

Deadly blasts rock funeral in tense Kabul



1967 war: Death blow for Arab nationalism

8



Two-goal Ronaldo keeps Madrid kings of Europe

20



Imsak Fajr Shorook Duhr Asr Maghrib Isha
03:04 03:14 04:48 11:46 15:21 18:44 20:15

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WORLD FORGES AHEAD WITH CLIMATE DEAL WITHOUT US

EU, CHINA STRENGTHEN TIES AS TRUMP PULLS OUT



Min 32°
Max 47°
High Tide 08:27 & 20:23
Low Tide 01:44 & 14:35

رمضان كريم
Ramadan Kareem

MY FIRST RAMADAN

By Tony Braun

I can say with confidence that it is easier, and more enjoyable, to spend Ramadan in a country like Kuwait because of the atmosphere. My first time fasting was in Canada shortly after I converted to Islam. I had to fast but everyone around me wasn't fasting. I had to do the same amount of work with the same schedule, but I had to do it without food or water. Everyone around me was eating and drinking. They would often offer me some food, but I had to turn it down.

The response that I got from people was entertaining. Most people were shocked at first when I explained that I am fasting for Ramadan. They would first ask me what Ramadan is. Next, they would ask if I really go the whole day without eating. Finally, they would be surprised that I wasn't even drinking water. I would explain that this is to teach us self-discipline and also to help us identify with the poor, who don't have a stable supply of food and water.

When I explained that to them, they would often be very supportive. Although, there were those who would try to tempt me on purpose just in an effort to annoy me. After my first Ramadan was finished, I had a feeling of empowerment and a sense of accomplishment. I also felt that my body and soul were lighter. After my first Ramadan, I had a great appreciation for the regular meals that I had previously taken for granted. It is a good reminder to thank Allah, who provides for us. Allah has created the sun, which grows the food on earth.

This is a blessing that Allah has given to all humanity, whether Muslim or not. Everyone can benefit from the sun and grow crops. Allah is so generous and yet we are ungrateful.

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DUBAI: People take a picture with the world's first operational police robot after firing a military cannon which marks sunset and the end of the fasting day for Muslims observing Ramadan in Downtown Dubai. —AFP

BRUSSELS: The world forged ahead yesterday with the Paris climate deal after President Donald Trump pulled the US out of the pact, triggering bitter condemnation from all corners of the globe. Trump announced Thursday that his administration would immediately stop implementing the 195-nation accord brokered by Barack Obama in 2015 in tandem with Chinese leaders.

The European Union said it was increasing efforts with China, the world's biggest polluter, to galvanize global efforts to implement the deal while India vowed to stick to the pact regardless of the United States. Trump also faced a backlash at home where Democratic state governors, city mayors and powerful companies drew up plans to meet the pact's greenhouse gas emission targets. "Americans will honor and fulfill the Paris agreement by leading from the bottom up-and there isn't anything Washington can do to stop us," former New York mayor and billionaire Michael Bloomberg said.

However, Russian President Vladimir Putin spared Trump more withering criticism and urged the world to work with the New York tycoon on climate. In Brussels, European Council President Donald Tusk said the EU is "stepping up our cooperation on climate change with China" following a summit with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. But EU officials said the two sides failed to formally endorse a joint statement on the issue due to a lingering but separate trade row.

Expressions of shock and regret poured in from around the world, including from Pacific islands at risk of being swallowed by rising seas, who accused Washington of "abandoning" them. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the EU's most powerful leader, pledged "more decisive action than ever" to protect the climate after Trump's "highly regrettable" decision.

Continued on Page 13

KUWAIT GRABS SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT

NEW YORK: Kuwait was elected on Friday to serve as non-permanent member on the Security Council for a two-year term beginning in January 2018. In one round of voting the United Nations General Assembly gathered in its main hall and elected Kuwait, Cote D'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, The Netherlands, Peru and Poland-whom were running unopposed- for the five regional group vacant seats. Out of the 192 ballots Kuwait received 188 votes, Cote D'Ivoire 189, Equatorial Guinea 185, Poland 190 and Peru 186.

The Netherlands takes over from Italy for a one year term, after they agreed to split a two-year term as a non-permanent member for Security Council. They received 184 votes. The five overall seats available for election in 2017 are two seats for the African Group (Cote D'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea), one seat for the Group of Asia and the Pacific Small Island Developing States (Kuwait), one seat for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (Peru) and one seat for the Eastern European Group (Poland) and one seat for the Western European and Others Group (the Netherlands).

The five new members elected this year will take up their seats on January 1, 2018 and will serve through to 31 December 2019. Kuwait First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah led the Kuwaiti delegation during the voting process, accompanied by Kuwait's Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's office Director, Kuwait's Permanent representative to the UN Mansour Al-Otaibi and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations Nasser Al-Hayyen. — KUNA (See Page 2)



This undated artist rendering released by Cartivator shows a flying car. — AP

TOYOTA TO MAKE FLYING CAR, BOAT

TOYOTA: Toyota Motor Corp is working on a "flying car." A startup backed by the Japanese automaker has developed a test model that engineers hope will eventually develop into a tiny car with a driver who'll be able to light the Olympic torch in the 2020 Tokyo games. For now, however, the project is a concoction of aluminum framing and eight propellers that barely gets off the ground and crashes after several seconds.

Toyota has invested 42.5 million yen (\$386,000) in startup Cartivator Resource Management to work on "Sky Drive." At a test flight yesterday in the city where the automaker is based, the gadgetry, about the size of a car and loaded with batteries and sensors, blew up a lot of sand and made a lot of noise. It managed to get up as high as eye level for several seconds before tilting and falling to the ground. Basketballs attached to its bottom served as cushions. After several attempts, the endeavor had to be canceled after one of the covers got detached from the frame and broke, damaging the propellers.

The goal of Cartivator's is to deliver a seamless transition from driving to flight, like the world of "Back to the Future," said the project's leader Tsubasa Nakamura. "I always loved planes and cars. And my longtime dream was to have a personal vehicle that can fly and go many places," he said. The group is now working on a better design with the money from Toyota with the plan to have the first manned flight in 2019. No one has ridden on Sky Drive yet, or any drone, as that would be too dangerous.

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DUBAI HIGH-RISES SLOWLY ENCIRCLE THE FLAMINGOS

US SEEKS SOCIAL MEDIA INFO FROM VISA APPLICANTS

WASHINGTON: The United States has begun asking some would-be visitors applying for visas to provide their identities on social media, among other more vigorous screening methods. A State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity said new security procedures had gone into effect on May 25 for travelers deemed to present a risk.

The plan has already raised the concerns of civil liberties advocates, who fear travelers who pose no terrorist threat may be stigmatized for their political or religious views. It also comes at a time of controversy over another new measure, President Donald Trump's attempt to ban all travelers from six mainly-Muslim countries. But in a March 6 memorandum, Trump vowed to tighten controls on who can enter the United States, including by studying their online behavior.

According to the US official, consular officers can now demand extra information from applicants they deem to require "more rigorous national security vetting." "Such visa applicants will be asked to provide additional information, including their social media handles, prior passport numbers, additional information about family members, and a longer history of past travel, employment, and contact information," she said.

Nevertheless, she added, these changes will "affect only a fraction of one percent of the more than 13 million annual visa applicants worldwide." There is no suggestion that travelers will have to surrender passwords to their accounts.

Continued on Page 13

DUBAI: Think of Dubai and often the first thing that comes to mind is its jagged, space-age skyline, with the world's tallest building piercing the occasional cloud over the desert sheikhdom. The shadows cast by those buildings, however, grow ever-closer to a place often missed by tourists gawking at Dubai's luxury malls and reveling in its nonstop nightlife - the flamingos of the Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary.

Yes, flamingos. And no, they aren't imported. They're locals. Thousands of greater flamingos live in the saltwater wetland park along the banks of the Dubai Creek. The 6-kilometer park was created by a ruler's decree in 1985 and later fenced off. That was more than 30 years ago, the same year the sheikhdom founded what would become the long-haul carrier Emirates.

Then, only the 39-storey Sheikh Rashid Tower stood among the sand dunes. Today, that tower is dwarfed by the 163-story Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest structure, and a downtown filled with skyscrapers.

Recently, the state-backed construction firm Emaar announced plans for its Dubai Creek Harbor project. It will surround the sanctuary, as well as be home to The Tower at Dubai Creek Harbor - which the developer says will be the world's new tallest building in 2020. Emaar says "this sanctuary will remain sacrosanct," but has provided few other details. For now, the long-legged flamingos wait to fly in that new skyline. Here's a gallery of images by photographer Kamran Jebreili capturing Dubai's flamingo reserve as it slowly becomes surrounded by high-rises. — AP



DUBAI: Migrating flamingos fly past the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. — AP



KUWAIT: This June 26, 2015 photo shows His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah arriving at the scene shortly after a blast that hit the Imam Al-Sadeq mosque in Kuwait City. — KUNA photos



This June 26, 2015 photo shows people gathering outside the scene shortly after a blast hit the Imam Al-Sadeq mosque in Kuwait City.

IMAM SADEQ BLAST'S ANNIVERSARY BROUGHT NATIONAL UNITY

KUWAIT: Kuwait still remembers when the hand of terrorism spread to the masses of innocent worshippers in the Imam Al-Sadeq mosque. It was a miserable attempt to create discord through tampering with the security and stability of the country.

A sorrowful event that brought national unity to Kuwaitis who stood in solidarity and cohesion in the face of terrorism. Today marks the second anniversary of the terrorist bombing that took place during Friday prayers on June 26, 2015, corresponding to Ramadan 9th 1436, led to the death of 26 people and the injury of 227 others.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was keen to be at the site only few minutes after the blast, despite the seriousness of the security situation, and spontaneously, he said, "these are my children," in response on the tragedy unfolding us.

Such words and spontaneous statement by the leader has had a tremendous impact on everyone's hearts and killed the terrorists' intention to spread evil further, simple words that have reflected a leader's love of his people and is determined to uphold the unity of the country.

This was demonstrated when the mourning took place and was held at Kuwait's Grand Mosque on June 27, 2015, and in the presence of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, the Prime Minister, senior officials, ministers, members of the National Assembly, and dignitaries.

Kuwaitis' unity

Thousands of Kuwaiti people and residents gathered to offer condolences in a portrait that best represented the meaning of national cohesion and unity to the whole world. The bombing attack aimed at dividing people and to bring discord to all society, the perpetrators were "hoping to succeed in their plan," but the bravery of Kuwaitis and their unity disrupted their plan and it failed, said Dr Mohammad Jawad Al-Hadher, a survivor from this evil attack in Imam Al-Sadeq mosque. Hadher added the presence of His Highness the Amir a few minutes after the explosion had an incredible impact on the unification of Kuwaitis, especially his words that remained valid and circulated widely.

Hadher, whose uncle Mohammed Hussein Al-Hadher was one of the victims of the attack, noted that one of the largest sights for national unity during that period was the establishment of an official condolences ceremony under the noble directives of His Highness the Amir at the state Grand Mosque. He pointed out "the unified funeral prayer has also proved to the whole world that Kuwait stands against any terrorist act aimed at provoking sectarian violence," Hadher said.

Against sectarianism

Hisham Al-Faily, another survivor, recalled, "Such terror-

ist act was aimed at undermining the security and stability of Kuwaiti society." However, the presence of His Highness the Amir only a few minutes after the accident, was a testimony to the whole world that Kuwait stands against sectarianism and violence." Al-Faily added such stand and words by His Highness the Amir are still remembered from all over the world and if anything, it shows his great attachment to Kuwaiti people.

Faily noted that the incident showed to the whole world that Kuwaitis are all united at a time of trouble and that those who seek to stir strife and sectarianism among its people will not be effective, the "terrorist incident increased the solidarity among Kuwaiti people."

Meanwhile, Noor Al-Khawaja, the daughter of Dr Jassem Al-Khawaja who was killed in the bombing of Imam Sadeq mosque, said that this attack, which took place two years ago, contributed to strengthening the cohesion of the Kuwaiti society as Kuwait stood united.

Khawaja added that this strong cohesion fortified Kuwait from terrorism and terrorists and prevented it from infiltrating the ranks of its people and the division of their unity. "Their love for Kuwait is more than solid than a despicable act of terrorism that was aimed primarily to bring chaos and division." She concluded by saying that His Highness the Amir played a key role in strengthening national unity and care for all victims of this tragedy. — KUNA

INCENTIVES TO KUWAITIS TO APPLY FOR MGRP JOBS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh said that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor will offer incentives to attract Kuwaiti youth to certain jobs advertised by the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP). Sabeeh added that the process will be done gradually by focusing first on jobs that are most appealing to Kuwaitis. MGRP Secretary General Fauzi Al-Majdali said meanwhile that the total number of applicants for the recently advertised jobs in co-op societies was 88, while the jobs available were 1,800. Majdali said that the application deadline will be extended for another week.

Anti-corruption

Chairman of the parliamentary legislation committee MP Mohammad Al-Dallal said that the committee will soon finish its report on the anti-corruption authority and submit it to the parliament because the constitutional court ruling might take too long. A contest was made to the constitutional court questioning the constitutionality of the law to establish the anti-corruption authority.

Violations dropped

Director of the Hajj department at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic affairs Mohammad Al-Aleem said that violations detected in Omra convoy offices had considerably dropped after passing the new Hajj and Omra law, which regulated the process and reduced the number of complaints filed by pilgrims against those offices and convoys. Aleem stressed that all violating convoys were tracked down in social media and various other media outlets to prevent unlicensed offices from organizing Omara trips.



ZAIN CELEBRATES OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES COMPANY HOLDS HONORING CEREMONY FOR TOP STUDENTS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, hosted a special ceremony to honor the outstanding achievements of top high school graduates among all high schools in Kuwait. The ceremony was held at Zain's main headquarters in Shuwaikh, and witnessed the presence of the company's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan and The Assistant Director of Student Activities at the Ministry of Education, Faisal Maqseed.

Every year, Zain strives to play a leading role in recognizing the achievements of top-performing students who excelled in their educational journey, and this year the company was determined to gather outstanding students and their families together to recognize their efforts and accomplishments.

As a leading national company, Zain firmly believes in the importance of contributing to the progress of the edu-

cation sector, and looks to empower and prepare the youth for the important roles they will play in the further progress of the country.

Zain is fully committed to supporting young people in their development through a wide variety of community activities and events, including graduation ceremonies, award programs, and educational and career development initiatives. The company's solid CSR strategy is what drives Zain to continue being committed to support all sectors of society in a positive manner.

Zain believes the development of the communities in which it operates is a very important part of the company's overall success. The company considers education as a core element in the community development process, and it will continue to support it to contribute to the further progress of the education sector.

Congratulations

Separately, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) congratulated Kuwait for winning a UN Security Council's (UNSC) non-permanent seat. The foreign ministry, in a statement cited by the official WAM news agency, voiced full confidence in the "capabilities of Kuwait's diplomacy, which will represent the Arab world and its causes." Kuwait's diplomacy, spearheaded by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, plays a "positive role" in regional issues, it added. It praised the State of Kuwait's development and humanitarian role.

Furthermore, Bahrain congratulated Kuwait for its election, saying in a statement released by the foreign ministry that the victory is a reflection of the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir and his "leading initiatives" to promote cooperation among world's countries, as well as boosting international peace and security. Bahrain, it added, said Kuwait's UNSC membership would strengthen endeavors to support regional security and stability. "The State of Kuwait has a regional weight and an exceptional international status," said the foreign ministry.

France also congratulated Kuwait and the other four new non-permanent members who will join the UN Security Council for a two-year term in January 2018. A Foreign Ministry statement said that Paris looked for-

Local spotlight

PARIS DEAL



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

The Paris climate deal or Paris accord is the first global agreement on climate. It was signed after negotiations at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in 2015. Climate change or global warming refers to the damaging effect of gases, or emissions, released from industry and agriculture in the atmosphere. The Paris accord was meant to limit the global rise in temperatures attributed to emissions. The Paris agreement commits the US and 187 other countries to keeping rising global temperatures "well below" 2 C above pre-industrial levels and "endeavor to limit" them even more, to 1.5 C.

It is not necessary to be a scientist to understand the importance of this historic agreement. It is enough that we humans are part of it as long as life is based on the planet, because the Paris Convention seeks to reduce the emission of gases that cause global warming. The Paris climate agreement was an ideal dream for environment activists, but not for long, because the world received a surprise by US President Trump a few days ago when he announced his country's withdrawal from the agreement. He justified his decision by claiming the protection of US citizens and its economy.

A number of analysts said the US' withdrawal will make it difficult for the world to reach the goals that were set in the Paris Convention, because the United States contributes about 15 percent of the world's carbon emissions. At the same time, it is an important source of funding and technology for developing countries to support their efforts to fight global warming.

Elon Musk, head of tech giant Tesla, resigned from White House advisory councils. He made this comment: "Climate change is real. Leaving Paris is not good for America or the world." Former US President Barack Obama, who signed the Paris agreement, criticized the US withdrawal, accusing Trump administration of "rejecting the future".

This is an exit by America from the frontline in the face of one of the key environmental challenges. The agreement was signed by nearly 200 countries including China, India and Russia, and there was widespread international condemnation of President Trump's announcement. The leaders of France, Germany and Italy issued a joint statement refusing to renegotiate the agreement. So "renegotiation" is an unlikely scenario. A UN spokeswoman said it was "a major disappointment to the world's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance global security".

I believe that the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Convention means relinquishing US leadership to the world in the face of one of the main challenges. It is a mistake. The decision also raises concerns over Washington's relations with the world and the possibility of giving preference to other countries to take the lead in the work to protect Planet Earth.

Working to support alternative and renewable energy will support companies, scientists and engineers to launch investments and technological innovations to protect the planet. Those who say otherwise may gain some short-term benefits, but history will only mention how they gave up on the protection of Planet Earth.

DRUG DEALER ARRESTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's relations and security media department said that an Asian drug dealer was arrested after detectives raided his house and found a variety of drugs. The department added that the suspect violently resisted arrest but was eventually brought under control and referred to relevant authorities.

Fire

A fire broke out on the ninth floor of a building in Khaitan. Firemen from Farwaniya and Sabhan stations rushed to the scene where they split into two teams; one for evacuating the building and rescuing any trapped tenants and the other for fighting the flames. No casualties were reported.

KUWAIT TO MAINTAIN POLICY OF MODERATION: FOREIGN MINISTER

NEW YORK: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah affirmed on Friday that Kuwait would spare no effort in maintaining its "pre-emptive policy of moderation and balance." Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled made the statement after Kuwait won by 188 votes for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council. The minister said he was elated for winning that large number of votes out of the 192 ones.

Underlining Kuwait's international high status, the minister said Kuwait has won respect and confidence of the world. In the name of Kuwait he expressed gratitude to the member states for their confidence in Kuwait and its policies, drawn up by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

"We have also sensed confidence of the international community in the State of Kuwait when His Highness the Amir was honored by the former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan designating His Highness as the Humanitarian Leader," he said. The minister said Kuwait would coordinate with the member states to avert eruption of disputes and wars and resolve them through peaceful means.

188 votes

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of congratulations to Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled over Kuwait being elected as a non-permanent member at the UNSC. His Highness the Amir hailed the Foreign Minister for all the effort made by him, along with the ministry staff. He lauded the Kuwaiti diplomacy for being able to secure 188 votes in the elections, wishing for them more suc-

cess in the future in serving Kuwait. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables to the Foreign Minister.

Also, His Highness the Crown Prince congratulated His Highness the Amir on Kuwait's election. In a cable to His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince said the fact 188 UN members voted for Kuwait "is a result of relentless efforts of your Highness ..., and an affirmation of Kuwait's regional and international status under your Highness' wise leadership."

His Highness the Crown Prince highly appreciated His Highness the Amir's "relentless and exceptional efforts to reaffirm the State of Kuwait's position on the international stage." His Highness the Crown Prince prayed to Allah the Almighty to bestow his blessing upon His Highness the Amir to continue his leadership.

In the meantime, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said that Kuwait's win of a mirrors its diplomatic position. After 40 years, Kuwait returned to the UN Security Council representing the Arab group, as an international partner whose policy is renowned for moderation, he added in a press statement. Kuwait is a key player supporting strongly policies of achieving peace and security in all areas witnessing conflicts all over the world, he noted. He expressed his confidence that Kuwait's Foreign Ministry and its permanent mission at the UN would be able to reflect the balanced foreign policy that was drawn up by His Highness the Amir more than



KUWAIT: Kuwait Times columnist Muna Al-Fuzai recently meets Ambassador of the Republic of Malaysia Ahmed Rozian Abd Ghani to congratulate him on the holy month of Ramadan and talk about the role of the press in Malaysia and Kuwait. The ambassador praised the vital role played by Kuwait Times.

Special Report:

The visual art of advertising in Ramadan

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

KUWAIT: On the streets of Kuwait, sidewalks that are supposed to be pedestrianized are crowded by billboards. Some of these are annoying to the extent that we marvel about the fictitious amount of money spent on these campaigns. Some of them make you sympathize with the advertising company due to the money wasted on a bad design. You wish you were personally consulted to offer some advice.

In Ramadan, advertisers compete over advertising spaces in Kuwait. Everyone is trying to add the spirit of

Ramadan to their products, from cars to antacids. However, graphic design specialists realize that growth in innovation has not been impressive in the last five years, with advertisers continuing to commit the same technical and designing mistakes, which reflect a lack of knowledge of the visual aspect.

Artist and graphic designer Mohammad Sharaf is a well-respected but controversial figure, known for his frank views of the advertising and graphic design scene in Kuwait. Sharaf is recognized significantly for his visual reactions, as he calls them. He admits that he has not created an artwork for an art exhibition focused around a preconceived idea, although he has worked as a graphic designer and in branding since 1999.

World fame

"I have created several digital posters over the past years," Sharaf said. "My visual reactions began in 2011, the most notable of which was 'Allowed,' which depicts a woman wearing an abaya riding a bike and carrying a Khaleeji man. This poster went viral around the world. It was my response at that time towards a social and political event."

His current location in New York has not separated him from the local scene. He is constantly following local affairs that he considers the sparks of his artistic revelations. "I cannot remain visually silent when I witness something wrong. However, I would leave out the idea of reacting to an event if three days pass without creating something," he told Kuwait Times.

Messaging in advertising design relies on several key components such as copy, size and shape, graphics, colors, placement and the value of the message. It is not enough to rely on beauty or humor only as an influential factor. There must be harmony between all these elements to accomplish the desired impact. "Free stock images and fonts are heavily utilized. We rarely find advert designs that are customized from scratch to suit the message and the product. Most Ramadan adverts contain a bunch of serious design mistakes," Sharaf pointed out.

The designer attended the MFA Design/Designer as Author + Entrepreneur at the School of Visual Arts in New York in 2013. During the program, he completed several diplomas in design, centering mostly on Arabic typography. He believes that the most important phrase in Ramadan is the greeting - 'Ramadan Kareem', 'Ramadan Mubarak' or 'Mubarak to you the month'.

Designers' mistakes

"The greeting is the first thing that tells us that the month of fasting has come. But there is a lack of implementation on this point. Some forms of calligraphy are over-used. Some of them are closely related to other media or commercial brands and shouldn't be employed. Take the tear shape as an object lesson - this shape is strongly associated with the logo of Al-Jazeera news channel and has become a part of its identity. The same calligraphic form when used in other mediums will remind of the views of the news channel. Even if you replace their name with an insult, it would still look pretty Islamic and related to the channel," Sharaf said.

"Another mistake some designers make is when they employ a font that is designed to be used in specific architectural applications, like the Kufic Square font. The designer should read about the history and uses of fonts. Some fonts are designed for text and others for headlines, and each one of them has its own features. In addition, some Arabic fonts have unique characteristics, like Quranic fonts. It is unacceptable to use them to write something else other than the Quran," he added.

The message addressed must also conform to the cosmopolitan culture of the community and use simple and concise language. The influence of the nationality of some designers is noticeable in local ads, who apply their own accents. On the other hand, there is a community segment that is entirely absent from the advertising scene, although it constitutes a large percentage of the total population of Kuwait. "The lantern was never part of the Kuwaiti culture, along with other Islamic decorations. They are rooted in countries such as Morocco, Syria and Iraq. In Kuwait, family



KUWAIT: Artist Mohammad Sharaf — Photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi



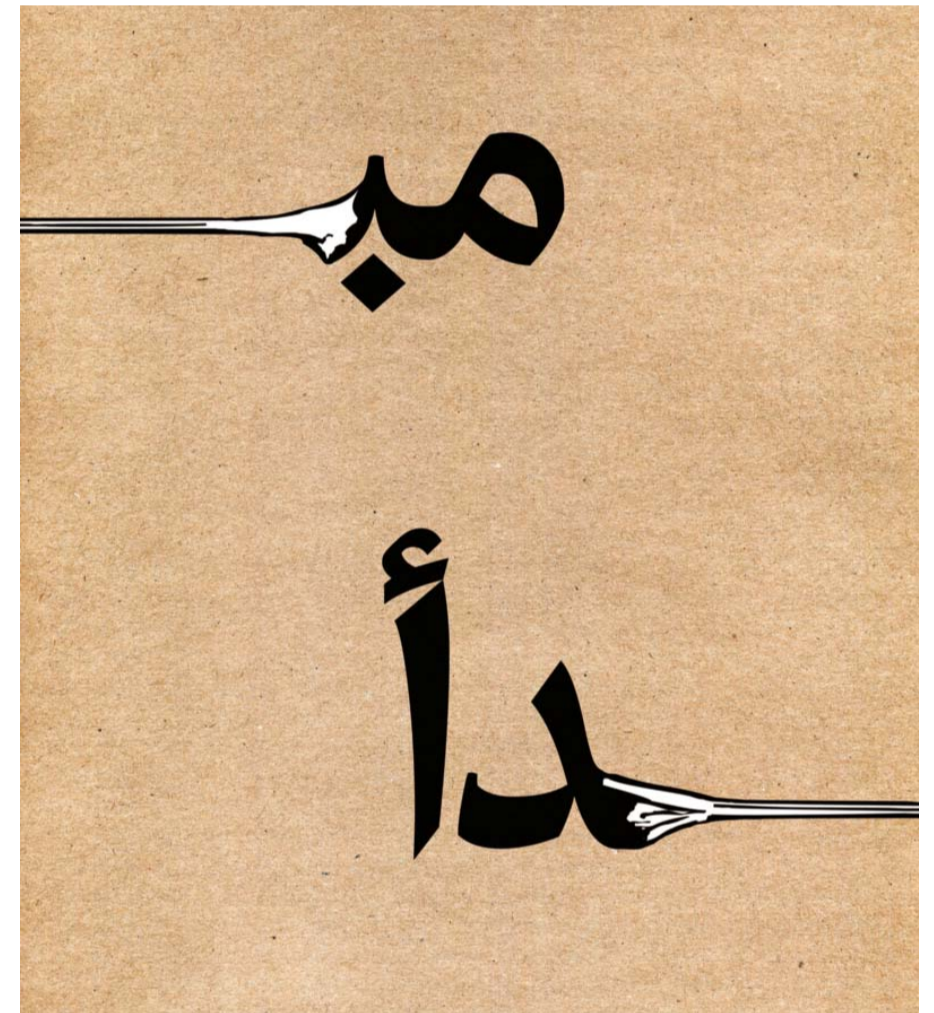
Allowed



Artist Mohammad Sharaf

and social gatherings around food is still the symbol of the spirit of Ramadan," said Sharaf.

On the positive side, designs of Ramadan adverts, whether good or bad, have succeeded as a unified advertising force in drawing out the Ramadan spirit and entering the hearts of millions. Some brands have attracted their audiences to wait for their campaigns year after year. However, the knowledge of visual arts is no longer exclusive to designers, which creates a greater challenge to their innovativeness in creating powerful and influential adverts. You can view Mohammad Sharaf's works on Instagram @Mohammadrsharaf and website: www.mohammadsharaf.com.



Principle



Steak of Kuwait



Allowed One Year Later

Kuwait

Heritage



Al-Derbaha, a famous children's game from the Kuwaiti heritage. The boys move the frame quickly as they race to a certain point where the first who arrives is declared the winner. This picture was taken in 1958 in Merqab, and shows the Faheed brothers (left and second left), the Shuaibi brothers (at the back) and Ali Salimi. (Source: A total of commemorative printed images by the Ministry of Information in the sixties and seventies. Prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, heritage researcher in the Ministry of Information)



Muhammad Meis

DRIVE SAFELY AND CAUTIOUSLY

By Ben Garcia

Each of us can contribute to making Kuwait a better place for all of us to live. In our daily deeds and actions, we can find - if we choose to look - opportunities for improving Kuwait's environment. From not littering on the streets, to choosing to be kind and helpful to others, each individual here can have a positive impact on the society as a whole. Kuwait Times wants to know what can you do?

Muhammad Meis is a 40-year-old taxi driver from Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has two children aged 10 and 11 years, and has been working and living away from his home for 20 years. When asked about how he is going to contribute to make Kuwait a better place, this is what he had to say:

"I am working as a taxi driver for 10 years now in Kuwait. Before this job, I worked for a Kuwaiti family as their family driver for 10 years. As an expat, I want to be able to help this country in many ways. For instance, I will not overcharge passengers. I will drive safely and cautiously. I will take my passengers safely to their destinations. I will not engage in fruitless discussions with passengers. I will obey traffic rules."

CULTURAL SOCIAL MEDIA DIWAN HOSTS ANNUAL GHABQA

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Cultural Social Media Diwan held its second ghabqa at the Radisson Blu Hotel recently. The ghabqa was held under the

auspices of Ibrahim Al-Baghli, goodwill ambassador at the United Nations and President of Al-Baghli Charity, who said that this occasion aims to bring together Kuwaitis from all social categories in one social gathering

during the holy month of Ramadan in order to preserve the Kuwaiti traditions.

On this occasion, Baghli wished the attendees a Ramadan Mubarak, and thanked the Cultural Social Media Diwan for holding this

annual ghabqa "that strengthens the bonds of love between community members.

Dr Adnan Al-Hasan said on behalf of the Diwan that this ghabqa was titled 'the meeting of communication and love' which aims

to strengthen the relations between Kuwaiti families and those who gather every year in this event. The ghabqa was attended by numerous well-known political and economic dignitaries, in addition to the media.



KUWAIT: People in attendance pose for a group photo. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Ibrahim Al-Baghli



Ibrahim Al-Baghli is honored by the Cultural Social Media Diwan.





KUWAIT: His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah hosted his annual ghabqa over the weekend, which was attended by top state officials, diplomats and other dignitaries. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



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CBSE CLASS XII RECORD BREAKING PERFORMANCE - 193 DISTINCTIONS OUT OF 241

KUWAIT TOPPERS / ICSK TOPPERS

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | |
| VINEETHA REBECCA JACOB Commerce (95.8%) KUWAIT TOPPER | DAVID MATHEWS Humanities (93%) 2ND KUWAIT TOPPER | ALAMELU INDIRA Commerce (95.2%) 3RD KUWAIT TOPPER | ALEX JOHNSON P. Commerce (95.2%) 3RD KUWAIT TOPPER | VRITIKA VIJAY LAL NAIK Science (96.8%) ICSK TOPPER |

- Kuwait Topper – Commerce (95.8%).
- 2nd Kuwait Topper – Humanities (93%) & 3rd Kuwait Topper – Commerce (95.2%)
- Kuwait Toppers – English, Economics, Business Studies, Accountancy, Home Science, Physical Education, Political Science, History.
- 235 First Class (97%) & 193 Distinctions (80%) out of 241 students.
- Vineetha Rebecca Jacob - Commerce Topper (95.8%), Vritika Vijay Lal Naik - Science Topper (96.8%), David Mathew - Humanities Topper (93%).
- 241 students appeared for the exam, highest in Kuwait.
- 142 (59%) Students scored A1 Grade in the Subject English.

KUWAIT / ICSK SUBJECT TOPPERS

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | |
| DAVID MATHEWS History (96%) & Web Technology (98%) | MADHUMITA VENUGOPAL Political Science (93%) | AKASH RAMESH KUMAR Economics (88%) & Accountancy (95%) | VINEETHA R. JACOB Economics (98%), Business St. (98%) & Accountancy (95%) | AYSHA MUBEENA Psychology (99%) & Biology (94%) | VRITIKA VIJAY LAL NAIK Maths (97%), Physics (96%) & Computer Science (98%) |
| | | | | | |
| ABDULLA MAHMOOD Maths (97%) & Physics (96%) | ANTHONY JUDE YANG Chemistry (99%) | BIJOY SAM ABRAHAM Physical Education (98%) | MOHAMMED HUSSAIN Painting (87%) | NAMRITA SHANKAR Fashion Studies (94%) | JOAN SURESH PETER Accountancy (95%) |
| | | | | | |
| SANDRA ANN THOMAS Accountancy (95%) & English (93%) | ALAMELU INDIRA Accountancy (95%) & Informatics PR (98%) | ALEX JOHNSON P. Accountancy (95%) | SAKINA SOEB RANGWALA Home Science (93%) | SILLA SWADIB PATRO Computer Science (98%) | |

A1 SCORES

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | |
| VRITIKA VIJAY LAL NAIK | SURYANARAYANAN | SILLA SWADIB PATRO | SHAIKH MATHAR | SADNAN ISLAM | RACHEL MINUSHYLA | MUHAMMED BASIL |
| | | | | | | |
| MANOVA E. THOMAS | HARITHA G. SEGAR | ANTHONY JUDE | KEVIN C. KOSHY | ANAMIKA A. KUMAR | ABDULLA M. ISMAIL | ALEENA SAM |
| | | | | | | |
| AYSHA MUBEENA | VANESSA EMILIA | NAMRATA SUNAND | MILAN KOSHY P. | MEGHA MARIA | MAYOOKHA B. | JOAN S. PETER |
| | | | | | | |
| FAHD ANWAR | DHRUV SHARMA | AKHILESH ABY | VINEETHA R. JACOB | CHRISLE JOSEPH | SHREYA S. SHENOY | MADHUMITA V. |
| | | | | | | |
| SANDRA ANN THOMAS | HUSAIN T. MODI | DAVID MATHEW | CARLIN CHACKO | ALEX J. PUTHETHU | ALAMELU INDIRA | AKASH R. KUMAR |

NIOS CLASS XII RESULTS

ICSK PERFORMS PAR EXCELLENCE

- 86% passed - 26 out of 30 students appeared.
- Least Score 64% and highest score 77%.
- Excellent performance in Science & Commerce.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | |
| SAYED ABDUL RAHMAN 1st (77%) | AISHA HAMZA 2nd (76%) | ANJALI SHANTHAKUMAR 3rd (75%) |

Crime

Report

MURDERER BRIEFLY RELEASED BY ERROR

KUWAIT: A procedural mistake placed the name of a citizen who is currently on trial for murdering his own wife on a list of suspects to be released on a KD 1000 bail and travel ban, said security sources, noting that the judge immediately realized the mistake and security forces were alerted. The man reportedly smashed his wife's head with a hammer and a metal pipe before his daughter while being heavily drunk in Jahra last March. The sources added that the man's folks called the police wondering about his release and whether that posed any danger to them but they were told to treat him nicely till detectives showed up and arrested him.

Officer discharged

Following up the traffic policeman who was arrested for handing over his gear and traffic citations book to his girlfriend allowing her to boast with them on a social media video, security sources said that he was discharged from service.

Father kills 'troublemaker' son

Following up the case of finding a young citizen shot to death in his bed in Jahra, security sources said that the murderer was the young man's own father and that he was arrested. The sources added that the father justified shooting his son while in bed because he was a trouble maker and that all his attempts to straighten him up were in vain. Therefore, he fired five bullets at him, then cleaned the room and removed the bullets and cleaned his clothes. The father also led detectives to the murder weapon.

Missing youngster found

An Egyptian young man, who had been reported missing by his own father, returned home, said security sources noting that the father reported that his son called his younger brother and told him that he was at Jleeb park, where the father immediately went and brought him back home.

Fugitive caught

A Syrian with a criminal record, who had been deported from Kuwait 16 years ago and managed to return to Kuwait with a fake passport, was arrested in Farwaniya, said security sources, noting that a police patrol suspected the man as he was trying to hide and avoid them. However on checking his fingerprints, they found out that he had been deported in 2001.

Accident

Two citizen were trapped in their vehicle when it collided into a palm tree in Bayan, sad security sources. Firefighters had to be dispatched to the scene to cut the wreckage and release the two men; who were then rushed to Mubarak Hospital for treatment.

Forgery

An Asian truck driver was arrested on getting out of Burgan Oilfield's northern gate using a forged shipment form, said security sources.

— Translated from the Arabic press



KIB SPONSORS THOUB EXPO TO SUPPORT LOCAL FEMALE DESIGNERS

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing commitment to support youth initiatives and local small businesses, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its sponsorship of 'Thoub Expo', the exhibition dedicated to showcasing local Ramadan fashion-related products. This year's exhibition was held at 360 Mall, featuring the participation of a number of young, local female talents.

Featuring highly-skilled local and regional designers, as well as prominent social media influencers, this annual exhibition aims to support young local female entrepreneurs and small business owners by providing a network within the community to exchange ideas and to enable their businesses to grow.

"We are particularly proud to be part of an initiative that supports local female talents and entrepreneurs, as we believe that women play a vital role in promoting the economic development of the country. Accordingly, a large portion of our social initiatives is dedicated to empowering women by lending our support to initiatives that aim to promote the local female within our community," commented Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB.

He added that a team from KIB was present at the booth throughout the exhibition. KIB staff were available to answer all questions related to the Bank's products and services, as well as its new campaigns and offers, which are designed to suit the various needs of all segments within the community.



KIB continues to support activities and initiatives, similar to 'Thoub Expo', which aim to promote development across all areas in Kuwait, particularly focusing on encouraging and fostering young local talents. The Bank has always considered youth initiatives and entrepreneurial programs to be integral components towards empowering and nurturing future generations; by providing employment opportunities in the private sector for young men and women, nurturing the creative ideas of ambitious young minds, and enabling them to play an active and positive role in the development of the country.

LEGALIZING TERRORISM

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

By Salah Al-Sayer

The famous Arab poet Abul Tayyeb Al-Motanabbi once said a famous line about the danger lying in dislocating 'dew and swords' which was in a poem he composed in praise of the famous leader, Saif Al-Dawla Al-Hamadani. The line became well known amongst Arabs when talking about correlating actions to the surrounding conditions.

The line says that 'dew', which symbolizes softness and kindness, is commended when used in place just the same way the 'sword', which symbolizes anger and decisiveness, becomes harmful when used out of place. So, sayings and actions are subject to circumstances and, despite the goodness in taking a neutral position in some disputes, such neutrality can be a very mean thing to do when the dispute is between good and evil.

It would be corrupt, evil and criminal neutrality that ought to be tracked down, cornered and incriminated

Arab people have every right to be neutral, keep silent or even sophisticatedly talk about some issue during peaceful and normal conditions, but they have no right in committing any such harmful follies when nations are in real danger. So, when Egypt, the most beloved to all Arabs, is under brutal attacks and some people still keep silent with the excuse of 'not taking sides with either of the fighting rivals in Egypt', this is considered a cheap mean way to legalize terrorists and criminals. It would be corrupt, evil and criminal neutrality that ought to be tracked down, cornered and incriminated.

Egypt will remain undividedly in war against one undivided criminal and enemy that believes in no humanity. An enemy hoists the flags of religion to hide the most brutal practices underneath and still, some people keep silent making excuses that there are more than one view of the situation, which is a very sick-minded attitude reflecting their own disappointment, loss of their dreams and the exposure of their lies and tricks versus the legendary Egyptian resistance of tyranny and darkness. —Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Anbaa

ABK PROVIDES VISUALLY IMPAIRED WITH THE HOLY QURAN IN BRAILLE

KUWAIT: On the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan and in line with its activities planned for this year, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) made a donation to the Kuwait Blind Association, in its efforts to provide the visually impaired with the Holy Quran in Braille.

The bank's main CSR focus since 2016 has been special needs which stems from its strong belief in the importance of creating equal opportunities for individuals with special needs and raising awareness among Kuwait's society. The donation was presented by Fawzy Al-Thunayan; ABK's General Manager of Board Affairs, to Fahad Al-Enzi, Board Member and Head of the Cultural Committee at the Kuwait Blind Association.

Commenting on this initiative, Thunayan said: "Ensuring that every Muslim individual has access to the Holy Quran, despite any physical disabilities, is our duty as a socially responsible entity. There are so many different forms of giving that can be adopted by individuals and companies alike, simple acts of giving during this time of year is even more special as we aim to offer a sense of serenity and peace across every home in Kuwait."

Enzi expressed his appreciation to ABK for its support on behalf of the Kuwait Blind Association and every visual-



ly impaired individual that will be able to benefit from this contribution. This is one of a series of initiatives embraced by the bank this year. The bank also recently distributed relief packages in collaboration with the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), whereby relief packages containing non-perishable food items were distributed to underprivileged families.



KFH VISITS COAST GUARD PERSONNEL AT SABAH AL-AHMAD BASE

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) visited The Coast Guard Administration at their workplace at Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Base and offered them iftar feast in recognition of their efforts and pivotal role in serving the country and the people. The visit also emanates from KFH's corporate social responsibility and part of its Ramadan program 'Increase Good Deeds in Ramadan 3'

Taking these initiatives, KFH confirms its keenness to solidify ties with society, not to mention enhance cooperation with government's institutions. Such initiatives had a positive effect in encouraging Coast Guard personnel and lifting their morale to perform their duties optimally. Meanwhile, Coast Guard personnel extended their thanks and gratitude to KFH for this initiative and lauded its distinguished role in assuming social responsibility.



Solicitation of Interest (SOI)
Purchasing of SHU, MAA, MAB Refineries Assets

Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) is soliciting the interest of Local and International Entities for buying Shuiba Refinery complete Process Units and other Assets with its total Operation Cease in April 2017, In addition to sell Process Units located in Mina Abdullah (MAB) and Mina Al Ahmadi (MAA) refineries upon their Operation cease, tentatively by end of 2018 through a public Auction.

To view the list of Process Units for sale in all three Refineries visit the website below.

Shuiba Refinery is preferred to be sold as a complete package. Process units in MAA and MAB are preferred to be sold as complete units. Dismantling & transportation of sold assets fall under Buyer's Scope / Cost.

Potential interested buyers are invited to download and fill the short Questionnaire accessible via the below link. Filled Questionnaires along with buyers "Letters of Interests" shall be forwarded to KNPC:

<http://www.knpc.com/en/Pages/knpcsoa.aspx>

For inquiries and more information please contact us on the following e-mail: saleofassets@knpc.com



Modi tells Macron India will 'go beyond' climate accord

PROTESTORS AND POLICE CLASH OVER MOROCCO ARREST

US STATES, CITIES, FIRMS UNITE ON CLIMATE
 OUTRAGED TRUMP CRITICS RALLY BEHIND PARIS ACCORD

NEW YORK: State governors, city mayors and powerful companies united Friday in defiance of President Donald Trump's pledge to take the United States out of the Paris climate accord, pledging to meet greenhouse gas emission targets regardless. A majority of Americans in every state, or 69 percent of US voters, believe the United States should participate in the agreement, according to a recent opinion poll carried out by Yale University's program on climate change communication.

At least two Republican governors announced Friday they were partnering with Democratic-run states to combat climate change after Trump's announcement sparked swift condemnation from academics, industry leaders and environmental experts. US billionaire, philanthropist and UN envoy for climate change Michael Bloomberg pledged \$15 million to support the agreement's coordinating agency if necessary - the sum it stands to lose should the United States refuse to pay its share.

"Americans will honor and fulfill the Paris agreement by leading from the bottom up," he said, flying to the French capital to meet President Emmanuel Macron in an expression of solidarity. "Mayors, governors and business leaders from both political parties are signing onto a statement of support that we will submit to the UN - and together, we will reach the emission reduction goals the US made in Paris in 2015," said Bloomberg.

The United States - the world's second largest greenhouse gas emitter after China - pledged in the Paris climate deal to reduce emissions that contribute to global warming by 26 percent in a 20-year period by 2025. The New York Times said that Bloomberg's unnamed group so far includes 30 mayors, three governors, more than 80 university presidents and more than 100 businesses. The Democratic-led states of California, New York and Washington announced separately that they were forming a United States Climate Alliance committed to upholding Paris emissions commitments and urged others to climb on board.

Charlie Baker and Phil Scott, the Republican governors of Massachusetts and Vermont respectively, announced that their liberal northeastern states were joining the Climate Alliance and committed to the goals of the Paris agreement, as did their Democratic counterparts in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

'More than mitigated'

Around 150 mayors, who say they represent 47 million Americans, have also committed to uphold the Paris commitments, intensify efforts to meet climate goals and increase investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Several major US corporations, captains of industry and business groups urged Trump to honor the endangered agreement, with oil super majors ExxonMobil and Chevron among those reiterating their support for the accords.



JULIETTE, Georgia: The coal-fired Plant Scherer, one of the US' top carbon dioxide emitters, is seen in the distance yesterday. — AP

New York's Bill de Blasio, mayor of America's most populous city, told WNYC radio that he wanted to "surpass" his commitment to reduce

emissions 80 percent by 2050. While UN officials stress that it could take several years before there is a proper understanding of the implications of a US withdrawal, they also say the deal was structured to require action at multiple levels of government, not just federal.

Robert Orr, one of the architects of the Paris accord and a former special advisor to the UN secretary general on climate change, told AFP that the United States had already been on track to achieve about half its Paris reductions commitment. "The president may

have unwittingly added dynamism to the same actors that have always been the ones that are delivering the reductions to actually do more on their own," he told AFP. "If this coalition broadens and deepens at the pace that it appears to be, I think the Trump effect could be more than mitigated," added Orr, now dean of the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland.

California, New York and Washington, three of the states in the Climate Alliance, represent more than one-fifth of US gross domestic prod-

uct and account for at least 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, their governors said. The governor of Hawaii has also pledged to continue concrete steps to implement the Paris accord, while governors of Colorado, Minnesota, Oregon and Virginia committed to clean air and clean energy. The earliest possible date for America's official withdrawal from the Paris agreement is Nov 4, 2020 - the day after the next US presidential election - although Trump's current term in office is not due to end until Jan 20, 2021. — AFP



KABUL: Afghan men stand by human remains at the site of a series of explosions that targeted a funeral of a politician's son, who was killed during an anti-government protest a day earlier, at Badam Bagh yesterday. — AFP

EXPLOSIONS ROCK FUNERAL IN KABUL

KABUL: Explosions rocked the funeral of an Afghan politician's son in Kabul yesterday, killing at least seven people and wounding dozens, in fresh carnage that spiked tensions in a city already on edge. Witnesses reported three blasts at the burial site of Salim Ezadyar, who was among four people killed on Friday when an anti-government protest over spiralling insecurity in Kabul degenerated into street clashes with police.

The hilly, wind-swept cemetery was littered with bloodied corpses and dismembered limbs, local television footage showed, with one witness telling AFP that "people were blown to pieces" due to the impact of the blasts. "So far seven dead bodies and 119 wounded people have been brought to Kabul hospitals," health ministry spokesman Waheed Majroh told AFP.

The funeral of Salim Ezadyar, the son of an influential Afghan senator, was attended by senior government figures including Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah and Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, but they escaped unharmed. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack, with the Taliban - the biggest insurgent group in Afghanistan - denying any involvement. The fresh killings are likely to further polarize a

city that has been on edge since a truck bombing on Wednesday in Kabul's diplomatic quarter killed 90 people and wounded hundreds, in the deadliest attack on the Afghan capital since 2001. President Ashraf Ghani urged restraint after the funeral bombings, saying: "The country is under attack. We must stay united."

Wednesday's assault highlighted the ability of militants to strike even in the capital's most secure district, home to the presidential palace and foreign embassies that are enveloped in a maze of concrete blast walls. The government has blamed the Taliban-allied Haqqani Network for the attack. On Friday, the district center again became a battlefield when hundreds of demonstrators incensed by the bombing clashed with police, prompting officials to beat them back with live rounds in the air, tear gas and water cannon.

City on lockdown

Police yesterday locked down much of Kabul city, with armed checkpoints and armored vehicles patrolling the streets to prevent a repeat of Friday's violence. Before the blasts at the funeral, authorities had sealed off roads in the center of the city, citing the threat of new attacks on large

gatherings of people. "We have intelligence reports that our enemies are trying again to carry out attacks on gatherings and demonstrations," Kabul garrison commander Gul Nabi Ahmadzai said earlier Saturday. "We hope that people will stay away from protests."

But dozens of protesters still gathered under a tent close to the presidential palace calling for Ghani's government to resign, but the assembly was largely peaceful. "Any government attempt to disrupt our fair and just demonstration will show their complicity with terrorist groups and the perpetrators of Wednesday's attack," said Asif Ashna, a spokesman for the protesters. "It is the duty of the government to ensure security to the protesters... and the government will be held responsible for any violence." The United Nations and a host of international allies have urged the protesters for restraint. "The enemy seeks to manipulate the people's anger and sadness to create division and sow instability," the US embassy said in a statement. "Now is the time to stand unified and announce to the enemies that Afghans... will not allow cowards to break the resolve to achieve a stable and peaceful nation. The enemies of Afghanistan cannot win. They will not win." — AFP

Ramadan Kareem

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PALESTINIAN REFUGEES' DREAMS OF RETURNING HOME FADE

AL-WIHDAT REFUGEE CAMP, Jordan: Fifty years ago, Sobhi Awwad left the ancient West Bank city of Jericho with his parents, running to dodge the crossfire from battling Jordanian and Israeli soldiers. Today, living in a refugee camp in Amman, his seven children and 15 grandchildren know his Palestinian homeland only through his stories and those of others who fled. "The past will never come back. I wish I had died in Jericho and not come here so I wouldn't have to carry what I carry in my memory today," he said. "Our life was simple, but very happy. There were good things in Jericho."

Awwad is among some 300,000 refugees from the 1967 Six-Day War and its immediate aftermath. Over the past five decades, the tent that the family pitched about 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Jericho has been replaced by a house, and the Al-Wihdat camp in which it stands looks much like any other neighborhood in the Jordanian capital. One difference is the graffiti proclaiming that the refugee camps are just a way station, a "waiting room before the return" - a message seen on posters throughout the camps of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied Palestinian territories. The Palestinians claim a "right of

return" to homes their families fled or were driven from both in the 1948 war surrounding the creation of Israel and again in 1967. It is one of the most contentious issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For the Palestinian leadership, it is a right that must be negotiated painstakingly if stalled peace negotiations ever resume. Israel says that in the same way that it took in Jews fleeing postwar Europe and Arab countries, the proper place to settle Palestinian refugees is in a future Palestinian state.

'We never forget'

Graffiti reading "we never forget" adorns the walls of homes in the Dheisheh refugee camp, in the West bank city of Bethlehem. The camps can be grey zones where neither the Palestinian Authority nor the Israeli army exert much influence. A small, parallel world is evolving where political consciousness is sharper and despair greater than in the towns and cities. Politics are conducted differently than elsewhere in the occupied territories, where internal rivalries are fierce.

"In the camps, solidarity among people is stronger. Even political parties take unified decisions," says Louai Al-Haj, a



DHEISHEH REFUGEE CAMP: Palestinian refugee Abdel Qader Al-Lahham, who was born in 1921 in the village of Beit Atab, which is now in Israel, sits during an interview on May 14, 2017. — AFP

local activist. Palestinian security forces do not often venture in, he says, making

the camps towns within towns, hidden from the eyes of the authorities. Deep distrust prevails between the Palestinian Authority and the youngsters in the camps who appear in its alleys only after dark or, their faces masked, at the funerals of "martyrs" killed in clashes with Israeli forces. For them, the PA is a body that negotiates with the occupier and which could one day, with the stroke of a pen, sign the death warrant of the right of return. Unrest has also broken out. At the Balata camp in Nablus, there was an uptick of violence last year when Palestinian security forces launched raids to seize illegal weapons.

'Waiting to get back on the road'

Still waiting in the Dheisheh camp to go back, Abdel Qader Al-Lahham, 96, laments what has occurred over the past half-century. Recently one of his grandchildren obtained an Israeli permit to visit ancestral land. "I described to him the house and even the fig tree which I had planted," he told AFP. But he says that love of working on the land has been lost and with it the desire to return to the villages. The Israelis who now occupy the territory "employ the young people and sometimes pay them as much as 200 or

300 shekels (\$56-\$84) a day". With such temptations, he says, "who is going to wear themselves out growing vegetables?" After reflecting on the past, he points out his house in Dheisheh. "It doesn't even belong to me," he sighs. "All this is the agency's," he adds, referring to the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, which also provides schools and hospitals.

Mohammed Nassar and other youngsters are trying to preserve the memory of the exodus - and life before it - by restoring a pre-1948 bus. Parked at the side of the road in Ramallah, the beige bus has been lovingly refurbished, with varnished wooden slats running along its windows and wooden panelling inside. The names of the cities it once visited run in Arabic script along its side. In their day, Nassar said, such vehicles took travellers from Haifa to Beirut and from Jerusalem to distant Sanaa in Yemen. After the glory days when they ferried Palestinians to the cinema in Amman or took Christian pilgrims from Damascus to Jerusalem, the last international journey of Palestinian buses was in 1967. Then, passengers "with their suitcases left their country for another," Nassar said. "The Palestinians are waiting to get back on the road in the opposite direction." — AFP

JERUSALEM, SO CLOSE, STILL OUT OF REACH FOR MANY PALESTINIANS

JERUSALEM: He lives only a 20-minute drive from Jerusalem but for Palestinian Abu Bashir the city and its sacred sites might as well be a world away. "The whole world goes to Jerusalem but we who live a few kilometres away are forbidden to enter," says Abu Bashir, a resident of the West Bank city of Bethlehem. A Muslim who lives in the traditional birthplace of Christ, Abu Bashir says that since Israel occupied east Jerusalem's Islamic and Christian holy sites in the 1967 Six-Day War, Palestinian worshippers' ties to their shrines have eroded.

holiest prayer site for Jews and the Al-Aqsa compound is among Islam's most sacred places.

Regaining access to the Western Wall was a defining moment for Israelis during the Six-Day War, which saw the country score a stunning victory over its Arab neighbors to seize control not just of east Jerusalem but territory including the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Jewish worshippers still do not have unfettered access to holy sites of the Al-Aqsa compound, which is known to Jews as the Temple Mount after the Jewish temples that stood there in ancient times. Jews are

Jerusalem and Ramallah. Many Muslim faithful visited Jerusalem before continuing by bus or train to perform the hajj pilgrimage to Makkah in Saudi Arabia. In the past, "anyone who wanted to pray in Jerusalem just got in his car and never encountered any roadblocks," says Mahmoud Al-Habash, an Islamic religious official in the Palestinian Authority (PA).

But since 1967, Palestinians in the occupied territories have seen their freedom of movement restricted by checks and obstacles, including Israel's controversial separation wall. Most of the more than 4.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip cannot visit Jerusalem today without a permit. Older men as well as women and children are allowed to travel there for Friday prayer without permits during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan.

Christians too face restrictions. Father Jamal Khader, director of the Latin Patriarchate seminary in Jerusalem, recalls childhood memories of holy days in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Today the route between the two cities, still followed by religious processions at festivals, passes through the separation wall which can only be crossed with a special permit. There are now those who have never seen the sacred sites "except in pictures," Father Khader says.

Virtual pilgrimage

Nora Karmi, an Eastern Orthodox Jerusalem Christian, says that access to sites is a challenge when Christian and Jewish holy days coincide. She has repeatedly mobilized foreign diplomats to help gain entrance for some Palestinian pilgrims to holy sites. But faced with restrictions on their movements and barriers to worship, many Palestinian Christians have preferred to emigrate.

There were some 25,000 Christian residents of Jerusalem in 1966, but there is now half that number, according to official figures. To circumvent Israeli checkpoints on approaches to the Old City and the gates into the compound itself, some prefer a virtual pilgrimage. Manal Dandis, a Palestinian engineer, created the Quds360 app for Muslims around the world and particularly local Palestinians. It provides photo and video images giving a 360-degree view of the Al-Aqsa complex and its monuments. — AFP



JERUSALEM: Palestinian girls stand in front the Dome of the Rock as they attend the first Friday prayers of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound on Friday. — AFP

The area, annexed by Israel in a move never recognized by the international community, contains Jerusalem's ancient Old City and within its walls are the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Al-Aqsa mosque complex and the Western Wall. The church marks the site where most Christians believe Jesus (PBUH) was crucified, buried and resurrected. The Western Wall is the

not allowed to pray there, although they can make visits at certain times.

Restrictions and roadblocks

For Muslims, access is complicated by Israel's control of areas around the site. Before the occupation Arab pilgrims travelled to the Holy City by train or flew to a defunct airport between

SETTLERS END HEBRON 'GOLDEN AGE'

HEBRON: Its Old City is in constant lockdown, its holy site where the biblical Abraham may have been buried guarded by Israeli soldiers at checkpoints. Fifty years after the Six-Day War, the ancient city of Hebron, set in the hills of the southern West Bank, has become perhaps the starkest symbol of Israel's occupation. Several hundred Israeli settlers - many of them especially - live in the center of the Palestinian city of some 200,000 residents.

Israeli soldiers keep a close watch, and parts of the city are off limits to Palestinians. For Palestinian residents of Hebron, the Six-Day War marked the end of "a golden age," says Eid Jaabari, 21 at the time of the conflict that saw Israel win a stunning victory over neighboring Arab countries and seize swathes of territory. "There was no fighting, the Arabs had withdrawn," says Jaabari, adding that he saw troops from Jordan, which had controlled the West Bank, leave without firing a single bullet.

For the first Israelis to settle in Hebron afterwards, it was "a great miracle." They speak of the first major return of Jews to the city since a 1929 massacre of members of the small Jewish community there, describing it as an extension of a history of 4,000 years of Jewish presence in Hebron. "It seemed we would never return," says Noam Arnon, spokesman for the settlers. Israeli forces seized Hebron from Jordan on June 5, 1967, the first day of the Six-Day War and, at first, the return of Jews to the city did not cause tensions.

Empty streets, padlocked doors

In those early years, Palestinians recall having good relations with the Israelis in Hebron's Old City, which borders the holy site known to Jews as the Tomb of the Patriarchs and to Muslims as the Ibrahim Mosque. The site is where Abraham (PBUH), revered by Christians, Jews and Muslims, is believed to have been buried. "The Jews wanted everything to remain calm," and their arrival even "created jobs," recalls Abdel Rauf Al-Mohtasseb, who runs a stall in the Old City.

Jaabari, wearing a traditional keffiyeh headscarf and smoking a hookah in a deserted cobbled alley of the Old City, also remembers a time

when the area was bustling. "There was so much jostling, you couldn't put one foot in front of the other," he says. Things changed when in the late 1970s the Israeli government agreed to settler demands and authorized an Israeli civilian presence in the heart of the city.

Areas of Hebron are now closed to Palestinians, the streets abandoned, ghost neighborhoods with iron padlocks rusting on doors. Hebron is the only Palestinian city inhabited by Jewish settlers, in contrast with other parts of the occupied West Bank where settlements sprawl over hills outside major Palestinian population centers.

Hebron even has its own status that divides the city, leaving a handful of settlers in certain sectors surrounded by checkpoints and hundreds of soldiers, to the dismay of Palestinians who can't move freely. Many of the city's Israeli settlers say they feel besieged. "I have no problem with the Arabs living here," says Gabriel Ben-Yitzhak, a scribe from the Tel Rumeida district who feels a deep connection to the sites he sees from his window and writes of in Torah scrolls. "If it is quiet I have no problem with them continuing to live here. But it is not possible that we are in a constant fear of someone coming to stab us."



HEBRON: An Israeli settler walks past a Palestinian shop in the old city of Hebron on May 8, 2017 in the Israeli occupied West Bank. — AFP

'Like a ghetto'

Arnon, the settlers' spokesman, decries a situation that allows Jews in "only three percent of the city" - easily identifiable by Israeli flags and soldiers. It is "like a ghetto," Arnon says. Hebron has for decades seen major unrest and was a focal point of the wave of Palestinian knife attacks that erupted in Oct 2015. Violence in the city peaked in 1994 when Israeli-American Baruch Goldstein shot dead 29 Muslims in prayer in the Ibrahim Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs.

Since then, the site - divided into a mosque and synagogue - is the scene of regular violence. Arnon says that Israeli security control of the entire city, while leaving civilian matters to the Palestinians, would stop the violence. "There is a history book here composed of 4,000 pages," each representing a year of the city's Jewish history, Arnon says. "We are writing our page now," he says. "It gives a meaning to life."

But Palestinians say the settlers' aim is to force them out of their own city. "What they want is a land with nobody on it, but the Palestinians are here," Mohtasseb, 59, says. "We can all live together, but the land and the houses are ours. I want to welcome guests, but not armed ones." — AFP

1967 WAR: DEATH BLOW FOR ARAB NATIONALISM

PARIS: More than just a military defeat by Israel, the 1967 Six-Day War dealt a death blow to Arab nationalism, which helped Palestinian groups to free themselves from Arab governments but also fostered the rise of Islamism.

How did it affect Arab nationalism?

"The Arab defeat in the 1967 June war with Israel, together with the death of (Egyptian president Gamal Abdel) Nasser in 1970, was the last straw that broke Arab nationalism's back," says Fawaz Gerges, professor of international relations at the London School of Economics. "For years, people had been fed a diet of cultural glory, empowerment, and unity," which were overturned in a matter of hours by the forces of the young Jewish state.

"The failure of this foundational myth and the humiliation of its custodian, Nasser" meant that "the rosy promises of Arab nationalism were shattered beyond any mending," said Gerges. After this defeat, the Arab nationalist regimes - Egypt, whose president championed Arab unity, Syria under the Baath party and later Iraq under a rival branch of the same party - "gradually mutated into a variety of police states" using nationalism to justify their power, he said.

How did it affect Palestinians?

"For a long time, the Palestinians counted on their Arab 'brothers' to liberate their homeland," said journalist and historian Dominique Vidal. "It was this illusion which disappeared following the crushing defeat of the Arab forces in June 1967. Conversely, it reinforced the involvement of the fedayeen (Palestinian guerrillas) in the armed struggle that Yasser Arafat's Fatah launched in 1965." With Israel seizing the West Bank from Jordan and Gaza from Egypt, the Palestinian groups would go on to make Jordan their staging ground for a counter-offensive, and their success in holding off Israeli forces at Karamah in March 1968 "symbolised this new direction," Vidal said.

Boosted by their victory, the Palestinians managed to free themselves from the influence of the Arab regimes, taking matters into their own hands in 1969 when Arafat took over leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. But the growing power of the Palestinian guerrillas in Jordan led to a bloody confrontation with its security forces in the Black September of 1970 which ended in defeat and forced relocation to Lebanon.

There, Arafat and his supporters became increasingly embroiled in the civil war which erupted in 1975, and after Israel's 1982 invasion, they were forced to move again, this time to Tunisia. It was only in 1987 that Palestinians in the occupied territories took up the torch by start-



CAIRO: This file photo taken on June 1, 1967 shows the late King Hussein Ibn Talal of Jordan (left) and late Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser descending a flight of steps as they smile after signing a mutual defense agreement. — AFP

ing the intifada, or uprising, which would eventually lead to the 1993 Oslo accords with Israel.

What else did it unleash?

Both experts believe the brief war could also be considered as the starting point for the rise of Islamist movements. There was a "power shift" within the Arab world which saw the "decline of Arab nationalism as spearheaded by Nasser and the rise of Saudi Arabia and the petrodollar," said Gerges. Defeated by Israel, Nasser was still enmeshed in Yemen - often dubbed "Egypt's Vietnam" - where he had sent tens of thousands of troops in a disastrous intervention against royalist forces backed by Saudi Arabia.

Back home, he was also waging a determined campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood, arresting thousands of its members and executing its headline leader Sayyed Qotb, whose teachings have since inspired many Islamist extremists. His successor Anwar Sadat, however, did just the opposite, encouraging Islamist groups and allying himself with the Gulf states, whose petrodollars financed them. "But the rise of Islamism does not only stem from the collapse of so-called 'progressive' regimes," said Vidal.

"It can also be explained by the failure of the first neo-liberal reforms, which began as an experiment in Egypt and then continued across the region. This economic turning point went hand-in-hand with a shift in alliances at the expense of the Soviet Union and to the advantage of the United States - and, in Egypt's case, this meant peace with Israel. It was in the context of this double failure of both 'left' and 'right' that the fundamentalists would take root," he said. — AFP

1967 WAR MARKED END OF EGYPT'S PAN-ARAB DREAM

CAIRO: Its vaunted air force destroyed, its army humbled - the Six-Day War of 1967 dealt Egypt a shock it has yet to overcome and spelled the end of its pan-Arab hopes for regional dominance. The war, which came to be known in Egypt as the Naksa, or setback in Arabic, ended with Israel occupying the Sinai Peninsula up to the Suez Canal, and Egyptian populist leader Gamal Abdel Nasser's reputation devastated.

Egypt, after fighting the 1973 war and then launching peace talks with Israel, eventually recovered Sinai to become the first Arab country with a peace treaty with its former nemesis. But it no longer occupied the role it had played under Nasser as the political, military and cultural leader of the Arab world that once saw it attempt a short-lived union with Syria.

"The Egyptian role greatly diminished after 1967, and it dealt a major blow to the pan-Arab project," said Tewfik Aclimandos, an international relations professor at the French University in Egypt. Between June 5 and 10 in 1967, Israel defeated Egypt, Jordan and Syria and occupied the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, east Jerusalem, and Syria's Golan Heights. The war began early on June 5, a morning that saw heavy Israeli bombing of Egyptian

airbases near Cairo and in the Suez desert. Within a few hours almost all Egyptian aircraft had been grounded. Many historians say Israel won the war on the first day by ensuring it had control of the skies. By June 8, Israeli forces had reached the Suez Canal, following reports of Egyptian forces retreating in disarray.

Egypt agreed to accept a UN-backed ceasefire and the next day Israel signed on. On June 9, Nasser offered his resignation, then withdrew it when crowds of supporters rallied for him. But the damage was done and the war personally undermined Nasser, who died in 1970.

'Rise of Islamism'

One of the Free Officers who overthrew Egypt's monarchy in 1952 and changed the country's feudal structure, the eloquent Nasser was a hero to millions across the region. "The people were with Abdel Nasser who was a symbol and a hero to them at a time when they were searching for their identity after liberation from colonialism," said Sharif Younes, a historian at Egypt's Helwan University. "But after 1967, he was impotent, and in turn Egypt was no longer able to lead. It actually needed help to rebuild its army," he said. — AFP



APARTADO, Colombia: The head of Colombia's anti-narcotics police Jose Mendoza (second right) takes part in a patrol to hand out pamphlets offering rewards for information leading to the capture of members of the Gulf Clan cartel on May 31, 2017. — AFP

COLOMBIA POLICE CLOSING IN ON TOP DRUG GANG BOSS

APARTADO, Colombia: Police are using Black Hawk helicopters to scour the green banana fields of northern Colombia in a newly intensified search for the country's most-wanted drug boss. With peace initiatives under way between the government and rebel groups, authorities are fighting on another front to stabilize the country after decades of violence: the gangs that make Colombia the world's biggest source of cocaine. Their top target is Dairo Antonio Usuga, alias Otoniel, leader of the country's biggest drug gang, the Gulf Clan. "We have him within striking distance," says Jose Angel Mendoza, head of the anti-narcotics police division. "He has had to run for it at the last second, more than once."

US reward offered

The general spoke to AFP following search operations in the town of Apartado, where the force formally launched a major search operation on Thursday. He gave out leaflets this week offering rewards for information about Usuga and his gang, and dropped stacks of them from a helicopter over the town. The US State Department has offered a \$5.0 million reward for Usuga's capture on a 2009 indictment by a New York court. In its profile of Usuga it calls his gang "a heavily armed, extremely violent criminal organization comprised of former members of terrorist organizations." It says "the organization uses violence and intimidation to control the narcotics trafficking routes, cocaine processing laboratories, speedboat departure points and clandestine landing strips."

Paramilitary to drug lord

Usuga, 45, commands a force born from

the remnants of an outlawed right-wing paramilitary group which fought rebels during the country's half-century civil conflict. The paramilitaries were officially disbanded in 2006, but authorities say their members are still making money from drugs and violence. Fighting between the government and Colombia's biggest rebel group, the left-wing FARC, has ended and the force is disarming under a peace deal. But an accord still has not been struck with the last remaining rebel group, the leftist ELN. It is fighting the former paramilitaries for control of drug routes, officials say. The Gulf Clan accounts for some 70 percent of Colombia's cocaine production, police say. The country produced 646 tonnes of the drug in 2015, according to the latest UN figures.

Rule of fear

Usuga has made the northwestern Antioquia region his stronghold. "He became leader by inspiring fear, and it is out of fear that he is respected," said Mendoza. But now, he said, the police are close to tracking Usuga down even in this remote region. Usuga uses messengers to communicate and changes location every three hours. Police and the military have deployed 1,000 officers to hunt him, a police source said. Police say they have killed 52 of the gang's leaders this year, arrested more than 1,300 of its members and seized 90 tonnes of cocaine. "What has most impeded the Gulf Clan is that its leaders are living in isolation so the security forces don't find them easily," Mendoza said. "They have difficulty keeping in touch with their henchmen. The leadership is broken." — AFP

PITTSBURGH HITS BACK AFTER TRUMP SHOUTOUT ON CLIMATE

MAYOR VOWS TO PURSUE PARIS GOALS

PITTSBURGH: As the people of Pittsburgh hustled to work on Friday, most everyone had heard the news: to their alarm, Donald Trump had highlighted their revitalized Rust Belt city as he walked out of a global climate pact. "I was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris," the president declared in the Rose Garden as he announced the United States was backing out of the Paris Agreement because it did not put "America first."

That raised hackles in this western Pennsylvania city, a onetime industrial juggernaut that has retooled as a new-technology capital - and in many respects is showing the United States a viable pathway to going green. "He's speaking (as if) that agreement would stifle heavy manufacturing and production and mining, but that's not what we do anymore. We haven't done that in my lifetime," 36-year-old banker David Sandy, born and raised in Pittsburgh, told AFP near the US Steel Tower downtown. "I don't even know a steel worker."

Pittsburgh, with about 300,000 inhabitants, is framed by majestic steel bridges that cross the two broad rivers intersecting in the city center. While steel and industry were once the city's lifeblood, banks, health care companies and research centers now employ its inhabitants, who often ride light rail trains or pedal bike-share bicycles to work. Many residents tell the same story: In mid-century Pittsburgh, pollution from steel mills was so overwhelming that it turned white shirts dark. "It used to be dirty as heck," recalled Daniel Fore, 55, a local corporate attorney. "They were good jobs, but the pollution was horrible. Now it's a beautiful city," added Fore as nearby pedestrians ordered coffee in one of many neighborhood cafes.

Changing with the times

From his house on a hill overlooking downtown, across the Monongahela River, retired steel train engineer Bill Bobak too recalled how polluted it was. "My dad told me when he was younger that you couldn't see the city from here" due to smog, Bobak said. The messy industrial hub began shedding residents in the 1970s as steel processing and auto manufacturing jobs dried up. But Pittsburgh embraced industry diversification, designed and beautified riverfront parks and borrowed funding for capital improvements. The population stabilized.

Noelle Ivankevich, 29, came here for school a decade ago and stayed. Today she works for Federated Investors, a major financial institution. "My father was a steel man but I believe in changing with the times, making the world better," she said, still upset over Trump's rejection



PITTSBURGH: Democrat Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto answers a journalist's questions at his office on Friday. — AFP

of the Paris deal. On the fifth floor of the imposing City-County Building, Mayor Bill Peduto said he did a double take when he heard Trump's speech. "I just walked into my chief of staff's office... and I just said, 'Pittsburgh?'" Peduto told AFP the day after Trump's reference delivered a shot of notoriety to his city. The incredulous mayor fired off a widely-read tweet assuring that "we will follow the guidelines of the Paris Agreement" regardless of Trump's decision. "I guess that was a tweet that was heard around the world," he said.

'Planting seeds'

Peduto said he believes Trump was likely imagining "Pittsburgh maybe 40 years ago, Pittsburgh when it was still a global center for steel production and manufacturing. But that era ended in the 1970s." The city rebounded from its turmoil by "planting seeds" of a modern economy, he said. Carnegie Mellon University opened a robotics lab in 1979. Automakers are building research partnerships, and corporate innovators like Google, Uber and Tesla are developing the technologies of tomorrow. Entire neighborhoods have under-

gone metamorphoses to accommodate incoming investment. Regardless of Trump's declaration, the mayor of this Democratic city says it will pursue the Paris climate goals on a local level, investing in sustainable construction and modern public transportation. Darlene Harris, a 64-year-old local councilwoman and seventh generation Pittsburgh resident, acknowledged that western Pennsylvania areas outside Pittsburgh have seen little in the way of a high-tech boom. "I actually believe that the president was clearly talking about the region as a whole, not just the city," Harris said.

Pittsburgh meanwhile was hosting an environmental and resource economics conference. Between sessions, Marc Hafstead of Resources for the Future sounded perplexed by Trump's claim that upholding the Paris Agreement would cost the United States \$3 trillion in lost GDP. "They're grossly overstating the cost," he said. But despite promises of renewable energy growth through adhering to the Paris deal, Hafstead warned that anti-carbon regulations will take a toll on the economy, albeit less of a cost than Trump predicts. — AFP

CALIF TO FIGHT TRUMP ON CLIMATE

LOS ANGELES: California stands poised to fill the US leadership vacuum in the battle against climate change, analysts say, as the state's governor Jerry Brown headed to China on Friday for a high-profile visit largely centered on environmental issues. No sooner had President Donald Trump made his announcement on Thursday to pull out of the landmark Paris climate deal, that Brown fired off a statement decrying the decision and vowing to push ahead with ambitious climate policies.

"Donald Trump has absolutely chosen the wrong course. He's wrong on the facts... he's wrong on the science," said Brown before embarking on his weeklong China trip. "California will resist this misguided and insane course of action," added the 79-year-old politician who has long championed environmental causes. "Trump is AWOL but California is on the field, ready for battle." Experts said the Golden State, which has the sixth

largest economy in the world, was well placed to pick up the mantle of leadership on the international stage given its aggressive policies on climate issues.

'Beacon of sanity'

"California has had a remarkable history already of leading the way on climate change, especially on climate change regulation, and it has the most ambitious economy-wide climate target in the United States," said Cara Horowitz, co-executive director of the Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at UCLA. "So it has served as a beacon of sanity in some way for the United States and through the world on climate policy," she added.

The state - which has some of the worst air pollution in the country - in the last decade has dramatically slashed its climate-warming emissions. — AFP



IMZOUREN, Morocco: Protesters from Rif movement clash with security forces during a demonstration against government in this town near Al-Hoceima city on Friday. — AFP

CLASHES OVER MOROCCO ARREST

AL-HOCEIMA, Morocco: Hundreds of young people clashed with riot police in northern Morocco Friday, following a general strike called by activists demanding the release of a protest leader. Nasser Zefzafi, who emerged as the head of the grassroots Al-Hirak Al-Shaabi, or "Popular Movement", was arrested on Monday after three days on the run. His arrest sparked protests in the neglected Rif region of northern Morocco, where demonstrators have been demanding more development and railing against corruption, repression and unemployment.

Demonstrators on the streets of Imzouren threw stones at officers, who in turn used water cannon and charged the protestors in a bid to disperse them and bring down their improvised barricades. It was not immediately possible to confirm if any demonstrators or police had been injured in the clashes. In the port city of Al-Hoceima most shops were shuttered for the second day of a three-

day general strike called by Al-Hirak.

Al-Hoceima and surrounding areas have been shaken by social unrest since the death last October of 31-year-old fishmonger Mouhcine Fikri. He was crushed in a rubbish truck as he protested against the seizure of swordfish caught out of season. Al-Hirak also urged supporters to boycott mosques on Friday, the main day of worship, and to pray instead on the streets as a form of protest against sermons sanctioned by state.

Zefzafi was detained along with others on Monday for "attacking internal security", after a warrant for his arrest issued a week ago Friday sparked turmoil in Al-Hoceima, a city of 56,000 inhabitants. He is also accused of having interrupted the sermon of an imam in the main mosque of the city, accusing him of inciting the congregation against the protest movement. Correspondents said most mosques in Al-Hoceima were full for the weekly prayer, except for one near Zefzafi's house. In Imzouren, residents

worshipped on the street outside the mosque, according to footage posted online. Zefzafi's arrest has sparked angry but mostly peaceful protests for more than a week, with thousands of people taking to the streets where security forces have been heavily deployed. On Friday protesters gathered on the streets of Al-Hoceima for an eighth straight night, but their numbers were down on previous evenings. Demonstrators chanted slogans such as "We are all Zefzafi" and the protest broke up around midnight without incident. Government spokesman Mustafa El-Khalifi said authorities have detained around 40 people since last Friday, 31 of whom are still under arrest, the official MAP news agency reported.

Core members of Al-Hirak were among those arrested. "The doors to dialogue remain open with civil society," Khalifi was quoted as saying by MAP. He said 700 sit-ins have taken place over the past seven months in the Rif, including 150 in Al-Hoceima. — AFP

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FLEEING HUNGER, SOMALI WOMEN RAPED IN CAMPS

BAIDOA, Somalia: He was thin but strong, in a new uniform and boots. After forcing his way into Hawo's ragged shelter the man put a gun to her throat, then raped her, twice. "Mentally, I can see him," Hawo said, recalling the late-night March assault in Dusta, a camp in the southwestern city of Baidoa for Somalis displaced by drought and hunger.

As he raped her in her home made of sticks, plastic and old fabrics, Hawo's youngest child, a breast-feeding baby, cried while her two other children slept.

Dusta runs right up to the fence of a fortified compound housing troops from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which is fighting the Shabaab, an Al-

Qaeda-aligned insurgency committed to overthrowing the internationally-backed government in Mogadishu. However residents say no one offers protection, not AMISOM, not the army, not the regional militia and not local UN police. AMISOM refused to comment.

Most of those living in Dusta are women and children from Shabaab-controlled areas who came to the regional capital in search of food, water and medical care. An AFP tally of figures given by two local NGOs shows at least 54 displaced women raped and sexually assaulted this year in the camps, which have mushroomed around Baidoa as the country teeters on the brink of famine. Both men in uniform and civilians have been implicated. Muhudin Daud Isack, who works for ISHA, a local human rights organization, said the majority of the assailants were soldiers, using the threat of their weapons and the power of their uniforms against the displaced women. "When they get the chance, they rape," he said.

Fariyo Ahmed Mohamed, a Somali police officer who heads a special Gender Unit, concedes that men in uniform have been involved in such attacks. She points to a case of rape earlier this year in the town of Goof Gaduud, outside Baidoa, in which a soldier was convicted and jailed. However she accused NGOs of lying about the rate of rape in the camps to get more funding and denied the camps were

unsafe, pointing to a police station near Hanano 2 camp. This is just one of the 168 camps scattered across Baidoa that hold more than 155,000 people.

Gang rape

Somalia has been mired in civil war for decades and while international support is helping rebuild national institutions, such as the army and police, the process is gradual and incomplete. One night in January, nine women in another camp, Buur fuule 2, were raped by a gang of men in civilian clothes wielding guns and knives. Each woman was dragged from her shelter and raped multiple times by different men, according to ISHA, which has taken up their case.

In separate interviews, five of the women shared similar accounts of the night's violence. Two said their husbands were held at gunpoint during the rapes, while neighbors were also threatened into silence. A 37-year-old victim of the attack said rape was common, though mass rape was not. She mentioned another woman in the camp, who was raped a few days earlier and so badly beaten that she had to be taken to hospital.

Another NGO, the Somali Children Welfare and Rights Watch (SCWRW), showed AFP a list of 45 women raped and sexually assaulted this year. Aid agencies acknowledge the growing problem of sexual assaults on the most vulnerable, but say Somalia's multilayered crisis means other problems are given priority. "The recent influx of dis-

placed families, who have fled the food crisis in the region, has resulted in an increase in rape attacks and other gender-based violence," said Evelyn Aero, of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) charity. "Programs that aim to improve protection of women are generally underfunded," she said, "even though attacks, such as gender-based violence, increase during emergencies."

No shelter, no safety

Hawo said that despite being raped by a soldier, she wants armed security in Dusta. Since her attack in March, she has moved her shelter closer to the AMISOM perimeter and feels safer. Others said sturdy homes of stone and tin - not flimsy huts of rags and sticks - was what they wanted, not more men with guns. "Shelter, or the lack of it, has very far-reaching implications," said Gavin Lim, a protection officer with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). "Beyond survival, shelter is necessary to provide security and ensure personal safety and protection, and to ensure privacy and dignity, especially for women and girls."

But as the drought deepens and the threat of famine looms larger the dangers are set to grow. More than 377,000 were uprooted in the first three months of 2017, taking the number of those internally displaced by conflict and drought in Somalia to more than a million, a figure the UNHCR expects to triple by the end of this year. —AFP



BAIDOA, Somalia: This file photo taken on March 14, 2017 shows internally displaced families standing next to their huts at a makeshift camp in the southwestern Bay region of Somalia. —AFP

MALTA VOTES AS CORRUPTION CLOUDING BRIGHT OUTLOOK

MUSCAT'S LABOUR PARTY SET TO RETAIN POWER

VALLETTA: Maltese voters flocked to the ballot boxes yesterday in an early general election called against a backdrop of corruption allegations that have cast a shadow over Joseph Muscat's government and the island nation's thriving economy. Pre-vote polls pointed to 43-year-old Muscat's Labour Party (PL) retaining power, four years after it swept into office on a

is to become the latest political casualty of the data leak from Panama law firm Mossack Fonseca, which has already forced the Icelandic prime minister and the Spanish industry minister to resign. Simon Busuttill, leader of the opposition Nationalist Party (PN), has framed the vote as a choice between change and allowing Malta's international reputation, and its pros-

from Azerbaijan's ruling family. The premier's chief of staff and a government minister have separately admitted having their own, previously undeclared offshore companies after being exposed by the Panama Papers. Muscat came under fire for not firing the two men and the allegations against his inner circle have since broadened to include more detailed claims of kick-

would have been the easiest thing in the world for me to weather the storm on the seat of power, while waiting for the magistrister inquiry to clear my name before calling an election," he said earlier in the campaign. "However, in those few months the economy would have been damaged and jobs would have been lost." Ballot stations were due to close at 10 pm (2000 GMT). Turnout in Malta is usually over 90 percent and there were long queues outside some voting stations by late morning. An antiquated manual vote-counting system, being used for the last time, means no reliable indicator of the result will be available before midday today.

'Embarrassed for Malta'

Many Maltese have lifelong allegiances to one of the two main parties, which experts say partly explains why Muscat appears to have been unscathed by the deluge of charges against people close to him. "I have been Labour since I was born, and I will be Labour till I die," said Muscat supporter Frank Abela, who is about to retire after a career in the oil industry. But he said Labour loyalists were not indifferent to the corruption claims - they just want to see proof. "An allegation is one thing, an investigation is another thing and being found guilty or innocent is the final verdict. I'm 100 percent convinced he (Muscat) is clean. Regarding the other people, we will find out in due course."

Pensioner Louis Attard and postgraduate student Marie Claire Finger strike different notes. Attard said the foundations for Malta's economic success - it is growing three times faster than the eurozone as a whole - were laid before Muscat took power. "He is doing well with what he found. It's not on his merit," Attard said. Finger said the premier should have sidelined any officials with the shadow of corruption hanging over them. "Personally I think that it is embarrassing... to say I come from a country going through these things at the moment," she told AFP. "I hope there will be a change." —AFP



BURMARRAD, Malta: Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and his wife Michelle arrive to vote at a polling station yesterday. —AFP

redistributive, pro-business and socially liberal platform which has sustained Malta's recent economic success story. But with an unusually high number of undecided voters, analysts had not ruled out a surprise change of government as a result of the fallout from the so-called Panama Papers revelations. It will not be known until today if Muscat

perity, to be shredded by a series of scandals.

Kickbacks denied

Muscat went to the polls a year early after his wife Michelle Muscat was accused of being the beneficial owner of a secret Panamanian shell company used to bank unexplained payments

backs linked to an investment-based citizenship scheme, a gas supply deal with China and the granting of bank licences.

Muscat and his wife appeared relaxed as they cast their votes. Before announcing the election he asked a magistrate to look into the allegations against her and vowed to quit if any evidence of wrongdoing emerged. "It



MASERU, Lesotho: A Basotho woman casts her ballot at a polling station yesterday. —AFP

LESOTHO VOTES IN THIRD ELECTION IN FIVE YEARS

MASERU, Lesotho: Voters in the small southern African kingdom of Lesotho cast ballots yesterday in an election expected to lead to another fractious coalition government and the risk of deepening instability. It is the third general election since 2012 in Lesotho, where years of political in-fighting have undermined attempts to tackle dire poverty and unemployment. Long queues formed outside polling stations, with many voters wearing traditional Basotho blankets to ward off the winter chill.

The snap election was announced in March when Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili, 72, lost a no-confidence vote after his seven-party coalition government broke up less than two years after it was formed. The vote is seen as a two-horse race between old rivals Mosisili and Thomas Thabane, who ruled from 2012 to 2015, with the victor set to emerge from post-vote negotiations with coalition partners. Thabane, 77, drew large crowds to his rallies and is seen as the narrow favorite.

Protests could break out if Mosisili is defeated and he refuses to concede power "as his attitude and actions suggest he might," said Peter Fabricius of the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies. Fabricius said SADC, the southern African regional body, had made it clear to Mosisili that "it will not tolerate any theft of the election." In the capital Maseru, Thabane's All Basotho Congress (ABC) and Mosisili's Democratic Congress (DC) party have

competed for votes via giant billboards and posters. "It is not likely that a single party will garner a majority of votes," political analyst Mafa Sejanamane, of the National University of Lesotho, told AFP. "The urban vote is largely set to go to the ABC. The vote in rural areas is now likely to be shared between the DC and its splinter, the Alliance of Democrats."

Voter frustration

The mountainous country suffers high unemployment and a 22.7 percent HIV-AIDS rate in adults, with an economy dependent on South Africa, which surrounds it completely. "Our country is poor and a lot of money has been spent holding these elections. I'm here to vote for a party to put us first - not politics," said Naledi Metsing, as she voted outside the capital. "We just voted two years ago and that government did not do much for the people."

Augustine Mahiga, Tanzania's foreign minister who is heading the SADC observer mission, said voting was orderly. "The cycle of elections in this country is one of the challenges since there has been no completion of the normal five-year term in a long time," he added. Thabane was forced to flee to South Africa in 2014 after an attempted coup by the army. "It was the most undignified thing that happened to me, to wear (just) my pants... and go through the fence with my wife, running away from the state house," Thabane told AFP on the campaign trail. —AFP

MADURO VOWS CONSTITUTION REFERENDUM TO CALM CRISIS

CARACAS: Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro has offered to hold a referendum on contested constitutional reforms in an apparent bid to calm critics in his own camp as he resists opposition efforts to remove him from office. The surprise announcement late Thursday followed two months of deadly unrest during anti-government protests and signs of division in the socialist leader's side. On Friday, student protesters entered the headquarters of official television channel VTV, where they lobbed accusations against Communications Minister Ernesto Villegas.

The opposition says his constitutional reform plan is a bid to cling to power - and key allies such as Attorney General Luisa Ortega have broken ranks with him, arguing it is undemocratic. "In light of what is happening in this country, I would like to push back this Constituent Assembly, ask the National Electoral Council to advance regional elections and continue to press for dialogue," Ortega told Union Radio.

Maduro's announcement, at a cabinet meeting, came just hours after Ortega filed a legal challenge against the plan. The presidents called opponents of the move "traitors." Maduro aims to set up an elected constitutional reform body called a constituent assembly. His opponents say he will fill it with his allies.

'Political play'

Analysts were skeptical about Maduro's referendum announcement, saying that constitutionally he was not authorized to call such a vote. "It is a political play," said analyst Luis Vicente Leon, president of polling firm DataAnalisis. "It breaks the main criticism" leveled at



CARACAS: Supporters of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro demonstrate against Attorney General Luisa Ortega and her new stance against the government during in a rally on Friday. —AFP

Maduro by Ortega and other critics, "to lower the tension and calm the internal demons" in the government camp, Leon said. Ortega has been a traditional ally of the socialist leadership since the time of Maduro's late predecessor Hugo Chavez. Now, she calls the court's ruling in favor of allowing the reforms to move forward without a popular vote a "setback" in human rights and participatory democracy. Her challenge at the constitutional court does not have legal force to stop Maduro's plan, but

"shows the divisions and disagreements within Chavismo," said Leon.

Elected in 2013, Maduro is resisting opposition calls for early elections to remove him. The opposition blames him for severe food and medicine shortages in the oil-rich nation. He says the crisis is a US-backed conspiracy. State prosecutors say 63 people have been killed in two months of unrest, which have seen protesters clash daily with riot police. —AFP

ANTI-BREXIT VOTERS FACE TOUGH CHOICE

LONDON: For the 48 percent of British voters who backed staying in the European Union in last year's referendum, choosing a candidate to represent them in the upcoming election is proving extremely difficult. Some, like 45-year-old Tom Glover, are planning to vote for the centrist Liberal Democrats - a minor opposition party that is very pro-European. "I've never voted for the Lib Dems in my life, but I will this time," the computer engineer and staunch Europhile told AFP in the City, London's business hub.

Glover was seduced by the Liberal Democrats' promise to hold a second referendum at the end of Brexit negotiations on whether to accept the terms of the deal, or reject them and stay in the bloc. "The leader (Tim Farron) isn't the most charismatic in my opinion but the idea that they would try their best to stay in Europe is enough for me to vote for them," he added. But few think like Glover and, despite unexpectedly receiving the backing of the respected weekly magazine The Economist, the Liberal Democrats continue to languish in the polls. The party only has seven percent of voting intentions in a recent poll by YouGov - which interviewed 1,875 people on May 30 and 31. That was well behind the ruling Conservative Party on 42 percent and the main opposition Labour Party on 39 percent.

'Best for the UK'

Long-time supporter Benjamin, 31, said he would not vote for the Lib Dems despite being

anxious over Brexit as his partner is European and his industry is dependent on business with Europe. "It's just that they are not going to win. There is no point," he told AFP. For the pension fund employee, it is crucial to block Prime Minister Theresa May from leading the Brexit negotiations. "I don't believe she or the Conservatives are doing what is best for the UK," he said, arguing that "it would be better to have a Labour government."

According to YouGov, 53 percent of "Remainers" - those who voted to stay in the bloc - intend to vote for the main opposition party led by Jeremy Corbyn, even though his campaign to stay in the EU was lackluster and he is now promising Brexit. But the party's pledge to respect the outcome of the referendum while also negotiating a "close relationship" with the EU resonates well with "Remainers."

Forty-eight percent of them believe "the government has a duty to carry out" Brexit, according to a YouGov poll from May 8. "People voted, so at the end of the day, if you go back on this referendum, why would you abide by any other referendum?" Natasha, a human resource professional told AFP. Describing herself as "unrepresented" on the campaign trail, Natasha argued that the referendum's close result "gives credence to the fact that there should be a soft Brexit" where Britain would remain inside the European single market and allow immigration. —AFP

BILINGUAL EDUCATION IN US IN INFANCY, BUT GROWING

LOS ANGELES: "Brazil, with a 'z' or an 's'?" asks a girl. "In Spanish, it's with an 's' in English with a 'z,'" another kid answers. Just another day in a bilingual class at a Los Angeles school. A sign that proclaims "Bienvenido/Welcomes" is pinned above the blackboard of this class in a bilingual program at Franklin High School. It's Thursday morning, and in history class, teacher Blanca Claudio asks her 11- and 12-year old students to find Mesoamerica - an area stretching from southern Mexico through Central America - on the map.

Half of the population of Los Angeles - the second most populous US city after New York - is of Hispanic origin, and Latinos make up 16 percent of the US population, making them the largest single ethnic minority group in the country. And even though Spanish is the second most spoken language in the United States and commonly heard in Los Angeles, not even this city has a large bilingual school program.

Most such programs are just designed to serve as a bridge so that

foreign students can learn English, and then move on take the mainstream English-language classes. However, fully bilingual programs - in which kids take some classes in English and others in another language - like the one at Franklin are set to expand starting July 1 when a law called Proposition 58 comes into effect. Although Franklin is called a high school, it also includes a middle school. So it has kids as young as 11.

'Parochial' about languages

Passed by 73 percent of voters in a referendum that was held in November, Proposition 58 allows school districts to expand their bilingual education programs if parents so request. "Under Prop 58, it's about all kids. Parents of monolingual students could take advantage of dual-language programs," said Hilda Maldonado, director of multilingual education for the Los Angeles Unified School District. "We consider it a win-win approach for all kids to become bilingual."

There is not a single fully bilingual

public school in Los Angeles, nor are there any plans right now to open one. And the bilingual programs that do exist cover few students. Claudio's sixth grade class, for instance, is part of a plan that benefits 40 of the 1,400 students at Franklin High School, which is 91 percent Latino. But many of those kids of Hispanic origin do not speak Spanish: The custom of passing it on from one generation to the next was gradually lost in this country where bilingualism has triggered heated debate.

"The United States has traditionally been very parochial, very provincial, with respect to language learning," said Claude Goldenberg, a professor at the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University. For a long time, the idea was that classes in America had to be taught in English only. So many Latino immigrant parents sacrificed their language so their children would adapt better to their new country. Maldonado said many Latinos themselves do not see the advantage of bilingual education, although "second,

third, fourth-generation parents have seen the value of bringing back their heritage language".

Goldenberg said that, in general, people are showing more interest in bilingual education, and estimates that the number of bilingual programs in America has gone from 300 to 2,000 in recent years. There is no consolidated national figure because schools in America are managed at the local level. "Middle class Anglos can see the advantages of their children learning two languages," said Goldenberg. Besides Spanish, in Los Angeles there are bilingual education programs in Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic and Armenian.

Traveling the world

The goal in bilingual programs is for students to learn two languages as their mother tongues. "It is hard to get used to it but it is fun to learn a different language and different cultures," said Lulu Mykkytn, 11, who has been in a bilingual program for the past year.

She still struggles a bit in Spanish but expressed confidence she will be fluent when she finishes high school. Another girl, Stella Ferguson, speaks Spanish a bit better. And then there is Colin Smith, whose Spanish is almost perfect and features a nice Mexican accent. He has been in bilingual classes since grade school.

"I do not want to be trapped in just one place. I want to travel all over the world," said Daniela Enamorado, 12, whose family hails from El Salvador. Under an agreement with an elementary school in the same mainly Latino neighborhood of Highland Park, Franklin expects to take in 20 new students next year to launch its first bilingual ninth grade program. From sixth to eighth grade - kids aged 11 to 13 - students take three classes in Spanish and three in English. In high school - grades 9 to 12 and kids aged 14 to 18 - it is four in English and two in Spanish. "I do believe in bilingual education," said Franklin principal Regina Marquez Martinez. "This is a vision." —AFP



ISLAMABAD: In this Aug 2, 2016 file photo, a worker sits in a stall set up by the charity Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation, waiting for donations for Indian Kashmiris. The group has been put on a government watchlist to curb terrorism financing. —AP

PAKISTAN FREEZES ACCOUNTS OF 5,000 SUSPECTED MILITANTS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has frozen the accounts of 5,000 suspected militants, taking about \$3 million out of their pockets, but Islamabad could still come under scrutiny at a crucial June meeting of an international watchdog that tracks terror financing. Analysts and government officials say political foot-dragging and sympathetic supporters throughout Pakistan makes it difficult to cut off the money supply to banned militant groups.

Next month in Spain, the Financial Action Task Force will update its assessment of "high-risk and non-cooperative jurisdictions," Alexandra Wijmenga-Daniel of the task force's communications department said in an email. She did not offer any specifics. The 35-nation intergovernmental organization was formed in 1989 to combat money laundering. After 9/11, it also took on the role of fighting the financing of terror. Getting on the task force's "black list" could hurt a country's ability to borrow, if its banking system is considered a money laundering haven.

In 2015, Pakistan was exempted from its scrutiny after a similar session applauded the country's progress in tackling both money laundering and terror financing. However, concerns have been raised by the resurrection of banned groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba under new names. Also worrying is the relative ease with which groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed appear to operate, openly running Islamic seminars and fundraising.

"The government has to find a way to completely ban individuals and groups (suspected of militant activity) from operating. This is the only way," said Muhammad Amir Rana, director of the Islamabad-based Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies. Still, Pakistan's National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) has begun the painstaking work of devising anti-terror financing policies, freezing bank accounts of known terrorist groups and identifying those that have resurfaced with different names, according to its director, Ishaan Ghani.

NACTA was established in 2013 through an act of parliament; four years later, Ghani says it is "still in its formative stage". When he took over NACTA 18 months ago, it had a staff of only 25, including drivers, despite a government promise to bring in about 800 people with the job of curbing money laundering and terror financing. Ghani blamed the slow start on a lack of government commitment and jurisdictional battles within the bureaucracy.

Since taking over, Ghani has increased his staff to 100, gotten a budget of 1.8 billion rupees (\$15.7 million) and is updating a list of individuals suspected of extremism. He also has devised a sweeping policy on which new, stricter laws can be enacted. He said its current lists are outdated, with several suspected militants either dead or in jail, and the job of identifying individuals suspected of links to extremists rests with Pakistan's four provinces.

The names have been slow in coming, Ghani added, blaming outdated systems, political foot-dragging and a lack of focus on counterterrorism despite military and

police operations against suspected hide-outs - particularly in Pakistan's tribal regions that border Afghanistan. Politicians have been reluctant to shut down some of the reconstituted militant groups because of the local support they enjoy and the votes they bring in. Other groups, whose stated purpose is to wage war with neighbor India over the disputed Kashmir region, survive because of their suspected links to Pakistan's military and intelligence.

Still, Ghani said he has had some success pressing provincial lawmakers into action. Ghani recounted an incident last year during the holy month of Ramadan, when devout Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset and fundraising often goes into high gear. He received reports that outlawed groups with militant links were openly raising cash. He put all four provinces on notice, warning them to stop the fundraising.

Challenges

This year, NACTA is circulating a list of acceptable charities to which the faithful can donate - those "not affiliated with terrorism", he said. Hasan Akbar, executive director of the Islamabad-based Jinnah Institute, said Pakistan has made some progress tackling money laundering, "shutting down businesses that had a sweep not just in Pakistan but in Dubai and the United States". There even has been progress against those groups that resurface under a new name. "Organizations have been banned, but also in the last year funds have been seized of even those groups emerging as replacements for the banned groups," Akbar said.

Still, individual donations and support from small businesses provide a steady income to banned outfits that is difficult to track, he said. "Challenges still remain in sectarian and jihadi groups where they get individual donations from traders and merchants in urban and rural areas," he said. "How do you stop that? That base of support is still there. This is hard to document." Rana, of the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies, said banned organizations also collect money in mosques outside the country, then return home with the funds. Saudi Arabia is particularly lucrative, and the fundraising by outlawed sectarian, anti-Shiite groups is done openly, he said. "Many banned organizations have very traditional methods of collecting money. They go to Saudi Arabia or the United Kingdom, for example, and go into mosques," he said, adding that the fundraiser usually is given a few minutes to speak to the congregation and asks for donations.

Ghani said that among the policies he is crafting is one to regulate cash transfers, a widely used practice in Pakistan. The policy will require anyone transferring 1 million rupees (\$10,000) or more to identify the origins of the money. "Today, you could carry 50 million rupees around in your car and no one would say anything, but we are coming up with a policy and laws that will require an explanation and the disclosure of the money trail," Ghani said. —AP

INDIAN FISHERMEN TRY NEW NETS FOR HEALTHIER OCEANS

OVERFISHING, POLLUTION HIT LOCAL FISH STOCKS

SINDHUDURG, India: The fishermen were dubious when ocean experts suggested they could save their dwindling marine stocks just by switching to new nets. It took years for the UN Development Program to convince the fishing communities along India's tropical western coast that the diamond-mesh nets they were using were trapping baby fish, while a square-shaped mesh could allow small fish to escape to maintain a breeding population. But two years after the new nets were fully adopted, fishermen insist they're making a difference.

"This square net is a blessing for us," said John Gabriel Naronha, who runs six trawlers in the area. "When the small fish grows up, the fishermen can really benefit... we can get good prices for big fish. And the small fish gets a chance to grow." The project, launched in 2011, is one of many being showcased at a major conference on oceans beginning tomorrow, where the United Nations will plead with nations to help halt a global assault on marine life and ecosystems that is threatening jobs, economies and even human lives.

"The oceans of the planet are in dire need of urgent action," said Marina Walter, deputy director for UNDP in India. That action is even more urgent now that climate change is causing ocean temperatures to rise while waters also become more acidic, causing widespread destruction of coral reefs that sustain a quarter of all marine species. But conservation efforts work best when they're linked with local livelihoods, Walter said. "You cannot work on biodiversity or life underwater in isolation, without looking at the livelihoods of people, the bread and butter."

No one in 80 or so fishing villages of Sindhudurg district expected to have problems fishing, after centuries of their families relying on the sea. Located in

one of India's 11 ecologically critical coastline habitats, the area is teeming with life from more than 350 marine species including Indian Ocean dolphins and Olive Ridley turtles. Colorful corals span the shallows, while tangles of mangrove forests protect the land from water erosion. But that bounty has suffered against the twin assaults of overfishing and pollution, which caused a steady decline local fish stocks and forced fishermen to push further out to sea. Since switching to new nets, fishermen say fish stocks are recovering, though there is no data collected yet to prove it. Surveys of fish population may be conducted at the end of this year, when the UNDP finishes its six-year project in the area.

The struggles of India's fishermen

are hardly unique. About one out of every 10 people in the world relies directly on the ocean to survive. Most of those are among the world's poorest and most vulnerable, meaning they have few substitutes when marine life declines. And it is declining rapidly, thanks to increased fishing for an expanding global population and unchecked runoff of industrial chemicals, sewage and other pollutants. Already, about 90 percent of wild fisheries around the world are over-exploited or collapsed.

Meanwhile, the UNDP has also helped set up a crab farming project in the Sindhudurg area to encourage local preservation of the mangroves and resistance to land developers and those gathering firewood from chopping the

saltwater-tolerant trees down. Now, nurseries for crab seedlings line up along a 8,000-sq-m stretch of backwater pools filled with the mud that crabs like to dig into. It takes up to nine months for the crabs to grow to full size, at which point they are harvested and sold for about \$15 per kilogram.

Recently, the group of nine women and one man earned nearly \$1,000 in profits from a single harvest. Local officials are delighted with the low-fuss process and positive results. "With very little manipulation of the environment, you can grow crabs wherever you have mangroves," said N Vasudevan, who heads a special unit dedicated to mangrove conservation for the government of India's western state of Maharashtra. —AP



GOA: In this Oct 14, 2016, file photo, an Indian fisherman pulls back his fishing net with his early morning catch at a beach. —AP

MODI TELLS MACRON INDIA WILL 'GO BEYOND' CLIMATE ACCORD

PARIS: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed after meeting French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday to go "above and beyond" the Paris Agreement on climate change, after the US said it would quit the deal. Speaking two days after US President Donald Trump announced plans to withdraw from the deal on curbing carbon emissions, Modi said it was "part of the world's shared heritage" and that India would "continue working...above and beyond the Paris accord".

The agreement signed by 195 countries in the French capital in 2015 "can protect future generations and give new hope," the Indian leader said. He avoided direct criticism of Trump's move, however. Macron said that during two hours of the talks that encompassed trade, defense and the anti-terror fight the pair had "mainly discussed our commitment to the climate".

"I want to restate here France's full commitment to the fight against climate warming," said the president, who reacted to

Trump's announcement Thursday with a memorable call to "make the planet great again" - a play on Trump's pledge to "make America great again" that has been shared by tens of thousands of Twitter users. Macron said he would visit India, the world's third-largest carbon emitter, by the end of the year for an international summit on solar power - an area on which France plans closer cooperation with the Asian power.

The Frenchman has led Europe's defense of the Paris accord in the face of Trump's climate scepticism. As justification for his move Trump accused China and India of benefiting from the deal at the expense of the US. Modi said protecting "mother Earth" was part of Indian culture, enshrined in the country's holy texts. Arriving at the presidential palace the 66-year-old prime minister hugged 39-year-old Macron, in scenes contrasting with Macron's white-knuckle handshake with US President Donald Trump last week. —AFP



PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron (left) welcomes Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi before their meeting at the Elysee Palace yesterday. —AP

REBELS KILL 2 INDIAN SOLDIERS IN KASHMIR

SRINAGAR: The Indian army said two of its soldiers were killed in an ambush by suspected insurgents yesterday even as troops traded gunfire with Pakistani forces across a cease-fire line dividing Kashmir between the two rivals. Col Rajesh Kalia, an army spokesman, said the insurgents fired indiscriminately at an army convoy on a key highway, wounding four other soldiers in the southern Qazigund area in the Indian portion of Kashmir. The wounded were evacuated to an army hospital. Indian security forces launched a search for the attackers, who fled after the attack. The area is 80 km south of Srinagar, the main city in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

Earlier, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry accused India of resorting to "unprovoked" firing in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, wounding two villagers on the Pakistani side. The two sides blamed each other for "unprovoked" firing. Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Nafees Zakaria condemned what he called "deliberate targeting of civilians" by India.

He said the latest violation of the 2003 cease-fire agreement by India took place Friday. Pakistan's military said it returned fire after coming under attack in Kashmir's Nazapir border village in Tatta Pani area and killed five Indian soldiers and wounded several others, which the Indian army did not confirm. The two armies often blame each other for starting the firing across the ceasefire line. They also claim killing soldiers on the other side.

Nazapir is the same area where Indian forces in 2015 used heavy weapons as people celebrated the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, triggering skirmishes in which several Pakistanis were killed or wounded. Lt Col Manish Mehta, an Indian army spokesman, said Pakistani soldiers have resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violations by attacking Indian positions for several days in the region, firing automatic rifles and mortars. "The Indian army posts are retaliating strongly and effectively," he said. The latest exchange of gunfire took place on Friday and yesterday, he said.

Kashmir is split between India and Pakistan and is claimed by both in its entirety. The nuclear-armed rivals have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since British colonialists left in 1947. Insurgents have been fighting for Kashmir's independence or its merger with Pakistan since 1989. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the rebels, a charge Islamabad denies. —AP

SCORES FLEE GUNMEN IN WAR-TORN PHILIPPINE CITY

MARAWI, Philippines: Scores of people ran to freedom through a terrifying gauntlet of military air strikes and Islamist gunmen yesterday, nearly two weeks after being trapped in a deadly battle for a Philippine city. They included one of Marawi city's most respected politicians, who hid 71 Christians in his home and led 144 people through downtown streets held by self-styled Islamic State fighters and strewn with rotting corpses.

Norodin Alonto Lucman, the former vice governor of a Muslim self-ruled area that includes the now embattled city, said he twice turned away gunmen, some of them neighbours and distant relatives, at his Marawi home asking for food and weapons. But supplies eventually ran out and they fled through bombed out downtown streets at the mercy of Islamist snipers. "It's strewn with debris, dead bodies of chickens, rats, dogs, even the smell of rotting flesh," he said of their two-kilometre route. "As we walked many people saw us on the street and they joined us," said Lucman.

Surviving hell

Twenty-three Christian teachers and 15 other companions also ran to safety Saturday from another area of Marawi, a city of 200,000 and the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines. "We laid



MARAWI, Philippines: Residents carry their belongings as they walk along a deserted street as they flee their homes on the southern island of Mindanao yesterday. — AFP

on the floor in the dark each night whenever we heard gunshots or explosions. We barricaded the doors with furniture and a refrigerator," high school teacher Jerona Sedrome, 27, told AFP. But after two attempts, the militants forced their way in and the teachers hid in a tunnel beneath the house, she added. The rescued teach-

ers recounted between tears and gulps of coffee and bottled water how they survived on steamed rice and rainwater over nearly two weeks of air strikes, fires, and gunfire that destroyed many of the surrounding houses. "If it didn't rain we had no water and we didn't eat," said Sedrome's younger sister and fellow teacher, Jane

Rose Sedrome, 25. "We passed through three corpses being eaten by maggots," fellow teacher Regene Apao, 23, told AFP. "We knew they were ISIS because they wore black clothing and black head masks." Marawi has been transformed into a warzone since hundreds of gunmen rampaged through the city on May 23. The onslaught was part of a grand plan to establish a Southeast Asian caliphate, Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Saturday during a brief visit with troops. He added that up to 250 gunmen held strategic buildings in downtown Marawi nearly two weeks later - nearly five times the military's original estimate.

He said there was no indication they would surrender or flee, and could not say when the military operation would finish as fears over civilian casualties mounted. "We believe this is ISIS because normally in this kind of conflict the local fighters will just scamper away and maybe hide in the mountains," he said, using an alternative name for IS.

A fight to the last

"But surprisingly this group has just holed up there and are just waiting to fight it out maybe to the last." Of the 120 militants killed, eight were from Chechnya, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, Lorenzana said.

The holdouts have human shields, thought to include a Catholic priest and 14 others kidnapped last week, the military has said. As many as 2,000 people also remained trapped in desperate conditions in these areas, according to officials, likely without food and water and with some injured or ailing.

Lucman, the local politician, said he heard the militants had executed many Christians in the early days of the siege, and fears up to a thousand combatants and civilians are already dead. An additional 38 soldiers and police have also been killed along with 19 civilians, said officials. The military has said it is firing artillery and rockets from the air, as well as dropping conventional bombs, as ground forces in armored vehicles battle with the heavily armed militants in the streets.

Arnold Balo, 28, an ice cream factory worker, said he cradled a boy in one hand and carried a half-metre long machete in the other, their only protection from the gunman as he escaped.

At one point, a gunman perched near the top of a building aimed a rifle at him and ordered him to put his weapon on the ground, Balo said. "I will do as you order sir. Please don't kill us," he said he told the gunman. Balo said he dropped the machete, and the militant allowed the group to pass. —AFP

MATTIS ASSURES ALLIES AS US TURNS TO CHINA ON N KOREA

PENTAGON CHIEF SAYS ISSUE IS NOT 'BINARY'

SINGAPORE: Pentagon chief Jim Mattis moved to reassure Asian allies yesterday that the United States can work with China on reining in North Korea's nuclear weapons program without compromising its opposition to Beijing's continued "militarization" of the South China Sea. President Donald Trump - who frequently denounced China on the campaign trail - has turned to

together on the issue. It is "imperative that we do our part each of us to fulfill our obligations and work together to support our shared goal of denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula," Mattis said. "The Trump administration is encouraged by China's renewed commitment to work with the international community toward denuclearization," he added. Pyongyang on Monday

Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands. China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, despite partial counter-claims from Taiwan and several southeast Asian nations including the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam. It has rapidly built reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes and other equipment.

'Unbeliever'

Summit delegates were clearly anguished by the South China Sea issue and Trump's intentions. One questioner asked if the US president was an "unbeliever" in the rules-based regional order. Another wondered if he could be trusted given his "America First" pronouncements. "Bear with us," Mattis said. "We will still be there, and we will be there with you."

Mattis was repeatedly asked about Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris climate pact. He did not address the issue directly but the Pentagon generally views climate change as a security threat, especially given its role in famines and mass relocations. Japanese Defense Minister Tomomi Inada later said she placed "full trust" in the United States, a sentiment echoed by Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne. "I think actions speak as loud if not occasionally louder than words," Payne said, pointing out that Mattis's first international visit was to Japan and South Korea.

Singapore Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen said delegates were generally reassured. "There's a consensus that the US message is very clear, not only from the point of view of the messaging, but the messenger," he said. Lieutenant General He Lei, the head of China's delegation to the summit, said the "Asia-Pacific situation is generally safe and positive" but warned of "hotspot issues" flaring up from time to time. "The nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula keeps fermenting and remains complicated and unresolved," he said. "Individual countries maintain their security through exclusive military alliances, base their security on other countries' insecurity and do not hesitate to stir up conflict and provoke trouble."

After meeting with President Xi Jinping in April, Trump, who once accused China of "raping" the US, praised its leader as a "good man," saying it would be inappropriate to pressure Beijing while Washington is seeking its help with Pyongyang. International pressure ramped up on Pyongyang Friday as the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on 18 North Korean officials and entities. — AFP



SINGAPORE: US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis (center) links hands with South Korea's Minister of Defense Han Minkoo (left) and Japan's Minister of Defense Tomomi Inada ahead of a trilateral meeting at the 2017 International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-la Dialogue yesterday. — AP

Beijing to help pressure Pyongyang, prompting broad concerns that America will go easy on China's maritime activities.

Longstanding partners are also mortified that Trump has seemed indifferent to traditional alliances, and have interpreted his pulling out of a trans-Pacific trade deal and the Paris climate accords as signs of broader American disengagement. Mattis, arguably Trump's most important statesman as the new president hopes to slash the State Department, tried to allay the fears. "In the security arena, we have a deep and abiding commitment to reinforcing the rules-based international order, a product of so many nations' efforts to create stability," Mattis said in Singapore at the Shangri-La Dialogue, a major defense summit for countries from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Calling North Korea's nuclear ambitions a "threat to us all," Mattis asked the international community to come

test-fired another rocket, the latest in a series of launches and atomic tests that have ratcheted up tensions over its quest to develop weapons capable of hitting the United States - something Mattis said "won't happen".

The defense chief spoke directly to concerns America might grant concessions to China to ensure cooperation on North Korea, saying the issue was not "binary" and that the United States would continue to pressure Beijing elsewhere. "Artificial island construction and indisputable militarization of facilities on features in international waters undermine regional stability," Mattis said, calling China out over its "disregard for international law" and "contempt for other nations' interests".

The US Navy on May 25 conducted a "freedom of navigation" operation in the South China Sea, when the USS Dewey guided-missile destroyer sailed within 12 nautical miles of

JOINT PATROLS TO FIGHT MILITANTS

SINGAPORE: Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia will launch joint patrols in waters off the Mindanao region this month to counter threats from Islamic State group militants, Malaysia's defense minister said yesterday. Hishammuddin Hussein made the comments at a security conference in Singapore as Philippine troops continued to battle self-styled Islamic State group gunmen who attacked the city of Marawi on Mindanao island nearly two weeks ago.

Hishammuddin said joint sea patrols in the waters bordering the three nations would kick off on June 19, with air patrols starting at a later date. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has declared martial law in Mindanao in response to the crisis, describing the attack on Marawi as the start of a major campaign by IS to establish a foothold in the Philippines. Security analysts say IS is planning to establish a "province" in the southern island of Mindanao as part of its efforts to set up a caliphate in Southeast Asia.

"If you talk about Sulu Straits (it) ... would involve Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines," Hishammuddin told delegates to Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual security summit. "So within ASEAN, we decided at least these three countries, to avoid being accused of doing nothing, the three of us took the initiative to have the joint patrol... initiatives in the Sulu Straits," he added, referring to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Hishammuddin said Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore have carried out successful joint patrols in the Malacca Strait bordering their countries to fight maritime piracy.

'Decades of problems'

Singapore Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen said the city-state stood ready to help Manila deal with the jihadist threat. "There was clear realiza-

tion... that if the situation in Marawi in Southern Philippines was allowed to escalate or entrench, it would pose decades of problems for ASEAN," he said. "We are fully on board on this threat."

Analysts have said the porous maritime borders between the three countries make it hard to detect the movement of militants. Mindanao is "the primary area in the region where Islamist militant groups are still able to operate with some freedom of operation, run training camps, and conduct frequent attacks," said Otso Iho, senior analyst at IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre (JTIC). "This level of lawlessness and the fact that the space is difficult for government

forces and institutions to effectively govern makes it the most likely place for a declaration," he told AFP. "It's also the location where the vast majority of Southeast Asian groups that have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State are based."

Hishammuddin and other defense ministers who spoke at the conference warned of the threat posed by returning Southeast Asian militants who are fighting with the IS in Iraq and Syria where the group is losing territory. "This however then gives rise to the disturbing prospect that the Asia-Pacific is now in DAESH's crosshairs," he said, using an alternative acronym for the group. — AFP



SINGAPORE: (From left) Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Director-general and chief executive of IISS John Chipman, Pakistan Armed Forces Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Zubair Mahmood Hayat and Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Singh Sajjan attend the third plenary session at the 16th Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), Shangri-La Dialogue Summit yesterday. — AFP



MANILA: Police authorities and Resorts World Manila complex security play a CCTV video of the gunman setting a fire in the casino after storming the complex during a news conference yesterday in Pasay city. — AP

AUTHORITIES SEARCH FOR CLUES ON CASINO GUNMAN'S IDENTITY

MANILA: Philippine authorities said yesterday they still did not know the identity of the gunman who killed 37 people when he torched a casino, as dramatic security footage was released showing him calmly firing his automatic rifle at security guards and trying to steal gambling chips or money. The masked man stormed into the Resorts World casino and hotel complex in the capital of Manila on Friday with an M4 automatic rifle and a bottle of petrol, before setting alight a number of different rooms in the complex.

Thirty-seven people died in the fires, dozens more were injured in a stampede to escape, and the gunman was found dead about five hours later in a hotel room after committing suicide by setting fire to himself, police said. IS claimed responsibility, with a report on its self-styled Amaq news agency saying its "fighters" carried out the attack. But Philippine authorities continued to insist yesterday that he appeared to be a mentally disturbed man who had been attempting a bizarre solo robbery, and he was not a terrorist.

"They (IS) may claim credit but, according to evidence, it is not so," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said. "The evidence at this stage points to the actions of an emotionally disturbed person who was apparently engaged in criminal actions." The footage indeed appeared to show the gunman firing into the air most of the time and not at people inside the casino, except for when confronted by security guards when he calmly shot at them, missed, then walked away slowly.

The video also showed him breaking into a secure room where chips and money were being kept, and apparently intent on stealing what he could. The footage was shown at a briefing by Resorts World security officers, who said it appeared the gun-

man may have set alight the rooms as diversion so he could escape. However Manila police chief Oscar Albalade said yesterday they had not identified the gunman. "We are doing everything we can to identify this person and ensure the safety of our countrymen," he said on government radio.

Albalade also added to a bewildering array of contradictory messages from authorities in the initial stages of the investigation by saying police now believed the gunman had arrived at the casino in a taxi. Albalade and other police chiefs said repeatedly throughout Friday that recorded security footage showed the gunman drove to the casino and parked his vehicle in the complex's car park. There was no explanation from police yesterday for the discrepancy.

Confusion

Police had also given confusing or contradictory statements on other key parts of the incident on Friday. National police chief Ronald dela Rosa initially said police had shot the gunman dead, but then later reported the assailant wrapped himself in a blanket and burnt himself to death. Albalade said Friday that the assailant was likely a foreigner, describing him as a Caucasian who spoke English. But Albalade said Saturday the taxi driver who took him to the casino reported he spoke fluent Tagalog, the Philippines' national language. President Rodrigo Duterte imposed martial law last week across the southern region of Mindanao to crush what he called a rising threat from IS. He made the move shortly after local militants who have declared allegiance to IS went on a rampage through the city of Marawi, about 800 km south of Manila. Security forces are still battling the militants in Marawi, and the clashes there have left at least 175 people dead. — AFP

MALAYSIA OFFERS \$1,000 FOR BEST 'GAY PREVENTION' VIDEO

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian government is offering cash prizes of up to \$1,000 for the best videos explaining how to "prevent" homosexuality, according to a competition launched on the health ministry's website. Activists yesterday said the move will further spread fear among Malaysia's LGBT community, as conservative attitudes chip away at the Muslim-majority nation's one-time reputation for moderation and tolerance.

Contestants are invited to submit a video clip addressing various categories including gayness or "gender confusion", and offering suggestions as to how these could be "prevented or controlled". Winners will receive between 1,000 and 4,000 ringgit (\$235-\$940) after the competition closes at the end of August, the ministry's website said. The short video clips need to focus on "prevention, control and how to get help" as well as "issues and consequences".

The guidelines described the overall theme of the video contest as: "Value

Yourself, Healthy Lifestyle Practice." "Each work will be judged on originality, content, concept and creativity and quality production by a panel of judges appointed by the organizers," according to the health ministry's website.

"The very fact that they lump LGBT people under a category called 'gender confusion' shows that the authorities are very much confused themselves," Pang Khee Teik, a well-known local activist, told AFP. "It is mind-blowing that a government agency wants the whole country to be sucked into its confluence of confusion."

Participants in the competition can also make videos about sex and the Internet, or sexual health. Malaysia's Deputy Director-General of Health Lokman Hakim Sulaiman said in a statement the contest was "never intended to discriminate any specific group" and that it was "purely to tap knowledge and creativity of adolescents on sexual and reproductive health related matters". — AFP



DUBAI: The world's first operational police robot stands at attention as they prepare military cannon to fire to mark sunset and the end of the fasting day for Muslims observing Ramadan in Downtown Dubai. — AFP

MY FIRST RAMADAN

Continued from Page 1

Every Ramadan, I notice how much extra time I have in my life. When you don't have to cook or eat, it really frees up a lot of time. This is the perfect opportunity to use this extra time to get closer to Allah, as well as your friends and fami-

ly. I wish you a happy, healthy, and enjoyable Ramadan.
Courtesy of the TIES Center: The TIES Center is a social and educational hub for expats in Kuwait whose motto is: Tolerance, Information, Empowerment, Solidarity. For more information, please call 252301015/6 or log onto: www.ties-center.net

WORLD FORGES AHEAD WITH CLIMATE DEAL...

Continued from Page 1

In a nationalistic "America First" announcement from the White House Rose Garden, Trump said he was withdrawing from a UN-backed deal that imposes "draconian financial and economic burdens" on the United States while going too easy on economic rivals China, India and Europe. "We don't want other leaders and other countries laughing at us anymore. And they won't be." Trump offered no details about how, or when, a formal withdrawal would happen. At one point he suggested a renegotiation could take place, an idea that was unceremoniously slapped down by partners.

"There is nothing to renegotiate here," EU climate commissioner Miguel Arias Canete told reporters in Brussels. The United States is the world's second-largest greenhouse gas emitter, after China, so Trump's decision could seriously hamper efforts to cut emissions and limit global temperature increases. Nicaragua and war-torn Syria are the only countries not party to the Paris accord, the former seeing it as not ambitious enough. Trump's decision is likely to play well with the Republican base, with the more immediate damage likely to appear on the diplomatic front. Vice President Mike Pence said that Trump "has demonstrated his commitment... to put American workers, American consumers, American energy, and the American people first."

Echoes of reality TV

Ever the showman, the 70-year-old Trump gave his decision a reality TV-style tease, refusing to indicate his preference either way until his announcement. Opponents of the pullout-said to include Trump's daughter Ivanka-had warned that Washington's global leadership role was at stake, along with the environment. A dozen large companies including oil major BP, agrochemical giant DuPont and tech heavyweights Google, Intel and Microsoft had urged Trump to stick to the pact. Following the announcement Tesla boss Elon Musk and Disney Chief Robert Iger said they would no longer participate in presidential business councils. "Climate change is real. Leaving Paris is not good for America or the world," Musk said.



WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump gestures while speaking about the US role in the Paris climate change accord in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington. — AP

'Morally criminal'

White House officials acknowledged that under the deal, a formal withdrawal might not take place until after the 2020 election, and leaders will certainly push Trump to reconsider his decision in the meantime. India's Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan said his country is committed to the Paris accord "irrespective" of the position of other nations. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi—who has said failing to address climate change would be "morally criminal"—is due to visit the White House shortly.

Trump's announcement comes less than 18 months after the climate pact was adopted, the fruit of a hard-fought agreement between Beijing and Washington under Obama's leadership. The Paris Agreement commits signatories to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming, which is blamed for melting ice caps and glaciers, rising sea levels and an increase in extreme weather events. They vowed to take steps to keep the worldwide rise in temperatures "well below" two degrees Celsius from pre-industrial times and to "pursue efforts" to hold the increase under 1.5 degrees Celsius. — AFP

US SEEKS SOCIAL MEDIA INFO FROM VISA...

Continued from Page 1

But if they have, for example, posted suspect material on Facebook or "followed" an extremist account on Twitter or Instagram they may face additional questions. The tougher visa rules also come after the US administration banned travelers from several airports in the Muslim world from using laptops on passenger flights. This came after intelligence agencies reportedly found evidence that Islamic extremists have perfected the technology to hide a viable bomb in a working computer.

Extremist threat

The White House, meanwhile, asked the US Supreme Court on Thursday to reinstate its temporary ban on travelers from six nations despite repeated setbacks in the lower courts. It called on the court to rule on the legal standing of Trump's order, appealing a ruling by the federal Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals that blocked the ban. It also asked the Supreme Court to lift another US-wide injunction issued by a federal judge based in Hawaii.

Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said the White House believes the order is lawful, despite charges that it targets Muslims in breach of US freedoms. "The president is not required to admit people from countries that sponsor or shelter terrorism," she insisted. Trump issued his initial travel ban, which banned entry to nationals from seven countries for 90 days and suspended the nation's refugee program for 120 days, in January.

After a weekend of chaos at airports and consulates as travelers and officials struggled to adapt to the new rules, the US courts stepped in and halted the measure. Trump, who boasted during his campaign that he would impose a "total ban" on Muslim travelers, has insisted that the measure is based on legitimate security concerns. A revised executive order in March meant to address concerns raised by the federal judges. It deleted Iraq from the list and removed an indefinite ban on Syrian refugees. But the new order was also widely criticized by immigrant rights activists and constitutional scholars. — AFP

TOYOTA TO MAKE FLYING CAR, BOAT

Continued from Page 1

Still, dabbling in businesses other than cars is Toyota's trademark. In recent years, it has been aggressively venturing into robotics and artificial intelligence, investing a billion dollars in a research and development company in Silicon Valley. It's also working in Japan on using robotics to help the sick walk. It also just announced a five-year \$35 million investment in its research center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for autonomous and connected vehicle technologies.

The idea that each generation must take up challenges is part of Toyota's roots, said auto analyst Takaki Nakanishi. President Akio Toyoda's great-grandfather Sakichi Toyoda started out developing the loom and then its automated improvements from the 1890s, before the company became an automaker. More recently, Toyota sees software and services as central to the auto industry, as cars become connected, start driving themselves and turn into lifestyle digital tools, Nakanishi said.

As Toyota gets into the business of ecological vehicles, such as hybrids, electric cars and fuel cells, it's turning into an energy company as well. "Toyota's business is centered on mobility, anything that moves, including people, things, money, information, energy," said Nakanishi. Toyota is traveling not only in the skies but

also to the waters, although that still remains a tiny part of its sprawling empire.

Toyota's boat operations began in 1997. Toyota now offers four models and has sold a cumulative 845 boats. In contrast, Toyota sells about 10 million vehicles a year around the world. Reporters recently got a ride in Tokyo Bay of a Lexus luxury concept "yacht," which runs on two gas engines. With a streamlined curvaceous design, inspired by a dolphin and evocative of a Lexus car, it's being promised as a commercial product in the next few years.

Designed for executives zipping through resort waters, it comes with fantasy-evoking features, like an anchor pulled in by a chain into a tiny door in the bow, which opens then closes mechanically. The engine, shiny like a chrome sculpture, is visible beneath the sheer floor surface. Shigeki Tomoyama, the executive in charge, said the boat was going for "a liberating effect."

A price was not given. Many Americans have already expressed interest, according to Toyota. The project started about two years ago under direct orders from Toyoda, who has with Tomoyama spearheaded Toyota's Gazoo internet business, another non-auto business for Toyota. "He asked us to create a space that can work as a secret hiding place in the middle of the ocean," Tomoyama said. "We went for the wow factor, which requires no words." — AP

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Focus

US MAY DO LESS HARM OUTSIDE CLIMATE PACT THAN IN IT: ANALYSTS

By Mariette Le Roux

America's withdrawal from the climate-rescue Paris Agreement under Donald Trump is a blow to global unity but may be a blessing in disguise for the pact itself, observers said Thursday. This way, the Trump administration, heavily influenced by the fossil-fuel industry, will have less sway over the UN climate process, they said. "A rogue US can cause more damage inside... than outside of the agreement," said Luke Kemp, a climate policy lecturer at the Australian National University. Continued US participation in the Paris forum would have been merely symbolic, and yielded no impact on reducing US emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases, he argued. "It's better Trump is outside the agreement rather than pulling it down from the inside," added Mohamed Adow of Christian Aid, which lobbies for poor country interests at the two-decade-old UN climate negotiations.

"With Trump we were at best only going to have America's name on the agreement," he told AFP. Trump announced America is "getting out" of a deal he said imposed "draconian" burdens that would cost the US millions of jobs and billions in cold hard cash. The pact was "very unfair" to the United States and beneficial to other major polluters like China and India, the president claimed. His proposal to open negotiations for a new or updated deal was quickly rebuffed by France, Italy and Germany, leaving America out in the diplomatic cold.

Veteran observers of the decades-old process welcomed an end to the "will he, won't he?" seesaw that has distracted the ongoing climate talks since Trump's election last November. And they warned the United States would be hardest hit—economically and diplomatically by the fallout. "The decision is based on last century's economics and will turn the US into last century's economy," Andrew Steer, president of the World Resources Institute (WRI) think-tank, predicted. According to the CITEPA research institute, America's renewable energy sector in America employed some 800,000 people in 2016—nearly five times more than the fossil-fuel sector.

Fossil fuel 'sacrifice'

Hundreds of American companies have urged the Trump administration to stay the clean energy course. Not only does the US stand to lose economically, but it would also throw away enormous diplomatic clout, commentators argued. "We are witnessing a seismic shift in the global order as Europe, China and others lead the way forward," said Greenpeace executive director Jennifer Morgan. According to the rules of the agreement, the US can only give notice of its withdrawal three years after the deal's entry into force in November 2016. Withdrawal will take effect a year later—taking us to November 2020, just two months before Trump's term ends. It is not clear if the US will seek to continue participating in UN climate talks until then, or simply stay away. Trump on Thursday announced the United States would "cease all implementation" of the pact "as of today." On the campaign trail, Trump had called climate change a "hoax" perpetrated by China.

As president, he quickly appointed a former CEO of oil giant ExxonMobil as his secretary of state, and an anti-climate litigator to head the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The president has moved to loosen restrictions on coal-fired power plants and vehicle emissions, slash EPA funding, and reverse his predecessor Barack Obama's Clean Power Plan. "Donald Trump is on a mission to sacrifice our planet to the fossil fuel industry," commented Erich Pica of lobby group Friends of the Earth. The Obama administration had pledged a reduction of 26-28 percent in US planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions by 2025 over 2005 levels.

Pledges under the agreement are not binding under international law, and Trump said Thursday he would not honour the US commitment. This may imperil the agreement's enshrined goal of holding average global warming "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels—already a tall order even with the US on board. Observers tried to remain cheerful—pointing to the commitment of many American companies, cities, and states, with California in the lead—to a green energy economy.

But it is not yet known to what extent these efforts would make up the federal shortfall, if at all. One tangible danger from a US withdrawal from the political sphere, is that it may encourage other intransigent polluters to follow suit. So far, the world's other major emitters—China in first place, the EU in third, and India at number four, have all publicly recommitted to the Paris pact. Another risk to the process is money. Trump has threatened to slash international climate funding—which was a condition for poor countries to sign onto the deal. The US under Obama was the largest contributor to the Green Climate Fund.—AFP



TRUMP'S CLIMATE DECISION PUTS US ON A LONELY PATH

By Julie Pace

President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the landmark Paris climate accord sends an unmistakable message to the world: America First can mean America Alone. Trump's move, announced with great fanfare in the White House Rose Garden on Thursday, immediately leaves the United States isolated on a paramount global concern. It demonstrates the US is willing to back away from a coalition it assembled just 18 months ago.

Nearly 200 countries joined the landmark deal forged under Trump's predecessor. Now the US stands with only Syria and Nicaragua as countries on the sidelines. Nicaragua balked because it found the deal's standards insufficient. It's a bitter blow to stalwart European partners who launched an aggressive campaign to convince Trump that American leadership is central to combating climate change. Even a direct appeal from the Vatican wasn't enough to persuade the president. Miguel Arias Canete, the European Union's top climate change official, called Trump's decision "a sad day for the global community."

For anxious allies, Trump's rejection of the Paris pact is particularly jarring in the wake of his first international trip last week. Standing in the heart of Europe, Trump publicly lectured NATO partners about their military commitments and offered no explicit endorsement for the collective defense agreement at the core of trans-Atlantic security for decades. His stunning posture left the distinct impression that for the new American president, the nation's long-standing obligations to allies are neither unshakable nor unbreakable.

Trump did little to quell those concerns Thursday. Offering a glimpse into his apparent anxiety over how he's viewed on the world stage, Trump argued that the same countries practically begging him to stay in the Paris accord were in fact mocking the United States' participation. "We don't want other countries laughing at us anymore and they won't," Trump declared. "I was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris." Indeed, Trump's supporters cheered the decision, which marked the fulfillment both of his campaign promise to scrap the climate accord and his broader pledge to put American interests above all else.

As a candidate, he vigorously accused President Barack Obama of capitulating to other nations in negotiations not only on the Paris pact, but also multi-country trade deals and the agreement to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions. Trump's record of holding to those promises is mixed: He moved swiftly to withdraw from the sweeping Pacific Rim trade pact the Obama administration negotiated, but has signaled to other nations that he plans to stay in the nuclear deal so long as Iran lives up to its obligations. To be sure, Trump is hardly the first American president to turn

his back on a predecessor's international agreement. President George W. Bush provoked similar anger from European allies when he decided not to implement the 1997 Kyoto climate change treaty, which was ratified by 140 nations. Bush made a similar argument to the one outlined by Trump Thursday, saying it put the US at a disadvantage compared with major polluters like China and India. Still, Bush made the broad and public case for US leadership in international cooperation, even as his policies in Iraq and Afghanistan frayed some American alliances. Trump's "America First" mantra, underscored by his condemnation of both Bush's wars and Obama's diplomacy, has signaled a new strain of isolationism.

On Thursday, he not only called the Paris accord a bad deal, he declared its rejection to be "a reassertion of America's sovereignty." Since the election, administration officials have labored to explain that Trump does not intend to insulate the US from the rest of the world or leave allies in a lurch. White House advisers point to Trump's decision to renegotiate, rather than scrap, the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico as a sign that the president isn't recoiling from all of America's commitments.

Trump left open the prospect that he'll ultimately take a similar approach to the Paris pact, announcing Thursday that while the US will immediately stop complying with the standards, his administration will begin negotiations to seek a better deal. It's unclear why the US would need to

start such negotiations given that the climate agreement gave each country the ability to set its own targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The European nations that pushed for Trump to stay in the deal appear to be in little mood to help the president take credit for getting a better deal. France, Germany and Italy quickly issued a joint statement Thursday saying the Paris climate accord can't be renegotiated.

And supporters of the agreement in the US, which was painstakingly negotiated under the Obama administration, argued that even if that was possible, the damage to America's reputation had already been done. "The rest of the world will question whether the United States can be trusted," said Gina McCarthy, who served as Environmental Protection Agency administrator under President Barack Obama. Trump announced the withdrawal the same day he pulled back from another campaign promise: to move the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

While Trump ultimately sided with Arab leaders who'd implored him not to move the embassy, on the climate deal he seemed indifferent to similarly aggressive lobbying from America's closest partners in Europe. "If you're sitting in Riyadh or Amman or Cairo, the president of the United States has just bowed to your concerns to a much greater degree than he has bowed to the concerns of Paris, Berlin and other traditional allies on an issue of global impact," said Robert Satloff, who runs the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.—AP



SHANGHAI: File photo shows the Huangpu River and the Wujing Coal-Electricity Power Station in Shanghai. The US exit from the Paris climate pact is a gift to China's ambitions to become world leader on everything from trade to global warming, despite its own mixed record.—AFP

NOT THE WAY TO DEFEND CHRISTIANS

Dr James J Zogby
President Arab American Institute

The recent horrific massacre of 29 Egyptian Coptic Christian pilgrims served as a tragic reminder of the vulnerability of minority faith communities in many parts of the Middle East. As a Maronite Catholic with family and friends in the Middle East, a PhD in Comparative Religion, and over 40 years of work experience throughout the Arab World, this issue is a deeply personal one for me. I know that in many parts of the world, there are religious communities that are facing threats to their very survival or dealing with serious problems of discrimination and dispossession.

The challenge we face is how can we help and not harm these vulnerable communities. Three years ago, this issue was directly addressed by eight Patriarchs of the Eastern Christian churches—representing the majority of the Middle East's Christians—appearing together before a conference in Washington, DC. Their message was poignant and direct: we need your help, but the help we need is not for you to vilify Muslims. Demonizing Islam may generate applause in some circles in Washington, but it does not help Christians in the Middle East.

That simple message was clearly not heard by the makers of the film "Faithkeepers," which is currently being screened across the United States. While purporting to be in defense of Christians in the Middle East, "Faithkeepers" is a not so subtle attack on Islam. The film mixes real stories of Christians and others who have suffered at the hands of ISIS with the insidious insinuation that such persecution is at the heart of the Muslim faith.

Adding insult to injury, the film falsely conflates disparate historical events—the Armenian Genocide, the Jewish exodus from Iraq and other Arab countries, and the atrocities committed by ISIS—as if they were all the result of Islam's "inherent" desire to purge all non-Muslims from the region. What "Faithkeepers" ignores is the fact that the Armenian Genocide was perpetrated by a secular movement in Turkey that attacked all non-Turks, including Muslim Kurds; and the horrific anti-Jewish pogroms in Arab countries that followed the 1948 war that were in reaction to Israel's horrific "ethnic cleansing" of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Christians and Muslims from what became the "Jewish State."

When "Faithkeepers" looks at the situation of Christians in Iraq and Syria, it fails to mention that, historically, Christians fared well in both countries. It was the civil war in Syria, the US invasion of Iraq and the resulting disruption of life and the empowering of extremist sectarian movements in both countries that put Christians and the entire population of both countries at risk.

And when speaking of the Christian exodus from Arab countries over the past century, "Faithkeepers" fails to understand that it was not Islam, but several other factors, that led Christians and other elites to leave the Middle East—namely that Christians had connections, through their churches, with the West and, when seeking opportunity, the US and Western Europe were obvious desirable destinations (note: many Muslims left as well for similar reasons, but they found the Arab Gulf countries or Africa to be more promising and hospitable destinations).

But none of this matters for the "Faithkeepers," since its central purpose is to demonize Islam. It is not a stretch

to make such a claim when we look more closely at the production team that made the film, its funders, and those who are promoting it, most of whom have a disturbing record of disseminating and supporting a number of anti-Muslim propaganda films and organizations. A look at the line-up of individuals and organizations behind "Faithkeepers" reveals a "who's who" collection of the Southern Poverty Law Center's list of Islamophobic "hate groups."

The film itself is a product of the Clarion Project which has been involved in the production, direction, and distribution of other films—including: "Obsession" and "The Third Jihad"—both of which have been discredited as works of notorious anti-Muslim propaganda. According to NPR, Clarion was founded by employees of AishHaTorah—a pro-Israel group with offices in Israel and the US—and shared offices with that group. Clarion's funding also comes from the same sources that have funded anti-Muslim campaigners like Pamela Gellar, David Horowitz, Robert Spencer, and Brigitte Gabriel.

Finally, if there were any question as to the intent of "Faithkeepers," that matter is resolved in the film's credits which note that the film itself was based on an article written by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, an anti-Muslim activist who has described Islam in the most offensive terms. The bottom line is that vulnerable Christian communities do need protection and support. What they do not need is to be exploited as pawns in a disgraceful effort to demonize another religion. By using the plight of Christians for no other purpose than to further an anti-Muslim agenda, "Faithkeepers" has broken faith with those it claims to be helping.

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FEUDING FRENCHWOMEN TO CLASH AT ROLAND GARROS

PARIS: Alize Cornet and Caroline Garcia, French compatriots but barely on speaking terms after a bitter feud, will clash for a place in the Roland Garros quarter-finals. Cornet reached the last 16 for the just second time with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Polish ninth seed Agnieszka Radwanska who lost all her seven service games. Garcia, seeded 28, made the fourth round of a Slam for the first time with a 6-4, 4-6, 9-7 win over Taiwan's world number 109 Hsieh Su-Wei. Those wins guaranteed the home nation will have at least one quarter-finalist in Paris for the first time since Marion Bartoli in 2011. However, Cornet admitted that her relationship with Garcia has virtually broken down. "I think that the relationship is not very good," said 27-year-old Cornet. "I think she may have a grudge against us, so she's not ready to talk with me, so I don't think that it will be good to talk to her, because we are playing against each other. —AFP



RAVANELLI KEEN TO RETURN TO MIDDLESBROUGH AS MANAGER

LONDON: Former Italy striker Fabrizio Ravanelli would love to manage his former club Middlesbrough, freshly relegated from the Premier League, he told Britain's Press Association yesterday. The 48-year-old, who scored 33 goals in 52 appearances for unfashionable Boro in the 1996/97 season after surprisingly leaving then European champions Juventus, has not had a wealth of coaching experience since hanging up his boots in 2005. He spent two years as part of the Juventus youth team coaching staff before an unhappy spell in 2013 at Corsican outfit Ajaccio, who sacked him after five months in charge with them second from bottom of Ligue 1. Interim manager Steve Agnew has held talks with owner Steve Gibson about the full-time post but is thought unlikely to get the job. Former Leicester City manager Nigel Pearson-Ravanelli's captain at Middlesbrough and Garry Monk, who made a good impression last season in the second-tier Championship with Leeds United, are seen as the front-runners. That doesn't deter Ravanelli, whose goals helped Middlesbrough get to both the League Cup and FA Cup final in the one season he was there before he left for Marseille when they were relegated. —AFP

RECOVERING ROSSI TOPS MUGELLO FREE PRACTICE

LUCO DI MUGELLO: Italian motorcycling star Valentino Rossi proved he was well on the comeback trail after a training accident by setting the fastest time in free practice yesterday ahead of the Italian Grand Prix. Rossi, 38, known on the circuit as 'The Doctor', was discharged from a Rimini hospital last weekend after treatment for chest and stomach injuries suffered while he was training in motocross. But buoyed by the enthusiastic support of the rowdy home crowd the Italian posted a fastest lap of 1min 46.543sec, with world champion Marc Marquez of Spain at .322sec on his Honda and Ducati's Jorge Lorenzo, winner last year in Tuscany, at 0.368. World championship leader Maverick Vinales, Rossi's Yamaha teammate, finished fifth-fastest at 0.429, with qualifying taking place later. Rossi-bidding for a 10th world title this season-is sitting third in the overall standings behind Vinales and Honda's Dani Pedrosa, who was ninth-fastest. —AFP



NINTH RAMADAN DISABLED SPORTS TOURNAMENT CONCLUDES

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Competitions in the Ninth Ramadan Disabled Sports Tournament came to a conclusion Thursday night. The tournament was organized by Kuwait Disabled Sports Club over four days in various games with over 180 players participating.

The tournament included competitions in wheelchair and mental disability basketball, volleyball, fencing, table tennis, weightlifting

and bocchia for the blind. KDSC Chairman of the Board Shafi Al-Hajiri told journalists that he lauded the technical level of the tournament as well as the spirit the athletes have displayed, and considered the continuation of this tournament for the ninth consecutive year and the notable increase of athletes participating, is the true success.

Al-Hajiri who headed the organizing committee said the club is keen on organizing

such local sports gathering to prepare them for foreign participations.

He appreciated the support of businesswoman Iqbal Behbehani in addition to Al-Sayer Group, Taiba Hospital and several other companies.

The results of the tournament saw Kuwait disabled basketball team winning the wheelchair competition, while Al-Shaheed club the mental disability basketball competition.

Malak Al-Enezi won the girls seated table

tennis competitions, while Yaqoub Al-Qasim won the same competition for the general category. The buds competition was won by Khalifa Al-Qasim.

Ali Al-Sane won the standing table tennis while Abdallah Ahmad won the buds competition while Fahad Al-Otaibi won the buds mental disability category.

In Bocchia for the blind player Athari Al-Mutairi won first place for the mixed category, while Dhari Al-Azmi won first place in the

men's category.

Abdallah Al-Haddad won first place in the fencing florets and epee categories, while Zaid Al-Mutairi won the weight lifting in the first group, while Mohammad Hawash won second group and Abdellatif Fawaz won the third group.

Volleyball competition was won by Essa club. The popular Dama games saw Tawfiq Ashkanani and Hassan Bumijdad winning.



GULF BANK SPONSORS 'WOMEN FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT'

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is pleased to be sponsoring the 'Women Football Tournament', as part of its series of Ramadan activities for this year. The tournament will kick off today, 4 June 2017. The championship match and closing ceremony is scheduled for 14 June. The tournament matches will take place at Jaber Al Ahmad Stadium, with 16 teams from Kuwait and the GCC scheduled to play.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Ms Laila

Al Qatami, Assistant General Manager for Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank said: "Health and fitness, along with support of youth and women's issues form key elements of the Gulf Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility strategy; hence our sponsorship of the 'Women Football Tournament'. This tournament is being organized by Eighty Percent, a socially driven sports company established by three young Kuwaiti women dedicated to

sports and fitness. Gulf Bank is happy to support their initiative and their message of the importance of women leading and active and healthy lifestyles."

Ms. Rabaa Al Hajery, member of the tournament organizing committee, said: "We are very pleased to be organizing this tournament for the second consecutive year. We happy with our success in Ramadan 2016, and we are confident that this year will be even bigger suc-

cess with the support of our partners and sponsors. We would like to give special thanks to Gulf Bank who is helping us achieve our goal of creating a professional platform for women's sports in Kuwait."

During the Holy Month of Ramadan, Gulf Bank will be supporting and conducting several other activities. These include the distribution food boxes, visits to hospitals to celebrate "Girgi'an" with children, holding Girgi'an cele-

brations with other partners, in addition to having already launched a well received Ramadan-themed television commercial.

To find out more about Gulf Bank's initiatives please visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches; contact the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, visit the bank's bilingual website at www.e-gulfbank.com, or see its social media channels.



Group picture of some of the participants.



The organizing committee and captains.

LOWE ON FIRE TO SAVE CHIEFS MELTDOWN AGAINST WARATAHS

WELLINGTON: A hat trick to James Lowe saved the Waikato Chiefs as they survived a second half fightback by the NSW Waratahs to win their Super Rugby clash 46-31 in Hamilton yesterday.

The Chiefs looked to have the game sewn up with a 32-3 lead early in the second spell only for a resurgent Waratahs to close the gap to 39-31 before Lowe scored for the third time just before full-time to put victory beyond doubt.

The Waratahs four-try second half spurt, while it ultimately did them no favours, denied the Chiefs a bonus point

which could prove crucial in the tightly packed new Zealand conference.

"It would have been even better if we had been able to get a bonus point out of that. In patches we played pretty well but again the consistency in performance is letting us down," co-captain Aaron Cruden said.

The Chiefs play the Wellington Hurricanes next weekend in a match which could decide who finishes second in the New Zealand group with the reward of a likely quarter-final in Australia rather than a long trip to South Africa at stake.

New Zealand sides, led by the unbeaten Canterbury Crusaders, have already wrapped up the Australasian wildcards for the playoffs, while the Waratahs only hope of making the final eight is to win the Australian conference led by the ACT Brumbies.

But despite the second-half revival against the Chiefs the Waratahs came up short and remain nine points behind the Brumbies who have three games to play while the Waratahs have only two left.

While Lowe, who joins Irish club Leinster at the end of the season, was setting the ground alight with his ability

to find the line, fullback Damian McKenzie was sending a reminder to the All Blacks selectors of his potential.

McKenzie, who leads the competition for carries and metres gained, was on top of his game with a hand in four of the Chiefs' six tries, landed 16 points off the boot and was a constant thorn in the Waratahs defence with his ability to create space.

All Blacks coach Steve Hansen is already sweating on the fitness of fullback Ben Smith who failed a concussion Test when Smith's Otago Highlanders lost a 25-22 nailbiter against the

Crusaders earlier yesterday.

However, McKenzie did not help his cause with a wild pass that was intercepted by Rob Horne for the Waratahs first try.

The diminutive McKenzie was then unable to bring down giant prop Sekope Kepu who galloped 60 metres for the Waratahs fourth and final try.

Tawera Kerr-Barlow scored twice for the Chiefs and Mitchell Brown also touched down while Will Skelton and Cameron Clark also scored for the Waratahs with Bernard Foley kicking four conversions and a penalty. —AFP

AUSSIE 'MOHICANS' LOOKING TO BOW OUT WITH TITLE

PARIS: Wallabies Matt Giteau and Drew Mitchell are amongst the "last of the Mohicans" looking to sign off their Toulon careers with one more trophy as the Top 14 comes to a climax in Paris today.

In-form Clermont, the perennial chokers, are all that stands between the Aussie duo and South Africa's Juanne Smith, and a glorious swansong in the south of France.

Giteau is heading off to play in Japan, while Mitchell and Smith are retiring, with Argentina's Juan Martin Fernandez Lobbe's future uncertain as he hasn't been offered a new contract.

It means the golden generation of Toulon's global stars that won three straight European crowns under Bernard Laporte are all but gone, with the "last of the Mohicans" looking forward to a final outing.

With Bakkies Botha, Ali Williams, Carl Hayman and the great Jonny Wilkinson already in retirement, only flying Springbok wing Bryan Habana will remain of Laporte's stars who reigned in Europe from 2013-2015 and reached three straight Top 14 finals from 2012-2014 too.

In fact, this will be Toulon's fifth Top 14 final in six years, although they have lifted the Bouclier de Brennus only once in that period. With first choice fly-half Francois Trinh-Duc struggling for fitness and semi-final hero Anthony Belleau still a "work in progress" according to scrum-half Sebastien Tillous-Borde, Giteau is in the running for a rare start at the Stade de France, either at No.10 or inside centre. He made a major impact after replacing compatriot James O'Connor at inside centre on 53 minutes in the 18-15 win over La Rochelle last weekend.

'PHENOMENAL'

And Laporte for one cannot speak highly enough of the versatile back's talents. "He's phenomenal, maybe the best player I've coached," Laporte told Midi Olympique. "In fact, that's not the word, one should rather say manager-because Matt knows

how to do everything, to perfection!"

Mitchell will likely start, even if Habana is fit to play—the South African like former New Zealand captain Ma'a Nonu missed the semi-final through injury but were back in training this week. "Drew's a big character with a huge ego. But most of all he's a fierce competitor," added Laporte, who admitted to having had several "muscular" run-ins with Mitchell over the years, not least when he dropped him for the 2015 European Champions Cup semi-finals. "He managed to convince me to pick him for the final," said Laporte, "and he responded in the best way possible" by scoring a mazy solo try. As for Smith, Laporte described him as "a foot soldier, always ready for combat". "On the pitch, he's a rock." Toulon will have a tough ask repeating their European final triumphs over Clermont in 2013 and 2015, though. They finished nine points behind them in the regular season table and while Toulon were labouring to beat 14-man La Rochelle, Clermont ran in five tries to dump reigning champions Racing out of the semi-finals despite being reduced themselves to 14 men.

But the choker tag is a hard one to shake for a Clermont side that has made a habit of losing major finals.

Three times they've finished runners up in the European Cup, 11 times in the French league championship and even once in the European Challenge Cup.

Over the last 20 years alone, they've lost 10 finals, although they did win the Top 14 in 2010 and the Challenge Cup in 1999 and 2007. Of the two sides, Clermont have played the better rugby this year, reaching the European Champions Cup final, and eliminating Toulon at the quarter-final stage. Clermont scored 19 more tries and 126 more points over the course of the regular season than Toulon, and coach Frank Azema is confident they can get the final monkey off their backs. "To be honest, I don't even know how many we've lost," he said wryly. "We need to play how we know to, and then we'll see." —AFP

BRUMBIES WRAP UP CONFERENCE TITLE WITH REBELS WIN

CANBERRA: The ACT Brumbies clinched the Australian conference with a resounding 32-3 bonus-point victory over the Melbourne Rebels in Super Rugby in Canberra yesterday. The Brumbies returned from their successful tour to South Africa and Argentina to outscore the hapless Rebels four tries to nil with fly-half Wharenui Hawera finishing with 17 points.

The victory pushed the Brumbies out to a 14-point lead over their nearest conference rivals New South Wales Waratahs, who lost their outside chance of topping the group in their 46-31 loss to the Waikato Chiefs in New Zealand earlier yesterday.

The Brumbies, who beat the Southern Kings and Jaguares on their demanding away leg over the last two weeks, were always in control of the Australian derby after leading 11-3 at half-time.

"We've gained a lot of momentum coming back from touring and we knew this was going to be a tough week and we stuck in and got a good result," Brumbies'

skipper Sam Carter said.

"We were clinical tonight, in parts of the game we weren't too fancy and we just put our heads down and got it done, accumulated pressure and got the points."

The Brumbies scored their tries through Jordan Smiler, Tevita Kuridrani, Wharenui Hawera and Nigel Ah Wong with Hawera kicking three conversions and two penalties. Super Rugby goes into a month's recess in the international Test window and the Brumbies have their next match against the Queensland Reds in Brisbane on July 7 before finishing off their regular season against the Chiefs in Hamilton. Wallaby back Reece Hodge scored the Rebels' only points of the match with a long-range penalty goal midway through the first half.

The end of the season can't come quick enough for the Rebels, who have lost their last six matches and have been seriously distracted by the ongoing uncertainty over whether they will be playing in next season's Super Rugby. —AFP



WHANGAREI: A Lions fan poses for a photo ahead of the first tour match between the British & Irish Lions and the New Zealand Provincial Barbarians in Whangarei, New Zealand, yesterday. — AP



WHANGAREI: British and Irish Lions winger Anthony Watson, center, scores a try against the New Zealand Provincial Barbarians in Whangarei, New Zealand, yesterday. The Lions defeated the Barbarians 13-7. — AP

RUGBY

FRUSTRATED LIONS SAY 'PLENTY TO WORK ON'

WHANGAREI: The British and Irish Lions admitted to having "plenty to work on" after a scrappy New Zealand tour opener where they struggled to a 13-7 win over a New Zealand Provincial Barbarians side yesterday.

Coach Warren Gatland described the performance as "not quite accurate in some really critical moments". Before a sellout crowd of 20,000 at Toll Stadium in Whangarei, it was the Barbarians, a side of relatively unknown New Zealand provincial players, who set the standard for most of the game.

Lions captain Sam Warburton admitted the Barbarians had exposed areas the Lions needed to address in the countdown to the first Test against the All Blacks on June 21.

"We've got plenty of footage now to work on," Warburton said as he reeled off a litany of problem areas. "Some defensive things, improve our attack organisation," he added.

"They stretched us a bit, (we) gave away a few penalties, a few too many at the end and led them back in with some territory and better teams are going to punish us a bit there further down the line." "We needed to win a few more defensive collisions, we want to pride ourselves on defence... and on attack ball retention. That's what wins Test matches."

Tour openers are always a concern for a Lions side with limited preparation and travel fatigue resulting in a lack of polish making points hard to come by. For Gatland, who has promised all his players a start over the first three games, the opening match would not have answered many questions about the shape of his first Test line up. There was only one successful penalty by Johnny Sexton in the first half as the Lions trailed 7-3 at the turn, and it took 52 minutes before Anthony Watson scored their first try.

'IT WAS TOUGH'

Gatland was reluctant to name names when questioned about who had impressed.

"It was tough on those guys. They were given the responsibility of getting the tour off to a win," he said.

"They needed to be a bit more clinical in terms of finishing off the chances that we created. There was some good ball carrying out there (and) some impact off the bench."

The last time the Lions were in New Zealand, in a 2005 tour, they were held to 17-all at half-time in their first match against the provincial Bay of Plenty side before pulling away to win 34-20. This time they found it even harder to secure control. In a brief foray into enemy territory, after 16 minutes of play, the Lions put the first points of their tour on the board with Sexton's close range penalty. But it was a short-lived lead as the Barbarians relished the counter-attacking opportunities offered by the Lions kicking away possession, often the result of a lack of harmony between the halves Greg Laidlaw and Sexton.

The home side fired back with a Luteru Laulala break that took an exceptional tackle by Talupe Faletau to prevent a try. A few minutes later the constant pressure told with Barbarians captain Sam Anderson-Heather driving over for the try and Bryn Gatland, a son of the Warren Gatland, added the extra two points.

The first half ended with the Lions opting for a scrum instead of an easy penalty shot at goal in front of the posts but their drive for a try evaporated when outside centre Jonathan



WHANGAREI: British and Irish Lions Captain Sam Warburton watches play during their game against the New Zealand Provincial Barbarians in Whangarei, New Zealand, yesterday. — AP

Joseph was held up over the line.

Laidlaw took over the Lions kicking duties after the break and narrowed the gap to one point with a handy penalty.

Tellingly, Sexton was replaced soon after by Owen Farrell who converted the Lions try by pacy wing Watson but later missed a handy penalty opportunity. — AFP

LOPEZ DROPS OUT OF FRANCE SQUAD FOR S AFRICA TOUR

PARIS: Clermont fly-half Camille Lopez will not join up with the France squad for their upcoming tour of South Africa, instead being rested after a long season, his coach Guy Noves said yesterday. The 28-year-old Lopez, who has won 16 caps for his country, will feature for Clermont in today's French Top 14 finale against Toulon. He was due to join up with Les Bleus in South Africa next week, but will now not travel and will undergo an operation.

And Noves will not call up a replacement, for now anyway. "For the moment, I prefer to wait," Noves told AFP, confirming an earlier report by sports daily L'Equipe. Speaking to press before Sunday's final, Lopez added: "We have had a discussion, with the France team staff and that of Clermont. I am going to use this opportunity to have an operation."

Lopez did not explain the nature of the operation, saying it would "remain personal". The coach had already chosen not to call up two of Lopez's Clermont colleagues in centre Remi Lamerat and back row Damien Chouly. Lopez has become a first-choice for his country since FranAois Trinh-Duc picked up an injury playing against Samoa in November, but Sunday's final will be his 32nd match of the season. Seven of those matches have been for France. France play three test matches against the Springboks on June 10 in Pretoria, June 17 in Durban and June 24 in Johannesburg. The Toulon trio of Xavier Chiozzi, Guilhem Guirado and Romain

Taofifenua and Clermont's Arthur Iturria, Damian Penaud and Scott Spedding will join up with the France squad in South Africa after the Top 14 final.

Revised squad of 34 Squad

Forwards (19): Uini Atonio (La Rochelle), Eddy Ben Arous (Racing 92), Mohamed Boughanmi (La Rochelle), Yacouba Camara (Toulouse/Montpellier), Camille Chat (Racing 92), Xavier Chiozzi (Toulon), Loann Goujon (Bordeaux-Begles), Kevin Gourdon (La Rochelle), Guilhem Guirado (Toulon), Arthur Iturria (Clermont), Anthony Jelonch (Castres), Julien Le Devedec (Brive), Bernard Le Roux (Racing 92), Yoann Maestri (Toulouse), Clement Maynadier (Bordeaux-Begles), Louis Picamoles (Northampton/ENG), Jefferson Poirot (Bordeaux-Begles), Rabah Slimani (Stade Francais/Clermont), Romain Taofifenua (Toulon)

Backs (15): Nans Ducuing (Bordeaux-Begles), Henry Chavancy (Racing 92), Jonathan Danty (Stade Francais), Jean-Marc Doussain (Toulouse), Brice Dulin (Racing 92), Antoine Dupont (Castres), Gael Fickou (Toulouse), Yoann Huget (Toulouse), Maxime Machenaud (Racing 92), Damian Penaud (Clermont), Jules Plisson (Stade Francais), Vincent Rattaz (La Rochelle), Baptiste Serin (Bordeaux-Begles), Scott Spedding (Clermont), Virimi Vakatawa (FFR). — AFP

RUSSIA BECOMES A RELIABLE PIPELINE FOR READY-MADE NHL TALENT

ST PETERSBURG: Down the street from where Detroit's Russian Five took the NHL by storm in the 1990s, defenseman Nikita Zaitsev sat down for dinner with his agent and explained that his pain of being passed over in the draft three times was gone.

Just four months into his rookie year with Toronto, Zaitsev realized not being drafted was the best thing to happen to him. Chicago's Artemi Panarin told agent Dan Millstein the same thing as he earned rookie of the year honors with 77 points last season.

Zaitsev and Panarin are on the leading edge of a generation of Russian stars coming to North America from the Kontinental Hockey

League in their 20s and making an immediate impact. Washington's Evgeny Kuznetsov and Dmitry Orlov and St. Louis' Vladimir Tarasenko developed after being high draft picks, and Alexander Radulov returned last year and experienced the kind of NHL renaissance in Montreal that Ilya Kovalchuk hopes to find as he looks to be back next season.

Fledgling franchise Vegas hopes it gets the same kind of results from multiple KHL All-Star center Vadim Shipachyov, Colorado is counting on defenseman Andrei Mironov to play right away and Buffalo is figuring the same from Victor Antipin as Russia is proving to be a reliable pipeline for immediately NHL-ready talent.

"Years ago, we had (Igor) Larionov and (Slava) Fetisov coming over and it took them a little time, but in recent years players like Panarin and Radulov and Zaitsev have come over and done very, very well," Vegas Golden Knights general manager George McPhee said. "Especially with the experienced players, a bunch of them just got to play in the World Cup in Toronto on the small rink in a huge tournament, and they've played in international tournaments over here, so I think just having the experience of playing on the smaller rink has probably helped some of the experienced players."

A combination of factors has made the NHL assimilation for Russian players quicker than ever. Millstein

believes the comfort level of being able to develop and play professionally at home, combined with improved coaching and the assistance of veterans such as Kovalchuk and former Red Wings forward Pavel Datsyuk have all contributed to easing players' adjustments.

Despite thoughts that some Russian players might leave the NHL for the KHL for the chance to play in the 2018 Olympics, there seems to be an exodus the other way with top players even taking pay cuts to come to North America. Some of that has to do with financial turmoil in the KHL, including concerns over late or missed paychecks. Millstein knows the waiting game is not for everyone, such as

Tampa Bay leading scorer Nikita Kucherov, who played Canadian junior hockey to get accustomed to North American rinks that are 15 feet narrower than those in Europe. Undrafted Panarin and Zaitsev needed no such adjustment period before thriving in the NHL as mid-20s rookies.

"It's always nice to see Russian guys come here, especially undrafted, try to get a shot here," said Orlov, who quickly became a top-pairing defenseman for the Capitals. "Everybody's different to come here. Here is (the) best league in the world and I think everyone, you need more time to get used to how you play here and how (the) coach is going to give you ice time and everything like that." —AP



SEATTLE: Tampa Bay Rays right fielder Steven Souza Jr. slides after missing a foul fly ball from Seattle Mariners' Danny Valencia during the fifth inning of a baseball game Friday, in Seattle. — AP

BASEBALL

CABRERA, MARTINEZ LEAD TIGERS IN 15-5 WIN OVER WHITE SOX

DETROIT: Miguel Cabrera had his 1,000th career extra-base hit, J.D. Martinez fell a single short of the cycle as Detroit beat the White Sox. Cabrera and Martinez combined for five hits, all for extra bases, and six RBIs in eight at-bats. John Hicks and Mikie Mahtook also homered for Detroit. Michael Fulmer (6-3) allowed a season-high five runs and seven hits in seven innings. The Tigers had been shut out in his past two starts. White Sox starter Derek Holland (4-5) allowed eight runs and eight hits, including three homers, in 2 1/3 innings.

HOUSTON 7, TEXAS 1

Unbeaten lefty Dallas Keuchel earned his MLB-leading ninth win, pitching six scoreless innings as the Houston Astros beat the Texas Rangers 7-1 after a long rain delay Friday for their eighth straight victory. Carlos Correa and George Springer each hit a three-run homer for the Astros (39-16), who have the best record and longest winning streak in the majors. Correa's homer came in the fifth off Rangers ace Yu Darvish (5-4), winless in his last eight starts against Houston. After the start was delayed two hours because of rain, Keuchel (9-0) struck out seven and walked two while limiting the Rangers to three hits. The 2015 AL Cy Young Award winner worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the sixth when he got Rounoud Odor on an inning-ending groundout.

CUBS 3, CARDINALS 2

Jason Heyward hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning, and the Chicago Cubs broke a six-game losing streak with a victory over St. Louis. Heyward also had an RBI double in the sixth and Kris Bryant

homered as the Cubs washed away some of the sting from a winless road trip against the Dodgers and Padres. Anthony Rizzo reached four times and scored two runs a day after he got engaged. Pedro Strop (1-2) struck out Yadier Molina with the bases loaded for the final out of the Cardinals eighth, and Wade Davis finished for his 11th save. Dexter Fowler homered for St. Louis in his first game at Wrigley Field since he signed with the Cardinals in the offseason.

TWINS 11, ANGELS 5

Joe Mauer, Robbie Grossman and Max Kepler each hit a two-run homer to power Minnesota. For the third consecutive game, the Angels' Albert Pujols remained at 599 career home runs while going 0 for 4. Kyle Gibson, in his third start since a brief minor-league demotion, turned in his best game of the season. Gibson (2-4) took a shutout into the sixth inning before tiring and giving up two runs. He allowed six hits in a season-high 5 2/3 innings. JC Ramirez (5-4) suffered his worst start of the season for the Angels, giving up the seven runs and eight hits in 4 1/3 innings. Danny Espinosa hit a two-run homer for Los Angeles in the ninth.

NATIONALS 13, ATHLETICS 3

Daniel Murphy and Brian Goodwin each had four hits, including a home run, and Stephen Strasburg pitched seven strong innings as Washington defeated Oakland. Murphy was 4 for 5 with two RBIs, including his 10th home run. He's 10 for 18 with three extra-base hits and five RBIs over his last four games since missing three games last weekend with an illness. Goodwin played right field in place of Bryce Harper, who was

servicing the third of his four-game suspension for his role in Monday's brawl with the San Francisco Giants. His home run was his career first and the four hits were a career high. Matt Joyce homered for Oakland, which lost for the sixth time in seven games. Andrew Triggs (5-5) lasted just 3 2/3 innings.

DODGERS 2, BREWERS 1, 12 INNINGS

Cody Bellinger homered in the 12th inning off Milwaukee reliever Neftali Feliz (1-5), salvaging a win for the Dodgers on a night when ace left-hander Clayton Kershaw recorded his 2,000th strikeout. Kenley Jansen (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win, stranding the potential tying run at third with one out in the speedy Jonathan Villar by striking out Orlando Arcia looking and getting Travis Shaw to pop out to short. Los Angeles pitching had a franchise-record 26 strikeouts, handing the Brewers the dubious distinction of tying the MLB mark for most whiffs in a game. Jansen's strikeout of Hernan Perez in the 11th was his 36th of the season without having allowed a walk all year, setting a major league mark. Both teams combined for 42 strikeouts, a National League record.

REDS 3, BRAVES 2, 10 INNINGS

Eugenio Suarez scored the tying run in the ninth on Jim Johnson's wild pitch, and Devin Mesoraco led off the 10th with a homer, rallying Cincinnati past Atlanta. Mesoraco, who got into the game as a defensive replacement in the 10th, connected off Jose Ramirez (2-2) for his first career game-ending homer. Raisel Iglesias (2-0) faced three batters in the top of the 10th. Second baseman Brandon Phillips returned to Great American Ball Park for the first time since his trade in February after 11 seasons in Cincinnati. He went 0 for 5 with two strikeouts. Atlanta's Mike Foltynewicz pitched two-hit ball for seven innings and matched his career high with 10 strikeouts, five of them called by umpire Mike Winters. He turned a 2-0 lead over to the bullpen. The Reds tied it against Johnson, who blew a save for the fourth time.

GIANTS 10, PHILLIES 0

Ty Blach tossed his first career shutout, Denard Span had five hits and San Francisco routed skidding Philadelphia. Blach (4-2) scattered seven hits, struck out four and didn't walk a batter to win his fourth consecutive start. He also became the first major league pitcher in eight years to walk three times. Eduardo Nunez added three hits and three RBIs for the Giants, who ended a three-game losing streak. They had a season high in runs by the sixth inning and tied a season best with 15 hits.

Phillies starter Jerad Eickhoff (0-6) gave up five runs - four earned - and six hits, walking five in 2 2/3 innings, his shortest

career outing. The Phillies (17-35) have lost five in a row and 26 of 32. They have the worst record in the majors.

MARLINS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 5

Giancarlo Stanton matched a career high by scoring three times, and his 15th home run of the season put Miami ahead for good as the Marlins topped Arizona. Justin Bour and Christian Yelich each hit two-run homers in the first for Miami, which improved to 6-2 on this homestand. J.T. Realmuto had two hits and scored twice for the Marlins. Stanton's solo homer in the fifth was his 579th career RBI, breaking a tie with Mike Lowell for the Marlins' all-time lead. Paul Goldschmidt homered and drove in three runs for Arizona. Diamondbacks starter Patrick Corbin (4-6) allowed nine hits and six runs in six innings. Dustin McGowan (3-0) retired all five batters he faced for the win. A.J. Ramos pitched a perfect ninth for his seventh save.

PIRATES 12, METS 7

Elias Diaz hit his first major league homer and drove in six runs as a late addition to the lineup, lifting Pittsburgh over New York. Diaz hit a go-ahead, three-run shot off ineffective reliever Paul Sewald (0-1) during a seven-run sixth inning. The Pirates led 11-7 when New York finally retired the side, a swift reversal after the Mets went up 7-4 with a five-run fifth. Diaz entered 2 for 12 in six games this season and had just one career RBI. Lucas Duda hit a pair of upper-deck homers for the Mets, and Michael Conforto added his 14th of the season. Josh Bell and Josh Harrison also homered as the Pirates bailed out starter Gerrit Cole (3-5), who allowed seven runs and eight hits over five innings.

ORIOLES 3, RED SOX 2

Seth Smith and Manny Machado hit first-inning home runs off Rick Porcello to back a redemptive pitching performance by Alec Asher and help the Baltimore Orioles beat the Boston Red Sox. Jonathan Schoop had two hits and scored a run for the Orioles, who have won four of five following a seven-game losing streak. The Orioles used the long ball to take control against Porcello (3-7), the 2016 Cy Young Award winner. Smith drove a 3-2 pitch into the right-field seats for his third career leadoff homer, and Machado pulled a fastball into the second deck for a 2-0 lead. Asher (2-3) retired 16 of the first 17 batters he faced and ended up allowing two runs and three hits over 6 1-3 innings. It was his second start since replacing Ubaldo Jimenez in the Baltimore rotation. Pablo Sandoval homered for the Red Sox.

BLUE JAYS 7, YANKEES 5

Josh Donaldson hit two solo home runs,

Francisco Liriano won in his return from the disabled list as Toronto beat the Yankees. Justin Smoak added his team-leading 13th homer, a two-run drive in Toronto's three-run first inning. He drove in three runs. Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 18th homer for the Yankees and Starlin Castro also connected. Donaldson homered off Michael Pineda (6-3) in the first, then made it 6-4 with a homer off Jonathan Holder in the sixth. It was the 11th multi-homer game of his career. Activated off the disabled list before the game after being out since May 10 because of a sore shoulder, Liriano (3-2) allowed two runs and four hits in five-plus innings.

ROYALS 4, INDIANS 0

Jason Vargas tossed his first shutout in nearly three years, outdueling Royals nemesis Josh Tomlin and sending Kansas City past Cleveland. Vargas (7-3) allowed seven hits over the first six innings but deftly induced double plays in four of them to escape the trouble. It was Vargas' first shutout since a 3-0 victory over Oakland in 2014. The Royals scored their first run off Tomlin (3-7) with two outs in the sixth when Lorenzo Cain beat out an infield single. Whit Merrifield extended his hitting streak to 17 games with an RBI double in the seventh, and Mike Moustakas belted his 14th homer.

PADRES 8, ROCKIES 5

Austin Hedges, Yangervis Solarte and Wil Myers homered, leading San Diego to an 8-5 victory over Colorado for their season-high fifth straight win. The Padres followed their sweep of the defending World Series champion Cubs by beating the Rockies, who have a share of the NL West lead. Clayton Richard (4-6) allowed four runs - three earned - and 10 hits in 5 2/3 innings, while striking out three in winning for the second time in his last three outings. Brandon Maurer worked the ninth for his ninth save. German Marquez (4-3) went five innings, allowing six runs, eight hits and two walks for Colorado, which has lost four of five.

MARINERS 12, RAYS 4

Danny Valencia hit a three-run homer and tied a career high with five RBIs, Taylor Motter connected for a first-inning grand slam and Seattle routed Tampa Bay. The Mariners jumped on Jake Odorizzi (3-3) for five runs in the first. Valencia drew a bases-loaded walk with two outs and Motter followed with his second slam of the season. Christian Bergman (3-2) pitched well for the third time in his last four starts. He allowed just a pair of solo home runs over six innings. Colby Rasmus and Tim Beckham hit back-to-back homers for the Rays in the fourth. Kevin Kiermaier added a two-run shot in the seventh. — AP

MLB results/standings

San Diego 8, Colorado 5; Seattle 12, Tampa Bay 4; Minnesota 11, LA Angels 5; Washington 13, Oakland 3; Kansas City 4, Cleveland 0; LA Dodgers 2, Milwaukee 1 (12 innings); Houston 7, Texas 1; Miami 7, Arizona 5; Cincinnati 3, Atlanta 2 (10 innings); Detroit 15, Chicago White Sox 5; Pittsburgh 12, NY Mets 7; Toronto 7, NY Yankees 5; Baltimore 3, Boston 2; San Francisco 10, Philadelphia 0; Chicago Cubs 3, St. Louis 2.

| | American League | | | | National League | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----|------|------|-------------------------|----|-----|------|------|
| | W | L | PCT | GB | W | L | PCT | GB | |
| NY Yankees | 31 | 21 | .596 | - | Washington | 34 | 19 | .642 | - |
| Baltimore | 29 | 24 | .547 | 2.5 | NY Mets | 23 | 30 | .434 | 11 |
| Boston | 29 | 25 | .537 | 3 | Atlanta | 22 | 30 | .423 | 11.5 |
| Tampa Bay | 29 | 28 | .509 | 4.5 | Miami | 22 | 31 | .415 | 12 |
| Toronto | 27 | 28 | .491 | 5.5 | Philadelphia | 17 | 35 | .327 | 16.5 |
| Central Division | | | | | Central Division | | | | |
| Minnesota | 28 | 23 | .549 | - | Milwaukee | 29 | 26 | .527 | - |
| Cleveland | 28 | 25 | .528 | 1 | St. Louis | 26 | 26 | .500 | 1.5 |
| Detroit | 26 | 28 | .481 | 3.5 | Chicago Cubs | 26 | 27 | .491 | 2 |
| Chicago White Sox | 24 | 29 | .453 | 5 | Cincinnati | 25 | 28 | .472 | 3 |
| Kansas City | 23 | 30 | .434 | 6 | Pittsburgh | 25 | 30 | .455 | 4 |
| Western Division | | | | | Western Division | | | | |
| Houston | 39 | 16 | .709 | - | LA Dodgers | 34 | 22 | .607 | - |
| LA Angels | 28 | 30 | .483 | 12.5 | Colorado | 34 | 23 | .596 | 0.5 |
| Texas | 26 | 29 | .473 | 13 | Arizona | 34 | 23 | .596 | 0.5 |
| Seattle | 26 | 30 | .464 | 13.5 | San Francisco | 23 | 33 | .411 | 11 |
| Oakland | 23 | 31 | .426 | 15.5 | San Diego | 23 | 33 | .411 | 11 |

PAKISTAN 'COMPLETELY CALM' AHEAD OF INDIA CLASH: ARTHUR

BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur insisted his side were "completely calm" ahead of their Champions Trophy opener against arch-rivals India—the latest edition of world cricket's highest profile fixture.

A sell-out crowd is expected at the Edgbaston ground in Birmingham—a city with one of the largest Asian populations in Britain—while the worldwide television audience for Sunday's match could run into the billions.

But Arthur, after seeing Pakistan train Saturday, told reporters at Edgbaston: "They have topped their skills up, and they're ready for a big game."

"Our changing room was completely calm. It's amazing. "It's the outside noise that there is. "Within the dressing room, it is unbelievably calm, unbelievably focused and very, very excited for the challenge that presents itself tomorrow (Sunday)."

Arthur, appointed Pakistan coach in May last year added: "When we started this, the players would go and hit balls and hit balls and wouldn't really know when to stop. "Today, we were short, we were sharp. People got exactly what they wanted out of the training nets."

"They're ready for a big game. Our changing room was completely calm. It's amazing." This will be the first time Arthur, a former coach of both his native South Africa and Australia, has been

involved directly in a match between cricket's fiercest rivals. Asked how it compared to the Ashes, Arthur who was dismissed by Australia shortly before the 2013 Test series against England, said, with a smile: "To be honest, I got sacked just before the Ashes. So I never ever experienced that."

"But I think this rivalry is certainly bigger than most and I'm just so excited to be part of it." Arthur, however, insisted Pakistan would ignore the "little bit of hype" surrounding their latest fixture against India, the Champions Trophy title-holders.

'EVERY GAME MASSIVE'

In a tournament featuring the world's top eight one-day international teams, and with just three group games a side, Arthur emphasised how every match counted.

"We know for us to progress in this tournament, we've got to hit the ground running," he said. "Every game for us in this competition is massive. "We can't take our foot off the pedal in any game, and we can't think, 'ah, it's India, we have to just lift ourselves', because that would be very unprofessional."

Pakistan, captained by Sarfraz Ahmed, one of the world's leading wicket-keeper/batsmen, have plenty of variety in their attack. Arthur was convinced that would be key to their chances against a powerful India top order. — AFP



BIRMINGHAM: Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur (R) and captain Sarfraz Ahmed attend a press conference at Edgbaston cricket ground in Birmingham yesterday, ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy cricket match between Pakistan and India. — AFP



ST KITTS: Shafiqullah Shafaq (L) of Afghanistan stops Jason Mohammed (R) of West Indies from scoring during the 1st T20i match between West Indies and Afghanistan at Warner Park, Basseterre, St Kitts, on Saturday. — AFP

CRICKET

NARINE SHINES IN WEST INDIES SIX-WICKET WIN

BASSETERRE: Sunil Narine snared three wickets and mesmerised Afghanistan to set up a six-wicket win for the West Indies in the first fixture of a three-match T20 International series at Warner Park in St Kitts on Friday.

Having missed out on the meeting with the Afghans at last year's World T20 due to issues with his bowling action, the off-spinner was at his unplayable best in taking three for 11 off his four-over allotment as the visitors were dismissed for 110 batting first.

Marlon Samuels then struck a fluent 35 to lead the home side's romp to victory with almost four overs to spare to take a 1-0 lead ahead of the second match at the same venue on Saturday.

"Getting back into action in West Indies colours is always an enjoyable thing," said Narine after receiving the "Man of the Match" award. "I am always trying different things with my bowling and tonight they came off pretty well."

Afghanistan's top order, including captain Asghar Stanikzai who had chosen to bat first, showed little responsibility at the crease and a succession of reckless shots saw them slipping to 58 for eight in the 14th over and in danger of falling below their previous lowest T20 International score of 72.

However Rashid Khan, with a T20 best of 33, and 21 from fellow spinner Amir Hamza gave the innings a measure of respectability as 52 runs were added by the last two wickets. Khan and

Hamza then hinted at what might have been possible with a more competitive total as the two specialist spinners proved more than a handful for Samuels and the other frontline West Indies batsmen.

Fast-medium bowler Shapoor Zadran claimed two expensive wickets but it was the guile and variations of the slow bowlers which presented the greatest challenge although they did not enjoy much reward, Khan dismissing Lendl Simmons just before victory was achieved.

"It's always important to start with a win and we did what was required," said West Indies captain Carlos Brathwaite. "Their tail held us up a bit and I thought we lost too many wickets, but generally it was a satisfying effort."

West Indies went into the match without experienced all-rounder Kieron Pollard, who is sidelined with the flu. Uncapped fast bowler Ronsford Beaton was the other player omitted from the squad of 13.

Afghanistan retained the same 11 which defeated a Cricket West Indies President's XI in a warm-up match at the same venue two days earlier.

'COME BACK STRONGER'

"We needed to get at least 30-40 more runs to be competitive," said a disappointed Stanikzai. "We know what we have to do to improve and I expect us to come back stronger for the second match."

In their only previous senior international meeting, Afghanistan defeated the West Indies by six runs at the 2016 World T20 although the Caribbean side went on to lift the title for the second time in four years.

Since that upset win, Afghanistan had won another ten consecutive T20 Internationals against Associate Member nations while the West Indies won just two of nine matches since defeating England in the World T20 final 14 months ago. — AFP

'GOT AWAY WITH ONE'

Smith accepted the weather had probably spared his side a damaging defeat, saying: "We still had a lot of work to do and they've got a quality bowling attack as well, so we perhaps got away with one there. "We certainly would have preferred to be in New Zealand's position when we came off at the end." Tournament hosts England were the main beneficiaries after launching the competition with an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh at the Oval on Thursday. — AFP

KUMBLE-KOHLI ROW CLOUDS INDIA-PAKISTAN OPENER

BIRMINGHAM: Title-holders India will look to put an off-field row behind them when they face arch-rivals Pakistan in their Champions Trophy opener at Edgbaston today. The build-up to what is arguably cricket's most anticipated fixture has been dominated by reports of a falling out between India captain Virat Kohli and coach Anil Kumble. Former India leg-spinner Kumble has overseen five Test series wins since his appointment in June last year.

His contract expires after the end of the Champions Trophy but many have questioned the wisdom of the Board of Control for Cricket in India's decision to advertise Kumble's job a week before the one-day international tournament starts. Ramachandra Guha, who quit a Supreme Court-appointed four-member committee overseeing the BCCI in protest, said in his letter of resignation: "If indeed the captain and the head coach were not getting along, why was this not attended to as soon as the Australia series was over in late March? "Why was it left until the last minute, when a major international tournament was imminent?"

There were fears India may not even get the chance to defend the title they won at Edgbaston four years by beating hosts England in a thrilling final reduced by rain to 20 overs per side, after the BCCI hinted at a boycott of the 50-over tournament as a result of a revenue-sharing dispute with the International Cricket Council (ICC). But Kohli,

one of the most driven players now in world cricket, said as his squad left for England: "The hunger to win and ruthlessness is what we speak about all the time."

The India captain leads a powerful batting line-up, with former Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi, in a column for www.icc-cricket.com, writing: "While Kohli is the backbone, India possesses considerable firepower around him. Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Ajinkya Rahane, Yuvraj Singh and MS Dhoni are all match-winners."

Afridi also noted the "balance" in a bowling attack which is set to include seamers by Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Mohammad Shami as well as the spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja.

'Nothing to lose'

But Pakistan are not without hope and boast proven performers in the likes of skipper Sarfraz Ahmed, an excellent wicket-keeper/batsman, was well as a big-hitting rookie in Faheem Ashraf. "We have nothing to lose, we just want to play our natural game," Sarfraz said last week. "We are very hopeful of playing well in this tournament and we want to win it." Yet for all that players on both sides have tried to label Sunday's clash as "just another game", the fact is someone always has something to lose in an India-Pakistan match, a fixture that commands the attention of billions round the world let alone in the two cricket crazy sub-continent. — AFP



BIRMINGHAM: India captain Virat Kohli, 2nd right, and India coach Anil Kumble, 2nd left, attend a practice session in the nets ahead of their ICC Champions Trophy Group B match against Pakistan at Edgbaston in Birmingham, England, yesterday. — AP

FIVE GREAT INDIA-PAKISTAN ODI CLASHES

BIRMINGHAM: Title-holders India begin their quest to retain the Champions Trophy when they face arch-rivals Pakistan in their tournament opener at Edgbaston on Sunday. Ahead of their latest one-day international encounter, AFP Sport looks back at five memorable limited overs matches between the Asian cricket giants.

April 18, 1986
Sharjah

Pakistan won by one wicket

A match no fan on either side of the border will forget. Pakistan, needing four runs off the last ball to lift the Australasia Cup, sailed through as Javed Miandad pulled a full toss from seamer Chetan Sharma for six. Instantly, Miandad became a national hero and Sharma was reduced to facing barbs and insults on his return home

March 1, 2003
Centurion

India won by six wickets

The World Cup match featured a classic cricket confrontation between two global stars in India batsman Sachin Tendulkar and Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar. Tendulkar smashed a 75-ball 98 to help his team achieve a 274-run target. Akhtar bagged just one wicket, that of Tendulkar, while conceding 72 runs in his 10 overs. Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar (101) was the only batsman to score a century in the match.

September 19, 2004
Edgbaston

Pakistan won by three wickets

Pakistan would be delighted if history

March 30, 2011
Mohali

India won by 29 runs

A World Cup semi-final match that Pakistan 'lost' as much as India, on home soil, won with the visitors dropping Tendulkar four times during an 85 that also saw him survive two close lbw calls. Pakistan's chase slowed to a halt in the face of a tight fielding effort, with Misbah-ul-Haq criticised for taking 76 balls to make 56.

March 2, 2014
Dhaka

Pakistan won by one wicket

Pakistan appeared to be cruising to victory during this Asia Cup clash in Bangladesh when they needed 11 off the last 10 balls with four wickets in hand to overtake India's 245 for eight. But three wickets fell quickly and it came down to nine runs off the last four deliveries from Ravichandran Ashwin. But Shahid Afridi, living up to his big-hitting reputation, smashed the next two balls for sixes to seal victory. —AFP

STEVEN SMITH WANTS MORE FROM AUSTRALIA ATTACK

BIRMINGHAM: Australia captain Steven Smith looked forward to a better performance from his attack in the remainder of the Champions Trophy after an "ordinary" display in their no result opener against New Zealand.

Rain came to Australia's rescue when, after several interruptions, Friday's match was finally abandoned with Smith's men 53 for three off nine overs in pursuit of a revised victory target of 235 in 33.

But what most annoyed Smith was a profligate effort by his pace bowlers which allowed New Zealand to get off to a flyer. The Blackcaps, for whom captain Kane Williamson led the way with exactly 100, were 254 for three in the 40th over and on course for a total well in excess of 300 following a dashing 65 from opener Luke Ronchi.

But Williamson's run out sparked a slump that

saw seven wickets lost for 37 runs in under six overs as New Zealand finished on 291 all out.

Josh Hazlewood did the bulk of the damage with six for 52 but his figures could not disguise poor returns for fellow quicks Mitchell Starc (none for 52) and Pat Cummins (one for 67). "I thought it was probably one of the worst bowling displays that we've put on for a very long time," Smith said. "We bowled both sides of wicket. We gave them a lot of freebies. And it was pretty ordinary, to be honest with you." This was left-armed Starc's first match since the second Test against India in March and Smith backed his spearhead to come good in their second match of the one-day international tournament against Bangladesh.

"Let's hope it's rust and let's hope it's gone," said Smith. "Because that was pretty ordinary. "Credit to

them they came out quite hard and played quite well up top and got their innings going.

"Kane timed his innings beautifully, played really well throughout the middle but we did not bowl well at all."

CYCLING

WINLESS CHRIS FROOME CONFIDENT FOR DAUPHINE

PARIS: Chris Froome heads into the start of the week-long Criterium du Dauphine today with uncertainty surrounding his form and fitness.

The 32-year-old Briton is aiming for a record fourth Dauphine victory and third in a row after also succeeding in 2013, 2015 and 2016. And each time he has previously won the main warm-up race for the Tour de France, he has gone on to be crowned at the Grand Boucle too a month later. Yet contrary to his recent years of successes, Froome comes into this year's Dauphine without a single win in 2017.

But the Team Sky leader seems relaxed. "I'm happy with where my form is right now.

Everything is looking good and I'm looking forward to putting all the training into practice," he said. "I think the line-up of riders at the Dauphine is particularly impressive this year in terms of GC (overall) contenders and other Tour rivals, so it should be a big test and a real challenge.

"I'm going there hoping to win, but I'm fully conscious that I'm going up against some very strong competition-probably stronger competition than I've had at previous editions of the Dauphine-so I'm certainly not taking anything for granted."

And well he shouldn't. In 2013 he arrived at the Dauphine having already won the tours of Romandie and Oman, the Criterium International

and finished second at Tirreno-Adriatico. His best result so far this year was sixth at the lightly-regarded Herald Sun Tour, won by the unheralded Australian Damien Howson. Froome was also knocked off his bike by a car while training in France last month, although he emerged unscathed. And he seems unconcerned by his lack of results. "This time of the year it always feels like it's really getting towards the business part of my season. I'm coming off the back of two great blocks of training with the guys up in Tenerife, which has got me in great shape and ready for the challenges ahead."

Former lieutenant Richie Porte will be amongst

his chief rivals, with the Australian having enjoyed a strong start to the season, winning the tours of Romandie and Down Under, while also claiming a stage at Paris-Nice. Romain Bardet, second to Froome at last year's Tour de France, should also push the Brit close, although he too has had little to cheer this season, a 10th-placed finish at the Tour of Catalonia his best result. Ireland's Dan Martin and Spanish veteran Alberto Contador, as well as Colombia's Esteban Chaves could have their say.

The race begins with a hilly 170km stage around Saint Etienne with eight categorised climbs, before ending a week later with an hors category ascent to Plateau de Solaison. — AFP

GUST MEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM WINS FIRST PLACE IN SERBIA

KUWAIT: GUST men's football team attended and won first at the 2017 Belgrade International University Sports Tournament (BeST) in Belgrade, Serbia. The tournament brought together 17 different universities from across Europe, Russia, Asia, and the Middle East to compete at an international level, experience different cultures, and forge international friendships.

The BeST tournaments have been taking place every year in Belgrade for the past nine years. This is the second year GUST has participated in this event, with two teams participating in the Men's Football and Women's Futsal categories, which concluded with a 3rd place win for the men's football team.

On this occasion, Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Raghad Al Kazemi, said "We are very excited for this win, which is proof of our students' dedication and persistence. This also follows the win of our women's football team at the University Athletics Association of Kuwait (UAAK) championship this season. The sky is our limit now!"

The standout team of the tournament was the GUST men's football team, who won 1st place at the competition, after challenging games against DIF University, Serbia, Rekreatio, Serbia, GUST, American College of Greece, and Sabanci University, Turkey, who also attended the final match against FON University, Serbia where the team won on penalties after a last minute equalizer through full time. Representatives from the Kuwaiti Embassy also attended the matches in a show of support, and to see the GUST men's football team in action.

BeST Organizer, Sonja Milicevic, said, "It is our pleasure to host GUST's football

team at Best for a second year. We were impressed by the team's determination and display of fair play last year, which they were able to maintain and improve this year. Seeing them turn a loss into a win in the last minute of the final game just comes to show how much practice and hard work went into their preparations. We hope to host GUST again in our upcoming tournaments with more teams and more gold."

The team spent eight days in Belgrade, and started training right upon arrival at the FK Partizan training ground, one of the top local football clubs, which was arranged by the Kuwaiti embassy at Belgrade.

GUST Athletics Director, Craig Drennan, said, "Winning the Men's Football Tournament in Belgrade at BeST2017 is an achievement that both GUST and Kuwait can be proud of. The win demonstrated that the skill level of our student athletes is as good as anywhere in the world and it is a credit to the dedication and hard work of the team and their coach Mohammed Jaber Al Shemmeri that they prevailed to win under difficult circumstances. It goes without saying that I am incredibly proud of our team and our staff who all played an important role in this victory. I hope that we can continue to provide our student athletes with the opportunity to compete in international tournaments as they provide important competitive, educational and cultural exchanges using the international language of sport."

Previous wins and achievements of GUST teams include a 1st place win at the 2015 UAAK Men's Football Tournament, and another 1st place win at the 2015 UAAK Women's Football Tournament.



RENNES: Olivier Giroud of France, center, jubilates as he scores the first goal against Paraguay during their friendly soccer match, in Rennes, western France, Friday. — AP

SOCCER

GIROUD HAT-TRICK LIFTS FRANCE PAST PARAGUAY

RENNES: An Olivier Giroud hat-trick helped France brush aside Paraguay 5-0 in an international friendly at Rennes on Friday.

The Arsenal striker became the first France international to score a treble since David Trezeguet achieved the feat in 2000. He opened the scoring for Didier Deschamps's team in the sixth minute, doubling up in the 13th and getting his hat-trick and his 16th international goal in as many games in the 69th minute.

The scoring was completed by Tottenham's Moussa Sissoko and Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann to give France the perfect confidence booster ahead of the 2018 World Cup qualifier against Sweden in Stockholm on June 9. In Group A the Euro 2016 finalists France head Group A by three points from Sweden.

The win put France back on track after their 2-0 loss to Spain in a friendly in March. Giroud's first goal was a volley after an assist from Ousmane Dembele, his second a header with Dmitri Payet providing the pass, completing his hat-trick after a clever assist from second half substitute Lucas Digne. "That's good, I had great support from my teammates, I helped finish the team's work and I'm happy because that rewards all the squad who work and live together well," Giroud told French television TMC. Deschamps too was more than satisfied with his side's showing. "Our forwards scored, that's good. Now I know that we have an altogether different game coming up against Sweden."

On Giroud's bold display Deschamps said: "He's our best scorer, he continues to get goals

and when he's not scoring himself he helps others around him score.

"And he produces this sort of display even when he's had a difficult season with his club." Assessing the challenge lying ahead next week in Stockholm Deschamps added: "As we are facing a team just behind us in the table a good or very good result over there will place us in an even better situation to qualify for the World Cup."

After five qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, France top Group A on 13 points, three ahead of Sweden in second with Bulgaria on nine in third and the Netherlands on seven in fourth.

After Sweden France are scheduled to face England in a friendly in Paris on June 13. — AFP



AL-SHAHED AND AL-SEYASSAH IN RAMADAN SOCCER FINALS

KUWAIT: Within Annahar Ramadan Soccer Tourney for newspapers and magazines, Al-Shahed and Al-Seyassah teams recently qualified the final match after respectively beating Al-Wasat and Al-Rai by 3-2 and 5-4. The matches were played at the High Institute for Navigation

and Communication in Shuwaikh. Notably, the tourney is held in collaboration with KJA and under auspices of Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah.



GARETH BALE'S CARDIFF MEMORIES

DUBAI: With just over 48 hours to go until the climax of the UEFA Champions League season - Real Madrid C.F. winger and Nissan global ambassador Gareth Bale has spoken about what the Final's host city, Cardiff, means to him.

As well as reflecting on his favourite memories, places to visit and what lifting the trophy in his beloved Welsh capital would mean, Gareth revealed it was his love of the beautiful game that sometimes got him into trouble on Cardiff's streets. Speaking to Nissan - the official global automotive sponsor of the UEFA Champions League - he said:



"I just remember watching football at my parents' house..." He joked "I always got in trouble over at my friend's house [playing football]. The old woman used to come out and call the police on us."

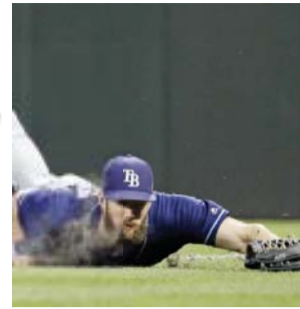
Since becoming the most famous Welsh footballer on the planet, Gareth also talked about special murals which have popped up around the city to celebrate him. "It's a bit strange obviously. Growing up in Cardiff and just being a normal Cardiff boy...then seeing massive drawings on walls in the street of you."

He also had some recommendations of where football fans heading to Cardiff this weekend might want to visit ahead of the match on Saturday night.

"Cardiff Castle is amazing. Then I think maybe just down in Cardiff Bay, there is a nice Nandos (restaurant) down there...so all good!" Gareth also spoke of his pride that the UEFA Champions League Final is being held in his home town and what it would mean to him to lift the trophy on home soil.

"To host the UEFA Champions League Final will obviously boost the economy and everything else around Cardiff as well. The UEFA Champions League trophy is obviously the number one trophy to lift and to have all my friends and family in my home city, it really would be a dream come true."

Sports

Frustrated Lions
say 'plenty
to work on'Cabrera, Martinez
lead Tigers in 15-5
win over White Sox

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017

KUMBLE-KOHLI ROW CLOUDS INDIA-PAKISTAN OPENER

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CARDIFF: Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos raises the trophy after the Champions League final soccer match between Juventus and Real Madrid at the Millennium stadium in Cardiff, Wales yesterday. — AP

TWO-GOAL RONALDO KEEPS MADRID KINGS OF EUROPE

CARDIFF: Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Real Madrid crushed Juventus 4-1 in Cardiff yesterday to become the first team to retain the European Cup in the Champions League era.

The Portugal superstar's opener was cancelled out by an astonishing Mario Mandzukic strike, but goals from Casemiro, Ronaldo and Marco Asensio secured Madrid's third Champions League triumph in four years and 12th in total. Now a four-time Champions League winner, Ronaldo finished as the competition's top scorer for the fifth season running, substantially enhancing his chances of matching eternal rival Lionel Messi's tally of five Ballons d'Or.

Zinedine Zidane, a head coach for only 17 months, became the first manager to oversee back-to-back European Cup successes since Arrigo Sacchi's fabled AC Milan team won the tournament in 1989 and 1990.

It crowns a glorious season for Madrid, who have pulled off a La Liga and European Cup double for the first time since 1958, having also won the Club World Cup and European Super Cup. Zidane's triumph was his former club Juve's misery, Massimiliano Allegri's side crashing to a fifth successive defeat in Champions League finals and seventh in total, extending their own desperately unwanted record.

The first Champions League final to be

played beneath a closed roof saw Juve hit their heads against a familiar ceiling as they missed out on a chance to complete the first Treble in their history. The Italian champions also had substitute Juan Cuadrado sent off after he was shown a second yellow card for a gentle push on Sergio Ramos that drew a comical overreaction from the Madrid skipper.

Kick-off at the Principality Stadium was delayed by two minutes due to an elaborate pre-match ceremony involving American pop act the Black Eyed Peas and when play got under way, Juve settled first.

Gonzalo Higuain worked Keylor Navas twice, while Miralem Pjanic's snappy half-volley forced the Madrid goalkeeper to produce a smart one-handed save.

Madrid drew first blood in the 20th minute when Ronaldo flicked the ball wide to Dani Carvajal before artfully sweeping the Spaniard's return pass into the bottom-left corner via a nick off Leonardo Bonucci.

MANDZUKIC MASTERPIECE

It was a fine strike, and it made Ronaldo the first player to have scored in three finals in the Champions League era, but it was cancelled out by Mandzukic's masterpiece, one of the great European Cup final goals. Bonucci's flighted pass from deep was volleyed into the box by

Alex Sandro and Higuain chested the ball down before teeing it up for Mandzukic.

The Croatian forward took a touch with his chest and then, as he fell, hooked a sublime volley over Navas's despairing dive and beneath the crossbar. After the break it was Zidane's men who set the tempo. Luka Modric had a 25-yard effort caught by Gianluigi Buffon and Marcelo narrowly failed to pick out Ronaldo with a cross from the left before Casemiro put Madrid ahead in the 61st minute.

A loose ball broke to him on the edge of the box and the Brazilian midfielder unleashed a right-foot shot that flicked off the heels of Madrid old boy Sami Khedira before spinning past the helpless Buffon.

Three minutes later it was game over as Ronaldo netted his 12th goal in the tournament, moving a goal clear of Messi.

Modric sped to the byline on the right and crossed and Ronaldo darted ahead of Bonucci at the near post to guide a shot past Buffon.

Cardiff native Gareth Bale made an appearance as a late replacement for Karim Benzema, having been out since April 23 with a calf injury.

Alex Sandro headed wide from a Dani Alves free-kick, but Juve's fire went out when Cuadrado was given his marching orders and substitute Asensio added to their grief with a late tap-in from Marcelo's cut-back. — AFP



CARDIFF: Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo jumps kicking the ball during the Champions League Final soccer match between Juventus and Real Madrid at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales, yesterday. — AP



PARIS: Britain's Andy Murray returns the ball to Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro during their tennis match at the Roland Garros 2017 French Open yesterday in Paris. — AFP

MURRAY DOWNS DEL POTRO, FRENCH WOMEN FEUD

PARIS: Andy Murray downed longtime rival Juan Martin del Potro to reach the Roland Garros last 16 yesterday while French hopes were overshadowed by a bitter feud between two of their top stars.

World number one Murray triumphed 7-6 (10/8), 7-5, 6-0 for his seventh win in 10 meetings with Del Potro whose challenge fizzled out after squandering four set points in the 87-minute opener. Murray, the runner-up to Novak Djokovic in 2016, will next face either John Isner of the United States or Russia's Karen Khachanov.

That match was one of six third round ties to be completed today after rain caused an early cancellation. "Whoever won that first set would have the momentum as it would have been very difficult to come back in these heavy, slow conditions," said Murray. "He was playing much better than me in the first set. He had chances in the first set, he double faulted on set point." In a titanic first set, Del Potro wasted four set points then saved two before Murray pounced when the Argentine star narrowly miscued.

The 28-year-old slumped over the net and stayed that way during most of the changeover to catch his breath. Del Potro, playing in Paris for the first time in five years after a series of wrist injuries, was quickly a break down in the second set. He retrieved it when Murray served for the set in the 10th game before handing the advantage straight back. Murray seized his lifeline, a fourth ace giving him a two-set lead.

WEARY DEL POTRO

Weary Del Potro, who beat Murray in the Davis Cup semi-finals last year to avenge his defeat in the Olympics final, managed just 11 points in the third set. "Andy proved he is a real No. 1," said Del Potro. "He is one of the smartest guys on the circuit."

Third seed Stan Wawrinka saved four set points in the opener before running away with 16 of the last 19 games to beat Italy's Fabio Fognini 7-6 (7/2), 6-0, 6-2.

Former US Open champion Marin Cilic continued his

smooth progress seeing off Feliciano Lopez, who was limited by a neck injury, 6-1, 6-3, 6-3.

Croatian seventh seed Cilic will next meet South Africa's Kevin Anderson who matched his best run with a five-set win over Britain's Kyle Edmund. Anderson twice recovered from a set down to advance 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/4), 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 in just under four hours in a duel between two players born in Johannesburg.

The rain suspension was good news for Japanese eighth seed Kei Nishikori who was two sets to one up on South Korea's Hyeon Chung but a double break down in the fourth set at 0-3.

In the women's event, France have three women in the last 16 for the first time in 23 years. However, that success is overshadowed by a bitter feud between compatriots Alize Cornet and Caroline Garcia who will clash for a place in the quarter-finals.

Cornet reached the last 16 for just the second time with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Polish ninth seed Agnieszka Radwanska who lost all her seven service games. Garcia, seeded 28, made the fourth round of a Slam for the first time with a 6-4, 4-6, 9-7 win over Taiwan's world number 109 Hsieh Su-Wei.

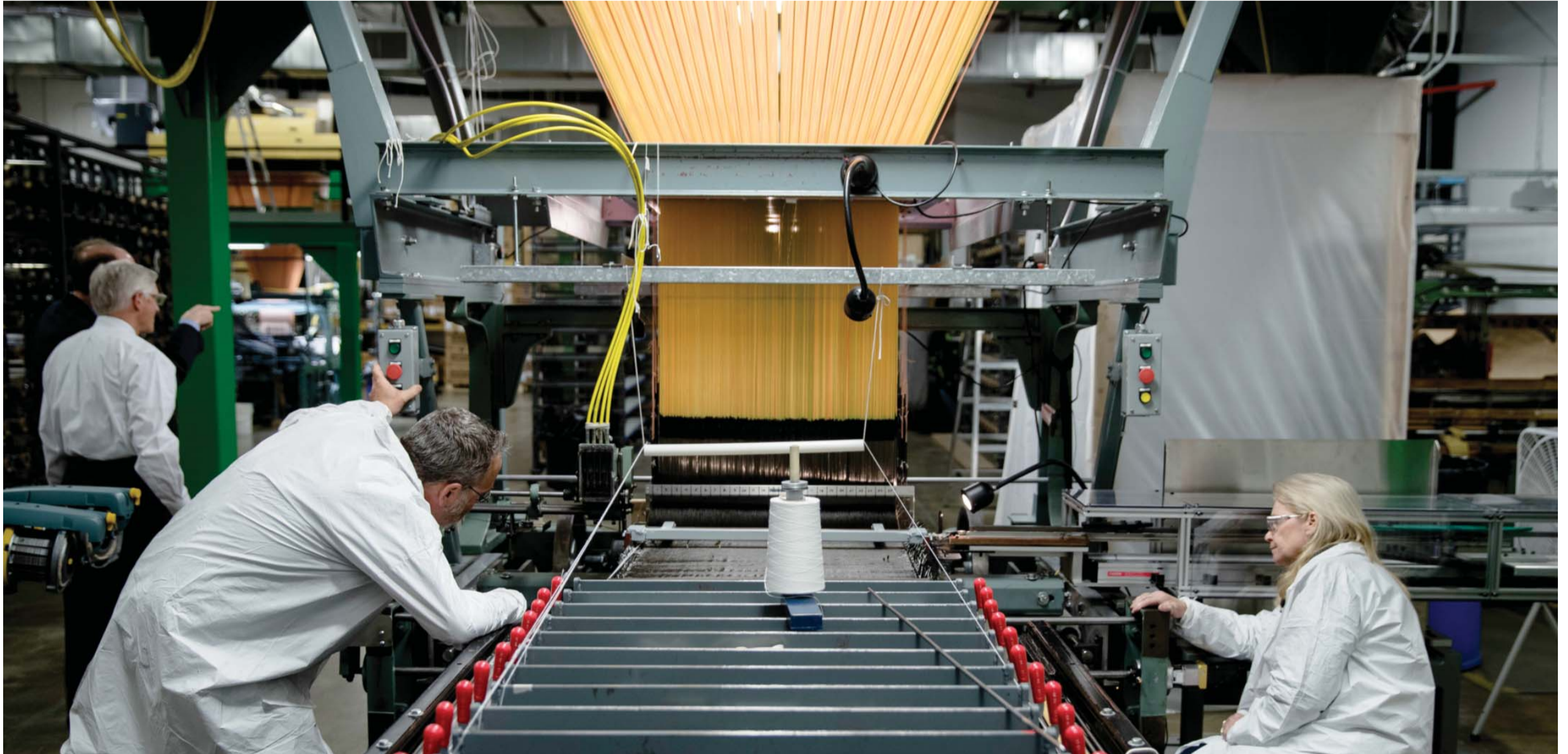
Those wins guaranteed the home nation will have at least one quarter-finalist in Paris for the first time since Marion Bartoli in 2011. However, Cornet admitted that her relationship with Garcia has virtually broken down.

"I think that the relationship is not very good," said 27-year-old Cornet. "I think she may have a grudge against us." Garcia fell out with her teammates earlier this year after she pulled out of a Fed Cup tie. Romanian third seed and 2014 runner-up Simona Halep sealed her place in the fourth round with a 6-0, 7-5 win over Russia's Daria Kasatkina.

Halep, 25, will face Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro for a place in the quarter-finals. Suarez Navarro, the 21st seed and a two-time quarter-finalist, made the fourth round for the fifth time. She eased past Russian 14th seed Elena Vesnina 6-4, 6-4 in a match which featured a 17-minute service game, punctuated by 11 deuces, for the Russian in the second set. — AFP



ZAIN LAUNCHES 'A BUNDLE OF JOY TWICE' CAMPAIGN



BALLY: In this March 23, 2017 file photo, workers manufacture thermal protection systems for NASA at Bally Ribbon Mills in Bally, Pa. — AP

US DATA SIGNAL SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED WORKERS
 ECONOMY ADDS 138,000 JOBS, UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS

WASHINGTON: Are employers starting to run out of workers to hire? A hiring pullback reported in Friday's US jobs data for May raises that prospect. The economy added just 138,000 jobs, which was still high enough to help cut the unemployment rate to a 16-year low of 4.3 percent. With the recovery from the Great Recession having reached its eighth year, hiring is gradually weakening.

"It's definitely becoming an increasing problem for businesses - finding qualified workers," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities. "The pool has diminished considerably." Not only did employers slow their hiring during May. The government also revised downward its estimate of job growth in March and April by a combined 66,000. Monthly gains have averaged 121,000 the past three months, compared with 181,000 over the past 12 months. As recently as 2015, job growth averaged 226,000 a month.

Companies are now choosing from among a smaller pool of applicants, especially for those who have the education or skills they need. "Given reports that job openings are near all-time highs, it suggests that businesses are struggling to fill these positions," said Beth Ann Bovino, US chief economist for S&P Global Ratings.

For now, most analysts think job growth remains solid enough for the Federal Reserve to feel confident about raising interest rates again when it meets in two weeks. One

unusual characteristic of today's job market is that the unemployment rate keeps falling even as hiring has slowed. Economists say the main reason is that the proportion of adults who either have a job or are looking or one has remained unusually low. Once people stop looking for a job, they're no longer counted as unemployed.

Contributing to the trend has been the continuing retirements of America's vast generation of baby boomers. In addition, companies are increasingly seeking workers with college degrees or specialized know-how - construction experience, for example, or a background in machine automation. As they do, the less-qualified are finding it harder to land work, and some have grown discouraged and given up their searches.

"After the recession, we saw employers hire people with higher levels of qualifications, and it seems like that habit has stuck through the recovery," said Cathy Barrera, chief economic adviser at the jobs firm ZipRecruiter. Historically, declining unemployment tends to lead to strong pay raises. So far, that hasn't happened broadly across the economy. Average hourly earnings have risen a middling 2.5 percent over the past year.

Bright spots

There were some bright spots in May's jobs report that reflect an economy that continues to run neither too hot

nor too cold, with economic growth holding at a tepid 2 percent annual rate.

Few foresee another downturn looming, in part because the recovery from the recession has been steady but grinding, and there's been little sign of the sort of overheated pressures that normally trigger a slump.

Food services added 30,300 jobs last month, health care 24,300. Construction added 11,000. As energy prices stabilize somewhat, the mining sector - which includes oil, natural gas, coal and metal ore - added 6,600 jobs. But governments shed 9,000 workers, with the losses concentrated at the state and local level. And manufacturers let go of 1,000. Retailers cut 6,100 jobs.

The slowing job growth contrasts with the euphoric observations of President Donald Trump, who in a speech Thursday took credit for "absolutely tremendous economic progress" since his election.

Trump has yet to sign into law any policies that would change the trajectory of the job market or the economy from President Barack Obama's tenure. The health care overhaul the administration favors is being reworked in the Senate. And its proposed tax cuts have come only in a one-page outline, without the details that would need to be vetted by Congress.

Still, if hiring maintains even its current slower pace, it would exceed population growth, and the unemployment

rate should eventually fall even further below its current 4.3 percent, a level associated with a healthy economy. At some point, pay should start to rise more sharply, especially in industries with hard-to-find skilled or educated workers.

For now, some companies that are hiring have no plans to raise pay much. One is Atlanta-based Workout Anytime Companies, which runs 24-hour-a-day gyms. It plans to open 47 franchises before year's end, adding 400 jobs. But because most of its positions are entry-level jobs geared for younger workers, the company has been able to pay them in part through bonuses rather than hourly raises.

"We're not seeing a lot of upward pressure on hourly wages," said Mark de Gorter, the chief operating officer. Pay gains may be weak in part because one crucial ingredient for economic growth - worker productivity - has been sluggish. Workers generally enjoy higher incomes once they generate more value per hour on the job. "There is not going to be a big turnaround in wage growth until productivity picks up," said Andrew Chamberlain, chief economist at the jobs site Glassdoor. Other economists suggest that broad pay gains tend to occur after a lag and that the low unemployment rate should lead to higher wages within the next 18 months. "We would be surprised if wages were still running under 3 percent, for example, when we get to the end of 2018," said Chris Rupkey, managing director at MUF Union Bank. — AP

AFTER SETBACKS, ALASKA SPACE BUSINESS AGAIN HAS HIGH HOPES

JUNEAU, Alaska: When most people think of Alaska, they picture its thick forests, hulking grizzly bears and soaring, snow-covered peaks. What they might not imagine is rockets whisking defense and other payloads into space. But America's northernmost state has that too, entering the high-tech aerospace business more than 25 years ago as it looked to diversify its oil-reliant economy.

The state-owned Alaska Aerospace Corp. hit a low point after a rocket exploded at its launch site in 2014 amid a deepening state deficit. The governor later gave it an ultimatum: Become self-sustaining or shut down. Today, Alaska Aerospace has rebuilt its launch site and is again showing signs of liftoff. It is no longer confined to Alaska or government contracts, recently winning, for example, a deal with Rocket Lab to track the company's rockets and monitor its onboard systems in New Zealand.

Gov. Bill Walker said he is impressed by the corporation's aggressive pursuit of contracts and its "transformation." His budget office recently freed \$2.2 million in state money previously earmarked for the corporation for launch site improvements.

"Two years ago, we had a failed rocket, and we had a destroyed facility, and we had no customers," Alaska Aerospace CEO Craig Campbell said. "We've turned the corner." Alaska sought to develop its aerospace sector in 1991 as states and private organizations were looking to capture a piece of a space industry that had once been the domain of NASA.

Alaska Aerospace now runs one of 10 commercial launch sites in the US that are regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration. Some are co-located with federal facilities or have buzzy partnerships. The anchor tenant at New

Mexico's state-owned Spaceport America is Virgin Galactic. Campbell is tight-lipped about some of the business at Alaska Aerospace's launch site on Kodiak Island - about 250 air miles (402 kilometers) southwest of Anchorage in the Gulf of Alaska - because of proprietary concerns. But the remote site is well-positioned for polar launches, which often are used for communication and weather satellites and those that take images of Earth.

An advantage Alaska has over major launch sites is a lack of wait times, said Micah Walter-Range, research and analysis director for the Space Foundation, a space advocacy organization. A boom in smaller satellites tied to cheaper hardware components and other factors also presents opportunity, he said. The corporation launched its first rocket in 1998. It had another 16 launches through 2014, when a rocket carrying an experimental Army strike weapon was blown up after taking off from Kodiak Island. All of the launches it conducted were for the federal government, including NASA.

The blast, which damaged launch site facilities, proved pivotal, coinciding with a ballooning state deficit and a diminished appetite among some Alaska legislators to put more state funding toward what some at that time saw as a money-sucking novelty. State Rep. Scott Kawasaki, a frequent corporation critic, said Alaska Aerospace officials for the past 10 years have said things will be "wildly great." But Kawasaki said the reality has never measured up.

Multilayer contract

Still, the Fairbanks Democrat said he's willing to give the corporation time to prove itself amid a changing industry. "I just don't want them to keep overpromising because this Legislature

doesn't have the money to bail them out in the future," Kawasaki said.

Besides rebuilding its launch site, Alaska Aerospace opened an office in Alabama to try to better compete for aerospace business and landed a multiyear contract, worth up to \$80 million, with the federal Missile Defense Agency to test its system for detecting incoming missiles.

In addition, the corporation is evaluating building a second launch site closer to the equator so it can handle a wider range of satellites. Campbell called equatorial launches the "predominate orbit to meet the majority of the Earth's population."

Still, Alaska Aerospace remains at a critical juncture, with several launches lined up for this year and next and high hopes for becoming more profitable and further establishing itself in the industry.

Campbell's goal is to have at least six launches a year. So far this year, he expects two as part of the Missile Defense testing program and one involving a company working on a small rocket. He declined to identify the company. The corporation has 16 staff, down from 44 when Campbell took over. It also has a contingency of about 14 contractors, many of whom are former corporation employees, he said.

State Rep. Louise Stutes, a Kodiak Republican, said an influx of activity surrounding a launch boosts the region's economy, though she noted the need to at times close roads for activities at the site has rankled some residents. About 13,500 people live in the Kodiak Island Borough.

Stutes, one of two nonvoting legislative members on the corporation's board, called the facility first-class and a great asset.

"You just think, 'Oh my God. This is in Kodiak!'" she said. — AP

INDIAN TYCOON TRIES TO SOOTHE RELCOMM FEARS

MUMBAI: Indian billionaire Anil Ambani insisted Friday that debt-saddled Reliance Communications had a bright future as he moved to reassure investors who are worried that the telecoms company is close to defaulting on loans. The 57-year-old tycoon, whose telecommunications business is being squeezed by his brother's own mobile network venture, made a rare address to the media a day after Fitch Ratings downgraded RelComm to junk status.

Fitch said Thursday that RelComm's debts of 440 billion rupees (\$6.84 billion) meant that a loan default was a "real possibility". It came after Moody's also downgraded RelComm's status this week, citing a "fragile" liquidity situation. "We are taking steps now to reduce our debt by 60 percent. Reliance Communication's future is bright and I assure all investors they'll be happy with our performance," Ambani said in Mumbai.

He told a hastily arranged press conference that RelComm would pay off 250 billion rupees of its debt to lenders by the end of September, owing to its proposed merger with Aircel and the sale of its mobile tower business. In December RelComm announced it was selling its towers to Canadian asset management giant Brookfield for \$1.6 billion while it is in the process of merging with Aircel to form a new telecoms venture called Aircom. RelComm's finances have been badly hit by the arrival of Reliance Jio, backed by conglomerate Reliance Industries, into India's hugely competitive telecommunications market last year. Jio



MUMBAI: Indian industrialist and Reliance ADAG CEO Anil Ambani speaks during a news conference in Mumbai on Friday. — AFP

is owned by Mukesh Ambani-India's richest man and Anil's older brother-and has sparked a price war since launching in September, forcing rivals to scramble around to match its deep pockets.

Some 33.1 billion rupees (\$513 million) has been wiped from RelComm's market value this year, according to Bloomberg News, with its shares down around 40 percent since the start of 2017.

"We were disappointed with the recent downgrade by rating agencies and will work and engage with them to restore our credit ratings," Anil Ambani whose net worth is \$2.7 billion according to Forbes, told reporters. RelComm's travails also come as India tackles a major debt problem in the country. Indian banks are saddled with some of highest levels of non-performing loans in emerging markets, according to the International Monetary Fund. — AFP

ZAIN LAUNCHES 'A BUNDLE OF JOY TWICE' CAMPAIGN

ON THE OCCASION OF THE ARRIVAL OF HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of "A Bundle of Joy Twice", a new promotional campaign that comes on the occasion of the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan. The new campaign introduces doubled benefits for the same price on the company's most advanced network.

Zain's new offer, celebrating the arrival of the holy month, includes a number of great features, including doubled benefits for the same price for both existing and new customers. The campaign is designed to benefit postpaid and prepaid customers, as well as postpaid and prepaid Internet plans customers.

As part of the new campaign, new postpaid customers subscribing to the

KD 31 monthly plan with 24 months commitment will get a free smartphone and a free entertainment device, as well as a free platinum number, 500 GBs of 4G LTE Internet, unlimited local minutes, and unlimited local SMS messages.

Additionally, new postpaid customers who subscribe to the KD 40 plan with 24 months commitment will get a FREE smartphone, FREE Platinum number, a FREE additional device (either smartphone or a gaming console and a tablet), as well as 1 TB of 4G LTE, unlimited local minutes, and unlimited local SMS messages.

Zain's existing postpaid customers will enjoy unlimited 4G LTE Internet when adding KD 5 only to any of their existing plans by visiting connect.kw.zain.com or sending 5 in an

SMS to 90009. New customers subscribing to any of the postpaid Internet plans will enjoy doubled 4G LTE Internet capacities for the same existing prices starting at 6KD/500GBs, while new customers subscribing to prepaid Internet plans will also get double GBs for 5 KD only. Zain's existing postpaid and prepaid Internet plans customers will enjoy unlimited 4G LTE Internet when adding KD 5 only to any of their existing plans by visiting connect.kw.zain.com.

Zain's new prepaid customers will be able to enjoy double the amount when recharging their prepaid line for the first time within 3 days starting from 1.5KD recharge. Existing prepaid customers will enjoy unlimited 4G LTE Internet when adding KD 5 only to any of their existing

plans by visiting connect.kw.zain.com or sending 5 in an SMS to 90009.

Zain's new campaign on all its plans is part of the company's commitment to offer the most flexible and competitive offerings in the market, reinforcing its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best services and offers to meet customers' practical and personal telecommunications needs.

The new offer was specifically designed to complement the needs and aspirations of the largest family of subscribers in Kuwait. By launching this campaign, Zain aims at creating a new concept for the services it offers, as well as offering convenience with flexible and convenient plans that meet the different personal and professional needs of customers.



Source: Ministry of Justice, NBK estimates

Source: Ministry of Justice

KUWAIT REAL ESTATE SECTOR SALES PLUNGE 30% IN APRIL

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: The real estate market softened in April following a surprisingly active month in March. Real estate sales totaled KD 137 million, down 30 percent y/y, as the investment and commercial sectors record anemic sales in April. The residential sector was more buoyant, rising 36 percent y/y supported by increased appetite for residential homes. Real estate prices across most sectors continued to hold, though residential land prices showed some weakness.

The residential sector continued to provide support for the real estate market in April. Sales reached KD 82 million during the month, on 288 transactions. KD sales have improved by 36 percent for the year, supported by a rise in transactions by 55 percent y/y. However, the sector struggled to retain traction as activity calmed down significantly from the previous month. March saw transactions soar to 358, the highest in almost two years.

Residential real estate prices retreated slightly in April, but continued to show a stabilizing trend. The NBK residential home price index stood at 150.8 point, up 0.2 percent for the month. The index has been stable and in the vicinity of 151-152 points for eight months, though it remains down 10.4 percent y/y. The NBK residential land price index retreated slightly in April to 172.2 points. This index was down 11.9 percent y/y.

Investment sector activity recorded the lowest sales in the last seven months. Sales came in at KD 42 million, down 43 percent y/y. The number of transactions lagged as well, dropping by 59 per-

Table 1: Real estate sales

| | Monthly average | | 2017 | | April 2017 | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | Feb | Mar | Apr | % m/m | % y/y |
| Sales (KD mn) | 253.5 | 195 | 155.0 | 255.3 | 136.8 | -46.4 | -30.0 |
| Residential property | 113.4 | 79 | 77.1 | 175.5 | 81.7 | -53.5 | 36.1 |
| Investment property | 102.2 | 68 | 54.9 | 59.8 | 42.4 | -29.1 | -43.5 |
| Commercial property | 37.9 | 48 | 23 | 20 | 12.7 | -36.4 | -78.9 |
| Number of transactions | 452 | 354 | 353 | 436 | 351 | -19.5 | 2.3 |
| Residential property | 323 | 237 | 227 | 358 | 288 | -19.6 | 54.8 |
| Investment property | 120 | 108 | 119 | 73 | 60 | -17.8 | -58.9 |
| Commercial property | 8 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | -40.0 | -72.7 |
| Transaction size (KD '000) | 566 | 547 | 439.1 | 585.6 | 389.7 | -33.4 | -31.6 |
| Residential property | 352 | 332 | 339.6 | 490.2 | 283.6 | -42.1 | -12.1 |
| Investment property | 882 | 646 | 461.3 | 819.2 | 706.3 | -13.8 | 37.6 |
| Commercial property | 5,185 | 5,204 | 3285.7 | 4000.0 | 4240.0 | 6.0 | -22.8 |

cent from the previous year. The rise in vacant apartments since the end of 2015 has exercised downward pressure on rents. However, easing rent inflation only became visible in the housing services component of the CPI in March 2017. Housing inflation, mostly comprised of housing rents, slowed from 6.4 percent y/y in Q1 to a three-year low of 4.3 percent y/y in Q1.

Investment building prices logged a slight gain for the month. The NBK investment building price index stood at 183.3 points, up 0.8 percent for the

month. Though the index is down 12.7 percent y/y, it appears also to have bottomed out in tandem with prices in the residential sector; the index has hovered around similar levels for five months.

Commercial sector activity remains weak, recording only three transactions in April. The softness in the sector's sales and activity is expected as the commercial sector saw an exceptionally strong 2016. The sector recorded sales of KD 12.7 million in April, including a KD 6 million transaction for a building in Qibla.

LULULEMON BEATS FORECASTS, TO CLOSE MOST IVIVVA STORES

VANCOUVER, British Columbia: Shares of Lululemon Athletic Inc jumped on Friday after the company reported better-than-expected earnings and announced plans to shutter most of its Iiviva brand stores.

The Vancouver, British Columbia-based company said it had profit of \$31.2 million, or 23 cents per share. That includes restructuring costs of \$17.7 million from its plan to close 40 of its 55

Iviva stores, which sell activewear for girls. About half of the remaining Iviva stores will be converted to Lululemon stores, the company said. The Iiviva brand will mainly be an e-commerce business.

Excluding the restructuring costs, Lululemon's fiscal first-quarter earnings were 32 cents per share. The 17 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research had expected earn-

ings of 28 cents per share. Lululemon's stock surged more than 15 percent to \$56.04 in after-hours trading. Lululemon CEO Laurent Potdevin said the positive trends that started near the end of the first quarter have continued into the second quarter. "Our current outlook for the remainder of 2017 is strong, and I'm energized by the growth strategies taking shape," Potdevin said. —AP

| Draw | Transaction Period - 2017 | | Draw Date |
|------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | From | To | |
| 1 | 1 June | 30 June | 12 July |
| 2 | 1 July | 31 July | 9 Aug |
| 3 | 1 August | 31 August | 13 Sep |

ABK LAUNCHES SUMMER PROMOTION 'SPEND AND WIN SKYWARDS MILES'

KUWAIT: Kick-starting the summer with an exciting new campaign, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced its latest 'Spend and Win Skywards Miles' promotion, which entails a series of monthly draws for ABK Emirates cardholders. ABK will be awarding 3 million Skywards Miles - 1 million Skywards Miles every month during the promotion period, which will run for a total of three months, from 1st June to 31st August, 2017. Emirates Skywards is the award-winning frequent flyer program of Emirates.



To take part in one of the three monthly draws, ABK Emirates 'Visa Infinite' and 'Visa Signature' Credit Cardholders and prepaid 'Visa Gold Travel' cardholders need to spend a minimum of KD 100 during the transaction periods specified below. Customers will automatically enter the draw to win the first, second or third prize of 500,000; 300,000 or 200,000 Skywards Miles respectively each month.

For ABK Emirates Visa Infinite and Visa Signature credit cardholders, local and international transactions through POS and/or cash withdrawals qualify to enter the draws. Whereas for ABK Emirates Prepaid Visa Gold Travel cardholders' local

and international transactions through POS qualify to enter the draws.

ABK Emirates cardholders interested in participating in this promotion will gain 1 draw point for every KD 10 spent locally and 3 draw points for every KD 10 spent overseas. For purchases made on emirates.com using a valid ABK Emirates Prepaid or Credit card during the campaign period will allow the cardholder to earn double the draw points.

The more points earned by ABK cardholders the higher the chances to win. Cardholders that win in any of the draws are qualified to participate further in subsequent draws, giving customers the chance to win more than once!

NREC HOLDS ITS 46TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

KUWAIT: The National Real Estate Company (NREC), one of the leading real estate companies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), held its 46th Annual General Meeting of Shareholders (AGM) yesterday in Kuwait.



NREC Chairman Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa

The Assembly approved all the items on the agenda including the Auditors' Report and the Board of Directors' Report on the company's activities and financial position for the Financial Year ending December 31, 2016. The shareholders also approved the Board of Directors recommendation not to distribute dividends for year 2016 in order to meet growth plan requirements.

NREC Chairman, Faisal Jamil Sultan Al-Essa, said: "Though the regional macroeconomic business environment hasn't improved, we are pleased with the above-

peer performance of our properties and sales activities. Our diversified asset portfolio continues to show its resilience, yielding a double digit growth in operating revenues and continued profitability for five years in-a-row. Our business is healthy and standing on solid fundamentals."

Sidiqi added "We are looking forward to a strong 2017 and anticipate important advances with our key megaprojects."

FY2016 financial highlights:
Operating revenue: KD33.9 million, up 19.2% from 2015

EBITDA: KD19.9 million, down 10% from 2015

Net Profit to shareholders: KD16.1 million, up 4.4% from 2015

Earnings Per Share (EPS) of 17.18 fils
Total Assets of KD528 million; decreased by KD51.8 million from December 2015

Net debt to equity ratio: 0.7
Shareholders' Equity of KD210 million; decreased by KD6.9 million from December 2015.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

| ASIAN COUNTRIES | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Japanese Yen | 2.735 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.713 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.904 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 1.987 |
| Nepali Rupees | 2.958 |
| Singapore Dollar | 220.740 |
| Hongkong Dollar | 39.053 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.766 |
| Philippine Peso | 6.112 |
| Thai Baht | 8.947 |

| GCC COUNTRIES | |
|----------------|---------|
| Saudi Riyal | 81.227 |
| Qatari Riyal | 83.661 |
| Omani Riyal | 791.060 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 808.820 |
| UAE Dirham | 82.931 |

| ARAB COUNTRIES | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Egyptian Pound - Cash | 19.300 |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer | 16.754 |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000 | 1.223 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 127.360 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 429.340 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000 | 2.029 |
| Syrian Lira | 2.170 |
| Morocco Dirham | 31.708 |

| EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| US Dollar Transfer | 304.400 |
| Euro | 341.840 |
| Sterling Pound | 392.070 |
| Canadian dollar | 227.160 |
| Turkish lira | 85.510 |

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Swiss Franc | 313.980 |
| Australian Dollar | 227.690 |
| US Dollar Buying | 303.200 |

| GOLD | |
|---------|---------|
| 20 Gram | 257.510 |
| 10 Gram | 131.680 |
| 5 Gram | 66.680 |

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

| Rate for Transfr | Selling Rate |
|-------------------|--------------|
| US Dollar | 304.050 |
| Canadian Dolla | 226.790 |
| Sterling Pound | 390.765 |
| Euro | 341.475 |
| Swiss Frank | 297.590 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 806.440 |
| UAE Dirhams | 83.175 |
| Qatari Riyals | 84.395 |
| Saudi Riyals | 81.975 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 428.755 |
| Egyptian Pound | 16.931 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 1.989 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.718 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.899 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.774 |
| Philippines Peso | 6.099 |
| Cyprus pound | 167.795 |
| Japanese Yen | 3.730 |
| Syrian Pound | 2.420 |
| Nepalese Rupees | 3.945 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 72.115 |

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 44.765 |
| Thai Bhat | 9.920 |
| Turkish Lira | 85.320 |

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Europe | | |
| British Pound | 0.383991 | 0.393991 |
| Czech Korune | 0.004757 | 0.016757 |
| Danish Krone | 0.041484 | 0.046484 |
| Euro | 0.333398 | 0.342398 |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.032032 | 0.037232 |
| Romanian Leu | 0.074136 | 0.074136 |
| Slovakia | 0.009106 | 0.019106 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.030744 | 0.035744 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.304352 | 0.315352 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.079792 | 0.090092 |
| Australasia | | |
| Australian Dollar | 0.217912 | 0.229912 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.208457 | 0.217957 |
| America | | |
| Canadian Dollar | 0.220567 | 0.229567 |
| Georgina Lari | 0.137551 | 0.137551 |
| US Dollars | 0.300450 | 0.304850 |
| US Dollars Mint | 0.300950 | 0.304850 |
| Asia | | |
| Bangladesh Taka | 0.003389 | 0.003973 |
| Chinese Yuan | 0.042923 | 0.046423 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 0.036990 | 0.039740 |
| Indian Rupee | 0.004128 | 0.004816 |

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000018 | 0.000024 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.002660 | 0.002840 |
| Kenyan Shilling | 0.002939 | 0.002939 |
| Korean Won | 0.000260 | 0.000275 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 0.067159 | 0.073159 |
| Nepalese Rupee | 0.002994 | 0.003164 |
| Pakistan Rupee | 0.002702 | 0.002992 |
| Philippine Peso | 0.005999 | 0.006299 |
| Sierra Leone | 0.000037 | 0.000043 |
| Singapore Dollar | 0.213904 | 0.223904 |
| South African Rand | 0.017349 | 0.025849 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 0.001632 | 0.002212 |
| Taiwan | 0.009949 | 0.010129 |
| Thai Baht | 0.008571 | 0.009121 |
| Arab | | |
| Bahraini Dinar | 0.801254 | 0.809754 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.014013 | 0.019921 |
| Iranian Riyal | 0.000084 | 0.000086 |
| Iraqi Dinar | 0.000190 | 0.000250 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 0.424188 | 0.433188 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound | 0.000151 | 0.00251 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.020324 | 0.044324 |
| Nigerian Naira | 0.000365 | 0.001000 |
| Omani Riyal | 0.784618 | 0.790298 |
| Qatar Riyal | 0.082841 | 0.084291 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.080127 | 0.081427 |
| Syrian Pound | 0.001291 | 0.001511 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 0.122400 | 0.130400 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.079792 | 0.090092 |
| UAE Dirhams | 0.081493 | 0.083193 |
| Yemeni Riyal | 0.000990 | 0.001070 |

NIC HOLDS ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

KUWAIT: National Investments Company (NIC) held its Annual General Assembly meeting on Thursday, 1 June, 2017 at NIC's headquarters in Sharq, Khaleeja Complex. Hamad Al-Ameeri, NIC's Chairman, headed the meeting and presented the Board of Directors' Report for the year 2016 to the shareholders in attendance. In his report, Al-Ameeri noted that 2016 was a year of volatility and instability in all financial markets whether international, regional or local due to the prevailing financial and political conditions during that year. This volatility was the driving force behind NIC adopting a conservative approach in its investment activities during 2016. NIC's conservative approach was mainly followed out of NIC's steadfast belief in the importance of preserving shareholders and clients' assets alike. He further asserted that with regards to the financial results of the company, total revenues amounted to KD 10.613 million, compared to total expenses and precautionary provisions of KD 13.674 million, which resulted in a loss in the amount of KD 3.978 million. Comparatively, 2015 total revenues

amounted to KD 19.535 million, while total expenses and precautionary provisions amounted to KD 25.999 million, thus, achieving a loss of KD 5.574 million, which represents a year-on-year decline in loss of 28.6 percent.

Those figures signified a basic and diluted loss of 5 fils per share of the parent company, compared to the basic and diluted loss of 7 fils per share of the parent company for the year 2015. Whereas, the company achieved an operating profit of KD 3.057 million during 2016.

Al-Ameeri further added that assets under management have exceeded KD 1.5 billion by end of year 2016. This increase is a true depiction and reflection of investors and clients' trust and confidence in the professionalism of NIC's team and its preparedness to handle varied market conditions competently and conservatively which resulted in increasing clients' assets values.

During 2017, Al-Ameeri further asserted that NIC's executive management is adamant to increase its operational profits by concentrating on key investment activities and asset manage-



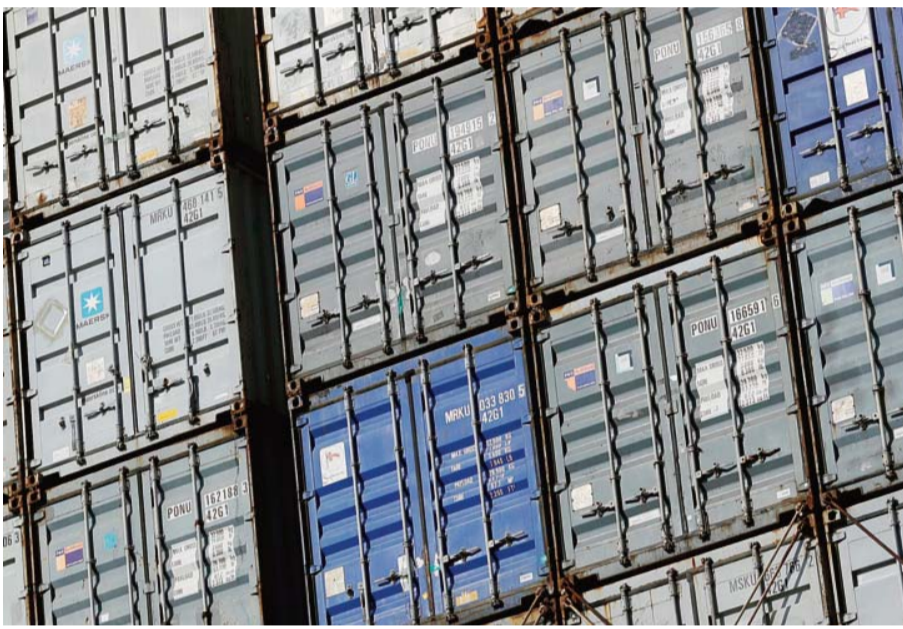
KUWAIT: NIC Chairman Hamad Al-Ameeri presiding over the annual general assembly meeting

ment services, through searching for new investment opportunities locally, regionally and internationally. Additionally, NIC intends to launch new financial products and tools in the local market, thereby diversifying income

streams and improving the financial results during this year.

The AGM further discussed and approved all items on the agenda. Al-Ameeri adjourned the meeting by expressing the Board of Directors'

appreciation to NIC's staff for their hard work and devotion during 2016. Finally, Al-Ameeri expressed his sincere gratitude to all supervisory authorities for their exceptional roles in pushing forward the rudder of development.



BALTIMORE: In this Oct 24, 2016 photo, containers wait to be unloaded from a ship at the Port of Baltimore in Baltimore. —AP

US TRADE DEFICIT RISES TO HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE JAN

WASHINGTON: The US trade deficit rose in April to the highest level since January. The politically sensitive trade gap with China registered a sharp increase. The Commerce Department said Friday that the US trade gap in goods and services climbed 5.2 percent to \$47.6 billion in April from March. Exports dropped 0.3 percent to \$191 billion, pulled down by a drop in automotive exports. Imports rose 0.8 percent to \$238.6 billion as Americans bought more foreign-made cellphones and other consumer goods.

A widening trade deficit is a drag on economic growth. Donald Trump made the trade gap - the difference between exports and imports - a centerpiece of his presidential campaign. His administration has vowed to reduce the deficit,

blaming it on abusive practices by America's trading partners. The deficit in goods with China rose by 12.4 percent to \$27.6 billion in April.

So far this year, the trade deficit is up 13.4 percent from a year earlier to \$186.6 billion. Exports are up 6.1 percent to \$765.6 billion this year, but imports are up more - 7.5 percent to \$952.2 billion. So far in 2017, the United States is running a \$268.7 billion deficit in goods and an \$82.1 billion surplus in services such as banking and tourism.

Trump recently has singled out Germany for criticism, saying it is unfairly benefiting from a weak euro. When a country's currency is weak, its products enjoy a price advantage in foreign markets. The trade deficit with Germany rose 4.3 percent in April to \$5.5 billion. —AP

INVESTORS BET TRUMP CLIMATE PULLOUT TO BOOST US DRILLING

OIL PRICE DROPS SHARPLY AFTER US STATEMENT

LONDON: The price of oil has fallen sharply as investors bet that President Donald Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the Paris climate agreement will increase the country's oil and gas production.

The cost of a barrel of crude slumped 2.4 percent, or \$1.18, to \$47.18 in electronic trading in New York on Friday, hours after Trump said the US would immediately stop implementing the Paris deal. He said his administration could try to renegotiate the existing agreement or try to create a new one that is more favorable to the US.

The deal would have required the US to reduce polluting emissions by more than a quarter below 2005 levels by 2025, potentially limiting the growth of high-emissions industries like oil and gas production. Economists, however, say that the climate deal would likely help create about as many jobs in renewable energy as it might cost in polluting industries.

US oil production has already been increasing in recent months since the price of crude came off lows last year, making expensive shale oil extraction more economically viable.

"Now that US President Trump has announced that the US will be withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement, it is expected that the US will expand its oil production even more sharply," said analysts at German bank Commerzbank.

The increase in US production is neutralizing the efforts of the OPEC cartel and other major oil-producing

nations, like Russia, to support prices by limiting their output. OPEC and 10 other countries led by Russia agreed last week to extend for nine months, to March, a production cut of 1.8 million barrels a day initially agreed on in November.

On Friday, the head of Russia's

state-controlled Rosneft oil giant said that a rise in shale oil output in the US would likely offset the effect from the OPEC and Russian production cuts.

Speaking at an economic forum in St Petersburg, Rosneft CEO Igor Sechin said that the OPEC and

Russian cuts fall short of "systemic measures that would lead to long term stabilization."

He said that thanks to increasing efficiency, US shale oil producers would likely deliver an additional 1.5 million barrels of crude a day to the market in 2018. —AP



In this Oct 5 2016, file photo, heavy equipment is seen at a site where sections of the Dakota Access pipeline were being buried near the town of St Anthony in Morton County, ND. —AP

AUB ANNOUNCES 26 WINNERS WITH AL-HASSAD WEEKLY PRIZES

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank recently conducted its Al-Hassad Islamic account weekly draw, Kuwait's leading Sharia-compliant rewards program that offers a broad range of prizes to the largest number of winners, on the 31st of May. The account provides 26 weekly prizes that are comprised of KD 25,000 as a grand prize and 25 other prizes valued at KD 1,000 each. AUB also offers four quarterly prizes that are valued at KD 250,000 to each winner allowing them to achieve their dreams of travelling, studying abroad, or owning their dream home or car.

On this occasion Ahli United Bank announced, "With this draw, we are adding 26 new winners and prizes to the Al Hassad Islamic account whereby, the total number of winners annually will include more than 1300.

The weekly grand prize winner of KD 25,000 Fouad Ahmed Sh Abdulla

25 other winners won prizes of KD 1,000 and are as follows: Adel Mousa Ali Mohammad, Mubarak Faisal Saud, Daaj Kh A Al-Oud, Adel Faleh Meteib Al-Basman, Mohammad Kharallah Sultan Al-Hendan, Ali Abdulrahman Rasheed Al-Bader, Afeefah Ali Hasan Bin Nekhi, Najebah Sultan Radhi, Abdullah Eissa Ali Mubarek Al-Daihan, Saif Shlash Saif Al-Ajmi, Adel Yousef Mohd Saleh Al-Mazidi, Mariam Tareq Tawfeeq Mansour, Rashed Hofan Rashed Alhajri, Mahmoud Ahmad Hussain Al-Qattan, Mohammad Rashed Rasheed Al Rasheedi, Mariam Yousef Abd Alnabi Alali, Abdullah Ibrahim Hasan Al Failakawi, Hind

Ali Neamah Al-Khashti, Abdul Wahab Saoud Abdul Aziz Ibrahim, Abdulleh Mohammed Sadeq Mohammed Jaafar Al-Rashid, Shaikha Khaled Ibrahim Al-Requm, Bader Mneef Dahham Al-Enezi, Abdulwahab Saleem Ajran Rashed, Zahra Mohsen Ashoor Mohsen and Nabeel Ebrahim Mohamed Abdulla.

Ahli United Bank added, "There are increased opportunities that await our current customers and those who are interested in opening an Al-Hassad Islamic account

to benefit from the wide range of prizes and opportunities offered this year."

Individual customers can open their accounts with a minimum deposit of KD 100, qualifying them to enter the draw. For every KD 50 deposited in the account, customers are given one chance to enter the quarterly draw. They must have held the minimum deposit requirement for at least two weeks prior to the draw date. The more deposits made, the higher the chances of winning on a weekly basis.

Al-Hassad Islamic account's customers in Kuwait and Bahrain are eligible to participate in the draw in line with the program's terms and conditions.

JOYALUKKAS ANNOUNCES 'SHOP & WIN 60KG GOLD PROMOTION'

KUWAIT: The world's favorite jeweller is gearing up for a sizzling summer with a 60KG gold giveaway. Joyalukkas has consistently launched massive promotions during summer since it opened its doors 30 years ago and 2017 is no exception. This year's promotion will see lucky shoppers go home with up to 1KG gold each in daily and weekly draws.

"Historically summer is considered by retailers as the dead season, especially residents often go back to their home countries with the whole family for the school break, but at Joyalukkas we consider this season the perfect opportunity to give our loyal customers more reasons to smile. That's why we reserve our biggest promotions at this time. It's our way of giving back to the patrons whose support for the past 3 decades has made Joyalukkas a global name in high-quality jewellery and service," said John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group. Shoppers get 1

raffle coupon to enter the raffle draw for 60KG gold upon purchase of gold jewellery worth KD 40 and above. They also get 2 raffle coupons on purchase of diamond and polki jewellery. Adding to this exciting opportunity are generous offers and 0 percent installment plans from leading banks in participating countries. Joyalukkas's summer 60KG gold giveaway starts June 1, 2017 till July 31, 2017.

Joyalukkas Group is a multi-billion dollar global conglomerate, with varied business interests. The group operates its various business operations across UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, Malaysia, London, USA and India. The group businesses include jewellery, money exchange, fashion & textiles, luxury air charters, malls and realty. Joyalukkas employs over 8,000 professionals across the world, and is one of the most awarded and recognized jewellery retail chains in the world.



US CAR SALES STRUGGLE IN MAY DESPITE DISCOUNTS

CHICAGO: Auto makers offered big discounts over the Memorial Day holiday, but the response from US car buyers in May was not enough to reverse months of sales declines. After seven years of gains, there were further signs that US car sales have plateaued, analysts said, as monthly sales data suggested a mixed picture amid heavy incentives to lure buyers into showrooms, even as truck and SUV sales surged. —AFP

For Rent

In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at Abou Halifa Region Facing the National Park and the Sea



Duplex & Triplex Villas 3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms + Big Salon + Separate pool All Master Bathrooms is Marble

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas



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MEYSAN ADVISES AGILITY ON US SETTLEMENT

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti firm, Meysan AT Partners, advised Agility on its successful global settlement of the case involving the US government food-supply contracts that the company held from 2003 to 2010.

In the criminal portion of the case, Agility agreed to plead to a misdemeanor in connection with a single invoice valued at \$551. The misdemeanor is a minor offense, unrelated to any of the original criminal charges. In the parallel civil proceedings of the case,

the company agreed to pay \$95 million in cash. The settlement will resolve all legal issues related to these contracts for Agility employees, directors, officers and affiliates. The settlement will also allow Agility to resume the pursuit of new US government contracts.

Meysan's Senior Partner, Bader El-Jean, stated, "We are honored that we could assist Agility in this outstanding achievement. We need to acknowledge, however, that our role was secondary to that of

Agility's own Vice Chairman and CEO, Tarek Sultan, who provided the leadership and strategy for the defense of these claims for over 8 years. He truly deserves his place as one of the world's most dynamic corporate leaders." "I am certain that the settlement will remove uncertainty for Agility's investors, lenders, and other stakeholders, and will open a wealth of new government and commercial contracting opportunities which Agility will benefit from," El-Jean said.



| SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Sector | Volume | To Market % | Value | To Market % |
| OIL & GAS | 4,300,442 | 1.44% | 188,603 | 0.35% |
| BASIC MATERIALS | 3,190,026 | 1.07% | 1,628,567 | 2.99% |
| INDUSTRIALS | 29,753,163 | 9.95% | 18,422,744 | 33.81% |
| CONSUMER GOODS | 1,429,374 | 0.48% | 671,696 | 1.23% |
| HEALTH CARE | 5,810 | 0.00% | 2,080 | 0.0038% |
| CONSUMER SERVICES | 3,101,645 | 1.04% | 688,108 | 1.26% |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS | 4,877,442 | 1.63% | 1,613,955 | 2.96% |
| BANKS | 56,432,565 | 18.88% | 15,217,369 | 27.92% |
| INSURANCE | 8,338 | 0.00% | 3,290 | 0.01% |
| REAL ESTATE | 97,187,631 | 32.51% | 7,491,221 | 13.75% |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | 98,385,804 | 32.91% | 8,527,206 | 15.65% |
| TECHNOLOGY | 289,180 | 0.10% | 41,143 | 0.08% |

| SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Sector | Last Week Closing | Previous Week Closing | Weekly Ch. % | Annual Ch. % |
| OIL & GAS | 1,040.15 | 1,046.23 | -0.58% | 33.24% |
| BASIC MATERIALS | 1,298.60 | 1,283.44 | 1.18% | 29.24% |
| INDUSTRIALS | 1,849.61 | 1,827.86 | 1.19% | 37.62% |
| CONSUMER GOODS | 1,156.51 | 1,140.38 | 1.41% | 2.80% |
| HEALTH CARE | 1,528.57 | 1,407.19 | 8.63% | 22.83% |
| CONSUMER SERVICES | 1,014.99 | 880.50 | 15.27% | 9.78% |
| TELECOMMUNICATIONS | 614.02 | 605.95 | 1.33% | -3.48% |
| BANKS | 924.17 | 918.49 | 0.62% | 10.39% |
| INSURANCE | 1,067.40 | 1,061.93 | 0.52% | 7.35% |
| REAL ESTATE | 954.81 | 953.55 | 0.13% | 9.73% |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES | 701.87 | 698.04 | 0.55% | 17.56% |
| TECHNOLOGY | 703.94 | 637.99 | 10.34% | 15.94% |

BOURSA KUWAIT EQUITIES EDGE HIGHER

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 6,813.19 points, up by 0.57 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 0.97 percent after closing at 406.12 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 918.67 points inclining by 0.42 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 35.29 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 10.90 million, whereas trading volume average was 59.79 million shares, recording a drop of 7.16 percent.

The market indices returned to meet in the green zone once again, after the losses it recorded in a week earlier, as the market received support from the purchasing powers and the collection operations that included many stocks of different sectors headed by the Financial Services sector which overtook more than 32 percent of the market liquidity during the last week, and came in light of the optimism state that spread among the investors due to the acquisition deal news of Kuwait Finance House over United Ahli Bank - Bahrain, which contributed in growing the trading activity during some daily sessions of the week, especially the value, which witnessed good increase on a weekly level.

Also, the market realized such gains despite the negative performance that it initiated the last week's trading with, as the Boursa received the first session of the week with losses to the three indices affected by the quick speculations and the profit collection operations that included many stocks, especially the small-cap ones of prices below 100 Fils, in addition to the selling operations that targeted some heavy stocks and forced the three indices to end the session in the red zone.

The Boursa three indices were able in the next few sessions to increase and compensate a part of its losses gradually, supported by the return of the purchasing powers in control over the trading activity, and included many leading and small-cap stocks, which pushed the three market indices to shift to the green zone and enabled it to end the week's trading with different gains compared to an earlier week's closings.

Moreover, the market capitalization of Boursa Kuwait

reached by the end of last week KD 26.99 billion, up by 1.10 percent compared to its level in a week earlier, where it was KD 26.70 billion. On an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in Boursa Kuwait recorded a growth of 6.25 percent from its value at end of 2016, where it reached then KD 25.41 billion. For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 18.53 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 6.85 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 3.80 percent growth.

Sectors' indices

Eleven of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the green zone, while the Oil & Gas sector was the only loser which index declined by 0.58 percent, closing at 1,040.15 points. On the other hand, last week's highest gainer was the Consumer Services sector, achieving 15.27 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,014.99 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Technology sector's index closed at 703.94 points recording 10.34 percent increase. The Health Care sector came in third as its index achieved 8.63 percent growth, ending the week at 1,528.57 points.

Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 98.39 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 32.91 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 32.51 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 97.19 million 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 98.39 million or 32.91 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Real Estate sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 97.19 million representing 32.51 percent of the total market trading value.

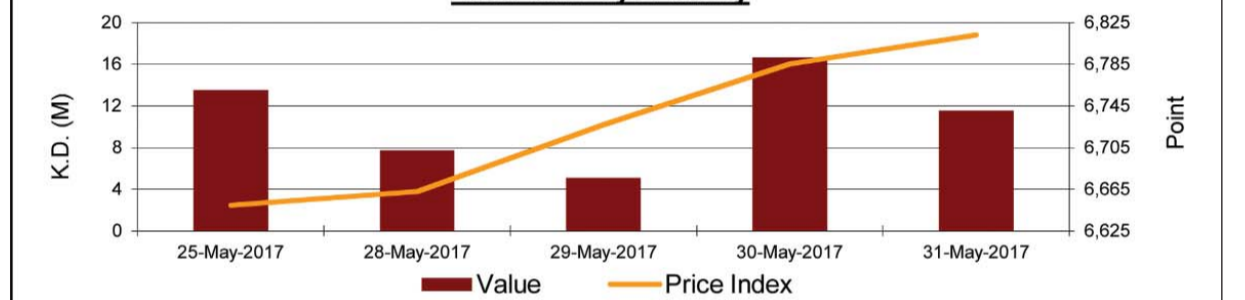
— Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.

| BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|--------|
| | | Price Index | Weighted index | KSX 15 |
| Weekly | Last week | 6,813.19 | 406.12 | 918.67 |
| | Previous week | 6,687.53 | 402.21 | 914.82 |
| | Change (Point) | 125.66 | 3.91 | 3.85 |
| | Change (%) | 1.88% | 0.97% | 0.42% |
| Annual | Last year | 5,748.09 | 380.09 | 885.02 |
| | Change (Point) | 1,065.10 | 26.03 | 33.65 |
| | Change (%) | 18.53% | 6.85% | 3.80% |

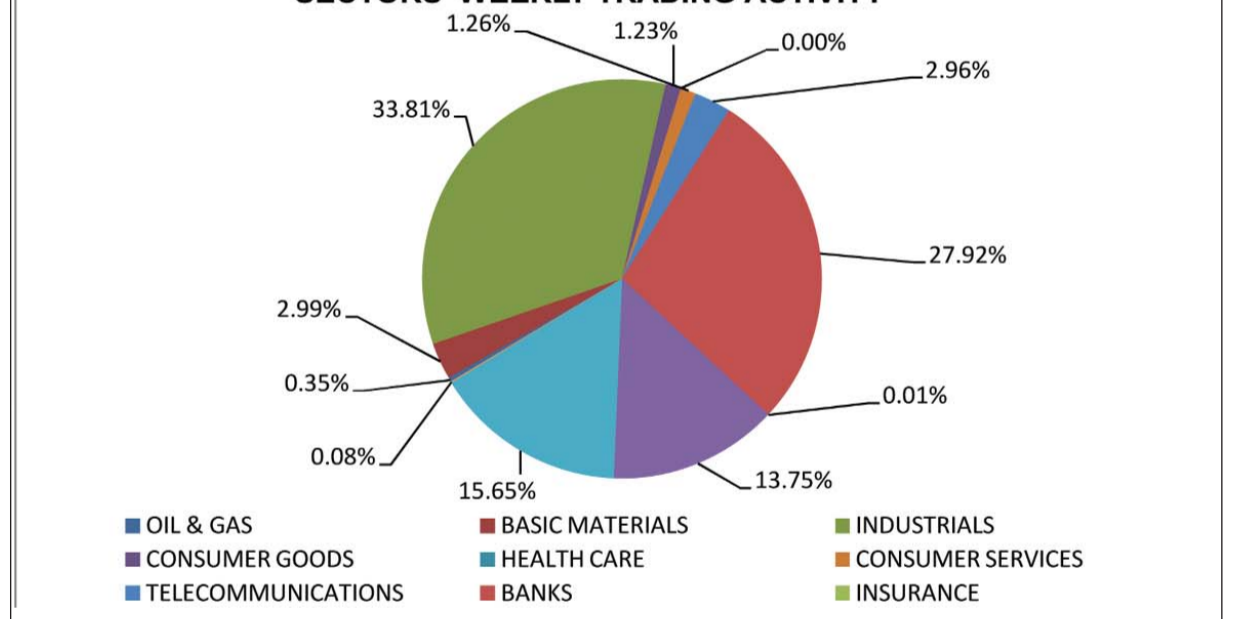
BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES



Last Four Days Activity



SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY



GREECE REVISES Q1 UP TO 0.4% GROWTH

ATHENS: The Greek economy grew by a slim 0.4 percent in the first three months of 2017, official data showed Friday, revising a contraction of 0.1 percent reported in May. "In the first quarter of 2017 (output) in volume terms increased by 0.4 percent in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2016, against the decrease of 0.1 percent that was announced for the flash estimate on May 15," the state statistics agency said. The figures come at a time when Athens is once again locked in crucial debt

talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Union for its crisis-battered economy. There was no agreement at a May 22 meeting of euro-zone finance ministers on measures to lighten Greece's debt, and another attempt will be made on June 15. There are deep divisions between European creditors led by Germany, and the IMF, which believes that the Europeans' expectations of Greece's economic performance are too ambitious. — AFP

| MARKET ACTIVITY | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|--------|
| | Last Week | Previous Week | Ch. % |
| Volume | 298,961,420 | 322,019,375 | -7.16% |
| Value (K.D) | 54,495,981 | 40,279,442 | 35.29% |
| Deals | 10,518 | 10,559 | -0.39% |

| MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.) | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| Last Week | Previous Week | Weekly Ch. % | Annual Ch. % | |
| 26,994,039,247 | 26,700,551,710 | 1.10% | 6.24% | |

| TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|--------|
| Company | Last Week Closing | Previous Week Closing | Ch. (fils) | Ch. % |
| EYAS | 850.00 | 460.00 | 390.0 | 84.78% |
| MADAR | 21.50 | 12.50 | 9.0 | 72.00% |
| NCCI | 125.00 | 90.00 | 35.0 | 38.89% |
| KCIN | 1,390.00 | 1,100.00 | 290.0 | 26.36% |
| MHC | 378.00 | 315.00 | 63.0 | 20.00% |

| TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------|
| Company | Last Week Closing | Previous Week Closing | Ch. (fils) | Ch. % |
| MENA | 24.20 | 32.00 | -7.8 | -24.38% |
| GFC | 52.00 | 63.00 | -11.0 | -17.46% |
| MASSALEH | 38.00 | 45.00 | -7.0 | -15.56% |
| TAAMEER | 33.00 | 39.00 | -6.0 | -15.38% |
| BAYANINV | 51.10 | 60.00 | -8.9 | -14.83% |

STOCKS SET RECORDS, BUT BOND YIELDS SINK AFTER JOBS REPORT

NEW YORK: Bond yields sank Friday to their lowest level of the year, and the dollar's value fell against rivals after the nation's job growth slowed last month. But stock indexes chugged again to record heights, led by technology companies and dividend payers.

Yields fell immediately after the government said that employers added 138,000 jobs last month, which was short of economists' expectations and a slowdown from April's hiring. The yield on the 10-year Treasury dropped to 2.15 percent from 2.21 percent late Thursday and hit its lowest level since mid-November.

The government's jobs report also said that hiring was weaker in March and April than earlier reported. The unemployment rate fell to 4.3 percent last month, its lowest level since 2001. Stocks opened for trading an hour after the release of the jobs report, and they were higher for nearly the entire day. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.01 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,439.07. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 62.11, or 0.3 percent, to 21,206.29, and the Nasdaq composite added 58.97, or 0.9 percent, to 6,305.80. All three indexes added to records set on Thursday.

Many economists say they don't expect the latest jobs report to dissuade the Federal Reserve from raising interest rates again at its next policy meeting in two weeks. The job

market and inflation remain strong enough, they say. The central bank has been trying to pull rates gradually off their record low following the Great Recession, and it has raised rates twice since December.

Friday's jobs report slots in with a series of mixed economic reports that show continued modest gains, but no big acceleration. The economy grew at an annual rate of 1.2 percent in the first three months of the year, for example. That's a relatively weak showing but better than first estimated.

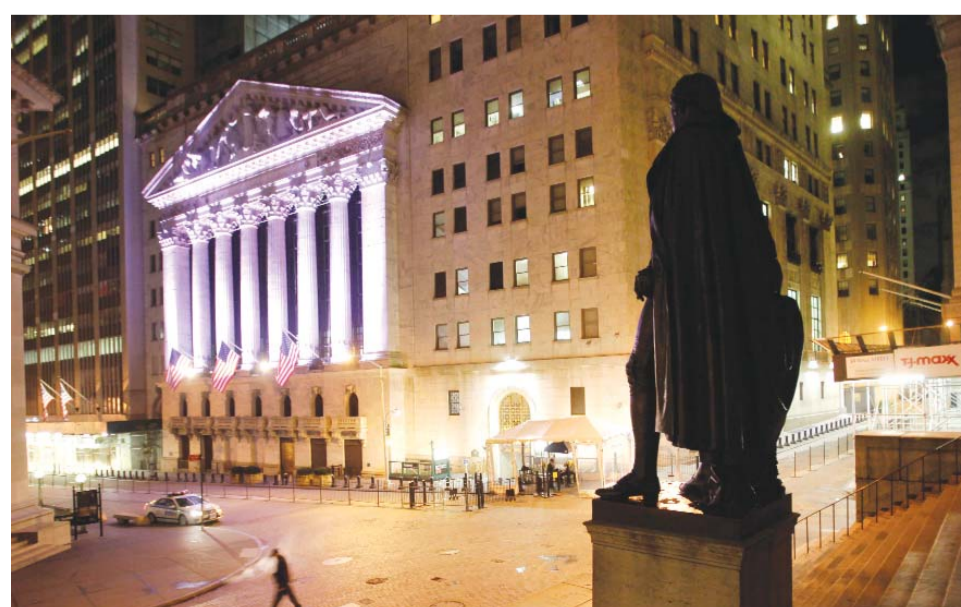
"Is the glass half-full or half-empty on the economic statistics?" asked Rich Weiss, senior portfolio manager at American Century Investments. "I don't know, but it's only half."

Weiss said he's been cautious on US stocks given the continued tepid pace of growth, particularly as indexes have climbed to record after record this year. "If you were a Martian and looked at the economic stats, you would not be pouring money into the equity market, or at least the U.S. equity market," he said.

Friday's drop in interest rates helped boost stocks in industries that pay big dividends. Real-estate investment trusts rose twice as fast as the overall S&P 500, for example. Dividends look more attractive to income investors when bonds are paying less in interest.

Technology stocks had the day's biggest gains, with those in the S&P 500 jumping 1

WALL STREET WEEKLY REPORT



NEW YORK: A statue of George Washington stands near The New York Stock Exchange, in background. — AP

percent. It's the latest move higher for the streaking sector, which is already up 21.3 percent for the year. That's by far the biggest gain among the 11 sectors that make up the S&P

500. Chipmaker Broadcom jumped to the biggest gain in the S&P 500 after reporting stronger quarterly revenue and profit than analysts had forecast. It rose \$19.94, or 8.5 per-

cent, to \$254.53. Lululemon gained \$5.62, or 11.5 percent, to \$54.29 after the athletic apparel company reported better results for the latest quarter than analysts expected. On the opposite end were energy stocks, which deepened their losses for 2017 after the price of oil sank. Benchmark US crude oil fell 70 cents, or 1.4 percent, to settle at \$47.66 per barrel. Brent crude, used to price international oils, sank 68 cents to \$49.95 per barrel.

Energy stocks in the S&P 500 lost 1.2 percent Friday, and they're down 14 percent for the year when the overall index is up 8.9 percent. Gold rose \$10.10 to \$1,280.20 per ounce, silver added 24 cents to \$17.53 per ounce and copper lost 1 cent to \$2.57 per pound.

Natural gas was close to flat at \$3.00 per 1,000 cubic feet, wholesale gasoline fell 2 cents to \$1.58 per gallon and heating oil dipped 2 cent to \$1.48 per gallon. The dollar fell to 110.50 Japanese yen from 111.33 yen late Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.1276 from \$1.1214, and the British pound rose to \$1.2880 from \$1.2876. Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose 1.6 percent to cross above the 20,000 level for the first time since 2015. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.4 percent, and South Korea's Kospi jumped 1.2 percent. In Europe, Germany's DAX gained 1.2 percent, and the French CAC 40 rose 0.5 percent. The FTSE 100 in London added 0.1 percent. — AP

KUWAIT MAY POST KD 5-6BN DEFICIT FOR 2017/18

AL-SHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: By the end of May 2017, the second month of the current fiscal year 2017/2018 ended and the average Kuwaiti oil price for May scored at \$ 48.4 per barrel, down by \$ -2 per barrel, -4 percent, from April's average price of \$ 50.4 per barrel. It is higher by \$3.4 (7.6 percent) per barrel than the new hypothetical price estimated for the current budget at \$45 per barrel. It is also higher by \$ 13.4 per barrel than the hypothetical budget estimated price for the last fiscal year at \$35 per barrel. The last fiscal year 2016/2017 which ended on March 31, 2017 scored an average price for Kuwaiti oil of \$44.7 per barrel. The average price of oil for May 2017 is 8.3 percent higher than the barrel average price for the past fiscal year but is lower by \$ -22.6 per barrel than the parity price for the current budget at \$ 71 per barrel after deducting the 10 percent for the Future Generations Fund. (Ministry of Finance estimates).

Kuwait is supposed to have achieved actual oil revenues in May by about KD1 billion. Assuming that production and prices would continue at the current levels an assumption that might not be achieved. Kuwait's oil revenues would score about KD12.7 billion for the entire current fiscal year, which is KD1 billion higher than the estimated value of oil revenues for the budget at KD11.7 billion. Adding an amount of KD 1.6 billion in non-oil revenues, projected budget revenues would score KD 14.3 billion for the current fiscal year.

Comparing this figure with KD 19.9 billion for expenditures allocations, it is likely that the budget for 2017/2018 would achieve deficit by KD 5-6 billion. However, this figure would be more or less subject to developments in oil prices and its production during the remaining part of the current fiscal year (or the next 10 months). The deficit, whichever its value, a confirmation that is a formidable start for a forthcoming era as all indicators suggest a weak oil market in the future, absence of prudence and an objective concern with the country's future for its public administration. It is enough to have a look at 15 parliamentary populist projects which have been either approved or will be approved. Such actions create an increasing acceleration to reach the no-remedy stage due to the non-sustainability of public finance coupled with an economy fully reliant on public finance. This will put the country's stability at stake.

Performance of Boursa Kuwait

Performance of Boursa Kuwait during May continued to recede compared with April 2017. Indexes of value, volume, number of transactions and value of the general index (AlShall) dropped. Also the three Boursa indexes decreased. Total liquidity of the Boursa in May 2017 scored KD 300.7 million, compared with KD 517.5 million in April 2017, it decreased by 41.9 percent. Average daily trading value for May scored about KD 13.1 million, which is less by 49.5 percent than April. But it is higher by 16.9 percent in comparison with May 2016. Number of listed companies during the month dropped from 177 companies to 165 companies (11 companies moved from the official market to the parallel market and the Kuwaiti Slaughter House Company withdrew from listing). Liquidity value in five months (106 working days) scored about KD 3.523 billion and the daily average value scored KD 33.2 million, increased by 2.9 times compared with the daily average value for 2016 and 2.6 times compared with the daily average value for the first five months of 2016.

Liquidity trends since the beginning of the year still indicate that half of listed companies got only 4 percent only of that liquidity, including 50 companies there from which got about 0.4 percent only out of that liquidity and two companies were not traded. As for liquid companies, 15 companies of them whose market value is equal to 1.7 percent only of the value of listed companies got 24 percent of the Boursa liquidity.

That means that the high liquidity activity still deprives about half of the listed companies from it and goes strongly to valueless companies, which is an unhealthy condition which might aggravate with weak liquidity if it continues. In fact it is the main reason for the continues drop of liquidity.

The distribution of liquidity among the 4 categories of companies in the first five months of the current year was as follows:

The Highest 10 percent in Liquidity: 18 listed companies contributed by 46.3 percent to Boursa capitalization value while they took about 54.4 percent of the Boursa liquidity, including 11 big companies which contributed by about 98.2 percent of market capitalization of that category and got about 75.9 percent of the liquidity of that category, and 7 small companies which took 24.1 percent of the liquidity of that category whose market value did not exceed 0.9 percent only of all Boursa Kuwait

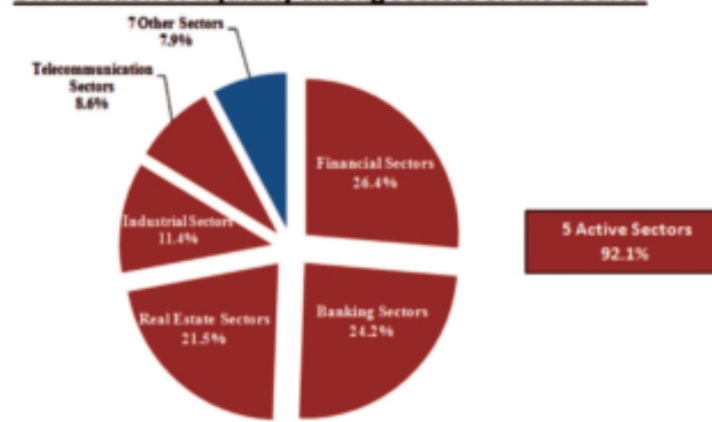
companies' value. While some big companies obtained high deserved liquidity, deviation is still significant towards small companies.

The Highest 10 percent in Market Value: This category contributed by about 71.2 percent of the Boursa value and took 33.3 percent of its liquidity. However, they contained obvious liquidity deviation in favor of 9 companies which captured about 89.6 percent of the liquidity of that category leaving approximately 10.4 percent liquidity of that category for 9 other large companies.

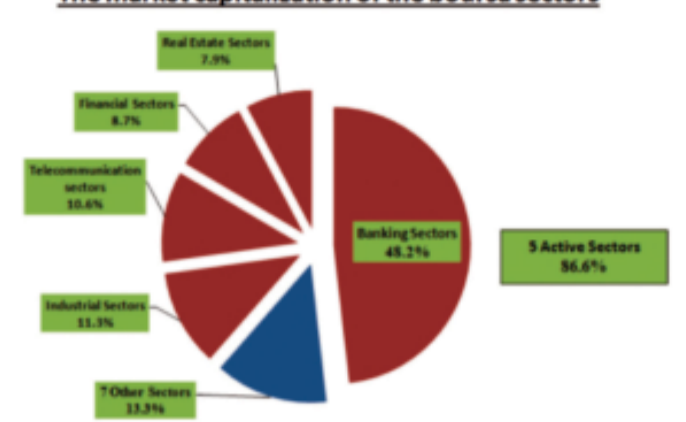
The Lowest 1 percent in Market Value: Though this category contributed by 0.4 percent to the Boursa value, it took 5.2 percent of Boursa liquidity. 11 companies within this category captured 97.5 percent liquidity of this category, while 7 other small companies got only 2.5 percent liquidity of that category. That liquidity deviation in this category suggests a very high dose of speculation on some of its companies. This deviation might start to decrease if the Boursa liquidity continues to decrease in the future.

Liquidity of Boursa Sectors: There are 5 active sectors in the Boursa that contribute 86.6 percent to its value and got 92.1 percent of liquidity suggesting coordination between liquidity and the weight of those sectors in the Boursa value. But there was deviation within those sectors in the direction of liquidity. The financial services sector obtained 26.4 percent of Boursa liquidity, equivalent to about 3 times of its contribution to its value. The real estate sector got 21.5 percent of Boursa liquidity which equals 2.7 times its contribution to its value. The two sectors are speculative ones. While, the banking sector got 24.2 percent of Boursa liquidity which accounts for 50.3 percent only of its contribution to its value. This means its share of liquidity is less than half of its contribution to

Distribution of liquidity among sectors of the boursa



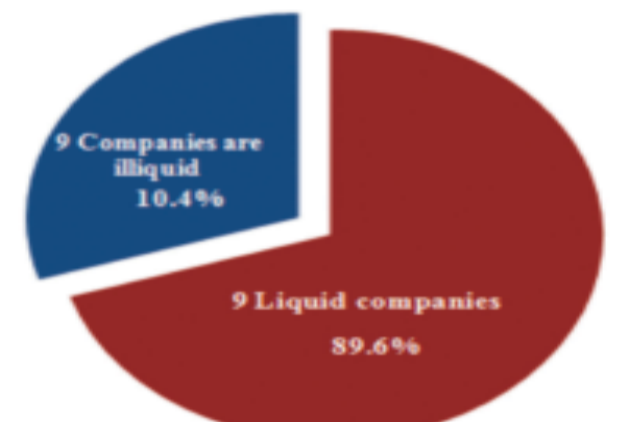
The market capitalization of the boursa sectors



Distribution of liquidity within in category



Distribution of liquidity within in category



value. The remaining seven sectors, liquid and non-liquid, all acquired liquidity ratios close to their contribution to the Boursa value.

Comparative performance for markets

May Performance was slightly tilted towards negativity. 8 markets out of 14 achieved losses while 6 achieved gains. The resultant was 9 markets remained in the positive

zone, the same as the end of April, leaving 5 markets in the negative zone.

The highest losses belonged to Dubai market by losing -2.2 percent in May then Abu Dhabi secondly by losing -2.1 percent, and KSA thirdly losing -2 percent. In general, the 7 GCC markets achieved varying losses during the month and were the main cause for the sample markets inclined towards negative performance. 5

regional markets remained in the negative zone and were losers since the beginning of the current year; their losses deepened in May. A main cause for the weak performance was the rupture of latent essential differences among GCC states during the month that led to media war between KSA and UAE on one hand and Qatar on the other. During that media war, inappropriate expressions were used that were not supposed to be used even between enemies. This is a dangerous addition to the violent geopolitical violence in the region. Bahrain and Kuwait markets remained in the positive zone achieving gains compared with their indexes in the beginning of the year.

However, they continue to consume the fatty layer in their two indexes resulting from the positive performance in the first quarter of the current year.

To the opposite, 6 out of 7 mature and emerging markets achieved gains in May with the highest being achieved by the British market by adding 4.4 percent to its index consolidating its position in the positive zone after it was on its edge last April. The Indian market was the second winner which added 4.1 percent in one month moving its profits to 17 percent since the beginning of the current year. It thus led the winning markets in the past five months of the current year. The third winner was the Japanese market which added 2.4 percent in one month reinforcing its presence in the positive zone by 2.8 percent gains since the beginning of the year, though it was at the verge of the positive zone in the end of April.

Macro variables, mainly political, remain more influential on the likely markets' performance in June. While results of the French presidential elections reinforced Europe's stability, and most of the world, despite Europe's sharp disagreement with Trump's Administration, the opposite occurred in the GCC region. The sharp GCC inter-conflicts fueled the already hot geopolitical events making stability more fragile. That was obvious impact on the sample markets during last May. The schism continued between the positive performance of mature and emerging markets and the negative performance of almost GCC markets. It is likely that the same pattern will reoccur in June unless some détente occurs in the events of the fresh renewed conflict.

Boubyan Bank Q1 financial results

Boubyan Bank announced results of its operations for the first quarter of the current year which indicate that the bank's profits -after tax deductions- scored about KD 10.5 million, a rise by KD 1.4 million, or by 15.8 percent, compared with KD 9.1 million for the same period of 2016. The rise in net profits is due to the rise in total operating incomes by a higher value than the rise in total expenses.

In details, total operating incomes of the bank increased by about KD 4.3 million, or by 17 percent, and scored about KD 29.4 million vis-a-vis KD 25.1 million for the same period of 2016. This resulted from the rise in net financing incomes by about KD 3.2 million and scored about KD 24.7 million compared with about KD 21.5 million. Also, item of net investment income increased by about KD 1.2 million and scored about KD 1.8 million compared with KD 612 thousand. But item of net fees and commission income decreased by KD 511 thousand and scored KD 2.6 million, compared with KD 3.1 million.

Total operating expenses increased by less value than the rise

in total operating incomes, i.e. by about KD 1.7 million, and scored KD 12.4 million, compared with KD 10.7 million in the same period of 2016, a rise by 15.5 percent. The rise included all items of operating expenses. Percentage of total operational expenses to total operational incomes scored 42.1 percent compared with 42.6 percent. Provision for impairment increased by KD 1.1 million and scored KD 6 million compared with KD 4.9 million, a rise by 22.8 percent. But the net of profit margin decreased to 35.9 percent of total operational incomes, compared with 36.3 percent in the same period 2016, due to the increase in the total operational incomes by a higher value than the increase in net profit.

The bank's financial statements indicate that total assets increased by about KD 191.3 million, or by 5.5 percent, and scored KD 3.673 billion, versus KD 3.482 billion in the end of 2016. While the rise in total assets scored about KD 413 million, or by 12.7 percent, when compared with the same period of 2016 when it scored KD 3.260 billion. Item of Islamic financing to customers increased by KD 154.4 million, or by 6.1 percent, and scored about KD 2.671 billion (72.7 percent of total assets), compared with about KD 2.517 billion (72.3 percent of total assets) in the end of 2016. It increased by 17.8 percent, or by KD 403.5 million, compared with KD 2.268 billion (69.6 percent of total assets) in the same period of 2016. Percentage of Islamic financing to customers to total depositors accounts scored 85 percent compared with 86.5 percent.

Figures indicate that the Bank's liabilities (without calculating total equity) increased by KD 192.8 million and scored about KD 3.252 billion, compared with KD 3.059 billion in the end of 2016. If compared to total liabilities with the same period of last year, it would increase by about KD 311.8 million, or by 10.6 percent, when it scored KD 2.940 billion. Percentage of total liabilities to total assets scored about 88.5 percent compared with 90.2 percent.

Results of analyzing financial statements calculated on annual basis indicate that the entire bank's profitability indexes rose compared with the same period 2016. The average return on shareholders' equities relevant to the bank shareholders (ROE) increased to 12.4 percent compared with 11.4 percent. Likewise, the average return on capital (ROC) increased and scored 19 percent compared with 17.2 percent. The average return on assets (ROA) rose slightly and scored 1.2 percent versus 1.1 percent. (EPS) rose to 4.7 fils compared with 4 fils. (P/E) scored 21.8 times, improved, compared with 26.5 times as a result of an increase in (EPS) by about 17.2 percent against a drop in the share price by 3.5 percent compared with 31 March 2016. (P/B) scored 2.2 times versus 2.9 times.

Weekly Performance of Boursa Kuwait

The performance of Boursa Kuwait for last week was mixed compared to the previous one, where the traded volume index and the number of transactions index, showed a decrease, while the traded value index and the general index showed an increase. AlShall Index (value weighted) closed at 383.9 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing an increase of about 2.7 points or about 0.7 percent compared with its level last week and it increased by 20.9 points or about 5.8 percent compared with the end of 2016.

| Company Name | THU | | DIFF % | CLOSE 2016 | DIFF % |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 01/06/2017 | 25/05/2017 | | | |
| 1 The National Bank Of Kuwait | 403.3 | 403.3 | 0.0 | 362.9 | 11.1 |
| 2 The Gulf Bank | 194.2 | 198.3 | (2.1) | 195.0 | (0.4) |
| 3 Commercial Bank Of Kuwait | 323.7 | 323.7 | 0.0 | 349.7 | (7.4) |
| 4 Al-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait | 199.7 | 209.5 | (4.7) | 196.4 | 1.7 |
| 5 Kuwait International Bank | 258.4 | 256.4 | 0.8 | 214.7 | 20.4 |
| 6 Ahli United Bank | 418.4 | 408.9 | 2.3 | 361.0 | 15.9 |
| 7 Burgan Bank | 315.9 | 322.9 | (2.2) | 283.4 | 11.5 |
| 8 Kuwait Finance House | 1164.3 | 1175.0 | (0.9) | 1172.1 | (0.7) |
| Banking Sector | 406.0 | 407.6 | (0.4) | 379.3 | 7.0 |
| 9 Commercial Facilities Co | 120.5 | 121.3 | (0.7) | 112.6 | 7.0 |
| 10 International Financial Advisors | 299.9 | 299.9 | 0.0 | 251.3 | 19.3 |
| 11 National Investments | 130.9 | 120.8 | 8.4 | 119.5 | 9.5 |
| 12 Kuwait Investment Projects | 779.9 | 800.0 | (2.5) | 1114.2 | (30.0) |
| 13 Coast Investment & Development | 56.5 | 53.7 | 5.2 | 52.6 | 7.4 |
| Investment Sector | 255.0 | 257.0 | (0.8) | 311.7 | (18.2) |
| 14 Kuwait Insurance Company | 57.8 | 54.7 | 5.7 | 61.7 | (6.3) |
| 15 Gulf Insurance Company | 313.6 | 313.6 | 0.0 | 382.1 | (17.9) |
| 16 Al-Ahleia Insurance Company | 185.9 | 184.0 | 1.0 | 170.9 | 8.8 |
| 17 Warba Insurance Company | 70.5 | 70.5 | 0.0 | 83.6 | (15.7) |
| Insurance Sector | 133.8 | 131.8 | 1.5 | 145.0 | (7.7) |
| 18 Kuwait Real Estate Company | 92.9 | 88.8 | 4.6 | 100.1 | (7.2) |
| 19 United Realty Company | 171.3 | 181.5 | (5.6) | 191.7 | (10.6) |
| 20 National Real Estate Company | 272.9 | 256.8 | 6.3 | 238.5 | 14.4 |
| 21 Salhiyah Real Estate Company | 1562.6 | 1554.6 | 0.5 | 1433.4 | 9.0 |
| Real Estate Sector | 204.7 | 201.4 | 1.6 | 195.8 | 4.5 |
| 22 The National Industries | 99.2 | 107.2 | (7.5) | 109.0 | (9.0) |
| 23 Refrigeration Industries Co | 678.4 | 670.8 | 1.1 | 618.1 | 9.8 |
| 24 Gulf Cable & Electrical Industries | 171.1 | 171.9 | (0.5) | 149.9 | 14.1 |
| 25 Contracting & Marine Services Co | 41.6 | 39.7 | 4.8 | 39.1 | 6.4 |
| Industrial Sector | 180.0 | 182.3 | (1.3) | 172.4 | 4.4 |
| 26 Kuwait National Cinemas | 872.5 | 753.3 | 15.8 | 778.4 | 12.1 |
| 27 The Public Warehousing Co | 2902.9 | 2522.6 | 15.1 | 2406.1 | 20.6 |
| 28 Mobile Telecommunications Co - ZAIN | 587.9 | 606.7 | (3.1) | 541.1 | 8.6 |
| 29 Safat Energy Co | 12.9 | 12.9 | 0.0 | 11.1 | 16.2 |
| Services Sector | 944.3 | 876.8 | 7.7 | 822.1 | 14.9 |
| 30 Livestock Transport & Trading Co | 193.3 | 188.3 | 2.7 | 178.3 | 8.4 |
| 31 Danah Aalsafat Foodstuff Company | 78.6 | 74.7 | 5.2 | 89.0 | (11.7) |
| 32 Kuwait Food Co | 2650.6 | 2621.1 | 1.1 | 2561.9 | 3.5 |
| Food Sector | 916.0 | 905.0 | 1.2 | 887.2 | 3.2 |
| 33 Sharjah Cement Co | 345.8 | 366.6 | (5.7) | 358.3 | (3.5) |
| 34 Gulf Cement Co | 302.4 | 299.2 | 1.1 | 302.4 | 0.0 |
| 35 Umm Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries | 573.9 | 547.4 | 4.8 | 551.8 | 4.0 |
| Non Kuwaiti Companies | 222.1 | 222.9 | (0.4) | 222.6 | (0.2) |
| General Index | 383.9 | 381.2 | 0.7 | 363.0 | 5.8 |

The following tables summarize last week's performance of Boursa Kuwait

| Description | Week 22 | | Week 21 | Diff % |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------|--------|
| | 01/06/2017 | 25/05/2017 | | |
| Working days | 5 | 5 | | |
| AlShall index (35 Companies) | 383.9 | 381.2 | | 0.7% |
| Boursa Kuwait index (price) | 6,813.2 | 6,687.5 | | 1.9% |
| Value Trade (KD) | 54,495,981 | 40,279,442 | | |
| Daily average (KD) | 10,899,196 | 8,055,888 | | 35.3% |
| Volume Trade (Shares) | 298,961,420 | 322,019,375 | | |
| Daily average (Shares) | 59,792,284 | 64,403,875 | | -7.2% |
| Transactions | 10,518 | 10,559 | | |
| Daily average (Transactions) | 2,104 | 2,112 | | -0.4% |

Most Active Sectors & Companies

| Description | Value Traded | | % of Total |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| | KD | Market | |
| Sectors | | | |
| AGILITY PUBLIC WAREHOUSING COMPANY | 13,577,888 | 24.9% | |
| NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT | 4,415,778 | 8.1% | |
| KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE | 4,345,673 | 8.0% | |
| AHLI UNITED BANK B.U.C | 3,558,874 | 6.5% | |
| HUMAN SOFT HOLDING CO. K.S.C.C | 3,355,868 | 6.2% | |
| Total | 29,254,081 | 53.7% | |
| Description | Value Traded | % of Total | |
| Sectors | KD | Market | |
| INDUSTRIALS SECTOR | 18,422,782 | 33.8% | |
| BANKS SECTOR | 15,217,369 | 27.9% | |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR | 8,527,168 | 15.6% | |
| REAL ESTATE SECTOR | 7,491,221 | 13.7% | |
| BASIC MATERIALS SECTOR | 1,628,567 | 3.0% | |

| ALSHALL INDEX | Week 22 | | Week 21 |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|---------|
| | 01/06/2017 | 25/05/2017 | |
| Increased Value (# of Companies) | 18 | 5 | |
| Decreased Value (# of Companies) | 11 | 17 | |
| Unchanged Value (# of Companies) | 6 | 13 | |
| Total Companies | 35 | 35 | |

AL-SAYER SHORTLISTS WINNERS OF 11TH TOYOTA DREAM CAR ART CONTEST 9 NATIONAL WINNERS PROCEED TO COMPETE IN GLOBAL CONTEST

KUWAIT: Al-Sayer Group Corporate Excellence Department invited prominent jury members and held a screening event to nominate winners from Kuwait of the 11th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest, one of the largest global art contests for children. Toyota Dream Car Art Contest engages children from all over the world to dream and get inspired to share and draw novel and creative ideas about their dream cars.

According to Mohamed Nasser Al-Sayer Board Member and Chairman Al-Sayer Group CSR Committee "At Al-Sayer we cherish this global platform to promote children of Kuwait at international level. Such competition is helping them to think differently, unconventionally, and to imagine futuristic mobility dreams that makes all of us wonder. Also this engage them to be concerned about society, environment, being healthy, and show empathy towards other fellow living beings."

The Kuwait National Contest which was conducted for over three months collected impressive artworks from the school students including Arab, Bilingual and International Schools, who participated in the event with high level of enthusiasm. The National Winners will be awarded during an exclusive event by Al-Sayer Group Holding.

The selection included pre-elimination, and the jury evaluation followed based on Toyota's three



Al-Sayer representatives with jury

category selection process, that covers artistic message, uniqueness and art characteristics. The ultimate aim of this contest is to let the children visualize their dreams inspired by the slogan "Draw Your Dream Car - Express Your Creativity" and portray it on the drawing sheet. Judges made remarkable comments about the young talents and appreciated the purpose of this global contest.

Highlighting the importance of creativity Eng. Nehad Haj Ali Deputy Group Manager Corporate

Excellence Al-Sayer Group said "In this fast and overly consumer based lifestyle, it is important to foster imaginative & creative competitions among children. They need to observe the nature, experience the culture of the country and bring innovative thoughts as a solution to the common problems they face around them. It is glad the children of Kuwait is not simmered in electronic gadgets, they are thinking out of the box to find solutions for the problems faced by the world."

Panel of Judges at Mohamed Nasser Al-Sayer & Sons for 11th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest

- **Samar Ali Al-Bader** - A member of the American portrait association as well as the Kuwaiti association for art. Won The Nation Award for Artistic Motivation for the art work - Lost Jasmine - Syria 2016 by National Council for Culture, Art and literature (NCCAL). Won 'His Highness the Emir of Kuwait's' award in 2010. Mentioned as Important Contemporary Artists for the years 2015 and 2013, in the books of Ingrid Gardill - an art historian from Berlin - Germany. Manages and supervises, Arts & Crafts - an organization with an aim to service the art community in Kuwait.

- **Jawaher Al-Muhanna** - Head of Arts at Ministry of Education institute. Member of International Association of Arts and Kuwait Arts Association. In 2015, achieved His Highness the Emir of Kuwait's award and KNPC award for Arts & Photography. Main contestant in 2016 Islamic Art competition in Avenues.

- **M.V John** - Bachelor of Applied arts from Raja Ravi Varma College of Fine Arts. Founder and creative Director of LAZY LEO Studio, Kuwait.

- **Fady Atef Azmy Saad Yousef** - Graphic Designer, Al-Sayer representative. Plastic Artist, Member in Syndicate of Fine Arts / UNESCO.

OOREDOO LAUNCHES REVAMPED NOJOOM REWARDS PROGRAM

KUWAIT'S BIGGEST REWARDS PROGRAM NOW WITH MORE BENEFITS

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, announced the launch of its newly revamped Nojoom rewards program which offers its customers the best exclusive discounts. Accessible to all Ooredoo customers, the program offers members free upgrades, vouchers and discounts from a large variety of partners, ranging from service providers, retailers and hotels, and airline companies. In addition, customers use their Nojoom points to buy products from the Nojoom Online Rewards Store.

gram in the Middle East and Africa for three consecutive years in 2012, 2013, and 2014.

Exclusive partners

The Nojoom program has a wide array of partners which boasts Alshaya, X-Cite, Al Oula Gas Stations, IKEA and many other partners that will suit the lifestyle needs of Ooredoo customers. Ooredoo intends to increase the number of partners in the future to ensure that all customers have a rewarding experience that matches their needs. The revamped Nojoom rewards program has many new benefits which include transferring Nojoom points to friends and family, donate Nojoom points for charitable causes, and redemption for partners' voucher which are readily accessible through nojoom.ooredoo.com.kw or the My Ooredoo app.



Mijbil Alayoub

Nojoom for Nukhba

Members of Nukhba, Ooredoo's VIP plan, get enrolled automatically in the Nukhba tier of the Nojoom Rewards Program. Nukhba members get special rewards for all the points accrued for every KD spent on using Ooredoo's services. The points can then be redeemed with vouchers from any of Ooredoo's partners, which include prominent retailers, hotels, airline companies, spas, restaurants and many more premium service providers.

It is worth mentioning that all of Ooredoo's Nukhba clients are taken care of with a designated account manager, a special hotline (110) to answer any of their queries around the clock, and are always kept up to date with future packages and products before they are released in the market. This is in addition to the customary Ooredoo benefits such as unlimited minutes, contract freeze, and easy transfer of contract ownership for customers' convenience. Also, Nukhba customers can benefit from an exclusive concierge service that can be availed at most valet parking spots in Kuwait, in addition to entering VIP lounges in most international airports.



Commenting on this, Ooredoo Kuwait's Senior Director of Corporate Communications Mijbil Alayoub reiterated in a statement Ooredoo's commitment to providing customers with a comprehensive experience that enriches their life and meets their expectations. "We have carefully selected partners for our Nojoom program to ensure that all our customers, no matter what their needs are, get a rewarding experience," he said.

Award-winning program

Established in 2012, the Nojoom Rewards Program is now revamped to match the Kuwaiti lifestyle, which is modern and youthful and is on the same pace of the international trends. Nojoom has been awarded the best loyalty pro-



May Dashti receives "MESA CISO 100" Award

GULF BANK STAFF MEMBER MAY DASHTI RECEIVES 'MESA CISO 100' AWARD

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is pleased to announce that May Dashti, Executive Manager for Information System Security - Risk Management, was awarded the 'MESA CISO 100' Executive Manager Award, for the second consecutive year. Dashti was recognized during a prestigious invitation-only awards ceremony recently held at Conrad Hotel, Dubai- UAE, and attended by prominent regional and international figures from the field of information security.

Middle East Security Awards (MESA) is an annual conference and awards ceremony organized by Emirsec Ventures, an organization that aims to address digital challenges with new strategies and innovative approaches. The two-day conference included roundtable sessions and panel discussions, in addition to presentations by global leaders and policy makers. Nominations for MESA awards are in line with specific categories and the jury's choice awards are evaluated on the following criteria: experience and achievements; sector and size of organization represent-

ed; business value generation including successful initiatives and projects; contribution to industry as a whole; and company achievements.

Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank said: "We congratulate May Dashti for her achievements on behalf of Gulf Bank. Information technology and information security play a crucial role in today's world and this role will only continue to grow. We are glad to see May's knowledge and commitment being recognized by her peers in the field of information security for the second consecutive year. We are proud to have May as a member of the Gulf Bank family."

May Dashti has 23 years of experience, she started her career as a financial auditor and has continued her career in the field of Information Security. Dashti was nominated as 'Best Information Security Manager of the Year - 2013' by the internationally recognized 'Who's Who' publication in the USA. In 2017, she received the 'Best Information Security Leader in the Gulf Region' award from StarLink International.

X-CITE WINS KUWAIT'S RETAILER OF YEAR AND MARKETING INITIATIVE OF YEAR MIDDLE EAST RETAIL AWARDS 2017

KUWAIT: X-cite by Alghanim Electronics, Kuwait's largest electronic retailer, was named the Retailer of the Year 2017 for the ninth year in-a-row and received the Marketing Initiative of the Year award by the prestigious Middle East Retail Academy Awards that was held in Dubai, organized by DISTREE Middle East From May 8 till May 10, 2017

Receiving the awards was the Senior Director of Category Management at X-cite by Alghanim Electronics, Rohit Gandotra, who shared the pride of the X-cite team for maintaining their leadership in the market as the country's biggest electronic retailer. The Retailer of the Year award recognizes the outstanding performance of X-cite in the local market as a leading and innovative distributor, retailer and online player that serves the needs of all segments of consumers. The winners are determined using continuous channel feedback for the last 12 months, plus input from a VIP Jury.

The Marketing Initiative of the Year award was received for its "X-cite Secret Deals Program", an exclusive e-commerce campaign that attracted, engaged and rewarded customers with valuable prizes in 2016. The truly unique program rewards customers for creating a customer account on xcite.com or on the mobile app, enabling them to enjoy a host of 'Members only' exclusive rewards such as Discount Coupon Codes or Free Gifts once they log in to their X-cite account. The program allowed several thousands of customers to enjoy market leading deals and experience unique happiness while shopping online. The program has also proven

to deliver improved metrics related to user engagement, time on site, conversion rates proving its business effectiveness.

DISTREE Middle East is a leading organizer of executive-level events in the ICT & Consumer Electronics channels across the world. Its 2017 week-long event gathered more than 200 senior executives and buyers from the region's leading consumer technology retailers and e-tailers in one place at one time. The exhibiting vendors and distributors held thousands of pre-scheduled one-on-one meetings with buyers from across the region.

X-cite is committed to provide the best prod-

ucts in their class and reward customers with unprecedented promotions and offerings that keep them satisfied every time they shop in one of X-cite's 18 showrooms, through their e-commerce website www.xcite.com and mobile application. Customers can also enjoy many of X-cite's convenient services including Easy Credit, shopping at any of X-cite's select stores that are open 24-hours, extended and accidental warranty programs; in addition to free delivery and installation services. X-cite also provides its customers with a full-fledged service center that operates six days a week, and a professional field technician team.



MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS ANNOUNCES ITS SUMMER OFFERS

KUWAIT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the BIG 5 global jewellery retailers announced its latest offers to celebrate the onset of summers. This Campaign will run at all Malabar Gold & Diamonds' outlets located in the Kuwait until 8th July, 2017. This summer season, Malabar Gold & Diamonds gives their customers an exclusive chance to win up to 75 gold bars with purchase of gold and diamond jewellery. With every purchase of gold jewellery worth KWD 40, customers get a chance to enter raffle draws to win up to 75 gold bars in total weighing 100 gram gold each. In Kuwait 6 lucky customers can win 100 gram gold bar each through this promotion. Those who buy diamond jewellery worth KWD 40 will get 2

raffle coupons, doubling their chances to win. Adding to the above, customers also get free 1 gram gold coin on diamond jewellery purchase of KD 250 and above.

To add more glitter to this season, they have also unveiled the latest collection of jewellery in gold, diamonds and precious gems to suit the tastes of their multicultural and multinational customers. Malabar Gold & Diamonds has incorporated these designs as a part of various brands presented at Malabar Gold & Diamonds' namely Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewellery, Era - Uncut Diamond Jewellery, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Divine- Indian Heritage Jewellery, Precia - Gem Jewellery and Starlet - kids jewellery.



APPLE READYING SIRI-POWERED HOME ASSISTANT

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple is preparing to launch a connected speaker to serve as a smart home assistant in a challenge to Amazon Echo and Google Home, a news report said Thursday. The speaker powered by Apple's digital assistant Siri may be unveiled at the annual Worldwide Developers Conference next week in Silicon Valley, Bloomberg News reported. The new device-

speculation about which has been swirling for months-could entice software makers to tailor applications or services for a broader array of Apple hardware. Like Echo and Home devices gaining traction in the market, an Apple home assistant could let people control lights or appliances and interact with the internet using voice commands. Apple did not reply to an AFP

request for comment on the report. Amazon recently unveiled the latest member of its family of devices powered by its Alexa digital assistant-this one with a touchscreen. Amazon has dominated the category of connected speakers since 2014 when it introduced its first Echo, which responds to voice commands and allows users to order goods or rides and control connected appliances. A

survey released last month by research firm eMarketer found Echo speakers held 70.6 percent of the US market, compared with 23.8 percent for Google Home and 5.6 percent for others including Lenovo, LG, Harmon Kardon and Mattel. Samsung-owned Harman Kardon meanwhile recently announced the release of an Invoke speaker powered by Microsoft's digital

assistant Cortana and integrating Skype for making calls using the device. At its annual developers gathering in May, Google announced an array of new partnerships and capabilities for Home smart speakers. Meanwhile, Apple has been under pressure to wow the world with a new creation as its culture-changing iPhone is about to turn 10 years old.—AFP



NEW YORK: This screen grab shows a tweet from President Donald Trump which has social media trying to find a meaning in the mysterious term covfefe. —AP

ONLINE GAME WORDS WITH FRIENDS ADDS COVFEFE TO ITS LIST

NEW YORK: The popular mobile word game Words with Friends has added one of the internet's most popular typos in recent days - "covfefe." The mysterious term that President Donald Trump tweeted has spread like wildfire on social media and the Scrabble-like multiplayer game has jumped aboard, defining the word as "the amount and quality of reporting when autocorrect fails you at 3am."

"Covfefe" was born on Twitter just after midnight Wednesday when the president wrote about "constant negative press covfefe," prompting jokes from Jimmy Kimmel to Hillary Clinton. Trump later poked fun at the typo: "Who can figure out the true meaning of 'covfefe'??? Enjoy!" Dictionary publisher Merriam-Webster checked in with an eye-rolling tweet, and dozens of definitions have been submitted to the Urban Dictionary website, which crowd sources slang terms.—AP

FACEBOOK, GOOGLE CRACK DOWN ON HATE SPEECH: EU

BRUSSELS: Facebook, Google and other US internet giants have sharply boosted efforts to clamp down on online hate speech, a top European Union official said Thursday. The EU joined forces with the companies a year ago to combat online extremism, responding to growing alarm in Europe over the use of social media as a recruiting tool, especially by the Islamic State group. "The companies are now removing twice as many cases of illegal hate speech and at a faster rate when compared to six months ago," Vera Jourova, the EU commissioner for justice, said in the first annual progress report. It "shows that a self-regulatory approach can work," said Jourova, who called for further progress-particularly from Twitter. Facebook was the only one of the four giants-the other two are Microsoft and YouTube-to review and act on most hate speech notifications within 24 hours, she added. "Facebook shows that they invested a lot of capacities and a lot of efforts to do the take downs in the necessary numbers in the agreed times," Jourova told reporters. Facebook, Twitter, Microsoft and

Google's YouTube announced a code of conduct in May last year, pledging to remove online hate speech within 24 hours of being notified. A year on, a recent survey of 24 EU countries showed that on average, in 59 percent of cases, internet firms responded to notifications of illegal hate speech by removing the content. That is more than twice the level of 28 percent recorded six months earlier. Jourova said she would try to enlist the support of other tech firms and make other improvements to the system, all the more so as "extremism and radicalization in Europe is on the rise." She referred to the May 22 attack at a pop concert in Manchester, northern England, carried out by Salman Abedi, a 22-year-old born and raised locally. As detectives try to determine how Abedi was radicalized, Jourova warned that many young people were vulnerable to online extremist recruitment. The tech firms have pledged to fight speech under European laws that bar incitement to violence or hatred directed against people based on race, color, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin.—AFP

GOOGLE MOVES TO BLOCK ANNOYING ADS IN BROWSER

WASHINGTON: Google is working to block "annoying" ads in its Chrome browser, part of a broader effort by industry players to filter out certain types of marketing messages that draw complaints. "We believe online ads should be better. That's why we joined the Coalition for Better Ads, an industry group dedicated to improving online ads," said Sridhar Ramaswamy, Google's senior vice president for advertising in a blog post Thursday. "In dialogue with the Coalition and other industry groups, we plan to have Chrome stop showing ads (including those owned or served by Google) on websites that are not compliant with the Better Ads Standards starting in early 2018." Google's move, in the works for some time, could end up reducing some ads served and impact its own revenue, but it aims to improve the overall web experience and discourage third-party ad-blockers that could have a more dramatic impact. Ramaswamy noted that "annoying" ads prompt some people to use ad-blockers that stop all advertising content, hurting revenue for content creators. "The vast majority of online content creators fund their work with advertising,"

Ramaswamy said. "That means they want the ads that run on their sites to be compelling, useful and engaging-ones that people actually want to see and interact with." But he noted that "it's far too common that people encounter annoying, intrusive ads on the web-like the kind that blare music unexpectedly, or force you to wait 10 seconds before you can see the content on the page." Google is a founding member of the Coalition, which was formed last year and aims to maintain the online advertising ecosystem while eliminating ads that many find irritating. The group released guidelines earlier this year for ads on both mobile and desktop. But some analysts say it will be difficult for Google and others to set standards that please all parties. "It's smart for Google to be part of the push for limited ad blockers even if that may seem counterintuitive, because if it can focus that activity on egregious ads rather than all ads indiscriminately, it has a much better shot at protecting its own massive ad revenue than if others take more of a blanket approach," said Jan Dawson of Jackdaw Research.—AFP

TALLINN MANUAL 2.0: THE RULEBOOK FOR CYBERWAR

'A UNIQUE COLLECTION OF LAW ON CYBER-CONFLICT'

TALLINN: With ransomware like "WannaCry" sowing chaos worldwide and global powers accusing rivals of using cyberattacks to interfere in domestic politics, the latest edition of the world's only book laying down the law in cyberspace could not be timelier. The Tallinn Manual 2.0 is a unique collection of law on cyber-conflict, says Professor Michael Schmitt from the UK's University of Exeter, who led work on the tome.

Published by Cambridge University Press and first compiled by a team of 19 experts in 2013, the latest updated edition aims to pin down the rules that governments should follow when doing battle in virtual reality. The manual was among the hot topics this week as over 500 IT security experts from across the globe gathered at NATO's Cycon cyber security conference in Tallinn. Launched in 2009, the annual event is organized by NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence based in the Estonian capital.

In 2007, Estonia was among the first countries to suffer a massive cyber attack, with authorities in Tallinn blaming the Baltic state's Soviet-era master Russia. "The very next year, in the war between Russia and Georgia, again we saw a lot of cyber activity," said Schmitt, speaking to AFP at Cycon. Estonia was targeted just three years after it joined NATO and the EU in 2004. The attack raised a slew serious questions about how to apply and enforce NATO's Article 5 collective defense guarantee in cyberspace, said Schmitt, who also chairs the Stockton Center for the Study of International Law at the United States Naval War College. He said that NATO allies faced an unprecedented dilemma: Did the

attack "mean that NATO states had to somehow come to the rescue of Estonia or not?" Was it "an attack on the civilian population, a violation of international humanitarian law or not? No one had the answers," he added. "Because of that (attack) the international community started looking at cyber, going: cyberspace. But the virtually limitless range of possibilities in cyber-conflict raises a long laundry list of legal questions and dilemmas and the Tallinn Manual certainly cannot answer them all. The legal experts, mostly professors of international law, filled its 642 pages with existing jurisprudence applying to cyberspace from across the globe, and did not shy away from laying out



SEOUL: A photo shows staff monitoring the spread of ransomware cyber-attacks at the Korea Internet and Security Agency (KISA) in Seoul. —AFP

"Oh my God, I can't answer any question! That's why this manual was started." Schmitt says his team's work is intended to tame the "digital wild west" that emerged with the advent of

conflicting views on certain issues. For example: should cyber-espionage be subject to the same laws as conventional spying? Can a state obtain the online IDs and passwords of prisoners of war and use them? Does a cyberattack trigger a legitimate right to self-defense? Can you retaliate?

defense and foreign ministers, the intelligence services, so that legal advisors can sit with policy makers and say: in this situation, we can do this, or the law is not clear, you need to make a political decision here. "But at least the discussion is mature. It's not oh my God, what's happening to us?"—AFP



NETHERLANDS: A picture shows the first hyperloop test facility during its opening at the Technical University in Delft, The Netherlands. —AFP

DUTCH GROUP UNVEILS HYPERLOOP TEST FACILITY

THE HAGUE: A Dutch group chasing technology luminary Elon Musk's vision of near-supersonic "Hyperloop" rail transport unveiled Europe's first test facility Thursday, aiming to start constructing a system within four years. Hardt, a company which grew from a group of technology students who won a competition set by Tesla founder and SpaceX head Musk earlier this year, unveiled their 30-metre (98-foot) test facility at the Delft University of Technology campus. Hyperloop is a system that propels a capsule or pod magnetically through a near-vacuum tube at almost the speed of sound-and its inventors say it may one day compete on the same footing as air travel. "A Hyperloop network across Europe would mean that people could travel across an entire continent with

the same ease that underground train travel currently offers in big cities," Hardt's chief executive Tim Houter said. The Hyperloop would also not make intermediate stops between two destinations, he said. "We are creating a world where distance no longer matters," he said. The test facility is the first in a series of plans to eventually build a Hyperloop system. Low-speed tests will be followed by high-speed tests and the TU Delft facility will also study aspects such as cornering and changing lanes within the vacuum at top speed. "When all the technologies have been proven, the building of a route between two cities to transport people and goods can begin," Houter said. Asked whether Hardt had two specific cities in mind, Houter said "we still

have to do some research" including about distances and which cities would require such a high-speed service. He did not exclude that it could run between Amsterdam and Paris, currently serviced by planes, and high-speed trains that travel up to 300 kilometers an hour. "Once the first Hyperloop route is in place, other routes will quickly follow until they're all over the entire Europe," Houter said. But the Hyperloop still has to overcome some challenges including acceptance as a safe mode of transportation, Houter said. "But it's just like when airplanes first came out-some people then found flying a bit scary too," he said. Houter captained a TU Delft team that won Musk's Space X Hyperloop Pod Competition in January for the best designed and built pod to be used in a Hyperloop tube.—AFP

SNAPCHAT'S SPECTACLES GO ON SALE IN EUROPE

PARIS: Snap, parent company of the mobile application Snapchat, said Friday that its Spectacles sunglasses, which have built-in cameras, have gone on sale in Europe. "From June 2, and for the first time, the Spectacles sunglasses will go on sale outside of the United States," Snap said in an emailed statement. The sunglasses, which can record short videos of between 10 and 30 seconds and share them via Snapchat, will be sold via "Snapbots," yellow vending machines being installed at chosen sites in France, Britain, Germany, Italy and

Spain this summer. The shades, retailing at 149.99 euros (\$168) in Europe, can also be purchased online. There are small LED lamps on the sunglasses that light up when the camera is on to signal to people nearby that they are being filmed. The Spectacles already went on sale in the United States in November, with an estimated 90,000 sold by the end of March, according to US media reports. Snap said that the number of daily active users of its Snapchat messaging service grew to 166 million at the end of the quarter, including 55 million in Europe.—AFP

SOME VAGINAL BACTERIA MAY WEAKEN ANTI-HIV GEL: STUDY

MIAMI: Some kinds of vaginal bacteria may interfere with a gel meant to curb the risk of contracting HIV, which infects more than one million women worldwide each year, researchers said Thursday. The findings in the journal *Science* were based on a 2010 study of women in South Africa who used the microbicide drug tenofovir, in vaginal gel form, to assess how well it worked at preventing transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

The drug has shown success in preventing HIV in high-risk men, but studies involving women have been "disappointing," said the report. A 2010 randomized trial called CAPRISA 004 showed that tenofovir gel, applied before and after sex, reduced HIV incidence by 39 percent. Researchers examined a subset of women who were infected with HIV during the study, even though they used the gel regularly.

Women who became infected with HIV tended to have dominant bacteria known as *Gardnerella vaginalis*, which "could rapidly metabolize and break down the active form of the drug," said the report. *Gardnerella vaginalis* is associated with a condition known as bacterial vaginosis (BV). BV is known to increase the risk of HIV

because it increases inflammation, disrupts the vaginal wall and impairs wound-healing, and women from sub-Saharan Africa have high prevalence rates of BV, according to background information in the report.

Women with healthier vaginal bacterial compositions—those dominated by the bacteria *Lactobacillus*—showed three-fold higher protection against HIV than women with different dominant vaginal bacteria compositions. An accompanying Perspective article in *Science* pointed out that the research sheds some light on the reasons for the trial's shortcomings, but fails to offer a solution.

Even if women were tested for vaginal bacteria, it remains unclear whether the microbiome could be changed to allow for better performance of the gel, since BV returns in nearly 60 percent of women one year after treatment, wrote Susan Tuddenham and Khalil G. Ghanem of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In the meantime, the study serves as a reminder that "without a deeper understanding of the structure, function, and dynamics of the vaginal microbiome, successful interventions to optimize it and improve women's health will remain elusive."—AFP

CLIMATE SCIENCE: BAD NEWS GETS WORSE

PARIS: US President Donald Trump has announced that America will pull out of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, but scientists say the peril from global warming has never been greater. Earth's average global temperature is scaling new heights, sea ice is retreating, extreme weather events have become more frequent and species are increasingly under threat, they say. A summary of the evidence:

1.1 degrees

In 2016, Earth's average surface temperature hit a record level for the third consecutive year since records began in 1880. The global average temperature was about 1.1 degree Celsius higher than the pre-industrial era. This is when mankind's mass burning of coal, and later oil and gas, started hiking levels of heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The 21st century has already seen 16 of the 17 hottest years on record. Some of the world's biggest cities may be as much as eight degrees Celsius hotter by 2100, said a recent study.

Melting ice

Arctic summer sea ice shrank to 4.14 million square kilometers in 2016 — the second-lowest after 2012, when it reached 3.39 million km². The Arctic Ocean could be ice-free in summer as early as 2030. In parts of Arctic Russia, temperatures were 6 C to 7 C higher than the long-term average. On the other extreme of the world, Antarctica, sea ice last year hit its lowest extent ever recorded by satellites. High-altitude glaciers, meanwhile, declined in surface area in 2015 for the 36th year in a row.

400 parts per million

The atmospheric concentrations of the three most potent greenhouse gases—carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) — all hit new highs in 2016. For the first time on record, in 2015, the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere averaged 400 parts per million (ppm). Most climate scientists agree that greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere must be capped at 450 ppm of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) for a fighting chance to limit average global warming to two degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels.

This is the cap enshrined in the Paris Agreement. Fossil fuel-generated greenhouse gas emissions are thought to have

remained stable in 2016 for the third consecutive year, even as the global economy grew. But to stay on target for 2 C, they need to decline. Meanwhile, scientists are also worried about a rise in levels of methane, which has a far more potent warming effect than CO₂. The rise is so far unexplained. But one feared source is melting Arctic permafrost, which could eventually release billions of tons of carbon dioxide.

70 millimeters

Sea level rise, caused when ice melts and warmer water expands, appears to be accelerating, according to the latest data. The average ocean level was 70 millimeters higher in 2015 than in 1993, having risen as much as 30 percent faster in the 10 years to 2015 than in the previous decade. The pace is likely to pick up further as ice sheets and glaciers shed mass, threatening the homes and livelihoods of tens of millions of people in low-lying areas around the world.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said in January the global average sea level could be between 0.3 and 2.5 meters higher by 2100. On current trends, melt water just from the Antarctic ice sheet could contribute to a meter of lift, according to one study.

Extreme events

The WMO says there are demonstrable links between man-made climate change and some extreme events, especially heat waves. The number of climate-related extreme events—droughts, forest fires, floods, major storm surges—has doubled since 1990, research has shown. The intensity of typhoons battering China, Taiwan, Japan and the Korean Peninsula since 1980, for example, has increased by 12 to 15 percent. Natural disasters drive about 26 million people into poverty every year, says the World Bank, and cause annual losses of about \$520 million (463 million euros).

1,688 species

Of the 8,688 species of animals and plants listed as "threatened" on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List, 19 percent — 1,688 species—have been negatively affected by climate change. Scientists warn that parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef may never recover from an unprecedented second straight year of bleaching.—AFP



QUEENSLAND: This file photo shows an aerial view of the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of the Whitsunday Islands, along the central coast of Queensland.—AFP

UNESCO HAS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER GREAT BARRIER REEF CORAL

UNESCO URGES TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN THE REGION

CANBERRA: A United Nations agency said yesterday it had "serious concern" about coral bleaching on Australia's Great Barrier and urged the government to work faster to improve water quality in the region. UNESCO said in a draft report to the World Heritage Committee released in Paris on the state of conservation of World Heritage-listed properties that "climate change remains the most significant overall threat to the future" of the 2,300-kilometer coral expanse.

"It is recommended that the committee express its serious concern at the coral bleaching and mortality that occurred" over the previous two south hemisphere summers, the report said. UNESCO was also critical of Australia, saying "progress toward achieving water quality targets has been slow." The agency recommended that Australia be asked in a final report to "accelerate its efforts to reach the quality targets" it set out in a reef conservation plan in December.

The government plans to improve water quality through reduced agricultural runoff of fertilizer and pesticides and by reducing the number of trees being cleared along the Queensland state coast. The committee noted that a law to regulate land clearing had yet to be passed by the state government. A study of coral bleaching on the reef, published in the journal *Nature* in March, found 91 percent of the reef had been bleached at least once during three bleaching events of the past two decades, the most serious event occurring last year.

Draft findings

The government authority in charge of the reef marine park reported to a Senate committee in May that as much as half of the 344,000 square kilometers of coral might already be dead due to bleaching. The Australian government welcomed the report and said it would work with the Queensland government on the matter of water quality targets. "It is critical for reefs worldwide, including the Great Barrier Reef, that international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are effective," Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg said in a joint statement.

The government said the draft decision confirmed that its reef conservation plan had been effective. The report found the plan had been effective in banning dredged material from being dumped on the reef and restricting new port developments. The UN World Heritage Committee in considering the draft findings at its meeting underway in Krakow, Poland. Robert Leck, head of oceans at the environmental group WWF-Australia, said the biggest threats to the reef were climate change, poor water quality and excessive tree clearing which increases polluted runoff. "On all three fronts, UNESCO has concerns on progress in tackling these issues," Leck said in a statement.—AP

TWO GIANT, RARE 'CORPSE' FLOWERS BLOOM IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO: It is unusual enough to see one of nature's biggest, rarest—not to mention smelliest—flowers bloom. But it is extraordinary to see two blooms at once. That is why two seven-foot-tall corpse flowers at the Chicago Botanic Garden have attracted thousands of visitors this week, despite the smell of rotting flesh that the flowers emit to attract pollinating beetles and flies.

The rare flowers, officially called titan arum, are naturally occurring in just one place on Earth—the Indonesian island of Sumatra. They are threatened by deforestation, and botanic gardens around the world are cultivating and preserving them. It takes up to 10 years for one plant to flower, and then it does so for about one day.

"Having twin corpse flowers both bloom at

the same time is very rare," said Greg Mueller, chief scientist at the botanic garden. The Chicago Botanic Garden checked with its counterparts around the world and found only a handful of times that such an event has happened, and it has never before occurred in North America.

"This is one of these plants that are just so exciting," Mueller said. The garden will continue to display the plants until June 8, and expects to draw many more thousands of enthusiasts come to observe the huge structures, even though the flowers have already closed back up, and are beginning to wilt. But even more exciting for scientists, they have managed to pluck away precious seeds to send to other gardens.—AFP



CHICAGO: Visitors look at two corpse flowers at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Chicago, Illinois.—AFP

TRAGIC MEASLES VACCINE BLUNDERS KILLS 15 CHILDREN IN SOUTH SUDAN

JUBA: Fifteen children died in South Sudan after receiving contaminated measles vaccines that had not been properly refrigerated, and were mixed using the same syringe for four days. In addition to the blunders handling the vaccine, Health Minister Riek Gai Kok said that two children, aged 12 and 13, had been recruited to administer it. An investigation showed that local officials failed to follow immunization guidelines during a four-day campaign to vaccinate around 300 people in the southeastern state of Kapoeta in May, Kok said.

"The team that vaccinated the children in this tragic event were neither qualified nor trained

for the immunization," he added. The campaign came amid a measles outbreak that has killed 70 children this year, the latest tragedy to strike the world's youngest nation, which has been gripped by civil war for over three years-affecting its ability to deliver decent healthcare. The country has also been affected by repeated bouts of cholera.

"A single reconstitution syringe was used for multiple vaccine vials for the entire four days of the campaign instead of being discarded after single use," Kok said, referring to the device used to mix vaccines before injecting them with a separate syringe.—AFP



BUENOS AIRES: Greenpeace activists demonstrate outside the United States embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina.—AFP

DEMENTIA TIME BOMB: AGEING JAPAN FACES HEALTHCARE CRISIS

KAWASAKI, Japan: Kanemasa Ito compares caring for his wife Kimiko to waging a daily war with the devil. The woman he loved has all but disappeared—lost to dementia, she can no longer eat, bathe, or go to the toilet alone. "There is a demon inside her head," Ito said, articulating the dramatic change in the person he'd built a life with, while she babbles nonsensically.

One of the world's most rapidly ageing and long-lived societies, Japan is at the forefront of an impending global healthcare crisis. Authorities are bracing for a dementia time bomb and their approach could shape policies well beyond its borders. By 2025, one in five of the over 65s—around 7.3 million people—in Japan will have dementia, the health ministry esti-

mates, up from around 4.6 million now.

Alzheimer's disease, a syndrome in which cognitive ability, emotional control, and social behavior deteriorate, accounts for the majority of cases. Ito's wife was just 54 when she was first diagnosed. Now some 15 years on, he is close to breaking point trying to care for her and manage the disease. No longer able to discern what is harmful from what is safe—Kimiko has previously tried to drink cleaning products, unaware of the hazard of ingesting them—she needs constant supervision. "It exhausts me," the 73-year-old confessed in an interview at their Kawasaki home. Their story is becoming increasingly common in a country where a lack of resources and caregivers means the burden falls increasingly on spouses and children. Prime Minister

Shinzo Abe is aiming to increase the number of nursing homes and raise care worker wages to tackle the problem. There is also a goal to ease the burden of family caregivers and reduce the number of people who quit work—such as Ito—to care for dementia-stricken relatives—from 100,000 a year to zero.

Dementia is a major global health issue with cases soaring as people live longer. The World Health Organization estimates a new case is diagnosed every four seconds. Many developed countries are already facing challenges on how to fund care, but Japan's issue is pronounced because its population has aged at a faster pace.

According to a 2016 OECD report, Japanese social spending as a percentage of GDP stands

at 23.1 percent, lower than other developed countries with high percentages of elderly people, such as France and Italy. "Japan has run its social welfare system on the premise that family members would take charge," said Katsuhiko Fujimori, chief research associate at Mizuho Information & Research Institute.

The government, he said, simply can't achieve its goals without more money. But a cash injection seems unrealistic given that Japan's public debt is already more than twice the size of its economy. And with a shrinking and ageing population and workforce, some elderly with higher incomes are already being forced to pay more out of pocket for nursing care expenses under the national insurance scheme.—AFP



JAPAN: In this picture, Kanemasa Ito, right, puts an identity bracelet on his dementia-stricken wife Kimiko before taking her out for a walk in Kawasaki.—AFP

GALAPAGOS BIRD'S EVOLUTION TO AID STUDY OF BONE DISEASE

WASHINGTON: A bird in the Galapagos Islands, known as a cormorant, lost its ability to fly over time due to genetic changes that mirror bone disease in humans, researchers said Thursday. Researchers hope that further study may one day open the door to treatments for bone disorders in people. These DNA changes transpired over the course of two million years, affecting an iconic bird that caught scientist Charles Darwin's attention in the 1830s, said the study in

the journal Science.

Darwin hypothesized that somehow, evolutionary pressures led the bird to lose its ability to fly, but the details of how it happened remained unknown until now. The Galapagos cormorant is the only one of 40 cormorant species that cannot fly. The large bird has short wings and is an excellent swimmer that survives by diving for fish. "Darwin, just by looking at these changes, inferred the process of evolution by natural selec-

tion," said senior author Leonid Kruglyak, chair of human genetics at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) David Geffen School of Medicine.

"We now have sophisticated genetic tools to reexamine these classic examples and uncover what happened at the molecular level." Galapagos cormorants have a different version of a gene called CUX1 than cormorants that can fly, the report said. The gene has previously been linked to shortened wings in chick-

ens. "We saw a mutation in this gene that we've never seen in other animals," said co-author Alejandro Burga, a researcher at UCLA.

Researchers found that when the same gene changes in humans, it causes bone development disorders called skeletal ciliopathies. "People born with skeletal ciliopathies have shorter limbs, narrowed chests and stunted rib cages-as do the Galapagos cormorants," said the report. Such evolu-

tionary changes may come about because not flying allows the bird to enhance another survival skill, like swimming and diving for fish.

Or, birds may have evolved to no longer fly because they simply did not need to migrate to escape predators. "These two scenarios aren't mutually exclusive," said Kruglyak. "You can start down the path because of passive loss of flight but then also have positive selection to keep reducing wings."—AFP

ASTRONAUTS RETURN AFTER MARATHON ISS MISSION

ASTANA: The Soyuz MS-03 spacecraft carrying astronaut Thomas Pesquet undocked from the International Space Station on Friday, marking the beginning of the Frenchman's journey back to Earth after 196 days in orbit. "We confirm separation," an official at Russian Mission Control outside Moscow said of the undocking that occurred as the International Space Station (ISS) orbited above the Chinese-Mongolian border.

Pesquet and Russian cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy are due to land in Kazakhstan at around 1410 GMT on Friday after a marathon 196-day trip that will fall just shy of a record space mission for a European Space Agency astronaut. "It's been a fantastic adventure and amazing ride," Pesquet tweeted a few hours before the undocking. "We got a lot of work done up here. Now it's time to come back to the planet. See you soon!"

The world was a different place when Pesquet and Novitskiy arrived at the station on November 20 for a six-month mission. Since then, Donald Trump has replaced Barack Obama in the White House and a young centrist, Emmanuel Macron, has taken over from Francois Hollande as president in Pesquet's native France.

Novitskiy, 45, is returning to Earth with 39-year-old Pesquet, but Peggy Whitson, who accompanied them into space, will remain on the ISS until September after NASA extended her stay. The 400-kilometre descent should take about three hours and 20 minutes. Along the way, their Soyuz craft will separate into three parts, leaving

the orbital and propulsion modules to burn up as they fall to Earth.

Appreciate the fragility

The descent module will encounter temperatures of up to 1,600 degrees Celsius as friction from the atmosphere heats its protective shield. "Thomas has worked in a remarkable fashion," Jean-Yves Le Gall, the head of CNES, France's space agency, said. The record for the longest continuous mission in space by a European Space Agency astronaut is held by Samantha Cristoforetti of Italy, who was in orbit for 199 days from November 2014 to June 2015. She also broke the record for the longest single mission for a woman.

But that is far short of the 437-day mission by Russian cosmonaut Valery Polyakov, aboard the old Soviet-Russian space station Mir, from January 1994 to March 1995. Pesquet underlined the fragility of Earth in an interview to AFP from the ISS. "There are things that one understands intellectually, but which one doesn't really get," he said via video link, gently floating around in the zero gravity of space.

When it comes to global warming, "we talk of two degrees or four degrees-these are numbers which sometimes exceed human understanding. "But to see the planet as a whole... to see it for yourself... this allows you to truly appreciate the fragility." Pesquet, France's 10th ISS astronaut, has become a social media celebrity at home with more than 550,000 followers on Twitter, where he frequently posted photographs of Earth from space.—AFP



MASHAM: This file photo shows sheep being moved into pens before being judged at the annual Masham Sheep Fair in Masham, northern England.—AFP

SCIENTISTS DEVELOP FACE TEST FOR SHEEP

LONDON: They may look placid while grazing in fields but sheep's faces can tell us a lot, according to scientists in Britain who have developed a new system to work out if sheep are in pain or just feeling sad. The test is based on 500 photos of sheep collected by veterinarians and used to design an algorithm by researchers at Cambridge University that measures five key markers of ovine facial expressions.

When sheep are in pain their eyes narrow, their cheeks tighten, their ears fold forwards, their lips pull down and back and their nostrils change from a U shape to a V shape, according to the scientists. They now hope to extend the test to other species, including horses, rabbits and some rodents. By installing cameras in sheep pens, the scientists hope the test will help farmer's spot injuries or illnesses early on and find treatment. "A lot of the earlier work on the faces of animals was actually done by Darwin, who argued that all humans and many animals show emotion through remarkably similar behaviors," Peter Robinson, a professor who led the research, said in a statement. His colleague Marwa Mahmoud said: "There is a similarity in terms of the muscles in their faces and in our faces.

"However, it is difficult to 'normalize' a sheep's

face in a machine learning model. A sheep's face is totally different in profile than looking straight on, and you can't really tell a sheep how to pose." The scientists are now hoping to perfect the system by enlarging their dataset and the project

seems to be having a personal effect. "I do a lot of walking in the countryside and after working on this project, I now often find myself stopping to talk to the sheep and make sure they're happy," Robinson said.—AFP



KAZAKHSTAN: The Soyuz MS-03 space capsule carrying the International Space Station (ISS) crew of Russian cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy and French astronaut Thomas Pesquet descends beneath a parachute just before landing in a remote area outside the town of Dzhezkazgan, Kazakhstan.—AFP

GRAVITATIONAL WAVES SPOTTED AGAIN, AT FURTHEST DISTANCE YET

MIAMI: Two massive black holes colliding into each other created ripples in space and time, known as gravitational waves, which have been detected at the furthest distance yet, international physicists said Thursday. The galactic mash-up which produced the gravitational waves occurred some three billion light-years away, and marks the science world's third observation of this phenomenon.

The finding further bolsters Einstein's 1915 theory of general relativity, and comes two years after these enigmatic ripples were first detected, said the report in the journal Physical Review Letters. "It is remarkable that

humans can put together a story, and test it, for such strange and extreme events that took place billions of years ago and billions of light-years distant from us," said David Shoemaker, spokesman for the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration.

The group includes more than 1,000 international scientists who perform LIGO research together with the European-based Virgo Collaboration. In all three cases, each of the twin detectors of LIGO detected gravitational waves from the tremendously energetic mergers of black hole pairs. —AFP

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AL-SAYER INVITES JURY MEMBERS TO 11TH TOYOTA DREAM CAR ART CONTEST

Al-Sayer Group Corporate Excellence Department invited prominent jury members and held a screening event to nominate winners of the 11th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest, one of the largest global art contests for children from Kuwait. Toyota Dream Car Art Contest engages children from all over the world to dream and get inspired to share and draw novel and creative ideas about their dream cars.

According to Mohamed Nasser Al-Sayer Board Member and Chairman Al-Sayer Group CSR Committee, "At Al-Sayer we cherish this global platform to promote children of Kuwait at international level. Such competition is helping them to think differently, unconventionally, and to imagine futuristic mobility dreams that makes all of us wonder. Also this engages them to be concerned about society, environment, being healthy, and show empathy towards other fellow living beings."

The Kuwait National Contest which was conducted for over three months collected impressive artworks from the school students including Arab, Bilingual and International Schools, who participated in the event with high level of enthusiasm. The National Winners will be awarded during an exclusive event by Al-Sayer Group Holding.

The selection included pre-elimination, and the jury evaluation followed based on Toyota's three category



Samar Ali Al-Bader



Jawaher Al-Muhanna



M V John



Fady Atef Azmy Saad Yousef

selection processes, that cover artistic message, uniqueness and art characteristics. The ultimate aim of this contest is to let the children visualize their dreams inspired by the slogan "Draw Your Dream Car - Express Your Creativity" and portray it on the drawing sheet. Judges made remarkable comments about the young talents and appreciated the purpose of this global contest.

Highlighting the importance of creativity Eng. Nehad Haj Ali Deputy Group Manager Corporate Excellence Al-Sayer Group said, "In this fast and overly consumer based lifestyle, it is important to foster imaginative and creative competitions among children. They need to observe the nature, experience the culture of the country and bring innovative thoughts as a solution to the common problems they face around them. I am glad that the children of Kuwait are not simmered in electronic gadgets, they are thinking out of the box to find solutions for the problems faced by the world."

Panel of Judges for 11th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest

Samar Ali Al-Bader
A member of the American portrait association as well as the Kuwaiti association for art. Won The Nation Award for Artistic Motivation for the art work - Lost Jasmine - Syria 2016 by National Council for Culture, Art and literature (NCCAL). Won 'His Highness the Emir of Kuwait's'



award in 2010. Mentioned as Important Contemporary Artists for the years 2015 and 2013, in the books of Ingrid Gardill - an art historian from Berlin - Germany. Manages and supervises, Arts and Crafts - an organization with an aim to service the art community in Kuwait.

Jawaher Al-Muhanna
Head of Arts at Ministry of Education institute. Member of International Association of Arts and Kuwait Arts Association. In 2015, achieved His Highness the Emir of Kuwait's award and KNPC award for Arts and

Photography. Main contestant in 2016 Islamic Art competition in Avenues.

M V John
Bachelor of Applied arts from Raja Ravi Varma College of Fine Arts. Founder and creative Director of LAZY LEO Studio, Kuwait.

Fady Atef Azmy Saad Yousef
Graphic Designer, Al-Sayer representative. Plastic Artist, Member in Syndicate of Fine Arts / UNESCO.



OOREDOO AMONG TOP BLOOD DONORS IN KUWAIT

Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, won a trophy by the Central Blood Bank last week for its contribution in blood donations during last year. The awarding ceremony took place during the Blood Donor's Day last week, with Ooredoo as the only telecom provider awarded at the event. The award comes to reiterate Ooredoo's commitment to its responsibility towards society.

In a statement to the press, Ooredoo Kuwait's Senior Manager - Public Relations and Internal Communications expressed her pride in receiving such an award from a reputable entity such as the Kuwait Central Blood Bank. "We're proud to receive this award, and we are committed to being a socially-responsible corporate. We believe in investing in our employees first, as they are the cornerstone of every success. The blood drive that we organized was well-received by our employees from all departments, and we look forward to working with the

Blood Bank in future events." Dashti also thanked all the organizers from the Blood Bank, headed by Dr. Reem Al-Radwan, head of the Blood Donations Unit, for all the great efforts exerted to make the blood drive a success. Ooredoo's blood drive was held last October, during a full-week of health awareness initiatives for the employees. The program included events about diet, diabetes, first aid, and breast cancer in addition to the blood drive.

ANGELIC CHURCH APOLOGIZES FOR NOT HOLDING ANNUAL GHABQA

The National Angelic Church in Kuwait apologizes for not holding its annual Ghabqa this Ramadan, which was scheduled on June 7, because of the grief and mourning of the martyrs and victims of the terrorist attack in Menya, Egypt.

ACK LAUNCHES 'FILL THE GAP' EVENT FOR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDENTS

The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK), Business students participated in the first "Fill the Gap - New Product Launch Competition", organized by the School of Business. There were over 100 students showcasing 30 creative and innovative product ideas, which was judged by Mr Rashed Al-Munae, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, at United Beverages Company (UBC), Mr Fahad Al-Salem-Deputy Sales and Marketing Director at UBC and Ms. Natalie Jaques Senior Manager - Office of Dean at ACK.

The competition was an opportunity for

Semester 1 students to showcase their amazing skills and talents by developing a number of innovative ideas including organic products, healthy snacks and customized car number plates. The winner of the competition was "K-Town Burgers" who created the most effective unique selling proposition, commenting on the occasion winning students said: "It was a great experience for us to actually develop a real product and we are thinking to start our own business and become a future entrepreneur. We made good profit in the event and got great feedback from our customers."

In addition, the competition helped students understand the basic requirements for developing a sound product and it gave them an opportunity to understand the marketing mix element required while developing a brand. Knowledge and experience that students gained revolve around understanding the core features of the product along with identifying the right pricing strategy to be used when introducing any new product in the market. Use of social media in promoting and communicating their business also helped them to understand its influence and define consumer's psychology.



TULU KOOTA KUWAIT CONDUCTS FREE MEDICAL CHECKUP

Tulu Koota Kuwait conducted a free special medical checkup and consultation camp in association with Bader Al-Samaa Medical Center at their Farwaniya clinic on May 12, 2017.

Mr Wilson D'souza, President, Tulu Koota Kuwait on this occasion explained that this special free medical checkup and consultation camp was organized to help those people who can't afford for medical checkup and don't have access to the specialists doctors.

Apart from Blood Pressure and Blood sugar the tests like Cholesterol, Liver Screening and Creatinine (Kidney Screening) were also included. More than 200 were registered and got the medical check-up done and also needy

participants got expert guidance from the Doctors.

Mr Abdul Razak, Manager of Bader Al-Samaa Medical Center thanked Tulu Koota for give them an opportunity to associate for such a noble cause.

Further International Nurses day was celebrated at the close of the camp. Mr Wilson, President, Tulu Koota Kuwait thanked the management and all the staff members of Bader Al-Samaa for their caring and dedicated service to make this event success full. Tulu Koota Kuwait arranged delicious breakfast for the all the participants. TKK all committee members together as a team contributed towards the success of the event which was well coordinated by Welfare Officer Mr Shankar Shetty.



AHMADI GOVERNOR RECEIVES BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

Ahmadi governor, Sheikh Fawwaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah recently received congratulations on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan from many dignitaries, ministers, diplomats and lawmakers.



OSN MOVIES
ACTION

- 02:00 Rivers Nine
- 03:45 Bad Company
- 06:00 Fast & Furious 7
- 08:15 The Living Daylights
- 10:30 Bad Company
- 12:30 Rivers Nine
- 14:15 Fast & Furious 7
- 16:30 Hudson Hawk
- 18:15 King Arthur
- 20:30 Momentum
- 22:15 The Blood Lands
- 23:45 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 01:40 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 02:35 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 03:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 04:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 05:02 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 05:49 River Monsters
- 06:36 Going Ape
- 07:00 Going Ape
- 07:25 Lone Star Law
- 08:15 The Lion Queen
- 09:10 Wild Ones
- 09:35 Wild Ones
- 10:05 Dog Rescuers
- 11:00 Wildest Africa
- 11:55 Animal Cops Miami
- 12:50 Wildest Islands
- 13:45 Wildest Islands
- 14:40 Wildest Islands
- 15:35 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 16:30 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 17:25 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 18:20 Deadly Islands
- 19:15 Lone Star Law
- 20:10 Pit Bulls & Parolees
- 21:05 Lone Star Law
- 22:00 Deadly Islands
- 22:55 Tanked
- 23:50 Tanked

BBC FIRST

- 00:30 Doctors
- 01:00 Death In Paradise
- 01:55 Call The Midwife
- 02:50 Doctor Who
- 03:40 EastEnders
- 04:10 Rillington Place
- 05:05 Call The Midwife

- 05:55 Catch A Contractor
- 06:50 Framework
- 07:40 Hungry Investors
- 08:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 09:20 Lip Sync Battle
- 09:45 Lip Sync Battle
- 10:10 Bondi Ink
- 11:00 Framework
- 11:50 Catch A Contractor
- 12:40 Disaster Date
- 13:05 Disaster Date
- 13:30 Lip Sync Battle
- 13:55 Lip Sync Battle
- 14:20 Bondi Ink
- 15:10 Framework
- 16:00 Frankentoo
- 16:30 Frankentoo
- 16:55 Hungry Investors
- 17:50 Brotherhood
- 18:15 Brotherhood
- 18:39 Impractical Jokers
- 19:03 Disaster Date
- 19:27 Ridiculousness Arabia
- 19:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
- 20:13 Comedy Central Presents Comedy
- 20:37 Comedy Central Presents Comedy
- 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 21:30 Nathan For You
- 22:00 Nathan For You
- 22:25 Ridiculousness Arabia
- 22:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
- 23:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery Family

- 00:05 React To That
- 00:30 Invent It Rich
- 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 Kenny The Shark
- 07:25 Kenny The Shark
- 07:50 Awesome Adventures
- 08:15 Awesome Adventures
- 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

- 02:30 The Hive
- 02:40 Loopdidoo
- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:10 Art Attack
- 03:35 Loopdidoo
- 03:50 Calimero
- 04:05 Art Attack
- 04:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:45 Zou
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:45 Loopdidoo
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:15 Calimero
- 06:30 Loopdidoo
- 06:45 Henry Hugglemonster
- 07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 07:30 Goldie & Bear
- 08:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 08:30 Doc McStuffins
- 09:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 09:30 Sofia The First
- 10:00 The Lion Guard
- 10:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 11:00 PJ Masks
- 11:25 Goldie & Bear
- 11:55 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 12:25 The Lion Guard
- 12:50 Sofia The First
- 14:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 15:05 PJ Masks
- 15:30 The Lion Guard
- 15:55 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:25 Sofia The First
- 16:50 PJ Masks
- 17:05 Goldie & Bear
- 17:35 Doc McStuffins
- 18:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:35 Sofia The First
- 19:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:05 Sofia The First
- 20:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 21:00 Goldie & Bear
- 21:25 Doc McStuffins
- 21:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 22:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 22:55 PJ Masks
- 23:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:35 The Hive
- 23:45 Loopdidoo

Discovery Channel HD

- 00:20 Wheels That Fall
- 00:45 What On Earth?
- 01:35 What On Earth?
- 02:25 What On Earth?
- 03:15 What On Earth?
- 04:05 What On Earth?

- 22:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 22:35 Boyster
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

EHD

- 00:00 Botched
- 00:55 Botched
- 01:50 El News
- 02:50 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:20 Celebrity Style Story
- 03:50 Hollywood & Football
- 04:40 Hollywood & Football
- 05:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 06:00 Just Jillian
- 06:50 El News
- 07:20 Just Jillian
- 08:10 El News
- 09:05 Botched
- 09:55 Botched
- 10:45 Botched
- 11:35 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 12:25 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 13:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 14:15 Second Wives Club
- 15:10 Second Wives Club
- 16:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 El News
- 20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:00 Second Wives Club
- 23:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

food network

- 00:00 Man Fire Food
- 00:30 Man Fire Food
- 01:00 Restaurant: Impossible
- 02:00 Mystery Diners
- 02:30 Mystery Diners
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Gyu's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:00 Chopped
- 08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 09:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:00 Siba's Table
- 10:30 Siba's Table
- 11:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 11:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 12:00 Man Fire Food
- 12:30 Man Fire Food
- 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 15:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 16:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 16:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 17:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 17:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
- 18:00 Bake With Anna Olson
- 18:30 Bake With Anna Olson
- 19:00 Man Fire Food
- 19:30 Man Fire Food
- 20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 21:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 22:00 The Big Eat - Middle East
- 22:30 Dinner At Tiffani's
- 23:00 Chopped

itv HD CHOICE

- 00:05 Coronation Street
- 00:30 Coronation Street
- 01:00 Tutankhamun
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:25 Coronation Street
- 02:50 Coronation Street
- 03:15 Coronation Street
- 03:35 Coronation Street
- 03:55 5 Star Family Reunion
- 04:45 Britain's Secrets With Anne Robinson
- 05:50 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Animals - India
- 06:45 Tina & Bobby
- 07:40 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 08:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 09:30 Tutankhamun
- 10:25 Jekyll And Hyde
- 11:25 Shoot The Messenger
- 12:20 Alphabetical
- 13:15 A Merry Murdoch Christmas
- 15:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Animals - India
- 16:00 Tutankhamun
- 16:55 Britain's Secrets With Anne Robinson
- 19:00 5 Star Family Reunion
- 19:45 Jekyll And Hyde

- 20:35 Britain's Secrets With Anne Robinson
- 21:35 Tutankhamun
- 22:30 Shoot The Messenger
- 23:20 Tina & Bobby

HD HISTORY

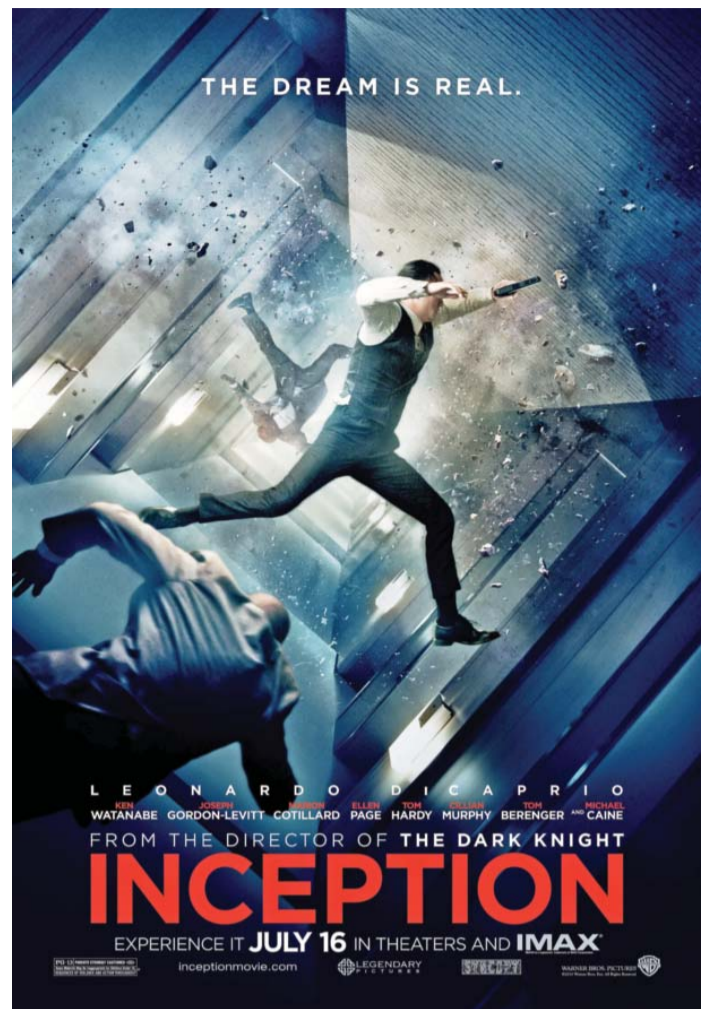
- 00:20 Britain's Bloodiest Dynasty
- 01:10 Big Easy Motors
- 01:35 Big Easy Motors
- 02:00 Leepu And Pitbull
- 02:50 Storage Wars
- 03:15 Pawn Stars
- 03:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 04:05 Storage Wars Miami
- 04:30 Storage Wars Miami
- 05:00 Hoard Hunters
- 06:00 Lost In Transmission
- 06:50 Duck Dynasty
- 07:15 Duck Dynasty
- 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 Duck Dynasty
- 12:15 Duck Dynasty
- 12:40 Swamp People
- 13:30 Ax Men
- 14:20 Mountain Men
- 15:10 Lost In Transmission
- 16:00 Storage Wars
- 16:25 Storage Wars
- 16:50 Pawn Stars
- 17:15 Pawn Stars
- 17:40 Lost Worlds
- 18:30 Britain's Bloodiest Dynasty
- 19:20 Mountain Men
- 20:10 American Pickers
- 21:00 Pawn Stars
- 21:25 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 21:50 Storage Wars Miami
- 22:15 Storage Wars Miami
- 22:40 Big Easy Motors
- 23:05 Big Easy Motors
- 23:30 American Pickers

NAT GEO people HD

- 00:15 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
- 00:45 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 01:10 Miguel's Feasts
- 01:40 The Food Files
- 02:05 The Shellbourne
- 02:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 03:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 03:30 Go's Chinese Takeaway
- 04:25 Chocolate Covered
- 04:50 Chocolate Covered
- 05:20 Home Strange Home
- 06:15 Chef On The Road
- 07:10 Miguel's Feasts
- 07:35 Miguel's Feasts
- 08:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 08:30 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 09:00 Straight To The Source: Korean Food
- 09:25 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 09:55 Dog Whisperer
- 10:50 Dog Whisperer
- 11:45 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
- 12:10 Carnival Eats
- 12:40 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 13:05 The Food Files
- 13:35 The Shellbourne
- 14:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 14:30 The Game Chef
- 14:55 The Game Chef
- 15:25 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala
- 16:20 Chocolate Covered
- 16:45 Chocolate Covered
- 17:15 Home Strange Home
- 18:10 Miguel's Feasts
- 18:35 Miguel's Feasts
- 19:05 The Peninsula: The Making Of A Gala
- 20:00 Chocolate Covered
- 20:30 Chocolate Covered
- 21:00 Home Strange Home
- 22:00 Miguel's Feasts
- 22:25 Miguel's Feasts
- 22:55 The Food Files
- 23:20 The Shellbourne
- 23:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Evacuate Earth
- 01:00 I Wouldn't Go In There
- 02:00 Monster Fish
- 03:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 04:00 Mega Factories
- 05:00 Megastuctures
- 06:00 Lawless Island
- 07:00 Robin Wars
- 08:00 Scam City
- 09:00 Locked Up Abroad



INCEPTION ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 10:00 Beast Hunter
- 11:00 I Wouldn't Go In There
- 12:00 Dog Whisperer
- 13:00 Cesar Millan's Dog Nation
- 14:00 Genius
- 15:00 Monster Fish
- 16:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 17:00 Genius
- 18:00 Brain Games
- 18:30 Brain Games
- 19:00 Monster Fish
- 20:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 20:50 Genius
- 21:40 Brain Games
- 22:05 Brain Games
- 22:30 Monster Fish
- 23:20 Ancient Megastructures

OSN MOVIES HD

- 02:00 Up Close And Personal
- 04:15 The Ladykillers
- 06:00 S.W.A.T.
- 08:00 The War
- 10:15 Eight Men Out
- 12:14 Inception
- 14:45 S.W.A.T.
- 16:45 How Do You Know
- 18:45 Ghostbusters
- 20:30 The Legend Of Zorro
- 22:45 Rocky

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 00:20 Animals Of The Year
- 01:10 Savage Kingdom
- 02:00 Animal Fight Club 4.5
- 02:50 America's National Parks
- 03:45 Wild Case Files
- 04:40 Ultimate Rivals: Cat V. Dog
- 05:35 Cougar V. Wolf
- 06:30 Monster Fish
- 07:25 Hooked
- 08:20 World's Deadliest
- 09:15 Wild Survivor
- 10:10 My Life As A Zoo
- 11:05 Dr. Oakley: Yukon Vet
- 12:00 World's Weirdest
- 12:55 Animal Fight Club 4.5
- 13:50 Wild Case Files
- 14:45 World's Deadliest Animals
- 15:40 Strangest Bird Alive
- 16:35 Sahara
- 17:30 Wild Amazon
- 18:25 Wild Galapagos
- 19:20 World's Deadliest Animals
- 20:10 Strangest Bird Alive
- 21:00 Sahara
- 21:50 Wild Amazon
- 22:40 Wild Galapagos
- 23:30 World's Weirdest

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 00:40 Write A Song: My Own Little Tune
- 02:25 Hotel Transylvania 2
- 03:55 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls
- 05:25 Max Keeble's Big Move
- 06:55 Hotel Transylvania 2
- 08:25 White Fang 2: Myth Of The White Wolf
- 10:10 Hotel For Dogs
- 11:50 Monsterville: The Cabinet Of Souls
- 13:20 Up
- 15:00 Home On The Range
- 16:20 Cars
- 18:20 D3: The Mighty Ducks
- 20:05 Marvel Super Hero Adventures: Frost Fight
- 21:25 Home On The Range
- 22:45 D3: The Mighty Ducks

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:55 Playing It Cool
- 02:30 Babe: Pig In The City
- 04:10 Love, Rosie
- 05:55 Parenthood
- 07:55 Babe: Pig In The City
- 09:30 Love, Rosie
- 11:15 Parenthood
- 13:15 Hard Promises
- 15:00 Yoga Hosers
- 16:30 7 Chinese Brothers
- 18:00 Kicking And Screaming
- 19:45 Hard Promises
- 21:30 Hit By Lightning
- 23:00 Dirty Work

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 00:00 The Manchurian Candidate
- 02:15 The Sting
- 04:30 From Rocky To Creed The Legacy Continues
- 05:30 Ironweed
- 08:00 Foreverland
- 09:45 Ironweed
- 12:15 The Sting
- 14:30 The Yellow Handkerchief
- 16:25 Wuthering Heights
- 18:00 A Country Called Home
- 19:45 Ed Wood
- 22:00 Slow West
- 23:30 The Yellow Handkerchief

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 00:45 Marco Macaco
- 02:30 Big Baby
- 04:15 Capture The Flag
- 06:00 Worms
- 07:30 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
- 00:20 Cake Boss
- 01:10 Cake Boss
- 01:35 Cake Boss
- 02:00 Cake Boss
- 02:25 Cake Boss
- 02:50 Cake Boss
- 03:15 Cake Boss
- 03:35 Cake Boss
- 04:00 Cake Boss
- 04:20 Cake Boss
- 04:45 Cake Boss
- 05:10 Cake Boss
- 06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 06:50 The World's Most Identical Strangers
- 07:40 Little People, Big World
- 08:30 Little People, Big World
- 09:20 Outrageous Kid Parties
- 09:45 Outrageous Kid Parties
- 10:10 Love, Lust Or Run
- 10:35 Cake Boss
- 11:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 11:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 11:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 12:40 Oprah's Master Class
- 13:30 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
- 14:20 Outdaughters: Busby Quints
- 15:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 16:00 Little People, Big World
- 16:25 Little People, Big World
- 16:50 Outrageous Kid Parties
- 17:15 Outrageous Kid Parties
- 17:40 Say Yes To The Dress
- 18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
- 18:30 Cake Boss
- 18:55 Cake Boss
- 19:20 Cake Boss
- 19:45 Cake Boss
- 20:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 21:00 Cake Boss
- 21:25 Cake Boss
- 21:50 She's In Charge
- 22:40 The Undateables
- 23:30 Cake Boss
- 23:55 Cake Boss



FAST & FURIOUS 7 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 06:00 EastEnders
- 06:30 Holly City
- 07:25 New Tricks
- 08:20 The Musketeers
- 09:15 Death In Paradise
- 10:15 Doctors
- 10:45 EastEnders
- 11:15 New Tricks
- 12:10 The Musketeers
- 13:05 Death In Paradise
- 14:05 Doctors
- 14:35 EastEnders
- 15:05 New Tricks
- 16:00 The Musketeers
- 17:00 Death In Paradise
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 EastEnders
- 19:05 New Tricks
- 20:00 Unforgotten
- 21:00 Blackout
- 21:50 Southcliffe
- 22:45 Ripper Street
- 23:40 Doctors
- 11:35 How It's Made
- 12:00 How It's Made
- 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 The Carbonaro Effect
- 19:05 The Carbonaro Effect
- 19:30 How We Invented The World
- 20:20 North America
- 21:10 Bermuda Triangle Exposed
- 22:00 What Happened Next?
- 22:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 22:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 23:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 23:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things

ID

- 00:30 The Real Story With Maria Elena Salinas
- 01:20 Killing Richard Glossip
- 02:10 Betrayed
- 03:00 Murder Chose Me
- 03:48 I Almost Got Away With It
- 04:36 I Almost Got Away With It
- 05:24 I Almost Got Away With It
- 06:12 I Almost Got Away With It
- 07:00 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
- 07:25 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
- 07:50 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
- 08:15 Young, Hot & Crooked
- 08:40 Young, Hot & Crooked
- 09:05 Young, Hot & Crooked
- 09:30 Young, Hot & Crooked
- 09:55 Young, Hot & Crooked
- 10:20 Young, Hot & Crooked
- 10:45 Young, Hot & Crooked
- 11:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 12:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 12:50 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 13:40 Heartbreakers
- 14:30 Heartbreakers
- 15:20 Heartbreakers
- 16:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
- 17:00 I'd Kill For You
- 17:50 Love The Way You Lie
- 18:40 Love The Way You Lie
- 19:30 Love The Way You Lie
- 20:20 Love The Way You Lie
- 21:10 Blood Relatives
- 22:00 Six Degrees Of Murder
- 22:50 Evil Kin
- 23:40 Grave Secrets

Disney JUNIOR

- 00:00 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:15 Calimero
- 00:30 Art Attack
- 00:55 Zou
- 01:05 Loopdidoo
- 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:35 Calimero
- 01:50 Zou
- 02:05 Art Attack
- 06:00 Supa Strikas
- 06:25 Supa Strikas
- 06:50 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 07:15 Counterfeit Cat
- 07:40 Walk The Prank
- 08:10 K.C. Undercover
- 08:35 Milo Murphy's Law
- 09:00 Disney11
- 09:25 Disney11
- 09:50 Disney11
- 10:20 Disney11
- 10:45 Disney11
- 11:10 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 11:35 Mech-X4
- 12:00 Robin Hood
- 13:30 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 13:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 14:15 Milo Murphy's Law
- 14:40 K.C. Undercover
- 15:05 Walk The Prank
- 15:30 Atomic Puppet
- 15:55 Lab Rats
- 16:25 Mech-X4
- 16:50 K.C. Undercover
- 17:15 Supa Strikas
- 17:40 Mighty Med
- 18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 18:10 Star Wars Rebels
- 18:35 Phineas & Ferb: The O.W.C.A. Files
- 19:25 Kirby Buckets
- 19:55 K.C. Undercover
- 20:20 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 20:45 Counterfeit Cat
- 21:10 Star Wars Rebels
- 21:35 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:45 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 The Last Goodbye
- 00:30 The Last Goodbye
- 01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 02:00 Babies Behind Bars
- 03:00 Escaping Polygamy
- 04:00 The Last Goodbye
- 04:30 The Last Goodbye
- 05:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 06:00 The First 48
- 07:00 The First 48
- 08:00 Killers
- 09:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
- 10:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
- 11:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 12:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 13:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 14:00 It Takes A Killer
- 14:30 It Takes A Killer
- 15:00 It Takes A Killer
- 15:30 It Takes A Killer
- 16:00 Homicide Hunter
- 17:00 Homicide Hunter
- 18:00 Cold Case Files
- 19:00 Cold Case Files
- 20:00 The First 48

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (01/06/2017 TO 07/06/2017)

| Channel | Time | Programme | Channel | Time | Programme | Channel | Time | Programme |
|-----------|----------|---|-----------|----------|---|-----------|----------|---|
| SHARQIA-1 | 9:45 PM | FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie | FANAR-5 | 10:15 PM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) | 360°-3 | 9:30 PM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) |
| | 11:15 PM | Abu Shanab (Re-Release) | | 11:45 PM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) | | 11:00 PM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) |
| | | | | 1:15 AM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) | | 12:30 AM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) |
| SHARQIA-2 | 9:30 PM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) | MARINA-1 | 10:00 PM | KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD | AL-KOUT.1 | 10:00 PM | THE EXCEPTION |
| | 11:00 PM | THE EXCEPTION | | 12:30 AM | Abu Shanab (Re-Release) | | 12:15 AM | Abu Shanab (Re-Release) |
| | 1:15 AM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) | | | | | 9:45 PM | FOOTBALL MATCH- "Real Madrid vs Juventus" |
| | 9:45 PM | FOOTBALL MATCH- "Real Madrid vs Juventus" | | | | | 12:30 AM | Abu Shanab (Re-Release) |
| | 12:30 AM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) | MARINA-2 | 9:30 PM | FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie | AL-KOUT.2 | 9:45 PM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) |
| SHARQIA-3 | 10:00 PM | KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD | | 11:00 PM | Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release) | | 11:15 PM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) |
| | 12:30 AM | Mantaqh Mahzourah (Re-Release) | | 1:00 AM | Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release) | | 12:45 AM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) |
| MUHALAB-1 | 9:45 PM | Abu Shanab (Re-Release) | MARINA-3 | 9:45 PM | DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL | AL-KOUT.3 | 10:15 PM | Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release) |
| | 12:05 AM | KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD | | 11:45 PM | THE EXCEPTION | | 12:30 AM | KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD |
| MUHALAB-2 | 9:30 PM | FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie | AVENUES-1 | 9:30 PM | MINIONS (Re Release) | AL-KOUT.4 | 9:30 PM | FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie |
| | 11:00 PM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) | | 11:30 PM | ALIEN: COVENANT | | 11:00 PM | Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release) |
| | 12:30 AM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) | | | | | 1:00 AM | Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release) |
| MUHALAB-3 | 10:00 PM | THE EXCEPTION | AVENUES-2 | 10:00 PM | MINIONS (Re Release)-3D-4DX | BAIRAQ-1 | 9:45 PM | MINIONS (Re Release) |
| | 12:15 AM | Hasan wa Boqloz (Arabic) (Re-Release) | | 12:05 AM | KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD (2D-4DX) | | 11:45 PM | THE BOSS BABY |
| FANAR-1 | 10:00 PM | SACHIN: A BILLION DREAMS -Hindi | AVENUES-3 | 10:30 PM | THE BOSS BABY | BAIRAQ-2 | 10:00 PM | FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie |
| | 12:45 AM | Mantaqh Mahzourah (Re-Release) | | 9:45 PM | FOOTBALL MATCH- "Real Madrid vs Juventus" | | 11:30 PM | DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: THE LONG HAUL |
| | | | | 12:30 AM | HERE ALONE | BAIRAQ-3 | 9:30 PM | KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD |
| FANAR-2 | 9:30 PM | MINIONS (Re Release) | AVENUES-4 | 10:15 PM | ALIEN: COVENANT | | 12:05 AM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) |
| | 11:30 PM | Abu Shanab (Re-Release) | | 12:45 AM | Safra 5 Njoom (Kuwaiti Film) (Re-Release) | PLAZA | 9:30 PM | GODHA -Malayalam |
| | 9:45 PM | FOOTBALL MATCH- "Real Madrid vs Juventus" | 360°-1 | 9:45 PM | KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD | | 12:05 AM | SACHIN: A BILLION DREAMS -Hindi |
| | 12:30 AM | Abu Shanab (Re-Release) | | | NO SAT | LAILA | 10:00 PM | MINIONS (Re Release) |
| FANAR-3 | 9:45 PM | FIREMAN SAM: Alien Alert! The Movie | | | FOOTBALL MATCH- "Real Madrid vs Juventus" | | 12:05 AM | AL FERAN (KUWAITI) |
| | 11:15 PM | KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD | | | SAT | AJIAL1 | 9:30 PM | GODHA -Malayalam |
| FANAR-4 | 10:15 PM | THE EXCEPTION | | | KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD | | 12:05 AM | GODHA -Malayalam |
| | 9:45 PM | FOOTBALL MATCH- "Real Madrid vs Juventus" | 360°-2 | 10:15 PM | THE EXCEPTION | | | |
| | 12:30 AM | THE EXCEPTION | | 12:45 AM | THE EXCEPTION | | | |

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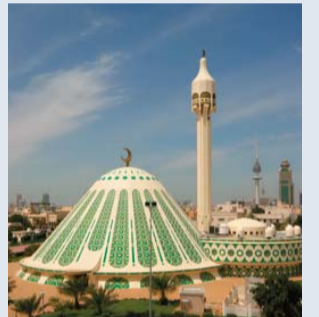
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PRAYER TIMINGS

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Fajr: | 03:14 |
| Shorook: | 04:48 |
| Duhr: | 11:46 |
| Asr: | 15:21 |
| Maghrib: | 18:44 |
| Isha: | 20:15 |



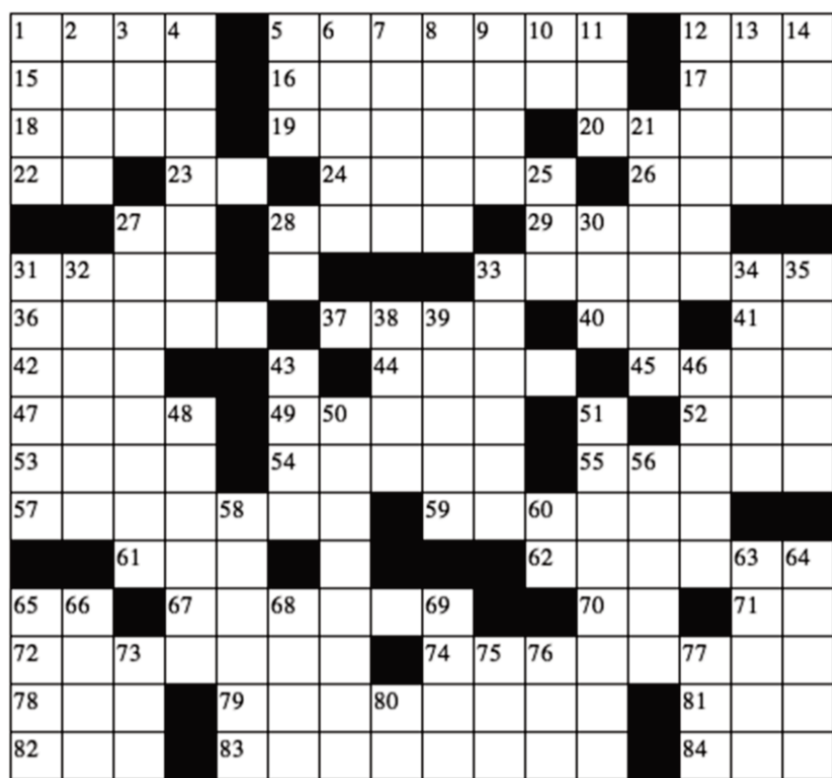
Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

| Arrival Flights on Sunday 4/6/2017 | | | | Departure Flights on Sunday 4/6/2017 | | | |
|------------------------------------|------|-----------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-----|----------|-------|
| Airlines | Flt | Route | Time | Airlines | Flt | Route | Time |
| TTHY | 772 | Istanbul | 00:10 | PIA | 205 | Lahore | 23:40 |
| JZR | 513 | Sharm el-Sheikh | 00:15 | THY | 764 | Istanbul | 23:45 |
| JZR | 553 | Alexandria | 00:15 | | | | |
| KAC | 786 | Jeddah | 00:30 | | | | |
| JZR | 267 | Beirut | 00:35 | | | | |
| KAC | 504 | Beirut | 00:45 | | | | |
| KAC | 102 | London | 00:55 | | | | |
| DLH | 635 | Doha | 01:00 | | | | |
| PGT | 858 | Istanbul | 01:15 | | | | |
| JZR | 539 | Cairo | 01:25 | | | | |
| UAE | 853 | Dubai | 01:40 | | | | |
| RJA | 642 | Amman | 01:45 | | | | |
| ETH | 620 | Addis Ababa | 01:50 | | | | |
| KKK | 6506 | Istanbul | 01:55 | | | | |
| MEA | 408 | Beirut | 02:00 | | | | |
| KLM | 446 | Bahrain | 02:05 | | | | |
| QTR | 1086 | Doha | 02:05 | | | | |
| GFA | 211 | Bahrain | 02:15 | | | | |
| KAC | 418 | Manila | 02:50 | | | | |
| OMA | 643 | Muscat | 03:05 | | | | |
| ETD | 305 | Abu Dhabi | 03:10 | | | | |
| MSR | 612 | Cairo | 03:15 | | | | |
| KAC | 382 | Delhi | 03:15 | | | | |
| PGT | 860 | Istanbul | 03:25 | | | | |
| QTR | 1076 | Doha | 03:40 | | | | |
| KAC | 1544 | Cairo | 03:50 | | | | |
| CEB | 018 | Manila | 04:00 | | | | |
| KAC | 346 | Ahmedabad | 04:15 | | | | |
| KAC | 358 | Kochi | 04:50 | | | | |
| FEG | 931 | Alexandria | 05:00 | | | | |
| KAC | 784 | Jeddah | 05:00 | | | | |
| THY | 770 | Istanbul | 05:05 | | | | |
| DHX | 170 | Bahrain | 05:10 | | | | |
| QTR | 8511 | Doha | 05:20 | | | | |
| KAC | 344 | Chennai | 05:30 | | | | |
| KAC | 332 | Trivandrum | 05:40 | | | | |
| BAW | 157 | London | 06:05 | | | | |
| KAC | 284 | Dhaka | 06:35 | | | | |
| KAC | 206 | Islamabad | 06:40 | | | | |
| KAC | 302 | Mumbai | 06:55 | | | | |
| KAC | 156 | Istanbul | 07:05 | | | | |
| JZR | 1541 | Cairo | 07:10 | | | | |
| KAC | 354 | Bangalore | 07:50 | | | | |
| KAC | 384 | Delhi | 08:00 | | | | |
| UAE | 855 | Dubai | 08:25 | | | | |
| ETD | 301 | Abu Dhabi | 08:55 | | | | |
| ABY | 125 | Sharjah | 09:00 | | | | |
| QTR | 1070 | Doha | 09:20 | | | | |
| IRA | 665 | Shiraz | 09:25 | | | | |
| FDB | 055 | Dubai | 09:40 | | | | |
| MSC | 415 | Sohag | 10:15 | | | | |
| IRC | 528 | Ahwaz | 10:25 | | | | |
| GFA | 213 | Bahrain | 10:40 | | | | |
| SAW | 703 | Damascus | 10:45 | | | | |
| MEA | 404 | Beirut | 10:55 | | | | |
| PAL | 668 | Manila | 11:00 | | | | |
| SYR | 341 | Damascus | 11:00 | | | | |
| JZR | 561 | Sohag | 11:10 | | | | |
| KAC | 522 | Al Najaf | 11:20 | | | | |
| KAC | 742 | Dammam | 11:45 | | | | |
| UAE | 871 | Dubai | 12:45 | | | | |
| KAC | 774 | Riyadh | 12:45 | | | | |
| THY | 766 | Istanbul | 12:50 | | | | |
| FEG | 1933 | Sohag | 12:55 | | | | |

CROSSWORD 1627



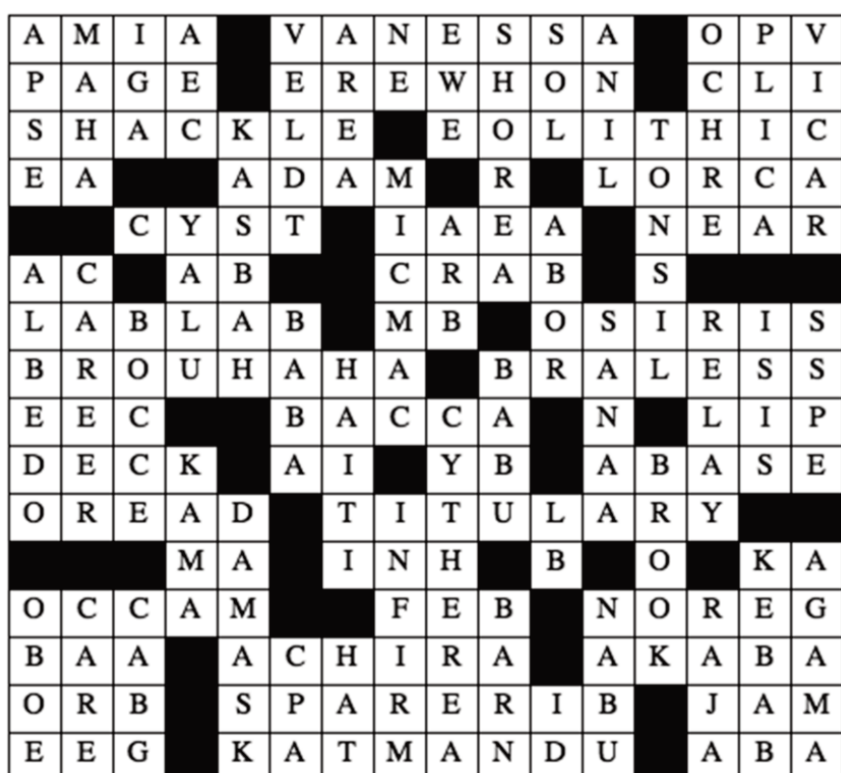
ACROSS

- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- (of securities) Not quoted on a stock exchange.
- An informal term for a father.
- Resembling or characteristic of or appropriate to an elegy.
- Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- A mountain peak in the Saint Elias Range in the southwestern Yukon Territory in Canada (19,850 feet high).
- A corporation authorized by Congress to provide a secondary market for residential mortgages.
- (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
- A doctor's degree in optometry.
- East Indian silk cotton tree yielding fibers inferior to kapok.
- God of the Underworld.
- (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
- According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- The use of nuclear magnetic resonance of protons to produce proton density images.
- Not to be placated or appeased or moved by entreaty.
- In bed.
- A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Worn or shabby from overuse or (of pages) from having corners turned down.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Being or occurring at an advanced period of time or after a usual or expected time.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- A drama set to music.
- A state of lawlessness and disorder (usually resulting from a failure of government).
- Regarded with deep or rapturous love (especially as if for a god).
- An inflated feeling of pride in your superiority to others.
- Cereal grass widely cultivated for its grain.
- A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- The capital of Turkey.
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- Half the width of an em.
- Dam to make a millpond to provide power for a water mill.
- English chemist noted for his studies of molecular structures in plants (1886-1975).
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- An aromatic gum resin obtained from various Arabian or East African trees.
- (Babylonian) The sky god.
- An ugly evil-looking old woman.
- Undergo resorption.
- Japanese ornamental tree with fragrant white or pink blossoms and small yellow fruits.

DOWN

- Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean.
- (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
- A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- Alternatively, a member of the family Nymphaeaceae.
- A logarithmic unit of sound intensity equal to 10 decibels.
- A town in central Belgium.
- A garment covering the leg (usually extending from the knee to the ankle).
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- (Babylonian) A goddess of the watery deep and daughter of Ea.
- A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- Liquid containing proteins and electrolytes including the liquid in blood plasma and interstitial fluid.
- A Dravidian language spoken in south central India.
- Russian physicist (1895-1971).
- A South American shrub whose leaves are chewed by natives of the Andes.
- Doglike nocturnal mammal of Africa and southern Asia that feeds chiefly on carrion.
- A broad flat muscle on either side of the back.
- The mints.
- An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
- United States jazz musician and bandleader (1913-1987).
- Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
- Slandering defamation.
- Ritual hand movement in Hindu religious dancing.
- A city in northern India.
- A particular environment or walk of life.
- Not only so, but.
- English monk and scholar (672-735).
- (Akkadian) God ruling with his consort Ereshkigal the world of the dead.
- Lack of strength or vigor esp from illness.
- The front limb (or homologous structure in other animals such as a flipper or wing).
- Wood of a pecan tree.
- Largest flying birds in the western hemisphere.
- A mouth or mouthlike opening.
- The basic unit of money in Sierra Leone.
- The feeling of being bored by something tedious.
- Port city that is the capital and largest city of Latvia.
- Informal terms for money.
- A river that rises in northeastern Turkey (near the source of the Euphrates) and flows generally eastward through Armenia to the Caspian Sea.
- The act of slowing down or falling behind.
- United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).
- (Babylonian) The sky god.
- Seed vessel having hooks or prickles.
- A guided missile fired from shipboard against an airborne target.
- A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a time when support and recognition should be available from public, family and friends. You feel at home in the world and it more than takes care of you. You could have deep insights into your own feelings and inner, spiritual nature. Your surroundings, circumstances and support system are the crucial spots, key links or what have you in the chain of your life. When things get hectic, it is in these areas that you can expect pressure and the greatest activity. You may find yourself being put to good use by your friends this afternoon. This is a great time to be with others and to work together. You may have to work at listening to a special someone today but eventually, you will come to understand, perhaps not agree but understand. Gratitude happens.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your sense of responsibility is clear. You have an appreciation for education and are willing to become involved in continuing education at this time. You may have decided to tutor a young person, sub-teach or become employed by the institution from which you will learn many things. You have clarity and competence in practical matters and others pay attention to what you have to say. There is a passion for inventions and electronics as some new equipment is available for your inspection. You are concerned with issues of freedom and independence today. Your privacy and your family unit are very important to you and you find ways to strengthen your relationships in this area. Consider ways in which you can take on a creative expression.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Because you are an advanced spirit, your responsibility is to help others to move from an emotionally stuck position. You may enjoy visiting ancient sites and bringing back information that helps people see the importance of moving forward. New inventions, new information and new technology are all indications that we need to move forward. We had the opportunity to learn about history and now we must gather up what we have learned and add to the package with our minds and all the possibilities. You might make plans to make a movie or publish a technical paper for a teaching aid. One step at a time and you can accomplish and understand anything. Perhaps you can understand why tonight, everyone has on a happy face.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are very skilled at working with people and you would make an excellent negotiator. These same skills make it possible for you to work with the public, in politics or wherever handling sensitive or hot issues are routine. You may find yourself representing your company in matters of importance. Communicating with others is positive. You know just when to introduce your ideas or comments. As a natural socialite, you love decorum and etiquette, but relationships are the big thing-friends. You have an urge to be free, to be challenged and tested and would rather travel far than be stuck in routine. You have a strong drive to be seen and known-to communicate yourself to others. Personal appearance is a motivation.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You seem to be born to love and care for others and may tend to worry over much. Your fear of being left out or not being fully functional can be alleviated by much hard work. Jumping in with both feet and putting your thoughts into action is called for now. You have a natural insight and understanding as to what the public wants. Your career gets plenty of support from other people and you feel at home making practical and management decisions. Your career may be built around the way you appear or present yourself-the way you come across to others. Your spontaneous personality and ability to fascinate others are also key elements in being successful. You and your family may decide a shopping expedition is in order this afternoon.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Right now, the key to career moves involves attending to nagging details-whatever you have neglected or delayed. Attention to matters of health and efficiency are also important. Opportunities abound and you may find yourself wanting and able to do almost everything. Things are working with rather than against you-do not hold back. However, do not overdo and try to go too far, too fast. Circumstances may stimulate appreciation of your life situation. Your mind may be very clear now and your thoughts are brought into a sharp focus. It is easy to organize your thoughts and communications of all kinds are furthered. Write that book or take that course, etc. Your friends and family support you in just about anything you want to achieve.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your viewpoint is very important to a special friend this morning. You will be helpful as you penetrate and get to the very heart of most problems. Guard against doing for this person what he or she can do unaided. Continual discovery, persistent search and continual change and transformation keep you on the move. There is an emphasis on the expression of ideas. What goes on in your mind is the all-important motivation in your life. You tend toward mental pursuits and admire intelligence. This is a good time to reap the benefits of your past efforts. This afternoon, you are feeling good and have the ability for sustained work that allows you to be accomplished like never before. You will want to bring projects to an end very soon.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You could be most persuasive with others today. Your own partiality for routine and the traditional may result in your feeling challenged by anything new. You tend to find yourself struggling against change but put yourself on the back... You will eventually work through any necessary changes with a good attitude. You may find you are happy when changes happen as you feel energized and mentally able. You lean toward partners and friends who are themselves unconventional and offbeat. Career moves would benefit from your special attention. Tension happens when you ignore your own desires-the things you need and want. A plan or course of action is necessary in your professional life, as well as your personal life now.



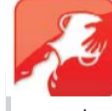
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You could find yourself lecturing or teaching young people this day. A well-trained salesperson could do well to learn your techniques. You tend to rush in where others fear to tread. Your energy is attention-getting much of the time. Today you may encourage a response from your surroundings and from others-this could mean big business. You are able to make another person or group of people put on their thinking hats. There is something essential that starts or causes something else to happen-a reaction or response when you promote a product, instruct or lecture. The planets in your birth sign indicate the sign of a leader and there will be many that will benefit from your leadership. Find ways to have a relaxing evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are gifted and even lucky when it comes to decision making. Things almost always manage to work out for you; today is no different. There are some important facts to acquire before expressing your viewpoints. This could mean political decisions, consulting with religious authorities or meeting and helping out a group. Your theories and mental activities are good; you will find projects ending with the results you want. Good plans and a willingness to be flexible will bring about successful results for whatever you want to accomplish. You have plenty of enthusiasm and warm up to things and people quickly. Enjoy music with your loved ones tonight. There is a pleasant surprise with a new talent this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your career is smooth just now. A career in communications of one kind or another is indicated-you are a kind of living link or channel. You love investigations, reporting, writing, speaking, broadcasting, advertising-any and all networking-and will carry your work into the wee hours of your personal life... Careful. Forever curious, you enjoy searching for answers and following leads. The good life and all that is fine and luxurious are available, but you need to be available to enjoy these afternoons with your wonderful friends and family members. This is a great time to be with others. Stay in for the evening meal tonight-perhaps a takeout dinner would be fun. Maybe you could show off your cooking and invite a friend. Relax in the hot tub this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may deal with education, psychology, spiritual enlightenment or teaching principles and techniques. This time marks a change of direction for you, away from the material and glitter, toward inner needs and security. You will find yourself more concerned with maintaining and strengthening your position, rather than pushing outward. This may be a day you will want to read and update your information so you are more up-to-date with your special skills. The rest of this year should be easy and filled with opportunities and friendships. More demanding years will be a little further on in the future. If you are looking for a job, this is the time to update your resume and write some type of presentation for yourself. If you are an artist, you will succeed.

WORD SEARCH

Comedy Movies 2

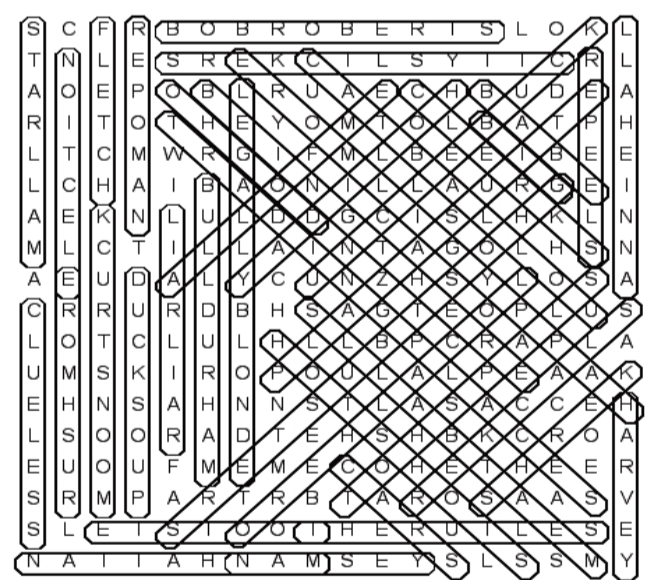
Find and circle all of the comedy movies that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional comedy movie.



- AIRPLANE
- ANALYZE THIS
- ANTZ
- ARTHUR
- BANANAS
- BEST IN SHOW
- BILLY MADISON
- BLUES BROTHERS
- BOWFINGER
- BULWORTH
- CADDYSHACK
- DAVE
- DUCK SOUP
- EMMA
- FARGO
- GET SMART
- GROUNDHOG DAY
- HAPPY GILMORE
- HOME ALONE
- HORSE FEATHERS
- ICE AGE
- JUNO
- KINGPIN
- LIFE OF BRIAN
- MASH
- OFFICE SPACE
- PARENTHOOD
- PATCH ADAMS
- POLICE ACADEMY
- RAISING ARIZONA
- RATATOUILLE
- REAL GENIUS
- ROXANNE
- RUTHLESS PEOPLE
- SABRINA
- SPLASH
- STIR CRAZY
- STRIPES
- THE JERK
- THE PINK PANTHER
- THE TRAMP
- TOMMY BOY
- TOOTSIE
- WAYNES WORLD
- WORKING GIRL

Yesterday's Solution

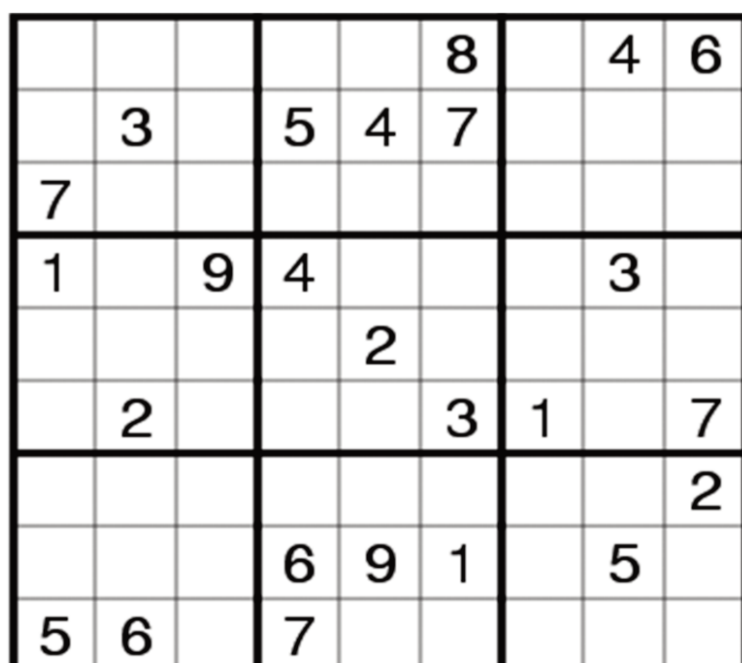
Comedy Movies 1



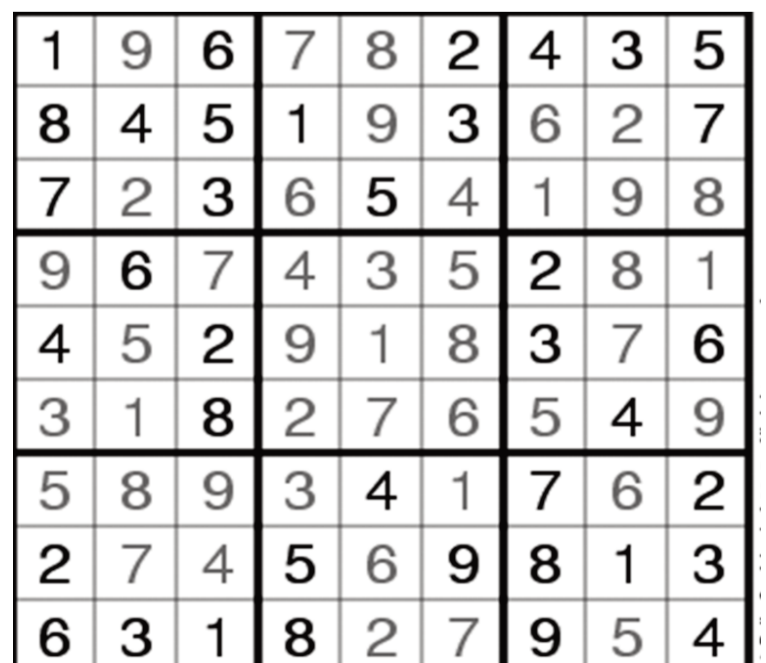
- ALL OF ME
- ANNIE HALL
- BABE
- BEING THERE
- BIG
- BOB ROBERTS
- BULL DURHAM
- CARS
- CAT BALLOU
- CITY SLICKERS
- CLERKS
- CLUELESS
- DUCK SOUP
- ELECTION
- FLETCH
- GHOSTBUSTERS
- HAPPY GILMORE
- HARVEY
- HOLIDAY
- HOTSHOTS
- LEGALLY BLONDE
- LIAR LIAR
- LOCAL HERO
- THE MALLRATS
- MANHATTAN
- MEATBALLS
- MOONSTRUCK
- OH, GOD!
- PLAZA SUITE
- REPO MAN
- RUSHMORE
- SHREK
- SLACKER
- SLAP SHOT
- SLEEPER
- THE RUTLES
- TOOTSIE
- TRADING PLACES
- UNCLE BUCK
- YES MAN

The hidden movie title is: CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Sabah Hospital | 24812000 |
| Amiri Hospital | 22450005 |
| Maternity Hospital | 24843100 |
| Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital | 25312700 |
| Chest Hospital | 24849400 |
| Farwaniya Hospital | 24892010 |
| Adan Hospital | 23940620 |
| Ibn Sina Hospital | 24840300 |
| Al-Razi Hospital | 24846000 |
| Physiotherapy Hospital | 24874330/9 |

Clinics

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Kaizen center | 25716707 |
| Rawda | 22517733 |
| Adaliya | 22517144 |
| Khalidiya | 24848075 |
| Kaifan | 24849807 |
| Shamiya | 24848913 |
| Shuwaikh | 24814507 |
| Abdullah Salem | 22549134 |
| Nuzha | 22526804 |
| Industrial Shuwaikh | 24814764 |
| Qadisiya | 22515088 |
| Dasmah | 22532265 |
| Bneid Al-Gar | 22531908 |
| Shaab | 22518752 |
| Qibla | 22459381 |
| Ayoun Al-Qibla | 22451082 |
| Mirqab | 22456536 |
| Sharq | 22465401 |
| Salmiya | 25746401 |
| Jabriya | 25316254 |
| Maidan Hawally | 25623444 |
| Bayan | 25388462 |
| Mishref | 25381200 |
| W Hawally | 22630786 |
| Sabah | 24810221 |
| Jahra | 24770319 |
| New Jahra | 24575755 |
| West Jahra | 24772608 |
| South Jahra | 24775066 |
| North Jahra | 24775992 |
| North Jleeb | 24311795 |
| Ardhiya | 24884079 |
| Firdous | 24892674 |
| Omariya | 24719048 |
| N Khaitan | 24710044 |
| Fintas | 23900322 |



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

| GOVERNORATE | PHARMACY | ADDRESS | PHONE |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| Ahmadi | Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan | Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd | 23915883 23715414 23726558 |
| Jahra | Modern Jahra Madina Munawara | Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92 | 24575518 24566622 |
| Capital | Ahlam Khaldiya Coop | Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop | 22436184 24833967 |
| Farwaniya | New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan | Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11 | 24734000 24881201 24726638 |
| Hawally | Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | 25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241 |

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|--------|
| Afghanistan | 0093 | Lithuania | 00370 |
| Albania | 00355 | Luxembourg | 00352 |
| Algeria | 00213 | Macau | 00853 |
| Andorra | 00376 | Macedonia | 00389 |
| Angola | 00244 | Madagascar | 00261 |
| Anguilla | 001264 | Majorca | 0034 |
| Antiga | 001268 | Malawi | 00265 |
| Argentina | 0054 | Malaysia | 0060 |
| Armenia | 00374 | Maldives | 00960 |
| Australia | 0061 | Mali | 00223 |
| Austria | 0043 | Malta | 00356 |
| Azerbaijan | 00994 | Marshall Islands | 00692 |
| Bahamas | 001242 | Martinique | 00596 |
| Bahrain | 00973 | Mauritania | 00222 |
| Bangladesh | 00880 | Mauritius | 00230 |
| Barbados | 001246 | Mayotte | 00269 |
| Belarus | 00375 | Mexico | 0052 |
| Belgium | 0032 | Micronesia | 00691 |
| Belize | 00501 | Moldova | 00373 |
| Benin | 00229 | Monaco | 00377 |
| Bermuda | 001441 | Mongolia | 00976 |
| Bhutan | 00975 | Montserrat | 001664 |
| Bolivia | 00591 | Morocco | 00212 |
| Bosnia | 00387 | Mozambique | 00258 |
| Botswana | 00267 | Myanmar (Burma) | 0095 |
| Brazil | 0055 | Namibia | 00264 |
| Brunei | 00673 | Nepal | 00977 |
| Bulgaria | 00359 | Netherlands | 0031 |
| Burkina | 00226 | Netherlands Antilles | 00599 |
| Burundi | 00257 | New Caledonia | 00687 |
| Cambodia | 00855 | New Zealand | 0064 |
| Cameroon | 00237 | Nicaragua | 00505 |
| Canada | 001 | Niger | 00227 |
| Cape Verde | 00238 | Nigeria | 00234 |
| Cayman Islands | 001345 | Niue | 00683 |
| Central African | 00236 | Norfolk Island | 00672 |
| Chad | 00235 | N. Ireland (UK) | 0044 |
| Chile | 0056 | North Korea | 00850 |
| China | 0086 | Norway | 0047 |
| Colombia | 0057 | Oman | 00968 |
| Comoros | 00269 | Pakistan | 0092 |
| Congo | 00242 | Palau | 00680 |
| Cook Islands | 00682 | Panama | 00507 |
| Costa Rica | 00506 | Papua New Guinea | 00675 |
| Croatia | 00385 | Paraguay | 00595 |
| Cuba | 0053 | Peru | 0051 |
| Cyprus | 00357 | Philippines | 0063 |
| Cyprus (Northern) | 0090392 | Poland | 0048 |
| Czech Republic | 00420 | Portugal | 00351 |
| Denmark | 0045 | Puerto Rico | 001787 |
| Diego Garcia | 00246 | Qatar | 00974 |
| Djibouti | 00253 | Romania | 0040 |
| Dominica | 001767 | Russian Federation | 007 |
| Dominican Republic | 001809 | Rwanda | 00250 |
| Ecuador | 00593 | Saint Helena | 00290 |
| Egypt | 0020 | Saint Kitts | 001869 |
| El Salvador | 00503 | Saint Lucia | 001758 |
| England (UK) | 0044 | Saint Pierre | 00508 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 00240 | Saint Vincent | 001784 |
| Eritrea | 00291 | Samoa US | 00684 |
| Estonia | 00372 | Samoa West | 00685 |
| Ethiopia | 00251 | San Marino | 00378 |
| Falkland Islands | 00500 | Sao Tome | 00239 |
| Faroe Islands | 00298 | Saudi Arabia | 00966 |
| Fiji | 00679 | Scotland (UK) | 0044 |
| Finland | 00358 | Senegal | 00221 |
| France | 0033 | Seychelles | 00284 |
| French Guiana | 00594 | Sierra Leone | 00232 |
| French Polynesia | 00689 | Singapore | 0065 |
| Gabon | 00241 | Slovakia | 00421 |
| Gambia | 00220 | Slovenia | 00386 |
| Georgia | 00995 | Solomon Islands | 00677 |
| Germany | 0049 | Somalia | 00252 |
| Ghana | 00233 | South Africa | 0027 |
| Gibraltar | 00350 | South Korea | 0082 |
| Greece | 0030 | Spain | 0034 |
| Greenland | 00299 | Sri Lanka | 0094 |
| Grenada | 001473 | Sudan | 00249 |
| Guadeloupe | 00590 | Suriname | 00597 |
| Guam | 001671 | Swaziland | 00268 |
| Guatemala | 00502 | Sweden | 0046 |
| Guinea | 00224 | Switzerland | 0041 |
| Guyana | 00592 | Syria | 00963 |
| Haiti | 00509 | Serbia | 00381 |
| Holland (Netherlands) | 0031 | Taiwan | 00886 |
| Honduras | 00504 | Tanzania | 00255 |
| Hong Kong | 00852 | Thailand | 0066 |
| Hungary | 0036 | Togo | 00228 |
| Ibiza (Spain) | 0034 | Tonga | 00676 |
| Iceland | 00354 | Tokelau | 00690 |
| India | 0091 | Trinidad | 001868 |
| Indian Ocean | 00873 | Tunisia | 00216 |
| Indonesia | 0062 | Turkey | 0090 |
| Iran | 0098 | Tuvalu | 00688 |
| Iraq | 00964 | Uganda | 00256 |
| Ireland | 00353 | Ukraine | 00380 |
| Italy | 0039 | United Arab Emirates | 00976 |
| Ivory Coast | 00225 | United Kingdom | 0044 |
| Jamaica | 001876 | Uruguay | 00598 |
| Japan | 0081 | USA | 001 |
| Jordan | 00962 | Uzbekistan | 00998 |
| Kazakhstan | 007 | Vanuatu | 00678 |
| Kenya | 00254 | Venezuela | 00582 |
| Kiribati | 00686 | Vietnam | 0084 |
| Kuwait | 00965 | Virgin Islands UK | 001284 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 00996 | Virgin Islands US | 001340 |
| Laos | 00856 | Wales (UK) | 0044 |
| Latvia | 00371 | Yemen | 00967 |
| Lebanon | 00961 | Yugoslavia | 00381 |
| Liberia | 00231 | Zambia | 00260 |
| Libya | 00218 | Zimbabwe | 00263 |
| Lesotho | 00266 | | |

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

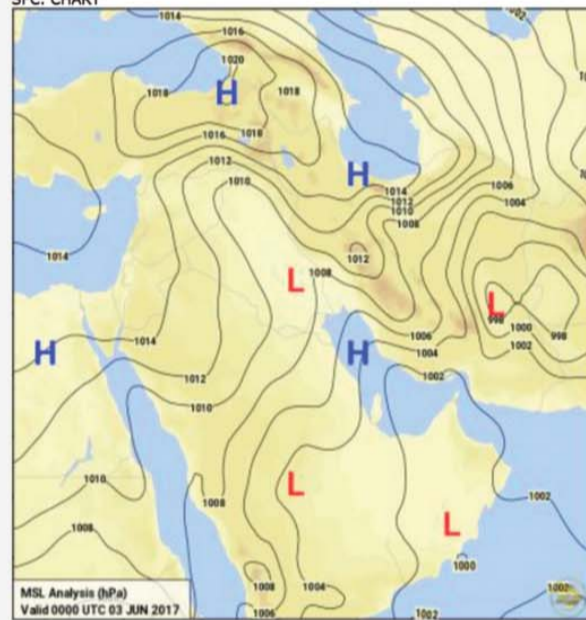
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 03/06/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 40 °C

By Day : Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h
By Night : Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 35 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Expected Weather | hot | hot | hot | very hot |
| Min Temp °C | 30 | 31 | 31 | 32 |
| Max Temp °C | 42 | 44 | 45 | 47 |
| Wind Direction | north westerly | north westerly to light variable | north westerly to light variable | north westerly to light variable |
| Wind Speed km/h | 15 - 35 | 12 - 35 | 08 - 28 | 06 - 26 |

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

| Station | MIN °C | Max °C |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| KUWAIT CITY | 29 | 40 |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 30 | 40 |
| ABDALY | 23 | 40 |
| BUBYAN | 26 | 40 |
| JAHRA | 28 | 40 |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 27 | 37 |
| SALMIYAH | 29 | 36 |
| AHMADI | 28 | 35 |
| JAL ALIYAH | 23 | 40 |
| QAROH ISLAND | 29 | 31 |
| UMM AL-MARADEM | 29 | 32 |
| NUWAISSIB | 29 | 36 |
| WAFRA | 25 | 40 |
| SALMY | 23 | 38 |
| MUTRIBA | 23 | 41 |

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Max Temp (°C) | 40 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 29 |
| Max Rel Hum (%) | 29 |
| Min Rel Hum (%) | 07 |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 46 N |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR | 0 mm |

Sunrise

04:49

Sunset

18:44

Prayer Times

Fajr 03:15

Sunrise 04:49

Zuhr 11:46

Asr 15:20

Sunset 18:44

Isha 20:15



PRIVATE CLINICS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Ophthalmologists | |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor | 25622444 |
| Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea | 25752222 |
| Dr. Masoma Habeeb | 25321171 |
| Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy | 25739999 |
| Dr. Mohsen Abel | 25757700 |
| Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl | 25732223 |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly | 25732223 |
| Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) | |
| Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner | 24555050 Ext 510 |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali | 25644660 |
| Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel | 25646478 |
| Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah | 25311996 |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory | 25731988 |
| Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary | 22620166 |
| Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz | 25651426 |
| General Practitioners | |
| Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi | 24555050 Ext 123 |
| Dr. Yousef Al-Omar | 24719312 |
| Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem | 23926920 |
| Dr. Kathem Maarafi | 25730465 |
| Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah | 25655528 |
| Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi | 24577781 |
| Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea | 25333501 |
| Urologists | |
| Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy | 22641534 |
| Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul | 22639955 |
| Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi | 22616660 |
| Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) | 25313120 |
| Dr. Leons Joseph | 66703427 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Plastic Surgeons | |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf | 22547272 |
| Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari | 22617700 |
| Dr. Abdel Quttainah | 25625030/60 |
| Family Doctor | |
| Dr Divya Damodar | 23729596/23729581 |
| Psychiatrists | |
| Dr. Esam Al-Ansari | 22635047 |
| Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan | 22613623/0 |
| Gynaecologists & Obstetricians | |
| Dr Adrian arbe | 23729596/23729581 |
| Dr. Verginia s.Marin | 2572-6666 ext 8321 |
| Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan | 22655539 |
| Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami | 25343406 |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly | 25739272 |
| Dr. Salem soso | 22618787 |
| General Surgeons | |
| Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer | 22610044 |
| Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher | 25327148 |
| Internists, Chest & Heart | |
| Dr. Adnan Ebil | 22639939 |
| Dr. Mousa Khadada | 22666300 |
| Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan | 25728004 |
| Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra | 25355515 |
| Dr. Mobarak Aldoub | 24726446 |
| Dr Nasser Behbehani | 25654300/3 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Paediatricians | |
| Dr. Khaled Hamadi | 25665898 |
| Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed | 25340300 |
| Dr. Zahra Qabazard | 25710444 |
| Dr. Sohail Qamar | 22621099 |
| Dr. Snaa Maarouf | 25713514 |
| Dr. Pradip Gupje | 23713100 |
| Dr. Zacharias Mathew | 24334282 |
| Dermatology | |
| Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University | 23845955 |
| Dentists | |
| Dr Anil Thomas | 3729596/3729581 |
| Dr. Shamah Al-Matar | 22641071/2 |
| Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed | 22562226 |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer | 22561444 |
| Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan | 22619557 |
| Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash | 22525888 |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan | 25653755 |
| Dr. Bader Al-Ansari | 25620111 |
| Neurologists | |
| Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri | 25633324 |
| Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan | 25345875 |
| Gastrologists | |
| Dr. Sami Aman | 22636464 |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly | 25322030 |
| Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali | 22633135 |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Endocrinologist | |
| Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman | 25339330 |
| Physiotherapists & VD | |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari | 25658888 |
| Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr | 25329924 |
| Dr. Deyaa Shehab | 25722291 |
| Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees | 22666288 |
| Rheumatologists: | |
| Dr. Adel Al-Awadi | 25330060 |
| Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah | 25722290 |
| Internist, Chest & Heart | |
| DR.Mohammes Akkad | 24555050 Ext 210 |
| Consultant Cardiologist | |
| Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital | 25339667 |
| Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC | 2611555-2622555 |
| Inaya German Medical Center Tel: 2575077 Fax: 25723123 | |

GOSSIP

CHARLIE SHEEN DATING CHILDREN'S FORMER NANNY

The 51-year-old actor - who revealed in 2015 that he is HIV-positive - is dating 26-year-old model and actress Julia Stambler, who was previously hired by his former wife Brooke Mueller to look after their eight-year-old twins Bob and Max. TMZ reports that the pair have been dating for three months, after they were introduced by Brooke. Julia is a bikini model and has also appeared as an extra on 'Entourage'. Charlie refers to his new love as Jools, and brought her to his daughter Lola's 12th birthday cele-

brations at Giorgio Baldi restaurant in Santa Monica last week. Speaking to photographers outside the restaurant, Charlie said: "It's my daughter's birthday. She's 12. This is my girlfriend, that's Jools. No one's got a photo of us yet." Charlie was last linked to British model and reality TV star Jess Impiazzi, who he met at a condom party in London last year. A source said at the time: "Charlie and Jess got chatting and instantly clicked when he invited her to back to a private room at his condom party. "They swapped

numbers and he got in touch the next day, asking her out. They had a brilliant time and went back to Charlie's hotel for coffee after the tour. He invited Jess to the states to discuss work projects. It is very early days, but they've already talked about meeting up again this week." And Charlie gushed about Jess, saying: "She can do whatever she wants. Have you seen her? Oh my gosh, wow. Her parents should just like stop after that, you win."



Ariana Grande surprises some of her injured fans

The 23-year-old singer has returned to the city to stage a benefit concert for the victims of the terror attack at her concert at Manchester Arena on May 22, in which 22 people died and over 50 were injured, and she surprised some of her youngest fans with a hospital visit. One fan was 10-year-old Jaden Farrell-Mann, who suffered fractures to both of her legs and has a number of shrapnel wounds. Jaden's mother Sharon told the Manchester Evening News: "Jaden was just sat there watching TV and she walked in. "She was absolutely amazed. It was a complete surprise. She has a big smile anyway but it got even bigger, Ariana gave her a hug and a kiss, she was in awe. "It was absolutely fantastic to see, she was so happy." Her father Peter wrote on Facebook: "This means

more to us than all the amazing things people have done this week." So happy she came I could burst. Never seen Jaden so happy; even cried again myself." And Jaden - who has undergone two operations since the attack - wrote on social media: "I got to meet my queen today. Love you Ariana Grande." Ariana brought presents for the youngsters and doled out hugs and autographs and posed for pictures. Ariana will host the One Love benefit concert at Emirates Old Trafford cricket ground this weekend, to benefit those affected by the tragedy. She will be joined by a host of stars including Coldplay, Justin Bieber, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus, One Direction star Niall Horan, Take That and Usher.



MINOGUE WILL REVEAL BROKEN ENGAGEMENT DETAILS IN ALBUM

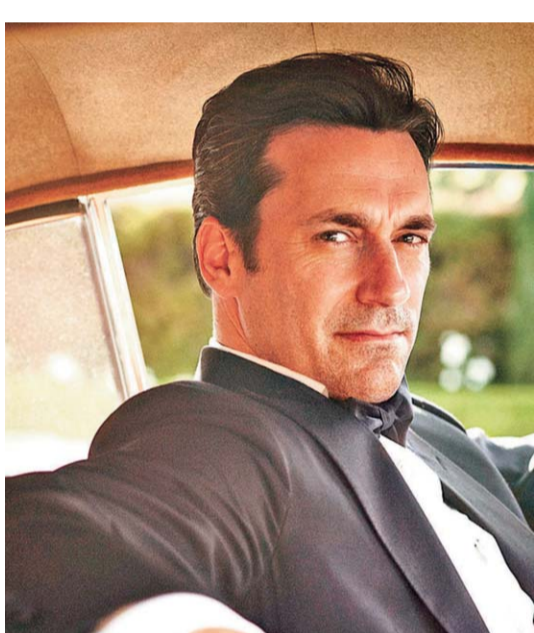
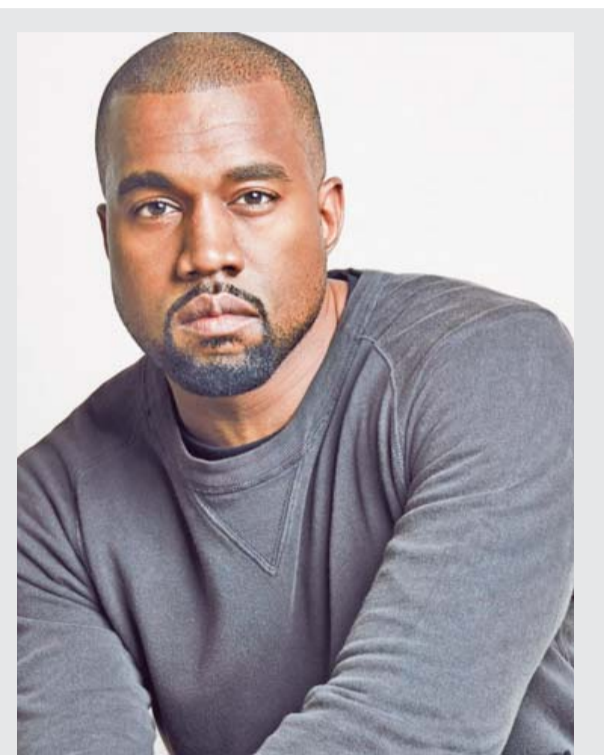
The 'Spinning Around' hitmaker called time on her romance with Joshua Sasse in February and fans can expect to hear exactly what went wrong, when the star releases her upcoming record. A source told The Sun: "Kylie's album will give fans fly-on-the-wall access to what happened between her and Josh. "She has gone into serious detail on some of the songs and it has helped her make sense of everything. "It was obviously a very tough time but throwing herself into music has been an amazing help. "It looks like her album could be her most political yet too, with talk of tracks covering issues like LGBT

rights. "Kylie just wants to make an album that will start conversations." Kylie, 49, previously insisted she felt "richer for the experience" of being with Joshua, 29, and it won't put her off future romances as she "loves to be in love". She said: "It wasn't meant to be and so I look forward to moving on, richer for the experience ... Well, I try to see the glass as half full ... If the glass is half full, then yes. I haven't had the white picket fence and happy ever after in my life, so far, but perhaps that's just not my destiny. I know love and I love to be in love."

Kanye wants to design high school football uniforms

The 39-year-old rapper and actor has met with officials at the school, close to where he loves with his wife Kim Kardashian West and their children North, three and Saint, 18 months, and offered to design a new uniform for them. And he will make a sizeable donation to the school, in order to upgrade facilities. However, TMZ reports school officials are unsure about the deal because Kanye also wants to rename the team from the Coyotes to the Wolves, as he has a song of the same name. The school currently has a deal with Adidas, which owns Kanye's Yeezy fashion brand. Meanwhile, Kim and Kanye have jetted to the Bahamas to celebrate the rapper's birthday. The 'Famous' hitmaker turns 40 on June 8, but is marking the occasion

over the weekend as he, his wife and their children have jetted to the Caribbean for a luxury vacation with some close friends. A source said recently: "They rented out a huge luxurious amazing villa. They have had cases of Casamigos flown in and are drinking by their private pool. The kids all have their own play area and they all look like they are having a great time. "Kanye wanted to plan this vacation for their family as it's been awhile since they have taken a vacation together as a whole. Kim really needed time to relax and wants to spend quality time with Kanye and he is going out of his way to make it special."



Jon Hamm says being single 'sucks'

The 46-year-old actor split from actress Jennifer Westfeldt, his girlfriend of 18 years, nearly two years ago and admitted being on his own after all that time is not enjoyable. He told InStyle magazine: "It's hard. It's hard to be single after being together for a long time. It's really hard. It sucks." 'Mad Men' star Jon also called himself a narcissist but insisted he is a good partner. He said: "I may be a narcissist in the way that most actors are, but I think it's not to the detriment of those in my life. I try to be a good friend, a good partner, and all that stuff. "I'm not perfect, and it hurts when you hurt other people. But the hope is to find the right balance so you can care about your own stuff enough to live your life and do your job well while also not being a monster." Jon opened up about his troubled childhood in the interview, admitting he is lucky with how his life turned out after a tough start. He said: "I'm certainly damaged - there's no denying it. "If you look at the history of my life, it's not great. When your mom dies when you're nine, and your dad dies when you're 20, and then you live on couches in other people's basements ... I mean, there's certainly a version of that person who does not come out of it as successfully as I have." And the actor - who spent time in rehab in 2015 - also encouraged those who need treatment to seek help. He said: "Medical attention is medical attention whether it's for your elbow or for your teeth or for your brain, and it's important."

Watts' nerves stop her from going on stage

The 'Gypsy' actress would love to take on a theatre role but has always been to anxious about being in front of a live audience, but she insists it's an ambition she'll definitely fulfil at some point in the future. She said: "I still haven't done theatre. I've got to pluck up the nerve. I'm not very good on stage. "Even when you do those talk shows and you have a live audience, it fills me with fear. But I'm not one to let fear get the better of me." The 48-year-old actress - who has sons Sasha, nine, and eight-year-old Sammy with former partner Liev Schreiber - believes the entertainment industry has changed a lot over the years and there are now much better roles available to older women. She said: "There used to be a theory that it was all

over by 40 but things have changed. "There's a lot more to be done, but it does feel like the voices of women are becoming more heard. And TV has definitely helped with that. There's a movement." Naomi has enjoyed being in her 40s and says it has given her a fresh wave of "energy". She explained to Red magazine: "In your twenties, you're always looking forward and in your thirties you're just sort of in the moment. "Now, you're looking in both directions. You can look back and ask, 'What haven't I done?' as well as look forward to, 'What could I do?' And with this, you get a new injection of energy I think."



Sharon Osbourne never confronted Ozzy about affair

The couple split briefly last year after the Black Sabbath rocker had a fling with hairdresser Michelle Pugh and though the 'Talk' host had her suspicions, she had "nothing to say" to her husband when she found out the truth. She said: "I knew she was overly flirty with Ozzy - you know when people over-laugh at the things you say? But to be truthful, I thought, 'He would never go with that, ever.' She's just an old rock chick. Never in a million years. "[Then] the press called. That was the first I knew of it." Asked what happened when she confronted Ozzy, she added: "I never did. I had nothing to say to him, absolutely nothing. "I've been through this many times before, but I was so disappointed - it was something who had been in my house and who knew my children, that's what really upset me. I thought, 'How dare you.'" Meanwhile, Ozzy, 67, admitted he was scared of ending the affair in case it became public knowledge. He said: "She was a hairdresser who was coming round to the house. I honestly don't know how it started but then it picked up momentum

and I thought, 'If I stop, she's going to go to the press!' "By giving in to temptation, you put your head in the lion's mouth but then it closes and no matter which way you go, you've done wrong." Ozzy - who recently renewed his wedding vows to Sharon - attributes his actions to his sex addiction and admits the problem is far worse than his other addictions because of the consequences. He said: "I was scared to death. My first wife divorced me because of my playing around. It's by far the worst addiction that I have. "When I was drinking or doing drugs, I was affecting myself physically but with the sex addiction, it affects everybody. It made me realize what a complete idiot I was. "I sat down and thought, 'What the hell have I done?' I can't imagine life without Sharon. She's my soulmate. I love her. "I can honestly say that I've never loved any other woman besides Sharon. I've got a crazy-assed way of showing it but she's the love of my life."



GOSSIP

Schwarzenegger was told his accent was 'too creepy'



The 69-year-old actor shot to fame in 'Hercules in New York' because of his bodybuilder physique but his voice was dubbed in post-production, and the former Governor of California was warned he could never be a "leading man" because of his Austrian dialect and bulky frame. Speaking to the newspaper, he said: "In Hollywood, they said I would never become a leading man. "They used to say 'your body is too big'. This is the 1970s and people like Dustin Hoffman and Al Pacino and Woody Allen, they are sex symbols. I said 'Oh Jesus'. "Then they said 'Plus your accent gives me the creeps. We can use you maybe to play a Nazi or something like that!" Since then, Arnold has become one of Hollywood's favoured actors and has starred in a number of successful box office hits. And the screen

icon is grateful for the support of directors such as 'Conan the Barbarian' filmmaker John Milus and his 'Terminator' helmsman James Cameron, who praised him for the attributes he was previously dismissed over and helped make him be viewed as "hip". He added: "John Milus said in the press conference: 'If we didn't have Schwarzenegger, we would have to build one.' In that moment my body became a plus. "After that I did 'Terminator' and James Cameron at a press conference said 'what really makes this movie work is Arnie talks like machine.' "I don't know if it was meant as a compliment.



Kendall doesn't believe Caitlyn is 'lying' about Kris

The 67-year-old television personality - who was formerly known as Bruce Jenner before undergoing gender reassignment - has been accused by the Kardashian/Jenner family of lying about her relationship with her ex-wife Kris in her recently released memoir 'Secrets of My Life'. But now the pair's eldest daughter Kendall, 21, has said she believes Caitlyn is telling her version of the truth, and that the events have been warped in her mind "for some weird reason". Talking to her mother about the book, Kendall said in an upcoming episode of 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians': "I heard about all the stuff that she was saying in it and just how a lot of it's so not true. The weird part is, I don't think it's purposeful lying. I think she really just thinks that's what happened for some

weird reason." And the brunette model also doesn't understand why Caitlyn "disses the Kardashians" throughout the book, as she had a hand in raising the famous family. Kendall added: "And then she goes around dissing the Kardashians, but it's like, those are the kids that you raised! If you have a problem with them, you raised them! That makes no sense to me that she would go around bashing us for no reason. It's insane, mom! That's insane!" But 61-year-old Kris - who also has 19-year-old daughter Kylie with Caitlyn - still believes the contents could have been presented in a more "loving way", as she's concerned that her future grandchildren will read "a story that's fabricated" should they ever read the memoir.

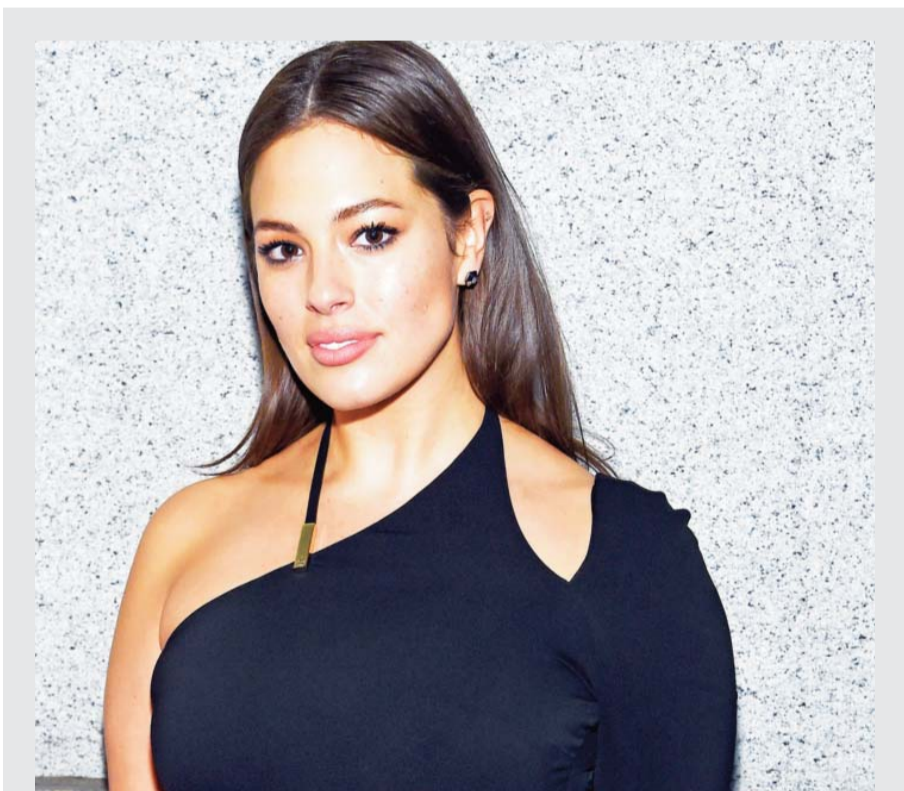
Kim campaigning for stricter gun laws

The 36-year-old television personality has three-year-old daughter North and 17-month-old son Saint with her husband Kanye West, and has slammed the "crazy" bill signed by US president Donald Trump that will allow those with mental illnesses to carry firearms, as she believes it will make the country unsafe for her brood. Writing on her website on Friday, Kim wrote: "In almost 20 years, our country has made very little progress in enacting laws that would help protect innocent Americans from people who should not have access to firearms. Right now, there are more guns owned by civilians in this country than in any other country in the world. "In February of this year, President [Donald] Trump actually signed a bill revoking a regulation recommended by President [Barack] Obama that would have added 75,000 names of people with registered mental illnesses to a national background check database. This is Crazy!" The 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star went on to state she is working with Everytown, a non-profit organisation "whose mission is to stand in opposition of the [National Rifle Association's] vision of more guns for more people." And Kim - who was robbed at gunpoint in Paris, France, last year - has said understands the importance of "armed security" since her ordeal, but believes those with a history of mental illness should have restricted access to firearms.



LAUREN CONRAD EXPECTING A BABY BOY

The Hills' star revealed back in January that she was expecting her first child with her husband William Tell, and the blonde beauty has now taken to Instagram to confirm to her followers that their unborn baby will be a boy. Posting a picture of a birth announcement card which read "It's a guy", Lauren wrote on the photo sharing app on Friday: "I found this adorable birth announcement while helping my Grandma move and I thought it was the perfect way to share that William and I are expecting a baby boy! (sic)" The 30-year-old television personality and her musician husband - whom she married in 2014 - announced the news shortly after the New Year when she took to Instagram to share a photo of her first sonogram. She captioned the snap: "Happy New Year! I have a feeling 2017 is going to be the best year yet... (sic)" The reality TV beauty previously opened up about married life and said that she loves the fact she has a life partner who she can go on many adventures with. She said: "My favorite thing about being married is knowing that I have a partner in life that I get to do so many wonderful things with. Dreaming of the things we will do 20 years from now is so fun." Meanwhile, Lauren - who was previously linked to her 'Hills' co-star Brody Jenner - admits that the hardest aspect of married life is not being selfish and learning to meet each other halfway. She spilled: "You always want to be considerate of each other. It's not just about you anymore."



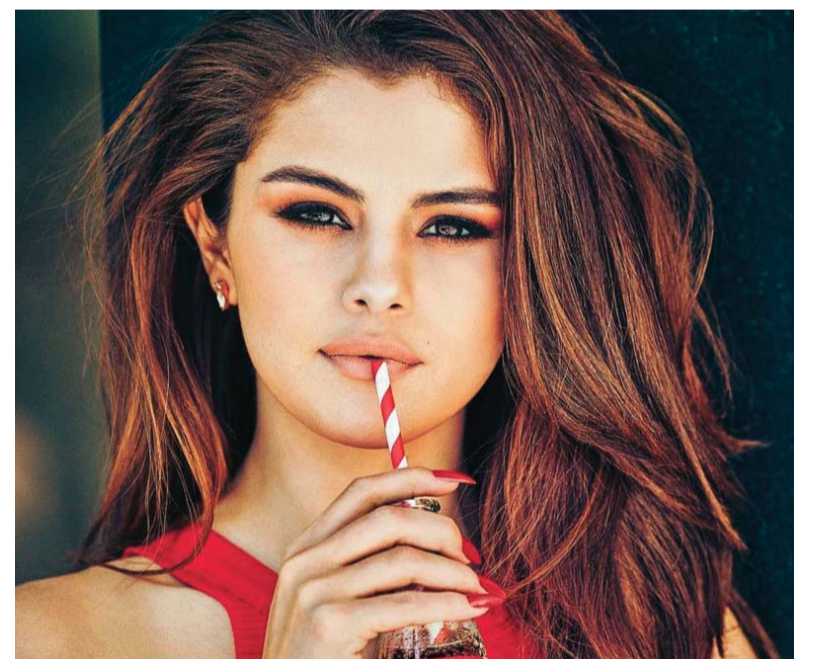
ASHLEY GRAHAM BELIEVES WOMEN WON'T BE BODY-CONSCIOUS

The 29-year-old model is known for speaking out about body positivity and flaunting her own stunning curves, but has admitted even she has days where she "feels fat", and doesn't believe there will be a time when "every woman" wakes up and "feels like a million dollars". She said: "There are some days I feel fat. I'm not convinced there's going to be a moment where every woman in the world wakes up and feels like a million dollars. So, what I want to do is give women the tools that will help when those moments come up. Sometimes it can be as easy as telling yourself that you are beautiful!" But the Sports Illustrated model refuses to "let a little cellulite" hinder her happiness, and says she is largely inspired by the "positive" outlook that her mother always

has. She added: "My mom is the most positive person. She has always had a smile on her face no matter what came her way. After seeing that, I'm not going to let a little cellulite get in the way of my happiness!" And Ashley is determined to help other women "be happy and thrive" in their own skin, and has urged women everywhere to "support each other". She told the June/July issue of StyleWatch magazine: "Support each other. In the modelling industry, one woman is great, but in order to make a major change, you need a group of models supporting each other. At the end of the day, I just want to help other women be happy and thrive. And that's what I want for myself too."

Martha Stewart is too busy for 'casual dating'

The 75-year-old businesswoman and television personality - who divorced her husband Andrew Stewart in 1990 - has admitted she's far too busy with her business empire to worry about getting into the dating game. She said: "I don't have that much time for casual dating." However, when the star - who has published over 80 cookbooks - does find a man she likes, she isn't that fussy when it comes to their skills within the home. Asked if she cares if a man is able to cook or keep a house clean, Martha said: "Not really. It's more like, how much time do I want to spend with that particular person? How interesting is that person to me?" Despite not being all that picky, the 'Martha Bakes' star isn't immune to dating disaster stories, as she recalled one instance where her "extremely rude" date "ran out" and left her to foot the bill for the evening. She said: "I went to the lounge area at Le Bernardin with this guy. He had to go somewhere afterward, and I had to go somewhere after. It wasn't a first date, but it was like a second or third date. We each had places to go; he did not ask me to go with him to the second place. We had cocktails and a little caviar or something. Then he just got up and said he had to run, and he ran out and didn't pay! And I thought that was extremely rude."



Selena spends \$2.25 million on California mansion

The 'Bad Liar' hitmaker is believed to have forked out the impressive sum on a picture-perfect home in California's Studio City neighborhood, within the city of Los Angeles. According to the New York Post newspaper's Page Six column, the home includes four bedrooms and three bathrooms, and after being first built in 1951, has undergone three renovations, all of which have been carried out by architect Gus Duffy. The publication claims that some of the changes Gus - who has previously worked with Hollywood legends such as Goldie Hawn and Arnold Schwarzenegger - has made to the property include the installment of floor-to-ceiling windows, and opening up the kitchen. A swimming pool, a spa, a patio with built-in barbecue area, and a detached guest house are also amongst the key defining features of the impressive home. The mansion went on the market for \$2.2 million in April this year after work was completed on its most recent renovation, and Selena, 24, is believed to have shelled out a whopping \$54,000 more than the asking price in order to secure the property. Selena's purchase also comes after she is believed to have taken her mansion in Fort Worth, Texas, off the market "a couple of weeks ago", according to listing agent Todd Terry of Sotheby's International, after it was first put up for sale for \$3 million in February. It is unknown whether Selena intends to move in with her boyfriend The Weeknd - real name Abel Tesfaye - when she settles into her new home, but sources recently claimed the 'Heart Wants What It Wants' singer is "head over heels in love" with the hunk. — Bangshowbiz



This April 28, 2017 photo shows a display of chocolates at Jacques Torres, a chocolatier in the DUMBO section of Brooklyn, NY. — AP photos



A cacao pods displayed at Raaka Chocolate in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn.



The exterior of Jacques Torres.

Chocolate lovers tours: Not just about sampling sweets

A tour for chocolate lovers in Brooklyn, New York, isn't just about tasting the final product. It also gives a peek at factories, neighborhoods and even business plans. The chocolate tour offered by A Slice of Brooklyn takes visitors to four chocolate-makers around Brooklyn. "I love chocolate," said Christine Dietz of San Diego, who was treated to the tour by friends throwing her a bachelorette party in New York. "But it's really cool that we also get a bit of a tour of the city." But A Slice of Brooklyn's chocolate tour is also part of a bigger trend. Confectioners and tour companies around the country are offering chocolate tours catering not just to the public's sweet tooth, but also to consumer interest in learning where the products they eat and drink come from.

Educating consumers

"Customers care about what they put in their mouths - especially millennials and GenXers," said Pam Williams, founder of the online academy Ecole Chocolat School of Professional Chocolate Arts. "They want to know where their food comes from and how it is processed." And while everybody knows that wine comes from grapes, "very, very few actually understand that chocolate comes from the seeds of a tree," said Williams, who is also co-founder of the Fine Chocolate Industry Association. Inviting customers "into the

factory to see the beans and the machinery that turn those beans into chocolate is a very good way to educate consumers on fine chocolate."

From Hershey's to hipsters

The granddaddy of US chocolate tours is Hershey's Chocolate World in Hershey, Pennsylvania. It's hosted more than 100 million guests since opening in 1973. The free tour takes guests on rides following chocolate from bean to bar, with singing cows along the way and treats at the end. But chocolate tours are offered in many other destinations around the country, from factories to visits with artisanal chocolatiers. Just be sure to plan ahead, as some tours are offered only on certain days and times and some require reservations. Some are free, but others are pricey. The Brooklyn tour is \$50.

Mars Chocolate (makers of M&M's, Snickers and Dove) offers tours and tastings of its Ethel M premium chocolate brand at the Ethel M factory in Henderson, Nevada, near the Las Vegas strip. Theo Chocolate welcomes more than 50,000 visitors a year to its Seattle factory. The tour shows how the brand sources organic fair-trade beans, right through the bar-making process. In Oregon, Portland Walking Tours' Chocolate Decadence tour visits multiple chocolatiers for tastings in every form: Whipped, melted, liquid, beans, bars and more.

Lake Champlain Chocolates offers free factory tours and tastings in Burlington, Vermont. In Somerville, Massachusetts, Taza Chocolate offers an Intro to Stone Ground Chocolate factory tour, and for children under 10, a Chocolate Story Time weekend mornings. In Connecticut, you can even take a train from Thomaston to experience Fascia's Chocolate Factory tours in Waterbury, with wine and chocolate pairings along the way. At Dandelion in San Francisco, factory tours are so popular they book up more than a month in advance.

Dallas By Chocolate offers several different tours, including Chocolate a la Mode with four stops. In Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Cacao Santa Fe Chocolate Factory tour offers a look at everything from roasting, winnowing, grinding and tempering of chocolate to the finished product. In the hipster 'hood of East Nashville, Tennessee, Olive & Sinclair offers a bean-to-bar factory tour in a historic building. Never mind beignets and pralines: The New Orleans Chocolate Crawl samples everything from fudge to gelato.

In North Carolina, Videri Chocolate Factory offers staff-guided tours of its facility in Raleigh's newly revitalized downtown Warehouse District. Even in New York, A Slice of Brooklyn only skims the cream off the city's chocolate offerings. Consider tours at Mast Brothers in Williamsburg, Brooklyn; the soon-to-open Harlem Chocolate Factory; and the 5,000-

square-foot Jacques Torres Chocolate Museum in Manhattan.

Slice of Brooklyn tour

First stop on A Slice of Brooklyn's chocolate tours is Jacques Torres' shop in DUMBO, an industrial district turned chic enclave between the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges. Next, at The Chocolate Room in the Cobble Hill neighborhood, owners Jon Payson and Naomi Josepher explain that they opened the business because they loved going out for dessert but had limited options for sit-down, restaurant-style dessert-only experiences.

In Red Hook, a working-class waterfront area of modest homes and warehouses, the tour strolls to a pier with a view of the Statue of Liberty before hitting Raaka Chocolate to see how the company's artisanal bars are made, from processing cacao pods to wrapping bars. Flavors include smoked chai and pink sea salt. Last stop: Li-Lac Chocolates in Industry City, a revived business complex in the Sunset Park neighborhood. Li-Lac has been selling chocolates since 1923 and is known for creamy, old-school recipes, but only recently relocated to the Brooklyn site. And for those who love the idea of touring Brooklyn, A Slice of Brooklyn also offers pizza tours and Christmas lights tours. — AP



Jon Payson, owner of The Chocolate Room in Brooklyn explaining how he and his wife started the business in a chat with a group on A Slice of Brooklyn's chocolate tour.



A group on A Slice of Brooklyn chocolate tour looking through a window as chocolates are made at Li-Lac Chocolates' factory at Industry City.



A worker at Li-Lac Chocolates' factory

BILL COSBY: FROM TV HERO TO FALLEN US CULTURAL ICON

A celebrity's fall from grace is always ugly, but that of Bill Cosby—a once beloved comedian who broke through racial barriers to broadcast a successful black family into white living rooms—is a true gut punch to America. The Cosby name alone once evoked so much—a treasured father figure, a seemingly model citizen and comic with a gentle, self-deprecating style and playful voice that would go from deep to screeching in search of a laugh.

But accusations from around 60 women, many of them formerly aspiring actresses and models, that he was a calculating, serial sexual predator who plied victims with sedatives and alcohol to bed them have left his career and reputation in tatters. On Monday the 79-year-old, Emmy-winning actor and Grammy-winning stand-up comedian goes on trial in Pennsylvania for aggravated indecent assault, accused of drugging and then assaulting a woman at his home in 2004.

Dozens and dozens of accusers have alleged that the entertainer exploited his fame to feed

them sedatives and alcohol, leaving them powerless to resist his advances. But the trial in Norristown, just outside Philadelphia is the only criminal case to stick as the vast majority of alleged abuse happened too long ago to prosecute. Cosby insists that relations were consensual but if convicted, he risks spending the rest of his life behind bars on a minimum 10-year sentence and a \$25,000 fine.

The trial cements a stunning fall from grace for an avuncular icon synonymous with squeaky clean humor and social progress, who once embodied the American dream. Today, Cosby cuts a forlorn figure, deserted by celebrity pals and left legally blind, he says, from glaucoma. On a pre-trial public relations offensive, he suggested that racism may have played a role, in a radio interview at times rambling and confused.

Self-made nightmare

"There are so many tentacles. So many different 'nefarious' is a great word," he told Sirius XM radio,

insisting he had "an awful lot to offer" in terms of writing and performing. Born on July 12, 1937 in Philadelphia to a mother who was a maid and a father who was a Navy cook, William Henry Cosby Jr. developed a reputation as the class clown, and joined the Navy after 10th grade, finishing high school by correspondence.

He won an athletic scholarship to Temple University and started doing stand-up comedy. In his early 20s he appeared on variety programs, but got his first big break in 1965 when he co-starred in the espionage thriller "I Spy." It was a time when there were few major roles for black actors. He won three Emmys and went on to star in a string of successful movies in the 1970s.

Then from 1984 to 1992, he portrayed gynecologist Cliff Huxtable, the affable, funny dad of an upper middle class black family with a lawyer wife in "The Cosby Show"—so named thanks to the actor's overwhelming star power. The sitcom was a fabulous success, becoming one of the most popular TV shows in history and the ultimate family-oriented series, turning Cosby into a major figure of US pop culture in the second half of the 20th century.

He was heaped in awards for the show, which anchored NBC's powerful Thursday night line-up and for the first time put an affluent African American family on prime time. Along the way, he authored best-selling books, and was for decades a member of the Temple board of trustees until he resigned in 2014, stripped of honorary degrees as sexual assault scandals mushroomed.

Comedian friends like Whoopi Goldberg who once supported him have now denounced him. He is isolated, and has largely refused to discuss the allegations against him other than to deny them through his lawyers. His wife of 53 years, Camille, has stood by his side. The couple has five children. Their son Ennis was shot dead in 1997 while changing a tire in California. — AFP

This file photo taken on May 24, 2017 shows Bill Cosby arrives at the Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh. — AFP

More Griffin shows canceled, Franken dis-invites comedian

Backlash against Kathy Griffin continues to grow with at least four theaters announcing Thursday that they had canceled her performances after the comedian posed with a likeness of President Donald Trump's severed head. Venues in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania canceled November shows. The Community Arts Theater in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, posted on its website that the show had been dropped "due to the recent controversy surrounding Kathy Griffin and the concern for the safety and security of our patrons and staff..."

Sen Al Franken also dis-invited Griffin from an event promoting his new book, "Giant of the Senate." "After hearing from many Minnesotans who were rightfully offended, I've come to the conclusion that it would be best for her not to participate in the event we had previously scheduled," the Minnesota Democrat said Thursday, a day after he had said she was still welcome. "I understand why Minnesotans were upset by this, and I take that very seriously."

He said what Griffin did "was inappropriate and not something that should be anywhere in our national discourse." Earlier this week, CNN said Griffin would no longer co-host its live New Year's Eve special from Times Square, a gig she'd had for more than a decade, and another show was canceled at a New Mexico casino.

An endorsement deal with Squatty Potty also ended. Though Griffin, 56, apologized within hours of the images appearing online Tuesday, they were met with swift and widespread condemnation. Trump later tweeted that Griffin "should be ashamed of herself" for posting the images. New Jersey Gov Chris Christie on Thursday called Griffin "disgusting" and said the photo was "completely outrageous." Attorney Lisa Bloom says Griffin will discuss the photo and video during a press conference scheduled for Friday. The comic has faced controversies before for her abrasive humor, but none as widespread as the one generated by Tuesday's images. — AP



In this combination photo, President Donald Trump appears in the White House in Washington on March 13, 2017, left, and comedian Kathy Griffin appears at the Clive Davis and The Recording Academy Pre-Grammy Gala in Beverly Hills. — AP

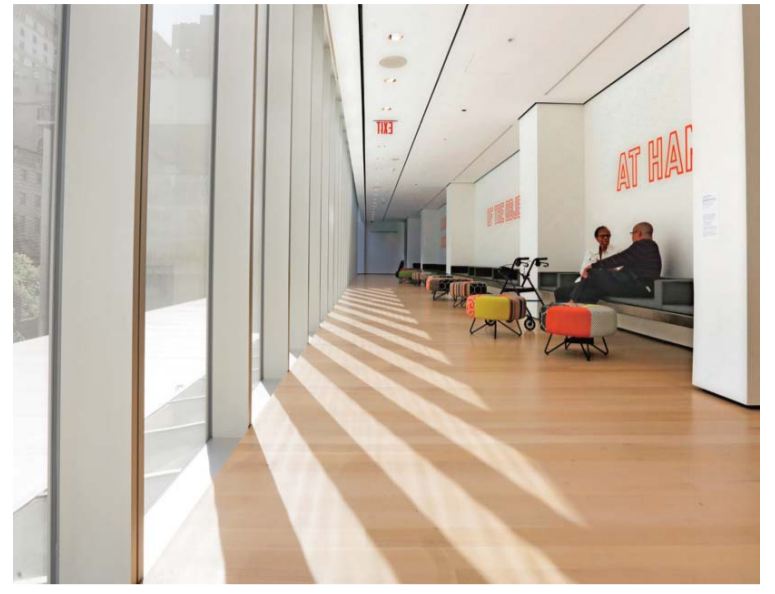
FEATURES



Visitors, at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, walk by the new Museum Design Store. — AP photos



Louise Bourgeois' "The Quartered One," right, hangs in the Robert B Menschel Gallery at the Museum of Modern Art.



The Louise Reinhardt Smith Gallery in the Museum of Modern Art.

MoMA expands Manhattan space, view of NYC outdoors

New York's Museum of Modern Art is boldly expanding its midtown Manhattan home that draws more than 3 million visitors annually from around the world - including those who came Friday to see the first completed phase of the \$450 million project. Spread over three floors of the art mecca off Fifth Avenue are 15,000 square-feet (about 1,400 square-meters) of reconfigured galleries, a new, second gift shop, a redesigned cafe and espresso bar and, facing the sculpture garden, two lounges graced with black marble quarried in France.

Still under construction are 50,000 square-feet (about 4,600 square-meters) of new galleries opening in 2019, bringing MoMA's total art-filled space to 175,000 square-feet (about 16,000 square-meters) on six floors. The expansion will allow more of the museum's collection of nearly 200,000 works to be displayed. The project also will provide 25 percent more space for visitors to relax or have a sit-down meal.

'We're riffing off MoMA's DNA'

The museum building, which opened in 1939, now nearly fills an entire city block and showcases works by artists including Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Andy Warhol, Vincent van Gogh and Frida Kahlo, to name just a few from the permanent collection. The complex fuses original architecture by Philip Goodwin and Edward Stone with Philip Johnson-designed additions in 1951 and 1964 and a new section by Argentine native Cesar Pelli in 1984, topped in 2004 by Yoshio Taniguchi's \$425 million expansion and renovation.

"We're riffing off the DNA of MoMA's history," said Elizabeth Diller, whose Boston-based firm, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, was hired for the project, working with the Gensler firm in San Francisco. "This work has required the curiosity of an archaeologist and the skill of a surgeon." MoMA director Glenn Lowry wants to achieve much more than augmenting square footage. MoMA curators are embracing ethnic and cultural

diversity that transcends established European artists through shows including, for instance, black and women artists. MoMA also is highlighting art tracing certain social periods - for example, female creativity in the decades after World War II that spawned feminism.

"The Museum of Modern Art's renovation and expansion project will seek to reassure and surprise," Lowry said. Architecturally, he said, MoMA is "opening up, so you're aware of the city" - by bringing the urban turf closer to visitors through an all-glass facade facing West 53rd Street, more window panels elsewhere and a rooftop lounge with a terrace.

Some galleries will be pliant, with partitions that can drop or be lifted, and ceilings of varying heights, depending on exhibition needs. Added studios and galleries will be set up for performances or film screenings. The current, double-height entrance lobby will be reconfigured to ease visitor congestion that often results in lines reaching out onto the side-

walk. Demolition starts this month, and visitors will have to use alternative entrances.

Providing easier access inside is the historic Bauhaus staircase that was extended to reach down to the first floor. The ongoing work includes some unseen improvements, with energy and water conservation that puts MoMA on track for the LEED Gold certification, a rating system that evaluates a building's environmental performance. MoMA has raised private funds for the nearly half-a-billion-dollar project; entertainment magnate David Geffen alone donated \$100 million. Admission is \$25, but the ground level with its galleries is open to the public free of charge. In the newly completed area, the first exhibition opens June 12th. "Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive" will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the American architect's birth. — AP



A mural by US artist Judy Chicago entitled 'Fixing a Hole,' which depicts the Beatles and was inspired by their song of the same name from the 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' album, is pictured on the side of the disused White Tomkins & Courage Grain Silo in Stanley dock, Liverpool.

Liverpool fetes 'Sgt. Pepper' with help from its friends

It was 50 years ago, almost to the day, that Sgt. Pepper taught the band to play. The band is long gone, but the music of The Beatles still reverberates - and nowhere more loudly than in Liverpool, where the 50th birthday of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" is the spark for a citywide festival.

The album, released in the US on June 2, 1967 - just after its British debut - was a psychedelic landmark whose influences ranged from rock to raga to English music hall. For many critics and fans, it's the Fab Four's finest achievement. Half a century on, Liverpool has asked 13 artists to respond to the album's 13 tracks, for a "Sgt. Pepper at 50" festival that runs through June 16. The artists come from Britain, the US, France, India and Australia, and their works range over theater, dance, public art, puppetry, film, fireworks and music. The festival is endorsed by surviving Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, who have both sent messages of support. Claire McColgan, director of public body Culture Liverpool, said the festival aims "to take something that is so iconic, that is so known throughout the world, and give a whole contemporary, fresh interpretation of it."

"These four boys from this city never left here," she said. "Their songs tell a story of this place." "Sgt. Pepper" was partly the product of The Beatles' frustration with fame. Exhausted by touring, they played their last live concert in August 1966 and devoted their energies and creativity to the studio. Working with producer George Martin at London's Abbey Road Studios, they made a multilayered, technologically innovative album that was never intended to be played live.

Inspiring still

Half a century on, "Sgt Pepper"-inspired artworks are springing up across Liverpool. A dockside grain silo sports a colorful pop-art mural by American artist Judy Chicago. Roadside billboards, the work of Turner Prize winner Jeremy Deller, proclaim "Brian Epstein died for you." There are concerts of Indian classical music - a major influence on George Harrison - and a film set on a city bus route inspired by "A Day in the Life." Meter maid "Lovely Rita" is the starting point for an "outlandish procession" through the streets by cabaret artist Meow Meow, clad in a fabulous dress made from parking tickets.

To say Liverpool is proud of The Beatles is an understatement. The group is a cross between guardian spirit and major industry, one that has helped the port city rebuild after the decline of its once-thriving docks. Today there are Magical Mystery bus tours, a Beatles museum and even a Beatles-themed hotel.

Director Julia Samuels of youth theater company 20 Stories High said that for younger Liverpool residents, the band is "part of their subconscious." Her colleague Keith Saha compared it to the way Liverpoolians are either "red or blue" - a supporter of Liverpool soccer club or its rival Everton.

"Everyone's got their favorite Beatles," he said. "Everyone's got their favorite album." "The good thing about Liverpool is we haven't Disneyfied The Beatles, and that's what's really important about this festival." The troupe's contribution to the festival is a play inspired by the song "She's Leaving Home," performed in a house around the corner from Ringo Starr's childhood residence.



Sgt Pepper from the Beatles LOVE show by Cirque du Soleil poses with a flag celebrating the 50th anniversary of the release of The Beatles "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," June 1, 2017 atop the Capitol Records Tower in Hollywood. — AFP photos

Tough times

Liverpool has been through tough times since The Beatles split in 1970, and the festival includes notes of melancholy amid the celebration. Carl Hunter's short film "A Day in the Life - Twenty Four Zero Hours" focuses on a young care worker employed on an impoverishing casual contract. Deller's giant billboards commemorate Beatles manager Epstein, who died three months after the album was released.

"Without him there wouldn't have been The Beatles as we know them," Deller said. Deller, who takes his inspiration from the song "With a Little Help From My Friends," says he is interested in "the darkness in pop music and popular culture, which is all about light and color and brightness." The festival insists it's not a nostalgia trip, many of the artists were not yet born when The Beatles split up.

One who does remember the 1960s is feminist artist Chicago, whose mural "Four Lads From Liverpool" was inspired by the song "Fixing a Hole." But the 77-year-old artist said she was not a huge Beatles fan at the time. "I'm not the groupie type," she said. "I was really busy working. But music filled the air, and the hope charged the environment. We were all part of that." "It was an incredible period. I think it's a period that young people now can't actually quite imagine." — AP

In Armenia, a peace prize and a music festival?

A year after Armenians launched a generous new peace prize, the frontman of rockers System of a Down sees more to come in the country-including perhaps a music festival. Serj Tankian, singer of the chart-topping California hard rock band, composed a theme song for the Aurora Prize, which was inaugurated a year ago in the Armenian capital Yerevan.

The award, backed by Hollywood A-lister George Clooney, is presented on behalf of Armenians who survived the bloodletting that claimed 1.5 million lives in the waning days of the Ottoman Empire in 1915. Armenia and Western historians describe the killings as genocide, but Turkey vehemently objects to the term.

The second edition of the award was presented on May 28 to Tom Catena, the sole doctor in Sudan's conflict-ravaged Nuba Mountains who has cared for thousands of people, treating everything from war injuries to measles. Catena, an American and Catholic missionary, will receive \$100,000 plus an additional \$1 million which will feed charities of his choice. Tankian, who congratulated Catena in a video appearance at the ceremony as the band prepared for a European tour, said the Aurora Prize showed gratitude to those who helped survivors.

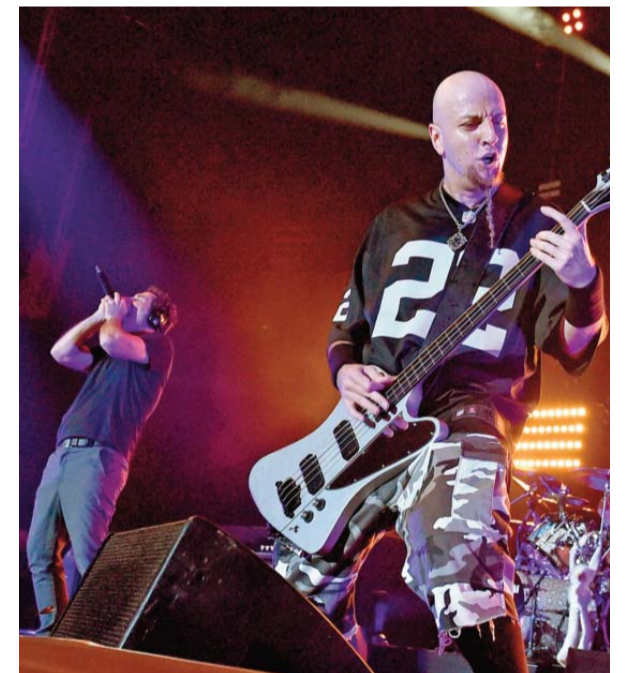
"Any group of people that have suffered immensely, whether it's genocide or any other type of human-created catastrophe, should embody compassion and an understanding of that pain better than anyone else," Tankian told AFP. The Lebanese-born Tankian, whose grandparents survived with help from a Turkish mayor and an American missionary orphanage, said that too often, people fail to draw lessons from their ancestors' pain. "I find it really disheartening that there are people who have suffered immensely, or whose grandparents have suffered immensely, and yet their position in life has been unequivocally egotistical and myopic in terms of how they see their lives and how they spend their money," he said.

festival in Armenia," he said. "As much as I have tried to do political work and social work," he said, "I would also like to carve out time to do art work, music work." For the centennial in 2015, System of a Down played its first-ever concert in Armenia. Tankian said he felt overcome with a sense of history, seeing young people and remembering his grandparents. He viewed his band as "part of that catalyst between old and new." "It felt like our whole career was built to play that one show in some ways," he said. — AFP

Integrating Armenia with music festivals

Tankian said he wanted to do more in Armenia and was in the early stages of looking to set up a music festival. The singer voiced hope that Armenia, rarely a destination for Western artists, could be integrated into the European summer festival circuit with touring bands carrying on to the Caucasus country.

"I've always dreamed of setting up an international music



This file photo taken on April 05, 2015 shows singer Serj Tankian (L) and musician Shavo Odadjian of System of a Down performing at The Forum in Inglewood, California. — AFP

Black Eyed Peas are still Fergalicious

Boom Boom Pow: Fergie is still a member of the Black Eyed Peas. A representative for the singer told The Associated Press that the songstress has not left the group, even though a magazine reported Thursday that will.i.am said she was no longer in the group. Fergie's representative said Friday she is "concentrating on her new album and can't wait for fans to hear it." Because of her album commitments, Fergie will not perform with the Black Eyed Peas at two events this weekend: Yesterday's opening ceremony for the UEFA Champions League final in

Cardiff, Wales, and today's charity concert in Manchester, England, alongside Ariana Grande.

Will.i.am's interview with Ahl! magazine caused a frenzy online Thursday with the suggestion that Fergie was no longer a member of the pop group. A day later, will.i.am said in a statement: "Fergie is family and will always be a Pea. She is focused on her solo album which we fully support." In the interview, will.i.am said that "nobody is replacing Fergie" and that the Black Eyed Peas are working on a new project. He said former Pussycat Doll leader Nicole Scherzinger would be featured on the project but didn't say how much involvement she would have (Scherzinger was offered a spot in the Peas before Fergie).

The Black Eyed Peas released its debut in 1998 as an eclectic hip-hop trio with will.i.am, apl.de.ap and Taboo. Fergie first appeared on the group's third album, 2003's "Elephunk," helping them achieve mainstream success. The group went on to win Grammy Awards, sell millions of albums and top the pop charts with hits from "Where Is the Love" to "Boom Boom Pow." Fergie also had major success with her 2006 solo debut, which was heavily produced by will.i.am. She announced last week that she left Universal Music Group, the longtime label behind her and the Black Eyed Peas, to launch her own record label called Dutchess Music through BMG. She plans to release her sophomore album, "Double Dutchess," this year. — AP



In this Feb 8, 2017 file photo, Fergie performs at the Tommy Hilfinger TommyxGigi Runway Show at Venice Beach in Los Angeles. — AP

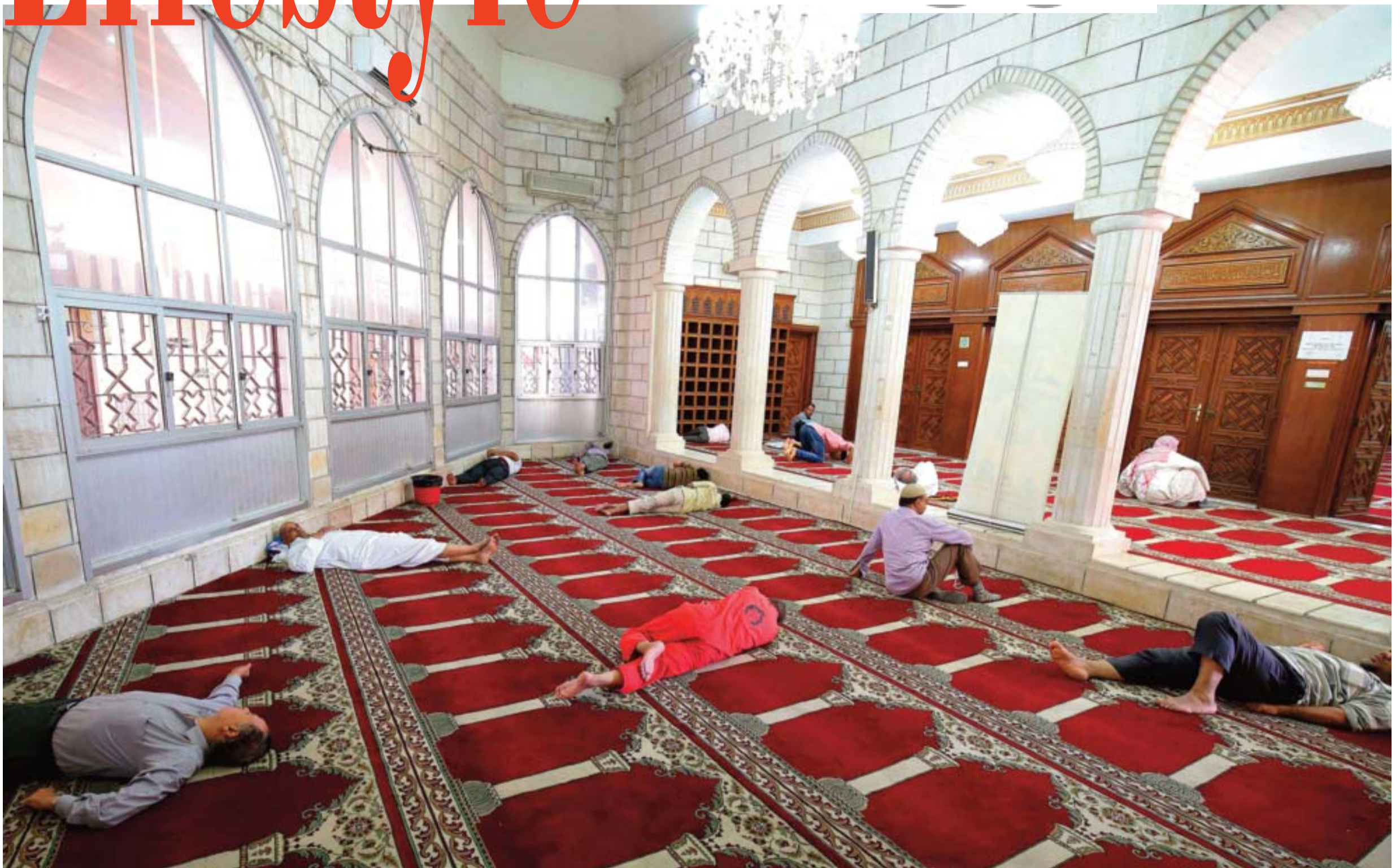
Lifestyle

Chocolate lovers tours: Not just about sampling sweets

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SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017



KUWAIT: People rest in a mosque in Kuwait City during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan. Ramadan is sacred to Muslims because it is during that month that tradition says the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed (PUBH). — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Governors Ball: Lorde returns to find 'Perfect Places'

A newly grown-up Lorde sang of the despair that can creep up on sticky summer nights as she premiered a polished new pop single Friday at the Governors Ball festival. Governors Ball, the first and longest-running festival in New York's increasingly busy summer music season, opened under visibly tighter security with police and counterterrorism units stationed every few yards at exits to the venue on Randall's Island off the city's East River.

The festival comes less than two weeks after a suicide bomber killed 22 people at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester and the same day that one of Europe's largest hard rock festivals, Rock am Ring in Germany, was evacuated over a threat. But once inside Governors Ball, tension was nowhere to be seen on a balmy day with the young crowd taking in four stages of music, mini-golf and firework shows to close off sets by Lorde and headliner Chance the Rapper. Lorde took the stage in a white veil, which the 20-year-old New Zealander elegantly lifted to display engaging eye contact.

Lorde for the first time performed live "Perfect Places," the third single off her sophomore album

"Melodrama," which comes out on June 16. After finding fame while still a teenager with the minimalist viral hit "Royals," Lorde with her new music has turned to a more elaborate pop sound and more adult themes. Like the album's first single, "Green Light," Lorde sings of going out on the town. On "Perfect Places," the setting is New York in the heat of the summer of 2016 -- "another graceless night," she sings of the drinking and casual romance. "I hate the headlines and the weather / I'm 19 and I'm on fire," Lorde sings to dance-pop that belies a melancholic synthesized bass-line.

Lorde taps juice bar worker

As with her handful of other recent shows, Lorde turned the set into a tableau vivant with actors dining, dancing and fighting in a tinted-glass room elevated above the stage. Among likely audience members-Emely Paula Medina, newly employed at a New York juice bar. Lorde earlier in the week bought a blueberry smoothie from her and, in an exchange that went viral after Medina posted it online, Lorde invited her to the festival to celebrate her new job.

Lorde also brought out a guest to play guitar on "Perfect Places"-Jack Antonoff, the alternative rocker who worked closely with Lorde on "Melodrama." Antonoff earlier appeared with one of his own acts, Bleachers, which Friday released its second album, "Gone Now." Shifting subtly from the grand, baroque sound of his other band, fun., Bleachers reached into 1980s pop-rock with powerful saxophone solos-bringing a touch of Bruce Springsteen. Bleachers went full-in on the 1980s synthpop as Antonoff led a cover of Fleetwood Mac's "Go Your Own Way."

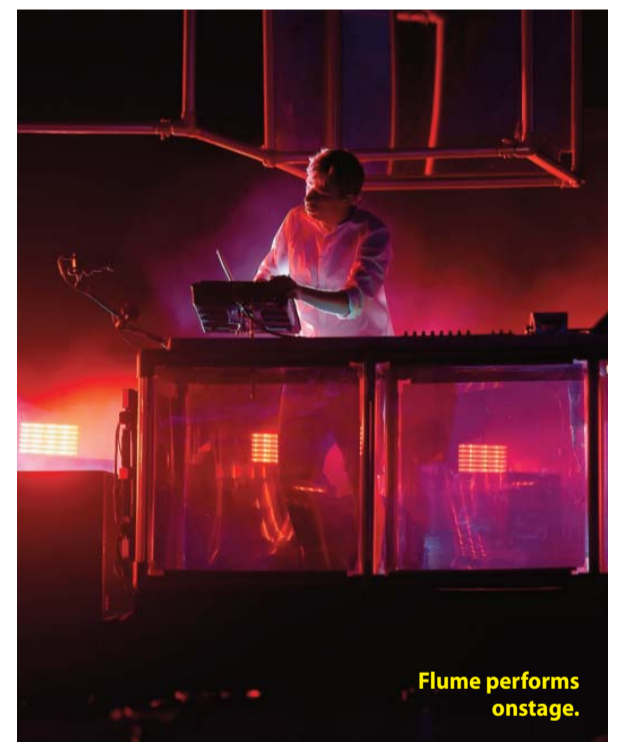
Rising fame for Chance

Chance the Rapper's headlining status is a new sign of the rapid stardom of the 24-year-old Chicago native, who earlier this year won the Grammy for Best New Artist. Chance, who has been unusually open in bringing Christian themes and Gospel music into his music, at one point gave the festival the atmosphere of a tent church revival as fans raised their palms with him. Similarly breaking with hip-hop stock images, Chance took the stage by riding a bicycle and later joined in a pop duet with Francis and the Lights, who collaborated on Chance's breakthrough "Coloring Book" mixtape last year. The three-day festival is heavy on hip-hop, with other star rappers Friday including Schoolboy Q, who teased the audience to expect a new album "in the next few months."

One of the most rousing performances came from 68-year-old soul singer Charles Bradley, who has returned to touring after a cancer scare and thanked fans. "I promise you one thing-I'm back!" he said to thunderous applause. Bradley, whose grippingly rich voice earned him a job as a James Brown impersonator before a career on his own, told the crowd that as a Christian he believed in coexistence. "Don't let hate win! Let love win!" Bradley declared, ending his set by throwing a thick bouquet worth of red roses individually into the crowd. — AFP



Chance The Rapper performs onstage during the 2017 Governors Ball Music Festival.



Flume performs onstage.



Lorde performs onstage during the 2017 Governors Ball Music Festival - Day 1 at Randall's Island on June 2, 2017 in New York. — AFP photos



View of the crowd during the 2017 Governors Ball Music Festival at Randall's Island.

German rock festival to resume after terror scare

Germany's biggest rock festival will resume after being disrupted by fears of a possible "terrorist threat" which have proved to be unfounded, the organizers said yesterday. Police told AFP searches at the three-day "Rock am Ring," held near the southwestern city of Koblenz were over. Live music will resume at 1:30 pm (1130 GMT). Some 90,000 people are expected to attend the event which ends today.

"After a series of intensive searches across the site the

fears of an imminent danger were not confirmed," the organizers said. "The police gave the go-ahead" for the festival to restart, they said. The festival was evacuated on Friday evening after Koblenz police said they were in possession of "concrete elements, in the light of which a possible terrorist threat cannot be ruled out". Police said three people suspected of being members of a Salafist group in the neighboring state of Hesse were detained but released yesterday.

"One person who is not of German origin and is known to the police as having links to the Islamist terror network had access to" backstage areas, police spokesman Wolfgang Fromm said. The three had been hired to set up security barriers at the venue. Security for the festival had already been stepped up, with an additional 1,200 staff, in response to the May 22 Manchester bombing which occurred after a concert by US singer Ariana Grande.

The region's interior minister Roger Lewentz defended

the decision to evacuate the festival, saying: "We cannot take risks." Last year's Rock am Ring program was curtailed by violent storms in which dozens of people were injured by lightning. The country remains on high alert after a jihadist attack on a Christmas market in Berlin on December 19. Anis Amri, a 24-year-old Tunisian, hijacked a truck, killed its Polish driver and ploughed the vehicle through the market, claiming 11 more lives and wounding dozens. — AFP