

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

ANNIVERSARY
55
Years
Kuwait Times

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JAMADA ALTHANI 16, 1438 AH

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Pilot describes the day Sheikh Jaber returned to Kuwait



Carlos the Jackal on trial for 1974 Paris attack



Intel buying Israeli car tech firm Mobileye for \$15bn



Kuwait Times infographic: NBA Power Rankings



150 FILS
NO: 17167
40 PAGES

ROUHANI SENDS LETTER TO AMIR IN DIPLOMATIC STRIDE

TEHRAN KEEN ON GOOD TIES WITH NEIGHBORS: LARIJANI



Min 18°
Max 31°
High Tide 00:12 & 13:35
Low Tide 07:35 & 19:42

'BARRAK ATTACKER' COMMITS SUICIDE IN SOLITARY CELL

By A Saleh
KUWAIT: The interior ministry's security media and public relations department said a 28-year-old non-Kuwaiti inmate committed suicide at the Central Jail yesterday using his blanket. He was being held in solitary confinement. The department said the inmate was doing a two-year sentence for drug abuse and that relevant security forces are currently investigating the matter to find out the motive for the suicide. Further investigations are in progress.
According to unconfirmed reports on social media, the deceased was a Syrian inmate who had allegedly attacked former opposition MP Musallam Al-Barrak at the prison last month. Barrak suffered light injuries and was rushed to Farwaniya Hospital. He was later returned to his cell. In a post on Twitter, MP Marzouq Al-Khalifa described the Syrian's suicide as suspicious and demanded an investigation, adding "the case had many questions from the beginning". He called on authorities to increase Barrak's security in prison to prevent any possible retaliation.
After the assault last month, Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah had ordered an immediate investigation into the attack, while member of the Assembly's human rights committee MP Mohammad Hayef said the committee discussed the attack and demanded a full investigation. It also decided to send representatives to hear the testimony of Barrak on the matter.



KUWAIT: (From left) National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Education Minister and Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Chairman Mohammad Al-Fares and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah cut the ceremonial cake at a ceremony yesterday to honor PAAET's outstanding graduates for 2015-2016. — KUNA (See Page 2)

KUWAIT/TEHRAN: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani sent a letter yesterday to HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, state media reported, a further sign that the two might be trying to defuse tensions between the Islamic Republic and the Gulf Arab states. Predominantly Shiite Iran and the Sunni Arab-dominated Gulf countries, notably Saudi Arabia, support opposing sides in conflicts in Syria and Yemen, but in January, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah paid a rare visit to Tehran. He delivered a message from the Amir to Rouhani, describing a "basis of dialogue" between Gulf Arab states and Iran.
Iran's state news agency IRNA said Rouhani replied to the message in the letter delivered by Iran's ambassador yesterday. Kuwait state news agency KUNA said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received Alireza Enayati, and "during the meeting, a letter was delivered addressed to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from Iranian President Hassan Rouhani". Neither news agency gave details of the letter's contents. Rouhani visited Oman and Kuwait in February on his first visit to the Gulf states since taking power in 2013. He said Kuwait was among at least 10 countries to have offered to mediate in Iran's escalating feud with Saudi Arabia.
In Tehran, Speaker of Iran's Shura Council Ali Larjani said Iran pursues peaceful policies with neighboring states based on conservative religious principles. In a press conference, Larjani referred to Rouhani's visit to Kuwait and Oman as "positive". Following the visit, it was decided to continue talks with the foreign ministers of both states, he said.
Referring to the ties with Egypt, Larjani said Tehran welcomes all moves that would lead to normalizing ties with Cairo. He highlighted Egypt's pivotal role amid the current events in the region. Ties between Cairo and Tehran strained in the wake of Egypt's peace pact with Israel in the late 1970s, but conditions have considerably changed since then, Larjani stressed. He also defended Iran's nuclear deal with world powers as a "right decision". — Agencies



KUWAIT: Cars crawl during a heavy dust storm in Shuwaikh yesterday after wind speed hit over 40 km/h and visibility level fell below 500m in some areas in Kuwait. Marine traffic at Shuwaikh Port was suspended due to the conditions, Kuwait Ports Authority said. But the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said aviation traffic was normal since wind speed and horizontal visibility were still within safe navigation limits at the airport. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

KING SALMAN, ABE EYE BOOST IN TIES SAUDI DEPUTY CROWN PRINCE TO MEET TRUMP

MUBARAK SET TO WALK FREE

CAIRO: Hosni Mubarak, overthrown as president of Egypt in 2011 and the first leader to go on trial in the wake of the Arab Spring, will walk free this week for the first time in six years. The 88-year-old was cleared of murder charges this month in his final court appearance, having stood trial on charges ranging from corruption to ordering the killing of some of the protesters who ended his 30-year rule.
Mubarak was initially arrested in April 2011, two months after stepping down, and has since been in prison and military hospitals. "He will go to his home in Heliopolis," Mubarak's lawyer Farid El-Deeb said, referring to the Cairo neighborhood where the main presidential palace from which Mubarak governed is also located. Deeb said the ageing former president could be released today or soon after.
Mubarak still had one more jail sentence to serve, for appropriating funds reserved for maintaining presidential palaces, but time he had spent in detention in connection with the murder charges was subtracted from it, judicial sources and the state news agency said. Mubarak was originally sentenced to life in prison in 2012 for conspiring to murder 239 demonstrators during the 18-day revolt. An appeals court ordered a retrial that culminated in 2014 in the case against Mubarak and his senior officials being dropped. An appeal by the public prosecution led to a final retrial by the Court of Cassation, the highest in the country, which acquitted him on March 2.
After the turmoil of the Arab Spring, former Tunisian President Ben Ali fled into exile in Saudi Arabia, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi was killed by rebels and former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh is fighting a civil war after stepping down. Bashar Al-Assad still holds the title of president in Syria that lies largely in ruins after years of civil war.

TOKYO: Japan and Saudi Arabia agreed yesterday to explore ways to bolster Japanese investment and trade in the Middle Eastern nation, possibly by setting up special economic zones there. King Salman and about a thousand businesspeople from Saudi Arabia are in Japan for talks this week focusing on the economy, as the country seeks a less oil-dependent growth strategy. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told King Salman that Japan wants to "vigorously advance its ties with Saudi Arabia, which is the linchpin of stability in the Middle East". The visit is the first by a Saudi king in 46 years, though Salman visited more recently as crown prince.
The two leaders agreed to promote Japanese investment, research and manufacturing, possibly through special economic zones. They also agreed to seek a possible share listing of Saudi Aramco, the state-run oil company that is being partially privatized, on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The two countries also will cooperate in promoting renewable energy as well as seawater desalination by Japanese companies. King Salman met with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida earlier yesterday.
Separately, Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund and Japanese telecoms provider Softbank have joined forces in setting up a \$25 billion private fund for technology investments. Saudi Arabia is one of Japan's biggest suppliers of crude oil, accounting for about a third of its imports of oil from the Middle East. Trade between the countries fell last year as oil prices dropped. Japanese imports from Saudi Arabia totaled 2.1 trillion yen (\$18.6 billion) in 2016, mostly oil and gas, compared to exports of 546.3 billion yen (\$4.8 billion).
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TOKYO: Saudi King Salman and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands before their meeting at Abe's official residence yesterday. — AP

HASHEM DEFENDS EXPAT MEDICINE BAN PROPOSAL

By B Izzak
KUWAIT: MP Safaa Al-Hashem said yesterday her proposal to ban giving medicines to expatriates at public hospitals and clinics aims at improving health services for Kuwaiti citizens and achieve what she described as "social justice". Hashem, the only woman in the 50-seat National Assembly, proposed a few days ago that the health ministry should stop giving expatriates any medicines at public clinics and hospitals.
She said the KD 1 and KD 2 paid by expatriate patients at clinics and hospitals respectively should be considered as examination fees to allow them to be seen by doctors. She said expat patients should then purchase the prescribed drugs from private drug stores. Her proposal was harshly criticized as inhuman, especially by online activists. She told a press conference held to explain her proposal that it aims at organizing the medical sector and allowing Kuwaiti patients easy access to the government-run health sector.
Hashem said that what she proposed is nothing new, as all the five Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states are implementing it. In those countries, expatriates are barred from public health services.
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Advertisement for 'Shoot & Win' photography competition. Includes logos for Zain, Canon, and Fujifilm. Text: 'Shoot & Win Photography Competition Today See page 20'.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah poses for a group photo with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's graduates and staff. —Amiri Diwan photos

AMIR HONORS PAAET'S OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

KUWAIT: Under the patronage and with attendance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) held yesterday a ceremony to honor its outstanding graduates for 2015-2016.

His Highness the Amir arrived at the PAAET's new building in Shuwaikh where he was received by Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and PAAET Board Chairman Dr Mohammad Abdullatif Al-Fares and PAAET Director General Dr Ahmad Saleh Al-Athari, in addition to a number of faculty staff members. The ceremony was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanim, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Also present at the ceremony were First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, senior state officials and graduates' families.

Self-aware generations
Addressing the ceremony, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and PAAET Board Chairman Dr Mohammad Abdullatif Al-Fares highly commended His Highness the Amir's keenness on attending and honoring outstanding graduates. The minister vowed to help in creating self-aware generations that strongly believe in strategic plans aiming at achieving the country's sustainable development goals. He said the PAAET focuses on study programs, scientific contents of curricula and continuing assessment of students' levels, pointing to upgrading the levels of educational and research services.

Undoubtedly, development is mainly centered on human and material elements, he said, arguing that the former is the basis of development and a catalyst for economic growth by means of overhauling the educational system.

In this context, the PAAET plays a major role in the graduation of well-trained and qualified students who can shoulder due responsibility in various sectors, he boasted. Several additional facilities of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, mainly laboratories and sports complexes, have been completed thanks to the continuing support of the country's wise political leadership, the minister noted. Finally, he urged the PAAET's new graduates to show a high sense of national responsibility and loyalty

by working hard to help in developing their nation and addressing challenges it is facing.

Effective element
Meanwhile, PAAET Director General Dr Ahmad Saleh Al-Athari thanked His Highness the Amir for patronizing and attending the graduation ceremony. He stressed that his authority attaches much attention to the main societal segment of young people who are the effective element for building the State of Kuwait and carrying out its development plans.

At the behest of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the PAAET is always interested in developing curricula in order to strengthen the national and human spirit of students, Al-Athari added.

The PAAET has made much headway in education in order to keep abreast of educational and vocational advancement through permanent review of its study and training programs and curricula, he boasted.

On behalf of her colleagues, the student Sara Ahmad Assad said she and other new graduates were so happy to see His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and other top state officials attending the graduation ceremony. Finally, His Highness the Amir honored the PAAET's outstanding graduates, while memorial souvenirs were presented to His Highness the Amir. —KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah unveils a model for the new building of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah waves as His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is seen.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other top state officials and guests stand for the National Anthem.



Public Authority for Applied Education and Training graduates perform during the ceremony.

KUWAIT, GERMANY INK VISA EXEMPTION AGREEMENT



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and the Ambassador of Germany to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner sign a visa-exemption agreement yesterday. —KUNA



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Ali Reza Enayati.

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Ministry and the German Government have signed a visa-exemption agreement for holders of diplomatic and private passports from both countries. The agreement was signed by Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and the Ambassador of Germany to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner.

The signing ceremony was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs, Ambassador Walid Al Khebezi, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs, Ambassador Dhari Ajran Al-Ajran, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office, Ambassador Ayham Abdulatif Al-Omar and Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's Office, Ambassador Saleh Salem Al-Logani.

In other news, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met yesterday with Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Ali Reza Enayati at Bayan Palace. During the meeting, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received a letter addressed to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah from Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

The meeting was attended by Assistant for Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Ali Suleiman Al-Said and several senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —KUNA



KUWAIT: This March 14, 1991 file photo shows then Amir His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah praying shortly after returning to Kuwait following the state's liberation from the Iraqi invasion. —KUNA

PILOT DESCRIBES THE DAY SHEIKH JABER RETURNED TO KUWAIT AFTER LIBERATION

KUWAIT: Twenty-six years have passed since the fateful day when the late Amir His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah returned to Kuwait, marking a historical movement in the liberation of the country from the Iraqi aggressors.

On March 14, 1991, Captain Falah Al-Shemmeri - the pilot who flew Sheikh Jaber back to Kuwait on the aircraft Boubyan - felt and knew he was on a patriotic mission to bring the leader of the Kuwaiti back home. "I was informed about the flight two days prior and I knew that I

will be part of the significant historical movement to finalize the act of liberation," Shemmeri reminisced about the moment during an interview.

It was a 25-minutes flight from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia to Kuwait, "but the sense of national duty was filling me with pride and joy," said the pilot. He added that despite the skies being dark because of the heinous Iraqi act of burning the oil fields in Kuwait, he was determined to touchdown as soon as possible for the sake of the country and its people. —KUNA

CABINET INSTRUCTS ENERGY EFFICIENCY

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti cabinet has asked the Ministry of Electricity and Water to work with other concerned bodies to put the country's energy efficiency program in place. It has also asked the ministry to send it a bimonthly report on steps and measures taken in this regard, primarily the improvement of air-conditioning and lighting technologies nationwide. This came during a regular cabinet meeting held at Bayan Palace yesterday under the chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Emerging from the meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a press statement that the cabinet was apprised of a letter sent to His Highness the Amir from Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the latter's recent visit to Kuwait. They were also informed about a letter addressed to His Highness the Amir from French President Francois Hollande, congratulating Kuwait on the occasion of the National Day, the minister said.

Locally, the cabinet mourned the death of General Mohammad Abdulaziz Al-Bader last Friday, remembering with all appreciation his

sincere and national efforts and great sacrifices during the heinous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The ministers were also notified by His Highness the Amir's accompanying delegations during a visit to Turkey on March 20-22, and a visit to Jordan to attend the coming Arab summit on March 28-29.

The ministers then listened to a briefing from His Highness the Prime Minister on the outcomes of a recent visit by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to Kuwait, and his official talks with Kuwaiti officials on bilateral relations as well as Arab, Islamic and international issues of mutual interest.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the cabinet on the outcomes of his talks with New Zealand's Foreign Minister Murray McCully during the latter's recent visit to Kuwait.

Internationally, the cabinet discussed several political reports on the latest Arab and international developments, and condemned a recent attack on a military base in Mali, which left a number of soldiers killed or wounded. In this context, the cabinet reiterated Kuwait's unshakable position based on rejecting all forms and manifestations of terrorism. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's weekly session yesterday. —KUNA

TWELVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO SOLVE DEMOGRAPHIC IMBALANCE

COURT ORDERS TREATMENT FOR EXPAT GIRL

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A study prepared by the research department at the Ministry of State for National Assembly Affairs about Kuwait's demography made 12 recommendations to solve the problem. They include determining the local market's actual need of expat laborers, holding visa traffickers and fake companies legally accountable, exerting more efforts in deporting marginal laborers, and lifting travel bans filed against people with expired residencies before deporting them. Furthermore, they include linking the outcome of education to actual local market needs, resolving the problem of illegal residents, increasing the percentage of national workers in the market, making further decisions to encourage Kuwaiti youth join technical colleges and institutes after finishing high school and limiting the exaggerated recruitment of domestic helpers. The recommendations also included encouraging more citizens to join the private sector, setting a timetable to stop hiring expats in the private sector and stopping transfers from government projects to the private sector.

Treatment costs

The comprehensive court yesterday passed a sentence compelling the Ministry of Health (MoH) to provide medical treatment to an expat girl who cannot afford the cost of a surgery. The court explained that the girl's case was a humane one regardless whether she can pay the fees or not. In other news, the constitutional court yesterday used a new name for people with special needs, describing them as 'disability challengers' in a sentence it passed cancelling an article in the law, and ordered paying equal allowances to 'disability challengers' belonging to the same family.

Charter

The educational affairs director at the Capital educational zone Laila Al-Shareef stressed finishing the preparation of the new primary stage charter. Shareef added that the educational zone also started providing enough teaching staff members to understaffed schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Meanwhile, Islamic Studies supervisor Dr Jassem Al-Mesbah called for increasing the number of Quran lessons taught in the intermediate and secondary stages to two per week instead of only one, because the Holy Quran is one of the most important subjects students should learn.

Blacklisted companies

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) announced preparing blacklists of companies faltering in projects they were hired to execute for various MEW sectors and submit them to the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) so that they could be blacklisted and disqualified for further tenders. The ministry's announcement was made in response to inquiries made by the parliamentary budgets. MEW also stressed its keenness on studying each applying company's resume, credibility and previous projects.

Cities' projects

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) finished applying the final touches on preparations made to attract local and international investors in a special ceremony it intends to hold next week at a hotel to make a presentation about its experience in Jaber Al-Ahmad and Sabah Al-Ahmad cities.

New directors

Kuwait Petroleum International's (KPI) CEO Bakheet Al-Rashidi issued an administrative directive reshuffling two managing directors to company operation sites worldwide. The directive included appointing Azzam Al-Mutawa as the company's managing director in Italy

and appointing the managing director for international operations Fadhil Faraj as managing director in north-western Europe. In addition, it appointed Nasser bin Botain as director of the aviation fuel company and transferred Ayman Al-Qattan from Netherlands back to the headquarters in Kuwait to work as treasury and finance manager.

Violations

Head of the parliament's committee formed to investigate the Ministry of Health's (MoH) violations MP Saadoun Hammad said the committee members agreed to travel to the overseas health offices in Germany, Washington, Paris and London to investigate violations committed in the period of 2013-2017, before summoning the health minister and the Audit Bureau to discuss them. Hammad added that the committee would also investigate violations made in nursing contracts, the Afya retiree health insurance program, Adan Hospital and Audit Bureau reports. Meanwhile, MP Osama Al-Shaheen urged all investigation committee members to resign from the committee in case of any conflicts of interest.

KUNA's budget

The head of the parliament's budgets and final statements committee MP Adanan Abdulsamad said that the committee discussed KUNA's budget for 2017-2018 and its final statement for the fiscal year 2015-2016. Abdulsamad added that the committee found that KUNA had rejected appointing a Civil Service Commission (CSC) supervisor to monitor recruitment affairs. KUNA also exceeded the budget set by the finance ministry by rehiring 20 former retired employees at higher wages and more incentives. Abdulsamad said that the committee noticed some malfunctioning in funding KUNA's offices abroad through transferring funds to some employees personal bank accounts with the excuse that some countries do not allow opening bank accounts for the agency.



KUWAIT: Jahra firefighters tackled a blaze reported in a Saad Al-Abdallah house yesterday. No injuries were reported in the incident. —By Hanan Al-Saadoun

FIVE COMPANIES COMPETE FOR PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Five local companies qualified by the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) are currently competing to win a tender for landscaping, maintenance and irrigation at Al-Shaheed Park, while 10 other companies were disqualified for various reasons such as filing incomplete documents, owning small nurseries, not achieving any projects over the past five years or lack of experience in doing Amiri Diwan projects over the past five years. CTC set March

26 as the deadline for disqualified companies to file grievances.

Court order upheld

The court of cassation yesterday upheld an appeals court order which acquitted former MP Saleh Al-Mulla from charges of slandering His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Egypt. The public prosecution had challenged the appeal court's verdict, but the cassation court, whose rulings are final, rejected the challenge.



KUWAIT: Acting Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry Major General Mahmoud Al-Dousary met yesterday with Egypt's Assistant Foreign Minister for Consular and Egyptians' Affairs Abroad Ambassador Khalid Rizq and Egyptian Foreign Ministry Advisor Hussein Fahim. The two sides discussed boosting security cooperation between the two countries, the Interior Ministry said in a press statement.



KUWAIT: A heavy dust storm hit Kuwait yesterday caused by winds with a speed of over 40 kilometers per hour, causing visibility levels to drop to 500 meters in several areas around the country. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

In Brief

IICO HELPS FAMINE VICTIMS

KUWAIT: President of the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq on Sunday announced the launch of a wide-scale campaign to help the people affected by famine in Somalia. IICO allocated \$500,000 to provide medicine and urgent food supplies, and dig water wells to help counter draught facing some African countries including Somalia, he said. There are 2.9 million people in Somalia, including 1.8 million children, who are in dire need of food, medicine and water, Maatouq said. — KUNA



MANAGER MEETS YEMENI GOVERNORS

RIYADH: The Kuwait Patients Helping Fund Society (KPHFS) Executive Manager in Yemen, Abu Ismail Ibrahim Al-Qurashi met with Yemen's Governor of Al-Baydah Governorate Nayif Salih Al-Qaisi and Governor of Ibb Governorate Abdul Wahab Seif Al-Waeli. The KPHFS said in a press release that they discussed during the meeting Kuwait's humanitarian and relief aid to the Yemeni people. — KUNA



TRAINING CENTER IN TUNISIA

TUNIS: A Kuwait-financed center for vocational education and training was opened on Sunday in the central Tunisian city of Gafsa. The center, built by Kuwaiti donations totaled \$1 million, comprises several teaching buildings, a clinic and a mosque. This is an important project that would provide youth in the local community with high-quality education and training in several specialities such as farming and electrical training, Kuwait Ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Thufairi said on the sidelines of the opening ceremony. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A cattle egret feeds on a fish at a natural reserve in Kuwait. — KUNA photo

OOREDOO SPONSORS FIRST KUWAIT AIR SHOW HELD AT SHEIKH SAAD TERMINAL



Ooredoo's team.

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, the fastest network in Kuwait in 2016, proudly announced the conclusion of its sponsorship of the First Kuwait Air Show, an event that gathered all aviation enthusiasts within a fun-filled schedule spanning across two days. The event was held at Sheikh Saad Terminal on Friday March 10th and Saturday March 11th and was open to the public.

The event succeeded in attracting thousands of visitors and enthusiasts from different age groups, and included a number of activities such as entertainment performances and seminars held on the sideline to discuss the latest in the world of aviation.

The event also included a spectacular airshow featuring an array of aircrafts from different countries aside from Kuwait, such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar,

Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates. 25 aircrafts will be participated at the airshow, with 6 from Saudi Arabia, 4 from the United Arab Emirates, 4 from Kuwait, 10 from Qatar, and one from Bahrain. The aircrafts included Cirrus SR22, Diamond DA62, Cessna 172, Tecnam Astore, Piper Archer, Extra 300, Diamond DA42, Diamond DA40, and Beechcraft Baron. There was significant participation from several important entities, such as ministries, schools, and universities.

Ooredoo stated that this sponsorship came in tandem with its social responsibility strategy of supporting the passions of its customers, which in turn is based on its core values of Ooredoo, of caring, connecting and challenging. Ooredoo is looking forward to engaging and meeting all the aviation enthusiasts who will be participating in this event.

NCCAL OPENS FUTURE GENERATIONS' FESTIVALS



KUWAIT: Assistant Secretary General of the National Council for Culture, Letters and Arts (NCCAL) Mohammad Al-Ass'ousi said Sunday the future generations' festival became a landmark event in the efforts to promote cultural education of the young.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the 28th edition of festival, Ass'ousi said the continuation of the annual chain of the event over

almost three decades testifies to its success and popularity. The festival is being held under auspices of Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, who doubles as NCCAL President, at Abdul-Hussein Abdul-Redha Theater.

"NCCAL spares no effort in promoting the cultural education of the young generation

through various activities in collaboration with other government and non-government organizations," he stressed.

NCCAL believes in the essential role of cooperation with the Ministry of Education in working out cultural programs geared to children, he added. Ass'ousi thanked Sheikh Mohammad for his kind patronage of the festival lasts until March 23. — KUNA

KUWAIT FINANCIAL FORUM TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH

'BANKING SECTOR IN GCC AGAINST A BACKDROP OF ECONOMIC CHANGE'

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, represented by Anas Khalid Al-Saleh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Kuwait Banking Association is organizing the Kuwait Financial Forum on April 4 and 5, 2017 in cooperation with the Al-Iktissad Wal Aamal Group. Set to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Kuwait City, this event is expected to act as a benchmark item on the agenda of key banking and finance economic figures in the region. This is due to the eminent themes it is expected to tackle, against a backdrop of the current drastic economic changes and their repercussions on the economic trends adopted by regional governments and, consequently, by the relevant private sector institutions, particularly in the banking and financial sector. This forum also creates a huge momentum due to the quality of the audience, as the guest list encompasses several ministers involved in finance and the economy, in addition to key banking figures representing GCC and world-renowned banks. This event thus acts as an interactive dialogue platform between government actors in Kuwait and the region on the one hand and, on the other, the private sector leadership, particularly banks and financial institutions.



Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh



Kuwait Banking Association Chairman Majed Al-Ajeel

Chairman Majed Issa Al-Ajeel commented on this event: "We are pleased to announce that the Kuwait Financial Forum will be held under the auspices of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and in the presence of Anas Al-Saleh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance." This event, Ajeel asserted, acquires a major importance due to several reasons, especially as it is held under the esteemed support of Kuwait's political leadership and the direct supervision of the Minister of Finance, which underscores the importance attached by the various government authorities to host similar events and to reach practical results, that promote the joint efforts made in keeping with the current developments on various levels. The timing of this forum also acquires a great deal of impor-

ance, as it is held at a time of drastic economic changes in the region against a backdrop of dwindling oil prices and the ensuing impact on government policies, especially given the trend to curb spending and seek alternative sources of financing, including borrowing from international markets. Ajeel went on saying: "These general economic changes coincide with a set of technical factors related to the banking sector, especially issues pertaining to the inevitable compliance and the means of dealing with legislations that strive to fight money laundering, tax evasion, and terrorism financing. This comes in addition to shared financial concerns among GCC countries, including the efforts aiming to unify the tax system with regard to some taxes and the development of

more technical standards, such as the Basel III requirements and other upcoming financial standards."

Interactive dialogue platform

The chairman of the Kuwait Banking Association argued that the Kuwait Financial Forum acts, against such a backdrop, as a key interactive platform for dialogue among financial and monetary policymakers on the regional level, including a large swatch of representatives of leading Kuwaiti and regional banks, in addition to representatives of global banks involved in the region banking sector. This goes without mentioning the key discussions set to be held among key figures in the banking industry, leading potentially to a unified vision on how to deal with many of these technical issues and economic developments."

Ajeel explained that the Forum is also keen on discussing certain issues in ad hoc sessions, leading to a deeper debate of specific matters, such as the Islamic banking industry and some related factors, knowing that this distinct sector is now achieving rapid growth and is linked to some specific technical details. Furthermore, the Forum is set to tackle modern technology, digital services and the tremendous development occurring in this respect.

Available opportunities

These essential factors, Ajeel argued, were the main milestone for

preparing the program of the Forum, which seeks to address all the main issues over various sessions and come up with practical results that act like recommendations and a future roadmap for decision makers themselves and for the banking leadership involved in that sector. Still according to the chairman of the Kuwait Banking Association, "the Forum is to hold on April 4 an ad hoc session entitled "The Kuwait of Tomorrow: Risks, Challenges, and Strategic Alternatives." This session, which sheds a light on the Kuwait Development Plan, will discuss the dangers linked to maintaining the current economic policies, the future situation, and the role of renewable energy in securing future energy resources for Kuwait. Other items on the agenda of this session include the strategic alternatives to economic activity with regard to developing local institutions and companies, the knowledge economy and the role of the State in supporting alternative strategic trends in the future." This session, he emphasized, acquires a major importance as it represents an opportunity for the relevant world financial institutions and private sector companies in keeping with the efforts made by the government in order to facilitate the business environment, attract foreign investments and provide new job opportunities. The Forum also provides an occasion to highlight success stories of public-private sector cooperation on various levels.

Highest level of support
Kuwait Banking Association

ZAIN MAIN SPONSOR OF GCC'S UNIFIED TRAFFIC WEEK 2017

PART OF ITS CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STRATEGY

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its main sponsorship of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Unified Traffic Week 2017 in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior's General Department of Traffic. The event takes place from 12-17 March.

Zain participated in the opening ceremony of the GCC's Unified Traffic Week exhibition at the Avenues mall, which witnessed the participation of the Undersecretary of Traffic Affairs Major General Fahad Al Shuwaie as well as a number of representatives of the GCC's MOI and Traffic Departments.

Zain sponsored this initiative as part of its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy to serve the community. The company will always be keen on shouldering initiatives that work towards enhancing the society's welfare in cooperation with the various ministries and public authorities.

The GCC's Unified Traffic Week is an annual event that aims at spreading awareness about traffic safety and traffic laws, especially within young people. The exhibition features a number of activities about the importance of using seatbelts, the dangers of passing red lights, as well as other traffic-related topics. The exhibition also featured a booth for the General Department

of Traffic's services. Additionally, the event will include field visits to students and a ceremony to recognize the efforts of veteran traffic officers.

Zain will continue to find ways to serve the community as to foster a better world

and be a productive member of the society. The company's long-term cooperation with the Ministry of Interior included launching SMS awareness campaigns regarding various issues that are of interest to the society.

Zain's solid Corporate Sustainability and

Social Responsibility strategies primarily focus on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference to people's everyday circumstances.



KIB ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

KUWAIT: In line with its dedicated commitment to support Kuwaiti youth, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its strategic partnership with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs as part of the latter's Kuwait Youth Day celebrations.

Kuwait Youth Day - which falls on March 13th of every year - seeks to offer support and encouragement to the country's youth, providing them with a platform to showcase their talents across all fields and areas. The celebrations this year featured a number of activities and initiatives, including visits to schools to generate awareness about Kuwait Youth Day amongst students. The event also included the announcement of the winners of the Kuwait Award for Youth Excellence and Creativity. On this occasion, Nawaf Najia, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at the Bank, stated: "KIB's strategic partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs reflects our continuous efforts to support youth initiatives, given that the youth segment is one of the largest within our country's population and a main pillar of our local community. We truly believe that youth are the foundation on which we can build our nation's future. As a Kuwaiti institution, we are especially proud to see Kuwait recognized for its efforts in youth development and empowerment, being named the Arab Youth Capital for the year 2017."

Najia noted that KIB organized its own booth at the Will Event, which took place at 360 Mall during the period between March 14 and March 16. The event aimed to provide several creative workshops to youth in collaboration with Dawrat.com. He further added: "Kuwaiti youth are renowned for their excellence across all fields and areas. We believe that it is the duty of both public and private sector entities to support and nurture the capabilities of our nation's younger generations, in order to propel national development and help these young talents fulfill their potential of becoming Kuwait's ambassadors to the world."

On that note, KIB strongly believes that youth represent the true wealth and future of the nation. Accordingly, the Bank continues to support youth-focused initiatives and activities, making youth empowerment one of the key components of KIB's social responsibility program.



QNET's bestselling LifeCode Product Range

QNET, a prominent Asian direct selling company with regional headquarters in the UAE, is here in Kuwait to enable the entrepreneurial potential of the locals with opportunities and products that enhance lifestyles.

The company, which uses an e-commerce platform to offer a wide range of products and services, has a growing presence in the MENA and GCC region. According to the World Federation of Direct Selling



Associations (WFDSA), the industry is currently worth USD 182.8 Billion. Globally, the industry has been around for nearly 100 years and has proven to have a positive socio-economic impact in terms of creating employment opportunities, women empowerment, and skill development in many countries.

QNET's top-selling products in the MENA and GCC regions are the LifeCode nutrition range and the HomePure range under the Health and Wellness category, as well as the online courses offered by the Swiss eLearning Institute.

The key benefits of direct selling, as proven by established markets, include extra income, development of

personal and business skills, flexible work schedules, and an improved ability to take care of families. People who found success in the business point out that direct selling has helped them build their self-esteem and confidence, and develop their entrepreneurial skills.

QNET's being the Official Direct Selling Partner of English Premier League Football Champions, Manchester City Football Club, enables the company to gain strong brand presence at the Etihad Stadium during home games and on all of Man City's digital platforms and properties, as well as with the launch of several fan engagement opportunities targeting Man City supporters around the world, including Kuwait.

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Crime

Report

TRIO BEAT UP MECHANIC OVER REPAIR CHARGES

KUWAIT: An Egyptian got three people help him to beat a mechanic and his brother after they had differences over the repair charges of his car in Khaitan. The victims lodged a complaint at the police station. Police are seeking the arrest of the attackers.

Swindling

A former National Assembly candidate accused a well-known designer of swindling him after she took KD 10,000 to establish a beauty shop, but the project did not materialize. The former candidate went to the police station and said he agreed with the designer to open a major beauty shop and paid KD 10,000, but after some time discovered the project was a fake one.

Kidnap foiled

Passersby rescued a juvenile from being kidnapped by a citizen in front of his school in Jahra. The juvenile was surprised by the man dragging him, so he cried for help. The boy was rescued, but the alleged kidnapper escaped. Detectives are working on the case.



Unlicensed weapon

Ahmadi police sent a citizen to concerned authorities after catching him with a firearm and ammunition. Police stopped the man for speeding on Fahaheel Road, but he could not explain why he was doing so, so they searched the car and they found the unlicensed weapon along with seven rounds.

Property damage

An Egyptian woman accused the janitor of the building where she lives of damaging her vehicle and threatening to harm her. The woman told Salmiya police the 'haris' deliberately damaged her luxury car because of previous disputes. Detectives were asked to arrest him for questioning.

Insult

An investigator and a policeman lodged a complaint against a lawyer for insulting them at the police station. An argument took place between the investigator and the lawyer, so he asked the officer to lodge a complaint against the lawyer, but he allegedly insulted them and lodged a similar complaint against him. — *Al-Rai*



GCC-IRAQI NORMALIZATION

By Dr Hassan Jouhar

Many analysts considered the Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubair's visit to Baghdad as a political surprise that surely had various political indications including setting a roadmap that might reform the region, especially after President Trump came to office. In addition, victories achieved by the Iraqi army in Mosul and destroying the last of IS strongholds in Iraq would increase Baghdad's strategic value and suggest its return as a regional pivotal power, especially if the Iraqi government succeeds in resolving some barbed domestic issues such as growing sectarianism and achieving political stability.

Regional sectarian expansion opens wide for Saudi Arabia to have some Iraqi factions take greater roles in politics in a way that would enhance security, namely in central Iraqi governorates. In addition, Iraqi experience in fighting terrorism and the data its intelligence owns after hunting the leaders of several insurgent groups such as IS, is surely of great interest to both Riyadh and Washington.

The other element about the visit concerns Iraqi-Iranian relations in a bid to politically and strategically contain Iran, because relations between them are probably the strongest for Iraqis, and this might have been the reason behind the relatively cold relations Iraq had with GCC states, namely Saudi Arabia, since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

It might be difficult to completely shift the Iraqi compass to the exact opposite direction so soon, because Iraqis have their own remarks about some hot regional issues.

Therefore, regardless of guessing and speculating about this visit, reason, logic and regional situations call for activating the role of diplomacy and opening for more dialogue concerning regional issues and concerns no matter how complicated and crossed they are. With its deep-rooted strategic significance, Iraq is qualified to regain a pivotal Arab and regional role if it manages to get over terrorism and manages to politically build its domestic fronts.

Therefore, it is for everybody's good interest to invest in the regional opening to Iraq because of its relations with Iran for one, and with the aim of normalizing relations with GCC states, namely its direct neighbor Saudi Arabia, in addition to rehabilitating its relations with Turkey, because who else knows better about domestic and foreign war atrocities? — *Translated by Kuwait Times*

WHO CREATED TERRORISM?

By Salah Al-Sayer

Is it enough that clergymen, religious experts and other religious men warn of terrorism in order to fight it? Is it enough that these people sermonize the public in mosques and through other media about how clement and tolerant Islam is? Is it enough that they keep arguing that terrorist groups of various Islamic doctrines do not actually represent true Islam and that describing others as non-believers, terrifying and assaulting innocent people is not part of Islam? Is it enough, at a time when 'violence sheikhs' are instigating youth to join terrorists' dens and die in the process for them, that our sheikhs follow such simple procedures to restrain the terrorism 'tsunami'?

Drying up terrorism resources in such a monotonous and naive manner, or even blaming the 'tumult sheikhs' for spreading terrorism is but an attempt to simplify a very complicated issue, because 'terrorism sheikhs' do not have magic lanterns through which genies come out to spread their ideas amongst people. They have communicated with the society and managed to impact individuals through methods and media such as

mosque pulpits, satellite TV channels, radio, newspapers, schools, co-ops, charities and youth camps right under the governments' noses and within the jurisdiction of governments that had turned a blind eye for long and greatly contributed in turning Arab communities from a state of clemency into one of hate!

Such ugly and terrifying changes happened right before Arab governments that had neglected the importance of spreading the culture of enlightenment, which paved the way for extremists to spread their own obscurantist ideas. A sheikh promoting violence and tumult would never be able to brainwash a well-aware and balanced young man enjoying patriotic awareness - one who had learned the significance of respecting women from his father, learned how to reject hatred and respect others from his mother, learned about clemency, values and respecting the law at school, got used to listening to music and appreciate arts and take part in scout camps without being left alone by the state or his family to fall victim to terror camps organized by radical organizations! — *Translated by Kuwait Times*



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) participated as a golden sponsor in the Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) 19th job fair, which took place on the 12th and 13th of March, 2017 under the patronage of Khalid Al-Roudhan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs.



KUWAIT: Acting Minister of Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan visits ABK's booth.

ABK PARTICIPATES IN THE 19TH GUST JOB FAIR

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced the successful conclusion of its participation in the Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) 19th job fair, under the patronage of Khalid Al-Roudhan, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs, which was held at the university campus on the 12th and 13th of March, 2017.

The ABK Human Resources team was present at the job fair to engage with students and to share insights on how ABK could support them as they embark on this new journey.

ABK's participation reinforces its commitment to supporting Kuwait's youth, which is one of the Banks primary focuses. It provides fresh graduates with training and career opportunities in the Banking sector and works towards developing their skills and knowledge through the 'ABK Academy' in line with the nationalization policy.

AUB PARTICIPATES IN THE GUST 19TH CAREER FAIR

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank announced its participation in the 19th Career Fair hosted by Gulf University of Science and Technology (GUST), in Kuwait on Sunday 12th and Monday 13th of March 2017, with an aim to support young people and attract the most talented to the Bank. The activities at the Career Fair will take place from 8:30 am till 3:00 pm each day to give the new graduates a better chance to meet the different participating companies and greater understanding of the work environment.

Through its participation in this event, AUB hopes to connect with students and recent graduates across various disciplines and provide them with the support they need, and understand their capabilities and evaluate them in order to be able to offer them job opportunities that best suit their ambitions and skills. With a firm belief that Kuwaiti youth are the nation's real treasure, AUB will be hosting a booth at the GUST Career Fair, to explain the nature of

work to the students and provide satisfactory answers to their questions. AUB will also endeavor to provide them with proper guidance to help them make well-informed decisions.

The bank will hold a comprehensive presentation about the internship program and allowance, so that the students can complete their studies more conveniently. Nageeb Amin, General Manager, Human Resources at Ahli United Bank said "The Bank is always seeking to better understand the aspirations of the youth, especially Kuwaiti, and will offer excellent job opportunities within a great work environment that will guarantee professional growth."

AUB is known to regularly participate in many similar job fairs held by government bodies and universities in Kuwait, with a commitment and social responsibility that the Bank considers a priority. AUB focuses on encouraging the youth to find work in the private banking sector, in line with the Bank's strategy to increase the national workforce.



KUWAIT: Acting Minister of Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudhan visits the AUB booth.



Drought crushes lives of herders in Somalia



ISTANBUL: A man reads a newspaper bearing a headline concerning diplomatic tensions between Turkey and The Netherlands, which translates as iDog of Europei yesterday. —AFP

TURKEY-NETHERLANDS CRISIS DEEPENS

EU WARNS ERDOGAN • ANKARA 'SHOULD RE-EVALUATE' MIGRANT DEAL

ISTANBUL: The European Union yesterday warned President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to avoid inflammatory rhetoric as a diplomatic crisis between Turkey and the Netherlands deepened over the blocking of Turkish ministers from holding rallies to win support for plans to expand his powers. Erdogan at the weekend twice accused NATO ally Netherlands of acting like the Nazis, comments that sparked outrage in a country bombed and occupied by German forces in World War II.

In an escalating standoff that risks damaging Turkey's already deteriorating relations with the European Union ahead of the April 16 referendum on constitutional change, Brussels sternly warned Ankara to avoid making the situation worse. In apparent reference to Erdogan's comments, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn called on Turkey to "refrain from excessive statements and actions that risk further exacerbating the situation." "It is essential to

avoid further escalation and find ways to calm down the situation," their statement added.

But Turkey's EU Affairs Minister Omer Celik responded by warning that Ankara "should re-evaluate" a key part of a 2016 deal to stem the flow of migrants to the European Union. He said Turkey should look at its policy on preventing migrant flows across land borders, although it would keep halting the illegal and dangerous sea crossings as a matter of human responsibility, state media said. NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg also urged Turkey and its NATO allies to "show mutual respect, to be calm and have a measured approach to contribute to de-escalate the tensions."

Envoy summoned three times

The Dutch authorities had at the weekend prevented the plane of Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu from landing and blocked Family Minister Fatma Betul Sayan Kaya from holding a rally in Rotterdam. The ministers had

been seeking to harness the support of an estimated 400,000 people of Turkish origin living in the country ahead of the April 16 referendum on constitutional changes giving Erdogan greater powers. The Turkish foreign ministry yesterday summoned the Dutch envoy to Ankara for the third day in a row, handing two separate protest notes over The Hague's behavior. The Netherlands yesterday also issued a new travel warning to Dutch citizens in Turkey, urging them to stay "alert across the whole of Turkey". Turkey has already responded furiously to fellow NATO ally Germany's refusal to give permission for ministers to hold rallies there, with Erdogan comparing such action to "Nazi practices". After Erdogan used the same language to scold the Netherlands, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Monday that the comparison was "completely wrong" and "banalizes suffering." "This is particularly unacceptable directed at the Netherlands which suffered so much" under the Nazis, she added, offering Dutch Prime Minister

Mark Rutte her full support.

'Lifeline for Erdogan'

The issue risks spiralling into a crisis with the EU as a whole, which Turkey has sought to join for more than half a century in a so far fruitless membership bid. Denmark has also asked Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim to postpone a visit planned for later this month. Erdogan, who has indicated he may personally travel to EU states to address rallies - in a move that could inflame the situation further - said Sunday that the West was showing its "true face" in the standoff.

He has repeatedly accused the Netherlands of acting like "fascists" and "Nazis", saying on Sunday: "I had thought that the era of Nazism was over but I was wrong." Deputy Prime Minister Nurettin Canikli described Europe as a "very sick man", a nod to the moniker used in the mid-19th century of the declining Ottoman Empire as the "sick man of Europe". Rutte, under

pressure to take a hard line against Erdogan as he faces the far-right populist Geert Wilders in general elections tomorrow, said there were no apologies to be made to Turkey. He called for Dutch voters to be the first to stop Europe's "trend of populism" but dismissed the idea that Turkey was trying to interfere in the Netherlands elections. Bringing out the millions-strong expatriate vote could be key in a referendum that is expected to be close and potentially a turning point in Turkey's modern history.

Analysts have said Erdogan is using the crisis to show that his strong leadership is needed against a Europe which he presents as being innately hostile to Turkey. "Erdogan is looking for 'imagined' foreign enemies to boost his nationalist base in the run up to the April 16 referendum," Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkish Research Programme at The Washington Institute, told AFP. "By blocking (the rallies), they may have given Erdogan a lifeline to eke out a victory in the referendum," he added. —AFP

IRAQI FORCES ADVANCE IN MOSUL, SEARCH FOR MILITANTS AND BOMBS

MOSUL: Iraqi forces said yesterday that they have taken more territory from militants and were searching for militants and bombs on the edge of the Old City as they press an offensive in west Mosul. They are also striking IS with armed drones as part of a renewed push launched on March 5 that has forced the jihadists out of several neighborhoods and key sites, including the famed Mosul museum. West Mosul is the most-populated urban area still held by the jihadists, followed by Syria's Raqqa, which is also a key target in the US-led anti-IS campaign.

Iraq's Joint Operations Command announced additional gains on Monday, saying that forces from the elite Counter-Terrorism Service had recaptured west Mosul's Al-Nafat neighborhood. Lieutenant General Raed Shakir Jawdat said that forces from the Rapid Response Division, another special forces unit, and the federal police were working to search and clear territory on the edge of Mosul's Old City. The forces are conducting "combing and search operations in the liberated areas of Bab Al-Toub, searching for traps and mines and terrorists hiding among the people", Jawdat said in a statement.

The Old City - a warren of narrow streets and closely spaced buildings where hundreds of thousands of civilians are believed to still be living - could see some of the toughest fighting of the campaign to retake Iraq's second city. The commander also said that armed observation drones are being used to monitor and strike IS, as Iraqi forces also targeted jihadist defenses and positions with field artillery and rockets. He did not specify what type of drones were being used.

More than 68,000 people have fled west Mosul since Feb 25, streaming to camps around the city, according to the International Organization for Migration. But that is only a small fraction of the 750,000 people who were estimated to still be in west Mosul at the time the operation was launched. While CTS and Rapid Response are spearheading the advance inside Mosul, Iraqi army forces and pro-government paramilitaries are fighting IS to the west. Soldiers from the 9th Armoured Division scored an important victory on Saturday night when they cut the last road out of west Mosul, said Brett McGurk, the US envoy to the international anti-IS coalition. —AFP

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ALEPPO DARES TO DREAM OF END TO SYRIA WAR

ALEPPO: When the army recaptured Aleppo in December, Mohammad Baqdul left Beirut and returned with his family to his native city, convinced the end of Syria's six-year war was near. Baqdul fled Syria's second city when rebels overran its east in 2012, posing one of the most serious threats yet to the government of President Bashar Al-Assad. But four years later, the tables have turned. Assad's forces have recaptured the whole city, shattering rebel dreams of toppling the regime and putting the brutal war on a new trajectory.

"When I heard Aleppo had been secured, I thought the war was on the brink of ending, so I brought my family back," says Baqdul, speaking to AFP in the once rebel-held quarter of Shaar. The devastation in Shaar is striking: its dusty streets are flanked by flattened buildings and piles of rubble. Baqdul stands proudly with his young daughter in front of his new brick shop, welcoming residents who are buying materials to fix up their homes.

'People are tired'

Syria's war erupted on March 15, 2011 with peaceful demonstrations that, after a violent crackdown by government security forces, transformed into an armed uprising. In six years, the multi-front war has become one of the most destructive conflicts of the 21st century. Backed by Turkey, the Gulf and some Western nations, Syrian rebels were at their strongest in 2012 and many thought they would march to Damascus.

But Assad's powerful allies came to the rescue: Iran sent military advisers and fighters, Lebanon's Shiite militant group Hezbollah joined forces and Russia began a deadly bombing campaign in support of Damascus in 2015. That support was key to retaking Aleppo, allowing the government to consolidate its upper hand by seizing other strategic territory, including from Islamic State group militants in northern Syria.

While swathes of the country remain embroiled in violence, Syria's government has decidedly won the



ALEPPO: Syrians stand in queue next to a water reservoir in the once rebel-held Shaar neighborhood of this northern Syrian city on March 9, 2017. — AFP

of the conflict. Aleppo, meanwhile, has become a symbol of the most destructive streak of the war - but some have found a silver lining.

"I think the war is heading toward an end, because people are tired and they prefer to stay where they are instead of being displaced again," said Ibrahim Amoura, a 35-year-old laborer. He spoke to AFP while working on a ceiling in the formerly rebel-held district of Karm al-Jabal. For years, residents of Karm al-Jabal had only heard the sounds of gunfire and bombardment. Now, the nearly-incessant whirring of generators, cement mixers and pounding hammers fill their days.

'Reconstruction will take time'

A larger-than-life portrait of Assad with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the background looks over what was once Aleppo's front line, teeming with military vehicles and Russian soldiers. The municipality is eager to erase all trace of the former fault line that split the city for years between the government-held west and rebel-controlled east. But the divide is powerful: buildings in the west were indeed damaged by rebel rockets, but the east has been totally ravaged, reduced to rows of crumbling buildings nearly indistinguishable from each other.

Water remains a precious commodity in Aleppo, cut off

for almost two months by IS jihadists who controlled the main pumping station further east. Government forces recaptured the pump at Khafsa last week and have pledged to repair the lines. For now, residents still queue up at local distributors with tanks to fill up. State electricity is equally rare, and generators are cropping up across the city. For Aleppo's deputy governor Abdulghani Kassab, "reuniting Aleppo is a turning point in the Syrian crisis because it's our second city, the economic and cultural capital." "Residents are full of energy and optimism... Reconstruction will take time, but we will work hard," he told AFP.

'Mother of all revolutionaries'

For rebels living just outside the city, Aleppo's fall was indeed a turning point - but instead of a harbinger of stability, it was a death knell for their dreams of Assad's ouster. "Aleppo was the mother of all revolutionaries. Losing her really was like losing our mother," said Abu Maria, a 30-year-old Islamist rebel.

Thomas Pierret, a Syria expert at the University of Edinburgh, told AFP that "Aleppo symbolized hope for the opposition that it could position itself as an alternative to the regime." "It's this same hope that was shattered in December, that reduced the uprising to a peripheral insurrection," Pierret said.

The opposition "dream of building an administration that could compete with Damascus," said Fabrice Balanche, a Syria expert at the Washington Institute. "But the defeat (in Aleppo) shattered their morale. Around Damascus, the surrenders are multiplying," he said. According to Balanche, regime forces now control 36 percent of Syria's territory, with IS in second place at 29 percent, Kurdish forces at 23 percent and rebels with only 12 percent. Back in the devastated northern city, Aleppo's municipal council has planted rows of lemon and orange trees by a bridge. Mohammad Jassem Mohammad, a 43-year-old municipal employee, is watering them patiently. "This is the sign that life is returning," he says. — AFP

CAR BOMB KILLS 6 NEAR HOTEL IN MOGADISHU

MOGADISHU: A suicide car bomber detonated near a hotel in Somalia's capital yesterday morning, killing at least six people and injuring four others, police said. The bomber detonated near the Weheliye hotel on the busy Maka Almurkannah road, Capt Mohamed Hussein said. Ambulances rushed to the scene. The Al-Qaeda-linked Islamic extremist group Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the blast, according to the group's Andalus radio. The group has often targeted hotels in Mogadishu, including a hotel attack in late January that killed at least 26 people.

In a separate blast yesterday morning, a suicide bomber detonated a minibus laden with explosives at the gate of a military camp south of the capital. The bomber was killed and two people were wounded, said

Col. Yusuf Burhan, a Somali military officer. Somalia's new Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire condemned the two attacks, saying they were carried out by "bloodthirsty groups."

Despite being ousted from most of its key strongholds in south and central Somalia, Al-Shabab continue to carry out deadly guerrilla attacks across the country. In the past couple of years it has started to target checkpoints and bases of both the Somali military and the multinational African Union force. Al-Shabab pose a major challenge to Somalia's new President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, who has vowed to make security a priority in this Horn of Africa country as the fragile central government seeks to expand its control outside key areas like the capital. — AP



MOGADISHU: Somali security men walk past a body at the scene of a car bomb attack yesterday. — AFP



BANDAR BEYLA, Somalia: In this photo taken on March 8, 2017, herder Ahmed Haji, 30, waters his goats using water trucked in by a tanker in a remote desert area in Somalia's semiautonomous northeastern state of Puntland. — AP

DROUGHT CRUSHES LIVES OF HERDERS IN SOMALIA

'DYING ONE BY ONE'

BANDAR BEYLA, Somalia: Ahmed Haji turns from his visibly dehydrated animals and whispers: "I am lost." Trying to flee the worsening drought, he trekked thousands of kilometers with a herd that once numbered 1,200. But hundreds perished during the arduous trip to Puntland, in northern Somalia, in search of greener pasture. The land here dried up not long after he arrived, leaving his animals weak from hunger and thirst. "They are now dying one by one," the 30-year-old said, shading his face from the scorching sun. His goats drank water from a plastic barrel and picked dry leaves from plants nearby.

"I don't even think these remaining ones will survive in the next two months," Haji said. He left his wife and five children behind on his eight-day trek, fearing they wouldn't survive. Now he wonders about himself. Somalia has declared this drought a national disaster, part of what the United Nations calls the largest humanitarian crisis since the world body was founded in 1945.

An estimated 6 million people in this Horn of Africa nation, or about half the population, need aid amid warnings of a full-blown famine. Two consecutive seasons of poor rainfall, longer in some areas, have caused large-scale crop failures, the UN humanitarian agency says. It is not clear how many people, or animals, have died so far. Animals are central to many in Somalia. The United Nations says more than half the population is engaged in the livestock industry. The drought threatens their main sources of nutrition and survival.

Many wells have dried up, forcing herders to risk long treks to remote areas. Water prices have spiked, with a single water tanker now going for \$150. The hot wind blows across the vast, barren land and carcasses of animals. "The sad reality of the drought this severe, this long, this enduring is we're starting to see these massive livestock deaths, livestock losses. Fifty, 60, 70 percent of livestock herds dying, which is an enormous hit for these pastoral families," said Richard Trenchard, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization representative in Somalia.

The mass animal deaths, from hunger and thirst as well as disease, have caused herders to lose "just about everything," Trenchard said, standing beside the carcass of a camel. Even though rains are expected in mid-April, there are

fears that effects of a heavy downpour could kill already weakened animals. With their livestock gone, herders are ending up in camps with shortages of food, medicine and safe drinking water. "Our journey here was so rough. There was no transport or water. We left behind everything. We are here now and we don't have any proper shelter or transport," said Dahiya Ahmed, a 48-year-old mother of eight at a camp in Qardho town. She once herded 200 goats but now has just six. "The few of them that are still alive are too weak and cannot provide us with milk and meat," she said. "They are just still alive but cannot benefit us at all."

With the rise of disease-related deaths among the remaining animals, the United

Nations is planning a major animal vaccination intervention. Some herders are being given basic training on vaccinating their animals and giving oral medications on their own. "Hungry animals, starving animals are very vulnerable, very prone to disease," Trenchard said.

Around two million animals are targeted for treatment against parasites, infectious disease and wounds, said Khalid Saeed, the FAO livestock sector coordinator, as he gave medicine to sick and weakened animals. Somalia is part of a massive \$4 billion aid appeal launched last month for four nations suffering from conflict and hunger. The others are Nigeria, Yemen and South Sudan, where famine already has been declared in two counties. — AP

MOROCCO COURT TRIES 25 OVER W SAHARA KILLINGS

RABAT: A Moroccan court yesterday resumed the trial of 25 Sahrawis accused of killing 13 people, mostly Moroccan security forces, in the contested Western Sahara's Gdeim Izik camp in 2010. The killings allegedly took place during riots that broke out as security forces cleared the camp near the city of Laayoune in Nov 2010. The Court of Appeal in Sale, near the capital Rabat, was packed with lawyers, relatives of victims and defendants, observers, journalists and security forces as the hearing began.

The courtroom was dominated by a giant screen broadcasting the hearing. Knives, axes, road signs and hard disks were presented as evidence. Outside, supporters of the two camps, separated by a line of policemen,

exchanged slogans and insults. "No to impunity for killers!" shouted dozens of victims' relatives, waving Moroccan flags and pictures of soldiers killed. "Freedom for political prisoners!" shouted a crowd of Sahrawi activists.

A military court in 2013 sentenced the 25 defendants to punishment ranging from 20 years to life imprisonment following a high-profile legal drama. International NGOs condemned the trial as "unfair," and in July the Court of Cassation ordered a new trial in a civilian court. Defense lawyers yesterday said they had little faith that the new trial would deliver justice. The trial "is taking place in very unfair conditions, but we remain at the defendants' side," they said. — AFP



SALE: Supporters of the Western Sahara's Polisario Front shout slogans during a demonstration outside the court yesterday in support of the 25 Sahrawi suspects on trial for the killing of security forces in the Western Sahara in 2010. — AFP

BRITISH BOYCOTT SUPPORTER REFUSED ENTRY TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM: A British activist who advocates boycotting Israel over its occupation of Palestinian territory has been denied entry to the country, authorities said yesterday. Hugh Lanning, head of the London-based Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), was denied entry on Sunday night at Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv over his "ongoing actions to promote boycotts against Israel," the immigration authority said. He flew back to London yesterday morning, authority spokeswoman Sabin Hadad said.

"The organization Mr Lanning heads is one of the leading anti-Israel delegitimization and BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) organisations in Britain, and one of the largest in Europe," a joint statement from the immigration authority and the strategic affairs ministry said. It also accused Lanning of maintaining ties to leaders of Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist group that runs the Gaza Strip.

The PSC condemned what it called an "undemocratic" decision and called on the British government to intervene. "The PSC will not stop raising its voice to highlight the systematic violation of Palestinian human rights in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel itself," its

director Ben Jamal said in a statement. Israel has carried out a campaign against calls to boycott the Jewish state over its 50-year occupation of Palestinian territory.

It sees the boycott movement as a strategic threat and accuses it of anti-Semitism - a claim activists deny, saying they only want to see the occupation end.

Last week, parliament adopted a law barring entry to foreigners who support boycotting Israel, a move denounced by human rights groups and the opposition as "thought control" harmful to the country's international standing. "If Israel believes that by introducing these draconian undemocratic laws it will intimidate its critics into silence, it is mistaken," Jamal said.

Lanning was however not stopped due to the new law but instead on the discretion of Interior Minister Aryeh Deri and Strategic Affairs Minister Gilad Erdan, who can bar those they see as working to harm Israel, Hadad said. Israeli politicians have become more combative against BDS activists under Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's current coalition government, seen as the most right-wing in the country's history. — AFP



CLEVELAND: In this July 20, 2016 file photo, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi speaks at the Republican National Convention. — AP

FLORIDA SPENT \$240M ON LAWYERS

TALLAHASSEE, Florida: Gov. Rick Scott and other top Florida Republicans frequently complain about government spending, but they have quietly spent more than \$237 million on private lawyers to advance and defend their agendas, an AP investigation has found. Florida taxpayers also have been forced to reimburse nearly \$16 million for their opponents' private attorney fees. That means an overall \$253 million has been spent on legal fights in the last six years, including a water war with Georgia and losing battles to test welfare recipients for drugs, trim the state's voter registration lists and ban companies that do business with Cuba from bidding on government contracts.

"A quarter of a billion dollars is a gosh lot of money," said Dominic Calabro, president of Florida TaxWatch, a business-backed group that scrutinizes state spending. Much of the state's legal spending doesn't show up in the normal process of assembling the state's \$82 billion budget. Attorney General Pam Bondi oversees a legal budget of nearly \$309 million a year, plus nearly \$16 million for 450 state lawyers, but all that in-house legal firepower hasn't stopped state leaders from hiring private attorneys, and no one in state government is closely tracking what their hourly rates add up to.

"We do not have that information and are unaware of a way to capture expenditures for the purchase of outside legal services that would not entail an exhaustive search of documents," said Whitney Ray, a spokesman for Bondi. The AP came up with the figure by analyzing budget documents and the results of public records requests. The AP review found that Florida has spent more than \$237 million on outside lawyering since 2011, a figure that averages to nearly \$40 million a year, plus nearly \$16 million reimbursing private attorney fees on opposing sides.

Hiring private counsel in expenditures that fall outside the normal budget process seems common in state governments around the country, though perhaps not on the same scale as during the Scott administration. New York has spent more than \$86 million since 2012, or about \$17 million a year, on outside lawyering, according to that state's comptroller. California's Democratic leaders recently approved payments of \$25,000 a month to former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and his law firm to defend the state's interests against President Donald Trump's policies.

'Runaway train'

In Florida, it was the soaring cost of the state's water war against Georgia - more than \$41 million in the last 18 months alone - that started to raise eyebrows when the Department of Environmental Protection sought more money in January. Rep Carlos Trujillo, a Miami Republican and House budget chief, called the department's legal spending a "runaway train." His response when told that the overall state tab for private legal fees is about a quarter-billion dollars? "Insane," Trujillo said. Trujillo said "nobody is disputing" that defending Florida's water rights is important, but "as taxpayers and constituents, we have the right to ask: 'Is it necessary, are we overpaying?'"

House Speaker Richard Corcoran, who ordered a legislative review, was even more blunt: "We are getting gouged, and that needs to be fixed." A spokeswoman for Scott, Jackie Schutz, sought to downplay the outside legal costs during Scott's administration, saying that private law firms are sometimes necessary "when there are complex legal matters or specific expertise needed." "It's no surprise that our office vigorously defends the laws we sign," she said.

The decades-long water dispute took a new and expensive turn when Scott asked the US Supreme Court in 2013 to limit the water Georgia takes from the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint river basin. Florida argues that Georgia has guzzled more than its share of water at the expense of Florida's oyster industry. Bondi's office handed the case over to one of the world's most prestigious firms, Latham & Watkins, whose lawyers charge up to \$825 an hour. The firm's bills to date almost doubled the funding Scott personally requested in late 2014 to repair the Apalachicola Bay watershed.

Scott, an attorney and multimillionaire businessman who ran one of the nation's largest for-profit hospital chains, has backed the use of taxpayer money to bolster the state's legal team with private attorneys for defending his initiatives, despite the rising costs. "It's important to make sure that Florida gets the water it deserves," Scott said. Ryan Matthews, the interim secretary for the Department of Environmental Protection, said last week that his staff "carefully reviews every invoice". He also said that since July 2015, DEP has denied more than \$3 million in legal expenses and hourly charges.

A spokesman for Bondi's office noted that her agency's lawyers are assigned to duties such as handling criminal appeals and Medicaid fraud cases. Bondi's office must approve the hiring of outside attorneys by state agencies. Her office keeps a list of outside lawyers hired and hourly fees charged. But no one keeps track of the overall spending. The governor, Legislature and other state elected officials, such as Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, do not have to report their spending on legal fees to the state's chief legal officer.

To capture that total, the AP sought public records on all the firms hired and outside lawyers used. It asked agencies how much they spent. The office of Florida's Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater maintains a website where the public can see spending on individual contracts, and provided information on legal settlements. Calabro said the state may be hiring outside counsel for good reasons, but the cost of this lawyering "has hardly gotten any attention" by either Democrats or Republicans. — AP

ABRUPT DISMISSALS LEAVE US ATTORNEYS SCRAMBLING

TRUMP TRIED TO CALL BHARARA BEFORE FIRING HIM

WASHINGTON: Two days before Attorney General Jeff Sessions ordered dozens of the country's top federal prosecutors to clean out their desks, he gave those political appointees a pep talk during a conference call. The seemingly abrupt about-face Friday left the affected US attorneys scrambling to brief the people left behind and say goodbye to colleagues. It also could have an impact on morale for the career prosecutors who now must pick up the slack, according to some close to the process. The quick exits aren't expected to have a major impact on ongoing prosecutions, but they gave US attorneys little time to prepare deputies who will take over until successors are named.

"It's very, very gut-level reaction," said Steven Schleicher, a former prosecutor who left Minnesota US Attorney Andrew Luger's office in January and was still in contact with people there. The request for resignations from the 46 prosecutors who were holdovers from the Obama administration wasn't shocking. It's fairly customary for the 93 US attorneys to leave their posts once a new president is in office, and many had already left or were making plans for their departures. Sessions himself was asked to resign as a US attorney in a similar purge by Attorney General Janet Reno in 1993.

But the abrupt nature of the dismissals - done with little explanation and not always with a customary thanks for years of service - stunned and angered some of those left behind in offices around the country. Former prosecutors, friends and colleagues immediately started reaching out to each other on a growing email chain to express condolences and support, commiserating about how unfair they felt the situation was. One US attorney was out of state on Friday and was forced to say goodbye to his office by a blast email, said Tim Purdon, a former US attorney



NEW YORK: This file photo taken on Nov 30, 2016 shows Preet Bharara, US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, speaking briefly to reporters at Trump Tower. — AFP

from North Dakota who was included on the email chain. Some of those ousted were long-time prosecutors who had spent their careers coming up through the ranks of the Justice Department. John W Vaudreuil, US attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, became an assistant US attorney in that office in 1980. Another, Richard S Hartunian of the Northern District of New York, joined the Justice Department in the 1990s. "All of these US attorneys know they serve at the pleasure of the president. No one complains about that," said John Walsh, an Obama-era appointee as US attorney in Colorado who resigned in July.

"But it was handled in a way that was disrespectful to the US attorneys because they were almost treated as though they had done something wrong, when in fact they had not."

Peter Neronha, who had served since 2009 as US attorney for Rhode Island, said even before Friday he had been preparing for his eventual departure and had written a resignation statement to be released upon his exit. He said he knew his time was limited but had been eager to stay on to see through a major public corruption prosecution and to speak with students about the perils of opioid addiction. "When that was done, I was going

to go anyway - whether I got 24 hours' notice, or two weeks' notice, or two months' notice. It doesn't really matter," Neronha said. Whenever there's a change in presidential administration, he said, "I think it would be unwise not to be ready."

It's not clear why the Justice Department asked the prosecutors to exit so quickly. Sessions gave no warning during the Wednesday conference call in which he articulated his agenda for fighting violent crime. "The attorney general did not mention on that call, 'Stay tuned for changes,'" Neronha said. Much of the public attention since Friday has focused on Preet Bharara, the high-profile Manhattan federal prosecutor who said he was fired despite meeting with then-President-elect Donald Trump and saying he was asked to remain.

Trump himself did apparently make an attempt to speak with Bharara in advance of the Friday demand for resignations. The president reached out through a secretary on his staff to Bharara a day earlier but the two men never spoke, according to a person told about the conversation but who requested anonymity. The White House on Sunday said the president reached out to thank Bharara for his service and to wish him good luck.

The Justice Department on Friday did say it would not accept the resignations of Dana Boente, now the acting deputy attorney general, and Rod Rosenstein, the Maryland prosecutor who's been nominated for the deputy role. On Sunday, some Democrats condemned the demand for resignations in highly partisan comments.

Maryland Rep Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee, suggested Trump might have fired Bharara to thwart a potential corruption investigation, and believed the move added to a lack of trust of the administration. — AP

TRUMP ADVISER SAYS, GOVT HAS MANY WAYS TO SURVEIL PEOPLE

WASHINGTON: Senior White House adviser Kellyanne Conway says she doesn't have any evidence to support President Donald Trump's claim that Barack Obama wiretapped Trump Tower phone lines during the election. Instead, Conway is pointing to recent revelations about other government surveillance to suggest it was possible Obama used a different technique. Her response was unlikely to tamp down criticism of Trump's tweets earlier this month. The House intelligence committee has asked the administration to provide evidence of the allegation by Monday.

"The answer is I don't have any evidence and I'm very happy that the House intelligence committee (is) investigating," Conway told ABC's "Good Morning America." She later tweeted that the administration is "pleased" with the ongoing congressional investigation and "will comment after". Trump's critics have slammed the president for making the explosive wiretapping claim on his Twitter account without evidence. Wiretapping a U.S. citizen would require special permission from a court, and Trump as president would have the ability to declassify that information.

James Clapper, who was Obama's direc-



NEW YORK: White House counselor Kellyanne Conway is interviewed by Howard Kurtz during a taping of his "MediaBuzz" program on the Fox News Channel on March 10, 2017. — AP

tor of national intelligence, has said that nothing matching Trump's claims had taken place. Also this month, WikiLeaks released nearly 8,000 documents that purportedly reveal secrets about the CIA's tools for breaking into targeted comput-

ers, cellphones and even smart TVs. Conway noted that development to justify Trump's claims. "What I can say is there are many ways to surveil each other now, unfortunately," including "microwaves that turn into cameras, et cetera," Conway told

New Jersey's The Record newspaper in an interview Sunday. "So we know that that is just a fact of modern life."

Conway told "Good Morning America" that "I wasn't making a suggestion about Trump Tower." She said she was answering a question about surveillance "generally," and without specific reference to the current controversy. FBI director James Comey has privately urged the Justice Department to dispute Trump's claim but has not come forward to do so himself.

Sen John McCain, an influential Republican, said Sunday: "I think the president has one of two choices: either retract or to provide the information that the American people deserve, because, if his predecessor violated the law, President Obama violated the law, we have got a serious issue here, to say the least," the Arizona senator said. The House Intelligence Committee's request for evidence by Monday was made in a letter sent to the Justice Department by the panel's chairman, Rep Devin Nunes, R-Calif, and its ranking Democrat, Rep Adam Schiff, D-Calif, according to a congressional official. The aide wasn't authorized to discuss the request by name and requested anonymity. — AP

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CARLOS THE JACKAL STANDS TRIAL OVER 1974 PARIS ATTACK

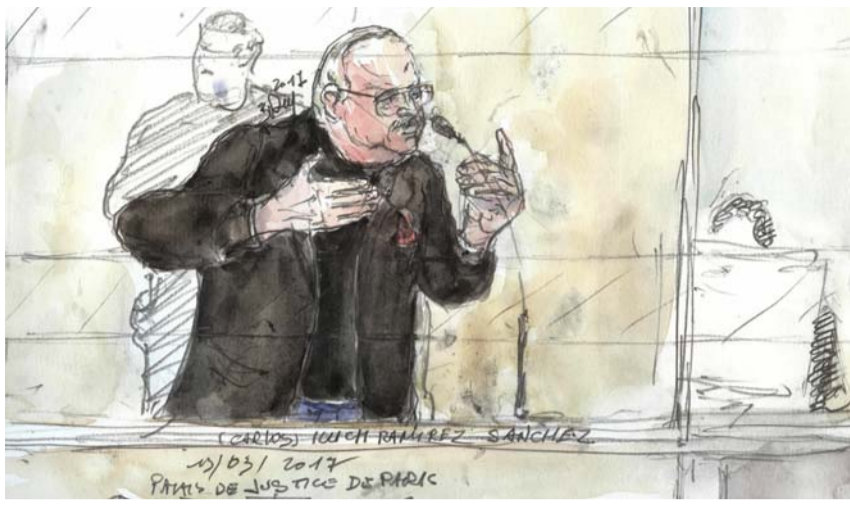
PARIS: Carlos the Jackal, once one of the world's most wanted criminals, was back in a French court yesterday, charged with a grenade attack on a Paris shop more than 40 years ago that killed two people. The Venezuelan, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, has been held in France for 23 years since being captured in Khartoum by French special forces and was previously sentenced to life imprisonment for deadly attacks in the 1970s and 1980s.

In his latest trial, which began in a Paris court yesterday, he faced charges including murder over the Sept. 15, 1974 grenade attack on the Publicis drugstore in central Paris, which also injured 34. Ramirez denies involvement. Ramirez, 67, with receding white hair, refused to give his name in court and gave his age as 17 "give or take 50 years". Ramirez, who wore a dark jacket and metal-framed glasses, was confined in a glass box, with just an opening to speak through. Three police officers flanked him

in the box. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Marxist militant and self-dubbed "elite gunman" became a symbol of Cold War anti-imperialism and public enemy number one for Western governments.

He sealed his notoriety in 1975 with the hostage-taking of OPEC oil ministers in Vienna in the name of the Palestinian struggle, and went on to become an international gun-for-hire with Soviet bloc protectors. The press gave him his nickname after a reporter saw a copy of Frederick Forsyth's "The Day of the Jackal" at Ramirez's London flat and mistakenly assumed it belonged to him.

He was convicted in 1997 of murdering two French police officers and an informant in 1975 in Paris and in 2011 of masterminding attacks on two trains, a train station and a Paris street that killed 11 people and wounded about 150 more. Investigators say they have established links between the Publicis case, Ramirez, and a hostage-taking



PARIS: A court sketch made yesterday shows Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, known as Carlos the Jackal, gesturing during his trial in France for the deadly bombing of the drugstore Publicis, a busy shop once located in Saint-Germain-des-Prez in the French capital Paris more than 40 years ago. — AFP

at the French Embassy in The Hague two days previously by the Japanese Red Army militant group.

The US-made hand grenade used in the Publicis attack came from the same batch as three grenades used in The Hague attack and another grenade found in a Paris apartment used by Ramirez, they say. Some years later, in a newspaper interview which Ramirez now denies having given, he was quoted as claiming responsibility for the drugstore attack, saying its aim was to put pressure on French authorities to wrap up negotiations with the hostage-takers in The Hague. Speaking to Reuters before the trial, Ramirez's lawyer Francis Vuillemin said the charges against Ramirez were non-existent. He attacked "contradictory and dishonest" testimony in the case and a procedure he said had not respected the law. Seventeen witnesses are expected to testify in the trial, which is expected to take until around the end of this month. — Reuters



BUDAPEST: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, center, congratulates re-elected Hungarian President Janos Ader (front) in the presence of Ader's wife, Anita Herczegh (left) Deputy PM in charge of national politics Zsolt Semjen (back center) and Fidesz faction leader Lajos Kosa (right) during the plenary session of the parliament in Budapest yesterday. — AP

HUNGARY MPs RE-ELECT ORBAN ALLY AS PRESIDENT

BUDAPEST: Hungarian lawmakers yesterday re-elected President Janos Ader for a new five-year term, marking a comfortable victory for the rightwing government ally over his leftist rival. Ader beat opposition candidate Laszlo Majtenyi in a second-round runoff by 131 votes to 39 in the 199-seat parliament.

The vote for the largely ceremonial presidential role was a mere formality given that the ruling Fidesz party of premier Viktor Orban holds close to a two-thirds majority. Despite his defeat however, respected former ombudsman Majtenyi, 66, nonetheless managed a rare feat in this election-uniting Hungary's normally warring leftist parties behind him. In the last election five years

ago, 57-year-old Ader ran uncontested. But ahead of next year's general election, the fragmented left bloc-made up of the Socialist Party and several smaller outfits has been trying to set aside its rifts and come up with a common strategy to take on Orban, in power since 2010.

His opponents have denounced the strongman for undermining key democratic institutions in sweeping reforms and stifling press freedom. "(We need) a return to independent institutions guaranteeing our constitutional rights," Majtenyi said in a speech yesterday. Fidesz currently enjoys a comfortable lead over the Socialists and the radical right Jobbik party, which both vie for a distant second place. — AFP

NEW 'ENEMY PROPERTY' LAW TARGETS INDIAN MUSLIMS

MUMBAI: A controversial bill that amends a five-decade-old law to deny Indian families of those who moved to China and Pakistan the right to reclaim "enemy properties" seized by the state unfairly targets Muslims, analysts say. The Enemy Property Act of 1968, enacted after the India-Pakistan War three years earlier, gave the Indian government the right to seize assets of Indian nationals who had moved to Pakistan or China following wars with the two countries.

Those who left India for Pakistan were Muslims, and relations between the two countries remain fraught after numerous conflicts. Pakistan enacted a similar law at the time and seized properties of those who left for India. The amended law, which would apply retrospectively, extends the definition of "enemy" to include legal heirs of declared enemies, even when the heir is an Indian citizen, or of a country not deemed to be an enemy.

"When the families are citizens of the country, how can the government consider them to be enemies and take away their

right of succession?" said Husain Dalwai, a member of India's upper house of parliament. "It is against the constitution and it targets Muslims unfairly," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The government has said the amendments are in the "larger public interest" and will plug "loopholes to ensure that enemy properties worth thousands of crores (millions) of rupees do not revert to the enemy or enemy firm".

The Supreme Court ruled in 2005 that legal heirs who are Indian citizens can reclaim so-called enemy property, following decades of petitioning by the family of the erstwhile Raja of Mahmudabad, who left India after partition in 1947. But the amendment - also barring civil courts from hearing disputes related to enemy property - was passed late on Friday by the upper house, despite a walkout by opposition members. India's large Muslim minority, which makes up 13 percent of the population, lags the national average on land ownership, and faces bias when buying or renting properties. — Reuters

DEFENSE SPENDING BY EUROPEAN NATO ALLIES INCHES UP IN 2016

BRUSSELS: Defense spending by European NATO states inched up for the first time in seven years in 2016, the military alliance said yesterday, but still remained below the threshold the new U.S. President Donald Trump said was crucial to achieve.

Trump made NATO states in Europe nervous when he criticized the alliance as "obsolete" during election campaign and then went on to suggest he could make US commitment to their security conditional on them meeting the alliance's target of defense spending at two percent of their economic output.

Trump has since reaffirmed support for NATO but insisted Europeans must "pay their fair share." His aides have said Trump wants to see progress on that by the end of this year and that Washington could otherwise "moderate" its support.

NATO said the US defense spending last

year stood at 3.61 percent of its Gross Domestic Product, compared to 3.58 percent in 2015. That compares to 1.47 percent for NATO's European allies last year and 1.44 percent the year before.

NATO's overall figure for 2016 stood at 2.43 percent versus 2.40 percent in 2015. "There has been progress but the job is far from done, we still have no fair burden-sharing within our alliance," NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said. "It is realistic that all allies reach the goal of two percent."

Stoltenberg said Romania was due to meet the target this year, with Lithuania and Latvia expected to follow in 2018. "This is not just about a call from the United States and President Trump... It is in Europe's best interest to spend more on defense. We have a long way to go but at least after years of decline, we are now starting to see an increase." — Reuters

DUTERTE WANTS MINING BAN, LINKS MINERS TO CONSPIRACY

PRESIDENT SAYS HE'LL DO WHAT'S NECESSARY TO PRESERVE LAND

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday accused some miners of funding efforts to destabilize his government as he talked about a possible plan to impose a ban on mining given the environmental damage producers have caused. Duterte, who has said the Southeast Asian nation can survive without mining, has backed a crackdown on miners by Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Lopez in the world's top supplier of nickel ore. Duterte said he was looking at a total mining ban "and then we'll talk", referring to miners.

"When it comes to the preservation of my country, the land... I will do what is necessary," Duterte told a media briefing. "I know that some of you are giving funding to the other side to destabilize me," he said, referring to companies in the mining sector he did not name. He did not say how his government was being destabilized, only that there could be efforts to make him "unpopular". The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, which groups many large-scale miners, said in a statement it was "unaware of any mining company that is supportive of any destabilization efforts against the administration". Duterte has supported Lopez's Feb. 2 order to shut 23 of the country's 41 mines to protect watersheds. She suspended another five for environmental infringements and also cancelled 75 contracts for undeveloped mines.

"You think you can live with it (environmental degradation) because of the 70 billion (pesos) or because they contributed to campaign funds? Not me," Duterte said, while showing pictures of the environmental harm mining has caused. The mining sector contributes an estimated 70 billion Philippine pesos (\$1.39 billion) a year in revenue.

Dante Bravo, president of Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc, the Philippines' No 2 nickel ore miner, said he was surprised at Duterte's comments on his leadership. "We're definitely not



MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is surrounded by security after a press conference at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila yesterday. — AP

one of those who would fund such a destabilization effort," Bravo told Reuters in a text message.

Bravo also said while Duterte is considering a mining ban, he believed the president "is a reasonable man and he'll follow what's in the law". "The current law allows mining, so we'll have to take that as the existing regime which the president is mandated to enforce," said Bravo.

Miners have complained about Lopez's mine closure orders, saying they were baseless, did not follow due process and would affect 1.2 mil-

lion people who depend on mining for their livelihood. Lopez defended her decisions in Congress last week where lawmakers held a two-day hearing on her appointment. She said her orders were above board and were made to protect functions of watersheds. Lawmakers will meet on Tuesday before they vote on whether to confirm or reject her appointment in June last year when Duterte took office. In the Philippines, confirmation hearings can take place long after ministers start work. — Reuters

DUTCH PM IN ELECTION DUEL WITH ANTI-ISLAM LEADER

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands: Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte was to go head-to-head with his rival anti-Islam MP Geert Wilders in a key election debate, sharpened by a bitter row with Turkey.

Just two days before The Netherlands goes to the polls, tensions with Ankara have flared into a diplomatic crisis, forcing simmering concerns about immigration and integration back to the top of the political agenda. Monday's debate, plus Tuesday's final night round-table with eight political party leaders, could yet sway Wednesday's vote, one analyst told AFP, estimating that some 60 percent of Dutch voters remain undecided. While Wilders has delighted in the chaos which erupted over the weekend when Dutch riot police moved in to disperse hundreds of protesters waving Turkish flags in Rotterdam, Rutte has appealed for calm.

The leader of the Liberal VVD party, Rutte is bidding for a third term, but faces a strong challenge from Wilders and his Freedom Party (PVV). Tomorrow's vote "is about one question: in what kind of country do you want to live?" Rutte said in a Facebook post yesterday.

"I want a country where we live together in a normal way... a country that has shown the world that we do not fall for false populism." He has angrily rejected Turkey's calls to apologize for expelling a Turkish minister who tried to attend a pro-Ankara rally in Rotterdam.

Instead, he urged Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to say sorry for likening the Dutch to Nazis - a jibe that has cut deep in a country bombed and occupied in World War II.

'Expel ambassador!'

While Rutte says he also wants to defuse the crisis with a fellow NATO member, Wilders urged the Dutch government to up the ante. "Erdogan repeats we are Nazis + Fascists. He insults Dutch police. No de-escalation. Expel Turkish Ambassador to NL and entire staff!" Wilders said in a tweet yesterday.

The stakes are high, with Rutte's Liberals (VVD) predicted to return as the largest party in the 150-seat parliament with between 23 to 27 seats, according to the latest aggregated polls. That is well down from 40 VVD MPs in the outgoing lower chamber however, and would leave him scrambling to cobble together a viable coalition which may have to include four to five parties to reach the 76-seat majority.

After weeks of flirting at the top of the polls, Wilders has seen his ratings slip and may now come second with between 19 and 23 seats, polls suggest. "They are now at 13 percent of the



ROTTERDAM: Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte stands in front of journalists during a press conference yesterday at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. — AFP

Dutch vote, which is considerable but I think we should not exaggerate it: It is one out of eight," Monika Sie Dhian Ho, director of the Clingendael Institute, told AFP. If Wilders emerges as one of the largest parties in parliament, he may be a difficult voice to ignore even though other parties have vowed to snub him, turned off by his extreme rhetoric in a country which prides itself on its consensus politics.

'Here to stay'

Wilders has vowed to close mosques, ban sales of the Koran and bar Muslim immigrants. But his one-page manifesto is glaringly short on detail. The Dutch are "interested to hear how he's going to implement that since he's going against the constitution, against many laws that we have in the Netherlands," said Sie, highlighting how so far Wilders has snubbed the major debates. The latest polls also suggest support for traditional Dutch establishment parties such as

the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) and the Democracy Party D66 is rising as the vote looms.

Most Dutch voters remain preoccupied with issues such as the economy, pensions and health care for the greying population, even though the elections are being closely watched abroad amid the European debate about immigration and integration. Wilders's "ideology might be negative, it's anti-Muslims, it's anti-EU, it's anti-immigration, it's anti-refugees. But it is a clear ideology that addresses concerns of a substantial group of the Dutch. So it is there to stay," said Sie.

These elections have also seen the remarkable rise of the left-wing ecologists GroenLinks and their charismatic young leader Jesse Klaver, who could yet become a kingmaker in a fragmented political landscape. "My weapons are hope and optimism," the 30-year-old Klaver told AFP Saturday after campaigning in southern Eindhoven. "We are building a movement that is stronger than any parties in Netherlands." — AFP

PAKISTAN TO KICK OFF FIRST CENSUS IN 19 YEARS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will this week embark on the enormous task of conducting its first census in almost two decades, after years of bickering between politicians

concerned about power bases and federal funding. Fast-growing Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world, with an estimated 200 million people,

but has not held a census since 1998, despite a constitutional requirement for one every decade.

The process starts Wednesday and will deploy a team of more than 300,000 people and involve 55 million forms—a challenge in a country known for corruption and dysfunction. It will be the basis for revising political boundaries, parliamentary seat allocations and federal funding, while also giving a clearer picture about religious minority numbers in the Muslim-majority country as well as counting the transsexual population for the first time.

The census is a highly charged issue, coming one year before national parliamentary elections. "Pakistan is not a country with a homogenous population," said Muddassir Rizvi, head of programs at the Free and Fair Elections Network, "we are multiple ethnicities, more than 80 different languages are spoken. The count actually determines the political power of various ethnicities." The mighty Punjab province, for example, could see its political grip weaken as a result of its population not rising at a similar rate to other provinces. "It is not a well-received exercise by political actors. It's only on the orders and insistence of the Supreme Court that this exercise is being undertaken," said Rizvi.

Army escorts

The lack of political will has resulted in hasty preparations. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has been primed and ready on the starting blocks for ten years, but the government only gave its green light less than three months ago — a short time to train staff and reassure parties and communities.

"There was very limited time to get everybody on board (and) ensure everyone feels the importance of being counted," said Dr Hassan Mohtashami, of the United Nations Population Fund. Many within the country are unhappy about how the presence of approximately two million Afghan refugees, whose nationality is difficult to determine because of falsified documents, could skew the numbers if they get counted as Pakistanis belonging to the Pashtun ethnic group.

In Balochistan, the country's largest province by area but the least populated, a nationalist party has rejected the census, calling it tantamount to "suicide" because an influx of Pashtuns—both from other parts of Pakistan as well as from Afghanistan—would make the ethnic Baloch a minority in their own region.

The PBS will deploy some 119,000 people, including 84,000 enumerators: teachers and local officials who will go door-to-door to count homes and then individuals. Pakistan's powerful army meanwhile announced it would dispatch up to 200,000 troops for the exercise, including 44,000 participating directly in the census-taking and making a parallel count. Asif Bajwa, the PBS's chief statistician, said the army would act as 'observers' to ensure enumerators did not inflate local counting.

"Being a local person, the enumerator is susceptible to pressures, because everybody knows that a larger population translates into more jobs, more seats, and more money for the province," he said, adding each census-taker will be accompanied by a military counterpart. But that has created some disquiet for the UN who are concerned about the army's role as parallel data collectors.

"The administration of any kind of other questionnaire during the census is (infringing) on the principle of confidentiality," said Mohtashami. The first census phase will take place from March 15 to April 15, the second from April 25 to May 25, and final results are expected by the end of July. —AFP



ISLAMABAD: Commuters struck in a traffic jam in Islamabad yesterday. Pakistan will embark on the enormous task of conducting its first census in almost two decades, after years of bickering between politicians concerned about power bases and federal funding. —AFP

MYANMAR REFUGEES SURGE INTO CHINA AS CONFLICT ESCALATES

NANSAN, China: Within earshot of mortar fire echoing from beyond a ring of hills, a sprawling relief camp in Southwestern China is swelling steadily after fighting erupted last week between a rebel ethnic army in Myanmar and government troops just across the border. In a recent Reuters visit to the rugged area in southwestern Yunnan province, aid workers and those displaced expressed fears of a more violent and protracted conflict than a previous flare-up in the Kokang region in early 2015.

"Every day, more people come," said Li Yinzhong, an aid manager in the camp, gesturing at the mostly Han Chinese refugees from Myanmar's Kokang region trudging through the reddish mud earth around rows of large blue huts where they sleep on nylon tarpaulin sheets.

"We will look after them until they decide they want to go back." Blue disaster relief tents provided by the Chinese also dotted the terraced sugarcane, maize and tea terraces flanking the mountainous winding road to Nansan. The town, close to the Kokang region of Myanmar's Shan State, is providing refuge for a stream of refugees that Chinese authorities estimate number more than 20,000.

The violence is a blow to efforts by Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, to reach a comprehensive peace agreement with Myanmar's ethnic minorities, some of them in rebellions spanning decades. The conflict is also fraying ties between China and Myanmar, which Beijing has hoped could be a key gateway in its multi-pronged "One Belt One Road" strategy to promote economic links between China and Europe.

Kokang has close ties to China. The vast majority are ethnic Chinese speaking a Chinese dialect and using the yuan as currency.

State of war

The Kokang began fleeing when the rebel Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) launched a surprise raid on Myanmar police and military targets in the town of Laukai, resulting in the deaths of 30 people on March 6. The Myanmar military has launched "56 waves of

small and large clashes", using cannons, armoured vehicles and heavy weapons over the past two months, according to a statement published by the military on March 6 after the attack.

Rebel forces who lay historic claim to the Kokang region have attacked government troops with rocket-propelled grenade launchers and other military hardware. In an "urgent notice" posted on Sunday on its official website, the MNDAA said the Kokang area was now in a "state of war" as fighting worsened.

On the Chinese side, paramilitary police have sent in battalions of reinforcements, mostly in readiness for disaster relief, according to Chinese officials who spoke on background. Reuters saw seven Chinese armored personnel carriers moving west along the hilly road towards Myanmar and the relief camp sprawled across a muddy wasteland the size of 10 football fields.

The fresh unrest comes after fighting in early 2015 and in 2009 involving the MNDAA, both flare-ups displacing tens of thousands of people. Ordnance has occasionally strayed into China, with five people in China killed in 2015 during a round of fighting then.

This time round, the door to a village house was blown out, and the upper floor of the Anran hotel in Nansan was shelled forcing its closure, according to local residents and one official. Reuters was unable to corroborate these accounts. China has lodged "solemn representations" with Myanmar over its citizens put at risk by the conflict, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular news briefing yesterday.

"The Chinese will be very angry if it escalates to the level of 2015," said Sino-Myanmar expert Yun Sun, a senior associate with the Stimson Center in Washington D.C. Beijing wants the Kokang to be included in the comprehensive peace negotiations that Aung San Suu Kyi initiated last August, she said.

The military has blocked that, saying the rebels can only join if they lay down arms first. "The Chinese actually tacitly and privately support the Kokang being included in the negotiations, but they can't say that," Sun said. —Reuters

JAPAN PLANS TO SEND LARGEST WARSHIP TO SOUTH CHINA SEA

VIETNAM DEMANDS CHINA STOP CRUISES IN DISPUTED WATERS

TOKYO: Japan plans to dispatch its largest warship on a three-month tour through the South China Sea beginning in May, three sources said, in its biggest show of naval force in the region since World War Two. China claims almost all the disputed waters and its growing military presence has fuelled concern in Japan and the West, with the United States holding regular air and naval patrols to ensure freedom of navigation.

The Izumo helicopter carrier, commissioned only two years ago, will make stops in Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka before joining the Malabar joint naval exercise with Indian and US naval vessels in the Indian Ocean in July.

It will return to Japan in August, the sources said. "The aim is to test the capability of the Izumo by sending it out on an extended mission," said one of the sources who have knowledge of the plan. "It will train with the US Navy in the South China Sea," he added, asking not to be identified because he is not authorized to talk to the media.

Maritime dispute

A spokesman for Japan's Maritime Self Defense Force declined to comment. Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Brunei also claim parts of the sea which has rich fishing grounds, oil and gas deposits and through which around \$5 trillion of global sea-borne trade passes each year.

Japan does not have any claim to the waters, but has a separate maritime dispute with China in the East China Sea. Japan wants to invite Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who has pushed ties with China in recent months as he has criticized the old



BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (center) is surrounded by delegates for souvenir photographs before a plenary session of the National People's Congress held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Sunday. —AP

alliance with the United States, to visit the Izumo when it visits Subic Bay, about 100 km (62 miles) west of Manila, another of the sources said.

Japan's flag-flying operation comes as the United States under President Donald Trump appears to be taking a tougher line with China. Washington has criticized China's construction of man-made islands and a build-up of military facilities that it worries could be used to restrict free movement.

Vietnam call

Vietnam yesterday demanded that China stop sending cruise ships to the South China Sea in a response to one

of Beijing's latest steps to bolster its claims in the strategic waterway. A Chinese cruise ship with more than 300 passengers visited the disputed Parcel Islands earlier this month. "Vietnam strongly opposes this and demands that China respect Vietnam's sovereignty over the Parcel Islands and international law and immediately stop and not repeat those activities," foreign ministry spokesperson Le Hai Binh told Reuters.

"Those actions have seriously violated Vietnam's sovereignty over the Parcel Islands and international law," China claims 90 percent of the potentially energy-rich South China Sea.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan lay claim to parts of the sea, through which passes about \$5 trillion of trade a year.

Yesterday, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular news briefing that she had not seen the comments by Vietnam, but reiterated China's claim to the Parcel Islands. Countries competing to cement their rival claims have encouraged a growing civilian presence on disputed islands in the South China Sea. The first cruises from China to the Parcel Islands were launched by Hainan Strait Shipping Co in 2013. —Reuters

MODI PARTY SEES BIGGER MANDATE IN 2019 AFTER STATE ELECTION

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party expects national elections in 2019 to deliver an even bigger mandate than in 2014, its leaders said on Sunday, buoyed by a thumping victory in the country's most politically important state. As well as winning Uttar Pradesh with the biggest majority for any party since 1977, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is moving closer to forming governments in at least two more of the five states that went to polls recently.

Federal Defence Minister Manohar Parikar will resign soon to lead the state government of Goa, BJP leaders told a news conference. BJP president Amit Shah said: "In coming days BJP's winning ways will be seen in other states too. We will get a much bigger mandate in 2019 under Modi."

Many investors hope the BJP will embark on a round of new reforms to boost growth and fight endemic corruption. The BJP won the biggest government mandate in three decades in 2014 and the prospect of a tighter grip on power is not something Modi's critics relish.

They say his surging popularity and the lack of a strong opposition could further embolden hardline Hindu factions close to his party and isolate Muslims and other minorities. The state victories are being seen as an endorsement of Modi's high-risk decision last November to scrap high-value banknotes, an anti-corruption measure that was unpopular which many economists said would hamper growth. The wins vindicated his decision to turn the campaign into a referendum on his own performance since coming to power more than two-and-a-half years ago. With expectations rising high, his biggest challenge now will be to create millions of jobs for the country's surging population.

"We may get things wrong, but we won't do anything with wrong intentions," Modi said in a speech at the BJP headquarters, broadcast live by several television networks on Sunday evening.

Modi said 2022, the 75th anniversary of independence, would be marked by a "New India." "We have got five years ... for 1.25 billion of my countrymen to take India forward," he said, urging Indians to unite, as his supporters chanted "Modii Modii." "The election results have strengthened the resolve to fulfil the dreams of the India of 2022." —Reuters

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HASHEM DEFENDS EXPAT MEDICINE BAN...

Continued from Page 1

The lawmaker claimed that expatriate doctors prescribe large quantities of medicine to expatriate patients and this leads to squandering of public funds. "How else can we improve the level of health services in the country?" Hashem asked, adding that expatriate patients overcrowd public health institutions, thus preventing citizens from having good medical treatment.

Hashem said that what she has proposed has got nothing to do with humanity. "I don't want anyone to ask me where are human factors in my proposal. I am talking about the dignity of citizens ... I did not say don't give them (expatriates) treatment. I said we should regulate it in order for Kuwaiti citizens to experience social justice," she said. "The government is not obliged to provide medical treatment to expatriates. Employers are obliged to provide such a service," she added.

Hashem called for immediately forcing employers to provide health insurance for their expatriate employees, adding this will resolve most of the problem. The lawmaker also claimed that some expatriate visitors who do not hold legal residence permits arrive in Kuwait to enjoy almost free medical services, while many Kuwaitis are forced to go to the private sector.

Hashem said that the health ministry budget soared from KD 437 million in 2006 to as high as KD 1,489 million last year, close to fourfold growth. She also said that in 2015, as many as 465,000 Kuwaitis visited outpatient clinics at public hospitals against 331,000 expats, adding that the large number of expatriates resulted in overcrowding. In addition to barring expats from medicines, Hashem had also proposed collecting a five percent tax on all foreign money transfers by expats. She has also called for charging each expat at least 100 fils for walking on roads.

KING SALMAN, ABE EYE BOOST IN TIES

Continued from Page 1

The two countries yesterday also signed economic cooperation agreements in industry, energy and finance. They also agreed to start a feasibility study on vehicle production in the Middle Eastern country. The Nikkei on Saturday reported that Toyota Motor Corp is looking into building a plant in Saudi Arabia. Japan's Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Kotaro Nogami told reporters Abe made the request for support on the Aramco listing to the Saudi monarch, who responded by saying the kingdom would look into the request because he wants Japanese investors to buy Aramco shares.

The Saudi delegation arrived late Sunday on about 10 aircraft. King Salman is on a month-long tour of Asia to advance his kingdom's economic and business interests. His stop in Japan followed visits to Indonesia and Malaysia. He is to travel on to Brunei, China and the Maldives. Salman pledged \$1 billion in development finance for Indonesia and closer cooperation in combating transnational crime such as human trafficking, terrorism and the drug trade.

Separately, the White House confirmed yesterday that US President Donald Trump will meet this week with Saudi Arabia's second-in-line to the throne in the highest-level visit to Washington by a Saudi royal since November's presidential election. In his daily press briefing, White House press secretary Sean Spicer said the meeting with Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is also defense minister and King Salman's son, will take place Thursday at the White House. No other details were provided.

The Saudi royal court, in a statement carried by the

official Saudi Press Agency earlier yesterday, said that Prince Mohammed will meet with Trump and a number of US officials to discuss "the strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries and regional issues of mutual interest". The prince, who departed for Washington yesterday, is spearheading the kingdom's economic overhaul to become less dependent on oil and its major investments in US technology firms.

He will be the first Gulf Arab royal to meet the president since his inauguration. Key issues at the top of the agenda are likely to include global energy prices, as well as the conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition backed by Washington has been bombing Iran-backed rebels for nearly two years. Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter and biggest buyer of American-made arms, is also part of the US-led coalition bombing campaign against the Islamic State group in Syria.

Saudi relations with Washington cooled under President Barack Obama after his administration secured a nuclear deal with regional rival Iran. The deal has been heavily criticized by Trump. Obama had also openly criticized Gulf Arab countries, expressing frustration at their feud with Iran. In contrast, the kingdom has expressed optimism about rebuilding its alliance with Washington and working with the Trump Administration to contain Iran's reach in the region. In a call between Trump and King Salman in January, the two agreed to back safe zones in Syria and Yemen, according to a White House statement. The monarch is currently touring Asia in a visit aimed at building alliances with other partners. — Agencies



The Josephine Shaw Lowell Memorial Fountain in Bryant Park in New York is covered in ice yesterday as the weather continues to be below freezing. The northeastern United States braced yesterday for what meteorologists predict could be the worst winter storm of the season, with blizzards feared to dump knee-high snow on New York. — AFP

MUBARAK SET TO WALK FREE

Continued from Page 1

Many Egyptians who lived through Mubarak's rule view it as a period of autocracy and crony capitalism. His overthrow led to Egypt's first free election, which brought in Islamist President Mohamed Morsi. Morsi lasted only a year in office after mass protests against his rule in 2013 prompted his overthrow by then defense chief General Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, who went on to win a presidential election in 2014.

Morsi is in prison and his Muslim Brotherhood has

been banned as a terrorist organization. Hundreds of Morsi supporters were killed in a single day in August 2013 and thousands were jailed, with the dragnet quickly widening to include secular activists who were at the forefront of the 2011 uprising but opposed Muslim Brotherhood rule. Mubarak-era figures, meanwhile, are gradually being cleared of charges and a series of laws limiting political freedoms has raised fears among activists that the old regime is back. Mubarak has long maintained his innocence and says history will judge him a patriot who served his country selflessly. — Reuters



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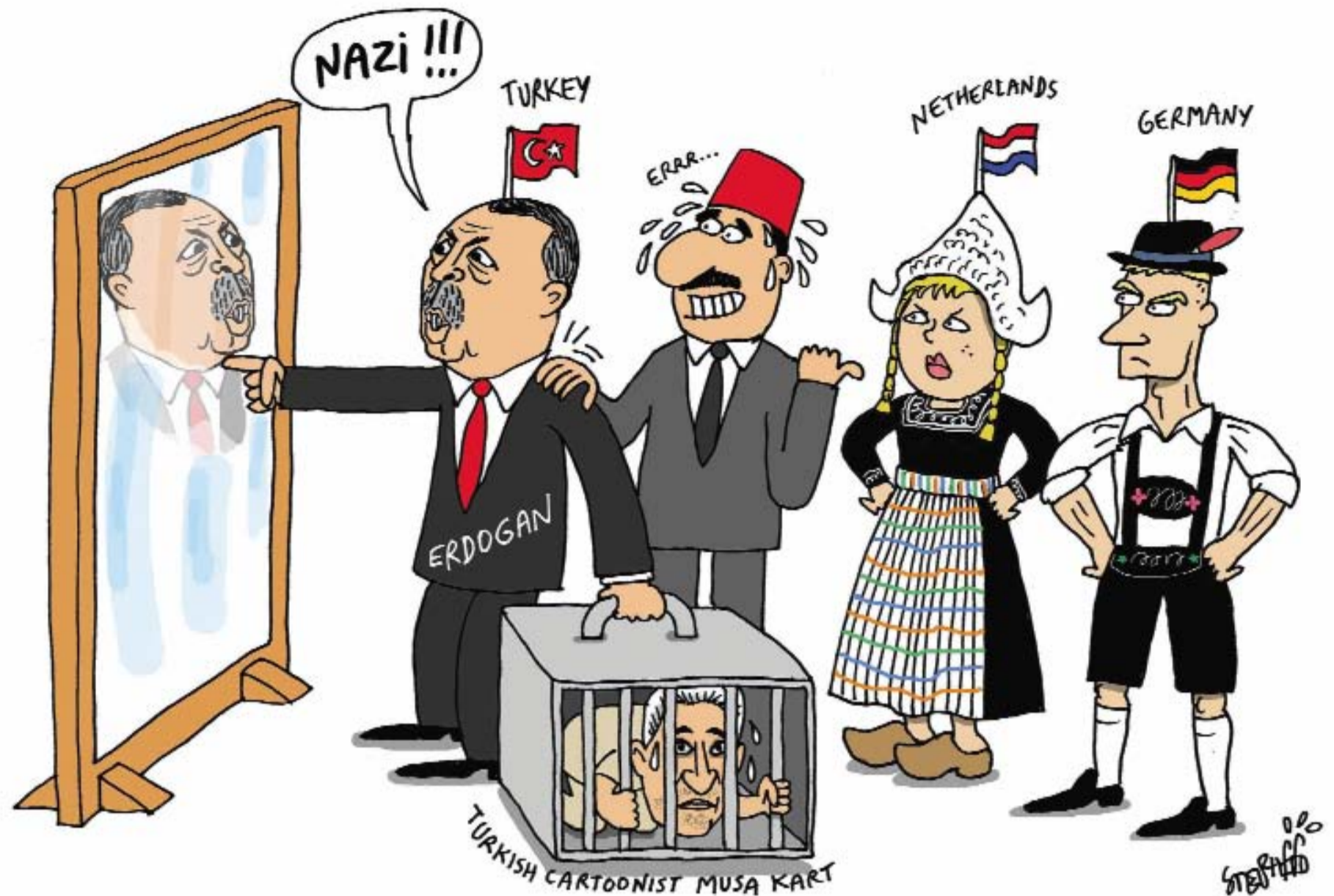
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FRANCE LIKELY TO BECOME FREQUENT POWER IMPORTER

For two straight months this winter, France was a net importer of electricity for the first time in five years, a trend that could continue during periods of peak demand no matter who wins the April-May presidential election. France, usually a net exporter of electricity, imported a record 950 gigawatt-hours of power on a net basis in January, the highest level since 1980, as a cold snap increased demand for heating amid a series of prolonged nuclear outages.

Dependence on its neighbors during peak winter demand could accelerate if France fails to develop renewables further or extend the lifespan of its 58 nuclear reactors, while cross-border exchange capacity continues to grow. France's capacity to import electricity from its neighbors increased by 30 percent to 12.2 gigawatts (GW) in the 2016/2017 winter period, compared with winter 2015/2016, French grid operator RTE said in its winter outlook.

Data from the finance ministry showed France spent €290 million (\$307 million) on electricity imports in January, compared with €56.5 million for the same month in 2016. France passed an ambitious energy law in 2015 with a target of cutting the share of nuclear in its electricity mix to 50 percent by 2025 from 75 percent currently, while investing in renewables and efficiency to curb consumption and heat loss.

Although the share of renewables has increased to about 16 percent, it lags its peers and is well below the International Energy Agency's (IEA) average of 24 percent, the IEA said in its January review of French energy policies. "Reaching the (50 percent target) will require careful policy guidance, effective markets and strong measures for renewables and energy efficiency," the IEA said. Analysts say the situation in December and January was exceptional, blaming prolonged outages of about a dozen nuclear reactors for safety checks and low hydropower output as a lack of rain and snowfall pushed reservoir levels to new lows.

"However, given the high sensitivity of French electricity consumption to cold temperatures and the fact that the French production fleet has fallen due to coal plant closures, this issue will be present every year, maybe not to the extent we saw this winter," said Utomi Odozi of Freepoint Commodities.

Tough Decisions Ahead

While President Francois Hollande has begun implementing some of the measures in the energy bill, tougher decisions such as shutting nuclear plants and increasing investments in renewables would have to be made by the next government after the April-May election. Independent candidate Emmanuel Macron, the frontrunner to win the presidency, plans to stop coal-power generation by 2022. He would keep the 50 percent nuclear target while launching 26 GW of renewables development.

The cornerstone of Macron's energy plan is 15 billion euros of investments with objectives that include immediate help for low-income earners to renovate about 2 million old homes to cut heat loss and curb consumption. Far-right leader Marine Le Pen, who is expected to come top in the first round of the election but lose in the decisive second round, wants France to be energy-independent, with state-run utility EDF at the centre of energy security.

Le Pen has proposed keeping the French nuclear fleet going as long as watchdog ASN deems the reactors safe. She plans to scrap a plan to privatize French hydropower stations. According to his election manifesto, conservative Francois Fillon, third in opinion polls, also wants France to be energy-independent. He would scrap the 50 percent nuclear target, which he has described as absurd. He plans to extend the lifespan of the reactors to between 40 and 60 years with the agreement of ASN, and would halt the planned shutdown of the Fessenheim nuclear plant, France's oldest.

But aiming to make France self-sufficient could be costly, according to Fabien Roques, senior vice president at FTLCL Energy consultancy. Roques said the focus should instead be on how to include cross-border participation in France's security of supply and capacity mechanism that was launched in January. Capacity mechanisms are used to fund power plants that may not be cost-effective but can guarantee supply during peak demand. — Reuters

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COMPANIES STRUGGLE WITH ETHICS VS PROFITS

Some multinationals working in conflict zones are turning to ethically dubious practices to keep their factories operating, employees working and goods flowing. French-Swiss cement manufacturer LafargeHolcim admitted earlier this month that it resorted to "unacceptable" practices in 2013 and 2014 to keep its Jalabiya plant in Syria running until it was seized by the Islamic State. In practice this amounted to the financing of armed groups. Recent history is full of scandals involving businesses paying armed groups and fanning the flames of war.

Banana companies paid paramilitary groups in Colombia in the 1990s and 2000s, jewellers fed the trade in "blood diamonds" in Liberia and Congo and mobile phone makers are regularly accused of using minerals taken from mines controlled by armed groups in Africa. But how do companies get themselves into this? Errors of judgment? Sliding imperceptibly past a point of no return? Too much responsibility given to middlemen? A fundamental contradiction between profit and ethics?

Grey areas, platitudes

"Whether it wants to or not, a business working in a war zone or a post-crisis zone becomes an economic stakeholder in a military environment," said Bertrand Monnet, a professor in criminal risk management at France's Edhec business school. "And it is not always quite able to manage the challenges that this involves." Big companies have ethical codes and while "this type of talk is all very well... in reality it's not enough to cope with the tensions between economic logic and fundamental rights," said Cecile Renouard, a professor at the Essec business

school in France and a writer on corporate ethics. She said that in the Lafarge case, the company's ethics statement was ambiguous in this respect. "The company says it wants to be the world leader in its sector and at the same time contribute to making the world a better place", but "permanently striving for economic and financial performance inevitably comes into conflict with the desire to take into account the local situation."

Nicolas Berland, a professor at the business ethics and management department of the Paris-Dauphine university, said that while there are "true cynics" who work in conflict zones with no regard for the morality of what they are doing, others find themselves in grey areas. Trying to honour agreements and protect their workers in difficult, unpredictable environments "they sometimes try to find a compromise by betting the situation will change rapidly," he said.

The safest approach is not to get involved in dangerous areas in the first place, or to pull out as quickly as possible when a crisis blows up. Alexandre Hollander, head of Amaranthe International, a company specialising in security for international organizations, said: "In a war situation, multinationals generally decide to pull out of the country." French oil giant Total left Syria in 2011 and French industrial gas supplier Air Liquide recently quit eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists decided to seize control of businesses.

Responsibilities and obligations

Local officials can also play an ambiguous role. "The fashion is to have 'cross-expatriates', such as a Jordanian in

Libya, because they are less exposed to risks thanks to their nationality," Hollander said, but "the understanding of corruption is not always the same for a Russian, a Turk or a Lebanese." Moreover, "put under great pressure, mid-level managers can find themselves tempted to turn a blind eye a bit," he said. And then, "it is difficult to extract yourself once you're caught up in the machinery. Once you've given two cans of petrol, \$1,000, then \$100,000, the amount doesn't matter any more."

In the Lafarge case, "the basic mistake is that they failed to clearly articulate a break point, to identify what are the red lines beyond which these relationships with local partners become unacceptable," said David Rodin, an expert in the ethics of war at Oxford University. In theory the question is "to what extent is Lafarge responsible for the crimes the armed groups commit," he added. "The question is then at what level were decisions being taken? Was there sufficient oversight and guidance?"

Two companies with extensive foreign operations listed on the Paris stock exchange blue-chip CAC 40 index declined to make public their guidelines while insisting that the issue of ensuring the security of foreign staff is monitored at the highest level of management. "Lafarge, a company of international standing, approaching such a highly-publicized conflict - shouldn't it have been extra vigilant?" said Marie-Laure Guislain of Sherpa, a French law association that protects victims of financial crimes, which made a criminal complaint against Lafarge for "financing terrorism". France has just adopted a law on companies' obligation to be vigilant on these issues, which could "have real effects" in this sort of situation, she said. — AFP

'BRAND MODI' GETS THUMBS UP AS BJP WINS

Rebounding from a self-inflicted banknote crisis to deliver his party a stunning victory in state polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dominance mirrors that of India's early independence leaders and bodes well for his re-election in 2019, analysts say. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party won a surprise absolute majority in Uttar Pradesh at the weekend, a result not seen in decades in the northern state that's home to 220 million people and seen as a bellwether of national politics.

It also won a majority in Uttarakhand and despite coming second will form governments in Goa and Manipur, the latter a remote eastern state where the Hindu nationalist party held zero seats before polling day. "A new India is emerging," Modi declared on Twitter, nearly three years after he came to office pledging inclusive government and a "shining India" that would provide jobs for a growing youth population.

Instead of fielding a candidate for chief minister in Uttar Pradesh, Modi spearheaded the campaign himself, attending nearly a rally a day for the better part of a month. The 66-year-old banked that his charisma and thundering rhetoric from the rally pulpit, both used to spectacular effect in the 2014 general election, would sway votes his way again. The risky strategy, which massively backfired in Bihar state polls in 2015, paid off: Modi floored his doubters as the BJP swept 312 of the state's 403 assembly seats.

The party declared Modi the most popular prime minister since independence, the first leader since Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi whose force of personality commanded adulation and ensured broad mandates. "Since those days we've never seen one individual dominate the polity in the way Narendra Modi has been able to," Paranjay Guha Thakurta, editor of the Economic and Political Weekly, told AFP. "This is perhaps the kind of sweeping victory we haven't seen in India for a very, very long time."

Modi won the first overall majority in three decades in the 2014 election but his agenda has been hampered in the upper house of parliament, slowing the pace of promised reforms, fostering disillusionment and earning jeers from his opponents. But the key victory in Uttar Pradesh will see Modi wield a command over parliament rarely seen in India's coalition-based politics, and able to pursue more controversial measures.

It will also embolden him in addressing security concerns, most notably Pakistan, and burnish his standing on the world stage, particularly as India pushes for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. There was much speculation the state elections would be a referendum on "demonetization" - Modi's shock decision in November to pull all high-value banknotes from circulation. The policy was designed to flush out tax cheats but it triggered a chronic currency shortage and chaos in a country where

most transactions are cash-based. Indians were forced to queue for hours to exchange their suddenly worthless bills, and the poor struggled to buy daily essentials.

The anticipated backlash - though encouraged by his opponents - never eventuated. Modi turned the disruption on its head, tapping into popular anger over corruption and selling the hardship as necessary pain to hit the rich. "He appeals to emotion. The fact he was able to project demonetization in this manner says a lot about his ability to convert what many would believe would be his liability into an electoral asset," Thakurta said.

By courting the votes of poorer Indians, the BJP broadened its appeal beyond the traders and middle class perceived as its traditional support base. "The reinvention of the BJP, particularly Modi as a messiah of the poor, is complete," ran an editorial in India's Sunday Business Standard newspaper. The BJP - a rightwing Hindu party - did exploit religious divisions in Uttar Pradesh, painting their opponents as pandering to the state's sizeable Muslim population. Modi promised voters 24-hour power

supply - a rare luxury in Uttar Pradesh - during the Hindu festival Diwali, appeasing voters aggrieved at alleged preferential treatment doled out to Muslims during their holy month.

The BJP did not field a single Muslim candidate in the state - despite one in five following Islam - underscoring its "majoritarian outlook", Thakurta said. Modi assured voters he would use this "emphatic win" to deliver his outstanding reforms, something his political opponents will be keenly watching as he seeks re-election in 2019. "Earlier parties were scared to fight elections on development. The strength of the poor and the aspirations of the middle class will take India to new heights," he told supporters at a massive victory parade in New Delhi.

With a favorable parliament in his pocket, and a massive vote of confidence halfway through his term, Modi looks well-placed to retain India's stewardship for another term, analysts say. "More than the party, this is a victory for the Modi brand," said Sanjay Kumar, from the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. — AFP



In this March 11, 2017 photo, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporter celebrates in New Delhi as the party leads in state elections in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh states. — AP

BAUMANN HONOURED, SAD AT REPLACING FREDERICKS

LAUSANNE: Switzerland's Patrick Baumann said yesterday he was both honoured and sad at taking over as head of the IOC commission monitoring candidates for the 2024 Olympic Games following the resignation of Frankie Fredericks. Namibian sprinting great Fredericks stepped down last week after becoming embroiled in a corruption scandal related to the awarding of the 2016 Games to Rio. "I'm honoured on the one hand and sad on the other because the circumstances aren't what we would have wanted," Baumann, 49, told AFP. Baumann, an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member since 2007 and general secretary of the International Basketball Federation, was appointed last Tuesday amid a probe into money Fredericks accepted from a sports marketing chief accused of corruption. Fredericks, 49, strongly denied any wrongdoing in accepting nearly \$300,000 (283,000 euros) around the time that Rio de Janeiro was awarded the 2016 Olympics. Los Angeles and Paris are the only two cities remaining in the race for the 2024 Games. — AFP



STADE FRANCAIS, RACING 92 ANNOUNCE MERGER PLAN

PARIS: Stade Francais and Racing 92, two leading French rugby union clubs both based in the Paris region, announced plans yesterday to merge. The clubs, which have both struggled this season in France's premier Top 14 league, said in statements on their websites that the combination would create a new, stronger club that could enjoy a bigger fanbase in the French capital. Star players in the Racing 92 squad include New Zealand World Cup winners Dan Carter and Joe Rokocoko, while Stade Francais' top players feature the likes of French international Pascal Pape and Italian Sergio Parisse. Wealthy businessmen have invested large sums of money in recent years into French rugby clubs, allowing them to sign top players from around the world. Racing is owned by French property billionaire Jacky Lorenzetti, while businessman Thomas Savare is the current club president of Stade Francais. Racing beat Toulon last year to win the French Top 14 title in front of a record crowd of more than 90,000 fans in Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium. — Reuters

NO RANIERI GRUDGE, SAYS LEICESTER'S SHAKESPEARE

LEICESTER: Craig Shakespeare said there were "no grudges" between himself and Claudio Ranieri yesterday after he succeeded the Italian as Leicester City manager. Ranieri was sacked last month, nine months on from Leicester's fairytale Premier League title triumph, after the club slid towards the relegation zone. Shakespeare took over as caretaker manager and was on Sunday confirmed as manager until the end of the season following 3-1 wins over Liverpool and Hull City in his first two games. "Of course I'm part of that back-room team, but it's about time we all moved on," Shakespeare told a press conference prior to today's Champions League last 16 second leg at home to Sevilla. "I bear no grudges, Claudio bears no grudges. We have to try and move on as a football club." Shakespeare previously worked as Ranieri's assistant. Asked if he had spoken to Ranieri since his appointment as manager until the end of the season was confirmed, Shakespeare replied: "We haven't spoken since. "But I said last week, when we spoke he wished me luck. We'll probably be in contact and I have no problem with that." — AFP



KJA SUSPENDS MEMBERSHIP WITH ASJA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Journalist Association (KJA) Board of Directors decided to suspend its membership in the Asian Sports Journalist Association (ASJA) during its meeting held on March 12, following the resignation of Kuwait representative at the executive bureau of the Asian Association Sattam Al-Sahli as well as the resignation of five other members from the association during the meeting that was held in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur during Feb 28 to March 3, 2017, in protest of not submitting the financial report along with many financial violations at the association.

CYCLING

FROOME FINALLY BACKS BRAILSFORD

LONDON: Three-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome finally rallied to the defence of under-fire Team Sky boss Dave Brailsford yesterday. Brailsford, the man behind Great Britain's rise as an Olympic cycling superpower, has been under intense scrutiny but has insisted he will not resign from his Sky post despite being engulfed in rows over both doping and sexism. British Cycling was already reeling from revelations it mishandled the drug records of star rider Bradley Wiggins, when Brailsford was labelled "untouchable" in a leaked review published Friday of how the national governing body handled sexism allegations against a leading coach. Froome's relative silence had led to suggestions he was trying to distance himself from Brailsford as the likes of Team Sky colleague Geraint Thomas offered their support. But a statement issued Monday saw Froome, the Tour de France champion in 2013, 2015 and 2016, offer his backing to Brailsford. "With respect to Dave Brailsford, he has created one of the best sports teams in the world," Froome said. "Without Dave B, there is no Team Sky. "He has supported me throughout the last seven years of my career and I couldn't be more grateful for the opportunities and the experiences I've had. "By his own admission, mistakes have been made, but protocols have been put in place to ensure that those same mistakes will not be made again. "I know it will take time for faith to be restored, but I will do my utmost to ensure that happens, along with everyone else at Team Sky." Brailsford, speaking at the Tirreno-Adriatico race in Italy, told cyclingnews.com last week he had no intention of standing down. "No. My thoughts are about what's good for the team and what's right," he said. "It's important to make sure that you can look at yourself and say that there has been no wrongdoing. "I'm confident of that," added Brailsford.

'PROCESS FAILURES'

However, he had previously accepted mistakes were made but said earlier this

month: "There is a fundamental difference between process failures and wrongdoing. Our commitment to anti-doping has been a core principle of Team Sky since its inception. Our mission is to race and win clean, and we have done so for eight years." British anti-doping authorities are investigating Sky and British Cycling over a mysterious package delivered to now retired Wiggins, the 2012 Tour de France champion, at the 2011 Criterium du Dauphine. Questions have also been asked over three "therapeutic use exemptions" or TUEs, granted to five-times Olympic champion Wiggins in 2011, 2012 and 2013. It has been alleged that the package contained the banned corticosteroid triamcinolone. Wiggins has faced repeated questions since Russian hackers Fancy Bears revealed documents in September which showed he received TUEs for triamcinolone. TUEs are official waivers allowing athletes to use otherwise banned substances for the treatment of legitimate medical conditions. Wiggins, however, has always denied any wrongdoing and insisted he needed the treatment to deal with a pollen allergy. Under fire for its medical record-keeping, British Cycling was blasted Friday for its "shocking and inexcusable" treatment of sexism allegations. Shane Sutton, Brailsford's longtime lieutenant and widely regarded as one of world cycling's top coaches, resigned as British Cycling's technical director in April last year after rider Jess Varnish alleged he had told her to "go and have a baby" following her failure to qualify for the Rio Olympics and subsequent loss of public funding. Later an independent was launched to review British Cycling's performance programme—that has produced a host of worldbeating riders—led by British Rowing chair Annamarie Phelps. According to the Daily Mail, the review said British Cycling looked to change the conclusions of grievance officer Alex Russell's inquiry into Sutton in a bid to retain the highly-regarded Australian. "The actions of the British Cycling board in that regard are shocking and inexcusable," the paper quoted the review as saying. — AFP

VIVA REAL MADRID SOCCER ACADEMY'S TRYOUTS KICK-OFF

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced, under the partnership agreement inked with Real Madrid Soccer Club, an open invitation to all youths with soccer skills between the ages of 12 - 15 years old, to join in "VIVA Real Madrid Soccer Academy" tryouts in Kuwait, held on 16 March 2017 from 4 pm to 5 pm at Corner Soccer field behind the Kuwait Towers. Participants can register through VIVA's official website www.viva.com.kw, or upon arrival at the field. The tryouts will focus on different technical aspects, such as dribbling, short passing, turning and finishing. Kuwait Football Associated certified coaches will shortlist 32 players, from whom 16 players are selected based on their skills and fitness to go to Real Madrid Soccer Camp for world-class training in Spain during the summer. Commenting on this occasion, Mr. Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Senior Manager Corporate Communications at VIVA said: "VIVA endeavors to embrace the youths and meet their aspirations to reach their goals on global sport scale, thus we were eager to organize this academy including our CSR strategy on annual basis to grant the youths the opportunity to live such

unique experience." Real Madrid Football Club is one of the most successful football clubs in the world, and has received many accolades, including: The best club of the 20th Century FIFA Trophy, 10 Champions League, 3 Intercontinental cups, 32 Spanish La Liga titles, 2 European Super cups, 2 Super European cup, amongst others. To find out more about VIVA's partnerships, latest offers and promotions, visit one of the 73 VIVA branches, or the VIVA website at www.viva.com.kw



TENNIS

OVER 50 PLAYERS TO BE HONORED AT KUWAIT EIGHTH TENNIS TOURNAMENT

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Eighth Tennis Open Tournament will come to a conclusion tonight under the patronage of President of Arab Tennis Federations, as more than 50 players will be honored during the closing ceremony. Tournament Director Abdelreda Ghareeb called upon fans to attend the closing ceremony and enjoy the final match between Mohammad Siddiq and Bijorn Renquest against Abdelrahman Al-Awadhi and Abdallah Al-Mukaimi Al-Ghareeb thanked all sports clubs for their participation in the tournament which contributed to its success and made it the largest in Kuwait as far as participation is concerned. He said we would have accepted more participation but the courts limitation kept us from that. He said this tournament will be the nucleus of tournaments to be held at the New Tennis Center Courts at Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah International Tennis Complex, because such events are the basis for developing the game, as the player needs at least 50 matches locally, while it is only 10-20 currently per year. Al-Ghareeb thanked Al-Yarmouk Sports Club for hosting the tournament, adding that the club has 9 courts which is the largest number among club's tennis centers in Kuwait. Meanwhile player Sarah Behbehani won first place in the women's singles, defeating Dana Al-Fulaj 6-4, 6-2, and the U-11 boys singles Abdelwahab Al-Abdallah defeated Divianesh Tribati 7-5, 6-1. Meanwhile in the U-13 Satyanic Tripathy defeated Hassein Al-Shatti 4-6, 6-4 (3) while in the doubles Marlon Olakar and Jarcola Chowdry defeated Mohammad Tounaih and Zoran Dimitrivitch with the score of 6-1, 6-0 in the pioneers doubles event. In the men's singles Abdelrahman Al-Awadhi made it to the final match after defeating Nasser Abdelsalam with the score of 6-4, 6-3. Also Hassan Al-Mousa reached the final by defeating Dawood Hashim with a score of 6-4, 4-6 (6). In the men's U-17 singles Essa Qaba Zard defeated Daniel Nammour 6-4, 6-4, while Ahmad Khamees defeated Bader Antar 6-1, 6-3. In the women's U-18 Fareeda Al-Ayat defeated Celena Al-Samrani 6-0, 6-1, while Rena Al-Samrani defeated Ritaj Kareem 6-2, 6-3. In the men's doubles semi final Abdelrahman Al-Awadhi and Rashed Al-Mukaimi defeated Tamim Al-Hallaq and Ghulam Rasoul 7-6, 6-3, and Mohammad Saddiq and Bejorn Renquest defeated Hassan Al-Mousa and Enam Khan 6-1, 6-1.



RUSSIA STILL HAS WORK TO DO TO GET BAN LIFTED: WADA CHIEF

LAUSANNE: Russia still has "significant work" before its scandal tainted anti-doping operation regains global recognition, WADA chief Craig Reddie warned yesterday. The World Anti-Doping Agency chief said Russia's national agency had not proved it was shielded against "outside interference." Reddie spoke at a WADA symposium in Lausanne as the Court of Arbitration for Sport ordered a life ban against Russian athletics doctor, Sergei Portugalov, one of the alleged masterminds of Russia's "state-sponsored" doping system. The Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) has been suspended since the eruption of the scandal over the widespread use of banned substances in Russian sport in 2014. "There remains significant work to do (for RUSADA). It must demonstrate its processes are autonomous and independent from outside interference," Reddie told the symposium. "We continue the work to restore the compliance of the Russian agency." WADA has had two experts in Moscow "to ensure this independence," Reddie added. RUSADA was declared "non-compliant" with the international sports anti-doping code in November 2015 following an inquiry's findings of state-sponsored, systematic doping in Russia.

NOVEMBER TARGET

A report by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren for WADA said the Russian sports ministry organised the doping. The Russian state has repeatedly denied any involvement. Russian sports minister Pavel Kolobkov, who replaced Vitaly Mutko who was implicated in the McLaren report, said Monday that Russia hoped to be declared compliant by November.

WADA "has agreed to a road map to ensure that RUSADA is back in line with the World Anti-Doping Code," Kolobkov told the symposium. "Some of the criteria have already been achieved and we are working to ensure that all the criteria are met." The objective is to obtain a provisional conformity next May and RUSADA wants to regain its approval by November," added Kolobkov. "We have tripled RUSADA's budget and we've placed the anti-doping laboratory under the control of the University of Moscow and no longer under the ministry of sports." The McLaren report said that as sports minister Mutko must have known about the "state-sponsored" doping programmes used to help Russian athletes at the 2012 London Olympics, 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, and the 2013 world athletics championships held in Moscow. As a result Russian athletes were barred from competing at the 2016 Rio Olympics after Russia's suspension by the IAAF. Kolobkov, 47, a former Olympic fencing champion, took over from Mutko—also chief organiser of the 2018 World Cup and Russian deputy prime minister—in October 2016. The CAS, which handles Russian doping cases, yesterday ordered a "lifetime period of ineligibility" against Portugalov for supplying athletes with banned substances. CAS said that Portugalov, who had served as the head of the Russian athletics federation's medical commission, had been found to have possessed, trafficked and administered prohibited substances. WADA recommended in a 2015 report that Portugalov take no part in any state sports programme after it found he had been key to rampant doping among Russian track and field athletes. — AFP



LAUSANNE: World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) President Craig Reddie (R) sits next to WADA Director General Olivier Niggli (L) during the WADA Annual Symposium yesterday in Lausanne. — AFP

KUWAIT TIMES NBA POWER RANKINGS

By Ahmad Jabr

KUWAIT: In addition to its usual coverage of the NBA, Kuwait Times introduces a new feature this year: the NBA Power Rankings. It is a weekly list ranking each team based on its performance during the week. This week, the Wizards took a few steps up the rankings, taking advantage of other East teams' struggles. (For any comments or suggestions, e-mail the writer at: a.jabr@kuwaittimes.net)



1- San Antonio Spurs (54 - 14) Last week: 1 - The Spurs have won ten of their last eleven matches and remain half a game behind first place Golden State in the Western Conference's standings. It remains to be seen whether they can sustain success with Kawhi Leonard (concussion protocol) and LaMarcus Aldridge (minor heart arrhythmia) sidelined.



2- Houston Rockets (46 - 21) Last week: 2 - James Harden notched his 16th triple-double of the season in Sunday's win over the Cavs. The Rockets have the best offense in the league in games played after the All-Star break.



3- Golden State Warriors (52 - 14) Last week: 3 - Golden State fell to 2-4 since losing Kevin Durant to a knee injury. They entered yesterday on a three-game losing streak and have lost four of their last six matches for the first time in over three years (via ESPN Stats and Info).



4- Washington Wizards (41 - 24) Last week: 7 - The Wizards are 25 - 6 since January 6, the best record in the league in that stretch, which helped them jump to second place in the Eastern Conference's standings after starting the season on a 16 - 18 record.



5- Cleveland Cavaliers (43 - 22) Last week: 4 - LeBron James recorded his 51st career triple-double in Saturday's win over Orlando, which was the team's only victory in their last five games. Sunday's loss to the Rockets was the third match they played in four nights.



6- Utah Jazz (41 - 25) Last week: 5 - Joe Johnson started the season with the Jazz playing mostly at shooting guard and small forward; the two positions he played mostly throughout his 15-year career. Derrick Favors' injury has forced coach Quin Snyder to consider starting Johnson at power forward, and he has thrived in his new position ever since.



7- Boston Celtics (42 - 25) Last week: 6 - Isaiah Thomas keyed a 15-0 run that helped the Celtics beat the Warriors in Golden State last Wednesday. His heroic play drew 'MVP!' chants inside the Oracle Arena, home of the last three winners of the NBA Most Valuable Player Award: Stephen Curry (2016 and 2015) and Kevin Durant (2014).



8- Los Angeles Clippers (40 - 26) Last week: 10 - The Clippers are regaining momentum heading towards the post-season: they have won four of their last five games after a five-game stretch in which they went 1-5. DeAndre Jordan recorded his league-leading ninth 20-rebound game this season in Saturday's win over the 76ers.



9- Atlanta Hawks (37 - 29) Last week: 13 - Atlanta won the tie-breaker against Toronto with their victory over the Raptors Friday, which means that if the two teams finished with an identical record and faced each other in the playoffs, Atlanta would have home court advantage. They entered Monday fourth and fifth in the East's standings.



10- Miami Heat (32 - 35) Last week: 12 - Since the All-Star break, the Heat are sixth in the league in offensive rating, fourth in defensive rating, and first in net rating. They stand one game behind Milwaukee for the eighth place in the Eastern Conference's standings.



11- Milwaukee Bucks (32 - 33) Last week: 14 - Many people thought Milwaukee's playoffs hopes were over after Jabari Parker fell to injury (and especially after Michael Beasley was injured too). But the Bucks are rolling; they have won their last five games including key victories over the Clippers, Raptors and Pacers.



12- Toronto Raptors (38 - 28) Last week: 8 - Lack of ball movement is costing the Raptors important games, as their offense has to rely heavily on DeMar DeRozan's heroics in the absence of Kyle Lowry. After eyeing the second place in the East's standings for much of the season, they find themselves currently at risk of losing home court advantage in the playoffs.



13- Oklahoma City Thunder (37 - 29) Last week: 9 - Russell Westbrook's triple-double in Saturday's victory over the Jazz was his 32nd of the season, passing Wilt Chamberlain for second-most in a season. His triple-doubles are also helping his team win: the Thunder are 26-6 when he gets one and 11-23 when he doesn't.



14- Dallas Mavericks (28 - 37) Last week: 15 - Devin Booker's heartbreaking buzzer-beater on Saturday prevented a perfect week for the Mavs, but there is still a lot to be happy about in Dallas. The team is 6-3 since the All-Star break and 17-10 since Seth Curry became a regular starter.



15- Denver Nuggets (31 - 35) Last week: 19 - The Nuggets have won five of their last seven games and continue to hold on the eighth spot in the West's standings by a narrow margin over the Blazers and Mavericks. Nikola Jukic returned from an illness to help Denver beat Boston on Friday, and again win on Saturday against Sacramento.



16- Portland Trail Blazers (29 - 36) Last week: 20 - 'Nurkic Fever' has hit Rip City after Jusuf Nurkic posted career highs with 28 points and 20 rebounds in Portland's win over the 76ers on Thursday. His passing skills are also helping facilitate the offense; the 'Bosnian Beast' is averaging more than four assists per game since the Blazers traded for him.



17- Detroit Pistons (33 - 33) Last week: 17 - The Pistons overcame LeBron James' triple-double of 29 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists to beat the Cavs on Thursday; one of four wins they recorded in their last five games. They entered Monday in seventh place in the East's standings.



18- Indiana Pacers (34 - 32) Last week: 18 - In order to keep their playoffs' hopes strong, the Pacers know that they need more wins such as those they recorded over the Heat and Pistons last week, and avoid losses similar to those suffered at the hands of the Bucks and Hornets last week as well.



19- Memphis Grizzlies (36 - 30) Last week: 11 - The Grizzlies are last in the league in defensive rating after the All-Star break, which explains their current five-game losing streak and decline in the standings. They should feel concerned as other Western Conference playoffs' contenders make their late regular season pushes.



20- Minnesota Timberwolves (27 - 38) Last week: 21 - The Wolves' three wins in their last five games came against quality playoff teams: the Jazz, Clippers and Warriors. Their defense has improved significantly since the All-Star break, ranking second in the league during that stretch.



21- Chicago Bulls (31 - 35) Last week: 16 - It has been a very frustrating week for the Bulls, who are on a current five-game losing streak. They only made three shots out of 22 attempts in the first quarter in Sunday's loss to the Celtics, breaking a team record that stood since April 10, 1999.



22- Charlotte Hornets (29 - 37) Last week: 23 - The Hornets enter yesterday ranked eleventh in the East's standings, and find themselves in a tough position to make the playoffs as they compete with surging teams including the Pacers, Pistons, Bucks and Heat.



23- New Orleans Pelicans (26 - 40) Last week: 22 - Many have put the Pelicans in the playoffs picture instantly after the trade that brought DeMarcus Cousins to New Orleans, but it seems that the experiment will likely have to wait for next year before it bears fruit. One area the team needs to improve in the offseason is the offense, which ranks dead last in the league since the All-Star break.



24- Phoenix Suns (22 - 45) Last week: 24 - The Suns have four game-winning buzzer-beating shots this season. No other team has more than two. Devin Booker is the only player with two such games this season (via ESPN Stats and Information).



25- Philadelphia 76ers (24 - 42) Last week: 25 - The 'Rookie of the Year' debate is heating up: Dario Saric scored a career-high 29 points in Sunday's win over the Lakers, breaking his previous high of 28 points recorded in Thursday's loss to the Blazers. He joins teammate Joel Embiid as the only rookies to score at least 25 points in a game more than once this season (via Elias Sports Bureau).



26- New York Knicks (26 - 41) Last week: 26 - Coach Jeff Hornacek continues to receive pressure from above to emphasize on running the triangle offense, which became evident with recent comments of Kristaps Porzingis saying that there is confusion with the first-year coach's offensive sets.



27- Orlando Magic (24 - 43) Last week: 27 - The shakeup to the Magic's lineup since the Serge Ibaka trade seems to have benefited Elfrid Payton a lot. He recorded his second-straight triple-double in Wednesday's victory over the Bulls, which was also the fifth of his career.



28- Brooklyn Nets (12 - 35) Last week: 29 - A recent ESPN article quotes Nets' majority owner Mikhail Prokhorov as saying that "there is no shortcut to a championship," a lesson he learned after initially trying to run his team "in the same way I've approached my business... throw everything you've got at a challenge, and you're bound to be the victor."



29- Los Angeles Lakers (20 - 46) Last week: 30 - The Lakers have introduced Rob Pelinka, a former agent whose most famous client is arguably Kobe Bryant, as their new General Manager, officially ushering a new era for the struggling franchise spearheaded by Lakers' great Magic Johnson.



30- Sacramento Kings (25 - 41) Last week: 28 - The Kings have lost their last eight games, and the future does not look good. Even if they get a top 10 draft pick in the 2017 NBA Draft, the 76ers have the right to swap picks, which they are likely to do if they finish with a better record.



HOUSTON: Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) goes up for a shot as Cleveland Cavaliers' Richard Jefferson (24) and Tristan Thompson, left, defend during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Sunday, in Houston.—AP

BASKETBALL

HARDEN'S TRIPLE-DOUBLE HELPS ROCKETS TOP CAVS

HOUSTON: James Harden recorded his 16th triple-double on the season, and the Houston Rockets grabbed a season-high 20 offensive rebounds to claim a tense back-and-forth affair with the Cleveland Cavaliers 117-112 on Sunday night. Harden scored a game-high 38 points and added 10 rebounds and 11 assists as Houston split the season series with Cleveland. His 11-point third quarter helped the Rockets erase a nine-point halftime deficit and his steady hand in the final period enabled Houston to pull away down the stretch. Six Rockets scored in double figures, including Eric Gordon (13 points) and Nene (12) off the bench. LeBron James led the Cavaliers with 30 points and added seven rebounds and five assists. Kyrie Irving chipped in 28 points and eight assists for Cleveland, which lost for the fourth time in five games.

CELTICS 100, BULLS 80

After scoring the first 13 points of the game, Boston cruised past Chicago, handing the Bulls their season-worst fifth straight loss. Isaiah Thomas finished with 22 points, and Avery Bradley scored 17 points and grabbed six rebounds in the win. The Bulls scored 26 points in the first half and didn't make any noise until late in a 31-point third quarter. Robin Lopez and Denzel Valentine led Chicago with 13 points

apiece. Jimmy Butler and Dwyane Wade, who came in averaging a combined 42.6 points per game, were a combined 6-of-22 from the floor and had five and eight points, respectively.

PACERS 102, HEAT 98

Paul George scored 28 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to power Indiana past Miami. Myles Turner chipped in 15 points and eight rebounds for the Pacers. The Heat played without leading scorer Goran Dragic, who was sidelined due to an orbital contusion in his right eye. Hassan Whiteside led Miami with 26 points and 21 rebounds. Dion Waiters added 20 points and Wayne Ellington 19 for the Heat.

NETS 120, KNICKS 112

Brook Lopez hit his first six 3-point attempts and scored 25 points as Brooklyn stopped a franchise-record, 16-game home losing streak with a victory over New York. Lopez, who missed his first game of the season due to injury Friday, returned from a sprained right ankle. He became the 12th player in NBA history to hit at least 100 3-pointers and block 100 shots. Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with 27 points and became the seventh player in team history to get at least 10,000 points. Kristaps Porzingis added 19 before fouling out as New York lost for the

sixth time in nine games.

TRAIL BLAZERS 110, SUNS 101

Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum combined for 65 points, and Portland avoided blowing a big lead for the second straight night by beating Phoenix. Lillard scored 39 points and McCollum had 10 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, including seven during a late 13-5 run to put the game away. The Blazers blew a 21-point lead at home to the Washington Wizards in a 125-124 loss on Saturday and gave back an 18-point lead Sunday before regrouping for the win. Devin Booker had 28 points and Eric Bledsoe added 19 for the Suns, who led twice in the fourth quarter but couldn't stop Portland's backcourt duo.

76ERS 118, LAKERS 116

Dario Saric scored a career-high 29 points, and Philadelphia ended a four-game losing streak by beating Los Angeles. Saric also had seven rebounds and five assists. Jahlii Okafor contributed 23 points and Timothe Luwawu-Cabarot added 18 points for the 76ers, who moved in front for good on T.J. McConnell's bucket on a drive with 50 seconds left. Jordan Clarkson matched his career best with 30 points to pace the Lakers, who lost for the ninth time in 10 contests. Julius Randle collected 21 points and 12 rebounds. — Reuters

NBA results/standings

Philadelphia 118, LA Lakers 116; Houston 117, Cleveland 112; Portland 110, Phoenix 101; Brooklyn 120, NY Knicks 112; Indiana 102, Miami 98; Boston 100, Chicago 80.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference					
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division					
W	L	PCT	GB						
Boston	42	25	.627	-	Utah	41	25	.621	-
Toronto	38	28	.576	3.5	Oklahoma City	37	29	.561	4
NY Knicks	26	41	.388	16	Denver	31	35	.470	10
Philadelphia	24	42	.364	17.5	Portland	29	36	.446	11.5
Brooklyn	12	53	.185	29	Minnesota	27	38	.415	13.5
Central Division				Pacific Division					
Cleveland	43	22	.662	-	Golden State	52	14	.788	-
Indiana	34	32	.515	9.5	LA Clippers	40	26	.606	12
Detroit	33	33	.500	10.5	Sacramento	25	41	.379	27
Milwaukee	32	33	.492	11	Phoenix	22	45	.328	30.5
Chicago	31	35	.470	12.5	LA Lakers	20	46	.303	32
Southeast Division				Southwest Division					
Washington	41	24	.631	-	San Antonio	51	14	.785	-
Atlanta	37	29	.561	4.5	Houston	46	21	.687	6
Miami	32	35	.478	10	Memphis	36	30	.545	15.5
Charlotte	29	37	.439	12.5	Dallas	28	37	.431	23
Orlando	24	43	.358	18	New Orleans	26	40	.394	25.5

NBA REGULAR SEASON ENTERS FINAL MONTH

NEW YORK: The marathon that is the NBA regular season is headed toward its final sprint. With less than a month remaining until the final night of the season on April 12, the races for MVP and Rookie of the Year are wide open, and there is seemingly no clear-cut favorite to win the championship.

Much was already settled by this time last season. Stephen Curry had long since wrapped up what became the first unanimous MVP award in NBA history, and Karl-Anthony Towns had left Kristaps Porzingis behind in the Rookie of the Year chase.

There's far more intrigue now in a season that began with what seemed a forgone conclusion, that Golden State and Cleveland would meet in the NBA Finals for the third straight year. And this time, the MVP race could be headed toward a narrow finish among the likes of James Harden, Russell Westbrook, Kawhi Leonard and LeBron James. Joel Embiid's season-ending injury has put the rookie race up for grabs, with Philadelphia teammate Dario Saric and Milwaukee's Malcolm Brogdon perhaps emerging as the best of the leftover candidates - unless voters believe Embiid did enough to win in just 31 games. Golden State was head-

ed toward an eventual NBA record for wins last season; now the Warriors aren't winning at all. Their three-game skid and Curry's slump have left San Antonio just a half-game back for the NBA's best record.

INJURY ISSUES

Kevin Durant's loss has left Golden State vulnerable and Kyle Lowry's absence has Toronto reeling. Both could return near the end of the regular season, which could give their teams enough time to mount serious playoff runs.

RACES FOR 8TH

Milwaukee has surged into playoff position in the Eastern Conference with six straight wins, with Miami and Chicago both within 11/2 games of the Bucks' lead for the eighth and last post-season spot. Denver occupies No. 8 in the West, with Portland, Dallas and Minnesota close behind.

HOME-COURT HOPES

Toronto is clinging to a one-game lead over Atlanta for the No. 4 seed in the East and home-court advantage in the first round. Out West, Utah's lead over the fifth-place Los Angeles Clippers also is one game. The only

thing that seems settled is the race for the worst record. Brooklyn is eight games worse than anyone else, which will almost certainly give the Boston Celtics the best shot at the No. 1 overall pick, because they have the right to swap spots with Brooklyn.

WOBBLY WARRIORS

Golden State is on its first three-game losing streak in the regular season since Nov. 20-23, 2013, an NBA-record 297 consecutive games without three straight regular-season losses. The Warriors have a good chance to snap that Tuesday at home against Philadelphia.

WONDERFUL WIZARDS

Washington has won five in a row, the last two in overtime, and can wrap up a 5-0 road trip and a winning record for the season with a victory Monday in Minnesota.

BIG MONDAY MATCHUP

The Clippers visit the Jazz on Monday and certainly don't want to have to do it again in their playoff opener. A victory would tie them with Utah for the important No. 4 spot in the West.—AP

ICE HOCKEY

TRADING NATIONS FOR AN OLYMPIC TICKET

GOYANG: Fidgeting nervously, Canadian ice hockey defenceman Alex Plante cleared his throat and addressed a roomful of Olympic officials in a halting new language: "I want to represent South Korea." South Korea is among the world's most racially homogenous non-island societies but its ice hockey team is becoming unusually diverse as Seoul seeks to avoid humiliation at the rink when it hosts next year's Winter Olympics. Following a change in the law,

a steady stream of imports have been given new passports and places in the squad, making it one-third white, even though the population is around 96 percent ethnically Korean.

Plante, a journeyman in his eighth year of professional hockey, played in the US, Norway, Austria and Germany before coming to South Korea nearly two years ago. Aged 29, his carefully memorised five-line address to the Korean Olympic Committee was a key

step in probably his last chance to appear on the sport's biggest international stage. "It was an opportunity that we thought could happen," he told AFP. "We decided to come here so we invest everything that we can." If his application is approved he will become the seventh North American on the team.

'DIFFERENT JERSEY'

South Korea sit 23rd in the world ice hockey rankings and have never quali-

fied for the Winter Olympics' blue riband event. But as the host nation of Pyeongchang 2018 they have an automatic berth and are scrambling to build a competitive roster to avoid embarrassment. Dual citizenship is generally prohibited in South Korea, but Seoul revised its immigration law to allow "qualified" foreign nationals to hold multiple citizenships. At a practice in Goyang on the outskirts of the capital, the new South Koreans were easily spotted amid a pack

of players in blue and white uniforms emblazoned "KOREA".

"It's a different jersey than you grew up looking at and cheering for," said Canadian-born defenceman Eric Regan.

Never drafted, Regan bounced around teams, leagues, and countries until he came to South Korea three years ago to play for one of its three professional clubs, and was eventually offered a new passport and a spot on the national team.—AFP

SOCCER

RANGERS DETERMINED TO SHATTER CELTIC TREBLE BID

GLASGOW: Rangers' interim manager Graeme Murty believes Sunday's battling 1-1 draw with Celtic in the Scottish Premiership will help shatter their city rivals' hopes of sweeping a domestic treble.

The Glasgow giants will clash for the fifth time this season when they meet in next month's Scottish Cup semi-final at Hampden and Murty says Sunday's stalemate will give the Gers a massive boost.

"It should give them loads of confidence because I thought they stood up to the challenge of a very good team who move the ball well and they didn't get rattled and they didn't lose their discipline," said Murty, who will return to head up Rangers development squad now that Pedro Caixinha has been installed as the new Ibrox boss.

"So I think any other game that comes for this group they know that whatever happens if they stick together and keep believing they can go and get positive outcomes.

"I think we made it a proper game. The players executed some things really well and more than that they put a shift in and made it hard for Celtic.

"And that's something that's been levelled at them recently—that they're not hard to play against, that they're weak and timid but I didn't see that today.

"I'm incredibly proud of them. They've looked at those things that have been said about them and put them right a little bit

today." Clint Hill's late equaliser denied Celtic their fourth straight Old Firm victory this season on Sunday.

Stuart Armstrong's first-half strike had Celtic on course for their 23rd consecutive victory in the league before veteran defender Hill bundled home an 88th minute leveller.

It is only the second time the runaway league leaders have dropped points this season following a 2-2 draw with Inverness Caledonian Thistle last September.

The result denied Brendan Rodgers the chance to beat Celtic's club record run of 25 consecutive league victories but his side remain unbeaten in 35 domestic matches and still hold a 25-point advantage over Aberdeen, who are eight clear of Rangers in the race for second place.

Rodgers was frustrated at being denied a late penalty when Hill appeared to pull Leigh Griffiths back in the box.

"It's always disappointing if you lose it late on in a manner like that but we obviously should have had a penalty right at the death. It was a clear cut penalty," Rodgers said.

"It was very frustrating, especially when Clint Hill tells me that he got away with it. I spoke to him on the pitch afterwards.

"Clint's a good guy, an honest fellow and I know when he said it he knows he got away with one. But probably everyone seen it apart from the referee." — AFP



EDMONTON: Leon Draisaitl #29 and goalie Cam Talbot #33 of the Edmonton Oilers protect the net from Alex Galchenyuk #27 of the Montreal Canadiens on Sunday at Rogers Place in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. — AFP

NHL

KANE, PANARIN GET BLACKHAWKS GOING WITH WIN OVER MINNESOTA

CHICAGO: Patrick Kane and Artemi Panarin scored on Chicago's first two shots and Corey Crawford made 42 saves as the Blackhawks beat Minnesota 4-2 on Sunday to pull within a point of the Central Division-leading Wild. Trevor van Riemsdyk and Marian Hossa also scored for the Blackhawks, who ended a two game slide and won for the 13th time in their last 16. Kane's goal was his team-leading 30th and 10th in eight games. Eric Staal scored his 22nd goal and Mikael Granlund got his 23rd for Minnesota, which has dropped three of four. Minnesota outshot Chicago 44-22 for a season high allowed by the Blackhawks. Minnesota goaltender Devan Dubnyk, looking for his career-high 37th win, was relieved by Darcy Kuemper less than five minutes into the game after allowing those early goals.

DUCKS 5, CAPITALS 2

Corey Perry had two goals and an assist, Ryan Getzlaf added a goal and two assists, and Anaheim sent NHL-leading Washington to its fourth consecutive loss. Ryan Kesler also had a goal and two assists for the Ducks, who won three of four to move ahead of the Calgary Flames for second place in the Pacific Division. Rickard Rakell also scored his 29th goal, and Jonathan Bernier made 25 saves. John Carlson and Marcus Johansson scored for the Capitals, who are on the longest skid of their outstanding season. Alex Ovechkin failed to score a goal in his 10th straight game. That's the longest drought of his 12-season, 907-game NHL career.

RANGERS 4, RED WINGS 1

Ryan McDonagh scored twice and Kevin Hayes added a goal and an assist to help New

NHL results/standings													
San Jose 5, Dallas 1; Anaheim 5, Washington 2; NY Rangers 4, Detroit 1; Montreal 4, Edmonton 1; Chicago 4, Minnesota 2.													
Western Conference					Ottawa 39 22 6 182 173 84								
Central Division					Boston 36 26 6 190 176 78								
Minnesota	43	18	6	223	163	92	Toronto	31	22	14	204	199	76
Chicago	43	20	5	204	171	91	Tampa Bay	32	26	9	186	184	73
Nashville	33	24	11	200	192	77	Florida	29	27	11	168	193	69
St. Louis	35	27	5	186	189	75	Buffalo	28	29	12	177	203	68
Winnipeg	30	33	6	204	219	66	Detroit	26	30	11	166	202	63
Dallas	27	31	10	189	221	64	Metropolitan Division						
Colorado	19	45	3	131	221	41	Washington	44	17	7	218	152	95
Pacific Division					Pittsburgh 43 16 8 236 186 94								
San Jose	41	20	7	190	158	89	Columbus	43	18	6	214	157	92
Anaheim	36	23	10	181	174	82	NY Rangers	44	23	2	223	180	90
Calgary	38	26	4	187	182	80	NY Islanders	32	24	11	199	201	75
Edmonton	35	24	9	191	181	79	Philadelphia	31	28	8	173	199	70
Los Angeles	33	28	6	168	168	72	Carolina	27	27	11	162	189	65
Vancouver	28	31	9	156	195	65	New Jersey	25	31	12	153	197	62
Arizona	24	35	8	164	217	56	Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)						
Eastern Conference					Montreal 39 22 8 189 172 86								
Atlantic Division													

York beat Detroit. Derek Stepan also scored for the Rangers. They won their NHL-leading 25th road game of the season and improved to 19-5-1 this season in games following a loss. Antti Raanta made 23 saves, allowing only Frans Nielsen's goal.

CANADIENS 4, OILERS 1

Paul Byron scored twice and added an assist in Montreal's victory over Edmonton. Max Pacioretty also scored twice, and Carey Price made 24 saves. The Canadiens have won seven of their last eight. Milan Lucic scored for the

Oilers. They have dropped three in a row.

SHARKS 5, STARS 1

Joe Pavelski scored twice, backup goalie Aaron Dell made 29 saves to win his fourth straight start, and San Jose beat Dallas. Patrick Marleau, Joel Ward and Chris Tierney also scored to give the first-place Sharks their sixth win in eight games. San Jose remained seven points ahead of Anaheim in the Pacific Division with a game in hand. Remi Elie scored his first career goal for the Stars, who got off to a rough start to a four-game road trip. — AP

BASEBALL

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, US ADVANCE IN CLASSIC

MIAMI: Undefeated Dominican Republic erupted for seven runs in the 11th inning as the defending champions beat Colombia 10-3 in the World Baseball Classic in Miami on Sunday. Wellington Castillo belted a bases-loaded, two-run single to break a 3-3 tie and Jean Segura's double added three more runs as Dominicans completed first round play 3-0.

They topped Pool C, while the United States also advanced to the final eight, thanks to an 8-0 shutout of Canada. Colombia (1-2) and Canada (0-3) were eliminated.

Also on Sunday, undefeated Puerto Rico (3-0) beat Italy 9-3 to top Pool D, while Mexico edged Venezuela 11-9 in Jalisco, Mexico. The result means Mexico (1-2) and Italy (1-2) will have a play-in game on Monday to join Puerto Rico in the final eight. Venezuela (1-2) are done and dusted. Castillo, the Dominican Republic catcher, also made a key defensive stop with a tag at the plate to complete a ninth-inning double play that forced extra innings against Colombia. A novel tournament rule designed to cut down on long extra inning games helped set the stage for the outcome. Runners were placed on first and second base to start the 11th under the rule and after a sacrifice bunt by Mel Rojas Jr, Colombia intentionally walked Gregory Polanco to load the bases.

Castillo then singled to left to drive in Jose Bautista and Carlos Santana. Colombia could have won the game in the ninth but

Oscar Mercado was called out at the plate on a tag by Castillo.

Colombia protested the call to no avail as Reynaldo Rodriguez and outfielder Tito Polo were ejected. Meanwhile, US starting pitcher Danny Duffy notched seven strikeouts in four innings, giving up two hits, to get the win as the Americans blanked Canada. Third baseman Nolan Arenado hit a three-run home run as the US raced to a 7-0 lead after two innings. "I've been swinging the bat well. It was nice to get one out of there," Arenado told MLB Network.

"We are really enjoying this time together and we want to keep going."

Much has been made of the decision of many top US pitchers to skip the tournament, but Arenado praised the pitchers who have turned up, including Duffy, Chris Archer and Marcus Stroman.

"They have been unbelievable," he said. "They are setting the tone. We are really enjoying this time together and we want to keep going."

Japan and surprising Israel also are undefeated in the tournament. Japan moved to 4-0 with an 8-6 second-round victory over the Netherlands in 11 innings in Tokyo. Sho Nakata delivered the winner, a two-run single to left field. Israel won their fourth straight with an unexpected 4-1 victory over Cuba, also in Tokyo. The 38-year-old Jason Marquis showed he was one still to be reckoned with as the right-hander allowed just one run and four hits in 5 2/3 innings for Israel.—Reuters



MIAMI: United States' Buster Posey (28) rounds third base after hitting a solo home run as third base coach Willie Randolph prepares to congratulate Posey in the seventh inning in a first-round game of the World Baseball Classic against Canada, Sunday, in Miami. The United States won 8-0. — AP

CRICKET

BANGLADESH HOPE TO BREAK LOSING STREAK IN 100TH TEST

COLOMBO: Bangladesh will be looking to overcome their recent dismal form as the perennial minnows try to make their 100th Test appearance an occasion to celebrate against Sri Lanka in Colombo.

Test cricket's newest entrants have showed occasional promise since they were drafted into the elite cricket competition in 2000 but have mostly embarrassed their loyal fans with a series of below-par performances in the game's most enduring format. They go into tomorrow's Test at the P Saravanamuttu Stadium trailing the two-match series 0-1 after last week's crushing 259-run loss at Galle—their 76th defeat and the fourth in a row in 99 Test matches.

No other Test-playing country has lost so many times in their first 100 Test matches and the dubious honour highlights Bangladesh's struggle in the five-day format over the past 17 years. So far they have won only eight Test matches, one more than New Zealand, who had only seven wins in their first 100 Tests, though the Kiwis managed to eke out 47 draws against Bangladesh's 15.

Five of Bangladesh's eight wins came at home including four against fellow strugglers Zimbabwe. And they won just three of their 46

games abroad—two against an under-strength West Indies and one against Zimbabwe.

The Tigers, as they are affectionately called by their fans, lost 21 consecutive Test matches between 2001 and 2004, the worst ever losing run by a team which no other side has even come close to emulating.

They have improved in recent matches, drawing their home series against England before dragging their last four Tests into the fifth day, which many saw as a mark of success.

"We are doing the right thing, that's why we have been competitive in all these games," coach Chandika Hathurusinghe told reporters in Colombo on Sunday.

'KEEP THINGS SIMPLE'

"Why have you raised your expectations? Because we are doing well, am I right? That's what we all expect, and we are asking too much of a team that is still finding their team in Test cricket. It is a fact," he said. While Sri Lanka Cricket plans to help Bangladesh celebrate their 100th Test match, including hosting a dinner in their honour, the visitors want to focus on the game. "We're trying to keep things simple because apart from the 100th Test, this is also an

important game for us," Bangladesh Cricket Board spokesman Jalal Yunus told AFP in Dhaka.

Former captain Habibul Bashar, who played Bangladesh's inaugural Test against India in 2000, said the team must win more games to prove their detractors, including former England player Geoffrey Boycott, wrong.

"The best way to celebrate the (100th Test) occasion will be winning this game. Bangladesh need this win more than anything else," Bashar said. "We are now a strong side in limited over matches. But in Test cricket we must translate our potential into match-winning feats."

Sri Lanka: Ranganatha Herath (Capt), Dimuth Karunaratne, Niroshan Dickwella, Upul Tharanga, Dhananjaya de Silva, Kusal Mendis, Asela Gunaratne, Dinesh Chandimal, Suranga Lakmal, Lahiru Kumara, Nuwan Pradeep, Vikum Sanjaya Bandara, Dilruwan Perera, Lakshan Sandakan, Malinda Pushpakumara.

Bangladesh: Mushfiqur Rahim (Capt), Tamim Iqbal, Liton Das, Imrul Kayes Soumya Sarkar, Mominul Haque, Shakib Al Hasan, Sabbir Rahman, Mustafizur Rahman, Tajjul Islam, Mehedi Hasan, Taskin Ahmed, Mosaddek Hossain, Kamrul Islam Rabbi, Subashis Roy, Rubel Hossain.—AFP

PREVIEW

CITY DREAM BIG AS LEICESTER WRESTLE SEVILLA

PARIS: Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne is targeting another deep Champions League run, although Pep Guardiola's side must first negotiate a tricky last 16 second leg against Monaco this week. City recovered from twice falling behind to outgun the French league leaders 5-3 in the opening leg in Manchester, but Monaco's formidable attacking threat could still shatter the Premier League club's aspirations.

Under Manuel Pellegrini last season City reached the semi-finals for the first time, losing to eventual champions Real Madrid 1-0 on aggregate, and De Bruyne is confident they can go further with Guardiola.

"I think we can reach the final, but of course the other teams will think the same and that doesn't make it easier,"

the Belgium international told UEFA.com. "It will be very tough against Monaco, they're doing extremely well at the moment, but we are very positive and if we beat them we are through to the quarter-finals."

"After that, the final isn't that far away," he added. Guardiola has won all seven previous last-16 ties with Barcelona and Bayern Munich, but City's recent away form is mediocre at best with just one victory in their last six games in Europe.

"We'd like to go through, but we cannot forget the team we are going to play. Their attack is the best, by far," Guardiola said after City defeated Middlesbrough 2-0 on Saturday to reach the FA Cup semi-finals. "It will be tough but we'll try to play our game and try to be one of

the best eight teams in Europe."

Radamel Falcao, who scored twice at the Etihad Stadium, is set to return to the starting line-up on Wednesday after coming off the bench in Saturday's 2-1 win over Bordeaux that kept Monaco three points clear at the top.

Eighteen-year-old starlet Kylian Mbappe has scored nine goals in his last eight appearances, including the opener against Bordeaux, and will have a key role to play if Monaco are to continue their strong record in two-legged ties against English teams, having won four out of five times.

SHAKESPEARE APPOINTED
Jamie Vardy's goal in Spain ensured Leicester City remain firmly in the hunt for a quarter-final berth despite a 2-1

first-leg defeat at Sevilla. The Foxes used a 10-day gap in the fixture list to hold a training camp in Dubai ahead of Tuesday's return leg at the King Power Stadium. Craig Shakespeare has been named as the club's manager until the end of the season, and Austrian left-back Christian Fuchs said the trip to the Middle East was a welcome breather.

"It was an intense time over the last couple of weeks. It's good to come down and work a little on team spirit. When you win two games, that's the best medicine for team spirit," Fuchs told Leicester's in-house TV channel, with the Premier League champions coming off back-to-back 3-1 wins over Liverpool and Hull. Fernando Torres is expected to return for Atletico Madrid for their second leg at home to Bayer Leverkusen

after a sickening clash of heads in a 1-1 draw with Deportivo La Coruna 10 days ago. Diego Simeone's side, runners-up twice in the past three seasons, hold a 4-2 advantage going into Wednesday's clash in Spain.

Captain Gabi and defender Filipe Luis are suspended for Atletico, while Tayfun Korkut is the new man in charge for Leverkusen after replacing Roger Schmidt last week.

Porto face a monumental challenge to overturn a 2-0 deficit away to 2015 finalists Juventus. The Italian giants are unbeaten at home since August 2015 and extended their incredible 17-month winning league run in Serie A as Paulo Dybala scored a controversial last-gasp penalty in a 2-1 victory over AC Milan last Friday. — AFP

MUGURUZA RALLIES TO BEAT US TEEN, PLISKOVA ADVANCES

INDIAN WELLS: French Open champion Garbine Muguruza survived a fierce challenge from US teenager Kayla Day Sunday to reach the fourth round of the WTA Indian Wells hard court tournament.

The seventh-seeded Spaniard had to dig in to subdue the hard-hitting Californian 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 and set up a meeting with 10th seeded Ukrainian Elina Svitolina.

Day, last year's US Open junior champion, had reached the third round with an upset of Australian Open semi-finalist Mirjana Lucic-Baroni. She needed little more than half an hour to seize a set from Muguruza, whose progress so far in 2017 has been hindered by injuries. Muguruza saved break points in the fifth and 11th games of the second set, finally converting her own first break chance to force the third. By then Day was wilting in the baking heat of Stadium Court. Muguruza broke her in the second game of the final set and again in the final game as the left-handed youngster surrendered with a double-fault.

"I think she played very good," Muguruza said. "She served very well. I think the first set I didn't play good. My level was not there. My shots were not there, and right away she took advantage and she won. I didn't let that frustrate me. I reset my mind. I think at the time I was playing a little bit better and better, even though that first set was a little bit bad. But I think she played good. I'm surprised with how she handled center court," added Muguruza, who was astonished-and touched-to learn that Day had named one of her dogs Garbine after seeing the Spaniard play at the Australian Open several years ago. If that youthful admiration made it harder for Day on the

court, Muguruza said, it was a problem many on the WTA face.

"I feel the same," she said. "When I play with all those big names and they are older than me. That's being very lucky to play with your idols."

STREAKING SVITOLINA
Muguruza will face a dangerous challenge from Svitolina, a two-time winner on the WTA tour this year who took her winning streak to 15 matches with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Australian Daria Gavrilova.

"I'm trying not to think about whether this is my best tennis," Svitolina said. "I've achieved a lot of what I wanted, so I'm happy that I'm keeping it going."

In other women's matches Sunday, third-seeded Karolina Pliskova, inserted at the top of the draw after Serena Williams's late injury withdrawal, edged Romanian Irina Camelia Begu 6-4, 7-6 (7/2).

Pliskova next faces Switzerland's Timea Bacsinszky, who beat Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (10/8) that produced multiple match points for both players. Bacsinszky had her first chance to close it out with two match points in the second set. Bertens had three match points as she served for the contest in the ninth game of the third-and she had a fourth match point in the tiebreaker before Bacsinszky finally sealed it on her sixth match point.

France's Caroline Garcia rallied from a set down to defeat 11th-seeded Briton Johanna Konta 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/1) and book a meeting with eighth-seeded Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Kuznetsova downed Italian Roberta Vinci 6-2, 2-6, 6-1. — AFP



CALIFORNIA: Roger Federer, of Switzerland, returns a shot to Stephane Robert, of France, at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Sunday, in Indian Wells, Calif. Federer won 6-2, 6-1. — AP

TENNIS

DJOKOVIC, FEDERER, NADAL ADVANCE AT INDIAN WELLS

INDIAN WELLS: Novak Djokovic launched his bid for a sixth ATP Indian Wells Masters crown with a two-set triumph over Kyle Edmund as the stars shone Sunday in the California desert. The 46th-ranked Edmund served for the second set at 5-3, but world number two Djokovic broke him en route to a 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) triumph. His reward is a tough third-round clash with former US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, a 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 winner over fellow Argentine Federico del Bonis.

"I think I played very well in the first set," Djokovic said. "Second set was obviously up and down. But credit to Kyle for playing some really aggressive tennis."

"He made a lot of winners in the beginning and midway through the second. There was not much wrong I did. I did miss some forehands. But other than that, it was a very solid match. Good, quality tennis, a good test." Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal also reached the third round, Federer flying through with a 6-2, 6-1 victory over France's Stephane Robert in just 51 minutes. Nadal opened his account with a steady 6-3, 6-2 victory over Argentina's Guido Pella. The three stars are packed together in a remarkable bottom quarter of the draw.

But Djokovic said he can't afford to think about a possible quarter-final clash with either of his longtime rivals with del Potro coming up. While Djokovic has won 12 of their 16 career meetings, the Argentine handed him a crushing two-tiebreak defeat in the first round of the Rio Olympics—a defeat Djokovic avenged in Acapulco this month. "Big guy, big serve, big forehand," Djokovic said of del Potro. "Definitely not the draw that you like early in the tournament and that you wish for, but it is what it is," added Djokovic, who is trying to get back to the winner's circle after a shock second-round exit at the Australian Open and a quarter-final loss to Nick Kyrgios in Acapulco.

Ninth-seeded Federer, resurgent after a 2016 season marred by injury, downed Nadal in an epic Australian Open final to secure his 18th Grand Slam title.

He hit a speed bump in Dubai this month, failing to convert three match points in a third-round loss to Evgeny Donskoy—but he was firing on all cylinders against the 81st-ranked Robert.

"Very happy," said Federer, who missed Indian Wells last year with a knee injury that required surgery. "Knee is a thing of the past, which is great. I don't even have to think or talk about it."

court title drought stretching back to 2014.

The bottom half of the draw also features fourth-seeded Kei Nishikori of Japan, who eased past Britain's Daniel Evans 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday. But sixth-seeded Marin Cilic, who beat Nishikori in the 2014 US Open final, was an early casualty, beaten 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 by 19-year-old American Taylor Fritz. The jam-packed half of the draw is a contrast to the wide-open top half, which lost a lot of its lustre on Saturday when world number one Andy Murray was stunned by 129th-ranked Canadian qualifier Vasek Pospisil.

"That's sport, no?" Nadal said. "Yesterday probably Andy didn't play his best match and Vasek served very well. So then you go to a tiebreak and anything can happen." — AFP

SOCCER

JUVENTUS FOCUSED ON WINNING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

MILAN: With a sixth straight Serie A title looking likely and another Italian Cup final on the horizon, Juventus has become almost obsessively focused on the Champions League.

There is a feeling in Turin that victory in Europe would crown its resurrection from relegation to Serie B in 2006 following a match-fixing scandal. But first, Juventus needs to get past FC Porto today in the last 16, already holding 2-0 lead from the first leg.

"I'm aware of the importance of the Champions League for the Bianconeri family and for the history of the club," Juventus defender Dani Alves said. "I too, like all Juventus fans, want to dream and I'm convinced that if we continue down our path calmly, with personality, and without fear of making a mistake ... Then we can get right to the end." Against Porto, Juventus will be boosted by the return of Juan Cuadrado from suspension and Mario Mandzukic from illness. The two are almost certain to start in Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri's innovative 4-2-3-1 system. Juventus holds an eight-point advan-

tage in Serie A, and is leading Napoli 3-1 ahead of the second leg of the Italian Cup semifinals. So a treble is still possible.

"We are well, physically and mentally," Alves said. "Now the most important part of the season is coming and the great players work all year to be ready for these moments, those in which you have to win competitions."

"Together we can have a great end to the season." Juventus went close to the treble in Allegri's first year in charge, but the Italian team lost in the Champions League final to Barcelona.

That was the closest it had got to winning Europe's premier club competition since it was defeated in the final by AC Milan in 2003. Juventus, which was also runner-up in 1997 and 1998, last won the trophy in 1996.

Playing for titles in three competitions makes for a hectic schedule, however. "There's no time for us to rest after Milan and we don't want to," Alves said. "We want this match to come, to aim to pass the round and be in the quarterfinal draw." — AP



TURIN: Juventus' defender Alex Sandro from Brazil (R) and Juventus' defender Medhi Amine Benatia from Morocco (C) take part in a training session on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match Juventus Vs FC Porto yesterday at the Juventus Training Center in Vinovo, near Turin. — AFP



INDIAN WELLS: Garbine Muguruza of Spain in action against Kayla Day of the United States in their third round match during day seven of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells Tennis Garden on Sunday in Indian Wells, California. — AFP

TOTTENHAM, MILLWALL TO ASSIST FA WITH PROBE INTO SON ABUSE

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur and Millwall have both promised to assist a Football Association inquiry into the racist abuse directed towards Spurs forward Son Heung-Min during Sunday's FA Cup quarter-final. South Korea star Son was taunted by Millwall supporters during Tottenham's 6-0 victory at White Hart Lane and responded to the jibes with a hat-trick against the third-tier side.

He was subjected to chants of "dvd" and "three for a fiver", which were perceived as a racial slur against Asians who sell black market films in London.

According to British media reports, the FA will consider referee Martin Atkinson's match report and also seek the observations of both clubs.

A Tottenham spokesman said: "We strongly condemn the use of any racist language. We shall be passing on all of our footage to the relevant authorities which can assist with the identification of anyone responsible for such chanting at yesterday's game." Meanwhile, a Millwall statement read: "Millwall have led the way on anti-discrimination initiatives and will continue to do so. The club is assisting the FA with their investigation and will make no further comment until that process is complete."

After the match, Millwall manager Neil Harris made it clear such taunts shouldn't be tolerated.

"Honestly I didn't hear anything but myself and the club, we won't condone that if there is," Harris said.

"I'm sure it will be investigated and left to the authorities. We want people dealt

with harshly of course. It's a shame to be talking about this."

"We just want everyone to enjoy the game. It's wrong in society and wrong in football." Millwall fans were also accused by Wolves boss Paul Ince of aiming the same racist chants at South Korea's Seol Ki-Hyeon in a match in 2005.

But Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino said Son hadn't complained about the chants after the match.

"No, Son didn't say anything," Pochettino said. "I didn't hear (the songs). It's difficult for me to understand the crowd." Millwall remain under a separate investigation by the FA after Leicester complained about the opposition fans' behaviour following the Lions' surprise victory in the previous round. Each inquiry, however, will be treated as a separate entity.

Millwall, based in south London, became notorious for mass acts of fan violence during the 1970s and 1980s, leaving the club with a reputation that its officials have tried desperately hard to shed in the years since. — AFP

Live Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Juventus v FC Porto	22:45
beIN SPORTS	
Leicester City v Sevilla	22:45
beIN SPORTS	



Thierry Neuville during the FIA World Rally Championship.

Heroes and worms: My Rally Mexico experience with Red Bull TV

By Tavo Vildosola

I have had an amazing time as Red Bull TV guest reporter in Mexico! Can I come back next time? It is funny: in some ways, the whole experience just underlined what I already admired about the World Rally Championship, and in other ways, it has taught me a lot as well. The sheer amount of organization that goes into a TV production like this is incredible; every second is accounted for.

As I said, these are the best drivers in the world, no question. To see their bravery, precision and commitment up close is something that is very special. Then to talk with them afterwards and find out exactly how it felt from their perspective was fascinating.

Make no mistake: Mexico is one tough rally. The World Rally Championship is an intense sprint, certainly compared to the off-road races that I do, so the drivers really have to perform under pressure. That pressure is not even just from the competition: it is from the heat, the dust, and the rocks as well. You fight the elements in Mexico.

To be honest, speaking as a Mexican, I did not actually find it that hot when I was out and about! However, when you are dealing with these very complex cars, built to completely new regulations, the heat was clearly a big issue. The cars were really struggling so it was just about survival, and that was an effect of the altitude as well. If you come from here you tend to take all that for granted, but you can see just how big a challenge it was.

As a driver watching a rally, your first thought is always: 'I wish I could be doing it myself!' In fact, I often found myself looking at the stages and thinking: 'I wonder what my Trophy Truck would be like round there?' However, if the opportunity ever came, I would love to have a go in a World Rally Car as well. It



Tavo Vildosola



Red Bull TV seen during the FIA World Rally Championship 2017 in Leon, Mexico.

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is a truly awesome piece of kit. Beside the cars, a real highlight was meeting so many different people. Starting with my fellow presenters of course: Mike Chen was a real professional, who taught me so much about what to do for TV and the sort of things to talk about. It was amazing to meet Craig Breen too; he is obvi-

ously a talented driver, with lots of brilliant insights and has a big future ahead of him. Then there were the actual drivers who were competing. What can I say? These guys are real heroes, yet completely approachable people at the same time.

There are so many things that I am going to

remember from the weekend, but one performance that really struck me was from Kris Meeke and Citroen. He had a terrible start to the season, so to pick himself back up and do what he did was remarkable. The biggest tests always come in adversity, so he certainly passed that one. It was fun talking to Jari-Matti

Latvala too – what a nice guy! It was not exactly the perfect weekend for him. This just underlines how difficult Rally Mexico is: the car that has been second and first on the two previous rallies was struggling a bit here. It was great to meet Sebastien Ogier too; a true champion whose achievements speak for themselves.



Sebastien Ogier during the FIA World Rally Championship 2017 in Leon.



Mike Chen (GB), Tavo Vildosola (MEX), Craig Breen (IRL) are seen during the FIA World Rally Championship 2017 in Leon, Mexico on March 11, 2017.

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March 12th, 2017 Till April 6th, 2017

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• **Photographic Camera:** Please submit original files (entries should include metadata if possible) in jpg format on CD or flash memory with hard copy on photo paper (size 300 x 400 millimeters or 11.81 x 15.75 inches)

• **Mobile phone or tablet Camera:** Please submit original files in jpg format on CD or flash memory with hard copy on photo paper (A4 size – 210 x 297 millimeters or 8.27 x 11.69 inches).

• **All photographs** should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appears. 'High Dynamic Range' images are acceptable. Photos that have been digitally altered beyond standard optimization (removal of dust, cropping, reasonable adjustments to exposure, color, contrast, etc.) will be disqualified.

Caption information should include:

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If you choose to include people in your submission, you are responsible for obtaining the necessary permissions from the individuals depicted, and must be able to provide copies of these to Kuwait Times upon request.

• **Kuwait Times & Jazeera Airways** has all rights to use the photograph in internal and external communications materials including but not limited to websites and web publications, fact sheets, fundraising publications, advertising, multimedia, presentation and membership services, annual reports and Kuwait Times' magazines, or by other individuals and organizations for Kuwait Times' use in news stories, newsletters, reports, displays, web pages, videos, membership premiums and the like.

• Winners will be chosen by a panel of independent judges.

• Original coupon should be stuck on the back of each photo with complete information of the participant.

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• Canon Camera PSD 30 BLUE + Camera Bag.

• One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait by Jazeera Airways*.

Ninth prize

• Canon Camera IXUS 180 BLACK + free Camera Bag.

• One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait by Jazeera Airways*.

Tenth prize

• Canon Camera IXUS 180 BLACK 2085 + free Camera Bag.

• One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait by Jazeera Airways*.

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KUWAIT SCENERY & NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2017

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Gulfsat, Bahrain Info Ministry renew TV broadcast deal

KUWAIT'S INFLATION REMAINS STABLE AT 3.3%



MUNICH: German Chancellor Angela Merkel (centre) visits the booth of a leather gloves manufacturer during her visit at the international trade crafts fair in Munich yesterday. — AFP

MERKEL TO MEET TRUMP AMID TRADE TENSIONS

GERMAN INDUSTRY BOSSES TO ACCOMPANY CHANCELLOR ON US TRIP

FRANKFURT: Bosses of German companies including engineering group Siemens and carmaker BMW will travel with Chancellor Angela Merkel to meet US President Donald Trump this week, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters. Faced with Trump's "America First" policy and threats to impose tariffs on imported goods, the captains of industry will stress how many US jobs are tied to "Deutschland AG".

Trains-to-turbines group Siemens employs more than 50,000 people in the United States, its single biggest market, where it makes 21 percent of its total revenue, while BMW's South Carolina plant is its largest factory anywhere in the world. Trump will meet Merkel, Europe's longest-serving leader, for the first time today in Washington.

Merkel told business leaders in Munich yesterday that free trade was important for both countries, while a German government spokesman confirmed at a press conference that the two leaders would also meet with German business executives. German chancellors have a long tradition of taking groups of business leaders along with them on trips to important countries. The other business leader accompanying Merkel will be the chief executive of ball-bearings maker Schaeffler.

The three chief executives will cross the Atlantic for a single scheduled meeting of less than an hour with Trump. They will brief the president on the German practice of training workers on the job while also sending them to classes at a vocational school to obtain formal qualifications. Such training is traditionally offered by large German companies both at

home and in their foreign operations, and is particularly prized in emerging economies, where it helps German corporations win business. Sources of tension between Berlin and the new US administration include an accusation by a senior Trump adviser that Germany profits unfairly from a weak euro, and Trump's threat to impose 35 percent tariffs on imported vehicles. The United States is Germany's biggest trading partner, buying German goods and services worth 107 billion euros (\$114 billion) last year while exporting just 58 billion euros' worth in return. "The accusations of President Donald Trump and his advisers are plucked out of thin air," the president of Germany's VDMA engineering industry association, Carl Martin Welcker, said in a statement yesterday. He said 81,000 people were employed in

German-owned engineering firms in the United States with almost 30 billion euros in total revenue, while German export successes were linked to the high quality of goods, not foreign-exchange effects.

As part of a bid to bring jobs to America, Trump has urged carmakers to build more cars in the United States and discouraged them from investing in Mexico, where German and other carmakers have big plants. Trump's order banning citizens of some majority-Muslim countries from entering the United States, and a threat to tear up the NAFTA free trade deal between the United States, Mexico and Canada, have also unnerved business leaders. Siemens chief executive Joe Kaeser expressed concern last month about developments in the United States since Trump took

office, saying: "The new American president has a style that's different from what we're accustomed to. It worries us, what we see."

BMW's Chief Executive Harald Krueger said last week that introducing protectionist measures and tariffs would not be good for the United States. The carmaker is expanding its plant in Spartanburg, South Carolina, to have a capacity of 450,000 vehicles, with 70 percent for export. It is also building a new plant in Mexico, where it plans to invest \$2.2 billion by 2019. Mexico's lower labor costs and unique free trade position mean it now accounts for a fifth of all vehicle production in North America. "America profits from free trade. We are supporters of free trade and not of protectionism," Krueger told reporters at the Geneva auto show. — Reuters

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SCOTLAND SEEKS INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM AMID BREXIT SPAT

LONDON: Scotland's leader delivered a shock twist to Britain's EU exit drama yesterday, announcing that she will seek authority to hold a new independence referendum in the next two years because Britain is dragging Scotland out of the EU against its will.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said that she would move quickly to give voters a new chance to leave the United Kingdom because Scotland was being

forced into a "hard Brexit" that it didn't vote for. Britons decided in a June 23 referendum to leave the EU, but Scots voted by 62 to 38 percent to remain. Scotland must not be "taken down a path that we do not want to go down without a choice," Sturgeon said. The move drew a quick rebuke from Prime Minister Theresa May who said a second referendum would be hugely disruptive and is not justified

because evidence shows most Scottish voters oppose a second referendum.

She said Sturgeon's Scottish National Party is guilty of "tunnel vision." Sturgeon spoke in Edinburgh as Britain's Parliament was on the verge of approving a Brexit bill that will allow the UK to start the formal withdrawal from the EU within days.

Sturgeon said she would ask the Scottish Parliament next week to start the process of calling a referendum, to be held between the fall of 2018 and the spring of 2019. She said by then, details of Britain's post-Brexit deal with the EU would be clear and Scottish voters would be able to make "an informed choice."

The British government must agree before a legally binding referendum can be held. It didn't say yesterday whether it would do so, but said an independence ballot "would be divisive and cause huge economic uncertainty at the worst possible time."

In a 2014 referendum, Scottish voters rejected independence by a margin of 55 percent to 45 percent. But Sturgeon said that the UK's decision to leave the EU had brought about a "material change of circumstances." Sturgeon said that she had sought compromise with May's government, but had been met with a "brick wall of intransigence."

Sturgeon has been seeking a deal that will allow Scotland to stay in the European single market and customs union. But she said she has become convinced May is pursuing a "hard Brexit" that would leave Britain outside those arrangements, which many UK businesses see as crucial. "I am not turning my back on further discussions should the UK government change its mind," she said. — AP



EDINBURGH: Members of the press arrive to attend a speech by Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in Edinburgh yesterday. Scotland's first minister said yesterday she would start the process to request a new referendum on independence before Britain quits the EU in a move that was quickly condemned by the government. — AFP

EUROPE TO TELL G20 IT WILL RESIST PROTECTIONISM

BRUSSELS: European Union finance ministers will tell a G20 meeting this week that they will resist protectionism and that financial rules introduced after the 2008 crisis must be kept in place.

A document prepared by the EU ministers, which appears aimed at the United States, sets out the position of all European delegations for the G20 gathering of ministers and central bankers in Baden Baden in Germany on March 17-18. "We reaffirm our commitment to keep the global economy open, resist protectionism and keep global economic cooperation on track," says the paper, seen by Reuters.

An early draft communique for the G20 meeting suggested on March 7 that the world's financial leaders might no longer explicitly reject protectionism, breaking with a decade-old tradition. Instead, following the change of administration in Washington, they might promise only to keep an "open and fair international trading system", wording which some officials see as a way to accommodate the protectionist views of President Donald Trump. The draft communique, however, could change substantially, following discussions on March 17-18, G20 officials said.

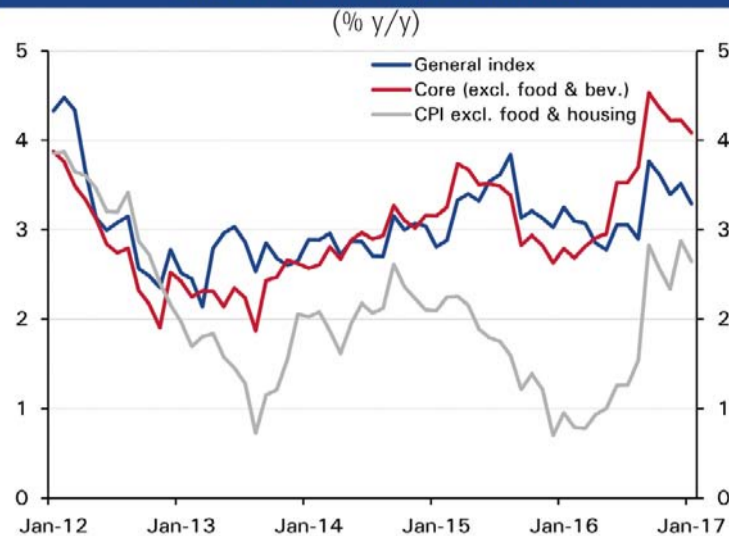
The European Union ministers' document also appears to argue against Trump's plans to roll back US legislation, called the Dodd-Frank Act, introduced to prevent another financial sector crisis

like that one in 2008. "Avoiding a roll-back in the financial regulation agenda is necessary," the document says. The document also appears to address remarks by Patrick McHenry, the Vice-Chair of the House of Representatives' Financial Services Committee, in letter to Fed Chairman Janet Yellen about the international role of the Fed. McHenry wrote that the US central bank should stop "negotiating international regulatory standards among global bureaucrats in foreign lands without transparency, accountability, or the authority to do so." The European document says: "International coordination and continued participation of all G20 members in international fora on financial regulation is of fundamental importance."

European Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis said in February that while the United States had every right to redefine its national interest, Europe was entitled to say that international cooperation on financial governance was in everyone's interest. "We are sensitive to talk of unpicking financial legislation which applies carefully negotiated international standards and rules," Dombrovskis said.

"It is difficult not to notice when the Chair of the Federal Reserve is criticised for her approach to negotiating international rules and standards, or when an American President talks about 'doing a big number' on Dodd-Frank." — Reuters

Chart 1: Consumer price inflation



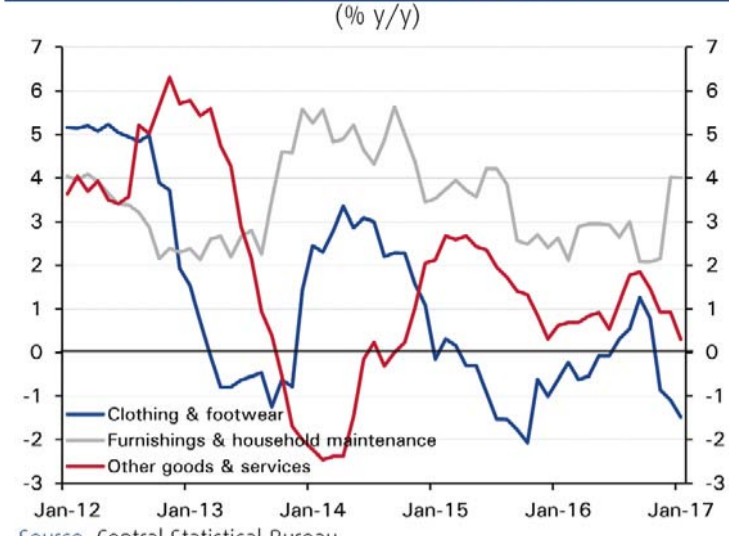
Source: Central Statistical Bureau, NBK estimates

Chart 2: Inflation in food prices



Source: Central Statistical Bureau, Commodity Research Bureau

Chart 4: Inflation in other sectors



Source: Central Statistical Bureau

KUWAIT'S INFLATION REMAINS STABLE AT 3.3% IN JANUARY

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Table: Consumer price inflation

(% change)	Year-on-year		Annual average	
	Dec-16	Jan-17	2015	2016
Food & beverages	0.7	0.2	3.4	1.9
Tobacco & cigarettes	0.1	0.1	6.0	0.7
Clothing & footwear	-1.5	-1.5	-0.9	-0.2
Housing services*	6.4	6.4	6.0	6.8
Furnishings & household maintenance	4.0	4.0	3.4	2.7
Healthcare	1.9	1.5	1.7	1.7
Transportation	10.5	10.7	0.5	2.5
Communication	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.5
Recreation & culture	0.3	0.2	-0.2	-0.1
Education	1.2	1.2	4.4	3.1
Restaurants & hotels	3.4	3.4	5.7	3.1
Other goods & services	0.9	0.3	1.9	1.0
Core**	4.2	4.1	3.2	3.5
Durable goods	0.8	0.4	1.1	0.8
Semi-durable goods	-0.4	-0.5	0.2	0.6
Non-durable goods	3.6	3.2	2.6	2.6
Services	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.7
Services ex-housing	2.3	2.3	3.3	1.6
General index	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2

Source: Central Statistical Bureau, NBK estimates

KUWAIT: Inflation in consumer prices steadied at 3.3 percent year-on-year (y/y) in January, as inflation across most components remained stable or came unchanged. Local food inflation remained weak as global food inflation remained soft. Core inflation, which excludes food prices, held steady at around 4.1 percent y/y after witnessing a surge in the aftermath of the fuel price hike in September 2016; this came largely on the back of lower inflationary pressures from housing rent.

Inflation is expected to witness renewed upward pressures in 2017 from May onward, as the government introduces higher electricity and water tariffs, though the impact is now thought to be more limited. The government recently approved new tariffs that are well below those initially approved in legislation last year. The hikes are now expected at 50-150 percent for the various sectors. As a result, upward pressures could push average inflation to around 3.5 percent in 2017, up from 3.2 percent in 2016.

Inflation in local food prices maintained its weakness in January, after logging in a reading of 0.2 percent y/y. Price growth in this component continues to be weighed down by soft global food price inflation. However, we may see inflation in this segment gain momentum in the near-to-medium term on the back of gains in global food price inflation.

According to the Commodity Research Bureau, international prices of commodity foods rebounded and jumped to a multi-month high of 2.9 percent y/y in January following several months of deflationary prices.

After easing in December in line with some softness in the real estate market, inflation in housing services remained unchanged. Inflation in the housing component, which is mostly comprised of housing rents and is updated quarterly, eased from 7.4 percent y/y in 3Q16 to 6.4 percent y/y in 4Q16. Nonetheless, on a quarter-on-quarter basis the 4Q16 increase remained surprisingly strong at 2.8 percent.

We expect the momentum in this segment to see some further easing in the near term on a year-on-year basis before gathering pace in the second half of 2017 on the back of utility hikes.

Retail sector

Inflation in the retail sector continued to face downward pressures at the start of 2017. Inflation in clothing & footwear and the other goods & services segments continued to

decelerate in January; in fact, clothing & footwear prices continued to decline due to softer consumer demand, extended seasonal promotions and a stronger dinar. After jumping in December, inflation in the furnishings & household maintenance segment stabilized at 4.0 percent y/y in January.

The stabilization in inflation in the furnishings & household maintenance segment was reflected in the inflation in services excluding housing segment. After surging on higher fees in the household maintenance segment in December, inflation in services excluding housing stabilized at 2.3 percent y/y in January.

Inflation in the transportation sector stood pat above the 10 percent y/y mark for the fourth straight month in January. After surging in September, on the heels of a fuel price hike, inflation in this segment has thus far held steady around 10 percent y/y. We may see some upward pressures in this segment in the short to medium-term as transport services readjust their prices to account for the fuel price increases.

But any further upward pressures are likely to be at least partly offset by the continued decline in car prices, which weigh more heavily on the transportation index.

TOGO FUEL PRICE INCREASES HIT HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS

LOME: Emmanuel Sogadji has a message for the government in Togo from people who are being squeezed by fuel price rises: "Enough is enough!" The consumer group he heads has given the administration two weeks to put the prices back to what they were, as the hike is "hitting households where it hurts", he said.

"The authorities don't care about people, who are living in poverty," he added. The Combat for Political Change (CAP 2015), Togo's main opposition grouping, on Saturday organized a "peace march" in the capital of Lome to demand an end to the past month's rises. Thousands of opposition supporters and civil society groups took to the streets for several hours, chanting anti-government slogans and holding a rally. Security forces watched over the demonstration but it passed off without incident after a previous protest in February turned violent, leaving one person dead and several others injured. Motorcycle-taxi drivers blocked major intersections and were dispersed by police.

Knock-on effect

The government increased the price of fuel by about 10 percent on February 27, in the second such rise in the space of a month. A litre of premium petrol jumped from 476 to 524 CFA francs (\$0.77 to \$0.85, or 0.72 euros to 0.8 euros). Diesel went up from 478 to 526 CFA francs while regular

petrol was 425 but is now 468 CFA francs. Jean-Pierre Fabre, who leads the CAP 2015 coalition, told AFP on Saturday: "We're asking for the government to simply return to the old prices." The government has said the hikes are necessary because the price of crude has gone up on the international market, from \$38.38 in January 2016 to \$55 in January 2017. At the same time the dollar has strengthened.

Sogadji called the decision "unfair" and alleged that the government's claim of subsidizing fuel at the pump was false. Price rises have already had a knock-on effect, particularly in the home-grown food industry. Items such as corn and even firewood have increased because of higher transport costs, he added.

Calls to cancel

Two-thirds of Togo's nearly eight million people rely on subsistence farming and more than half of the population live in poverty, according to World Bank figures from 2015. Unemployment is running at 29 percent, according to some Togolese economists, with young people hit especially hard. The west African country, which borders Ghana, Benin and Burkina Faso, mainly imports its petroleum products. Evariste Ekadji, a 33-year-old taxi driver, said he has had to put up his prices, particularly for clients wanting to travel long distances. "The government should cancel new pump prices because we are suffering in this country," he added.

Anani Ekue, a 27-year-old motorcycle-taxi driver, said he has done the same "to avoid losses" while Cossi Djiwan has taken further measures to cut costs. The 42-year-old, who works as an accountant for a security firm, said he has stopped using his car to get to work every day because of the increased cost of fuel is eating his budget. — AFP



SYDNEY: Tourists ride onboard a cruise ship in the harbor in Sydney yesterday. Australia's economy rebounded strongly in the December quarter, growing 1.1 percent to dodge a technical recession on the back of buoyant exports, government investment and household spending, data showed last week. — AFP

HYUNDAI SIGNS 4BN EURO DEAL FOR IRAN OIL PROJECT

SEOUL: Hyundai has signed a deal worth four billion euros (\$3.3 billion) to invest in a major Iranian oil project, it confirmed yesterday. Hyundai Engineering plans to invest 3.98 billion euros in the second phase of the Kangan oil production and refinery project in southwest Iran, it said in a statement.

The agreement marks one of the biggest investments since a nuclear accord with world powers lifted global sanctions on Iran. The South Korean firm will have nine months to secure financing for the project—a potential obstacle given the continued reluctance of international banks to engage with Iran.

Securing the financing through Korean banks will be "the most important and most difficult step," said Asghar Arefi, head of

Iran's Ahdaf Investment Company which is partnering on the project, according to the Shana news agency, which is linked to Iran's oil ministry.

"The start and execution of this project relies on 95 percent of the project's financing coming from Korean banks (with) full support from the Hyundai Engineering Company in securing those funds," Arefi told Shana. However, a Hyundai Engineering spokesman told AFP that 85 percent of the funding would come from Korean lenders, including Export-Import Bank of Korea and the Korea Trade Insurance Corporation. The second phase of the deal, involving the construction of four production plants at the Kangan site, is expected to take four years. — AFP

EU SAYS GAZPROM OFFER TO AVOID ANTITRUST FINES ALLAYS WORRIES

BRUSSELS: Gazprom is ready to comply with EU rules to end a five-year antitrust case and avoid fines, the bloc's competition commissioner said yesterday, signalling a thaw in business ties between Moscow and Brussels despite tensions over Ukraine. Eight member states in the east, all formerly dominated by Moscow, now have until May 4 to object to the EU executive's view and could try to seek changes in Gazprom's offer. The Russian state gas exporter, which supplies a third of the EU's gas, has been on the radar of EU regulators since 2012, culminating in charges in April 2015 that it overcharged customers in Central and Eastern Europe and blocked rivals. Since then,

Gazprom has offered concessions aimed at staving off a potential fine of up to 10 percent of its global turnover. EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, who has brought actions and levied fines against major US multinationals such as Google, said Gazprom's offer allayed worries and provided "a forward looking solution".

"Combined we think that these measures are important improvements to ensure the free flow of gas at competitive prices," Vestager said. Gazprom has agreed to fixed transparent fees and to allow clients the right to price revisions clauses in long-term contracts, EU regulators said. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.671
Indian Rupees	4.602
Pakistani Rupees	2.919
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.021
Nepali Rupees	2.875
Singapore Dollar	217.660
Hongkong Dollar	39.443
Bangladesh Taka	3.821
Philippine Peso	6.091
Thai Baht	8.689

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.721
Qatari Riyal	84.169
Omani Riyal	795.868
Bahraini Dinar	813.740
UAE Dirham	83.435

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	21.500
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.266
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.230
Tunisian Dinar	134.200
Jordanian Dinar	431.430
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.042
Syrian Lira	2.184
Morocco Dirham	30.934

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	306.250
Euro	329.070
Sterling Pound	375.620
Canadian dollar	228.630
Turkish lira	82.160

Swiss Franc	304.570
Australian Dollar	233.520
US Dollar Buying	305.050

GOLD	
20 Gram	248.010
10 Gram	126.930
5 Gram	64.310

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	305.900
Canadian Dolla	227.830
Sterling Pound	373.640
Euro	328.120
Swiss Frank	310.845
Bahrain Dinar	810.915
UAE Dirhams	83.680
Qatari Riyals	84.900
Saudi Riyals	82.500
Jordanian Dinar	432.620
Egyptian Pound	17.477
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.022
Indian Rupees	4.615
Pakistani Rupees	2.917
Bangladesh Taka	3.845
Philippines Peso	6.083
Cyprus pound	167.990
Japanese Yen	3.665
Syrian Pound	2.425
Nepalese Rupees	3.870
Malaysian Ringgit	69.655

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.650
Thai Bhat	9.640
Turkish Lira	82.405

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.366221	0.376221
Czech Korune	0.004103	0.016103
Danish Krone	0.039990	0.044990
Euro	0.321908	0.330908
Norwegian Krone	0.031618	0.036818
Romanian Leu	0.084875	0.084875
Slovakia	0.009185	0.019185
Swedish Krona	0.030026	0.035026
Swiss Franc	0.297035	0.308035
Turkish Lira	0.077230	0.087530
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.232310	0.235210
New Zealand Dollar	0.206082	0.215582
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.222158	0.231158
Georgina Lari	0.138321	0.138321
US Dollars	0.302150	0.306550
US Dollars Mint	0.302650	0.306550
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003503	0.004087
Chinese Yuan	0.042911	0.046411
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037400	0.040150
Indian Rupee	0.002637	0.004734

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002586	0.002766
Kenyan Shilling	0.003073	0.003073
Korean Won	0.000257	0.000272
Malaysian Ringgit	0.064895	0.070895
Nepalese Rupee	0.002965	0.003135
Pakistan Rupee	0.002673	0.002963
Philippine Peso	0.005995	0.006295
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.211764	0.221764
South African Rand	0.017282	0.025782
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001659	0.002239
Taiwan	0.009820	0.010000
Thai Baht	0.008346	0.008896
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.805763	0.814263
Egyptian Pound	0.012603	0.021856
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000196	0.000256
Jordanian Dinar	0.426284	0.435284
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000158	0.000258
Moroccan Dirhams	0.002163	0.044163
Nigerian Naira	0.001270	0.001905
Omani Riyal	0.789033	0.794713
Qatar Riyal	0.083308	0.084758
Saudi Riyal	0.080580	0.081880
Syrian Pound	0.001299	0.001519
Tunisian Dinar	0.130199	0.138199
Turkish Lira	0.077230	0.087530
UAE Dirhams	0.081956	0.083656
Yemeni Riyal	0.000996	0.001076



KUWAIT: Mohammed Al-Haj, Chairman & CEO, GulfSat and Abdullah Al-Bloushi, General Director of Technical and Technology Affairs, Ministry of Information Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: A souvenir shield being presented to Bahraini delegation by GulfSat Chairman & CEO.

GULFSAT, BAHRAIN'S INFO MINISTRY RENEW TV BROADCAST COOPERATION AGREEMENT

PARTNERSHIP PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN MEDIA BROADCAST SERVICE ACROSS REGION

KUWAIT: GulfSat Communications Co (GulfSat), a leading provider of satellite communication services, TV broadcast and Contribution, announced the renewal of the cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Information Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain, confirming the already continued collaboration between both sides started in 2012.

Under this agreement, GulfSat is obliged to provide TV broadcast and satellite Contribution to the official channels of Bahrain TV affiliate network over course of 7/8 degrees orbital. A remarkable step reaffirming the strategic relationship that links GulfSat to Bahrain Ministry of Information Affairs and opening broader prospects of expansion and development in the future, especially with the interference free services offered by GulfSat being a major player of broadcasting across the Arab region and North Africa.

The relationship between the two parties has been further strengthened by the Ministry's delegation visit to GulfSat head office in Kuwait. The Bahraini delegation presented by Abdullah Al-Bloushi, General Director of Technical and Technology Affairs, Abdulaziz Al-Ashraf, Human Resources & Finance Director and Abdullah BuHaji, PR & Marketing Director. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Bahraini Ambassador to Kuwait lit the gathering with his historical and traditional talk that added a relaxing atmosphere to the event accompanied by leading officials of KIPCO, United Networks Co. (GulfSat parent Company), a delegation of Kuwait Ministry of Information, key officials of private TV channels in Kuwait and representatives of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

The perfect technical partner

In a brief statement, General Director of Technical and Technology Affairs of the Ministry of Information Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Abdullah Ahmed Al-Bloushi said: "On this occasion, I would like to express my greatest pleasure to renew our confidence and cooperation agreement with GulfSat to include TV broadcast and Satellite Contribution, taking advantage of GulfSat owned Uplink Stations in countries worldwide, ensuring high quality and secure service standards, and reaffirming our strong and solid business relationship existing since 2012."

"At that time, the Ministry of Information Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain has been looking for a technical partner in broadcasting capable of providing safe and secured services, fortified against interference and signal piracy. GulfSat do represent a technical perfect partner compared to other TV satellite broadcast service providers", he added.

"Accordingly, GulfSat has started to provide a wide range of related services to the Ministry, in light of which, the Ministry's affiliated channels network have witnessed significant development including two channels conversion from digital broadcast standard definition to high quality definition (HD)", Al-Bloushi elaborated.

To conclude, Al-Bloushi pointed out: "In addition to the highest quality of technical and safe services offered,

GulfSat is also considered a major player in TV broadcast field, taking into account the broad viewers base benefiting from GulfSat broadcast service over 7/8 degrees orbital, which ensured a wider viewership in the Arab World. A significant feature which represented a decisive factor in strengthening further cooperation with GulfSat".

Strategic partnership

On his part, Mohammed Al-Haj, GulfSat Chairman & CEO, said: "We feel very much pleased to welcome the delegation of the Ministry of Information Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain headed by Abdullah Ahmed Al-Bloushi, General Director of Technology & Technical Affairs, and reconfirm our continued collaboration and extend our cooperation agreement previously signed between both sides in 2012", and added: "we are also pleased to report that great prospects of expansion and growth between both institutions do exist, especially in light of the rapid technological and technical development in TV broadcast services worldwide, and the pursuit of GulfSat to keep up with these services and have them within the reach of the official bodies and private TV channels".

"The significant participation of the Bahraini delegation represents their clear and solid confirmation of confidence and trust in GulfSat service. GulfSat shows great interest in cooperating with all specialized authorities, particularly the Ministry of Information Affairs in the Kingdom of Bahrain. We are very much keen on enhancing and turn our bilateral relation into a solid strategic relationship", Al-Haj confirmed. In conclusion, Al-Haj praised the tremendous technological and human resources development noticed at the TV channels in the Kingdom of Bahrain, appreciating their pursuit to provide their content according to the best technical standards of quality and human, stressing that GulfSat will always supportive to the efforts exerted by the Ministry's officials.

Keep abreast of latest technology

On the other hand, Abdullah Ahmed Al-Bloushi praised the strategy of GulfSat and their keenness to keep up with the field's latest developments worldwide, and their endeavors to provide the same to the customers, including the Bahrain Ministry of Information Affairs, adding that this strategy's general outlines have been clearly expressed through the comprehensive presentation of GulfSat Chief Executive Officer, where he has explained the basic elements of the company's general directions, saying at the same time, that this presentation has opened wide doors and prospects of future opportunities for cooperation between both sides, expected to have clear features in the upcoming phase.

Further to the discussed issues with the Bahraini delegation, Al-Haj reiterated that GulfSat is focused on introducing the latest available technology in Satellite communications, TV broadcast and Contribution worldwide, tak-



KUWAIT: A group photo of GulfSat Chairman & CEO, senior officials with Bahraini delegation.



KUWAIT: Ambassador of Bahrain with the attendees of the meeting.

ing into consideration that such services will go in parallel to the efforts aiming to ensure a secured and interference-free broadcast service away from the threat of piracy, guarantee and maintain the intellectual property rights as well. At the same time, Al-Haj presented several models of GulfSat advanced service packages, including the Satellite TV Cloud service (Cloud Bro) that is directed, in particular, to media cities and TV channels. Thanks to this service, these institutions will no longer be in need to maintain a huge investment in their infrastructure to be able to stream media content to the public. Al-Bloushi highlighted

GulfSat major developments targeted at upgrading the company's infrastructure and applied technology that ensure broadcasting across countries all over the world and using fiber-optics communication.

To wind up, Mohammed Al-Haj, Chairman & CEO - GulfSat, has emphasized on the company's great interest in expanding their methods of TV and media content streaming, where no longer be restricted to TV broadcast, but to include expansion over social media, smart phones and tablets in a way that further broadens the viewers' segment.

KIPCO HOLDING ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH KFAS FOR SHARAKAH FORUM 2017

KUWAIT: KIPCO-The Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO Holding) held a joint press conference at KIPCO Tower 56th Floor - Chairman's Club yesterday to announce a partnership with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) to promote social responsibility in the State of Kuwait, with an emphasis on cross-sector collaborations for social impact.

The partnership will focus on the implementation of this year's Sharakah Forum & Workshops, which will be held from 19th to 23rd March, 2017 under the patronage of the Minister for Social Affairs and Labor, Hind Subaih Barrak Al-Subaih. The Sharakah Forum is a yearly platform developed by KIPCO to bring together key stakeholders involved in the field of social responsibility in Kuwait, with an aim to foster the creation of shared value through collaboration and capacity building. This year's forum, which will be held on March 19th, will include two main discussion panels with leading executives from the public, private and non-profit sectors such as Faisal Hamad Al-Ayyar, Vice-Chairman (Executive) of KIPCO, Dr Adnan Shihab-Eldin, Director General of KFAS, Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, Khaled Al-Hassan GIG CEO and Dr Samira A S Omar Asem, Director General and "Principal Research Scientist" (G.20) at KISR.

The forum will also include presentations by international experts, think tank group discussions and networking opportunities. Fawzi Al-Musallam, Kuwait Hotels Company (KHC) Chief Executive Officer explained, "Since KHC has been an important and active member of the community, and as a member of KIPCO group, we believe that hosting such event is the least we can offer to help Kuwait's leading NGOs with their efforts and initiatives for the benefit of the society."

"Over 300 representatives of Kuwait's leading non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Private and public sectors have confirmed their attendance at the event so far," he added.

Abeer Al-Omar, Group CSR Manager at KIPCO, states: "This event builds on the efforts already undertaken by the KIPCO group, as for example in last year's CSR Forum, to bring together key players involved in social responsibility



KUWAIT: (From left to right) Fawzi Al-Musallam, Vice Chairman and CEO of Kuwait Hotels Company (KHC), Abeer Al-Omar, Group CSR Manager at KIPCO, and Dr Salam Al-Ablani, Director of Scientific Culture of KFAS during the press conference yesterday.

In Kuwait in order to take our work in this field to the next level and increase our impact and efficiency through greater coordination and collaboration. We are very proud to be leading the way in this arena, and hope to be able to contribute effectively to The Emir's New Kuwait Vision for 2035, which emphasizes the role of partnerships in the road to development."

"We are delighted that such significant private and public sectors representatives have agreed to join this initiative. Their participation shows that the biggest companies in Kuwait are aware and responsive to the needs of local NGOs. KIPCO group and its operating companies look forward to a successful and productive forum," she adds.

The one-day forum will be followed by four days of

workshops offered by KIPCO and KFAS to non-profit organizations and social entrepreneurs interested in increasing their financial sustainability. The workshops will be delivered by local, regional and international trainers, and will cover the following topics: Introduction to Social Entrepreneurship; Crowdfunding for Non-Profits; Proposal-Writing; Creating Shared Value Partnerships; Communicating with Zero Budget for Non-Profits, and Profits for Non-Profits. The aim of these workshops is to contribute to strengthening the role of local non-profits and increasing their ability to acquire resources to promote their causes. The Sharakah Forum & Workshops are free of charge to all participating organizations, attendance is by invitation only.

AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 'GET 100% CASH BACK' CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the conclusion of the "Get 100 percent Cash Back" Campaign targeting CBK credit and prepaid cardholders that was launched last February.

The Bank conducted a draw to select ten lucky winners. The draw was conducted in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry where the following names were announced as winners in the said campaign:

- Saqer Ahmed Almaousherji
- Ali Akbar Nareli
- Tayseer Ahmad Al-Sheikh Mohammad
- Shaikha Amal Sabah Al-Salim Al-Sabah
- Hussam Altahan
- Abrar Abdullaziz Mohammed Al-Habib
- Mohammad Salem Mohammad Al-Muteri
- Marios Papacon Tantinou
- Saud Fawzi Yousef Al-Shatti
- Mohammad Jamal Ali Sssied

The ten winners got back the value of their purchases made by using their Al-Tijari credit or prepaid cards during the month of February with a maximum of KD 1,000 for each winner.

All credit and prepaid cards were eligible to enter the draw and the total values of purchases made during the month of February in Kuwaiti Dinars or foreign currencies inside or outside Kuwait were calculated to qualify the customer to enter the draw.

Each customer got one chance to enter the draw upon reaching the required usage during the month of February.

Commercial Bank of Kuwait seize this opportunity to congratulate the lucky winners and promise its customers that its endeavors to provide them with the best offers and reward them with the best prizes will continue in the future.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS PUSH HIGHER ON FED FOCUS

LONDON: World stock markets mostly rose yesterday following a forecast-busting US jobs report that looks set to prompt an interest hike this week from the Federal Reserve. The pound advanced amid speculation that Britain could trigger as soon as today the formal process for exiting the European Union. Sterling held onto its gains despite the announcement by Scotland's nationalist government of plans for another independence vote.

In the United States, Friday's employment report reinforced a long-running belief the world's top economy was on a strong growth track and focus is now on the conclusion of the central bank's policy meeting tomorrow.

In a busy week for global monetary policy, the Japanese and British central banks also meet this week. "Another rate hike could be just days away, indeed, given the way the Fed's policymakers have been talking, it is practically a certainty at this point," said Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at IG trading group.

"Friday's jobs report reinforced the narrative, but the key now will be what the statement and press conference say." The dollar wobbled yesterday as some traders took out their profits before the Fed meeting.

"Markets are already fully priced for a Fed rate hike on Wednesday," said Janu Chan, a senior economist at St George Bank in Sydney. Most

stock markets in Asia started the week on a high-tracking all three main Wall Street indices after the Labor Department said the US economy created 235,000 new jobs in February, much more than estimated.

US flatlines before Fed

US markets opened flat. "US stocks are hovering around the flatline in early action ... amid heightened Fed rate hike expectations for Wednesday and ramped up political uncertainty in Europe," said analysts at US brokerage Charles Schwab. But oil prices continued to suffer following last week's losses of about nine percent in both main contracts, hit by a surpris-

ingly big jump in US stockpiles, increased US shale production and concerns about implementation of a OPEC-Russia deal to cut output.

"For all the somewhat hopeful talk from industry experts about oil inventories running down later in the year, the fact remains that US shale has come back harder, faster and cheaper than anyone could have imagined," said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at Oanda trading group.

Modest gains

European stock markets eked out some modest gains yesterday after a strong US jobs report helped Wall Street end last week on a high note. However a welter of

potential "event risks" this week kept sentiment in check.

In Europe, Germany's DAX rose 0.2 percent to 11,985 while the CAC 40 in France added 0.2 percent to 5,002. Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.3 percent to 7,362. U.S. stocks were poised for a steady open with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures both up 0.1 percent.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index rose 0.2 percent to 19,633.75 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 1.1 percent to 23,829.67. South Korea's Kospi added 1 percent to 2,117.59. The Shanghai Composite index climbed 0.8 percent to 3,237.02, while Australia's S&P ASX 200 fell 0.3 percent to 5,757.30. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report											
Monday 13 March 2017											
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low						
Price index	▼ -30.45	6,711.57	6,742.02	6,742.74	6,705.44						
Weighted Index	▼ -1.75	419.13	420.88	421.74	417.09						
KSX 15	▼ -7.79	948.76	956.55	960.12	944.22						
						Volume	279,870,326				
						Value (KWD)	21,461,903				
						Number of Trades	5,995				
Trades											
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change				
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	65	—	0.0				
IPG	400	400	111,192	44,477	3	400	▼ -15.0				
NAPESCO	1,240	1,160	34,890	42,115	26	1,200	▼ -20.0				
ENERGYH	39.5	38.0	5,261	200	6	39.5	▲ 0.5				
GPI	46.5	45.0	6,494,434	296,985	132	45.0	▼ -1.5				
ABAR	93	92	1,000	93	2	92	▲ 4.0				
Oil & Gas			6,646,777	383,869	169	970.30	▼ -13.86				
KFOUC	295	295	5,892	1,738	1	295	▼ -5.0				
BPOC	570	560	136,791	77,970	8	560	▼ -10.0				
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	—				
ALQURAIN	365	350	2,170,851	776,912	62	350	▼ -5.0				
Basic Materials			2,313,534	856,821	71	1315.41	▼ -15.94				
KCEM	490	490	10,000	4,900	1	490	—				
CABLE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	495	—				
SHIP	218	210	2,030	427	2	210	▼ -6.0				
PCEM	1,100	1,080	526	558	2	1,060	▼ -20.0				
PAPER	375	325	69,799	25,747	12	375	▲ 25.0				
MRC	76	76	2,000	152	1	76	▼ -1.0				
ACICO	305	300	275,000	83,000	10	300	▼ -5.0				
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	—				
KBMCM	100	100	7,000	700	2	100	▼ -10.0				
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	212	—				
EQUIPMENT	59	55	3,462,085	198,305	86	59	▲ 5.0				
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	—				
GYSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	—				
SALBOOKH	81	76	3,873,420	307,911	127	81	▲ 5.0				
AGLTY	580	570	518,243	300,563	32	580	—				
EDU	202	202	350	71	2	202	▲ 2.0				
CLEANING	52	50	777,800	39,437	24	50	▼ -3.0				
KGL	66	66	2,000	132	4	66	▼ -1.0				
KCPC	184	168	4,630	778	3	184	▲ 6.0				
HUMANSOFT	3,040	3,020	12,312	37,206	3	3,020	▼ -20.0				
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	230	—				
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	—				
MAYADEH	29.5	29.0	2,316,232	67,693	50	29.0	▼ -1.0				
CGC	510	500	133,050	67,055	16	500	▼ -10.0				
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	—				
UPAC	870	870	600	522	2	870	▼ -50.0				
ALAFCO	244	244	38,024	8,790	8	244	—				
MUBARRAD	80	77	5,648,204	444,292	110	79	▲ 2.0				
LOGISTICS	70	69	497,208	34,448	23	70	—				
SCEM	66	65	235,502	20,018	9	66	▲ 1.0				
GCEM	87	86	358,750	30,874	10	87	—				
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	—				
FCEM	88	87	780,000	66,888	11	88	▼ -1.0				
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	—				
SPEC	94	88	1,510,678	137,919	96	93	▲ 4.0				
Industrials			20,513,443	1,878,365	644	1492.95	▼ -3.21				
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	184	—				
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	—				
PAPCO	97	97	12,716	1,233	1	97	▼ -15.0				
CATL	230	230	5,000	1,150	1	230	▼ -10.0				
DANAH	97	95	5,083,124	484,793	112	96	▼ -1.0				
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,600	—				
Consumer Goods			5,080,840	487,176	114	1170.34	▼ -33.64				
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	—				
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	—				
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	—				
Health Care			0	0	0	1491.26	—				
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,580	—				
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	—				
SULTAN	69	66	144,479	9,719	17	67	▼ -2				
CABLETV	26.0	22.5	101,176	2,282	15	22.5	▼ -3				
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	—				
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	—				
QULAFUEL	128	124	210,777	26,556	24	128	▲ 4				
MUNTAZAHAT	86	85	426,000	38,281	9	85	—				
JAZERA	570	570	94	54	1	570	—				
SOOR	130	128	219,931	28,579	38	130	▲ 2				
FUTUREKID	120	120	100	12	1	120	▼ -4				
ALRAI	174	174	54,000	9,396	4	174	—				
ZIMAH	54	52	3,180,970	169,368	95	54	—				
Mezzan	980	970	32,116	31,313	4	970	▼ -5.0				
Consumer Services			4,369,643	313,539	208	940.43	▼ -12.29				
ZAIN	450	450	1,297,188	583,735	66	450	▼ -25				
OOREDOO	1,240	1,220	14,679	17,909	4	1,240	▲ 20				
HITSTELEC	49.5	48.0	1,680,300	81,132	47	48.5	▼ -1				
VIVA	830	800	56,248	45,376	63	830	▲ -20				
Telecommunications			3,048,415	728,152	180	634.88	▼ -0.01				
NBK	730	720	427,614	308,168	15	730	—				
GBK	246	244	78,872	19,382	8	244	▼ -2				
CBK	465	465	5	2	1	465	▲ 25				
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	—				
ALMUTAHED	445	445	9,405	4,185	2	445	—				
KIB	242	238	898,671	215,282	20	238	▼ -4				
BURG	330	320	1,243,151	404,116	25	325	▼ -5				
KFIN	620	610	1,566,553	955,727	76	610	—				
BOUBYAN	420	415	142,553	59,753	23	415	▼ -5				
AUB	255	246	7,924,287	1,982,684	113	248	▼ -2				
ITHMR	50	48.0	40,257,484	1,975,323	483	48.0	▼ -2				
WARBANK	265	255	1,402,870	365,187	116	255	▼ -5				
Banks			53,951,465	6,289,789	862	950.81	▼ -7.35				
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	—				
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	—				
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	490	—				
WINS	108	102	20,289	2,189	5	108	▲ 6.0				
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	186	—				
FTI	62	57	286,222	16,806	54	60	▼ -2.0				
WETHAQ	56	52	39,511	2,057	4	56	—				
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—				
Insurance			346,922	21,052	63	1105.44	▲ 2.87				



NEW YORK: An American flag hangs on the front of the New York Stock Exchange. European stock markets eked out some modest gains yesterday after a strong US jobs report helped Wall Street end the previous week on a high note. —AP

BIG WEEK FOR MARKETS: BREXIT, FED, ELECTIONS

LONDON: Investors around the world are bracing for a series of events this week that could potentially cause waves in markets. And, for once, they're not directly about US President Donald Trump.

From the expected launch of Britain's exit from the European Union to the Federal Reserve's discussion of another interest rate hike, there's a lot that could cause volatility and even put a brake on the so-called Trump Bump, the months-long rally in stocks. "This week is most unusual from a macro point of view as there is a heavy concentration of event risk," said Neil MacKinnon, global macro strategist at VTB Capital. Here are a few of the biggest events.

Brexit begins?

Brexit could become a binding, irreversible fact this week. Since Britain voted to leave the EU last June, nothing happened apart from a sharp fall in the pound. But that period of calm is due to end, with the government expected to trigger, as soon as today, the formal process by which the country leaves the bloc it's been part of since 1973.

Triggering the so-called Article 50 of the EU treaty begins two years divorce negotiations. They will focus on how Britain leaves the bloc and on creating a new trade deal with the EU, its main export market. It's unclear how big the market reaction may be to the announcement of the Article 50. Traders will have come to expect it to happen eventually, which could mean the pound doesn't drop too sharply on the day. In the longer-term, however, it means British markets will be subject to a daily barrage of headlines on how the negotiations are going.

"It will prove challenging for the government to manage expectations over a two-year period, and negotiating setbacks may be reflected in heightened financial market volatility," said James McCormack, Global Head of Sovereign Ratings at Fitch. And complications could arise, as evidenced Monday by the decision from the Scottish government to call for another independence referendum from the United Kingdom. That is directly due to June's Brexit vote, when Scotland voted overwhelmingly to remain part of the EU.

Fed in focus

US rate-setters are set to sanction another quarter point interest rate increase at the conclusion of their two-day meeting tomorrow, which will take the benchmark Fed rate up to a range of 0.75 - 1.00 percentage point. That won't be a surprise - it's a near unanimous opinion among experts in the markets following a raft of positive economic news, including last Friday's stronger than anticipated payrolls report.

There will be more interest in what Fed Chair Janet Yellen says in her subsequent press conference and whether she will indicate that there are more hikes to come this year. "The expectations that the Fed will hike three times this year has been rising in recent weeks and the market will be watching the central bank's statement closely for any signs that another move could follow in June," said Jane Foley, a senior strategist at Rabobank International.

The Fed isn't the only central bank meeting this week - the Bank of Japan, the Swiss National Bank and the Bank of England will all reconsider their monetary policies, potentially moving markets.

Dutch elections

In Europe, another key focus will be tomorrow's general election in the Netherlands, and how well populist anti-EU forces do. The vote comes at a time of acute tension between the country and Turkey after Turkish ministers were prevented from campaigning in the Netherlands regarding a referendum in Turkey. That prompted Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to claim that "Nazism is alive in the West."

The question is how the clash will play out in the election: will it boost support for Prime Minister Mark Rutte's conservative party or will it stir up more support for the Party for Freedom, the

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MERCEDES-AMG SUCCESS

HALF A CENTURY OF DRIVING PERFORMANCE

AMG - worldwide these three letters stand for supreme automotive performance, exclusivity, efficiency and highly dynamic driving pleasure. In 2017, the company founded by Hans-Werner Aufrecht and Erhard Melcher celebrates its 50th anniversary. During the course of this half-century, Mercedes-AMG has recorded numerous successes, both in motor sport and through the development of unique road-going vehicles, thereby repeatedly underlining its position as a highly successful sports car and performance brand - and today this is truer than ever.

A flying start

AMG - the names behind these three letters are at the starting point of the lightning development from a two-man operation into the global Mercedes-AMG Performance brand. The AMG letters stand for the names of the engineers and the



birthplace of engineer Aufrecht - A as in Aufrecht, M as in Melcher and G as in Gross-Aspach. Their story began in the 1960s: Engineers Hans Werner Aufrecht and Erhard Melcher worked on the 300 SE racing engine in the development department at Daimler-Benz - until the company ceased all motor sports activities. In 1967, they founded the "Aufrecht Melcher Grobaspach Engineering Bureau, Design and Testing for the Development of Racing Engines", based in a former mill in the neighboring village of Burgstall. The engines reworked there



quickly became some of the most sought after for private racing teams.

In 1971, the 24-hour race of Spa went down in the company's annals as its first sporting milestone: Class victory and second place in the overall ranking for the

AMG Mercedes 300 SEL 6.8. The heavy luxury saloon duped the lighter-weight racing car competitors - a perfect sensation, and the name AMG travelled the world.

From the 70s until the end of the 90s AMG built upon their exceptional reputation in the field of sports cars, and from there followed years of growth, in which AMG equipped more and more Mercedes models with performance technology.

Consistent evolution

In 1990 a cooperation contract with DaimlerChrysler AG was signed, followed by the acquisition in 1999 of a 51 percent majority shareholding in AMG, before finally becoming sole owner in 2005. Today, Mercedes-AMG GmbH has a staff of over 1100 in Affalterbach. The endeavour to reach top performance, precision and efficiency is part of the professional self-conception of AMG. Every AMG High-Performance car promises exceptional performance, fascinating driving enjoyment

and the highest level of quality right down to the last detail.

In the framework of the "AMG Performance 50" strategy, every new AMG model aspires to be the market leader in terms of fuel consumption and emission levels. Many AMG vehicles are already today "best in class" in terms of fuel consumption, emissions, top power output and torque.

The latest generation of AMG models available in Kuwait include:

- * Mercedes-AMG A 45
- * Mercedes-AMG C 43
- * Mercedes-AMG C 63
- * Mercedes-AMG C 63 S
- * Mercedes-AMG C 43 Coupe
- * Mercedes-AMG C 63 Coupe
- * Mercedes-AMG C 63 S Coupe
- * Mercedes-AMG CLA 45 Coupe
- * Mercedes-AMG CLS 63 Coupe
- * Mercedes-AMG CLS 63 S Coupe
- * Mercedes-AMG E 63 S

- * Mercedes-AMG S 63
- * Mercedes-AMG S 65
- * Mercedes-AMG S 63 Coupe
- * Mercedes-AMG S 65 Coupe
- * Mercedes-AMG GT
- * Mercedes-AMG GT S
- * Mercedes-AMG GLA 45
- * Mercedes-AMG GLC 43
- * Mercedes-AMG GLE 63
- * Mercedes-AMG GLE 63 S
- * Mercedes-AMG GLE 43 Coupe
- * Mercedes-AMG GLE 63 Coupe
- * Mercedes-AMG GLE 63 S Coupe
- * Mercedes-AMG GLS 63
- * Mercedes-AMG G 63
- * Mercedes-AMG G 65
- * Mercedes-AMG C 43 Cabriolet
- * Mercedes-AMG C 63 S Cabriolet
- * Mercedes-AMG S 63 Cabriolet
- * Mercedes-AMG S 65 Cabriolet
- * Mercedes-AMG SL 63
- * Mercedes-AMG SL 65
- * Mercedes-AMG SLC 43



OIL PRICES DROP AS HEDGE FUNDS HEAD FOR THE EXIT

LONDON: Hedge funds and other money managers had barely started liquidating their record bullish position in crude oil futures and options before prices tumbled on March 8. The critical question is how much more of the position will need to be liquidated before the market stabilizes again.

Hedge funds still held a net long position in the three major Brent and WTI futures and options contracts amounting to 874 million barrels at the close of business on March 7.

Fund managers had reduced their net position by 16 million barrels compared with the previous week and by a total of 77 million compared with the record of 951 million barrels set on Feb. 21. The net position has been trimmed in the two weeks ending on March 7 but only after increasing by 529 million barrels in the previous 14 weeks. The net long position is still more than double the low of 422 million barrels set in mid-November before OPEC announced its production-cutting agreement.

Fund managers still held an overwhelming bullish position at the end of March 7, with long positions outnumbering shorts by a ratio of 7:1. The near-record concentration of hedge fund long positions in oil significantly raised the risk of a crowded trade and likely contributed to the sharp fall in the price of oil starting on March 8.

The drop in prices started after the cut off for the latest commitments of traders reports issued by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and ICE Futures Europe. But the next reports, for the week ending March 14, are likely to show hedge funds liquidated more long positions when they are published on March 17 and March 20.

Crowded trade

The sharp fall in prices that occurred on March 8 and continued on March 9-10 is consistent with the rush for the exits which occurs when a crowded trade breaks down ("Predatory trading and crowded exits", Clunie, 2010). The rush normally starts shortly sometime AFTER prices have peaked and after a small number of traders have already started to shift their positions ("Why stock markets crash", Sornette, 2003).

In this case, Brent prices reached a recent peak of \$57.31 per barrel on Feb. 21, and the hedge funds' net long position also peaked at 951 million barrels on the same date. Since then, there has been gentle liquidation of hedge fund positions and a barely perceptible downward trend in prices.

This gentle exit by a small number of traders turned into a rush on March 8 in much the same way an avalanche picks up momentum.

Critically, some traders seem to have anticipated the market was close to a turning point, with the number of short positions rising from 102 million on Feb. 21 to 144 million on March 7.

The absence of fresh hedge fund buying and the emergence of a small band of short sellers created a liquidity hole and was likely responsible for the abrupt drop in prices which started on March 8.

The next commitments of traders reports, published on March 17 and March 20, will reveal how much of the remaining net long position was liquidated between March 8 and March 10, and give some idea of how much more needs to be liquidated before prices steady again. — Reuters

WANDA ABORTS \$1BN BID FOR GOLDEN GLOBES PRODUCER

BEIJING: A \$1 billion bid by China's Wanda Group for the operator of the Golden Globe awards has been aborted, the US firm's parent has said, following reports that it was sunk by a Chinese clampdown on overseas investments. The acquisitive Chinese property-to-entertainment group had announced in November it planned to buy Dick Clark Productions, the latest move into Hollywood by a company from China.

But Eldridge Industries, the parent of Dick Clark Productions, said in a statement issued in the United States on Friday that the deal was terminated "after Wanda failed to honour its contractual obligations". Eldridge Industries added that Dick Clark Productions is suing Wanda for funds it is contractually owed upon "failure to consummate the sale".

Reached by phone yesterday, a Wanda spokeswoman declined to comment. Sources told Bloomberg News last week that Wanda had struggled to move the money for the acquisition out of China. "It's almost impossible to use the yuan to invest in overseas projects," Zhang Yichen, chief executive and chairman of Citic Capital Holdings, told Bloomberg News.

"To say that capital controls don't have any impact-it's a lie. As a result, yuan funds can only give up, and not invest (outside China)."

Wanda, headed by one of China's richest men, Wang Jianlin, is a commercial property developer that has diversified recently into entertainment and sports, partly as a buffer against Chinese real-estate volatility. Wanda bought AMC Entertainment Holdings-owner of US-based cinema chain AMC Theatres-for \$2.6 billion in 2012 and last year acquired Legendary Entertainment, makers of the



BEIJING: (FILES) This file photo taken on August 25, 2016 shows Chairman of China's Wanda Group Wang Jianlin appearing on a big screen as he delivers a speech at an annual business summit in Beijing. — AFP

recent "Batman" trilogy and "Jurassic World", for \$3.5 billion.

The Dick Clark Productions deal would have marked its entry into television production. Dick Clark Productions' eponymous founder made his name presenting "American Bandstand" for more than 30 years. The company also owns the television rights to events ranging from Miss America to the New Year countdown in New York's Times Square.

'Irrational investments'

Chinese firms went on a multi-billion-dollar shopping spree last year, culminating in state-owned ChemChina's pending \$43 billion bid for Swiss seed giant Syngenta. The acquisitions stoked Chinese official concern over capital flight, reckless investments, slowing domestic economic growth and a weakening yuan currency.

The government began last year to roll out

new restrictions to curb the outflow of money into "irrational" investments. Commerce Minister Zhong Shan on Saturday kept up the criticism of overseas investments by Chinese "companies with no strength or experience".

"Some companies have already paid the price," Zhong said during a press conference at the annual session of China's rubber-stamp legislature. "We not only discourage these kinds of irrational investments, but we will also be keeping watch on them." Central bank governor Zhou Xiaochuan last week blamed the foreign investment wave on "overheated emotions", saying the government's measures have been "necessary and effective". A \$1 billion financing deal between Paramount Pictures and two Chinese film companies, Shanghai Film Group and Huahua Media, has reportedly borne little fruit since it was announced in January.

December saw the collapse of Chinese copper manufacturer Anhui Xinke New Materials' \$350 million bid to buy Voltage Pictures, the producer of "The Hurt Locker", shortly after it was announced.

Other overseas acquisitions reportedly running into trouble include a Chinese consortium's purchase of Italian football titans AC Milan, which has been repeatedly delayed. China's clampdown marks an about-face after authorities had long urged companies to seek better returns and technological know-how through overseas acquisitions. China's direct overseas investment plummeted 35.7 percent year-on-year in January, according to official data, though the Lunar New Year business slowdown during the month may also have been a factor. — AFP

TRUMP BUDGET TIMELINE MIXES DEADLINES AND UNCERTAINTY

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump's release of a spending blueprint for the upcoming budget year will set in motion a debate that's full of uncertainty - and the potential for gridlock, even a government shutdown. There's also a more immediate quandary: What to do about the current budget year? None of the 12 annual appropriations bills has been enacted and a temporary funding measure expires next month. Trump's signature is needed on what promises to be an omnibus spending bill with a \$1 trillion-plus price tag. The path toward passage may be rocky, given the political land mines such as the southern border wall and a budget-busting supplemental Pentagon request.

Some key dates in the process:

Early March: With Wednesday's deadline to increase the government's bor-

rowing authority looming, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he would use bookkeeping measures to avert a first-ever government default on U.S. obligations such as Social Security benefits and interest payments. Such "extraordinary measures" will buy time until the fall for lawmakers to approve legislation increasing the debt limit.

Thursday: Trump submits a budget covering only discretionary spending. That's the \$1 trillion-plus portion of the \$4 trillion federal budget that passes through Congress each year. Trump's plan would boost the Pentagon's budget by \$54 billion - about 10 percent - while cutting domestic programs and foreign aid by an equal amount.

April 28: A temporary, government-wide funding bill expires. Unless Congress passes and Trump signs a catchall spending bill or another exten-

sion, the government would partially shut down. Democratic votes are needed to pass the bill through the Senate, but any measure that satisfies Democrats is sure to alienate tea party Republicans.

May: Trump reveals the remainder of his budget, including tax proposals, plans for curbing mandatory spending, economic projections - and large deficits. Around the same time, Congress is likely to work on its annual budget resolution, which promises to be very difficult but is a precursor to Trump's promise to overhaul tax laws.

Summer-Fall: The Republican-run Congress tries to advance spending bills for the 2018 budget year, which begins Oct. 1. Meeting that deadline is highly unlikely, but at some point, budget talks probably will begin - assuming, as many do, that the regular process will have broken down. — AP



LAWRENCEBURG: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky, speaks at the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the American Legion Post 34 in Lawrenceburg, Ky. — AP

CREC LAUNCHES BUSINESS UNIT 'EDARA' FOR MANAGING PROPERTIES

KUWAIT: The Commercial Real Estate Company (Al-Tijaria) is proud to launch "edara", our new property management service backed by years of experience and an exceptional team, it is now available for all private property owners and commercial building owners.

A pioneering vision of Abdulfatah M.R. Marafie - Chairman of the Commercial Real Estate Company specified, "This initiative comes in line with Al-Tijaria's strategic planning for expansion, development and investment". With this new business unit, we aim to create an added value for landlords and property honors in the State of Kuwait providing them with peace of mind and responsibility in following up and managing

their assets. Using expert experience and no matter how small or large your property portfolio, let edara help you grow and offer your clients a world class service.



Edara is a multi-disciplinary practice with direct access to specialist advice providing complete property management services to its clients such as Facility management,

Property management, Financial services, Policies & Procedures, IT solutions, Legal services, Rent collection etc. Edara, the new strategic business unit of Al-Tijaria backed by over 15 years of success, has the market knowledge and expertise required empowering us to provide our clients with a first class property advisory service. This unique third party asset management service will handle the day-to-day management and ensuring our clients maximize value and minimize risk.

Marafie added that Al-Tijaria has built a distinguished longstanding expertise in managing properties over the years, managing its properties of more than 1,211 residential and commercial units. In addition to managing more than 2,400 units for others



Abdulfatah M R Marafie

properties. Two of our new and most noteworthy properties under edara management is Cube Mall and Boulevard.

Cube Mall is one of the most prominent malls located in Salmiya comprising of a total of 79 units of restaurants, office space and retail outlets. Boulevard - is amongst one of the largest projects in Kuwait located in Salmiya comprising of a total of 180+ restaurants and retail outlets, outdoor facilities such as Football fields, Cricket field, Tennis and Basketball courts and a park area for families and kids.

Edara is available to the entire Kuwaiti market, offering complete services with full honesty and trust for property honors to manage their assets.

KFH WINS 3 AWARDS FROM EMEAFINANCE

KUWAIT: The prestigious EmeaFinance Magazine has awarded Kuwait Finance House (KFH) Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait, Best local Bank and Best product launch awards, in recognition of its outstanding performance in the field of Islamic finance and the distinguished achievement that contributed to the development of banking industry.

Group Chief Retail and Private Banking Officer, at KFH, Waleed Mandani stated on the sidelines of receiving the awards in the award ceremony held in Dubai that KFH managed to reinforce its role and expand its field of business in Kuwait and the globe, indicating KFH is the first Islamic bank in Kuwait, and it has a proven track record of achievements at the local, regional and global levels.

KFH is eager to establish concrete pillars for Islamic finance based on developing staff, offering innovative services and products that meet the market requirements, and strengthens the concept of social responsibility. KFH's performance and professional commitment underscore its reputation that is based on its financial status,

and its leadership in that field. Mandani said that the awards are of great importance, since such awards affirm the integration of KFH performance and the harmony with the value system. EmeaFinance awarded KFH after editorial team evaluated all submissions received, and considered the content and performance of all entries in each category submitted for. The editorial team draws upon third-party information and data in the process.

The team may also review comments and ratings from Moody's, standard & poor's, Fitch and other third party rating agencies. The team seeks advice from bankers, research analysts, or other knowledgeable consultants. The awards consider various performance and structural factors, such as market share, growth in important product classes, type or size of successful deals closed, profitability and corporate strategy.

EmeaFinance is a bi-monthly magazine dedicated to the financial community, its customers, and suppliers across the EMEA region; Europe, Middle East, Africa.



HONDA ALGHANIM LAUNCHES OFFER FOR HONDA CAR LOVERS

KUWAIT: Honda Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of Honda cars, motorcycles and marine equipment in Kuwait, launched an exclusive offer on its hero models, giving customers up to KD2,000 cash back, a three-year free maintenance contract, free car insurance and registration services when buying the car during the month of March.

The March offer enables customers to own the ideal car that suits their lifestyle and needs, giving them performance, style as well as a wide range of features at a competitive price and service offering. Whether looking for a practical car for everyday use, safety, reliability or design, the offer caters to students, families and professionals alike. The offer avails on a wide carline range of Honda's cars that include the Accord, Pilot 2017 cars as well as the Odyssey car and more.



Accord 2017
The 2017 Accord has just been named one of Card and Driver's 10 best for the 31st time. The signature Honda vehicle upholds a legacy that Honda started in 1976. With further design refinements and even more efficient performance, the Accord 2017 is available as either a two-door coupe or a four-door sedan, and continues to offer four- and six-cylinder engine choices.

Pilot 2017
The Pilot was designed to be stylish, useful and trouble-free when driving, with its sporty and refined design redefining the modern family SUV. The Pilot is built for comfort with seating for as many as eight persons, not compromising on

the premium features throughout the interior and exterior of the vehicle.

Odyssey
Ranked among the best family cars, the Odyssey is known for its safety, value, reputation, driving manners, comfort and convenience, cargo versatility, technology, and fit of various rear-facing and forward-facing child safety car seats when choosing the vehicles that best meet the needs of today's families. Honda offers a larger carline range that caters to the different needs of audiences that can be viewed and test-driven at the Honda Alghanim showrooms.

Customers can take any of these cars on a test drive by visiting one of the two Honda

Alghanim showrooms located in Al-Rai and Shuwaikh. The Honda Alghanim showroom in Al-Rai area operates from 9 am to 10 pm, Saturday to Thursday, and from 9.30 am until 10 pm on Fridays. The Shuwaikh showroom operates from 9 am to 10 pm.

The cars service center waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers, digital satellite TV, free wireless internet and relaxing massage chairs.

Alghanim Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda automobiles, motorcycles, power products, and marine products in Kuwait, is committed to providing customers with flexible payment solutions and efficient and cost-effective services.



Mandani receiving the awards

UPAC REPORTS EARNINGS OF KD 8.4 MILLION FOR 2016

KUWAIT: United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC), a leading commercial real estate and facilities management company, yesterday reported earnings of KD 8.4 million (107.52 fils per share) for full-year 2016, an increase of 24 percent from the prior year. UPAC revenue rose 3.6 percent to KD 13.2 million,

will be a major retail, leisure and entertainment destination covering two million square feet.

Company update
In September 2016, UPAC's Extraordinary General Assembly approved a KD 30 million increase in the Company's authorized share capital. This increase will serve to further boost UPAC's liquidity and support planned investments and growth opportunities within its core markets.

In February 2017, UPAC's Extraordinary General Assembly approved the amendments to its Company's Articles to include a wider scope of real estate activities to support its long-term growth strategy.

2016 financial highlights
Net profit: KD 8.4 million, up 24 percent from 2015
Earnings per share (EPS) of 107.52 fils, up 25 percent from 2015
EBITDA: KD 9.8 million, up 5 percent from 2015
Revenue: KD 13.2 million, up 3.6 percent from 2015

Outlook
"Our profits have increased steadily year-over-year, and our strong showing in 2016 reflects UPAC's commitment to improving efficiency and cost in existing operations, as well as setting the stage for future expansion and growth," said Nadia Akil, CEO UPAC. "Growing our customer base and expanding our presence in the commercial real estate domain within Kuwait and the wider GCC continues to be our main priority going forward, with the Reem Mall project offering an enormous opportunity for the company's future growth."



UPAC CEO Nadia Akil

compared with KD 12.7 million in 2015. Growth was driven by the company's income-generating projects in Kuwait, where UPAC manages more than 24,000 square meters of commercial space at the Kuwait International Airport, Sheikh Saad Terminal, and Discovery Mall.

UPAC is also developing Reem Mall in Abu Dhabi in partnership with National Real Estate Company (NREC) and has committed to invest up to \$224 million to support equity funding into the project. Upon completion, Reem Mall

BURGAN BANK PLANS TO CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WITH CUSTOMERS

KUWAIT: Burgan Banks delighted to announce a special offer aiming to encourage its customers to honor their mothers on their special day, March 21. The Mother's Day offer designed exclusively for its cus-



tomers entitles them to a 20 percent discount at Atyab Al-Marshoud; the renowned collector of the finest traditional Arabic fragrances and oil and a favorite retailer for women in general. Burgan Bank, under its consumer driven strategy, aims at nurturing and highlighting the roles of its customers.

The offer was designed to celebrate the valuable role of mothers and their contributions, sacrifices, and status in the society.

The promotion is valid for eight days only, starting on March 14th until March 21st. This offer enables Burgan Bank customers to treat their mothers to something special, such as a gift of Kuwait's most authentic aromas and bukhoors.

To avail this offer, Burgan Bank customers can visit any of Atyab Al-Marshoud stores across the country, use any Burgan Bank card and receive an immediate 20 percent discount on their total bill. Burgan Bank continues to engage in partnerships with its customers that tie together privilege, value and benefit to make their journey with the bank more enjoyable; a practice which stems from the bank's understanding and commitments its customers' needs.

To find out more about Burgan Bank's latest promotions and offers, customers are urged to visit any of the bank's branches.

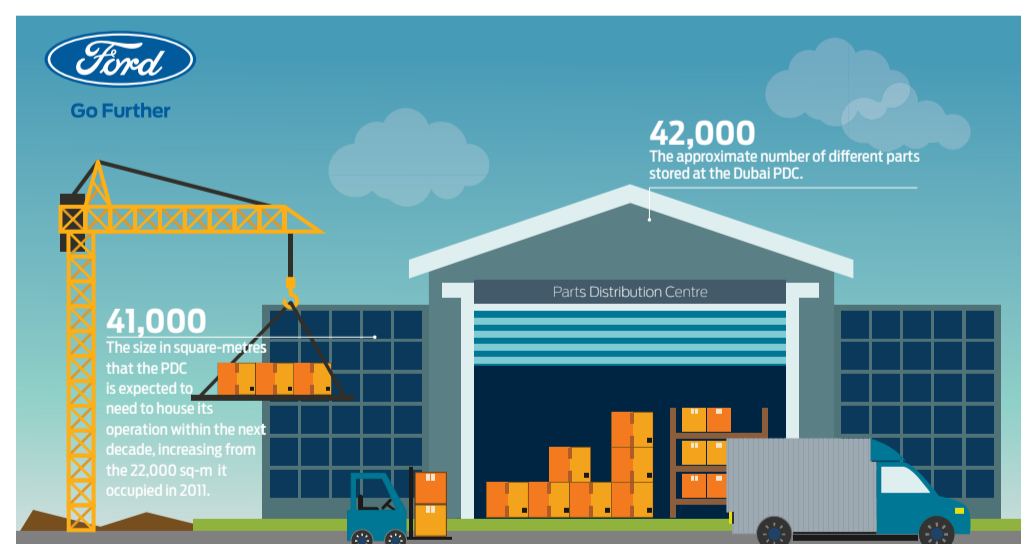
DISCOVER HOW FORD'S PARTS DEPOT DISTRIBUTES FROM DUBAI TO DAKAR

DUBAI: In 2011, Ford established a regional parts distribution centre (PDC) in Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Zone. Before it opened its doors in the UAE, it could take up to 90 days for a part requested by a Ford dealer from the Middle East, to be handed over. Nowadays, it can take as little as one day - with a same-day emergency delivery service available - or up to a maximum of only nine days for a vehicle to have its replacement part ready to go to work, depending on the location.

Even more impressive is that within two days of a dealer requesting a replacement part, it is located, packaged and invoiced, which equates to the quickest turnaround in the region. For an emergency order, however, it gets handled within three hours, regardless of its final destination. The approximate 42,000 different part numbers in the UAE travel as far as the west coast of Africa - to places like Dakar in Senegal, with a potential 85 per cent of those parts having arrived in the UAE, initially, direct from the affiliates in the United States. The United Kingdom accounts for a further 11 per cent, with the final four per cent of parts shipped to the UAE originating in Thailand, India and South Africa.

On average, seven ocean containers arrive by truck to Ford's PDC each day, fully-loaded with parts to be received, shelved, and accounted for. The same day, an average of 15 trucks, some carrying full ocean containers depart the facility, ready to distribute Ford service parts region-wide. In 2011, the Ford PDC stood on 22,000 square metres of warehouse space. Currently its floor space is around 27,000 square metres, though plans are afoot to increase to an estimated 30,000 square metres in the next five years. Within the decade it's projected that 41,000 square metres will be needed to cater for the amount of parts passing through Dubai's distribution centre.

Despite Ford demonstrating an exceptionally efficient downsizing in unique parts, year-on-year regional sales growth of around 13 per cent has dictated the need for growing warehouse floor space. The sales growth not only highlights the PDC's importance due to increased demands,



but also the innovation required to best serve Ford customers. The end result of these increased efficiencies means most parts at the PDC don't have much of a literal shelf life.

"When a part is ordered by a dealer, it's important to know that their technicians will probably be required to perform some sub-assembly to go with that part before it is fitted to the vehicle. In some cases, it could be closer to 20 different parts, and not just one that might be needed", said Erhan Yengulalp, Ford Dubai PDC Manager, Parts, Service and Logistics.

"Consider a replacement door for example - this one item requires many different component parts," Yengulalp explained. "Therefore the associated sub-assemblies will need the door panel, hinges, door checker, weather strips, mouldings, door glass, run channels, door run-belts, door glass and door handles. Our ability to locate, pack and invoice all those parts in a region-best time makes the Ford PDC one of the top performing supply chain services in the Middle East and North Africa."

The majority of the parts that are delivered to the Ford Parts Distribution Centre in Dubai

arrive in a cardboard box on a pallet, which is then taken from to be stock-kept in the racks or stored in drawers. Showcasing Ford's desire to work efficiently, and 'greener', 100 per cent of the boxes and pallets are recycled to pack and redistribute parts to their new destination, proving that corporate responsibility is high on Ford's agenda, and sustainability plays a vital role in the company's plans.

Investing in a regional growing parts warehouse allows manufacturers to better manage its supply chain, and brings Ford closer to the customer, with a keen eye on service.

In Kuwait, Genuine Ford and Motorcraft parts are available at Alghanim Auto, the only importer contractually authorised by Ford to sell new Ford vehicles, genuine Ford and Motorcraft parts, and provide aftersales support to Ford and Lincoln customers in Kuwait. Customers looking for genuine Ford and Motorcraft parts can visit the Ford Alghanim Service and Spare Parts Center in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, opposite from the Classical Car Museum and Sirbb Circuit. The Service and Spare Parts Center is open from 7am to 7pm every day except Fridays.

DON'T TELL YOUR BOSS: HOW TO STREAM MARCH MADNESS TOURNAMENT

NEW YORK: The 67-game March Madness basketball tournament begins today, with many games taking place during the day when you're, ahem, supposed to be working.

Fortunately for you - but not your bosses - all NCAA Tournament games will be available online. For many of the early round games, though, you'll need a password through your cable or satellite TV subscription. The television networks no longer offer a stand-alone subscription you can buy without cable.

Happy streaming

The best places to watch: <http://www.ncaa.com/marchmadness> or the NCAA March Madness Live app. All the games will be there, regardless of where they are televised.

CBS is televising 24 games, including the national championship and the Final Four. These games won't require a cable or satellite password through the app or website, but they are viewable only on phones, tablets and computers - not streaming devices such as Apple TV, Roku or Fire TV.

You'll need a password for the remaining games, which are split among the Turner-owned cable channels - TBS, TNT and truTV. There's a three-hour grace period on most devices. You could get some 40 devices to watch all the games for free, but get-

ting cable service might be cheaper. Streaming devices are OK for watching, but there's no grace period. Games also will be available on individual apps for TBS, TNT and truTV - again with a password. On desktops and laptops, the March Madness website will have a "boss button" on the upper right corner. One click replaces the game with a fake screenshot of a note-taking or PowerPoint-like app.

No password?

Consider subscribing to an online television package. If you want just the CBS games and don't have an antenna, you can get CBS All Access starting at \$6 a month. This service is required to watch CBS games on a streaming TV device.

You can time the free week trial to watch the Final Four games on April 1 and the championship on April 3, if that's all you want. Make sure your local station is included.

CBS says it has deals covering more than 90 percent of the US population, but that won't help if you're in that 10 percent. For the Turner channels, you can get Sling TV for \$25 a month, DirecTV Now at \$35 or PlayStation Vue for \$30 or \$40, depending on the market. All three offer weeklong trials as well. For Sling TV, get the "Orange" package with the "Comedy Plus Extra" add-on, or sign up for the "Blue" option. Same

price either way. Sony's PlayStation Vue is the only service to offer both Turner and CBS, but only in selected markets.

The availability of CBS stations is impressive, compared with other networks, but it's short of what CBS All Access offers. Sony says the 99 CBS stations it has through Vue covers 60 percent of the U.S. population.

Keeping up

If you subscribe through PlayStation Vue and have a PlayStation 4 device, you can watch three channels on the same screen at once. This means you can keep up with games being televised simultaneously on different channels, or have a talk show taking up one of the three streams. You choose which stream gets the audio. If you're watching Vue on something other than the PlayStation 4, it's just one game at a time.

The March Madness app on Apple TV offers two games simultaneously, one with audio. You can have multiple browsers open on some devices, or you can just watch simultaneously on a phone and a personal computer.

Raising the stakes

If your office isn't doing a March Madness pool, there are plenty of options online. You can set up

your own challenge group with friends, family or co-workers, or you can join an existing public group. Yahoo, for instance, has groups organized around specific schools. ESPN is offering prizes, including a trip to Hawaii.

The NCAA's official bracket challenge promises to integrate links to live video streams from the tournament. There's also an option to award bonus points for correctly picking upsets.

There's more

Westwood One's radio coverage of all games will be available through the March Madness app on phones and tablets and the tournament's website on PCs - no password needed. No streaming TV devices. This year, live audio is also available on Amazon Alexa speakers, such as the Echo. Just ask with a voice command.

On desktops and laptops, a shot-chart feature will let you see where players made shots during a game, updated in real time. It's an optional graphical overlay over the live video stream, so you won't miss the action.

On Apple TV, March Madness fans will get a special navigation tool resembling the traditional NCAA bracket. Just click on the matchup you're interested in for stats, highlights and a link to the full game. — AP



Sam Rejoy, H.E. Yeonchul Yoo and Abdull Rahman Al Babtain.

LG INTRODUCES ITS FAMILY-FRIENDLY AIR CONDITIONING SOLUTIONS WITH INVERTER TECHNOLOGY FOR HOMES

KUWAIT: LG Electronics (LG) along with Exclusive distributor Al-Babtain Electronics has launched across Kuwait its latest state-of-the-art, family-friendly residential air conditioning (AC) solutions, equipped with LG's pioneering technological innovation known as 'inverter technology.' Now LG introduces the next generation of air conditioning solutions that ensures optimal cooling performance, energy efficiency, cleaner air and durability unlike any other.

During its just concluded two-day launch event, hosted in the city's Radisson Blu Hotel - LG guests included dealers, distributors, clients, ministry engineers and AC contractors. Notable guests at the event included: The president of LG Electronics Gulf - Yong Geun Choi, the General Manager of RAC Sales Division, LG Electronics Gulf - Changho Lee, the Board of Director of Al Babtain Group - Abdull Rahman Al Babtain, the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kuwait - H.E. Yeonchul Yoo, the General Manager of Al Babtain Electronics - Sam Rejoy and the Councillor of the Thailand Embassy in Kuwait - H.E. Pisoot Suwanrasami. Guests experienced first-hand LG's newest air conditioning solutions and how this global leader in air conditioning is taking the industry's first move in introducing inverter technology air conditioners for homes across the nation.

"LG always presents solutions with innovative technology at the core, technology that is carefully crafted and developed for what matters most - the family. As we launch LG's latest air conditioning solutions with our innovative inverter technology in Kuwait today, we are proud that our solutions bring the best of LG to families across the country. And with the support of our valued partners, we can continue to ensure families benefit from durable air conditioners that also cool faster, better, and afford the home the cleanest air possible and

most efficient solution available," said Yong Geun Choi, President of LG Electronics Gulf.

"As the exclusive distributor of LG in Kuwait, we are proud to bring the latest technologies that LG introduces and make them available for everyone in Kuwait. With the new inverter technology in LG Air Conditioners, our customers in Kuwait will be able to enjoy a cool atmosphere in the high summer heat of Kuwait," said Sam Rejoy, Al Babtain Electronics General Manager.

In a bid to introduce its most family friendly air solutions, LG showcased its DUALCOOL inverter air conditioner that works even up to 65C, thanks to its Dual Inverter Compressor of which LG offers a 10-year warranty so users can enjoy the benefits of the LG DUALCOOL inverter air conditioner for longer periods of time.

Additionally, LG DUALCOOL maximizes cooling performance, providing 60 percent faster cooling and 20 percent more cooling. A leader in energy efficiency, the LG DUALCOOL inverter air conditioner saves energy up to 65 percent as compared with conventional air conditioners. Another key feature the LG DUALCOOL, is that it offers a 'Smart Diagnosis', which allows users to remotely and conveniently check setup, installation, troubleshooting, and other information directly from a smartphone via a SIMs module.

Additionally, LG DUALCOOL includes LG's exclusive Gold Fin coating, which forms a protective shield on the surface of the heat exchanger, making the surface more resistant to corrosion while improving the overall durability of the heat exchanger. Other key features include: Comfort Sleep, Comfort Air, Dual Protection Filter, Quiet Cooling, Auto Cleaning, and Smart Display, whereby users can check the status of the air conditioner more easily.

LG DUALCOOL is now available at all Al Babtain Electronics showrooms and retail outlets across Kuwait.



Sam Rejoy, Yong Geun Choi, Abdull Rahman Al-Babtain, H.E. Yeonchul Yoo and H.E. Pisoot Suwanrasami.



H.E. Pisoot Suwanrasami, H.E. Yeonchul Yoo and Yong Geun Choi.

INTEL BUYING ISRAELI CAR TECH FIRM MOBILEYE FOR \$15BN

JERUSALEM: Intel will buy Israeli car tech firm Mobileye for more than \$15 billion (14 billion euros), the companies said yesterday, in a deal signalling the US computer chip giant's commitment to technology for self-driving vehicles.

Israeli media reported that the deal worth approximately \$15.3 billion was the largest ever cross-border acquisition for an Israeli tech firm. It comes with Intel and Mobileye previously collaborating with German automaker BMW to develop self-driving cars.

Intel and Mobileye said they expected to combine to become a global leader in "autonomous driving" that could provide the technology at a lower cost.

"The combination is expected to accelerate innovation for the automotive industry and position Intel as a leading technology provider in the fast-growing market for highly and fully autonomous vehicles," it said. "Intel estimates the vehicle systems, data and services market opportunity to be up to \$70 billion by 2030." Last year, BMW announced that it was joining forces with Mobileye and Intel on a self-drive project for "highly and fully automated driving" to be commercially available by 2021.

BMW announced in January it would deploy 40 self-driving vehicles for tests in the United States and Europe.

In August, Mobileye and UK-based auto-equipment maker Delphi said they were teaming up to develop an autonomous driving system which would be ready for vehicle-makers in 2019.

Nearly all the major global automakers are involved in testing autonomous or semi-autonomous

vehicles, with some expecting full autonomy within a few years.

'Data centres on wheels'

Mobileye, whose speciality includes systems for accident avoidance, has concluded an agreement with Volkswagen on road data technology as well.

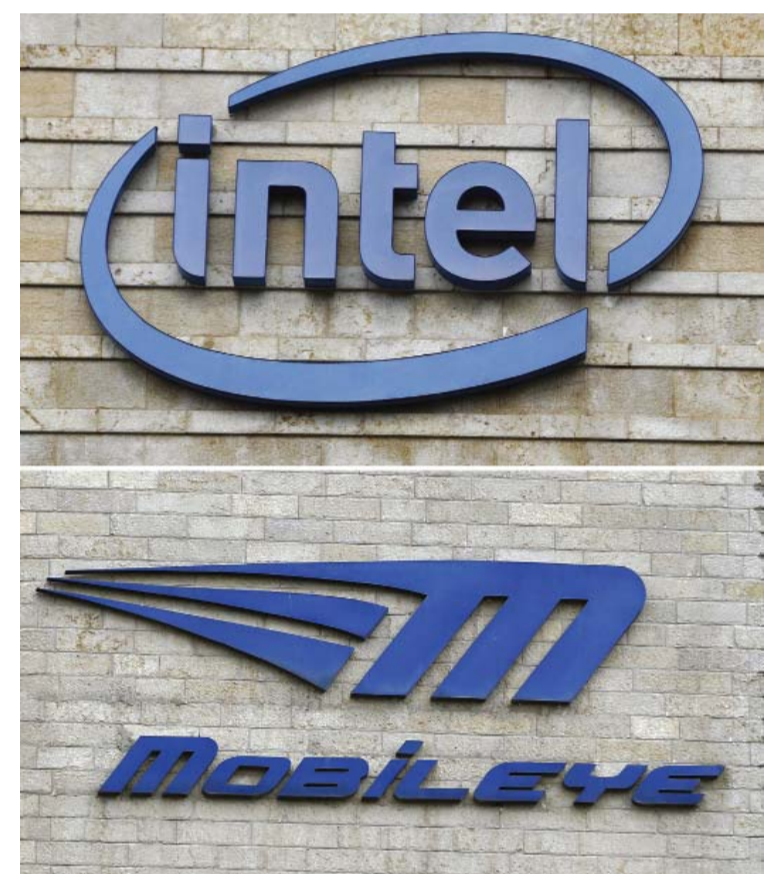
The Israeli firm was founded in 1999. It has developed real-time camera systems used to avoid accidents with the help of algorithms that interpret the data.

Its proprietary EyeQ5 computer vision processor gets input from the 360-degree surround view sensors as well as localisation.

Drivers may be familiar with its system that warns when they are approaching too closely to another vehicle or pedestrian.

Mobileye co-founder Ziv Aviram said of the acquisition that "together, we will provide an attractive value proposition for the automotive industry." "We expect the growth towards autonomous driving to be transformative," he said in the statement. "It will provide consumers with safer, more flexible, and less costly transportation options, and provide incremental business model opportunities for our automaker customers." The companies said the transaction, approved by the boards of both Intel and Mobileye, is expected to close within the next nine months.

"As cars progress from assisted driving to fully autonomous, they are increasingly becoming data centres on wheels," the statement said. "Intel expects that by 2020, autonomous vehicles will generate 4,000 GB of data per day, which plays to Intel's strengths in high-performance computing and net-



JERUSALEM: A combination of pictures taken in Jerusalem yesterday, shows the logos of US computer chip giant Intel (top) and Israeli car tech firm Mobileye. Intel will buy Mobileye for more than \$15 billion (14 billion euros), the companies said, in a deal signalling the US computer chip giant's commitment to technology for self-driving vehicles. — AFP

work connectivity." Israeli officials were also touting the deal as a sign of confidence in the country's high-tech sector-an industry that has given it the nickname the "start-up nation".

"What's important now is that the production remains in Israel, where some 300 international com-

panies are located," Israeli Economy Minister Eli Cohen told army radio.

Intel has long had operations in Israel, opening its first development centre in 1974.

In 2014, the firm announced it was to invest close to \$6 billion in upgrading its Israeli production facilities. — AFP

RECHARGEABLE LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES COME WITH RISKS

NEW YORK: Rechargeable lithium batteries have become ubiquitous over the past decade, powering our cellphones, computers and even some cars. But they also carry the risk of intense fires, which is a special safety concern when large numbers of batteries are shipped on planes.

WHY ARE LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES MORE DANGEROUS THAN OTHER BATTERIES?

Lithium batteries are popular because they pack significantly more energy into a small package. But their chemistry makes them more likely to catch fire under certain conditions because, unlike other rechargeable batteries, they contain a flammable electrolyte and are kept pressurized.

WHAT CAUSES THE BATTERIES TO CATCH FIRE?

If the batteries have a manufacturing flaw, are damaged, are packed too closely together, are overcharged or are exposed to excessive temperatures they can overheat, causing a condition known as "thermal runaway." That's a situation in which an increase in temperature causes continuous further increases - a kind of uncontrolled positive feedback. If a single battery overheats, it can cause other nearby batteries to overheat and experience thermal runaway as well. The flammable electrolyte can also ignite.

WHY ARE LITHIUM BATTERY FIRES DIFFICULT TO PUT OUT?

Li-on battery fire temperatures have been measured up to 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit, which is close to the melting point of the aluminum used in aircraft construction. It's possible to put out flames from battery fires with water, but the water doesn't stop the thermal runaway and so the flames often return. Halogen fire suppression systems in planes should be able to put out flames from a li-on battery fire, but the flames may return after the halogen gas is expended. Vented gases from the overheated batteries can also cause an explosion capable of disabling the suppression system.

WHAT'S BEING DONE ABOUT THIS?

The International Civil Aviation



Organization, a UN agency that sets international safety standards, agreed last year to ban lithium battery shipments as cargo on passenger planes and to require batteries shipped on cargo planes be no more than 30 percent charged. Authorities hope that decreasing the energy in the batteries will reduce the risk they

will self-ignite. The new rules apply only to international flights. Countries must adopt the rules if they wish to extend them to domestic flights. Battery manufacturers opposed the new regulations, saying the risk was overstated and the requirements would disrupt supply chains. — AP

PORTUGUESE START-UP AIMS TO REVOLUTIONIZE PHYSICAL REHABILITATION INDUSTRY

LISBON: When Virgilio Bento's brother had to go to Cuba 20 years ago to receive cheap physiotherapy as he recovered from a life-threatening car crash back home in Portugal, he did not know it would inspire an innovation. Now, after developing technology that uses body sensors and artificial intelligence for his doctorate in electronic engineering, Bento aims to transform the way victims of strokes and accidents physically recover. The Stroke Wearable Operative Rehabilitation Device (SWORD) provides an exercise program on a tablet computer, which gives instructions to a patient, whose movements are monitored by sensors strapped to the body.

Progress reports are sent through the cloud to a remote physiotherapist, who can alter the exercises by sending instructions back to the tablet for the patient to see. "It's not magic, it's simple," said Bento, explaining how his system could mark a sea change by dramatically reducing the cost of physical rehabilitation and making it affordable to millions. "I saw first hand very vividly the challenges that my parents faced to provide intensive physical rehabilitation," he said. "I thought to myself 'ok this is a huge challenge that nobody is looking at, nobody is trying to solve, I will try to solve it'."

The market place for medical technology is exploding, but few solutions have been designed to aid the intensive phys-

iotherapy required for serious conditions like stroke. Alternatives, like robotics, are vastly more expensive. "There aren't enough therapists and the numbers (who need them) are only going to go up (as populations age)," said Tom Paprocki, managing director of the innovation and technology center at Direct Supply, America's leading provider of equipment and services to senior homes. "This kind of technology will help bridge that gap."

Paprocki has vetted 1,400 technology start-ups in the sector and says Bento's system is in the top five. Bento's idea is simple to offer patients physical, interactive rehabilitation in the comfort of their own home by getting rid of the need for

difficult and expensive visits to a physiotherapist at a clinic. It has taken years to refine and adapt, relying on unique sensor technology and the latest advances in cloud computing. Initial results show 93 percent of patients improved their motor performance using the exercises provided by the system.

The yearly estimated cost of treating and caring for stroke survivors - where Bento has concentrated his research - is 30 billion euros (\$32 billion) in Europe and 57 billion euros in the US, according to a report provided by Bento's company to the European Commission. Bento says his system, which gives patients immediate feedback and a score on the number of right and wrong movements they per-

form, will cost one tenth of physiotherapy. "At the end of each exercise the results appear, how many times I did the movements, how many medals I won," said Alvaro, 56, who has used the system after hip surgery. "There is virtual compensation if you do the exercises well, it's kind of fun and ends up being a bit of a game as well."

Bento won a development grant of 1 million euros from the European Union in 2014 under a program for technology models promising to "ultimately disrupt existing markets." He has raised 1 million euros from private investors and is now launching another financing round of 3 million euros as he rolls out SWORD in the US market. —Reuters



SANYA, HAINAN, China : Elderly people practice their daily exercises by dancing in Sanya, Hainan province. —AFP photos



SANYA, HAINAN, China: Elderly people practice their daily exercises by dancing in Sanya, Hainan province.

SUN-SEEKING RETIREES FLOCK TO 'CHINA'S FLORIDA'

'HERE WE CAN BREATHE, AND THAT WARMTH IS BETTER FOR OUR HEALTH'

SANYA, China: Blessed by palm-fringed beaches and balmy weather, the island province of Hainan is fast becoming known as "China's Florida," drawing masses of retirees fleeing the biting cold of their hometowns. "At home in Harbin, it (can be) -30 degrees (-22 Fahrenheit), it's unbearable! But here the climate is perfect," said a 71-year-old pensioner who gave only her surname, Wang. Hailing from the capital of the polluted, frigid, rust-belt province of Heilongjiang on the Siberian border, Wang and her husband have migrated each winter to the Hainan resort town of Sanya for the past eight years. "Here we can breathe, and that warmth is better for our health," said Qi Ningxia, a 60-year-old asthma-sufferer from Heilongjiang, who joined Wang in waving brightly coloured fans in a group exercise dance near the shore of the South China Sea.

"And we find so many people here from our province! We are sure we will not be bored," Qi said. Between 600,000 and 700,000 elderly descend on Sanya every winter, almost doubling its population, said Huang Cheng, a sociologist at Sanya University. Nearly half of these "migratory birds," as they are called, come from the northeastern provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning. The trend began in 2000 as residents of those provinces began buying Sanya apartments, opening businesses and luring friends and

family to join them, creating a "snowball effect," Huang said. Recreational centers with features aimed at the elderly, such as mahjong tables, have mushroomed. "Ping-pong, billiards, chess, calligraphy, painting or computer science" are among the offerings on display, said the director of



one such center who only gave her surname Zhang.

Pressure on locals

Hainan island itself was once a remote outpost, a place of exile for criminals and disgraced scholars, and Sanya merely a secluded, backward fishing village. Today, Sanya is home to a Club Med resort, yacht marinas,

golf courses and luxury residential complexes as local authorities aim to attract both foreign and domestic tourist dollars. The retirees from northeastern China do not fit this profile: the overwhelming majority shop in local markets rather than in shiny new malls, and prefer to play cards

population doubles in winter. Real-estate costs also have soared as some wealthier pensioners buy apartments. More than 70 percent of apartment-buyers in Hainan in 2015 did not live on the island, according to official figures. Hospitals are also struggling to cope with an explosion in demand from the ageing "migratory birds."

Wang, the Heilongjiang pensioner, is so convinced of the benefits of her winter sojourn that she persuaded her son and grandchildren to join her in Hainan for the Lunar New Year holiday in late January, overturning a Chinese tradition of spending it in one's hometown. "But here, there is bracing sea air. It's good for the health of the whole family," she explained. —AFP

instead of golf. One-third of the pensioners who winter in Sanya-many retired steel, petroleum and mine workers-rely on limited monthly income of 2,000-3,000 yuan (\$290-\$435), while one-quarter receive even less, according to sociologist Huang. The influx has put pressure on local residents, who have to contend with surging food prices when the

"The situation has evolved so suddenly that we have to allow time for local infrastructure to adapt," said An Honglian, director of the Yihe service center. The Sanya-based Buddhist non-profit helps retirees with practical problems from plumbing issues to health concerns. An said the flood of pensioners to warmer destinations will only intensify as China's population ages. China has more than 212 million people over the age of 60, who will represent 25 percent of the population by 2030, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. Other southern provinces like Yunnan and Guangxi also are witnessing an increase in the number of elderly migrants.

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BELGIUM'S TIGENIX SAYS, HEART ATTACK STEM CELL TRIAL SUCCESSFUL

BELGIUM: Belgian biotech group Tigenix said yesterday its medical trial with a novel treatment for patients at risk of heart failure after a coronary attack was successful. The group said patients treated in its Phase/II trial of donor-derived expanded cardiac stem cells (AlloCSC) showed no side-effects and all of them continued to live after 30 days, six months and a year.

Tigenix added that in one subgroup of trial patients associated with a poor long-term outlook, there was a larger reduction in the size of infarction, tissue death due to inadequate blood supply. "This is the first trial in which it has been demonstrated that allogeneic cardiac stem cells can be transplanted safely through the coronary tree," one of the doctors in the trial said. The group said it would now analyze the data from the trial and decide on how to proceed with its research. —Reuters

NEPAL REPORTS SEVERE H5N8 BIRD FLU ON FARM: OIE

NEPAL: Nepal has reported firmed an outbreak of severe H5N8 bird flu on a poultry farm in the Koshi region, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) said yesterday, citing a report from the Nepalese authorities.

The virus killed 3,650 of the 6,200 hens exposed, with the remaining animals culled, the Paris-based OIE said. Nepal had already reported last month an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N1 bird flu among backyard chickens and ducks. —Reuters

PARIS MAYOR TO SPEND 1.5M EUROS FOR 'WAR ON RATS'

PARIS: The mayor of Paris said Sunday the city would spend 1.5 million euros (\$1.6 million) to rid the French capital of rats and install more public ashtrays to clean up the city's streets. In an interview with Journal du Dimanche weekly, Mayor Anne Hidalgo unveiled a 10-point plan aimed at making cleanliness a "priority". The measures include increasing the number of sanitation workers and health inspectors, expanding the hours for garbage pickup, and urging restaurants and buildings to provide more ashtrays at entrances and exit points.

Municipal workers collect more than 150 tons of cigarette butts every year in Paris. "We already allot 500 million euros a year for cleanli-

ness and waste management...and the situation has improved," she said. "But it is clear that Paris is not yet perfectly clean." "I want to speed up, increase efforts. It is a top priority," she said. "In a civilized city, cleanliness must be everybody's responsibility," she said, calling for a change in the mindsets and habits of residents. "In Tokyo, everything is clean and yet there are no dustbins because people wait to get home before throwing their waste."

Paris had come under fire in December for allegedly dragging its feet before it launched what has been dubbed its "war on rats". Most of the criticism was centered on Hidalgo and the city's environmental health services chief. The city's

failure to keep the streets clean was also a major sticking point for residents, as a scathing commentary at the time in the conservative daily Le Figaro targeting the eco-friendly mayor revealed.

"New in the Parisian cityscape: filthy streets because of the total and persistent disarray in the cleaning services," wrote author and politician Serge Federbusch, describing the situation as "Hidalchaos". In announcing the 1.5-million euro anti-rodent campaign, Hidalgo said the city would buy new traps for the rats and surround some of the city's 30,000 rubbish bins with wooden or Plexiglass bases. The bins are currently lined with flimsy plastic

bags designed to avert terror attacks by making it harder to hide explosives in them.

The Republican group on the Council of Paris however scoffed at Hidalgo's measures. "Anne Hidalgo is attempting to short-circuit her opposition by announcing as of now certain placebo measures, but there is absolutely nothing new," said the group. The Republicans said an investigative commission will begin to study the city's cleanliness problem in May, suggesting that only then can the city come up with the right policies to "know how to remake Paris" into "a clean city". The Journal du Dimanche said cleanliness "is the city's management weak point". —AFP

HUMANS TO BLAME FOR BULK OF ARCTIC SEA ICE LOSS

PARIS: Natural changes in the environment are responsible for about 40 percent of Arctic sea ice loss, while humans are to blame for the rest, a climate study said yesterday. The paper, based on model simulations of different climate conditions, was a rare attempt to quantify the relative contributions of humans and Nature to the dramatic decline and could have a major impact on future research into Arctic ice loss. Understanding all causes of the sea ice retreat is crucial for accurately projecting the rate of future loss, and trying to slow it.

Scientists have long accepted that natural changes in the environment, such as atmospheric air circulation, were at least partly responsible. But its relative contribution, and that of human-

induced global warming, has been fiercely debated. The new study concluded that up to 60 percent of sea ice decline since 1979 was caused by summertime changes in atmospheric circulation. About 70 percent of the air flow changes, in turn, were the result of natural variability, not human-caused climate change.

Taken together, this meant that between half and two-thirds the sea ice decline was attributable to climate change, said the American team. Natural variability, on the other hand, "dominates the Arctic summer circulation trend and may be responsible for about 30-50 percent of the overall decline in September sea ice since 1979," they said. Commentators not involved in the study said its

findings do not call into question whether human-induced planet warming has contributed to Arctic sea-ice loss.

'Not good news'

"Realizing that humans have caused 50-70 percent of the decline is not good news," said Twila Moon, a lecturer in Cryospheric Sciences at the University of Bristol. "Continuing to put carbon dioxide and other emissions into the atmosphere is having a direct negative impact on the Arctic, including sea ice," she said via the Science Media Centre in London. Chris Rapley, a professor of climate science at University College London, said the study helped explain why Arctic sea ice was disappearing faster than most climate models

predict—they underestimated the contribution of natural drivers. Models for future predictions will have to be adapted, according to the findings published in the journal Nature Climate Change. Last month, US government scientists said Arctic sea ice cover in January was 1.26 million square kilometers (487,000 square miles) — 8.6 percent below the 1981-2010 average. This was the smallest January extent since records began in 1979 and 100,000 square miles smaller than the previous low recorded in 2016. Sea ice, floating slabs of frozen ocean water which grow in winter and melt in summer, provides an essential platform for hunters-humans and bears alike and helps moderate the climate by reflecting the Sun's rays. The region is warming at about twice the global average rate. —AFP



BANGKOK: Nantrika Chansue (right), a veterinarian in charge of Chulalongkorn hospital's aquatic research center, examines a sea turtle dubbed "Piggy Bank" at the Veterinary Medical Aquatic Animal Research Center.



BANGKOK: A sea turtle dubbed "Piggy Bank" comes up for air while swimming in a small sea water pool at the Veterinary Medical Aquatic Animal Research Center.

FLIPPING HAPPY: COIN SWALLOWING THAI TURTLE ON THE MEND

BANGKOK: A sea turtle dubbed 'Piggy Bank' for swallowing nearly 1,000 coins took swimming lessons yesterday as she embarked on a rehabilitation program following the removal of the treasure trove by Thai surgeons. The hapless reptile underwent a seven hour operation in Bangkok last week to remove five kilograms (11 pounds) of coins from her digestive tract—good luck pennies thrown into the pool she swam in. The story of her plight and successful operation went viral, with headlines around the world. Yesterday the 25-year-old turtle, called 'Omsin' (Piggy Bank), paddled around a small pool with relative ease.

Nantrika Chansue, a vet in charge of Chulalongkorn hospital's aquatic research center, said she was overjoyed by just how much movement Omsin had gained in her flippers since the operation. "Before this she didn't use her left side at all, because every time she moved it probably made it painful," she told AFP, as her patient splashed around. "Look at her now, she's fully using all the limbs very effectively." The troubled reptile lived for two decades in a small public park in Chonburi Province.

Visitors tossed coins into her pond seeking to 'make merit' or good luck. Nantrika said the international media reports have had the added bonus of making Thais think twice about throwing coins into ponds where animals live. "Because of this, all the ponds that I know they are cleaning up their ponds, pulling out all the coins, putting signs up that there is no throwing coins," she said.

Chulalongkorn vets say they hope Omsin will one day be able to return to the sea given she could easily live for another 60 years. First they



BANGKOK: Nantrika Chansue (right), a veterinarian in charge of Chulalongkorn hospital's aquatic research centre, examines a sea turtle dubbed "Piggy Bank" at the Veterinary Medical Aquatic Animal Research Center in Bangkok yesterday, days after she removed coins lodged in her belly. —AP photos

will teach her how to swim and then how to dive—a task that requires her to build up lung strength. Then they will take her for swims in the ocean using a specially designed "turtle-leash" that allows researchers to reel her back in.

Asked whether she will know how to swim in the deep blue, Nantrika replied: "Of course. It's like us being in prison for twenty years, you know, we still know how to live our lives, so I believe that the best way is to let her go." —AFP

SCIENTISTS RACE TO PREVENT WIPEOUT OF WORLD'S CORAL REEFS

SOUTH ARI ATOLL, Maldives: There were startling colors here just a year ago, a dazzling array of life beneath the waves. Now this Maldivian reef is dead, killed by the stress of rising ocean temperatures. What's left is a haunting expanse of gray, a scene repeated in reefs across the globe in what has fast become a full-blown ecological catastrophe. The world has lost roughly half its coral reefs in the last 30 years. Scientists are now scrambling to ensure that at least a fraction of these unique ecosystems survives beyond the next three decades. The health of the planet depends on it: Coral reefs support a quarter of all marine species, as well as half a billion people around the world.

"This isn't something that's going to happen 100 years from now. We're losing them right now," said marine biologist Julia Baum of Canada's University of Victoria. "We're losing them really quickly, much more quickly than I think any of us ever could have imagined." Even if the world could

halt global warming now, scientists still expect that more than 90 percent of corals will die by 2050. Without drastic intervention, we risk losing them all. "To lose coral reefs is to fundamentally undermine the health of a very large proportion of the human race," said Ruth Gates, director of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

Medical research

Coral reefs produce some of the oxygen we breathe. Often described as underwater rainforests, they populate a tiny fraction of the ocean but provide habitats for one in four marine species. Reefs also form crucial barriers protecting coastlines from the full force of storms. They provide billions of dollars in revenue from tourism, fishing and other commerce, and are used in medical research for cures to diseases including cancer, arthritis and bacterial or viral infections.

"Whether you're living in North America or

Europe or Australia, you should be concerned," said biologist Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, director of the Global Change Institute at Australia's University of Queensland. "This is not just some distant dive destination, a holiday destination. This is the fabric of the ecosystem that supports us." And that fabric is being torn apart. "You couldn't be more dumb ... to erode the very thing that life depends on - the ecosystem - and hope that you'll get away with it," Hoegh-Guldberg said.

Corals are invertebrates, living mostly in tropical waters. They secrete calcium carbonate to build protective skeletons that grow and take on impressive colors, thanks to a symbiotic relationship with algae that live in their tissues and provide them with energy. But corals are sensitive to temperature fluctuations, and are suffering from rising ocean temperatures and acidification, as well as from overfishing, pollution, coastal development and agricultural runoff. —AP



NEW CALEDONIA: File photo shows coral bleached white by heat stress in New Caledonia.

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Kuwait Times
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CELEBRATE MOTHERHOOD AT JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL AND SPA

PLAN THE PERFECT MOTHER'S DAY SURPRISE

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, is treating mothers to a memorable retreat on the occasion of Mother's Day on March 21st. For bookings of four persons and above in any of the hotel's award-winning restaurants, mothers will enjoy complimentary dining on the day. At Talise Spa, a tailored Mother's Renewal Package offers 90-minute of welcoming foot ritual, bespoke massage and a rejuvenate facial for KD 75.

General Manager Hakan Petek said, "Each year, we take this opportunity to honor and express our appreciation for mothers in Kuwait and around the world. We always enjoy celebrating Mother's Day, and our idyllic resort provides the ideal way for guests to commemorate this special occasion with their families."

The luxurious resort offers an array of dining options: its Italian-inspired dining venue, Olio Restaurant, is a great choice for authen-

tic Italian specialties. Pepper Steakhouse offers premium meat cuts and Smoked House Specials and Salt Seafood and International Restaurant presents Live Lobster Specials with a variety of exquisite dishes. Garden Café offers internationally-inspired cuisines with Turkish Nights every Monday, Southern American Barbeque every Wednesday, Asian Nights every Thursday, and the Amazing Friday Brunch for families.



Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa welcomes you to celebrate the famous Southern American Barbeque in Garden Cafe Restaurant, with ribs, tantalizing brisquets, and steaks all smoked to perfection over oakwood, and that every Wednesday from 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm. It also welcomes you to savor authentic Turkish cuisine from griddled meats to aromatic desserts specially prepared by the hotel's Turkish chefs, and that every Monday, from 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm.

FRANCOPHONIE 2017

الفرنكوفونية 2017

- SAMEDI 11 MARS**
 - Concours de la dictée francophone. Dans le jardin de l'Institut Français du Koweït, 15h
- DIMANCHE 12 MARS**
 - Exposition de costumes traditionnels roumains Bibliothèque Al Baitain, 18h30
- LUNDI 13 MARS**
 - Projection du film libanais "Waynon" Dans le jardin de l'Institut Français du Koweït, 19h
 - Projection du film belge "Les rayures du zèbre" Dans le jardin de l'Institut Français du Koweït, 19h
- MERCREDI 15 MARS**
 - Projection du film canadien "La grande séduction" Dans le jardin de l'Institut Français du Koweït, 19h
- JEUDI 16 MARS**
 - Projection du film suisse "WIN WIN" Dans le jardin de l'Institut Français du Koweït, 19h
- SAMEDI 18 MARS**
 - Concours de la chanson francophone Dans le jardin de l'Institut Français du Koweït, 19h
 - Conférence de Dominique Walton "Diversité culturelle, Francophonie et mondialisation" Dans le jardin de l'Institut Français du Koweït, 17h
 - Concert de la troupe musicale "Les Portageux" Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, 19h30
- LUNDI 20 MARS**
 - Conférence de Dominique Walton "Diversité culturelle, Francophonie et mondialisation" Université du Koweït, Kaifan 12h30
- MARDI 21 MARS**
 - Concert de Sherazade "Sherazade et LavinRose" Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Centre, 19h30
- MERCREDI 22 MARS**
 - Evénement du département de français de l'université du Koweït Université du Koweït, Kaifan, 11h
 - Conférence Taha Adnan "Bruxelles, entre Belgitude, Francité et Arabité" Modérateur : Iateb Al-Rafai. En arabe avec traduction en français. Kuwaiti Writers Association, Adailiya, 18h30
- JEUDI 23 MARS**
 - Exposition, photographies d'Eric Bonnier "L'esprit des soûks à travers le monde arabe" Avenues, 17h
 - Conférence par l'association Madeenah "Al-Mubarakiya: The Souk as an Urban block" Dans le jardin de l'Institut Français du Koweït, 19h30
 - Soirée remise des prix des concours Dans le jardin de l'Institut Français du Koweït, 20h30
- SAMEDI 25 MARS**
 - "En chansons avec Le LFK" Lycée Français du Koweït, 11h
- DIMANCHE 26 MARS**
 - Conférence de l'Auteur Malika Madi "Le parcours d'une femme citoyenne aux multiples appartenances" En français avec traduction en anglais. Shaheed Park, multipurpose hall, 18h30
- LUNDI 27 MARS**
 - Fête de la Francophonie Université du Koweït, Kaifan & Shuwaikh



Zaid Mashini

AL-THURAYA CITY APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING

Al-Thuraya City Kuwait hotels have appointed Zaid Mashini as its new Director of Sales and Marketing. Mashini, a seasoned hotelier, is expected to bring his unparalleled expertise to the role, as he develops the domestic and international sales and marketing strategy for Crowne Plaza Kuwait Al-Thuraya City,

and Holiday Inn Kuwait Al-Thuraya City. Mashini's appointment is part of a strategic drive to reinforce and strengthen Al-Thuraya City hotels commercial initiatives in the increasingly competitive hospitality market.

With more than 12 years' experience in the hospitality industry and 5 years with IHG, Mashini previously held

the position of Director of Sales and Marketing for Crowne Plaza Muscat. In this role, he was responsible for handling the Sales and Marketing operations. Boasting far-reaching experience in the intercontinental hotels, Mashini has gained experience at the following prominent luxury brands: Hilton, Meridien and Marriott hotels.



Managing Director Engineer Ghosson Al-Khaled

SPECIAL OFFER AT PALMS BEACH HOTEL AND SPA

The Palms Beach Hotel and Spa launched an informative hotel facilities campaign, targeting the private companies stated in Kuwait. The said campaign includes lot of information about the special room rates, BBQ offer,

the Beach Club Promotion, and Kids' Birthday packages additional to orchid Spa services.

The Director of Sales and Marketing Ahmed El Dackrouri applauded with the positive reaction gained by launching the

campaign, which succeeded to reach a wide range of companies, which made an effective role on communicating and maintaining the rapport by providing certain information about the hotel services and facilities.

On the other hand, The Managing Director Engineer Ghosson Al-Khaled assured that this campaign was well organized; starting by planning the aimed target, while well informed staffs were prepared from the entire hotel depart-

ments trained on the major campaign goals. The campaign runs in four days that enabled the hotel team to visit most of companies located in different governorates in Kuwait while supported the companies with the available packages.



COSTA COFFEE - AL-GHANIM JOINS AND SPONSORS TASTE OF Q8'S FOOD FESTIVAL

Following Costa Coffee's success at Taste of Q8 Food Festival 2016, Costa Coffee is excited to join the Taste of Q8 Food Festival again this year. The Taste of Q8 Food Festival is the largest ever of its kind in Kuwait. It is all about food, drinks and more food! The success of the taste of Kuwait has brought in about 40,000 attendees in the previous years, sounds like it's not another weekend to be missing out on this year!

As this is a popular event, it is a great

opportunity for Costa Coffee to show off their delicious offerings and genuine hospitality. Not only that, but Costa Coffee has decided to join the Taste of Q8's Food Festival as a Gold Sponsor alongside some others.

Costa Coffee will not only be offering its handcrafted coffee's and flavored latte's, but also the recently introduced sandwiches including the Halloumi sandwich in Zaatar Ciabatta bread, mouthwatering Gourmet Toastie that comes with a blend of premium

cheeses, the delicious Granola and Raspberry Compote mix and much more. Pass by for a taste of London's best coffee in the heart of Kuwait.

During the Festival, there will be a Celebrity Chef demonstration happening every 30 minutes where live interactive demos will be conducted. Chef Annabel Karmel, UK's No.1 children's cookery author and "mumpreneur", chef Dean Brettschneider an award-winning author, TV presenter and bakery founder will

be representing Costa Coffee. The international award-winning chefs will represent Al-Ghanim's Food and Beverage Industry and prove strength amongst other competitor brands. Take the chance to meet the best worldwide chefs out there.

We are proud to announce that we will be hosted by the Boulevard in Salmiya on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of March 2017 from 10 am to 10 pm. Please come and join us and enjoy the wide variety of delicious sandwiches

and coffee that'll keep you warm at Costa Coffee. We're more than excited to see you and serve you all out there.

Costa Coffee welcomes you to any of its 33 stores across Kuwait to enjoy the ultimate coffee experience and meet the talented baristas behind it. Keep up with Costa's promotions, launches and all other entertaining and engaging activities on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts at the following: @costakuwait.

WENDY'S - AL-GHANIM JOINS AND SPONSORS TASTE OF Q8'S FOOD FESTIVAL

Following the years of success, Al-Ghanim Industries proudly launched the opening of Wendy's in January 2017 where food enthusiasts and fans awaited the grand opening with anticipation. We aim to fulfill our customers' anticipation by being part of the Taste of Kuwait as it is the largest festival of its kind in Kuwait.

Wendy's decided to join the Taste of Kuwait with a Chef representative that will be present at the Celebrity Chef demonstration. This program will take

place every 30 minutes where live interactive demos will be conducted. Chef Tarek Ibrahim, a current Chef for meat and livestock in Australia, and also known as the former Primer Chef of America will be representing Wendy's.

Wendy's will be offering its famous mouthwatering Dave's Single and Fries, and Frosty to satisfy both your sweet tooth and kids. Hurry up and try the true Aussie beef of Wendy's if you haven't so already! We are proud to

announce that we will be hosted by the Boulevard in Salmiya on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of March 2017 from 10 am to 10 pm. Please come and join and be part of our success.

Wendy's is also happy to welcome you at our flagship location in Salmiya, Blajat street to enjoy scrumptious burgers, mouthwatering appetizers and salads and our famous Frosty. Follow us @wendyskuwait Instagram and Facebook accounts for more details.



GRAND CINEMAS KUWAIT USES THE FORCE AND ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET FOR STAR WARS LEGEND

CP-30 ACTOR HONORED AT GLITTERING CEREMONY

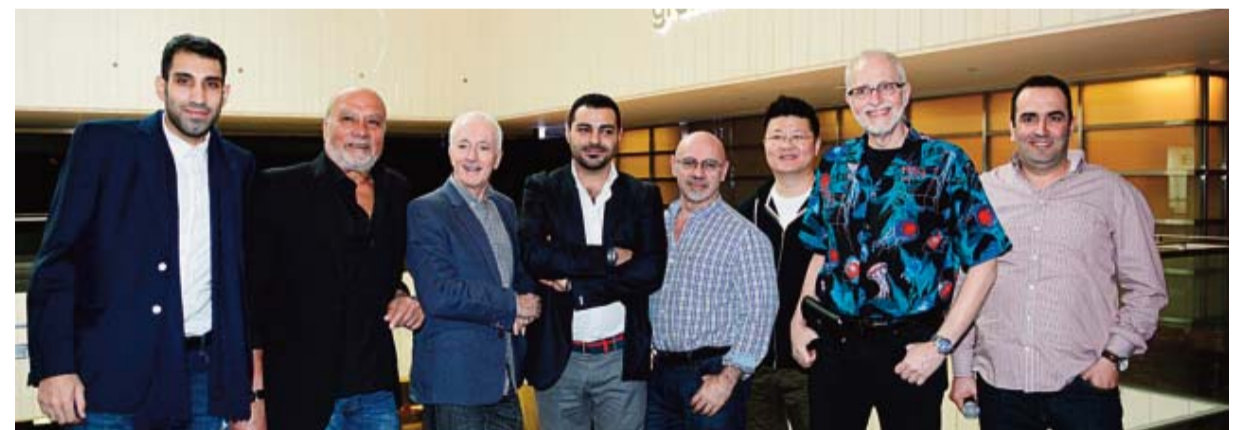
The force was with Grand Cinemas as the region's fastest-growing cinema chain welcomed a Hollywood A-Lister on the red carpet for the very first time in Kuwait! Anthony Daniels, famous for playing the Droid C-3PO in the 'Star Wars' franchise, was the lead guest at a star-studded buffet Lunch and screening at Grand Cinemas Al-Hamra Luxury Center this Saturday.

English actor Daniels was joined by actor and director Johnny Cruz, who starred in 2011 movie 'Small Timers' and 2014 TV series 'Matador', alongside the Japanese actor and producer Gaku Space, known for his roles in 'Street Fighter: Assassin's Fist' and 'Overwatch' (2016), and addition to a handful of International Comic celebrities, nation's Public Figures and VIPs for the history-writing event at Grand Class Lounge.

The trio walked down the red carpet at the cinema,

where they posed for photographs and interacted with fans before heading inside the theater for lunch with a host of distinguished members of the media. Daniels, who also starred in TV spin-offs of the iconic Star Wars movies, was honored by 'HYK Events'. As a cherry on top, the event was sealed with an MX4D screening of the latest Comic blockbuster 'Logan'.

Isaac Fahed, of Grand Cinemas, said: "Grand Cinemas has always been home of the stars and Celebrities, and now we're thrilled and honored to have a Hollywood Icon such as Anthony Daniels in our theater. This is a first in Kuwait, and certainly not the last. Events like these are what make us stay true to our mission and slogan 'Always Entertaining'." Fahed said. Earlier in the day, Daniels, Space and Cruz attended the Comic Con event, a yearly celebration of popular culture and Cosplay in Kuwait.



FRIENDS OF KDD CELEBRATE THEIR 7TH ANNIVERSARY

Friends of KDD (Kuwait Danish Dairy Company) conducted their seventh Annual Day Celebrations in Farwaniya Ideal Auditorium and it was inaugurated by Former President of Indian Doctors Forum Dr Ameer Ahmed.

The function was presided over by the President V Rasheed. Swanthanam President Raveendran, Badr Al-Samaa Group Managing Director Abdul Latheef, KDD Budgeting and Inventory Manager Krishnan Venkatraman, Production Manager Nayeem Shahzad, Koya Valappil, Navas, and Anvar KPB gave felicitation speeches.

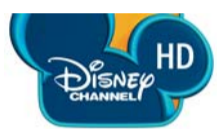
CIGI Trainer Afsal Ali presented a class for the members. During the function they launched their souvenir by handing over by Krishnan Venkatram to Dr Ameer Ahmed. General Secretary N Shankarlal presented the annual report and Sunil Kumar presented the financial Report. Raheem C welcomed the gathering and Mahmood Perumba casted the vote of thanks.



OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:00 REC 3 Genesis
01:45 Con Air
03:45 Navy Seals: The Battle For New Orleans
05:30 Ant-Man
07:30 I Am Number Four
09:30 Con Air
11:30 Seventh Son
13:30 Ant-Man
15:30 Kingsglave: Final Fantasy XV
17:30 Die Hard
19:45 Golden Eye
22:00 Divergent

05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:25 Awesome Adventures
07:50 Bondi Vet
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Prototype This
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Dirty Jobs
14:30 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
14:55 Awesome Adventures
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Prototype This
17:00 Guinness World Records
Smashed New Zealand
17:25 Guinness World Records
Smashed New Zealand
17:50 Now That's Funny
18:40 What Happened Next?
19:05 What Happened Next?
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Mythbusters
21:10 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
21:35 Australia Smashes Guinness World Records
22:00 World's Funniest Fails
22:50 What Happened Next?
23:15 What Happened Next?
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor



00:10 Hank Zipzer
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Violetta
01:45 The Hive
01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Hank Zipzer
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Violetta
04:15 The Hive
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:10 Hank Zipzer
05:35 Binny And The Ghost
06:00 Violetta
06:45 The Hive

04:35 Loopdidoo
04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Zou
06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopdidoo
07:00 Zou
07:15 Calimero
07:30 Loopdidoo
07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
08:00 Minnie's Bow-Toons
08:05 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
08:15 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 Goldie & Bear
08:55 The Lion Guard
09:20 PJ Masks
09:35 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
09:50 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Goldie & Bear
10:15 PJ Masks
10:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
10:35 The Lion Guard
11:00 Sofia The First
11:30 Doc McStuffins
11:55 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
12:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
13:15 Gummi Bears
13:40 Sofia The First
14:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
14:35 PJ Masks
15:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
15:30 The Lion Guard
15:55 Unbungalievable
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 Doc McStuffins
16:55 Goldie & Bear
17:20 The Lion Guard
17:50 PJ Masks
18:15 Sofia The First
18:40 Doc McStuffins
19:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Goldie & Bear
21:00 Unbungalievable
21:05 Goldie & Bear
21:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
22:25 Gummi Bears
22:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
23:00 PJ Masks



00:20 Street Outlaws
01:10 Gold Rush
02:00 Everest Rescue

19:55 K.C. Undercover
20:10 Kickin' It
20:45 Mighty Med
21:00 Danger Mouse
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Marvel's Avengers Assemble
22:10 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister 6
22:35 Booster
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
00:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
01:50 E! News
02:50 Hollywood Cycle
03:45 Hollywood Cycle
04:40 Hollywood Cycle
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 Just Jillian
06:55 E! News
07:10 LA Clippers Dance Squad
08:10 E! News
09:10 Mariah's World
10:05 Mariah's World
11:00 Mariah's World
12:00 E! News
12:15 Celebrity Style Story
12:40 Celebrity Style Story
13:10 So Cosmo
14:05 So Cosmo
15:00 E! News
15:15 WAGs
16:10 WAGs
17:05 WAGs
18:00 WAGs
19:00 E! News
20:00 Celebrity Style Story
20:30 Celebrity Style Story
21:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
22:00 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian
23:00 E! News
23:15 Botched



00:00 Mystery Diners
00:30 Mystery Diners
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Man Fire Food
02:30 Man Fire Food
03:00 Chopped
04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
05:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
05:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
06:00 The Kitchen
07:00 The Pioneer Woman
07:30 The Pioneer Woman
08:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
08:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
09:00 The Pioneer Woman
09:30 The Pioneer Woman
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 The Pioneer Woman
11:30 The Pioneer Woman
12:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
12:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Chopped
15:00 The Kitchen
16:00 The Pioneer Woman
16:30 The Pioneer Woman
17:00 Chopped
18:00 Iron Chef America
19:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
19:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
20:00 Man Fire Food
20:30 Man Fire Food
21:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
21:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
22:00 Guy's Grocery Games
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



00:10 The Chase
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
03:25 Midsomer Murders
05:15 Broadchurch
06:10 The Chase
07:05 The Jonathan Ross Show
08:00 Midsomer Murders
09:35 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
10:00 Broadchurch
10:55 The Chase
11:50 The Jonathan Ross Show
12:45 Emmerdale
13:15 Coronation Street
13:45 Coronation Street
14:15 The Chase
15:10 The Jonathan Ross Show
16:00 Murdoch Mysteries
16:55 Brief Encounters
17:50 Broadchurch
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Coronation Street

19:45 Coronation Street
20:10 The Jonathan Ross Show
21:00 Murdoch Mysteries
21:55 Brief Encounters
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Coronation Street
23:40 Coronation Street



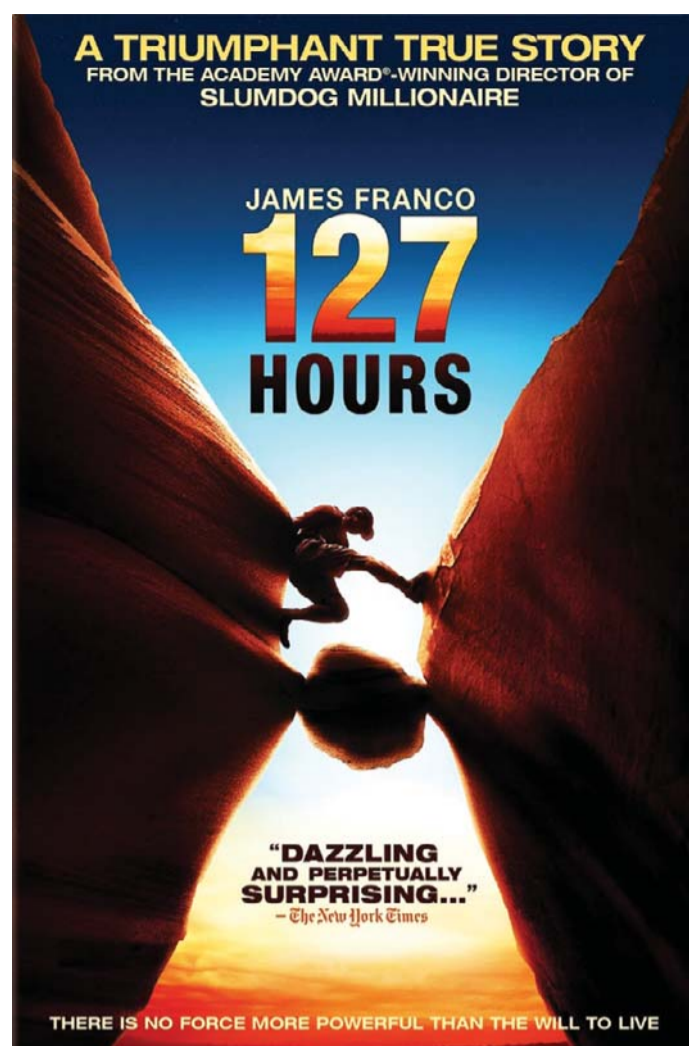
00:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
01:00 Patton 360
02:00 Cities Of The Underworld
03:00 America's Book Of Secrets
03:50 Ancient Aliens
04:40 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
05:30 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
06:20 Patton 360
07:10 The Universe
08:00 Cities Of The Underworld
09:00 America's Book Of Secrets
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
12:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
13:00 Patton 360
14:00 Cities Of The Underworld
15:00 America's Book Of Secrets
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
18:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
19:00 Patton 360
20:00 Cities Of The Underworld
21:00 The Universe
22:00 Ancient Aliens
23:00 Ancient Aliens



00:20 Battle 360
01:10 The Curse Of Oak Island
02:00 Hunting Hitler
02:50 Storage Wars
03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Pawn Stars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Mountain Men
06:00 American Restoration
06:50 Shipping Wars
07:15 Shipping Wars
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Storage Wars Texas
09:45 Storage Wars Texas
10:10 American Pickers
11:00 Search For The Lost Giants
11:50 Time Team
12:40 Swamp People
13:30 Ax Men
14:20 Mountain Men
15:10 Shipping Wars
15:35 Shipping Wars
16:00 Counting Cars
16:25 Counting Cars
16:50 Pawn Stars
17:15 Pawn Stars
17:40 Hunting Hitler
18:30 The Curse Of Oak Island
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 American Pickers
21:00 Ice Road Truckers
21:50 Leppu And Pitbull
22:40 Swamp People
23:30 American Pickers



00:15 Carnival Eats
00:40 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
01:05 Raw Travel
01:30 Dog Whisperer
02:20 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
02:45 Wineroads
03:10 Miguel's Feasts
03:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
04:00 World's Best Beaches
04:50 Tripping Out With Allie & Georgia
05:20 Sara's Australia Unveiled
05:45 Confucius Was A Foodie
06:40 Cruise Ship Diaries
07:10 Raw Travel
07:35 Dog Whisperer
08:30 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
09:00 Wineroads
09:25 Miguel's Feasts
09:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
10:20 World's Best Beaches
11:15 Confucius Was A Foodie
12:10 Sara's Australia Unveiled
12:40 Raw Travel
13:05 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
14:30 Wineroads
14:55 The Best Job In The World
15:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
15:50 World's Best Beaches
16:45 Tripping Out With Allie & Georgia
17:15 Sara's Australia Unveiled
17:40 Confucius Was A Foodie
18:35 Croatia's Finest



127 HOURS ON OSN OSN MOVIES HD

19:05 The Best Job In The World
19:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
20:00 World's Best Beaches
20:55 Tripping Out With Allie & Georgia
21:20 Sara's Australia Unveiled
21:45 Confucius Was A Foodie
22:35 Croatia's Finest
23:00 Raw Travel
23:25 Dog Whisperer

18:30 Very Good Girls
20:00 The Reluctant Fundamentalist
20:15 Boyhood

OSN MOVIES KIDS

01:00 Bee Movie
02:45 Bolts And Blip
04:30 Memory Loss
06:00 Rugrats Go Wild
07:45 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
09:15 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
10:45 Bee Movie
12:30 Bolts And Blip
14:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
16:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
18:00 Worms
19:45 Daddy I'm A Zombie
21:30 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
23:15 Ploddy Police Car On The Case

OSN MOVIES HD

01:45 Twister
03:45 Barely Lethal
05:30 The Ladykillers
07:30 Everest
09:45 Twister
11:45 127 Hours
13:30 A Beautiful Mind
15:45 Gulliver's Travels
17:30 Big Fish
19:45 The Walk
22:00 Duplicity



DISCOVERY SCIENCE

00:40 Mythbusters
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory
02:20 NASA's Unexplained Files
03:10 Strangest Weather On Earth
04:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
04:38 Mythbusters
05:36 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Food Factory
06:24 NASA's Unexplained Files
07:12 Strangest Weather On Earth
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Kings Of Construction
09:14 Mythbusters
10:02 Strangest Weather On Earth
10:50 How Do They Do It?
11:14 Food Factory
11:38 NASA's Unexplained Files
12:26 Kings Of Construction
13:14 Mythbusters
14:02 How Do They Do It?
14:26 Food Factory
14:50 Strangest Weather On Earth
15:38 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
16:26 NASA's Unexplained Files
17:14 Mythbusters
18:02 Strangest Weather On Earth
18:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
19:40 Mythbusters
20:30 Sport Science
21:20 How Do They Do It?
21:45 Food Factory
22:10 Strangest Weather On Earth
23:00 Sport Science
23:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?



00:10 The Border
01:00 Highway Thru Hell
02:00 Mine Kings
02:55 Mega Factories: Supercars
03:50 The Border
04:45 World's Toughest Fixes
05:40 Access 360 World Heritage
06:35 Filthy Riches
07:30 Highway Thru Hell
08:25 Migrations
09:20 World's Toughest Fixes
10:15 Monster Fish
11:10 Wicked Tuna
12:05 Air Crash Investigation
13:00 Migrations
14:00 Mars
15:00 Filthy Riches
16:00 Monster Fish
17:00 Wicked Tuna
18:00 Air Crash Investigation
19:00 Filthy Riches
20:00 Monster Fish
20:50 Wicked Tuna
21:40 Air Crash Investigation
22:30 Filthy Riches
23:20 Access 360 World Heritage



00:20 Cheetah: Fatal Instinct
01:10 Hunter Hunted
02:00 Original Fight Club
02:50 Animals Gone Wild
03:45 The Invaders
04:40 Ultimate Animal Countdown
05:35 Original Fight Club
06:30 Animals Gone Wild
07:25 The Invaders
08:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown
09:15 Wild 24
10:10 Survive The Wild
11:05 Moody Beasts
12:00 Shark Men
12:55 Tiger Queen
13:50 Animals Gone Wild
14:45 The Invaders
15:40 Ultimate Animal Countdown
16:35 Wild 24
17:30 Survive The Wild
18:25 Man V. Monster
19:20 The Invaders
20:10 Ultimate Animal Countdown
21:00 Wild 24
21:50 Survive The Wild
22:40 Man V. Monster
23:30 Shark Men

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

01:00 Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen
03:00 The Last Flight Of Noah's Ark
05:00 Hannah Montana Movie
07:00 Cars
09:00 The Amazing Wizard Of Paws
11:00 Hannah Montana Movie
13:00 Hercules (1997)
15:00 Chicken Little
17:00 The Wild Thornberrys Movie
19:00 Emma's Chance
21:00 D3: The Mighty Ducks
23:00 Chicken Little



00:20 Married By Mum And Dad
01:10 Return To Amish
02:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
02:25 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
03:15 Love, Lust Or Run
03:15 Cake Boss
03:35 Designer Darlings
04:20 Little People, Big World
04:45 Little People, Big World
05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
06:00 Ultimate Shopper
06:50 Say Yes To The Dress UK
07:15 Say Yes To The Dress UK
07:40 Randy To The Rescue
08:30 Little People, Big World
08:55 Little People, Big World
09:20 Kate Plus 8
10:10 Love, Lust Or Run
10:35 Cake Boss
11:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
11:25 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
11:50 Ultimate Shopper
12:40 Designer Darlings
13:30 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
14:20 Iyana: Fix My Life
15:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
16:00 Little People, Big World
16:25 Little People, Big World
16:50 Kate Plus 8
17:40 Love At First Swipe
18:05 Cake Boss
18:30 Little People, Big World
19:20 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
19:45 Say Yes To The Dress: Bridesmaids
20:10 Ultimate Shopper
21:00 Too Ugly For Love?

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 Dance Flick
02:00 Indian Summer
04:00 Accidental Love
06:00 The Rewrite
08:00 Indian Summer
10:00 Accidental Love
12:00 The Rewrite
14:00 A Merry Christmas Miracle
16:00 Perfect Match
18:00 Twins
20:00 Absolutely Anything
22:00 The Ladies Man

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

00:00 Sunlight Jr.
02:00 Rudderless
04:00 Memories
06:00 Boychoir
08:00 Late Bloomers
10:00 Wildlife
12:00 No God No Master
14:00 Oliver's Deal
15:45 The Assassination Of Jesse James



SEVENTH SON ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

02:35 Ripper Street
03:30 Orphan Black
04:10 Doctor Who: The Husbands Of River Song
05:05 New Tricks
06:00 Casualty
06:55 Doctor Who: The Husbands Of River Song
07:55 Father Brown
08:45 Doctor Who
09:30 New Tricks
10:25 Doctor Who: The Husbands Of River Song
11:25 Father Brown
12:15 Doctor Who
13:05 New Tricks
14:00 Doctor Who: The Husbands Of River Song
14:55 Father Brown
15:45 Doctor Who
16:30 I Want My Wife Back
17:05 New Tricks
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Doctors
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 Call The Midwife
21:00 The Level
21:50 Ripper Street
22:45 Orphan Black
23:30 Doctors

06:50 The 7D
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Jessie
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:55 The Zhuzhus
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Stuck In The Middle
09:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:00 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:25 A.N.T. Farm
10:50 A.N.T. Farm
11:15 Good Luck Charlie
11:40 Good Luck Charlie
12:05 Shake It Up
12:30 Shake It Up
12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
13:00 Welcome To The Ronks
13:15 Gravity Falls
13:40 Hank Zipzer
14:05 Star Darlings
14:10 Austin & Ally
14:35 Jessie
15:00 Bunk'd
15:25 Kirby Buckets
15:50 Sunny Bunnies
15:55 The Zhuzhus
16:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:45 Elena Of Avalor
17:10 Stuck In The Middle
17:35 Descendants Wicked World
17:40 Girl Meets World
18:05 Bizaardvark
18:30 Bunk'd
18:55 Best Friends Whenever
19:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:25 The Next Step
19:50 Austin & Ally
20:15 Star Darlings
20:20 Shake It Up
20:45 Backstage
21:10 Liv And Maddie
21:35 Cracked
21:40 Dog With A Blog
22:05 Best Friends Whenever
22:30 Jessie
22:55 Tsum Tsum Shorts
23:00 Kirby Buckets
23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

02:50 Killing Fields
03:40 Fast N' Loud
04:30 Storage Wars Canada
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Outback Truckers
06:50 Street Outlaws
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 The Island With Bear Grylls
09:20 Storage Wars Canada
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Gold Rush
11:25 Everest Rescue
12:15 Alaskan Bush People
13:05 How Do They Do It?
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Storage Wars Canada
14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
15:10 The Island With Bear Grylls
16:00 Outback Truckers
16:50 Fast N' Loud
17:40 Street Outlaws
18:30 How Do They Do It?
18:55 How Do They Do It?
19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls
20:10 Storage Hunters
20:35 Storage Hunters
21:00 The Wheel: Survival Games
21:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
22:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
23:30 Fast N' Loud



06:00 Gravity Falls
06:25 Counterfeit Cat
06:50 Atomic Puppet
07:15 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 Danger Mouse
07:40 Supa Strikas
08:10 K.C. Undercover
08:35 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures
09:00 Lab Rats
09:25 Lab Rats
09:50 Danger Mouse
10:20 Supa Strikas
10:45 Supa Strikas
11:10 Counterfeit Cat
11:35 Pair Of Kings
12:00 Pair Of Kings
12:30 Future-Worm!
12:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
13:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
13:45 Atomic Puppet
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Counterfeit Cat
14:40 Supa Strikas
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
15:55 Right Now Kapow
16:25 K.C. Undercover
16:50 Future-Worm!
17:15 Gravity Falls
17:40 Lab Rats
18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:10 Mighty Med
18:35 Right Now Kapow
19:00 Atomic Puppet
19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything



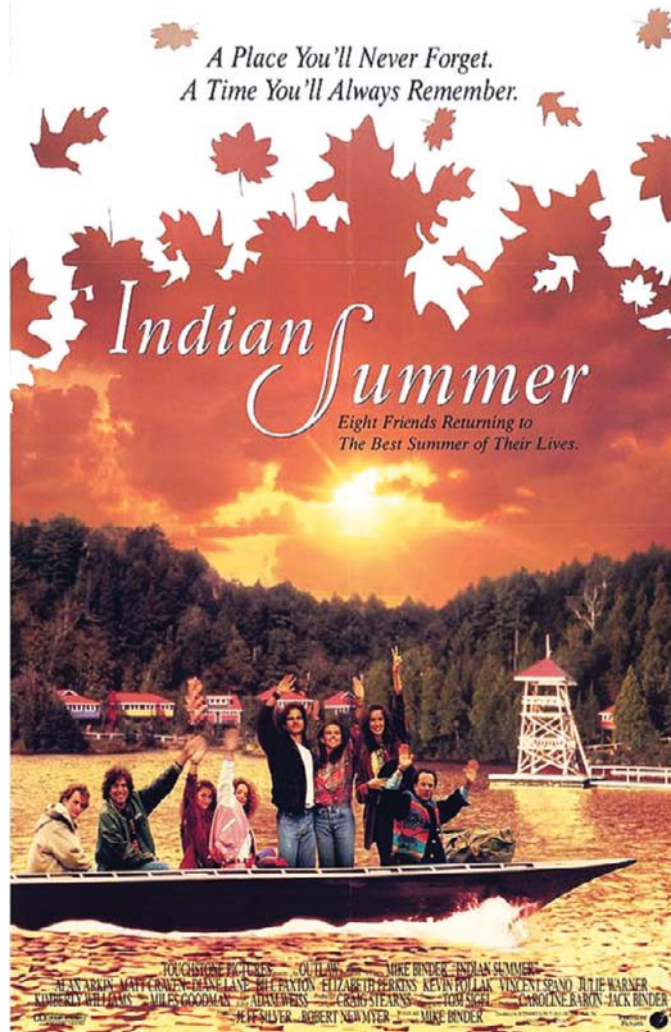
00:20 Henry Hugglemonster
00:35 The Hive
00:45 Loopdidoo
01:00 Henry Hugglemonster
01:15 Calimero
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Zou
02:05 Loopdidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Zou
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Loopdidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack



00:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
01:00 Killers
02:00 When Life Means Life
03:00 Homicide Hunter
04:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
05:00 Killers
06:00 When Life Means Life
07:00 Deadly Wives
08:00 Diabolical Women
09:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
10:00 Homicide Hunter
11:00 Beyond Scared Straight
12:00 Beyond Scared Straight
13:00 Beyond Scared Straight
14:00 Beyond Scared Straight
15:00 Diabolical Women
16:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
17:00 Homicide Hunter
18:00 Killers
19:00 It Takes A Killer
19:30 It Takes A Killer
20:00 The First 48
21:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
22:00 Diabolical Women
23:00 The First 48



00:30 Prototype This
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
02:10 Pick A Puppy
02:35 Pick A Puppy
03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
03:25 Destroyed In Seconds
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
04:40 How It's Made



INDIAN SUMMER ON MOVIES COMEDY HD

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 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (09/03/2017 TO 15/03/2017)

Time	Channel	Programme	Time	Channel	Programme	Time	Channel	Programme
11:45 AM	LOGAN	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	4:00 PM	LOGAN	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	9:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	7:00 PM
2:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	5:30 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	12:15 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	9:30 PM
4:00 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	7:30 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	12:05 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:05 AM
5:45 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	9:00 PM	AVENUES-1	KIKORIKI	1:00 PM	AL-KOUT.2	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film
7:15 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	10:30 PM	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	1:30 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN
8:45 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	12:05 AM	KIKORIKI	KIKORIKI	3:00 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN
10:15 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	12:45 PM	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	5:00 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN
12:15 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	3:00 PM	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	7:00 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN
12:15 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	5:00 PM	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	9:00 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN
1:45 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	7:00 PM	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	11:00 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN
4:15 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	10:45 PM	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	1:00 AM	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS
6:45 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:45 AM	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	1:30 PM	AL-KOUT.3	THE HOLLOW POINT
9:15 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:00 PM	AVENUES-2	KONG: SKULL ISLAND-3D-4DX	4:00 PM	THE DEVIL'S DOLLS	2:30 PM
11:45 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND-3D-4DX	KONG: SKULL ISLAND-3D-4DX	6:30 PM	THE HOLLOW POINT	4:30 PM
1:30 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	3:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND-3D-4DX	KONG: SKULL ISLAND-3D-4DX	9:00 PM	THE HOLLOW POINT	6:30 PM
4:15 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	6:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND-3D-4DX	KONG: SKULL ISLAND-3D-4DX	11:30 PM	THE HOLLOW POINT	8:45 PM
7:00 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	8:30 PM	AVENUES-3	THE HOLLOW POINT	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.4	KONG: SKULL ISLAND
9:45 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	11:00 PM	THE HOLLOW POINT	THE HOLLOW POINT	1:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	3:30 PM
12:30 AM	LOGAN	LOGAN	12:30 PM	THE HOLLOW POINT	THE HOLLOW POINT	3:45 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	5:00 PM
3:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	3:15 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	6:00 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	6:45 PM
5:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	6:00 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	8:15 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	8:30 PM
7:00 PM	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	8:45 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	10:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	10:00 PM
10:00 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	11:30 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	12:45 AM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	11:30 PM
11:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:45 PM	MARINA-1	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:30 PM	LOGAN	1:30 PM
12:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	3:15 PM	LOGAN	4:00 PM
1:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	3:15 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	6:00 PM	LOGAN	6:30 PM
3:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	6:00 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	8:45 PM	LOGAN	9:00 PM
5:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	11:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	11:30 PM	LOGAN	11:30 PM
7:00 PM	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	12:00 PM	MARINA-2	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:30 PM
10:00 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	2:45 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	5:15 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	4:00 PM
11:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	5:15 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	7:45 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	6:30 PM
12:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	10:15 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	10:15 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	7:30 PM
1:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	12:45 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:45 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	10:00 PM
3:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:15 PM	MARINA-3	LOGAN	1:15 PM	LOGAN	12:30 AM
5:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	2:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	2:30 PM	LOGAN	1:30 PM
7:00 PM	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	4:00 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	4:00 PM	LOGAN	2:15 PM
10:00 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	6:45 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	6:45 PM	LOGAN	4:00 PM
11:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.1	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	11:30 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	4:30 PM
12:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:15 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:15 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	6:45 PM
1:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	12:15 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:15 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	9:30 PM
3:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:45 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:45 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:15 AM
5:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	1:30 PM	BAIRAQ-1	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:30 PM
7:00 PM	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	3:15 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	6:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	4:00 PM
10:00 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	8:45 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	8:45 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	6:30 PM
11:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	11:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	11:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	9:00 PM
12:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:15 AM	BAIRAQ-2	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:15 AM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	11:30 PM
1:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	3:00 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	3:00 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	3:00 PM
3:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	5:45 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	5:45 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	4:30 PM
5:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	8:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	8:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	6:00 PM
7:00 PM	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	11:15 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	11:15 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	7:30 PM
10:00 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	11:45 AM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	11:45 AM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	9:15 PM
11:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	10:45 PM
12:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	4:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	4:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	12:30 AM
1:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	6:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	6:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	1:15 PM
3:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	9:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	9:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	2:15 PM
5:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	11:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	11:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	4:00 PM
7:00 PM	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	12:15 AM	BAIRAQ-3	LOGAN	1:15 PM	LOGAN	6:45 PM
10:00 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	1:30 PM	KIKORIKI	KIKORIKI	2:15 PM	KIKORIKI	9:30 PM
11:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	3:45 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	4:00 PM	LOGAN	12:15 AM
12:30 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	6:00 PM	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	6:45 PM	BADRINATH KI DULHANIA-Hindi	12:15 AM
1:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	8:15 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	9:30 PM	LOGAN	
3:00 PM	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	KONG: SKULL ISLAND	10:30 PM	LOGAN	LOGAN	12:15 AM	LOGAN	
5:30 PM	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	HAMAHAH - Kuwaiti Film	12:45 AM	LOGAN	LOGAN		LOGAN	

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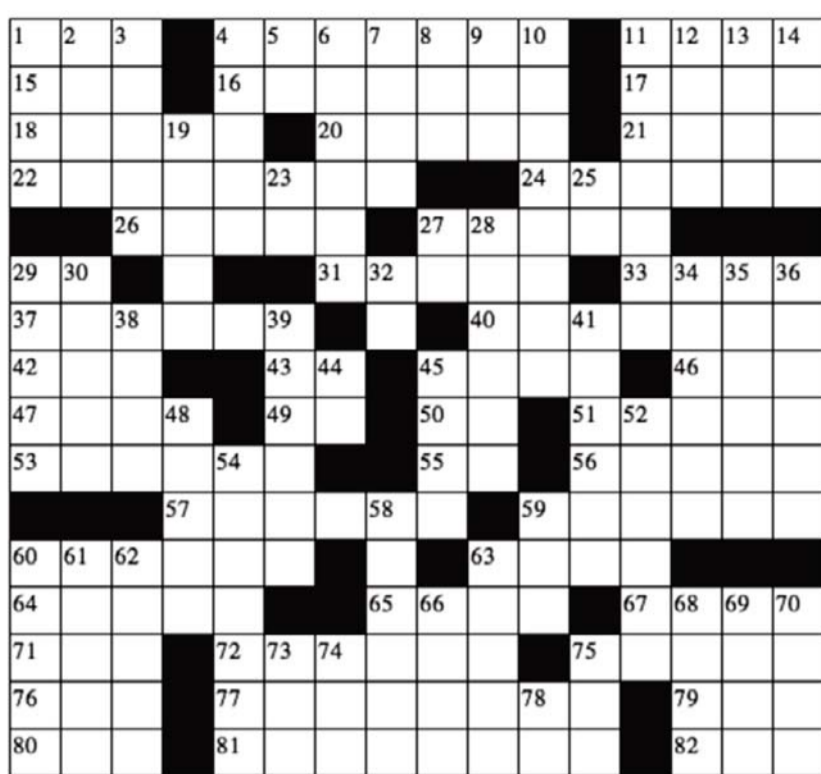
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Shorook:	06:01
Duhr:	11:58
Asr:	15:22
Maghrib:	17:55
Isha:	19:11

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 14/3/2017				Departure Flights on Tuesday 14/3/2017			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	KNE	529	Dubai	14:50
JZR	1903	GYD	00:10	KAC	672	Jeddah	14:55
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	OMA	645	Muscat	15:35
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:25	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:50
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	KAC	154	Istanbul	15:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10
MSC	411	Asyut	01:00	FDB	051	Dubai	16:25
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	16:35
KAC	102	London	01:25	RJA	640	Amman	16:55
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	118	New York	17:00
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	JZR	325	Al Najaf	17:50
KAC	354	BLR	05:20	NIA	251	Alexandria	17:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
KAC	344	Chennai	05:35	FDB	063	Dubai	18:10
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:45	JZR	177	Dubai	18:20
JZR	529	Asyut	05:45	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	QTR	1080	Doha	18:50
KAC	364	Colombo	06:05	KAC	746	Dammam	19:10
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:20	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	06:25	KAC	502	Beirut	19:30
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	778	Riyadh	19:35
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC	514	Tehran	19:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	07:35	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	168	Paris	19:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	OMA	647	Muscat	20:10
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	562	Amman	20:40
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	KAC	616	Bahrain	20:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	KAC	786	Jeddah	21:15
AVV	651	Asyut	10:10	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
IRA	675	Lar	10:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:25
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	CLX	8675	Luxembourg	21:35
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	UAE	859	Dubai	21:40
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
QTR	8511	Doha	12:00	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
KAC	286	Dhaka	12:25	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:05
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	KLM	415	Amsterdam	22:10
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10
FDB	075	Dubai	12:50	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
KAC	680	Dubai	12:55	PIA	239	Sialkot	22:35
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	241	Amman	22:45
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00
KAC	564	Amman	13:40	JZR	185	Dubai	23:15
KAC	788	Jeddah	13:45	JZR	555	Alexandria	23:20
KAC	792	Madinah	13:50	FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
BBC	143	Dhaka	14:00				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10				
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20				
KAC	692	Muscat	14:30				
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30				
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40				
KAC	542	Cairo	14:45				

CROSSWORD 1547



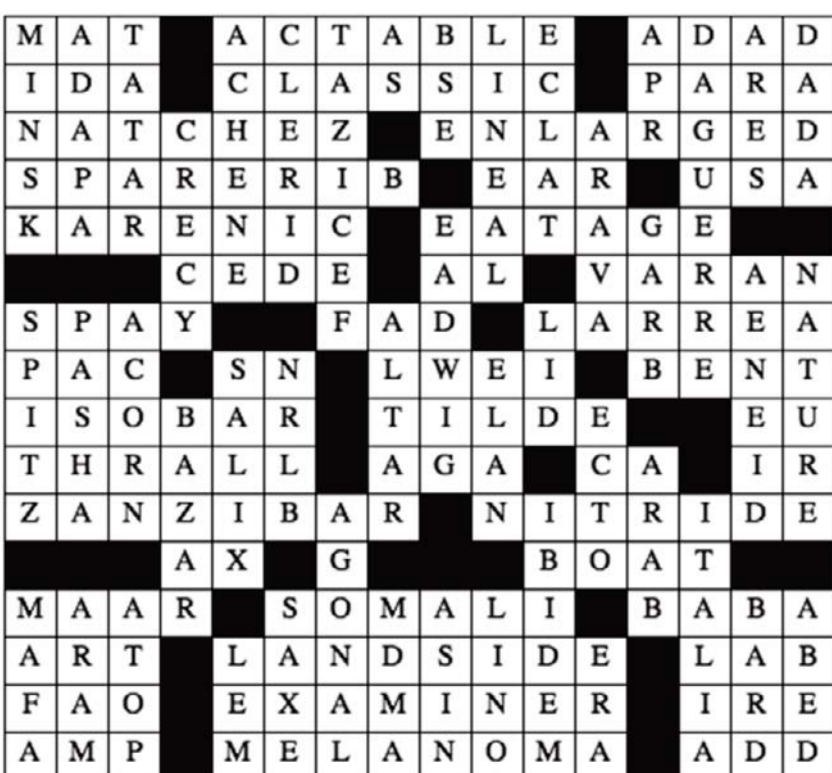
ACROSS

1. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
4. Make less visible or unclear.
11. A professional cook.
15. Legal document setting forth rules governing a particular kind of activity.
16. Put up in a new or different housing.
17. A Lolish language.
18. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
20. Without qualification.
21. Sweet pulpy tropical fruit with thick scaly rind and shiny black seeds.
22. Any plant of the genus Caragana having even-pinnate leaves and mostly yellow flowers followed by seeds in a linear pod.
24. Twist or braid together, interlace.
26. In or associated with the process of passing from life or ceasing to be.
29. A chronic progressive nervous disorder involving loss of myelin sheath around certain nerve fibers.
31. Lower in esteem.
33. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
37. Plants closely allied to the genera Satureja and Calamintha.
40. Brazilian tree with handsomely marked wood.
42. Food of a ruminant regurgitated to be chewed again.
43. Being ten more than one hundred ninety.
46. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
47. Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing.
49. A state in midwestern United States.
50. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
51. A member of a people who have no permanent home but move about according to the seasons.
53. The act of washing yourself (or another person).
55. A soft silvery metallic element of the rare earth group.
56. Related on the mother's side.
57. Something that baffles understanding and cannot be explained.
60. A plaster now made mostly from Portland cement and sand and lime.
64. (astronomy) An indistinct surface feature of Mars once thought to be a system of channels.
65. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
67. Framework for holding objects.
71. Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
72. Personification of the sky or upper air breathed by the Olympians.
76. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
77. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
79. Beyond or deviating from the usual or expected.
80. A usually soluble substance for staining or coloring e.g. fabrics or hair.
81. Low stinging nettle of Central and South America having velvety brownish-green toothed leaves and clusters of small green flowers.
82. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.

DOWN

1. A small loosely aggregated mass of flocculent material suspended in or precipitated from a liquid.
2. Fallow deer.
3. A grant made by a law court.
4. (Norse mythology) God of poetry and music.
5. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
6. Argentinian carriama.
7. A globular water bottle used in Asia.
8. Not in.
9. The act of using.
10. The fleshy part of the human body that you sit on.
11. A cloth used as a head covering (and veil and shawl) by Muslim and Hindu women.
12. The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
13. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
14. Superior to the average.
19. Austrian composer who influenced the classical form of the symphony (1732-1809).
23. An associate degree in nursing.
25. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
27. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
28. Wild ginger.
30. A device (trade name Aqua-Lung) that lets divers breathe under water.
32. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
34. Characteristic of or relating to winter.
35. Wear away through erosion or vaporization.
36. (Norse mythology) God of light and peace and noted for his beauty and sweet nature.
38. In the Roman calendar.
39. Roman general who commanded the invasion of Carthage in the second Punic War and defeated Hannibal at Zama (circa 237-183 BC).
41. Anneal or toughen by a process of gradual heating and cooling.
44. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
45. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
48. A case or sheath especially a pollen sac or moss capsule.
52. Moving toward a position ahead.
54. Release from a clasp.
58. Ancient Persian god of light and truth.
59. A room or establishment where alcoholic drinks are served over a counter.
61. After the expected or usual time.
62. The brother of your father or mother.
63. Very large red gum tree.
66. Give a certain impression or have a certain outward aspect.
68. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
69. King of Denmark and Norway who forced Edmund II to divide England with him.
70. God of love and erotic desire.
73. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
74. Of a light yellowish-brown color n 1.
75. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
78. Being nine more than ninety.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Tensions, frustrations or generally a busy day can be turned around through a most pleasurable activity this afternoon: a loving relationship. When you reach home, remember to leave your work, at work. Your interest may be piqued in the avenue of making money through rational, intellectual processes, rather than brute, physical action. During this time you will show more interest in cultural or literary affairs regarding the spending of money than just merely collecting material goods. You are apt to obtain success financially through the power of attraction. You may spend a great deal of time interested in beautifying your surroundings. This could mean new paint, a garden or some other similar work. Neighbors may want your landscape design opinions.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Delays at work are likely this morning. You have a good sense of confidence today and may want to review or proof some of your work before presenting your ideas or presentation to others. You may want to invest or use other resources with which to earn extra money. You are motivated to think about and look forward to change. One of the most important activities for the next few weeks is the activity of going-with-the-flow. It is not really your turn to make big changes in the workplace-only changes for yourself right now. A love of music, an appreciation for sensual pleasures, etc., are the signs of the cycle that has begun for you now. Enjoy the social opportunities that come your way this evening. You may need to only respond to an rsvp.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could be gaining quite a bit of attention this morning. Your expertise is of high value and you may find that higher-ups are calling on you often to teach and guide-patience. You may find yourself feeling rather proud of your accomplishments this day. It may be advisable to apply for an upgrade in your job. Now you could consider the fee or the earned amount for those days you will be teaching. This is an aesthetic and artistic time to be sure, but it is also practical and materialistic; you develop a keen appreciation for the value of things, including the money it takes to buy them. This is a good day for planning your professional life. You may receive some recognition regarding your skills. Go to new places for socializing this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

After talking with a friend or co-worker this morning, some past situation is better understood. You may be sitting in on a meeting today and decide you can take charge and accomplish things faster or better than the person leading the group now. Of course, this information would be better kept to yourself. You communicate with feeling and strength. Projects and job responsibilities gain your uppermost attention. You work to complete whatever is set before you. Approach the emotional subjects another time-results will be more positive. Home-based activities are highlighted. You may work on cleaning out a particular closet or perhaps an area of the garage this evening. This is an excellent time to work off some of your excess energy.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

The travel urge has kicked in but you might want to wait until next month, if possible, for a more satisfying trip. Your enthusiasm is contagious; you can lift spirits around you or teach a class successfully. Matters pertaining to the family, home or property will require your undivided attention-your finances may be unpredictable for a while. Some indecision can get in your way. Get rid of any negative thinking as this is destructive and unhealthy. This is one of your best overall days. Work on clearing away any emotional baggage. Consider the library as resource for self-help books for positive thinking and merge them into your life. Spring fever will be hitting you later this month and you will be ready to escape your routine.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

A long-standing problem with regard to work will be resolved. You will soon feel free to perform better than ever regarding work-related situations. Events line up in your favor and push you over the top to succeed. Recognition for your accomplishments is forthcoming; meanwhile, just work through one project at a time. This afternoon, you show a great deal of interest in all family matters, particularly concerning the general living environment in the home. You may wish to strengthen the ties with an older family member this afternoon, not necessarily to prove yourself to that person, but to create an avenue through which you can be assured of that person's welfare. Additional responsibilities may be placed upon you in the context of the home setting.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may be especially self-motivated just now. There is a lot of energy and drive available for whatever you want to accomplish just now; you may have an urge to move forward too quickly. You feel a love of order and enjoy succeeding at what you set out to accomplish. This afternoon you find ways to help a loved one without being too obvious. This is one of your better days for money but take care not to overindulge. Find time to kick back and relax this evening-this could be the beginning of a busy time and finding those deep breath relaxation minutes may be hard to uncover. You might even want to schedule in a massage for you and your loved one sometime toward the middle of next week. Travel for fun will happen as a surprise; patience.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

It is important to open your mind to new and positive possibilities in the workplace. Round-table discussions and new research present mental stimulation that will help you achieve new ideas and new ways to achieve and grow. A project should be successful today. Something you thought was lost can be found. A problem is solved. Also, an idea set aside earlier can now be revised and reintroduced for a successful presentation. This afternoon, a future gambling or camping trip could be planned with friends and loved ones. You have energies around you now that increase your ability to clear away a recent misunderstanding. You may find yourself and a loved one watching or looking through some old family pictures this evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A feeling of being in harmony with yourself and others is important at this time. Stability and permanence satisfy a deep emotional need. Because you are focused you are able to achieve and move forward regarding sales, customer service and business in general. A worry over relations with a business partner, spouse or friend is needless; relax and leave well enough alone! A volunteer opportunity arises this afternoon and it is something you believe in strongly . . . Consider giving of your time to this issue. You will be able to make a positive difference. Music is likely to play a more important role for you than usual this afternoon. If you are not giving music lessons you may decide to begin music lessons this month.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Mental stimulation is the key for this day. Your curiosity puts you in a mood to solve problems today and you will find plenty of opportunities. You cooperate and compromise as much as possible; however, what proves successful just now is your ability to guide or lead others in a group project. Your administration abilities are in high focus. You may decide to visit friends after work. A feeling of being confident, in control and at peace with your own progress in life is positive and you influence others. You lead and others naturally follow. Romance is possible this evening, especially with your efforts in mending fences. This may literally mean you fix a neighbor's fence. An announcement this evening puts everyone in a good mood.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

New means of self-expression are possible. This may mean things like some personal item in the cup holder or your name on the panel. You may find yourself moving toward the more unconventional and less traditional. Eccentricities and a different manner of presenting yourself may be in order. You should expend great zest in moneymaking efforts but show caution in your choice of activities. You are usually hard-working and ambitious on the professional level, but it may be hard to get your attention later this afternoon. It is important to develop a team attitude so as not to alienate fellow workers. Be attentive to your own needs this evening. A nice long soak in the tub or a massage would be a wonderful way to relax.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

An interview or a story has you really preoccupied this morning. Seeing the world as no other person can see it is an exciting experience and you look forward to learning more. This could mean anything from a little scuba diving to exploring a cave or climbing a mountain. These are your thoughts this morning as you enter the workplace. These thoughts also seem to give you that incentive to think outside the box. Reading and learning are always exciting, and you should plan to set as one of your goals this coming year to teach others about learning through reading. You will find a song, a poem or some saying that will show others how much you appreciate them. You hold your good friends close.

WORD SEARCH

Pizza

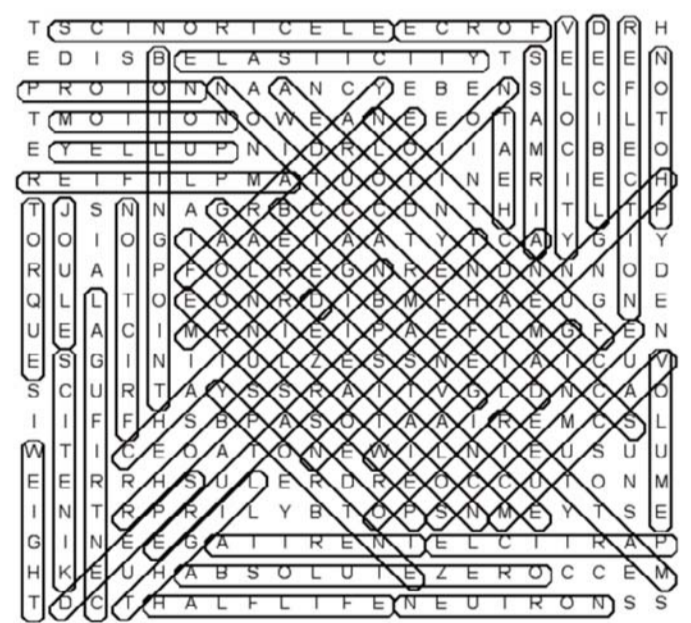
Find and circle all of the pizza ingredients and toppings that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell four additional pizza toppings.



- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| ARTICHOKE HEARTS | CRUST | JALAPENOS | PROVOLONE |
| ASIAGO | EGGPLANT | MONTEREY JACK | RICOTTA |
| ASPARAGUS | FETA | MOZZARELLA | SALAMI |
| BACON | GARLIC | MUSHROOMS | SAUSAGE |
| BANANA PEPPERS | GOAT CHEESE | OLIVE OIL | SHRIMP |
| BASIL | GOUDA | ONIONS | SPINACH |
| BELL PEPPERS | GREEN OLIVES | OYSTERS | TOMATO SAUCE |
| BLACK OLIVES | GROUND BEEF | PARMESAN | TOMATOES |
| BROCCOLI | HAM | PEPPERONI | ZUCCHINI |

Yesterday's Solution

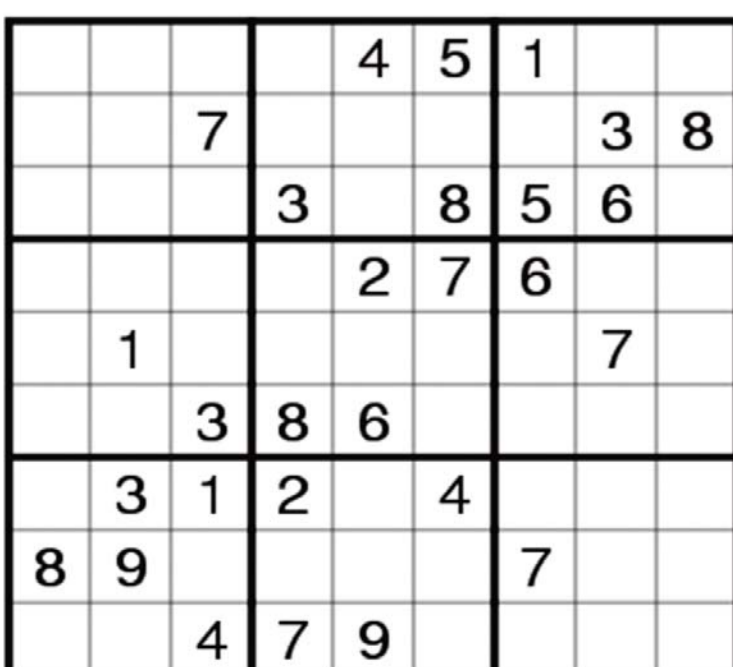
Physics 2



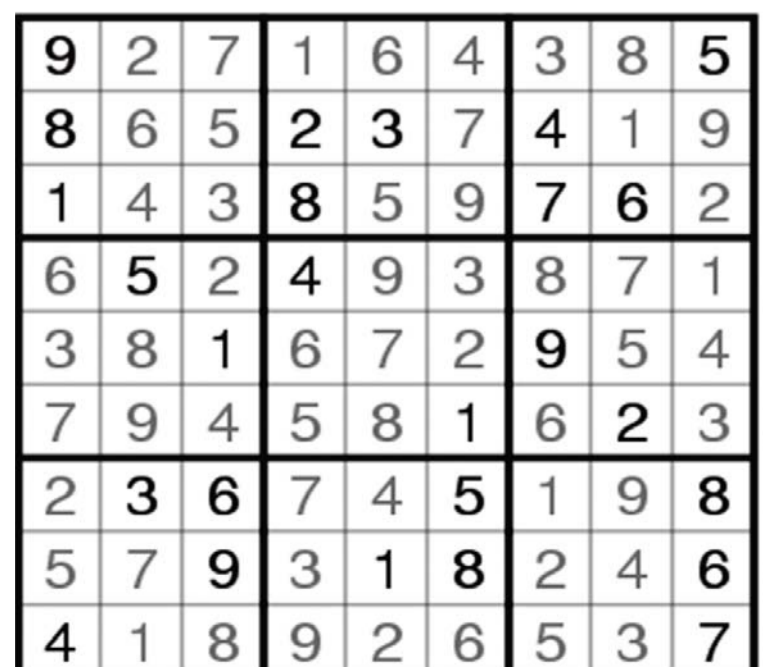
- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| ABSOLUTE ZERO | DRAG | IONIZATION | PROTON |
| ADHESION | ELASTICITY | JOULE | PULLEY |
| AERODYNAMICS | ELECTRONICS | KINETICS | REFLECTION |
| AIR MASS | ENTROPY | LIGHT | SCIENCE |
| AMPLIFIER | FARADAY | MATTER | SPEED |
| BIG BANG | FORCE | MOLECULE | TEMPERATURE |
| BOILING POINT | FRICTION | MOTION | TORQUE |
| CENTRIFUGAL | FUNCTION | NEUTRON | VACUUM |
| CHAIN REACTION | GALILEO | NIELS BOHR | VELOCITY |
| DECIBEL | HALF LIFE | PARTICLE | VOLUME |
| DIFFRACTION | HEAT | PHOTON | WAVELENGTH |
| DISTANCE | INERTIA | PRESSURE | WEIGHT |

The hidden message is: THE DISTANCE BETWEEN INSANITY AND GENIUS IS MEASURED ONLY BY SUCCESS

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
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



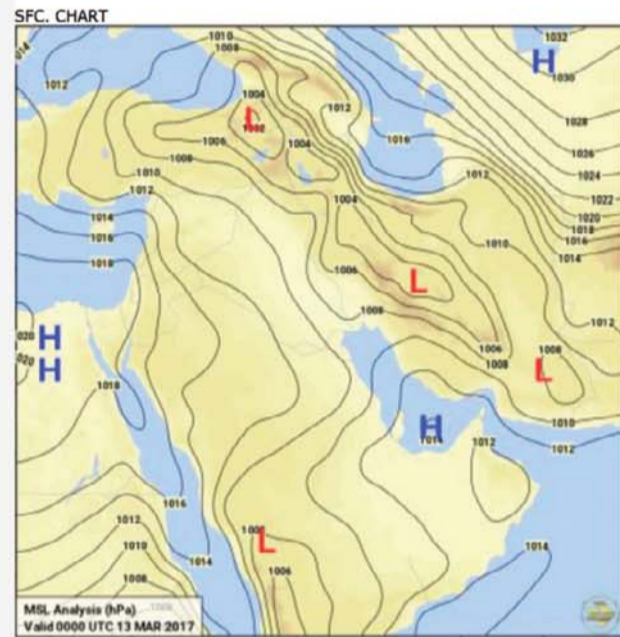
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 13/03/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 32 °C

By Day : Dusty with moderate to fresh south easterly changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 25 - 55 km/h with a chance for scattered rain that might be thundery at times
By Night : Visibility will improve gradually with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h



Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather				
Min Temp °C	14	14	15	16
Max Temp °C	28	27	30	27
Wind Direction	north westerly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	south easterly	north westerly to light variable
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 26	06 - 28	20 - 45	08 - 28

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings



Dust Storm

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	19	31
KUWAIT AIRPORT	19	32
ABDALLY	18	34
BUBYAN	18	28
JAHRA	19	33
FAILAKA ISLAND	18	29
SALMIYAH	18	29
AHMADI	18	28
JAL ALIYAH	18	33
QAROH ISLAND	18	26
UMM AL-MARADEM	18	28
NUWAISIB	18	32
WAFRA	17	33
SALMY	20	35
MUTRIBA	18	34

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	29
Min Temp (°C)	19
Max Rel Hum (%)	90
Min Rel Hum (%)	29
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	28 E
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	06:01
Sunset	17:55

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:41
Sunrise	06:01
Zuhr	11:58
Asr	15:22
Sunset	17:55
Isha	19:11

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
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabaa	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-Mikhazem	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

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
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 Gupaje	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam	23845955
Dentists	
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef 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. Foaid Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Family Doctor	Psychiatrists	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
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	

Physiotherapists & VD	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR. Mohammed Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555
MD, PH.D, FACC	
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Te: 2575077	
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GOSSIP

Lorde is 'proud' of new single

Lorde is "really proud" of the lyrics she created for her new single 'Liability'. The 20-year-old singer has just dropped her latest track on her adoring fans around the world and has admitted she's really impressed with the work she produced because the story she's telling through her music will resonate with every listener. She explained: "I'm really proud of this bit of songwriting. I feel like I got somewhere they hadn't been before, which is always a nice feeling as a songwriter. It's interesting because I had this realization that because of my lifestyle and what I do for work there's going to be a point with every single person around me where I'm gonna be attacks on them in some way. If it is having to give up a little portion of their privacy or their life becoming more difficult or whatever.

"It was just this moment of sadness and I remember it so vividly. I was in this cab alone listening to 'Higher' by Rihanna because 'ANTI' had just come out. And I had a little cry and I was just like 'it's always going to be this way, at some point with everyone it's going to be this way'. "But the song kind of ended up turning into a bit of a protective talismans for me. I was like, you know what, I'm always gonna have myself so I have to really nurture this relationship and feel good about hanging out with myself and loving myself. "And the tone of the melody, the way it kind of falls around, it's almost like it's kind of drunk or it sort of leans around, it's got this hip hop cadence to it." The brunette beauty is set to release her new album 'Melodrama' in June and, although she's keeping the

details under wraps for now, she's teased that the songs are "tight". Speaking on Apple Beats 1 Radio, she told Zane Lowe: "The record is called 'Melodrama'. [On number of songs on the album] It's tight like my last one, I like to keep them small." Lorde is also preparing for her upcoming performances and is certain they will be "sick." She said: "It's gonna be a big one. It's gonna be so sick. We're working with the sickest people on the show and doing all these festivals and awesome bits of TV. And it's gonna be... oh my God I can't wait for you to see it. I'm so excited!"



Circa Waves' Kieran Shudall isn't a fan of Ed Sheeran

Circa Waves frontman Kieran Shudall isn't a fan of "commercial" Ed Sheeran and James Arthur. The 29-year-old rocker has no interest in any artists in the charts, including the 'Castle on the Hill' hitmaker and the 'Say You Won't Let Go' singer, and has called on fellow rock lovers to support bands who make "honest music" as those topping the charts don't need any help in that department. He told the Daily Star newspaper: "Bands survive now by people buying gig tickets, the charts. "I don't like any of the music in the charts, I don't like Ed Sheeran and I don't like James Arthur and the people who see my band don't care about them. "Rock bands will stay strong as long as record labels don't care too much about the charts because otherwise we will have too many singers that are purely commercial. "We need people to still invest in bands and good honest music." While he doesn't pay too much attention to pop stars, the 'T-Shirt Weather' hitmaker

is interested in popular television show 'Game of Thrones', and has asked Isaac Hempstead Wright - who plays Bran Stark in the HBO series - to be in the band's new music video for 'Fire That Burns'. And he is hoping the 17-year-old actor will take his "hints" that himself and his band mates, Sam Rourke, Colin Jones and Joe Falconer, want to appear on the show. He revealed: "We found out Isaac was a huge fan so we messaged him on Twitter and asked if he would star in the video for 'Fire That Burns'. "He messaged back straight away saying he'd love to, I never thought he'd ever even reply. "I absolutely love 'GoT' and we want to be in it more than anything, I keep dropping hints to Isaac but he ain't picked up on them yet. They've had that guy from Snow Patrol in one so I don't see why we can't."

The Eagles are set to reunite

The Eagles are reportedly set to reform for a two-date festival in New York and Los Angeles. The rock band previously said they would never perform together again following the shock death of Glenn Frey in January 2016 - but they have since performed a U-turn and are now preparing to reunite for the Classic West and Classic East bash later this year. A source explained: "The Eagles are getting back together on stage." However, the insider has rubbished the suggestion that the band are merely reuniting for money. The source told The Sun newspaper: "It's not a decision they have taken lightly but their feelings have changed and they know there's huge demand from fans who want to see them. "None of them need the money - they want to make sure the shows are respectful and fitting tribute." The Eagles are also still to decide whether they will hire a new singer to replace Glenn. The insider added:

"The band are still dealing with the issue of replacing Glenn and have secretly held talks with some performers, but they are also discussing the possibility of sharing his duties between them." The Eagles - whose best-selling hits included 'Hotel California' and 'Take It Easy' - are expected to earn more than £4 million for the shows. But band member Don Henley previously insisted they would not reunite after they performed 'Take It Easy' at the Grammys in February 2016. He said: "It was very difficult and very emotional. We actually almost didn't do it. "That was the final farewell. I don't think you'll see us performing again. I think that was probably it. I think it was an appropriate farewell."



Rosie Huntington-Whiteley's 'secret weapon' is Caudalie's Beauty Elixir

Rosie Huntington-Whiteley's "secret weapon" is Caudalie's Beauty Elixir. The 29-year-old model has recently partnered with the French skincare company, and she has admitted she relies on a variety of cosmetic products from the brand, including their Masque Creme Hydratant, Resveratrol Lift Face Lifting Soft Cream and their Vineactiv Energizing and Smoothing Eye Cream, although their part-toner and part-serum product, which helps to achieve a smooth and glowing complexion, is her ultimate favorite. The blonde beauty - who is expecting her first child with her fiancé Jason Statham - shared the news of her essentials on her Instagram Story, which only lasts for 24 hours on the photo-sharing site. Alongside a photograph of a variety of products lined up alongside one another, she wrote: "Just a few of my favorite skincare products @caudalie (sic)." Whilst an image of her clasping at a clear bottle of the Beauty Elixir, read: "My secret weapon for a smooth & glowing complexion! The Beauty Elixir @caudalie (sic)." And the 'Mad Max: Fury Road' actress is "very happy" to have joined forces with the label, which she has credited as her "favorite natural skincare brand". Alongside a picture of her posing with one of the products, she wrote: "Very happy to be partnering with one of my favorite natural skincare brands @caudalie! (sic)." Meanwhile Rosie, who joined forces with Marks and Spencer in 2012 to launch her lingerie line titled Rosie for Autograph, is set to unveil her first swimwear collection for the longstanding retail brand in April. The British star shared a string of images of her in a one-shoulder bikini whilst swimming on her photo-sharing site to confirm the news. She captioned the posts: "#RosieForAutograph Swim coming April 2017! Very excited to announce the launch of #RosieForAutograph Swim coming April 2017 @marksandspencer! (sic)."

Naomi Campbell is 'always' nervous before fashion shows

Naomi Campbell is "always" nervous before she graces the catwalk. The 46-year-old supermodel, who was scouted at the age of 15 and has boasted over 30 successful years at the helm of the fashion industry, has admitted she is always overcome with nervous ahead of gracing the runway, and the star's "super confident" persona is simply a facade. Speaking openly about her feelings of apprehension on ITV's 'This Morning' yesterday, the brunette beauty - who has fronted campaigns for designer brands including Yves Saint Laurent, Marc Jacobs and Dolce and Gabbana - said: "I've always been [nervous], although I may look like I'm super confident." However, the catwalk icon believes a "little bit of fear" is what helps her to do her best work. She continued: "I always think that little bit of fear is something you use to make you do your best." The 'Empire' actress - who plays the role of Camilla Marks in the American series - has advised budding models to pursue their dreams regardless of what other people say. She said: "Strive for your dreams and don't let anyone change the way you feel!" Naomi is set to hold a fundraising event in Cannes, France, in May this year for the charity she founded in 2005 titled, Fashion for Relief, which will see all proceeds go towards Save the Children organization and it's Syria Crisis Appeal. The star has admitted there is a "wish list" of celebrities she would love to model in the show, and she has hinted the people she has reached out to in the past have never refused to take part. She said: "There's always a wish list, but the thing is no one ever says no. It's so much fun. The one we did with Jane Fonda in Cannes, she gave us all a lesson on how to walk with a trail that long, she skipped down the runway, it was amazing."



Salt-N-Pepa: We're 'here to stay'

Salt-N-Pepa say their songs are "here to stay". The hip hop trio - consisting of Cheryl 'Salt' James, Sandra 'Pepa' Denton, and Deidra 'Spinderella' Roper - were one of the first all female rap groups when they formed in 1985, and despite a brief split between 2002 and 2007, the group insist they're not quitting the music business any time soon. Pepa, 50, said: "A lot of our fans, they always say Salt-N-Pepa and Spinderella was the soundtrack to their lives... We're just not going anywhere. Our songs are here to stay." The 'Push It' hitmakers are currently embarking on the 'I Love The 90s' festival tour which sees them play shows with the likes of Vanilla Ice, Sugar Ray, and Coolio, and Pepa admits she loves to watch the other acts and revel in the nostalgia of the decade that catapulted them into fame. When asked if they watch the other acts on tour, Pepa said: "Yeah, I always watch the show. I do love watching the show. It's fun! And I watch the audience, and I see the joy and the happiness-they're really into it. A lot of times they'll even come dressed as the '90s." DJ Spinderella, 45, agrees with her band mate, saying the 90s was an "incredible era" for music. She told Billboard magazine: "When you say 'the '90s', it's just nostalgia. The '90s was an incredible era for music, hip-hop, pop culture - just everything. People want to go back. And Salt-N-Pepa - we were literally in our prime." The artists playing at each date of the tour changes frequently, and so the line-up is constantly evolving. It is unknown how many shows the 'Shoop' rappers are set to perform, but Pepa says the festival as a whole is set to continue into 2018, after having already racked up 100 gigs in 2016. This year will see the festival travel through the US, as well as Canada, Australia, and England.

CLARKE IS THE NEW FACE OF DOLCE AND GABBANA'S THE ONE FRAGRANCE

Emilia Clarke is the new face of Dolce and Gabbana's fragrance line. The 30-year-old actress has been announced as the brand ambassador of the luxury Italian fashion house, which will see the star front the campaign for the luxury label's The One for Women scent in September this year. And the brand's co-founders Domenico Dolce, 58, and Stefano Gabbana, 54, have praised the brunette beauty as being the perfect embodiment of the "Dolce and Gabbana woman" because she is "radiant and lively". Speaking about the 'Me Before You' star and her latest venture, the creative masterminds said: "Emilia Clarke embodies perfectly the Dolce & Gabbana woman: she is radiant and lively. Her personality and natural beauty will capture the essence of this new campaign: joyful, spontaneous and full of life. She is The One!" The fashion house has taken to social media to further broadcast the news. Alongside a picture of Emilia from the commercial, which was shared on their Instagram account, they wrote: "Emmy nominated actress @emilia_clarke will be the face of Dolce & Gabbana The One fragrance starting September 2017 #DGBeauty (sic)." And the fashion designers have praised the British star for being the ideal figure to represent the brand because he is "young, naturally charming, charismatic" and has a "rich personality". They explained: "Kit Harington is exactly how we see the Dolce & Gabbana man: young, naturally charming, charismatic, with a personality rich in traits. "There could be no other face for The One for Men."



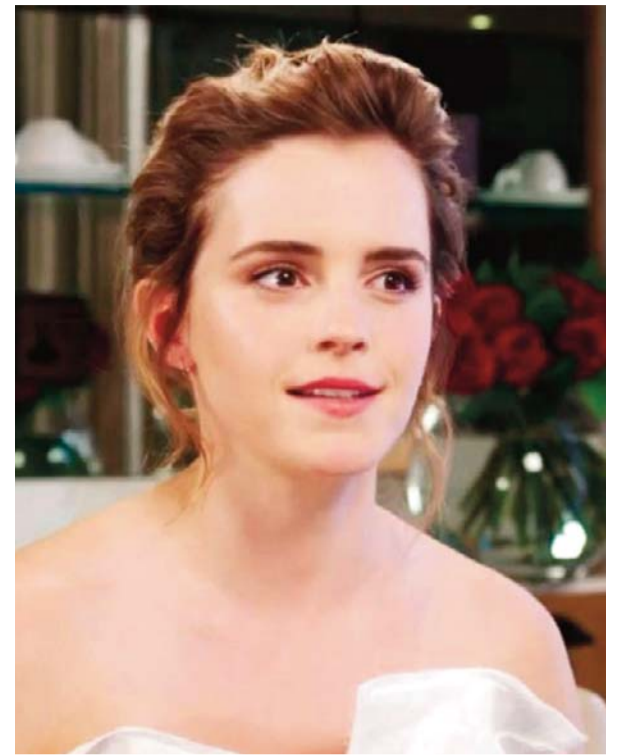
GOSSIP



Watson had Belle Bootcamp for Beauty and the Beast

Emma Watson had to go to 'Belle Bootcamp' to learn how to ride a horse, sing and dance for her role in 'Beauty and the Beast'. The 26-year-old British actress spent three months preparing for the part in Disney's live action remake of their classic animation and another four months shooting the movie and she admits it was a massive commitment to get her portrayal of Belle right. In an interview on ITV daytime show 'Lorraine', she said: "With a movie like 'Beauty and the Beast' it's like three months prep, it's like three or four months shooting, it's in the UK. I had to be there to do that and as I was saying before it's like you can't half-arse a project like this, you know, you're in or you're out. And I was like I've kinda got to be all in and so this was really where my heart was and I knew I had to fully commit and make sure that I did this." On having to learn new skills for the role of Belle, Emma added: "I've never ridden a horse before [making this film] and so I was like, 'OK! This is what I mean about the prep. I mean I really went in to like essentially a 'Belle Bootcamp'. I was riding

three or four times a week, singing four times a week, dancing three or four times a week. I was manic, I was so hectic but I loved it." Even though she had to learn so many new skills for the part, Emma insists nothing was scarier than having to sing on screen. The 'Harry Potter' star - who stars in the fantasy film with Dan Stevens and Luke Evans, who play the Beast and Gaston respectively - said: "Oh my god I can't even tell you how nerve wracking it was, there were a few moments when I had a real crisis of confidence ... Once I got into it I just loved it. I want to do a musical every day for the rest of my life. There is so much joy in it and like the music is just ... I don't know about you but when I hear that song 'Beauty and the Beast' I just melt!" 'Beauty and the Beast' - which is based on French author Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont's 1740 fairy tale 'La Belle et la Bete' - is in cinemas worldwide this week.



Brie Larson: Kong cast bonded without WiFi

Brie Larson and her 'Kong: Skull Island' castmates grew to be really close because they were shooting in locations without WiFi. The Oscar-winning actress loved shooting the part of the blockbuster - which also stars the likes of Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson, John C. Reilly and John Goodman - in Vietnam as the remote location meant the cast were forced to interact more than they would have done elsewhere. Speaking to the new issue of HELLO! magazine, she said: "Vietnam in particular is special because it has never been captured on film before in this way. We tried to get nature in its raw form, its wildness and show the diversity of the island. It did [bring us closer]. There is no self-service or WiFi when you're so deep in the jungle, it's too far away to go back to your trailer so you're just all in a tent together. I got to be back in touch with nature again, it's not usual to do that at work." And when filming moved to Australia, the group enjoyed a lot of fun outings, including having a Queensland theme park closed specifically for their use. Brie - who along with her co-stars also filmed in Hawaii - said: "We did a lot of fun things on weekends, like going to Lazer Tag. We went go-karting lone time, but one of my favorites was when Movie World closed for us and we got to go on the roller coasters as many times in a row as we wanted." The 27-year-old beauty enjoyed go-karting because she won one race, and maintains she only lost the second because she was at a disadvantage. She said: "I did win first place go-karting and then in the next race I didn't. In the larger race I got a c**ppy car - just so everyone is clear. It had nothing to do with my skills, it was just that I got a faulty car ... But I'm OK about it. I'm not mad. I should have won but it's fine. I think all my years of playing 'Mario Kart' helped. I was focused." Tom - who plays former SAS Captain James Conrad - previously revealed that Brie is a great go-kart racer but he was useless behind the wheel. He said: "We're from different places in the world, thrown together in the valley of a dormant volcano - you get close pretty quickly. We bonded off set. Brie organized weekends of activities, we'd go go-karting - I was terrible. Brie's actually really good at it."



Prince Harry to use Princess Diana's tiara as engagement ring

Prince Harry is reportedly set to turn Princess Diana's tiara into an engagement ring for his girlfriend Meghan Markle. The 32-year-old royal has been dating the American actress since last year, and it is believed he is now looking at transforming his late mother's emerald tiara into a sentimental engagement ring so he can pop the question to the brunette beauty later this year. A source said: "Diana's jewelry collection was left in trust for the boys and Meghan apparently loves emeralds. For Harry, like Wills before him, using his mother's gems means the two loves of his life will forever be linked." Harry is reportedly working on "something incredible" with jewelers, so that he can give Meghan, 35, "the same sentiment" that his brother Prince William had when he proposed to his now-wife Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, using Princess Diana's engagement ring. The source added to the Daily Star newspaper: "After Diana died, the boys both chose a keepsake from Kensington Palace when they moved to Charles' rooms in St James's Palace. Prince William picked his mum's Cartier watch, and Harry picked her sapphire and diamond engagement ring. "But they had an agreement that whoever got engaged first would have Diana's ring - and of course that was William and Kate. Harry wants the same sentiment when he proposes to Meghan, so he is working with the jewelers to design something incredible." Meanwhile, a source previously claimed that Harry would propose to the 'Suits' actress in the summer, as the pair have openly discussed taking their relationship to the next step. They claimed: "They will be engaged by the end of summer. [They] have spoken candidly about their future. They see a life together."



Anne Hathaway: Ocean's Eight makes a statement

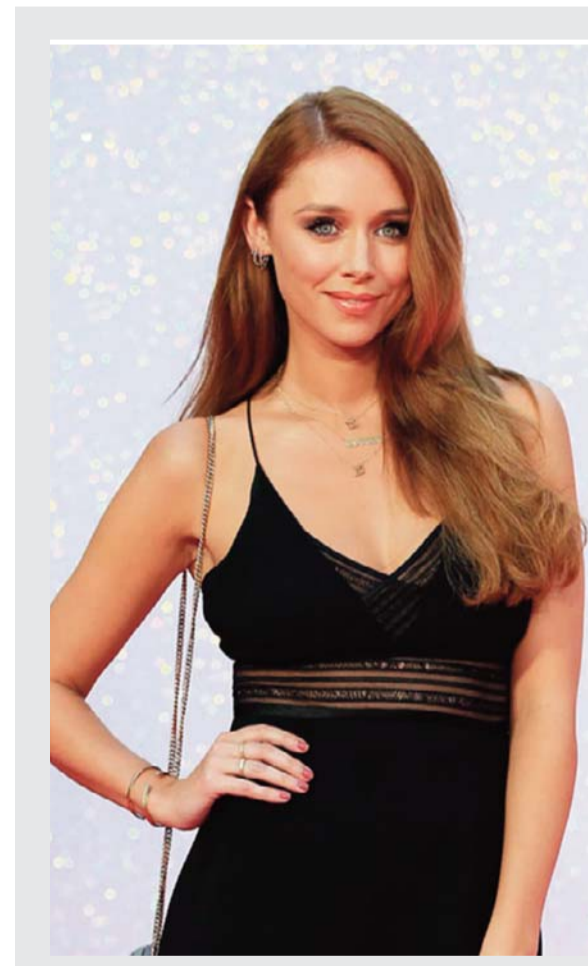
Anne Hathaway thinks 'Ocean's Eight' has become a "statement" because of its all-female cast. The Oscar-winning actress admitted she expects the upcoming heist movie - which also stars the likes of Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Rihanna, Awkwafina, Sarah Paulson, Helena Bonham Carter and Mindy Kaling - to attract a lot of attention because it is seen as a political move not to cast men in major roles. Asked if she worries the film will be seen as political or attract harassment in the way the all-female 'Ghostbusters' reboot did, she said: "When I'm a second or a third lead in a film-usually the first and second leads are men-my character doesn't feel political. "But when I'm number one on the call sheet, it suddenly becomes a 'woman's story' and it's a statement. "That's the moment that we're in. In this movie there are eight women starring, so it may well attract that sort of attention. However, the 34-year-old star insists the cast won't take any sort of criticism aimed at their gender lightly. She added to Time magazine's Motto: "But good luck to any person who tries to take on Sandra Bullock and Cate Blanchett because you're not going to win." Anne - who is a UN Goodwill Ambassador advocating for parental leave - is thankful her first experience working on a movie since having her and husband Adam Schulman's son Jonathan 11 months ago has been very welcoming towards the youngster, as she knows that isn't always the norm. But she is hopeful change will come about thanks to her co-stars insistence on making their sets family friendly. She said: "I only have one experience so far, and it's a movie that stars eight women, four of whom are mothers-which is definitely not the norm. "On 'Ocean's Eight', kids were welcome on the set. [Before we started] I got an email from Sandra Bullock saying, 'Hey, listen, we're going to make this a really welcoming place for kids. I know you're a brand-new mom, so don't be afraid to bring your son. We love kids here.' "Change is going to come, but it's going to take people like her with the power to make change to demand it."

Princess Diana 'saved lives' with her dresses

Princess Diana "saved lives" with her dresses. The head of design's widow at Catherine Walker & Co, the late princess' favorite design house, has revealed Diana - who tragically passed away in 1991 after being involved in a car crash in Paris - has revealed the extreme lengths they would go to make sure her outfits were respectful to the places she visited around the world. In an interview with PEOPLE magazine, Said Cyrus said: "As with all our clients who are in the public eye and attend high profile events, we worked very closely with Diana to ensure what she was wore was appropriate and she-not the clothes-was the star. "My wife and I spent a great deal of time researching what she wore for official visits abroad, even visiting countries in advance to make sure we had it right. We tried to ensure that our designs bridged her ambassadorial role for her own country and also paid respect to each destination. "She will always be remembered for her humanitarian work. In the end, she used her dresses to save lives." Cyrus was speaking in the run up to the opening of the new exhibition 'Diana: A Fashion Story at Kensington Palace'. The curator of the new event, was once hailed the "Sun Princess of Versailles" by Italian-born French fashion designer Pierre Cardin when she visited the Palace of Versailles in the French capital three years prior to her death in 1994. Lynn said: "[She] was really well received. "The couturier Pierre Cardin was at the event and said "We are at Versailles, the home of the Sun King, and now we have the Sun Princess of Versailles." Diana was a very proud ambassador of British fashion.", recently said Diana - who had sons Prince William and Prince Harry with Prince Charles - was a "proud ambassador of British fashion". She was once hailed the "Sun Princess of Versailles" by Italian-born French fashion designer Pierre Cardin when she visited the Palace of Versailles in the French capital three years prior to her death in 1994. Lynn said: "[She] was really well received. "The couturier Pierre Cardin was at



the event and said 'We are at Versailles, the home of the Sun King, and now we have the Sun Princess of Versailles.' Diana was a very proud ambassador of British fashion."



Una Foden wants to act

Una Foden wants to diversify her career and try her hand at acting. The 'What About Us' hitmaker - who found fame as part of girl group The Saturdays alongside Frankie Bridge, Rochelle Humes, Mollie King and Vanessa White - is keen to step in front of the camera and give acting a go. She told BANG Showbiz: "I'd love to try [acting] some time, but I don't know how to go about it. Maybe a little cameo here or there might be nice, but yeah I do, I've often thought that. But it would have to be the right thing, maybe a small part - see how it goes. I'd say film - just like a little part just to see how it goes. TV is such a huge commitment. But a small little part, yeah." Meanwhile, Una previously admitted she hopes The Saturdays will reunite but she doesn't see it happening for "a few years" yet. She said: "I always say when the nostalgia kicks in, that's when bands reform and I hope one day we will, but it won't be for a few years. "I really miss the girls and their company. We're all doing our own thing, but I've got the guys in the band now. But of course I miss the girls." Despite this, Una - who has Aoife, four, and Tadhg, two, with her husband Ben Foden - loves being a solo artist as it gives her the opportunity to indulge her own specific tastes in music. She added: "It's so me, totally. The whole album is about my life ... now it's unleashed to the world. I feel I've done a full circle. "I was embarking on the path of a singer songwriter. Going around pubs and clubs, then I joined the Saturdays and it was a huge change for me. It's like being given a second chance to go back to the music I like."

DAN STEVENS: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST EXPLORES A CLASSIC DISNEY THEME

Dan Stevens thinks 'Beauty and the Beast' touches on a "classic Disney theme". The 34-year-old actor, who stars as the Beast in the much-anticipated new movie, has admitted that the Bill Condon-directed film is alluring, in part, because of its exploration of the issue of absent parents. He explained: "It's a classic Disney theme, absent parents. Dead mothers and fathers all over the place! "That really occupies a lot of fairy tales. The absent parent, and what is that filled with? If you have that missing element in the equation, what fills that? What influences it? For good or ill." Dan, who stars alongside Emma Watson in the new movie, said that the theme is one of the pillars of Disney's success. He told Den of Geek: "It is fascinating. It's what makes them great family movies that you look at that dynamic: What is there, what isn't there, and what might be there in the absence? Sometimes a cautionary tale, but also sometimes a reminder of

the value of that kind of parental love." Meanwhile, Emma recently admitted a "scheduling conflict" with the making of 'Beauty and the Beast' was to blame for her not taking on the leading role in 'La La Land'. Emma, 26, was originally attached to the leading role in the musical - which eventually went to Emma Stone - but she rubbished suggestions that her "crazy demands" are the reason she didn't get the part. Emma recently said: "[Beauty and the Beast] wasn't a movie I could just sort of step into. I knew I had horse training, I knew I had dancing, I knew I had three months of singing ahead of me and I knew I had to be in London to really do that. "This wasn't a movie I could just kind of parachute into. I knew I had to do the work, and I had to be where I had to be. So, you know, scheduling conflict-wise, it just didn't work out." — Bang Showbiz



FEATURES



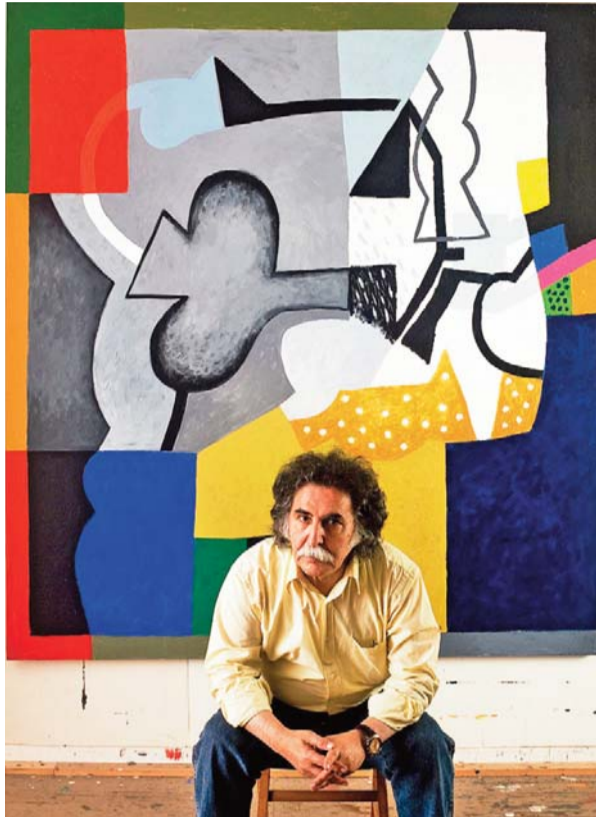
The gallery Al-Riwaq.



Artist Dia Azzawi at his retrospective in Doha QM Gallery Al-Riwaq.



The Museum of Islamic Art, Doha.



Artist Dia Azzawi

CNN celebrates Dia Azzawi as Qatar hosts the largest ever solo exhibition of an Arab artist

Dia Azzawi is one of the Arab world's most influential and versatile artists and is currently being celebrated with a landmark retrospective exhibition of his work in Doha, Qatar. This month, to coincide with this 500-piece exhibition, CNN's Inside the Middle East has special access to Azzawi, his collaborators and his admirers. The show films with Azzawi in London, where he has lived since the 1970s, and speaks to British Museum curator Venetia Porter who tells CNN that he is "very important as an artist but he's become completely an international artist now". We also follow Azzawi to Jordan, where he is preparing an exhibition and attending a book launch celebrating the life of his friend and cultural icon Rafa Nasiri. Speaking of the relationship between these two artists, art critic May Muzaffer says: "They started from the beginning by bringing the Arab artists together. Dia played a very important role in bringing Arab arts together."

CNN also speaks to Sultan Al-Qassemi, the founder of the Barjeel Art Foundation, who says: "Azzawi is a very politicized artist. You have to know the history of the Middle East to appreciate the art... When I look at his art I feel a bit of sorrow, sadness because I know what is reflecting in his work. Dia Azzawi is an artist, that is able to transcend specific dates in the past 50 years... It still looks like a contemporary artist, it doesn't look like a modern artist, that has been frozen in the 1960s and 70s. Dia

is much more than an artist in that sense." This episode of Inside the Middle East culminates with extensive filming with Azzawi in Doha, where the huge retrospective exhibition, entitled 'Dia Al-Azzawi: A Retrospective (From 1963 until tomorrow)', is taking place.

Islamic museum

Talking about his relationship with Qatar and its commitment to celebrating art, Azzawi says: "I have relations to Doha from the mid 90s. I helped a lot in building their collection of modern Arab art. I like their commitment to art and culture... The most important space is the Islamic museum. This is the jewel. And the most important project the last 500 years in Arab countries, because for any society to without going back to their history they cannot be better." Filming at the Qatar Art Center, established by Sheikh Hassan Al-Thani, Azzawi says: "It's become my home, real home, actually. So, always when I'm here, I do my work." On the 500-piece retrospective exhibition, Azzawi tells CNN: "For me, it's the first time to see my work in 50, 60 years and I can find where's my success and where's my failing, I feel privileged to have such space."

Walking around the retrospective brings back many memories for Azzawi. Stopping at one piece, he says: "I haven't seen that piece of artwork since I had exhibition in Beirut in '68."

When he comes face to face with his most iconic piece to date - the Sabra and Shatila Massacre - Azzawi tells CNN: "I exhibited this work in Kuwait in 82-83 and then the Kuwaiti minister of culture kept it for five years as a loan. Then after five years I contacted them and asked them if they can send it back to me. After I got it from the embassy, three days after that, Saddam went to Kuwait. So I was so lucky to get the painting."

Azzawi shows CNN that he is working on an artistic reaction to the retrospective exhibition. It will be his largest ever painting. He says: "This one, I mean huge, I cannot move it. It's a reality, sort of a celebration of my exhibition, and my opportunity which I got from Doha." More broadly, Azzawi talks to Inside the Middle East about his approach to art: "I try to create something which belongs to me or belongs to my culture, my stand, morally, politically, or socially." On his future plans and legacy, Azzawi says: "Historically, I hope somebody will do a research about my work. He can find my contribution to push the Arab arts to wider step or to open window to be part of the international scenes in art... The title of the exhibition 'Until Tomorrow' this is what I feel. If you want to stop, to be creative, is dead. I mean, for me, hopefully I will not be in this position."

Even more live streaming entertainment on OSN play

Award-winning online catch-up service almost doubles its live streaming channels for even more #newOSN value

OSN, the region's premier entertainment company, has nearly doubled the viewing delight of customers, with 14 new live streaming channels added to OSN Play. The online catch-up service now features 32 world-class channels, with more to be introduced through the year.

Provided as a free value added service with all OSN subscription packs, the award-winning online TV platform provides access to entertainment across a range of devices including laptops, tablets and mobile phones.

OSN Play already offers unrivalled direct streaming access to movies series, sports and news, with a line-up of kids, lifestyle and sports channels, deliver-

ing extraordinary value. New channel additions will include more from National Geographic and Disney, three incredible Discovery Channels, the hugely popular OSN First HD Home of HBO, Comedy Central, Nick Jr and Ginx Sports; as well as new Filipino and Bollywood channels.

Emad Morcos, Chief Content Officer, OSN said: "As a focus for #newOSN, we continue to build on our customer-first strategy. The additional channels that our customers can enjoy for free on OSN Play adds to the variety and accessibility of our premium entertainment, and are a perfect fit to today's online viewing habits. Now, there is even more to watch, anywhere, anytime, on any device, adding even more val-

ue and giving subscribers unrivalled access to content both at home and on-the-go."

In addition to 32 live streaming channels, OSN Play also features a host of special collections including same minute as US event coverage like the recent Oscars screening; and exclusive Disney content, including Disney English (a new English learning product) and Disney Channel Hindi.

The additional entertainment available on OSN Play follows the announcement of new channels for subscribers and new packs and prices, which make premium entertainment accessible to all.



RESIDENTS 'POSSESSED' BY VOODOO DOLL

Over 30 people are thought to be "possessed" after finding a voodoo doll in a Central American village. Residents of the small village of Santa Tomas, close to Waspan in the south of Nicaragua, are believed to be suffering



from the culture-bound syndrome grisi siknis, which translates into English as "crazy sickness". The contagious syndrome sees its victims express symptoms such as nausea, anxiety, dizziness and irrational anger and fear. One member of the Santa Tomas community, known as Marisella, attempted to help her neighbours by making a home remedy for the illness, and upon investigating the disease further, believes she has found the cause of their troubles in the form of a small voodoo doll.

She told Central American media: "A doll with black ribbon and a cross marked on its face [has been found in a street]. It suggests that it's affected by dark spells and bad influences. A type of bad spirit." Residents of Santa Tomas have reportedly decided to burn the doll to prevent further "possessions", but it is unknown as of yet whether the disease has stopped claiming victims. — Bang Showbiz

Stewart and Assayas find a groove in the shadow of celebrity

In the disheveled backroom of an East Village restaurant, Kristen Stewart is sarcastically motivating the French director Olivier Assayas for a photo shoot. "You're in America now, dude," Stewart jokes. "We've got to sell the s--- out of this movie." Stewart, a blockbuster veteran at 26, is well acquainted with the demands of movie promotion. But with Assayas, she has found a freedom from such concerns. She and the director have forged an unlikely but formidable bond that has resulted in two highly acclaimed movies, both made in Europe, far outside of Hollywood jurisdiction. They're an odd pair: She, a rebel A-lister from Los Angeles who has become one of the movie's most exciting and uncompromising actors; he, a demure Parisian whose layered, cerebral films teeter between reality and fiction.

What makes them click? They chuckle. "I'm not sure," says Assayas. Stewart nods. "That's the main question," she says. "I don't know. We like each other." Their latest film, "Personal Shopper," is full of mysteries, too. It's a ghost story, set in a contemporary world of texting and Googling. In the film, which opened Friday, Stewart plays a twin whose brother has just died. Her day job is shopping in Paris for a stuck-up celebrity, but she's also a medium, and a series of strange encounters make her believe a spirit (her brother?) is contacting her.

"Personal Shopper" follows their previous "Clouds of Sils Maria," also a singularly enigmatic movie in which Stewart played support staff (an assistant to Juliette Binoche's theatre actress) to a more famous character. (The part earned Stewart a Cesar, the first American to win the French award.) But by stepping into characters out of the spotlight - and into films outside of Hollywood convention - Stewart has never been so much herself on screen.

'Personal Shopper'

"I could be making movies about Kristen being a movie star or whatever persona any actress has on social media," says Assayas. "But what interests me is the person. So I throw the burden of celebrity on someone else, so she can be free of it." "Maybe for the next one I could play a famous actress," jokes Stewart. "Try to normalize that!" There were plenty of moments while making "Personal Shopper" where Stewart's fame invaded. Shooting on the streets of Paris (Stewart drives a moped through the city in the film), they were surrounded by paparazzi. Assayas acknowledges for that and other reasons (a difficult crew, his underestimation

of the complexity of a lengthy texting sequence) the movie had "a weird energy." "We struggled for this film," he says.

But Stewart says she channeled the intrusions into her haunted character. "I thought I was being taken from, and it was good," she says. "It made me more sensitive. My nerves were very close to the surface." In the two films, Stewart has relished the chance to slyly remark on the celebrity industrial complex. "As an outsider, you're allowed to comment very honestly about things that are undeniably, objectively strange," says Stewart. "But if you're the person who is at the center of that, then all of a sudden those comments

become scathing and you're ungrateful and whatever. It was nice to be able to speak the truth and not be harpooned for it."

Yet the former "Twilight" actress, with freshly buzzed blonde hair, has deservedly made a reputation for herself as an unusually forthright and frank star. She has taken part after part, usually in smaller, indie productions ("Certain Women," "Equals," "Cafe Society"), with an insatiable urge to work, to keep exploring. Stewart also debuted a short film she directed at Sundance this year.

Trump and an inspiration

In a memorable "Saturday Night Live" monologue earlier this year, she reflected on when Donald Trump in 2012 repeatedly tweeted that her then-boyfriend Robert Pattinson should "dump" her. "It was inconceivable, actually," Stewart says. "At the time, I regarded him as like a reality-show star. I was like: Who is this guy?" "To be honest, there are so many significant and very effective things that he has said and says all the time," continues Stewart. "This was just a stranger, fascinating one because it's so piddly in terms of what matters. It was worth everyone knowing that because it's f----- weird."

She also, in a rebuke to Trump and an inspiration to others, announced, "And I'm like so gay, dude." "I've really allowed myself to really freely and with no regard to the effect of others live my life," says Stewart. "There was just a time where I realized that the things you do and say when you have so many people looking at you, they do affect others. So I'm really proud of it. But at the same time, I hate that it's such a big deal. It's a fact of life right now but it's like, whatever. To me, it's not personally that big of a deal but I know that it can be to others." Stewart and Assayas may, in many ways, be opposites. But they're both prone to following their instincts in unpredictable directions and pursuing questions they know won't lead to answers. Whatever the reason, they're a match. "It's a fact that a film like 'Personal Shopper' happens because of Kristen," says Assayas. "The way we function allows me to try, eventually, more daring things. In a certain way, she protects me." — AP



Filmmaker Olivier Assayas, left, and actress Kristen Stewart attend a special screening of 'Personal Shopper' at Metrograph in New York. — AP

Fed up Brits want to quit their busy lives

Fed up Brits want to 'leave it all behind' in favor of a simpler life. According to new research, carried out by the Travel Channel to mark the new series of 'Life Below Zero', 62 per cent of those surveyed said they were considering quitting their hectic lifestyles for a quieter, simple life. One in five said the current climate was to blame, with 74 per cent claiming the find the future depressing. While 39 per cent were only dreaming about escaping, one in 10 were actually planning to move to the suburbs in the next 12 months. Meanwhile, 13 per cent had even applied to take part in a TV show which gave them the chance to live in the most isolated spots in the world.

Phillip Luff, managing director, Scripps Networks Interactive, UK & EMEA said: "We have seen a huge spike in viewers tuning in to escapist programs like Life Below Zero. These shows have an ability to transport us from our everyday lives and routines - and give us a taster of what life could be like away from our mobile phones, the internet and personal computers." Asked what they would miss most, 52 per cent said seeing friends and family on a regular basis but even more admitted they'd miss quick

internet access (57 per cent). 42 per cent of respondents said they'd miss going out for a nice meal. 'Life Below Zero' is broadcast on Travel Channel Mondays and Thursdays at 10pm. — Bang Showbiz





These file photos taken show Maja Kuczynska, 17, making airborne gymnastic moves during her skydiving performance inside a wind tunnel in the Polish capital Warsaw on February 19, 2017. — AFP photos



Young pioneers push envelope on freestyle indoor skydiving

Dressed in a white skintight full body suit and helmet, Maja Kuczynska spins furiously before diving into a fast-moving sequence of airborne gymnastic moves with the elegance of a ballet dancer. Soaring into yet another spin, she then floats, twists and backflips in choreographed maneuvers akin to acrobatics or ice-skating suspended in midair. Her expressive and dizzying two-minute display is enthusiastically applauded by the crowd seated around the outside of the wind tunnel. At the age of 17, the Polish high school student is one of about 20 top indoor skydiving competitors worldwide, who are pioneering the solo freestyle version of a sport they call "flying".

"It's more of an artistic approach to the subject," the slender and sleepy teen told AFP, at 3:00 am on a Sunday as she waited to practice at the busy vertical wind tunnel in the Polish capital, Warsaw. "It's such a fast-paced discipline, right now there's no one to teach me," she adds. Vertical wind tunnels, where air moves up a column that stands up to 20 meters (66 feet) high, were first developed for aerodynamic tests. Their recreational use has gained in popularity over the last decade among skydivers seeking a safer alternative to jumping out of a plane. Wind speeds in the tunnel can reach up to 300 kilometers per hour (186 miles per hour) and, while the moves look effortless, staying in control requires enormous strength, flexibility and precision.

But there are no limits on creative freedom. "It's really different from, let's say, ice-skating, because it's been around for such a long time that now it's really hard to create new moves, while in the tunnel I can go in and play and create something nobody has ever seen before. "A couple of different people and I are creating this discipline," Maja adds.

Olympic dreams

She won the bronze medal in solo freestyle at a major international indoor skydiving competition, the Wind Games 2017, last month in Empuriabrava, northeastern Spain. Competitions have rounds involving compulsory moves and others where anything goes. A video posted on Facebook of Maja's performance, choreographed to Major Lazer's hit song "Powerful", has gone viral, gathering 30.5 million views in just over a month. She was only outdone by Singapore's 14-year-old indoor skydiving sensation Kyra Poh, who won gold in the freestyle category, and Czech competitor Jakub Harrer, who took silver, according to the Wind Games 2017 official website.

Although there are still just a handful of people worldwide competing at the top level in the solo freestyle category, there is already talk of the sport making it to the Olympics. "Indoor skydiving is the only aerobic sports discipline that meets the criteria for being an Olympic discipline," claims Bartosz Wiecek, manager

of the Fly Spot vertical wind tunnel in Warsaw. "It's following the same path as snowboarding, which at one time was very 'underground' and very independent. "In the end, an agreement was reached and it became an Olympic sport because it gained popularity," he said.

Kids too

Several vertical wind tunnels have popped up in Poland. They can operate around the clock and are much cheaper and safer than skydiving out of a plane. There is also no age limit. Maja says that when she started six years ago, she was among a handful of indoor skydiving children around the globe including two girls in Singapore and "a couple of siblings in Dubai". "But now, half of the flyers at least, at competitions for freestyle, are kids!" she said.

At just nine years old, Polish "flying" competitor Olga Lubak will head to Montreal in Canada, along with Maja, in October for the World Indoor Skydiving Championships. For now, Olga is spending hours in the wind tunnel to perfect her routine. "I'm really stressed out because I'm afraid of being last but I don't think that will happen," she told AFP, before being swept up in the wind tunnel in another series of "flying" twists, turns and spins. — AFP

100 years on, debate rolls on over Russia's last tsar

Saint or playboy, blood-stained autocrat or family man, incompetent leader or just a victim of circumstance? A century after he ended Romanov rule, Russia's last tsar still prompts heated debate. Nicholas II abdicated on March 2, 1917, or March 15 by the current calendar, in the royal train in the northwestern town of Pskov. "There's no consensus in society or among historians about Nicholas II," says Boris Kolonitsky, a history professor at the European University at Saint Petersburg. Independent polling center Levada last month found almost half of Russians feel positively about Nicholas II. President Vladimir Putin, despite his Soviet spy past, has linked his rule to the Romanovs, opening statues and exhibitions and lighting a candle in front of an icon used at Romanov coronations. In December he called for the 1917 centenary to bring "reconciliation".

A big 'what if'

Nicholas II abdicated after the February Revolution in Saint Petersburg, when troops mutinied as protesters demanded bread and condemned tsarism. An online poll by

Komsomolskaya Pravda tabloid last month found 33 percent blamed the events on "foreign secret services", but just 15 percent blamed the tsar's wavering. Nicholas first wanted his ailing son Alexei to succeed, but agreed to choose his brother Grand Duke Mikhail, who refused, ending the dynasty. For Romanov descendant Paul Kulikovskiy, the moment of Nicholas's abdication is a big "what if".

"It could easily have been avoided," said Kulikovskiy, whose great-grandmother Olga was Nicholas's sister. "He was basically isolated and didn't have any family or friends around him at this crucial moment." Kulikovskiy, 56, is the only Romanov descendant living in Russia. With recognizably Romanov features, he grew up in Denmark but has a Russian wife. He is philosophical about the Romanov legacy, citing a recent poll finding that only 20 percent want a monarchy. "Even if there is a monarchy, it's not a given that it will be a Romanov one again and I'm fine with that," he told AFP.

Romanovs as holy martyrs

After Nicholas's abdication, a provisional government took over but was overthrown by the Bolsheviks in the October Revolution. The new authorities arrested the ex-tsar and his family and moved them to Siberia and Yekaterinburg in the Urals where the Bolsheviks shot them in 1918 and hastily hid their remains. The Russian Orthodox Church has canonized the whole family as holy martyrs, which some believe means Nicholas II is beyond criticism. A forthcoming film about Nicholas's pre-marital affair with a ballerina, "Matilda" by Alexei Uchitel, has angered extreme believers who even threatened arson attacks on cinemas. Monarchists this month announced a bust of Nicholas II in Russia-annexed Crimea was miraculously oozing myrrh—a claim denied by the Church.

Nicholas's ambiguous status as a historical figure but also a saint affects his family, too. Criminal investigators and geneticists believe bone fragments found in 2007 are the remains of Alexei and his sister Maria. But they cannot be laid to rest until the Church decides on their fate. Meanwhile they lie in boxes in state archives. Other family members were buried in 1998 in Saint Petersburg in a ceremony attended by then-president Boris Yeltsin. Leading a Church investigation is Archimandrite Tikhon, a monk said to be President Vladimir



A visitor looks at a Bebe Peugeot (1913) during the exhibition 'His Emperor Majesty Garage' of 50 old cars in Moscow.

Putin's spiritual advisor. Tikhon said he hopes to announce a decision by this summer. "We hope very soon this will be the end of this chapter," Kulikovskiy said.

'Not a good politician'

Historians are divided on the impact of Nicholas II's reign and his abdication. Monarchist historian Vladimir Lavrov of the Institute of Russian History at a recent debate in Moscow said the "handover of power was illegal." It followed an "anti-Russian and anti-Orthodox" revolution, he said. Yet the tsar is still remembered as "Bloody Nicholas". In 1905 his troops shot dead hundreds of peaceful protesters, shocking the world. Historian Kirill Solovyov of Russia State University for the Humanities recalled a Soviet joke that it wasn't Lenin but Nicholas II who did most to foment revolution. Solovyov believes a political crisis was inevitable but revolution could have been avoided if in 1917 the tsar had agreed to "radical changes in power."

But Nicholas delayed and by late February, the situation was "probably irreversible", Solovyov believes. For Kolonitsky, Nicholas "wasn't a good politician." "He didn't want to allow reforms—which conformed to his beliefs, he was a convinced monarchist," he said. Russia's complex situation "escalated significantly" during World War I, he says. "I'm not sure even a good politician could have brought the ship of Russia through those reefs. The challenges were very great." The public often dismissed the tsar as "a fool," he said, but Nicholas was not stupid. He was an "unusually reserved" man who viewed his family as his priority, but also "had the gift to charm people," he said. He was "quite stubborn" but not a strong person or a good judge of those he appointed, Kolonitsky said. "He wanted to be an autocrat but he didn't have the character of an autocrat." — AFP



A symbol of Russian tsars is pictured on the Russo-Baltiysky K12/20 car (1911) during the exhibition 'His Emperor Majesty Garage' of 50 old cars in Moscow.



Visitors look at a Bebe Peugeot (1913) during the exhibition 'His Emperor Majesty Garage' of 50 old cars in Moscow. — AFP photos



A visitor looks at a Delaunay-Belleville 35CV car (1912) during the exhibition 'His Emperor Majesty Garage' of 50 old cars in Moscow.

Lifestyle

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Young pioneers push envelope on freestyle indoor skydiving

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Indian revelers play with colors during Holi celebrations in Chennai yesterday. The Hindu festival of Holi, or the 'Festival of Colors' heralds the arrival of spring and the end of winter. — AFP

Priceless remains lie in ruins at Mosul museum

It was once home to priceless archaeological treasures, but these days you get into Mosul museum in Iraq's second city via a gaping hole in the basement.

In the darkness lies a pile of rubble—all that remains of two ancient Assyrian statues of winged bulls, smashed to pieces by Islamic State group jihadists. Iraqi forces announced that they retook the building from IS on Tuesday as they pushed into west Mosul as part of a vast offensive to oust the jihadists from the northern city.

Taking the museum was a symbolic victory. In a notorious video issued in February 2015, the jihadists were seen attacking items at the museum with sledgehammers and pneumatic drills, destroying priceless pre-Islamic artefacts. Today, the museum is in ruins—nothing escaped the attackers. In a darkened hall, a heap of stones marks the spot where tourists once admired two imposing "lamassu" statues, Assyrian winged bulls with human faces. The two-meter-tall monuments weighed more than four tones, according to Iraqi archaeologist Layla Salih.

In the rubble, what appear to be the remains of carved legs and wings can be seen. Other pieces of smashed stone bear inscriptions in the cuneiform alphabet. Amid the ruins, a hole leads to the basement, where twisted iron bars are visible in the foundations. From time to time, an explosion rocks the building, a plain structure of ochre rock, as Iraqi forces fire rockets at IS positions. On the first floor, two Iraqi snipers huddle behind narrow windows, their weapons trained. An IS sniper is operating nearby. Assyria, with its capital Nineveh in the area of present-day Mosul, was a kingdom in northern Mesopotamia that became one of the most powerful empires in the ancient Middle East. Assyrian art is famous for its bas-reliefs showing scenes of war.

'Destroyed on the spot'

As well as the two lamassu, the museum housed a winged lion of similar proportions, says Salih. The three lost sculptures "were among the most valuable pieces in the museum", she says. The building had housed 100 objects, she adds, and all but six of them were originals. "Antiquities weighing more than four tons were impossible for them to steal, so they were destroyed on the spot." The second-most important museum in Iraq, the building also housed Hellenic objects dating from centuries before the Christian era. But now, the iron and wood showcases are empty, covered with broken glass.

Labels discarded on the ground bear witness, in Arabic and English, to inestimable losses: "Two silver goblets found in the royal cemetery of Ur... dating from 2,600 BC." "Various small objects found in the royal palaces of Nimrud - 9th century BC." Others mention pottery, marble or alabaster tablets and a Mamluk-era copper candleholder decorated with floral motifs. IS jihadists seized a string of ancient sites in their lightning 2014 advance across Iraq and Syria.

After declaring their supposed caliphate that summer, they plundered and destroyed several of them. The jihadists cast their destruction of artefacts as the religiously mandated elimination of idols, but they have had no qualms about selling smaller pieces on the black market to fund their rule. In one video, they were seen using bulldozers, pickaxes and explosives to demolish Nimrud, a jewel of the Assyrian empire founded in the 13th century BC. At Mosul museum, little survived except two massive, dark coffins decorated with inscriptions from the Quran. Salih says they belonged to 13th century Shiite imams. "A restoration is possible, but it will be difficult to know if we will find all the fragments, or if some are missing," she says. — AFP



A general views show the damage inside the destroyed museum of Mosul after it was recaptured by Iraqi forces from Islamic State (IS) group fighters. — AFP photos

Unearthing 2,000 years of history in central Algiers

An archaeological treasure trove on the site of a planned metro station in central Algiers is set to become a museum, opening a window on 2,000 years of history. The site, close to the Algerian capital's UNESCO-listed casbah, has yielded remains from the city's Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman and French periods. "It was spectacular," said archaeologist Kamel Stiti, co-director of the excavations. "In one look, you could see two millennia of Algiers' history." The remains, on the location of a Roman port town called Icosium, were discovered in 2009 when the ministry of culture ordered surveys along the planned metro line.

be surprisingly well-preserved, Stiti said. The 3,000-square-metre (32,300-square-foot) site was deemed so important that the municipality adapted its plans for the metro station, a move Stiti said was a first in Algeria. The site will now become a museum incorporated into the station, which, in turn, will take up less than half its planned 8,000 square meters. The tunnel will go as deep as 35 meters (115 feet) in order to work around the remains.

Metro museum

The Martyrs Square station is set to open in November, part of an extension to the main metro line inaugurated in October 2011. The museum will open shortly afterwards, covering 1,200 square meters and organized chronologically. Some of the remains will be exposed to a depth of over seven meters. "In Rome or Athens, museums present particular periods, whereas here the visitor can embrace the whole history of Algiers over 2,000 years," Stiti said. "It's a source of pride." He said the project showed that archaeology is not incompatible with development.

"It gives added value. One accompanies the other without slowing it down," he said. "So as not to delay the work, which would add costs to the subway project, archaeologists have worked hard, including on public holidays." The National Archaeological Research Centre (CNRA) and France's National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research (INRAP) have been working on the dig since 2013. More than 150 people of different nationalities and specialties have taken part, giving young Algerian archaeologists valuable opportunities to work on an important excavation.

Aicha, 70, who lives near the site, said she is looking forward to seeing the museum open. "There will be no more hassle because of the building work, and I'll be able to travel by subway and visit the museum with my two granddaughters," she said. Said, a 50-year-old high school history teacher, said he hopes there will be guided visits for young people "so they can take ownership of our city's several millennia of history." — AFP



This file photo shows ruins at an archaeological site on Algiers' Martyrs Square.

Archaeologists have since discovered coins, weapons, a public building paved with 5th century mosaics and a large 7th century Byzantine necropolis containing several dozen graves. They also found parts of the Ottoman-era Es Sayida mosque, which French authorities flattened in 1831, shortly after their conquest of the North African country. The colonial government put a public square in its place and called it King's Square and later, Government Square. It was re-named Martyrs Square after the country's hard-won independence in 1962.

Experts had believed that few pre-colonial artefacts remained on the site, but many of the ruins turned out to



These file photos show ancient stones at an archaeological site on Algiers' Martyrs Square after part of the square went under excavation for construction of the Metro. — AFP photos