to discuss the investigations made concerning unaccredited degrees and certificates. The discussion will be attended by Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Al-Fares.

Budgets

Separately, chairman of the parliament's budgets and final statements committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad said that the committee met recently in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh to discuss the budgets of ministries and government bodies for 2017-2018. Abdulsamad added that the ministry explained that what was discussed was only a draft of the budgets because some data were incomplete, but stressed that the ministry will respect the deadline for sending the budget law by Jan 31, 2017.

The finance ministry is still studying international oil markets' developments to assess the ideal oil price to be used in the budget, especially since oil prices have improved after the OPEC recently decided to cut down oil production to increase oil prices. Accordingly, the price to be included in the new budget is likely to increase to over \$35 per barrel.

Khor Abdullah

Iraqi political analyst Ehsan Al-Shemhari said that raising the subject of Khor Abdullah at the present time is considered a 'personal criticism' of Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar Al-Abadi because of the military victories he had been achieving in Mosul. "Raising this topic now is only a part of an early political and electoral conflict," he stressed, adding that many bodies were trying to distract public attention with certain topics and issues to divert attention from military victories in Nineveh and Western Mosul. Shemhari's statements were made after Abadi's office denied the Iraqi government's intention to give the Iraqi side of Khor Abdullah as a gift to Kuwait. Iraqi MP Alia Naseef had strongly criticized the Iraqi cabinet's vote on granting the body of water to Kuwait and described it as treason to Iraq.

Local spotlight

TRUMP AND GCC



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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In the past two weeks, the world was busy with the inauguration of Republican Donald Trump. The media published speculations and predictions that were often worrying and cynical about what the most powerful man in the world will do - fateful decisions over very important and delicate issues which the new administration may support or reject.

I have spent some time reading many reports and statements issued by Trump's advisors. We must admit that the American people chose their leader for the next four years, and whether we like it or not, we have no other choice but to accept this fact and deal with it.

It is very clear that every country in the world is considering the US presidency from the corner of their interests, and so I will look at the new US presidency from this angle as well. How the new US presidency will balance the equation of the strategic partnership and alliance with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in order to maintain mutual interests?

I came to the conclusion to not worry about the possible decisions by the new presidency with regards to the safety and security of the GCC. I agree that we are facing a new president who is different from others and may deal with some urgent issues in an unfamiliar way that may seem hasty and prejudiced, but there are rules and policies concerning the position of the United States which he will not be able to overcome or deny.

There is no doubt that there are urgent challenges facing Trump now, including relations with China, the Iranian nuclear file, the relationship with Europe and NATO, the shape of US-Russia relations, the Syrian issue, the Palestinian case and the Arab-Israeli conflict. So far, it seems that the new administration has not specified its priorities and is still studying all options.

Except for the US decision to set up safe zones around Syria, which means preventing Syrians from leaving their country, there is no solid opinion over how to end the bloody war there. I believe the civil war in Syria will not end any time soon, which means the Gulf region has to keep fighting IS, terrorists and extremists to preserve internal security and borders. Personally, I am in favor of the safe zones. The question now is how to implement this resolution in coordination with Turkey, Russia and financial support from the Gulf states.

I do not support Syrians migrating to America or Europe or anywhere else because it is not logical to offload citizens from a country and expect them to integrate in a different culture and foreign Western lands. Some media reports published a debate about whether the United States should classify the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization and impose sanctions. This is a sensitive resolution, because the Muslim Brotherhood in some countries, including Kuwait, has no terrorist or criminal activities, while this is not the case in Egypt for example. I believe that such a classification of the entire organization will complicate relations with Turkey, which is a key US ally in the war against IS and terrorism in Syria.

Trump's decision to stop issuing visas to citizens of Syria and six other countries - Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen - is a purely security decision. Kuwait also bans the entry of several nationalities as well. This is required to maintain the security of states, which is a red line.

The new president is a businessman who has significant commercial ties with Gulf states, and I don't think he will even try to jeopardize his commercial interests for no reason. He is not against Muslims, but extremist Muslims. For example, Islamist parties in Syria kill Muslims daily - are we supposed to support this criminality? This extremism is unacceptable, whether from Trump or others. Gulf states are historic allies of America but faced a lot of apathy and indifference in dealing with US foreign policy, especially since the previous US administration was allied with Iran and Russia.

I believe the US-GCC relationship will not be affected by electoral statements and the strategic partnership will remain constant.



COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE COMPANY SPONSORS 61 GRADUATION PROJECTS FOR ENGINEERING AND PETROLEUM COLLEGE STUDENTS

KUWAIT: The Commercial Real Estate Company is considered one of the main sponsors for Kuwait University students sponsoring 61 graduation projects that were displayed in the recently concluded 31st Engineering Exhibition which was held in Crowne Plaza Hotel on the 18th of January.

Rawan Adnan - Marketing and Leasing Department Manager, at the Commercial Real Estate Company (Al-Tijaria) stated that "the Company is constantly supporting youth education, especially the students from

College of Engineering and Petroleum by financially supporting them all year around, encouraging them to do research, be creative and come up with graduation projects which can have an impact on the urban and social development in the State of Kuwait." It is worth mentioning that the Commercial Real Estate Company had sponsored more than 2,300 students since the year 2006.

The Commercial Real Estate Company has always been proactive on developing youth and encouraging

them to give their best as part of its social responsibility contribution and commitment to apply and enhance corporate governance principles. 'Al-Tijaria' understands the importance of developing the youth considering them to play key roles in developing economic and social wellbeing and representing future leadership positions. Rawan further stated that "the Commercial Real Estate Company is dedicating its efforts and care towards the youth and is liaising all of its resources to support them throughout their education and career."



KUWAIT'S PHILANTHROPY REACHES OUT TO THOSE IN NEED

KUWAIT: Throughout this past week, Kuwait's philanthropic initiatives have reached many parts of the world and touched more hearts, cementing the GCC country's UN-bestowed status as an 'International Humanitarian Center'. During the week, in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the Kuwaiti Society for Relief provided medical supplies and medications to a number of health centers offering services to displaced Iraqis, as part of the 'Kuwait beside you' campaign. Medication was offered for various diseases, mainly chronic ones.

In Irbil, Kuwait distributed 15 tons of medical supplies to hospitals in areas that have been liberated south of Iraq's war-torn city of Mosul. The supplies are part of an incessant flow of Kuwaiti medical aid that has trickled into Iraq, including the construction of medical centers in refugee camps located in Iraq's autonomous region of Kurdistan. Moreover, the State of Kuwait has allocated \$10 million for Syrian refugees in Iraq's Kurdistan province.

Sheikh Ahmad Ali Al-Sabah, member of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) mission visiting Iraq's Kurdistan, said the financial aid would be used to carry out projects for Syrian refugees in collaboration with UNHCR, the UN refugee agency. He added that the financial assistance would be used to improve public services in three camps in Dohuk and Irbil.

In Yemen, the Kuwaiti-Yemeni relief association earlier in the week inaugurated a number of projects for renovating educational facilities in the Yemeni Governorate of Dalea. The ventures include rehabilitating two schools, named Kuwait High School and

Kuwait School. The project is part of the second phase of a Kuwaiti funded \$23 million campaign, also aimed at securing food, water and dwelling for Yemenis in several provinces of the country.

Jordan

In Jordan, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) handed a financial aid to a number of Syrian families at refugee camps in the Jordan Valley area, in cooperation with Jordan National Red Crescent Society. KRCS has dispatched its 23rd convoy to Jordan, including 14 trucks loaded with various aid and necessities for the Syrian refugees, said Anwar Al-Hasawi, KRCS' Deputy Chairman.

In Amman, KRCS delivered aid to 200 families of Syrian refugees. The International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO); another active Kuwait-based organization, also carried out the second phase of an urgent relief program for thousands of Syrian refugee families.

IICO official Ziyad Abu Taleb said that the current campaign comprises the winter installment of aid, earmarked for Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Moreover, he noted that the aid campaign is a donation from Chairman of Kuwait's National Security Bureau His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, which encompasses refugee families across the Hashemite Kingdom. The aid included necessities such as food, heaters and sums of money to cover housing expenses.

Gaza

In Gaza, Palestinian Minister of Public

Works Mufeed Al-Hasayneh announced the authority there has received \$9 million from Kuwait, part of the Arab Gulf state's grant to rebuild the Palestinian southern governorates.

The new donation, he said in a statement, would be distributed to 1,055 Palestinians who suffered damages caused by the Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip in 2014. Al-Hasayneh expressed gratitude for Kuwait, His Highness the Amir and the people for their "huge" support for the Palestinian people.

The KFAED and the Palestinian government signed, in March 2015, a \$200 million grant agreement for the reconstruction of the southern governorates. Kuwait had pledged the grant during a donor conference for rebuilding Gaza, held in Cairo in October 2014. The donation will be used to rebuild 1,500 housing units, installing water pipeline, supporting economic sectors, animal resources and infrastructure.

Turkey

Moving on to Turkey, where earlier in the week, Kuwait's Al-Rahma International Charity announced that a convoy carrying medical aid earmarked for Syrian refugees crossed into southern Turkey.

Head of Al-Rahma International's office in Syria Waleed Al-Suwailem said that a contingent of doctors from Kuwait Medical Association has tended to around 625 patients at Emel Hospital in the town of Reyhanli in the southern province of Hatay. Moreover, he noted that the aid is part of a campaign launched by Al-Rahma International to provide relief for the peo-

ple of the war-torn Syrian city of Aleppo. According to Al-Suwailem, Al-Rahma International has delivered \$70 million worth of aid since the start of the Syrian conflict.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Al-Najat Charity distributed humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees in the province of Hatay, which included food baskets, heaters and pecuniary assistance. In Helsinki, Kuwait's acting assistant foreign minister for international organizations affairs appreciated efforts by Syria's neighbors, UN aid agencies and other international donors to alleviate suffering of Syrian people.

Aware of the scale of the humanitarian disaster in sisterly Syria, the State of Kuwait rushed to rescue the Syrian refugees and the internally displaced people, and lobbied for responding to this crisis, Minister Plenipotentiary Nasser Abdullah Al-Hayyen said.

He was addressing the Conference on Supporting Syrians and the Region, being held in Helsinki, Finland, at the request of the United Nations. Hayyen renewed Kuwait's support to the intra-Syrian talks that took place in the Kazakh capital of Astana on January 23-24, voicing hope that outcomes of the talks would help build confidence among the negotiating parties and prepare the ground for the coming round of political dialogue, due in Geneva in February. The conference aims to present the UN's humanitarian priorities for Syria in 2017 and launch the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for 2017-18, which extends to Syria's neighbors. — KUNA

BLUE-COLLARS SLAM HASHEM'S 'IRRESPONSIBLE' STATEMENTS

By Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Assistant Engineers and Technicians' Syndicate Adel Al-Doukhi criticized what he described as the 'provocative' and unfair statements concerning a large segment of the Kuwaiti people, when MP Safa Al-Hashem denied in a recent statement the presence of any Kuwaiti blue-collars. "This irresponsible statement reflects lack of knowledge about the work nature of Kuwaiti assistant engineers and technicians," he said, noting that a similar statement was previously made by Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh, when she referred to Kuwaiti laborers as 'unskilled'.

"How can a government official make such statements without backing them up with proof or studies?" he wondered, noting that over 25,000 Kuwaiti technicians are working under harsh conditions without having their full rights guaranteed. Doukhi urged Hashem to review Kuwaiti technicians' numbers and specialties "as they have been unfairly marginalized by state officials who prefer foreigners over them."

Inspections

The Ministry of Electricity and Water's inspection teams are due to launch inspection campaigns within the coming few days to track down violators and illegal users of electricity and water supplies around Kuwait.



MP Safa Al-Hashem



Bader Al-Kharafi takes part in the Tamkeen conference.



Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Khaled Al-Roudhan honor Bader Al-Kharafi and Iman Al-Roudhan on the conclusion of the Al-Roudhan tourney.



Iman Al-Roudhan and UNHCR's representative in Kuwait Hanan Hamdan sign a cooperation memorandum.

Investing in future generations main focus of 2016 sustainability projects: Zain

KUWAIT: Zain announced that sustainability projects it recently launched and adopted occupied a great part of its 2016 strategy, through which it renewed its full support to social responsibility initiatives as a commercial firm seeking true partnership with various sections of the society. In this regard, a press release issued by Kuwait's leading telecom company stressed its commitment to sustainability projects and its leadership of the private sector's social activities.

Zain stressed that it owes a great deal of its initiatives' success to integrating sustainability in all its decisions and major steps taken toward encouraging creativity and shifting to a knowledge-based economy. It also stressed its belief in supporting leadership and developing and building skills amongst youth as the main foundations of achieving sustainable development.

Zain said that its sustainability initiatives confirmed its commitment to finding effective means to improve future generations' skills through a series of programs and campaigns launched

Sponsoring NUKS' annual conference

Zain has been the most outstanding sponsor of the annual conference of the National Union of Kuwait Students (NUKS) USA for the past 13 years. In 2016, it sponsored the 33rd conference held under the title of "A Conscientious Generation for an Everlasting Nation."

Supporting the 'Give Them a Chance' campaign

Within Zain's Humane Strategy Partnership with KRCS, the company donated KD 30,000 to the 'Give Them a Chance' campaign dedicated to educating children in Kuwait, which aims at providing children whose families cannot afford tuition with equal educational chances.

Partnership with LOYAC

For over 12 years now, Zain has been the main partner of LOYAC, the project that aims at developing youth talents and

Zain sponsored it for the ninth year in a row. The campaign was held in partnership with the Ministry of Health's National Mammography Screening Program and Al Seef Hospital. The campaign featured a number of awareness activities that were conducted throughout the month of October. It aimed at spreading positive awareness about breast cancer prevention through social media messages by Dr Hana Al-Khawari and Dr Noha Al-Saleh to the public as well as to Zain employees. The activities included seminars for Zain's female employees at the company's headquarters as well as a visit to KCCC and an activity held in collaboration with Inspire Spa. Zain also paid for the cost of mammogram tests for its female employees.

Zain Hospital

Zain is keen on equipping Zain Specialized Hospital with the latest ear, nose and throat medical equipment. The hospital annually serves 3,600 patients and conducts 300 surgeries

Lebanon as well as Beqaa governorate. The trip came as part of Zain's ongoing humanitarian strategic partnership with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. The trip included visits to the bakeries project and Dar Al-Zahra hospital for artificial limbs. The trip also included visits to refugee camps where clothes, food supplies, medicine and fresh clean water were distributed.

Ramadan Charity Campaign

In Ramadan 2016, Zain launched its 'Ya Baghi Al-Khair Aqbel' charity campaign through which 500 fils was collected as a donation for every bill customers paid during the holy month. On concluding the campaign, Zain donated KD 45,000 to aid and humanitarian relief activities through the Sheikh Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity, which in turn allocated the sum for digging wells in remote areas in Somalia and Kyrgyzstan to help end the sufferings of thousands of families without access to clean drinking water.

Clothes Donation Campaign

In the beginning of 2016, Zain launched a campaign to donate clothes in collaboration with Kuwait Society for Relief, where a special box was placed at its headquarters in Shuwaikh and the company's employees were encouraged to donate clothes. The campaign lasted for three weeks and resulted in collecting over five tons of clothes that were later sent to Syrian refugees.

Environmental Awareness Programs

Within its environment-oriented social responsibility activities, Zain also collaborated with the Omnia environmental project by encouraging recycling plastic bottles in all its buildings and headquarters and holding a competition amongst employees to collect the largest number of bottles to be recycled. Zain also hosted and honored the Kuwait Dive Team at its headquarters in appreciation of completing 800 missions onboard a boat provided by Zain in 2003.

Sponsoring Al-Roudhan Tourney

In Ramadan 2016, Zain sponsored Al-Roudhan's 37th Soccer Tourney held under auspices of HH the Amir. The company was present throughout the tourney and held daily competitions providing valuable prizes to winners.

Zain Employees Soccer Championship

In 2016, Zain organized its annual soccer championship for its employees at the Mishref United playground over three days.

Sponsoring Jet Ski champion Yousef Al-Abdul Razzaq

For the sixth year in a row, Zain continued to sponsor Kuwait national team's jet ski champions who scored highly at the international jet ski competition held in the US. It also sponsored jet ski champion Yousef Al-Abdul Razzaq for the seventh year.

Gulf Run

Zain also sponsored the 12th Gulf Run race, which provides great opportunities for youth with passion for car races, including kart races.

People with Special Needs

Zain shared the joy of celebrating various annual occasions with people with special needs on various occasions such as the International Day for People with Disabilities on Dec 3, National and Liberation Days, Ramadan, Girgian, Eids and other social occasions.

Zain Lab

Zain launched Zain Lab in 2016 in collaboration with MSAL's department of professional rehabilitation for people with special needs, which included a computer workshop.

Providing Mol with Wheelchairs

Zain provided the Ministry of Interior (Mol) over 40 wheelchairs to be distributed to various departments for senior people and people with special needs processing their transactions.

Training Dasman School students

In 2016, Zain hosted a new batch of Dasman Ideal Bilingual School pupils with special needs for the third year in a row, where they underwent a training program at the company's headquarters.

'Ramadan Live in Peace' Campaign

Zain organized its 'Live in Peace' campaign for the holy month of Ramadan that included various social and charity initiatives and activities. It also promoted traditional values such as sharing food and taking care of orphans. Zain also distributed food supplies to needy families and held daily iftar banquets.



Zain and KRCS delegation with Syrian children in Lebanon.



Waleed Al-Khashti receives ASRORG's Gold Award for Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility in Dubai.



Iman Al-Roudhan, Dr Hilal Al-Sayer and Dr Qais Al-Dowairi launch Zain Mobile Clinic.



Zain iftar hall during Ramadan.

throughout 2016 with a major focus on the most important social issues. Notably, Zain has recorded major initiatives in various fields driven by its realization of the need to contribute in providing the society with various tools to achieve sustainable development.

Gold Award for Excellence in Social Responsibility

On the sidelines of the Arab Organization for Social Responsibility (ASRORG) regional forum and 11th annual ceremony held at Roudhat Al-Bostan Hotel in Dubai, Zain was awarded the ASRORG Gold Award for Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility for the third time, thanks to the initiatives and programs it launched through 2016.

Notably, ASRORG allocated the award to highlight leading sustainability experiences in the Middle East, as various Arab leading and administrative figures from both the public and private sectors took part in the forum in view of the growing international and Arab attention given to the concept of social responsibility.

FUN program for university students

Zain's Future University Network initiative, known as FUN, addresses university students' development by investing in their potentials. It was launched in 2008 with the aim of nurturing young ambitious minds and developing their skills through encouraging the spirit of teamwork, participation, creating a proper working environment, enrolling students in various company sections and providing them with opportunities that would make positive contributions. This initiative's vision involves establishing a network of young leaders capable of enriching economic and social lives in their communities.

potentials and has been annually training 2,000 students, which perfectly matches the company's youth-directed strategy and helps develop youth potentials in a way that eventually achieves the state economy's greater good. Doing this, Zain hosts LOYAC youth in special field training programs where they get opportunities to explore the nature of work in various company departments.

Sponsoring the 'Youth Empowerment' Conference

In 2016 Zain continued its sponsorship of the 5th National Academic Youth Empowerment Symposium (Tamkeen) held under auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. It is still the conference's main sponsor since it was first launched four years earlier.

Strategic Partnership with 'Injaz'

Zain also participated in the Entrepreneurship Master Class competition organized by Injaz, where the company's employees mentored and guided middle school students in a professional setting. The Entrepreneurship Master Class (EMC) competition aimed at encouraging young students from across Kuwait's public middle schools to consider a business career and educate them about the opportunities and skills associated with establishing a business and becoming young entrepreneurs.

Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign

The annual breast cancer awareness campaign is one of the largest initiatives annually launched by Zain in October. In 2016,

monthly, ie 10 a day. Zain volunteers visit the hospital on various occasions such as the national days, Ramadan and both Eids.

Zain Mobile Clinic

In 2016, Zain launched its Zain Mobile Clinic, which in collaboration with Dasman Diabetes Institute, runs diabetes tests as part of its efforts to spread public awareness about the disease. It also aims at taking experts from Dasman institute to various schools, institutes, universities, shopping malls and elsewhere to provide free diabetes tests.

Employees' Health Campaigns

Zain organizes several health awareness campaigns for its employees at its headquarters, including blood donation campaigns held in collaboration with the Central Blood Bank to encourage employees to take part in community service activities. Zain also hosted the national seasonal diseases vaccination campaign.

Aid and Humanitarian Campaigns

In the beginning of 2016, Zain signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with the aim of supporting refugee issues and improving their situation worldwide by providing them with basic needs and relief aid.

Vibrant Hearts Trip

Zain's volunteer team participated in a humanitarian visit to Syrian refugees and displaced families in northern and southern



Zain officials with the Kuwait national jet ski team at the airport.

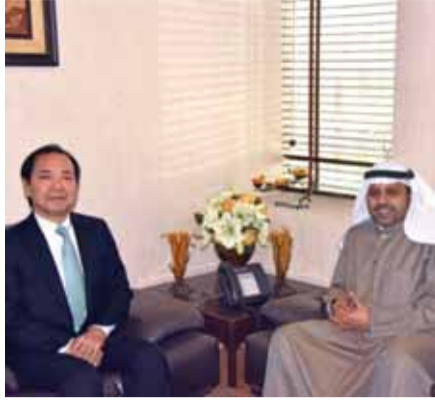


Zain team in Failaka during Ramadan.

In Brief

MUNICIPALITY MINISTER MEETS JAPANESE ENVOY

KUWAIT: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipality Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri met at his office on Thursday with the Japanese Ambassador to Kuwait Takashi Achiki. The two sides discussed topics of mutual concern and ways of boosting cooperation in the municipal field between Kuwait and Japan.



1,000 VOUCHERS TO DISPLACED IRAQIS

IRBIL: The Consulate-General of Kuwait distributed yesterday around 1,000 food vouchers to Iraqis displaced in Irbil, Kuwait's Consul General of the State of Kuwait in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kandari said. He added that the vouchers were distributed in cooperation with Kuwait's Al-Najat Society to the displaced Iraqis, in order to ease their suffering. — KUNA



30,177 TRAFFIC TICKETS ISSUED

KUWAIT: Traffic police launched several inspection campaigns around Kuwait in the period of January 15-21, 2017. During the campaigns, police filed a total of 30,177 traffic tickets, impounded 46 vehicles and 29 motorbikes, arrested 51 traffic law violators, referred two expatriates to deportation for driving without a driver's license and locating 18 vehicles that were reported stolen.



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A laser show at the Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. — KUNA

DYSLEXIA IN KUWAIT: PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS

KUWAIT: Dyslexia is a common language-based disorder which is affecting a large number of people around the globe, making the process of reading, writing, and spelling almost unbearable. In Kuwait, the issue is far greater especially with the lack of awareness about Dyslexia. For Kuwaiti citizen Mohammad Al-Qatami Dyslexia is very personal issue due to the fact that his son suffered from this disorder.

Traveling far and wide, Qatami - also Vice Chairman of Kuwait Dyslexia Association - made it his mission to inform the populace about the problems he faced with his son's disorder, affirming that not all hope was lost.

Qatami revealed that the association conducted a survey in 650 schools which pointed out that some 30,000 students in Kuwait showcased some symptoms of the disorder. This is an alarming number, said the official who added that "the survey gave us a clear idea of how to deal with Dyslexia in cooperation with various government and private bodies."

Due to the enormous challenge facing Kuwait, the Association had worked effortlessly to promote the issue on the local level, said Qatami who indicated that in 2005, his organization and the Ministry of Education had launched a Dyslexia-awareness program in 22 schools to

enable these facilities to deal with the disorder in a friendly manner. Qatami said that discussions with Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr. Mohammad Al-Far will be held soon to expand the campaign to include more schools.

Association official Theiya Al-Rasheed and Health Ministry pediatric consultant Dr Nahed Abdulrazzak both affirmed meanwhile that there were various ways to diagnose whether a person was suffering from the disorder. They also said it was paramount to treat Dyslexia in a professional manner, otherwise, the situation might get further complicated. — KUNA



AUTHORITIES JOIN HANDS IN BEAUTIFYING KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Two main Kuwaiti authorities have joined hands giving momentum to efforts to turn empty spots green with leafy plants and blossoming flowers throughout the country of largely arid land. In its latest activity to turn as many parts as possible of the landscape green, Kuwait Public Environment Authority (EPA), said in a statement on Friday that up to 10,000 saplings were distributed for planting in Al-

Nuwiseeb, Kuwait's southernmost region, stretching along the southern shores of the Gulf country. The plants were given to citizens, campers and volunteers, enthusiastic about such activities to safeguard and improve the environment of Kuwait, indicated Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, EPA Board Chairman.

He also indicated that the activity is part of a nationwide campaign to promote peoples' awareness of the necessity to safeguard the Kuwaiti wild life and environment. Greening side-streets and public parks and location helps in purifying the air, he said, noting the top leaders' special concern for greening Kuwait. EPA is distributing large numbers of saplings in coordination with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), whose general director, Haytham Al-Athari, said that up to 100,00 saplings had been planted in the first (4-month-long) phase of the campaign. The current second stage is designed to plant 250,000 ones.

PAAET's services department is cooperating with the "green dream" team, which comprises volunteers who have been leading the multi-phased greening campaign. The authority had granted 20,000 saplings to Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Popular Heritage Village. It had also distributed 10,000 ones in Kabad, some 70 kilometers from Kuwait City, and planned to distribute 10,000 more elsewhere. Moreover, it is involved in greening projects outside mosques, oil companies and on islands. Kuwait's land is largely desert; however authorities and associations exert relentless efforts to keep much of the land green. — KUNA



KUWAIT: EPA Board Chairman Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah (center) distributes the plants. — KUNA



شركة البترول الوطنية الكويتية
KNPC
 إحدى شركات مؤسسة البترول الكويتية
 A Subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation

Request for Letter of Interest for Development of the Al-Dibdibah Solar PV Power Plant in Kuwait



Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC), the Kuwait Oil Sector Representative, invites interested Parties to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) to participate in Al-Dibdibah PV Solar Power Plant.

Interested Parties shall submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) to Worley Parsons, the owner representative, to their email (DocumentControlSpain@worleyparsons.com), and CC the KNPC Project Manager (dibdibahsolar@knpc.com), within 3 weeks from the date of this advertisement.

Al-Dibdibah Solar Plant aims to generate 2,500 GWh of electricity per year and will be located in the Al-Shagaya Renewable Energy Complex.

Crime

Report

MAN PAID KD 200 FOR EXPIRED SUPPLEMENTS

KUWAIT: A citizen filed a complaint against a compatriot accusing him of selling him expired muscle-enhancing products. Security sources said the man paid KD 200 for the supplements, but found they were to expire within six days. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Missing roommate

Roommates of a 53-year-old Egyptian reported him missing, said security sources. One of them said the man went out at 4 am as usual to take a construction company bus only 20 m from his residence in Hasawi to the site where he worked. But he never took the bus, showed up to work or returned home. A missing person case was filed at Jleeb police station and further investigations are in progress.

Child rescued

Firemen rescued a 9-year-old Iranian child who fell into a manhole in Fahaheel. Security sources said the child was playing outside his house when he suddenly disappeared. Hearing his screams, a citizen called the police, and the boy was rescued and sent to Adan Hospital for treatment.

Brothers' dispute

A citizen filed a complaint against his brother, accusing him of shooting at him because of some financial disputes. The brother however denied firing at him, adding that their fight was due to a family dispute over inheritance rights. A case was filed.

Drunk driver

A citizen under the influence of drugs lost control over his vehicle and drove it through his neighbor's boundary wall and ended up in the front yard garden, said security sources, noting that on arresting the suspect, a variety of drugs were found on him.

Reckless driver

A citizen wanted for a five-year prison sentence was arrested in Jahra after he drove his vehicle recklessly and refused to pull over when ordered by police. The suspect was chased and forced to stop. On searching him, detectives found a plastic bag of drugs.

Thief caught

An illegal Arab resident was arrested in Salmiya for multiple robberies. He was taken to the proper authorities to face charges. — Al-Rai



Al-Jarida

Al-Anbaa 'ARCHOUBS'

By Saad Al-Mo'tesh

All Kuwaitis know the meaning of 'Archoub.' It is a local word used for hampering by placing one's foot in the way of another. Ancient Kuwaitis used this word long before football match commentators used it to describe players running behind others and striking their ankles (an ankle is locally known in Kuwait as Archoub) to cause them to fall and impede their run towards the goal. This word can also be used in an imperative form by friends or football coaches in pre-match briefings to refer to stopping opponents from scoring, which is obvious to referees and fans

We also know that orders to use such Archoubs comes from outside the playfield.

including those who barely know the game. When this offence is committed on the football pitch upon instructions from coaches, a player in this case is usually punished, could receive a red card and get sent off the field and as a result is banned from playing the following two matches. Politically speaking, it is very obvious now that somebody is trying to hamper Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah from doing the duties assigned to him by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak A-Sabah. It also seems that those people are receiving orders to do so.

For us observers, these attempts are very clear and do not need an expert like Jamal Al-Sharif to explain the motive behind them. In Kuwait, we know that a table tennis ball cannot be used as a football and we also know that orders to use such Archoubs comes from outside the playfield.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa SPEECH AND PENALTY

By Salah Al-Sayer

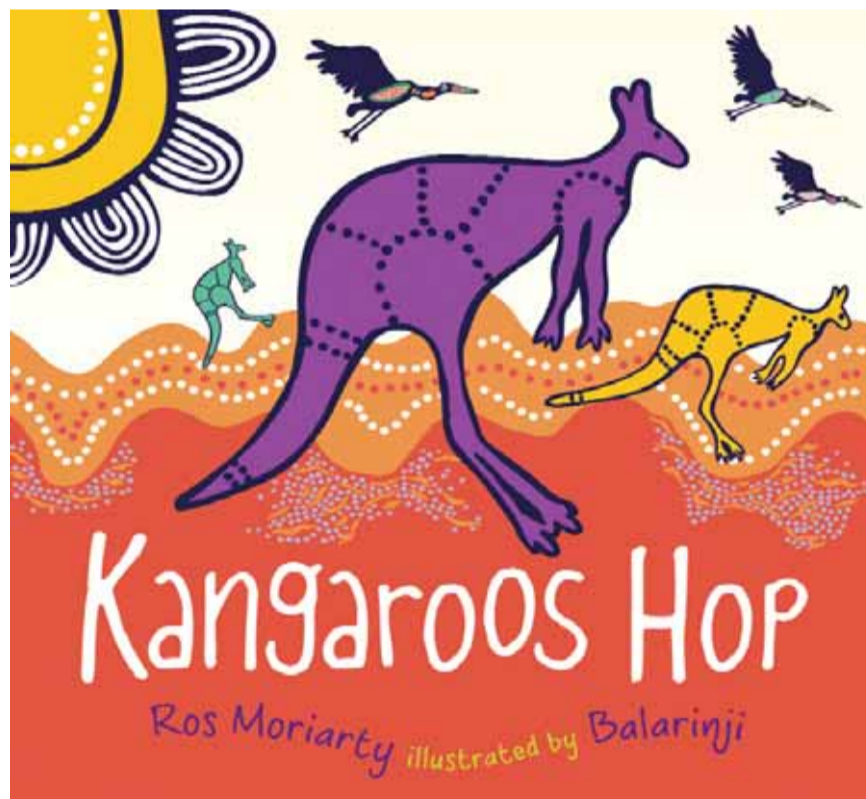
The revolutionary and untraditional speech by US President Donald Trump delivered on his inauguration ceremony included many implications, such as direct criticism to America's elite politicians present at the ceremony when he said 'politicians who say things and never do them.' He also warned them by saying that 'the time for words is over.' Other implications were dangerous and had economic dimensions when he said 'America First.' But perhaps the most terrifying implication was his call to unite the world against 'Islamic extremist terrorism' and promised to erase it from the world.

When the leader of the world's mightiest power makes such threats and describes Muslims as 'terrorists' on his inaugural ceremony, this completely goes in line with neoconservatives' calls and repeated talks about the new enemy after Communism; which is radical Islam. What they refer to goes beyond the Islamic State (IS), and Hollywood had been promoting this in several

movies seeking to demonize Islam just the way they did with Nazism and Communism. One of the systematically written movies currently shown worldwide is 'Patriots Day' that talks about the true story of a terrorist crime committed by two Muslim brothers during the Boston marathon in 2013.

Though most Muslims do not live in the Arab region, one would immediately link between Arabs and Islam. So, when Trump says 'Radical Islamic Terrorism,' everyone's eyes immediately turn toward us out of all Muslims living in Indonesia, Malaysia or any other Muslim country around the world. Therefore, Arab officials' silence about these remarks in the inaugural speech reflects their shock and negligence towards their responsibilities in changing Arab culture. It also reflects their lack of hard work to dry up the sources of radicalism and fight terrorists' dens.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



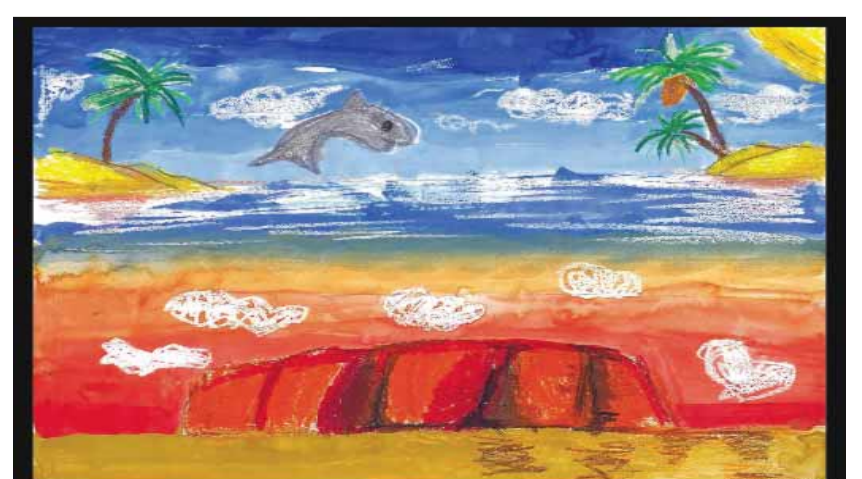
COLOURS OF AUSTRALIA STUDENT ART COMPETITION EXTENDED UNTIL FEB 7

SPONSORED BY VIVA, ACK; HOSTED BY CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times is pleased to announce that the Colours of Australia painting competition will be extended until February 7, 2017 due to the high volume of response. "The response has been phenomenal and we are happy to extend the timing for the competition to allow more schools and students to participate," explained Adnan Saad, Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager and the competition's organizer.

The competition, held in collaboration with the Australian Embassy in Kuwait, aims to encourage students to express their knowledge of Australia by drawing an icon, a landscape, Indigenous or any other expression they would find suitable. The competition is still open for all schools who want to participate.

All schools are requested to deliver students' drawings on or before February 7th in Kuwait Times offices in Industrial Shuwaikh. The competition is sponsored by VIVA and the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK), with a presentation event to be hosted at Crowne Plaza Hotel's 'Al-Thuraya City'.





UK PM in Turkey to seek stronger ties after Brexit

FEARS AS ROGUE PHILIPPINE POLICE GO ON RAMPAGE



CELLE: Policemen secure an entrance to the Higher Regional Court in Celle near Hanover, northern Germany, where a verdict was expected against suspected jihadist girl Safia S. Safia S accused of stabbing a police officer, an assault allegedly ordered by the Islamic State group but which it did not claim. — AFP

FEARS GROW OVER JIHADIST CYBER THREAT

POWER GRID, TRANSPORT NETWORK, BANKING SYSTEM TARGETED

LILLE: Jihadists have yet to shut down a power grid, paralyse a transport network or banking system or take over a key industrial site from afar, but experts say the threat of such a cyber attack should be taken seriously. Analysts fear that while extremist groups may not have the necessary skills themselves, they could hire someone else to wreak havoc.

"Digital attacks with major impacts are unlikely in the short term," said Guillaume Poupard, head of France's digital security service ANSSI, speaking to AFP at an international cyber security conference in Lille, France. "However, that could change very fast. Our real fear, and we may already be there, is that

they will use mercenaries, people who will do anything for money," Poupard said. The Islamic State group, Al-Qaeda and other jihadist groups are so far using the internet mainly for propaganda and recruitment purposes.

"The skills are complex, though not at the level of a nuclear weapon," Poupard said. "With a few dozen people, a little money, but not that much, you can be effective." Earlier this month, Europol director Rob Wainwright also warned of the use of digital mercenaries by jihadist groups at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. "Even if they don't have access to the capabilities, they can simply buy it on the darknet (a hidden internet

realm of encrypted websites), where there is an enormous trade in cyber criminal technology," Wainwright said at a panel discussion on "Terrorism in the Digital Age". "That said, attacking the critical national infrastructures at least of most countries is... not easily done, and it's something that is not as immediate and showy as firing automatic weapons in a theatre or in public," he added. Data pirates and cyber criminals from several countries, often linked to organized crime, offer their services on the darknet. Given the anonymity of the sites, some may help jihadists without realizing it. "In fact, that's our fear," Poupard said. "It's no so much that IS can quickly devel-

op cyberattacks but that they will be able to go through intermediaries."

Speaking in Davos, retired Pakistani general Raheel Sharif said cyber terrorism is "a real threat". "As technology improves, the possibility exists that someone can hack into a very sophisticated system and control that resource in such a way as to do maximum damage somewhere." Most developed countries are steadily boosting their defenses against the cyber threat, be it terrorism, crime or espionage. "Terrorist groups that currently use the internet for planning, propaganda and recruitment purposes could become full players in the cyber arena," French Defense Minister Jean-

Yves Le Drian said last month as he unveiled his country's policy on military cyber security.

"Since asymmetrical operations are naturally etched into their DNA, cyber space gives them an obvious field of action, where major damage can be inflicted with limited means," he said. Disturbing precursors of more insidious actions ahead are internet interlopers that do not steal or destroy data but appear to map websites, preparing offensive weapons for later use. "This kind of attack has even begun in some countries," Poupard said. "We are closely following what's happening in Ukraine where strange breakdowns are becoming frequent that are caused by extremely sophisticated actions." — AFP

SYRIAN SOLDIERS SEIZE DAMASCUS WATER SOURCE; REBELS PULL OUT

BEIRUT: Syrian government forces took back control of an area near Damascus that provides most of the capital's water supplies after reaching a deal for rebel fighters to withdraw, pro-government media and a monitoring group said. The Syrian army and its allies launched an offensive last month to drive insurgents from the Wadi Barada valley, which they have controlled since 2012, and to recapture a major spring and pumping station.

Syria's mainstream rebel factions are under intense pressure after losing areas they held in the northern city of Aleppo to government forces at the end of last year, and now face a fierce assault by Islamist militants elsewhere. Wadi Barada, which lies northwest of Damascus, has become one of the fiercest battlefronts in Syria's civil war. Disruption to water supplies, including infrastructure damage, has caused acute shortages in the capital this month.

Government forces entered the village of Ain Al-Fija, where the spring and pumping station are located, early yesterday, a military media unit run by Lebanese group Hezbollah, an ally of Damascus, reported. "The Syrian army has entered Ain Al-Fija ... and raised the Syrian flag over the spring installation," a statement by the unit said, adding that the development was due to a deal reached with insurgents by which the rebels would leave the area. Teams were preparing to enter Ain Al-Fija to fix the pumping station and the army had secured control of the village, it added.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based war monitoring

group, said government forces had begun moving into the spring area as rebel fighters withdrew. Under the deal reached between the government side and local representatives, rebels hailing from outside the Wadi Barada area would leave for the northwestern province of Idlib, an insurgent stronghold, carrying light weapons, the Observatory said.

Rebels from Wadi Barada would be allowed to leave too, but could also opt to stay and serve with pro-government forces, it added. The Syrian government has struck similar local ceasefire deals with the opposition in several western parts of the country, usually involving the transfer of rebel fighters and their families to Idlib. The opposition has said the process amounts to forced population transfer.

Intense fighting raged for weeks in Wadi Barada, and knocked the water spring out of service in late December.

The United Nations has said "infrastructure was deliberately targeted", without saying who was responsible, leaving four million people in Damascus without safe drinking water. It warned the shortages could lead to outbreaks of waterborne disease. Rebels and activists have said government bombardment damaged the spring. The government said insurgent groups polluted it with diesel, forcing the state to cut supplies. Rebels in Wadi Barada had been allowing government engineers to maintain and operate the valley's pumping station. Fighters have, however, cut water supplies several times in the past to put pressure on the army not to overrun the area. — Reuters

FEAR AND RAGE ON US-MEXICO BORDER

SAN YSIDRO: At this busy border crossing between the United States and Mexico, it's hard to find anyone with positive words about President Donald Trump's vow to build a wall between the two countries. Holding true to his campaign promise, the Republican billionaire ordered US officials this week to begin constructing a barrier along the 2,000-mile US-Mexico border to keep out illegal immigrants. He also announced other plans he said would strengthen security, including deporting criminal undocumented migrants.

Here at the border crossing that connects the US city of San Ysidro with the Mexican city of Tijuana—the world's busiest border crossing—an imposing physical barrier already stands tall. The authorities raised two giant parallel fences topped by razor wire between the late 1990s and early 2000s. "I think this wall thing is foolish because if they already have all this, why do they want more?" asked Esperanza Preciado, 19.

Preciado—who was entering the United States carrying an infant to visit her father—has a legal permit to work cleaning homes in San Ysidro. "But I have a lot of relatives who do not have papers and I fear for them," she said. Thousands of people stream over pedestrian bridges in both directions around the clock at the San Ysidro Port of Entry as long lines of cars in multiple lanes queue for inspection to enter the United States. More than 65 million people cross between Tijuana and San Ysidro each year, close to the 75 million passengers who transit through the Los Angeles International Airport annually.

Trump 'crazy'

On the US side of the border, more Spanish than English can be heard on the streets and in local stores. Even US border agents speak Spanish as they eat tacos and drink horchata—a milky



A truck drives near the Mexico-US border fence, on the Mexican side, separating the towns of Anapra, Mexico and Sunland Park, New Mexico. — AP

Mexican drink made from rice or nuts—at a local eatery. The prospect of Trump's wall "hurts me because on that side are my people," said Hector, 52, a carpet cleaner who declined to give his last name. "Those people, like me, come to work out of necessity." Now a US citizen, Hector said he entered the United States illegally 12 years ago. Marci Ponce was reading the Mexican daily Frontera newspaper, which he bought in Tijuana, on the US side at the exit of the western pedestrian bridge. "They will start the wall in months," blared the front-page headline, along with a picture of a smiling Trump. "He's crazy!" said a 42-year-old woman returning from visiting her mother in Mexico. Laurie and Scott Meadows, US citizens who live near San Ysidro in San Diego,

agree. They travel to Mexico two or three times a year, and are appalled at the idea of a wall. "It's unnecessary, it makes no sense, it's idiocy," Laurie said. "I hope Mexicans know we want good relations and this is just unfortunate." Scott called Trump an "idiot." "He's going to spend millions of dollars trying to do this and we know Mexico is not going to pay," the man added.

Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan has estimated the wall's cost at between \$12 and \$15 billion. The issue prompted the Trump administration's first major diplomatic standoff this week. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, who insists his country would not pay for any wall, was scheduled to visit Trump in Washington next week. — AFP

REFUGEES WISH MORE FOCUS ON SYRIA, LESS ON CLOSING US DOORS

KANSAS CITY: Ahmad Alabood, whose family was the first to be resettled in America as part of the "surge" refugee program, wishes President Donald Trump would help topple Syria's regime rather than press to close off US borders to those fleeing a torn homeland. "The Syrian people deserve better than this," Alabood, 48, who along with his wife and five children arrived last spring in Kansas City, Missouri, told The Associated Press through a translator Friday.

The sentiment was shared some 550 miles away by Motaz Alafandi, a 49-year-old Syrian living in Dallas while seeking asylum with his wife and three youngest kids, ages 14, 11 and 5. "I wish that Mr President (Trump) can help in stopping the war in Syria," said Alafandi, who said he loves the US and the American people but does hope to return one day to his homeland. "If my country will become good again, I won't stay here."

New vetting measures

Such laments about Syria - reeling from a civil war that has spawned hundreds of thousands of refugees - come as Trump on Friday signed an executive order imposing "new vetting measures" that he says are

aimed at keeping "radical Islamic terrorists" out of the United States, saying "we don't want them here." Trump said he only wants to admit people to the US who will support the country. Among the order's directives are that the US stop issuing visas to Syrian nationals and halt the processing of Syrian refugees until security changes are made, and suspend all immigration from countries with terrorism concerns for 90 days.

It was unclear which countries would be affected, though a draft of the order obtained by The Associated Press pointed to a legal provision identifying Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, all majority-Muslim countries. The city of Rutland, Vermont, had planned to welcome 100 refugees from Syria and Iraq, but with Trump's Friday order the community expects to see only the two Syrian families that arrived this month.

Ahmed Khatib, 37, said he, his wife Mahasen Boshnaq, and their three young children arrived there Jan. 19, and in a Friday interview he said they feel lucky. Day by day they are settling in and Khatib has started talking with people about getting work. After studying agricultural technology in college he hopes to finish his degree in

the US Khatib said he looks forward to being self-sufficient, working, having a home for his family and school and clothing for his children. He doesn't think Trump's opinion reflects Americans, who he said want to allow refugees in the country.

Anti-Muslim hostility

"They are very nice and they are very helpful and welcoming," Khatib said. "I care about what the America people want and I feel that they want refugees." Alabood said restricting the flow of refugees into the US - out of concern that waves of refugees haven't been or can't be properly vetted by the US to weed out the terrorism-minded - could deepen American suspicion and fan anti-Muslim hostility. Critics of the proposed moves have labeled them reckless and un-American. "There are certain (American) people that would take it to an extreme" and lash out, said Alabood, a former construction worker in his homeland. "There are lots of people in desperate need of help, and this is a great country to help them," he added.

Afghans and Iraqis who have worked as interpreters for the US military fear the executive action that will bring sweeping changes to the nation's refugee policies will

mean their families will be stuck in their homelands, where they may be targeted for violence because they have worked for the Americans. Recently arrived interpreters accompanied by military veterans and elected officials gave a news conference in San Diego on Friday, asking President Trump to not close the doors to refugees. Abdul Manan, 31, an Afghan interpreter who worked for the Army and special forces for eight years, arrived in San Diego two months ago.

Fears, death threats

He fears for his family after fleeing his homeland amid death threats. It took him three years to get out on a special immigrant visa but his relatives remain in his village and have been threatened. Manan suggested Trump talk to the military and veterans who will attest to the risk interpreters took to help troops. "They have sacrificed their lives and their family's lives and now they are left behind. I think of the history of America. Is that how they do? If someone helps them and they're left behind, they're at the mercy of the terrorists - ISIS."

Since settling in Missouri nine months ago, Alabood has chased the American

dream, albeit in baby steps. He's earning \$10.25 an hour making plastic car parts, trying to learn English and has a four-bedroom rental home to go along with his donated 2000 minivan. His \$725 monthly rent tab leaves him unable to afford health insurance. Yet he gushes of the graciousness of Kansas City, saying he's not been subjected to anti-Muslim sentiment in the Midwest. His brother has joined him, arriving in Kansas City five months ago with his three kids, ages 8, 6 and 4.

In Dallas, Alafandi enjoys a temporary protected status, which has allowed him to get a work permit and driver's license. Alafandi, who came with his family to the US in 2014 and awaits word on his asylum application, has a tow truck business. "Sometimes we feel that everybody is against us," fostering a feeling of being unwelcomed, he said. "Our people are killed in Syria, and when they try to find a way to survive, people are kicking them out and dealing with them badly." "I wish that we will be treated as a human beings that are seeking shelter and are seeking to be secure with our families," he added. "We are just asking to be safe and find jobs and feed our kids." — AP

News

in brief

Czech leader Zeman backs Trump's anti-migrant steps

PRAGUE: A spokesman for Czech President Milos Zeman yesterday praised Donald Trump's anti-migrant steps, saying the new US president simply cared about the safety of Americans. "US President Trump protects his country, he's concerned with the safety of his citizens. Exactly what EU elites do not do," Zeman's spokesman Jiri Ovcacek said in a tweet. In office for a week, Trump on Friday signed an order to boost the vetting of potential immigrants and refugees, seeking to keep "radical Islamic terrorists out of the United States of America." The move has sparked criticism among rights groups as well as at the United Nations which called on the US to continue its long tradition of welcoming refugees. The pro-Russian Zeman, a 72-year-old veteran leftwinger and ex-Communist, who endorsed Trump before the election last year, has criticized immigration from Muslim countries. He once called the wave of refugees "an organized invasion" and said Muslims were "impossible to integrate."



Czech President Milos Zeman

Bangladesh rail hero dies saving mother, daughter

DHAKA: A Bangladesh railway employee was hit and killed by a train after saving a mother and daughter from being run over, an official said yesterday. Railroad maintenance worker Badal Mia, 58, was on duty in the capital Dhaka on Friday when he noticed a woman and five-year-old girl trying to cross the track as an inter-city train approached them at full speed, divisional railway manager Arif-uz Zaman said. "Mia jumped and pushed them away from the track, he managed to save both of them. But he was run over by the train as he tried to jump away from the track," Zaman said. "He died on the spot. It's shocking for us to lose a colleague like this but Mia has set an example of gallantry and true heroism," he said. The father of eight was only a few months away from his retirement, local media reported. Last month a 50-year-old railway lineman also risked his life by dragging a man off the track a moment before a train approached. He was rewarded by the authorities.

Father, son 'guilty' of shackling, raping girl

TOLEDO: Jurors convicted a father and his adult son Friday of raping and shackling a teenage relative who escaped their basement by hiding a spare key and using it to unlock her handcuffs. Timothy Ciboro and his 28-year-old son, Esten Ciboro, were found guilty on charges of rape, kidnapping and child endangering. Both men had denied abusing the girl, who is now 14, and a 9-year-old girl who also testified that she had been sexually abused by the father and son. Esten Ciboro, who along with his father served as his own attorney, told jurors during his closing argument Friday that they needed to do the right thing and "reunite this family and end their suffering." The older girl testified earlier this week that she was forced to stay in the basement for varying lengths of time as punishment or when the men left the house and that she was allowed out to shower or use the restroom. Officers found leg irons in the basement along with a bucket the girl said she used as a toilet, according to a police report.

Missing activists return home safely in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani university professor who went missing earlier this month has returned home safely, police and a family member said yesterday. Senior Islamabad police officer Ashraf Shah said that Salman Haider was home, on the outskirts of the capital, Islamabad, late Friday night and that he is safe and well. Haider and three other rights activists who ran social media accounts known for their liberal views went missing earlier this month. Dr Haider Ashraf, the Lahore police chief, said all four missing men were at an Islamabad police facility, but would not elaborate on their circumstances. Family members of the other three men returned could not immediately be reached for comment. Shah said Haider has not yet given a statement to police about his disappearance. Haider's brother Zeeshan also confirmed his elder brother's return, but would not give any further details. Haider disappeared on Jan 6, and his wife received a text message from his phone telling her to collect his car from a roadside on the outskirts of Islamabad.

BRITAIN'S MAY WOOS TURKEY FOR TRADE, PRESSES ON RIGHTS

UK PM SEEKS STRONGER TIES AFTER BREXIT VOTE

ANKARA: British Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday promised steps to ramp up trade between Turkey and Britain ahead of Brexit but also urged Ankara to uphold human rights following a failed coup. On her first visit to Turkey as premier and fresh from meeting new US President Donald Trump at the White House, May held three hours of talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. May sought to strike a delicate balance between showing Britain's keen interest in expanding trade with Turkey following the June vote to leave the European Union while echoing European alarm over the scale of the crackdown after the July 15 attempted coup.

May announced the creation of a joint group to boost trade ahead of Britain's departure from the EU and also oversaw the signing of a deal for Britain's BAE Systems to develop a new Turkish fighter jet. May said after meeting Erdogan at his palace she was "proud" Britain had stood with Turkey's democratically-elected government when the coup struck. But she added: "Now it is important that Turkey sustains that democracy by maintaining the rule of law and upholding its international human rights obligations, as the government has undertaken to do."

May stressed that Turkey was one of Britain's "oldest friends" with relations going back over 400 years, referring to the establishment of relations between the Ottoman Empire and England under Elizabeth I. Earlier, a spokeswoman countered criticism from some MPs that Britain was cosying up to Turkey while turning a blind eye to its human rights record. The spokeswoman said: "I don't think there are any issues that the prime minister is afraid to bring up."

Around 43,000 people are under arrest on charges of links to the coup bid, which Ankara blames on the US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen. He denies the charges. May's visit is also seen as the first to Ankara by a major Western leader since the attempted putsch, although then US vice president Joe Biden held talks with Erdogan in August. Her visit came hours after Erdogan had hosted the American actress Lindsay Lohan - a keen supporter of



ANKARA: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (right) and British Prime Minister Theresa May speak after their meeting at the presidential complex in Ankara yesterday. — AFP

Erdogan's vision of a multipolar world - in his vast presidential palace in Ankara.

'Post-Brexit trading relationship'

Erdogan said the two sides were targeting increasing annual trade from over \$15 billion to \$20 billion. Meanwhile, May said Britain and Turkey have agreed to set up a working group to "prepare the ground for our post-Brexit trading relationship" after Britain leaves the European Union. "We both want to build on our existing links and I believe that doing so will be to the benefit of both of our countries and for the prosperity of both our nations," she said.

Under a non-binding agreement, BAE Systems and state-owned Turkish

Aerospace Industries (TAI) will establish a partnership for the development of the TF-X fighter jet. May said it indicated that "Britain is a great, global, trading nation and that we are open for business," after the Brexit vote. She added that "it marks the start of a new and deeper trading relationship with Turkey." The initial phase is worth over £100 million, Downing Street said. But the agreement can pave the way for further deals potentially worth billions of pounds over a 20-year lifespan, May's spokeswoman told reporters.

'Unsavoury rulers'

Back in the UK, some MPs have urged May not to let her focus on trade overshadow

human rights concerns over the crackdown in Turkey. "The Conservative Brexit government is so desperate for trade deals with anyone but the mature democracies of the European Union that even the most unsavoury rulers are to be subjected to the prime ministerial charm," opposition Liberal Democrat MP Sarah Olney wrote in the Guardian newspaper.

Erdogan and May also discussed the battle against jihadists in Syria and efforts to reunify Cyprus, where both Ankara and London are guarantor powers, as well as aviation security. "I am pleased with the steps we have taken and I believe in the continuation of this success in the future," Erdogan said after the talks. — AFP

AMID YEMEN'S CHAOS, MIGRANTS STREAM IN ONLY TO FACE TORMENT

ADEN: After reaching Yemen's shores in a packed migrant boat, the young Ethiopian coffee farmer was plunged into a living hell. The smugglers wanted thousands of dollars in ransom from the migrants, and they used him as an example of what would happen if they didn't pay. Each day for a month, they inflicted new tortures on him, Omar Farrag said. They put him in a tank of water and lit a fire underneath it. They wrapped his limbs with tight barbed wire. At times, they heated the barbed wire.

Finally, his younger brother came from Ethiopia with \$2,000 in ransom money. The smugglers decided they could squeeze more money out of him too, so they tortured his brother and ended up killing him, Farrag said. Now in the southern Yemeni city of Aden, the 26-year-old is overcome with guilt over his brother's death. "I got my brother killed; I am a disgrace. But it's impossible to imagine what I went through," Farrag said. "I don't even know where they buried him."

Migrants from the Horn of Africa are flowing into Yemen as ever growing rates despite the nearly 2-year-old civil war that has thrown the country into its own humanitarian crisis of hunger and displacement. The migrants - many, like Farrag, fleeing drought or poverty back home - are hoping to cross Yemen and reach neighboring oil-rich Saudi Arabia. More than 111,500 migrants landed on Yemen's shores last year, up from around 100,000 the year before, according to the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, a grouping of international agencies that monitors migration in the area.

Abuse and cruelty

The chaos caused by the civil war has raised migrants' hopes that they can slip through to Saudi Arabia, with no central authority keeping



ADEN: An employee speaks to Ethiopian migrants at International Organization for Migration center in the port city of Aden, Yemen. Despite Yemen's civil war, migrants are streaming in, hoping to make their way to wealthy Saudi Arabia. Instead, they often meet torture, rape and imprisonment at the hands of smugglers. — AP

watch. However, the turmoil has also left migrants vulnerable to abuse and cruelty at the hands of the armed trafficking rings, many believed connected to and acting with protection from the multiple militias involved in the war. After taking migrants' money as payment to transport them, the traffickers often demand more, sometimes even phoning their families in Ethiopia so they can hear the torment their loved ones are subjected to.

Rape is so widespread that women carry contraception for fear of becoming pregnant. "Migrants don't know they will have to pay twice: Once when they take the boat to cross the sea

and a second time upon arrival," said Laurent De Boeck, head of Yemeni operations of the International Organization for Migration, or IOM. "So when they don't pay, this is when the phase of abuses begins. They face torture, burns and rape."

Fate of migrants

The fate of migrants in Yemen remains a black hole. It is not known how many become trapped and abused, but officials from the IOM and other UN agencies believe it is widespread. It is not even known how many eventually make it to Saudi Arabia, as the kingdom does not release figures. Authorities in southern Yemen

have carried out forced deportations of migrants at least seven times, IOM officials said. In December, at least 25 drowned when they were forced onto boats to leave Aden.

The migrants were rounded up, packed onto small boats - as many as 150 to a vessel - and forced out to sea, according to Yemeni security officials in Aden. "They were led like animals with nothing with them but water," said one senior officer, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the press. Over 90 percent of the migrants belong to the Oromo community, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group, whose members often complain of discrimination at the hands of the Ethiopian government. Most are aged 25 and younger - some as young as 11, said Esam Al-Makhzomi an IOM official in Aden. According to IOM figures, around 20 percent of the migrants are unaccompanied minors. "There was an impression that the numbers are going down but in fact ... the numbers are huge and they continue to grow," he said.

Torture is rampant

He described trafficking as "an organized criminal ring. ... Nothing is random here." He said torture is rampant, aiming at scaring migrants and forcing them to pay more money. He said some local security and government officials provide cover for the traffickers. "There is torture, rape, and we have seen severe cases of abuse where the migrants lose their lives," al-Makhzomi said. Nearly 30 percent of the migrants who have sought IOM help to return home said they had been approached by one of the warring parties in Yemen - or by militant groups like Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group - trying to recruit them as fighters, de Boeck said. An estimated 9,000 migrants are being held in prisons, whether by the rebels or by opposing factions. — AP

GANGS' CAR BOMBS RATTLE MONTENEGRO'S CAPITAL

PODGORICA: Heavily-armed police are guarding the streets of Montenegro's capital after a spike in gangland violence rattled the Balkan country, which is on the brink of joining NATO. Drug mafia feuds began in the coastal towns of Bar and Kotor, hotbeds of organized crime, where anti-terrorist police swooped in to tackle the deadly rivalries last summer as tourists came and went on cruise ships.

But the troubles have come to the streets of the capital Podgorica in the past few weeks, with two people killed and two others seriously injured in three explosions. "Recent events in Podgorica and events that preceded them in other towns have understandably provoked the anxiety of citizens, who expect the authorities to do all they can in a merciless struggle against organized crime," said Interior Minister Mevludin Nuhodzic. He admitted that "in some way, order is threatened". Twelve people were killed last year as a result of gang feuds in the country of 620,000 people, whose tourism sector is growing under the threat of powerful organized crime.

In one incident in September, a sniper shot a prisoner dead in broad daylight in a yard in Montenegro's highest-security jail in Podgorica. The man had been jailed for extortion. The recent spike in attacks has resulted in dismissals and resignations at the top of the police force and an intensified presence on the streets. After nightfall for the past several days, heavily-armed officers have patrolled the



PODGORICA: Montenegrin police officers investigate a crime scene in the capital Podgorica. Heavily-armed police are guarding the streets of Montenegro's capital after a spike in gangland violence rattled the Balkan country, which is on the brink of joining NATO. — AFP

squares of the capital, closely monitored customers in bars and cafes and carried out tight security checks on cars.

So far they have seized several guns, drugs and one vehicle, but no arrests over the Podgorica blasts have been announced. Residents of the capital fear

becoming collateral damage of the warring gangs. "This has crossed all limits... the whole society is descending into the underworld. I am afraid of innocent people being killed," said Milos, 45, an economist who witnessed the latest blast in the centre of Podgorica on January 19. A young man with a crimi-

nal record was killed in the explosion and the passenger in his car had to have her leg amputated.

'Unbearable'

Another resident in the capital, 47-year-old lawyer Ana, described the situation as "unbearable" and wondered "what has prevented the authorities from strengthening their fight against crime?" Local people who spoke to AFP were reluctant to give their family names for security reasons. Nuhodzic insisted the government was "taking permanent action. Our goal is to create insecurity for criminals". But Nebojsa Medojevic, a leader of the main opposition Democratic Front alliance, said the security situation was "worrying" and that there was a "political character" to Montenegro's organized crime. "There are no boundaries between the state and crime," he told reporters on Friday.

NATO signed an accession agreement with Montenegro last year, paving the way for the country to become the 29th member of the Western military alliance. So far more than 20 of the 28 NATO allies have ratified the accession of the former Yugoslav republic, which is also a candidate for European Union membership. But mountainous Montenegro, which declared independence from Serbia in 2006, has struggled to contain the widespread scourge of organized crime and related violence. The EU regularly urges authorities to do more. — AFP



LILLE: Photographers take pictures of former French Education Minister and candidate in the left-wing primary for the 2017 French presidential election, Benoit Hamon (center). — AFP

FRANCE HARD-LEFT FACES OFF AGAINST CENTER-LEFT

PARIS: Hard-left Socialist rebel Benoit Hamon heads into France's left-wing presidential primary runoff as a surprising favorite to beat pro-business pragmatist Manuel Valls, in a vote that will realign France's unpredictable presidential campaign. Hamon is the favorite in today's vote after arriving in pole position in the first round with 36 percent of the votes. He proposes a "determined and optimistic leftist alternative." His most talked-about proposal is a 750 euros (\$800) "universal income" that would be gradually granted to all adults. He is now backed by another left-wing candidate, Arnaud Montebourg, eliminated from the race with 17.5 percent of the votes. Valls, who arrived second with 31.4 percent, criticized Hamon's "unrealistic" promises.

A former junior minister and briefly education minister, Hamon left the government in 2014. He then led a group of rebel Socialist lawmakers who opposed the government's economic policies. "Yesterday's failed solutions have no reason to become successes tomorrow," he said at a rally near Paris Thursday. Nasserah Mohammad, living in Trappes, the suburban city west of Paris where Hamon was elected, said he believes the hard-left candidate proposes "real innovation" in French politics. "That's where

we have to go, toward a renewal ... and not to be pleased with the old programs or with very small reforms," Mohammad said.

Ten French economists, including Thomas Piketty - author of the best-seller "Capital in the Twenty-First Century" - this week published an article to argue that the universal income can be "relevant and innovative". "Properly conceived and detailed, the universal living income can be a key element for reshaping our social model," they wrote. Valls has tried to make an asset from his experience as prime minister from 2014 to 2016 - despite his association with unpopular President Francois Hollande. Valls promotes "authority and security" values as the country is still under threat from potential terror attacks.

He says he represents a "credible left" seeking a balance between France's social model and reforms adapting the country to globalization. "I don't want to be the candidate of the taxes; I leave it to my adversary," Valls said in a rally near Paris Thursday. "I want to be the candidate of work value, of jobs, with a clear and serious roadmap offering a future to the French people." Vivien Chauffaille, a Parisian attending Valls' rally, said "he is the only one able to be a statesman and implement his proposals." — AP

TURMOIL AS CONSERVATIVES WOO FAR-RIGHT IN SWEDEN

BREAKING A LONGSTANDING TABOO

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's far-right party is rejoicing: long shunned by the political establishment, it has suddenly been invited in from the cold by a main opposition party eyeing a return to power and Swedish politics is all shook up. Breaking a longstanding taboo, Sweden's conservative Moderate Party last week opened the door for a cooperation with the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats, causing a deep rift within the stunned four-party centre-right opposition Alliance.

All of the political parties in parliament have long held a cordon sanitaire around the Sweden Democrats because of its roots in the neo-Nazi movement, but Moderates leader Anna Kinberg Batra argued the party could no longer be ignored. "It hasn't worked to pretend that such a large party in parliament doesn't exist," Kinberg Batra told public broadcaster SVT.

As Sweden took in the highest number of refugees per capita in Europe in 2015, the Sweden Democrats have seen their popularity soar. A recent poll credited them with 21 percent of voter sympathies, making them the country's second-biggest party after the Social Democrats. They first entered parliament in 2010 with 5.7 percent of votes, rising to nearly 13 percent in the 2014 election. Kinberg Batra made her remarks after calling on her Alliance partners to submit a joint budget to parliament and accept the far-right's votes-indirect support which would in effect topple the minority left-wing government comprising the Social Democrats and Greens.

Officials from the Moderates and the far-right are due to meet "in the near future", Swedish daily Dagens Industri reported on Friday. Kinberg Batra also said she was willing to talk to the Sweden Democrats on some issues, but did not specify which ones. The Centre and Liberal parties fiercely oppose the move, while the small Christian Democrats said they would accept the Sweden Democrats' indirect support but would not negotiate with them. The Moderates need the three parties' support if they are to have a chance at winning the next election in 2018.

'Threat to democracy'

Sweden Democrats party leader Jimmie Akesson was quick to react, saying he would demand "influence over what the government would look like" if his support helped the opposition regain power. Daniel Poohl, editor-in-chief of



STOCKHOLM: This file photo taken on September 14, 2014 shows Party leader Jimmie Akesson at the election night party of the far-right Sweden Democrats in Stockholm, Sweden. — AFP

anti-racism magazine Expo, raised a warning finger to the Moderates. The Sweden Democrats "constitute the greatest threat to democracy as we know it", he said, calling Kinberg Batra's invitation "a milestone" for the far-right. Akesson is a clean-cut 37-year-old with a talent for public speaking. Often described by media as having the looks of "a mother-in-law's dream", he is credited with giving the party a respectable facade.

But it is known for its nationalist views and strong stance against immigration, which it regards as a threat to Sweden's identity. Social Democratic Prime Minister Stefan Lofven made headlines in September 2016 when he described the Sweden Democrats as a "racist and Nazi party". Ironically, Kinberg Batra said much the same thing a month earlier. "They blame all of Sweden's problems on immigration. It is a racist party as it sets groups against each other and puts labels on other people," she said in a televised interview.

Collapsing Alliance?

The Alliance, which governed Sweden from 2006-2014, is keen to seize back power but its

hands have been tied since its 2014 election defeat. Prime Minister Lofven holds a weak minority which could easily be toppled if the opposition accepted the Sweden Democrats' indirect support on key issues in parliament. But the Alliance has until now refused to do so, not wanting to legitimize the Sweden Democrats, and because doing so would throw the country into political instability. Observers have now questioned whether the Alliance can survive such a deep ideological split.

A source in the Centre party told AFP they were "stunned" by Kinberg Batra's announcement. The Centre party "absolutely does not want to work in the Alliance on matters on which the Moderates and Sweden Democrats would launch negotiations". So why would Kinberg Batra risk such a rift? Editorialists have suggested her move was intended to quash critics within her own party who are angry that she has not taken advantage of a right-wing majority in parliament, which could snatch power from the left. "Our duty is not to ensure that Stefan Lofven gets through his left-wing politics," Camilla Brunsberg, a local group leader for the Moderates in southern Sweden said. — AFP

TRUMP PLAYS DOWN TALK OF LIFTING RUSSIAN SANCTIONS

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Friday played down talk that he might quickly lift sanctions on Russia, as he stepped onto the global stage alongside Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May. Britain is a strong supporter of maintaining international pressure on Moscow over its intervention in Ukraine, and Trump took a cautious line at their first joint news conference. Trump has also come under withering attack at home from hawkish critics in Congress, worried that his stated desire to become friends with President Vladimir Putin might weaken US resolve.

But the new US leader plans to have a telephone conversation with Putin yesterday, and his

aides say he is re-considering the sanctions regime. "We'll see what happens as far as the sanctions-very early to be talking about that," Trump said, welcoming May to the White House as the first foreign leader to visit since he was sworn in a week ago. May took a sterner line, insisting that Putin must live up to the Minsk Agreements that would put an end to Russian military interference in Ukraine.

"We believe the sanctions should continue until we see that Minsk Agreement fully implemented, and we've been continuing to argue that inside the European Union," she said. White House spokesman Sean Spicer had earlier announced on

Twitter that Trump plans to talk to Putin, France's President Francois Hollande and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel over the weekend. France and Germany brokered the Minsk Agreement between Russia and Ukraine and have been pressuring both sides to live up to it.

Cold War

Appearing on Fox News, Trump's senior advisor Kellyanne Conway said the new commander-in-chief was indeed considering lifting sanctions on Russia. "All of that is under consideration," she said. "If another nation that has considerable resources wishes to join together with the United States of America to try to defeat and eradicate radical Islamic terrorism, then we're listening." In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin would congratulate Trump on his inauguration. But he refused to comment on rumors that Trump might already be gearing up to roll back the measures that have helped drive ties to their lowest point since the end of the Cold War.

"This is the first contact by phone since President Trump assumed office so it is hardly likely there will be substantive contact on all issues. Let's be patient," Peskov said. On Thursday, in a speech to US Republican lawmakers, May had suggested Washington engage Putin but be wary of him. Trump has sparked concerns among Washington's European allies and foreign policy hawks at home by repeatedly declaring his desire to forge closer ties with Moscow. He won the presidency amid charges that Russia interfered in last year's election on his behalf, in part by hacking the emails of top officials in his rival Hillary Clinton's campaign. — AFP



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin (center) holds a Security Council meeting in Moscow. — AFP

'RESISTANCE' MOVEMENT COALESCES - ON TWITTER

WASHINGTON: A social media "resistance" movement is taking shape against the Trump administration, inspired by the new president's efforts to control information. It began after the deletion of tweets and data from official US accounts and websites which proved embarrassing to the new president, including government reports on climate change, which have been challenged by President Donald Trump. Some took to Twitter with "alternative" handles-claiming to be federal employees exercising their free speech rights-and the resistance mushroomed into a movement.

The seeds of rebellion were first planted by the National Park Service, which came under fire from the new administration for its photos comparing crowd size at Trump's inauguration to the event eight years earlier with Barack Obama. After those tweets were deleted, tweets from one national park's account-which according to some reports came from a former employee-offered links to climate change studies, and when those were removed, a new @AltParkSer sprung up and amassed 1.2 million followers in a matter of days.

The account is described as "The Unofficial #Resistance team of US National Park Service." "We don't want any trouble. We just want to keep peer-reviewed 'factually accurate' climate science flowing out of US institutions," the group said in one of its first tweets. Over

the next few days, dozens of "rogue" or "alt" Twitter accounts emerged, including @RogueNOAA (for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), @RogueNASA (for the space agency) and @alt_fda for the Food and Drug Administration.

Another account called AltEPA (@ActualEPAfacts), with more than 150,000 followers, aims to offer data which might be suppressed by the Environmental Protection Agency. "He can take our official Twitter but he'll never take our FREEDOM," the account says. "UNOFFICIALLY resisting." The messages were gaining traction with hashtags such as #ResistTrump, #ClimateFacts and #Twistance, although it was not clear if the messages were coming from federal employees themselves.

Some of the Twitter handles, according to various tweets, have been turned over to people outside government to avoid potential reprisals. White House spokesman Sean Spicer denied the administration was trying to suppress free expression among federal employees. "There's nothing that's come from the White House, absolutely not," he said when asked if the White House had ordered a clampdown. But according to The Washington Post, Trump personally expressed anger to the head of the US park service over the inauguration day photos and ordered him to produce images to show a stronger turnout for his ceremony. — AFP

TRUMP ORDERS 'GREAT REBUILDING' OF US MILITARY

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump signed an order Friday to begin what he called a "great rebuilding" of the US armed services, promising new aircraft, naval ships and more resources for the military. "Our military strength will be questioned by no one, but neither will our dedication to peace. We do want peace," Trump said in a ceremony at the Pentagon. Trump predicted that Congress, which sets the expenditures for the government, will "be very happy to see" the White House's new spending request for the military.

Trump made clear during last year's presidential campaign and in recent weeks that he wants

to enlarge the ranks of the military services and expand its fleets of aircraft and ships. For example, he said he envisioned a naval fleet of 350 vessels, up from the navy's current 274 and more than its 310 vessel target. And Trump excluded the military from a hiring freeze across the rest of the government that he ordered just after being inaugurated president on January 20.

He is also expected to order his new defense secretary, James Mattis, to intensify operations against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria with more US soldiers and military hardware like artillery and attack helicopters. Another expected

move is to review and the strengthen the country's ability to defend itself against cyberattacks and to conduct offensive cyberattacks itself. The order Trump signed Friday was less specific, calling for a sweeping 30-day readiness review of the US military, with the aim of preparing new budget requests to improve readiness. But he has also pressured the Pentagon to cut costs on some of its most expensive programs.

Earlier, Mattis ordered financial reviews of the costs of two major defense programs—the \$400 billion F-35 fighter jet project and the \$4 billion development of a new Air Force One presiden-

tial jet. Trump had complained that both were too costly. The Pentagon needs to find ways "to significantly reduce the cost" of the F-35 program, Mattis said, even weighing the competitiveness of the rival F-18. The F-35 is built by Lockheed Martin, while the F-18 is built by Boeing. Trump signed the new order at a ceremonial swearing-in of Mattis as defense secretary, lavishing praise on the retired Marine general. "Secretary Mattis has devoted his life to serving his country. He is a man of honor, a man of devotion, and a man of total action. He likes action," Trump said. — AFP



CALIFORNIA: The California State flag flies outside City Hall, in Los Angeles, California. A campaign by Californians to secede from the rest of the country over Donald Trump's election is gaining steam with supporters given the green light to start collecting signatures for the measure to be put to a vote. — AFP

CALIFORNIANS EYE CALEXIT

CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN TO SECEDE GAINS MOMENTUM

LOS ANGELES: A campaign for California to secede from the rest of the country over Donald Trump's election is gaining momentum, with supporters allowed to start collecting signatures for the measure to be put to a vote. California's Secretary of State Alex Padilla gave the green light on Thursday for proponents of "California Nationhood"—also known as Calexit—to start collecting the nearly 600,000 signatures needed for the measure to qualify on the November 2018 ballot.

The 585,407 signatures required by July 25 represent eight percent of registered voters in California—the most populous state in the country with nearly 40 million residents and the world's sixth-largest economy. Should the initiative make it on the ballot, a "Yes" vote would

repeal clauses in the California Constitution "stating California is an inseparable part of the United States and that the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land," a statement by Padilla's office said. Voters would then need to decide in another referendum in 2019 whether California should become a separate country.

Padilla said the independence measure—deemed highly unrealistic—would have a deep impact on the state and would likely face legal challenges. "Assuming that California actually became an independent nation, the state and its local governments would experience major, but unknown, budgetary impacts," he warned. "This measure also would result in tens of millions of dollars of one-time state and local election

costs." Calexit enthusiasts, whose campaign is called Yes California, are pushing for independence on grounds the state is out of step with the rest of the US and could flourish on its own.

"In our view, the United States of America represents so many things that conflict with Californian values, and our continued statehood means California will continue subsidizing the other states to our own detriment, and to the detriment of our children," according to their website. The idea of independence became very appealing to many Californians following Trump's shock election. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton easily beat Trump in the progressive state, winning by more than 4.2 million votes, almost double the number of ballots cast for Trump. — AFP

BRACING COLD CAN'T CHILL SPIRITS OF US ANTI-ABORTION MARCHERS

WASHINGTON: They came by the busload, from cities in places like Iowa, Louisiana and North Dakota. Some felt inspired to march for the first time, while others were veterans of the annual event. The 44th March for Life took place in the heart of the US capital on Friday, and the bracingly cold weather couldn't chill the spirits of the many thousands of anti-abortion advocates. "I think it's important to show the rest of the United States that we're not backing down after 43 years," said Christina Erb, a 19-year-old student at the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota.

"I think it's always important to show our support for the unborn. It's making an impact on the nation and it's important to continue that and grow the community," Erb, who was marching for the third time, was part of a 400-strong delegation from her school. They traveled 31 hours straight in a seven-bus caravan to get to the march. The university group was leading this year's march through downtown Washington, parading alongside the National Mall to the Capitol and the Supreme Court. The school could be easily spotted in the crowd by their matching bright blue and orange beanies.

Despite the seriousness of the topic, the day had a convivial atmosphere. Vendors selling "March for Life" t-shirts set up shop near the entrance to the rally next to the Washington Monument, as did an enterprising street hawker with a pile of large pretzels. As the event warmed up, Christian music and songs like Kelly Clarkson's "Heartbeat Song" blared from speakers set up around the stage. Priests, nuns and a group of Franciscan friars in brown robes

could be spotted in the crowd, with school groups making up a significant portion of the turnout.

'More youthful'

"(The pro-life movement has) always been energized but it's definitely becoming more youthful... everyone you see here is almost all high school and college age and it's just really breathtaking, actually. I love it," Erb said. The young protesters waved signs with messages like "I am the pro-life generation" and "Babies can feel joy in the womb," next to a photo of an adorable smiling infant. Fourteen-year-old Claire Taylor, from outside Baltimore,

Maryland, was marching for the first time with her mother and sister.

She clutched a colorful homemade sign with a Ronald Reagan quote: "I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born." "It should not be legal to destroy somebody who has nerves and can feel pain," she said. As for the location of the rally, with-in sight of the White House, Taylor said it was perfect for reaching the people she wants to hear her message. "We are trying to get the people making all the important decisions to make the better one," she said. The rally featured speeches by Vice President Mike Pence, senior

White House advisor Kellyanne Conway and religious leaders—and an ear-splitting performance of electronic dance music.

The crowd wound its way to the Supreme Court, where the future of abortion in the United States could be decided. There is currently one opening on the high court, and President Donald Trump has pledged to nominate a firmly anti-abortion justice. If he appoints a second conservative justice during his tenure—should there be another opening on the bench due to retirement or death—there is a real possibility that the US law legalizing abortion could be overturned. — AFP



WASHINGTON: Pro-life activists converge in front of the Supreme Court in Washington during the annual March for Life. — AP

VOICES FROM THE US ANTI-ABORTION RALLY

WASHINGTON: Anti-abortion advocates rallied in Washington on Friday, marching through the heart of the US capital as the White House pledged its full-throated support to their efforts. Upbeat and optimistic despite the biting cold, here are some of the voices from the 44th annual March for Life event, which bills itself as the world's largest "pro-life" rally.

'Human lives'

Roofer Jeremiah Caskey, 29, of tiny Nancy, Kentucky, came after learning about the march from his pastor two days ago. "I figured if I came here, maybe other people would come to show support for life. It is real human lives we're talking about." "This right here is probably the most important thing that I've done in my life."

'A bullet'

High school student Bridget O'Keefe, 18, called abortion "a poison on our culture." "I've heard these arguments of cases of rape, cases of poverty. Abortion doesn't do anything to solve those issues. It's just a Band-Aid on society. When these women have had a bullet to the heart, it's nothing. All it has done is it's ruining our society."

'A purpose'

Annette Vaske, a teacher at a Catholic high school in the small city of Algona, Iowa, came to Washington with a group of about 50 students and chaperones. They arrived at 7:00 am Friday after 20 hours on a bus. "I lost a mom pretty early and it just makes you more aware of pro-life at both ends, not just the unborn but the elderly as well... Everybody has a purpose, even if you are stuck in a wheelchair and unable to talk, there's a purpose for everything and we need to value all of that."

Murder

Katelyn Goodwin, a 17-year-old high school student from Birmingham, Alabama, came to the rally with her church youth group. It was her second time at the march and she brought a life-sized cutout of the

pope. "I'm looking for abortion to be illegal because I believe abortion is murder."

Feminist

Andrea Dorman, 35, a stay-at-home mother of three young children, was holding a sign with a picture of suffragette Susan B. Anthony and the message "Susie B. The original gangsta. Pro-life feminist." "I am progressive, I am a feminist. And I think there are a lot of women out there who do think like me. I think there are a lot of women who think abortion is barbaric and more than that it harms women... But I also realize we have to be very progressive in teaching young kids how sex works, we have to educate them. I believe in birth control pills."

'Infuriated'

Brenda Kresak, a 40-year-old mother of six boys, brought her family to the march from Charlotte, North Carolina. She said she was inspired to join a march for the first time after following news coverage of the previous week's Women's March in Washington, which drew hundreds of thousands opposing Trump's attacks on a progressive agenda, including access to abortion services. "We're 44 years a silent march... I think you're going to see a lot more people here, a lot of women like me that are infuriated by the so-called Women's March when it wasn't a women's march. We're all here because we're going to stand and make our stand for a cause—not 'I'm so mad that my candidate didn't win'—but for our cause for life."

'So happy'

Peter Fagan, a 27-year-old seminary student from the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, marching for the first time. "I came to stand up for the unborn and to, like the vice president said, show our voice in support of a culture of life in the United States. I'm so happy, it's awesome. I feel like the White House is supporting our efforts. It feels like something is happening, like the government is open to life, to supporting life in the United States." — AFP



WASHINGTON: Anti-abortion demonstrators arrive on Capitol Hill in Washington on Friday, Jan 27, 2017, during the March for Life. The march, each year in the Washington marks the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. — AP

DIPLOMATIC DEBUT: TRUMP MAKES UNEVEN ENTRY ONTO WORLD STAGE

WASHINGTON: One week into office, President Donald Trump was trying to clean up his first international incident. The president shifted a jam-packed schedule Friday to make room for an hourlong phone call with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, who had abruptly snubbed the new president by canceling a visit. Trump's team had appeared to respond by threatening a hefty border tax on Mexican imports.

By the end of the conversation, Trump had tasked his son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner - a real estate executive with no national security experience - with managing the ongoing dispute, according to an administration official with knowledge of the call. The episode, an uneven diplomatic debut, revealed the earliest signs of how the new president plans to manage world affairs. In a matter of days, he both alarmed and reassured international partners. He picked fights, then quickly backed away from them. He talked tough, and toned it down. And at each step, Trump relied on the small clutch of advisers that guided his norm-breaking campaign, a group with scant foreign policy experience but the trust of the president.

Much of the foreign policy decision-making has rested with Kushner and Steve Bannon, the conservative media

executive turned White House adviser, according to administration officials and diplomats. Rex Tillerson, his nominee for secretary of state, is still awaiting confirmation. Officials at the National Security Council, an agency Trump has described as bloated, are still seeking marching orders from the new administration.

Early diplomatic moves

Some of Trump's early diplomatic moves have followed standard protocols. He scheduled early phone calls with friendly allies, including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who both plan to meet Trump at the White House next month. Additional calls were planned Saturday with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande, key European partners.

But Trump also moved swiftly to announce a new era. He declared an end to efforts to pursue multi-nation trade deals and used his first executive action to withdraw the US from a sweeping Pacific Rim pact. He also effectively closed off the United States to refugees, at least temporarily, and risked angering the Arab world by halting visas for people from seven majority Muslim nations for at least three months. — AP

HAWAII BILL WOULD CLASSIFY HOMELESSNESS AS MEDICAL CONDITION

HONOLULU: As an emergency room doctor, Hawaii Sen Josh Green sees homeless patients suffering from diabetes, mental health problems and an array of medical issues that are more difficult to manage when they are homeless or do not have permanent housing. That's why Green says he wants homelessness classified under Hawaii state law as a medical condition. If homelessness is a disease, he reasons, then doctors should be able to write prescriptions for the cure: Housing.

"It is paradigm shift for sure, but the single best thing we can do today is to allow physicians and health care providers in general to write prescriptions for housing," Green said. Green last week introduced a bill in the Hawaii Legislature to classify chronic homelessness as a medical condition and require insurance companies to cover treatment

of the condition. But if a doctor wrote a prescription for six months of housing, where would the patient fill the prescription?

Housing is health care

That's where Green wants Medicaid to step in. He wants to redirect some of Hawaii's \$2 billion annual Medicaid budget to pay for housing. He says the state could spend less Medicaid money by dedicating some of it to housing instead of paying for frequent visits by homeless people to emergency rooms. A recent University of Hawaii survey found health care costs for chronically homeless people dropped 43 percent when they had decent housing for an uninterrupted six-month period.

"Housing is health care, because it does afford a person a much greater chance of sustaining their health," said

Connie Mitchell, executive director for the Institute for Human Services, Hawaii's largest homeless services provider. But she cautioned that choosing who qualifies would be a challenge. "You need to really look at when that's appropriate, because there's a lot of people that become homeless," Mitchell said. "Just because they become homeless doesn't mean it entitles them to write a prescription for a unit."

Rate of homelessness

Hawaii had the highest rate of homelessness of all US states in 2015, with 53 homeless people for every 10,000 residents, according to The National Alliance to End Homelessness. The isolated state's high food and housing costs have prompted thousands of locally-born residents and transplants to erect tents and makeshift structures for homes in parks

and sidewalks on Oahu, the state's most populated island.

Concerned about impacts on tourism, city officials have banned sitting and lying down in public spaces in the beachfront neighborhood of Waikiki and other parts of Honolulu. The prospect of Green's proposal passing is unclear, but Hawaii officials appear receptive to offbeat solutions. State officials last year directed more money than ever to homeless support services.

And this week, 20 state senators proposed issuing \$2 billion in state-backed bonds to build affordable housing, public housing renovations and homeless shelters. Representatives from the state's two largest insurers - Kaiser Permanente and Hawaii Medical Services Association - and the chairwoman of the legislative committee that will first consider the bill declined com-

ment, saying they have not had time to review it. National homelessness experts said they are unaware of any other U.S. state attempt to classify homelessness as a medical condition.

But more than a dozen states - including California, Louisiana, New York and Texas - have found alternative ways to use Medicaid money for social services to help people stay in housing, like employment services or counseling, according to the Corporation for Supportive Housing, a New York based group. And New York is searching for ways to redirect the state-funded portion of its Medicaid budget toward housing payments. "To date, no one is able to pay for rent using Medicaid. That's the line in the sand," said Barbara DiPietro, senior director of policy at the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, referring to federal Medicaid money. — AP



In this August 31, 2016 file photo, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump walks with Mexico President Enrique Peña Nieto at the end of their joint statement at Los Pinos, the presidential official residence, in Mexico City. President Donald Trump and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto spoke for an hour by phone Friday Jan 27, 2017 amid rising tensions over the US leader's plans for a southern border wall. — AP

BY PICKING FIGHT WITH MEXICO, TRUMP SHOCKS A KEY PARTNER

MEXICO CITY: By picking a fight with Mexico, US President Donald Trump is needing a strategic partner that could retaliate with a trade war and less cooperation on immigration and the drug war, analysts say. The neighboring countries face the biggest diplomatic rift in decades over Trump's insistence that Mexico pay for construction of a wall along their 2,000-mile border.

The dispute prompted President Enrique Peña Nieto to scrap a meeting with Trump in Washington that had been scheduled for next week, while the White House raised the possibility of slapping tariffs on Mexico to fund the wall. The two leaders sought to mend fences on Friday as they spoke on the phone for an hour, acknowledging their differences over who should pay for the wall while agreeing to seek a resolution.

The two governments issued a nearly identical statement about the conversation, except for one line that only appeared in the Mexican government's text: "The presidents also agreed for now to no longer speak publicly about this controversial issue." Neither statement indicated whether the two presidents would reschedule their meeting, though they instructed their teams to continue negotiations. For Jesus Velasco, an expert in US-Mexico relations at Tarleton State University in Texas, it is "even worse" than the last major diplomatic crisis in 1985, when a drug cartel tortured and killed a US Drug Enforcement Administration agent, prompting Washington to briefly close the

border. "Trump is cornering the Peña Nieto administration so that there is no room for negotiations," Velasco said.

Countering the 'bully'

Urging Mexico to "defend itself against the bully," former president Felipe Calderon said the government could hit back through its drug war cooperation. The army, for example, could stop checking trucks for narcotics before they cross the border, he said. "Decisions must be made to make them understand that Mexico's support and collaboration (on security) do not come free," Calderon told Radio Formula. The US Congress has appropriated \$2.5 billion for the Merida Initiative, an aid program that has provided equipment and training to Mexican law enforcement agencies. But in his search for wall funds, Trump has ordered officials to scour US government departments and agencies in search of aid to the Mexican government and report back within 30 days.

Duncan Wood, director of the Mexico Institute at the Wilson Center think tank in Washington, said Mexico needs to do a better job of explaining why the country is important for US security. "Now Mexico needs to make the case of, 'Look, you are damn lucky you have a friendly nation on your southern border, and that's worth thinking about,'" Wood said. In a symbol of such cooperation last week, Mexico extradited the man who was considered the world's most powerful drug baron, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, to New York on the eve of Trump's inauguration. — AFP

BRAZIL'S 'CAR WASH' PROSECUTOR SAYS CORRUPTION PROBE TO GROW

CURITIBA: The lead federal prosecutor in a massive corruption investigation roiling Brazil says that recent developments could double the size of the case, a staggering possibility given that the probe has ensnared many of the country's elite, threatens to bring down President Michel Temer and is expanding to other Latin American countries. Nearly three years after the first arrests in March 2014, the so-called Car Wash investigation has no end in sight, said Deltan Dallagnol, coordinator of the task force in the state of Parana, where the operations began and are still largely centered under the jurisdiction of Judge Sergio Moro.

"I would say that the new plea agreements could allow the Car Wash operation to double its size in the future," Dallagnol told The Associated Press on Thursday, declining to go into detail because the cases were ongoing. What started as an investigation into money-laundering has morphed into a corruption scandal so large that it has shocked Brazilians long accustomed to graft in politics. Investigators say more than \$2 billion in bribes were paid out in a kick-back scheme that was centered at state oil company Petrobras and included major construction companies like Odebrecht.

'Lives at risk'

In the last few years, dozens of politicians and top businessmen have been convicted and jailed, and many more are facing charges. In a wide-ranging interview, Dallagnol said the investiga-

tion "lives at risk" because of forces trying to snuff it out. He said the pressures were increasing as the number "of powerful people caught up in it grows by the day."

Dallagnol said the loss of Supreme Court Justice Teori Zavascki, who was overseeing a large part of the investigation and died in a plane crash last week, was a huge blow but ultimately would not derail the many cases in progress. He said that while many believed the investigation was creating a "new Brazil," its long-term impact depended on whether Latin America's largest nation took measures to reform its political and judicial systems. He likened it to an ill patient who goes to the doctor and gets a diagnosis but doesn't act on the medical advice. — AP



CURITIBA: Brazilian Deltan Dallagnol, attorney of the Federal Public Ministry, speaks during an interview in Curitiba, Brazil. — AFP

RICH? SCARED ABOUT THE TRUMPOCALYPSE? TRY NZ

AFTER TRUMP'S ELECTION, 17,000 AMERICANS EYE NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON: The elevation of an unpredictable billionaire to the helm of nuclear-armed America has given fresh impetus to the idea of remote New Zealand (NZ) as a bulwark for civilization in the event of a global catastrophe. The idea has pedigree-British science fiction writer John Wyndham's 1955 novel "The Chrysalids" describes a post-apocalyptic landscape where Zealand (or Sealand) is the only place that has not sunk into barbarity.

The fictional Zealand escaped the holocaust because it was "somewhat secluded" and it seems that, in uncertain times, the real New Zealand is attracting interest for the same reason. "The world is heading into a major crisis," German-born internet mogul and alleged online piracy kingpin Kim Dotcom tweeted late last year. "I saw it coming and that's why we moved to New Zealand. Far away & not on any nuclear target list." After Trump's election in November, about 17,000 Americans registered interest online in moving to New Zealand, a 13-fold increase on regular levels. Immigration New Zealand also reported a spike in inquiries from Britain after the Brexit vote.

Just last week it emerged that tech titan Peter Thiel, one of Trump's strongest supporters, quietly obtained New Zealand citizenship in 2011 and owns several properties in the South Pacific nation. Other rich-listers who have either moved

to New Zealand or bought land include Hollywood director James Cameron, Russian steel magnate Alexander Abramov and US financial services guru William Foley. One of China's wealthiest executives, Jack Ma, said last year that at least 20 former colleagues from his Alibaba empire had retired to New Zealand and he was considering purchasing a property himself.

The nation of 4.5 million people is nestled deep in the South Pacific Ocean, some 2,000 kilometers from Australia. It is prosperous, has spectacular landscapes and Transparency International rates it the least corrupt country in the world, alongside Denmark. The New Yorker magazine this month reported it had become the refuge of choice for ultra-rich Americans looking for a bolt-hole if Trump's presidency goes disastrously wrong. Peter Campbell of high-end construction firm Triple Star Management said wealthy Americans wanted help pads in their luxury escapes, but not necessarily underground shelters. "It's not like you need to build a bunker under your front lawn, because you're several thousand miles away from the White House," he told the magazine.

'Sign of success?'

Apocalyptic anxieties will have been heightened Thursday after the symbolic "Doomsday Clock" was moved 30 seconds closer to midnight

on the strength of Trump's comments about nuclear weapons and climate change. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists set it at two-and-a-half minutes to midnight, the closest it has been since the height of the Cold War in 1953. In such a troubled world, New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English has said he can see why his country's political stability and strong economy were attractive. "Around the world now there's quite a lot of anxiety because there's so much uncertainty, whether it's in Europe or the UK or the US," he said. "So I'd expect there would be demand for people to come to New Zealand. That's a measure of success."

New Zealand actively encourages wealthy migrants and has special provisions to grant residency to people who can bring along several million dollars in investments. But the average Kiwi need not necessarily worry too much about rubbing shoulders with an Ivy League fund manager or Russian oligarch next time they tuck into a meat pie at the local rugby match. The country's largest migration consultancy, Malcolm Pacific Immigration, said the post-election surge in interest in New Zealand was yet to translate into actual applications to move halfway around the world. "There is a big difference between making an enquiry and following through," Chris Noakes, a team manager at the firm, told Fairfax New Zealand. — AFP



Syrian children play in the snow, at an informal refugee camp in the eastern Lebanese town of Marj near the border with Syria, Lebanon yesterday. In an executive order on Friday, Trump suspended all refugee admissions to the US for four months and banned the entry of Syrian refugees indefinitely, pending a security review of the admissions program. — AP

THE US REFUGEE PROGRAM, A LIFELINE FOR THOUSANDS

WASHINGTON: The US refugee resettlement program that President Donald Trump suspended on Friday has long been the world's most generous source of sanctuary for victims of conflict. A week after taking office, citing the supposed threat of violent extremists hidden among Muslim refugee arrivals, Trump halted the program for at least 120 days. Even if the program is revived in some form after this period, this will dramatically curtail the world's humanitarian effort to resettle vulnerable refugees.

In 2015, the United States alone was responsible for allowing in and finding homes for 64 percent of those referred to world governments by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Under President Barack Obama in the 2016 US fiscal year which ran from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016 - the United States admitted 84,994 refugees from around the world. And already in this fiscal year, another 25,671 have come, as US officials raced to cope with large

numbers fleeing extremist violence and civil war in Syria, Yemen and Libya. Before leaving office, Obama set a target of 110,000 admissions in the 2017 fiscal year that ends on September 30. Trump's order slashes that figure to 50,000.

In its last report to Congress on the subject, the Obama administration said it expected to have just over \$1.5 billion to spend on the refugee program in the 2017 fiscal year. New resettlements did not stop when Trump, who had harsh words for the program on the campaign trail last year, came to office on January 20 and began drawing up executive orders. In fact, in the single week since Inauguration Day, the United States resettled 2,089 people. Crucially, many of these come from countries that Trump's administration has singled out for special scrutiny: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Extreme vetting

The new administration claims that these

mainly Muslim and in some cases unstable nations could be a source of extremist infiltration. But in fact, no refugee who passed through the resettlement program-which involves a thorough investigation by US authorities-has ever been convicted of a terrorist crime. In addition to facing the same suspension in the refugee program as citizens of other states, would-be visitors or immigrants from these countries will not be allowed to seek visas during a 90-day period.

During this time, Trump has ordered senior staff to conduct a review of security procedures for migrants, visitors and refugees with a view to imposing "extreme vetting" on future applicants. Pro-Trump media such as the nationalist site Breitbart, formerly run by the president's chief of strategy Steve Bannon, have criticized the State Department for continuing to welcome new arrivals. But in the week since Trump came to power, 142 Iranians, 218 Iraqis, 211 Somalis, 37 Sudanese, 296 Syrians and a Yemeni have begun new lives in the United States. — AFP

DIVIDED KOREANS PAY RESPECT TO ANCESTORS

IMJINGAK: On the frozen banks of the Imjin river, South Koreans divided from their families decades ago by war gathered yesterday to pay respects to their ancestors. Mostly elderly men—according to tradition, Korean ceremonies for the lunar new year must be carried out by the eldest son—they lined up before an altar piled with offerings of rice cakes, fruit and fish. Shoeless despite the bitter cold, they each placed a flower on the stone, poured an offering of soju-rice wine and burned incense before prostrating themselves twice, forehead to the floor, and bowing deeply.

Some walked away in tears. Others held ceremonies of their own to pray for their relatives near the fence at Imjingak, just south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that has marked the border since the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty. Among them was Seo Jin-Sun, 87, whose father—a policeman during Japan's colonial rule over Korea—was executed along with his son by Communist forces during the war. She travelled southwards in 1951 only to discover that her husband—who had fled earlier—was married to another woman.

Park Ju-Seong, her son from her second marriage, said the family came "to pay respects to my mother's deceased relatives as Imjingak is the closest place to the North that we can get to". Every time they visit, he added, "my mother yearns all the more to return home and see her relatives there".

Millions of family members were separated by the conflict, and most have since died without ever seeing or hearing from their relatives on the other side in the absence of civilian cross-border post and telephone communications.

A series of carefully managed reunions were held in past years, but with relatively few participants, and the last of them was in October 2015. Relations between the two sides have since worsened as the North stepped up the nuclear and missile programs that have seen it subjected to heightened United Nations sanctions. Kim Young-Ki, 80, came to Imjingak, 53 kilometers from Seoul, to pay respects to his grandfather, who is buried in his home town of Kaesong, just north of the border.

Kim fled the city, along with his six siblings, parents and grandmother when South Korean and UN troops retreated in the face of a Chinese offensive in 1951. "Whenever national holidays come around, I am haunted by the memory of my old home," he said. "I myself shut and locked the gate door," he said. "If I were put in Kaesong I would be able to find it quite easily. All the roads and back alleys are so vivid in my memory." A few meters away from the site of yesterday's ceremony, the rusting hulk of a steam engine stood where it came under attack in 1950. Pock-marked with the holes of 1,020 bullets, a panel describes it as "a symbol of the tragic history of the division into North and South Korea". — AFP



PAJU: North Korean refugees and their family members place flowers to respect their ancestors in North Korea as they celebrate the Lunar New Year at the Imjingak Pavilion, near the demilitarized zone of Panmunjom, in Paju, South Korea yesterday. — AP



MANILA: Activists hold a protest in front of Camp Crame, the headquarters of the Philippine National Police (PNP) condemning the government's War on Drugs. — AFP

FEARS, DEATHS AS PHILIPPINE ROGUE POLICE ON RAMPAGE

SOUTH KOREAN BUSINESSMAN STRANGLED TO DEATH

MANILA: Philippine police allegedly abducting, framing, extorting and murdering people have raised fears of rogue cops going on the rampage under the cover of President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly drug war, critics and some of his supporters say. Revelations last week — a South Korean businessman was strangled to death inside the national police headquarters after being kidnapped by anti-drugs officers looking to extort money from his wife have led to multiple other scandals being uncovered. They have fuelled concerns that the police force, already widely perceived as one of the nation's most corrupt institutions, cannot be trusted to prosecute Duterte's drug war.

"It is hard for the all out war on illegal drugs to succeed because we have a problem with members of the police force taking advantage," Senator Panfilo Lacson, an ex-national police chief and member of Duterte's ruling coalition, said this week. "They know the president is mad at drugs, very passionate and ordinary policemen are carried away hearing him say he has signed their pardon and they will believe that."

Duterte has repeatedly promised to shield police from prosecution if they are charged with killing drug suspects as part of the crackdown, known locally as Tokhang.

Police have reported killing more than 2,500 people they have accused of being drug suspects, while nearly 4,000 others have died in unexplained circumstances. Often bodies are left on streets with signs branding them drug addicts or traffickers. The crackdown is fulfilling a campaign pledge that underpinned Duterte's election win last year—that he would eradicate drugs in society by killing tens of thousands of people. As president he has expanded on that vow, saying he would be "happy to slaughter" three million drug addicts to save the Philippines from becoming a narco state. His campaign has proved popular for many Filipinos hoping to see a quick solution to the intractable problem of crime.

'Camp Crime'

But an admission by the national police chief last week that a South Korean businessman was

murdered by members of his Anti-Illegal Drugs Group confirmed critics' fears about rogue officers taking advantage of the drug war. The businessman, Jee Ick-joo, was abducted from his home in October last year then brought to the national police headquarters where he was strangled to death in a car close to the police chief's residence, according to an official investigation. His wife paid the kidnappers a ransom of five million pesos (\$100,000), only becoming aware this month that he had been murdered on the day of his abduction.

The killing in the police headquarters, officially named Camp Crame, has led critics to dub it "Camp Crime". Soon after the case was made public, authorities revealed that other policemen robbed and extorted money from three South Korean golfers in December last year. Jee's killing prompted a Senate inquiry on Thursday where lawmakers spoke of at least 12 similar cases.

Senator Lacson aired CCTV footage at the inquiry of what he said were policemen beating up people in an office in October last year and pointing guns at them before planting bags of crystal methamphetamine in their drawers. Lacson said the operation was a fake drug raid to extort money from the business, which netted the police the equivalent of \$180,000. Metro Manila police chief Oscar Albayalde said on Friday at least eight policemen suspected to be in the video were relieved of their duties pending a probe. Three more policemen in Manila charged with robbery and extortion were this week merely ordered to be transferred to a new region instead of suspended or sacked.

Presidential backing

Even before the recent revelations, one high-profile case was the killing of a town mayor inside his own jail cell. The National Bureau of Investigation found that police shot dead mayor Rolando Espinosa after Duterte named him as being involved in the illegal drug trade. However Duterte said he would not allow the accused police to go to prison. "Because I am the president and the police are under me, I will believe them," he said in December. The police leadership has insisted rogue officers have been around long before the drug war began, and that there are only a few of them. But critics think otherwise. "Tokhang for ransom is the direct result of an anti-drug campaign that has shunned human rights and the rule of law and encouraged extrajudicial killings," Senator Risa Hontiveros said on Friday. "It opened a Pandora's box of pure evil!" — AFP

WHAT'S IN TRUMP'S ORDER HALTING REFUGEE PROGRAM

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said on Friday his administration wants more rigorous screening of refugees and visitors from certain countries to prevent terrorist attacks. Here is what Trump's order on "extreme vetting" — denounced by civil rights groups as discriminatory — includes.

Suspension of visas

The order bars the entry of foreign nationals from certain countries for 90 days. While no countries are specifically named in the order, it refers to a statute that would apply to seven Muslim-majority nations: Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia, Yemen and Iraq. There is an exception for certain types of visas, including for diplomats and the United Nations. The temporary halt is aimed at giving the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department and the Director of National Intelligence time to determine what information is needed from each country to ensure that visas are not issued to individuals posing a national security threat.

Changes to screening

The order calls for a review to create a single process for screening people entering the country, which could include holding more in-person interviews, searches of an expanded database of identity documents or longer application forms. Under the current system, some visa applications require interviews but others do not. The government already has extensive databases but some believe they need to be expanded. The order suspends the Visa Interview Waiver Program, which allows consular officers to exempt some applicants from face-to-face interviews if they are seeking to renew their temporary visas within a year of expiration. Immigration attorneys say the changes will make even routine applications much more complicated and time consuming and could mean that more people will need assistance to get through the visa process. In an attempt to ensure wait times for interviews

are "not unduly affected," the order calls for the hiring of more consular fellows to work in US embassies abroad.

Restricting refugees

The order calls for the temporary halt of all refugee admissions for four months so the government can study the process and determine if additional checks are necessary, although there will be case-by-case exceptions. The order also implemented a blanket ban of all Syrian refugees until "sufficient changes" have been made to the refugee program, without giving more details. After the suspension is lifted, the government will give priority to applicants that are suffering religious-based persecution, but only if they are minorities in their country. Trump said in a television interview that the move would protect Christians. It could also protect ethnic minorities like the Yazidis in the Middle East. This could potentially open the door to legal challenges claiming religious discrimination, some legal experts say. Once refugee admissions resume, fewer will be allowed. The 2017 cap was set at 50,000 people, compared to 85,000 designated by President Barack Obama for 2016. In a nod to certain states and cities that have objected to refugee resettlement, the order also seeks to give state and local jurisdictions a role in deciding whether or not to allow people to live there.

Biometric tracking system

The system is aimed at tracking foreign visitors' arrival and departure using information like finger prints. Former President Barack Obama's administration had aimed to start implementing biometric exit checks at the country's largest airports by 2018. Some experts have said that for the system to work properly, it would need to cover all land, air, and sea ports of entry, which is a major undertaking. According to a 2014 report from the Bipartisan Policy Center the system would be expensive to implement and would "offer mixed value for enforcement objectives." — Reuters

NORTH KOREA APPEARS TO HAVE RESTARTED PLUTONIUM REACTOR

WASHINGTON: New commercial satellite imagery indicates North Korea has resumed operation of a reactor at its main nuclear site used to produce plutonium for its nuclear weapons program, a US think tank said on Friday. Washington's 38 North North Korea monitoring project said previous analysis from Jan 18 showed signs that North Korea was preparing to restart the reactor at Yongbyon, having unloaded spent fuel rods for reprocessing to produce additional plutonium for its nuclear weapons stockpile.

"Imagery from January 22 shows a water plume (most probably warm) originating from the cooling water outlet of the reactor, an indication that the reactor is very likely operating," it said in a report. It said it was impossible to estimate at what power level the reactor was running, "although it may be considerable." A 38 North Korea report last week said operations at the reactor had been suspended since late 2015.

North Korea has maintained its nuclear and missile programs in violation of repeated rounds of international sanctions. News of the

apparent reactor restart comes at a time of rising concern about North Korea's weapons programs, which could present the new administration of US President Donald Trump with its first major crisis. A report by leading US-based nuclear expert Siegfried Hecker published by 38 North last September estimated North Korea had stockpiles of 32 to 54 kg (70 to 119 pounds) of plutonium, enough for 6 to 8 bombs, and had the capacity to produce 6 kg, or approximately one bomb's worth, per year.

North Korea also produces highly enriched uranium for atomic bombs and would have sufficient fissile material for approximately 20 bombs by the end of last year, and the capacity to produce seven more a year, that report said. In a New Year speech, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country was close to test launching an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) and state media has said a launch could come at any time. Trump's defense secretary plans to visit Japan and South Korea next week and shared concerns about North Korea are expected to top his agenda. — Reuters



KASHMIR: The site of a snow avalanche is pictured in Gurez sector, some 130 kms north of Srinagar. Rescuers retrieved the bodies on January 27, 2017, of another four Indian soldiers buried beneath tons of snow in Kashmir, taking the death toll from a series of avalanches to 20. — AFP

HEAVY SNOW TRAPS FIVE INDIAN SOLDIERS ALONG THE FRONTIER

SRINAGAR: Five Indian soldiers on patrol were trapped under snow after a snowy track caved yesterday along the highly militarized Line of Control that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan. A rescue operation was started immediately despite hostile weather, Indian army spokesman Col Rajesh Kalia said. The soldiers were on a routine patrol when the cave-in occurred in the Machil sector of the Himalayan region under India's control.

Authorities in Indian-controlled Kashmir have issued avalanche warnings for many parts of the region, especially along the de facto frontier. Two avalanches on Wednesday buried a military post and swept away a patrol in

Gurez, burying 21 soldiers, seven of whom were rescued. The bodies of the 14 others were recovered in two days.

Also earlier Wednesday, four members of a family and an Indian army officer were killed in other avalanches. The heavy snowfall has cut off roads and disrupted power and communications in Kashmir, and hundreds of residents have been evacuated from high-risk areas. Avalanches and landslides are common in Kashmir and have caused some of the heaviest tolls for the Indian and Pakistani armies camped near the Line of Control area. In 2012, a massive avalanche in the Pakistan-controlled part killed 140 people, including 129 Pakistani soldiers. — AP

MIX OF DESPAIR, RESOLVE FOR US MUSLIMS

Continued from Page 1

Farhana Khara, head of the civil rights group Muslim Advocates, said the order "relies on grotesque and bigoted stereotypes of Islam."

In Texas, a state lawmaker recently sent a provocative message to local Muslim leaders asking, among other things, their views of Islamic law and whether they would pledge not to harm Muslims who left the faith. On Wednesday, a businessman attacked a Muslim airline employee at New York's Kennedy Airport, kicking her, shouting obscenities at her and saying that Trump "will get rid of all of you," authorities said.

"The discourse has shifted from good Muslims and bad Muslims to 'how bad is the Muslim you're talking about?'" said attorney Hassan Ahmad, an immigration law specialist in Virginia with many clients from Muslim countries. Muslim leaders acknowledge they are in a relatively weak position from which to advocate, amid the nation's inflamed mood over immigration, religion and terrorism.

The US is home to only about 3.3 million Muslims, which means just a small number of Americans actually know a member of the faith. Many US Muslims come from families that only arrived a generation ago. But they have more organizations, charities and cultural clout than ever, built by a post-9/11 generation eager to assert their American identity.

Companies like Amazon, Nabisco and CoverGirl have recently featured Muslims in their advertisements. The night after Trump's inauguration, comic Aziz Ansari, speaking from one of the most influential platforms in pop culture, as host of "Saturday Night Live", called out anti-Muslim prejudice, white supremacy and other bias that has come to the forefront.

"It's very clear that one of the goals of bigoted language is to make the victims feel isolated and make them feel that they have no allies and they have no power to get them to be silent and intimidate them and make them give up," said Dalia Mogahed, director of research for the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, an American Muslim think-tank. Last month, about 2,600 people filled the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, for an interfaith event expressing support for the community. Among the speakers were US Sen Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh.

This month, Wardah Khalid, a 30-year-old graduate of Texas A&M University, started a Washington organization called Poligon to train American Muslims how to lobby Congress. She got the idea from working as an analyst for the

Friends Committee on National Legislation, a Quaker public policy organization.

"There are other groups visiting (congressional offices) every single day of the year and it makes a difference in terms of policy asks," Khalid said. She said she's received a strong response to the launch on Facebook and through her website. "It got a lot of momentum," Khalid said. "People are finally waking up."

Muslims for American Progress, a project just launched by Mogahed's institute, aims to highlight American Muslim contributions to the country in medicine, science, sports, business and other fields. The profiles are based in part on data the institute has collected about Muslim professionals. "For 15 years American Muslims have been asked to tell the world what they condemn versus what they contribute, and the conversation in this presidential campaign was with one candidate who thought Muslims were a cancer and the other who basically thought that Muslims were benign and useful as an instrument of counterterrorism. But neither of them understood the value of the American Muslim community to our country outside of counterterrorism," Mogahed said.

Jerusha Lamptey, a professor of Islam and ministry at Union Theological Seminary, a liberal Christian school in New York, had just wrapped up the school's first leadership training program for Muslim women when details emerged over the last week of Trump's plan to sharply restrict refugee flow. "The scheduling turned out to be very important because it created something for us to do that was constructive and somewhat hopeful," Lamptey said. "This anxiety for the American Muslim community is not new. But this last year, it's been wildly out of control."

That angst is causing deep fatigue, especially among Muslim college students and parents desperate to protect their children, said Kameelah Rashad, founder of the Philadelphia-based Muslim Wellness Foundation, which educates Muslims on mental health issues. Rashad's son, who is in sixth grade, heard one of his teachers say people upset by Trump's election "should just get over it," Rashad said.

"We are such a small minority in the country overall, so it will really just take more than us standing up and saying, 'This is inexcusable,'" Rashad said. "We're very resilient, but we also have to comfort our children. We have to figure out if my place of worship is safe on Friday. How will I be treated at work? There's an emotional exhaustion." Surveying Trump's first week in office, she said: "I think it will get worse before it gets better." — AP

MUSLIMS DETAINED, BARRED FROM FLIGHTS TO US...

Continued from Page 1

"In Iran they're not being allowed to get on the airplane," he said. In Tehran, two travel agencies told AFP they had been instructed by Etihad Airways, Emirates and Turkish Airlines not to sell US tickets or allow Iranians holding American visas to board US-bound flights. Trump's move angered one of Iran's most popular actresses, Taraneh Alidoosti who stars in the Oscar-nominated "The Salesman". She said she would boycott next month's Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani did not comment directly on the ban yesterday, but criticized Trump, saying that now was "not the time to build walls between nations". Iran's foreign ministry said it would "respond in kind after the insulting decision of the United States concerning Iranian nationals" until the measure is lifted. It said the decision was "illegal, illogical and contrary to international rules". More than a million Iranians live in the United States.

In Cairo, five Iraqi passengers and one Yemeni were barred from boarding an EgyptAir flight to New York yesterday, sources at Cairo airport said. Dutch airline KLM said yesterday it had refused carriage to the United States to seven passengers from predominately Muslim countries. "We would have liked to have had them fly with us, but it would not have made much sense because they would have been denied entry" to the United States, KLM spokesman Manel Vrijenhoek told AFP.

Qatar Airways, which flies to around 15 American cities, said it would abide by the new regulations, adding however that passengers who have "the proper documentation" will be able to fly. An alert on its website said citizens of the seven barred countries could travel to the US if they have permanent residency there. Government officials and their immediate family are exempt from the travel restrictions along with representatives of international organizations, the Gulf carrier said.

Sudan called the decision to ban entry of its citizens very unfortunate in light of "historic steps" just weeks earlier to lift US sanctions for cooperation on combating terrorism. A 34-year-old Sudanese man who won the US Green Card lottery said he was worried he would be forbidden entry. "If I'm barred...this will destroy my life because I resigned from my work in Sudan and was preparing to settle in America," he said.

Disarray

At least three lawyers from the International Refugee Assistance Project were at the arrivals lounge at New York City's John F Kennedy International Airport's Terminal 4, buried in their laptops and conference calls, photocopies of individuals' US visas on hand. "Just because Trump signed something at 6 pm yesterday, things are coming to a crashing halt," said Mana Yegani, an immigration lawyer in Houston. "It's scary." She and fellow lawyers worked all night fielding calls from travelers with student and worker visas who were being denied entry into the United States and ordered on flights back to the Muslim-majority countries.

Enforcement of the order was spotty and disorganized.

Travelers were handled differently at different points of entry and immigration lawyers were advising clients to change their destination to the more lenient airports, said Yegani, who works with the American Immigration Lawyers Association. The order seeks to prioritize refugees fleeing religious persecution. In a television interview, Trump said the measure was aimed at helping Christians in Syria. Some legal experts said that carve-out showed the order was unconstitutional, as it would violate the US right to freedom of religion. But others said the president and US Congress have latitude to choose who receives asylum.

Lawyers from numerous immigration organizations and the American Civil Liberties Union sued in federal court in Brooklyn on behalf of two Iraqi men, one a former US government worker and the other the husband of a former US security contractor. The two men had visas to enter the United States but were detained on Friday night at Kennedy airport, hours after Trump's executive order, the lawsuit said.

Green card holders

Green card holders were also being stopped and questioned for several hours. Officials also denied travelers with dual Canadian and Iranian citizenship from boarding planes in Canada that were headed to the United States, Yegani said. "These are people that are coming in legally. They have jobs here and they have vehicles here," Yegani said. Those with visas from Muslim-majority countries have gone through background checks with US authorities, Yegani noted.

Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conway reaffirmed the president's decision in a Twitter post yesterday. "@POTUS is a man of action and impact. Promises made, promises kept. Shock to the system. And he's just getting started," she tweeted.

The order laid the way for what Trump has pledged will be the "extreme vetting" of visa applicants' backgrounds - with some exceptions made for members of "religious minorities", a caveat many see as a way to apply favorable treatment to Christians from majority-Muslim states. "Extreme vetting" is just a euphemism for discriminating against Muslims," said Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union. Romero said Trump's order breached the US constitution's ban on religious discrimination by choosing countries with Muslim majorities for tougher treatment.

Ahmed Rehab, director of the Chicago chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, told AFP his group would mount legal challenges to fight the order "tooth and nail". "It is targeting people based on their faith and national origin, and not on their character or their criminality," he told AFP. On Friday evening, Abed Ayoub of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee said he had fielded about 100 queries from people anxious about the order, which he said he believed could affect traveling green card holders, students, people coming to the United States for medical care and others. "It's chaos," Ayoub said. — Agencies

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 ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
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Focus

TRUMP WALL FACES BIG REALITY CHECK

President Donald Trump's vow to accelerate construction of a "contiguous, physical wall" along the Mexican border is slamming into a Washington reality - who's going to pay for it and how? Not us, say the Mexicans. Instead, US taxpayers will foot the bill, starting with money already in the Department of Homeland Security account that amounts to a small down payment. Then it's up to the Republican-led Congress to come up with \$12 billion to \$15 billion more, according to an estimate offered by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Thursday from a GOP issues retreat in Philadelphia.

GOP leaders refused to commit to paying for the wall with spending cuts elsewhere in the budget. That could mean costs would be paid for by adding to the government's \$20 trillion debt. Press Secretary Sean Spicer Thursday floated the idea of a 20 percent tariff on Mexican imports. On Wednesday, Trump promised "immediate construction" would begin on the border wall, telling ABC News that planning is starting immediately. He again vowed that Mexico would pay the US back, though he offered no details.

It is true there is a small amount available now in the Department of Homeland Security accounts dedicated to "border security fencing, infrastructure, and technology" - \$100 million, by one congressional estimate - that would permit work to get immediately under way. So far, thanks to spending in the late 2000s, Congress has provided about \$2.3 billion to construct 654 miles of fencing and vehicular blockades. But Trump has promised a wall, not just fencing, and it's not a universally popular idea by any stretch.

"The facts have not changed. Building a wall is the most expensive and least effective way to secure the border," said GOP Rep Will Hurd, whose sprawling West Texas swing district encompasses more than 800 miles of the border. "Many areas in my district are perfect examples of where a wall is unnecessary and would negatively impact the environment, private property rights and economy." GOP members of the appropriations committees are more likely to take a green eyeshade approach to the money since they are familiar with the likely trade-offs.

Complications

"There's any number of complications," said Rep Harold Rogers, former House Appropriations Committee Chairman, citing obstacles such as Indian reservations and national parks and forests. And much of the remaining 1,300 miles is very rough terrain, with steep construction costs and a limited return for the dollar. "It's expensive and it's complicated." Hundreds of miles of the border are so rugged and inhospitable that it doesn't make sense to even try to build.

And in Texas, almost all of the land along the border is privately owned. When former President George W. Bush tried to build border fencing starting in 2006, he faced stiff opposition from local ranchers and farmers, many of whom took the government to court on plans to use their land. In many areas along the Rio Grande the fencing is built well inside the United States, as far as a mile north of the Rio Grande, to ensure that the structure doesn't interfere with the flow of the river or is built on solid ground. The middle of the channel marks the internal border and a 1970 treaty with Mexico requires that structures built there not interfere with water flow.

"We have built a fence along the border almost as much as we possibly can without violating tribal laws, environmental requirements, and taking over peoples' personal, private property," said Michelle Mrdeza, who worked for the House Appropriations panel during the fence debate of the mid-2000s. The existing blockade - roughly 350 miles to block pedestrians and 300 miles to block vehicles - has already been built along the southern border. That fencing was built in the areas that are most vulnerable to illegal crossings.

"Insofar as the problem is a physical barrier, we've basically addressed that issue," said Rep David Price, who chaired the congressional panel that funded the border fence when Democrats controlled Congress. "This focus, this fixation on a wall and pouring untold billions of dollars into a wall, is foolishness."

Cost estimates prepared a decade ago already varied widely. A 2009 Government Accountability Office analysis put costs at \$6.5 million a mile for pedestrian fencing and \$1.8 million per mile for vehicular blockades. An actual wall constructed of concrete and steel would be more costly and difficult. Trump has repeatedly promised that Mexico will pay for his wall, though neither he nor his allies in Congress are able to articulate how. — AP

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Washington Watch

TRUMP'S EXAGGERATIONS GROUNDED IN BIAS

By Dr James J Zogby

By now, Donald Trump's penchant for exaggeration and self-promotion has become well-established. Whether born of a form of pathological narcissism or just plain hucksterism, his need to claim that everything he does is the biggest and best is unsettling and, at times, embarrassing. Most troubling is the concern that Trump may actually believe his non-factual boasts - that because his ego is so needy he cannot accept reality. This is clearly not a comforting quality for a commander-in-Chief.

During his first week in office, this weakness has been on full public display. Whether in his weirdly vainglorious address before the CIA, his first interview with a major TV network, or on Twitter - the new president has spent way too much time trying to convince the public (and maybe himself?) that his crowds were "the largest in history", that the applause he received at the CIA set a record, and that massive unprecedented voter fraud was the reason he didn't receive more votes than his opponent.

That all these claims are probably untrue doesn't appear to register with the White House. When challenged by media fact-checkers, the president and his staff become belligerent, striking back at the offending reporters with threats to have their access denied and future questions unanswered. More recently, a top White House aide referred to the questioning media as "the enemy". It appears that in the mind of the President and company, the exaggerations and fabrications must be believed - or else!

What we've also learned during this first week of the Trump Administration is that the president's penchant for exaggeration or use of "alternative facts" would also be used to advance his agenda. In signing critical executive orders, the new president has made his case for radical policy changes on immigration, refugees, and voter fraud by presenting "evidence" of

problems that are either wildly exaggerated or just plain "made up".

To justify building a wall between the US and Mexico, for example, Trump argued that the number of migrants illegally "pouring across the border has increased in recent years and that "all across the country" Americans have been victims of violent crimes perpetrated by these "illegals". In fact, the numbers of undocumented individuals entering the US has dramatically declined in recent years and while there certainly have been crimes committed by undocumented immigrants, their numbers are minuscule in relation to the overall violent crime rate. But truth doesn't matter. It is the White House's hope that by exploiting fear and resentment of Latino immigrants they may generate enough support to build the wall and deport millions of undocumented.

False claims

To make the case for putting a freeze on the US refugee program and banning Muslim immigration from a list of largely Arab countries, Trump's executive order falsely claims that "numerous foreign-born individuals have been convicted or implicated in terrorism-related crimes since September 11, 2001...". This "fact" is also an exaggeration creating the impression that are large number of foreign-born persons who have been involved in US-based acts of terror. The actual number of such individuals that have been convicted of terror-related charges is less than 40 (with a substantial portion of these being cases of FBI entrapment). But once again, the truth doesn't matter, since the White House believes that fear of and bias against Muslim will provide them with enough support to restrict the entry of Muslims and cut the overall number of refugee admissions in half.

Likewise, to back up the claim that there is a need to more closely scrutinize voter rolls and place greater

restrictions on voting procedures, President Trump has made the claim that three to five million persons voted illegally in the last election. To buttress his case, he and his staff have cited studies, the authors of which deny that their work shows any evidence of massive voter fraud. While there is no real justification for the President to make the claim of massive voter fraud, truth doesn't matter. What counts is there is a fear of "minority voters" swaying elections - and that will be enough to provide some backing to Republican efforts to further their voter suppression agenda - making it more difficult for the poor, the elderly, and minority groups to vote.

Prejudice

What Trump has learned is that "he can fool some of the people all of the time". He has built his case for policy change by projecting arguments that prey on fear and prejudice - against Latinos, African Americans, and Arabs and Muslims. Fear and prejudice helped him win an election and so far they appear to be giving him just enough edge to radically transform US immigration and refugee policy and the place new and onerous restrictions on how Americans vote.

The question that remains is can the President continue on his merry way and be able to "fool all of the people all of the time"? I think not. While he may, for a short time, get away with exaggerations and fabrication about groups that his supporters fear, I think his ultimate undoing will be his fragile ego and its inability to accept reality. The bizarre rants he kept repeating all week about how big his audiences were and how beloved he is indicate an excessive neediness and a lack of control that may lead him to take an embarrassing step too far.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

BOLT CAN'T OUTFRAN JAMAICA DOPING PROBLEM

It was bound to happen. Even the least-cynical track fan could peer through the smoke screen that enveloped Jamaica's anti-doping program and recognize things weren't right. Eventually, that was bound to ensnare Usain Bolt, the spirit-lifting superstar whose reach goes well beyond his own island but who is still losing one of his nine Olympic golds because of the problems down there. On Wednesday, the International Olympic Committee stripped Jamaica's 2008 Olympic 4x100 relay team of its gold medal. The 37.1-second trip around the track, a world record at the time, goes off the books, too.

It all has to do with Nesta Carter, a bit player on the Jamaican sprint scene who was caught taking a banned stimulant that was detected in re-analysis of samples the IOC has been holding since the Beijing Games. Carter joins a growing list of Jamaican champions who have been busted for doping over the last several years: Yohan Blake, Asafa Powell, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Sherone Simpson. Details of all these cases vary, most have been explained away. None, on their own, stand out as major affronts to the anti-doping system, the likes of which have been documented in the disturbing case against the Russian sports machine.

And yet, all have this in common: Had Jamaica been running a no-excuses anti-doping system for the last 10-15 years, no athlete would've felt secure pushing the envelope with banned

stimulants or any other such substance. And Bolt might still have his medal. A few years ago, Renee Anne Shirley, the one-time executive of Jamaica's anti-doping agency who was ousted suddenly and without much explanation in 2013, offered this shocking statistic: In the five months leading to the London Olympics, Jamaica's anti-doping agency conducted a grand total of one out-of-competition drug test.

Conflicts

"It wasn't good," said David Howman, the former World Anti-Doping Agency director general who played a role in Jamaica's many reboots. "The only testing effectively done in relation to Jamaica was done by the IAAF (track's governing body). The problem there was the testing was done in Jamaica by people who had conflicts. There were some issues."

It's not that people didn't try to help. In 2010, at WADA's urging, Jamaica's anti-doping board was dissolved to rid it of people who also led sports associations on the island - a basic conflict of inter-

est that should've been dealt with years sooner. The folks at the US Anti-Doping Agency sent experts in for six months to analyze the problems and offer solutions. They were more or less told, "Thanks, but no thanks."

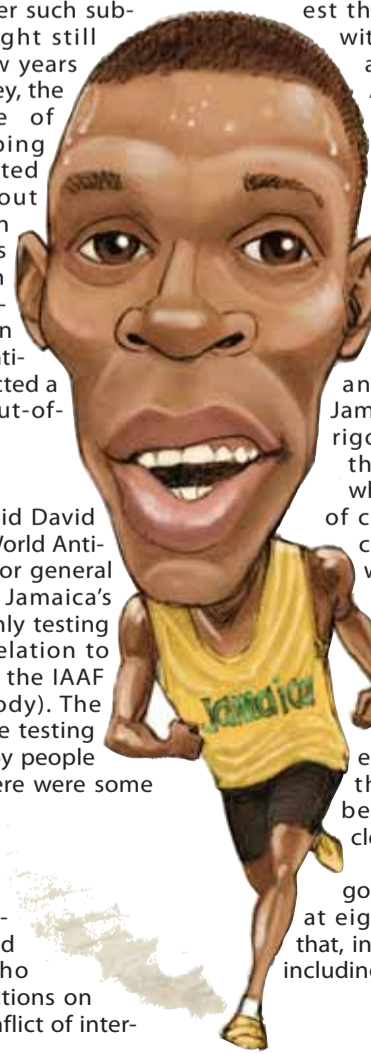
"I'm not surprised," said Doug Logan, who ran USA Track and Field in 2008. "It's not a real well-kept secret that the anti-doping regimens in Jamaica haven't been overly rigorous over the course of the years." And yet Logan, who proudly wears the label of concerned cynic when it comes to track, says he would not include Bolt among those he views with suspicion. "It's intuitive, just based on knowing him, watching him," Logan said. "I think he's a generational talent. I have nothing I know that would lead me to believe he has not had a clean career."

Clean or not, his Olympic gold-medal tally now stands at eight. It's little consolation that, in the eyes of some experts, including Howman, Jamaica might finally be getting its anti-doping program in shape.

There's also this: The IOC still holds samples from the London Games, and has a 10-year window to reanalyze them. Carter was on the team that won gold that year, too.

Next up, in addition to possible appeals over the IOC ruling, come the logistical and political challenges involved in Jamaica's Olympic committee rounding up the medals - five of them, including the sprinter who ran in Bolt's place for the preliminaries. If that's successful, they'll redistribute the hardware to the new "winners" from Trinidad and Tobago, who finished nearly a full second behind the Jamaicans and would've still been that far back had Carter been replaced by virtually anyone else on Jamaica's sprint team.

(The US team is not a factor in this conversation. The 2008 prelims marked one of its many mishaps on baton exchanges.) Maybe more interesting will be the new bar-room debate over what this does to Bolt's legacy. Is he now 8 for 8 at the Olympics, 8 for 9, or, simply, 9 for 9 with an asterisk that he really doesn't deserve? Does this diminish anything he's done - most notably, transform a scandal-encrusted sport into an eminently watchable smile-fest whenever he's on the track? "It's really unfortunate that Bolt's name obviously comes up in this," said Ato Boldon, the Olympic sprinter-turned-NBC track analyst, "because the whole world cheered him on to get those nine medals, and obviously he doesn't have the nine anymore." —AP



SEVILLA SNAP UP ARGENTINE MONTOYA

MADRID: Sevilla made Argentine midfielder Walter Montoya their third signing of the January transfer window yesterday on a four-and-a-half year deal from Rosario Central. "Sevilla will count on the services of Argentine midfielder Walter Montoya, 23, once he passes the required medical," Sevilla said in a statement. "The agreements are complete both with his club, Rosario Central, and the player himself. He will sign for four-and-a-half years until June 30, 2021." However, Montoya may be loaned back to Rosario until the end of the season unless Sevilla can offload someone from their current squad from a non-European Union country before Tuesday's transfer deadline. La Liga imposes a limit of three non-EU players per squad. Rosario confirmed that the transfer fee will depend on whether Montoya leaves immediately or not. "The figures of the transfer are variable depending on whether Walter stays or not in the next six months," said the Argentine club in a statement. "The figures will be announced once that situation is confirmed by the Spanish club in the next few days." Spanish media reported Sevilla will pay around five million euros (\$5.3 million). Sevilla have already boosted their squad with the signing of French defender Clement Lenglet and forward Stevan Jovetic on loan from Inter Milan this month. — AFP



CHILE STRIKER VARGAS TO JOIN MEXICAN CHAMPIONS TIGRES

MEXICO CITY: Chile striker Eduardo Vargas is joining Mexico's UANL Tigres from Bundesliga side Hoffenheim, the Liga MX champions said. The 27-year-old striker, due to arrive in Mexico today, will become one of nearly 200 foreign-born players in the Liga MX, the vast majority South Americans. "Eduardo Vargas, one of the stars of Chilean football, is coming to Tigres to reinforce the team's attack which will seek the title in the Clausura 2017," the Monterrey-based club said on their website (www.tigres.com.mx). Tigres won the Apertura, the first of two championships in the season, in December and can now pair Vargas with France's Andre-Pierre Gignac in a formidable strike force as they look to retain their crown in the Clausura, which began three weeks ago. Vargas will hope to improve on a modest club career outside his home country where he won the domestic league and Copa Sudamericana with Universidad de Chile in 2011. He was signed for 13.5 million euros (\$14.4 million) by Napoli in 2012 but went on loan to Brazil's Gremio, Valencia and Queens Park Rangers before joining Hoffenheim in 2015 for six million euros. — Reuters

DISCUS ACE HARTING TO END CAREER IN 2018

BERLIN: Germany's Robert Harting, the 2012 Olympic discus champion, has revealed he will retire after the 2018 European championships in Berlin. "I am looking forward to this year and next, then after that I'll just be watching," the 32-year-old three-times world champion told website leichtathletik.de. The burly German, famous for ripping off his shirt when celebrating major titles, suffered a serious knee injury in 2014 when he tore the cruciate ligament while training. In the build up to last year's Olympics, Harting was outspoken in his criticism of athletes who dope and of the perceived inaction on the issue of IOC president Thomas Bach. He missed the final, and the chance to defend his Olympic title, at the Rio de Janeiro Games after injuring his back while turning off a light switch. In his absence, his brother Christoph Harting won gold to keep the Olympic title in the family. The European championships in his home town of Berlin in 2018 will be his last and he also plans to compete at the 2017 world championships in London from August 5-13. — AFP



Obaid al-Osaimi and Duaij al-Otaibi.



Technical committee officials.

COMPETITION HEATS UP IN AMIR'S SIXTH SHOOTING GRAND PRIX

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Sixth Shooting Grand Prix being held at Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex enters its second day today with four competitions starting at 9 am which are 10 air rifle men, 50 meter pistol men, trap for men and women shooting at 75 targets. The finals of these competitions will take place at noon, while the women's medal rounds will be at 4 pm. Competitions are expected to be challenging especially that Arab Federations sent mixed teams of experienced and new shooters, so Kuwait shooters will do their best to leave a strong impression on this tournament and prove that it is able to win tournaments.



Ghassan Shaaban



Some of the heads of delegations.

Meanwhile, the technical meeting for the tournament was held yesterday morning during which discussions took place between Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee Eng. Duaij Al-Otaibi and heads of participating delegations about the technical and organizational aspects of competitions.

President of Egyptian and African Shooting Federations Hazim Hosni expressed his pleasure to participate in the tournament's activities for the sixth time as he was present during each Grand Prix. He said the tournament succeeded in attracting shooters from around the world each year.

Hosni said that the event is considered a forum during which federation's presidents meet to discuss all what is new in the world of shooting including changes on or new rules and regulations for the game.

He also lauded Kuwait's winning the two gold and bronze medals at the Olympics adding that Kuwait is considered a pioneer of Arab shooters, and is always generous with Arab federations with its expertise and this reflects on the general standard of the sport in the Arab world.



Pre-event training.



MANY CLOUDS DIES AFTER THISTLECRACK UPSET

CHELTHENHAM: Many Clouds, the 2015 Grand National winner, collapsed and died in the shadow of the winning post after upsetting odds-on favourite Thistlecrack in a Gold Cup warm-up at Cheltenham yesterday.

After one of his career-best performances the 10-year-old faltered and fell to the ground, in front of the packed grandstand. Screens were quickly put up around him but veterinary officers were unable to save trainer Oliver Sherwood's stable star.

"So sorry, we were beaten by a better horse on the day, poor old Many Clouds, this is as sad as it can be," said Colin Tizzard, trainer of Thistlecrack.

The tragic outcome turned the mood at Cheltenham from one of surprise celebration at Many Clouds' stirring victory over the ante-post Gold Cup favorite to one of sombre reflection at the loss of one of National Hunt racing's most cherished equine sons.

Many Clouds, who ran in the colours of British tycoon Trevor Hemmings, owner of second tier English football league side Preston North End, perished after a typically foot-perfect and gutsy performance.

Sent off at 8-1 for the Cotswold Chase he led Thistlecrack over the last and got the better of his year younger



CHELTHENHAM: Many Clouds ridden by Leighton Aspell, right, jump an early fence in company with Thistlecrack ridden by Tom Scudamore before going on to win The Cotswold Chase Race run during Festival Trials Day at Cheltenham Racecourse, in Cheltenham, England, yesterday. Many Clouds, the winner of Britain's 2015 Grand National, has collapsed and died after winning a race at Cheltenham yesterday. — AP

rival, the 4-9 favorite, in a no-holds-barred battle up the famous Cheltenham hill. Many Clouds' finest hour came at Aintree on April 15, 2015, when he produced an exhilarating exhibition of jumping to land the world's

most famous steeplechase under jockey Leighton Aspell, who was on board as usual for his ill-fated last ever outing.

He returned last year to try to defend his Liverpool crown but had to settle for 16th behind Rule The World. — AFP

NORWAY IN WORLD FINAL AFTER EXTRA-TIME WIN

PARIS: Norway reached the final of the world handball championships for the first time on Friday with a dramatic 28-25 extra-time victory over Croatia.

The Norwegians, who were only fourth at the last European championships, will face defending champions France in today's final. France will be going for a sixth world crown and will be buoyed by knowing that they beat Norway, who only qualified for the championships after being granted a wildcard, 31-28 in the preliminary round. But Norway, who failed to make the Olympics in Rio, know that they have the measure of France having defeated them 29-24 at the European championships in Poland in 2016.

"It's my 10th championship and at last we have achieved our main goal of winning a medal. It's incredible," said Norway pivot Bjarte Myrhol. "We never stopped believing, we were on the attack all the time. We always said our time would come and that is our year. "I am not going to think about France tonight. I am going to sleep well and continue this dream."

Goalkeeper Torbjorn Bergerud was named man of the match in Friday's semi-final after the 22-year-old pulled

off a fine save from a penalty taken by Zlatko Horvat in the last minute of normal time.

That kept the score at 22-22, sending the tie into two five-minute periods of extra-time. Croatia, world champions in 2003, led 24-22 in the extra period but the faster style of Norway eventually paid dividends. "We are devastated, but

the most important thing is to stay united and try and rest for yesterday (third-placed game against Slovenia) because there is a bronze medal at stake," said Croatia's right-back Luka Stepanic. "After we missed the penalty in the last minute, we scored two goals. But in the last five minutes we just couldn't find a way to their goal. — AFP



PARIS: Norway's Espen Lie Hansen, left, shoots over Croatia's Zeljko Musa to score during the 25th men's Handball World Championship semi-final match Croatia against Norway at the Bercy arena in Paris, Friday. — AP

GANONG WINS DOWNHILL RACE OVERSHADOWED BY CRASHES, INJURIES

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN: Numerous crashes and serious injuries to Valentin Giraud-Moine and Steven Nyman overshadowed a men's World Cup downhill race won by Travis Ganong on Friday.

Both French skier Giraud-Moine and American Nyman were airlifted for intensive care at the local hospital in Garmisch.

The race was held up for half an hour while Giraud-Moine, who was second in Kitzbuehel, Austria, and on course for a top-10 finish in Garmisch, received attention after losing control on the Kandahar course and crashing into the net near spectators.

The French Ski Federation said in a statement later that Giraud-Moine dislocated both knees. "He will be

brought back to France as soon as possible for the continued treatment of his injuries," the federation said.

Nyman had crashed shortly before Giraud-Moine, after a jump into the netting. He also suffered a serious knee injury. "Quick update. My season is over but aside from my knee everything is okay. Time for some surgery and healing. I WILL BE BACK!" the American said on Twitter.

Ganong claimed his second World Cup win in 1 minute, 53.71 seconds, beating Kjetil Jansrud by 0.38 seconds and Peter Fill by 0.52.

The race had been rescheduled from Wengen, Switzerland, where heavy snow forced the classic Lauberhorn downhill to be canceled on Jan 14.

Another downhill is scheduled for today but there are likely to be changes made to the course, with many skiers grateful simply to finish on a day of seven crashes in all. "I was able to push and stick to my plan and not be too fazed by all the crashes and everything," said Ganong, the first American to win in Garmisch. "It was a tough day for sure. But I'm super happy to win today."

Erik Guay crashed spectacularly, though the Canadian escaped with just minor injuries and was able to wave at the camera.

"Bumps and bruises but I'm thankful to have skied away from that crash with nothing major! Thanks for all the well wishes," the 2011 world champion said on Twitter. Guillermo Fayed also crashed, The French Ski

Federation said he suffered a right knee injury and his return will be determined after treatment. Lindsey Vonn, who crashed during a World Cup downhill training session on Friday in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, tweeted: "I can't watch the race in Garmisch any more. Too many injuries and crashes. This is crazy!!!"

Jansrud leads the downhill standings after the fourth race, with 202 points, three ahead of Fill and 34 ahead of Dominik Paris of Italy. The men race downhill again yesterday at the same course. "I have no expectations for tomorrow," Ganong said. "Just show up and try to ski my best. If I ski my best, I know I can win. I'll try not to think about it too much, and hopefully I'll have another good day tomorrow." — AP

AS FALCONS RETURN TO BIG GAME, REMEMBERING THE DIRTY BIRDS

ATLANTA: The last time the Atlanta Falcons made it to the Super Bowl, they put on quite a show. Just not when it mattered.

The team known as the "Dirty Birds" capped off a remarkable season in 1998 by doing almost everything wrong once they claimed a spot in the big game. "I didn't do a good enough job of making them understand that you don't want to just be there," said Dan Reeves, who was the Falcons' coach. "You want to win it."

In the lead-up to the Super Bowl, Reeves actually got things rolling by unwittingly rekindling his ugly breakup with the Denver Broncos, who just happened to be Atlanta's opponent. Then there was a dispute over the way the players got off the plane once they landed in Miami. For some reason, receiver Terance Mathis decided the Super Bowl stage would be a good week to talk about his battle with alcohol and a feeling that he wasn't appreciated. And brash cornerback Ray Buchanan turned media day into a full-blown circus by wearing a dog collar - the Falcons were underdogs, you see - and saying Broncos star Shannon Sharpe looked like a horse. All of that paled in comparison to what happened the night before the game, when safety Eugene Robinson - perhaps the most respected member of the team - was arrested for trying to pick up a prostitute. Robinson was bailed out of jail and played in the game, only to get beaten on a long touchdown pass.

Not surprisingly, the Broncos cruised to a 34-19 victory and their second straight title in John Elway's final game.

"Any kind of distraction hurts," Reeves recalled in an interview from his Atlanta home. "When one player causes a distraction the night before the game, it makes it more difficult. But we just got beat by a better team." Despite the loss, the team is still remembered fondly in Atlanta, a city that has produced only one championship team - the 1995 World Series-winning Braves - in any of the major sports. Jamal Anderson, who rushed for more than 1,800 yards and takes credit for the arm-flapping dance that gave the team its nickname, said he can hardly go anywhere without someone remembering the '98 Falcons.

RETURN TRIP

"No matter what airport I'm in, when people recognize me, they yell, 'Dirty Bird!'" Anderson said. Eighteen years later, with the Falcons headed back to the Super Bowl for only the second time in franchise history, the team that paved the way left behind some useful lessons. For one, never assume there will be a return trip if things don't work out. The Dirty Birds certainly thought they'd get another shot, but they followed up their 14-2 season by going 5-11 the following year - the first of three straight losing campaigns. They didn't even get back to the playoffs until 2002, with a largely different cast.

By then, Anderson was out of the league, his

career cut short at age 29 by two severe knee injuries. "You never know what's going to happen," he said. "When you get a chance to be there, you've got to lay it all on the line."

Plus, the sting of losing the final game of the season never leaves you. To this day, the 44-year-old Anderson has never watched a replay of his lone Super Bowl. "You don't ever get over losing a Super Bowl," he said. "People's careers are made by being the MVP of that game. You get that title forever. I'm very proud of winning the NFC championship and the way we did it. At least we got to hang that banner. But I sure wanted to win the Super Bowl."

The NFC championship game remains the highlight of the season for Reeves, especially since it came just three weeks after he underwent quadruple-bypass heart surgery.

Despite their lofty record, the Falcons were huge underdogs going on the road to face the Minnesota Vikings, who had lost only one game while setting an NFL scoring record. In the raucous Metrodome, Atlanta trailed by 10 points early in the fourth quarter, and it looked as though the Vikings would clinch the victory when Gary Anderson lined up for a 38-yard field goal with just over 2 minutes remaining.

'DIRTY BIRD'

Stunningly, Anderson missed for the first time all season. The Falcons drove for the tying touchdown and won in overtime on Morten Andersen's 38-yard field goal. On the stage in the middle of a stunned, empty stadium, Reeves did the "Dirty Bird" with his players.

"There's not any question, the win in Minnesota" was the game Reeves remembers most. "Because of the circumstances and how good a football team they were and winning on the road, having everything really against you as far as the crowd and everything," he said. "Certainly, the fact I had bypass surgery made it little more special."

Unfortunately for Reeves and the Falcons, they couldn't win the game that really counted. Little did they know, their loss would have a profound effect on a current Falcons star. Vic Beasley was just 6 years old, but he was already a huge fan of the team growing up about an hour's drive north of Atlanta. Now an All-Pro defensive end who led the league in sacks, he hasn't forgotten the pain he felt watching the Falcons' first Super Bowl. "I cried that night," Beasley said. "I still remained a fan through thick and thin."

Now, he and his teammates have a chance to finish the job. They've got no bigger fans than the Dirty Birds. "I'm very happy for them," Jamal Anderson said. "I'm really, really happy for the city. I'm really happy for Falcons fans, the true and hardcore fans who are supportive and encouraging. You know, we have an interesting history in this city. I'm just happy to see that we finally made it back." — AP



CORTINA D'AMPEZZO: Switzerland's Lara Gut, center, winner of an alpine ski, women's World Cup downhill race, celebrates on the podium with second placed Italy's Sofia Goggia, left, and third placed Slovenia's Ilka Stuhec, in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, yesterday. — AP

GUT WINS DOWNHILL, VONN CRASHES OUT

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO: Defending overall World Cup champion Lara Gut won her first downhill of the season yesterday while Lindsey Vonn crashed for the second consecutive day.

Gut finished 0.05 seconds ahead of Sofia Goggia of Italy and 0.47 in front of Ilka Stuhec of Slovenia. Gut was competing in the final downhill before her home world championships in St. Moritz, Switzerland.

"There's no better way to enter worlds," Gut said. The victory reduced Gut's deficit in the overall standings behind American leader Mikaela Shiffrin to 30 points.

Vonn lost control and slammed into the safety netting in the same spot where she crashed in Friday's training run. "I'm OK. I'm a little sore but hopefully I'll be fine for tomorrow," the American said. "I just caught my edge, that's all."

After collecting herself, Vonn skied down to the finish area. She had already had a small bobble earlier in her run but was 0.18 ahead of Gut at the first checkpoint just before her crash.

Vonn had asked the International Ski Federation's race director to smooth out a small

lip that gave her trouble in training. "They changed it but I still caught air," Vonn said. "I just caught my edge and did the splits. It happens, unfortunately."

Vonn, who has won a record 11 races in Cortina, returned earlier this month from nearly a year out with injuries. Ramona Siebenhofer of Austria, Nicol Delago of Italy and Valerie Grenier of Canada also fell.

PERFECT PERFORMANCE

Goggia had the Italian crowd going wild before Gut came down and silenced the fans with a perfect performance on the lower section of the Olympia delle Tofane course, which is full of curves.

"I didn't have a really fast start but, from the middle of the slope, it was getting better and better and I had more confidence in my skis and really able to finish well," said Gut, who trailed Goggia at each checkpoint. "It's better to have the green light at the finish than just at the intervals." It was the 23rd win of Gut's World Cup career and her first downhill victory in Cortina -

which is considered the premier stop on the women's circuit.

As usual, the Olympia delle Tofane course was bathed in sunshine and skiers hit speeds of 120 kph (75 mph) in the Tofane schuss, a narrow chute between two walls of rock. "There's not a place in world where the slope is so (well) prepared," Gut said. "I wish we had more places like Cortina. It's just cool!"

It was the eighth podium result this season for Goggia, who is still seeking her first victory. She needs one more podium to match the Italian women's team record of nine set by Deborah Compagnoni in 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Stuhec, who won the opening three downhill of the season, retained a 77-point lead ahead of Gut in the downhill standings.

Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany finished fourth and Nicole Schmidhofer of Austria came fifth. Breezy Johnson was the top American in a career-best 10th and teammate Stacey Cook finished 11th. Julia Mancuso did not enter the race, preferring to delay her return from hip surgery to today's super-G. — AP



FOXBOROUGH: In this Dec. 12, 2016, file photo, New England Patriots defensive end Chris Long (95) reacts during the first half of an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass. Long signed a one-year deal with the Patriots after two injury-plagued seasons ended his eight-year run with the Rams. — AP

BLITZBOKS RED-HOT IN WELLINGTON SEVENS WC

WELLINGTON: South Africa continued to set the pace at the Sevens World Series in Wellington yesterday, while former New Zealand coach Gordon Tietjens' return to his homeland with Samoa fell flat. England, South Africa, New Zealand and tournament surprise package Canada all topped their pools with three wins from three matches to cruise into the quarter-finals.

But it was the competition-leading Blitzboks who caught the eye, holding Australia and Japan scoreless before demolishing Fiji 31-12. They raced to a 17-0 lead but Fiji narrowed it to 17-12 before South Africans stepped up a gear and the reigning series champions and Olympic gold medalists had no answer.

"We came out and laid a solid foundation, then really built on that," South Africa captain Philip Snyman said.

"Fiji ran us close towards the end but luckily the guys came through." Canada provided the major upsets of the day, defeating Wales (28-2), Scotland (28-19) and Russia (29-0) Scotland still qualified for

the quarters as runner-up in their group, as did Argentina, Fiji and France.

Local interest was on the Pool C grudge match between New Zealand—who have won the Wellington tournament for the past three years—and Tietjens' Samoa. Tietjens coached New Zealand for 22 years, guiding them to 12 Sevens World Series titles, four Commonwealth gold medals and two Sevens World Cup crowns. He announced his departure after last year's failure at the Rio Olympics, and then accepted a role with the Pacific islanders.

However, he was still officially contracted to NZR, which made him sit out the opening rounds, making Wellington his first tournament in charge of Samoa. Tietjens, who has described his treatment as "hurtful," said he knew the New Zealanders—who have won the Wellington tournament for the past three years—would be fired up facing their former boss. He was proved correct as they scored in the first 90 seconds and went to record a comprehensive 33-7 win. — AFP

MEDVEDEVA SOARS TO SECOND EURO TITLE

OSTRAVA: Russia's Evgenia Medvedeva soared to a second straight women's European figure skating title in world record style on Friday.

The 17-year-old produced a flawless skate to music by Alexandre Desplat to eclipse South Korean star Kim Yu-Na's overall total score from the 2010 Vancouver Olympics by over a point with 229.71. Medvedeva also posted a new record 150.79 points for the free skate to surpass her own mark achieved on her way to world gold in her first senior season last year.

She led a Russian 1-2 finishing over 18 points ahead of teammate Anna Pogorilaya (211.39). On the ice in Ostrava, wearing a delicate pink and grey dress, the tiny skater from Moscow impressed with the ease of her jumps and free flowing style. She even added a superfluous combination of three jumps for good measure, "because I wanted to do a little me more than normal," giggled the teenager. It was a second gold for Russia in Ostrava after Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir Morozov won the pairs title on Thursday. Former five-time European champion Carolina Kostner of Italy, returning after almost three years away from competition, prevented a Russian women's sweep for a third consecutive year by taking bronze with 210.52. Russia's Maria Sotskova was fourth.

For 29-year-old Kostner, the 2012 world champion and 2014 Olympic bronze medalist, it was a 10th European medal. She took time off after the Olympics and then received a ban in 2015 after being caught up in a doping scandal involving her former companion, walker Alex Schwazer.

"The joy of skating well surpasses the joy of a medal. It's the cherry on the cake after this beautiful week," said Kostner. Earlier Spain's Javier Fernandez put himself on track for a record-equaling fifth straight men's title.

The 25-year-old from Madrid earned a new personal record 104.25 points for his Flamenco routine to open up a lead of nearly ten points on

Russian Maxim Kovtun (94.53) going into Saturday's free skating final. Israel's Alexei Bychenko, the bronze medalist in 2016, is sitting third (86.68). "It's my first clean short programme of the season. Work and training are finally paying off," said Fernandez, who slipped to fourth in last month's Grand Prix final.

The reigning two-time world champion is

bidding to match the record of five straight European titles last achieved by Czech Ondrej Nepela in 1973.

In ice dancing, Russians Ekaterina Bobrova and Dmitri Soloviev lead going into today's free dance final. Two-time reigning champions Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron of France are in third. — AFP



OSTRAVA: (L to R) Second placed Russia's Anna Pogorilaya, winner Russia's Evgenia Medvedeva and third placed Italy's Carolina Kostner pose with their medals on the podium of the ladies free skating competition of the European Figure Skating Championship in Ostrava, Czech Republic on Friday. — AFP

NHL SEEKS TO PUT JOHN SCOTT ALL-STAR ROW IN THE PAST

LOS ANGELES: The National Hockey League's all-star game has returned to showcasing the league's top talent after last year's controversy in which fans voted enforcer John Scott to the Pacific Division team.

Today's game at Staples Center arena in Los Angeles doesn't have the strife from a year ago because the NHL established the so-called "John Scott Rule." Last year, fans could nominate any player in the league. But this year, the NHL changed that by not allowing players on the ballot who had been demoted to their minor league teams unless it was

for short term conditioning purposes. Scott, who is known more for pounding on the heads of his opponents than putting pucks in the net, was chosen captain of the Pacific team despite scoring just four goals in parts of six seasons heading into his first all-star appearance. The league tried but failed to exclude him.

This year instead of the focus being on the brute strength of the game's ice guardians it is on the youth and speed of second year star Connor McDavid — the Pacific Division captain-and rookies Auston

Matthews and Patrik Laine, the first two selections in the 2016 draft.

"It's a huge honor, you want to soak it all in," said Matthews when named to the team earlier this month. The legitimate best of the best will be lining them up for the three-on-three contest between representatives of all four divisions, including league-leading scorer Sidney Crosby, reigning MVP Patrick Kane and last year's top defenseman Drew Doughty. The usual slew of last-minute defections are absent, only Pittsburgh's Evgeni Malkin will miss the game due to an

injury. The biggest controversy this year centers around the absence of John Tortorella.

The Columbus Blue Jackets head coach is skipping the game because his adult son's pit bull is sick. Tortorella also had to miss coaching in the Blue Jackets' game against the Nashville Predators on Thursday. He had been picked to coach the Metropolitan Division all-star team.

The game will return to last year's three-on-three tournament with the format dividing the game into three 20-minute contests. The rosters are composed of 11 players-

six forwards, three defensemen and two goaltenders. The league is moving away from the traditional five-on-five format in an attempt to create more scoring for the fans.

The winners of each semi-final game will meet in the tournament final to determine the overall champion. The fan-elected captains are McDavid, Crosby, Nashville's P.K. Subban and Montreal's Carey Price. "It's a little bit more exciting than when I went the first time," said Carolina Hurricanes defenseman Justin Faulk. Columbus skater Cam Atkinson was named to replace Malkin. — AFP

WANG WINGS WAY INTO QATAR MASTERS LEAD

DOHA: South Korea's Wang Jeung-Hun broke from the pack at the Qatar Masters yesterday, shooting a faultless seven-under-par 65 to lead by three shots going into the final day.

The 21-year-old hit three birdies on the opening nine and followed that up with four more after the turn to card the lowest score of the third round. He finished on fifteen-under-par, three ahead of his playing partner Jaco Van Zyl of South Africa and Spain's Nacho Elvira, both of who shot rounds of 68. One shot further back is South Africa's Thomas Aiken, who scored 69. All four had started the day on eight-under-par.

"My iron player is really good today and my putting was really good," said Wang, who already has two European Tour victories to his name. "So I shoot seven-under and I'm so happy I don't make any bogeys today." He added: "I don't want to think about winning, I just want to focus on my own game." "My irons and putting (have been) really good this week. So, I think I have a good chance to win."

Cheered on by a sizeable South Korean contingent, Wang showed no nerves especially towards the end of his round, where he birdied 16 and 18, and narrowly missed another chance on the 15th.

It was testament to the quality of Wang's play that he was able to put clear daylight

between himself and the rest of the field after yesterday started with nine players sharing the lead, unprecedented for a European Tour competition heading into day three. There were 44 players within four shots of the lead heading into Saturday, that has now been whittled down to four. Van Zyl said he was "excited" about the final day and was sure he had a chance of victory. "Obviously it's a good score but I really felt like I left quite a lot out there," he said. "I hit it quite nicely today and just couldn't capitalise. "I'll obviously try and get them back tomorrow."

Wang secured his first European Tour victory last year at the Hassan II Golf Trophy, where he beat Elvira in a play-off. A similar scenario is not out of the question tomorrow. Elvira birdied the last two holes and would have been closer to the South Korean but for a disastrous double bogey at the par-four 15th, following a wayward drive. "I'm three shots back. I'm happy with where I am," said Elvira.

"I think tomorrow is going to be a great day." Beyond the top four is a group of five players on ten-under-par including England's Nathan Kimsey and Spain's Rafa Cabrera Bello, who both carded rounds of 66 to move up more than 20 places in the field. France's Romain Langasque and Mike Lorenzo-Vera are a shot further back alongside Ireland's Paul Dunne. — AFP

TIGER WOODS LEAVES TORREY PINES EARLY

SAN DIEGO: Tiger Woods returned to the PGA Tour after 17 months and lasted only two days. Woods never got anything going after starting with a birdie Friday in the Farmers Insurance Open and didn't come close to making the cut. He missed a 12-foot birdie putt on his final hole on the North Course for an even-par 72 and missed the cut at Torrey Pines for the first time in his career.

He finished at 4-over 148, missing the cut by four shots. It was the third straight

Tour in August 2015 at the Wyndham Championship, where he tied for 10th. He played in the Bahamas the first week of December in an unofficial event with an 18-man field and no cut.

Woods at least kept good company. Jason Day, the No. 1 player in the world, again struggled to make cuts and shot a 74 to miss the cut for the first time since the Farmers Insurance Open last year. Also in his group was U.S. Open champion Dustin Johnson, who shot 74 and missed the cut.

Phil Mickelson was on the bubble until making a birdie on the 18th for a 72 to make the cut with one shot to spare. Brandt Snedeker saved par from a shot that nearly went out-of-bounds on No. 12, rrammed in a birdie putt on the 13th and held on for a 69. He was one shot behind as he tries to join J.C. Snead, Woods and Mickelson as the only back-to-back winners since this event began in 1952. Adam Hadwin of Canada, coming off a 59 and a runner-up finish in the California desert, shot a 71 and joined Snedeker at 7 under.

PURE SILK BAHAMAS CLASSIC

Brittany Lincicome and Lexi Thompson led a US Solheim Cup breakaway in the LPGA Tour's season-opening Pure Silk Bahamas Classic. Lincicome shot an 8-under 65 to reach 17-under 129 at Ocean Club Golf Course, and Thompson had a career-best 61 to pull within a stroke. Lincicome broke the tournament 36-hole mark, and Thompson shattered the course record of 64 that Lincicome set Thursday. Lincicome had a hole-in-one on the par-3 12th, using a 7-iron from 161 yards. Thompson had the second-lowest round in relation to par in LPGA Tour history, following only Annika Sorenstam at 13-under 59 in the 2001 Standard Register Ping. Thompson had an eagle and 10 birdies. Gerina Pillier (65) was third at 14 under, and Stacy Lewis (67) completed the Solheim Cup quartette at 13 under. Second-ranked Ariya Jutanugarn made the cut on the number with rounds of 75 and 69. Michelle Wie dropped out, shooting 73-74. — AP



SAN DIEGO: Tiger Woods reacts to the crowd after finishing in the 11th hole of the North Course during the second round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament Friday, at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. — AP

time that he failed to complete 72 holes at Torrey Pines, the course where he has won eight times on the PGA Tour. Woods missed the 54-hole cut in 2014 and withdrew after 11 holes with tightness in his back in 2015. Justin Rose rolled in a 10-foot birdie putt on the par-5 closing hole on the South Course for a 1-under 71. Rose, who was at 8-under 136, now gets two more cracks at the South Course, where the average score for two days was 73.8.

Woods was coming off the longest lay-off of his career as he recovered from two back surgeries. Woods last played the PGA



PARADISE ISLAND: Maria Parra of Spain hits a tee shot on the fourth hole during round three of the Pure Silk Bahamas LPGA Classic yesterday in Paradise Island, Bahamas. — AFP



PHILADELPHIA: Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid, top, dunks the ball against Houston Rockets' Nene Hilario during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Friday, in Philadelphia. Houston won 123-118. — AP

HARDEN SCORES 51 TO LEAD ROCKETS PAST EMBIID, 76ERS

PHILADELPHIA: James Harden scored 51 points and had 13 rebounds and 13 assists to lead the Houston Rockets to a 123-118 victory over Joel Embiid and the Philadelphia 76ers on Friday night. Harden has at least 30 points and 10 assists in 18 games this season. The NBA's third-leading scorer entering the game, Harden finished two points shy of tying his career high. He was 16 for 28 from the field, including 6 for 11 from 3-point range, and made 13 of 14 free throws. Harden scored 19 points in the third quarter. Nene added 21 points to help the Rockets snap a two-game skid and win for just the fourth time in 10 games. Embiid had 32 points and seven rebounds in his return to the lineup after missing the last two games with a knee contusion.

HEAT 100, BULLS 88

Goran Dragic had 26 points and 11 assists, Willie Reed scored 20 points and Dion Waiters added 19 to lead Miami past the Chicago for its sixth straight victory. Dwyane Wade had 15 points to lead the Bulls, who began the day with a team meeting and ended it with a second straight frustrating loss. Wade and Jimmy Butler started the controversy when they questioned the desire of the team's younger players following a loss to Atlanta on Wednesday. Rajon Rondo fired back a day later, criticizing Wade and Butler in an Instagram post. All three players were fined, and Wade and Butler were held out of the starting lineup as punishment. Butler was the first off bench and received a loud ovation from the United Center crowd when he checked in with 6:53 remaining in the first quarter. Wade also received a loud ovation when he entered 28 seconds later. Rondo, though, was greeted by some boos when he checked in with 5:05 to go in the first.

CAVALIERS 124, NETS 116

LeBron James scored 31 points, Kyrie Irving added 28 and Cleveland ended a turbulent week with a victory over Brooklyn. The NBA champions had lost three straight and six of eight while James questioned whether the organization was fully committed to winning a second title. The Cavaliers took advantage of a timely visit from the NBA's worst team. Irving scored 20 points, and James added 10 in the third quarter when Cleveland built an 86-62 lead. Kevin Love, named to the All-Star team Thursday, had 13 points and 14 rebounds. Sean Kilpatrick led Brooklyn with 18 points, and Bojan Bogdanovic had 17. The Nets have lost four straight and 15 of their last 16.

PELICANS 119, SPURS 103

Jrue Holiday scored 23 points, Anthony Davis had 16 points and tied a career high with 22 rebounds, and New Orleans snapped San Antonio's five-game winning streak. The Spurs had been winning lately despite having starters Kawhi Leonard and Tony Parker sidelined with nagging injuries.

San Antonio fell with both back on the floor. Leonard, returning from sore left hand, scored 23, but showed some rustiness from the field, missing 10 of 16 shots. Parker hit only two of seven shots and one missed was a momentum stalling air ball 3 inside the final five minutes. Terrence Jones scored 21 points, and Solomon Hill added 16 points for New Orleans.

CELTICS 128, MAGIC 98

Isaiah Thomas had 21 points and eight assists in just three quarters, extending his streak at least 20 points to 30 games and helping Boston beat Orlando. Rookie Jaylen Brown added a career-high 20 points, Jae Crowder had 19 and Kelly Olynyk made all seven shots he attempted, finishing with 16 points. Nikola Vucevic and Damjan Rudez each had 14 points for the Magic.

KNICKS 110, HORNETS 107

Carmelo Anthony shook off some boos and a rough shooting night to score 18 points, Courtney Lee added 16 against his former team and New York beat Charlotte. Anthony finished 8 for 26 from the field and had just one basket in the fourth, but it was a big one, a jumper with 13 seconds left and the Knicks clinging to a two-point lead. Kemba Walker had 31 points and 10 rebounds for Charlotte.

PACERS 115, KINGS 111, OT

Paul George scored 12 of Indiana's last 16 points and finished with 33 and the Pacers overcame a 16-point third-quarter deficit to beat Sacramento. Jeff

Teague had 17 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for Indiana. The Pacers won their second straight and swept the season series with the Kings for the first time since 2013-14. DeMarcus Cousins had 26 points and 16 rebounds, and Darren Collison also had 26 points for Sacramento. The Kings have lost six of eight.

TRAIL BLAZERS 112, GRIZZLIES 109

Damian Lillard scored 33 points, including 13 straight for Portland late in the fourth quarter, and the Trail Blazers held off Memphis. Allen Crabbe had 23 points to help the Blazers win three straight for the first time since early December. Marc Gasol, coming off a career-high 42 points Wednesday night in a victory over Toronto, scored 32 points for the Grizzlies. Zach Randolph added 17 points and 13 rebounds.

RAPTORS 102, BUCKS 86

Kyle Lowry had 32 points, Norman Powell added 19 and Toronto beat Milwaukee to snap its longest losing streak of the season at five games. Still without injured star DeMar DeRozan, Toronto rolled to its seventh straight victory against the Bucks and 13th in the last 14 meetings. Jabari Parker had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Bucks.

WIZARDS 112, HAWKS 86

Otto Porter Jr. had 21 points and 11 rebounds, John Wall scored 19 points and Washington beat Atlanta. Washington has won three straight and 10 of 12, improving to 20-8 since Dec 5. Kent Bazemore scored 15 for the Hawks. — AP

NBA results/standings

Portland 112, Memphis 109; Houston 123, Philadelphia 118; Washington 112, Atlanta 86; Miami 100, Chicago 88; New Orleans 119, San Antonio 103; Toronto 102, Milwaukee 86; NY Knicks 110, Charlotte 107; Boston 128, Orlando 98; Cleveland 124, Brooklyn 116; Indiana 115, Sacramento 111 (OT).

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	29	18	.617	-
Boston	28	18	.609	0.5
NY Knicks	21	27	.438	8.5
Philadelphia	17	28	.378	11
Brooklyn	9	37	.196	19.5

Central Division

Cleveland	31	14	.689	-
Indiana	24	22	.522	7.5
Chicago	23	25	.479	9.5
Milwaukee	21	25	.457	10.5
Detroit	21	25	.457	10.5

Southeast Division

Atlanta	27	20	.574	-
Washington	26	20	.565	0.5
Charlotte	23	24	.489	4
Orlando	18	30	.375	9.5
Miami	17	30	.362	10

Western Conference

Northwest Division

Utah	30	18	.625	-
Oklahoma City	28	19	.596	1.5
Denver	20	25	.444	8.5
Portland	21	27	.438	9
Minnesota	17	29	.370	12

Pacific Division

Golden State	39	7	.848	-
LA Clippers	30	17	.638	9.5
Sacramento	18	28	.391	21
Phoenix	15	31	.326	24
LA Lakers	16	34	.320	25

Southwest Division

San Antonio	36	10	.783	-
Houston	35	15	.700	3
Memphis	27	21	.563	10
New Orleans	19	28	.404	17.5
Dallas	16	30	.348	20

BLACK CAPS OUT FOR REVENGE AGAINST AUSTRALIA

AUCKLAND: New Zealand will seek revenge against an understrength Australia in the one-day series beginning in Auckland tomorrow after a humiliating whitewash in the return fixture last year. Australia dominated the Black Caps 3-0 to hoist the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy in December and coach Mike Hesson said his team were keen to make amends on home soil.

"We only played them a short time ago and we weren't at our best. We probably

didn't have the resources that we've got available now," he said. "It's a huge series for us, an exciting series for us and playing in front of some big home crowds is going to be really important for us." Australia's top priority at the moment is the upcoming tour of India, where they have not won a Test since 2004, and they have rested vice-captain Dave Warner and batsman Usman Khawaja for the New Zealand series. Captain Steve Smith is also out with

an ankle injury, forcing wicketkeeper Matthew Wade to don the skipper's armband and leading to youngster Sam Heazlett's call-up.

The Black Caps will not miss Warner in particular, who was their chief tormenter in the December series, amassing 299 runs at 99.66 from the three matches.

Australia, the world's top ranked ODI team, have added Aaron Finch and Shaun Marsh to the batting to face New Zealand,

who are ranked fourth. The Australians are coming off a 4-1 series win over Pakistan and, while they appear a weakened side on paper, Hesson said they could not be underestimated.

"They've still got plenty of good players," he said. But Hesson said the hosts were buoyed by their own recent success against Bangladesh in all three forms of the game, particularly since their pace attack finally showed signs it was firing in

the final Test. The Black Caps also have a stronger batting line-up than the last time they played Australia thanks to the introduction of Ross Taylor and Neil Broom. The classy Taylor missed the last series due to eye surgery while Broom has impressed since being recalled against Bangladesh after six years in the wilderness.

The second ODI will be in Napier on Thursday, with the third in Hamilton Sunday. — AFP

WEIR SLAMS AUSSIE COACH WHO CALLED HIM A 'DISGRACE'

LONDON: Six-time Paralympic champion David Weir has revealed he called time on his Great Britain career after being labelled a "disgrace to the country" by British Athletics' wheelchair racing coach Jenni Banks. Weir reiterated Friday he will not represent Great Britain again and so won't end his career at the 2017 IPC World Championships in London as he spoke about his row with Australian coach Banks for the first time.

The flare-up took place during last year's Paralympic Games after the British team bowed out in the heats of the 4x400 metres T53/54 relay heats in Rio.

"Obviously the relay didn't go to plan. I wanted us to win a medal, I wanted us to get to the final, I thought we were good enough to win a medal," he said. "At the last minute I changed my gloves, I felt I was getting more grip and power, but it didn't work. I just didn't get any power, I couldn't pick my speed up."

Weir added: "I literally came off the track and she came running over and accused me of sabotaging the team and doing it on purpose. She said I was a disgrace to the country and told me if I didn't want to do the relay I should have said so."

"There were a few words thrown back and forwards. A lot of the other international teams saw what went on and were absolutely disgusted with the way she spoke to me."

'MOUTHING OFF'

Weir said he spoke to Britain's Paralympic head coach Paula Dunn immediately after the incident. "Paula said 'are you OK? Don't worry about the relay, just

focus on the marathon now,'" Weir explained. "She didn't realise what had just happened. I had to tell her and then Jenni Banks came running over and started mouthing off again."

"I asked her to go away again because it was a private conversation, so there were a few heated words backwards and forwards, and that was it. I didn't talk to her again. It's not just me she's done it to. It's other athletes who have complained about her in the past," said Weir at a promotional event for April's London Marathon British Athletics said Banks was unavailable for comment but released a statement acknowledging there had indeed been a row. "We can confirm there was a frank exchange of views between an athlete and the relay coach following the race when the GB men's wheelchair team failed to qualify for the final," the statement read.

"We can also confirm that we have met with David Weir to receive first hand feedback on his experiences in Rio, and that we are working to ensure we learn from these experiences ahead of future team events." As for reports, denied by British Athletics, that Banks had thrown his racing wheelchair across a room, Weir said: "I laughed when I heard about it. I thought it was hilarious. I didn't know she had thrown my chair until the day I was flying home," he said.

"We still don't know if she did it or not. But other athletes saw it—international athletes saw it as well." Weir plans to race in the London Marathon for a 17th successive year in April and win the race for the seventh time. — AFP



PORT ELIZABETH: South Africa's opening batsman Hashim Amla (l) is watched by Sri Lanka's wicketkeeper Dinesh Chandimal (r) as he plays a shot during their One Day International (ODI) cricket match against Sri Lanka at St George's Park yesterday, in Port Elizabeth. — AFP

PARNELL, TAHIR SHINE IN SOUTH AFRICA ODI WIN

PORT ELIZABETH: Wayne Parnell and Imran Tahir took three wickets each to set up a comfortable eight-wicket win for South Africa in the first one-day international at St George's Park yesterday. Sri Lanka struggled to 181 all out, with Kusal Mendis the only batsman to shine for the tourists, making 62. Left-arm seamer Parnell took three for 48 while leg-spinner Tahir showed superb control in a strong westerly wind, taking three for 26. "Today was a little more special for me," said man of the match Tahir. "It is my wedding anniversary and this is absolutely for my wife. She asked me to take five wickets and win man of the match. I didn't take five wickets but I am very happy with my performance."

Hashim Amla made 57 and Faf du Plessis 55 not out as South Africa cruised to victory with 15.4 overs to spare.

Parnell plunged Sri Lanka into early trouble by taking wickets with the first balls of the second and fourth overs after South African captain AB de Villiers won the toss and decided to bowl.

Although Dinesh Chandimal and Mendis put on 72 for the third wicket, Tahir ripped the heart out of the middle order, taking three wickets in four overs. "It was a great bowling performance which put them on the back foot," said De Villiers. "The new ball bowlers bowled with a lot of intensity up front, which is exactly what we want from them, and Immy (Tahir) was a great impact bowler in the middle overs again."

De Villiers praised Amla and Quinton de Kock (34), who put on 71 for South Africa's first wicket.

"Although Sri Lanka's total was well below par, it was still a tricky target on a pitch which was slow, two-paced and kept really low."

"It was more like Sri Lankan conditions and their spinners could have caused some problems. But Quinton and Hash got us off to a great

SCOREBOARD			
PORT ELIZABETH: Scoreboard yesterday in the first one-day international between South Africa and Sri Lanka at St. George's Park.			
Sri Lanka		South Africa	
Niroshan Dickwella lbw b Parnell	1	Quinton de Kock c Weerakkody b Sandakan	34
Sandun Weerakkody c Amla b Parnell	5	Hashim Amla c and b Gunaratne	57
Kusal Mendis lbw b Tahir	62	Faf du Plessis not out	55
Dinesh Chandimal b Tahir	22	AB de Villiers not out	30
Upul Tharanga c Duminy b Tahir	6	Extras: (2lb, 2w, 5 pen)	9
Dhananjaya de Silva c du Plessis b Parnell	28	TOTAL: (for 2 wickets)	185
Asela Gunaratne run out	10	Overs: 34.2	
Nuwan Kulasekara c de Kock b Rabada	17	Fall of wickets: 1-71, 2-131	
Jeffrey Vandersay lbw b Morris	8	Did not bat: JP Duminy, David Miller, Chris Morris, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Kagiso Rabada, Imran Tahir.	
Suranga Lakmal b Morris	3	Bowling: Nuwan Kulasekara 5-0-20-0, Suranga Lakmal 6-1-29-0, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-9-0, Jeffrey Vandersay 7-0-51-0, Lakshan Sandakan 8-0-35-1, Asela Gunaratne 5-0-19-1, Kusal Mendis 1.2-0-15-0.	
Lakshan Sandakan not out	2	Result: South Africa won by 8 wickets.	
Extras: (5lb, 12w)	17	Series: South Africa leads five-match series 1-0.	
TOTAL: (all out)	181		
Overs: 48.3			
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-14, 3-86, 4-99, 5-102, 6-126, 7-155, 8-170, 9-170, 10-181.			

start, which made it easy for Faf and me," said De Villiers, who made 30 not out.

Sri Lankan captain Upul Tharanga was disappointed. "Although Dinesh and Mendis had a partnership, we never picked up from losing early wickets," he said. "It was a slow pitch but our spinners did not control the ball much. We need to improve in batting and bowling."

Niroshan Dickwella, man of the series in Sri Lanka's Twenty20 triumph, made only one

before he went back on his stumps and was leg before wicket to Parnell. New cap Sandun Weerakkody slashed at the first ball of Parnell's next over and was caught at first slip for five.

Mendis, who had made only 87 runs in seven innings since hitting 58 in the second innings of the first Test at the same venue last month, hit ten boundaries in his 94-ball innings. His first seven scoring strokes were fours, mainly struck fluently on the off side. — AFP



David Weir

'OLD SCHOOL' CUPER LOOKING TO RESTORE EGYPT TO FORMER GLORIES

PORT-GENTIL: Today's Africa Cup of Nations quarter-final between Egypt and Morocco is set to be a classic battle of managerial minds, bringing together a two-time winner of the trophy in Herve Renard and wily Hector Cuper.

While Frenchman Renard has become a fixture on the African scene, and a successful one at that, the 61-year-old Argentine Cuper is sampling a major international tournament for the first time. Appointed in 2015, Cuper was charged with the daunting task of making the record seven-time African champions a force again. A first appearance at the World Cup since 1990 is, he has admitted, the "big objective."

But returning to the Cup of Nations for the first time since they won a third consecutive trophy in 2010 came first. Cuper did that and he has steered them through to the knockout phase by making the Pharaohs the kind of side that nobody likes playing against.

Egypt did not concede a goal in the group stage in Gabon, following a 0-0 draw with Mali by winning 1-0 against Uganda and Ghana, both times thanks to flashes of inspiration from star man Mohamed Salah.

"Now modern football is always like attacking football, full-backs always high, but he is a bit different, a bit old-school," Egypt's Ahmed Elmohamady, of Premier League Hull City, told AFP.

Hazem el Hawary is an Egyptian FA board member and the head of the Pharaohs' delegation in Gabon, just as he was when they won the 1998 Cup of Nations in Burkina Faso.

He has seen some great Egyptian sides over the last two decades and admits this one is nothing like as talented, but claims the coach can give them the edge.

"Everybody can watch what he is doing. He teaches the players organisa-

tion, he has a system that does not change and the players are getting used to it," El Hawary told AFP.

"That is why we keep improving. Everybody says now Egypt plays with a system. They are not playing haphazard. Our results in the last one year and a half are super."

FINALLY A WINNER?

Cuper has overseen 14 wins and just three defeats in 20 games in charge, while Egypt have let in a miserly seven goals in that time.

They no longer play attractive, flowing football, but supporters just want to see their team win again after several years in which social and political strife has had a negative impact on the game.

El Hawary adds: "We like the Brazilian style. People like to see talented football with lots of goals but with Hector Cuper it is different. He plays practical football which makes you win, so people are happy with him."

Ironically Cuper, a former central defender, has not been seen as a winner in his coaching career.

He was the man who lost a Copa del Rey final and a Cup Winners' Cup final with Mallorca and two UEFA Champions League finals with Valencia. He also came second in Serie A with Inter Milan in 2002. More recently he has managed Georgia and modest clubs in Greece, Turkey, Spain and the United Arab Emirates. But this globetrotter now appears settled in Egypt. In front of the media, Cuper speaks Spanish and his assistant Mahmoud Fayed translates for him, but Elmohamady insists he has no problems getting his message across to the team. "He speaks some Arabic so it's ok. He is like an Egyptian man now. He has been for two years in Egypt and he can speak to the players in different situations like if you have problems outside football." — AFP

BOLT TURNS IN MEDAL, SAYS 'RULES ARE RULES'

KINGSTON: Jamaican sprint superstar Usain Bolt insisted that the loss of one of his nine Olympic gold medals because of the doping sanction of relay teammate Nesta Carter won't tarnish his legacy.

"I am disappointed based on losing a medal, but it won't take away from what I have done throughout my career, because I have won my individual events and that's the key thing," Bolt said while attending the opening of a high school gym in Santa Cruz, Jamaica.

Bolt said he had already handed back the 4x100m relay gold from the 2008 Beijing Games, which the International Olympic Committee officially withdrew from Jamaica this week because of Carter's positive drug test. "I am not fully happy about the situation but rules are rules," Bolt said, noting that Carter and Jamaica's athletics

authorities are planning to appeal the sanction.

"We have to sit and see how that works out," he said. Bolt, Carter, Asafa Powell and Michael Frater were on the Jamaican relay squad that was disqualified after Carter tested positive for the banned substance methylhexanamine in a re-test of Beijing samples. All of them surrendered their medals on Friday. The loss of the relay gold deprives Bolt of one of his "triple triples"—he won gold in the 100m, 200m and the 4x100m at Beijing and repeated the unprecedented feat in London in 2012 and again in Rio last year. While conceding that the term "triple-triple" had "a nice ring to it" Bolt said he was looking forward.

"What can you do?" he said. "I've done all I wanted in the sport, I have really impacted the sport, I've really accomplished a lot so for me, I

can't complain," he added. He emphasized that his priority was to avoid distractions in order to train properly in the coming months. "This is my last season and I want to go out on a winning note," said Bolt, who is heading for engagements in Australia next week said his immediate plans center on "just training" for competition.

Bolt, who is reportedly willing to contribute to funding of Carter's appeal, said he had not yet spoken to Carter since news of the lost gold medal, but stressed that there was "no bad blood" between them. "I know it must be very hard, must be rough on him, I know how social media can be and I know how Jamaica is. So hopefully there is some love (being shown towards Carter). "It's rough, things happen in life for reasons no one knows," he said. "I hope he doesn't take it to heart." — AFP

ATLETICO MADRID OUTPLAYED IN STALEMATE AT ALAVES

MADRID: Atletico Madrid had goalkeeper Miguel Angel Moya to thank for preventing Theo Hernandez inflicting defeat on his parent club as the Champions League finalists clung on for a 0-0 draw at Alaves yesterday.

Victor Languardía hit the bar in the first-half as Alaves dominated throughout. However, it was Hernandez, on loan from Atletico, who had the hosts' best chance to seal all three points when his low drive was turned behind Moya two minutes from time.

A point moves Atletico a point ahead of Real Sociedad in fourth, but Diego Simeone's men lose further ground on the top three with Real Madrid, Sevilla and Barcelona all in action today.

And a poor day for Atletico was rounded off by muscle injuries suffered by Jose Maria Gimenez and Angel Correa which make them serious doubts for Wednesday's Copa del Rey semi-final, first leg at home to Barcelona. In a sign of what was to come,

Alaves started brightly and Moya was called into action as early as the seventh minute when he saved smartly from Ibai Gomez.

Languardía was then unfortunate as his towering header came back off the underside of the bar and from the rebound Deyverson and Manu Garcia got in each other's way as they combined to send the rebound over. Gimenez left the field in tears early in the second period after tearing a thigh muscle. However, Atletico did have

one great chance to steal the win when Nico Gaitan was left one-on-one with Fernando Pacheco, but was dispossessed as he tried to round the 'keeper 15 minutes from time.

With Correa also hobbling and Simeone having made all three of his substitutions, Atletico were practically left with 10 men for the final stages. And Alaves nearly took advantage thanks to an Atletico player as Hernandez bombed forward from left-back but chose to shoot with Deyverson waiting for

a cut-back and Moya stood tall to deflect the ball wide. Earlier, sixth-placed Villarreal moved to within two points of Atletico thanks to a 2-0 win over rock bottom Granada to register their first victory of 2017. Both goals came from set-pieces as Alvaro Gonzalez's knockdown was turned home by captain Bruno Soriano just before half-time. And Gonzalez then got his first goal for the club by stabbing home whilst prone on the ground 17 minutes from time. — AFP

DOUBLE-CHASING CHELSEA DOWN BRENTFORD IN FA CUP

LONDON: Premier League leaders Chelsea remained on course for a domestic double as they eased into the last 16 of the FA Cup with a comfortable 4-0 win at home to second-tier Brentford at Stamford Bridge yesterday.

The Blues, eight points clear at the summit of English football, were rarely tested by their fellow west London side, who advanced with goals from Willian, Pedro, Branislav Ivanovic and Michy Batshuayi.

Hazard and Diego Costa among those rested, Chelsea still boasted a strong-enough team to see off a mid-table Championship side with ease. The clubs last met in 2013, with Chelsea needing a replay at the same stage of the competition to see off Brentford.

A repeat never looked likely yesterday. Chelsea had scored in their last 40 FA Cup ties, stretching back to 2000, and continued that trend through Willian's 14th-minute free-kick. Lasse Vibe was adjusted to have upended Pedro and Brazilian winger Willian stepped up to curl home past Brentford goalkeeper Dan Bentley. Brentford last defeated Chelsea in 1939 and things soon got worse for the visitors. Batshuayi, making a rare start, was given too much space to find Pedro, who took one touch before firing underneath Bentley in the 21st minute.

BENTLEY SAVES

Brentford could not cope with Chelsea's pace and movement and Batshuayi should have extended the home side's lead on the half hour. The Belgium striker, who has struggled to make an impact since joining for £33 million (\$41 million, 39 million euros) in pre-season, collected John Terry's knockdown and had two attempts only for Bentley to scramble the ball away just inches from his own goal-line.

Bentley, not for the first time, came to Brentford's rescue by pushing Ruben Loftus-Cheek's low shot wide as the visitors struggled to contain the dominant hosts.

Vibe then found himself crowded out after beating Terry to the bouncing ball.

It was a rare scare for the home side and normal service was almost resumed after Willian danced his way past two defenders before shooting just over the top in the 52nd minute. Another strong run from Willian saw him feed Loftus-Cheek only for the midfielder's chip to bounce back off the crossbar.

The game was opening up with Brentford finally finding their feet and Nico Yennaris was denied by goalkeeper Asmir Begovic. But it was Ivanovic, just five minutes after his arrival off the bench, who killed off the contest for good. After being played in by Pedro, the right-wing back drove low and true past Bentley in the 69th minute. Ivanovic was involved again when Yoann Barbet tripped the defender for a clear 81st minute penalty dispatched by Batshuayi. — AFP



LONDON: Crystal Palace's Chung-Yong Lee, center top, reacts to a challenge from Manchester City's Fabian Delph during the Emirates FA Cup, fourth round soccer match at Selhurst Park, London, yesterday. — AP



LONDON: Chelsea's John Terry, top, challenges for the ball with Brentford's Scott Hogan during the English FA Cup soccer match between Chelsea and Brentford at Stamford Bridge stadium in London, yesterday. — AP

If this was a final Chelsea appearance for Ivanovic, who has been linked with a transfer window move, the Serbia defender gave the Stamford Bridge faithful something to remember him by after coming on as a substitute for the final half hour of this match.

Chelsea manager Antonio Conte, ahead of Tuesday's league match away to Liverpool, made changes to his side. Yet even with Eden

JESUS LIGHTS CITY'S PATH TO FA CUP WIN

LONDON: Raheem Sterling, Leroy Sane and Yaya Toure scored as Manchester City secured their place in the FA Cup fifth round with a 3-0 win at Crystal Palace yesterday.

Gabriel Jesus, City's £27 million (\$33.9 million, 31.7 million euros) signing from Palmeiras, marked his full debut by setting up Sterling for City's opener shortly before half-time at Selhurst Park. Sane and Toure struck late on to rubber-stamp a win that got Pep Guardiola's side back to winning ways after their 4-0 thrashing at Everton and last weekend's 2-2 draw with Tottenham Hotspur. Defeat ended Palace's hopes of emulating last season's run to the final and leaves them with only their fight to avoid Premier League relegation to focus on.

Sam Allardyce has won just one of his first eight games since succeeding Alan Pardew as Palace manager, but having made six changes, he clearly had half an eye on Tuesday's trip to Bournemouth. Guardiola made five changes, which included a first appearance for captain Vincent Kompany since City's 2-1 win at the same ground on November 19, when the Belgian centre-back suffered a knee injury.

The visitors began brightly, Sterling narrowly failing to pick out Sane with a cross from the right and Toure teeing up David Silva for a volley that Wayne Hennessey blocked at his near post.

Palace, though, began to find joy on City's flanks and for a period during the first half they had Guardiola's men on the back foot. Willy Caballero, deputising in goal for Claudio Bravo, had to field a Jordan Mutch header and produce a smart save to repel a James Tomkins snapshot after City failed to clear Lee Chung-Yong's free-kick. Toure was perhaps fortunate to avoid a red card when, two minutes after being booked for a foul on Joe Ledley, he tripped Mutch as he forged down the Palace right.

JESUS COMES TO LIFE

Referee Mike Jones spared the Ivorian and from Andros Townsend's free-kick, via Mutch's flick-on, Christian Benteke headed over. Jesus had been quiet, but two minutes from half-time he came to life, neatly controlling the ball with his back to goal, turning sharply and freeing Sterling to slot a low shot past Hennessey.

The Brazilian almost made it 2-0 on the stroke

of the interval with a right-foot shot that was parried by Hennessey, the ball rebounding against a Palace defender and looping over the bar. Loic Remy, a half-time substitute, came close to an equaliser when Mutch's blocked shot bounced into his path and he sent an acrobatic effort whistling over the bar.

A Fabian Delph effort turned behind by Hennessey was followed by an almighty rain and hail shower that left the pitch sprinkled with white specks and briefly threatened to put City off their game. After failing to control Caballero's pass, Gael Clichy was robbed by Lee, who fed Ledley, and the Welshman drilled a shot narrowly wide. Ledley would also go close with a diving header from Townsend's cross, but by that stage Sane had put the game beyond Allardyce's side. Silva's pass down the inside-left channel was allowed to find its way to Sane and he shot across Hennessey for his third goal in three games.

Jesus squandered a chance to add a third late on, succumbing to an untimely attack of cramp after skirting Hennessey, but Toure did find the net with a fine stoppage-time free-kick. — AFP

LEIPZIG FIGHT BACK TO KEEP PACE WITH BAYERN

BERLIN: Second-placed RB Leipzig ended 10-man Hoffenheim's unbeaten run this season with a 2-1 comeback win in yesterday's key Bundesliga clash to stay just three points behind leaders Bayern Munich. Hoffenheim were the last undefeated team left in Europe's top leagues but Marcel Sabitzer's 77th-minute winner dealt the visitors their first loss of the season after striker Sandro Wagner's dismissal. With Germany coach Joachim Loew watching, Hoffenheim took the lead at Leipzig's Red Bull Arena when midfielder Sebastian Rudy, who will join Bayern next season, started a copybook counter-attack from his own box.

Hoffenheim moved the ball quickly until ex-Leicester striker Andrej Kramaric squared in the Leipzig box to present midfielder Nadiem Amiri with a tap-in on 18 minutes. Leipzig kept their composure and Guinea playmaker Naby Keita forced his way into the Hoffenheim area to lay the ball off as Timo Werner netted his 11th goal this season.

Hoffenheim were reduced to 10 men for the last 30 minutes when Wagner was shown a red card for a clumsy tackle on Leipzig's Stefan Ilsanker.

Leipzig grabbed the winner when Keita stepped on the gas and passed to Austria international Sabitzer who fired home from 22 metres out.

Carlo Ancelotti's Bayern stayed top with a 2-1 win at battling Werder Bremen, who put up a fierce second-half fight. Bayern took the lead when Franck Ribery's pass found Arjen Robben and the Dutch winger curled his shot inside the post from outside the area on 31 minutes. The lead was doubled when David Alaba hit a sweet free-kick which curled inside the post right on the stroke of half-time. But Bremen, who had last scored against Bayern in April 2014, dug deep and put up a spirited display at their Weser Stadion. Germany striker Max Kruse pulled a goal back on 53 minutes and ex-

Arsenal winger Serge Gnabry caused lots of problems down the right flank, but Bayern ultimately held on. Cologne battered bottom side Darmstadt 6-1 at home as Japan striker Yuya Osako scored twice in the rout. Ex-Germany midfielder Torsten Frings, Darmstadt's new coach, cut a frustrated fig-

ure as Cologne raced into a 3-0 half-time lead through an own goal by Aytac Sulu, Osako and Anthony Modeste. Darmstadt's Sidney Sam netted a second-half penalty before Osako, ex-Dortmund midfielder Milos Jojic and Latvia striker Artjoms Rudnevs netted for Cologne. — AFP



BURKINA FASO'S NIGUIMBE PREJUICE NAKOULMA, right, scores a goal against Tunisia during their African Cup of Nations Quarter Finals soccer match between Tunisia and Burkina Faso at the Stade de l'Amitie Libreville, Gabon, yesterday. — AP

BURKINA FASO INTO AFRICAN CUP SEMIS

LIBREVILLE: Burkina Faso is first into the semifinals at the African Cup of Nations after Aristide Bance came off the bench to score late and Prejuice Nakoulma added a second on a breakaway to beat Tunisia 2-0 yesterday.

Bance, with his dyed blond hair, hit a low shot into the bottom corner from a free kick in the 81st minute to break a deadlock at Stade de l'Amitie.

Nakoulma sprinted away on a counterattack four minutes after that, avoided a tackle from Tunisia goalkeeper Aymen Mathlouthi way out near the middle of the field, and side-footed into an empty net. Burkina Faso, which lost in the final two tournaments ago, will play the winner of today's Egypt-Morocco quarterfinal. Senegal plays Cameroon in yesterday's second quarterfinal. — AP

Live		Matches on TV (Local Timings)	
AFRICAN NATIONS CUP 2017			
Congo v Ghana	19:00	Sassuolo v Juventus	17:00
beIN SPORTS MAX 1 HD AR		beIN SPORTS	
Egypt v Morocco	22:00	Crotone v Empoli	17:00
beIN SPORTS MAX 2 HD AR		beIN SPORTS	
beIN SPORTS MAX 1 HD AR		Cagliari v Bologna	17:00
		beIN SPORTS	
		Fiorentina v Genoa	17:00
		beIN SPORTS	
SPANISH LEAGUE PRIMERA DIV.			
Real Betis v Barcelona	14:00	Napoli v Palermo	22:45
beIN SPORTS 3 HD		beIN SPORTS	
Espanyol v Sevilla	18:15		
beIN SPORTS			
Bilbao v Gijon	20:30	GERMAN BUNDESLIGA 1ST DIV.	
beIN SPORTS		Freiburg v Hertha Berlin	17:30
Real Madrid v Real Sociedad	22:45	beIN SPORTS	
beIN SPORTS 3 HD		Mainz v Borussia Dortmund	19:30
		beIN SPORTS	
ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE SERIE A			
Torino v Atalanta	14:30	FRENCH LEAGUE 1ST DIV.	
beIN SPORTS		Nice v Guingamp	17:00
beIN SPORTS		beIN SPORTS	
Udinese v Milan	17:00	Toulouse v Saint Etienne	19:00
beIN SPORTS		beIN SPORTS	
Sampdoria v Roma	17:00	Paris Saint v Monaco	23:00
beIN SPORTS		beIN SPORTS	

Sports

Many Clouds
dies after
Thistlecrack upsetDouble-chasing
Chelsea down
Brentford in FA Cup

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

PARNELL, TAHIR SHINE IN SOUTH AFRICA ODI WIN

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MELBOURNE: United States' Serena Williams (right) and her sister Venus pose for a photo after Serena won the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships yesterday. — AP

SERENA SINKS VENUS TO WIN MAGIC 23RD SLAM

MELBOURNE: Serena Williams reigned supreme in tennis's great sibling rivalry, edging an emotion-charged clash with sister Venus to claim her seventh Australian Open yesterday and a record 23rd grand slam title in the professional era.

Beset by nerves early in the tense family affair, the American needed all her firepower and famed mental strength to fend off Venus, who scrapped hard to the end before going down 6-4 6-4 at Rod Laver Arena.

Fourteen years after beating Venus for her maiden title at Melbourne Park, Serena's seventh crown was sealed with a heady charge to the net that forced a desperate backhand from Venus to float wide.

Eyes ablaze in joyous disbelief, Serena slumped to the court and threw her hands in the air, the world number one ranking also re-captured from Angelique Kerber. She paid tribute to Venus, her long-time doubles partner and enduring inspiration.

"She's an amazing person, there's no way I would be

at 23 without her," said Serena, cradling the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup.

"There's no way I would have anything without her. My first grand slam started here, and getting to 23 here, but playing Venus, it's stuff that legends are made of. I couldn't have written a better story." The win moved Serena past Steffi Graf on the list of all-time grand slam champions. Only Margaret Court, who watched the match from the terraces, is ahead of her on 24.

Serena arrived in Melbourne with only two matches under her belt, having cut short her season to recover from injury after the US Open.

But she roared through the tournament without losing a set and, at the age of 35, the relentless pursuit of grand slam silverware will go on, and with sister in tow.

"We're both, like I say, 30-fun," said Serena of their longevity. "Now I just feel like I'm satisfied with where I am, although I always want to win." Venus, 36, had already proved an inspiration by reaching her first final

since her loss to Serena at Wimbledon in 2009. It made her the oldest woman to do so at Melbourne Park since tennis went professional in 1968.

BATTLING HARD

She lost her seventh of nine grand slam title deciders to her younger sister but won over the Rod Laver Arena crowd by battling hard to the finish.

"Congratulations Serena on number 23, I've been right there with you, some of them I've lost right there with you," said the seven-times grand slam champion, raising a laugh from the crowd.

"Your win has always been my win, you know that."

The sisters' combined ages added up to the 'oldest' grand slam final in the professional era but they ran like the teenagers they were in 1998, when they played each other for the first time in a tour match at the same tournament. Nerves weighed heavier, however, and in a tense start, both dropped serve twice in the opening

four games. Serena was the worst afflicted, and she smashed her racket in a rage in the third game, having slipped behind the baseline when chasing down a ball.

The game's greatest server double-faulted three times to be broken a second time, causing a gasp from the crowd.

But she soon settled to forge a 5-3 lead before sealing the set with a thumping pair of aces. Venus was quickly under siege, with Serena feasting readily on her modest second serve. Serena pounced in the seventh game, breaking her in the seventh game with a searing backhand return and she served out to love to come within a game of the title.

Venus pushed hard to break back at 5-4 but flung her racket away in despair after hammering a forehand into the net to give up match point.

It was all Serena needed and after a furious exchange of shots, she charged in to the net swinging to claim yet another major title. —Reuters

LIVERPOOL OUT OF FA CUP AS SPURS SURVIVE WYCOMBE SCARE

LONDON: Liverpool were knocked out of the FA Cup by Championship club Wolves as Tottenham Hotspur survived a potential giant-killing of their own by twice coming from behind in a 4-3 win over fourth-tier Wycombe Wanderers at White Hart Lane.

Seven-times FA Cup winners Liverpool lost 2-1 at home to second-tier Wolves as the Merseysiders' season went from bad to worse.

Defeat meant Liverpool, 10 points behind Premier League leaders Chelsea—their next opponents at Anfield on Tuesday—had been knocked out of two cup competitions in four days following their 2-0 aggregate loss to Southampton in Wednesday's League Cup semi-final return. Wolves needed less than a minute to go ahead, Richard Stearman opening the scoring for the Midlands side when he headed in a free-kick.

And four minutes before half-time, they doubled their lead when Andreas Weimann finished an excellent counter-attack. But, having rarely threatened, a much-changed Liverpool pulled a goal back when Divock Origi scored from close range with four minutes left following a corner. That, however, was good as it got for Liverpool, who have now won just one of their last eight matches in all competition.

"We were very bad," Klopp told BT Sport. "We started badly and it didn't really get better...There are not a lot of good things to say about this game."

For Wolves, victory gave them a second Premier League scalp in this season's FA Cup after they knocked Stoke City out in the third round and manager Paul Lambert said: "We'll enjoy the ride. We might get dismantled in the next game but the last two (FA Cup) games have been unbelievable."

Wycombe threatened an even bigger upset as they

surged into a 2-0 lead away to eight-times FA Cup winners Spurs thanks to two first-half goals from captain Paul Hayes only for Son Heung-Min, who scored twice, to grab the winning goal seven minutes into stoppage-time. Hayes fired Wycombe into a 23rd-minute lead against a Spurs side showing nine changes with a fine volley. And in the 36th minute, Hayes made it 2-0 from the penalty spot after Spurs' Cameron Carter-Vickers brought down Sam Wood.

But Son pulled a goal back for the north London side on the hour. And four minutes later Spurs were level when Vincent Janssen scored from the penalty spot after being brought down in the box.

Yet there was still time for Wycombe to regain the lead courtesy of Gary Thompson's 83rd-minute header.

But with two minutes of normal time left, England midfielder Alli made it 3-3 after weaving his way through the box. Wycombe were then cruelly denied even a replay when South Korea forward Son scored with a deflected shot seconds before the final whistle.

Elsewhere, Chelsea kept their double hopes alive with a comfortable 4-0 fourth-round win at home to fellow west London club Brentford.

Willian gave Chelsea a 14th-minute lead with when he lifted a free-kick over the wall and into the top corner. Minutes later, Antonio Conte's men were 2-0 up when Pedro scored at the far post following Michy Batshuayi's defence-splitting pass at the far post.

Branislav Ivanovic made it 3-0 before Batshuayi's penalty nine minutes from time completed the scoring.

Manchester City won an all-Premier League tie against Crystal Palace, last season's losing FA Cup finalists, 3-0 courtesy of goals from Raheem Sterling, Leroy Sane and Yaya Toure.



ANFIELD: Wolverhampton Wanderers' Nouha Dicko jumps as he vies for the ball with Liverpool's Joe Gomez during the English FA Cup, fourth round soccer match between Liverpool and Wolverhampton Wanderers, at Anfield, in Liverpool, England, yesterday. — AP

Saturday's late kick-off Cup tie sees top-flight duo Southampton and Arsenal meet at St Mary's.

In other Cup ties, Premier League Burnley beat second-tier Bristol City 2-0, non-league Lincoln stunned Championship leaders Brighton 3-1 and third-tier Oxford upset Championship club Newcastle 3-0.

Blackburn defeated local rivals Blackpool 2-0, Middlesbrough edged out Accrington 1-0 and

Huddersfield thrashed Rochdale 4-0 FA Cup holders Manchester United travel to Wigan for a fourth-round tie on Sunday when top-flight sides Watford and Hull are away to Millwall and Fulham respectively.

Non-league Sutton are away to Championship club Leeds in a round of FA Cup matches that started with Premier League Leicester's 2-2 draw away to second-tier Derby on Friday. — AFP

VIVA POSTS KD 40M NET PROFIT FOR 2016

REVENUES REACH KD 279 MILLION

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the financial results for the year ended on 31 December 2016; whereby VIVA's revenue grew to reach KD 279 million; whereas the net profit in 2016 reached KD 40 million. VIVA achieved these results due to the superior customer experience, high quality of services, innovative promotions and packages offered to its customers to meet their needs and expectations, inspired by our customers' confidence which motivates us to provide the best services with the highest possible quality.

Commenting on announcing the annual financial results, Dr Mahmoud Ahmed Abdulrahman, VIVA's Chairman, has stated, "Despite the high competition witnessed in the Kuwaiti telecom market, VIVA was able to achieve growth in revenues, good profitability levels, in addition to sustain the operational efficiency that led to generating positive return to our shareholders during 2016. The witnessed growth in VIVA's revenues was a result of the approved business strategy to be one of the most developed telecom companies in Kuwait and the region. Also, our positive and pivotal role, as a pioneering telecom company, always contributes in providing smart telecommunications solutions to satisfy our customers aspirations and needs."

He added, "VIVA has demonstrated its ability to achieve good level of profit amidst the current hard economic conditions and strong competition witnessed in the year 2016 which resulted from the decline in telecom tariffs thus pressurizing the profit margin of all telecom companies in Kuwait. VIVA has enhanced shareholders' equity base to stand at KD 133 million at the end of 2016 with a growth rate of 43% compared to 2015. The board of directors has



Dr Mahmoud Ahmed Abdulrahman recommended distributing cash dividends of 10 fils among the shareholders representing 10 percent of the nominal share value for the year ended 2016 subject to the approval of the Ordinary General Assembly of the company. On the other hand, VIVA managed to achieve net profit of KD 40 million (earnings per share of 80 fils) during the FY 2016 compared to net profit of KD 43 million (earnings per share of 86 fils) during FY 2015. These results achieved by VIVA during 2016 reflect the efficient business strategy adopted by the company to achieve outstanding results in spite of the increasing competitiveness. Also, VIVA managed to achieve positive earnings for its shareholders as a result of the commitment to elevate the quality of customer service and improving the operational efficiency."

On his part, Eng Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran, VIVA's CEO said, "Results of 2016 came in line with VIVA goals and ongoing ambitions to achieve an increase in its operational revenues and strengthen its leadership in the telecom market. It is noteworthy to mention that, VIVA has



Eng Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran won many awards during 2016 including the "Best Contact Centre Experience", "Best Recruitment Program" from Insight Middle East, and was recently named the "Leading Corporate for Investor Relations in Kuwait", thanks to the company's persistent efforts and the team work dedication in customer service in addition to owning a professional high-quality recruitment program, in addition to the highest professional standards in the process of communicating with our shareholders and the investment community. Also, VIVA has won "Business Innovation in Risk Management" award for 2016 during the annual conference for excellence in Revenue Assurance and Fraud Management (RAFAM). Al-Badran added, "We have exerted great efforts in 2016 through our integrated team work to establish a solid and strong base that insures the company's continuing successes in light of the strong competition in the Kuwaiti telecom market. VIVA has kept the revenues increasing and achieved good levels of profitability which improved the company's financial and operational efficiency."



شركة الاستثمارات الوطنية
NATIONAL INVESTMENTS COMPANY

Advertisement

For all shareholders of Kuwait Food Company (Americana) K.S.C.P

Mandatory Acquisition Offer from Adeptio AD Investments SPC Limited "Adeptio" on the shares of Kuwait Food Company (Americana) K.S.C.P.

National Investments Company (K.S.C.P) as Acquisition Manager on the shares of Kuwait Food Company (Americana) submitted by "Adeptio" is pleased to announce to esteemed Americana shareholders that CMA has approved to publish the Mandatory Acquisition Offer Document at the price of KWD 2.650 per share (Two Dinars Six Hundred and Fifty fils) and that the share collection period will start on 12 January, 2017 and end on 13 February, 2017 "Collection Period". The Offer Document was published starting 2 January 2017 on the following websites:

الموقع الإلكتروني للبورصة :
<http://www.boursakuwait.com.kw>
الموقع الإلكتروني لشركة الاستثمارات الوطنية (ش.م.ك.ع) ممثلاً عن شركة أديبتيو :
<http://www.nic.com.kw>, representing Adeptio
الموقع الإلكتروني للشركة الكويتية للأغذية (الأمريكانا) ش.م.ك.ع :
<http://www.americana-group.com>

Therefore, all shareholders wishing to partake in the Offer should head to National Investments Company headquarters in Sharq, Mutanabi Street, Khaleejia Building – 10th floor – Customer Care Unit within Wealth Management Department during official business hours from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm during the collection period to fill in required documentation. Shareholders should come in person or in case of a POA, the POA assignee in accordance to an official POA document accompanied by the original identification documents (Civil ID and Passport for non-Kuwaiti residents) in addition to the original KCC issued share certificate.

Note: In case of Foreign Companies not domiciled in Kuwait, all company documents shall be authenticated from the relevant issuer(s) and from Kuwait's Embassy or Representative Office in the country of domicile of that company. All such documents are to be further authenticated by Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For any inquiries, please contact us on 965 22266666, ext. (6772).

Respectfully,
Acquisition Manager



279

KD million

Total Revenues

Annual Financial Results

2016

The Board of Directors of the Kuwait Telecommunications Company (VIVA) is pleased to announce to its shareholders that the company has achieved a net profit of KD 40 million for the full year ended 31 December, 2016.

Operating Profit

44

KD million

Net Profit

40

KD million

EPS

80

Kuwaiti fils

Subscribers

2.4

Million subscribers

VIVA



REASONS TO CREATE MULTIPLE CVs

Bayt.com weekly report

An employer spends 20 to 30 seconds scanning a CV. If they do not find what they look for within this short timeframe, they will be ready to move on to the next applicant. Recruiters look for concise and relevant information to the vacancies they have. This is why, having one CV when applying to several jobs might not be enough.

If you really want that dream job, you better revise your application strategy. Market yourself with a catered CV that clearly shows the employer that you are relevant, qualified, and determined. Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 Job Site, gives you the option to have up to five different CVs, so here are five reasons for you to use them all when applying to jobs.

1. Multiple fields of work

There are many reasons why a person pursues different career paths such as facing a tough economic situation, searching for a dream job, or simply having a genuine interest in different industries. If the position you are applying for differs from the fields you have previously worked in, a specific CV must highlight your most relevant experience and skills.

On the plus side, many skills are transferable and work for your advantage in more than one field. Highlight them along with any experiences that relate most to your intended job.

2. A new career path

Not everyone who works in their own field is satisfied with it. Some people realize

that they want to do something new or different for the rest of their lives, and that is okay! But in order to make the transition from one path to another, or from industry to another, your CV needs to be tailored. It should focus on what you can offer in your prospective industry and work environment. Be ready to explain why you have decided to make a career transition.

3. Fresh graduates willing to explore

Fresh graduates are young and flexible enough to adapt in different places. Hence, they tend to be more willing to step out of their comfort zone and explore various fields of interest. Having more than one CV in this case caters to each potential field or position and allow for more opportunities. Each field of work has its own set of expectations from the applicant.

4. A position in another city

The location of the vacancy you are applying to will have an impact on your relevancy to the employer or recruiter. A company in a certain country might need specific skills or competencies that you are not accustomed to in your country of origin. This is why you need to consider the requirements and standards that companies are looking for in their own environment.

5. Application relevancy

When employers look for new candidates, they search for them using certain keywords that relate to the position offered. Those keywords affect your application relevancy, which accordingly ranks your suitability for the position in front of the employer. Use correct terminology and keywords that are in

line with the job requirements to make sure your application is at the top!

Bayt.com enables you to create up to 5 different CVs, which you can freely choose from to apply to over 10,000 jobs in various fields and locations. Employers are also able to search for candidates and look at their primary CV. Make sure to that your primary CV is filled with the keywords that will grab the attention of your potential employers.

Bayt.com is the #1 job site in the Middle East with more than 40,000 employers and over 26,750,000 registered job seekers from across the Middle East, North Africa and the globe, representing all industries, nationalities and career levels. Post a job or find jobs on www.bayt.com today and access the leading resource for job seekers and employers in the region.

GREECE DEBT 'EXPLOSIVE' IN LONG TERM, SAYS IMF

EUROPE NEEDS MORE CREDIBLE DEBT RELIEF PLAN

WASHINGTON: Greece's government debt remains highly unsustainable and will be "explosive" in the long run, requiring a more credible debt relief plan from Europe, the International Monetary Fund said in a report obtained by AFP.

Addressing the debt burden of the beleaguered nation will require significant debt relief from European institutions, including dramatically extending the grace periods and maturities of the loans, the IMF said in its annual report on the Greek economy.

The IMF board is due to discuss the confidential report, which includes a debt sustainability analysis, on February 6, after which the findings will be made public. Even with full implementation of the economic reforms the country has agreed to, "Greece's debt is highly unsustainable" and "will become explosive in the long run," as the government will have to replace highly subsidized official financing with market financing at much higher rates, the IMF said.

The pessimistic report, though in keeping with the fund's repeated statements on the topic, makes it less likely the IMF will participate in any new European loan deal for Greece. Months of bickering have delayed progress on Greece's 86-billion-euro (\$92.4 billion) bailout program agreed in 2015 and officials are increasingly worried that elections this year in the Netherlands, France and Germany could further poison the efforts.

The IMF report says that in order to "provide more credibility to the debt strategy for Greece,

further specificity will be needed regarding the type and scope of debt relief to be expected" from Europe.

This must include "ambitious extensions of grace and maturity periods, a full deferral of interest on European loans, as well as a locking in of the interest rate on a significant amount of European loans ... to put debt on a sustained downward path."

Dispute with eurozone

The IMF calls for extending the grace period until 2040, during which time Greece would not be required to make any debt payments, and extending the term of the loans to 30 years, in some cases, to 2070, dramatically longer than what Europe agreed to in 2012. Europe's economic commissioner Pierre Moscovici said he would wait for the official release of the IMF report before commenting, but expressed confidence in the prospects for agreement.

"The IMF has a constant stance on the need to lower Greek debt, and we are working on it," he told AFP. "The European Commission is therefore confident about the approach taken by the Europeans and will continue to work with Greece, euro-zone countries and other institutions to further reduce Greece's debt."

The fund and the 19-nation single currency area are battling over how much debt relief Greece needs, and over economic targets required of Athens that the IMF says are too stringent.

The IMF, headed by the tough-talking Christine Lagarde, currently traveling in Africa, refuses to lend further to Greece without significant changes to the eurozone's demands, as the institution's rules prevent it from lending unless the debt is sustainable.

At the heart of the dispute is a demand by the eurozone that Greece deliver a primary balance, or surplus on public spending before debt repayments, of 3.5 percent of GDP, far in excess of the 1.5 percent the IMF says is feasible.

Greece can't outgrow debt

Even with ambitious structural reforms to the economy, beset by a high pension burden and tax evasion, "Greece cannot grow out of its debt problem" on its own, the IMF said. And, the report points out, "The Eurogroup committed to additional debt relief for Greece."

The fund said Greece does not require further spending cuts, but should pursue "more ambitious" reforms in other areas including to its pension system, and improving tax collection while reducing tax rates. Output of the economy has contracted by more than 25 percent since 2008 and unemployment is the highest in the eurozone, at over 20 percent.

The IMF is projecting a rebound in growth to 2.7 percent this year, after just 0.4 percent in 2016, and continue above two percent through 2020, but the Greek government expects growth to average near three percent through 2019. —AFP



DALLAS: A Southwest Airlines jet makes its approach to Dallas Love Field airport in Dallas. Southwest Airlines Co reported financial results on Thursday. —AP

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES PROFIT SLIPS ON LOWER FARES, HIGHER COSTS

DALLAS: Southwest Airlines says travel demand has picked up and the long decline in average fares could be ending soon. The comments helped push Southwest shares 9 percent higher and led a rally in airline stocks. Southwest Airlines Co reported that fourth-quarter profit slipped partly on higher costs for fuel and labor. But the results topped Wall Street expectations, and investors focused on CEO Gary Kelly's upbeat comments about pricing power.

Kelly said that travel demand has picked up since the November election on an increase in business travel and higher average prices for last-minute tickets - similar to recent comments by Delta and United executives. Kelly attributed the demand to a sense of certainty after the election, the possibility of tax reform that will boost the economy, and a "broader tide of optimism." He admitted that he had no data to back up his hunch. JetBlue, on the other hand, reported weaker pricing in January, and its shares fell 3 percent. Southwest sees a possible end to the two-year trend of lower average fares right around the corner. It predicted that a key measure of revenue per mile will be flat to down 1 percent in the first quarter, an improvement over the 2.9 percent decline in the fourth quarter.

The average fare on Southwest fell more than \$5, or 4 percent, to \$144.43 in the fourth quarter. It was \$158 two years ago. The airlines are trying to push prices higher by slowing the growth of new flights. Southwest expects to shrink its fleet of planes this year by retiring its oldest Boeing 737 jets, although the number of seats will rise because of the addition of newer, larger 737s.

Southwest slightly raised its planned 2017 domestic growth in seats, which didn't seem to rattle investors the way that a similar announcement did in 2015. Stifel analyst Joseph DeNardi said he assumed "that this doesn't become a recurring theme" because it would hurt airline stocks broadly. The Dallas-based airline said it earned \$522 million in the fourth quarter, down 3 percent, or \$14 million, from a year

earlier. Excluding losses on fuel-hedging contracts, the company said it would have earned 75 cents per share. The 16 analysts surveyed by FactSet expected on average 70 cents per share.

Revenue rose 2 percent to \$5.08 billion, also beating Wall Street forecasts. Operating costs climbed 7 percent, led by a 19 percent increase in fuel spending. Southwest expects higher costs to continue in 2017, partly the result of pay raises for union workers covered by new contracts.

For all of 2016, Southwest earned a record \$2.24 billion. For those who keep track - and Southwest does - that is its 44th straight profitable year, a streak unmatched by any other U.S. airline. Southwest carries more passengers in the U.S. than anyone, although its smaller international network places it behind American, Delta and United in total size.

JetBlue Airways Corp. said fourth-quarter profit fell 9 percent to \$172 million, as higher costs offset a 3 percent increase in revenue. The New York-based carrier earned 50 cents per share, a penny better than analysts expected. The average fourth-quarter fare fell more than \$6, or 4 percent, to \$155 compared with a year ago, and executives said that revenue for each seat flown one mile, a proxy for average fares, was falling 8 percent or 9 percent in January, a surprisingly weak outlook following comments from rivals.

On a conference call, analysts pressed JetBlue leaders about cutting passenger-carrying capacity to boost fares. Executive Vice President Marty St. George said the airline has reduced its growth rate and might do more cutting: "We are on it, and we'll be announcing something soon." He added that booking trends in February, March and April looked better than January, but the shares kept falling as executives kept talking.

Cowen and Co. analyst Helene Becker said there was "no way to sugarcoat" JetBlue's explanation of lower revenue per seat. "It's just bad." Southwest shares closed up \$4.46 to \$53.92, while JetBlue sank 67 cents to \$21.10. —AP

S&P CUTS TURKEY DEBT OUTLOOK TO NEGATIVE

PARIS: The Standard and Poor's agency on Friday downgraded Turkey's credit rating to "negative" from "stable" because of a slump of the lira while Fitch cut its sovereign debt to junk.

The national currency has dropped 18 percent against the dollar since Standard and Poor's latest review of Turkey in November, raising inflationary pressures, endangering corporate balance sheets and hurting economic growth, S and P said. The agency's actual ratings for Turkey remained intact, but the outlook change indicates that any future move is now more likely to be downwards than upwards. "We are revising our outlook to negative to reflect what we consider to be rising constraints on policy makers' ability to tame inflationary and currency pressures, which could weaken the financial strength of Turkey's companies and banks, undermining growth, and fiscal outcomes, during a period of rising global interest rates," it said in a statement.

The Turkish central bank on Tuesday hiked its headline interest rate by 75 basis points in a bid to boost the ailing lira but failed to impress markets looking for even sharper action. S and P also said it saw limits to the ability of the central bank to stem the currency's decline. "In our view, the Turkish central bank's monetary policy response to rising currency and inflationary pressures may prove insufficient to anchor its inflation targeting regime," it said. The lira's recent performance has been the worst of any emerging markets currency, alarming the government ahead of a referendum expected in April on changing the constitution to give President Recep Tayyip Erdogan more power. — AFP

BOURSA KUWAIT IS ISSUING IPTM 2 TRADING RULES FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

KUWAIT: Bursa Kuwait is reviewing its trading rules and has placed a draft copy of the proposed new rules on its website for a market-wide public consultation. The consultation will run until 9 February, 2017 when feedback will be collated and input into the final version.

The launch of the future trading rules draft and consultation exercise supports the company's efforts to establish a transparent approach in all its market related developments. The exercise will allow stakeholders to engage directly with Bursa Kuwait by sharing perspectives and opinions on the contents of this important document.

Commenting on this event, Bursa Kuwait Vice Chairman and CEO, Khaled Abdulrazzaq AlKhaled said: "Revising our trading rules is an important significant step towards improving our market performance and supporting the needs of our clients. By sharing this with our

stakeholders, we are gauging the degree to which this draft addresses market needs and sentiment accurately and, more importantly, it allows us to directly take market guidance into account in producing the final draft.

"This is an ideal process which allows us to introduce a series of successful tools and solutions in the short and long term, and ensure that transparency remains at the core of all our operations."

Bursa Kuwait was created by the Kuwaiti government to bring positive change to the stock market by developing a wide pool of internal resources and expertise to create a modern stock exchange that operates to world class standards. This entails the development of investment tools, restructuring the market to increase its competitiveness, working to increase liquidity and attract investments.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.656
Indian Rupees	4.491
Pakistani Rupees	2.913
Sri Lanka Rupees	2.036
Nepali Rupees	2.808
Singapore Dollar	214.460
Hong Kong Dollar	39.392
Bangladesh Taka	3.846
Philippine Peso	6.136
Thai Baht	8.678
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.548
Qatari Riyal	83.991
UAE Dirham	794.179
Bahraini Dinar	812.010
UAE Dirham	83.258
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.700
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.180
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.227
Tunisian Dinar	133.450
Jordanian Dinar	430.630
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.037
Syrian Lira	2.179
Morocco Dirham	30.900
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	305.600
Euro	328.980
Sterling Pound	385.820
Canadian dollar	233.730
Turkish lira	79.330

Swiss Franc	307.600
Australian Dollar	232.870
US Dollar Buying	304.400

GOLD

20 Gram	243.78
10 Gram	124.81
5 Gram	63.25

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	305.400
Canadian Dolla	233.205
Sterling Pound	383.710
Euro	329.235
Swiss Frank	306.545
Bahrain Dinar	809.590
UAE Dirhams	83.540
Qatari Riyals	84.760
Saudi Riyals	82.365
Jordanian Dinar	431.915
Egyptian Pound	16.428
Sri Lanka Rupees	2.035
Indian Rupees	4.486
Pakistani Rupees	2.912
Bangladesh Taka	3.865
Philippines Peso	6.126
Cyprus pound	167.714
Japanese Yen	3.685
Syrian Pound	2.425
Nepalese Rupees	3.800
Malaysian Ringgit	69.695

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.835
Thai Bhat	9.655
Turkish Lira	81.190

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.378518	0.388516
Czech Korune	0.004120	0.016120
Danish Krone	0.039988	0.044988
Euro	0.322471	0.331471
Norwegian Krone	0.032760	0.037960
Romanian Leu	0.084738	0.084736
Slovakia	0.009162	0.019162
Swedish Krona	0.030616	0.035616
Swiss Franc	0.299968	0.310968
Turkish Lira	0.075330	0.085630
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.223228	0.235228
New Zealand Dollar	0.216534	0.2260334
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.227419	0.236419
Georgina Lari	0.138094	0.138094
US Dollars	0.301650	0.306050
US Dollars Mint	0.302150	0.306050
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003649	0.004233
Chinese Yuan	0.043098	0.046598
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037336	0.040086
Indian Rupee	0.002737	0.004960

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002587	0.002767
Kenyan Shilling	0.002996	0.002996
Korean Won	0.000251	0.000266
Malaysian Ringgit	0.065487	0.071487
Nepalese Rupee	0.003082	0.003252
Pakistan Rupee	0.002714	0.003004
Philippine Peso	0.006069	0.006369
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.209236	0.219236
South African Rand	0.016799	0.025299
Sri Lanka Rupee	0.001679	0.002259
Taiwan	0.009575	0.009755
Thai Baht	0.008324	0.008874

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.804437	0.812937
Egyptian Pound	0.013180	0.022433
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000186	0.000246
Jordanian Dinar	0.425578	0.434578
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000148	0.000248
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020111	0.044111
Nigerian Naira	0.001287	0.001902
Omani Riyal	0.787735	0.793415
Qatar Riyal	0.083170	0.084620
Saudi Riyal	0.080447	0.081747
Syrian Pound	0.001297	0.001517
Tunisian Dinar	0.129978	0.137978
Turkish Lira	0.075330	0.085630
UAE Dirhams	0.081820	0.083520
Yemeni Riyal	0.000994	0.001074

BUFFETT, GATES HAVE HOPE FOR AMERICA AFTER TRUMP ASCENSION

NEW YORK: Bill Gates and Warren Buffett on Friday expressed optimism that the United States will move ahead as a nation, even as it works through political differences and gets used to the new Trump administration. The world's two richest people were speaking to students at Columbia University after US President Donald Trump started to unwind the work of his predecessor Barack Obama in a series of executive orders, prompting concern from critics over what the actions mean for Americans and their place in the world.

"I am confident that America will move ahead," Buffett said. Gates, meanwhile, said the desire for innovation and support for research are "strong

and "largely bipartisan," despite differences on how to accomplish and fund both.

"This administration is new enough; we don't know how its budget priorities are going to come out," but there is much intensity to ensure that the executive branch and Congress encourage "amazing things," Gates said. Gates co-founded and was the first chief executive of Microsoft Corp, while Buffett runs the conglomerate Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Forbes magazine said on Friday that Gates is worth \$85.2 billion and Buffett is worth \$73.9 billion.

An estimated 1,300 people attended Friday's event to watch the close friends, who have known

each other for a quarter century. Gates is also a Berkshire director, while Buffett is donating much of his wealth to the charitable foundation set up by Gates and his wife, Melinda.

Both told students it is important to invest and focus on doing good works over the long term, despite the impulse or perceived need for shorter-term thinking.

Gates said this was particularly true in areas such as climate change and vaccinations, calling it just as important to be sure people can get vaccines as it is to develop them.

Buffett said: "It's very hard to have politicians think of something that's wonderful for the country 20 years from now" if the short-term impact might cost them reelection, with their decisions often tainted by too much money, which he called "bad news."

He also stressed the importance of immigration, a central issue for Trump, whom neither Buffett nor Gates discussed. Buffett said the country has been "blessed" by immigrants, and might have come out quite different had the physicists Albert Einstein and Leo Szilard not in 1939 urged US President Franklin Roosevelt to develop a nuclear program to counter threats from Nazi Germany. "If it weren't for those two immigrants, who knows if we would be sitting in this room," Buffett said. — Reuters

US PIPELINE BACKERS MAKE BIG PROMISES ABOUT JOBS, GROWTH

DALLAS: TransCanada has quickly filed a new application to build Keystone XL, one of two big oil pipelines being given a second chance by President Donald Trump. Former President Barack Obama rejected the Keystone XL in 2015. The Army halted construction of the Dakota Access pipeline last month.

The move by Trump fulfills a campaign promise to revive the projects, which he says will create thousands of jobs and generate taxes for states and communities. However, the number of jobs created and the economic benefits have been hotly debated. Many experts believe any impact on the US economy will be small. Despite Trump's executive orders, both projects face likely court fights by environmental groups, and the Keystone XL pipeline faces uncertain demand from oil shippers.

JOBS

According to a 2014 report by the US State Department, Keystone XL would support about 42,100 jobs including about 3,900 workers directly involved in construction. Workers, including those indirectly supported by the pipeline, would earn about \$2 billion.

Once construction ends and oil starts flowing, the pipeline would support just 35 permanent jobs, according to the report. The Dakota Access project has created about 12,000 construction jobs, according to project leader Energy Transfer Partners LP. But most sections of the pipeline are finished and most of the jobs are too.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The State Department said that construction of Keystone XL would contribute around \$3.4 billion to the nation's output. The companies building the Dakota Access pipeline say they have spent more than \$3.5 billion and would spend "hundreds of millions a month" to finish the work.

Those sums, however, are insignificant in the \$18 trillion US economy. The XL pipeline would contribute about 0.02 percent to the nation's gross domestic product. "The macroeconomic implications of the latest executive orders on their own will be

relatively minor, in our view" although Trump's orders "reinforce the message that the federal government has become much more pro-business," said Jim O'Sullivan, chief US economist at High Frequency Economics.

Environmental groups say the pipeline companies are overstating the economic benefits of their projects and understating the impact of using tar-sands oil, which they say generates higher carbon emissions in production than other crude. A civil engineer at the University of Nebraska concluded that TransCanada also significantly underestimated the likelihood of major pipeline spills.

TAXES

The State Department estimated that Keystone XL would generate \$70 million in additional state and local taxes during construction and \$55.6 million in property taxes once the pipeline begins operating.

The Dakota Access companies estimate that the project will result in \$156 million in sales and income taxes during construction and \$55 million in annual property taxes.

OIL

Keystone XL would carry about 830,000 barrels a day from Alberta to Nebraska. TransCanada, which is seeking \$15 billion in damages from the United States over the 2015 rejection of its previous application, said it reapplied on Thursday. The State Department has 60 days to make a decision.

At an investor conference earlier this week, TransCanada CEO Russell Girling was optimistic but not convinced that Keystone XL can get built because of uncertainty about demand from oil producers.

"I believe the economics for this project are still there, but we'll see," Girling said. "This wasn't in our planning horizon in the middle of last year. We only have just re-engaged with our shippers on that topic." Afolabi Ogunnaike, an analyst with Wood Mackenzie, said rising costs, continuing opposition from environmentalists, and competition from two other planned pipelines will complicate XL's future. —AP



MEXICO CITY: A front page newspaper headline reads "He did it!" over a picture of US President Donald Trump holding up signed documents, as he took action to jumpstart construction on a promised border wall, in Mexico City. — AP

TRUMP'S MEXICO TAX MOVE RAISES EYEBROWS IN ASIA

EXPORTS TO US DRIVE GROWTH IN MOST ASIAN COUNTRIES

TOKYO: Talk of a possible 20 percent tax on US imports from Mexico raised eyebrows Friday in Asia, where exports to the US drive growth in many economies. Reaction to the news was more muted than it might have been, however, since much of the region was closed for lunar new year holidays.

Japanese officials said Friday they hoped to meet soon with US officials. Finance Minister Taro Aso said the Japanese side should "thoroughly explain" how Japanese companies have been contributing to American society, including creating jobs. "It would be important to exchange opinions to accurately convey the reality and establish a steady relationship," Aso told reporters.

President Donald Trump's press secretary Sean Spicer said the 20 percent tax was among several options to finance building a wall along the US southern border, but no decision has been made.

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto (PAYN'-yuh nee-EH'-toh) scrapped a scheduled trip to Washington next week over the issue. He has flatly rejected Trump's assertion that Mexico will pay for the wall on its border.

The peso fell 0.6 percent against the US dollar, to 21.35 pesos to the dollar but recovered to about 21.23 late Friday in Asia. The Japanese yen also weakened against the dollar, to 115.23 yen from Thursday's close of 114.46 yen.

China's official Xinhua News Agency reported that Trump was considering the 20 percent tariff without any editorial comment. However, the report cited unnamed analysts saying Trump would have to withdraw the US from the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, to be able to impose such a tax. Trump has said he wants to renegotiate NAFTA.

Though he did not refer directly to Trump, in remarks marking the eve of the lunar new year on Friday, Premier Li Keqiang said, "Above all, we remain convinced that economic openness serves everyone better, at home and abroad."

"The world is a community of shared destiny. It's far preferable for countries to trade goods and services and bond through investment partnerships than to trade barbs and build barriers. Should differences arise, it behooves us all to discuss them with respect and a keen sense of equality," he said.

Uncertainty over future trade ties with the US rose after Trump pulled the US out of a Pacific Rim trade initiative, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, that formed the centerpiece of former President Barack Obama's moves to strengthen US economic ties in the region.

It's unclear how much of Trump's campaign rhetoric will become reality, said Kent Calder, director of Asia Programs at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

"But the general symbolism that America is

growing protectionist I think deeply concerns almost all Asian countries because they are pre-eminent exporters, and many of them heavily dependent on exports and so that has major implications for them, even if this is specifically aimed first of all at Mexico," he said. Japan's chief government spokesman refused comment on tensions over the border wall, but said Tokyo was watching for any impact on Japanese companies.

A steep tariff on exports from Mexico to the US would pinch manufacturers like Toyota Motor Corp., which like nearly all other automakers builds small cars in Mexico to take advantage of its lower wages.

Toyota employs thousands of people at factories in the US, but it also is planning to build a plant in Mexico to make the popular Corolla subcompact. About 70 percent of the vehicles Japanese car makers sell in the US are made in the US, but a tax on cars exported from Japan - 1.8 million last year - would "clearly be a major headwind," Capital Economics' economists Marcel Thieliant and Mark Williams said in a report issued Friday.

Trump also has threatened to impose steep tariffs on imports from China, which ran a \$319 billion surplus with the US in January-November 2016, compared with Japan's \$62.4 billion surplus and Mexico's \$60 billion, according to US figures. —AP



NORTH DAKOTA: In this file photo, workers unload pipes for the proposed Dakota Access oil pipeline that would stretch from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota to Illinois. The Dakota Access project, which is mostly completed, has created about 12,000 construction jobs, according to project leader Energy Transfer Partners LP. Most of those jobs are over, however. —AP

US AIRLINES EYE HIGHER FARES AFTER POST-POLL TRAVEL SURGE

NEW YORK: Major US airlines are eyeing the potential for higher airfares in 2017 after a boost in post-election corporate travel emerged as a bright spot in the fourth quarter. On Friday, American Airlines became the latest carrier to point to an uptick in business travel after the US presidential election, with particular strength in the financial, industrial and entertainment sectors.

That helped American score higher on a closely-watched industry benchmark for revenue per available seat mile for the first time since the fourth quarter of 2014. But American, like rivals United Continental and Delta Air Lines, signaled it sees challenges to profitability this year due to higher fuel and employee costs as it renegotiates labor contracts struck during the leaner 2006-2008 period.

In the fourth quarter, American's labor costs rose 17.4 percent to \$2.8 billion. Carriers are hoping to turn to consumers for help in offsetting these costs. United Continental president Scott Kirby said the pricing environment was "improving."

"It felt to me like there was an inflection point after the election," he told analysts on a conference call earlier this month. "Business demand got stronger virtually across the board."

"You combine that with a world where fuel prices are going up, and I think a lot of airlines

then start raising fares." Delta Air Lines president Glen Hauenstein said customers in many business segments are in a different place compared with a couple of years ago.

"In this part of the economic cycle, with consumer confidence high, with consumers flush with cash, they are willing to pay for more frills," said Hauenstein, adding Delta could cut back "if fares become more relevant to customers."

'Backdoor fare increase'

Talk of lifting fares comes as both American and United move ahead with new "Basic Economy" services, essentially a bare-bones service. At American, consumers who choose this option will receive a non-changeable, non-refundable ticket at the gate and will be able to carry one personal item but not granted space in overhead bins for carry-on bags. — AFP



WASHINGTON: American Airlines and JetBlue planes sit on the tarmac at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington County, Virginia, 3 miles (5 km) south of Washington, DC. Reagan National is a hub for American Airlines, which is Reagan National's largest carrier. — AFP

UK ECONOMY GOING STRONG, BUT IS THIS THE HIGH POINT?

LONDON: British consumers spurred faster-than-expected economic growth in the last three months of 2016, but experts warn a slowdown may be on the way as the country's plans to leave the European Union curtail spending and investment. The economy grew 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter from the previous three months, according to figures released Thursday by the Office for National Statistics. That was the same rate as in the second and third quarters and better than the 0.5 percent figure economists had estimated.

It means the British economy grew 2 percent over the full year, the fastest rate among the seven most developed countries. While the British economy has defied expectations since the June 23 referendum to leave the EU, investor concerns about leaving the trading bloc of 500 million people led to a sharp decline in the pound.

The currency's weakness has helped some parts of the economy, like exporters and tourism, but is likely to make imported goods more expensive, eating into households' ability to spend.

"Consumers won't be ramping up spending thanks to rising inflation and sluggish wage growth, and businesses' appetite to sign off big investments will depend on how they view the progress

of Brexit negotiations," Lee Hopley, chief economist at EEF, a manufacturers' trade group. "There's every chance that this rate of expansion is the high point for the next couple of years."

The fourth quarter figures were driven by service businesses, with strong contributions from retail sales and travel - consumer-based industries that capitalized on public confidence. Manufacturing bounced back from a weak third quarter. Government leaders have pointed to Britain's performance as evidence that the impact of leaving the EU won't be as dire as some analysts predicted. Some had forecast a recession after the vote that never materialized.

But while the drop in the pound may have helped somewhat by making exports more competitive and encouraging tourists to visit and shop in Britain, it is widely expected to also weigh on domestic spending going forward. A weaker currency is making imports more expensive, as well as commodities like oil and gas, which are priced in dollars.

"Although the UK economy may have been the best performer in the developed world last year, 2017 is a new epoch, and Brexit risks to the economy are likely to materialize in the coming months. — AP

The following tables summarize last week's performance of Bursa Kuwait

Description	Week 4	Week 3	Diff
	26/01/2017	19/01/2017	%
Working days	5	5	
AlShall index (38 Companies)	411.4	391.8	5.0%
Bursa Kuwait index (price)	6,852.3	6,435.8	6.5%
Value Trade (KD)	389,342,639	317,658,264	
Daily average (KD)	77,868,528	63,531,653	22.6%
Volume Trade (Shares)	4,368,042,990	3,799,919,334	
Daily average (Shares)	873,608,598	759,983,867	15.0%
Transactions	69,971	60,746	
Daily average (Transactions)	13,994	12,149	15.2%

BOURSA KUWAIT AND DISTURBING LIQUIDITY TRENDS

AL-SHALL WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

We mentioned in our last week report that liquidity was extremely concentrated on about 10 percent of listed companies -18 listed companies- which captured approximately 52.1 percent of the Bursa liquidity in the first 14 working days of 2017. We also mentioned that the sample included 10 large companies, whose market value is over KD 100 million and 8 companies with less than that value. During the week, the daily average trading for the first 19 working days of the current year rose to around KD 51.8 million, about 21.8 percent, higher than the average for the first 14 working days of the year. It scored about 4.5 times and about 3.3 times in the averages in 2016 and 2015 respectively, that we have mentioned about the high rising.

The impact of this high rise was slight in the components of the 18 top companies liquidity in the last week, companies in the two directions. First, liquidity within the list tilted more expensive companies, which still 10 companies whose values are over KD 100 million, by exit only one company, and enrolling a new one instead. Second, two small companies quit the list and two new ones replaced them. Therefore, there is no change in the conclusion we reached earlier, ie that liquidity is without a firm identity; it is a mix of investment intervention if private sector's funds dominate, and there is also inclination towards adventurous and speculative investment on cheap shares, which is dangerous due to its short term.

Scarce liquidity is still the share of half of the listed companies -92 companies-, which made only about KD 26.6 million out of KD 985 million from trading value since the beginning of the year, or approximately 2.7 percent of total liquidity. The majority of those companies represent a burden on the Bursa and its shareholders because listing costs do not match the shares liquidity, and if we go further in rating non-liquid companies, we find that only 50 companies captured only about 0.1 percent of the Bursa liquidity in 19 working days, including 11 companies whose shares did not witness any trading despite the unprecedented liquidity activity since 2009.

The continued scarcity at a time of unprecedented high liquidity provides enough justification for the managements of these companies and the Bursa management to accelerate the delisting process. This has interest to the withdrawing companies and strengthens the remaining ones, without much pressure on the Bursa company's revenues. Perhaps after filtering, listing might attract better companies when quality of Bursa companies improves.

Liquidity of the listed companies

As indicated above, in the 19 working days since the beginning of the year 2017, the Bursa liquidity was exceptionally high at a time of geopolitical violent events in the region and a lot of macro negative global variables and continued weak oil market, despite its slight improvement lately. This raises a big question mark for us and drives us to look at the identity in all ratings of listed companies either to contribute to their strengthening or warn against them.

In tracking the share of the biggest 10 percent of the listed companies, the highest in capital value -18 listed companies- we note they received about 31.5 percent of liquidity although they contribute by 70.6 percent of the total market capitalization value of the listed companies. This means their share of Bursa liquidity is less than half of their share of the capitalization value. Even within that list, 9 companies, or 50 percent of the highest companies in value, were liquid and received 28 percent of all Bursa liquidity leaving only 3.5 percent of that liquidity to other 9 big companies. This may be explained by the siding of the National Portfolio to half of the big companies.

Within the 9 non-liquid big companies, there are more than half -5 companies- did not get more than 0.4 percent of market liquidity pointing to an unhealthy phenomenon.

And if we go to the opposite, the smallest 10 percent in capitalization value of the 18 listed companies. The combined market value of these companies does not exceed KD 80.6 million and represent only 0.3 percent of the capitalization value of all Bursa companies, but they are more liquid.

While the average turnover of the biggest 18 companies scored about 1.49 percent, but it scored about 23.8 percent for the smallest 18 companies. Those small companies secured about 1.95 percent of Bursa liquidity, or more than 4 times of their contribution to their companies' value. But even among the smaller companies list, 5 companies only took about 1.92 percent

of Bursa liquidity and left approximately 0.03 percent of Bursa liquidity to 13 other companies. That concentration suggests that the direction of adventure or harmful speculation would target a limited number of smaller companies. This yet is another indicator for an inherent danger in active trading, perhaps in trading last Thursday some of awareness, where there is a correction of the indexes and decreased in liquidity.

We repeat that it is still premature to pass judgments and market's high liquidity is commendable and is justifiable in some of its trends. However, historical experience, the unjustified rise in the prices of some companies and the rise without due rise call for caution and review. Healthy rise is phased and corrects itself every now and then.

Distribution of Liquidity on Sectors

Bursa companies fall under 12 sectors, including 5 major ones whose total value represents approximately 90.1 percent of the total value of all Bursa companies. These five sectors took liquidity in proportion to that contribution and about 87.2 percent of total liquidity in 19 trading days. However, distribution of liquidity among active sectors is not commensurate with the weight and value of each sector in the Bursa, which is not surprising, but its indicators might strengthen the dominance of the speculative trend.

The banking sector, which weighs about 47.4 percent of the value of all Bursa companies, the biggest beneficiary from the rise in share prices and the compliant with its portfolios policies took about 20.9 percent of Bursa liquidity since the beginning of this year, or 44.1 percent of its contribution percentage to the value. While the financial services sector, mainly investment companies, took about 28.6 percent of Bursa liquidity, although its contribution to the Bursa value does not exceed 10.2 percent, i.e. equals three times its contribution to value. And we can explain the trend towards this type of shares by saying that these shares were compressed for a long period of time and they benefit from the rise in their assets prices, mostly shares. That contains some logic.

But the exaggerated bias towards liquidity increases investment risks. Likewise, the real estate sector captured 19.7 percent of Bursa liquidity although its contribution to its value is about 8.5 percent. This means it obtained liquidity equal to 2.3 times its contribution to its value. The real estate market is also under pressure downwards on its assets prices. Intensified trading also suggests predominance of the speculative trend.

Both the industry and the telecommunications sectors, liquid sectors, captured 12.2 percent and 8.7 percent of Bursa liquidity respectively, which are close to their contribution to the Bursa value.

Distribution of liquidity among sectors is balanced and is in par with their contribution to the Bursa value. The 5 main active sectors received about 90.1 percent of the Bursa liquidity versus 87.2 percent of its value as mentioned, while the other 7 sectors got about 9.9 percent of that liquidity versus 12.8 percent of its value. Once again, we shall not pass premature judgments on the identity of liquidity direction. But monitoring indicators, the good and the risky, may benefit some when they construct their investment decisions. Please note that what we provide here is just an opinion which might be right or wrong.

Monthly Economic Report

We're not going to review or criticize - positively or negatively- the monthly report

Description	Value Traded	% of Total
	KD	Market
FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR	109,861,682	28.2%
BANKS SECTOR	79,909,677	20.5%
REAL ESTATE SECTOR	79,226,010	20.3%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR	41,649,006	10.7%
INDUSTRIALS SECTOR	39,926,987	10.3%

ALSHALL INDEX	Week 4	Week 3
	26/01/2017	19/01/2017
Increased Value (# of Companies)	27	25
Decreased Value (# of Companies)	3	4
Unchanged Value (# of Companies)	8	9
Total Companies	38	38

Company Name	THU	THU	DIFF	CLOSE	DIFF
	26/01/2017	19/01/2017	%	2016	%
1 The National Bank Of Kuwait	415.5	386.2	7.6	362.9	14.5
2 The Gulf Bank	219.4	207.2	5.9	195.0	12.5
3 Commercial Bank Of Kuwait	349.7	358.2	(2.4)	349.7	0.0
4 Al-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait	219.3	212.8	3.1	196.4	11.7
5 Kuwait International Bank	239.7	235.5	1.8	214.7	11.6
6 Ahli United Bank	378.6	378.6	0.0	361.0	4.9
7 Burgan Bank	316.7	297.7	6.4	283.4	11.8
8 Kuwait Finance House	1343.4	1270.0	5.8	1172.1	14.6
Banking Sector	426.7	404.2	5.6	379.3	12.5
9 Commercial Facilities Co	128.5	128.5	0.0	112.6	14.1
10 International Financial Advisors	437.7	389.1	12.5	251.3	74.2
11 National Investments	161.1	143.5	12.3	119.5	34.8
12 Kuwait Investment Projects	1270.2	1158.8	9.6	1114.2	14.0
13 Coast Investment & Development	80.6	72.4	11.3	52.6	53.2
Investment Sector	374.8	344.6	8.8	311.7	20.2
14 Kuwait Insurance Company	66.2	63.9	3.6	61.7	7.3
15 Gulf Insurance Company	410.6	410.6	0.0	382.1	7.5
16 Al-Ahleia Insurance Company	169.0	169.0	0.0	170.9	(1.1)
17 Warba Insurance Company	83.6	83.6	0.0	83.6	0.0
Insurance Sector	151.7	150.6	0.7	145.0	4.6
18 Kuwait Real Estate Company	134.6	124.7	7.9	100.1	34.5
19 United Realty Company	216.2	220.3	(1.9)	191.7	12.8
20 National Real Estate Company	302.7	298.1	1.5	238.5	26.9
21 Salhiah Real Estate Company	1635.3	1453.6	12.5	1433.4	14.1
Real Estate Sector	234.9	222.9	5.4	195.8	20.0
22 The National Industries	143.0	126.9	12.7	109.0	31.2
23 Kuwait Cement Co	655.8	663.3	(1.1)	618.1	6.1
24 Refrigeration Industries Co	110.5	107.0	3.3	110.5	0.0
25 Gulf Cable & Electrical Industries	199.8	177.9	12.3	149.9	33.3
26 Contracting & Marine Services Co	40.9	39.1	4.6	39.1	4.6

of the Finance Minister's economic team. But we would like to recall that capital spending figures or spending on construction projects without linking them with the economic return may be counterproductive. At the beginning of this century, we stated warnings which have become redundant and boring about the danger in the rush in expansion of the fiscal policy.

Because of the repercussions of that expansion, the declared policies now call for returning a few years back to make up for these years' losses. Considering expenditures figures which are committed, approved or estimated, as positive development while the Government is unable to maintain and operate existing projects - roads, hospitals, schools and ports, etc- could widen the structural gaps rather than bridging them, i.e. deepen the old financial policy implications. An example of the current debate about the oil pipeline from Canada to the gulf of Mexico, controversy revolves the creation of 28 thousand jobs

and its types vs disadvantages of the environment to it and not about the cost.

The report mentions that the development plan targets investment spending by about KD 34 billion until 2020, without linking spending with sustainable jobs for citizens, or the targeted economic growth rates, without linking it to their impact on bridging the financial gap later and without linking it with the declared development objectives such as promoting the competitiveness of the domestic economy and accelerating its transformation into a commercial and financial center, or its general impact on the diversification of production and income sources.

In detail, raising the investment spending to 36 percent of non-oil GDP, a good level which has not been realized in 20 years, and went to projects worth KD 7.5 billion granted in 2014, signing contracts worth KD 12 billion in 2015, and an additional KD 3.6 billion granted until September 2016, and KD 1.3 billion given

to expand the airport capacity. All these projects have no real effect in the diversification of income sources and serve the horizontal housing expansion, which would double the demographic imbalance and the imbalance of the labor force, all of which are non-sustainable policies and strongly press on the financial gap while Finance is suffering from a sustained deficit due to a potentially weak and ongoing oil market in the long term this time.

An economic report is not supposed to be built on unsustainable development. The origin is to act before the crisis occurs, but not to apologize when it occurs, and then looking for painful solutions to counter it. A report is not supposed to rely on credit ratings from international credit rating institutions because their audience is a global financial lender, for several years term.

Even the talk about savings in the gas and electricity subsidy expenses, which is due, is unmarketable without support by steps to address waste and rampant corruption, latest example Kuwait lost 20 places in the corruption perceptions index in one year, and without the model in government policies. Therefore, we wish that next monthly report is based on, like reports of prudent states, on unemployment, growth, the environment and the financial return and competitive and prudent spending. In other words, all fall under sustainability title.

The weekly performance of Bursa Kuwait

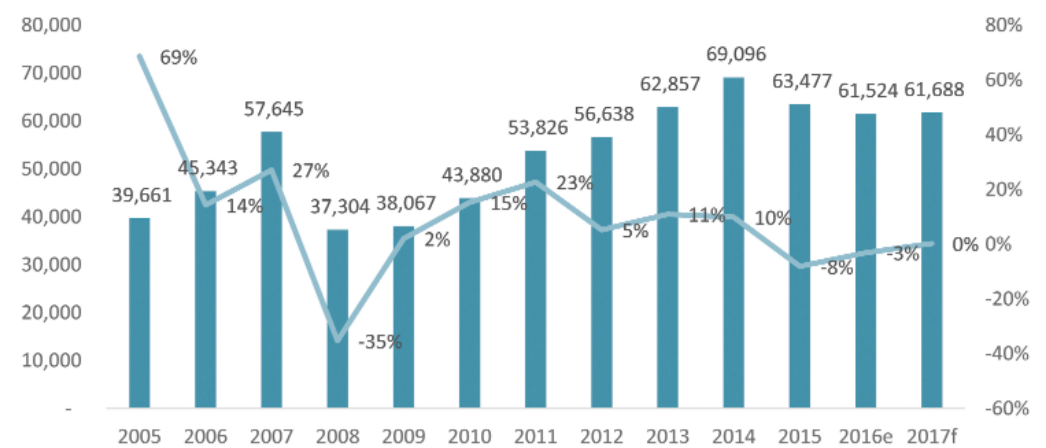
The performance of Bursa Kuwait for the last week, was more active compared to the previous one, where all indexes showed an increase, the traded value index, the traded volume index, number of transactions index, and general index, AlShall Index (value weighted) closed at 411.4 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing an increase of about 19.6 points or about 5 percent compared with its level last week and it increased by 48.4 points or about 13.3 percent compared with the end of 2016.

Industrial Sector	200.5	190.6	5.2	172.4	16.3
27 Kuwait National Cinemas	740.7	728.2	1.7	778.4	(4.8)
28 Kuwait Hotels Company	145.8	145.8	0.0	145.8	0.0
29 The Public Warehousing Co	2755.4	2677.8	2.9	2406.1	14.5
30 Mobile Telecommunications Co - ZAIN	775.3	728.4	6.4	541.1	43.3
31 Safat Energy Co	20.3	14.5	40.0	11.1	82.9
Services Sector	1013.2	971.4	4.3	822.1	23.2
32 Livestock Transport & Trading Co	203.3	186.7	8.9	178.3	14.0
33 Danah Aalsafat Foodstuff Company	106.4	91.0	16.9	89.0	19.6
34 Kuwait United Poultry Co	64.0	60.0	6.7	65.3	(2.0)
35 Kuwait Food Co	2581.6	2581.6	0.0	2561.9	0.8
Food Sector	901.1	894.0	0.8	887.2	1.6
36 Sharjah Cement Co	370.8	354.1	4.7	358.3	3.5
37 Gulf Cement Co	342.7	342.7	0.0	302.4	13.3
38 Umm Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries	610.7	588.6	3.8	551.8	10.7
Non Kuwaiti Companies	234.3	231.0	1.4	222.6	5.3
General Index	411.4	391.8	5.0	363.0	13.3

	KSA	Kuwait	UAE	Qatar	Oman	Bahrain
Economic Factors	Negative	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Negative	Negative
Valuation Attraction	Negative	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive
Earnings Growth Potential	Neutral	Negative	Negative	Negative	Positive	Neutral
Market Liquidity	Neutral	Negative	Neutral	Negative	Negative	Negative
	Abu Dhabi		Dubai			
Overall Market View	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Negative	Neutral

Source: Markaz Research

Figure: Earnings and Growth in GCC region, 2005- 2017



MARKAZ: 'NEUTRAL' OUTLOOK FOR GCC STOCKS

ARE THE DRIVERS OF KUWAITI MARKET EUPHORIA IN JANUARY SUSTAINABLE?

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" report on GCC stock market outlook 2017 has stated that Boursa Kuwait has started this year on an explosive note. The much followed price index gained 16 percent while the weighted index gained by 11 percent as compared to 1.4 percent for MSCI GCC index and a negative 2.7 percent for Saudi Arabia. This has been among one of the sharpest rallies for Kuwait main index in recent years as the index posted positive gains for the fourteenth consecutive day. The surge in index is also matched by surge in liquidity.

While in the short run, a quick run up in the market is difficult to explain, in the long run stock market rally can only be sustained if there is concomitant increase in earnings. In the absence of healthy earnings growth, such sudden rise in market valuation will only feed speculators and invite fringe traders who will cause more harm than good for retail investors. It is clear that Kuwait and other GCC markets badly need active participation and support of institutional investors (SWFs, mutual funds, etc) in order to avoid hyper speculation. Regulators should engage with such institutional investors more actively in order to broaden base their participation and encourage investment companies that manage funds and portfolios for such institutional investors. They will not only professionalize the market but can bring the much-needed stability in market activity, which will ultimately reduce volatility of the market.

There is a need to better align the institutional money in the market, best represented by mutual funds and portfolios managed by CMA licensed non-banking financial institutions. It is clear that KIA has shown a stable commitment to support the KSE since 1990's when it launched and backed the mutual fund industry and continue to back it since then in many ways including governance. In addition to KIA, the CMA licensed companies manage portfolios and funds that best incarnate the values of CMA best represented by transparent, well governed, and research driven investment, and exceptional records in anti-money laundering (AML).

Yet regulation, reaching the right balance between regulations and restoring market confidence through a spirit of partnership seems to be the missing variable, especially to those investment companies that managed to survive the crisis and grow. Such CMA licensed financial sector companies are the natural gates toward institutional investment to avoid any unwarranted euphoria or speculation.

At the beginning of 2016, we were positive on UAE while being neutral on Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar. UAE (especially



Dubai) was the outperformer in GCC markets, which was in-line with our expectations. Saudi Arabia stock market also returned positive helped by the recovery in oil prices towards the end of the year. Kuwait and Qatar ended the year flat. The overall S&P GCC index returned 9.5 percent in 2016 with better performance coming in the second part of the year. Despite over 50 percent rise in oil prices, investors seemed to take a wait and watch position before investing in the stock markets. This could be on account of poor corporate earnings growth and lower capital expenditures by GCC governments.

Economy

Qatar is expected to have the highest non-oil GDP growth rate (5.2 percent for 2017) in the region on account of the spending on infrastructure projects. In the recent budget, \$ 25 billion or 47 percent of the budget is earmarked for the completion of projects related to FIFA 2022. As of November 2016, Kuwait has awarded close to \$12 billion worth of contracts. Close to 58 percent of the projects awarded has been from the non-oil sector. Kuwait is in a favorable position when it comes to fiscal and current accounts. Overall we are Neutral on Kuwait, UAE & Qatar while Negative on the rest of the GCC on economic factors.

Earnings

Growth in the overall earnings for GCC countries is expected to be flat at 0.3 percent for 2017 as GCC governments cut down on budget and welfare spending. Economic heavyweights of the region - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar saw their corporate earnings decline by 3.6 percent, 3.4 percent and 7.8 percent respectively while that of UAE remained flat during 2016. Oman's earnings witnessed a turnaround in 2016 and grew by 5.5 percent. 2017 could perhaps be seen as a year of consolidation and GCC corporates adjusting themselves to the new normal.

Valuation

Stock market returns for the GCC region, in 2016, with the exception of the UAE were

either flat or marginally negative. As a result of this, the stock valuation levels have drifted away from the fundamental values. For

- Boursa Kuwait has started this year on an explosive note matched by a sudden surge in liquidity
- Kuwait and other GCC markets need active participation and support of institutional investors to avoid unwarranted euphoria or speculation that might require harsh reforms
- Need to align divergence between KIA support and CMA regulation to compliant licensed companies to professionalize and stabilize the market
- First tier CMA licensed companies have shown exceptional commitment as true market players in the market through innovation, stay in the market, governance, and exceptional record in Anti-money laundering (AML) making them natural partners for sustained growth to avoid setbacks that follow such sudden

instance, Price-to-earnings multiple for Saudi Arabia currently stands at 17.5x followed by Kuwait at 17.1x, and, in comparison with other major GCC markets such as UAE (P/E 12.2x) and Qatar (P/E 13.5x) they are trading at a premium. As a result, we are negative on Saudi stock market from a valuation standpoint while we remain neutral on Kuwait, UAE and Qatar. We are positive on Oman and Bahrain on account of higher dividend yields of 5 percent and 6 percent respectively.

Market liquidity

GCC stock markets have had some of the lowest levels of turnover in 2016 clocking in a turnover ratio at 34 percent despite the emerging market status of Qatar and UAE. Even the recovery in oil price during the 2nd quarter failed to increase the interest of investors in the region. Poor earnings growth in many of the key sectors, especially banks, did not augur well for improving the liquidity in the stock markets. We are

Neutral on Saudi & UAE while Negative on the rest from liquidity point of view.

Overall ratings

Saudi Arabia - Neutral
Saudi Arabia is entering an interesting phase now. It is undertaking a number of reforms, which are aimed at reducing the fiscal burden and increasing the employment opportunities for its youngsters. These reforms could cause some slowdown in the economy as the citizens adjust themselves to a new normal. Insurance sector continues to grow in the country despite the slowdown and is expected to continue in 2017 while construction related companies could suffer

hand, the government is spending on account of the 2022 FIFA world cup and targets a budget breakeven while on the other hand the financial sector of the country has suffered the most owing to government drawdowns. Telecom sector has been performing well in Qatar and is expected to continue it in 2017. Banking could take a hit as lower deposits could hamper credit growth. Valuations have not gone down in line with fundamentals, which is why we are negative on the Qatari market.

Kuwait - neutral

Kuwait has seen lot of positive signals going for it during 2017. Its project awards market is witnessing a turnaround as a number of projects were awarded in 2016. The project awards trajectory has been quite positive. Banks in the region are better placed compared to its GCC peers and are likely to perform well in 2017 while real estate could suffer negatively owing to stagnant sales, price declines and negative sentiment. The market is fairly attractive and there are some capital market reforms that are on cards that is expected to augur well for the market.

GCC debt market outlook 2017

The prolonged period of low oil prices has put a strain on government budgets across the region, exposing the dependence that GCC economies have on oil revenues. Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain have all scrambled to raise funds through bond issuances to compensate for the fall in oil revenues. Their sovereign rating was also downgraded in 2016 on back of widening fiscal balance and sluggish economic growth. However, Saudi Arabia with its 'A1' rating remains in the investment grade while Oman (BBB-) and Bahrain (BB - Junk) have lower ratings.

The ratings downgrade has had a visible impact on the pricing of the bonds. KSA had to pay 185bps over the 10 yr US treasury bond while Oman had to pay 320bps over the 10-year treasury bond. GCC governments should carefully consider their borrowing and investment decisions while maintaining significant liquidity buffers for protecting themselves against short-term funding risk. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE have significant headroom for borrowing as they have very little public debt outstanding. There is room for taking on more debt; however, it should be done only after careful considerations of the implications of building up debt and the impact of borrowing on domestic liquidity, credit, and central bank reserves. We expect GCC governments to cumulatively issue over \$ 74 billion of debt in 2017.

UAE - neutral

Dubai is looking to continue its spending on account of the Expo 2020 as most of the infrastructure projects enter the final phase of the building process by early 2018. Areas like tourism, finance, hospitality, trade should continue to grow in 2017. Abu Dhabi, on the other hand, has been prudent even during boom times and has comfortable reserves to tide through 2017. Despite this, the global market for oil is expected to remain subdued. Real estate, one of the main drivers of UAE's growth could take a hit in 2017 as sales are stagnating. As a result, we expect UAE to be neutral in 2017.

Qatar - negative

Qatar is an interesting case. On the one

ENERGY COMPANIES LEAD US STOCK INDEXES MOSTLY LOWER

WALL STREET WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

NEW YORK: Wall Street capped a week of milestones Friday with a day of listless trading that left US stock indexes mostly lower. Energy companies declined the most as the price of crude oil fell. Health care stocks posted the biggest gain.

Quarterly results from Microsoft, Starbucks and other big companies continued to be in focus. Bond yields fell after the government reported that the economy lost momentum in the last three months of 2016. More stocks fell than rose on the New York Stock Exchange. This week all three major indexes set all-time highs, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which held above the 20,000 mark after crossing that threshold for the first time on Wednesday.

"We've had an OK week," said Jason Pride, director of investment strategy at Glenmede. "Having a day when you just give back a little bit is not a bad thing."

The Dow fell 7.13 points, or 0.04 percent, to 20,093.78. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 1.99 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,294.69. The Nasdaq composite index rose 5.61 points, or 0.1 percent, to 5,660.78. The tiny gain was enough to set another all-time high for the Nasdaq.

Small-company stocks did worse than the rest of the market. The Russell 2000 lost 4.89 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,370.70. The market drifted between small gains and losses through much of the day as investors weighed company earnings and new data on the US economy.

The Commerce Department said the US economy grew at an annual rate of just 1.9 percent in the last three months of 2016, a slowdown from 3.5 percent in the previous quarter. For 2016, the economy grew 1.6 percent, the worst showing since 2011 and down from 2.6 percent in 2015.

A separate government report showed businesses spent more on industrial machinery, semiconductors and other big-ticket items last month, a sign US manufacturers seem to be doing better after a two-year slump. The economic snapshots sent bond prices higher. The 10-year Treasury yield fell to 2.48 percent from 2.51 percent late Thursday.

"The market right now is at sort of a crossroads," said Tom Siomades, head of Hartford Funds Investment Consulting Group. "We hit that huge psychological barrier and busted through it when we hit (Dow) 20,000 ... but

today's GDP number came in, for the most part, below expectations and brought everyone back down to earth."

Companies that posted disappointing quarterly results or outlooks for 2017 helped steer the market lower. Starbucks slid \$2.34, or 4 percent, to \$56.12 a day after the coffee chain reported weak sales growth and cut its sales forecast for the year. Chevron also turned in weaker-than-expected results. The oil company was the biggest decliner in the Dow, losing \$2.76, or 2.4 percent, to \$113.79.

Colgate-Palmolive tumbled 5.2 percent after its fourth-quarter sales missed analysts' estimates. The company's 2017 forecast also disappointed investors. The stock fell \$3.56 to \$64.68.

Companies that served up better results got a boost. Microsoft rose 2.4 percent, making it the biggest gainer in the Dow. The software giant reported stronger-than-expected quarterly results, largely due to its focus on online services and business software rather than its legacy Windows operating system. The stock gained \$1.51 to \$65.78.

Wynn Resorts surged 8 percent after it reported revenue that beat Wall Street's forecasts. The stock led all the gainers in the S&P 500, climbing \$7.58 to \$103.08. So far, 33.8 percent of the companies in the S&P 500 index have reported quarterly results for the last three months of 2016, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence. And 40 percent of those have posted results that beat financial analysts' forecasts, the firm said.

Investors also remained focused on the latest moves by President Donald Trump. His spokesman said the administration was considering slapping a 20 percent tax on imports from Mexico to help pay for his promised border wall, in an announcement that left markets uncertain about what it means for trade.

"I don't know anyone who would think of a trade war as good thing, or tariffs," Siomades said. "When you start going down that path, then the market all of a sudden retracts and says, 'Wait a minute, we have 1.9 percent GDP growth, how are higher tariffs and restriction on trade going to make that better?'" Benchmark US crude oil fell 61 cents, or 1.1 percent, to close at \$53.17 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, slid 72 cents, or 1.3 percent, to close at \$55.52 a barrel in London.



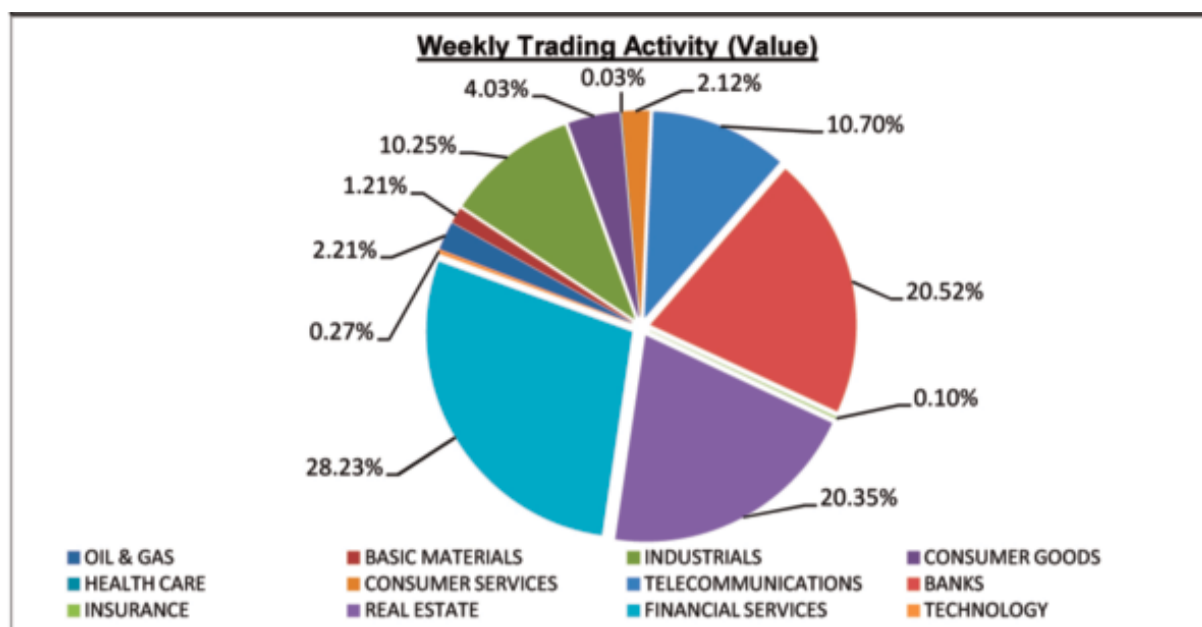
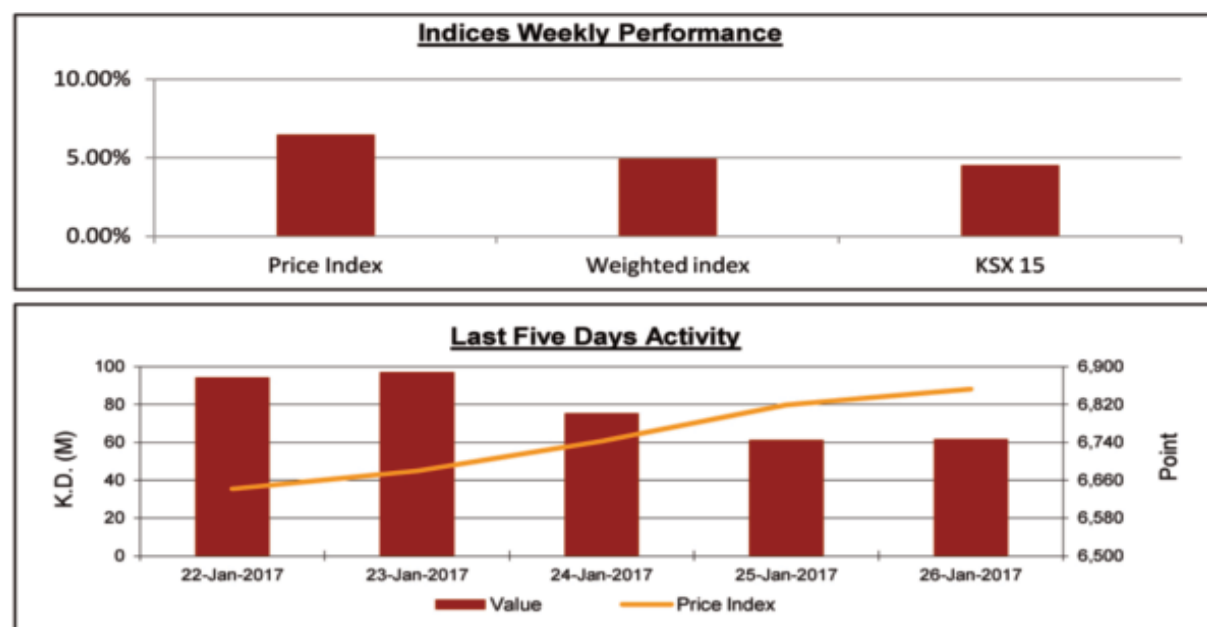
NEW YORK: Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Friday. —AP

Major stock indexes in Europe and Asia were mixed.

Germany's DAX fell 0.3 percent, while France's CAC 40 slid 0.6 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.3 percent. In Asia, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index climbed 0.3 percent, helped by the dollar's surge against the Japanese yen, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.1 percent. Many Asian countries have begun holidays of varying lengths, curtailing trading across much of the region. Markets in China, South Korea and Taiwan were

closed while Malaysia's was open only in the morning. In currency trading, the dollar strengthened to 115.09 yen from 114.42 yen on Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.0698 from \$1.0692.

Among metals, the price of gold slipped \$1.40 to \$1,188.40 an ounce. Silver rose 29 cents to \$17.14 an ounce. Copper added 2 cents to \$2.70 a pound. In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline dropped 2 cents to \$1.53 a gallon, while heating oil fell 2 cents to \$1.62 a gallon. Natural gas futures rose 1 cent to \$3.39 per 1,000 cubic feet. —AP



BOURSA KUWAIT STOCKS REMAIN RESILIENT

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 6,852.30 points, up by 6.47 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 4.95 percent after closing at 428.43 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 987.70 points up by 4.54 percent. Furthermore, the week's average daily turnover increased by 22.57 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 77.87 million, whereas trading volume average was 873.61 million shares, recording an increase of 14.95 percent.

The Boursa continued its positive performance that started the year with, supported by the increased confidence levels of the traders in light of the continued presence of many positive indicators headed by the noticeable growth in the liquidity levels, which are expected to increase even more in the coming period in parallel with the listed companies' disclosures of its financial results for the period ended on 31 December 2016. The Boursa realized such gains despite the presence of the profit collection operations during some daily sessions of the week, where the red color appeared on the Boursa indices more than once during few sessions, however the market overcame such operations and was able to end the weekly trading in the green zone. In addition, the market capitalization reached by the end of the week KD 28.57 billion, up by 5.01 percent compared to its level in a week earlier, where it reached KD 27.20 billion.

Moreover, the Boursa Kuwait initiated its first sessions of the week with noticeable growth to the three indices, especially the Price Index, which continued its spectacular performance to end the session with gains reached to more than 3 percent, amid a large purchasing trend

on many leading and small-cap stocks altogether. Such performance came in light of the continued growth in the trading levels, especially the value that reached KD 94 million by the end of the session, recording a growth of around 50 percent compared to the previous session. The three Boursa indices continued its increase in the next session, amid an increase in the trading value which reached KD 97 million, its highest level since around mid of 2013, as such came in light of the continued purchasing trend of the market during this period, in addition to the quick speculative operations executed by some speculators on a number of small-cap stocks being traded below its book value.

On the mid-week session, and after a fluctuated performance between up and down, and despite the decline in the trading levels during the session for both the volume and the value, the Boursa was able at the end to realize different gains for the three indices, especially the Price Index that broke the 6,700 point level up during the session, supported by the positive trading activity on some investment groups, in addition to the speculative operations executed on a number of small-cap stocks. On Wednesday's session, the Boursa continued its gains for the three indices supported by the continued purchasing trend on many listed stocks, especially the ones valued below 100 fils. Such performance came despite the partial profit collection operations that were present during the session, and limited the three indices' gains. The Boursa Kuwait witnessed in the last session of the week a mixed performance, whereas the Price Index continued its upward direction supported by the continued speculative operations on the small-cap stocks, while the Weighted and KSX-15 indices closed

in the red zone affected by the profit collection operations that targeted some leading stocks of which increased in the previous period, to lighten by this its weekly gains.

Sectors' Indices

All of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone. Last week's highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 19.26 percent growth rate as its index closed at 907.87 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Real Estate sector's index closed at 1,124.90 points recording 8.96 percent increase. The Banks sector came in third as its index achieved 8.42 percent growth, ending the week at 995.70 points. The Telecommunications sector was the least growing as its index closed at 721.17 points with a 2.34 percent increase.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 1.68 billion shares changing hands during last week, representing 38.48 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 32.90 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 1.44 billion shares.

On the other hand, the Financial Services sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 109.89 million or 28.23 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Banks sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 79.91 million representing 20.52 percent of the total market trading value. —Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

MARKET ACTIVITY				
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %	
Volume	4,368,042,990	3,799,919,333	14.95%	
Value (K.D.)	389,342,639	317,658,263	22.57%	
Deals	69,971	60,745	15.19%	
MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)				
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
	28,568,767,930	27,204,986,314	5.01%	12.44%
TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
ITHMR	77.00	54.00	23.0	42.59%
SENERGY	63.00	45.00	18.0	40.00%
WETHAQ	59.00	43.00	16.0	37.21%
TAAMEER	43.00	31.50	11.5	36.51%
ALAQARIA	48.50	36.00	12.5	34.72%
TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
NSH	42.00	54.00	-12.0	-22.22%
AJWAN	69.00	75.00	-6.0	-8.00%
ALMADINA	56.00	60.00	-4.0	-6.67%
ASC	228.00	244.00	-16.0	-6.56%
IPG	370.00	395.00	-25.0	-6.33%



Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager, Human Resources at Gulf Bank along with the bank's graduates.

39 GULF BANK EMPLOYEES COMPLETE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM AT IBS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank congratulates 39 of its valued employees who completed professional training courses at the Institute of Banking Studies and was pleased to see their graduation ceremony at IBS. Under the patronage of Mohammad Yousef Al-Hashel, governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait and Chairman of the IBS, the ceremony recognized employees' graduation from the Professional Certification Programs for year 2015/2016, and was held on Tuesday, 17 January 2017 at Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry-KFAS hall.

Amidst a large attendance of prestigious companies and prominent leaders in the Human Resources departments of local banks, IBS honoured employees from Gulf Bank who completed the following programs: Certified Credit Management (CCM), Advanced Certificate in Credit Management (ACCM), Certified Bank Branch Manager (CBBM), Certified Assistant Bank Branch Manager (CABB), and Risk Management Certificate (RMC).

Professor Yaqoub S Y Al-Refaei, the Director General of IBS, hailed the graduates and thanked Gulf Bank for its contribution and investment in its employees. IBS's Professional Certification Programs is adopted by the London Institute of Banking and Finance, which is one of the leading

international institutes in professional banking and finance studies.

Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank said: "We are proud to see 39 of our employees complete these professional development training programs. We thank our employees for their ongoing work and congratulate them for successfully graduating from the IBS programs. Gulf Bank also thanks the Institute of Banking Studies for their work, dedication, and commitment to Kuwaiti society."

Al-Hajjaj continued: "Gulf Bank is strongly committed to the development of young Kuwaitis as well-rounded, highly trained, and motivated banking professionals, whether through these types of training programs at IBS or through our own well-respected Ajyal graduate development program, also conducted in conjunction with IBS, which seeks to build a large cadre of Kuwaiti bankers for the Bank and for Kuwait."

Gulf Bank would like to congratulate the following graduates for their achievement: Aljoud Sulaiman Al Fadel (ACCM), Noura Abdulatif Al Baijan (ACCM), Afrah Abdulqader Al-Hubail (CCM-G1), Ahmed Bassam AlQenae (CCM-G1), Bader Khaled Al Oraifan (CCM-G1), Yousef Omar Al Wazzan (CCM-G1), Budour Ali Al Adwani

(CCGM-B2), Fajer Yaqoub Mohsen (CCGM-B2), Fatma Abdullah Al-Faris (CCGM-B2), Hanan Yagoub Yousef Al Beloushi (CCGM-B2), Mohamed Abdallah Gad (CCGM-B2), Mohammad Jawad Darweesh (CCGM-B2), Munira Jaber Al Dawas (CCGM-B2), Salem Hussain Saleh (CCGM-B2), Abdulwahab Ibrahim Hussain (CABB-G1), Ahmed Jassim Al Khaled (CABB-G1), Fatma Adel Al-Athari (CABB-G1), Reem Hamed Ahmed Al Obaid (CABB-G1), Yasmeen Fawzi Al Abduljader (CABB-G1), Yousef Yacoub Al Habibi (CABB-G1), Esraa Mohammed Ashkanani (CABB-GBK), Hanouf Mohammed Al-Juwaied (CABB-GBK), Heba Ali Abdelrahman (CABB-GBK), Sarah Haider Behbehani (CABB-GBK), Sarah Othman Alabdulhadi (CABB-GBK), Taibah Fuad Al-Majadi (CABB-GBK), Abdullah Ali Ashkanani (CABB-GBK), Abdullah Jassim Mejjren (CABB-GBK), Adel Ali Hasan (CABB-GBK), Faisal Ali Al-Rashed (CABB-GBK), Ghanim Saleh Karam (CABB-GBK), Ghannam Adel Hamadah (CABB-GBK), Hamad Ahmad Al Sayegh (CABB-GBK), Hussain Jaafar Jamal (CABB-GBK), Mohammad Mahmoud Barakat (CABB-GBK), Nasser Bader Al Eisa (CABB-GBK), Nasser Abdullah Al-Mahdi (CABB-GBK), Salman Bayan Salmanpour (CABB-GBK) and Abdulwahab Salah Al-Turkait (RMC).

2 DAYS LEFT TO ENTER GULF BANK'S AL-DANAH QUARTERLY DRAW!

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced that January 31st is the last date for customers to open an account or deposit more as to enter the 1st Al-Danah quarterly draw of 2017 and win a prize of KD 200,000. The first Al-Danah quarterly draw will be held on March 30th.

To participate in the Al-Danah draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200. Customers can open a new Al-Danah account at any one of the 56 Gulf Bank branches in Kuwait. Those who already have an account can enhance their chances of winning the upcoming draws by increasing and maintaining their deposits. Eligible customers will also enter the daily draw offering two KD 1,000 prizes, which are drawn each working day.

Minors wishing to open an account require their parents or their legal guardian to open the account on their

behalf. Customers are advised to maintain the minimum balance, allowing them to automatically enter the Al-Danah draws. The Al-Danah account offers the daily draw, 3 quarterly draws as well as the biggest annual draw for the largest prize in the world. The more you save, and the longer you take, your chances will definitely increase!

The Al-Danah account is the best for the following reasons:

- 1) Kuwait's single largest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million in the world, according to Guinness World Records
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD 500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD 1,000 every working day
- 4) Offers the most opportunities to win
- 5) Only account that transfers your chances to win from the previous year onto the following year.

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.



TOP BRAZILIAN MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FIRMS TO PARTICIPATE AT ARAB HEALTH & MEDLAB

DUBAI: The Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce is optimistic of promising results in the region in line with the Brazilian Medical, Dental, Hospital and Laboratory Equipment Industries Association (Abimo) recent report of securing \$13 million worth of deals are expected to be signed by Brazilian medical equipment firms during their participation at Arab Health Exhibition and Congress 2017, the Middle East's largest healthcare exhibition and medical congress, and MEDLAB 2017, the world's largest laboratory exhibition and congress.

A total of 32 Brazilian medical equipment firms will be present at Arab Health, which will take place from January 30 to February 2, 2017 and MEDLAB, which will be held from February 6 to 9, 2017 at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Center.

According to Abimo, Arab Health generates huge deals for Brazilian companies, with the most sought after medical equipment at the event being neonatal incubators,

physiotherapy machines, cosmetic apparatus, and solutions for intensive care units (ICU) and surgery. Most of the visitors to Brazil's pavilion at Arab Health and MEDLAB will be representatives of medical equipment distributors who market and sell these products and solutions to other countries in the Middle East.

Dr Michel Alaby, Secretary General and CEO, ABCC, said: "Brazilian medical equipment firms continue to mark their presence at the leading healthcare events of the Middle East - Arab Health and MEDLAB. Brazilian companies aim to address the high demand for healthcare products and solutions in the Middle East - particularly in the key markets of the UAE, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Jordan - through their presence at the region's two leading healthcare exhibitions. In the 2016 edition of Arab Health, Brazil signed contracts worth \$1 million, and this year it expects to do business of over \$13 million during the shows and within the next 12 months via participation at Arab Health and MEDLAB."

WANT TO TRACK CELLPHONES? GET A WARRANT: LAWMAKERS

HARTFORD: Law enforcement cellphone tracking devices are coming under scrutiny in several states, where lawmakers have introduced proposals ranging from warrant requirements to an outright ban on the technology. Privacy and constitutional concerns, including Fourth Amendment search and seizure violations, are being cited with the proposed laws on cell-site simulators.

The suitcase-size devices, widely known under the brand name Stingray, mimic cellphone towers and allow law enforcement to collect unique subscriber numbers and other basic data from cellphones in a particular area. The data can help police determine the location of a targeted phone - and phones of innocent bystanders - in real time without the users even making calls or sending text messages. Law enforcement officials say the devices are vital in helping to find suspects and victims, and to solve crimes.

At least 13 states already require warrants to track cellphones in real time: California, Colorado,

Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Utah and Virginia. Federal law enforcement officers also must get warrants, under policies put in place in 2015 by the departments of Justice and Homeland Security. Courts around the country, meanwhile, have issued conflicting opinions about whether warrants are needed for cellphone location data, leading to a hodgepodge of rules.

Bills addressing use of the devices are now pending in at least eight states, according to a review by The Associated Press. Most of them would require police to get warrants. One bill, introduced by South Carolina state Rep J Todd Rutherford, would ban the purchase and use of cell-site simulators by law enforcement. "I think most people would be offended if they knew exactly how much surveillance the government is doing," said Rutherford, a Democrat from Columbia who is the House minority leader and a criminal defense lawyer. "It's got to stop somewhere."

Surveillance technology

Rutherford isn't even sure if any police agencies in his state are using the simulators. Many state and local law enforcement agencies sign nondisclosure agreements with the device manufacturer. The American Civil Liberties Union says it has identified 70 law enforcement agencies in 23 states and the District of Columbia that own cell-site simulators. But the actual number may be much higher because many agencies keep their use of the devices secret, the ACLU said.

This year, lawmakers in at least six states are proposing bills to require warrants to use cellphone surveillance devices: Connecticut, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York and Oregon. A California bill would require local governments to approve the use of cell-site simulators and other surveillance technology.

In Connecticut, state Rep. Rob Sampson introduced a bill to require warrants, with exceptions for terrorism and other life-and-death situations.

"A cellphone is an individual's private property and law enforcement has no right monitoring activity on these devices unless there is strong reason to believe the individual is engaging in illegal activity," the Wolcott Republican said.

It also isn't clear whether any police agencies in Connecticut are using cell-site simulators. State police, Hartford police and New Haven police say they don't use the devices. Police in Bridgeport said they do not comment on their surveillance technology. Last month, the US House Oversight and Government Reform Committee issued a report calling for clearer guidelines.

"There's still a real pressing need for states to regulate this technology," said Nathan Freed Wessler, staff attorney for the ACLU's speech, privacy and technology project. "These devices are extraordinarily powerful and invasive. They can very precisely track where people's phones are, and knowing where someone's phone is can tell you a lot about them." — AP



AUSTELL: A passenger gets off a driverless shuttle bus on display at the Riverside EpiCenter. — AP

DRIVERLESS BUS MAKES DEBUT IN GEORGIA AT START OF US TOUR

AUSTELL: A shuttle bus that drove itself - along with human passengers - through a course in a parking lot near Atlanta is embarking on a tour that will include stops in Texas and California. The Alliance for Transportation Innovation offered rides in the 12-person bus on Thursday in Austell, Georgia. A key goal of Thursday's demonstration and future ones is to give people a chance to see a driverless vehicle up-close and ride in one, officials said.

Public acceptance is one of the main challenges to getting the vehicles into use on city streets and highways, said Paul Brubaker, president and CEO of the Washington, DC-based Alliance for Transportation Innovation.

Rules and laws in some states pose additional challenges for the industry, Brubaker said. "Self-driving vehicles will change the way we live, work and play," Brubaker said in a statement. "They will improve safety for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike." The vehicles could also relieve traffic congestion, he added.

Similar demonstrations are planned for Monday in New Orleans; Feb 2 in Arlington, Texas; Feb. 6 in Los Angeles and Feb 9 in San Jose, California. The Alliance for Transportation Innovation is not-for-profit group that advocates for the adoption of new technologies on behalf of transportation technology firms. — AP

APPLE SUES QUALCOMM OVER TECHNOLOGY FEES

BEIJING: Apple Inc has filed suit in China challenging Qualcomm Inc's fees for technology used in smartphones two years after Chinese regulators fined the chip-maker for its licensing practices. Two lawsuits filed by the iPhone maker accuse Qualcomm of abusing its control over essential technology to charge excessive licensing fees, a Beijing court said on its microblog. It said Apple reports suffering 1 billion yuan (\$145 million) in "economic losses" and asks for 2.5 million yuan (\$360,000).

Most of Apple's iPhones and other products are assembled in China by contractors. Apple filed a similar complaint on Jan 21 in US federal court in San Diego, California, accusing Qualcomm of demanding royalties for innovations on iPhones that have nothing to do with Qualcomm's technology. The US lawsuit seeks \$1 billion in damages.

The US Federal Trade Commission also has filed a lawsuit accusing Qualcomm of imposing unfair licensing terms on manu-

facturers. Qualcomm, headquartered in San Diego, said in a statement it had not seen Apple's complaint to the Chinese court but defended its fees. The company said Apple rejected terms consistent with those accepted by more than 100 Chinese manufacturers.

Qualcomm agreed to change its licensing after Chinese regulators fined the company 6 billion yuan (\$975 million) in 2015 on charges it abused its control over technology to charge excessive fees. In a separate statement, Apple complained Qualcomm demands royalties for phone features that nothing to do with its technology. "For many years Qualcomm has unfairly insisted on charging royalties for technologies they have nothing to do with," said the Apple statement. It also accused Qualcomm of withholding nearly \$1 billion in payments due to Apple, headquartered in Cupertino, California, in retaliation for cooperating with investigations by regulators in the United States, Europe, South Korea and Taiwan. — AP

CRAIGSLIST FOUNDER TO DONATE 500K TO CURB WIKIPEDIA TROLLS

SAN FRANCISCO: Craigslist founder Craig Newmark is donating \$500,000 to help curb harassment on Wikipedia. The Wikimedia Foundation announced Thursday that money from the Craig Newmark Foundation and Craigslist's Charitable Fund will go toward tools for Wikipedia's staff and volunteer editors to reduce harassment on the user-generated encyclopedia site.

The Wikimedia Foundation says online harassment faced by Wikipedia contributors

impedes their ability to write and edit the site's entries. Newmark says in a statement that preventing "trolling, harassment and cyber-bullying" is essential to ensuring Wikipedia's vitality. Wikimedia says the money will be used to launch a program to help editors "more quickly identify potentially harassing behavior." One of the tools being considered under the program is to make it more difficult for blocked users to return to the site. — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: In this Jan 18, 2012, file photo, Mallory Whitt works at her desk at the offices of the Wikipedia Foundation. — AP

US NO LONGER HAS GEOGRAPHY AS DEFENSE, ALLY IN CYBER COMBAT

'IT'S OUR GEEKS VERSUS THEIR GEEKS'

WASHINGTON: The United States has long relied on its borders and superior military might to protect against and deter foreign aggressors. But a lack of boundaries and any rulebook in cyberspace has increased the threat and leveled the playing field today.

It's unclear how President Donald Trump, who has emphasized an "America First" approach to domestic issues, will respond to cyberspace threats, which transcend traditional borders and make it easier and cheaper than ever for foreigners to attack the US. Whatever the approach, it will set the tone and precedent for global policies during a critical time when the ground rules are still being written.

At a hearing this month on foreign cyberthreats, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen John McCain, R-Ariz, ran through a list of recent operations the US believes was carried out by foreign countries - Russia, China, Iran and North Korea. The targets: the White House, State Department, Office of Personnel Management, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Navy, major US financial institutions, a small New York dam and Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc. "Our adversaries have reached a common conclusion, that the reward for attacking America in cyberspace outweighs the risk," McCain said.

With most of the US critical infrastructure in private hands and Americans among the most connected citizens in the world, the potential attack surface for any hacker is vast and increasing. U.S. officials and lawmakers have argued that because there is no official policy on cyberwarfare, the response to any attack can be slow, politicized and ultimately ineffectual. The US took two months, after publicly accusing Russian government hackers of trying to influence the presidential election, to respond with economic sanctions and other more symbolic measures.

Information space

The reality is that the "nature of conflict has moved to the information space instead of just the physical kinetic space, and it now operates at greater scale and quicker speed," said Sean Kanuck, who served as the first US national intel-



IDAHO FALLS: In this Sept 30, 2011, file photo, a reflection of the Department of Homeland Security logo is seen reflected in the glasses of a cyber security analyst in the watch and warning center at the Department of Homeland Security's secretive cyber defense facility at Idaho National Laboratory. — AP

ligence officer for cyber issues in the Office of the Director for National Intelligence. Under the Obama administration, the US proposed international cyber rules for peacetime, including that countries should not target another's critical infrastructure. But otherwise, it has maintained existing international laws and reserved the right to respond to any cyberattack.

The Trump administration is reviewing cyber policies, but it has said it will prioritize developing defensive and offensive cyber capabilities. It has also said it will work with international partners to engage in "cyberwarfare to disrupt and disable (terrorist) propaganda and recruiting." Unlike conventional warfare, the costs in cyberspace can have rippling impacts for both the victim and attacker. Malicious software may end up spreading in an unforeseen and unplanned man-

ner, and a hacker who gets into a single computer can cause unpredictable effects to a network.

"Look at what North Korea did to Sony or what China did to us via the OPM hack," said David Gioe, a history fellow at the Army Cyber Institute at West Point and a former FBI agent. "You've got all of these aircraft carriers and all of this ocean, and it really doesn't matter because we're still feeling effects. They're not kinetic effects, but they're surely effects." More than 20 million people had their personal information compromised when the Office of Personnel Management was hacked in what the US believes was a Chinese espionage operation.

"Really it's our geeks versus their geeks," Gioe said. "In the same way as single combat. It doesn't matter how good my army is or your army is, it's me versus you." — AP



This Jan 15, 2017 file photo shows public Pilaa Beach, center, below hillside and ridge top land owned by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, near Kilauea on the north shore of Kauai in Hawaii. — AP

ZUCKERBERG DROPPING LAWSUITS SEEKING TO BUY HAWAII LAND

HONOLULU: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Friday that he was dropping lawsuits seeking to buy out Native Hawaiians who own small pieces of land within his sprawling estate on the island of Kauai, promising to work with the community on "a new approach." Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, said in a letter to the community published in The Garden Island newspaper that they were ending the cases "to find a better path forward."

"Upon reflection, I regret that I did not take the time to fully understand the quiet title process and its history before we moved ahead," the letter said of the legal move to clear up disputed or undetermined land ownership in Hawaii. "Now that I understand the issues better, it's clear we made a mistake."

A spokesman for Zuckerberg confirmed the couple sent the letter. The 14 parcels mostly belong to Native Hawaiian families awarded the land during the mid-19th century, when private property was established in Hawaii. Many original owners died without wills. Ownership today is split among hundreds of descendants, many

of whom are unaware of their shares. The couple filed court cases last month to identify the owners and ask the court to auction the land. Critics say the process often results in Native Hawaiians losing their land.

Land reforms

The parcels in question emerged during land reforms that the Kingdom of Hawaii pursued in the 1800s called "the Great Mahele." Until then, no individual owned land - it was collectively cared for and used. The reforms allowed commoners to claim title to land they lived on and farmed, usually about a half-acre. But only a small share of Hawaii's land - some 28,000 acres - ended up in the hands of commoners. Millions of acres went to the king, other royals and the government.

In the decades afterward, large sections of land passed into the hands of sugar plantation owners. The plantations, and other landowners who purchased the properties after sugar growing became unprofitable, frequently used the quiet title process to buy out descendants of the

commoner families, whose land was interspersed among the larger holdings.

Kilauea Sugar Co. previously owned Zuckerberg's land. He bought his 700-acre oceanfront property in 2014 for \$100 million, Forbes reported. Moses Haia, executive director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corp., an agency that frequently represents people on the receiving end of quiet title lawsuits, welcomed the tech billionaire's move.

"We appreciate Mr Zuckerberg's sense of justice and his desire to truly understand the impact that the introduction of private property has had on the indigenous people of Hawaii," Haia said. "We are encouraged by his desire to engage in a process intended to achieve the true intent of the Mahele." Democratic state Rep. Kaniela Ing, who introduced legislation this month requiring people to enter mediation before filing quiet title lawsuits, thanked the Facebook executive. "You now have an opportunity to set the bar for what being a good neighbor and an ally to indigenous peoples looks like," Ing said in a statement. — AP

GENES MAY HELP TOMATOES CATCH UP TO HEIRLOOM TASTE

WASHINGTON: Bite into a supermarket tomato and you'll probably notice something missing: taste. Scientists think they can put the yum back into the grocery tomato by tinkering with its genetic recipe. Researchers are reinstalling five long-lost genetic traits that add much of the sweet-yet-acidic taste that had been bred out of mass-produced tomatoes for the past 50 years. They're using mostly natural breeding methods, not genetic modification technology.

"We know what's wrong with modern tomatoes and we have a pretty good idea how to fix it," said University of Florida horticultural scientist Harry Klee, co-author of a study in Thursday's journal *Science*. Yield of tomatoes has tripled since 1960, but there's been a slow decline in taste quality as tomatoes have been bred for size and sturdiness at the expense of flavor. Klee said a tastier supermarket tomato could be ready within three years.

"Nobody deliberately set out to make tomatoes that don't have flavor," Klee said. "Basically it was a process of neglect." One key issue is size. Growers keep increasing

individual tomato size and grow more per plant. The trouble is that there is a limit to how much sugar each tomato plant can produce. Bigger tomatoes and more of them means less sugar per tomato and less taste, Klee said.

'Like eating candy'

So Klee and colleagues looked at the genomes of the mass-produced tomato varieties and heirloom tomatoes to try to help the grocery tomatoes catch up to their backyard garden taste. Good tiny heirloom tomatoes "are like eating candy," said New York University nutrition professor Marion Nestle, who wasn't part of the study. "For people who care about how food tastes, it's a very big deal."

Klee isolated some sugar genes and ones that were more geared to pure taste, but figured those won't work as well because they clash against growers' shipping and size needs. So he found areas that affect the aroma of tomatoes but not size or heartiness. Reintroducing those into mass-produced tomatoes should work

because smell is a big factor in taste, he said. Altering genes in a lab would make the process faster, but because of consumer distrust and regulations, Klee is opting for natural breeding methods - with help from an electric toothbrush to spread pollen. He's not quite there yet, but is close.

Jose Ordovas, a nutrition professor at Tufts University, applauds the work, but cautions: "It is possible that some traits are not compatible and you cannot make the plant to behave exactly the way that you want." Reggie Brown of growers' Florida Tomato Committee praised the study, saying it could help make supermarket tomatoes taste better.

No matter how much tinkering scientists do to mass-produced tomatoes, picking them too early and refrigerating them can make them bland. And consumers do have to be willing to pay more to have fresher, unrefrigerated tomatoes, said Klee, who generally doesn't do the taste testing in his lab. "I don't like raw tomatoes very much at all. You know, I'm kind of tired of them," he said. — AP



DES MONIES: In this March 23, 2011 file photo, a woman shops for tomatoes at a grocery store. — AP



BEIJING: In this Jan 9, 2017, Zou Yi rolls up posters showing years long record of the snaps he takes from his apartment to record the air quality at his apartment. — AP photos

SMOG PUSHES BEIJING CITIZENS TO INNOVATE FOR THE WORLD

MANY RESIDENTS DEVELOPING THEIR OWN PARTIAL SOLUTIONS

BEIJING: Beijing residents concerned about breathing the capital's thick gray air are adapting, inventing and even creating businesses to protect the health of their families and others. Some of their efforts could help people around the world. Already this year, the smog-shrouded capital has suffered particularly hazardous bouts of pollution caused mainly by coal burning and vehicle emissions. Like other Chinese cities, Beijing is trying to tackle the problem: City authorities say they will spend \$2.7 billion this year to help replace coal with natural gas, close heavily polluting factories and take older vehicles off the road. Official figures show improvement since 2013, but Beijing has a long way to go. With no quick fix available, many residents developing their own partial solutions. Here are some of their ideas:

Shooting the sky

For the last four years, Zou Yi has diligently captured the sky's change in colors from the window of his central Beijing apartment, where he can - usually - see the landmark Beijing Television tower. The background in his photos runs from dirty brown to deep gray, interspersed with one or more days of cobalt blue. On the worst days, nearby buildings can't be seen. A 10-day period of particularly heavy pollution inspired his project. The government had just started publishing data on levels of PM2.5 - tiny particulate matter that can clog lungs - and a taboo on state media's discussion of the sensitive topic had just been lifted. "I couldn't go out, I couldn't open windows, I couldn't see the building next to me because the smog was so bad," he said.

Zou shared the photos on the Twitter-like

Sina Weibo and the smartphone messaging app WeChat. He found his friends had similar feelings of frustration and recruited his building manager to take the pictures when he was out of town. "They wanted me to share a photo with them every day, so I did it every day, every month," said Zou, 50. Hundreds of thousands of people have seen his photos on social media.

What started as a way to complain has morphed into his full-time passion. This month, Zou set up the non-governmental organization BeijingAirNow to work with scientists on technology to read pollution levels from around the world by analyzing the tint in the images rather than using expensive monitoring equipment to collect air particles. He says he is handing over more than 300,000 photos for computer analysis.

A purified home

Wang Jiang, 42, and her family had eight air purifiers at home, yet found that the indoor air quality was still not good enough on heavy pollution days. Then they decided to take their efforts up a notch. But sealing windows and doors and turning on the purifiers caused carbon dioxide levels to spike, leaving Wang to wake up last year with headaches while pregnant with her second daughter.

So now they have installed a \$5,000 industrial-grade filtration system that sucks in outdoor air, cleans it via three filters and distributes it around the house through newly fitted pipes. They filled in vents from their building's central heating system and installed their own. While some might find that extreme, it's an increasingly popular solution. Filter manufacturer Yuanda

says their customers range from the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee to homes and about 1,000 kindergartens and schools.

A marketing representative, who only gave his surname, Hu, said their purifying systems often go out of stock. "If you order one today, it won't get installed until March," Hu said. Now Wang, a coffee importer, can exercise on a living room treadmill when pollution is bad without worrying about her health. Her husband, Frenchman Ludovic Bodin, 38, said he thinks every house should have an air filtering and ventilation system pre-installed. "At least if you cannot secure outdoors because it takes time ... at least try to secure the house inside," he said.

Crowdsourcing data

Frenchman and long-term Beijing resident Yann Boquillod wanted to know what kind of air his five children were breathing at home, so he developed a portable air quality monitor. It also tells users when carbon dioxide levels are high from sealing rooms too tightly, and advises that they should open windows for 10 minutes even if there is pollution outside. Boquillod's start-up, AirVisual, also provides air pollution readings around the world using data from more than 10,000 monitoring sources, both public and private. The company shares a 3-D real-time global map of air pollution and weather patterns on its website.

On the website Wednesday, easily the largest mass of unhealthy levels of PM2.5 pollution was a swath that covered much of eastern China, from Beijing in the north to Kunming in the south. Boquillod, 39, sees this as an educational tool and means of self-protection. He consults with schools, hospitals and offices to test air quality and find gaps in door and window frames that could allow pollution in. "The most important thing is to first start by monitoring the air quality and from that we can take the right decisions on what kind of air purifiers to install (and) know about the leakage inside the building," he said.

Masked students

Children as young as 3 at Ivy Bilingual School know they need to wear face masks when the smog is bad. The school also invites mask makers to come in and cut open masks to demonstrate which ones have extra layers and are better for their health. The children can even educate their parents on the masks and how to fit them, said campus director Victoria Li.

The school monitors pollutant levels and instructs teachers to make sure windows are closed 15 minutes before school starts to give the air purifiers time to work. It also puts up green or red signs indicating whether children can go out and play. Some international schools in Beijing have installed air-inflated sports domes for athletics, complete with air filters and rotating doors to help keep them sealed. — AP



BEIJING: Yann Boquillod, founder of start-up AirVisual, uses a device to test the air coming through a gap in the door at the Ivy Bilingual School.

MONGOLIANS STAND IN PROTEST OF POLLUTION

ULAANBAATAR: Thousands of Mongolians stood in frigid weather yesterday for the second time this winter to protest the government response to smog that routinely blankets their capital. An estimated 7,000 people, many of them wearing air masks and gas masks underneath thick winter hats, braved temperatures that fell below minus 20 degrees Celsius (minus 4 Fahrenheit). Standing in the city's central Sukhbaatar Square, they held black balloons and protest signs. One banner read: "Wake up and smell the smog."

Ulaanbaatar is one of the world's coldest capitals, and more than half of the city's 1.3 million residents rely on burning raw coal, plastic, rubber tires and other materials to stay warm and cook meals in their homes. In impoverished neighborhoods that ring the city, known as ger districts, many herders and others live in traditional round tents without heating, leaving them to burn polluting fuels.

UNICEF, the United Nations' children's agency, said last year that Ulaanbaatar was one of the 10 most polluted cities in the world. It found that the lungs of children living in the districts with the highest pollution did not function as well as those of children living in rural areas, putting them at risk of chronic respiratory diseases as they grow older.

Pollution readings in one ger district Friday were at times nearly 30 times above

the levels considered safe by the World Health Organization. Icy winds that whipped through the square during yesterday's protest cleared some of the previous day's pollution. Sanchir Jargalsaikhan, a political scientist in Ulaanbaatar, said climate change has intensified summer droughts and winter colds, making it harder to maintain livestock and forcing more herders into overcrowded ger districts.

"The policies our government is pursuing are pretty piecemeal, I would say," Jargalsaikhan said. "They're not part of a development project or a comprehensive program." Mongolia's environment and tourism minister, Oyunkhorol Dulamsuren, said in December that the government spent more than \$37 million and international donors \$47 million between 2011 and 2015 on measures to cut down air pollution.

But many protesters Saturday said that they didn't have the means to do more on their own. Dorjin Dolgor, a retiree, said she lives on an annual pension of 275,000 MNT (\$112). She burns coal in the stove of her house to stay warm. She called herself a "smogmaker" by necessity.

"To get heaters for my three-room house would cost me one year of my pension, and maybe not even be enough," she said. "That is the real price. And on top of that, we don't know how my electrical bill would be afterward." — AP



ULAANBATAAR: Protesters hold up banners on Sukhbaatar Square. — AP

STUDY: SUPERBUG INFECTIONS FOUND IN CHINESE HOSPITALS

LONDON: New research suggests a worrying number of people in China may be infected with bacteria resistant to an antibiotic used as a last resort. Researchers examined more than 17,000 samples from patients with infections of common bacteria found in the gut, in two hospitals in China's Zhejiang and Guangdong provinces, over eight years. About 1 percent of those samples were resistant to colistin, often considered the last option in antibiotics.

The study, published Friday in the *Lancet* journal, is one of the first to document the extent of drug-resistant infections in more than one Chinese province. For decades, China has used colistin in its agriculture industry to speed animals' growth, but the drug was not used in people. Scientists say the latest work is further evidence that overuse in animals can spread to people.

Chinese officials earlier this year approved colistin for use in hospitals, raising fears that it could worsen the resistance problem. "It will be very important to ration its use so that it's only used when absolutely nothing else will work," said Mark Enright, a professor of medical microbiology at Manchester Metropolitan University, who was not part of the research.

Health officials have long worried that colistin-resistant bacteria might spread more widely, setting the stage for superbug infections that would theoretically be impervious to medications. Only a small number of such cases worldwide have been detected, including in the US.

Rising concerns

Rising concerns over drug-resistant germs have prompted the United Nations to encourage countries to cut back on antibiotic use and develop new medicines. People infected with these resistant strains can usually be treated with current antibiotics, but doctors warn that as these bacteria - which are already untreatable with last-resort drugs - acquire resistance to current drugs, the infections may become impossible to treat.

Experts also noted a surprise: the apparent ease with which the resistant gene spread between bacteria, including different species of bugs. "It now looks like there's potential for the resistance gene to move around and spread between different species of bacteria," said Nigel Brown, a spokesman for Britain's Microbiology Society, adding that it could lead to a jump in infections. In a separate study also published in the *Lancet*, another group of Chinese researchers analyzed samples from patients with blood infections at 28 hospitals. About 1 percent had the colistin-resistant gene - a much higher figure than would be expected in developed countries. Colistin's use in hospitals should be restricted to avoid problems, said Yunsong Yu, one of the study's authors.

"This is a warning shot about the possible scenario where we don't have very much left in the armory to treat (bacterial) infections," said Brown. "I don't think we are very close to that happening, but it is a remote possibility if we aren't careful about how we use our antibiotics." — AP

CALIFORNIA CLEARS HURDLE FOR CANCER LABEL ON ROUNDUP

FRESNO: California can require Monsanto to label its popular weed-killer Roundup as a possible cancer threat despite an insistence from the chemical giant that it poses no risk to people, a judge tentatively ruled Friday. California would be the first state to order such labeling if it carries out the proposal. Monsanto had sued the nation's leading agricultural state, saying California officials illegally based their decision for carrying the warnings on an international health organization based in France.

Monsanto attorney Trenton Norris argued in court Friday that the labels would have immediate financial consequences for the company. He said many consumers would see the labels and stop buying Roundup. "It will absolutely be used in ways that will harm Monsanto," he said. After the hearing, the firm said in a statement that it will challenge the tentative ruling.

Critics take issue with Roundup's main ingredient, glyphosate, which has no color or smell. Monsanto introduced it in 1974 as an effective way of killing weeds while leaving crops and plants intact. It's sold in more than 160 countries, and farmers in California use it on 250 types of crops. The chemical is not restricted by the US Environmental Protection Agency, which says it has "low toxicity" and recommends people avoid entering a field for 12 hours after it has been applied. But the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a Lyon, France-based branch of the UN World Health Organization, classified the chemical as a "probable human carcinogen."

Unselected foreign body

Shortly afterward, the most populated US state took its first step in 2015 to require

the warning labels. St. Louis-based Monsanto contends that California is delegating its authority to an unelected foreign body with no accountability to US or state officials in violation of the California Constitution. Attorneys for California consider the International Agency for Research on Cancer the "gold standard" for identifying carcinogens, and they rely on its findings along with several states, the federal government and other countries, court papers say.

Fresno County Superior Court Judge Kristi Kapetan still must issue a formal decision, which she said would come soon. California regulators are waiting for the formal ruling before moving forward with the warnings, said Sam Delson, a spokesman for the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Once a chemical is added to a list of probable carcinogens, the manufacturer has a year before it must attach the label, he said.

Teri McCall believes a warning would have saved her husband, Jack, who toted a backpack of Roundup for more than 30 years to spray weeds on their 20-acre avocado and apple farm. He died of cancer in late 2015. "I just don't think my husband would have taken that risk if he had known," said Teri McCall, one of dozens nationwide who are suing Monsanto, claiming the chemical gave them or a loved one cancer. But farmer Paul Betancourt, who has been using Roundup for more than three decades on his almond and cotton crops, says he does not know anyone who has gotten sick from it. "You've got to treat it with a level of respect, like anything else," he said. "Gasoline will cause cancer if you bathe in the stuff." — AP



TITUSVILLE: This Tuesday, Jan 24, 2017 photo provided by NASA shows part of the Apollo 1 exhibit at the Kennedy Space Center. — AP photos



CAPE KENNEDY: In this undated photo made available by NASA, from left, veteran astronaut Virgil Grissom, first American spacewalker Ed White and rookie Roger Chaffee, stand for a photograph.

NASA OPENS EXHIBIT ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 1 FIRE

'GOT THE SPACE PROGRAM TO WHERE IT IS TODAY'

CAPE CANAVERAL: NASA opened an exhibit Friday honoring the astronauts in the Apollo 1 fire - 50 years to the day they died. The hatch from the burned spacecraft is the main draw. It had been concealed, along with the capsule, for a half-century. On Friday's anniversary, the hatch that trapped Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee inside their capsule at the launch pad finally went on display.

The exhibit at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex also includes the redesigned hatch used on the spacecraft that carried men to the moon. Twenty-four Americans flew to the moon during the late 1960s and early 1970s, and 12 walked its surface. "It is really fitting for those three wonderful individuals: Roger, Ed and Gus. I knew them well," said Apollo 10's Tom Stafford.

Apollo 1 was America's first space tragedy. It was overshadowed in the decades ahead by two more disasters: the 1986 Challenger and 2003

Columbia shuttle accidents. NASA officials acknowledged at the ceremony it was about time Apollo 1 got properly recognized with its own exhibit. Families of the Apollo 1 crew were at Friday's opening; they got a private tour Wednesday. They had one last event: an early evening ceremony at the abandoned pad where the flash fire occurred at 6:31 p.m. on Jan. 27, 1967.

'You can feel the spirits here'

The relatives filled four long rows of black-draped chairs in front of the exhibit, along with Stafford and Apollo 16 moonwalker Charlie Duke, and NASA dignitaries. Astronauts from the space shuttle and station era stood on the sidelines, along with space center workers, past and present. Four tourists from Wisconsin who got on the wrong tour bus ended up at the ceremony.

"You almost can feel their spirits are here," Patty Most said as she gazed up at the large

glass painting of the Apollo 1 men in their white spacesuits, their orange launch tower in the background.

The three astronauts "got the space program to where it is today," friend Ron Meyer noted. The exhibit also provides a look at the Apollo 1 astronauts, not just as pilots, but as husbands and fathers, too. It also remembers the launch pad workers who risked their own lives attempting to pry off the three-part hatch and save the crew.

As he joined others in walking through the exhibit, Kennedy's associate director Kelvin Manning said the message still rings true these many decades later, as NASA looks ahead to the commercial space effort and eventual journeys to Mars. "We want to honor the crew," he said. "We also want people to pause ... we want to understand the risks so we can ensure our astronauts' safety." — AP



LOS ANGELES: Containers of Roundup, left, a weed killer is seen on a shelf with other products for sale at a hardware store. — AP

RUSSIA CHECK SPACE FLIGHT ENGINES OVER FAULTY PARTS

MOSCOW: Russia yesterday said it had ordered a full check of engines used on its key Proton rocket after a cargo ship crashed last month due to engine disintegration and an inspection revealed factory violations. A plant making engines for both the Soyuz and Proton rockets had workers "switch technology and documentation," Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said, vowing to punish those responsible.

Earlier reports said engine parts used on the second and third stages of the widely-used Proton rocket had been swapped for cheaper variants. "A neces-

sary check of engines with possible technical defects will be made," Roscosmos space agency said, adding that the launch schedule will be "coordinated" with the verifications.

Rogozin said launches using the Proton rocket would resume in three and a half months. He did not mention the Soyuz rockets, which are used for manned flights, particularly the next ISS mission set for late March. The Progress freighter crashed in Siberia after it failed to reach orbit in early December due to a malfunction during third-stage separation. — AFP

LITTLE GIRLS DOUBT WOMEN CAN BE BRILLIANT, SAYS STUDY

WASHINGTON: Can women be brilliant? Little girls are not so sure. A study published Thursday in the journal Science suggests that girls as young as 6 can be led to believe men are inherently smarter and more talented than women, making girls less motivated to pursue novel activities or ambitious careers. That such stereotypes exist is hardly a surprise, but the findings show these biases can affect children at a very young age.

"As a society, we associate a high level of intellectual ability with males more than females, and our research suggests that this association is picked up by children as young as 6 and 7," said Andrei Cimpian, associate professor in the psychology department at New York University. Cimpian coauthored the study, which looked at 400 children ages 5-7.

In the first part of the study, girls and boys were told a story about a person who is "really, really smart," a child's idea of brilliance, and then asked to identify that person among the photos of two women and two men. The people in the photos were dressed professionally, looked the same age and appeared equally happy. At 5, both boys and girls tended to associate brilliance with their own gender, meaning that most girls chose women and most boys chose men.

But as they became older and began attending school, children apparently began endorsing

gender stereotypes. At 6 and 7, girls were "significantly less likely" to pick women. The results were similar when the kids were shown photos of children. Interestingly, when asked to select children who look like they do well in school, as opposed to being smart, girls tended to pick girls, which means that their perceptions of brilliance are not based on academic performance. "These stereotypes float free of any objective markers of achievement and intelligence," Cimpian said.

In the second part of the study, children were introduced to two new board games, one described as an activity "for children who are really, really smart" and the other one "for children who try really, really hard." Five-year-old girls and boys were equally likely to want to play the game for smart kids, but at age 6 and 7, boys still wanted to play that game, while girls opted for the other activity. "There isn't anything about the game itself that becomes less interesting for girls, but rather it's the description of it as being for kids that are really, really smart."

Aspirations and career choices

As a result, believing that they are not as gifted as boys, girls tend to shy away from demanding majors and fields, leading to big differences in aspirations and career choices between men and women. "These stereotypes discourage women's

pursuit of many prestigious careers; that is, women are underrepresented in fields whose members cherish brilliance," the authors wrote.

It is still unclear where the stereotypes come from. Parents, teachers and peers and the media are the usual suspects, Cimpian said. But it is evident that action must be taken so that these biases don't curtail girls' professional aspirations. "Instill the idea that success in any line of work is not an innate ability, whatever it is, but rather putting your head down, being passionate about what you are doing," Cimpian said, adding that exposure to successful women who can serve as role models also helps.

Toy companies like Mattel, maker of the Barbie doll, have taken steps to try to reduce gender stereotypes. Mattel's "You can be anything" Barbie campaign tells girls that they can be paleontologists, veterinarians or professors, among other careers. The campaign also holds out the possibility that a girl can imagine herself to be a fairy princess. Rebecca S Bigler, professor of psychology at the University of Texas at Austin, described Cimpian's study "as exceptionally nice work." She suggested that the stereotypes develop in early elementary school when students are exposed to famous scientists, composers and writers, the "geniuses" of history, who are overwhelmingly men. — AP

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MAIS ALGHANIM LAUNCHES NEW EXQUISITE DISHES MENU

The Mais Alghanim Restaurant has just announced its recently added promotion, the launching of a new exquisite dishes menu. A rich variety of delectable dishes to be made available to patrons in Sharq and Mahboula, tantalizing customer's tastes with a memorable and unique experience every time.

The promotion menu features appetizers, salads and main dishes; including hot and cold Mezzas, that are creations of the Mais Alghanim chefs, and have been meticulously selected to satisfy every palate. The new flavorful offerings include weight watchers delight the Roasted Vegetable Salad; containing Rocca, Beetroot Wedges, Pumpkin, Goat Cheese served with a Vinaigrette Dressing. A zesty Tropical Shrimp Salad with Iceberg Lettuce, Shrimp, Avocado, Grenadine Seeds served with a Tropical Dressing. In addition to nutty Safeeha Yafawiah with Minced Meat, Dried Barberries and Walnuts. The menu also has the authentic Cheese Sajieh prepared with Meat Kibbeh Patty stuffed with our Signature Mix of Cheese, Dried Barberries and Pistachio. The Shrimp Pistachio for seafood fans, made with Pistachio Breaded Shrimp served with Potato Puree and Dill Sauce.

The generous selection of main dishes featured on the

Exquisite Dishes Menu includes; the tasty and healthy Quinoa Chicken Kabab served with Biryani Rice & Chef's special Sauce. The divine Kibbeh Skewer is prepared with Charcoal Grilled Meat Kibbeh and served with White Vermicelli Rice and cooked yoghurt; our star dish Lamb Shank Biryani made with Oven-Roasted Lamb Shank cooked with Spices and served with Biryani Rice and Chef's Gravy. And the catch of the day Sea Bass with Quinoa and Lemon Butter Sauce served with Sautéed Vegetables. This promo also includes an assortment of delicious desserts including a copiousness Oreo Crème brulee and the most loved Chocolate Berry Cake for the sweet tooth.

Mais Alghanim Restaurant, renowned for being a pioneer in the hospitality industry, has always been keen on offering its customers the utmost quality at a very competitive price. Mais Alghanim has been consistently promoting a series of innovative and exciting offerings, the most recent of which is the Exquisite Dishes Menu, brought to customers as part of its legacy to satisfy every palate, exceed all expectations and bring great flavors to your dining experience. Worth mentioning that this promotion is available at Mais Alghanim restaurants in Sharq - Arabian - Gulf Street and Mahboula - Spoons Complex and not offered through the To Go or home delivery service.



AUTHOR CELEBRATES AMIR'S ANNIVERSARY

Author Abdulla Abbas Bowair will hold a special ceremony on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 to commemorate the 11th Anniversary of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's assumption of power. Members of martyrs' families will also be honored during the ceremony, which takes place at Crowne Plaza Hotel starting from 7:00 pm. A special short movie about His Highness the Amir will be shown, while some traditional songs and poetry will be performed. Bowair will also present copies of his book about His Highness the Amir to the audience.

Abdullah Abbas Bowair



GRAND OPENING OF KAHVE DUNYASI, TURKEY'S LEADING COFFEE SHOP CHAIN

Al-Yaqout Group announced its grand opening of Kahve Dunyasi coffee shop in Kuwait-Spoons Food Complex-Al Mahboula. Kahve Dunyasi is Turkey's leading coffee shop chain with more than 130 branches in Turkey, London and Saudi Arabia. Kahve Dunyasi offers a wide range of authentic coffee, chocolate, sandwiches, cakes, ice creams and pastry products, all prepared using natural ingredients of coffee, cocoa and chocolate-manufactured by the second largest chocolate manufacturer in the world known as Altinmarka.

Kahve Dunyasi is famous for satisfying its customers' needs for all eating occasions such as breakfast, lunch, dinner as well as in-between snacking. In Kuwait, they also have catering section to serve special parties and gatherings with chocolates, sweets and sandwiches. In addition, they will be launching very soon delivery service to neighboring areas of the store location.

The first branch consists of two floors combining elegant interior decoration and furniture to offer comfortable atmosphere to its customers filled with vitality, fun and

wonderful views of the mall surroundings. The event was graced with the presence of Anna Tamer, Wife of HE Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey- Salih Murat Tamer, Al-Yaqout family and many representatives from the Turkish embassy, Kahve Dunyasi and media houses.

The event started with a ribbon cutting by Omar Al-Yaqout, Chairman of Al-Yaqout Group, and Anna Tamer, followed by a tour in the shop and tasting of a wide range of Kahve Dunyasi products. The event was covered live on radio 88.8 FM and involved a lot of activities and distribution of giveaways to the customers.

At the end of the event, Mr. Omar Al-Yaqout, expressed his gratitude for the invitees, and stated that the opening of this branch is just the beginning and there will be many more branches to come. Mr. Shahid Khan, Group CEO of Al-Yaqout group, expressed his appreciation as well and stated that the main objective is to position Kahve Dunyasi as the number one coffee shop chain in Kuwait in terms of product and service quality. At Kahve Dunyasi, our mission is to spread the genuine Turkish coffee culture everywhere.



THE LATEST FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Hearing app grows its reach

It's a world first - a smartphone app that enables people to test their hearing, says lead researcher Prof. De Wet Swanepoel. The app was created by a South African research team and it is being tried all over the world. More than 40 000 hearing tests have been done with a hearing app created by a South African team of researchers. The hear Screen app, provided on a smartphone, is being used in 25 countries worldwide, including Ethiopia, Australia and Guatemala. Because of its success, the South African public can now use the hearing detecting app, hearZA. Speaking on talk radio station CapeTalk, Prof De Wet Swanepoel of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at the University of Pretoria called the hearZA app "a super computer you have in your pocket". It helps anyone who is 16 or older to test their hearing.

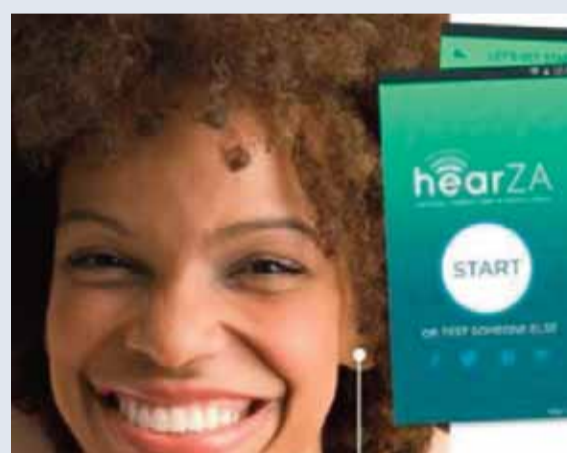
Swanepoel explains the hearScreen app is provided on a smartphone with a calibrated headphone. This is to allow an accurate hearing test from an Android smartphone according to international standards. "It is not a consumer app but is provided preloaded on specific smartphones with a headphone." The hearScreen project started in

A posthumous honor for late Hamilton Naki

The world's first adult human heart transplant was performed by South African cardiac surgeon Dr Chris Barnard on 3 December 1967, in Cape Town. Hamilton Naki was part of the research team that helped doctors achieve this pioneering medical success.

The city of Cape Town's Naming and Nomination Committee announced on 10 January 2017 that it was considering re-naming Salazar Plain in the CBD after Naki. Appropriately, Salazar Plain is located on the city's foreshore, opposite the Christian Barnard Hospital, named after the chief surgeon in the ground-breaking 1967 heart transplant operation, and with whom Naki worked closely to make the procedure a success. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the historic medical moment.

Naki was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe, one of South Africa's highest honors, for his outstanding contribution to medical science. He died in 2005, aged 78. Naki's legacy continues to inspire. The National Research Foundation's Hamilton Naki Award has, since 2015, honored outstanding individuals who have achieved world-class research performance despite considerable challenges.



2013 but its beta launch was on World Hearing Day on 3 March 2016, he says. "By beta launch we mean that it is not the final product launch. We have launched to interested parties but based on experiences are still refining it for a final product launch in 2017."

The app is used in various settings from screenings in schools, early childhood development centres and primary healthcare clinics, to monitoring TB patients for drug-induced hearing loss and monitoring hearing status in occupational health settings, Swanepoel explains. - Source: www.brandsouthafrica.com

Creating world's biggest blanket

The 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela Campaign encouraged people from all over the world, including offenders from across the country, to contribute handmade blankets towards creating a giant world record-breaking blanket, while contributing to a good cause.

On Monday, 23 January, the Department of Correctional Services, in partnership with 67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela, celebrated the Guinness World Record's recognition of creating the world's biggest blanket, and the certification of offenders and officials who contributed to this success, in Drakenstein, Western Cape. The campaign for blanket-making in correctional centres was introduced in August 2015 as part of the offenders' rehabilitation program. The initiative offered an opportunity for inmates across the country to give back to society while empowering them with skills to function effectively in society upon their release.

Table mountain cableway welcomes 26 million visitors

Table Mountain Cableway recently welcomed its 26 millionth visitor to the mountain, with the latest million visitors having taken a record-breaking 11 months to reach! On a busy morning at the Lower Station Ticket Office, Elbie Mattheus from Cradock, Eastern Cape, stood unsuspecting as the numbers ticked closer to the million mark.

Surprised by fanfare and balloons, Elbie (accompanied by boyfriend Morne Viljoen) received a prize from the Cableway, including Cableway tickets, a Table Mountain Café voucher, Shop at the Top merchandise, a Monopoly Cape Town set and a Jiva Grande Spa signature treatment followed by a delicious afternoon Tea for two at the prestigious Taj Cape Town Hotel. "This is my first time going up the mountain, so what an amazing surprise to be Cableway's 26 millionth visitor," said Elbie. "With limited time in Cape Town, this is definitely a must-do experience. I cannot wait to take in the views from the top."

Cableway Managing Director Wahida Parker said it had taken 28 years for the Cableway to record its first millionth visitor - in 1957. But thanks to consistent visitor numbers throughout 2016 and an increase in visitors during the usually quiet, colder months of winter, the Cableway was able to celebrate reaching the latest million visits in just 11 months. "As proud custodians of South Africa's New 7 Wonder of Nature we not only look forward to welcoming many more visitors to the Cableway but aim to showcase this magnificent attraction with continued excitement, respect and passion," said Parker.

— Courtesy of Embassy of South Africa



IWC CULTURAL WORKSHOPS



The International Women Committee (IWC) advisor, Narjis Al-Shatti said that the committee's new program includes holding workshops for members about international cuisines as part of IWC's in-depth perspective on international cultures. Al-Shatti added that, for this purpose, ambassadors' spouses prepared national dishes from their respective countries starting with Belgium where, assisted by Belgian chefs, the Belgian ambassador's spouse prepared some traditional Belgian dishes during the Belgian Cultural Week in Kuwait held at Ruby Tuesday Restaurant. Furthermore, Al-Shatti stressed that the drawing workshop recently held by the Hungarian and the Egyptian ambassadors' spouses in collaboration with NCCAL at Abdul Aziz Hussein's Center in Mishref, was the fifth of its kind.





- 00:50 Gator Boys
01:45 Deadly Islands
02:40 Killer Whales
03:35 Operation Whale
05:15 Whale Wars: Viking Shores
06:02 Whale Wars
06:49 River Monsters
07:36 Gorilla School
08:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
09:15 Treehouse Masters
10:10 The Vet Life
11:05 Up Close And Dangerous
12:00 Deadliest Snakes Of South Africa
12:55 Going Ape
13:20 Going Ape
13:50 Man, Cheetah, Wild
14:45 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
15:40 Weird Creatures With Nick Baker
19:20 Treehouse Masters
20:15 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
21:10 The Vet Life
22:05 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
23:00 Treehouse Masters
23:55 Gator Boys

- 17:40 Wheeler Dealers
18:30 How Do They Do It?
18:55 How Do They Do It?
19:20 Boy To Man
20:10 The Liquidator
20:35 The Liquidator
21:00 Storage Hunters UK
21:25 Storage Hunters UK
21:50 Sonic Sea
22:40 Legend Of Croc Gold
23:30 Fast N' Loud



- 00:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
07:10 The Universe
08:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence
19:00 Monster Quest
20:00 Ancient Impossible
21:00 How 2 Win
22:00 Ancient Aliens
23:00 Engineering Disasters



- 00:20 Ice Road Truckers
01:10 Hunting Hitler
02:00 Counting Cars
02:25 Car Hunters
02:50 American Restoration
03:40 Leepu And Pitbull
04:30 Storage Wars: Best Of
05:00 Battle 360
06:00 Ice Road Truckers
06:50 Shipping Wars
07:15 Shipping Wars
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
11:50 Time Team
12:40 Swamp People
13:10 Ax Men
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Ice Road Truckers
16:00 Counting Cars
16:25 Counting Cars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Alcatraz: The Search For The Truth
19:20 Ax Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:25 Storage Wars: Best Of
21:50 Storage Wars
22:15 Storage Wars
22:40 Counting Cars
23:05 Car Hunters
23:30 American Pickers



- 00:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
01:00 Frenemies
01:30 Frenemies
02:00 Cursed: The Bell Witch
03:00 Holloway: Women Behind Bars
04:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
05:00 Frenemies
05:30 Frenemies
06:00 Cursed: The Bell Witch
07:00 The First 48
08:00 The First 48
09:00 Crime Stories
10:00 It Takes A Killer
14:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
15:00 What The Killer Saw
16:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
17:00 When Life Means Life
18:00 Monster In My Family
19:00 Homicide Hunter
20:00 Homicide Hunter
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 Homicide Hunter
23:00 Diabolical Women



- 00:05 The Carbonaro Effect
00:30 Nextworld
01:20 Nextworld
02:10 Storm Chasers
03:00 Storm Chasers
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 Ultimate Survival
05:30 Ultimate Survival
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Doki
07:25 Doki
07:50 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
08:15 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 How It's Made
10:45 How It's Made
11:10 How It's Made
11:35 How It's Made
12:00 How It's Made

- 00:00 Restaurant Stakeout
01:00 Mystery Dinners
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
05:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Barefoot Contessa
08:00 The Pioneer Woman
09:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
10:00 Anna Olson: Bake
11:00 Man Fire Food
12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:00 Chopped
14:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics



- 00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
00:35 The Hive
00:45 Loopdidoo
01:00 Henry Hugglemonster
01:15 Calimero
01:30 Art Attack
01:50 Zou
02:05 Loopdidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Zou
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:45 Loopdidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopdidoo



- 00:10 Hank Zipzer
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Violetta
01:45 The Hive
01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Hank Zipzer
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Violetta
04:15 The Hive
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:10 Hank Zipzer
05:35 Binny And The Ghost
06:00 Violetta
06:45 The Hive
06:50 Mouk
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Jessie
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
08:20 Sunny Bunnies
08:25 Rolling To The Ranks
08:50 Frozen: Magic Of The Northern Lights
08:55 Jessie
09:20 Descendants Wicked World
09:25 Elena Of Avalor
09:50 Star Darlings
09:55 Girl Meets World
10:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
10:25 Bizaardvark
10:50 Liv And Maddie
11:15 Stuck In The Middle
11:40 Pocahontas
13:20 Sonny With A Chance

- 15:25 Jessie
15:50 Jessie
16:15 Disney Cookbook
16:40 Austin & Ally
17:05 Descendants Wicked World
17:10 Elena Of Avalor
17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
18:00 Gravity Falls
18:25 Disney's Descendants
20:20 The 7D
20:30 Elena Of Avalor
20:55 Liv And Maddie
21:20 Best Friends Whenever
21:45 Austin & Ally
22:10 Mako Mermaids
22:35 Dog With A Blog
23:00 Binny And The Ghost
23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



- 00:20 Henry Hugglemonster
00:35 The Hive
00:45 Loopdidoo
01:00 Henry Hugglemonster
01:15 Calimero
01:30 Art Attack
01:50 Zou
02:05 Loopdidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Zou
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:45 Loopdidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopdidoo



SHERLOCK HOLMES ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 22:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
23:00 PJ Masks
23:30 PJ Masks
23:55 PJ Masks

- 07:15 Shipping Wars
07:40 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars
09:45 Storage Wars
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Billion Dollar Wreck
11:50 Time Team
12:40 Swamp People
13:30 Ax Men
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Ice Road Truckers
16:00 Counting Cars
16:25 Counting Cars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Storage Wars
18:05 Counting Cars
18:30 Pawn Stars
18:55 Storage Wars: Best Of
19:20 Ax Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
21:50 Hunting Hiller
22:40 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
23:30 American Pickers



- 00:20 Rescue Ink
01:10 Wild Galapagos
02:00 World's Deadliest
02:50 Monster Fish
03:45 Man And The Wild
04:40 Borneo's Secret Kingdom
05:35 America's Deadliest
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 Wild 24
09:15 Urban Jungle
10:10 Wild Russia
11:05 India's Lost Worlds
12:00 Badass Animals
12:55 World's Deadliest
13:50 Monster Fish
14:45 Man And The Wild
15:40 Wildebeeste: Born To Run
17:30 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
18:25 Swamp Men
19:20 Man And The Wild
20:10 Wildebeeste: Born To Run
21:00 Borneo's Secret Kingdom
21:50 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
22:40 Swamp Men
23:30 Badass Animals



- 00:15 Coronation Street
00:35 Coronation Street
01:00 5 Star Family Reunion
01:45 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
02:15 Coronation Street
02:40 Coronation Street
03:05 Coronation Street
03:30 Coronation Street
03:55 Coronation Street
04:15 The Chase
05:05 The Jonathan Ross Show
06:00 5 Star Family Reunion
06:50 Surprise Surprise
07:45 Arthur & George
08:35 Arthur & George
09:30 Arthur & George
10:25 Endeavour
11:55 Murdoch Mysteries
12:45 Murdoch Mysteries
13:40 Tracey Ullman's Show
14:10 Surprise Surprise
15:00 The Royal Variety Performance 2016
17:10 Doctor Thorne
18:00 Don't Tell The Bride
19:05 Surprise Surprise
20:00 The Royal Variety Performance 2016
22:20 Murdoch Mysteries
23:15 Murdoch Mysteries



- 00:10 Mega Factories
01:00 Air Crash Investigation
02:00 Inside
02:55 The Numbers Game
03:20 The Numbers Game
03:50 Beyond Magic With DMC
04:45 Mega Bridges
05:40 Wicked Tuna
06:35 Explorer
07:30 The Real Saddam Hussein
08:25 Breakout

- 09:20 The Border
10:15 Locked Up Abroad
11:10 Live Free Or Die
12:05 Dog Whisperer
13:00 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
14:30 Hacking The System
15:00 Operation Sumatran Rhino
16:00 Wicked Tuna
17:00 Rise Up: The Legacy Of Nat Turner
18:00 Startalk
19:00 Beyond Magic With DMC
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Rise Up: The Legacy Of Nat Turner
21:40 Startalk
22:30 Beyond Magic With DMC
23:20 Lords Of War
23:45 Lords Of War



- 01:30 Shark Lake
03:15 Metro
05:00 Sherlock Holmes
07:15 Last Knights
09:15 Jurassic World
11:30 Blown Away
13:45 Sherlock Holmes
16:00 Last Knights
18:00 Jurassic World
20:15 Con Air
22:15 D-Tox



- 00:00 Roadies
01:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
02:00 Supernatural
03:00 Grimm
04:00 The Fosters
05:00 Royal Pains
06:00 Good Morning America - Weekend
07:00 Pitch
08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
09:00 Notorious
10:00 The Family
11:00 Pitch
12:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
13:00 The Fosters
14:00 Notorious
15:00 Royal Pains
16:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 The Blacklist
19:00 The Fosters
20:00 This Is Us
21:00 Scandal
22:00 How To Get Away With Murder
23:00 Mistresses



- 00:00 The Starving Games
02:00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
04:00 Jack
06:00 Caveman
08:00 10 Things I Hate About You
10:00 Jack
12:00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
14:00 Big Ass Spider!
16:00 10 Things I Hate About You
18:00 Shanghai Noon
20:00 The A-Team
22:15 Dead Snow: Red vs Dead



- 00:30 The Simpsons
01:00 The Simpsons
01:30 Saturday Night Live
03:00 2 Broke Girls
03:30 Life In Pieces
04:00 The Bill Engvall Show
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Trophy Wife
06:00 \$#!* My Dad Says
06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 The Bill Engvall Show
08:30 Trophy Wife
09:00 2 Broke Girls
09:30 Playing House
10:00 Playing House
10:30 The Bernie Mac Show
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 \$#!* My Dad Says
12:30 The Bill Engvall Show
13:00 Trophy Wife
13:30 The Bernie Mac Show
14:00 Life In Pieces
14:30 Playing House
15:00 Playing House
15:30 The Simpsons
16:00 The Simpsons
16:30 \$#!* My Dad Says
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 New Girl
18:30 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
19:00 The Last Man On Earth
19:30 The Mindy Project
20:00 The Goldbergs
20:30 The Goldbergs
21:00 The Simpsons
21:30 The Simpsons
22:00 Girls
22:30 Girls
23:00 The Big C



- 01:00 Breathe In
03:00 Grand Central
05:00 Along Came A Spider
07:00 The Search For Freedom
09:00 The Blind Side
11:15 Grand Central
13:00 Days Of Heaven
14:45 Gone With The Bullets
16:45 The Blind Side
18:00 The Last Tycoon
21:00 Seabiscuit
23:30 Twelve Monkeys



- 01:15 Pressure
03:00 Steve Jobs
05:00 The Rewrite
07:00 The 5th Wave
09:00 Steve Jobs
11:15 Pressure
13:00 My Old Lady
15:00 McFarland, USA
17:15 The Finest Hours
19:15 Brooklyn
21:15 Nina
23:00 The Overnight



- 01:15 The Heart Of The Oak
02:45 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
04:30 Marco Macaco
06:00 The Unbeatables
07:45 Blue Elephant 2
09:30 Jetsons: The Movie
11:15 Gladiators Of Rome
13:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
14:30 Columbus In The Last Journey
16:00 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run
18:00 Jetsons: The Movie
20:00 Cher Ami
22:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
23:30 Looney Tunes: Rabbit's Run



- 01:00 American Girl: Saige Paints The Sky
03:00 Gem And The Holograms
05:00 Nancy Drew
07:00 Emma's Chance
09:00 Harriet The Spy
11:00 Nancy Drew
13:00 Get Santa
15:00 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything
17:00 Charlotte's Web
19:00 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
21:00 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
23:00 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything



- 01:00 Big Eyes
03:00 Experimenters
05:00 Wildlike
07:00 Assassin's Bullet
09:00 No God No Master
11:00 Big Eyes
13:00 Experimenters
15:00 Rosewater
17:00 No God No Master
19:00 Falsely Accused
21:00 Healing
23:00 Ten Thousand Saints



THE 5TH WAVE ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Ultimate Survival
13:40 Ultimate Survival
14:30 Ultimate Survival
15:20 Ultimate Survival
16:10 Ultimate Survival
17:00 Nextworld
17:50 Nextworld
18:40 Troy
19:30 Wildest Africa
20:20 Bahama Blue
21:10 Track Me If You Can
22:00 What Happened Next?
22:25 What Happened Next?
22:50 What Happened Next?
23:15 What Happened Next?
23:40 Destroyed In Seconds

- 14:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
15:00 The Pioneer Woman
16:00 Siba's Table
17:00 Anna Olson: Bake
18:00 Man Fire Food
19:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:00 Private Chef
21:00 Patricia Heaton Parties
22:00 Chopped
23:00 Food Network Star



- 00:40 Joe Rogan Questions Everything
01:30 Joe Rogan Questions Everything
02:20 Weird Or What?
03:10 Weird Or What?
04:00 Weird Or What?
04:48 How Do They Do It?
05:12 How Do They Do It?
05:36 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Food Factory
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Joe Rogan Questions Everything
09:14 Joe Rogan Questions Everything
10:02 Weird Or What?
10:50 Weird Or What?
11:38 Weird Or What?
12:26 Mythbusters
16:26 Food Factory
18:26 How Do They Do It?
18:50 How Do They Do It?
19:15 How Do They Do It?
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:05 How Do They Do It?
20:30 NASA's Greatest Missions
21:20 NASA's Greatest Missions
22:10 NASA's Greatest Missions
23:00 Nextworld
23:50 Origins

- 04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Zou
06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopdidoo
07:00 Zou
07:15 Calimero
07:30 Loopdidoo
07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
08:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
08:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:50 Goldie & Bear
09:15 Miles From Tomorrow
09:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Doc McStuffins
11:00 The Lion Guard
11:30 Goldie & Bear
12:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:30 Winnie The Pooh: Springtime With Roo
13:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
13:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
14:20 Doc McStuffins
14:45 Sofia The First
15:10 Goldie & Bear
15:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
16:05 Doc McStuffins
16:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
17:00 The Lion Guard
17:25 PJ Masks
17:55 Doc McStuffins
18:20 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
18:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
19:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:30 Sofia The First
20:00 The Lion Guard
20:30 The Lion Guard
21:00 Unbungleable
21:05 Goldie & Bear
21:35 Miles From Tomorrow
22:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
22:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

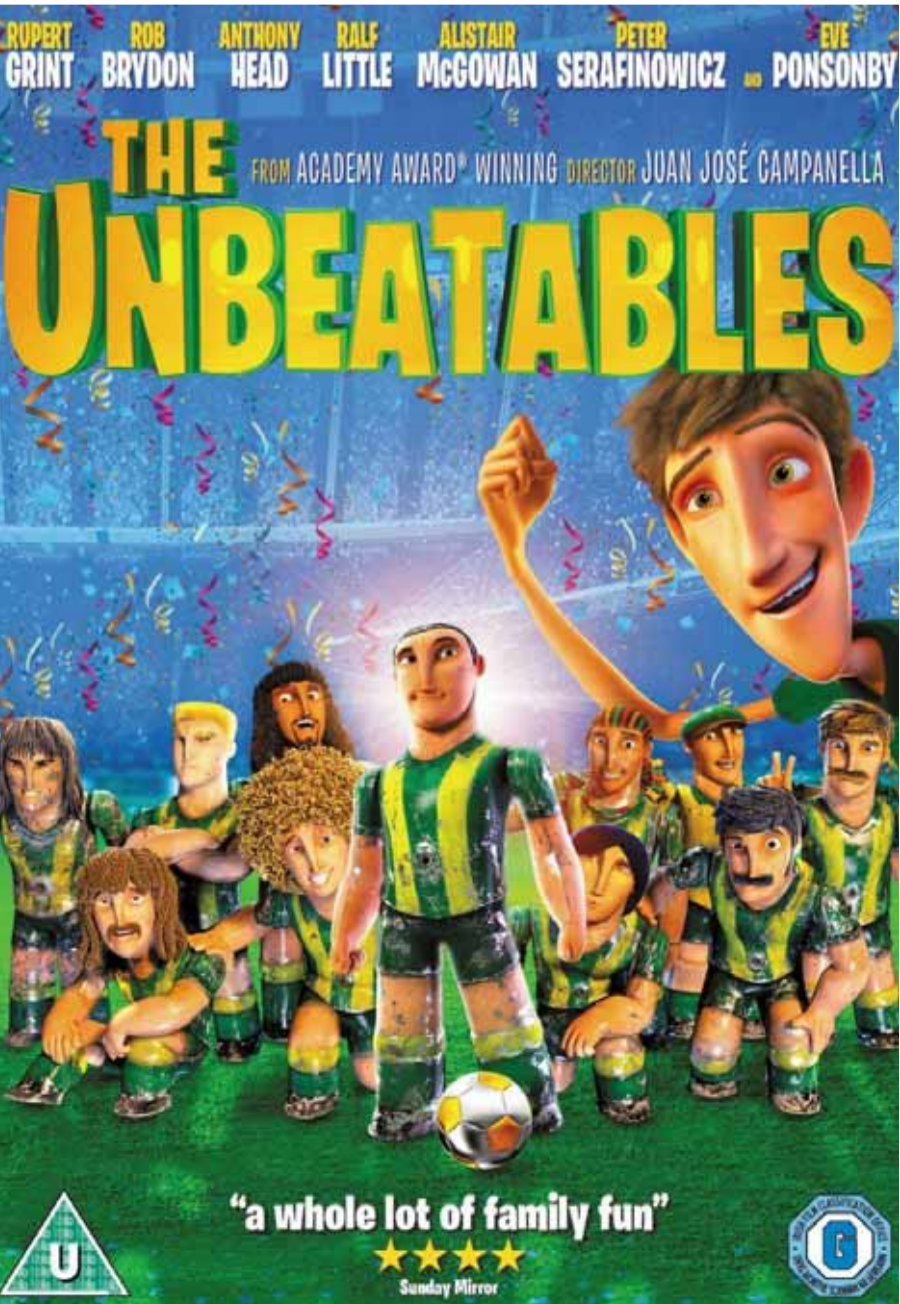
- Much Everything
11:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
12:00 The Sword In The Stone
13:45 Atomic Puppet
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Supa Strikas
14:40 Gravity Falls
15:05 Kirby Buckets
15:30 Kirby Buckets
15:55 Kirby Buckets
16:25 Kirby Buckets
16:50 Kirby Buckets
17:15 Kirby Buckets
17:40 Lab Rats Elite Force
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
18:35 The Sword In The Stone
20:20 Counterfeit Cat
20:45 Mighty Med
21:10 Pickle And Peanut
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution
22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
22:35 Booster
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



- 00:20 Time Team
01:10 Pawn Stars
01:35 Storage Wars: Best Of
02:00 Storage Wars
02:25 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 Ice Road Truckers
06:50 Shipping Wars



- 00:10 David Rocco's Dolce India
00:35 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
01:00 My Restaurant In India
01:25 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
01:50 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
02:15 The Wine Show
03:05 Eat: The Story Of Food
03:55 What's For Sale?
04:20 David Rocco's Dolce India
04:45 Home Strange Home
05:35 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
06:00 Cesar To The Rescue
06:50 This Is Brazil
07:40 Sara's Australia Unveiled
08:05 Lee Chan's World Food Tour
08:30 Lucky Chow
08:55 A Is For Apple
09:20 Glamour Puds
09:45 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
10:35 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala
11:25 Tom's Istanbul Delight
11:50 Rustic Adventures Italy
12:40 Eat Street
13:05 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
13:35 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
14:30 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
15:25 Eat: The Story Of Food
16:20 Great Escapes
16:45 Home Strange Home
17:40 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
18:10 Dog Whisperer
19:10 Eat Street
19:30 Eat: The Story Of Food
20:25 Great Escapes
20:50 Home Strange Home
21:40 Cesar's Recruit: Asia
22:55 Dog Whisperer
23:00 Eat Street
23:20 Ariana's Persian Kitchen



THE UNBEATABLES ON OSN MOVIES KIDS HD

CLASSIFIEDS



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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (26/01/2017 TO 01/02/2017)

Time	Movie	Time	Movie
11:45 AM	SHARQIA-1 xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	5:15 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS
1:45 PM	AL ATR - Kuwaiti Film	7:30 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS
3:45 PM	KAABIL- HINDI	9:45 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS
5:45 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	12:05 AM	MONSTER TRUCKS
8:30 PM	WEAPONIZED		
12:30 AM			
1:00 PM	SHARQIA-2 MONSTER TRUCKS	11:45 AM	FANAR-2 RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter
1:30 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS	2:00 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter
3:30 PM	FRI	4:45 PM	AL ATR - Kuwaiti Film
5:45 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS	6:45 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter
8:00 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS	9:00 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter
10:15 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	11:15 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter
12:15 AM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE		
11:30 AM	SHARQIA-3 RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	12:00 PM	FANAR-3 DANGAL -Hindi
1:45 PM	RAEES- HINDI	3:15 PM	KAABIL- HINDI
4:30 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	6:15 PM	DANGAL -Hindi
6:45 PM	RAEES- HINDI	9:30 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter
9:45 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	12:30 AM	
12:05 AM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter		
12:45 PM	MUHALAB-1 RAEES- HINDI	12:00 PM	FANAR-4 xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
1:45 PM	BALLERINA	2:00 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
3:45 PM	FRI	4:00 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
5:45 PM	BALLERINA	6:00 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
8:45 PM	RAEES- HINDI	8:15 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
11:45 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	10:15 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
		12:15 AM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
12:15 PM	MUHALAB-2 RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	11:30 AM	FANAR-5 RAEES- HINDI
2:30 PM	KAABIL- HINDI	2:30 PM	RAEES- HINDI
5:15 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	5:30 PM	RAEES- HINDI
7:30 PM	KAABIL- HINDI	8:30 PM	RAEES- HINDI
10:15 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter	11:30 PM	RAEES- HINDI
12:30 AM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter		
11:45 AM	MUHALAB-3 MONSTER TRUCKS	12:00 PM	MARINA-1 RAEES- HINDI
2:00 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS	2:45 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
4:15 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS	4:45 PM	RAEES- HINDI
6:30 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS	7:30 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
8:45 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	9:30 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
10:45 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE	11:30 PM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
12:45 AM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE		
12:45 PM	FANAR-1 MONSTER TRUCKS	12:00 PM	MARINA-2 xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
3:00 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS	1:30 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS
		3:45 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS
		6:00 PM	AL ATR -Kuwaiti Film
		8:00 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS
		10:15 PM	MONSTER TRUCKS
		12:30 AM	xXc: RETURN OF XANDER CAGE
		12:45 PM	MARINA-3 RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter
		3:00 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter
		5:15 PM	RESIDENT EVIL: The Final Chapter

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Joseph Lourito Michael Fernandes, holder of Indian Passport No. K-4651486 and Civil ID 251011600403, issued at Kuwait on 16-03-2012, hereby confirm that I am also known by the following names Lawrie Fernandes, Joseph L M Fernandes, Joseph Laurito Michael Fernandes. (C 5261) 26-1-2017

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 Fernandes hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Jamil Avelino Fernandes. (C 5260) 23-1-2017

SITUATION VACANT

Lady maid is needed to work in the capacity of part timer for two or three days a week in a house located in Salmiya. Time and salary are negotiable. Call 66417504. (C 5262) 26-1-2017

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

REQUIRED

A reputed Trading company in Kuwait dealing with **FURNITURE & BUILT-IN-KITCHENS** requires sales Representatives with the following credentials

- ◆ Experience of minimum 2 years in the same field.
- ◆ Must hold valid Kuwaiti driving licence
- ◆ Bi-Lingual (English & Arabic).
- ◆ Transferable Residence (No.18)
- ◆ Willingness to work indoor and outdoor.

Please send C.V to:
 Fax.: 24849295 E-mail: info@idealgroupco.com
 Or call on Tel. 22255228 Ext. 130 & 131

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

Please send your CV to
info@lamande.com

REQUIRED

WEB APPLICATION DEVELOPERS

- ◆ Transferable residency
- ◆ Minimum 2 - 3 years of experience
- ◆ Experience in developing web application using VB.NET, ASP.NET, C#, MVC
- ◆ Experience in MS SQL Server
- ◆ Experience in developing web services

Send your CV to
info@microsysct.com

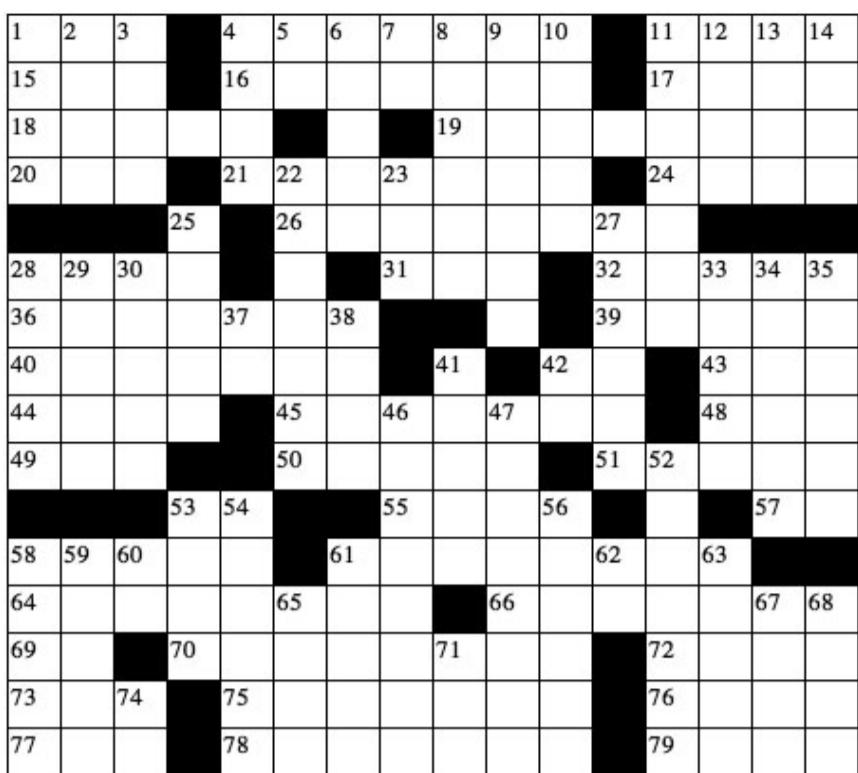
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 29/1/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 29/1/2017			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
UAE	2553	Dubai	00:05	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
JZR	1335	Al Najaf	00:30	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	KAC	155	Istanbul	13:50
KAC	102	London	00:55	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	FDB	076	Dubai	14:05
KAC	742	Dammam	01:00	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	693	Muscat	14:30
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	KAC	561	Amman	15:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:05	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	QTR	1079	Doha	15:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KAC	412	Bangkok	02:50	JZR	554	Alexandria	16:10
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KAC	1543	Cairo	16:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05	KAC	357	Kochi	16:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
CEB	0018	Manila	03:15	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
KAC	358	Kochi	03:30	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	KAC	363	Colombo	17:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	03:45	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
PGT	4860	Istanbul	04:05	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	514	Tehran	04:35	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
UAE	873	Dubai	04:55	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	KAC	353	BLR	18:15
KAC	354	BLR	05:20	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
QTR	8511	Doha	05:45	KAC	205	Islamabad	18:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	FDB	064	Dubai	19:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	06:25	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:15
BAW	157	London	06:40	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	QTR	1081	Doha	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	KAC	383	Delhi	20:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	775	Riyadh	20:45
KAC	362	Colombo	09:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:10
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10	QTR	1089	Doha	21:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	DLH	634	Doha	21:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:45
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:40	KAC	741	Dammam	21:45
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:05	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KAC	351	Kochi	22:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:10
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	KAC	413	Bangkok	22:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
KAC	618	Doha	11:50	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:45
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	KAC	381	Delhi	22:45
FDB	075	Dubai	12:50	UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	JZR	502	Luxor	22:55
KAC	680	Dubai	12:55	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

CROSSWORD 1505



ACROSS

1. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
4. A political theory advocating an authoritarian hierarchical government (as opposed to democracy or liberalism).
11. 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.
15. An implement used to propel or steer a boat.
16. Brownish Old World bunting often eaten as a delicacy.
17. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
18. Incited, especially deliberately, to anger.
20. A French river that flows through the heart of Paris and then northward into the English Channel.
21. Declare or acknowledge to be true.
22. Type genus of the Ranidae.
24. Having wisdom that comes with age and experience.
25. An ancient city on the Nile in Egypt.
27. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
30. Being ten more than one hundred ninety-two.
32. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
33. The visual percept of a region.
37. Minute aquatic herbs floating on or below the water surface of still water consisting of a leaflike frond or plant body and single root.
41. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
42. An ancient Hebrew unit of capacity equal to 10 baths or 10 ephahs.
43. Having odor or a characteristic odor.
47. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
48. Capable of being borne though unpleasant.
50. Overfilled or compacted or concentrated.
53. Small creeping evergreen shrubs.
54. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
55. A clique that seeks power usually through intrigue.
58. Being one hundred more than three hundred.
59. 1/10 gram.
61. An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.
66. Not necessary.
70. In truth (often tends to intensify).
71. The 3 goddesses of fate or destiny.
72. Place in a line or arrange so as to be parallel.
75. A master's degree in business.
76. An early form of modern jazz (originating around 1940).
77. Succulent carpet-forming plant having small brilliant reddish-pink flowers.
79. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
80. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
81. Tropical trees having one-seeded fruit.
82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. Amino acid that is formed in the liver and converted into dopamine in the brain.
2. An aromatic ointment used in antiquity.
3. Any property detected by the olfactory system.
4. Clothing worn on a person's feet.
5. (Judaism) Sacred chest where the ancient Hebrews kept the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments.
6. Of a stern or strict bearing or demeanor.
7. The closing section of a musical composition.
8. Being nine more than forty.
9. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
10. A hard brittle gray polyvalent metallic element that resembles iron but is not magnetic.
11. Conqueror of Gaul and master of Italy (100-44 BC).
12. Type genus of the Amiidae.
13. A vigorous blow.
14. Clarified butter used in Indian cookery.
19. The Sustainer.
23. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
26. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
28. Take or catch as if in a snare or trap.
29. A long thin fluffy scarf of feathers or fur.
31. Consisting of or made of cedar.
34. Jordan's port.
35. Small Peruvian evergreen with broad rounded head and slender pendant branches with attractive clusters of greenish flowers followed by clusters of rose-pink fruits.
36. Type genus of the Ardeidae.
38. A person of subnormal intelligence.
39. Of or related to the genital and urinary organs or their functions.
40. A soft silver-white ductile metallic element (liquid at normal temperatures).
44. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
45. An intuitive awareness.
46. Capital and largest city of Iraq.
49. The property of being extremely abundant.
51. Any of many long-legged birds that wade in water in search of food.
52. Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
56. Wish harm upon.
57. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
60. Wheelwork consisting of a connected set of rotating gears by which force is transmitted or motion or torque is changed.
62. To some (great or small) extent.
63. A subsidiary proposition that is assumed to be true in order to prove another proposition.
64. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
65. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
67. A sheltered and secluded place.
68. Monotypic genus of palms of Australasia.
69. Relatively deep or strong.
73. A boy or man.
74. Being one more than two.
78. An uproarious party.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find the ability to balance your life circumstances better than in the past. You will soon find yourself relying on your own judgment more often than usual. Today you and electronics get along beautifully and you may be in the mood to take pictures. Being more closely involved with another person may well become your highest priority. Marriage, contracts and partnerships are seen as keys to success and happiness and they have plenty of lessons to teach you. You may also be inclined to have a party in your home for some co-workers. You will find this a successful get-together and important to your self-esteem at work and home. Consider taking a creative writing or similar continuing education class from a community college.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Everything points to your taking the initiative today. You may feel that your opinion is not what someone needs to hear and you may consider taking a listening stand for now. You could feel great support for however you want to proceed. Your interests are inventive, original and high tech. You draw emotional nourishment and a sense of security from ethics, friends and social involvement. With your curiosity, you tend to expand, garnish, glorify or display some very unusual food items. One of those creations of yours has to do with entertaining. You spend much of this afternoon turning old recipes into new and enticing recipes. No nosing please, your figure may be at risk. You have fun putting a few ideas and recipes on the internet-share.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Interactions with others have a significant effect on your progress and success. There is an accent on calendars, scheduling and planning. The areas in which you want to succeed actually depend on how well you communicate. This afternoon, you may find yourself reflecting on your own youth or some event from the past. The young people around you are interested in some volunteer work. You do well in providing them with incentive as well as choices. This evening is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people and for having a good time. You appreciate your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you. You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity to others as well.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You become more practical and conservative this year. You take on projects of repair or restructure. As far as family and friends are concerned, your past and present have been excessively consumed with work. You work hard and sometimes overcompensate for the achievements you think you should be gaining. Everyone, including you, would really be happier with a better balance between work and play, family and friends. Ambition, practicality and achievement are admirable. They are means to an end-not ends in themselves. You respect authority and exemplify cooperation and responsibility-you expect the same of others. This evening you are successful in expressing a grateful heart to those you love.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Today you concentrate on finishing what you have started. Shouldering your responsibilities with confidence strengthens your resolve and can lead to an earlier relaxed sort of evening. You are called on to make use of your natural abilities and common sense and you are not afraid to say "no," if it is necessary. There are referrals and as you send others to seek solace or help elsewhere, you will also teach others to achieve, organize, perform research and have more confidence in their own choices. Of course, you never send someone away without some sort of encouragement or referral. You are able to enjoy and value your own life situation. A visitor in your home this evening may compliment you on your tastes or belongings.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is the day to work out questions, difficulties or problems around the home front. This may mean some maintenance, repair or a little planting in the garden. Neighbors or friends may be having a get-together later today-you are invited. There are lots of opportunities for active communications. This is a wonderful time to be with people that you enjoy, and they with you. The exchange of information takes on a great deal of importance to you. Information about education, the best way to avoid road maintenance or updates on group news is fun and socially satisfying. Everyone enjoys being informed and in the know, so to speak. Reach beyond your normal routine and enjoy some different activities for a change. Set out a bird feeder perhaps.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your mind is swift and intelligent as usual-you may find yourself amused and wanting to learn new things. You have insight into your emotions and drive and can talk about your feelings with great insight and flexibility. Organizing projects and people is apt to become a topic of special interest-and a challenge-at this time. Opinions are not enough for you now; authority must back these unusual insights or findings and above all they must have practical worth and application. It looks as though you will soon have new responsibilities in the workplace that will help to pay some of those holiday bills. There may be a period of intense study and thought soon to occupy your time. With your new responsibility, you will want to do your best.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a great time to be with friends in a group situation. If you make your money in creating items for others to enjoy, you may hesitate before becoming too involved. Relax; sometimes you just need to get away from the usual and do something different. Once you return to your current project, you will have new ideas and fresh energy. These projects of yours could be in publishing, artistic endeavors or cultural matters. Your creative imagination and disciplined efforts bring you a high level of success with rewards for your hard work. Laughing is more fun with two. Tonight there is time to catch up with a loved one's interests and share your own experiences of the day. Loved ones are emphasized this evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

A new person is in the picture today. You attract people that are head-strong and confident. Consulting and collaboration on your end will set a pattern for success this year. Make a concentrated effort to become more open-minded and flexible. Marriage and partnerships should be lucky this year and today will give you a hint of things to come. With forethought, money problems can be solved easily. Always look forward, not backward-this attitude will bring you many successful results. You will be getting some helpful information to use in health matters. Weight could be a problem but with careful planning, you will learn to eliminate snacking! Each person is different; do what is best for you. Exercise control in all things.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Signing papers, cleaning up insurance problems and planning future investments are the big actions for this day. Merge your spiritual life into your daily work. You will have a feeling that your stress has been lightened, basically, because your outlook is happier. Listen to your own inner guide and have faith in what you can accomplish. Spring cleaning seems to be contagious and you may be wondering what to do with what is left over. This could be in administrative work as well as organizing in the home. It would be good to conference with others before making decisions on something that is not your possession. Sensible worth and function may not be the only important issues with others. Relax by tinkering with your toys this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Bookstore or hobby shop is the place where you want to be today. If you are single and have few responsibilities, you may decide to build a place for your hobby or branch out and join a group with the same interests. Today is about fun and you being creative. If you are involved in a relationship or you are married, you will probably want to cut back on the amount you spend. However, having your own area for your hobby would still be fun and may be something you can work toward. The energies now are for you and these energies encourage you to think outside of the box where creative ventures are concerned. An older and wiser member of the family may want to join you this evening in some fun adventure.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is not a great time to get your ideas in focus. However, building the communication lines of trust and business finesse will keep you strong in the working world. Striking a balance between work and personal achievements is an important step at this time. Because you are fair in your judgments, now would be a good time to make yourself available to question and answer sessions. You have great compassion for those in need and find yourself ready to help where you can be helpful. Whether you realize it or not, you have a great deal of psychic awareness when it comes to dealing with others. Psychic awareness is especially strong now through march. If you keep a logbook or notebook of your visions, you may be surprised at the insights you gain.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Hanukkah

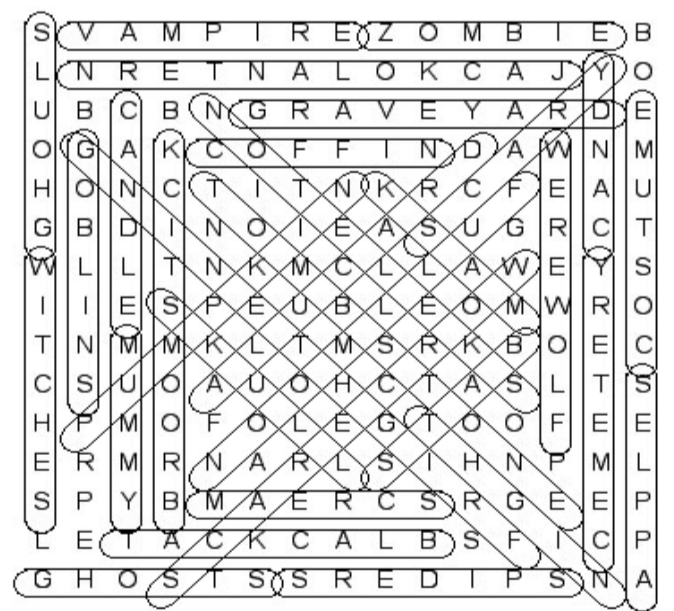
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 42 letters spell a secret message.



- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| BIMUELOS | FESTIVAL | LATKE | PSALMS |
| BLESSINGS | GAMES | LEVIVOT | SEVIVON |
| CANDLES | GELT | LIGHTS | SHAMASH |
| CHANUKIAH | GIFTS | MA'OZ TZUR | SONGS |
| CHARITY | HALLEL | MACCABEES | SUFFGANIYOT |
| CUSTOMS | HANEROT HALALU | MATTISYAHU | TALMUD |
| DAIRY FOODS | HEBREW | MENORAH | TORAH |
| DREIDEL | HOLIDAY | MIRACLE | TRADITION |
| EIGHT DAYS | HOLY TEMPLE | OLIVE OIL | YEARLY |
| FAMILY | JERUSALEM | PONTSHKES | YEHUDIT |
| FEAST | KISLEV | PRAYERS | |

Yesterday's Solution

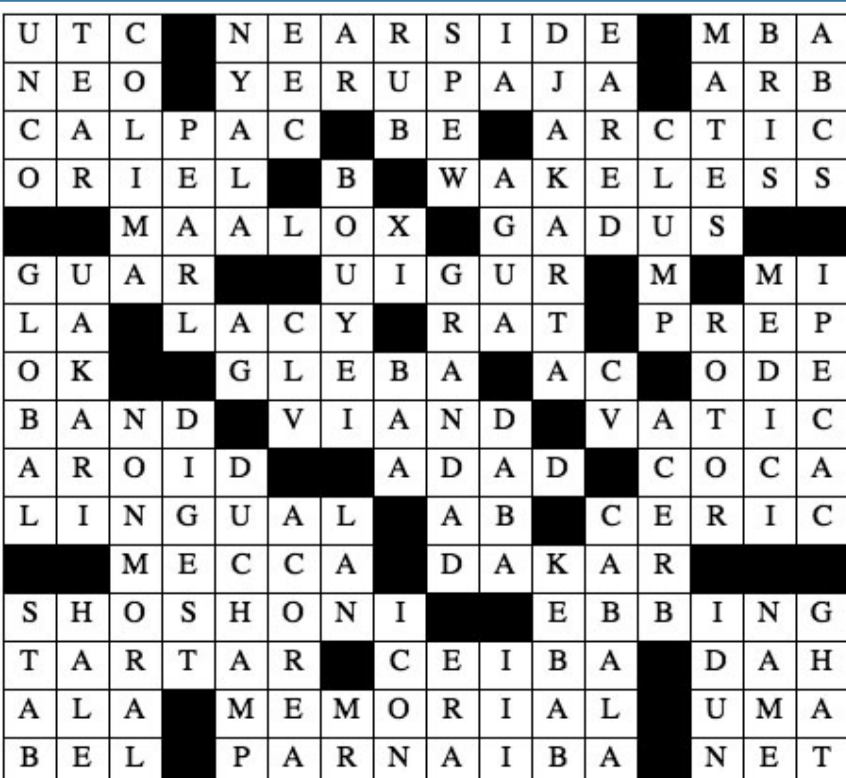
Halloween



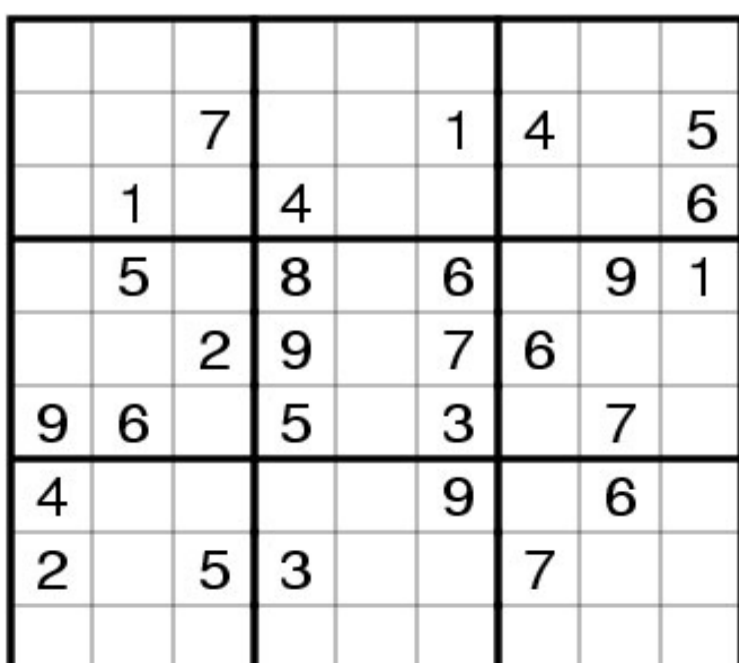
- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| APPLES | COSTUME | JACK O LANTERN | SKELETON |
| BATS | DRACULA | MASK | SKULL |
| BLACK CAT | FRIGHTENING | MUMMY | SPIDERS |
| BROOMSTICK | FULL MOON | NIGHT | TOMBSTONE |
| CANDLE | GHOSTS | PUMPKIN | VAMPIRE |
| CANDY | GHOULS | SCARECROW | WEREWOLF |
| CEMETERY | GOBLINS | SCARY | WITCHES |
| COFFIN | GRAVEYARD | SCREAM | ZOMBIE |

The hidden message is: BOBBING FOR APPLES

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Hospitals

Table listing hospitals such as Sabah Hospital, Amiri Hospital, Maternity Hospital, Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital, etc.

Clinics

Table listing clinics such as Kaizen center, Rawda, Adaliya, Khaldiya, Kaifan, Shamiya, Shuwaikh, etc.

Table of Pharmacies with columns: GOVERNORATE, PHARMACY, ADDRESS, PHONE. Includes locations like Ahmadi, Jahra, Capital, Farwaniya, Hawally.

Table of International Calls with columns: Country, Phone Number. Lists countries from Afghanistan to Lesotho.

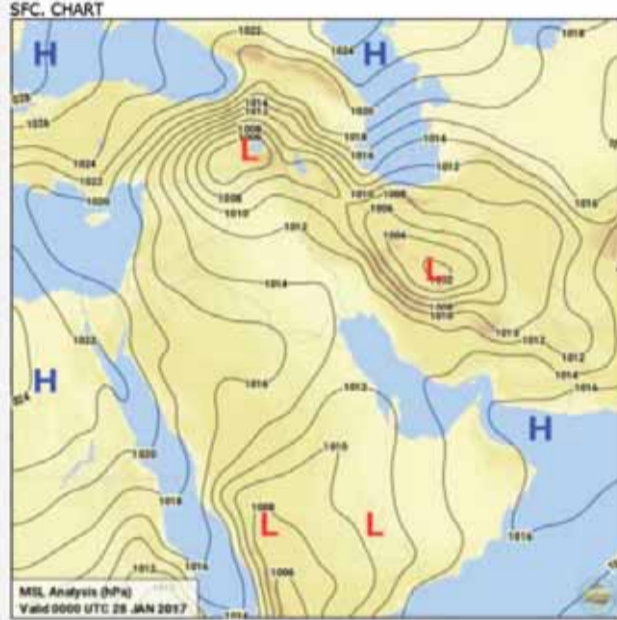
STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 28/01/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr Max Temperature 21 °C By Day: Partly cloudy with light variable wind... By Night: Cold with light to moderate north westerly...



Four-Day Forecast

Table showing weather forecast for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday with icons and temperature ranges.

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Table of Kuwait Forecast with columns: Station, MIN °C REC, Max °C EXP. Lists stations like KUWAIT CITY, ABDALY, BUBYAN, etc.

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Table of recorded weather data at Kuwait Airport: Max Temp (24), Min Temp (11), Max Rel Hum (69), etc.

Prayer Times

Table of prayer times: Fajr (05:18), Sunrise (06:40), Zuhr (12:01), Asr (15:02), Sunset (17:23), Isha (18:42).



PRIVATE CLINICS

Table of Ophthalmologists: Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor, Dr. Samy Al-Rabaa, etc.

Table of Plastic Surgeons: Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf, Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari, etc.

Table of Paediatricians: Dr. Khaled Hamadi, Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed, etc.

Table of Endocrinologist: Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman, Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari, etc.

Psychologists / Psychotherapists Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677

info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com

Kaizen center 25716707 Noor Clinic 23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

FEATURES

Actress **Barbara Hale** dies at 94

Barbara Hale, a movie actress who found her most famous role on television as steadfast secretary Della Street in the long-running "Perry Mason" series, has died. She was 94. Hale was surrounded by family when she died Thursday at her Los Angeles area home, said Jaqueline Stander, an agent for Hale's son, actor William Katt ("The Greatest American Hero," "Carrie"). "She was gracious and kind and silly and always fun to be with," Katt posted on his Facebook page Thursday, calling Hale a wonderful actress and a "treasure as a friend and mother." Stander declined to provide the cause of death.

Hale appeared in "Perry Mason" on CBS from 1957 to 1966, winning an Emmy as best actress in 1959. When the show was revived in 1985 on NBC as an occasional TV movie, she again appeared in court at the side of the ever-victorious lawyer played by Raymond Burr. She continued her role after Burr died in 1993 and was replaced by Hal Holbrook for the movies that continued into 1995. "I guess I was just meant to be a secretary who doesn't take shorthand," she once quipped. "I'm a lousy typist, too - 33 words a minute."

Hale was born in DeKalb, Illinois, daughter of a landscape gardener and a homemaker. The family moved to Rockford when she was 4, and she later took part in a local theater. But her goals were to be a nurse or journalist. When her ambition turned to art she studied at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, where she was often sought as a model. Her work for a modeling agency prompted an offer for a routine contract at the RKO studio in Hollywood. When she reported to the casting director, he was speaking on the phone to someone who needed an immediate replacement for an actress who was sick.



Women not working at home

"It hit every paper the next day: the Cinderella story," she recalled in a 1993 Chicago Tribune interview. "Of course they said it was a starring role. I had one line, but you know about those things." The movie was a quickie, "Gildersleeve's Bad Day," but she went on to appear with Pat O'Brien in "The Iron Major," Frank Sinatra in "Higher and Higher" and Robert Young in "Lady Luck." Another co-star was a blond actor named Bill Williams (real name: William Katt), with whom she appeared in "West of the Pecos" and "A Likely Story." They had met over coffee in the studio commissary and married in Rockford in 1946. The couple had three children: Nita, William and Jody.

Williams, who died in 1992, later gained TV fame as star of "The Adventures of Kit Carson." Their son goes by his father's original name, William Katt. After her RKO contract ended, Hale worked at other studios, usually as the adoring wife of the leading man. She played opposite Larry Parks in "Jolson Sings Again," James Stewart in "Jackpot" and James Cagney in "A Lion Is in the Streets." In 1957, she joined the memorable cast of "Perry Mason" that included Burr as the defense attorney who solved his cases in the courtroom, William Hopper as investigator Paul Drake, William Talman as never-winning prosecutor Hamilton Burger and Ray Collins as police lieutenant Arthur Tragg.

"When we started, it was the beginning of women not working at home," Hale said in the 1993 interview. "I liked that she was not married. My husband, Bill, didn't have to see me married to another man, and our children didn't have to see me mothering other children." In the early 1970s, Hale took on another widely recognized role, touting Amana Radarange microwave ovens in TV commercials and print ads. Burr and Hale were the only original cast members when the show resumed on NBC in 1985 in the movie format. Her son, William Katt, appeared in nine of the two-hour shows, as the investigator son of Paul Drake. Hale's later films included the original "Airport," playing the husband of Dean Martin's pilot character; "The Giant Spider Invasion," and "Big Wednesday," in which she appeared with her son. — AP



This file photo shows Sir John Hurt posing with his wife Anwen after being awarded a knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II during an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle. — AFP

Veteran British actor **John Hurt**, 77, dies

Oscar-nominated British actor John Hurt, known for his roles in "Elephant Man" and "Harry Potter," died aged 77 after a battle with pancreatic cancer, his wife said Saturday. The versatile actor, who played Mr Ollivander in "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" and in two other films in the series, passed away in Norfolk, eastern England, on Wednesday, according to wife Anwen Rees Meyers. He starred in the movie adaptation of George Orwell's novel "1984" and played the role of Kane in "Alien," who dies when the creature dramatically bursts from his chest in one of the most memorable death scenes in movie history.

He was twice nominated for an Oscar, in the best supporting actor category for his performance in the 1978 film "Midnight Express" as Max, a British man imprisoned in Turkey, and for his starring role two years later in "Elephant Man" about a severely deformed man in 19th century London. He received a BAFTA award for "Midnight Express" as well as a Golden Globe in the best actor in a supporting role category. Hurt's death was confirmed by his widow Anwen. "It is with deep sadness that I have to confirm that my husband, John Vincent Hurt, died on Jan 25, 2017 at home in Norfolk," she said in a statement released by publicist Charles McDonald.

"John was the most sublime of actors and the most gentlemanly of gentlemen with the greatest of hearts and the most generosity of spirit. He touched all our lives with joy and magic and it will be a strange world without him," "Lord of the Rings" star Elijah Wood paid tribute to the actor, writing on Twitter: "Very sad to hear of John Hurt's passing. It was such an honor to have watched you work, sir." Among many other tributes to flood in, American actor Chris Evans described Hurt as "remarkable." "John Hurt was one of the most powerful, giving, and effortlessly real actors I've ever worked with. Remarkable human being. U will be missed," he wrote on Twitter.

Cinematic immortality

Born on Jan 22, 1940 in Chesterfield, central England, Hurt first began his career as a teacher of drawing. But he quickly moved to a life on camera and, after entering the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London, he began his career in British film in the 1960s. But it was at the end of the 1970s when his career definitively took off following back-to-back roles in "Midnight Express" and "Alien." Hurt, who appeared in some 140 films, often playing supporting roles, also maintained a strong television presence, making appearances in cult British series "Doctor Who" among others.

He also showed a lighter side, playing a parody of his Kane character in spoof sci-fi comedy "Spaceballs," directed by Mel Brooks. The veteran US comic posted on Twitter that he was "terribly sad today to learn of John Hurt's passing. 'No one could have played The Elephant Man more memorably,' he added. 'He carried that film into cinematic immortality. He will be sorely missed.' The actor, who received a total of four BAFTAs, was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2014. His cancer was diagnosed the following year but he did not give up his profession. For his final role, he played Father Richard McSorley in the biopic "Jackie," the story of the former American First Lady, which was released in December in the US. He was however forced to pull out of a play last July on the advice of his doctors. — AFP

Kurdish filmmaker cancels planned US visit over Trump's actions

Citing President Donald Trump's visa crackdown, Kurdish filmmaker Hussein Hassan has scrapped plans to attend the US premiere of his critically acclaimed film on the Yazidi minority, it was announced Friday. Jaie Laplante, director of the Miami Film Festival, where the Kurdish-Iraqi movie "The Dark Wind" is to be screened in March, said Hassan had decided to withdraw his visa application in protest at Trump's forthcoming executive orders that are set to suspend the US refugee program and restrict visas to citizens of certain countries, including Iraq, Iran, and Syria.

"One of Miami Film Festival's core values is to bridge cultural understanding, to provoke thought and discussion, and 'The Dark Wind' is one of the most timely, moving and important films in this year's festival," Laplante said. "It is essential that roadblocks not be put in place that will prevent artists

from the free discussion of their work, and equally essential that the world's artists are made to feel welcome in the United States." Hassan's move comes days after the Iranian star of the Oscar-nominated film "The Salesman" said she would boycott the upcoming Academy Awards to protest what she calls Trump's racist policies.

"Trump's visa ban for Iranians is racist. Whether this will include a cultural event or not, I won't attend the #AcademyAwards 2017 in protest," tweeted Taraneh Alikdoosti, the film's 33-year-old lead actress. Trump's impending executive order on visas is expected to ban citizens of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen from seeking entry into the United States for a month. He is also expected to suspend the US refugee program for four months as officials draw up a list of low risk countries. Hassan's film tells the tale

of a young Yazidi couple preparing for their wedding when fighters from the Islamic State group attack their village.

The movie was inspired by the true-life massacre of thousands of Yazidis after IS took over the Sinjar area in Iraq in August 2014. Thousands of Yazidi women were abducted and turned into sex slaves during the IS campaign. "The US are the closest and most important allies for Kurdistan," the film's producer Mehmet Aktas said in a statement. "Now it seems to be impossible for a Kurdish artist to visit the US to present his work. As an act of peaceful protest, Hussein Hassan decided to withdraw from his visa application. We as Kurdish filmmakers hope that Donald Trump will acknowledge the Kurdish people," Aktas said. — AFP

The challenges female filmmakers face post-Sundance

Gender equity in filmmaking must have looked pretty good to the women attending the Sundance Film Festival, which concludes this weekend in Park City, Utah. But for many female filmmakers, coming back down the mountain will mean a return to an industry where the opportunity divide remains far more glaring. The statistics speak for themselves. At the 2017 festival, 34 percent of films were directed by women. In the broader industry in 2016, however, women accounted for only seven percent of directors down a full two percent from 2015.

"I keep wanting to believe that things have gotten better but according to this latest report it's gotten worse," said director Karyn Kusama, who first came to Sundance in 2000 with "Girlfight" and is back as a part of the anthology horror film "XX." "It's definitely worth reminding people that despite incredibly more difficult odds than even their male

counterparts. Gillian Robespierre made a splash with her feature debut "Obvious Child" in 2014, which eventually led to a production deal that gave her the freedom to be able to quit her day job and focus full time on writing and directing. Her newest film, "Landline" was acquired by Amazon at this year's Festival shortly after it premiered.

For someone like Eliza Hittman, the trajectory has been a little different. Her first feature "It Felt Like Love" debuted at Sundance in 2013. With each new effort, she tries to push herself to move up another step on the ladder. She came first with a short, then "It Felt Like Love" played in the discovery section, NEXT, and now, with "Beach Rats" she's in the official US Dramatic Competition. She continues to hold down a job as a professor to allow herself more freedom, but she'd also like to move up in budget and cast. She's also seen some of her male peers progress faster,

writer, director and producer Zoe Lister-Jones for her film "Band-Aid" hired an all-female production crew. "I felt that they only way to really affect change was to completely subvert the system, especially in departments where you just very, very rarely see women - in camera and grip and electric especially," Lister-Jones said.

Lister-Jones sees herself as being incredibly fortunate, but also notices men getting more and bigger jobs after the festival than women. Colin Trevorrow's ascent from the Sundance indie "Safety Not Guaranteed" to "Jurassic World" and now "Star Wars: Episode IX" is always cited as the primary example. "You just don't see women having the same opportunities or having the same amount of risk put on them," Lister-Jones said. The indie and studio divide might be the essential point. Director and producer Roxanne Benjamin ("XX") said that she's always felt very supported in the indie world, but that when it comes to making that "leap" to studio films or television, suddenly women start hearing things like, "if only you had more experience."

"It's like, 'I've only been making films for 10 years, no big,'" Benjamin said. "You see more of that leap of faith given to male directors." She resents, too, when studios respond with "training programs" for female directors just out of film school, which neglects the "latchkey generation of filmmakers" who have been making it on their own for a decade. Writer, actress and director Michelle Morgan in directing her first feature "LA Times" was most surprised to find a lack of support from other women. "The thing that it highlighted for me is not that the industry needs to embrace women, it's that women need to embrace other women. It seemed like the people who had the easiest time letting me down were the women and it really stuck with me ... My financiers were all men and at one point two-thirds of them were women," Morgan said.

While all are happy to talk about the issues women face as filmmakers, most have a complicated relationship with the media's coverage of the disparity. Simply, there's a lot of chatter and not much change. "There are more articles written about women in film and television than there are women in film and television. And that's the bummer of it all," said Robespierre. "We thought there would be more progress because there's so much attention. But that attention hasn't really equaled actual jobs." — AP



Directors Roxanne Benjamin, from left, Annie Clark, Jovanka Vuckovic and Sofia Carillo pose for a portrait to promote the film, 'XX', at the Music Lodge during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

counterparts have in this business, women repeatedly and routinely face consistent gender bias. I don't want to believe that it's true but if you look at the numbers, it is shamefully true." In talking to some of the women at the Festival, no one's experience has been exactly the same. For some, getting their first, second or third film made has been nothing but positive.

For others, biases have revealed themselves in unexpected ways. But all wonder about that next step and whether the same faith will be placed in them as their male

like her "It Felt Like Love" cinematographer Sean Porter.

Complicated relationship with media

People often call her to ask about hiring Porter, who recently shot "20th Century Women." "It's funny that people responded to the sensibility of that movie enough to hire him but nobody would in a way circle back to me," Hittman, who is only happy for Porter, said. A few first-time directors premiering films at the festival took it upon themselves to try to help be part of the change. Actress,



Co-writer/producer Elisabeth Holm, left, poses with director/co-writer Gillian Robespierre at the premiere of the film 'Landline' at the Eccles Theatre during the 2017 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.



Renee Willett, a cast member in 'The Yellow Birds,' poses at the premiere of the film at Eccles Theatre during the 2017 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.



Director/writer/producer/actress Zoe Lister-Jones poses at the premiere of the film 'Band Aid' at the Eccles Theatre during the 2017 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. — AP photos

MUSIC

All the excitement of UFC, now only on OSN

OSN, the leading pay-TV network in MENA, has entered an exclusive long-term agreement with UFC, the world's premier mixed martial arts organization, making OSN the one-stop destination for UFC fans in the region. Reflecting OSN's commitment to deliver relevant, exclusive and sought-after entertainment for its subscribers, the new partnership ensures all UFC content including live events, pre and post-event shows, and The Ultimate Fighter reality series, available exclusively for OSN subscribers.

Andy Warkman, SVP, Sport & Sports Production, OSN, said: "We are very excited about bringing UFC back to OSN viewers and entering into this long term partnership. We are listening to our customers, and delivering exclusive content and great value to our new sports channel packages. UFC has seen massive growth and we look forward to working with them and WME|IMG to build on that growth

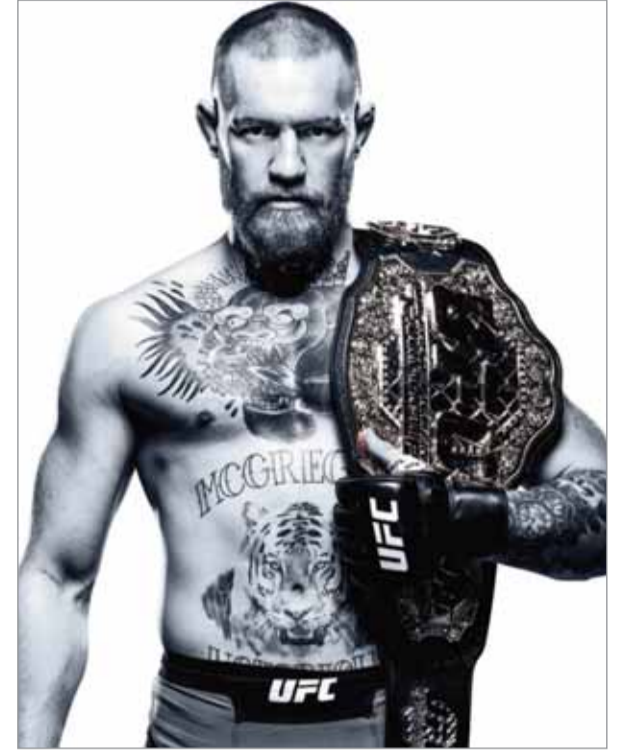
in our region. UFC will be one of our standout offerings in the new sports line up for 2017.

"UFC on OSN will be industry-defining, as for the first time, we will produce localized Arabic content 'for the region, from the region' to give UFC fans an unrivalled viewing experience," continued Warkman. James Elliott, UFC Vice President, EMEA, added: "We are pleased to be partnering with OSN once again to bring even more exciting, new and localized content to viewers across the Middle East and Africa. UFC has previously held two very successful events in the UAE and witnessed firsthand the passion of the fans across the region. Together we will bring athlete stories and events to fans like never before, ensuring they don't miss a minute of the action."

Also in partnership with UFC, OSN is launching UFC FIGHT PASS within the region. This digital subscription service features the world's largest combat sports library,

including all past UFC events, exclusive programming, access to UFC archives, UFC FIGHT PASS exclusive prelims and select live events. For OSN sports fans, 2017 means the chance to exclusively watch every live UFC event across multiple devices, including UFC 208: HOLM vs. DE RANDAMIE in Feb and UFC 209: WOODLEY vs. THOMPSON 2 in March.

The addition of UFC to OSN's sports offering is the next step in further heightening the diverse programming on offer to OSN customers, who already enjoy a wide range of world-class sport. UFC on OSN is the first in a range of new additions to join the network in 2017, with additional programming set to be announced soon. For detailed schedules, visit www.osn.com/ufc. Join the conversation on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @OSN #OSNsports



This file photo shows brothers Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb, left to right, of the pop group the Bee Gees during a news conference in Miami Beach, Florida. — AP

GRAMMYS, CBS TO HONOR BEE GEES WITH TRIBUTE CONCERT

The Recording Academy and CBS will pay tribute to the Bee Gees two days after the Grammys with a concert featuring a range of artists, including Celine Dion, Andra Day, John Legend and Keith Urban. The show, "Stayin' Alive: A Grammy Salute to the Music of the Bee Gees," will mark the 40th anniversary of the pop legends' soundtrack to "Saturday Night Fever," according to a joint announcement released Friday.

Barry Gibb, the sole surviving member and co-founder of the Grammy-winning group who released a solo album late last year, will perform a selection of hits from the soundtrack, which won a Grammy for album of the year for 1978. The concert will be taped Feb 14 at the Microsoft Theater, to be broadcast on CBS later this year. Little Big Town, Nick

Jonas, Tori Kelly, Demi Lovato and the Pentatonix are among others to perform, with additions expected.

The Bee Gees "helped make 'Saturday Night Fever' an emblem of 1970s pop culture," said Neil Portnow, president and CEO of The Recording Academy. "With expert harmonies, undeniable groove and a personal charisma matching their on-stage persona, the iconic band of brothers defined not just a genre, but a generation." Tickets for the show start at \$25. Details are available at Axs.com. The show is similar to joint tribute concerts with AEG Ehrlich Ventures honoring Stevie Wonder, The Beatles and Frank Sinatra. — AP

Queen, Lambert tour; no record yet

Queen has clearly found somebody to love in Adam Lambert. Since joining forces with the "American Idol" runner-up for a series of shows in 2012, the band that ruled rock radio in the 1970s and early '80s has enjoyed tremendous success, with audiences embracing Lambert as the heir to Freddie Mercury's onstage legacy. They've been selling out areas around the world for five years now, and have just announced a 25-city North American tour beginning June 23 in Phoenix. But there's one thing they haven't dared try yet: recording a studio album of all-new Queen songs. And despite their effortless box office success, it might not happen soon, if at all.

"We get asked that question constantly, but we really haven't had much of a conversation about it internally," said Lambert, who maintains a solo career between Queen tours. "It's totally possible. But what is it? I would never re-record a song that Freddie recorded because that would be sacrilege. If I were to record something brand new, would it be called 'Queen?' Would we have some super group name?" Lambert said he and founding members Brian May (guitar) and Roger Taylor (drums) have not recorded demos of any new material. May said the band took its cue from the ho-hum response to a studio album it did with Bad Company singer Paul Rodgers in 2008, "The Cosmos Rocks."

"The world kind of turned a blind eye to it, and I think we subconsciously absorbed the message that people wanted to hear Queen with Freddie," May said. "That's what they expected; they didn't want to hear anything else. I don't know if that's a correct conclusion or not, but that's kind of the message we got, so I think we turned our attention to live." Taylor said recording a new studio album "seems like an obvious thing to do, but really, we don't plan ahead that much or that far."

The band is working beautifully, so we don't want to stop that until it's not working beautifully." May is more receptive to the idea of a new album now with Lambert on board. "If the moment came up, if there was a real reason to make a new recording, a new song, if the right song came up, we would go with it in the snap of a finger," he said. "But at the moment, we're very happy touring." That entails staging an entirely new show from scratch, with a new set list, lighting, video screens - and the way the band interacts with the audience.



Mercury's give-and-take with the crowd, including daring them to match his a cappella vocal acrobatics, and May's acoustic sing-alongs on "Love of My Life" and "39" became integral and enduring parts of a Queen concert. When Mercury died in 1991 of complications from AIDS, "Brian and I thought everything was kind of over," Taylor said. "But Adam Lambert is an extraordinary talent and just fits in perfectly with us." "It was good when it started, but now I feel like it's more second-nature," Lambert said. "I feel like I've crawled into these songs and can run around in them now." --AP

Stevie Wonder, Tom Petty, Maroon 5 to headline Jazz Fest

Stevie Wonder, Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, Maroon 5, Usher and Dave Matthews are among some of the big names playing at this year's New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. The lineup, announced Friday, includes more than 500 bands covering a diverse array of musical styles over more than a dozen stages set up at the New Orleans Fair Grounds Race Course. "All but about 80 of the acts are local," festival organizer Quint Davis said, enthusiastically. "We've evolved to a point though where every stage, every day has at least one national act. It's taken awhile to get to that point, but we're there."

Davis said he was encouraged by the response to the lineup, so far, by fans of the festival. "A lot of people are really looking at the schedule in depth," he said. "They're paying attention and going deep into it. We're hearing things like, 'Wow,

Corinne Bailey Rae's coming' and after rain ruined Snoop Dogg's debut last year, people now have a second chance to see him for the first time." Some of the other artists appearing include Alabama Shakes, Kings of Leon, Patti LaBelle, Widespread Panic and rappers Pitbull and Nas.

The festival also features artists from Louisiana and New Orleans, such as the Hot 8 Brass Band, Ellis Marsalis, Trombone Shorty, the Soul Rebels, Amanda Shaw and the Cute Guys, Irma Thomas and The Meters. Jazz Fest's Cultural Exchange Pavilion will focus on Cuba this year. Last year, Belize was in the spotlight. Davis said they're looking to enlarge the pavilion's tent this year allowing more fans to "experience the experience."

"It's going to be Cuban music all day," Davis said. The festival, presented by Shell, takes place April 28 to 30 and May 4 to 7. Tickets currently are on sale for \$65 through Feb. 14. The

price rises to \$70 on Feb. 15 and the gate price will be \$80. Children's tickets (ages 2 to 10) remain \$5. The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, the nonprofit owner of the festival, also gives out 8,000 free tickets to community groups annually. Davis said he's hoping this year's event will not include the rain that deluged 2016's second weekend.

"I'm starting to question my requests to the weather gods," he said, laughing. "But people are really giving us a lot more slack these days. Last year's first weekend was the best ever, the second was the rainiest ever. Still, people came out in huge numbers, saying 'We're not, not coming!' Whether you experience Jazz Fest in the rain or not, you want to be there." --AP



Top DJ Clarke to boycott US over Trump

Leading techno DJ Dave Clarke says he will boycott the United States as a protest after the election of President Donald Trump. "I have maximum respect for the influence of American music and some US culture in my life but I will not be renewing my work visa," said Clarke, who is British but primarily based in The Netherlands. "I simply cannot consider coming to the US professionally when there is a Misogynist Narcissist Racist President in office, and to be fair maybe my work permit would not be renewed due to his 'Hire American' policy," Clarke wrote on Facebook.

Clarke, who asked US fans not to take his stance personally, acknowledged his decision was also influenced by bad, past experience in the United States with a music agent. Leading musicians both in the United States and overseas have unleashed a flurry of songs to protest Trump since the tycoon launched his presidential campaign. But calls for a boycott of the world's largest economy and entertainment market have been rare.

Cultural boycotts, however, have been embraced frequently by critics of Israel and earlier of South Africa's former apartheid regime. Clarke is a prominent force in techno, the genre of dance music that emerged in Detroit in the 1980s but is now primarily associated with Europe, and often infuses punk rock elements. He has taken a leadership role in putting together Tomorrowland in Belgium, one of the world's most prominent electronic music festivals. — AFP





Performers show a dragon dance in a night parade to celebrate Chinese New Year in Hong Kong, yesterday.

China marks Lunar New Year with prayers, incense, fireworks



Chinese are lighting incense sticks and praying at temples to wish for an auspicious start to the Lunar New Year. Thousands visited Beijing's major temples yesterday, the first day of the Year of the Rooster. Wearing heavy winter coats, they lit incense sticks and bowed as they prayed for good fortune and health. As many as 80,000 people were expected at the Lama Temple in central Beijing, state television reported.

Beijing's sprawling spring festival temple fair opened at Ditan Park, where empty tree branches were festooned with red lanterns and traditional goods and foods were for sale.

Other New Year's traditions include the eating of dumplings in northern China and the lighting of fireworks. Beijing's government called on Communist Party cadres and government staff not to set off firecrackers due to environmental con-

cerns, but local media reported air pollution levels in Beijing and several other cities still shot up Friday night and early yesterday morning. Ethnic Chinese and others around the world also marked the holiday with celebrations and visits to temples.

Large crowds gathered in Hong Kong and Malaysia on Friday night. In Rio de Janeiro, crowds watched a dragon dance and a performance of tai chi in front of a picture of Rio's famous

Christ the Redeemer statue. New York brought in the holiday with fireworks Thursday night over the Hudson River. And in Pyongyang, North Korea, a large crowd laid flowers in front of bronze statues of founding leader Kim Il Sung and his son, Kim Jong Il. — AP



Members of the Chinese community perform a "lion dance" as they celebrate the Lunar New Year of the Rooster in Kolkata yesterday.

FEATURE



Ethnic Chinese queue to pray during celebrations of the Lunar New Year at the Dharma Bakti Temple in the Chinatown area of Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday.



Offering materials are laid on a table prior to a ritual on the first day of the Chinese lunar new year in Kolkata, India, yesterday.



Participants disguised as roosters hold Spanish flags as they perform during celebrations for the Chinese Lunar New Year, marking the year of the Rooster, in the Madridís district of Usera yesterday. — Agencies



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

Veteran British actor John Hurt, 77, dies

36



Chinese-Filipinos pray at the Seng Guan Temple to mark the start of the Lunar New Year in Manila's Chinatown yesterday. — AFP

MIAMI'S LITTLE HAVANA PLACED ON LIST OF NATIONAL TREASURES

Historic preservation groups announced a partnership Friday with city officials to save Miami's Little Havana, bidding to safeguard its heritage as the famed epicenter of the Cuban diaspora was placed on a list of "national treasures." The nonprofit National Trust for Historic Preservation said awarding its special designation for the Spanish-speaking enclave is just one step of the partnership to protect Little Havana from large-scale developers who are transforming much of downtown Miami. Home to a vibrant community of Cuban heritage and many others from around Latin America, Little Havana is under multiple threats: Demolition of historic buildings, displacement of its existing residents, and decades of wear and tear.

The same organization placed the neighborhood in its annual list of America's 11 most endangered historic places in 2015. "Little Havana has a really strong immigrant history," said Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "It's a very inviting place. It's very colorful. It's very warm. The sense of community is very strong." But she cautioned: "We want all that to remain but at the same time we know that communities need to adapt and change overtime to meet the needs of the residents."

She said the "national treasures" designation also will help allied organizations, city officials, residents and investors unite to discuss ways to

improve the living conditions of its working-class population, preserve historic buildings and allow moderate development of its neglected areas. In coming months, planners and developers are to discuss what to do with vacant lots, abandoned buildings and consider which historic sites are worth protecting. And starting in March, they will hold workshops with residents and city officials to share their plans.

History and culture

"There are many bad buildings and people with a poor quality of life here," said Daniel Martin, a handyman who settled in Little Havana after leaving Cuba 15 years ago. "Since I don't speak English, this was the right place for me to be." The neighborhood's signature street, Calle Ocho, is one of the top spots most frequented by tourists after Miami Beach. It features cigar shops, art galleries and mom-and-pop stores where Cubans and their descendants reminisce about the island. Visitors sip aromatic Cuban coffee, eye daily games of dominoes by locals and take selfies at the Versailles restaurant, hub of the exile community.

"My hope is that tears and the dreams of hundreds of thousands of people will not be forgotten," said Miami mayor Tomas Regalado, speaking at Friday's event to announce the partnership. "My hope is that history is not rewritten and the anguish of the Cuban exiles, the Nicaraguans is for-

ever erased." Located just west of downtown Miami, Little Havana grew in the 1960s as Cubans fled Fidel Castro's communist Cuba. The neighborhood has changed some in recent decades as new immigrants have arrived from Central America and Colombia, opening new restaurants and stores.

Some developers have taken risks to refurbish old buildings such as Hugh Ryan, who took what he calls "the worst crack house in the neighborhood" and turned it into a two-story pastel green building with a royal emblem of a salamander on its facade. "Anything can be saved. The whole neighborhood is trying to do that now," said Ryan, pointing to a similar two-story apartment building next door and two other buildings across the street that have been renovated in East Little Havana.

Andrew Frey, who is building an 8-unit apartment building, put up a giant blue sign outside that reads "Little Havana is the Amenity." "We don't offer pools, gyms or spas here," he said about his construction. "Little Havana has history, culture. It has real people. It has a narrative you can't control." Little Havana joins a list of "national treasures" that includes such sites as Nashville's Music Row, the Grand Canyon and New Jersey's Princeton Battlefield. — AP



In this file photo, men play dominoes in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood.



This photo shows, the Versailles Restaurant in the Little Havana neighborhood of Miami. — AP photos



In this file photo, Orestes Sosa, right foreground, dances with visitors to the beat of Cuban music at a bar-lounge in the Little Havana neighborhood of Miami.