

SUBSCRIPTION

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'Dean of Saudi journalism' Sudairi passes away



North Korea fires missile that lands in sea near Russia



Portugal's big-hearted crooner wins Eurovision



Hamilton wins thrilling Spanish Grand Prix



150 FILS
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40 PAGES

200,000 VICTIMS HIT BY GLOBAL CYBER ATTACK

BUSINESSES BRACE FOR NEW WEEK AS RANSOMWARE THREAT LINGERS



Min 28°
Max 41°
High Tide 03:18 & 13:35
Low Tide 08:20 & 21:12



“一带一路”国际合作高峰论坛 BELT AND ROAD FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

2017年5月14-15日 中国·北京

14-15 MAY 2017 BEIJING, CHINA



BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping (center) and leaders and delegates attending the Belt and Road Forum pose for a group photo on stage at the China National Convention Center yesterday. — AP

CHINA PLEDGES \$124BN FOR NEW SILK ROAD

BEIJING: China yesterday touted its new Silk Road as "a project of the century" at a summit highlighting its growing leadership on globalization, but a North Korean missile test competed for attention. President Xi Jinping hosted leaders from 29 nations for the two-day summit in Beijing ending Monday after US and South Korean military officials confirmed that Pyongyang had launched a ballistic missile. Delegations from North Korea and the United States attended the forum, though not their leaders. Few Western heads of government made the trip.

The summit is showcasing Xi's cherished One Belt, One Road initiative, a revival of the ancient Silk Road

trading routes that could further expand China's growing global influence on trade and geopolitics. "This is indeed a gathering of great minds," Xi said, addressing leaders from Russian President Vladimir Putin to Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

Xi pledged to pump an extra \$124 billion in funds into the initiative, calling it "a project of the century" in a "world fraught with challenges". The Chinese-bankrolled project seeks to link the country with Africa, Asia and Europe through an enormous network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks. The initiative spans some 65 countries representing 60 percent of the world

population and around a third of global gross domestic product. The China Development Bank has earmarked \$890 billion for some 900 projects. The project could also serve Beijing's geopolitical ambitions as Washington retreats into "America First" policies.

While Xi did not mention North Korea during his speech, it was discussed at his bilateral meeting with Putin. "Both parties expressed their concern over the escalation of tensions" on the Korean peninsula, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. The Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement it opposed such missile tests and called for restraint from all parties.

Continued on Page 13

LONDON: The unprecedented global cyber attack has hit more than 200,000 victims in scores of countries, Europol said yesterday, warning that the situation could escalate when people return to work. An international manhunt was well under way for the plotters behind the world's biggest-ever computer ransom assault. The indiscriminate attack, which began Friday, struck banks, hospitals and government agencies in more than 150 countries, exploiting known vulnerabilities in old Microsoft computer operating systems.

US package delivery giant FedEx, European car factories, Spanish telecoms giant Telefonica, Britain's health service and Germany's Deutsche Bahn rail network were among those hit. Europol executive director Rob Wainwright said the situation could worsen today as workers return to their offices after the weekend and log on. "We've never seen anything like this," the head of the European Union's policing agency told Britain's ITV television, calling its reach "unprecedented".

"The latest count is over 200,000 victims in at least 150 countries. Many of those victims will be businesses, including large corporations. We're in the face of an escalating threat. I'm worried about how the numbers will continue to grow when people go to work and turn on their machines on Monday." The 5,500-strong Renault factory in Douai, northern France, one of the most important car plants in the country, will not open today due to the attack, sources told AFP.

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RAMADAN BEGINS MAY 27: SAADOUN

KUWAIT: The lunar month of Ramadan will begin on Saturday, May 27, meteorologist Adel Al-Saadoun told KUNA yesterday. The lunar calendar is the reference Muslims use for marking religious occasions and seasons. Ramadan is the ninth month, devoted for fasting from sunrise till sunset with more prayers and acts of worship observed by devotees. The start of Ramadan is not announced according to astrological calculations alone. A testimony of sighting the crescent by two men or a man and two women is required for the call to begin fasting. — KUNA



PARIS: Newly elected French president Emmanuel Macron parades in a military car on the Champs Elysees avenue after his formal inauguration ceremony yesterday. — AFP

MACRON TAKES POWER AS FRENCH PRESIDENT

AMIR SENDS CONGRATULATIONS

PARIS: Emmanuel Macron became France's youngest ever president yesterday, promising at his inauguration to restore the country's lost confidence and relaunch the flagging European Union. Macron, a 39-year-old centrist, took the reins of power from Socialist Francois Hollande at the Elysee Palace a week after his resounding victory over far-right leader Marine Le Pen in an election that was watched worldwide.

HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a congratulatory cable to Macron on his inauguration. In the cable, the Amir hailed firm and distinguished relations between Kuwait and France, saying he looks forward to promoting and bolstering bilateral ties in various fields for the common interest of both friendly countries. The Amir also wished the newly-elected French president best of luck and

wellbeing, and everlasting development and prosperity in France as well as further development of bilateral relations. HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

After a private meeting with his former mentor Hollande and his first speech as president, Macron headed up the rainy Champs Elysees in an army vehicle, waving to small crowds of well-wishers who gathered along the famed avenue. Macron said his first priority would be "to give back to the French people the confidence that for too long has been flagging". "I will convince our compatriots that France's power is not in decline, but that we are at the dawn of an extraordinary renaissance because we have all the qualities which will make... the great powers of the 21st century," he said.

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KANE SINKS UNITED IN SPURS' LANE FAREWELL

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'MAKE IN INDIA' HIT BY RED TAPE, TAXES

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NOD TO LABOR SUPPORT FOR BEDOONS

MPS PRESS FOR SECOND LIVESTOCK COMPANY

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly's legal and legislative committee yesterday approved proposed amendments to extend the financial support provided to Kuwaitis employed in the private sector to stateless people known as bedoons and children of Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis. Head of the committee MP Mohammad Al-Dallal said the panel unanimously approved the proposal, but rejected another one calling to increase social allowance for Kuwaitis in the private sector.

In a bid to encourage Kuwaitis to seek jobs in the private sector to reduce pressure on government jobs, the government began years ago to provide monthly financial support to Kuwaitis employed in the private sector. The proposal wants the allowance to be also given to bedoons and children of Kuwaiti women from foreign husbands. The proposal was sent to the financial affairs committee, which will study it and send its opinion to the Assembly for a vote.

The panel also approved a proposal to set up two government universities in Ahmadi and Jahra. Dallal said the committee will study in its next meeting a new version of the anti-corruption law and complete it. It also approved a law calling to exempt single children from compulsory military conscription.

Health Minister Jamal Al-Harbi said yesterday that there were 18 medical errors in the past three years (2014-2016) and that 79 investigations were launched by the ministry. In reply to a question by MP Mohammad Al-Huwailah, the minister said prices of medical services in the private sector are noted by the ministry's health licenses department. The price lists cannot be changed for one year, he said. He said that medical institutions in the private sector are subject to continuous supervision by a specialized committee set up by the ministry.

Rapporteur of the financial and economic affairs committee MP Safa Al-Hashem said yesterday the committee discussed the government's failure to implement a law calling to set up a second state-owned cattle importing company. She said the committee heard the opinions of livestock experts. She said figures related to food security are inaccurate, adding that the finance minister does not want to establish the company.



The crew of Zilzal, a dhow captained by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, sails towards the finish line off the coast of Dubai to win the Al-Gaffal traditional long-distance dhow sailing race which started at the island of Sir Bu Nayer in the Gulf yesterday. — AFP

TRADITIONAL DHOW BOAT RACE RETRACES GULF PEARL ROUTE

DUBAI: More than 120 traditional dhows retraced a centuries-old pearl diving route off the coast of the United Arab Emirates yesterday for an annual boat race. The "Al-Gaffal" race, Arabic for "The Return", traces the path pearl-divers would take on their return home from a day at sea. The wooden dhows with billowing white sails made the 51.3 nautical mile (95-

km) journey from the island of Sir Bu Nayer to the Dubai coast.

The winner, the dhow "Zilzal", or "Earthquake", was awarded 10 million dirhams (\$2.72 million). The tradition of dhows dates back to pearl diving in the Gulf, a major industry for coastal communities until the mid-20th century, when manufactured pearls made their way into international markets. — AFP

AMIR OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO SUDAN PRESIDENT



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable of condolences to Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir over the 'martyrdom' and injury of Sudanese troops as part of Arab forces in Yemen. In the cable, His Highness the Amir prayed Allah the Almighty to bless the souls of the martyrs with mercy in Paradise and wished swift recovery of the wounded. Two cables of similar sentiments were sent to the Sudanese president by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh

Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Terrorist shooting

On Saturday, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz expressing his condolences and condemnation to the terrorist shooting attack in Al-Masoura area at Al-Qatif province, which resulted in killing two people, and injuring two others. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables to the Saudi leadership, expressing similar sentiments. In the meantime, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a

cable to Saudi President of Shura Council Dr Abdullah bin Mohammad Al-Sheikh expressing his condolences and sympathy over the terrorist shooting attack. In his cable, Ghanem expressed full solidarity and support to the kingdom in all of its procedures to restore stability and security to the country.

Bus accident

Separately, His Highness the Amir Sheikh sent a cable on Saturday to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressing condolences and sympathy over the tourism bus accident, which resulted in killing twenty

people, mostly women and children, including 11 others wounded when a minibus veered off a cliff in Turkey's western Mugla province. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables to the Turkish leader, expressing similar sentiments. Furthermore, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a cable to Turkish Speaker of the National Assembly Ismail Kahraman expressing his condolences over the accident. In his cable, the Speaker also wished speedy recovery to those injured in the crash. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem. —KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

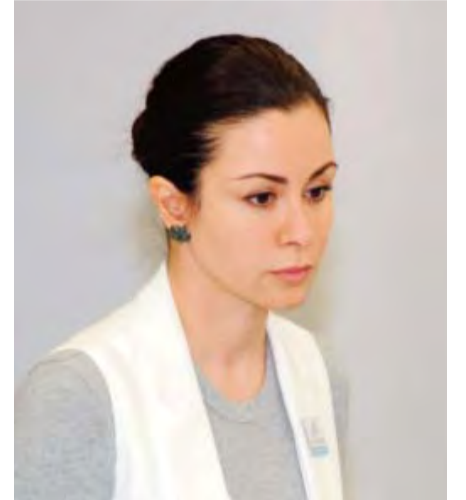
SHEIKHA AL-ZAIN AL-SABAH HONORED WITH AL-HAITHAM ARAB MEDIA AWARD

AMMAN: Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah was honored with the Al Haitham Arab Media Award of the United Arab Media Council (UAMC) 2017, for supporting causes of the Arab youth.

The decision of the award's higher committee in its current session has come in recognition of Sheikh Al-Zain's efforts and continuous support to the Arab youth, offering them opportunities, through investing their energies in positive development matters that serve the society, UAMC's Secretary General Haitham Al-Amin told a news conference in Amman yesterday.

He added that the winner Kuwaiti dignitary has been devoting her efforts to serving youth, granting them the chance to be active in their societies. Meanwhile, Amin congratulated Kuwait on being elected 'Capital of Arab Youth 2017', wishing the country more progress and prosperity.

Since the prize was launched in 2012, it has been awarded to several Arab leading dignitaries, including Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, Governor of the Mecca Province Prince Khalid Al-Faisal and Ruler of Sharjah Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi. The UAMC, an independent Arab media



Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah

body, was established in Bahrain in 2012 and has three main offices in Manama, UAE and Jordan. The council, whose executive bureau is in Jordan, aims to develop a unified Arab media to support the Arab and Muslim causes, as well as enhancing ties among the media figures and bodies in the Arab World. — KUNA

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES TOP OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the Crown Prince also received separately Acting Prime Minister and Foreign

Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. He then met with Deputy Premier and Minister of

Finance Anas Al-Saleh, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Minister of State for Housing Affairs and Minister of State for Service Affairs Yasser Abul. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Kuwaiti ambassador to Maldives. — KUNA photos



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Kuwaiti ambassador to Zambia.

DEPUTY FM RECEIVES ENVOYS' CREDENTIALS

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah received yesterday a copy of credentials of Kuwaiti non-resident ambassadors to Maldives, Zambia and Colombia. A reception for the purpose was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran

and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador Ayham Al-Omar. Earlier yesterday, Jarallah met with the visiting Chief of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Iraq Thomas Weiss. During the meeting, they considered the IOM's

efforts and existing cooperation with the State of Kuwait. Weiss briefed the Kuwaiti official on the humanitarian projects carried out by the IOM through Kuwait's humanitarian aid in Iraq. The meeting was attended by Chief of the IOM Mission in Kuwait Iman Oreqat. — KUNA



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Kuwaiti ambassador to Colombia.



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Chief of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Iraq Thomas Weiss.



KUWAIT: Deputy Speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Essa Al-Kandari met with a visiting Iraqi parliamentary delegation in his office yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed ways of promoting and developing cooperative relations between Kuwait and Iraq in all fields, mainly parliament-to-parliament domain. Both sides also addressed a number of economic issues that concern both nations as well as challenges the region is facing. — KUNA

ZAIN AWARDS 'COMPANY PROGRAM COMPETITION' WINNERS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, awarded the winning team of the 'Most Innovative Product' category at the INJAZ Company Program Competition for university and school students. The event came under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Mohammad Al-Fares. Zain Kuwait's Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al Khashti awarded the 'Youth Creation' team for winning the 'Most Innovative Product' category prize for universities. Zain's participation in the competition came in line with the company's strategic partnership with INJAZ, and in line with its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy, which aims at contributing to the development of the youth and education sectors.

Zain continues its strategic partnership with INJAZ, through which the company seeks to support and inspire the youth from across Kuwait's universities and schools. Through their partnership, Zain and INJAZ organize a number of educational initiatives all year long to foster the energies of Kuwait's youth and

support them to further develop and prosper.

INJAZ's 'Company Program Competition' aimed at encouraging students, from across Kuwait's universities and high schools, to come forward with their innovative ideas and print a positive change in the society. The competition includes a number of phases, and educates students to make use of business opportunities, launch products, create an added value, and becoming young entrepreneurs.

INJAZ Kuwait was founded in 2005, as a non-profit, non-governmental organization, driven by Kuwait's private sector. Through strategic partnerships with Kuwait's business and education sectors, and with the help of qualified and dedicated volunteers, INJAZ delivers educational programs on entrepreneurial and leadership skills aimed at inspiring and educating future generations. INJAZ Kuwait is operated by INJAZ Al-Arab.

Since 2005, INJAZ-Kuwait reached over 40,000 students, through 3000+ volunteers at 60+ schools and universities to provide students with knowledge and experience that will assist them in their personal and career development.



JORDANIAN, KUWAITI, US TOP BRASS DISCUSS DEFENSE COOP

AMMAN: Chief of the Joint Staff of the Jordanian Army Lt. Gen. Mahmoud Freihag met Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt. Gen. Sheikh Abdullah Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Commander of US Central Command (CENTCOM) General Joseph Votel on Saturday. The meeting, held on the fringes of the senior leaders' symposium as part of the 2017 Eager Lion military exercise, dis-

cussed a number of issues related to defense cooperation among the three friendly countries. Sheikh Abdullah arrived here late Friday leading a senior-level delegation to the two-day symposium and the war games that started yesterday and last until May 18. Nearly 7,400 soldiers from the armies of two dozens of countries, including Kuwait, will take part in the military drills. — KUNA

Legalese

DOING BUSINESS IN KUWAIT AS A NON-NATIONAL

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

We are lucky in Kuwait to have such a diverse and talented community, and we are blessed to be able to learn from different cultures and societies. Like I have mentioned in my previous articles, Kuwait is changing to the positive when it comes to establishing a business in Kuwait, thanks to new commercial and corporate laws and regulations, the Kuwait Business Center, Kuwait Direct Investment Public Authority (KDIPA) and the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Many non-nationals are hearing about this inside and outside Kuwait and would like to contribute to Kuwait's economy, and therefore want to know more about the ease of starting a business in Kuwait, and what exactly is the process. Today I want to answer the most common questions from SMEs outside Kuwait considering opening a branch in Kuwait or non-nationals in Kuwait wanting to establish a cooperation agreement in Kuwait.

Kuwaiti partner

Question: Can a non-national start a business in Kuwait without a Kuwaiti partner?

Fajer: Yes, he or she can, by receiving an exemption from KDIPA, as the law clearly states that a Kuwaiti needs to own the majority of the shares, ie 51 percent. Theoretically, and according to the companies law, you will need a Kuwaiti partner, but recently, a new law was passed for establishing the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), which is a government authority that aims to encourage foreign investment in Kuwait. You can visit their website at www.kdipa.gov.kw and apply online for a commercial license as an expat in Kuwait. They offer exemptions and have four different types of applications. The requirements by KDIPA may be difficult to meet for smaller companies.

It is important to mention that some non-nationals are afraid of having a partner with more power, ie a bigger percentage of the share, and therefore split the share into three parts. Having one non-national own 49 percent, their Kuwaiti partner own 49 percent and a non-biased third Kuwaiti party own one percent.

Leaving a partnership

Question: My partners and I have been in the food and beverage industry for the past seven years and although the business is succeeding, I would like to leave the partnership as I would like to go back to my country and I am not happy with the terms and conditions that we are working on. How can I leave? My partners are saying I cannot because there is not anyone to be the managing partner. The other partners have full-time jobs and therefore cannot be managing partners. What can I do?

Fajer: I honestly do not answer questions like this without reviewing all the necessary documents and gathering more information about the company, the company's articles of association and the company's policies, which are just some of the documents that I would need to review. The general procedure would be for you to offer your share to the other partners first - they have priority over your share. Should they refuse or refuse to respond to your offer, you can publish your offer to them in a newspaper and wait for seven days. If you do not receive a response within this timeframe from any of the partners, you can sell your share to a third party or you can waive your shares to the other partners.

A company does not need a managing partner but can only have a registered manager. You can leave the company, and all the partners need to do is hire a manager if they cannot or do not want to be managers. The manager will be officially registered and is responsible for the company's presence.

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

AUTHORITY FOR PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS INVITES FOR SOUTH JAHRA LABOR CITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR 20,000 MALE BACHELOR EXPATS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) in collaboration with Kuwait Municipality has invited local and international companies/consortia and the companies listed in the Kuwait Stock Exchange to submit Statements of Qualification (SOQ) for 'South Jahra Labor City' in accordance to Law No. 116 of 2014 Regarding Public Private Partnerships and its bylaws (PPP Law). KAPP stated in an announcement published in the official gazette 'Kuwait Al-Youm' yesterday that Kuwait Municipality will be responsible for providing an obstacle free project site, as well as being responsible for providing all infrastructure connections up to the site boundaries including water, electricity, sewage, and roads. The project company will handle all aspects of design, finance, build, operate, maintain and eventually, the transfer of the venture. KAPP also declared that the project will be procured based on a design, finance, build, operate, maintain and transfer model in accordance with the PPP Law. Thus, a public joint stock company is to be established

for the venture (the "Project Company") as Kuwait Municipality will be the contracting Public Entity with the Project Company. KAPP added, the term of the agreement with Kuwait Municipality will be 40 years including a maximum period of three years for design, finance and construction of all infrastructure assets.

The Project Company will be incorporated as a Public Joint Stock Company in which the successful investor will hold at least 26 percent of the shares. South Jahra Labor City Project will consist of several integrated components including residential areas, commercial and neighborhood services, community services, and municipal and utilities services, with a total land area of 1,015,000m2. KAPP indicated that the primary objectives of the Project are to improve the living conditions and standards of low-income expatriates by providing adequate and affordable housing for 20,000 male, bachelor, expatriate laborers.

KAPP concluded that companies and consortia will be pre-qualified according



The South Jahra Labor City

to financial, development and technical criteria demonstrating their experience and track record in developing, financing, executing and operating similar projects as the qualification criteria are detailed in the RFQ. —KUNA



DUO SENTENCED TO DEATH IN ROYAL'S SALWA MURDER TWO-DAY WEEKEND FOR NURSES CONSIDERED

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The criminal court yesterday sentenced two Iranians to death for murdering their sponsor, said security sources, noting that the two suspects had worked as cooks for the ruling family member they killed. The court also fined two citizens for selling the suspects an unlicensed firearm. The crime happened in November 2016 when the suspects shot dead their Kuwaiti sponsor, along with another Kuwaiti man and an Indonesian woman inside a Salwa apartment. The suspects had tied their victims before committing the crimes; after which they stole a large amount of cash from inside the apartment and escaped before police arrested them.

Abdali case

In other news, the court of cassation yesterday adjourned a hearing scheduled for yesterday to pass its verdict in the Abdali case, and set the next hearing on June 18, said security sources. The defendants in this case are facing charges of collaboration with Iran and Hezbollah.

Two days off

Health Minister Dr Jamal Al-Harbi stressed that the Ministry of Health (MoH) shows

great care for the nursing sector and that it is currently considering nurses' demands to get two weekly days off. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony held by Kuwait Nursing Association (KNA) to celebrate World Nursing Day, Harbi said that the two days off is currently applied with Kuwaiti nurses and that studies are in progress to include bedoon nurses. He also said he is keen on supporting bedoon nurses concerning pay hikes.

In addition, Harbi said many topics were discussed at the conference including improving nurses' performance and encouraging citizens to join the nursing sector by organizing regular visits to schools to highlight the importance of nursing and contact CSC to increase nurses' salaries.

Used tires

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry's (MoCI) commercial control and consumer protection inspection teams inspected Shuwaikh Industrial area and seized over 500 used tires ready for sale through some tire repair shops in the area, said informed sources, adding that inspectors also detected some spare parts that did not have any indication of the country of origin.

DONATIONS FOR RELEASE OF CONVICTS NEARLY \$4 MILLION

KUWAIT: Zakat House has raised KD 1.205 million (some \$3.950 million) through a campaign it launched on Saturday night for the release of Kuwaiti prisoners convicted on financial charges. The campaign entitled 'let them spend Ramadan with us' was launched at Kuwait TV in the presence of Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Faleh Al-Azab, and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri. Speaking to reporters, Sheikh Mohammad said the Ministry of Information backs all humanitarian and philanthropic initiatives in Kuwait.

"Tonight's campaign, the second of its kind by Zakat House, materializes the humanitarian nature of Kuwait which is known for pioneering role in responding to emergencies and helping needy people around the globe," he pointed out. Sheikh

Mohammad commended the contributions of the private sector and civil society institutions to such initiatives that have great impacts on the society. Meanwhile, Jabri said the new fundraising campaign translates into action the instructions of the political leadership for alleviating the financial burdens on the citizens. "The strategy of the Ministry of Awqaf aims to involve the civil society in all activities relating to the enhancement of family stability and social cohesion," the minister pointed out.

In the meantime, Dr Azab reaffirmed commitment of the Ministry of Justice to helping the campaign succeed in settling the debts of convicts and ensure the release of the largest possible number of them ahead of the holy month of Ramadan.

The campaign, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, aims to release of deeply indebted prisoners after revision of their respective files to make sure of their eligibility to settlement of their debts and thereby early release. —KUNA



The Zakat House

KUWAIT'S CMA OFFICIALLY JOINS IOSCO

KUWAIT: The Capital Markets Authority of Kuwait (CMA) has joined the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) as an official member, the CMA Board of Commissioners Dr Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf announced yesterday. Hajraf added that



Dr Nayef Al-Hajraf

Kuwait would sign the Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Consultation and Cooperation and the Exchange of Information (MMoU) on Tuesday on the sidelines of the IOSCO's 42nd Annual Conference to be held in Jamaica for five days.

Organized by the Financial Services Commission (FSC) of Jamaica, the conference is themed "The Role of Markets and Market Regulators in the Post-Crisis World." The IOSCO is the international body

that brings together the world's securities regulators and is recognized as the global standard setter for the securities sector. It develops, implements and promotes adherence to internationally recognized standards for securities regulation, working intensively with the G20 and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) on the global regulatory reform agenda. The Kuwaiti CMA had had contacts with the IOSCO since 2012 on the requirements and the conditions of membership, Al-Hajraf said.

The CMA formed a task force, led by the Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Mishaal M Al-Usaimi, to follow up steps to fulfill the relevant requirements and the conditions to be a member in the international body, he added. In addition, the authority sought professional assistance from a consultancy office that revised all the legal commitments of being an IOSCO member.

Hajraf noted that joining the world's top professional body for monitoring and supervising capital markets, crowns long and hard work and serious steps undertaken by the Kuwaiti authority. The membership will improve the classification of the CMA, and helps Boursa Kuwait, Kuwait's bourse, to join the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), a good and a positive signal for the world's investor institutions, he noted. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Firemen fought a blaze in a Jabriya sports equipment store and prevented it from spreading. No injuries were reported. —By Hanan Al-Saadoun



MUNICIPALITY REQUESTS HIRING MORE NON KUWAITI EMPLOYEES

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality recently extended the tenures of 248 non-Kuwaiti employees working for monthly payments on interim basis for a further year effective from April. The municipality also requested appointing six others in various jobs, but the decision was deferred. Notably, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) had set four conditions for hiring bedoons - holding Central Apparatus for Illegal residents cards, being already listed with CSC, having enough funds and being younger than 65.

Power consumption

Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq said that the ministry is currently working on setting incentives for consumers in private residences for rationally their power consumption. He said the new electricity tariffs would be applied in the commercial sector from May 22 and stressed that unpaid bills before this date would be according to the old charges.



KUWAIT: In this file photo, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah poses with winners of the Kuwait Grand Quran Memorization contest. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with members of Kuwait Youth and Sport campaign.

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

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will patronize and attend today the 'Kuwait Capital of Arab Youth 2017' Ceremony. His Highness the Amir will also honor the 'Kuwait Youth Excellence, Creativity Award' winners. The ceremony will be held at Bayan Palace.

Kuwait will receive the flag bearing the logo of the 'Capital of the Arab Youth' from Morocco today, as celebrations on the occasion will be launched in the country. Kuwait prepared a variety of distinguished cultural, social, sports, religious and artistic activities for this event during 2017, celebrating Kuwait as a capital of Arab youth.

The total number of female and male Kuwait youth of the age group between 15-40 reached more than half million out of the total Kuwaiti population of 1.25 million, according to Kuwait Central Statistical Bureau in 2015. The youth in Kuwait receive great care, encouragement and support from the state's institutions and ministries in all domains. — KUNA



A picture taken from the 11th edition of Youth Theater Festival.



A cleaning activity organized by the Environmental Voluntary Foundation.



A dialogue session in the National Assembly between a number of young citizens and their representatives in the government and parliament.



Kuwait Scientific Center volunteers release four turtles into Kuwaiti waters.

KUWAIT VISION 2035 SPONSORS VOLUNTARY WORK

KUWAIT: New Kuwait Vision 2035 urges for sponsoring and encouraging voluntary work programs by young Kuwaiti individuals and the private sector. The development strategy aims at pro-

moting great concepts, where the individuals may practice responsibilities with state ministries and institutions. Kuwaitis, who have maintained social solidarity, have long adopted volun-

tary action. Kuwaitis have voluntarily cleaned the beaches, conserved the environments, taken part in greening the land and aided the needy. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Youngsters plant a tree during a program to encourage plantation. — KUNA photos



Kuwait Dive Team members remove debris surrounding coral reefs in Qarouh Island.



A kid volunteers in an activity to paint the walls of Jabriya-Rumaihiya tunnel.



Members of Kuwait Diving Team participate in a cleaning campaign at an island in Kuwait.



Members of Kuwait Dive Team remove fishing nets from a local beach.

OOREDOO STRATEGIC PARTNER IN 'ARAB YOUTH CAPITAL 2017'

KUWAIT: Ooredoo, Kuwait's fastest network, proudly announced its strategic partnership in the regional initiative 'Kuwait - Capital of Arab Youth 2017'. The initiative was announced earlier with endorsement from the Arab League. Ooredoo Kuwait stated that this partnership stems from its deep-rooted values of caring, connecting and challenging, and is in tandem with its corporate social responsibility agenda, which aims to enrich the experience of youth and support their passions. Ooredoo aims to participate in a number of events that are part of the initiative in the following month, activating the memorandum of understanding that it signed with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs last year.

Kuwait was chosen in the 38th assembly of the Arab Ministers of Youth

and Sports Council. A number of activities will take place throughout the initiative's program, with a focus on involving private sector entities in enriching youth experience under the umbrella of corporate social responsibility. Additionally, the initiative will conclude with declaring a charter for building a constructive national youth policy.

Empowering youth is among Ooredoo's top priorities through its CSR strategy. The company has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, to support youth projects and initiatives, making it the first telecom provider in Kuwait to sign such a high-level agreement. Ooredoo is continuously working with the Ministry to enrich youth experience in a variety of fields, with a focus on volunteerism.



A general view of people in attendance.

87,000 KUWAITIS TRAVELLED TO US IN 2016: AMBASSADOR

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: More than 87,000 Kuwaitis travelled to the United States for tourism or education last year, US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman revealed as he opened a travel and tourism event yesterday at the Sheraton Hotel. The event was sponsored by Qatar Airways and attended by travel agencies and the local media.

"In the past several years, Kuwaitis have visited the United States in ever-growing numbers. Kuwaitis entered the United States more than 87,000 times in 2016. I encourage Kuwaitis to continue to explore new American destinations as well as old favorites. There has been a concern in recent months that the number of international travelers to the United States may be declining, in part due to perceptions that the United States may not welcome international travelers. Let me assure you that the United States welcomes you," he assured.

He thanked Qatar Airways for collaborating and providing support for yesterday's event. "Via Doha, Qatar Airways flies to 10 American destinations, and in 2018 plans to add two more US destinations to their flight schedule - Las Vegas and San Francisco," Silverman said. At the event, the US Embassy held a video presentation of some beautiful places to visit in the United States. "Many of you have visited the United States, and as you know, there are many things to see and do from coast to coast: National parks, world-class beaches, global cities, museums, top restaurants, shopping, sports and adventure tourism, to name just a few," he said.

"New York is the most popular US destination for visitors from this region, and while it is a great city, my hometown of Boston, like many others, is full of culture, history and fun things to do. I encourage you to think broadly and promote all of America, from coast to coast, and from north to south. As I've learned during my time here, Kuwaitis love to explore. And some of them have seen more of the United States than I have," Silverman added. The embassy also answered queries, ranging from visas to airlines and restrictions. A US visa can be acquired and processed in two working days after applying, it said.

Stress-free experience

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al-Baker, said: "We are proud to have supported the US Embassy



KUWAIT: US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman speaks during a travel and tourism event held yesterday at the Sheraton Hotel. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

event in Kuwait. Our partnership with the US Embassy to educate travel agents aims to provide our passengers departing from Kuwait a stress-free travel experience to the US through our state-of-the-art Hamad International Airport to any one of our 10 popular destinations in the US, including New York, Washington, Miami, Houston and Chicago. We are delighted to be adding Las Vegas and San Francisco to our US operations, and we look forward to bringing even more passengers to the US."

Additional flights from Kuwait are planned for the summer, one arriving in Doha at 06:30 am local time, making it ideal for travellers to connect to exciting destinations in the US, with a transit time of less than two hours. The award-winning airline offers passengers departing from Kuwait to the US the luxury of two pieces of checked baggage allowance of 32 kg each at no additional cost. After the recent electronics restrictions on flights departing from the region to the US, the multiple award-winning airline promptly found a unique solution: Offering passengers a laptop loan service. Showing true commitment to travellers inconvenienced by the ban, the Doha-based airline took the notable step to purchase laptops available for complimentary loan on all of its US flights, ensuring uninterrupted productivity and service for Business Class passengers travelling on all US-bound flights.

KUWAIT, CANADA TO START DESIGNING PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX IN ALBERTA

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) announced signing an agreement with Canada's Pembina company to design a petrochemical complex in Alberta, Canada. The joint project 'the Kuwait-Canada petrochemicals company' has a capacity up to 550,000 tons of Polypropylene per year, said PIC in a press statement yesterday. The project is part of PIC's plan to

expand its work locally and abroad, said the company's CEO Mohammad Al-Farhoud.

Meanwhile, Pembina's CEO Michael Digler said he was looking forward to execute such a huge project in Alberta to boost the field of chemical industries. He added that the two companies are strictly following safety measures and quality performance in all facilities. — KUNA

FORUM SEEKS TO DRAW UP GCC VOLUNTARY WORK PLAN: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: A Gulf forum opened in Kuwait yesterday will seek to develop a joint executive plan for voluntary work in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, said Undersecretary of Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Dr Matar Al-Mutairi. He made the statement to the opening session of the second forum for regulating and prompting voluntary work in the GCC.

The two-day event aims to identify the nature of the mechanisms of partnership, and the fields of coordination among the government, private bodies, the relevant international organizations, institutions and the civil society, he noted. The forum, organized in cooperation with the GCC Secretariat, comes in response to a resolution by the GCC leaders in the 2015 Riyadh Summit, endorsing the Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud's vision for promoting the GCC joint action. Senior officials and specialists from the GCC countries are taking part in the forum that will also discuss the various aspects of a proposed voluntary work plan for the bloc.

The second day of the forum will review several Arab and foreign work sheets on successful stories of voluntary work. Other issues on the agenda of the forum include relevant legislations, social awareness, training, qualification, data, scientific research, and financial and technical support. Mutairi emphasized the significance of the forum for supporting all forms of voluntary work in the GCC, hoping it would come out with recommendations and programs that will contribute to bolstering pan-GCC cooperation in the human.

Meanwhile, head of the Human and Environmental Affairs Sector at the GCC Secretariat Dr Adel Al-Zayani voiced pleasure the forum is held in Kuwait. He lauded His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts which developed Kuwait into a 'Humanitarian Center' Zayani stressed Kuwait's role for backing youth and voluntary work. — KUNA

'DEAN OF SAUDI JOURNALISM' SUDAIRI PASSES AWAY

KUWAIT: Gulf Press Association (GPA) announced the death of its former president Turki bin Abdullah Al-Sudairi, who passed away after spending his life in serving free speech and setting the foundations for impartial journalism that is able to lead the Gulf society and elevate its status.

The media and journalism sector lost one of its most seasoned journalists; one who is considered among the most well-known journalistic leaders in Saudi Arabia and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the GPA said in a statement.

Known as the 'Dean of Saudi Journalism,' Sudairi was known for being a humble and well-mannered person, which earned him much respect throughout his career. He was also known as a leader and mentor whose mission was to prepare a new generation that is able to bear the responsibilities of the future and lead the next stage, GPA said. GPA extends its condolences to the family of the

deceased and the media, and pray to Almighty Allah to bestow his mercy on him.



Turki bin Abdullah Al-Sudairi

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief
Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan,
management and staff

convey their deepest condolences to

Al-Sudairi Family

on the sad demise of

Turki bin Abdullah Al-Sudairi
Dean of the Saudi Journalism
former President of Gulf Press Association

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him

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The American University of Kuwait received its Institutional Accreditation from the Private Universities Council (PUC), Ministry of Higher Education in the State of Kuwait, and has a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire - USA).

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT

Crime

Report

MAID WITH TERMINAL CANCER HELPED TO TRAVEL BACK HOME

KUWAIT: Efforts by the domestic help department in cooperation with Director General of the Residency Affairs Department Maj Gen Talal Maarafi succeeded in facilitating the travel of a Madagascan woman suffering from terminal cancer that had reached its final stages. A security source said the domestic help department contacted the Madagascar Embassy in Riyadh to obtain a travel document to enable the woman to leave, and also dropped all fines against her stemming from her being reported absconding. The source said that a call came from Makki Jumaa Hospital about a Madagascan woman in a very bad condition who may only have a very short time to live, but there was no data about her. Authorities discovered that the patient was an absconding domestic helper and her sponsor was identified and contacted, but he did not give her passport, so the embassy was contacted and the document was obtained. A committee provided the ticket for the patient.



Maid received unpaid salaries

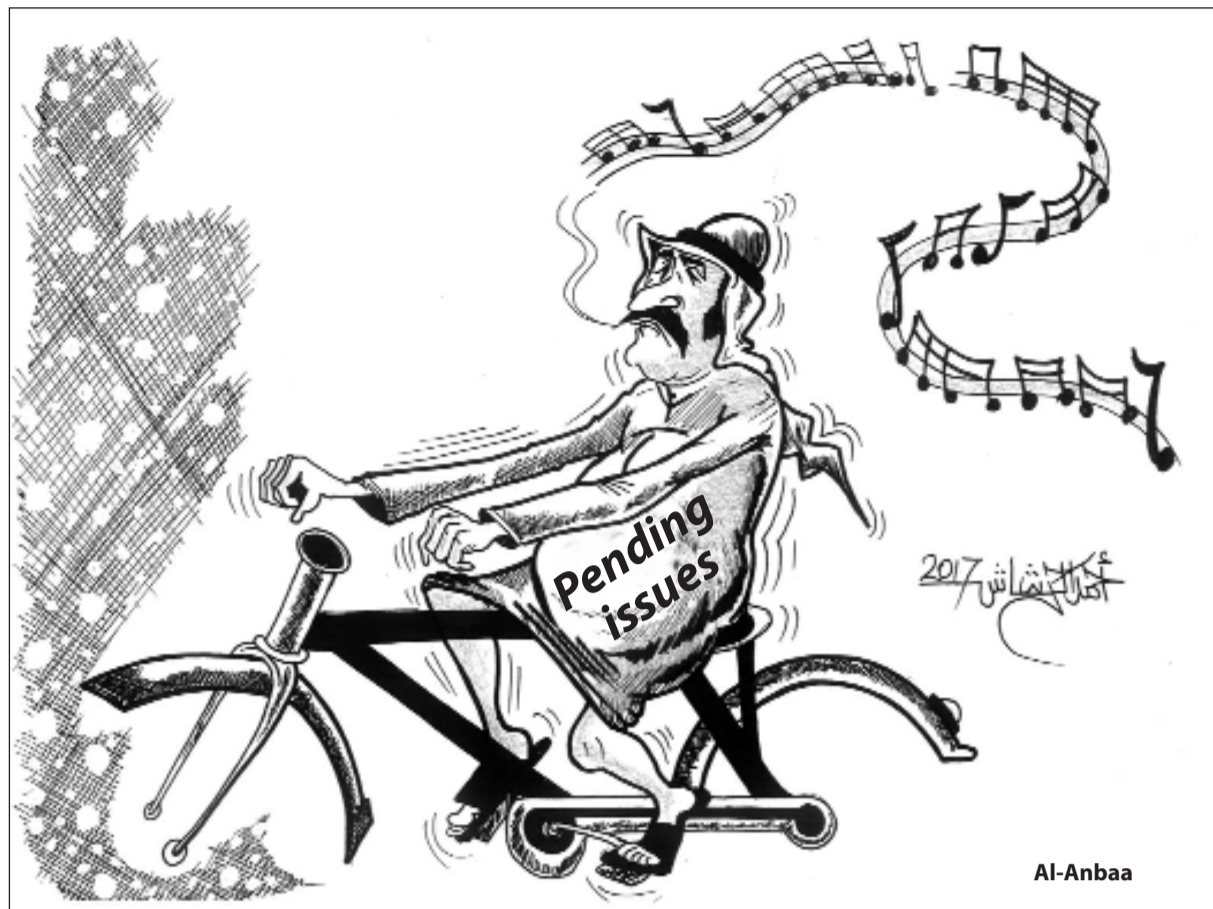
Meanwhile, the domestic help department summoned a citizen and made her pay KD 3,500 to a Filipina who worked three years for her without pay. The citizen paid for her travel ticket too. The expat resorted to her embassy to complain about not receiving her salary, so the sponsor was called and she admitted to not paying her.

Search for thief

Detectives are looking for a person who entered a residence of Asians in Khaitan and stole KD 300 from one of them. A neighbor was able to jot down the license plate number of the suspect's car and gave it to the police. An Indian man went to Khaitan police station and told them a man in a dishdasha entered their residence claiming to be a detective, handcuffed him, took the money and escaped.

Public indecency

Ahmadi detectives are looking for an Asian man who removed his clothes when he saw a girl, who called police, but the suspect escaped. The girl told police the suspect stopped in front of her car and disrobed, so police went to the scene and are reviewing security camera recordings in an attempt to identify him. — Translated from the Arabic press



Al-Anbaa

القباس

Al-Qabas

CAR MAINTENANCE AHEAD OF SUMMER

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

Summer has arrived, and with it comes vehicular problems. Perhaps there is nothing that deserves care in the car more than making sure about its tires, as they often represent the difference between life and death. Tires are always eroding very quickly in our atmosphere, especially in summer, so they require more attention and making sure that they are not cracked and do not have any defects, eroded or having any other problems.

The ring itself also needs checking. Then, if we wished to buy new tires, we must make sure that its production date goes back not more than two years, bearing in mind that the possibility of manipulating tires is large and widespread. It is always better to buy the tires from an authorized dealer, and select the good and expensive brands, instead of buying tires from a cooperative society branch or a small store; where a person might be satisfied with a 'good deal' that may come at the expense of your life or the life of any member of your family.

Each tire has a production date printed on it; usually in a clear rectangle made of four digits; the first two represent the production year and the one on the left represents the week. So when we see the number as '32 16', it means that the tire was made during the 32nd week of the year 2016. It is preferred to buy new tires and avoid the old ones, and to also avoid going after cheaper prices, because the newer the tire, the safer it is. It is also necessary to balance the new tires as soon as they are installed so they become equal in their performance and do not cause the car to shake, and to help keep one tire from eroding before the other. I also advice to alternate tires every 10,000 km to keep their eroding equal, bearing in mind the alternation should be made according to the car's maintenance booklet.

Gauging air pressure in the tire is something very important and should be done once or twice a month for all tires, because the more air it loses, the larger the area that touches the road, and its erosion will increase. Meanwhile, if the air pressure in the tire is more than required, it will make the area less and that will result in eroding the middle of the tire faster. It is important to gauge the air pressure when the car is cool, because the reading will not be accurate when it is hot. We wish you safe driving. — Translated by Kuwait Times

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

MELANIA AND BRIGITTE

By Saleh Al-Shayeji

Despite all the modernism and evolution, humanity limits viewing women as mere bodies and for fulfilling man's needs. Despite all the science and huge technologies we have in the 21st century, women are still the same in men's eyes. All speeches about liberation, equality laws, conferences on women rights, the recommendations and slogans they promote and all the shouting seem to have failed in changing men's views. This is happening everywhere worldwide, where all men unite against women and consider them nothing more than a 'container'. According to norms, husbands should be older than wives, and it rarely happens that some wives are one or two years older. Many men get married to women much younger than themselves - sometimes 20 or more years younger.

Well, human communities with all men and women have been accepting this fact and see no harm in such

huge age difference. However, when the opposite happens and a man gets married to a woman 20 years older than him, everybody will roar with criticism and condemnation. In less than a year, we have witnessed both cases that prove our argument. In the first case, we know US President Donald Trump's wife Melania is 24 years younger than him. A few days ago, we saw the new French president's wife Brigitte, who is 24 years older than him.

Nobody was shocked or exclaimed about Trump's wife, while the same world roared with exclamations because the French president's wife is 24 years older, although they both love each other and their relation is based on many common things. He liked her when she was his teacher because of her mind and personality. He never viewed her as a mere woman he could use to fulfill his needs. What an oppressive and retarded world this is! — Translated by Kuwait Times from Al-Anbaa



KIB STRATEGIC SPONSOR OF 9TH KUWAIT INFO SECURITY CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION

KUWAIT: As part of its ongoing commitment to provide the most secure banking services, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) recently sponsored the 9th Kuwait Information Security conference and exhibition, organized by the Central Agency for Information Technology and ProMedia International. The conference is held at the Radisson Blu Hotel (SAS) and is attended by a large number of international risk experts and IT professionals.

The two-day conference discusses the many challenges of electronic warfare and cyber threats, methods of building an effective IT defense strategy for business continuity, and highlights essential cyber infrastructure in smart city security. Featuring experts from leading local and international companies, the conference provides the opportunity for the exchange of cutting-edge technological solutions and applications within the field of information security.

On this occasion, Basil Adib Al-Suwaidan, Head of Information Security at KIB, said: "As part of its leading social responsibility program, KIB continues to sponsor conferences such as these, that aim to shed the light on the importance of information security in the banking sec-

tor. Dependence on data, in this data-driven world, combined with the emergence of advanced technology has become one of the most challenging risks facing financial institutions today. We, as holders of sensitive information, must always seek advanced ways to protect these transactions and customer data."

The process of information security is definitely not an easy and smooth one, as it is inherently complicated with many risks. For that reason, KIB is keen to constantly develop and implement the highest international practices that guarantee maximum security, privacy and confidentiality for all its banking transactions, as well as its alternative channels.

Suwaidan also requested that KIB customers cooperate with the Bank by not disclosing any personal or banking information to ensure safe and secure banking services. Over the years, KIB has amassed a number of regional awards in the area of information security, which affirms the Bank's ongoing commitment to providing the highest international standards of security and innovative strategies to reduce information security threats and risks.



KUWAIT: Dr Hilal Al-Sayer honors Dr Anwar Al-Mudhaf in the presence of Richard Groves, Moataz El-Rafie, Lama Al-Othman, and Shaimaa Al-Shatti.

AHLI UNITED BANK DONATES TO KUWAIT RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

KUWAIT: As part of its comprehensive social responsibility program, Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced that it has recently made a donation to the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society (KRCS) in support of its philanthropic and humanitarian activities across the country.

This new initiative comes as part of the Bank's overall drive to provide more humanitarian support to the wider community. The cheque was presented by Dr Anwar Al-Mudhaf, AUB's Chairman, to Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, President of the Red Crescent Society at the Bank's headquarters, in the presence of Richard Groves, AUB's CEO, Moataz El-Rafie, Senior Deputy CEO Banking Group, Lama Al-Othman, Manager Development Resources at the Red Crescent along with Shaimaa Al-Shatti Deputy Manager of Development Resources.

The cheque donated by AUB is specifically to assist families in need of financial support, keeping in touch and communicating with residents of social affairs residences, visiting patients across a number of hospitals - all with the overall objective of providing the right social, community and medical care. Dr Mudhaf, said, "We are delighted to help support the Red Crescent Society's programs and overall objectives, which are admired across the society due to the continuous support the society provides to those in need."

Dr Mudhaf added, "Social responsibility is one of the core pillars the Bank focuses on alongside its day-to-day banking operations as an Islamic financial institution. The Bank is keen on diversifying its support to achieve increased levels of sustainable development, and help drive the right values across the society." Dr Sayer, President of the Red

Crescent Society commended AUB's role in supporting various humanitarian initiatives across Kuwait, including the Red Crescent Society's activities. Dr Al Sayer thanked the Bank's Board as well as executive management for their continued support towards the Society's activities.

It is important to note, that AUB has supported and driven an extensive range of social activities throughout the past year, including the launch of its comprehensive Ramadan social program in partnership with LoYAC, along with providing iftar meals for fasting individuals, Qur'an memorization competition, as well as supporting Autistic children through specialized training programs for special needs, blood donation drives amongst many other initiatives that reaffirm the bank's commitment towards developing the social fabric of Kuwait.



For Palestinians in Lebanon, 69 years of despair

NEPAL VOTES IN FIRST LOCAL ELECTION IN 20 YEARS

N KOREA MISSILE LANDS IN SEA NEAR RUSSIA

SEOUL/WASHINGTON: North Korea, defying calls to rein in its weapons program, fired a ballistic missile that landed in the sea near Russia yesterday, days after a new leader came to power in South Korea pledging to engage Pyongyang in dialogue. The US military's Pacific Command said it was assessing the type of missile that was fired but it was "not consistent with an intercontinental ballistic missile". The US threat assessment has not changed from a national security standpoint, a US official said.

Japanese Defence Minister Tomomi Inada said the missile could be a new type. It flew for 30 minutes before dropping into the sea between North Korea's east coast and Japan. North Korea has consistently test-fired missiles in that direction. A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the missile landed 97 km south of Russia's Vladivostok region.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley called the launch a message by Pyongyang to South Korea after the election of President Moon Jae-in, who took office on Wednesday. "You first have to get into Kim Jong Un's head - which is, he's in a state of paranoia, he's incredibly concerned about anything and everything around him," Haley told ABC's "This Week" program, referring to North Korea's leader. Haley added that the United States will "continue to tighten the screws," referring to sanctions and working with the international community to put pressure on Pyongyang.

The White House mentioned Russia in its earlier state-

ment about the launch. "With the missile impacting so close to Russian soil - in fact, closer to Russia than to Japan - the President cannot imagine that Russia is pleased," the White House said, referring to US President Donald Trump. The launch served as a call for all nations to implement stronger sanctions against North Korea, it added.

The missile flew 700 km and reached an altitude of more than 2,000 km, according to officials in South Korea and Japan, further and higher than an intermediate-range missile North Korea successfully tested in February from the same region of Kusong, northwest of its capital, Pyongyang. An intercontinental ballistic missile is considered to have a range of more than 6,000 km.

North Korea is widely believed to be developing an intercontinental missile tipped with a nuclear weapon that is capable of reaching the United States. Trump has vowed not to let that happen. Experts said the altitude reached by the missile tested on Sunday meant it was launched at a high trajectory, which would limit the lateral distance it travelled. But if it was fired at a standard trajectory, it would have a range of at least 4,000 km, experts said.

Kim Dong-yub of Kyungnam University's Institute of Far Eastern Studies in Seoul said he estimated a standard trajectory would give it a range of 6,000 km. "The launch may indeed represent a new missile with a long range," said Jonathan McDowell of the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, referring to the estimated altitude of more

than 2,000 km. "It is definitely concerning." Speaking in Beijing, Dmitry Peskov, Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, told reporters Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping had discussed the situation on the Korean peninsula, including the latest missile launch, and expressed "mutual concerns" about growing tensions. Putin is in Beijing for a conference on a plan for a new Silk Road. Delegations from the United States, South Korea and North Korea are also there. The launch, at 5:27 am Seoul time (2027 GMT Saturday), came two weeks after North Korea fired a missile that disintegrated minutes into flight, marking its fourth consecutive failure since March.

'Clear Violation'

South Korea's new president Moon held his first National Security Council in response to the launch, which he called a "clear violation" of UN Security Council resolutions, his office said. "The president said while South Korea remains open to the possibility of dialogue with North Korea, it is only possible when the North shows a change in attitude," Yoon Young-chan, Moon's press secretary, told a briefing.

Moon won Tuesday's election on a platform of a moderate approach to North Korea and has said he would be willing to go to Pyongyang under the right circumstances, arguing dialogue must be used in parallel with sanctions. China, North Korea's sole main ally which nev-

ertheless objects to its weapons programmes, called for restraint and for no one to exacerbate tensions. "China opposes relevant launch activities by North Korea that are contrary to Security Council resolutions," China's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said North Korea's missile launches were a "grave threat to our country and a clear violation of UN resolutions". Ambassador Haley said the launch was not the way for North Korea to earn a meeting with Trump, who has said he would be "honored" to meet Kim Jong Un under the right circumstances. Trump said in an interview with Reuters in April that a "major, major conflict" with North Korea was possible but he would prefer a diplomatic outcome. On Saturday, a top North Korean diplomat said Pyongyang was open to dialogue with the Trump administration under the right conditions.

Bonnie Glaser, an Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington, said among the responses expected from the Trump administration would be further pressure on all countries to fully implement UN Security Council sanctions resolutions against North Korea. North Korea attempted but failed to test-launch ballistic missiles four times in the past two months. It has conducted various tests since the beginning of last year at an unprecedented pace. It also conducted its fourth and fifth nuclear tests last year. — Reuters

ICRC: 115 DEAD AS YEMEN CHOLERA OUTBREAK SPREADS

SANAA: A cholera outbreak has rapidly spread in Yemen, killing 115 people in two weeks in the impoverished country where hospitals badly damaged by more than two years of war can barely cope. Patients with cholera symptoms have flooded the run-down medical facilities, as international relief agencies warned of a catastrophic humanitarian situation and urged citizens to exercise hygiene precautions. "We now are facing a serious outbreak of cholera," said Dominik Stillhart, the director of operations at the International Committee of the Red Cross at a news conference in Sanaa on Sunday.

Citing figures compiled by the Yemeni health ministry, Stillhart said 115 people had died of cholera between April 27 and Saturday. More than 8,500 suspected cases of the waterborne disease were reported in the same period in 14 governorates across Yemen, Stillhart said, up from 2,300 cases in 10 governorates last week. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) expressed fears yesterday that health authorities alone will not be able to deal with the outbreak. "MSF calls on international organizations to scale up their assistance urgently to limit the spread of the outbreak and anticipate potential other ones," it said in a statement.

This is the second outbreak of cholera, a bacterial infection contracted through ingesting contaminated food or water, in less than a year in Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country. Yemen is witnessing a devastating war between the Saudi-supported government and Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, and less than half of the country's health facilities are functioning two years into the conflict. "The humanitarian situation in Yemen is catastrophic," Stillhart said.

Garbage fills streets

"There are up to four cholera patients in one single bed," Stillhart said. "There are people in the garden, and some even in their cars with the IV drip hanging from the window," he said, adding that the ICRC has intervened with IV fluid, chlorine tablets and oral rehydration salts. A garbage crisis in the capital caused by municipality trash collectors going on a 10-day pay strike, which ended over the weekend, contributed to the outbreak, said Stillhart.

Piles of garbage had mounted in the capital's streets, with residents and passersby wearing masks to avoid the stench of rotting refuse. Residents of Sanaa "need to follow the guidelines, like cleaning fruits and vegetables very well and not eating uncovered foods that might be polluted," said Jameel Nashir, Yemen's health chief at the World Health Organization. "Additionally, they should use good water from sources that are safe and away from the polluted areas," he told AFP.

Ali Al-Washali, a patient who suffered severe diarrhea, said his neighborhood has always been supplied with water from artesian wells delivered in tankers without any problems, "except for now, as people are getting sick". The WHO now classifies Yemen as one of the worst humanitarian emergencies in the world alongside Syria, South Sudan, Nigeria and Iraq. The ICRC has decided to "significantly expand" operations in Yemen owing to not only cholera but the overall humanitarian situation, Stillhart told reporters.

Critical food imports are also at an all-time low as many of the country's Red Sea ports are blockaded. The United Nations has warned 17 million people - equivalent to two-thirds of the population - are at imminent risk of famine in Yemen. More than 8,000 people have been killed since the Saudi-led Arab coalition intervened to support Yemen's government in 2015, according to the WHO. — AFP

RAMADAN KAREEM

A CERTIFIED OWNERSHIP WITH AMAZING GIFTS IN RAMADAN

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- Azan Lamp

LAND CRUISER

- Azan Lamp
- Petrol Card KD 52
- Camera Canon IXUS 170

PRADO FORTUNER AVALON

- Azan Lamp
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FOR PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON, 69 YEARS OF DESPAIR

SIDON, Lebanon: Ahmad Dawoud recalls the day 10 years ago when a Lebanese soldier asked to search his taxi. Then 17, the Palestinian didn't wait for the soldier to find the weapons hidden in the trunk. He jumped from the car and fled into the nearby Palestinian refugee camp, where the Lebanese army has no authority. But it was not long afterward that Dawoud, who once admired the radical groups that have sprouted in the camps in Lebanon, decided he was tired of running. That same year, in 2007, he surrendered to authorities and spent 14 hard months in jail.

Although he was released without a conviction, he couldn't erase the biggest strike against him: As a Palestinian in Lebanon, he is a stateless, second-class resident in the only country where he's ever lived. Today, Palestinians mark 69 years since hundreds of thousands of them were forced from their homes during the 1948 war that led to the creation of Israel. Many settled in the neighboring West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

As refugees, various UN charters entitle them and their descendants to the right to work and a dignified living until they can return to their homes or such settlement is reached. But Palestinians in Lebanon suffer discrimination in nearly every aspect of daily life, feeding a desperation that is tearing their community apart. Many live in settlements officially recognized as refugee camps but better described as concrete ghettos ringed by checkpoints and, in some cases, blast walls and barbed wire. The UN runs schools and subsidizes healthcare inside.

In Lebanon, there are 450,000 refugees registered in 12 camps, where Lebanese authorities have no jurisdiction inside. "Our lot is less than zero," Dawoud said in a recent interview outside Ein el-Hilweh,

the crowded camp in Sidon that is one of the most volatile. On peaceful days, children play in the damp alleys and merchants park their carts of produce along the camp's main streets. But the place feels hopelessly divided along factional and militant lines, and it frequently breaks down into fighting between Palestinian security forces and militants or gangs that capitalize on the general despair. Last month, 10 people were killed in a flare-up that drove out thousands of the camp's estimated population of 75,000.

Palestinians are prohibited from working in most professions, from medicine to transportation. Because of restrictions on ownership, what little property they have is bought under Lebanese names, leaving them vulnerable to embezzlement and expropriation. They pay into Lebanon's social security fund but receive no benefits. Medical costs are crippling. And they have little hope for remediation from the Lebanese courts.

Doctors are prohibited from working in the Lebanese market, so they find work only in the camps or agree to work for Lebanese clinics off the books, and sign prescriptions under Lebanese doctors' names. That leaves them open to employer abuse, a condition normally associated with low-skill work. "If a young boy gets in trouble because he is Palestinian, the prosecutor writes in his note to the judge, 'He is Palestinian,' meaning: 'Do what you wish to him. Be cruel to him. Forget about his rights,'" said Sheikh Mohammad Muwad, a Palestinian imam in Sidon.

Poverty

The crush of war refugees from Syria has made it even harder for Palestinians here to find work. Nearly six in 10 under age 25 are unemployed, according to the UN's Palestinian relief agency UNRWA,



BEIRUT: In this May 4, 2017 photo, a boy walks by graffiti of Palestinian flags that reads: "The flag is four colors that shine on the face of the sun" in the Bourj al-Barajneh Palestinian refugee camp. — AP

and two-thirds of all Palestinians here live below the poverty line. UNRWA country director Claudio Cordone said they feel trapped in political limbo and see an "almost total lack of meaningful political prospects of a solution" to their original displacement from Palestine.

Lebanese politicians say that assimilating Palestinians into society would undermine their right to return. But Palestinians say they are not asking for assimilation or nationality, just civil rights. "They starve us, so we go back to Palestine. They deprive us, so that we go back to Palestine. Well, go ahead, send us back to Palestine! Let us go to the border, and we will march back into Palestine, no matter how many martyrs we must give," Muwad said. For those in the camps, the line between hustling and criminality is

often blurred. Unemployed and feeling abandoned by the authorities, many turn to gangs for work. Adding to this is a widely shared disaffection with the Palestine Liberation Organization, which many Palestinians now see as having sold out their rights with the failed Oslo Accords of 1994.

Radicalism

This has helped fuel the rise of radical Islamism - a shift in the occupied Palestinian territories that is reflected by Hamas' rising popularity, and one outside the territories in the meteoric trajectory of militant groups such as Fatah al-Islam in the volatile and deprived Nahr al-Bared camp. Growing up in Nahr al-Bared, a camp much like Ein el-Hilweh, Dawoud felt a strong affiliation for Fatah al-Islam, his

gateway to radical extremism. "They were the only ones who seemed honest," he said. "Of course, later I figured out they were just like everyone else, too."

In 2007, the Lebanese army razed most of Nahr al-Bared to crush Fatah al-Islam. By that time, Dawoud already was in Ein el-Hilweh, and his arrest was the beginning of a slow falling out with the gangs that once sheltered him and treated him like a brother. After his stint in prison, they began to feel they couldn't trust him, and he was chased out of Ein el-Hilweh in 2013. Now, he can only enter the parts of the settlement firmly under PLO control.

With no job, no prospects and little wealth, Dawoud now runs errands for others in his white 1980s-era BMW - all done under the table, of course. Palestinians cannot apply for the red license plates that identify taxis and other commercial vehicles. "I don't even think about marrying and getting into those situations," he said, waving off starting a family at age 27. His ambition now is to apply for a visa to leave Lebanon. But first he needs a travel document, and for that he needs to be on good terms with the Lebanese authorities.

Not all Palestinians live in camps, but even the most privileged among them endure discrimination. At a panel on Palestinian labor rights at the American University of Beirut, Muhammad Hussein asked a Lebanese Labor Ministry official why he was denied work even in sectors that are formally open to Palestinian employment. The 22-year-old graduate showed the official an email he received from a marketing firm in Dubai refusing his job application on the grounds that the Lebanese office had to give priority to Lebanese workers. "The problem isn't finding vacancies," Hussein said. "It's getting the job." — AP

IRAN'S DELAYED GOLD RUSH HAS VOTERS DISILLUSIONED

MANY HAVE LOST FAITH IN ROUHANI ADMINISTRATION

TEHRAN: The investment gold rush that was supposed to follow Iran's nuclear deal with world powers and revitalize the economy has not materialized, leaving many voters disillusioned ahead of Friday's election. The figures say it all - President Hassan Rouhani wanted \$50 billion a year in foreign investment to reach his target of eight-percent growth. But since the

their education level. "I studied five years at one of Iran's top architecture universities but what I'm doing now could be done by someone who learnt the software on a two-month course," said 24-year-old designer Parnian Dalili, who nonetheless felt lucky to have landed a job at all.

All this has been a boon for Rouhani's conservative opponents, who say the government has

another huge business delegation coming from Europe or Asia. Big names such as Siemens, Renault and Nestle are on the ground and hungry to expand. But everyone is wary of US President Donald Trump, who has threatened to tear up the nuclear accord.

The US has also maintained a raft of sanctions that continue to scare off global banks which companies need to finance their deals. "In the absence of large banking firms, the deals can't happen," said Farid Dehdilani, of the Iranian Privatization Organization. He recently returned from a roadshow in London, where he found a lot of interest from investors in coming to Iran. "But everyone is waiting for someone just a little bit bigger to make the first move," he said. "They understand the risks and they're willing to take them, but the uncertainty over Trump and other factors is putting them off."

The crucial test is whether Trump continues to waive the sanctions suspended under the nuclear deal, which he must sign off over the next two months. "All the big firms, especially the energy companies, are waiting to see whether Trump will keep the sanctions suspended," said a French businessman in Tehran. The one clear success for Iran has been the return of oil sales, with exports doubling to almost 2.8 million barrels per day since the deal.

Rouhani says he will use this money to invest in the economy, and vowed this week to work for the removal of all remaining US sanctions over the next four years, although that would require a major attitude shift from the Trump administration.

"People have seen the benefits of the (nuclear deal) because there's stability. They're no longer worrying about prices going up overnight and having to hide dollars under their mattress," said Dehdilani. "But people were over-excited. Iran could be a trillion-dollar economy, but it will take time."

And many fear the meager progress of the past year could evaporate if the hardliners win on Friday, since they would likely take a much less friendly approach to the West. "If the conservatives win, we might as well just pack up and go home," said a European diplomat. — AFP



ISFAHAN: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani steps out of his plane upon arrival at the Shahid Beheshti airport yesterday to attend a campaign rally for the May 19 presidential election. — AP

nuclear deal came into force in Jan 2016, lifting some sanctions in exchange for curbs to Iran's atomic program, only \$1-2 billion worth of deals have actually been finalized, his deputy Eshaq Jahangiri admitted to AFP this week.

Unofficial polls still show Rouhani in the lead for Friday's election, but faced with a 12.5-percent unemployment rate it is no wonder that many have lost faith in his administration. The problem is even worse for young people, with more than a quarter of 18- to 25-year-olds out of work, and many of the rest taking jobs far below

failed to cash in on the nuclear deal and ignored the plight of the poor. "A tree that has not born any fruit in four years will not yield anything positive in the future," said Tehran mayor and presidential candidate Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf in the final debate on Friday.

Waiting game

For all its troubles, Iran with its diverse economy and large, cosmopolitan middle class is still a great untapped opportunity among emerging markets, and hardly a week goes by without



DAMASCUS: Syrian government forces inspect a destroyed tunnel in the capital's northeastern Al-Qaboun suburb yesterday. — AFP

1,500 LEAVE REBEL-HELD DISTRICT IN DAMASCUS

DAMASCUS: At least 1,500 civilians and rebels evacuated an opposition district in Damascus yesterday, state media said, bringing the government closer to cementing its control over the Syrian capital. The evacuations from the Qabun district in northeast Damascus follow similar departures from the Barzeh and Tishrin neighborhoods earlier this week. An AFP correspondent inside Qabun saw around a dozen white buses carrying out residents and fighters in the morning, after a deal for the neighborhood was announced late Saturday following heavy fighting.

At the edge of the district, two women embraced and wept as they faced the prospect of parting ways. Suad, 22, was leaving behind her friend Mona, also 22, to follow her family to Idlib province, a rebel-held area in the northwest of the country. "I didn't want to leave, but I have to stay with my family, and they prefer to go Idlib after my uncle left with the group from Barzeh," said Suad, wearing a white headscarf and a blue top. "I never thought one day I'd be in this position," she added, sobbing heavily. "I can't describe how I feel!"

Those evacuating carried small bags

with them as they boarded the buses, while others who had decided to stay registered their names at a military post. The evacuation deal came on Saturday night after government forces advanced inside the neighborhood. "The Syrian army yesterday managed to encircle dozens of armed elements inside Qabun neighbourhood, forcing them to surrender and hand over their weapons," a source from the pro-regime National Defense Forces militia told AFP.

The signs of the recent fighting, as well as years of prior bombardment and clashes, were visible all around with rubble from partially and completely destroyed buildings strewn across the roads. Tanks sent up clouds of dusts as they maneuvered over the mounds of rubble and dirt and black smoke rose from fires still burning in the neighborhood. "A few days ago we couldn't be here. The road was too dangerous," said one soldier. Others showed off a tunnel they had discovered, one of many that rebels use to connect besieged neighborhoods. "This tunnel is ten metres deep, and connects Qabun with the town of Arbin" in rebel-held Eastern Ghouta, one soldier said. — AFP

EGYPT JUDGES DEFY NEW LAW ON JUDICIARY APPOINTMENTS

CAIRO: Judges from one of the Egyptian judiciary's three main branches voted Saturday to defy a newly adopted and widely disputed law giving the president a degree of control over the judiciary, nominating as head of their branch a judge who ruled against a government decision to surrender two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia.

State Council judges, who rule on disputes with the government, voted overwhelmingly to put forward judge Yahya Dakrouy, their most senior, as their nominee to head their branch. The move clashes with the new law that stipulates that each judiciary branch nominate three of its seven most senior judges to the president to choose one to head each of the three branches.

The judiciary's two other branches - the court of cassation and government lawyers - already have complied with the new law, adopted by parliament and ratified by the president last month with uncanny speed. Many judges see the law as an infringement of the judiciary's independence and a violation of the principle of the separation of government branches.

Before the new law came into effect, each branch of the judiciary nominated their most senior judge to head their branch, with the president's ratification a foregone conclusion. President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi will now have to either ratify Dakrouy's nomination to avoid a confrontation with the powerful State Council or independently name one of the most senior judges from that branch as its head.

Dakrouy's ruling last year on the fate of the two islands went against the government's stated position that Tiran and Sanafir, at the mouth of the Red Sea's Gulf of Aqaba, belonged to Saudi Arabia but were placed under Egyptian control in the 1950s to protect them against a perceived threat from Israel. His ruling was upheld in January by a higher court, which declared as unconstitutional an Egyptian-Saudi agreement signed in April 2016 to cede control over the islands to Riyadh. Sisi last month said the executive branch has nothing more to do with or say about the agreement, saying its fate was now in the hands of the judiciary and parliament, a 596-seat chamber packed with his supporters. — AP

TRUMP WEIGHS EMBASSY MOVE IMPACT ON PEACE

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump is assessing whether moving the US Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem would help or hurt prospects for clinching an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said, revealing Trump's criteria for a decision that could reverberate throughout the volatile Middle East. Since taking office, Trump has backed away from his campaign pledge to move the embassy in a gesture to Israel, instead saying he's still studying the issue. But Tillerson linked Trump's deliberations directly to his aspirations for brokering Mideast peace.

"The president is being very careful to understand how such a decision would impact the peace process," Tillerson said in an interview broadcast Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." He said Trump's decision would be informed by feedback from all sides, including "whether Israel views it as helpful to a peace initiative or perhaps a distraction."

Trump's decision is being closely watched as the president prepares to depart Friday on his first foreign trip. After stopping in Saudi Arabia, Trump will visit both Israel and the

Palestinian territories, in a nod to his nascent bid to strike the Israeli-Palestinian deal that has eluded his predecessors. Jerusalem's status is one of the most emotionally charged issues in the conflict, with both sides laying claims. Israel captured east Jerusalem - claimed by Palestinians for the capital of a future independent state - from Jordan in 1967 and annexed it, a move not internationally recognized.

US presidents of both parties have repeatedly waived a US law requiring the embassy be moved to Jerusalem. The most recent waiver -

signed by former President Barack Obama - expires on June 1. Trump is expected to sign a six-month renewal of the waiver before it expires, as he continues deliberating.

In another sign the White House is proceeding cautiously, Trump's ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, plans to work out of the current embassy in Tel Aviv rather than out of the US Consulate in Jerusalem, as some had urged him to do. Friedman, who owns an apartment in Jerusalem, is expected to live in the US ambassador's official residence in the Tel Aviv suburb

of Herzliya. Palestinians argue moving the embassy would prejudice one of the most sensitive issues in the conflict, undermining America's status as an effective mediator. There have been some signs that the Israeli government, while publicly supportive of moving the embassy, has quietly raised concerns that doing so could enflame the political and security situation.

In the interview, Tillerson downplayed suggestions that the US needed to deal decisively with Russia's interference in the US election before it could pursue better relations with Moscow. Though Tillerson said he'd seen the intelligence implicating Russia and believed there was no question Russia meddled, he said it was just one of a "broad range of important issues that have to be addressed in the US-Russia relationship."

He said the notion of a "reset" with Russia - which both Obama and President George W. Bush pursued - was misguided. "You cannot erase the past. You cannot start with a clean slate," Tillerson said. "We're starting with the slate we have, and all the problems we have are in that slate." — AP



Rex Tillerson

TRUMP PICK FOR FBI CHIEF COULD COME WITHIN DAYS

WASHINGTON: Less than a week after US President Donald Trump fired James Comey, the administration has interviewed at least eight candidates to be FBI director and Trump has said a decision could come within days. Trump, who is scheduled to leave Friday on his first overseas trip as president, told reporters Saturday that it was possible he could announce his selection before then.

"I think the process is going to go quickly. Almost all of them are very well-known," Trump said before taking off for Lynchburg, Virginia, where he gave the commencement address at Liberty University. "They've been vetted over their lifetime essentially, but very well-known, highly respected, really talented people. And that's what we want for the FBI."

Trump abruptly fired Comey on Tuesday and later said Comey was a "showboat" and "grandstander" who was not doing a good job. The firing drew a wave of criticism in large part because the FBI has been investigating whether election meddling by Russia involved people in Trump's presidential campaign. Changing rationales for the firing offered by White House aides added an element of chaos to the president's action.

Comey's replacement requires Senate confirmation. The FBI director serves a 10-year term but can be replaced by the president. So far 14 people - lawmakers, attorneys and law enforcement officials among them - have emerged as candidates. Eight met at the Justice Department on Saturday with Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his deputy, Rod Rosenstein. The first candidate to arrive for interviews was Alice Fisher, a

high-ranking Justice Department official in the George W Bush administration.

Also interviewed were:

- Adam Lee, special agent in charge of the FBI's office in Richmond, Virginia.
- Acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe.
- Michael J Garcia, a former prosecutor and associate judge on New York's appeals court
- Sen John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Senate leader and a former Texas attorney general.
- US District Judge Henry E Hudson, a Bush appointee who struck down the centerpiece of the Obama administration's healthcare law in 2010.
- Frances Townsend, a former Bush homeland security and counterterrorism adviser.
- Former Rep Mike Rogers of Michigan, who was chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. An ex-FBI agent, Rogers drew the backing of the FBI Agents Association, which said his diverse background makes him the best choice.

Fisher and Townsend were the only women on the list of candidates. The FBI has never had a female director. Sessions has faced questions over whether his involvement in Comey's firing violates his pledge to recuse himself from investigations into Russian interference in the election. Some lawmakers have alleged the firing was an effort to stifle that FBI probe. Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said Sessions and Rosenstein were involved in the interviews because the FBI director reports to them as attorney general and deputy attorney general. — AP

SUICIDE AT 8? VERY RARE, BUT NOT INCONCEIVABLE

WARNING SIGNS HARDER TO READ IN YOUNG CHILDREN

NEW YORK: The death was startling even to the coroner: A boy only 8 years old apparently killing himself in his Cincinnati bedroom. Now Gabriel Taye's January death is being re-examined, after it emerged that he was bullied and knocked unconscious at school two days before he died. Hamilton County Coroner Lakshmi Sammarco's office has ruled Gabriel's death a suicide, but she said last week that she was reopening the investigation to re-examine the boy's injuries and whether there were contributing factors to his death. "It was very hard for me to believe that an 8-year-old would even know what it means to commit suicide," Sammarco said.

Suicides are rare among children so young, but not unheard of. Statistics from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show an average of 14 suicides per year nationwide among children 10 or younger since 1999. That compares to over 1,400 per year among 11- to 18-year-olds. At 8, children generally are just coming to understand death, says Dr Louis Kraus, chief of child psychiatry at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. Conceiving of ending their own lives can be even more remote.

"It's possible, but at this young age, it's very uncommon," Kraus said. Even if a child has an idea of suicide, "many kids this young really don't conceptualize the permanency of what they're doing and what could happen." Experts stress that at any age, suicide is a complex decision that often reflects a combination of life events and psychiatric problems, whether diagnosed or not.

Warning signs can be harder to read in young children than older people, said Dr Alec Miller, chief of child and adolescent psychology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. But while kids might not have the vocabulary to discuss depression, it still might show up, perhaps as a change in behavior or complaints about aches or fatigue with no physical explanation, Kraus notes.

Happy-go-lucky kid

Gabriel had no history of mental health issues, said Carla Leader, a lawyer for his mother, Cornelia Reynolds. People who knew him describe him as a happy-go-lucky kid - "a very loving little boy



CINCINNATI: In this still image from a Jan 24, 2017 surveillance video, the legs and feet of 8-year-old Gabriel Taye can be seen as he lies on the floor of a boys' bathroom after being knocked unconscious by another boy at Carson Elementary School. Two days later, Taye hanged himself with a necktie in the bedroom of his Cincinnati apartment.

who always had a smile on his face and would bring a smile to your face," said Carolyn Emery, whose children went to school with him.

Gabriel was at school Jan 24 when, as seen on a choppy surveillance video the Cincinnati Public Schools system released Friday, he apparently tried to shake hands with a boy who had hit another child. Attorneys for Gabriel's mother said the boy pushed Gabriel into a wall, knocking him unconscious.

An assistant principal arrived about 4 1/2 minutes later to look at him. The school system said that it was "concerned about the length of time that (the boy) lay motionless and the lack of adult supervision at the scene" but that administrators followed protocol by having the nurse evaluate him. School officials said the boy told

staff he had fainted and never said he had been bullied or assaulted.

They said school administrators asked Reynolds to get Gabriel and take him to a hospital. But her attorneys say she decided on her own to pick him up and take him to the hospital after her sister, who was baby-sitting while Reynolds was at work, called to say that Gabriel had vomited and was complaining of stomach pains. Doctors concluded he likely had a stomach virus and sent him home. Two days later, Gabriel hanged himself in his bedroom with a necktie, authorities said. According to her attorneys, Reynolds didn't learn of the schoolhouse confrontation until her attorneys got a copy of a police investigative file that described the surveillance video. — AP



MCHENRY, Illinois: In this May 11, 2017 photo, Jeannie Scown protests outside US Rep. Randy Hultgren's office. — AP

IN SWING DISTRICTS, VOTERS VENT OVER HEALTHCARE, FEAR TRUMP

MCHENRY, Illinois: Skeleton in hand, retired biology teacher Jeannie Scown delivered a message to her Republican congressman at his office northwest of Chicago. "Killed by Trumpcare Plague, May 4, 2017," her poster read. In a nod to House Republicans' recent vote to gut the health-care law, Scown had no intention of sparing four-term Rep Randy Hultgren with subtlety. "He has to understand that sick people vote, too," Scown said, "and we are going to go get them and take them to the polls if they can't get there themselves, because we are tired of being used."

Americans vented similar frustrations this past week in Republican districts crucial to GOP majority control of the House, sounding off about health care and President Donald Trump's abrupt firing of FBI Director James Comey. Democrats see in these displays evidence of the enthusiasm necessary for them to break the GOP's monopoly control of Washington in next year's midterm elections.

Republicans in some districts faced a backlash at raucous town halls over their votes for the House health care bill. There were plenty of complaints about a provision that would allow insurers to charge seriously ill people higher rates if they let their coverage lapse. Other lawmakers avoided holding forums. Trump added to the tumult by dismissing Comey, raising questions about whether the president was trying to scuttle an FBI investigation into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia.

"He did this as Comey wanted to get closer and closer," said Sam Weissbard of Westfield, New Jersey. A dentist who practices in Manhattan, Weissbard said he has no ill-will against his five-term congressman, Republican Leonard Lance, who voted against the health bill. Nonetheless, Weissbard will oppose Lance to send a message to the White House. In Illinois, Scown said Trump's move shows why "the whole administration scares many of us." Whatever "displeases him," she said, "he gets rid of."

Trump maintains a hold on his core supporters - about 40 percent according to many polls - but the intensity of voters like Scown and Weissbard offer encouragement for Democrats. The party needs to flip 24 seats to seize control of the House. Democrats' top targets are some two dozen GOP-held seats around the country in places such as Arizona, Florida, California

and Colorado where Democrat Hillary Clinton beat Trump. Of the 217 Republicans who backed the bill, 14 come from districts carried by Clinton.

The first political tests are just weeks away. In Montana, folk singer-turned-politician Rob Quist is trying to win his state's at-large House seat in a May 25 special election. In Georgia, Democrat Jon Ossoff has raised more than \$10 million ahead of a June special election in a suburban Atlanta district last represented by Trump's health secretary, Tom Price. But party operatives and their aligned groups are primed for an offensive even if Ossoff and Quist fall short.

Vulnerable Republicans

Outside groups have started television and digital ads against vulnerable Republicans who voted for the bill, and liberal grassroots groups are organizing "Adopt-A-District" town halls that send Democratic House members into Republican districts where the local representative has no scheduled open forums. One of the first sessions was Friday in Kenosha, Wisconsin, in House Speaker Paul Ryan's district. With Ryan elsewhere in Wisconsin - public events but not open town halls - his neighboring Democratic colleague, Mark Pocan, greeted the speaker's constituents at a union hall.

"Paul is the person who essentially drafted this healthcare bill," Pocan said, ahead of the gathering. "We need to know that his constituents have every tool possible to try to influence him in a different direction." Defending himself, Ryan told reporters on Friday: "It's not that I'm not doing town halls. I'm getting around to see constituents all the time. I'm doing office hours, I'm doing telephone town halls, I'm doing business interviews. I'm doing it in a way so constituents don't go into a harassing environment."

New Jersey Rep Tom MacArthur spent five hours last Wednesday fielding intense, sometimes angry inquiries. Vicky Van Wright, 69, who had never attended a town hall, said she was worried about Trump leading the US "back to a darker time in our history," but identified the health care bill as her driving concern. She argued it could threaten Medicaid insurance programs for her 35-year-old son with Down's syndrome. MacArthur told Van Wright that Republicans want to give states flexibility, not "cut" Medicaid. Van Wright remained unconvinced. — AP



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MERKEL'S PARTY SEEKS WIN IN BELLWETHER STATE VOTE

Düsseldorf: One in five German voters were heading to the polls in a key state election yesterday, with Chancellor Angela Merkel's party hoping to deal a crushing blow to her main rival four months before national elections.

About 13.1 million eligible voters in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) are casting ballots to elect a new regional parliament for the sprawling industrial region, which has a large migrant population and has been a Social Democratic Party (SPD) stronghold for decades. But surveys ahead of the vote showed the centre-left party running neck-and-neck with Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, with some even placing the CDU ahead.

The opinion polls were the latest indication that initial enthusiasm for the new SPD leader, Martin Schulz, could be fizzling out. The SPD had been ailing nationwide but saw a surge in support in February when Schulz took over. But that enthusiasm failed to translate into votes in the last two state elections, when the CDU won comfortably.

An election in Germany's biggest state is always

significant, but this year's NRW vote carries higher stakes, being the last regional vote before national polls and having a direct impact on whether the SPD can close the gap nationwide with the CDU. After casting his vote in his hometown of Wuersele, Schulz acknowledged Sunday that the race would be close, with 30 percent of voters deciding their pick at the last minute.

"That makes it thrilling to the last second. I hope of course that we will be ahead in the evening," he said. Separately, the CDU's candidate Armin Laschet, who cast his vote in Aachen, said: "There is a real chance that we can win. Now it's time for the voters to decide." Turnout appeared to be brisk at 33.6 percent as of midday, compared to 29.5 percent at the same time in 2012.

Local vote, national stakes

The SPD is banking its hopes on incumbent state premier Hannelore Kraft, 55, who secured 39.1 percent in a 2012 vote, while the CDU clinched just over 26 percent. "If Kraft succeeds, then the chances of the SPD's

bid to take back the chancellery grow. If she loses, it would mean that the Schulz train has slammed against a wall," the weekly Spiegel magazine said. Political analyst Oskar Niedermayer also noted the state's significance to the SPD, telling AFP that "a defeat there would be a disastrous symbol" for the party.

Schulz, who held more than 30 rallies in the state, hopes that his push for "social justice" will resonate in NRW, which has lagged behind western Germany economically. He argues that many people are struggling in temporary or low-paid jobs even though the country as a whole is growing richer. But Merkel has also been pounding the streets in the state of 18 million people, including 4.2 million of migrant origin. In the town of Haltern am See on Wednesday, she took aim at Schulz's arguments, saying the CDU offers "justice in the sense of jobs, strong budgets, funds for local communities". She also urged voters to look at her government's economic record, noting that with 7.5 percent unemployment, the state fares worse than the national rate of 5.8 percent.

Security, traffic jams

Mindful that local issues can tip the balance, Merkel has blamed the incumbents for persistent traffic jams that "are longer than from here to the moon". The CDU has also accused the state's SPD-Green governing coalition of security failures. State interior minister Ralf Jaeger has faced criticism for failing to detain Anis Amri, the Tunisian asylum seeker suspected in the deadly Berlin Christmas market rampage last year.

Amri had lived in the state and was deemed a threat by intelligence officials, but Jaeger argued that there was insufficient evidence to lock him up. On Jaeger's watch, Cologne also became the scene of mass sexual assaults by groups of mostly North African men on New Year's Eve of 2015-2016, inflaming the debate over the 890,000 asylum seekers Germany welcomed in 2015. The populist AfD (Alternative for Germany), which has rallied against the migration influx, hopes to win its first seats in North Rhine-Westphalia, which would see it represented in 13 of 16 state parliaments.—AFP

EXIT FRANCOIS HOLLANDE, PRESIDENT OF PARALYSIS

A REPUTATION FOR BEING WISHY-WASHY

PARIS: When Francois Hollande tapped Emmanuel Macron as an aide in his 2012 presidential campaign, little did he know that he was taking advice from his eventual successor. Nor could the French Socialist leader, who handed over power to Macron yesterday, have foreseen that the liberal reforms championed by his protegee would turn out to be his undoing.

At 62, Hollande leaves office as one of France's least popular leaders after becoming the embodiment of his country's social and economic paralysis. Hollande had an easy touch with the public but quickly acquired a reputation for being wishy-washy, with detractors nicknaming him Flanby after a French brand of wob-

ble pudding. Vowing to govern as "Mr Normal", he took the helm five years ago on a wave of goodwill from voters eager to turn the page on the "bling-bling" years of the flamboyant, brash Nicolas Sarkozy. But Hollande's term got off to an inauspicious start as rain drenched his inaugural parade and he flew into a thunderstorm on his maiden foreign trip, to Berlin.

of his crowning achievements was to shepherd France's gay marriage through parliament in 2013 despite mass protests. He initiated a 75 percent "millionaire's tax", which caused an outcry among high-profile figures such as actor Gerard Depardieu and was quietly scrapped. Then, with the jobless figures refusing to budge and the economy stuck at near-zero growth, Hollande came under increasing pressure to change course.

He began pushing for a tax cut on businesses in exchange for hiring pledges, known as the Responsibility Pact, triggering dissent on the Socialists' left flank. Hollande brought in economic liberal Manuel Valls as prime minister in

the love of his life, Valerie Trierweiler-dragged down his approval ratings. Hollande won credit for his leadership throughout a series of jihadist attacks that have killed 239 people since 2015.

In one of the defining moments of his presidency, he led world leaders and one million Parisians in a march against terrorism after the January 2015 attack on Charlie Hebdo magazine and a Jewish store. After the November 2015 attacks in the capital that killed 130 people, his government imposed a state of emergency that has been renewed repeatedly, over the objections of rights groups.

'He owes me'

Despite his dismal poll ratings that at one stage plunged to just four percent, Hollande held out the hope that a late improvement in unemployment figures would justify a re-election bid. It was a hope he continued to nurture after Macron walked out on the government and announced his own bid for the presidency. "He knows what he owes me," he fumed after Macron launched his own En Marche movement. Hollande's dithering on a second term was toxic for the Socialist Party. Then a tell-all book came out in October that made many wonder if he was his own worst enemy.

In "A President Shouldn't Say That", a book of interviews by two journalists from Le Monde newspaper, Hollande heaped scorn on the national football team and even his own government's policies. He finally bowed out of contention in early December, becoming the first president of France's fifth republic, founded 58 years ago, to decide not to seek a second term.

Accidental president?

Hollande won the Socialist nomination for the presidency after then IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn — the hot favorite—crashed out of the running after being arrested in New York on charges of sexual assault. The criminal charges were dropped after Strauss-Kahn's accuser was found to be an unreliable witness, but the man known as DSK was forced to quit the International Monetary Fund and abandon his presidential ambitions. Hollande's scandals were of a different order, less sordid but still sensational.

He split with fellow Socialist traveler Segolene Royal, the partner he never married though they had four children together, for the journalist Trierweiler. Their stormy relationship ended after it emerged that he was enjoying trysts with actress Julie Gayet—famously photographed him arriving by motorbike at their Paris love nest. Trierweiler's score-settling book "Thank You for This Moment: A Story of Love, Power and Betrayal", went on to become an international bestseller.—AFP



PARIS: French newly elected President Emmanuel Macron (R) is welcomed by his predecessor Francois Hollande as he arrives at the Elysee presidential Palace for the handover and inauguration ceremonies.—AFP

ly pudding. Vowing to govern as "Mr Normal", he took the helm five years ago on a wave of goodwill from voters eager to turn the page on the "bling-bling" years of the flamboyant, brash Nicolas Sarkozy. But Hollande's term got off to an inauspicious start as rain drenched his inaugural parade and he flew into a thunderstorm on his maiden foreign trip, to Berlin.

'Reverse the curve'

Hollande set about implementing his left-wing agenda, vowing to "reverse the curve" of unemployment that had risen to around 10 percent in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. One

March 2014 — and a certain Emmanuel Macron as economy minister that August.

Outright rebellion

Their push to reform France's ossified labor market turned the dissent into outright rebellion within the party and anger on the streets. France saw waves of strikes and sometimes violent protests nationwide, with images of tear gas and hooded activists hurling petrol bombs beamed onto TV screens around the world.

Hollande's paralysis as president combined with revelations over his amorous peccadillo—he was caught cheating on the woman he called

THOUSANDS MARCH AGAINST MOSCOW GOVERNMENT'S DEMOLITION PLANS

MOSCOW: Thousands of protesters took to the streets of Moscow yesterday to rally against a bill to tear down Soviet-era low-rise apartment buildings.

Protesters, mostly young and middle couples, gathered on a central street to rally against arguably Russia's largest redevelopment project to pull down entire neighborhoods of Soviet-era prefabricated blocks that were built under and named for former leader Nikita Khrushchev.

City Hall has insisted the buildings, known as "khrushcheyki", are too dilapidated and outdated, while many residents and activists see the plans as a ruse to make way for high-rises in some of Moscow's leafiest neighborhoods. The State Duma rushed to pass the first reading of a bill on the demolition in Moscow last month which will force the residents in what City Hall says are dilapidated blocks to vacate their apartments in exchange for other housing. Faced with growing criticism, the parliamentary speaker, however, suggested postponing the second reading pending a public debate.

Carrying placards "No to the demolition of the constitution!" and the flags of their neighborhoods, Muscovites chanted "Resign!" in reference to Moscow's mayor and City Hall. Police estimated turnout at Sunday's rally as low as 5,000 people while volunteers of the White

Counter group, which attends opposition rallies to provide independent crowd tallies, said just over 20,000 people showed up.

'We are happy in our house'

Alexei Matveyev, a 36-year-old bank clerk from a north Moscow neighborhood, carried a placard reading "No to violation of the constitution and property law." He said the bill under discussion is rushed and disregards residents' interests. "People who live in these blocks bought the apartments in order to live in quiet leafy low-rises," Matveyev said. "We are happy in our house. We don't want to live in tower blocks."

Alexander Zeinin, 32, and his wife Natalya bought an apartment in Perovo, in the city's east, several years ago to start a family but now their building is slated for demolition. "We spent a year and half on the remodeling. Why would I want to go anywhere?" Zeinin said. "We haven't had a good sleep these past two months. We're recently married and now we think if we can have children - what if they throw us onto the street tomorrow?"

The five-story pre-fabricated buildings to be torn down were built in the 1950s and 1960s to tackle an acute housing crisis. The demolition plans, however, ignored some of the city's most dilapidated housing in less attractive neighborhoods but included

good quality apartment buildings in what have recently become expensive neighborhoods.

Under the plan proposed by Mayor Sergei Sobyanin, about 5,000 low-rises will be torn down in the next several years to make way for new developments. The mayor insisted that residents would be offered housing of the equal size in the same neighborhoods, but residents fear that they will be expelled from their quiet, comfortable neighborhoods to high-rises. The first blocks are due to be demolished before the end of the year, and Sobyanin said some residents would be relocated as early as this fall. Sobyanin tweeted after the protest that City Hall would take

into consideration "all substantiated statements made at the rally."

While authorities insist that the buildings wouldn't be demolished if residents vote against it, residents have been skeptical pointing to how the voting on Moscow's government website has been rigged in the past. Fyodor Markushevich, a 40-year-old father of four, lives in a neighborhood in Moscow's west which has been recently taken off the list for re-development but he fears that once the bill passes the redevelopment plans would be redrafted again. "Everyone is sick of it," he said. "We understand that we live in a city where everything is done for profit and it's hard to change that."—AP



MOSCOW: Demonstrators march during a protest yesterday against the city's controversial plan to knock down Soviet-era apartment blocks and redevelop the old neighborhoods.—AFP



PARIS: Brigitte Macron gestures as she arrives at the Elysee presidential Palace to attend her husband Emmanuel Macron's formal inauguration ceremony as French President.—AFP

BRIGITTE MACRON: PREZ'S TEACHER-TURNED-WIFE

PARIS: Once his high school drama teacher, now wife of incoming French president Emmanuel Macron, 64-year-old Brigitte Macron stepped into the spotlight long before her husband was elected. The 25-year age difference and the extraordinary way they met—he pursued her when he was her pupil—makes her the most talked-about French president's partner since Nicolas Sarkozy married singer-model Carla Bruni nine years ago.

Even Madonna is a fan, writing on Instagram after Macron's election that "no one seems to care about their age difference nor insisted that Brigitte act her age". Elegant, always tanned and blonde, Brigitte is her husband's closest collaborator and he has pledged to give her an official role—unlike in the US, there has hitherto been no definition of First Lady in the French presidency. "As a teacher, I know young people... My fight will be education, to give them something other than hanging around in the stairwells of apartment buildings," she told Paris Match in an interview last year.

During the campaign, there were dozens of carefully-managed glossy magazine covers and then an appearance at her husband's side with her family at the Louvre pyramid in Paris for his victory party, dressed in a striking blue Louis Vuitton outfit. But before all that she was another man's wife and mother-of-three who taught French, Latin and drama and was on course for a comfortable, if somewhat conventional, life.

Brigitte Trogneux was born on April 13, 1953, in Amiens in northern France, which is also Emmanuel Macron's home town, into a prosperous family that owns a chocolate business. In the early 1990s a confident 15-year-old acting in a production of Milan Kundera's "Jacques and his Master" caught her eye. It was Emmanuel. She quickly agreed when he asked her to help him work on a script and a remarkable relationship began.

Brigitte, who was then 39, recalls she

was "totally captivated" by Emmanuel's intelligence. Two years later he made an audacious prediction. "At the age of 17, Emmanuel said to me 'whatever you do, I will marry you,'" she told Paris Match last April. Emmanuel went on to finish high school at an elite establishment in Paris, but he kept pursuing her and gradually she was won over.

'When I decide something...'

Brigitte left her husband Andre Louis Auziere, a banker, in 2006 and married Emmanuel a year later. She moved to Paris where he continued his studies and she worked as a teacher. "When I make up my mind about something, I do it," she said in a documentary. "She didn't love me for what I had, for the standing, the comfort or the security that I could give her. She gave up all of that for me," Macron wrote in his campaign-launching book "Revolution".

Known as "Bibi" to friends, Brigitte is described as warm, down-to-earth and unfailingly positive by those who know her. One of them, Gregoire Campion, met her on a beach in the northern resort town of Le Touquet over 40 years ago. Their beach huts were next to each other and he remembers the young Brigitte "wasn't a party animal" but was "very educated".

Le Touquet has remained a part of her life and the now grandmother of seven spends many weekends there with her family and her husband. It is a place to gather with her son and two daughters from her first marriage—who have grown up to be an engineer, a cardiologist and a lawyer. She enters the Elysee Palace with words of encouragement ringing in her ears. One of her short-lived predecessors, Valerie Trierweiler, had an unhappy experience as the companion of outgoing president Francois Hollande. The journalist left Hollande in 2014 after discovering he was having an affair with actress Julie Gayet. "I have only got to say to her: Good luck Brigitte!" Trierweiler said on Friday.—AFP

POPE CASTS DOUBT ON VIRGIN APPARITIONS

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE: Pope Francis on Saturday expressed serious doubts regarding reported daily apparitions of the Virgin at Medjugorje in Bosnia, a site which attracts a million pilgrims annually. In June 1981, six Bosnian children and teenagers said they had witnessed the appearance of the Virgin in the southern town, and allege she continues to visit to this day.

The woman they saw "is not the mother of Jesus," the Pope said Saturday aboard the papal plane on his return from a trip to Portugal, where he canonised two young shepherds who had visions of the Virgin 100 years ago. The Pope said an investigation under way by the Church had thrown up doubts regarding the Medjugorje apparitions. He said he preferred "the Mother Madonna" or "our Mother", and not the "Madonna chief of service", for sending daily messages.

The remarks are likely to make waves in Bosnia, where Catholics make up about 10 percent of the population and the religious tourism at Medjugorje brings money to the poor Balkan country. "These supposed apparitions don't have much

value—I'm giving my personal opinion," the pontiff continued. "But it is obvious, who thinks the Virgin would say: 'come to this place tomorrow at this time and I'll give a message to a seer?'"

However the Pope was more circumspect about the original 1981 apparitions, which he didn't immediately reject. "On the original apparitions, the ones the children had, the enquiry says, more or less, that investigations need to continue," he said. Several investigations have already been carried out, the last in January 2014, but the Pope had made no announcement since. However, in November 2013, he did express some doubts.

"The Virgin," he said, "is not a chief of the post office who would send messages every day." The Vatican earlier this year sent a new envoy to "acquire a deeper knowledge of the pastoral situation" in Medjugorje, and "above all the needs of the faithful who go there on pilgrimage". The envoy, however, will not be tasked with verifying the authenticity of the apparitions, because that task falls to the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.—AFP

TRUMP WEIGHS FURTHER US TROOPS FOR AFGHANISTAN

WASHINGTON: Hanging in a corridor outside the Pentagon press office, a blow-up of a Time magazine cover shows a weary US soldier drawing deeply on his cigarette. Barbed wire and snowy foothills loom behind him. The headline: "How Not to Lose in Afghanistan." The date: April 20, 2009. More than eight years later, the Pentagon finds itself in the same quandary. Again.

This time round, it is President Donald Trump looking for answers, just as Barack Obama and George W Bush did before him. Having given Afghanistan little more than a passing mention as president, he is now being forced to confront the issue by a grim drumbeat of bad news and warnings from his generals. Almost any year from its turbulent recent past can serve as a showcase for Afghanistan's dire predicament.

Take 2016, which marked 15 years since the US-led invasion.

Nearly 11,500 Afghan civilians were killed or wounded, according to the United Nations. Adding to the carnage, local officials say, the Taliban and other insurgent groups killed about 7,000 Afghan security force members—many of whom had been trained and supported by US and NATO experts. Dan Coats, Trump's director of national intelligence, hammered home the depressing point this week, warning that the political and security situation will "almost certainly" continue to worsen.

"Meanwhile, we assess that the Taliban is likely to continue to make gains, especially in rural areas," he said. Trump, who campaigned on an "America First" platform and a pledge to reduce US overseas involvement, must now decide whether to approve expected requests from the military's top brass to send thousands more US troops back to Afghanistan.

Administration advisers are reportedly urging him to green light some 3,000 to 5,000 additional troops, adding to the 8,400 already there. The president is expected to make the decision this month, and Pentagon chief Jim Mattis said his own recommendation would come "very shortly."

'Change something'

US troop levels peaked at around 100,000 under Obama, who later embarked on a steady drawdown aiming to completely end America's combat role in the country. The United States and NATO handed security responsibility over to Afghan forces at the start of 2015, but the outcome has been brutal. Local troops have been slain in their thousands, corruption remains endemic and as the Taliban continues to gain ground, even US commanders

concede the situation is a stalemate at best. "Unless we change something... the situation will continue to deteriorate and we'll lose all the gains that we've invested in over the last several years," Defense Intelligence Agency chief General Vincent Stewart told lawmakers this week. However, a new troop commitment would stir resentment in America, which has seen about 2,400 troops killed in Afghanistan since 2001 and another 20,000 wounded. Plus the US government has already spent around \$1 trillion on fighting and rebuilding, much of which has been squandered on wasteful projects. Trump is expected to announce a decision while he travels to NATO in Brussels and a G7 summit in Sicily later this month. He will need to outline a coherent Afghanistan policy and explain how a few thousand extra troops will win-or at least not lose—there, when 100,000 troops could not. —AFP



KATHMANDU: A voter casts her vote in Thimi, on the outskirts of Kathmandu. —AFP

NEPAL VOTES IN FIRST LOCAL ELECTION IN OVER 20 YEARS

KEY STEP IN THE COUNTRY'S TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY

KATHMANDU: Nepal held local level polls yesterday, the first since 1997 and a key step in the country's rocky transition to democracy over a decade since the end of the civil war. Around a third of registered voters across three provinces were eligible to cast their vote, with the rest of the country due to vote in a month's time. The vote has been split into two phases because of unrest in the southern plains bordering India, where the minority Madhesi ethnic group is refusing to take part until an amendment to the constitution is passed.

Local representatives were last elected in 1997 and their five-year terms expired at the height of the brutal Maoist insurgency. The 10-year war ended in 2006 and the country began a fraught transition from a Hindu monarchy to a secular federal republic, which has seen it cycle through nine governments. The long gap between polls has left an institutional void at the local level, which has seen graft become a way of life in Nepal, hampering the delivery of basic services as well as the recovery from a devastating 2015 earthquake.

"It is difficult to expect much from our politicians—they have always been selfish and not worked for the people—but I hope that with this election things will change," housewife Shova Maharjan, 41, told AFP

after casting her vote in the capital. With nearly 70 percent of the population aged under 35, many were voting for their local representatives for the first time.

Polls opened at 7:00 am and closed at 5:00 pm, with each voter casting their ballot for seven local representatives: mayor, deputy mayor, ward chairman and four ward committee members. The ballot paper in the capital Kathmandu—one of the largest constituencies—was around one meter long (three feet) to accommodate the 878 candidates. Nearly 50,000 candidates were standing for election across 283 local municipalities in the first phase, with many registered as independents or with a number of small reformist parties hoping to grab some votes from the traditional political heavyweights. While the youth vote is seen as key in undermining the grip of the three main political parties, the elderly were also out in force, including an 105-year-old man who cast his ballot in Gorkha, the epicentre of the devastating 2015 earthquake, according to the election commission.

Drawn-out peace process

There were sporadic reports of violence on Sunday with one person killed when police opened fire on a group attempting to raid a polling station in

Dolakha district, 180 kilometers north-west of the capital Kathmandu, police told AFP. A bomb was also found early Sunday morning outside the house of a mayoral candidate for the main opposition CPN-UML party in Bhaktapur, 15 kilometers east of Kathmandu. It was diffused without incident.

The remaining four provinces, considered potential flashpoints for election-related violence, will vote in the second phase on June 14. But with results expected from Sunday's vote later this week, observers have expressed concern that the first phase will influence the outcome of the second. As part of the deal that ended the civil war, a new constitution was written and finally adopted in September 2015, nearly a decade after the end of the conflict.

The charter mandated that local elections, followed by provincial and then national elections, be held by January 2018 — the final step in the drawn-out peace process. But the constitution sparked protests by the Madhesi community—who say the document leaves them politically marginalized—and led to a months-long blockade of the India-Nepal border in 2015 that caused a crippling shortage of goods across the country. —AFP

Job Fair - Teachers & Admin Staff

J's preschool is inviting potential applications for the academic year 17-18. Latest start date and job location will be communicated during the selection process.

<p>Day & Date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saturday, May 20th, 2017 From 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Sunday, May 21st, 2017 From 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Monday, May 22nd, 2017 From 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. 	<p>Event Venue:</p> <p>J's Preschool, Mishref Block 4, Street 1, villa 1</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>www.jspreschool.com</p>
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Positions and hiring criteria	
Position	Hiring Criteria
Homeroom Teacher	Native English speaker preferred with minimum 2 years of teaching experience.
PE Teacher	Minimum 1 year of experience in physical education.
Arabic Teacher	Minimum 3 years of experience in teaching Arabic.
Academic Coordinator	2-5 years of experience in academic staff administration and teaching. Native English speakers preferred.
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Nurse	1-2 years of experience as a school nurse.
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Interested applicants shall bring in updated CV at the venue for interview. For any queries or to send CV for vacancies please contact us at careers@jazazabadi.com.

JILTED INDIAN MAN RAPES, KILLS EX GIRLFRIEND: POLICE

NEW DELHI: A jilted man who kidnapped and raped his ex-girlfriend before smashing her head with bricks and running her over with a car has been arrested, Indian police said yesterday. Police in the northern state of Haryana said the 23-year-old victim was abducted by the man and his friend who then allegedly raped and mutilated her, in the latest case of sexual violence in the country. They then dumped her in an isolated industrial area where a local resident discovered her four days later, on Friday, when they noticed stray dogs nibbling at her mangled body.

"We have arrested two men under various sections—murder and rape also," Jagjeet Singh, spokesman for Sonapat city police in Haryana, told AFP. "The main accused, Sumit, and she (the victim) were in a relationship but she didn't want to marry him and he lost it. He wanted revenge," he said, adding that an investigation was under way.

Singh said the victim's post-mortem report showed she had been drugged or sedated during the horrific attack. Women's rights activists and politicians have demanded justice for the victim, whose case echoed the murderous 2012 sexual assault on a student in the Indian capital that sparked mass street demonstrations.

"This savage and bone-chilling incident has shocked the conscience of the nation, reminding each one of us about the crying need for revisiting the important issue of women's safety and security," opposition leader Sonia Gandhi said in a statement late Saturday. Haryana state chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar called the assault "unfortunate", according to the Press Trust of India.

In a separate case, a 10-year-old was in critical condition in Haryana's Rohtak city after doctors reportedly found she was five months pregnant after her stepfather raped her. Police have arrested the man, NDTV news network reported. India has a gruesome record on rape, with New Delhi alone registering 2,199 rape cases in 2015 — an average of six a day. Nearly 40,000 rape cases are reported every year but the real number is thought to be much higher, with victims wary of how their complaints will be dealt with or the social stigma attached to sex crimes. There is also disillusion with a sluggish legal system. —AFP

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MACRON TAKES POWER AS FRENCH PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 1

While France's place was in the European Union "which protects us and enables us to project our values in the world," the 28-member bloc needed to be "reformed and relaunched", the president said. Macron also suggested he would press on with his ambitious agenda to reform France's rigid labor market and modernize the social security system despite the fierce resistance he is likely to meet. "I will not reverse course on any of the commitments taken in front of the French people," he said, adding that "France is strong only if she is prosperous."

Some analysts and opponents have questioned the strength of Macron's mandate after he won just 24.01 percent in the first round of the presidential election on April 23 before his landslide victory over Le Pen in the second. His rivals on the far-right and far-left, opposed to the EU and major economic reforms, won around 50 percent of the first-round vote.

The former investment banker was proclaimed president by Laurent Fabius, president of the Constitutional Council, at the 18th-century presidential palace in central Paris where Macron and his wife Brigitte will now live. Brigitte, a 64-year-old who was his high school drama teacher, wore a light blue Louis Vuitton outfit for the ceremony. Her three children from her previous marriage were also present along with VIPs from France's political scene and the young team of advisors behind Macron's sensational rise.

"In order to be the man of one's country, one must be the man of your time," Fabius told the new president,

quoting the Romantic-era French writer Chateaubriand. "You are now the man of your time... and by the sovereign choice of the people, you are now, above all... the man of our country." Security was tight, with around 1,500 police officers deployed near the presidential palace and on the Champs Elysees, and surrounding roads blocked off.

At the end of the formalities, a 21-gun salute rang out from the Invalides military hospital on the other side of the River Seine. Macron then headed to a hospital outside Paris where soldiers wounded in military operations are treated. He also headed to the capital's town hall for the traditional visit made by each new president to his "host city". The new president faces a host of daunting challenges including tackling stubbornly high unemployment, fighting Islamist-inspired violence and healing divisions exposed by an often vicious election campaign. Hollande's five years in power were plagued by a sluggish economy and bloody terror attacks that killed more than 230 people. He leaves office after a single term.

Macron's first week will be busy. Today, he will name his prime minister, rumored to be Edouard Philippe, a conservative MP and mayor of the northern port city of Le Havre. Macron will then fly to Berlin to meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel, maintaining a French presidential tradition of making the first European trip to the other half of the EU's power couple. The new French president wants to push for closer cooperation to help the bloc overcome the imminent departure of Britain. He also intends to press for the creation of a parliament and budget for the eurozone. — AFP



Dhows participate in the Al-Gaffal traditional long-distance dhow sailing race near the island of Sir Bu Nayer towards Dubai yesterday. Over a hundred traditional dhow racing boats are taking part in al-Gaffal race from Sir Bu Nayer Island to Dubai. — AFP

200,000 VICTIMS HIT BY GLOBAL CYBER ATTACK

Continued from Page 1

Images appear on victims' screens demanding payment of \$300 in the virtual currency Bitcoin, saying: "Oops, your files have been encrypted!" Payment is demanded within three days or the price is doubled, and if none is received within seven days the locked files will be deleted, according to the screen message. Bitcoin, the world's most-used virtual currency, allows for anonymous transactions, which happen via heavily encrypted codes.

Experts and governments alike warn against ceding to the demands and Wainwright said few victims so far have been paying up. US software firm Symantec said that partway through Saturday, transactions totaling \$28,600 had taken place through the five Bitcoin addresses used by the ransomware. "Paying the ransom does not guarantee the encrypted files will be released," the US Department of Homeland Security's computer emergency response team said. "It only guarantees that the malicious actors receive the victim's money, and in some cases, their banking information."

The culprits used a digital code believed to have been developed by the US National Security Agency - and subsequently leaked as part of a document dump, according to researchers at the Moscow-based computer security firm Kaspersky Lab. A hacking group called Shadow Brokers released the malware in April, claiming to have discovered the flaw from the NSA, Kaspersky said.

The attack is unique, according to Europol, because it combines ransomware with a worm function, meaning once one machine is infected, the entire internal network is scanned and other vulnerable machines are infected. The attack therefore spread faster than previ-

ous, smaller-scale ransomware attacks. Microsoft said the situation was "painful" and that it was taking "all possible actions to protect our customers". It issued guidance for people to protect their systems, while taking the highly unusual step of reissuing security patches first made available in March for Windows XP and other older versions of its operating system.

Symantec said the majority of organizations affected were in Europe. The companies and government agencies targeted were diverse. Europol's Wainwright said few banks in Europe had been affected, having learned through the "painful experience of being the number one target of cyber crime" the value of having the latest cyber security in place. Russia's interior ministry said some of its computers had been hit, while the country's banking system was also attacked, although no problems were detected, as was the railway system.

French carmaker Renault was forced to stop production at sites in France, Slovenia and Romania, while FedEx said it was "implementing remediation steps as quickly as possible". Germany's rail operator Deutsche Bahn said its station display panels were affected. Universities in China, Italy and Greece were also hit. Meanwhile G7 finance ministers meeting in Italy vowed to unite against cyber crime, as it represented a growing threat to their economies and should be tackled as a priority. The danger will be discussed at the G7 leaders' summit next month.

The US Treasury Department said it will play a "leading role" in protecting the global financial system's IT infrastructure. US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin "has made protecting America's financial infrastructure from cyberattacks a top priority," a senior department official told reporters on the return flight from Italy. — AFP

CHINA PLEDGES \$124BN FOR NEW SILK ROAD

Continued from Page 1

The delegates from both Koreas held a brief meeting at the summit, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency. "We strongly condemned North Korea's launch of the missile," said Park Byeong-Seung, who leads Seoul's delegation, according to Yonhap. The US representative, White House adviser Matt Pottinger, was pictured near North Korea's minister of external economic relations, Kim Yong Jae, as they arrived. But US embassy spokeswoman Mary Beth Polley told AFP that the two officials did not hold a meeting. "No small talk, nothing," she said.

North Korea relies heavily on trade with China for its economic survival, and US President Donald Trump has urged Xi to use that leverage to put pressure on Pyongyang. The White House called on all nations to impose "far stronger sanctions" following the latest test, which came days after South Korea elected a new president. Yesterday's missile launch "is absolutely an embarrassment to Beijing but it also shouldn't be overstated", Christopher Balding, economics professor at Peking University, told AFP.

Xi focused on his initiative, boasting that it represented a "road for peace", but he cautioned that "all countries should respect each others' sovereignty... and territorial integrity". He warned that "isolation results in

backwardness". The new financing that he promised yesterday includes 100 billion yuan (\$14.5 billion) for the Silk Road Fund and lending schemes worth 380 billion yuan. He also urged financial institutions to contribute 100 billion yuan.

Praising Xi's initiative, Putin warned that "protectionism is becoming the norm". "The ideas of openness, trade freedom are rejected more and more, very often by those who were their supporters not so long ago," Putin said. While Trump railed against China's trade policies during the US election, he has nurtured friendly ties with Xi and his envoy to the summit said US companies were ready to get involved in the Silk Road. "US firms can offer the best-value goods and services required over the life of a project," Pottinger told the forum, though he warned that success would depend on transparent government procurement, among other things.

German Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries echoed calls for transparency to ensure that the calls for bids are "non-discriminatory". Some Belt and Road projects are raising concerns in certain countries. India has voiced displeasure at the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a Belt and Road project aimed at linking northwestern China to the Arabian Sea. The route cuts through Gilgit and Baltistan in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, disputed territory that India claims is illegally occupied. — AFP



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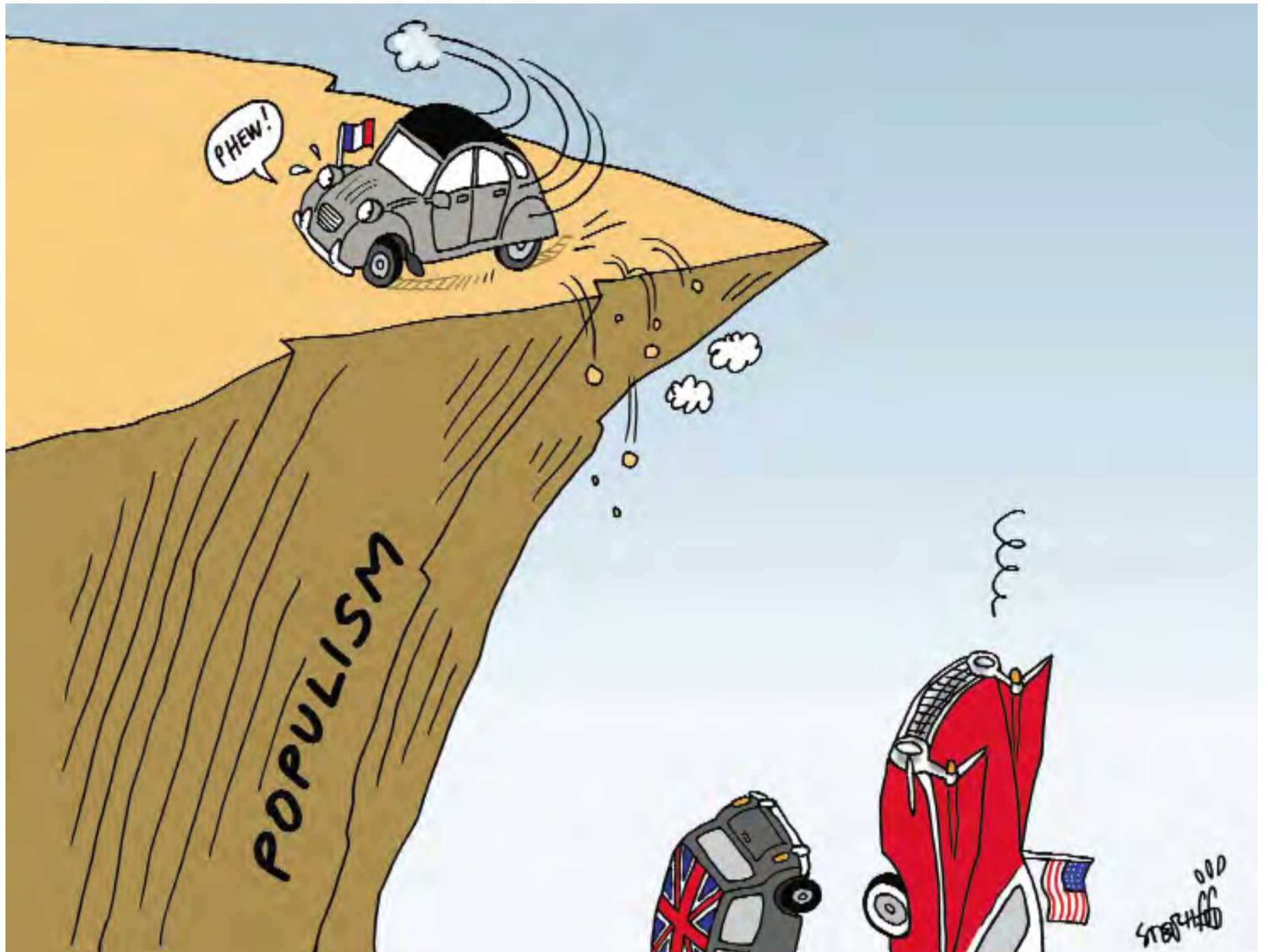
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MACRON'S WIN ADDS TO POLAND'S WORRIES

While the election of Emmanuel Macron as French president with a vision of closer European Union integration was a relief to much of Europe, for Poland and Hungary it fanned fears of losing influence. Poland has been the most vocal among eastern EU members fearing that their wealthier western neighbours, keen to deepen cooperation among themselves, will erode the single market that has been the biggest benefit of membership in the east and, in shifting power westward, reduce financial support for less wealthy countries.

Macron's arrival, and his support for the "multi-speed" Europe idea that has been gaining support in Germany and other EU countries since Britain's decision to quit the bloc, make it more likely that a key decision-making circle could exclude the former communist capitals of Budapest and Warsaw. It would also thwart their efforts to shift power from Brussels back to member states. Underlining their concerns, Polish officials have accused Macron of double standards and of contravening the spirit of the single market by calling for reforms of rules on moving workers within the bloc.

"It is understandable that politicians, thinkers, are looking for solutions," Poland's deputy foreign minister, Konrad Szymanski, told an economic forum in Katowice on Wednesday. "But an EU division, a lasting division, is the worst of possible prescriptions, because the first victim of such division would be the single market." A decision by Whirlpool to shift a tumble drier factory from France to Poland took center-stage in France's presidential campaign last month, with Macron's far-right opponent Marine Le Pen saying she would nationalize the plant.

Macron, an ardent defender of globalization as well as European integration, refused to be drawn into promising the workers he would prevent the company moving its production. But he did say Warsaw was exploiting differences in labor costs, which could not be tolerated. He alluded to the problem of social dumping - a hot-button issue in France - which refers to companies employing cheaper labour from other EU countries or moving production to lower-wage countries.

'Discrimination'

Polish Finance Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told Poland's state broadcaster that this amounted to "discrimination", and others said Macron was undermining the principles of the single market. "It cannot be that when Poland is an export market then it is good, but when it attracts foreign investment, including from France ... that's not good anymore," Morawiecki said this week. Szymanski said that Macron's win could be good for Poland but that Warsaw wondered "whether we are not being excluded from a debate on protectionism and the single market." "We may want to change it, but we do not want to abandon it," he said.

Macron's enthusiasm for a common euro zone budget and finance ministry - although, crucially, viewed with scepticism in Berlin - has also raised fears among eastern countries that they could lose out on EU funds. Neither Poland nor Hungary is in any hurry to adopt the euro; both say they need the flexibility of a national exchange rate in difficult times. "If in the end there is a euro zone budget, that means there will be less money for countries that are not euro zone members," Dariusz Rosati, a member of the European Parliament member for Poland's opposition Civic Platform, told Polish radio this month.

Poland is the largest beneficiary of EU funds and is due to receive €77.6 billion (\$84.4 billion) in the current 2014-20 budgetary period for infrastructure projects, its poorer regions and improving the competitiveness of its economy. While a common fiscal policy may still be some way off, the notion of a Union of countries "acting at different paces and intensity where necessary" was mentioned in the EU's 60th-anniversary Rome Declaration, reflecting the desire of the six founding members, including France and Germany, for faster integration.

Hendrik Hansen, head of International and European Politics department at Andrassy University in Budapest, said a two-speed Europe was becoming more likely, "and with Macron, the Franco-German 'tandem' as a driving force of the EU will probably become more important".

'End of the EU'

Poland's closest ally on the issue is Prime Minister Viktor Orban's Hungary. "Hungary's stance on a two-speed Europe has been consistent ... this would basically mean the end of the EU," Szabolcs Takacs, Hungarian state secretary for European affairs, told Reuters this week. A source close to Macron told Reuters on Wednesday that the idea behind reforming the euro zone was not to exclude countries from joining. "It is to make sure that those who will join, and there will be others, join a functioning euro zone," the source said.

"Their (Eastern European countries) worry in general is that it would fragment the single market, but that's not the aim. The aim is to say that the euro zone is not properly equipped to face a possible future crisis," Poland and Hungary, have, however, also fallen foul of western EU countries with their own policies, which Macron has chosen to highlight. Both have come under fire along with other eastern member states for refusing to host refugees under an EU-wide plan.

Separately, the European Commission accuses Poland's government of undermining democracy, especially through an overhaul of its top court and moves to bring the public broadcaster and judiciary under more direct control. Hungary has most recently been criticized over draft bills to tighten rules on non-governmental organizations and foreign universities.

In his campaign, Macron said the EU should be as tough on infringement of civil liberties as it was on excessive budget deficits, although the sanctions that he called for against Poland would be unlikely to secure the unanimous backing they need. In congratulating Macron on his election, both Poland and Hungary stressed the need to talk about the future of the EU. Poland invited Macron to visit, and Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski said this week that Warsaw was expecting him to "leave his pre-election rhetoric" behind and explain his ideas on how to reform the EU in person. — Reuters

Focus

COURAGEOUS CONTE HEALS CHELSEA RIFTS

Just 10 months after arriving at a club ripped apart by feuds and rampant egos, Antonio Conte has healed the rifts so masterfully that Chelsea are the Premier League champions. Conte and his players were wreathed in smiles and soaked in champagne after clinching the title with a 1-0 win at West Bromwich Albion on Friday. Yet when the Italian drove into Chelsea's palatial training base in the leafy village of Cobham for the first time last July, he was in no mood to soak up the tranquil surroundings. "At the start of the season it wasn't easy. We had to solve a lot of problems," he said.

Conte knew the depth of the problems lying in wait for him with a squad still in turmoil after the mutiny that cost Jose Mourinho his job and prompted a shocking slide down the table. When club owner Roman Abramovich asked Conte to leave his role as Italy coach to sort out Chelsea's sulking stars, many felt he was on a hiding to nothing.

But the 47-year-old jumped at the chance to see if the philosophy he had honed during a stellar managerial career, which included three Serie A titles with Juventus, could work outside his homeland. Aware that the unhappiness of players like Diego Costa, Eden Hazard and Cesc Fabregas had sowed the seeds of discontent at Chelsea, Conte hatched a plan to win over his collection of multimillionaire millennials.

Instead of treating them like naughty schoolboys, Conte - a former altar boy and devout Catholic - promised they would find him honest and compassionate, as long as they followed his demanding regime to the letter. Crucially, the absence of European fixtures from Chelsea's schedule afforded Conte time to drill his philosophy into his players, with double training sessions including long pattern-of-play exercises. The revolution really gathered pace once Conte responded to lackluster defeats against Liverpool and Arsenal in September by switching to his preferred three-man defensive system.

'Great men'

Conte's players were tuned in to such an extent that they seized control of the title race by equalling a single-season top-flight record with 13 successive victories. "My biggest achievement was that the players gave me availability to work hard on the physical, tactical and video analysis aspects," Conte said. "When you have these types of changes it's not easy. First, you must find men and then good players. I found great men and then really good players."

Even then, Conte could not rest easy and his wild touchline celebrations were the perfect window into the soul of a ferocious competitor who thinks nothing of waking in the middle of the night to plot another tactical masterstroke. How could it be any other way for a man who named his daughter Vittoria, Italian for 'victory', and admits he finds it impossible to sleep before and after matches because he is so pumped up with adrenaline?

No longer bombarded by text messages, a favorite motivational method of Mourinho's, Chelsea's stars lapped up Conte's more considered approach. Keeping a lid on the volatile Costa's emotions is a full-time job, but Conte managed to rein in the Spain striker well enough to ensure his goals kept Chelsea on top. He deftly eased club legend John Terry out of the first team, all while retaining his backing, and showed his human touch when he granted Willian time in Brazil after the death of his mother and sent him messages of support.

It did not go unnoticed. The revitalized Blues have repaid their manager with a relentless march to the title and Conte can now reflect on how far he has come in such a short time. "After one year, when you work a lot and you suffer a lot, enjoying but also suffering, if you are able to win and to reach your target then I think the moment of celebration must be fantastic," he said. — AFP



Antonio Conte

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GERMANY FEARS HACKS, LEAKS, FAKE NEWS

After election hacks in the United States and France, Germany is worried it will be next. Four months before an election in which Chancellor Angela Merkel hopes to win another term, Germany's national cyber security agency BSI warned political parties to shore up their computer defenses. The head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency last week accused Moscow of gathering a large amount of political data in cyber attacks, and said it would be up to the Kremlin whether to meddle in the Sept. 24 elections.

The German government has boosted funding to the BSI and will add 180 jobs to the agency this year. It is also expanding a cyber defense center and has stepped up data sharing with private sector firms. The government is even studying legislative changes to allow it to strike back - by destroying an enemy's servers, say - in the event of a major cyber attack.

Despite the extra vigilance, over a dozen cyber experts, German lawmakers and government officials interviewed by Reuters say the leaders of Europe's most powerful nation face a huge challenge if they come under attacks like those on US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and France's incoming president, Emmanuel Macron, whose emails were hacked. Security researchers and US officials believe Russian hackers were behind the US attack, and have warned Berlin that Moscow now has its sights on Germany. The origin of the hack of Macron's emails last week is still under investigation.

In particular, German authorities worry that emails obtained by hackers in a 2015 cyber attack on the German parliament will be leaked before the Sept. 24 election. Two sources familiar with the matter said

one of the dozen or so accounts hit was Merkel's parliamentary account, though her primary work account was not touched. One of the sources said Peter Tauber, the CDU secretary general, was later hit by a ransomware attack, in which viruses are used to lock up a computer's data, forcing users to pay off attackers in order to regain use of their machines.

"Digitisation has overwhelmed us. Let's not fool ourselves. Despite all the assurances about bolstering security, Germany is not really prepared for what is coming," said Dirk Arendt, a German-based employee at Israeli cyber security firm Check Point Software Technologies.

Sisyphus

Government and party officials declined to comment on whose accounts were hit in 2015. The BSI believes Merkel and her conservative Christian Democrats (CDU) are being particularly targeted by APT 28, a Russian group US officials have blamed for the hacking of Clinton's emails. The BSI said APT 28, also known as "Pawn Storm" or "Fancy Bear", was behind the 2015 attack on Germany's parliament as well as two attacks on the CDU last year.

Security firm Trend Micro said the group struck the think tanks of both the CDU and the Social Democrats, junior partners in Merkel's coalition government, in March and April. Trend Micro said the group also targeted Macron. Russia denies involvement in the attacks, saying it never interferes in the internal political affairs of other countries. A Kremlin spokesman said he had no idea who was behind APT 28. "We do not know who these people are and have no relation to them."

But US and German officials say the connections are clear. The head of

Germany's BfV domestic intelligence agency, Hans-Georg Maassen, last week said Russia is orchestrating cyber attacks and influence operations to destabilise German society. And while Germany has strengthened its defenses, gaps were inevitable, he said. "I'm reminded of Sisyphus continually rolling a boulder to the mountaintop only to be overtaken by his inevitable fate," he said, referring to the Greek myth symbolizing a futile act.

At a meeting with Merkel in Russia this week, President Vladimir Putin described allegations of Russian attacks related to the US presidential election as rumors. But US and European officials say Moscow wants to erode confidence in Western democracies and undermine European unity. "Putin's short-term goal is to weaken the European consensus on sanctions against Russia," said Hans-Peter Uhl, legal adviser for Merkel's conservative bloc in parliament. "The long-term objective is to divide the EU and secure the victory of Russian values in the battle against the West," he wrote in the group's latest magazine. The Kremlin representative called the accusations "a bald-faced lie".

Action on Multiple Fronts

Germany's parliament bolstered security after 2015, bringing in Deutsche Telekom to rework its software systems and providing cyber security training for its 3,000 administrative staff, said Bundestag spokesman Ernst Hebecker. But private firm secunet told lawmakers in an independent confidential assessment in February that numerous weaknesses remained, including "uncontrolled use" by lawmakers of mobile phones and tablets that are not centrally monitored, according to several sources familiar with the report.

There is no ban on USB sticks, which could be infected with malicious software, they quoted the report as saying. "We don't have sufficient protections for the Bundestag servers where confidential documents are stored," said August Hanning, former head of the BND foreign intelligence agency.

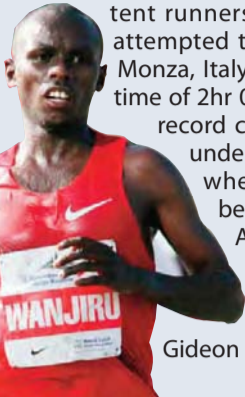
The BSI now provides cyber training to state and federal lawmakers, political parties and their think tanks. But Germany's strict separation of powers mean it can only advise parliament and not force it to act. "It's like teaching traffic safety. We say, 'Please don't cross the street when the light is red.' But it's up to people themselves if they actually listen," BSI president Arne Schoenbohm told Reuters.

Berlin is also taking steps to crack down on so-called fake news. It is targeting the 3 million or so Germans with roots in Russia whom officials fear may be vulnerable to pro-Russian propaganda. Those concerns were triggered by spontaneous protests in Jan 2016 after a bogus report about the alleged rape of a 13-year Russian-German girl by a migrant.

Thomas Krueger, who heads Germany's BpB agency for civic education, hosted a meeting in March for 250 leaders in the community to encourage better awareness. "We just have to be open about this problem and ensure that as many people as possible develop critical thinking skills," he said. Russia is known for holding onto damaging material until a critical moment, says Jim Lewis, senior vice president at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "The wild card is: 'did the Russians get something in 2015 that they can detonate when the election gets closer?'" he said. "I would get really nervous in August." — Reuters

WANJIRU, KEITANY MAKES TEAM FOR LONDON WORLDS

NAIROBI: Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge and London marathon winners Daniel Wanjiru and Mary Keitany will represent Kenya in the event at this summer's World Championships in the British capital, officials said. Kipchoge, 32, is one of Kenya's most consistent runners and was part of a three-man Nike team that attempted to break the two-hour mark in the marathon in Monza, Italy early this month. Kipchoge set a world-leading time of 2hr 00min 25sec but it was not recognized as a world record considering the circumstances the race was held under. Wanjiru, 24, will be returning to the British city where he recorded his greatest marathon victory, beating the legendary Ethiopian Kenenisa Bekele on April 23. Former World record holder and 2012 London Olympic bronze medalist Wilson Kipsang completes the top-three list, with the 2017 Boston marathon winner Geoffrey Kirui and Gideon Kipketer as reserves.—AFP

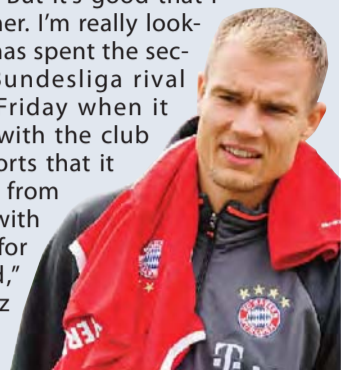


S LANKA IN ALTITUDE TRAINING BEFORE CHAMPIONS TROPHY

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's national cricket squad trained together for the first time in months at a high-altitude location to prepare for June's Champions Trophy, the country's board said yesterday. The 15-man squad led by Angelo Mathews completed a week-long training session and will have three days of rest in Colombo before leaving for London on Thursday. They went through strength and altitude training in the central hill region of Kandy, 500 meters above sea level, to prepare for conditions in England, Sri Lanka Cricket said. "Over the past months many of us have not been able to play together consistently as a team due to injury or other factors," Mathews said in a statement. "So working together like this and learning to work with and around each other strengths is a great thing." Earlier this month, the cricket board secured the services of famed South African paceman Allan Donald as an interim bowling coach. Donald has declared that the Sri Lankan squad had the potential to win the next the Champions Trophy. Sri Lanka head coach Graham Ford, a fellow South African, has been preparing the Sri Lankans for the 50-over tournament starting June 1.—AFP

BADSTUBER THANKS FANS AFTER 15 YEARS AT BAYERN MUNICH

MUNICH: German defender Holger Badstuber has thanked Bayern Munich fans for their support ahead of his departure after 15 years at the club at the end of the season. "Bayern was true love for me" Badstuber said on Twitter yesterday. "Times change, people too. There will always be a link to the club. But it's good that I start a whole new chapter in the summer. I'm really looking forward to it," said Badstuber, who has spent the second half of the season on loan at Bundesliga rival Schalke. Bayern surprised many on Friday when it announced that Badstuber's contract with the club will expire on June 30, contrary to reports that it lasted for another season. "It was clear from the start that following his loan spell with Schalke, Holger Badstuber would look for a new experience, probably abroad," Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummennigge said.—AFP



BOSTON: Tampa Bay Rays' Tim Beckham, center, cannot beat the throw to Boston Red Sox's Mitch Moreland, behind, on a ground out in the fifth inning of a baseball game. —AP

SALE STRIKES OUT 12, RED SOX BEAT RAYS

BOSTON: Chris Sale struck out 12 while pitching seven solid innings and Mookie Betts hit a two-run homer, leading the Boston Red Sox to a 6-3 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Saturday. It was Sale's seventh straight start with double-digit strikeouts. The 6-foot-6 left-hander allowed three runs and two hits, both homers. Joe Kelly worked the eighth before Craig Kimbrel finished the three-hitter for his 11th save. Betts also doubled in a run in Boston's four-run fifth inning. Deven Marrero drove in two runs, helping the Red Sox to their 14th win in their last 19 games against the Rays. Kevin Kiermaier and Logan Morrison homered for Tampa Bay, which has dropped seven of 11. Blake Snell (0-4) allowed six runs and six hits in 5 2/3 innings.

NATIONALS 6, PHILLIES 4

Fresh from getting a big deal, Bryce Harper hit a game-ending home run with two outs in the ninth inning that sent Washington over Philadelphia. Hours before the game, the Nationals announced they had reached agreement with Harper on a \$21,625,000 contract for the 2018 season, covering the slugging outfielder through his last year before he can become a free agent. Then in the ninth, the 24-year-old star provided an immediate payoff. Pinch hitter Adam Lind led off with a single against Edubray Ramos (0-3) and two outs lat-

er, Harper lined an 0-1 pitch over the wall in center for his 11th homer of the season. Trailing 4-0 in the fifth, Washington tied it on a two-run homer by Trea Turner and a two-run double by Ryan Zimmerman. Shawn Kelley (3-0) pitched the ninth.

CARDINALS 5, CUBS 3

Carlos Martinez pitched into the seventh inning and collected two hits, leading the Cardinals to the win. St. Louis also got another solid performance from Tommy Pham, who had two hits and two RBIs. The outfielder is batting .387 with seven extra-base hits in eight games since being recalled from Triple-A this month. In a rematch of the season opener, Martinez (3-3) again topped Jon Lester (1-2). Martinez allowed three runs and five hits in 6 2/3 innings, striking out seven. Top Cubs prospect Ian Happ homered off Martinez in the seventh for his first hit in his major league debut. Lester was charged with four runs, three earned, and six hits in 5 2/3 innings. Seung Hwan Oh pitched the ninth for his 10th save in 11 opportunities.

RANGERS 6, ATHLETICS 3

Elvis Andrus and Nomar Mazara had consecutive two-RBI hits as Texas rallied earlier this time, beating Oakland for its season-best fifth straight victory. The Rangers loaded the

bases in the seventh when reliever Ryan Dull (1-2) allowed a hit and two walks before Liam Hendriks took over on the mound. Andrus then grounded a single through the left side of the infield to tie it at 4. Mazara followed by lining a two-run double over left fielder Khris Davis and to the wall. Tony Barnette (1-0) got the latest win despite allowing three hits and a run in one inning. Keona Kela gave up a run in the eighth before Matt Bush struck out two in a perfect ninth for his third save in four chances.

DODGERS 4, ROCKIES 0

Alex Wood struck out 10 in six innings and drove in a run with a well-placed bunt on a squeeze play, leading Los Angeles past Colorado. Brett Eibner supplied additional offense with his first home run of the season and Austin Barnes and Justin Turner added RBI doubles for the Dodgers, who won their 100th game at Coors Field, the most by any visiting club. Wood (4-0) fanned at least one batter in five of his six innings and struck out the side in the third en route to reversing a dismal history at Coors, where he had gone 0-2 with an 11.25 ERA in four previous starts. Tyler Anderson (2-4) had eight strikeouts in 5 2-3 innings for Colorado.

BLUE JAYS 7, MARINERS 2

Jose Bautista hit a three-run homer, and the Blue Jays earned their sixth win in seven games. Kendrys Morales also connected for Toronto, and Kevin Pillar had three hits, raising his AL-leading total to 47. Devon Travis became the first player to steal home for the Blue Jays since June 2, 2015, scoring on a double steal in the eighth. Dominic Leone (1-0) got one out for the win as Toronto improved to 8-4 in May. Seattle right-hander Ryan Weber left with a sore shoulder after 3 2/3 innings in his season debut. Nick Vincent (1-1) got the loss.

ROYALS 4, ORIOLES 3

Nate Karns struck out a career-high 12 in five innings, Eric Hosmer reached base four times and Kansas City beat Baltimore. Karns is the first in franchise history to strike out 12 in five innings. The last major league pitcher to accomplish that was Jake Arrieta of the Chicago Cubs on June 5, 2016. Baltimore's Chris Davis homered off Seth Maness (1-0) to tie it 3-3 in the sixth, but Brandon Moss homered off Alec Asher (1-2) to put Kansas City back ahead later that inning. Hosmer had two hits and walked twice. The Royals scored three

runs in 4 1/3 innings off Chris Tillman. Francisco Pena homered in the third and fifth innings against Karns. Pena had only one career homer entering the game. Kelvin Herrera worked a perfect ninth for his seventh save in eight chances.

GIANTS 3, REDS 1

Brandon Belt and Justin Ruggiano homered, Matt Moore pitched into the eighth inning and the Giants beat the Reds in a matchup of weary teams. San Francisco and Cincinnati had a quick turnaround after they played 17 innings Friday night, with the Giants winning 3-2 on Buster Posey's game-ending homer. Moore (2-4) provided a lift with 7 1/3 innings of one-run ball. He allowed eight hits, struck out seven and walked three. The last-place Giants (14-24) won consecutive games for just the second time this season. Scott Schebler homered for Cincinnati, and Lisalberto Bonilla (0-1) pitched a six-hitter for his first career complete game.

TWINS 4, INDIANS 1

Jose Berrios pitched neatly into the eighth inning in his first start of the season and the Twins beat the Indians in a game delayed several minutes when a squirrel ran around the field. Max Kepler connected to give the Twins a home run in 14 straight games, their longest streak since 1988. He also had an RBI single in a three-run fourth for the AL Central leaders, who handed Cleveland its third straight loss. The squirrel appeared from right field with Michael Brantley batting in the Cleveland sixth. Play was halted as the squirrel cut across the infield. It eventually hopped into the stands and play resumed. Berrios (1-0), called up from Triple-A Rochester on Friday, gave up one run and two hits in 7 2/3 innings. Brandon Kintzler pitched the ninth for his 10th save. Indians pitcher Mike Clevinger (1-1) allowed three runs and three hits while walking five in 4 1/3 innings.

TIGERS 4, ANGELS 3

JD Martinez powered up in just his second game of the season, hitting his second homer of the game in the ninth inning to lift Detroit over Los Angeles. Martinez opened the ninth with a solo shot off Bud Norris (1-2) to snap a 3-3 tie. He came off the disabled list Friday after missing the Tigers' first 33 games with a sprained right foot. Martinez opened the scoring in the second inning, following Victor Martinez's single with a two-run homer off Ricky Nolasco. Alex Wilson (1-1) pitched the

eighth and got the win. Justin Wilson struck out three in the ninth for his second save.

PIRATES 4, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Trevor Williams pitched five strong innings and Pittsburgh snapped a six-game losing streak with a victory over Arizona. Nick Ahmed homered twice for the Diamondbacks, the second to make it a one-run game in the ninth. It was Ahmed's first career multihomer game. Williams (2-2), in his second start since taking the rotation spot vacated when Jameson Taillon left to begin treatment for testicular cancer, gave up a run on four hits, striking out four and walking one. Taijuan Walker (3-3) gave up four runs, three earned, on eight hits in six innings. Tony Watson gave up a run in the ninth but got his eighth save.

BREWERS 11, METS 4

Travis Shaw capped Milwaukee's eight-run fifth inning with a three-run homer, helping the Brewers beat New York. Milwaukee sent 11 batters to the plate in its highest scoring inning of the season. Orlando Arcia had a two-run single and Jesus Aguilar drove in two runs with a double before Shaw connected for his eighth homer. Neil Walker homered for New York, which has dropped three in a row. Robert Gsellman (2-3) was charged with six runs, five earned, and nine hits in four-plus innings. Milwaukee right-hander Zach Davies (4-2) got the win despite allowing four runs and seven hits in five innings.

BRAVES 3, MARLINS 1

Julio Teheran pitched six scoreless innings, leading Atlanta to the road win. Nick Markakis had three hits and drove in a run for the Braves, and Matt Kemp extended his hitting streak to 13 games with a single in the eighth. Teheran (3-3) beat the Marlins for the first time in seven starts. He allowed three hits and walked two. Jim Johnson pitched a perfect ninth for his sixth save in eight chances. Justin Bour homered for the Marlins, who have lost five straight and 14 of 17 overall. Edinson Volquez (0-5) yielded two runs in six innings.

WHITE SOX 5, PADRES 4

Yolmer Sanchez singled with one out in the bottom of the ninth to score Tyler Saladino and snap Chicago's six-game losing streak. Wil Myers, Manuel Margot and Allen Cordoba all had solo homers for San Diego. David Robertson (2-0) pitched a scoreless top of the ninth for the win. Brad Hand (0-3) took the loss.—AP

MLB results/standings

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

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
NY Yankees	21	12	.636	-	Washington	23	12	.657	-
Baltimore	22	13	.629	-	NY Mets	16	19	.457	7
Boston	19	17	.528	3.5	Atlanta	13	20	.394	9
Tampa Bay	18	21	.462	6	Philadelphia	13	20	.394	9
Toronto	16	21	.432	7	Miami	13	22	.371	10
Central Division					Central Division				
Minnesota	19	14	.576	-	St. Louis	20	15	.571	-
Cleveland	18	17	.514	2	Milwaukee	20	17	.541	1
Detroit	18	17	.514	2	Cincinnati	19	17	.528	1.5
Chicago White Sox	16	18	.471	3.5	Chicago Cubs	18	18	.500	2.5
Kansas City	15	21	.417	5.5	Pittsburgh	15	22	.405	6
Western Division					Western Division				
Houston	25	11	.694	-	Colorado	23	15	.605	-
Texas	18	20	.474	8	LA Dodgers	22	15	.595	0.5
LA Angels	18	21	.462	8.5	Arizona	21	17	.553	2
Seattle	17	20	.459	8.5	San Diego	14	24	.368	9
Oakland	16	20	.444	9	San Francisco	14	24	.368	9



KANSAS CITY: Aric Almirola (43) crashes into Danica Patrick and Joey Logano during the NASCAR Monster Cup auto race at Kansas Speedway. —AP

DANICA TAKES A WILD RIDE IN FIERY WRECK AT KANSAS

KANSAS CITY: Danica Patrick's frustrating season continued Saturday night at Kansas Speedway when a broken brake rotor on Joey Logano's car sent them both into the wall and left Aric Almirola nowhere to go. Almirola plowed into Logano's car as it skidded along the wall, the force of the impact sent the rear of the No. 43 into the air. Almirola's car came to rest near the outside fence, and he appeared to tell safety crews he was OK as they cut the roof off to safely get him out.

Almirola was placed on a backboard and taken to the infield care center, then was airlifted to the University of Kansas Medical Center

for observation. He was conscious and alert throughout. Logano and Patrick were checked and released from the care center. "I'm just saying prayers for Aric," Logano said. "Something broke in our car. I don't know what it was. I noticed it going in and tried to back off, but you're going 215 (mph) and I hooked Danica. The right front popped or something and it took a hard left."

That hard left caught the right rear of Patrick, sending her into the wall. Her car burst into flames as it headed back across the track and finally came to rest along the apron, and Patrick quickly got out of her flaming car

and marched away. When Logano tried to speak to her, Patrick appeared to brusquely brush him off. "I told him, 'I'm not sure if it was you, but I'm pretty sure it was you.' Then he said it was a failure of some sort, which didn't make me feel better in that moment," Patrick said. "I hope Aric is OK. He's definitely feeling the worst of everybody."

OVERHEATING BRAKES

Almirola was running about 10 spots behind Logano and Patrick when the crash occurred. He tried to slam on the brakes and slow down, but he started getting sideways as he made

impact. The debris that was scattered across the track caused a red flag, stopping the race for nearly 30 minutes. Patrick and Logano were running just outside the top 10 with 67 laps to go. "A lot of us took a hard hit," Logano said. "That's the last thing you want to see." Overheating brakes had been a problem for several drivers Saturday night. Once the red flag was finally lifted and cars began rolling off, Clint Bowyer told his team over the radio he was concerned about the heat building up in his own brakes. As for Patrick, it was the third time in four races that her night ended in a wreck. She also crashed out of the season-opening

Daytona 500 and had engine trouble at Las Vegas. All that misfortune had left her 31st in points entering the weekend, and has raised speculation that she might walk away from NASCAR's top series after this season. Patrick talked openly about her frustrations earlier this week, and she bemoaned her rotten luck again Saturday night. "I don't understand why so much bad luck happens," she said. "I mean, why? What else can I say? On the other hand, I was having a really good night and that's what makes me the most mad. Every time I'm doing better, something stupid happens and I don't know what to say about it." —AP

NADAL CRUSHES DJOKOVIC TO REACH MADRID FINAL

MADRID: Rafael Nadal snapped a seven-match losing streak against Novak Djokovic in commanding fashion as he romped into the final of the Madrid Masters 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday. The Spaniard looks in ominous form with just over two weeks to go till the start of the French Open as he stretched his perfect record on clay this season to 14-0 with a dominant display. Nadal will look to seal his fifth title in Madrid in Sunday's final against Austrian Dominic Thiem in a repeat of the Barcelona Open final Nadal won 6-4, 6-1 two weeks ago.

"It is a great result. To win against Novak by that score you have to be playing very well, otherwise it's impossible," said Nadal. An open era record 50th meeting between Nadal and Djokovic served to highlight the Serb's dramatic dip in form since they last met in Rome almost exactly a year ago. "It was an important match for me. I lost a lot of times in a row. To break that means there are always nerves," added Nadal. "The circumstances nowadays are completely different compared to those seven matches that occurred before. I think that the last two years perhaps haven't been my best two years. For Novak, they were really good years."

Djokovic had won his last 15 sets stretching back to the 2014 French Open final against the 14-time Grand Slam champion. However, that run was emphatically ended as Nadal, willed on by a fervent home support including Cristiano Ronaldo in the VIP boxes, made the perfect start by breaking the Djokovic serve to love. "Rafa was obviously a better player today," said Djokovic. "He deserved to win. He controlled the game from beginning to the end." Indeed Djokovic could only muster four points in the opening four games as Nadal raced into a 4-0 lead. He did salvage some pride by

seeing off more pressure on his serve to at least hold twice and force Nadal to serve out to take the first set in 40 minutes. "It wasn't a very high quality of tennis from my side. I made a lot of unforced errors," added Djokovic. "His quality was very high. He managed to do whatever he wanted really, especially in the first set."

NEW GUIDANCE

Djokovic was playing his first tournament in Madrid since parting company with his long-term coach Marian Vajda. And on this evidence he needs new guidance as quickly as possible if he is to defend his French Open title as two more forehand errors gifted Nadal another break at the start of the second set.

Djokovic showed his resistance of old to break back when Nadal netted after being stretched out on the backhand side to level at 2-2. But his fight back was temporary as he handed the break straight back as he fired wide with a backhand after a brilliant Nadal passing shot had set up a fresh break point opportunity.

Again Djokovic's level improved as the set wore on to make Nadal serve it out. And Nadal was forced to save a break point in the final game with a drop shot Djokovic couldn't get back over the net. "I am humble enough to come here and say that I was nervous," said Nadal. "Especially to go from 40-15, to break point for him, that was a very hard moment for me."

Djokovic, though, fired long with a volley on Nadal's third match point sparking wild scenes of celebration. Victory also ensured Nadal closes the gap on Djokovic's lead in their head-to-head record to 26-24. Thiem booked his place in a first ever Masters series final with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas in a match that finished just after midnight local time. —AFP



PITTSBURGH: Chris Kunitz #14 of the Pittsburgh Penguins falls to the ice in front of the net against Craig Anderson #41 of the Ottawa Senators during the third period in Game One of the Eastern Conference Final during the 2017 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at PPG Paints Arena. —AFP

BOBBY LIFTS SENATORS PAST PENGUINS IN OT IN GAME 1

PITTSBURGH: Bobby Ryan beat Marc-Andre Fleury on a breakaway 4:59 into overtime to give the Ottawa Senators a 2-1 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Saturday in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals. Ryan took control near center ice and raced by Pittsburgh defenseman Olli Maatta before flipping a backhand past Fleury to give the upstart Senators early control of the series. "I knew at some point those pucks I'd been chasing all year long, they were going to come."

Ryan said after picking up his fifth goal of the playoffs. "You just want to redeem yourself. You let your teammates down (during the regular season). Now I'm getting to redeem myself a little bit. That's all I'm trying to do." Game 2 is Monday night in Pittsburgh. Ryan assisted on Jean-Gabriel Pageau's first-period goal. Craig Anderson made 27 saves. Evgeni Malkin's goal late in the third period forced the extra period, but the defending Stanley Cup champions struggled to generate any consistent pressure. Fleury made 33 stops, but let Ryan deke him out of position as the Penguins fell behind in a series for the first time in the playoffs. Pittsburgh only had 72 hours to recharge following a draining seven-game series against Washington. While the Penguins insisted they would have no problem turning the page with a spot in the Stanley Cup finals on the line, there was a dip in intensity both on the ice and in the stands.

THE NEUTRAL ZONE

For long stretches, it felt like the game could have been played in mid-December instead of mid-May, which was just fine by Ottawa. The Senators stressed they weren't simply just happy to reach the NHL's final four for the first time in a decade. While Ottawa hardly seemed overcome by the stage, the neutral zone trap coach Guy Boucher installed upon his hiring last spring didn't exactly cause the Penguins problems.

Instead, Pittsburgh's issues came after it gained the offensive zone. The team that led the NHL in scoring during the regular season and ousted the first and fourth overall teams during the first two rounds of the playoffs despite being outshot every game looked tentative, often passing up open looks in search of better ones that never materialized. Only the fourth line led by 40-year-old Matt Cullen and not the top two led by Malkin and Sidney Crosby - seemed intent on getting to the Ottawa net. "We're looking for that next play instead of putting pucks at the net," Pittsburgh coach Mike Sullivan said. The Penguins had plenty

of chances to take control but produced nothing out of four first-period power plays, including 45 seconds of a 5-on-3 that went nowhere. Ron Hainsey hit the crossbar early and Patric Hornqvist dinged the left post but that's as close as Pittsburgh would get to slipping one by Anderson. "There were some good looks there," said Crosby, who had just two shots in 23:32 of ice time. "They're not going to give you anything but we worked hard to get our chances and we've got to bury them when we get them."

The Senators focused not on creating extended pressure on Fleury but instead taking advantage of Pittsburgh's mistakes. The breakthrough came 14:32 into the first when Penguins defenseman Brian Dumoulin left a blind drop pass behind his

net that Ryan intercepted and slipped to Pageau in the right circle. The puck zipped over Fleury's glove and suddenly Ottawa had the lead of both the game and the series. The Senators last beat the Penguins in the playoffs in 2007 when Crosby and Malkin's partnership was still in its infancy. Ottawa won just three games combined while falling to Pittsburgh in 2008, 2010 and 2013. This group has embraced the underdog role, buoyed by defenseman Erik Karlsson's tireless brilliance and a style designed to frustrate opponents into submission. "Our players are really good at not fearing the outcome, and we play the way we play," Boucher said. "Whether it's overtime or third period or we're leading or we're trailing. We just really keep the same approach. So it's been healthy for us." —AP



MADRID: Rafael Nadal of Spain plays a return to Novak Djokovic of Serbia during their mens semifinal tennis match at the Madrid Open tennis tournament. — AP

GARCIA REDISCOVERS TOUCH TO BE IN HUNT AT PLAYERS

FLORIDA: Masters champion Sergio Garcia recovered from a slow start and found his old form to storm into contention at The Players Championship where a victory could enhance his special 2017 season. Garcia seized his long awaited Major title by winning the US Masters last month and now has his eyes set on the PGA Tour's flagship event where the Spaniard is five-under-par and just four shots off the lead. A 2008 Players Championship winner and frequent contender in the tournament, Garcia enters Sunday's final round with new-found status to match his strong history at TPC Sawgrass.

"I've told you guys many, many times it's one of my favorite golf courses we play all year, and for some reason I can see what I want to do," Garcia told reporters. "I just like the golf

course. I've been fortunate to be very successful here." Garcia's week got off to a slow start when he battled to a one-over-par 73 on Thursday, which featured a hole-in-one on the island green par-3 17th hole. He has since found his old form, culminating with Saturday's five-under 67 that vaulted him up the leaderboard. "I felt like a little bit in chains on Thursday because of how overwhelming everything has been," Garcia said. "I was thinking, 'come on, you have to play well after winning the Masters.' I probably put a little too much pressure on myself." Garcia, 37, is still basking in the glory that came with his Masters triumph and has brought the Green Jacket with him to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Now he will attempt to create another memorable moment and build on his growing resume. — Reuters

WARRIORS, SPURS TIE FILLED WITH FAMILIAR STORY LINES

OAKLAND: Leave it to Gregg Popovich to play mind games ahead of the Western Conference finals. So, what will he do to prepare his defense to stop the high-flying Warriors? "Pray," Popovich quipped Saturday before the Spurs departed Texas for the Bay Area. Stephen Curry could only chuckle at that one. "Gamesmanship," Golden State's Curry said, "I love it."

Popovich doesn't have his old coaching pals Mike Brown or Steve Kerr fooled. Brown spent part of last season working unofficially alongside Popovich and is now coaching Golden State in place of the ailing Kerr, who attended practice Saturday for the first time in more than three weeks as he recovers from his latest procedure to repair a spinal fluid leak that left him dealing with debilitating symptoms.

"That's Pop," Brown said with a laugh. "He's doing a lot more than praying right now. He knows what he wants to do against us." As dominant as the Warriors have been sweeping through the first two rounds of the playoffs, praying might not hurt either. Kevin Durant doesn't care who is on the court for San Antonio, he knows that Popovich will have his group ready complete with a few surprises in the playbook.

Tony Parker is out the rest of the way with a leg injury. Kawhi Leonard is not at 100 percent because of a tender ankle. Tim Duncan is long ago retired. "They're a machine," Durant said. "They just keep going at you, no matter who's on the court. They run their system. Similar to us, I feel like, where a guy goes down, somebody steps in."

San Antonio thoroughly dismantled James Harden and Houston 114-75 in Game 6 on Thursday night behind LaMarcus Aldridge's 34 points and 12 rebounds to close out the series as All-Star Leonard sat out nursing an injured left ankle he hurt in a Game 5 overtime win. Golden State has barely been tested so far this postseason, going 8-0 against Portland and Utah.

Sure, it was nearly seven months ago when the Spurs came to town and thoroughly spoiled Durant's much-hyped debut - a 129-100 whipping in the season opener - with the Warriors after his scrutinized departure from Oklahoma City. "That seems like years ago to be honest," KD said. "Both teams have gotten so much better." The Spurs are back in the Western Conference finals for the first time since winning the 2014 title. —AP

HAMILTON WINS THRILLING SPANISH GRAND PRIX

MONTMELO: Lewis Hamilton roared back into serious contention for a fourth drivers' world title yesterday when he drove to a well-judged victory for Mercedes in a dramatic Spanish Grand Prix. The three-time champion recovered after losing the lead from his 64th pole position to make the most of key strategic decisions and win with power and precision ahead of championship leader Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari and Australia's Daniel Ricciardo, who was third.

Hamilton finished the 66-lap contest 3.5 seconds ahead of the four-time champion German, having blasted past him to regain the lead after 44 laps. It was his second win in five races this year and the 55th of his career and it brought him within six points of Vettel in the title race. The German now has 104 points and Hamilton has 98.

"That is how racing should be," said a delighted Hamilton. "Seb was really fast! My start was not good enough-I got a bit of wheel-spin and I will have to talk to my guys about that, but the team did a great job this weekend." "At turn one, when we made contact, I just felt like I ran out of road and I was on the outside...but that is racing, and I wouldn't have changed it for the world." After being edged into second place during a contest that delighted the crowd in Catalonia, Vettel said: "I was pushing. I had a really good start. Lewis and myself picked up wheel-spin straight away. I pulled the clutch in and could gain on him. I stayed ahead and then got into a nice rhythm. But Lewis was fast, too. I tried to brake as late as possible into turn one, locked up, but managed to stay ahead. Then, when I was alone, he just flew past me down the straight. "It was a shame, but it was a nice race."

On a near-perfect Spring day by the Mediterranean, Vettel made a masterful start to take the lead on the long drag into Turn One where Kimi Raikkonen collided with Max Verstappen and Fernando Alonso made contact with Felipe Massa — the former two retiring on the first lap. Hamilton owed his recovery to key decisions including switching to a set of medium tyres at his first stop, when Vettel remained on softs, and a selfless contribution from his team-mate Valtteri Bottas, to win with power and precision. Bottas, who claimed his maiden F1 victory in Russia last month, retired when his engine failed while he was running third.

'LIKE A TRAIN'

Hamilton's tactical choice allowed him to switch to the softs on lap 36 with Vettel putting on mediums a lap later. Hamilton then produced a great move to pass Vettel at the start of lap 44, powering past him on the outside of the straight, leaving his rival feeling helpless to resist. "No chance, no chance-like a train!" exclaimed Vettel. "That was a very tough race. Physically it was hard. My neck is fine, but I lost nearly two kilos out there today and I was really straining to keep up with Seb," Hamilton added. "It is a real privilege to race against someone as good as him." Ricciardo, in a Red Bull, was more than a minute adrift of the leaders, ahead of Mexican Sergio Perez and his Force India team-mate Frenchman Esteban Ocon.

German Nico Hulkenberg came home sixth for Renault, ahead of compatriot Pascal Wehrlein of Sauber, who lost his place due to a time penalty for a pit-lane mistake during the race. Spaniard Carlos Sainz was eighth on the road, but classified seventh, ahead of Russian Daniil Kvyat who did a superb job for Toro Rosso after starting at the back of the grid, and Frenchman Romain Grosjean of Haas. Every driver, apart from those on the podium, was lapped during an exhausting contest that saw Finn Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari and last year's winner, Dutch teenager Max Verstappen, crash into retirement on the first lap. — AFP



MONTMELO: Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton (C) poses with his team after winning the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix on May 14, 2017 at the Circuit de Catalunya. — AFP

CAPTAIN KUYT LEADS FEYENOORD TO TITLE

THE HAGUE: Veteran captain Dirk Kuyt scored a hat trick yesterday as Feyenoord beat Heracles Almelo 3-1 to win its 15th Dutch Eredivisie title and the first in 18 long years for its fervent fans. Kuyt, 36, who returned to Feyenoord in the twilight of his career saying he wanted to lead the team to the Dutch championship, scored his 100th goal for the club in the first minute to settle nerves throughout Rotterdam. He doubled the lead in the 12th, then put the result beyond doubt with a penalty kick shortly before the end.

Thousands of fans in the city center watched on large screens and roared in delight after Kuyt's early opener and again 11 minutes later. The party truly began across the port city when Kuyt grabbed his third in the 84th minute. "My dream has come true," Kuyt told Fox Sports amid scenes of jubilation at Feyenoord's De Kuip stadium.

Coach Giovanni van Bronckhorst's team bounced back in style to take the title in the final round of the league season after slumping to a shock 3-0 defeat last week to fellow Rotterdam team Excelsior. "I have experienced a lot in my

life as a footballer, but this is the most beautiful moment of all," an emotional Van Bronckhorst told NOS Radio 1.

Ajax, which secured a spot in the Europa League final on Thursday, started the day one point behind Feyenoord and beat Willem II Tilburg 3-1 to remain second. The Amsterdam club can now turn its focus to the final against Manchester United in Stockholm on May 24. Defending champion PSV Eindhoven finished third.

Feyenoord has long been a member of the elite top three of Dutch football, along with Ajax and PSV, but the Rotterdam club has struggled in recent years. Feyenoord's history features the Netherlands' first ever European Cup win, when it came from a goal down to beat Celtic 2-1 after extra time at Milan's San Siro stadium in 1970. The club also is a two-time winner of the UEFA Cup, in 1974 and 2002. Van Bronckhorst was lucky to hold onto his job last year after the team slumped to seven straight defeats, but the club kept faith in the former Feyenoord, Barcelona, Arsenal and Rangers defender and he delivered.

Unsurprisingly, Van Bronckhorst singled out Kuyt for praise, saying he coped well when he did not start several matches

this season, making way for other in-form players. "I am so happy for him," Van Bronckhorst said. — AP



ROTTERDAM: Feyenoord's Dirk Kuyt (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal during the Eredivisie league football match Feyenoord versus Heracles at the Kuip Stadium. — AFP

LAZIO STUMBLE BEFORE FINAL

MILAN: Lazio stumbled ahead of next week's Italian Cup final showdown against Juventus falling to a 3-2 Serie A defeat at Fiorentina on Saturday. Second-half strikes from Khouma Babacar and Nikola Kalinic, and a Cristiano Lombardi own goal sealed three points which kept Fiorentina's Europa League hopes alive. Keita Balde's 55th-minute opener for Lazio, his seventh in four games, had Fiorentina hanging their heads in desperation and staring at a possible third defeat from their past five games.

But Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi rested several key players ahead of the Cup final date with treble-chasing Juventus, and Paulo Sousa's hosts capitalised to claim a precious win that sent them up to seventh, one point behind Europa League-chasing AC Milan, who were held 1-1 away to fifth-placed Atalanta. Gerard Deulofeu got the equalizer for Milan three minutes from time after prolific goal-scoring defender Andrea Conti's opener just before the break-his eighth of the season. The result ensured Atalanta qualify for next season's Europa League after a 26-year absence from continental competition.

In Florence, Babacar spurned a chance to level moments after Balde's strike when Lazio goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha sent a clearance straight to the Senegal striker but made amends by tipping his curling drive to safety. But Strakosha was left stunned when the big centre-forward pulled Fiorentina level minutes later with a header at the keeper's near post. Sousa, who according to reports could be replaced by ousted Inter Milan coach Stefano Pioli, made a series of substitutions that added impetus in a busy finale.

Strakosha blocked a Matias Vecino snapshot, and although Viola keeper Ciprian Tatarusanu was happy to see Gil Patric's deflected effort come off the upright, Fiorentina had the momentum. Strakosha did well to parry a Cristian Tello strike, but it came off Lazio man Stefan Radu and became an assist for Kalinic as the Croatian fired the hosts into a 2-1 lead on 73 minutes. A curling drive from Kalinic had Fiorentina 3-1 up minutes later when it came off the far post and off the leg of Lombardi.

Lazio were forced to finish with 10 men when Marco Parolo hobbled off after Inzaghi had used all three substitutes. But the visitors came fighting back, Luis Alberto finding Alessandro Murgia with a cross that saw his looping header go over Tatarusanu and into the far top corner. Lazio remain fourth, 15 points behind Juventus who can wrap up a record sixth consecutive title with a draw away to Roma on Sunday. Roma sit second at seven points adrift, with Napoli, who are at Torino, one point further off the pace. — AFP



TURIN: Torino's Argentinian forward Lucas Boye vies with Napoli's Spanish striker Jose Maria Callejon (R) during the Italian Serie A football match Torino vs Napoli at the Olympic stadium. — AFP

FREE-SCORING NAPOLI BLAST FIVE PAST TORINO

MILAN: Napoli continued their free-scoring season by thumping Torino 5-0 away in Serie A yesterday while hapless Inter Milan lost again in front of disgruntled fans at San Siro. Inter's 2-1 loss to Sassuolo was their fourth defeat in a row and most of their hardcore fans walked out in protest in the 25th minute, leaving a banner on the curva Nord saying they had "gone to lunch".

With two rounds of matches to play after Sunday, Juve lead with 85 points, five ahead of Napoli, with AS Roma a further two points behind. Juventus were away to Roma in the evening game, needing one point to wrap up their third successive title. Jose Callejon gave Napoli a seventh-minute lead at Torino, sending an angled drive past Joe Hart and into the far corner. Lorenzo Insigne added a second goal on the hour, then Mertens surprised Hart at the near post to score the third before Callejon slid in Faouzi Ghoulam's cross for his second of the match. Piotr Zielinski put the finishing

touch as Napoli took their tally for the season to 86 goals.

There were bizarre goals elsewhere. Chievo were left fuming when goalkeeper Stefano Sorrentino lost his boot during a clash on the byline but play was waved on and Fabio Quagliarella scored into an empty net to put Sampdoria ahead. Roberto Inglese volleyed home early in the second half to give the Flying Donkeys a 1-1 draw. Genoa lost 1-0 at relegated Palermo when their goalkeeper Eugenio Lamanna caught a harmless Andrea Rispoli header under the crossbar but stepped backwards into his goal and took the ball over the line with him. Genoa's defeat left them with 33 points, only two ahead of Crotone in the relegation zone with Empoli sandwiched in between. Crotone continued their bid for a great escape by beating Udinese 1-0 with a goal by Marcus Rohden while Empoli lost 3-2 at Cagliari. Palermo and Pescara are already down. — Reuters

FANS WALK OUT AS INTER SLUMP TO DEFEAT AGAIN

MILAN: Angry Inter Milan fans stormed out of the San Siro to "have lunch" in protest as a Pietro lemmello brace gave Sassuolo a surprise 2-1 victory yesterday. A week after sacking coach Stefano Pioli, who replaced Frank De Boer two months into the campaign, crisis-hit Inter's fans demanded a reaction.

Inter's players were met by the sight of several angry and offensive banners hung by fans at the San Siro, one claiming Pioli was "the only actor in a team playing cameo roles". But the protest proved futile as Inter produced a dismal performance that saw them slump to a sixth defeat from their past eight league games, leaving them in eighth, three points behind AC Milan and a Europa League qualifying place.

Inter youth team coach Stefano Vecchi has taken over as caretaker for the last three games of the season, and was given early hope when Croatian midfielder Ivan Perisic hit a volley into the side netting, while embattled captain Mauro Icardi stung Andrea Consigli's gloves. But before the half-hour, fans in the Curva Nord walked out, leaving a banner that read:

"Since you don't deserve our support, we're going to lunch!"

Inter continued to threaten, with Argentine striker Icardi's header from a Perisic knock-down hitting the post from close range. But a defensive blunder by Jeison Murillo saw Stefano Sensi steal possession and set up Domenico Berardi, who rolled across for lemmello to beat Samir Handanovic from the edge of the box. Vecchi replaced Joao Mario with Eder for the start of the second half and only seconds later the Italy international's angled drive forced Consigli into a desperate save with his legs.

At the other end, Handanovic blocked in similar fashion from lemmello, but the forward had his second minutes later when he fired into the roof of the net from a Pol Lirola delivery. Inter rallied, but Eder, Perisic and Icardi all spurned chances before the former finally reduced arrears when his low drive took a deflection before beating Consigli low down in the corner. Later on Sunday, Juventus would clinch a record sixth consecutive scudetto with a draw away to Roma, who are seven points adrift with three games remaining. — AFP



MILAN: Inter Milan's Mauro Icardi, left, stands with his teammates Roberto Gagliardini, center, and Jeison Murillo after Sassuolo's Pietro lemmello scored during the Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and Sassuolo at the San Siro stadium. — AFP

CONTE MAKES CHELSEA A HAPPY FAMILY AGAIN



WEST BROMWICH: Chelsea's Italian head coach Antonio Conte celebrates victory after the English Premier League match between West Bromwich Albion and Chelsea at The Hawthorns stadium. — AFP

WEST BROMWICH: Antonio Conte was fielding a question in his post-match news conference when David Luiz and Diego Costa appeared from out of nowhere, barged past a couple of reporters and dragged their manager out of his chair and out of the room. "Guys, champions! Enough, enough!" Luiz roared.

Chelsea's Premier League title-winning celebrations at The Hawthorns were in full flow heading into the early hours of Saturday morning, and the players wanted Conte to be part of it. Life at Chelsea, with its big-time players and trigger-happy owner Roman Abramovich, can resemble a soap opera at times but it has been one big happy family at Stamford Bridge this season. It's all down to Conte.

The popular Italian was the first to get the "bumps" - the celebratory ritual

so common in England these days where a person is thrown in the air and caught by his club colleagues - after Chelsea's 1-0 win at West Bromwich Albion on Friday evening that clinched the title. Conte paced the field post-match, hugging people twice and even three times, and was right in the middle of a line of players as they sprinted toward Chelsea's fans and dived on the wet turf.

GRACE AND CLASS

Back in the dressing room, Conte walked through the door after some TV interviews and was soaked by a huge bucket of water. Then, Costa was among the players dousing Conte in champagne and beer. "I had to change my suit," Conte said, with a smile, "my suit is a disaster now." Costa was the life and soul of the post-match party,

another testament to Conte, who has got the striker happy and playing close to his best again this season. The Spain international reportedly was one of the players who fell out with Jose Mourinho last season, contributing to the negative atmosphere that engulfed the club as it finished, somewhat embarrassingly, in 10th place.

Similarly, winger Eden Hazard is working hard and playing with a smile on his face again, which couldn't be said last season when - as English soccer's reigning player of the year - he only scored his first goal in April and was dropped from the team for some matches. On Friday, with the score at 0-0 late in the first half, Hazard was the one chasing back as Leicester mounted a counterattack from a Chelsea corner to force a 2-on-1 situation near the area. — AP

'RICH' ARSENAL FANS DON'T INFLUENCE ME: WENGER

LONDON: Arsene Wenger dismissed protests from Arsenal fans seeking his removal as manager and called on his players to focus instead on the club's push for Champions League football next season. An emphatic 4-1 win at Stoke kept the Gunners in contention for a top four finish and a 21st consecutive season of elite European football. But while Wenger's name was sung out heartily by supporters inside Stoke's stadium early in the game a plane flew overhead carrying a banner calling for the Frenchman not to return next season.

"When you say fans, who do you mean? The rich ones?" said Wenger when asked for his reaction. "Look, I am paid to do my job for the club I love and I will do that as long as I'm here with full commitment. I'm not influenced by that at all, all I do is give my best. We have 69 points today so let's make 72 on Tuesday and after that I will give my best for as long as I'm here for the values of this club and for the club. I want to focus on football and the rest is less important. I'm not in politics. I'm in sport, I love sport and give my 24 hours a day for what I love. I am in a public job, some agree with me, some not."

Earlier in the day, reports in France had even suggested that Wenger has already agreed a one-year deal to remain in charge at the Emirates, but the 67-year-old refused to confirm or deny the claim. "There's no information about that," said Wenger. "Nothing." Arsenal's fifth win in six games lifted them to within a point of

fourth-placed Liverpool although Wenger insisted he was only focused on Tuesday's meeting with Sunderland and the final game of the season against Everton.

"We have 69 points tonight so we have come through a difficult period in March," said Wenger. "At the moment we have consistency and let's finish well. We have a big game on Tuesday, we play every three days. I don't think like that about our chances. I think let's do our job and go to 72 on Tuesday and focus to win the game. Sunderland have nothing to lose."

OUT-PLAYED

The victory featured two goals from Olivier Giroud and efforts from Mesut Ozil and Alexis Sanchez although Arsenal faced an anxious period in the second half after Peter Crouch pulled the score back to 2-1 with a goal that owed much to an obvious handball from the Stoke substitute. After the game, Wenger even referred to his team having kept a "clean sheet" so convinced was he that the Stoke goal should not have stood.

"What do you think?" smiled Wenger when asked if that was why he referred to a "clean sheet." "I was suspicious of the noise of the ball. I got to the fourth official after it had been confirmed. I was surprised he got to the ball when I saw his position, then people told me it was handball." The decisive third Sanchez goal was all the more important given that the Chilean appeared about to be replaced due to injury. — AFP



LONDON: Crystal Palace's Serbian midfielder Luka Milivojevic celebrates scoring a goal off a penalty during the English Premier League football match between Crystal Palace and Hull City at Selhurst Park. — AFP

DISMAL HULL RELEGATED

	Crystal Palace	4
	Hull City	0

LONDON: Hull City crashed out of the Premier League yesterday as Crystal Palace secured their own survival with a 4-0 thrashing of their relegation rivals at Selhurst Park. Marco Silva's side knew only a victory would give them a realistic chance of staying up, but goals from Wilfried Zaha, Christian Benteke, Luka Milivojevic and Patrick van Aanholt consigned them to the drop.

Third-bottom Hull, winners just once in their last six matches, return to the Championship just 12 months after their promotion via the play-offs. They paid the price for a chaotic campaign marred by poor signings and boardroom turmoil. The Tigers will join already relegated Sunderland and Middlesbrough in the second tier next season.

"The season has been a long, hard slog and it's a sad day. We just came up short," Hull captain Michael Dawson said. "We were chasing the game all afternoon. The boys in the dressing room and the staff are very disappointed." Palace had needed a point to stay up and their dominant display completed boss Sam Allardyce's latest survival mission after he rescued Sunderland last season. Swansea City's win at Sunderland on Saturday had left Hull with no margin for error and Palace's desire to secure their safety meant the stakes couldn't have been higher.

SELF-INFLICTED WOUND

In the circumstances, the first goal would be crucial and Hull, who had won only once at Palace in 32 years, were getting a sinking feeling in south London once again after Zaha punished a terrible blunder to open the scoring in the third minute. When a Palace pass went astray, Andrea Ranocchia had the simple task of hoofing clear, but instead the Hull defender completely missed his kick and Zaha gleefully pounced on the loose ball to slot home.

Hull were rocked by that self-inflicted wound and James Tomkins almost doubled Palace's lead with a glancing header from Jason Puncheon's corner. With just one away league win all season, the odds were heavily stacked against Hull and Alfred N'Diaye couldn't find a cure for their travel sickness as he blazed well over. Hull's fate was sealed in the 34th minute when Benteke barged in front of Harry Maguire to meet Puncheon's corner with a close-range header that flashed past Eldin Jakupovic.

When Puncheon escaped without conceding a penalty after blocking Kamil Grosicki's free-kick with his hand, Silva and his players must have realised there would be no great escape. Silva sent on Shaun Maloney and Jarrod Bowen at half-time, but Hull lacked poise and Palace held them at bay with ease. Bowen had Hull's one decent chance to grab a lifeline but he screwed wide from a Sam Clucas cross. Time was running out for Hull's condemned men and Milivojevic stroked home an 85th-minute penalty after Dawson's foul on Jeffrey Schlupp. Van Aanholt delivered the final blow with a close-range finish in the 90th minute. — AFP

CAIXINHA WANTS RANGERS TO FINISH WITH FLOURISH

GLASGOW: Rangers manager Pedro Caixinha has challenged his players to finish the season with a flourish after his side clinched third place in the Scottish Premiership. The Glasgow giants now cannot be caught by fourth-place St Johnstone following their 2-1 win over 10-man Hearts at Ibrox on Saturday. Despite having nothing to play for in their final two matches, Caixinha wants his players to sign off the season in style with victories against Aberdeen and St Johnstone.

"It is all about winning," Caixinha said. "It is going to be the last working week before a short period of vacation and return again. The working week is ready. I am always working in advance and depending on what is going on, I make some changes after I analyse the game. We want to finish good and until the last moment they are here and I am here, we can think only about winning."

Rangers trail second-place Aberdeen, beaten 3-1 by champions Celtic on Friday, by six points ahead of Wednesday's clash at Ibrox, but have a vastly inferior goal difference. Joe Garner headed Rangers into a

sixth-minute lead before Prince Buaben was shown a straight red for Hearts midway through the half. The Jambos grabbed a 51st-equaliser through Isma Goncalves, but Barrie McKay fired Rangers in front again a minute later. Caixinha confirmed the process of bringing in new recruits was well under way, with a number of players also expected to leave Ibrox during the close season. One of those departing is former Queens Park Rangers defender Clint Hill, after the 38-year-old confirmed he has not been offered a new contract.

"I will be moving on, unfortunately. It has been a great year," the veteran defender said. "It has been hard on the pitch in terms of performances, but it has been brilliant for me to play at this club. Obviously you are a little bit disappointed because when you play at such a big club, you want it to last as long as possible. But I have been in football long enough to know that when a new manager comes in they have different ideas, different personnel. So I am just trying to enjoy every minute as if it's my last and hopefully I will only take good memories away." — AFP

JESUS, AGUERO SHINE TOGETHER: GUARDIOLA

MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola is certain Gabriel Jesus and Sergio Aguero can play together for Manchester City despite suggesting it was a disaster when they first linked up. Guardiola surprisingly started with the fit-again Aguero on the bench as City moved a step closer to Champions League qualification by beating Leicester 2-1 at Eastlands on Saturday.

Third-placed City are three points ahead of fifth-placed Arsenal with two games remaining as they battle for a top-four finish. Jesus scored the penalty that put City two goals in front after David Silva had given them the lead with an effort that Leicester believed should have been disallowed for offside. The Brazilian striker's arrival from Palmeiras in January has cast doubt over Aguero's long-term future at City, even though the Argentine has scored 31 goals this season.

The two forwards did start together for the 2-2 draw at Middlesbrough on April 30, but struggled initially before clicking, and they had 12 minutes alongside each other against Leicester after Aguero came on as a late substitute. "They play at Middlesbrough together, and in the first half it was a disaster. The second half was much better. Both them have quality enough to see who wins the game for the side," Guardiola said. "Gabriel can play on the left side if Aguero is in the middle. They can do that. In Brazil, Gabriel plays most of the time in the left. Of course they can play together. It depends on their behaviour and mood."

Jesus's penalty means he has scored twice in three matches since returning after two-and-a-half months out with a broken foot. "We cannot forget that Gabriel was out injured for almost

three months. It is still like he is in pre-season a little bit," Guardiola said. "Gabriel is a guy who understands perfectly he has a lot of things to learn. He is open-minded, he will do it."

'FREAK PENALTY'

Guardiola's side made heavy weather of beating Leicester, with Shinji Okazaki's spectacular volley bringing the visitors back into the game just before half-time. Craig Shakespeare's side looked set to equalise when Riyad Mahrez was tripped by Gael Clichy 15 minutes from the end, but the winger slipped as he scored the result-

ing penalty, touching the ball twice and causing the goal to be ruled out.

"In the second half, we didn't know whether to attack or defend. You have to understand how important the game was for everybody," Guardiola said. "When you are in the middle of that, you are not sure if you defend or attack. But with the 10 minutes of injury time we had at the end, they defended quite well, so congratulations to the team. We are trying to finish the season well." Leicester manager Shakespeare acknowledged the decision to rule out Mahrez's penalty was the right one. — AFP



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Brazilian striker Gabriel Jesus celebrates scoring the second goal during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Leicester City at the Etihad Stadium. — AFP

English Premier League results/standings

Crystal Palace 4 (Zaha 3, Benteke 34, Milivojevic 85-pen, Van Aanholt 90)
 Hull 0; Tottenham 2 (Wanyama 6, Kane 48) Manchester United 1 (Rooney 71);
 West Ham 0 Liverpool 4 (Sturridge 35, Coutinho 57, 62, Origi 76).
 Played Saturday: Bournemouth 2 (Stanislas 25, King 85) Burnley 1 (Vokes 83)
 Manchester City 2 (Silva 29, Jesus 36-pen) Leicester 1 (Okazaki 42) Middlesbrough 1
 (Bamford 72) Southampton 2 (Rodriguez 42, Redmond 57) Stoke 1 (Crouch 67)
 Arsenal 4 (Giroud 42, 80, Ozil 55, Sanchez 76) Sunderland 0 Swansea 2 (Llorente 9,
 Naughton 45).
 English Premier League table after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost,
 goals for, goals against, points):

Chelsea	36	28	3	5	76	29	87 — champions
Tottenham	36	24	8	4	73	24	80
Liverpool	37	21	10	6	75	42	73
Man City	36	21	9	6	72	38	72
Arsenal	36	21	6	9	72	43	69
Man Utd	36	17	14	5	52	29	65
Everton	37	17	10	10	61	41	61
West Brom	36	12	9	15	41	46	45
Southampton	36	12	9	15	41	47	45
Bournemouth	37	12	9	16	54	66	45
Leicester	36	12	7	17	46	56	43
West Ham	37	11	9	17	45	63	42
Crystal Palace	37	12	5	20	50	61	41
Stoke	37	10	11	16	40	56	41
Burnley	37	11	7	19	38	53	40
Watford	36	11	7	18	37	59	40
Swansea	37	11	5	21	43	69	38
Hull	37	9	7	21	36	73	34 — relegated
Middlesbrough	37	5	13	19	27	50	28 — relegated
Sunderland	36	6	6	24	28	62	24 — relegated

Note: top four qualify for Champions League; teams finishing fifth to seventh qualify for Europa League; bottom three relegated to Championship.

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Chelsea a happy
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NADAL CRUSHES DJOKOVIC TO REACH MADRID FINAL Page 16



LONDON: Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Philippe Coutinho (C) shoots past West Ham United's Welsh defender James Collins (2R) to score the team's second goal during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Liverpool at The London Stadium. —AFP

COUTINHO MASTERCLASS LIFTS REDS TO THIRD

LONDON: Philippe Coutinho fired Liverpool within touching distance of the Champions League as the Brazilian's masterclass inspired a 4-0 demolition of West Ham yesterday. Jurgen Klopp's side took the lead when Coutinho's sublime pass was converted by Daniel Sturridge in the first half at the London Stadium. Coutinho stole the spotlight again in the second half with a superb solo strike and a cool finish to put Liverpool three goals ahead before Divock Origi netted to cap the Reds' swaggering display.

Liverpool moved back one point above Manchester City into third place in the Premier League. Although City and fifth placed Arsenal both have a game in hand, Klopp's men will be guaranteed a Champions League berth if they beat relegated Middlesbrough at Anfield next Sunday. In the unlikely event Arsenal lose at home to relegated Sunderland on Tuesday then Liverpool will clinch a top four spot without playing.

West Ham ended Tottenham's title dreams in their previous match, but Coutinho ensured they never came close to derailing Liverpool. It might have been different if West Ham had capitalised on two early chances. Sam Byram fired inches past the

post before Edmilson Fernandes forced Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet into a smart save. Sandwiched in between was Liverpool's first chance of the afternoon after 11 minutes.

Coutinho's corner was met by Joel Matip whose header bounced down and off the crossbar as West Ham somehow scrambled the ball clear. Liverpool began to find some momentum and Sturridge freed Adam Lallana, who shot straight at Adrian. The Hammers goalkeeper also had to be alert to keep out James Milner's low drive before watching Coutinho's long-range effort drift just over the top of his crossbar. Milner dragged his shot wide when well placed but the breakthrough arrived via Sturridge in the 35th minute. Coutinho split open the West Ham defence with a majestic long pass and Sturridge strode through, rounded Adrian and slotted home his first goal since January 2.

BREATHING SPACE

West Ham manager Slaven Bilic has made no secret that Sturridge is on his transfer wish-list. For now, Sturridge was focused on sending Liverpool closer to the top-four but their lead should

have evaporated moments before half-time. Manuel Lanzini's corner found its way to Andre Ayew but the striker hit the post from two-yards out before incredibly repeating the trick from the rebound.

That could have changed the course of the match but instead, Liverpool took full control. Adrian foiled them on three occasions in quick succession. Origi's low shot was pushed out before Lallana's drive was blocked by the Spaniard's feet. When West Ham failed to clear, Emre Can freed Georginio Wijnaldum and Adrian again came to the home side's rescue at his near post.

The crossbar was still shaking from Wijnaldum's fierce volley when Coutinho gave Liverpool breathing space in the 57th minute. Coutinho weaved his way through tired West Ham bodies before finally beating Adrian with a fine, low drive. It was game over when Coutinho struck again five minutes later on the counter-attack. West Ham were angered that Matip escaped with an elbow on Winston Reid but Liverpool broke and Coutinho danced past Collins easily before netting. There was still time for Origi to stab home from close-range in the 76th minute following Wijnaldum's miscued shot.

REDS READY - STURRIDGE

Daniel Sturridge says Liverpool are ready to finish off their bid to qualify for the Champions League. Sturridge marked his first Premier League start since January by putting Liverpool ahead with a cool finish in the first half at the London Stadium. After top-four rivals Arsenal and Manchester City won on Saturday, the pressure was on Liverpool and they responded in the perfect manner.

Jurgen Klopp's third-placed side will guarantee a spot in Europe's elite club competition if they defeat relegated Middlesbrough at Anfield next Sunday. "It's important for everyone at the club to finish in the top four," Sturridge said. "I'm glad to be starting and glad to be providing some chances for the boys. It's a great victory for us."

"I think we've been good the last few weeks but maybe should have taken some more points in some of the games. "It was an important game for us. We rose to the occasion. We showed what we are about today. "We worked hard. We kept the ball well. We did everything the manager asked of us." — AFP



LONDON: Football fans invade the pitch after the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United at White Hart Lane. — AFP

KANE SINKS UNITED IN LANE FAREWELL

LONDON: Homegrown hero Harry Kane scored Tottenham Hotspur's last goal at White Hart Lane as they bade farewell to their home with a 2-1 victory over Manchester United yesterday. Kane, born up the road in Chingford, added to Victor Wanyama's early header to secure a victory that confirmed Spurs will finish in second place in the Premier League and ended United's hopes of a top-four finish.

Demolition work at the Lane, Spurs' home since 1899, will start on Monday, with Mauricio Pochettino's side playing at Wembley next season before moving into their new ground, which is being built on the same site, in 2018. The Lane has been graced by such Spurs greats as Jimmy Greaves, Steve Perryman and Glenn Hoddle and it was fitting that Kane, emblem of their exciting current side, should be their final goal-scorer there.

It was Spurs' 14th successive home league win-equaling the club record, set over two seasons in 1987 — and meant they finished a league campaign unbeaten at home for the first time since 1964-65. An on-pitch ceremony featuring famous figures from the club's past was due to take place after the match.

Sixth-place United, who replied through Wayne Rooney, fell to a second successive league defeat, having seen a 25-game unbeaten run ended by a 2-0 loss down the road at Arsenal last weekend. Guaranteed to finish outside the top four for the third time in four seasons, Jose Mourinho's team must now beat Ajax in the Europa League final in Stockholm on May 24 to procure a place in the Champions League.

arena awash with blue and white as Spurs' fans waved flags bearing the legend "THE LANE, THE FINALE" and filled the air with songs. Mourinho made eight changes to the team that had edged Celta Vigo in the Europa League semi-finals on Thursday, with 19-year-old defender Axel Tuanzebe lining up in midfield, and within six minutes his side were behind.

Spurs played a corner short on the left and Ben Davies's deep cross was emphatically headed home by the leaping Wanyama. United briefly threatened to draw level, Rooney heading over the bar from a Daley Blind corner and then playing an outside-of-the-foot pass down the line to Anthony Martial, who cut in and curled wide. But with Spurs' fans happily serenading favourites of yesteryear-Ledley King, Teddy Sheringham, Aaron Lennon, who is fighting mental health issues at present-the hosts quickly reasserted control.

United goalkeeper David de Gea was the busiest man in the stadium, parrying a strike by Son Heung-Min, acrobatically denying Dele Alli and saving with his legs from Kane, who also clipped the bar with a header. Kane struck three minutes into the second half, innovatively volleying home Christian Eriksen's free-kick from the left to take his goal tally for the league campaign to 22.

Rooney reduced the arrears in the 71st minute, prodding in Martial's low cross and giving United their first goal in an away game against another member of the top six this season at the fifth and final attempt. As a steady rain began to fall, Alli came close to restoring Spurs' two-goal cushion, but his curling effort was headed off the line by Phil Jones. — AFP

Lennon support

The teams emerged to find the new old

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Additional hikes are likely to result in Increasing Pain Page 22

ETHIOPIAN HONEY FARMERS STRUGGLE WITH STICKY TRADITIONS

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INDIA: Indian laborer Thangam carries a basket with salt as she works on a salt pan at Thoothukudi some 160kms south of Madurai. — AFP

RED TAPE AND TAXES PUT BRAKES ON 'MAKE IN INDIA' PUSH LACK IN TECHNOLOGY INCREASES IMPORTS FOR SMALLEST THINGS

NEW DELHI: When Saurabh Ahuja tried to import a \$600 3D printer for manufacturing drones in his Delhi workshop, he ended up spending another \$900 in taxes and bribes and waited three months for it to clear customs. "We lack in technology and industry to make the smallest things, so we have to import," Ahuja said as he listed the frustrations entrepreneurs still encounter since the government launched its "Make in India" project.

"If my business grows, the country grows with me. But the government won't let me grow." Since coming to power in 2014, Narendra Modi has been looking to overhaul India's image as an awkward country in which to do business and instead emulate China by becoming a global manufacturing hub. In September that year, the right-wing premier unveiled "Make in India" as a flagship initiative which would have an "unprecedented over-

haul of out-dated processes and policies" at its core. The government has tried to woo investors by promising to simplify the tax regime and liberalize rules on foreign direct investment (FDI). But in the World Bank's most recent chart ranking countries for their ease of doing business, India came 130th out of 190. While much of the focus has been on the trails of foreign firms, local entrepreneurs who should be the poster boys of Indian manufacturing are also struggling.

The printer that Ahuja did eventually manage to import from China to build everything from drones to robots had nearly 300 parts. He first had to submit a sheaf of documents, including details of the exporter and the product catalogue to officials at Delhi airport. He was then told each part would have to be tested before being let through. Three months and 150,000 rupees (\$2,250) in warehouse



NEW DELHI: In this photograph employees of Indian company Nuts and Boltz work in their office in New Delhi. — AFP photos

charges later, he got his consignment only after he coughed up a bribe, he said.

Officials at the airport did not respond to an emailed query for comment. Ahuja, 29, launched his company Nuts and Boltz six years ago from a basement in northwest Delhi to provide other budding entrepreneurs a place to experiment with product ideas. For an hourly rental fee, clients have access to equipment such as 3D printers and circuit boards. But while the prototypes can be crafted in India, nearly all the manufacturing ends up being outsourced overseas.

Mad in India

"Maker spaces are great because you can quickly launch a prototype and get credibility," said Navi Radjou, co-author of the book "Frugal Innovation". "But then you open a Pandora's Box because if a customer asks for 2,000 units of your product, you're screwed since you can't make it at that scale and that

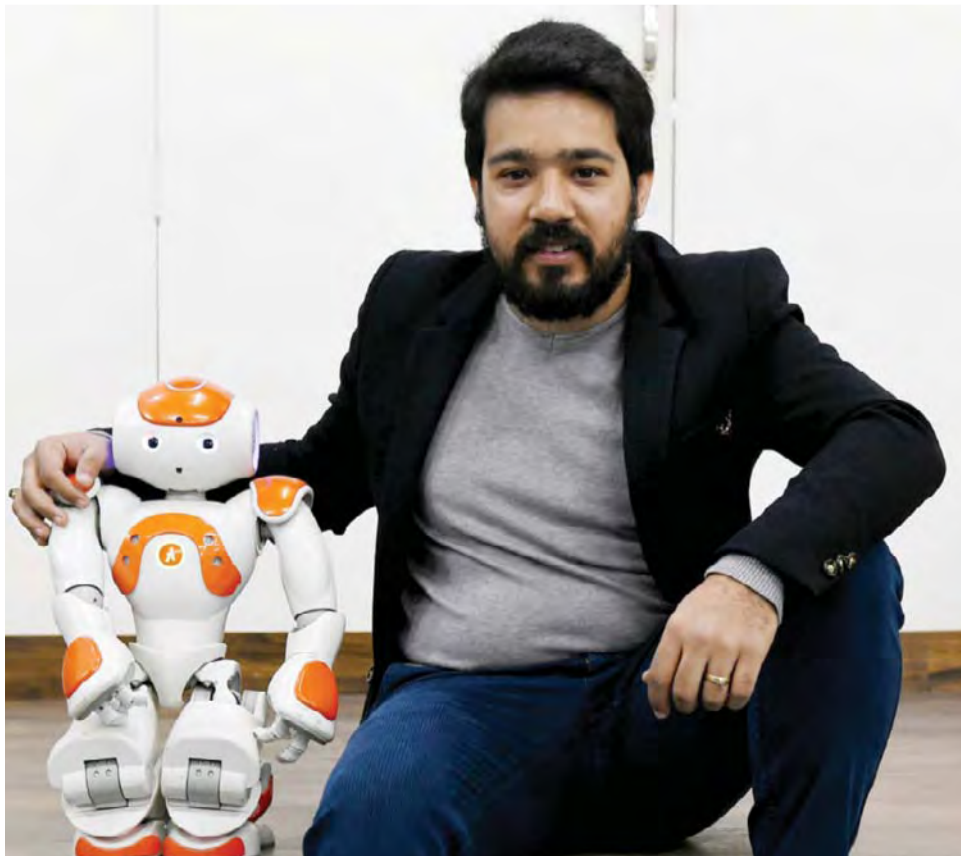
leads to a lot of frustration." While India's big business houses are among Modi's loudest cheerleaders, economist Sunil Sinha said making things at home remains a fraught process for smaller firms.

"It's one thing to say we want to focus on manufacturing and that's why we have liberalized FDI and that's why we're trying to improve the ease of doing business," Sinha, principal economist at Fitch India, said. "But the crucial component is what's happening at the state level, at the local level. "Anyone setting up a factory or business needs water and electricity connections and various permissions and annual regulatory filings to different government watchdogs. Those are the major stumbling blocks and there are no significant changes at that level.

"Many of the large companies ... have special access to the corridors of powers, but for the small guy no one will even answer his call so he has to strike a deal with whoever is the

hurdle." Ahuja was reminded of how onerous it was to manufacture at scale when the government last year banned the imports of lithium polymer batteries, needed to power the drones. He now buys the batteries from Mumbai from someone who smuggles them in and then charges \$300 a go, double the actual cost.

"Since the parts are not easily available, we've put on hold our classes to teach people how to make drones," Ahuja said. His complaints find echoes among large-scale manufacturers such as Rajiv Bajaj, head of the Bajaj Auto conglomerate. A long-established motorbike manufacturer, Bajaj wants to introduce a quadricycle but has encountered multiple obstacles. "If your innovation in the country depends on government approval or the judicial process, it will not be a case of 'Made in India', but 'Mad in India,'" Bajaj said in a speech this year, using a twist on the government's campaign slogan. — AFP



NEW DELHI: In this photograph Saurabh Ahuja, director of Indian company Nuts and Boltz, poses during an interview with AFP in New Delhi.

SIDE EFFECT: ADDITIONAL HIKES ARE LIKELY TO RESULT IN INCREASING PAIN

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

During the second half of 2017, only when the political shenanigans stop to be the center of the global scene, it is likely that the world turn their attention to the debate over the Fed balance sheet management as well as the Fed funds rates hikes as well as their implications on the state of the global economy and the US consumers. Looking only at the state of the US economy, the labor market remains close to full employment. Unemployment rate stands at a 10-year low of 4.4 percent, inflation remains close to the Fed target and the equity markets in strong shape.

Even Fed speakers remain optimistic as Fed president Kaplan stated he still viewed three rate hikes appropriate this year. So it is definitely likely that during the second half of 2017, a more prominent point of discussion becomes the Fed moving towards a reduction of its sizeable balance sheet and potentially continuing on its path to increase interest rates. Whether a two or three rates hikes, the reduction in the Fed balance sheet accompanied with tighter monetary policy are guaranteed to dramatically slow global growth and cause major malaise in the next twelve months.

Although the French election was a land slide for Emmanuel Macron, it didn't yield the expected results over the state of the Euro in the short term. This could be explained by the fact that the win gave a sense of market certainty that the Fed would raise rates in June, hence pushing rates differentials again in favor of the US dollar. On the currency front, the US dollar index started on a strong tone on speculation that the FED will increase interest rates after the latest release of US labor market data. The index appreciated to the highest level since April 21 at 99.88. However the Dollar lost some ground on Friday after inflation readings came below expectation. The index closed the week at 99.189.

Failing to move higher on the back of the French yielding a Pro Europe President, the Euro spent the majority of the week unable to hold its gains against the dollar, falling from a 6 months high of 1.1020. The pair fell indeed to a thirteen days low on Thursday at 1.0838 after US data were unexpectedly better than expected. In addition, as the ECB explained their reasoning for not altering their monetary policy, the Euro did not get any support throughout the week. It was only until Friday that the disappointing US data led the way higher to close at the 1.0933 level.

Having been the best performing G10 currency until mid-April, the Japanese Yen appreciated by 4.7 percent against the Dollar between mid-March and April. Since then, it seems that "unconvincingly" tables have turned on the back of the positive US corporate earnings and the interest rate probabilities placing June hike as a certainty for now. The Yen closed the week at 113.33.

In the commodities complex, oil prices rebounded last week after a large drop in U.S crude oil inventories. The Energy Information Administration reported that the stockpiles shrank by 5.2 million barrel last week. Moreover, Saudi Arabia oil minister stated on Monday that oil producers would "do whatever it takes" to rebalance the market and that he expects a global deal on cutting crude output to be extended to the end of 2017 or possibly longer. WTI crude oil ended on Friday at 47.84.

Inflation supported by energy prices

US consumer inflation rose in April, however still missed market expectations for a second successive month. The index rose from a previous reading of -0.3 percent to 0.2 percent as energy prices jumped 1.1 percent in April. On a yearly basis, the CPI increased 2.2 percent, down from March's 2.4 percent. The latest data still remains above the 1.7 percent average annual increase over the past 10 years. Excluding volatility, core prices increased 0.1 percent on the month with the year on year rate declining to 1.9 percent from 2.0 percent



previously. Producers' price index rebounded in April by 0.5 percent from the previous reading of -0.1 percent amid an increase in food and energy prices. On a yearly basis, the cost of imports jumped 4.1 percent, supporting producer prices to expand at a rate of 2.5 percent annually in April. Excluding food and energy volatility, prices surged 2.1 percent annually from 1.7 percent in March, suggesting the Fed could reach their inflation target sooner than previously thought.

Robust labor market

US job openings unexpectedly edged higher for March as economists predicted a slight decline. The number of job vacancies rose by 61,000 coming at 5.74M. The opportunity for obtaining a job in the US is at the highest level since September 2016 and workers who voluntarily left their jobs remained unchanged at 2.1 percent, indicating that the labor market continues to tighten. Therefore, the data should support the FOMC to increase the federal funds rate in June.

In the retail sector, sales picked up last month adding further evidence of steady consumer spending. The main sectors that saw stronger demand were auto dealers, hardware stores and e-commerce outlets. Retail sales increased 0.4 percent versus an expected 0.6 percent. Higher sales last month might be an indication that delayed tax refunds in 2017 are starting to make their way to citizen's wallets, providing additional support in the months ahead.

"Our monetary policy was successful. Is it time to exit or time to think about exit or not? This time hasn't come yet."

ECB President Mario Draghi defended the banks loose monetary policy this week. The ECB's stimulus program has come under pressure from EU members like the Netherlands and Germany mainly on the back of the negative impact of ultra-low interest rates. Draghi however claimed that the bank was in no rush to tighten its monetary policy despite insistence from these countries.

According to Draghi, the latest data's out of the EU suggest that economic recovery is strengthening and headline inflation is gain upward momentum, but core inflation

remains well below the ECB's target. In addition, wage growth remains subdued. To reiterate this point, ECB Governing Council Philip Lane said that risks in the Eurozone economy are "still below balance but moving towards balance". He also emphasized the "need to see evidence that wage inflation is actually on its way to a level consistent with the target". Regarding future monetary policy path, Lane said that "something has to happen in the rest of this year given there needs to be a plan in 2018."

Positive momentum in Europe

The European commission's spring forecast, expects the Eurozone to grow at an annual pace of 1.7 percent in 2017, up by 0.1 percent from its prior forecast and an expansion of 1.8 percent in 2018. In a further sign of a healthier economy, unemployment rate is expected to shrink to 9.4 percent this year from 10 percent in 2016, before descending further in 2018 to 8.9 percent, a bigger drop than previously estimated.

The improving conditions forecasted by the commission are largely due to populism losing ground in Europe. In Germany, growth continues to gain momentum despite the political tension in Europe and around the globe. The economy advanced by 0.6 percent in the first quarter from 0.4 percent in Q4 2016. Year on year, GDP rose to 1.7 percent as exports grew more than imports and higher inflows of investments across most sectors.

Brexit effects making British poorer

The BoE's Monetary Policy Committee voted seven to one on keeping a status quo. On the inflation front, price growth is expected to reach 2.8 percent this year from an earlier estimate of 2.4 percent. The bank also expects that average earnings will expand at a rate of 2 percent this year from the previous estimate of 3 percent, which is likely to decrease future living standards of citizens in the UK. Carney said "This is going to be a more challenging time for British households." The bank asserted that it could be the end of 2019 before we finally see a rate rise and increasing rates would not be an effective way of curbing higher living costs.

On the economic front, the trade deficit continues to widen by 5.7 to GBP 10.5 billion. As to the industrial and manufacturing sectors, both have been declining for the past three months consecutively. These sectors are highly sensitive and positively correlated to consumers demand, which has been subdued recently as rising living costs and relatively dull wage growth take its toll on consumers. In details, industrial output dropped by 0.5 percent compared with February's 0.8 percent fall.

Manufacturing fell 0.6 percent in March and 0.1 percent previously. As a result, the economy only expanded 0.3 percent in the first quarter of this year and is expected to remain subdued for the remaining of the year.

Assessing the impact of policy tightening

Bank of Japan Governor Kuroda said that the central bank will consider reporting calculations on how a future monetary tightening possibility could affect its balance sheet financial health despite not currently thinking about any specific amendments to the BoJ's monetary policy. The Governor claimed that economic recovery is firmer, but uncertainty over US economic policies remained the biggest risk to its outlook.

Mixed signals from the Australian economy

The monthly business confidence survey released by the National Australian Bank for the month of April indicated that business confidence surged to 7 years high. The confidence index jumped by 7 points to 13. Any figure above zero suggests improving conditions. The rise in the index is mainly attributed to ongoing improvement in employment conditions.

On the other hand, the latest retail sales data showed sales falling by 0.1 percent month to month in March. Investors remain skeptical about the sector after data dropped three out of the four months and growth in the retail sector has decelerated to the slowest in almost four years. The weak data point to low consumer confidence, international competition and housing affordability. However, the Reserve Bank of Australia forecasted last week a steady growth for the domestic economy in 2017 with GDP growth and annual inflation rising.

Weak domestic demand in China

Exports and imports data came in short of expectations for the month of April. In Yuan terms, exports rose 14.3 percent year to year versus a forecast of 16.8 percent, while imports rose 18.6 percent as markets expected a 29.3 percent jump. The latest data pushed the countries trade surplus to the highest since January, coming in at yuan 262.3 billion. Needless to say that further policy tightening may pressure domestic demand in the months ahead. On the other hand, markets anticipate that growth will hold well given the relatively bright outlook for the global economy this year.

Looking at inflation, China's inflation raised more than expected in April. The CPI index increased by 0.3 percent, coming at 1.2 percent for the year. The rise in headline inflation is elevated due to a rise in non-food prices growing 2.4 percent from last year and higher producer costs from the previous quarter has started to shift into higher prices for consumers. On the producer front, inflation cooled down for the month of April after fears of weak domestic demand in China lowered commodity prices. The PPI index rose below expectations coming at 6.4 percent and easing further from the previous month's gain of 7.6 percent. The recovery that emerged last year in the economy is mainly attributed to higher commodity prices and with market interest rates at a tighter mode, economic expansion may moderate in the coming quarters.

Kuwaiti Dinar at 0.30445

The USDKWD opened at 0.30445 yesterday morning.

Rates - 14th May, 2017

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.0996	1.0838	1.1022	1.0927	1.0740	1.1180	1.0985
GBP	1.2979	1.2842	1.2987	1.2883	1.2790	1.3085	1.2930
JPY	112.97	112.37	114.36	113.33	112.40	115.15	112.85
CHF	0.9887	0.9863	1.0099	1.0005	0.9935	1.0215	0.9950

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.696
Indian Rupees	4.753
Pakistani Rupees	2.914
Sri Lankan 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	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.800
Canadian Dolla	226.525
Sterling Pound	392.135
Euro	328.485
Swiss Frank	305.110
Bahrain Dinar	808.430
UAE Dirhams	83.380
Qatari Riyals	84.605
Saudi Riyals	82.175
Jordanian Dinar	429.815
Egyptian Pound	16.978
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.005
Indian Rupees	4.728
Pakistani Rupees	2.907
Bangladesh Taka	3.742
Philippines Peso	6.121
Cyprus pound	168.208
Japanese Yen	3.795
Syrian Pound	2.420
Nepalese Rupees	3.950
Malaysian Ringgit	70.185

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.745
Thai Baht	9.860
Turkish Lira	84.130

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

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	0.338116
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	0.002780	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

GREECE CUTS 2017 GROWTH FORECAST

ATHENS: Greece cut its 2017 growth forecast to 1.8 percent from 2.7 percent, according to a mid-term budget plan unveiled late on Saturday, driven by uncertainty caused by delays in concluding the latest review of bailout reforms. Greece and its foreign creditors reached a deal on reforms in early May after six months of tense negotiations but the wrangling hurt economic activity. The Greek central bank governor had warned the delays could hobble economic recovery.

The 2018-21 plan was submitted to parliament along with the reform deal which lawmakers need to approve. It forecasts growth of 2.4 percent in 2018 and 2.6 per-

cent in 2019. The projections are lower than those of the EU Commission, which also cut its growth estimates last week to 2.1 percent this year from 2.7 percent forecast three months ago.

GDP growth was also set to shrink to 2.5 percent in 2018 from previously estimated 3.1 percent, the Commission said. The government hopes that legislating the new measures by May 18 will allow its euro zone partners to approve the deal when they meet on May 22 and release a new tranche of bailout funds. It also wants the ministers to sign off on the review to qualify for inclusion in the European Central Bank's quantitative easing program and return to bond markets after three years of isolation. —Reuters

CHILE TO JOIN AIIB

SANTIAGO: Chile is joining the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Foreign Ministry announced Saturday as President Michelle Bachelet paid a visit to China. Bachelet, on a visit to the multilateral lender's headquarters, said Santiago's membership was a done deal. "We are very happy to have been accepted as members and as a government have to do

our part to get full membership approved," Bachelet said, according to a ministry statement. Founded in 2015, and seen as a counterweight to other development banks such as the World Bank, the new lender finances infrastructure projects in Asia. It has founding members around the world including Britain, Germany and France. —AFP



ETHIOPIA: Beehives are pictured on a small farm outside Wukro in the Tigray region in northern Ethiopia. —AFP photos

ETHIOPIAN HONEY FARMERS STRUGGLE WITH STICKY TRADITIONS

APICULTURE SECTOR LONG WAY FROM FULL POTENTIAL

ZAENA, Ethiopia: The beehives of Ethiopia, Africa's top honey producer, make about a quarter of the continent's honey, but travelers who come to sample the liquid gold often find there isn't enough to go around. In a country where 85 percent of all jobs are in agriculture, industry experts say the beekeeping-or apiculture-sector is still a long way from harvesting its full potential, hampered by outdated, low-yield techniques, periodic droughts and uncompetitive prices.

Honey traditionally plays a big role in Ethiopian life—where its delicious white, red and yellow varieties are used in cooking, for medicinal purposes and as a key ingredient in the local mead known as tej. The problem is that the majority of farmers use outdated styles of beehives that are stored in trees or clay jars. And these do not produce as much honey as modern wooden boxes, says Juergen Greiling, a senior adviser at the Ethiopian Apiculture Board, an umbrella group for the honey industry.

Equipped with the right modern techniques, honey production has the potential to pull thousands of poor farmers out of poverty, experts say. Alem Abraha is one such farmer. He was previously living from hand to mouth as a subsistence farmer, but took up beekeeping full time about 10 years ago. "My life has been completely changed," he says, as bees circle his head in the village of Zaena, situated in Ethiopia's northernmost region of Tigray.

It is on Tigray's high-altitude mountain slopes that the yellow Adey Abeba flower grows, a key component in making the unique white honey that is one of Ethiopia's most prized exports. "If you train farmers to have modern training like I'm doing here, that would transform production," Alem says. Tesfamariam Assefa, a coordinator at the Tigray regional agriculture bureau, said the government aimed to boost the region's honey exports from 50 percent to 80 percent of output by teaching farmers better beekeeping techniques.

Growing demand abroad

The outside world is waking up to the qualities of Ethiopian honey, too. In 2008, the European Union officially gave the green light



ETHIOPIA: Honey farmer Alem Abreha is pictured smoking a beehive on his honey farm outside Wukro in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia.

to imports of Ethiopian honey. However, nearly a decade later, the country is still only exporting at most 800 tons of the 50,000 tons it produces annually. Alem Abraha says he travels regularly to Italy to show off his wares and honey merchants in Tigray say they are noticing more and more interest from buyers from Ethiopia and beyond.

"Tigray's honey has a lot of customers all over Ethiopia," said Haile Gebru, who sells honey from a shopping mall in Tigray's capital of Mekele. "But production is low." The low yields of Ethiopian beehives, along with periodic droughts that can disrupt supplies of water to colonies and shrivel trees that insects need for pollen, have caused honey shortages. These shortfalls drive up prices to as much as 450 birr (\$20, 18 euros) per kilogram, effectively pricing honey exports to Asia and Europe out of the market.

"I'm not able to sell as much as I can because the price is not competitive, especially

here from Tigray," said Daniel Gebremeskel, managing director of Comel, a honey processing and export company based in Mekele. "We are not making as much as we expect. We are working at low capacity because of supply problems," Gebremeskel said. There is also a grey market for Ethiopian honey, with people smuggling it across the border to Sudan or in their luggage in Mekele's airport to avoid paying export taxes, said Greiling of the Ethiopian Apiculture Board.

The regional government, alarmed at the lost export tax revenues, is seeking to curb the undercover trade by introducing limits on the amount of honey that can be taken in checked baggage. Despite the challenges facing Ethiopia's apiculture sector, Gebremeskel is undeterred and is currently remodeling his processing facility and seeking to woo buyers abroad, some of whom frequently mistake the white honey for cream. "We're getting more demand than before," Gebremeskel says. —AFP

National Bank of Kuwait		البنك الوطني						
Financial Markets		NBK						
Daily Report								
At 02:00 PM Previous Day								
Global Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Dow Jones	20,919.42	20,896.61	-22.81	▼	-0.11	5.74		
NASDAQ	6,115.96	6,121.23	5.27	▲	0.09	13.71		
S&P 500	2,394.44	2,390.90	-3.54	▼	-0.15	6.73		
Financial Times	7,386.63	7,435.39	48.76	▲	0.66	4.10		
DAX	12,711.06	12,770.41	59.35	▲	0.47	11.23		
CAC 40	5,383.42	5,405.42	22.00	▲	0.41	11.17		
Swiss	9,064.88	9,123.41	58.53	▲	0.65	10.99		
Nikkei 225	19,961.55	19,883.90	-77.65	▼	-0.39	4.03		
Topix	1,586.86	1,580.71	-6.15	▼	-0.39	4.09		
Hang Seng	25,125.55	25,156.34	30.79	▲	0.12	14.34		
Straits Times	3,271.11	3,255.29	-15.82	▼	-0.48	13.00		
MENA Stock Indices								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait	6,670.47	6,658.84	-11.63	▼	-0.17	13.83		
Saudi Arabia	6,882.51	6,853.12	-29.39	▼	-0.43	-4.55		
Dubai	3,420.19	3,415.69	-4.50	▼	-0.13	-3.13		
Abu Dhabi	4,608.28	4,593.29	-14.99	▼	-0.33	1.36		
Bahrain	1,307.09	1,310.43	3.34	▲	0.26	7.10		
Qatar	10,110.84	10,061.50	-49.34	▼	-0.49	-3.12		
Oman	5,432.14	5,420.48	-11.66	▼	-0.21	-6.06		
Lebanon	1,174.05	1,174.05	0.00	-	0.00	-3.19		
Jordan	2,158.90	2,149.12	-9.78	▼	-0.45	-0.52		
Egypt	12,906.98	12,874.24	-32.74	▼	-0.25	4.55		
Morocco	11,696.91	11,747.86	50.95	▲	0.44	8.89		
Tunisia	5,745.87	5,755.76	9.89	▲	0.17	4.68		
Global Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.2046	3.2680	2.9891	2.5347	3.2696	370.36	4.4234
Saudi Riyal	0.08194		0.2678	0.2449	0.2077	0.2679	30.35	0.3624
US Dollar	0.30600	3.7346		0.9147	0.7756	1.0005	113.33	1.3535
Euro	0.33455	4.0830	1.0933		0.8483	1.0944	123.91	1.4803
Sterling Pound	0.39453	4.8150	1.2893	1.1788		1.2902	146.14	1.7456
Swiss Franc	0.30585	3.7327	0.9995	0.9137	0.7751		113.26	1.3529
Japanese Yen	0.00270	0.0330	0.0088	0.0081	0.0068	0.0088		0.0119
Australian Dollar	0.22607	2.7591	0.7388	0.6755	0.5729	0.7392	83.73	
MENA Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30600	3.7346	0.3740	3.6267	0.3832	3.6570	18.0350
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2680		12.2046	1.2222	11.8520	1.2521	11.9510	58.9379
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08194		0.1001	0.9711	0.1026	0.9792	4.8292
Bahraini Dinar	2.6738	0.81818	9.9856		9.6971	1.0245	9.7781	48.2219
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08437	1.0298	0.1031		0.1056	1.0084	4.9728
Omani Riyal	2.6099	0.79864	9.7471	0.9761	9.4655		9.5446	47.0703
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08368	1.0212	0.1023	0.9917	0.1048		4.9316
Egyptian Pound	0.0554	0.01697	0.2071	0.0207	0.2011	0.0212	0.2028	
Global Interest Rates								
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year			
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94			
US Dollar	0.94	0.99	1.17	1.43	1.76			
Euro	-0.40	-0.40	-0.36	-0.27	-0.14			
Sterling Pound	0.23	0.25	0.31	0.45	0.65			
Swiss Franc	-0.79	-0.78	-0.72	-0.65	-0.48			
Australian Dollar	1.55	1.63	1.61	1.60	1.61			
Canadian Dollar	0.85	0.55	0.68	0.90	0.97			
Global Bond Yields								
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year				
United States	1.29	1.84	2.32	2.99				
Europe	-0.69	-0.33	0.39	1.18				
United Kingdom	0.11	0.50	1.09	1.73				
Commodities								
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %			
Kuwait Oil	48.04	48.06	0.02	▲	0.04	-10.76		
Brent	48.31	48.29	-0.02	▼	-0.04	-13.14		
West Texas	47.88	47.78	-0.10	▼	-0.21	-12.26		
Gold	1228.33	1228.33	0.00	-	0.00	6.23		
Silver	16.46	16.46	0.00	-	0.00	3.15		

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

NIGERIAN ECONOMY GLIMPSES DIM LIGHT AT END OF TUNNEL

LAGOS: Suffering from rampant inflation, stalled investment and mass layoffs, Nigeria is still gripped by one of the worst economic crises in its history. But for the first time in months, the West African economic giant is finally looking to exit its first recession in decades. On Thursday, parliament approved the government's ambitious seven-trillion-naira (\$23-billion) budget to "pull the economy out of recession as quickly as possible".

The plan, bolstered by improved output in oil production and a potential billion-dollar World Bank loan, aims to kick-start growth through rail, ports and power projects. In January, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it expected Nigerian growth to hit 0.8 percent for 2017 and 2.8 percent in 2018. Others are more optimistic.

"Growth of 2.0 percent (in 2017) is totally possible," said Moody's analyst Aurelien Mali at the ratings agency's annual West Africa conference in Lagos this week. "Import figures suggest that after declining for two years, domestic demand picked up at the turn of the year," John Ashbourne, economist at Capital Economics, said in a recent note. Ashbourne added that there were also encouraging "signs of life in Nigeria's non-oil sector".

Oil output up

The new figures are far from the boom time in Nigeria, which over the past decade had enjoyed average annual growth of eight percent, according to Bloomberg. "Compared to other oil powers like Qatar, Nigeria didn't prepare for rainy days," said Douglas Rowlings, an analyst with Moody's. Saving for a worldwide crash in commodity prices wasn't under the control of President Muhammadu Buhari, who only came into power in 2015.

But his tough talk towards rebel groups in the Niger Delta only served to deepen the recession, said emerging market analysis firm BMI Research. As a result of attacks on oil and gas infrastructure in the oil-producing swamplands last year production fell to a low of 1.4 million barrels per day (bpd) and Nigeria's growth contracted to 1.5 percent in 2016. Ongoing talks with the rebels and money in the form of amnesty payments solved the problem. —AFP



LAGOS: This picture shows a local market in Lagos. —Reuters

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OIL PRICES DAMPENED BY GLOBAL COMMODITIES SLUMP

Oil prices were once again back in the mid-40s range after concerns of an oil market glut deepened led by both demand and supply side factors, further dampened by ongoing global commodities slump. On the supply side, US shale production continued unabated during April-17 with production already surpassing the 9.3 mb/d level. The additional supply was further supported by higher output in Canada and Libya, especially by the latter during May-17.

In addition, in terms of new capacity addition, the Baker Hughes rig count data showed 17th straight week of additions in

oil rigs in one of the longest running weekly addition streaks since 2011. Although supply from OPEC producers continued to decline on the back of the ongoing production cuts, there were reports of lower compliance by some members that lowered overall compliance level to 90 percent in April-17 from 92 percent in March-17, according to Reuters. Monthly average production by OPEC members declined by 40 tb/d to 31.895 mb/d during April-17 primarily due to a decline in

output from Libya whereas higher production, primarily from Nigeria, partially offset the month-on-month decline. On the demand side, there was news of softening economic growth in China that is expected to affect oil demand from the country. China is forecasted to import lesser oil going forward due to a new rule that bars oil imports by smaller refineries.

This is in addition to the month-on-month decline in imports reported in April-

17 on the back of seasonal refinery maintenance. However, on the positive side, oil demand in Europe is expected to improve on the back of an improving economy that has witnessed record car sales in recent months. In addition, oil demand from India rose by a strong 3.3 percent during April-17 after declining consecutively over the past three months.

Meanwhile, OPEC announced that the group has reached a consensus to extend the ongoing production cut agreement, although there were doubts initially when talks began during late April-17. The oil ministers of Iraq and Algeria made the announcement and said that an official announcement would be made at OPEC's next meeting later this month. Saudi Arabia and Russia have also indicated that even the two producers are on board for an extension. KAMCO Research believes that there would be some adjustments to the terms initially agreed during the existing production cut agreement and members that were exempt from compliance would be pressurized to join the new agreement to further lower the output.

This would also result in additional cuts as compared to the ongoing agreement in order to drain surplus glut in the industry and also to blunt the additional output from Libya and Nigeria. We believe that the exempted members would be either joining the cuts from June-17, which is less probable, or a negotiated deal for them to join after attaining a pre-decided production level would be enforced.

Oil prices

After witnessing initial gains during the start of April-17, oil prices were in a free fall mode since the third week of the month until the first week of May-17. OPEC crude lost almost 13 percent in sixteen trading sessions and broke the critical support level of USD 50/b to reach USD 46.6/b by the end of first week of May-17. The decline in oil price also started after OPEC indicated that the production cuts would not be deepened.

The decline in Brent crude was even higher at 13.9 percent but the international crude grade made significant recovery during the second week on the back of news that the ongoing production cut agreement between OPEC and non-OPEC members would be extended. The increase in oil prices over the last few trading sessions also came on the back of larger-than-expected drawdown in US crude inventories which declined by 5.3 million barrels during the last week.

In addition, the absence of a corresponding increase in gasoline inventory suggested that the supply of oil is already in a deficit and the glut is reducing at a much faster pace. Nevertheless, crude output in the US has continued unabated over the past eleven months with rig count up for the 17th straight week increasing by 9 to reach 712 oil rigs, according to Baker Hughes, the highest level since April-15.

As a result, US crude production has increased more than 10 percent since mid-2016 and has reached more than 9.3 mb/d, close to the level produced by Russia and Saudi Arabia, and is expected to expand further by the end of the year if US grade crude remains above USD 50/b. Moreover, in the Asian market, China, which has been importing oil at breakneck speed over the past couple of months, would not be doing so in the coming months due to a new rule that bans oil imports by smaller refineries termed as 'teapots'.

On the other hand, India's higher demand for crude during April-17 (+3.3 percent to 16.79 m tons) comes as a supporting factor for oil prices as the country has been reporting declining demand since the start of the year.

World oil demand

World oil demand growth estimates for 2016 was revised up by 65 tb/d reflecting adjustments to data from OECD Europe based on latest available numbers. Higher demand in the region came on the back of low oil prices in addition to improving economic conditions, positive vehicle sales and colder weather conditions. Demand from other Asia was also raised by 0.03 mb/d in the latest report whereas from Americas was lowered by 0.05 mb/d.

With the aforementioned changes, demand growth in 2016 is estimated to have reached 1.44 mb/d to an average daily demand of 95.12 mb/d. Oil demand growth expectations for 2017 was kept unchanged at 96.38 mb/d, an increase of 1.27 mb/d as compared to 2016. Revisions were made to Q1-17 oil demand data for the OECD region and lowered by around 12 tb/d for 2017 on the back of lower-than-expected demand in OECD Americas due to a fall in gasoline demand.

This decline was partially offset by an upward revision in Q1-17 demand from OECD Europe by 50 tb/d led by weather conditions. According to the latest available numbers, oil demand in the US declined due to ring February-17 due to slowing growth in Q1-17. However, preliminary data for March-17 and April-17 indicated return to growth in the industrial and road transportation sectors. On the other hand, Canada and Mexico reported softer demand figures.

In OECD Europe, in addition to the aforementioned factors, car sales remained strong reaching a record for the month of March-17. Demand for aviation fuel was also high for the region on the back of a strong aviation sector. In OECD Asia Pacific, oil demand in Japan continued to decline in March-17 by 3.8 percent primarily due to fuel substitution and warmer weather conditions.

Oil demand growth for the non-OECD region was revised slightly higher by 12 tb/d for 2017 on the back of higher March-17 demand from China partially offset by downward revision for the Other Asia region, primarily from India until March-17.

China's crude oil stocks stood at 49.7 million barrels at the end of March-17, after witnessing the highest monthly increase. In the Middle East region, Saudi Arabia reported a decline in demand in March-17 due to fuel substitution effect after the Kingdom started the natural gas fired Wajit gas plant saving 92 tb/d of oil.

World Oil Supply

Non-OPEC oil supply estimates for 2016 was further revised downwards by 18 tb/d led by revisions in historical production data for Russia during the last quarter of 2016. Non-OPEC supply for 2016 is now expected to have averaged at 57.30 mb/d resulting in a contraction of 0.71 mb/d as compared to the previous year. Contrastingly, non-OPEC supply growth for 2017 was revised upwards by 0.36 mb/d to average of 58.25 mb/d indicating a growth of 0.95 mb/d.

According to the latest monthly data, world oil supply fell by 0.41 mb/d in April-17 as compared to March-17 to average 95.81 mb/d, although the production was 0.83 mb/d higher than a year ago and increased by 363 tb/d y-o-y in Q1-17. Changes were primarily made in demand data from the US with supply growth is now expected to be higher by 0.28 mb/d to 0.82 mb/d.

As a result, US crude production has increased more than 10 percent since mid-2016 and has reached more than 9.3 mb/d, close to the level produced by Russia and Saudi Arabia, and is expected to expand further by the end of the year if US grade crude remains above USD 50/b.

This higher output corresponds with OPEC's updated supply expectations in which it raised non-OPEC crude supply growth estimates by 64 percent to 0.95 mb/d and lowered OPEC's demand by 0.3 mb/d. On the other hand, lack of investment in oil sector has resulted in a decline in Mexican oil production which resulted in crude exports hitting a record low in March-17 and expected to be even lower in April-17, according to Pemex. The shortfall in investment globally is one of the key factors that could result in supply deficit in the near term.

OPEC oil production

According to Bloomberg data, OPEC oil output continued to decline and reached a 23-month low level of 31.895 mb/d during April-17 after declining marginally by 40 tb/d as compared to March-17. Production by Saudi Arabia remained almost flat during the month at 9.95 mb/d, whereas the next five producers (Iraq, Iran, UAE, Kuwait, Venezuela) slashed production by a total 155 tb/d during the month.

OPEC's secondary sources also indicated a decline in production during April-17 although slightly lower at 18 tb/d as compared to the previous month's average after Angola increased production by almost 0.1 mb/d during the month. Angola, which said it is in full compliance with the production cuts, is expected to further boost oil production after a number of offshore oil projects are expected to come online and add almost 0.4 mb/d to total capacity in the next 18 months.

Meanwhile, Libya, which reported a decline in average oil output in April-17, has reportedly boosted production in May-17 to more than 0.8 mb/d for the first time since 2014. Libya's NOC said that the production would have been even higher at 1 mb/d if contractual issues were resolved. On similar lines, Nigeria increased production during April-17 adding 50 tb/d after stability returned in the Niger Delta region and exports of most of the crude grades from the region came back online.

According to recent reports, OPEC has agreed to extend the oil output cut agreement until the end of the year pending formal announcement that would be made at the OPEC meeting later this month. There are also speculations that the cuts could extend into 2018 and could include deeper cuts for a faster recovery in the market.

On the other hand, there are increasing speculations that the market is already in deficit and could soon reflect in the prices with demand expected to show improvement, while supply is estimated to fall short even further if OPEC cuts are increased.

On similar lines, IEA said that the production cut agreement has succeeded in turning the market around and has resulted in a supply deficit. The agency expects supply deficit during 2Q-17 and added that demand is expected to outweigh supply even more during 2H-17 resulting in an even deeper deficit if OPEC agrees to extend its production cuts, which is now almost certain.

Oil Market Monthly Report

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Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Sunday 14 May 2017						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price index	▼ -11.63	6,656.84	6,670.47	6,686.63	6,653.39	
Weighted Index	▼ -0.08	400.65	400.71	401.38	397.89	
KSX 15	▲ 3.18	914.25	911.07	916.11	903.21	

Volume	102,756,239
Value (KWD)	11,684,817
Number of Trades	3,111

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	63	62	212787	13,203	17	62	▲ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	425	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	1,580	1,480	157,682	241,858	31	1,580	▲ 100.0
ENR-RGYH	42.5	42.5	136,350	5,795	2	42.5	▲ 0.0
GPI	41.0	40.0	1,362,647	55,323	48	40.5	▲ 0.0
ADAR	88	88	11,219	987	4	88	▲ 0.0
Oil & Gas			1,880,665	317,166	102	1082.74	▲ 32.45
KFOUC	305	305	3	1	1	305	▲ 20.0
BPCG	570	560	101,000	56,570	7	560	▼ -10.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	690	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	330	325	29,056	9,443	7	325	▲ 0.0
Basic Materials			130,059	66,014	15	1285.65	▲ 12.74
KCEM	470	470	47,919	22,522	2	470	▼ -15.0
CABLE	430	420	16,003	6,721	5	420	▲ 0.0
SHIP	226	220	542,500	122,319	41	226	▲ 10.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	970	▲ 0.0
PAPER	280	275	16,709	4,597	5	280	▲ 5.0
MRC	84	82	530	44	2	82	▼ -1.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	280	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▲ 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	▲ 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	212	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	56	53	1,977,090	107,246	79	53	▼ -3.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
GYPUSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0
SALDOOKH	59	58	136,750	7,848	9	59	▲ 0.0
AGLTY	650	630	2,072,911	1,335,630	61	650	▲ 10.0
EDU	285	285	3,000	855	1	285	▼ -10.0
CLEANING	44.5	42.5	341,123	14,587	20	43.5	▼ -1.0
KGL	59	58	406,818	23,812	21	59	▲ 1.0
KDPC	170	158	5,008	781	2	158	▼ -10.0
HUMANSOFT	3,920	3,900	280,067	1,092,266	26	3,900	▲ 0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	▲ 0.0
GFC	58	53	2,180	116	3	58	▲ 2.0
MAYADEEN	27.5	27.0	277,525	7,505	17	27.0	▼ -0.5
CGC	560	550	108,040	61,032	15	560	▲ 10.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	840	▲ 0.0
ALAFCO	265	260	30,510	7,033	7	265	▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	80	76	553,963	43,748	20	79	▲ 1.0
LOGISTICS	57	55	154,022	8,622	14	57	▲ 0.0
SCEM	86	86	1,000	86	1	86	▼ -5.0
GCEM	80	80	10	1	1	80	▲ 1.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91	▲ 0.0
FCEM	82	82	90,000	7,380	4	82	▼ -2.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	▲ 0.0
SPEC	83	82	189,990	15,669	7	83	▼ -3.0
Industrials			7,254,668	2,891,420	363	1779.99	▼ -5.52
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	184	▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	48.0	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	▲ 0.0
CATTL	230	214	59,202	14,809	8	216	▼ -8.0
DANAH	81	79	367,905	29,397	22	80	▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,480	2,360	26,996	66,370	6	2,460	▲ 20.0
Consumer Goods			464,103	110,577	36	1118.03	▼ -3.14
MHC	315	315	1,338	421	1	315	▼ -20
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	▲ 0.0
YIACO	248	248	1,000	248	1	248	▲ 1.0
Health Care			2,338	669	2	1400.11	▼ 33.24
KCIN	1,220	1,020	3	3	2	1,020	▼ -100
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▲ 0.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.5	▲ 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420	▲ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	▲ 0.0
OULAFUEL	124	118	173,759	20,893	18	118	▼ -2
MUNTAZAHAT	90	78	132,205	10,395	12	79	▲ 0.0
JAZEERA	500	485	5,000	2,465	4	485	▼ -10
SOOR	122	116	20,797	2,476	15	116	▼ -6
FUTUREKID	118	114	3,337	381	4		



KFH JOINS THE GBSA

KUWAIT: Finance House (KFH) has announced that it has joined as a member of the Gulf Bond and Sukuk Association (GBSA). KFH is the first and leading Sharia compliant bank in Kuwait and will be the first fully Islamic Financial institution in Kuwait to join GBSA as an active member of GBSA's Kuwait Chapter.

As a member of GBSA's leadership community, KFH-Group intends to engage with the regulatory and investment communities to further advance the Sukuk market. KFH has a long track record of achievements in the Sukuk market as it is keen on supporting Sukuk markets in this region and beyond to help sovereigns and corpo-

rates access capital markets and diversify their sources of funding.

KFH-Group has expanded its investment in Sukuk and trading in the primary and secondary markets. Being a very active market maker, the group has achieved total Sukuk trading in the secondary Sukuk market amounting US\$ 11.4 Billion in the year 2016. GBSA President Michael Grifferty said, "GBSA is delighted to welcome KFH as a key member." He continued, "Our market building initiatives will be strengthened by harnessing KFH's unsurpassed credentials as a global leader in Sukuk and Islamic finance."



KIPCO ANNOUNCES 2017 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AT ITS ANNUAL GALA DINNER

KUWAIT: KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - has announced the winners of its annual achievement awards. The awards were presented by KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive), Faisal Al Ayyar, at the company's 11th Annual Gala Dinner.

The event, which took place in the Sheikhha Salwa Hall at the Marina Hotel, brought together over 300 KIPCO Group employees from over 200 companies

across the MENA region. The 'KIPCO Group Employee of the Year 2017' award went to the Group Internal Audit Team. The award was received by Group Chief Audit Executive, Mohsen Ali, and Riyadh Hanbali from KIPCO's Internal Audit Department. The winner of the 'KIPCO Best Employee of the Year 2017' was Anuj Rohtagi from the Financial Control Department.

AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES DAILY DRAW WINNERS

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Al-Ashkanani. The winners of the Al-Najma daily draw are: Krishna Giri, Hayaa Meteib Zaidan Al-Rasheedi, Fares Salal Al-Moutiri, Hassan Javid Ahmed Javid and Aftab Ahmed Khan Ahmed Khan.

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000. The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account is daily draw which is KD 7000. Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000.

MERCEDES INTRODUCES THE NEW AMG E 63 S 4MATIC+

The E 63 S 4MATIC+ transforms the executive sedan into the most advanced, performance-infused E-Class ever. The state of the art 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 engine generates up to 450 kW (612 hp), making it the most powerful engine ever installed in an E-Class. Another highlight is the completely new AMG Performance 4MATIC+ all-wheel drive system.

The AMG SPEEDSHIFT MCT nine-speed sports transmission is especially tuned to requirements in the new E 63 S 4MATIC+. A special software development enables extremely short shift times, fast multiple downshifts and a double-clutch function, making for a highly emotive gear shifting experience. The AMG TRACK PACE app allows customers to analyze their track driving style and lets them share the information with other drivers through various platforms.

Mercedes-AMG is redefining the performance sedan by turning the most intelligent executive sedan into the most powerful E-Class of all time in the form of the next generation E 63 S 4MATIC+. Now available at A R Albisher & Alkazemi Company, the authorized General Distributor for Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, the new sedan is setting benchmarks in this market segment with its innovative technologies.

The intelligent drive strategy raises the limits of the performance sedan's vehicle dynamics to a completely new level, while an acceleration of 3.4 seconds from zero to 100 km/h, ensures the new business limousine is top of its class. Torque distribution on the front and rear axles, which until now was strongly rear-biased, is fully variable for the first time.

This ensures optimum traction right up to the physical limit, regardless of road conditions. The expressive exterior design, featuring a new radiator grille and coupé-style inset bonnet, underlines the performance figures. As a result, the next generation of the E 63 S 4MATIC+ offers a completely new level of sportiness and comfort.

The new E 63 S 4MATIC+ model completely redefines the high performance sedan, combining hallmark driving performance with the intelligence of the E-Class. Its powerful twin-turbo V8 engine takes peak output to a new level while the AMG sports-tuned suspension ensures the iconic E-Class comfort remains evident amidst high levels of precision and driving dynamics.



A unique front

Every detail of the exterior and interior is designed to enable AMG Driving Performance to be experienced firsthand. The expressive exterior design is all about graceful edges and defined muscles. With a completely distinctive design forward of the A-pillar, the sporty front demonstrates the effort that Mercedes-AMG has put into the styling: for the first time on an AMG sedan the bonnet is inset between the wings and bumper in true coupé style, thus exhibiting an entirely new, more dynamic approach to the sculpting. The new radiator grille with twin louvers in silver chrome, vertical black struts and "AMG" lettering likewise emphasizes the distinctive look.

Overall, the front section exudes exceptional power and thus conveys from the first glance the strong forwards thrust of the new performance sedan. The side view reinforces this impression by way of numerous, carefully matched elements. One special detail is the arrow-shaped wing signet in silver chrome bearing three-dimensional "V8 BITURBO 4MATIC+" lettering - an eye-catching way to highlight the drive system.

The E 63 S 4MATIC+ runs on tires of sizes 265/35 ZR 20 (front) and 295/30 ZR 20 (rear) mounted on 9.5 J x 20 (front) and 10 J x 20 (rear) 5-twin-spoke light-alloy wheels, painted matt titanium grey with a high-gloss finish. A new design of 20-inch cross-spoke forged wheel, which looks as though it is centrally locked, is available as an option.

The muscular rear end provides the finishing touch in conjunction with the clearly defined spoiler lip in the color of the vehicle on the boot lid, the rear apron with diffuser-look insert, and the two bright chrome-plated twin tailpipe trim elements on the selectable sports exhaust system. The E 63 S 4MATIC+ also features a trim strip in silver chrome on the rear apron.

New peak of performance

The versatile AMG 4.0-litre twin-turbo V8 engine in the E 63 S 4MATIC+ takes peak performance to a new level at 450 kW (612 hp). Maximum torque attains a new top value of 850 Nm. It is available over a broad engine speed range of 2500 to 4500 rpm and so provides a feeling of effortless superiority in every accelerator pedal position. A sprint from zero to 100 km/h is absorbed in 3.4 seconds, and this dynamic acceleration only ends at the governed top speed of 250 km/h (with AMG Driver's package: 300 km/h).

The advanced AMG 4.0-litre V8 biturbo engine utilizes well-proven twin turbo charging, with the two chargers not located outside on the cylinder banks, but rather between them in the V of the cylinders. Two twin-scroll turbochargers are deployed for the first time to boost performance and improve responsiveness further. The housing is divided into two parallel flow passages.

AMG Performance

The E 63 S 4MATIC+ is exclusively equipped with the innovative AMG Performance 4MATIC+ all-wheel drive system. This newly engineered, intelligent system brings together the advantages of various drive configurations. Torque distribution on the front and rear axles, which are fully variable for the first time, ensure optimum traction right up to the physical limit. The driver is also able to rely on high driving stability and handling safety under all conditions.

The transition from rear-wheel to all-wheel drive and back is seamless, because intelligent control is integrated into the vehicle system architecture as a whole. It is still possible to drift thanks to fully variable torque distribution. This is where drift mode, part of the standard specification for the E 63 S 4MATIC+, comes into its own. This can be activated in the "Race" drive program using the shift paddles, provided that ESP is deactivated and the transmission is in manual mode. When drift mode is activated, the E 63 S 4MATIC+ becomes a purely rear-wheel drive vehicle. Drift mode remains engaged until the driver deactivates it.

The AMG SPEEDSHIFT MCT nine-speed sports transmission is especially tuned to requirements in the new E 63 S 4MATIC+. This involved re-engineering hardware and software alike. A special software development enables extremely short shift times, fast multiple downshifts and the double-clutching function, making for a highly emotive gear shifting experience. A wet start-off clutch replaces the torque converter. This saves weight and optimizes the response time to the driver's accelerator pedal input, particularly when accelerating and during load changes.

Rear differential lock

To improve traction and vehicle dynamics, the E 63 S 4MATIC+ has an electronically controlled rear differential lock. Both differentials reduce the slip on the inside wheel when cornering, without control interventions in the braking system. Improved traction allows the driver to accelerate out of corners earlier and with more power.

The car remains more stable when braking at high speeds, and the limited-slip differential also improves traction when moving off. Uniquely in this segment, the E 63 S 4MATIC+ is fitted with dynamic engine mounts that are instantly and variably able to adapt their stiffness to the driving conditions and requirements. These measures enhance the vehicle's precision when driven dynamically. As a result, the steering response and steering feedback becomes even more direct.

Good sensitivity

The large-sized high-performance braking system decelerates the performance sedan reliably and quickly and is fade-resistant even under high loads. The E 63 S 4MATIC+ is fitted with even larger com-

ound brake discs on the front axle in size 390 x 36 mm. The three-stage ESP allows significantly higher vehicle dynamics and driving enjoyment in ESP Sport Handling Mode and with the ESP OFF setting - ESP ON, ESP Sport Handling Mode and ESP OFF.

Sporty characteristics

The interior reinforces the vehicle's dynamism with numerous specially designed details. Ideal for a sporty driving style, the performance sports steering wheel in black leather features a flattened bottom section, Touch Control and electroplated shift paddles, as well as a steering wheel bezel with the AMG logo.

The driver and front passenger enjoy a secure position in the front sport seats even when driving at high speeds, thanks to the improved lateral support. There is a distinctive seat upholstery layout in black nappa leather, nut brown nappa leather or macchiato nappa leather. Trapezium-grain aluminum trim elements highlight the sporty aspirations.

Other interior highlights include a nappa leather covering for the instrument panel and beltlines, the sports steering wheel with crystal grey 12 o'clock marking and contrasting topstitching, AMG crest in the front head restraints, crystal grey seat piping, IWC-designed analogue clock and seat belts in crystal grey. The AMG instrument cluster places all important information in the driver's field of vision.

Anyone wishing to personalize their E 63 S 4MATIC+ even further is able to choose from numerous options offered by the AMG Performance Studio. The Night package, attractive wheel alternatives and two carbon-fiber packages can be used to customize the exterior specification. In the interior, the Performance steering wheel in nappa leather and the Performance seats, which are available for the first time, reinforce the sporty character. Carbon-fiber trim parts or glass-fiber elements in matt silver round off the personalization possibilities.

AMG TRACK PACE app

To supplement the RACETIMER, Mercedes-AMG developed the new AMG TRACK PACE app that enables drivers to analyze and improve their track driving style and to share this with other AMG drivers via Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube or the AMG Private Lounge. This app for Apple iPhones is connected to the on-board race app in the head unit via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth.

The COMAND Online infotainment system transmits all vehicle data - including speed, gear, steering angle, time, position and temperature - to the app in real time. The smartphone app can be connected to GoPro cameras, allowing the driver to obtain an interactive video of their racing experience featuring all the related data. The E 63 S 4MATIC+ is available at A R Albisher & Alkazemi's Shuwaikh showroom.



TOP INDIAN LEADERS IN THE ARAB WORLD HONORED BY FORBES ME

DUBAI: Forbes Middle East revealed the 5th edition of the Top Indian Leaders in the Arab World at a gala ceremony hosted at the Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi Beach Resort and Marina Dubai on Wednesday. The annual event honors some of the most pioneering and inspiring Indian business leaders in the Middle East. Shri Vipul, Indian Consulate General of India to the UAE, graced the occasion as the guest of honor and presented the awards to the winner.

The 2017 edition of the list included business leaders from vari-

ous sectors like retail, industrials, healthcare, banking and finance, both in top owners and top executive management categories. Out of the 100 in the top owners list, over 90 percent of them were based in UAE. Diversified companies dominated the awards list, followed by retail and real estate while luminaries from 24 other sectors were also honored at the event.

In recognition of his contribution to the retail sector in the region, M A Yusuf Ali was honored for the fifth year running. Many other noted own-

ers and founders were also honored during the ceremony, including, Adeeb Ahamed, MD, Lulu Financial Group & Twenty 14 Holdings, Ravi Pillai, MD, RP Group of Companies, Dr. Shamsheer Vayalil, Founder & MD, VPS Healthcare, Dr. Azad Moopen, Chairman and MD, Aster DM Healthcare, Rizwan Sajan, Founder & Chairman, Danube Group, Shaji Ul Mulk, Chairman, Mulk Holdings and Adnan Chilwan, Group CEO, Dubai Islamic Bank, among others.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive this award and be recognized

among your peers in the region. This recognition is an impetus for me to continue setting new benchmarks in the region's financial industry as well as the hospitality sector," said Adeeb Ahamed, MD, Lulu Financial Group and Twenty14 Holdings. "I would like to congratulate the fellow awardees who have been an integral part of the success story of this region. I would also like to thank Forbes Middle East for this recognition, and my incredible team, who continue to propel our business to ever greater heights," added Adeeb.



LINCOLN CONTINENTAL EPITOMIZES LUXURY, ELEGANCE WITH CLASS

KUWAIT: The Lincoln Continental is designed to appeal to those who are looking for something different in the luxury market; those who understand that luxury whispers its understated elegance rather than roar or garish opulence. With Continental, the subtle details and welcoming warmth stand it apart from the crowd. And it all begins with the approach. A warm, inviting welcome sets the tone for Lincoln Continental ownership.

The vehicle comes to life as the driver, carrying the key fob, comes within a range of up to eight feet, and receives a warm embrace through Approach Detection technology. Illuminated welcome mats project onto the ground beneath both front doors where the driver and front passenger will step as they approach so they can avoid stepping into a puddle or debris. The door handles also glow in a hue that complements the exterior color of the vehicle, highlighting their location, while signature LED accent lights on the headlamps and tail-maps add a sense of warmth.

The exclusive to Lincoln E-Latch door handles tuck discreetly in the clean beltline. By way of the simple pressing of a button on the handle that activates a next-world micro-processor-controlled opening of the door, Continental's clever technology provides for an elegant entry. Available auto-folding pedestal side-view mirrors move into driving position after the driver enters the vehicle and closes the door. Subtle welcoming cues continue inside, where ambient interior lights on the door panels, instrument panel, and cup holders liven up the cabin without glare.

A light pulses softly on the push-to-start button, signaling that Continental is ready to go. The interior also boasts the brand's most sensual materials ever, including Bridge of weir leather seat and door panels, a satin headliner, and shearing wool carpeting. Available patented Lincoln-designed Perfect Position front seats are inspired by those used in private aircraft; a patented comfort carrier system conforms to and supports the body, enhancing comfort. The seats have available heating, cooling and massaging functionality, along with up to 30-way adjustability that conforms to passengers' shapes and sizes.

In addition to greater adjustability than previously offered to better tailor and personalize their experience, improved comfort comes from a patented flexible comfort carrier. This suspension system of plastic and a thin layer of foam flexes around the body, helping take stress off the shoulders and neck. Support for the lower body and legs is provided by two extending thigh cushions, each independently adjustable. The cushions can be extended or moved up or down, allowing the driver to further personalize the adjustments and give support as needed to each leg independently, recognizing the different needs for each leg - one is at rest while the other engages the pedals.

Additional comfort is provided by massage functions in the back and cushion. The rolling-pattern massage is designed to help reduce muscle fatigue, aches and pains by keeping muscles and blood vessels stimulated in the legs and lower back. The intuitive technology screams class and luxury, but not as loud and clear as the Revel sound

system which offers a mobile concert quality listening experience comparable to what's offered only through very high-end home audio systems.

Point Source Architecture, Field Balancing Shorting Rings, auto-adjusting "Clarif-Fi" that matches source quality with the precise level of audio reconstruction, the beautifully-built and designed 13-speaker Revel audio system and a 19-speaker Revel Ultima system turns the new Continental into a concert hall. One of the first things a driver does in a car is turn on the audio system, which is why a premium audio experience is more important than ever.

Revel audio systems are designed and tested through computer-aided design, three-dimensional models, in presentation rooms and most importantly, in vehicles. Each system is designed specifically for that vehicle, with the placement, tuning, calibration and number of speakers customized to ensure superior sound quality and audio accuracy. Moreover, every Revel audio system is tuned to the trim of the vehicle, because when interior materials are changed, sound changes as well.

The passenger-side rear seat, too, can fully recline by moving the front passenger seat forward with the touch of a button. From a panel mounted on the through-center console, rear passengers also can control the Revel audio system, choosing from one of the three optional surround-sound modes - Stereo, Audience, and On-Stage - as well as regulate climate settings. Further highlighting rear-seat comfort is an SPD SmartGlass tinting sunroof, which



allows passengers to control heat from direct sunlight. With the simple touch of a button, the glass can cool Continental's interior by as much as around eight degrees Celsius, while also blocking 99 percent of UV rays. Lincoln's flagship full-size sedan is all-new for 2017, but it's simultaneously become a rebirth; a reincarnation of an icon. Luxury customers look for three main attributes in their full-sized sedan; technologies that ease their everyday experience, a beautiful design that is crafted with attention to detail, and a vehicle with impressive power that makes it a pleasure to drive. The 2017 Lincoln Continental has all that in spades, emphasized by an understated, quiet luxury.

GULF INSURANCE GROUP ORGANIZES CYBER INSURANCE WORKSHOP

KUWAIT CITY: Gulf Insurance Group K S C P (gig), a leading insurance service provider in the Middle East and North Africa, organized a Cyber Insurance workshop yesterday. Representatives from the Central Bank of Kuwait, the banking and financial sector, as well as the oil sector gathered with international Cyber Insurance experts to discuss cyber risks and the available insurance solutions.

Global specialty insurers and brokers were at hand to provide insight on the developing trends in cyber insurance and what protection is available. With the increased risk of cyber threats that have emerged this past week, it is more vital than ever to raise awareness on the issue to avoid disruption to businesses and clients.

"As part of a prudent corporate governance and risk management, companies should be looking for insurance protection as a key component of their cyber security program," said Khaled Saoud Al-Hasan, gig's Group CEO. He also added, "gig has always been a pioneer in the Kuwait market to introduce innovative insurance solutions to its valuable clients."



BB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000. The lucky winners are: Naser Abdulaziz Al-Awadhi, Yusef Soud Al-Khlaifi, Nawal Mohamad Al-Hamdan, Kaid Joher Hakimuddin and Kamal Saleem Kelkawi.

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers Daily and Quarterly Draws, wherein the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date.

Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder is qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher is the likelihood to win.

FORD RELEASED 360-DEGREE VIDEO OF ITS SYNC3 INFOTAINMENT SYSTEM

KUWAIT: Ford has released its most immersive product walk-around in the region to date, with the 360-degree video on the SYNC3 Infotainment System now available to view on Ford's YouTube channel. Ziad Chaaban, Electrical and Electronic Systems engineer at Ford Middle East and Africa, guides viewers through the latest generation of Ford's innovative communications and entertainment system, which boasts a new design, new interface and new languages including Arabic voice support.

To reflect the latter, Ford has also produced an Arabic version of the video. Employing the 2017 Mustang GT, Chaaban demonstrates the ease with which one goes about connecting their phone, customizing SYNC3's screen, setting the language, and using the pinch-to-zoom function of the navigation system - all from an immersive, hands-on point-of-view. Using state-of-the-art 360-degree camera equipment, Ford is able to provide a more complete, real-life experience of its in-car technology, highlighting the aspects of the SYNC3 that customers want to focus on, when they want to focus on it.

For news releases, related materials and high-resolution photos and video, visit www.media.ford.com.

HONDA ALGHANIM ADDS CHILD SAFETY TO ITS FAMILY CARS

KUWAIT: With three range of vehicles ranked as "Best Family Cars for 2017" by the global vehicle valuation and automotive research company Kelley Blue Book, Honda Alghanim is now offering families a 30 percent discount on baby-car seats provided in partnership with X-cite by Alghanim Electronics. Customers encouraged to ASK about the child seat safety voucher.

Honda Alghanim, the exclusive distributor of Honda cars, motorcycles and marine equipment in Kuwait, launched the initiative as part of its commitment to car safety and in specific the safety of families and children, to which it has received global acclaims.

Honda Alghanim is dedicated to giving back to the community through actively supporting worthy causes and communities to bring people together, nurturing tomorrow's dreamers along the way. Honda is very committed to promote child safety in its vehicles as children wellbeing is one of its top priority.

Most recently, Honda's CR-V, Pilot and Odyssey were also each named "2017 Best Cars for Families" by US News and World Report in their respective categories of Best Compact SUV, Best Three-Row SUV and Best Minivan. The ranking was determined by a combined evaluation of professional automotive reviews, safety and reliability ratings, seating and cargo volume, and the availability of family-friendly features.

Odyssey
Ranked among the best family cars, the Odyssey is known for its safety, value, reputation, driving manners, comfort and convenience, cargo versatility, technology, and fit of various rear-facing and forward-facing child safety car seats when choosing the vehicles that best meet the needs of today's families.

Odyssey J
Also ranked among the best family cars for 2017, the Odyssey J is known for its safety, value, reputation, driving manners, comfort and convenience, cargo versatility, technology, and fit of various rear-facing and forward-facing child safety car seats when choosing the vehicles that best meet the needs of today's families.

CR-V
With a dynamic crossover performance and style, the CR-V is incredibly spacious with luxury amenities at the top of its class, ideal for families. It has been tuned to provide further stability and better handling. Enjoy a sportier driving experience, thanks to improved suspension settings, wider wheels and an upgraded steering rack. Its newly upgraded i-VTEC engine delivers more low-rpm horsepower and torque for satisfyingly responsive acceleration. City or highway, direct injection technology maximizes your fuel efficiency.

Pilot
Pilot was designed to be stylish, useful and trouble-free when driving with its sporty and refined design redefining the modern family SUV. The Pilot is built for comfort with seating for as many as eight persons, not compromising on the premium features throughout the interior and exterior of the vehicle family SUV. The Pilot is the ideal vehicle to transport the whole family in just one car.

To view and test drive these cars, customers can visit one of the two Honda Alghanim showrooms located in Al-Rai and Shuwaikh. Honda Alghanim showroom in Al Rai area operates from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm, Saturday to Thursday, and from 9:30 am until 10:00 pm on Fridays. Shuwaikh showroom operates from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm. The cars service center waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers, digital satellite TV, free wireless internet and relaxing massage chairs.

The service center operates from Saturday to Wednesday from 7:30 am to 8:30 pm, from 7:30 am to 6:30 pm on Thursdays, and from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Fridays. Alghanim Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda automobiles, motorcycles, power products, and marine products in Kuwait, is committed to providing customers with flexible payment solutions and efficient and cost-effective services.

DELL EMC ELIMINATES BARRIERS TO HCI ADOPTION

LAS VEGAS: Dell EMC announces it is eliminating barriers to hyper-converged infrastructure (HCI) adoption with several updates to its HCI portfolio, including Dell EMC VxRail Appliances, VxRack Systems and XC Series, and new flexible consumption models aimed at making IT even simpler to acquire, deploy and manage.

"HCI is the fastest-growing part of the IT infrastructure market because customers want radical infrastructure simplification, and Dell EMC is the fastest-growing vendor in this segment with the strongest HCI portfolio, bar none," said Chad Sakac, president, Converged Platforms and Solutions Division, Dell EMC. "We're making the move to HCI even easier for customers with innovative payment solutions that eliminate the burden of upfront costs and long-term commitments, backed by HCI's ability to easily scale up and down."

According to IDC, the worldwide hyper-converged system market continued its trajectory as the fastest growing subset of the broader converged infrastructure market in 2016, surpassing US \$2.2 billion in global revenue, a substantial increase of 110 percent compared to 2015. Dell Technologies was the fastest growing hyper-converged system market vendor, growing revenue 206 percent in 4Q 2016 year over year, based on the success of Dell EMC VxRail Appliances, VxRack Systems and the XC Series.

Enhanced Dell EMC HCI Portfolio
The Dell EMC VxRail Appliance family

is the industry's only HCI appliances powered by VMware vSAN and jointly engineered with VMware. According to analyst firm IDC, sequential revenue growth from VxRail Appliances was four times higher than the entire HCI market during the fourth quarter of 2016, demonstrating more than 70 percent quarter over quarter growth. In response to VxRail Appliances being deployed increasingly for core data center applications, Dell EMC VxRail Appliances 4.5 delivers several new enterprise features available on Dell EMC PowerEdge 14th generation servers in the coming months.

Enhanced enterprise deployment features - Streamlined installation and implementation experience designed to help enterprise customers manage VxRail Appliances at scale. The VxRail Appliance deployment experience, which is optimized to deploy a single appliance in only 20 minutes, now can be applied to larger cluster sizes, allowing customers to add and manage 10 or more appliances as easily as a single appliance.

Additional hardware flexibility lowers total cost of ownership - New single processor options, priced as low as US \$25,000 for a three-node cluster, 4 reduce the cost of deploying processor-based licensed software for scaling up to 64 nodes. New network options, including up to 12 additional ports, allow VxRail Appliances to be deployed in environments requiring physical network segmentation of workloads.



Support for the latest VMware technologies - New VMware vSphere 6.5 and VMware vSAN 6.6 support adds optimized data service algorithms to accelerate flash performance, software-defined data-at-rest encryption to protect against unwanted access to data, and enhanced protection for stretched clusters.

Improved interoperability with Dell EMC technologies - Customers deploying VxRail Appliances now can leverage a centralized Dell EMC Secure Remote Services (ESRS) gate way to provide a single point of secure, two-way remote support for their entire Dell EMC infrastructure. The Dell EMC VxRack Systems, the only rack-scale hyper-converged systems with integrated top-of-rack Spine-Leaf networking and SDN options, are the perfect choice for customers embracing software-defined technology across the data center and ready for HCI with pre-integrated physical and software-defined networking. Updates to

the VxRack portfolio of VxRack FLEX powered by ScaleIO and VxRack SDDC powered by VMware Cloud Foundation include: Support for more data-demanding applications - VxRack FLEX expands configurations with support for Dell EMC PowerEdge R930, enabling the most data-demanding applications such as OLTP, in-memory databases, OLAP, CRM and ERP.

High performance networking architecture for modern data centers - VxRack FLEX now incorporates the next-generation Cisco Nexus 93180YC-EX switches that increase scale, improve performance and natively support software-defined networking. Enhanced hardware flexibility - VxRack SDDC now offers six additional PowerEdge R630-based server nodes for both expanded high performance and entry level options in cores, memory and CPUs.

The Dell EMC XC Series hyper-converged appliances combine compute,

storage and virtualization resources in turnkey, 1U and 2U appliances configured to-order. XC Series appliances are best suited for customers requiring hypervisor choice, which may include Microsoft Hyper-V, and support a variety of specific use cases, ranging from typical enterprise business applications to VDI environments.

Updates to the portfolio include:

Dell EMC XC430 Xpress - This new appliance offers small to mid-sized companies a complete, all-in-one infrastructure solution with robust three-node configurations starting as low as US \$25,000.5 Optimized for the smallest environments up to four nodes, the XC430 Xpress consolidates servers and storage in as small as 3U of rack space to drastically simplify on-site infrastructure.

Dell EMC XC Series with Dell EMC Data Protection - Dell EMC Avamar Virtual Edition, Data Domain and Data Domain Virtual Edition with XC Series offer efficient, enterprise-level data protection and simplified backup and disaster recovery, offering capabilities not previously available with the XC Series. Dell EMC XC Series with Pivotal Cloud Foundry - To rapidly develop and deploy applications to Pivotal Cloud Foundry, XC Series and Pivotal engineering teams have collaborated to create the ideal configuration and deployment guide, which reduces risk and accelerates a customer's ability to increase developer productivity and reduce IT operation costs.

AN ALERT RESEARCHER, TEAMWORK HELPED STEM HUGE CYBERATTACK

KILL SWITCH HALTS UNPRECEDENTED OUTBREAK

LONDON: The cyberattack that spread malicious software around the world, shutting down networks at hospitals, banks and government agencies, was thwarted by a young British researcher and an inexpensive domain registration, with help from another 20-something security engineer in the US. Britain's National Cyber Security Center and others were hailing the cybersecurity researcher, a 22-year-old identified online only as MalwareTech, who - unintentionally at first - discovered a so-called "kill switch" that halted the unprecedented outbreak.

By then the "ransomware" attack had crippled Britain's hospital network and computer systems in several countries in an effort to extort money from computer users. But the researcher's actions may have saved companies and governments millions of dollars and slowed the outbreak before computers in the US were more widely affected.

MalwareTech, who works for cybersecurity firm Kryptos Logic, is part of a large global cybersecurity community who are constantly watching for attacks and working together to stop or prevent them, often sharing information via Twitter. It's not uncommon for them to use aliases, either to protect themselves from retaliatory attacks or for privacy.

In a blog post Saturday, MalwareTech explained he learned on Friday that networks across Britain's health system had been hit by ransomware, tipping him off that "this was something big." He began analyzing a sample of the malicious software and noticed its code included a hidden web address that wasn't registered. He said he "promptly" registered the domain, something he regularly does to try to discover ways to track or stop malicious software.

Across an ocean, Darien Huss, a 28-year-old research engineer for the cybersecurity firm Proofpoint, was doing his own analysis. The western Michigan resident said he noticed the authors of the malware had left in a feature known as a kill switch. Huss took a screen shot of his discovery and shared it on Twitter.

Soon he and MalwareTech were communicating about what they'd found: That registering



the domain name and redirecting the attacks to the server of Kryptos Logic had activated the kill switch, halting the ransomware's infections. Huss and others were calling MalwareTech a hero on Saturday, with Huss adding that the global cybersecurity community was working "as a team" to stop the infections from spreading. "I think the security industry as a whole should be considered heroes," he said.

But he also said he's concerned the authors of the malware could re-release it without a kill switch or with a better one, or that copycats could mimic the attack. "I think it is concerning that we could definitely see a similar attack occur, maybe in the next 24 to 48 hours or maybe in the next week or two," Huss said. "It could be very possible." Who perpetrated this wave of attacks remains unknown. This is already believed to be the biggest online extortion attack ever recorded, disrupting services in nations as diverse as the US, Russia, Ukraine, Brazil, Spain and India.

Europol, Europe's policing agency, called the attack unprecedented and said computers in more than 150 countries have been affected. Two security firms - Kaspersky Lab and Avast - said Russia was hit hardest. These hackers "have caused enormous amounts of disruption - probably the biggest ransomware cyberattack in history," said Graham Cluley, a veteran of the anti-virus industry in Oxford, England. In Russia, government agencies insisted that all attacks had been resolved.

Russian Interior Ministry, which runs the national police, said the problem had been "localized" with no information compromised. Russia's health ministry said its attacks were "effectively repelled."

The ransomware exploits a vulnerability in Microsoft Windows that was purportedly identified by the US National Security Agency for its own intelligence-gathering purposes. Hackers said they stole the tools from the NSA and dumped them on the internet. —AP

BUILDING THE MIDDLE EAST AEROSPACE ECOSYSTEM

By Bernard Dunn, President of Boeing Middle East, North Africa and Turkey

Against a backdrop of new airplane programs, growing passenger traffic globally, low commodity prices, and political uncertainties, the aerospace and defense industry is going through significant changes, particularly in the Middle East. The industry is facing a range of challenges to address environmental and regulatory issues, and an increased dependence on a global supply chain.

The network of organizations - including suppliers, distributors, customers, competitors, government agencies and so on - involved in the delivery of passenger jets, defense products and weapons systems are facing these tremendous challenges both at home and abroad through competition and limited resources.

Supporting the industry's evolution are countries that are trying to build indigenous aerospace capabilities in exchange for access to markets to help grow economies, gain technologies, provide employment opportunities and eventually to compete on the world marketplace.

Kuwait is emerging as a renewed heavyweight in the region's aviation industry. Along with strong aviation and aerospace players such as Kuwait Airways, ALAFCO and Kuwait Aerospace Technologies, the country is committed to ambitious infrastructure plans. The project to increase the capacity of Kuwait International Airport (KIA) will develop it into a new regional air hub in the GCC. The first phase of the project will add capacity of the airport to accommodate 13 million passengers a year and between 25 and 50 million passengers a year in the second phase.

Additionally, exciting opportunities are emerging to create "aerospace ecosystems"; in Kuwait you are starting to see STEM related industries beginning to flourish. To support STEM activities at a

grassroots level and help secure the future of science and technology, Boeing has supported many initiatives in Kuwait such as teacher training program that used NASA content to make math and science fun, as well as supporting the Engineering curriculum at Kuwait University.

Boeing also supported a project involving advanced technology transfer and the provision of specialized aviation and engineering equipment to the Australian College of Kuwait in support of its aviation maintenance and electro-mechanical engineering programs.

Customers are asking for - if not demanding - value propositions that include education and training programs, skills development, technology transfer, industrial partnerships, and relationships that provide products and services for the entire product lifecycle to keep it relevant for decades.

As a company, Bill Boeing's philosophy - build something better - drove the innovations that fueled our company's success through historic challenges; the birth of air travel, the defense of democracy, the space race and moon landing; and the age of mass air travel.

Time and time again, success in aerospace and defense manufacturing complements efforts in other areas of development and adds to capabilities. Pioneering roles in scientific research and development contribute to building new technologies and capabilities to lay the groundwork for manufacturing, economic growth and employment.

Many companies can provide these assets, but Boeing is uniquely positioned to become ingrained in the fabric of Middle East societies. Boeing provides the region commercial aircraft, including the 737, 747, 777, and 787 Dreamliner, defense products such as the C-17 Globemaster III, Chinook helicopters; F/A-18 & F-15 fighter aircraft, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) and tanker aircraft; as well as Boeing satellites for telecommunications.

KASPERSKY LAB COMMENTS ON WANNACRY ATTACK

On May 12, 2017, a massive ransomware attack was unleashed, hitting organizations across the world. Kaspersky Lab's researchers have analyzed the data and can confirm that the company's protection subsystems detected at least 45,000 infection attempts in 74 countries, most of them in Russia. The ransomware infects victims by exploiting a Microsoft Windows vulnerability described and fixed in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS17-010. The exploit used, "Eternal Blue" was revealed in the Shadowbrokers dump on April 14.

Once inside the system, the attackers install a root kit, which enables them to download the software to encrypt the data. The malware encrypts the files. A request for \$600 in Bitcoin is displayed along with the wallet - and the ransom demand increases over time. Kaspersky Lab experts are currently trying to determine whether it is possible to decrypt data locked in the attack - with the aim of developing a decryption tool as soon as possible. Kaspersky Lab security solutions detect the malware used in this attack by the following detection names:

Trojan-Ransom.Win32.Scatter.uf
Trojan-Ransom.Win32.Scatter.tr
Trojan-Ransom.Win32.Fury.fr
Trojan-Ransom.Win32.Gen.djd
Trojan-Ransom.Win32.Wanna.b
Trojan-Ransom.Win32.Wanna.c
Trojan-Ransom.Win32.Wanna.d
Trojan-Ransom.Win32.Wanna.f
Trojan-Ransom.Win32.Zapchast.i
Trojan.Win64.EquationDrug.gen
Trojan.Win32.Generic (the System Watcher component must be enabled). We recommend taking the following measures to reduce the risk of infection:
Install the official patch from Microsoft that closes the vulnerability used in the attack.

NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT REDEFINES STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE WITH DELL EMC

KUWAIT CITY:

Dell EMC yesterday announced that the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), the first indigenous bank in the state of Kuwait, has selected Dell EMC's all-flash storage solutions to further strengthen their agility and highly available foundation to power "round the clock" applications and service delivery. NBK was amongst the early adopters in the Middle East to successfully deploy Information Life Cycle Management (ILM) as its strategy for proper data governance.

In line with this, NBK aims to facilitate smarter decision-making and enhance their commitment to service excellence in this hyper connected, digitized era. This deployment has reinforced NBK's leading position on the map as a leader in all-flash storage technology for mission critical applications in the Middle East and Africa, asserting its pioneering position in the banking and finance industry.

NBK has selected Dell EMC VMAX3 All Flash Array (AFA) which features software-defined reliability, availability and serviceability (RAS) technology to create the right IT environment to better support consistently increasing data streams and enable maximum application availability, while signifi-

cantly reducing the response time. With over 200 mission and business critical applications on the network, NBK will further reinforce these deployments with Dell EMC's Non-Disruptive Migration (NDM) technology. NDM technology is specifically developed to ensure seamless data mobility between storage systems with zero impact on the hosted applications. Thus, making NBK the first organization in the Middle East to successfully perform a non-disruptive migration of critical applications to the new VMAX All Flash without any down time or services interruption.

Improved Performance

With Dell EMC's VMAX3 All Flash Array storage solutions, NBK has created a highly resilient and performance driven environment which has significantly reduced application response time for internal users and customers by 50 percent. This allows NBK to meet the demands for higher data availability and ensures information readiness for faster and smarter decision making.

Storage Efficiency

VMAX has enabled NBK to decrease application and data storage utilization by 25 percent and improved the performance of operational data storage (ODS) by an average of 62 percent. This has resulted in enhancing the overall storage performance and facilitating immediate availability of storage resources for hosting additional applications and provisioning new service requirements.

Fueled Reliability

By leveraging Dell EMC's Non-Disruptive Migration (NDM) technology and software-defined reliability, availability and serviceability (RAS) technology, NBK has successfully facilitated 99.9999 percent of application and data availability, while ensuring Intelligent Data Mobility allowing seamless transfer of workloads between its storage systems.

Simplified Management

VMAX3 All Flash Array has helped NBK to simplify management of its storage environment by consolidating the high volume of application services into a particular storage system, resulting in a simpler infrastructure to support business operations.

Customer challenges

Since its incorporation in 1952 as the first indigenous bank in the state of Kuwait, and the first shareholding company in the entire Gulf region, NBK has always succeeded in building an advanced banking institution. NBK offers a full spectrum of innovative and unrivalled financial and investment services to individuals, corporate and institutional clients, both for the local market in Kuwait, and globally. As the keystone of the country's economy, the bank projects an ambitious roadmap as it continues to introduce a host of best-in-class products and services to enhance overall customer experience and become the premier bank in the Arab world. Acknowledging the critical importance of the right storage

infrastructure to manage and protect a wealth of over 200 organically grown mission critical data and applications, improve scalability and reliability to meet the needs of their rapidly expanding customer base, the bank aimed to establish a truly integrated infrastructure. Deploying the powerful combination of Dell EMC's VMAX3 All Flash Array storage solutions together with Non-Disruptive Migration technology has resulted in accelerated performance benefits, seamless data mobility between storage systems, enhanced replication control and simplified administration of the increasing data and applications.

With VMAX3 all flash storage, engineered for highest industry possible performance, in addition to its proven 6x9's reliability, availability and serviceability (RAS) features, NBK successfully reduced the application response time from 40 milliseconds to 20 milliseconds. This also resulted in achieving increased levels of business agility and storage optimization. Dell EMC's trusted VMAX storage has enabled NBK to reduce application and data storage utilization by 25 percent. In addition, VMAX3 helped NBK to consolidate its mission and business critical application services and data into a particular storage system. This resulted in simplifying the management of higher workloads allowing NBK to plan new services and reduce time-to-service, while optimizing performance at the lowest cost across all applications and driving both workflow efficiency and productivity.

WOMEN USING LONG-ACTING CONTRACEPTION LESS LIKELY TO USE CONDOMS

NEW YORK: College women using long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), like IUDs or hormonal implants, may be less likely to get pregnant but more vulnerable to sexually transmitted disease compared to peers not on LARCs, a US study finds. Among sexually active women, those who used LARC methods were more than two times less likely to have used a condom in their last sexual encounter than women not on a long-acting contraceptive, researchers report in the journal *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*.

"Long-acting reversible contraception, which includes intrauterine devices and contraceptive implants, is one of the most effective ways to prevent pregnancy. While these methods are good at preventing pregnancy, there is no protection for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)," lead author Erika Thompson told Reuters Health in an email.

"One of the key findings is that condom use is lower among women using LARC methods compared to other forms of birth control (e.g., pill). Thus,

LARC users may be placing themselves at risk for an STI because they are not using condoms for prevention," said Thompson, a researcher at the Community and Family Health College of Public Health at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Sexually transmitted infections, such as chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis were at an all time high in the US in 2015, the study authors write. About half of new STIs occur in adolescents and young adults, they note.

Thompson's team used data from the National College Health Assessment-II, a large survey-based study that examines the health status of US college students. The current study included 17,623 college women who were 18 years or older and reported having sex during the previous year. About 9 percent used a LARC method.

Researchers found that 24 percent of LARC users also used condoms in their last sexual encounter, compared to 57 percent of used a different contraceptive method plus a condom. This comparison

excluded women whose only contraceptive was a condom. Most of the LARC users were over 21 years old, white and had insurance, the authors point out. Black and Hispanic LARC users were more likely than whites to use a condom as well.

"Couples in relationships may want to consider talking to a healthcare provider about STI testing prior to stopping condom use. It is important to note that serial monogamy, or having successive sexual partners, does not remove the risk for STIs, so condoms should be used initially in a relationship," Thompson said. With the emergence of Zika Virus as a public health issue, this study may have applications to the prevention of sexual transmission of Zika virus, she added. "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the use of effective birth control methods and condoms to reduce the risk of a pregnancy affected by Zika," Thompson said.

The study can shed light on which groups of women may be least likely to use condoms while on

an effective form of birth control, Thompson said. There were some limitations to the study, including a low response rate to the survey. The study authors also didn't take the length of relationships into consideration and they didn't ask if study participants were aware of the risk of STIs.

"It is an interesting study though I do not think the findings are surprising. People choose LARC for many reasons, including that they, or their partner, do not like condoms," Dr Barbara M Gripshover told Reuters Health in an email. "More people chose this method who were in a relationship and therefore thought to be at less risk for STIs," said Gripshover, medical director of the John T. Carey Special Immunology Unit at the University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Gripshover, who wasn't involved in the study, said that a couple can feel safe about not using condoms for STI prevention when both partners do not have an STI and they are in a monogamous relationship. —Reuters

US SCHOOLS BRACE FOR IMPACT IF CONGRESS CUTS MEDICAID SPENDING

'IF THEY HAVE LESS MEDICAID MONEY, SOMETHING'S GOING TO GO AWAY'

NEW YORK: For school districts still getting their financial footing after the Great Recession, the Medicaid changes being advanced as part of the health care overhaul are sounding familiar alarms. Administrators say programming and services even beyond those that receive funding from the state-federal health care program could be at risk should Congress follow through with plans to change the way Medicaid is distributed. They say any reduction in the estimated \$4 billion schools receive in annual Medicaid reimbursements would be hard to absorb after years of reduced state funding and a weakened tax base. "If they have less Medicaid money, something's going to go away," said Randy Liepa, superintendent of the Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency, which works with 33 school districts in the Detroit area. The agency covers about 21,000 children with special needs who are on Medicaid and it helps districts recoup about \$30 million annually in reimbursements.

Districts would have to look at non mandated positions and programs if forced to bear more of the costs for services for poor and disabled students required by federal law, said Thomas Gentzel, executive director of the National School Boards Association. The Senate is

Medicaid subsidies to states would be \$880 billion less over 10 years.

President Donald Trump's administration argues that states will get more freedom to experiment with the program and make sure that people who rely on Medicaid get the care and coverage they need. Medicaid spending is "not getting out of control because of schools, because schools are getting less than 1 percent of the dollars," said Sasha Pudelski, assistant director of policy and advocacy at The School Superintendents Association. "It's not kids who are breaking the bank." An association survey polling 1,000 school leaders reported that schools spent two-thirds of the money to support specialists, from school nurses and social workers to speech pathologists.

The association, as part of a coalition of more than 50 school and child health advocates, warned congressional leaders in a recent letter against shifting more costs to states and in turn, local communities. They said that would lead to cuts in services and benefits to children, especially in districts with high poverty rates. "A lot of districts have never really covered from the Great Recession, they're still in it," Gentzel said, "and some states have not restored their funding. I think it's

cheat omies. "That service won't be done if Medicaid isn't paying for it," she said.

Mental health

Behavioral issues in the classroom are often addressed with counseling through social workers and psychologists. Schenectady City School District in New York, where a majority of students live in poverty, has had a dramatic increase in the number of social workers at its schools dealing with mental health issues. "They're all front-line responders to kids in crisis," Superintendent Laurence Spring said. He said they counsel kids traumatized by domestic violence and street crimes and others who experience anxiety from not having enough food at home. The district files for about \$2 million in annual Medicaid reimbursements.

Health screenings

When schools host campus-wide preventative screenings, for everything from vision, hearing, asthma and mental health, some costs are recouped based on the number of Medicaid-eligible students who are treated. Advocates say that vulnerable children may not have access to such preventative services outside of school, but the screenings can catch health issues before they become more serious.

Liepa, from the Detroit-area agency, said children living in poverty regularly come to school facing significant impairments to their health and with little or no support at home to address them, which ultimately affects learning. "It's no different than if they're coming in hungry, which is supported by the federal lunch program."

Community outreach

School districts often direct and assist students' families with resources, such as helping them sign up for Medicaid or referring them to an eye doctor for glasses. Some hours spent on these administrative tasks are reimbursable by Medicaid. Poquoson City Public Schools in Virginia spend some of their \$35,000 in annual reimbursements for events targeting children who aren't even in school yet, in hopes of getting families resources as early as possible. "It's a jump start for kindergarten. If we can get some services, with disabilities, at an early age, they're likely far more successful in the years with us," Superintendent Jennifer Parish said.

Equipment and supplies

A major hit on school budgets could mean less for new or replacement equipment and supplies. That could affect things such as outfitted buses, assistive devices and other items for children with special needs who they can be in school. This could trickle down to non mandated items such as special science lab materials or theater club costumes for general education students.

Liepa said the Medicaid money has helped school districts afford programs and operational costs, from upgrading buses to buying new textbooks, while balancing their budgets. "It's been a life-saver for school districts. It's one less thing I have to worry about or think about reducing," he said.

Sports, clubs and activities

Optional but highly popular programs for students and families, such as sports, clubs and after-school activities, could be slashed, as the offerings are generally the first to go in a budget crisis. "Most districts have long picked the low-hanging fruit in their budgets," Gentzel said. —AP



JEFFERSON CITY, Missouri: In this May 1, 2017 photo, Dr Tricia Derges, right, stands with Missouri Rep Lynn Morris after they testified in support of legislation expanding eligibility for Missouri's assistant physician law at a Senate committee hearing at the state Capitol in Jefferson City, Mo. —AP

MISSOURI TARGETS DOCTOR DEARTH, EXPANDS FIRST-IN-NATION LAW

JEFFERSON CITY, Missouri: Numerous additional doctors from around the US could become eligible to treat patients in Missouri's underserved areas as a result of a planned expansion of a first-in-the-nation law aimed at addressing a pervasive doctor shortage. The newly passed Missouri legislation would broaden the reach of a 2014 law that sought to bridge the gap between communities in need of doctors and physicians in need of jobs. That law created a new category of licensed professionals - "assistant physicians" - for people who graduate from medical school and pass key medical exams but aren't placed in residency programs needed for certification.

But it took nearly 2 1/2 years before Missouri finally began accepting applications on Jan 31. By then, some applicants no longer qualified because too much time had lapsed since their medical exams. Missouri's new legislation seeks to turn back the clock, so those who became ineligible during the slow roll out can still get licensed as assistant physicians.

Supporters hope the legislation, if signed by the governor, will help jumpstart a program that has been promoted as a model for other states. "We've been trying for years to address our maldistribution of physicians in the country. We have all sorts of incentive programs and all sorts of ways to try to get them to go out to Podunk, but a lot of them just don't want to go to Podunk," said Missouri Rep. Keith Frederick, an orthopedic surgeon who sponsored the assistant physician law.

"This bill takes folks that very much want to ply their trade - they just want the opportunity to provide patient care - and the bill requires that they serve in an underserved area," Frederick added. Nearly 6,800 places in the US are short on primary care physicians, from particular medical clinics to certain urban communities and entire rural counties, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services. Of those, 225 are in Missouri - a disproportionately high amount compared with the state's population.

Traditional residency

Since Missouri's original law passed, Arkansas and Kansas approved slimmed-down versions, and Utah enacted a similar measure this year. Lawmakers also have considered similar programs in Oklahoma, Virginia and Washington. Missouri's assistant physician license is available to all legal US residents who graduated from medical school within the last three years and passed the first two rounds of medical licensing exams within the last two years. It lets them provide primary care in "medically underserved" areas with the supervision of another physician. People can work as assistant physicians indefinitely, essentially sidestepping traditional residency requirements.

So far, 127 people have applied for Missouri's program. Just 23 have been issued licenses while 55 have been deemed ineligible and 44 remain under review. Dr Tricia Derges is among those who have been excluded because the state took so long to implement the program. Derges sold her candle manufacturing company about a decade ago to enroll in medical school. She said she completed the second step of the medical exam in January 2014 and graduated from Caribbean Medical University in Curacao three months later. She didn't get matched with a residency program.

Derges nonetheless opened a clinic for the homeless and poor in Springfield, believing she could get licensed as an assistant physician. While waiting for that license, she has relied on other physicians to volunteer their services. Derges said her assistant physician application was denied because more than two years had passed since her medical exam. The new legislation could allow her to reapply, and to potentially expand her clinic.

"It will save a lot of people's lives," Derges told The Associated Press. The bill also was championed by state Rep. Lynn Morris, a pharmacy owner who said the expanded program could save people long drives to see doctors. It's "a commonsense approach to help take care of a crisis we've had," Morris said. —AP



BUFFALO, New York: In this photo, students leave South Park High School in Buffalo, NY. —AP

up next in efforts to do away with President Barack Obama's health law, and school leaders are watching to see whether the changes advanced by the House survive. The House bill would transform the open-ended federal entitlement, which reimburses schools a percentage of the cost of the eligible services they provide to poor and disabled students, to one where reimbursements will come in a fixed, per-person amount.

But, said Kriner Cash, superintendent of public schools in Buffalo, New York, "individual student care comes with highly variable costs, especially in the case of students with disabilities." In the school district, more than 80 percent of students are low income and 22 percent have disabilities. The district gets about \$2.5 million annually from Medicaid. In March, a Congressional Budget Office estimate for an earlier version of the House bill found that federal

the context of all of this that's almost as important as the story about Medicaid." Opponents of the changes say these are potential impacts:

School nurses

Students needing to check their temperature or searching for a tampon may not be able to walk down the hall to see a school nurse. Health professionals such as nurses, physical therapists, speech pathologists, social workers and psychologists may be forced to rove between schools, outsourced or have some of their duties taken on by administrative staff. "There are health barriers to students getting their education," said Donna Mazyck, executive director of the National Association of School Nurses. Individualized Education Plans mandated under federal law may require nurses to give medication and tend to feeding tubes and tra-

INDONESIAN RANGERS DISMANTLE TRAPS TO SAVE WILDLIFE



TRUMON, ACEH, Indonesia: This picture shows an Indonesian forest ranger putting out a fire found along a trail in the Leuser ecosystem rainforest, located mostly within the province of Aceh on the northern tip of the island of Sumatra. —AFP photos



TRUMON, ACEH, Indonesia: An Indonesian forest ranger holding barbed wire that was removed from traps set up by poachers to capture bears and tigers in the Leuser ecosystem rainforest.



TRUMON, ACEH, Indonesia: A baby Sumatran elephant getting a bath with her mother at the Trumon Conservation Response Unit in the Leuser Ecosystem wildlife reservation area in south Aceh district.

LEUSER, Indonesia: In the depths of Indonesia's dense Leuser rain forest, a group of rangers are searching for traps set by poachers which are endangering rare wildlife. Scientists and conservationists consider the Leuser Ecosystem, which falls mostly within Aceh province on Sumatra island, to be among the most

important forests left in Southeast Asia. It is the last place of sufficient size and quality to support viable populations of rare species like orangutans, Sumatran tigers, rhinoceroses, elephants, clouded leopards and sun bears.

In 2015 hundreds of traps were confiscated monthly in Leuser but now fewer than 10 are found every month,

according to local conservation NGO Forum Conservation Leuser. "The rangers are trained to track signs indicating that there were poachers in the area, such as by looking for cigarette ends or footsteps," said Rudi Putra, head of the forum. Some traps are designed to snare animals' feet. Others consist of spears set high

up in trees, which would fall when a trap is sprung. The rangers also watch for signs of deforestation such as illegal logging, and collect data from the forest for further research. Poachers typically set up traps to capture elephants, tigers and bears so they can sell them illegally and make money. —AFP



DHARAMSALA, HIMACHAL PRADESH, India : Tibetan medical practitioner Yeshi Dhonden sits inside a room at his Tibetan Herbal Clinic in the Indian town of Dharamsala. —AFP photos



DHARAMSALA: A staff member of Tibetan medical practitioner Yeshi Dhonden's Tibetan Herbal Clinic packs traditional Tibetan medicine to send to patients by courier in the Indian town of Dharamsala.



DHARAMSALA: A staff member of Tibetan medical practitioner Yeshi Dhonden's Tibetan Herbal Clinic packs traditional Tibetan medicine to send to patients by courier in the Indian town of Dharamsala.



DHARAMSALA: Tibetan medical practitioner Yeshi Dhonden (left) is helped as he leaves the Tibetan Herbal Clinic in the Indian town of Dharamsala.



DHARAMSALA: A cup containing bamboo, used to examine patients' urine, sits in a room at Tibetan medical practitioner Yeshi Dhonden's Tibetan Herbal Clinic in the Indian town of Dharamsala.



DHARAMSALA: A staff member of Tibetan medical practitioner Yeshi Dhonden's Tibetan Herbal Clinic packs traditional Tibetan medicine to send to patients by courier in the Indian town of Dharamsala.

TIBETAN MEDICINE LURES PATIENTS SEEKING DRUG-FREE CURES

'WE BELIEVE DISEASES ARE CAUSED WHEN OUR INNER ENERGIES ARE IMBALANCED'

DHARAMSALA, India: Before dawn in the Indian Himalayas, scores of patients clutching small vials of urine queue patiently to see Yeshi Dhonden, a Tibetan monk who became a legend as personal healer to the Dalai Lama. Tibetan medicine, known as Sowa-Rigpa, draws on centuries-old techniques such as blood-letting, cupping, and moxibustion-burning herbs on energy points of the body to try to heal ailments. The practice draws on aspects of traditional Chinese medicine and India's Ayurvedic system as well as its own unique theories and treatments. It also features spiritual practices including meditation and Buddhist prayer.

Today it attracts devotees from all over the globe, hoping for help with conditions from back pain to cancer and degenerative diseases. "If the sick come to me I will take care of them," Dhonden told AFP at his private clinic in McLeodganj, surrounded by Tibetan scrolls and beaming images of his most famous client. Dhonden-who spent three decades tending the health of Tibet's spiritual leader-relies on his senses to divine what ails patients.

"I don't go for tests like X-ray and all. I trust myself. I just test the pulse and the urine," he explained. A touch at the wrist is how he ascertains the health of vital organs and blood pressure. The urine, held in a white porcelain cup, is stirred with two small bamboo sticks. Color, bubble formation, sediment and smell can all shape the diagnosis. Devotees swear Tibetan medicine works, though few scientific studies have been conducted into its efficacy.

'Imbalanced energies'

The teachings-contained in some 2,000 textbooks and the messages of the Buddha, considered the guardian deity for all spiritual healers-are believed to have originated in Tibet. But as it features elements of both ancient Chinese and Indian healing practices, and is rapidly evolving from a niche tradition into popular alternative treatment, both nations have scrambled to claim it as their own. In April, the Asian giants nominated Tibetan medicine for inclusion on a UNESCO list for "intangible



DHARAMSALA: Tibetan medical practitioner Tsewang Tamdin speaks during an interview at his office in the Gangkyi Men-Tsee Khang clinic in the Indian town of Dharamsala.

culture". China and India have engaged in countless spats over the Tibetan community since New Delhi granted sanctuary to the Dalai Lama in 1959.

Beijing took control of Tibet eight years earlier and was furious when India granted the Dalai Lama permission to headquarter a government-in-exile in McLeodganj. The traditions of Tibetan medicine are based on four root texts known



DHARAMSALA: A staff member of Tibetan medical practitioner Yeshi Dhonden's Tibetan Herbal Clinic packs traditional Tibetan medicine to send to patients by courier in the Indian town of Dharamsala.

as the 'tantras' that evolved in two medical colleges, Chakpori and Men-Tsee-Khang, in the Tibetan capital Lhasa. These tantras classify thousands of diseases into separate categories, with unique mixtures of herbs and minerals-mostly sourced from the upper reaches of the Himalayas-listed as remedies for each ailment. "We believe diseases are caused when our inner energies are imbalanced," said Tsewang Tam

Din, a medical practitioner at the McLeodganj branch of the Men-Tsee Khang school, one of many across India.

Taking a delicate golden hammer, Din demonstrated how healers heat the instrument over fire and place it against the body to offset pain and other common malaises. "The idea behind our medicine system is that one should not have to take medication all his life for chronic problems like arthritis and diabetes," Din said in McLeodganj, nicknamed "Little Lhasa" for the large Tibetan community residing there.

Science of healing

The increasing popularity of Buddhism in the west, as well as a global Tibetan diaspora has helped spread awareness about its unique alternative medicine. But like other Eastern health treatments, it is viewed with skepticism among the conventional medical fraternity. A lack of standardization and clinical trials means it will be some time before Tibetan medicine can go mainstream, said cardiologist D Prabhakaran from the Public Health Foundation of India.

But even doubters acknowledge the natural treatment appears to assist some patients in certain cases. "I know of anecdotal examples where people with terminal diseases have lived much longer than predicted after taking Tibetan medicine," Prabhakaran said. "I think there's a lot of empathy towards the patient in Tibetan medicine. Basically it comes from the thinking of Buddhism and that may be one of the reasons why it's becoming more popular," he added.

In 2010, India officially recognized Tibetan medicine as a "science of healing" and enshrined it within the nation's healthcare system, paving the way for future research and investment into the spiritual discipline. It's good news for devotees like 60-year-old Abdul Rehman, who has eschewed mainstream medicine his entire life in favor of Tibetan alternatives. "I suffered from a recurrent cold which was cured in one year," said Rehman as he collected herbal pills at a clinic in a posh Delhi suburb. He added: "Now I have some back and neck pain and I think it will also be cured soon." —AFP

CLINIC

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A celebration was recently held marking the Centennial jubilee anniversary of Lady of Fatima, conducted by Bishop Camilo with international choirs.

KERALA SPEAKER TO ATTEND KALA-KUWAIT PROGRAM

Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly Sreeramakrishnan will be the chief guest of 'Mayookham 2017' which will witness the inauguration of this year's free Malayalam education program being organized by Kerala Art Lovers' Association (KALA-Kuwait). The Malayalam education program for the year will be formally inaugurated by famous film-stage actor and author V K Sriaman. The Indian Embassy representative will also be participating in the public meeting, KALA-Kuwait office-bearers informed during a press conference.

Around 2,500 people are expected to attend the event, which will be held on the premises of Qadsiya Sporting Club, Hawally on May 19, 2017. The programs will begin from 11am with selected, attractive art and cultural displays. The cultural meeting is scheduled to commence from 3 pm onwards, they said.

This year, the Ramesh Memorial Diaspora Award will be conferred on EM Kabear, a not-

ed social worker in Saudi Arabia. KALA-Kuwait will also launch a new initiative called 'KALA-Film Society' under the arts wing of the association on the same occasion. The society is being formed in order to generate awareness among the expat community in Kuwait about world cinema and create a positive film appreciation culture. The prizes for the winners of 'Balakalameela' arts competitions held on May 5, 2017 will also be distributed during the day-long event.



Malayalam playback singers Sudeep and Jayalakshmy along with their band of musicians will perform from 6pm onwards. The entry is open to all community members and dignitaries, media persons and well-wishers in addition to the KALA family members, the office-bearers informed.

KALA-Kuwait president Sugathakumar, General Secretary Saji Janardhanan, General Convenor Sam Pynummodu), Treasurer Ramesh Kannapuram and Media Secretary Jithin Prakash attended the press conference.



Ambassadors of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan hosted a reception recently at the Russian embassy to celebrate the 72nd Anniversary of the Victory in World War II. Diplomats, media personalities and other dignitaries attended the event. —Photos by Joseph Shagra



Australian College of Kuwait graduates and professors pose for a group photo. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

ACK COLLEGE SHOWCASES GRADUATE STUDENTS' PROJECTS

KUWAIT: The College of Engineering at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) organized an exhibition for graduate students' projects recently at Al-Jouhara Ballroom in Crowne Plaza Hotel. Ambassadors, academics from various universities and institutes in addition to representatives of major companies were in attendance. The exhibition included 60 projects made by more than 220 graduate students, which drew appreciation of all those present.



OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 01:15 Hitting The Apex
- 03:45 The Living Daylights
- 06:00 Big Game
- 07:45 Hard Target 2
- 09:45 Age Of Tomorrow
- 11:30 Hitting The Apex
- 14:00 The Living Daylights
- 16:15 Forbidden Empire
- 18:15 Kingsglave: Final Fantasy XV
- 20:15 A View To A Kill
- 22:30 Pusher

OSN MOVIES HD THRILLER

- 00:45 Swept Under
- 02:45 The Rich Man's Wife
- 04:30 Deceived
- 06:30 Dying Of The Light
- 08:15 Swept Under
- 10:15 The Rich Man's Wife
- 12:00 Deceived
- 14:00 The Reckoning
- 15:45 Preservation
- 17:30 The Net
- 19:30 13 Sins
- 21:15 The Visit
- 23:00 The Visit

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 00:00 The Incredible Adventures Of Professor Branestawr
- 01:00 Further Adventures Of Professor Branestawr
- 02:15 Atlantis: The Lost Empire
- 04:15 Tinker Bell And The Lost Treasure
- 05:45 Wall-E
- 07:30 Atlantis: The Lost Empire
- 09:15 White Fang
- 11:15 Wall-E
- 13:00 Atlantis: Milo's Return
- 14:30 White Fang 2: Myth Of The White Wolf
- 16:15 A Little Game
- 17:45 Hocus Pocus
- 19:30 The Sorcerer's Apprentice
- 21:30 White Fang 2: Myth Of The White Wolf
- 23:15 Hocus Pocus

OSN MOVIES HD FIRST

- 00:00 Mistress America
- 01:30 Paper Towns
- 03:15 Concussion
- 05:15 Far From The Madding Crowd
- 07:15 Dad's Army
- 09:00 Concussion
- 11:15 Zoaland 2
- 13:00 Big Stone Gap
- 14:45 Pete's Dragon
- 16:30 Ghostbusters
- 18:30 Point Break
- 20:30 Captain America: Civil War
- 23:00 Green Room

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:15 Adventures Of A Pizza Guy
- 01:45 Spy
- 03:45 Clifford
- 05:15 Liberal Arts
- 07:00 Hanging Up
- 08:45 Clifford
- 10:15 Liberal Arts
- 12:00 Hanging Up
- 13:45 Baby's Day Out
- 15:30 Indian Summer
- 17:15 Accidental Love
- 19:00 Mr. Popper's Penguins
- 20:45 Playing It Cool
- 22:30 Your Friends & Neighbors

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 00:45 Walking On Sunshine
- 02:30 Young Ones
- 04:15 Jappeloup
- 06:30 The Beat Beneath My Feet
- 08:00 Get On Up
- 10:15 From Rocky To Creed The Legacy Continues
- 11:15 I'll Follow You Down
- 13:00 Young Ones
- 14:45 Memories
- 16:30 5 Flights Up
- 18:00 Brooklyn
- 20:00 Unbroken
- 22:15 Septembers Of Shiraz

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:15 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 03:00 Curious George
- 04:30 Winnie The Pooh
- 06:00 Albert
- 07:30 Jock The Hero Dog
- 09:00 Egon And Donci
- 10:30 Bee Movie

- 12:15 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 13:45 Savva
- 15:30 Egon And Donci
- 17:00 Marco Macaco
- 18:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 20:00 Savva
- 21:45 Jock The Hero Dog
- 23:15 Marco Macaco

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:45 The First Time
- 03:15 Terr
- 05:00 Kill Bill: Vol. 2
- 07:15 The Clown
- 09:00 The Woman In Black
- 10:45 Hostage
- 12:45 Snow Cake
- 14:35 Runaway Bride
- 16:30 The First Time
- 18:00 Simon Birch
- 20:00 Begin Again
- 22:00 Welcome To Collinwood
- 23:30 Lay The Favorite

OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:00 Simon Birch
- 03:00 The Longshots
- 04:30 Committed
- 06:00 Starsky & Hutch
- 07:45 Love And Other Impossible Pursuits
- 09:30 Laws Of Attraction
- 11:00 Kate And Leopold
- 13:00 Simon Birch
- 15:00 Hostage
- 17:00 The Dead Girl
- 18:30 Heartlands
- 20:00 Captain America: The Winter Soldier
- 22:15 First Snow

SUNDANCE TV

- 00:00 Christmas, Again
- 01:20 Border
- 03:00 Prey
- 04:00 Colin Fitz Lives
- 05:30 Love, Lust And Lies
- 07:00 The Horse Boy
- 08:35 Billy Joel: A Matter Of Trust
- 10:00 Billy Joel Live At Shea Stadium
- 11:35 A Month Of Sundays
- 13:25 The Overbrook Brothers
- 15:00 Prey
- 16:00 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
- 16:30 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
- 17:00 Billy Joel: A Matter Of Trust
- 18:25 Billy Joel Live At Shea Stadium
- 20:00 Movie Talk
- 20:30 They're Out Of The Business
- 22:00 Hitchcock/Truffaut
- 23:30 Hollywood's Best Film Directors

OSN SERIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 People Of Earth
- 00:30 The Carmichael Show
- 01:00 The Carmichael Show
- 01:30 Saturday Night Live
- 03:00 Gary Unmarried
- 03:30 Gary Unmarried
- 04:00 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 The Last Man On Earth
- 06:00 Til Death
- 06:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 07:30 Superstore
- 08:00 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 08:30 Gary Unmarried
- 09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 10:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 Til Death
- 12:30 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Gary Unmarried
- 14:30 The Last Man On Earth
- 15:00 The Last Man On Earth
- 15:30 The Carmichael Show
- 16:00 The Carmichael Show
- 16:30 Til Death
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Gary Unmarried
- 18:30 Gary Unmarried
- 19:00 Dr. Ken
- 19:30 The Mindy Project
- 20:00 The Goldbergs
- 20:30 The Goldbergs
- 21:00 The Carmichael Show
- 21:21 The Carmichael Show
- 21:42 The Carmichael Show
- 22:05 Baskets
- 22:30 Difficult People
- 23:00 Life In Pieces
- 23:30 The Goldbergs

OSN SERIES HD FIRST

- 00:00 Star
- 01:00 Scandal
- 02:00 Feud
- 03:00 Secrets And Lies

- 04:00 Timeless
- 05:00 Lie To Me
- 06:00 Good Morning America - Weekend
- 07:00 The Chew
- 08:00 The View
- 09:00 Lie To Me
- 10:00 Timeless
- 11:00 Bones
- 12:00 The Chew
- 13:00 The View
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Lie To Me
- 17:00 Timeless
- 18:00 Good Girls Revolt
- 19:00 Rosewood
- 20:00 Criminal Minds
- 21:00 American Crime
- 22:00 Code Black
- 23:00 Secrets And Lies

OSN FIRST HD Home of HBO

- 00:05 In Treatment
- 00:35 In Treatment
- 01:00 Treme
- 02:00 Unlocking The Truth
- 03:00 Everything Is Copy
- 04:30 Lansky
- 06:25 When The Levees Broke
- 07:30 Afterburn
- 09:10 In Vogue: The Editor's Eye
- 10:10 When Trumpets Fade
- 11:40 When The Levees Broke
- 12:45 A Bright Shining Lie
- 14:40 Barbarians At The Gate
- 16:25 Unlocking The Truth
- 17:10 Confirmation
- 19:00 In Treatment
- 19:30 In Treatment
- 20:00 Treme
- 21:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
- 21:30 Crashing
- 22:00 The Leftovers
- 23:00 Silicon Valley
- 23:30 Veep

OSN SERIES HD

- 00:00 Feud
- 01:00 Secrets And Lies
- 02:00 Star
- 03:00 Scandal
- 04:00 Feud
- 05:00 Secrets And Lies
- 06:00 Timeless
- 07:00 Lie To Me
- 08:00 Good Morning America - Weekend
- 09:00 The Chew
- 10:00 The View
- 11:00 Lie To Me
- 12:00 Timeless
- 13:00 Bones
- 14:00 The Chew
- 15:00 The View
- 16:00 Live Good Morning America
- 18:00 Lie To Me
- 19:00 Timeless
- 20:00 Good Girls Revolt
- 21:00 Rosewood
- 22:00 Criminal Minds
- 23:00 The Americans

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 00:05 Chris Hardwick: Mandroid
- 00:55 Workaholics
- 01:20 Tosh.0
- 01:45 Tosh.0
- 02:10 Chris Hardwick: Mandroid
- 03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 04:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 04:40 Ridiculousness
- 05:05 Disaster Date
- 05:30 Hungry Investors
- 06:20 Frankenfood
- 06:50 Frankenfood
- 07:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 08:05 Disaster Date
- 08:30 Disaster Date
- 08:55 Ridiculousness
- 09:20 Workaholics
- 09:45 Disaster Date
- 10:10 Ridiculousness
- 10:35 Impractical Jokers
- 11:00 Life Or Debt
- 11:50 Tosh.0
- 12:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 12:40 Impractical Jokers
- 13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 13:55 Ridiculousness
- 14:20 Hungry Investors
- 15:10 Tosh.0
- 15:35 Disaster Date
- 16:00 Disaster Date
- 16:30 Ridiculousness
- 16:55 Lip Sync Battle
- 17:25 Workaholics
- 17:50 Framework
- 18:39 Impractical Jokers
- 19:03 Disaster Date
- 19:27 Bondi Ink
- 20:13 Workaholics
- 20:37 Broad City
- 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 21:30 This Is Not Happening
- 22:00 Tosh.0
- 22:25 Chappelle's Show
- 22:50 Tosh.0
- 23:15 Tosh.0
- 23:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

food network

- 00:00 The Great Food Truck Race
- 01:00 Rev Run's Sunday Suppers
- 02:00 Dinner At Tiffani's
- 02:30 Dinner At Tiffani's
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 The Great Food Truck Race
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 06:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 07:00 The Kitchen
- 08:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 08:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 09:00 Siba's Table
- 10:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 10:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 11:00 The Kitchen
- 12:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 13:00 Siba's Table
- 13:30 Siba's Table
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 The Kitchen
- 17:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 17:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 18:00 Chopped
- 19:00 Iron Chef America
- 20:00 Restaurant: Impossible
- 21:00 Mystery Diners
- 21:30 Mystery Diners
- 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:00 Guy's Grocery Games

Syfy HD

- 00:55 Face Off
- 01:45 Sanctuary
- 02:40 Stargate SG-1
- 03:30 Fishtales
- 05:05 Sanctuary
- 06:00 Stargate SG-1



KINGSGLAIVE- FINAL FANTASY XV ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 06:50 Sanctuary
- 07:40 The Shannara Chronicles
- 08:30 The Shannara Chronicles
- 09:20 Hunters
- 10:10 Sanctuary
- 11:00 Stargate SG-1
- 11:50 Face Off
- 12:40 The Shannara Chronicles
- 13:30 Sanctuary
- 14:20 Highlander III: The Final Dimension
- 16:00 Hunters
- 16:50 The Shannara Chronicles
- 17:40 Sanctuary
- 18:30 Stargate SG-1
- 19:20 The Shannara Chronicles
- 20:10 The Shannara Chronicles
- 21:00 Killjoys
- 21:50 Killjoys
- 22:40 Blood Lake

- 00:00 MAFS: The First Year
- 01:00 MAFS: The First Year
- 02:00 Black Box
- 03:00 Black Box
- 04:00 Fashion Star
- 05:00 Fit For Fashion
- 06:00 Married At First Sight
- 07:00 Married At First Sight
- 08:00 MAFS: The First Year
- 09:00 MAFS: The First Year
- 10:00 Black Box
- 11:00 Black Box
- 12:00 Fashion Star
- 13:00 Fit For Fashion
- 14:00 Married At First Sight
- 15:00 Married At First Sight
- 16:00 Switched At Birth
- 17:00 Castle
- 18:00 Desperate Housewives
- 19:00 Desperate Housewives
- 20:00 Project Accessory
- 21:00 Who Lives Here?
- 21:30 Who Lives Here?
- 22:00 Married At First Sight
- 23:00 Married At First Sight

WORLD HD

- 00:00 Race To Escape
- 02:10 Mythbusters
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Nextworld
- 08:14 Mythbusters
- 09:02 Redesign My Brain
- 09:50 How Do They Do It?
- 10:14 Food Factory
- 10:38 You Have Been Warned
- 11:26 Nextworld
- 12:14 Mythbusters
- 13:02 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Food Factory
- 13:50 Race To Escape
- 14:38 Nextworld
- 15:26 You Have Been Warned
- 16:14 Mythbusters
- 17:02 Race To Escape
- 17:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 18:40 Mythbusters
- 19:30 How The Universe Works
- 20:20 How Do They Do It?
- 20:45 Food Factory
- 21:10 Race To Escape
- 22:00 How The Universe Works
- 22:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 23:40 Mythbusters

TLC HD

- 00:20 She's In Charge
- 01:10 The Undateables
- 02:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 02:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 02:50 Love, Lust Or Run
- 03:15 Cake Boss
- 03:35 Cake Boss
- 04:00 Cake Boss
- 04:25 Little People, Big World
- 04:45 Little People, Big World
- 05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 06:00 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 06:50 Kid Tycoons
- 07:40 Outdaunted: Busby Quints
- 08:30 Little People, Big World
- 08:55 Little People, Big World
- 09:20 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 09:45 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 10:10 Love, Lust Or Run
- 10:35 Cake Boss
- 11:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 11:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 11:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 12:40 Cake Boss
- 13:05 Cake Boss
- 13:30 Say Yes To The Dress
- 14:20 Little People, Big World
- 15:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 16:00 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
- 16:50 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 17:15 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 17:40 Love, Lust Or Run
- 18:05 Cake Boss
- 18:30 Promzillas
- 19:20 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 19:45 Say Yes To The Dress
- 20:10 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 21:00 House Of Hypochondriacs
- 21:50 Married By Mum And Dad
- 22:40 Return To Amish
- 23:15 Tosh.0
- 23:40 House Of Hypochondriacs

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 00:45 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
- 04:15 Mutant Planet
- 05:02 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
- 05:49 Big Fish Man
- 06:36 Going Ape
- 07:00 Going Ape
- 07:25 Cats 101
- 08:15 Wildest Africa
- 09:10 Mutant Planet
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Cats 101
- 11:50 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 Wildest Africa
- 13:45 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
- 14:40 Mutant Planet
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
- 17:25 Animal Cops Houston
- 18:20 Lone Star Law
- 19:15 Saving A Species: Gorillas On The Brink
- 20:10 Cats 101
- 21:05 Animal Cops Houston
- 22:00 Lone Star Law
- 22:55 Mutant Planet
- 23:50 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall

NAT GEO people

- 00:40 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 01:05 Mega Food
- 01:55 Croatia's Finest
- 02:20 My Dubai
- 02:45 The Shelbourne
- 03:10 Maximum Foodie
- 03:35 Andy And Ben Eat The World
- 04:00 Raw Travel
- 04:25 Home Strange Home
- 05:20 Cool Spaces
- 06:15 Confucius Was A Foodie
- 07:05 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 07:35 Sara's Australia Unveiled
- 08:05 The Great Food Revolution
- 09:00 Lindsey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 09:25 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
- 10:20 Miguel's Feasts
- 10:50 World's Best Beaches
- 11:45 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 12:10 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 12:40 Mega Food
- 13:35 Croatia's Finest

- 13:00 My Crazy Ex
- 14:00 Evil Up Close
- 15:00 Homicide Hunter
- 16:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 18:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 19:00 Evil Up Close
- 20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 21:00 Homicide Hunter
- 22:00 Cold Case Files
- 23:00 Campus Nightmares

Discovery Family

- 00:05 Destroyed In Seconds
- 00:30 Science Of The Movies
- 01:20 Science Of The Movies
- 02:10 Storm Chasers
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 05:30 Don't Drive Here
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 07:00 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 07:25 Kids vs Film
- 07:50 Bad Dog
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:30 Science Of The Movies
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 Bad Dog
- 12:00 Ultimate Survival
- 12:50 How It's Made
- 13:40 Storm Chasers
- 14:30 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 14:55 Kids vs Film
- 15:20 Bad Dog
- 16:10 Science Of The Movies
- 17:00 Quark
- 17:25 Quark
- 17:50 Dirty Jobs
- 18:40 Now That's Funny
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 20:20 Mythbusters
- 21:10 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 22:00 Dirty Jobs
- 22:50 Now That's Funny
- 23:40 Ultimate Survival

NAT GEO WILD HD

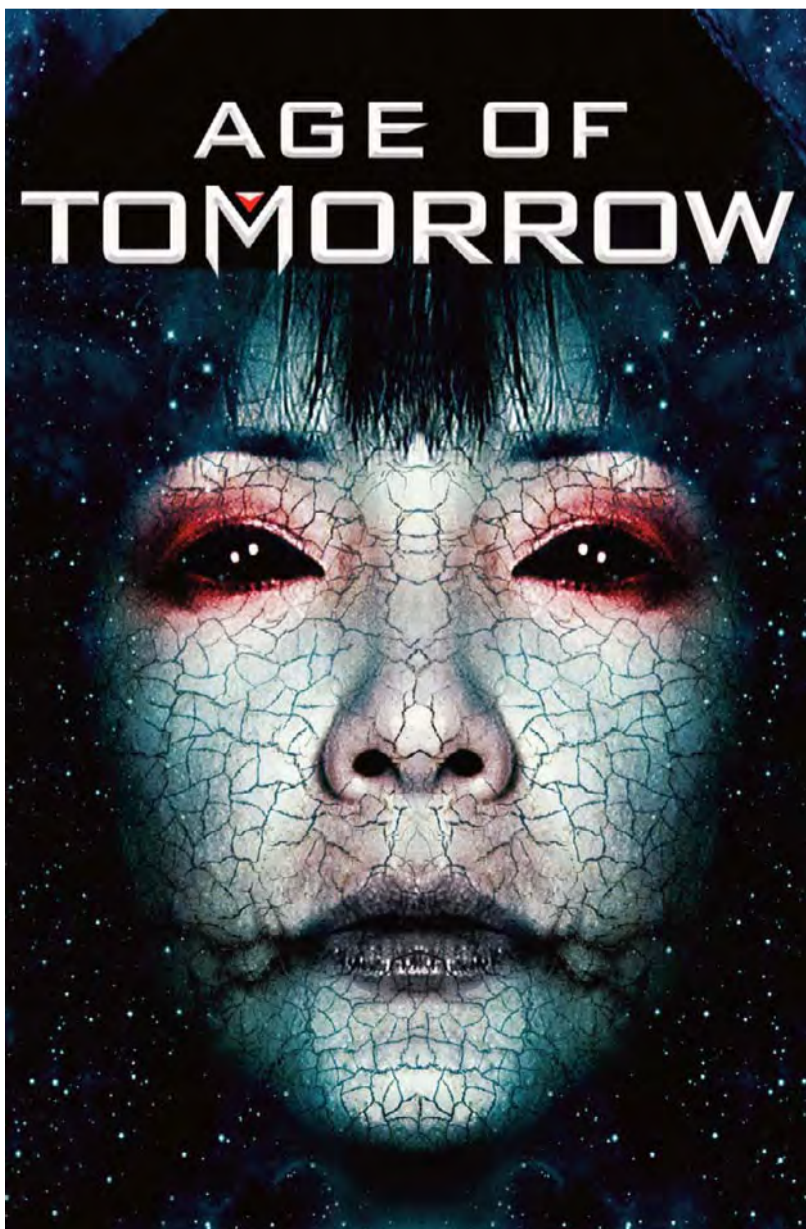
- 00:20 Animal Fight Club 4.5
- 01:10 America's National Parks
- 02:00 Searching For The Snow Leopard
- 02:50 Hunter Hunted
- 03:45 Maneater Manhunt
- 04:40 Last Of The Longnecks
- 05:35 Searching For The Snow Leopard
- 06:30 Hunter Hunted
- 07:25 Maneater Manhunt
- 08:20 Last Of The Longnecks
- 09:15 World's Weirdest Animal Faces
- 10:10 Animal Superpowers
- 11:05 Predator Patrol
- 12:00 Amazon's Electric Fish
- 12:55 The Lakeshore Killers
- 13:50 Hunter Hunted
- 14:45 Maneater Manhunt
- 15:40 Return Of The Spider Monkeys
- 16:35 World's Weirdest Animal Faces
- 17:30 Animal Underworld
- 18:25 Savage Kingdom
- 19:20 Maneater Manhunt
- 20:10 Return Of The Spider Monkeys
- 21:00 World's Weirdest Animal Faces
- 21:50 Animal Underworld
- 22:40 Savage Kingdom
- 23:30 Amazon's Electric Fish

NAT GEO HD

- 00:20 Street Outlaws
- 01:10 Supertrucks
- 02:00 Sharks vs Dolphins: Face Off
- 02:50 What On Earth?
- 03:40 Sacred Steel Bikes
- 04:30 Storage Hunters UK
- 05:00 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Gold Divers
- 06:50 Street Outlaws
- 07:40 Sacred Steel Bikes
- 08:30 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
- 09:20 Storage Hunters UK
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Fast N' Loud
- 11:25 Diesel Brothers
- 12:15 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
- 13:05 How Do They Do It?
- 13:30 Storage Hunters UK
- 14:20 Gold Rush
- 15:10 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
- 16:00 Gold Divers
- 16:50 Diesel Brothers
- 17:40 Street Outlaws
- 18:30 How Do They Do It?
- 19:20 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
- 20:10 Storage Hunters UK
- 20:35 Storage Hunters UK
- 21:00 Gold Divers
- 21:50 Rebel Gold
- 22:40 Outback Truckers
- 23:30 Diesel Brothers

NAT GEO people

- 00:40 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 01:05 Mega Food
- 01:55 Croatia's Finest
- 02:20 My Dubai
- 02:45 The Shelbourne
- 03:10 Maximum Foodie
- 03:35 Andy And Ben Eat The World
- 04:00 Raw Travel
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- 10:50 World's Best Beaches
- 11:45 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 12:10 Valentine Warner's Wild Table
- 12:40 Mega Food
- 13:35 Croatia's Finest



AGE-OF-TOMORROW ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

CLASSIFIEDS



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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (11/05/2017 TO 17/05/2017)

Category	Programme	Time
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
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
SHARQIA-3	YOU M MIN AL AYAM	12:45 PM
	HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	2:45 PM
	HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	4:30 PM
	YOU M MIN AL AYAM	6:15 PM
	YOU M MIN AL AYAM	8:00 PM
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
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
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

Category	Programme	Time
A FAMILY MAN	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
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
FANAR-5	YOU M MIN AL AYAM	12:00 PM
	YOU M MIN AL AYAM	2:00 PM
	THE BOSS BABY	4:00 PM
	YOU M MIN AL AYAM	6:00 PM
	YOU M MIN AL AYAM	7:45 PM
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
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

Category	Programme	Time
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
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
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
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
	FAST & FURIOUS 8	8:15 PM
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
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
 For prefabricated houses company
1- Steel structure & Sales engineer
2- Supervisors
3- Foremans
For portacabin
 • Experience minimum 3 years
 • Have kuwaiti licence driving
 Please send your CV: positechq8@mail.com
Fax: 24817837

REQUIRED
Sales Man
 Kuwait driving license, knowledge of steel fabrication.
Steel Fabricator/ Welder
 Must know engineering drawing.
Argon Welder/ fabricator
 Knowledge of stainless steel kitchen work.
Contact No: 99254108
Mail Id: sales@texonmiddleeast.com

ACCOMMODATION
 Sharing accommodation fully furnished (all facilities available) near United Indian School, Abbasiya. Contact 97470947, from 1st June onward. Philipino family or Philipino working ladies. (C 5310) 15-5-2017

MATRIMONIAL
 Proposals invited from parents, for MBBS lady Doctor, 33 years, studied in India, working in USA, US citizen, Orthodox Christian family, seeking suitable alliance from Doctors, Engineers, Chartered Accountants willing to settle in USA. Email: mjohnjohn@yahoo.com (C 5309) 15-5-2017

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:27
Shorook:	04:56
Duhr:	11:44
Asr:	15:20
Maghrib:	18:31
Isha:	20:00

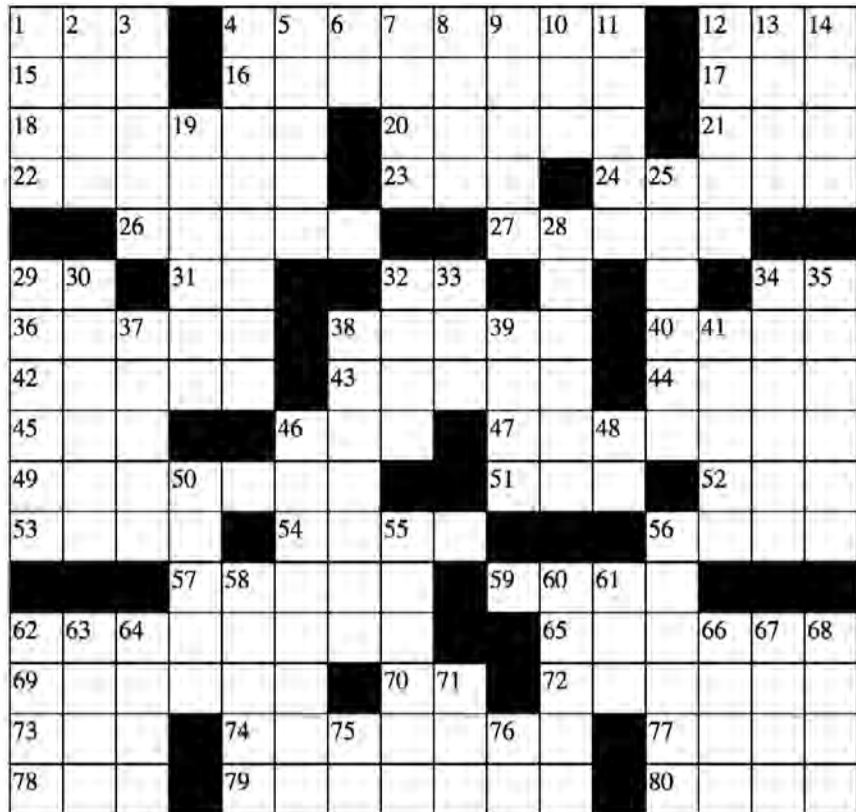



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 15/5/2017				Departure Flights on Monday 15/5/2017			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	THY	764	Istanbul	23:45
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	THY	767	Istanbul	13:45
KAC	102	London	00:55	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	513	Tehran	14:10
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:25	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	15:55
OMA	643	Damascus	03:05	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC	743	Dammam	16:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40	KAC	563	Amman	16:25
CEB	018	Manila	04:00	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	SAW	706	Damascus	16:50
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:20	FDK	802	Damascus	16:55
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	414	Bangkok	04:50	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	JZR	552	Alexandria	17:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
JZR	529	Asyut	05:35	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
KAC	204	Lahore	06:20	KAC	331	Trivandrum	17:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	538	Cairo	18:35
KAC	354	Bangalore	07:50	KAC	785	Jeddah	18:45
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	QTR	1081	Doha	19:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:05	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	19:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	FDB	058	Dubai	20:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	353	Bangalore	20:55
FEG	1955	Asyut	10:55	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	DLH	634	Doha	21:00
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:05
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:05	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
JZRS	61	Sohag	11:10	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	KAC	301	Mumbai	21:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:00
THY	766	Istanbul	12:50	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:25
KAC	672	Dubai	13:55	UAE	860	Dubai	22:35
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	KAC	383	Delhi	22:50

CROSSWORD 1608



ACROSS

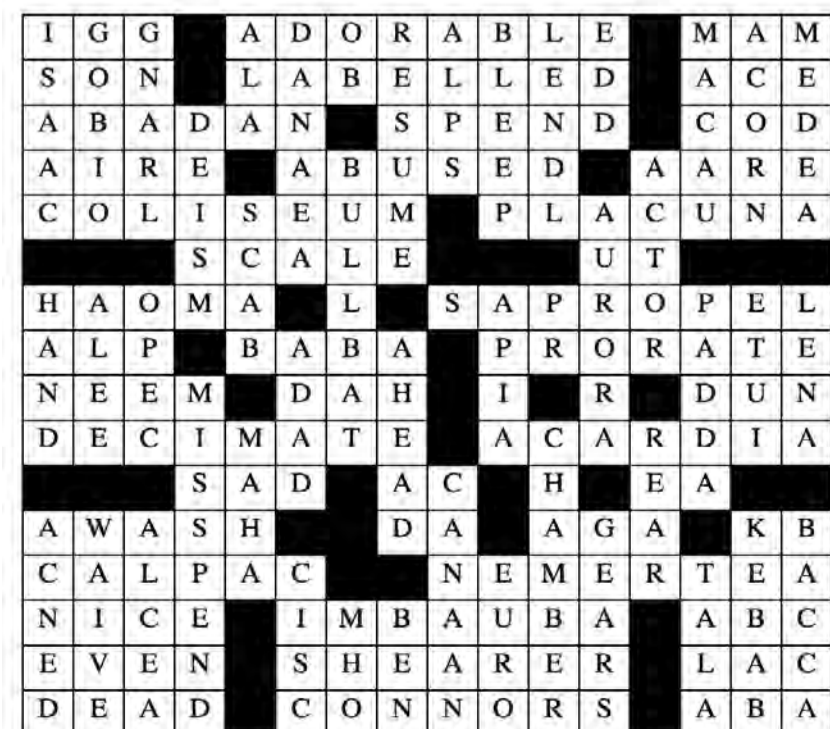
1. The 19th letter of the Greek alphabet.
4. Characteristic of a region.
12. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
15. An edge tool used to cut and shape wood.
16. A device that controls amount of light admitted.
17. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
18. A wired or starched collar of intricate lace.
20. Attractiveness to the opposite sex.
21. Primitive predaceous North American fish covered with hard scales and having long jaws with needle-like teeth.
22. A tricyclic antidepressant (trade names Adapin and Sinequan) with numerous side effects (dry mouth and sedation and gastrointestinal disturbances).
23. (meaning literally 'born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
24. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
26. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
27. Australian clover fern.
29. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
31. A state in New England.
36. Lose blood from one's body.
40. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
42. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
43. The ending of a series or sequence.
44. A city of central China.
45. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
47. To a great extent or degree.
49. An irritating cutaneous sensation that produces a desire to scratch.
51. An enclosed space.
52. A federation of North American industrial unions that merged with the American Federation of Labor in 1955.
53. Being or occurring at an advanced period of time or after a usual or expected time.
54. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
57. The sacred city of Lamaism.
59. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
62. The lean flesh of a saltwater fish found in warm waters (especially Hawaii).
65. An officer of the law.
69. A sweet flavored liquid (usually containing a small amount of alcohol) used in compounding medicines to be taken by mouth in order to mask an unpleasant taste.
70. Unknown god.
72. A river that rises in northern Colombia and flows generally eastward to the Orinoco in central Venezuela.
73. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
74. A learned person (especially in the humanities).
77. Having or showing a tender and considerate and helpful nature.
78. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.
79. A gray tetravalent metallic element that resembles zirconium chemically and is found in zirconium minerals.
80. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).

2. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
3. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
4. Genus of perennial wildflowers of North American plains and prairies.
5. (possibly Roman) Goddess of horses and mules and asses.
6. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.
7. Extremely robust.
8. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
9. A spirit believed to inhabit an object or preside over a place (especially in ancient Roman religion).
10. Alsatian artist and poet who was cofounder of Dadaism in Zurich.
11. Hungarian composer of light operas (1870-1948).
12. (informal British usage) Aggravation or aggression.
13. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
14. Acquire or gain knowledge or skills.
19. South American cavy.
25. An accessory or adjoining anatomical parts or appendages (especially of the embryo).
28. A member of the Semitic speaking people of northern Ethiopia.
30. Type genus of the Blattidae.
32. A state of deep and often prolonged unconsciousness.
33. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
34. A port city in southwestern Turkey on the Gulf of Antalya.
35. (North America) A ravine formed by a river in an area with little rainfall.
37. Order by virtue of superior authority.
38. Resembling swine.
39. Oval reproductive body of a fowl (especially a hen) used as food.
41. A long narrow excavation in the earth.
46. Generalized edema with accumulation of serum in subcutaneous connective tissue.
48. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
50. A curve that lies on the surface of a cylinder or cone and cuts the element at a constant angle.
55. Radish of Japan with a long hard durable root eaten raw or cooked.
56. New Zealand timber tree resembling the cypress.
58. An American follower of the Mennonite Bishop Amman.
60. Fear resulting from the awareness of danger.
61. A room or establishment where alcoholic drinks are served over a counter.
63. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
64. (informal) Rural and uncouth.
66. United States naturalist (born in England) who advocated the creation of national parks (1838-1914).
67. An inflammatory disease involving the sebaceous glands of the skin.
68. A quantity of no importance.
71. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
75. A gray tetravalent metallic element that resembles zirconium chemically and is found in zirconium minerals.
76. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.

DOWN

1. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Many little chores today will go smoothly. You may even want to include young people in your project and pay them money for the amount of work they accomplish. This is a great time to be with others in an atmosphere of work or play. You will find that you are valued for your ability to get things organized and completed. This is not, however, a good time for you to try out new things or break away from the old routine. Your energy is high today and you may feel as though you could conquer the world. There is not only a desire for outdoor, physical activity at this time, but there will most likely be ample opportunity to partake in it with a group of friends this afternoon. You should, however, be careful in thrill-seeking adventures.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

The goals you set this morning and the plans you make now will have a way of flourishing for a very long time to come. Engagements, decisions on property, a new exercise plan or many other choices that come to mind at this time are quite successful. You are intuitive and perhaps a bit psychic; this talent will help you in decision-making situations. If you are in a theatrical group, you will find yourself responding to what is needed before you are even asked. Anything creative has your attention this day and because of your influence on family members, you may find yourself entertained by others. Whatever the case, there are lots of activities to fill your day and the job now is to hang on and enjoy the ride.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your relationships with others, especially with women, will be most harmonious this coming week. This is a good time to effect subtle changes in your social life. This is also a good time to accomplish any project that has been shoved to the side. There is a strong wish to make your surroundings as pleasant as possible. Perhaps a portion of the roof needs repair or some yard work is needed. There is a feeling that anything is possible. A totally unusual style of art may be something you involve yourself with this afternoon-perhaps painting one wall a swirl of colors. Your unique and unusual qualities are showing. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your eccentricities. New possibilities are within reach.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Shrug off guilt and pessimism-they are unhealthy and unwarranted. If there is something to learn from some process, write down what you think that might be and then move on to something else. The old saying is to let it go and let it flow. Family outings or some sports activity with your friends can help to create positive energies this afternoon. You handle words and tell stories with great skill-others love to hear you speak or entertain. You may be moved to appreciate and discover the beauty in your life and in those around you. In a family meeting, you will make all the right impressions. Let yourself dream this evening. This time does not come too often-do not ignore this opportunity to let your imagination loose. Consider the stars.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You have more interest today in cultural or literary affairs regarding the spending of money than with just merely collecting material goods. Religion, philosophy or the occult may also influence your dealings with money. It's a good idea to listen to the advice of others before acting on a hunch at this time. It is good to keep an open mind about all the ideas presented to you as well. Pay attention to the details involved in any new decisions. Give yourself time to think about the path you will be taking so as to keep a positive outlook. This may be a time that tests your ability to get along with family and friends. If you maintain your practical side and keep a realistic outlook, you may see some good outcome with good communication.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Take the important things in your life seriously and then smile. The lessons learned are important, and to appreciate the opportunity for growth is beneficial. There can be much excitement in your life, allowing you to meet new people through unusual means. You may find a friend where you least expect to find one. You should try your best to communicate your needs and desires to friends and relatives, so as to avoid any misunderstandings. This is a time in which intellectually based friendships are plentiful. Entering a contest with the help of one of these friends can be rewarding. Later this evening is a good time to enjoy the company of your romantic partner and converse about the day's events. You are most interested in this person.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You feel, and are, lucky today. This is an excellent time to sit back and reflect on past accomplishments relating to your professional life. Additional responsibilities may be placed on you in the context of the home setting. Also, you should open up to relatives and find good emotional support. Your drive to actively seek the company of friends is less important just now. It is best to just stay home this evening and enjoy close loved ones. You have a clear understanding of your position in the world and among the people you care about now. You must realize that friends and relatives rely on you as much as you depend on them. You seem to be in touch with your most personal emotions, filling you with a sense of contentment and peace.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may spend quite a bit of time thinking of ways in which to improve finances. The desire for monetary success is considerable-you may decide that for a short time, a part-time job would be good. A pet project has your attention most of this afternoon. You might look again at this pet project and consider that this might be a way you could make that extra income you have been considering. You enjoy the time by yourself and may make plans for new projects. Try to keep a measure of objectivity while helping young people this afternoon. If you are good at problem solving, you will help them and you also make a good mentor. Your interest in religion and philosophy can be used when helping others today. You enjoy your evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may find yourself in a practical mood with a determination to get others to see things your way. If you look at the way you are presenting your views, you might see where others might misunderstand. Rephrase your words and try again. You could also come up with new ideas. This may all come about because you have discovered ways that some neighborhood groups have worked together to make their community safe from crime and pollution. You might be able to make an impression on others if you held the get-together in your own backyard. Perhaps some homemade ice cream will twist an arm or two. Apart from your serious moments, there is a great deal of fun with competitive games, sharing stories and fun times today.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Paperwork, technical problems and organizing people seem to come easily today. You are self-motivated and thrilled to try new endeavors. You have a great deal of confidence that you will succeed at whatever you try your hand at today. You could act as a catalyst for others to express their feelings and unresolved complexes. A feeling of being at peace and stable on the emotional level comes into prominence at this time. Stability and permanence are extremely important right now. Music is likely to play an important role for you. This could be a "remember when" type of game that you enjoy when you go through an old music collection. Romance is possible this evening. Emotional security and a sense of belonging and nurturing are felt instinctively now.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your lover or partner may be working toward financial freedom these days. Encourage, compliment, praise and communicate as this is a benefit and not a threat to you. Beginning a new study or brushing up on some past skills will provide you with hours of fun and mental stimulation. Take a break from the fun-just as you would in a working situation. You could find yourself shopping or visiting an ice cream shop with your loved one or friend this afternoon. Someone from your past may contact you this day. You attract a large circle of acquaintances that are particularly charmed by your own special sense of humor. There is a lot to talk about and you could find it difficult to end a visit. It is always fun to visit with a friend.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Home improvements, remodeling and repair jobs are favored this Sunday. You have a love of family with a determination to make things work-any disturbance can be easily handled. Financial matters may need study and you could find a budget or at least a budgeting attitude will have beneficial result by the end of the month. Some of the house duties can be negotiated-give that some serious thought. There is an exciting new beginning in a personal relationship or just in the way you do things today. There is likely to be an emphasis this evening on reading, writing, studying and all forms of exchanging information with others. This may serve as a path for self-discovery and personal development. You will enjoy communicating with loved ones tonight.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Back to School

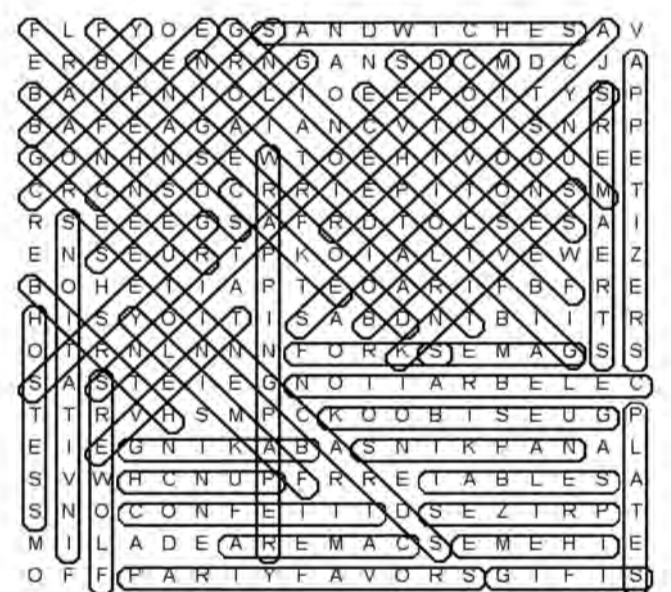
Find and circle all of the School related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Mark Twain quotation.



- | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| ASSIGNMENTS | ERASER | LUNCHROOM | ROLL CALL |
| BACKPACK | EXAMS | MATH | RULES |
| BATHROOM | FIRST DAY | NEW FRIENDS | SCHOOL BUS |
| BELL | GYMNASIUM | NOTEBOOK | SCHOOL OFFICE |
| BINDER | HALLWAY | NURSE | SCHOOLYARD |
| CAFETERIA | HOMEWORK | OLD FRIENDS | SCIENCE |
| CHALKBOARD | INTERCOM | PADLOCK | SECRETARY |
| CLASSROOM | JANITOR | PAPER | SEPTEMBER |
| CLOCK | LANGUAGE ARTS | PENCILS | SOCIAL STUDIES |
| COURSES | LEARNING | PENS | STUDENT |
| DESK | LIBRARY | PRINCIPAL | STUDY |
| DOORS | LOCKER | QUIZZES | TEACHER |

Yesterday's Solution

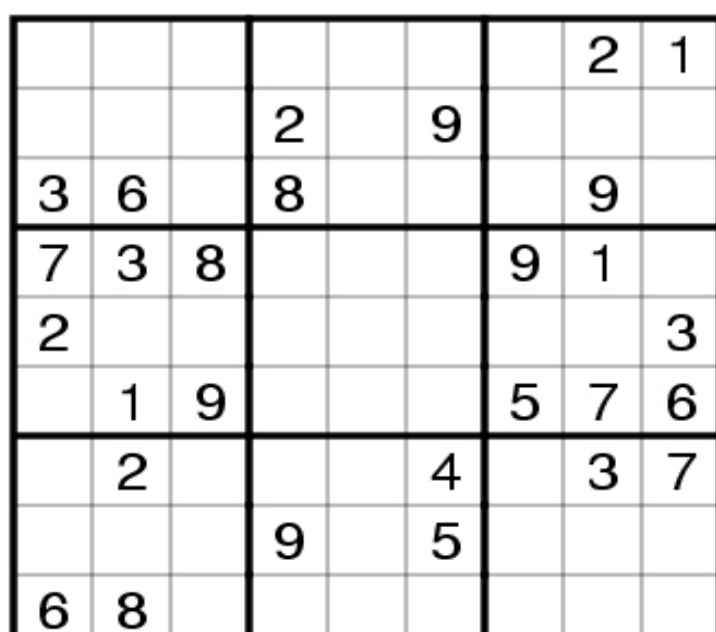
Baby Shower



- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| ACTIVITIES | CONFETTI | GIFTS | PARTY FAVORS |
| APPETIZERS | DECORATIONS | GLASSES | PLATES |
| BAKING | EVENT | GREETING CARDS | PRIZES |
| BALLOONS | FAMILY | GUESTBOOK | PUNCH |
| BANNER | FESTIVE | GUESTS | SANDWICHES |
| BIRTH | FINGER FOOD | HOSTESS | SPOONS |
| CAKE | FLOWERS | INVITATIONS | STREAMERS |
| CAMERA | FORKS | KNIVES | TABLES |
| CELEBRATION | FRIENDS | MOTHER | THEME |
| CHAIRS | GAMES | MUSIC | TRADITION |
| COFFEE | GIFT OPENING | NAPKINS | WRAPPING PAPER |

The hidden message is: LOVE AND JOY ARE WHAT BABIES ARE MADE OF

Daily SuDoku



hard

Yesterday's Solution



medium

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES
ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

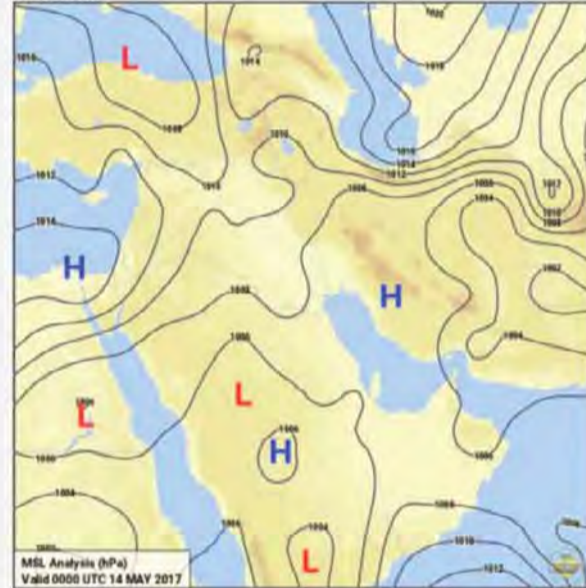


Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 14/05/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 43 °C

By Day : Hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h and some high clouds will appear
By Night : Fair with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	hot	hot	hot	hot + scattered clouds
Min Temp °C	27	28	29	30
Max Temp °C	44	45	45	46
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly becoming south westerly later on	south westerly changing to south easterly later on	north easterly changing to north westerly later on
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 38	12 - 35	10 - 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	29		42	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28		43	
ABDALY	24		43	
BUBYAN	24		37	
JAHRA	29		44	
FALAKA ISLAND	25		38	
SALMIYAH	29		36	
AHMADI	30		35	
JAL ALIYAH	25		44	
QAROH ISLAND	27		30	
UMM AL-MARADEM	27		29	
NUWAISIB	27		37	
WAFRA	27		42	
SALMY	24		42	
MUTRIBA	24		45	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	43
Min Temp (°C)	28
Max Rel Hum (%)	41
Min Rel Hum (%)	12
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:56
Sunset	18:33

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:27
Sunrise	04:56
Zuhr	11:44
Aer	15:20
Sunset	18:33
Isha	20:00



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foaid Abdallah 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
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
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Thomas Rhett shares photo of adopted daughter

Just in time for Mother's Day, country singer Thomas Rhett and his wife Lauren Akins posted pictures of their adopted daughter Willa Gray Akins on social media on Friday. The couple, whose last name is Akins, announced earlier this year they were adopting a child from Africa and that Lauren was also pregnant. Lauren Akins posted on Instagram that they met her in Uganda over a year ago and she arrived home on Thursday. This is the first child for the couple, who have volunteered on mission trips with the nonprofit 147 Million Orphans. Married in 2012, the couple appears in the music video for his No. 1 country hit, "Die A Happy Man," which earned him a Grammy nomination this year.

Cheryl planning pop comeback

Cheryl is set to release new music "early next year". The 33-year-old singer - who recently welcomed son Bear with partner Liam Payne - has been holding meetings with record executives and is reportedly planning a pop comeback. A source told the Sunday Mirror: "Cheryl met with her label to discuss ideas for songs and to plan a new sound. It went really well and she is going to be meeting with producers next month before she heads into the studio for some early sessions." Meanwhile, Liam will release his debut solo single on May 19. The former One Direction singer took to social media last week to announce he will drop his debut solo effort, entitled 'Strip That Down', as he posted a teaser video on both Instagram and Twitter. Liam captioned the video: "Mad excited to announce my new single Strip That Down ft. @quavohuncho out May 19th#STRIPTHAT-DOWN (sic)" The track is set to feature vocals from Quavo Huncho, who makes up one third of the rap group Migos, and the rapper recently revealed the pair have filmed a music video for the record. The 'Slide' hitmaker said: "I just came from a video shoot with my boy Liam from One Direction. Crazy vid, crazy visuals, crazy team, cool guy." Liam, 23, is the last of his band mates to release solo material, with Harry Styles' album dropping last week and Niall Horan and Louis Tomlinson both releasing singles last year in the form of 'This Town' and 'Just Hold On' respectively. Former member Zayn Malik - who left the 'History' hitmakers in 2015 prior to their hiatus - released his debut album 'Mind of Mine' last year. Meanwhile Liam is believed to have been working with 'Shape of You' singer Ed Sheeran, who reportedly co-wrote a song for the pop star's forthcoming album. An insider said recently: "Liam and Ed have been friends for years, ever since Ed first wrote for One Direction on their debut album." The collaboration actually came about very quickly "earlier this year."



Styles didn't share solo LP with One Direction bandmates

Harry Styles didn't give his One Direction bandmates a preview of his solo album. The 'Sign of the Times' singer released his debut LP last week and Niall Horan was excited about hearing the finished record because he was very impressed by Harry's first single. Niall said: "I didn't hear [Harry's music] actually. Harry was working somewhere abroad to do some of the album and he kept it very schtum, but I'm looking forward to hearing the album. I'm very happy for him - it's very Harry, that kind of music." The 'This Town' singer is proud of all his bandmates and thinks they have been able to carve out distinctive styles for their solo material. He said: "I'm delighted [for Harry], he brought two great songs out, and I'm sure Liam [Payne]'s will be coming soon as well, and Louis [Tomlinson] sounds great. It's brilliant, we are very much in touch and supportive of each other, so it's all good..." "With One Direction, we all shared the writing and stuff like that. When you listen to certain songs, you can see individual flavours and individual tastes in it, so when it's all yourself, you're a lot more focused on you - it's great." Niall is delighted to be releasing his own new single, 'Slow Hands', and hopes the track will attract some new fans. He told heat magazine: "I brought out 'This Town' in September so it's been a long time. I've been waiting ages for this one and I'm really looking forward to just getting out and performing it now. The pressure is there, you know - you want to please people and, obviously you won't be able to please everyone. But it would be nice to bring in some new fans, so I'm looking forward to seeing what happens."



Manilow postpones concerts due to sprained vocal chords

Barry Manilow has postponed two concerts due to "sprained vocal chords". The 73-year-old singer has called off scheduled concerts in Los Angeles and Chicago this weekend after getting advice from doctors and is planning to play them later in the year. A message on his Facebook page said: "We regret to inform you that Barry Manilow's two concerts scheduled for this week in Los Angeles and Chicago are currently being rescheduled. Barry is on doctors orders to rest due to sprained vocal chords. We are all very sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. Tickets issued for the original dates will be honored at the rescheduled dates. Patrons holding tickets for the original dates are encouraged to use them for the new date; no exchange is necessary. Please contact the point-of-purchase for more information. Again, we're terribly sorry for any inconvenience, but we look forward to seeing you very soon! (sic)." Meanwhile, Barry recently admitted he didn't want to sing or perform when he started out. The music icon has had a career spanning more than 50 years with hits such as 'Mandy' and 'Copacabana' embedded in popular culture but despite his incredible success, Manilow insists he only ever wanted to be a songwriter behind the scenes. He said: "It was exciting when I started. I started just playing piano and I didn't want to sing or perform. I was always going to be in the background, composing or arranging, any of that. I went to school for that. It was the year of the singer/songwriter with people such as Carole King. I had made a demo of my songs hoping other people will sing them but I then got a record deal."



Sir Paul McCartney shares Pirates character picture



Sir Paul McCartney has shared a picture of his 'Pirates of the Caribbean' character. The Beatles rocker will temporarily turn his back on music to join Johnny Depp for 'Dead Men Tell No Tales' and the star has taken to Twitter to share the first picture of himself in character. He captioned it "#PiratesLife". Details on Sir Paul's part have been kept tightly under wraps but it's believed directors Joachim Ronning and Espen Sandberg have added an extra scene just for him. This will be the first time Paul - who appeared in the movies 'A Hard Day's Night' and 'Yellow Submarine' with his Beatles bandmates - has played someone other than himself on screen. Meanwhile, Sir Paul won't be the first British musician to swap his guitar for a movie set as Rolling Stones legend Keith Richards played Captain Teague, Jack Sparrow's father, in 'On Stranger Tides' in 2011. 'Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales' will also see Orlando Bloom and Geoffrey Rush reprise their roles as Will Turner and Captain Barbosa, respectively. The next installment is set for release on May 26, 2017.

Javier Bardem is Mrs Doubtfire with kids

Javier Bardem is "Mrs. Doubtfire" when Penelope Cruz is working. The 'Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge' actor is thankful his profession allows him to take long breaks and care for his children Leo, six, and Luna, three, while his spouse is busy filming, comparing the situation to the late Robin Williams' famous nanny character. He said: "Penelope is shooting here [in London] so I am more into the Mrs Doubtfire role - kids, chaos, you know. It's one of the things this job allows for, long periods of intense work and long periods of intense time off. "We just did 'Escobar', had three months in Colombia together. The dream." The 48-year-old actor has always grown up with a strong sense of family because his own upbringing with a single mother in Madrid was so tight-knit. He told GQ magazine: "I grew up in a very small family. "My parents separated when I was small, but we were so close - my mother, my brother and my sister. We were like a gang of wolves. "We would attack anyone we felt was a threat. "My mother was a single parent. She was an actress. She had to make money where she could. "In the morning she would do television then theatre in the evening and cabaret at night, coming home to sleep for two hours before going back to work. "As a kid I was left to my own devices. My father was absent. "I had no dominant male figure to look up to. This isn't a complaint, just a fact. It meant I had to test myself. "I had to figure out my own boundaries. It meant I made mistakes." But the 'No Country For Old Men' star didn't have a good time at school as he found it too strict. He explained: "I didn't enjoy it. The discipline was too much, they had the cane and they used it. "When you are a kid, you need to want to learn, when you are forced to eat words and regurgitate numbers you don't learn, you go the other way. "I felt that. I felt I needed to express myself. "I was frustrated. I was wild. I needed to fill my own space as I didn't fit the space they gave me."



Clean Bandit's daily workouts

Clean Bandit have daily group workouts which they think make them a better pop group. The 'Rather Be' hitmakers always get together for a sweaty session. Grace Chatto said: "We'll all work out together on the dance floor. We do that every day - it's an hour of cardio." The cellist had an ambition to fly a plane when she was younger so enrolled in the RAF cadets - but quickly realized it would take a lot of time and work to achieve her dream. She said: "I tried to join the RAF cadets at school so I could fly a plane but then I realized you had to do all the other cadet stuff like training before they let you in a plane. Then you're roped in for life." Grace can speak both Russian and Italian and though she enjoys spending time in both countries, she isn't always a fan of working in Italy because everything is always so vague. She explained: "Russian is amazing and very strange. Italy is best for holidays. "Working in Italy can be quite hard because they don't have schedules - we arrive at TV shows and they're like, 'We're not sure when you're on, could be a minute, could be an hour.' We were on their equivalent of 'The Voice' and the timing was determined by whenever the judge decided the time was right. We waited five hours!"

Hawn rules out movie with Hudson

Goldie Hawn won't make a movie with Kate Hudson because it would come with "too much baggage". Although the 71-year-old actress would love to work with her 38-year-old daughter, she admitted that expectations would be too high. She told the Los Angeles Times: "We would love it, but it's really interesting - unless it's something great, honey, you don't do it. And I'll tell you another thing: mother and daughter, or son or whatever - sometimes it doesn't work. You have to look at the reality, because we're very well-known apart. There's a lot of expectation coming into it. You want to talk about baggage!" Goldie has recently returned to the big screen in 'Snatched' with Amy Schumer, after taking time off to focus on raising her youngest son Wyatt, with partner Kurt Russell, and she is now considering taking on more acting roles. She said: "It was a very powerful time for me. When you think you're doing nothing, you're actually doing a lot - your brain is incubating into the next step. And I never looked back about acting - ever. I didn't miss it. I was doing something I cared about. "I'm not new on the block, so I know what goes on when a gal gets to be at a certain time in her life in this business. You don't get things like this. But look what I got. I got Amy and me together in, basically, a two-people movie. How awesome to not play an ancillary role? It was an awesome way to re-enter." - Bang Showbiz.





This file photo taken on August 28, 2016 shows French actor Pierre Deladonchamps posing during a photocall of the film "Le fils de Jean" during the 9th Francophone Angoulême Film Festival in Angoulême, western France. — AFP photos



This file photo shows Greek director Costa-Gavras as he arrives for the screening of the film "Ma Loute (Slack Bay)" at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.



This file photo taken on December 10, 2015 shows Canadian film director and producer Atom Egoyan posing in Paris as part of the production of his film "Remember".

Cannes: 70 years of scandals

The Cannes film festival, the most important in the world, turns 70 this year. As the French Riviera resort prepares for the event, which starts Wednesday, we look back at the scandals that have rocked the festival:

'La Dolce Vita'

Federico Fellini's "La Dolce Vita"—now considered a classic—won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1960. But the Catholic Church condemned it as a mockery of Christ's second coming, branding it "La sconcia vita" (The repulsive life) for what was then deemed gratuitous decadence. The film was banned and censored in many countries. The Palme d'Or winner the following year, surrealist director Luis Bunuel's "Viridiana", also incurred the Church's wrath for its portrayal of a novice nun's sexual awakening.

The 1968 'revolution'

As student protests and strikes paralyzed France in May 1968, directors Claude Lelouch, Jean-Luc Godard, Francois Truffaut and Roman Polanski helped bring Cannes to a close early by going on strike too. The end came when director Carlos Saura prevented the premiere of his own film "Peppermint Frappe" by dangling off the curtains in front of the screen. No awards were given.

War in Algeria

Ten years earlier in 1958, the French government considered cancelling the festival altogether because of the turmoil caused by the conflict in the French colony of Algeria, which was fighting for its independence. In the end, the festival went ahead but many left early and the closing gala called off.

Photographers snub star

In 1983, French actress Isabelle Adjani was starring in "One Deadly Summer", but refused to attend a traditional press conference to plug the film. Furious photographers banded together to plot their revenge. When Adjani arrived on the red carpet that night for the official premiere, they laid down their cameras and turned their backs on her.

'I don't like you!'

Maurice Pialat became the first French director in 21 years to win the top prize in 1987 for "Under the Sun of Satan", which had Gerard

Depardieu as a zealous rural priest. But many at the awards ceremony did not agree with the choice and Pialat drew jeers when he walked up on stage. Shaking his fist, the director turned to the audience and shouted: "If you don't like me, I can tell you I don't like you either!"

Mass walk-out

In 2002, 250 people walked out during the premiere of Gasper Noe's hardcore rape drama "Irreversible", with reports of some having to be given oxygen by medics. It sparked a huge debate on whether its shocking images of sexual violence were justified. Those who stayed in the cinema, however, gave the film a five-minute-long standing ovation.

Fahrenheit 9/11

Michael Moore's anti-George Bush documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11" caused a political storm when it was premiered in 2004, with the jury, led by US director Quentin Tarantino, giving it the Palme d'Or. The film outraged American rightwingers, and Disney refused to release it. Even so, the film went on to take \$120 million (110 million euros) at the box office.

Von Trier: 'I'm a Nazi'

Not for the first time, the provocative Danish director Lars Von Trier—a previous Cannes winner — was at the center of a scandal in 2011. At the press conference for his film "Melancholia" Von Trier expressed a certain sympathy with Adolf Hitler. Trying to dig himself out of the gaffe, he added, "I am very much for Jews; well not too much because Israel is a pain in the ass. But still, how can I get out of this... OK, I'm a Nazi." He later apologized but was declared "persona non grata" by the festival and has not been invited back since.

Borat's mankini

Starlets on the beach in skimpy swimwear have been a Cannes staple from the start. But it took a man, British comic actor Sacha Baron Cohen, to create a scandal when he appeared in his now infamous green "mankini" to promote "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan." Cohen's costume left very little to the imagination, especially for unsuspecting members of the public sunbathing on the beach. —AFP



This file photo taken on October 03, 2016 shows French actress and singer Arielle Dombasle poses in Paris.



This file photo taken on May 09, 2017 shows French director Arnaud Desplechin posing during a photo session in Paris.



This file photo taken on February 24, 2017 shows French actress Virginie Efira posing as she arrives for the 42nd edition of the Cesar Ceremony at the Salle Pleyel in Paris.



This file photo taken on May 20, 2016 shows US actress and member of the Jury Kirsten Dunst posing as she arrives for the screening of the film "The Neon Demon" at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.



This file photo shows French director Arnaud Desplechin posing during a photo session in Paris.



This file photo taken on February 11, 2013 shows French director Jacques Doillon posing during a photocall for the film Love Battles (Mes seances de lutte) shown in the Panorama section of the 63rd Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin.



This file photo taken on December 04, 2015 shows US director Sofia Coppola attending the opening ceremony of the 15th edition of the Marrakesh International Film Festival in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh.



This file photo taken on May 24, 2006 shows US actress Kirsten Dunst (left) and director Sofia Coppola posing during a photocall for their film "Marie Antoinette" at the 59th edition of the International Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.



This file photo taken on October 14, 2015 shows Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuaron posing in central London, on the sidelines of the BFI London film Festival.



Salvador Sobral from Portugal, right, embraces his sister Luisa after performing the song "Amar Pelos Dois" following his win in the Final of the Eurovision Song Contest, in Kiev, Ukraine. — AP/AFP photos



Salvador Sobral from Portugal celebrates as he holds the trophy after winning the Final of the Eurovision Song Contest with his song "Amar Pelos Dois".

Portugal wins Eurovision Song Contest for the first time



Portuguese singer representing Portugal with the song "Amar Pelos Dios" Salvador Vilar Braamcamp Sobral aka Salvador Sobral performs on stage.

Portugal's Salvador Sobral won the Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday performing a jazz-style ballad written by his sister, taking the top spot for the first time in the country's history and celebrating with a call to "put emotion back into music". Along with singers from Italy and Bulgaria, Sobral was a favorite going into the final of the annual song fest, which was hosted in the Ukrainian capital Kiev, and he led the voting throughout the evening. Portugal finished ahead of Bulgaria and Moldova.

A soft-spoken, 27-year-old with a scraggly beard, Sobral won with "Amar Pelos Dois" ("Love For Both of Us"), sung in his native Portuguese. This is the first time Portugal won since it first entered the contest in 1964. After being announced as the winner, Sobral performed the ballad again, this time in duet with his sister Luisa. "Music is not fireworks, music is feeling," he said after winning. "Let's put emotion back into music."

Asked later at a press conference whether he was now a national hero, he said: "Honestly man I just want to live a peaceful life, if I thought of myself as a national hero it would be a bit weird, you know." Ukraine hosted the competition while it also fights a war, hundreds of kilometers (miles) away in the east, against Russian-backed separatists. As is custom in the contest, geopolitics played a part. Russia boycotted this year's event after Ukraine barred its contestant from entering the country - a symptom of the countries' toxic relations since Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula in 2014. Ukraine won last year's Eurovision with its Crimean Tatar entry Jamala. In a grim reminder of the continued conflict in the east, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko cancelled his scheduled appearance at the competition after four civilians were killed in artillery attacks that Kiev blamed on the separatist rebels.

Bringing change

This was the 62nd edition of Eurovision, recognized by

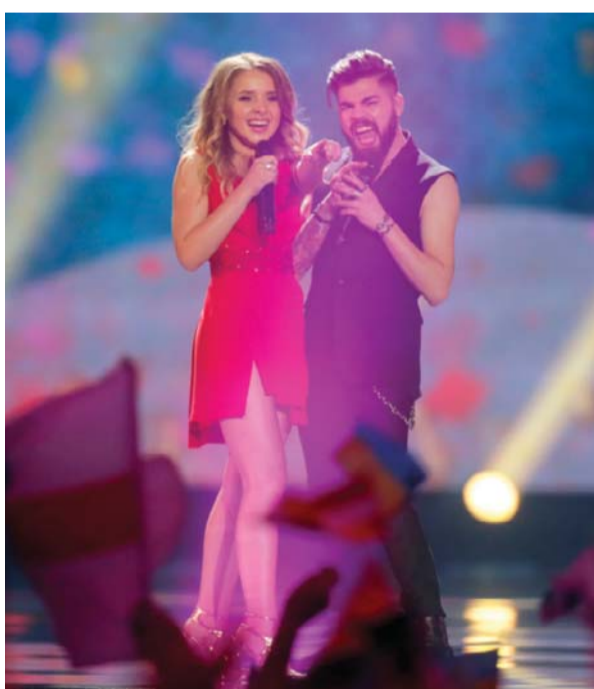


Portuguese singer representing Portugal with the song "Amar Pelos Dios" Salvador Vilar Braamcamp Sobral aka Salvador Sobral reacts as he speaks during a press conference after winning the final of the 62nd edition.

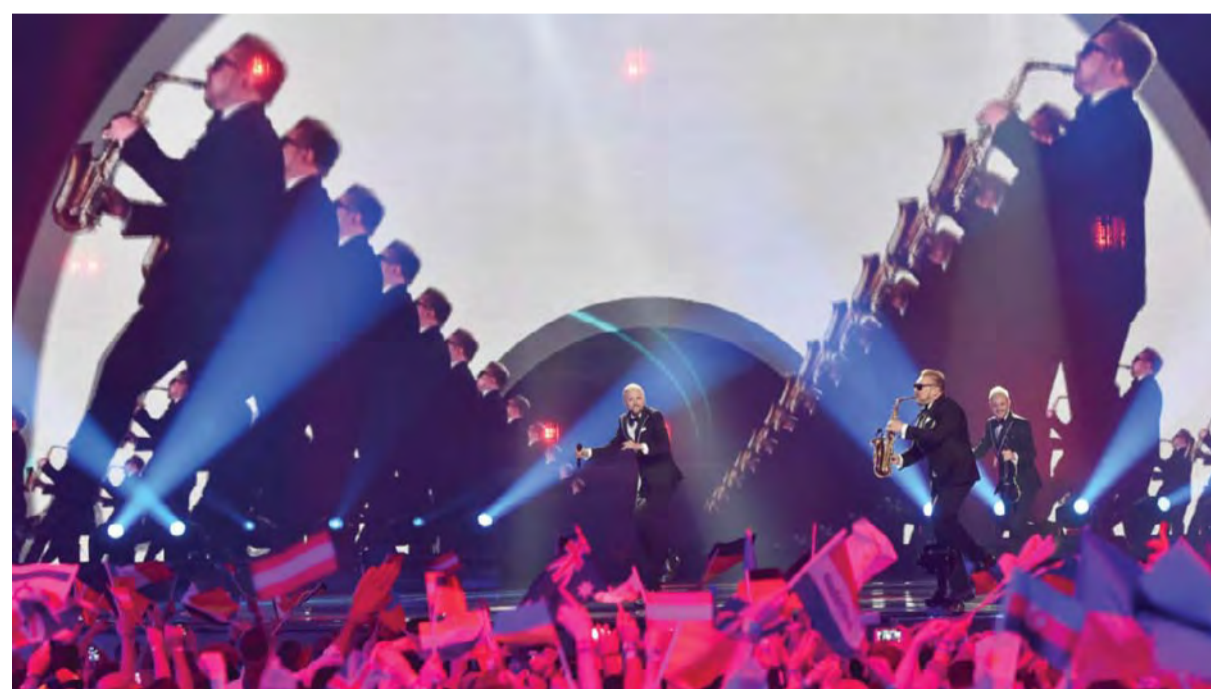
Guinness World Records as the longest-running annual TV music competition. It began in 1956 with just seven countries. Ireland have won most often - seven times in all - following by Sweden. Sobral came into the competition having told local media that he has a heart problem, without giving details. In the run-up he wore a sweatshirt drawing

attention to the migrant crisis in Europe, but was asked to stop wearing it by the organizers.

"I hope this can bring a change not only to this contest, but to music in general, and pop music," Sobral said about his win, contrasting his song to music normally pumped out "16 times a day" on radio stations. Other hopefuls this



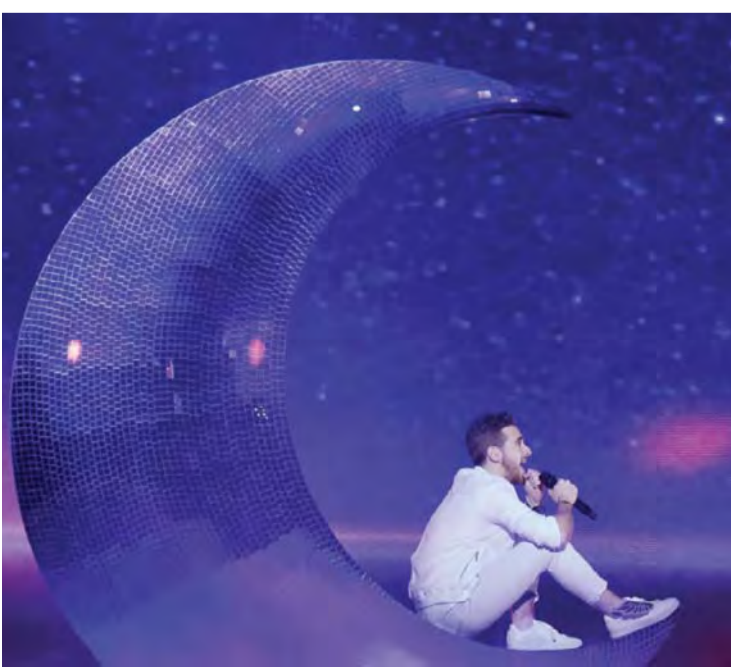
Ilinca feat. Alex Florea from Romania performs the song "Yodel It!".



Moldavian musical trio representing Moldavia with the song "Hey Mamma!" SunStroke Project composed by (from left) singer Sergei Yalovitsky, saxophonist Sergey Stepanov and violinist and composer Anton Ragoza perform on stage.



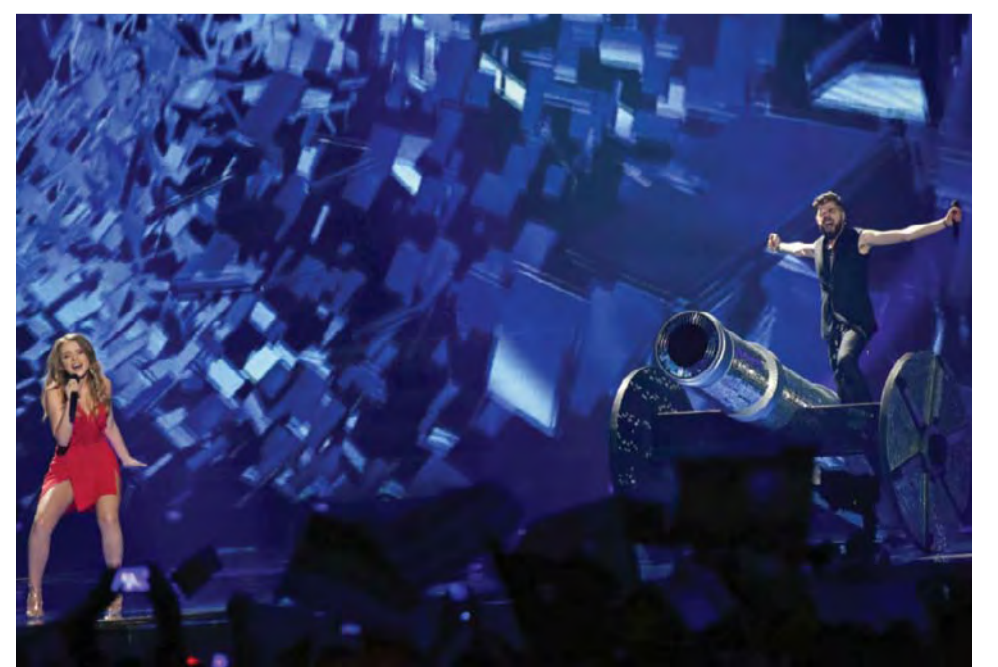
Bulgarian-Russian singer representing Bulgaria with the song "Beautiful mess" Kristian Konstantinov Kostov aka Kristian Kostov performs on stage.



Austrian singer representing Austria with the song "Running on air" Nathan Trent performs on stage.



Italian singer representing Italy with the song "Occidental's Karma" Francesco Gabbani 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.



Ukrainian rock band representing Ukraine with the song "Time" O.Torvald perform on stage.



Kristian Kostov from Bulgaria, center, reacts after placing second in the Final of the Eurovision Song Contest, in Kiev, Ukraine.



French singer representing France with the song "Requiem" Alexandra Maquet aka Alma performs on stage.



Lucie Jones from United Kingdom performs the song "Never Give Up on You" during the Final for the Eurovision Song Contest.



Dihaj from Azerbaijan performs the song "Skeletons" during the Final for the Eurovision Song Contest.



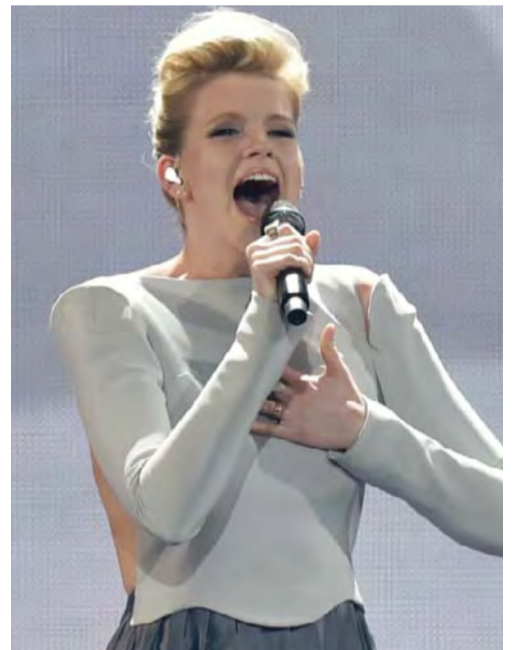
Jacques Houdek from Croatia performs the song "My Friend".



Robin Bengtsson from Sweden, center, performs the song "I Can't Go On" during the Final for the Eurovision Song Contest.



Jurors count the votes during the final of the 62nd edition of the Eurovision Song Contest 2017 Grand Final.



German singer-songwriter representing Germany with the song "Perfect life" Isabella Levina Luen aka Levina performs on stage.

year included Italian Francesco Gabbani. He was tipped to win with a number, viewed nearly 114 million times on YouTube, that mixes Buddhist imagery with a dancing ape, and that he explained as poking fun at the West's superficial embrace of eastern culture. Jacques Houdek, known as 'Mr Voice' in Croatia, blended pop and operatic singing styles in the song "My Friend". Romania fielded a duo that combined rap and yodelling.

Ukraine has won the competition twice, including last year with a song about the mass deportation of Tatars from Crimea by Josef Stalin, and its winners performed on Saturday. Moscow fielded a candidate this year who had violated Ukrainian law by performing in Crimea after the Russian takeover. Kiev accused Moscow of deliberately provoking a row.

Russian singer Yulia Samoylova performed in Crimea again on Tuesday, coinciding with the first Eurovision semi-final. "I think politics shouldn't intervene," said

Liza Ignatieva, a 21-year-old university student in Moscow. "But they broke the rules of the event by not letting her in. Why they invented new rules for Russia only? Yes, we have bad relations but they shouldn't do it to us."

More than 10,000 have been killed in the war between Ukraine and pro-Russian fighters that erupted in 2014 following the Maidan street protests that ousted a pro-Russian president, and the annexation of Crimea. But during Eurovision at least, Maidan and its surrounding streets have been filled with fans. Big screens and food stalls have been set up in the center of the capital, and Ukrainian memorabilia put on sale. "And yes, there is a war going on, but it's further, further out," said Stephanie Novak, a visiting fan from Australia. "And I think isn't it the whole point of Eurovision to help bring Europe together? What could be better than bringing Europe to a country that is being so affected by war at the moment and to show them what a beautiful country it is." — Reuters



Manel Navarro from Spain, left, performs the song "Do It for Your Lover".



JOWST from Norway, right, performs the song "Grab the Moment".

Leading soprano Renee Fleming bids adieu to signature role



Soprano Renee Fleming looks to the audience during the curtain call for Richard Strauss' opera "Der Rosenkavalier" in New York on Saturday. — AP

Opera superstar Renee Fleming bid adieu Saturday to one of her trademark roles, performing Strauss's "Der Rosenkavalier" for the last time before a warm and enthusiastic crowd at the Metropolitan Opera in a sold-out matinee. Fleming beamed from the stage and patted her heart in gratitude to the cheers at the finale of Strauss's bittersweet comedy as confetti shimmered to the stage from above.

Fleming, 58, often considered the leading American soprano of her generation, plans to continue to sing in concert and some staged opera. But she has retired many of her signa-

ture opera roles, saying she is excited about new singing challenges and that she feels it is time to move on from playing women decades younger who comprise most of the possibilities for a lyric soprano in the opera repertoire.

Fleming is not on the Met schedule for 2016-7, but a Met spokeswoman said she will be back in the 2018-9 season. In "Der Rosenkavalier," Fleming was cast as the wife of a field marshal in Vienna high society in the early 20th century who turns away a much junior lover, sensing that it is only a matter of time before he rejects her for a younger

woman. An emotional high point occurs at the end of the first act when Fleming, whose character is called the Marschallin, ponders the passage of time and imagines herself as an old woman. "Everything fades away like mist and dreams," she tells the young lover Octavian, shortly before she sends him away. Fleming has praised the character as one of opera's most fully developed for a woman.

"There is so little repertoire in the classical literature that has anything to do with women who are really fully drawn, who have the complexity and the challenges that they truly face," she told AFP last year. "So often in opera, women are symbolic and sort of archetypal and mostly very young, mostly victims," she said.

'People's diva'

Raised in Rochester, New York, and the daughter of two music teachers, Fleming has attained unique stature within opera, enjoying rare crossover appeal among the general public and a nickname as "the people's diva," a testament to a combination of glamor, talent and a touch of grittiness. She sang the "top 10" list for former late-night host David Letterman in 2013 and won praise for her rendition of the national anthem at the 2014 Super Bowl.

That prominence has made Fleming a reliably bankable star, a status on full display with "Der Rosenkavalier," one of the Met's most highly anticipated new productions of 2016-7, a season that commemorates 50 years at Lincoln Center. Five of the nine Met performances of "Der Rosenkavalier" completely sold out and the run as a whole reached 98 percent capacity, making it the best attended Met opera of the season, a Met spokeswoman said.

Besides "Rosenkavalier," Fleming's other signature parts include Dvorak's "Rusalka," Tatiana in Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" and Desdemona in Verdi's "Otello." She has

appeared nearly 250 times at New York's premiere opera house in 22 roles. She has also sung in all of the world's major opera houses including Milan, London and Paris. A representative for Fleming said the diva "does not like to be a repeater" and has already performed most classic roles for which her voice is suited.

Fleming has increasingly shown an interest in fresh works, seeking newly composed pieces that befit a grown woman. Throughout her time on stage Saturday, Fleming's voice revealed a combination of lightness and richness, especially near the end of act one and in

a trio near the finale of the opera with Octavian and Sophie, the younger woman whom Octavian falls for. Fleming acted with understatement and reserve that lent weight to the sense of melancholy at the passage of time. While the Strauss opera worked thematically as a kind of not-quite-sendoff for Fleming from the Met, it did not include obvious applause lines for the audience to express its appreciation during the performance. The Met crowd on Saturday however made up for that with a standing ovation for Fleming at the end. — AFP



Artist Wiz Khalifa performs during a concert at the annual Mawazine Music Festival in Rabat, Morocco, Saturday May 13, 2017. — AP

Lifestyle

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017

Portugal wins urovision Song Contest for the first time

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Festival participants parade with a portable shrine through the precincts of Kanda Myojin shrine during the annual Kanda Myojin Festival in Tokyo, yesterday.—AP

Bawling babies face off in Japan's 'crying sumo'

More than 100 Japanese babies faced off yesterday in a traditional "crying sumo" ring, an annual ceremony believed to bring infants good health. In the sumo ring at the precinct of the Kamegaike Hachimangu shrine in Sagami-hara west of Tokyo, two hulking wrestlers held up toddlers wearing tiny sumo belts and aprons to try to make them bawl. Wrestlers sometimes shake the babies gently to encourage tears.

"My boy was crying from the very beginning and I felt a little bad," Tomoyo Watanabe, the mother of Zentaro, told AFP. "But as I watched my baby crying, I was praying for him to grow up healthy and strong after this event." The "crying sumo" is held at shrines and temples nationwide, to the delight of parents and onlookers. "The cries of babies are believed to drive out demons and protect the infants from troubles," said priest Hiroyuki Negishi.

The ceremony is believed to date back more than 400 years. The rules vary from region to region—in some places parents want their offspring to be the first to cry, in others the first to weep is the loser. In the Sagami-hara event, which has been running since 2011, the babies accompanied by parents and grandparents were first taken before a Shinto altar and purified by the priest. Pairs of toddlers were then brought into the sumo ring—where most of them were bawling even before facing off against their rival.—AFP



Sumo wrestlers hold up crying babies in front of a referee (center) clad in a traditional costume during a "Baby-cry Sumo" event at the Kamegaike-Hachiman Shrine in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa prefecture, yesterday.—AFP photos



Sumo wrestlers hold up crying babies during a "Baby-cry Sumo" event.



A sumo wrestler holds up a crying baby beside a referee (right) clad in a traditional costume during a "Baby-cry Sumo" event.



File photo shows a woman taking a look at relics and reliquaries during an exhibition at the Museum of religious art in the Fourviere Basilica in Lyon, southeastern France.—AFP

19th century jewel-encrusted crown stolen from French museum

A 19th century crown, encrusted with almost 1,800 gem stones, has been stolen from a museum of religious art in central France, the museum authorities said Saturday. The thieves broke in overnight Friday and managed to overcome the "sophisticated security system" at the Museum of Fourviere in the city of Lyon, the museum said in a statement. They got away with the Crown of the Virgin, the centrepiece of the collection, which was created in 1899 with 1,791 precious stones and pearls gifted by well-to-do Lyonesse families of the day. The value of the piece was put at "a lit-

tle over a million euros". Each gemstone was painstakingly logged last year by a team of researchers, the museum said, a fact that will help trace each part of it. The robbers got away with two other pieces from the museum's permanent collection, a ring and a chalice. The museum, situated on a hill next to a basilica, was closed as investigations continued. The museum displays treasures from the basilica which are representative of the work of goldsmiths in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.—AFP



File photo shows people looking at relics and reliquaries during an exhibition at the Museum of religious art in the Fourviere Basilica in Lyon, southeastern France.