



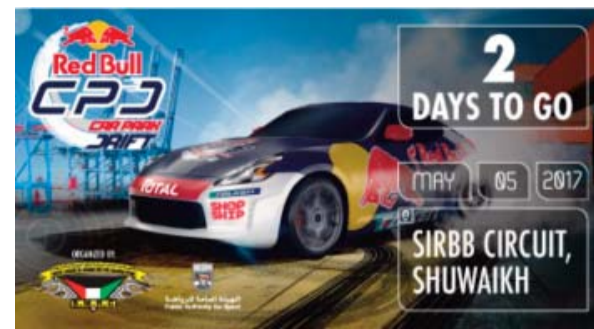
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017

SHABAN 7, 1438 AH

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**Five injured as
7 cars collide
on Road 30**

**Israel shows off
its F-35 stealth
fighter planes**

**Merkel meets
Putin in rare
visit to Russia**


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ZAIN GROUP INCOME INCREASES 3 PERCENT, HITS KD 38 MILLION

GROUP GENERATES CONSOLIDATED REVENUES OF KD 247 MILLION

KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces its consolidated financial results for the first quarter (Q1) ending 31 March 2017. Zain served 46.1 million customers at the end of the period, reflecting a 1.4% increase year-on-year (Y-o-Y). Zain Group generated consolidated revenues of KD 247 million (\$810 million) for the first quarter of 2017, down 11% compared to the same period in the previous year (Y-o-Y).

EBITDA for the quarter reached KD 107 million (\$352 million), down 13% Y-o-Y, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 43.4%. Net income for the quarter reached KD 38 million (\$125 million), up 3% Y-o-Y reflecting Earnings Per Share of 10 Fils (\$0.03). For Q1, 2017, foreign currency translation impact, predominantly due to the 59% currency devaluation in Sudan from 6.4 in Q1, 2016 to 15.6 (SDG/USD), cost the company \$148 million in revenue, \$68 million in EBITDA and \$32 million in net income. Excluding the above-mentioned currency translation impact, Y-o-Y revenues would have grown by 4%, EBITDA by 3% and net income by 27%.

Commenting on the results, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Zain Group, Mohannad Al-Kharafi said, "It is an honor to have been appointed Chairman of Zain Group, a pioneering company that has placed Kuwait on the world telecom map and created enormous returns for its shareholders over the years. The new Board is fully committed to building on the solid foundation established by the previous Board members and to work closely with executive management in overcoming the many socio-economic challenges we face in several key markets.

There is a concerted focus to ensure all strategic partnerships and investments are geared towards maximizing shareholder value and driving the business forward." Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, Bader Al-Kharafi said, "Our transformation efforts are resulting in sound operational progress across several of our key markets. We are focused on managing unavoidable externalities



Zain Group Chairman Mohannad Al Kharafi



Zain Vice-Chairman and Group CEO, Bader Al Kharafi

ZAIN SUBMITS FORMAL BID FOR 3RD MOBILE PHONE LICENSE IN OMAN

KUWAIT: Mobile Telecommunications Company KSCP (Zain) announced on Monday, May 1, 2017 that the company submitted a formal bid for the third mobile telecommunications license in Sultanate of Oman, in accordance with the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority's (TRA) published Information Memorandum. The Oman TRA will announce the short list of qualified applicants on August 14, 2017, with the winning applicant set to be announced on September 4, 2017. Bader Al Kharafi, Zain Vice-

Chairman and Group CEO said, "The bid included a comprehensive business, financial and technical plan as well as a commercial proposal for the third license. Zain considers the Omani telecom market a promising growth opportunity complementing our regional footprint. Should we be successful, I'm confident the Omani community would warmly welcome the Zain brand and the new mobile operation would be value accretive to Zain's shareholders." Zain will announce any developments in this matter as they occur.

as much as possible given the impact they are having on our overall key financial indicators, particularly the highly changeable environments we face with regard to the currency issues in Sudan, the continued social unrest in Iraq, and the intense price competition in both our home market of Kuwait and Iraq. We remain optimistic of the improving socio-economic conditions across all our markets."

Al-Kharafi continued, "We are pleased with the turnaround and improved performance of Zain Saudi Arabia, which recorded its first ever net profit for the quarter and we will continue to grow this key market as the cost optimization program and network upgrades take effect. Sudan continues to grow due to the rollout of 4G services and the subsequent uptake of data services. We also anticipate improved performances in Iraq, where several tax and litigation issues have been resolved and the new leadership there can now focus on driving the business. Jordan continues to perform well maintaining its market leadership on all levels."

Regarding Zain's home market of Kuwait, Al-Kharafi noted, "We are working closely with the management team in overcoming the intense price competition that has impacted value for all operators, by offering a new range of services that we are confident will drive growth. We are investing heavily in expanding and upgrading our network in Kuwait that will further enhance the mobile experience of our customers."

Al-Kharafi added, "The data monetization, Enterprise (B2B) and smart city initiatives implemented across our operations are profitable business areas that are growing at impressive rates and we will continue to invest resources to foster these areas. We are also focused on further innovation in digital services and plan to build on the many partnerships we have recently entered into and we will continue to seek and collaborate with innovative technology players across the globe."

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This undated image show an Islamic State fighter firing his weapon during clashes with US-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, in the northern Syrian province of Raqqa. — AP

ISLAMIC STATE SUICIDE BOMBERS KILL DOZENS

BEIRUT: A jihadist assault led by suicide bombers killed dozens yesterday at a camp for the displaced near Syria's border with Iraq, as pressure grows on the Islamic State group in both countries. The violence left at least 38 people dead and came as another surprise IS attack yesterday killed 10 soldiers in Iraq, to the south along the border.

The jihadist group appears to be lashing out as it faces escalating offensives on its last two major bastions: Second city Mosul in Iraq and Raqa in neighboring Syria. IS' dawn attack in Syria's northeast hit a makeshift camp near the border with Iraq where some 300 families were waiting to cross into territory held by the Syrian Democratic Forces, a US-backed alliance that is leading the assault on Raqa.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group, said at least five suicide bombers blew themselves up inside and outside the camp in Hasakeh province which hosts Syrians and Iraqis forced from their homes. Heavy clashes then erupted between the IS fighters and the SDF near the camp, which lies just inside Syrian territory, Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said. He said at least 38 people had been killed including 23 displaced Syrians or Iraqi refugees. "At least 30 people were wounded, and the death toll may rise because some people

are in critical condition and others are still unaccounted for," the Britain-based monitor said.

Kamal Derbas, a press officer for the Kurdish Red Crescent, put the civilian death toll at 22. He said the attack began at 4:00 am local time and that 35 people were wounded. Civilians fleeing IS in both Syria and Iraq have made their way to the desolate border region seeking protection and onward passage to safety in Kurdish-controlled territory. But conditions in the area are harsh, with little shelter, overstretched authorities, and the risk of renewed violence. The other IS attack in Iraq saw jihadists fire on an army base near the remote outpost of Rutba, near the country's western borders with Syria and Jordan.

An Iraqi army lieutenant colonel said that IS fighters fired mortar rounds and rockets at the 1st Division base in the Saggara area, east of Rutba, before trying to storm it. IS appeared to be trying to breach the defense of Rutba, which is the last sizeable town on the road from Baghdad to the Jordanian border, as well as to create diversions to ease pressure on its fighters in Mosul, military officials said. A massive offensive was launched in mid-October to retake Mosul, where IS head Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi declared the establishment of IS' so-called "caliphate" nearly three years ago. — AFP

COURT TO DECIDE 'FATE' OF ASSEMBLY MP HARBASH THREATENS TO GRILL SABEEH

News

in brief

Gunmen kill three policemen in Cairo

CAIRO: Gunmen armed with machineguns attacked a police patrol in Cairo, killing three policemen and wounding five before fleeing the scene of the late night drive-by shooting, Egypt's Interior Ministry said yesterday. The ministry said the attack took place in the neighborhood of Nasr City where gunmen in two cars approached the patrol and opened fire at the policemen. The statement said two of the three policemen killed had the rank of captain. The patrol exchanged fire with the attackers, the ministry said but did not specify how many assailants were involved or if any of them were wounded. An investigation is underway, it said. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the brazen attack in the Egyptian capital.

Saudi prince rules out any dialogue with Iran

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's powerful deputy crown prince has ruled out any dialogue with Iran, a country he said was busy plotting to control the Muslim world. Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi defense minister, said in a TV interview his country could crush Iran-aligned fighters in Yemen where Saudi forces head a coalition of Gulf Arab states intervening in a civil war. Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia and Shiite Iran compete for influence in the Middle East, supporting rival groups in Syria's civil war.

GCC officials in US for an outreach program

DUBAI: Officials and experts from Gulf Arab countries are in Washington for the next two weeks to take part in a series of public lectures aimed at addressing issues of concern for the region under the Trump administration. Saudi Arabia's Undersecretary for International Communication at the Information Ministry, Abdulmohsen Alyas says the talks will address "issues of misunderstanding and miscommunication" between the United States and its Gulf allies through direct and frank discussions on important issues. The lectures at Washington-based think tanks, including the conservative American Enterprise Institute and the Atlantic Council, will run from Tuesday until May 12. Speakers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain will discuss topics ranging from economic reforms in the region to developments in women's rights, counterterrorism efforts and the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Constitutional Court whose rulings are final and cannot be challenged is scheduled to issue verdicts today that will decide whether the National Assembly will continue or not. The court, presided by the head of the higher judicial council Yousef Al-Matawa, is scheduled to issue rulings on a total of 52 petitions all dealing with the results of the November 26 parliamentary elections.

Five of the petitions are demanding that the elections be declared illegal which means that the National Assembly will be scrapped and fresh election will

be held within the next two months. This case happened twice in 2012 when the same court prematurely ended the life of two parliaments over procedural flaws that prompted the court to declare the election null and void. The remaining constitutional petitions also deal with the results of the elections demanding recounting the votes and nullifying election in two constituencies.

The first petition challenges that the decree dissolving the previous Assembly is flawed and should be declared unconstitutional. In this case, the previous National Assembly will be re-instated

Continued on Page 13

IMF: GCC IS MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION

DUBAI: Oil-exporting Arab states of the Gulf are heading "in the right direction" to plug budgetary gaps thanks to fiscal reforms, but more change is still necessary, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday. "If they continue on this path in the next three to five years, the level of deficit will be less than 2 per-

cent" of gross domestic product, IMF regional chief Jihad Azour said in an interview. "This is going in the right direction," said Azour, who was in Dubai on Tuesday to launch the IMF update for its regional Economic Outlook for the Middle East and central Asia.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: A fisherman sits on his fishing boat in Kuwait City. The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) has found considerable number of dead fish. PAAAFR said over five tons of dead fish were removed from Kuwait beaches. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



DOHA: Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani reads a letter from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, delivered by Kuwaitis Ambassador to Qatar Hafith Mohammad Al-Ajmi. — KUNA

SHEIKH TAMIM RECEIVES AMIR’S LETTER

DOHA: Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani received yesterday a letter from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in response to an invitation to attend the 17th Doha Forum 2017. His Highness the Amir welcomed and accepted the invitation to attend the forum. Kuwait Ambassador to Qatar Hafith Mohammad Al-Ajmi delivered the letter during a meeting with the Qatari Amir. — KUNA

CABINET AFFIRMS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF MPs TO QUESTION MINISTERS

MINISTERS BRIEFED ON INVESTIGATIONS ON CITIZEN’S MURDER

KUWAIT: The Cabinet on Tuesday affirmed that members of the National Assembly enjoy the right to grill ministers according to the Constitution and the Parliament by-law. Reading a statement after the weekly Cabinet session, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said the ministers examined the address from National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, attached with the interpellation motion filed by MP Shuaib Al-Muwaizri to Minister of State for Housing and Minister of State for Services Yasser Abul. In this respect, the ministers affirmed that the interpellation is a right guaranteed by the Constitution for every member of the National Assembly, stressing however that practicing this right must be within framework of the constitutional legitimacy, as regulated by the Constitution, the National Assembly by-law, rules of the Constitutional Court with respect of the grilling and for realizing and meeting public interests. During a parliamentary session on April 26, Minister Abul announced he was ready to mount the stand at the parliament to



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah chairs the Cabinet's meeting yesterday. — KUNA

respond to the interpellation by Muwaizri. Muwaizri is seeking to question the minister about purported failure to bring into account the companies that made grave errors in construction of government houses in north-western Al-Sulaibikhat, Jaber Al-Ahmad and Sabah Al-Ahmad, breaking the laws with respect of the housing projects in Al-Metlaa and Khairan and misleading the lawmakers. The Parliament is also expected to witness, on May 10, interpellation of His Highness the Premier over alleged administrative irregularities claimed by three other MPs.

Investigations

Meanwhile, Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior, addressed the session about preliminary investigations into killing of the Kuwaiti citizen, Mohammad Met'eb Al-Shallahi, in Ankara recently. He presented the executives with circumstances of this ugly crime, praying to the Almighty to bestow upon his family endurance ability.

With respect of national projects, the ministers examined the annual report of the government performance follow-up apparatus, where its president Sheikh Ahmad Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and other officials in the division presented a detailed report about the 2016 works. This presentation included instructions addressed from His Highness the Premier and the Cabinet as well as remarks by the State Audit Bureau regarding the apparatus performance. The Cabinet tasked the apparatus and the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning to coordinate between them to follow up on execution of state's development projects.

International issues

During yesterday's session that was chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister, the Cabinet praised the Saudi Ministry of Interior for uncovering a terrorist cell in Al-Harrazat district in Jeddah. Members of the busted cell are suspected collaborators in terrorist attacks on worshippers at the Holy Mosque in Makkah and targets elsewhere in the kingdom.

The Cabinet has renewed the call on the international community to "embody global solidarity for fighting all forms of terrorism, affirming support of the State of Kuwait for any effort that might contribute to wiping out and crushing terrorism." The ministers expressed deep regret at the recent crash of the Cuban aircraft, claiming lives of all passengers. They extended condolences to the Cuban Government and people over this painful tragedy. They congratulated Sultan Muhammad V on his coronation as Malaysia's King, expressing good wishes to him and hoping the good ties between Kuwait and Malaysia would grow further.

In the beginning of the session, His Highness the Premier briefed the members about the visit to the country by the Italian premier, results of a visit by the Kazakh foreign minister, who addressed an invitation to His Highness the Amir to attend the first Islamic Summit on Sciences and Technology due in Astana in September. He also invited His Highness to the conclusion of the Expo-2017 fair.

In the meantime, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah informed the Cabinet about results of the recent GCC meeting that grouped the ministers of foreign, internal and defense affairs. The meeting, held in Riyadh last Thursday, aimed at bolstering inter-GCC cooperation in the political, security and defense sectors, in addition to examining efforts for combating terrorist organizations. — KUNA

GCC ECONOMIC COMMITTEE DISCUSSES ATTAINING INTEGRATION

MANAMA: The preparatory ministerial committee for GCC Economic and Development Affairs Authority held a meeting yesterday to discuss a number of issues relative to boosting the march of Gulf joint action, a senior Kuwaiti official said. The meeting tackled ways to attain all requirements that lead to reaching a greater economic integration between GCC states, Undersecretary of Kuwait's Finance Ministry Khalifa Hamada said, adding that the committee also discussed the main criteria for strengthening the economic and development aspects of Gulf integration. The authority also addressed a number of pending economic and development cases that could hinder the economic integration, discussing ways to solve and overcome them without referring to the powers of current Gulf economic committees, Hamada said.



Khalifa Hamada

It also reviewed a vision presented by an international consulting office on ways to develop an economic action strategy for the Gulf system, point out observations regarding the vision and submit them to the GCC economic affairs authority, the Kuwaiti senior official noted. Furthermore, Hamada mentioned that the international office also presented a comparative study between GCC states and other Asian, European economic blocs, adding that the study included viewing key points that lead to boosting the march of Gulf joint action on economic levels. — KUNA

SAMSUNG

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Award for National Works Abdulrahman Al-Mejel, along with members of the award's board of trustees. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with members of the board of trustees of Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Award for National Works.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudan.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with members of the board of trustees of Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Award for National Works.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

AMIR RECEIVES HAJRAF AWARD OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met yesterday at Bayan Palace with Abdulrahman Al-Mejel, Chairman of the Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf Award for National Works, along with members of the award's board of trustees. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Speaking to the press after the meeting, the award's Secretary General Dr Salem Al-Hajraf said that he was "honored to have met with His Highness the Amir to launch the Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf award." On the award, he said it aims to instill patriotic fervor in the nation's

youth, a segment of society that comprises the target audience of social media websites, which he blamed for increasing moral depravity amongst youth. Moreover, Hajraf said that the award will be given on a yearly basis, where a bevy of literary experts and specialists will serve as judges, adding that the award's underlying message is one of amity and goodwill.

The members of the award's board of trustees met later with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Amir and His Highness

the Crown Prince have separately received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Minister of Public Works Abdulrahman Abdulkarim Al-Mutawaa. He also hosted Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Mohammad Yousuf Al-Hashel.

Furthermore, His Highness the Crown Prince received Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al-Saud Al-Sabah, as well as Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. In addition, His Highness the Crown Prince

received Kuwait's ambassador to China Samih Johar Hayat. In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister received Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudan. His Highness the Prime Minister also met with the Chairman of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development Abdullah Al-Joan and members of the fund's newly overhauled board. Moreover, His Highness the Prime Minister highlighted the need to support the SME fund and its contributions to the national economy, saying he was proud of increasing youth forays into entrepreneurship. —KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah discusses ties with the EU delegation. —KUNA



Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled receives the Afghan envoy's credentials.



Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and other MPs pose for a group photo with the EU delegation inside the National Assembly.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES TIES WITH EU DELEGATION

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday the visiting delegation of the European Union's Political and Security Committee (PSE). Talks between the two sides dealt with bilateral relations, regional and international issues of joint concern.

Walter Stevens, the committee chairman and head of the delegation, lauded the growing cooperation between Kuwait and the EU in various sectors. He also praised the State of Kuwait's leading role and efforts for finding peaceful settlements to regional crises, realizing regional and international security and stability, noting its noticeable contributions in the field of human rights. Moreover, Stevens admired the democratic experience in Kuwait and the diverse freedoms enjoyed by the people of the country. Senior ministry officials attended the meeting.

The EU delegation later met with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, and the two sides discussed a number of important issues related to bilateral cooperation between the EU and GCC states, according to a statement released by the National Assembly yesterday. They also addressed the Kuwaiti Parliament's view regarding several regional issues, including recent developments of the situations in Syria, Yemen, and Libya, in addition to GCC-Iranian ties.

The meeting was attended by MPs Safa Al-Hashem, Mohammad Al-Dallal, Yousef Al-Fadhala, Saud Al-Shuwaier, and Kuwaiti Ambassador to Brussels Jassim Al-Budaiwi.

This is the first visit at this level by a 30-member EU delegation to the country. The PSE is responsible for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). It helps EU foreign ministers to reach decisions. It is composed of EU member states' ambassadors based in Brussels. It meets twice a week, and more often if necessary.

In other news, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received yesterday the credentials of the Afghan Ambassador to Kuwait. During the meeting, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled wished the Afghan ambassador best of luck, and closer cooperative relations between Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's Office Chief Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Protocol Chief Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran, Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar and several other senior officials of the Foreign Ministry were present at the meeting. —KUNA

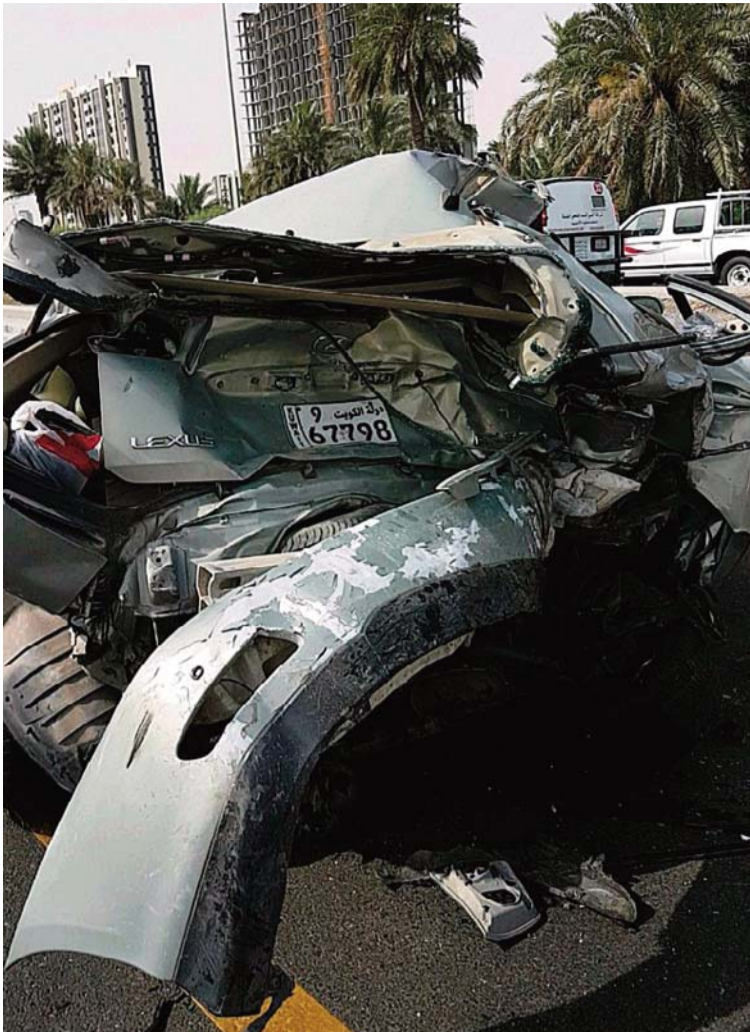
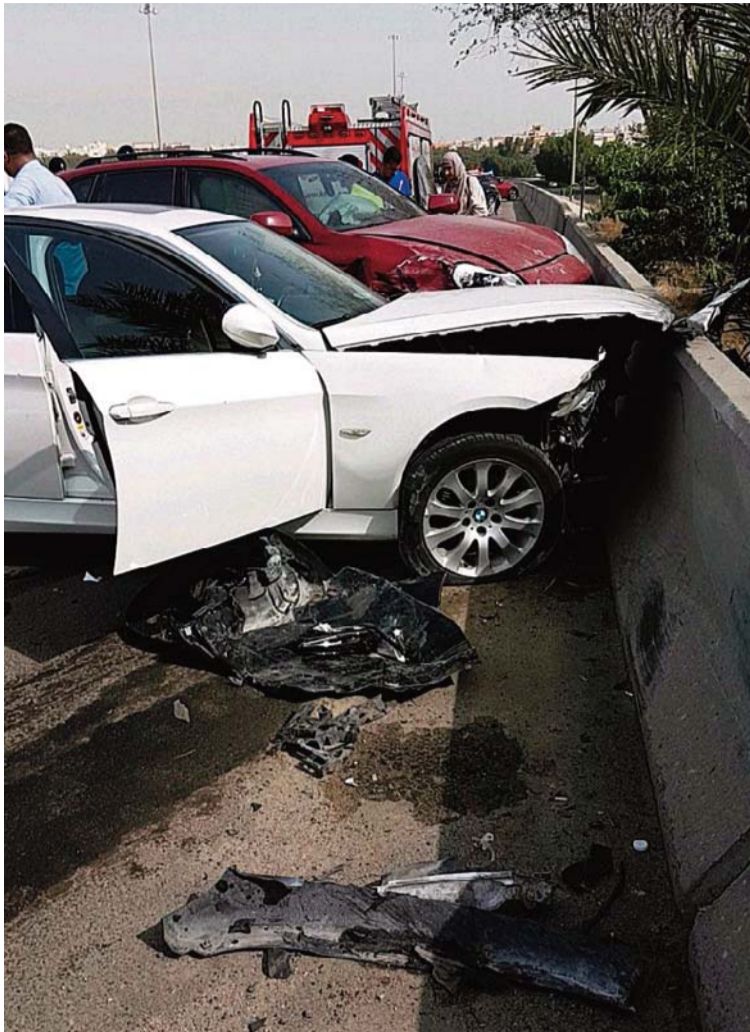


KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman. —KUNA

DEPUTY FM MEETS US ENVOY

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed aspects of Kuwaiti-US relations and the latest

regional and international developments. Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Affairs Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar attended the meeting. —KUNA



FIVE INJURED IN SEVEN-CAR PILEUP

By Hanna Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Five people were injured in a seven-car collision reported yesterday morning at Fahaheel Expressway. Firefighters arrived at the scene shortly after the accident was reported, and quickly helped one driver who became trapped inside his wrecked vehicle. The driver along with four others were rushed to the hospital by paramedics as police launched an investigation to determine the cause of the accident.

Fake office

Police arrested multiple suspects who ran a fake domestic help office and harbored absconding domestic workers. At least ten Ethiopian nationals were arrested in the operation according to a statement released by the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Media Department yesterday. Some forged receipts and stamps were found with the suspects, which they used in facilitating their illegal transactions. The suspects were sent to concerned authorities for further legal action.



COURT UPHOLDS SENTENCE AWARDING BEDOON KD 100,000

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Court of Appeal yesterday upheld a Court of First Instance ruling which ordered the government to pay KD 100,000 to a bedoon (stateless) man who was not issued a birth certificate. The man had sued the Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents' Affairs, saying that he was deprived of his right to education because no school would accept him without a birth certificate; a necessary document for enrollment in any school in Kuwait, his lawyer Hani Hussein said.

Smokers fined

Director of Al-Sabah Specialized Medical Zone Dr Afrah Al-Sarraf announced coordinating with the Environment Public Authority (EPA) to launch an anti-smoking campaign in all hospitals and clinics there. Speaking during a press conference held at the sidelines of a ceremony organized by Al-Rashid Allergy Center to mark the World Asthma Day, Sarraf added that coordination would include having environmental police officers patrol hospitals and clinics in the area in order to track and fine smokers. Sarraf added that the World Asthma Day

is an event that is annually celebrated to raise awareness about asthma worldwide, in an attempt to limit the disease's dangers. She added that asthma is a chronic disease affecting a patient's lungs, adding that it affects both children and adults.

Meanwhile Al-Rashid Allergy Center's Director Dr Omar Al-Baron announced plans to expand the center's building and build new facilities such as a special lab for pollen and seasonal allergy assessment.

Baron also noted that the center is currently coordinating with four allergy centers from Spain, London, Canada and Germany to follow up with the latest and exchange expertise in this field. Further, Baron added that physiotherapy has a vital role in treating asthma and allergy once a patient's case was stable, as they would then be moved to physiotherapy departments to undergo some remedial physical exercises that would help a patient clear his/her chest of sputum.

In the meantime, head of Al-Rashid Center's physiotherapy department Dr Ibtisam Al-Saad stressed the significance of physiotherapy for asthma patients, noting that respiratory exercises help reduce breathing problems.



The Palace of Justice.

EPA TO RELEASE TEST RESULTS ON DEAD FISH

KUWAIT: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) said yesterday that they did not ask any entity to conduct examination on the cause of dead fish reported recently in Kuwait's Bay, noting that they are doing their examination in this regard at their own laboratories. EPA added in a statement to the press that they would announce the results of their examination to the public once the results are fully completed, and in accordance with approved environment standard protocols. The authority also lauded all scientific and research institutes that they have signed agreements with, including Kuwait University and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. EPA renewed its commitment to take all necessary measures to maintain the safety of the environment, according to the guidelines of the Supreme Environment Council in this regard. —KUNA

DEPUTY ARMY CHIEF MEETS BAHRAINI GENERAL



KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of the Kuwaiti Army General Staff Lieutenant General Abdullah Nawaf Al-Sabah meets with Bahraini Commandant of Royal Command, Staff and National Defense College, Rear Admiral Abdullah Saeed Al-Mansouri. —KUNA

KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of the Kuwaiti Army General Staff Lieutenant General Abdullah Nawaf Al-Sabah met yesterday with Bahraini Commandant of Royal Command, Staff and National Defense College, Rear Admiral Abdullah Saeed Al-Mansouri and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, the two generals discussed several issues of mutual interest, mainly pertinent to education, training and staff, the Defense Ministry's Moral Guidance and Public Relations said in a statement. Several high-ranking army officers attended the meeting, it added. —KUNA



KUWAIT: KNPC's CEO Mohammad Al-Mutairi (right) and KIPIC's CEO Hashim Sayyid Hashim sign one of the agreements. —KUNA

KNPC, PIC AGREE TO SHIFT KEY OIL PROJECTS TO KIPIC

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and the Petrochemicals Industries Company (PIC) signed agreements on Monday to transfer contracts of key projects to Kuwait Integrated Petrochemical Industries Company (KIPIC). The projects include Al-Zour Refinery, facilities for importing liquefied natural gas and Project Management Consultant (PMC) contract for petrochemicals complex project.

KNPC's CEO Mohammad Al-Mutairi said in a statement that the agreements will be the actual start point for the newly launched company (KIPIC). The agreements will also boost Kuwait's economy, he added. Meanwhile, he noted

that Al-Zour Refinery Project is completed by 28.36 percent by now, while the liquefied gas import project is executed by 11.11 percent.

Meanwhile, KIPIC's CEO Hashim Sayyid Hashim said that these are the largest projects in the oil sector. The value of Al-Zour Refinery and liquefied gas facilities exceed KD six billion (\$19.8 billions), he added. The launch of KIPIC was approved by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry late 2016, by a request from Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC). The new company, a subsidiary of KPC, is set to become the largest oil company in Kuwait with an estimated capital of KD 1.8 billion. —KUNA

KUWAIT, BELIZE SEEK CLOSER AVIATION TIES

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced yesterday that it has signed an air transport agreement with the Central American nation of Belize, part of efforts to transform Kuwait into an aviation hub. Speaking to the press, DGCA Chairman Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah said that the country's aviation sector is on the cusp of a new phase of development, where the highest standards of safety and security will be implemented.

Meanwhile, Director of DGCA's Air Transport Department Sami Eid hailed the deal as a step towards reaching out to the rest of the world, saying it aims to facilitate aviation services between both nations. He also pointed out that DGCA has signed some 126 pacts with numerous nations in a bid to ensure seamless travel for citizens and expatriates alike. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Directorate General of Civil Aviation's Chairman Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah (right) signs an air transport agreement with Belize. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Director General of Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) Lieutenant General Khalid Al-Mikrad honored teams of the sports committee that won several cups and medals during the ministries' sports tournaments that were held recently. The ceremony was attended by Acting Deputy Director for Fighting Sector Affairs Brigadier Mohammad Al-Mahmeed, and supervisor of safety and vocational health Lieutenant Colonel Fayez Al-Nassar.



In Brief

AMIR HONORS TEACHERS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is set to patronize today morning a ceremony honoring teachers for the academic year 2016-17. The event takes place at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) in Shuwaikh. — KUNA



DELEGATION TO BOOST ECONOMIC TIES

MANAMA: The upcoming visit by Kuwait's economic delegation to Bahrain will bolster financial and economic cooperation and integration between the two countries, Kuwaiti Ambassador Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah affirmed yesterday. The visit will also contribute to consolidating the march of Gulf cooperation action, Sheikh Azzam added.



COUNCILS TOLD TO SUBMIT DISCLOSURES

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Public Authority for Sports (PAS) pressed all Olympic councils and unions on Monday to provide their financial disclosure statements before the deadline for submission elapses on May 14th. PAS is eager to ensure increased cooperation among all public bodies, a statement by PAS noted. — KUNA



Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: A free art atelier in an old Kuwaiti house. — KUNA

KFAS HOSTS SIGNING CEREMONY OF SHEIKHA ALTAF CHAIR

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) hosted yesterday the signing ceremony of the accord stipulating establishment of Sheikhha Altaf Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah for Women and Development Studies'

chair. Sheikhha Altaf had signed the relevant agreement with the American University of Beirut (AUB) in the Lebanese capital.

The accord aims at supporting research and cooperation with the

AUB to boost scientific activities and empower women, said Sheikhha Altaf during the ceremony.

The chair was established in honor of the late Sheikhha Lulwa Al-Nasser Al-Sabah and Sheikhha Al-Ali Al-Sabah, all women and men who believe in science as a message and a means for the society development and progress, she said. Dr Fadlo Khoury, the AUB President, said during the activity that the American university does not seek to encourage Arab women follow steps, literally, of the females in the West. The university rather seeks to back up the Arab women to serve their communities with various means, he said.

Adnan Shehabeddine, KFAS General Director, hoped the chair would be a platform for discussing women issues. KFAS, in this regard, provides consultative support, he explained. KFAS, board of which is presided by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, contributes to creativity initiatives. — KUNA



KUWAIT: (From left) AUB President Dr Fadlo Khoury, Sheikhha Altaf Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and KFAS' General Director Adnan Shehabeddine attend the press conference. — KUNA

AHMADI GOVERNOR MEETS MGRP OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah stressed the significance of the role that the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) plays in supervising small projects and attracting a large segment of Kuwaiti youth.

Speaking after receiving MGRP's

Secretary General Fawzi Al-Majdali at his office yesterday, Sheikh Fawaz hailed MGRP's cooperation with Ahmadi governorate, and taking part in its 2017 national anniversaries' ceremonies.

Meanwhile, Majdali said that the meeting was fruitful in terms of

enhancing cooperation to organize future exhibitions and ceremonies. He added that MGRP will have a new location in Mangaf over an area of 8,000 square meters, where a special department will be built to handle all affairs pertaining with small projects.



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (right) meets with MGRP's Secretary General Fawzi Al-Majdali (center).

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Crime

Report

CABLE THIEVES UNDER ARREST IN KHAIRAN

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti man was arrested along with his Iranian accomplice for stealing electricity cables, as they were caught by road patrols in Khairan shortly after they stole cables from a transformer and school in the area. Police received an emergency call reporting that two persons were cutting and stealing cables in Khairan residential area. Patrol officers went to the scene and found the caller there, and he told them that the two men escaped in a sports-utility-vehicle (SUV), leaving two oxygen and gas tanks behind. A vehicle matching the descriptions was spotted in the Mina Abdullah desert area, and the driver attempted to escape after police approached. He was forced to stop and placed under arrest, along with his accomplice. They were sent to the criminal investigations department for further action.

Baby abandoned

A newborn was found in a cardboard box in front of a co-op society in Salwa, so police and paramedics went to the area after the discovery was reported. The baby was rushed to Mubarak Hospital for a medical check. Detectives are investigating to identify the child's parents and arrest them for questioning and to face legal action.

Reckless driving

Police patrol rushed to the parking lot of South Sabahiya court to stop citizens who used it as an arena for reckless driving. Police received a call at dawn Monday reporting that some reckless youth were driving recklessly and performing dangerous stunts in the parking lot, endangering their lives and those of others. Police surrounded the area and arrested several of the drivers despite their attempts to escape.

Thief arrested

Hawally detectives arrested an Iranian man wanted on theft and robbery cases, based on information they received from his partner. Several expats had complained about being robbed, which prompted investigations that led detectives to arrest an Iranian man, who told them about another national who he said had committed the robberies in Hawally and gave. He gave them the suspect's address, which helped police put him under arrest.

Expired material

An Egyptian man was arrested for selling expired material used in preparing medical formula. The man had imported the material to supply pharmacies with them, but detectives were able to catch him before he could. Police were tipped about the man who has a license to import medicine and medical supplies. The man had imported a large quantity of the material to sell them to pharmacies after tampering with their expiry dates. After gathering information, detectives coordinated with the traffic car inspection department and were able to arrest the suspect as he entered to renew his car's license. The found boxes of the material in the trunk of his car. The man then led police to a store in a Hawally building where he kept his imports. He was sent to concerned authorities for further action.

Drunk driver caught

An Indian man was arrested in Farwaniya while being drunk and had 50 homebrewed liquor bottles that he offered for sale for KD 3 each. A police patrol noticed a car being driven recklessly, so it was stopped and the driver was arrested. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Failed escape

A drunk man took refuge in a water tank to hide from policemen, as firemen were called in to get him out. A security source said a call was received from Shadadiya University's security guards about an abnormal person. When police arrived to the scene, they discovered that the man had escaped. They eventually found him hiding inside a water tank, but were unable to get him out, so firemen were called in. — *Translated from the Arabic press*



الجريدة

Al-Jaridaa

BYGONES ARE NOT BYGONES

By Dr Ibtihal Al-Khateeb

Welcome back Bo Humoud (former MP Musallam Al-Barrak). The speech you made after your release from prison was full of defending the state's constitutionality and the civil state status. I wonder how you can advocate both principles when you had voted against women rights, in favor of executing blasphemers, and your awkward attitudes from previous grilling motions. Your speech was full of calls for people not to forget, and to hold those responsible for undermining Kuwait's democracy and constitutionality accountable. I wonder why you did not include yourself in this as well because of your parliamentary actions. The speech also stated that Kuwait will not be saved unless the ideas mentioned in your infamous offensive speech that got you jailed were put into practice. I do not know how a freedom fighter can be so snobbish that he suggests reforming an entire country only according to his views. Your return speech described all pro-government sides so badly and it baffles me how someone with fair thinking would judge everyone similarly. Your speech also referred to the aunts and origins of some people. How can a freedom fighter use such language against others? Your speech included so many things you yourself did not do. It also contradicted with many of the things you have done. You were too personal, racist and tribal, and many people applauded that the same way they applauded the speaker, the prime minister and interior minister, who all did enough to tear democracy apart. If you, and them, keep doing this, we will soon kiss democracy, constitutionality and the civil state goodbye.

There is no doubt that Musallam Al-Barrak was a prisoner of opinion. There is also no doubt that Musallam Al-Barrak was a former atavistic MP who had cost the country, democracy and human rights so much. It is also beyond question that Musallam Al-Barrak had bravely and patiently endured the consequences of his words, and has thus become a symbol for change. It is also beyond question that Musallam Al-Barrak had made the largest number of 'wastas' and favors that would make 'favors MP' stand small before his achievements. Yes indeed, Barrak did all of that, but we still hope that after doing his time paying the price of the freedom he had always fought and voted against, he would change his attitudes and wash away the past not only with those

two years in prison, but with pure strong future attitudes in favor of liberty, civil state, constitutionality and democracy. In true democratic and constitutional regimes, prison does not wash away old mistakes, which can only be wiped out through real change, hard work and dedication to peoples' liberties. That is how forgiveness can be given. There is no personal glorification in true democratic and constitutional regimes. Glory is only for principles, idols and liberties.

In our case, pro-Barrak public opinions view him in two ways. Some view him as a perfect hero and have actually tweeted that they had decided to vote for him for life regardless if he runs for parliamentary elections or not. Others view him as a non-democratic man who was changed through experience to become a fighter for democracy and constitutionality and a major opposition figure to the government, while also considering him a friend for being 'the enemy of their enemy'. The first group usually turns heroes into dictators by glorifying and almost worshipping them to the extent that their ego grows so inflated that it might blow up injuring everyone around. The second group uses pitch black curtains to conceal the truth, and ignore the severe damage done, accountability and due apologies. However, there is no arguing that Barrak was mistreated and shackled as a prisoner of opinion, and those who believe in liberty and human rights will always advocate his right to free expression and feel happy for his release despite disagreement with his personal and previous parliamentary views.

The issue here is not about Barrak alone, although he is a great part of it. It is rather about the psychology and thinking patterns of an entire generation. It might be just right to tell youth it is about time they selected heroes from amongst them; new heroes that are not worshiped, heroes that can be harshly held accountable, ones with so limited margins of mistakes. It is high time you chose a new independent path where no person is beyond criticism; where nothing is sacred except liberties, human rights and true democracy. I am not here addressing the voters of tribes, merchants, families or sects. I am addressing those of the liberal movements who, despite the principles they nominally advocate, still glorify certain icons, which is against liberalism.

— *Translated by Kuwait Times*

الراي

Al-Rai

A DOCTOR'S SMILE

By Dr Khalid Al-Saleh

An Arab colleague who worked in Kuwait, then moved to Britain, visited me in my office recently, and we went into comparing the public health services in Kuwait and Britain. My friend told me with confidence: "Your health services in Kuwait are not given justice." A testimony from an honest man who I know and trust. So, we have to admit that health security in Kuwait is of high quality. This is true information that no one reflects to people here.

On another occasion, a Kuwaiti colleague told me about his chalet guard, who complained of chest pain in the middle of the night and how he was rushed to hospital and got treated with stints quickly, without any regard to his nationality or whether he has money or not.

In Kuwait, if any citizen or expatriate complains of any health problems, he finds a close place to help him, a doctor and medical team ready to help. Or if he is involved in a traffic accident, quick response will be there to help.

The colleague who visited me said he was once injured while in Britain and went to the hospital where he works and could not see the doctor while injured until after seven hours, and all those Britons in waiting were sitting all these hours without objection. He also said that an x-ray there take much longer time compared to what the same test requires her in Kuwait, and he did not hear of any complaints from anyone because all people realize that health services need a health evaluation to balance between expenditure and benefit, and this health judgment is the responsibility of health officials and it is not supposed to be a topic of media discussion or an issue to settle political scores.

The major propaganda against health services in Kuwait is leaving the door for treatment abroad wide open. A citizen who goes abroad often hears statements from doctors who are benefiting from the overseas treatment program attacking our services in Kuwait. This helps keep money pouring into their pockets. Otherwise, patients themselves would often criticize health services in Kuwait and describe them with every bad thing in order to justify their travel abroad.

I gathered some information about cancer patients who suffered due to medical errors, some of which are critical, during their treatment abroad, despite the fact that their treatment is already present in Kuwait. And in spite of their suffering, they never complained because the errors happened while they were being treated abroad. If they had went through just a little of what they have suffered abroad in Kuwait, this would become material for a grilling against the health minister and nonstop negative comments about our health services.

I am not trying to say that our health services have reached perfection, but health services in Kuwait do not deserve that much attack and people ignoring the positives which we all enjoy. There is not a citizen or expatriate who did not go through a positive experience once he had a true need for medical intervention.

We really need to limit treatment abroad in the interest of our citizens, some of whom have become experimental tools, while some others receive treatment from trainees abroad. We are also in need of activating guided health media, not only for citizens, rather to doctors and nurses also in order to publish studies and true information about the good quality of services here. This will also help achieve a culture of psychological interaction, whether with doctors or patients, because patients need a smile and the doctor needs a good word.

— *Translated by Kuwait Times*



Mazin Al-Nahedh speaks during the event.



Distinguished employees are honored.

KFH HONORS DISTINGUISHED EMPLOYEES OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE

‘SERVICE QUALITY, INNOVATION KEEP KFH ON TRACK’

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) honored the distinguished employees of service excellence at the Service Excellence and Innovation Annual Ceremony held at Millennium Hotel under the sponsorship of Group CEO, Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh within the framework of the bank's keenness to recognize the efforts of employees with outstanding performance in the customer service, while motivating them for further dedication and devotion.

The recognition encompassed those who achieved the first place on the collective and individual levels in the banking branches, showrooms, Call Center, Direct sales and other service departments. "Service Quality is a pri-

mary factor in the survival and success of companies, especially in light of the fierce competition on the market" said KFH-Group CEO, Mazin Al-Nahedh.

He expressed his thanks and appreciation to the distinguished employees and the departments that collaborated with the Service Quality to achieve its objectives as per the discipline and excellence standards, indicating the achievements in service quality and innovation are concrete example that KFH is on the right track.

Nahedh stressed the importance of exerting further efforts for the sake of maintaining the leadership position of the bank. He called on employees to make service quality a work behavior in

order to contribute to achieving the highest levels of performance and customer service, emphasizing that excellent service is a pillar to boost development and achieve growth and prosperity at KFH.

He said that success can be achieved through paying attention to all segments of customers in a fair and balanced manner, while continually improving the service and adopting scientific methods to evaluate the performance of the frontline service providers and other departments such as the Private Banking, Personal Financing and Business Banking. Service Quality department has been for 13 years keen on tailoring programs and professional mechanisms that contribute in raising the level of service and efficiency.





Trump’s fondness for the strongmen trumps human rights concerns

ANCIENT MUMMIES ROT AS YEMEN WAR VEXES EVEN THE DEAD



TEXAS: Law enforcement officers secure the scene after a fatal stabbing attack on the University of Texas campus. — AP

MOTIVE UNCLEAR FOR UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS STABBINGS

AUSTIN: A student with a large hunting knife stabbed at least four people on the University of Texas campus, killing one and seriously wounding the others before surrendering to police, authorities said. There was no immediate word about a motive. Student Rachel Prichett said she was standing in line at a food truck outside a gym Monday when she saw a man with a knife resembling a machete approach the person standing behind her. “The guy was standing next to me,” Prichett said. “He grabbed him by the shoulder and shoved the knife in it. I just started running as fast as I could.” Police identified the suspect as 21-year-old Kendrex J White.



TEXAS: A man is arrested after a fatal stabbing attack on the University of Texas campus in Austin, Texas. — AP

University police Chief David Carter described the weapon as a “Bowie-style” hunting knife. He said the stabbings occurred within a one-block area as the attacker “calmly walked around the plaza.” Another student, Ray Arredondo, said he was walking to his car when a mass of students near the gym started running. “They were just screaming, ‘Run! Get out of here!’” Arredondo said. One person died at the scene near the gym. The others were taken to the hospital. There were reports of additional victims with non-life-threatening injuries, according to tweets from Travis County Emergency Medical Services. The attacker did not resist when officers confronted him at gunpoint, Carter said. Lindsey Clark said she saw the suspect get tackled by police as he was running toward the entrance of

Jester Hall, a complex of dormitories and classrooms. She described him as wearing a bandanna and gray sweatshirt and said he appeared quiet and subdued as police held him on the ground. “You could see and hear people running and screaming: ‘There he is!’” before he was tackled by officers, Clark said.

Carter said it would be “premature” to discuss the suspect’s motive and “what was going through his mind.” Arredondo later saw what looked like CPR being performed on someone outside the front door of the gym. Another student was sitting on a bench being treated for cuts to the head or neck, he said. Authorities cordoned off the scene as a large contingent of state and local police, including officers in helicopters, swarmed the area. The University of Texas is blocks from downtown Austin and the Texas Capitol and is one of the nation’s largest universities. White was an active member of the Black Health Professionals Organization student organization on campus, said Melody Adindu, the group’s new president. She said White was passionate about his work and was “very interactive and easygoing.” Some of White’s former classmates at Killen High School, near the gates of the Fort Hood Army post in Central Texas, had similar recollections of him. “He was a really smart guy in high school, he was always nice, had plenty of friends, and was in the International Baccalaureate program. I’m definitely surprised he would do this,” KayLynn Wilkerson told the Killen Daily Herald.

Ex-classmate Angela Bonilla called White “the sweetest guy, laughing and having a good time with people”. Adindu and other students complained on social media it took too long for the campus officials to send a text alert of the attack. Texts to students showed a nearly 30-minute lag between the arrest and warning, even though city and county emergency offices were tweeting about the incident when they first responded.

Carter said White was confronted and arrested within two minutes of the first call to police and the situation was immediately under control. The campus siren wasn’t used because there was no need for a lockdown to keep people in place, he said. “There was no ongoing threat. We had him in custody as soon as we arrived,” Carter said. The attack occurred in the central campus, just a short walk from the administration building and the landmark clock tower that was the scene of a mass shooting in 1966. “This breaks my heart that any of our students are touched by tragedy. They come here to learn, to look to the future,” said university President Greg Fenves. The stabbings came only a few days after a 19-year-old man armed with a machete wounded two people at a university coffee shop in Lexington, Kentucky. — AP

NIGERIAN LEADER URGED TO TAKE MEDICAL LEAVE

LAGOS: Nigerian civil society activists called on President Muhammadu Buhari to take long-term medical leave yesterday, adding to mounting pressure on the 74-year-old over his health. The ailing head of state spent two months in London earlier this year, officially on vacation and to have routine medical tests for an undisclosed illness. But he has missed two out of the last three cabinet meetings, was absent from Friday prayers last week and failed to attend his grandson’s wedding on Saturday.

Buhari himself has disclosed he had blood transfusions and other tests in London and disclosed he “couldn’t recall being so sick”. Aides, who during his absence maintained he was “ hale and hearty”, now say he had a “long period of treatment” in the British capital and needs rest. His spokesman Garba Shehu said Buhari had spent most of his time at his private residence since returning from London in early March and was working from home.

Despite assurances that Buhari’s health is nothing to worry about, the presidency is increasingly being urged to be more open about his condition. “Why is the president hiding his

state of health?” Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka said last week. “He’s supposed to understand he’s public property.” Yesterday, a group of leading civil society activists urged Buhari take medical leave, as his absence “has fuelled further speculations and rumors” about the true state of his health. “We are compelled to advise him to heed the advice of his personal physicians by taking a rest to attend to his health without any further delay,” they wrote in an open letter.

A former chairman of Buhari’s All Progressive Congress party, Bisi Akande, also expressed worries, saying “the health of the leader is intricately intertwined with the health of the nation”. “To avoid the ugly consequences of letting President Buhari’s ailments throw Nigeria into confusion, I am urging all Nigerians to begin to pray for his divine healing and perfect recovery.” The health of Nigeria’s president has been a sensitive issue since the death in office in 2010 of Umaru Musa Yar’Adua, which saw months of political turmoil. Buhari dismissed claims during the 2015 presidential election that he was seriously ill with prostate cancer, saying it was an opposition smear designed to show him unfit to be head of state. — AFP

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ANCIENT MUMMIES ROT AS YEMEN WAR VEXES EVEN THE DEAD



SANAA: A Yemeni man offers prayers at the portrait adorned grave of his relatives who were killed in the ongoing conflict in Yemen. — AP

SANAA: Famine and disease haunt the living, but not even the dead are spared the calamities of Yemen's two-year-old civil war. Ancient mummies are withering away in a major museum for lack of electricity and preservative chemicals from abroad - a sign that the conflict is harming not only the country's present and future but also its rich past. The dozen spindly corpses, curled into the fetal position or swaddled in baskets, belong to a lost pagan civilization around 2 1/2 millennia ago - long before the advent of Islam.

Lying beneath glass panes within the archaeology department in the capital Sanaa's main university, the mummies might have spent their eternal slumber blissfully unaware of the otherworldly warplanes pounding their homeland. A Saudi-led military coalition has carried out thousands of air strikes in a bid to dislodge Yemen's armed Houthi movement from the capital. The conflict has killed at least 10,000 people and unleashed a humanitarian crisis.

But a timeless enemy, abetted by the disorder of war, threatens the mummies' repose. "The mummies have started to decay and are infected with bacteria. This is because we don't have electricity and the machines that are supposed to maintain them," said Abdelrahman Jarallah, head of the university's antiquities department. "We need some chemicals to sanitize the mummies every six months, and they aren't available due to the political situation." Power cuts plague Sanaa, sapping the dehumidifiers that

help preserve the "Hall of Mummies." Funding to government bodies like the university have suffered from a struggle between Yemen's warring parties for control of the central bank.

Antiquities experts are appealing to the university and the culture ministry for funding and equipment to better fend off the microbes eating into the mummies' flesh. But the coalition's closure of Sanaa airport and a near-blockade over a key Red Sea port - aimed at stopping weapons shipments - have cut off imports of specialty goods like the chemicals needed to ward off the microscopic menace. Sheba and other Yemeni kingdoms once provided the frankincense and myrrh hauled by desert caravans to perfume the temples of the Holy Land and ancient Rome.

Modern combat, however, is disfiguring important cultural treasures. Air strikes have leveled medieval mudbrick towers in Sanaa's old quarter, a medieval mosque and an Ottoman fort. Al-Qaeda militants have dynamited Sufi shrines and armed attacks in Houthi-held lands have sent packing many members of a Yemeni Jewish community dating from the time of King Solomon around 1,000 BC. "So many places have been destroyed because of this war," lamented Aameeda Shaalan, an antiquities professor who still hopes the mummies can be saved. "We now have some things that have survived, and we must preserve them." — Reuters

MOSUL'S KIDS FEARED 'LOST TO POVERTY AND CONFLICT'

THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

MOSUL: Ahmed Abdelsattar was 14 when Islamic State swept into Mosul and declared a caliphate in 2014. Fearing he would be indoctrinated and sent to fight by the militants, his parents took him out of school. Three years later, he sells ice cream at a refugee camp for internally displaced Iraqis. His family have lost their home and his father is too old for the manual labor positions at the camp, which means he is his family's sole breadwinner.

Coupled with a shortage of teachers, books and supplies, the 17-year-old sees no reason to go to the makeshift schools set up in the Khazar camp near Erbil. "Going to school is now useless. I am helping my family," he said. He adds that it is too late for him anyway. Had his education not been interrupted, Abdelsattar would be graduating in a few weeks. Abdelsattar is one of tens of thousands of children orphaned or left homeless by the war on Islamic State and forced to work to support their families in Mosul, the militant's last major city stronghold in Iraq.

Returning these children to school is a priority for Iraq to end the cycle of sectarian violence fuelled in part by poverty and ignorance, the United Nations says. "Investment in education is

urgently needed, without which Iraq could lose an entire generation," said Laila Ali, a spokeswoman for the UN's children agency UNICEF. "Children from different ethnicities and religions, in the same classroom, will promote a cohesive society and will get children to think differently."

Even in the half of Mosul east of the Tigris River that has been retaken by Iraqi forces, where 320 of the 400 schools have reopened, Reuters interviewed dozens of children working as rubbish collectors, vegetable vendors or mechanics. "I did not go to school because Islamic State came and they would teach children about fighting and send them to fight," says 12-year-old Falah by his vegetable cart in Mosul. Within earshot, fighting was still raging.

Just across the river, government troops, artillery and aircraft were attacking Islamic State's last stronghold in western Mosul. Falah has four younger brothers. None of them have ever been to school.

1 plus 1 equals 2

Huzayfa studied up to the fifth grade but stopped when Islamic State came. The militants taught math using bullets, rifles and bombs, said the 12-year-old, who sells scrap metal. "They

taught us 'one bullet plus one bullet' and how to fire weapons," he said. The local education department in Nineveh province, of which Mosul is the capital, estimates 10 percent of children in east Mosul are still out of school. There has been no official count for almost four years, it said. There are also no official statistics on the dropout rate, a spokesman for Iraq's Education Ministry said, especially as many families have fled Mosul or Iraq altogether. "We are counting on parent-teacher conferences and local officials to convince parents to send their kids back to school," said Ibrahim Al-Sabti.

Government funds normally allocated to education have been depleted by corruption and mismanagement, lawmakers and non-governmental organizations say, citing the results of investigations in 2014 and 2016. Oil-rich Iraq historically had very high literacy rates and primary school enrolment was 100 percent in the 1980s. Illiteracy became rampant after international sanctions were imposed due to the August 1990-1991 occupation of Kuwait. Economic hardship was made worse by the civil war that broke out after the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

Lost future

Schools in east Mosul started reopening in January and so far around 350,000 students are back in class, compared to 183,229 in 2013, with much of the increase due to displaced people from west Mosul and surrounding villages. UNICEF estimates around 1.2 million Iraqi children are not in school nationwide. The Iraqi military expects to dislodge Islamic State from the rest of Mosul in May but the militants are mounting a strong resistance in the densely populated Old City.

Iraqi troops began their offensive in October backed by a US-led international coalition providing air and ground support. The militants are fighting back using booby traps, suicide motorcycle attacks, sniper and mortar fire and sometimes shells filled with toxic gas. For children like Ahmed Abdelsattar, whether or not the group is finally ousted from Mosul has little bearing on their fate. If he is lucky, he will return to where his home used to be in western Mosul's Al-Jadida district, an area where local officials and eyewitnesses have said as many as 240 people may have died in March when a building collapsed after a blast, burying families inside. "The future is lost," he said with an air of resignation. — Reuters



MOSUL: Mosul residents reach out for freshly baked cookies at a food distribution in western Mosul, Iraq yesterday. — AP

ERDOGAN REJOINS THE RULING PARTY

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan rejoined the ruling party yesterday after an absence of almost three years, the first major change to come into effect following a controversial vote to boost his powers. Erdogan last month narrowly won a referendum on sweeping constitutional changes to create a presidential system in Turkey with just over 51 percent of the vote. Under the old system, the head of state had to sever ties with their political party and Erdogan had to leave the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) when he became president in August 2014 after more than a decade as premier.

The reforms permit the president to be a member of a political party, allowing Erdogan to return to the AKP which he co-founded in 2001 as a new Islamic-rooted force in Turkish politics and which has dominated the scene ever since. Supporters of the changes say they will bring Turkey efficient governance but opponents fear they will set the country on the path to authoritarian rule.

'Erdogan to take leadership'

Erdogan was welcomed as a new member at a special ceremony at party headquarters in Ankara by hundreds of AKP officials. He signed the paperwork to become a member to thunderous applause before a rendition of the national anthem, an AFP photographer said. Erdogan

had travelled to the ceremony from his palace in a convoy including at least two dozen black vehicles driving on closed roads and carried live by all television channels. AKP spokesman Yasin Aktay said Erdogan will also likely be reinstalled as party chairman on May 21 at an extraordinary AKP congress.

"During this congress, there will be an election and we envisage that the president will be elected as party chairman," Aktay told reporters. As AKP head, Erdogan would replace Prime Minister Binali Yildirim who is set to stay on as premier. If confirmed, it would be the first time that the president will be both party chairman and head of state since the end of the presidency of Ismet Inonu, the successor and right-hand-man of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, Turkey's modern founder.

Erdogan's 'fifth child'

Erdogan, who has four children, has described the AKP as his "fifth child" and has never made a secret of his desire to return to the fold. He is keen to sharpen the party's performance ahead of polls scheduled for 2019 after the 'No' vote came out on top in key battlegrounds including Ankara and Istanbul in the April 16 referendum. Although the AKP has won every election since 2002, in June 2015 it suffered a setback after losing its absolute majority in parliament before winning it back in November that year. — AFP

FORCES COMPETING IN ALGERIA ELECTION

ALGIERS: A two-party alliance led by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's National Liberation Front dominates Algeria's parliament. In tomorrow's legislative poll the alliance will face an Islamist opposition organized in two main coalitions in a bid to regain ground five years since the worst electoral defeat in their history.

Presidential alliance

Bouteflika's National Liberation Front (FLN) and the Rally for National Democracy (RND) led by the president's chief of staff, Ahmed Ouyahia, together enjoy an absolute majority in parliament, which they are expected to retain. The FLN, which was the main player in Algeria's long and bloody struggle for independence from France, won 221 of the national assembly's 462 seats in the 2012 poll.

The Islamists

At the last parliamentary election in 2012 following Arab Spring-inspired street protests, Islamist parties hoped they could replicate the gains of their peers in Egypt and Tunisia. But they suffered their worst ever electoral defeat, winning just 60 seats. Ahead of this week's election, the country's various Islamist parties formed two main coalitions in a bid to regain lost ground. Three leading Islamist parties - El Binaa, the Front for Justice and Development (FJD) and Ennahda - said in December they were forming a "strategic" alliance for the election. In early January, the Movement for the Society of Peace (MSP), which has links to the Muslim Brotherhood, and a splinter group, the Front for Change, said they would reunite. The Rally for Hope in Algeria (TAJ), a new Islamist party led by Islamist former public works minister and fierce Bouteflika supporter Amar Ghoul, could surprise observers by winning a significant number of seats.

Secular groupings

The secular Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD) boycotted legislative elections in 2012. This time around it is hoping to take seats from its rival, the Front of Socialist Forces (FFS) in the latter's heartland, the mountainous eastern region of Kabylie. The Workers' Party (PT) led by Louisa Hanoune, a Trotskyist member of parliament and former presidential candidate, is hoping to add to its 24 seats. A batch of smaller parties are unlikely to win a significant number of seats because of the nature of Algeria's list-based electoral system. — AFP



GAZA: Formerly exiled Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal (left) and Gaza's Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh wave during a news conference upon Mashaal's arrival at the Rafah crossing in the southern Gaza Strip. A new political program of Hamas, published Monday, May 1, 2017, is meant to help the Islamic militant group break out of its international isolation. — AP

HAMAS FACING A LONG PATH TO END ISOLATION

JERUSALEM: Hamas has softened its stance on Israel after long calling for its destruction, but the Palestinian movement must do more to convince the world to end its isolation, analysts and diplomats said yesterday. The Islamist movement, which runs the Gaza Strip, unveiled a new policy document on Monday night ahead of a first face-to-face meeting between US President Donald Trump and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, whose Fatah party remains at loggerheads with Hamas.

Some analysts see the move as an attempt by Hamas to ease tension with regional allies and assuage hostilities with global powers. Speculation has also mounted over who will succeed 82-year-old Abbas, whose Fatah movement is based in the occupied West Bank, as Palestinian president. Hamas is considered a terrorist group by Israel, the United States and the European Union, while it has strained relations with many Arab states.

Some diplomats said while the announcement was potentially positive, they would need more to convince them the party had really changed its approach. "It is a piece of paper. We will see if there is a real shift or if it is window dressing," one Western diplomat said. While still attacking Israel, the document accepts for the first time pre-1967 armistice lines as a matter of "national consensus" - in what many interpreted as implicitly accepting the existence of Israel.

Hamas officials however said that it did not amount to a recognition of Israel as demanded by the international community. The document also says its struggle is not against Jews because of their religion but against Israel as an occupier, with Hamas officials stressing it was a shift. One Hamas leader, Ahmed Yusef, told AFP the updated charter was "more moderate, more measured and would help protect us against accusations of racism, anti-Semitism and breaches of international

law." However the Islamist movement will still not negotiate directly with Israel and the original hardline 1988 charter will not be dropped, just supplemented, in a move some analysts see as a way of maintaining the backing of hardliners. Israel rejected the document, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman accusing Hamas of "attempting to fool the world." Israel has fought three wars with Hamas since 2008 and maintains a crippling blockade on Gaza. On Tuesday, there were a number of Hamas-organized protests against the decade-long blockade, with a few thousand protesters taking to the streets in different cities.

Muted response

Mukhaimeer Abu Saada, a political analyst in Gaza, said the document sought to help improve regional and global relations. The document made no reference to the Muslim Brotherhood, of which Hamas was a splinter movement. In 2013, Muslim Brotherhood president Mohammed Morsi was overthrown in Egypt, and the movement has since been suppressed in several Middle Eastern countries. "Hamas has been isolated regionally and internationally since the outbreak of the so-called Arab Spring and the exclusion of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt," Abu Saada said.

"It is about assuring Egypt and the other Arab states there is no relationship between Hamas (and the Brotherhood)." There was little initial public reaction, either positive or negative yesterday. The United States, Russia and other global players remained silent, with Arab states remaining largely quiet.

The office of UN Middle East envoy Nickolay Mladenov did not comment on the contents of the document. Another Western diplomat said that as the document did not officially recognize Israel or renounce violence, it would be impossible for them to change position publicly. — AFP

ISRAEL SHOWS OFF NEW F-35 STEALTH FIGHTERS

TEL AVIV: Israel showed off its new F-35 stealth fighter jets recently delivered from the United States yesterday as part of an air show marking its annual Independence Day celebrations. Three of Israel's five stealth fighters took to the skies along the Mediterranean coast off Tel Aviv as thousands of people gathered at the waterfront to watch. The F-35s, made by US-based Lockheed Martin, were the highlight of the show, which marked 69 years of Israeli independence. Israel has received the initial five jets since December with the aim of allowing it to maintain its military superiority in the turbulent Middle East, particularly regarding its arch-foe Iran.

It plans to purchase a total of 50 F-35s. Its first jets are to be operational this year. While other countries have ordered the planes, Israel-which receives more than \$3

billion a year in US defense aid-says it will be the first outside the United States with an operational F-35 squadron. Israel is buying its first 33 F-35s at an average price of about \$110 million (103.5 million euros) each-and the price tag has been criticized both in Israel and elsewhere.

Among its main features are advanced stealth capabilities to help pilots evade sophisticated missile systems. The single-pilot jets can carry an array of weapons and travel at a supersonic speed of Mach 1.6, or around 1,200 miles per hour (1,900 kilometers per hour). The pilot's ultra-high-tech helmet, at a cost of about \$400,000 each, includes its own operating system, with data that appears on the visor and is also shared elsewhere. Thermal and night vision as well as 360-degree views are possible with cameras mounted on the plane. — AFP

TRUMP'S FONDNESS FOR STRONGMEN TRUMPS RIGHTS CONCERNS

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump makes no secret of his empathy for strongmen with spotty rights records, but his embrace of Rodrigo Duterte shows he still has the power to shock. Trump has invited the Philippines leader to Washington, despite his unabashed support for an alleged police and vigilante campaign of mass murder against drugs suspects. Seeking support for moves to isolate North Korea's Kim Jong-un-branded by Trump a "smart cookie"

but not yet himself on the White House guest list-the US president's diplomacy has proved unsqueamish. After Duterte, he also invited Thailand junta chief Prayut Chan-o-cha to visit, effectively ending US efforts to maintain a discreet public distance from the autocratic regime. These latest invitations fit a pattern that has outraged human rights defenders and given pause to even some of usually hardheaded realists in the Washington foreign policy set.

Although allegations of election interference has forced Trump to distance himself from Moscow, he campaigned for office last year on a platform of respect for Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

And, since his poll victory, Trump's affections have sifted to another autocrat, China's Xi Jinping, a "very respected man" he hopes will lead efforts to rein in North Korea. Last month, Trump welcomed Egypt's Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to the White House and hailed the "fantastic job" the strongman was doing in leading his troubled country. And he called Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to congratulate him on a referendum to consolidate power that observers said was marred not a fair vote.

But the open hand Trump has offered to the outspoken Duterte-who famously branded Trump's predecessor Barack Obama a "son of a whore"-still came as a surprise to many. Duterte came to office in June last year promising to tackle drug trafficking by repeating the hardline police tactics he had employed as mayor of the city of Davao. The results of this strategy were detailed in the annual human rights report released by Trump's own top diplomat Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in

March. "Since July, police and unknown vigilantes have killed more than 6,000 suspected drug dealers and users as the government pursued a policy aimed at eliminating illegal drug activity," the report said. "Extrajudicial killings have been the chief human rights concern in the country for many years and they increased sharply over the past year."

Street slaughter

Rights groups also report thousands of deaths in an allegedly orchestrated campaign-and Duterte himself has made no effort to disguise his support for the killings. Nevertheless, Trump spoke with Duterte on Saturday and, in the words of the White House, "greatly enjoyed" a chat with a leader moving ties in a "positive direction." Faced with criticism of this cheerful embrace of a man accused of a crime against humanity, officials said moves against North Korea and the broader US national interest come first. Trump's domestic opponents didn't flinch. Eliot Engel, the ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, urged Trump to rescind the invitation in light of Duterte's "flagrant disregard for human life and due process."

Engel was unconvinced the Philippines role

in the North Korea standoff was such that a blind eye could be turned "when thousands of Filipinos are being slaughtered in the streets at President Duterte's direction." Of course, this is far from the first time Washington has cosied up to a notorious autocrat in the service of its perceived greater interest. Obama did not break ties with Duterte, whom he admitted was a "colorful guy," and his administration maintained ties with Egypt's Sisi despite his seizure of power.

For decades during the Cold War, the United States propped up and supported some of the world's worst dictators for as long as they maintained anti-Communist credentials. But throughout, the United States maintained at least a pretense of virtue a veneer that rights defenders argue was important and which is now under threat. Phelim Kine, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, complained that Trump had given Duterte "an unconditional bear hug." "It's a message that the US no longer cares about human rights," he said. "Although regrettably the United States has not always walked the walk, supporting human rights at home and abroad, it has always robustly talked the talk on this."—AFP



This combination of photos shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang, North Korea, (left) and US President Donald Trump in Washington. The notion of a substantive sit-down between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump, the most gazed-upon figures of this moment in the planet's history, is a staggering prospect and a potential logistical nightmare if the two countries ever tried to make it happen. — AP

TWITTER, BLOOMBERG TEAM UP FOR STREAMING NEWS CHANNEL

WASHINGTON: Twitter is launching a 24-hour streaming news channel in partnership with the Bloomberg Media, in a major expansion of the social media firm's video operations, the two firms announced Monday. The new streaming channel "will combine the vast global editorial and newsgathering capabilities of Bloomberg with the digital power of Twitter," a joint statement.

Michael Bloomberg, the founder of the financial news and information service and a former New York mayor, joined Twitter chief executive Jack Dorsey at a New York media conference to make the announcement. The streaming channel set to launch later this year will include user-generated content from Twitter which will be verified by Bloomberg editors, along with live video reporting from journalists at the news organization.

"Today's global news consumer wants and needs more than what's currently available," said Justin Smith, CEO of Bloomberg Media, in a statement. "With this new network, we are setting out to reinvent the digital breaking news experience." Smith told The Wall Street Journal, which first reported the tie-up, that the new network would "be focused on the most important news for an intelligent audience around the globe and it's going to be broader in focus than our existing network."

Twitter chief operating officer Anthony Noto said in a statement, "Twitter's speed and vast global network of content and commentary combined with the high quality, editorial rigor of Bloomberg is a unique and powerful

combination." Financial details of the new venture were not disclosed. Twitter shares jumped 6.4 percent on the news to close at \$17.53, the highest since February. The service could help Twitter expand its user base, which has been growing at a slower pace than its social media rivals. Twitter has been seeking to broaden its appeal beyond its core user base of celebrities, politicians and journalists, ramping up efforts in video and live sports.

But in its quarterly results last week, Twitter reported a drop in revenue, despite boosting its monthly user base to 328 million, up 14 percent from a year ago. Twitter, which has never reported a profit, said its net loss narrowed to \$62 million from \$80 million a year earlier. Twitter already offers some live video news through a partnership with the streaming application Cheddar. It had rights last year to stream some National Football League games, but lost that for the upcoming season to Amazon.

But, San Francisco-based Twitter late Monday announced a dozen new collaborations to bring original programming, live sports matches and more to the one-to-many messaging service. Twitter streamed more than 800 hours of premium video content last quarter, Noto said. "We could not be prouder of the success we have achieved so quickly since launching live streaming premium content," Noto said in a release. Content to be aired on Twitter due to new alliances included US women's basketball games, select Live Nation music concerts, and a BuzzFeed news program. — AFP

PAY FOR NEWS? MORE THAN HALF OF AMERICANS DO PAY

NEW YORK: A battered news industry can find some flickers of hope in a survey that gauges public willingness to pay for journalism, as long as its leaders plan judiciously. A little more than half of American adults regularly pay for news, through newspaper and magazine subscriptions, apps on electronic devices or contributions to public media, according to the Media Insight Project, a collaboration between the American Press Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

It's not only greybeards, either. Although they're less likely than their parents' generation to subscribe, close to 4 in 10 people under age 35 also pay. Younger people are also more likely to express a desire to support a news organization's mission as a reason for subscribing, the project's study found. On the other hand, young adults who don't pay for news are especially likely to say they're just not very interested in the content that's for sale.

"We sense a shift," said Tom Rosenstiel, executive director of the American Press Institute. "There's this perception that people don't want to pay for news, especially young people, because they can get things from social media ... We found that's not true." A quarter of people who confess to regularly tapping a news source for free said it's at least moderately likely they'd be willing to pay for it if they had to. Chicago resident John Ashford subscribes to a handful of news organizations online, partly because of the work's importance. He said the truth behind a police shooting near where he lived likely would have remained hidden if not for reporters digging in to the story.

"People don't have the time and the money to investigate what is going on," he said. "You have to have somebody to do it." Nearly one in five Americans donate money to at least one nonprofit media source, such as public television or radio, or a digital news site such as ProPublica, the study found. The New York Times saw slow and steady growth in its digital subscriptions

from 406,000 at the end of 2011 to 1.09 million at the end of 2015. During 2016, the number of subscriptions shot up to 1.85 million, the Times said, a spurt contrary to President Trump's assertion that the Times is "failing."

Even before the post-election controversy over fake news, the Times found new subscribers who were concerned about the reliability of some stories they saw online and "they understood that you get what you pay for," said David Rubin, senior vice president and head of brand for the newspaper. Rather than simply tout what a subscriber would receive, the Times is running an advertising campaign that focuses on the news organization's mission and the importance of journalism, including one that shows the dangers faced by a photojournalist covering the conflict between Iraqi forces and the Islamic State.

The newspaper also recognizes the importance of building a relationship with subscribers, instead of simply making sure an article is seen by as many eyeballs as possible, Rubin said. Three-quarters of newspaper subscribers say they primarily read the product in print, while 21 percent said they primarily see it online, the study found. News executives can't afford to focus on one type of consumer at the expense of another, Rosenstiel said. The biggest reason people choose to subscribe is because they believe a news organization excels at covering issues they care about.

Executives looking to cut costs need to consider the importance subscribers place in quality, he said. "Spreading the pain equally so you get a little worse at everything is probably a bad strategy," he said. "You've got to be more surgical." The poll of 2,199 adults was conducted Feb 16 through March 20 with funding from the American Press Institute. It used a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the US population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 2.7 percentage points.— AP



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MERKEL MEETS WITH PUTIN ON RARE RUSSIA VISIT

SOCHI, Russia: German Chancellor Angela Merkel held talks yesterday with President Vladimir Putin on Ukraine and Syria in a signal of renewed dialogue despite profound rifts on her first visit to Russia since 2015. "We cannot but use this visit to discuss bilateral relations and the most problematic points, by which I mean Ukraine and Syria and maybe some other regions," Putin told Merkel at the start of the meeting in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi.

The Russian and German leaders have scaled back links as Moscow's ties with the EU plunged to a post-Cold War low over the crisis in Ukraine. Berlin has said yesterday's meeting would "above all" focus on the upcoming G20 summit in Hamburg in July and no breakthroughs were expected on major disagreements, although Putin earlier called for ties "to fully normalize." Merkel has strongly backed EU sanctions on Russia for seizing Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and supporting the pro-Kremlin separatist insurgency in the east of the country.

Moscow has responded with an embargo on agricultural products from the West. A European-brokered peace plan to end



SOCHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Bocharov Ruchi state residence in Sochi yesterday. —AFP

the conflict has hit a dead end. The German leader last visited Russia in May 2015 when she met Putin in Moscow but, like most Western leaders, snubbed a Red Square parade for the 70th anniversary of World War II victory.

'Difficult context'

Merkel has been the main mediator with Putin over the crisis in Ukraine. She is a key proponent of keeping sanctions on Moscow in place until a stalled peace plan to end the conflict in Europe's back-

yard is fulfilled. Merkel and Putin have taken part in a number of four-way meetings, most recently last October, with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and France's Francois Hollande aimed at implementing the plan the four countries hammered out in February 2015.

Last month, Merkel and Putin participated in a four-way phone conversation with Poroshenko and Hollande, agreeing to step up the peace deal's implementation. "There are two topics that weigh down relations... the annexation of Crimea contrary to international law and then the destabilisation of eastern Ukraine by pro-Russian separatists," Merkel spokesman Steffen Seibert told journalists ahead of the visit.

Kiev and the West accuse Moscow of providing military support to the rebels in eastern Ukraine, a charge it denies. Both sides have also said the talks will cover the conflict in Syria, where Putin's military backing for leader Bashar al-Assad has set him at odds with the West.

In her first official visit to Russia last week, EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini insisted that cooperation between the two sides was "not frozen"

but said progress was hampered by profound disagreements on subjects including Ukraine and Syria.

'Diplomatic ice age thawing'

The G20 is now the only format for Russia to meet the other major international powers after its exclusion from the G8, now the G7. At the G20 summit, Putin is expected to meet US President Donald Trump. Immediately after meeting Merkel the Kremlin strongman is set to hold his third phone call with Trump.

Merkel visited Saudi Arabia on Sunday for talks focusing on preparations for the G20. German broadcaster Deutsche Welle suggested ahead of Merkel's visit that "the diplomatic ice age... might be nearing an end" as it sends "a strong diplomatic signal" of both sides' willingness to engage.

The leaders are set to hold a press conference at 1230 GMT between two rounds of talks, Seibert said. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is also due to meet Putin in Sochi today. The two leaders have inched closer together on Syria as Erdogan's ties with Europe have plummeted. —AFP

FRANCE'S LE PEN FIGHTS OFF PLAGIARISM CHARGE

MACRON'S ECONOMIC LIBERALISM WORRIES VOTERS

PARIS: French presidential far-right candidate Marine Le Pen fought off accusations of plagiarism yesterday as supporters of her rival Emmanuel Macron warned that a high abstention rate could hurt his chances of victory. It emerged that Le Pen had copied parts of her fiery May Day speech from one made on April 15 by Francois Fillon, the conservative candidate who was eliminated in the first round of the election last month.

In the speech in question, Fillon paid tribute to the French language and spoke of a third "French way" for the 21st century. Analysis by the Ridicule TV YouTube channel showed that the nationalist Le Pen repeated these passages almost verbatim in her speech on Monday.

Florian Philippot, the vice president of Le Pen's National Front (FN) party, said it was "not plagiarism", but "a nod to a short passage in a speech about France". Le Pen's spokesman David Rachline said the copied passages in the speech were "appreciated by Fillon's voters".

Just days ahead of Sunday's keenly-watched runoff, 39-year-old Macron remains the frontrunner, with polls predicting a 19-point lead, putting him on track to become France's youngest president. Amid concerns in his camp that a high abstention rate could help Le Pen's chances, company bosses, celebrities and scientific researchers called in newspaper editorials for

people to vote for Macron, a pro-EU former investment banker who styles himself as "neither of the left nor the right".

Call to left-wing voters

Macron's economically liberal approach worries many voters on the left. While they will not back Le Pen, many say they will stay at home rather than vote for him and polls say abstention could be as high as 30 percent. Former Greek finance minister Yanis Varoufakis, an emblematic figure of the radical left in Europe, urged left-wingers to vote for Macron because he was "the only minister in Europe who did everything possible to help us" during the Greek debt crisis in 2015.

Varoufakis told Le Monde newspaper that in June 2015, as the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank were putting pressure on Greece over its debt mountain, then-economy minister Macron convinced French President Francois Hollande to reopen negotiations. He said Macron "offered to come to Athens incognito" for talks, but Hollande stopped him. Macron "was the only member of the 'system' who opposed" the harsh stance on Greece, Varoufakis said.

Varoufakis' support is significant because hard-left French firebrand Jean-Luc Melenchon, who scored 19.6 percent in the first round of the election in April, is close to current leftist Greek

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. Daniel Cohn-Bendit, a veteran rebel of French politics, called on Melenchon's supporters to put aside their "hatred" of Macron. "Think rationally and vote for Emmanuel Macron and defend democracy and freedom," the former ecologist Euro MP told Europe 1 radio. Le Pen and Macron will face off today in what promises to be a fiery TV debate when the far-right leader is likely to sharpen her attacks on a candidate she says embodies "the world of finance, of arrogance, of money as king". Macron fought off accusations from Le Pen that he was controlled by banks. "I am not under the thumb of the banks. If I were, I would have continued to work for them," he told BFMTV news channel yesterday.

Macron said he had received similar insults from the far left and far right for months, "but I'll look them straight in the eye and say I don't have any lessons to learn from them". In a feisty speech on Sunday, Macron told thousands of his supporters he would defend "free democracy" if voters choose him. He said he was aware that "many people will vote for me to avoid having the National Front".

"I say to them that I am completely aware that on May 7, I will be doing more than defending a political program-I will be leading the fight for the republic and for a free democracy," he said. —AFP



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande (left) welcomes Morocco's King Mohammed VI upon his arrival yesterday at the Elysee presidential Palace in Paris. —AFP

CUFFLINK 'CYBER-TERRORIST' JAILED FOR 8 YEARS IN UK

LONDON: An Islamic State jihadist who hid extremist material on a computer memory stick disguised as cufflinks and created an online "library for terrorists" was jailed for eight years in Britain yesterday. Operating from his bedroom in Cardiff, 34-year-old IT expert Samata Ullah offered a range of guidance on how to stay one step ahead of the police and security services.

He was jailed at London's Old Bailey court after admitting five terror offences, including membership of the IS jihadist group, training and preparation of terrorist acts. "It is the first time we have seen anything on this scale," said Commander Dean Haydon, head of the British police's counter-terrorism command unit. "He had set up a self-help library for terrorists around the world and they were using his library. "There was guidance on encryption, ways to avoid detection from police and security services, expert tuition around missile systems and a vast amount of propaganda."

"He has created a one-stop shop for terrorists. In my view he was a very dangerous individual although he was operating from his bedroom."

Haydon said the sort of information he had may have helped people involved in planning devastating, low-tech attacks on

crowded places. Ullah had a cache of extremist data on his USB stick cufflinks, including 15 copies of the IS propaganda magazine Dabiq.

British counter-terrorism police tracked him down after being passed intelligence by the FBI in the United States. They had been handed the information from authorities in Kenya, who had arrested another man. Prosecutor Brian Altman told the court that Ullah represented "A new and dangerous breed of terrorist: a cyberterrorist".

"He deployed his not inconsiderable self-taught computer skills to further the cause of terrorism and in particular Islamic State... from the relative safety of his bedroom." In videos, Ullah's voice was modified to avoid detection and he wore woolly gloves to disguise his skin tone, Altman said. Police seized 150 digital devices and trawled through eight terabytes of data, which equates to 250 smart phones.

He had bought 30 sets of USB cufflinks which he loaded up with information on missile production, rocket design and IS propaganda. On being charged, Ullah said: "I'm really sorry. I wish I could turn the clock back. Things just spiralled out of control. I don't know how." —AFP

ELECTRIC SHOCKS: CHECHEN GAY MEN RECOUNT DAYS OF TORTURE

MOSCOW: Anzor was lying on a dirty floor as a man in army boots jumped on his back. His agony worsened when his captors started torturing him with electric shocks. "It's a feeling like they are breaking every bone of every joint in your body at the same time," he said. Anzor is a gay man from Chechnya, the predominantly Muslim region in southern Russia where dozens of men suspected of being gay were reportedly detained and tortured, and at least three of them were allegedly killed.

After his ordeal, Anzor fled Chechnya and is now in hiding in Moscow, fearing not only for his own life but for the safety of his relatives. He spoke with The Associated Press on the condition of using only his first name. Antipathy to homosexuality in Russia is widespread. Gay rights activists' requests to hold rallies are routinely rejected by officials and any rallies that do take place are often attacked by anti-gay thugs. But "this anti-gay purge, sanctioned by top local authorities, is unprecedented," said Tanya Lokshina, the Russia program coordinator for Human Rights Watch.

Another gay man, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, told the AP that he was also arrested in Chechnya and held with dozens of others. "We were tortured every day. Beside beatings, we were beaten several times a day with polypropylene tubes. We were tortured with electricity," he said.

"For 20-30 seconds they spin the handle, you feel the electricity, then you fall down, they stop it, and then immediately you come back to consciousness and you are ready again for a new discharge," he said. "And it goes on five, six, seven times." The abuse was first reported in April by the independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta, which said that about 100 men suspected of being gay were rounded up and tortured, and that at least three were killed.

Double life

Western governments and rights groups have urged Russian authorities to investigate. Chechen officials vehemently deny not only the reported torture of gays, but sometimes their very existence. "There are no homosexuals in Chechnya. You cannot detain and persecute

those who do not exist," Alvi Karimov, a spokesman for Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, told the Interfax news agency.

Homosexuality is a taboo in conservative Chechnya, and the gay community there was used to leading a double life - marrying, having children and hiding their sexuality from even their closest family members. The only time a gay man in Chechnya could be himself is when he met with another gay person, typically through social media, Anzor said. "The rest of the time we are pretending," he said. Anzor, who

talked to the AP at a safe house provided by LGBT activists, fears for the lives of his family members who will become pariahs in the patriarchal Chechen society if his identity is revealed. "Sometimes families turn away from such people, some families get rid of such people," he said of gays, a word he is visibly uncomfortable using. "I'm scared for my family, my sisters and brothers. I don't want them to suffer for me." Anzor, in his 40s, said the ordeal began when police stopped the car in which he was riding with friends in the town of Argun. —AP

BRITISH PM UNDER PRESSURE OVER BREXIT DINNER ROW

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit strategy came under fresh scrutiny yesterday following reports of a disastrous meeting with European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker. May has dismissed as "Brussels gossip" accounts of tension at last week's Downing Street dinner, but faces accusations of botching the first face-to-face talks with EU leaders since triggering Brexit.

The report came just days after German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned Britain that it should have no "illusions" that it could continue enjoying the benefits of EU membership while outside the bloc. May responded by accusing the other 27 EU countries of lining up against Britain, in a sign of hardening positions on both sides.

Formal negotiations will not begin until after Britain's election on June 8, in which May is expecting to return to office with an increased parliamentary majority. "As we have seen in recent days, it will not be easy," May wrote yesterday in a regional newspaper.

"Across the table from us sit 27 European member states who are united in their determination to do a deal that works for them. "We need that same unity of purpose here at home to ensure we can get a deal that works in Britain's national interest too."

EU leaders unanimously backed a tough Brexit strategy at a summit on Saturday, their first since May triggered the Brexit process on March 29, starting a two-year countdown to leaving.

By contrast Britain's opposition parties have seized on the leaks to accuse May of "reckless handling" of the negotiations, and of having "no clue". The European Parliament's chief negotiator, Guy Verhofstadt, said it was "time to get real" in a mocking tweet that twisted May's election promise that she offers "strong and stable

leadership". "Any Brexit deal requires a strong & stable understanding of the complex issues involved. The clock is ticking-it's time to get real.

'Warning to the UK'

Juncker gave an indication of the tensions

at Wednesday's dinner when he warned afterwards that some in Britain "underestimate the technical difficulties we have to face". But he said the meeting was "constructive", the same word used by May's office.

A report in Sunday's edition of the Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper, however,



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May greets European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker outside 10 Downing Street in London. Theresa May acknowledged yesterday that Brexit "will not be easy," after EU officials accused Britain of underestimating the complexity of the task ahead. —AP

said Juncker left the meeting "ten times more skeptical" about the prospect of a Brexit deal. It said sources close to the negotiations put the chances of Brexit negotiations collapsing without a deal at more than 50 percent. The two leaders reportedly clashed over May's insistence that talks on a new trade deal should start immediately, and that Britain has no obligation to pay the EU any money.

Brussels says the issue of Britain's outstanding bills-estimated at up to 60 billion euros (\$77 billion) — must be settled before any talks on trade. Juncker reportedly informed Merkel of his doubts, saying that May was in a "different galaxy" — prompting her outspoken comments the following day.

Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg Bank, the world's oldest merchant bank, said the report must be taken with caution. "But that details of the dinner have been so widely reported suggests that Brussels wants to send a clear warning to the UK: London will have to shift its positions substantially in order to clinch a deal with the EU27," he said.

May's official spokesman repeated yesterday that "we approach the talks in a constructive manner and with a huge amount of goodwill". "We will make a success of Brexit and we will secure a deal that works in the best interest of Britain and the European Union," he said. Interior minister Amber Rudd, dismissing the report as "tittle-tattle", went further, warning that was a "mistake" to leak such details and saying Britain would be more discreet. But Tim Farron, leader of the small, pro-European Liberal Democrat party, said the reports were a "taste of what's to come". "The reports show a prime minister who is complacent and seems to have no idea how difficult these negotiations will be," he said. —AFP

Junior Financial Analyst Al Essa Medical & Scientific Equipment Co. - Kuwait

You will be responsible for planning, analyzing and executing financial activities by verifying financial documents and transactions, contributing towards the formulation and implementation of financial strategies of the company in order to achieve the financial goals, monitoring and reviewing expenses against budget for corporate and sub units, etc.

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Massage Therapist Dar Al-Shifa Hospital Kuwait

You will be responsible for assisting with the applied plan of physical treatment program and follow the precautions prescribed by the physical medicine physician and / or physical therapist for each individual patient according to the principles and rules of practice, etc.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3652862**

Purchasing & Sales Executive Business Mart Group Kuwait

You will be responsible for sourcing, negotiating and purchasing products from both local and international vendors, evaluating the vendor's quotation to ensure that they are in line with the technical and commercial specifications required for the project, handling the complete procurement process (purchase to payment) etc.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3652906**

IKEA Food Manager IKEA - Al Homaizi Limited Kuwait

You will be responsible for working together with colleagues in the Store Management team to lead and manage IKEA Food, building the business and people together, striving towards making people smile while providing irresistible food offers in a welcoming atmosphere that give visitors a lastly reason to return again and again.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3652915**

ENI/SME Relationship Manager - Bayt.com Kuwait

You will be responsible for actively seeking new opportunities through cold calling, physical meetings, networking and social media, setting up meetings with potential clients to identify their recruitment needs, recommending and offering our recruitment solutions by delivering appropriate presentations on products/ services, etc.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3653014**

Marketing Sales Senior Executive (Arab, Female) ASCEND Retail - Kuwait

You will be responsible for assisting the Assistant Manager and Shop Manager in leading, directing & motivating the sales team in order to achieve the overall corporate sales objectives, conducting market research and gathering client information, arranging and attending sales meetings with potential customers for generating business, etc.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3653078**

Account Manager Four Fest Trading & General Contracting Co. - Kuwait

You will be responsible for handling and following up with the company's clients and build a good long lasting working relationship with customers, generating sales from a portfolio of accounts in accordance with agreed targets to maximize company profitability and injecting new clients to the company

[Apply Now](#) **JB3650125**

Officer (Learning Disabilities Support) - Australian College of Kuwait - Kuwait

You will be responsible for providing general counselling and advice to students in relation to their studies at ACK, supporting all students with day to day queries and minor issues, providing comprehensive level of assistance to ensure smooth and efficient operations, providing high level of administrative and clerical support to the unit

[Apply Now](#) **JB3635089**

Asset Management Officer (Analyst) - Arabian Centres KSA

You will be responsible for helping with analysis of financial performance of potential and current properties & portfolios and preparing / presenting investment and strategic planning recommendations, generating sales projections for new / relocating / expanding stores following a sales forecasting process, etc.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3572603**

ERP Coordinator ORE Solution KSA

You will be responsible for increasing the automated process efficiency by ensuring system utilization, supervising system utilization by ensuring that all company business users are operating the system at its most efficient and effective level of service, providing high quality ERP support by offering functional & trouble-shooting expertise to support business users, etc.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3652474**

Director / Consultant Métier HR Consulting KSA

You will be responsible for developing and managing a team of consultants as well as customer experience from sales to execution, providing guidance during difficult situations especially when deadlines are missed, coordinating with vendors, other departments and internal teams to ensure customer satisfaction, creating project plans, deliverables, etc.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3652560**

Project Manager Hussain Almazyad Co. KSA

You will be responsible for coordinating with the Surveyor for the preparation of the detail route plan and other existing structures & utilities, coordinating with the Design Engineer for the preparation of the detail route plan; reviewing ampacity calculation, ventilation requirements and condition monitoring of the cable system, etc.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3652728**

Manager - Solution Delivery (UAE National Only) - ADCB UAE

You will be responsible for managing the solution delivery team in the end-to-end implementation of value added cash management products to Wholesale Banking customers in order to ensure successful product implementation in line with agreed service standards and achievement of agreed customer service metrics

[Apply Now](#) **JB3653286**

Digital Content Copywriter Diwan Arabia UAE

You will be responsible for collecting briefs and descriptions from the respective team to apply a consistent tone of voice and style in messages, providing a copy in English and Arabic, accommodating for the cultural differences and aiming towards a unified voice in Arabic, consulting the Digital Team to re-adapt the text to the digital channels and suggest the proper approach to stimulate sales and actions

[Apply Now](#) **JB3652418**

Sales Team Leader (Telecom) Al Deyaa Group UAE

You will be responsible for coaching team members to carry out their duties by transferring expert knowledge to them to boost their skills, delivering the agreed group targets within budget through appropriate direction and control of the sales agent team, following up sales delivery to customers and inquiring about their user experience and making use of their feedback, etc.

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Electrical Sales Engineer East West Trading International UAE

You will be responsible for sales of transmission & distribution products, testing instruments, switchgear, industrial / commercial lighting, MV/HV cable joints, accessories, etc. You should have a Diploma in Electrical Engineering with 3 - 5 years of experience in selling to power utilities, oil, petrochemical, fertilizer, heavy industry, consultants / EPC contractors.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3652425**

Sales Supervisor - Ted Baker Al Fulaim Group Qatar

You will be responsible for assisting with the general day-to-day running of the store and act as Duty Manager when required and training new staff on the Point of Sale (POS) operation. You will also be responsible for corrective action at the POS, supervising the sales team, dealing with any customer issues arriving at the POS and providing an excellent customer service experience by anticipating and understanding a customer's need and requirement.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3653772**

Procurement Administrator (Temporary role) Qatar Airways - Qatar

You will be responsible for undertaking a wide variety of activities that include compiling a variety of reports - statistical & end of month reports, and providing support & assistance to the Purchase Department and Management team, etc.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3653773**

Administrative Assistant GM & A Promotions Qatar

You will be responsible for handling preparation of quotations & job orders and assisting the sales team with materials / samples needed for meetings, managing logistics and transportation of orders pertaining to Qatar office, maintaining office paper work by organizing office files and important documents, designing filing systems, assigning and monitoring clerical functions, etc.

[Apply Now](#) **JB3653483**

Senior Accountant Future Gate Qatar

You will be in charge of the Accounting and Finance Department, preparing monthly and daily invoices in local and foreign currencies, performing and maintaining banking and finance transactions and records, updating in the Sage 50 System, etc.

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US AIMS TO ELIMINATE IS FROM AFGHANISTAN THIS YEAR

WASHINGTON: After dropping a monster bomb on its fighters, then targeting its leader, the US military is looking to destroy the Islamic State group's Afghan branch before battle-hardened reinforcements arrive from Syria and Iraq. While US and Kabul government forces have mainly been combatting Taliban fighters since 2001, IS's local offshoot—also known as Islamic State-Khorasan, or ISIS-K—has a stronghold in eastern Afghanistan.

First emerging in 2015, ISIS-K overran large parts of Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, near the Pakistan border, but their part in the Afghan conflict had been largely overshadowed by the operations against the Taliban. Many Americans first heard of ISIS-K last month when the US dropped the "Mother Of All Bombs" on its Nangarhar bas-

tion—an aerial munition that the Pentagon said was the biggest non-nuclear weapon it had ever used in combat.

US and Afghan forces then raided a compound last week close to the site of the bombing, with the Pentagon saying it believed it had killed ISIS-K's leader Abdul Hasib during the operation.

Captain Bill Salvin, spokesman for US Forces-Afghanistan, said the local IS presence peaked at between 2,500 to 3,000 but that defections and recent battlefield losses had reduced their number to a maximum of 800. "We have a very good chance of destroying them in 2017, making it very clear that when the ISIS fighters are destroyed elsewhere around the globe that this is not the place for you to come to plot your attacks," Salvin told AFP. US-backed fighters also appear to have

IS on the ropes in Syria and Iraq, where an operation to wrest back control of the major northern city of Mosul has been ongoing since October.

Jihadists on the move

But both the military and analysts acknowledge there is a danger of IS fighters heading to Afghanistan if they are forced out of Iraq and Syria. Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution, said that while IS should ultimately be defeated in Afghanistan, the Pentagon's timeline may be overly optimistic. A definitive victory could take "a long time due, partly (due) to the proximity of Pakistan as well as the possible flow of fighters" from the Middle East as the "group loses sanctuaries there," O'Hanlon told AFP.

The Taliban, which first emerged in the mid-1990s in southern Afghanistan, managed to conquer most of the country before its 2001 ouster with the help of a range of foreign jihadists, including Pakistanis, Saudis and Chechens. Analysts say that as well as Afghans, ISIS-K includes disaffected Pakistani and Uzbek Islamists among its ranks who used to fight for the Taliban.

It first emerged as a significant player in Afghanistan in early 2015 when its fighters overran the Taliban in parts of the east and has subsequently claimed responsibility for a string of bomb attacks.

ISIS-K's defeat would be an important victory for the US, which has struggled to boast of clear wins after forcing the Taliban out of Kabul in 2001 in the initial aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Bill Roggio, a

senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and editor of the Long War Journal, said ISIS-K had "withstood multiple US-backed offensives over the past two years." But while their defeat would be a boost to the US, Roggio said the Taliban and their long-time Al-Qaeda allies were still a much bigger challenge.

"It's not that they don't pose a threat, but I would argue that the Taliban pose a far greater threat to the stability of Afghanistan," Roggio told AFP. "It would be basically winning a battle, but we are still losing the war, which is basically the story of Afghanistan since we've been involved there." America has about 8,400 troops in Afghanistan. Most belong to a NATO mission to train and advise Afghan partner forces fighting the Taliban. — AFP



SEOUL: South Korean presidential election candidates (from left to right:) Moon Jae-in of the Democratic Party of Korea, Hong Joon-pyo of the Liberty Korea Party, Yoo Seong-min of the Bareun Party, Sim Sang-jung of the Justice Party and Ahn Cheol-soo of the People's Party, pose for photographers before a televised debate for the upcoming May 9 presidential election in Seoul yesterday.—AFP

N KOREA SAYS US BOMBER FLIGHTS PUSH PENINSULA TO BRINK OF NUCLEAR WAR

SEOUL/BEIJING: North Korea accused the United States yesterday of pushing the Korean peninsula to the brink of nuclear war after a pair of strategic US bombers flew training drills with the South Korean and Japanese air forces in another show of strength. The two supersonic B-1B Lancer bombers were deployed amid rising tensions over North Korea's pursuit of its nuclear and missile programs in defiance of UN sanctions and pressure from the United States. The flight of the two bombers on Monday came as US President Donald Trump said he would be "honored" to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in the right circumstances, and as his CIA director landed in South Korea for talks.

South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman Moon Sang-gyun told a briefing in Seoul that Monday's joint drill was conducted to deter provocations by the North. North Korea said the bombers conducted "a nuclear bomb dropping drill against major objects" in its territory at a time when Trump and "other US warmongers are crying out for making a preemptive nuclear strike" on the North.

"The reckless military provocation is pushing the situation on the Korean peninsula closer to the brink of nuclear war," the North's official KCNA news agency said yesterday. Tensions on the Korean peninsula

have been high for weeks, driven by concerns that the North might conduct its sixth nuclear test in defiance of pressure from the United States and Pyongyang's sole major ally, China. The US military's THAAD anti-missile defense system has reached initial operational capacity in South Korea, US officials told Reuters, although they cautioned that it would not be fully operational for some months.

China has repeatedly expressed its opposition to the system, whose powerful radar it fears could reach inside Chinese territory. Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang again denounced THAAD yesterday. "We will resolutely take necessary measures to defend our interests," Geng said, without elaborating.

Asked about Trump's suggestion he could meet Kim, Geng said China had noted US comments that it wanted to use peaceful means to resolve the issue. Trump has been recently been full of praise of Chinese President Xi Jinping's efforts to rein in its neighbor. "China has always believed that using peaceful means via dialogue and consultation to resolve the peninsula's nuclear issue is the only realistic, feasible means to achieve denuclearization of the peninsula and maintain peace and stability there, and is the only correct choice," Geng told a daily news briefing. — Reuters

CHINA DEMANDS HALT TO US MISSILE SHIELD IN S KOREA

THAAD SYSTEM BECOMES OPERATIONAL

BEIJING: China demanded yesterday an immediate halt to a controversial US missile shield hours after Washington announced that the defense system was now operational in South Korea. Washington and Seoul agreed to the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery deployment in July in the wake of a string of North Korean missile tests.

But its deployment has infuriated China, which fears it will weaken its own ballistic missile capabilities and says it upsets the regional security balance. "We oppose the deployment of the THAAD system in (South Korea) and urge relevant sides to immediately stop the deployment. We will firmly take necessary measures to uphold our interests," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular press briefing. While Beijing lashed out at the shield's deployment, the foreign ministry expressed support for US President Donald Trump's surprise comments that he would be "honored" to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un under the right conditions. "If it would be appropriate for me to meet with him I would, absolutely. I would be honored to do it," Trump said in an interview with Bloomberg.

Asked about Trump's remarks, Geng said that China "has always believed that dialogue and consultation... is the only realistic and viable way to achieve denuclearisation." "We also said many times that the US and DPRK... should make political decisions at an early date, take action and show good faith so that we can create a better atmosphere for resuming the peace talks and settling the issue," he added.

Economic backlash

Earlier, US Forces Korea said THAAD is "operational and has the ability to intercept North Korean missiles and defend the Republic." A US defense official told AFP, however, that the system has only "reached initial intercept capability." This initial capability will be augmented later this year as additional hardware and components arrive to complete the system, officials said. The THAAD system, which is being installed on a former golf course in the southern county of Seongju, is designed to intercept and destroy short- and medium-range ballistic missiles dur-



In this April 27, 2017 file photo, US Army soldiers install the missile defense system called Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, at a golf course in Seongju, South Korea. — AP

ing their final phase of flight. Beijing has imposed a host of measures seen as economic retaliation against the South for the THAAD deployment, including a ban on tour groups. Retail conglomerate Lotte, which previously owned the golf course, has also been targeted, with 85 of its 99 stores in China shut down, while South Korea's biggest automaker Hyundai Motor has said its Chinese sales have fallen sharply. The THAAD deployment comes as tension soars on the Korean peninsula following a series of missile launches by the North and warnings from the administration of US President Donald Trump that military action is an "option on the table."

Who should pay?

Further complicating matters, Trump stunned Seoul last week when he suggested South Korea should pay for the \$1 billion THAAD system. "I informed South Korea it would be appropriate if they paid. It's a billion-dollar system," Trump was

quoted as saying in a published report. "It's phenomenal, shoots missiles right out of the sky," Seoul retorted that under the Status of Forces Agreement that governs the US military presence in the country, the South would provide the THAAD site and infrastructure while the US would pay to deploy and operate it.

Thomas Karako, the director of the Missile Defense Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, noted that South Korea's sole THAAD battery does not quite have the range to cover the entire country. But he called it an important first step.

"This is not about a having a perfect shield, this is about buying time and thereby contributing to the overall credibility of deterrence," Karako told AFP. "South Korea with THAAD helps communicate to the North that today is not a good day to attack. It doesn't mean that they could not do a lot of damage—they would-but it strengthens the overall posture." —AFP



AMRITSAR: Indian Army personnel carry the coffin of Indian Army soldier Paramjeet Singh ahead of his funeral at Vein Pein village, some 45kms from Amritsar yesterday. —AFP

GIRL BARRED FROM MALAYSIA CHESS COMPETITION OVER 'SEDUCTIVE' DRESS

KUALA LUMPUR: A 12-year-old girl was barred from a Malaysian chess tournament over her "seductive" dress, her coach has claimed, igniting public outrage against the organizers of the competition in the Muslim-majority nation. The Malaysian Chess Federation yesterday said it would investigate and denied that religious sensitivities had prompted the decision to exclude the young player, as it seeks to curb the public backlash.

In a widely-shared Facebook post, trainer Kaushal Khandhar said his pupil felt "harassed and humiliated" after being forced to withdraw in the middle of the the National Scholastic Chess Championship on April 14.

The girl had been told her knee-length dress was "seductive and a temptation from a certain angle far, far away," he said in the post on Thursday, demanding an apology from the organizers. His remarks sparked a flurry of furious responses on social media, with commenters expressing indignation at

the incident and questioning how organizers could have deemed the clothing inappropriate. Malaysia is generally regarded as a moderate Muslim country, but fears have grown in recent years that it is becoming increasingly conservative.

"I am shocked and disturbed that her dress is a problem," Sieh Kok Chi, former secretary-general of the Olympic Council of Malaysia told AFP.

"She is just 12 years old. No one has the right to impose self-made rules. The chess officials should resign," he said. The executive secretary of the chess body, Nik Hishamuddin Nik Mustapa, told AFP that the dress code had been implemented because the competition was played in a public school, which has stricter dress codes than other venues.

"We will call for a meeting of all the parties involved to resolve the matter amicably," he added. "We lack chess talent in Malaysia. We want to see the emergence of good players." —AFP

SEND CHILDREN 'TO WORK' AT SCHOOL TO END CHILD LABOR IN INDIA: ACTIVISTS

CHENNAI: Brands sourcing garments, shoes, leather and natural stones from India must help create and sustain child labor-free zones by mapping their supply chains and working with communities to boost school enrolment, activists said yesterday.

The Stop Child Labor Coalition of charities recently launched a campaign with guidelines for companies to help ensure that children living in "labor hotspots" finish school. "Brands must take responsibility and share their profits to help keep children in school," said A. Aloysius, founder of Social Awareness and Voluntary Education, a charity in the south Indian textile hub of Tirupur that is part of the coalition.

From ensuring fair wages for adult laborers to working with village councils on enrolment drives and improving access to education, the campaign aims to make "potential child laborers work only in schools". According to the International Labor Organization, more than half of India's estimated 5.7 million child workers between the ages of 5 and 17 toil on farms, and over a quarter are in manufacturing on tasks such as embroidering clothes, weaving carpets and making matchsticks.

Children also work in restaurants and hotels, and as domestic workers. A 2017 UNICEF report, based on Indian census data, says the proportion of child workers in the 5- to 9-year age group jumped to 25 percent in 2011 from 15 percent in 2001.

Many companies do not engage children in their own facilities but have no checks when they subcontract production to smaller factories or home workers, where the prevalence of child labour increases drastically, campaigners say. "Child labour has often moved further down the supply chain, making monitoring more difficult," said Venkat Reddy of the M V Foundation, a charity in the coalition. The coalition's guidelines urge the private sector, civil society and government to work together on interventions for child labor-free zones.

After applying these guidelines, two communities in Tirupur with some 20,000 households in December were declared child labor-free. "It was the first time that small garment manufacturers in the area agreed to work with us on the issue," Aloysius said.

The guidelines draw from successful interventions in the cotton fields of Andhra Pradesh, stone quarries of Rajasthan and shoemaking workshops of Agra. "Like a quality check section, we want brands to add a social responsibility unit in the factories," Reddy said.

"Supply chains run deep and brands know that. They don't have to build schools, just be part of programs to keep children in school." — Reuters

PHILIPPINE MINISTER LIKELY TO LOSE JOB

MANILA: There is a 50 percent chance that Philippines Environment Secretary Regina Lopez may lose her confirmation vote after holding the position for nearly a year, said the head of the country's Senate environment committee yesterday. "It's still a 50-50 chance for Gina," Senator Manny Pacquiao, chairman of the committee, told reporters after Lopez gave testimony at a committee hearing, referring to the minister by her nickname.

Congressional confirmations in the Philippines typically happen months after ministers start work. President Rodrigo Duterte appointed Lopez on June 30, 2016. Lawmakers will vote on her fate today.

Lopez, a committed environmentalist, angered the mining industry after ordering the closure of 22 of the Philippines' 41 mines in February to protect water resources in the world's top nickel ore exporter.

She later cancelled dozens of contracts for undeveloped mines and just last week banned future open-pit mining projects as she tightened her crack-down of a sector she blames for extensive environmental damage. At yesterday's hearing, Lopez struggled to defend the legal basis for requiring nickel miners that remove their ore stockpiles to set aside an additional 2

million pesos (\$39,948) per hectare of disturbed land on top of funds already set aside to repair environmental damage, only saying that she wanted to help farmers in those areas. "I'm a very out of the box person," she said.

Reuters reported in March that eight nickel miners suspended last year for environmental infractions were allowed to remove previously mined ore that could pose environmental hazards. But, the order added the additional funds be set aside to fix any further environmental pollution.

"You can't invent fees without congressional authority," Senator Alan Peter Cayetano later told reporters. Cayetano, an ally of Duterte, expects heated deliberations on Wednesday when members of the powerful Commission on Appointments votes on Lopez's fate. Duterte has largely backed Lopez's crackdown.

The same panel in March rejected Perfecto Yasay as foreign minister, their first dismissal of a member of Duterte's cabinet. Mining is a contentious issue in the largely underexplored Southeast Asian country after past examples of environmental mismanagement, including a 1996 tailings leak at Canadian-owned Marcopper Mining Corp's copper mine in Marinduque that contaminated rivers. — Reuters

ZAIN GROUP INCOME INCREASES 3 PERCENT...

Continued from Page 1

The Vice-Chairman and Group CEO concluded, "Zain currently enjoys a strong presence geographically, with a balanced range of markets that are at different stages of growth and continues to be a market leader in five of its eight operations. We are committed to our strategy to leverage our strengths, including our talented people, brand, customer experience, cutting edge technology innovations, and geographic coverage in our bid to become a leading diversified and innovative digital lifestyle operator." Operational review of key markets for the three months ended 31 March, 2017.

Kuwait

Maintaining its market leadership, the flagship operation of Zain Group saw its customer base serve 2.8 million in a very challenging period that saw intense price competition coupled with additional operational costs in network expansion and upgrades impact its financial performance for the quarter. Revenues generated for the quarter reached KD 79.5 million (\$261 million), EBITDA amounted to KD 31 million (\$101 million) and net income came in at KD 16.2 million (\$53 million). Zain Kuwait's EBITDA margin stood at 39% for the quarter, with Zain Kuwait's nationwide 4G LTE network seeing data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) form 34% of total revenues.

Iraq

Despite the initiation of intense price competition in the market during Q1, 2017, coupled with continuing social unrest, Zain Iraq managed to achieve \$253 million revenues due to impressive growth in data usage and numerous customer acquisition initiatives in the northern regions of the country. The operation's efficiency drive saw EBITDA reach \$86 million, reflecting a 34% margin. Zain Iraq leads the market serving 12.3 million customers.

Sudan

In local currency (SDG) terms, the operator continues to perform well, as revenues grew by 38% Y-o-Y to reach SDG 1.7 billion (\$107 million, down 43% in US dollar terms) for Q1, 2017. EBITDA increased by 22% to reach SDG 594 million (\$38 million, down 49% in US dollar terms), reflecting an EBITDA margin of 36% while net income increased by 32% to reach SDG 258 million (\$17 million, down 45% in US dollar terms). Data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) formed 14% of total revenues, with an impressive annual growth of 66% in SDG terms. Zain Sudan now serves 13 million customers.

KEY OPERATIONAL NOTES

- The company held its Ordinary General Assembly on 12 March, and after approving the distribution of a cash dividend of 35 fils (USD 0.11) per share for the financial year ended 31 December, 2016, the meeting saw the election of the Group Board of Directors for the next three years. The new Board appointed Mohannad Mohammad Abdulmohsen Al-Kharafi as Chairman and Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi as Vice-Chairman and Group CEO.

- Group data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) increased 4% Y-o-Y, representing 25% of the Group's consolidated revenues.

- The significant currency devaluation impact in Sudan in the beginning of November 2016 affected Zain Group's Q1, 2017 financial results.

- Intense price competition in Kuwait coupled with additional operational costs in network expansion and upgrades severely impacted the operation and consequently Zain Group's overall financial metrics.

- The continual social unrest in Iraq, coupled with intense price competition affected all key financial indicators.

- Similarly, social unrest and currency devaluation impacted Zain South Sudan results.

- During the quarter, Zain entered numerous agreements with world-leading entities to support its digital lifestyle aspirations. These included the creation of a joint venture with iflix, the world's leading entertainment service for emerging markets, to bring unlimited video-on-demand services to the MENA region; with Amazon Web Services Partner Network to provide resilient cloud solutions to organizations in the Middle East; and joining the 'Telecom Infra Project' to develop next-generation telecom infrastructure in an initiative co-founded by Facebook, Intel, Nokia and others in 2016.

Zain also entered into a joint venture with YOYO, one of the most innovative digital start-ups in Turkey, to bring an exciting car sharing club model initially to Bahrain, and later expand across the Zain regional footprint and the MENA region; and also entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Myca Health Inc, an innovative Canadian-based leader in the development of unique proprietary software for scalable IT web based platforms.

Saudi Arabia

The turnaround and cost optimization program combined with investment in network are bolstering all key financial indicators with the operator recording its first-ever quarterly net profit of SAR 45 million, (\$12 million), compared to net losses of SAR 250 million (\$67 million) in Q1, 2016 and SAR 135 million (\$36 million) losses in Q4, 2016. Revenues grew by 10% in Q1, 2017 reaching SAR 1,919 million (\$530 million). This also represented a 7% increase in revenues from Q4, 2016. The company recorded a significant 49% increase in EBITDA to reach SAR 665 million (\$177 million) in Q1 2017, up from SAR 445 million in Q1, 2016, and a 36% increase from Q4 2016. EBITDA margin rose to 33% for Q1 2017, up from 25% in Q1, 2016, and 26% in Q4, 2016. The introduction of the biometric identification requirement during the year adversely affected the total customer base by 13%, which stood at 10 million customers at the end of quarter. Impressively, the operator witnessed a 46% rise in data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) Y-o-Y, which represents 51% of total revenues.

Jordan

Despite the intensification of price competition, Zain Jordan managed to increase its customer base by 6% Y-o-Y, serving 4.3 million customers, and maintaining its lead in the market. Y-o-Y revenues increased 2% to reach \$119 million, with EBITDA increasing 5% to reach \$58 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 49%. Net income was stable at \$24 million. With the continual expansion of 4G services across the country, data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) grew by 17% Y-o-Y which now represents 36% of total revenues.

Bahrain

During Q1, 2017, Zain Bahrain generated revenues of \$50 million. EBITDA for the period reached \$15 million, reflecting an EBITDA margin of 30%. The operation's focus on new, attractive packages coupled with a totally revamped 4G network saw a 5% increase in the customer base to reach 845,000, with data revenues (excluding SMS and VAS) increasing 33%, representing 43% of overall revenues.

IMF: GCC IS MOVING IN RIGHT...

Continued from Page 1

Revenues in the oil-dependent economies of the six Gulf Cooperation Council states have nosedived since the price of crude plummeted from its mid-2014 peak, forcing the monarchies to cut expenditure. Such cuts have included energy subsidies in nations that have traditionally subsidized main services both for their own citizens and also for large populations of expatriate workers. "Fiscal adjustment is still needed. Additional reforms are still needed, especially on the structural side," Azour said.

This would be "in order to diversify the economy and to allow the economy to grow outside the oil sector, to create additional jobs as well as to be less dependent on the volatility in the oil market", he added. The GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia unexpectedly announced last week it would reinstate some allowances for civil servants that were cut last year as part of a reduction in expenditure. Although this could be interpreted as a step backwards in the kingdom's program to cut spending, the IMF regional chief called the measure "minor compared to the overall trend".

"Whenever you have a large program of adjustment, you still need to adjust or tweak some measures here and there," Azour said, referring to the kingdom's "Vision 2030" strategy to diversify its economy and reduce public spending. "The Saudi government made strong fiscal adjustments over the past two years and were able to reduce expenditure," he said, adding that Riyadh has renewed its commitment to achieving a fiscal balance in 2020. "Given the level of buffers that Saudi has, they can phase in a more progressive way their fiscal adjustment and they can space it over time," Azour added.

GCC states have agreed to introduce value-added tax in 2018. Azour said imposing VAT is an "important move" that will help diversify revenues outside oil and help strengthen tax institutions. The GCC countries have established a reputation for being tax havens. In an attempt to prop up prices, members of the OPEC oil-exporting cartel and non-member exporters-notably Russia-agreed last year to cut production for six months, a decision that could be renewed in late May.

The IMF has lowered its forecast for economic growth in Arab oil-exporting countries in the wake of the output cuts. But Azour pointed out that the non-oil sector has been gathering pace. — AFP

COURT TO DECIDE 'FATE' OF ASSEMBLY

Continued from Page 1

and the current Assembly will be dissolved. Election will be called after the previous Assembly comes back to serve the remainder of its term, around one year. The second petition challenges that the decree inviting voters for the election is flawed because it was issued by an illegal government which had no representatives from the National Assembly. In this case, the National Assembly will be scrapped and fresh election called.

The third petition says that the election process was illegal because the Interior Minister did not issue the required decision to determine the ballot papers. This would mean scrapping the Assembly and calling for fresh polls. According to legal experts, the three petitions will most likely be rejected and

the current Assembly will continue. But nothing can be ruled out. Other petitions deal with smaller issues like disputing the counting of votes, decisions of the election committee and others.


In the meantime, Islamist opposition MP Jamaan Al-Harbash yesterday warned that he will grill the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Economic Development Hind Al-Sabeeh over violations and government plans to privatize a number of mega projects. Harbash said that there are signs indicating that the government plans to privatize the recently completed Jaber Hospital to the private sector by giving a sizeable share to a strategic investor. He said the same applies to Kuwait Airport, Shadadiya University and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Harbour on Boubiyah Island, all of which are under construction.



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Focus

TRUMP 'SMART COOKIE'
TALK ON NORTH'S KIM
BAFFLES SOUTH KOREA

By Foster Klug

US presidents looking to halt North Korea's push for nuclear weapons over the years normally haven't had very kind words to describe its dictators. George W Bush, for instance, called the late Kim Jong Il a "pygmy." So it's little wonder that South Koreans are bewildered by President Donald Trump's use of the term "smart cookie" to refer to current leader Kim Jong Un, and by Trump's assertion that he'd be "honored" by a possible meeting. Some South Korean media described Trump as a "rugby ball," an expression that suggests unpredictability.

Trump's swing from hints of military action to praise for Kim highlights an odd reality: South Koreans, not easily rattled by their nuclear bomb testing neighbor to the north, find themselves increasingly baffled by the new leader of their strongest ally and military protector, the United States. The worry is that Trump, a neophyte when dealing with North Korea, perhaps the most successful geopolitical manipulator of big powers in Asia, maybe the world, might fall prey to something the North has long coveted: A bilateral peace deal with the United States that would formally end the Korean War, which stopped in 1953 only after a cease-fire, and remove the nearly 30,000 US troops helping guard the South from North Korean adventurism.

By cutting Seoul out of those negotiations, many here fear, Washington could leave South Korea open to North Korea's vision of a unified Korean Peninsula with the autocratic Kim family running things from Pyongyang. There is little chance this would be accomplished peacefully. This explains the disorientation in Seoul as the Trump administration has bounced from warnings of a potential military confrontation if the North doesn't change course to talk of restarting negotiations with Pyongyang. And now, in a CBS interview that aired Sunday, comes a note of admiration.

Trump said that Kim, who assumed office in his 20s, has held power despite efforts by "a lot of people" to take it away. "So, obviously, he's a pretty smart cookie," Trump said. In comments to Bloomberg News about Kim, Trump said: "If it would be appropriate for me to meet with him, I would absolutely, I would be honored to do it." Many in South Korea did a double take. The Monday headline of a Segye Times article read: "Rugby ball Trump abruptly praises Kim Jong Un as a 'pretty smart cookie.'" South Korea's Yonhap news agency produced a story Tuesday that tried, in part, to explain the phrase "smart cookie."

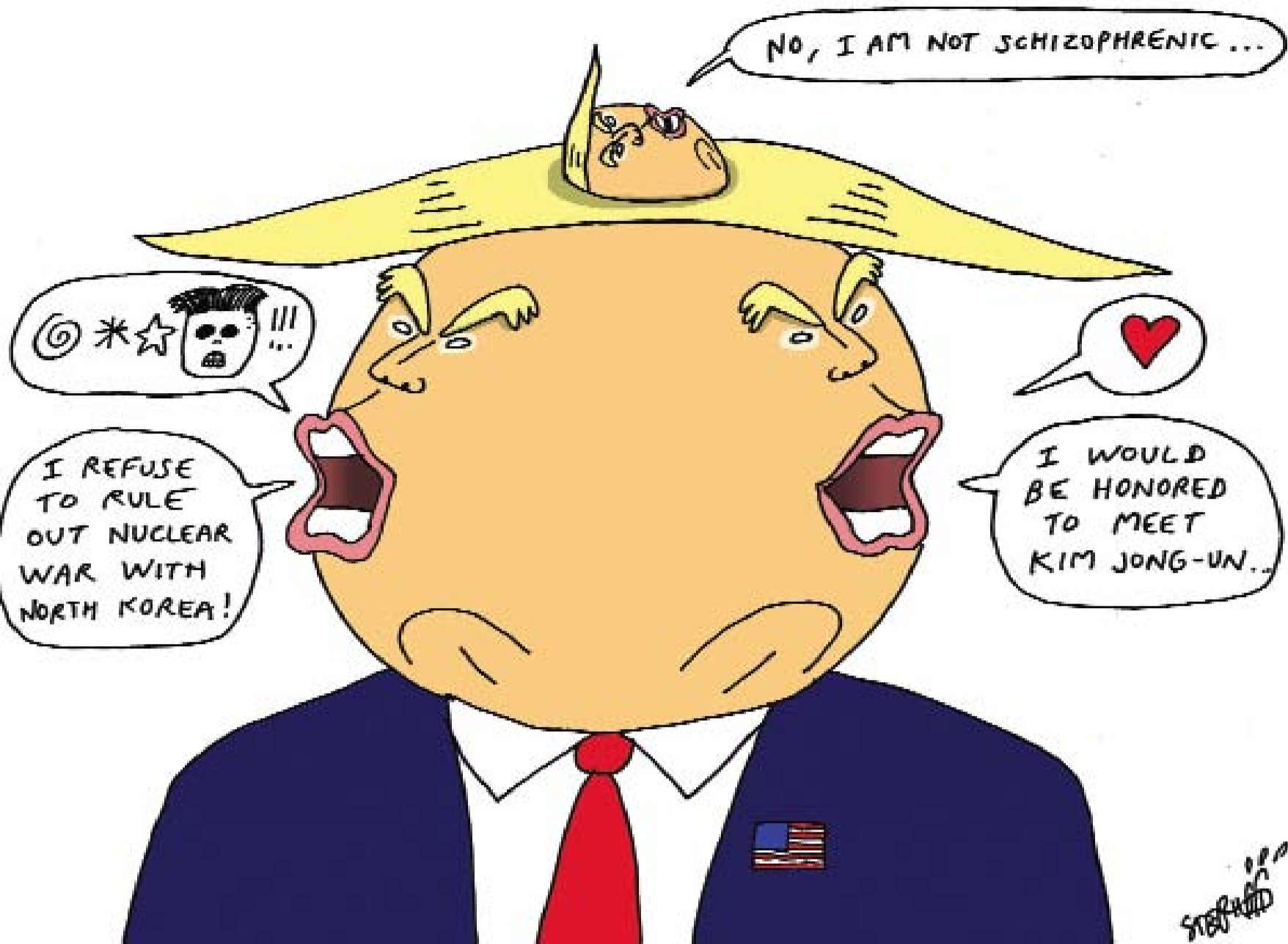
It's becoming almost a cottage industry here: Translating Trump's Tweets and pronouncements about the North Korea nuclear standoff. There isn't universal condemnation of the effect. Some in Seoul, even at high levels of government, have privately expressed optimism that, after decades of failing to stop North Korea's march to a nuclear arsenal, an unorthodox approach from the United States could be just what's needed.

Yonhap, in another story, questioned whether Trump's comments on Kim might be a strategy to justify future US moves to strengthen pressure against North Korea. But the concern in Seoul is less about the approach than about being cut out of the negotiations. It will be South Koreans, after all, who must live most directly with any settlement with North Korea; it is they who would suffer again, and die in their millions, in another war. North Korea hasn't responded to the "smart cookie" comments, but in a commentary in the state-run Minju Joson newspaper, it called Trump's previous language "bellicose hysteria."

"The Trump administration would be well advised to learn how humbly the preceding administrations were put in the awkward position of lowering the fist of pressure they had raised before" North Korea, the commentary said. Some analysts believe that North Korea already has shorter-range nuclear-armed missiles that can target South Korea, Japan and spots in the Pacific. But the North is probably years away from mastering the technology needed to build a missile that can reach the U.S. mainland and mount a miniaturized warhead on it.

The bigger point, as Bradley Martin, an author, journalist and longtime Asia commentator, wrote in an Asia Times piece on Monday that urged Americans not to panic over North Korea, is that it has its sights on Seoul, not Washington. "They believe they can beat the South Koreans - perhaps even without using their nuclear weapons - if only they can maneuver the US to stay out of that fight," Martin wrote. It's hard to think of something that would give more truth to Trump's "smart cookie" description than if Kim Jong Un is able, after all these years, to drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington. — AP

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NORTHERN LITE: BRITAIN'S EU CLUB SEEKS LIFE AFTER BREXIT

By Teis Jensen and Alastair Macdonald

For its neighbors and closest friends in Europe, Britain's impending departure from the EU has prompted a flurry of networking in the hope of defending free trade and lean budgets in Brussels. Britain has been the hub of an informal club known as the Northern Lights, that includes the EU's Nordic members, Irish and Dutch; it offered collective muscle in wrangling against more protectionist and dirigiste traditions in France and Germany or

eastern and southern states hungry for EU subsidies. Now, the constellation of smaller, wealthy states is working to prevent a post-Brexit EU from tilting against their interests. It is looking further afield for allies, such as the free-trading Baltic states and Czechs, or Austria, which is mounting hawkish opposition to paying more to Brussels to make up for the big hole Britain will leave in the EU subsidy budget. "The British voice in the debate will be missed, especially in areas such as trade," Danish Foreign Minister Anders Samuelsen told Reuters. "Therefore, Denmark is looking to

tighten our relations with our normal like-minded group of countries but at the same time reach out to other member states that we traditionally haven't coordinated with."

Samuelson has been on what he calls an "alliance" tour that has taken in Austria, the Czech Republic and Portugal, looking to bolster ties on various parts of Denmark's agenda. His boss, Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, took part in a summit with Irish premier Enda Kenny hosted by Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte in The Hague last week at which all three spoke of common interests. Those are both on Brexit, which will hit trade especially for Britain's near neighbors as well as raise issues like fishing rights, but also on wider EU affairs.

Keeping it informal

Kenny was keen to stress that the idea was not to formalize a union within the Union, in the way that the Benelux trio coordinates EU policy or the Visegrad four of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary: "We are not talking about the birth of a new subsidiary of the European Council," he said. The core group includes countries both in and outside the euro zone and current governments that are variously somewhat right or left of centre, though broadly committed by national tradition to free trade and keeping Brussels on a tight leash. Free trade, already under pressure since the election of the more protectionist-minded U.S. President Donald Trump and the rise of anti-globalisation forces in Europe, is a cause on which the likes of the Baltics and Czechs are very supportive. "It's very much based on the old British club, the Northern Lights, but without the UK," a senior Nordic government official said. "So we need to seek new partners." "The North and East feel now is not the moment to have protectionist tendencies. It is time to fight for free trade."

Opposition to EU efforts to sign more free trade pacts has stumbled. Nationalist and leftist movements in Germany, France and elsewhere oppose long-running talks with Washington. They nearly derailed a deal with Canada that was finally signed last year after 11th-hour drama in Belgium's French-speaking south. With 21 percent of the EU population and 26 percent of GDP, a British-led northern six was a major force.

The Netherlands, Ireland, Denmark, Finland and Sweden will account for less than 10 percent of people and 15 percent of the shrunken EU economy. Denmark's Samuelsen, however, has been encouraged by the responses he's had from potential new allies he has visited. "So far," he said, "I've been received very positively." — Reuters



GERMAN ECONOMY BOOMS AS PROTECTIONIST THREAT GOES POP

By Michael Nienaber

Self-confidence

When port manager Axel Mattern looks out onto the Elbe River from his office in Hamburg's historic warehouse district, he can literally count the rising number of container ships leaving Germany's biggest harbor. There is an export boom underway, the ships tell him. China, in particular, is "buzzing," Mattern says. The sharp increase in demand for "Made in Germany" goods from around the world is pushing Europe's largest economy into overdrive-and, not coincidentally, helping dispel worries about rising protectionism under US President Donald Trump.

Some German companies are even considering expanding into the United States, while others reckon the world is big enough for them to thrive even if American trade borders do get tricky. In the first two months of 2017, overall German exports rose 7 percent on the year to 201.2 billion euros (\$219.57 billion), driven by a broad-based uptick in demand for top quality German products such as cars and machines. The trade boost comes on top of Germany's vibrant domestic economy which is already supported by a robust labor market, a growing population and record-low borrowing costs, enabled by the European Central Bank's loose monetary policy.

Soaring private consumption, increased state spending on refugees and higher construction drove an expansion of 1.9 percent last year, the strongest rate in half a decade and the fastest among the Group of Seven industrialized countries. The economy is still doing well. But it is the jump in trade that most bodes well for 2017. A breakdown of trade data from the Federal Statistics Office compiled for Reuters shows exports to the United States-Germany's most important single export destination after the bloc of European Union countries-jumped 9 percent in the first two months of the year to 17.9 billion. Those to China leapt 14 percent to 12.6 billion euros.

The US increase comes despite some of the new president's "America First" campaigning. Trump's protectionist rhetoric and the dispute about the benefits of free trade are likely to rank high on the agenda of the Group of 20 summit to be held in Hamburg in July. Concerns among managers in Europe's economic powerhouse, however, have already eased. "We're very relaxed about this whole debate about Trump and protectionism," Mattern said. "If Mr Trump doesn't want to buy German goods anymore because he thinks he can produce everything at home, we'll just find other buyers." Corporate Germany's self-confidence is backed by data. A survey of some 43,000 consumers in 52 countries conducted by Dalia Research and Statista showed "Made in Germany" is viewed as the most appealing seal of quality in the world.

Senior German government officials also sound less alarmed about US policy after meetings with US counterparts in recent weeks-a notion echoed by ECB President Mario Draghi on Thursday. Chancellor Angela Merkel has even fuelled expectations of a future EU-US trade deal, saying she was "very encouraged" talks were being looked at after her recent trip to Washington. German business leaders such as Anton Boerner from the BGA trade association point out that Trump's protectionist threats, including broad-based introduction of punitive tariffs on imports through a border adjustment tax, have failed to translate into policy so far.

"There are no concrete measures and this means 'business as usual' for companies-at least for now," Boerner said. While uncertainty remains high and is limiting overall private sector investment, at least some companies seem to be viewing political risks as the new normal-and they are pushing ahead with investment. A survey by the Ifo institute shows German industrial companies plan to increase investment by 5 percent this year, up from 3 percent in 2016.

New sites

Among them are Mittelstand companies, the largely family-owned firms that form the backbone of German industry and make up roughly 98 percent of German export companies. "We plan to open at least one, probably two new production sites in the US," said Josef Minster, CEO of Schlemmer Group, an automotive supplier specializing in cable protection systems. The Bavarian-based firm wants to increase its market share in North America and benefit from an expected upturn in the automobile sector there. Schlemmer is also preparing a takeover of a small US firm which is not yet selling its high-quality niche products abroad. "Together with our expertise and global sales network, we expect to benefit quickly from scaling effects," Minster said, adding that the takeover would be one of the biggest in the history of the company, founded in 1954.

Schlemmer traditionally aims to produce near its customers' factories to keep the production chain short. Roller-coaster manufacturer Mack Rides, in contrast, builds every ride in the tiny southern town of Waldkirch in the Black Forest region before shipping them to amusement parks around the world. Mack Rides plans to invest in its German production site, located near its own theme park called Europa-Park close to the French border, to meet rising global demand.

"We're currently experiencing a sharp upturn in demand from Asia and the Emirates, but also from Europe and the United States," said CEO Christian von Elverfeldt. The 237-year-old family-run firm has an export rate of 95 percent, meaning rising protectionism and import tariffs surely would be bad for business, the manager admits. But Elverfeldt said customers value his company's quality and innovation-such as the recent development of a roller coaster ride with virtual reality glasses. "Even if the US should increase import tariffs, which hopefully will never happen, we'll be able to easily offset this decline in sales through the fast growing economies in Asia," he said. — Reuters

WORCESTERSHIRE SIGN AUSSIE SPINNER LYON

LONDON: Australia off-spinner Nathan Lyon has signed for Worcestershire for the duration of the Champions Trophy, the English county side confirmed yesterday. Lyon—who has taken 247 wickets in 67 Tests—replaces pace bowling compatriot John Hastings who will compete in the 50-over tournament from June 1-18. “Nathan has been mainly playing Test cricket for Australia and is available for Worcestershire as he has not been picked for the Champions Trophy, Australia having selected a couple of batting spinners instead,” said Director of cricket, Steve Rhodes. “He is the number one international spinner in Australia at the moment and just had recent success in India. “The good thing for Worcestershire supporters is we have replaced a top international with another top international cricketer. “He is a very good replacement. It is a different slant, from a pace bowler to a spin bowler.” — AFP



RAIDERS COMPLETE PURCHASE OF LAND FOR VEGAS STADIUM

LOS ANGELES: The Oakland Raiders have completed the purchase of 62 acres near the Las Vegas Strip where their new stadium will be built in time for the 2020 NFL season. Documents posted Monday at the Clark County Recorder's Office showed the sale price for the land west of the Mandalay Bay resort was \$77.5 million, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported. Clark County Commissioner Steve Sisolak announced that the NFL and the Raiders closed escrow on the proposed site for the \$1.9 billion domed stadium that will have a capacity of 65,000 seats. NFL owners voted in March to approve the relocation sought by Raiders owner Mark Davis. The team will play next season in Oakland with their home venue uncertain for 2018 and 2019. Nevada lawmakers last year approved a hotel tax to help raise \$750 million to the cost of stadium construction. The NFL and Raiders will contribute \$500 million to the project with a \$650 million loan from Bank of America to cover the remainder of the project. — AFP

RADRADRA TO CONTINUE HIS NRL CAREER AFTER CHARGES DROPPED

SYDNEY: Fiji-born Australia winger Semi Radradra is expected to finish the National Rugby League season with Parramatta before moving to France to fulfill a rugby union contract with Toulon after domestic violence charges against him were dropped. The charges were dropped at the prosecutor's request on Tuesday at Parramatta Local Court after cross examination of Radradra's former partner. Radradra was cut from Australia's national team, the Kangaroos, in April last year after the charges were laid and he faced the prospect of a significant ban from the NRL if he was convicted. He has remained with Parramatta in the meantime but had been barred from representative selection pending the legal proceedings. He signed a contract with French Top 14 powerhouse Toulon last year. “That's where his future lies but for the next few months he will be with Parramatta Eels and hopefully win a premiership on his way out,” Radradra's manager, George Christodoulou, said. “Semi loves rugby league and loves the Eels. But in the end he had to take care of business.” Christodoulou said the case had taken a toll on Radradra, adding that he was “relieved and grateful” the charges were dropped. — AP



KANSAS: Kansas City Royals' Lorenzo Cain hits the dirt to avoid an inside pitch during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox. — AP

HOSMER, BONIFACIO HIT ROYALS BACK INTO FORM

KANSAS CITY: Eric Hosmer and Jorge Bonifacio each hit a two-run homer to help the Kansas City Royals snap a nine-game losing streak with a 6-1 victory over the Chicago White Sox in Major League Baseball on Monday night. Bonifacio homered with two outs in the fourth inning after Alex Gordon's double. It was his second home run in eight games since being promoted from Triple-A Omaha. Hosmer's two-out shot in the seventh with Christian Colon aboard finished the night for White Sox rookie starter Dylan Covey (0-2). Salvador Perez's single in the fifth struck third base and scored Alcides Escobar and Mike Moustakas with two outs. Jason Vargas (4-1) allowed one run over six innings to pick up the win. Vargas has a 1.42 ERA in five starts.

GIANTS 4, DODGERS 3

Johnny Cueto outpitched Clayton Kershaw as San Francisco ended Los Angeles' four-game winning streak. The Giants entered with a National League-low 16 home runs but hit two against Kershaw - a two-run shot by Hunter Pence in the first inning and a solo drive by Buster Posey in the third. Pence began the night batting .100 in his career against Kershaw without a home run. Cueto (4-1) held the Dodgers to three runs and six hits in seven innings. Derek Law fanned Yasiel Puig to earn his first save. Kershaw (4-2) went six innings, allowing four runs - three earned - and eight hits. He struck out five and had an RBI single. Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner went 0 for 4, ending the longest hitting streak in the majors at 16 games. He lined out twice.

ASTROS 6, RANGERS 2

Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa and Yuli Gurriel each hit RBI doubles in a five-run seventh inning that lifted the Houston Astros over the Texas Rangers in a game that included a benches-clearing tussle. Chris Devenski (2-1) struck out two in 1 2/3 scoreless innings for the win. Ken Giles pitched a scoreless ninth for his seventh save. Andrew Cashner (0-3) had already plunked both Altuve and Gurriel when Lance McCullers Jr. threw behind Mike Napoli with two outs in the sixth. He took a couple of steps toward McCullers while yelling at him and McCullers did the same. Astros catcher Brian McCann quickly got in Napoli's face and, after a few seconds, players from both benches began spilling onto the

field. Players from both teams did some pushing and shoving, and Springer held back McCullers as he continued to bark at Napoli. Order was restored after a couple of minutes and both teams received warnings, but no one was ejected before play resumed and McCullers struck out Napoli.

ORIOLES 5, RED SOX 2

Manny Machado slugged a long homer out of Fenway Park, drove in two runs and made three solid plays at third base in his first game against Boston since a dustup with the Red Sox just over a week ago, carrying the Baltimore Orioles to victory. In the teams' last meeting at Camden Yards, reliever Matt Barnes sent a pitch that whizzed behind Machado's head and hit the slugger's bat. Barnes was suspended four games and fined. Machado had irked the Red Sox with a late slide into second baseman Dustin Pedroia's left leg two days earlier. Dylan Bundy (4-1) took a shutout into the eighth inning, and Brad Brach got three outs for his fifth save. Reigning AL Cy Young winner Rick Porcello (1-4) dropped his fourth consecutive start to match his total losses last season.

PHILLIES 10, CUBS 2

Tommy Joseph hit an early three-run homer, Aaron Altherr had three RBIs and Philadelphia routed Chicago. Michael Saunders and Freddy Galvis also homered in support of starter Vince Velasquez (22) to help the Phillies stop a three-game losing streak. The Cubs opened a seven-game homestand with their fourth loss in five games. After rain delayed the start for 85 minutes, Philadelphia jumped on Brett Anderson (2-1) for seven runs and seven hits in 1 1/3 innings. Javier Baez homered for the Cubs.

METS 7, BRAVES 5

Michael Conforto homered and drove in three runs, and the New York Mets scored five times in the fourth inning off Julio Teheran before holding out to beat the Atlanta Braves. On the day the Mets placed ace Noah Syndergaard on the 10-day DL with a partial tear of his right lat muscle, Robert Gsellman (1-2) almost blew an early 6-1 lead. Gsellman allowed five runs in five-plus innings. Five Mets relievers combined for four scoreless innings. Jeury's Familia pitched the ninth for his second save. Conforto led off the game

with his seventh homer and added a two-run single in New York's five-run fourth off Teheran (2-2). With New York's lead down to 6-5, Jose Reyes added a homer off Ian Krol in the eighth. Atlanta's Ender Inciarte hit his fifth homer to lead off the first.

TIGERS 7, INDIANS 1

Tyler Collins hit a three-run homer and Daniel Norris gave up one run in six innings to help Detroit beat Cleveland. Nicholas Castellanos and Victor Martinez hit RBI doubles on consecutive pitches in the first. Collins went deep in the second for a 5-0 lead, and Alex Avila added a two-run single in the fifth. Norris (2-2) allowed five hits, including Edwin Encarnacion's RBI single, and struck out a season-high eight. Trevor Bauer (2-3) gave up seven runs on seven hits and five walks in four-plus innings.

BLUE JAYS 7, YANKEES 1

Ryan Goins hit a two-run sacrifice fly, the first in Toronto's 40-year history, to go along with a two-run homer that led Marco Estrada and the Blue Jays over New York for their season-high third straight win. The crowd of 25,566 was the smallest for a Yankees home game since Sept. 20, 2004, against Toronto in a game moved to accommodate a makeup date. The current Yankee Stadium opened in 2009. Jose Bautista hit a two-run homer for his 34th career shot off the Yankees, moving past Evan Longoria for most among active players. Chris Coghlan also homered for Toronto. Still missing injured stars Josh Donaldson and Troy Tulowitzki, the Blue Jays kept up their success against the Yankees, beating them for the 11th time in the last 16 meetings and outscoring them 82-44 in that span. Estrada (1-1) pitched seven fine innings. He gave up one run on seven hits without a walk. Luis Severino (2-2) was hit hard and left in the sixth.

RAYS 4, MARLINS 2

Jake Odorizzi returned from the disabled list to combine with four relievers on a four-hitter in Tampa Bay's victory over Miami. Odorizzi made his first start since April 15 and allowed two hits and two runs, one earned, in five innings. He was activated before the game after recovering from a strained left hamstring. Danny Farquhar (1-1) pitched a perfect sixth. Chris Whitley retired Christian Yelich with two on to end the eighth, and Alex

Colome earned his sixth save with a 1-2-3 ninth. The Rays' Corey Dickerson made a leaping grab before crashing into the left-field wall to rob Adeiny Hechavarria of an extra-base hit in the fifth, and a sliding catch of Giancarlo Stanton's sinking liner leading off the ninth. Tim Beckham had a two-run double for the Rays, who improved to 4-10 on the road. They totaled only five hits, but Marlins pitchers issued eight walks. Marcell Ozuna homered for the Marlins, who lost for the fifth time in six games. The score was 3-all when Derek Norris started the seventh with a double off Brad Ziegler (1-1) and later came home from third when Kevin Kiermaier broke up a potential inning-ending double play by sliding hard into second base.

BREWERS 7, CARDINALS 5

Travis Shaw and Jonathan Villar each hit a tape-measure home run to help Milwaukee beat St. Louis in 10 innings. Shaw's three-run shot off the Cardinals' South Korean reliever Seung Hwan Oh (0-2) traveled an estimated 451 feet and broke a 4-all tie with two outs in

the top of the 10th. Villar's two-run drive in the third soared 450 feet and gave the Brewers a 2-0 lead. Jedd Gyorko hit two late homers for the Cardinals and finished with four hits. Aledmys Diaz and Matt Carpenter connected back-to-back in the fifth. Oliver Drake (1-0) pitched a scoreless ninth and Neftali Feliz earned his seventh save.

REDS 4, PIRATES 3

Billy Hamilton hit an RBI double in the 10th inning to lift Cincinnati over Pittsburgh. Tucker Barnhart walked with one out in the 10th. Arismendy Alcantara pinch-ran for him and went to second on Daniel Hudson's (0-1) errant pickoff attempt.

After a groundout, Hamilton lined a double to right, giving the Reds consecutive wins for the first time since completing a four-game winning streak on April 12. Michael Lorenzen (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. Adam Duval had a three-run home run for the Reds. Josh Harrison homered twice and Andrew McCutchen also went deep for Pittsburgh. — AP

MLB results/standings

San Francisco 4, LA Dodgers 3; Kansas City 6, Chicago White Sox 1; Milwaukee 7, St. Louis 5 (10 innings); Houston 6, Texas 2; Philadelphia 10, Chicago Cubs 2; NY Mets 7, Atlanta 5; Baltimore 5, Boston 2; Detroit 7, Cleveland 1; Cincinnati 4, Pittsburgh 3 (10 innings); Tampa Bay 4, Miami 2; Toronto 7, NY Yankees 1.

American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Baltimore	16	8	.667	-	Washington	17	8	.680	-
NY Yankees	15	9	.625	1	Philadelphia	12	12	.500	4.5
Boston	13	12	.520	3.5	Miami	11	13	.458	5.5
Tampa Bay	13	14	.481	4.5	NY Mets	11	14	.440	6
Toronto	9	17	.346	8	Atlanta	10	14	.417	6.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	14	11	.560	-	Chicago Cubs	13	12	.520	-
Chicago White Sox	13	11	.542	0.5	Milwaukee	14	13	.519	-
Minnesota	12	11	.522	1	Cincinnati	12	13	.480	1
Detroit	13	12	.520	1	St. Louis	12	13	.480	1
Kansas City	8	16	.333	5.5	Pittsburgh	11	14	.440	2
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	17	9	.654	-	Colorado	16	10	.615	-
LA Angels	14	13	.519	3.5	Arizona	16	11	.593	0.5
Oakland	11	14	.440	5.5	LA Dodgers	14	13	.519	2.5
Seattle	11	15	.423	6	San Diego	11	16	.407	5.5
Texas	11	15	.423	6	San Francisco	10	17	.370	6.5

AUSSIE YOUNG GUN SMITH HAS MAJOR PROMISE: COACH

MELBOURNE: Cameron Smith underlined his enormous promise with his breakthrough win at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans team event and the Australian tyro has the all-round game for major success, according to his long-time coach Grant Field. The 23-year-old's triumph in a playoff with Swedish partner Jonas Blixt at TPC Louisiana on Monday put him in esteemed company in his native Australia. Only Jason Day and Adam Scott have claimed a US Tour event at a younger age among Smith's compatriots.

Both Day and Scott have gone on to win majors and claim the world number one ranking since their breakthroughs in America and a number of pundits feel Brisbane-born Smith could be cut from the same cloth. Although reluctant to put too much pressure on his charge, Field, who has worked with Smith since he was 11 years old, feels the high expectations are justified. "I don't think he has a real weakness," the Gold Coast-based coach told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday. "There's nothing in his game that really lets him down. "Especially, he has an amazing short game which was evident over the last few days as well. "When things get tough (at the majors) you need to rely on that and it's a huge skill for him to have. "It's also his attitude and belief in his abilities is second to none. All those combined, who knows what that will entail in the future." The finish at TPC Louisiana was delayed due to a long thunderstorm, leaving Smith and Blixt to battle the American duo of Kevin Kisner and Scott Brown in a long, tense playoff on Monday.

OVERWHELMED

On the fourth extra hole, Smith stuck his approach to inside three feet at the par-five 18th and calmly tapped in. Having kept a check on his emotions during the tense final holes, an overwhelmed Smith was speechless during a TV interview by the green, eventually mumbling: "I can't even talk, I'm sorry." Had he missed the putt, it



Cameron Smith

CLIPPERS FACING BIG CHANGES

LOS ANGELES: Together for six years now, Chris Paul and Blake Griffin have yet to make it past the second round of the playoffs. In fact, the Los Angeles Clippers haven't even advanced past the first round two years running. And that's not the worst of it.

The Clippers are the first team in NBA history to blow a series lead in five consecutive playoff appearances. "Once again, we're done," a dejected Paul said. "Too many times." Their latest failure came Sunday, a 104-91 loss in Game 7 at home against the Utah Jazz. After six closely contested games decided by an average of 5.1 points, the Clippers turned in a flat effort with their season - and perhaps future - at stake.

They fought all season to earn home-court advantage only to lose three of four to the Jazz at Staples Center. Their 2-1 series lead vanished along with Griffin, who went down with a season-ending toe injury in Game 3. He wasn't around to watch the team's demise, having traveled to consult with a doctor about possible surgery.

Whether Griffin's around next season is one of the big questions facing the franchise. Griffin and Chris Paul can opt out of their contracts this summer. JJ Redick - who made one basket in Game 7 - becomes a free agent. Ultimately, they hold the future of the franchise in their hands. For his part, third-year owner Steve Ballmer would have to shell out upward of \$200 million, including the luxury tax, to keep the trio together. "We've been reading about our obituary for about three months now," coach Doc Rivers said. "I'm sure everyone will have their own suggestions."

The Clippers began the season as the league's best team at 14-2. They ended the regular season as the hottest team with a seven-game winning streak. Then they blew a 2-1 lead against the Jazz, leaving their fans wondering if the Lob City era is over. Here are some things to know about the Clippers heading into the offseason:

would have hardly mattered for him, suggested Field, describing a player who never gets too down on himself and tends to leave the game on the course when he steps off it.

Smith is also unlikely to be too fazed by any extra attention as he makes his way through the rest of the season. "It doesn't bother him too much. His nature is to go about his business," said Field. "He doesn't go for the limelight. He doesn't sort of go chasing stardom as such. Anything that comes his way, he will have earned. "Over time we will see what happens. At the moment we've just got to enjoy where he's at."

Smith turned professional in 2013 and it wasn't long before he made a splash, grabbing a top 10 finish in his first US Tour event at the co-sanctioned CIMB Classic in Kuala Lumpur in 2014. He raised eyebrows with his finish at the 2015 US Open, smashing a three-wood from the fairway of the par-five 18th at Chamber Bay to within inches of the hole. The tap-in eagle put him into a tie for fourth and gave him his first taste of the US Masters last year, where he made the cut but struggled on the weekend.

Smith has not qualified for next month's US Open but Monday's win secured him a spot in next week's prestigious Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Florida, a short drive from the Australian's home base at Jacksonville Beach. Another big stage looms with his debut British Open at Royal Birkdale in July, which was sealed by a joint runnerup finish behind fellow 23-year-old Jordan Spieth at the Australian Open in November.

Having honed his game on some rustic Queensland golf courses when growing up, Smith should have no major bother with the vagaries of links golf, Field said. "They're not the most manicured and perfect golf courses (here)... You've got to learn to deal with different situations and create different shots. "He's learnt a lot of that in Queensland and playing in the wind (here) will serve him well." — AP



PITTSBURGH: Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby (87) lies on the ice after taking a hit from Washington Capitals' Matt Niskanen during the first period of Game 3 in an NHL Stanley Cup Eastern Conference semifinal hockey game against the Washington Capitals. — AP

SHATTENKIRK NETS OT WINNER FOR CAPITALS AS CROSBY EXITS

PITTSBURGH: A shot from the point by Washington's Kevin Shattenkirk salvaged - or at the very least, extended - his team's NHL season. A far different kind of shot may end up determining the outcome of a playoff series growing more contentious by the shift.

Shattenkirk's goal 3:13 into overtime lifted the Capitals to a 3-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins to cut Pittsburgh's lead to 2-1 in the Eastern Conference semifinal, one that could go on without Penguins star Sidney Crosby. The Pittsburgh captain left just over 5 minutes into the game after getting cross-checked to the head by Washington's Matt Niskanen. The NHL's leading scorer and one of the game's best players did not return and his status for Wednesday's Game 4 - and maybe the rest of the postseason - is uncertain.

"Certainly didn't mean to injure him," said Niskanen, who spent four years with Crosby in Pittsburgh before signing with Washington in 2014. "It's an unfortunate play that happened really quick." Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said Crosby will be evaluated today. Even without Crosby, Pittsburgh pushed Washington to the limit. With Washington leading 2-0 and less than 2 minutes left in regulation time, Evgeni Malkin and Justin Schultz scored in a 48-second span to force overtime.

For once Washington, whose history is littered with playoff collapses, dominated the extra period before Shattenkirk's flip zipped by

Marc-Andre Fleury's blocker to send his teammates pouring over the boards in celebration. "Tonight was a great test for all of us," said Shattenkirk, who played miserably during a blowout loss in Game 2. "There were a lot of different moments in the game where we had to see what we were made of."

FRIGHTENING MOMENT

One frightening moment, however, will resonate above all others. The game was scoreless early in the first period when Crosby skated just outside the Capitals' crease. Washington's Alex Ovechkin slashed Crosby along the upper body and Crosby slid awkwardly trying to maintain his balance when he collided with Niskanen, who had his stick raised. The stick caught Crosby flush across the mouth and the two-time Hart Trophy winner laid on the ice in pain for several moments before slowly skating off under his own power as Pittsburgh trainers searched the area for Crosby's teeth.

Niskanen earned a major penalty for cross-checking and was given a game misconduct. Washington coach Barry Trotz called it "a hockey play." Niskanen allowed it looked "really bad" when he caught the replay, but stressed there was no malicious intent. His former teammates weren't buying it. "It's one of those things you look at it once, you see what actually happened and the

next thing is watching how deliberate it was when the guy cross-checks him in the face," Pittsburgh forward Chris Kunitz said. "I thought all of that was kind of out of this league, but I guess not."

This wasn't the first time Crosby took an ugly shot to the head from a Capital. Crosby was in the middle of an MVP run on Jan. 1, 2011, when he took an elbow to the head from Washington's David Steckel during the Winter Classic, leading to a concussion that cost Crosby the better part of two years in his prime as he struggled to recover. Their captain gone for the rest of the game and perhaps longer, the Penguins appeared momentarily dazed as they tried to regroup.

Washington took a 2-0 lead early in the third period behind goals by Nicklas Backstrom and Evgeny Kuznetsov, rare moments of flow during a static and occasionally ugly three periods that tried to make up in physicality what it lacked in pace of the frenetic opening two games in Washington. Braden Holtby, yanked after a sloppy second period in Game 2, remained steady during Pittsburgh's second-period surge and the Capitals appeared to be in control when the Penguins pulled Fleury with 3 minutes to go. Then Malkin scored with 1:53 remaining and Schultz tied it 48 seconds later when his blast from the point deflected off Capitals forward T.J. Oshie. No matter. Washington dominated the extra period before Shattenkirk delivered his first goal of the playoffs.

BENGALS' JEREMY HILL READY FOR COMPETITION FROM JOE MIXON

CINCINNATI: Minutes before the Bengals raised some eyebrows by taking running back Joe Mixon in the second round of the draft, Jeremy Hill tweeted a link to a television interview about the possibility of getting company in the backfield this year. "Bring 'em all on," Hill says in the interview. "They want to draft a back high, go ahead and do it. They're probably going to be my backup."

The Bengals did it, taking Mixon with the 48th overall pick. And now Hill is placed in the position of welcoming the newcomer, backing up his own words and keeping his job. "Last year wasn't what we wanted, so starting upstairs we made a statement, bringing guys in to compete every day," Hill said Monday after one of the team's offseason workouts. "We need to get back to that playoff standard because that's the talent we have in our locker room."

The offense slipped significantly last season, unable to do anything consistently. The offensive line's struggles contributed to the overall problems, and Cincinnati's top lineman - left tackle Andrew Whitworth and right guard Kevin Zeitler - left as free agents after the season. The Bengals took Hill in the second round in 2014 - the 55th overall pick - hoping they'd found a power runner. He failed to reach 1,000 yards in each of his last two seasons, averaging 3.6 and 3.8 yards per carry. Backup Giovanni Bernard tore an ACL midway through last season, and receiver AJ Green suffered a significant hamstring injury.



CINCINNATI: Cincinnati Bengals second-round draft pick Joe Mixon speaks during a news conference at Paul Brown Stadium. — AP

SPEEDY RECEIVER

The Bengals (6-9-1) drafted speedy receiver John Ross in the first round and Mixon in the second, even though the running back had been suspended one season at Oklahoma for punching a woman in the face. The offense will have a very different look this time around. "I'm so excited about the pieces they've brought in, especially on the offensive side of the ball," Hill said. "I think they're going to be very beneficial to us."

They might even cost some Bengals their jobs. Mixon is expected to push Hill and Bernard for playing time right from the outset. The No 3 back last season was Rex Burkhead, who left for New England as a free agent. Burkhead carried only six times in the first 10 games, before Bernard's injury created a role for him.

Mixon is expected to have a much more expansive role from the start, assuming he picks up the offense quickly. Coach Marvin Lewis said a lot of the draft picks will be competing for roles right away. "It is a lot of competition, and hopefully it opens some eyes," Lewis said. "It's good, because no place should be guaranteed."

After the Bengals drafted Mixon, Hill reached out by phone to welcome him. Besides both being drafted in the second round, both came with questions about their character before the draft. Hill had pleaded guilty to misdemeanor battery for punching a man outside a bar. He wrote every NFL team a note about himself leading up to the 2014 draft, and the Bengals decided to take a chance on him. Hill can relate to the backlash that Mixon faces as he starts his career. A local television station posted an editorial on Saturday saying it was "disgraceful" that the Bengals drafted Mixon. "I've had my share of dealing with that my whole career," Hill said. "It's really easy to block out. It's all about distractions and all that stuff. People want to create rivalries and all these things, but at the end of the day when you're out there playing, you don't hear any of that stuff." — AP

THUNDER GM SEES A BRIGHT FUTURE WITH YOUNG TALENT

OKLAHOMA CITY: Thunder general manager Sam Presti finds wannabe executives amusing. One of the most common questions he gets involves how the Thunder plan to address depth at point guard behind Russell Westbrook. The Thunder struggled at times, especially in the playoffs, when their MVP candidate went to the bench.

"A lot of people have mentioned that to me, in the grocery store and other places," he said Monday, drawing laughter from the media. "That's the great thing about working in Oklahoma City." Presti said the backup point guard position will be looked at in the offseason, but he also warned against making too much of specific issues following the 4-1 loss to Houston in the first round of the playoffs.

"I don't want to place so much weight on five games in the post-season that were decided by the free-throw line and the rebounding margin,"

he said. "We found a way to get ourselves to 47 wins throughout the regular season." Presti said he is proud of how the Thunder performed this season after losing Kevin Durant to free agency. He noted that many teams fall much further after losing a player of Durant's caliber. Westbrook set the NBA record for triple-doubles in a season, averaged a triple-double and kept fans energized throughout the season.

IMPROVING FROM WITHIN

Still, the Thunder didn't reach their usual level. A first-round exit was tough to take for a franchise that reached the Western Conference finals four of the previous five years. "We still want to be playing basketball right now," Presti said. "So we weren't able to advance this year, and we understand that. But we also understand that we accomplished quite a bit with respect to the

things that we felt were really important to the season." Presti said he's open to making moves in the offseason to add to the roster, yet he feels that with one of the youngest teams in the league, the Thunder will likely improve significantly from within. A key will be trying to get Westbrook to sign an extension in the offseason. He signed a new deal last summer, but he has a player option for 2018-19. The new collective bargaining agreement allows for a team to extend a player five years if there is a year remaining on his current deal. Westbrook said last week that he hasn't thought about it yet. Presti hopes to avoid another Durant situation.

Andre Roberson is a restricted free agent. He has offensive limitations, but should draw attention as one of the best defensive wing players in the league. Presti said the sides had productive conversations in the fall. — AP

BANGLADESH BAN BOWLER FOR CONCEDED 92 OFF FOUR BALLS

DHAKA: Bangladesh yesterday imposed a 10-year ban on a bowler who deliberately lost a match by conceding 92 runs off just four legal deliveries in protest at umpiring decisions. Sujon Mahmud from Lalmatia Club was found guilty by the Bangladesh Cricket Board of bringing the game into disrepute. Lalmatia Club were barred indefinitely from competition, with their

coach, captain and manager punished with five-year bans from the Dhaka Second Division League.

In a 50-over match last month, Lalmatia Club were dismissed for just 88 off 14 overs before opponents Axiom Cricketers reached 92-0 off four legal balls. Sujon bowled 13 wides and three no-balls in the first over, all of which reached the bound-

ary and cost his side 80 runs. Batsmen can score off such illegal deliveries but they do not count as part of a bowler's regular six-ball over. Axiom opener Mustafizur Rahman smashed three fours off Sujon's four legitimate balls to take his side home in just 0.4 overs in Dhaka. The cricket board also imposed a ten-year ban on another bowler, Tasnim Hasan, and blacklisted his

club Fear Fighters after they threw a separate match in similar fashion.

"We have found in our investigations that the bowlers bowled wides and no-balls deliberately to damage the image of our cricket," the board's disciplinary committee chief Sheikh Sohel told a press briefing. "In neither case would a win or loss have mattered for the promotion or relega-

tion of their respective clubs." Lalmatia Club secretary Adnan Rahman had admitted Sujon bowled the wides and no-balls as a protest against poor umpiring. The secretary alleged the umpires did not even allow his team captain to see the coin after the toss. The BCB also suspended for six months the umpires overseeing both the discredited matches. — AFP

NIKE'S AFRICAN TRIO TARGET SUB-TWO HOUR MARATHON

LONDON: This weekend, aided by a host of technological and environmental advances, three carefully-selected elite African athletes will attempt to run the first sub-two hour marathon. The 'Breaking2' project is the latest enterprise of American sportswear giant Nike and has split opinion in the world of athletics, not to mention physiology.

In one camp are the 'purists', who claim that the host of benefits being bestowed on the runners, including revolutionary shoes, a pack of interchangeable pacemakers and a non-traditional course, mean the attempt is a marketing gimmick. In some ways this is possibly the worst time to start shouting about fast marathon times with Kenya's Rio Olympic and London marathon champion Kemmerling's recent positive doping test landing a body blow to the event. Nike, and others, however, insist projects like 'Breaking 2' show that a combination of talent, training and technology can produce astounding results without the need for chemical assistance. Many people are intrigued to see just how much difference such a collection of 'marginal gains' can make and suggest that, at a time when athletics is reeling from relentless bad news, such a quantum leap in human endurance, arguably the greatest in the sport's history, is something to be welcomed and celebrated. Below we look at the key aspects of the project.

THE CURRENT RECORD

Kenyan Dennis Kimetto set the current record of two hours, two minutes, 57 seconds in Berlin in 2014, which is about four minutes faster than it was in 1988. Kimetto's time works out to 4:41.5 minutes per mile; a sub-two would require less than 4:35 per mile - an improvement of about seven seconds per mile, or around 2.5 percent. On the face of it, that appears an impossible leap.

In 2014 the respected Runners World magazine published a data-driven analysis of more than 10,000 top marathon performances over 50 years that predicted a sub-two under normal race conditions would not happen until 2075. The key to this attempt is that Nike are trying to ensure all the other variables make such an impact that, in theory, the athletes will produce effort levels that equate to a 2.03 time beat, boosted by all the extra help, will actually produce sub-2.

WHO IS RUNNING?

After extensive physiological research, Nike put together a team of three. Eliud Kipchoge. The 32-year-old Kenyan is the stand-out performer. Last year's Olympic marathon gold medalist and former 5,000 meters world champion has won seven of his eight marathons. His best of 2:03:05 is the third-fastest in history. Zersenay Tadese, the Eritrean is the half-marathon world record holder with 58:23 minutes and, although he has nothing much in his locker over the full distance, Nike's scientists identified him as having the potential to go much faster.

LELISA DESISA

The 26-year-old Ethiopian has a marathon best of 2:04.45 and is another athlete whose numbers in the area of VO2 max, which measures the maximum rate of oxygen consumption, lactate profile, which provides an indicator of fatigue during exercise, and running economy were second to none.

THE SHOES

The 200 gram Zoom Vaporfly Elite are central to the whole project. Nike says the combination of a new foam and curved carbon insert, which also helps change the angle of the foot, means runners require four percent less energy to go at the same speed in comparison with their previous best shoe.

The shoes have been further custom-fitted for the three athletes - which should help prevent a repeat of the blisters that scarpered Ethiopian Kenenisa Bekele's London Marathon bid in similar Vaporfly 4% shoes. A recent meeting of the IAAF technical committee ruled the shoes and their technology to be within their, admittedly vague, rules - though the Elite version will not be available for the public to buy.

THE KIT

Nike is also kitting their intrepid trio out in new socks, shorts and singlet, all of which are claimed to offer an advantage in terms of aerodynamics and/or ventilation and support. Again, many scoff at the idea but they also did that nearly 50 years ago when Briton Ron Hill broke the marathon record aided by a self-designed 'cooling' string vest.

THE COURSE

The sub-2 attempt will be run on about 17 laps of a 1.5 mile (2.4km) loop that forms part of the Monza F1 track in northern Italy. After extensive research it was selected due to a combination of environmental factors, including average temperature, air pressure and wind levels. The surface, with no kerbs or cambers, was also considered optimal.

The course satisfies the rules on elevation that, for example, rule out records set on the overall downhill route of the Boston Marathon. One area where the Monza track could give a tangible advantage is that the athletes will run exactly the marathon distance.

Even on the fastest road courses, the fact that the 'blue line' has to follow curves and is marked a minimum distance from the kerb means that runners often actually cover many more meters than the 26 miles, 385 yards that has been the standard since the 1908 Olympics.

PACEMAKERS/DRAFTING

This is another area where quantifiable benefits can be seen and is the one that seems to have turned many people against the attempt. The three runners will be sheltered throughout the attempt by a group of pacemakers, who will dip in and out at various times to ensure they maintain the demanded pace. — Reuters



BRIDGETOWN: Misbah ul Haq (R) of Pakistan about to hit the ball during the 3rd day of the 2nd Test match between West Indies and Pakistan at Kensington Oval. — AP

WINDIES CLAIM LATE WICKETS AS PAKISTAN CLOSE ON 172-3

BRIDGETOWN: West Indies hit back with three wickets in the final hour after a 155-run opening stand as Pakistan reached stumps at 172 for three in reply to the home side's first innings total of 312 on the second day of the second Test at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Monday. Azhar Ali held firm at one end for an unbeaten 81 in a five-hour vigil after opening partner Ahmed Shehzad rode outrageous moments of luck to contribute 70 in the first-wicket partnership. He resumes on the third morning alongside captain Misbah ul Haq.

Leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo eventually broke through for the home side by having Shehzad caught at slip before adding the prized scalp of Younis Khan for a "duck" when the veteran pulled a long-hop to Shannon Gabriel at mid-wicket. In between those dismissals, Gabriel removed Babar Azam, also without scoring, to a catch off his own bowling. It was no more than the burly fast bowler deserved although his earlier misfortune was compounded by chronic no-ball problems.

Dropped at mid-on by Vishaul Singh just as Pakistan started their reply in the morning session, Shehzad was then ruled LBW off Gabriel when on 21 in the post-lunch period only for the decision to be overturned after television replays determined the delivery to be a no-ball. Lightning then struck twice for the same man after he was stranded down the pitch and stumped to the bowling of off-spinner Roston Chase on 32, the batsman almost reaching the pavilion when he was summoned by the umpires to return to the crease as the replays again showed the bowler to have transgressed the front crease.

"There was variable bounce out there so it was really difficult to get going, but I have to admit that I had more than my fair share of luck," said Shehzad. "I can't give enough credit to Azhar for the way he has played and if he can continue on the third day and help give us a lead, then we have a good chance to win this match and the series."

SELBY JOINS ELITE IN RETAINING WORLD TITLE

SHEFFIELD: England's Mark Selby successfully defended his world snooker championship on Monday, beating four-time champion John Higgins 18 frames to 15 in a thrilling contest. The 33-year-old Englishman had trailed 10-4 at one stage but just as he did against Ronnie O'Sullivan in 2014 he fought back to win, becoming only the fourth player in the past 40 years to retain the title. It was also the third world title in the last four editions for the player fondly known as "The Jester from Leicester".

"I can't believe it, I am still pinching myself now," Selby told the BBC. "From 10-4 to get to 10-7 yesterday, I was over the moon as I had nothing left. He outplayed me yesterday. Today I came back fresh and was a lot better. "When I was 10-4 down I was missing everything. I said 'pull something together'. If you lose, you want to at least go down fighting. "To have three world titles is unbelievable and to be one of only four players to defend it is something I could only dream of."

Selby showed character and grit in the final session when leading 16-14 and ahead in the frame he was judged to have fouled when trying to pull off a snooker behind the black. Selby contested the foul but after a brief moment of doubt the match official stuck to his original decision and Higgins went on to win it to close the gap to 16-15. Selby shrugged off what could have been a setback at a pivotal moment in the match to rattle in a break of 131 in the next frame. "I

SCOREBOARD		
BRIDGETOWN, Barbados: Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between the West Indies and Pakistan at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Monday		
West Indies 1st Innings (overnight 286 for 6) K. Brathwaite c wkpr Ahmed b Amir 9 K. Powell lbw Amir 38 S. Hetmyer c Ali b Abbas 1 S. Hope c wkpr Ahmed b Shah 5 R. Chase c Younis Khan b Amir 131 V. Singh c Younis Khan b Abbas 3 S. Dowrich c Younis Khan b Shadab Khan 29 J. Holder c wkpr Ahmed b Abbas 58 D. Bishoo c Shah b Abbas 14 A. Joseph b Shah 8 S. Gabriel not out 0 Extras (b-4, lb-10, w-2) 16 Total (all out, 98.5 overs) 312 Fall of wickets: 1-12 (Brathwaite), 2-13 (Hetmyer), 3-37 (Hope), 4-102 (Powell), 5-107 (Singh), 6-154 (Dowrich), 7-286 (Holder), 8-286 (Chase), 9-312 (Bishoo), 10-312 (Joseph)		Bowling: M. Amir 26-5-65-3, M. Abbas 23-6-56-4 (2w), Y. Shah 25.5-2-83-2, S. Khan 23-3-90-1, A. Ali 1-0-4-0
Pakistan 1st Innings A. Ali not out 81 A. Shehzad c Hope b Bishoo 70 B. Azam c and b Gabriel 0 Y. Khan c Gabriel b Bishoo 0 Misbah ul Haq not out 7 Extras (b-2, lb-3, nb-9) 14 Total (3 wks, 69 overs) 172 Fall of wickets: 1-155 (Shehzad), 2-156 (Azam), 3-161 (Younis) To bat: A. Shafiq, S. Ahmed, M. Amir, S. Khan, Y. Shah, M. Abbas Bowling: S. Gabriel 16-3-45-1 (8nb), A. Joseph 11-3-24-0, R. Chase 11-1-37-0 (1nb), J. Holder 10-6-8-0, D. Bishoo 21-8-53-2.		

LUCKY MOMENTS

Those lucky moments consolidated what had been Pakistan's day until the final hour after they wrapped up the West Indies first innings within an hour of the start. Mohammad Abbas led the visiting bowlers' effort with two more wickets to finish with four for 56, the best figures by a Pakistan fast bowler in Test innings at the venue, bettering Wasim Akram's four for 73 in 1988, as the home team lost their last four wickets for the addition of 26 more runs.

West Indies' hopes of pushing towards a total closer to the 400-run mark were dashed within the first nine deliveries of the morning as their first-day heroes, Chase and Jason Holder, were dismissed without any addition to the overnight total of 286 for six.

Holder was the first to go, his late decision to pull away from an Abbas delivery resulting in an inside-edge to wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed. Mohammad Amir then removed Chase, whose 131 was the first Test century by a Barbadian on home soil for 18 years. Drawn forward by a full-length delivery, his indeterminate prod resulted in a thick outside edge for Younis Khan to snare his third catch of the innings at second slip.

Bishoo played in his usual pugnacious manner but Abbas' request of his captain for another over reaped immediate rewards when Bishoo lifted an on-drive to Yasir Shah at mid-on. Shah then wrapped up the innings when Alzarri Joseph was bowled missing a heave at a full-toss in the leg-spinner's first over of the morning. — AFP



PUNE: Rising Pune Supergiants cricketer Ben Stokes (L) watched by Gujarat Lions cricketer Dinesh Karthik plays a shot during the 2017 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match between Rising Pune Supergiant and Gujarat Lions at The Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium. — AFP

MILLION-DOLLAR STOKES HITS FIRST T20 CENTURY

NEW DELHI: Rising Pune Supergiant's record-breaking investment in Ben Stokes has paid dividends, with the England all-rounder delivering a blistering maiden Twenty20 century to secure his Indian Premier League team a crucial victory. Stokes' whose \$2.16 million contract broke the IPL signing record for a foreign player-hit an unbeaten 63-ball 103 during the Supergiant's five-wicket win over the Gujarat Lions on Monday.

"He's done a terrific job for us. We paid a big amount to get him. We know he's a quality player. (He) certainly earned his cash tonight," Supergiant captain Steve Smith said of their star performer after the win. The left-handed batsman, who came into bat with Pune precariously placed at 10 for three, put on a 76-run fifth-wicket partnership with Mahendra Singh Dhoni

who made 26. Supergiant chased down their 162-run target with a ball to spare to keep in the top half of the league's eight-team ranking.

Stokes, who has won three man-of-the-match awards in eight IPL matches this season, smashed seven fours and six sixes in front of a raucous home crowd. "All rounders are so valuable in T20 cricket and he bats, bowls and fields well. He's a perfect fit for our team, particularly after Mitchell Marsh was ruled out as well," said Smith. "We were very excited to get him. I had said before the auction to the guys (owners) just do what you have to get him." In another match Monday a star-studded Royal Challengers Bangalore, led by India captain Virat Kohli, became the first team to crash out of the play-off race after suffering a five-wicket loss to Mumbai Indians. — AFP



SHEFFIELD: England's Mark Selby kisses the trophy after beating Scotland's John Higgins in the World Championship Snooker final at The Crucible. — AFP

thought it touched, Jan (Verhaas) said it didn't and I trust him," said Selby later of the referee.

Although Higgins briefly had the upper hand in the next frame all it needed was one error and Selby took full advantage to seal victory with a break of 75. Both players sportingly hugged with Selby paying a warm tribute to his rival. "Big congratulations to John, he is a great guy, and one of the all-time greats and it is so great to play him in another final," said Selby, who lost to Higgins in the 2007 final.

For Higgins-whose fourth and last win in the

final came in 2011 — it was a case of at 41 coming frustratingly close to being the oldest winner since Ray Reardon won the sixth and last of his crowns aged 45 in 1978. "Mark is granite, just granite," the Scot said. "In the second session I had my chances, I missed a pink into the middle bag and I could have gone 9-3 ahead. "That was a big, big frame. Mark cleared up under extreme pressure. He is a fantastic champion. "It has been an unbelievable tournament, I gave everything. I came up short to a great champion. I'm proud of myself but he was too good on the day." — AFP

FROM A ZERO TO MONACO HERO, FALCAO SAVORS CAREER REVIVAL

MONACO: Dismissed as a crooked has-been after a disastrous spell in England, Radamel Falcao will savor the Champions League anthem more than most before Monaco and Juventus face off in today's semi-final first leg. The Colombian striker will captain the principality club against the Italians-whose own star striker Gonzalo Higuain was once his colleague at River Plate-at the Stade Louis II as they attempt to take another step towards a possible Ligue 1 and Champions League double.

Monaco have won admirers everywhere this season thanks to the exciting brand of football played by their young team, and the likes of Kylian Mbappe, Bernardo Silva and Thomas Lemar will be targets for the continent's giants in the summer. But all of them will admit the role played by the 31-year-old Falcao has been vital. He scored in a 2-1 defeat to Fenerbahce in Istanbul as their campaign began in the third qualifying round first leg on July 27 last year.

More than nine months on he has 28 goals in all competitions and has now scored 45 in 50 European appearances, putting him ahead of German great Gerd Mueller as the most prolific player ever in continental competition. "I have always believed in Radamel and right from the start of the season I was already saying that he would get back to his best form. Nobody believed it but now we have the proof," Monaco's vice president Vadim Vasilyev told French television station TF1.

LOVED

This time a year ago Falcao was considered a busted flush after two seasons on loan in the Premier League, with Manchester United and then Chelsea, yielded just five goals. The Daily Mail labelled him "a rich man with a broken reputation", while The Daily Telegraph highlighted how he had been paid the equivalent of £800,000 (\$1 million) per shot by Chelsea.

He was left out of the Colombia squad

for last year's Copa America too, but that reputation has been restored this year in stunning style. "I think it's all about confidence and having a regular run in the team. The rest takes care of itself," Falcao told UEFA.com recently. It is not just about what happens out on the pitch in Leonardo Jardim's free-flowing side, though. He is also finally settled in the glitzy Mediterranean principality.

"I feel loved by the club and by the fans. My teammates support me and I am very happy at the club and in the city, enjoying this moment," he said before the quarter-final, second leg win against Borussia Dortmund. "My family are also enjoying being here and I think these circumstances have allowed things to go as well as possible on the field."

BURY THE MEMORY

That has allowed Falcao to bury the memory of a difficult first season in Monaco, cut short by a serious knee injury that saw him miss the World Cup in Brazil. It was the start of all his problems, and when Monaco faced Juventus in the Champions League quarter-finals in 2015, Falcao was warming the bench at Old Trafford.

Monaco had just wanted rid of Falcao and his burdensome pay packet at that point. However, in January this year they were pleased that he stayed despite a reported 60 million-euro offer from China's Tianjin Quanjian. Falcao has just a year left on his Monaco contract but for now he is only focused on a glorious end to this season.

Two wins from their last four league games should be enough for them to take the French title from Paris Saint-Germain, while a first Champions League crown would top it all. "Not many players get the chance to play in a Champions League semi-final. I don't know if I'll get another opportunity so I want to make the most of it. It is a dream," said Falcao, twice a Europa League winner. — AFP



CLEVELAND: Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James ends up with a beer bottle in his hand after running into a floor server while celebrating a victory against the Toronto Raptors during Game 1 of the second round playoff game, Monday, May 1, 2017 at Quicken Loans Arena. — AP

LEBRON SCORES 35, GRABS A BEER AS CAVS TOP RAPTORS

CLEVELAND: LeBron James resisted drinking some beer. He downed the Raptors again instead. James grabbed a bottle of beer on the sideline while scoring 35 points, Kyrie Irving added 24 and the Cleveland Cavaliers picked up where they left off following a long layoff and throttled Toronto 116-105 on Monday night in the opener of their Eastern Conference semifinal. The Cavs hadn't played since April 23, when they completed a four-game sweep of Indiana. But the defending champions didn't show signs of rust and were well-prepared to face the revenge-seeking Raptors, who lost to Cleveland in last year's conference finals.

"That was the mystery coming into the game, how we would come out?" James said. "Obviously you prepare, you want to come out and play well, but you never know after an eight-day layoff. But the energy was phenomenal." Toronto dropped to 1-12 in playoff openers, and the Raptors got blown out in the playoffs for the fourth straight time in Cleveland. Game 2 is Wednesday night.

Kyle Lowry scored 20 and DeMar DeRozan 19 for the Raptors, who were within seven in the third quarter before James dropped a 3-pointer, converted a three-point play, drained another 3 and then considered washing down a brew - a moment he said wasn't planned.

After drawing a foul on a missed layup, James playfully hopped toward the sideline, where a

courtside server was passing by. The three-time champion reached and grabbed a beer bottle from her hand and brought it toward his lips before putting it back.

JAMES GETTING BETTER

"I wasn't going to run over our beer lady," he said. "She had one and I grabbed it. I'm not a beer guy. If she had some red wine I would have probably taken a sip." With trade acquisitions Serge Ibaka and PJ Tucker, this Toronto team seemed better equipped to beat Cleveland than the one which lost in six games in last year's playoffs. Trouble is, James only seems to be getting better and the Cavs are gaining speed.

"They were well-rested, flying around - almost like a half a step quicker than we were all night," said Toronto coach Dwane Casey. "We've got to make adjustments as far as how we want to guard the paint and then get out to the 3. Offensively, get cleaner looks."

Before the game, Casey talked about the big comebacks that have been a theme in these playoffs. The Raptors blew a 25-point lead to Milwaukee in the first round, while the Cavs overcame a 25-point deficit and pulled off the biggest second-half rally in playoff history. "There's no lead safe in the NBA," he said. That's what happened to the Cavs in the first half as they built an 18-point lead only to watch the

Raptors go on a 19-3 burst to pull within 41-39. But Cleveland regrouped and, playing a turnover-free second quarter, led 62-48 at half. James' legs looked fresh early on as he and Irving teamed up on a stunning alley-oop.

After he poked the ball away for a steal, James took off up the floor with Irving on the break. James pointed toward the backboard and Irving understood the message, bouncing a pass high off the glass that James grabbed and dunked with his left hand.

THE WHOLE TRUTH

Irving had a playoff career-high 10 assists after getting just 12 in the entire series against Indiana. None was as memorable as his leave for James. "It's just another play in the books for me and Bron," he said. James had some memorable playoff matchups with Paul Pierce, who played his last game on Sunday when the Los Angeles Clippers were eliminated by Utah. The 39-year-old Pierce played 19 seasons, and as far as James is concerned, he should be on his way to basketball immortality.

"He put his mark on this game," James said. "Somebody I've always respected and competed against and pushed me in the Eastern Conference for quite a while. A champion. His numbers and what he was able to do out on the floor speaks for itself. So I would say his next stop is the Hall of Fame. He had a hell of a ride for sure."



MONACO: Monaco's Colombian forward Radamel Falcao (L) vies with Toulouse's French defender Issa Diop during the French L1 football match between Monaco (ASM) and Toulouse (TFC) at Louis II Stadium. — AFP

KLUIVERT JR FOLLOWING IN DAD'S FOOTSTEPS AT AJAX

AMSTERDAM: More than twenty years after the football world witnessed the schoolboy Patrick Kluivert lead Ajax to Champions League glory his son Justin is bidding to help the Dutch giants into the Europa League final. Justin Kluivert, 17, is turning heads in the Ajax red and white and some say he's even more skillful than the father, who went on to enjoy a top level career with AC Milan and Barcelona and who is now sports director at Paris Saint-Germain.

He even looks the spitting image of his father in that unforgettable final, running on to Frank Rijkaard's pass to give Ajax a 1-0 1995 European final win over Milan before he had even left school. "I like it when I am compared to my dad. He had a great career, and I hope to have one too," Justin told football magazine FourFourTwo recently. The father was more of a penalty area predator and a real number nine. "He possesses speed and courage, and knows how to pass," former Ajax great Sjaak Swart said of the younger Kluivert last month. "It's hard to believe that he's just 17." Justin-the second of four sons-made his Ajax debut in January 2017 and has since played in the right wing slot of the classic Ajax 4-3-3 formation.

PRODUCT OF AJAX

There was a wave of nostalgia in the Netherlands in March when he scored his first top-flight goal ten years to the day after his father's final strike as a professional with Lille. Given his background, fans will doubtless be praying he can do something in the Europa League against Lyon in their semi-final first-leg on Wednesday. Ajax coach Peter Bosz says his starlet is "a product of the Ajax system and terribly effective on one-on-ones."

The player's main strength seems to be in his mazy runs and dribbles into the box that he has honed since his days in the youth ranks where his father was head coach. Fans have picked up on the feel good vibe of the whole thing with Matthijs de Ligt, also 17, making a first team impact as a defender plucked from the youth ranks and cast into the spotlight. "This will pay dividends in the coming years," estimated Dutch daily newspaper Algemeen Dagblad. A recent altercation with PSV Eindhoven's Juergen Locadia shows the youngster has found the guts to play alongside men. "I'm young, but I demand respect. After the match we can have a laugh and relax, but not out on the pitch," Kluivert warned. — AFP



AMSTERDAM: Ajax Amsterdam coach Peter Bosz (L) and captain Davy Klaassen deliver a press conference in Amsterdam on May 2, 2017, on the eve of their UEFA Europa League soccer match against Olympique Lyonnais. — AFP

ROCKETS' 22 3-POINTERS DESTROY SPURS 126-99

SAN ANTONIO: The Houston Rockets were willing to take whatever the Spurs gave them in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals. Houston ended up with a record-setting offensive performance, a huge boost in confidence and home-court advantage. Trevor Ariza scored 23 points, James Harden added 20 points and 14 rebounds, and the Rockets stormed past San Antonio 126-99 on Monday night, the Spurs' worst loss in a series opener under Gregg Popovich.

"Just taking what the defense gives us," Harden said. "Last series (against Oklahoma City) was a more grind-it-out. We weren't really making a lot of 3s. We had to figure a way to get point points and in this series so far they gave opportunities to shoot 3s." The Rockets were 22 for 50 behind the arc, the most 3s attempted and made against the Spurs in their long post-season history. Houston had six players in double figures, including 20 points and 13 rebounds from Clint Capela.

"They came out ready, they outplayed us tonight," said Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge, who was held to four points. "They made most of their shots. Guys competed, but I thought we made mistakes early. They took advantage of it. Once they had offensive rhythm they were rolling. And we never really found ours." Game 2 is Wednesday in San Antonio.

COMING OUT HOT

Houston led by as many as 39 points, including a 30-point lead in the first half, in the opener of the first series between the rivals since the Rockets' victory in the 1995 Western Conference finals. While the hot shooting wasn't completely unexpected from the explosive Rockets, the defense was. Houston was active in rotating to San Antonio's shooters and had both defenders stay on Kawhi Leonard on screens.

Leonard had 21 points, fighting his way to 5-for-14 shooting. Tony Parker added 11 points and Jonathon Simmons had 10 for the Spurs. "Obviously, we are really happy with our defense and what we did," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "Knowing that this was kind of abnormal, they are not going to miss shots like that."

Houston led 69-39 lead in the first half, the Spurs' largest halftime deficit under Popovich. "They came out hot tonight and we just have to do a better job defensively," Leonard said. "We



SAN ANTONIO: Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) drives between San Antonio Spurs forward LaMarcus Aldridge (12) and guard Manu Ginobili (20) during the first half of Game 1 of a second-round NBA playoff series basketball game. — AP

kind of got stagnant there a little bit. I give my hats to them, they played a great game." Popovich called a timeout 80 seconds into the game, berating David Lee for a missed defensive assignment that led to a 3-pointer. It didn't help. Houston hit 12 3-pointers in the first half, the most San Antonio has allowed to a playoff opponent in the opening two quarters.

TALKING CRAZY

Aldridge was held below double figures for the first time in the postseason with the Spurs. The 6-foot-11 forward was 2 for 7 from the field and did not attempt any free throws. "I just have to take my time," Aldridge said. "I

have to ask for the ball more for sure. And when I get it take my time. Tonight I was trying to rush because there were so many mismatches on me. Normally I take my time. Tonight I was in a rush." The game got testy in the second half with a pair of ejections.

Nene was thrown out at the close of the third quarter after grabbing Dewayne Dedmon by the throat after the Spurs center and Harden got in each other's face. "Just talking greasy, talking crazy," Harden said of his run-in with Dedmon. "So, I was standing up for my teammates and that's what it was." Dedmon was thrown out in the fourth quarter after arguing with officials during a free throw. — AP

TOP-FOUR RACE NOT OVER, WARNS KLOPP

WATFORD: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp told his players to gird their loins for the Premier League run-in after they retained control of their top-four destiny with victory at Watford. Emre Can's stupendous mid-air scissors kick earned Liverpool a 1-0 win at Vicarage Road on Monday that provisionally gave them a three-point cushion over Manchester City in third place. Victory in Liverpool's last three games—against Southampton, West Ham United and Middlesbrough—will guarantee them a Champions League berth, but Klopp said there was still much work to be done.

“We need to stay focused, we need to stay concentrated,” said the German. “We have pressure until the end of the season, but that’s a positive pressure. It means we are fighting for something. ‘So we’ll do everything for the points we can get, but it won’t be easy. ‘If people think we already have the three

points against Southampton then they’ve not seen them play this season. Another really strong side. “Nobody can take these points away from us tonight and now we have time to work and prepare for the Southampton game (on Sunday).”

Can settled proceedings in first-half stoppage time, meeting Lucas Leiva's floated pass with a picture-book volley that flew past Watford goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes. Can has battled a niggling calf problem for the past 12 months and Klopp praised the Germany midfielder for gritting his teeth and fighting through it.

“If he couldn’t be positive after this goal, something would be wrong,” Klopp said with a smile. “He’s a good player. He’d had a calf problem, but we couldn’t leave him out. We had a lot of talks about this. “People wondered what was wrong with him, but we needed him in these moments. He said, ‘I’m

going to try.’ “Sometimes he wasn’t as good as he could have been, but now those problems are sorted, he’s physically strong and he can build on these performances. “And if he can score goals like this it makes even more sense.”

MAZZARRI BEMOANS BAD LUCK

Liverpool lost playmaker Philippe Coutinho to a dead leg early in the game, which saw Adam Lallana make his return from a month-long lay-off as a 13th-minute replacement for the Brazilian. Klopp offered no prognosis on Coutinho's condition, only to say that the injury-sustained in a collision with Watford's Adrian Mariappa—had been “really painful”.

Liverpool also hit the bar through a dipping Lallana volley and Watford goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes had to make several second-half saves to keep them at bay. But the hosts came within mil-

limetres of snatching a stoppage-time equaliser when centre-back Sebastian Prodl thundered an effort against the crossbar.

“I said to the players after the game, if they want to kill me, that’s a good way to try it. I thought I felt something in this area,” Klopp said, gesturing to his heart. Watford manager Walter Mazzarri, whose side remain 13th in the table, said the final score was not an accurate reflection of the game. “If you look at all Liverpool’s games, they usually create five or six clear chances,” said the Italian. “Today we hardly conceded any chances and we also had a couple of chances, so overall it was a good performance. “I usually don’t like to speak about luck, but today we were completely unlucky. “Apart from Prodl’s shot against the crossbar, there were two incorrect off-sides against (Stefano) Okaka and (Troy) Deeney. We played a really good game.” — AFP

MOYES: THE ‘CHOSEN ONE’ HITS ROCK BOTTOM AT SUNDERLAND

MANCHESTER: Exactly four years ago, David Moyes received the phone call that would change his life. It was from Alex Ferguson, who was about to announce his retirement as Manchester United manager after nearly 27 years at England's biggest club. He wanted to speak face to face with Moyes, then in charge of Everton, and would ask him to be his successor at Old Trafford.

For Moyes, it was the undoubted high point of a coaching career that only seemed headed in one direction. He would soon be christened “The Chosen One” by United’s fans. Things have gone badly wrong ever since. Fired by Everton after just 10 months. Fired by Real Sociedad one day before completing a year in charge of the Spanish team. Now, at the helm of a beleaguered Sunderland side that has just been relegated from the English Premier League with barely a whimper.

“We want Moyes out” was the chant that rang around the Stadium of Light on Saturday after Bournemouth’s 88th-minute goal in a 1-0 win over Sunderland sealed the fate of the league’s last-place club with four matches still to play. Fans had been singing the same thing during the past few games.

Moyes’ coaching reputation is at rock bottom. His feats at Everton from 2002-13 - when he managed one fourth-place finish and two fifth-places with a team that had no star players - are now largely forgotten or viewed as no longer relevant. Away from the field, he is even facing a Football Association charge for telling a female reporter that she “might get a slap” for the questions she asked during a BBC interview.

His one season at Sunderland has been such an unmitigated failure that he might not be trusted to head up the club’s attempt to bounce back into England’s lucrative top division. “It’s a question for two or three weeks’ time,” Moyes said, a resigned look across his face. The Black Cats - as Sunderland is nicknamed - finally ran out of lives. They have narrowly avoided relegation for the past four years, doing so by the same formula: Change manager midway through the season and embark on a late run to safety in the final few months. Martin O’Neill, Paolo Di Canio, Gus Poyet, Dick Advocaat and Sam Allardyce all kept Sunderland in the Premier League, but Moyes has fallen short. A look at what went wrong:

Sunderland this season. “I think it will be,” he said, “I don’t think you can hide the facts.”

Admirable honesty, yes, but hardly what a Sunderland fans would want to hear so early into what proved to be a joyless campaign. The negativity has spread throughout a club that has spent the last 190 weeks in the bottom half of the Premier League. Moyes acknowledges that, these days, he says it as he sees it. It may not be the wisest of policies. Meanwhile, elsewhere in the relegation battle, Swansea and Hull brought in young, dynamic managers in Paul Clement and Marco Silva, respectively, midway through the season. They both gave their teams a lift, expressing positivity and hope. Results have improved, and Swansea and Hull are still in with a chance of survival with four games left.

TRANSFER POLICY

Moyes was hired three weeks before the start of the season, giving him little time to assess the squad before the season and set his transfer targets. As such, he ended up making last-ditch signings. They weren’t exactly inspiring, either - injury-prone pair Steven Pienaar and Victor Anichebe were players Moyes managed at Everton while Donald Love and Adnan Januzaj were Moyes’ former players at Man United - and have proved disappointing.

It was clear from the start that Sunderland’s squad was lacking quality, especially with center back Younes Kaboul leaving for Watford for family reasons. And with injuries ruling out Fabio Borini, Jordan Pickford and Lee Cattermole for long periods, Moyes has been short on players. Beyond 34-year-old striker Jermain Defoe, who has scored 14 goals despite being isolated up front, and young goalkeeper Pickford, no player has stood out. Defoe and Pickford are likely to be the Sunderland players who are most sought-after in the forthcoming offseason. If Moyes does go, the decision needs to be made early so the new manager has longer to plan for a season than Moyes did.

SHORT-HANDED

Moyes wasn’t handed much money to spend by Sunderland’s American owner, Ellis Short, intensifying the belief that Short was looking to get out of a club he has owned since 2009. Sunderland recorded a loss of 33 million pounds (\$43 million) in the last financial year, with a debt of 110 million pounds (\$142 million). Yet, in a statement released soon after Sunderland’s relegation was confirmed, Short hinted that he’d be hanging around, saying: “There is a strong determination to do so throughout the club. There is significant work to be done over the summer.” — AP

WRONG RHETORIC

Soccer fans crave openness and honesty from players and managers, but Moyes took it too far. Just nine days into the season and on the back of two straight losses, Moyes was asked whether it will be another relegation battle for



MIDDLESBROUGH: Sunderland manager David Moyes reacts while looking over the pitch from the touchline during the English Premier League soccer match against Middlesbrough, at the Riverside Stadium. — AP

Spanish La Liga table									
MADRID: Spanish La Liga table after Monday’s match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):									
Barcelona	35	25	6	4	104	33	81		
Real Madrid	34	25	6	3	92	39	81		
Atletico Madrid	35	21	8	6	65	25	71		
Sevilla	35	20	8	7	62	44	68		
Villarreal	35	18	9	8	52	28	63		
Athletic Bilbao	35	19	5	11	51	38	62		
Real Sociedad	35	19	4	12	54	48	61		
Eibar	35	15	9	11	54	45	54		
Espanyol	35	13	11	11	45	47	50		
Alaves	35	12	12	11	36	41	48		
Celta Vigo	34	13	5	16	49	57	44		
Malaga	35	11	9	15	44	51	42		
Valencia	35	11	7	17	50	61	40		
Las Palmas	35	10	9	16	52	66	39		
Real Betis	35	10	7	18	38	57	37		
Deportivo La Coruna	35	7	11	17	39	59	32		
Leganes	35	7	9	19	30	53	30		
Sporting Gijon	35	5	9	21	38	70	24		
Granada	35	4	8	23	28	74	20 - relegated		
Osasuna	35	3	10	22	37	84	19 - relegated		



WATFORD: Liverpool’s German midfielder Emre Can connects with this overhead kick to open the scoring in the English Premier League football match between Watford and Liverpool at Vicarage Road Stadium. — AFP

CRAZY CAN CRACKER TIGHTENS LIVERPOOL’S HOLD ON THIRD

WATFORD: Emre Can scored a sensational overhead bicycle kick as Liverpool galvanized their grip on third place in the Premier League by winning 1-0 at Watford on Monday. Having seen top-four rivals Manchester City, Manchester United and Arsenal all drop points on Sunday, Liverpool capitalized thanks to Can’s jaw-dropping effort in first-half injury time.

The Germany midfielder’s fifth goal of the season took Liverpool three points above fourth-place City, albeit having played a game more, inching Jurgen Klopp’s side closer to Champions League qualification. “The goal was spectacular, of course,” Liverpool manager Klopp told Sky Sports. “It was clear we have to work and that is what we did. It won’t be easy for anyone to win here. “We needed a bit of luck, but we worked hard for it.” It was Liverpool’s third successive away win and got them back on track after a 2-1 home defeat by Crystal Palace on their previous outing had ended a seven-game unbeaten streak. The only disappointment for the men in red at Vicarage Road was the early departure of playmaker Philippe Coutinho with what Klopp confirmed was a dead leg. Walter Mazzarri’s Watford remain 13th, having been denied a last-gasp equalizer when centre-back Sebastian Prodl’s crisp effort thudded against the crossbar. “M’Baye Niang registered an early shot on target for the hosts, but a sleepy start to the game was remarkable more for injuries than penalty-box action. Coutinho came off second-best in an early collision with recalled Watford defender Adrian Mariappa.

SUCCESS SUPPLIES FIZZ

The Brazil international soldiered on until the 13th minute before giving way for Adam Lallana, who came on to make his first appearance after a month out with a groin injury. Six minutes later Watford were forced into a change of their own when defender Miguel Britos signalled that he was unable to continue, which brought Christian Kabasele into the fray. Liverpool went close with a couple of efforts from distance, Can extending Heurelho Gomes from range and Lallana rattling

English Premier League table									
LONDON: English Premier League table after Monday’s match (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):									
Chelsea	34	26	3	5	72	29	81		
Tottenham	34	23	8	3	71	22	77		
Liverpool	35	20	9	6	71	42	69		
Man City	34	19	9	6	65	37	66		
Man Utd	34	17	14	3	51	25	65		
Arsenal	33	18	6	9	64	42	60		
Everton	35	16	10	9	60	40	58		
West Brom	34	12	8	14	39	43	44		
Southampton	33	11	8	14	39	44	41		
Bournemouth	35	11	8	16	50	63	41		
Leicester	34	11	7	16	42	54	40		
Stoke	35	10	10	15	37	50	40		
Watford	34	11	7	16	37	55	40		
Burnley	35	11	6	18	35	49	39		
West Ham	35	10	9	16	44	59	39		
Crystal Palace	35	11	5	19	46	56	38		
Hull	35	9	7	19	36	67	34		
Swansea	35	9	5	21	40	69	32		
Middlesbrough	35	5	13	17	26	45	28		
Sunderland	34	5	6	23	26	60	21 — relegated		
Note: top four qualify for Champions League; teams finishing fifth to seventh qualify for Europa League; bottom three relegated to Championship.									

the bar with a stunning 20-yard volley after Gomes had punched clear.

The visitors were toiling, their lack of ideas exposed when Lucas Leiva received a 44th-minute booking for a totally unconvincing attempt to win a penalty off Tom Cleverley. But two minutes into stoppage time Liverpool went ahead with a Goal of the Season contender. Lucas flighted a pass into the box and with Nordin Amrabat standing off, Can launched himself into a magnificent scissors kick from 15 yards out that catapulted the ball into the top-left corner.

“That is the best goal I’ve ever scored,” said said. Buoyed by the German’s moment of brilliance, Liverpool set about putting the game to bed in the second half. Gomes had to box away a James Milner free-kick and twice saved from

Divock Origi, palming away a curling effort and then standing up well to thwart the Belgian striker in a one-on-one. It took Watford until the 68th minute to register another shot on target.

Etienne Capoue’s rising effort from distance was tipped over by Simon Mignolet, only for the officials to award a goal-kick, sparking a furious Watford reaction that saw Capoue booked for dissent. The introduction of 21-year-old Nigerian Isaac Success gave Watford some attacking fizz and Daryl Janmaat almost caught Mignolet out with a curling effort from wide on the left. Liverpool might have won more comfortably had Gomes not saved from Joel Matip and substitute Daniel Sturridge, but they were indebted to the woodwork for foiling Prodl at the death. — AFP

CELTA PLAN MORE PAIN FOR EXHAUSTED UNITED

MADRID: Jose Mourinho must patch up an injury ravaged Manchester United squad as the English side’s quest for Europa League glory faces its stiffest test yet with a semi-final, first leg trip to Celta Vigo tomorrow. The Portuguese manager described United’s nine-match April schedule as “not human” after another disappointing 1-1 home draw in the Premier League against relegation threatened Swansea City on Sunday.

His side’s schedule doesn’t get any easier, though, with six more games to come over the next 19 days in a bid to seal Champions League qualification either by winning the Europa League or squeezing into the top four of the Premier League.

“If we beat Celta, we have the final and, in this moment, it is obviously hypothetical,” Mourinho told the United website. “The Europa League final is on the Wednesday and we play against Crystal Palace on the Sunday.

Before that, we play Southampton away a few days before, so we would be playing the final with disastrous consequences.” The English

giants are without top scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic due to cruciate ligament damage.

INJURY LIST GROWS

Meanwhile, Luke Shaw and Eric Bailly added to United’s defensive woes as they join Phil Jones, Chris Smalling and Marco Rojo on the sidelines, meaning Mourinho will need to look for emergency solutions at centre-back. Mourinho has been critical of Jones and Smalling’s unwillingness to play through the pain barrier and doesn’t expect them to rush back meaning right-back Mateo Darmian, midfielder Michael Carrick or 19-year-old Axel Tuanzebe could deputise at the heart of the defence.

“That’s my personal opinion, I don’t think they will (be fit) but I know the players I choose will give everything. It doesn’t matter if I go with Darmian or Carrick or Axel, I trust the boys.” The visitors will have Paul Pogba and Marouane Fellaini back available, whilst Juan Mata could make his comeback from groin surgery after being an unused substitute against Swansea.

Celta, by contrast, have had the luxury of resting up Eduardo Berizzo’s preferred XI for the majority of their recent La Liga games as the Galicians concentrate on trying to win a first ever major trophy.

“We also know what’s at stake - not only that you win the Europa League, which is huge, but you can also win a place in the Champions League,” Celta striker John Guidetti told UEFA.com. “You have dreams about that.” And the former Manchester City man would revel in ending United’s chances of winning the Europa League for the first time. “As they say ‘Manchester is blue’ and that’s how it will be when we visit there as well, because we are Celta Vigo and we will try to keep the city blue.” Former Liverpool striker Iago Aspas is Celta’s main threat, though, as he’s struck 24 times this season. The other semi-final, first leg takes place on Wednesday in Amsterdam as Ajax look to rekindle former European glories against Lyon. Ajax haven’t reached a European final since the vintage of the likes of Edwin van der Sar, Edgar Davids and Jari Litmanen lost the 1996 Champions League final to Juventus on penalties. — AFP

Sports

LeBron scores 35,
grabs a beer as
Cavs top Raptors



Crazy Can cracker
tightens Liverpool's
hold on third



WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017

SHATTENKIRK NETS OT WINNER FOR CAPS

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MADRID: Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (center) shoots to score a goal beside Atletico Madrid's Montenegrin defender Stefan Savic (left) during the UEFA Champions League semifinal first leg football match Real Madrid CF vs Club Atletico de Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium yesterday. — AFP

REGAL RONALDO PUTS REAL ON VERGE OF CL FINAL

MADRID: Cristiano Ronaldo proved Atletico Madrid's Champions League (CL) dream destroyer once more with a hat-trick as Real Madrid took a commanding 3-0 semi-final, first leg lead yesterday. Ronaldo extended his lead as the all-time top scorer in Madrid derby matches by taking his tally to 21 and put Real firmly on course to defend their title in the final in Cardiff on June 3.

The Portuguese rewarded a bright Real start by heading home Casemiro's deflected cross after just 10 minutes. Ronaldo then smashed home from just inside the area and turned home Lucas Vazquez's cross in the final 20 minutes as Real continued their domination of Atletico having eliminated them in the Champions League for the past three seasons. Real needed a stoppage time equalizer en route to winning the 2014 final, scored a late winner in the quarter-finals a year later and edged last season's final on a penalty shootout.

However, there was far more a gulf between the sides this time round. The home fans made sure to put Atletico in

their place before kick-off with chants of "kings of Europe" and a "how does it feel" banner alongside a display of their 11 European Cups. Real piled on the pain in the opening stages for the 4,000 visiting away fans and could have killed the tie in the opening half hour. Atletico were handed a lucky escape on seven minutes when Jan Oblak parried Dani Carvajal's effort at the end of a careering run and the Slovenian recovered to also turn behind Karim Benzema's follow-up effort.

No let off

There was no let off three minutes later, though, as Atletico failed to clear a corner and Casemiro's bouncing cross looped up for Ronaldo to power home a header. Oblak kept Atletico alive in the moments that followed with a brilliant save from Raphael Varane's header and more comfortable stop from Isco. However, at the other end, Keylor Navas rescued Real from conceding a vital away goal when he got a touch on the ball as Kevin Gameiro tried to round him when clean through on goal.

The majority of the efforts contin-

ued to rain down on Oblak's goal as Luka Modric drilled a shot from the edge of the box inches wide. And Benzema then acrobatically turned a Ronaldo cross just over the bar. Atletico enjoyed a better spell just before half-time, but all they had to show for it was Diego Godin's wayward volley after being picked out by Antoine Griezmann's free-kick.

Real suffered an injury blow right on half-time when Dani Carvajal pulled up with a muscle problem that looks set to keep him out of the second leg. Clear-cut chances were far harder to come by after half-time as Atletico toiled to create, whilst Real sat on their lead waiting for the chance to counter-attack. However, once again in ties between these two, Real got the slice of luck to go with their extra quality. The ball rebounded up perfectly off the heels of Filipe Luis for Ronaldo to blast high past Oblak. And Ronaldo completed his second hat-trick against Atletico this season four minutes from time when Lucas Vazquez's cutback picked out the four-time World Player of the Year to slot home from close range — AFP



MADRID: Real Madrid's Dani Carvajal jumps for the ball next to Atletico's Saul Niguez during the Champions League semifinal first leg soccer match between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid yesterday. — AP

RED SOX APOLOGIZE FOR FANS' RACIAL TAUNTS TOWARD JONES

BOSTON: Boston Red Sox President Sam Kennedy is apologizing for fans at Fenway Park taunting Baltimore Orioles center fielder Adam Jones with racial slurs. Kennedy also apologized yesterday for a fan throwing peanuts at Jones during Monday night's game. He said the organization is "sickened by the conduct of an ignorant few."



CINCINNATI: This file photo taken on April 18, 2017 shows Adam Jones #10 of the Baltimore Orioles during the game against the Cincinnati Reds. — AFP

Jones, who is black, said he was "called the N-word a handful of times" in quotes reported by USA Today Sports and The Boston Globe. "It's unfortunate that people need to resort to those type of epithets to degrade another human being," Jones said. Massachusetts Gov Charlie Baker, in a tweet yesterday, also called

the behavior by fans "unacceptable and shameful." "This is not what Massachusetts & Boston are about," the tweet said. Jones, a five-time All-Star, said he has been the subject of racist heckling in Boston's ballpark before, but this was one of the worst cases of fan abuse he has heard in his 12-year career, according to USA Today Sports.

USA Today Sports reported that Red Sox officials confirmed that a fan threw a bag of peanuts at Jones and was ejected from the stadium. "It's pathetic," Jones said. "It's called a coward. What they need to do is that instead of kicking them out of the stadium, they need to fine them 10 grand, 20 grand, 30 grand. Something that really hurts somebody." The Red Sox said they are reviewing what happened at the game, but that any spectator behaving poorly forfeits the right to be in the ballpark and could be subject to further action.

The Orioles' 5-2 victory marked the latest testy game between the AL East rivals this season, including a dustup in Baltimore a week ago. In the teams' previous meeting at Camden Yards, Boston reliever Matt Barnes sent a pitch that whizzed behind Manny Machado's head and hit the slugger's bat. Barnes was suspended four games and fined. Machado had railed the Red Sox with a hard slide into second baseman Dustin Pedroia's left leg two days earlier. Pedroia missed a handful of games. Orioles pitcher Dylan Bundy hit Mookie Betts near the left hip with a fastball Monday night, prompting loud boos. — AP

FREE-SCORING MONACO FACE WALL OF JUVENTUS

PARIS: Monaco have scored plenty of goals this season and boast one of European soccer's most exciting newcomers in striker Kylian Mbappe but that might not be enough to break down the defensive wall of Juventus in the Champions League semi-finals. Mbappe, 18, has scored 18 goals in his last 18 competitive games, including three in the 6-3 aggregate win over Borussia Dortmund in the last eight.

The pacy forward provides a symbol for the rise of a fine counter-attacking team featuring other dangerous players such as Colombian marksman Radamel Falcao. It takes more than that, however, to impress Juventus, the tightest defence in Europe's top club competition with just two goals conceded in this campaign. "Even Barcelona could not score in two games against them so it will be complicated for us," Monaco's Poland defender Kamil Glik said ahead of today's first leg in the principality.

The Italian champions, who advanced to the last four with an aggregate 3-0 win over Barca, were held to a 2-2 draw at Atalanta in a rare defensive mix-up in Serie A on Friday. Their pedigree and record for being impregnable when it matters, however, suggest Juventus should be regarded as the favorites. "Monaco have technical and tactical qualities as well as talented young players," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "They do not have the same history as Juventus but that does not mean it will be easy for us to make it to the final," he added. While Allegri can rely on a fully-fit squad, his Monaco counterpart Leonardo Jardim, criticized for fielding a B-team in a 5-0 French Cup semi-final thrashing by Paris St Germain last week, has a defensive worry with midfield dynamo Tiemoue Bakayoko doubtful due to a broken nose.



TURIN: Juventus' forward Paulo Dybala from Argentina (L), defender Daniel Alves from Brazil (2nd L), defender Giorgio Chiellini (C), forward Gonzalo Higuain from Argentina (2nd R) and midfielder Tomas Rincon from Venezuela (R) take part in a training session on the eve of the UEFA Champions League football match Monaco Vs Juventus yesterday at the 'Juventus Training Center'. — AFP

Monaco have shone in Europe and at home this season and their domestic title hopes received a welcome boost when a nervous PSG side lost 3-1 at Nice on Sunday, leaving the club from the French Riviera three points clear at the top with a game in hand. Juventus, meanwhile, are closing in on a record sixth straight Serie A title and can turn to their European history for inspiration, having won the showcase club competition twice, in 1985 and 1996.

Monaco, by contrast, reached the Champions League final only once, in 2004, losing 3-0 to a Porto side coached by Jose Mourinho after a great run featuring wins over Real Madrid and Chelsea. The sides have faced each other twice before on the Champions League stage with Juventus winning both ties, in the 1998 semi-finals and the 2015 quarters. Juventus have never been eliminated by a French team in 11 previous meetings in European club competitions. — Reuters



ABK WINS 'EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR' AWARD FROM NASEBA



RIYADH: Saudi Minister of Finance Mohammed Al-Jadaan addresses the Euromoney conference held in the Saudi capital Riyadh yesterday. — AFP

SAUDI AIMS FOR TRANSPARENCY WITH QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT KINGDOM DIVERSIFYING OIL-DEPENDENT ECONOMY

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia said yesterday that it will issue a quarterly budget progress report for the first time as part of efforts to boost transparency while diversifying its oil-dependent economy. The world's biggest oil exporter is wooing investors as it tries to reduce budget deficits caused by a collapse in energy revenues. "We will for the first time in Saudi announce, possibly in a couple of weeks or less, the first quarterly results of the budget," Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan told the Euromoney Saudi Arabia Conference.

Under its Vision 2030 plan released last year, the kingdom aims to develop its industrial, investment and small-medium business base to employ more Saudis and reduce its reliance on oil revenue.

"The government made a clear commitment that they will increase the level of transparency," Al-Jadaan said. "They will submit to international laws on transparency" and respond to the needs of the private sector which requires timely data to make investment decisions, he added.

The Vision 2030 plan coincided with a plunge in global oil prices that began in 2014 and left Saudi Arabia with a budget deficit for this year initially projected at \$53 billion (48.5 billion euros).

In September authorities froze salaries and limited benefits for civil servants-who

comprise the bulk of the workforce-as part of austerity measures. But last month King Salman restored those benefits. Minister of State Mohammed Al-Shaikh later explained that the move coincided with "the substantially better-than-expected budgetary performance" in the first quarter after the government took measures to cope with its budget deficit.

These included cuts in subsidies and delays in major projects. In October Saudi Arabia raised \$17.5 billion in its first international bond offering. The kingdom is also preparing to sell less than five-percent of energy giant Aramco next year. In April it cut taxes on oil companies in a major move that could attract investors. Saudi Arabia's stock exchange, Tadawul, has opened to foreign investors and in February began an alternative trading platform, Nomu, to boost small and medium firms.

Two more companies have been approved for offerings on Nomu in addition to the seven that already trade, Mohammed El-Kuwaiz, Vice Chairman of the Capital Market Authority, told the same conference. "The first day of trading on the Nomu market was larger than most of the main markets in our GCC countries, which gives you an indication of the pent-up demand," he said, referring to the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. — AFP



ATHENS: Retirees wait for a bank branch to open to receive their monthly pension payments in Athens. — AP

GREECE, CREDITORS LOOK TO DEBT RELIEF AFTER FISCAL DEAL

ATHENS: Greece and its creditors yesterday closed a troubled chapter on fiscal reforms with a preliminary deal on pension and tax cuts, offering hope for a debt relief agreement later this month.

"This is a balanced and viable agreement," government spokesman Dimitris Tzanakopoulos told reporters, hours after all-night negotiations with the senior representatives of the European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund. "The Greek government's central goal is to reach an overall agreement on May 22 that also specifies midterm debt (relief) measures," he added. "This will open the way for Greece to regain access to (bond) markets," the spokesman said.

Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said a "preliminary technical agreement" had been achieved ahead of a May 22 meeting of euro-zone finance ministers, which is required to rubber-stamp the deal.

In Brussels, a spokesman for European economy commissioner Pierre Moscovici said the provisional agreement "is a very positive development following months of complex negotiations."

"It is now for all partners to reach an understanding on the question of Greece's debt in the coming weeks," Moscovici's spokesman said. Tsakalotos added he was certain that the agreement would enable Greece to secure debt relief measures from its

creditors, which he has said is vital to spearhead recovery in the country's struggling economy. "There is no excuse of lack of agreement" in the talks, the Greek minister said.

A compromise is required to unblock a tranche of loans Greece needs to repay seven billion euros (\$7.6 billion) in maturing loans in July. In a joint statement, the creditors said yesterday's agreement "will be the basis" for an overall review of Greece's economic performance and "will now be complemented by further discussions in the coming weeks on a credible strategy for ensuring that Greece's debt is sustainable."

To clinch the deal, the government agreed earlier this month to adopt another 3.6 billion euros (\$3.8 billion) in spending cuts in 2019 and 2020. Athens conceded fresh pension and tax break cuts in return for permission to spend an equivalent sum on poverty relief measures.

Tzanakopoulos yesterday said pensions are to be cut by 9 percent across the board, while tax-free income will be slashed by around a third on average. At the final meeting, Greece also agreed to sell up to 40 percent of state electricity provider PPC's coal mines, reports said. The measures are to be approved by parliament after May 16, the spokesman said. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has said he will not apply these cuts without a clear pledge later this month on debt-easing measures for Greece.

BURGAN BANK REPORTS 25% RISE IN NET INCOME IN Q1 GROUP ANNOUNCES EARNINGS FOR Q1 2017

KUWAIT: Borgan Bank Group announced yesterday its first quarter earnings of financial year 2017. The selective growth approach clubbed with the focus on operating efficiencies enabled earnings strength to continue at both top line & bottom line levels, amid regional operating environment complexities.

Reported net income grew by 25 percent reaching KD17.8 million (\$58.4 million) from KD14.3 million reported in first quarter last year. Underlying net income (excluding precautionary reserves & after AT1 cost) grew by 8 percent reaching KD18.1 million (\$59.3 million).

Compared to the same period last year, loans and advances grew by 3 percent to reach KD4.3 billion (\$14.1 billion) while deposits grew by 1 percent to reach KD3.9 billion (\$12.9 billion). Capital adequacy ratio under Basel III stands at 16.5 percent as of March 31, 2017.

Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, Chairman of Borgan Bank Group said: "We continued out of prudence, during the first quarter with our approach of selective growth focusing on high quality earnings clubbed with a focus on operating efficiencies."

"Our operations in Kuwait and the region



Majed Essa Al-Ajeel

continued to demonstrate and as planned, healthy trends almost on all indicators. International Operations are now contributing 49 percent of the Group's total revenues, confirming that Borgan Bank Group is the most diversified commercial bank in the sector," added Al-Ajeel.

"Maintaining high quality top line earnings,

focusing on operating efficiencies, and improved cost of risk, led to an impressive bottom line growth," Added Al-Ajeel.

Majed Essa Al-Ajeel also said: "Our leading financial indicators continue to point to the right direction both in Kuwait and international operations. I remain confident and optimistic of the group's strong performance going forward. "On behalf of the board, I take this opportunity to thank our customers and shareholders for their confidence in our capabilities and our regulators; the Central Bank of Kuwait, for their support. I would also like to thank our executive management team for their leadership and the excellent execution of the corporate strategy, and to our staff for their continued support and commitment," concluded Al-Ajeel.

The consolidated financials encompass the results of the Group's operations in Kuwait, and its share from its regional subsidiaries, namely Borgan Bank - Turkey, Gulf Bank Algeria, Bank of Baghdad, Tunis International Bank. Borgan Bank Group has one of the largest regional branch networks with more than 180 branches across Kuwait, Turkey, Algeria, Iraq, Tunis, Lebanon and representative offices in Dubai-United Arab Emirates.



First Quarter 2017 Results for Mobile Telecommunications Company - Zain

The Board of Directors of Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P. would like to announce to its shareholders that the company achieved a Net Profit of **KD 38 million (USD 125 million)** in Q1-2017.

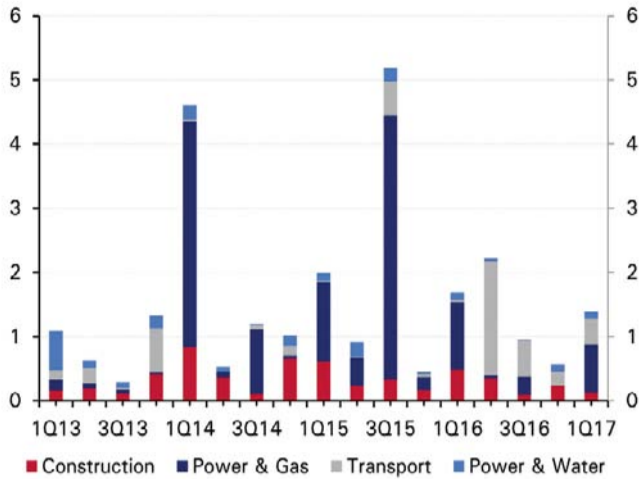
The Board would like to express its gratitude to its customers and stakeholders for their confidence and assures them of the company's commitment to excellence and profitable growth.

Board of Directors

46.1 MILLION	810 USD MILLION	352 USD MILLION	125 USD MILLION	3 CENTS
CUSTOMERS	247 KD MILLION	107 KD MILLION	38 KD MILLION	10 FILS
REVENUES	EBITDA	NET INCOME	EPS	

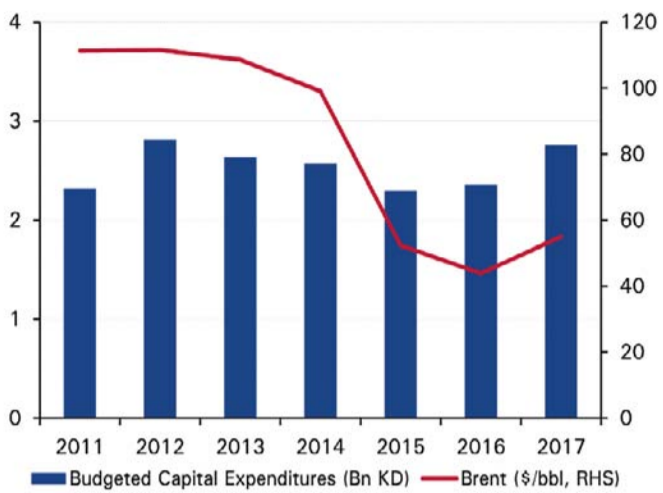
Chart 1: Awarded projects

(KD billion)



Source: MEED Projects, NBK

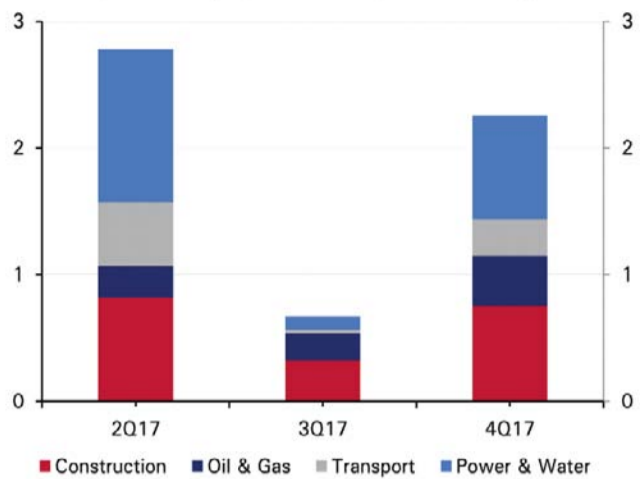
Chart 2: Budgeted capital expenditures



Source: Ministry of Finance

Chart 3: Projects awards outlook

(KD billion, projects currently under bidding)



Source: MEED Projects, NBK

KUWAIT PROJECTS OFF TO A GOOD START IN 2017

KD 1.4 BILLION WORTH CONTRACTS AWARDED IN Q1

KUWAIT: Kuwait's projects pipeline remains robust against a backdrop of improving oil prices and a government commitment to maintain healthy capital spending and move forward with its development projects. KD 1.4 billion (\$4.6 billion) worth of contracts were awarded in 1Q17, according to MEED Projects, a figure roughly in line with 2016's quarterly average. Looking ahead to the rest of 2017, Kuwait could award another KD 6.2 billion (\$20 billion) worth of contracts before year-end.

The oil sector dominated awarded projects in 1Q17. The sector saw KD 672 million worth of awards for eight projects. The largest project was awarded by KOC to Petrofac for the value of KD 397 million (\$1.3 billion) to build Gathering Center 32. The new infrastructure will have the capacity to produce about 120,000 b/d of oil and will be the first sour gathering center to be developed in the Burgan field. The project is scheduled to begin soon and to be completed in mid-2020. KOC awarded another three projects pertaining to water facilities in different gathering centers in the south, south-east and east of the country. The three contracts averaged KD 69 million (\$225 million) each and are expected to be complete between 4Q19 and 1Q20.

Housing was another sector to see notable activity. In March 2017, the Public Authority of Housing Welfare (PAHW) awarded the second of four infrastructure contracts in South Mutlaa city, a strategic development plan project, to China Gezhoubu Group. The contract, valued at KD 216 million (\$708 million), is for major infrastructure work and is expected to be completed by March 2019. The PAHW has distributed most of the 30,000 plots to applicants; however,

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

construction permits for the distributed plots will not be available until road and infrastructure construction is complete. According to a development plan follow-up report for 4Q16, work on South Mutlaa project is 12% complete.

Awards during 1Q17 included work on Kuwait's airport. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) awarded one of the eleven sub-projects pertaining to the expansion of Kuwait airport. The project has been awarded to a joint venture of AVIC International & HOT E&C for a value of KD 149 million (\$489 million) and completion is expected by March 2022. This project includes construction of new runways in addition to extending existing ones and enhancing supportive infrastructure. Looking ahead, project awards are expected to remain healthy in 2017. Another KD 6.2 billion (\$20 billion) worth of contracts could be awarded before year-end, split almost evenly between the second quarter and the fourth quarter of the year; 3Q17 is likely to see slower activity as a result of the Holy Month of Ramadan and the summer season. Construction projects and power & water contracts are expected to dominate awards during the rest of 2017.

Roadwork and construction of government buildings are expected to be a large part of the award activity in 2017. The ministry of public works has KD 2.3 billion worth of contracts in the pipeline to be awarded between the second and fourth quarter of this year. Out of the 18 contracts, eleven are for roads and the remain-

ing eight are construction contracts for governmental buildings. Public-private partnership (PPP) projects remain an important source of project awards in 2017, led by phase 2 of the Al-Zour North power and water project. Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) extended the deadline for the project which was expected to be tendered in 2016. Bid bonds for the two components of the phase 2 of Al-Zour North IWPP, the power plant and water desalination plant, with estimated net project values of KD 534 million and KD 287 million, respectively, have been extended to October 2017, when the project is likely to be awarded.

PPP projects for a wastewater plant and a solid waste facility are also likely to be awarded in 2017. The award date for the KD 473 million (\$1.5 billion) Umm Al-Hayman Wastewater Treatment Plant has been set to 22 May; WTE Wassertechnik and International Financial Advisers submitted the lowest bid at \$1.61 per cubic meter of water, while Kharafi National and Alfanar Group offered \$1.70 per cubic meter. Meanwhile, bids for the Kabd Municipal Solid Waste Project closed on 19 March. International Financial Advisors is said to have submitted the lowest bid at a cost of KD 243 million. The award date is set for May.

2017 could see the awarding of another important power contract. Phase 3 of the Sabiya combined gas turbine will expand the existing capacity at the Sabiya site by 750 MW. The bids have been under evaluation since July 2016, though the project has yet to be award-

Table 1: Select Strategic Development Plan Projects

(contract value, KWD million)

Project	Total Cost	FY 16/17 allocation	April-Dec 2016	% of allocation
Clean fuel	4680.0	1005.0	426.8	42.5
Al-Zour Refinery	4871.0	500.0	352.1	70.4
Jaber Al-Ahmed Causeway	938.0	200.0	156.0	78.0
Refinery & petrochem complex in Vietnam	448.0	90.9	31.7	34.9
3D Seismic Survey at Kuwait Bay	105.1	55.0	27.2	49.5
College of Arts and Education at Sabah Al-Salem University	73.9	30.3	25.5	84.3
College of Science at SSUC*	136.9	26.0	23.1	88.7
SSUC infrastructure	197.6	38.0	22.3	58.7
Design & construction of electricity and energy plants via renewable sources	567.3	52.0	20.3	39.1
Jaber Al-Ahmed Hospital – South Surra	176.6	29.2	16.0	54.8

Source: MEED Projects

* Sabah Al-Salem University City (SSUC)

ed. Alghanim International General Trading & Contracting is the lowest bidder with the bid price of KD 177 million.

The Kuwaiti government continues to be committed to moving forward with its development projects despite the decline in oil prices since 2014 and the fiscal deficit. According to the Supreme Council for

Planning's (SCP) third follow up report of the annual development plan for FY16/17, KD 1.45 billion was spent between March and December 2016, or 49 percent of what was allocated for the fiscal year. Most of the spending came on 25 projects, out of which 17 were flagged as strategic oil and infrastructure projects.

ITALY'S ALITALIA HEADING TOWARD REORGANIZATION

MILAN: Italy's struggling flagship airline, Alitalia, headed toward its second period of receivership in a decade yesterday with the board of directors saying it had no choice after workers overwhelmingly rejected a relaunch plan that would have unlocked new investments.

The board expressed "deep regret" that workers had voted against the government-brokered relaunch plan, which had softened planned job and salary cuts. It said the outcome forced a reorganization by making it impossible to unlock the planned 2 billion euros (\$2.2 billion) in investments from both managing shareholder Etihad and a consortium of Italian investors, led by the country's two main banks, that control a 51-percent stake. Italy's economic development minister has said that the period of extraordinary administration, which is designed to help companies avoid failure, is expected to last about six months, during which a buyer would be sought.

The treasury ministry was expected to come up with terms of a bridge loan to keep the airline operational during the period, which includes the lucrative summer tourism season.

Alitalia, which is still controlled by Etihad, has continued to emphasize that flights were operating on schedule. The government was expected to meet as early as yesterday to name a new administrator.

Alitalia filed for bankruptcy protection in 2008 when it was still state-owned, but avoided liquidation when then-Premier Silvio Berlusconi organized a group of Italian investors to step in during a privatization process. Etihad took a 49-percent stake in 2014. — AP



In this March 25, 2009 file photo, an Alitalia Airbus A320 at the Linate airport in Milan. — AP

BP REBOUNDS INTO QUARTERLY PROFIT ON HIGHER OIL PRICES

LONDON: British oil giant BP rebounded back into net profit in the first quarter, energized by deep cost-cutting and rising crude prices, the group revealed yesterday. Earnings after tax stood at \$1.45 billion (1.33 billion euros) in the first three months of 2017, which contrasted with a net loss of \$583 million during the first quarter of 2016.

Benchmark oil contract Brent North Sea crude averaged \$54.61 in the first quarter, up 55 percent year-on-year. Energy producers across the world have reaped the benefits of higher oil prices so far this year, because they translate into rising revenues and higher profits.

Prices have been boosted in recent months as the OPEC oil producers' cartel has adhered to a production cut agreed late last year. US giants ExxonMobil and Chevron, as well as French titan Total, all posted bumper profits last week. "Our year has started well. BP is focused on the disciplined delivery of our plans," said BP chief executive Bob Dudley in Tuesday's results statement. "First-quarter earnings and cash flow were robust. We have shown continued operational momentum." Replacement cost profit, which strips out exceptional items and changes in the value of oil inven-

tories, rose to \$1.51 billion from \$532 million. That easily beat market expectations of \$1.21 billion, according to analysts polled by Bloomberg. In reaction to the results, BP's share price rose as much as three percent in early deals. It later pared gains to stand 1.5 percent higher in mid-morning trade on London's FTSE 100 index, which rose half a percent in value. "A healthier oil price environment, increasing production in the upstream division, and improved refining margins in downstream, helped BP beat analyst expectations in the first quarter," noted analyst Nicholas Hyett at stockbroker Hargreaves Lansdown.

The downstream business includes refining, marketing and distribution, while upstream comprises exploration and production. Despite a first quarter loss in 2016, BP managed an overall annual net profit on the back of cost-cutting and lower charges linked to the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster. In 2015, BP had posted the company's biggest loss in at least 20 years, ravaged by Gulf of Mexico spill costs and tumbling oil prices-which caused the group to axe jobs and cut investments. A deadly explosion on a BP-leased drilling rig, the Deepwater Horizon, unleashed the worst environmental disaster in US history in 2010. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.721
Indian Rupees	4.751
Pkistani Rupees	2.909
Srilankan Rupees	2.003
Nepali Rupees	2.979
Singapore Dollar	219.610
Hongkong Dollar	39.225
Bangladesh Taka	3.718
Philippine Peso	6.091
Thai Baht	8.852

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.428
Qatari Riyal	83.867
Omani Riyal	793.009
Bahraini Dinar	810.810
UAE Dirham	83.136

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.600
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.770
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.226
Tunisian Dinar	127.150
Jordanian Dinar	430.150
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.034
Syrian Lira	2.176
Morocco Dirham	31.297

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	305.150
Euro	334.750
Sterling Pound	394.710
Canadian dollar	223.960
Turkish lira	86.380

Swiss Franc	308.230
Australian Dollar	231.000
US Dollar Buying	303.950

20 Gram	255.970
10 Gram	130.900
5 Gram	66.300

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.800
Canadian Dolla	226.525
Sterling Pound	392.135
Euro	328.485
Swiss Frank	305.110
Bahrain Dinar	808.430
UAE Dirhams	83.380
Qatari Riyals	84.605
Saudi Riyals	82.175
Jordanian Dinar	429.815
Egyptian Pound	16.978
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.005
Indian Rupees	4.728
Pakistani Rupees	2.907
Bangladesh Taka	3.742
Philippines Peso	6.121
Cyprus pound	168.208
Japanese Yen	3.795
Syrian Pound	2.420
Nepalese Rupees	3.950
Malaysian Ringgit	70.185

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.745
Thai Bhat	9.860
Turkish Lira	84.130

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.386558	0.396558
Czech Korune	0.004369	0.016369
Danish Krone	0.040680	0.045680
Euro	0.327307	0.336307
Norwegian Krone	0.031454	0.036654
Romanian Leu	0.073124	0.073124
Slovakia	0.009134	0.019134
Swedish Krona	0.030415	0.035415
Swiss Franc	0.299780	0.310780
Turkish Lira	0.080446	0.090746
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.221708	0.233708
New Zealand Dollar	0.204558	0.214058
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.217787	0.226787
Georgina Lari	0.13823	0.137823
US Dollars	0.301050	0.305450
US Dollars Mint	0.301550	0.305450
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003420	0.004004
Chinese Yuan	0.042784	0.046284
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037135	0.039885
Indian Rupee	0.004213	0.004901

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002640	0.002820
Kenyan Shilling	0.002952	0.002952
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000275
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066638	0.072638
Nepalese Rupee	0.003015	0.003185
Pakistan Rupee	0.002693	0.002983
Philippine Peso	0.006018	0.006318
Sierra Leone	0.000038	0.000044
Singapore Dollar	0.213408	0.223408
South African Rand	0.016797	0.025297
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001636	0.002216
Taiwan	0.010046	0.010226
Thai Baht	0.008498	0.009048

Bahraini Dinar	0.802846	0.811346
Egyptian Pound	0.014049	0.019957
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000195	0.000255
Jordanian Dinar	0.425036	0.434036
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.00252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020388	0.044388
Nigerian Naira	0.000397	0.001032
Omani Riyal	0.786177	0.791857
Qatar Riyal	0.083006	0.084456
Saudi Riyal	0.080287	0.081587
Syrian Pound	0.001294	0.001514
Tunisian Dinar	0.125107	0.133107
Turkish Lira	0.080446	0.090746
UAE Dirhams	0.081656	0.083358
Yemeni Riyal	0.000992	0.001072

AUB REPORTS \$159.4 MILLION NET PROFIT IN Q1 2017

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank B.S.C. (AUB) reported a net profit attributable to its equity shareholders of \$159.4 million for the quarter ended 31 March 2017. The net profit reflected an increase of 3.1 percent in Q1/2017 as compared to the comparative net profit figure of \$154.6 million achieved in Q1/2016. The Q1/2017 net profit also represents a 24.0 percent improvement over the Q4/2016 trailing quarter reported profit of \$128.5 million. The Basic Earnings per Share in Q1/2017 were US 2.1 cents,

same as in Q1/2016. Given the continuing weak operating environment, AUB focused on optimizing its balance sheet management strategy resulting in an increase in net interest income by 1.4 percent to \$204.1 million during the quarter. The cost to income ratio improved to 27.3 percent (Q1/2016: 27.7 percent).

Solid asset quality levels were sustained with the non-performing loans ratio improving to 2.2 percent (31 December 2016: 2.3 percent) and the

specific provision coverage ratio increasing to 85.3 percent (31 December 2016: 84.9 percent). The total provision coverage ratio, inclusive of collective impairment provisions, was 159.7 percent as at 31 March 2017 (31 December 2016: 155.6 percent).

The Group's Return on Average Equity (ROAE) for Q1/2017, increased to 17.0 percent, compared to 16.9 percent achieved in the first quarter of 2016. Return on Average Assets also increased to 2.2 percent for Q1/2017

(Q1/2016: 2.0 percent). Hamad Al-Humaidhi, AUB Chairman, commented: "AUB's continued growth trajectory in its performance for Q1/2017 is underpinned by our focus on sustainable earnings across multiple markets. AUB's diversification in its major operating markets and its continued success in expanding cross border business flows between these markets has helped achieve its growth in net profit after tax for Q1/2017, while maintaining solid asset quality parameters."



Hamad Al-Humaidhi



Fishing boats head out to sea from the port in Lianyungang, in China's eastern Jiangsu province on Sunday. —AFP

ASIAN FACTORIES GET OFF TO SOLID START IN Q2

NEW DELHI: Factories across much of Asia got off to a solid start in the second quarter, buoyed by strong global demand, particularly for hi-tech gadgets which are leading a sizzling rally in electronics. Though China's manufacturing growth eased more than expected in April, business still improved and there were no hints of a sharp loss of momentum despite risks from a growing regulatory crackdown and fresh measures to cool its heated housing market. Indeed, analysts chalked up much of the softening in China to recent falls in commodities prices, noting its official factory activity gauge at the weekend was still not far from a near five-year high.

Globally, continued strength in Asia and expectations for upbeat PMI readings from Europe later yesterday could help offset a recent soft patch in the US economy, though many economists believe that weakness will be temporary. "We expect global growth to pick up in the second quarter," said Krystal Tan, Asia economist at Capital Economics in Singapore.

"Firm global growth will lend strength to the ongoing recovery in Asian manufacturing."

After six years of disappointing growth, the world economy is gaining momentum, fuelled by a cyclical recovery in manufacturing and buoyant financial markets. A multi-year trade recession for Asia's exporters has ended as global demand revives, though the outlook is still being clouded by worries about growing US protectionism as the new Trump administration flexes its muscles.

The spring in the air prompted the International Monetary Fund last month to bump up its 2017 global growth forecast to 3.5 percent from 3.4 percent in January. The Asian factory surveys pointed to subsiding inflationary pressures as well as continued economic recovery, giving the region's central banks scope to keep policy on hold as they wait for the US Federal Reserve's next move. It is expected to raise rates again next month. Australia's central bank held rates steady for a ninth straight month yesterday as it sought to balance the risk of busting a property bubble against sluggish wage growth. Its next move is expected to be a rate rise next year.

Even China has started gingerly tightening policy and clamping down on some types of financing to contain the risks from years of debt-fuelled stimulus, though analysts expect policymakers to move cautiously to avoid hurting growth and rocking the boat ahead of a major leadership transition later this year. President Xi Jinping made a rare speech last week on financial stability, calling for increased efforts to ward off systemic risks.

Gradual slowing

While the expansions in China's factory and service sectors slowed more than expected, analysts were not alarmed, noting that economic growth had been expected to slowly moderate after a surprisingly strong start to the year. Betty Wang, senior China economist at ANZ, said some loss of steam in the monthly surveys does not portend a growing risk of a hard landing, noting the government remains supportive of ample credit for the real economy despite a crackdown in certain sectors such as real estate, riskier forms of short-term lending and shadow banking.

China's official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) released at the weekend fell to a six-month low of 51.2 in April from 51.8 in March, but pointed to expansion in the factory sector for the ninth straight month. The China Caixin/Markit PMI yesterday (PMI) fell to 50.3 from March's 51.2. The Caixin survey focuses more on small and mid-sized firms, which have been under more stress than their larger, state-owned peers.

Economists largely attributed the softening in both surveys to weaker prices for iron ore and other industrial commodities and to signs of moderation in China's housing market after a flurry of steps to curb speculation. Wang at ANZ said many companies had "too strong" a bullish view when global commodity prices began rallying late last year, but said that trend is now changing, making firms more cautious about spending.

Electronics exports

Growth in electronics exports has been one of the highlights of Asia's export recovery this year, boosting profits for companies tied into supply chains such as Apple Inc's, which is gearing up for the launch of the iPhone 8 later this year. China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore have all reported stronger shipments in recent months, often led by electronics. South Korea on Monday reported April exports rose 24.2 percent on-year, the fastest since August 2011. Global stock market investors are also cashing in on the so-called electronics "super-cycle".

Samsung Electronics gained as much as 2.0 percent yesterday, helping to lift the country's Kospi index to within reach of its all-time high marked in 2011. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (TSMC) hit a record high, rising as much as 2.3 percent. In other parts of Asia, manufacturing activity hit a 10-month high in Indonesia and expanded for the first time in two years in Malaysia. —Reuters

TRUMP ADVOCATES FORCED US GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

COMMENTS COMPLICATE REPUBLICAN CLAIM ON BUDGET DEAL

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump took the unusual step of advocating a forced shutdown of the federal government yesterday, after Republicans and Democrats ignored White House demands in reaching a budget deal. After a bruising budget battle which saw fellow Republicans jettison many of Trump's election promises, the embattled president lashed out, saying maybe the government should not be funded at all.

Trump's congressional allies have cut a deal with Democrats to fund the government until September, at least delaying the building of a border wall and a host of Trump's other priorities. "Our country needs a good 'shutdown' in September to fix mess!" Trump tweeted. Previous government shutdowns have cost the US economy tens of billions of dollars and seen government services grind to a halt as thousands of non-essential personnel are temporarily laid off.

Trump could, if he wanted, refuse to sign the bill funding the government up to September, which is still being finalized in Congress. His comments complicate Republican efforts to paint that budget deal as a victory, thanks largely to an increase in mili-

tary spending. Trump also called for a change in congressional rules which require 60 votes in the Senate to pass budget rules—a threshold that makes party compromise necessary. "The reason for the plan negotiated between the Republicans and Democrats is that we need 60 votes in the Senate which are not there! We... either elect more Republican Senators in 2018 or change the rules now to 51 percent," Trump tweeted.

That would substantially change US politics, making budgets more partisan and poisoning what is left of inter-party cooperation. Congress is expected to vote this week on the \$1.1 trillion spending bill to fund the government through September. The White House on Monday praised the deal as a win for the nation's military, health benefits for coal miners and other Trump priorities. The House is also considering a possible vote this week on a health care overhaul that would repeal and replace the so-called Obamacare law.

Kicking off the day, the president tweeted yesterday from his Twitter account, "The reason for the plan negotiated between the Republicans and Democrats is that we need 60

votes in the Senate which are not there!" He added that we "either elect more Republican Senators in 2018 or change the rules now to 51 (percent). Our country needs a good 'shutdown' in September to fix mess!"

About an hour later, House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin defended the budget plan, telling reporters, "No longer will our military be held hostage for domestic spending." He said the spending package was an "important first step in the right direction" that included a "big down payment" on border security and the military.

The presidential tweets displayed a contradictory message on the budget deal. Last Thursday, Trump had tweeted that Democrats were threatening to close national parks as part of the negotiations "and shut down the government. Terrible!" He also tweeted at the time that he had promised to "rebuild our military and secure our border. Democrats want to shut down the government. Politics!" His yesterday's tweets about Senate procedures came after Senate Republicans recently triggered the "nuclear option" to eliminate the 60-vote filibuster threshold for Supreme

Court Justice Neil Gorsuch. That change allowed the Senate to hold a final vote to approve Gorsuch with a simple majority, an approach that has not been used for legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky has said he's not inclined to change Senate rules on the filibuster and legislation, something that has been echoed by other Republicans. McConnell said in April, "Who would be the biggest beneficiary of that right now? It would be the majority, right?" McConnell told reporters. "There's not a single senator in the majority who thinks we ought to change the legislative filibuster. Not one." Speaking Tuesday, McConnell said the funding bill is the product of bipartisan negotiations, and that it "delivers some important conservative wins, including critical steps forward on defense and border security."

Any future shutdowns would likely cost the federal government billions of dollars. The 16-day partial government shutdown in 2013 cost \$24 billion, according to Moody's and Standard and Poor's. That included lost revenue for the national parks. —Agencies

NEW VIRTUAL CURRENCY TIED TO OIL TAKES AIM AT BITCOIN

GENEVA: A new virtual currency launched yesterday aims to rival industry leader bitcoin by pegging its value to hard oil assets, a first in the rapidly growing digital money sector. The currency called "bilur" and created by London-based financial services company R Fintech uses the technology pioneered by bitcoin, while trying to offer an alternative for those weary of the wild fluctuations that have plagued digital currencies. "This is the first crypto-currency with a real value", R Fintech Ignacio M. Ozcariz chief executive told reporters in Geneva.

To start, the company has valued 1 bilur as equivalent to 6.5 barrels of Brent crude oil, making it an asset worth \$356 (326 euros). Texas-based oil company Hockley has initially set aside 1 million barrels of crude as collateral to underpin the currency but has told R Fintech it can ramp up if bilur becomes popular. Like bitcoin, bilur is run with so-called blockchain technology, where encrypted digital coins are created by supercomputers, regulated and controlled by a community of users who try to guard against counterfeiting.

Bitcoin was the world's top performing currency in 2016 and continues to hover around record highs of \$1400, after being worth just a few cents when it launched in 2009.

It has appealed to those interested in bank-free transactions and to money not controlled by a government or central bank. But detractors have suggested that bitcoin could ultimately be undermined by its volatility, noting that the currency dramatically lost 75 percent of its value in 2013.

Bilur is targeting those who like aspects of



GENEVA: CEO of London compagny R Fintech Plc, Ignacio Ozcariz gestures during the launching of the Bilur, a cryptocurrency aiming to compete with bitcoin, yesterday. —AFP

virtual currency trading but would prefer funds supported by a fixed asset-similar to a gold standard for traditional currencies.

"We're still a crypto-currency, we're just backing it up with a real physical thing", said Usama Al-Ali, an IT specialist at R Fintech. With the project in its infancy, there are no merchants accepting bilur as a valid form of

payment. Bitcoin is in contrast increasingly accepted by merchants worldwide.

R Fintech said it aims to make money through a small management fee, charging bilur holders roughly three percent per year. The name "bilur" is the Basque language word for "chain", a nod to blockchain technology, the company said. —AFP

INFOSYS PLANS TO HIRE 10,000 US WORKERS

SAN FRANCISCO/MUMBAI: India-based IT services firm Infosys Ltd said it plans to hire 10,000 US workers in the next two years and open four technology centers in the United States, starting with a center this August in Indiana, the home state of US Vice President Mike Pence.

The move comes at a time when Infosys and some of its Indian peers such as Tata Consultancy Services and Wipro Ltd have become political targets in the United States for allegedly displacing US workers' jobs by flying in foreigners on temporary visas to service US clients.

The IT service firms rely heavily on the H1-B visa program, which US President Donald Trump told federal agencies to review. Other Indian outsourcing firms have recruited in the United States, but Infosys is the first to give concrete hiring numbers and a timeline for its plans, following Trump's visa review. The plans would mark a big increase in US hiring by Infosys. In 2014, when Vishal Sikka became chief executive, the firm had said it would hire 2,000 people in the United States.

In a telephone interview with Reuters from Indiana, Sikka said Infosys had achieved that goal and now wanted to hire US workers in fields such as artificial intelligence, cloud and big data.

"We started small at first and have been growing since then," Sikka said, adding that the timing of the decision was not related to the visa review. "The reality is bringing in local talent and mixing that with the best of

global talent in the times we are living in and the times we're entering is the right thing to do," he said. Infosys said it would seek experienced tech professionals and recent graduates from universities and community colleges. The 10,000 new US jobs will form a small part of Infosys' overall workforce of over 200,000.

Fewer H1-Bs

Last month, two industry sources told Reuters that Infosys was applying for just under 1,000 H1-B visas this year. One of the sources said that was down from about 6,500 applications in 2016 and some 9,000 in 2015. Indian IT service firms, which typically flood the lottery system each year with thousands of applications, have been among the largest H1-B recipients annually.

US politicians accuse IT firms of paying workers only just enough to meet the minimum wage of \$60,000 a year required for the visa, well below others in the US tech sector. Indian industry lobby group NASSCOM says the average salary paid by Indian IT Service firms for H1-B visa holders is about \$82,000. Analysts said more US hirings would push up costs for Indian IT firms as they chase people with the right skills. "The supply of science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills is not that much in the US, so to get the right talent they might have to pay higher salaries," said PhillipCapital analyst Shyamal Dhruve.

Indian politicians and IT industry heads have been lobbying US lawmakers and officials from the Trump administration not to make drastic changes to visa rules, as this could hurt India's \$150 billion IT service sector. The four US hubs Infosys plans would focus on technology and innovation, as well as serve clients in financial services, manufacturing, healthcare, retail and energy, the firm said. The first hub, which would open in Indiana in August, was expected to create 2,000 jobs by 2021, Infosys said.

Unsustainable model

Infosys did not disclose the cost of its plans or say whether its US jobs plan would account for a large percentage of its overall hiring in the coming two years. Based on Infosys' recent trends, the US plan could account for a large portion of net hiring additions in the period. Infosys added nearly 18,000 jobs in 2015, but just 6,000 in 2016, amid uncertainty about the impact of Brexit and calls from some US politicians and the public for tougher US immigration rules that led some US clients to hold-off on new projects. "Hiring locally is a compulsion and it's not just because of what's happening in the US," said Harit Shah, research analyst at Reliance Securities, adding that bringing in workers on temporary visas was "not sustainable" as a model. —Reuters

UK MANUFACTURING GROWTH SPIKES

LONDON: British factories had their best month in three years in April, the clearest sign yet that manufacturers are enjoying at least a temporary boost from the pound's fall after the Brexit vote and an improving global economy, a survey showed yesterday.

The Markit/CIPS UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) jumped

to 57.3 from 54.2 in March, exceeding all forecasts in a Reuters poll of economists which had predicted a slight fall.

The figures echoed a string of upbeat economic news from the euro zone, the biggest export market for British manufacturers, and may be a small boon for Prime Minister Theresa May ahead of the June 8 national election. —Reuters



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MARKETS ADVANCE AS DEALERS RETURN FROM HOLIDAY

LONDON: Most European and Asian markets advanced yesterday as investors returned from a long holiday weekend, with eyes now on a Federal Reserve meeting and the release of US jobs data later in the week. Another record close Monday on Wall Street's Nasdaq index provided some early buying impetus, while there was relief that lawmakers in Washington had finally hammered out a deal to avoid a costly shutdown of the US government.

In late morning European deals, London gained 0.5 percent, Paris added 0.4 percent and Frankfurt won 0.2 percent in value. In Asia, Tokyo firmed 0.7 percent higher, with a weaker yen boosting exporters. The greenback is pushing

back above 112 yen, having fallen last month on worries about Donald Trump's ability to push through his pro-growth agenda.

Hong Kong rose 0.3 percent and Seoul added 0.7 percent by the close. Meanwhile, Shanghai slipped 0.4 percent after official data at the weekend showed the pace of growth in China's factory activity slowed last month. A separate private reading yesterday revealed activity at its slowest pace in seven months.

There was some disappointment in figures last week showing that growth in the US, British and French economies all came in below expectations, dealers said. Traders were however given a positive lead from Wall Street, where the Nasdaq end-

ed at another record high, while Trump looked to ease tensions with North Korea by saying he would be "honored" to meet the country's leader Kim Jong-Un under the right circumstances.

Fed-watching ahead

Attention turns now to the Fed's policy meeting Wednesday. While the central bank is expected to hold off on another interest rate rise, its statement will be pored over for clues about plans for the future. The gathering will be followed by Friday's release of job creation figures, which will give a better snapshot of the state of the world's top economy. Banking shares were mixed after Trump said in an inter-

view that he was reviewing a possible breakup of large US banks.

He told Bloomberg News he was considering a "21st century" version of the 1933 Glass-Steagall law that separated consumer lending and investment banking and was repealed in 1999 by President Bill Clinton.

"I'm looking at that right now," Trump said. "There's some people that want to go back to the old system, right? So we're going to look at that." However, the Trump administration has not released details about what an eventual breakup plan might look like. —AFP



TOKYO: A man walks past an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. —AP

Global

جولبل

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Tuesday 02 May 2017

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -33.66	6,759.40	6,793.06	6,805.06	6,748.33
Weighted Index	▼ -0.33	405.02	405.35	406.55	403.72
KSX 15	▲ 0.42	913.18	912.76	915.57	907.10

Volume	107,553,658
Value (KWD)	12,350,171
Number of Trades	2,664

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	61	61	162000	9,882	5	61	▲ 1.0
IPG	400	390	9,569	3,827	11	390	▼ -10.0
NAPESCO	1,540	1,480	5,400	7,904	5	1,480	▼ -40.0
ENR-GYH	45.0	42.0	140,090	6,036	9	42.0	▼ -2.0
GPI	46.0	44.5	875,020	39,227	49	45.0	▼ -0.5
ADAR	89	89	16,771	1,404	10	89	▲ 1.0
Oil & Gas			1,207,850	68,280	89	1043.37	▼ -18.35
KFOUC	305	300	33,675	10,108	2	305	▼ -5.0
BPGC	570	570	206,684	117,810	6	570	— 0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	— 0.0
ALQURAIN	335	330	353,088	118,280	16	335	▲ 5.0
Basic Materials			593,447	246,197	24	1308.67	▲ 2.38
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	485	— 0.0
CABLE	440	440	92,880	40,858	21	440	— 0.0
SHIP	224	224	10,000	2,240	4	224	▼ -2.0
PCEM	970	960	500	483	2	960	▼ -10.0
PAPER	310	275	40,238	12,063	5	310	▲ 10.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	— 0.0
ACICO	290	290	25,000	7,250	2	290	— 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	— 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	146	— 0.0
NICBM	204	204	910	186	2	204	— 0.0
EQUIPMENT	60	58	380,000	22,161	11	60	— 0.0
NCCI	84	75	3,315	249	3	84	▲ 4.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	— 0.0
SALBOOKH	84	63	339,280	21,475	10	63	▼ -2.0
AGLTU	630	620	387,748	243,941	23	630	— 0.0
EDU	300	300	1,000	300	1	300	▲ 10.0
CLEANING	51	49.0	1,660,972	82,355	39	49.5	— 0.0
KGL	67	64	362,275	23,737	17	64	▼ -2.0
KDPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	164	— 0.0
HUMANISOFT	3,940	3,860	134,583	528,493	34	3,860	▲ 20.0
NAFAIS	140	140	1,000	140	1	140	▼ -10.0
GFC	64	56	4,220	263	4	64	▲ 4.0
MAYADEEN	28.5	27.0	3,907,314	106,851	43	27.0	▼ -1.0
CGC	570	550	220,030	123,217	24	560	▼ -10.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	— 0.0
UPAC	880	860	150	99	1	860	▼ -100.0
ALAFCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	244	— 0.0
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	— 0.0
LOGISTICS	71	70	135,250	9,473	10	70	▼ -1.0
SCEN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	92	— 0.0
GCEN	78	78	40,000	3,120	1	78	▼ -1.0
QIC	86	88	5,000	440	1	88	▲ 5.0
FCEN	84	83	344,578	28,930	9	83	▼ -1.0
RKCW	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	— 0.0
SPEC	87	87	25,000	2,175	4	87	▼ -1.0
Industrials			8,121,223	1,260,486	272	1769.01	▼ -8.34
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	188	— 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	— 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0
CATTL	208	208	2,000	415	1	208	▲ 4.0
DANAII	88	87	231,221	20,120	14	87	▼ -1.0
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,400	— 0.0
Consumer Goods			233,221	20,636	15	1105.33	▲ 1.88
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	— 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	— 0.0
YIACO	200	200	250	50	1	200	— 0.0
Health Care			250	50	1	1340.72	— 0.00
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,320	— 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	— 0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	— 0.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.5	— 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	— 0.0
IFAHF	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	— 0.0
OUTLAFUEL	128	124	61,219	7,705	10	124	— 0.0
MUNTAAHAT	81	81	90,514	7,332	3	81	— 0.0
JAZEERA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	520	— 0.0
SOOR	128	124	61,922	7,872	23	124	▼ -2.0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	— 0.0
ALRAI	150	146	1,418,688	207,179	68	146	▼ -10.0
ZIMAH	60	58	101,701	5,889	3	60	— 0.0
Meczan	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	990	— 0.0
Consumer Services			1,734,044	235,886	107	899.02	▼ -6.75
ZAIN	445	435	4,318,953	1,868,639	83	435	▼ -10.0
OOREDOO	1,220	1,200	9,983	12,158	5	1,200	— 0.0
HITSELEC	45.5	45.0	1,195,944	53,866	35	45.0	▼ -1.0
VIVA	840	820	37,010	30,802	44	840	▲ 10.0
Telecommunications			5,561,890	1,895,465	167	621.88	▼ -1.97
NBK	680	670	1,503,230	1,021,580	26	680	— 0.0
GBK	248	248	200,784	49,794	5	248	— 0.0
CBK	380	380	2,155	819	1	380	▼ -5.0
ABK	320	305	11,010	3,366	4	320	▲ 10.0
ALMUTAHED	435	425	210,453	90,444	17	425	▼ -10.0
KIB	250	244	3,727,110	923,397	51	246	— 0.0
BURG	325	310	314,591	99,508	12	320	▲ 10.0
KFIN	500	495	863,975	440,899	38	500	▲ 5.0
BOUBAYAN	405	400	1,974,706	790,652	83	405	— 0.0
AUB	216	214	2,680,290	573,596	44	216	▲ 2.0
ITHMR	49.0	48.0	6,195,365	297,601	115	48.0	▼ -1.0
WARBANK	250	244	426,034	105,340	79	250	▲ 4.0
Banks			18,129,703	4,396,994	455	937.13	▲ 4.89
KINS	238	228	5,012	1,193	2	238	— 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	— 0.0
AINS	485	485	35,000	16,975	4	485	— 0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	— 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	— 0.0
FTI	55	55	87,061	4,788	18	55	▼ -3.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	51	— 0.0
HKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
Insurance			127,073	22,966	24	1029.90	▼ -5.83

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	51	49.0	3519405	175,407	67	50	▼ -1.0
KRF	58	57	1,805,513	104,069	26	58	— 0.0
URC	90	90	11,894	1,052	3	90	— 0.0
NRE	104	102	15,909	1,645	5	104	— 0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	— 0.0
TAM	400	400	25	10	1	400	▼ -25.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	168	— 0.0
MASSALEH	50	49.0	80,807	2,475	3	50	▲ 0.5
ARABREC	36.0	35.5	1,242,768	44,385	38	36.0	▼ -0.5
ERESCO	42.0	41.0	1,865,705	77,402	34	41.5	▼ -0.5
MBANEE	820	810	82,307	67,241	2	810	▼ -10.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	— 0.0
INVESTORS	25.5	25.5	2,295,445	56,287	40	25.5	▼ -1.0
IRC	35.5	35.0	356,658	12,503	15	35.0	▼ -1.0
ALTUJARIA	76	74	850,641	63,818	25	75	— 0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	48.5	— 0.0
AAYANRE	83	80	294,596	24,086	20	83	— 0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	— 0.0
ALAQARIA	42.0	41.0	252,683	10,405	8	41.0	▼ -2.0
MAZAYA	118	118	85,751	10,119	10	118	▼ -2.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	— 0.0
THEMAR	90	90	999,990	89,999	5	90	— 0.0
TLJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	— 0.0
TAAMEER	41.5	40.5	1,705,486	69,776	62	40.5	— 0.0
ARKAN	84	83	77,004	6,437	7	84	▲ 1.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	178	— 0.0
ABYAR	26.5	25.5	5,136,553	132,800	85	25.5	▼ -0.5
MUNSHAAT	57	55	2,030,000	112,847	34	56	▼ -1.0
FIRSTDUBAI	58	57	323,984	18,529	17	57	▼ -1.0
KBT	55	54	485,800	26,333	13	54	— 0.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	— 0.0
MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.0	— 0.0
ALMUDON	45.5	44.5	641,036	28,814	25	45.0	▼ -0.5
MARAKEZ	49.5	48.0	458,500	22,434	23	49.5	▲ 1.0
REMAL	71	69	282,000	19,741	14	70	— 0.0
AWJ	84	82	1,515,574	126,740	33	84	▲ 2.0
Real Estate			26,389,511	1,308,215	615	979.54	▼ -8.46
KINV	100	99	9,367	927	2	100	— 0.0
FACIL	164	162	99,560	16,133	6	162	— 0.0
IFA	43.0	42.5	2,171,500	92,752	30	42.5	▼ -0.5
NINV	104	102	429,910	44,587	13	104	— 0.0
KPROJ	420	415	565,069	234,504	16	415	— 0.0
COAST	46.0	44.5	2,158,893	98,024	57	45.0	▲ 0.5
SECH	48.0	47.5	243,255	11,576	10	48.0	— 0.0
SGC	95	95	97	9	1	95	▼ -4.0
ARZAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.0	— 0.0
MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	— 0.0
KMEFIC	29.5	27.0	80,000	2,198	10	28.0	▼ -1.0
ALAMAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	49.0	— 0.0
ALOLA	49.5	48.0	865,300	41,680	15	48.0	▼ -1.5
ALMAL	20.5	20.0					

BOUBYAN BANK LEADS ISLAMIC BANKING CONSORTIUM

KUWAIT: Action Real Estate Company has concluded a syndicated loan agreement with a number of local and international banks led by Boubyan Bank with KD 72.8 million to finance existing and future growth operations of the company as well as its plans to target further expansion in its hotels, malls, and residential complexes' businesses inside and outside the state of Kuwait.

Boubyan Bank assumed the role of arranging and managing the Islamic murabaha finance transaction extending over a period of 8 years where Boubyan formed a consortium of Kuwaiti banks, namely, Warba Bank in addition to the Bank of London and the Middle East (an Islamic Bank headquartered in London).

Ashraf Sewilam, General Manager of the Corporate Banking Group at Boubyan Bank, stated that signing the agreement was a confirma-

tion of the potentials of Kuwaiti banks to finance mega companies' plans.

He went on to add: "The current stage necessitates cooperation and collaboration between banks to provide various financing mechanisms in order to support the expansion plans of companies which create more added values to the Kuwaiti economy in light of the government's plans to boost growth by cooperating with various economic sectors."

Sewilam added that the new agreement represented a model for cooperation among local Islamic banks as well as a statement of their coordination abilities and the employment of their resources in order to provide the necessary financing to growing companies in addition to effectively contributing to arranging the necessary funding for mega projects over the upcoming period.



**Eng Rawaf
Ibrahim Bourisli**



Ashraf Sewilam

Action Real Estate Company

Engineer Rawaf Ibrahim Bourisli, the company's General Manager, said that signing a syndicated facilities agreement with a number of local and international banks reflected the level of trust in the company.

"Banks trust in the company emanates from its performance, future plans and its strategies to expand its work base to achieve further expansion in addition to increasing its market share in the markets where the company works," he added.

Bourisli also extended his thanks to Boubyan Bank for arranging the syndicated credit facilities as well as other banks for participating in the financing as they, once again, proved that they support the national economy by supporting various sectors in general, and the operational sector, in particular.

It's worth mentioning that Action Real Estate Company was established in 2005 focusing its business on ownership, sale and purchase of properties, residential and commercial complexes as well as hotels in addition to touristic facilities. The company's businesses are spread across Kuwait, the GCC countries, Europe and Australia.



In this March 15, 2017 file photo, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen speaks during a news conference in Washington. — AP

FED SET TO LEAVE INTEREST RATES UNCHANGED, MAY HINT AT JUNE HIKE

WASHINGTON: The US Federal Reserve is expected to hold interest rates steady at its meeting this week as it pauses to parse more economic data but may hint it is on track for an increase in June. The central bank is scheduled to release its policy decision at 2 pm EDT (1800 GMT) today at the conclusion of its two-day meeting. Fed Chair Janet Yellen is not due to hold a press conference.

Most policymakers have already made plain that in contrast to previous years, the Fed feels more confident in its forecast of two more rate increases this year. "The bar to disrupting the Fed's plans is higher now than it was in previous years," said Michael Gapen, chief economist at Barclays in New York in a note to clients.

The Fed is in its first tightening cycle in more than a decade. A quarter percentage point increase last December was followed two meetings later by another hike in March. Economists polled by Reuters see little chance of a move at this week's meeting. Investors next see an interest rate rise in June, according to Fed futures data compiled by the CME Group. The rate-setting committee also is still waiting to see to what extent Trump administration policies on tax, spending and regulation will be able to get through Congress. A stimulus package could speed up the pace of hikes.

Likely to downplay weakness

Since the last meeting economic data has been mixed. The economy grew at a sluggish 0.7 percent annual pace in the first quarter as consumer spending almost stalled. However, a surge in business investment and the fastest wage growth in a decade suggest activity will regain momentum as the year progresses. Jobs growth also slowed sharply in March but the unemployment rate dropped to a near 10-year low of 4.5 percent. Economists have largely attributed the weak first-quarter reading to perennial issues with the calculation of growth during the January-March period and the pullback in hiring in March to weather effects.

"There won't be a lot of changes to the policy statement," said Sam Bullard, senior economist at Wells Fargo Securities. "I think they will downplay the soft first-quarter print and focus a little bit more on the labor market." The Fed will have two more employment growth reports to hand before its next meeting. Policymakers are also gearing up to announce sometime this year when and how the Fed will begin shrinking its \$4.5 trillion balance sheet, according to minutes from the March meeting. An announcement this week on a concrete timeline is not expected but there could be tweaks to language in the statement to show the matter is an increasing priority for the Fed. — AFP

IMF DELAYS MONGOLIA BAILOUT DUE TO BANKING REQUIREMENTS

ULAANBAATAR: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has postponed a \$5.5 billion bailout for Mongolia because of a measure included in the country's 2017 budget that forces foreign firms to bank with domestic institutions, the IMF's country representative said. Mongolia's economy has slid into a crisis caused by heavy foreign debt, a collapse in its currency and a slowdown in growth in its biggest trading partner, China. The IMF board had been expected to approve a rescue package at a meeting on April 28. "The Board discussion was postponed," said Neil Saker, the IMF's Mongolia country representative, in emailed comments, adding that they needed to examine the details of a new measure covering foreign exchange transactions by investors.

The IMF announced in February a \$440 million Extended Fund Facility that Mongolia can draw on for three years, in addition to \$3 billion from Japan and South Korea and a three-year extension to a 15 billion yuan (\$2.18 billion) swap agreement with the People's Bank of China.

In the 2017 budget approved in the early hours of the morning on April 14, legislators introduced tax changes that would allow it to meet conditions set by the IMF. But it also included a clause seeking to "improve" investment agreements with foreign partners, forcing firms such as miner Oyu Tolgoi LLC, jointly owned by Mongolia and Rio Tinto, to do all their banking with Mongolian institutions in a bid to bolster foreign currency reserves. "We need a bit more time to understand the nature and the specifics of the measure, and whether the macroeconomic framework of the program remains valid," said Saker.

Mongolia's Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not immediately respond for comment. According to a report in local news portal News.mn yesterday, the ruling Mongolian People's Party (MPP) will support the removal of the controversial clause. A spokesman for the party declined to comment, but any move would require the consent of parliament.

"The parliament must now approve the agreement without that clause and have the program discussed again by the IMF executive board," said Dale Choi, analyst with the Altan Bumba Financial Group based in Ulaanbaatar. "It could take another two to three weeks." The MPP has been anxious to show it is ready to reach deals with foreign firms following a catastrophic collapse of inward investment, caused in part by disputes with overseas partners like Rio Tinto.—Reuters

HUAWEI AWARDED 'BIGGEST CONTRIBUTION TO 5G R&D' RECOGNITION AT 5G MENA 2017 SUMMIT

KUWAIT: Leading global ICT provider, Huawei, received the 'Biggest Contribution to 5G R&D' award at the 5G MENA 2017 Summit, being held in Dubai from 30 April to 2 May 2017.

The 'Biggest Contribution to 5G R&D' award was bestowed upon Huawei for leading the development of 5G networks, helping to accelerate innovation that is leading to faster commercial availability of 5G. 3.5GHz will be the first 5G spectrum available in the Middle East and Huawei is currently the first ICT vendor in the region that has a commercially-ready 3.5GHz Massive MIMO AAU solution ready for deployment. This gives Huawei's operator partners across the region a competitive advantage in the race towards 5G, a major component in digital transformation. In addition, Massive MIMO provides great improvement for 4.5G as well. According to the commercial network data in Japan and China, Massive MIMO AAU can improve 4.5G network throughput by 5 times. Therefore, 3.5GHz Massive MIMO AAU will bridge 4.5G and 5G.

"We are honored to have our contributions in 5G innovation recognized by a panel of industry experts and analysts, as we continue to invest heavily in innovation, dedicating \$ 11 billion in R&D last year," said Huang Luomeng, Director of Wireless Marketing and Solution Sales. "This year, we aspire to rollout our new 3.5GHz Massive MIMO AAU technology in the Middle East, in order to give regional telecom companies a head start in the race towards the 5G era and achieving digital transformation, with the ultimate goal of building a better connect Middle East."

This year's edition of 5G MENA 2017 featured major industry players and public sector officials from across the region who took part in various discussion panels and workshops aimed at defining a 5G deployment roadmap. Topics tackled by industry players and experts during the three-day event included the journey towards 5G by 2020, mobile broadband (MBB), network and Internet of Things (IoT) security, and the development of smart and safe cities.



Huang Luomeng, Director of Wireless Marketing and Solution Sales, receiving 'Biggest Contribution to 5G R&D' award from Toni Eid, CEO of Trace Media International & Editor in Chief of Telecom Review.

HOW TWO CUTTING EDGE US NUCLEAR PROJECTS BANKRUPTED WESTINGHOUSE

WILMINGTON, Del./NEW YORK: In 2012, construction of a Georgia nuclear power plant stalled for eight months as engineers waited for the right signatures and paperwork needed to ship a section of the plant from a factory hundreds of miles away. The delay, which a nuclear specialist monitoring the construction said was longer than the time required to make the section, was emblematic of the problems that plagued Westinghouse Electric Co as it tried an ambitious new approach to building nuclear power plants. The approach - building pre-fabricated sections of the plants before sending them to the construction sites for assembly - was supposed to revolutionize the industry by making it cheaper and safer to build nuclear plants.

But Westinghouse miscalculated the time it would take, and the possible pitfalls involved, in rolling out its innovative AP1000 nuclear plants, according to a close examination by Reuters of the projects. Those problems have led to an estimated \$13 billion in cost overruns and left in doubt the future of the two plants, the one in Georgia and another in South Carolina. Overwhelmed by the costs of construction, Westinghouse filed for bankruptcy on March 29, while its corporate parent, Japan's Toshiba Corp is close to financial ruin. It has said that controls at Westinghouse were "insufficient."

The miscalculations underscore the difficulties facing a global industry that aims to build about 160 reactors and is expected to generate around \$740 billion in sales of equipment in services in the coming decade, according to nuclear industry trade groups. The sector's problems extend well beyond Westinghouse. France's Areva is being restructured, in part due to delays and huge cost overruns at a nuclear plant the company is building in Finland.

Even though Westinghouse's approach of pre-fabricated plants was untested, the company offered aggressive estimates of the cost and time it would take to build its AP1000 plants in order to win future business from US utility companies. It also misjudged regulatory hurdles and used a construction company that lacked experience with the rigor and demands of nuclear work, according to state and federal regulators' reports, bankruptcy filings and interviews with current and former employees.

"Fundamentally, it was an experimental project but they were under pressure to show it could be a commercially viable project, so they grossly underestimated the time and the cost and the difficulty," said Edwin Lyman, a senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, who has written and testified about the AP1000 design. Westinghouse spokeswoman Sarah Cassella said the company is "committed to the AP1000 power plant technology," and plans to continue construction of AP1000 plants in China and expects to bid for new plants in India and elsewhere. She declined to comment on a detailed list of questions from Reuters.

Problems from the start

By early 2017, the Georgia and South Carolina plants were supposed to be producing enough energy to power more than a half a million homes and businesses. Instead, they stand half-finished. Southern Co, which owns nearly half the Georgia project, and SCANA Corp, which owns a majority of the South Carolina project, have said they are evaluating the plants and could abandon the reactors altogether. "We will continue to take every action available to us to hold Westinghouse and Toshiba accountable for their financial responsibilities under the engineering, procurement and construction agreement and the parent guarantee," Southern said in a statement. A spokesman declined to elaborate.

The projects suffered setbacks from the start. In one instance, to prepare the Georgia plant for construction, Westinghouse and its construction partner in 2009 began digging out the foundation, removing 3.6 million cubic yards of dirt. But half of the backfill - the material used to fill the excavated area - failed to meet regulatory approval, delaying the project by at least six months, according to William Jacobs, the nuclear specialist who monitored construction of the plant for Georgia's utility regulator.

He declined to be interviewed. But the source of the biggest delays can be traced to the AP1000's innovative design and the challenges created by the untested approach to manufacturing and building reactors, according to more than a dozen interviews with former and current Westinghouse employees, nuclear experts and regulators.

Unlike previous nuclear reactors, the AP1000 would be built from prefabricated parts; specialized workers at a factory would churn out sections of the reactor that would be shipped to the construction site for assembly. Westinghouse said in marketing materials this method would standardize nuclear plant construction. Westinghouse turned to Shaw Group Inc, which held a 20 percent stake in Westinghouse, to build sections for the reactors at its factory in Lake Charles, Louisiana. There, components for two reactors each in Georgia and South Carolina would be manufactured.

Lake Charles

Seven months after work began in the May 2010, Shaw had already conducted an internal review at the behest of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to document problems it was having producing components. In a letter to the NRC, Shaw's then-executive vice president, Joseph Ernst, wrote: "The level and effectiveness of management oversight of daily activities was determined to be inadequate based on the quality of work." He laid out a laundry list of deficiencies ranging from Shaw's inability to weed out incorrectly made parts to the way it stored construction materials. Ernst did not respond to a phone call seeking comment. Over the next four years, regulatory and internal inspections at Lake Charles would reveal a slew of problems associated with the effort to construct modular parts to fit the new Westinghouse design, NRC records show. When a sub-module was dropped and damaged, Shaw managers ordered employees to cover up the incident; components were labeled improperly; required tests were neglected; and some parts' dimensions were wrong. The NRC detailed each one in public violation notices.

Then there was the missing and illegible paperwork. The section that was delayed more than eight months by missing signatures would become one of 72 modules fused together to hold nuclear fuel. The 2.2 million pound unit was installed more than two years behind schedule.

It was not until June 2015 that the Lake Charles facility was building acceptable modules, according to a report by Jacobs. By then, Shaw had been bought by Chicago Bridge & Iron.

Gentry Brann, a CB&I spokeswoman, said the company put the Lake Charles plant under new management and installed new procedures after the 2013 acquisition. She said Westinghouse was to blame for subsequent delays, citing "several thousand" technical and design changes made after work had already started on various components. Westinghouse declined to comment.

The NRC

To some extent, Westinghouse also was hamstrung by the NRC, which imposed stringent requirements for the new reactors. To comply, Westinghouse made some design changes that were tiny tweaks; others were larger. For instance, before the NRC would issue the utilities an operating license for the Georgia plant, it demanded changes to the design of the shield building, which protects against radiation leaks. The regulator said the shield needed to be strengthened to withstand a crash by a commercial jet, a safety measure arising from the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

The NRC issued the new standard in 2009, seven years after Westinghouse had applied for approval of its design. The company, in bankruptcy court filings, said the NRC's demand created unanticipated engineering challenges. A spokesman for the NRC, Scott Burnell, said the changes should not have come as a surprise, since the agency had been talking about the stringent requirements for several years. Westinghouse changed its design to protect against a jet crash, but at that point the NRC questioned whether the new design could withstand tornadoes and earthquakes. —Reuters

AUSTRALIA HOLDS RATES STEADY AHEAD OF BUDGET

SYDNEY: Australia's central bank held interest rates at a record low 1.50 percent yesterday after annual inflation moved back into its target range, as it treats water ahead of the federal budget next week. The Reserve Bank of Australia slashed 300 basis points from borrowing costs between November 2011 and August last year to support non-resources industries as the economy transitions out of a mining investment boom. It has remained on hold since then.

Headline inflation moving back into its 2-3 percent target band in the March quarter for the first time since 2014 was widely seen as reducing pressure to cut again. But with household debt levels soaring due to an overheating property market, coupled with low wages growth and unemployment stuck at 5.9 percent, the bank is also reluctant to hike.

Consumer prices rose 0.5 percent in the March quarter, taking the annual rate to 2.1 percent, data showed last week. This was up from 1.5 percent in October-December, but slightly below forecast.

In a statement, Reserve Bank governor Philip Lowe said holding fire was "consistent with sustainable growth in the economy and achieving the inflation target over time".

The decision to stay on hold was widely expected by economists ahead of the May 9 budget, which is tipped to include measures to address housing affordability and boost infrastructure spending. The Australian dollar rose slightly after the central bank decision, from 75.37 US cents to 75.51 cents.

Lowe said the economy was continuing its transition following the end of the mining investment boom, "with the drag from the decline in mining investment coming to an end and exports of resources picking up". "Growth in consumption is expected to remain moderate and broadly in line with incomes. Non-mining investment remains low as a share of GDP and a stronger pick-up would be welcome," he added.

The governor noted that employment was expected to grow and the unemployment rate decline "gradually over time". Wage growth remained slow and was likely to stay that way "for a while yet". On housing, the bank said debt levels were growing faster than income but tougher regulatory measures targeting lending standards "should help address the risks associated with high and rising levels of indebtedness". — AFP



SYDNEY: Cranes fill the sky at a commercial construction site in the central business district of Sydney yesterday. Australia's central bank held interest rates at a record low 1.50 percent yesterday. — AFP

ICC AND ASAR CO-ORGANIZING KEY SEMINAR ON ARBITRATION STRENGTHENING KUWAIT'S ARBITRATION LEGAL FRAMEWORK AT A CRUCIAL TIME

KUWAIT: ASAR - Al-Ruwayeh & Partners (ASAR), Kuwait's leading and one of the region's top tier law firms, is pleased to announce that it is co-organizing a first-of-its-kind seminar on arbitration with the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce - Paris (ICC), one of the oldest and most renowned arbitration institutions in the world. The seminar, which is free of charge and open to the public, aims at exploring the arbitration legal framework in Kuwait and providing crucial insights to government officials as well as local and international investors on the new ICC rules of arbitration. The half day event will take place on Tuesday, 9 May 2017 at Al-Thuraya Hall at the JW Marriott Hotel from 09:30-13:30, followed by complimentary lunch.

As Kuwait gears up for \$250 billion worth of projects in the future, it hopes to become an attractive market for international investors, who require a strong arbitration legal framework in line with international standards.



The International Court of Arbitration of the ICC on the other hand is a leading arbitration institution, handling 966 new cases

in 2016 alone, involving 3,099 parties from 137 countries, a record year since the establishment of the International Court of Arbitration in 1923.

The timely and highly relevant seminar will bring together senior representatives from the ICC, in addition to renowned arbitrators and arbitration practitioners from Kuwait and the region and will be comprised of two panels.

The first panel will discuss the latest amendments to the ICC Rules of Arbitration which came into force as of 1 March 2017 and which aim to further increase the efficiency and transparency of the arbitral proceedings, shedding light particularly on those new rules which introduce expedited arbitration procedures designed for lower value claims with reduced scales of fees.

The second panel will concentrate on the arbitration legal landscape in Kuwait which is critical to strengthen foreign investors' confidence and protection as to encourage them to invest in the country. Both panels will include an interactive Q&A session with the audience.

As the leading law firm in Kuwait, ASAR is committed to organizing platforms bringing together prominent industry figures and legal experts in an effort to address and discuss key legal and practical issues affecting investors, governmental bodies and the State of Kuwait. Practicing lawyers, arbitrators, judges, government counsel, engineers and construction managers, academics, corporate counsel and post-graduate students are encouraged to attend this informative seminar and they

can do so by registering via email on ICCArbitrationKuwait@asarlegal.com

With dedicated offices in Kuwait and Bahrain coupled with its associated offices and relationships, ASAR provides clients across an extensive range of industry sectors with bespoke, practical legal advice and support for their business activities in Kuwait, Bahrain, across the GCC and beyond.

The firm has been consistently rated as the leading corporate and litigation firm in Kuwait by reputable legal guides such as the International Financial Law Review (IFLR), Chambers Global Guide, and Legal 500. In 2016, ASAR was acknowledged as the IFLR Kuwaiti Law Firm of the Year; an award which ASAR has been delighted to receive for 8 consecutive years.

ABK WINS 'EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR' AWARD FROM NASEBA

12TH HUMAN CAPITAL FORUM 2017

KUWAIT: For the second consecutive year, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) received the 'Employer of the Year' award from Naseba at the 12th Human Capital Forum MENA 2017, in recognition of its substantial 'Working Culture' improvements. The event was held from 30 April to 1

May, 2017 at the Sofitel Palm Hotel, Dubai. ABK participated in this year's round, whereby James Vincent - AGM Human Resources, took part as a speaker, where he discussed the Bank's extensive expertise in talent placement and nationalization. In addition senior members of ABK's

staff also attended the panel sessions and participated in the interactive ABK booth.

Commenting on the Bank's achievement, Hamza Enki, General Manager - Human Resources said: "The Human Capital Forum is one of the most interesting HR forums that

takes place each year. The various topics it addresses depict the real life events that alter the everyday Human Resource framework and experiences, and it is a true learning opportunity. ABK is honored to be part of this annual event, and proud to have its efforts recognized once again by such a highly regarded entity."

ABK's HR efforts throughout the past year focused on two main areas. The first featured enhancements to the Learning and Development capabilities, whereby employees were granted digital access to a variety of technical and behavioral courses from any location. This was recognized with ABK Group being awarded the external accreditation from the UK based Learning and Performance Institute.

The second featured a paperless appraisal process, through which ABK conducted a complete talent review. The process was developed with focus on delivering simplicity. As a result, ABK has been able to truly assess capabilities and core bench strength amongst its employees. This resulted in the launch of the Group's first ever leadership development program, which intakes candidates annually, and has been designed to develop leaders for the future.

ABK is keen to make every HR achievement a substantial one that creates a sustainable impact on the HR systems within the Group and its working environment.



James Vincent (AGM HRD at ABK), Ali Akbar (Executive Manager HR at ABK) and ABK's HR team receiving Employer of the Year Award from NASEBA representative.

TAKAUD AND MUBASHER TO MAKE TAKAUD INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AVAILABLE ONLINE

MANAMA: TAKAUD, the specialist provider of savings, investment and pension solutions for the MENA region, is pleased to announce its partnership with Mubasher Financial Services B.S.C.. Under the terms of an Agreement signed recently at TAKAUD's Manama offices, Mubasher will make TAKAUD's conventional and Sharia-compliant Conservative and other Investment Strategies available to Mubasher clients online, through Mubasher's award-winning trading platform.

Mubasher's technology will now enable broad public access to TAKAUD's carefully constructed

strategies, under the Mubasher name. In 2016, all of TAKAUD's own investment strategies showed growth, with the Global Growth Investment Strategy achieving a market-leading gain of 11.58 percent. The Mubasher Investment Strategies are based on the same sound investment principles.

In addition, Mubasher intends to offer mutual funds to their customers upon obtaining the relevant regulatory approvals. TAKAUD will share its investment expertise to identify a range of high quality mutual funds to be offered.

"TAKAUD is delighted to work with Mubasher to make our invest-

ment solutions more readily available," said Mr. Samer Khanachet, Chairman of TAKAUD. "The range of investment solutions has been crafted to match the diverse investment needs of Mubasher clients. I am convinced that they will be a popular addition to Mubasher's already expansive investment offering." Mubasher Chairman, Eng Mohamed Al-Ballaa said, "This partnership meets our objective of providing a comprehensive range of investment options for Mubasher clients. We remain committed to continually enhancing our platform; the partnership with TAKAUD enables us to achieve this."

Mubasher intends to provide the following, subject to the necessary approvals:

Conservative Investment Strategies

- Short-term investments with high rates of return, providing accessibility at short notice.
- Designed for clients looking for a competitive return on their money between trades.

Global, Regional and Sharia-Compliant Investment Strategies

- 9 strategies developed to meet the needs of prudent, balanced and growth-oriented investors.
- For the infrequent trader, the Investment Strategies provide a managed investment solution comprising a diversified range of mutual funds that are continually monitored and reviewed.
- Designed to appeal to investors who do not have the time to regularly oversee their holdings.

Core Funds

- A range of carefully screened mutual funds covering different asset classes and sectors.
- Will appeal to investors looking for diversified exposure to certain markets or who wish to take advantage of market trends. The offering will be rolled out over the coming months.



GULF AIR RENEWS IOSA CERTIFICATION

MANAMA: Gulf Air, the Kingdom of Bahrain's national carrier has successfully completed the internationally recognized, biennial IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) and has been renewed on the IOSA Safety Audit Registry until May 2019 - a registry that the airline has been on since 2005.

Gulf Air Chief Operating Officer, Captain Nasser Al-Salmi congratulated employees for their efforts in maintaining these international standards, saying of the achievement: "Gulf Air prides itself on operating to the highest global safety standards and industry best practices - this is our main priority. Our latest IOSA renewal cements our ongoing commitment to safety and Gulf Air's continuous development of IATA standards, regulatory requirements and practices within our operations. As we strive to remain at the forefront of safety developments this latest achievement reflects our success to date."

This is the seventh IOSA audit successfully completed by Gulf Air since 2005, in line with IATA's two-year audit cycle. Between IOSA audits, Gulf Air's Quality Assurance Departments continuously review and appraise internal operational processes, conducting rigorous quality control processes and self-auditing to ensure conformity with IOSA Standards and Recommended Practices in addition to industry best practices. All IATA members are IOSA registered and must remain registered to maintain IATA membership. IOSA is an internationally recognized evaluation system designed to assess airlines' operational management and control systems.

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, commenced operations in 1950, becoming one of the first commercial airlines established in the Middle East. Today, Gulf Air is a major international carrier serving 42 cities in 25 countries spanning three continents.

The airline operates double daily flights or more to 10 regional cities, in addition to



select destinations in the Indian Subcontinent and Europe, from its hub at Bahrain International Airport. Gulf Air currently serves all its destinations with a combination wide and narrow body fleet totalling 28 modern aircraft with orders for 39 new Boeing and Airbus aircraft due for delivery commencing in early 2018. The modern fleet will herald a new era for Gulf Air as it continues to enhance its product and service offering. Renowned for its traditional Arabian hospitality, evidenced by the airline's signature family and business friendly products, Gulf Air is committed to being an industry leader and developing products and services that reflect the evolving needs and aspirations of its passengers.

Gulf Air connects Bahrain to the world and, as such, is a key national infrastructure asset, serving as a powerful driver for the economy and supporting the Kingdom's on-going economic growth.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 30 April 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 23 April - 26 April 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners are:

(Sunday 23/4): Mohammad Gulzar Nawab Khan, Ali Ahmed Mohammed Hashim (Monday 24/4): Saad Jamaan Rashed Al-Azmi, Salah Sulaiman Hamad Al-Seheel (Tuesday 25/4): Fatima Abdulkareem Mohammed Al-Saqer, Jenan Hussain Abdulreda Merza (Wednesday 26/4): Abdel Rasheed Choudary Fateh Mohammad, Yaacoub Abdullah Ali Abdullah
Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al-Danah's 2nd Quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on 29 June and the 3rd Quarterly draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al Danah draw for KD1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

- Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.
- Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD200 at any given time, a KD2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the daily draw with-in two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2017 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must meet the required hold period for each draw; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches for assistance and guidance.

GULF BANK HOLDS ITS FOURTH 2017 RED ACCOUNT DRAW FOR STUDENTS!

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its forth monthly red account draw for year 2017 and three winners won valuable prizes on Monday 24 April, 2017.

The red account draw resulted in the announcement of three students who won prizes ranging from an iPhone 7 plus to an Apple Watch and they are:

- Nourah Mohammed Shlaitan Al-Dosari - iPhone 7 Plus - red product
- Shahad Ahmed Sayed SulaimanAlbukhari - iPad Pro
- Haya Ibrahim Saleh Jehail - Apple Watch

Gulf Bank's red is an account for high school students, college and university students aged between 15 and 25. Eligible customers will get the chance to enter the draw automatically and on a monthly basis, upon transferring their student allowances.

Each month, an iPhone 7 plus , an iPad Pro, and an Apple Watch will be gifted to three lucky winners until January 2018 . The next draw dates are announced as follows:

- May 22, 2017
- June 29, 2017
- July 24, 2017
- August 21, 2017
- September 28, 2017
- October 23, 2017
- November 20, 2017
- January 11, 2018

In addition to the Apple prizes, students will have the opportunity to win a Fiat 500c -Model 2017 at the annual car draw, upon transferring their allowance! Also, movie tickets at all Cinescape theatres will be available for only KD2 seven days a week by simply being a red account holder; not to mention the exclusive offers from Edfa3ly, which is an international internet shopping services company.

Gulf Bank invites all students to take part in its red account draws, as they might be the lucky winners for year 2017!





DIGITAL DISRUPTION FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS TOPS AGENDA AT CISCO CONNECT UAE 2017

DUBAI: Cisco Connect UAE 2017, the company's flagship IT and thought leadership event, provided a platform to experience the technology's leaders latest solutions and gain insights into the latest trends and thinking about digitization. Held at the Atlantis the Palm Hotel in Dubai, the event brought together over 1,700 delegates across Cisco's customer and partner organizations to network and discuss the huge potential and opportunities the digital era brings to the success of businesses and organizations in the UAE.

Themed 'Your Time is Now', the two-day event explored the fundamental positive changes that digital disruption can bring to a company's value proposition, and its resulting market position, and how the impact is being felt across industries. A theme that recurred throughout the event's activities was that in today's digital era, only those organizations willing to transform themselves into a digital business will survive.

Speaking at the event, Shukri Eid, Managing Director - East region, Cisco Middle East said, "In the digital era, new rules will need to be applied while many old rules will need to be disregarded, if organizations are to benefit from accelerated rate of transformational innovation that the world is experiencing. We are continuously seeing new business models being introduced and new industries evolving, which must

spur a drastic rethink of how we serve the different industries and what value we bring to our customers and society at large."

A study by the Global Center for Digital Business Transformation, a joint initiative of Cisco and IMD, reveals that roughly four of today's top 10 incumbents - in terms of market share - across

'Progressive vision'

Speaking at the C-level executive dinner on the eve of Cisco Connect UAE's opening, Mike Weston, Vice President, Cisco Middle East, said: "We are fortunate enough to live in a country with a progressive vision which places itself at the forefront of the digitization drive. As the second

the vision for our organizations harmonize with the UAE's digitization drive - it must also encourage and advance it."

Shukri Eid opened the event with a strong message 'disrupt or be disrupted,' urging UAE businesses to embrace digital disruption for success. He also highlighted Cisco's com-

become agile. Andre Laurent, Worldwide Director of Engineering for Enterprise Networking Sales at Cisco spoke on 'Network as a Platform for Digital Transformation'.

Hosted by Cisco and sponsoring partners, the event included an executive panel discussion of distinguished government IT leaders and over 75 demos at the World of Solutions, an interactive exhibition area that incorporated the latest solutions from Cisco and its channel partners. It also featured 30 dedicated breakout sessions by Cisco specialists on key technology frameworks including data center and cloud, enterprise networking, security, collaboration and digital industries.

Younus Al-Nasser, Assistant Director General of the Smart Dubai Office spoke on Smart Dubai's initiatives towards becoming the happiest city in the world and the city's ambition to achieve a happy life for the citizens and residents of Dubai. Ferhad Patel, Intel's DCG EMEA Sales Director spoke on 'Vortex of Change'. Additionally, an executive panel of distinguished guests from the Dubai Electronic Security Centre, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM) and Expo 2020 discussed the importance of digitization, innovation and security in powering the future.



multiple industries will be displaced by digital disruption in the next five years. To flourish in the Age of Digitization organizations were urged to build their digital operating models with security as the foundation so as to benefit from agility, innovation and growth in today's digital economy.

most tech savvy government globally, the UAE is well positioned to reap the benefits of emerging technologies and capitalize on the opportunities presented by digital transformation. This context presents us with immense opportunities, and responsibilities, as leaders. Not only must

mitment to partnering with customers and partners to support them on their digitization journey. Guy Diedrich, Cisco's Global Innovation Officer, warned that disruption waits for no one and that complacent leaders will get run over in the digital age if they do not act fast to innovate and



MIDEAST EDUCATORS HAVE A CLEAR VISION FOR TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOM: SURVEY

ABU DHABI: Microsoft yesterday released the findings from a new education survey of nearly 650 educators in the Middle East, in which they expressed the challenges and opportunities in optimizing technology for the classroom as well as the skill-sets required to succeed.

The survey commissioned by Microsoft, and conducted by Market research firm YouGov, was shared at the annual BETT Middle East 2017 event held in Abu Dhabi, on April 25-26 and brought together over 1600 leading educators from across the region. BETT (British Education and Training Technology) has established itself as a global meeting place for the education technology community. Through its ongoing series of world-class events, it continues to promote the discovery of technology and knowledge to enhance lifelong learning. Educators in Middle East and Africa see themselves as highly tech-proficient but only use it for certain lessons. They believe school leaders should lead the transformation in education, and are most interested in apps that provide high quality curricular content.

The findings revealed that 89% educators said they believe their school leaders have a clear vision of how to use technology for the enhancement of the classroom experience. 50% of educators reported that technology was used in their institution; and a majority said virtual collaboration, working with other remotely, was a key skill required by students, followed by problem solving and knowledge construction. When addressing the absence of technology as it impacted the student body, 39% believed students will be limited in terms of career options because of their lack of digital literacy.

However, 52% educators surveyed lack proper training to understand and implement the integration of technology (computers, software, online resources) into the way they teach. The study revealed that the biggest factor needed to successfully transform teaching and learning experiences was educator skill sets - in particular, knowing how to make the most of available resources and tools; as a 55% majority believe that teachers can lead the digital transformation both inside and outside the classroom.

Leading-edge products

"Over several decades, Microsoft has worked with institutions and educators around the world, and gained a deep understanding of how technology in schools can transform the learning experience," said Anthony Salcito, Vice President, Worldwide Education, Microsoft Corporation. "We continue to bring our leading-edge products, services and programs to bear on this challenge, always taking into account that technology is not the lone agent in such transformations, and can even complicate or slow down the process if not implemented with due diligence. We recommend that education leaders take a curriculum-focused approach to technology adoption, keeping in mind their educational goals, and then integrate those technologies that facilitate tangible benefits for students and teachers."

The company's collaboration with BETT, introduced educators in the Middle East and beyond to generational leaps in classroom-enhancing technologies and methodologies. Delegates were able to attend Microsoft Teacher Development Track, the School Leaders Track and the Education Digital Transformation Track to unlock fresh approaches with tools such as Office Mix, "Creative Coding through Games and Apps", and drive improvement within their own schools and systems.

In addition to its in-depth tracks, Microsoft along with its partners also demonstrated its latest solutions and devices to enable digital transformation in classrooms. The company also imparted some of its expertise on device management, covering Windows 10, the Microsoft Educator's Community and Office 365 Education.

Bett, a leading global education technology exhibition and congress series, wrapped up its second Leadership Summit and Expo in the Middle East on April 26. With significant involvement from regional and international governmental entities, as well as renowned speakers from education bodies and organizations, the two-day event aimed to promote transformational technology for classroom solutions, whilst connecting people, ideas and practices to enhance lifelong learning within the region.

HUAWEI RELEASES 'PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS AT GLOBAL SAFE CITY'

By Ben Garcia

DUBAI: In the onset of global terrorism and various issues on public security and safety, Huawei hosted its Second Global Safe City Summit 2017 themed 'Leading New ICT, The Road to Collaborative Public Safety' in Dubai. The event kicked-off yesterday and continued till today. Huawei admitted to have been servicing more than 350 government customers, industry experts, and partners wherein some of them are also participating in the summit to share their experience and opinions, and promote digital transformation of the public safety industry.

In a round-table discussion yesterday Huawei introduced the C-C4ISR Collaborative Public Safety Solutions, which they said would drive digital transformation of the global public safety industry. A former law enforcer in Singapore over the last 30 years, Hong Eng Koh, Huawei Global Chief Public Safety Expert, Enterprise Business Group presented the projects being maintained in Singapore to ensure safety and security of all its citizens as well as visitors.

"Until now I continue to fight crimes, this time, through the help of Huawei technology. Public safety is the main and key concern of Huawei so I was really moved by the fact that I belong now to a company that can really provide solution. Now, I am helping the public to ensure safety and security through Huawei technology. It means this company is admirable doing great favor around the world in order to save lives and properties. Let us accept, the world is changing rapidly, with increasing global urbanization, cities are expanding and becoming less safe, we need a technology that can provide solution," he said.

'Collaborative projects'

Alaa Elshimy, confirmed some of the projects being implemented in Kuwait in collaboration with the Kuwaiti authorities to ensure safety and security are observed. "We cannot divulge our collaborative projects with the Kuwaiti government, it's not in our hand to discuss in public, we have confi-



dentiality issue, but yes, we have several collaborative projects being implemented in Kuwait, some are still being shaped," said Elshimy. He also mentioned security and safety projects being implemented in other countries in the world and in particular Middle East such as Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Qatar. "We are involved in 80 countries and 200 cities all over the world. Our projects are all in collaboration with the local government involved. We respect and follow their local laws with regards to installing our technology solutions," he said.

World-leading public safety partners such as YITU, SenseTime, Zenith, iOmniscient, and GSAFE-

TY, Huawei also released the first all-cloud and matrix intelligence Video Cloud Solution and Crisis and Disaster Management Solution. The solutions are designed to address diverse safety threats and protect citizens in cities across the world. Asked on the accuracy and commenting on public safety, Fan Siyong, President of Public Sector of Huawei Enterprise Business Group, said: "As cities embrace digital transformation, new safety threats are emerging that need to be addressed by the public safety industry. We need to keep pace with social and technological developments and shift from a traditional city safety construction

model to one of collaborative public safety. By building cross-region and cross-agency collaborative public safety systems that connect governments and citizens, we can help cities better prevent, detect, handle, and recover from various threats. The 'collaborative' method of C-C4ISR will be fundamental to digital transformation of the public safety industry. Using new ICT such as Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data, mobile broadband, and Software-Defined Networking (SDN), as well as cloud-pipe-device synergy, the solution will drive efficient collaboration among governmental agencies as well as between governmental agencies and citizens."

DEADLY SECRET: ILLEGAL ABORTIONS KILLING MYANMAR'S WOMEN

YANGON: Thiri's heart started pounding and her whole body shook after she swallowed the final dose of pills that would end her unwanted pregnancy in a Yangon hotel. Her boyfriend had abandoned her after finding out she was pregnant—a familiar story in Myanmar, where many consider women "ruined" if they have sex before marriage.

With no other option in sight, she joined the hundreds of thousands of women in the country who risk their lives every year seeking out illegal backstreet abortions. "My heart was beating very fast (after taking the final dose) and I was trembling all over... then the bleeding started and I had a pain in my stomach," 28-year-old Thiri, whose name has been changed to protect her identity said. "Now I worry about my womb, about whether I can get pregnant." Abortion is banned in Myanmar unless a woman's life is at risk and doctors who defy the law can face up to 10 years in jail.

Even talking about sex is taboo in the Buddhist-majority country, where there is no proper word for vagina in the Burmese language spoken by most people. While contraception is technically available, few women know how to use it and many young people are too ashamed to buy it. "Women don't talk about sex," said Thiri, who has still not told her new fiancé she had an abortion two years ago. "It's like a secret." She says the doctor who told her she was pregnant made her feel ashamed for sleeping with her boyfriend out of wedlock, and urged her to "get married fast".

Experts say this culture of silence and scandal around sex could be driving more than a quarter of a million women a year to seek out clandestine and often



YANGON: Htar Htar, founder of women's rights group Akhaya Women, poses for a photo in Yangon. Abortion is banned in Myanmar unless a woman's life is at risk and doctors who defy the law can face up to 10 years in jail. —AFP

unsafe abortions. With 282 fatalities per 100,000 pregnancies, Myanmar's maternal death rate is the second-highest in Southeast Asia and twice the regional average. Officially around 10 percent are caused by induced abortions, but experts say the reality is likely higher as deaths from infections are counted separately. "Up to a third of all the maternal deaths in Myanmar will be related to abortions," said Sid Naing, country director for reproductive health NGO Marie Stopes.

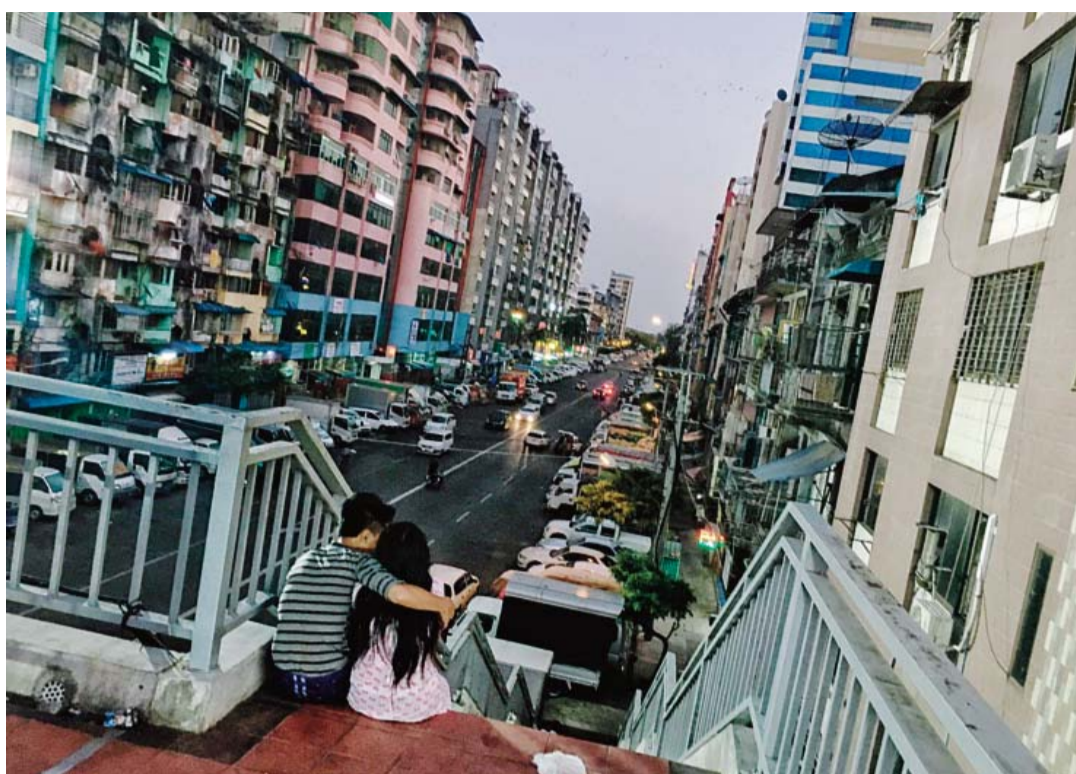
Bamboo and bicycle spokes

Like Thiri, many desperate women resort to taking black market pills they know little about. Others visit backstreet clinics run by untrained quacks who use anything from umbrella shafts to twigs or bamboo to try to dislodge the foetus. Experts say there are dozens of illegal surgeons in the commercial capital Yangon alone, charging between

30,000 and 100,000 kyats (\$20-75) for a procedure.

Dr Ni Ni, the country director of the reproductive rights advocacy group IPAS, described one case where a 14-year-old girl had to have her uterus removed after it was ripped by a bicycle spoke. Some women bleed to death straight away, while others are left with internal infections that can become fatal. Records from the Yangon Central Women's Hospital seen by AFP showed almost 300 women were admitted with abortion-related septicemia—a blood infection between January and September last year.

"If they don't come early we cannot help," said Su Su, who used to work at the hospital. "Normally they come late, because they are afraid." Activists say many married women end up pregnant because they have no power to refuse their husband's advances or make them use contraception. Most of the hospital



YANGON: Photo shows a couple sitting on the stairs of an overpass in central Yangon. While contraception is technically available in Myanmar, few women know how to use it and many young people are too ashamed to buy it. —AFP

records listed women in their mid-20s and 30s, along with several in their 40s. Only a handful had "single" written next to their entry in red pen. "Women get threats if they don't agree to have sex with their husbands," said Htar Htar, founder of women's rights group Akhaya Women. "They cannot say no to sex and also cannot negotiate to use condoms."

Family planning

Birth control was shunned by Myanmar's former junta, which tried to encourage Buddhists to have children out of fear of the huge populations of neighbouring

India, China and even Thailand. That changed under the quasi-civilian government that took over in 2011, which implemented a scheme to give more married women access to contraception. "Before that even the words 'family planning' were taboo," said Kaori Ishikawa, deputy representative for the UN Population Fund in Myanmar. NGOs like IPAS are making long-term contraception more available to women, particularly in rural areas where maternal mortality rates are over twice as high as in the cities.

The UNFPA has spent almost \$10 million in two years to improve

maternal health and family planning. But public attitudes are proving harder to change. Htar Htar said she pushed for abortion to be decriminalized as part of a raft of new laws to protect women's rights, but was rejected because of concerns it would go against Buddhist beliefs that all life is sacred. "Changing the law about abortion will be really sensitive, especially with Ma Ba Tha," she said, referring to Myanmar's most prominent headline Buddhist group. For women like Thiri, however, it can be a question of life and death. "If it were legal it would save so many lives," she said. —AFP

REPEAL OR SPARE?

PRESSURE IS ON US MODERATES OVER HEALTH CARE

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP: Moderate Republicans face intense pressure on their party's latest attempt to scrap Democrat Barack Obama's health care law - from President Donald Trump, House GOP leaders, medical professionals and outside political groups. Back home, their constituents provide little clarity. In interviews, Associated Press reporters found views deeply held and deeply divided, reflective of dueling impulses to fulfill the seven-year-old GOP promise to repeal the law and to save many of its parts.

Meridene Walsh of Greenwood Village, Colorado, voted for Donald Trump for president last year partly because she wanted the Affordable Care Act gone. Now, she's frustrated that House Republicans, including her own representative, Mike Coffman, are balking. "The Republicans keep saying 'repeal, repeal' for seven years and a new president gets into office and what happens?" Meridene Walsh, 49, said with disgust as she stood outside a supermarket in the affluent Denver suburb. "I really want them to finish. Let's get this health care thing going."

Minutes later, David Murray left the same store and praised Obama's law. He needed surgery to repair two discs in his back, and the law's prohibition on insurance companies discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions is what allowed him to find a new insurer to pay for the procedure. "If it wasn't for Obamacare, I might not be walking," said Murray, a 46-year-old commercial driver. "There's no reason to change something without making it better."

The latest iteration of the GOP bill would let states escape a requirement under Obama's law that insurers charge healthy and seriously ill customers the same rates. Overall, the legislation would cut the Medicaid program for the

poor, eliminate Obama's fines for people who don't buy insurance and provide generally skimpier subsidies.

If the GOP bill became law, congressional analysts estimate that 24 million more Americans would be uninsured by 2026, including 14 million by next year. That bill fizzled before a planned vote in March when members of the conservative Freedom Caucus found the changes didn't go far enough

strict, hundreds flooded a local library where he was privately meeting constituents in January, and Coffman left through a rear door. After Coffman announced he supported the earlier repeal, he endured hours of boos at a town hall he held.

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, the New Jersey Republican who is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, has heard it from both sides. A group has been rallying at

prefer a complete repeal of Obama's law. But he said he won't want Rep Jeff Denham out of office if he continues his opposition to the current measure. "In general, I like Jeff Denham, but I don't want Republicans to be liars," Marsella said. "They said they'd repeal Obamacare, and now they're not. They're just changing it. So the underlying problem is still there."

In the Chicago suburb of Wheaton, Illinois, represented by Republican Peter Roskam, salesman Bruce Hoyer said the law raised health care costs for him so much that he had to switch jobs. Still, he believes that the legislation made much-needed changes, including expanding insurance coverage to people who didn't have it. "I think people need to be insured," said Hoyer, who voted for Hillary Clinton, "even though it cost a lot and it hurt." In a South Florida district, some residents want Republican Rep. Carlos Curbelo to fight to keep some changes brought by the law.

Natalie Penate, a 30-year-old student training to be a patient care technician, wants to continue the requirement that maternity coverage remain mandatory at no extra cost for women. "Those who are planning to increase the cost of health care because of being a woman, having more health care needs than men, should consider those women their mother, their daughter, their sister, someone close to them, so they have it in their heart knowing 'wait, we can't do that. That's not fair.'" The debates can be internal, too. Sandra Pendragon, a 48-year-old jewelry maker and business consultant, would prefer that the federal government would have less say over people's lives. On the other hand, the Democrat in Republican Rep. Chris Smith's New Jersey district, said, "scrapping the whole thing is just ridiculous." —AP



WASHINGTON: House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis discusses the Republican agenda during a news conference on Capitol Hill. Ryan needs a win following the collapse of his health care bill. —AP

to get government out of health care and moderates objected to undoing the expansion of Medicaid insurance for low-income adults.

An amended version has won over several conservatives with provisions to let states opt out of some requirements. One new wrinkle: While insurers would still have to cover people with pre-existing conditions, they would now be able to charge them higher premiums. The moderate Republicans who were on the fence last time are crucial to the outcome. In Coffman's Colorado dis-

his office every Friday afternoon, and saving the law is one of its members' priorities. Meanwhile, the conservative Club for Growth ran ads targeting Frelinghuysen for standing in the way of repeal. This time around, Frelinghuysen hasn't said publicly where he stands. His office has not responded to requests for comment.

The upset doesn't mean that all voters are ready to oust their representatives over it. John Marsella, a 52-year-old stay-at-home dad from Oakdale, California, said he would

gazette notice by Wakhungu announced an end to the use, manufacture and importation of plastic bags for household and commercial packaging in Kenya from August 28. "I am excited my efforts have yielded this - something I have been yearning for," said Waikibia. "Plastic bags are such a menace." This is the fourth attempt by the Kenyan government to do away with plastic bags. In 2005 and 2007, it prohibited plastic bags with a thickness of 30 microns, and in 2011, it also banned 60-micron plastic bags, to include all those considered light enough to be blown away by the wind. But the measures have been a failure so far. Across Kenya, shoppers remain addicted to plastic bags, which are ditched out at supermarkets with provisions such as fruit and vegetables, cosmetics and toiletries - already wrapped in other plastic bags. Bags can also be bought separately from retail stores or open-air stalls for 5 (\$0.05), 10 or 20 Kenyan shillings, depending on their size, for individual use.

Jail or a fine

This time there will be no exceptions, said Geoffrey Wakhungu, director general of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), a state agency that advises on environmental matters and enforces related laws and policies. The previous bans struggled because they imposed restrictions based on a bag's specific thickness, he said. Now only primary packaging will be allowed, meaning packaging at source where the plastic is in contact with the product and is considered important for health reasons, he explained.

Anyone in the supply chain who contravenes the gazette notice will be subject to a one to two-year jail term, or a fine of 2 to 4 million shillings as provided for in the 2015 environmental management law, Wakhungu said. Manufacturers, suppliers and importers have until the end of August to clear their stocks and adopt biodegradable alternatives, he noted. Controlling manufacturing by unlicensed operators inside the country could be tough, Wakhungu acknowledged, but as their supply

of raw materials is cut off by the import ban, they will likely find it hard to continue.

Meanwhile, NEMA is encouraging innovative packaging schemes utilizing sisal, water hyacinth and papyrus reeds. Efforts have kicked off to raise public awareness ahead of the ban through the media, county governments, religious leaders, and community leaders and residents' associations. The government is also introducing economic incentives to counter potential job losses, a threat manufacturers have warned about, including support for recycling initiatives. Wakhungu said the agency is sensitizing the judiciary to ensure smooth implementation of the ban. And it is aiming to curtail plastic imports through closer collaboration with the Kenya Revenue Authority, the Kenya Ports Authority and the Kenya Bureau of Standards. Separately, the East African Community bloc is working towards controlling the use of plastics across the region, with a related bill expected to come up for discussion at the Arusha-based East African Legislative Assembly in May. —Reuters



KAPUAS HULU, Indonesia: Photo shows a rare albino orangutan that was saved from villagers in Kapuas Hulu, on the Indonesian side of Borneo island. —AFP

A 'RARE' ALBINO ORANGUTAN RESCUED ON BORNEO ISLAND

PALANGKARAYA: A rare albino orangutan has been rescued on the Indonesian part of Borneo island where villagers were keeping the white-haired, blue-eyed creature in a cage, a protection group said yesterday. In an extremely unusual discovery, authorities picked up the female, estimated to be five years old, in a remote village in Kapuas Hulu district. The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF), which is caring for the critically endangered ape-believed to be albino-said the organization had never before in its 25-year history taken in such an orangutan. Normal Bornean orangutans have reddish-brown hair. Villagers said they captured the ape-who has not yet been named—on Thursday. Authorities rescued the ape two days later.

"Orangutans are rare, and an albino orangutan is even rarer," Nico Hermanu, a BOSF spokesman said. "Since BOSF was founded 25 years ago, we had never before taken in an albino orangutan at our rehabilitation centre." Pictures

showed dried blood around the creature's nose, with the foundation saying the injury could have been sustained when the ape was fighting the villagers' attempts to capture it. The orangutan has been taken to BOSF's rehabilitation centre for further assessment. Almost 500 orangutans are kept at the centre.

The Bornean orangutan, which along with the Sumatran orangutan are Asia's only great apes, is classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as "critically endangered"—just one step away from extinction. Around 100,000 are estimated to live on Borneo, which is divided between Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia, down from 288,500 in 1973 and with their numbers expected to shrink to 47,000 by 2025, according to the IUCN. The creatures have seen their habitat shrink dramatically as the island's rainforests are increasingly turned into oil palm, rubber or paper plantations, and are sometimes targeted by villagers who view them as pests. —AFP

KENYA SEEKING TO CURE PLASTIC BAG ADDICTION

NAKURU: The sight of overflowing heaps of plastic waste at Gito, the largest dump in Nakuru County, in Kenya's Great Rift Valley, was an eyesore that turned photjournalist James Waikibia into an environmental activist. Knowing plastic was a national problem, he decided to look beyond his hometown of Nakuru, seeking a way to capture the attention of government and consumers in urban and rural communities across the country.

In 2015, Waikibia started a social media campaign, using the Twitter hashtag #banplasticsKE, to call for a ban on plastic use, focused on bags. A few months later, after Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources Judi Wakhungu tweeted back her support, he changed the hashtag to #supportbanplasticsKE. Waikibia would go out onto the streets of Nakuru, and take photos of people posing with a placard emblazoned with the hashtag, posting the images on Facebook and Twitter.

His efforts have not been in vain. This February, a



MARYLAND: Anesthesiologist Dr Ron Samet performs an ultrasound-guided nerve block at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Bathing the nerves responsible for certain types of pain in a numbing drug allows many patients to avoid or reduce use of potentially addictive painkillers after surgery, one way hospitals are reducing their own dependence on opioids. —AP Photos



MARYLAND: Nurse Amanda Fritsch checks the catheter delivering a drug that kept Stuart Anders' injured leg numb for three days.

OVERCOMING OPIOIDS: WHEN PILLS ARE HOSPITAL'S LAST RESORT

BALTIMORE: A car crash shattered Stuart Anders' thigh, leaving pieces of bone sticking through his skin. Yet Anders begged emergency room doctors not to give him powerful opioid painkillers - he'd been addicted once before and panicked at the thought of relapsing. "I can't lose what I worked for," he said. The nation's opioid crisis is forcing hospitals to begin rolling out non-addictive alternatives to treatments that have long been the mainstay for the severe pain of trauma and surgery, so they don't save patients' lives or limbs only to have them fall under the grip of addiction.

Anders, 53, from Essex, Maryland, was lucky to land in a Baltimore emergency room offering an option that dramatically cut his need for opioids: An ultrasound-guided nerve block bathed a key nerve in local anesthetic, keeping his upper leg numb for several days. "It has really changed the dynamics of how we care for these patients," said trauma anesthesiologist Dr Ron Samet, who treated Anders. An estimated 2 million people in the US are addicted to prescription opioids, and an average of 91 Americans die every day from an overdose of those painkillers or their illicit cousin, heroin.

The higher the risk

This grim spiral often starts in the hospital. A Harvard study published in the New England Journal of Medicine in February raised the troubling prospect that for every 48 patients newly prescribed an opioid in the emergency room, one will use the pills for at least six months over the next year. And the longer they're used, the higher the risk for becoming dependent. Doctors and hospitals around the country are searching for ways to relieve extreme pain while at the same time sharply limiting what was long considered their most effective tool. It's a critical part of the effort to overcome the worst addiction crisis in US history but, as Anders' experience shows, their options are neither simple nor perfect.

Anders' excruciating injury eventually did require a low opioid dose when the nerve block wore off but, Samet said, far less than normal. "Provide them with good pain relief initially, for the first 24 to 48 hours after surgery, the pain that comes back after that isn't necessarily as hard and as strong," said Samet, an assistant anesthesiology professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. And some doctors are discovering an added benefit of cutting back or even eliminating opioids. At the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, a program called "enhanced recovery after surgery" is getting some patients home two to four days faster following major abdominal operations, using non-opioid painkillers that are gentler on the digestive tract. "Our patients are very afraid of pain, especially the patients with a history of opioid addiction," said Dr Jennifer Holder-Murray, a UPMC colorectal surgeon who helped start the program. "When they come back to me and tell me they didn't even fill their opioid prescription, that's a remarkable experience."

Narcotic painkillers

In trauma centers and surgery suites, there are no one-size-fits-all replacements for prescription opioids - narcotic painkillers that range from intravenous morphine and Dilaudid to pills including Percocet, Vicodin and OxyContin. They so rapidly dull severe pain that they've become a default in hospital care, to the point where it's not uncommon for patients to have an opioid dripping through an IV before they wake from surgery, whether they'll really need it or not.

Now, amid surging deaths from drug overdoses, some hospitals and emergency rooms are rethinking their own dependence on the painkillers, taking steps to make them a last resort rather than a starting reflex. The new approach: Mixing a variety of different medications, along with techniques like nerve blocks, spinal anesthesia and numbing lidocaine, to attack pain from multiple directions, rather than depending solely on opioids to dampen brain signals that scream "ouch." It's known by the wonky name "multimodal analgesia."

Consider colorectal surgery, so painful that standard practice is to administer IV opioids in the operating room and switch to a patient-activated morphine pump right afterward. The University of Pittsburgh program ended that opioid-first mentality. Instead, doctors choose from a wide mix of options including IV acetaminophen and prescription-strength anti-inflammatory painkillers known as NSAIDs, anti-seizure medications such as gabapentin that calm nerve pain, muscle-relaxing drugs, and others.

Without the opioid side effects of nausea, vomiting and constipation, patients may find it easier to start eating solid food and walking around hours after surgery. Some do still need a low opioid dose, Holder-Murray cautioned, but few require a morphine pump. And for those who go home earlier, the approach can save hundreds, even thousands, of dollars. "It's not just changing a medication or two. It's a whole culture change," she said. At MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, anesthesiologist Dr. Joseph Myers is adding to his non-opioid cocktail a long-acting version of the numbing agent bupivacaine that's squirted into wounds before they're stitched closed. Called Exparel, it's controversial because it costs more than standard painkillers. But Myers said it lasts so many hours longer that he recently used it for a cancer patient who had both breasts removed, without resorting to opioids. Hours after surgery, she was "eating crackers and drinking ginger ale and she says she's fine," he recalled.

At Stanford University, pain psychologist Beth Darnall says it's not just about using different medications. Patients who are overly anxious about surgical pain wind up feeling worse, so doctors also need to address psychological factors if they're to succeed in cutting the opioids. In Baltimore, Anders remembers waking up in the University of Maryland's Shock

Trauma Center and telling doctors and nurses, "I am a recovering addict." Years earlier, another car crash had led him to a pain clinic that prescribed Percocet "just like candy," Anders said. Before getting addiction treatment, he said, "I came close to losing my job, losing my wife." Samet, the anesthesiologist, estimates that Anders' nerve block cut by tenfold the amount of opioids he'd otherwise have received for his latest injury.

I can't feel anything

Samet wheeled over a portable ultrasound machine, placed a probe over Anders' pelvis and searched the black-and-white screen for the dots that mark key nerves. He threaded a tiny tube directly to Anders' femoral nerve, allowing for repeated infusions of a non-addictive numbing medication for three days. "It's like a Godsend. If you can have something like this,

why would you want to take anything else?," Anders said a day after surgeons implanted a rod in his femur to fix the break. "I can wiggle my toes, I can move my foot, there's feeling right above the ankle," but in that damaged thigh, "I can't feel anything." Patients need to ask about these kinds of alternatives, Samet said, but they're not available at all hospitals. Nerve blocks are becoming more common for elective bone surgery than in fast-paced trauma care, for example. What Samet calls a lingering weak link: Even if patients go home with only a small supply of an opioid for lingering post-surgical pain, too often they get a refill from another doctor who assumes that prescription must be OK if a hospital chose it. Not Anders. Sent home with some low-dose oxycodone, he discarded the last 20 pills. "I didn't want them," he said, "and I didn't want nobody else getting their hands on them." —AP

ASTRAZENECA IMMUNOTHERAPY WINS FIRST APPROVAL IN BLADDER CANCER

DURVALUMAB PRICE SET AT \$15,000/MONTH

NEW YORK: US regulators have approved AstraZeneca's key immunotherapy drug durvalumab as a treatment for bladder cancer, marking the first commercial green light for a product the company hopes will go on to sell billions of dollars. The approval, while expected, marks a milestone for the British company, which expects new cancer drugs to help revive its fortunes following patent losses on older blockbuster products like cholesterol pill Crestor and Nexium for heartburn.

Bladder cancer itself is a relatively small initial market, where AstraZeneca is lagging behind rivals Bristol-Myers Squibb and Roche whose immunotherapies are already approved for the condition. Durvalumab's big commercial opportunity lies in previously untreated lung cancer, where key clinical trial results, including with combination therapy, are due in June or July. Leerink analyst Seamus Fernandez sees durvalumab capturing a modest 10 percent of the estimated \$2.3 billion global bladder cancer market, while AstraZeneca in 2014 put the drug's peak sales in all cancers at \$6.5 billion, including combination use.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said late on Monday it granted accelerated approval to AstraZeneca's drug to treat advanced bladder cancer in patients whose disease had progressed despite chemotherapy. The drug, which will have the brand name Imfinzi, works by helping the body's immune cells kill cancer, offering an alternative to toxic chemotherapy. While not without side effects, such immuno-oncology treatment has the potential of longer-lasting efficacy, although it comes at a high price.

AstraZeneca said the average wholesale acquisition cost of durvalumab would be around \$15,000 a month. "This first approval for Imfinzi is an important milestone in our return to growth," said AstraZeneca Chief Executive Pascal Soriot. The drug belongs to a new class of medicines called PD-L1 inhibitors that block a mechanism tumours use to evade detection from the immune system. It was approved by the FDA for use in patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma, by far the most common form of bladder cancer, regardless of their status for the amount of PD-L1

protein on their cancer cells.

Durvalumab won accelerated approval, which enables the use of therapies for serious conditions to fill an unmet medical need based on data the FDA believes is likely to predict a clinical benefit. AstraZeneca is required to conduct trials to confirm actual benefit to patients. The FDA also approved a complementary diagnostic from Roche that can be used with the drug to assess PD-L1 levels.

Studies have shown patients with high PD-L1 are more likely to do well on durvalumab, although such a test is not required for its use. Durvalumab is being tested on its own and also in combination with another immune system-boosting therapy called tremelimumab in various cancers. The medicine is the latest immunotherapy to be approved by the FDA, after nods for treatments developed against various cancers by Bristol-Myers Squibb, Merck & Co, Roche, and a collaboration between Germany's Merck KGaA and Pfizer. AstraZeneca shares were up 0.3 percent in early London trading yesterday. —Reuters

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Secretary General of the Arab Media Forum (AMF) Madhi Al-Khamees hosted a ceremony to honor Kuwait national hockey team players and management after they won the Asian Cup which concluded recently in Kuwait.



SPECIAL RAMADAN DISCOUNT ON ABU HALIFA FLOW HOUSE TICKETS
Flow House Abu Halifa announced new programs and products to be launched for the 2017 summer season. They include special discount on tickets for co-op society shareholders, as well as cooperation with Radio Kuwait in order to help promote local tourism, Executive Director Hamad Al-Khaneeni said. Furthermore, Khaneeni announced special activities to be held during Ramadan, including events to be hosted for the first time in the Middle East, as well as special promotional ticket prices on the occasion of the holy month.



Sherif Ismail, Kuwait Times Advertising Creative Director, dedicated to Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief, a copy of his photography book entitled 'Ayn Masryia Ala Al-Donia' (Egyptian eye zoom in on the world) during the Kuwait Times photo competition award's ceremony.



ASSE KUWAIT APPOINTED DIRECTOR FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

ASSE Kuwait Chapter, founded in 2000 is the Kuwait's premier voluntary, non-profit making Health, Safety and Environmental organization that strives to provide professional guidance, training, consultancy and resources to the industrial and social sectors in the region. In pursuance of its lofty goals and objectives the society has been organizing international Conferences, Technical meets, Training programs and Outreach activities on way to become one of the most active professional bodies in the Middle East.

In the past, ASSE-KC has successfully conducted Eight International HSE Professional Development Conference and Exposition with the support of

Local Govt. bodies, International Professional Bodies like IOSH, IADC, ILO, CCPS etc, and major oil companies in Kuwait and other GCC region, which we sincerely thank and appreciate.

Encouraged by the outcome of the earlier Conferences, ASSE-KC takes pride in announcing the 9th International Professional Development Conference (PDC) to be conducted in the month of November 2017 in the state of Kuwait. Like previous years, this ASSE's Conference is designed to be one of the largest of its kind in the region. It also brings together practitioners across the globe representing a wide range of industries, organization and career levels to participate in the program of workshops, pre-

sentations and discussions concerning the occupational Health, Safety, Environment and Loss Prevention. During the recently organized ASSE Kuwait Chapter Executive Committee Meeting at Kuwait Hilton Hotel on 24th April 2017, Mohammad Riaz Shareef, Past president and Present Advisory Committee member of Kuwait chapter was selected to be the Conference Director of this mega event.

Riaz, working as an HSE Engineer at Kuwait National Petroleum Company holds 20 plus years of experience in Oil and Gas Industry has held several key positions in the chapter in the past. ASSE Kuwait Chapter Executive Committee wish him and his team a successful conference.

GUST's PACE ORGANIZES EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR BOUBYAN BANK

IN COOPERATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO BOOTH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

KUWAIT: Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) Professional Advancement and Continuing Education (PACE) organized a professional development program for Boubyan Bank's executive management seniors at University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. The course, entitled 'Executive Leadership Development Program: Future executive leadership development,' will help strengthen leadership skills in 30 senior managers at Boubyan Bank. Coach, mentor, writer, broadcaster, and keynote speaker of international acclaim, Nigel Paine, and public speaker and consultant, Professor Nancy Tennant will be leading the program, which will take place from the 14th until the 18th of May in Kuwait. The course will cover key topics such as executive maturity, leading innovation and change, managing stakeholders, empowerment, value creation, and effective communication.

The program's module will incor-



Associate Dean of Executive Education at Chicago Booth
Renu Kulkarni

porate three themes: An outside-in mind set, strategic focus, and innovation. These themes will create a clear understanding of factors and forces impacting the banking industry, and look at the development and refinement of a corporate strategy, which in turn will provide a necessary skillset and frame of mind for



PACE Director at GUST
Sadegh Zobeidi

achieving strategic agility. Boubyan Bank seniors will also look at how company strategies evolve over time in response to industry change, and will learn to focus on developing new innovative solutions to meet customers' needs and uncover unmet needs.

General Manager for Human



General Manager for Human Resources Group at Boubyan Bank
Adel Hammad

Resources Group at Boubyan, Adel Hammad, said, "We are delighted that PACE was up to the challenge of finding the best possible training partner to arm our up-and-coming managers with the right skillsets to overcome the obstacles of corporate life, and be able to adapt to our ever-changing market."

Formerly known as the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago Booth School of Business is the second-oldest business school in the US, the first school to offer an Executive MBA program, and the first to initiate a PhD program in business. Chicago Booth is ranked 3rd top business school across the US by US News and World Report, and has an MBA program that has been ranked first globally by The Economist.

Associate Dean of Executive Education at Chicago Booth, Renu Kulkarni, said "Chicago Booth is excited about its partnership with GUST to bring Boubyan Bank and Kuwait its expertise and knowledge in data driven research, and its global experience in developing senior corporate leaders and innovators."

PACE Director at GUST, Sadegh Zobeidi said, "This is the second major training course developed for Boubyan Bank. Our aim is to deliver the best leadership programs to the

Kuwait market in cooperation with the best universities."

PACE's mission within GUST is to offer high-quality, continuing and professional development, lifelong learning opportunities, and innovative learning solutions to individuals and corporations in a stimulating environment. By linking two prestigious institutions together, PACE solidifies itself as a market leader in providing tailor-made training based on market needs to help propel organizations to growth and success.

GUST's PACE is often chosen to organize programs for them thanks to its strong reputation for providing high quality training to a number high profile companies, and its role as an accredited training center for CFA and CMA courses.

Over the last few years, PACE's portfolio of public courses has significantly expanded to include exam preparation for GMAT, IELTS, CFA, CMA, CPA, Healthcare Management and Quality seminars, and even a Private Pilot's License Program.



WHO WILL REPRESENT KUWAIT IN RED BULL CAR PARK DRIFT FINALS?

Drift pioneers in Kuwait have buckled down to prepare their cars and hone their skills so as to participate in the event which has become an annual occasion awaited by thousands of motorsports lovers in the region. The drivers are looking into the smallest technical details which might enable them to skip the qualifying rounds of Red Bull Car Park Drift competition, and thus compete in the national championship in the hope of winning and representing Kuwait in the Regional Final. The event is organized by Basel Salem Al-Sabah Motorsport Club and will be held at Sirbb Circuit on the 4th and 5th of May under the sponsorship of the Public Authority for Sports and in partnership with Drag 965, GoPro, Acqua Eva and Kuwait Times. Falken Tires, Shop and Ship and Total are amongst the regional sponsors.

Only one champion

Those willing to participate in the national championship of Red Bull Car Park Drift competition will be required to go through the qualifying rounds that will kick off starting from Thursday, the 4th of May, at 8:00 pm. The drivers who meet the needed conditions along with their cars will compete at Sirbb Circuit where the top sixteen amongst them will be selected to compete for the 'King of Drift' title.

Abdo Feghali, the rally champion who holds the world record for the longest drift, is set to play the referee role in the qualifying rounds while a special jury will be in charge of this task in the National Final to be held on May 5. Sixteen drivers will compete starting from Friday evening at 5:00 PM on a special track that was designed to bring out their potentials and abilities to control the

car. By turns, the participants will go through the competition phases and will score the points that will enable them to stay in the competition until a single winner is crowned.

Drift standards

The jury is comprised of four members: Engineer Zakaria Dashti, representative of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports; Pascal Hayek, expert in motorsports; Khaled Al-Mudhaf, circuit racing star; and Fuad Abu-Arja, International Relations and Motor Sports Director at Kuwait International Automobile Club. The total number of points given by the referees to the competitors will be 400 points distributed as follows: 60 points for drift skills, 40 for each of the engines' roars, the smoke produced by the friction of the tires and the drifting in a special area called 'box' without crash-

ing with cones placed to delimit the track. As well, 60 points will be given for the car look and design and another 60 for the driver's skills in terms of touching a ball hanging at a specific point of the track, with the back of his car.

The points could be deducted if a driver loses control over his car, goes in the wrong direction or runs into one of the barriers delimiting the track. If a driver is subjected to three penalties in one round, he will be excluded from the competition.

The Kuwaiti Championship will open a new season of Red Bull Car Park Drift qualifying rounds in the region, paving the way for the peak of competitions in the Regional Final to be hosted by Qatar this time. So who will have the opportunity this year to raise the flag of Kuwait in Doha and compete for the 'King of Drift' title? The answer is on May 5!



MMF KUWAIT ELECTS NEW OFFICE-BEARERS

Malayali Media Forum (MMF) Kuwait, an expat association of media persons from Kerala, held its annual general body meeting on Saturday and elected its new office-bearers for the year 2017-18. T.V Hikmat was elected as the General Convener of the forum while Girish Ottapalam (cultural) and Nijas Kasim (finance) were elected as conveners. Sattar Kunnil will continue to hold the post of auditor.

Outgoing committee led by Sam

Panumoodu presented the annual report and financial report for the past year. Members actively participated in discussions on the reports and made suggestions to strengthen the forum before approving the reports. The meeting also elected a 13-member executive committee and appointed six members as permanent invitees to MMF meetings. The general body officially inducted Habib Muttichoor and Farooq Hamadani into MMF fraternity as its new members.

OSN MOVIES
ACTION

00:45 No Tears For The Dead
02:45 Shark Lake
04:30 Hitman: Agent 47
06:15 Forbidden Empire
08:15 Judge Dredd
10:00 Last Action Hero
12:15 Kingsglave: Final Fantasy XV
14:15 Grosse Pointe Blank
16:15 Judge Dredd
18:00 DCU: Justice League vs Teen Titans
19:30 Hard Target 2
21:15 Dracula Untold
23:00 Pusher

ANIMAL
PLANET HD

00:50 Big Fish Man
01:45 Bondi Vet
02:40 Pit Bulls & Parolees
03:35 Tanked
04:25 Queens Of The Savannah
05:15 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
06:02 Big Fish Man
06:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees
07:36 Swamp Brothers
08:00 Swamp Brothers
08:25 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
09:15 Pit Bulls & Parolees
10:10 Queens Of The Savannah
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Pit Bulls & Parolees
14:45 Big Fish Man
15:40 Queens Of The Savannah
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Big Fish Man
18:25 Wild Animal Rescue
19:20 The Pool Master
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Cats 101
22:05 Wild Animal Rescue
23:00 The Pool Master
23:55 Queens Of The Savannah

BBC
FIRST

00:40 Doctors
01:10 Doctors
01:45 Spies Of Warsaw
02:30 Unforgotten

04:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
04:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:15 Lip Sync Battle
05:40 Ridiculousness
06:05 Disaster Date
06:30 Gym Rescue
07:15 Life Or Debt
08:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:55 Disaster Date
09:20 Disaster Date
09:45 Ridiculousness
10:10 Workaholics
10:35 Disaster Date
11:00 Ridiculousness
11:25 Impractical Jokers UK
11:55 Hungry Investors
12:45 The Jim Gaffigan Show
13:10 Lip Sync Battle
13:35 Impractical Jokers UK
14:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
14:55 Ridiculousness
15:20 Tattoo Disasters
15:45 Tattoo Disasters
16:10 Workaholics
16:35 Disaster Date
17:00 Disaster Date
17:25 Ridiculousness
17:50 Lip Sync Battle
18:15 Workaholics
18:40 Gym Rescue
19:35 Impractical Jokers UK
20:10 Disaster Date
20:35 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwage
21:05 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwage
21:35 South Park
22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
22:30 Chappelle's Show
23:00 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
23:50 Tosh.0

Discovery
Family

00:15 Destroyed In Seconds
00:40 Don't Drive Here
01:30 Science Of The Movies
02:20 React To That
02:45 React To That
03:10 Now That's Funny
04:00 Destroyed In Seconds
04:50 Don't Drive Here
05:40 How It's Made
06:05 How It's Made
06:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
07:20 Mythbusters

01:25 Hank Zipzer
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 Binny And The Ghost
03:55 Hank Zipzer
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 Binny And The Ghost
06:25 Hank Zipzer
06:45 The Hive
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 Bizaardvark
10:00 Austin & Ally
10:25 Austin & Ally
10:50 Good Luck Charlie
11:15 Good Luck Charlie
11:40 Dog With A Blog
12:05 Dog With A Blog
12:30 Gravity Falls
12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
13:00 Welcome To The Ronks
13:15 The Zhuzhus
13:40 Hank Zipzer
14:05 Star Darlings
14:10 Good Luck Charlie
14:35 Austin & Ally
15:00 Jessie
15:25 Binny And The Ghost
15:50 Sunny Bunnies
15:55 The Zhuzhus
16:45 Elena Of Avalor
17:10 Liv And Maddie
17:35 Descendants Wicked World
17:40 Girl Meets World
18:05 Stuck In The Middle
18:30 Bunk'd
18:55 Bizaardvark
19:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:25 Alex & Co.
19:50 Best Friends Whenever
20:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
20:20 Binny And The Ghost
20:45 Austin & Ally
21:10 Jessie
21:35 Cracks
21:40 Disney The Lodge

22:25 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
22:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
23:00 Sofia The First
23:30 Sofia The First
23:55 PJ Masks

Discovery
CHANNEL
HD

00:30 Fast N' Loud
01:20 Street Outlaws
02:10 Todd Sampson's Body Hack
03:00 Rise Of The Warrior Apes
04:40 Fast N' Loud
05:30 Storage Hunters UK
06:30 How Do They Do It?
06:30 How Do They Do It?
07:00 Gold Divers
07:50 Street Outlaws
08:40 Fast N' Loud
09:30 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
10:20 Storage Hunters UK
10:45 How Do They Do It?
11:10 How Do They Do It?
11:35 Impossible Engineering
12:25 Rise Of The Warrior Apes
14:05 How Do They Do It?
14:30 Storage Hunters UK
14:55 Storage Hunters UK
15:20 Gold Rush
16:10 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
17:00 Gold Divers
17:50 Fast N' Loud
18:40 Street Outlaws
19:30 How Do They Do It?
19:55 How Do They Do It?
20:20 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
21:10 Storage Hunters UK
21:35 Storage Hunters UK
22:00 World's Top 5
22:50 You Have Been Warned
23:40 Deadliest Job Interview

Disney
XD

00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA
07:00 Gravity Falls
07:25 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
08:15 Milo Murphy's Law
08:25 Danger Mouse
08:40 Supa Strikas
09:05 Two More Eggs
09:10 K.C. Undercover
09:35 Counterfeit Cat
10:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
10:25 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
10:50 Future-Worm!
11:20 Pair Of Kings
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Danger Mouse
12:35 Supa Strikas
13:00 Supa Strikas
13:30 Gravity Falls
13:55 Annedroids
14:20 Atomic Puppet
14:45 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Mighty Med
15:40 Disney Cookbook
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
16:55 Right Now Kapow
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Walk The Prank
18:15 Mech-X4
18:40 Milo Murphy's Law
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Gravity Falls
19:35 Mighty Med
20:00 Atomic Puppet
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Mech-X4
21:45 Mighty Med
22:10 Walk The Prank
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
22:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
23:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
23:35 Boyster

EHD

00:00 E! News
00:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
02:50 E! News
03:20 E! News
03:50 Celebrity Style Story
04:20 Celebrity Style Story
04:50 WAGs Miami
05:40 WAGs Miami
06:30 Celebrity Style Story
07:00 La Clippers Dance Squad
07:55 E! News
08:10 La Clippers Dance Squad
09:10 E! News: Daily Pop
09:40 E! News

10:10 WAGs
11:05 WAGs
12:00 WAGs
13:00 E! News
13:15 WAGs
14:10 WAGs
15:05 WAGs
16:00 E! News
16:15 Live From The Red Carpet
17:35 Celebrity Style Story
18:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00 E! News
21:00 Celebrity Style Story
21:30 Live From The Red Carpet
23:00 Fashion Police

food
network

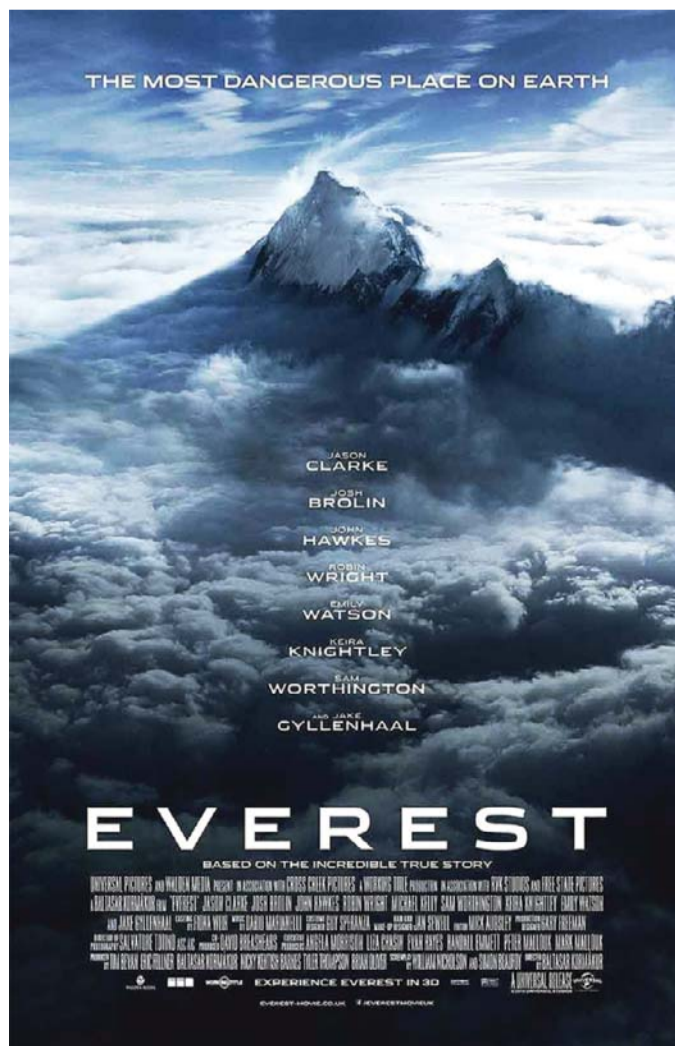
00:00 Guy's Grocery Games
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Man Finds Food
02:30 Man Finds Food
03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
04:30 Man Fire Food
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
07:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:00 The Kitchen
09:00 The Pioneer Woman
09:30 The Pioneer Woman
10:00 Siba's Table
10:30 Siba's Table
11:00 Cooking For Real
11:30 Cooking For Real
12:00 The Kitchen
13:00 The Pioneer Woman
13:30 The Pioneer Woman
14:00 Siba's Table
14:30 Siba's Table
15:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Cooking For Real
18:30 Cooking For Real
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Chopped Junior
21:00 Chopped
22:00 The Great Food Truck Race
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

itv
HD
CHOICE

00:15 Coronation Street
00:40 Coronation Street
01:10 The Chase
02:00 Emmerdale
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Guess This House
04:25 The Moorside
05:25 Doctor Thorne
06:15 Come Date With Me Australia
07:10 The Chase
08:05 Guess This House
09:00 The Moorside
10:00 Doctor Thorne
11:00 Come Date With Me Australia
11:55 The Chase
12:50 Guess This House
13:45 Emmerdale
14:15 Coronation Street
14:45 Coronation Street
15:15 The Chase
16:10 Guess This House
17:00 Broadchurch
17:55 Broadchurch
18:50 Come Date With Me Australia
19:20 Come Date With Me Australia
19:45 Emmerdale
20:15 Coronation Street
20:45 Coronation Street
21:10 Guess This House
22:00 Broadchurch
22:55 Broadchurch
23:50 Emmerdale

H2 HD

00:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
01:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
02:00 Ancient Discoveries
03:00 Monster Quest
03:50 Ancient Aliens
04:40 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
05:30 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
06:20 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
07:10 The Universe
08:00 Ancient Discoveries
09:00 Monster Quest
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
12:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
13:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
14:00 Ancient Discoveries



EVEREST ON OSN MOVIES HD



THE FOLD ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

15:00 Monster Quest
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
18:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
19:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
20:00 Ancient Discoveries
21:00 America's Book Of Secrets
22:00 Ancient Aliens
23:00 Ancient Top 10

NAT GEO
WILD HD

00:30 Sea Strikers
01:20 Man V. Cheetah
02:10 Animals Gone Wild
03:00 Big Cat Odyssey
03:50 Wild 24
04:45 America's National Parks
05:40 Natural Born Monsters
06:35 Big Cat Odyssey
07:30 Wild 24
08:25 America's National Parks
09:20 Natural Born Monsters
10:15 Night Stalkers
11:10 Wild Case Files
12:05 David Attenborough's Rise Of Animals
13:00 Salmon Wars
13:55 Little Killers
14:50 Wild 24
15:45 America's National Parks
16:40 Natural Born Monsters
17:35 Clan Of The Meerkat
18:30 Wild Case Files
19:25 Ultimate Animal Countdown
20:20 America's National Parks
21:10 Natural Born Monsters
22:00 Clan Of The Meerkat
22:50 Wild Case Files
23:40 Ultimate Animal Countdown

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

00:30 Dance Flick
02:00 5 To 7
04:00 Don Verdean
05:45 Love, Rosie
07:30 Mr. Deeds
09:15 Don Verdean
11:00 Love, Rosie
12:45 Mr. Deeds
14:30 Parenthood
16:30 Cheech & Chong's The Corsican Brothers
18:00 After The Ball
19:45 Amateur Night
21:30 Absolutely Anything
23:00 Road Trip

OSN MOVIES
FESTIVAL

01:30 Jamesy Boy
03:30 The Fold
05:00 The Express
07:15 We Are Many
09:00 The Fold
10:45 Hoosiers
12:45 Ed Wood
15:00 No God No Master
16:45 WarGames
18:45 Belles Families
20:45 The Kings Of Summer
22:30 A Country Called Home

OSN MOVIES HD
KIDS

01:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
02:30 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
04:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
05:30 Pirates Who Don't Do Anything
07:00 Doctor Proctor's Fat Powder
08:30 Robosapien: Rebooted
10:00 Pet Pals In Windland
11:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
13:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
14:15 Capture The Flag
16:00 Pet Pals In Windland
17:30 Bee Movie
19:15 Ratchet And Clank
21:00 Capture The Flag
22:45 Robosapien: Rebooted

OSN MOVIES HD

02:00 Insidious: Chapter 3
03:45 Amelia
05:45 Invictus
08:00 Everest
10:15 The Bucket List
12:15 Pitch Perfect 2
14:15 War Horse
17:00 Goosebumps
18:45 Con Air
20:45 Steve Jobs
23:00 A Night At The Roxbury

Discovery
science

00:40 Mythbusters
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory
02:20 Sport Science
03:10 Superhuman Showdown



DRACULA UNTOLD ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

03:15 Silent Witness
04:15 Silent Witness
05:10 Doctors
05:40 Doctors
06:10 Doctors
07:00 Death In Paradise
07:55 Doctors
08:25 Doctors
08:55 Dickensian
09:45 Stella
10:35 Death In Paradise
11:30 Doctors
12:00 Doctors
12:30 Dickensian
13:20 Stella
14:15 Death In Paradise
15:10 Doctors
15:45 Doctors
16:20 Dickensian
17:10 Stella
18:00 Death In Paradise
19:00 Doctors
19:30 Eastenders
20:05 Dickensian
21:00 Benidorm
21:45 Last Tango In Halifax: Christmas Special
22:45 Silent Witness
23:40 Silent Witness

crime
investigation
network

00:00 Evil Up Close
01:00 It Takes A Killer
01:30 It Takes A Killer
02:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
03:00 Crime Stories
04:00 Evil Up Close
05:00 It Takes A Killer
05:30 It Takes A Killer
06:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
07:00 I Love You...But I Lied
08:00 I Love You...But I Lied
09:00 Evil Up Close
10:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
11:00 Homicide Hunter
12:00 The First 48
13:00 The First 48
14:00 I Love You...But I Lied
15:00 Evil Up Close
16:00 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
18:00 The First 48
19:00 The First 48
20:00 Evil Up Close
21:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
22:00 Homicide Hunter
23:00 My Crazy Ex

COMEDY
CENTRAL

00:15 Tosh.0
00:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:05 Broad City
01:30 South Park
01:55 South Park
02:20 Tosh.0
02:45 Tosh.0
03:10 South Park
03:35 South Park

08:00 Doki
08:25 Kids vs Film
08:50 Bad Dog
09:40 How It's Made
10:05 How It's Made
10:30 Science Of The Movies
11:20 Mythbusters
12:10 Bad Dog
13:00 Don't Drive Here
13:50 How It's Made
14:15 How It's Made
14:40 Strangest Weather On Earth
15:30 Doki
15:55 Kids vs Film
16:20 Bad Dog
17:10 Science Of The Movies
18:00 Dogs: The Untold Story
18:50 Everest: Beyond The Limit
19:40 Destroyed In Seconds
20:05 Destroyed In Seconds
20:30 How It's Made
20:55 How It's Made
21:20 Mythbusters
22:10 Dogs: The Untold Story
23:00 Everest: Beyond The Limit
23:50 Destroyed In Seconds

ID
X

00:40 A Taste For Murder
01:30 Blood Relatives
02:20 The Accused: Jeffrey Macdonald: People Magazine...
03:10 The Injustice Files: Sundown Towns
04:00 A Taste For Murder
04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
05:36 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
06:24 Swamp Murders
07:12 I'd Kill For You
08:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
08:50 I Almost Got Away With It
09:40 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
10:30 Swamp Murders
11:20 I'd Kill For You
12:10 Vanity Fair Confidential
13:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
13:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
15:05 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
15:30 Swamp Murders
16:20 I'd Kill For You
17:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
18:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
18:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
19:40 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
20:30 Swamp Murders
21:20 I'd Kill For You
22:10 Evil Online
23:00 The Perfect Murder
23:50 Pandora's Box: Unleashing Evil

Disney
CHANNEL
HD

00:10 Hank Zipzer
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Binny And The Ghost

22:05 Girl Meets World
22:30 That's So Raven
22:55 Star Darlings
23:00 Shake It Up
23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

Disney
JUNIOR

00:20 Henry Hugglemonster
00:35 The Hive
00:45 Loopedidoo
01:00 Henry Hugglemonster
01:15 Calimero
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Zou
02:05 Loopedidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Zou
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Loopedidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopedidoo
04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Zou
06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopedidoo
07:00 Zou
07:15 Calimero
07:30 Loopedidoo
07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
08:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
08:25 Sofia The First
08:50 The Lion Guard
09:15 PJ Masks
09:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
10:05 Goldie & Bear
10:35 The Lion Guard
11:00 Sofia The First
11:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
11:55 Miles From Tomorrow
12:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
12:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
13:15 Gummi Bears
13:40 Miles From Tomorrow
14:10 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
14:35 PJ Masks
15:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
15:30 The Lion Guard
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:55 Sofia The First
17:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
17:50 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
18:15 Sofia The First
18:40 Doc McStuffins
19:05 PJ Masks
19:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
20:05 PJ Masks
20:35 PJ Masks
21:05 Goldie & Bear
21:35 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
22:00 Gummi Bears

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017





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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (27/04/2017 TO 03/05/2017)

SHARQIA-1 THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH	12:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	5:45 PM	FREE FIRE	10:00 PM	UNFORGETTABLE	4:00 PM
	2:00 PM	MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON)	8:30 PM	FREE FIRE	12:05 AM	BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Malayalam	6:30 PM
	4:00 PM	MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON)	10:30 PM			BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Tamil	9:45 PM
	6:00 PM	FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 AM			HEADSHOT	1:00 AM
	8:00 PM			AVENUES-1 MONOLITH MONOLITH SAFRA 5 NJOOM MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM	AL-KOUT.1 FAST & FURIOUS 8 SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8	11:30 AM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 7:00 PM 9:45 PM 12:30 AM
SHARQIA-2 THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi NO THU	11:30 AM	FANAR-2 THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY FREE FIRE FREE FIRE FREE FIRE	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM				
	1:30 PM			AVENUES-2 THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX (2D+3D+4DX) THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 6:30 PM 9:15 PM 12:05 AM	AL-KOUT.2 THE LOST CITY OF Z THE LOST CITY OF Z BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu THE LOST CITY OF Z	12:15 PM 3:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:45 PM 9:00 PM 12:15 AM
	1:30 PM	FANAR-3 FREE FIRE FREE FIRE MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 6:45 PM 8:30 PM 10:15 PM 12:05 AM			AL-KOUT.3 FREE FIRE THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY FREE FIRE FREE FIRE FREE FIRE	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM
	4:45 PM			AVENUES-3 FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8 BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi Special Show BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	11:30 AM 2:30 PM 2:30 PM 2:30 PM 5:45 PM 5:45 PM 9:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:15 AM	AL-KOUT.4 MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH	12:00 PM 1:45 PM 3:30 PM 5:15 PM 7:00 PM 8:45 PM 10:30 PM 12:15 AM
	4:45 PM			AVENUES-4 FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8 BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi Special Show "THE BOSS BABY" BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 2:00 PM 5:15 PM 5:15 PM 8:30 PM 11:45 PM	BAIRAQ-1 THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM
SHARQIA-3 FREE FIRE FREE FIRE FREE FIRE THE LOST CITY OF Z MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON) FREE FIRE FREE FIRE	12:00 PM	FANAR-4 THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 1:30 PM 1:30 PM 4:45 PM 8:00 PM 11:15 PM				
	2:00 PM	FANAR-5 MINE SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Hindi BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu MINE	1:00 PM 1:30 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 4:00 PM 6:45 PM 10:00 PM 1:15 AM			BAIRAQ-2 THE LOST CITY OF Z SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE- Arabic FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8 THE LOST CITY OF Z THE LOST CITY OF Z	12:45 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:15 PM 9:00 PM 11:45 PM
	4:15 PM			360 ∞-1 THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY FREE FIRE	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM	BAIRAQ-3 MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON) SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi MOUSEM AL NISYAN (OBLIVION SEASON)	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:15 PM
	6:15 PM			360 ∞-2 MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH MONOLITH	12:15 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM		
	9:00 PM			360 ∞-3 UNFORGETTABLE BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Tamil	1:00 PM 3:15 PM		
MUHALAB-1 FREE FIRE FREE FIRE BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi FREE FIRE BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi FREE FIRE FREE FIRE	11:45 AM	MARINA-1 THE LOST CITY OF Z THE LOST CITY OF Z WELAANE -Lebanese WELAANE -Lebanese WELAANE -Lebanese THE LOST CITY OF Z	12:15 PM 3:00 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM				
	1:45 PM			MARINA-2 FAST & FURIOUS 8 FREE FIRE FAST & FURIOUS 8 THE LOST CITY OF Z FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:30 PM 1:30 PM 3:15 PM 6:00 PM 8:45 PM 11:30 PM		
	1:45 PM			MARINA-3 FREE FIRE THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY FREE FIRE	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM		
	5:00 PM						
	7:00 PM						
MUHALAB-2 THE LOST CITY OF Z FAST & FURIOUS 8 THE LOST CITY OF Z FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8 THE LOST CITY OF Z	1:15 PM						
	1:30 PM						
	4:00 PM						
	6:45 PM						
	9:30 PM						
MUHALAB-3 THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY THE BOSS BABY BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Telugu FREE FIRE	12:00 PM						
	2:00 PM						
	4:00 PM						
	4:00 PM						
	7:15 PM						
FANAR-1 FAST & FURIOUS 8 FAST & FURIOUS 8	10:30 PM						
	3:00 PM						
	3:00 PM						
	9:45 PM						
	1:00 AM						

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1-5-2017

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sreerag s/o Sreenath Mandakathil Raghunath, holder of Indian Passport No. L6661480 & Civil ID No. 295092101722, have changed my name to Sreerag Mandakathil Sreenath.
(C 5305) 1-5-2017

EMERGENCY



PRAYER TIMINGS



Fajr: 03:39
Shorook: 05:05
Duhr: 11:45
Asr: 15:21
Maghrib: 18:25
Isha: 19:49

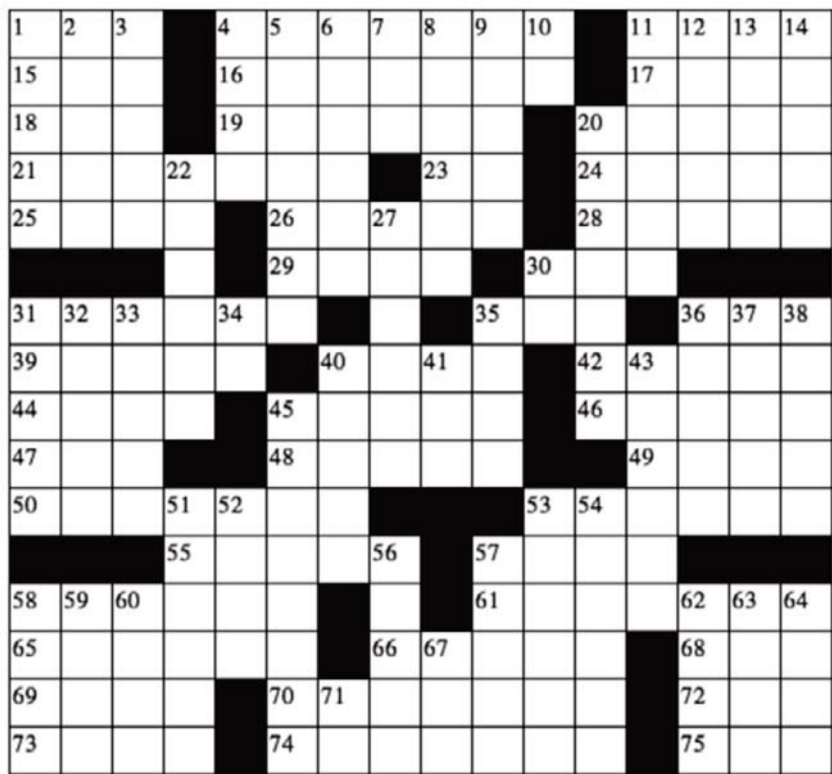
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



Arrival Flights on Wednesday 3/5/2017				Departure Flights on Wednesday 3/5/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	ICV	675	Hong Kong	01:35
KAC	102	London	00:55	KAC	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	363	Colombo	01:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:25	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	MSR	619	Alexandria	02:35
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	PGT	831	Istanbul	03:10
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	KAC	417	Manila	04:20
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	103	London	05:00
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	CEB	019	Manila	05:30
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40	QTR	1077	Doha	05:35
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
CEB	018	Manila	04:00	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	070	Dubai	07:05
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
DXH	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	741	Dammam	08:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	773	Riyadh	08:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	08:45
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC	117	SNN/New York	09:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	356	Mashhad	09:00
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	101	London	09:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	691	Muscat	09:30
IRC	6511	ABD	09:10	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	561	Amman	09:30
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:55	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	IRC	6522	Lamerd	10:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	VIZ	205	TEQ	10:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	IRM	1189	Mashhad	11:10
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	13:15	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:05
IRC	6521	Lamerd	14:00	KAC	511	Mashhad	12:45
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:00
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
KAC	364	Colombo	14:15				

CROSSWORD 1596



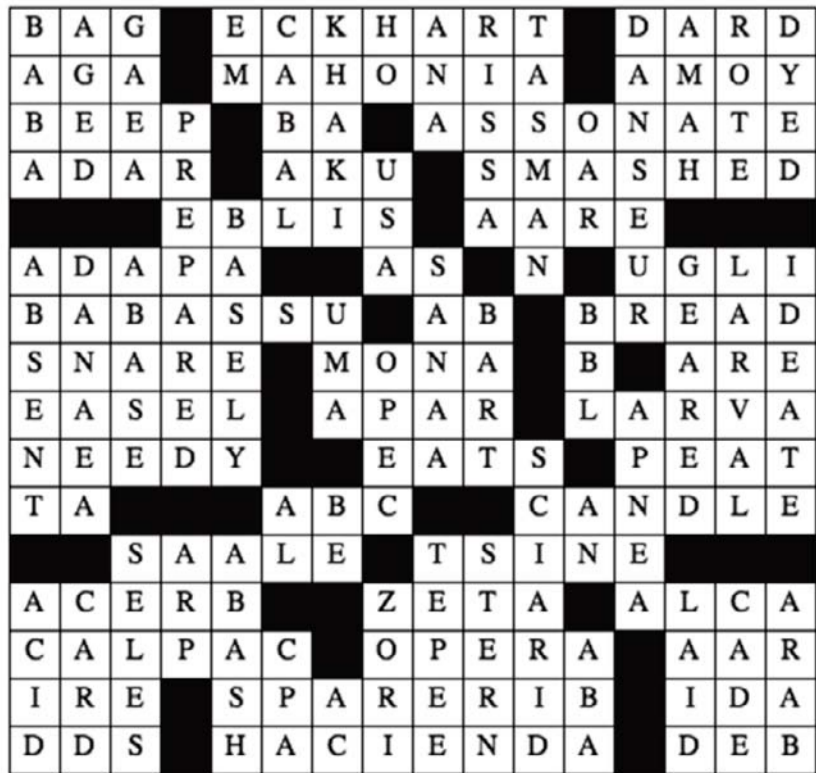
ACROSS

- Chiefly perennial grasses of cool temperate regions.
- A region in northmost Europe inhabited by Lapps.
- An indistinct shapeless form.
- To make a mistake or be incorrect.
- (Greek mythology) God of the heavens.
- An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
- Perennial herb of East India to Polynesia and Australia cultivated for its large edible root yielding Otaheite arrowroot starch.
- Serving no useful purpose.
- (medical) Any sensation or change in bodily function that is experienced by a patient and is associated with a particular disease.
- A metric unit of length equal to 100 meters.
- Excessively fat.
- The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
- A Nilotic language.
- The unit of measurement for the proportion of gold in an alloy.
- (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- A hostel for pilgrims in Turkey.
- Any of various plants of the genus Sedum.
- A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
- Voluntary contributions to aid the poor.
- The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Thailand and Burmese borderlands.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago.
- Fallow deer.
- A form of rummy using two decks and four jokers.
- An assertion of a right (as to money or property).
- A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).
- The brightest star in Ursa Minor.
- The Fate who determines the length of the thread of life.
- The main city of ancient Phoenicia.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- Informal terms for a meal.
- A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- A sharp hand gesture (resembling a blow).
- Wild plum of northeastern United States having dark purple fruits with yellow flesh.
- Genus of beetles whose grubs feed mainly on roots of plants.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.

DOWN

- Pepsi Cola is a trademarked cola.
- A member of a people in India living in Orissa and neighboring areas.
- An edible seaweed with a mild flavor.
- Goods or money obtained illegally.
- A vending machine from which you can get food.
- Serving as an essential component.
- Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
- (Babylonian) Father of the gods.
- The mother-in-law of Ruth whose story is told in the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament.
- An honorary degree in science.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
- (baseball) A hit that flies straight out from the batter.
- A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.
- A cap with no brim or bill.
- A doughnut-shaped chamber used in fusion research.
- A genus of Spidae.
- An overland journey by hunters (especially in Africa).
- A person forced to flee from home or country.
- Australian operatic soprano (1861-1931).
- Someone whose business is advertising.
- The square of a body of any size of type.
- Something causes misery or death.
- English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- Fragrant resin obtain from trees of the family Burseraceae and used as incense.
- The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- A river of southwestern Africa that rises in central Angola and flows east and then north (forming part of the border between Angola and Congo) and continuing northwest through Congo to empty into the Congo River on the border between Congo and Republic of the Congo.
- The second day of the week.
- A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
- A language spoken by the Atakapa people of the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
- Bring an accusation against.
- Winning all or all but one of the tricks in bridge.
- Of or at or relating to an anode.
- West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- Do wrongly or improperly.
- The brightest star in Virgo.
- A deep prolonged sound (as of thunder or large bells).
- (prefix) Outside or outer.
- A Hindu prince or king in India.
- A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
- An anticipated outcome that is intended or that guides your planned actions.
- Half the width of an em.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may find that people are so busy today you won't be able to finish a sentence. Others may challenge your authority or the direction you are taking. Events could make it difficult for you to act. Your ideas may not find the support you need. This is a good time to back off and get a view of the day from a different perspective. Perhaps a break or an early lunch will provide the perfect opportunity to unwind and gain a focus. This afternoon points to your taking the initiative. Your special qualifications and your creativity are more likely to put you ahead of the pack, at work or home. You will receive a boost from your friends this afternoon. You could be looking forward to some form of sports or exercise with friends.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This month's ending brings energy to learn and expand your horizons and move forward. What wonderful choices you will have this next birth year. A junior college or university around your area will have a booklet they can send you to choose your class. Art teachers, business investment counselors or any type of travel agenda can each be achieved. What you have to discover is where you want your adventure to begin and what you want to develop in the earning of a living. Now is the time to set a few dates for your goals. This is a good day to make some phone calls, set some dates and plan your path. A few co-workers or friends may want to help you celebrate this evening. Someone is a good dancer!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There could be difficulties to work through today. It is important during this time to effectively communicate your ideas to others, especially those who are ultrasensitive. You will become alert to any thinking that needs to be changed and eventually be pleased with your efforts as well as the outcome. By this afternoon those confusing energies will be gone. There is a massive social change going on in your community and much of it is very positive. You may find a whole new set of friends coming across your path and you may also gain a new interest in an unusual sort of entertainment. Money causes change and some of your new friends may encourage you in those changes. A new friend will lead you in a positive direction tonight.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are riding a high now in terms of taking advantage of the cycles in your life. Good things are happening all around. This is the beginning of a series of years during which you should begin to consolidate and tie down the advances you have made in recent years. It may be best to begin to dig in and strengthen your current position rather than expand outward too much. Social and community endeavors may hold your attention this afternoon-there are more to come. You are interested, as many of us, in making the world a better place. Pick one subject and make it your job to create a public awareness campaign. Work on this the rest of the year and little by little you will see great progress. You will enjoy relaxing to music this evening.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You and everyone you know seem to be in a good mood today and a sense of humor is not far behind. Some technical method or style of working may come to your attention that keeps you thinking about continued education. You may decide to check out the agenda at one of the community colleges in your area. You may be pleased at who is teaching these days. You may be called upon to teach or help others take a more independent approach to their life at this time. Your confidence is high and you can accomplish anything that is before you. This time in your life can have a profound effect on your psyche and may mark a time when your faith in a higher power, as well as in other people, will be most meaningful. Deep powers are being awakened.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a time for serious thinking. A practical mind takes on a special importance at this time. Taking care of the necessary underpinnings of life-health, work and such-becomes a greater preoccupation. School and studies of all kinds could be in order. This is a time for perspiration in the idea department. Perhaps a little more education will get you the job that will allow you more freedom, travel or power. This may be a time during which you can get ahead by finding your limits and establishing some criteria that will enable you to move forward with your goals. Everything conspires to reveal you at your most elegant, particularly in social situations this afternoon. Romance is very possible this evening. A candlelight dinner is in order.

WORD SEARCH

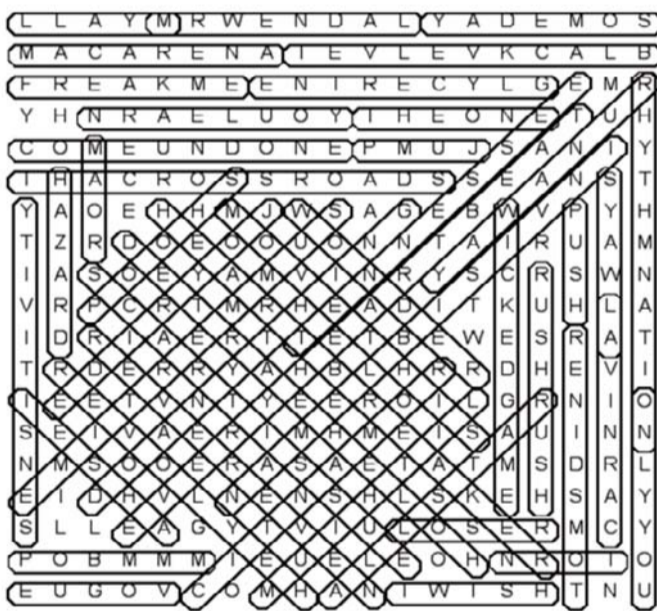
90's Songs 2

Find and circle all of the 1990's songs that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional song.



Yesterday's Solution

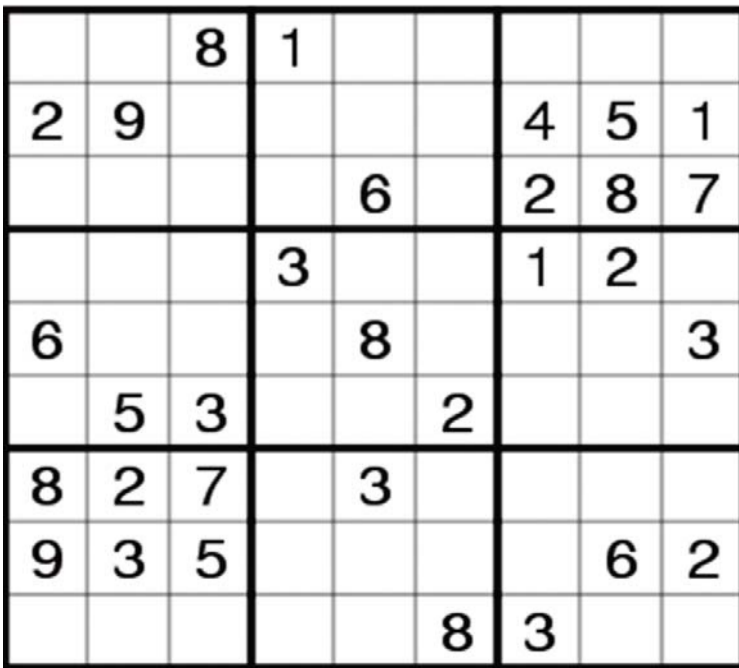
90's Songs 1



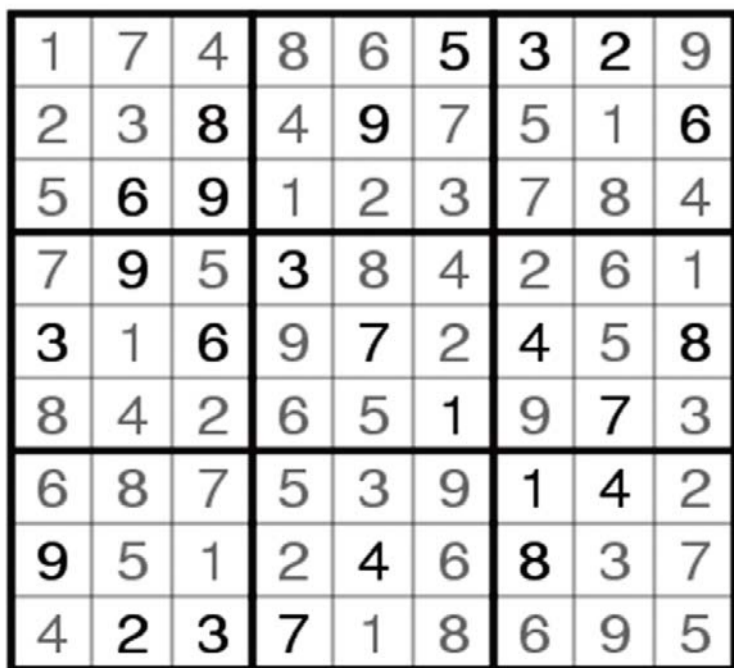
ALL STAR	HOLE HEARTED	MY ALL	SOMEDAY
ALWAYS	I WISH	NEVER EVER	SUMMERTIME
BLACK VELVET	JESHA	ONLY YOU	TENNESSEE
CARNIVAL	INVISIBLE MAN	PUSH	THE CROSSROADS
COME UNDONE	JORYIDE	RHYTHM NATION	TOM'S DINER
DO ANYTHING	JUMP	ROOM	TORN
EVERY HEARTBEAT	LITHIUM	ROMANTIC	VOGUE
FREAK ME	LOSER	RUN AWAY	WICKED GAME
GLYCERINE	MACARENA	RUSH RUSH	WONDER
HAZARD	MMMBOP	SCAR TISSUE	YOU LEARN
HEARTBREAKER	MOVE THIS	SENSITIVITY	
HEY LOVER	MR. WENDAL	SHOOP	

The hidden song title is: MY HEART WILL GO ON

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
Khaldiya	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 Ikhlās 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
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www.met.gov.kw



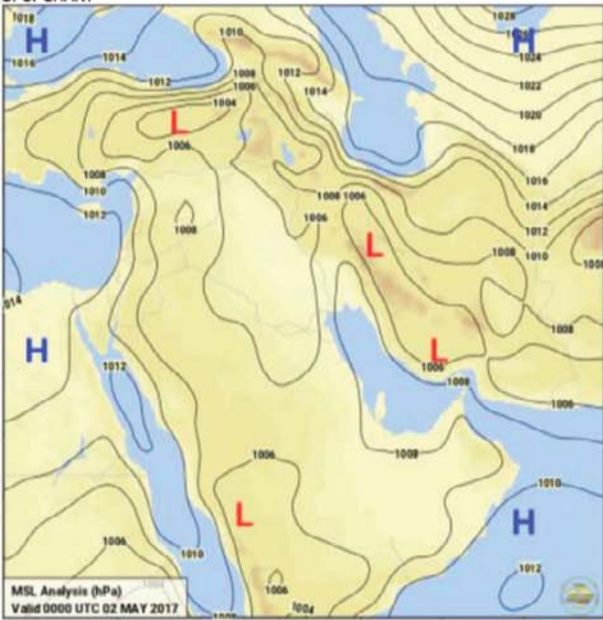
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 02/05/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 41 °C

By Day : Mostly sunny with light to moderate freshening gradually at times south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for raising dust over open areas
By Night : Fair with light to moderate south easterly to light variable wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	clouds to increase gradually	partly cloudy + scattered light rain	partly cloudy + light rain	partly cloudy + scattered light rain
Min Temp °C	27	27	25	27
Max Temp °C	38	38	37	39
Wind Direction	south easterly	north westerly to light variable	easterly to south easterly	south easterly changing to north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	08 - 30	20 - 45	15 - 38

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings
Fresh wind

Kuwait Forecast	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
Station		
KUWAIT CITY	30	39
KUWAIT AIRPORT	26	41
ABDAILY	25	41
BUBYAN	25	32
JAHRRA	26	42
FAILAKA ISLAND	25	35
SALMIYAH	25	34
AHMADI	27	37
JAL ALIYAH	25	40
QAROH ISLAND	25	30
UMM AL-MARADEM	24	30
NUWAISIB	24	39
WAFRA	26	40
SALMY	27	40
MUTRIBA	27	42

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport	
Max Temp (°C)	40
Min Temp (°C)	27
Max Rel Hum (%)	35
Min Rel Hum (%)	14
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	50 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:05
Sunset	18:25

Prayer Times	
Fajr	03:39
Sunrise	05:05
Zuhr	11:45
Asr	15:21
Sunset	18:25
Isha	19:48

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaoory	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-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujar	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	
MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	
Assistant Professor	Of Medicine
Head, Division of Cardiology	
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555
MD, PH.D, FACC	
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688	info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677
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Eminem song composer: New Zealand ad is 'blatant rip-off'



In this file photo, Eminem performs at the 2012 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif. — AP

The composer of the opening guitar riff for Eminem's "Lose Yourself" says the soundtrack of a New Zealand political ad is a "blatant rip-off." Jeff Bass told the High Court in Wellington yesterday that the song titled "Eminem Esque" that was used by the ruling National Party during its 2014 election campaign sounds like "Lose Yourself Lite." But, he added, "It doesn't taste so good, though." Eminem's music publishers Eight Mile Style sued the National Party over its use of the song. The judge-only copyright infringement case started Monday and is expected to last about six days.

The party has previously said it purchased the soundtrack for its TV ad from an Australian-based music supplier and doesn't believe it has infringed anyone's copyright. Bass, who lives near Detroit and traveled to New Zealand to testify, picked up an acoustic guitar and strummed the famous riff that opens the Oscar-winning 2002 song in front of eight lawyers and a judge

in the courtroom. He said he wrote the song with Eminem and Luis Resto over 18 months.

"I picked up a guitar and started playing that opening guitar chord," he said. "At that time, I didn't know if it was a song or not." He said Eminem, aka Marshall Mathers III, put together a drum track but then they got stuck. "It took him a number of months to author the perfect lyrics that were just right for the beat," Bass said. He said they finished as Eminem completed work on his film "8 Mile." "It really developed in a little studio we had set up in his trailer," Bass said. He said Resto replaced some of the guitar elements with keyboards in order to remove some of the rock feel of the song without losing the hip hop tone.

Defense lawyers argue the musical composition of the song isn't particularly original. One of them asked Bass if he considered the soundtrack Eminem Esque to be musically inferior. "Being that it's a blatant rip-off, yes," Bass

responded. The lawyer asked if it was weaker because it was different. "It doesn't feel like 'Lose Yourself'?" the lawyer asked. "It doesn't feel like me playing 'Lose Yourself,'" Bass said. The lawyer asked Bass if he'd agree that the Led Zeppelin song "Kashmir" has a similar chord pattern.

"No. None whatsoever," Bass responded. Judge Helen Cull asked Bass if the guitar strum he'd performed in the courtroom was common. Bass said that while he'd heard those chords played before, he'd never heard them in that particular rhythm. He said that by putting an accent on the third beat it was as if he was playing guitar and drums at the same time. "The intention was to create a tense, hypnotic feeling," Bass said. "It starts playing, and never goes away. Along with that drum beat, it actually will hypnotize you, where you are feeling that something's going to happen." — AP

After child and separation, Janet Jackson resumes tour

Pop superstar and new mother Janet Jackson said Monday she will resume a tour after a nearly two-year break as she confirmed separating from her husband. Jackson, who had abruptly suspended a tour in 2015 amid the surprise news she was pregnant, announced 56 concerts across North America later this year. In an online message to fans, Jackson voiced gratitude for her four-month-old son Eissa and acknowledged splitting with her third husband, Qatari tycoon Wissam Al Mana.



In this June 28, 2015, file photo, Janet Jackson accepts the ultimate icon: Music dance visual award at the BET Awards in Los Angeles. — AP

"Yes, I separated from my husband, we are in court, and the rest is in God's hands," said the 50-year-old younger sister of late king of pop Michael Jackson as she lay on a pillow. Jackson has been discreet since marrying Al

Mana, whose company sells luxury fashion brands across Gulf Arab kingdoms and who is estimated to be worth \$1 billion. She initially kept their 2012 wedding private and repeatedly postponed her tour before announcing her pregnancy, which came at an unusually late age. Jackson in her video said she was changing the name of her tour which was initially called "Unbreakable" after her 2015 album, her first since her brother's death.

The tour-to begin on September 7 in Lafayette, Louisiana and close on December 17 in Atlanta-will now be called "State of the World." "It's not about politics. It's about people, the world, relationships and, just, love," Jackson said. "I want to thank you guys for your patience, for all your support throughout the years," she said to fans. The tour includes "Unbreakable" dates that she had tentatively scrapped. However, she has not immediately rescheduled dates in Europe that she canceled last year. The reasons behind Jackson's separation remain murky, with one tabloid saying Al Mana had been too controlling but other reports saying the split was amicable.

Al Mana has publicly declared his love for Jackson, recently voicing hope that "we will be together in the Great Forever." "To the most beautiful person in the world, thank you for your divine love, your eternal support and for being my best friend," he wrote on his website. Jackson won a major fan base in the late 1980s with her albums "Control" and "Janet Jackson's Rhythm Nation 1814" as she incorporated the emerging genre of hip-hop into her funk-influenced pop music. Jackson was one of the pioneers of elaborately choreographed live shows as she brought in socially conscious messages including calls for women's empowerment. — AFP



This file shows Radiohead performing at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, California. — AP

Radiohead expands 'OK Computer' for anniversary

Twenty years after Radiohead shook up the music world with its dystopian electronic album "OK Computer," the band yesterday announced an expanded edition with unreleased tracks. The English rockers will reissue "OK Computer" on three vinyl records or two CDs with remastered sound, three unreleased tracks and B-sides from the singles. Radiohead will also put out an "OK Computer" boxed edition with new artwork and "full lyrics to all the tracks except the ones that haven't really got any lyrics," the band's website said.

Radiohead had fueled speculation of an "OK Computer" anniversary when street posters recently appeared in New York, London and other cities with lyrics to the album's "Fitter Happier," a melancholy spoken-word song in which a computerized voice offers guidance for modern survival. But the lyrics in the posters are even darker than 20 years ago, ending with the lines, "Worse politicians / More fear." "OK Computer," the third album by Radiohead, turned the page on the more carefree, guitar-driven Britpop of the 1990s, creating a sound

driven by electronic loops to dramatize paranoia in a world being taken over by internet culture. Radiohead-which revived its 1997 website for the reissue-went further into experimentation with its 2000 follow-up album "Kid A," often considered the band's masterpiece. Radiohead said that "OK Computer" was recorded with the best available analog technology in 1997 but that subsequent advances in technology have allowed the band to refine the sound. — AFP



This image released by Universal Pictures shows, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, seated left, and Nathalie Emmanuel, seated right, and Tyrese Gibson, standing from left, Scott Eastwood, Dwayne Johnson and Michelle Rodriguez in "The Fate of the Furious." — AP

Box office top 20: 'Furious' takes a victory lap

Before the arrival of "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," "The Fate of the Furious" took one more victory lap at the North American box office, leading all movies in ticket sales for the third straight week. The film, which has passed \$1 billion globally, grossed \$19.9 million domestically over the weekend, according to final box office figures from comScore on Monday. The reign of the "Furious" sequel, however, is sure to end this weekend when "Guardians" kicks off the summer season.

In the lull between blockbusters, several smaller films did relatively strong business. The Eugenio Derbez comedy "How to Be a Latin Lover," opened in second with \$12.2 million. It drew an 89 percent Latino audience. And the South Indian film "Baahubali 2: The Conclusion" came in third with \$10.4 million despite playing on only 420 screens. Both films bested the badly reviewed Emma Watson and Tom Hanks thriller "The Circle," which debuted with \$9 million.

The top 20 movies at US and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore:

1. "The Fate Of The Furious," Universal, \$19,936,540, 4,077 locations, \$4,890 average, \$193,268,115, 3 Weeks.
2. "How To Be A Latin Lover," Lionsgate, \$12,252,439, 1,118 locations, \$10,959 average, \$12,252,439, 1 Week.
3. "Baahubali 2: The Conclusion," Great India Films, \$10,354,532, 425 locations, \$24,364 average, \$10,354,532, 1 Week.
4. "The Boss Baby," 20th Century Fox, \$9,372,386, 3,739 locations, \$2,507 average, \$148,787,970, 5 Weeks.
5. "The Circle," STX Entertainment, \$9,034,148, 3,163 locations, \$2,856 average, \$9,034,148, 1 Week.

6. "Beauty And The Beast," Disney, \$6,825,595, 3,155 locations, \$2,163 average, \$480,525,828, 7 Weeks.
7. "Going In Style," Warner Bros., \$3,607,144, 2,761 locations, \$1,306 average, \$37,346,914, 4 Weeks.
8. "Smurfs: The Lost Village," Sony, \$3,558,031, 2,554 locations, \$1,393 average, \$37,977,532, 4 Weeks.
9. "Gifted," Fox Searchlight, \$3,364,270, 2,215 locations, \$1,519 average, \$15,894,295, 4 Weeks.
10. "Unforgettable," Warner Bros., \$2,412,141, 2,417 locations, \$998 average, \$8,950,960, 2 Weeks.
11. "Born In China," Disney, \$2,385,812, 1,508 locations, \$1,582 average, \$8,819,843, 2 Weeks.
12. "Lost City Of Z," Theatrical, \$1,806,634, 866 locations, \$2,086 average, \$4,913,080, 3 Weeks.
13. "Get Out," Universal, \$1,710,240, 1,563 locations, \$1,094 average, \$172,534,250, 10 Weeks.
14. "Sleight," OTL Releasing, \$1,701,785, 565 locations, \$3,012 average, \$1,701,785, 1 Week.
15. "The Promise," Open Road, \$1,443,046, 2,251 locations, \$641 average, \$7,067,064, 2 Weeks.
16. "Kong: Skull Island," Warner Bros., \$1,121,735, 933 locations, \$1,202 average, \$165,487,121, 8 Weeks.
17. "The Zookeeper's Wife," Focus Features, \$991,805, 997 locations, \$995 average, \$14,808,000, 5 Weeks.
18. "The Case For Christ," Pure Flix, \$989,072, 1,050 locations, \$942 average, \$13,054,237, 4 Weeks.
19. "Power Rangers," Lionsgate, \$855,661, 889 locations, \$962 average, \$84,234,169, 6 Weeks.
20. "Logan," 20th Century Fox, \$771,459, 614 locations, \$1,256 average, \$224,508,170, 9 Weeks. — AP

LYNCH TALKS RETIRING, FISHING AND ANYTHING BUT 'TWIN PEAKS'

David Lynch is reclining in his seat, a puckish grin playing occasionally on an otherwise inscrutable face as he offers parables about fishing and geese, like Jesus with a quiff. The 71-year-old directing legend appears to have just announced his retirement from making movies, although it's hard to tell, as his intended meaning is often misplaced in the lumpy word salad of his discourse. Lynch, regarded as one of the greatest American filmmakers of his generation, is on the promotion circuit for his latest project, Showtime's hotly-anticipated sequel to the iconic early 1990s ABC show "Twin Peaks," due to air from May 21.

He has spent recent years directing music videos and shorts and dabbling in comedy acting, but hasn't made a motion picture since surreal thriller "Inland Empire," which made an underwhelming \$4 million worldwide 11 years ago. "Things changed a lot in those 11 years. One of the things that changed is the way people started thinking about feature films, the fact that so many films were not doing well at the box office, even though they might have been great films," Lynch said. "And the things that were doing well at the box office weren't the things that I wanted to do." Asked by AFP if this means he has made his last feature film, he obfuscated, explaining that cable TV right now is "a beautiful place to be." So is that a yes? "I guess it is," he replied, but it is a scoop that you wouldn't bet your house on.

Fever dream -

The compelling mystery of the original eight-episode "Twin Peaks" — who killed high school student Laura Palmer-captured the imagination of a generation in 1990 and it was held up as frontrunner for a new kind of cinema-quality TV. Audiences and critical appreciation waned when the 22-episode second series revealed the culprit, but the show is still popular enough that its return is considered one of the TV events of the year. Journalists gathered at a hotel on Sunset Strip to meet Lynch have been told to stay clear of "plots, storylines, characters and locations," so even broad questions about the new series get laconic responses, as the conversation steered in more generic directions.

In the oeuvre of Lynch-from "Eraserhead" to "Blue Velvet" and beyond-you are never completely sure what is reality and what might be some weird, lucid fever dream. The experience of interviewing him is similar. "I say ideas are like fish. So you're desiring a fish, you've got the bait on the hook, it's down in the water and, lo and behold, an idea-uh, a fish will swim in and you'll get it," he said of his filmmaking philosophy. Lynch doesn't specify what type of fish his ideas are but they sound suspiciously like red herrings. "Then the next thing is,

do you love that fish? Do you love that idea? And if you love it, this is like a little fish that is so important," he enthused.



David Lynch

Golden eggs

Earlier, asked if he thought revealing Laura Palmer's killer had ultimately killed off the original show, he launched into a story about a goose laying golden eggs, and how it would be "not a good thing" were someone to kill the goose. Lynch, who has meditated twice a day for more than 40 years, says he hasn't thought much about whether the show might be aimed at original "Twin Peaks" fans or a new audience, nor does he worry about ratings or reviews. "There is, I always say, a Vedic expression: 'Man has control of action alone, never the fruits of that action,'" he said.

"So when you finish something, you just release control and it's up to fate." He talks more about his ideas, the difference between TV and cinema — there's a metaphor about mosquitoes-and, in the blink of an eye, 20 minutes is up and we may well know less about "Twin Peaks" than we did before the interview started. As a parting shot, Lynch offered his insight that sometimes, when a production takes a long time to make, it ends up being released in a different world than the one in which it was written. "And that is sometimes, you know, strange," he concluded, enigmatically. "Strange is the best word to end that," whispered one journalist as David Lynch-fisher of ideas, golden goose owner-operator and teddy boy Jesus-left the room. — AFP



Celine Dion



Janelle Monae



Madonna

THE MET GALA: RIHANNA ENCASED IN PETALS, ZENDAYA IN PARROTS



Monica Bellucci, left, and Valentino

The color red made a dramatic show Monday night in the grand parade of fashion at the Met Gala, including co-chair Katy Perry's look, as did glittery gold and blue feathers on the back of Blake Lively. But many of the evening's highlights were courtesy of luminaries who channeled honoree Rei Kawakubo, including Rihanna encased in fluttery petal-like pieces by the Japanese designer. Rihanna gestured to the crowd from the carpet in her Comme des Garçons look with stagey pink on her cheeks. Her look was two pieces and a sliver of stomach peeked out from the free-wheeling design.

Perry wore a veiled dress created just for her by John Galiano, while Pharrell's wife, Helen Lasichanh, wore one of Kawakubo's avant-garde, bulbous and armless jumpsuits. Lively's movie star gown with the feathered train was Versace. While some of the celebs from the worlds of film, TV, fashion, sports and music were inspired by Kawakubo, others made a splash in more classic looks, including Jennifer Lopez in 1950s elegance, a baby blue Valentino gown by Pierpaolo Piccioli. Perry wore a silver head piece and black accents around the eyes with an embroidered wool coat layered over a red tulle and silk chiffon dress, her sleeves elongated in a nod to Kawakubo, all by Maison Margiela Artisanal.

Music mogul Diddy, meanwhile, laid down on the carpet to watch girlfriend Cassie pose in a black gown with a huge, spikey train she wore with large, glittery ear cuffs. He wore an embellished cape in a spider

web design that carried over to his Rick Owens tuxedo. "It took a half-hour to get ready. We dress like this on the weekends," he joked. Speaking of the weekend, Selena and her date - The Weeknd - smooched on the carpet in a classic white, delicately embellished gown from Coach designer Stuart Vevers. Madonna went for green camo from Moschino, Tracee Ellis Ross in royal blue Comme des Garçons and Kim Kardashian West - without husband Kanye West - in understated, long-sleeve white from Vivienne Westwood.

Nicki Minaj, in a black bustier romper with a huge black-and-red cape from H&M, is a pro when it comes to arrivals. "I stood up in the van the whole way," she said of her trip to the Met in her larger-than-life ensemble. Missing from the carpet: Stalwarts Sarah Jessica Parker, Beyonce and Lady Gaga. Serena Williams in green Versace put in her first carpet appearance since announcing her pregnancy. Kylie Jenner was whisked up the stairs in a revealing sheer gold Atelier Versace gown, her platinum locks styled closed to her head. Sister Kendall Jenner stunned in a revealing black look covered in 85,000 hand-painted crystals from La Perla Creative Director Julia Haart. It included a wide diagonal slit from shoulder to below the waist and took more than 160 hours of work by 26 craftsmen in five cities, the designer said in a statement.



Jessica Chastain



Reese Witherspoon



Julie Macklowe attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the Rei Kawakubo/Comme des Garçons: Art of the In-Between exhibition. — AP/AFP photos



Mary-Kate Olsen, left, and Ashley Olsen



Haley Bennett



Blake Lively



Lily-Rose Depp



Ashley Graham



Jennifer Lopez



Katy Perry

Lasichanh, her blond hair high on her head, smiled from within her signature Kawakubo suit. Claire Danes also channeled the Japanese designer, whose work is featured in the Metropolitan Museum Costume Institute's spring exhibition, "Rei Kawakubo/Comme des Garçons: Art of the In-Between." The sleeves of Dane's flurry of ruffles in a white blouse extended well beyond her hands, paired with a simple pair of black pants. Vogue's Anna Wintour kicked off the star-studded gala a bit earlier as one of the evening's co-host. The gala feeds the annual budget of the Costume Institute. Wintour opted for encrusted gold and ostrich feathers from Chanel and said of Kawakubo and her brand: "She's a genius. Not only does she think outside of the box, she doesn't acknowledge the box."

Priyanka Chopra's floor-sweeping trench coat evening gown in camel from Ralph Lauren took up a lot of real estate on the carpet, which is actually blue this year. Gigi Hadid went with the color fawn in a geometric design that was short on one side and longer on the other. Her sister, Bella, dressed in a sexy sheer catsuit by Alexander Wang. Thom Browne dressed Solange Knowles in a black coat dress, a quilted down-filled puffer with a train and a pair of his ice skate-inspired booties on her feet.

Lilly Collins, her hair in a black, banged crop with dark red lips, paid homage to Kawakubo in a black strapless bodice paired with a high-waisted full skirt in pink, from Giambattista Valli. Zendaya, was just Zendaya, her hair down and red parrots adorning a full, off-the-shoulder ball gown in gold by Dolce & Gabbana Alta Moda. Celine Dion, in a silver bodysuit by Versace paired with high hair sculpture, was the last to walk, praising Kawakubo and saying: "To wear something, to be recognized, the whole thing is overwhelming. It's great to be here." — AP



Gigi Hadid



Cynthia Erivo



Lily Aldridge



Kim Kardashian



Sarah Paulson



Amy Adams



Caroline Kennedy, left, and John "Jack" Schlossberg.



Lily Collins



Amy Schumer



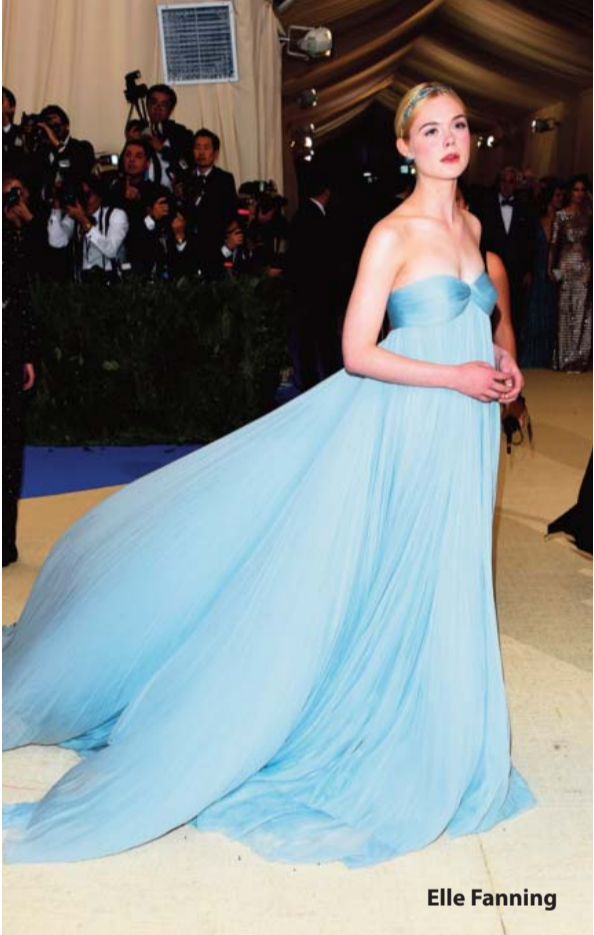
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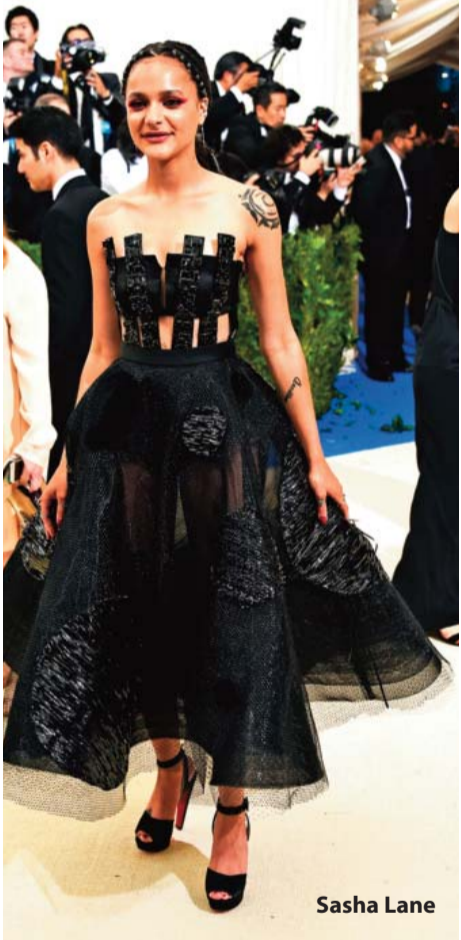
Sean Combs right, and, Cassie



Thandie Newton



Elle Fanning



Sasha Lane



Zendaya



Priyanka Chopra, left, and Nick Jonas



Rihanna



Ruby Rose



Dakota Johnson and Alessandro Michele



Salma Hayek and Francois-Henri Pinault



Kerry Washington

Lifestyle

The Met Gala: Rihanna
encased in petals,
Zendaya in parrots

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017



Rihanna attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the Rei Kawakubo/Comme des Garçons: Art of the In-Between exhibition on Monday, May 1, 2017, in New York. — AP

L'ECOLE, Van Cleef & Arpels partnership with 'Select Kuwait'



KUWAIT: L'ECOLE, Van Cleef & Arpels partners with 'Select' — an independent publishing agency — in staging an exhibition and book launch titled Select: The Maker, at the Contemporary Art Platform (CAP) gallery in Kuwait.

In collaboration with L'ECOLE Van Cleef & Arpels, Select celebrates the launch of the contemporary annual coffee table book by spotlighting new concepts in the fields of art and design. This year's issue of Select aims to shed light on the tactile process of making and producing. The book features narratives, images and products that stem from Kuwait, in addition to a photo-feature honoring the teachers and craftsmen at L'ECOLE Van Cleef & Arpels.

Coinciding with the book launch of Select's Maker Issue, the exhibition Select: The Maker Book Launch & Exhibition displays the individual interpretations of each Kuwaiti 'Maker': industrial designers, weavers, shoemakers, jewelry designers and others. Within this exhibition, L'ECOLE Van Cleef & Arpels showcases a photography exhibition about the hidden world of the world of jewelry-making.

Dhari Al-Muawed, co-founder of Select, commented on the book: "The process of creating Select: The Maker Issue is an eye opener of Kuwait which made us conclude through the journey of creating this publication that — "Made in Kuwait" is no longer a rarity. It's now a reason for nationalistic pride."

"For over a century, skilled craftsmanship has been at the heart of our business," said Alessandro Maffi, Managing Director of Van Cleef & Arpels Middle East and India, "The launch of the Maker Issue is an important moment for Van Cleef & Arpels in the region. Our partnership with Select documents and celebrates the expertise of the Makers of Kuwait, and of our master craftsmen and artisans from L'ECOLE. In November, we will be bringing the Nomadic program of our jewelry school for the first time to the Middle East, in Dubai. This is a unique opportunity for enthusiasts from the region to discover, interact and share knowledge on Savoir-faire, Art History and Gemology."

The news follows the announcement from Van Cleef & Arpels earlier this month regarding the forthcoming arrival of L'ECOLE Van Cleef & Arpels (L'ECOLE) in the Middle East, its first project for the region, in November this year. The Paris-based school of jewelry arts will set up a nomadic campus at Hai d3, in the Dubai Design District to shed light on the hidden worlds of jewelry and watchmaking, from the 7th to the 25th of November, 2017.

As part of its Nomadic program, L'ECOLE will present a full set of classes led by professional jewelers, art historians, gemologists, and watchmakers. Evening conversations, several exhibits and other activities around jewelry, will complement the offering of the first visit of the jewelry school to our region. Enrollment will open in September.

Select: The Maker Book Launch & Exhibition
Contemporary Art Platform
1st May: from 7:30 pm
2nd May: from 12-8 pm
Salhiya Mall Grand Atrium

Founded in February 2012, L'ECOLE Van Cleef & Arpels is notable for an innovative curriculum geared towards shedding light on the very secretive worlds of Jewelry and Watchmaking. Its goal is to instill an intellectual and emotional understanding of the spirit of these exceptional crafts; to encourage mastery of their techniques through personal experience; to educate the hand, the eye and the sense of taste. It does so with the help of experts who are passionate about their subjects: Art historians, virtuoso craftsmen, experienced jewelers, gemologists, and master watchmakers share their knowledge with students from all over the world.

