

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2017

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**Palestinians
hold polls in
West Bank,
not in Gaza**

**All eyes on
turnout as
Iran election
looms**

**Chelsea wins
Premier League
after beating
West Brom**

**John Wall lifts
Wizards over
Celtics 92-91;
forces Game 7**


GLOBAL CYBERATTACK HITS HOSPITALS AND COMPANIES

HACKERS EXPLOIT STOLEN US SPY AGENCY TOOL



Min 28°
Max 43°
High Tide
02:23 & 13:07
Low Tide
07:48 & 20:40



MOSCOW: Cars are parked in front of the Russian Interior Ministry building yesterday in Moscow. Russia's Interior Ministry said that some of its computers had been hit by a 'virus attack' amid reports of major cyber strikes across the globe. (Inset) A worker installs interior parts on a car production line. Renault's production sites were shut down yesterday in France due to the wave of global cyber attacks, which affected the car company. — AFP

SINGAPORE: A global cyber attack described as unprecedented in scale forced a major European automaker to halt some production lines while hitting schools in China and hospitals in Indonesia yesterday, though it appeared to die down a day after its launch. Capitalizing on spying tools believed to have been developed by the US National Security Agency, the cyber assault has infected tens of thousands of computers in nearly 100 countries, with Britain's health system suffering the worst disruptions. Cyber extortionists tricked victims into opening malicious malware attachments to spam emails that seemed to contain invoices, job offers, security warnings and other legitimate files.

Once inside the targeted network, so-called ransomware made use of recently revealed spy tools to silently infect other out-of-date machines without any human intervention. This, security experts said, marked an unprecedented escalation in the risk of fresh attacks spreading in the coming days and weeks. The ransomware encrypted data on the computers, demanding payments of \$300 to \$600 to restore access. Researchers observed some victims paying via the digital currency bitcoin, though no one knows how much may have been transferred to extortionists because of the largely anonymous nature of such transactions.

Researchers with security software maker Avast said they had observed 126,534 ransomware infections in 99 countries, with Russia, Ukraine and Taiwan the top targets. The hackers, who have not come forward to claim responsibility or otherwise been identified, took advantage of a worm, or self-spreading malware, by exploiting a piece of NSA spy code known as "Eternal Blue" that was released last month by a hackers group known as the Shadow Brokers, according to researchers with several private cyber security firms.

Renault said it had halted auto production at several sites including Sandouville in northwestern France and Renault-owned Dacia plants in Romania yesterday to prevent the spread of ransomware in its systems. Nissan's manufacturing plant in Sunderland, northeast England, was also affected by the cyber assault though "there has been no major impact on our business", a

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JEDDAH: Saudi women look at model of Jeddah Tower ahead of a press conference in the Red Sea city of Jeddah. The completion date for the world's tallest tower has been pushed back to 2019, a Saudi Arabian billionaire said, almost six years after launching the record-breaking project. — AFP

ARCHAEOLOGISTS DISCOVER 17 MUMMIES

GUNMEN HIT SAUDI TOWN

PAKISTANI, CHILD KILLED

DUBAI: Saudi authorities blocked roads in a flash-point Shiite town yesterday, residents said a day after security officials said gunmen killed a two-year-old boy and a Pakistani man. The gunfire targeted a construction site in a neighborhood of the Shiite town of Awamiya slated for redevelopment, the Interior Ministry said late Friday. Workers in Almosara district "came under fire and their vehicles were targeted by explosives" from within the neighborhood, the ministry said in a statement. It did not say when the incident took place but said criminals engaged in the drug and arms trade tried "to jeopardize the project and protect their terrorist activities that they launch from the abandoned houses in the neighborhood".

As police responded to the shooting, suspects "opened random and heavy gunfire at passersby and security men", killing a two-year-old Saudi boy and a Pakistani resident. The ministry said 14 people were wounded in the shooting, including two Pakistanis, an Indian, a Sudanese and four policemen. A resident, however, gave a higher toll, saying that a local security guard who was hit by a random bullet later died of his injuries.

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TOUNA EL-GABAL: Egyptian archaeologists have discovered 17 mummies in desert catacombs in Minya province, an "unprecedented" find for the area south of Cairo, the antiquities ministry announced yesterday. Archaeologists found the non-royal mummies in a series of corridors after following the trail of burial shafts in the Touna-Gabal district of the central

Egyptian province, the ministry said in a statement. Along with the mummies, they found a golden sheet and two papyri in Demotic an ancient Egyptian script as well as a number of sarcophagi made of limestone and clay. There were also animal and bird coffins, the ministry said. But the mummies have not yet been dated.

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TOUNA EL-GABAL: Photo shows mummies lying in catacombs following their discovery in the Touna El-Gabal district of the Minya province, in central Egypt. — AFP

US, SAUDI SET TO SEAL ARMS DEAL

ARMS PACKAGE COULD SURPASS \$300 BILLION

WASHINGTON: The United States is close to completing a series of arms deals for Saudi Arabia totaling more than \$100 billion, a senior White House official said yesterday, a week ahead of President Donald Trump's planned visit to Riyadh. The official, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said the arms package could end up surpassing more than \$300 billion over a decade to help Saudi Arabia boost its defensive capabilities while still maintaining US ally Israel's qualitative military edge over its neighbors.

"We are in the final stages of a series of deals," the official said. The package is being developed to coincide with Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia. Trump leaves for the kingdom on May 19, the first stop on his maiden international trip. Reuters reported last week that Washington was pushing through contracts for tens of billions of dollars in arms sales to Saudi Arabia, some new, others already in the pipeline, ahead of Trump's visit.

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. The package includes American arms and maintenance, ships, air missile defense and maritime security, the official said. "We'll see a very substantial commitment ... In many ways it is intended to build capabilities for the threats they face." The official added: "It's good for the American economy but it will also be good in terms of building a capability that is appropriate for the challenges of the region. Israel would still maintain an edge."

While in Riyadh, the official said Trump would attend three major events: A series of meeting with Saudi officials, a separate session with leaders of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council and a lunch with Arab and Muslim leaders, 56 of whom have been invited, to discuss combating extremism and cracking down on illicit financing. Trump will discuss how to counter the threat from Islamic State militants, the war in Yemen and threats of ballistic missiles and maritime shipping in the Red Sea, the official said. — Reuters

TUMULTUOUS WEEK FOR TRUMP



LYNCHBURG: President Donald Trump steps out of Air Force One during his arrival at Lynchburg Regional Airport yesterday in Lynchburg, Va. Trump traveled to Lynchburg to give the commencement address for the Class of 2017 at Liberty University. — AP

WASHINGTON: Another self-inflicted crisis has left Donald Trump's critics outraged and some of his Republican allies dismayed, but a bedrock of support for the billionaire US leader means the political endgame is far in the distance. A few weeks ago, only Trump's most rabid opponents would have predicted an early demise for his presidency. But by Friday, the possibility of impeachment was being floated-albeit very cautiously-by an increasing number of people in Washington's corridors of power.

Trump's decision to summarily fire FBI director James Comey on Tuesday-an act virtually unprecedented in US history-set off

a chain of events that has put his White House on perilous ground. Trump's professed rationale-a recommendation from the Justice Department quickly unravelled, when he admitted he always intended to fire Comey. Trump then added fuel to the fire when he admitted the FBI's investigation into his campaign's possible collusion with the Kremlin was a factor in his thinking.

There is still no firm evidence that Trump or any of his surrogates colluded with Russia to win the election. But the very fact that an investigation is ongoing intolerable to a president who values his image above most things.

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ELECTING KUWAIT 'CAPITAL OF ARAB YOUTH' BOOSTS ITS ARAB STATUS: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikhha Al-Zain Al-Sabah has said that choosing Kuwait as the 'Capital of Arab Youth 2017' bolsters the country's status on the Arab youth scene. The ministry and other 22 official and private bodies have been working hard to secure success for the grand event that starts on Monday through the year, Sheikhha Al-Zain added at a press conference yesterday.

Kuwait has been embracing youth for long years, and will become the meeting place for the Arab youth, for the exchange of ideas and experiences, as well as mobilizing energy and efforts to serve coexistence, peace, innovation and tolerance, she said. Sheikhha Al-Zain hailed Kuwait's quantum leap from the 110th rank to the 56th in the Commonwealth's Global Youth Development Index (YDI). The ministry is eager to get youth involved in all aspects of development as an active energy, a power for change and an access to the future, she noted. The major event on the agenda of the 'Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth 2017' celebrations will as set by the organizing committee, will be a contest under the 'Humanitarian Leader' on the level of



Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikhha Al-Zain Al-Sabah

the Arab scene. Organized by the Public Authority for Youth (PAY), the contest will include the distinct humanitarian project on the national level, she said. On his part, the ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Projects' Development Meshaal Al-Sebei said that a youth forum would be held on May 17. Organized by the ministry, the forum will focus on the concept



Assistant Undersecretary for Projects' Development Meshaal Al-Sebei

of entrepreneurship among young people, and will review successful stories from Kuwait.

Events through the year include a ministry's youth media forum in August, then a PAY's in October Arab youth theatrical festival. A ministry's forum on youth will then be held on 'leadership,' in addition to voluntary sports, social, and media activities, Sebei said. — KUNA

KUWAIT SUPPORTS BATTERED WOMEN SHELTERS IN UK

LONDON: Kuwaiti institutions and societies have contributed to establishing and funding care houses for the maltreated or the needy, including shelters for battered women, in British cities and towns. 'Aden Shelter' in the city of Sheffield and 'Al-Shayea Shetler' in Birmingham are among those social care houses that receive financial support from the Kuwaiti establishments, associations and charities.

These houses provide refuge for deprived women who have become homeless due to disputes with the spouses or divorce, said Sheikh Khaled Al-Mathjour, the head of trustee's board of 'Al-Iman Trusteeship' association in Sheffield. The Kuwaiti people and institutions offer such humanitarian support in appreciation for Britain's backing for education, development and health during early times of developing Kuwait, Mathkour said in an interview. Ameena Blake, director of the two houses, said that these houses provide necessities for the impoverished female occupants, who are enrolled in workshops to teach them their rights and duties toward the society in general and the family in particular. These women, victims of domestic abuse or violence with no survival means whatsoever, are also trained to use computers and other professional skills to empower them get by in living, without support.

The shelters' tasks are wider and diverse,



LONDON: Ameena Blake, director of the battered women shelters (left) with the head of trustee's board of Al-Iman Trusteeship association in Sheffield Sheikh Khaled Al-Mathkour (center). — KUNA

including employment of defense attorneys, family reconciliation and psychological therapy and counseling. Al-Shayea Charity is the donor for the

shelter in Birmingham. That in Sheffield is supported by Al-Sayer Group. There are other Kuwaiti donors, namely Al-Rahma Charity.—KUNA

ABK SPONSORS 5TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON DIABETES

ORGANIZED BY THE AMIRI HOSPITAL'S DIABETES UNIT



KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced its sponsorship of the Amiri Hospital's 5th Annual Diabetes Symposium, organized by the Hospital's Diabetes unit, which ends today. The bank's sponsorship comes in line with its strong belief in playing an active and impactful role within the communities in which it operates, by supporting the development and advancement of different areas that will benefit Kuwait as a whole.

Commenting on the Bank's sponsorship, Fawzy Al-Thunayan, ABK's General Manager of Board Affairs said: "Our role in the Banking sector is not only about providing the best financial services, but is part of an integrated role that entails a complete involvement in the surrounding communities and its initiatives that will lead to a more successful and prosperous nation from all aspects. Diabetes in this case, has always been an area of concern in Kuwait, especially with its high occurrence among children in specific, and we are keen to support such initiatives that lead to the advancement of our healthcare systems and professionals." The Head of the Diabetes Unit at Al-Amiri Hospital, Dr Abdulnabi Al-Attar, thanked ABK for its continued support of the hospital's initiatives.

OOREDOO RECEIVES AUK STUDENTS

KUWAIT: A group of American University of Kuwait (AUK) students visited the head office of Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, last week. The visit was part of their course work in the mass communications department. Ooredoo held an orientation workshop for the students about the company's future vision for the field of corporate communications.

Ooredoo employees from the Public

Relations department explained to the students the different roles they play, which includes developing content for different media channels like newspapers, radio and television, as well as updating the public on the company's latest activities and various products and offers.

Students were also given a presentation about the special role that the role of social

media, corporate social responsibility and sponsorships in the department. The presentations were followed by an open discussion session where students' questions about the different roles of the department were answered. Ooredoo places great importance on youth, believing that they play an essential role in impacting positive change in the future.



KUWAIT: Participants in a seminar hosted by the Iranian cultural attache in Kuwait. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

MASHHAD CHOSEN 2017 CAPITAL OF ISLAMIC CULTURE

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Mashhad was chosen as the Capital of Islamic Culture for this year 2017. This historical city was the origin of a large number among the most popular scientists and scholars of the Islamic world, who built the human civilization and presented scientific services for the humanity in different fields including medicine, physics, chemistry, astronomy, religion, and others.

On this occasion, the Iranian cultural attache in Kuwait held an intellectual seminar to talk about the scientists from Mashhad during different periods. Many researchers in Islamic history attended the seminar, which mainly focused on two scientists; Naseer Aldeen Al-Tousi, and Abu Jaafar Mohammed who is also known as Sheikh Al-Tousi.

The seminar was managed by mem-

ber of the Iranian cultural attache Sameer Arshad, who said that Naseer Aldeen Al-Tousi made the first astro-nomic observatory at the Maragha city in Iran, which became the first modern scientific academy that contains over 400,000 book series of different sciences. These are rare books, and include books that were saved from the Mongol Invasion of Baghdad, in which a majority of its books were destroyed.

Dr Sanad Abdulfatah, teacher of Islamic history at Kuwait University, also spoke about Naseer Aldeen Al-Tousi, saying that the is considered the leader of the scientific movement in the seventh century of the Hijri calendar. Other speakers included Amin Al-Nassar, researcher in Islamic history, and Faisal Taha, teacher of history at Kuwait University who spoke about the city of Tous and its scientists.

EX-IRAQI MINISTER TOUTS KUWAIT'S AID TO IRAQI IDPS

IRBIL: Former Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari yesterday extolled Kuwait's humanitarian aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraqi Kurdistan Region. The Iraqi minister made the remark during a meeting with Kuwaiti Consul-General in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kandari and several other Kuwaiti diplomats in Irbil. Speaking after the meeting, Zebari said he had discussed with Kuwaiti diplomats the political developments in Kurdistan, Iraq and the region in general. He said his country appreciates humanitarian and relief aid extended by the State of Kuwait to Iraqi displaced persons in Kurdistan.

The former Iraqi minister also lauded His

Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's initiative aiming at alleviating the sufferings of the Iraqi people. Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Consul-General in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kandari said he elaborated during the meeting on humanitarian projects carried out by the State of Kuwait through its campaign 'Kuwait is By Your Side.'

The Kuwaiti humanitarian campaign includes relief, medical and school supplies to international displaced persons in Iraq, he said in a statement. He boasted that his country is playing a key role in the reconstruction of liberated areas in Iraq, and the stimulation of investment in the coming period. — KUNA



IRBIL: Former Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari meets with Kuwaiti Consul-General in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kandari and several other Kuwaiti diplomats in Irbil. —KUNA



BOURSA KUWAIT HOLDS WORKSHOP ON NEW ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE FEATURE

KUWAIT: In line with its recent partnership with the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), Boursa Kuwait held a workshop to raise awareness on how the Company Information Portal (CIP) and the Electronic Signature (e-Signature) have been integrated to create an authentication system for the information disclosed by listed companies.

The workshop, held at the Boursa Kuwait headquarters recently, was jointly conducted by Boursa Kuwait and PACI to orient authorized representatives of Listed Companies on the features and benefits of the CIP and the role of e-signature in its authentication process.

Several topics were addressed in relation to the new Electronic Signature feature. These included mainly; a clear definition of what the e-Signature is, its benefits in terms of providing an advanced level of security and reinforcing the credibility of disclosed informa-

tion, the mechanism, the steps to activating the e-Signature and last but not least, alternatives to the feature. Each topic came along with visual presentations for better clarity and understanding of the process.

Boursa Kuwait designed and launched CIP last year, with the aim of providing a credible and up to date information platform for all listed companies, which can be used as a reference site by all stakeholders. The Portal requires listed companies to upload news regarding disclosure announcements, their profile page and their financial statements with full authority to make regular updates.

Boursa Kuwait shall continue to provide workshops and training opportunities to its stakeholders to ensure the highest level of understanding and transparency in relation to all newly launched tools, services and products.

Local spotlight

TRANSPARENCY IN MEDICINE PRICES



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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I understand the desire of pharmaceutical companies to make profits, because they are not charitable institutions but medical and commercial organizations, so the achievement of profit is an important goal to continue working. But the issue of difference in prices of medicines is making everyone frustrated. Why are prices of drugs becoming expensive and not accessible to all people?

The prices of medicines are supposed to be similar in all Gulf states, as prices are unified in all GCC countries with a slight difference in profit margin. But in Kuwait, I feel the prices are too high. It is true that the state provides free medicines to citizens and expatriates, but some prefer to go to pharmacies for medical treatment or to buy medicine and some therapeutic and cosmetic products.

Internationally, drugs companies are facing increasing criticism, because new medicines for serious diseases such as cancer and hepatitis C have entered the market at high prices, making them out of the reach of many patients. The suffering over drug prices is no longer a private, local matter. Because even if medicines are manufactured in the same country, this does not mean they will be cheap, especially for those who suffer from chronic diseases.

This issue has turned into a global problem that needs solutions. Suzanne Hill, head of essential medicines at the World Health Organization (WHO), confirmed that "the problem has become global", adding that "many of these (drugs) are now on the WHO model list of essential medicines, but their high price is limiting access". Hill was speaking at a forum on fair pricing sponsored by the UN health agency and the Dutch government in Amsterdam. The meeting was a first step towards preparing concrete plans on drug pricing. Among the obstacles to the development of a more equitable pricing system is the lack of transparency regarding the cost of development, how prices are determined, and the prices of the same drug in different countries. Mary Paule Kieny, WHO assistant director - general health systems and innovation, said there was agreement that industry needed reasonable returns on research and development, but governments should play a stronger role in setting prices and directing the drug research agenda.

I agree. Governments must be involved in such investments. A call for a comprehensive and fair solution to the price of medicines is needed. Clearly, WHO wants transparency for fairer medicine pricing, but unless this call turns into a compulsory program for all countries, nothing will change. We could lose more lives. The world needs transparency in the pricing of medicines in order to increase access to lifesaving drugs.

KUWAIT FREE OF NEW BIRD FLU STRAIN

KUWAIT: Kuwait is free of the new deadly strain of avian influenza, known as bird flu (H5N1), the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resource (PAAAFR) affirmed yesterday. Livestock and poultry production in the country is totally bird flu-free, PAAAFR said in a press statement, adding that only limited cases of bird flu infections were discovered between January and March, and were reported to World Health Organization (WHO). In a precautionary measure, Saudi Arabia's authorities have banned importing eggs and poultry from Kuwait due to the discovered cases, the authority noted, adding that Kuwait has exerted consolidated efforts in guaranteeing and eliminating these infections.

Lab tests of samples collected throughout the past three months showed 'negative' results, PAAAFR said, noting that WHO, as a result, announced Kuwait as bird flu-free country in its official specialized periodical. So far, PAAAFR has not received notifications about banning Kuwaiti poultry exports in Saudi Arabia or neighboring countries, noting that lifting the ban on Kuwaiti products is currently underway. —KUNA

PLANE ESCORT SHOOTS HIMSELF DEAD BY ACCIDENT: INTERIOR

KUWAIT: A security officer from the airplane protection department at Kuwait's Special Force shot himself dead by accident while examining his weapon, the Interior Ministry said yesterday. Officers were receiving weapons at the department's weapon room ahead of a mission, when a chief warrant officer (CWO) started examining his own, but unluckily he shot himself dead

by mistake, the ministry added. Another was injured and hurried to hospital.

Initial investigations in the 'regrettable accident' showed that the bullet was shot from the CWO's weapon. They will continue to determine the full circumstances. The ministry expressed condolences to the family of the deceased and wished the injured one speedy recovery.

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) rejected social media reports claiming that the incident took place at the Kuwait International Airport. The accident happened at a Ministry of the Interior's building, outside the DGCA, the directorate's spokesperson Mansour Al-Hashemi said in a press statement. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Plastic bags containing drug pills that truck drivers tried to smuggle into Kuwait yesterday.

30,000 DRUG PILLS BUSTED ON WAY TO KUWAIT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Customs officials busted 30,000 Captagon pills that two truck drivers tried to smuggle them from Iraq yesterday. The drugs were discovered in hidden places inside the two trailer trucks that were trying to pass through the Abdali northern border checkpoint yesterday. The drivers were taken to the proper authorities to face charges.

Fugitive at large

The Interior Ministry released a statement yesterday commenting on video footage that spread on social media recently showing an unsuccessful attempt to arrest a person with a criminal record. The ministry explained that when police reported to the scene to arrest the suspect, he

fiercely resisted arrest and used an electric stun gun against a policeman, before escaping. The ministry added that search is in progress for the suspect.

Fire

A fire broke out inside a house in Saad Al-Abdullah, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene and found out that a five-member family was trapped by flames. The sources added that family members were rescued, and they were suffering from smoke inhalation. They were handed over to paramedics who rushed them to the hospital. Another team of firemen managed to tackle the blaze and prevent the flames from spreading. An investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire.



Firefighters stand outside a house in Saad Al-Abdullah, where a fire was reported.



Damage left by the blaze inside the house.

MANPOWER AUTHORITY INSPECTORS PROTEST FINGERPRINTING SYSTEM

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A number of safety inspectors at the Public Authority for Manpower plan to organize a sit-in outside the office of Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Minister of State for Economic Affairs Hind Al-Sabeeh on Tuesday, well-informed sources said. The sit-in comes as a reaction to a decision made by the authority's human resources manager, who refused to exempt the inspectors from having to use the fingerprint scan admission registering system. The inspectors say that the nature of their jobs require them to work outside of their offices most of the time, and that the current system

forces them to return back to their offices to register their exit on the fingerprint scanner every day.

Obstacles

The Ministry of Public Works (MPW) is currently coordinating with Kuwait Municipality, the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resource (PAAAFR), the Ministry of Interior (MOI), the Ministry of Health (MOH) and other state departments to remove various obstacles delaying the Abdali highway development project. These obstacles include telecom towers, a number of farms in Abdali, the vet hospital, Abdali clinic, border fences and Abdali agricultural co-op society. Separately, MPW's

road sector recently finished reviewing the biddings made to execute the Wafra road and Al-Bada' roundabout projects, which had recently been withdrawn from a company that failed to meet the project's schedule and deadlines. Notably, Al-Wafra project's new cost will be KD 86 million, which is two million more than the previous contract, while the Bada' roundabout project will cost KD 18 million, which is four millions more than the previous contract.

Smart city

The Korean lands and Housing Establishment announced executing the South Saad Al-Abdullah City proj-

ect; the first smart city project, through partnership between the Korean public and private sectors led by Hyundai and BOSCO. The project's execution is expected to commence in 2019 where between 25,000 40,000 housing units (400 square meters) will be executed by a consortium of 11 companies.

Energy

The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) allocated KD 76,748,000 to purchase energy form Al-Zour Northern power plant, said informed sources, noting that this year's allocation is KD 50 million more than the amount allocated for the same purpose last year.

FIGHT AGAINST TERROR COMES UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT IN RIYADH FORUM TO COUNTER EXTREMISM, FIGHT TERRORISM

KUWAIT: The Riyadh Forum to Counter Extremism and Fight Terrorism to be held on May 21st at the Intercontinental Hotel under the sponsorship of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, Dr Saud Al-Sarhan, Secretary General of The King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, announced today. This year's event 'The Nature of Extremism and the Future of Terrorism' will be part of a high-level set of visits and activities during the month of May.

"This forum will bring together word-class experts to discuss the future of terrorism, as well as social media and its effects on radicalization, and how we will confront terrorism and extremism on a regional level," Dr Sarhan said. "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has brought together all elements of its national power - Political, Military, Economic, Civil Society and Ideology - to take the lead in the fight against terrorism and this forum will serve to enhance and expand upon that leadership," he said.

Over the last decade terrorism and extremism have devastated Muslim nations with Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria and Yemen leading the 2016 Global Terrorism Index. To date many

Muslim nations have been fighting this epidemic of hate alone but this forum aims to bridge that divide and begin an open and honest dialogue about how we got where we are today, what are its root causes and how will we address these issues with one voice as we move forward.

The Riyadh Forum to Counter Extremism and Fight Terrorism will have four moderated panels focusing on key terrorism issues facing us today, and will explore how nations can work together to find solutions to one of the most pressing challenges facing not just the Muslim world but all nations world-wide. The panels - the future of terrorism; extremism online and in social media; its relationship to crime and corruption; and how terror and extremism can be confronted in the Middle East - will be discussed in depth by expert panelists from around the globe.

The King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies - established in 1983 - is regarded as a tribute of research that brings together researchers and institutions to sustain, produce, and disseminate academic work, as well as to enrich the cultural and intellectual life in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is

also regarded as a bridge through which to maintain contact and establish communication with the rest of the world. KFCRIS produces in-depth analysis on contemporary political issues, Saudi studies, North African and Arab Maghreb studies, Iranian and Asian studies, energy studies, and studies on the Arabic language and modernity. The Center has developed cooperation with prestigious institutions of scientific research in various countries of the world. It is home to group of outstanding researchers and has forged strong links with many scholars around the world, known for their work in various fields of research.

This forum is under the sponsorship of Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC). Announced in December 2015 by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Deputy Crown Prince and Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, The IMCTC is an alliance of willing partner countries united in the fight against terror. The IMCTC operates in four core domains - Ideology, Communications, Countering Terrorism Financing and Military.

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TOP 5 KEYWORDS EMPLOYERS SEARCH FOR A RESUME

DUBAI: Bayt.com has unveiled the top 5 keywords that employers in the Middle East are using to find candidates using Bayt.com CV Search. Just like job seekers can search, view, and apply for any job they find on Bayt.com, employers can also directly source and hire talent without necessarily posting a job announcement, only through keywords, using Bayt.com's CV Search. It is a powerful tool used by thousands of employers in the region.

With these hot keywords, job seekers will have the knowledge to revise or tweak their profiles and increase their visibility and attractiveness for employer searches and find more career opportunities.

The top 5 keywords employers search for
According to Bayt.com, the most heavily

searched keyword in 2016 on the Bayt.com CV Search database was "Sales", searched for over 170,000 times in 2016 alone.

This was followed by 'Manager,' 'Engineer,' 'Accountant,' and 'HR.' Other popular words included 'Marketing,' 'Finance,' 'Project Manager,' 'Assistant,' 'Secretary,' 'IT,' 'Business,' 'Development,' 'Mechanical,' 'Procurement,' 'Design,' and 'Civil.' Professionals looking to enhance the visibility and effectiveness of their profiles online can take advantage of this information.

How and where to use keywords

It is recommended to use keywords in all marketing communications as a job seeker, including in CVs, cover letters, profiles and interview follow-up letters. Communicating a message of who the job seeker is and what

value/knowledge they can bring is an important factor. Job seekers should include as much information as possible, the Bayt.com CV Search tool can easily pick out keywords from CVs for Employers. Furthermore, keywords are great in previous job descriptions and can be powerful action statements that project and highlight recent achievements.

How to Access Bayt.com 'profile visibility' Charts and Tools

Job seekers can take advantage of the Bayt.com 'profile visibility' charts and tools to help enhance and strengthen their profiles, and be more prepared for new job opportunities. The system means job seekers can check how many views and searches they have had on their profile, check profile strengths and follow recommended improvements, and see which keywords on their profile were searched to find their CV.

"Helping empower job seekers and employers in the region is our number one priority at Bayt.com. We have collated and released the list of top keywords to empower job seekers and allow them to strengthen their CVs and profiles and target such keywords," said Suhail Masri, Vice President of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "Having a powerful CV is important to stay competitive in the job market, and job seekers who hold the qualifications and skills related to the most wanted positions will have a greater chance of being viewed and contacted by the employer for career opportunities. However, this will be more successful if the most popular keywords are mentioned, as individuals will be searched by employers on our CV Search database. At Bayt.com, we work with over 29 million professionals and provide them with the necessary tools and technologies to enhance their profiles and CVs on our portal. We are proud to work with over 40,000 companies who advertise over 10,000 vacancies at Bayt.com on any given day, as well as use Bayt.com's CV Search tool to find and recruit top talents for their business."



FIFTH ANNUAL INTERNAL MEDICINE SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE KICKS OFF



Head of the Internal Medicine department at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital Dr Majeda Al-Saleh

KUWAIT: The Fifth Annual Internal Medicine Scientific Conference, held on Friday, is very significant to help upgrade the medical staff skills and provide them with latest therapeutic updates, a Kuwaiti health official said. Head of the Internal Medicine department at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital, Dr Majeda Al-Saleh said, the two-day event brings together local and international high profile medical experts to mull the latest developments in diagnosing and treatment. Saleh added that the conference would enrich the audience with the latest medical changes, and latest medical information in this field, where 26 lectures of various scientific fields will take place in the event. She noted that the second day of the event would witness the participation of consultant doctors who would answer questions of the audience. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A general view of the audience at the Internal Medicine Scientific Conference. — KUNA



KUALA LUMPUR: Kuwaiti Adel Al-Wasis receives his gold medal. — KUNA



Kuwaiti Adel Al-Wasis poses with his medal.



Kuwaiti Adel Al-Wasis poses with GCC participants.

KUWAITI INVENTION WINS GOLD IN MALAYSIA'S ITEX

KUALA LUMPUR: The 'safety belt' invented by the Kuwaiti Adel Al-Wasis has won the gold medal at the annual International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) which kicked off in its 28th edition here on Thursday. Wasis, who came top in the category of tools and equipment, dedicated the record win to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the number-one stimulator for creativity and scientific development.

The inventor, registered at Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity, a subsidiary of Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science (KFAS), expressed gratitude to the center general director, Dr Omar Al-Bannai, for helping him in his creative work. He also thanked personnel of the GCC patents bureau for helping him to partake in the international contest, boasting that he was the sole Kuwaiti who "hoisted the national flag at this international forum," amid participation of a large number of inventors from GCC and Middle East countries.

Participation in such competition is

helpful to discover new ideas and re-examine feasibility of the product, in comparison with other items on display. Wasis expressed hope that Malaysia "would incubate the inventors and manufacture their innovations as products suitable for marketing."

The Kuwaiti ambassador, Saad Al-Asousi, has attended inauguration of the exhibition and encouraged Wasis, whose 'safety belt' can be used in emergencies by fire departments, hospitals, residential buildings and other facilities. The belt is worn in dangerous accidents, such as fires at buildings and skyscrapers. Individuals, trapped in upper floors during fires, can easily put it on and descend safely.

Wasis has won patents for two inventions from the United States of America, in addition to two others—an air-powered fan and an irrigation device powered by solar energy. The International Invention and Innovation Exhibition is organized by Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS) under the patronage of International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA). It has been held yearly since 1989. — KUNA



KUWAIT: In preparation for the upcoming month of Ramadan, Capital municipality inspection teams recently inspected a number of stores and restaurants in Sharq, Beneid Al-Gar and Shuwaikh Industrial area. The campaign resulted in confiscating 217 kilograms of expired food items and filing 79 citations for violations that include unlicensed ads, discovery of inedible and expired food items and violation of cleanliness' conditions.

In Brief

ARAB LEAGUE REITERATES SUPPORT TO YEMENI UNITY

CAIRO: Secretary-General of the Arab League Ahmad Abul-Gheit reaffirmed yesterday full backing to Yemen's national unity and territorial integrity. He said in a press statement that all Yemeni forces should work together and get united at this critical time in order to fend off the perils of splits and divisions. Abul-Gheit strongly deplored the recent developments in south Yemen, believing that priority for the time being should be given to the fight against outlawed groups in the country. He added that this could eventually lead to an all-out political settlement in line with the Gulf initiative. — KUNA



KUWAIT OIL PRICE DOWN BY 11 CENTS

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil was down by 11 cents to \$47.31 per barrel Friday after being at \$47.42 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the global level, the prices rose slightly yesterday as hopes for a possible reduction in the supply of crude in global markets were boosted amid decreasing volume of American crude stocks. OPEC and other major producers' intentions to continue their deal to decrease production this year also played part in the increase. — KUNA



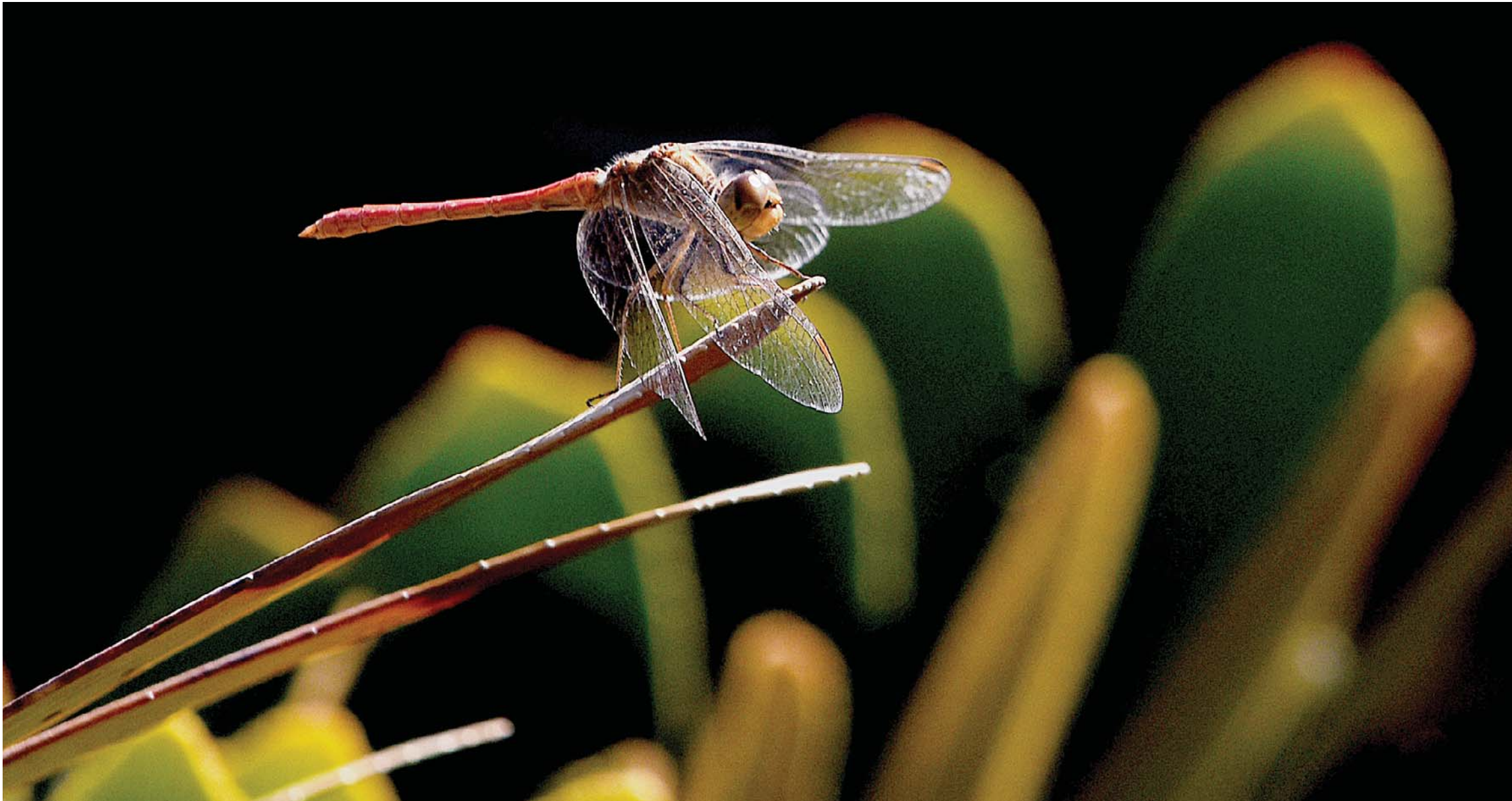
KUWAIT CONDEMNS TERROR ATTACK IN SAUDI ARABIA

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait condemned yesterday the terror attack that led to the death of two people and the injury of others in Qatif governorate, Eastern Saudi Arabia. A statement by the Foreign Ministry said that Kuwait stood with Saudi Arabia against the group, which carried out the terror attack, deeming this incident as an act of cowardice. The Foreign Ministry conveyed condolences from Kuwait to the leadership and people of Saudi Arabia on those who died in the attack while wishing for the swift recovery to the wounded. — KUNA



Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: A dragonfly rests on a plant in a garden in Kuwait. — KUNA

CULTURAL OFFICE IN CAIRO HONORS KUWAITI GRADUATES

CAIRO: Head of the Cultural Office of Kuwait Embassy in Cairo Dr Ahmad Rashid Al-Mutairi called on the Kuwaiti graduates from Egyptian university to shoulder their responsibilities for the prosperity of their homeland. Addressing a ceremony held by the office on Friday evening to honor the Kuwaiti graduates of the academic year 2016-2017, he congratulated the alumni on their graduation and asked them to prepare for joining the labor market in Kuwait. The modern labor market requires not only the academic study but personal skills and further knowledge, he noted.

Dr Mutairi wished the alumni success in their professional life in order to contribute to the progress and prosperity of the homeland under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The ceremony gathered representative of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) Saleh Faleh Al-Manoukh and



Head of the Cultural Office of Kuwait Embassy in Cairo Dr Ahmad Al-Mutairi

Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education Mohammad Al-Awwash. — KUNA



CAIRO: A general view of the audience during the ceremony. — KUNA

KUWAITI MISSION TO FAO SAFE AFTER BLAST NEAR PREMISES

ROME: Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah has emphasized that members of the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission to the World Food Organization (FAO) are safe after an explosion near the international organization premises in Rome. The ambassador said Friday that the embassy contacted immediately the Italian authorities to be briefed on the explosion that took place in Roma where a Kuwaiti diplomatic mission locates.

He added that he also contacted Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to FAO Youssef Jehail who said everything is fine in Rome and tourists are flowing to the country as usual. The ambassador lauded "successful efforts by the Italian authorities", thanks to tightened security measures made to deal with such incidents. He noted that the explosion was "limited" and didn't affect Italy's security. — KUNA



BEIRUT: A session in progress during an economic conference organized by the Union of Arab Banks (UAB) and World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB). — KUNA

CONFERENCE CALLS FOR ARAB BANKS TO FINANCE RECONSTRUCTION IN REGION

BEIRUT: An economic conference organized by the Union of Arab Banks (UAB) and World Union of Arab Bankers (WUAB) have called for giving the Arab financial institutions, and the public and private sectors, the leading role in reconstruction in the Arab countries afflicted by conflicts.

The two-day conference that concluded sessions in Beirut Saturday was themed 'Financing Reconstruction - In the Aftermath of the Arab transformations'. Recommendations stressed the priority of restoring peace and security, ending armed conflicts and uprooting their causes.

Participants called for a comprehensive, accurate scientific survey on the sums of money needed for reconstruction of houses, public utilities and the infrastructure. They urged engaging the Arab private sector and banks in reconstruction through mechanisms, partnership or the build-operate-transfer (BOT) system since the financial capabilities of the Arab governments have decreased a lot, and the abilities of the Arab public sector have decreased.

It also underlined the necessity that the Arab League should play a coordinating role in the reconstruction efforts, in addition to the rebuilding of the social and human fiber in the countries that have suffered conflicts. Moreover, the Arab development and international funds have to be sought to finance the reconstruction programs, besides drawing up a road map and strategies for the process. The banking sector is the major economic base in the Arab countries, and it is natural that leads contributors to reconstruction in the region, former Minister of

Economy and Trade in Lebanon Dr Alain Hakim said. The sector plays a vital financial and economic role in reconstruction, constituting a base for Arab-Arab cooperation, he added.

Hakim called first for cooperation before seeking foreign assistance. The fact that the world's leading countries are much involved in the events in the countries of the region, indicates the volume of the available economic interests, and signals that the end of crises and wars is approaching, Economist Jassim Ajaqa said. Ajaqa added that reconstruction offers huge investment opportunities that the Arab banks can capitalize on to achieve revenues, instead of offering them to foreign companies.

For the head of the Iraq's Reconstruction Fund for Areas Affected by Terroristic

Operations (REFAATO) Moustafa Al-Heiti, assessing the costs of reconstruction in the region is not an easy matter. This is because of the enormous volume of devastation in the areas formerly occupied by the so-called Islamic State (IS), in addition to sectarian conflicts, the sharp falls in oil prices, and the financial and administrative corruption that has aggravated the problem, he said. — KUNA



Moustafa Al-Heiti

KJA FORMS COMMITTEES

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Journalists Association's (KJA) Board of Directors decided to form its various committees as follows:

- 1- KJA's Secretary General Adnan Al-Rashed as head of the profession and membership affairs committee.
- 2- KJA's Board Member Rabe'a Hussein Makki Al-Jum'a as head of the foreign affairs committee.
- 3- KJA's Board Member Duhairan Abalkhail as head of the freedom of the press committee.

4- KJA's Board Member Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan as head of the domestic affairs committee.

5- KJA's Board Member Owayyed Ayed Al-Enezi as head of the new media committee.

6- KJA's Board Member Heba Salem Al-Taweel as head of the training committee.

7- KJA's Board Member Jassem Mohammed Al-Tunaib as head of the public relations committee.

Crime

Report



TWO KILLED IN LANDMINE EXPLOSION

KUWAIT: A Sudanese man was instantly killed and a Bangladeshi national was injured when they stepped on a landmine at Al-Abraq desert area, said security sources.

Trespassing

An Iranian ship captain was recently arrested after he left Doha harbor for shopping without obtaining a security permission to do so, said security sources. They noted that after failing to get the permission, a safety and security officer escorted the skipper himself in his own vehicle to go shopping. The sources added that the skipper was arrested on his way back to the harbor. Further investigations are in progress.

Thief caught

An Asian man wanted by police for stealing sheep and a power generator from a citizen's ranch in Kabd was recently arrested in Sabah Al-Salem, said security sources.

Accident

A motorist recently sustained various injuries when failed to avoid colliding into a camel that suddenly crossed the road in front of his vehicle in Wafra, said security sources. Separately, a young man sustained various injuries when he accidentally drove his vehicle into a school's wall in Riqqa.

Scam

A citizen recently reported that he was swindled by someone who claimed to be selling bodybuilding hormone courses through an Instagram account, and asked him to deposit KD 250 to his bank account to have the course delivered. The citizen said that the delivery was never made and that he failed to contact the man afterwards. A fraud case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Hoax call

Security forces were recently alerted on receiving a call from a citizen, saying that a terrorist operation was about to take place at his house. When they rushed to the scene, the caller opened the door but told police to remove all patrols then shut the door again. Police noticed that the man was drunk, and filed a hoax call case against him. — *Translated from the Arabic press*



Al-Jarida

Al-Jarida

THE SNOBBISHNESS SYNDROME

By Tahani Al-Refai

It is a disease infecting people who only see perfection in materialistic things and glorify and respect those with full pockets while they marginalize and look down upon people who seem not to belong to the 'High Class.' For them, the appearance of loftiness is elegant while those with poorer appearances are nothing more than a filthy commoner. Such beliefs and images have unintentionally invaded our minds and one way or another, we tend to strongly believe in them.

Unfortunately, such outdated classifications have contributed in creating a superficial immature society and this snobbishness has virally infected our own children because we brought them up with the excuse of not depriving them of anything. The more this snobbishness and love of appearances increases, the less appreciative man becomes for all the blessings he already possesses and to all the things around and gradually turns into an irresponsible person.

Looking around, one would easily notice how people have become disgustingly obsessed with 'brands,' which made me turn into someone who hates whatever people rush to for showing off reasons. This reminds me of Socrates who said, 'speak so that I can see you,' which seems to have been now changed into 'dress up so that I can see you!' Instead of classifying

such things as secondary luxurious insignificant items, they have become a necessity for some people to carry on living.

Who said science is an undefeatable weapon? It is elegance that matters nowadays. It has become the source of income capable of doing what even the highest degrees fail to do. Eyes have turned into minds that behold without thinking. For them, culture is a demodded thing of the past that does not match their valuable watches.

The sad thing is that all those snobbish people cannot even pronounce the brands they brag about properly. Well, that does not matter for them, what matters is to own and show off. It is alright to take good care of oneself, but the obsession of owning a luxurious vehicle, valuable watches, bags, purses and shoes are the things that devalue us without us noticing.

People may appeal to such hollow appearances with the same mentality, but they will never impress real, mature aware minds. You should make your own 'moral' brand to impress others and get rid of showing off and snobbishness that would only make you a mere blind uncreative follower and imitator. Good and virtue lies in people themselves at a time when everyone looks the same. — *Translated by Kuwait Times*

ZAIN'S MOBILE DIABETES CLINIC VISITS ASK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DASMAN DIABETES INSTITUTE

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced that its 'Mobile Diabetes Clinic' health initiative recently visited the American School of Kuwait (ASK). The visit came as part of Zain's strategic partnership with Dasman Diabetes Institute with the aim of raising awareness about diabetes.

Zain presented the Mobile Diabetes Clinic to Dasman Diabetes Institute early last year under the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards the health sector. The initiative aims at increasing health awareness about diabetes amongst all age groups, especially that it is considered one of the most widespread diseases in Kuwait.

The Mobile Clinic visited ASK's main building in Hawalli, where a number of Dasman Institute's diabetes experts conducted free blood glucose tests for students from the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The clinic also answered the students' questions and gave nutrition tips for a healthier lifestyle.

Zain's Mobile Clinic aims at facilitating the necessary transportation of Dasman Diabetes Institute's medical staff to provide free blood glucose testing throughout the country, serving schools, college campuses, malls, and other locations. The initiative mainly aims at promoting the concept of healthy living and preventing the begin-



ning of diseases that are non-communicable, such as diabetes, as well as highlighting the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle.

Zain's contribution falls under the company's Corporate

Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategies and aims to raise awareness within the community and shows its keenness in having a productive role in social and health activities.

ZAIN, KUWAIT DIVE TEAM INAUGURATE 'ZAIN BOAT'

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the inauguration of 'Zain Boat,' which the company dedicated to the Kuwait Dive Team as part of their strategic partnership. The dedication of this boat comes with the aim of preserving Kuwait's marine life.

The brand new boat was inaugurated in Ras Al-Ard Club in Salmiya with the presence of Zain Kuwait's Corporate

Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti and Chairman of the Environmental Voluntary Foundation Waleed Al-Fadhel, as well as members of the Kuwait Dive Team and Zain's officials.

Zain dedicated the new boat to the Kuwait Dive Team, which will be utilized to carry out marine preservation projects throughout the upcoming years. The boat is fully

equipped with the latest state of the art equipment, and will be used for removing wrecked ships and boats from the bottom of the ocean, removing abandoned fishing nets, installing and maintaining environment-friendly anchors, monitoring coral reefs, cleaning shores, islands, and beaches, documenting marine life, and more.

Recently, a team of Zain employees and their families participated in a beach cleanup initiative at Shuwaikh beach. The event came in collaboration with the Kuwait Dive Team and aimed at preserving the Kuwaiti marine life. The company was keen on shouldering initiatives that contribute to preserving the Kuwaiti marine life, which is considered one of the main pillars of the valued Kuwaiti heritage. Zain's support to the Kuwait Dive Team throughout the past 14 years comes under its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards the environmental sector. The company's sustainable goals closely focus on preserving the Kuwaiti environment, especially Kuwait's marine life, and seeks to raise awareness of protecting it within the community.

During October 2016, the Kuwait Dive Team honored Zain in the occasion of completing 800 marine preservation missions using a boat the company dedicated to the team back in 2003. Today, the newly dedicated boat from Zain is much more advanced, and features state of the art equipment that will ensure easy and fast marine preservation missions throughout the upcoming years.

As part of its numerous environmental contributions, Zain recently sponsored the 'Kayak 4 Kuwait' expedition, which aimed at raising awareness about the importance of preserving marine life in the Arabian Gulf. The expedition, considered the first of its kind, featured Kuwaiti travelers Bashar Al Huneidi and Mansoor Al-Safran kayaking from Kuwait across the GCC countries and reached Oman throughout 90 days, crossing over 2,000 kilometers. The company also partnered with the Environment Public Authority (EPA) to distribute awareness messages about the new environmental laws aimed at preserving a green and clean environment in the country.



Al-Jarida

Al-Jarida

I WAS WRONG

By Ali Mahmoud Khajah

Ten years ago, when, precisely, an individual could turn into a means of media himself, the Kuwaiti society, namely the youth, were almost absent in public activities except for some attempts here and there when some of them showed interest in voluntary activities and others were limitedly and insignificantly interested in humanitarian activities. Youth activity prevailed in student elections in Kuwait University (KU) or the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) but then fell back into individualism when each got busy looking for a job and having a family. There were no real collective activities except for those who decided to carry on with politics through local political blocs.

I still remember my constant attempts to convince colleagues to join those blocs or get involved in voluntary activities after graduation in order to have their own effective and valuable contributions in improving things. Only a few followed my advice while the majority preferred getting more busy with their own personal lives either in quest for a job and wife or by joining a small group that meets in cafes or diwanias to avoid the headaches of political activities because they believed change was very sluggish or even did not exist.

Well, today, I do admit that I was wrong when I thought that reforms originate from political activities, though it is one of the things that helps make it happen. Now, I totally believe that social reform is the base of all reforms and that politics is but one element that contributes to achieving social reform.

Now, that I am convinced that reform and social and cultural openness is the base, I started connecting dots and realizing that attempts to kill any cultural or social movement were not random; they were staged and I knew for sure that killing such movements is the only way to control societies. Both governments and religious blocs knew for sure the livelier a society is through arts, culture, sports and other means, the harder it will be to control it.

And thus, state institutions and their allies managed to premeditatedly murder each and every social movement. Otherwise, what might prevent a state that owns billions in surpluses to spend on all those fields taking into consideration that a lot had been internationally achieved through them? Despite everyone and thanks to the internet, Kuwait is currently witnessing a huge cultural, social and media movement that might be taken lightly by some people, including myself, from time to time.

However, what is happening in a comprehensive movement that will surely amend and reform itself by time as long as it is subject to direct immediate criticism from the public. Such movements are represented in individual, namely youth, attempts to contribute in public concerns and affairs through daily direct contact with people such as fashion bloggers, artists, singers or makeup experts who are followed daily by thousands. People will soon sort things out and tell the good from the bad, and those who need nothing from the state will manage to lead the sought social change.

This phenomena that came to light five years ago did help contribute in improving the performance of some institutions through direct and immediate criticism that made each person watch his or her conduct more carefully than ever. We have not yet turned into a Utopia but we are acting more collectively than we used to, which will deprive those trying to control our behaviors according to their own perspectives from such control and this will surely lead to a better future.

— *Translated by Kuwait Times*

AHLI UNITED BANK ORGANIZES RAMADAN HOLY QURAN RECITATION COMPETITION IN RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank announced yesterday that it will organize a Holy Quran recitation competition during the month of Ramadan. The initiative comes as part of the Bank's diversified range of activities tailored for the Holy month and its overall commitment to society. The competition is divided into four primary categories. The first two are for male and female employees of the Bank to recite An-Najm and Al-Toor verses by choice, whilst the other two categories are for staff members' children and the wider public, whose ages range between five to fourteen years old, where they will be required to recite Al-Mursalat or Al-Muzzmil verses by choice.

Ahli United Bank announced that registration of children from outside the Bank in the competition will commence today and will continue until Thursday, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Those who are interested in entering the competition should contact the concerned Bank personnel on the following contact number: 22312308.

Abdullah Al-Shuaib, Sharia Manager at Ahli United Bank said, "The launch of this initiative reflects the Bank's continued commitment to promote the true values of Islam and encouraging our Muslim employees to memorize and recite the Holy Qur'an. The best time to memorize the Qur'an's verses is during the Holy month of Ramadan, a time that promotes pure meanings of love, obedience and worship."

"Ahli United Bank is committed to involve staff members and their families in similar religious and social activities every year. We have further developed the competition to include new categories, the all children section, where any child across Kuwait can participate as per the competition's guidelines," added Shuaib.

Shuaib pointed out that similar programs have been developed by the Bank in previous years during the Holy month as part of the Bank's social commitment to support activities aimed at raising awareness of Ramadan throughout society in Kuwait.

The competition dates will be as follows:
Day one: June 4, 2017 for children (males)
Day two: June 5, 2017 for children (females)
Venue of Competition: Ahli United Bank Head office- Banking complex, Mezzanine Floor.



11 candidates
for FBI top job

SYRIAN ARMY SEIZES AIRBASE FROM IS



BIARRITZ: Passengers en route to London check in at Biarritz airport, southwestern France. US is expected to broaden its ban on in-flight laptops and tablets to include planes from the European Union, a move that would create logistical chaos on the world's busiest corridor of air travel. — AP

US PLANS TO BAN LAPTOPS ON EUROPE FLIGHTS

BAN WOULD CREATE LOGISTICAL CHAOS ON WORLD'S BUSIEST CORRIDOR

BRUSSELS: The US is expected to broaden its ban on in-flight laptops and tablets to include planes from the European Union, a move that would create logistical chaos on the world's busiest corridor of air travel. Alarmed at the proposal, which airline officials say is merely a matter of timing, European governments held urgent talks on Friday with the US Department of Homeland Security. The ban would affect trans-Atlantic routes that carry as many as 65 million people a year on over 400 daily flights, many of them business travelers who rely on their electronics to work during the flight.

The ban would dwarf in size the current one, which was put in place in March and affects about 50 flights per day from 10 cities, mostly in the Middle East. Chief among the concerns are whether any new threat prompted the proposal and the relative safety of keeping in the cargo area a large number of electronics with lithium batteries, which have been known to catch fire. American officials were invited to Brussels next week to discuss the proposed ban, the EU said. European Commission spokeswoman Anna-Kaisa Iltanen said the EU had no new information about a

specific security concern. US officials have said the decision in March to bar laptops and tablets from the cabins of some international flights wasn't based on any specific threat but on longstanding concerns about extremists targeting jetliners. A French official who was briefed about Friday's meeting said the Americans announced they wanted to extend the ban, and the Europeans planned to formulate a response in coming days. The official said the primary questions revolved around when and how - and not whether - the ban would be imposed.

The official spoke only on condition of anonymity to discuss the plan. Jenny Burke, a Homeland Security spokeswoman, said no final decision has been made on expanding the restriction. But Homeland Security officials met Thursday with high-ranking executives of the three leading US airlines - American, Delta and United - and the industry's leading US trade group, Airlines for America, to discuss expanding the laptop policy to flights arriving from Europe.

Two airline officials who were briefed on the discussions said Homeland Security gave no timetable for an announcement, but they were resigned to its inevitability. They spoke

only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the meeting publicly. The US airlines still hope to have a say in how the policy is put into effect at airports to minimize inconvenience to passengers. The initial ban on passengers bringing large electronics devices into the cabin hit hardest at Middle Eastern airlines.

Emirates, the Middle East's largest airline, this week cited the ban on electronics as one of the reasons for an 80 percent drop in profits last year. It said the ban had a direct impact on demand for air travel into the US and it faced rising costs from introducing complimentary laptop loans to some passengers. Alain Bauer, president of the CNAPS, a French regulator of private-sector security agents, including those checking baggage and passengers in France's airports, predicted "chaotic" scenes initially if the ban was instituted. "Imagine the number of people who carry their laptops and tablets onto planes - not just adults, but also children," he said.

He said it would slow passage through security checks as people try to negotiate a way of keeping their laptops. "It's not like losing your water bottle or your scissors. It will

take more time to negotiate," he said. "You need a lot of time to inform them and a lot of time for it to enter people's heads until it becomes a habit," he said. "After a week of quite big difficulties, 95 percent of people will understand the practicalities." The head of the International Air Transport Association said recently that the electronics ban is not an acceptable or effective long-term solution to security threats, and said the commercial impact is severe.

An industry-backed group, the Airline Passenger Experience Association, said the US government should consider alternatives. That could include routinely testing laptops for chemical residues associated with bombs, requiring owners to turn on their devices, and letting frequent travelers keep their electronics with them. The group's CEO, Joe Leader, noted that airlines have reduced service by more than 1 million long-haul seats in the 10 Middle Eastern and North African cities affected by the March policy. If it spreads to Europe, "it's simply a matter of time" before laptops are banned in the cabins of domestic US flights, he said. — AP

PALESTINIANS HOLD LOCAL POLLS IN WEST BANK, BUT NOT IN GAZA

TENSIONS HIGH BETWEEN ABBAS'S FATAH AND HAMAS

RAMALLAH: Palestinians held municipal elections yesterday in the occupied West Bank, a first democratic exercise in years, but one that has also raised tensions between the rival Fatah and Hamas movements. With no legislative or presidential elections in sight, the municipal ballot is seen as a popularity test for Western-backed President Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah party, caught in a deep rift with Islamist Hamas. Underlining the political schism, about 800,000 Palestinians were expected to vote for representatives in 145 local councils in the West Bank, but not in the Gaza Strip.

Months of political and legal wrangling preceded yesterday's elections. Abbas's Palestinian Authority, which governs in the West Bank, and Hamas, which runs Gaza, blamed each other for the vote not being held in the small coastal enclave. "No doubt this is the democratic life we have promised our people," said Fatah Deputy Chief Mahmoud al-Aloul. "Unfortunately this joy is taking place in the West Bank alone because Hamas is preventing the people from practicing this right in Gaza." Hamas said The Palestinian Authority had made a unilateral decision to go ahead with the vote before an agreement on a legal framework had been reached.

"The elections are happening without national consensus. Holding them in the West Bank alone, without Gaza, will cement division," said Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum. Hamas boycotted the previous municipal elections, held in 2012. But it has urged its supporters to vote for representatives running in the current race. The last legislative election was held in 2006 and Hamas scored a surprise victory. That laid the ground for a political rupture - Hamas and Fatah fought a short civil war in Gaza in 2007, since when Hamas has governed the small coastal enclave. Some polls show that if parliamentary elections were held now, Hamas would win them in both Gaza and the West Bank.

This week, Hamas's bloc won the student council elections in the prominent Palestinian university Bir Zeit, an indication of the group's support in the West Bank. Fatah came second. Abbas, 82, is now 12 years into what was to be a four-year term and is an unpopular leader according to opinion polls. He has no clear successor and there are no steps being taken toward a presidential elections any time soon. Chairman of the Palestinian Central Election Committee Hana Naser said yesterday's vote would be transparent with 1,400 local and international observers monitoring the process. — Reuters



WEST BANK: Palestinians arrive to cast their ballot during the municipal elections in the village of Yatta, south of the West Bank city of Hebron yesterday. — AFP

ALL EYES ON TURNOUT AS IRANIAN ELECTION LOOMS

TEHRAN: Iran's presidential election may turn on turnout. Historically, the more Iranians who cast ballots, the greater the chance a reformist or a moderate like incumbent President Hassan Rouhani will be elected. However, Rouhani's bid for another four-year term comes amid apathy and grumbling from an electorate that largely hasn't seen the benefits of his signature nuclear deal with world powers.

As his opponents promise populist cash handouts to the poor, Rouhani

needs all the voters he can to cast ballots on May 19. But even some of his supporters say they may stay home. "I will not vote," said Hossein Ghasemi, a 35-year-old taxi driver who voted for Rouhani in 2013. "None of them care about our demands and difficulties linked to daily increasing prices." Rouhani faces five opponents in the election, but some may well drop out in the coming days to boost the chances of the most-prominent candidates. Eshaq Jahangiri, one of Rouhani's vice presidents, is expected to leave the race to

help his boss. A reformist dropping out ahead of the 2013 election helped Rouhani edge out a nearly 51 percent majority to win. That election saw turnout of 73 percent, a high figure Rouhani will need to duplicate among Iran's 56.4 million eligible voters this time around. If no candidate wins an outright majority, the top two candidates will compete in a second round of voting on May 26. There are already warning signs on the horizon for Rouhani.

A report Monday by the state-run

IRNA news agency said a survey of over 6,000 eligible voters found over a third saying they would not be voting, while another 46 percent said they would pick their candidate later. It offered no margin of error on the nationwide random survey. "The main rival of Rouhani is 'lack of participation' by people," said Saeed Leilaz, a Tehran based political analyst. That lack of enthusiasm stems from the average Iranian's major concern: The economy.

While the nuclear deal allowed Iran to

resume crucial oil exports to Europe and sign billion-dollar airplane deals, chronic unemployment and inflation remain major concerns. Iran's universities continue to graduate its youth without jobs available. The economic crisis can be seen in pictures of homeless people sleeping in graves outside of Tehran, images that shocked the nation and Rouhani himself. The poor, both young and old, can be seen in Iranian cities searching trash for food or cleaning car windows for loose change. — AP

MUTINOUS SOLDIERS CUT OFF IVORY COAST'S SECOND CITY

GUNFIRE HEARD IN SEVERAL TOWNS

ABIDJAN: Disgruntled soldiers cut off access to Ivory Coast's second largest city, Bouake, and gunfire rattled in other towns yesterday as protests over a pay dispute extended into a second day despite government warnings of harsh punishment. The revolt began in Bouake early on Friday before spreading quickly, following a pattern similar to a mutiny by the same group in January that paralyzed parts of the West African state and marred its image as a post-war success story.

Mutineers seized control of the national military headquarters and defense ministry in the centre of the commercial capital Abidjan on Friday, leading to a tense standoff with soldiers from the elite Republican Guard. And while the barricades there had been removed yesterday, rebellious soldiers stepped up the pressure in Bouake, the epicentre of January's uprising, blocking roads north and south out of the city. "We do not want to negotiate with anyone," said Sergeant Seydou Kone, one of the leaders of the uprising. "We're also ready to fight if we are attacked. We have nothing to lose. Kone said the mutineers were also active in the commercial capital Abidjan and the towns of Korhogo, Daloa, Man and Bondoukou. The soldiers were revolting over delays to bonus payments, promised by the government after the January mutiny but which it has struggled to disburse after a collapse in the price of cocoa, Ivory Coast's main export, caused a budget crunch. The government has already paid 8,400 soldiers - most of hem ex-rebel fighters who helped bring President Alassane Ouattara to power - bonuses of 5 million CFA francs (\$8,371) each as part of a deal to end that mutiny.

We want our 7 million

On Thursday, a spokesman for the group said they would forego demands for remaining bonuses of 7 million CFA francs following a meeting with authorities in Abidjan. The decision was rejected by at least some of the soldiers. "We want our 7 million and that's it," said Kone. Bouake residents said shops remained closed as soldiers fired weapons in the air and patrolled the streets in cars. "The soldiers are wearing balaclavas and are threatening to move on Abidjan," said Bouake resident Abou Kone.

In a statement broadcast on state-owned television late on Friday, Military Chief of Staff General Sekou Toure threat-



ABIDJAN: Ivorian soldiers patrol in their vehicle near Ivory Coast's army headquarters, the Gallieni military camp, in Abidjan as they fired shots in the air just hours after a spokesman for the protesters publicly apologized for an earlier mutiny. — AFP

ened the soldiers with "severe disciplinary sanctions" if they did not end the revolt. In Korhogo, soldiers fired into air to disperse a group of residents that had gathered to protest against the uprising there, sending people fleeing home. Shops were shuttered and the streets were largely empty. Mutineers also took control of the northern city of Odienné.

And there was sporadic gunfire in Daloa, the main cocoa growing hub in southwestern Ivory Coast, the world's top producer of the chocolate ingredient. "Perhaps

the government is tired of this, but they must sit down and talk," said retired gendarme Valentin Sokoure, speaking near the military headquarters in Abidjan. "I just want the government to negotiate with the mutineers." Ivory Coast established one of the world's fastest growing economies after emerging from a decade-long political crisis capped by a 2011 civil war. But deep divisions persist, particularly in a military assembled from both former rebel and loyalist combatants.— Reuters

ANOTHER DAY ON THE JOB, IN THE EYE OF A HURRICANE

MIAMI: Hurricanes can be monstrous, terrifying things to live through. Garrett Black flies through them for a living and likes it. Last year, for instance, Black flew through Hurricane Matthew, which reached the maximum category five strength, to measure its fury as the storm struck the Caribbean and the southeast US coast. "It's a lot like a roller coaster ride. It's exciting," Black, a meteorologist said Friday at a hurricane awareness presentation at an airport near Miami.

The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and runs through November 30. Garrett flies with four other crew members on an Air Force WC-130J, a lumbering gray prop plane affectionately called a Hurricane Hunter. Flying at 10,000 feet, the team's mission is to measure the strength of a hurricane and which way it is headed, among other things. "If it's close to the coastline, we'll go through many different times. It gets really bumpy. The turbulence could be anything from 1 to 10," Black added. "Sometimes it is fine and you really don't feel anything, and sometimes it will bump you around quite a bit."

Part of the team's job is to release in different areas of the hurricane small cylinders known as dropsondes. Equipped with a small parachute, they fall through the whirling madness of the storm and measure temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, speed and direction of the hurricane. The gadget has a transmitter to send this data back to the plane, which then passes it on to the National Hurricane Center. The plane releases the dropsondes as it flies through what is called the eyewall of the hurricane-the area just outside the eye and the spot where the fiercest winds and rainfall are. It also drops them in the eye itself.

'Not too nervous'

Last year with Hurricane Matthew, winds hit a stunning 270 kilometers per hour (170 mph) although Black's team flew in later when the storm was downgraded somewhat. "Usually, I'm not too nervous to be honest with you. We train a great amount of time. We are very prepared. We never had an accident during a storm," said Black. The data that the hurricane hunters planes send can save lives. "You would think ... we wouldn't need to have planes going into the hurricanes if satellites could do it," said John Cangialoso, a meteorologist with the NHC. — AFP



MIAMI: 'Kermit', a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) WP-3D Orion hurricane hunter aircraft sits on the tarmac of the Coast Guard Air Station at Opa Locka Airport in Miami, Florida. The aircraft is part of NOAA's Hurricane Preparedness Week. — AFP



TABQA: A fighter from the SDF carries weapons as he looks toward the northern town of Tabqa, Syria. A top Syrian Kurdish official said that the US decision to arm Kurdish fighters with heavier weapons will help legitimize the force, which is denounced as a terrorist organization by Turkey. — AP

SYRIA ARMY SEIZES AIRBASE FROM IS

BEIRUT: Syria's army captured an airbase in eastern Aleppo from the Islamic State group yesterday, after more than two months of fierce clashes, a military source and monitor said. The Jarrah airbase had been under IS control since January 2014, when the jihadists seized it from rebels who had captured it a year earlier. "Regime forces took control of the Jarrah military airport after heavy fighting," said Rami Abdel Rahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor.

"The majority of the jihadists have withdrawn, and regime forces are carrying out clearing operations in the airport and engaged in limited clashes with remaining IS elements," he added. Syria's army launched an offensive against IS in eastern Aleppo province in mid-January, backed by ally Russia. So far it has taken control of more than 170 villages and towns in the area, according to the Britain-based monitor. A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, also confirmed the capture of the military base. "The Syrian army has completed its capture of Jarrah airport and a number of the surrounding villages," he said.

"It will continue its advances into the areas held by the terrorist organization and... expand the areas it controls in eastern Aleppo province," he added. The next key target for government forces in the area will likely be the town of Maskana, on the edge of Lake Assad. Syria's army is just one of the forces battling IS in the country. An alliance of Syrian Kurds and Arabs is also fighting the group further east, in Raqa province, with support from the US-led coalition. More than 320,000 people have been killed in Syria since the conflict began in March 2011 with anti-government protests.

Kurdish-led forces advance

In another development, Syrian Kurdish-led forces were closing in on the de-facto capital of the Islamic State group in Syria, seizing a cotton factory only a couple of miles north of the city, activists and Kurdish media reported. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, backed by US-led coalition airstrikes, clashed with the militants in a multi-pronged offensive northeast and northwest of the city. The offensive brings the SDF 4 kilometers from the northeast of the city, the Observatory said. Fighting was also reported about 6 kilometers north of Raqqa and 13 kilometers (8 miles) to the northwest, the Observatory said.

The Raqqa Campaign, a Facebook page affiliated with the Kurdish-led forces, said the fighters seized the cotton factory, 2.5 miles north of the city yesterday. Kurdish media also

report the factory was captured. The Kurdish-led forces said Friday they expect to advance on Raqqa this summer, following their capture of a strategic town and dam, about 40 kilometers west of the city. The activist-run Raqqa Being Slaughtered Silently group said the public markets in Raqqa have been closed, suspecting it is because of how close the clashes have come to the city.

The campaign to recapture Raqqa appeared to be accelerating following a decision by the Trump administration to arm the Kurdish-led forces with heavy weapons, giving a push to their ground partner to move toward the city, held by the militants since 2013. Turkey strongly objects to Kurdish-led forces leading the campaign. Turkey considers the main component in the Kurdish-led SDF to be an extension of the domestic insurgents it labels as terrorists, and fears their growing influence in northern Syria. — Agencies



BEIRUT: Fighters of the Shiite Hezbollah movement attend the funeral of a commander, who died in combat in Syria, during his funeral in a southern suburb of the capital Beirut yesterday. — AFP

News

in brief

Bus crash kills 20

ISTANBUL: At least 20 people died and 11 were injured yesterday when a bus carrying Turkish tourists plunged off a road near the southwestern sea resort of Marmaris. "Sadly, we have had 20 fatalities and 11 other seriously injured," said Amir Cicek, the governor of Mugla province, who said the bus was carrying about 40 people, many of whom were women. The accident occurred in a hilly road and the bus plunged into a precipice after smashing through the crash barrier. Television reports showed that the bus landed on a lower section of the road, and Cicek told NTV television that an investigation was underway. "The bus's brakes may have malfunctioned," he said. The Hurriyet newspaper quoted Marmaris mayor Ali Acar as indicating an "error by the driver", without giving further details. Other media outlets reported that the bus left from the western city of Izmir carrying only women and children who were on a trip for Mothers' Day, celebrated in Turkey today.

Journalist beaten up

PRISTINA: A prominent Kosovo journalist who this week joined a political party she had long criticized was beaten up yesterday in a car park close to her apartment, police said. Arbana Xharra was the editor in chief of daily newspaper Zeri before joining the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK), the country's largest party. Sources close to the party have said she plans to stand in parliamentary elections next month. Xharra was known for articles that accused officials in the PDK and other parties of corruption and nepotism. When she joined the party, saying she wanted to serve citizens and remain a critical voice within the PDK, she was condemned by some colleagues and opposition supporters. "The victim was transported to the hospital and her condition is stable," police said in a statement, without giving more details. No one has been arrested yet. In 2015, Xharra received the International Women of Courage award from the US State Department for exposing corruption and writing about religious extremism, including naming those responsible for recruiting young Kosovars to join wars in Syria and Iraq.

19 perish in Kenya

NAIROBI: At least 19 people were killed in a crash between a bus and two trucks early Saturday in Kenya, police said. The accident comes just weeks after another collision killed dozens in Kenya, which has notoriously dangerous roads. "We had a bad accident this morning where we lost 18 people on the spot," police commander Hassan Barua told journalists at the scene. Another passenger died in hospital. Police said the bus hit two trucks while trying to overtake in the village of Gilgil, around 120 kilometers (around 75 miles) northwest of Nairobi. Several other people are still in hospital, including the drivers of the trucks involved in the accident, police said. Kenyan police estimate around 3,000 people die each year on the country's roads while the World Health Organization puts the figure at four times that amount, at around 12,000 deaths. At least 26 people were killed in April in head-on collision between a bus and a truck on a highway between Nairobi and the country's second-largest city Mombasa.

Boko Haram's video

KANO: The Boko Haram jihadist group released late Friday a video claiming to show Chibok schoolgirls who refused to be rescued as part of a recent swap deal with the Nigerian government. In the three-minute video, a woman who claims to be Maida Yakubu, one of the 276 schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram in April 2014, is seen wearing a black veil and holding a gun. Flanked by three other women clad in black, she proclaims her loyalty to Boko Haram, which has been fighting the government since 2009 in an uprising that has killed over 20,000 people. When asked by a man in the background why she does not want to return home to her parents, she replies: "The reason is that they live in the town of unbelief. We want them to accept Islam." The woman then speaks in the local Chibok dialect for the rest of the video. Last week, 82 schoolgirls who were kidnapped three years ago were released after negotiations between the terrorist group and the government.

S Africa to restart nuke

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa will relaunch plans to build nuclear power plants by signing new agreements with several countries, Energy Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi said yesterday. A court in Cape Town last month ruled the government had failed to allow adequate public consultation for preliminary agreements with Russia, South Korea and the United States for the construction of eight reactors. Struggling to meet growing electricity demand, South Africa in recent years has also signed agreements with France and China. "I have decided that I will not be appealing the decision of the Western Cape High Court on this matter," said Kubayi at a press conference. The government now plans to sign new agreements with all five countries which will then be submitted to parliament, she said. South Africa has the only two nuclear reactors on the continent and is seeking to relaunch its nuclear program in a bid to end its reliance on coal to produce electricity. The government says the planned eight new reactors would supply an additional 9,600 MW of electricity, more than five times current nuclear output.

LAWSUIT: EXECUTION DRUG WILL CAUSE UNCONSTITUTIONAL PAIN

ATLANTA: The firing squad is the only appropriate method of execution for a condemned Georgia prisoner - even though it's not permitted under state law - because the state's lethal injection drug could cause him to suffer more than the Constitution allows, his lawyers say. JW Ledford Jr is scheduled to die Tuesday. He was convicted of murder in the January 1992 stabbing death of his neighbor, 73-year-old Dr Harry Johnston, near his home in Murray County, in northwest Georgia.

Ledford, 45, suffers from chronic nerve pain that has been treated with increasing doses of the prescription drug gabapentin for more than a decade, his lawyers said in a federal lawsuit filed Thursday. They cited experts who say long-term exposure to gabapentin alters brain chemistry, making pentobarbital unreliable to render him unconscious and devoid of sensation or feeling. "Accordingly, there is a substantial risk that Mr. Ledford will be aware and in agony as the pentobarbital attacks his respiratory system, depriving his brain, heart, and lungs of oxygen as he drowns in his own saliva," the lawsuit says.

That would violate the prohibition on cruel and

unusual punishment in the Eighth Amendment of the US Constitution, Ledford's lawyers argue. US District Judge Steve Jones on Friday dismissed the lawsuit, and Ledford's lawyers filed notice of their intent to appeal to the 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals. State lawyers had called Ledford's lawsuit "manipulative," and said the experts cited by his lawyers made dubious claims based on speculation and that they failed to show that pentobarbital is "sure or very likely" to cause him "a substantial risk of serious harm," as required by US Supreme Court precedent.

State lawyers also cited their own expert, Dr Jacqueline Martin, chief medical examiner for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, who said the amount of pentobarbital used by the state is "more than sufficient" to carry out the execution without causing Ledford pain, despite his use of gabapentin. The US Supreme Court has said that when claiming an execution method violates the Eighth Amendment, an inmate must propose a "known and available" method of execution. There is no alternative method of lethal injection available to

the state, since the drugs used in executions have become harder for states to obtain because manufacturers have prohibited their use for capital punishment, the lawsuit says.

So Ledford's lawyers proposed using a firing squad, which the Supreme Court has already declared constitutional. Georgia already has the skilled personnel, weapons and ammunition needed to carry out an execution by firing squad, Ledford's lawyers argued. Three states - Mississippi, Oklahoma and Utah - allow for a firing squad as a backup if lethal injection drugs aren't available, said Robert Dunham, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, which compiles capital punishment statistics.

Georgia's lawyers noted that the 11th Circuit ruled this week in an Alabama case that the state must be able to implement the proposed alternative "relatively easily and reasonably quickly." State courts and the Georgia Department of Corrections cannot change Georgia law, which only allows execution by lethal injection, so Ledford has failed to meet that standard, the state argues. If Ledford

"really thought the firing squad was a reasonable alternative he could have alerted the State years, instead of 5 days, before his execution," state lawyers said in a court filing. Ledford's lawyers argue that because Georgia law only allows for lethal injection, they are effectively prevented from meeting the burden imposed by the Supreme Court when challenging an execution protocol on the grounds that it is cruel and unusual. Jones wrote in his order that Ledford's lawyers had failed to demonstrate that execution by pentobarbital was "sure or very likely" to cause him extreme pain.

He also noted that Ledford waited until just a few days before his execution date to file a challenge, which he said "suggests dilatory tactics meant to forestall the state's ability to exact its lawful punishment." Ledford's attorneys also have asked the State Board of Pardons and Paroles to spare his life, citing a rough childhood, substance abuse from an early age and his intellectual disability. The board, which is the only authority in Georgia with power to commute a death sentence, plans to meet Monday to hear arguments for and against clemency. — AP

11 CANDIDATES FOR FBI TOP JOB

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump is considering nearly a dozen candidates to succeed ousted FBI Director James Comey, choosing from a group that includes several lawmakers, attorneys and law enforcement officials. White House officials said Friday the president was moving expeditiously to find an interim FBI director along with a permanent replacement for Comey, who was fired Tuesday. The list includes Texas Sen John Cornyn, South Carolina Rep Trey Gowdy, former Michigan Rep Mike Rogers and former New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, according to two White House officials briefed on the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning. Here's a look at the 11 candidates under consideration as a permanent replacement for Comey.

Sen John Cornyn

Cornyn is the No. 2 Senate Republican and a former Texas attorney general and state Supreme Court justice. He has been a member of the Senate GOP leadership team for a decade and serves on the Senate Judiciary Committee. In the aftermath of Comey's dismissal, Cornyn said Trump was "within his authority" to fire him and said it would not affect the investigation of possible Russian ties to Trump's presidential campaign.

Rep Trey Gowdy

The South Carolina Republican is best known for leading the congressional inquiry into the deadly attacks on a US facility in Benghazi, Libya, a panel that oversaw a lengthy grilling of Hillary Clinton in 2015. A former federal prosecutor and state attorney, Gowdy was elected to Congress in the 2010 tea party wave and has focused on law enforcement issues. He originally endorsed Florida Sen Marco Rubio for president before backing Trump in May 2016.

Former Rep Mike Rogers

Rogers is the former chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. He served Michigan in Congress for more than a decade before stepping down in 2015. Rogers worked for the FBI as a special agent based in Chicago in the 1990s and briefly advised Trump's transition team on national security issues. His name was floated as a possible replacement for then-FBI Director Robert Mueller in 2013, and he received support from an association of FBI agents before President Barack Obama chose Comey.

Ray Kelly

Kelly was commissioner of the New York City Police Department for more than a decade, serving two mayors. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, he created the first counterterrorism bureau of any municipal police department and oversaw a drastic reduction in crime. But Kelly also came under fire for his use of aggressive police tactics, including a program that spied on Muslims and a dramatic spike in the use of stop-and-frisk, which disproportionately affected non-white New Yorkers.

J Michael Luttig

Luttig, the general counsel for Boeing Corp., is viewed as a conservative legal powerhouse from his tenure as a judge on the Fourth Circuit US Court of Appeals and his time as a Justice Department lawyer. He was considered for two US Supreme Court vacancies that went to Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito. Luttig clashed with the Bush White House on a prominent terror case, rebuking the adminis-

tration for its actions in the case involving "enemy combatant" Jose Padilla.

Larry Thompson

A deputy attorney general under President George W Bush, Thompson served as the department's No. 2 from 2001 to 2003. Among his most high-profile actions was allowing Syrian-born Canadian citizen Maher Arar to be deported to Syria, where he was tortured, after being falsely named as a terrorist. Thompson also served as US attorney for the Northern District of Georgia and held several high-level positions at PepsiCo.

Paul Abbate

Abbate is a senior official at the FBI, currently responsible for the bureau's criminal and cyber branch. He previously led FBI field offices in Washington, one of the agency's largest, and in Detroit. He's been deeply involved for years in FBI efforts to fight terrorism, serving in supervisory roles in Iraq and Afghanistan and later overseeing FBI international terrorism investigations as a section chief. He's been with the FBI for more than 20 years, and is one of the FBI officials who interviewed this week for the role of interim director.

Alice Fisher

Currently a partner at the law firm Latham & Watkins specializing in white-collar criminal and internal investigations, Fisher formerly served as assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division of the Justice Department. Fisher faced resistance from Democrats during her confirmation over her alleged participation in discussions about detention policies at the Guantanamo Bay facility in Cuba. She also served as deputy special counsel to the Senate special committee that investigated President Bill Clinton's Whitewater scandal. If selected, she would be the bureau's first female director.

Andrew McCabe

A Duke-educated lawyer, McCabe was named last year as the FBI's deputy director, the No. 2 position in the bureau, overseeing significant investigations and operations. Since joining the FBI more than 20 years ago, he's held multiple leadership positions, including overseeing the FBI's national security branch and its Washington field office. McCabe became acting director after Comey was fired, but has shown a repeated willingness to break from White House explanations of the ouster and its characterizations of the Russia investigation.

Michael Garcia

A former New York prosecutor, Garcia has served as an associate judge on the New York Court of Appeals - the state's highest court - since early 2016. He served as the US Attorney in Manhattan from 2005 to 2008, and previously held high-level positions in the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and Homeland Security.

John Suthers

A former US Attorney and Colorado attorney general, Suthers was elected mayor of Colorado Springs in 2015. He is widely respected among state law enforcement and many Colorado Democrats. Suthers was inspired to become a prosecutor after he spent part of an internship in the Colorado Springs district attorney's office watching the trial of a gang of soldiers convicted of killing various citizens, including actor Kelsey Grammer's sister, during a crime spree in the 1970s. — AP



LOS ANGELES: People chant as they protest the firing of FBI director James Comey by President Donald Trump, outside the downtown Los Angeles federal building. — AP

COMEY CRISIS COULD BEDEVIL TRUMP ON HEALTH CARE, TAX CONGRESS REELS FROM COMEY'S FALLOUT

WASHINGTON: US Republicans struggling to pass a health care overhaul and tax reform this year have seen their path narrow, as Congress reels from fallout over President Donald Trump's firing of his FBI director. The shock dismissal of James Comey and the White House's bungling of the aftermath has triggered distress on Capitol Hill, with Democrats and Republicans increasingly preoccupied with how Trump's action affects investigations into his team's possible collusion with Russia.

The resulting chaos has antagonized some moderate Republicans, who had hoped to move on from the cycles of controversy that have marked the administration's first four months and forge consensus on legislative priorities. Trump campaigned heavily on pledges to repeal and replace Obamacare and reform the tax code. Both are monumental tasks, and while Congress can act with due speed when it wishes, its chambers are paralyzed by gridlock. Seamless bipartisan cooperation is a fantasy on Capitol Hill in 2017, and some say the Comey hue and cry will only make it more difficult to cooperate on big-ticket legislation.

"Certainly there is a case to be made that it will be more polarizing and more partisan, not less," Republican Senator Tim Scott said Thursday as he contemplated prospects for getting a controversial Obamacare repeal bill through the Senate. Even staunch conservatives acknowledged that the latest political uproar-parts of which have unfolded like a spy novel, including subpoenas of Trump's former national security

advisor Michael Flynn and hints of clandestine White House recordings-is cutting into congressional efforts to move forward.

"I'd say it's a distraction," warned Orrin Hatch, the Senate's longest-serving Republican. Complicating the schedule in coming months is a series of fiscal deadlines, including passing a spending bill by September 30 and negotiating a raise of the debt ceiling, that could suck up weeks if not months of valuable Washington legislative time. With Comey's departure, another hiccup to the already tight timing: a potentially protracted Senate confirmation process for a new FBI director.



This combination of pictures shows President Donald Trump and former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director James Comey. — AFP



JAILED AIDES SAY THEY FERRIED CASH TO FOREIGN CAMPAIGNS BRAZIL'S OPERATION CAR WASH

RIO DE JANEIRO: Top aides to former Brazilian presidents Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Dilma Rousseff say they ferried millions of dollars in cash to finance presidential election campaigns in Venezuela, El Salvador and Panama, according to testimony made public Friday. Joao Santana, a former treasurer for the ex-presidents' Workers Party, was known as the "maker of presidents" for his success as a campaign strategist. He was jailed this year on corruption charges in Brazil's largest ever corruption probe, known as Operation Car Wash.

He and his wife Monica Moura are serving eight-year sentences for their part in the scandal, in which billions of dollars from the state oil company Petrobras were funneled to businessmen and politicians. In videotaped testimony released on Friday by Brazil's Supreme Court,

Moura said that in 2012 Nicolas Maduro, then vice president and now president of Venezuela, personally handed her suitcases stuffed with a total of \$10 million in cash to help the re-election campaign of his mentor Hugo Chavez, who won the election but died shortly thereafter of cancer.

\$800,000 in one day

"Maduro paid me almost weekly in his own office and delivered the money himself, sometimes in the Miraflores palace" of the president, said Moura in her statement. She said that on one day alone, Maduro handed her \$800,000 and provided her with an armored car for her own security which looked like it belonged to "an American rock star." Moura said the money for Chavez's campaign was laundered through a slush fund known as "Box 2" and

that Brazilian construction giants Odebrecht and Andrade Gutierrez both at the heart of the Car Wash scandal-had contributed seven million and two million dollars respectively to help the re-election of the late Socialist leader.

Moura said it was Lula, a left-wing icon who ruled from 2003 to 2010 but who is currently on trial on numerous counts of corruption, who pushed the couple to help regional allies, including El Salvador's leftist Mauricio Funes in 2009. She said that the three million dollars they were given to help in El Salvador-"a country at the end of the world with war, earthquakes and no money" was provided by Odebrecht, whose former director has himself been jailed for corruption in the Car Wash case. The couple also worked for former Panamanian president Ricardo

Martinelli, who is wanted on corruption charges in his own country and now lives in Miami.

Moura said Martinelli, who was president from 2009 to 2014, gave her half a million dollars in "operating costs" while she was working in Panama on behalf of the man he wanted to succeed him in power. Santana and Moura were both sentenced last February to eight years for money laundering in connection with the Car Wash scandal, and are now collaborating with prosecutors to reduce their sentences. In their videotaped testimony, they said both Lula and his successor Rousseff—who was herself impeached for accounting irregularities last year—were fully aware of the illegal campaign financing of their Workers Party. Lawyers for Lula dismissed the accusations as "lies." — AFP



WASHINGTON: Attorney Alice Fisher arrives at the US Department of Justice yesterday. Fisher is one of nearly a dozen candidates President Donald Trump is considering to succeed ousted FBI Director James Comey. — AP

POPE MAKES FATIMA CHILD SHEPHERDS WHO ‘SAW VIRGIN’ SAINTS

FATIMA, Portugal: Two young, barely literate shepherds who had visions of the Virgin Mary 100 years ago in Fatima, a Portuguese site now a global draw for pilgrims, were declared saints yesterday by Pope Francis.

In an emotional outdoor service on a packed esplanade at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, Catholic worshippers from around the world sang and looked on, some crying, while many more watched the canonisation on giant screens from adjacent streets. Altogether, about 500,000 people were present, the Vatican said in a statement far below initial expectations of 800,000 to a million for the pope's 24-hour pilgrimage that ended mid-afternoon when he took off for Rome.

"We declare the blissful Francisco Marto and Jacinta Marto saints," the Argentine pontiff said in front of the white basilica where the siblings are buried, with two giant portraits of the child shepherds hanging in the background. When the two impoverished children first reportedly had visions of the Virgin Mary 100 years ago on the spot where the sanctuary now lies, they were probably far from imagining they would one day join the ranks of prominent saints like Mother Teresa.

The Virgin Mary is said to have appeared six times between May and October 1917 to Jacinta, then 7, Francisco, 9 and their cousin Lucia, 10. She apparently shared three prophecies with the trio at a period marked by the ravages of World War I, which the Church believes included a vision of hell and a warning of a second major conflict.

The third secret, which was made public by the Vatican only in 2000, foretold the attempted assassination in Rome of Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1981, the anniversary of the first apparition in



LEIRIA: The airplane carrying Pope Francis taxis on the tarmac upon his departure from Portugal on its way to Rome, at Monte Real air base, in Leiria, yesterday.—AFP

Fatima. Pope Benedict XVI later gave an updated interpretation of this third prophecy, saying it could include the suffering of the Church following sexual abuse scandals that shook the Vatican.

Two 'miracles'

Francisco died in 1919 and Jacinta the following year in the Spanish Influenza epidemic that swept through Europe at the end of the war. Their cousin Lucia lived until 2005, becoming a nun and meeting

several popes. A process that could lead to her also becoming a saint has been opened. Pope John Paul II was possibly the most devoted to Fatima, attributing his narrow escape from death to the intervention of the Virgin Mary. He beatified Jacinta and Francisco in 2000 — the final step before sainthood.

The siblings were canonized after the Church officially attributed two miracles to the pair—a necessary step to become a saint. Wheelchair-bound Maria Emilia Santos said she regained the ability to

walk on February 20, 1989, the anniversary of Jacinta's death, after praying to her. And the parents of a Brazilian boy say he healed at lightning speed after falling more than six metres from a window in 2013, after they prayed to Jacinta and Francisco.

Miracle or hallucination?

Fatima attracts millions of worshippers every year for whom the story of apparitions and miracles adds powerful fuel to their faith. "They're our little shepherds, it means everything to us," said Luisa Pacheco, a 48-year-old seamstress from the northern region of Porto who spent the night in her car to see the ceremony. Many slept directly on the esplanade, while still others camped on the roadsides.

Yet talk of apparitions and miracles outside of those described in the Old and New Testaments does not sit comfortably with everyone in the Church. At the time of the reported apparitions, local authorities considered the child shepherds to be troublemakers, throwing them briefly in jail before they were released under public pressure. The alleged apparitions, seen only by the trio, were followed by strange phenomena in October 1917 when some 70,000 onlookers waiting for a sign of the Virgin are said to have seen the sun dancing in the sky.

But to this day, Catholics remain divided over whether these were truly apparitions or merely collective hallucination reinforced by a natural phenomenon. Generally speaking, the official recognition of visions or miracles follows a long and cautious process, so as not to risk the Church's credibility.

The Vatican, for instance, has yet to recognize the reported continuous apparitions of the Virgin Mary in the Bosnian town of Medjugorje. — AFP

MACRON FACES FIRST CHALLENGES AHEAD OF SWEARING-IN TODAY

THE NEW FACES OF FRANCE? CANDIDATES GATHER IN PARIS

PARIS: President-elect Emmanuel Macron promised France that his new movement would reinvigorate politics by bringing in figures from a much wider array of society. Yesterday, candidates running under his banner got to see just how different they are from politics as usual. The candidates gathered in Paris for a training workshop for June's crucial parlia-

mentary election. He has promised to renew France's political landscape with new figures coming from business, associative sectors.. The workshop comes a day before Macron is sworn into office.

His Republic on the Move movement has announced an initial list of 428 candidates for the 577 seats up for grabs in France's lower

house of parliament. Many are newcomers in politics. The average age of the candidates is 46, compared to 60 for the outgoing assembly. Half of them are women. Only 24 are lawmakers running for reelection, all Socialists.

A former economy minister, Macron quit President Francois Hollande's Socialist government last year to launch his independent presidential bid. He is the first French president who doesn't originate from one of the country's mainstream parties. French mathematician Cedric Villani, 43, applied to run under Macron's banner. He is now a candidate in the 5th district of Essonne, south of Paris. "It is about going over traditional and sterile differences and fights between the right and the left," he explained. "There is also an attachment to the European idea, the dimension of progress, and the way of protecting France in the world, and there is the will to include more the civil society in politics."

Villani has a successful career as a researcher and university professor. He was awarded the Fields Medal in 2010 for his work on optimal transport.

"I already changed my life several times, I was a researcher, a managing director, I was a public personality," Villani told The Associated Press. "It's important to make a change from time to time, and in most cases, your previous lives will help you in your future life. One gets richer with various experiences."

Lawyer Alice Thourot, 31, is a candidate in her Drome region, in south of France. "I really wanted to participate. I was always a spectator of the political life of my country, and now I wanted to become an actor of it. That is what motivated me," she said. The gathering aimed to give the newcomers in politics more information on administrative, financial, judicial procedures as well as media training sessions.

"You are the new faces of French politics ... it's the first promise kept," Macron told them in a speech, according to a tweet by lawmaker Christophe Castaner, close to the new president. The press was not allowed to attend the gathering. Macron will officially take power today following an inauguration ceremony with his predecessor Hollande at the Elysee palace. He is then expected to quickly name a prime minister whose role will include leading the campaign for the two-part June 11 and June 18 legislative election. —AP



PARIS: French newly-elected president Emmanuel Macron (center) shakes hands as he leaves after an information day for La Republique En Marche party candidates for the upcoming legislative elections at the entrance of the Quai Branly museum yesterday.—AFP



LONDON: Britain's Prince William, his wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry (left) attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace, London yesterday, honoring the children of those who have died serving in the Armed Forces. — AP

ROMANIAN TOURIST WHO DIED DURING LONDON ATTACK BURIED

CONSTANTA, Romania: A Romanian tourist thrown into the Thames when an extremist plowed into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge in London was finally buried yesterday in this Black Sea port that was her hometown.

Andreea Cristea, 31, was knocked into the river when Khalid Masood drove his rented SUV into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge on March 22. She died two weeks later. Her boyfriend, Andrei Burnaz, who had been about to propose, suffered a broken foot. Masood rushed onto the grounds of Parliament, where he fatally stabbed a policeman before being shot dead by another officer. Police believe that Masood, who had convictions for violent crimes, acted alone.

Cristea was pulled from the Thames and had surgery for a blood clot on the brain. She died on April 6 when life support was withdrawn.

She was the fifth victim of Masood, a 52-year-old former convict who had embraced radical Islam. Dozens more were wounded in his rampage. About 150 mourners carrying flickering candles gathered at St. Mary's church on Saturday wearing badges with Cristea's photo which said: "Forever in my heart!" Orthodox Archbishop Teodosie of

Tomis headed a phalanx of priests who wafted incense during the service.

Teodosie called Cristea "young, beautiful, hard-working and full of love." He also alluded to the forthcoming proposal from Burnaz, an engineer who stood quietly during the service and wept occasionally. Elder sister Magda Toi said family and friends "don't think they lost Andreea, they will always remember her and she will always be with us."

Toi noted that it had started to rain when the coffin left the church for the cemetery, which in Romania is a sign that the deceased person was sorry to die.

British Ambassador Paul Brummell attended the funeral, tweeting "A moving day celebrating the life of Andreea Cristea, tragically cut short by a murderous act of terrorism." Two London police officers were also there.

After her death, her family and Burnaz described Cristea as "our shining ray of light that will forever keep on shining in our hearts," and said they would donate all the money raised on her behalf since the attack to charity. Also killed in the attack were Utah man Kurt Cochran, 54; Britons Leslie Rhodes, 75, and Aysa Frade, 44; and 48-year-old police officer Keith Palmer. — AP



CONSTANTA: Relatives touch the coffin of Andreea Cristea, 31, who was knocked into the river when Khalid Masood drove into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge on March 22, during her funeral in Constanta yesterday.—AP

US SETTLES RUSSIAN MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

WASHINGTON: A Russian-owned group of companies has agreed to pay nearly \$6 million to settle US civil allegations that the firms laundered proceeds of a \$230 million tax fraud, ending a politically charged case days before it was set to go to trial.

Federal prosecutors in New York announced late Friday the surprise settlement between the US government and Russian businessman Denis Katsyov, the owner of Prevezon Holdings, as both sides were preparing to bring the three-year case to trial next week. "We will not allow the US financial system to be used to launder the proceeds of crimes committed anywhere - here in the US, in Russia, or anywhere else," Acting Manhattan US Attorney Joon H. Kim said in a statement.

But Katsyov's attorney, Faith Gay of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, described the outcome as a striking defeat for the government. "It's almost an admission that they shouldn't have brought the case," she said. "The settlement is the amount it would have cost to try the case."

US authorities had sought to seize more than \$20 million in Manhattan condos and bank accounts from Prevezon and related companies prosecutors had claimed were used to launder money stolen by corrupt Russian tax officials. Under the settlement, none of the companies admitted wrongdoing.

The settlement brings an end to a case that raised many of the elements of distrust

between Moscow and Washington, such as economic sanctions and allegations of political corruption.

US authorities said the elaborate tax fraud and money laundering allegations were first uncovered by Sergei Magnitsky, Russian accountant for investment firm Hermitage Capital. After accusing Russian officials of the \$230 million tax fraud, he was arrested on tax evasion charges and died in prison a year later, prosecutors said.

The Kremlin's human rights council found that Magnitsky likely died from a beating delivered by guards and medical neglect. Russian authorities have said Magnitsky death was caused by heart failure, not foul play.

In 2012, at the urging of Magnitsky's former employer, Hermitage Capital CEO William Browder, Washington passed a law freezing any US assets of Russian investigators and prosecutors said to have been involved in the accountant's detention. In retaliation, Moscow barred Americans from adopting Russian children. In the settlement agreement, prosecutors stated that none of the defendants had a role in the death of Magnitsky.

Katsyov's attorney Faith Gay said the current controversy over allegations of Russian meddling in US elections had likely motivated both sides to settle before trial. "It's such a heated political environment right now," she said. "I'm sure that was a factor." —Reuters

AUSTRIA MARKS MARIA THERESA'S 300TH BIRTHDAY

VIENNA: Austrians celebrated yesterday the 300th anniversary of the birth of Maria Theresa, with plenty of concerts and Champagne to honor the only woman to have ruled the Habsburg empire. The empress's 40-year rule starting in 1740, marked by administrative and educational advances while she consolidated control of her territory, earned her a cherished reputation as the "mother of her peoples".

It was an image carefully maintained while in power, and one still evoked today by her imposing statue in Vienna, which was surrounded by a field of flowers yesterday. "Her various motherly aspects-anxious, stern, kindly, affectionate, loving-reinforced her position as monarch," the historian Anne-Sophie Banakas told AFP. And she was the mother of 16 children including Marie-Antoinette, future wife of France's king Louis XVI and executed by guillotine following the French Revolution. A full day of events were planned throughout the city's museums to mark Maria Theresa's birth on May 13, 1717, the high point in a year of exhibits, book releases and festivities across Austria.

Though she was just 23, pregnant and ill prepared to rule when ascending to the throne after her father's death, Maria Theresa quickly surrounded herself with loyal advisors and honed her political and diplomatic instincts. Researchers have recently underscored less admirable traits-including religious intolerance, a hostility to Enlightenment thinkers and a willingness to impose marriages on her children to consolidate the empire. But the contradictions have hardly dented Austrians' affection for her display of "Feminine Power," as the French philosopher Elisabeth Badinter titled her book about the archduchess, being presented this week in Vienna. — AFP

NEPAL'S HIGH HOPES FOR FIRST LOCAL POLLS IN 20 YEARS

KATHMANDU: Nepal holds its first local elections in two decades yesterday hoping to cement a fraught transition to democracy and fill an institutional void that has seen corruption flourish.

The last local representatives were elected in 1997 and their mandates lapsed after their five-year terms expired at the height of the brutal Maoist insurgency. After a 2006 peace deal ended a conflict in which 16,000 people died, the impoverished Himalayan nation began a rocky transition from a Hindu monarchy to a secular federal republic, which has seen the country go through nine governments. In the vacuum left at the local level, graft has become a way of life. Nepal is ranked one of the most corrupt countries in South Asia.

Bureaucrats appointed on the basis of allegiance to political parties filled local government positions, and spawned a shadow industry of brokers who earned fees for everything from getting citizenship documents to registering a marriage.

When Mahananda Timilsina decided to extend his house, getting permission took months of work and involved hefty bribes. "If there were elected representatives at the local level, the civil servants wouldn't dare to ask for bribes from us," said the 35-year-old. Many of the nearly 50,000 people vying for 13,556 seats in Sunday's polls are shunning the main political parties to run as independents or as candidates for new reformist parties. "It couldn't get any worse. The gap between society and government couldn't get any wider," George Varughese, Nepal representative for the Asia Foundation think-tank, told AFP.

Varughese said the elections could "undermine

the current political dominance of the main three parties." In Kathmandu, 21-year-old Ranju Darshana, whose party name, Bibeksheel Nepali, translates as the "party for rational Nepalis" is running for mayor. Also hoping to snatch the votes of people fed up with the graft-ridden system, is a party recently set up by a former chief editor of the BBC's Nepali service, Rabindra Mishra, who left journalism pledging to clean up the political quagmire. Both are expected grab votes from the main parties, but neither are likely to win.

'Forced to be corrupt'

Under a new 2015 constitution, local elections followed by provincial and national elections have to be held by January 2018 — the final step in the drawn-out peace process. The charter gives local governments to be elected today a large degree of autonomy in how they spend allocated funds.

Observers say the measure will help undermine the deeply ingrained rent-seeking culture. "The allocation of funds will be tailored to suit the local needs, rather than tailored to the centre. And tailored by people who are accountable at the local level," said Varughese. But not everyone is optimistic. Anti-corruption activist Sharada Bhusal said the polls would only cement the current corrupt system, particularly in rural communities. "It is the same so-called leaders who will contest in the election as well. It will strengthen the foundation of the political parties from bottom to top. It will legitimise them in the system," she said. Bhusal added that low wages for local level officials was part of the problem—the best paid get less than \$250 a



KATHMANDU: In this photograph taken on May 11, 2017, Nepalese activists parade with political party flags during campaigning in Kathmandu, ahead of forthcoming local elections in the Himalayan nation. —AFP

month. "They are almost in a situation where they are forced to be corrupt to feed themselves," she said. Nepal ranks 131 out of 176 countries in Transparency International's global corruption perception index. The watchdog's survey found that in Nepal political parties and public officials were considered the most graft-ridden institutions-viewed as corrupt by 90 percent and 85 percent of people.

Bhusal says the system leaves ordinary

Nepalese without basic services, while the politically well-connected get richer. Polls open at 7:00am (0115 GMT) on Sunday in three provinces, with 283 local municipalities voting for candidates for seven positions.

The vote has been split into two phases because of the threat of unrest in the southern plains bordering India. The remaining four provinces will vote on June 14. —AFP

SRI LANKA REJECTS CHINESE REQUEST FOR SUBMARINE VISIT

DENIAL COMES AS INDIA PM VISITS ISLAND NATION

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka has rejected China's request to dock one of its submarines in Colombo this month, two senior government officials said yesterday as the Indian prime minister landed in the island nation.

Sri Lanka last allowed a Chinese submarine to dock in the capital of Colombo in October 2014, a move that triggered fierce opposition from its northern neighbor India, which worries about growing Chinese activity in a country it has long viewed as part of its area of influence. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Sri Lanka on Thursday for a two-day official visit.

A senior Sri Lankan government official said China's request to dock one of its submarines in Colombo this month had been rejected. He said Sri Lanka was "unlikely" to agree to China's request to dock the submarine at any time, given India's concerns. The official asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The second official, at the defense ministry, also said China's request to dock this month had been rejected but that a decision on a further docking had been postponed.

"It might happen later," the second official told Reuters, adding that China had requested approval to use the port around May 16 "sometime back". A source close to the Chinese embassy in Colombo confirmed that China had requested permission for the submarine visit but was still awaiting a response. Speaking in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang on Friday referred questions to the Chinese Defence Ministry, which has yet to comment.

"What I can say is that China and Sri Lanka have always had a tradition of friendly relations," Geng told reporters. Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe is expected in Beijing this weekend to attend a summit on China's new Silk Road plan.

China has invested heavily in Sri Lanka in recent years, funding airports, roads, railways and ports, unsettling India, traditionally the closest economic partner of the island nation of 21 million people.

More than 70 percent of the trans-shipment in Colombo port comes from India. Sri Lanka is finalising a plan to lease 80 percent of its loss-making Hambantota port to China for 99 years, but the deal has been delayed because of opposition from trade unions. Sri Lanka also wants to establish a petroleum hub with the help of India in the eastern port city of Trincomalee, where Lanka IOC, the subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation, handles 15 of 99 oil tanks.

A 1987 accord between India and Sri Lanka provides that their territories not be used for activities deemed prejudicial to each other's unity, integrity and security. — Reuters



JAMMU: Indian medical and security officials use a trolley as they transfer injured villager Zatoon Bi into The Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu yesterday. —AFP

TWO INDIANS KILLED IN KASHMIR BORDER FIRING

SRINAGAR, India/MUZAFFARABAD: An Indian father and daughter were killed and about a dozen civilians were injured in the Kashmir region yesterday as India and Pakistan exchanged fire over their de facto border, said officials from each side of the frontier. India and Pakistan have accused each other of initiating the cross-border shelling.

The father and daughter were killed in the Indian part of the disputed Kashmir region by Pakistani army fire, and three of their relatives were wounded, an Indian military spokesman said.

A mortar bomb hit a home in an Indian village near the Line of Control, which separates the two sides in Kashmir, inflicting the casualties, Indian spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Manish Mehta said. Mehta said Pakistani troops began firing weapons from small arms to mortars in the Nowshera sector of Kashmir, prompting a retaliation by Indian forces. But an official in Pakistani Kashmir said Pakistan had responded to "unprovoked" Indian firing.

Eight people, five of them women, were injured in the Pakistani-administered side of Kashmir, said Raja Azhar Iqbal, an official in Pakistani Kashmir's

information department. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their independence in 1947, two of them over the Muslim-majority Himalayan region of Kashmir which they both claim in full but rule in part.

Clashes between their forces in Kashmir largely stopped after a 2003 ceasefire but exchanges of fire have been more common over the past couple of years. Occasional efforts to improve ties between the nuclear-armed neighbors through talks have achieved little, while protests against Indian rule in its part of Kashmir have flared violently over the past year.

Pakistan accuses India of helping the separatist movement in Baluchistan, a charge denied by India. For its part, India says Pakistan aids separatist fighters in Kashmir, part of India's only Muslim-majority state, which Pakistan also claims. Pakistan denies the accusation.

Last week, India accused Pakistani forces of killing two soldiers patrolling the Kashmir border and mutilating their bodies. Pakistan's military denied the allegations and said it had not committed ceasefire violations. — Reuters



ISLAMABAD: People carry the casket of a victim of Friday's suicide attack in south-west Baluchistan province, for funeral prayers in Islamabad, Pakistan yesterday. —AP

10 SHOT DEAD NEAR CHINA 'BELT AND ROAD' PROJECTS IN PAKISTAN

QUETTA, Pakistan: Ten laborers were gunned down in southwestern Pakistan yesterday while working on link roads to connect outlying towns to the country's \$57-billion Chinese "Belt and Road" initiative, security officials confirmed.

The attack on the Pakistani laborers took place some 20 kilometres from the emerging port city of Gwadar in Baluchistan province that forms the southern hub of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "All the laborers were shot at close range," said senior levies official Muhammad Zareef, adding that the shooters were travelling on a motorcycle. The levies are a paramilitary force that oversees security in Baluchistan where police jurisdiction is limited to major urban centres.

Gwadar's deep-water port is the exit point for a planned route from China's far-western Xinjiang region to the Arabian Sea.

Nadeem Javaid, who advises Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government and works closely on the CPEC program, told Reuters earlier in the week that the Gwadar-Xinjiang corridor should be operational from June next year. He said Pakistan expects up to 4 percent of global trade to pass through it by 2020.

Baluchistan, however, has long faced security concerns. Separatist militants in the province have waged a campaign against the central government for

decades, demanding a greater share of the gas-rich region's resources.

Security officials have said previously that militants trying to disrupt construction on the "economic corridor" have killed 44 workers since 2014, all of whom were Pakistani. Pakistan's military created an army division in 2015, believed to number more than 10,000 troops, specifically to protect CPEC projects and Chinese workers. The men killed and wounded yesterday had been working for the provincial government at two separate construction sites on three kilometres apart along the same road. Two laborers wounded in the shootings were taken to hospital where one of them died from his injuries, Zareef said.

The roads the laborers were working on are not specific CPEC-funded projects, but they are part of a network of connecting roads that are part of the corridor.

No group has admitted responsibility for the shootings but past attacks in the region have been carried out by separatists who view construction projects as a means to take over their land.

The shootings came a day after a suicide bomber targetting a Pakistani senator killed 26 people and injured 40, Baluchistan Home Minister Sarfraz Bugti said. Friday's attack was claimed by Islamic State via its Amaq news agency. — Reuters



BEIJING: Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi (left) arrives at the Beijing International Airport ahead of the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing yesterday. —AP

6 INDIAN CLIMBERS MAKE FIRST EVEREST SUMMIT OF SEASON

KATHMANDU: Six Indian climbers reached the top of Mount Everest yesterday, the first group to summit the world's highest peak this season.

The team reached the peak from the northern Tibet side of the mountain yesterday morning, with the first climber summiting at 8:20 am (0020 GMT) and the rest of the group following shortly after.

"Six members from our team reached the summit this morning, the first of the season," confirmed Satish Kumar from Transcend Adventures, the operator organizing the climb.

Some members of the team are from low income backgrounds and had been sponsored by the state government of Andhra Pradesh, in southeastern India. The first member of the group to reach the peak was

Nagaraju Sundarana whose parents are day laborers, followed by son of a fisherman, Satya Rao, according to Transcend Adventures' Facebook page.

"We have 23 in our team and 19 are sponsored by the government.

They are between 19-29 years old from low income families. They have been training for one and a half years," team leader Shekhar Babu told AFP. The busy spring climbing season on Everest runs from late April to May when a narrow window of good weather opens allowing climbers to reach the top of the world.

But so far high winds, fresh snowfall and unusually cold temperatures have forced most teams to delay their summit attempts.

Nearly 750 climbers are waiting to ascend the 8,850-metre (29,035-foot) peak from the

Nepal side, and another 300 on the Tibet side.

On the busier south side, a team of highly skilled rope fixers are still waiting for a period of good weather to lay the ropes to the summit. A group of Sherpa climbers fixed ropes to the peak on the north side on Thursday, paving the way for the first summit of the season.

The season has already been hit by two deaths-experienced Swiss climber Ueli Steck who died late April while on an acclimatization climb and 85-year-old Min Bahadur Sherchan who died while attempting to reclaim his title as the world's oldest person to summit Everest.

Last year five people lost their lives on the world's highest peak, while 443 successfully summited from the Nepal side and another 197 made it to the top from the north side in Tibet. —AFP

CHINA TELLS THE WORLD BEDTIME STORIES IN PROPAGANDA DRIVE

BEIJING: A video of an American father telling his daughter bedtime stories about the Chinese president's signature project. A music clip with children singing about sharing "the goodness." A cartoon of a whisky bottle riding a train. Chinese propaganda is going to great lengths to tell the world about President Xi Jinping's ambitious project to revive Silk Road trading routes with a massive multi-country infrastructure program.

State-run media has bombarded the internet with a series of videos touting Xi's One Belt, One Road Initiative ahead of a two-day summit on the project today, to be attended by nearly 30 world leaders. The clips are aimed squarely at a foreign-rather than a domestic-audience, appearing on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube-all of which are blocked in China.

China Daily has posted episodes of Erik Nilsson, an American journalist who works for the state-run newspaper, telling bedtime stories about the project to his daughter. In the first episode, he used a map and Lego blocks to explain how the multi-billion-dollar plan would help move goods around

the world more easily. "It's China's idea, but it belongs to the world," Nilsson tells his daughter before turning the light off in her bedroom.

In an email to AFP, Nilsson said he developed the concept with Chinese colleagues based on his experience of talking to his daughter about his work trips. "The Belt and Road series was fundamentally natural because it's essentially how she and I actually talk before I take business trips," he said. "Our team believes this format presents the Belt and Road in a way that simply explains an enormously complex initiative so that all audiences, foreign and Chinese, can understand," Nilsson wrote.

Xi's initiative aims to connect Asia to Europe and Africa with a massive network of rail, road and maritime links. But analysts also see it as an effort by China to project soft power and take the mantle of globalization as the US turns inward under President Donald Trump's 'America First' policies.

'Future's coming now'
Another cartoon, called "Bon Voyage, Whisky,"

followed the 20-day journey in April of a whisky bottle riding the first rail freight service linking Britain to China. Whisky's eyes turn into hearts when he sees a vitamin bottle in a pink dress on the China Railway Express. They end up together on a shelf in a Chinese family's dining room.

A music clip meanwhile shows children, supposedly from different countries in the Silk Road region, dancing and singing about their "gratitude" for the trade plan. "The future's coming now, the Belt and Road is how; we'll share the goodness now, the Belt and Road is how," the chorus goes.

Analysts say the videos were made in part to address criticism that the plan is less about providing investment opportunities for foreign countries than developing export markets for China.

The videos try "to convince people outside of China that this policy is a good one that works for everybody," said Li Yang, assistant professor of marketing at the Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business. Nicole Talmacs, media studies lecturer at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, said the videos are not only for children. "The notion of a

'bedtime story' is very likely simply a means of 'sweetening' or removing any perceived aggression or threat that some may feel about the OBOR initiative," she said.

'Harmonious leader'

It is not the first time that China features foreigners in videos to promote a government program. In 2015, state news outlets posted a psychedelic music video to explain the country's "13th Five-Year Plan" development roadmap. "This is part of a larger trend in which Chinese state media are trying to reach a global audience," said Manya Koetse, who tracks social trends in China as editor of What's on Weibo.

"Chinese propaganda in 2017 is not like Chinese propaganda in 1997. It is developing along with the trends of its time, serving slick bite-size videos to people on their mobile phones, with music and narratives that suit the audiences of today," Koetse said. "They showcase China's role in the world as a harmonious leader that helps the whole world become a more prosperous place." — AFP

N KOREA READY FOR TALKS WITH US UNDER 'RIGHT CONDITIONS' JAPAN FAVORS AEGIS ASHORE OVER THAAD

SEOUL: A senior North Korean diplomat who handles relations with the United States said yesterday Pyongyang would have dialogue with the US administration if conditions were right, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported.

Choe Son Hui, North Korea's foreign ministry director general for US affairs, made the comment to reporters in Beijing as she was travelling home from Norway, Yonhap said. "We'll have dialogue if the conditions are there," she told reporters when asked if the North was preparing to hold talks with the Trump administration, according to Yonhap.

When asked if North Korea was also preparing to talk with the new government in South Korea, of liberal President Moon Jae-in, Choe said: "We'll see." The comments by Choe, who is a

veteran member of the North's team of nuclear negotiators, came amid stepped up international efforts to press North Korea and ease tension over its pursuit of nuclear arms.

US President Donald Trump warned in an interview with Reuters in late April that a "major, major conflict" with the North was possible, but he would prefer a diplomatic outcome to the dispute over its nuclear and missile programs.

Trump later said he would be "honoured" to meet the North's leader, Kim Jong Un, under the right conditions. Choe was in Norway for so-called Track Two talks with former US government officials, according to Japanese media, the latest in a series of such meetings.

A source with knowledge of the latest meeting said at least one former US government offi-

cial took part but the US administration was not involved. South Korea's Moon, elected this week on a platform of a moderate approach to North Korea, has said he would be willing to go to Pyongyang under the right circumstances and said dialogue must be used in parallel with sanctions to resolve the problem over North Korea's weapons.

North Korea has conducted five nuclear tests in defiance of UN and US sanctions and is also developing long-range missiles to deliver atomic weapons. It says it needs such weapons to defend.

Missile defense

Meanwhile, Japan is leaning towards choosing the Aegis Ashore missile-defense system over another advanced system called Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD), government and ruling party sources said.

Faced with North Korea's rapid missile and nuclear development, and its threats, Japan has been looking into introducing a new missile-defense layer - either the THAAD or the Aegis Ashore, a land-based version of the Aegis system developed for war ships.

Lockheed Martin Corp makes both systems. The government now favors the Aegis Ashore system as it comes with a wider coverage area, which would mean fewer units needed to protect Japan, and it is also cheaper, three government and two ruling party sources said. The sources, who spoke this week, declined to be identified because they are not authorized to speak to media on the topic.

An Aegis Ashore unit costs about 70 billion-80 billion yen (\$618 million-\$706 million), while a THAAD unit costs more than 100 billion yen, the sources said. Also, the introduction of Aegis Ashore would help reduce the burden of round-the-clock vigilance shouldered by Japanese warships equipped with the Aegis system, they said.

The government will make a final decision on the new system in coming months, after sending, possibly this month, an inspection team to Hawaii, where US forces operate Aegis Ashore test facilities, they said. Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party in March urged Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government to consider acquiring the capability to hit enemy bases and to beef up missile defense. — Reuters



BEIJING: Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy (R) meets Chinese President Xi Jinping ahead of the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

DRCONGO REFUGEES IN ANGOLA REVEAL HORRORS OF CONFLICT

DUNDO, Angola: "It was flee or die," said Jean Makemissi, a refugee from the violence raging in Democratic Republic of Congo who has sought sanctuary in neighboring Angola.

"All of the villages in our region have been occupied by rebels. We left chaotically without taking anything with us. We were truly terrified," he said from the Mussungue camp in the extreme north of Angola, fear visibly etched on his face.

"I'm scared for my children, I don't have any news on them. But by chance I found my wife here."

The Makemissi family home was just a matter of miles from the camp, in the Congolese town of Tshisenge, on the border separating the two countries. He set off from Tshisenge on March 7 and did not reach Angola until March 14, having hidden from and evaded the rebels during a perilous journey on foot.

The rebels have sworn allegiance to local chief Kamwina Nsapu, who was waging a bloody battle against the government of President Joseph Kabila until he was killed by security forces in August 2016. Since his death, Nsapu's followers have ramped up attacks on the army and police in four of DR Congo's provinces.

According to the UN, the clashes have claimed the lives of hundreds and triggered an exodus of more than a million civilians, with the UN estimating Monday that an average of 4,600 Congolese flee their homes every day.

'Tribal war'

Like Makemissi, Bavon Kabankaya left Tshisenge as soon as the rebels arrived.

"I witnessed the attack. Everyone fled as soon as they entered the village," Kabankaya said. "They sought to behead all of the officials. Their goal was to execute anyone who, in their eyes, represented the government." "They wanted to exterminate the Lulua-Lubas," Kabankaya added, referring to one of the ethnic groups living in the central Kasai

Province. "There is a real tribal war in my region."

The UN has condemned the killings of civilians in DR Congo's central provinces for months, saying that so far they have counted 40 mass graves and received reports of entire villages being burned to the ground. The UN has accused both sides of abuses, accusing the rebels of recruiting child soldiers and the security forces of using excessive force in their fight against the militias.

The rebels are typically equipped with only bludgeons and catapults. Many of the thousands of Congolese in camps-as well as the UN and Doctors Without Borders (MSF) — claim to have witnessed Nsapu's men carry out atrocities.

In mid-April they entered Kamako, a border village, following clashes with the Congolese army nearby, according to Daniel Kabeya, a local resident.

'Magic wands'

"They killed innocent civilians in their homes," Kabeya said. "We heard gunshots and we got out quickly." Even in the safety of Angolan territory, the refugees do not hide their fear of the militias whom they accuse of using magic to make themselves invincible.

"These guys use magic powers, not weapons," said Alain Kambala. "These are extraterrestrials, the armageddon, they don't die."

Some of those displaced fear that the Congolese army is not powerful enough to take on the threat.

"When the rebels arrived, the soldiers hid and fled," said Anastasie Ubanza, a refugee from another village in Kasai Province. "If you support the Congolese authorities, then they will slaughter you. As I'm a state employee, I fled quickly. I wasn't able to take my four children."

Sitting under a plastic sheet, which passes for shelter in the Mussungue camp, Anastasie reflected on her plight. "Today, I have lost them," she said quietly. — AFP



BEIJING: Choi Sun-hee (left), the top North Korean diplomat who handles relations with the US walks prior to her departure for Pyongyang, North Korea at Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing yesterday. — AP

MANILA, BEIJING TO OPEN SOUTH CHINA SEA TALKS

MANILA: The Philippines and China will open bilateral talks on their dispute over the South China Sea next week, Manila's ambassador to Beijing said yesterday.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has sought to deepen relations with China despite its extensive island-building in disputed parts of the South China Sea, in the hopes of securing billions of dollars' worth of investments from Beijing. "We will inaugurate the bilateral consultative mechanism on issues of particular concern to each side. This is where the sensitive issues will be discussed," Ambassador Jose "Chito" Santa Romana said in Beijing in comments aired by ABS-CBN television.

Santa Romana made the comments ahead of Duterte's arrival in Beijing to attend the One Belt, One Road summit today and tomorrow-a pet project of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"The first session will be next week but this will be a session that will continue on a twice-yearly basis, a chance to exchange views on the South China Sea issue," he said.

China claims nearly all of the strategically vital waterway, despite partial counter-claims from several regional states including the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Santa Romana said the Duterte administration was putting the South China Sea dispute on a separate track while pursuing economic and diplomatic relations with China, adding that previously bilateral ties had been "frozen" because the territorial row had taken centre stage.

"There is a whole sphere of relationships you can fast-track without giving up your sovereignty claim. To put it on a separate track is not to abandon or give up but rather to compartmentalize it," he said.

Duterte has sought closer ties with China and Russia while distancing the Philippines from its traditional ally, the United States. Last month, he

alarmed observers when he issued a chairman's statement, after hosting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit, which took a soft stance towards Chinese actions in the South China Sea.

The statement merely took note of "concerns expressed by some leaders over recent developments in the area". It also ignored an international

tribunal ruling last year which said China's claims to most of the sea were unlawful.

Leaders from nearly 30 nations are attending next week's forum in Beijing, which will showcase Xi's grand plan to revive ancient Silk Road trade routes by bankrolling rail, maritime and road projects across Asia, Europe and Africa. — AFP



BEIJING: Security personnel walk inside the Great Hall of the People before a meeting between Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and Chinese President Xi Jinping ahead of the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing Yesterday. — AP

MORE HUMAN BONES RECOVERED FROM SUNKEN KOREAN FERRY

SEOUL: More suspected human bones were recovered yesterday from South Korea's sunken Sewol ferry, officials said yesterday, part of a search that began when the ship was salvaged in March.

The 6,800-ton vessel sank off the country's southwestern coast three years ago, claiming more than 300 lives, mostly high school students on an excursion.

"Bones were recovered yesterday from the fourth deck near the stern," the maritime ministry said in a statement. Forensic experts have sent the bones for DNA tests, the statement added.

The results will be known in a month.

One of the country's worst-ever maritime disasters, the sinking of the Sewol dealt a crushing blow to now-ousted

president Park Geun-Hye. Nine of the victims' bodies have yet to be recovered. Raising it in one piece was a key demand of their families. Sifting through silt and debris piled up inside the hull, workers have been retrieving bones every day since Wednesday when suspected human bones were found inside the wreck for the first time. Last week, a diver combing the sea bed where the ferry had been lying found a bone fragment believed to be from a human shin.

Investigations concluded the disaster was the result of numerous human factors, including an illegal redesign, an overloaded cargo bay and inexperienced crew. — AFP

GLOBAL CYBERATTACK HITS HOSPITALS AND COMPANIES

Continued from Page 1

spokesman for the Japanese carmaker said. German rail operator Deutsche Bahn said some electronic signs at stations announcing arrivals and departures were infected, with travelers posting pictures showing some bearing a message demanding a cash payment to restore access.

'Unprecedented' attack eases

Europol's European Cybercrime Centre said it was working closely with country investigators and private security firms to combat the threat and help victims. "The recent attack is at an unprecedented level and will require a complex international investigation to identify the culprits," it said in a statement. Some experts said the threat had receded for now, in part because a British-based researcher, who declined to give his name, registered a domain that he noticed the malware was trying to connect to, and so limited the worm's spread.

"We are on a downward slope, the infections are extremely few, because the malware is not able to connect to the registered domain," said Vikram Thakur, principal research manager at Symantec. "The numbers are extremely low and coming down fast." But the attackers may yet tweak the code and restart the cycle. The researcher in Britain widely credited with foiling the ransomware's proliferation told Reuters he had not seen any such tweaks yet, "but they will (happen)."

Researchers said the worm deployed in the latest attack, or similar tools released by Shadow Brokers, are likely to be used for fresh assaults not just with ransomware but other malware to break into firms, seize control of networks and steal data. Finance chiefs from the Group of Seven rich countries were to commit yesterday to joining forces to fight the growing threat of international cyber attacks, according to a draft statement of a meeting they are holding in Italy. "Appropriate economy-wide policy responses are needed," the ministers said in their draft statement, seen by Reuters.

Hospitals in firing line

In Asia, some hospitals, schools, universities and other institutions were affected, though the full extent of the damage is not yet known because it is the weekend. "I believe many companies have not yet noticed," said William Saito, a cyber security adviser to Japan's government. "Things could likely emerge on Monday" as staff return to work. China's information security watchdog said "a portion" of Windows systems users in the country were infected, according to a notice posted on the official Weibo page of the Beijing branch of the Public Security Bureau yesterday. Xinhua state news agency said some secondary schools and universities were hit.

In Vietnam, Vu Ngoc Son, a director of Bkav Anti Malware, said dozens of cases of infection had been reported there, but he declined to identify any of the victims. South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported a university hospital had been affected, while a communications official in Indonesia said two hospitals there had been hit. The most disruptive attacks were reported in Britain, where hospitals and clinics were forced to turn away patients after losing access to computers on Friday.

International shipper FedEx Corp said some of its Windows computers were also breached. "We are implementing remediation steps as quickly as possible," a FedEx statement said.

Telecommunications company Telefonica was among many targets in Spain. Portugal Telecom and Telefonica Argentina both said they were also targeted. Only a small number of US-headquartered organizations were hit because the hackers appear to have begun the campaign by focusing on targets in Europe, said Thakur. By the time they turned their attention to the United States, spam filters had identified the new threat and flagged the ransomware-laden emails as malicious, he added.

Microsoft bolsters windows

Private security firms identified the ransomware as a new variant of "WannaCry" that had the ability to automatically spread across large networks by exploiting a known bug in Microsoft's Windows operating system. "This is one of the largest global ransomware attacks the cyber community has ever seen," said Rich Barger, director of threat research with Splunk, one of the firms that linked WannaCry to the NSA. The Shadow Brokers released Eternal Blue as part of a trove of hacking tools that they said belonged to the US spy agency. The attack targeted Windows computers that had not installed patches released by Microsoft in March, or older machines running software that Microsoft no longer supports and for which patches did not exist, including the 16-year-old Windows XP system, researchers said.

Microsoft said it pushed out automatic Windows updates to defend existing clients from WannaCry. It had issued a patch on March 14 to protect them from Eternal Blue. Late on Friday, Microsoft also released patches for a range of long discontinued software, including Windows XP and Windows Server 2003. "Today our engineers added detection and protection against new malicious software known as Ransom:Win32.WannaCrypt," Microsoft said in a statement on Friday, adding it was working with customers to provide additional assistance.

Politically sensitive timing

The spread of the ransomware capped a week of cyber turmoil in Europe that began when hackers posted a trove of campaign documents tied to French candidate Emmanuel Macron just before a run-off vote in which he was elected president of France. On Wednesday, hackers disrupted the websites of several French media companies and aerospace giant Airbus.

The hack happened four weeks before a British general election in which national security and the management of the state-run National Health Service are important issues. Authorities in Britain have been braced for cyber attacks in the run-up to the election, as happened during last year's US election and on the eve of the French run-off vote on May 7. But those attacks - blamed on Russia, which has repeatedly denied them - followed a different modus operandi involving penetrating the accounts of individuals and political organizations and then releasing hacked material online.

On Friday, Russia's interior and emergencies ministries, as well as its biggest bank, Sberbank, said they were targeted by ransomware. The interior ministry said about 1,000 computers had been infected but it had localized the virus. Although cyber extortion cases have been rising for several years, they have to date affected small- to mid-sized organizations. "Seeing a large telco like Telefonica get hit is going to get everybody worried," said Chris Wysopal, chief technology officer with cyber security firm Veracode. — Reuters

TUMULTUOUS WEEK FOR TRUMP

Continued from Page 1

"When (former director of national intelligence) James Clapper himself, and virtually everyone else with knowledge of the witch hunt, says there is no collusion, when does it end?" Trump said Friday in a furious tweetstorm.

As exhausted staff tried to clean up the Comey mess, Trump took to Twitter and went a step further, impugning his own staff's credibility and warning the ex-FBI director not to leak information to the media and suggesting there could be secret tapes of their conversations. "As a very active President with lots of things happening, it is not possible for my surrogates to stand at podium with perfect accuracy!" he said. Embattled White House spokesman Sean Spicer told reporters on Friday that Trump was "a little dismayed" by the negative media frenzy around his actions, adding: "The notion that there's collusion is a hoax."

But by week's end, legal scholars wondered out loud whether Trump may be guilty of obstruction of justice—a charge that featured in the articles of impeachment against Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton. "He may not have intended to commit anything like obstruction, or any other crime, but has instead blundered into this position because he does not recognize or respect norms and does not appreciate legal process or institutional boundaries," Bob Bauer, White House counsel to Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, wrote in a Lawfare blog post.

Max Boot, a former foreign policy adviser to Republican presidential hopefuls John McCain and Mitt Romney, called Trump's firing of Comey a "flagrant assault on the rule of law." And Trump's political foes, like Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy, dispensed with the last remnants of political decorum to describe Trump's behavior as "unhinged."

ARCHAEOLOGISTS DISCOVER 17 MUMMIES

Continued from Page 1

The ministry said they belonged to the Late Period, which spanned almost 300 years up to Alexander the Great's conquest of Egypt in 332 BC. But a spokeswoman told AFP they could also date from the Ptolemaic Dynasty, founded by Alexander the Great's general Ptolemy. The discovery of the non-royal mummies is considered unprecedented because it is the first such find in the area, officials said at the site. Egyptologist Salah al-Kholi told a news conference held near the desert site that the discovery was "the first human necropolis found in central Egypt with so many mummies".

It could herald even more discoveries in the area, he said. The discovery was "important, unprecedented," Mohamed Hamza, director of excavations for Cairo University said. The site is close to an ancient animal cemetery. "The discovery is still at its beginning," Antiquities Minister Khaled

Al-Enany told reporters. It was the second discovery of mummies announced with much fanfare by the government in less than a month. In April, the ministry invited reporters to the southern city of Luxor to unveil eight mummies discovered in a 3,500-year-old tomb belonging to a nobleman.

For the cash-strapped Egyptian government, the discoveries are a boon from the country's glorious past as it struggles to attract tourists scared off by a series of Islamist militant attacks. "Antiquities are the soft power that distinguishes Egypt," Enany said. "News of antiquities are the things that attract the world to Egypt." Millions of tourists visited Egypt every year to see its Giza Pyramids—the only surviving monument of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World—and its ancient pharaonic temples and relics. But a popular uprising in 2011 that overthrew veteran strongman Hosni Mubarak ushered in years of unrest that battered the economy and drove away tourists. —AFP

GUNMEN HIT SAUDI TOWN

Continued from Page 1

It was the second time since Wednesday that gunfire sounded in Awamiya, a town on the Gulf coast. Residents said the shooting broke out as authorities moved on the Almosara district. Early yesterday more gunfire sounded in the neighborhood and authorities blocked roads in the area, a resident said. "The situation's miserable," another resident said, asking for anonymity. "We think it will take a long time to finish this operation." In March the ministry said a teenage suspect died from wounds after Saudi police "responded" under fire while looking for suspects hiding

among abandoned homes in Almosara.

A local resident at that time said that people had been living for more than a month in Almosara resisting the urban renewal project. They had no water and their electricity came only from generators, the resident said, adding that they wanted to be given new houses and the area kept as a historical district. Awamiya, a town of 30,000 in the Shiite-majority Qatif district, was the home of Nimr Al-Nimr, a Shiite cleric put to death in January last year for "terrorism." Nimr was a driving force behind protests by Shiites that began in 2011 and developed into a call for equality in the Sunni-majority kingdom. — AFP



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Focus

GET BACK ON BOARD! CRUISE SHIP CAPTAIN AFRAID OF THE DARK

By Ella Ide

He will go down in history as the captain who refused to return aboard the sinking Costa Concordia, saying it was too dark to help save lives in a tragedy that killed 32 people. Long before Italy's top court sealed his fate Friday by upholding on appeal a 16-year jail term, Ray-Ban-wearing Francesco Schettino, now 56, had been marked as the villain of the piece, dubbed "Captain Coward" by the media for abandoning ship. As terrified passengers threw themselves off the tilting cruise liner into the freezing waters after it hit an outcrop off the Tuscan island of Giglio on January 13, 2012, Schettino spent most of the nighttime evacuation on a rock. He would later claim he fell into a lifeboat when the ship rolled and was carried ashore against his will.

"He looked like a beaten dog, cold and scared," said a taxi-driver who saw him. Livorno port official Gregorio De Falco was hailed as a hero after a transcript emerged of him demanding the captain return to ship. "Get on the ship and tell me how many people there are and what is happening onboard. Is that clear?" he is heard saying. When Schettino resists, he warns: "You may have managed to save yourself but there, it will really go badly... I will create a lot of trouble for you. Get on board, for fuck's sake!"

'There are already bodies'

"Captain, I'm begging you," Schettino says, to which De Falco replies: "Go... There are already bodies, Schettino." "How many are there?" he asks. "You are the one who is supposed to tell me how many, damn it!" De Falco cries. "But do you realize that it is dark and we can't see anything?" Schettino asks, leaving an incredulous De Falco to wonder: "What do you want to do, Schettino? Go home? It is dark so you want to go home?" Schettino, who would later admit to recklessly ordering a sail-by "salute" near the island, did not return to the ship to run the rescue operations, which went on until 6 am.

The conversation was seen in Italy as an allegory of the country's "two souls"; on one side the "hair-creamed godfather used to breaking the rules", on the other the military hero with rigorous ethics. Despite discovering the crash had torn a huge hole in the liner, Schettino delayed sounding the alarm by over an hour, by which point the lifeboats on one side of the liner were unusable. As he sat on his rock, the ship's purser and onboard doctor saved dozens of lives, with even the island's deputy mayor climbing on board the sinking giant to help rescue efforts.

The blonde

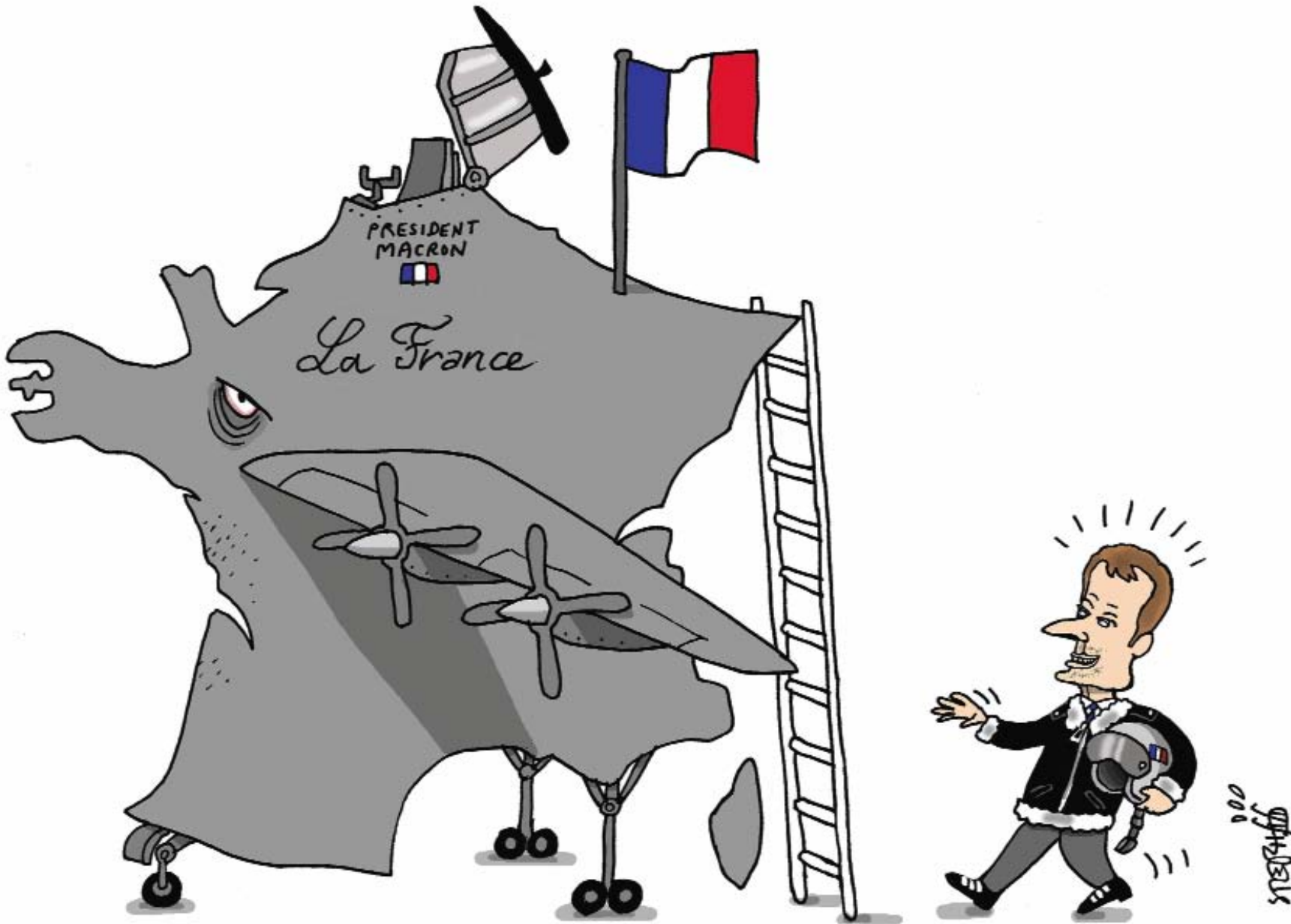
Born into a seafaring family in Castellammare di Stabia near Naples, Schettino was hired by Costa Crociere in 2002 and enjoyed a reputation as a ladies' man, hosting lavish dinners for glamorous guests at his table, according to crew members. He was entertaining a blonde Moldovan woman-who was not on the official passenger list-in the moments before the crash. During the trial he was ordered to stay within the boundaries of his hometown of Meta di Sorrento but sparked the anger of victims' relatives by being spotted sunning himself on a friend's yacht.

He is separated from his wife and has reportedly been living alone with a dog given to him by his daughter. In 2015 he published a 600-page book on the disaster, called "The Truth Submerged", which he dedicated to those who died. According to the journalist who helped him write the book, he said "the only mistake I made was not dying too that night". But after Friday's verdict, the captain accepted his fate. "He said 'I trust in the justice system, the verdict must be respected. I'm handing myself in right now,'" lawyer Saverio Senese said, after speaking to Schettino by telephone. — AFP



In this file photo the luxury cruise ship Costa Concordia lays on its starboard side after it ran aground off the coast of the Isola del Giglio Island, Italy, killing 32 people. — AP

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FOCUS ON WHAT REALLY MATTERS, BLAIR ADVISES MACRON

France's incoming president Emmanuel Macron got some advice on Friday from former British prime minister Tony Blair, with whom the reform-minded Frenchman has often been compared. In an opinion piece in Le Monde daily titled "What Emmanuel Macron grasped", Blair praised 39-year-old Macron-who will be inaugurated today for his landslide victory over far-right leader Marine Le Pen.

"I have long argued that the only way of pushing back effectively against populist discontent and anger, is by providing genuine answers to the challenges globalization poses," wrote Blair, who was prime minister from 1997 to 2007. "This politics of the progressive centre is the only way the populism can be defeated," he added. Blair overhauled the British left during his tenure, moving away from state interventionism in favor of a more pragmatic, pro-business approach that won his Labor Party three general elections.

Macron, who quit the Socialist government in 2016 to form his own movement that mixes economic liberalism with a strong commitment to social spending, has often been likened to Blair who became head of Britain's government at age 43. Blair, now 64, said that Macron should not lose sight of the fact that "people in France voted for something new and different." But he also acknowledged that, when it came down to change, "people always support it in general, but unfortunately then frequently disagree with it in particular."

He warned Macron against spending too much political capital on reforms that would not "really move the needle." "Do the things which really matter was what I learnt," he advised. The former British leader, whose reputation was severely damaged over his support for the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, said the hardest part of governing was implementation and advised Macron to set up teams focused on "the sole purpose of getting the thing done." "For sure, for the new president, the hard slog now starts," Blair wrote. "But the direction is good, the compass is sound and there are many, the world over, who are on the same journey." — AFP



PARIS: French newly elected president Emmanuel Macron (center) gestures as he leaves after an information day for La Republique En Marche party candidates for the upcoming legislative elections at the entrance of the Quai Branly museum yesterday. The two-round parliamentary elections will take place in France on June 11 and June 18. — AFP

MORE PROBLEMS WITH US COMMISSION ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Dr James J Zogby
President Arab American Institute

There is no question that in many parts of the world, including the Middle East, vulnerable religious communities are facing threats to their very survival or serious problems of discrimination. In situations such as these, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) should be able to play a constructive role making policy recommendations that would help protect vulnerable communities and support efforts to advance religious freedom.

That's why Congress created it. But as I complete my four years as an Obama appointee to this Commission, I must acknowledge that we have not been effective in carrying out our mission. The sad truth is that, by any objective measure, the state of international religious freedom has worsened in the almost two decades since Congress passed the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), which created USCIRF. Recognizing this, during the past four years, I have challenged my colleagues to ask are why we have not been able to make a difference and what we do become more effective.

I believe that part of the reason we have not had more of an impact is because of how we have interpreted our mandate. Instead of serving as a bipartisan group of experts making informed recommendations to the Administration and Congress, we have been satisfied with acting more like a Congressionally-funded NGO using press releases and op-eds to "name and shame" countries that violate religious freedom.

The legislation that created USCIRF states that we should comment on the Department of State's (DOS) annual Religious Freedom and Human Rights Reports and then make recommendations to the Administration and Congress. Instead, we spend the better part of each year writing and editing our own report-never actually considering the work of the DOS. This is a grave mistake since the DOS invests significant resources in preparing their report and has a greater on-the-ground

capacity than we do. Absent the resources of the DOS, the Commission's staff is forced to write their drafts based largely on secondary sources, accounts from advocacy groups, or the results of a three or four day trips some Commissioners make to a few of the countries on which we report. After receiving the draft, Commissioners are then asked to review and comment on chapters dealing with countries, about many of which we know very little. This process is broken and should be reexamined.

There are still other concerns I have expressed to my fellow Commissioners. In too many instances, we have failed to distinguish between actual violations of religious freedom and sectarian, regional, or tribal struggles for political power. Too often, we have engaged in reductionist analysis-see-

ing everything as a nail, because the only tool we wield is a hammer. In failing to understand the complexity and non-religious underpinnings of conflicts, like those in Nigeria, Iraq, or the Central African Republic, our analysis and recommendations miss the mark. Religion, per se, is not the cause of tension in those countries and, therefore, proposing religious freedom is not the solution.

Some have expanded this reductionism to extreme and even absurd lengths, claiming that if, as they maintain, religious freedom is "the first freedom," then all else flows from it. They correctly observe a correlation between religious freedom and prosperity and democracy in some countries, but then mistakenly attribute the latter to the former. In fact, a more convincing case can be made

that prosperity and democracy are the pre-requisites for religious freedom.

"Naming and shaming" has a role to play in confronting violators of human rights. But in order to have an impact, the party that "names and shames" has to have credibility with the party being accused. Unfortunately, this fact has never been recognized or appreciated by many of my colleagues. As a result, our condemnations oftentimes not only fall on deaf ears, they may even make a bad situation worse. This issue of credibility is especially important now that we have an Administration that includes individuals who hold shockingly Islamophobic views. If we are to be credible, we need less hubris and more humility. For these reasons, I have challenged my colleagues to develop a more focused approach that involves making an in-depth study of the conditions in a few targeted countries where we feel we can make a difference so that we might provide creative problem-solving ideas where improvements in religious freedom can be made.

Such a strategy would involve: convening hearings (something we have the power to do, but have rarely done); engaging to mer US diplomats and regional experts to advise us on circumstances in each country and what changes are possible in each instance; and examining how each country's civil society may be effectively engaged and how we might involve US civil society groups (with roots in countries of concern) as advocates for change and promoters of religious freedom.

Should such a strategy be followed I believe we would add value to our advocacy efforts and be able to provide the Administration and Congress with informed recommendations that might make a difference. Unfortunately, new Congressional legislation passed last year does not propose a new strategy. Instead, it only doubles down on the failed approaches of the past. More money, more staff, more reporting, and new mandates will not make change. They will only add to an already dysfunctional and unproductive situation.



People walk outside the Supreme Court in Washington. — AP

CATCHER IANNETTA TAKES PITCH TO FACE

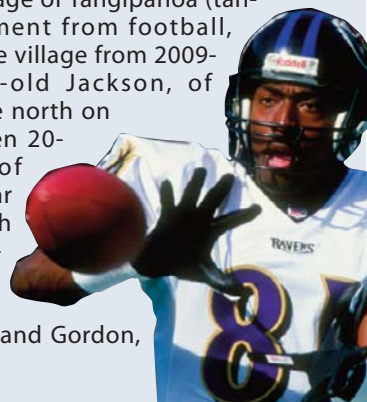


ARIZONA: Arizona Diamondbacks catcher Chris Iannetta was struck in the mouth by a pitch from Pittsburgh Pirates reliever Johnny Barbato during his at-bat on Friday and taken to hospital for examination. The pitch occurred in the bottom of the seventh inning at Chase Field, sending Iannetta to the ground bleeding. He stayed down for several minutes before he was able to walk off the field with assistance. "I think the pitch just got away from their pitcher, and I'll stand by that," said Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo. "Anytime you see one of your family members go through something like that, it's pretty traumatic. It had a huge impact on our dugout. He is a veteran, he is well-liked. He's a leader, and he went down, and it hurts." Iannetta finished 1-for-3 with a solo home run as the D-Backs beat the Pirates 11-4. — Reuters

CA THREAT TO NOT PAY PLAYERS IN WAGES ROW

SYDNEY: Cricket Australia (CA) has threatened its contracted players they will not be paid beyond June 30 unless they accept the governing body's proposed overhaul of player remuneration, a report said yesterday. The escalating tension between CA and players reached new heights after chief executive James Sutherland told them in a blunt email to accept its offer. Fairfax Media reported that Sutherland sent the email on Friday to Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) chief Alistair Nicholson who then forwarded it to players around Australia. The email casts doubt on what team Australia could field after June 30, with a two-Test series scheduled in August in Bangladesh, ahead of a home Ashes showdown with England later in the year, Fairfax Media said. The email read: "CA is not contemplating alternative contracting arrangements to pay players beyond 30 June if their contracts have expired. "In the absence of the ACA negotiating a new MOU (memorandum of understanding), players with contracts expiring in 2016-17 will not have contracts for 2017-18... if a new pay deal is not struck". The ACA had moved on Friday to enter mediation with CA over the pay negotiations, which show no sign of resolution. — AFP

FORMER NFL STAR MICHAEL JACKSON DIES IN ACCIDENT



TANGIPAHOA: An early morning accident has claimed the lives of two people, including former NFL player Michael Jackson. Louisiana State Police Senior Trooper Dustin Dwight said it happened about 1 am Friday on US 51, south of the Village of Tangipahoa (tan-JUH-puh-ho-uh). After his retirement from football, Jackson held served as the mayor the village from 2009-2012. Dwight said the 48-year-old Jackson, of Kentwood, Louisiana, backed her car from a parking space across both lanes of the highway into the motorcycle's path. Because of the motorcycle's speed, it penetrated the driver's side door, killing both Jackson and Gordon, investigators said.— AP



NEW YORK: George Springer #4 of the Houston Astros catches a hit by Brett Gardner #11 of the New York Yankees in the 8th inning for the out on May 12, 2017 at Yankee Stadium. —AFP

McCANN HOMER LIFTS ASTROS OVER YANKEES

NEW YORK: Brian McCann hit a three-run homer against his former team and Lance McCullers Jr pitched four-hit ball over six shutout innings to lead the Houston Astros past the New York Yankees 5-1 in Major League Baseball on Friday night for their fifth straight victory. Carlos Correa added a pop-fly RBI single for the Astros, who boosted the top record in the majors to 25-11. Off to the best start in team history, Houston has won 10 of 12 and matched its longest winning streak of the season. Didi Gregorius hit an RBI single off James Hoyt with two outs in the ninth. New York (21-12) has dropped three in a row for the first time since the opening week of the season. The 23-year-old McCullers (3-1) struck out seven and walked none in his first start at Yankee Stadium. Rookie left-hander Jordan Montgomery (2-2) gave up four runs and eight hits in six innings.

GIANTS 3, REDS 2

Buster Posey homered with one out in the 17th inning and the San Francisco Giants beat the Cincinnati Reds for the first time this season. Posey sent the first pitch he saw from Robert Stephenson (0-2) over the left-field wall for his fourth homer of the week, ending the marathon game after 5 hours, 28 minutes. The Giants rushed out of the dugout to celebrate with Posey while the few fans remaining cheered. Cory

Gearrin (1-1) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the top of the 16th by striking out Billy Hamilton. He then stranded two more runners in the 17th to earn the win.

TWINS 1, INDIANS 0

Ervin Santana (6-1) allowed two hits and five walks in seven innings, Miguel Sano homered in the first off Josh Tomlin and Cleveland was shut out for the first time this season. Taylor Rogers got the first out of the eighth, Matt Belisle finished the inning and Brandon Kintzler pitched a perfect ninth to complete the three-hitter and earn his ninth save in 10 chances. Cleveland, coming off a 4-5 trip, went 0 for 5 with runners in scoring position and stranded eight runners.

BLUE JAYS 4, MARINERS 0

Joe Biagini (1-1) gave up four hits in five innings, combining with four relievers on a seven-hitter. Aaron Loup got one out, Danny Barnes and Ryan Tepera each worked 1 1/3 innings and Roberto Osuna finished. Jose Bautista hit a two-run homer and Devon Travis had two RBIs despite a hitless night for the Blue Jays, who have won five of six. Christian Bergman (0-1) allowed three runs and seven hits in five innings.

BRAVES 8, MARLINS 4

Tyler Flowers homered and drove in four runs as Atlanta stopped a six-game losing

streak. Flowers and Brandon Phillips each hit two-run singles during a six-run burst in the seventh inning that made it 8-1. Mike Foltyniewicz (1-4) allowed one run in six innings. JT Realmuto, Justin Bour and Derek Dietrich hit home runs for the Marlins, who have lost four straight. Jose Urena (1-1) gave up two runs in six innings.

RAYS 5, RED SOX 4

Alex Cobb (3-3) took a one-hit shutout into the seventh before tiring and gave up four runs - three earned - and three hits in 6 1/3 innings. Alex Colome got four outs for his ninth save. Evan Longoria hit a homer over the Green Monster completely out of Fenway Park Reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Rick Porcello (2-5) gave up five runs - three earned - with seven strikeouts in six innings for his second rough outing against the Rays this season. He lost only four games last year.

ROYALS 3, ORIOLES 2

Eric Hosmer delivered another key hit, doubling home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning to lead Kansas City past Baltimore. Lorenzo Cain singled with one out and Hosmer doubled to right-center field off Vidal Nuno (01). Hosmer is hitting .403 with a .581 slugging percentage, six extra-base hits and 10 RBIs in his past 16 games. He has raised his batting average 97 points from .192 to .289 in that span. Joakim Soria (2-1) worked a flawless eighth to pick up the victory. Kelvin Herrera earned his sixth save in seven chances.

RANGERS 5, ATHLETICS 2

Joey Gallo hit a game-ending three-run homer as Texas won with a four-run ninth inning for the second night in a row, this time beating Oakland. Gallo's 12th homer of the season, off A's closer Santiago Casilla (0-1), hit high off the foul pole down the right field line. Jonathan Lucroy and Rougned Odor got the ninth started with consecutive singles. Mike Napoli, whose three-run homer ended a 5-2 win over San Diego on Thursday night, then hit a deep sacrifice fly to tie the game. Odor was stopped at third when Carlos Gomez doubled into the right-center gap, but they all came home on Gallo's blast that gave the Rangers their fourth consecutive victory. Keone Kela (1-1), the fourth Rangers pitcher, went the last two innings.

BREWERS 7, METS 4

Eric Sogard and Orlando Arcia hit back-

to-back homers in the sixth off Matt Harvey, spoiling the choppy return of the Mets' starter from a three-game suspension. Harvey (2-3) allowed seven hits and five runs, including a season-high three homers, in his first outing in 10 days. The light-hitting Sogard, whose contract was selected earlier in the day from the minors, hit a two-run shot into the second deck in right to break a 2-2 tie. Arcia's pinch-hit solo homer chased Harvey from the mound three batters into sixth with nobody out. New York's Neil Walker went 3 for 3, including a solo homer off Matt Garza (2-0).

PADRES 6, WHITE SOX 3

Austin Hedges homered and drove in three runs with two out, and the San Diego Padres handed the Chicago White Sox their sixth straight loss with a 6-3 victory on Friday night. Matt Szczur also homered on the first pitch of only the 10th game ever between the teams. Wil Myers went deep in the ninth, Allen Cordoba had three hits and Jhoulys Chacin (4-3) pitched into the seventh inning, helping San Diego bounce back from a disappointing 5-2 loss at Texas. Hedges grounded a two-run double down the third base line in the third, giving the Padres a 3-0 lead. He delivered again with two out in the fifth, hitting a drive to left off Miguel Gonzalez (3-3) for his eighth homer. Leury Garcia connected twice for the White Sox, who have dropped nine of 11 overall.

DODGERS 6, ROCKIES 2

Clayton Kershaw pitched his way out of trouble time after time over seven solid innings, Chase Utley had a two-run triple as part of a five-run second and Los Angeles beat NL West-leading Colorado. Cody Bellinger added a solo homer in the eighth to help the Dodgers pull within 1 1/2 games of Colorado. Kershaw (6-2) ran his record to 89-0 when the Dodgers give him at least four runs of support. He also improved to 20-6 against the Rockies, surpassing fellow lefty Randy Johnson for most all-time wins versus the franchise. Kershaw allowed two runs and seven hits, but worked his way out of trouble with the assistance of three double plays. The Dodgers took advantage of an erratic Tyler Chatwood (3-5), who walked four and allowed five runs over 4 1/3 innings.

CUBS 3, CARDINALS 2

Willson Contreras connected twice for his first career multihome game and Eddie Butler threw six scoreless innings in his sea-

son debut as Chicago ended St. Louis' six-game winning streak. The Cubs won for just the second time in seven games. They played without NL MVP Kris Bryant, who was scratched from the lineup with a stomach virus. Butler (1-0), who pitched the last three seasons with Colorado and was traded to the Cubs before spring training, gave up two hits. He struck out five and walked three. Wade Davis got his eighth save in as many tries. Contreras homered twice off Mike Leake (4-2), who entered with the National League's best ERA and had only given up one home run in six starts.

DIAMONDBACKS 11, PIRATES 4

Chris Iannetta homered early for Arizona, and later was bloodied by a fastball to the face as the Diamondbacks beat Pittsburgh in the latest episode of ill will between the teams. Iannetta turned into a pitch from reliever Johnny Barbato in the seventh inning and appeared to be struck in the nose. Iannetta was down in the dirt for several minutes with blood dripping off his face. He eventually was helped to his feet and walked off, holding a cloth to his nose. In the ninth, Arizona reliever Tom Wilhelmson hit Pittsburgh's Chris Stewart in the leg. Stewart trotted to first base without incident. David Peralta had three hits, including an RBI double and Jake Lamb had a two-run single for the Diamondbacks, who tied a season-high with 16 hits. Patrick Corbin (3-4) went six innings and gave up four runs, two on Josh Bell's homer. Tyler Glasnow (1-3) lasted just 2 1/3 innings, giving up seven runs on seven hits.

ANGELS 7, TIGERS 0

Matt Shoemaker allowed three hits in six innings during his best start of the season, Mike Trout and Luis Valbuena homered, and Los Angeles beat Detroit. Shoemaker (2-2) found his 2016 form for the first time this season, striking out seven and walking one. He improved to 3-1 with a 0.83 ERA lifetime against the Tigers. The Angels scored runs against Jordan Zimmerman (3-2) in four of his six innings. Valbuena's solo home run started the scoring in the second and Trout's two-run blast completed it in the eighth. Zimmerman was charged with five runs on 10 hits and three walks in his 5 1/3 innings. The Angels had 14 hits, including three each from Valbuena and Cliff Pennington. Andrelton Simmons and Kole Calhoun had two apiece. —AP

MLB results/standings

San Francisco 3, Cincinnati 2 (17 innings); LA Angels 7, Detroit 0; Arizona 11, Pittsburgh 4; LA Dodgers 6, Colorado 2; Kansas City 3, Baltimore 2; Chicago Cubs 3, St. Louis 2; Milwaukee 7, NY Mets 4; San Diego 6, Chicago White Sox 3; Texas 5, Oakland 2; Atlanta 8, Miami 4; Minnesota 1, Cleveland 0; Tampa Bay 5, Boston 4; Toronto 4, Seattle 0; Houston 5, NY Yankees 1.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division					
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Baltimore	22	12	.647	-	Washington	22	12	.647	-
NY Yankees	21	12	.636	0.5	NY Mets	16	18	.471	6
Boston	18	17	.514	4.5	Philadelphia	13	19	.406	8
Tampa Bay	18	20	.474	6	Miami	13	21	.382	9
Toronto	15	21	.417	8	Atlanta	12	20	.375	9
Central Division					Central Division				
Minnesota	18	14	.563	-	St. Louis	19	15	.559	-
Cleveland	18	16	.529	1	Cincinnati	19	16	.543	0.5
Detroit	17	17	.500	2	Milwaukee	19	17	.528	1
Chicago White Sox	15	18	.455	3.5	Chicago Cubs	18	17	.514	1.5
Kansas City	14	21	.400	5.5	Pittsburgh	14	22	.389	6
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	25	11	.694	-	Colorado	23	14	.622	-
LA Angels	18	20	.474	8	LA Dodgers	21	15	.583	1.5
Seattle	17	19	.472	8	Arizona	21	16	.568	2
Texas	17	20	.459	8.5	San Diego	14	23	.378	9
Oakland	16	19	.457	8.5	San Francisco	13	24	.351	10

OVECHKIN PLAYED THROUGH MAJOR INJURIES IN PLAYOFFS

ARLINGTON: Washington Capitals superstar Alex Ovechkin played through hamstringing and knee injuries that hampered him in the playoffs. Ovechkin said he felt something in his hamstring late in Game 3 of the second-round series against the Pittsburgh Penguins and needed injections to numb the pain the rest of the way. A hit by Toronto's Nazem Kadri in Game 5 of the first round caused the left knee injury that Ovechkin downplayed.

"You don't want to play with any sort of injury," Ovechkin said at Capitals exit day Friday. "Of course, you don't feel 100 percent, you don't (have) strength in your leg, but you play through that. Some players play with broken hand, broken leg because it's the playoffs. You have to sacrifice your body to get success and get the result." Washington teammate Karl Alzner played with a broken bone in his hand and Marcus Johansson with a broken finger. Several other players talked about not being 100 percent during the playoff run.

Ovechkin said there were no tears in his hamstring or knee and that he did not

need surgery. The injury, specifically to his hamstring, was bad enough to keep him from playing for Russia at the world championships, which he has done 12 times. "I talked to (Russia's coach) and just said I'm not able to help the team," Ovechkin said. "If I can't, I can't. I wish him luck and I'm going to cheer for them. It's time to recover. It's time to take a deep breath and take some time off and get back to work."

Fellow Russian Capitals players Evgeny Kuznetsov and Dmitry Orlov are heading to Cologne, Germany, to play at the world championships. The 31-year-old captain had eight points in 13 playoff games as Washington was eliminated before the conference finals for the ninth time in as many chances. Ovechkin was moved to the third line midway through the Penguins series but said that had nothing to do with the injuries. Ovechkin doesn't know how long his recovery will take but should be back for the start of next season. "I still have three months until training camp," he said. "Come back here healthy and strong and back on track." — AP



ANAHEIM: Cam Fowler #4 and Sami Vatanen #45 of the Anaheim Ducks defend the play to the net by Austin Watson #51 of the Nashville Predators during the first overtime period of Game One of the Western Conference Final during the 2017 Stanley Cup Playoffs at Honda Center. —AFP

FRANCE BEATS BELARUS, GERMANY LOSES TO DENMARK AT ICE HOCKEY

PARIS: Stephane Da Costa saved France in a tense 4-3 shootout win against Belarus that kept its quarterfinal hopes alive, while co-host Germany lost to Denmark in overtime at the ice hockey world championship on Friday. With the top four from each group going through to Thursday's quarterfinals, Germany was in fifth place in Group A and France at sixth in Group B.

Belarus rallied from 2-0 down and led 3-2 in regulation before co-host France equalized with about seven minutes remaining to force overtime in front of a nervous home crowd in Paris. France totally rode its luck, however, as Belarus hit the post at the end of regulation and right at the start of overtime, and then blew the chance to win the shootout when France missed twice. With France trailing 1-0 in the shootout, veteran goaltender Cristobal Huet saved from Andrei Stas and - after Da Costa kept France in it with an assured finish - made another stop from Alexander Pavlovich to send the match into sudden death.

With the shooters reversed, Belarus went first and Mikhail Stefanovich - who put Belarus ahead in the shootout - was foiled by the vastly experienced Huet. Up stepped Da Costa and he confidently drew goalie Kevin Lalonde before slotting through his legs for another composed shot under pressure. The nerveless Da Costa also scored the shootout winner against Switzerland on Tuesday. Germany also led 2-0 in Cologne, scoring twice inside a minute during the first period through wingers Patrick Reimer and Brooks Macek. But the Danes leveled before the end of the period through left winger Frederik Storm and center Morten Poulsen, and won the match 3-2 when Peter Regin scored in overtime off a pass from Nikolaj Ehlers.

RISING STAR

"We were extremely tired, but Nik is one of the fastest skaters in the world and he somehow created a two-on-one for us," Regin said, describing his winner. "I was lucky to get a break and put it five hole." Germany did not start first-choice goalie Thomas Greiss for the must-win game, despite Greiss making 42 saves last Friday to help beat the United States 2-1. Germany is three points behind fourth-place Latvia ahead of their crucial match on Tuesday at the Lanxess arena.

At least Germany will be strengthened by the arrival of rising star Leon Draisaitl, whose hat trick for the Edmonton Oilers against the Anaheim Ducks last Sunday was the first by a German-born player in the NHL playoffs. "Leon will help us a lot. He had an incredible year in the NHL for such a young player," Germany forward Felix Schütz said. "He's the best German player we've ever had. He's going to give us some offense and on the power play." Earlier in Group B, center Roman Horak scored twice as the Czech Republic beat Slovenia 5-1. Right winger Michal Repik, defenseman Michal Kempny and center Roman Cervenka also scored.

The win moved the 2010 champion into second place in Group B, two points behind leader Canada, which is chasing a third straight title. Center Elias Lindholm scored his fifth of the tournament as nine-time champion Sweden moved up to second in Group A by crushing last-placed Italy 8-1. Sweden's other goals came from Victor Rask, defensemen Philip Holm and Jonas Brodin, Linus Omark, Carl Klingberg, Joel Eriksson Ek, and John Klingberg. Center William Nylander had three assists while Lindholm assisted Rask. — AP



PARIS: Belarus' Artyom Demkov, right, challenges France's Stephane da Costa, left, during the Ice Hockey World Championships group B match between France and Belarus in the AccorHotels Arena. —AP

UNDEFEATED DOLPHINS PLAYER CITES CONCUSSIONS IN ASSAULT

MAYS LANDING: A player on the Miami Dolphins' undefeated 1972 team cited neurological problems he says he has from concussions during his career as he pleaded guilty Friday to punching a man in the face in New Jersey. In entering the plea, Henry Stuckey told the judge that concussions he suffered during a five-year career as a defensive back with the Dolphins and New York Giants have affected his memory. He pleaded guilty to aggravated assault against another resident of his Atlantic City apartment complex, and Judge Bernard DeLury sentenced Stuckey to three years' probation, the Press of Atlantic City reported.

Attorney Ed Thompson said medical records show Stuckey has a cognitive impairment. Stuckey said he should have run from the altercation rather than punching the man. He said he's glad he didn't hurt the man worse than he did and told the judge he is going on medication and taking anger management lessons. "All those concussions gave me an irresponsible way of analyzing stuff," he said. A federal

judge in February urged NFL retirees to register for a concussion settlement that could cost the league \$1 billion over 65 years. About 22,000 retirees are encouraged to get baseline neurological testing. The league expects more than 6,000 of them to eventually be diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

The settlement comes from a class-action lawsuit that accused the NFL of hiding what it knew about the link between concussions and chronic traumatic encephalopathy, the degenerative brain disease that has been found in dozens of former players after their deaths. Stuckey told the newspaper his head injuries included being knocked unconscious while trying to tackle Pittsburgh Steelers star running back Franco Harris in a 1973 game. He said he still has his two Super Bowl rings from his time with the Dolphins. But he said he wouldn't play football if he had to do it again. "I can't sit down, I can run but I have to stop because I get dizzy," he told the newspaper. "We come out of there beat up, really beat up." — AP

NEAL'S OT GOAL PUTS PREDATORS PAST DUCKS 3-2 TO OPEN WEST FINAL

ANAHEIM: A few moments after James Neal crumpled Anaheim's Brandon Montour with a vicious check, the Nashville forward took a pass from PK Subban and ripped a shot past three Ducks for the winning overtime goal. Even in uncharted territory for this franchise, the Predators are still rolling through the Stanley Cup playoffs with their distinct combination of smash and flash.

Neal scored 9:24 into OT, Pekka Rinne made 27 saves and the Predators kicked off their first appearance in the NHL Western Conference finals with a 3-2 victory over the Anaheim Ducks on Friday night. Filip Forsberg and Austin Watson scored in regulation for the Predators, who improved to 9-2 in this NHL postseason. They also won their third straight series opener on the road, continuing their month-long run of relentless postseason play.

"It shows a lot of character," Rinne said. "All night, we had a lot of chances and we didn't give them a lot. ... I thought that we created a lot, and eventually we were going to get one by him. I thought (Ducks goalie John) Gibson played a strong game tonight, but guys stuck with it. We've been doing that the whole playoffs. It's a great sign for a team."

After finishing off St. Louis in the second round last weekend and resting while the Ducks labored through seven games against Edmonton, Nashville capitalized on its fresh legs to win a predictably physical game between two hard-hitting powers. Nashville got off to a strong start and followed it up with a gritty overtime effort after Hampus Lindholm's first playoff goal in two years tied it for the Ducks in the third period.

Neal put a long shot past a sprawled Gibson after a prolonged threat by the Predators that left Anaheim's defense in disarray. The goal was the veteran forward's third in four games. "I don't know if it hit the goalie or the player that was laying in front still," Neal said. "But it was a good feeling to see it go in." Jakob Silfverberg scored on the Ducks' first shot, and Gibson stopped 43 shots in a stellar performance. Just two days after finishing off the Oilers in the second round, Anaheim struggled to keep up at times in its second conference finals appearance in three years. "No guy will use that as an excuse," said center Nate Thompson, who won the faceoff that led to Lindholm's tying goal. "They came out and took it to us. We just need to get back to playing our game."

FEISTY HISTORY

Although this conference final matches two Sun Belt clubs 2,000 miles apart, they have a feisty history. Anaheim and Nashville are meeting in the postseason for the third time, including the past two seasons. Nashville twice won Game 1 and went on to claim the previous two series with major help from Rinne, who usually has been at his inimitable best when facing the Ducks' scorers. Rinne picked up right where he left off last season when Nashville eliminated Anaheim from the first round in seven games, but Gibson was similarly outstanding.

"We knew they were going to come hard," Gibson said. "It was their first game in a while. We weren't our best, but we lost in overtime. If you look at the first period, they really came on us with a lot of pressure. We haven't played a team like that in a while. We got better as the game went on." The Ducks got just one shot on goal in the first 13 minutes of Game 1, but Silfverberg put it into Rinne's far top corner for his eighth goal in 12 games this spring, matching his goal total in 48 games over his previous six trips to the postseason.

Nashville dominated the weary Ducks, and Forsberg forced a turnover on a forecheck before tipping Matt Irwin's shot through Gibson for his fourth goal. Watson then put the Predators ahead early in the second period with his first playoff goal, banking his shot in off Anaheim defenseman Sami Vatanen. The Ducks played a strong third period and evened it when Lindholm scored his first playoff goal in 25 games since Game 1 of the 2015 Western Conference finals against Chicago. — AP

A BLAST FROM THE PAST: VIJAY SINGH IN THE HUNT

PONTE VEDRA BEACH: The last time Vijay Singh started this well in The Players Championship was in 2006, when he was No. 2 in the world and still adding to his record of most PGA Tour victories in his 40s. It felt like old times Friday when he got within one shot of the lead until a bogey on the 18th hole for a 4-under 68 to finish three shots out of the lead. Chalk that up to practice, nothing new for the 54-year-old Singh. In this case, it was practice on the Players Stadium Course.

"I had quite a few rounds here before I left for Wilmington, so I was quite familiar with the conditions," Singh said. "It was a lot firmer, but we knew that it was going to be really firm because of new greens. I've never played that many rounds before the tournament, so I was kind of familiar with the winds." It also helps that Singh finally won on the 50-and-older PGA Tour Champions, when he teamed with Carlos Franco to win the Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf. "I came here feeling good about my game," he said. "I was ready to play. I was ready to play well, too. I'm playing well and I'm excited about it."

Singh won 34 times on the PGA Tour - 22 times when he was in his 40s - including two majors at the Masters and PGA Championship. But he rarely had a chance at The Players Championship in the city he calls home. His best chance was in 2001, when he was runner-up to Tiger Woods. He had only three other top 10s in 23 appearances.

One of the more celebrated figures in golf, there was one awkward aspect to his strong play. It was four years ago this week that Singh sued the PGA Tour, claiming it exposed him to "public humiliation and ridicule" during a 12-week investigation into his use of deer antler spray. The case remains in a New York court. "I don't want to talk about that," Singh said when asked about the lawsuit.

He was plenty happy to talk about his game, especially his putting. He rolled in putts of 25, 40 and 30 feet in his round. "I've been rolling the ball really, really well," Singh said. "And my caddie just got excited every time I got it on the green. It was said I three-

putted the last hole, but that's a strong part of my game right now. If I keep putting like that, I'm going to be right there on Sunday."

THE ISLAND

A back pin on the island-green 17th is no bargain, especially when the greens are firm. No need telling that to Zac Blair, who put three tee shots into the water and made a 9. Ryder Cup captain Jim Furyk celebrated his 47th birthday on Friday by putting two shots in the water, leading to a 7 that caused him to miss the cut. There were 29 balls in the water on Friday, the second-most of any round since the tour began using ShotLink to keep track in 2003. The record was 50 balls in the opening round in 2007.

BAGS PACKED

Jordan Spieth missed the cut, and he didn't seem the least bit concerned. Spieth didn't make a birdie until the 15th hole, and he was in position to get inside the cut line until missing yet again on the 16th from about 12 feet. The putt never really had a chance, at least not by his standards. And then, he put his tee shot in the water on the 17th and that was that. "It's just been on and around the greens. I just haven't quite figured it out," Spieth said. "These greens get pretty crusty and, historically, whenever firm Bermuda greens are crusty to where it's tough to set the putter down, I just struggle with my alignment and it just kind of throws me off. It happened again here."

Spieth shot 76 and missed the cut for the second time in his last three individual events, the other one at the Houston Open. This was the first of four in a row for Spieth, who heads home to the Dallas area for the Byron Nelson and Colonial before going to the Memorial. "Game's in really good shape," he said. "Historically, just haven't really figured it out on these greens yet and so I'm just not going to think too much about it. This is probably the best I felt about my game after a missed cut after, so I've got three exciting weeks coming up." —AP



FLORIDA: Vijay Singh, of Fiji, watches his shot from the 12th tee during the second round of The Players Championship golf tournament Friday, May 12, 2017, in Ponte Vedra Beach. —AP



MONTMELO: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain steers his car during the third practice session for the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix at the Barcelona Catalunya racetrack. —AP

HAMILTON RESISTS VETTEL TO CLAIM SPANISH GP POLE

BARCELONA: Lewis Hamilton secured pole position for today's Spanish Grand Prix for Mercedes in a closely-contested qualifying session at the Circuit de Catalunya yesterday. The three-time champion Briton resisted a powerful late challenge in the final seconds of Q3 from championship-leading four-time champion Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari. "It was very close, but well done to Lewis," said Vettel. "And a big thank-you to my team. I'm afraid it was my lock-up at the end of the lap that made the difference. "It was a really good lap up to the final chicane."

A beaming Hamilton, who has bounced

back to his best form after a puzzling loss of pace in Russia, said his first lap had been "very, very good, but the last lap was only so-so... But I am super proud that we are back up there." Hamilton clocked a best lap of one minute and 19.149 seconds to stay ahead of Vettel, who clocked 1:19.200, by the narrowest of margins after the German had required a rapid engine change shortly before the session began.

It was the 64th pole of Hamilton's career, lifting him to within one of his childhood hero Brazilian Ayrton Senna, on 65, and four from German Michael Schumacher on 68. Finns Valtteri Bottas, in the second Mercedes, who

also had an engine change on Saturday morning, and Kimi Raikkonen, in the second Ferrari, were third and fourth fastest.

PERFECT DAY

Dutch teenager Max Verstappen, who won last year's race on debut with Red Bull, was fifth ahead of his team-mate Australian Daniel Ricciardo with local hero Fernando Alonso grabbing a very popular seventh against the odds for McLaren-Honda. On a perfect, if windy, spring day, the session began with a track temperature of 44 degrees Celsius and Vettel hurrying to join the fray after Ferrari had

changed his engine following a water leak problem discovered in final practice.

In his third new power unit of the four permitted this year, Vettel used team radio to thank his mechanics for their efforts before being told "stop the car" on his installation lap. "Are you sure?" he responded, wisely. After making a 'driver default' change in the car, Vettel was soon back up to speed. "Seems better now," he said, as he clocked an early fastest lap in 1:20.939. Hamilton trimmed four-tenths off that to set the Q1 pace, with Bottas third ahead of Raikkonen, who soon improved to second. As Q2 began, Mercedes reminded

Hamilton "this is our race start set" of tyres, a message not heeded by Bottas who locked up at Turn One and flat-spotted his tyres, requiring a second hot lap. Hamilton ran wide at Turn Five, but was fastest in Q2 by a narrow margin—less than a tenth-ahead of Vettel and Bottas, but the lap that lifted the crowd came from Alonso, who reached the top ten shootout for the first time this year, 24 hours after yet another engine failure on Friday. For the Spaniard, who is heading to the Indianapolis 500 instead of Monaco later this month, it was a personal triumph four years after his last victory, with Ferrari in Spain, in 2013. — AFP

SHAKIB WARNS BANGLADESH WILL SURVIVE IRISH WEATHER

DUBLIN: Shakib Al Hasan expects Bangladesh to improve the longer the Tri-Series in Ireland goes on after conceding it took time to get used to the conditions in their opening game against the hosts on Friday. Bangladesh lost their first four wickets inside 15 overs but an unbroken stand of 87 between Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah put them back in control before rain ended the game after 31 overs.

"It is different to what we are used to early on and it was not easy, but as the ball got older and softer the ball was coming nicely onto the bat," said Shakib who was captaining the team in place of Mashrafe Mortaza, who was serving a one-game suspension. "It was good experience, and we are now looking forward to the next game, against New Zealand (on Wednesday)."

Tamim Iqbal's hopes of scoring the first century of the series were cut short by the rain when he was 64 not out, having hit eight boundaries but Shakib was impressed by his batting as the opener led his side's recovery after losing four wickets for 70. "Tamim played beautifully," said Shakib. "He applied himself really well and so did Mahmudullah (who was 43 not out). That partnership changed the momentum and we started controlling the game."

Indeed, Shakib believed that on the small Malahide ground, which will stage all four Ireland games in the six-match series,

300 is only a par score and they remained on course for that at 157 for four, with 19 overs remaining. The New Zealanders may have 10 players still involved in the Indian Premier League but Shakib expects them to provide formidable opposition when they meet at the nearby Clontarf ground on the next two Wednesdays. They will also be seeking revenge from the last time they met the Blackcaps.

"They have a new team, as they are still in the IPL so they will be missing some experience, but they are still the second ranked (sic) team and they will come hard at us," he added. "We played them a few months back, it wasn't a good memory as we didn't too well in New Zealand but these are different conditions, a different scenario and we are hoping to do well." Ireland captain William Porterfield was pleased with his side's early bowling as they took advantage of the green pitch, having won the toss under overcast skies.

No-one was more impressive than Peter Chase, their 23-year-old opening bowler who, playing on his home ground, followed up his five wickets in last weekend's ODIs against England with another three-wicket haul. "My confidence is going up every time I play, taking wickets obviously helps and hopefully I can continue doing that throughout the series," said Chase. Ireland's next match is against New Zealand today. —AFP



BOUBYAN STRIKERS WIN BLESSEN GEORGE TOURNAMENT

KUWAIT: Boubyan Strikers volleyball team dominated the fourth Blessen George volleyball memorial tournament and won the final match against ACME by the score of 3-1 which was held at Al-Shabab Sports Club volleyball hall. The final match was attended by Kuwait Volleyball Federation president Waleed Aman, Secretary General Abdallah Kayed, Chairman of Al-Shabab Club Yacoub Ramadhan, Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee Oommen George and Secretary

Chessil Cherian and a large crowd from the Indian community.

The final match was up to expectation as the two teams gave an outstanding performance and Boubyan was able to push to victory with they're high levels of concentration and boundless determination. Third place went to King of Volleyball team which beat ABR team 3-0. Abdelrahman Al-Otaibi from King of Volleyball was selected best player in the tournament while Ukkara Pandian from

Boubyan Strikers won the best setter prize and Anoop D'Costa won the best player of the final match. KVF president Waleed Aman said he was happy for the success the festival enjoyed and hoped such events continue to be held. He said the matches were strong especially the semifinals and finals where the competition was fierce. HOC chairman Oommen George thanked all those who contributed to festival's success including KVF and Al-Shabab club.



NO RISK IF LA GETS '24 GAMES: IOC OFFICIAL

LOS ANGELES: An International Olympic Committee delegation on Friday lavished praise on Los Angeles's bid for the 2024 Games, stating that there would be "no major risk" if the city was awarded the sporting extravaganza. Patrick Baumann, chairman of the IOC's Evaluation Commission, said at the end of a three-day visit that delegates had been impressed by what they had found in an "incredible Olympic city."

"Los Angeles is already a great Olympic city but after these three days, we realize that was a great understatement," Baumann said. "The Olympic spirit is incredibly strong in this city." Los Angeles, which is competing against Paris for the right to host the Games, has based its bid on an array of iconic venues which already exist or are being built. Baumann said the readiness of so many venues as well as plans to use the campus of UCLA as the athletes' village-left a good impression on the IOC team.

"This visit has confirmed our opinion that Los Angeles has developed an excellent proposal and probably, given the facilities that are already here, that seven years of lead time is a luxury," Baumann said. "In LA there is no major risk that we can highlight in any way right now," Baumann told reporters, adding that commission members had been "almost ecstatic" while visiting venues during the trip.

"It goes from spectacular venues to impressive venues, to mindblowing venues to incredible venues," Baumann said. "That's a very clear and positive thing because you're able to see (the venues)." Los Angeles is hoping to exploit the Olympic movement's desire to avoid the spectacle seen from recent Games of costly, white elephant venues left to fall into disuse.

A BID WITH NO HOLES

The Evaluation Commission will begin a three-day visit of 2024 rival Paris starting on Sunday, before publishing reports on both bids in early July. The IOC will then hold a vote in Lima on September 13 to decide which city gets the games. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, one of LA 2024's leaders, meanwhile revealed that private feedback from individual members of the IOC delegation had also been positive. "One of them said to us: 'We keep looking for the hole in this bid and we can't find it,'" Garcetti told journalists. Paris and Los Angeles were left as the last two cities in the race after Rome, Budapest and Hamburg pulled out amid widespread public opposition to the multibillion-dollar cost of staging the games. In recent months, speculation has mounted the IOC will offer hosting rights to the 2028 Olympics to the city which fails to win the 2024 Games. —AFP



LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, center, speaks as he is joined by Los Angeles 2024 Chairman Casey Wasserman during a news conference at Staples Center. —AP

WINDIES CRAWL TO 218-5 AT STUMPS AGAINST PAKISTAN

ROSEAU: West Indies replicated their opponents' dour batting effort in crawling to 218 for five off 100 overs in reply to Pakistan's first innings total of 376 at stumps on day three of the third and final Test at Windsor Park in Dominica on Friday. Leg-spinner Yasir Dhanif lifted his series-leading wicket tally to 20 with three victims in the morning session but the home side then showed resolve with all-rounder Roston Chase leading the defiance in a top score of 60 before being forced to retire hurt in the final session. Struck painfully on the right elbow attempting a pull at Mohammad Amir operating with the second new ball, the lanky right-hander's departure after 190 minutes at the crease gave Pakistan a measure of optimism which was heightened when Vishnu Singh fell leg-before to Mohammad Abbas to make the score 189 for five. However captain Jason Holder, despite sustaining a painful blow as well on his left shoulder, held firm with Shane Dowrich and the pair will resume on the fourth morning heartened by the prospect of Chase returning at the fall of the next wicket

to continue his innings.

For all of Shah's perseverance and the efforts of the fast-medium bowlers it was Azhar Ali's part-time leg-spin which broke a stubborn 55-run fourth-wicket partnership between Chase and Shai Hope in mid-afternoon. Having batted grittily for almost three hours, Hope mistimed a drive off the very last ball of the post-lunch session to be caught for 29. He was a model of correctness and discipline until his critical error of judgment.

In contrast, Chase played more positively. Nevertheless both found run-scoring difficult and had moments of good fortune. Troubled again by Shah operating round the wicket, Chase was given out on 23, caught at slip by Younis Khan as he swung at the leg-spinner. However the decision of standing umpire Richard Illingworth was overturned on review of the television replays. There was more frustration for the bowler in his very next over as Asad Shafiq failed to hold on to a fierce square-cut from Hope.

Earlier, Shah raised Pakistan's hopes of dismissing the West Indies cheaply

despite the placid pitch. He broke a 43-run opening partnership when Kieran Powell's miscued heave was well caught by Azhar Ali running in off the boundary. With Kraigg Brathwaite plodding along in his usual stoic manner at the other end, Shimron Hetmyer

sought to seize the initiative only for Shah to bring his enterprise to an end when an original "not out" verdict by presiding umpire Bruce Oxenford for an appeal for a leg-side catch by wicketkeeper Sarfraz Ahmed was overturned on television review. — AFP



ROSEAU: West Indies batsman Shane Dowrich is bowled out for 20 off the bowling of Mohammad Amir of Pakistan (L) during the fourth days of play of the 3rd and final test match at the Windsor Park Stadium. — AFP



—photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

‘GYMNAZIA’ LAUNCHES FIRST GYMNASTICS COMPETITION

KUWAIT: On May 6th and in a first of its kind event in Kuwait, “Gymnazia” School of Dance and Gymnastics took the initiative to launch the first Annual Gymnastics Competition in Kuwait. It was held at the Kuwait’s Judo Federation indoor stadium. A stadium that could live up to the technical requirements of such a competition.

Over 230 gymnasts between the ages of 4 to

17 years old from Gymnazia school participated in team and individual competitions in Rhythmic and Acrobatic Gymnastics. A huge turnout of enthusiastic parents and spectators cheered and encouraged the gymnasts through the series of beautiful performances. The gymnasts demonstrated high skills in coordination and control over free hand routines and manipulating apparatus such as the ball, ribbon and

hoop. Gymnasts at “Gymnazia” have been trained by Olympic experienced instructors and former Olympic participants. A panel of judges was present as well, some of which were renowned International judges brought from abroad. Medals were presented to the top three winners in the individual performances and the winning teams, as well as gifts of appreciation to the judges and gymnastics instructors, while

parents expressed their high appreciation of the event organization as an important sport and community event much needed in Kuwait.

“Gymnazia” had a very busy week. On the 29th of April, “Gymnazia” held its 3rd Annual Performance of Dance & Ballet held at TES’s (The English School in Kuwait) theatre, where 200 Dancers and ballerinas performed 42 dances with amazing variations, costumes and

vibrant colours under the theme “Mosaic”, which truly was an impressive Mosaic of talents, cultures, and skills. Dancers and ballerinas were also trained by highly educated International Ballet instructors. “Gymnazia” School of Gymnastics and Dance was established in Kuwait in 2015 and has grown over the years to include more than 550 young dancers and gymnasts.

REDS ON ALERT AS TOP FOUR BID REACHES CRUNCH TIME

LONDON: Two victories from their final two matches will book Liverpool’s place in next season’s Champions League, but Jurgen Klopp’s side won’t be taking anything for granted when they face West Ham on Sunday. Liverpool dropped two points as they were held 0-0 at home by Southampton last weekend, and can be grateful that their fate is still in their own hands thanks to Manchester United’s defeat at Arsenal. The Reds have already struggled against West Ham this season, recovering from a half-time deficit to earn a 2-2 draw at Anfield in December.

At least they are playing better on their travels than at Anfield at the moment, having won their last three away matches, while their last three home games have yielded no victories and only two points. Klopp is hopeful midfielder Lucas Leiva and forward Roberto Firmino may be able to overcome injury concerns to play some part in the game, even if they are not involved in the starting line-up at the London Stadium.

Both players have missed training this week because of muscle problems, although Lucas was set to rejoin the squad on Friday and Firmino on Saturday. Perhaps the most significant bonus for Klopp, though, is the fact that Daniel Sturridge appears to be finally over the injury problems that have troubled him for the best part of three years. The striker has not played a full 90 minutes for Liverpool all season, but impressed during a brief run-out as a substitute against Southampton and, having recovered from a hip problem, is likely to start at West Ham if Firmino is not risky.

“Daniel is ready. That is good. So far it’s been difficult because you can’t start a player then have to think after 40 minutes: So we have to change?” Klopp said. “Daniel is a wonderful option to have but it is all about being fit or not. It is not the name we bring on the pitch, it is the player, the human being, in this specific shape. “When he was fit he was always a real option for us. And it is again now like this.”

BANISHED

West Ham enjoyed a 1-0 home win against Tottenham last week, a result that banished any lingering fears of being dragged back into a relegation fight. Hammers manager Slaven Bilic was keen to replicate that energetic performance against Liverpool. “We are preparing and planning to do something similar,” he said. “There are a lot of similarities between those two sides.” We still have two games and we are very ambitious that we get six points and climb up the table.” Bilic does not have a full-strength squad to choose from however as captain Mark Noble and fellow midfielder Cheikhou Kouyate both require surgery. Noble has been playing through the pain barrier despite a hernia while Kouyate has been operating since January with a damaged wrist. Michail Antonio, who has just signed a new, four-year deal, had already been ruled out, along with midfielder Pedro Obiang. Andy Carroll has not recovered from a groin problem in time to face his former team. Carroll has been dogged by injury problems, many of which have sidelined him for months, since leaving Anfield. “This has

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Crystal Palace v Hull City	14:00	beIN SPORTS HD 2
West Ham United v Liverpool	16:15	beIN SPORTS HD 2
Tottenham v Man United	18:30	beIN SPORTS HD 2

SPANISH LEAGUE		
Deportivo Alaves v Celta	7:00	beIN SPORTS HD 3
de Bilbao v CD Leganes	1:00	beIN SPORTS
Las Palmas v Barcelona	21:00	beIN SPORTS HD 2
Real Madrid v Sevilla	21:00	beIN SPORTS
Real Sociedad v Malaga CF	21:00	beIN SPORTS
Villarreal v Deportivo La Coruna	21:00	beIN SPORTS HD 1 FR
Real Betis v Atletico de Madrid	21:00	beIN SPORTS
SD Eibar v Sporting Gijon	21:00	beIN SPORTS

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE		
Internazionale v Sassuolo	13:30	beIN SPORTS HD 4
Bologna v Pescara	16:00	beIN SPORTS
Torino FC v SSC Napoli	16:00	beIN SPORTS HD 4
Sampdoria v Chievo Verona	16:00	beIN SPORTS
Citta di Palermo v Genoa	16:00	beIN SPORTS
Cagliari Calcio v Empoli	16:00	beIN SPORTS
Crotone v Udinese Calcio	16:00	beIN SPORTS
AS Roma v Juventus FC	21:45	beIN SPORTS HD 4

FRENCH LEAGUE		
FC Metz v Toulouse	22:00	beIN SPORTS
AS Monaco v Lille OSC	22:00	beIN SPORTS HD 6
Montpellier v Lyonnais	22:00	beIN SPORTS
Nantes v Guingamp	22:00	beIN SPORTS
Bastia v Lorient	22:00	beIN SPORTS
Saint Etienne v PSG	22:00	beIN SPORTS HD 7
OGC Nice v Angers	22:00	beIN SPORTS
Caen v Stade Rennes	22:00	beIN SPORTS
de Bordeaux v de Marseille	22:00	beIN SPORTS
Dijon v AS Nancy Lorraine	22:00	beIN SPORTS



WEST BROMWICH: Chelsea players celebrate victory after the English Premier League match between West Bromwich Albion and Chelsea at The Hawthorns stadium. — AFP

BATSHUAYI DELIVERS CHELSEA SIXTH PREMIER LEAGUE TITLE

WEST BROMWICH: Substitute Michy Batshuayi’s dramatic 82nd-minute winner gave Chelsea the Premier League title following a hard-earned 1-0 victory at West Bromwich Albion on Friday. The Belgian striker’s late goal at The Hawthorns took Antonio Conte’s side 10 points clear of second-place Tottenham Hotspur, who have only nine points left to play for. It is Chelsea’s second title win in three seasons, their sixth in total, and comes at the end of former Juventus and Italy coach Conte’s first season as manager.

“This is a great achievement for the players,” Conte told Sky Sports in a pitch-side interview after breaking away from his players’ jubilant celebrations. “I thank them for their commitment and work-rate. They showed me a great attitude to try to do something great this season. After this win we must be happy, we must be pleased. “It wasn’t easy for me to arrive in England and try different habits, a different language and inherit players after a bad season.”

A video posted on Chelsea’s official Twitter account showed reserve goalkeeper Asmir Begovic tipping an ice bucket over Conte as he entered the changing room while Diego Costa sprayed him with champagne. Batshuayi, the understudy to Costa, had only been on the pitch for seven minutes when he scored the winning goal-his first in the league since August.

“It’s good. It’s the best day for Chelsea today,” said Batshuayi, who arrived from Marseille last year in a £33.2 million (\$42.8 million, 39.1 million euros) transfer. “Everybody is happy. It’s great to take the trophy.” Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas said: “I thought it was going to be one of those days. We had so many chances in the first half and then we got a bit nervous. “The beauty of football: a player who didn’t play a lot scores the winning goal for the championship.”

Conte, who claimed three Serie A titles as Juventus coach, has restored Chelsea to the winners’ circle by rebuilding from the chaotic end of Jose Mourinho’s second reign. Two years after Mourinho led Chelsea to the title, Conte has stitched the London club back together after dressing-room unity unraveled under Mourinho during a horrendous title defence last season. The Italian’s side finally broke through West Brom’s stubborn resistance with eight minutes remaining and will now chase the double when they face Arsenal in the FA Cup final on May 27.

CONTE CELEBRATION

Chelsea were almost stunned inside 30 seconds as West Brom created the game’s first chance. Darren Fletcher’s lofted pass found Salomon Rondon and his flicked header drew a smart save from Thibaut Courtois. Chelsea quickly began applying pressure, but West Brom had a huge chance on the counter-attack when James McClean seized on a loose pass and raced 50 yards into Chelsea territory. But his attempted

pass to Rondon was poor and the Venezuelan was crowded out by Chelsea defenders.

Chelsea were becoming frustrated in their efforts to breach the Baggies’ defense, but Fabregas nearly broke through with a snap-shot that flashed half a yard wide of the far post. Chelsea might have broken the deadlock just two minutes into the second half when a powerful cross-shot from Victor Moses was turned around the post superbly by West Brom goalkeeper Ben Foster.

Yet there was almost a shock for Chelsea when Rondon escaped a challenge from David Luiz and raced clear, only for Cesar Azpilicueta to make a vital, saving challenge. Rondon then teed up substitute Nacer Chadli, who fired a shot narrowly wide. But with eight minutes remaining, Chelsea finally struck as Azpilicueta broke

into the West Brom box and crossed from the right for Batshuayi to force home from close range. Conte charged onto the field in celebration, while West Brom stewards were forced to eject three pitch invaders before the game could be completed and Chelsea could celebrate the title. “We didn’t need Chelsea to get a bit of luck,” said West Brom manager Tony Pulis. “We needed to have the breaks go for us. We contained them well. No-one can say they had an easy game.” Long-standing captain John Terry will lift the Premier League trophy after Chelsea’s final game of the season at home to Sunderland on May 21, which will be his last match for the club. “These boys have been on the field doing it week in, week out,” Terry said. “It’s been a delight to sit and watch, a different perspective. The togetherness was shown from day one.” —AFP

TOTTENHAM AWAITS ‘SPECIAL’ WHITE HART LANE FAREWELL

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino expects a “special” day today when his side play Manchester United in the last game at White Hart Lane. With Chelsea having wrapped up the Premier League title by winning at West Bromwich Albion on Friday, Spurs’ farewell to their home of 118 years will now be the central focus of today’s game. “I hope Sunday will be the most special day in the last three seasons. It will be special for our fans, staff, players, people who love Tottenham,” Pochettino said. “At the same time I am excited about the new stadium because the soul and the smell of White Hart Lane will keep there. “When the new era and stadium arrive there will be different expectations, but, most important, always in our memory will be White Hart Lane, the soul and the smell. “When you move to another area it’s so difficult, but now we are changing nothing because the new stadium will be in the same place as White Hart Lane and that is fantastic.”

Whatever the outcome, Sunday will be a deeply poignant occasion as Spurs say goodbye to a ground graced by such club greats as Jimmy Greaves, Danny Blanchflower, Steve Perryman, Glenn Hoddle and Paul Gascoigne. A ceremony featuring figures from the club’s past will take place after the game and fans have been offered the chance to buy their seats for £50 (\$64.40, 59 euros).

Demolition work on the Lane, Spurs’ home since 1899, will begin on Monday to make way for the club’s new 61,559-seater stadium, which will be completed in time for the 2018-19 campaign. Spurs had hoped to bow out at

the atmospheric old ground with a first league title since 1961, but although that objective has now disappeared, they still have a chance to make history.

Pochettino’s side are gunning for a 14th successive home league win, which would equal the club record, set over two seasons in 1987, and establish a new mark for consecutive home victories within the same campaign. They can also go unbeaten at home in a league season for the first time since 1964-65.

UP IN SMOKE

United have unhappy recent memories of a farewell match at a venerable London venue. Their Champions League hopes went up in smoke last season after they lost 3-2 to West Ham United in the final game at Upton Park. United went 14 games without defeat at the Lane before last season’s 3-0 loss, but gone are the days when their former manager Alex Ferguson could dismiss Spurs’ threat with a disdainful: “Lads, it’s Tottenham.”

Spurs will finish above United this term for the third time in four seasons and Jose Mourinho’s side have little motivation to spoil the farewell party. Four points off the top four, Mourinho has abandoned hope of qualifying for the Champions League via the league and is likely to rest players after Thursday’s Europa League semi-final success against Celta Vigo.

“In the Premier League we can only finish fifth or sixth, I think,” said Mourinho, whose team’s 25-game unbeaten run came to an end in north London last weekend following a 2-0 defeat at Arsenal. —AFP



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool’s English striker Daniel Sturridge runs during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Southampton at Anfield. —AFP

JAZEERA AIRWAYS HAILS SUCCESS OF RUNKUWAIT 230-KM RUN SPONSORSHIP

KUWAIT: JAZEERA Airways, the first private airline in Kuwait and the Middle East, is proud to have concluded its sponsorship of the first-of-its-kind RunKuwait 230-kilometer run, from the northern to the southern borders of the country. The motivational challenge, organized by RunKuwait in collaboration with Jazeera Airways, aimed at encouraging aspiring athletes and determined runners from diverse communities to push their boundaries and reach new heights.

The 6-day program started at the Northern borders of Kuwait which served as a battlefield for six runners who previously came out victorious from a group of 120 participants. Hailing from different walks of life, the runners pursued and overcame physical and mental challenges each day to reach the finish line at the southern borders of Kuwait. The run hoped to inspire a new wave of go getters to step out of their comfort zones and lead happy, healthy and active lives.

"Empowering more people to pursue ambitious goals in a competitive setting was an extremely rewarding experience. Forging ahead by pushing boundaries and overcoming challenges holds true to our vision of achieving new frontiers in a challenging world, with boldness and determination," said Rohit Ramachandran, Chief Executive Officer at Jazeera Airways.

Ushering in a new phase of inspired sports enthusiasts, the 230 Km challenge forced members to test their limits with indomitable stamina and admirable mental and physical strength. Day one demonstrated the runners' resilience as they had to undertake a 40 km distance run challenged by dehydration, sun strokes and muscle cramps. Ramachandran added, "The life lessons learnt from the RunKuwaitis that resilience and determination are key in achieving success. We hope to inspire more people to believe in themselves and pursuit ambitious endeavors for individual and societal benefits." Jazeera Airways will continue to sponsor similar dynamic platforms in line with its Corporate Social Responsibility to remain a seamless source of inspiration in the community and deliver real change.



LEIPZIG: Leipzig's Hungarian goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi watches the ball go into the goal as Bayern Munich scores the 1-1 during the German first division Bundesliga football match between RB Leipzig and FC Bayern Munich.—AFP

ROBBEN HITS WINNER IN NINE-GOAL THRILLER

BERLIN: Arjen Robben scored a superb solo goal in the 95th-minute to seal Bayern Munich's dramatic 5-4 comeback win at RB Leipzig in the Bundesliga's electric top-of-the-table clash yesterday. Carlo Ancelotti's star-studded Bayern, who were already confirmed German league champions for the fifth straight year, found themselves 4-3 down on 90 minutes until David Alaba drilled home a 91st-minute free-kick.

Robben, 33, then proved he still had the legs to sprint clear of the defence as his winning goal capped a superb run. It was heart-break for second-placed RB Leipzig, who were minutes from avenging their 3-0 defeat at Bayern's Allianz Arena last December. Bayern's last-gasp victory leaves them 13 points clear in the table and captain Philipp Lahm will lift the Bundesliga trophy after next Saturday's home match against Freiburg. Leipzig's Timo Werner netted twice and with 21 league goals he is the Bundesliga's best German striker and a shoe-in when Germany's squad for next month's Confederations Cup is announced on Wednesday. In the race to be the league's top-scorer, Bayern's Robert Lewandowski also scored twice to leave him on 30 goals, one more than nearest rival, Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, with a game left. The first goal came after just 65 seconds when Leipzig's Marcel Sabitzer headed home, then Werner hit the post on 12 minutes. Bayern drew level when a Lahm cross clipped the arm of defender Bernardo and Lewandowski drilled home the penalty on 16 minutes.

Hosts Leipzig restored the lead when Xabi Alonso fouled RB's playmaker Emil

Forsberg and Werner netted home the spot kick. Danish striker Yussuf Poulsen made it 3-1 to Leipzig just after the break when his shot wrong-footed Bayern's third-choice goalkeeper Tom Starke after clipping Alonso's boot. But Bayern stayed in touch as Thiago Alcantara headed home Alonso's cross on 60 minutes, before Werner grabbed his second on 65 after turning Germany defender Jerome Boateng.

When Robben hit the crossbar with a free-kick on 84 minutes, Lewandowski reacted fastest to head home the rebound, which set the scene for the dramatic late goals. Questions will be asked of Bayern's defense, which shipped four goals for the first time since losing 4-1 at Wolfsburg in January 2015. With Bayern and Leipzig already assured direct Champions League places, the battle rages on for the third automatic place after third-placed Dortmund drew 1-1 at Augsburg.

It means they are level on 61 points with fourth-placed Hoffenheim, who romped to a 5-3 victory at Werder Bremen with ex-Leicester City striker Andrej Kramaric scoring twice. Hertha Berlin and sixth-placed Freiburg, who drew 1-1 at Ingolstadt, are in pole position to qualify for the Europa League next season.

Hertha are fifth after 19-year-old defender Jordan Torunarigha scored his first goal for the club after Salomon Kalou opened the scoring for the visitors with Darmstadt's relegation already confirmed. Ingolstadt, 17th in the table, had their relegation confirmed after Hamburg's 1-1 draw at home to Schalke means they are four points adrift with one game left. — AFP

SEVILLA THREATENS REAL'S NAIL-BITING TITLE CHARGE

MADRID: Jorge Sampaoli's chances of landing his dream job at Barcelona may have come and gone, but he could still hand Barca the La Liga title on a plate should Sevilla shock Real Madrid today. Madrid are in the driving seat for their first league title in five years as they also target a first La Liga and Champions League double since 1958. Zinedine Zidane's men are level on points with Barcelona at the top of the table, but have three games remaining to the Catalans' two. However, thanks to Barca's better head-to-head record, any Real defeat will put the title race back in their rivals' hands. The specter of Sevilla boss Sampaoli adds an extra edge to an already vital encounter. The Argentine has been fulsome in his praise of Barca's Lionel Messi and Neymar since moving to Sevilla, which fuelled speculation he could take over the vacant position at the Camp Nou next season.

However, with Barca expected to turn instead to Athletic Bilbao coach Ernesto Valverde, Sampaoli still looks set to fulfil his ambition of coaching Messi by taking over as Argentina boss at the end of this campaign. And what better way to endear himself to Messi than by severely denting Real's title challenge? Madrid, though, are brimming with confidence after withstanding an Atletico Madrid onslaught to reach their third Champions League final in four years on Wednesday.

"La Liga is the title I have left to win, it would be a special one for me but I don't want to have to choose between winning La Liga or the Champions League," said Madrid defender Nacho. "We have three finals to win in La Liga."

MATHEMATICAL CHANCE

Sevilla look set to finish fourth but need one more point to guarantee a return to the Champions League and to win their last two matches to have any chance of ousting Atletico



MADRID: Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo gestures during a Champions League semifinal, 2nd leg soccer match between Atletico de Madrid and Real Madrid. — AP

for third. "Mathematically we still have a chance," said defender Nico Pareja. "We know it is difficult, but we have to fight until the end." Sevilla haven't won at the Bernabeu since 2008, but are one of just three sides to have beaten them already in the league this season.

However, the Andalusians do not appear the same side now as they were in scoring two late goals to beat the European champions back in January. Sampaoli's men have only won three of their last 12 matches and haven't won on the road since February. Zidane has big decisions to make over whether to heavily rotate his side as he has done to great effect in recent weeks or

stick with the majority of the side that lost 2-1 at Atletico in midweek, but still progressed to next month's final 4-2 on aggregate.

Gareth Bale and Dani Carvajal remain out injured, while centre-backs Pepe and Raphael Varane are doubtful. Barca should at least force the title race to the last day of the season by compounding more misery on the end of Quique Setien's time at Las Palmas. Since Setien announced he was leaving at the end of the season in March, the Canary Islanders' form has slumped with just one win in eight games. At the other end of the table, Sporting Gijon will be relegated if they fail to win at Eibar. — AFP

SWANSEA SINKS SUNDERLAND TO BOOST THEIR SURVIVAL BID

	Sunderland	0
	Swansea	2

SUNDERLAND: Swansea struck a crucial blow in the fight for Premier League survival as goals from Fernando Llorente and Kyle Naughton clinched a 2-0 win at Sunderland yesterday. Spanish striker Llorente put Swansea ahead early on before Kyle Naughton blasted his first goal for six years on the stroke of half-time. Swansea's third win in their last four games moved Paul Clement's 17th placed side four points clear of the relegation zone as they battle to stay above third bottom Hull.

The Welsh club's survival will be guaranteed if Hull lose their crunch clash at fellow strugglers Crystal Palace today. Even if Hull win or draw against Palace, Swansea can still ensure their safety with a victory at home to West Bromwich Albion in their final game of the season on May 21. Relegated Sunderland failed to win at home for the 10th successive match and their final appearance at the Stadium of Light this season was played out to a familiar soundtrack of chants for the sacking of boss David Moyes.

Sunderland's victory at Hull last weekend had given Swansea a huge boost as they climbed out of the relegation zone with a win over Everton and the confidence gleaned from that momentum swing was clear as Clement's side took the lead in the ninth minute. Gylfi Sigurdsson swung over a free-kick and when Sunderland goalkeeper Jordan Pickford failed to collect, Llorente rose to head into the empty net for his 14th goal of the season. Jermain Defoe can leave Sunderland



SUNDERLAND: Swansea City's Spanish striker Fernando Llorente (C) celebrates with Swansea City's Icelandic midfielder Gylfi Sigurdsson (L) and Swansea City's English defender Alfie Mawson (R) after scoring the opening goal of the English Premier League football match between Sunderland and Swansea City at the Stadium of Light.—AFP

GOAL KINGS MONACO POISED FOR CROWN

PARIS: Free-scoring Monaco could wrap up a first Ligue 1 title in 17 years today as defending champions Paris Saint-Germain need a near-miracle to earn a fifth straight championship. Monaco enjoy a three point lead, have a massive goal difference advantage of 19 and even hold a game in hand as they host 11th placed Lille, with the Parisians facing a tough trip to Saint Etienne's raucous stadium.

A Monaco victory would all but mathematically secure the title, while PSG must at least match their result to keep alive any semblance of suspense. Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev bought Monaco in 2011 when they were bottom of Ligue 2, yet after major investment and spectacular progress they came soaring back to finish second in Ligue 1 in 2013/14. Two third placed finishes followed that but last season they ended a massive 31 points behind PSG. Yet they have kicked on emphatically this season.

Leonardo Jardim's swashbuckling outfit

has scored 98 league goals so far whilst they also led the French charge in Europe. "The league title has always been our main target this season and there's just a game or two to wait now and we'll see it through seriously and professionally," said Monaco's 18-year-old break out striker Kylian Mbappe after a brave Champions League campaign ended in a semi-final defeat to Juventus in midweek.

"Nothing is done, it's not finished. We need to maintain this attitude in our last three matches," Jardim said calmly after a 3-0 win at Nancy last weekend. After Lille, Monaco have a midweek catch up match at home to Saint Etienne ahead of the final day's games next Sunday.

PSG have won the last four French titles but with continued substantial investment from their own wealthy Qatari owners, this season is set to go down as a humiliating failure-speculation is rife that coach Unai Emery could pay the price. "We still have the opportunity to catch Monaco. — AFP

Sports

Reds on alert
as top four bid
reaches crunch time

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Preds past Ducks 3-2
to open West final

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SEVILLA THREATENS REAL'S NAIL-BITING TITLE CHARGE

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WASHINGTON: Isaiah Thomas, Marcin Gortat, Markieff Morris, Bradley Beal, John Wall Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas (4) shoots between Washington Wizards center Marcin Gortat, left, from Poland, forward Markieff Morris, guard Bradley Beal, and guard John Wall, right, during the second half of Game 6. — AP

WIZ SNEAK PAST CELTICS TO FORCE GAME 7



WASHINGTON: Kelly Oubre Jr. #12 of the Washington Wizards defends against Kelly Olynyk #41 of the Boston Celtics during Game Six of the NBA Eastern Conference Semi-Finals at Verizon Center on May 12, 2017 in Washington, DC. —AFP

WASHINGTON: John Wall stood atop the scorer's table, popping his jersey, yelling and celebrating his 3-pointer with 3.5 seconds left for the go-ahead basket that put his Washington Wizards into a Game 7 against the Boston Celtics. After Washington's 92-91 victory extended the Eastern Conference semifinal, Wall offered his thoughts on Boston's failure to back up its fashion statement of wearing all black clothing to the arena Friday night. "It was just funny to me. It was kind of copy-cattin' what we did," said Wall, whose Wizards donned dark outfits before a regular-season game between these teams that are building a rivalry. "It was in my mind throughout the game that I didn't want them to come here, wear all black, and basically call it a funeral."

'IT WAS MEANT TO BE'

Thanks to him and backcourt mate Bradley Beal, Washington's season will last at least one more game. Wall finished with 26 points, Beal scored a game-high 33, and they combined for 23 of Washington's 26 points in the back-and-forth fourth quarter. "All we asked for was one more game," Wall said, "and we got it."

Game 7 is at Boston on Monday night. The winner will face LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in the East finals starting Wednesday. The host has won all 10 games between the Wizards and Celtics this season - four in the regular season and six in the playoffs. "Two best words in playoffs is 'Game 7,'" Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. "Seems like it was meant to be."

Isaiah Thomas and Avery Bradley each scored 27 points for Boston, the conference's No 1 seed. But Bradley could do nothing defensively to stop Wall on the winning shot, coming off an inbound play that was designed to get Beal the ball. And Thomas' heave at the buzzer clanked off the rim. "I thought it was going in," Thomas said. "Honestly I did." Like the rest of his teammates, he was left to get back into his dark outfit afterward. Wearing a black shirt, he scoffed at the idea Wall and the Wizards derived some boost from knowing about the Celtics' choice of attire.

"Their season was on the line," he said. "They should have been motivated by everything else." Boston, which won Game 5 at home by 22 points, led Game 6 by 69-66 entering the fourth quarter, when a relatively blah game became much more

compelling. The final period was tight throughout, featuring six ties and nine lead changes. Boston was up 87-82, but did not hold on.

"We put ourselves in position to win the game," said Al Horford, whose 16-foot baseline bank shot with 7.7 seconds left gave Boston its last lead at 91-89. "Couldn't finish it. ... We can't dwell on this." Wall and Beal both shook off slow starts. Beal was 0 for 7 on 3s before making his only one of the game with 69 seconds left. The Wizards as a whole started 1 for 15 from beyond the arc. And Wall started 1 for 12 overall before closing by making 8 of 13. "If I go 1 for 30," he shrugged, "that's the way I go out." Not since 1979 have the Wizards reached the conference finals, and Wall has made clear he'll consider this season - Brooks' first as the team's coach - a waste of time if they don't get there this time. "We don't win Game 7," Wall said, "we feel like it was a failure." Some Celtics said it was purely coincidence that they showed up wearing black, the way the Wizards did for what became known as the "Funeral Game," won by Washington in January. Joked Brooks: "I'm going to talk to my lawyers. I think we have that trademarked, right? That's our thing." — AP

MAHREZ PENALTY MISHAP LETS MAN CITY OFF HOOK

	Man City	2
	Leicester	1

MANCHESTER: Riyad Mahrez's disallowed penalty allowed Manchester City to take a significant step towards Champions League qualification with a 2-1 victory over Leicester City yesterday. All of the goals came in the first half at the Etihad Stadium, with David Silva's opener for the home side allowed to stand despite a strong suggestion of offside. Gabriel Jesus's penalty increased their lead, before Shinji Okazaki pulled one back with a spectacular volley.

The oddest moment of the match, though, came in a scrappy second half, when Mahrez slipped as he converted a penalty that would have made it 2-2 and touched the ball twice. According to the laws of the game, a penalty taker cannot touch the ball again until another player has done so, leaving referee Robert Madley with no choice but to rule out the goal. As a result, City climbed above Liverpool to third place, edging them closer to securing a top-four berth.

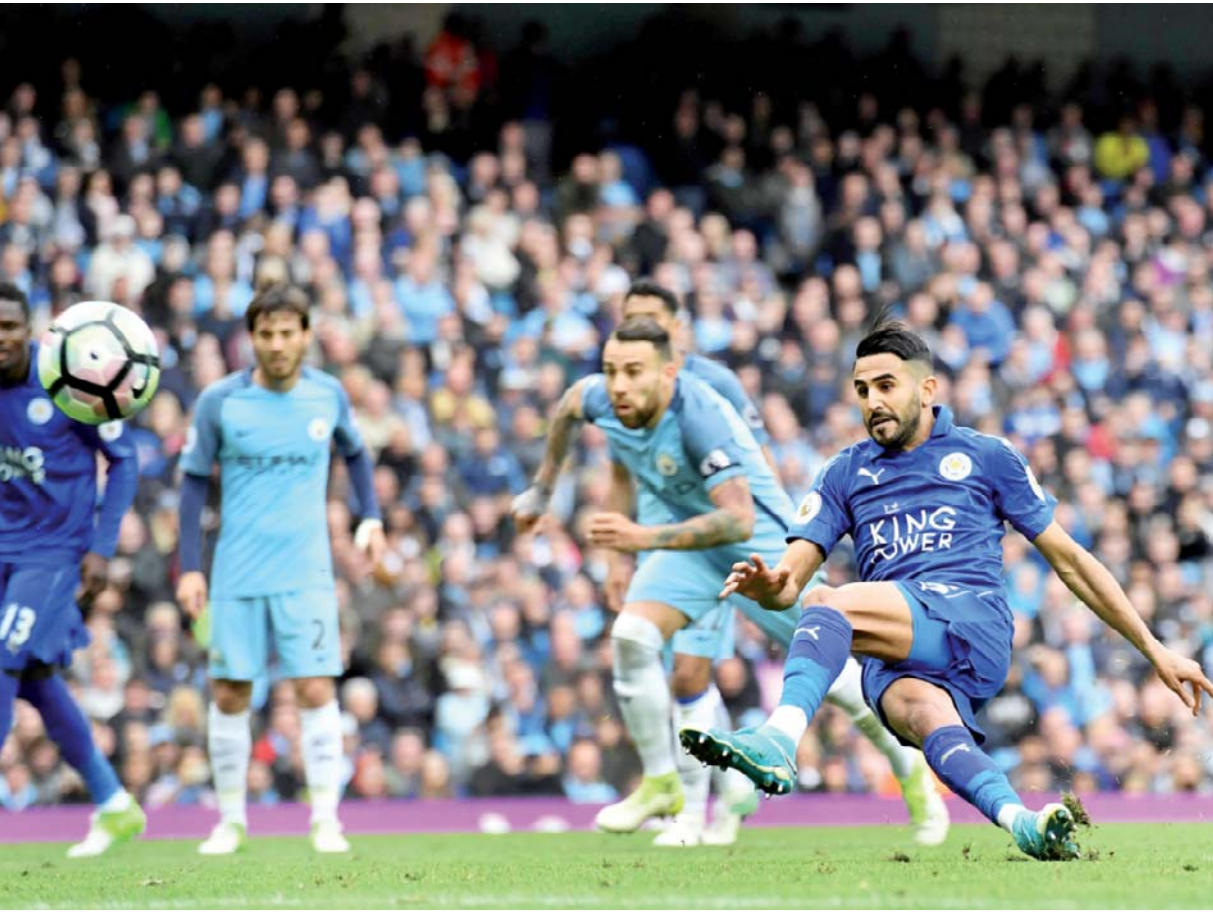
City manager Pep Guardiola's decision to leave fit-again top scorer Sergio Aguero on the bench raised eyebrows, but his unchanged line-up overcame Leicester's early resistance to score twice before half-time. Initially, it looked as if it might be a slog for Guardiola's team. Fernandinho headed just wide

from an early corner, but Jamie Vardy's pace on the break tested Nicolas Otamendi at the other end.

An unmarked Wilfried Ndidi should have done better than send a header wildly off-target from a Leicester set-piece. City left-back Gael Clichy attracted moans from the home fans for sliding a short pass to Leroy Sane when better placed to go for goal himself following a run and cross from Raheem Sterling. The home side did, however, break through just before the half-hour mark and in controversial circumstances. Sane burst down the left to deliver a low ball into the middle, met by a Silva mis-hit that bobbed into the net. Sterling, who looked to be in an offside position, swung a leg and missed the ball on its way in, causing Leicester to argue that the goal should have been ruled out.

VICIOUS VOLLEY

Referee Madley refused their animated appeals and within minutes, last season's champions were 2-0 down. Yohan Benalouane's wild sliding challenge sent Sane flying into the air and Madley pointed to the spot. At first, it looked as if Yaya Toure, celebrating his 34th birthday, would take the kick, but he passed on the responsibility to Jesus, who sent goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel the wrong way. City looked set for a comfortable victory at that stage, but Leicester responded with an outstanding goal shortly before half-time. Mahrez played a ball wide to Marc Albrighton, who swung a ball over for Okazaki to lean back and volley viciously into the top of the net with his left foot. The second half became an increasingly physical contest, after Albrighton was caught by Fernandinho's forearm as they chased a loose ball down the touchline.—AFP



MANCHESTER: Leicester City's Algerian midfielder Riyad Mahrez (R) slips after taking his penalty, which hit his standing foot on the way to the goal, and was subsequently disallowed during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Leicester City at the Etihad Stadium. —AFP



CHINESE SPENT \$24BN ON US, OTHER ‘GOLDEN VISAS’



BARI: G7 finance ministers pose for a group photo in Bari, southern Italy, yesterday. — AP photos

‘TRUMPONOMICS’: EUROPE, JAPAN NOT CONVINCED

MNUCHIN: US PARTNERS MORE COMFORTABLE WITH TRUMP ON TRADE

BARI, Italy: The United States said yesterday the world’s other rich economies were getting used to the policy plans of President Donald Trump, but Europe and Japan showed they remained worried about Washington’s shift. Officials from the Group of Seven nations met in southern Italy hoping to hear more about Trump’s plans which they fear will revive protectionism and set back the global approach to issues such as banking reform and climate change.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the United States reserved the right to be protectionist if it thought trade was not free or fair. “We do not want to be protectionist but we reserve our right to be protectionist to the extent that we believe trade is not free and fair... Our approach is for more balanced trade, and people have heard that,” Mnuchin told reporters at the end of the two-day meeting. “And as I say, people are more comfortable today, now that they’ve had the opportunity to spend time with me and listen to the president and hear our economic message.”

Other ministers from the G7 countries made it clear they did not share his view. “All the six others ... said explicitly, and sometimes very directly, to the representatives of the US administration that it is absolutely necessary to continue with the same spirit of international cooperation,” French Finance Minister Michel Sapin told reporters. Bank of France Governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau said there was a “light breeze” of optimism within the G7 about the recovering global economy after years of sluggish growth following the financial crisis that began nearly a decade ago.

But he said the continued uncertainty about the direction of US policy represented a risk, echoing comments made on Friday by Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso. “We must not backpedal on free trade as it has contributed to economic prosperity,” Aso said.

European G7 officials complain that no-one knows what the United States understands by “fair trade” and that the only way to establish fairness was by sticking to the rules of the World Trade Organization - a multilateral framework. They also say the US demand to balance trade bilaterally was not economically sound, because trade deficits and surpluses could only be analysed in a global context. A senior Japanese finance ministry official said yesterday uncertainties remained over how quickly the US Federal Reserve would raise interest rates, but the biggest question mark was over possible US tax cuts that could fire up an already recovering US economy.

Trump has proposed slashing the US corporate income tax rate and offer multinational businesses a steep tax break on overseas profits brought back home.

He dropped, however, a controversial proposal of a “border-adjustment” tax on imports as a way to offset revenue losses resulting from tax cuts. The tax reform plans were also questioned by some European officials. “I am not so sure that with an economy already at

full employment and working at full speed a fiscal stimulus would add a lot,” European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs Pierre Moscovici told reporters.

“(But) we avoided some discussions which would have been more damaging, like the border adjustment tax, which is no longer on the table at this moment,” he said.

Comfortable

Mnuchin claimed yesterday that major trading partners are “much more comfortable” with the Trump administration’s stance on trade and tax policy and understand that they will benefit from the intended US growth. Mnuchin spoke after face-to-face meetings with major trade partners such as Germany, Japan and Canada on the sidelines of the Group of Seven finance ministers’ meeting in Bari, Italy.

The meeting focused on finance and security issues such as keeping multinationals from dodging taxes and a collective response to cybercrime like the ransomware attack that hit dozens of countries on Friday. A broader theme not on the written agenda, however, was the desire of foreign leaders to get a better read on Trump’s policies, and US officials desire to make their positions clear. Trump has vowed to press for trade that is fair as well as open and benefits US workers and has focused on bilateral, or country-to-country, relations.

Mnuchin said that after meetings in Bari and a broader finance summit in Baden-Baden, Germany in March, “people feel a level of comfort” in understanding the Trump administration policies. He said counterparts understand that “we don’t want to be protectionist, but we reserve our right to be protectionist to the extent we believe trade is not free and fair.”

One partner openly pushing back was Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau, who rejected as “baseless” duties the US imposed on some Canadian lumber imports. Still, both he and Mnuchin stressed how important the US-Canada trade relationship is to both economies. A Canadian ministry statement called it a “productive discussion” and that Canada committed to working out a durable solution.

Attention also focused on Trump’s plans to cut US corporate taxes. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a group representing many advanced economies, has urged the US to lower its corporate tax rate. Mnuchin said “this is a big priority for the president ... We’re going to try to get this done as quickly as we can.” But he offered little detail.

He said the administration was focused on growth, “and growth in the United States is good for the world economy.” In their closing statement, the finance ministers warned that long-term growth could remain subdued and that steps need to be taken to make the global economy work for everyone. — Agencies



BARI: United States Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin (left) gives a press conference on the last day of a three-day summit of G7 of finance ministers, in Bari, southern Italy, yesterday.

TRUMP PLANS LIKELY TO AGGRAVATE US INEQUALITY: NOBEL LAUREATE

BARI: US President Donald Trump’s economic policies risk creating growth that mostly benefits the rich and aggravates income inequality in the United States, Nobel Prize-winning economist Angus Deaton said. Trump was swept to power on promises of help for poorer Americans but Deaton said his proposals to roll back regulations on finance and industry and cut healthcare benefits would mostly help corporate groups with political influence.

Trump’s plans to cut taxes and raise trade barriers, if enacted, might give a short-term income boost to some workers but would not deliver the long-term growth that is essential for mitigating the effects of inequality, he said in an interview. “I don’t think any of it is good” for addressing income inequality, said Deaton, a Princeton University professor, who won the Nobel Prize for economics in 2015 for his work on poverty, welfare and consumption.

He was speaking on Friday after addressing a meeting in Italy of finance ministers and central bankers from rich nations at which inequality topped the official agenda. The political shocks in 2016 of Trump’s US presidential election victory and Britain’s Brexit vote have been linked to widespread dissatisfaction with stagnant living standards for many workers, forcing policymakers in many countries to grapple with ways to narrow the gap between the rich and poor.

Income inequality has grown sharply in the United States over recent decades and the World Bank says that at a global level the gap has widened too since the 1990s, despite progress recently in some countries.

The Trump administration says it will lift US economic growth to more than 3 percent a year and bring more manufacturing jobs back to US shores, helping workers.

But many economists say growth like that will be hard to achieve with employment already high and the baby boom generation retiring in large numbers too.

Deaton said restoring stronger economic growth, preferably through encouraging more innovation, would help reduce the anger among many people who feel they have been left behind.

“A rising inequality that probably wouldn’t have bothered people before does become really salient and troublesome to them (during periods of low growth). It poisons politics too because when there are no spoils to hand out it becomes a very sharp conflict,” he said. Deaton said he did not think inequality was inherently bad as long as everyone felt some benefit from growth. “But I do care about people getting rich at public expense,” he said, referring to political lobbying by business groups. — Reuters

CHINESE SPENT \$24BN ON US, OTHER ‘GOLDEN VISAS’

GOVT WATCHDOGS SAY US’s EB-5 PROGRAM IS FRAUGHT WITH RISK

BEIJING: When the sister of President Donald Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner promoted investment in her family’s new skyscraper from a Beijing hotel ballroom stage earlier this month, she was pitching a controversial American visa program that’s proven irresistible to tens of thousands of Chinese. More than 100,000 Chinese have poured at least \$24 billion in the last decade into “golden visa” programs across the world that offer residence in exchange for investment, an Associated Press analysis has found. Nowhere is Chinese demand greater than in the United States, which has taken in at least \$7.7 billion and issued more than 40,000 visas to Chinese investors and their families in the past decade, the AP found.

The Chinese investors flocking to these programs are people like Jenny Liu, a doctoral student in the coastal city of Nanjing, who sold her apartment two years ago and moved in with her parents. She used the money from the sale to invest \$500,000 in a hotel project in the United States. If the project creates enough jobs in two years, she’ll get a prized “green card” and a pathway for a less stressful education for her 9-year-old son.

“My son has a lot of homework to do every day, but I don’t think he has learned a lot from school,” Liu said. “I hope he can actually pick up some useful knowledge or skills rather than only learn how to pass tests.”

The flood of investors reflects how China’s rise has catapulted tens of millions of families into the middle class. But at the same time, it shows how these families are increasingly becoming restless as cities remain choked by smog, home prices multiply and schools impose ever-greater pressure on children. They also feel insecure about being able to protect their property and savings.

Their money goes toward government bonds, businesses, mountain ski resorts, new schools and real estate projects, including a Trump-branded tower in New Jersey built by the Kushner Companies, once run by Jared Kushner, now a White House senior adviser. But the industry is murky, loosely regulated and sometimes fraud-ridden - in the US, federal regulators have linked the EB-5 visa program to fraud cases involving more than \$1 billion in investment in the last four years.

Despite criticism from Congress, Trump signed a spending bill that included a renewal of the program through September, although federal authorities have proposed more than doubling the minimum investment. Just one day later, Kushner’s sister, Nicole Meyer, was in Beijing courting Chinese for a new project funded by EB-5. That’s raised complaints about conflicts of interest and new calls to revise or even end the program.

“It is a growing industry and we do need more oversight,” said Stephen Yale-Loehr, an expert on the program and a professor at Cornell Law School. “EB-5, when it is done properly, can and does benefit the economy.”

The lure of a golden visa

The number of Chinese using investment migration programs worldwide tripled between 2010 and 2015, the AP found among the countries in its survey. In the last decade, Chinese have taken 75 percent of the investor visas issued by the United States, 70 percent for Portugal and 85 percent for Australia. China also remains the top recipient of investor visas in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Spain, Hungary and Malta.

To be sure, those migrating make up only a small fraction of the around 18 million households that could be considered upper-middle-class or wealthier in China, but they echo the laments of many better-educated, urban Chinese. “Middle-class investors’ choosing to leave shows that their confidence in their future, their dreams and the regime in China is fading,” said Zhang Lifan, an independent political scholar in Beijing.

China’s “golden visa” investors are part of a wave characterized not by poverty, persecution or war, but by people with steady jobs and homes who are pursuing happiness that’s eluded them in their homeland. After decades of economic mismanagement and political upheaval, the ruling Communist Party reversed some of its most destructive policies and unleashed a four-decade-long economic boom in the 1970s. That growth lifted 500 million people out of poverty and vaulted generations of Chinese from peasantry into relatively well-paying manufacturing or service jobs. More than 3 million households in China now have an income of more than \$34,000 a year, according to the consultancy McKinsey & Company.

Key to their spending power is China’s real estate boom. Real estate prices in China’s largest cities have more than tripled in the last decade, with prices in Beijing rising by an average of 25 percent a year during that time. Since late 2015 alone, Beijing’s home prices have jumped 63 percent, making a 1,300 square-foot (120 square-meter) apartment worth more than \$1 million.

A family that gained ownership of an ordinary apartment more than a decade ago can now sell it for the price of a “golden visa.” And as their dissatisfaction with China’s problems grows, more families are choosing to do so.

Like Liu, many of about a dozen investors or prospective investors interviewed by the AP say they don’t want their children to struggle in China’s rigid and intensely competitive education system, which emphasizes rote learning and can stifle creativity. Cherry Deng, the mother of a 10-year-old boy in Sichuan province, invested in a port construc-



SHANGHAI: A projector screen shows a footage of U.S. President Donald Trump as workers wait for investors at a reception desk during an event promoting EB-5 investment in a Kushner Companies development, at a hotel in Shanghai.—AP

tion project in North Carolina through the US EB-5 program. Deng, who used funds from her car dealership business, said she wants her son to learn from the American emphasis on self-reliance. Deng said she sees Chinese parents supporting their children even after they’ve graduated from college - securing for them homes, jobs and, sometimes, even spouses.

“I don’t want to take care of my children forever,” Deng said. “I want them to learn how to live independently and to create wealth on their own.” Urban Chinese have also been disgusted by scandals ranging from tainted baby formula to toxic running tracks, and alarmed that even the most prosperous cities are not safe from deadly factory explosions and other man-made disasters.

Despite her success running an online clothing business in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu, Peng Jie isn’t confident in her future in China. She sees the prices of property and schools rising and the value of the yuan falling, and fears that success could be taken away.

“In China, we have family and friends, and daily life is convenient,” Peng said. But, she added, “someone in the middle class can become poor in one second.”

Wooing chinese investors

China is central to the success of almost every major investment migration program in the world, so many countries are going out of their way to court Chinese investors.

Ads for investment programs pop up on Chinese cell-phones and websites, full of promise and intrigue. In crowded hotel ballrooms, foreign officials with pamphlets and flashy presentations tout the same message: Start a new life in a country with better education, clean air and a stable future.

Agents selling US projects to Chinese take great pains to prove their expertise on the states, the EB-5 program and perceived ties to American leaders. Some marketing materials include photos of Chinese posing with former President Barack Obama. Now, they’re competing directly against the current president’s relatives.

Meyer, Kushner’s sister, appeared this month at events in Beijing and Shanghai to promote One Journal Square, a New Jersey tower project planned by the Kushner family that would be partially funded through EB-5 investment. The presentation included a photo of Trump and vague promises that the project had “government support” and was “founded by celebrity developers.” The company later apologized for any implication that her brother was supporting the project, and Meyer pulled out of a presentation to Chinese investors scheduled for this past weekend.

Trump’s name already appears on another New Jersey residential tower, Trump Bay Street, built with the help of EB-5 funding. And one month before the November election, an ad appeared on a Chinese website catering to foreigners seeking a “white American to join our team” for a new project: “A 200 million dollar hotel developed by The Trump Organization in Austin.” A brochure posted online described Trump as the “king of real estate” and included a photo of him giving a speech.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer this month said Kushner would follow government policies on potential conflicts of interest, and that Trump and Congress would review “all the various visa programs and whether or not they are serving the purpose that they were intended to.” The AP obtained data from officials in 13 countries on how many Chinese have used their investor programs since 2007. To estimate money spent, the AP multiplied the numbers of Chinese investors in each country by the mini-

mum investment required, making the figures an undercount. The market leader is the United States’ EB-5 program, which gives green cards to anyone who invests \$500,000 in a business that creates or saves at least 10 jobs. Several others market themselves as cheaper or quicker alternatives. Portugal has drawn at least \$1.7 billion over four years from Chinese investors willing to buy property to support its faltering real estate market. Spain and Greece offer similar programs. Chinese have bought the most visas in all three countries.

Five Caribbean nations offer passports for as little as \$100,000. Chinese are the top buyers in Antigua and Barbuda, according to government statistics. Australia goes the more expensive route, requiring an investment of 5 million Australian dollars (nearly \$3.7 million). Despite a price nearly eight times as high as the EB-5 program, Australia is estimated to have attracted more than \$6 billion in Chinese investment in just four years. But problems in the industry worldwide are rife.

Fraught with risk

The US’s EB-5 program has been heavily criticized by government watchdogs and targeted by lawmakers of both parties in Congress, who say it promotes fraud and helps developers building megaprojects more than struggling communities. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat who has introduced legislation to end the program, has called EB-5 a “Ponzi scheme.” Her Republican counterpart, Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, has said EB-5 “poses significant national security risks” and “may be facilitating terrorist travel, economic espionage, money laundering and investment fraud.”

Federal investigators said in April they found that at least three Chinese investors who obtained green cards through the program were fugitives wanted by Beijing. And the US Securities and Exchange Commission has opened more than a dozen civil cases since 2013 alleging fraud in projects involving around 2,000 investors and more than \$1 billion in funds.

Defenders of the EB-5 program say it creates jobs and provides vital funding for projects across the United States, from massive developments in New York to hotels, restaur-

rants and small businesses in the Midwest and on the West Coast. “That’s the program working as it should, and more often than not, it is working as it should,” said Matthew Galati, a Philadelphia-based attorney who helps Chinese investors migrate to the US.

Canada’s program drew an estimated \$2.4 billion through Chinese investors over the past decade, but the national government ended it in 2014, saying that it “significantly undervalued” Canadian residency and created little economic benefit. The province of Quebec has kept in place its separate program, which has drawn at least \$1.9 billion from Chinese investment.

And a former Portuguese interior minister and other senior government officials have been on trial since February for corruption, influence-peddling and misconduct in handling “golden visa” applications of investors linked to three Chinese businessmen. Hungary suspended its program selling visas for government bonds earlier this year after opposition parties and watchdogs accused it of corruption.

Ironically, calls to end investment migration programs often end up as marketing tools for the hundreds of agents selling them in China. One agent made note of proposals to change the EB-5 program by saying, “Do not hesitate, and act quickly!”

Du Juan attended a seminar in Beijing held by an investment group pitching ski resorts and other projects. She knows the potential danger of investing through the U.S. program, but she’s willing to bear the risk as long as she can get her 10-year-old daughter enrolled soon in an American school.

“I don’t worry about the \$500,000, but I worry about the loss of time,” Du said. “I am afraid that we’ll be unable to get the visa when we need it.”

Slowing the flow

There are signs that China is trying to slow down the migration. These investors are among the category of people China hopes will buy its domestically made rice cookers, electric cars and energy-saving light bulbs to fuel a new chapter of consumer-led growth. Research by McKinsey shows that the upper-middle class already accounts for a fifth of China’s private consumption in cities.

Articles critical of investment visa programs have appeared in China’s state media, often highlighting fraud cases or stories of Chinese who faced trouble after going abroad. China has also tightened controls on how much money individuals and companies can move out of the country as part of broader efforts to stop the currency from further weakening.

Banks are expected to enforce more strictly the yearly limit of \$50,000 that individuals are allowed to take out of the country, and will be required to report any transfers above \$10,000. Still, Chinese have typically worked around such controls by slowly moving money or using friends and family members to help them amass an overseas account.

If China, which doesn’t recognize dual nationality, can’t keep entrepreneurs and middle-class families from leaving, it risks endangering its economic future. That includes people like Joey, a 30-year-old Beijing resident who works for a major Chinese state-owned conglomerate. He shared his story on the condition that his last name not be used because he hadn’t told his employer of his plans.

Joey and his fiancée have a two-bedroom apartment and plan to get married and have a child in China. Despite their seemingly bright future, they want to raise that child elsewhere. His friends and relatives helped him move enough money offshore to invest in the American EB-5 program.

Joey says he’s seen parents and children struggling to breathe outside in China’s smoggy air, and signs that China’s economy is headed for deeper trouble. “In China, you have to plan ahead,” Joey said. “You cannot just leave today, whenever you want. You never know what happens next.”—AP



BEIJING: In this Sunday, Jan 15, 2017 photo, Du Juan, right, talks to a consultant after a seminar by an investment group pitching ski resorts and other projects as a way of securing a EB-5 visa to immigrate to the US in Beijing.—AP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.696
Indian Rupees	4.753
Pkistani Rupees	2.914
Srilankan Rupees	1.999
Nepali Rupees	2.976
Singapore Dollar	218.720
Hongkong Dollar	39.208
Bangladesh Taka	3.748
Philippine Peso	6.142
Thai Baht	8.827

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.534
Qatari Riyal	83.977
Omani Riyal	794.049
Bahraini Dinar	811.880
UAE Dirham	83.245

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.600
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.820
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.227
Tunisian Dinar	127.050
Jordanian Dinar	430.720
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.037
Syrian Lira	2.179
Morocco Dirham	31.179

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	305.550
Euro	335.950
Sterling Pound	396.150
Canadian dollar	224.010
Turkish lira	86.190

Swiss Franc	307.550
Australian Dollar	227.630
US Dollar Buying	304.350

GOLD

20 Gram	251.030
10 Gram	128.440
5 Gram	65.060

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfr

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

Selling Rate

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.745
Thai Bhat	9.860
Turkish Lira	84.130

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
	Europe	
British Pound	0.388019	0.398019
Czech Korune	0.004568	0.016568
Danish Krone	0.040806	0.045806
Euro	0.329116	0.338118
Norwegian Krone	0.031640	0.036840
Romanian Leu	0.084681	0.084681
Slovakia	0.009153	0.019153
Swedish Krona	0.030530	0.035530
Swiss Franc	0.299308	0.310308
Turkish Lira	0.080073	0.090373
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.217894	0.217894
New Zealand Dollar	0.203889	0.213389
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.217681	0.226681
Georgina Lari	0.138004	0.138004
US Dollars	0.301450	0.305850
US Dollars Mint	0.301950	0.305850
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003417	0.004001
Chinese Yuan	0.042810	0.046310
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037310	0.040060
Indian Rupee	0.004143	0.004831

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002614	0.002794
Kenyan Shilling	0.003041	0.003041
Korean Won	0.000262	0.000277
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066161	0.072161
Nepalese Rupee	0.003019	0.003189
Pakistan Rupee	0.002719	0.003009
Philippine Peso	0.006019	0.006319
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.212284	0.222284
South African Rand	0.016910	0.025410
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001639	0.002219
Taiwan	0.009782	0.009962
Thai Baht	0.008471	0.009021

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.803906	0.812406
Egyptian Pound	0.014073	0.019981
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000195	0.000255
Jordanian Dinar	0.425601	0.434601
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000157	0.000257
Moroccan Dirhams	0.002078	0.004780
Nigerian Naira	0.001266	0.001901
Omani Riyal	0.787215	0.792895
Qatar Riyal	0.083116	0.084566
Saudi Riyal	0.080393	0.081693
Syrian Pound	0.001298	0.001516
Tunisian Dinar	0.123088	0.131088
Turkish Lira	0.080073	0.090373
UAE Dirhams	0.081765	0.083465
Yemeni Riyal	0.000993	0.001073

GLOBAL MARKETS REMAIN IN STEADY MODE

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Markets appear in steady mode these days. Most markets are taking a breather after run-ups late last year, especially following the Trump election in November. The leading markets seem to be in trading ranges now or just stalled near highs, awaiting some catalyst event or a change in economic conditions. We are still up 6-7 percent ytd on US equities, and close to 10-11 percent on European and emerging market stocks; GCC markets are lagging, pressured in part by struggling oil prices. Interest rates are still up on the year (US 10-year at 2.3 percent) but off their recent highs seen after the December 2016 Fed hike. The dollar, too, had a run-up in 2016, but is now actually down on the year against the major currencies (EUR, JPY), even more now after the French election of pro-EU president Macron.

What gives? Not much. Realism set in regarding the ability to pass (quickly) massive legislation in the US and fears of populists coming to power in the EU receded. On the Trump agenda, good and (equity) positive things are still expected: the awaited significant deregulation is occurring (energy, finance), the feared trade wars are not happening; but the wild balloon of massive and immediate tax reform, which pushed the Dow Jones Industrials Index over 21,000 earlier, lost some of its buoyancy for a time. In Europe, the populists are still popular, along with the Euroskeptics. The Dutch and French populists (Wilder and Le Pen and others) did well in their elections, but not well enough to reach power and thus scare the markets. We therefore saw the euro gaining ground and EU interest rates rise a bit

as risk-off trades were unwound. Meanwhile, concerns about Syria and North Korea, which had popped up on the radar screen, remain thankfully contained for the time being.

On economic performance, the major economies have spewed soothing data primarily, more or less in line with moderate growth, as per say the IMF's recent update for world growth of 3.5 percent. Noticeably, the IMF's April report included an upward revision (a slight 0.1 percent) to that number. Upward revisions are significant after years of consistent downward revisions at every turn. The change in direction basically means that surprises are finally coming in on the upside, usually a bullish indicator. This view is widely shared, though the assessments of the risks vary somewhat, especially regarding politics and central bank policies (potential end of QE in the EU next year, Fed reducing its balance sheet...).

The focus is now again on the US, where Trump and the Republicans are trying to pass radical tax reform in a very contentious political environment. There are also difficult issues related to "paying" for those tax cuts, in other words the deficit/debt implications. The broad lines of tax reform are: A reduction in the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 15 percent, a tax simplification and tax cut for individuals whereby most deductions would disappear, the standard deduction would double, and tax brackets would go from seven (with the top one taxed at 40 percent) to only three brackets taxed: 15, 25, and 35 percent.

How much of the US tax plan is realized, and its actual timing will have significant bearing on the US

outlook. The current 2.0 percent or 2.0 percent-plus view for 2017-2018 would start moving up if President Trump gets most of his tax plan, moving closer to 3.0 percent but not much higher in the near term. One concern, which we share, is that the financial markets are a bit overly optimistic as to content and timing of the proposed tax plan.

In Europe, markets are breathing easier, and now sigh in relief after the French election of centrist Macron for president. Though heavily favored before the election, the markets wanted to see the actual results of the election, having been burnt by Brexit and Trump before. The euro and European equities ran up a bit following the results.

Macron is of course pro-EU and for free trade but is more nuanced as he is seeking some protections for Europe's trade with outside partners. His positions are not very clear at this point, and his newly formed party has zero MPs in parliament. So, he will have to rely on the upcoming June election to broaden his mandate and/or work with the mainstream parties to be able to govern. Macron's election, though not market-disruptive, will still yield policy and implementation questions ahead, though not of the Brexit kind.

In the meantime, Brexit negotiations are starting between the UK and the EU, and PM Theresa May has called a June election, which is likely to increase her working majority in parliament from 17 seats to perhaps 100. A stronger government and PM were viewed positively for the GBP because they would strengthen the PM's hand and potentially move things in surer fashion; but, they could also perhaps result in a middle-

of-the-road Brexit as the PM could more easily placate her hard-liners.

The Fed just ended its May meeting with no change to policy, US rates are expected to rise in June and December of this year, as data remains in line with the Fed's moderate outlook view. Recent Q1 GDP data was weaker than expected at 0.7 percent (q/q ann.) while the April nonfarm payroll report showed a strong 211K new jobs. These numbers do not derail things, however, as GDP was distorted by one-time factors. GDP growth is still running at 1.9 percent y/y, the underlying pace in our view. Furthermore, other data, such as PMIs, home sales, and sentiment indicators are all pointing to a steady moderate outlook.

Upcoming US rate hikes will of course have repercussions for GCC interest rates, where currencies are tied to the USD and where oil prices are also keenly watched. The latter have been steady in a range under \$55 pb (Brent) before slipping under \$50 recently. Talk of extending the OPEC-non-OPEC production cut agreement to the second half of this year is supporting prices, while reports of rising US production and of high inventory levels are pressuring prices lower. Therefore, the GCC countries are plowing along with reforms and consolidation, while their finances are looking somewhat better with the higher oil prices this year. That is easing some of the pressure on fiscal and liquidity. At the same time, most countries are carrying on with their debt issuance programs (domestic and international), the latest being Kuwait's successful issuance of an \$8 billion international bond (5 and 10-year maturities).

Fiscal Year 2016 Financial Highlights (TSE report basis – China JV equity basis)¹

Yen in billions	FY 15	FY 16	% change year on year	FY 16 at constant currency	% change at constant currency
Revenues	12,189.5	11,720.0	-3.9	12,975.0	+6.4
Operating profit	793.3	742.2	-6.4	1,024.1	+29.1
Operating margin %	6.5	6.3	-0.2	7.9	+1.4
Ordinary profit	862.3	864.7	+0.3	N/A	N/A
Net income ²	523.8	663.5	+26.7	N/A	N/A

Nissan FY17 Outlook – TSE report basis – China JV equity basis⁴

Net revenue	¥11.8 trillion (\$109 billion/€100 billion)
Operating profit	¥685 billion (\$6.34 billion/€5.81 billion)
Net income ²	¥535 billion (\$4.95 billion/€4.53 billion)

NISSAN REPORTS FULL-YEAR RESULTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

DUBAI: Nissan Motor Co, Ltd yesterday announced financial results for the 12 months to March 31, 2017. Nissan generated an operating profit of 742.2 billion yen on net revenues of 11.72 trillion yen as strong sales in the US, China and Western Europe partly offset the impact of foreign exchange and weakness in emerging markets.

On a management proforma basis, which includes the proportionate consolidation of results from Nissan's joint venture operation in China, operating profit was 882.4 billion yen on net revenues of 12.84 trillion yen.

Sales performance

For the fiscal year, Nissan's global unit sales were 5.63 million units.

In the US, Nissan's sales rose by 4.2 percent to 1.58 million units, equivalent to a market share of 9.0 percent, amid solid demand for models including the Rogue and Altima.

Nissan unit sales in China, which reports figures on a calendar year basis, rose 8.4 percent to 1.35 million units, equivalent to market share of 5.0 percent. In Europe,

excluding Russia, Nissan's sales rose by 7.2 percent to 683,000 units, which resulted in a market share of 3.8 percent. The Qashqai SUV and Navara pickup helped drive demand in the region.

Nissan's performance in these key markets helped offset challenging conditions in the Japanese market, reflecting the suspension of Kei car sales in the first half. Sales in Japan - where Kei car sales have resumed - reached 557,000 units for the 12-month period, representing a market share of 11.0 percent. In other markets including Asia and Oceania, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa, Nissan's sales decreased 3.3 percent to 808,000 units.

Outlook

The company expects to sell 5.83 million units in fiscal 2017. Recently-launched models including the Nissan Micra, Armada, Kicks, and Note e-POWER and Serena in Japan, are expected to contribute to sales growth in the coming financial year. Based on Nissan's solid outlook for unit sales, the company has filed the following fiscal-year forecasts to the Tokyo Stock Exchange.



KFH-BAHRAIN CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF SUCCESS DURING STAFF GATHERING

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House - Bahrain (KFH-Bahrain), recently celebrated a significant milestone as the Bank marked 15 years of successful operations in the Kingdom. This occasion was commemorated during its annual staff gathering which was held at the Art Rotana Hotel in Amwaj Islands. Over 300 KFH-Bahrain employees attended the event and were welcomed by Abdulhakeem Alkhayyat, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of KFH-Bahrain.

During his keynote address, Alkhayyat expressed his appreciation to the Board of Directors, the Management and the employees for their continuous efforts in strengthening the Bank's position as one of the leading Islamic Financial institutions in the country.

"Today marks KFH-Bahrain's 15 years of operation in the Kingdom, and I would like to take this opportunity to convey our sincere apprecia-

tion to our Board of Directors and our Management team for building our corporate success. I would also like to extend my gratitude to our loyal employees who have been instrumental in driving the Bank forward. There is no doubt that our staff is the pillar of our success; they have proven time and again their commitment and effort to ensure KFH-Bahrain continues to thrive and prosper. Since its inception, KFH-Bahrain has strived to excel in the quality of products and services it offers its customers in line with the sharia principles and market demands. We have been blessed with excellent results due to the continuous efforts and hard work of all our employees, and we hope to remain successful in the future," stated Alkhayyat.

Alkhayyat also touched on the tremendous strides taken by the Islamic Finance industry on a

global scale and the need for personal development in order to stay ahead of the market curve.

Alkhayyat said: "As the Islamic Finance industry is going through a positive transformation and spearheading a new trend in the global financial arena, I urge each and every one of you to capitalize on the learning opportunities offered by KFH-Bahrain to expand your horizons, develop your skills and stay ahead of the movement. Take on new challenges with motivation, share your experiences with your peers and learn from one another."

During the event, 6 outstanding employees were honored with the 'Fursan Baytik' recognition award to commemorate their exceptional contribution to the Company. Over 100 staff members were also commended for their long-standing service, after working in the Bank for 15, 10 and 5 years respectively.

SHOULD YOU ALWAYS USE A COVER LETTER WHEN APPLYING FOR JOBS

Bayt.com weekly report

There are two types of people in this world; those who attach cover letters to their applications, and those who don't. While CVs are considered as the most important part of a job application, some might argue that a cover letter is even of a greater importance. As evident in the Bayt.com "Hiring Practices in the Middle East and North Africa" survey, around 40 percent of job seekers attach a cover letter along with their applications. The rest rely solely on the power of their CVs, which might not be enough for very employer.

If writing a cover letter is not your preference, or you need reassurance for some reason, here are some reasons from Bayt.com for why a cover letter is still a vital part of your job application process:

1. Your CV and Cover Letter Complete Each Other
No matter how great your CV is at giving an overview of your entire career, skills, and achievements to the employer, it is still incapable of going into detail and providing that personal touch. A cover letter does not only elaborate on the positions and experiences listed on the CV, it also

reveals specifics that your employer might be looking for in a candidate, which are most probably missing from your CV.

2. Cover Letters Speak for You, When You Are Unable to.

Are you the perfect fit for a certain company? Good, now you need to convince the employer with that! The cover letter does exactly that way before the interview, and way before you can represent yourself. It takes on that role and markets you to the employer in order to get that job interview. Unlike a CV, the cover letter's format humanizes your application and speaks on your behalf with your own tone of voice, style, and conviction.

3. The Cover Letter Supports Your First Impression

The CV that you apply with can be comprehensive, but it shouldn't be too long; especially if you're a fresh graduate. Your CV should make the employer interested in knowing more about you but not get lost or overwhelmed by the details. This is where the cover letter comes in! It reveals more

about your skills and what exactly you have done during your time at certain companies. For instance, instead of simply knowing that you have generated leads for the sales department, your cover letter can explain how you did that and the percentage increase that you've accomplished.

4. A Cover Letters Takes a Look at the Future

Most important of all, the core of a cover letter is to explain to the employer why you are the right person for the job at hand. Your past experiences are presented in your CV, so your cover letter should focus on what you will be doing to make the company a better place, accomplish business goals, fulfill your job duties, etc. Anybody can talk about their past, but not everyone has a vision and a plan for the future. Show the employer that you have one that aligns with the company's mission.

Ok, now that you know how essential writing a cover letter is, you can get started with the cover letter guides and tips on Bayt.com's Blog. You can also request a professionally written cover letter from Bayt.com's career experts.

For Rent

In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at Abou Halifa Region Facing the National Park and the Sea

Duplex & Triplex Villas

- 3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms
- +Big Salon + Separate pool
- All Master Bathrooms is Marble

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby
Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas

Special Promotion
Ask about your offer

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SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY					SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %	Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	29,301,208	3.88%	1,233,495	1.62%	OIL & GAS	1,050.29	1,045.44	0.46%	34.54%
BASIC MATERIALS	3,820,220	0.51%	1,448,095	1.90%	BASIC MATERIALS	1,273.11	1,292.91	-1.53%	26.70%
INDUSTRIALS	46,525,502	6.16%	10,699,287	14.01%	INDUSTRIALS	1,785.51	1,788.47	-0.17%	32.85%
CONSUMER GOODS	10,709,570	1.42%	1,817,045	2.38%	CONSUMER GOODS	1,121.17	1,120.61	0.05%	-0.35%
HEALTH CARE	187,965	0.02%	43,052	0.06%	HEALTH CARE	1,433.35	1,405.03	2.02%	15.18%
CONSUMER SERVICES	8,476,946	1.12%	779,434	1.02%	CONSUMER SERVICES	865.52	890.99	-2.86%	-6.39%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	25,653,930	3.40%	5,787,779	7.58%	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	625.60	632.98	-1.17%	-1.66%
BANKS	107,029,429	14.18%	24,552,931	32.15%	BANKS	919.57	925.71	-0.66%	9.84%
INSURANCE	475,623	0.06%	55,249	0.07%	INSURANCE	1,068.26	1,063.13	0.48%	7.44%
REAL ESTATE	233,552,592	30.95%	11,695,978	15.32%	REAL ESTATE	948.59	971.16	-2.32%	9.01%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	288,303,144	38.20%	18,177,757	23.80%	FINANCIAL SERVICES	706.77	724.17	-2.40%	18.38%
TECHNOLOGY	639,306	0.08%	75,585	0.10%	TECHNOLOGY	699.03	681.62	2.55%	15.13%

BOURSA KUWAIT EQUITIES REMAIN MIXED

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week with mixed performance. The Price Index closed at 6,670.47 points, down by 1.22 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.42 percent after closing at 400.71 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 911.07 points up by 0.52 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 3.04 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 15.27 million, whereas trading volume average was 150.94 million shares, recording an increase of 15.98 percent.

The Boursa ended the week's trading with mixed closings for the three indices, where the Price and Weighted indices continued recording losses to meet in the red zone for the second consecutive week, affected by the continued selling pressures and quick speculations in targeting the small-cap and mid-cap stocks, while the KSX-15 Index was able to end the week's trading in the green zone supported by the random purchasing operations that concentrated on some leading stocks, especially the ones that disclosed new periodic results. Such performance came amid a continued decline in the trading levels of both the cash liquidity or the volume of the traded stocks, as the total traded liquidity during the last week increased by 3.04 percent only, while the volume increased by 15.98 percent, when compared to a week earlier.

As far as the daily trading, the three Boursa indices recorded steep losses in the first session of last week, considered the highest in one session in terms of points, since the beginning of the year, which came as a result to the strong selling pressures executed on most of the traded stocks during the session and headed by the leading and operational stocks, which contributed in losing the KSX-15 all its gains recorded since the beginning of the 2017, and caused the Price and Weighted Indices' gains to contract since the beginning of the year.

Also, the Boursa was able in the second session of the week to realize gains for the three indices and was able to compensate a part of its losses recorded in the previous session, supported by the return of the purchasing operations once again, which included many listed stocks headed by the stocks that recorded noticeable decline in the previous session.

On the mid-week session, the market returned once again to the red zone, and the three indices recorded limited losses due to the profit collection operations executed on the small-cap stocks in particular. However on Wednesday's session, the Boursa returned once again to increase and its indices were able to record good growth by the end of the session, supported by the positive trades witnessed by some leading stocks, in addition to the speculative operations that concentrated on the small-cap stocks. Moreover, the end of week session witnessed an

increase in the three indices supported by the purchasing operations that concentrated on the leading stocks especially in the Telecommunication and Oil & Gas sectors.

Boursa Kuwait recorded during the last week over KD 153 million losses in market cap, as the value of the market cap for the total listed companies in the primary market reached KD 26.59 billion, down by 0.57 percent from its value in the previous week, where it was KD 26.75 billion. On an annual level, the market cap gains contracted to reach 4.67 percent compared to its value at end of 2016, where it was KD 25.41 billion.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 16.05 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 5.43 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 2.94 percent growth.

Sectors' Indices

Seven of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone, while the other five recorded increases. The Consumer Services sector headed the losers list as its index declined 2.86 percent to end the week's activity at 865.52 points. The Financial Services sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.40 percent, closing 706.77 points, followed by the Real Estate sector, as its index closed at 948.59 points at a loss of 2.32 percent. The Industrial sector was the least declining as its index closed at 1,785.51 points with a 0.17 percent decrease.

On the other hand, Last week's highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 2.55 percent growth rate as its index closed at 699.03 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Health Care sector's index closed at 1,433.35 points recording 2.02 percent increase. The Insurance sector came in third as its index achieved 0.48 percent growth, ending the week at 1,068.26 points.

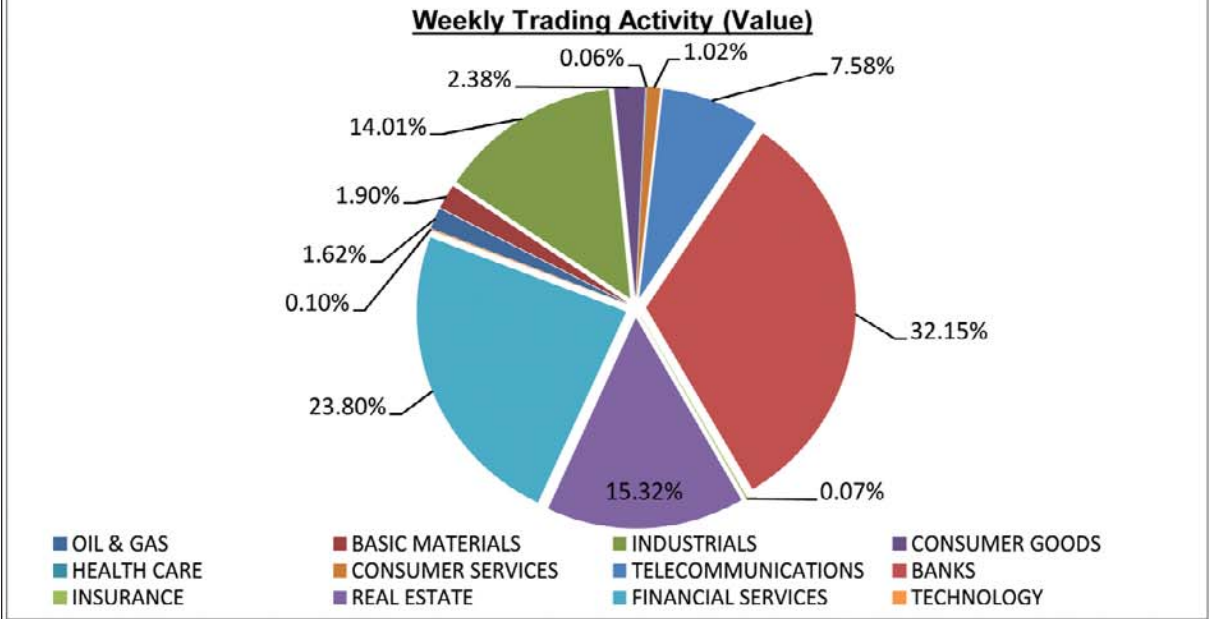
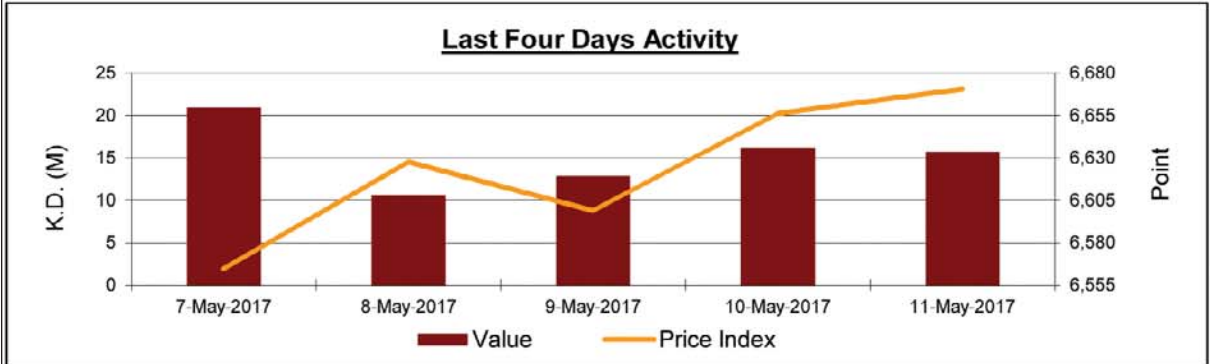
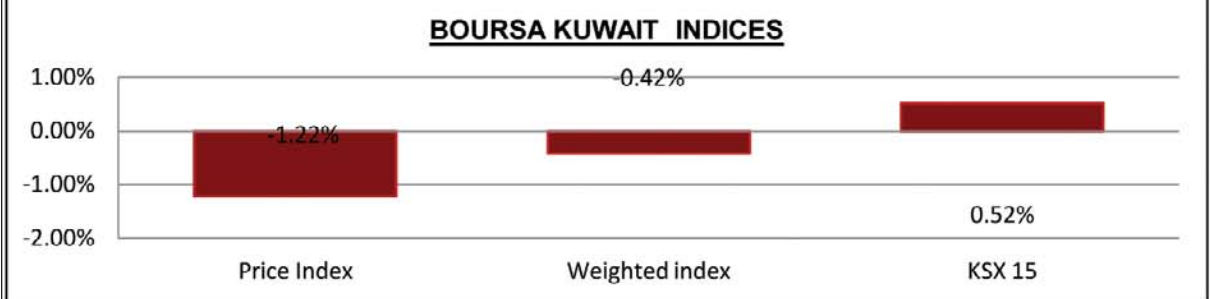
Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 288.30 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 38.20 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 30.95 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 233.55 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 24.55 million or 32.15 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. KD 18.18 million representing 23.80 percent of the total market trading value. —Prepared by: Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.

MARKET ACTIVITY				
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %	
Volume	754,675,435	650,721,330	15.98%	
Value (K.D)	76,365,688	74,109,248	3.04%	
Deals	21,940	17,139	28.01%	
MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)				
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %	
26,593,372,669	26,746,498,125	-0.57%	4.67%	
TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
KCPC	166.00	144.00	22.0	15.28%
AJWAN	93.00	82.00	11.0	13.41%
YIACO	238.00	210.00	28.0	13.33%
UPAC	840.00	750.00	90.0	12.00%
KINS	265.00	238.00	27.0	11.34%

BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	6,670.47	400.71	911.07
	Previous week	6,752.79	402.41	906.38
	Change (Point)	-82.32	-1.70	4.69
	Change (%)	-1.22%	-0.42%	0.52%
Annual	Last year	5,748.09	380.09	885.02
	Change (Point)	922.38	20.62	26.05
	Change (%)	16.05%	5.43%	2.94%



TOP LOOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
ALSHAMEL	260.00	335.00	-75.0	-22.39%
KCIN	1,120.00	1,320.00	-200.0	-15.15%
MARAKEZ	40.50	47.50	-7.0	-14.74%
KAMCO	81.00	94.00	-13.0	-13.83%
LOGISTICS	57.00	66.00	-9.0	-13.64%

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

NEW YORK: Shares of department stores sank again Friday, hurt by more evidence that shoppers are turning away from them. A drop in Treasury yields also put pressure on bank stocks, and the weakness helped pull the Standard & Poor's 500 index to its first weekly loss in the last four.

The S&P 500 dipped 3.54 points, or 0.1 percent, to close at 2,390.90, part of a 0.3 percent loss for the week. The index is still within half a percent of its record, though, and the market continues to make only modest moves through what's become a weeks-long, peaceful lull. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 22.81 points, or 0.1 percent, to 20,896.61, and the Nasdaq composite rose 5.27 points, or 0.1 percent, to 6,121.23. Small-company stocks fell more than the rest of the market. The Russell 2000 index lost 7.43 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,382.77.

The biggest loss in the S&P 500 came from Nordstrom, which plunged \$5.01, or 10.8 percent, to \$41.20 after it said a key sales figure weakened last quarter by more than analysts expected. Nordstrom joined a long list of other department-store chains that have reported discouraging results recently, as their customers increasingly head online.

J C Penney fell 74 cents, or 14 percent, to \$4.55 after it reported a loss for its latest

quarter and weaker revenue than analysts expected. The broader market, though, was much more pacific. It was the 13th straight day that the S&P 500 moved by less than 0.5 percent, the longest such streak since 1995.

"It's extremely calm, which always makes us a little nervous," said Eric Marshall, portfolio manager at Hodges Capital Management. "We're in a very narrow market and a very thin market: It's hard to buy things, and it's hard to sell things because the amount of trading volume out there has slowed down in recent weeks." The market has grown sleeper as companies have reported stronger-than-expected profits and as encouraging data lifted optimism about the global economy. The calmness also comes despite a spate of political jolts, including concerns about how successful Republicans in Washington will be at pushing through the pro-business changes that many investors are expecting.

A government report on Friday showed that shoppers picked up their spending at auto dealers, hardware stores and online shops last month, and retail sales rose 0.4 percent from March. That was below economists' expectations, but it's an acceleration from weak levels registered earlier in the year. It also may be an indication that the economy will indeed pick up from its early-year torpor, as many economists predict.

WALL STREET WEEKLY REPORT

Consumer prices also picked up a bit of momentum in April. Prices rose 0.2 percent last month, following a drop of 0.3 percent in March, as energy prices climbed higher. But after excluding energy and food prices, inflation was weaker last month than economists were expecting.

The Federal Reserve is paying close attention to inflation as it raises interest rates off their record lows, particularly where it is

after excluding energy and food prices, which can be volatile. Bond yields dropped as Treasury prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 2.32 percent from 2.40 percent late Thursday. The two-year yield dropped to 1.28 percent from 1.34 percent, and the 30-year yield fell to 2.99 percent from 3.03 percent.

Bank stocks have recently been trading in the opposite direction of Treasury yields,

because a pickup in interest rates would allow banks to make bigger profits from making loans.

Financial stocks in the S&P 500 fell 0.5 percent, second-most among the 11 sectors that make up the index. On the winning side were utilities, whose relatively big dividends look more attractive when bonds are paying less in interest. In European markets, the French CAC 40 rose 0.4 percent, the German DAX gained 0.5 percent and the FTSE 100 in London picked up 0.7 percent. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 0.4 percent, South Korea's Kospi fell 0.5 percent and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong ticked up by 0.1 percent.

Benchmark US crude oil rose a penny to settle at \$47.84 a barrel. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 7 cents to \$50.84 a barrel. Natural gas rose 5 cents to \$3.42 per 1,000 cubic feet, heating oil was close to flat at \$1.49 per gallon and wholesale gasoline rose a penny to \$1.58 per gallon.

Gold rose \$3.50 to settle at \$1,227.70 per ounce, silver gained 14 cents to \$16.40 per ounce and copper added 2 cents to \$2.52 per pound. The euro rose to \$1.0931 from \$1.0866 late Thursday. The dollar slipped to 113.29 Japanese yen from 113.88 yen, and the British pound slipped to \$1.2886 from \$1.2890. —AP



A Wall Street address is carved in the side of a building in New York.—AP

POLLUTION AND FISH DEATH ON KUWAIT BAY

AI-SHALL WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Bay, which is 35 km long and 20 km wide, is the biggest nursery for marine living creatures which suffered from the most disastrous catastrophe of fish kills in August and September of 2001 by the death of about 3,000 tons, or about 7 million fish, estimated by “Ragheda Haddad” in collaboration with “Al-Qabas” newspaper. This quantity was adequate to feed Kuwaitis for 5 years. After diagnosis and solution proposals by local research teams, Kuwait pursued assistance from a

Japanese team to repeat the diagnosis causes and train a permanent team to deal with the bay diseases. The diagnosis did not bring anything new to us, ie closure of “Draideer” area which slowed water circulation therein. Two ports that cannot be tolerated by the Bay, water desalination plants, waste water injection to oil wells, human industrial and medical pollutants in addition to unjust drainage are just examples of what is happening.

In other words, Kuwait Bay is a main source of what people eat and drink. 16 years after the 2001 crisis, awareness of danger was supposed to stir the sense of any official, the bay conditions became worse. Signs of pollution consequences began early this year. Fish kills began in April and not in the hot and moist August which causes severe shortage of oxygen.

This matter could have been easily handled by minimum level of environmental awareness

worth KD 1.708 billion with a net trading, selling, by KD 10.813 million.

The second largest contributor to market liquidity is the clients’ accounts (portfolios) which captured 22.2 percent of total value of sold shares (17.3 percent in the same period of 2016) and 21.4 percent of total value of purchased shares (15.4 percent in the same period of 2016). The sector sold shares worth KD 718.604 million and purchased shares worth KD 690.522 million, thus making its net trading, more selling, by KD 28.083 million.

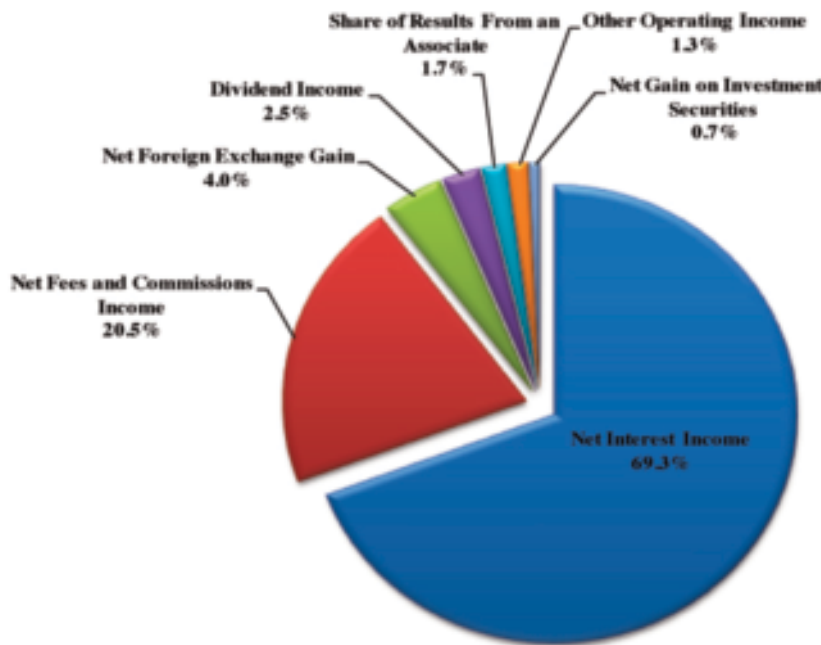
The third contributor, is the corporations and companies sector which captured 18.9 percent of total value of purchased shares (31.2 percent in the same period of 2016) and 18.1 percent of total value of sold shares (25.1 percent in the same period of 2016). The sector purchased shares worth KD 610.938 million and sold shares worth KD 585.979 million with a net trading, more purchasing, by KD 24.959 million. The last contributor to liquidity is the investment funds sector which captured 6.8 percent of total value of purchased shares (9.22 percent in the same period of 2016) and 6.4 percent of total value of sold shares (9.61 percent in the same period of 2016). This sector purchased shares worth KD 221.241 million and sold shares worth KD 207.304 million, with a net trading, purchasing, by KD 13.937 million.

Boursa Kuwait continues to be a domestic Boursa with the Kuwaiti investors forming the

es and investment incomes in the two sectors, the public and private and the current transfers for the two sectors. The balance on goods surplus (the difference between values of merchandise exports and merchandise imports) dropped from about KD 8.396 billion to KD 6.075 billion, down by KD -2.321 billion, or by 27.6 percent. Oil exports revenues dropped from KD 14.581 billion, or 89 percent of total merchandise exports in 2015, to about KD 12.527 billion, or 89.1 percent of total merchandise exports in 2016, a decline by 14.1 percent. The value of merchandise imports dropped very slightly by about -0.1 percent to about KD 7.977 billion. Net investment income value in both public and private sectors rose by KD 197 million, or by 5.1 percent, from KD 3.867 billion in 2015 to KD 4.064 billion in 2016.

The Central Bank tables point to a few significant numbers, such as workers’ remittances in 2016, which scored about KD 4.566 billion, the equivalent of \$15.1 billion, compared to about KD 4.492 billion in 2015. Total paid compensations during the year 2016, scored about KD 135 million, including about KD 49 million paid by the public sector and about KD 86 million paid by the private sector, vis-a-vis about KD 92 million paid compensations in 2015, including about KD 26 million paid by the public sector and about KD 66 million paid by the private sector in 2015.

Total Operating Incomes in The First Quarter 2017



ABK financial results Q1 2017

ABK announced results of its operations for the first quarter of the current year, which showed that the bank’s net profits, after deducting taxes, scored about KD 8.53 million, up by KD 762 thousand, or by 9.8 percent, compared with KD 7.77 million. This rise in the net profits is mainly due to rise in net operational incomes by a value higher than the rise in total expenditures. Therefore, the bank’s operational profits increased by about KD 1.6 million and scored KD 23.7 million compared with KD 22.1 million.

In details, total operational incomes rose by KD 2 million, or by 5.4 percent, to KD 38.4 million compared with KD 36.4 million. While, the item of net interests’ incomes declined by KD 507 thousand and scored KD 26.6 million compared with KD 27.1 million in the first quarter of 2016. Likewise, item dividend income dropped by KD 131 thousand and scored KD 956 thousand compared with KD 1.1 million. Total operational expenses increased by less than the rise in operational incomes by KD 349 thousand or by 2.4 percent to KD 14.6 million compared with KD 14.3 million for the same period of 2016. Item of other operational expenses rose by KD 1 million and scored KD 5.7 million versus KD 4.7 million. Other items of operational expenses dropped by KD 657 thousand and scored KD 8.9 million versus KD 9.6 million. Percentage of total operational expenses to total operational income scored 38.1 percent versus 39.3 percent. Total provisions increased by KD 1.2 million, or by 9.3 percent, to KD 14.3 million compared with KD 13.1 million. Therefore, the net profit margin scored 19.6 percent versus 18.2 percent in the same period 2016.

Total bank assets scored KD 4.311 billion, increase by 0.6 percent, versus KD 4.285 billion in the end of 2016. While dropped by 4.6 percent if it is compared with total assets in the first quarter of 2016 when they scored KD 4.520 billion. Item of loans and advances, the largest component of bank assets, increased by KD 22.1 million, or by 0.7 percent, and scored KD 3.052 billion (70.8 percent of total assets) versus KD 3.029 billion (70.7 percent of total assets) in the end of 2016.

But they dropped by KD 41.6 million, or by

1.3 percent, if compared with the same period of 2016, when they scored KD 3.093 billion (68.4 percent of total assets). Percentage of total loans and advances to total deposits scored about 83.3 percent compared with 80.2 percent. Item of investments securities decreased by KD 37.4 million and scored KD 200.5 million (4.7 percent of total assets) vis-à-vis KD 237.9 million (5.6 percent of total assets) in the end of 2016 and dropped by KD 113.9 million, if compared with the same period of 2016, when it scored KD 314.3 million (7 percent of total assets).

Figures indicate that the bank’s liabilities (without calculating total equity) increased by KD 31.6 million, or by 0.8 percent, and scored KD 3.761 billion compared with KD 3.729 billion in the end of 2016. While dropped by KD 210.8 million, or by 5.3 percent, compared with their value in the first quarter of 2016. Percentage of total liabilities to total assets scored 87.2 percent versus 87.9 percent.

Analysis of the bank’s financial statements calculated on annual basis indicates that all bank profitability indexes increased compared with the same period of 2016.

Average return on equities relevant to the bank shareholders (ROE) rose to 6.2 percent versus 5.6 percent. Likewise, the average return on capital (ROC) also increased to 21.1 percent versus 19.2 percent. The average return on assets (ROA) increased slightly to 0.8 percent versus 0.7 percent. (EPS) remained stable at 5 fils in the two periods. (P/E) scored 15.3 times improved- versus 16.8 times, due to the drop in the share’s market price by 9 percent versus its price on 31 March 2016.

Weekly performance of Boursa Kuwait

The performance of Boursa Kuwait for last week was mixed compared to the previous one, where the traded value index, traded volume index and the number of transactions index, showed an increase, while the general index showed a decrease. AI-Shall Index (value weighted) closed at 376.9 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing a decrease of about 1.8 points or about 0.5 percent compared with its level last week, but it increased by 13.9 points or about 3.8 percent compared with the end of 2011.

	31/03/2017	31/03/2016	Change		
	(Thousand KD)	(Thousand KD)	Value	%	
Total Assets	4,310,736	4,519,668	(208,932)	-4.6%	↓
Total liabilities	3,760,572	3,971,420	(210,848)	-5.3%	↓
Total Equity attributable to the equity holders of the bank	549,475	547,388	2,087	0.4%	↑
Total Operating Incomes	38,391	36,414	1,977	5.4%	↑
Total Operating Expenses	14,644	14,295	349	2.4%	↑
Provision	14,279	13,065	1,214	9.3%	↑
Taxation	934	1,282	(348)	-27.1%	↓
Net income	8,534	7,772	762	9.8%	↑
Ratios					
**Return on Average Assets (ROA)	0.8%	0.7%			↑
**Return on Average Equity Relevant To The Bank Shareholder (ROE)	6.2%	5.6%			↑
**Return on Average Capital (ROC)	21%	19.2%			↑
Earnings per share (EPS) – (Fils)	5	5	0	0.0%	↔
Closing price – (Fils)	305	335	(30)	-9.0%	↓
*Price to Earnings Per Share Multiplies (P/E)	15.3	16.8			
Price to Book Value Multiplies (P/B)	0.9	1			

* Indicators Ended March 31, 2017 on an annual basis.

** Calculated based on the average rate of the financial data at the end of December 2016 and 31 March 2017.

and some artificial cure a long time ago. Ironically, the government issues a statement claiming that the fish kills average in this time of the year is in the normal range due to changing temperatures in addition to human causes relevant to polluting Kuwait Bay. But what we should know is that what the government considers as normal death rate of fish is originally quite high; and the fish stock coupled with its disease drops drastically. This represents a crime against the current generation and the future generations as well.

Kuwait occupies the 81st position in the “Environment Index” issued by “Rotterdam” university for 2014. It also occupied position 42 out of 178 states in the “Environment Performance Index” issued by “Yale” university in 2014; it however lagged to position 113 in 2016. The Council of Ministers statement concurs that the environment regression is normal with some increase in pollutants.

This backwardness is consistent with Kuwait’s lack in the indicator of perceptions of corruption, competitiveness and business practice environment. It is unacceptable to have an official statement that declares that this backwardness is still within its former levels and the maximum government’s ambition is to maintain those low levels. Doctor “Salam Al-Abilani” says that Kuwait Bay condition has reached a chronic ailing case as a result of polluting Kuwait Bay by industrial wastes which weaken the immune system of these marine living organisms in the second best nursery worldwide. Thus the impact of natural causes transforms into a catastrophe. He then provided at least three easy but neglected solutions since 2001. This means that what is happening is human made.

When can we believe that Kuwait is much better than what is happening to it? When can we believe that Kuwait with its human and financial resources is capable to be much better than its reality? All the foregoing is the outcome of the incompetence of the public administration.

Crises occur in any country but they occur at distant intervals with learned lessons for not recurring and preventing others from occurring. Nowadays, Kuwait wakes up from a crisis this week only to be surprised by another one tomorrow while the region is not the same, neither are the resources. Premises are much more difficult and their confrontation requires better administrative capabilities than just referring its crises to public prosecution.

Trading features at Boursa Kuwait

Kuwait Clearing Company issued its report titled “Trading Volume According to Nationality and Category” from 01/01/2017 to 30/04/2017 published on Boursa Kuwait official website. The report indicated that individuals are still the largest group, their share started to increase and they captured 53.2 percent of total value of sold shares (48.5 percent for the first third 2016) and 52.9 percent of total value of purchased shares (44.1 percent for the first third 2016). Individual investors sold shares worth KD 1.719 billion and purchased shares

biggest trading group and sold shares worth KD 2.924 billion capturing 90.5 percent of total value of sold shares (86.61 percent in the same period of 2016) and purchased shares worth KD 2.871 billion, capturing 88.9 percent of total value of purchased shares (86.56 percent in the same period of 2016). Thus, their net trading, the only one selling, scored KD 52.764 million, which is an indicator of a receding confidence of local traders.

Other investors’ share, out of total value of purchased shares, scored 7.9 percent (9.5 percent in the same period of 2016), and purchased shares worth KD 254.420 million, while their value of sold shares worth KD 210.544 million, 6.5 percent of total value of sold shares (10.3 percent in the same period of 2016). As a result, their net trading, more purchasing, scored KD 43.875 million.

Share of GCC investors, out of total value of purchased shares, formed 3.2 percent (3.9 percent in the same period of 2016), worth KD 104.946 million, while value of sold shares formed 3 percent (3.2 percent in the same period of 2016), worth KD 96.057 million, their net trading, purchasing, by about KD 8.888 million.

Relative distribution among nationalities changed from its previous one and became as follows: 89.7 percent for Kuwaitis, 7.2 percent for traders from other nationalities, and 3.1 percent for GCC traders vis-à-vis 86.5 percent, 9.9 percent and 3.6 percent for Kuwaitis, other nationalities and GCC traders respectively in the same period of 2016. This means that Boursa Kuwait remained a local one with the rise in the share of its investors from local traders. However, the turnout is still higher from investors mainly outside the GCC region than from the inside of the GCC region in which an overtrading of individuals is a dominant factor. Number of active accounts between the end of December 2016 and the end of April 2017 rose by 29.5 percent (compared to a decrease by -7 percent between the end of December 2015 and the end of April 2016). Number of active accounts in the end of April 2017 scored 20,208 accounts, 5.4 percent of total accounts, versus 19,652 accounts in the end of March 2017, 5.2 percent of total accounts for the same month, with a rise of 2.8 percent during April 2017.

Balance of payments 2016

The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) published preliminary figures of the balance of payments for 2016, which indicate that the current account recorded a deficit of about KD 1.510 billion, the equivalent of approximately \$4.998 billion, (4.5 percent of total estimated 2016 GDP), which is the first since 1993 when the CBK reclassified the components of the balance of payments, ie Kuwait entered the tunnel of double deficit of the general budget and current account. The current account scored a surplus of KD 1.208 billion for 2015. The Central Bank has adjusted 2015 figures, downwards putting the surplus at KD 1.208 billion instead of the KD 1.797 billion, i.e. with adjustment rate of approximately -32.8 percent. The current account consists of balances on goods, serv-

Kuwait, presumably, through its public and private sectors, recorded a decrease in its foreign investments to reach KD 1.068 billion, against an increase of KD 2.360 billion in 2015. This includes portfolio investments, i.e. securities by about KD 5.696 billion, and other investments by KD 6.764 billion. Summary tables indicate that the balance of payments had achieved a surplus by about KD 960 million in 2016, compared with a deficit of KD 886 million in 2015. It is expected that oil market weakness impact will continue in 2017 data.

	Company Name	THU 11/05/2017	THU 04/05/2017	DIFF %	CLOSE 2016	DIFF %
1	The National Bank Of Kuwait	394.1	394.1	0.0	362.9	8.6
2	The Gulf Bank	198.3	198.3	0.0	195.0	1.7
3	Commercial Bank Of Kuwait	342.4	361.2	(5.2)	349.7	(2.1)
4	Al-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait	203.0	203.0	0.0	196.4	3.4
5	Kuwait International Bank	256.4	256.4	0.0	214.7	19.4
6	Ahli United Bank	389.9	399.4	(2.4)	361.0	8.0
7	Burgan Bank	327.9	322.9	1.5	283.4	15.7
8	Kuwait Finance House	1169.7	1183.1	(1.1)	1172.1	(0.2)
	Banking Sector	402.3	404.9	(0.6)	379.3	6.1
9	Commercial Facilities Co	116.9	118.4	(1.3)	112.6	3.8
10	International Financial Advisors	316.1	336.4	(6.0)	251.3	25.8
11	National Investments	133.4	130.9	1.9	119.5	11.6
12	Kuwait Investment Projects	869.1	869.1	0.0	1114.2	(22.0)
13	Coast Investment & Development	58.1	60.8	(4.4)	52.6	10.5
	Investment Sector	273.2	275.3	(0.8)	311.7	(12.4)
14	Kuwait Insurance Company	58.4	52.5	11.2	61.7	(5.3)
15	Gulf Insurance Company	313.6	313.6	0.0	382.1	(17.9)
16	Al-Ahleia Insurance Company	184.0	185.9	(1.0)	170.9	7.7
17	Warba Insurance Company	75.4	75.4	0.0	83.6	(9.8)
	Insurance Sector	134.1	131.5	2.0	145.0	(7.5)
18	Kuwait Real Estate Company	88.6	93.6	(5.3)	100.1	(11.5)
19	United Realty Company	173.3	181.5	(4.5)	191.7	(9.6)
20	National Real Estate Company	238.5	233.9	2.0	238.5	0.0
21	Salhia Real Estate Company	1494.0	1494.0	0.0	1433.4	4.2
	Real Estate Sector	192.4	194.1	(0.9)	195.8	(1.7)
22	The National Industries	101.9	105.4	(3.3)	109.0	(6.5)
23	Refrigeration Industries Co	731.1	753.8	(3.0)	618.1	18.3
24	Gulf Cable & Electrical Industries	165.9	171.9	(3.5)	149.9	10.7
25	Contracting & Marine Services Co	37.9	37.9	0.0	39.1	(3.1)
	Industrial Sector	187.2	192.9	(3.0)	172.4	8.6
26	Kuwait National Cinemas	703.0	828.6	(15.2)	778.4	(9.7)
27	Kuwait Hotels Company	137.5	137.5	0.0	145.8	(5.7)
28	The Public Warehousing Co	2483.8	2406.1	3.2	2406.1	3.2
29	Mobile Telecommunications Co - ZAIN	619.2	587.9	5.3	541.1	14.4
30	Safat Energy Co	12.9	13.1	(1.5)	11.1	16.2
	Services Sector	872.2	853.4	2.2	822.1	6.1
31	Livestock Transport & Trading Co	186.7	173.3	7.7	178.3	4.7
32	Danah Aalsafat Foodstuff Company	81.8	83.9	(2.5)	89.0	(8.1)
33	Kuwait Food Co	2404.3	2463.4	(2.4)	2561.9	(6.2)
	Food Sector	836.7	852.4	(1.8)	887.2	(5.7)
34	Sharjah Cement Co	379.1	362.5	4.6	358.3	5.8
35	Gulf Cement Co	318.5	314.5	1.3	302.4	5.3
36	Umm Al-Qaiwain Cement Industries	669.6	669.6	0.0	551.8	21.3
	Non Kuwaiti Companies	234.1	231.3	1.2	222.6	5.2
	General Index	376.9	378.7	(0.5)	363.0	3.8



Al-Muhanna and Al-Nahedh cutting the ribbon.



Al-Muhanna and Al-Nahedh with male staff members of the branch.

KFH OPENS NEW BRANCH IN AL-NUZHA

CAPITAL GOVERNOR PRAISES BANK'S EFFORTS IN OFFERING BEST FINANCIAL SERVICES

KUWAIT: Capital Governor Lt Gen Thabet Al-Muhanna praised the significant role of Kuwait Finance House "KFH" in supporting and developing the national economy along with the distinctive banking and financial services offered to customers.

Al-Muhanna added during his participation in cutting the ribbon of opening KFH's branch in Al-Nuzha are with the attendance of large

prominent officials from KFH led by the Group CEO Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh that KFH enjoys a long track record of regional and global achievements represented by the financing services to different development projects, the restructuring that serves its new vision of adapting the best practices of banking transactions as per highest international standards, in addition to the professionalism of innova-

tion and customer services across huge network of branches spread all over Kuwait. He underlined the full compliance of KFH with Sharia principles and the regulations of regulatory authorities.

Meanwhile, Al-Nahedh said that the opening of Al-Nuzha branch represents an added civilized and service value to the people of the area and meets the needs of a large number

therefrom. This comes within the bank's policy aiming at maintaining the pioneering position while expanding the network of KFH local branches so as to provide the best services to customers in the nearest place to their presence, noting that KFH is continuously keen on providing the best innovative services and products to its customers. KFH extensively focuses on upgrading the performance style

of its branches and staff to match with the growth in customers' volume and meet their needs and demands.

He added that KFH uniquely offers branches dedicated for ladies and others for men, indicating Al-Nuzha branch offers Safe Deposit Boxes service, instant card issuance in addition to all banking services that meet customers' ambitions.



Al-Muhanna and Al-Nahedh with ladies staff of the branch

NREC REPORTS KD3.8M NET PROFIT FOR Q1 2017

KUWAIT: National Real Estate Company (NREC), a leading regional developer with development projects exceeding \$2 billion in Egypt and the UAE, yesterday announced its financial results for the first quarter of 2017.

Q1 2017 Financial Results Highlights:

- Operating Revenue: KD4.2 million, down 42.5% from Q1'2016
- EBITDA: KD4.5 million, down 0.8% from Q1'2016
- Net Profit to shareholders: KD3.8 million, up 4.7% from Q1'2016
- Earnings Per Share (EPS): 4.04 fils

NREC CEO Samuel Sidiqi said, "Our rental portfolio, which includes assets in Kuwait and Jordan,

continues to provide a stable and growing stream of revenue for the company, while our new billion-dollar developments projects in Egypt's housing sector and UAE's vibrant retail sector are progressing very well.

"In Egypt, we continue to enjoy a healthy stream of sales revenues resulting from unit sales of various types of units in our Grand Heights 3.8 million square meter residential community. We



NREC CEO Samuel Sidiqi

have sold 860 units with a cumulative sales value of EGP 2.8 billion.

"In Abu Dhabi, where we are developing a two million square foot major shopping destination, leasing activities are progressing very well and we recently secured a significant new partnership with Majid Al-Futtaim Ventures to bring a wide range of exciting and innovative leisure and entertainment attractions to the mall. Reem Mall, which will soon start construction, will house more than 450 stores including 85 restaurants, a large hypermarket, and family entertainment zones that include the world's largest indoor snow-play park. "We are looking forward to a strong 2017 and anticipate important advances with our key megaprojects."

ETIHAD AIRWAYS APPOINTS NEW COUNTRY MANAGER FOR SUDAN

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), yesterday announced the appointment of Ali Ghanim Hadi as its new Country Manager for Sudan. Based at the airline's Khartoum office, Hadi will be responsible for leading Etihad Airways' commercial operations in Sudan, one of the airline's longest-established markets.

With over four years of experience at the airline, he has developed excellent contacts with the travel and tourism industry in the Gulf and further afield. He has moved from head office in Abu Dhabi where he worked as a Sales Manager responsible for managing a mixed portfolio of accounts for both local and federal government.

Daniel Barranger, Etihad Airways Vice President Global Sales, said "We are delighted to have Ali lead the team in the Khartoum office, where he will continue to drive commercial success in Sudan, one of Etihad Airways' oldest markets. "Ali's promotion is recognition of his hard work and Etihad Airways' commitment to develop and nurture Emirati talent to take up leadership roles both in Abu Dhabi and overseas."

Etihad Airways, which began flying to Sudan in 2006, currently operates four flights a week between Abu Dhabi and Khartoum. The service provides passengers with connections between Sudan and the UAE, with access to key destinations across Etihad Airways' global network in the Indian Subcontinent, Asia, Europe and North America.

Etihad Aviation Group (EAG) is a diversified global aviation and travel group comprising five business divisions - Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, Etihad Airways Engineering, Etihad Airport Services, Hala Group and Airline Equity Partners. The group has minority investments in seven airlines: airberlin, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, Alitalia, Jet Airways, Virgin Australia, and Swiss-based Darwin Airline, trading as Etihad Regional.



Ali Ghanim Hadi

GULF BANK INTRODUCES NEW ATMS POWERED BY DIEBOLD NIXDORF SOFTWARE

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank is pleased to be introducing new ATM machines at 50 locations across Kuwait. These new machines are powered with software from Diebold Nixdorf, a global leader in driving and enabling connected commerce across the retail and financial industry.

These new ATM machines combine an upgraded customer experience with enhanced security. The addition of these machines will augment Gulf Bank's already strong ATM presence at over 250 locations. The Bank's ATM network also includes 6 machines which are designed to cater to those with special needs. Additionally, Gulf Bank has ## Interactive Teller (ITM) machines which enable customers to easily

complete numerous transaction without having to visit a teller.

Laila Al-Qatami, Assistant General Manager for Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank said, "Adding these new machines into our ATM network are a component of Gulf Bank's strategy of providing innovative, easy-to use products coupled with superior customer service. As such, we continue to invest in new technologies that provide state-of-the-art solutions to enhance the customer experience. We anticipate positive response from our customers due the machine design and enhanced security features."

Al-Qatami continued, "Additionally, we are glad to be continuing our already fruitful relationship with Diebold Nixdorf to provide our customers with the world-class products and service to simplify their banking experiences. With round the clock maintenance service from local partner Axis Solutions, we will reduce downtime, reduce power consumption, and increase customer satisfaction."

Habib Hanna, Vice President and Managing Director for Diebold MENA said: "We are delighted to partner with Gulf bank to elevate the customer experience, and we will continue to serve as a true partner to provide industry-leading technology and services to shape the future of consumer transactions. Diebold Nixdorf's technology leadership is continuing to enable our customers to stay ahead in this rapidly changing, increasingly digital consumer landscape."



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CHEVROLET'S STRONGEST OFFER OF THE YEAR

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+ FREE service contract for 3 years or 60,000 km

+ FREE window tinting from KromOzone

+ FREE third-party insurance and registration

SILVERADO 2017 IMPALA 2017 TRAX 2017 CAMARO 2017 TAHOE 2017

Purchase any Chevrolet® vehicle and instantly receive all these gifts for free with this special offer

FIND NEW ROADS®

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On selected models

CHEVROLET ALGHANIM LAUNCHES STRONGEST OFFERS OF THE YEAR, AHEAD OF HOLY RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Following the great success of its offers launched ahead of the Holy month of Ramadan last year, and as part of its ongoing commitment to reward existing customers, Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive (Chevrolet Alghanim), the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, launched its strongest offers yet for the year, starting May 7, 2017 and ahead of the Holy month of Ramadan. Chevrolet Alghanim offers exclusive prices and valuable gifts for all those who are interested to purchase any Chevrolet 2017 vehicles during the duration of the offer.

In addition to these enticing prices, customers will receive an immediate and guaranteed cash prize of up to KD1,200 by drawing up to three cash coupons, depending on the vehicle bought. To ensure the highest level of customer satisfaction, in addition to the cash prizes, customers will all receive a three-year or 60,000 kilometres service package, and window film

provided by KromOzone. Additionally customers will receive free third-party insurance and car registration to ensure the best level of customer service. This will ensure that purchasing a vehicle from Chevrolet during the holy month of Ramadan is the best choice for all customers.

To enhance after purchase service support "Chevrolet Complete Care Program" was launched by Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons for all Chevrolet customers. Chevrolet Alghanim has the largest service centre in the world bids customers a peace of mind that is fully equipped with modern equipment and systems for maintenance that is operated by a highly qualified technical team that provide an excellent service that is based on 4 main pillars competitive and transparent service costs, scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, offering a 3 year or 100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.

MICROSOFT AIMS TO CREATE A MORE VERSATILE WINDOWS 10

SAN FRANCISCO: Microsoft will try to make Windows 10 more versatile with a wave of new features for creating memories, exploring virtual scenery and hopscotching from personal computers to mobile devices. The added bells and whistles will roll out later this year as part of "Fall Creators Update" that will be provided for free to 500 million personal computers, smartphones and tablets powered by Windows 10.

Microsoft previewed the update Thursday in Seattle during its annual conference for applications developers. The company didn't specify when it will be available; a preview for early testers was released Thursday. The latest changes come on the heels of a free update that began to roll out last month. "We are building Windows to be the platform that empowers everyone to create," Terry Myerson, Microsoft's top Windows executive, wrote in a blog post.

Some of the upcoming tools represent another step in Microsoft's attempt to catch up with two of its biggest rivals, Apple and Google. Along that vein, a new feature called Story Remix will automatically identify the best photos and videos to help people create highlights of their experiences. Microsoft also is opening up Windows 10 so it works better with the smartphones and tablets running on Apple's iOS and Google's Android software. A growing depend-

ence on those mobile devices has reduced the role that Windows-powered PCs play in people's lives.

That shift to smartphones and tablets also is one of the reasons the next Windows 10 update will include a multifaceted clipboard to let you copy text, images and other content on a PC and paste it on a phone, even iPhones and Android, as though the PC and phone were one. The tool is similar to what Apple already offers with Universal Clipboard in iPhones, iPads and Mac computers. Another upcoming feature will let you start working on a document on a Windows 10 PC and pick up where you left off on a rival phone.

In another concession to the popularity of Apple's products, iTunes software will be added to the Windows Store - an announcement that evoked some of the loudest cheers in Thursday's crowd. That development will be particularly helpful for students using a streamlined version of Windows designed for classrooms. That recently introduced version, Windows 10 S, can't get apps directly from third parties such as Apple, as regular Windows 10 users can.

Meanwhile, Microsoft is vying to be more of a trailblazer by expanding its exploration of a new technological frontier that allows people to blend the real world with three-dimensional projections of life-like images. The Redmond,

Washington, company calls the emerging field "mixed reality" because it melds the artificial with things that are actually happening around us. The concept is more commonly known as augmented reality.

Another format that immerses people in completely fabricated situations is known as virtual reality.

Microsoft plans to introduce a new headset and motion controller in time for

the holiday season. The equipment, to be made by Acer, will sell as a package for \$399, far less than the \$3,000 to \$5,000 Microsoft charges for another mixed reality headset called HoloLens.—AP



SEATTLE: Audience members look on as designers from Cirque du Soleil demonstrate the use of Microsoft's HoloLens device in helping to virtually build a set at the Microsoft Build 2017 developers conference in Seattle. —AP



BEIJING: A screenshot of the warning screen from a purported ransomware attack, as captured by a computer user in Taiwan, is seen on laptop in Beijing. —AP

WHAT IS RANSOMWARE?

LOS ANGELES: Computers across the world were locked up Friday and users' files held for ransom when dozens of countries were hit in a cyber-extortion attack that targeted hospitals, companies and government agencies. Here's a look at how malware and ransomware work and what people can do if they fall victim to attacks.

What is malware and ransomware?

Malware is a general term that refers to software that's harmful to your computer, said John Villasenor, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. Ransomware is a type of malware that essentially takes over a computer and prevents users from accessing data on the computer until a ransom is paid, he said.

How does your computer become infected with ransomware?

In most cases, the software infects computers through links or attachments in malicious messages known as phishing emails. "The age-old advice is to never click on a link in an email," said Jerome Segura, a senior malware intelligence researcher at Malwarebytes, a San Jose-based company that has released antiransomware software. "The idea is to try to trick the victim into running a malicious piece of code." The software is usually hidden within links or attachments in emails. Once the user clicks on the link or opens the document, their computer is infected and the software takes over.

But how does it work?

"Ransomware, like the name suggests, is when your files are held for ransom," said Peter Reiher, an adjunct professor at UCLA who specializes in computer science and cybersecurity. "It finds all of your files and encrypts them and then leaves you a mes-

sage. If you want to decrypt them, you have to pay." The ransomware encrypts data on the computer using an encryption key that only the attacker knows. If the ransom isn't paid, the data is often lost forever.

When the ransomware takes over a computer, the attackers are pretty explicit in their demands, Segura said. In most cases, they change the wallpaper of the computer and give specific instructions telling the user how to pay to recover their files. Most attackers demand between \$300 and \$500 to remove the malicious ransomware; the price can double if the amount isn't paid within 24 hours. Law enforcement officials have discouraged people from paying these ransoms.

How can people prevent attacks like this?

The first step is being cautious, experts say. But Villasenor said there is "no perfect solution" to the problem. Users should regularly back up their data and ensure that security updates are installed on your computer as soon as they are released. Up-to-date backups make it possible to restore files without paying a ransom. Friday's attack exploited vulnerabilities in some versions of Microsoft Windows. Microsoft has released software patches for the security holes, although not everyone has installed those updates.

"If your software is not patched, you can exploit that user. Anyone who applied the patch that Microsoft released likely wasn't affected by this," Reiher said. Users should also look for malicious email messages that often masquerade as emails from companies or people you regularly interact with online. It's important to avoid clicking on links or opening attachments in those messages, since they could unleash malware, Villasenor said.—AP

ROBOTIC 'EXOSKELETON' PREVENTS ELDERLY FALLS

PARIS: Scientists unveiled a lightweight, robotic, outer "skeleton" Thursday that can detect when someone loses their balance, correct their gait, and prevent their fall. Designed to limit stumbles among the elderly, the device has sensors that can discern in real time when a limb starts to buckle or flail, and lightweight motors which exert instant force on both legs to restore balance.

"Wearable machines that enhance your movement and endurance no longer belong to the realm of science fiction," the device's creators said in a statement. According to the World Health Organization, falls are the second cause of death from accidental or unintentional injuries worldwide. Every year, more than 420,000 people die from falls—most of those are older than 65.

Nearly 40 million falls that require medical attention are reported annually, says the WHO, and this number is likely to skyrocket as people live to become

ever older.

Dubbed the Active Pelvis Orthosis or APO, the new device could also help disabled people and amputees, said its designers from the Scuola Sant'Anna, an Italian University, and Switzerland's EPFL polytechnical school.

"It's technology that will actually help people with their daily activities," they added. The team published the results of their lab experiments in the journal Nature Scientific Reports. The "exoskeleton" is worn from the waist down, its creators explained, "and is vastly different from the armored stuff you see in today's science fiction movies."

It is attached to a belt worn around the middle that holds small motors at the hips, and soft braces strapped to the thighs. The device weighs about five kilograms, can be easily adjusted to a person's individual height and girth, and does not interfere with normal walking, the team said. —AFP

JUDGE REFERS THEFT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST UBER TO US ATTORNEY

DETROIT: A federal judge has referred trade secret theft allegations made against Uber by Google's autonomous car unit to the US Attorney's office for investigation. District Judge William Alsup in San Francisco made the referral in an order posted Thursday night. Waymo has sued Uber alleging that the ride-hailing company is using stolen Waymo technology to develop its own self-driving vehicles. Alsup is presiding over the lawsuit.

"This case is referred to the United States Attorney for investigation of possible theft of trade secrets based on the evidentiary record supplied thus far concerning plaintiff Waymo LLC's claims for trade secret misappropriation," Alsup wrote in the order. "The court takes no position on whether a prosecution is or is not warranted, a decision entirely up to the United States Attorney." Neither Uber nor Waymo would comment specifically on the judge's referral Thursday night.

The high-stakes corporate espionage case revolves around Waymo's allegations that Uber's work on self-driving cars has been riding on trade secrets stolen by a former Google engineer, Anthony Levandowski. Waymo contends that before leaving Google early last year, Levandowski downloaded 14,000 documents containing details about a navigational tool called Lidar that robotic cars need to see what's around them.

Waymo has alleged in its lawsuit that Levandowski and Uber conspired to create a sham self-driving truck startup called Otto as a prelude to a \$680 million deal for Uber to buy Otto and get the desperately needed technology. After Uber bought Otto, Levandowski took over oversight of Uber's self-driving car division. He stepped down from the role earlier this month until

Waymo's lawsuit is resolved. Uber has vehemently denied using Waymo's ideas, maintaining that its Lidar system is radically different.

Meanwhile, Levandowski has refused to turn over his personal laptop or answer most other questions posed by Waymo's lawyers while asserting his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. Also Thursday, Alsup issued a ruling on Waymo's request for an order to stop Uber's work on autonomous vehicles while the lawsuit is decided, but the

ruling was temporarily sealed because it contained confidential information.

A case synopsis said the judge granted part of Waymo's request but also denied part.

In addition, Alsup denied Uber's request to force the high-tech corporate espionage lawsuit out of court and into arbitration. Alsup ruled that Waymo has taken Levandowski to arbitration, and a separate lawsuit was the only course available to sue Uber. In a statement,

Waymo, part of Alphabet Inc., called Uber's arbitration request a "desperate bid" to avoid the court. "We welcome the court's decision today, and we look forward to holding Uber responsible in court for its misconduct," the statement said. But Uber said it's unfortunate that Waymo can avoid an arbitration promise that it requires employees to make. "We remain confident in our case and welcome the chance to talk about our independently developed technology in any forum." —AP



CALIFORNIA: This file photo shows the logo of the ride sharing service Uber in front of its headquarters in San Francisco, California. —AFP

LATVIAN DAREDEVIL IN DRONE-DIVING WORLD FIRST

TAURENE, Latvia: A Latvian tech company is claiming a world first after successfully test-flying a super-powered drone which lifted a daredevil skydiver aloft, from where he parachuted safely back down to earth. Manufacturer Aeronas performed the feat this week in a secret "drone-diving" operation in a wild, isolated central region of the Baltic state to which AFP had exclusive access. The powerful drone measuring 3.2 square meters sports 16 rotors. Weighing 70 kilograms, it can lift up to 200 kilos. The same drone was used in January to debut "drone-boarding" by towing snowboarders at high speed across a frozen Latvian lake. But this week's operation was even more perilous with the drone collecting a man from the top of a tower and then lifting him some 330 meters into the air.

After testing the drone by lifting and dropping a dead weight of 90 kilograms, it was the turn of daredevil skydiver Ingus Augstkalns to literally take the plunge as what is believed to be the world's first "drone-diver". "It was so much fun-like being in a playground in childhood," Augstkalns said. "Of course there were still risks in doing it the first time. "Being lifted the first five meters was probably the most nervous moment, but the drone lifted me... and two seconds later I was under the (parachute) canopy."

No helicopter

Aeronas CEO Janis Putrams, who was in charge of the drone controls, told AFP "You no longer need a helicopter" to skydive. "Today we did the first drone jump, a completely new way of base jumping. It makes it possible to base jump from any place-in cities, in desert, in mountains," he added. But as well

as the extreme sports potential of drone-diving, the company hopes to exploit the drone's abilities to perform rescue operations, for instance of people trapped on the roof of a burning building or other difficult-to-reach locations.

"We're aiming at using it for human rescue, so today was a good test," Putrams said. He and his team of engineers first came up with the idea of

building the heavy-duty drone two years ago. It cost 35,000 euros (\$37,000) to build and for now, flight times are restricted to around 10 minutes using on-board batteries. In theory the top speed is around 150 kilometers per hour, but piloting becomes difficult at that velocity, so drone-boarding and drone-diving daredevils have to make do with speeds of around 60 kph. —AFP



TAURENE, Latvia: This handout picture released by Aeronas shows skydiver Ingus Augstkalns hanging in mid-air in Taurene, central Latvia, after being lifted by a drone made by the Latvian Aeronas company. —AFP

NEW ZEALAND'S AMBITIOUS PLAN TO SAVE BIRDS: KILL EVERY RAT

WELLINGTON, New Zealand: New Zealand has set itself an environmental goal so ambitious it's been compared to putting a man on the moon: Ridding the entire nation of every last rat, opossum and stoat.

The idea is to give a second chance to the distinctive birds that once ruled this South Pacific nation. When New Zealand split away from the supercontinent Gondwanaland 85 million years ago, predatory mammals hadn't evolved. That allowed birds to thrive. Some gave up flight altogether to strut about the forest floor.

Then humans arrived, bringing predators with them. Rats stowed away on ships. Settlers introduced opossums for the fur trade and weasel-like stoats to control rabbits. The pests destroyed forest habitats and feasted on the birds and their eggs. More than 40 species of birds died out and many others remain threatened, including the iconic kiwi.

Now people want to turn back the clock. Yet the plan sounds impossible. How do you kill millions of vermin across a country that's the size of the United Kingdom? How do you ensure a few furtive rats won't undo all the hard work by surviving and breeding?

Scientists are talking about the mission in military terms: choking off pests on peninsulas and then advancing the front lines from there; developing new

traps and genetic weapons; winning the hearts and minds of children and farmers alike.

Momentum began growing five years ago when the nation's leading scientist, Sir Paul Callaghan, delivered an impassioned speech. When it comes to heritage, he said, England has its Stonehenge, China its Great Wall, France its Lascaux cave paintings. What makes New Zealand unique, he asked? Its birds.

Callaghan was suffering from advanced cancer and could barely stand. But for over an hour he outlined his predator-free vision, saying how growing up he was inspired by efforts to reach the moon and how saving the birds could become New Zealand's own Apollo program. He died a month later, but the vision grew.

Nine months ago, it became official government policy. Then-Prime Minister John Key announced a goal to wipe out the nuisance animals by 2050, calling it the "most ambitious conservation project attempted anywhere in the world."

The goal has been embraced by many, although even its strongest supporters say it will require scientific breakthroughs. Some critics argue the plan should also have targeted feral cats or worry mice numbers might explode if rats disappear. Others say the effort is underfunded and overly ambitious.

"It's a fantasy science fiction," says Wayne Linklater, a wildlife biologist at the Victoria University of Wellington. "And it really is seriously distracting us from some really big changes and improvements we can make in biodiversity and the environment now."

The number of pests in New Zealand is many times larger than the human population of nearly 5 million. Opossum numbers in 2009 were estimated at 30 million. Scientists can't hazard a guess at how many rats there are because their numbers fluctuate wildly.

So far, the government has committed only a few tens of millions of dollars toward the project, which is estimated to cost billions. Officials say more money will come from local authorities and philanthropists.

Many aren't waiting for that. Along a popular forest trail a 10-minute drive from the bustle of central Wellington, Jonathan Moulds takes breaks from his run to clamber up banks and check rat traps. He's one of 50 volunteer trappers who incorporate pest control into their regular workouts at the Polhill Reserve. Many became inspired three years ago after rare native birds that disappeared from the region a century ago began breeding there again.

Paul Ward, who leads the volunteer group, lists ways that birds have seeped into the culture, from the country's

music awards that are named after the boisterous tui to the nickname for a New Zealander: kiwi. "It's about looking after our identity as much as it is looking after the birds," he says.

James Russell, a scientist at the University of Auckland, has great hopes for the eradication plan. And he knows exactly how hard it can be to catch a single rat. During his doctoral research 15 years ago, Russell released monitored rats on small islands to see if they would take over.

The first rat he released, named Razza, evaded recapture for 18 weeks. It even swam to another island. The story inspired a local author to write a children's book in which Razza defiantly repeats the line, "Can't catch me."

But Russell, heartened by the progress since then, says New Zealand leads the world in clearing vermin. Rangers have wiped out pests from more than 100 small islands, which are providing a breeding ground for rare birds. Yet making the much larger main islands pest-free remains an enormous leap.

Russell is helping lead an effort to find scientific breakthroughs, such as changing pest genes to make them die out, using biosensors to target individual pests over vast areas, and using powerful new lures that rely on the scent of sex rather than food.

The Goodnature company in

Wellington is coming up with its own innovations. It has developed traps that use pressurized carbon dioxide to reset themselves. Left alone, one trap can kill 24 rats over six months.

Robbie van Dam, a company founder, says that cuts down on the expense of employing trappers, which is particularly useful in remote areas. Van Dam says the company is now investigating the use of drones to help place traps.

Other pest control methods have proved contentious, including use of the poison 1080, sodium fluoroacetate. Hunters say the toxin sometimes kills their dogs, and animal advocacy groups say it's inhumane. Conservation Minister Maggie Barry says a benefit of wiping out pests would be ending the use of such toxins. She says taxpayers stand to save tens of millions of dollars a year that's spent on pest control.

Barry looks about the Zealandia sanctuary in Wellington, where raucous kaka parrots and fidgety saddlebacks are among the rare birds protected from predators by a specially designed fence that stretches for miles. She says she hopes one day the whole country will look, and sound, as idyllic. "The momentum has been fantastic," Barry says. "Street by street, town by town, city by city, we will join forces and achieve this thing." —AP

MYTH BUSTED: PEOPLE SMELL AS WELL AS DOGS

MIAMI: People's sense of smell is just as sharp as those of rats and dogs, a US researcher said Thursday, calling for an end to a century-old "myth" to the contrary. Rutgers University neuroscientist John McGann reviewed research and historical writings he says led to the misconception that human sense of

smell is inferior, according to the report in the journal Science.

"For so long people failed to stop and question this claim, even people who study the sense of smell for a living," he said. "The fact is the sense of smell is just as good in humans as in other mammals, like rodents and dogs." Humans have

long been believed capable of detecting about 10,000 different odors. In fact, the number is closer to one trillion, McGann said.

A 19th-century brain surgeon and anthropologist named Paul Broca provided the origin of the myth about humans' poor sense of smell, according to the Science report

said. In his 1879 writings, Broca cited the smaller volume of humans' olfactory area in the brain compared to other, larger parts. It meant that humans had free will and didn't have to rely on smell to survive like dogs and other mammals, he argued.

Broca's theory even influenced the Austrian neurologist and father of psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud, who believed people's lack of smell makes them more susceptible to mental illness. "It has been a long cultural belief that in order to be a reasonable or rational person, you could not be dominated by a sense of smell," McGann said. "Smell was linked to earthly animalistic tendencies." The human olfactory bulb makes up just 0.01 percent of the brain's volume compared to two percent in mice, McGann said. But its absolute size in people is actually quite large—in adults it can reach around two inches (60 millimeters) — and has a similar number of neurons compared to those of other mammals.

The difference between humans, dogs and rodents when it comes to sense of smell may come down to different sensitivities to certain odors. "We are capable of tracking odor trails, and our behavioral and affective states are influenced by our sense of smell," McGann wrote. But although humans may be better at sniffing fine wines, dogs are likely to keep excelling at analyzing the various types of urine on offer at the nearest fire hydrant. —AFP



NEW YORK: This file photo taken on February 13, 2017 shows a Chinese Crested and handler Lydia Frey as they pose in the Judging area during Day One of competition at the Westminster Kennel Club 141st Annual Dog Show. —AFP



KAMPUNGU, DR Congo: (FILES) This file handout taken on September 29, 2007 released by the World Health Organization on October 1, 2007 shows international non-governmental organization Doctors Without Borders (MSF) doctor Hilde Declerck (R) taking care of a 43-year-old patient, suffering from Ebola haemorrhagic fever (EHF) at an MSF isolation ward. —AFP

HEALTH EXPERTS IN CONGO IDENTIFY TWO MORE SUSPECTED EBOLA CASES

KINSHASA: Health experts have identified two more suspected cases of Ebola in Democratic Republic of Congo, a day after the government declared an outbreak of the disease that has killed one man, the UN health agency said yesterday. Government and World Health Organization (WHO) officials reached a remote area of Bas-Uele province in northeastern Congo near the border with Central African Republic yesterday for a field investigation, WHO said.

Experts say to prevent the spread of the virus they must quickly track down, test, isolate and treat suspected cases. They also need to protect health workers and educate the population about hygiene measures. "The first case and possibly the index case, a 39-year-old male, presented onset of symptoms on 22 April, 2017, and deceased on arrival at the health facility," a WHO statement said. "Two contacts of this case are being investigated: a person who took care of him during transport to the health care facility, he has since developed similar symptoms, and a moto-taxi driver who transported the patient to the health care facility," it said, adding that

the taxi driver had died. In addition, two more people in the area have been identified as suspected cases in the last 24 hours, bringing the total number of cases to 11, WHO's Congo spokesman Eugene Kabambi told Reuters. Three of them have died of fever.

The worst outbreak of Ebola killed more than 11,300 people in the West African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia and infected more than 28,000. It peaked in late 2014 causing global alarm but active virus transmission ended last year.

The latest Ebola outbreak is Congo's eighth, the most of any country. The deadly hemorrhagic fever was first detected in its dense tropical forests in 1976 and named after the nearby river Ebola. That experience helped Congolese authorities respond effectively to an outbreak in 2014 that killed dozens of people. The GAVI global vaccine alliance said on Friday some 300,000 emergency doses of an Ebola vaccine developed by Merck could be available in case of a large-scale outbreak and that it stood ready to support the Congo government on the matter. —Reuters

MICHELLE OBAMA CRITICIZES TRUMP SCHOOL LUNCH PLAN

WASHINGTON: Michelle Obama on Friday criticized a Trump administration decision to delay federal rules aimed at making school lunch healthier, saying kids will end up "eating crap" instead. Mrs Obama told a health conference in Washington that more nutritionally sound school meals are needed since millions of kids nationwide eat federally subsidized breakfast and lunch at school. Without mentioning President Donald Trump by name, she urged parents to think about the government's recent decision and to "look at motives."

"You have to stop and think, 'Why don't you want our kids to have good food at school? What is wrong with you and why is that a partisan issue?'" Mrs Obama said. "Why would that be political?" "Moms, think about this. I don't care what state you live in, take me out of the equation, like me, don't like me, but think about why someone is OK with your kids eating crap," she said.

Anti-childhood obesity

During a nearly hourlong conversation led by Sam Kass, the Obamas' personal chef during their White House years and executive director of the anti-childhood obesity initiative she spearheaded as first lady, Mrs. Obama also spoke briefly about her future plans. Her family's last day in the White House was Jan. 20, and she said she and former President Barack Obama would spend the year figuring out what comes next.

In one of his first major acts, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue announced on May 1 that the department will delay an upcoming requirement to reduce the amount

of sodium in school meals. Purdue said he also planned to keep issuing waivers to a regulation requiring that more whole grains also be served. Schools could also serve 1 percent flavored-milk instead of the nonfat variety now required.

The school meal changes reflect suggestions from the School Nutrition Association, which represents school nutrition directors and companies that sell food to schools. The group often battled with the Obama administration, which phased in the healthier school meal rules starting in 2012. The move partially rolls back rules the

former first lady supported as part of her "Let's Move" anti-childhood obesity initiative, but leaves most of the Obama administration's school meal rules in place.

Undermining the intent

Those rules include requirements that students must take fruits and vegetables on the lunch line. Some schools have asked for changes to that policy, saying students often throw those items into the trash. "If kids aren't eating the food, and it's ending up in the trash, they aren't getting any nutrition - thus undermining the intent of

the program," Perdue said in making the announcement at a school in Leesburg, Virginia. But Mrs Obama said it's time for adults to take charge and not put kids in charge.

"How about we stop asking kids how they feel about their food because kids, my kids included, if they could eat pizza and french fries every day with ice cream on top and a soda they would think they were happy, until they get sick," she said. "That to me is one of the most ridiculous things we talk about in this movement," the former first lady continued. "You know what? Kids don't like math either. What are we going to do? Stop teaching math?"

Her appearance at the annual conference, sponsored by the Partnership for a Healthier America, a nonprofit organization that was created to support her anti-childhood obesity work, was Mrs. Obama's second major public outing since leaving the White House. Last month in Orlando, Florida, she participated in a question-and-answer session during the American Institute of Architects' annual conference.

The Obamas have started to re-emerge into the public arena after laying low and cooling their heels on vacations since leaving the White House. Mrs Obama said she and her husband are busy settling into their new home and offices in Washington and making sure daughters Malia and Sasha are doing well. They also have books to write and money to raise for the presidential center they plan to build on the South Side of her native Chicago. "We're not gone. We're just breathing," Mrs Obama said. —AP



WASHINGTON: Former first lady Michelle Obama smiles while speaking at the Partnership for a Healthier American 2017 Healthier Future Summit. —AP

DESIGN BREAKTHROUGH FAST TRACKS OCEANS CLEAN-UP PLAN

UTRECHT: A Dutch engineer aiming to clean up vast ocean "garbage patches" of plastic Thursday unveiled a radical design breakthrough, enabling his ambitious project to start two years early. Boyan Slat's innovative scheme seeks to use ocean currents to help gather up an estimated five trillion pieces of plastic-everything from bottles, to plastic bags, flip-flops and other detritus—from the planet's waters. After several years of research, including the first-ever detailed aerial survey of the largest garbage patch lying in the Pacific between Hawaii and the Californian coast, his Ocean Clean-up scheme has radically overhauled its plans. Slat, who is still only 22, now hopes to begin deploying the first clean-up system within the next 12 months, instead of in 2020 as first promised.

He also hopes to be able to remove 50 percent of the Pacific patch within five years, compared with initial estimates of 42 percent within a decade. Defying past gloomy predictions by top experts who said nothing could be done, Slat now believes by 2050 the whole patch could be cleared. "Actually, I think that's quite a conservative estimate," he told AFP.

Initial ideas to deploy a 100-kilometre long V-shaped barrier, tethered to the seabed, to catch the plastics have been ditched. The idea is that "to catch the plastic, act like plastic," Slat told guests as he unveiled the new design in Utrecht. Now a team of scientists and engineers plan to replace the one large barrier with "a fleet of many smaller systems," he said.

And they will not be attached to the seabed, but be weighed down by a specially designed floating 12-meter anchor, slowly moving with

the plastic, driven by the same winds and currents. The first system is already in production in California. "We think the optimum length is between one to two kilometers," Slat told AFP, adding research was still continuing. They will be equipped with GPS and monitoring systems, and the operating team will relay their positions to ships ploughing the area. Each will cost around an average of 5 million euros to make, with the lower cost making them more attractive to sponsors, and helping to shave roughly a third off the scheme's original estimated cost of 320 million euros.

Decades to disintegrate

According to the Ocean Cleanup project, eight million tons of plastics enter the oceans every year, much of which has accumulated in the five giant garbage patches now fouling the seas. The plastic takes decades to break down. Slat showed off one old bottle crate, still clearly intact and dated 1977, which his team picked up in the Pacific last year. But micro pieces released as the plastics break down are dispersed through the seas, are also entering the food chain with harmful effects for all marine life.

Turtles, fish, dolphins and others can also become entangled in the rubbish, or swallow pieces believing it is food which they then cannot digest. Months of tests have already been carried out using a small prototype launched in June off the Dutch coast in the stormy North Sea. The prototype was built at a cost of 1.5 million euros, financed through crowd-funding as well as donations, including from the Dutch government. —AFP

WOUNDED AUTHOR KUKI GALLMANN VOWS RETURN TO KENYAN RANCH

NAIROBI: Blood was already pooling in the seat of her car when a second bullet tore through the driver's door and thumped into Kuki Gallmann's abdomen. "It felt like a punch," the 73-year-old author and conservationist said this week, speaking for the first time since being wounded a fortnight ago by suspected illegal herders on her 88,000-acre (36,000 hectare) ranch in Kenya's central highlands.

Chronic issues of climate change, population growth and inept law enforcement are being compounded by drought and ethnic politics, creating an unusually violent and dangerous situation in Laikipia. Already dozens of people have been killed or wounded by illegal herders who have brought tens of thousands of livestock onto private land, grazing illegally, killing wildlife, rustling cattle, burning property and intimidating residents. Gallmann, who wrote the best-selling "I Dreamed of Africa" which was made into a Hollywood film, simply has the highest profile of Laikipia's many victims.

Ashes in the air

Early one Sunday in late April, Gallmann visited Mukutan Retreat, her tourist lodge and the scene of the most recent arson. The last of three cottages-stone-walled, cedar-floored with thatched papyrus roofs-had been set alight the day before.

She found blackened stone, smouldering wood and flurries of ash floating in the morning air. She also found three sets of footprints in the dry red earth, leading away from the burned building. Gallmann, followed by a pick-up carrying Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rangers deployed to protect her, got back into her Land Cruiser with one of her wildlife scouts and drove up the escarpment.

Reaching the plains Gallmann found a tree trunk dragged across the track. This has become a common enough occurrence and Gallmann thought little of it. "We have seen trees across roads every single day of our lives for the last two years. I'm quite blasé about this, only I can't move the bloody things," she said. While three rangers rolled the tree aside, Gallman's scout, sitting next to her, shouted "Mama, mama!" and pointed to the

right. "Iko watu tatu," he called out: there are three people.

Before she could turn to look the first shot was fired, punching through the car door and into Gallman's abdomen. "The first bullet hit me. I knew it had gone through my guts." She slumped sideways then tried to sit up but another volley hit the car, and she was struck a second time. One of the bullets tore through her intestines and blasted a ragged hole out the other side.

The rangers shot back and the gunmen disappeared. The car had been hit five times, three shots striking the driver's door. Gallmann was the only one wounded. The rangers lifted her, bleeding, into their vehicle and drove the short distance back to her home along the rough, bumpy track. As waves of pain washed over her, Gallmann refused to contemplate death. She first called the local police chief. "This is Kuki Gallmann. I would like to officially report that I've been shot in the gut," she told him-then called a neighbor and asked him to send help. "Will you please get a helicopter to pick me up," she told him. "I will be at the graves."

Tragic connection to the land

Gallmann arrived in Kenya from Italy in 1972 with her husband Paolo and son Emanuele. When she was pregnant with their daughter, Sveva, in 1980 Gallman's husband was killed in a car crash. Three years later her 17-year-old son also died, bitten by a puff adder. Those tragedies fuel her determination to stay at Ol Ari Nyiro, the former cattle ranch she turned into a wildlife conservancy.

Her land has suffered poaching, illegal logging and encroachments for decades, and she has seen troubles escalate in lock-step with Kenya's election cycles when politicians use ethnicity in lieu of a political agenda. "Illegal grazing has always happened one way or another, but it was small scale," she said. "Prior to every election I've seen there has been a similar build-up of violence." Both husband and son are buried in the garden at her house, an acacia tree marking each grave. Gallmann intends to be buried between them and that is where she asked the rangers to lie her down. "They took me from the car and put me on the grass. It was a clear day with birds. It was a good place to be," she said. —AFP



In this Feb 22, 2016 file photo, debris flies into the air as foreign fishing boats are blown up by Indonesian Navy off Batam Island, Indonesia. —AP

EVEN IN FARAWAY US, INDONESIA SEAFOOD ENFORCER WINS ACCLAIM

WASHINGTON: A high school dropout turned seafood entrepreneur is leading Indonesia's crackdown on illegal fishing, winning plaudits from conservationists and awards as far away as Washington despite her explosive methods. A favorite tactic is seizing foreign fishing vessels and then blowing up the empty boats into smithereens to send a message to her country's neighbors.

Susi Pudjiastuti, honored this week in Washington for her ecological work, has led the charge in destroying hundreds of fishing vessels in the past two years as the Indonesian government's minister for maritime affairs and fisheries. Her efforts haven't eliminated a problem that has plagued the archipelago nation for decades, she said, but they have boosted fish stocks and curbed smuggling. Catches of anchovies, king prawns and yellow fin tuna are up, helping local fishermen and reducing food prices, Pudjiastuti said.

"What we actually earn also is respect," Pudjiastuti said in the American capital, where she joined other recipients of the annual Peter Benchley Ocean Awards - named for the author of "Jaws." She was cited for her efforts in protecting Indonesia's marine ecosystem, and tackling poachers and organized crime. "They cannot just do anything anymore," Pudjiastuti added. Whereas 10,000 foreign vessels used to fish in Indonesian waters "like in their own country," she said the new reality was clear: "Not anymore."

Sensitive politics

For China and others in the region, sensitive politics also are at play. Indonesia's uncompromising approach has irked neighbors whose boats have been caught up in the dragnet for operating in seas plagued by territorial disputes. The campaign may partly reflect Indonesia's desire to show it is in control of its vast territory of 17,000 islands.

Pudjiastuti, 52, has won popularity at home as the campaign's leader, defying initial skepticism when she was tapped as minister in 2014.

She had no political experience and hadn't even graduated high school. But she spent three decades as a seafood entrepreneur and knew the business. She also had run her own charter airline, Susi Air, to distribute and export produce.

On taking office, she quickly declared a fishing moratorium for foreign vessels that had often operated under Indonesian flags. "The state's sovereignty has to be upheld," she declared. And to ram the point home, Indonesian authorities have sunk more than 300 foreign fishing vessels. In the most recent mass-destruction in early April, Indonesian authorities destroyed 81 empty ships in a single weekend. Most were from Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand. In March 2016, a large Nigerian-flagged vessel was caught poaching toothfish and, after being evacuated, blown up with great fanfare. Pudjiastuti posed on the beach afterward with navy officials, their fists raised in the air with the smoking boat behind them.

"The visuals and press that comes from her tough practices on blowing these ships up has really helped educate the world," said Sally Yozell, director of the environmental security program at Washington's Stimson Center think tank, speaking of the global scourge of overfishing. She recognized, however, the regional frictions of the campaign, which included several incidents last year of Indonesia firing warning shots and seizing Chinese fishing vessels in waters off its Natuna islands.

Pudjiastuti also acknowledged some tensions. She said she briefed ambassadors of neighboring countries, including China, before the crackdown and sought support. "Poaching is not a part of good bilateral relations," she said Friday at the Stimson Center. Indonesian authorities have another 100 seized fishing vessels waiting to be destroying and they are impounding another dozen or so each week, she said. Few are Chinese fishing vessels, which are bigger, faster and often accompanied by the nation's coast guard, making it harder to police

their activities, she added. The United States and Australia are providing support to Indonesia, including satellite technology to help surveillance of waters. Indonesia hopes for Japanese technical help, too.

Territorial claims

Indonesia isn't among the half-dozen governments contesting control of reefs and islands in the South China Sea, an emerging Asian flash-point. But it has reason to be wary of China's claims. The so-called nine-dash line that Beijing uses to demarcate its expansive territorial claims extends into Indonesia's internationally-recognized exclusive economic zone, or EEZ, that extends 200 nautical miles off its coast.

Pudjiastuti said she is less concerned over the subtleties over Indonesia's stance than her diplomat colleagues. "For me it's more clear. Once it's in my EEZ, that's my fish," she said. Her moratorium on foreign fishing vessels ended up playing a pivotal role in The Associated Press "Seafood from Slaves" investigation, which in 2015 found that more than 2,000 foreign fishermen had been enslaved aboard Thai vessels based on the remote Indonesian island of Benjina, catching seafood bound for consumers in the US and other countries.

The moratorium grounded fishing boats that normally would have been almost constantly at sea, giving AP reporters the opportunity to find the enslaved fishermen. She also dispatched a task force to Benjina, rescuing hundreds of the abused workers. In a moderate Muslim-majority country, where religious conservatives have growing political clout, Pudjiastuti has defied conventional gender roles. She's divorced, smokes and has a tattoo. She even inspired a character in one of Japan's most reputed manga comic books, "Golgo 13."

In one strip, a woman in a beret and sunglasses had an unmistakable resemblance to Pudjiastuti. She was depicted overseeing the destruction of fishing boats, blown asunder with a "BOOM." —AP

HUMAN POO TRANSFORMED INTO CLEAN FUEL FOR KENYA'S URBAN POOR

NAKURU, Kenya: Poultry farmer Josephine Mbithe used to get up three times a night to add charcoal to her stove just to keep her newborn chicks warm. But since she started using fuel briquettes made with human waste, the stove burns all night, leaving her to sleep in peace.

Mbithe is one of many Nakuru residents who have embraced the briquettes manufactured from human poo and sawdust collected around the town, northwest of Nairobi, in the Great Rift Valley. Before the briquettes find their way into Nakuru's poor households, they undergo processes to ensure they are free from harmful pathogens that could cause diseases, and are safe to use.

Human waste - the main raw material for the briquettes - is collected from pit latrines and septic tanks around Nakuru by truck and transported to a waste water

treatment plant run by the Nakuru Water and Sanitation Services Company (NAWASSCO), where the manufacturing takes place.

At the plant, the sludge is discharged into drying beds in a greenhouse, and left to dry for two to three weeks. The greenhouse heat reduces the moisture content from around 95 percent to below 20 percent, to prepare it for carbonization.

The dried-out sludge is then treated at temperatures of about 700 degrees Celsius, with the accompanying sawdust carbonized at 300 degrees Celsius. Next, the carbonized materials are ground into fine particles using a hammer mill, before being mixed together in an equal ratio using motorized equipment. Molasses is added as a binder, before the mixture is transformed into small, round balls in a rotating drum. —Reuters

CLINIC PAGE

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International Women Group members pose for a group photo during the ceremony. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



IWG, DAR AL-SHIFA HOSPITAL CELEBRATE KUWAITI WOMEN'S DAY

In collaboration with the International Women Group (IWG), the Dar Al-Shifa Hospital recently held a special ceremony at Salwa Ballroom, Marina Hotel to celebrate the Kuwaiti Women's Day. Speaking on the occasion, Dar Al-Shifa Hospital's Board Member Narjis Al-Yousifi expressed

pride in living in a country that values women and respects their role in building societies. Meanwhile, IWG's President, Elena Solomatina thanked the hospital for hosting the event and hoped that this cooperation would mark the begin-

ning of further ones on various occasions. Besides Yousifi and Solomatina, the ceremony was also attended by Sheikha Sheikh Al-Abdullah Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah, Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Narjis Al-Shatti, as well as other IWG members, diplomats' spouses and female dignitaries.



Greetings



Happy birthday to our amazing Joseph! May God protect and guide you as you continue to be a blessing to the family Amen. Greetings from Dad, mom, sister, brothers, friends and well-wishers.

ACK ENGINEERING STUDENTS DEVELOP WATER DISINFECTION DEVICES

The School of Engineering's Center for Project Based Learning (PBL) at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) successfully implemented a student project related to water disinfection in disaster hit regions. Engineering students of the course "Engineering Skills" were confronted with the scenario of destroyed infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region and availability of material limited to ordinary household material such as paper, cardboard, aluminum foil, etc. In such situations, access to safe drinking water is of a particular concern, as the local water supplies often become the home to various microorganisms that can cause serious health problems. Furthermore, the scenario included an Asian Non-Government Organization (NGO) that requested from the engineering students to design, build, test and optimize a prototype of a device that disinfects water to a degree that the water can be consumed without detrimental effects on human health. The device was required to be inexpensive, easy to assemble, and using the sun as the only available source of energy.

During this project the students had to utilize and develop important engineering skills such as professional communication with internal and external stakeholders, teamwork, research, problem-solving, creativity, decision-making, design and execution of testing procedures and technical report writing.

Faculty of the departments of Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering at ACK guided students' learning process as learning facilitators. This is one of the most challenging educational tasks since the responsibility for learning needs to stay in the hands of the students in order to ensure effective learning. At the same time, it is the learning facilitators' task to ensure that students cover the intended course learning

outcomes throughout their project work. Throughout the last 3 years, ACK faculty participated in workshops at the Aalborg Center for Problem Based Learning at Aalborg University, Denmark, in order to be prepared for professional learning facilitation. In addition, the Center for Project Based Learning at ACK organizes regular in-house workshops and public symposia in order to prepare PBL facilitators and share the gained insights.



Amazing offer for your next visit to Qatar with Marriott Marquis City Center Doha Hotel

CBK ANNOUNCES SPECIAL OFFER WITH MARRIOTT MARQUIS CITY CENTER DOHA HOTEL

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced a special offer for all credit and prepaid card holders when they stay at Marriott Marquis City Center Doha Hotel in Qatar. The offer includes a 25 percent discount on the best available weekend room rate from Wednesday through Saturday in addition to a 15 percent discount across ten restaurants and lounges and a 15 percent discount at the Arabian Saray Spa. The Marriott Marquis City Center Doha Hotel is ideally located in the diplomatic district of the city, just a short walk from the shopping, dining and entertainment areas.

To avail the offer, customers must use the promotional code XPK upon reserving online at www.marriottmarquis-doha.com or by any valid CBK credit or prepaid card at check-in. This special offer is valid until December 31, 2017. The Commercial Bank of Kuwait always endeavors to provide its customers with the best offers as a token of appreciation of their constant loyalty and trust vested in the Bank.



Information Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Media Services Yousuf Mustafa inaugurates the bazaar.,—Photos by Joseph Shagra



AL-SAAD CHARITY HOLDS BAZAAR TO SUPPORT YOUNG FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

Al-Saad Charity for Knowledge and Scientific Research recently launched its second charity bazaar whose revenues will be used in supporting the works of Kuwaiti women with creative skills. The open-

ing ceremony was held under auspices of the Information Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Media Services Yousuf Mustafa, who stressed that the charity was held in response to the state's political leadership's call to support

young entrepreneurs, and also to allocate its revenues to support talented students in scientific research. Meanwhile, Ibtikar Al-Kuwait Initiative's General Manager Dr Fatmia Al-Hashim said that the charity works hard on

investing in female human resources so that participating Kuwaiti girls could grow up into empowered capable women in various fields, as instructed by Al-Saad Charity's Board Chairperson Sheikha Fadiya Al-Saad Al-Sabah.



OSN MOVIES

ACTION

01:30 REC 3 Genesis
03:00 Pompeii
05:00 Survivor
07:00 Ladder 49
09:00 Harlock: Space Pirate
11:00 Pompeii
12:45 Big Game
14:30 Survivor
16:15 Hard Target 2
18:15 Hitting The Apex
20:45 The Living Daylights
23:00 Machete

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:50 Tanked
01:45 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
02:40 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
03:35 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
04:25 Cats 101
05:15 Cats 101
06:02 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
06:49 Big Fish Man
07:36 Going Ape
08:00 Going Ape
08:25 Animal ER
09:15 Speed Of Life
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 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
14:45 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
15:40 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
16:35 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
17:30 Mutant Planet
18:25 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
19:20 Deadly Islands
20:15 Rugged Justice
21:10 Pit Bulls & Parolees
22:05 Animal ER
23:00 Deadly Islands
23:55 Tanked

BBC FIRST

00:05 SS-GB
01:10 Eastenders
01:45 Doctors
02:15 Death In Paradise
03:10 The Musketeers



BIG GAME ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

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 The Coroner
10:35 Death In Paradise
11:30 Doctors
12:00 Eastenders
12:30 Dickensian
13:20 The Coroner
14:15 Death In Paradise
15:10 Doctors
15:45 Eastenders
16:20 Dickensian
17:10 The Coroner
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 Southcliffe
23:45 Class

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 Babies Behind Bars
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 Private Crimes
09:30 Private Crimes
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
15:30 It Takes A Killer
16:00 It Takes A Killer
16:30 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

COMEDY CENTRAL

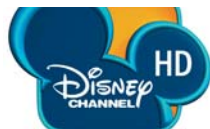
00:15 The Half Hour
00:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition
01:05 Broad City
01:30 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
02:20 The Alternative Comedy

Experience
02:45 Broad City
03:10 Chappelle's Show
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
17:30 Ridiculousness
17:55 Lip Sync Battle
18:25 Key And Peele
18:50 Catch A Contractor
19:39 Impractical Jokers
20:03 Disaster Date
20:27 Lip Sync Battle
20:50 Lip Sync Battle
21:13 Important Things With Demetri Martin
21:37 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef
22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
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 Science Of The Movies
02:20 Science Of The Movies
03:10 Strangest Weather On Earth

23:50 Evil Kin



00:10 Hank Zipzer
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Binny And The Ghost
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 Ronks
08:45 The Zuzhus
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 Bunk'd
11:15 Bizaardvark
11:40 Good Luck Charlie: The Road Trip Movie
13:15 Descendants Wicked World
13:20 Binny And The Ghost
13:45 Binny And The Ghost
14:10 Binny And The Ghost
14:35 Binny And The Ghost
15:00 Binny And The Ghost
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 Read It And Weep
20:00 Star Darlings
20:05 Stuck In The Middle



20:30 Bizaardvark
20:55 Bunk'd
21:20 Elena Of Avalor
21:45 Disney The Lodge
21:50 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

Disney Junior

00:20 Henry Hugglemonster
00:35 The Hive
00:45 Loopidoo
01:00 Henry Hugglemonster
01:15 Calimero
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Zou
02:05 Loopidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Zou
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Loopidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopidoo
04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Zou
06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopidoo
07:00 Zou
07:15 Calimero
07:30 Loopidoo
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 The Lion Guard
13:50 Sofia The First
14:20 Sofia The First
14:45 Sofia The First
15:10 Sofia The First
15:40 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
16:05 PJ Masks
16:36 The Lion Guard
17:05 Miles From Tomorrow
17:35 Sofia The First
18:05 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
20:35 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
23:30 Miles From Tomorrow
23:55 PJ Masks



00:30 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail
01:20 Wheels That Fail
01:45 Harley And The Davidsons
02:35 Harley And The Davidsons
03:25 Harley And The Davidsons
04:15 Harley And The Davidsons
05:05 Harley And The Davidsons
06:00 Harley And The Davidsons
07:00 Gold Divers
07:50 Street Outlaws
08:40 Sacred Steel Bikes
09:30 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
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 Salvage Hunters
13:15 Todd Sampson's Body Hack
14:05 How Do They Do It?
14:30 Storage Hunters UK
14:55 Storage Hunters UK
15:20 Gold Rush
16:10 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
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 Supertrucks
22:50 Sharks vs Dolphins: Face Off
23:40 What On Earth?



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 Meet The Robinsons
14:30 Danger Mouse
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 Mighty Med: The Mother Of All Villains
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 Disney Mickey Mouse
22:45 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 Hollywood & Football
05:40 Hollywood & Football
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 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry



THE HELP ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

13:25 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
14:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
15:15 Botched
16:10 Botched
17:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00 E! News
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
23:00 Second Wives Club



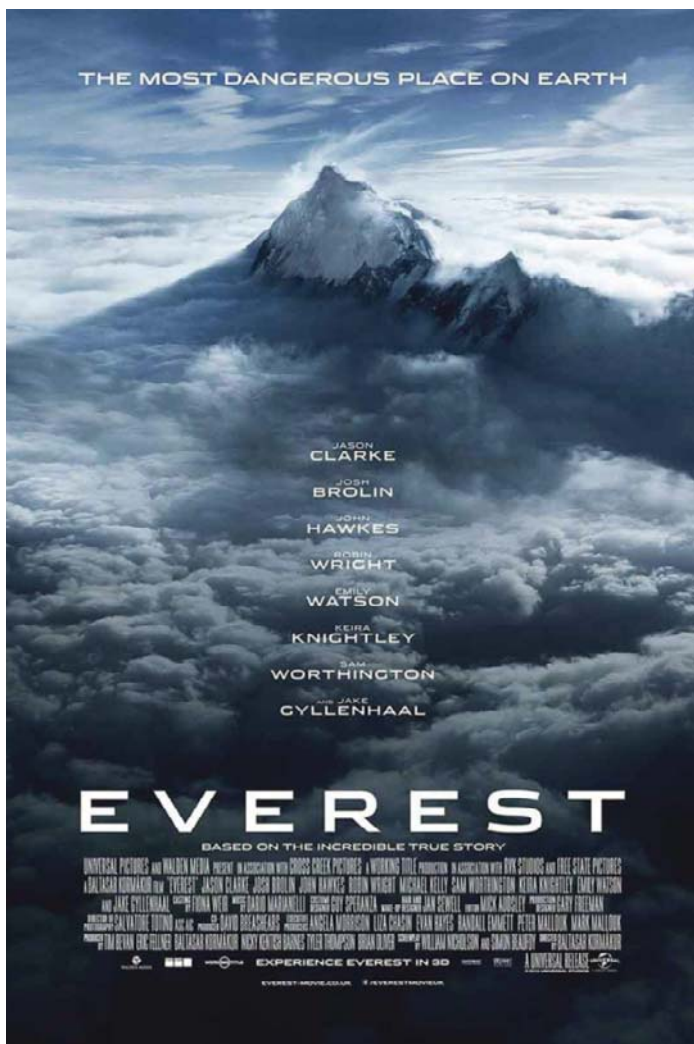
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Man Fire Food
01:30 Man Fire Food
02:00 Restaurant: Impossible
03:00 Mystery Diners
03:30 Mystery Diners
04:00 Man Fire Food
04:30 Man Fire Food
05:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
06:00 Guy's Grocery 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 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
22:30 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
23:00 Dinner At Tiffani's
23:30 Dinner At Tiffani's



00:15 Coronation Street
00:40 Coronation Street
01:05 Coronation Street
01:30 Coronation Street
02:00 Tutankhamun
03:00 Coronation Street
03:25 Coronation Street
03:50 Coronation Street
04:15 Coronation Street
04:45 Coronation Street
04:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?
05:45 The Chase
06:35 The Chase
07:25 Surprise Surprise Christmas Special
08:20 Coach Trip
08:50 Coach Trip
09:15 Coach Trip
09:45 Coach Trip
10:10 Tutankhamun
11:10 Jekyll And Hyde
12:10 Shoot The Messenger
13:10 Broadchurch
14:10 Broadchurch
15:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?
16:00 It's Not Rocket Science
16:55 Tutankhamun
17:55 Jekyll And Hyde
18:50 Doctor Thorne
19:45 Who's Doing The Dishes?
20:45 Jekyll And Hyde
21:35 Shoot The Messenger
22:30 Tutankhamun
23:30 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans



00:30 Alone
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 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
07:50 Duck Dynasty
08:15 Duck Dynasty
08:40 Counting Cars
09:05 Counting Cars

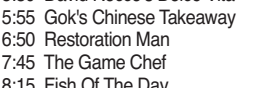


EVEREST ON OSN MOVIES HD

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 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
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
23:15 Storage Wars Miami
23:40 Big Easy Motors



00:20 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
00:50 Carnival Eats
01:15 My Restaurant In India
01:40 Chasing The Sun
02:10 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
02:40 The Shelbourne
03:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
03:35 Cruise Ship Diaries
04:00 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
04:55 Restoration Man
05:50 The Game Chef
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 Eat Street
08:35 Street Food Around The World
09:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
09:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
10:00 Chef On The Road
10:55 Dog Whisperer
11:50 Dog Whisperer
12:45 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
13:10 Chasing The Sun
13:40 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
14:05 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
14:35 The Shelbourne
15:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
15:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
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



00:20 Lawless Island
01:10 Mega Factories
02:00 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind
03:00 Monster Fish
04:00 Wicked Tuna
05:00 Inside Singapore Airlines
06:00 Route Awakening
06:30 Route Awakening
07:00 Lawless Island
08:00 Uncensored With Michael Ware
09:00 Scam City
10:00 Locked Up Abroad
11:00 Origins: The Journey Of Humankind
12:00 I Wouldn't Go In There
13:00 Dog Whisperer
14:00 Dog Whisperer
15:00 Genius
16:00 Monster Fish
17:00 Wicked Tuna
18:00 Genius
19:00 Brain Games
19:30 Brain Games
20:00 Monster Fish
21:00 Wicked Tuna
21:50 Genius
22:40 Brain Games
23:05 Brain Games
23:30 Monster Fish



00:30 Ghosthunters On Icy Trails
02:15 Get Squirrelly
04:00 Ratchet And Clank
05:45 Pooh's Heffalump Movie
07:00 Paws
08:30 Winnie The Pooh
09:45 Albert
11:15 Ghosthunters On Icy Trails
13:00 Get Squirrelly
14:45 Curious George
16:15 Albert
17:45 Bee Movie
19:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
21:15 Curious George
23:00 Winnie The Pooh

OSN MOVIES HD

01:15 Jessabelle
03:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
04:45 Just Married
06:30 Finding Forrester
09:00 Pitch Perfect 2
11:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
12:45 Enemy Of The State
15:00 October Sky
17:00 Everest
19:15 X-Men: First Class
21:30 Con Air
23:30 Army Of Darkness



00:40 Nextworld
04:48 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Food Factory
08:00 How Do They Do It?
08:26 Nextworld
12:26 Mythbusters
16:26 Food Factory

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2017



Kuwait Times

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e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (11/05/2017 TO 17/05/2017)

SHARQIA-1
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 11:30 AM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 2:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN 4:45 PM
A FAMILY MAN 7:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 9:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 11:45 PM

SHARQIA-2
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 12:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 2:45 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 5:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 7:45 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 10:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 12:45 AM

SHARQIA-3
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 12:45 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 2:45 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 4:30 PM
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 6:15 PM
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 8:00 PM
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 10:00 PM
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-1
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 11:30 AM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 2:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 4:30 PM
RADHA -Telugu 4:30 PM
RADHA -Telugu 7:15 PM
SARKAR 3 - Hindi 7:15 PM
RADHA -Telugu 10:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 10:00 PM
NOTHU+FRI+MON
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 12:30 AM

MUHALAB-2
A FAMILY MAN 1:00 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 1:30 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 3:15 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 5:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN 7:15 PM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 9:30 PM
A FAMILY MAN 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-3
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 1:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 3:45 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 6:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 9:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 11:30 PM

FANAR-1
A FAMILY MAN 12:45 PM

A FAMILY MAN 3:00 PM
A FAMILY MAN 5:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN 7:30 PM
A FAMILY MAN 9:45 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8 12:05 AM

FANAR-2
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 1:15 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 3:00 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 5:00 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 7:00 PM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 8:45 PM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 11:15 PM

FANAR-3
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 12:30 PM
SARKAR 3 - Hindi 3:00 PM
BAAHUBALI 2:The Conclusion -Hindi 5:30 PM
SARKAR 3 - Hindi 8:45 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 11:30 PM

FANAR-4
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 12:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 2:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 5:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 7:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 10:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 12:30 AM

FANAR-5
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 12:00 PM
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 2:00 PM
THE BOSS BABY 4:00 PM
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 6:00 PM
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 7:45 PM
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 9:30 PM
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 11:30 PM
YOUM MIN AL AYAM 1:15 AM

MARINA-1
A FAMILY MAN 11:45 AM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 2:00 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 4:00 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM 6:00 PM
A FAMILY MAN 8:00 PM
A FAMILY MAN 10:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN 12:30 AM

MARINA-2
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 12:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 3:00 PM
THE BOSS BABY 5:30 PM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 7:30 PM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 10:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 12:30 AM

MARINA-3
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 11:30 AM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 2:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 4:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 7:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 9:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 12:05 AM

AVENUES-1
A FAMILY MAN 12:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN 2:30 PM
A FAMILY MAN 4:45 PM
A FAMILY MAN 7:00 PM
A FAMILY MAN 9:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN 11:30 PM

AVENUES-2
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX 11:30 AM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX 2:15 PM
THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX 5:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX 7:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX 10:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX 12:45 AM

AVENUES-3
THE BOSS BABY 11:30 AM
THE BOSS BABY 1:30 PM
THE BOSS BABY 3:45 PM
THE BOSS BABY 6:00 PM
THE BOSS BABY 8:15 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8 10:30 PM
MONOLITH 1:15 AM

AVENUES-4
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 11:30 AM
THE BOSS BABY 2:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 4:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 6:45 PM
Special Show "KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD" 9:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 9:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 12:15 AM

AVENUES-5
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 11:45 AM
FAST & FURIOUS 8 2:30 PM
SARKAR 3 - Hindi 5:15 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8 8:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 11:00 PM

AVENUES-6
MONOLITH 11:30 AM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 1:30 PM
RADHA -Telugu 1:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD 4:15 PM

REQUIRED

Sales Engineer

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- Have kuwaiti licence driving

Please send your CV:

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Fax: 24817837

NOTICE

This is to inform that

Mr. Oussama El Rahbani

is no longer working with **Holiday**

Downtown Hotel as the Director

of Sales & Marketing. In case of

any Business Related Proceedings,

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DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



Arrival Flights on Sunday 14/5/2017				KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	SAW	702	Damascus	13:30
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	JZR	124	Bahrain	13:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:50	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:30	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KAC	102	London	00:55	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	FDK	801	Damascus	16:00	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:25	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15	KAC	417	Manila	04:20	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	JZR	125	Bahrain	16:25	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	118	New York	16:55	KAC	103	London	05:00	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
FEG	937	Sohag	05:00	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05	CEB	019	Manila	05:30	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	QTR	1077	Doha	05:35	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
QTR	8511	Doha	05:20	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	FEG	934	Sohag	05:55	FDK	802	Damascus	16:55
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	QTR	1080	Doha	18:05	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	FDB	052	Dubai	17:10
BAW	157	London	06:05	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	QTR	8512	Doha	06:50	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	JZR	552	Alexandria	17:25
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	776	Riyadh	19:10	KAC	521	Al Najaf	07:35	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:20	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:30	BAW	156	London	08:20	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:40	KAC	741	Dammam	08:30	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	616	Bahrain	19:40	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	KAC	620	Doha	19:50	KAC	773	Riyadh	08:35	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	FDB	057	Dubai	19:50	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	09:00	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	104	London	20:00	KAC	117	SNN/New York	09:00	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:15	KAC	163	Rome	09:20	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC	691	Muscat	09:30	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:25	KAC	164	Rome	20:55	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	564	Amman	21:00	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
SAW	703	Damascus	10:45	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:05	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:10	KAC	101	London	09:45	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:15	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:35
JZR	561	Sohag	11:10	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	522	Al Najaf	11:20	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:50	KAC	617	Doha	10:15	KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	QTR	1082	Doha	22:00	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30	MEA	403	Muscat	21:05
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35	KAC	1543	Beirut	21:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	BBC	043	Dhaka	22:30	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	KAC	301	Cairo	21:30
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	JZR	241	Amman	22:55	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00	QTR	1089	Mumbai	21:40
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15	KAC	203	Doha	21:45
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:00	IRC	529	Ahwaz	11:25	DHX	171	Lahore	21:45
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	KAC	205	Bahrain	21:50
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40	SAW	704	Damascus	11:45	ETD	308	Islamabad	21:55
KAC	662	Abu Dhabi	13:35	THY	764	Istanbul	23:45	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	KAC	155	Abu Dhabi	22:00
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55					VIZ	203	TQD	12:00	ALK	230	Istanbul	22:15
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	Departure Flights on Sunday 14/5/2017				SYR	342	Damascus	12:00	KAC	383	Colombo	22:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:15	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00	UAE	860	Delhi	22:35
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	KAC	413	Bangkok	12:20	GFA	220	Dubai	22:35
KAC	618	Doha	14:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10	ETD	310	Bahrain	22:50
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:45	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30	PAL	669	Manila	13:10	JZR	528	Abu Dhabi	23:00
KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	KAC	783	Asyut	23:05
												QTR	1083	Jeddah	23:10
														Doha	23:40

CROSSWORD 1607

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ACROSS

1. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
4. Lovable especially in a childlike or naive way.
12. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
15. A male human offspring.
16. Bearing or marked with a label or tag.
17. (informal) Of the highest quality.
18. A port city in southwestern Iran.
20. Pass in a specific way.
21. Payment due by the recipient on delivery.
22. A river in northern England that flows south-east through West Yorkshire.
23. Used improperly or excessively especially drugs.
26. An oval large stadium with tiers of seats.
28. Windowpane oysters.
30. An ordered reference standard.
31. The local time at the 0 meridian passing through Greenwich, England.
32. Leafless East Indian vine.
35. Sludge (rich in organic matter) that accumulates at the bottom of lakes or oceans.
41. Any high mountain.
42. A small cake leavened with yeast.
45. Divide or assess proportionally.
46. Large semi-evergreen tree of East India.
48. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
49. Of a dull grayish brown to brownish gray color.
50. Kill in large numbers.
52. Congenital absence of the heart (as in the development of some monsters).
55. Experiencing or showing sorrow or unhappiness.
56. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
58. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
59. Covered with water.
62. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
63. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
67. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
69. Proboscis worms.
72. Pleasant or pleasing or agreeable in nature or appearance.
73. Tropical American tree with large peltate leaves and hollow stems.
76. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
77. Divisible by two.
78. Scottish ballet dancer and actress (born in 1926).
79. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
80. No longer having or seeming to have or expecting to have life.
81. Outstanding United States tennis player (born in 1952).
82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
4. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
5. Fairly small terrestrial ferns of tropical America.
6. A Russian river.
7. Short descriptive summary (of events).
8. A large mountain system in south-central Europe.
9. A short high tone produced as a signal or warning.
10. United States tennis player (born in Czechoslovakia) who won several singles championships.
11. A doctor's degree in education.
12. A Portuguese province on the south coast of China and two islands in the South China Sea.
13. Fruit of the oak tree.
14. (Greek mythology) A princess of Colchis who aided Jason in taking the Golden Fleece from her father.
19. The form of theological rationalism that believes in God on the basis of reason without reference to revelation.
24. Mainly nocturnal North American goatsucker.
25. A theatrical performer.
27. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
29. The first light of day.
33. On or toward the lee.
34. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
36. The capital of Western Samoa.
37. A soft yellowish-white trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
38. A genus of Ploceidae.
39. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles.
40. A Russian river.
43. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
44. Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
47. Spend time badly or unwisely.
51. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
53. A natural or artificial enclosed space.
54. Located in or toward the back or rear.
57. An ancient country is southwestern Asia on the east coast of the Mediterranean.
60. Do without.
61. Genus of erect herbs of the Middle East having showy flowers.
64. Wheelwork consisting of a connected set of rotating gears by which force is transmitted or motion or torque is changed.
65. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
66. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
68. (computer science) A kind of computer architecture that has a large number of instructions hard coded into the cpu chip.
70. The basic monetary unit of most members of the European Union (introduced in 1999).
71. The basic unit of money in Western Samoa.
74. A unit of conductance equal to the reciprocal of an ohm.
75. (in Scotland or Ireland) A mountain or tall hill.

DOWN

1. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
2. True gudgeons.
3. Something twisted and tight and swollen.

Yesterday's Solution

C	R	T		D	U	M	P	C	A	R	T		B	E	T
L	A	W		O	L	E	A	N	D	E	R		A	N	U
A	G	A		G	L	I	S	S	A	D	E		A	S	L
S	E	N	E	G	A		I		N	O	N	P	L	U	S
P	E	G	L	E	G		P	R	A	N	C	E		E	A
			A	D	E		H	A		D	H	A	K		
A	K	A	N			D	A	G	G	A			A	F	L
P	A	D	D	A		N	E	B	O		D		B	R	A
P	R	E		F	B	I		A	N	T	I	G	U	A	N
A	M	P	U	T	E	E		G	A	R	R	U	L	U	S
L	A	T	K	E		P	O		D	E	A	L		D	A
			A	R		E	T	A		S	C	A	D		
A	L	A	S		A	R	I	L		P		G	A	S	P
H	A	D	E	A	N		D	E	C	A	F		G	C	A
A	N	A		S	T	E	E	P	I	S	H		D	A	B
B	E	D		K	I	N	S	H	A	S	A		A	B	A

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a good time to make renovations or do a bit of spring-cleaning. Your enthusiasm is catching and others will want to help when they see you hard at work. There is a need to gain appreciation for your good deeds when this project is completed. This can be a productive time emotionally-penetrating conversations will bring insights. There is time this evening for romance. You may be able to look back on today as a time of deepening relationships and positive feelings. Your emotions and the feelings of those around you are clear. You are creative and there is much pride in what you involve yourself with today. You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation or feel especially kind toward a friend or loved one.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Maintaining a happy relationship is most important for you. Young people may want to know how you manage to have a long relationship. Working with couples as a couple's counselor may be how you make your living. Whether you are married or dating, your friendships and close relationships amount to the ability to relate to people with respect, and you expect that of others. If another person is disrespectful, he or she flows through your life before you even realize it. You love life and people, and the ability to overcome, as well as the creative successes, helps to establish a good understanding of the person you marry, which includes how he or she handles the unexpected. Everyone has good wishes for you this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today focuses more on relationships and possessions. Others may find you frugal when it comes to possessions, always limiting your purchases to what is essential and has value-or worth. This same theme carries through in your response to people. You do not tend to lavish affection or sentiment; you tend to keep your comments short and simple. An important relationship, perhaps with an older person or someone in authority, may come into focus. There could be some tension or sense of opposition requiring compromise or negotiation on your part. Although this could be an opportunity for understanding and even growth, it could be important to show your appreciation of another person's time and efforts toward your progress.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A promise is a promise and the earlier you get started the more fun you can pack into the day. This may mean a young person or mate wants to go to some event or that an exercise group meets this morning. Whatever the case, you gain from the events that unfold as the day moves along. Social contact later today will call for a little rest and a change of clothes. Plans ahead of time have been fun and helpful and finally a special time is either now or very close. You still have a little time to gather whatever you need for this event, which may mean a gift or some special favor for the host or hostess. This may mean food, music or flowers, etc. You are at your most elegant. Music, laughter and good times with friends complete this busy day.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Friends and neighbors fill up most of your hours this day. You appreciate your friends and enjoy the interactions that occur. Happy when in control, you will enjoy managing anything practical. You are fearless in action and not afraid to use power. You will have your way today through your magnetic and perhaps controversial personality. You can be very charming and enchant others to come under your spell. This is also a period of intense creativity for you. This creative intensity is good for music, poetry, art and politics. There is a great passion of emotions and purpose. You enjoy home and family and rely on them for support and encouragement. Security is very important and you may feel a need to have roots in order to be productive.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are brilliant when it comes to insights into the mind, psychology and motivation-whether it is yours or others'. Your intensity is obvious and some may prefer to keep their distance rather than subject themselves to your laser eye. Nothing is passed over without being turned inside out. Your analytical powers are superb-you enjoy finding new avenues of inner growth. You have a great mental drive and lavish great energy on mental pursuits of all kinds. Ideas, words, books, etc., can be pursued with great gusto. Since you are such a social animal, opportunities will be available to communicate in groups today. This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any challenge you may discover.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may find yourself more than a little greedy today. Your current appreciation for just about everything may lead you to overspend or indulge too much. You will make better choices today if you maintain your ability to sense quality and choose accordingly. Today you may talk with a friend that has found depression hard to overcome. Many times there is a need for a new medical review. Bodies can change over time, and there are different requirements. Psychologically, you will learn and be encouraged that it is the individual that determines his or her self-worth and how he or she feels; you are positive and upbeat. Teach truth and watch for the culprit of over-generalization. You are very loving and understanding of others. Change is inevitable.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This could be one of your more romantic days. Correct choices and the best path for you may be available to you without you realizing it; take time to ponder your plans. You may think that by saying very little, you leave people thinking you are mysterious and important to get to know, but that only lasts a short while. A few important words however, can leave a much more positive impression for a very long time. Practice makes perfect and a social function this evening would be the perfect time to show others your appreciation of them in your life. The cycle now dawning in your life emphasizes stability, substance, practicality, and the concept of value-value in the material as well as psycho-spiritual sense. You may find a little music relaxing this evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Religion, philosophy and higher knowledge will be the base of most conversations today. You are mentally and physically willing to meet the demands of this day. You are helpful to all who need your assistance but by the afternoon you may be looking forward to home. The youth in your family need attention as much as the adults so be sure to ask these young people questions that involve a little thinking. This will result in some fun conversations between an adult and young persons. This may mean you need to ask who they saw this day and what they have planned or want to plan for the summer. Games and movies and sports make for fun contributions as well as some new discovery or talent. Smile, you have beautiful people.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are able to enjoy and value your own life situation today. You could find that you are appreciated or valued for your way of thinking. You may be surprised at the support you receive from others. A friend may want to get your feedback today on some very personal and emotional issues. You will be able to be understanding and helpful. You are able to cut through the red tape and help to uncover a truth. Now through the middle of this month, there are good times to set aside for a vacation or a short trip. Start to plan now where and what you might want to do. If you have family members that live with you, be sure to include them in the decision making. If those dates are not acceptable for others, you may want to make that time for yourself.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find yourself being put to good use by your friends early this morning but it should go smoothly. You could be helping with young people today as your fruitful imagination can create many distractions that are helpful when caring for children. This can be an expansive, creative and even romantic phase for you. This is certainly a good time to relax and be with loved ones and friends. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a bigger part in your life. You may be moved to appreciate and discover the beauty in your life and in those around you. Planning a garden and including others in the process can become a grand way to gain closeness in your relationships. You may decide to complete some studies this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are in a position to show just how much you trust and respect a loved one today. You will employ any manner of means to change a negative to a positive. Giving your complete attention to a personal situation, you are able to promote a healing where emotional concerns are involved. You may find yourself analyzing your life situation. Conversations of an inspiring kind may be in order with a young person or others around you. This is a time when you can put your practical insights into words and convey them to others. Your intuition is strong and you may enjoy the company of young people through some intellectual games or trivial pursuit. Music, art and all forms of sports can be enjoyed this evening.

WORD SEARCH

Baby Shower

Find and circle all of the Baby Shower words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 32 letters spell a secret message.

F	L	F	Y	O	E	G	S	A	N	D	W	I	C	H	E	S	A	V
E	R	B	I	E	N	R	N	G	A	N	S	D	C	M	D	C	J	A
B	A	I	F	N	I	O	L	I	O	E	E	P	O	I	T	Y	S	P
B	A	F	E	A	G	A	I	A	N	C	V	T	O	I	S	N	R	P
G	O	N	H	N	S	E	W	T	O	E	H	I	V	O	O	U	E	E
C	R	C	N	S	D	C	R	R	I	E	P	I	T	O	N	S	M	T
R	S	E	E	G	S	A	F	R	D	T	O	L	S	E	S	A	I	
E	N	S	E	U	R	T	P	K	O	I	A	L	T	V	E	W	E	Z
B	O	H	E	T	I	A	P	T	E	O	A	R	I	F	B	F	R	E
H	I	S	Y	O	I	T	I	S	A	B	D	N	T	B	I	I	T	R
O	T	R	N	L	N	N	F	O	R	K	S	E	M	A	G	S	S	
S	A	S	T	E	I	E	G	N	O	I	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C
T	T	R	V	H	S	M	P	C	K	O	O	B	T	S	E	U	G	P
E	I	E	G	N	I	K	A	B	A	S	N	I	K	P	A	N	A	L
S	V	W	H	C	N	U	P	F	R	R	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	A
S	N	O	C	O	N	F	E	T	T	I	D	S	E	Z	I	R	P	T
M	I	L	A	D	E	A	R	E	M	A	C	S	E	M	E	H	T	E
O	F	F	P	A	R	T	Y	F	A	V	O	R	S	G	I	F	T	S

ACTIVITIES
APPETIZERS
BABY
BAKING
BALLOONS
BANNER
BIRTH
CAKE
CAMERA
CELEBRATION
CHAIRS
COFFEE

CONFETTI
DECORATIONS
EVENT
FAMILY
FESTIVE
FINGER FOOD
FLOWERS
FORKS
FRIENDS
GAMES
GIFT OPENING

GIFTS
GLASSES
GREETING CARDS
GUESTBOOK
PUNCH
SANDWICHES
SPOONS
STREAMERS
TABLES
THEME
TRADITION
WRAPPING PAPER

PARTY FAVORS
PLATES
PRIZES
PUNCH
SANDWICHES
SPOONS
STREAMERS
TABLES
THEME
TRADITION
WRAPPING PAPER

Yesterday's Solution

Baby

B	O	I	L	E	R	C	H	A	J	E	P	R	O	T	I	N	O	M
Y	D	D	A	D	S	E	U	C	T	U	A	I	F	L	L	A	M	S
H	E	T	L	C	M	H	L	O	O	I	M	O	O	S	W	I	N	G
T	R	A	R	T	I	T	L	D	L	R	S	P	G	Y	E	S	C	T
M	T	O	E	D	L	E	A	I	F	I	D	E	E	H	P	E	O	T
O	A	S	I	L	E	B	E	D	L	C	W	O	B	R	K	P	L	M
M	A	R	K	R	I	T	Y	O	E	H	T	I	G	H	C	H	A	T
M	P	E	T	H	R	B	B	E	B	R	G	U	N	I	S	C	S	
Y	O	T	R	E	G	A	O	G	E	A	E	D	I	S	T	S	I	
T	W	S	E	T	T	A	O	M	T	R	E	T	F	G	F	R	O	I
S	D	O	P	N	R	O	R	T	R	E	T	F	D	B	G	O	O	L
S	E	E	O	A	E	P	L	E	S	B	A	D	L	A	R	L	O	K
P	I	T	A	D	O	C	L	E	S	B	N	C	I	A	E	N	B	L
I	T	A	D	O	C	A	R	U	I	N	C	A	R	S	E	A	T	
W	S	W	I	N	U	R	Y	F	R	K	S	N	O	Y	I	R	A	C
I	N	A	F	N	T	R	I	A	E	I	S	E	N	O	A	T	U	R
R	H	K	E	I	C	E	S	T	A	R	F	O	R	M	U	L	A	I
S	L	E	E	P	R	H	T	E	R	A	C	N	I	K	S	P	B	

ALERT
AWAKE
BLANKET
BODYSUIT
BOOSTER SEAT
BOTTLE
BOWL
CAR SEAT
CARRIER
COLIC
CREAM
CRIB
CRYING

DADDY
DIAPER
DROOL
FEED
FORMULA
GIGGLE
GRIN
HIGHCHAIR
HOODIE
INFANT
INNOCENT
JUMPER
LAUGH

LULLABY
MILK
MOBILE
MOMMY
MONITOR
NURSERY
ONESIE
PACIFIER
PARENTS
PLAY
POWDER
RASH
RATTLE

RUBBER DUCK
SIPPY CUP
SKIN CARE
SLEEP
SMALL
SMILE
SPON
STROLLER
SWING
TEDDY BEAR
TEETHER
TIRED
WIPES

The hidden message is:
THE LITTLEST FEET MAKE THE BIGGEST FOOTPRINTS IN OUR HEARTS

Daily SuDoku

2		6		5				
	3		1					
8		7						5
	8	2			3			6
			7		2			
5			4			7	8	
4						9		3
					4		6	
				2		4		1

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlās Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
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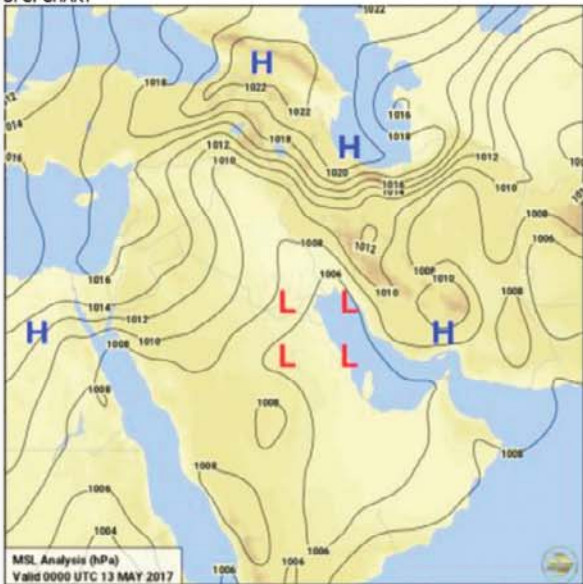
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 13/05/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 43 °C

By Day : Hot with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear
By Night : Fair with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	hot	hot	hot	hot + scattered clouds
Min Temp °C	26	26	27	28
Max Temp °C	42	43	44	44
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly to light variable	westerly changing to south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly later on
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 38	08 - 30	08 - 30	08 - 28

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	32	43
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28	43
ABDALL	29	43
BUBYAN	27	41
JAHRRA	31	45
FAILAKA ISLAND	27	43
SALMIYAH	30	38
AHMADI	32	40
JAL ALIYAH	29	43
QAROH ISLAND	27	34
UMM AL-MARADEM	26	36
NUWAISIB	28	44
WAFRA	30	44
SALMY	28	42
MUTRIBA	29	45

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	44
Min Temp (°C)	25
Max Rel Hum (%)	37
Min Rel Hum (%)	08
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

	Sunrise	04:57
	Sunset	18:31

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:28
Sunrise	04:57
Zuhr	11:44
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:31
Isha	19:58

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	Nigar	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

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Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501
Urologists	
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Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
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Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
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General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
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Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mubarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
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Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
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MOVIES

Hollywood's Walk of Fame, the biggest star of all

Actors come and go, radio presenters live or die by their ratings and musicians top the charts only to be dropped, hostages to the vagaries of fickle public opinion. But some stars are destined to be remembered forever, their successes immortalized in terrazzo and brass on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—a draw for visitors from across the world that has more staying power than any individual celebrity. Launched in 1958, the walk has built up more than 2,600 stars, each a tribute to the contribution of a public figure in the fields of motion picture, television, recording, radio or, latterly, live theater.

"The criteria for getting a star are longevity in the field of entertainment of five years or more—awards nominations, and very important to us is that they do philanthropic work," said Ana Martinez, who arranges the ceremonies. The ceremonies often coincide with the release of a movie as it is the celebrity who chooses the date, and a \$40,000 fee is paid by the honoree's entourage — \$15,000 to cover the event and the rest for maintenance.

Trump's star vandalized

Despite the large fee, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, which runs the show, received more than 300 applications last year, but generally accepts around 30. Martinez, who has been working for the Walk of Fame for more than 30 years, tries to stage around 24 ceremonies a year, beamed live from the walk's website, but says the number has been going up.

Among the most photographed sidewalk stars are those honoring Steven Spielberg, Nicole Kidman, Harrison Ford and Donald Trump, who may well also hold the dubious distinction of having the most vandalized star, although there is no official tally. Trump, now the US president, got a star in 2007 for his work as a reality TV celebrity.

Millions of tourists

Nearly 50 years after its launch, the 2.5-mile stretch smack in the middle of Hollywood now attracts an estimated 10 million tourists a year, who come to soak up the glamour. "It's very special to be here, to be here in person to see the stars of the singers I love and I listen to often, and of the actors that I grew up with," Brazilian tourist Daniela Oliveira said.

Not all the honorees are actors and musicians, of course—the late film critic Roger Ebert has one, as do hockey announcer Bob Miller, LA Lakers owner Jerry Buss and Winnie the Pooh. Other stars often go to groups-fictional or otherwise—such as the munchkins from "The Wizard of Oz," "The Muppets" and "The Simpsons," while Kermit the Frog, Mickey Mouse and Godzilla have their own.

Selection controversy

E M Stuart, erstwhile president of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, is credited with coming up with the idea in 1953 for an attraction that would "maintain the glory of a community whose name means glamour." The walk's initial costs came to \$1.25 million and the first stars honored the likes of Olive Borden, Ronald Colman, Burt Lancaster and Joanne Woodward. The selection process for honorees sparked controversy, however, when it emerged that Charlie Chaplin had been turned down for a star and his son sued unsuccessfully for damages amounting to \$400,000. Chaplin finally got his star in 1972, five years before his death. The walk was designed to accommodate 2,518 stars, and by the 1990s most of the space had gone, prompting the dedication of a second row. Now there are hundreds of blank stars—leaving hope for newcomers to the entertainment industry pining after the Hollywood dream. — AFP



Leron Guber and Carol Goldsmith, wife of Jerry Goldsmith, attend the posthumous Walk of Fame ceremony for composer Jerry Goldsmith in Hollywood, California. — AFP



In this photo, Miss New Jersey USA Chhavi Verg, right, competes during a preliminary competition for Miss USA in Las Vegas. — AP

FIVE IMMIGRANT WOMEN VIE FOR MISS USA PAGEANT TITLE

Five of the contestants vying for the Miss USA title have a message to immigrant girls and women watching the pageant this weekend: Set goals, work hard and don't stay in the shadows. The contestants know what they are talking about as they were all born in other countries and immigrated to the US at young ages as their families pursued their versions of the American Dream. The women are now all US citizens.

"I want them to see that anything is possible if you work hard," said Linnette De Los Santos, who immigrated with her family from the Dominican Republic when she was 5 years old. "As Miss USA, I would love to be able to be that inspiration for our immigrant community. If I would have stopped following my dreams and working hard towards what I wanted, I wouldn't be sitting here as Miss Florida USA or in law school ready to become an immigration attorney."

The competition airs today from Las Vegas. De Los Santos, Miss North Dakota Raquel Wellentin, Miss Hawaii Julie Kuo, Miss Connecticut Olga Litvinenko and Miss New Jersey Chhavi Verg spoke to The Associated Press about the opportunities and challenges they've faced as immigrants. Their remarks stand in stark contrast to the scandal that enveloped the pageant in 2015, when part owner and now President Donald Trump offended Hispanics when he made anti-immigrant remarks in announcing his bid for the White House.

Trump co-owned The Miss Universe Organization with NBCUniversal, but the network and the Spanish-language broadcaster Univision quickly cut ties with him, refusing to air the show. Trump sued both networks, eventually settling and selling off the entire pageant to talent management company WME/IMG. Wellentin and her family left the Philippines over safety fears when she was 2 years old. Their first taste of American life was in the small community of Enderlin, North Dakota, where she and her siblings felt isolated.

"Nobody wanted to talk to me at all. I came home one day and I asked my dad 'Why am I so different? Why isn't anyone talking to me?'" Wellentin said. "My dad told me, 'You know, you are not different. You are very unique yourself. You have to be strong and really accept this negativity from other people and have it motivate you.' I still keep that in my mind." Their situation improved when they moved to the larger and more diverse Fargo, North Dakota.

Wellentin, 24, who wants to be a middle school teacher after she completes a student-teaching requirement, said her experiences have taught her to not take no for an answer. "I want to tell people that they need to make sure that they should not allow anyone to tell them that they can't do something because only you can determine your future," she said. Like thousands of other immigrants, Litvinenko moved to the US with her family after her mother won the lottery for a green card. She was 3 when they relocated from Ukraine a few years after the Soviet Union collapsed.

The 27-year-old business owner ventured into pageants when she could no longer play basketball after injuring a foot in high school. She won Miss Connecticut Teen on her first try but had to compete five times to reach the Miss USA competition. Her persistence, Litvinenko said, shows that every effort counts. "I want to showcase that no matter who you are, no matter what your background is, your size or what you have done in the past, through hard work and discipline, through perseverance and determination, you really can achieve what you put your heart towards." — AP

Red carpet for Gaza film festival minus the stars

Gaza doesn't have much space for cultural events—there is no proper cinema in the entire enclave—but this weekend the city's port has been transformed into a venue for outdoor screenings. The Red Carpet Festival showcases films focusing on human rights issues and aims to provide Palestinians, many of them unemployed, with a rare opportunity to explore their dreams, or at least practice a little escapism. True to its name, the festival's organizers have laid out a 100-metre long red carpet. But there are no celebrities, it's for the thousands of ordinary Gazans turning out to watch the films.

"The children and poor people are walking on the carpet," organizer Saad Al-Saworki said proudly at Friday's opening night. "They are far more important than the carpet." The festival, which is in its third year, coincides with the Cannes Film Festival and aims to show that there is an alternative to the catwalks and glamour of its French counterpart, Saworki said. The maiden event was organized by Palestinian director Khalil Al-Muzain in 2015 in the rubble of homes destroyed by the Israeli army in the most recent of the three wars that have devastated Gaza since 2008.

This year for the first time, all of the festival's entries are being screened simultaneously in Ramallah in the West Bank and in the Israeli city of Haifa. Around 40 films by Palestinian and foreign directors are being screened over five days. The opening film was Palestinian director Raed Andoni's "Ghost Hunting", winner of best documentary at the Berlin International Film Festival earlier this year. It focuses on Israeli prison interrogation techniques and its screening came with hundreds of Palestinians in Israeli jails on hunger strike for nearly a month in protest over their conditions.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the letter in which the British government committed itself to the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine. Festival spokesman Saad Abu Ramadan said that the red carpet was 100 meters long to commemorate the anniversary



Palestinians walk on the red carpet, bearing the outline of the Balfour Declaration, during a film festival showcasing films focusing on human rights, in Gaza City.



A Palestinian man's silhouette is seen on a placard at a film festival.

sary and that parts of the text had been inscribed on it. Palestinians despise the document, saying it gave away their independence, while Israelis hail it as an early recognition of the need for a Jewish state.

"People walked on the carpet and trampled on (British foreign minister Arthur) Balfour's promise," Abu Ramadan said. Tamara Matar, a 21-year-old law student, said the festival gave her a chance to "feel free" in the tiny enclave which has been under Israeli blockade for a decade. "There is no cinema in

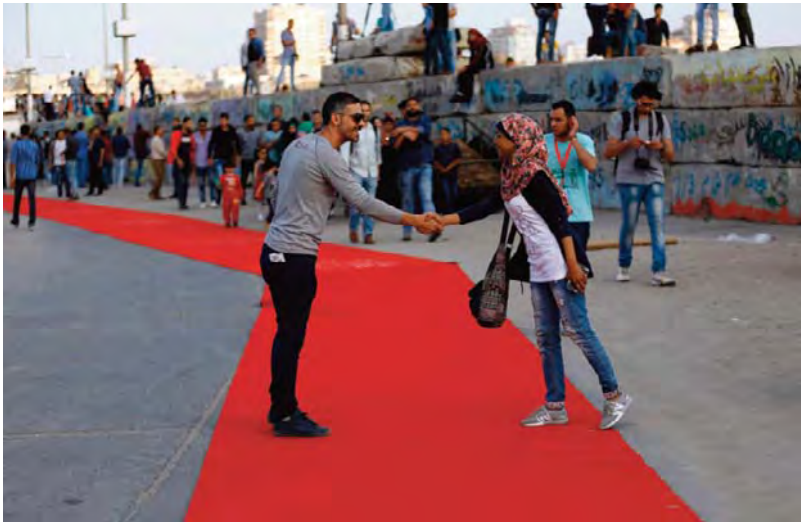
Gaza," she said. "I watch films at the festival because of the blockade and the closed borders, the unemployment and the electricity crisis we have to endure."

Love of Life

Youth activist Asad Al-Saftawi, 25, said the festival helped change Gaza's image in the outside world. Instead of the "stereotype" of violence and destruction, it showed that "in Gaza young people have creativity and love of life." "Our mes-

sage to the Palestinian leadership in Gaza and the West Bank—we want freedom, we want a cinema in Gaza," Saftawi said.

Rif Kassem, a Syrian refugee who has been living in Gaza for four years, attended a screening with his wife. "We, as Syrian refugees, share the pain of the Palestinian refugees," he said. Mohammed, 27, walked down the red carpet with his sick father in a wheelchair. "I want to feel like I am at Cannes," he said. — AFP



Palestinians shake hands on the red carpet during a film festival.



Palestinians walk next to a poster during a film festival. — AFP photos



Palestinians drive their motorcycle on the red carpet during a film festival.

MUSIC



Bulgarian-Russian singer representing Bulgaria with the song 'Beautiful mess' Kristian Konstantinov Kostov aka Kristian Kostov performs on stage during the Grand Final rehearsal of Eurovision Song Contest 2017 at the International Exhibition Centre in Kiev. — AFP



German singer-songwriter representing Germany with the song 'Perfect life' Isabella Levina Luen aka Levina performs on stage.



Romanian singer representing Romania with the song 'Yodel it' Ilinca Bacila aka Ilinca, left, and Romanian singer Alex Florea, right, perform on stage.

Eurovision in Kiev pits Italy's gorilla against Portugal's crooner

Ukraine gears up to host the Eurovision Song Contest final in Kiev yesterday with Italy's dancing gorilla entry and Portugal's traditional balladeer tipped to win while Russia sits out after a controversial ban on its singer. The annual celebration of infuriatingly catchy europop, ludicrous costumes and nonsensical lyrics watched by some 200 million TV viewers is being hosted by ex-Soviet Ukraine for the second time. Its hosting of the 2005 contest symbolized the country's quest to open up to Europe after the 2004 pro-Western Orange Revolution.

This time, Kiev's main Kreshchatyk street has been transformed into a Eurovision fan zone that includes a large stage and chill-out zones with beanbags. Yet heightened security has seen officers patrolling with semi-automatic machine guns and camouflaged police vans on the streets. For 20-year-old student Irina, snapping a selfie in front of a Eurovision sign, the event is about more than just

trial east. As the shelling goes on there, the impact of the hostilities echoes in the contest with neighbor Russia conspicuously absent.

Kiev barred Russia's wheelchair-user singer Yuliya Samoilova because she had illegally entered Crimea to perform there after Moscow's disputed 2014 annexation of the peninsula from Ukraine. Both countries ignored pleas from organizers, the European Broadcasting Union, and Russia has refused to air the contest, forcing fans to watch online. "The absence of Russia has had a really negative effect on the contest," said Artur Gasparyan, showbiz correspondent for Russia's Moskovsky Komsomolets daily, one of the few Russian journalists in Kiev.

"Neither Russia nor Ukraine benefitted from this, nor the millions of Eurovision fans who live in Russia," he said. Russia has vowed that Samoilova will compete in 2018, putting Ukraine in a tricky dilemma over whether to participate alongside her.



Croatian singer and songwriter representing Croatia with the song 'My Friend' Zeljko Houdek aka Jacques Houdek, performs on stage.

music. "We're striving towards Europe," she said. "It's not just a song contest but also an opportunity to show ourselves off."

Visitors from other countries including Italy, Israel and Germany also converged on the central fan zone. "It looks very well organized with lots of activities," said Jonathan Pezzali, a 50-year-old manager from near Milan. The concert venue, however, is an uninspiring exhibition centre across the city's Dnipro River. Ukraine is hosting Eurovision just two years after pulling out in 2015 over the armed conflict with pro-Russian separatists in the country's indus-

After the Kiev event opened, it emerged that the Bulgarian contestant, 17-year-old Kristian Kostov, had also performed in annexed Crimea. The singer, who has appeared on a Russian television talent show, was allowed to stay in the contest because he was only 14 at the time. He will appear in the final.

Naked apes

The latest edition of the contest that began in 1956 with just seven countries promises the usual feast of wacky stage acts and cheesy beats. Azerbaijan's act features a man wearing a horse's

head on a stepladder while Romania presents an unlikely combination of yodeling and rap with two giant cannons on stage for no apparent reason. Britain may be experiencing a post-Brexit vote chill in Europe, but is pulling out all the stops with its big ballad performed by Lucie Jones.

Prime Minister Theresa May has vowed not to exit the contest, despite the nation winning derisory points in recent years. While English is usually essential for a Eurovision win, this year's favorites are songs in Italian and Portuguese—two nations that insist on using the local language. Admittedly Italian Francesco Gabbani's cerebral references to Hamlet, the state of Western civilization and Desmond Morris's anthropology book "The Naked Ape" may be lost on viewers focusing on the giant gorilla-costumed dancer boogeying by his side.

"The gorilla isn't just for fun," he told journalists ahead of the final. "We are all like naked apes." Portugal has never won Eurovision but it has scored a surprise hit with its fado-tinged, melancholic song "Amar Pelos Dois" that now rivals Italy to win. The Portuguese contestant, 27-year-old Salvador Sobral, has a life-threatening heart condition that has prevented him from taking part in rehearsals. Italy has won twice in the 1950s and 1960s but shunned the contest for more than a decade from 1997 before rejoining it in 2011.

Ukraine won last year with the song "1944" performed by Jamala, which referred to the Stalin-era deportation of her Tatar ethnic group from Crimea. Crimean Tatars, who are Muslims, largely opposed the peninsula's annexation and have been persecuted under the new Russian authorities. Ukraine is using this year's event to take tentative steps toward breaking away from the climate of homophobia prevalent in the ex-Soviet Union.

The authorities are handing out a map of gay-friendly venues for fans of the contest that enjoys a massive gay following. In a cheeky move, they also started repainting in rainbow stripes a huge Soviet-era arch in central Kiev that commemorates Ukraine and Russia's friendship—only to be physically threatened by ultranationalist protesters. As of Friday, the arch remained unfinished with expanses of grey among the bright colors. — AFP



Cypriot singer representing Cyprus with the song 'Gravity' Hovig Demirdjian aka Hovig, left, performs on stage.



British singer representing United Kingdom with the song 'Never give up on you' Lucie Jones performs on stage.



Spanish singer, songwriter, and guitarist representing Spain with the song 'Do it for your lover' Manel Navarro, second right, performs on stage.

With new album, Kendrick Lamar emerges as artist of the year



Review

Harry Styles looks to past icons on solo debut

When listening to Harry Styles' solo debut, it will be hard to not think of David Bowie, Mick Jagger, Elton John and other rock icons who came decades before the former boy bander. The good thing for Styles, 23, is some of his fans might be too young to recognize the Rock and Roll Hall of Famers. But despite looking to the past for his sound apart from One Direction, Styles proves he's worth checking out.

The 10-track album is a solid set that proves Styles has some direction: "Two Ghosts" is probably his strongest song; "Only Angel" and "Kiwi" is full of Jagger swagger; and first single and Top 5 hit, "Sign of the Times," is dreamy and melodic. Much of the credit belongs to Grammy-winning super producer Jeff Bhasker, whose drum-filled sound has aided everyone from Kanye West and Jay Z to Bruno Mars and fun.

Bhasker works his magic throughout "Harry Styles" alongside producers Tyler Johnson and Alex Salibian; they all share writing credit with Styles on most of the tracks, giving off a rock band vibe instead of a solo one. Styles' voice varies on each song - in a good way - as he emotes the lyrics like a seasoned star, especially on the simple piano tune "From the Dining Table" and album opener "Meet Me In the Hallway." The performance aspect of the album is where Styles truly shines.

But the creative process? Not so much. The album relies too much on the sound of others: "Woman," for example, feels way too much like "Bennie and the Jets." And while imitation can be seen as flattery, that's not always the case. — AP

Rappers who morph into superstars usually follow a well-traveled path that includes an overabundance of collaborations with other artists, radio-friendly pop hits, a bit of tabloid buzz and a conscious effort to eschew anything that might get too political or socially conscious. Kendrick Lamar took a different path and still emerged as the artist of the year, and it's one reason he's been elevated to superstar status with "DAMN.," which has dominated pop culture since its release last month.

The album, a searing lyrical masterpiece that touches on societal breakdowns, politics, relationships and his own vulnerability - has spawned limitless think pieces, conquered the charts and has had some people calling him a new rap god. Last year it was Beyonce and her epic "Lemonade" visual. This year it's Lamar and "DAMN." "In a way, Kendrick is the opposite of a lot of what's popping right now. He's the other side of the pillow," said Tuma Basa, Spotify's global head of hip-hop.

Lamar was a platinum-selling, Grammy-winning star before "DAMN.," but the release of his third studio album has put him on another level. It started with his song "The Heart Part 4," which led to a viral guessing game about which rapper - or rappers - he was referring to on the powerful track featuring his signature sharp rhymes. A week later came "Humble," an insta-hit that topped Billboard's Hot 100 chart and launched a debate about women and butt injections, creating yet another pop culture moment for Lamar.

Two weeks later, "DAMN." is finally out, becoming another critically revered and commercially successful album for Lamar, and assimilating his stance as the reigning king of rap and pop music's unlikely juggernaut. "If the forefathers of hip-hop had all gotten together and been like, 'Man, where do you hope the music will be in 30 years?' they would have wanted it to be a kid like Kendrick Lamar," said Peter Rosenberg, the veteran radio personality at Hot 97. "That's what they would have wanted."

"DAMN." has sold over 1 million equivalent albums in just three weeks, and it has spent all three weeks at No. 1 on Billboard's 200 albums chart. Nielsen Music says it's the second best-selling album this year, behind Ed Sheeran's "Divide,"

released March 3. "The beauty of 'DAMN.' is that the more you listen to it, the more you like it. I think that's the quality of a great piece of work - whether it be an album or even a movie - the more you get into it, the more you like it. It means you're unpeeling layers. It's a complex piece of work that wasn't some cut-and-paste, copied (album)," Basa said.

Despite its pop star success, "DAMN." is one of the most highly regarded releases in hip-hop history, following Lamar's acclaimed albums, 2015's "To Pimp a Butterfly" and 2012's "good kid, m.A.A.d city." "To me he was everything that true hip-hop heads always wanted. Like, we always wanted a guy who represented what the essence of what hip-hop was supposed to be from a cultural standpoint, from a political standpoint, from a socioeconomic standpoint - he does everything right," Rosenberg said. "And on top of that, the kids love him."

It's not just kids who rally behind the 29-year-old Lamar. The Compton, California-born rapper has practically checked every box when it comes to his audience: His concertgoers are diverse in race, age and sex, and they range from the cool kids of Coachella to the children from the 'hood to Swifties. LeBron James plays his music before basketball games, and he's a favorite of former



President Barack Obama. Lamar has become a critical darling, topping several end-of-the-year lists and earning top awards, including seven Grammys.

The real question is: Who isn't a Kendrick Lamar fan? Gail Mitchell, a senior correspondent at Billboard, compares Lamar's appeal to Tupac Shakur, and more widely, Stevie Wonder. "He's one of the rare artists who has the ability to transcend generations. A lot of hip-hop, I think, whether warranted or unwarranted, people think it's segregated or should be segregated to one demographic, mind-set, et cetera. But I think Kendrick has broken through those confines and he's able to reach out to older, younger, white, black, Asian, whatever. He's just an all-around artist," she said.

"Twenty, 30 years down the road, he's going to be one of the standard chapters - not just in hip-hop - but in music in general." Lamar's success on the pop charts is being shared with other rappers: Many of the recent Top 10 hits include acts with anthemic and upbeat jams, including DJ Khaled, Future, Migos, Big Sean, Lil Uzi Vert and KYLE. But Lamar's sound isn't radio-ready or pop-adjacent.

"I don't necessarily consider him a 'conscious rapper' ... he's different than that, but obviously his message is thoughtful, progressive, incredibly smart, and I don't know that there's ever been another artist in hip-hop who's been so successful making thought-provoking important music," Rosenberg said. Spotify's Basa described the moment Lamar is having as a "renaissance."

Lamar will launch a North American tour this summer. Some even feel that "DAMN." could earn him album of the year at the Grammy Awards next year. He's been nominated for the prize twice, and a win would make him the first rap act since Outkast (the duo won in 2004) to take home that prize. "You look at folks who evolve and take you on that journey ... you see Beyonce with 'Lemonade' and now you see Kendrick with this third album, and I think, yeah, he stands a very strong chance," Billboard's Mitchell said. — AP

In this file photo, Kendrick Lamar performs at FYF Fest in Los Angeles. — AP

FEATURES



A general view inside the New Blacks Memory and Research Institute (IPN) museum, which contains the excavation site of the biggest slave cemetery ever found in the Americas, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.— AFP photos



Archaeologists from the Fluminense Federal find an entire human skeleton, presumed to be an adult female by the teeth, at the excavation site of the biggest slave cemetery ever found.



A sculpture in the New Blacks Memory and Research Institute (IPN) museum.



Andrei Santos, an archaeologist from the Fluminense Federal University, works on the excavation site of the biggest slave cemetery.

Huge Rio slave cemetery faces crisis after cuts

When Merced Guimaraes found piles of human bones under the floor of her Rio de Janeiro house during a refurbishment, she thought she'd stumbled upon evidence of a serial killer. Guimaraes even worried that police would "think I killed them." The "terrified" builders doing the work fled. What she'd discovered, though, was something more terrible: her house sat on the remains of many thousands of African slaves—the biggest slave cemetery ever found in the Americas.

That accidental brush with history in 1996 transformed Guimaraes, an energetic, cheerful woman who is now 60. She ceded control of her small family business to her children and instead of trying to build a comfortable home, set out to turn the property into a museum. She wanted to create "a living testimony to a crime against humanity." In 2005, she finally succeeded, opening the Institute of New Blacks. The exhibit, centered on a large pit crammed with yet-to-be exhumed bones, had attracted 70,000 visitors by last year, with the traffic on a rapid upward curve.

Despite that success, the institute is close to shutting down. Lack of money is the obvious reason. A government subsidy has been cut amid fierce recession and the

hangover of hosting the Rio Olympics, leaving the institute struggling to pay electricity bills or even to buy cleaning supplies. But ultimately the problem, Guimaraes says, is deeper: Brazilians simply don't want to confront their "national shame."

Hidden history

Ten times as many slaves—almost five million in all—were shipped to Brazil as to the United States before the country abolished slavery in 1888, the last nation in the Americas to do so. That mass movement left Brazil with the largest black population outside Africa and a rich musical and cultural heritage. Yet the dark side is rarely discussed and even less effort is made to honor the victims. Rio's old port area was once the heart of the slave business. Ships docked there, so-called "new blacks" were quarantined, and the survivors were sold.

But with the physical reminders mostly gone or buried, the history has been lost to all but the specialists. The finding of what are believed to be tens of thousands of human bones under Guimaraes' house—and also the 2011 discovery nearby of the Valongo slave ship wharf—have

not been enough to cure that amnesia. Plenty of schools and scholars visit the institute, but it's barely known to the general public, a pinprick on the Rio tourism map. Ambitious plans for expansion to a three-floor facility look like a fantasy.

"The Brazilian government has and never did have any interest in these questions. The problem isn't today's financial crisis. This has been going on for years," said Antonio Carlos Rodrigues, the museum's general secretary. "It's racism," Guimaraes said. For years, Guimaraes funded the project with her own business, a pest control company. Then in 2013, a Rio urban renewal fund established ahead of the Olympics came to her help, covering the approximately 9,000 reais (\$2,800) monthly operating costs.

This year, amid near bankruptcy in the Rio government, that aid was suddenly axed, leaving the institute with only enough funds to survive until July, Guimaraes said. Then "we'll have to close for an indefinite period." One obvious solution to the funding problem—making people pay for tickets—is unthinkable, Guimaraes says. "It's not right to charge people to see a crime."

Children of the house

Visitors to the institute get to see a short documentary film and artifacts, like a branding iron used to mark newly purchased slaves. But the bone fragments, tibias and broken skulls lying in the dirt are the real draw. The mass grave is documented to have been in use from 1769 to 1830. But no one really knows how many people lie there, with conservative estimates at around 50,000, according to archaeologist Reinaldo Tavares, volunteering from Rio State University.

Bones were generally burned and crushed to make space and cataloguing is "extremely slow," Tavares said. Last week he found a complete skeleton of a woman. She lies stretched out, her mouth open, as if in a silent, endless cry. Leticia Valdetaro, a 12-year-old girl who came on a school tour, called the sight "unreal." "I feel really bad, I feel ashamed," she said. "This happened in our country." But whatever happens to the museum, Guimaraes will never abandon her unplanned housemates. They were tossed away like "garbage," she says, wiping a tear from her cheek. But to her, "they're children, children here in the house, in our house." — AFP



Cristina Calderon, 89, the last native speaker of the Yagan language, poses with her book in the local community center.

At the end of the world in Chile, a culture on the brink

Just outside the southernmost settlement in the world, an 89-year-old woman is the last native speaker of her people's ancient language and struggling to ensure she does not take it to her grave. Cristina Calderon, known locally as "Grandma Cristina," lives among her fellow Yaghan in Chile's "End of the World" region of Tierra del Fuego, close to Cape Horn.

"I'm the last speaker of Yaghan. Others can understand it but don't speak it or know it like I do," Cristina said in Villa Ukika, where the approximately 100 remaining Yaghans live, less than a mile outside Puerto Williams, the southernmost settlement on the planet. The Yaghan once lived off fishing, paddling their canoes along coastal waterways, but mostly live off tourism now, making handicrafts and working as seasonal laborers.

After her sister Ursula died, Cristina was recognized in 2009 by the Chilean government as "living human treasure" for her work in preserving an indigenous culture at risk of extinction. Cristina spends her days making reed baskets and other handicrafts and imparting as much of the language and culture of her people as she can to her grandchildren and a niece. The

melodic language has no written form, and is at risk of vanishing when she dies.

"The younger generation knows the language but not to the same degree that Cristina does," said Maurice van de Maele, an anthropologist living in Puerto Williams. The Yaghan have lived here for some 6,000 years and numbered around 3,000 people before the arrival of Europeans. They fished the region's notoriously dangerous waters, wearing little clothing and smearing their bodies in seal fat, only donning seal skins when temperatures plummeted.

European settlers only arrived in the area about 150 years ago. Their presence slowly changed the Yaghan, causing them to adopt a more sedentary lifestyle and to start wearing clothes. While they retain some of their traditional customs, such as weaving baskets with reeds, they are gradually losing their tribal legends, as well as knowledge of ancient trails through the mountains and the places their people once frequented. — AFP



Children descendants of Cristina Calderon play at Villa Ukika in Puerto Williams.



Cristina Calderon, center, 89, the last native speaker of the Yagan language, poses with her family outside the local community center.



Cristina Calderon, 89, the last native speaker of the Yagan language, is pictured in the local community center in Puerto Williams, southern Chile.— AFP photos



View of miniature scale models of rafts used by the Yagan to navigate the Cape Horn archipelago and the Beagle Channel, in Puerto Williams.



iflix, formally launched in Kuwait

By Ben Garcia

Now television programs and all your favorite movies via cable networks and other paid TVs will be available on your mobile phones 24/7. Thanks to iflix, the world's leading subscription video on demand (SVOD) that launched in Kuwait. Iflix and Zain Telecommunications had signed an agreement few months back. Now, over four million people of all age groups in this region have subscribed to iflix, the number is still growing. It started in Malaysia and it's growing in over 18 territories across Asia and the MENA region.

"It is available now to over one billion consumers worldwide and we are happy to expand our reach globally. We give access to thousands of movies and television programs unlimited," said

Bashar Alostad, Managing Director iflix-Kuwait. "For a very low monthly fee i.e. one dinar quarter (KD1.25) something this great is worth it. iflix can be downloaded via apps, and subscribers can watch on their mobile phone, laptop, tablets or back to TV," he said.

Iflix offers users unlimited access to a vast collection of Hollywood, regional Arabic, popular Turkish and many other local TV shows and movies. Iflix subscribers can also enjoy and watch programs offline. "Even if you are offline, you can still watch your favorite movies. Each television episode or movie can be downloaded in various resolution qualities to best accommodate the storage capacity of users' devices," he said.

John Paul Mckerlie, CEO iflix Arabia said that the next few days/months are the most exciting for iflix

Arabia. "When was the last time you had to rush home to watch a TV show? We addressed that issue. You do not need to rush quickly to watch the show, you can now watch according to your availability. You cannot completely put the western movies or programs, so, we incorporated the movies and programs from other countries, we are building the brand every day," he said.

iflix believes that with the growing number of smart phone users, they can get the share of 129 million population in the GCC or a bit more that 30 percent of pay TV and movies. We'll do lots more of adding some more locals and other contents, that is what we want," he said. Iflix was launched in Malaysia and the Philippines, through Catchie, leading international focused on emerging market.



Tissot launches T-Wave



There is a certain grace in the way a silk ribbon swirls in the wind. It is that elegance and lightness that inspired the design of the Tissot T-Wave. The curves of the case and lugs follow the harmonious lines formed by the fluid movement of a ribbon. The pure dial features refined details such as hands resembling skeletonised leaves and a teardrop index set with white or black mother-of-pearl at 12 o'clock.

The Tissot T-Wave is a piece of jewellery that can be worn at any occasion, adding a touch of sophistication to a daily outfit or complimenting a cocktail dress for a special occasion. The collection offers a choice of designs. Some may prefer the simplicity of a pure dial with a satin or aventurine effect, while other will like a touch of design with a discrete yet elegant ribbon, unveiling iridescent and satin reflections on the moth-

er-of-pearl or satin face. For a more glamorous touch, ladies will appreciate the models that highlight the design touches with top Wesselton diamonds.

Features:

- Swiss made
- Quartz movement with battery end-of-life (EOL) indicator
- 316L stainless steel case
- Domed scratch-resistant sapphire crystal
- Top Wesselton Diamond options
- Leather strap with standard buckle
- 316L solid stainless steel bracelet with butterfly clasp with push-buttons
- All rose-gold execution is PVD coating
- Diameter: 30mm



Models present creation of students at State University of Medan during a fashion show as part of their final project in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia. — AP photos

Five immigrant women vie for Miss USA pageant title



‘Seated Ballerina,’ the public art exhibition of a 45-foot tall inflatable nylon sculpture depicting a seated ballerina from artist Jeff Koons’ Antiquity series, is displayed at Rockefeller Center after it was unveiled in New York. — AP

New American Writers Museum narrates Great American Story

The American Writers Museum, seven years in the making, is an endeavor even the most daring author might shy from: How, on a single floor of an office building, do you tell the story of centuries of American language? The museum's curators wanted the broadest possible concept of writing, one that includes not just novels, memoirs and poetry, but screenplays, journalism, rap lyrics, advertising slogans and even stand-up comedy.

Prince and Tupac Shakur are represented along with Harper Lee and Thomas Jefferson. Homes and institutions throughout the country are dedicated to individual authors, whether the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Connecticut, or the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, California. But this museum, opening Tuesday in Chicago, is the first to attempt a comprehensive portrait.

Chicago, centrally located and associated with great American writers like Saul Bellow, Carl Sandburg, Nelson Algren and James T. Farrell, was deemed the ideal setting. The museum, on the second floor of a Michigan Avenue office building between a Citibank and a noodle shop, doesn't have marble floors or grand archways. The layout is bright and intimate, perfect for school trips and family outings.

Along with colorful banners, timelines, placards and a word "waterfall", there are interactive games and activities. Trivia contests ask questions like which book begins with "Ships at a distance have every man's wish on board" (Zora Neale Hurston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God") or who coined the term "fac-toid" (Norman Mailer)?

One area allows visitors to create their own stories, with writing pads, a manual typewriter and a bulletin board to post the results. The museum also has a "Readers Hall" with bookcases offering such selections as "To Kill a Mockingbird," the poems of Elizabeth Bishop and the screenplay to Billy Wilder's classic "Sunset Boulevard." Wall displays summarize everything from

the "evolution" of bookstores to "Voices of Dissent."

"The goal is to tell the story, and stories, of the American contribution to human literary expression," said Max Rudin, a member of the museum's content leadership team and publisher of the Library of America, which issues hardcover editions of classic American writings. "And (we seek) to do it in ways that capture the energy of our uniquely democratic literary culture in all its diversity and sometimes even its eccentricity."

Relying mostly on private funding, the American Writers Museum was conceived in 2010 by Malcolm O'Hagan, former CEO of a manufacturing trade organization who was inspired by the Dublin Writers Museum in Ireland. "When people think of writers and writing, you think novels, and that can kind of come off as stale," says the museum's director of operations, Christopher Burrow. "So we wanted to make it modern, interactive, and bring the past to the present and inspire the next generation of writers."

A "Writer's Room" provides a showcase for an individual book or author, starting with Jack Kerouac's "On the Road" and its working manuscript, the extraordinary 120-foot scroll he would unfurl before startled publishers. A passageway near the museum's entrance slips you into the hushed, tropical atmosphere of poet W S Merwin's home in Hawaii, an installation/greenhouse complete with live palms and audio recordings of Merwin's poetry.

"His home is on the side of a hill, surrounded by palms, and sometimes when you're in the house you barely know whether it's sunny outside," says Merwin's stepson, the author-screenwriter John Burnham Schwartz, who has visited the museum. "He loves the feeling of being completely enveloped and I think they've captured that feeling well here."

The museum that the public first encounters is unlikely to be the same museum in the months and years ahead. Exhibitions will rotate and the permanent collection, focused on dead writ-

ers and other public figures of the past, will inevitably require more room. Museum President Carey Cranston says that if "demand and interest" are high enough they might expand to the floor above and double the space.

Because the museum, by definition, is a kind of canon, debates eventually will grow over who belongs and who doesn't. An "American Voices" wall timeline highlights both the expected (Melville, Hawthorne, Hemingway) and such lesser known's as the 19th century novelist Sophia Alice Callahan. The museum's curators wanted the broadest possible concept of writing, one that includes screenplays, journalism, rap lyrics, advertising slogans and stand-up comedy.

"It's a way of thinking about language and craft," Rudin says. "Writers influence our lives in both profound and ordinary ways. As a counterpoint to the more traditional 'serious' writing elsewhere in the museum, copy writing, comedy writing, editorials and lyrics highlight the many shapes and sizes of American writing."

History readers may be disappointed. Francis Parkman and W E B Du Bois are featured on the wall timeline, but you'll see little or nothing about Barbara Tuchman, Arthur M Schlesinger Jr, Daniel Boorstin, Richard Hofstadter and John Hope Franklin among others. Supreme Court writings, currently absent from the museum, are an "obvious subject" for a future exhibit, Rudin says.

Statesman and politicians are represented, with some notable exceptions. Jefferson, James Madison and Benjamin Franklin are duly highlighted, but references to another founder, a principal author of the Federalist Papers who is remembered in song at the nearby PrivateBank Theatre, are hard to find. Alexander Hamilton's turn will have to wait. — AP



In this photo, Christopher Burrow, director of operations at the American Writers Museum, poses for a portrait near the Writer's Room.



In this photo, the 'Word Waterfall' cycles through one of several displays of literary history with quotes from authors at the American Writers Museum in Chicago. — AP photos



This photo shows the interior of the Children's Room at the American Writers Museum.