

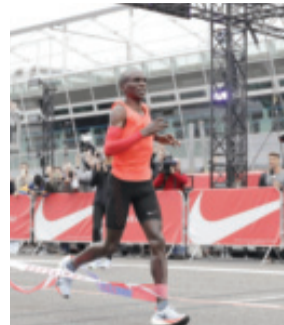
Kuwait has cemented bonds with Egypt since independence



Priyanka Chopra dismayed by Zimbabwe child sexual abuse



Kipchoge runs fastest marathon, fails to break two hours



'MSN' hit 100 mark as Barca pile pressure on Madrid



SAUDI ARABIA, US IN TALKS ON BILLIONS IN ARMS SALES

PLANNING FOR TRUMP'S SAUDI TRIP INTENSIFIES



Min 23°
Max 35°
High Tide 10:07 & 22:10
Low Tide 03:42 & 16:08

MACRON TARGET OF MASSIVE EMAIL HACK

PARIS: France's election authority attempted yesterday to stop the spread of hacked documents from centrist presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron's campaign a day before the country heads to the polls for a watershed election. Thousands of emails and documents were dumped online by hackers shortly before midnight in France on Friday and were then relayed by anti-secrecy group Wikileaks.

A statement from the 39-year-old frontrunner Macron called it a "massive and coordinated" hack that was intended as "democratic destabilization, like that seen during the last presidential campaign in the United States". Bound by strict election rules that ban campaigning on the day before the vote, neither he nor his allies were able to respond further as allegations were circulated on social media by his opponents in France and abroad.

"The dissemination of such data, which have been fraudulently obtained and in all likelihood may have been mingled with false information, is liable to be classified as a criminal offence," France's electoral commission said in a statement. Many supporters of Macron's far-right opponent Marine Le Pen ignored the warning, however, publishing screenshots of documents allegedly found in the hacked files, which the Macron team has warned could include fakes. Senior Le Pen aide Florian Philippot suggested on Twitter that the leak might contain information the media had deliberately suppressed.

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PARIS: Army soldiers patrol near Trocadero plaza with the Eiffel Tower in the background yesterday. — AP

WASHINGTON: Washington is working to push through contracts for tens of billions of dollars in arms sales to Saudi Arabia, some new, others in the pipeline, ahead of US President Donald Trump's trip to the kingdom this month, people familiar with the talks told Reuters. Saudi Arabia is Trump's first stop on his maiden international trip, a sign of his intent to reinforce ties with a top regional ally.

The United States has been the main supplier for most Saudi military needs, from F-15 fighter jets to command and control systems worth tens of billions of dollars in recent years. Trump has vowed to stimulate the US economy by boosting manufacturing jobs. Washington and Riyadh are eager to improve relations strained under President Barack Obama in part because of his championing of a nuclear deal with Saudi foe Iran.

Lockheed Martin Co programs in the package include a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system with several batteries, the sources said. The THAAD system, like the one being made operational in South Korea, costs about \$1 billion. Also being negotiated is a C2BMC software system for battle command and control and communications as well as a package of satellite capabilities, both provided by Lockheed.

Combat vehicles made by BAE Systems PLC, including the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and M109 artillery vehicle, are also under consideration as part of the Saudi package, people familiar with the talks said. Both vehicles are in the Saudi inventory. British defense company BAE has 29,000 employees in the United States. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the negotiations, which also include previously reported contracts or items under discussion for years.

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MOROCCO CLERIC DEFIES TABOO ON INHERITANCE

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PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A GUNSHOT VICTIM

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HANIYA ELECTED LEADER OF HAMAS

HEALTHCARE A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT IN US

WASHINGTON: In 1944, US president Franklin Roosevelt urged Congress to pass a "second bill of rights". Number six on the list was "the right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health". Seventy-three years later, despite the passage of many health care reforms, his dream remains as controversial as it was back then. Under former president Barack Obama, more than 20 million previously uninsured Americans gained healthcare coverage. Those who would have once had to sell their homes to pay for cancer treatments or limited doctors' visits because of the cost gained at least some peace of mind.

But in the land of rugged individualism, healthcare has never attained the status of fundamental right, unlike education. Health insurance is simply a product like any other, say Republicans who, under the leadership of President Donald Trump, are trying to repeal most of Obamacare, the landmark law signed in 2010.

After World War II, the idea of national health insurance supported by Roosevelt's successor Harry Truman ran into the new geopolitical reality.

Continued on Page 13

GAZA CITY: Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas elected ex-Gaza Strip chief Ismail Haniya as its new leader yesterday, days after revising its founding charter to ease its stance on Israel. Haniya, seen as a pragmatist within the movement, is expected to remain in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian enclave run by Hamas since 2007. His predecessor Khaled Meshal lives in exile in Doha and had completed the maximum two terms in office. "The Hamas Shura Council on Saturday elected Ismail Haniya as head of the movement's political bureau," the group's official website announced.

He beat Mussa Abu Marzuk and Mohamed Nazzal in a videoconference vote of the ruling council's members in Gaza, the West Bank and outside the Palestinian territories. The 54-year-old with a salt-and-pepper beard takes charge of Hamas as it seeks to ease its international isolation while not marginalizing hardliners within the movement. On Monday, it unveiled a new policy document easing its stance on Israel after having long called for its destruction.

The document notably accepts the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza, the territories occupied by Israel in the Six-Day War of 1967. It also says its struggle is not against Jews because of their religion but against



Ismail Haniya

Israel as an occupier. The original 1988 charter will not be dropped, just supplemented, in a move some analysts see as a way of maintaining the backing of hardliners.

"The new charter and Haniya's election are two of the biggest events in recent years," a European official based in Jerusalem told AFP yesterday, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The question is how is Hamas going to build on this momentum," he said, speaking in English. — AFP (See Page 8)



People look at the wreckage of a bus that had been transporting primary school pupils from Arusha to Karatu before plunging into a gorge yesterday. — AFP

35 DEAD AS SCHOOL BUS CRASHES IN TANZANIA

DAR ES SALAAM: Thirty-two schoolchildren, two teachers and a minibus driver were killed in Tanzania when their vehicle plunged into a roadside ravine in the northern tourist region of Arusha yesterday, a senior police official said. "The accident happened when the bus was descending on a steep hill in rainy conditions," Arusha regional police commander Charles Mkumbo told Reuters by telephone. "We are still investigating the incident to determine if it was caused by a mechanical defect or human error on the part of the driver."

The students killed in the accident, which occurred at about 9:30 am in Karatu district, were standard seven pupils, aged 12 to 13, from the Lucky Vincent primary school on their way to visit another school, Mkumbo said. President John Magufuli described the accident as a "national tragedy" in a statement. — Agencies



MANILA: The body of a victim is seen at the scene of an explosion as police officers examine the site in Quiapo yesterday. — AFP

TWIN BLASTS IN MANILA KILL 2

MANILA: Two explosions in the Philippine capital yesterday night killed two people and injured six others, police said, just over a week after another blast in the same area. An initial blast occurred around 6:00pm (1000 GMT) yesterday near a mosque in Quiapo, one of the older parts of Manila where there are big slums, city police chief Oscar Albayalde said. The explosion killed two and injured four others, he said.

A second blast occurred in the same area around 8:30 pm, according to an AFP photographer who was among a group of journalists near the scene. Two policemen who were inspecting the area after the first blast were injured by the second explosion, Albayalde said in an interview on GMA television. The blasts occurred along a narrow street crammed with stalls hawking clothes and homeware.

They were just outside an Islamic community center and about a hundred meters from the Quiapo Golden Mosque. The Philippines is a mainly Catholic

country but it has a significant Muslim minority, some of whom live in Quiapo. The first blast damaged part of the Islamic center and shattered windows in nearby buildings, according to the AFP photographer and witnesses. "It was very powerful," Omar Yahya, 22, who was at the Islamic center when the first explosion occurred, told AFP afterwards at a Manila police station. "Windows were broken and the wooden part of the building collapsed."

Police chief Albayalde said the first blast appeared to have come from a package that was being delivered by a man on a motorcycle. "The man on the motorcycle who delivered the package was killed. The other killed was the person who received the package," he said in an interview on DZRH radio.

Albayalde said there were no signs that the blasts were terrorist attacks. "We do not want to speculate but it's possible this is a gang war," he said. "We do not see any indication that this is a terrorist attack." The other explosion in Quiapo just over

a week ago, which occurred as Southeast Asian leaders were meeting for a summit a few kilometers away, injured 14 people.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the April 28 explosion, but police insisted it was not a terrorist attack, nor was it related in any way to the gathering of political leaders. Police said the April 28 explosion involved a home-made pipe bomb and was carried out by people involved in a private grievance. They said one person had been arrested over that attack.

Militants who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group are based in the southern Philippines, more than 800 km from Manila. Those militants mainly operate in the south, although they have been blamed for terrorists attacks in Manila. The Abu Sayyaf group, which is most infamous for kidnapping foreigners and killing them if ransoms are not paid, was blamed for the bombing of a ferry in Manila Bay in 2004 that killed more than 116 people. — AFP

KUWAIT HAS CEMENTED BONDS WITH EGYPT SINCE INDEPENDENCE

SISI BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT TO KUWAIT TODAY

KUWAIT: Egyptian President AbdelFattah Al-Sisi is set to have talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on bilateral relations, a host of regional and international affairs during his scheduled visit to the State of Kuwait starting today. President Sisi's mission to the country, his second since proclaimed president of Egypt in June 2014, comes amid noticeable growth of the relations between the two countries in various realms.

The Kuwaiti-Egyptian bonds, established many years ago, are exemplary; for the two countries have repeatedly stood on each other's sides at hard times. Egypt robustly sided with Kuwait in facing the 1990 Iraqi Invasion and its troops took part in the 1991 liberation of the Gulf country. Kuwait meanwhile supported Egypt during the 1967 aggression and the 1973 war with Israel. These close relations have grown stronger and warmer with time, particularly after Kuwait proclaimed independence in 1961.

Cairo hosted the late Amir, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, three times during 1964. He also went to the North African Arab nation several times during the era of the late president Jamal Abdunnasser. He was the last leader to bid Abdunnasser goodbye after the 1970 Arab summit before the latter's demise. Later on during the presidency of the late Anwar Al-Sadat, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem conducted several missions to Cairo for talks on bilateral issues as well as attending the 1976 Arab summit for Lebanon.

The ex-president Hosni Mubarak came to Kuwait four times since taking office in 1981. Meanwhile, the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah paid an official visit to Cairo in 1989. Mubarak was among the first leaders to come to Kuwait after the liberation to congratulate the Kuwaitis on the occasion.

Mubarak also came to Kuwait during the era of the current Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, cementing further the close links between the two countries. He



KUWAIT: In this file photo, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes Egyptian President AbdelFattah Al-Sisi during his visit to Kuwait in 2015.— KUNA

was here in 2009 for the Arab economic summit. His Highness the Amir hosted the former president Adly Mansour in 2013, and attended the coronation of President AbdelFattah Al-Sisi in June 2014. The latter came to Kuwait for the first time in 2015.— KUNA

EQUATE WINS 4 PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, a global producer of petrochemicals, proudly received four awards at the ASSE GCC HSE Excellence Awards 2017. The award ceremony was organized by ASSE that was held on May 2, 2017, in order to recognize and honor member private-sector companies for their leadership, excellence and exceptional performance in the field of Health, Safety and Environment in the Gulf region.

EQUATE received the following: The Gold Award for Manufacturing for the 9th consecutive year, the Gold Award for CSR Excellence, the Gold Award for Engineering and Construction Department EHandS Project and the Silver Award for Best HSE Initiative.

Speaking on this occasion, EQUATE's Corporate Communications Leader, Kholoud Al-Feeli, "We are very honored to be presented with 4 awards from ASSE. Winning such awards highlights our commitment to ensure excellence and professionalism within our company. Furthermore, it showcases our efforts as members of the ASSE towards adopt-

ing successful business models that uphold HSE as a business value."

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter is a premier voluntary, non-profit, Health, Safety and Environmental professional organization, which strives to provide professional guidance, training, consultancy and resources to the HSE Professionals, industrial and social sectors in the region.

EQUATE's HSE initiatives include Kuwait's first and only seawater cooling towers, Kuwait's first CO2 recovery project, first in Kuwait Partnership Agreement with Maersk to Reduce CO2 Emission in Ocean Transportation, waste management and recycling project with MRC, as well as the Middle East's first plant water recycle project.

It is noteworthy to mention that EQUATE is the first company in the Middle East in the petrochemical sector to obtain the new Responsible Care (RC) 14001:2015 certification from DNV GL. The certification is aimed to support the company's sustainability efforts in Environment, Health and Safety.



KUWAIT: Ambassador of Poland to Kuwait Grzegorz Olszak hosted a ceremony recently to celebrate his country's national day. State officials, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event.— Photos by Joseph Shagra



Local spotlight

RUSSIAN EMPLOYEE FLEES WITH \$166M!



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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A Russian employee stole public funds and fled Kuwait after she transferred about \$166 million to her accomplices. This report was published by Al-Jarida daily two days ago and angered many Kuwaitis. It was also trending on social media over the weekend. I need to say here that the Kuwaiti prosecution is still investigating the matter, with May 21 set for consideration of the case. So the court has not issued its final word yet.

The prosecutor has accused the suspects, who were working for the port investment fund, of misappropriating public funds from 2007 to 2015. The total amount embezzled by the Russian employee and her partners exceeded \$166 million, and the case file will be referred to the criminal court. The prosecution also charged another suspect, a member of the advisory board of the fund, of colluding with the Russian employee in money laundering and embezzlement of public funds. This person was a public servant and deliberately carried out illegal actions that were detrimental to the interests of the institution.

It is worth mentioning that former communications minister Essa Al-Kandari had investigated the issue and referred it to the public prosecution. He made this decision as per an Audit Bureau report, which revealed the embezzlement. The entire case is now under investigation and more details are being published online.

But this is not the aim of this article. It is no surprise that financial crimes occur every day in the world. There is nothing new about the subject, but what is interesting here is the question that many people have raised - how was a suspect allowed to leave the country before an acquittal from the court? In fact, a social media activist made a point about how the interior ministry often places travel bans on individuals, whether citizens or expatriates, for lesser crimes. This case is still under investigation and has not been completed or closed by the court. Another disturbing element is the fact that this did not happen all of a sudden, but continued for years - from 2007 to 2015!

Some people have called on the National Assembly to form an investigation committee. Unfortunately, this is a loss of public funds, which is the people's money, and not the private property of someone. Therefore, the anger of the people is justified. There are intense frustrations and complaints over this crime, and allowing one of the suspects to leave Kuwait with the money. This is an ideal ending for a criminal - to commit a crime and flee.

One of the reasons for anxiety is the recurrence of financial crimes in recent years in Kuwait and the flight of suspects abroad without the ability to stop or extradite them to face punishment. They are often senior employees or officials and not junior staff. These crimes send a negative message about Kuwait and the society. It is like saying if you have money and power, you will be far from punishment.

This is a security and moral threat to the society and the safety of people. It also distorts Kuwait's reputation and makes it appear like a home of corrupt people and criminals. It is the right of everyone to demand strict measures be taken against the suspects, whether they are citizens or expatriates, especially those who violate public money or are involved in money laundering.

I believe the public prosecutor's office will continue to investigate the crime as part of its work and the court will issue its verdict without doubt, but the events send a frightening message to the people. We should not allow anyone to think we are a perfect location for crimes and thefts.

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: In 2014, Kuwait Times started a campaign to investigate the price changes of some basic commodities starting from a month prior to the holy month of Ramadan. The weekly survey covers the prices of seven different kinds of commodities (per kilogram) bought from a supermarket, for the purpose of comparing the prices on a weekly basis. These are popular items whose prices usually increase during Ramadan. This year, we also added eggs and milk to the previous list which contains minced meat, chicken, tomatoes, lemons, and cucumbers.

The prices of prime commodities vary from one co-op society to another. Surprisingly, the prices of these goods are different when compared to privately run small and big supermarket prices. According to our list, the prices monitored in a co-op society last week compared to supermarket prices were as follows: the price of minced beef per kg was KD 2.750 but supermarkets were selling it for KD 2.150 only. Tomatoes were sold for 550 fils per kg in co-ops, but in supermarkets it was for 495 fils only. But cucumber in co-ops was cheaper than that sold in supermar-

kets. Last week, cucumbers in co-ops were sold for 50 fils per kg, whereas the supermarkets had it for 145 fils per kg.

The prices of the items are as follows (Supermarkets today):
One kg of fresh minced meat (beef)



costs KD 2.150
One kg of fresh Saudi chicken costs KD 1.400
One kg of local tomatoes costs 495 fils
One kg of African lemons costs 775 fils
One kg of local cucumbers costs 145 fils

One liter local milk costs KD 1.250 X 4
One tray of eggs containing 30 eggs costs KD 790

The prices of the items are as follows (coops last week):

One kg of fresh minced meat (beef) costs KD 2.750
One kg of fresh Saudi chicken costs KD 1.760
One kg of local tomatoes costs 550 fils
One kg of African lemons costs 660 fils
One kg of local cucumbers costs 50 fils
One liter local milk costs 430 fils
One tray of eggs containing 30 eggs costs KD 1.100

Kuwait Times will be following the prices of these items, in order to check if any increase in price occurs during this period and until the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

Kuwait Times will update the readers with the next investigation report in the coming week. The prices are the same in all co-ops for the same kind and brand, but may differ from one supermarket to another. Also, co-ops hold weekly food festivals, including special discounts on fruits and vegetables for one day a week.

COMMITTEE TO ANNOUNCE REPORT ON FISH DEATHS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The National Committee for Combating Fish Death; a state department comprising of several many relevant state departments, is expected to hold a press conference tomorrow to announce its report about the phenomena. The committee's spokesperson, Environment Public Authority's (EPA) Deputy Director Mohammad Al-Enezi explained that the committee includes representatives from EPA, the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and Kuwait University (KU), adding that it will provide a full scientific report about the dying fishes.

Hospitals' cafeterias

The Patients Support Fund's (PSF) Board Chairman Dr Mohammed Al-Sharhan said that closing down the society's cafeterias in public hospitals will deprive thousands of non-Kuwaiti patients from medical treatment. Sharhan explained that the society provides many humanitarian services in various hospitals such as paying the expenses of treating worse off patients including radiology and lab tests and expensive medications in addition to providing wheelchairs, hearing aids, glasses and artificial limbs to

patients with special needs. Sharhan said that the society is funded by charity donations and some investment projects such as that of hospitals' cafeterias, adding that the revenues of those cafeterias are totally used to pay for treating those who cannot afford the cost. "Hundreds of non-Kuwaiti and stateless patients are hospitalized on daily basis and the health insurance only reduces the fees and does not completely cancel it," he explained, noting that some patients cannot even pay the reduced fees of some diagnostic tests.

Sharhan gave an example of the monthly cost of treating a kidney failure patient that it equals KD 360. He noted that the society also supports health facilities by providing some medial and electronic equipment, conduct urgent maintenance operations and build recreational clubs in pediatrics wards.

Unpaid school fees

The Education Ministry's Acting Director of Private Education Sanad Al-Mutairi asked private school owners to provide him with lists of students who have still not paid the 2016-2017 fees and are not covered by the students' charity fund. Mutairi added that the department will study each case separately and then make the right decision.

Payroll alternative

The strategic payroll alternative bill will be returned to the parliament's financial affairs committee to discuss further amendments suggested by the government, said informed sources, noting that the committee's meeting today will be attended by Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah and Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh.

The sources added that the strategic payroll alternative bill will be deferred to the coming parliamentary term as the government insists on applying it to governmental bodies including the oil sector, which is a strong point of disagreement. Sources said that the committee's meeting agenda will include resuming the discussion of protecting Kuwaitis' salaries and pensions, discussing law number 6/2008 pertaining with turning Kuwait Airways into a shareholding company and establishing the Kuwait Fund for Social Development.

Meanwhile, the health affairs committee is scheduled to discuss the reasons of not activating law number 68/2015 pertaining with domestic helpers and law number 69/2015 pertaining the establishment of a closed shareholding company to recruit domestic labor.

KUWAIT TO RECEIVE 'CAPITAL OF ARAB YOUTH OF 2017' FLAG FROM MOROCCO

KUWAIT: Kuwait will receive the flag bearing the logo of the 'Capital of Arab Youth' from Morocco tomorrow, Director of the Public Authority of Youth (PAY) Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said yesterday. Celebrations of 'Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth of 2017' are to take off here on May 15, with a variety of youth activities, he added in a press release. Mutairi will attend the hand-over ceremony of the flag in Rabat on behalf of the Minister of Commerce and Industry and Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs Khaled Al-Roudan.



Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi

The higher organizing committee of the "Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth of 2017" has prepared a plenty of activities and contests, cultural, artistic, social, sports and youth, in addition to youth conferences and forums. The events that will run through the year, are meant to contribute effectively to empowering the Arab youth through investing their energies and encouraging them to work and innovate for achieving development in their countries, Mutairi said. The majority of the Arab population is from youth and Kuwait has a leading experience in working for youth, he noted.

The Kuwaiti leadership is very keen on youth and is giving them priority as the basic power for developing societies, Mutairi said. During his visit to Morocco, the PAY chief will attend the Arab forum on "youth civil society organizations and their role for achieving sustainable development." —KUNA



A scene from the accident.



A fireman rescues the cat.

TRUCK DRIVER KILLED IN CRASH

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A fuel tanker truck's driver died after he lost control over his vehicle which flipped along Wafra highway, said security sources noting that special gear was used to cut open the wrecked vehicle and release the dead man's body. A case was filed to investigate the cause of the accident.

Cat rescued

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's (KFSD) public relations and media department said that the operations center had received a call about a cat trapped inside a house in Shamiya. Firefighters rushed to the house and discovered that the cat was trapped inside an air ventilation shaft. The animal was rescued safely.



KUWAIT: The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity hosted a ceremony to celebrate the conclusion of the second nanotechnology training course for Ministry of Education teachers. An exhibition for nanotechnology experiments was held during the ceremony.

78.5 PERCENT OF JOB SEEKERS USE JOB SITES TO FIND THEIR FIRST JOBS

61.5 PERCENT FOUND THEIR FIRST JOB IN LESS THAN SIX MONTHS

DUBAI: The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is one of the most youthful regions in the world. As a result of this, young job seekers and recent graduates are rigorously competing for entry level jobs and attempting to secure an early-career position. In order to measure the success of their efforts, Bayt.com - the Middle East's #1 Job Site - conducted a poll titled 'Finding Your First Job in the Middle East and North Africa' in which more than six in 10 respondents (62.1 percent) claimed that they can find 'entry level jobs for their educational background.'

Further, half of the respondents from across the MENA region (49.9 percent) claim that entry level jobs are 'widely available in the Middle East.' 18 percent of respondents were neutral in response to this statement. When it comes to the availability of jobs by sector, almost half of respondents claimed that 'it is easier to obtain an entry level job in the Private Sector' (49.4 percent), followed by the Public Sector (18.2 percent), and Non-governmental Agencies (NGOs) (9.5 percent). However, over one in five respondents claimed that there is no difference between sectors when it comes to obtaining an entry level position (22.9 percent).

Online job sites emerged as the most popular method for finding entry level jobs in the MENA region. 78.5 percent of job seekers use online job sites along with other channels to look for jobs and almost a quarter use online job sites exclusively (23.8 percent). Online job sites were followed by social media (9.3 percent), company websites (5.8 percent), newspapers (4.5 percent), and personal networks (1.9 percent). More respondents agree that online job sites are "effective for finding entry level jobs."

What are the challenges?

For young job seekers and fresh graduates, the greatest challenge for getting their career started is the high competition. 68 percent of polled job seekers agree that 'competition is higher for entry level jobs.' The second challenge is the lack of career support from universities and schools. Nearly three quarters of respondents (74.6 percent) claimed that they do not (or 'did not' - if they have already graduated) receive career support from their university.

When it comes to salaries, 30.6 percent of respondents agree that entry level jobs are 'paid well in the Middle East' and 19.6 percent were neutral. While nearly half (49.8 percent) of respondents disagree



with that statement, it is also worth noting that only 17.4 percent of job seekers value having a 'high salary' the most in an entry level job. 42.5 percent of respondents look for 'opportunities for career growth,' 21.9 percent look for 'experience relevant to their education,' and 18.2 percent look for 'reputable company / positive work culture.'

"In today's economic climate, it is important for both prospective employees and employers to be aware of the available solutions when it comes to obtaining and creating jobs," said Suhail Masri, Vice President of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "Competition for jobs has never ceased to exist, which is why job seekers are continuously encouraged to enhance their CVs and online profiles as well as utilize the most advanced tools and technologies that Bayt.com offers. We are very proud to work with over 27 million professionals and provide them with the necessary tools and support for their career search. Our aim is to empower young job seekers and graduates, whether by partnering with universities and educational institutions or directly with the job seeker, so that they can make use of the available career opportunities in their fields of interest."

What makes a strong job candidate?

81.8 percent of respondents agree that internships make a stronger entry level job candidate. Moreover, nearly two thirds of respondents (65.5 percent) agree that cover letters are necessary when

submitting an entry level job application. Comparing the different elements of a candidate's CV, some items may appear more important than others. When asked what makes an 'excellent candidate' for an entry level job, 33.8 percent of respondents cited 'work experience,' 27.2 percent cited 'personal and soft skills' (ie communication, team work), 26.4 percent cited 'technical skills and certifications,' and 12.6 percent cited 'university degree and GPA.'

As for survey respondents who have already found jobs, almost half of them said that it took less than 3 months to find their very first job (45.9 percent), 15.6 percent said it took them 3 - 6 months, 23.8 percent said it took them 6 - 12 months, and only 14.7 percent said that it took them more than one year to find their first job.

Masri adds: "Fresh graduates seeking to secure their first job should take advantage of the numerous entry-level jobs, internships, as well as information about the job market that Bayt.com regularly provides. Today, and on any given day, over 10,000 jobs are available on our job site, nearly 5,000 of which are suitable for young job seekers and fresh graduates."

Data for the 2017 Bayt.com 'Finding Your First Job in the Middle East and North Africa' poll was collected online from March 19th, 2017 to April 26th, 2017. Results are based on a sample of 7,571 respondents. Countries that participated are the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and others.



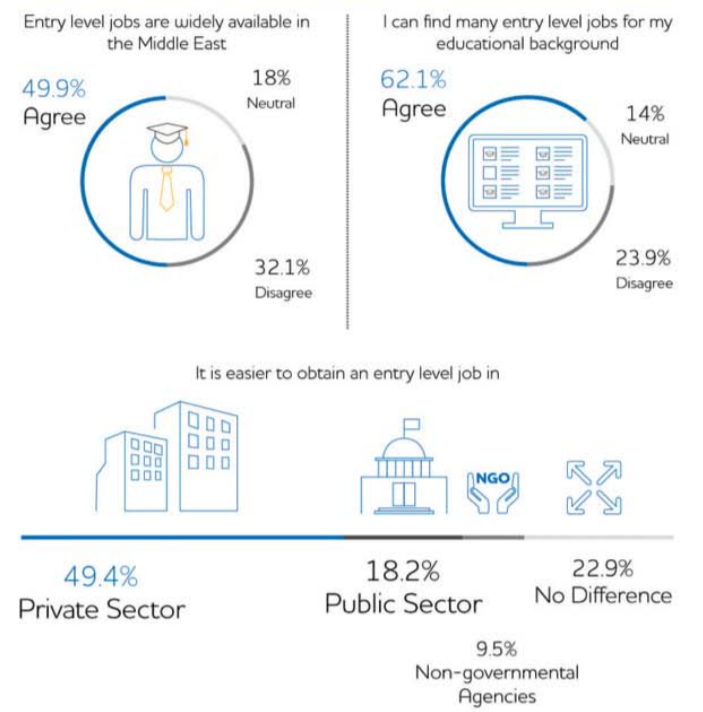
FINDING YOUR FIRST JOB

In the Middle East and North Africa

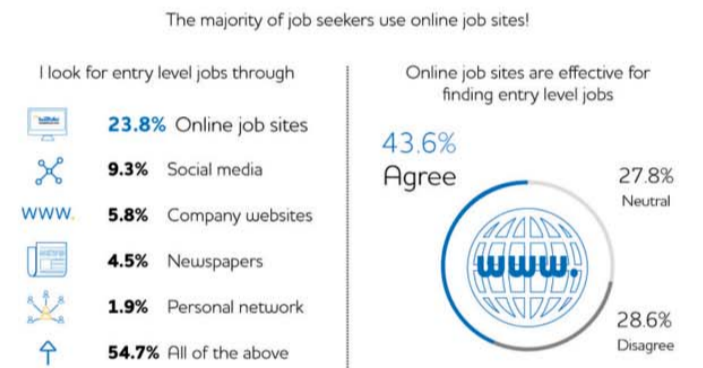
The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is one of the most youthful regions in the world. With so many young job seekers and recent graduates competing for entry level jobs, securing an early-career position is a challenge that many people must deal with. How does the MENA job market look like for entry level candidates? Are they able to find career opportunities after they graduate? What type of support do they need?

Bayt.com polled **7,571** job seekers from the MENA region

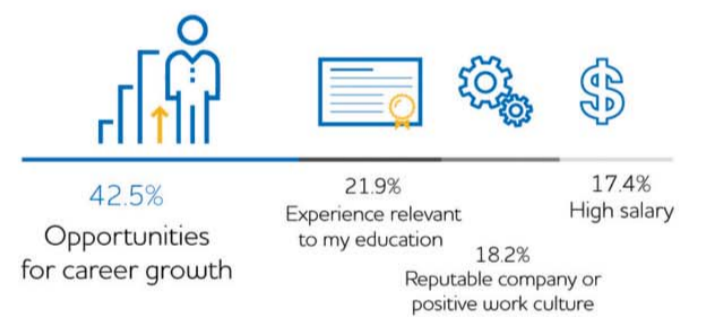
ARE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG JOB SEEKERS AND FRESH GRADUATES?



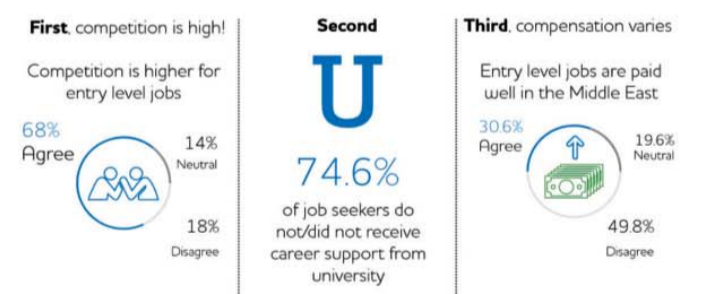
SO JOBS DO EXIST, BUT WHERE DO YOU FIND AND APPLY FOR THEM?



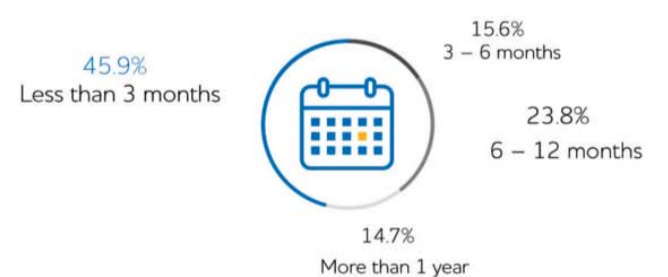
ONCE YOU FIND MANY JOBS, HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT ONE?



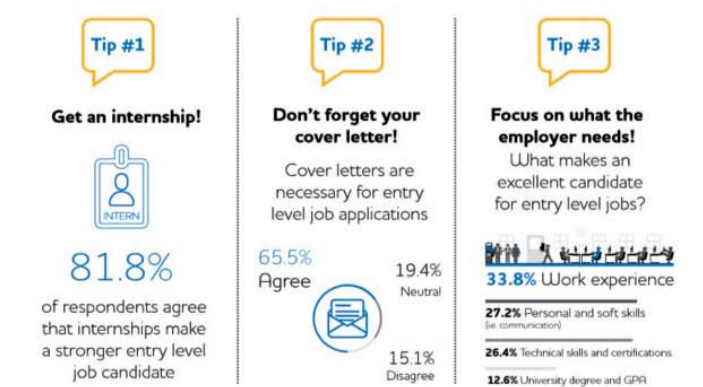
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Data taken from the Bayt.com "Finding Your First Job in the Middle East and North Africa" poll, April 2017. For more research reports on the Middle East, visit www.bayt.com/en/research-reports/



THIRD UMBRELLA EXPO OPENS AT AVENUES MALL

KUWAIT: Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Hassan Kathem opened the third child entertainment expo 'mezhalha' (umbrella) on behalf of Minister Hind Al-Sabeeh on Friday.

The two-day event is co-organized by Nawah fairs company and Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) at

the Avenues Mall with 40 specialized nurseries and sports clubs taking part. It aims to provide amusement and knowledge to children and make them better able to deal with their society, Kathem said after the opening ceremony. He appreciated the efforts of the participating sports clubs and nur-

series as well as the organizers for caring for children below the age of 16 and contributing the social development in the country. KUNA has a pavilion at the exhibition where it offer theatrical performances, gifts and publications, notably the last edition of 'Kuna Al-Saghir' kids' magazine. — KUNA



In Brief

ISLAMIC FINANCING WORKSHOP

KUWAIT: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) will organize a two-day workshop starting today on means of overhauling Islamic financial institutions. The workshop, to be held at the CBK headquarters, is part of the central bank approach to develop the Islamic banking and financial sectors, said Dr Mohammad Yousuf Al-Hashel, the CBK Governor. It will be organized, in coordinating with leading Islamic financial establishments, and will tackle legislative criteria, governance and work ethics in the field, in addition to auditing and review standards. — KUNA



KUWAITI BOARD EXAMS

KUWAIT: A specialized Health ministry branch announced yesterday the start of electronic web-based board registration exams for Kuwaiti doctors and colleagues, effective from tomorrow until June first. The Director General of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specializations (KIMS), Dr Ibrahim Hadi said in a press release, adding after the set deadline of June 1st 2017, no one will be admissible. Hadi called on all those who wish to register to go through the designated site: examsoffice-kims.com. — KUNA



OIL PRICE DOWN

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil was down \$1.05 and stands at \$45.55 per barrel (pb) in Friday's trading, when compared to the previous day of \$46.60 pb, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. Globally, oil prices were up, after five months of decline. The price of Brent crude was up 72 cents to stand at \$49.10 pb, including US crude oil West Texas was up 70 cents and stands at \$46.22 pb. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A picture showing a bee on a flower taken from a garden in Kuwait. — KUNA photo

TESOL-KUWAIT HOSTS OPEN DAY MEETING AT ARAB OPEN UNIVERSITY

KUWAIT: TESOL-Kuwait hosted an open day meeting yesterday for its members and affiliated specialized teaching groups, known as Special Interest Groups (SIGs), at Arab Open University (AOU) in Ardiya area.

The meeting, themed "Why Learn English?", aimed at inspiring and motivating English educators in Kuwaiti public and private schools and universities, particularly teachers specialized in English as a Second Language (ESL) and English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI). It also focused on the aims and objectives of teaching English to non-native speakers around the world, and the importance of learning English in modern-day life. TESOL-Kuwait's SIGs enable members to enhance their skills in English teaching and learning, and provide opportunities for all to contribute to teaching and learning, Dr Ilene Winokur Al-Zaid, President of TESOL-Kuwait, said in her opening presentation. They also offer members an educational forum to network and communicate by sharing insights, discussing trends and issues, hosting workshops, and building connections with other professionals within specialized fields, added Zaid.

"We want to make sure that you feel as teachers of English language in Kuwait that you have a lot more professional developments throughout the year that you can take advantage of. And, as a result, TESOL-Kuwait really want to model that," she said. Zaid also indicated that TESOL-Kuwait plans to register with the Ministry of Social Affairs as an NGO, adding that obtaining such a recognition would empower TESOL's members to contribute significantly and effectively in the enhancement of teaching and learning English in Kuwait. Meanwhile, the event featured live performances by SIGs members, among which, notably, the Read English Actively for Language and Life Skills (REALL) SIG, which displayed a unique way of teaching English literature through performing arts such as drawing, singing, and acting.



الجامعة العربية المفتوحة

Arab Open University

"REALL has developed an innovative way to celebrate classic and modern English novels and literature through the arts, bringing the stories to life," Alison Koushki, REALL's Chair, said. "Students would enhance all four language skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing, while mining the riches of literature, then portraying them as art and performance," Koushki, who is also a senior instructor of Intensive English Program at the American University of Kuwait (AUK), added.

"My students use sound, lights, and costumes when singing and acting their characters on stage. They also form teams, whether on stage or backstage, in addition to scriptwriting, reporting, and make-up, and

work together to enliven the narrative and cultivate their language and life skills simultaneously, said Koushki. TESOL-Kuwait is a professional organization for anyone involved in teaching non-native speakers of English. It is an affiliate of the international association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). The organization's mission is to advance professional expertise in English language teaching and learning for speakers of other languages worldwide. It is also devoted to the professional development of its members, most of whom are based in Kuwait and the Gulf region. — KUNA



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Crime

Report

DRUNK PEOPLE ARRESTED

KUWAIT: Three citizens were arrested in Fintas for drinking and fighting outside a building. Security sources said detectives found a bottle of whiskey with the suspects. A case was filed. In a similar case, a female citizen was arrested for drinking, ramming her vehicle into the rear of another citizen's vehicle and insulting him. Security sources said on examining a routine road accident in Salmiya, they found that the woman was heavily drunk. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Banned from travelling

A GCC national was arrested on arrival at Salmi land border exit, said security sources, noting that the man was found banned from travelling and that he was technically still in Kuwait, as his departure had not been registered in the system 10 years ago. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Theft

A female citizen reported that an unidentified robber broke into her vehicle when it was parked outside a beauty salon in Salmiya and stole KD 400 in cash and two expensive purses. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Fire

An Asian man was rescued after a fire broke out inside his apartment while he was preparing dinner. Security sources said the fire resulted from a gas leak and that the man suffered from first and third degree burns.

Kidnap

An Asian woman accused her Asian husband of abducting her son following some disputes with her, said security sources, adding that the man allegedly stole all the child's identification documents including his ID, passport and birth certificate. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Rented car not returned

An expat working in a car rental office reported that a compatriot had rented a car for three days, but did not return it to the office. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

License plates stolen

A number of car owners in Nugra reported that unidentified robbers had stolen their vehicles' license plates, said security sources, predicting that the culprits would probably use the plates to commit other crimes. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Assault

A female citizen working for the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) reported that her brother assaulted her outside her house, said security sources, noting that the women provided a medical report with her injuries. In another assault case, an Egyptian woman married to a citizen reported that her husband had assaulted her, and provided a medical report of her injuries.

— Translated from the Arabic press



Public funds

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

WRONG FOOT START

By Mudaffar Abdullah

It was proven that the work of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority, ever since its first establishment in 2012 and second in 2016 following its initial fall, has not been so good. It is actually starting on the wrong foot because so many elements are fighting the idea of 'cleansing' Kuwait's administrative bodies. It seems that this authority came to existence at the wrong time when Kuwait fell back 20 grades in an international corruption index compared to its rank in 2003.

A time when bribes caused government contracts' values to jump by at least 25 percent more than their true values. In addition, it is both the cabinet and parliament's incapability or unwillingness to stop public funds' leakages, protect those funds, or at least provide a proper healthy atmosphere to help the authority function properly and effectively.

It is also remarkable how the authority members themselves are not in agreement, such as the case detected in a report made by an investigation committee at the beginning of the year where liabilities of its chairman, deputy and members got entangled. In addition, there was the recent political tension between the justice minister and the authority that got all the way to dropping its accusations to a lawmaker and a senior official due to 'procedural error'; a legal term that is being sarcastically used nowadays.

In such cases, public feelings towards the authority

leaders contribute to interfering in their administrative body's liabilities to the extent of rewarding them handsomely for zero accomplishments. Such a situation leads to losing hope in things getting any better simply because Kuwait is a small lightly populated and extravagantly rich country that should not witness such massive corruption. It is logic.

Transparency and accountable bodies are usually established for two reasons; follow up a state's international obligations according to the international treaties it had signed, and create leading senior positions for some most favored people... at least that is what people assume. We are not actually in the time of fighting corruption because, on one hand, the government is not serious enough about it and, on the other, the parliament is so divided that it is incapable of agreeing on common concerns and act accordingly.

In addition, constant threats of dissolving the parliament makes MPs nominees all year long. It was so premature that the justice minister announced his wish to change the authority's name to become the 'Success Authority'. There is no need for such a proposal because it is the result of the authority's missing work that ought to suggest names; not the other way round. I personally believe the best names in such cases should come from the people themselves.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

BRIBERY CORRUPTION

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

We have started to hear and read about corruption and corruptors, which make us ask those with silent mouths and 'empty' pens: Who are the corruptors? Reports and editorials come through social media that make the citizen feel as if he is staying in a land that bears tons of treasures, and those who harvest them are certain unidentified personalities. We must admit that all countries make mistakes, and corruption bells are rang, but the amount of what we hear and read about crimes taking place in our society make us say: Stop piddling in the name of corruption in order to be bribed.

There are mistakes in the society, and it is possible to correct them, but what we read from a black theater that carries plots and conspiracies in the name of corruption make the citizen unproductive and will not bring reform. Rather, positive energies will be paralyzed in our society; a message to those who claim reform and fight to eradicate corruption.

You should take the documents you have to the security authorities because, as the saying goes "he who keeps silent when it comes to do the right thing is a mute devil." Reform is done by confrontation, and anything else in the form of wrangles through WhatsApp and Twitter is useless. What is happening under the slogan of corruption without declaring who are the corruptors reminds me of an incident I personally went through some years back.

About five years ago, a writer who hunts for mistakes by some of the dignitaries took a picture of a tweet made by a well-respected personality socially and economically, and that writer started to speak about corruption towards that personality. But that writer changed his colors like a chameleon when he same personality he criticized gave him money to buy his silence; not out of fear or weakness, but out of sympathy towards the shape-shifting 'chameleon'.

So when the chameleon was fed with money, the play's plot opened up and took us to the end, as if corruption was over, the society became righteous and the symbol of corruption, which was crying out in the name of the society (but actually seeking money), was eradicated. The country is sold in the name of corruption for the sake of bribery. How many chameleons are there in our society, living around us and changing colors, pry on some personalities and officials not for the love of the country, or to fight corruption and fear for the society, but rather for 'bribery corruption'?

A message to all those who beat on empty drums, and those who carry pens with secret ink: we are fed up with what you write, and have grown tired by your beating. If you have facts, then take them to the land of justice and law, because there is no barrier to keep you from expressing love towards Kuwait and its people if you want to reform Kuwait. A final word: Those who damage our reputation are those who wished to be like you but have failed.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



ZAIN HOLDS EVACUATION DRILL AT COMPANY'S MAIN HEADQUARTERS

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR CIVIL DEFENSE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, held an emergency evacuation drill at its main headquarters in Shuwaikh. The drill came in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior's General Department for Civil Defense and the Ministry of Health's Department for Emergency Medical Services, and witnessed the participation of all employees operating in the company's main buildings.

The evacuation drill was held in the presence of the Deputy Manager of the Department of Planning and Continuity in the General Department for Civil Defense Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Al-Marshoud as well as the Civil Defense and Emergency Medical Services staff, who supervised the drill plan and ensured all official guidelines and regulations set by the Ministry of Interior were followed and implemented to guarantee the

safety of all employees during unexpected emergencies. Zain held the evacuation drill as part of its Enterprise Risk Management strategy, which carefully looks to implement all guidelines and regulations specified by the Department for Civil Defense, including the appointment of employee marshals in each floor of its three main buildings to supervise on the evacuation process during emergencies, as well as maintain signboards in all of the company's entrances and exits. In addition, Zain also ensures the readiness of all safety equipment including alarm systems, internal speaker systems, fire hoses, and smoke alarm systems, while also specifying emergency gathering points and conducting evacuation drills and first aid training programs.

Zain is keen on partnering with the various governmental entities, most importantly the ministries of Interior and Health, to implement the official policies and procedures that ensure the safety and security of its employees at all times. The company also regularly hosts representative seminars from both ministries to hold informative seminars, engage employees in awareness campaigns, hold vaccination programs, blood donation drives, and more.

Zain considers its employees the main pillar of its overall success, being the leading telecommunications provider in the country. The company will always cater to the many different aspects of its employees' lives, and will always put their safety and security at the forefront of its priorities.



KUWAIT WINS THREE REGIONAL PROJECT QUALITY AWARDS

KUWAIT: Kuwait won three GCC awards at the recently concluded 2017 MEED Quality Awards for Projects, the region's premier recognition program for completed projects in the Gulf region. Shamal Az Zour Al-Oula's Az-Zour North One Power and Water Plant Project won the GCC Power Project of the Year as well as the GCC Mega Project of the Year awards, while AGI architects' Three Gardens Project received the GCC Residential Project of the Year award.

The triple-award was an improvement from last year's performance for Kuwait in the regional awards program when it won one trophy, and is testament to the country's robust projects industry. According to the MEED Insight GCC Construction Outlook 2017 report, Kuwait had one of the strongest construction markets in the region in 2016.

"We salute these projects for their successful completion according to strict international quality standards, proving that these schemes are comparable to the

world's best in terms of engineering and construction excellence. Equally important, these projects were recognized as the best in the region for having proven their worth in making significant contributions to the wider socio-economic, environmental and cultural development of the region," says Richard Thompson, editorial director, MEED.

The 2017 MEED Quality Awards for Projects recognized a total of 21 outstanding projects throughout the region. The most-coveted award of the program, the MEED Quality Project of the Year, was given to Saudi Arabia's Sadara Project, a joint venture of Saudi Aramco and the Dow Chemical Company, which also scooped the GCC Oil and Gas Project of the Year award.

The GCC winners were recently announced at The Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi Beach Resort and Marina in the UAE. The MEED Quality Awards for Projects 2017 was made possible with the support of Besix, Parsons, Al-Bawani, MVP Tech and ASCG.



Kuwait's Az-Zour North One Power and Water Plant wins GCC Mega Project of the Year.



Kuwait's Three Gardens wins GCC Residential Project of the Year.



White police faces murder charge over black teen's death

MOROCCAN CLERIC DEFIES TABOO ON WOMEN'S INHERITANCE

GROWING REPRESSION CAUSING MIGRANT EXODUS

DURBAN: African countries are becoming increasingly repressive and causing more people to leave their homes, British charity Oxfam said this week, as Germany warned of the destabilizing effect migration is having on the continent. Political freedom and the problem of Africa's brain-drain were among the leading issues on the agenda at the World Economic Forum on Africa held in Durban which wrapped up on Friday.

Oxfam's executive director Winnie Byanyima said that "repressive laws on freedom of association and speech" were "a driver of migration." German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaueble warned at the gathering that "if we fail to stabilize the African continent in the years and decades to come, we will face increasing geopolitical risks"-including more migrant arrivals in Europe.

South African President Jacob Zuma, who hosted the forum of African movers and shakers, described the handling of migration as among the "critical challenges facing the world". The total number of migrants worldwide reached 244 million in 2015, and among them a record 63 million were forced to leave their homes, including refugees, people displaced within their own countries and asylum seekers, the World Food Program said Friday.

Byanyima said that massive outflows from Africa were a damning verdict on the performance of the continent's political class. "That is a judgment on the leadership we have on our continent, failing to create economic opportunities for their people," she said. "In many of those countries you have repressive illegitimate regimes that spend the money that should go toward empowering their people on security systems, on monitoring their people, oppositions and silencing media."

'Fighting poverty'
 A recent survey by CIVICUS, which monitors freedoms worldwide, found that only two African countries were fully open-the island nations of Cape Verde and Sao Tome & Principe. Not one country on the African mainland was found to be free. Byanyima also criticized wealthy governments which have diverted their aid budgets into covering the costs of refugee arrivals. "Rich countries must stop repurposing aid, they must maintain aid for the conflict-affected countries. They must not divert it to meeting refugee costs in their countries or their security needs. They must maintain it for fighting poverty," she said. "If they help to make countries stable, to achieve inclusive growth then people will not want to leave their homes.



LESBOS: A migrant carries his baby as they come ashore along with other refugees and migrants arriving on the Greek Island of Lesbos after crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey. — AFP

Development cooperation is a tool for peace and stability." More than 1,000 migrants have died making the perilous Mediterranean crossing from Libya to Italy so far in 2017, according to the UN refugee agency. More than 36,700 people have been pulled to safety and brought to Italy so far this year according to the International Organization for Migration, an increase of nearly 45 percent compared with

the same period last year. At least 150 of those killed were children, though the figure is likely to be higher as many underage migrants travel unaccompanied so their deaths often go unreported, according to UNICEF. Distressing images of African migrants being plucked from heaving seas or the coffin-strewn aftermath of major sinkings have become a regular feature of television news

bulletins since the migrant crisis began spiraling out of control four years ago. Last year saw around 5,000 deaths. Italy's bid to close the marine migrant route from Africa to Europe was dashed after a deal it had signed with Libya was suspended by Tripoli's Court of Appeal in March. The deal had been fiercely criticized by rescue groups and human rights campaigners. — AFP

BRITAIN, GERMANY BRACE FOR PRE-ELECTION CYBER ATTACKS

LONDON: Britain and Germany were already beefing up cyber security ahead of key elections even before the hacking attack on France's Emmanuel Macron, months after Hillary Clinton was caught in the online crosshairs. Clinton recently reiterated her view that Russian hacking of her campaign's emails was partly to blame for her defeat in last year's US presidential election to Donald Trump. "If the election had been on October 27, I'd be your president," the defeated Democratic candidate told a charity luncheon last Tuesday.

In France, going to the polls Sunday in a presidential run-off election between Macron and far-right Marine Le Pen, hacking reared its ugly head at the 11th hour. Shortly before midnight Friday frontrunner Macron was the victim of a "massive and coordinated hacking attack". His staff described the release of internal documents, including thousands of emails and accounting documents, as an attempt at "democratic destabilization". The files were reportedly stolen weeks ago during one of "an intense and repeated" series of cyber attacks against Macron since the launch of his campaign. Taking note of the events in the US and in France, intelligence authorities in Britain and Germany are taking steps to prevent cyber attacks ahead of their own hotly-contested elections.

because they "quite often don't have particularly robust cyber security". "They are not-for-profit and don't have a lot of money to throw at the problem," he told the Press Association news agency. "So I think we could reasonably expect to see data theft, data breaches". Britain's National Cyber Security Centre (NSCS) said it was on "high alert" the day after Prime Minister Theresa May surprised the country last month by calling for a general election to be held on June 8. British spies are aware of the problem having already thwarted an attempt by Russian hackers to interfere in the 2015 general election, according to NSCS chief Ciaran Martin.

Recognising the problem, the NSCS convened the UK's main political parties to a "technical seminar" in March to provide them with practical steps to reduce the risk as well as advise on incident management. German authorities have taken similar steps ahead of September's general election. Arne Schoenbohm, president of Germany's Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) said back in March that government networks were being attacked "on a daily basis". As a precaution, she explained, the BSI had approached election officials and political parties to discuss how they could protect themselves.

'Increasingly aggressive'

Germany is facing "increasingly aggressive cyber espionage" as well as "further attacks," Hans-Georg Maassen, the domestic intelligence chief, said on

Thursday. He also highlighted how Martin Schulz, the Social Democrats leader, had recently been the victim of a vicious disinformation campaign claiming his father had been a Nazi supervisor in a concentrator camp.

In late March, Germany's armed forces launched a new cyber command tasked with protecting the military's own IT infrastructure and computer-assisted weapons systems, as well as surveillance of online threats. According to the defense ministry, the IT systems of the Bundeswehr-which includes the armed forces and their civil administration-had been targeted more than 280,000 times in this year's first nine weeks alone. Similarly to the US, Russia has been singled out by both countries as the country from which a lot of the attacks originate. "Over the last two years there has been a step change in Russian aggression in cyber space," the NSCS's Martin told the Sunday Times in February.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel travelled to Russia last week for talks with President Vladimir Putin. Afterwards both sides were circumspect about the issue. "We know cyber criminality is an international challenge, and also that Russian military doctrine touches on the topic of hybrid military strategy," she said. Russia has steadfastly denied all accusations of state-sponsored cyber-attacks. "We never interfere in the political life and the political processes of other countries," Putin said. "And we don't want anybody interfering in our political life and foreign policy processes," he warned. — AFP

IRAN MILITARY WARNS PRESIDENT ROUHANI

TEHRAN: Iran's armed forces warned President Hassan Rouhani against discussing the country's defense program after he criticized the anti-Israel slogans written on the side of ballistic missiles, local media reported yesterday. During an election debate on Friday, Rouhani took the rare step of criticizing the elite Revolutionary Guards for the provocative messages they wrote on ballistic missiles before testing them. "We saw how they wrote slogans on missiles and showed underground (missile) cities to disrupt the JCPOA (nuclear deal)," he said during the debate, which comes ahead of the May 19 election. Armed Forces spokesman General Masoud Jazayeri responded that the missile program had "no connection" to the nuclear deal.

"We again stress and recommend the presidential candidates to avoid controversial entries into important and sensitive military and defense issues of the country and giving false information to people," said Jazayeri, according to the website of state broadcaster IRIB. "The existence of underground missile sites are an important deterrent fac-

tor against the sworn enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the nation," Jazayeri added. Iran says its ballistic missile tests are part of its legitimate defense program and are not a violation of the 2015 deal, under which it agreed to curb its nuclear program in exchange for an end to certain sanctions.

But Washington has used them as a pretext for fresh sanctions, saying the missiles could carry nuclear warheads in the future. All six candidates in the presidential election support the nuclear deal since it had the tacit backing of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but Rouhani has accused his conservative opponents of trying to derail it during negotiations. "Tell people clearly, what will you do regarding (the nuclear deal)? You were all against it," he said during the televised debate. "When (US President Donald) Trump took office you were celebrating because he said he would tear up the deal. Today people should know whether sanctions and confrontation are coming back or not," he added. — AFP

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HANIYA - FROM REFUGEE CAMP TO CHARISMATIC HAMAS LEADER

GAZA: Ismail Haniya, named yesterday as head of Hamas, is a charismatic leader from the Gaza streets who represents the more pragmatic wing

of the Islamist movement. The 54-year-old with a salt-and-pepper beard takes charge as it seeks to ease its international isolation while not marginal-

izing hardliners within the movement. Labeled a terrorist group by the United States and the European Union, Hamas on Monday revised its charter to reflect a slightly more moderate stance, without however recognising Israel.

Haniya replaces Khaled Meshaal, who lives in Doha in exile and has completed the maximum two terms in office. Unlike Meshaal, Haniya will remain in the Gaza Strip, the small Palestinian enclave run by Hamas, hit by three wars with Israel since 2008 and under an Israeli blockade for 10 years. His modest home in the narrow alleys of Gaza City's Shati refugee camp next to the Mediterranean Sea is under constant guard. Also known as Abu Abed, he was born in the same camp in 1963 to parents who fled when Israel was created in 1948. They had previously lived in Ashkelon (or Asqalan in Arabic), which is today part of Israel and just next to the border with the Gaza Strip.

Haniya, a father of 13, was educated at a UN-run refugee school, later earning an education degree from the Islamic University and becoming a university administrator. Hamas has frequently highlighted his modest background as a counterpoint to officials within president Mahmud Abbas's Palestinian Authority who have been accused of being corrupt and too easily compliant with Israel or the United States. Haniya was jailed several times by Israel during the first intifada, or uprising, which erupted in 1987, and was deported to

southern Lebanon in December 1992 along with hundreds of Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants.

Shock election win

He first rose to prominence as bureau chief under Hamas's spiritual father Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the quadriplegic assassinated by Israel in 2004. He escaped assassination in September 2003 when an Israeli aircraft bombed a house where he and Yassin were meeting, yet Haniya was instrumental in securing a halt to Hamas attacks inside Israel since early 2005. The following year, he led Hamas to a shock legislative election victory over Abbas's Fatah and became prime minister. The international community however refused to deal with any government in which Hamas participated until it renounced violence and recognized Israel and past peace agreements.

The resulting deadlock led to mounting friction between Hamas and Fatah which culminated in Hamas's seizure of Gaza. In July 2006, Israel bombed Haniya's office during a massive but unsuccessful operation to free a soldier held by gunmen including Hamas militants. Always dressed impeccably in Western-style suits and a sharp orator, Haniya has exemplified Hamas's internal struggle between the traditional and the modern, between resistance against Israeli occupation and mainstream politics. An eloquent advocate of the right to resistance, his strongly held beliefs that a future Palestinian state should be governed by laws "inspired by sharia" Islamic law have provoked concern in the West.—AFP



GAZA: File photo shows Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip Ismail Haniya waving to the crowd during a rally in Gaza City. — AFP

ISLAMIC JIHAD REJECTS PALESTINE STATE WITHIN THE 1967 BORDERS

EGYPT REOPENS GAZA CROSSING IN HUMANITARIAN MOVE

GAZA: The radical Palestinian group Islamic Jihad has rejected Hamas's new policy of easing its stand on Israel and accepting the establishment of a Palestinian state limited to the 1967 borders. "As partners with our Hamas brothers in the struggle for liberation, we feel concern over the document"

which the main Islamist movement that rules Gaza adopted on Monday, said Islamic Jihad's deputy leader, Ziad Al-Nakhala. "We are opposed to Hamas's acceptance of a state within the 1967 borders and we think this is a concession which damages our aims," he said on Islamic Jihad's website.

Nakhala said the new Hamas policy formally accepting the idea of a state in the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War would "lead to deadlock and can only produce half-solutions". Hamas has eased its stance on the Jewish state after having called for decades for its destruction, as the movement seeks to improve its international standing. Founded in the 1980s in the wake of the Islamic revolution in Iran, a close ally and source of its ideology, Islamic Jihad is the second force in the Gaza Strip and focused entirely on the armed struggle.

Meanwhile, Egypt reopened the Rafah border crossing with the Gaza Strip for three days started yesterday to allow hundreds of stranded Palestinians to return home, officials said. The move, described by Palestinian border officials as a "humanitarian" gesture, will allow Palestinians stranded in Egypt and elsewhere, including students and sick people, to return to Gaza. "Egyptian authorities reopened the Rafah crossing for three days only, from Saturday until Monday, and only in one direction to allow those stranded on the Egyptian side to return home," a statement said.

The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli blockade for a decade. Palestinian militants in Gaza have fought three wars with Israel since 2008. The Rafah crossing is Gaza's only gateway to the outside world not controlled by Israel but it has remained largely closed in recent years because of tensions between Egypt and Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas. Relations between the two soured after then Egyptian army chief, now President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi overthrew his Islamist predecessor Mohamed Morsi in 2013. — Agencies



JERUSALEM: A Palestinian man waving the green flag of the Islamist movement Hamas during a demonstration outside the Dome of the Rock at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem. — AFP

IN RUINS OF IRAQ CHRISTIAN TOWN - A 'SIGN OF REBIRTH'

QARAQOSH: Several plumes of smoke rise above Iraq's main Christian town Qaraqosh, but this time it isn't the Islamic State jihadist group burning crosses and churches. Almost three years after fleeing the town, families are beginning to return and the first thing they do is burn old household items, a way of cleaning their homes and cleansing their bad memories. "As you can see, we are burning our own clothes, our own furniture. We are burning our history," said Milad Khodhr, 42, whose family is one of 17 who have returned to Qaraqosh. "But we see no feeling of vengeance in these fires, we are peaceful... we are the real people of this country," he said. IS fighters swept through the Nineveh plain, east of Mosul, in August 2014 and forced around 120,000 of Iraq's Christians to flee their homes, the biggest disaster to hit the minority in its nearly 2,000 year history. Qaraqosh had a pre-IS population of around 50,000 and was emptied almost overnight. Iraqi forces launched a major offensive to retake Mosul and surrounding areas in October last year and chased IS out of Qaraqosh a few days later.

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Iraq's biggest church, was burnt and the reconstruction work that lies ahead in Qaraqosh is huge. The families who have returned in recent days take out all the damaged furniture and rubbish that the jihadists who occupied and looted their homes left behind. With virtually no state services available and rubbish collection a distant prospect for the town, residents have no option but to burn their own refuse. The religious authorities have stepped in to organize the return of Qaraqosh's population, which many see as crucial to the long-term survival of the minority.

Reconstruction
"Some of the people of Qaraqosh have gone abroad, but more than half are still in Iraq. We have carried out a survey showing that 68 percent of them want to return," Father George Jahula, who is helping returning families, told AFP in Qaraqosh. "The rest are undecided," he said. In a symbolic gesture, the archbishop of Mosul, Yohanna Petros Mouche, was the first to move back to Qaraqosh in April, just before celebrating emotional Easter services in the town. "The return depends on safety and how quickly the infrastructure is repaired," Father Jahula said. "In the absence of any help from the

state for people to rebuild their homes, the church has stepped in," said the clergyman, wearing a tracksuit to run around the town and organise his team of engineers. The church and its volunteers have mapped the destruction in Qaraqosh using satellite images, allocated certain amounts for each sector and set completion targets. "Since the available funding is limited, we have set up a list of those who want to return, and next week we will begin distributing money to start the reconstruction process," said Zakariah Sabah, one of the organizers. Qaraqosh still looks like a ghost town and access from the nearby

Kurdish capital of Arbil—where many Christians found shelter in 2014—is complicated by a gauntlet of checkpoints. But for some of its displaced residents, return is the only option, whether the town is ready or not. "Why did I return? Where else would I go? I have lived here all my life, 87 years," said Najma Boutros, an old lady with a hunched back and sunken eyes. "My daughter and I live alone, we came back because we couldn't pay the rent anymore," she said as she cleaned a sofa in the front yard of her house, which escaped unscathed from the flames that destroyed many of the neighboring homes. — AFP



QARAQOSH: A member of the Nineveh Plain Protection Units (NPU), a small Christian militia charged with protecting the predominantly Christian Iraqi town of Qaraqosh (Hamdaniya), walks past demolished houses in the town which lies some 30 kilometers east of the northern city of Mosul. — AFP



MOSUL: Two sisters wait for lunch inside their home in western Mosul, Iraq. — AP

HUNGER GROWS; IS BATTLE RAGES

MOSUL: Aliyah Hussein and the 25 family members sheltering with her in Mosul's western Mahatta neighborhood are surviving by picking wild greens growing in a park near their home. Hussein mixes the vegetables with small amounts of rice and tomato paste to make a thin soup that is often her family's only meal. Her cousin Zuhair Abdul Karim said on a recent day that even with the wild greens, the food ran out. "I swear to God, we are hungry. (The Islamic State group) made us hungry. They didn't leave anything for us, they even stole our food," Hussein said.

Her home sits just a few hundred yards from the front line in the battle for western Mosul. As Iraqi forces continue to make slow progress in the fight against IS in the city, clawing back territory house by house and block by block, food supplies are running dangerously low for civilians trapped inside militant-held territory and those inside recently retaken neighborhoods.

For families like Hussein's, safety concerns make them unreachable for most humanitarian groups. Although Hussein has technically been liberated, her neighborhood is still too dangerous for most humanitarian groups to reach. In the past week she said she received only one box of food consisting of rice, oil and tomato paste, barely enough to feed her entire family even for a single day. "The women didn't have lunch. Only the children and men have eaten," Abdul Karim said, explaining that he and his family are now living meal to meal. "We don't know if we'll have dinner," he said, "maybe or maybe not."

Some families walk several kilometers to markets that have sprung up in neighborhoods that have been under Iraqi military control longer. But prices there are high. Most families have exhausted their savings

and work is almost non-existent in Mosul, a city now being ripped apart by war. "The humanitarian world needs to realize that there is a huge gap between people who are in the safe zone and people who are actually trapped in the no man's land between the Iraqi controlled areas and ... Daesh controlled areas," said Alto Labetubun with Norwegian People Aid, one of the few groups operating in neighborhoods close to the front line. Daesh is the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Some 300,000 to 500,000 people remain beyond anyone's reach, trapped in IS-held Mosul neighborhoods, according to the United Nations. For those civilians, siege-like conditions have prevented food supplies from reaching them for more than six months. Most of those civilians are estimated to be in Mosul's old city, where the final battles of the operation are expected to play out. If the fighting there lasts many more weeks, the UN warns the consequences for civilians will be "catastrophic."

"We know we have a problem because when people reach our camps the first thing they ask for is food," said Lise Grande, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Iraq. She said it's impossible to measure exactly how many families are facing what she described as "serious hunger" inside Mosul, but the conditions of the people fleeing the city paint a grim picture of those who remain trapped. Hundreds of infants and young children who recently fled Mosul are being treated for malnutrition, Grande said. Separately, she added that the UN had received reports that even baby formula in IS-held neighborhoods is now no longer available, "if the battle goes beyond (the next few weeks), then we have a catastrophic problem," she said.

MOROCCAN CLERIC DEFIES TABOO ON WOMEN INHERITANCE RIGHTS

RABAT: A former radical preacher is the unlikely instigator of a debate on a topic long seen as off-limits in Muslim-majority Morocco: women's inheritance rights. The country's Islamic family laws allocate female heirs half the amount men receive on the death of a relative. Abdelwahab Rafiki, a former hardline cleric who served time in jail following jihadist bombings in Casablanca, says it is time that changed. "I invite... religious scholars, sociologists and human rights actors to open a dialogue, primarily in order to uphold justice," he said. Rafiki, also known as Abou Haf, was one of around 100 male writers, journalists and artists who published a book in April called "Men defend equality in inheritance".

He also appeared on a prime-time television show on the popular 2M channel, arguing that the social roles of men and women had changed since the early days of Islam, meaning it was time for a debate on inheritance rules. Since his TV appearance, he said, "I have been threatened with death and excommunicated, but I also received many messages of support". The 43-year-old was once regarded as a leader of the Salafist-jihadist movement in Morocco. He was among 8,000 people arrested after jihadist bombings in Casablanca in 2003 killed 45 people.

Death threats

Sentenced to 30 years in prison, he was pardoned in 2012. Last year he stood for election to parliament representing Istiqlal, a conservative nationalist party. His efforts to spark a debate on inheritance have won him plaudits from the liberal media and condemnation from his former peers. "Thanks to 2M and Abou Haf, a new step has been taken in Morocco: equality between men and women in matters of inheritance can now be raised in the public sphere," local site Medias 24 said.

Weekly magazine TelQuel said he had begun "dismantling one by one the dogmas of radical Islam". But Abou Haf has also received anonymous death threats on social media and been expelled from a national organization for religious scholars. He has been denounced by the likes of Mohamed Fizazi and Hassan Kettani, preachers who were also jailed and later pardoned after the Casablanca attacks. "He didn't just turn his coat inside out, he tore it up," Fizazi said. Kettani said inheritance rules were not just a "red line" but an "impassable wall". Islamic scholars argue that the Koran allocates women half the inheritance given to male heirs because men are responsible for protecting women and providing for them. — AFP

IMMIGRANTS IN OREGON JAIL STAGED HUNGER STRIKE

SALEM: Pro-immigrant activists and the legal director of the ACLU of Oregon said Friday that officials appear to be breaking state law by holding people for federal immigration authorities at an Oregon jail where several of the detainees this week ended a hunger strike over what they called horrible conditions. They say the deal between the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility, or NORCOR, and a federal agency violates a 1987 Oregon law prohibiting law officers in Oregon from spending public dollars, resources or personnel "for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons" whose only crime is being in the US illegally.

The Oregon State Sheriffs' Association says that law does "prohibit Oregon police officers from acting as immigration enforcement officers." But Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum's communications director told The Associated Press that the law doesn't apply in this situation. "State law forbids using law enforcement resources to detect or apprehend people who have not committed a crime, but may be in violation of immigration laws," Kristina Edmondson said Friday in an email. "It doesn't appear that NORCOR resources are being used to detect or arrest people, so the 1987 law

would not be applicable." Some, if not all, of the detainees were transferred to the facility from the US Immigration Customs and Enforcement detention facility in Tacoma, Washington. The relationship between the jail and ICE has existed for some time, but it gained prominence this week after a half-dozen ICE detainees went on a hunger strike. "Conditions are abysmal," said Mat Dos Santos, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon. "The food is composed mainly of bread with little nutritional value. They don't even get issued socks. They have to purchase them. The live in worse conditions than those people being held as criminals."

But Bryan Brandenburg, administrator of NORCOR, said the detainees get full sets of clothing, including socks, and that the menu meets dietary and nutritional requirements. "That ACLU lawyer is completely off base," Brandenburg said Friday night. Their only chance to be outside is in a small space enclosed by high walls with no roof and netting overhead, said Dos Santos, who has visited clients in the squat, windowless buildings in an industrial part of The Dalles, a block from the Columbia River.

ICE pays for the jail, which is publicly funded and

served four counties in north-central Oregon, to hold detainees, according to a budget document from the facility. The Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility's budget message for fiscal year 2017-2018 said that with a current projection of an average of 40 detainees per day, ICE revenue was expected to increase to just over \$1 million. ICE spokeswoman Rose Richeson said in an email Friday that she was gathering details regarding ICE's relationship with the facility, but she said "US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) takes very seriously the health, safety and welfare of those in our care."

The Gorge ICE Resistance, a coalition of groups in the Columbia River Gorge, plans to hold a rally at noon Saturday in front of the jail to demand that the facility honor what the coalition described as commitments to the hunger strikers to provide them with a microwave oven and the ability to join jail programs like substance-abuse treatment to which they had previously been denied access. The protesters will also demand an end to the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility's contract with ICE. Gorge ICE Resistance member Solea Kabakov said in a phone interview from The Dalles.

"NORCOR has a reputation for its horrible treatment of those inside its walls despite its big budget," Kabakov said in a statement. Dos Santos, in a telephone interview from Portland, said ICE detainees and regular inmates cannot receive family visitors, only lawyers and clergy. The ICE detainees are also barred from earning money by working in places like the jail laundry and cafeteria, so they often lack the funds to pay for phone calls at the rate of 25 cents per minute. "They feel completely isolated," Dos Santos said. "There is a sense of desperation. This initiated the desire to start a hunger strike."

He said he believes the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility holding detainees for federal immigration enforcement violates Oregon's state law. "We are considering all of our options, including legal action," Dos Santos said. Brandenburg said the jail does not violate Oregon law because it doesn't detain immigrants but only receives them from ICE because the agency's own facility in Tacoma is often overflowing. He said four detainees had participated in the hunger strike and that one had transferred to Tacoma while the three who remained ended their hunger strike Thursday. —AP



BELLEFONTE: Jim and Evelyn Piazza stand by as Centre County District Attorney Stacy Parks Miller (left) announces the results of an investigation into the death of their son Timothy Piazza, (seen in photo at right) during a press conference on Friday, May 5, 2017. —AP

EIGHTEEN FRATERNITY MEMBERS CHARGED

BELLEFONTE: Eighteen Penn State fraternity brothers have been charged with crimes ranging up to involuntary manslaughter in the death of a pledge who authorities say repeatedly fell down a flight of stairs after he and others were made to run a gantlet of drinking stations guzzling vodka, beer and wine. Beta Theta Pi members resisted getting help for 19-year-old Timothy Piazza, causing him to suffer for hours and possibly making his injuries worse, a prosecutor said Friday in announcing the results of a grand jury investigation.

"This is a very sad day for Centre County - it's been sad ever since we lost a child for reasons that are totally preventable," District Attorney Stacy Parks Miller said. Eight of the fraternity brothers and the chapter were charged with involuntary manslaughter. Other charges include aggravated and simple assault, evidence tampering, alcohol-related violations and hazing. An attorney for the chapter didn't immediately respond to messages seeking comment. The grand jury, aided by security camera footage, said the fraternity was heavily stocked with booze for the Feb 2 ceremony at which Piazza, a sophomore engineering student from Lebanon, New Jersey, and 13 others accepted pledge bids.

The pledges were pressured to chug vodka, shotgun beers and drink wine. Piazza tumbled down a flight of stairs that night and fell several other times, injuring his head, Miller said. The next morning, he fell down the stairs again and was unconscious when help was finally summoned. He died Feb. 4 as a result of a traumatic brain injury. Miller said doctors estimate Piazza had a blood-alcohol content of nearly 0.40 percent; the legal limit for drivers, for comparison, is 0.08 percent.

The investigation found some frat members tried to conceal what happened. It found that a text message recovered by police urged pledges to get rid of evidence of alcohol and that conversations discussing deleting conver-

sations from a messaging app were discovered. Piazza's father, Jim Piazza, blamed a "flagrant disregard" for the law and said the death "didn't have to happen." "Sadly, the dad said, 'we're never going to see his smile again except in pictures.'" Penn State permanently banned Beta Theta Pi on March 30, accusing it of a "persistent pattern" of excessive drinking, drug use and hazing.

University President Eric Barron called the report heart-wrenching, sickening and incomprehensible. "It is numbing how an atmosphere that endangers the well-being and safety of another person can occur within an organization that prided itself on commitment to each other and to its community," Barron said. Miller said video footage turned over to investigators provided evidence of what occurred and contradicted stories some witnesses had told.

The cameras recorded Piazza drinking vodka and beer and an hour later needing help to walk from an area near the basement stairs to a couch. Piazza later is shown trying unsuccessfully to open the front door, then "severely staggering drunkenly toward the basement steps," the grand jury report said. He was found at the bottom of the steps after apparently falling face-first. Four brothers carried his limp body upstairs, where some poured liquid on him and one slapped him in the face, the grand jury said. Fraternity members put a backpack containing textbooks on him so he wouldn't suffocate on his own vomit, the grand jury wrote.

When a brother insisted Piazza needed medical help, he was confronted and shoved into a wall, the report said. When that brother insisted again that Piazza required help, he was told others were biology and kinesiology majors so his opinion wasn't as valuable as theirs, it said. Piazza tried to get up later but fell backward and hit his head on the wooden floor, the report said. He also fell onto a stone floor before being found in the basement hours later, it said. —AP

WHITE TEXAS POLICE FACES MURDER CHARGE OVER BLACK TEEN'S DEATH

DALLAS: A white Texas police officer faces a murder charge in the shooting of a black teenager after being fired earlier in the week over the incident, authorities said Friday. Roy Oliver turned himself in Friday night, just hours after the Dallas County Sheriff's Office issued a warrant for his arrest in the April 29 death of 15-year-old Jordan Edwards. Oliver, a former officer in the Dallas suburb of Balch Springs, was later released after posting bail at the Parker County Jail in Weatherford, about 95 miles west of Dallas. His bond had been set at \$300,000.

The sheriff's office said in a statement the warrant was issued based on evidence that suggested Oliver "intended to cause serious bodily injury and commit an act clearly dangerous to human life that caused the death." Oliver fired a rifle at a car full of teenagers leaving a party, fatally shooting Edwards who was a passenger in the vehicle. The teen's death led to protests calling for Oliver to be fired and charged. On Tuesday, the same day that the officer was fired, news broke of the Justice Department's decision not to charge two white police officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in the shooting death of a black man in 2016.

And a white officer in North Charleston, South Carolina, pleaded guilty that day to federal civil rights charges in the fatal shooting of a black man in 2015. Edwards and his two brothers and two other teenagers were leaving an unruly house party in Balch Springs when Oliver opened fire on their car with a rifle. The bullets shattered the front passenger-side window and struck Edwards. It took a few moments for Edwards' 16-year-old brother, who was driving, and other passengers to notice that he was slumped over in his seat.

Police had said the teenagers' car was backing up toward officers "in an aggressive manner," but later said body camera video showed the vehicle actually driving away from the officers. The investigation into the shooting "will continue and does not conclude with the arrest," sheriff's spokeswoman Melinda Urbina said. Attorneys for Oliver and the family of Edwards didn't respond to requests for comment. Oliver's firing Tuesday was for violating department policies in the shooting. Records show that Oliver was briefly suspended in 2013 following a complaint about his conduct while serving as a witness in a drunken-driving case. —AP

OBAMACARE TO 'TRUMPCARE'

GOP FACES POLITICAL FALLOUT

ATLANTA: It's "Trumpcare" now, and Republicans have to answer for it. After dozens of symbolic votes, House Republicans finally pushed through a bill to gut Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, with President Donald Trump hailing the replacement as "a great plan" that has "really brought the Republican Party together." Democrats are giddy about what could be severe political consequences for the GOP. Even though the Senate still has to act, Republicans now largely own a measure that would curtail, and in some cases take away completely, benefits Americans have embraced after seven years.

Chief among them: A guarantee of paying the same amount for coverage regardless of health history. Budget analysts estimate 24 million people would lose insurance over a decade, 14 million in the first year, and older Americans would face higher costs. The Senate likely will revise the bill, but 217 House Republicans voted yes. "Progressives are going to hang this around the necks of every one of those Republicans," said Angel Padilla, co-founder of the liberal group Indivisible. "These Republicans voted to take away peoples' health care. This is going to come back to bite them."

Democrats are convinced the GOP repeal bill jeopardizes the Republican monopoly in Washington, starting with majority control of the House, and the party's advantages in statehouses from Nevada to New Hampshire. The potential fallout crystallized almost immediately. Fundraising surged nationwide as new recruits stepped up to challenge vulnerable Republicans who backed the plan. Among the vulnerable: two-term Rep Tom MacArthur, R-NJ, who helped revive the bill by authoring a key amendment on pre-existing conditions.

"We have an opportunity to take down the person who was the author of Trumpcare 2.0," said Democrat Andrew Kim, an Obama White House national security adviser, who said he's now more likely to challenge MacArthur next year. Kim raised more than \$43,000 online over the last week for a possible run. "He owns every part of this," Kim said of MacArthur. Democrats need to flip 24 seats between now and the 2018 elections to take control of the House. Of the 217 Republicans who backed the bill, 14 come from districts carried by Democrat Hillary Clinton last fall, and 24 serve in districts where Trump did not win more than 50 percent

of the vote. Republican Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who is not seeking re-election next year, warned that the bill "has the potential to severely harm the health and lives of people in south Florida." Her open seat in Miami is considered a prime pick-up opportunity for Democrats. Next month, Democrats and Republicans face a showdown over a House seat in the Atlanta suburbs. Georgia Democrat Jon Ossoff, who is trying to score a special election upset in a traditionally conserva-

verage for 25 million older Americans with pre-existing conditions. The bill would also roll back subsidies for individual insurance premiums, end federal payments for states to expand Medicaid for the poor and disabled, and cut more than \$700 billion in taxes over 10 years. Act Blue, a clearing-house political action committee that raises money for Democratic campaigns, has already helped raise more than \$2 million to fuel challenges against House Republicans who backed the GOP plan.

Renacci, who voted for the bill, as he runs for governor in a contested Republican primary campaign. Outgoing Gov. John Kasich, a Republican, condemned the Republican measure as "woefully short." Outside Washington, the Trump resistance mobilized quickly. The first of the grassroots protests were held in House Speaker Paul Ryan's Wisconsin district hours after Thursday's vote. Democratic activists were planning many more demonstrations for next week's congress-



WASHINGTON: Speaker of the House Paul Ryan returns to his office after a successful vote on the passage of the American Health Care Act, the successor to the Affordable Care Act in Washington, DC. —AFP

tive House district, said he strongly opposes "discrimination" over pre-existing conditions in response to the vote.

Outside groups prepared to launch an advertising campaign in the coming days to punish vulnerable Republicans in key states. The television and online blitz is expected to seize on the more unpopular provisions in the GOP plan, which was opposed by the AARP, the American Medical Association, which represents doctors, and the American Hospital Association.

The AARP warned that the GOP plan institutes an "age tax" and jeopardizes cov-

Democrats also targeted Republican governors in Democratic-leaning states, including Maryland's Larry Hogan, who did not take a public position before the House vote. "Where is their promise that no one is going to lose their insurance?" asked Connecticut Gov Dan Malloy, chairman of the Democratic Governors Association. "They have no intention to honor what they ran on," he declared. "It's the sort of things that cowards do, and the Republicans in Congress and in the statehouses are cowards. ... It is remarkable, and we will be reminding people of it" in Ohio, Democrats targeted Rep. Jim

sional recess. "There's already a lot more energy and engagement among Democratic voters, and this is going to put the enthusiasm gap on steroids for Democrats," said Democratic pollster Geoff Garin, who advises Priorities USA, a top liberal political organization. Some Republicans maintain that the GOP had no choice. "The House Republican majority was in far greater jeopardy had we not repealed Obamacare," said Republican strategist Mark Shields. If Republicans didn't deliver after years of promises to their conservative base, he said, they'd "get crushed" in 2018. —AP

INVESTIGATORS IN PHOTO-SHARING SCANDAL FACE A GRUELING TASK

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO: In a cramped office at the Marines' Quantico base outside Washington, about 20 investigators sit elbow to elbow, staring into their computers as images of naked men and women flash across the screens. On the walls are white boards with statistics, crime lists and a montage of social media messages directed to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. The objective of this disturbing sleuth work: Rooting out the extent of a nude photo-sharing scandal that has rocked the Corps, embarrassed its leaders and spread to other military services.

And the sheer scope of the job is daunting. "If you do that eight to 10 hours a day, five days a week, you get pretty burned out," NCIS Director Andrew Traver said in an interview. New agents cycled in after the first month, he said, "just because of the burnout factor, especially the ones that are doing the image review." This is Task Force Purple Harbor. What began as a response to military members posting nude photos online has morphed into a growing criminal investigation that now includes 21 felony cases and more than 30 others referred to Marine commanders for possible administrative action.

Five Marines have received administrative punishments so far, but no details have been provided. For the investigators, men and women, it is a broad and grueling process. Agents from all four services and the Coast Guard have scoured close to 200 different websites. They've pulled more than 150,000 nude or semi-nude images. They've identified 20,000 with a possible military connection. More than half are of men.

The overwhelming majority are selfies or photos subjects posed for and then voluntarily shared, which is not illegal even under military code. That leaves just a small number of people who could potentially be prosecuted for crimes such as extortion and stealing or hacking into someone's computer hard drive. More than a dozen military members - mostly women - have asked the task force for

help. They want to know if any of their intimate photographs ended up on the largely private websites without their consent. In four cases, facial recognition software has helped identify victims. One woman confirmed an image was of her. The other three are still checking. It's the kind of investigation that could go on forever. A simple word search of "uniformed military nude" got nearly 80 million hits, Traver told The Associated Press during the interview in his Quantico office. And the anonymity of the internet makes it difficult to identify either suspects and victims. "People that



QUANTICO: Andrew Traver, director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) speaks during an interview at Marine Corps Base Quantico, in Quantico, Va. —AP

are posting and reposting, generally are not posting under their real name and some people are posting under multiple identities," said Traver. "It's very difficult for us to find the origin, to find the person that started the whole chain."

In the computer room, agents stare into their computer screens for hours a day. Tucked between the keyboards are cups, scattered papers, Fig Newtons, a cereal

box. The investigators are reviewing seemingly endless images to ferret out those they can link to the military and that appear to have been posted without permission. It's a moving target. Site hosts shut pages down and open new ones, often within a day or two. The websites are usually private and require an invitation, which is vetted by hosts demanding a "tax." The tax, or entry requirement, is usually a naked photo, said Curtis Evans, chief of the NCIS criminal operations division. "As law enforcement, we can't do that, and they know it," Evans said.

He described some of the internet memes online that taunt the investigators. One is a gorilla wearing an NCIS hat with a sign saying "add me." Others mimic Facebook pages, saying they are open to "Friends and NCIS" or "Only Media and NCIS." When an investigator does secure an invitation into a closed website, Traver added, "we don't last long." When the hosts see that someone isn't posting photos or making comments, the person is kicked out. Still, investigators have made headway. They've opened 21 criminal cases. Sixteen suspects have been identified: nine active duty Marines, two Marine reservists, three Navy sailors, one Navy reservist and a civilian. Suspected crimes include extortion, stalking, threats and theft of photos.

NCIS' cyber experts are providing help sorting through the massive reams of data. They've developed new tools and software to analyze photos more quickly. All the data on a website can be stripped and each photo reviewed to determine if it includes a military uniform, a male or female, signs of consent. A process that once took 40 seconds now takes only five to 10. Perpetrators are getting quicker, too. The task force has seen cases when someone has posted a photo online of a military member in uniform, snapped perhaps in the chow hall or on base, and then asked for naked images of that person. Traver said it sometimes takes only an hour-and-a-half for someone else to post a naked or semi-nude photo in response. —AP

FOREIGN POLICY: WHERE FRANCE'S CANDIDATES STAND

PARIS: The foreign policy positions of the French presidential contenders are perhaps their starkest divide, with centrist Emmanuel Macron urging close cooperation with international institutions and the far-right Marine Le Pen championing France-first nationalism. Here is how France's relationship with the world could change depending on who clinches the presidency on Sunday:

European Union

France's future in the European Union was a central battleground during the campaign. Le Pen's disdain for Europe runs deep. She has predicted the EU "will die" and has vowed to hold a "Frexit" referendum on France's membership in the bloc. She has also long wanted France to drop the euro single currency and return to the franc, as well as leave the Schengen area, Europe's visa-free travel zone. Macron, a former economy minister, wants to reform as well as bolster the EU. He even paid a visit to Europe's most powerful leader, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, during the campaign. He is for setting up a separate budget for the euro-zone—the 19 countries that use the common currency. He also proposes

giving the euro-zone its own parliament and finance minister.

Brexit

Macron has indicated he would not give Britain an easy ride in the divorce negotiations. "What the UK is experiencing is that Brexit is not a walk in the park," he said on a campaign stop in southwest France on Thursday. Le Pen, on the other hand, has applauded Britain's decision to quit the bloc as an act of "retaking control of its destiny."

Russia

Ties with Moscow would likely be a key part of Le Pen's foreign policy, both in the battle against terrorism and as a partner that shares nationalist ideals. Her big international coup during the campaign was a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in March, when she said he represented a "new vision" of the world. She has called for closer ties with Putin and approved of Moscow's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 which saw the United States and the European Union impose sanctions against Russia. Macron opposes a unilateral lifting of the sanc-

tions and, unlike Le Pen, has insisted that Russian-backed Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad must go.

United States

Le Pen was the first French political leader to congratulate US President Donald Trump on his shock victory in November. The real estate mogul's anti-establishment appeal resonates deeply with core ideas of Le Pen's National Front party. However, she said she was "surprised" that Trump, after campaigning as a non-interventionist, ordered air strikes in Syria in response to a suspected chemical attack on a rebel-held area. Macron has said he wants to work closely with the United States, especially on intelligence sharing and combating terror. However, he urged Trump not to go back on former US president Barack Obama's commitments to fight global warming.

Middle East and Africa

As a candidate Macron visited Lebanon and Algeria, where he called France's colonial past in the north African nation a "crime against humanity". His right-wing rivals in the race

accused him of insulting France. Le Pen, who has met few top foreign officials since taking control of the FN in 2011, met her first head of state, Lebanese President Michel Aoun, in Beirut in

February. She also made a surprise visit to former French colony Chad in March to visit French soldiers deployed against jihadists and where she met with President Idriss Deby. —AFP



PARIS: People walk past by French police officers, as they patrol at Trocadero plaza with the Eiffel Tower in the background in Paris yesterday. —AP



Residents of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions wait to cross a Ukrainian government forces' checkpoint at the road from Horlivka to Artemivsk. —AP

'MACRONLEAKS' - HACKERS FIND FLAW IN FRENCH CYBER-FORTRESS

REAL POTENTIAL FAULTLINE IS THE HUMAN ELEMENT

PARIS: They knew months ago that top-of-the-range hackers had been targeting them. They believe their security measures, too, had been nothing short of top-rate. But, in the end, French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron's team got hacked. And on Friday night, just an hour before the end of official campaigning, thousands of documents including emails and accounts belonging to his En Marche! (On the Move!) movement were dumped online.

"It's just incredible what's happening," said Belgian researcher Nicolas Vanderbiest, a specialist on online rumors, whose map showing how the "Macron Leak" propagated on Twitter has Wikileaks at the centre. Macron's campaign team says it put in place servers protected by sophisticated software filters, recommended the use of several encrypted messaging and cellphone networks, and required double and triple authentication to access emails.

It says it stored its information in multiple-partitioned cells, with databases separated like fortresses, accessible by passwords that were complex and regularly changed. But a squad of shadowy hackers seem to have found the back door. "In this kind of organization the real potential faultline is the human element," the head of computer services for En Marche! recently said, requesting anonymity. Because security procedures can become long and cumbersome, some people can be tempted to get around them by using personal email services which are little or badly protected.

'en-nnarche.com'

On April 25, a report by Japanese cyber-security company Trend Micro, blamed a so-called "phishing" attack targeting the Macron campaign on Russian hacking group Pawn Storm, also known as Fancy



LE TOUQUET: People gather in front of the house of French presidential election candidate for the En Marche! movement Emmanuel Macron, in Le Touquet, north-eastern France, a day before French voters go to the poles to choose between Macron, a pro-European centrist, and his far-right rival of the Front National (FN) party. —AFP

Bears, Tsar Team and APT28. The group, suspected of close links to the Russian security services, is also accused of having targeted the Democratic Party during last year's US presidential election, in which Republican-backed Donald Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton. In this kind of attack, which does not require sophisticated resources, hackers can open up security gaps in software, for example during an update or through a so-called mirror site.

This would be something like "en-nnarche.com", hoping that a user when reading quickly would mistake the "nn" for an "m" and fall into the trap, revealing access codes. The principle of phishing, a classic arm in the hackers' arsenal, is to send a large number of fake emails often containing infected attachments, hoping that a distracted recipient will click on one, creating a breach in the targeted system. The gap is unlikely to show up immediately, and the loophole it generates may be exploited weeks or months later.

The Macron campaign reacted swiftly to Friday night's data dump, saying it would take all measures necessary to shed light on the "unprecedented" incident. But it did not seem overly worried by the substance of what had been leaked. "Throughout the campaign, En Marche! has constantly been the party the most targeted by such attempts, in an intense and repeated fashion," it said in a lengthy statement. "The aim of those behind this leak is, all evidence suggests, to hurt the En Marche! party. Clearly, the documents arising from the hacking are all lawful and show the normal functioning of a presidential campaign." Senator Bazira Khiari, a national delegate for En Marche! said yesterday morning: "We were informed last night... We were just told to change our passwords". —AFP

IN UKRAINE, FEELING GROWS THAT EAST IS LOST TO RUSSIA

MINSK: Leonid Androv, an electrician from Kiev, was drafted into the Ukrainian army and spent a year fighting Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine after the conflict broke out in 2014. Now, like many other Ukrainians, he is ready to accept that those lands are lost. "The Russians are in charge there and they are methodically erasing everything Ukrainian. So why should I and impoverished Ukraine pay for the occupation?" said Androv, 43. Long unthinkable after years of fighting and about 10,000 deaths, Ukrainians increasingly are coming around to the idea of at least temporarily abandoning the region known as the Donbass, considering it to be de facto occupied by Russia.

This would effectively kill the Minsk peace agreement brokered by Germany and France, which aims to preserve a united Ukraine. The Minsk agreement is still firmly supported both by the West and Russia, as German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin affirmed at their meeting this week. The 2015 agreement, which Ukraine signed as its troops were being driven back, has greatly reduced but not stopped the fighting, while attempts to fulfill its provisions for a political settlement have failed.

'Occupied' territories

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko still stands by Minsk. In recent months, however, his government has moved to isolate the east by blocking trade and shutting off supplies of electricity and gas, demonstrating that it now considers the industrial region to be Moscow's problem. Several factions in the Ukrainian parliament have introduced legislation that would designate those territories outside of Kiev's control as "occupied." "We should call a spade a spade and recognize the Russian occupation of Donbass," said Yuriy Bereza, a co-author of the legislation. Bereza, who commanded one of the volunteer battalions that fought in the east, called it necessary to preserve the state. The likelihood of the legislation coming up for a vote is low, given the government's reluctance to formally acknowledge the loss of these territories. Almost half of Ukrainians, however, favor declaring the separatist-controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions to be occupied, according to a poll conducted by the Razumkov Center.

'Special status'

Under Minsk, the two regions are to remain part of Ukraine but with "special status." They would have the right to hold their own elections. Those who fought against the Ukrainian army would receive amnesty. These provisions have little popular support. The poll found that only 22 percent of Ukrainians were ready to grant the Donbass this "special status," while 31 percent of respondents said they found it difficult to answer. The poll, conducted in January among 2,018 people across Ukraine, had a margin of error of 2.3 percentage points.

"It is obvious that Ukrainian society supports the isolation and blockade of the Donbass. And this is exactly what is dictating President Poroshenko's behavior," said Razumkov Center sociologist Andrei Bychenko. "If Poroshenko plans to seek a second term, he has to think

about the mood of society, not about the expectations of the West." Poroshenko was elected after mass protests led to the ouster of Ukraine's Russia-friendly president in early 2014 and put the country on a path toward closer integration with the West.

While still speaking about a united Ukraine, Poroshenko's government last month shut off electricity supplies to Luhansk over unpaid debts. Kiev already had stopped supplying gas to both the Luhansk and Donetsk regions and in March, Poroshenko imposed a trade blockade on the regions beyond Kiev's control. Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters this was "one more step by Ukraine to rid itself of these territories." Although Russia quickly annexed the Crimean Peninsula at the start of the conflict, Putin has made clear he has no interest in annexing eastern Ukraine. "The Kremlin has tried to push this cancerous tumor back into Ukraine, using Donetsk and Lugansk as a Trojan horse to manipulate Kiev," said Russian political scientist Andrei Piontkovsky. "But the Ukrainian government has had enough sense not to let it happen." Putin, speaking to journalists Tuesday after talks with Merkel, responded angrily to a suggestion that perhaps it was time for a new peace agreement since the Donbass already had de facto separated from Ukraine.

The blockades

"No one has severed these territories. They were severed by the Ukrainian government itself through all sorts of blockades," Putin said. Russia was forced to support Donbass, he added, noting that it was "still supplying a significant amount of goods, including power, and providing coke for Ukrainian metallurgical plants." Putin and Merkel both said that despite the problems they saw no alternative to the Minsk agreement. Sergei Garmash is among the 2 million people who have left their homes in eastern Ukraine. He said there is almost nothing Ukrainian left in Donetsk, which now uses Russian rubles, receives only Russian television and survives thanks to Russian subsidies. "Ukrainian politicians need to be brave and legally recognize this territory as occupied by Russia."

This will force Moscow to pick up the bill. And the more expensive this adventure will be for the Kremlin, the sooner it will walk away," said Garmash, 45, who now lives in Kiev. Moscow sends humanitarian convoys to the Donbass every month and pays the salaries and pensions of people who live there. Russia also supports the separatist military operations, although the Kremlin continues to deny that it sends arms and troops. Russia has been hurt economically by sanctions imposed by the West over the annexation of Crimea and support for the separatists.

"Public opinion has swung sharply toward the isolation of Donbass, and for the Kiev government it is an opportune time to shift all the expenses of the 'frozen conflict' to Moscow," said Vladimir Fesenko, head of the Penta Center of Political Studies in Ukraine. "Of course the war in Donbass was incited by Russia to slow Ukraine's move toward Europe," Fesenko said. "But no Ukrainian politician can publicly give up on Crimea and Donbass and recognize them as part of Russia." —AP



LUHANSKA: People cross a check point guarded by separatist rebels at the village of Luhanska. In the early months of 2017 the Ukrainian government has moved to isolate eastern Ukraine. —AP

BRAZIL EX-LEADER LULA ACCUSED OF RUNNING BRIBERY NETWORK

SAO PAULO: Former Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was "fully aware" of a vast bribery network at Petrobras and even directed the corruption scheme, a former director at the state oil company said. Lula, a leftwing leader who was in office from 2003 to 2010, and his lawyer denied the accusation Friday by Renato Duque, a former director of services at Petrobras. Duque told judge Sergio Moro that he met Lula at least three times in 2012, 2013 and 2014, in a statement broadcast by major media outlets. "On these three occasions, it was clear, very clear to me, that he (Lula) was fully aware of everything and that he was in charge" of the bribery network at Petrobras, said Duque, who is serving a prison

term of more than 50 years for bribery and money laundering.

A lawyer for the former president, Cristiano Zanin Martins, called it an attempt to "negotiate future benefits in exchange for frivolous accusations." Lula is scheduled to appear Wednesday in front of Moro, who is carrying out the "Car Wash" investigation into embezzlement and bribery at the highest levels of Brazilian politics. For years, contractors like the Odebrecht construction conglomerate paid bribes to top politicians and parties to get business deals. At the center of the scheme, the politicians and Odebrecht conspired in a pay-to-play scheme at state oil company Petrobras. Lula's upcoming court appearance centers

around a luxury apartment that he allegedly received from construction company OAS in exchange for illegal favors. Prosecutors have previously called Lula the "top commander" in the corruption scandal, which is also being investigated by the Supreme Court. In total, he is facing five separate trials linked to Car Wash allegations. Despite his mounting legal problems, and speculation over whether he will end up being convicted and jailed, polls show that Lula remains Brazil's most popular politician. He is the frontrunner in polls for the 2018 presidential elections. He said in a speech to his Workers' Party on Friday that "if they do not arrest me soon, who knows if one day I can make them stop telling lies." —AFP

TRAIL OF DAMAGE AS CYCLONE DONNA SKIRTS VANUATU

WELLINGTON: The South Pacific island nation of Vanuatu began assessing the damage yesterday after being pounded by destructive winds from Cyclone Donna which brought down houses and buildings. The storm was upgraded late in the day to a category four severe tropical cyclone by the Vanuatu Meteorological Service which warned "damaging gale to destructive storm force winds" would continue to hit Torba province. The eye of the cyclone veered away from

Vanuatu before making landfall but Disaster Management Office director Shadrack Welegtabit said winds in excess of 200 kilometers per hour wreaked havoc in outlying islands. "The cyclone has passed through and we have now started our response, doing an assessment of the damage and what people need," he said. "It did not make landfall but the gale force winds affected some islands. There was damage to houses and buildings but we haven't had any reports of

injuries." A curfew was imposed in many of the populated islands on Friday with residents taking shelter in caves and evacuation centers until the storm passed.

Corrine Ambler from the Red Cross told Radio New Zealand they had made radio contact with Torres Islands in Torba where houses were destroyed. "There's about 1,000 in the affected area and I understand that almost 200 people are taking shelter in a cave in one of the islands," she

said. Although Donna was tracking westwards towards New Caledonia said, the Meteorological Service said it would continue to impact on Vanuatu for another 24 hours. "Heavy rainfall and flash flooding is also expected," it said in an advisory to the small nation of about 260,000 people. In 2015, when Cyclone Pam slammed into Vanuatu, 11 people were killed and more than 65,000 homes were damaged or destroyed affecting about 70 percent of the population. —AFP

News

in brief



NEW DELHI: Students of the Rani Jhansi Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya school receive treatment at a government hospital in New Delhi yesterday. — AP

200 students hospitalized over gas leak in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: Nearly 200 school students were hospitalized yesterday after complaining of irritation in their eyes and throat following a gas leak in New Delhi, police said. Classes were underway when gas leaked from a container parked at a depot close to the school and filled with chemical meant for industrial use, police said. "Around 200 children were admitted to four hospitals for treatment. No one is serious. The situation is normal now," police deputy commissioner Romil Baaniya told reporters. Police will initiate legal action against the handlers for negligence, Baaniya added. Images showed scores of disaster response personnel closely inspecting the premises of the government-run girls' school. Gas leaks are not uncommon in India, with most caused by a failure to comply with safety standards. In 2014 a poisonous gas leak at one of India's largest steel plants in central Chhattisgarh state killed six people. And a toxic gas leak in Bhopal city in 1984 killed at least 25,000 people and remains to this day the world's worst industrial disaster.

French MP collapses, dies campaigning for Macron

PARIS: A socialist lawmaker died after collapsing on stage during a speech at a campaign rally for French presidential frontrunner Emmanuel Macron, party officials said yesterday. Corinne Erhel, 50, was the last to speak at the rally Friday in western France when she suddenly fell to the ground. She was rushed to hospital, where she was pronounced dead. "I learned with immense sadness of the death of Corinne Erhel at the event in Plouisy, where she was speaking to 300 activists," wrote French lower house speaker Claude Bartolone, a socialist. "A member of parliament since 2007, she was fully invested in her parliamentary work, while still remaining close to the people," said socialist President Francois Hollande. Erhel joined the centrist political movement "En Marche" ("On the Move") of Macron, who polls predict will beat his far-right rival Marine Le Pen in Sunday's decisive run-off.

Africa migrants mugged, stranded at sea off Libya

TRIPOLI: Gunmen mugged 129 migrants on a rubber dinghy headed for Europe and also stole the craft's motor, abandoning them off the Libyan coast, Libya's navy said yesterday. Navy spokesman General Ayoub Qassem said the gunmen in a speedboat chased the dinghy on Friday, boarded around five nautical miles off the Libyan town of Zuwara and stole the migrants' possessions. The migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, including 27 women and two children, were stranded at sea for several hours before being rescued by Libyan coastguard alerted by a local fisherman, he said. In the first three months of 2017, more than 24,000 migrants arrived in Italy after making the perilous crossing from Libya, up from 18,000 in the first quarter of last year, according to the UN refugee agency UNHCR.

20 sentenced to prison over deadly landslide

BEIJING: Chinese courts have sentenced 19 government officials and one business leader to prison for up to 20 years for their roles in a landslide which killed more than 70 people. The disaster occurred in Shenzhen, a southern boom town bordering Hong Kong, at the end of 2015 when soil illegally piled some 160 meters high at an old quarry site turned to mud during heavy rains. Three local courts passed sentences at the end of April for 45 people who had been charged in connection with the landslide, China's official news agency Xinhua reported late Friday. Long Renfu, the boss of Shenzhen Yixianglong, which was responsible for managing the site, was sentenced to 20 years in prison and a fine of 10 million yuan (\$1.5 million) for negligence and corruption. The former head of Shenzhen's city administration bureau was also sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and fined eight million yuan, while an official from Guangming district where the landslide took place was sentenced to 16 years for taking bribes. Seventeen other government officials were given prison sentences between three and seven years, while five others received other penalties, the news agency reported.

Boko Haram plotting to kidnap foreigners

LAGOS: Britain and the United States on Friday said Boko Haram was preparing to kidnap foreigners in remote northeast Nigeria, which is in the grip of a food crisis caused by the conflict. The Foreign Office in London said it had received reports the Islamist militants were "actively planning" to seize foreign workers in the Bama local government area of Borno state. Both said in travel advice that the affected area was "along the Banki-Kumshe axis," which is near the border with Cameroon. The US embassy in Abuja said in a message to its nationals that the report was "credible". Boko Haram has kidnapped thousands of women and children, including more than 200 schoolgirls from the Borno town of Chibok in 2014, which brought the conflict to world attention. At least 20,000 people have been killed since 2009. But abductions of foreigners have been rare. There was a spate of kidnappings of foreign workers in the wider north from 2011 to 2013, claimed by a Boko Haram splinter group, Ansaru, which was more ideologically aligned to Al-Qaeda.

DECAPITATED BODIES SHOW UP IN EGYPT SINAI BORDER TOWN

UNIVERSITY HEAD REPLACED AFTER 'APOSTACY' REMARKS

EL-ARISH: Egyptian security officials and witnesses say the decapitated bodies of a father and his two sons recently kidnapped by Islamic militants have been found on the street in the northern Sinai town of Rafah. The mother of the two siblings was killed last week by Islamic State group militants when they raided the family home in the village of Yamit and kidnapped the three men. The three decapitated bodies found Saturday were taken to hospital, where they were identified. The officials and witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media and feared reprisals, respectively. IS is spearheading an insurgency in northern Sinai, where there has recently been an uptick in the abduction and killing of suspected informants.

Egypt's Al-Azhar university

In another development, the head of Egypt's Al-Azhar university, one of the world's leading Islamic seats of learning, has been replaced after labeling a contro-

versial Muslim reformer an apostate, the institution said. The development came as Al-Azhar is pressured by critics who say the venerable Sunni Muslim authority has not done enough to counter Islamist extremism. Ahmed Hosni Taha, the acting university president, had been forced to apologize on Thursday after saying reformer Islam Al-Behairy was an "apostate" for attacking some of the founding scholars of Islamic law.

His apology was followed by a statement on Friday from Al-Azhar saying that Grand Imam Ahmed Al-Tayeb, who heads the institution that runs the university, had replaced Taha.

Taha had made the remarks about Behairy during a television interview. "My response...was incorrect and it contradicts the way of Al-Azhar," Taha said in an apology posted on the university's website. Behairy was a talk show host who had infuriated Al-Azhar's traditional clergy with attacks on canonical religious books and some of Sunni Islam's most important scholars. — Agencies



CAIRO: Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, delivers a speech during the visit of Pope Francis to the prestigious Sunni institution in Cairo. Ahmed Hosni Taha, the head of Egypt's Al-Azhar university, one of the world's leading Islamic seats of learning, has been replaced by Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayeb after labeling a controversial Muslim reformer an apostate, the institution said yesterday. — AFP

PAKISTAN DISPATCHES SUPPLIES TO SOUTHWEST BORDER VILLAGES

QUETTA: Pakistan dispatched truckloads of relief supplies yesterday to villages along the southwest border with Afghanistan, where 11 people were killed in fighting between the two countries prompting Pakistan to close a border crossing, officials said. Akhtar Mohammad, a doctor at the government-run Chaman hospital said that dozens

of persons wounded in Friday's skirmishes were still being treated and that "some of them are still traumatized." More than 50 Pakistani villagers and several troops were wounded when Afghanistan allegedly fired across the border on census workers and troops escorting them.

Pakistan responded by shutting the border and firing

artillery shells that killed six Afghans. The gunfire from Afghanistan came as census workers escorted by troops were going door-to-door in villages located along the border as part of a nationwide census, which began in March. The ensuing exchange of fire reignited a centuries-old border dispute between Islamabad and Kabul at the boundary, known as the Durand Line, which runs through some villages.

Pakistani officials said yesterday they were still busy in assessing damages caused by the Afghan artillery. Pakistan says the Afghan government was informed about the census being undertaken on its side of the border and exact coordinates of the areas were also shared with Kabul. Friday's fire ended when local commanders from the two armies communicated on a hotline that is set up between top army officers from the two sides to defuse tensions. In strongly worded televised remarks, Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif said yesterday that the latest skirmishes were a reflection of the "nexus" between Kabul and New Delhi.

He said Kabul did not positively respond to efforts made by Islamabad to improve relations with Afghanistan in recent months. Asif warned that Pakistan would respond "fittingly" to Afghanistan if any further violations were committed along the border. Also yesterday, Samim Khpolwak, spokesman for the governor in Afghanistan's Kandahar province, said an overnight meeting between officials from both sides ended without a positive result. He said the border is still closed.

Meanwhile, an Afghan truck driver was killed after a rocket fired from across the border on Friday hit him in Nangarhar province, said Attaullah Khogyani, a spokesman for the provincial governor. He said the situation at the Torkham border was now normal. — AP



QUETTA: A Pakistani victim of cross border firing rests at a hospital in Quetta, Pakistan yesterday. — AP

ESCAPED PRISONERS RETURNED TO OVERCROWDED JAIL IN INDONESIA

PEKANBARU: Indonesian security forces have rounded up most of the inmates who escaped during a mass breakout from an overcrowded prison on Sumatra Island, police said yesterday. More than 200 inmates broke out of the jail in Pekanbaru city, on Sumatra Island, after they were let out of their cells to pray on Friday. Almost 80 were quickly recaptured after the incident, and on Saturday the majority had been rounded up.

"So far 209 inmates have been recaptured or surrendered willingly, many have returned to their cells," local police spokesman Guntur Aryo Tejo said, adding that the authorities did not have the exact number of inmates still on the loose. Amateur footage broadcast on local TV stations showed scores of men, some wearing sarongs, scurrying through the gates of the Sialang Bungkok prison on Friday, with no sign of officials in pursuit. Most prisoners were recaptured while still near Pekanbaru.

Dozens of the escaped inmates headed directly to another prison where they handed themselves in. Tejo said the inmates told the police they decided to escape due to inhumane conditions in the prison.

The male-only prison has a capacity of 300 people but was holding 1,870 inmates, with only five guards and a porter on duty at any one time, said the director general of prisons, I Wayan Dusak. "They also complained about unfair treatment by the prison guards," Tejo said. More than a thousand inmates who did not escape the prison were refusing to return to their cells unless the head guard was replaced. Jailbreaks are common in Indonesia, where inmates are held in often unsanitary conditions at overcrowded prisons. There was a spate of breakouts in 2013, including one where about 150 prisoners-including terror convicts-escaped from a jail on western Sumatra Island.— AFP



RIAU PROVINCE: Plain-clothed police officers escort recaptured inmates following their escape at Sialang Bungkok Prison in Pekanbaru, Riau province, Indonesia yesterday. — AP



RIAU PROVINCE: Prison buildings are seen through a broken window at Sialang Bungkok Prison in Pekanbaru, Riau province, Indonesia yesterday. — AP

N KOREA'S DEATH PLOT ACCUSATIONS MIMIC ITS OWN MISDEEDS

WASHINGTON: In the paranoid universe of North Korea, the feverish accusations it makes against its sworn enemies bear a creepy resemblance to its own misdeeds. Its latest claim of a South Korean and American plot to assassinate Kim Jong Un using biochemical weapons comes weeks after the North Korean leader's estranged brother, Kim Jong Nam, was slain in a Malaysian airport. Authorities cited the presence of VX nerve agent, and North Korea is widely believed to have been behind responsible.

While Pyongyang's allegations can't be entirely discounted, its history is replete with allegations of deadly conspiracies by its enemies, like purported planning for a US invasion or nuclear war plans, and South Korean kidnapping missions. These assertions from Pyongyang often appear like the pot calling the kettle black. The North has a grim record of military aggression, abductions and assassinations against South Korean leaders that pale in comparison to anything it has faced.

Friday's statement on state media was published days before South Korea's May 9 election. A more liberal government is likely to emerge, one that could take a softer line toward the North. But the reclusive communist government may have intended its lambaste as a rebuff to US efforts to reinstate North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism - a



KUALA LUMPUR: A CCTV surveillance camera is attached by the entrance gate at the North Korean Embassy monitors passersby in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In the paranoid universe of North Korea, the feverish accusations it makes against its sworn enemies bear a creepy resemblance to its own misdeeds. — AP

black mark that was lifted in 2008. "Pyongyang's diatribe could be an attempt to redirect attention away from its own use of a chemical weapon of mass destruction," said Bruce Klingner, a Korea expert at the Heritage Foundation. Here are instances of North Korea claiming conspiracies against it,

alongside evidence of actions the North itself has perpetrated.

Assassination plots

North Korea has railed against US and South Korea planning for "decapitation" strikes against its leadership. In December 2008, the North even claimed it arrested a

South Korean intelligence operative who was on a "terrorist mission" against Kim Jong Il, the current leader's late father. State-run news said the suspect was sent "speech and acoustic sensing and pursuit devices for tracking the movement of the top leader and even violent poison."

There is precedent for South Korea plotting to kill the North Korean leader. In 1968, South Korea set up a secret commando team charged with assassinating North Korea's founding leader, Kim Il Sung, the current leader's grandfather. But it never carried out the mission. Amid warming inter-Korean relations, the team mutinied in 1971, killing its trainers and marching on Seoul before being stopped. The mission followed a 1968 North Korean attempt to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung-hee. Thirty-one North Korean commandos slipped into South Korea and came within striking distance of the Seoul presidential palace.

South Korean security forces repelled the assault. The only commando who was captured said he came to "slit the throat" of Park. In 1983, North Korean agents detonated a bomb meant for South Korea's leader while he visited Myanmar, then known as Burma. President Chun Doo-hwan narrowly escaped the attack. But 20 others died, including four Cabinet ministers, his ambassador to Burma and several top aides. In 1987, North Korea bombed a Korean Air passenger jet, killing 115 people.

Abductions

Another regular North Korea accusation: South Korea abducting or enticing the North's citizens to defect. Seoul denies the claims. More than 29,000 North Koreans have fled to the south since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, according to South Korean government data. Many North Korean defectors report wanting to avoid the North's harsh political system and poverty. After 13 North Korean workers from a restaurant in China defected last year, Pyongyang said they were kidnapped by South Korean spies. North Korea has demanded their return.

South Korea said the workers chose to resettle on their own. It was the largest group defection to the South since Kim Jong Un took power in 2011. North Korea has a record of abducting other nations' citizens, though. A UN Commission of Inquiry in 2014 found hundreds of South Koreans, Japanese and others were abducted between the 1960s and 1980s in operations approved by the supreme leader. In 2002, North Korea acknowledged kidnapping 13 Japanese citizens decades earlier to train spies in Japanese language and culture. Five were allowed to return to Japan that year. The North said the others died or never entered North Korea. Japan is investigating hundreds of more cases of possible abductions. — AP

SYRIAN FIGHTING EASES AS RUSSIA DEAL TAKES EFFECT

'DE-ESCALATION' ZONES CREATED

BEIRUT: Fighting between Syrian rebel and government forces eased yesterday as a Russian-led effort to shore up a ceasefire took effect, although battles continued on an important frontline near Hama, a rebel commander and war monitor said. The deal to create "de-escalation" zones in the major areas of conflict in western Syria took effect at midnight. The initiative was proposed by Russia, President Bashar Al-Assad's most powerful ally, with the support of Turkey, which backs the opposition.

Iran, Assad's other major ally, also backed it. Political and armed opposition groups have rejected the proposal, saying Russia has been unwilling or unable to get Assad and his Iranian-backed militia allies to respect past ceasefires. The Syrian government said it backed the proposal but said it would continue to fight what it called terrorist groups across the country. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said there had been a reduction in fighting across Syria since the deal came into force, but warned it was too early to say whether it would last.

"The reduction in violence must be clear and lasting," Observatory Director Rami Abdulrahman said. The rebel commander said the general level of violence was reduced, but added: "Regime attempts (to advance) in the Hama countryside continue." With the help of Russia and Iranian-backed militias, the Syrian government has gained the military upper hand in the six-year conflict. The wide array of rebel

groups include some supported by Turkey, the United States and Gulf monarchies.

The Observatory said it had not recorded any deaths as a result of fighting in the four zones since midnight, but there had been some violations. Breaches were seen mainly in northern Hama province, where Syrian government and allied forces have taken territory from rebels in recent weeks. Fighter jets fired at the rebel-held village of Al-Zalakiyah and nearby positions in the northern Hama countryside, where the combatants exchanged shelling, the Britain-based war monitoring group said.

The Observatory said government forces shelled the nearby towns of Kafr Zita and Latamneh. There was no immediate comment from the Syrian army. Mohammed Rasheed, a spokesman for the Jaish Al-Nasr rebel group based in Hama, confirmed that fighting had broken out after midnight. Rasheed said rebel-held Idlib province to the north of Hama was almost completely quiet, but the attacks, which included barrel bombs, were focused on the northern Hama frontline area. "The bombardment has not stopped, it is no different from before," he said.

The deal

Iran and Turkey agreed on Thursday to a Russian proposal for de-escalation zones in Syria. The text of the memorandum was published by the Russian foreign ministry yesterday. The agreement said four de-escalation zones would

be established in Syria for a period of six months which could be extended if the three signatory countries agree. Weaponry and air strikes were not to be used in those zones by combatants, the text said. The agreement also included creating conditions for humanitarian access, medical assistance and the return of displaced civilians to their homes. This initiative is the most serious effort to reduce violence and shore up a ceasefire first declared in December since western states accused Damascus of a chemical attack in early April on rebel-held Idlib province.

The chemical incident prompted the US to fire dozens of cruise missiles at a Syrian airbase from which it said the attack had been launched, increasing tensions between the US and Russia. The de-escalation zones appear intended to halt conflict in specific areas between government forces and rebels, and would potentially be policed by foreign troops. The deal was negotiated at Russian-brokered talks in Astana which have taken place this year outside of United Nations-sponsored peace talks in Geneva.

UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura hailed the plan as a step in the right direction towards a real cessation of hostilities. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was encouraged by the agreement. The US State Department voiced concerns about the deal, saying it was skeptical of Iran's involvement as a guarantor of the accord and Damascus' track record on previous agreements. "We continue to have concerns about the Astana agreement, including the involvement of Iran as a so-called 'guarantor,'" the State Department said in a statement on Thursday. "Iran's activities in Syria have only contributed to the violence, not stopped it."

The zones

The Russian defense ministry had said the agreement would come into force as of midnight Damascus time on Friday and encompass four zones. The largest zone, in northern Syria, includes Idlib province and adjoining districts of Hama, Aleppo and Latakia with a population of over 1 million, the memorandum text said. The other three zones are in northern Homs province, the Eastern Ghouta region east of Damascus and along the Jordanian border in southern Syria. But one part of the Eastern Ghouta zone, Qaboun, is exempt from the deal, Defense Ministry official Lieutenant-General Sergei Rudskoi said on Friday. He said this was because Qaboun contained the Al-Qaeda-linked group formerly known as the Nusra Front. Yesterday the Observatory said rockets hit Qaboun where the government has been pressing an offensive for several weeks. — Reuters



QABUN, Syria: A Syrian government forces' MiG-23 fighter-bomber drops a payload during a reported air strike in the rebel-held area of Qabun, east of the capital Damascus yesterday. — AFP

EX-COMPUTER SOFTWARE MOGUL EYES SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENCY

SEOUL: Ahn Cheol-soo's supporters believe that as South Korean president he'll rise above a political culture long bogged down by corruption and factional bickering. His critics say the former computer software mogul is torn between his slogans that cater to both liberal and conservative voters. Opinion surveys see Ahn as coming in second in Tuesday's vote to Moon Jae-in, who seems to be capitalizing on conservative disarray following the ouster of former President Park Geun-hye, who was jailed in March on corruption charges. However, South Korean elections can be tricky to predict because the electorate is deeply split along ideological lines. Surveys have suggested Ahn was attracting conservative voters disappointed by Park but who continue to dislike Moon, who calls for engagement with belligerent North Korea.

Ahn says he, instead of a more traditional politician like Moon, can better rebuild the country after Park's fall, which he says exposed a decades-long "accumulation of evils," such as abuse of presidential power and corruptive ties between politicians and big businesses. Ahn wants to curb the excess of the "chaebol," referring to a privileged group of family-owned conglomerates such as Samsung and Hyundai,



Ahn Cheol-soo

which have been criticized for bribing politicians for business favors and unfairly crushing smaller companies in competition. Ahn's ideas include strengthening the powers of the country's fair trade watchdog so that it could break up companies with excessive market shares. Ahn mixes his reform calls with business-friendly promises, such as stronger financial support for small and medium-sized companies and start-ups in technology sectors. Ahn's stance on North Korea has often caused confusion as he tries to please both conservatives and his many supporters in the southwest Jeolla region, who have traditionally supported rapprochement with the North.

After initially opposing the move, Ahn flipped to support a decision by Washington and Seoul to deploy an advanced US missile defense system called Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, to cope with

North Korean threats. This has drawn criticism from some members of his own party who oppose the deployment over fears of worsened relations with China, which sees the system as a security threat. Ahn criticizes the hard line Park took against North Korea and also the Obama administration's "strategic patience" policy to wait out the North, saying neither approach did anything to prevent Pyongyang from speeding up its nuclear weapons and missiles development.

After working as a medical professor and navy doctor, Ahn in 1995 established AhnLab, which became South Korea's largest maker of antivirus software. Ahn resigned as AhnLab's CEO in 2005 and taught at universities before entering politics ahead of the 2012 presidential election, when his rivalry with Moon began. The two competed to stand for liberals before Ahn, then an independent, bowed out at the last minute. Moon went on to lose the election to Park. After the 2012 setback, Ahn briefly joined Moon's Democratic Party before leaving and creating his own party for parliamentary elections in April last year. His People's Party then won 38 seats after dominating the Democratic Party in its traditional stronghold in the Jeolla region. — AP



CARACAS: Venezuelan opposition activists take part in a women's march aimed to keep pressure on President Nicolas Maduro, whose authority is being increasingly challenged by protests and deadly unrest, in Caracas. — AFP

DEATH TOLL HITS 36; LOOTING BREAKS OUT IN VENEZUELA

VALENCIA: A young man died Friday after he was injured in violence as looting broke out in impoverished Venezuelan cities, an official said, bringing the toll from unrest in more than a month of anti-government protests to at least 36. Hecder Lugo Perez, 22, died after he was hit in the head by a projectile in the northwestern city of Valencia, sources at the Valles de San Diego medical clinic said. City Mayor Enzo Scarno confirmed his death. Mass protests erupted on April 1 by demonstrators demanding elections to remove President Nicolas Maduro. They blame him for an economic crisis that has caused shortages of food, medicine and other basics.

Anger boiled over Friday in the western municipality of Rosario de Perija, where young protesters burned, pulled down and then smashed a statue of former president Hugo Chavez, Maduro's late predecessor and mentor, according to video posted on social media showing the incident in a public square. Looting broke out this week in cities such as Valencia, which looked like a disaster zone with bars on shop windows bent and windows broken.

"There was a crowd of them. They broke through the walls and took everything. They destroyed everything" before police came and fired tear gas to disperse the looters, said Nuvia Torrealba, 42, who worked in a bakery. "My bosses have lost their home and we are out of a job. It was horrible." Residents were stockpiling food, water and fuel. At least 70 stores have been raided since Tuesday, the Valencia chamber of commerce said. "They are taking advantage of the protests to go out and rob," said Magaly Oliveros, a 64-year-old housewife in Valencia. "Today we are hungry, and tomorrow we will be hungrier still because there is nothing."

Army allegations

Maduro is resisting opposition demands for elections. Each side accuses the other of using armed groups to sow violence in the demonstrations. Maduro has the public backing of the military high command, which analysts say is key to resisting the protests. However, senior opposition leader Henrique Capriles said on Friday that 85 mid-ranking army officers have been detained for opposing moves to crack down on protesters. He cited information he said was given by the officers' families.

Weekend protests

Maduro's opponents called for women to march yesterday dressed in white, a traditional show of defiance against what they brand a repressive government. "The regime is falling," said Lilian Tintori, wife of jailed opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, outside the prison near Caracas where she was demanding to see her husband. "It has no strength and is showing its worst side, using weapons because it is does not have right on its side." The president has launched moves to reform the constitution, further angering the opposition, which says he is trying to dodge elections. He says the economic crisis is a US-backed conspiracy to topple him and install a right-wing government.

"We will not let a fascist regime be set up here," said Elias Jaua, the official appointed to lead a presidential commission on the constitutional reforms. Capriles said the opposition will take no part in the constitutional discussions. The celebrity Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel, director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, added his voice to calls for an end to the violence on Thursday. He called for Maduro to "listen to the voice of the Venezuelan people", in a message posted on Facebook. — AFP

MIGRANTS ABANDONED BY SMUGGLER IN THAI SOUTH

BANGKOK: Thai police said yesterday they were hunting for suspected human smugglers who deserted 35 Myanmar nationals in southern Thailand, a key stop on a regional trafficking route. The 28 men and 7 women were found in Thailand's Nakhon Si Thammarat province on Friday without passports or proper visas, provincial police commander Wachana Akeponpich said. They were bound for Malaysia where they had been promised work on rubber and palm plantations. "Their driver told them to wait while he went to go buy meals, but then he fled," Akeponpich said. The officer said the men and women were not Rohingya, a Muslim minority that has fled Myanmar in droves to escape persecution.

The group told Thai police they crossed overland into western Thailand before travelling south by truck. That

route has become more popular since Thai authorities clamped down on trafficking gangs who for years ferried tens of thousands of Myanmar refugees and migrants across the Bay of Bengal by boat. Before crossing into Malaysia, the trafficking victims were often held in Thai jungle camps where they were beaten, raped and abused until relatives paid release ransoms.

The dangerous sea crossings have slowed dramatically since the 2015 crackdown, according to a recent report by the UN's refugee agency, The UNHCR said there were rumors of "isolated attempts" but no confirmed maritime arrivals in 2016. However more than 100 Myanmar people-half of whom were Rohingya-were caught by authorities attempting overland travel to Malaysia, it said. — AFP

PRIYANKA CHOPRA DISMAYED BY ZIMBABWE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

JOHANNESBURG: Actress Priyanka Chopra said she is dismayed by the level of sexual violence against children in Zimbabwe, with government officials there telling her many young girls are "asking for it." Chopra spoke to AP yesterday after visiting the southern African country as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador. She said it was "an eye-opening experience" meeting girls who had been shunned by society and thrown out of their homes after being raped. She says girls are told it's their fault.

"I heard a lot of this when I asked these government officials who said girls are asking for it," she said. Some girls were as young as 3 when they were raped by their fathers, uncles or other relatives, she said. Chopra, who turned heads with her sweeping Ralph Lauren trench coat at Monday's Met Gala in New York, said she feels it's her duty to use her celebrity status to fight for worthy causes, especially violence against children.

"I am from India and I have seen wealth and poverty live together all my life," she said. "That is the state of the world. That is our reality. It takes people like us who are privileged, who have everything that we may need in

abundance, to be able to share it in parts of the world where they may not have that."

Once-prosperous Zimbabwe has sunk into economic crisis over the years, with a cash crunch so severe that livestock in some cases is being accepted in lieu of currency. Unemployment is high, and the health and social services system has suffered. Chopra, who stars in the upcoming "Baywatch" film, said she couldn't get one Zimbabwe girl's story out of her mind. The girl told Chopra how she was raped by her uncle when she was 7. "The pastor of their church told her family that she was possessed and she should come and live with him ... but the pastor raped her for two years," Chopra said.

"She was taken away from there and sent to another uncle and aunt of hers. The aunt then forced her to have sex with her husband, who was HIV positive. That was how she contracted HIV at age 17." The girl tried to kill herself three times before she was rescued by a group that offered her psychological support, Chopra said. The UN Population Fund calls Zimbabwe an "extremely young country," with 62 percent of the population under 25. — AP



JOHANNESBURG: Actress Priyanka Chopra is photographed during an interview yesterday. — AP

MACRON TARGET OF MASSIVE EMAIL HACK

Continued from Page 1

French expats in North America were already casting their ballots yesterday, along with voters in some overseas territories in the Caribbean and Pacific. It was impossible to assess the impact of the hacking after an unpredictable campaign marked by scandals, surprises and bitter exchanges between the candidates. Macron held a clear and widening lead of around 62 percent to 38 percent ahead of Le Pen in the last polls published on Friday before the campaigning blackout came into force.

During a bad-tempered televised debate on Wednesday, Le Pen brought up unsourced allegations circulating online that Macron had an offshore bank account in the Bahamas - leading Macron to sue for defamation. There has been no claim of responsibility for the hack, although links to the files appear to have first surfaced on US online forum 4Chan used among others by far-right activists. "We knew that there were these risks during the presidential campaign because it happened elsewhere. Nothing will go without a response," French President Francois Hollande told AFP yesterday.

US intelligence agencies believe Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton was hacked by state-backed Russian operatives ahead of the US election last November. She has said the revelations, spread by Wikileaks, partly explained her shock defeat by Donald Trump. French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault suggested in February that Macron was being targeted by a Russian campaign because of his support for a strong

European Union which could stand up to Moscow. Le Pen is a eurosceptic who met Russian President Vladimir Putin in March.

Macron's team has previously accused the Kremlin of meddling in the campaign and being behind repeated cyber-attacks on his headquarters - allegations strongly denied in Moscow. His campaign employs tough server protections and network encryption, but experienced hackers can always find a way in. "In this kind of organization the real potential faultline is the human element," the head of computer services for Macron's En Marche! movement recently told AFP, requesting anonymity.

Macron's team said the files were stolen weeks ago when several members of En Marche had their personal and work emails hacked in one of "an intense and repeated" series of cyber-attacks. Last month, cybersecurity research group Trend Micro said Russian hackers called Pawn Storm had targeted Macron's campaign using "phishing" techniques in which fake websites are used to trick users into revealing their passwords.

Macron and Le Pen - who is hoping to ride a global wave of anti-establishment anger to the Elysee Palace - have offered starkly different visions for France during a campaign that has been closely watched in Europe and around the world. The leaks came after a frantic final day of campaigning which included the death of a Socialist lawmaker after she spoke at a Macron rally. Corinne Erhel, 50, was the last to take the stage Friday in western France when she suddenly collapsed. She was rushed to hospital, where she was pronounced dead. — AFP



A Muslim family cycles by at the Titivangsa lake gardens in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Titivangsa lake gardens is a recreational park with a large lake located in the northeastern fringe of Kuala Lumpur city center. — AP

HEALTHCARE A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT IN US

Continued from Page 1

Opponents called it "socialized medicine." "It's the beginning of the Cold War, we're terrified of Stalin and Communism. The word socialism carried a lot of baggage," University of Michigan medical historian Howard Markel said. "Truman wrote in his memoirs that it was one of the most disappointing political defeats of his career."

Most Americans receive health insurance from their employers, under a system in which workers are covered by an arrangement largely negotiated directly between employers and trade unions. "If you look at the systems in France, Germany and Britain, there was an architect of the system," said Melissa Thomasson, a professor of economics at Miami University in Ohio. "In our country, we have a very piecemeal system" under the control of insurance companies, the pharmaceutical industry, employers and doctors, all determined to limit the government's role.

But the market doesn't cover everyone. In 1965, president Lyndon Johnson wrangled a compromise with Congress to create Medicare, public health insurance for over people over 65, and Medicaid for the poor and disabled, initially mainly women with children. Still, healthcare was seen as a privilege which recipients are worthy of deserving through poverty, age or contributions. Poor bachelors, for example, are excluded from Medicaid because they're considered able to work.

"A large number of Americans believe in individual responsibility," said Thomas William O'Rourke, professor emeritus in the Department of Kinesiology and Community Health at the University of Illinois. "We have

never said that healthcare is a right," he added. "We have said you will get healthcare if you fall into a certain group," such as military veterans or native Americans.

In the following decades, the battle lines of the ideological debate hardly shifted between the left, supporting universal coverage, and the right, which opposes the idea for budgetary reasons and as a matter of principle. In 1993, president Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary launched an effort to reform the healthcare system, a tangle of public regulations and private providers, in order to cover everyone. The attempt failed spectacularly.

When Congress passed Obama's bill in 2010, it succeeded by a hair. Not a single Republican supported it. Obamacare instituted tax incentives, mandatory coverage requirements and financial assistance for millions. But it never called into question the system's private foundations. "It's part of the DNA of the United States to somehow maintain choice in healthcare insurance plans," said Howard Bauchner, editor in chief of the Journal of the American Medical Association. However, "the irony of the free market system is that it doesn't work in healthcare very well."

The reality is that the industry is steadily consolidating and competition weakening. Incentives aren't enough: More than 25 million people still lack health insurance. At the same time, spending on healthcare continues mounting rapidly because the government has little control over fees charged. To address those faults, leftwing figures such as Bernie Sanders advocate the kind of national public healthcare system that Europeans enjoy. Or, as Hillary Clinton once pragmatically said, a utopia that will "never, ever come to pass". — AFP

SAUDI ARABIA, US IN TALKS ON BILLIONS...

Continued from Page 1

One such deal, an \$11.5 billion package of four multi-mission surface combatant ships and accompanying services and spares, was approved by the State Department in 2015. Talks followed to hammer out capabilities, configuration and design for the complex warships but the deal has never gone to final contract. The next step for the ships is likely a letter of agreement between the two countries, the sources said.

Versions of the ship used by the US Navy, the Littoral Combat Ship, are built by Bethesda, Maryland-based weapons maker Lockheed Martin and Australia's Austal Ltd. If a deal goes through, it would be the first sale of a new small surface warship to a foreign power in decades. Any major foreign weapons sale is subject to oversight by Congress. Lawmakers must take into consideration a legal requirement that Israel must maintain its qualitative military edge over its neighbors.

Also, more than \$1 billion worth of munitions including armor-piercing Penetrator Warheads and Paveway laser-guided bombs made by Raytheon Co are in the package, the sources said. The Obama administration suspended the planned sale because of concerns over the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen and civilian

casualties. A US administration official said the proposed Raytheon sale was still undergoing interagency review. A Lockheed representative said such sales are government-to-government decisions and the status of any potential discussions can be best addressed by the US government. Shares of both Raytheon and Lockheed closed up 0.9 percent. Both stocks hit session highs following the Reuters report.

One of the people with knowledge of the sales said that as planning for Trump's trip to Saudi Arabia intensified in recent weeks, the arms negotiations also accelerated. Two US officials said a US-Saudi working group met at the White House Monday and Tuesday to negotiate the trip, as well as financing for military equipment sales and stopping terrorist financing. Saudi foreign minister Adel Al-Jubeir and other Saudi officials met with lawmakers at the Capitol on Thursday, including Senators Bob Corker and Ben Cardin on the foreign relations committee.

The Obama administration had offered Saudi Arabia more than \$115 billion in weapons. Most of the Obama-era offers, which are reported to Congress, became formal agreements though some were abandoned or amended. Washington also provides maintenance and training to Saudi security forces. — Reuters

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 THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
 DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
 ESTABLISHED 1961

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Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
 ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
 FAX : 24835620/1
 CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
 ACCOUNTS : 24835619
 COMMERCIAL : 24835618

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Focus

MISSING IN ACTION? EU SEES ITS SOFT POWER WANING

As the European Union's foreign ministers met recently in a baroque palace in Malta, Finland's top diplomat quipped that despite the grandeur of their surroundings, they were all merely "doctors and welders", trying "to sew things up" in the world. Such despondency at Europe's global influence has become all too common as the 28-country bloc struggles to cope with Brexit, an unprecedented migrant crisis in its own backyard and a rise in anti-EU populism that has bolstered authoritarian, nationalist-minded leaders across the region.

While U.S.-led NATO has long shouldered the military burden in Europe, the economically powerful EU has been able to boast of a "soft power" with recent diplomatic successes ranging from its role in brokering the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, winning a detente with Cuba and inspiring a pro-EU uprising in Ukraine. But some ministers and diplomats point to the EU's lack of sway to end the conflict in Ukraine or to help solve the crisis in Syria as evidence it is now floundering, to the detriment of those caught up in those conflicts and to the benefit of Russia.

"Brexit, the migration crisis. These have really had an effect on us," said one senior EU diplomat. "We have not lost all our soft power, but we do feel our moral authority is not as strong as it used to be." As the world's biggest aid donor, the European Union seeks the rule of law and democracy abroad and has transformed former communist countries into thriving market democracies.

But after a meeting in April, Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski described the mood among colleagues as "pessimistic and depressing", citing "the many crises engulfing Europe: Syria, Libya, Yemen." "The situation in the Middle East is, unfortunately, not good. The conclusion is that the EU has few instruments to impact the problems playing out there." France's outgoing Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, who has tried in vain to implement a peace deal with Moscow in Ukraine, was downbeat a few weeks later in Malta as ministers met to discuss Turkey's growing authoritarianism. "We need to pick up the pace and have the confidence to play a role in the world," he said in Valletta, saying the debates among ministers were "too technical" and lacked vision.

The European Union can point to its unity on economic sanctions against Russia following Moscow's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its support for separatists in east Ukraine. Even without clarity on where US-Russian ties are headed following the election of President Donald Trump, ministers are set to extend the sanctions again in July, diplomats say. Plans for EU countries to cooperate on defense are progressing.

But some say the European Union as a bloc is not forceful enough to resolve the conflict in eastern Ukraine that has killed more than 10,000 people since April 2014, after EU governments agreed to let France and Germany lead peace talks. "An increased pressure on Russia is only possible with a stronger engagement of the whole of the EU, and the US," said Anders Fogh Rasmussen, a former NATO secretary general.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini's visit to Moscow in April did not any break new ground, said Frederik Wesslau, an analyst at the European Council on Foreign Relations think-tank. Mogherini's office declined to comment, but EU officials stress that the bloc has a big role in Ukraine focused on security training, financial aid, the implementation of a free-trade deal and strong support for the Minsk peace accords. Mogherini, a former Italian foreign minister, has won plaudits for harnessing Europe's soft power, travelling the globe like US secretaries of state. But EU states are reluctant to grant her more actual policy sway despite commitments to do so.

A New Franco-German Hope?

One EU official said the latest loss of self-confidence stemmed partly from an accord with Ankara last year in which Turkey agreed to take in Syrian refugees in return for EU money. "We agreed to a deal that implicitly gave Turkey leverage over us," said the official, who was involved in the talks, noting the EU had become powerless to stop mass jailing of dissidents in Turkey since a failed coup attempt last year. In other areas, Hungary, Greece and Cyprus weaken EU statements where the bloc needs every government to agree.

"When the EU was not able to come up with a strong statement about the militarization of the South China Sea in July, it was the Hungarians who blocked it," an EU diplomat said. Some forces are also beyond Brussels' control, including Russian revanchism, Trump's unpredictability and Brexit. Neither the British defense minister nor foreign minister attended the EU ministerial gathering in Malta. —Reuters

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Washington Watch

I AM NEITHER CONFIDENT, NOR OPTIMISTIC

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

During a confusing and unsettling time, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas came to Washington to meet with US President Donald Trump. As has been the case with most issues, Trump has been remarkably unpredictable when addressing the Middle East. During his campaign for the White House, not only did his party's platform drop any mention of a "two state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he personally condemned President Obama for abandoning Israel at the United Nations and promised to be "the most pro-Israel President ever". He also pledged to immediately move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and to never pressure Israel to stop settlement expansion. After winning the presidency, Trump appointed a trio of his closest advisers: David Friedman, a hardliner with deep ties to the West Bank settler movement, Jason Greenblatt, and son-in-law Jared Kushner as his envoys to address the conflicted region.

More recently, Trump has been sending other, somewhat different signals. For example, during and following his love fest visit with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and after Greenblatt and Kushner returned from their initial forays to the region, the White House began to sing what appeared to be another tune. The President now speaks confidently of his ambition to produce a "great deal" that would bring peace to the region. No details are offered, but as has been the case with so many other Trump pledges, we are told, in effect, to trust him that "it will happen" and "it'll be great".

While the elements of his plan have not been spelled out, it appears to involve restarting Israeli-Palestinian peace talks coupled with an effort to achieve some degree of regional cooperation between Israel and the US's Arab allies.

Trump's bold and brash confidence, his apparent change of tone, and his volatile personality have placed Palestinian leaders in a bind. They are on the ropes and desperately need the US to support them, both politically and financially. They may be wary or unclear about this President's views and those of his associates, but given their vulnerability, they fear alienating him. Facing these

confounding realities, Abbas has attempted to make the best of a difficult situation by appearing to take a page from Trump's own playbook—playing up to his ego by expressing confidence in his abilities and calling his presidency a "historic opportunity" to make peace a reality.

But the Palestinian dilemma is real. In the first place, Trump's refusal to commit to a Palestinian state and his lack of clarity creates a problem, since Palestinians do not know what is being asked of them or what they are being offered. And here, the signs are none too promising.

Arab leaders have, once again, reaffirmed their commitment to the Arab Peace Initiative, which establishes the goal of normalized ties with Israel only after Israel withdraws from the 1967 occupied territories and negotiates an equitable solution to the refugee issue. But the Israelis have adamantly refused to consider the essential terms of the API. The talk in Washington (and Israel) is that Trump will attempt to square this circle by proposing two parallel tracks: One, involving Israeli-Palestinian talks with no preconditions, and another, bringing Israel and the Arab States together to discuss regional cooperation.

Dangerous Trap

If this is, indeed, to be the process, it sets up a dangerous trap for both the Palestinians and the Arab States. The US and Israel may want the appearance of a "peace process" to provide a cover for efforts to create Israel-Arab cooperation to fight extremism and Iran. But the danger for Palestinians is clear. They've been down this road before - an endless process with no outcome. The danger for Arabs is also clear. Even the appearance of normalized ties with Israel, at the expense of the Palestinians, would only serve to inflame extremists, while at the same time producing a propaganda boon for the Iranians. Since both the Palestinians and the Arabs are well aware of these dangers, a proposal that, in effect, turns the API on its head, is a non-starter.

Meanwhile, Washington's various and assorted think-tanks, now populated by an array of former and failed US Middle East negotiators, have been busily grinding out advice for the Trump Administration making it clear that they've learned very little from their experiences. They are still proposing limited improvements in the "quality of life" for Palestinians and putting the onus on the PA to

drop their "unrealistic demands" regarding settlements, Jerusalem, and refugees, all the while pretending that Arab States can walk over the Palestinians on their way to establishing ties with Israel in order to create a united front against Iran and extremism. None of this has worked in the past, nor will it work today.

For its part, Israel, despite some mild resistance from the Administration regarding its settlement policy, has continued on its merry way announcing massive new construction projects in the West Bank and Jerusalem, coupled with continued demolition of Palestinian homes and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian bedouin communities to make way for still more settlement expansion.

It's clear that if Trump is at all serious about reining in Israeli behaviors (and there is no evidence that he is), he will have to move from mild admonitions to cracking the whip. But this will not happen since Congress still has a critical role to play in tempering whatever any president may want to do. Congress is pushing hard to punish any and all US or international efforts that oppose Israeli settlement expansion. They have urged the President to demand that the PA withhold funds paid to the families of prisoners, or face a cut in US financial support. And they are threatening punitive cuts to the United Nations and other agencies that oppose the occupation or endorse Palestinian demands - thereby threatening the few gains won by the Palestinian diplomatic initiative.

Those who think that the president can control Congress need only look at his inability to have his agenda pass Congressional muster. Any push to get tough with the Israelis will be greeted by a Congressional coalition that will block any such effort. So while I understand Abbas' need to not alienate the US president, I am neither confident nor optimistic that we will see any real movement toward a just peace.

Decades ago, when I was just beginning my work, I learned a lesson from a mentor, Ibrahim Abu Lughod. He taught me not to pay attention to the ebbs and flows of the daily news. To do so, he warned created unwelcome optimism or unwarranted despair. Instead, he advised me to focus on the deep currents that defined the political landscape. These do not point in a promising direction.

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

POLITICS, POTHOLES AND PRICE DROPS

Kenya plans to export its first oil in June, but analysts say the test phase faces major challenges and appears motivated primarily by political considerations just months ahead of elections. British company Tullow announced the discovery of oil in Kenya in March 2012, when prices were well over \$100 a barrel, close to Lkichar in the country's arid Turkana region. Since then reserves totalling 750 million barrels have been found and there are hopes of more to come. But at the same time oil prices crashed and have been slow to recover.

Kenya's oil is good quality - with low sulphur content and good density - but with a wax-like consistency meaning it must be transported at a high temperature to keep it liquid, making the cost of exporting it higher.

By road and pipe

Turkana is deep inland so Kenya's oil will only be available for export after the construction of a 900 km pipeline to a new port to be constructed at Lamu on the Indian Ocean coast. The pipe is planned to move around 100,000 barrels per day, but construction is not expected to start until next year. In the meantime, Kenya has announced a two-year "pilot program" moving a modest 2,000 barrels a day by road, more than 1,000 km to the existing port of Mombasa. The journey along congested and badly maintained roads takes several days. Promised road repairs on the first 300 km are behind schedule but might be completed in August, local media reports.

Discount...

In the national press the government presents the road exports as a way to "test

the market" and says buyers in China and India are interested. Andrew Kamau, a senior official in Kenya's energy ministry, told AFP the pilot program is about increasing understanding of how the oil reserves will respond to full-scale extraction. "The idea is to get information, of course we're not going to make any profit during the pilot scheme," Kamau said. "If you extract oil during these tests, you might as well export it," he added. Kamau said the early exports will allow foreign refineries to get used to the specific characteristics of Kenyan crude, and to take the price hit early that often accompanies new oil entering the global market. "I'd rather suffer the discount when I produce 2,000 barrels a day rather than when I produce 100,000," he said.

... and distraction

But such explanations do not impress critics. "This early oil pilot scheme is a distraction from what really matters, that is getting the pipeline done and starting production properly," said Charles Wanguhu, director of the Kenya Civil Society Platform on Oil and Gas (KCSPOG), adding that it is "not good value for money". According to his organization's calculations, production has to double and prices increase significantly if the government is to avoid losing tens of millions of dollars under the pilot programme.

WTI crude, the US benchmark, is trading at around \$49 but Turkana crude is unlikely to achieve this price when it enters the market, suffering a discount due to its novelty and small volumes. The government estimates that the pilot program will be

profitable at \$43, according to energy minister Charles Keter, but KCSPOG says the real break-even is closer to \$53, a figure backed by an oil industry source.

PR stunt?

"It is normal that there should be a test phase, but in these cases, one generally limits oneself to learning the properties and

reactions of the reservoirs, one tests the extraction but one does not launch it on the market," said Benjamin Auge, a researcher at the French Institute of International Relations (known by its French acronym, IFRI). And many observers see it as nothing more than a publicity stunt ahead of general elections on August 8 aimed at allowing the government to claim a success.

HEALTHCARE VICTORY BUILDS REPUBLICANS' CONFIDENCE

Finally, a good day for Republicans. Nearly four months into the era of Trump, Republicans gave weary supporters reason to think there's still hope for the bold promises of Campaign 2016. With a House vote Thursday to repeal Barack Obama's healthcare law, the party showed it could pick up the pieces after a humiliating failure six weeks ago and demonstrated the first flicker of signs that it may be able to find consensus within its divided ranks.

The momentum appeared to carry over beyond health care. The House vote came hours after Trump signed an order to promote religious expression. GOP legislators moved closer to rolling back Obama-era financial regulations. The Senate approved a spending bill averting a government shutdown that would have been disastrous for the party with a monopoly on power.

But the hunger for a win may have

come at a cost. House Republicans pushed through the healthcare bill with only a vote to spare and no Democratic support - reminiscent of the passage of the so-called Obamacare law it unraveled. The bill's fate is uncertain in the Senate, which is sure to change it. Democrats quickly served notice they would hold Republicans accountable for what they predicted could be a disastrous impact on some of the sickest Americans.

But for one day, at least, Republicans decided to celebrate. Immediately after the healthcare vote, House Republicans piled onto buses and headed to the White House for a sun-splashed Rose Garden celebration - a rare event for a bill that has cleared only one chamber of Congress. "This really helps," Trump said, saying that the vote had brought fractious Republicans together and laid the foundation for future victories on tax cuts and more. —AFP

HURDLER HARRISON TWEETED OF BROKE HAND BEFORE WIN

LOS ANGELES: World record-holder Kendra Harrison tweeted Friday that her 100m hurdles victory at the Doha Diamond League meeting came with a broken hand. "Broke my hand during my final push out," Harrison wrote on the social media site. "Nothing but Gods strength & my determination that got me through that race w/ a win. #backtowork" She retweeted a picture of medical personnel bandaging her left hand and forearm. "@Ken_AYE shows GRIT by winning Doha 100mH DL after breaking her hand warming up!" her coach Edrick Floreal posted on Twitter. "was rushed to the hospital after the race!" It was not immediately clear how the injury might affect her preparations for the 2017 World Championships in London in August. Harrison created a sensation when she broke the 28-year-old 100m hurdles world record with a time of 12.20sec in Paris last July 22. The feat helped make up somewhat for her failure to make the US Olympic team for Rio. —AFP

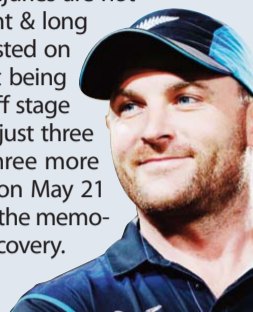


BANGLADESHI DIES IN CLASH OVER IPL BET

DHAKA: A Bangladeshi man has died after a clash over illegal betting on an Indian Premier League Twenty20 tournament match, police said yesterday. Santosh Kumar, 33, died in a hospital on Friday night, two days after the incident in the northern Lalmonirhat district. "He bet taka 50 (62 cents) with some of friends over an IPL match on May 2. He won the bet but others refused to pay him the money, triggering an altercation," local police inspector Mostafa Kamal told AFP. "During the quarrel, someone kicked him on the scrotum, leaving him injured. He died in Rangpur Medical College Hospital," he said. Police are investigating the death, but no arrests have been made so far. Betting is illegal in Bangladesh but remains widespread in rural areas, especially during domestic and international cricket matches. Last year Bangladesh telecoms regulators blocked 12 betting sites following a request from the police. IPL is a popular event in the South Asian nation, broadcast live by a local television station. Two local cricketers-all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and left arm fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman have taken part in the cash-rich event this season. —AFP

INJURED MCCULLUM TO MISS REST OF IPL

NEW DELHI: New Zealand's Brendon McCullum has been ruled out of the remainder of the Indian Premier League season with a hamstring strain, heaping fresh misery on his Gujarat Lions team. The dashing opener injured his left hamstring during the seven-wicket defeat against Delhi Daredevils on Thursday-a result that saw the Lions being knocked out of contention for the playoffs. McCullum, 35, is currently the second-highest run-getter for Lions this season with 320 runs from 11 outings. "Injuries are not ideal but part of our sport. Compressed tournament & long travel can be gruelling," the former Kiwi skipper posted on his official Twitter account late Friday. "Sorry for not being there all the way." The Lions had reached the playoff stage in the last IPL but struggled this season, managing just three wins in 11 matches. They are scheduled to play three more matches in the Twenty20 tournament which ends on May 21 after nearly two months of action. "Thank you for all the memories, @bazmccullum! Here's wishing you a speedy recovery. You will be missed!" tweeted the Lions. — AFP



CHICAGO: New York Yankees' Aaron Judge is tagged out at home plate by Chicago Cubs catcher Willson Contreras, right, during the second inning of an interleague baseball game. — AP

GARDNER LIFTS YANKS OVER CUBS 3-2

CHICAGO: Brett Gardner lined a slider from Hector Rondon into the right-field bleachers with two outs in the ninth inning for a three-run homer that lifted the New York Yankees over the World Series champion Chicago Cubs 3-2 in a dramatic series opener Friday. Home runs by Kris Bryant in the first and Kyle Schwarber in the sixth off Michael Pineda staked the Cubs to a 2-0 lead on a 45-degree afternoon with the wind blowing in.

Chase Headley singled with one out in the ninth off Rondon (0-1), pitching after Wade Davis appeared in the previous three games. Jacoby Ellsbury, in his first appearance since injuring an elbow Monday, pinch hit with two outs and walked after a 2-1 pitch at the knees was called a ball by umpire Ryan Blakney. Gardner fouled off a pair of 1-2 fastballs, took a ball and on his seventh pitch of the at-bat - the 29th to Gardner in the game - he hit his fifth home run of the season, all in the last six games. Aroldis Chapman, who received his World Series ring from the Cubs before the game, had to pitch out of trouble in the bottom half for his seventh save. Jonathan Holder (1-0) pitched a one-hit eighth for his first major league victory,

helping combine on a four-hitter.

METS 8, MARLINS 7

TJ Rivera homered early and hit a two-run double to tie the score in a five-run seventh inning that rallied New York past Miami. Wilmer Flores drew a four-pitch walk from Kyle Barraclough with the bases loaded and two outs to force in the go-ahead run. New York opened the inning with six straight hits off normally reliable reliever Brad Ziegler (1-2), who did not retire a batter. The Mets trailed 7-1 after Miami scored six times with two outs in the fourth, highlighted by two-run doubles from Justin Bour and Miguel Rojas. Curtis Granderson launched a two-run homer off starter Tom Koehler in the bottom half, and New York came all the way back on a rainy night to hand the Marlins their eighth loss in 10 games. Jerry Blevins (2-0) pitched a scoreless seventh, and Addison Reed worked a one-hit eighth before Jeurys Familia got three quick outs for his third save.

ORIOLES 4, WHITE SOX 2

Gabriel Ynoa pitched six sharp innings after

starter Wade Miley was forced out of the game by the impact of two line drives, and Baltimore got a home run from Chris Davis in a victory over Chicago. Miley left after being drilled by successive batters. First, he was struck in the left wrist by a shot off the bat of Jose Abreu. Two pitches later, Avisail Garcia ripped a comebacker that hit Miley in the left thigh and knocked him off his feet. That ended Miley's night after 12 pitches. He got only two outs, the shortest outing of his career. The Orioles later announced his injury as a left wrist contusion. Ynoa (1-0) gave up six hits, walked none and struck out five. Brad Brach got his sixth save. Miguel Gonzalez (3-2) allowed two runs in 6 2/3 innings.

ASTROS 7, ANGELS 6

Carlos Correa singled home Jose Altuve in the 10th inning and Houston blew a four-run lead in the ninth before rallying for a victory over Los Angeles. Altuve singled, stole second and scored on Correa's line drive off Bud Norris (0-1) in the Astros' fifth victory in six games. Dallas Keuchel remained unbeaten while pitching seven-hit ball, but the AL Pitcher of the Month was chased by three straight singles to open the ninth. Kole Calhoun eventually capped the rally with a tying RBI single off Ken Giles (1-1) with two out.

DODGERS 8, PADRES 2

Rookie Cody Bellinger homered twice and drove in four runs, and Kenta Maeda and five relievers combined on a four-hitter to lead Los Angeles over San Diego. Bellinger has four homers in 10 games. He avoided being sent back to the minors when Adrian Gonzalez went on the disabled list for the first time in his 14-year career. Sergio Romo (1-1) got two outs and the win, and Josh Fields retired the final four batters for his first save. San Diego's Jose Torres (1-2) gave up two runs while getting two outs in the sixth inning.

NATIONALS 4, PHILLIES 2

Stephen Strasburg hit his second major league home run and pitched 5 2/3 scoreless innings, leading Washington over Philadelphia. Strasburg (3-1) allowed five hits, struck out five and walked four, leaving after 119 pitches and failing to go seven innings for the first time this season. Strasburg homered

in the second on a 93 mph fastball from Nick Pivetta (0-2) for a 2-0 lead. Ryan Zimmerman hit his 12th homer, doubled and raised his average to .433 with a three-hit game.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, ROCKIES 3

Paul Goldschmidt homered twice and drove in five runs, helping Zack Greinke and Arizona beat Colorado. Goldschmidt hit a solo shot in the first and a three-run drive in the third, giving him homers in three straight at-bats and his 10th career multihomer game. Greinke (3-2) baffled Colorado all night, allowing two runs over seven innings to help the Diamondbacks pull within a half-game of the front-running Rockies in the NL West. Colorado right-hander German Marquez (0-2) was roughed up for five runs in six innings. He pitched six scoreless innings at Arizona on Sunday.

CARDINALS 10, BRAVES 0

Tommy Pham doubled and hit a two-run homer after his recall from the minors, Matt Carpenter also hit a two-run homer and St. Louis overcame injuries to two starting outfielders to beat Atlanta. Lance Lynn (4-1) allowed four hits in six innings. Pham was recalled from Triple-A Memphis and started in center field after outfielder Stephen Piscotty was placed on the 10-day disabled list with a right hamstring strain. Dexter Fowler also was held out with a strained right shoulder suffered in Thursday's 5-4 loss to Milwaukee. Mike Folynevicz (0-4) gave up seven runs and nine hits with two walks in four innings.

TWINS 4, RED SOX 3

Joe Mauer hit a solo home run in the ninth inning to lift Minnesota over Boston. Mauer's first career walk-off home run landed in the bullpen in left-center field and backed a strong start from Phil Hughes in the Twins' fifth win in six games. Chris Young's pinch-hit, two-run single off Brandon Kintzler (1-0) in the top of the ninth tied the game at 3. Mauer picked up Kintzler with his second home run of the season, this one coming off Matt Barnes (3-1).

REDS 13, GIANTS 3

Matt Cain was rocked for nine runs, matching the most he has allowed in the major leagues, and Jose Peraza drove in a

career-high four runs in the first four innings to lead Cincinnati over San Francisco. Cain (2-1) allowed 10 hits and threw 78 pitches in 3 1/3 innings. Five of the six batters he walked scored, and his ERA rose from 2.30 to 4.70. San Francisco pitchers walked 12 in all, the team's most since 2011, and the Giants fell to an NL-worst 11-19. Bronson Arroyo (3-2) gave up three runs, five hits and a walk over 5 1/3 innings.

TIGERS 7, ATHLETICS 2

Michael Fulmer pitched eight innings of two-run ball after his start was pushed back a day due to rain, Jim Adduci hit a bases-loaded triple and Detroit beat Oakland.

Fulmer (3-1) struck out nine and walked two after having his scheduled outing in Detroit rained out. Only one of the runs allowed by the 2016 AL Rookie of the Year was earned. The Tigers scored two runs in the third and three in the sixth to chase starter Andrew Triggs (4-2).

ROYALS 3, INDIANS 1

Jason Hammel allowed three hits over six innings for his first win with Kansas City and Eric Hosmer sent a two-run homer splashing into the fountains behind the fence in right-center field. Hammel (1-3) struck out six and walked two, ending a six-start winless streak dating to Sept 19, when he defeated Cincinnati for the Chicago Cubs. Rookie Scott Alexander, Joakim Soria and Kelvin Herrera combined for one-hit relief. Herrera allowed Edwin Encarnacion's two-out double in the ninth before retiring Jose Ramirez on a groundout for his fourth save in five chances. Danny Salazar (2-3) gave up two runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings.

BLUE JAYS 8, RAYS 4

Kendrys Morales had two late homers and drove in five runs, helping Toronto rally from a three-run deficit to beat Tampa Bay. Morales hit a two-run shot during the seventh inning and completed his 18th career multihomer game with a three-run drive off Jumbo Diaz (0-2) in a five-run eighth that put Toronto ahead 8-4. Aaron Loup (1-0) limited the Rays to one run after Tampa Bay loaded the bases with no outs in the seventh. — AP

MLB results/standings

LA Dodgers 8, San Diego 2; Texas 3, Seattle 1 (13 innings); Houston 7, LA Angels 6 (10 innings); Detroit 7, Oakland 2; Arizona 6, Colorado 3; Kansas City 3, Cleveland 1; Minnesota 4, Boston 3; St. Louis 10, Atlanta 0; Toronto 8, Tampa Bay 4; NY Mets 8, Miami 7; Baltimore 4, Chicago White Sox 2; Pittsburgh 4, Milwaukee 0; Washington 4, Philadelphia 2; Cincinnati 13, San Francisco 3; NY Yankees 3, Chicago Cubs 2.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	20	9	.690
NY Yankees	18	9	.667	NY Mets	13	15	.464
Baltimore	18	10	.643	Miami	12	16	.429
Boston	15	14	.517	Philadelphia	12	16	.429
Tampa Bay	15	16	.484	Atlanta	11	16	.407
Toronto	10	19	.345				
Central Division				Central Division			
Minnesota	15	12	.556	Chicago Cubs	16	13	.552
Chicago White Sox	15	13	.536	Cincinnati	15	14	.517
Cleveland	15	13	.536	Milwaukee	15	15	.500
Detroit	15	13	.536	St. Louis	14	14	.500
Kansas City	10	18	.357	Pittsburgh	13	16	.448
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	20	10	.667	Colorado	18	12	.600
LA Angels	15	16	.484	Arizona	18	13	.581
Seattle	13	17	.433	LA Dodgers	16	14	.533
Texas	13	17	.433	San Diego	12	19	.387
Oakland	12	17	.414	San Francisco	11	19	.367

GERMANY STUNS US 2-1 AT ICE WORLDS; CANADA, RUSSIA WIN

PARIS: Winger Patrick Hager scored a late winning goal on his home ice as Germany stunned the United States with a 2-1 win on the opening day of the ice hockey world championships on Friday. Three minutes after the Americans had equalized through defenseman Connor Murphy, the Germans scored a scrappy second on a power-play with six minutes remaining. Left winger Hager got the slightest touch to Yannic Seidenberg's slapshot through traffic and goaltender Jimmy Howard was beaten from close range.

"We had good energy coming into the game and we had to channel that in the right way," Hager said. "We worked hard, and we worked as a team." At the Lanxess Arena in Cologne, where Hager plays his club hockey for DEL team Koeln Haie, more than 18,000 fans watched the Germans go 1-0 ahead 11 minutes into the first period through Arizona Coyotes right winger Tobias Rieder. He showed good composure to finish from close range after a speculative shot from the right was poorly dealt with by Howard, who allowed the puck to cannon off his pad.

"It was the first game of the tournament, the crowd was crazy and that definitely helped," German center Brooks Macek said. "I think you could see that in our game, we were skating, blocking shots, we were doing the right things." Although Hager got the dramatic winner, German goaltender Thomas Greiss - who plays for the New York Islanders - showed his NHL credentials and was named man of the match.

SUPER-SLICK SPIN

Greiss made 42 saves, including a point-blank pad save from Johnny Gaudreau late in the first period, after the Calgary Flames forward had bamboozled the defense with a super-slick spin and shot on the run.

Gaudreau missed a one-on-one right at the start, and was frustrated by Greiss all night. Greiss made more fine saves until Murphy - Rieder's NHL teammate at Arizona - equalized with nine minutes remaining in the third period with a wrist shot from the top of the right circle.

The US thought it was 2-1 up just moments later, but Islanders forward Anders Lee's shot was somehow scooped right off the line by off-balance defenseman Frank Hordler. Lee was quick to pay tribute to his club teammate Greiss. "I knew it was going to be a tough game; it always is when Greiss is in the net," Lee said. "I've seen what he can do all season and tonight he played an extremely good game." The Germans are back in Group A action against Sweden, while the Americans face Denmark today. The tournament's matches are split between Paris and Cologne. In Group B action in Paris, 26-time world champion Canada opened with a 4-1 victory against 2010 winners Czech Republic.

Buffalo Sabres center Ryan O'Reilly put Canada ahead six minutes into the game. The first period was even enough, with 10 shots each, but the Canadians looked sharper and scored right at the start of the second period when defenseman Mike Matheson's slapshot went through traffic, and unsighted goalie Petr Mrazek could only get his left glove to it late.

Lukas Radil pulled a goal back with about seven minutes left, but there was to be no late comeback as Colorado Avalanche defenseman Tyson Barrie - who had assisted on the first goal - and Carolina Hurricanes forward Jeff Skinner sealed the win. Canada needs one more title to equal Russia's record of 27 - 22 of those achieved as the former Soviet Union. The US won the last of its two titles way back in 1960 but took bronze two years ago.



EDMONTON: Edmonton Oilers defenseman Matthew Benning (83) hits Anaheim Ducks right wing Corey Perry (10) during the first period of Game 4 of an NHL hockey second-round playoff series. —AP

PERRY SCORES IN 2OT TO TOP OILERS, BLUES BEAT PREDATORS

ANAHEIM: Corey Perry and Ryan Getzlaf have been preparing for these moments for their entire adult lives. Nearly 14 years after the Anaheim Ducks drafted them together, they've built a mental connection that remains indelible through any playoff pressure or defensive determination. So when Getzlaf found the puck and a sliver of space on the boards in the second overtime of a crucial playoff game Friday night, Perry's feet moved before his thoughts.

"Right to the net," Perry said. "He had eyes up, and he had time, and I was yelling for that puck the whole way." After the unprecedented comeback required just to get back into Game 5, the Ducks finished it off with one more moment of hard-earned grace from their dynamic duo. Perry scored 6:57 into the second OT after the Ducks rallied from a three-goal deficit in the final minutes of regulation, completing a spectacular 4-3 victory over the Edmonton Oilers and seizing a 3-2 lead in their second-round playoff series.

Anaheim became the first team in Stanley Cup playoff history to force overtime or win a playoff game after trailing by three goals with less than four minutes left in regulation, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. While the Oilers cried foul over a no-call of goalie interference on Rickard Rakell's tying score with 15 seconds left in regulation, the Ducks celebrated their third straight win - and the first home victory for either team in the series.

Perry, who finished with a goal and two

assists, collected that pass from Getzlaf and waited out a sprawling Cam Talbot, who made 60 saves. "That's will," said Getzlaf, who has scored 15 points in a spectacular postseason. "We willed it through, and did whatever we had to do. We scratched and clawed at the end and found a way to get ourselves back in that game and give ourselves an opportunity." Game 6 is Sunday in Edmonton.

Getzlaf got the first goal of the comeback with 3:16 left in regulation, and Cam Fowler scored 35 seconds later before Rakell put the tying goal through a crowd of prone players to cap a stunning sequence - all with goalie John Gibson pulled for an extra attacker. On his 24th birthday, Rakell slipped a puck under a crowd that included a horizontal Ryan Kesler making some contact with Talbot. Video review found no goalie interference because Kesler had been shoved into Talbot by Darnell Nurse, and the Ducks celebrated madly.

BLUES 2, PREDATORS 1

The St. Louis Blues needed a spark. Dmitrij Jaskin gave it to them. Jaskin scored in his first playoff game this season, Jaden Schwartz got the game-winner and the Blues topped the Nashville Predators 2-1 on Friday night to stay alive in their second-round series. Jaskin found out moments before the game he was in the lineup in place of Alexander Steen, who was sidelined by a lower-body injury. Jaskin had just

one goal in 51 games this season.

"Steen, even though he didn't play, he supported us," he said. "He actually called that I'm going to score." Schwartz scored 25 seconds into the third, knocking in a rebound from right in front for a 2-1 St. Louis lead. Schwartz has a team-high four postseason goals, including three game-winners. "You'd like to score earlier, but you don't really think about that," he said. "You just go play and obviously when it's a tie game or a close game, you want to step up for your team." Jake Allen made 21 saves for the Blues, who had dropped two in a row. James Neal scored for the Predators, and Pekka Rinne made 30 saves. "Both of those goals came out of leaving a guy in front of me," Rinne said. "Both times, two rebounds, two goals." Game 6 is in Nashville on Sunday.

Jaskin put the Blues in front at 5:43 of the second period, banging home a rebound off an Alex Pietrangolo shot. It was Jaskin's second career playoff goal. "We felt confident that he would go in and play a really good game," Blues coach Mike Yeo said. "I thought he was a force along the walls on both ends and a difference maker." Jaskin had a career-high eight shots on goal. He also tied for the team lead with four hits and had two takeaways and two blocked shots in 15:46 of playing time. "We had to do it tonight and we did it and everybody's happy," Jaskin said. "We're going to enjoy it now for a few minutes and forget it and go get another one." —AP



PARIS: Czech Republic's forward Roman Horak (C) challenges Canada's defender Josh Morrissey during the IIHF Men's World Championship group B ice hockey match between the Czech Republic and Canada. —AP

HURLEY, POWER SHARE LEAD IN RAIN-DELAYED WELLS FARGO

WILMINGTON: Once the rain finally stopped, the wind took over Friday in the Wells Fargo Championship. Billy Hurley III and Seamus Power of Ireland did their best to figure out the strong gusts and wound up atop the leaderboard at the end of a long day. The second round started three hours late because of a violent storm that dumped nearly 2 inches of rain on Eagle Point, and 65 players had to return Saturday morning to complete the round. Hurley hit a 4-iron from 174 yards that came up 15 yards short, and he managed to get up-and-down to cap off a strong finish for a 3-under 69. Power shot a 71 and joined Hurley at 5-under 139. John Peterson's last hole was a birdie on the par-5 12th hole. He was at 5 under and had six holes to play Saturday morning. Francesco Molinari of Italy, who opened with a 66, also was at 5 under and had seven holes remaining.

Dustin Johnson couldn't get off the golf course fast enough. In his first tournament since a slip down the stairs knocked him out of the Masters, Johnson opened with a tough par save and a birdie to get within two shots of the lead until dropping shots on a pair of par 3s, getting out of position off the tee on the reachable par 5s and ending with a third bogey on No. 13.

Johnson was 2 over for his round, five shots out of the lead. With the worst of the weather out of the way, one bizarre dynamic was in play depending on how the second round finishes Saturday morning. When play was halted by darkness, 80 players were at 1 over (either finished or on their back nine). That could mean only a six-shot separation between leading and making the cut on the number, meaning a wide-open weekend. The key was to get through Friday's wild weather.

MIGHTY GUST

The wind was so strong that it blew Phil Mickelson's hat off his head as he was preparing to hit his tee shot. Mickelson went along nicely until missing the green to the right on No. 9, dumping a chip into the bunker and making double bogey on his last hole for a 72. He was at 1-under 143. "It was more difficult with the wind," Hurley said. "Thankfully, with the rain it was softer. It didn't have this rain, and then we had this wind, it would have been pretty brutal. So we didn't have to completely worry about the ball running away from you on the ground as much as it did yesterday."

Hurley was 1 over for his round when he ran off four birdies over his last seven holes, including a couple from tap-in range, yet it was the par on No. 9 that excited him as much as the birdies. The green is exposed as much as any at Eagle Point, and he holed a 10-foot par putt. Power played No. 9 in the middle of his round, hit a 6-iron and came up

40 yards short. His pitch barely reached the fringe, and he made bogey. Walking back up the hill to face the 186-yard, downhill 10th hole, he hit 5-iron and held his breath.

"It's unusual. It messes with your eyes because you're uncomfortable hitting that show knowing that if the wind dies, you might watch a ball sail into the water around the greens," Power said. "You've just got to pick a number and you've got to go with and just try to get through those." Jon Rahm of Spain knows the feeling.

Rahm made five birdies and had to settle for a 71, but he was at 4-under 140 along with Vaughn Taylor (69), Rafa Cabrera Bello (71) and Brian Harman (69). Rahm began his round on the par-3 10th with a shot that came up some 20 yards short of the pin. What really got his attention was the par-3 second hole, where he hit a beautiful tee shot that went 192 yards - except the hole was playing only 161 yards.

"There were a couple moments where the difference between the wind being just straight right-to-left or being a little bit in, that wind could mean easily 20 yards because it was blowing so hard," Rahm said. "What happened to me on No. 2, after a great stretch of holes, I carried it about 30 yards farther than what I wanted. I'm not the only one dealing with this. It probably happened to a couple other guys where they were 20 yards short or 20 yards long." Was it more fun than a calm day? Rahm smiled. "It is fun because I played good," he said. "But it does get a little frustrating sometimes." —AP



WILMINGTON: Phil Mickelson tees off of the 12th hole during the second round of the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament. —AP

TIME FOR SPORTS TO TAKE A LOOK IN THE MIRROR AFTER UGLY WEEK

By Paul Newberry

Time to take a look in the mirror. From Adam Jones being taunted with racial slurs in Boston to monkey chants directed at an African soccer player in Italy, it's clear that racism in sports remains a worldwide scourge. But we can't rely on athletes or team owners or corporate sponsors to stamp out this appalling cancer.

For ignorance to be defeated, everyone must speak up. If you're sitting in the stands and hear a racial epithet, find the nearest usher. Point out the offender. Make it clear that you won't stand for that kind of language. That's what happened at Fenway Park, one night after Jones came forward. Calvin Hennick, a Boston resident bringing his son to his first Red Sox game as a present for his sixth birthday, heard a nearby fan use a racist slur when referring to the national anthem singer, Hennick summoned security. The other fan was ejected and permanently banned from returning to Fenway Park. Though it's not clear how such a penalty will actually be enforced, it was an encouraging sign that some fans, at least, aren't going to put up with hateful language. "I'm glad the Sox are encouraging fans to come forward," Hennick said. "I was just pleased that they took it really seriously." This needs to be norm, not an anomaly. While Hennick, who is white and has a biracial son, said he might have spoken out anyway, we'll never really know if the uproar over Jones' treatment inspired him to take a stand. What we do know: There were plenty of other fans who surely heard what was going on and let it slide, just as there were surely those who did nothing when they heard the racist garbage directed at the Baltimore outfielder the previous night. Of course, it's more comfortable to sit on the sideline than to get involved.

How many of us - particularly if we're white - have chosen to say nothing when family or friends spewed a racially derogatory comment, wrongly assuming that we share their ugly view of the world since we have same skin color? We decide to just put up with it, assuring ourselves there's nothing we can do change a bigot's mind, patting ourselves on the back for not being so intolerant.

I'll raise my hand.

Guilty as charged.

And that's all it takes for ignorance to flourish. Silence.



BOSTON: Boston Red Sox President Sam Kennedy, right, talks with Baltimore Orioles' Adam Jones before a baseball game, Tuesday, May 2, 2017. —AP

Next thing you know, you're at a ballgame, sitting right next to a fan who vocalizes their disdain for an athlete because of their race. Or religion. Or sexual orientation. If you remained silent at home, chances are you're not going to get involved in a stadium packed with thousands of strangers. You sit that one out, too. And ignorance wins again.

"It's the reality of the world that we live" in, said Red Sox President Sam Kennedy. "Hopefully," he added, referring to Hennick's bold stance, "this is a step forward." We've still got so far to go. After Jones revealed what he'd been through, former Red Sox pitcher and current toxic blowhard Curt Schilling questioned whether the episode actually happened.

Demonstrating that he knows even less about racial intolerance than he knew about starting a video game company, Schilling said on his webcast, "I don't believe the story, given the world we live in." Apparently, he lives in a world I'm not familiar with. Go on, No. 38.

"I don't believe it, for this reason: Everybody is starving and hungry to sit in front of a camera and talk and be social justice warriors. And if a fan yelled loud enough in center field for Adam Jones to hear the N-word, I guarantee you we would've heard and seen fans around on CNN on MSNBC, they would've found multiple fans to talk about what a racist piece of junk Boston is."

So, in the World According to Curt, Jones made up a story about racial slurs for the fame. That makes a lot of sense, especially when you

consider how Colin Kaepernick's career took off after he took a knee to protest police brutality and a flawed justice system. Oh, what's that? Kaepernick is still unemployed? Well, how can that be? He had a better rating than 15 other starting quarterbacks last season. We'll have to check with Schilling on that one and get back you. Meanwhile, Italian soccer authorities showed about as much sensitivity as Bull Connor after Ghanaian player Sulley Muntari was subjected to racial abuse that was evident for everyone to hear during a Serie A game on the island of Sardinia last weekend. Instead of stopping the game and warning the fans at Cagliari to stop, the referee ejected Muntari from the game for his complaints. Compounding that horrendous decision, the league tacked on an additional one-game suspension for the player - a decision that was overturned on Friday, but only after protests from around the world. Just as troubling, Cagliari escaped punishment because Serie A's disciplinary body said only 10 fans were to blame.

Well, one racist fan is too many.

It's time to do the right thing.

Let's start with that person in the mirror.

NOTE: Paul Newberry is a sports columnist for The Associated Press

HAMILTON TOPS UK SPORT'S RICH LIST AS IBRAHIMOVIC CASHES IN

LONDON: Formula One star Lewis Hamilton has cemented his position as the richest sportsman in the UK, while Manchester United forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic cashed in with a rise to second on the new Sunday Times Rich List. Mercedes driver Hamilton, who is bidding to win his fourth World Championship this year, has a £131 million (\$169 million, 154 million euros) for-

tone and has seen his wealth increase by £25 million in the last 12 months.

Ibrahimovic leapfrogged Old Trafford team-mate Wayne Rooney to become the richest footballer on the list after he joined United last July. The 35-year-old Swede, recently hit by a serious knee injury, has a wealth of £110 million after more than a decade playing for the likes of Paris St Germain, AC Milan, Barcelona

and Juventus, as well as a lucrative long-term endorsement deal with Nike.

Formula One's Jenson Button and golfer Rory McIlroy make up the top five with wealth of £86 million and £82 million respectively. McIlroy's fortune rose by £26 million in the last 12 months, the biggest rise on the list, while Button's personal fortune grew by £9 million even though he handed over his

McLaren seat at the end of last season.

Football is the most represented sport in the top 10, with five of the wealthiest sports people either players or managers. Rooney has amassed £93 million to take third place, while Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho is in seventh with £61 million. Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola's £50 million makes him joint ninth with

Los Angeles Lakers basketball player Luol Deng. Wales and Real Madrid striker Gareth Bale has seen his wealth rise by £20 million in the last year to a total of £54 million, to place him eighth in the top 10. Reigning Wimbledon champion Andy Murray is now worth £77 million, making the men's tennis world number one the sixth-richest sportsman on the list. — AP

MORGAN GLAD RASHID LEFT IRELAND IN A SPIN

BRISTOL: Eoin Morgan hailed Adil Rashid's "magnificent effort" as the leg-spinner's maiden five-wicket haul laid the platform for England's rapid victory over Ireland. Rashid took five for 27 as Ireland, playing England in England for the first time, were shot out for just 126 in 33 overs during Friday's opening one-day international at Bristol.

Alex Hales (55) and Test captain Joe Root (49 not out) then saw England to their victory target of 127 for the loss of three wickets. So lopsided was the contest, with barely more than half the day's overs-53 out of a maximum 100 — bowled, there was no need for the standard 45-minute break between innings. Rashid's 23 wickets during England's 4-0 Test series defeat in India late last year came at a costly average of nearly 38 apiece.

But it's one thing bowling to Indian batsmen renowned for playing spin, especially in home conditions, and quite another doing so against Ireland, for all that several members of their top order have English county experience behind them. Friday saw the 29-year-old Rashid take the second-best ODI figures by an England specialist spinner, behind Vic Marks's five for 20 against New Zealand at Wellington in 1984. That off-spinner Marks, who dismissed all of New Zealand's top five that day, including such noted batsmen as Bruce Edgar, Geoff Howarth, the late Martin Crowe, and his brother Jeff, accounted for a rather more distinguished quintet than Rashid was hardly the Yorkshireman's fault. Victory left England 1-0 up in the two-match series, with Ireland needing to bounce back quickly if they are to avoid further embarrassment in Sunday's showpiece finale at Lord's.

"It was Adil's day today," said Morgan, England's Dublin-born ODI captain. "I thought he put in a magnificent effort with

the ball. "He had a tough winter and has learnt a huge amount to come back today with confidence to bowl his variations and show how threatening he can be." Rashid defeated a succession of Ireland batsmen with the googly during his eight overs on Friday as he made life easy for the man-of-the-match adjudicator.

'Confidence'

"You have good days and bad days—it's how you deal with it," Rashid said. "It's a learning curve." As for his googly, a delivery that turns towards a right-handed batsman rather than away as does a standard leg-break, Rashid added: "Some days you feel great, the googlies come out pretty hard to pick; some days they don't."

"When it doesn't stick to the sliders or leg-spinners ... but some days it comes out exceptionally well, and then I have the confidence to bowl them." On a ground with relatively short straight boundaries, England opted against playing two specialist spinners and left out Moeen Ali.

But with part-time off-spinner Root, a Yorkshire team-mate of Rashid, chipping in with two for nine from five overs, England had a useful back-up option.

"I think you find a lot of teams we come up against under-estimate Joe (as a bowler), and using him has worked for us probably more so in Twenty20 cricket," said Morgan. Peter Chase's three wickets apart, there were precious few highlights for the visitors in a defeat made all the more acute by the fact it came with Ireland eyeing Test status. "I'd never use the phrase out of (our) depth," said Ireland captain William Porterfield. "We wouldn't necessarily have envisaged that spin would do the damage. "Not taking anything away from Rashid, we should have played it a lot better. "That's something we need to mentally put right for Sunday." — AFP



MONZA: Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge crosses the finish line of a marathon race at the Monza Formula One racetrack. — AP

KIPCHOGE FALLS 26 SECS SHORT OF 1ST SUB 2-HOUR MARATHON

MONZA, Italy: Eliud Kipchoge was 26 seconds from making history yesterday but the Olympic champion finished just short of becoming the first person to run a marathon in less than two hours. Kipchoge ran the 26.2 miles (42.2 kilometers) around an oval track in an impressive 2 hours, 25 seconds, smashing Dennis Kimetto's world mark of 2:02:57 by 2 1/2 minutes and raising hopes that one of world sport's most famous barriers can be broken.

"We are human," Kipchoge said. "I am happy that I've reduced by 2 1/2 minutes the world record." The Kenyan added: "We are going up the tree ... I have lifted a branch and I am going onto the next one. This is not the end of the attempt of runners on two hours." Widely considered the best marathon runner in the world, Kipchoge did break his personal best time of 2:03:05, which was set at the London Marathon last year. Kimetto set the world mark in Berlin in 2014.

Organizers first listed Kipchoge's time as a second faster, then changed it to 25 seconds off the 2-hour mark. "I rank this as the highest-ever performance in my life," Kipchoge said. "The aim of 'Breaking2' was to pass the message that running less than two-hour marathon is possible. That message is really special to me."

It wasn't a road race, with runners completing 17.5 laps around the 1.5-mile Monza Formula One track. The Breaking2 project was held on the 63rd anniversary of Roger Bannister breaking the four-minute mile in 1954. Kipchoge's time didn't go down as an official world record, sanctioned by the IAAF, due to variables like pacers entering mid-race and drinks being given to runners via mopeds.

AUDACIOUS ATTEMPT

And, after three years of planning, Nike's audacious attempt at breaking the two-hour barrier remained just that, despite the aid of a shoe that its designers say will make runners four percent more efficient.

"I've been part of many races over my career at Nike. I've seen the magic of gold shoes and swift suits. I've seen iconic athletes leave it all on the track," Nike CEO Mark Parker said. "But I've never seen anything like what we saw today."

"Today, millions of people around the world watched as running history was written. At Breaking2, Eliud Kipchoge ran 26.2 miles faster than any human ever ... This achievement represents more than a race. It's a moment of global inspiration that will encourage every athlete, in every community, to push the limits of their

potential." The Monza track was selected after extensive research that included average temperature, air pressure and wind levels.

Two-time Boston Marathon winner Lelisa Desisa, from Ethiopia, and Eritrean half-marathon world-record holder Zersenay Tadesse were also part of the attempt, which started at 5:45 a.m. local time, but finished well off the pace. Desisa was dropped after 50 minutes, with Tadesse falling back shortly afterwards. The duo still completed the marathon with Tadesse shaving nearly four minutes off his personal best with a time of 2:06:51. Desisa finished in 2:14:10.

That left just Kipchoge chasing the landmark time. The 32-year-old continued in his trademark relaxed style and passed the halfway mark in 59:54, but his average pace of 4:36 per mile was just not enough, despite his final sprint to the tape. Kipchoge would have needed an average of less than 4:35 per mile — an improvement of about seven seconds per mile on Kimetto's record, or around 2.5 percent. "I tried to maintain the pace," Kipchoge said. "As a human you are not a machine so you cannot go 2.50 exactly, and those micro-seconds really have an effect." This story has been corrected to show that Kipchoge's time was 2 hours, 25 seconds, after a change by organizers. — AP



SYDNEY: Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) chief John Coates speaks before a vote for the president of the AOC at their annual general meeting. — AFP

COATES COASTS TO WIN IN AOC VOTE

SYDNEY: IOC vice president John Coates' first test of his Australian Olympic Committee presidency in nearly three decades turned out to be not much of a contest. Regardless of his resounding win, Coates figures the campaign might have come at a cost to the Olympic fraternity Down Under. Coates will serve another term as AOC chief after easily beating former field hockey gold medalist Danni Roche 58 to 35 in an election during the AOC's annual general meeting in Sydney yesterday.

Coates, who turns 67 on Sunday, is also the coordination chairman of the Tokyo 2020 Games, responsible for ensuring planning for the games is on schedule and on budget. He could have lost his IOC vice presidency and his Tokyo duties if he had been defeated by Roche. It was the first time Coates had faced an election since he became president in 1990, and came amid an acrimonious campaign which divided former athletes and administrators.

"Thank you for the confidence you have shown in me," Coates said after the result was announced. Roche, who announced her candidacy on March 20, later tweeted her congratulations to Coates. Coates later admitted the AOC "brand has been damaged" by the bitter presidency campaign. "It's an election campaign ... it has happened, and you just get on with things," he said. "I'm hoping that the Olympic membership, having experienced this, will come together."

Coates' leadership had been questioned in recent weeks amid accusations of bullying within the organization. His long-time media director, Mike Tancred, stood down from his duties pending an investigation. Tancred has denied the bullying allegations made by former AOC chief executive Fiona de Jong, but said last week he would step aside from his position until the matter was

resolved. Coates and the AOC executive have since agreed to independent reviews into the AOC's workplace practices after the bullying claims.

PIVOTAL MOMENT

In her published campaign platform, the 46-year-old Roche said she would have not accepted Coates' yearly remuneration of 750,000 Australian dollars (\$565,000) and would have proposed a 100,000 Australian dollars (\$75,000) salary package for the president — which she would have waived for the entirety of her term — to illustrate her commitment to the funding of athletes. "Although the AOC's members didn't vote for a change in president, the past six weeks marks a pivotal moment in Australian sport," Roche said after the vote.

"We have started a much-needed conversation about the future direction of Australian sport and the responsibility the Australian Olympic Committee has in supporting its member sports and athletes." Coates had received the endorsement of the AOC athletes' commission, which accounted for two votes yesterday. But its support, which it said was not unanimous, came with strong recommendations for change, including the president's salary.

"The overwhelming response from the athlete population and alumni was that there is a desire for change," it said in a statement. "The Athletes' Commission supports a review of the president's remuneration. Any remuneration should be commensurate with the role undertaken." Eligible voters yesterday included the AOC's executive board members, two members from each of the 33 Summer Olympic sports federations and two each from the seven Australian Winter Olympic federations. Coates has indicated this will be his last term in charge of the AOC, and that he could retire after the Tokyo Games. — AP

PEDROSA PIPS MARQUEZ TO SPANISH GP POLE

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA: Dani Pedrosa narrowly edged out world champion Marc Marquez to start from pole for today's Spanish Grand Prix after a thrilling duel between the Honda team-mates. Despite a late final attempt from Marquez to claim his third pole of the season, he fell 0.049 seconds short of Pedrosa's best time of 1 min 38.249sec. Pedrosa has been in fine form all weekend at the Jerez track as he also topped the timesheets in three of the four practice sessions before claiming his first pole since the Malaysian Grand Prix in 2015.

"Since the return of the Michelin tyres (in 2016) I've found it hard to get on the first row," said Pedrosa. "I had a good feeling and I tried to make the most of my second lap. I had Marc

right behind me so I knew it would be hard for him to set a faster time than me." The two Hondas had left the garage almost side by side to set their flying laps. However, after Pedrosa set the time to beat, Marquez had one last go at bettering his teammate and may even have landed pole but for a slight wobble before entering the home straight.

"Where I normally like it on the straight, I came in too fast and nearly went flying off, but even so it was a good lap and I am happy," said three-time world champion Marquez. Britain's Cal Crutchlow completes the front row despite his qualifying session being interrupted by repeated stings from a wasp that got inside his racing leathers. "After doing my fast lap I felt something go inside," said

Crutchlow. "Then it started to sting me five times or something I had to stop to get it out."

It was a disappointing Saturday for Yamaha duo and the leading two riders in the championship standings Valentino Rossi and Maverick Vinales. Italian veteran Rossi leads Vinales by just six points after three races as he goes for a long-awaited 10th title, but will start from seventh. Vinales, who won the first two races of the season in Qatar and Argentina before crashing out at the Grand Prix of the Americas last time out, leads the second row from fourth. Andrea Iannone and Johann Zarco complete the second row. Three-time Spanish GP winner Jorge Lorenzo's poor start to life with Ducati continued as he could only manage eighth fastest. —AFP



JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA: Repsol Honda Team's Spanish rider Dani Pedrosa takes a curve at Jerez de la Frontera race track on May 6, 2017 during the MotoGP fourth free practice session of the Spanish Red Bull Grand Prix. —AP



TOYOTA GAZOO RACING WINS WEC SEASON OPENER AT SILVERSTONE

Toyota GAZOO Racing scored a dramatic victory recently in the 6 Hours of Silverstone after a thrilling opening round of the 2017 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC). In a race defined by several rain showers, the #8 TS050 Hybrid of Sebastien Buemi, Anthony Davidson and Kazuki Nakajima earned a victory inside the final 15 minutes in front of 50,200 spectators (weekend figure).

As well as the usual winners' trophies, the #8 crew also claimed the Royal Automobile Club International Tourist Trophy, the world's oldest motor race, which was first awarded in 1905 and won by motorsport legends such as Tazio Nuvolari, Graham Hill and Stirling Moss. Through it can be charted the careers of some of the greatest drivers, manufacturers and team staff, some of the most challenging and majestic racetracks, and some of the most innovative technology ever seen in the sport.

The pole-sitting #7 TS050 Hybrid of Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and Jose Marla

Lopez set the fastest lap of the race but lost over an hour due to an accident and finished 23rd. Jose Marla visited the circuit medical center and then travelled to the hospital for a precautionary scan which confirmed he suffered no injuries.

'IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE'

Congratulating the winning team, Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said, "Our cars gave the audience an impressive performance in a very challenging and competitive battle. The race was extremely close, with plenty of lead changes throughout that set the stage for a thrilling finish. Eventually, the #8 crew did an excellent job to hold off the competition and give Toyota a well-deserved victory in the season's opening round, and also earning the historic Royal Automobile Club International Tourist Trophy."

Yoshitsugu added: "The experience and

knowledge gained on the racetracks will benefit us immensely in our efforts to create 'ever-better cars'. I would like to thank our amazing fans for their constant encouragement for our racing initiatives, and we look forward to their support during a promising 2017 season."

On this occasion, Toshio Sato, Team President, said, "This has been a dramatic race but the first priority is Jose Marla, and we are all relieved that he is okay after the accident. The whole team performed well and fought right until the checkered flag. Of course, it is disappointing not to have two cars on the podium, but I am proud of the team for their determination and fighting spirit, particularly the mechanics who worked so quickly to get the #7 car back on track. Overall I am satisfied with our high-down force TS050 Hybrid, which showed robust performance throughout this week." Although the race started in cool, dry conditions and the two Toyota vehicles ran in first and second, the weather soon intervened - after 45 minutes a shower struck and light

rain fell intermittently after that. Close to the second pit stops, the #7 suffered an anti-roll bar problem which created handling difficulties and caused Kamui to lose performance and drop to fourth.

Anthony, now at the wheel of the #8, took over the lead but with two hours completed, the weather worsened and created a very challenging situation. Both TS050 Hybrid vehicles stayed on slick tires throughout. Kamui lost time in the gravel when the rain was at its heaviest, while Anthony in the #8 initially slipped to second. But as the conditions improved, Anthony reclaimed top spot.

GRANDSTAND FINISH

More rain came just after half distance, which caused the end of the #7 car's challenge. Jose Marla, fighting a car with difficult handling, crashed into a tire barrier at speed, causing extensive damage to the front and rear. He brought the car back to the pits and the mechanics worked hard to repair the dam-

age. After 66 minutes in the garage, Mike brought the car back on track in 26th.

That accident brought out a safety car and significantly reduced the #8 car's advantage over the second-placed #2. The close fight continued throughout the final two hours, setting up a grandstand finish, with Sebastien at the wheel for the last stint. When the #2 car emerged from its final pit stop, with 30 minutes remaining, its lead was only eight seconds. Sebastien hunted down the lead with a series of quick lap times, even as more drizzle fell, and eventually overtook with only 12 minutes remaining, taking the win by 6.173 seconds.

The team now prepares for the second round of the season - the 6 Hours of Spa-Francor champs in Belgium, the final race before the Le Mans 24 Hours. Spa-Francor champs will mark the first time Toyota has entered three hybrid-powered LMP1 cars, with Stephane Sarrazin, Yuji Kunimoto and Nicolas Lapierre competing in the #9 TS050 Hybrid.



ALDRIDGE STEPS UP AS SPURS DOWN ROCKETS

HOUSTON: LaMarcus Aldridge had been criticized through two games of the Western Conference semifinals for not doing enough for the San Antonio Spurs. On Friday night, with the Spurs now without Tony Parker, he shook off his slow start to this series with a huge game that propelled his team to a 103-92 victory over the Houston Rockets and a 2-1 lead. Aldridge and Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points apiece in San Antonio's first post-season game without Parker since 2001, which ended an NBA record of 221 straight playoff appearances for the Frenchman. The 34-year-old was injured in the fourth quarter of Game 2. "You can't replace Tony Parker. He's a Hall of Famer one day, but I think guys just came out with a sense of urgency and just played hard," Aldridge said.

Aldridge had managed just 19 points combined in the first two games, but stepped up in the wake of Parker's season-ending leg injury, scoring nine points in the fourth quarter to help the Spurs pull away. "I do what the team needs," Aldridge said. "Tonight this was needed and I did it. So I'm always going to try to be aggressive out there and try to make things happen." Game 4 is today night in Houston.

James Harden led the Rockets with 43 points after scoring just 13 in Game 2. But he had only five assists and complained about the officiating all night. "We had several opportunities," Harden said. "As a unit we couldn't get it going consistently." Coach Gregg Popovich started rookie Dejounte Murray in San Antonio's first game since Parker's quadriceps injury, instead of moving Patty Mills into the starting lineup. Mills had 15 points in 30 minutes and Murray scored just two points in 15 minutes.

ALL-STAR

"We started off pretty slow, but I think we did good," said Leonard, who had 10 rebounds and seven assists. "We got a win, but definitely still have to make some adjustments." The Spurs led by six when Aldridge scored all of their points in a 7-2 run to make it 85-74 with about five minutes left. "Aldridge sooner or later is going to go off because he's an All-Star," Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said. "Nothing they did should have bothered us. We just didn't play well." Houston scored six straight points soon after that to get within eight, but Danny Green made two 3-pointers in less than a minute to push the lead to 94-82 with

less than three minutes remaining. San Antonio was up by six entering the fourth quarter and had a five-point lead with about 7 1/2 minutes remaining when Harden was given a technical foul for complaining after not getting a call. Leonard made the free throw to make it 78-72.

The Spurs led by four at halftime and pushed the lead to 52-43 early in the third quarter. San Antonio was up by 10 soon after that before the Rockets used a 10-1 spurt, with all the points from Harden, to cut it to 56-55 midway through the quarter. Jonathon Simmons hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to leave San Antonio up 72-66 entering the fourth quarter.

Harden picked up his third foul with 5:18 left in the first quarter when he ran into Pau Gasol and crashed to the court while attempting a 3-pointer. Harden was outraged at the call, flipping over on his stomach on the court and kicking his legs in disbelief. He remained upset after a timeout, approaching a referee and arguing the call, before finally calming down.

TIP-INS

Spurs: Parker had surgery on Friday to repair the ruptured quadriceps tendon in his left leg. The team said a timeline for his return will be determined later. ... Gasol had 12 points and nine rebounds. ... Green had 11 points.

Rockets: Trevor Ariza made five 3-pointers in the first half, but none after that. ... Patrick Beverley received a technical foul in the fourth quarter. ... Capela finished with 12 points and 16 rebounds. ... Houston lost for the first time at home this postseason after winning their first three games. — AP



HOUSTON: Houston Rockets guard James Harden looks up at the scoreboard during the second half in Game 3 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the San Antonio Spurs. — AP

JAMES SCORES 35 AS CAVS LEAVE RAPTORS ON BRINK

TORONTO: Last year, LeBron James and the Cavaliers had their postseason win streak end in Canada. This time, Cleveland came across the border and kept right on rolling. James scored 35 points, Kevin Love had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and the Cavaliers pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat the Toronto Raptors 115-94 on Friday night and take a 3-0 lead in their second-round playoff series.

"We knew we were coming to a hostile environment, we knew they were going to give us everything they had, no matter who was in the lineup," James said. "We just had to weather the storm." DeMar DeRozan scored 37 points and Jonas Valanciunas had 19 for the Raptors, who were without three-time All-Star Kyle Lowry. They trailed by only two after three quarters before the Cavaliers quickly blew open the game. Game 4 is today in Toronto.

"We don't need to be thinking about a sweep or getting rest, we need to be thinking about what we need to do to execute defensively and offensively coming into Sunday," James said. With his team on the brink of elimination, Raptors coach Dwane Casey looked at Game 4 a little differently. "Sunday's game is about pride," Casey said. "You don't want to get swept, especially in your home building."

That won't be easy against the Cavaliers, the first team since the Minneapolis Lakers in 1949 and 1950 to win their first seven playoff games in consecutive seasons. Cleveland won 10 straight to begin the playoffs last year, a streak that ended when Toronto beat the Cavs in Games 3 and 4 of the Eastern Conference finals.

'NOT GIVING UP'

"We came in here (last year) and weren't prepared," Kyrie Irving said. "This year we understood what mindset we had to come in, especially in a rowdy arena like this." Irving scored 16 points and Kyle Korver had 14 for the Cavaliers, who have posted three straight double-digit wins over Toronto. James had eight rebounds and seven assists. "We were not giving up but they were better than us," Valanciunas said.

Norman Powell scored 13 points and Serge Ibaka had 12 for the Raptors, who shot a dismal 2 for 18 from 3-point range. "Something we've done is knock down 3s all year," Casey said. "For whatever reason it's escaping us right now." DeRozan said his team's long-range struggles were made even more "deflating" because Cleveland connected 13 times on 23 attempts

from beyond the arc. "It's tough to win a game when you only make two 3-pointers," DeRozan said. Lowry sprained his left ankle in the third quarter of Game 2 and did not practice Thursday. He worked out a few hours before Friday's game and was on the court during warmups but hobbled back to the locker room before the anthems. "He was limping badly," Casey said. "He just couldn't go. He wanted to. The doctors and trainers and medical people were just telling him he shouldn't try to go because he was in so much pain." Cory Joseph started for Toronto.

Even without Lowry, the Raptors trailed 79-77 to begin the fourth, but Cleveland pulled away as Toronto missed 10 of its first 11 field goal attempts to begin the final quarter. "Nothing could fall for us, especially at the start of that fourth quarter," said DeRozan, who had just one

point in the final quarter. With Toronto struggling, James hit four free throws on either side of a 3-pointer to put the Cavs up 97-80 with 6:20 left. "That stretch right at the beginning of the fourth quarter is what got us," Casey said. The Raptors missed their first 12 shots from 3-point range before Powell connected with 3:09 left in the third.

TIP-INS

Cavaliers: Tristan Thompson got in the face of Valanciunas after the Lithuanian center dragged James down to the court during a third-quarter skirmish. ... Thompson had 12 rebounds. The Cavaliers outrebounded the Raptors 49-25.

Raptors: Joseph started for the first time in 70 playoff appearances. ... Lowry is averaging 15.8 points and 5.9 assists in eight games this postseason. — AP



TORONTO: LeBron James #23 of the Cleveland Cavaliers dribbles the ball as Norman Powell #24 of the Toronto Raptors defends in the second half of Game Three of the Eastern Conference Semifinals during the 2017 NBA Playoffs at Air Canada Centre. — AP

LANZINI LEAVES SPURS' TITLE BID IN TATTERS



LONDON: Manuel Lanzini left Tottenham's Premier League title challenge in tatters as the West Ham forward sealed a 1-0 win that put Chelsea within touching distance of being crowned champions. Mauricio Pochettino's side paid the price for a lethargic display at the London Stadium and Lanzini's second half strike may well have ended their hopes of winning the title for the first time since 1961.

Second placed Tottenham remain four points behind leaders Chelsea, who can extend that advantage to seven if they beat struggling Middlesbrough at Stamford Bridge tomorrow. Tottenham don't play again until they host Manchester United on May 14 and by then Chelsea, who travel to West Bromwich Albion two days earlier, may already be champions.

Chelsea need six points from their last four games to secure the English title in boss Antonio Conte's first season in charge. Conte hadn't planned to watch Tottenham's fate, preferring to go out for dinner with his wife and daughter, but if he was checking for updates from Stratford his dessert would have tasted even sweeter.

"The performance was not the best. We were a little bit sloppy when we conceded the goal," Pochettino said after Tottenham's first defeat in 10 league games. "It's disappointing. It's not over, but now we have to wait. It's true it will be difficult to catch Chelsea." After a troubled first year at their new stadium, this was a sweet moment for West Ham, who guaranteed their top-flight status for another year while delivering a potentially fatal blow to their hated rivals.

After a week of reports claiming Kyle Walker could leave Tottenham following a clash with Pochettino over his recent demotion to the bench, the England right-back was restored to the starting line-up in place of Kieran Trippier. But, foreshadowing the anguish ahead, Walker's return almost got

off to an embarrassing start when Andre Ayew's pass found Lanzini in space negligently left vacant by the Tottenham defender. Fortunately for Walker, Lanzini dragged his shot harmlessly wide from a tight angle when a pass to Jonathan Calleri might have been the wiser option. After a tepid start, Tottenham should have taken the lead midway through the first half when Harry Kane's 20-yard strike was pushed out by Adrian. Dele Alli's follow-up was blocked back to Kane on the edge of the area and the Tottenham striker looked certain to score, yet once again he was denied as Adrian's out-stretched leg deflected it over.

ANXIETY

Eric Dier's header from the resulting corner forced Adrian to make another alert stop, but moments later Tottenham were lucky not to fall behind. Noble's pass sent Lanzini clean through and when Hugo Lloris raced off his line to block, West Ham saw their appeal for a foul turned down while Cheikhou Kouyate's weak follow-up was scrambled away.

So stylish in Sunday's win over north London rivals Arsenal, there was far less swagger about Pochettino's side as they struggled to turn their territorial dominance into a priceless goal. There was no improvement in the second half and Ayew, left unmarked 18 yards out, should have made them pay as he blasted over.

Christian Eriksen, usually so composed, betrayed the anxiety creeping into Tottenham's play when he let Son Heung-Min's pass deflect harmlessly towards Adrian when a sight of goal came his way inside the West Ham area. Son threatened with a thunderous effort, but Adrian tipped it away and Tottenham's nightmare scenario became a brutal reality in the 65th minute. Unhinged by Aaron Cresswell's cross, the Tottenham defense parted too easily and when Ayew couldn't control, the ball ran to the unmarked Lanzini, who drilled home from close-range. Shock etched on their faces, Tottenham were unable to muster a response. It took a fine save from Lloris to deny Calleri and the sight of Eriksen shooting high into the stands was a fitting coda on a dispiriting night for Spurs. — AFP



MUNICH: Bayern Munich's defender Jerome Boateng (L) and Darmstadt's striker Felix Platte (R) vie for the ball during the German First division Bundesliga football match between FC Bayern Munich and SV Darmstadt 98. — AFP

BAYERN RELEGATE DARMSTADT

BERLIN: Spain defender Juan Bernat netted the only goal of the game as champions Bayern Munich beat Darmstadt 1-0 yesterday, a result that confirmed their opponents' relegation. Bayern, Bundesliga champions for the fifth year in a row, were made to work for victory at the Allianz Arena and Torsten Frings' Darmstadt might have snatched a point, but Hamit Altintop's late penalty was saved.

Darmstadt had put their relegation on hold by recording three straight wins and they refused to lie down in Bavaria. Carlo Ancelotti's Bayern broke the deadlock when Franck Ribery's mazy run on the left flank played Bernat into the area. The left-back beat two defenders, then coolly chipped Darmstadt goalkeeper Michael Esser for the 18th-minute goal that proved to be the winner.

However, the Spaniard conceded a penalty with five minutes left by fouling Darmstadt substitute Sven Schipplock. Altintop, playing against his former club, had his spot-kick saved by Tom Starke in the Bayern goal. Bayern are 13 points ahead of second-placed RB Leipzig, who are at Hertha Berlin later.

Darmstadt are now an insurmountable nine points from safety with just two games left.

DORTMUND CLOSES ON UCL

Elsewhere, Borussia Dortmund took a big step towards a direct Champions League place next season by climbing into third with a 2-1 win at home to Hoffenheim, who slip to fourth. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's second-half header which proved the winner saw him join Bayern's Robert Lewandowski on 28 goals in the race to be the Bundesliga's top scorer.

Marco Reus gave Dortmund a controversial lead after just four minutes, replays showing he was a metre offside when Gonzalo Castro's final pass put him behind the defence to tuck away his shot. Hoffenheim were then left fuming when Germany winger Reus controlled the ball with his arm-which the referee missed-before firing in a cross which made contact with defender Pavel Kaderabek's hand. Referee Felix Brych, an international official, pointed to the spot, but justice was seen to be done when Aubameyang fired wide on 14 minutes. The Gabon hot-shot made amends

when he headed home after Raphael Guerreiro hit the post on 82 minutes, but Hoffenheim pulled a goal back when ex-Leicester City striker Andrej Kramaric slotted in a late penalty. Dortmund's World Cup winner Matthias Ginter wrestled Sandro Wagner to the floor after a cross and Kramaric banged home his 13th league goal of the season. Hoffenheim are now two points behind Dortmund with two games remaining.

Ingolstadt, 17th in the table, still have a chance of staying up after their 1-1 draw with Bayer Leverkusen. Sonny Kittel's second-half goal for the hosts was cancelled out by Leverkusen's 17-year-old midfielder Kai Havertz, leaving Ingolstadt three points from safety. Winger Andre Hahn scored a 94th-minute equalizer in mid-table Borussia Muenchengladbach's 1-1 draw with Augsburg, whose Iceland striker Alfred Finnbogason netted their goal. Wolfsburg, the 2009 German champions, are now three points clear of the bottom three after their 2-0 win at Eintracht Frankfurt thanks to goals by Daniel Didavi and Germany striker Mario Gomez. — AFP

SAUL FIRES ATLETICO TO TOP-FOUR FINISH

MADRID: Atletico Madrid secured Champions League football for a fifth straight season as Saul Niguez's solitary strike earned a 1-0 home win over Eibar yesterday. Diego Simeone's men still harbor outside hopes of returning to the Champions League final for the third time in four years as they host local rivals Real Madrid for the second leg of their semi-final on Wednesday trailing 3-0 from the first leg.

However, they are at least now guaranteed another shot at the competition next season and, just as importantly, the finances that come with it, especially as they move into a new 67,000 capacity stadium. Victory moved Atletico 11 points clear of fifth-placed Villarreal, who have just three games remaining. Atletico also just need one more point to qualify directly for the Champions League group stages by finishing third as they lead Sevilla in fourth by five points.

Simeone named a strong side with just two changes from the semi-final, first leg in midweek as Thomas Partey and Nico Gaitan replaced Stefan Savic and Kevin Gameiro. After a quiet start Atletico should have been in front before the break as Yannick Carrasco and Saul blasted over great chances from point-blank range. The hosts were dominant in the early stages of the second period, but had to wait until 21 minutes from time for the winner when a rare foray forward from Diego Godin teed up Saul to curl home his eighth goal of the season from the edge of the box.

Godin was then sent off in stoppage time for two quickfire bookings as he was infuriated at referee David Fernandez Borbalan's decision to award Eibar a late corner. However, Atletico held on and were given a huge ovation by a full house at the Vicente Calderon at full-time in an attempt to inspire the most unlikely of comebacks against Real in midweek. At the other end of the table Sporting Gijon kept their hopes of staying up alive with a 1-0 win over Las Palmas. Carlos Carmona got the only goal midway through the second half to move Sporting to within three points of Leganes with two games remaining. — AFP

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE	
Liverpool v Southampton	15:30
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Arsenal v Manchester United	18:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
SPANISH LEAGUE PRIMERA	
Deportivo Alaves v Bilbao	13:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Valencia v Osasuna	17:15
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Deportivo La Coruna v Espanyol	19:30
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Malaga v Celta de Vigo	21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
ITALIAN LEAGUE	
Udinese v Atalanta	13:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Lazio v Sampdoria	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Chievo Verona v Citta di Palermo	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Empoli v Bologna	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD	
Sassuolo v Fiorentina	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD	
Pescara v Crotone	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD	
Milan v Roma	21:45
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
GERMAN BUNDESLIGA	
Hamburger v Mainz	16:30
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Freiburg v Schalke	18:30
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
FRENCH LEAGUE	
Stade Rennes v Montpellier	16:00
beIN SPORTS HD	
Lyonnais v Nantes	18:00
beIN SPORTS HD	
Marseille v Nice	22:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	



MADRID: Atletico Madrid's midfielder Saul Niguez (R) celebrates after scoring during the Spanish league football match Club Atletico de Madrid vs SD Eibar at the Vicente Calderon stadium. — AFP

CONTROVERSIAL GOAL HELPS PSG KEEP PRESSURE ON MONACO

PARIS: A hotly contested goal by Marco Verratti helped Paris Saint-Germain to a comfortable 5-0 win over bottom club Bastia yesterday as the reigning champions kept the pressure on Ligue 1 leaders Monaco. Edinson Cavani scored twice and also had a late penalty saved, with Lucas Moura and Marquinhos getting the other goals for the hosts at the Parc des Princes.

The win allowed Unai Emery's side to move level on points with Monaco, although the principality side have two games in hand as well as a superior goal difference. Monaco are at relegation-threatened Nancy later and the Champions League semi-finalists realistically need just two wins from their final four matches to become champions for the first time since 2000. PSG are still hoping to win a fifth consecutive title but a vital victory was overshadowed by the incident that saw Verratti put them two goals up late in the first half. With Blaise Matuidi down in the Bastia area and the ball having gone out for a throw, visiting goalkeeper Jean-Louis Leca went to check on the PSG midfielder.

However, the hosts took the throw quickly and Verratti smashed a shot into the roof of the net from the edge of the area, catching out Leca to make it 2-0 10 minutes before the interval. The goalkeeper ran to protest to the referee but was booked for his troubles. By that point the home side had already seen Lucas smash a shot against the angle of bar and stop before the Brazilian-standing in for the suspended Angel Di Maria-was left with an easy tap in from a Matuidi assist.

A holiday weekend in France and the drab Parisian weather contributed to more empty seats than usual at the Parc des Princes, despite the importance of the match. It only really came to life again in the final 20 minutes, with Cavani having two efforts disallowed before he made it 3-0 in the 76th minute, finishing into an empty net after a lovely combination between Julian Draxler and Goncalo Guedes.

Cavani had his penalty saved by Leca after being brought down by Alexander Djiku, but PSG were not finished there. First substitute Giovanni Lo Celso, making just his second league appearance after arriving from Rosario Central in January, clipped the ball over Leca and allowed Marquinhos to poke the ball over the line. Lo Celso then battered a volley off the bar prior to Cavani making it 5-0 following a defensive error. It was Cavani's 33rd league goal of a superb season, and his 47th in 47 games in all competitions. Bastia are a point adrift of Nancy at the bottom and two points from safety with two games remaining. Nice, who remain in with a mathematical chance of winning the title, sitting six points adrift of the top two with three matches to play, visit Marseille this evening. — AFP



LEICESTER: Watford's Sebastian Prodl, left, and Leicester City's Shinji Okazaki, battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match Leicester City against Watford at the King Power Stadium. — AP

LEICESTER PILE PRESSURE ON WATFORD BOSS MAZZARRI



LEICESTER: Wilfred Ndidi, Riyad Mahrez and Marc Albrighton were on target as Leicester City defeated Watford 3-0 to record a fifth successive Premier League home win yesterday. Ndidi bagged his third goal of the season and Mahrez netted his 10th as the Premier League champions moved to 43 points to end any lingering relegation worries.

Albrighton notched his fourth of the season in stoppage time to cap an excellent individual display. It was a comfortable exercise for Craig Shakespeare's men, who now look like serious contenders for a top-half finish having spent much of the season flirting with relegation. The result bolstered Shakespeare's claims to keep the manager's job for next season after replacing sacked Claudio Ranieri earlier this year.

Watford are also all but safe with 40 points, but the defeat was their fifth in a row without a goal away from home in the league and adds to the growing pressure on boss Walter Mazzarri. Early on, Albrighton raced onto a quick free-kick for Leicester and tried to engineer a shooting chance but was crowded out. A minute later the Hornets needed defender Adrian Mariappa to inter-

vene to prevent a certain goal for the Foxes.

A quick free-kick from Mahrez found Jamie Vardy, whose darting run and cross looked set to provide Shinji Okazaki with a tap-in. But Mariappa got an outstretched foot to the ball and diverted it onto the post. Next it was Watford goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes' turn to prevent a bizarre own goal opening the scoring. He flew to his left to turn away a header by defender Christian Kabasele from a Christian Fuchs cross. Watford might have opened the scoring 10 minutes before half time when Tom Cleverley let fly from 25 yards and forced Kasper Schmeichel into an important save away to his right.

CONFIDENCE

The hosts took the lead shortly before the break thanks to Ndidi's second Premier League goal. A short corner found Danny Drinkwater, whose cross was dealt with poorly by Sebastian Prodl and then Etienne Capoue. And when the ball broke free, Ndidi blasted it home from less than 10 yards. Mahrez almost added a second moments later when he hit a shot that struck the heel of Cleverley and looped onto the crossbar.

Just five minutes into the second half Vardy should have doubled Leicester's lead when he raced onto Okazaki's perfectly weighted pass. But he shot too close to Gomes. A minute later Stefano Okaka got to the far post to meet a cross by Nordin Amrabat for Watford but his header looped over. Leicester finally got their second goal on 58 minutes thanks to the skill of Mahrez and a poor mistake from Mariappa. — AFP

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Saul fires Atletico to top-four finish

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TIME FOR SPORTS TO TAKE A LOOK IN THE MIRROR

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BARCELONA: Barcelona's Argentinean forward Lionel Messi (C) vies with Villarreal's midfielder Rodrigo Hernandez (R) and Villarreal's Italian midfielder Roberto Soriano during the Spanish league football match FC Barcelona vs Villarreal CF at the Camp Nou stadium. — AFP

BARCA TRIO COMBINE TO DOWN VILLARREAL

BARCELONA: Barcelona's formidable front three of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar all scored as the champions beat Villarreal 4-1 on Saturday to stay top of La Liga and keep the pressure on title rivals Real Madrid. Barca top the standings with 84 points after 36 games, three ahead of Real who have played two games fewer and visit already-relegated Granada. Lionel Messi reached another landmark by scoring his 50th and 51st goals in all competitions.

Neymar was in sensational form in his second

game back from suspension and nudged Barcelona ahead in the 21st minute after pouncing on a deflected pass from Messi. Cedric Bakambu fired Villarreal level in the 32nd after beating the offside trap to latch on to a clever through ball from Roberto Soldado. Barca were temporarily punctured by the leveler but a marvelous piece of skill from Messi allowed them to restore their lead on the stroke of halftime with a shot from the Argentine which flew beyond Andres Fernandez with the help of a deflection.

Barcelona's fifth straight win gave it three more points than Madrid before the latter visited the relegated Granada later. Barcelona holds the tiebreaker over Madrid, but Madrid will still have three matches to play after this round to Barcelona's two. That means Madrid controls its own fate as it tries to dethrone Barcelona and lift its first Liga title since 2012.

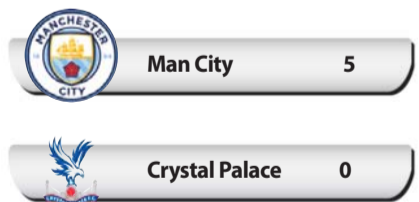
Messi's goal on the last kick of the first half tilted a match that was wide open for the first 45 minutes, in Barcelona's favor. Neymar, who excelled in his incursions from the left flank

throughout, opened the scoring when he poked in a shot by Messi that hit a defender and fell to him in front of goalkeeper Andres Fernandez. Villarreal responded with a goal by striker Cedric Bakambu in the 32nd when Roberto Soldado played him clear on the break as he sped away from Gerard Pique.

Pique wasted a cross by Messi that he only had to nod in and Soldado barely missed with a header on the other end before Neymar helped Messi take back the lead. It's the fifth season in Messi's career that he's reached 50 goals.

Neymar deftly dribbled past a pair of defenders and laid off for Messi to put the ball on his left boot. Head down, Messi opened an angle around two defenders and unleashed a long strike that took a deflection off Villarreal's Mario Gaspar before finding the net. Suarez fired his goal under Fernandez in the 69th after Sergi Roberto set him up in the area. Messi added a penalty that he converted in the "panenka" style, gently chipping the ball down the middle after the goalie moved, after Jaume Costa handled the ball in the box. —Agencies

CITY THRASH PALACE TO KEEP CHAMPS LEAGUE HOPE ALIVE



MANCHESTER: David Silva returned from injury with a goal as Manchester City strengthened their Champions League qualification chances with a comfortable 5-0 win over Crystal Palace at the Etihad Stadium yesterday. Silva, out for a fortnight after suffering a blow to his knee during the FA Cup semi-final defeat by Arsenal, struck inside the first two minutes.

Second-half goals from Vincent Kompany, Kevin De Bruyne, Raheem Sterling and Nicolas Otamendi completed the scoring as City leapfrogged Liverpool into third in the Premier League, on goal difference, and also moved four points clear of fifth-placed Manchester United. Only the top four at the end of the season qualify for the Champions League, European club football's leading competition, with City now having three Premier League games left to play this term.

But both Liverpool (at home to Southampton) and United (away to Arsenal) are in action today. For Palace, not yet safe from the threat of relegation, Saturday's reverse was their third straight defeat. City manager Pep Guardiola has spoken repeatedly over the last two months about his side's failure to make possession and chances count, citing that as a reason for their relatively disappointing season.

He would have been pleased that his side scored from their first attack, but not that they then passed up a series of first-half opportunities to add to that lead. The goal, City's fastest in any game this season, was well-worked, with Spanish playmaker Silva starting and finishing the move. Silva, making his 200th Premier League start, angled a chip towards Sterling and then, when the cross

was half-cleared by Martin Kelly, timed his run perfectly to side-foot a volley into the corner of the net. For much of the opening half-an-hour, it seemed inevitable that more goals would follow, as Palace offered little midfield resistance. But a combination of poor final passes and sound goalkeeping from Palace's Wayne Hennessey prevented City from increasing their tally for a while.

SCRAP

City might even have lost their lead 10 minutes before half-time, when Palace's Andros Townsend got down the right to cross, Christian Benteke climbed above stand-in right-back Fernandinho to head down, and Willy Caballero twisted to his left to make a fine one-handed save. Half-time arrived with City in danger of being drawn into a scrap, with De Bruyne twice kicked by Jeffrey Schlupp, and Silva taking matters into his own hands by retaliating with a wild hack at Wilfried Zaha.

However, Guardiola's side recovered a degree of composure at half-time, and extended their lead three minutes after the restart. After De Bruyne's corner had been cleared, Silva worked the ball back to the Belgian international, who rolled a pass inside for compatriot Vincent Kompany to sweep in with a vicious first-time shot. That appeared to settle City down, and De Bruyne almost made it 3-0 with a dipping 25-yard free-kick that brushed the top of the crossbar.

More chances followed and third goal City had been threatening arrived shortly before the hour mark when the influential De Bruyne steered a shot under Hennessey and just inside the post after Sterling had held off Schlupp to reach Silva's header and set up the chance. By now, City were cruising, and the fourth goal had the feel of a training ground exercise about it. Yaya Toure had all the time he wanted to play a diagonal ball towards substitute Pablo Zabaleta, who guided a header back for Sterling to finish from 20 yards. There was more to come. In stoppage time, Palace switched off at a De Bruyne free-kick, allowing Otamendi to dive and head in to make it 5-0. — AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Argentinean defender Nicolas Otamendi celebrates scoring his team's fifth goal during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Crystal Palace at the Etihad Stadium. — AFP

MUNTARI OVERTURNS RACISM PROTEST BAN

MILAN: Angered that he was treated like a "criminal," Sulley Muntari won his fight with Italian soccer authorities on Friday to overturn a one-match ban for walking off the field in response to racist abuse. The Pescara player received a yellow card during Sunday's Serie A game at Cagliari for protesting to the referee about the monkey chants from the stands. The 32-year-old midfielder was booked again for leaving the pitch because his concerns weren't being acted on by the match officials, who are required to halt games and issue warnings throughout the stadium to try to stop racist behavior.

The red card led to Muntari receiving a one-match ban by the league's disciplinary commission, which didn't appear to take into account his suffering. Receiving no support from Pescara, Muntari was forced to lodge the appeal himself with assistance from the players' union in Italy. "I feel that someone has finally listened and heard me," the Ghanaian player said in comments published by FIFPro, the international players' union. "The last few days have been very hard for me. I have felt angry and isolated. I was being treated like a criminal. How could I be punished when I was the victim of racism?"

Cagliari escaped punishment because Serie A's disciplinary body said only 10 fans bellowed abuse at Muntari, raising further doubts about Italy's commitment to tack-

ling racism in soccer. "I hope my case can help so that other footballers do not suffer like me," Muntari said. "I hope it can be a turning point in Italy and show the world what it means to stand up for your rights." The global anger reached the United Nations, with a top human rights official calling Muntari an "inspiration."

FIGC President Carlo Tavecchio told national news agency ANSA that he was "satisfied" with the appeal ruling "because roles and procedures which are guaranteed by our system were respected." Tavecchio was banned by UEFA for six months at the start of his Italian federation presidency in 2014 over a reference to bananas when discussing the presence of foreign players in Italy. Muntari, who has played in the English Premier League with Portsmouth and in Serie A with Inter and AC Milan, is now available for Pescara's home match against Crotona today. "This is an important victory to send a message that there's no place for racism in football, or society in general," he said. Muntari told referee Daniele Minelli and his assistants several times about the chants from home fans in the final minute of Pescara's 1-0 loss. The official then showed a yellow card to Muntari, who was so angry with the booking that he walked off the pitch. It left his side with 10 men for stoppage time. FIFPro said "common sense has prevailed" with the ban being rescinded. — AP

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Exclusive interview: NBK's strategic vision, digital innovation

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BURGAN BANK LAUNCHES 3D-SECURE SERVICES FOR ITS CARD-HOLDERS

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50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



YOKOHAMA: Takehiko Nakao (front row, C), President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso (front row, 4th L) and others attend a governors' photo session at the Asian Development Bank's annual meeting in Yokohama yesterday. —AFP Photos

ADB TAKES STOCK AS US POLICY SHIFTS

JAPAN, CHINA TO BOOST FINANCIAL TIES AMID PROTECTIONIST TENSIONS

YOKOHAMA: Accelerating growth in Southeast and South Asia can help make up for slowing momentum in China but it requires smart investments in infrastructure and technology, the president of the Asian Development Bank said yesterday as the regional lender started a meeting of its board of governors.

ADB President Takehiko Nakao and other leaders of the regional lender said investments should concentrate on high-quality projects and technology should be made available to all as countries stretch to make up for shortfalls in needed spending, they said. Nakao said he was optimistic about the outlook for Asia, which contributes about half of world economic growth. Overall growth is forecast at 5.7 percent in 2017 and economies in India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam are gaining momentum. The unstated backdrop to the meeting is Japan's continued strong role in the ADB at a time when the administration of US President Donald Trump has adopted an "America first" stance and China is pushing ahead with its own infrastructure initiatives.

Opening the meeting in the port city of Yokohama, Finance Minister Taro Aso said Japan, the biggest donor to the ADB, would contribute \$40 million to a fund promote use of high technology. Aso said that as the Manila, Philippines-based ADB marks its 50th year it should adopt a "strong strategy" to ensure it remains a "highly relevant institution at a time when needs for investment in infrastructure such as power generation, sanitation, roads and ports are growing in both 'quantity and quality.' The ADB estimates more than \$26 trillion is

needed for ports, power, water and other infrastructure in the region by 2030, or over \$1.7 trillion a year. The current level of spending is below \$900 billion.

Aso said the regional lender should generally prioritize poorer countries in allocating its financing while helping "upper middle income" countries with expertise in such areas as environmental protection. Aso welcomed moves to reform purchasing procedures to "put more emphasis on quality."

"I encourage the bank to continue to move in this direction," he said. The policy shift under Trump is raising questions over the strength of the US commitment to multilateral organizations like the ADB, raising questions about how to increase financing and make it as effective as possible.

Nakao, the ADB president, said the lender was working to find ways to streamline its operations and deepen collaboration with local governments and the private sector. Co-financing with other banks, including the China-backed Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, and with the private sector has become an increasingly important source of support, involving \$13.9 billion of the total \$31.7 billion in funds allocated last year by the bank.

Japan-China talks

Japan and China agreed to bolster economic and financial cooperation, Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso said yesterday, as US President Donald Trump's protectionist stance and tension over North Korea weigh on Asia's growth outlook. Chinese Finance Minister Xiao Jie, who missed a trilateral meeting with his Japanese

and South Korean counterparts on Friday for an emergency domestic meeting, had flown in for the talks with Aso, seeking to dispel speculation his absence had any diplomatic implications.

"We actively exchanged views on economic and financial situations in Japan and China and our cooperation in the financial field," Aso told reporters after the meeting, which included senior finance ministry and central bank officials.

"It was significant that we reconfirmed the need of financial cooperation between the two countries while sharing our experiences in dealing with economic policies and structural issues," he added. The two countries agreed to launch joint research on issues of mutual interest - without elaborating - and to report the outcomes at the next talks, which will be held in 2018 in China.

They did not discuss issues such as currencies and geopolitical risks from North Korea's nuclear and missile program during the dialogue, held on the sidelines of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) annual meeting in Yokohama, eastern Japan, Aso said.

Relations between Japan and China have been strained over territorial rows and Japan's occupation of parts of China in World War Two, though leaders have recently sought to mend ties through dialogue. Still, China's increasing presence in infrastructure finance has alarmed some Japanese policymakers, who worry that Beijing's new development bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), may overshadow the Japan-backed ADB.

Shortly before the bilateral talks on Saturday, Xiao voiced hope that the ADB will boost ties



YOKOHAMA: China's Finance Minister Xiao Jie (right) shakes hands with his Japanese counterpart Taro Aso during their meeting in Yokohama yesterday.

with China's high profile "One Belt One Road" infrastructure development initiatives.

"China hopes the ADB ... strengthens the strategic ties between its programs and the One Belt One Road initiative to maximize synergy effects and promote Asia's further development," Xiao told the ADB's annual gathering. Japan and China do agree on the need to respect free trade, which they see as crucial to Asia's trade-dependent economies.

Finance officials from Japan, China and

South Korea agreed to resist all forms of protectionism in Friday's trilateral meeting, taking a stronger stand than G20 major economies against the protectionist policies advocated by Trump. China has positioned itself as a supporter of free trade in the wake of Trump's calls to put America's interests first and pull out of multilateral trade agreements. Japan has taken a more accommodative stance toward Washington's argument that trade must not just be free but fair. —Agencies

SAUDI DODGES FINANCIAL CRISIS

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has dodged a financial crisis due to low oil prices by slashing state spending and borrowing tens of billions of dollars abroad, but now it faces a tougher challenge: getting the economy growing again. In a series of interviews with Reuters reporters last week, senior Saudi officials said reforms announced on national television by Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman a year ago had stabilized state finances enough for the government to begin focusing on investing in the economy.

Spending cuts are shrinking a \$98 billion budget deficit that was created by oil's plunge. Foreign investors are eagerly buying Saudi bonds, and the government has begun to shake up its bureaucracy and simplify regulation, promising efficiency gains.

Movements in the foreign and exchange and

bond markets show last year's speculation that Riyadh could default on its debt or devalue its currency has almost disappeared.

Vice Minister for Economy and Planning Mohammed Al-Tuwaijri said efforts to repair state finances were moving faster than officials' initial, conservative projections. The deficit in the first quarter of 2017 was about half the original estimate. "Generally speaking everything we announced and talked about tended to be toward the conservative scenario - that included our ability to execute everything on time, our ability to borrow."

So Riyadh is now starting a new phase of reform, officials said: developing non-oil industries such as mining, logistics, ship repair, entertainment, and automotive and military manufacturing that will let the economy prosper regardless of oil prices. "There are many low-

hanging fruits," said Tuwaijri. Riyadh aims to raise over \$200 billion in coming years by selling stakes in oil giant Saudi Aramco and other assets. It will funnel this money into non-oil industries via vehicles such as sovereign wealth funds. Private firms will be encouraged to invest beside the government with incentives such as soft loans.

Officials stressed they would be flexible when raising money using methods ranging from stock market listings to private equity deals - and careful when spending it, since they would only allocate money to projects that looked commercially viable. They argued that by creating jobs and economic growth, the surge of investment would head off any discontent from Saudis whose living standards are being squeezed by tax rises and subsidy cuts needed to reduce the budget deficit. —Reuters

TURKISH AIRLINES TO OFFER LAPTOPS TO VIP TRAVELLERS

ISTANBUL: Turkish Airlines yesterday said it would offer laptops to business-class travellers after Britain and the United States banned large electronic devices from the cabin of flights from certain countries. Washington has barred all electronic devices larger than a mobile phone on direct flights to the United States from 10 airports in seven Middle Eastern countries and Turkey, only allowing them to be transported in hold luggage.

Britain followed with a similar ban from five countries in the Middle East and north Africa as well as Turkey. But Turkish Airlines said it would offer travellers a solution. "The national flag carrier has now started

to offer laptops for its business class passengers on US-bound flights as from today," it said in a statement released yesterday. The airline would also offer the same service for UK-bound business class passengers from May 12.

Such passengers would be able to request a laptop from the cabin crew to use in-flight, it said.

The laptops would offer top security and protect the users' privacy by "automatically deleting" all personal data after being shut down, it said. Announced in March, the ban drew Turkish fury with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urging Washington and London to withdraw it "as soon as possible." —AFP



LOUISVILLE: In this Nov 20, 2015 photo, a UPS employee works inside the company's Worldport hub in Louisville, Ky. On Friday, the US government issued the April jobs report. — AP

US JOBS DATA SHOW SCARS FROM RECESSION HEALING

EMPLOYERS ADD 211,000 JOBS IN APRIL

WASHINGTON: A burst of hiring in April provided reassurance for the US economy after a slow start to the year. Job growth returned to a healthy pace. Unemployment hit a decade low. And the number of part-time workers who want full-time jobs reached its lowest point in nine years.

Employers last month added 211,000 jobs, more than double the weak showing in March, the Labor Department said Friday. And the unemployment rate dipped to 4.4 percent from 4.5 percent in March.

Taken as a whole, the April jobs report suggested that American businesses are confident enough in their outlook for customer demand to keep adding jobs briskly despite a slump in the January-March quarter when the economy barely grew. The jobs report "does increase our confidence that the soft patch in the first quarter is over," Michael Gapen, an economist at Barclays Capital, said in an email to clients.

The gradual shift in hiring from part-time to full-time work is an encouraging one. It suggests that many businesses are meeting rising customer demand by expanding some employees' hours. During much of the economic recovery, the number of part-timers remained unusually high - one reason why steady job growth didn't produce sharp gains in pay or consumer spending.

The shift toward full-time work has also helped reduce a measure of the job market that includes people who aren't counted as unemployed: They are the part-time workers who want full-time jobs as well as people who have given up their job hunts.

This broader figure reached 8.6 percent in April, the lowest point since November 2007, just before the recession officially began. In 2009, it had topped 17 percent.

That broader measure has been cited by President Donald Trump and his advisers as a more accurate gauge of the job market's health than the unemployment rate. So far, the job

market under Trump closely resembles the one Barack Obama presided over. This year, employers have added an average of 185,000 jobs a month, matching last year's pace.

In his first 31/2 months, Trump has sought to put his imprint on the economy. A deputy White House spokeswoman, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, said falsely at a briefing for reporters Friday that job growth in April occurred "especially" in industries where the president has focused: Coal mining, construction and manufacturing. In fact, those three sectors accounted for less than 6 percent of April's job growth.

A representative of the White House, contacted later by The Associated Press, said that Sanders had misspoken. Some of the job market's scars from the Great Recession have yet to heal. The proportion of Americans who either have jobs or are looking for one dipped in April to 62.9 percent from 63 percent. While that figure has improved over the past 18 months, it remains well below the prerecession level of 66 percent.

Economists don't expect that figure to get much better. With the vast baby boom generation retiring and younger Americans more likely to stay in high school and attend college, fewer Americans will likely work or seek work in the foreseeable future.

Friday's jobs report makes it highly likely that the Federal Reserve will resume raising short-term interest rates when it next meets in mid-June. Investors have estimated the likelihood of a June rate hike at 83 percent. Beyond hiring, the economy is showing other signs of health: Sales of existing homes have reached the highest point in a decade. And a survey of services firms this week - including restaurants, banks and retailers - showed that they are expanding steadily.

Average paychecks did grow more slowly in April, increasing 2.5 percent over the past 12 months, below March's year-over-year gain.

Companies may not yet feel much pressure to raise pay to find or keep the workers they need. Typically, employers feel compelled to pay more as the number of unemployed dwindles. In a strong economy, hourly pay gains tend to average around 3.5 percent.

One reason for the tepid wage gain is that hiring was strongest last month in lower-paying industries. One such category that includes hotels, restaurants, casinos and amusement parks added 55,000 jobs, the most of any major sector.

Health care, which includes some higher-paying jobs in nursing as well as lower-paid home health care aides, added 37,000 in April. Many manufacturers are looking to add jobs but say they can't find enough qualified workers. Eric Kus, CEO of Goshen Stamping in Goshen, Indiana, wants to add six to eight employees to his 80-person staff. The company makes parts for the stepladder and RV industries.

"It's getting better," Kus said of the economy. Rising home sales and growing interest in do-it-yourself work among homeowners have boosted his company's revenue about 6 percent so far this year, he said.

Friday's jobs report adds to evidence that economic growth is rebounding in the current April-June quarter, with some economists forecasting that it could top a 3 percent annual rate, compared with the first quarter's 0.7 percent rate. Last quarter, consumers spent less in part because of low utility bills during an unseasonably warm winter. That's likely to prove a temporary restraint.

The retail industry's woes continued last month, with stores adding just 6,000 jobs. That's below their long-run average and comes after retailers slashed a combined 55,000 jobs in February and March. Traditional chains like Sears and Macy's have been shedding jobs in the face of ferocious competition from Amazon.com and other e-commerce companies. — AP

SRI LANKA AIRLINE SELL-OFF FAILS, SEEKS NEW PARTNER

COLOMBO: A US equity firm that bid to buy a stake in Sri Lanka's loss-making national airline has pulled its offer, officials said yesterday as the carrier scrambled for a new partner. TPG, a San Francisco-based private equity firm, has withdrawn its bid for a 49 percent stake in Sri Lankan, dashing hopes of a quick revival of the airline.

"After completing the due diligence, regrettably TPG have informed us they will not pursue a potential investment in Sri Lankan airlines," Sri Lankan Chairman Ajith Dias said in a memo to his staff.

"It is their opinion that allocating the human and financial resources to make the airline profitable will not realize sufficient returns compared to the many other investment opportunities that are available to them," Dias said.

There was no immediate comment from TPG. Sri Lanka's flag carrier has accumulated debts and losses of over \$2 billion.

Talks are now underway with Dubai's Emirates, which had managed and owned a minority stake in Sri Lanka for a decade and was interested in a new man-

agement deal, official sources said. There was no immediate comment from Emirates. Sri Lanka was profitable before Rajapakse cancelled a management agreement with Emirates in 2008 following a personal dispute.

The carrier had refused to bump fare-paying passengers and give their seats to Rajapakse's family members. An angry Rajapakse removed the Emirates-appointed CEO of Sri Lanka from the post and replaced him with his own brother-in-law, who had no airline experience, and is now under investigation for corruption. Late last year, in an effort to cut costs, Sri Lanka cancelled the previous government's order to lease four brand new Airbus A350-900 long-haul aircraft after paying a penalty of \$115 million to aircraft leasing giant AerCap.

A separate order for four Airbus A350-900 planes will also be cancelled, the government has said. Rajapakse had ordered all eight planes as part of a \$2.3-billion re-fleeting program for the airline, which is now being investigated for corruption. —AFP

WORLD BANK RESUMES AID TO IMPOVERISHED MALAWI

BLANTYRE, Malawi: The World Bank has resumed direct budget support to impoverished Malawi with an \$80-million injection three years after donors pulled out due to a "cashgate" corruption scandal, officials said yesterday. Donors, which provide about 40 percent of Malawi's budget, in 2013 pulled the plug on aid of around \$150 million (110 million euros) after British auditors said at least \$30 million was stolen from state coffers over a six-month period.

The Bank, a major backer of the southeast African country's tough economic reforms, had in the past said support would only come if Malawi implemented financial management systems that would stop fraud and massive theft of state funds. The "cashgate" affair erupted with revelations about funds going missing involving dozens of officials, businessmen and politicians. Four people were jailed.

The scandal led to the withdrawal of aid by numerous countries. It also contributed to the defeat of president Joyce Banda in elections in 2014, won by her rival Peter Mutharika who took office vowing to fight corruption. Laura

Kullenberg, the Bank's country manager, said Malawi had "taken some very important reform steps and it is critical to maintain momentum and deepen reforms going forward to move Malawi out of the circle of vulnerability and onto a development path".

Kullenberg says the \$80 million "aims to improve incentives for private sector participation in agriculture markets and to strengthen fiscal management through more effective expenditure controls and greater transparency," according to a statement obtained by AFP.

Agriculture powers the country's economy and contributes over 40 percent to Malawi's GNP. Malawi President Mutharika was quoted on state television as saying the resumed World Bank support was a "vote of confidence in us and how we are managing our economy."

"We expect more such news from the European Union, the African Development Bank and others," he added, adding that Malawi faces numerous economic challenges and was "in desperate need" of more support. — AFP

NICARAGUA DOWNPLAYS POTENTIAL IMPACT OF US BILL ON LENDING

MANAGUA: President Daniel Ortega downplayed the possible impact of a US bill that would condition international lending to Nicaragua on a range of democracy and rights issues, saying it's more of a political than an economic threat to his country.

"The world is not going to disappear, the economy is not going to disintegrate" if the so-called Nica Act passes, Ortega said late Thursday after meeting with representatives of the International Monetary Fund during a visit to the Central American nation.

The bill before the House and Senate calls for the US to oppose most loans to Nicaragua's government through organizations such as the IMF, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, with the exception of funds for humanitarian purposes or to promote democracy.

That would be the official US position unless the secretary of state certifies that Nicaragua is taking steps to hold fair and competitive elections, safeguard political rights, strengthen the rule of law and fight corruption, among other conditions. Similar legislation last year failed to

advance in Congress. Nicaraguan opposition leaders and civil society groups accuse Ortega of manipulating elections to stay in power and of wanting to create a family dynasty by making his wife, Rosario Murillo, his vice president. Ortega's government has opened negotiations with the Organization of American States ahead of local elections scheduled for November to discuss concerns about transparency and fairness.

OAS Secretary-General Luis Almagro urged US lawmakers this week to "reconsider" the bill to allow "time and space" for the negotiations to work. Economist and sociologist Cirilo Otero said Ortega may be underestimating the Nica Act's potential effects because any uncertainty could prompt investors to suspend activity in Nicaragua until it clears up.

"We are a poor country that lives off international aid," said Otero, a professor at the Universidad Centroamericana. "We are not self-sustainable to react in that way." Nicaragua, the second-poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere after Haiti, relies on international loans to finance at least 10 percent of its budget. —AP

PAKISTAN APPOINTS ACTING CB HEAD

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's central bank appointed a new acting governor on Wednesday after the government declined to re-appoint the current governor, the bank said in a statement.

Riaz Riazuddin, the deputy governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, will take over as acting governor from Ashraf Wathra, the bank state-

ment said. Wathra has been governor for the past three years. No official reason has been given for the decision not to re-appoint Wathra. Riazuddin's three-month appointment is effective immediately, the central bank said. It is now looking for a permanent replacement for Wathra. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.709
Indian Rupees	4.749
Pakistani Rupees	2.910
Srilankan Rupees	2.002
Nepali Rupees	2.951
Singapore Dollar	218.380
Hongkong Dollar	39.227
Bangladesh Taka	3.727
Philippine Peso	6.118
Thai Baht	8.843

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.468
Qatari Riyal	83.908
Omani Riyal	793.399
Bahraini Dinar	811.210
UAE Dirham	83.117

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	20.400
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	20.350
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.226
Tunisian Dinar	127.210
Jordanian Dinar	430.610
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.035
Syrian Lira	2.177
Morocco Dirham	31.313

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	305.300
Euro	337.810
Sterling Pound	396.842
Canadian dollar	224.820
Turkish lira	86.610

Swiss Franc	311.530
Australian Dollar	228.980
US Dollar Buying	304.100

GOLD	
20 Gram	262.69
10 Gram	134.27
5 Gram	67.98

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	0.390437	0.400437
Czech Korune	0.004551	0.016551
Danish Krone	0.041062	0.046062
Euro	0.330822	0.339822
Norwegian Krone	0.031495	0.036695
Romanian Leu	0.084611	0.084611
Slovakia	0.009141	0.019141
Swedish Krona	0.030685	0.035685
Swiss Franc	0.303396	0.314396
Turkish Lira	0.080734	0.091034
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.218775	0.230775
New Zealand Dollar	0.205392	0.214892
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.218478	0.227478
Georgina Lari	0.137890	0.137890
US Dollars	0.301200	0.305600
US Dollars Mint	0.301700	0.305600
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003422	0.004006
Chinese Yuan	0.042805	0.046305
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037278	0.040028
Indian Rupee	0.004169	0.004857

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002638	0.002818
Kenyan Shilling	0.003049	0.003049
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066591	0.072591
Nepalese Rupee	0.003016	0.003186
Pakistan Rupee	0.002717	0.003007
Philippine Peso	0.006014	0.006314
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.212665	0.222665
South African Rand	0.016734	0.025234
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001638	0.002218
Taiwan	0.009774	0.009954
Thai Baht	0.008479	0.009029
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.803243	0.811743
Egyptian Pound	0.014058	0.019966
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000195	0.000255
Jordanian Dinar	0.425248	0.434248
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.000257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020404	0.044404
Nigerian Naira	0.001264	0.001899
Omani Riyal	0.786566	0.792246
Qatar Riyal	0.083047	0.084497
Saudi Riyal	0.080327	0.081627
Syrian Pound	0.001295	0.001515
Tunisian Dinar	0.124617	0.132617
Turkish Lira	0.080734	0.091034
UAE Dirhams	0.081641	0.083341
Yemeni Riyal	0.000993	0.001073

13 PHONE INTERVIEW MISTAKES THAT MAY CAUSE YOUR REJECTION

When the number of job applicants is high, it would be impossible to interview every single candidate in person. So, as a preliminary screening method, phone interviews offer employers the chance to eliminate the candidates whose CVs and qualifications do not match what they are looking for. This leaves the employers with the better choice of candidates to be sent to the next round.

Your CV might be impeccable, but if you lack the interview skills, consider your chances gone with the wind. You have to learn how to sell yourself. A few of the skills needed to ace a phone interview are listening and speaking skills - and without doubt, phone etiquette. You should know how to take things seriously and train yourself for every step in the recruitment process.

Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 Job Site, has compiled the 13 most common mistakes job seekers make during phone interviews, which most-likely demolish their chances of getting the job:

1. Not answering the phone at the set time

Make sure that you are actually available at the time of the interview. If an emergency arises, reschedule. Otherwise, it will reflect poorly on your professionalism and how serious you are about your career.

BAYT.COM WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

2. The wrong tone of voice

Your voice reflects your personality during a phone interview, as it is the closest thing to body language an employer can read. The employer can predict your personality simply by listening to your voice. This is why you should avoid sounding shy, hesitant, scared, or arrogant.

3. Being uninteresting

Try to sound excited and keep the recruiter interested in what you have to say. Your enthusiasm should infiltrate your answers, and certainly steer clear from the awkward "uh's" and "um's".

4. Ignoring the recruiter

What is the point of the phone interview if you are going to talk to someone else and leave the employer waiting? Be fully focused on your conversation.

5. Giving random answers

Listen closely to what the employer is saying and reply accordingly. Keep a piece of paper with you while being interviewed so you can write down any important points you want to elaborate on. This helps you stay focused and not throw in ran-

dom and irrelevant answers.

6. Eating while on the phone

A phone interview is just like a regular physical face-to-face interview. Would you eat during that? Just remember that it is one of the most unprofessional behaviors during a phone call - with a recruiter or anyone really.

7. Taking the call casually

There's nothing more irritating to an employer than not being taken seriously. Try to find a quiet spot and give them your undivided attention.

8. Yawning

Similar to eating, yawning can reflect negatively on you. Make sure you have slept enough and are well-energized for your call.

9. Diverging from the question

If you don't understand the question, simply ask the interviewer to repeat or elaborate. Don't take this as a chance to stray away from the question being asked. The recruiter is looking for very specific, relevant, and confident answers.

10. Speaking too loudly or too quietly

When speaking, don't go to either extreme in terms of volume; they are certainly deal breakers for the interviewer.

11. Asking about the salary too early

Quite a number of job seekers - mainly fresh graduates - tend to start by asking about the salary. Of course, compensation should be a major concern. However, if that's the only thing you are considering when choosing a job, it is not really a substantial career move and it will certainly show the recruiter that your values and goals are purely financial.

12. Losing interest right away

Never say you are not interested straight away. You may blow your chances before even getting details about the job at hand. Always ask for more details, as the job might end up being a great fit for you. After all, love is not always at first sight.

13. Interrupting constantly

Let the recruiter speak. Not letting them finish sharing information and interrupting their questions will break their chain of thoughts. Do you really want to upset the recruiter who wants to offer you the dream job?

TRUMP SIGNS \$1TN SPENDING BILL, KEEPS GOVERNMENT OPEN

BRANCHBURG, NJ: President Donald Trump signed his first piece of major legislation on Friday, a \$1 trillion spending bill to keep the government operating through September. The bill cleared both houses of Congress this week and Trump signed it into law behind closed doors at his home in central New Jersey, well ahead of a midnight Friday deadline for some government operations to begin shutting down. But other budget battles lie ahead as the White House and Congress hammer out a spending plan for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

Republicans praised \$15 billion in additional Pentagon spending obtained by Trump, as well as \$1.5 billion in emergency spending for border security, though not for the wall he has vowed to build along the US-Mexico border to deter illegal immigration, and the extension of a school voucher program in the District of Columbia.

Trump also wants a huge military buildup matched by cuts to popular domestic programs and foreign aid accounts. Trump signed the bill despite his objections to numerous provisions included in the measure. One such provision prohibits the Justice Department from using any funds to block implementation of medical marijuana laws by states and US territories. In a signing statement that accompanied the bill and that laid out his objections, Trump said he reserved the right to ignore the provision. He held out the possibility that the administration could pursue legal action against states and territories that legalize marijuana for medical use.

Marijuana remains illegal for any purpose under federal law. The White House previously signaled a looming crackdown on

recreational pot use. "I will treat this provision consistently with my constitutional responsibility to take care that the laws be faithfully executed," Trump said in the signing statement, a tool that previous presidents have used to explain their positions on appropriations bills. Trump also objects to provision governing the transfer of prisoners held at a US facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. But the White House said his objection should not be seen as a shift in policy, but as a statement of his view that the provision could conflict with his constitutional authority and duties in some circumstances.

Trump said during the presidential campaign that he wanted the detention center, known as "Gitmo," kept open. At one point, he pledged to "load it up with some bad dudes." Republicans and Democrats who negotiated the spending bill in recent days had successfully defended other accounts Trump had targeted for spending cuts, such as foreign aid, the Environmental Protection Agency, support for the arts and economic development grants, among others.

The sweeping, 1,665-page bill also increases spending for NASA, medical research, and the FBI and other federal law enforcement agencies. Trump took to Twitter earlier this week to complain about the bipartisan process that produced the measure but later changed his tone and began highlighting the spending that was added for the military and for border security. He advocated in one tweet for a "good shutdown" in September to fix the "mess" that produced the bill, but then appeared in the White House Rose Garden hours later to boast that the measure amounted to a big win for him. — AP



SOUK SALMIYA'S SABAH AL-SALEM PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED IN 2019

COMPANY HOLDS ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

KUWAIT: Souk Al-Salmiya Real-estate Market Company recently held its ordinary general assembly for the fiscal year 2016, which was attended by 92.7 per cent of the members who approved all the items on the agenda including a recommendation to distribute 10 per cent of the capital as cash profits to shareholders.

The general assembly also discussed the board's report about the fiscal year ending on December 31, 2016, final statement, budget, profits and losses' auditing reports.

The assembly also expressed condolences on the demise of the late Fahad Khaled Al-Kulaib who had exerted considerable efforts for the company ever since the company was established.

After the general assembly, board chairman

and CEO, Marzouq Khaled Al-Marzouq announced that the company had made 55 fils profits per share in 2016 and that book value per share had increased to 312 fils in 2016 compared to 285 fils in 2015. He added that the company made a real estate investment by purchasing lands in Sabah Al-Salem area to build a luxurious 35-storey residential complex overlooking the sea.

In addition, Al-Marzouq said that the company has been working on diversifying its activities and that it built a new project in Sabah Al-Ahmed Marine City known as 'The Grey' where all the stores had been already rented.

On his part, Souk Al-Salmiya Real-estate Market Company general manager, Mohammed Ali Al-Sabhan said that the company would



Marzouq Khaled Al-Marzouq

Mohammed Ali Al-Sabhan

open the Sabah Al-Salem project in March 2019. He added that the project's total cost would be around KD 23 million.

BROKERS' UNION WANTS RESTRUCTURING IN REAL ESTATE SECTOR

KUWAIT: Chairman of Kuwait Real Estate Brokers Union (KRBU) Abdul Rahman Al-Habib said yesterday that the local real estate market must undergo radical restructuring in order to incorporate an up-to-date database in compliance with the modern technological development related to e-government transactions.

Speaking at a press conference held and attended by all KRBU members, Al-Habib said that all members had been invited to take part in forming a PR and media committee, a coordination and follow-up committee and a complaints and suggestions committee. Al-Habib also reviewed KRBU activities and listed its achievements in the period between May 1, 2016 and April 30, 2017. He also discussed future projects. They included electronic issue of specifications certificates, e-payment of the fees, linking KRBU website with that of the municipality,



Abdul Rahman Al-Habib addresses a press conference. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

cooperation with MCI in issuing brokers' licenses, having commissions fully paid on signing contracts, regulating the process of work amongst buyers, sellers and real estate brokers and having sellers appoint certain brokers to represent them.

FASTTELCO OFFERS ENTERTAINMENT DEVICES WITH POSTPAID PLANS

KUWAIT: FASTtelco, the internet service provider owned by Ooredoo Kuwait, announced a new offer giving customers a device with their postpaid high-speed internet plan, to match their needs at a competitive price. Customers have the option of choosing an entertainment device ranging from gaming devices such as the Xbox Slim or PS4 Slim, the iPad Mini 4, or the latest Apple TV 64GB.

FASTtelco's head of retail Nouf Al-Meshaan said in a statement, "Our strategy from launching this product is to keep up with our customers' mode of usage, and to better serve their needs. We live in a world where the Internet has become an essential and integral part. It has exceeded the role of

being a means of business and communication, and is a vital part in every home, whether for video games or streaming entertainment content. We have carefully designed these packages with the option of committing in a yearly contract for even discounted prices, and we are certain that our new premium and reliable products will exceed our valued customers' expectations."

FASTtelco recently announced its new identity earlier this month, adopting a refreshed look with vibrant colors and a new design. The move comes to change the ISP's market by introducing innovative products and plans that fulfil customers' growing needs through technology. FASTtelco was recently acquired by Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, in a move to bolster the telecom service provider's presence in the Kuwaiti market. FASTtelco products can be purchased via FASTtelco's authorized resellers, or on FASTtelco's website www.fasttelco.net.

Starting in 2001, FASTtelco has succeeded to assume a leading position in the Kuwaiti telecommunication market as an internet service provider to both individual and corporate clients. The company was acquired by Ooredoo Kuwait in 2016.



MARKAZ: MENA MARKETS FALL IN APRIL AS OIL PRICES SLIDE

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz" recently released its Monthly Market Research report. In this report, Markaz examines and analyzes the performance of equity markets in the MENA region as well as the global equity markets for the month of April 2017.

Most of the MENA bourses closed in the negative territory for the month of April barring Morocco, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia that gained 2.3 percent, 1.8 percent and 0.2 percent respectively. Jordan, Qatar and Egypt declined by 3.5 percent, 3.1 percent and 3 percent respectively while Kuwait price index fell by 2.1 percent. MENA markets remained sluggish in April due to drop in trading liquidity and poor investments from both domestic and international investors. First quarter earnings of companies in Dubai, Egypt and other markets fell short of expectations pulling down the share prices as well. Egypt index fell as local investors withdrew their positions in many blue chips. Saudi Arabian index gained marginally by 0.2 percent, the uptick driven by the petrochemical companies.

Value traded and volumes in March reflected a mixed market mood, with volume traded, dropping by 22 percent while the turnover in the market increased by 34.6 percent. All MENA markets, barring Saudi Arabia and Dubai, witnessed increase in turnover in March. Dubai and Abu Dhabi witnessed the maximum fall in liquidity with volume declining by 41 percent and 40 percent respectively. In terms of valuation, P/E of Morocco (19.18x), Kuwait (16.2x), and Qatar (15.06x) markets were at premium, while the markets of Dubai (9.39x), Egypt (9.4x), and Bahrain (10.06x) were the discount markets in the MENA region.

Many blue chips were in the red in April, while few companies such as National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) gained. The post-merger listing of NBAD and investors focus on specific stocks in the real estate and banking sector pushed the share prices of NBAD up by 7.8 percent. Mashraf Al Rayan's stocks increased by 5.1 percent following positive earnings growth reported in Q1 2017 and increasing revenue from core operations. SABIC's stocks gained 2.1 percent last month, as analyst expectations on

the petrochemical sector remained positive. Petrochemical companies are expected to benefit from the higher prices of end products resulting in better earnings compared to the previous quarters. Industries Qatar and Kuwait Finance House were the stragglers, down by 11.7 percent, 7.3 percent and 7.2 percent respectively. Selling pressures in Qatar stock exchange especially in the large cap segment by GCC institutions dragged down the prices of many blue chips in Qatar.

GCC Projects

Project awards in GCC reverted back in the first quarter of 2017 after remaining sluggish in 2016. Value of projects in GCC increased by 22.6 percent in Q1 2017 compared to the last quarter of 2016 while the increase was 16.1 percent on a year-on-year basis. UAE was the star among GCC nations in terms of increase in projects' spending, though the largest economy in the region, Saudi Arabia failed to cash in on the momentum. It was the only GCC country to report a fall in projects value by 29.3 percent in Q1 2017 (QoQ). The value of UAE projects awarded surged by 42.6 percent quarter on quarter in the first quarter of 2017, with both Dubai and Abu Dhabi seeing significant increase.

Oil Market Review

Brent crude declined by 2.08 percent in April 2017 declining to \$51.73 compared to \$52.83 at the end of March 2017. Concerns over increasing supply from US shale producers and Libya's restart of production in Sharara oil field rattled the oil markets further in April. The confidence provided by OPEC's commitments has not been sufficient to curtail the fall in oil prices.

MENA Market Trends - April 2017

Index	M. Cap (USD Bn)	Last close	2016 %	Apr'17 %	YTD %	S&P correlation**	ADVT* (USD mn)	P/E TTM	P/B TTM	Div. Yield
S&P Pan Arab										
LargeMid Cap	98.7	138	7.4	-1.3	-5.1	0.149	N.A	12.61	1.18	4.99
Saudi Arabia	438.4	7,013	4.3	0.2	-2.7	0.159	754	14.54	1.74	4.26
Abu Dhabi	134.7	4,523	5.6	1.8	-0.5	0.128	42.4	10.66	1.55	5.22
Qatar	128.7	1,0064	0.1	-3.1	-3.6	0.116	49.1	14.80	1.42	4.09
Kuwait Price	93.0	6,843	2.4	-2.7	19.0	0.055	80.9	16.00	1.25	3.70
Kuwait Wt.ed	93.0	408	-0.4	-1.2	7.4	0.039	80.9	16.00	1.25	3.70
Dubai	80.5	3,415	12.1	-1.9	-3.3	0.112	65.8	9.44	1.14	5.12
Morocco	59.0	11,638	30.5	2.3	-0.1	0.026	0.00	19.26	2.61	3.54
Egypt	35.0	1,133	72.7	-3.0	4.0	0.043	29.1	9.00	1.24	3.60
Jordan	22.1	4,160	-3.8	-3.5	2.2	0.049	10.56	14.24	1.28	4.74
Bahrain	20.6	1,336	0.4	-1.5	9.4	0.014	3.61	9.60	0.86	5.03
Oman	16.5	5,514	7.0	-0.7	-4.7	0.102	5.48	10.80	1.07	5.67

Source: Reuters, Zawya, * - 3-year daily return correlation

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	22,225,378	3.42%	1,141,301	1.54%
BASIC MATERIALS	3,186,616	0.49%	1,199,087	1.62%
INDUSTRIALS	58,453,391	8.98%	9,763,104	13.17%
CONSUMER GOODS	3,916,078	0.60%	488,538	0.66%
HEALTH CARE	50,413	0.01%	14,297	0.02%
CONSUMER SERVICES	5,275,922	0.81%	723,231	0.98%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	29,989,350	4.61%	8,560,115	11.55%
BANKS	114,799,658	17.64%	26,923,605	36.33%
INSURANCE	625,087	0.10%	59,035	0.08%
REAL ESTATE	222,959,344	34.26%	12,099,287	16.33%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	188,840,053	29.02%	13,089,975	17.66%
TECHNOLOGY	400,040	0.06%	47,674	0.06%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	1,045.44	1,085.78	-3.72%	33.92%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,292.91	1,307.08	-1.08%	28.67%
INDUSTRIALS	1,788.47	1,785.35	0.17%	33.07%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,120.61	1,122.69	-0.19%	-0.40%
HEALTH CARE	1,405.03	1,340.72	4.80%	12.90%
CONSUMER SERVICES	890.99	928.18	-4.01%	-3.63%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	632.98	624.55	1.35%	-0.50%
BANKS	925.71	936.57	-1.16%	10.57%
INSURANCE	1,063.13	1,051.63	1.09%	6.92%
REAL ESTATE	971.16	996.58	-2.55%	11.60%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	724.17	741.49	-2.34%	21.29%
TECHNOLOGY	681.62	705.97	-3.45%	12.27%

BOURSA KUWAIT EQUITIES REMAIN MIXED

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week with mixed performance. The Price Index closed at 6,752.79 points, down by 1.48 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.85 percent after closing at 402.41 points, whereas the KXS-15 Index closed at 906.38 points declining by 0.47 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 22.61 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 14.82 million, whereas trading volume average was 130.14 million shares, recording a drop of 25.68 percent.

The three Boursa indices ended the week's trading in the red zone, where the market witnessed an increased selling and profit collection operations on many listed stocks headed by the small-cap ones, which negatively affected the Price Index in particular, the most losing index by the end of the week compared to its peers the Weighted and KXS-15. Such performance came in light of a noticeable decrease in the trading indicators for both the value or the volume, where it reached on last Monday's session its second lowest level during the current year, specifically on 2nd January session. Also, the Price Index reached its lowest level in about two month, while the Weighted and KXS-15 indices reached its lowest level since last January.

Moreover, the market is watching for the listed companies results for the first quarter of the current year, where only 42 company disclosed its results out of 177 listed company in the primary market, meaning that more than 75 percent of the companies did not announce its results despite passing more than a month of the legal disclosing period which is defined by one and one half month. The disclosed companies realized around KD 330.71 million net profits, up by 11.11 percent for the same companies' profits for the same period of 2016, where it reached then K.D. 297.63 million.

As per the daily trading activity, the Boursa Kuwait initiated the first session of the last week with mixed closing for the three indices, where the Price Index recorded a limited decline affected by the selling pressures and the profit collection operations executed on some small-cap stocks, while the Weighted and KXS-15 indices were able to realize good gains by the end of the session supported by the random purchasing operations that targeted some leading and operational stocks especially in the Banks sector. The next session witnessed a drop in all the indices due to the losses recorded by many listed stocks of both leading and small-cap, which negatively affected the trading levels that recorded noticeable drop by the end of the session, where the value decreased by 40 percent approximately, while the volume dropped by about 34 percent.

On the mid-week session, the Boursa indices returned to fluctuate, as the Price Index continued recording losses for the third consecutive session as a result to the continued selling operations executed on the small-cap stocks during this period, while the Weighted Index joined in the red zone after recording some loss by the end of the session, however KXS-15 went against the current and ended the session in the green zone. The Boursa was able on Wednesday to break its

downward direction as the three indices were able to return to the green zone once again, supported by the return of the active speculation, that concentrated on the small-cap stocks, in addition to the collection operations witnessed by the leading stocks, before the market returns back to the loss zone on Thursday's session, where all its indices recorded different losses by the end of the session as a result to the strong profit collection operations executed on many stocks.

The market capitalization reached by the end of the last week KD 26.51 billion, down by 0.81 percent compared to its level in a week earlier, where it reached then KD 26.73 billion. On an annual level, the gains of the market cap of the listed companies since the beginning of the year contracted to reach 4.35 percent compared to its value at end of 2016, where it was then KD 25.41 billion. For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 17.48 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 5.87 percent, and the KXS-15 recorded 2.41 percent growth.

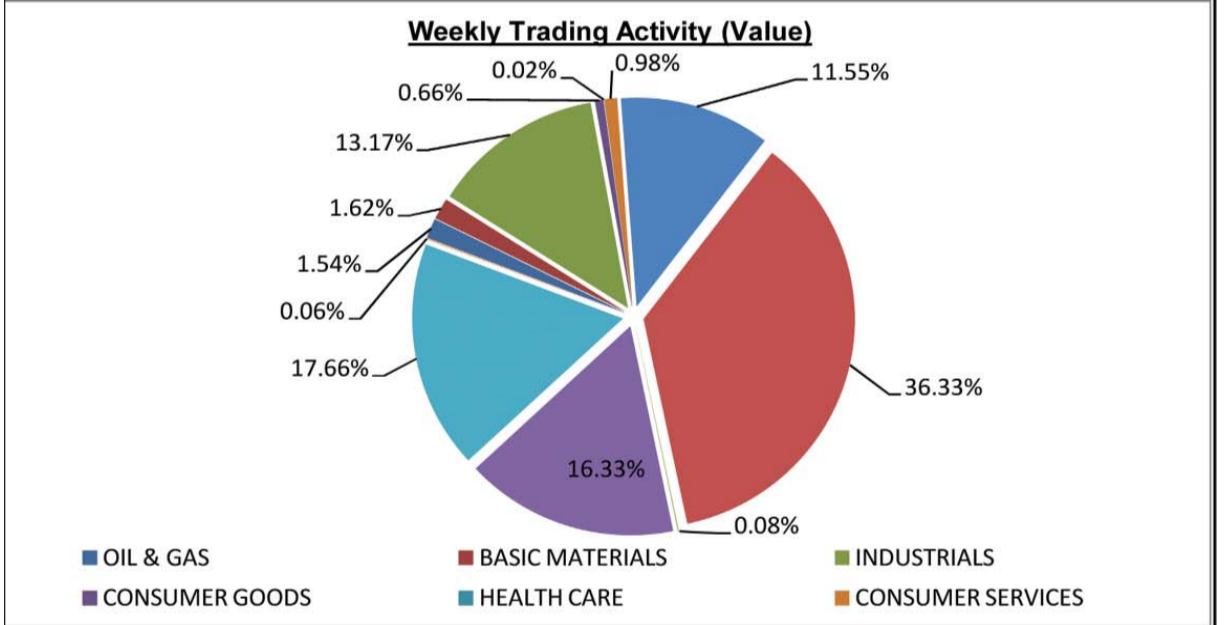
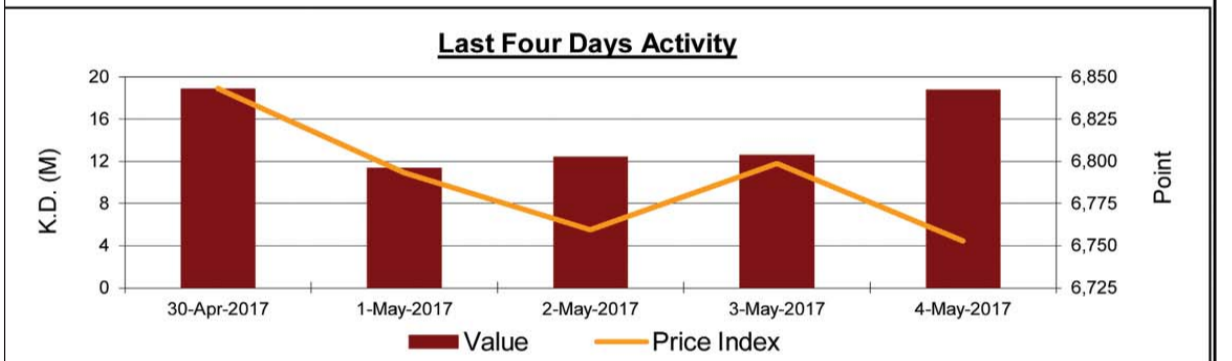
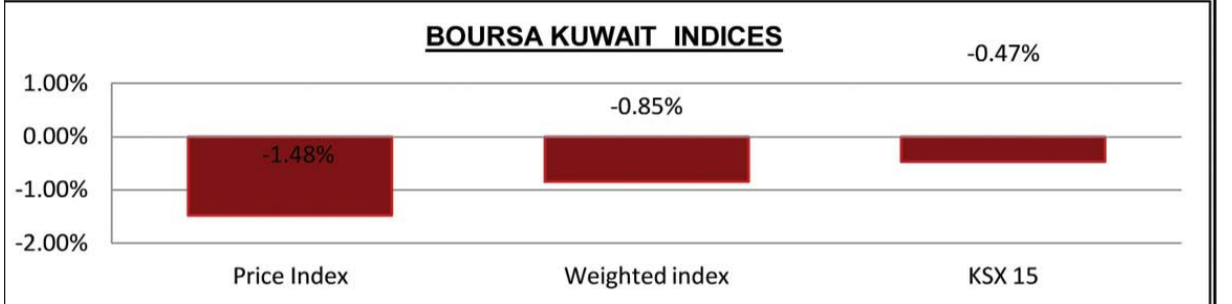
Sectors' Indices

Eight of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, while the other four recorded increases. The Consumer Services sector headed the losers list as its index declined 4.01 percent to end the week's activity at 890.99 points. The Oil & Gas sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 3.72 percent, closing 1,045.44 points, followed by the Technology sector, as its index closed at 681.62 points at a loss of 3.45 percent. The Consumer Goods sector was the least declining as its index closed at 1,120.61 points with a 0.19 percent decrease. On the other hand, Last week's highest gainer was the Health Care sector, achieving 4.81 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,405.03 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Telecommunications sector's index closed at 632.98 points recording 1.35 percent increase. The Insurance sector came in third as its index achieved 1.09 percent growth, ending the week at 1,063.13 points.

Sectors' Activity

The Real Estate sector dominated a total trade volume of around 222.96 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 34.26 percent of the total market trading volume. The Financial Services sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 29.02 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 188.84 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.26.92 million or 36.33 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. K.D 13.09 million representing 17.66 percent of the total market trading value. —Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.

BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KXS 15
Weekly	Last week	6,752.79	402.41	906.38
	Previous week	6,854.27	405.85	910.69
	Change (Point)	-101.48	-3.44	-4.31
	Change (%)	-1.48%	-0.85%	-0.47%
Annual	Last year	5,748.09	380.09	885.02
	Change (Point)	1,004.70	22.32	21.36
	Change (%)	17.48%	5.87%	2.41%



MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	650,721,330	700,443,567	-7.10%
Value (K.D)	74,109,248	76,603,889	-3.26%
Deals	17,139	16,075	6.62%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)				
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %	
26,511,755,177	26,728,749,160	-0.81%	4.35%	

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
FTI	64.00	56.00	8.0	14.29%
JEERANH	49.50	44.50	5.0	11.24%
BURG	330.00	305.00	25.0	8.20%
MHC	335.00	310.00	25.0	8.06%
VIVA	880.00	820.00	60.0	7.32%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
ALRAI	138.00	176.00	-38.0	-21.59%
KCPC	144.00	174.00	-30.0	-17.24%
KBMMC	136.00	156.00	-20.0	-12.82%
KFIC	44.50	51.00	-6.5	-12.75%
TAAMEER	38.50	43.00	-4.5	-10.47%

AFTER JOBS REPORT, A LATE PUSH TAKES STOCKS TO NEW RECORDS

NEW YORK: A solid pickup in hiring last month helped push the stock market to record highs Friday. The gains were driven by energy, technology and industrial companies.

The Labor Department told investors what they had hoped to hear: employers added more workers last month after a sluggish beginning to the year.

Energy companies rose as the price of oil recovered from losses earlier in the week. Media companies like CBS and Charter Communications recovered from their losses earlier in the week. Technology companies rose, but IBM missed out after billionaire investor Warren Buffett said he sold a large part of his stake in the company. After a quiet morning, stocks rose in the afternoon and the S&P 500 finished above the all-time high close it set March 1.

Scott Wren, senior global equity strategist at Wells Fargo's Investment Institute, said stocks benefited from the combination of greater hiring and slower wage growth because if wages rise too quickly it will affect corporate profits. "The market is likely to be concerned about wage gains and the impact on corporate margins as we move into 2018," he said. The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 9.77 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,399.29. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 55.47 points, or 0.3 percent, to 21,006.94. The Nasdaq composite jumped 25.42

points, or 0.4 percent, to 6,100.76, which beat a record it set earlier this week. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks added 8.15 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,397. Employers in the United States added 211,000 jobs in April, according to the Labor Department. That comes after slow hiring over the first three months of the year and sluggish economic growth.

Energy companies bounced back as the price of oil steadied. After two steep losses in three days, benchmark US crude oil jumped 70 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$46.22 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, added 72 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$49.10 barrel in London. Oil prices had fallen earlier this week as investors wonder if OPEC will extend a deal that trimmed oil production. Occidental Petroleum rose \$2.38, or 4.1 percent, to \$60.40 and Transocean jumped 84 cents, or 8.1 percent, to \$11.18. Baker Hughes gained \$1.92, or 3.3 percent, to \$59.33.

Apple jumped \$2.43, or 1.7 percent, to \$148.96, another record for the world's most valuable publicly-traded company. That helped tech stocks move higher.

Basic materials makers advanced. Dow Chemical gained \$1.67, or 2.7 percent, to \$63.09 and gas supplier Praxair rose \$3.16, or 2.5 percent, to \$129.48. Fertilizer maker CF Industries climbed \$1.35, or 5 percent, to \$28.42. CBS announced a bigger profit and

WALL STREET WEEKLY MARKET REPORT



NEW YORK: Trader James Riley works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Friday.—AP

more revenue than analysts expected, and its stock gained \$1.35, or 2.1 percent, to \$65.20. Media companies have struggled the last few

days as investors worried about declining cable ad revenue. Charter Communications, Scripps Networks and Tegna all traded higher.

IBM fell after Warren Buffett said he's sold about 25 million shares of the technology and consulting company, about a third of the stake that his Berkshire Hathaway company had owned. Buffett started buying IBM stock in 2011. IBM faces stiff competition from companies including Microsoft and Amazon, which have focused on cloud computing services. IBM reached an all-time high of \$215 in early 2013 and closed at \$155.05 Friday, down \$4, or 2.5 percent.

Cosmetics maker Revlon plunged after its sales in North America fell during the first quarter. That affected all parts of its business, as its consumer and professional divisions both reported smaller profits and lower sales than they did a year ago. Revlon bought Elizabeth Arden in September, and sales for that business were about the same as they had been a year ago. The stock had its worst day since 2008 as it gave up \$5.95, or 23.6 percent, to \$19.30.

Biotech drug companies slipped. Biogen dropped \$6.45, or 2.4 percent, to \$262.15 and Incyte sank \$2.69, or 2.1 percent, to \$122.41. Celgene fell \$2.05, or 1.6 percent, also closing at \$122.41. Bond prices held steady. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note remained 2.35 percent. High-dividend stocks did fairly well. Telecommunications companies recovered from a hard loss the day before, and utility companies also rose. Banks traded lower. — AP

Exclusive interview

NBK'S STRATEGIC VISION, DIGITAL INNOVATION
TRANSFORMING GLOBAL BANKING INDUSTRY

BANK LAUNCHES 3D SECURE TECHNOLOGY, BUILDS ON 'BANK IN A WALLET' CONCEPT

By Faten Omar

In 2016, banks in Kuwait focused efforts on modernizing infrastructure and building capabilities, especially in the digital space to position themselves for the future. In an exclusive interview with Kuwait Times, Dimitrios Kokosioulis, Deputy CEO, Head Operations and IT Group of National Bank of Kuwait discusses the bank's strategic vision and the importance of the digital transformation shaping the global banking industry as a whole.

Kuwait Times: What is NBK's market share in the banking technology sector?

Dimitrios Kokosioulis: NBK is one of the largest banks in the region. We are making investments in digital channels, especially in mobile banking, where currently close to 30 percent of the total daily financial and non-financial transactions (approximately this is equivalent to 1 million transactions out of the three million transactions we process daily through all our channels) are performed through our revamped mobile banking channel. We want to make sure that gradually we will provide all the services that our customers need on the mobile, as our goal is to build upon the "bank in a wallet" concept.

Also, we are investing and spending time and effort in protecting our customers' data confidentiality by beefing up our cyber security and anti-malware defense mechanisms. We do this by ensuring that the bank remains up to speed with the latest developments and trends including mobile device management, identity management and data classification among other things. We are certified with the global PCI DSS 3.1 accreditation and are working closely with the Central Bank of Kuwait and the KBA to develop a framework and the proper governance surrounding cyber security in the banking sector.

KT: What are the banking services that rely on technology where NBK excels? What are the innovative services in this area that will be presented by NBK in 2017?

Kokosioulis: NBK is investing in innovation and digitalization. As such we are upgrading our mobile banking application, where we recently launched a revamped application and introduced biometrics through touch ID on the NBK Mobile Banking App. We are also adding new services on the mobile application and by end of 2017, much more features will be delivered to our customers. Innovation at any cost without tangible benefits to the customer is not our main driver. We want to introduce new innovative services and products and invest in new technologies that will add convenience to our customers and add value to our product offering and service rendered.

We also recently launched an Interactive Teller Machine (ITM) at our Avenues Mall branch. This service enables customers to talk directly to an NBK Agent to assist with financial services such as cash withdrawal, cash deposit, check



Dimitrios Kokosioulis, Deputy CEO, Head Operations and IT Group of National Bank of Kuwait, speaks during the interview. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

to retrieve their credit card PIN through online banking (WOL) and the option to change their ATM pin through our ATMs rather than visiting a branch. PIN WEB is an innovative solution and we were the first bank to introduce it with First Data in the entire EMEA region.

Last but not least, we are working with the Central Bank of Kuwait on the NFC wearables product and hopefully once we get the relevant approval, we will be able to introduce wearables in the market using the contactless prepaid card technology.

Smartphone apps

KT: Transactions via smartphone apps have risen dramatically in recent years. How many transactions did NBK customers make in 2016 through smartphones?

Kokosioulis: We process nearly three million financial and non-financial transactions per day through all our channels, or 90 million per month, or close to 1 billion transactions per annum. Transactions via smartphones account for 30 percent of the total transactions and the number is growing every month.

This is why NBK works actively and diligently to beef up our cyber security defense mechanisms. We see the evolution of banking relying more on a digital arena and we want to ensure that our customers are enjoying safe and secure digital platforms.

KT: What is the importance of electronic banking services in enhancing the NBK brand, locally and internationally?

Kokosioulis: Because we are a global bank, we want to make sure that the use of online services to reach our clients' needs not only in Kuwait but also abroad. We are in a position to offer a wide array of international banking products and services

at our branches at key world financial centers, facilitating easy and reliable access to overseas financial markets. Furthermore, as part of our digitalization initiative we are upgrading our online banking platform for several of our key international locations and we are also adding mobile banking capabilities as well. We recently opened a full-scale branch in Shanghai, China making us the first GCC bank to accomplish this.

KT: How does NBK address the issue of security and technology, especially when

campaigns and we are coordinating with the CBK and the KBA to ensure that customers are alert and vigilant.

KT: Customers are always complaining about the failure of the ATMs, especially during the holidays. How does NBK respond to this?

Kokosioulis: We have the largest ATM network in Kuwait with more than 280

international hacker groups now seem to be targeting banks in the region?

Kokosioulis: We use the latest secure technology to monitor our databases and our systems to ensure they remain secure. We are cooperating with global partners to apply global security best practices initiatives where security is on the top of our priority list. We never launch a service unless the information security team has thoroughly tested it. For example on our ATMs we have upgraded our operating platform and installed anti-malware software thus enhancing the security of our network significantly.

KT: In view of activating 3D secure technology, how do you see customers interacting with it? Are there fears of safety on this service?

Kokosioulis: National Bank of Kuwait was the first bank in Kuwait and the Middle East to launch NBK Secure Online Shopping

Service through 3D secure technology for debit card e-commerce transactions internationally. This new service provides the highest level of credit and debit card protection for its customers against unauthorized usage when shopping online. We want to make sure that our customers' Internet purchases are as secure as possible. NBK Secure Shopping adds another authentication step for online payments. It is a free, quick, simple and secure payment process that works by using a passcode.

KT: As part of its efforts to keep up with digital developments, what are the projects currently being implemented by the bank?

Kokosioulis: NBK signed an agreement with the Kuwait Clearing Company (KCC) to enable the electronic transfers of dividend payments and trading proceeds to NBK shareholders. We were the first bank to do this and in the last two years this service was made available to all our shareholders providing them with a convenient way to collect their dividends. We have also signed an MOU with PACI to utilize the digital signature feature on the civil ID. We have on board all our SME clients on the state-of-the-art Salary Portal application where a client can upload a salary file from the convenience of his premises rather than to visit the bank. Also we are on boarding corporate clients on our Client Trade portal where clients can upload documents electronically to process trade finance related transactions from their offices. Recently we also made available on our online banking application (Watani On Line) the option to our customers to open fixed and variable Time Deposits as well as to update their customer information online. We are also working on an e-wallet solution, and NFC wearables along other things. Last but not least the bank is also investing in a new state-of-the-art Data Center which was certified by the Uptime Institute as Tier III which is ranked highest among all banks in Kuwait. The new Data Center will be utilizing the latest systems and technologies and will be operational by end of 2018.

Reforms

KT: What do you think are the major external and internal challenges that banks in Kuwait and NBK in particular will have to address in the near future?

Kokosioulis: The GCC region is also entering into a major economic transformation. The reduction in oil prices has

pushed governments to initiate reforms and this has an impact on the banking industry as well. We are seeing consolidation and M&A activity taking place in other countries in the region. In the UAE, NBAD and First Gulf Bank merged and also in the KSA mergers among banks is starting to be a reality. For us, our aim is to grow organically in key markets outside Kuwait where we have presence mainly in Egypt and the KSA. Another challenge the banks face today is the growing trend of FinTechs and blockchain. Nonbanking entities are competing with traditional banks on services and products and this is a growing challenge that the banks will have to address. NBK is closely monitoring this trend and we are examining various ways of positioning ourselves in this space.

KT: What is the role of Operations and Technology and how do you contribute to the bank's strategy and success?

Kokosioulis: At NBK, Group Operations & Technology was formed recently with the combination of operations and IT under one roof as per global best practice. The group is the backbone of the bank ensuring that we provide to our customers top-notch quality of service and after sales support. We constantly strive to improve and benchmark ourselves both internally and externally. Group O&T underwent a major restructuring and change management initiative as it is critical in today's competitive environment. Our efficiency has improved through a cost containment initiative we launched as a result of vendor renegotiations and internal restructuring without compromising quality. With HR, we have been actively embedding the "I AM NBK" principles along with the OASIS values (Ownership, Automation, Service, Initiative and Spend Clever) to all our employees in the group. We have also increased our Kuwaitization program rate significantly. I am happy to say that as per our succession plan for all the critical leadership positions within Group Operations & IT, we have identified good and talented Kuwaitis. Also, the NBK Academy is a pool we use to get good talent within the group. In summary, Group O&T is playing an integral role in ensuring that the bank is growing through the execution of our strategic pillars that are reflected through cost containment, quality of service rendered, risk and controls, innovation, efficiency and people.

NBK NEW DATA CENTER



deposit, transfers and audio and video conferencing.

ATM locations

NBK also added ATMs at convenient locations across the country to make banking more convenient and easier for our customers. Another significant innovation we recently launched was contactless cards, NBK Tap & Pay Service, where NBK Cards are enabled with a new technology which allows for contactless transactions, making paying for your shopping faster and easier. We are the largest acquirer in Kuwait with the largest number of NFC enabled POS machines and we work together with all stakeholders to increase awareness on the usage of contactless cards with our merchants and card holders.

Also we have given customers the ability

to retrieve their credit card PIN through online banking (WOL) and the option to change their ATM pin through our ATMs rather than visiting a branch. PIN WEB is an innovative solution and we were the first bank to introduce it with First Data in the entire EMEA region.

3D Security

Security on electronic transactions is critical for our clients. Awareness is a key element in ensuring that both our customers and staff remain vigilant on fraudulent activities and are always on alert. To this extent, we have launched awareness

Service through 3D secure technology for debit card e-commerce transactions internationally. This new service provides the highest level of credit and debit card protection for its customers against unauthorized usage when shopping online. We want to make sure that our customers' Internet purchases are as secure as possible. NBK Secure Shopping adds another authentication step for online payments. It is a free, quick, simple and secure payment process that works by using a passcode.

Secure Shopping is based on a three domain model named 3D secure service. The 3D secure service adds an additional level of authentication by confirming customer identity with a dedicated 3D passcode that makes Internet shopping more secure.



NBK's new building

KFH OFFERS AND DISCOUNTS ON SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES LEASE SERVICE AVAILABLE AT 25 BRANCHES, SEPARATE PLACES FOR LADIES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched promotion campaign on Safe Deposit Boxes dedicated for storing and safeguarding important documents, jewelry and other important and valuable items. This service is available at 25 branches for men and women. This service addresses the aspiration of a huge segment of clients who would like to spend their summer vacation outside Kuwait as it serves in protecting valuable belongings by keeping them in state-of-the-art security safe boxes.

Khaled Alsubaiei, Deputy General Manager Sales and Distribution, said that KFH provides exclusive offers to its customer segments Nukhba and Ruwwad where they can rent them for free for the first year, and they can avail 50 percent



Khaled Alsubaiei

and 25 percent respectively in the following years. Rubban and Sundus customer segments enjoy 50 percent discount. Tamayyuz customers are offered this service free of charge for a year as part of

the wide range offers granted to this segment. He added that the Safe Deposit Boxes are private and secure. They are fully fire protected to safeguard clients' important possessions. KFH offers safe deposit boxes in three sizes: small, medium and large, which can be rented for a short period or a long depending on customers' need. The Safe Deposit Boxes come in separate places for men and women. They have surveillance and security on a permanent basis.

This service is available in the following branches: the Headquarters branch, Jahra, Fahaheel, Khaitan, Huttein, Sabah Al-Nasser, Andalus, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Khalidiya, Fahd Al-Ahmad, Salmiya, Shaab, Ardiya, Bayan, Rehab, Keifan, Subahiya, Faiha, Rowda, Ghernata, Dhahr,

Zahraa, Saad Al-Abdullah, Yarmouk and Nuzha.

Concerning the terms and requirements of renting those Safe Deposit Boxes, client needs to have only Bank account at KFH and the civil ID. KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 480 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.

NEW ROLES FOR SENIOR UAE NATIONALS AT ETIHAD GROUP

ABU DHABI: Ahmed Al-Qubaisi, who currently holds the position of Vice President Aero Political and Industry Affairs, will be promoted to Senior Vice President and take on responsibility for International Affairs and for Environmental Affairs. Ahmed joined Etihad Airways in 2015 as Vice President Alliances and Partnerships, before being promoted to his current role in 2016.

Hareb Al-Muhairy is to become Senior Vice President, UAE and GCC Sales, responsible for driving sales revenues in the airline's priority markets. He moves from his current position in Corporate and International Affairs. Amina Taher has been promoted to Vice President, Corporate Affairs, and will be responsible for leading corporate communications strategy for Etihad Aviation Group (EAG). With this promotion, she becomes one of the group's most senior female executives.

Finally, responsibility for the airline's corporate social responsibility strategy will be moved under

all seized those opportunities to develop careers as senior executives within one of the UAE's largest businesses."

These new executive roles come two weeks after Etihad Airways' team at Abu Dhabi International Airport welcomed 157 talented Emirati nationals from across the UAE, after they graduated from the Etihad UAE National Development Foundation Program.

Etihad Aviation Group employs more than 3,000 Emiratis and runs more than 20 programs to attract, train and develop UAE nationals in areas such as engineering, flight operations, management and at the all-female Al-Ain Contact Centre.

Prior to joining Etihad Airways, Ahmed Al-Qubaisi spent six years at the Department of Transport, as Director International and Government Affairs, responsible for protecting and enhancing the aero-political interests of Abu

Affairs portfolios, holding the role of Vice President Sales UAE before moving to oversee Corporate and International Affairs in 2015. He previously held the position of Vice President Corporate Communications between 2009 and 2010. Al-Muhairy joined Etihad Airways in 2004 having studied political science and management at the UAE University in Al-Ain. He also holds a Master Degree in Strategic and Security Studies gained in 2015 from the National Defense College.

Amina Taher joined Etihad Airways' Corporate Affairs department as Head of Corporate Communications in January 2014, from the Mubadala Development Company (MDC) where she held the position of Head of Social Development and Sponsorship. An experienced media professional, Ms. Taher has hosted a number of Etihad Airways' global media conferences and more recently has been focused on providing corporate communications strategic and campaign support to the Etihad Airways executive leadership.

Taher holds both a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the London Business School and a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University gained in 2015. She achieved a Bachelor's degree in Applied Media Studies with honours from the Higher Colleges of Technology, Dubai.

Dr Nadia Bastaki has made significant achievements during her decade with Etihad Airways. She was the first female aviation medicine specialist in the UAE appointed by the Abu Dhabi health authority and was also the first GCAA instructor and Medical Review Officer (MRO) for the region appointed by the GCAA.

Under her leadership, the Medical Centre has received a number of awards, as well as recognition by the GCAA and both the FAA and CASA (American and Australian aviation authorities). Dr. Nadia herself has won several awards for her leadership role. Dr. Nadia holds a Master degree in Occupational Medicine from Manchester University and a post graduate degree in aviation medicine from Kings College London. She recently completed a women's director program run by the Institute of Directors and Hawkamah. These new appointments take effect immediately.



Ahmed Al-Qubaisi



Amina Taher



Dr. Nadia Bastaki



Hareb Al-Muhairy

Dr. Nadia Bastaki, Vice President Medical Services. Dr. Nadia joined the Medical Centre at Etihad Airways in 2007 and is a leading Aviation Medical specialist in the region. Under her leadership the Etihad Medical Centre has become adopted by the industry as best-in-class and the addition of corporate social responsibility is a natural extension of her Medical and Wellbeing portfolio.

Mohamed Mubarak Fadhel Al-Mazrouei, Chairman of the Board of the Etihad Aviation Group, said: "Our business is committed to developing career opportunities for advancing UAE nationals. These four highly-talented leaders have

Dhabi. His aviation career also includes three years with Abu Dhabi Airports Company (ADAC) as Head of Capacity and Operations Planning and as project coordinator at SCADIA. Since joining in 2015, Qubaisi has performed a critical role in Etihad Airways' international aviation regulatory affairs arena at a time when the industry is experiencing increasingly complex and challenging competition and regulation.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science from Portland State University in the United States. Hareb Al-Muhairy's career at Etihad Airways has spanned both the Commercial and Corporate

FORD CHAMPIONS PEACE OF MIND AND ALL-ENCOMPASSING PRODUCT PROTECTION

KUWAIT: When you buy a car, most manufacturers promise a certain number of kilometres or years of service before warranties expire. We've come to accept it as standard practice, and come to terms with the fact that after a year or two, the onus is on ourselves to make sure the vehicle is in tip-top shape, and bear the brunt of any repairs required.

There is another way, however, and it's a way offered to all new Ford owners who may be unaware of the unspoken benefits; the Ford Extended Service Plan (ESP).

Uniquely, ESP is a service and maintenance contract 100 per cent backed by the Ford Motor Company, something that no other automotive manufacturer offers, and guarantees repairs are made with genuine Ford parts by factory-trained and certified technicians. Coverage is even 100 per cent transferrable, which may increase the resale value of your car. In essence, Ford's comprehensive Extended Service Plan takes the anxieties out of vehicle ownership by providing peace of mind as it covers a spectrum of manufacturer-recommended maintenance services, including normal wear items.

It's comforting to know that your new Ford is well protected. And when you buy a new Ford in Kuwait, it comes standard with a five-year/100,000 kilometres Ford Warranty. Sometimes you'd like a little extra peace of mind, though, wanting to protect yourself from unexpected vehicle repair costs; that's where ESP comes in, with more than 1,000 components and associated labour covered under the PremiumCare plan.

Having been referred to as ESP since the mid-'Seventies, Ford's aftersales maintenance packages were recently rebranded as Ford Protect to better describe the all-

encompassing nature of offerings to customers. And every customer is different; some may work their powertrain harder than others, some may push the limits of mechanical products and decide to play it safe with an extended premium care package - good for eight years or 300,000 kilometres depending on the package selected.

In the Middle East, Premium Maintenance is the best seller. That covers all recommended and required maintenances. That's everything in the book! In comparison to some of Ford's biggest competitors in certain segments - who offer little more than two years of oil changes - you can't get better.

For instance, if you buy a big

Expedition with heated and cooled seats, underneath that seat, there's a filter that has to be changed every 60,000 kilometres (before it starts to biodegrade); Ford covers that. Anything from a big filter to a little filter, to an oil filter or oil change, to a tyre rotation - whatever's in your maintenance schedule that is required to be replaced. It might start with a tyre rotation at 10,000 km, a pollen filter at 30,000 km; and end at 160,000 km with your automatic transmission fluid. It's all covered by Ford Protect.

On top of that, Ford offers wear coverage on parts through its Ford Protect Premium Maintenance plans. Wear items are those that effectively wear out, like brakes - which aren't covered by the factory

after the first year - clutch, shock absorbers, belts and hoses, spark plugs, and windshield wiper blades (which can get torn or melt).

"Most service contracts on the market from other original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) are backed by a third-party insurance company, which means the coverage isn't an exact mirror of the factory," said Evan Hubenka, Business Manager of Ford Protect, Ford Middle East and Africa "But when a customer is registered into Ford's system, they get factory-like coverage for the term they have selected."

Hubenka continued: "What's even more unique about Ford Protect is that the contract is so complete, it lists only what's not actually covered - which makes for much lighter reading. If it's not on that list, it's a covered component. So it's an exclusionary contract, which is one of the only ones you're likely to see on the market. There's no deductible, like you'd find with many competitors."

When time is money, a vehicle's necessary repairs for general wear and tear can be costly, and it's often something customers overlook when purchasing lesser-quality built products from other manufacturers.

Additionally, Ford will give a customer a rental vehicle for up to 10 days (per repair) during the repair of the vehicle, when it's held overnight or the vehicle is inoperable. And that's per repair, not for over the course of the coverage. So, if a customer has 10 repairs, he could have 100 days of rental. That's the Premium Care package.

Maintenance can be expensive to do in the Middle East, there's no doubt about it, which is why Ford Protect's Premium Maintenance package is such a great seller. And once customers can see those kind of savings, it becomes impossible to ignore.

PremiumCare **Extended Service Plan**

BACKED BY THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY

REGION WIDE SUPPORT

FORD FACTORY-TRAINED TECHNICIANS

UP TO 8 YEARS / 300,000 KMS

1000+ COMPONENTS COVERED

RENTAL CAR*

ENGINE, TRANSMISSION, ELECTRICAL, BRAKES, FRONT & REAR SUSPENSION, DRIVE SHAFTS

COOLING, AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING, WIPERS, WASHERS, SAFETY, EXHAUST

shop online with
100% guaranteed peace of mind

بنك بروان
BURGAN BANK
driven by you 40

BURGAN BANK LAUNCHES 3D-SECURE SERVICES FOR ITS CARD-HOLDERS

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank recently introduced 3D-Secure services for its credit, debit and prepaid cardholders as part of the bank's efforts to provide a safer and more seamless online shopping experience. 3D-Secure is a security protocol which acts as an additional security layer for online credit and debit card transactions. With the provision of secure e-commerce transactions, customers are more protected from online financial crime and fraud risks.

Available for both MasterCard and VISA cards for online transactions, the 3D-Secure transactions are performed with the use of an additional security feature which requires authorisation with the registered password. The basic concept of the protocol is to tie the financial authorization process with an online authentication and is available on websites protected by "MasterCard SecureCode" and "Verified by VISA" security systems. The protective feature enables the bank to authenticate not only the card but also the cardholder during payment of internet purchases thus protecting their online transactions against theft and illegal use of cards.

Raed Al-Haqhaq, Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Kuwait commented: "With the growing number of online merchants both locally and internation-

ally alongside rising online consumer shopping rates, the need for providing a solid fortress of online security rises in parallel."

"As we notice higher incidents of world-wide online financial crime, theft, and fraud, we acknowledge our responsibility, as a leading regional financial institution, to provide only the best standards of solutions to our customers, especially in terms of security without jeopardizing their banking experience. In this respect, Burgan Bank consistently seeks to develop its products and services to align them with its own standards and to those of the local and international banking industry," Mr. Al-Haqhaq added.

Burgan Bank customers would need to sign in their credentials for 3D-Secure at each online transaction; he/she would be required to enter their 3D Secure password to complete the transaction process. The new value-added service by Burgan Bank is an extension of the brand's mission to reiterate its commitment to its consumers and to proactively meet the needs of an ever-changing market in terms of security, technology, and financial solutions. It is also yet another clear indication of the bank's strong position and its commitment to being a progressive leader in the regional financial industry.

KD 25,000

Monday May 8

From 14:00 To 15:00

TRANSFER WIN & WIN 88.8 FM

STAY TUNED FOR THE SALARY ACCOUNT QUARTERLY DRAW

بنك الخليج
GULF BANK

GULF BANK'S SALARY ACCOUNT DRAW TO TAKE PLACE LIVE ON 88.8FM'S 'RABAA AL-DIWANIYA' SHOW

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank will be holding its first quarterly Salary Account Draw tomorrow, Monday 8 May, 2017, live on 88.8 FM 'Rabaa Al-Diwaniya' to announce the lucky winner of its KD 25,000 cash prize. The draw is scheduled to take place, in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The newly launched offer is tailored for Kuwaiti customers, and allows them to benefit from a number of unique offers by transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank. The new salary account offer gives new customers the opportunity to either receive a KD 100 cash gift upon transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank or an interest free loan. Customers must have a minimum salary of KD 500 and are fully eligible for the offer following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank.

Customers can also enjoy a one year free of charge Visa or MasterCard credit card, as well as a chance to apply for loan up to KD 70,000, or a consumer loan up to KD 15,000. Existing and new customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank are automatically enrolled in the quarterly draws and have the chance to win valuable cash prizes, including three quarterly prizes of KD 25,000, in addition to Kuwait's largest salary prize of KD 250,000 in the last draw.

The draw dates are scheduled as follows:

- 7 August 2017 for the prize of KD 25,000
- 6 November 2017 for the prize of KD 25,000
- 8 February 2018 for the grand prize of KD 250,000

CHINA'S WECHAT BLOCKED IN RUSSIA

BEIJING: Chinese internet giant Tencent said yesterday its messaging app WeChat had been blocked in Russia, adding it was in touch with authorities to resolve the issue. WeChat, known as Weixin in China, is the world's most popular messaging service, with 889 million global users by the end of 2016. As well as messaging, it also offers payment, ride-hailing and other services, and Tencent has ambitions to spread the app beyond China. It is unclear how many users WeChat has in Russia.

"We're experiencing a block and we're deeply

sorry," a Tencent official said on a company microblog. "Russian regulations say online service providers have to register with the government but WeChat doesn't have the same understanding (of the rules)," the official added. A spokesman for Russia's telecoms watchdog Roskomnadzor said the messaging service "did not provide its contact information for the register of information distribution organizations."

"We are sending letters to iTunes and Google Play to block the app. We await a reaction. If it does not follow, access to the messenger will be limited

through telecom providers," Vadim Ampelonsky told state-run RIA Novosti Friday. Earlier in the week, Roskomnadzor placed Blackberry Messenger and Line on its list of banned services for the same reasons, RIA reported.

A law passed in 2014 requires foreign messaging services, search engines and social networking sites to store the personal data of Russian users inside Russia. Sites that breach the law are added to a blacklist and internet providers are obliged to block access. The law prompted criticism from internet companies but entered into force in

September 2015, with professional networking site LinkedIn blocked after it was found to have broken the law. China also has strict internet regulations.

Communist authorities censor online content they deem politically sensitive, while blocking some Western websites and the services of internet giants including Facebook, Twitter and Google with a vast control network dubbed the Great Firewall of China. Tencent became China's most valuable firm in September, beating state-owned telecom behemoth China Mobile and nearly reaching half of Apple's valuation. — AFP

'SUBSCRIBER AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE' CAN BOOST KUWAIT OPERATOR REVENUES

KUWAIT: The traditional telecoms industry is going through massive disruption. Traditional revenue streams for communication service providers (CSPs) are on a decline, while stagnant regulations threaten market nimbleness.

While the telecoms industry is facing increasing pressure on traditional revenue sources from competitors, regulation and digital disruptors, CSPs are now finding themselves at the centre of connected ecosystem that will increasingly be at the core of all the products and services we use. This provides greater and more diverse opportunities than the telecoms industry has every faced before - if they are able to harness it.

"It is very difficult to compete with free, but it is possible to remain competitive despite this challenge. To do this, CSPs are looking to new platforms that will enable them to leverage their unique position to generate revenue streams", says Dan Faulkner, SVP, Communications Service Provider Business, Nuance Communications.

"To make matters worse, global digital platforms - including Facebook, Google, Apple, and Amazon - are enter-

most relevant and valuable services," added Faulkner.

The art of upselling

Undoubtedly, the primary benefit for many CSPs is the opportunity to generate additional revenue, as AI can help CSPs connect subscribers with the services that they want most. Beyond upselling, the right offer at the right time can also increase customer satisfaction because subscribers get what they want. For example, using AI to help consumers find the video content that like will not only increase video on demand purchases, but also reduce churn and generally increase the time on the device - all of which drives more revenue to the CSP.

"Upselling is a fine art - the wrong offer at the wrong time is spam. For instance, offering someone with a pre-paid subscription, which includes a fixed amount of high-speed data, who has run out of data a few days before the end of the month the opportunity to buy a small amount of data (which happens to be the right amount to get them through those next few days based on your usage profile) at a good price would be a valuable to the consumer. A week later, it is useless and just spam," added Faulkner.

Driving new revenue

For CSPs looking to take advantage of subscriber intelligence to generate new revenue streams, there are three models that should be considered to reflect the different types of customers. For subscribers with a post-paid account, CSPs need to target them with content and services that encourage them to use their high speed data services. This way, when they are running low on data they may appreciate a personalized data pack tailored to your usage. Alternatively, they may upgrade their account.

"For pre-paid subscribers that are running low on credit, CSPs should offer incentives to top up at that moment. For example, when a consumer that has low balance but tries to browse, the CSP can incentivize that customer to top up by saying 'you're going to run out of data soon, if you top up now by US\$2 then you will get free data for the rest of the day,'" added Faulkner.

"CSPs should also look to offer subscribers targeted content to upsell. For example, for someone who frequently downloads health and fitness apps, a CSP could offer on a subscription to health and wellbeing articles, such as 'if you do, it's 99p a week and if you sign up now then the first week is free now,'" added Faulkner.

"No matter what the approach, subscriber intelligence and machine learning is enabling CSPs to create new avenues of revenue in an increasingly competitive market. As the way that users consume both content and data evolves, CSPs must adapt and draw upon the historic data of their customers to our effectively monetize their services," concluded Faulkner.



Dan Faulkner - Nuance

ing the core telecommunication market with innovative business models and technologies, leaving many CSPs to wonder if they can keep up or if they will be displaced. Digital natives are monetizing consumers' data and selling advertising space in order to provide services to users that are generally free," added Faulkner.

At the heart of the IoT

CSPs are uniquely positioned at the front and centre of today's evolving connected ecosystem - powering the data that gives mobile devices, services and the Internet of Things (IoT) access to content and connectivity, while also often providing direct access to content and services for the smart home. "One way that CSPs can take advantage of this unique position is by continuously analyzing offer conversion rates, subscriber profiles, content usage, and network activity, in order to more accurately create and place offers that are tailored and relevant to each subscriber. Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and behavioral data, CSPs can ensure that they present the right offer at the right time using the right channel for each subscriber. This helps CSPs connect subscribers with the



ALBANY: In this March 26, 2017 photo, people attend a rally for the Albany for All to support unity and inclusiveness in response to racist and offensive posted on social media, at Albany High School. — AP

STUDENTS SUE OVER SUSPENSIONS FOR 'LIKES' ON RACIST FB POSTS

SAN FRANCISCO: A California school district suspended a high school student after racist images that included nooses drawn around the necks of a black student and coach appeared on his social media site. But a federal lawsuit says the district went too far when it also disciplined students who indicated they "liked" the posts on the Instagram account. The suit - filed Monday in San Francisco on behalf of four students - accuses the Albany Unified School District of violating students' free speech rights and says the district did not have the authority to suspend the students because the offensive posts were on a private account that had no connection with any official school activity or school account.

"This to me is no different than having a private drawing book and making some offensive drawings at home and sharing them with a couple of friends," said Alan Beck, an attorney for four students who "liked" or commented on the offensive Instagram account. "Does the school have the right to ruin my life over something I was doing at my house?"

Free speech

Legal experts say the lawsuit will present federal courts with another opportunity to decide how strictly schools can regulate student speech. And it raises thorny questions about whether "likes" on social media should be treated similarly to the original posts. "Likes" are ambiguous in that they could be saying, 'This is funny; I agree with it,' or 'I don't agree, but I want to stand up for your right to say it,'" said

Eugene Volokh, who teaches free speech law at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The racist posts on an Instagram account of a student at Albany High School surfaced in March, leading to protests by students and parents. Albany is an affluent community adjacent to Berkeley, a city that prides itself on its liberalism and political correctness. The posts also included a photo of a black person next to an ape and jokes about students' weight and looks. Superintendent Valerie Williams said in a statement that the district is reviewing the lawsuit, but it intends to take "appropriate action in responding to it."

"The district takes great care to ensure that our students feel safe at school, and we are committed to providing an inclusive and respectful learning environment for all of our students," she said. The student who owned the account is also facing expulsion, according to his attorney, Cate Beekman. She declined to provide his name. He has not filed a lawsuit. The lawsuit filed Monday represents four other Albany High School students - three of them Asian, who say they were suspended after or commenting on the Instagram account or indicating they "liked" a post.

Public shaming session

One of the students said "yep" to another comment, according to the lawsuit. Another student commented that the account "is only targeting black people." The other two students "liked" a few of the images posted on the account. The lawsuit claims the district brought

suspended students before the student body at a "public shaming" session during which they were cursed and jeered. At a meeting later the same day, two suspended students were injured by an angry protester, according to the suit. The four students seek unspecified damages and a court order removing the suspensions from their records.

Schools have broad authority under federal law to limit speech at school that they consider disruptive, according to First Amendment scholars. But courts have disagreed about whether schools can punish students for off-campus speech that causes disruptions at school - a more likely scenario these days with the reach of social media, said Aaron Caplan, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. "In my own view, students are entitled to speak just like everyone else when they are off campus," Caplan said. "The school should not say, 'You engaged in free speech over the weekend on your own time, but we will punish you because your speech has ripple effects that we don't like.'"

Volokh said California does not give schools extra authority to limit speech on campus, so the students in this case could prevail under state law. The school district, however, might argue that the nooses were threats, and that speech wouldn't be protected, he said. But even then, "likes" are too ambiguous to be treated as threats themselves, he said. Darryl Yorkey, another attorney for the four students, agreed. "People of this age click 'like' to pretty much everything, and they'll respond in grunts and single syllables to pretty much anything," he said. — AP

FEDS PROBE UBER'S USE OF FAKE APP TO STYMIE CITY INSPECTORS

DETROIT: The Justice Department is probing allegations that Uber used phony software to thwart city officials looking at whether the ride-hailing company was following local regulations. The city of Portland, Oregon, said in an April audit report that it was notified of the federal inquiry by the US Attorney's Office in San Francisco. Portland says it is cooperating. Uber and the US Attorney's Office both declined to comment. Reuters and other news outlets have reported that the investigation is a criminal probe currently before a grand jury.

Greyballing the overseers

Uber's software - nicknamed "Greyball" - identified regulators who posed as riders while trying to collect evidence that Uber's service was breaking taxi laws. Uber allegedly served up a fake version of its app to make it appear the undercover regulators were summoning a car, only to have the ride canceled.

Portland officials began investigating Uber after the New York Times disclosed the existence of Greyball in March. "The city of Portland was notified by the United States Attorney of the Northern District of California that Uber is the subject of a federal inquiry," the audit report stated. In the audit report, the Portland Bureau of

Transportation found that Uber tagged 17 rider accounts with Greyball, 16 of which were government officials. Uber used the software to "intentionally evade" city transportation officers between Dec. 5 and Dec. 19, 2014, the report said.

The company pulled out of Portland on Dec. 21, 2014, but returned late in April of 2015. After that, the audit found no evidence that Uber used Greyball, the report stated. "Finding no evidence of the use of Greyball or similar software tools after April 2015 does not prove definitively that such tools were not used. It is inherently difficult to prove a negative," the report said.

Beyond portland

The Justice Department probe apparently isn't limited to Portland. A spokesman for the Philadelphia Parking Authority confirmed Friday that the agency had been contacted by Justice officials who asked about software that helped Uber evade inspectors. "Other than that I can't go into any detail," said the spokesman, Martin O'Rourke. The authority regulates taxicabs and ride-hailing services in the city in addition to parking.

According to a December legal settlement with Uber, Philadelphia authorities had figured out that inspectors were being blocked from Uber rides. Under one provi-

sion of that agreement, Uber was required to reinstate accounts associated with credit-card and telephone numbers the authority believed were blocked "as a result of (Uber's) enforcement activities," a reference to the Greyball system.

Uber said in an April 21 letter to the city that its own investigation indicated that Greyball was used "exceedingly sparingly" in Portland. The company said it removed all Greyball tags in Portland back in April 2015 and has not used them since. Uber has acknowledged it used Greyball to

counter regulators working with the company's opponents to entrap its drivers. It was part of a broader program called VTOS, shorthand for "violations of terms of service," that Uber says it developed to protect its service. "This program denies ride requests to fraudulent users who are violating our terms of service - whether that's people aiming to physically harm drivers, competitors looking to disrupt our operations, or opponents who collude with officials on secret 'stings' meant to entrap drivers," Uber said. — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: This March 1, 2017, file photo shows an exterior view of the headquarters of Uber. — AP

CASSINI PROBE FINDS VOID BETWEEN SATURN'S RINGS

WASHINGTON: The unmanned Cassini spacecraft, after completing two passes in the vast, unexplored area between Saturn's rings has discovered not much else there, researchers at NASA said. Scientists have been surprised to find that not all that much-not even space dust-lies between Saturn's iconic rings. "The region between the rings and Saturn is 'the big empty,' apparently," said Cassini Project Manager Earl Maize of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, after the probe's first pass.

The rings themselves are made of fast-moving particles of ice and space debris. The 22-foot-tall (6.7 meter) Cassini spacecraft launched in 1997 and began orbiting Saturn in 2004. Cassini made a first pass to explore what lies between the rings in late April and a second one on May 2, at a speed of about 77,000 miles per hour relative to the planet. The gap between the rings and the top of Saturn's atmosphere is about 1,500 miles. Cassini is expected to make a total of 22 dives between the rings and the planet before making a death plunge into the gas giant in September. Cassini is a 20-year-old joint mission of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency. — AFP

CLIMATE SCIENCE: BAD NEWS GETS WORSE

PARIS: As UN negotiators meet in Bonn to thrash out rules for implementing the climate-rescue Paris Agreement, the stakes have never been higher. Following are some key climate measures that illustrate the risks of global warming.

1.1 degrees

In 2016, Earth's average surface temperature hit a record level for the third consecutive year since records began in 1880. The global average temperature was about 1.1 degree Celsius over pre-industrial levels, and about 0.06 C above the previous record set in 2015, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The 21st century has already seen 16 of the 17 hottest years on record. Arctic summer sea ice shrank to 4.14 million square kilometers in 2016 - the second-lowest after 2012 when it reached 3.39 million km². The Arctic Ocean could be ice free in summer as early as 2030. In parts of Arctic Russia, temperatures were 6 C to 7 C higher than the long-term average. On the other extreme of the world, Antarctica, sea ice hit its lowest extent ever recorded by satellites at the end of summer. High-altitude glaciers, meanwhile, declined in surface area in 2015 for the 36th year in a row.

400 parts per million

The atmospheric concentrations of the three most potent greenhouse gases-carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane

(CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) - all hit new highs in 2016. For the first time on record, in 2015, the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere averaged 400 parts per million (ppm). Most climate scientists agree that greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere must be capped at 450 ppm of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) for a fighting chance at limiting average global warming to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial levels. This is the limit enshrined in the 2015 Paris Agreement. Fossil fuel-generated greenhouse gas emissions are expected to have remained stable in 2016 for the third consecutive year, even as the global economy grew. But to stay on target for 2 C, they need to decline. Meanwhile, scientists are warning of an unexplained rise of methane, which has a far more potent warming effect than CO₂, in the atmosphere.

70 millimeters

Sea level rise, caused when ice melts and warmer water expands, continued and appeared to be accelerating, according to a recent report. The average ocean level was 70 millimeters (2.75 inches) higher in 2015 than the 1993 water mark, having risen as much as 30 percent faster in the ten years to 2015 than in the previous decade. The pace is likely to pick up further as ice sheets and glaciers shed mass, threatening the homes and livelihoods of tens of millions of people in low-lying areas around the world. — AFP



QUEBEC: Residents use a paddleboat as they bring supplies through flooded streets of the Ile-Mercier district of Ile-Bizard, Quebec on Friday, May 5, 2017. Forecasts are calling for several more days of rain. — AP



SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS, Antarctica: Photo taken shows a view of Yankee Harbor in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica. Global warming has caused ice to melt faster than normal in the Antarctic, but a study suggested the rate of loss in some areas may be slower than previously thought. — AFP

TRUMP ANTI-CLIMATE GHOST HANGS OVER UN MEETING

LAST CHANCE TO STAVE OFF WORST-CASE-SCENARIO

PARIS: For the first time since Donald Trump's ascent to the White House, UN negotiators gather next week to draft rules to take forward the climate-rescue Paris Agreement he has threatened to abandon. The mid-year round of haggling in Bonn is meant to begin work on a crucial rulebook for signatories of the pact. But it risks being sidetracked by mounting uncertainty over the world's number two carbon polluter, with Trump at its helm.

"This was supposed to be a highly technical and uneventful meeting to flesh out some of the details in the Paris Agreement. But, obviously, the speculation coming out of Washington is now at the top of our minds," the Maldives environment and energy minister, Thorig Ibrahim said. He chairs the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a key negotiating bloc in the UN climate forum which will meet from May 8-18. The deal was sealed at the 21st so-called "Conference of Parties" (COP 21) in the French capital in December 2015, after years of haggling. A diplomatic push led by Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, and China's Xi Jinping, saw 195 countries and the EU bloc - 196 parties in total-OK the deal to the popping of champagne corks. Palestine has also since joined.

The agreement sets the goal of limiting average global warming to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels and 1.5 C if possible. This will be done by curbing planet-warming greenhouse-gas emissions from burning oil, coal and gas-an objective to which countries have pledged voluntary, nationally-determined "contributions". Scientists project that on current pledges, Earth is on track for warming of around

3C-a scenario that would doom the planet to potentially catastrophic droughts, floods, and rising seas.

Distraction

Widely hailed as the last chance to stave off worst-case-scenario global warming, the Paris pact was savaged by Trump during his presidential campaign. He called climate change a "hoax" perpetrated by China, and promised to "cancel" the deal as president. With the rest of the world on tenterhooks ever since, Trump has said he will make his decision before the next G7 meeting on May 26-27 in Sicily. "The question of whether this creates a difficult backdrop for the negotiations is clearly a 'yes,'" said Paula Caballero, who heads the climate programme at the Washington-based World Resources Institute (WRI). A State Department official confirmed a US delegation will travel to Bonn, though a "much smaller" one than in recent years.

"We are focused on ensuring that decisions are not taken at these meetings that would prejudice our future policy, undermine the competitiveness of US businesses, or hamper our broader objective of advancing US economic growth and prosperity," said the official, asked about the negotiators' brief. Some fear a US withdrawal from the agreement would dampen enthusiasm for ramping up national emissions-cutting targets, required to bring them in line with the 2C target. "I can see some countries... saying: 'Well, why should we do more if the US is doing less?'" said Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), a veteran observer of the climate negotiations.

Funding cuts

The Trump administration has already proposed slashing funds for the UN's climate convention, which hosts the negotiations; for the UN climate science panel; and for the Green Climate Fund that helps poor countries combat global warming. There has been a chorus of appeals from business leaders, politicians and NGOs for the US not to abandon the agreement.

Much of the pressure is at home, where businesses, majors and governors have pledged to pursue a clean energy track with or without Trump. Observers say the momentum, politically at least, is unstoppable. At the last COP, held in Marrakesh in November, news of Trump's election served to spur countries into reaffirming their commitment to the pact. "International leadership on climate is more diffuse than before, and other countries are stepping up to lead both within and outside of negotiations," said Caballero-pointing at major polluters China and India cutting back on coal.

In fact, the US may stand to lose the most-in both political and economic influence. "It would leave America behind while other countries are benefiting from the huge economic opportunities of a transition to cleaner economies," said Caballero. Negotiators in Bonn, while attempting to take the pulse of the US delegation, must make progress on the "rule-book" which has an adoption deadline of end-2018. The guide must clarify what kind of information countries include when they report on emissions, for example, and what counts as a contribution to climate finance. The next COP, chaired by Fiji, will be held in Bonn in November. — AFP

'GRAY DEATH' - LATEST OPIOID STREET MIX CAUSING WORRY

COLUMBUS: It's being called "gray death" - a new and dangerous opioid combo that underscores the ever-changing nature of the US addiction crisis. Investigators who nicknamed the street mixture have detected it or recorded overdoses blamed on it in Alabama, Georgia and Ohio. The drug looks like concrete mix and varies in consistency from a hard, chunky material to a fine powder.

The substance is a combination of several opioids blamed for thousands of fatal overdoses nationally, including heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil - sometimes used to tranquilize large animals like elephants - and a synthetic opioid called U-47700. "Gray death is one of the scariest combinations that I have ever seen in nearly 20 years of forensic chemistry drug analysis," Deneen Kilcrease, manager of the chemistry section at the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, said.

Gray death ingredients and their concentrations are unknown to users, making it particularly lethal, Kilcrease said. And because these strong drugs can be absorbed through the skin, simply touching the powder puts users at risk, she said. Last year, the US Drug Enforcement Administration listed U-47700 in the category of the most dangerous drugs it regulates, saying it was associated with dozens of fatalities, mostly in New York and North Carolina. Some of the pills taken from Prince's estate after the musician's over-

dose death last year contained U-47700.

Gray death has a much higher potency than heroin, according to a bulletin issued by the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. Users inject, swallow, smoke or snort it. Georgia's investigation bureau has received 50 overdose cases in the past three months involving gray death, most from the Atlanta area, said spokeswoman Nelly Miles. In Ohio, the coroner's office serving the Cincinnati area says a similar compound has been coming in for months. The Ohio attorney general's office has analyzed eight samples matching the gray death mixture from around the state. The combo is just the latest in the trend of heroin mixed with other opioids, such as fentanyl, that has been around for a few years.

Fentanyl-related deaths spiked so high in Ohio in 2015 that state health officials asked the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to send scientists to help address the problem. The mixing poses a deadly risk to users and also challenges investigators trying to figure out what they're dealing with this time around, said Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, a Republican. "Normally, we would be able to walk by one of our scientists, and say 'What are you testing?' and they'll tell you heroin or 'We're testing fentanyl,'" DeWine said. "Now, sometimes they're looking at it, at least initially, and say, 'Well, we don't know.'" — AP



MCMURDO SOUND, Antarctica: Photo shows an Adelle penguin at the New Harbor research station near McMurdo Station in Antarctica. — AFP

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

PARIS: On Dec 12, 2015, 195 countries gathered in the French capital to conclude the world's first universal climate treaty, the Paris Agreement, aimed at preventing worst-case scenarios for global warming. The Palestinian authorities have since also signed the pact, which has been officially ratified by 144 parties and entered into force in record time last November. Here are the key points in the Paris Agreement:

The goal

Nations agreed to hold global warming to "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels, and to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius. The lower goal was a demand of poor countries and island states at high risk of climate change effects such as rising sea levels. But experts say even the two-degree cap will be a tough task, requiring an immediate and deep reduction in planet-warming emissions from burning coal, oil and natural gas. Based on voluntary emissions cuts pledged by countries so far, the planet is on track for warming of about three degrees, many scientists say-a recipe for possibly catastrophic floods, storms, drought and ocean rise.

Getting there

The signatories will aim for emissions to peak "as soon as possible", with "rapid reductions" thereafter. By the second half of this century, according to the pact, there must be a balance between emissions from human activities such as energy production and farming, and the amount that can be absorbed by carbon-absorbing "sinks" such as forests or storage technology.

Burden-sharing

Developed countries, which have polluted for longer, must take the lead with absolute emissions cuts. Developing nations, which still burn coal and oil to power growing populations and economies, are encouraged to "continue enhancing" their efforts and "move over time" towards cuts.

Tracking progress

In 2018, and every five years thereafter, countries will take stock of the overall impact of their efforts to rein in global warming, according to the text. It "urges" and "requests" countries to update their pledges by 2020. Some nations have set emissions-curbing targets for 2025, others for 2030. Both categories will be updated every five years.

Financing

Rich countries are expected to provide funding to help developing countries make the costly shift to cleaner energy sources and shore up defenses against the impacts of climate change. Donor nations must report every two years on their financing levels-current and intended. In a nonbinding "decision" that accompanies the agreement but is not included in it, the \$100 billion (91 billion euros) per year that rich countries have pledged to muster by 2020 is referred to as a "floor"-meaning it can only go up. The amount must be updated by 2025. Pledges made in 2015 alone would boost public financing (excluding private money) to \$67 billion in 2020, according to an OECD report. — AFP

ARE PREGNANCY AND RAPE PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS?

NEW YORK: Pregnancy, sexual assault and domestic violence could be considered "pre-existing conditions" that make it hard to keep insurance coverage under the Republican health care bill, according to a number of news articles and social media posts. The bill doesn't specifically refer to any of these things, and headlines suggesting that it does are misleading. But the bill does allow insurers, in limited circumstances, to charge more for a health condition that existed before the patient's coverage starts if that person has had a lapse in insurance. Because of that, there might be the potential in some states for a pregnant woman to be charged more for coverage.

The Claim

Twitter is overflowing with lists of pre-existing conditions, patient testimonials and posts

with the #iamapreexistingcondition hashtag. People living with a host of medical conditions are worried about the future of their coverage if the Republican plan becomes law. Concern has focused in particular on women's health issues, and especially pregnancy. And claims that rape victims are singled out has stirred outrage.

The Facts

One of the bigger changes to health care under the Republican plan is that it would allow insurers to consider the health risk of customers applying for new coverage if they had a recent gap in coverage. This is possible only if states apply for a federal waiver to allow it. The Affordable Care Act, which remains in place, does not permit this. Carrying a baby also carries some risk, so insurance companies see pregnant women as riskier - and more expensive

- customers when they apply for coverage. The same goes for a person who was injured or sickened with a chronic illness. They consider medical conditions, not how they got injured or sick.

For example, if someone sees a therapist because they have been raped, the condition that the therapist treats might be considered pre-existing but the rape would not. Insurers have generally considered conditions treated within three months of the start of coverage to be pre-existing, health care industry consultant Robert Laszewski said. Before the Affordable Care Act, pregnancy was considered a pre-existing condition, and insurers frequently denied coverage because of it. They can no longer do that. But, under the Republican bill, insurers may be able to charge higher prices for a limited time due to a person's recent medical history. — AP

FISHING WITH GUNS ON A LAKE UNDER THREAT IN KENYA

LOWARENGAK: The beach looks ready for war: in the sparse lakeshore shade hundreds wait, sweaty from the heat, weapons at their feet. In Kenya's hot, dry and lawless north even the fishermen are armed, but guns will not save them. They live on Lake Turkana, the biggest desert lake on earth and a World Heritage Site, but the lake is threatened and so is their way of life.

"There are fewer and fewer fish," said 41-year-old Maurice Echerait, sitting next to handmade nets with discarded plastic bottles for floats by the ramshackle row of improvised shelters that make up Nayenae camp. The reason, he says, lies 600 kilometers (370 miles) northwards up the Omo River, Turkana's main tributary, and rises 243 meters (797 feet) into the sky: 'Gibe III', Africa's tallest hydroelectric dam unveiled by Ethiopia last year. The dam is now filling up so Turkana's water levels are falling and the seasonal flooding that helps the fish breed is disrupted. "The fish that are left are all gathered in the Omo

delta" to the north, which is rich in nutrients, Echerait said.

Blood in the water

Life in Kenya's arid north is a relentless battle for scarce resources, and the changing fish patterns mean the traditional, sometimes deadly, rivalry has intensified between the neighboring Turkana and Dessanech people. "Now that we put our nets in the same places, in the delta, there is fighting on the water," Echerait said. "We don't negotiate when we meet the Dessanech, we fire on sight and so do they," said Echerait, whose cousin was killed in a shootout late last year.

Nayenae camp looks like a militant outpost, stocked with AK-47s, G3s and FAL rifles. Fishing boats are camouflaged with thick stripes of jade green and pastel blue "to go unnoticed" among the delta's plants and waters, said Echerait. In the past, a good catch meant nets overflowing with carp, perch and tilapia. Today, fishermen are happy

to return to shore with their lives. "One single river, the Omo, contributes 90 percent of the total freshwater inflow into Lake Turkana," said Sean Avery, a hydrologist, who studies the lake, "so if there's any change in that one river system, it's going to have a direct impact."

No flooding, no fish

Ethiopia's impact assessments for Gibe III—just one of a series of dams planned for the Omo—"do not take into account the possible consequences on the other side of the border," said Avery, where 300,000 people depend on fishing. When the dam began to fill two years ago the Omo's flow decreased and the lake dropped by two meters, drying out the tilapia's shallow breeding grounds.

Once the dam is full this problem will be reversed, but the long-term impact on seasonal flooding is of greater concern. John Malala, of the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, said 60 percent of Turkana's fish "rely on the river Omo to breed because they are migratory fish." No flooding means no migration and no breeding. Ethiopia has promised to trigger artificial floods, but they are untested. "If I knew where this dam was I would go and break it down myself!" said Loito Ibuya, an enraged young fisherman in a camouflage T-shirt. Like others in Nayenae, Ibuya abandoned his village, 10 km to the north, because it was too close to the Dessanech and he refuses to move any further south because he would be further from the delta and fuel costs for his outboard motor would increase. — AFP



LOWARENGAK: A Turkana man lays out flattened fish for drying in the sun near Lowarengak on the western shores of Lake Turkana. — AFP photos



LOWARENGAK, Kenya: Armed fishermen from Kenya's Turkana county return from a fishing expedition aboard a boat near Lowarengak, on the western shores of Lake Turkana, northern Kenya.

BRITAIN PUBLISHES LONG-AWAITED AIR POLLUTION PLAN

LONDON: The British government published long-awaited plans to tackle air pollution on Friday, but campaigners condemned them as inadequate to tackle a growing public health concern. Measures include a targeted scrappage scheme to persuade motorists to trade in their diesel cars, which have been blamed for high levels of nitrogen dioxide near roads. Local authorities would be expected to set up "clean air zones" in the worst pollution hotspots, where NO2 levels have repeatedly breached legal levels.

The consultation says that charging the dirtiest vehicles to enter these areas, as London is planning, is the most effective way to improve air quality. However, it also warns this should be a last resort, saying that motorists encouraged to buy diesel engines by previous governments on the basis that they produced less carbon dioxide should not be unfairly punished. Other plans include removing road humps to improve the flow of traffic, encouraging more electric cars and fitting new, cleaner engines to public buses and lorry fleets.

Environment minister Andrea Leadsom said the plan offered a "common sense way forward". But Doug Parr, chief scientist for campaign group

Greenpeace UK, said it was a "hodge-podge of vague proposals" that offered little to victims of toxic air pollution, or drivers. "The astonishing thing is that the government's own plan accepts that diesel is at the root of the problem, and that phasing it out is the most effective solution," he said. "Yet the plan offers no real action to end the era of dodgy diesel." Caroline Lucas, co-leader of the Green Party, said: "The government is standing idly by while Britain chokes. "This feeble plan won't go anywhere near far enough in tackling this public health emergency."

More than 40,000 British deaths a year are attributable to exposure to outdoor air pollution, according to a survey last year by the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. It warned that air pollution plays a role in many of the major health challenges of our day, linked to everything from asthma to cancer, obesity and even dementia. An earlier 2015 air pollution plan was struck down by the courts after an environmental group challenged it for being inadequate. The government had sought to delay the new proposals until after the snap June 8 general election, but the High Court ruled last month that there must be no further delay. — AFP

JAMIE OLIVER SPARKS FISH FUSS IN ICELAND

CRITICS BRAND FISH FARMING 'ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD'

REYKJAVIK: "What a view!" Britain's celebrity chef Jamie Oliver exclaimed under a photo he posted on Facebook of a salmon farming cage nestled in a snowy fjord. In doing so, Oliver unknowingly waded into controversy, sparking outcry among Icelanders who see farmed salmon as a threat to the island nation's wild salmon population. Oliver is due to open a restaurant serving Italian cuisine in the currently popular tourist destination of Reykjavik, on June 17, a national holiday. Along with antipasto, lasagna and pizza, "Jamie's Italian" may also serve salmon on occasion. In his Facebook post of April 24, the restaurateur prided himself on being supplied with "sustainable fish". But the post angered critics who brand fish farming an environmental hazard. "This is an industry that creates a lot of parasites, especially sea lice," said Orri Vigfusson, head of the North Atlantic Salmon Fund, a privately-run conservation group which aims to restore wild salmon to their historic abundance. Vigfusson said sea lice "are very bad" for the wild salmon. The parasites spread across fjords, infecting and killing the fish.

'Stay away'

"I will never eat at your place and I will inform my clients to stay away," travel agent Jon Gunnar Benjaminsson commented on Facebook. "Very disappointing to see you doing business with

those guys who are destined to severely damage wild Atlantic Salmon in Iceland with the massive salmon farms that are on the drawing board. Educate yourself before promoting this disgusting stuff," he added. While many other Internet users seem indifferent to the controversy, and appear eager to dine at the new eatery, anglers disapprove. "On the planet I live on, that would never be called sustainable," Haraldur Eiriksson, sales manager at Hreggnasi, one of Iceland's largest angling clubs said. The vast majority of the salmon sold in Iceland's food shops is farmed, as wild salmon is rare and expensive.

Bad publicity

Even prior to the Oliver controversy, Icelandic fishermen had concerns. Hundreds of fishermen and farmers in January asked a Reykjavik court to revoke licences for Arnarlax, the country's largest producer of farmed salmon, to operate in fjords in the northwest. The ruling is not in yet. Arnarlax produces farmed salmon (more than 10,000 tons in 2016) at six farms. Jamie Oliver's team did not expect such bad publicity. "We were quite surprised by the reactions," Jon Haukur Baldvinsson, one of the partners of Jamie's Italian said. "We haven't decided yet if we will put salmon on our menu," he said, adding Oliver's team would carry out quality checks. But if they decide to do so, it would probably only be served as the daily special

in small quantities, depending on demand, Baldvinsson said.

To him, this would not be unusual since most restaurateurs do not buy wild salmon, too rare to be served a la carte regularly. Arnarlax defends its practices and said the controversy over fish farming in Iceland is a misunderstanding. "Maybe it's also our fault that we have not educated people in Iceland enough about how we are doing salmon farming," Arnarlax sales manager Omar Gretarsson said. He said the negative publicity in Iceland's salmon farming industry was caused by news reports from Norway about viral illnesses and salmon lice outbreaks causing massive harm to that nation's aquaculture sector. "But there has been a big effort to do things better," Gretarsson said. His company says it defends its fish against infections by parasites. "Until now, the cold ocean after the winter period has been a natural delousing treatment. But we need to be vigilant when we are growing steadily," Gretarsson added.

Iceland's aquaculture sector is thriving. Around 40 companies produced 15,129 tonnes of fish in 2016, the highest output over the preceding decade, with salmon as the dominant species, according to the Food and Veterinary Authority. Operating licenses in Iceland cost up to 22 million kronur (190,000 euros, \$207,000) for the most expensive, compared to 10 million Norwegian kroner (1.1 million euros) in Norway. — AFP

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Alexey Solomatin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the State of Kuwait, and his family participate in the event. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



RUSSIAN EMBASSY HOSTS 'IMMORTAL REGIMENT' MEMORIAL

The 'Immortal Regiment' memorial event on the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary of the Victory in the World War II was held at the Russian Embassy premises yesterday. Around 150 people participated in the event including Alexey Solomatin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the State of Kuwait. The 'Immortal Regiment'

is a patriotic initiative that commemorates WWII soldiers and cherishes the memory of its heroes in marches held across Russia and other countries. During the marches, people carry photographs of their ancestors who participated in the war and made a heroic contribution to achieving the Great Victory. The 'Immortal Regiment' march is a

high-profile and deeply emotional event that brings together millions of participants. It is noteworthy that this initiative, which comes from a genuinely grassroots level, has taken place in many countries on all continents. The 'Immortal Regiment' movement started in the Siberian city of Tomsk in 2011, but quickly spread throughout Russia

and abroad. In 2016, over two million people in 42 countries participated in the 'Immortal Regiment' marches, including Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation with a picture of his father. This year compatriots from Russia and other former USSR countries in Kuwait joined this worldwide initiative for the first time.



MAIS ALGHANIM RE-LAUNCHES ITS EXQUISITE DISHES MENU

Mais Alghanim has just announced its recently added promotion, the re-launching of the exquisite dishes menu. A rich variety of delectable dishes to be made available to patrons in Sharq and Mahboula, tantalizing customer's tastes with a memorable and unique experience every time.

The promotional menu features appetizers, salads and main dishes; including hot and cold mezzas, that are creations of the Mais Alghanim chefs, that have been meticulously selected to satisfy every palate. The new flavorful offerings include weight watchers delight the mudadara, zahra with tahini, kousa and eggplant bilzeit, in addition to nutty safeeha yafawiah with minced meat, dried berries and walnuts. The menu also has an authentic pumpkin kibbeh and shrimp pistachio for seafood fans, made with pistachio breaded shrimp served with potato puree and dill sauce.

The generous selection of main dishes



featured on the exquisite dishes menu includes; the tasty and healthy quinoa chicken kabbab served with biryani rice

and chef's special sauce. The divine kibbeh skewer is prepared with charcoal grilled meat kibbeh and served with white vermicelli rice and cooked yoghurt; our star dish

lamb shank biryani made with oven-roasted lamb shank cooked with spices and

served with biryani rice and chef's gravy. And the catch of the day sea bass with quinoa and lemon butter sauce served with sautéed vegetables. This promo also includes two choices of family meals including a selected variety of cold and hot appetizers along with mixed grills and desserts.

Mais Alghanim Restaurant, renowned for being a pioneer in the hospitality industry, has always been keen on offering its customers the utmost quality at a very competitive price. Mais Alghanim has been consistently promoting a series of innovative and exciting offerings, the most recent of which is the Exquisite Dishes Menu, brought to customers as part of its legacy to satisfy every palate, exceed all expectations and bring great flavors to your dining experience. This promotion is available at Mais Alghanim restaurants in Sharq - Arabian - Gulf Street and Mahboula - Spoons Complex and not offered through the To Go or home delivery service.



STARCOM, OMD AND MEC DOMINATE AT FESTIVAL OF MEDIA MENA AWARDS

The winners of the Festival of Media MENA Awards, hosted at the Music Hall in Zabeel Saray, Dubai, were revealed last evening. The ceremony followed the third edition of the Festival of Media MENA conference, which drew to a successful close on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at the Waldorf Astoria on Palm Jumeirah, Dubai.

Starcom was crowned 'Agency Network of the Year' after collecting nine trophies across its UAE and Egypt offices in categories that included 'Best Use of Video' and 'Best Use of Gamification', while 'Agency of the Year' was awarded to OMD UAE, who collected a total of 11 awards, including Gold for 'Best Use of Traditional Media' and 'Best Use of Technology'.

The other big Grand Prix winner on the night was MEC MENA who took home the trophy for 'Campaign of the Year' for its 'MAGGIE Diaries - The Power to Make a Difference' campaign.

The judging was divided into two groups, which were chaired by Asad Rehman, Director of Media at Unilever MENA, and Nick Graham, Global Digital Marketing and Media Director for Huawei, respectively. Other judges on the panel included influential media minds from Visa, Unilever, General Motors, Ferrero, McDonald's and Nestlé.

On judging, Rehman commented: "It is a privilege and a great responsibility to be asked to chair an awards ceremony that is as prestigious as the Festival of Media MENA. Too often we are in the office with our heads down, but judging allows us the opportunity to open the windows and see what else is happening in the region."

The Festival of Media MENA Awards, which is run in partnership with Mediaquest, is dedicated to the evolution of media, celebrating the best in media thinking and communications across the region. In line with the entrepreneurial spirit of the region and to encourage fresh ideas, the program rewards the region's top media work across four categories: Media, Content, Technology and Insight. Judged by a senior panel of global and regional brand marketers, the program has become one of the foremost marketing events in the region, helping winning agencies and media owners to secure new business and grow their influence in the marketplace.



Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah poses for a group photo after his honoring. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla confers the 'Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur' on Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.



French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla presents the certificate to Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

FRANCE GRANTS SHEIKH MUBARAK HIGHEST MEDAL

France honored Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah with the Knight of the Legion of Honor, the most prestigious decoration in the country. French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla conferred the 'Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur' (Knight of the Legion of Honor) on Sheikh Mubarak in a ceremony held late Wednesday. Commenting on the occasion, Sheikh

Mubarak Al-Abdullah expressed his pride for this medal, referring to the deep-rooted relations with France. "Making happiness everywhere is the utmost goal, so I was keen to contribute to building a pretty country and a civilized human being," he said. He expressed his gratitude to French President Francois Hollande, Prime Minister Bernard Cazeneuve and officials for this honoring.

Meanwhile, Nakhla lauded efforts by Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah in supporting Kuwait's economic interests and enhancing trade ties with France. He referred to Sheikh Mubarak's interests in economic fields through many bodies, noting that Sheikh Mubarak is paying attention to cultural development through several activities. In the meantime, Minister of State for

Cabinet Affairs and Acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah voiced his happiness for this honoring which mirrors recognition of Sheikh Mubarak's efforts. As Founder and Non-Executive Chairman of Action Hotels, Sheikh Mubarak has spearheaded the growth of economy and mid-market hotels in the Middle East and broken new ground internationally.

Furthermore, Sheikh Mubarak has been granted the prestigious Industry Pioneering Award of the Arabian Hotel Investment Conference 2017 (AHIC). Established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Legion of Honor is the highest award presented to non-French citizens in recognition of military, cultural, scientific, or social contributions to France. —KUNA



Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (right) poses with Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (center) and Sheikh Mubarak's mother Sheikha Suad Al-Sabah.



Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah welcomes Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan.



French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla delivers a speech.



Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah delivers his speech.



Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah's mother Sheikha Suad Al-Sabah and other family members listen to his speech.



Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah welcomes Information Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary Yousuf Mustafa.



French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla is pictured with Kuwaiti businessman Jawad BuKhamseen.

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 01:15 Montana
- 03:15 7500
- 04:45 Escape
- 06:15 Tracers
- 08:00 Beverly Hills Cop 3
- 09:45 Escape
- 11:15 Tracers
- 13:00 Black Rose
- 14:30 Rise Of The Legend
- 16:45 Licence To Kill
- 19:00 Gone In Sixty Seconds
- 21:00 Run All Night
- 23:00 The Dead Lands

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:50 Tanked
- 01:45 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
- 02:40 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
- 03:35 Cats 101
- 04:25 Cats 101
- 05:15 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
- 06:02 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
- 06:49 Gator Boys
- 07:36 Swamp Brothers
- 08:00 Swamp Brothers
- 08:25 Lone Star Law
- 09:15 Treetop Cat Rescue
- 09:40 Treetop Cat Rescue
- 10:10 Wild Ones
- 10:35 Wild Ones
- 11:05 Meet The Penguins
- 11:30 Meet The Penguins
- 12:00 Wildest Africa
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 Queens Of The Savannah
- 16:35 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
- 18:25 Queens Of The Savannah
- 19:20 Into The Lion's Den
- 20:15 Rugged Justice
- 21:10 Pit Bulls & Parolees
- 22:05 Lone Star Law
- 23:00 Into The Lion's Den
- 23:55 Tanked

BBC FIRST

- 00:10 SS-GB
- 01:15 Eastenders
- 01:45 Doctors
- 02:15 Death In Paradise

- 03:35 The Half Hour
- 04:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 04:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 05:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 05:40 Ridiculousness
- 06:05 Disaster Date
- 06:30 Framework
- 07:20 Hungry Investors
- 08:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 09:05 Disaster Date
- 09:30 Disaster Date
- 09:55 Ridiculousness
- 10:20 Key And Peele
- 10:45 Disaster Date
- 11:10 Ridiculousness
- 11:35 Impractical Jokers
- 12:00 Framework
- 12:50 Impractical Jokers
- 13:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 13:40 Impractical Jokers
- 14:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 14:55 Ridiculousness
- 15:20 Framework
- 16:10 The Jim Gaffigan Show
- 16:35 Disaster Date
- 17:00 Disaster Date
- 17:25 Ridiculousness
- 17:50 Lip Sync Battle
- 18:15 Key And Peele
- 18:40 Catch A Contractor
- 19:35 Impractical Jokers
- 20:00 Disaster Date
- 20:23 Lip Sync Battle
- 20:47 Lip Sync Battle
- 21:10 Key And Peele
- 21:33 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagel
- 22:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 22:30 Ridiculousness Arabia
- 23:00 Chappelle's Show
- 23:25 The Alternative Comedy Experience
- 23:50 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show

Discovery Family

- 00:15 Destroyed In Seconds
- 00:40 React To That
- 01:05 React To That
- 01:30 Redesign My Brain
- 02:20 Science Of The Movies
- 03:10 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 04:00 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 04:50 Don't Drive Here
- 05:40 Don't Drive Here
- 06:30 Don't Drive Here
- 07:20 How It's Made

- 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 Austin & Ally
- 08:20 Rolling With The Fronks
- 08:45 The Zhuzhus
- 09:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 09:35 Elena Of Avalor
- 10:00 Stuck In The Middle
- 10:25 Disney The Lodge
- 10:50 Bun'k'd
- 11:15 Bizaardvark
- 11:40 The Little Mermaid
- 12:20 Disney The Lodge
- 13:45 Disney The Lodge
- 14:10 Disney The Lodge
- 14:35 Disney The Lodge
- 15:00 Disney The Lodge
- 15:25 Jessie
- 15:50 Jessie
- 16:15 Austin & Ally
- 16:40 Austin & Ally
- 17:05 Descendants Wicked World
- 17:10 Elena Of Avalor
- 17:35 Liv And Maddie
- 18:00 Girl Meets World
- 18:25 Little Mermaid 2
- 19:45 Welcome To The Fronks
- 20:00 Star Darlings
- 20:05 Stuck In The Middle
- 20:30 Bizaardvark
- 20:55 Bun'k'd
- 21:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 21:45 Disney The Lodge
- 22:10 Girl Meets World
- 22:35 That's So Raven
- 23:00 Shake It Up
- 23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

- 03:25 Supertruckers
- 04:15 Supertruckers
- 05:05 Supertruckers
- 06:00 Supertruckers
- 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 What On Earth?
- 12:25 Sydney Harbour
- 13:15 Impossible Engineering
- 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 Sacred Steel Bikes
- 18:40 Street Outlaws
- 19:30 How Do They Do It?
- 19:55 How Do They Do It?
- 20:20 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
- 21:10 Storage Hunters UK
- 21:35 Storage Hunters UK
- 22:00 Supertruckers
- 22:50 JFK: The Lost Tapes
- 23:40 What On Earth?

Disney XD

- 00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA
- 07:00 Supa Strikas
- 07:25 Supa Strikas
- 07:50 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 08:15 Gravity Falls
- 08:40 Walk The Prank
- 09:05 Two More Eggs
- 09:10 K.C. Undercover
- 09:35 Milo Murphy's Law
- 10:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 10:25 Lab Rats Elite Force
- 10:50 Annedroids
- 11:20 Supa Strikas
- 11:45 K.C. Undercover
- 12:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 12:35 Mech-X4
- 13:00 The Return Of Jafar
- 14:20 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 14:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Milo Murphy's Law
- 15:40 K.C. Undercover
- 16:05 Walk The Prank
- 16:30 Atomic Puppet
- 16:55 Lab Rats
- 17:25 Mech-X4
- 17:50 K.C. Undercover
- 18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 18:40 Mighty Med
- 19:10 Star Wars Rebels
- 19:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 20:25 Kirby Buckets
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 21:45 Mighty Med
- 22:10 Star Wars Rebels
- 22:40 Marvel's Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 23:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 23:35 Boyster

EHD

- 00:00 E! News
- 00:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 01:00 WAGs Miami
- 01:55 WAGs Miami
- 02:50 E! News
- 03:50 Celebrity Style Story
- 04:20 Celebrity Style Story
- 04:50 Just Jillian
- 05:40 Just Jillian
- 06:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 07:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 07:50 E! News
- 08:20 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 09:10 E! News
- 10:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 10:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 11:45 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 12:35 So Cosmo
- 13:25 So Cosmo
- 14:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 15:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 16:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 17:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 20:00 E! News
- 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 23:00 Fashion Police

food network

- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

- 01:00 Man Fire Food
- 01:30 Man Fire Food
- 02:00 Restaurant: Impossible
- 03:00 Mystery Diners
- 03:30 Mystery Diners
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 10:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:00 Siba's Table
- 11:30 Siba's Table
- 12:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 12:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 13:00 Man Fire Food
- 13:30 Man Fire Food
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 16:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 17:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 17:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 18:00 Siba's Table
- 18:30 Siba's Table
- 19:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 19:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 20:00 Man Fire Food
- 20:30 Man Fire Food
- 21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:00 Tia Mowry At Home
- 22:30 Tia Mowry At Home
- 23:00 Dinner At Tiffani's
- 23:30 Dinner At Tiffani's

itv CHOICE

- 00:15 Coronation Street
- 02:00 The Moorside
- 03:00 Coronation Street
- 04:55 Guess This House
- 05:45 The Chase
- 06:35 The Chase
- 07:25 Surprise Surprise
- 08:20 Come Date With Me Australia
- 08:50 Come Date With Me Australia
- 09:15 Come Date With Me Australia
- 10:10 The Moorside
- 11:10 Jekyll And Hyde
- 12:10 Shoot The Messenger
- 13:10 Broadchurch
- 14:10 Broadchurch
- 15:05 Guess This House
- 16:00 It's Not Rocket Science
- 16:55 The Moorside
- 17:55 Jekyll And Hyde
- 18:50 Doctor Thorne
- 19:45 Guess This House
- 20:45 Jekyll And Hyde
- 21:35 Shoot The Messenger
- 22:30 The Moorside
- 23:30 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans

HD HISTORY

- 00:30 American Restoration
- 01:20 Ice Road Truckers
- 02:10 Mummies Alive
- 03:00 Big Easy Motors
- 03:25 Big Easy Motors
- 03:50 Ultimate Wheels
- 04:40 Ice Road Truckers
- 05:30 Storage Wars Texas
- 06:00 Hoard Hunters
- 07:00 Ultimate Wheels
- 07:50 Duck Dynasty
- 08:40 Counting Cars
- 09:05 Counting Cars
- 09:30 Pawn Stars
- 09:55 Pawn Stars
- 10:20 Storage Wars
- 10:45 Storage Wars
- 11:10 American Pickers
- 12:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 12:50 Duck Dynasty
- 13:40 Swamp People
- 14:30 Ax Men
- 15:20 Mountain Men
- 16:10 Ultimate Wheels
- 17:00 Storage Wars
- 17:25 Storage Wars
- 17:50 Pawn Stars
- 18:15 Pawn Stars
- 18:40 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 19:30 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...
- 20:20 Mountain Men
- 21:10 American Pickers
- 22:00 Pawn Stars
- 22:25 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 22:50 Storage Wars Miami
- 23:40 Big Easy Motors

NAT GEO people HD

- 00:20 Andy And Ben Eat Australia



FOREVER LAND ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 00:50 Carnival Eats
- 01:15 My Restaurant In India
- 01:40 Chasing The Sun
- 02:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 02:40 Migue's Tropical Kitchen
- 03:05 Migue's Tropical Kitchen
- 03:35 The Shelbourne
- 04:00 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
- 04:55 Restoration Man
- 05:50 Lucky Chow
- 06:20 Fish Of The Day
- 06:45 Fish Of The Day
- 07:15 Tom's Istanbul Delight
- 07:40 Tom's Istanbul Delight
- 08:10 Carnival Eats
- 08:35 A Is For Apple
- 09:05 Carnival Eats
- 09:30 Carnival Eats
- 10:00 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 10:25 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 10:55 Cesar Millan: Love My Pit Bull
- 11:50 Dog Whisperer
- 12:45 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
- 13:10 My Dubai
- 13:40 Migue's Tropical Kitchen
- 14:05 Migue's Tropical Kitchen
- 14:35 The Shelbourne
- 15:00 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 15:30 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 15:55 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
- 16:50 Restoration Man
- 17:45 The Game Chef
- 18:15 Fish Of The Day
- 18:40 Fish Of The Day
- 19:10 Access 360 World Heritage
- 20:05 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
- 21:00 Restoration Man
- 22:00 The Game Chef
- 22:30 Fish Of The Day
- 23:00 Fish Of The Day
- 23:25 Access 360 World Heritage

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 12:45 Santa's Little Helper
- 14:15 Brother Bear
- 15:45 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
- 17:15 Beverly Hills Chihuahua
- 18:45 House Arrest
- 20:45 Brother Bear
- 22:15 Beverly Hills Chihuahua
- 23:45 House Arrest

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 00:30 Screwed
- 02:30 Break Point
- 04:00 Babe: Pig In The City
- 05:45 Valentine's Day
- 08:00 The Duff
- 09:45 Babe: Pig In The City
- 11:45 Valentine's Day
- 14:00 The Duff
- 16:00 Camp Nowhere
- 17:45 Other Plans
- 19:15 Oscar
- 21:15 A Short History Of Decay

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:00 Garfield
- 02:30 Thumbelina
- 04:00 The Swan Princess: Pirate Today, Princess Tomorrow
- 05:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 07:00 Gladiators Of Rome
- 08:45 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
- 10:30 Bonta
- 12:00 Garfield
- 13:30 Thumbelina
- 15:15 The Heart Of The Oak
- 16:45 Bonta
- 18:15 Curious George
- 20:00 Yugo & Lala 2
- 21:30 The Heart Of The Oak
- 23:00 Virus Attack The First Antivirus

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:15 Indecent Proposal
- 03:15 When A Man Loves A Woman
- 05:45 The Horse Whisperer
- 08:45 Some Girls
- 10:30 Reign Over Me
- 12:45 The Lovely Bones
- 15:15 Beaches
- 17:30 The Ladykillers
- 19:15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:00 The Taking Of Pelham 123
- 23:00 Black Snake Moan

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 00:40 Nextworld
- 01:30 Nextworld
- 02:20 Nextworld
- 03:10 Nextworld
- 04:00 Nextworld
- 04:48 How Do They Do It?
- 05:12 How Do They Do It?
- 05:36 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Food Factory
- 06:24 Food Factory
- 06:48 Food Factory
- 07:12 Food Factory
- 07:36 Food Factory
- 08:00 How Do They Do It?
- 08:26 Nextworld
- 09:14 Nextworld
- 10:50 Nextworld
- 11:38 Nextworld
- 12:26 Mythbusters
- 13:14 Mythbusters
- 14:02 Mythbusters
- 14:50 Mythbusters
- 15:38 Mythbusters
- 16:26 Food Factory
- 16:50 Food Factory
- 17:14 Food Factory
- 17:38 Food Factory
- 18:02 Food Factory
- 18:26 How Do They Do It?
- 18:50 How Do They Do It?
- 19:40 How Do They Do It?
- 20:05 How Do They Do It?
- 20:30 Space Pioneer
- 21:20 Space Pioneer
- 22:10 Space Pioneer
- 23:00 Superhuman Showdown
- 23:50 Superhuman Showdown



TRACERS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 03:10 The Musketeers
- 04:05 Doctor Who
- 05:00 SS-GB
- 06:00 The Musketeers
- 07:00 Doctors
- 07:30 Eastenders
- 08:00 Holly City
- 08:55 Dickensian
- 09:45 Stella
- 10:35 Death In Paradise
- 11:30 Doctors
- 12:00 Eastenders
- 12:30 Dickensian
- 13:20 Stella
- 14:15 Death In Paradise
- 15:10 Doctors
- 15:45 Eastenders
- 16:20 Dickensian
- 17:10 Stella
- 18:00 Death In Paradise
- 19:00 Doctors
- 19:30 Eastenders
- 20:05 Dickensian
- 21:00 New Blood
- 22:00 In Plain Sight
- 22:55 In Plain Sight
- 23:45 Class

- 07:40 How It's Made
- 08:00 Doki
- 08:25 Doki
- 08:50 Kids vs Film
- 09:15 Kids vs Film
- 09:40 How It's Made
- 10:05 How It's Made
- 10:30 How It's Made
- 10:55 How It's Made
- 11:20 How It's Made
- 11:45 How It's Made
- 13:25 How It's Made
- 13:50 Don't Drive Here
- 14:40 Don't Drive Here
- 15:30 Don't Drive Here
- 16:20 Don't Drive Here
- 17:10 Don't Drive Here
- 18:00 Science Of The Movies
- 18:50 Science Of The Movies
- 19:40 The Carbonaro Effect
- 20:05 The Carbonaro Effect
- 20:30 Africa's Trees Of Life
- 21:20 North America
- 22:10 Dinosaurs: Return To Life
- 23:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:25 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:50 Destroyed In Seconds

Disney Junior

- 00:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:35 The Hive
- 00:45 Loopdidoo
- 01:00 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:15 Calimero
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 01:55 Zou
- 02:05 Loopdidoo
- 02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
- 02:35 Calimero
- 02:50 Zou
- 03:05 Art Attack
- 03:30 The Hive
- 03:40 Loopdidoo
- 03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:10 Art Attack
- 04:25 Loopdidoo
- 04:50 Calimero
- 05:05 Art Attack
- 05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:45 Zou
- 06:00 Art Attack
- 06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:45 Loopdidoo
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:15 Calimero
- 07:30 Loopdidoo
- 07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
- 08:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 08:30 Goldie & Bear
- 09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 09:30 Doc McStuffins
- 10:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 10:30 Sofia The First
- 11:00 The Lion Guard
- 11:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 12:00 PJ Masks
- 12:25 Goldie & Bear
- 12:55 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 13:20 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 13:50 The Lion Guard
- 14:15 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
- 14:45 Doc McStuffins
- 15:10 Goldie & Bear
- 15:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 16:05 PJ Masks
- 16:35 The Lion Guard
- 17:05 Miles From Tomorrow
- 17:35 Sofia The First
- 18:35 Doc McStuffins
- 19:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 19:35 Sofia The First
- 20:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 21:05 Sofia The First
- 21:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
- 22:00 Goldie & Bear
- 22:25 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 22:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 23:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 23:55 PJ Masks

Discovery Channel

- 00:30 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail
- 01:20 Wheels That Fall
- 01:45 Supertruckers
- 02:35 Supertruckers

crime & investigation network

- 00:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
- 01:00 The Last Goodbye
- 01:30 The Last Goodbye
- 02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 03:00 They Took Our Child, We Got Her Back
- 04:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
- 05:00 The Last Goodbye
- 05:30 The Last Goodbye
- 06:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 07:00 The First 48
- 08:00 The First 48
- 09:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 10:00 Monster In My Family
- 11:00 Monster In My Family
- 12:00 Evil Up Close
- 13:00 Evil Up Close
- 14:00 Evil Up Close
- 15:00 It Takes A Killer
- 17:00 Homicide Hunter
- 18:00 Homicide Hunter
- 19:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
- 20:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
- 21:00 The First 48
- 22:00 Homicide Hunter
- 23:00 Crimes That Shook Australia

ID X

- 00:40 A Haunting
- 01:30 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 02:20 The Accused: Jeffrey Macdonald: People Magazine...
- 03:10 The Perfect Murder
- 04:00 Murder Chose Me
- 04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
- 05:36 I Almost Got Away With It
- 06:24 I Almost Got Away With It
- 07:12 I Almost Got Away With It
- 08:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 08:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 08:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 09:15 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 10:55 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 11:20 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 11:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 12:10 Suspicion
- 13:00 Swamp Murders
- 13:50 Swamp Murders
- 14:40 Swamp Murders
- 15:30 Swamp Murders
- 16:20 Swamp Murders
- 17:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
- 18:00 Id Kill For You
- 18:50 Id Kill For You
- 19:40 Id Kill For You
- 20:30 Id Kill For You
- 21:20 Id Kill For You
- 22:10 Blood Relatives
- 23:00 Evil Lives Here
- 23:50 Evil Kin

Disney Channel

- 00:10 Hank Zipzer
- 00:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 01:00 Binny And The Ghost



THE LOVELY BONES ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017

FOR Rent
Villas in FINTAS MANGAF/EQAILA
 Quiet Neighborhoods, 2 and 3 floors, 5 to 7 Bedrooms, living rooms, kitchen, garden
 Expats rent is from 1100-1650 all inclusive.
 TEL: 98932193 / TAJEER.com

FOR RENT
In Farwaniya Governorate A deluxe Complex

- 3 bedrooms
- A big space between 90 - 108 m2
- Car park
- Security guards - 24 hours

Contact:
60900554 - 99412885

Trailer Drivers Required
 Reputed Oil and Gas Company are looking for experienced drivers to join our team

Required Qualification:

- 3 – 5 years GCC experience
- Transferable Visa.
- Must have valid Kuwaiti heavyduty driving license
- Speak English & Arabic
- Immediate to join

Send your C.V with your expected salary to:
 Email:
alsoberie@kuwaitchemicalhouse.com
 Tel: +965 99723822 / 94455112

REQUIRED

A Local Construction Company is hiring "Construction Site Personnel" for the following Open Positions:

- ◆ Architect Engineer - Minimum Experience 10 years
- ◆ Planning Engineers - Minimum Experience 7 years
- ◆ Construction Site Office Secretaries - Minimum Experience 8 years
- ◆ CAD Operator - Minimum Experience 10 years
- ◆ Safety Officers - Minimum Experience 10 years
- ◆ General Foreman for Electrical & Mechanical Works - Minimum Experience 10 years

All applicants shall forward all their Credentials & CVs to the attention of "Project Administration Management"
 Email ID: siteconstructionworks@yahoo.com

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:35
Shorook: 05:02
Duhr: 11:45
Asr: 15:20
Maghrib: 18:27
Isha: 19:52

REQUIRED
A BAKERY AND DESERT CHEF
FOR LOCAL HOME BUSINESS
 CONTACT: **99422224**

CINEMA

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (04/05/2017 TO 10/05/2017)

Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie
11:45 AM	MUHALAB-2	12:45 PM	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2-3D	1:30 PM	FANAR-3	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE
1:45 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:45 PM	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2-3D	1:30 PM	SPARK: A SPACE TAIL	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE
4:00 PM	SPARK: A SPACE TAIL	4:00 PM	FANAR-3	1:30 PM	SPARK: A SPACE TAIL	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE
6:00 PM	THE BOSS BABY	6:00 PM	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2-3D	1:30 PM	SPARK: A SPACE TAIL	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE
8:00 PM	SOUKAR BARAH	8:00 PM	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2-3D	1:30 PM	SPARK: A SPACE TAIL	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE
10:00 PM	SOUKAR BARAH	10:00 PM	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2-3D	1:30 PM	SPARK: A SPACE TAIL	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE
12:05 AM	SOUKAR BARAH	12:05 AM	GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2-3D	1:30 PM	SPARK: A SPACE TAIL	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE	2:00 PM	ROBO-DOG: AIRBORNE

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 7/5/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 7/5/2017			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	CLX	856	Luxembourg	00:25
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	86	Jeddah	00:30	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30
MSC	411	Asyut	00:30	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	MSC	412	Asyut	01:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
KAC	102	London	00:55	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	THY	765	Muscat	02:50
JZR	539	Cairo	01:25	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:50
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	KAC	417	Manila	04:20
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	103	London	05:00
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	CEB	019	Manila	05:30
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	QTR	1077	Doha	05:35
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40	FEG	934	Sohag	05:55
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	UAE	874	Dubai	06:15
CEB	018	Manila	04:00	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
UAE	873	Dubai	04:15	QTR	8512	Sohag	06:50
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
FEG	937	Sohag	05:00	KAC	521	Al Najaf	07:35
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50
QTR	8511	Doha	05:20	BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	741	Dammam	08:30
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	KAC	773	Riyadh	08:35
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	117	New York	09:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC	163	Rome	09:20
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:25
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	691	Muscat	09:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	101	London	09:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
SVA	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
MSC	415	Sohag	10:00	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:15	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	IRC	529	Ahwaz	11:25
KAC	522	Al Najaf	11:20	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	Beirut	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	VIZ	203	TQD	12:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	MSC	404	Asyut	12:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
				JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
				PAL	669	Manila	13:10

CROSSWORD 1600



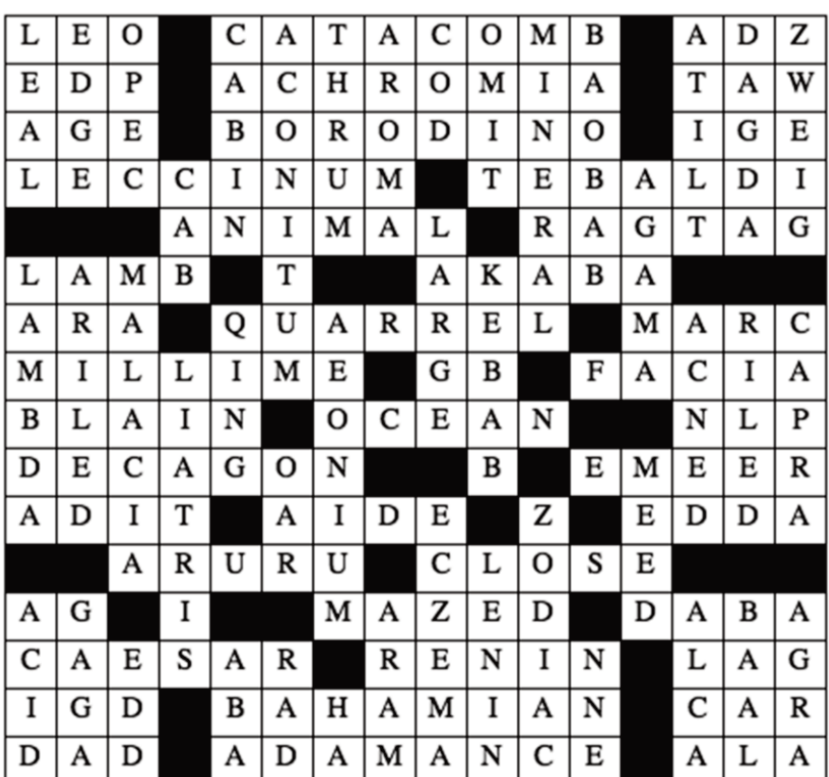
ACROSS

1. A periodic paperback publication.
4. Characterized by friendship and good will.
12. An abnormally large amount of this fetoprotein in the fetus can signal an abnormality of the neural tube (as spina bifida or anencephaly).
15. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
16. Impressive in appearance.
17. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
18. In the Arabian Nights a hero who tells the fantastic adventures he had in his voyages.
20. Having deeply indented margins but with lobes not entirely separate from each other.
21. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
22. An informal term for a father.
23. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
25. Being six more than fifty.
27. Salted roe of sturgeon or other large fish.
30. Austrian composer (1860-1911).
33. Botswanan statesman who was the first president of Botswana (1921-1980).
36. Relating to or like or divided into areolae.
39. The square of a body of any size of type.
40. Half the width of an em.
41. A resort city in southern Ukraine on the Black Sea.
42. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.
44. Covered with or as if with clothes or a wrap or cloak.
46. A Polynesian rain dance performed by a woman.
49. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
50. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
51. (Sumerian) God of the air and king of the Sumerian gods.
52. Formed by reaction between an acid and an alcohol with elimination of water.
54. A writ from a court commanding police to perform specified acts.
58. Sexually transmitted urethritis (usually caused by chlamydia).
60. Wrap us in a cecreloth, as of a corpse.
61. Suggestive of the supernatural.
62. United States film actress (born in Sweden) known for her reclusiveness (1905-1990).
64. Lie adjacent to another.
66. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
69. Especially of a ship's lines etc.
73. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
74. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
77. A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
80. A beverage made by steeping tea leaves in water.
81. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
82. Of or relating to the cranium which encloses the brain.
83. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.

DOWN

1. A doctor's degree in music.
2. Type genus of the Amidae.
3. Port city in northwestern Belgium and industrial center.
4. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
5. A Brazilian river.
6. A heavy brittle metallic element of the platinum group.
7. Acute abdominal pain (especially in infants).
8. A kind of heavy jacket ('windcheater' is a British term).
9. Top part of an apron.
10. Any of various spectacular plants of the genus Laelia having showy flowers in many colors.
11. Late time of life.
12. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
13. A notable achievement.
14. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
19. Perennial herbs or shrubs of especially Mediterranean area.
24. Type genus of the Bramidae.
26. A sail-shaped constellation in the southern hemisphere near Carina.
28. 30 to 300 megahertz.
29. Punish with an arbitrary penalty.
31. A river that rises in northern Colombia and flows generally eastward to the Orinoco in central Venezuela.
32. (Christianity) The abode of Satan and the forces of evil.
34. Someone making a search or inquiry.
35. Put up with something or somebody unpleasant.
37. The state of being contaminated.
38. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
43. Burn superficially or lightly.
45. Liver or meat or fowl finely minced or ground and variously seasoned.
47. A republic in eastern Africa.
48. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
53. Showing your contempt by derision.
55. (Old Testament) A son of Jacob and forefather of one of the tribes of Israel.
56. Small genus of mediterranean shrubs.
57. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
59. An ancient city of Sumer located on a former channel of the Euphrates River.
63. Obvious and dull.
65. Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.
67. Little known Kamarupan languages.
68. A Hindu prince or king in India.
70. Profane or obscene expression usually of surprise or anger.
71. The chief solid component of mammalian urine.
72. Lacking excess flesh.
75. The sixth day of the week.
76. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
78. One million periods per second.
79. An associate degree in nursing.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may have an increase in finances due to speculation or a contest today. However, you should avoid spending sprees. Technological wonders catch your eye this afternoon and you make new discoveries. This is an easy, calm day that should find everything running in a smooth manner. Interaction with an older person in the family may be in the forecast later today. Listen to the stories and give this person some of your time-you can afford it! You will find yourself easily working with-rather than against-the flow of energy. You may enjoy some athletic or exercise activity such as bike riding with young people or your friends. Close personal ties to other people are a focus for your feelings now. Romance is possible this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

If there is something really important you want to see or accomplish today, you may have to set several alarms or have your friends remind you. You have plenty of energy but you are of a mind to want to recline more today than usual. Any changes from the usual will have successful results at this time. It is a great time to break a bad habit or redo a few cabinets and drawers, perhaps set aside a few clothes for a charity drive coming up in or near your neighborhood. This is a good time to fall in love, promise vows or just enjoy the day. A book or project has your attention this afternoon and the information that is gleaned from this is beneficial to you and perhaps another person in your family. There is a new understanding.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Someone may put the damper on what you say or think in some way. You may feel that unimportant feeling that we all feel from time to time. Stop trying to be expressive and also, realize that your timing could be a little off. This other person has more of an urgent need to be heard and may need to be understood. When all is said and done, you may be surprised at how the conversation will change and deepen. Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized now. Being appreciated and admired for your gifts and talents is a powerful need and friends and family show gratitude. Travel gets the green light now and if you are not traveling you could be planning for a trip very soon. New scenery can be programmed.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have a strong desire for beauty and harmony. Your creative abilities are heightened. Working with creative hobbies on the weekend helps to lighten your mood. There is a feeling of accomplishment and relaxation. It is much easier to come up with creative options if you are familiar with the creative side of your brain. If you are romantically available, there is the possibility that you will discover more good things about your sweetheart today. Plans for a future vacation may include your sweetheart. If this is so, you will be looking at lots of different options and choices of where to play, where to live and types of family patterns. You teach balance and you are a good mentor. The work you know and perform for others is an excellent choice for you and those that follow you in your choices.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You could find yourself mentally acute and in a problem-solving mood. However, there is a real possibility that the decisions you make today and the solutions you find may have to be redone tomorrow. To solve this problem try to eliminate the possibility of spreading yourself too thin. Your intuition is sharp and you may find some new insights as you begin to pace yourself. These new ideas could be written down and saved for a day in which you have more time and space. You may find some good opportunities available in the financial sector of your personal life now. This could take form of an investment purchase. You may make a promise to yourself to end your food consumption by sunset each night. You will achieve weight goals and sleep better.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your mind may be very clear as you think about the next steps you want to take to improve or change your living surroundings. It will be easy to organize your thoughts and communication of all kinds is furthered. Begin writing a book, taking a class or teaching a subject. Your thoughts count now, so use your mind and communicate. Friends, group projects and community concerns could play a key role in your day. Charity and humanitarian efforts can influence your life-path. This is a nice day that should just flow along well. You could feel real support and harmony at this time for circumstances and those around you. You think a lot about appearances-how things come across or might appear to others. Your analytical powers are superb and you find answers.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Practical decisions are easier when you find yourself working in a difficult situation this morning. You have the ability to focus on a particular subject in order to point out possible changes in some project and help bring about a change, if necessary. A shopping trip is successful. Your sense of taste and discrimination is excellent and you may find yourself purchasing a fine piece of art. Your energy seems to carry through later this afternoon when you could become occupied with a friend. A friend may need to know the truth about a sensitive subject; however, now may not be the right time to reveal all of your knowledge. You will be looking for ways to entertain some co-worker friends this evening. You do not have to look far with fun games in your closet.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Some sort of temporary obstacle may appear this morning. The important thing is that your awareness is focused in the present so that you are able to be helpful in whatever situation needs your attention. Your ability to insert a sense of humor into some of the most frustrating situations is quite commendable. You have a natural way of expressing yourself and can add light moments to other people's lives. This afternoon gives way to entertainment with friends. An exchange of information takes on emotional significance. A marriage is in the works and there is a lot to talk about. Being involved with a variety of individuals gives you a variety of experiences-enhancing your life. You may find yourself as a guide for others today.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You are ready to enjoy those cozy, instructive conversations with friends and loved ones. You and your friends may decide to camp or enjoy a day trip-perhaps photographing spring flowers. You might be surprised at just how many plants are edible and can go into your next salad. You can be particularly witty and make stimulating company most any time-you are in a particularly generous and warm mood today. You are quite popular in social circles and melt even the coldest heart. There is talk this afternoon of new places to visit and people that you may know from faraway places. There are extravagant gardens, which may be the deciding point for future trips.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Wherever you are today, you will find projects or activities move along in positive ways. There is a keen interest in what makes things tick and who or what, pulls the strings. Figuring out ways to make your nest egg grow can be a profitable preoccupation as well. You have the patience to wait before launching a plan. This is a wise move for you at this time, but may temporarily confuse others. Your energies are most positive. Friends are impressed by your ability to change the old and adapt to the new. Someone is graduating, getting married or embarking on some life experience and you may decide to do a bit of shopping for this person. Set the example and find a practical gift. Step outside the norm this evening and enjoy a little different entertainment.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your energy is high. Routine matters, however, may make you feel trapped. You will want to do things that you feel are more worthy of your attention this Saturday. This could result in more attention toward political issues, professional plans or personal projects. Perhaps a group needs to band together in order to help create an awareness of some housing problems or transportation needs for the elderly. Whatever the case, this is the day people come together under your organized deviousness to successfully accomplish important things. You can also make your own cherished dreams come true this month-now is a good time to begin by creating a plan. After all, with a plan, the progress, change or fun can take its first steps.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

The attitude that anything is possible is a phase for the next few days and whatever you set out to accomplish will be successful. You might also keep in mind that if some accomplishment of your youth was exhilarating, it does not necessarily mean you can repeat the feat with those same feelings at this time-careful. There are optimistic tendencies to take chances. This is a time of exploring your feelings, a kind of restlessness for new experience. You encourage others with your attitude. Love is here for the taking. All you have to do is reach out-better yet, create a romantic environment and enjoy the afternoon. Consider a picnic along the riverbank or beside a lakeshore. There are shock waves when it comes to a sports game later today.

WORD SEARCH

Animals 1

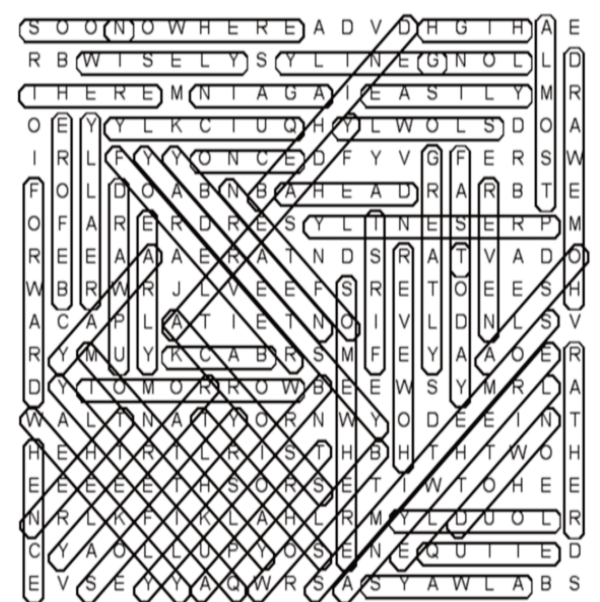
Find and circle all of the animals that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional animal.



- | | | | | |
|------------|---------|-------------|------------|------------|
| AARDVARK | DONKEY | HIPPOTAMUS | OTTER | SALMON |
| ALLIGATOR | DOVE | JACKAL | SLOTH | SLOTH |
| BABOON | EAGLE | JELLYFISH | PANTHER | SWAN |
| BARRACUDA | ELK | KIWI | PARROT | SWORDFISH |
| BEAR | FERRRET | LEOPARD | PEACOCK | TIGER |
| BISON | FOX | LLION | PELLICAN | PIG |
| CAMEL | GECKO | LLAMA | PORCUPINE | TROUT |
| CHIMPANZEE | GOAT | MACAW | QUAIL | TURKEY |
| CHINCHILLA | GOPHER | MEADOWLARK | RACCOON | VULTURE |
| COBRA | HAMSTER | MINK | RAVEN | WOLVERINE |
| COUGAR | HAWK | MOOSE | REINDEER | WOODPECKER |
| CROW | HERON | NIGHTINGALE | ROADRUNNER | WREN |

Yesterday's Solution

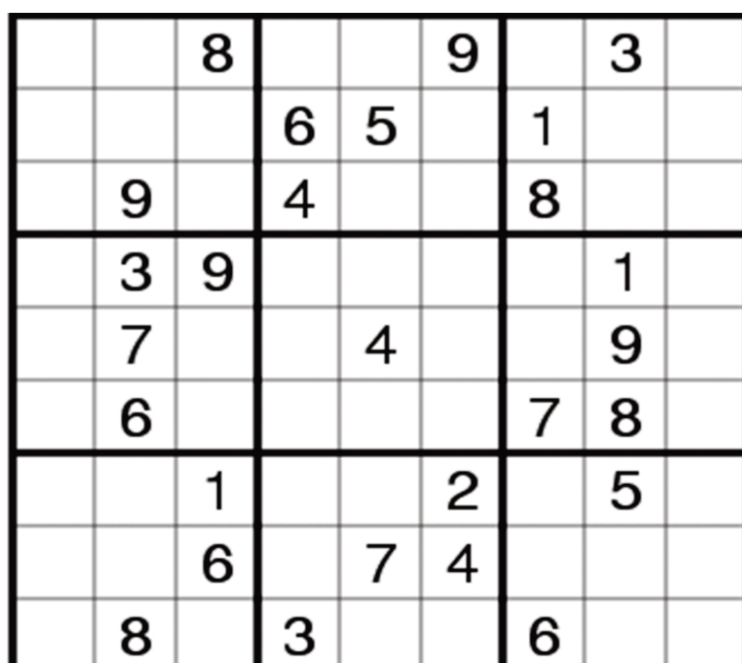
Adverbs



- | | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| ACROSS | BEHIND | HENCE | ONCE | SOMETIMES |
| AGAIN | BELOW | HIGH | PRESENTLY | SOMEWHERE |
| AHEAD | BRISKLY | HOMeward | QUICKLY | SOON |
| ALMOST | DOWN | HOWever | QUIETLY | THEN |
| ALREADY | EARLY | LITTLE | QUITE | THERE |
| ALSO | EASILY | LONG | RARELY | TODAY |
| ALWAYS | FAST | LOUDLY | RATHER | TOMORROW |
| ANYWHERE | FIRST | MONTHLY | REALLY | UPWARD |
| APART | FOREVER | NEARBY | SHORT | WEEKLY |
| AWAY | FORWARD | NEVER | SLOWLY | WISELY |
| BACK | GENTLY | NOWHERE | SOFTLY | YESTERDAY |
| BEFORE | GREATLY | OFTEN | | |

The hidden message is: ADVERBS MODIFY VERBS AND ADJECTIVES AND OTHER ADVERBS

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 Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

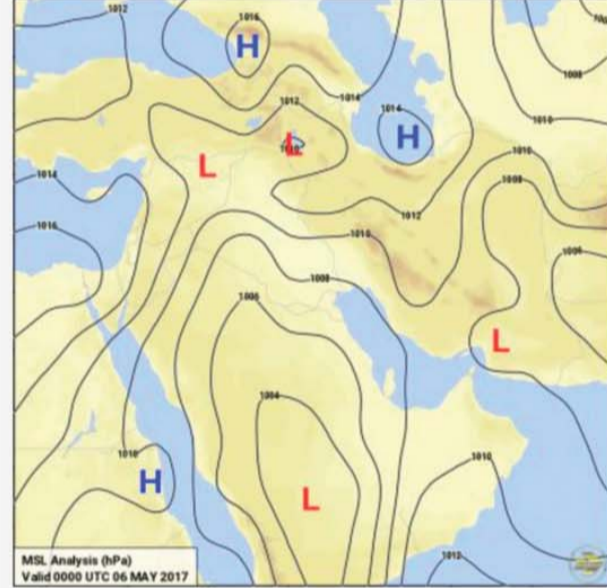
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 06/05/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 36 °C

By Day : Clouds will increase gradually with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north easterly becoming south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for scattered rain that might be thundery at times later on
By Night : Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate freshening gradually at times south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy + a chance for rain+rising dust	sunny + blowing dust	sunny	sunny
Min Temp °C	27	29	28	27
Max Temp °C	36	39	40	41
Wind Direction	south easterly to southerly	south easterly changing to north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	20 - 45	15 - 40	15 - 40	12 - 35

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Weather Watches

Thunder Rain

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	27		36	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	27		36	
ABDaly	23		39	
BUBYAN	25		33	
JAHRA	28		40	
FAILAKA ISLAND	24		33	
SALMIYAH	26		31	
AHMADI	26		30	
JAL ALIYAH	22		40	
QAROH ISLAND	24		31	
UMM AL-MARADEM	25		29	
NUWAISIB	26		41	
WAFRA	22		42	
SALMY	25		40	
MUTRIBA	23		41	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	37
Min Temp (°C)	26
Max Rel Hum (%)	71
Min Rel Hum (%)	35
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	82 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	.23 mm

Sunrise	05:02
Sunset	18:26

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:36
Sunrise	05:02
Zuhr	11:45
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:26
Isha	19:51

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. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabaa 25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel 25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah 25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory 25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426
General Practitioners
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Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem 22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah 25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi 24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae 25333501
Urologists
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Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul 22639955
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Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) 25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph 66703427

Plastic Surgeons
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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
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Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami 25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272
Dr. Salem soso 22618787
General Surgeons
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart
Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3

Paediatricians
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Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarooof 25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupje 23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282
Dermatology
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Dentists
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Gastrologists
Dr. Sami Aman 22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135

Endocrinologist
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924
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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
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MUSIC & MOVIES

Country legend Loretta Lynn suffers stroke

Loretta Lynn, one of the pioneering women in country music known for songs of working-class female resilience, has suffered a stroke, her representatives said Friday. Lynn, who turned 85 last month and remains professionally active, suffered a stroke Thursday night at her ranch in Tennessee, said a statement on her website. "She is currently under medical care and is responsive and expected to make a full recovery," it said, while adding that she had canceled upcoming shows.

Identifiable for her floor-length gowns, Lynn was one of the original women in country music and a protégée of Patsy Cline, who defined the female role in the genre. Her songs took up the

struggles of the white Southern women who listened to country music, recounting husbands who cheated on them, mistresses who competed with them, and the loneliness as the men went off to war. Her signature songs include "Don't Come Home A' Drinkin' (With Lovin' on Your Mind)," "Coal Miner's Daughter," "Rated 'X'" and, in a daring early look at the society-changing effects of birth control, "The Pill."

Despite her themes, she distanced herself from modern American feminism and generally supported conservative politicians including President Donald Trump, although she was close to former president Jimmy Carter. Lynn has kept up an active

schedule despite her age, with a new studio album, "Wouldn't It Be Great," due out in August. Her ranch has also become a tourist attraction, with fans coming to tour her sprawling home in Tennessee, the southern state where the estates of Elvis Presley and Dolly Parton are also located. — AFP



In this file photo, Loretta Lynn performs in concert at the American Music Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. — AP



In this file photo, Diane Keaton arrives at the 13th Annual Gala in the Garden at the Hammer Museum, in Los Angeles. — AP

DIANE KEATON TO RECEIVE AFI LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Diane Keaton will receive the American Film Institute's highest honor next month. AFI announced Friday that Keaton will accept its 45th Life Achievement Award during a gala tribute in Los Angeles on June 8. The starry dinner ceremony will air as a special on TNT later in June. The 71-year-old Keaton won an Academy Award for playing the title character in "Annie Hall" and has three other lead actress Oscar nominations. Previous recipients of the AFI Life Achievement Award include George Lucas, Tom Hanks, Meryl Streep, Mel Brooks and Jane Fonda. — AP

French choreographer Millepied to direct Carmen

French choreographer Benjamin Millepied will make his cinema directorial debut with a musical adaptation of "Carmen," his publicist announced Thursday. The dancer, who is married to actress Natalie Portman, will also be creating the choreography for the film, which centers on a woman's journey from the deserts of Mexico to Los Angeles in search of freedom. "I'm beyond grateful to be supported by the film community in my directing debut," Millepied said in a statement.

"The incorporation of music and dance in film is a corner stone of my creativity and having such an experienced and talented team by my side gives me confidence that we will beautifully capture the story told in Carmen," he added. Millepied was choreographer for Darren Aronofsky's "Black Swan," in which he also performed with Portman, whom he later wed. The couple recently had their second child.

He was recently also featured in "Reset" a documentary about his work at the Paris Opera Ballet, which he left last year to return to Los Angeles, where he is artistic director and co-founder of L.A. Dance Project. Millepied will be working with top names in the industry for his film, including Oscar-nominated Nicholas Britell ("Moonlight") who will compose the original score.

Dimitri Rassam ("The Little Prince") will be partnering with Helen Estabrook ("Whiplash") to produce the movie. "It's a project that Benjamin has been thinking about for a long time and which I am very enthusiastic about," Rassam said. "The public's appetite for 'Carmen' has never waned. It's a powerful and visceral work," he added. Shooting is expected to begin in 2018 in Los Angeles. — AFP

Josh Duhamel channels inner Ryan Seacrest in Times Square

Ryan Seacrest may have some competition as host of New York's most famous crystal ball drop - from Josh Duhamel. The star of the new "Transformers: The Last Knight" kicked off Cinco de Mayo with a special ball drop in Times Square on Thursday. The same Waterford crystal ball that drops every New Year's Eve was adapted with a special lime theme for a party sponsored by Corona. His wife, Fergie, already co-hosts "New Year's Rockin' Eve" with Seacrest.

So does that mean Duhamel is trying his own thing with the Cinco de Mayo lime drop? "Oh yeah, you're right. I never thought about that. She's got New Year's Eve, now

I've got Cinco de Mayo. That's a good point." Then he immediately thought of moving up. "I'll be like the new Ryan Seacrest of Cinco de Mayo." He looked into a camera: "Watch out, Ryan." Duhamel has two big films coming out this year. There's "Transformers: The Last Knight" set for a June release. And later this year, he brings the popular video game "Call of Duty" to the big screen. While both films are major releases, it doesn't deter Duhamel from starring in smaller, independent films. "I've always tried to choose things based on nothing other than does it inspire me creatively. It's never been about money. It's always been about

whether I love this project, and does it have something interesting to say," he said.

Now that Duhamel and Fergie have a son who turns 4 this summer, he admits being more selective when it comes to film projects. "Having a child, does that affect my decision making? Yeah, a little bit," he said. "I try to keep the two separate and if it's something he can't see, someday he will and I will have done it for reasons that I can explain to him down the road."



In this file photo, actor Josh Duhamel poses for a portrait in New York. — AP

'Guardians' sequel rockets to \$17M on opening night

"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" has rocketed to a \$17 million opening night, beating out early showings of the first film. Disney reported the sales estimate for Thursday night preview screenings on Friday. The sequel is the biggest opening night earner of the year so far. The first "Guardians" film was a surprise blockbuster for many, transforming a little-known band of Marvel superheroes into household names. It earned \$11.2 million on its opening night.

Both films were directed by James Gunn, who has already signed on to direct a third "Guardians" film. Chris Pratt and Zoe Saldana star in the franchise, which will become interwoven into Marvel's hit "Avengers" franchise in future films. ComScore figures show the first "Guardians" film earned \$93.3 million in its opening weekend. — AP



This image released by Disney-Marvel shows Zoe Saldana, from left, Karen Gillan, Chris Pratt, Dave Bautista and Rocket, voiced by Bradley Cooper, in a scene from, 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2.' — AP

Vogue's Anna Wintour made a dame by Queen Elizabeth II



Editor-in-Chief, American Vogue and Artistic Director Dame Anna Wintour poses for a photo after receiving her Dame Commander insignia from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II at an Investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace, London. — AP

Britain's monarch has met a queen of the fashion world, as Vogue editor Anna Wintour was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. Wintour was made a dame - female equivalent of a knight - for services to fashion and journalism in a Buckingham Palace ceremony on Friday.

The UK-born editor arrived wearing her ever-present sunglasses, but removed them before entering the palace ballroom. She said afterward that the queen had struggled to find a place to pin the insignia on Wintour's pink belted Chanel outfit. Wintour said she also congratulated the queen on Prince Philip's long public service, calling him "an inspiration to us all." The queen's husband, who is 95, announced Thursday that he will retire from public engagements in the fall. — AP

Rapper T I: 'I have two or three albums left in me'

Rapper T I says he only plans to release about two or three more albums. He said in a recent interview that he expects to release an album revolving around "trap music" this year. He's released nine full-length albums so far, and says he has "two or three albums left in him." The 36-year-old added: "But it's definitely time to transition."

The rapper-actor has the future album titles figured out, calling them "Trap Music," "Dope Boy Meets Girl" and "Kill the King." T I's hits include "What You Know," "Whatever You Like" and "Live Your Life." Last year he released the politically-charged projects "Us or Else" and "Us or Else: Letter to the System." They served as inspiration for his short film, "Us or Else," which debuted on BET last week. — AP



In this photo, rapper T I tours the Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta. — AP

A Star Wars role? You'll have to force it out of Laura Dern

May the 4th be with you, Laura Dern, and darn all the mystery surrounding the character you'll play as one of the latest additions to the Star Wars galaxy. The actress, in town Thursday to support a family health-focused global initiative, was tight-lipped about her role in "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," which opens in December. "What I can say is I had the time of my life," Dern told The Associated Press. "I felt like an 8-year-old every day at work, to go to work and be in makeup and hair and walk out in this community of people and, you know, be in a studio where you look down the corridor and you see Chewbacca!"

The mind, Dern said, "melts and you feel like you're at play." Dern, who has twice been nominated for Oscars, offered no resolution on another front: A Variety report that she's among the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences board members under consideration to run for president after the term of Cheryl Boone Isaacs expires in July. Variety cited sources it did not identify as saying Dern is interested.

And Dern's take? "It was news to me. If it came from anyone at the academy, what a gorgeous compliment," she said. Dern joined the board last July amid industry tumult over diversity. She would be the fourth woman to serve in the top spot, after Isaacs, Bette Davis and Fay Kanin. Candidates usually don't campaign for the unpaid, four-year post. "I would love to be more and more involved for the rest of my life but don't know that that should

have any predefined title," Dern said. "I'm definitely learning on the fly a great deal." When it comes to motherhood - Dern has a 15-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter - she's a font of support for women and families, serving as an ambassador for the annual Johnson & Johnson and United Nations Foundation digital fundraising campaign called the Global Moms Relay. From May 3 to June 16, parents, community leaders, experts and celebrities are sharing personal stories about issues impacting families, with

J&J donating a \$1 - up to \$500,000 - for every social media, tweet, share or like.

Among five causes that benefit are UNICEF and nonprofits that benefit girls and provide nets in the fight against malaria in Africa and elsewhere. "A child's right to their own health and well-being should be their birthright," Dern said. "It's a nonpartisan issue." Among the work supported by one of the beneficiaries, Girl Up, is a project in Guatemala to provide girls with bicycles so they can travel to school. The Global Moms Relay offers Dern a fresh spin on social media. Most of the time, she laughed, "I'm in the car going, 'I have asked 17 times how was your day? Can you put your phone down and just answer me?'"

Dern was especially touched by TV talk show host Jimmy Kimmel's recent outpouring of emotion and support for health care for all when he revealed his newborn son's heart surgery. Dern's own son required surgery soon after birth. "Once you've gone through anything where you're afraid as a parent and you're in a community of other parents in terror, like at a neonatal intensive care unit," she said, "you realize the fragility and the good fortune that we have to have a healthy family, or to have the privilege of health care when you need it." — AP



In this file photo, actress Laura Dern arrives at the Oscars in Los Angeles. — AP

Pissarro seized in WWII turns up in Paris show

A painting by impressionist master Camille Pissarro seized from a Jewish collector in France in WWII has turned up in an exhibition in Paris, where relatives are seeking its return from a US couple who have loaned it. "La cueillette des pois" ("Pea Harvest") painted with gouache by Pissarro in 1887, has been found on display at the Marmottan Museum in the French capital. Simon Bauer was among Jews rounded up in the Drancy internment camp outside Paris in 1944, but he escaped being deported to the Nazi death camps because of a train drivers' strike.

A year earlier his art collection, including the Pissarro, had been confiscated and sold by an art dealer designated by officials from France's war-time Vichy regime. On being released in September 1944, Bauer immediately began looking for his paintings, but he had only recovered a small part of his collection of 93 canvases by the time he died in 1947. His relatives have continued the search, and his grandson Jean-Jacques Bauer, now 87, recently learned that "Pea Harvest" was on display at the Marmottan as part of a Pissarro retrospective.

The painting is on loan from a US couple named Toll

who bought it at Christie's in New York in 1995. Bauer's descendants had lost the trail of the canvas for half a century. In 1965 they heard about an under-the-counter sale involving it and another painting, but the American dealer who had just bought them got away when a judge ordered their release. The paintings were then sold again at Sotheby's in London in 1966. On Friday Bauer asked a top Paris court to order that the painting not be allowed to move, pending further action to determine its ownership.

In the meantime, "this picture must remain in France," said his lawyer, Cedric Fischer, whose great-grandfather

advised Simon Bauer. Faced with this "complicated historical, factual and legal situation ... the French judge must be able to rule calmly, without haste," he added. The US couple have opposed the request to block movement of the painting. The court has said it will rule on May 30. The Marmottan has agreed to keep the canvas until the end of the Pissarro retrospective on July 2, said the museum's lawyer Eric Andrieu. — AFP

'BURDEN': PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A GUNSHOT VICTIM

Having yourself shot, locked up, crucified, dangled naked from a rope, kicked down stairs or clamped to the floor near electrified water will get you attention—but is it art? It is a question Los Angeles-based Chris Burden, who died of cancer in 2015, posed through a series of stomach-churning performances that shook the conventional art world in the 1970s, challenging ideas about the limits and nature of modern art.

"I'm not about death and I didn't want to die, but I wanted to come close," the late artist jokes in "Burden," a new documentary exploring the complex, evolving character who became one of the most admired artists of his generation. On an evening in the fall of 1971, Burden provoked outraged headlines across the world by getting shot on camera by an ex-military friend standing 15 feet away with a .22 rifle in Santa Ana, California.

The bullet was supposed to graze his left arm but instead went straight through, leading to a spell in the hospital and a police investigation, although Burden himself insisted that getting shot was "as American as apple pie." Directed by first-time documentarians Richard Dewey and Timothy Marrinan, "Burden" mixes grainy footage of his 70s performances with latter day scenes at his Topanga Canyon studio on the outskirts of Los Angeles County. "It is, I think, the great untold story of the art world, and maybe one of the great untold stories in contemporary pop culture," Dewey, a writer and filmmaker based in Los Angeles, said.

A little crazy

Among the talking heads are art dealer Larry Gagosian, who represented Burden, architect Frank Gehry, curator Paul Schimmel and tennis great John McEnroe, a committed Burden collector who describes the artist as "up my alley, a little crazy." The one dissenting voice is Brian Sewell, the English art critic who outlived Burden by four months, who takes pleasure in undermining the pursuit of conceptual art. "Performance art, it's new, but that doesn't make it art. It only makes a thing that silly people go to see," he says, dismissing Burden's early work as "rubbish."

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, and brought up in France and Italy, Burden moved to California in 1965 at the age of 19. He became interested in performance art after enrolling at the University of California

Irvine in 1969 and, for his graduate thesis, squeezed himself into a two-foot-cubed locker for five days. In another piece he had his hands nailed to the roof of a revving VW at Venice beach, and there were numerous other projects involving fire, glass, holding a knife to a woman's neck and lying motionless and without water for 45 hours.

"I don't think my pieces always provide answers, they just ask questions. I think that's what art is about—it doesn't have a purpose, you see," he says in a television interview. Burden ended his marriage to long-suffering wife Barbara in 1974 by publicly announcing an affair with artist Alexis Smith. He moved to New York and began to unravel, bingeing on drugs and running around with a loaded Uzi submachine gun.

Art's Evel Knievel

His stunts had earned him the nickname the "Evel Knievel of the art world," a designation that came to annoy him, prompting him to quit performance art in the late 70s. A move to a remote ranch of several acres in Topanga Canyon, where he lived out the rest of his life with his second wife, the sculptor Nancy Rubins, proved the perfect antidote and the start of Burden's trajectory towards a gentler art form.

"Metropolis II" (2011) -- a paean to Angelenos' love of the automobile—enchants visitors to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art while, outside, "Urban Light" (2008), an assemblage of 202 antique street lamps has become one of LA's most photographed monuments. Burden died suddenly of malignant melanoma shortly before filming wrapped, which was not only a huge shock to the filmmakers, but also forced them to rely more on archive footage than they had originally intended.

"There is a tendency when you become very well known for something early in your career to be slightly fixed in people's minds, in public perception," said Marrinan. "I think it was nice that later in his life he had some other pieces that became very well known. Those will leave a legacy as well. He's certainly been an inspiration to a lot of other generations of artists that have come since." "Burden" opens Friday in New York with a national theatrical rollout to follow and is also available on Amazon Video and iTunes. — AFP



Spanish opera singer Placido Domingo

Met Opera faces questions as it marks big anniversary

The Metropolitan Opera is pulling out the finery this weekend to mark its golden anniversary at New York's Lincoln Center, but the celebration comes at a tough moment for opera in the United States. A black-tie concert and gala dinner will feature performances from many of opera's biggest stars, including legendary Spanish singer Placido Domingo and the popular American soprano Renee Fleming, as well as archived footage from Met performances of yore and a recent video testimonial from the iconic Leontyne Price.

The event comes near the end of another season of spectacle concerning tales of love, loss, fate and the fantastic, with booming soloists, museum-worthy sets and sure-handed performing by the Met's respected chorus and orchestra. While the Met's musical prowess is not open to question, there is uncertainty hovering over the company as it struggles to find new subscribers to make up for older attendees who are dying off. Met ticket sales covered 88 percent of capacity in 2008, but only 69 percent in 2015, according to financial reports.

As ticket revenues have stagnated, donations from wealthy benefactors have assumed a greater share of expenses. "It has some serious problems," said Charles Affron, co-author of "Grand Opera: The Story of the Met," who said the house is facing one of the toughest periods in its 134-year history. "The audience has been dwindling and keeps dwindling," he said. Met General Manager Peter Gelb said overall audience in the 2016-2017 season that celebrates the opera's 50 years "slightly" improved compared with last year, its first gain after several years of decline.

Gelb said ticket sales to first-time buyers have been strong, but acknowledged that attracting new audience remains a work in progress. He said a priority was greater outreach to schools, in part through use of content from the Met's "Live in HD"

program, which streams opera from the Met stage to cinemas worldwide. "Opera is going through a transition—replacing an older audience with a younger one," he said. "The question is can we replace the old audience with the new one quickly enough?"

Dramatic unveiling

Today's event will commemorate the Met's move from Midtown Manhattan to Lincoln Center, a cultural plaza on the Upper West Side that is also home to the New York Philharmonic and New York City Ballet. That opening, back in September 1966, was marked with appearances by first lady Lady Bird Johnson, Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos and other dignitaries who watched the world premiere of Leontyne Price in "Antony & Cleopatra" by American composer Samuel Barber.

Other names from opera's golden era followed later that season, including Italian tenor Franco Corelli, Swedish powerhouse Birgit Nilsson and Australian soprano Joan Sutherland. Another great star, the late tenor Luciano Pavarotti, premiered at the Met in 1968 in "La Boheme." Besides the starry casts, the remade Met also became known for stellar acoustics and details such as its gold ceilings and majestic chandeliers. A pair of murals by artist Marc Chagall—one mostly red, the other mostly yellow—have also become synonymous with New York's premier opera house.

But over time, the Met's scale, an asset during the era of peak opera, has started to look more like a burden. With about 3,800 seats, it is far bigger than rival houses in cities such as London, Milan and Vienna. Music historian Affron said new productions introduced under Gelb have been uneven and that the Met's roster of singers is not as strong as in decades past. "There's just not enough people who will sell tickets," he said.

But Affron is optimistic about the appointment of conductor Yannick Nezet-Seguin as music director, set to take effect in 2020, a hope echoed by union leaders who came close to striking in 2014 before a deal was struck. "The orchestra is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Maestro Nezet-Seguin," Jessica Phillips, who plays clarinet in the Met Orchestra, said in a statement on behalf of the American Federation of Musicians Local 802. "While there are serious and important challenges, the Met continues to create extraordinary performances that meet the exceptional standards of our audience."

A different era

Defenders of today's singers note that many are better actors than their predecessors, some of whom sounded great but stood statue-like and made little attempt to realize characters facing catharsis, crisis and life and death. Examples this season included the Russian soprano Anna Netrebko, who left audiences rapturous as the trusting, bookish Tatiana in "Eugene Onegin," and the German baritone Michael Volle, who communicated a creepy, otherworldly possession as the title character in Wagner's "Flying Dutchman."

"Opera has to be so much more than it once was," said Gelb, who said it was more difficult in the current era of ample distractions to connect to people who aren't already watching. "As an art form, opera is not positioned as it once was," Gelb said. "In a slower moving time, opera was more in the mainstream." — AFP



French boulanger Eric Kayser finds niche in US

Fans of French baguettes and pastries in the United States are discovering a new place to spend their dough, courtesy of boulanger Eric Kayser. The Frenchman, who launched his first "Maison Kayser" in Paris in 1996, plans a new cafe/restaurant near the Empire State Building later this spring, with two more in Washington coming later in the year, the chain's first US boulangeries outside of the Big Apple.

The shops are part of Kayser's international push that extends to Colombia as well as several corners of Africa (Angola, Congo and the Ivory Coast). Kayser's biggest international market is Japan, with 37 stores. The shops, which display intricately crafted desserts and breads and serve soup and light meals, are positioned to take advantage of America's growing demand for better food. "Consumers want fresh food, quality food, food made with unique and fresh ingredients," said Bonnie Riggs, a restaurant industry analyst at NPD Group.

"They are willing to pay the price if you meet their expectations." A study by consultancy A.T. Kearney said 63 percent of American consumers were ready to pay more for gourmet food. Sales of artisanal/specialty foods have risen by nine to 14 percent in major cities, Kearney said. Kayser "capitalized on a void in the marketplace of providing well-crafted bakery products that fit into the modern lifestyle," said Bahige El-Rayes, an expert in retail and consumer businesses at Kearney.

Kayser, 52, said a key selling point at his shops is that each of the restaurants has its own bakery. Cafe managers are trained in Paris for about six months. "The difference between

us and (the competition) is, I think, that we're truly artisanal, so in each shop we have a baker in the back," Kayser said. "So this allows us to train a lot of skilled chefs."

Same products, higher prices

Born in Lure in the south of France to a family of bakers and trained at l'Institut National de la Boulangerie Patisserie, Kayser has sought to take the time-tested strengths of French baking abroad. The basic idea is to reproduce the same core products — baguettes, viennoiseries, tartines, tarts — as in France, while charging more. For example, the baguette "Monge," which sells for 1.20 euros in Paris, retails for \$3 in New York (2.70 euros).

The first Kayser boutique opened in New York in August 2012 near the French lycée in Manhattan. By the end of 2017, there will be 14 in New York. The shops are designed in the style of a modern Parisian cafe/bistro, with references to the homeland, such as a giant map of the Paris Metro system. With the exception of butter, which is imported from France, all ingredients come from the United States. The pastries and brioches are made without preservatives, while bread dough is made on the spot.

The 11 US boulangeries are among the most profitable in the Maison Kayser chain, which generated \$300 million in global revenues in 2016. The average bakery customer in the US spends \$10 a visit, while the restaurant diner spends \$20 to \$25. That compares with 6 euros (\$6.50) in France at the bak-



Parisian master baker Eric Kayser works in the kitchen at his bakery in New York City. — AFP photos



ery and about 20 euros at the restaurant. Kayser expects the gap to increase in the years ahead as it adds catering and, within the next five years, seeks to expand to the US West Coast. Experts question whether Kayser's operations will change as it expands.

"Maintaining the intricate craftsmanship coupled with high density throughout will be a challenge," said El-Rayes, who said companies like Kayser have eventually shifted to kitchen commissaries as they grow. "Maison Kayser will have to con-

sider trade-offs in its artisanal quality, convenience and the search for growth as it continues its expansion in the US," he said. Maison Kayser USA is led by chief executive Louis-Jean Egasse. The company's largest shareholder is a fund associated with Charles Heilbronn, a member of the Wertheimer family, which owns the Chanel brand. — AFP

FEATURES



Cameroonian artist Kareyce Foto, right, performs with her band at the Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA) in Zimbabwe.



People attend the Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA) in Zimbabwe. — AFP photos

Young Zimbabweans flock to rejuvenated arts fest

Young, fashion-conscious and eager for change, thousands of Zimbabweans spent this week partying at music concerts and open-air bars during a six-day festival hosted in the capital against all the odds. The Harare International Festival of the Arts (HIFA), founded in 1999, was abandoned last year as Zimbabwe's economy crumbled and left desperate locals unable to withdraw money from banks.

Despite many sponsors pulling out, festival organizers have revived an event widely seen as an expression of defiance against the country's woes under 93-year-old President Robert Mugabe. "Cash is everyone's major problem," Chidochemoyo Nemhara, 29, a festival-goer who works for a women's business group, said. "But we know HIFA is a place to forget about troubles." At least 100 international musicians, singers, dancers and actors are performing alongside many local artists at a dozen venues across the city.

Mali-based star Habib Koite is due to headline the final night today in Harare's central park, topping off a schedule ranging from US opera and Irish comedy to Turkish jazz, Dutch techno and Indian dance. Tafadzwa Simba, HIFA's executive director, said the festival this year lost the backing of

several companies, funding bodies and embassies who believed it was "impossible" to hold the event given the nation's economic difficulties. "Technically speaking, as a country, we are broke. Yet it has happened, and here we are," Simba said.

'We must live our lives'

Dissent is risky in Zimbabwe, where Mugabe has ruled since 1980, but the festival's slogan "Staging an Intervention" hints at rebellious undercurrents that erupted last year with large anti-government protests. "Everyone knows what they mean," said Chiedza Mahere, 27, a graphic designer and fashion blogger. "We are ruled by a government that wants to take everything. We must live our lives anyway—liberal, free, and allowed to be who we want to be. That is what HIFA is about."

Processing ticket sales has been just one major test for the festival as Zimbabwe suffers a drastic shortage of banknotes. Hyperinflation killed off the national currency several years ago, forcing Zimbabwe to use scarce US dollar bills that the government now supplements by printing its own little-trusted "bond notes".

Not far from the festival's main gates, long queues stretch outside banks as customers stand in line for hours to try to collect the daily maximum withdrawal of just \$50. "I must often wait at a bank from 6am to 2pm," said student Gamuchirai Gatawa, 20, as she arrived at the festival. "The government says we must use bond notes, but the shops don't want them. What should we do? Young people are not being heard, but if we do find our own person to do that, then (the government's) time is up."

Business boost

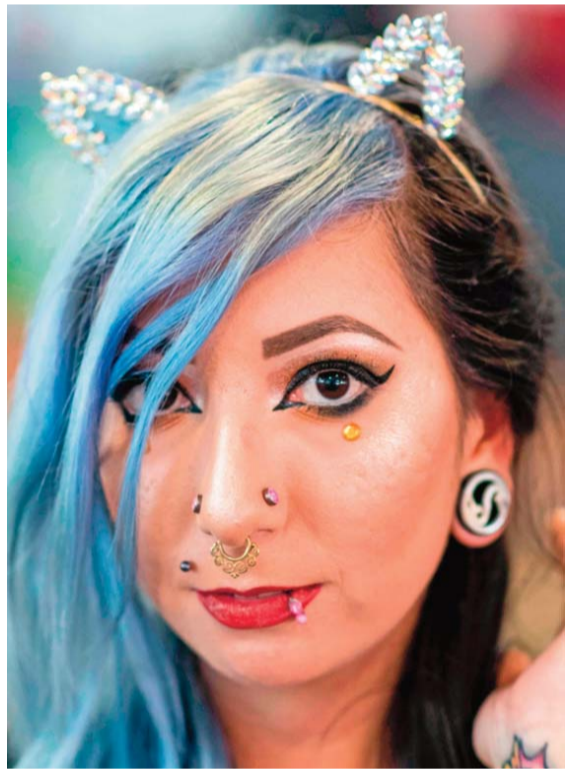
Some festival events are free, while tickets to the showcase performances on the main stage cost up to \$20. Organizers admit that fewer spectators are expected compared to the last festival two years ago—when total audience numbers hit a staggering 49,000 at 192 performances. But they say the week has still brought a rare burst of business activity to Harare, with stage crew, taxi drivers, hotels and stall-holders among those benefiting.

"We are only back in action thanks to the sheer determination of those involved," said Simba. "Really, we see HIFA as a

statement of intent of what might be possible in this country." Zimbabwe's economic output has halved since 2000, according to economists, and unemployment stands over 90 percent, forcing millions of young people to seek work abroad.

Mugabe, who is often criticized for repression, corruption and destructive economic policies, is due to stand for re-election next year despite his increasingly frail health. For many of the international performers, the festival has been an eye-opening insight into both Zimbabwe's troubles and its strengths.

"I am staying in a spare room in Highfield, one of the rougher parts of towns, but I feel very safe and welcome," said German solo tenor Jochen Kraus, 44. "Many singers and performers in Europe have heard of this event, and this was an unmissable opportunity to be involved in a huge adventure." Kraus, who sings in the Munich Philharmonic Choir, was searching for a quick-learning pianist after his accompanist dropped out at the last minute. "All part of the fun," he said.— AFP



Natalia Ugalde participates in the 6th Edition of the Paradise Tattoo Convention.

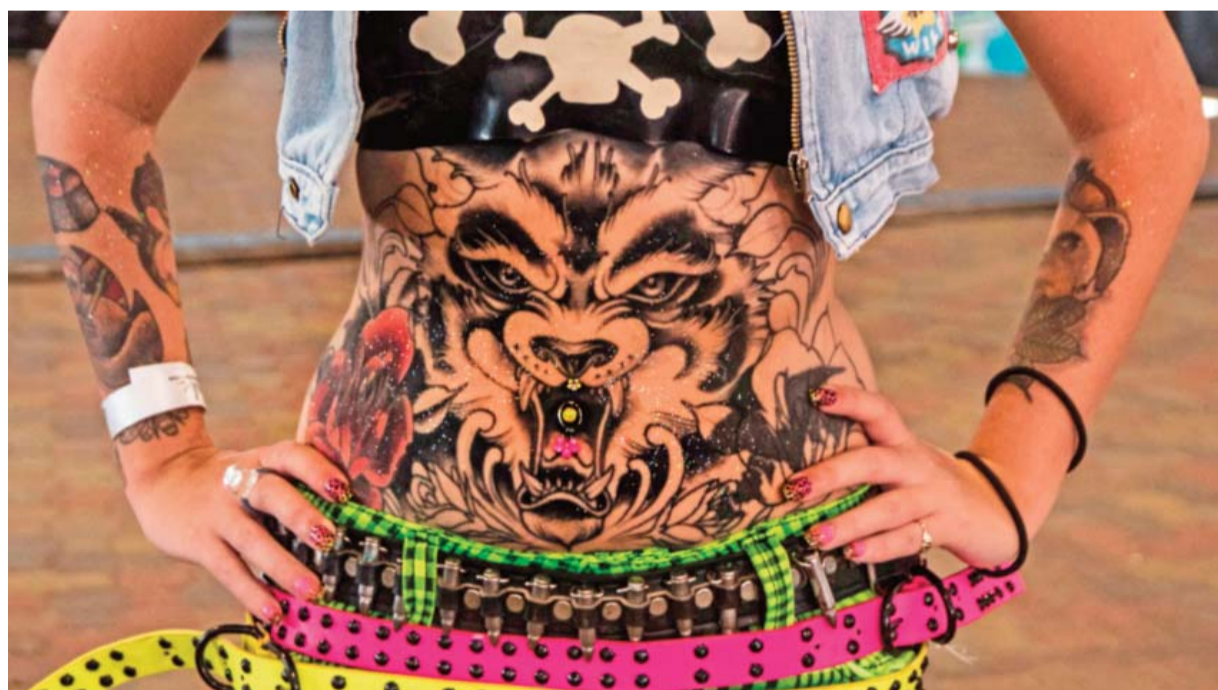


Tattoo artist Carlos Arce participates in the 6th Edition of the Paradise Tattoo Convention in San Antonio de Belen, 20 km west of San Jose, Costa Rica.

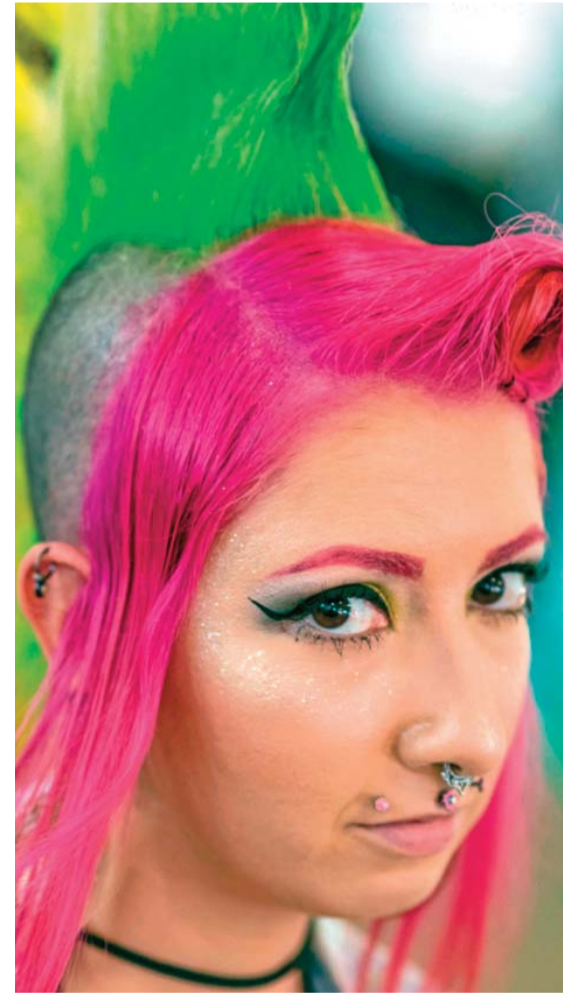
Tropical tattoos: Costa Rica hosts masters of skin ink

Hundreds of international and local tattoo artists raised electric needles in Costa Rica on Friday for an annual get-together to swap ideas and designs, and show off their latest creations. The small crowd of pierced, tattooed and hair-dyed specialists were holding their sixth Paradise Tattoo Convention in San Antonio de Belen, a town close to the capital San Jose, for three days into the weekend. "I'm really impressed with the quality of the attendees. This is the best one I've seen yet," said Yazmin Ugalde, whose belly boasted a big tattooed wolf.

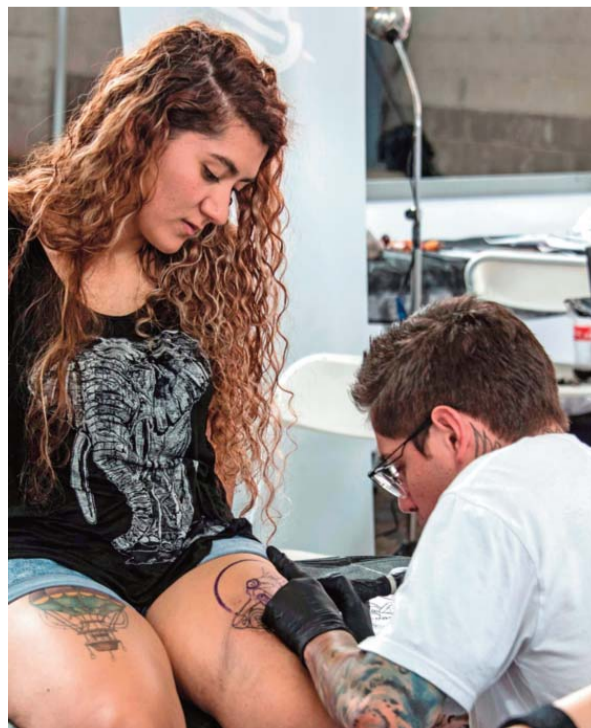
Ugalde, who had part of her head shaved under a green mohawk with a bright pink fringe, was there to sell clothes, bracelets and collars. Steve Butcher, a tattoo artist known internationally for his hyper-real designs, was enthusiastic that "a New Zealand tattooist who does incredible stuff" had come to take part. Surrealism was well represented by an American expert, Carlos Torres. Ostensibly, however, this year's edition of the congress was dedicated to designs inspired by pre-Colombian art.— AFP



Yazmin Ugalde participates in the 6th Edition of the Paradise Tattoo Convention.



A woman looks at a stand.



A woman gets a tattoo.— AFP photos

FASHION

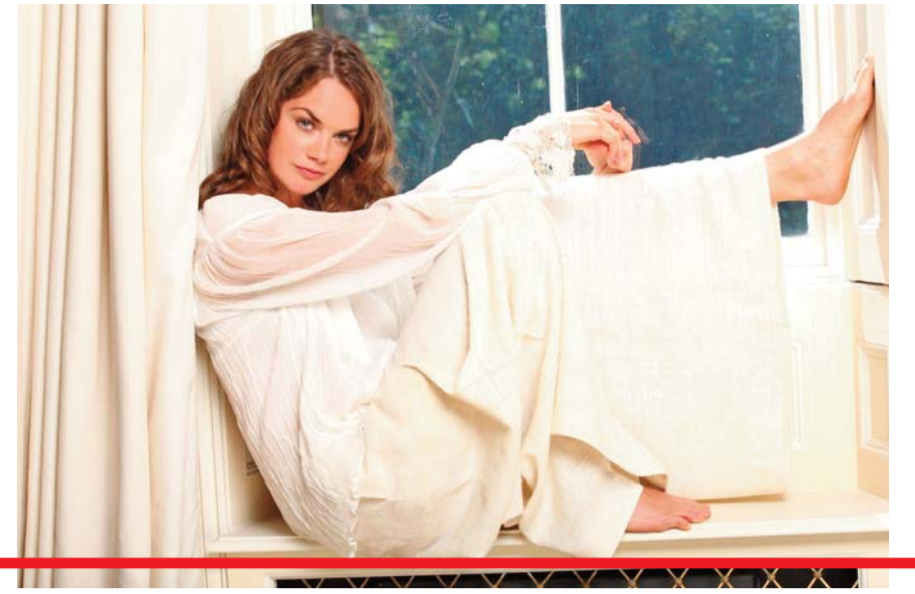
Ruth Wilson loves to wear tailored garments

The 35-year-old actress likes nothing more than "a bit of trouser" and a fitted ensemble, but she believes her career in the entertainment industry makes it hard for her to "stand out" with her wardrobe choices. Speaking about her style preferences to Net-A-Porter's The Edit, the golden-haired beauty said: "I like tailoring; I love a bit of trouser." "I was talking to Barbara about how we should celebrate uniqueness, certainly [among] women, rather than [making them] conform to what everyone else is.

"Being an actress, people want to put you in a box, to fit the mould, to wear the same outfits. It's hard to stand out." Meanwhile, the 'The Affair' star - who was awarded the Best Actress for a Television Series Drama gong at the 2015 Golden Globe Awards for her role as Alison Bailey - claims she doesn't have a "mentor" or anyone she can turn to for advice because nobody in her family has ever acted and she doesn't "hang out" with fellow actors.

She explained: "I don't really have anyone. I don't have a mentor; I don't hang out with actors." However, the British star's father Nigel will often

tell her not to do something she doesn't want to do. She said: "My dad is great; I phone him up and he says, 'Don't do anything you don't need to.' But no one in my family has [acted], so I've had to carve my own path." "That's where you learn a lot... when you're out of your comfort zone. No airs or graces, no one getting you coffee every two minutes. Back to using your brain and your creativity, scrabbling around the floor, devising something."



MALAYSIAN HERITAGE MAKE UP SHOW



Models present creations by Malaysian make-up artists during the Malaysian Heritage Make Up Show in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP photos



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017

Met Opera faces questions as it marks big anniversary

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A model poses as she shows a creation by Malaysian make-up artist Sheena during the Malaysian Heritage Make Up Show in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

Police in US murder capital find solace in art

As a police officer patrolling the streets of Chicago, Antoinette Alcazar admits to being overwhelmed at times, needing escape from the everyday tragedies of life in the United States's murder capital. "I see a lot of people get shot. I've seen a lot of people take their last breath," says Alcazar. "Walking into my studio, turning on some music and just taking the brush to a canvas helps me process that."

Alcazar is one of 17 serving or recently retired policemen and women whose work is on display at a new exhibition in Chicago—a city where more than 1,000 people have been shot this year alone and around 200 murdered. Officers are witness to some of the city's worst violence, the first at crime scenes and often responsible for breaking terrible news to victims' loved ones.

Some of the art on display in the city's first exhibition of police officers' works provides a stark illustration of how that shocking violence affects officers. Entitled "Dimensions: An Exploration of Artistic Expression of Chicago Police Officers," the exhibition features 56 artworks, including photography, paintings, charcoal drawings and steel sculptures.

Alcazar had five paintings on display, including one called "Overwhelmed," in which a woman painted in blue is sitting curled in an upright fetal position, the world around her depicted in dark reds and bright gold. "I was trying to depict the intensity of that emotion of being overwhelmed," Alcazar told AFP, tears welling up in her eyes.

So many officers wanted to display their work that organizers had to turn some away due to a lack of space in the exhibition venue, normally a police meeting room. Sean Loughran, the commander of the department's 20th District who was

the brains behind the project, hoped it would show that police are more than just men and women in uniform.

Stress relief

"My hope is the public sees that there are additional dimensions of police officers as conveyed here," said Loughran, who has several of his own photos of a nearby fire department on display. "Being creative is definitely a stress relief for me," said Loughran, a 20-year veteran of the department. Initially scheduled to last just one day, the exhibit was extended for an entire week due to the high level of interest.

It is part of a continuing effort by police to improve relations with the communities they serve, especially after the release of a video in late 2015 depicting a white Chicago police officer fatally shooting an unarmed black teenager 16 times. Officer Jason Van Dyke was charged with murder for the death of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald. A resulting federal civil rights probe of the department under the Obama administration found a pattern of abuse and routine use of excessive force.

Sandy Walter, who has served in the force for 24 years, hoped the exhibition would help change the public's perceptions for the better. "We're not just what you see on the news. We're not just what people assume," she said. "There is more to us. There's creativity." — AFP

Art work by police officers are displayed during an exhibition at a Chicago police station.



Art work by police officers are displayed during an exhibition at a Chicago police station. — AFP photos