

KD 117m spent on power plant maintenance for summer



North Korea link emerges in global cyber attacks



Turkey brings back Ottoman sports to revive past glory



Olynyk shines as Celtics down Wizards to set up Cavs showdown



TRUMP TO GIVE SPEECH ON ISLAM DURING SAUDI VISIT

US PRESIDENT DEFENDS REVEALING INTEL SECRETS TO RUSSIANS



Min 27°
Max 44°
High Tide 04:44 & 14:46
Low Tide 09:33 & 22:25

KUWAIT BACKS CALL TO EXTEND OIL OUTPUT CUTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday backed a call by top oil producers Saudi Arabia and Russia to extend a deal on crude production cuts for nine more months. "Kuwait gives its full backing and support to the joint position of Saudi Arabia and Russia to extend the oil output cuts deal between OPEC and other producers until March 2018," Oil Minister Essam Al-Marzouk said in a statement. Russia and Saudi Arabia on Monday called for extending the deal struck late last year, ahead of an OPEC meeting on May 25.

In a joint statement the two countries said an extension to March 31, 2018 was needed "to ensure market stability, predictability and sustainable development". World oil prices leapt after the Saudi-Russian announcement and made further gains yesterday in Asian trade, with benchmark West Texas Intermediate up 19 cents at \$49.04 per barrel. OPEC members agreed in November to cut production by 1.2 million barrels per day for six months beginning from the start of the year, in a bid to reduce the glut in oil supplies and shore up prices that had fallen to historic lows. The move was partly matched by non-cartel producers led by Russia. — AFP



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a meeting in the Oval Office of the White House yesterday. Talks were expected to focus on ways to mend ties frayed over Syria and the presence in the US of Erdogan foe Fethullah Gulen. — AFP

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump will urge unity between the world's major faiths on an ambitious first foreign trip that will take him to Saudi Arabia, the Vatican and Jerusalem, the White House said yesterday. National Security Advisor HR McMaster laid out a detailed itinerary for the "historic trip", due to start late this week, and confirmed that Trump would address a gathering of Muslim leaders on his "hopes for a peaceful vision of Islam".

Previous US leaders have generally chosen a US neighbor such as Canada or Mexico for their first presidential voyage, but Trump intends to plunge right into some of the world's most difficult spiritual and political conflicts. In Saudi Arabia, after a day of talks with King Salman and his crown prince, Trump will attend a gathering of dozens of leaders from across the Muslim world.

"He will meet and have lunch with leaders of more than 50 Muslim countries, where he will deliver an inspiring, direct speech on the need to confront radical ideology and the president's hopes for a peaceful vision of Islam," McMaster told reporters. "The speech is intended to unite the broader Muslim world against common enemies of all civilization and to demonstrate America's commitment to our Muslim partners," he said, adding that Trump will help open a center to de-radicalize extremists.

Trump campaigned for office vowing to destroy "radical Islamic terrorism" and impose "a total ban on all Muslim immigration" to the United States, raising concerns that his election would only deepen distrust between America and the Muslim world. In office since Jan 20, he has already attempted to impose a ban on travellers from a group of mainly-Muslim countries, before his order fell foul of US courts.

Continued on Page 13

ROW OVER TRUMP ISRAEL POLICIES AHEAD OF VISIT

PAGE 9

SAVING PAKISTAN'S LOST CITY OF MOHENJO DARO

PAGE 40

72 PROJECTS TO RESOLVE TRAFFIC WOES

OIL COMPANIES POST BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN LOSSES

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The ministry of public works said yesterday that it plans to resolve the traffic crisis in the country through implementing 72 road projects, some of which are already underway or completed. The ministry's assistant undersecretary for road engineering Ahmad Al-Hassan said that 24 of the projects are already underway, four have been completed and as many as 15 others have been offered in a public tender.

Speaking after briefing the National Assembly's public utilities committee, Hassan said the pace of implementing these projects depends on the availability of financing. He said the ministry's plans are based on boosting the capacity of existing roads, replacing traffic signals with bridges and developing major intersections throughout the country. Hassan however said that if the necessary funds are provided, the projects will be implemented gradually between this year and 2025.

The ministry has recently signed a project to develop Nuwaiseb Road, adding that there are at least two more

contracts to develop Cairo Street and roads in South Surra. Many other contracts are in the pipeline. The official also said that an agreement to develop the Fourth Ring Road has been signed with international and local consultants, adding that the design phase will take two years before inviting tenders.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly's budgets committee yesterday said two state-owned oil companies operating abroad have posted huge losses in the past few years. The committee said Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) posted losses worth \$656 million in the 2015/2016 fiscal year. The company's production has remained at 69,000 barrels per day, unchanged for the past six years and it is highly expected to miss the 200,000 barrels per day target by 2020, the committee said.

It cited the Audit Bureau as saying that KUFPEC lost \$143 million from projects in Pakistan, Malaysia and Sudan because of weak feasibility studies, as some of the projects did not have any hydrocarbon materials and the cost of

Continued on Page 13

KUWAIT AIRWAYS APPOINTS KHUZAM CARRIER'S NEW CEO

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways, the official national carrier of Kuwait, has confirmed that Ebrahim Abdullah Al-Khuzam has been appointed as the airline's new Chief Executive Officer. As one of the newly-appointed board members of Kuwait Airways, as announced on April 4 this year, Khuzam assumed the additional role and duties of the CEO from May 4.

Formerly the Managing Director of AREF Investment Group KSCC, in addition to many investment and holding companies, including Advisor to the Chairman of Kuwait Finance House and General Manager of Zain (mobile telecommunications), Khuzam's proven leadership qualities and years of senior-level management experience are expected to



Ebrahim Al-Khuzam

Continued on Page 13

FIDGET SPINNERS SPIN OUT OF NOWHERE

NEW YORK: Stores can't keep them in stock. Parents are scrambling to find them. And some schools have banned them. The mania for fidget spinners - the 3-inch twirling gadgets taking over classrooms and cubicles - is unlike many other toy crazes. They're not made by a major company, timed for the holiday season, or promoted in TV commercials. They're more easily found at gas stations or 7-Eleven than at big toy chains. "It just took off," says Richard Gottlieb, a consultant at Global Toy Experts in New York.

Fidget spinners have been around for years, mostly used by kids with autism or attention disorders to help them concentrate. But they exploded in popularity this spring. Shannan Rowell, a sixth-grade special education teacher, says that after a weeklong break in late April more than half of her 25 students suddenly had one. "They seem to be taking over classrooms," says Rowell, who lives in North Grafton, Massachusetts.

Gottlieb thinks it's likely a kid brought one to a playground and the craze spread from there. Recent YouTube videos of people spinning them on their noses, foreheads and shoes also helped. Helen Holden heard about fidget spinners last month when her 7-year-old twins demanded she stop at a 7-Eleven to buy them.

Continued on Page 13



OXFORD, Michigan: In this May 11, 2017 photo, Penelope Daversa, 4, plays with a fidget spinner at the Funky Monkey Toys store. — AP



BALQA, Jordan: Jordan's King Abdullah II (left) attends the formal launch yesterday of The International Centre for Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East, known by the acronym SESAME. — AFP

OPEN SESAME: JORDAN KING INAUGURATES SCIENCE CENTER

AMMAN: Jordan's King Abdullah II yesterday formally launched an international research center whose members include experts from around the world including arch-rivals Iran and Israel. The International Centre for Synchrotron-Light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East, known by the acronym SESAME, "is the first research center of its kind in the region," said the royal court.

The facility, located in Balqa province, just northwest of Amman, "will house the first nuclear-powered accelerator in the world," said SESAME council president Chris Llewellyn Smith. "The center is expected to attract a large number of scientists from the region," Smith said, adding it had "so far received 55 scientific research projects on the use of nuclear accelerators".

SESAME was set up on the model of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) - Europe's top physics laboratory - and construction work on the \$100 million center started in 2003. It was developed under the auspices of UNESCO and officially came into existence in April 2004. Jordan was chosen from among five countries for the project, which was funded mostly by the member countries and the European Union.

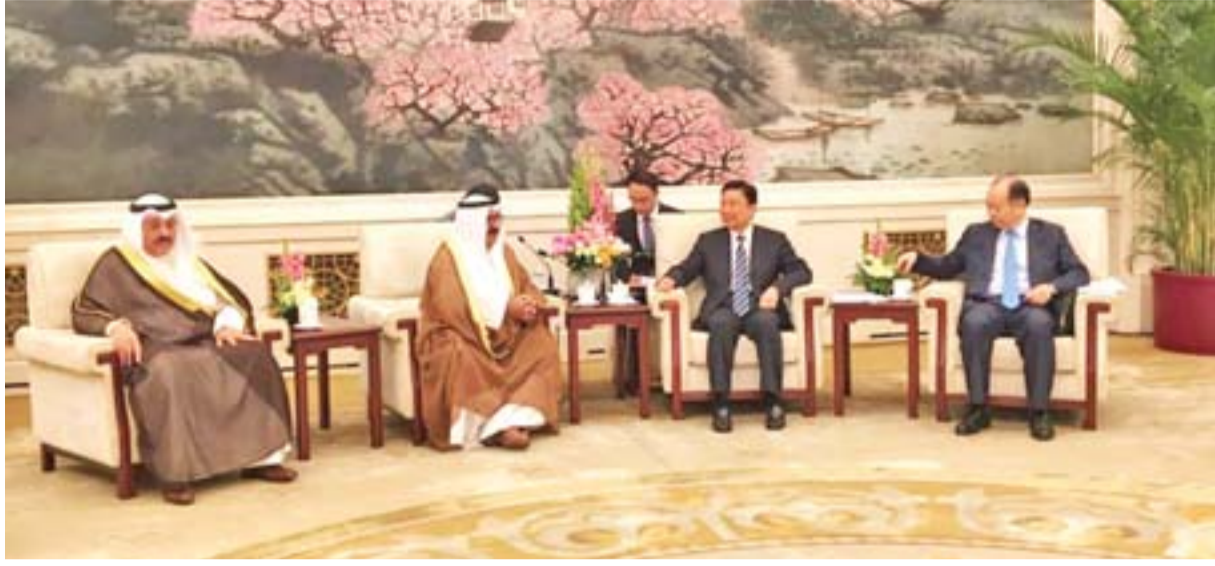
SESAME also seeks to "build scientific and cultural bridges between diverse societies, and contribute to a culture of peace through international cooperation in science," the website says.

Among the project's members are archrivals Israel and Iran, in addition to Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, Turkey and the Palestinian Authority. Despite their deep hostilities, experts from Israel and Iran have served two-year terms as vice presidents of the SESAME council. In 2010, one Iranian member of SESAME, Majid Shahriari, was killed in Tehran, with Iran accusing Israel of assassinating the nuclear scientist.

Seyed Mahmoud Reza Aghamiri served as vice president from Dec 2011 to May 2014 when Eliezer Rabinovici, a physics professor at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, replaced him. Members Cyprus and Turkey also do not have diplomatic relations, like Iran and Israel. The center also has 17 observers, who have an advisory role and include the European Union, China and the United States.

The Jordanian king was given a tour of the facility yesterday and was briefed on the technology used there, the royal court said in a statement. Synchrotron uses a high-resolution X-ray to delve below the surface and identify minute details. The center has three accelerators that can propel electrons up to 2.5 billion electron volts. The chairman of the Jordan Atomic Energy Agency, Khaled Toukan, "pointed to the political, technical and financial challenges that faced the project's task force," the statement added. — AFP

SUPREME PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SEES PROSPEROUS FUTURE IN TIES WITH CHINA



BEIJING: Kuwait's Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with China's Vice President Li Yuanchao. — KUNA

BEIJING: Collaboration with China is seen as crucial to turn Kuwait's aspirations of becoming a global and financial hub into a reality, Kuwait's Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) said yesterday. The SCPD members made the remarks in separate statements on the sidelines of a meeting between Kuwait's Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao.

The SCPD members pointed out that Kuwait's ties with Beijing go back to 46 years ago, as Kuwait was the first Arab nation to establish full-fledged diplomatic ties with the world's most populous nation. Moreover, they drew parallels between Kuwait's 2035 plan for development and China's initiative to revive the ancient Silk Road, two endeavors with common visions of grandeur.

Meanwhile, Abdulfatah Marafi, an SCPD member, revealed that both nations signed a slew of agreements dealing with education, healthcare and investment. He also spoke of the need to have regular meetings between both sides that would further propel bilateral ties to new heights. Similarly, Dr Khlaed Al-Nassar, another SCPD member, noted that the meeting tackled how far progress has come on a number of Kuwaiti development projects. Al-Nasser underscored the need to curb reliance on oil revenue, noting that these projects provide a viable and

lucrative alternative, which would subsequently transform Kuwait into a global financial hub.

SCPD member Yousef Al-Essa said that Kuwaiti and Chinese plans not only share common ambitions but also represent a genuine opportunity for economic growth. On development projects in Kuwait, including the 'Silk City' causeway, Essa hoped that the enterprises will be completed in a prompt and efficient manner.

The meeting between the Kuwaiti Minister and the Chinese Vice President brought together senior officials from both nations. It mainly focused on China's role in supporting the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of turning Kuwait into an international financial hub by 2035, Kuwait Ambassador to China Samih Hayat said yesterday. Hayat noted that Sheikh Nasser, also member of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, extended congratulations of the Kuwaiti leadership to China on the success of the recent Silk Road Forum held May 14-15. The Kuwait Vision 2035 and China's initiative to revive the ancient Silk Road to develop trade share the same goals, said Hayat, adding that Kuwait strongly supports the Chinese project. The meeting also discussed creating diverse sources of income and Kuwait's facilitations to attract more foreign investments, the ambassador noted. — KUNA

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THE IDEAL METHOD OF COEXISTENCE

By Labeed Abdal

local@kuwaittimes.net

Refugees travel from one European country to another, then reach North and South America in some cases, involving walking and dangerous sea journeys. This has become a humanitarian issue for some people who deal with religiously, ethnically, or according to meaningless executive decisions. Muslims were accused in a terrorist attack in Norway, but later, the culprit turned out to be a European extremist and a fanatic rightist, rejecting moderate parties. Many countries including the US, India, UK, France, Germany, and recently, Kuwait, have been stricken by terrorism.

Though many other countries were not safe from terrorism, political elements, international conflicts, local parties' conflicts, different political agendas and above all, revenge for executing a former member or president, have remained as unsolved issues in modern battles that mainly depend on proxy wars, where funding and lost lives come from and belong to different parts of the world. Many European countries failed to escape the 'Trump' phenomenon which focused on Islamophobia, linking Islam to terrorism and staging many acts of terrorism, along with controlling quick-spreading media and funding from billionaires.

There are many opportunities to highlight religious clemency whenever we meet with brothers following other religions. We need to highlight that, as Muslims, we believe in Allah, his angels, books and prophets regardless of the details in each religion, which only matter to its followers. You have your own religion and I have mine. Extremism and moderation undoubtedly exist in all other heavenly religions, of which the last was Islam. However, moderation and debate amongst everybody will remain the ideal method of coexistence.

ARAB OFFICIALS CALL FOR FURTHER SUPPORT OF YOUTH ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

KUWAIT: Arab Ministers of Youth and Sport, and youth-care officials called on Monday for supporting Arab youth to contribute to economic development. Youth involvement in economic growth will contribute to activation of small-size projects thus addressing high unemployment, Kuwait's Acting Minister of State for Youth Khaled Al-Roudhan said.

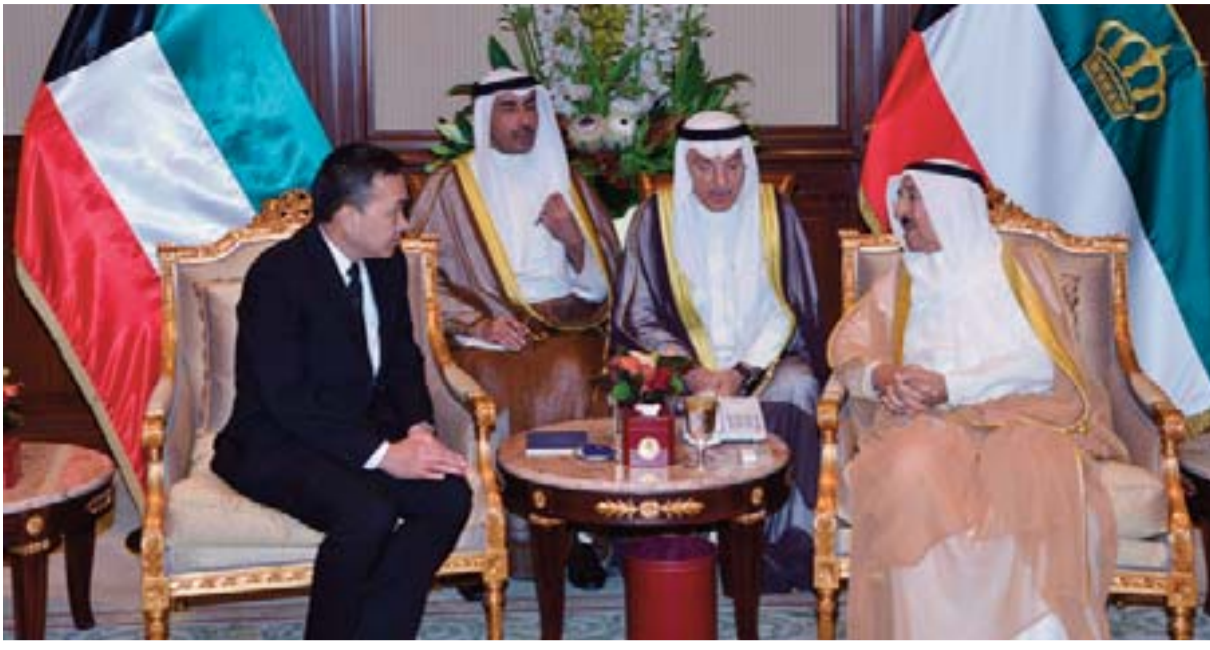
Roudhan, also Minister of Commerce and Industry, said Kuwait launched small-size projects fund and the medium and small-size enterprises (SMEs) Arab fund. He was speaking during an open session with Arab counterparts, the first activity of Kuwait's Arab Youth Capital 2017 season. The two multi-billion-dollar funds, said Roudhan, were providing direct support for the youth to start and expand their businesses with the objective of easing the employment burden on governments. Bahraini Minister of Youth Hesham Al-Jawdar said more than 10 programs held among the Arab countries were being held every year to promote role of youth in societies. Jordanian Minister of Youth Haditha Khraisha called on importance of youth gatherings to exchange expertise.

Yemeni Minister of Youth Nayef Bakri said the Arab youth have great potential for leadership and development plans. Officials representing youth and sport authorities in the Arab countries also called for including the youth in decision-making at many levels to contribute to multi-faceted development. — KUNA

KUWAITI JUSTICE MINISTER IN CAIRO FOR ARAB MEETING

CAIRO: Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Faleh Al-Azb arrived in Cairo yesterday to attend the 60th meeting of the executive bureau of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers due today. During their two-day meeting, the Arab ministers are expected to discuss a set of major issues and subjects pertinent to ongoing efforts to fight terrorism, organized crime and corruption. They will also address ways of further promoting and developing Arab-world cooperation in judicial and legal domains, as well as the implementation of anti-terrorism Arab agreements. — KUNA

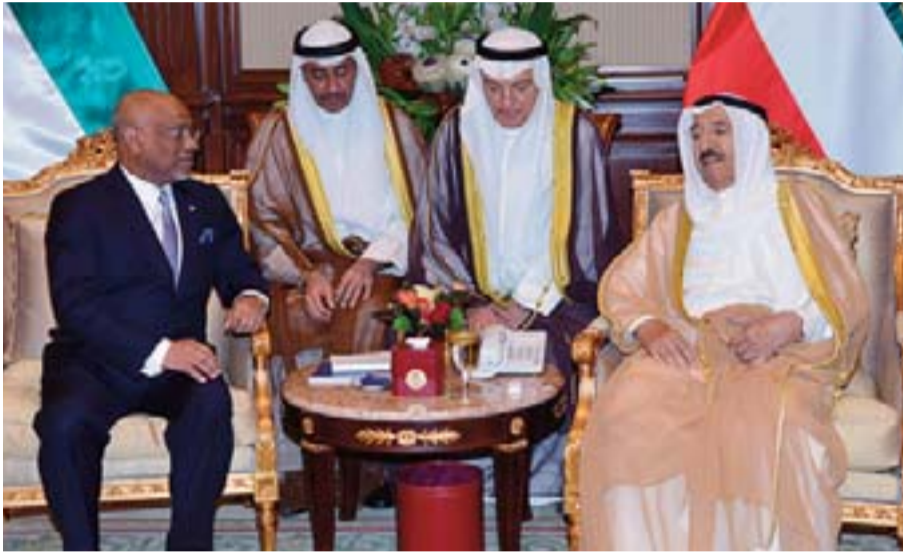
Justice Minister Faleh Al-Azb



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the newly-appointed ambassador of Thailand. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the newly-appointed ambassador of Afghanistan.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the newly-appointed ambassador of Maldives.

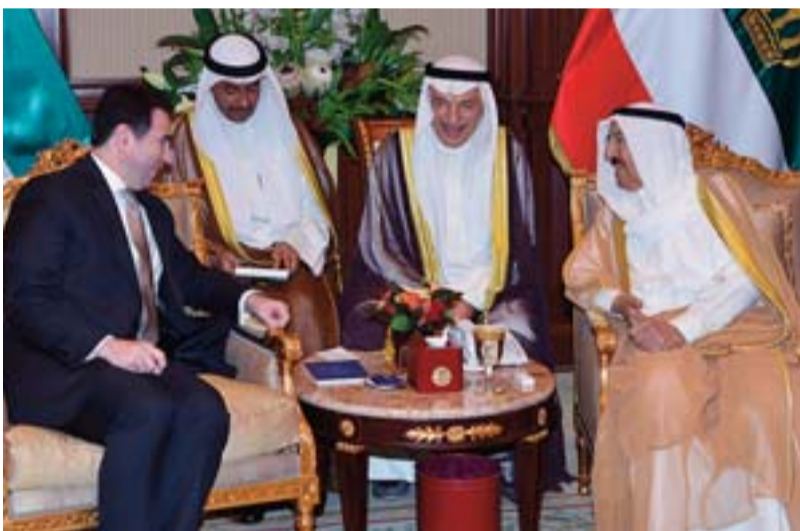
AMIR RECEIVES CREDENTIALS OF NEWLY-APPOINTED AMBASSADORS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday credentials of newly-appointed ambassadors of Thailand, Afghanistan, Maldives, Zambia and Colombia. The ceremony was attended by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in addition to a host of Amiri Diwan and foreign ministry officials.

Separately, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Director General of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness also received Dr Mohammad Al-Buseiri. —KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the newly-appointed ambassador of Zambia.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with the newly-appointed ambassador of Colombia.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Director General of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Mohammad Al-Buseiri.

BACKING HIGH ACHIEVERS ESSENTIAL FOR KNG DEVELOPMENT: SHEIKH MISHAL



Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah honors a KNG member.

KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah stressed yesterday the importance of backing high achievers in the country, affirming KNG's keenness on enhancing all its sectors. Sheikh Mishal made his remarks after honoring KNG's sport teams for attaining the first rank in state ministries and institutions tournament, KNG said in a statement. The honorees' achievements is due to their fruitful efforts and hard work, making KNG's leadership and members highly proud of them and their achievements, he said, adding that attaining such high ranks would push KNG to work more and exert further efforts toward development.

The KNG Deputy-Chief also urged leaderships to encourage their units and personnel to participate in sport activities through holding sport festivals and contests, in addition to forcing the units to take part with the largest number of enlisted athletes. Sheikh Mishal also conveyed Chief of KNG Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Sabah's congratulations to the honorees for attaining outstanding results and hoisting KNG's banner high at ministries tournaments and other local championships. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah poses with KNG members after the honoring ceremony. — Kuwait National Guard photos



KUWAIT: Children perform during a ceremony marking the Kuwaiti Women's Day. —KUNA

MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS UNDERLINES WOMEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh said yesterday that Kuwaiti women are engaged in setting out development blueprints and decision-making. Representing His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Sabeeh, who doubles as Minister of State for Economic Affairs, made the remark in a keynote speech during a ceremony marking Kuwaiti women. She said His Highness the Amir's patronage of the event reflected the political leadership's interest in the role of women in society and eagerness to empower them in decision-making circles.

Kuwaiti women have been empowered politically since the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah made a landmark decree in May 2005 giving women the right of candidacy and voting, she recalled.

The State of Kuwait has undertaken to fulfill the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including the fifth goal of gender equity, the minister pointed out. She cited recent statistics as showing that over 55 Kuwaiti women are holding leading state posts, ranging from assistant undersecretary to undersecretary, noting that this figures is forecast to rise in the foreseeable future. Kuwaiti women working at ministries and state agencies make up 79.2 percent of the country's total labor force in the public sector, Al-Sabeeh added.

Meanwhile, Dr Suad Abdulwahab, Advisor at the Women's Affairs Committee, the organizer of the ceremony, thanked His Highness the Amir for sponsoring the event. She highly



Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh speaks during the event.



Dr Suad Abdulwahab, Advisor at the Women's Affairs Committee, delivers her speech.

commended the scientific and practical successes and achievements made by Kuwaiti women. Several other speakers from Azerbaijan, UAE and Arab League stressed the significance of women's empowerment in various domains. —KUNA

In Brief

ATO AWARDS UNDERWAY

DOHA: The 13th edition of the Arab Towns Organization (ATO) Award opened in the Qatari capital yesterday, part of efforts to preserve the Islamic identity of Arab cities and towns. Qatari Minister of Municipality and Environment Mohammad Al-Rumaihi said that the event represents an earnest desire to protect the core identity of Arab towns, which includes measures of environmental conservation. Meanwhile, Director General of ATO Ahmad Al-Sabeeh pointed out that the event will also instill a sense of competition in participants, as Arab nations jostle to attain sustained development. —KUNA



KUWAITI HELPS FLOOD VICTIMS

TOKYO: The Kuwaiti government has provided aid to construct houses to flood victims in Mongolia who have lost their dwellings in the 2016 deluge, Mongolian state-run news agency Montsame reported. With an assistance offered by the Kuwaiti government, an apartment complex for 35 households are being built for those families in west Mongolia's Bayan-Ulgii Province, the report said. —KUNA



DELEGATION MEETS TURKISH OFFICIALS

ANKARA: A judicial delegation from Kuwait held talks with Turkish officials on ways of boosting bilateral relations and cooperation. Justice Khaled Salem, vice-chairman of Kuwait's Court of Cassation, said the delegation met with head of the justice academy Yilmaz Akcil and his deputy Mustafa Artuc, deputy chairman of the Court of Cassation Abdulhalik Yildiz and secretary general of the court Yasar Simsik. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A general view taken on May 15, 2017 shows fishing vessels docked next to the central fish market in Kuwait City. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



10TH SPRING FORMATIVE ART EXHIBITION KICKS OFF

KUWAIT: In a spirit of spring art exhibitions of 1959, the National Council of Culture, Arts, and Letters revived the old tradition since 2008 to promote the work of contemporary artists and inspire art enthusiasts and art lovers to gain awareness of different arts. On Monday, the 10th edition of spring formative art exhibition kicked off at Ahmad Al-Adwani Art Gallery in Asimah (Capital) Governorate. Over 101 formative paintings as well as ceramic works of 75 artists are being displayed at the gallery during the ten days of the event. —KUNA

KD 117 MILLION SPENT ON POWER PLANTS' MAINTENANCE

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) has spent a total of KD 117 million so far on maintaining power plants in preparation for the summer, said informed sources. KD 3.3 million was spent on maintaining Shuwaikh plant, KD 15 million for Subbiya plant, KD 16.3 million for West Doha plant, KD 5.2 million for East Doha plant, KD 19.4 million for South Zour plant and KD 12.5 million for Shuaiba plant, the sources explained, adding that KD 56 million were also spent for renovation, supply and installation of new equipment and KD 1.2 million for fuel.

In a different concern, informed sources said MEW allocated KD 3.2 million to pay Kuwait's share in the budget of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) power linkage authority. The sources added that since establishing the authority in 2009, member states have notched several achieve-

ments such as increasing power exchanges by 132,000 megawatts with a total value of \$192 million in 2016, enhancing individual state power grids and covering shortages in cases of power outages, of which Kuwait benefited most in the 2016 summer with 50 blackouts, while Bahrain only saw five outages.

Further, the sources said the authority's new strategy involves expanding the grid and linking it to other neighboring countries and that a feasibility study agreement has been already signed with Jordan and Turkey for this purpose.

Electronic passports

The Interior Ministry's citizenship and passports directorate set a special plan to deliver 200,000 electronic passports by the end of the year, said security sources, noting that only 61,000 had been delivered so far. The sources also

explained that according to records, the passports of 193,000 citizens will expire by the end of 2017, while 4,000 have expired passports, in addition to those who lost their passports or damaged them without filing any applications so far. "Those matching the conditions must apply immediately to avoid overcrowding and rush during the summer," the sources stressed.

Demographic imbalance

The Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) has set a new strategy to support national labor and help resolve the demographic imbalance problems, Secretary General Fauzi Al-Majdali said. This strategy focuses on restricting work in commercial areas, photography, mobile phone and automobile accessory stores to Kuwaitis only, and incriminating subleasing them to expats, he explained.

Kuwait Digest

'KAIFI, ANA KUWAITI'



By Talal Al-Ghannam

local@kuwaittimes.net

Good morning dear and honorable brothers and sisters, and I wish you all a blessed month of Ramadan in advance. The title of this column means 'I am a Kuwaiti, and I can do whatever I want.' This proclamation can be heard in many places inside and even outside Kuwait. Many Kuwaitis think by making this statement, they are superior to people of other nationalities, since the law in many cases supports and backs them against helpless people. This phrase can be heard in streets, malls, workplaces, cafes, shops and even outside Kuwait by irresponsible citizens who travel abroad and instead of showing the beautiful nature of the Kuwaiti people, tend to defame the image and tradition of this blessed land. Let me give some examples for some irresponsible behaviors obviously seen in Kuwait, which exactly fits this phrase.

In the streets, many people think they own the roads and refuse to be directed or talked to when committing a mistake or a wrongdoing while driving; therefore, they tend to take matters into their own hands and clearly utter this phrase 'Kaifi, ana Kuwaiti' when confronted. In another case, some irresponsible citizens believe that on entering a foreign embassy in Kuwait, they are still considered to be in Kuwait, forgetting that any foreign embassy represents its state. In other words, when you enter a foreign embassy's premises, you are considered no longer in Kuwait and must abide by the rules of that country. There was an incident of a national who went to an embassy and started yelling at staff members who asked him to wait in line till his issue is taken care of. Instead of complying, the man yelled and threatened to deport all embassy staff members, not knowing that he was committing an offense punishable by law.

Another incident I personally witnessed was in a parking lot when two Kuwaiti friends blocked the parking lot's entrance, and did not allow anyone to enter. When an old man approached to ask them to make way for people to enter, one of the men yelled at him and said: "Kaifi, ana Kuwaiti", as if the space belonged to him.

Abroad, this phrase is also widely used by some thoughtless persons. In restaurants for example, some of our people shout at the waiter as they do here in Kuwait, stunning everyone inside the restaurant, who think they are members of the mob. These senseless persons want to have everything their way, and do not want anyone to argue with them because according to their beliefs, they are Kuwaitis 'who descended from heaven' and are untouchables. One should be a good example for his country, instead of portraying an image that might make others believe that all Kuwaitis are irresponsible because of the behavior by irresponsible citizens.

Till the next article in sha Allah.



KUWAITI CHARITY LAUNCHES PROJECTS IN KYRGYZSTAN



Minister Khaled Al-Roudhan

GOVT OKAYS AMENDMENTS TO SPORTS LAW: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: The government has informed a parliamentary committee dealing with youth and sports that it has endorsed a suggestion related to a sports law, Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan said yesterday. Speaking to the press after a meeting, Roudhan, who is also Minister of State for Youth Affairs, said that the government will pitch the suggestion to international federations to find out whether the changes to the sports law comply with global guidelines. "A document containing information on the suggestion will be sent to international federations," he said.

Moreover, Roudhan said that the government has wanted to amend the law to render a sports ban on Kuwait null and void. Meanwhile, Saadoun Al-Otaibi, the head of the parliamentary committee, said that the new law has been unanimously approved. He also hoped that the new law will "meet the demands of international federations." — KUNA

VISA FORGERY NET BUSTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said residency affairs detectives arrested a number of Asian nationals on charges of forging entry visas that they gave to previously deported expats in exchange of money. The police report said that a suspect was arrested, who confessed to paying a person to get him a visa, so he was arrested too along with four others, all of the same nationality.



KUWAIT: Kuwait's Al-Salam Humanitarian and Charity Society has launched a number of philanthropic projects in Kyrgyzstan, including two mosques, Holy Quran memorization centers, and houses for widows and orphans, an official affirmed yesterday. The Society's 35th convoy delegation went out personally to check over the pace of implemented measures, including safety and health, regarding the projects, in addition to handing the philanthropic residencies to the beneficiaries, said Dr Nabil Al-Oun, Al-Salam Society's Director General.

The Kuwaiti convoy opened two grand mosques in Bishkek and Kara-Baltal cities, of which one mosque accommodates around 260 worshippers, Oun noted, adding that the mosques' facilities are fully equipped and include centers for Holy Quran memorization. Al-Salam delegation also opened five residencies for widows, orphans, and displaced families, he added, affirming the Kuwaiti Society's keenness in supporting the poor and needy ones. — KUNA

ENDOCRINE GLAND DISORDER MEDS DON'T AFFECT FASTING

By Meshal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Al-Sabah Hospital endocrine gland and diabetes specialist Dr Adel Redha stressed that endocrine gland disorder medications do not affect fasting. He explained that patients could take the medicine at iftar time with a little water, then wait for 10-15 minutes, which is usually enough for Maghreb prayers, then have iftar. Redha added that patients on cortisone as a treatment for adrenal gland failure are advised to take a larger dose of their medicine before subour and a smaller dose with iftar. He also advised patients not to alter medicine frequency or doses without consulting their doctors.

LOCKHEED MARTIN TO DELIVER SNIPER PODS FOR KUWAIT HORNET AIRCRAFT

Lockheed Martin will send Sniper Advanced Targeting Pods (ATP) to the Kuwait Air Force for its F/A-18C/D Hornet aircraft.

The order was added under Lockheed Martin's existing foreign military sales indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract and includes 14 Sniper ATPs, spares, support equipment and integration. Pod deliveries will begin in 2018 to address urgent operational needs of the Kuwait Air Force. "Sniper ATP provides critical targeting and non-traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support in challenging threat environments," said Paul Lemmo, vice president of Fire Control/Special Operations Forces Contractor Logistics Support Services at

Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. "By integrating Sniper ATP on its Hornet aircraft, the Kuwait Air Force continues expanding operational capabilities across its fighter fleet." Lockheed Martin announced efforts to integrate Sniper ATP on the Kuwait Air Force's Typhoon aircraft in 2016. Sniper ATP is also used on Canada's CF-18 and on multinational F-15, F-16, A-10, B-1, B-52 and F-2 aircraft. Additionally, Lockheed Martin is conducting Sniper ATP flight tests on the US Navy's Super Hornet.

Sniper ATP detects, identifies, automatically tracks and laser-designates small tactical targets at long ranges. It also supports employment of all laser- and GPS-guided weapons against multiple fixed and moving targets.

CONDOLENCES



O.S. Chandy Age: 76 Years

O.S. Chandy, Outhikamannil house, Kuriannoor, Presently residing at Manganam, Kottayam. Worked in Kuwait for approximately 45 years. Worked as the manager of Matin Optics (Canon) for about 20 years. After that he was the partner of Vision Center. Presently he is the owner and CEO of Inter Optics and Contact lens clinic, one of the largest optical chain in Kerala.

Funeral on Thursday 18th May, 2017 at 2.00pm at

St. Thomas Marthoma Church Kuriannoor, Kozhencherry Kerala

Vision Center - Management & Staff

Crime

Report

MAN WANTED FOR
KD 10,000 THEFT

KUWAIT: A Jordanian man was placed on the wanted list after a jewelry company discovered he sold gold worth KD 10,000 and disappeared with the money. A security source said an Egyptian lawyer lodged a complaint at Nugra police station on behalf of the company, accusing the Jordanian expat of selling 717 gm of gold and fleeing with the cash. Separately, an Egyptian man told police a female citizen rented a car at the end of March and did not return it. She also did not pay the rental fees. A case was filed for investigations.

Involuntary manslaughter

A Syrian worker was charged with involuntary manslaughter after metal pipes fell on the head of a Pakistani man in a house under construction that caused his death. Paramedics rushed to the site in Shamiya and found the victim had died. The Syrian was charged with involuntary manslaughter until forensics personnel determine the exact cause of death.

Trespassing

"I was thirsty and thought they were water pipes," is what an ex-convict, who was released recently from prison, told police after being arrested in an off-limits oil area with a gas cylinder, lighter and screwdriver. He was taken for interrogation. Thermographic cameras detected someone in the restricted area, and security officers located and arrested him. The suspect is a citizen who was jailed at an earlier time for theft and arson.

Fugitive caught

A wanted citizen was arrested after he was stopped at a late hour in Rabiya. He was found wanted to serve a nine-year jail sentence for two cases of trading in liquor. He will be sent to concerned authorities.

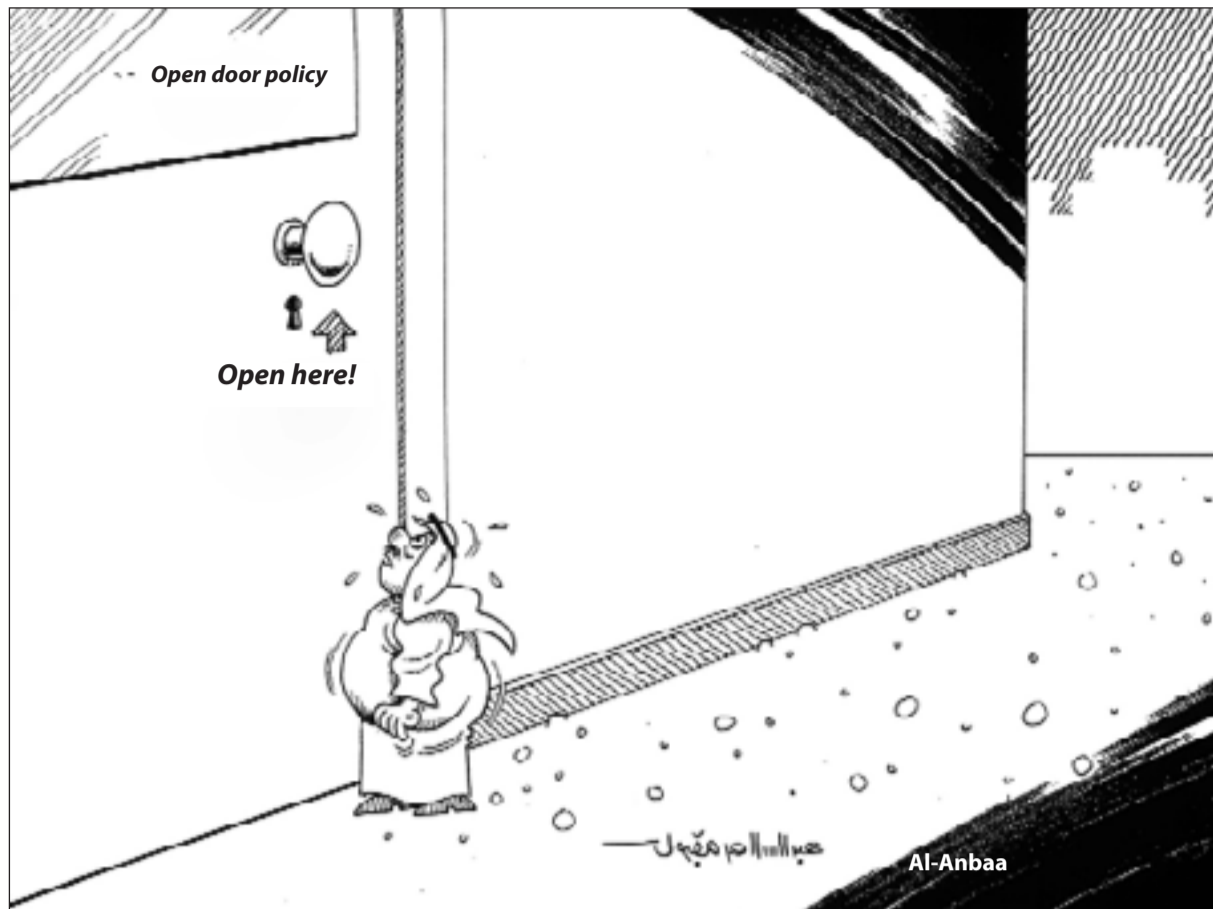
Drug possession

Farwaniya police patrols arrested a bedoon (stateless) man red-handed using drugs. He also had hashish and illicit pills on him. The patrol officers were in Firdous when they spotted a car and ordered the driver to pull over. The man appeared to be in an abnormal condition, so he was searched and the drugs were found. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

Negligence

A citizen accused his neighbor of negligence in caring for two dogs that attacked him. The citizen told Mina Abdullah police that he was in his father's chalet and went out to exercise, when his neighbor's dogs attacked and frightened him. Police summoned the neighbor for questioning.

—Translated from the Arabic press



Al-Anbaa

ABDUL-AZIZ AL-BABTAIN; THE FOURTH WALL

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

Statistically speaking, what writer and poet Abdul-Aziz Saud Al-Babtain has done, through his Foundation of Abdul-Aziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity for Kuwait to spread its name worldwide through cultural forums and conferences, equals the work of 12 information ministries, 500 National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and five foreign ministries as we know them.

Ninety percent of the credit in spreading Kuwait's name as a country for culture or rather a minaret for cultural activities goes to Al-Babtain's prize and annual conferences held worldwide over the period of 20 years. It was a great effort done by an army of intellectual people led by one person who seeks no personal glory as much as he seeks spreading the Arabic language; which is his only message and mission. The man established and funded a number of schools in various Arab countries on conditions that those schools carry Kuwait's name and be supervised by ministries of education in those respective countries. He never sought naming any of the schools after him, his family or family member; which he could have done if he was after personal glory.

Even when Oxford University decided to name its oldest Chairs (founded in 1636); The Laudian Chair in Arabic

after him, Babtain asked the university to add the name of Kuwait to his. So many people do not know that Kuwait and Babtain's names will remain on that chair for a 1,000 years and no British government, king or president will ever have the right to change that. This means that Kuwait's name will be immortalized till the year 3016. Can we imagine this compared to pessimistic false and inaccurate reports saying that Kuwait is a temporary country? If this honor was given to another country, it would have celebrated it for over 40 days, while here, it only went by as a simple piece of news mentioned by news agencies, and that was it. Though what I mentioned is but a small part of Babtain's achievements, it will still be enough in other countries to consider him as an immortal cultural hero. He never sought multiplying his business through taking over state tenders, though he can. He preferred cultural and humane activities avoiding political conflicts. Nevertheless, he was often targeted by politicians and lawmakers' criticism.

Notably, the idea of building a fourth wall around Kuwait after the liberation was one of the ideas of Babtain along with a number of Kuwaitis, which actually proved ideal in protecting our northern borders.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

THE UNLUCKY WOMEN

By Dr Khalid Al-Saleh

The woman of a house faces difficulties when her husband drops his duties to watch a match between Barcelona and Real Madrid. Spoiled children wait for their mother to stuff their brains with lessons prescribed by the Education Ministry.

For the young mother, her husband's decision is like a verdict to stop all pleasure in her life and the start of a torturous journey. Lucky is the girl who is blessed with an understanding husband who is cooperative and does not stay up watching late-night matches

How many lucky women do we have in Kuwait who have understanding husbands and normal children like those in the past?

with friends, and finds him smiling in the morning, ready for his responsibilities without the perennial sentence "I am not in the mood." But luckiest is the woman blessed with an obedient child who listens to his teachers and enters home without throwing his bag on the nearest chair - a child who studies without the assistance of a private tutor or his mother's nagging.

How many lucky women do we have in Kuwait who have understanding husbands and normal children like those in the past? I can almost hear you saying - oh not many, very few! The Kuwaiti woman is lost between meeting the needs of her house and her children whose brains are covered with fast food fat, for she must strive to help them succeed.

An advice to every girl getting married is to place conditions before her future husband, such as to buy requirements for the house, take up the responsibility of processing transactions and preventing his brood from consuming excess fast food. If he does not do this, he must take up the task of at least teaching them. This is a very important advice, because if the woman does not do so, she will find herself confined all day during periods of final exams, losing her voice by screaming at children who enjoy tormenting her. She will find herself going around cooperative societies and citizen service centers, and time will fly until a day comes when the woman can hardly recognize herself when she looks in the mirror.

The young woman in Kuwait is oppressed and the society should use its pressure tools, such as reminding of social traditions that honor the woman and distribute responsibilities between family members, including children. Young women deserve consideration before cases of marriage rejection increase, as divorce cases are on the rise.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



EQUATE RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM UN, SCPD FOR SUPPORTING MANPOWER AUTHORITY

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, a global producer of petrochemicals, was recognized by the United Nations (UN) and Kuwait's Secretariat General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD) in appreciation of the company's support for the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM).

EQUATE played a critical role in the SCPD and UN driven Joint Program for the Support of PAM. The program aims to develop work effectiveness, and implement mechanisms to measure performance that aims to realize accomplishments within a short-time frame.

Having commenced its cooperation with PAM in 2014, EQUATE collaborated with the authority to develop a Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) dashboard to establish an evaluation system, develop talents and support the human capital.

Speaking on this occasion, EQUATE's President and CEO, Mohammad Husain said, "Partnerships and teamwork are the main pillars of our corporate culture and we believe that human capital is the cornerstone for sustainability, innovation and successful business development. Realizing the innovative potential of the human capital represents successful partnerships for us. We are very proud to have such partnerships with PAM and other organizations as 'Partners in Success'."

A specialize team from EQUATE provided Six Sigma training to the employees of PAM with the objective of improving quality and daily business practices. Six Sigma methodology is a set of techniques and tools for process improvement to deliver the best possible results while minimizing cost, time and effort. EQUATE is the first Kuwaiti organization to adopt Six Sigma methodology. The company's human capital has proven their innova-

tive capabilities, admirable dedication and global achievements.

The Public Authority of Manpower (PAM) is partnering with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the International Labor Organization (ILO) within the context of UNDP Country Program Document (CPD) for 2015 - 2018. The Joint Program will support the achievement of national strategic objectives of economic growth for the state of Kuwait, supporting human and social development,

and improving demographic policies to support development and effective government administration. PAM plans will improve the labor conditions and management system by analyzing the demographic imbalance, making sound decisions based on enhanced reporting mechanisms and upgrading its services quality for all economic and social actors. This Joint Program aims to support PAM in its efforts to develop its internal capacity in reporting on its own performance, on labor movement and on its compliance with international labor standards.

NBK COLLABORATES WITH PAAET TO SUPPORT YOUTH

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) signed a cooperation agreement with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Technology (PAAET) to collaborate in supporting Kuwait's youth. "NBK supports the education and development of our youth through programs like our collaboration with PAAET," said Salah Al-Fulaij, Chief Executive Officer for NBK-Kuwait. "We work continuously with key partners to provide the best banking and financial solutions for all of Kuwait and are honored to be working with the Ministry of Education and PAAET to support our youth." The aim of the agreement is to support and develop academic cooperation and student activities.

NBK will provide youth attending the institutions managed through PAAET with various forms of support including dedicated sales assistance to open Al-Shabab accounts. Al-Shabab accounts gives students access to easily manage their student allowances, have a prepaid credit cards as well as access to other financial tools, benefits and offers.

National Bank of Kuwait provides Al-

Shabab account holders with a range of benefits including discounts at more than 600 merchants including restaurant, fashion and lifestyle choices through the NBK Rewards program. Al-Shabab account holders have access to NBK's Online and Mobile Banking as well as its vast network of ATM and CDM machines for cash withdrawals and deposits for fast, convenient and secure banking.

"We are proud to partner with NBK to support financial literacy for our students," said Dr Ahmad Al-Athari, Director General, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. "PAAET works closely with local firms to encourage our students to participate in and help develop the economy for Kuwait's long term growth and future."

NBK's Tap and Pay service, available on the Al-Shabab debit and prepaid cards, enables customers to do transactions up to KD10 without entering their PIN - contactless cards only needs to be tapped on the contactless enabled POS. Through this offer, NBK is keeping up with changes in the needs of young customers and ensuring that the bank is future safe.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) concluded its annual drawing competition organized recently under supervision of Radisson Blu Hotel. CBK clients aged between 10 and 18 years participated in the competition.



Indian police raid homes of ex-finance minister, son

BRITAIN'S LABOUR PARTY UNVEILS 'RADICAL' ELECTION MANIFESTO

NORTH KOREA LINK IN CYBER ATTACKS

WASHINGTON: Security researchers investigating the massive cyber attack campaign that sparked havoc in computer systems worldwide have reported signs of a possible North Korean link, but Europe's cross-border police agency said Tuesday it was "too early" to draw a connection. After days of disruptions affecting networks worldwide, a top US official said the number of computers affected had reached 300,000, but that infection rates had slowed.

In the first clues of the origin of the massive ransomware attacks, Google researcher Neel Mehta posted computer code that showed similarities between the "WannaCry" malware and a vast hacking effort widely attributed to Pyongyang. The code used in the latest attack shared many similarities with past hacks blamed on the North, including the targeting of Sony Pictures, said Simon Choi, director of Seoul internet security firm Hauri. "I saw signs last year that the North was preparing ransomware attacks or even already beginning to do so, targeting some South Korean companies," he told AFP.

Isolated, nuclear-armed North Korea is known to operate an army of thousands of hackers operating in both the North, and apparently China, and has been blamed for a number of major cyberattacks. But police agency Europol said yesterday the investigation is ongoing, warning against a rush to judgement. "We are open to investigate in all directions, but we don't speculate and we cannot confirm this. It's still too early to say anything," said senior agency spokesman, Jan Op Gen Oorth. "It could come from everywhere, it could come from any country."

In Nov 2014, Sony Pictures



SEOUL: A photo taken on Monday shows staff monitoring the spread of ransomware cyber attacks at the Korea Internet and Security Agency (KISA). —AFP

Entertainment became the target of the biggest cyber attack in US corporate history, linked to its release of North Korea satire "The Interview". More attacks were possible, Choi said, "especially given that, unlike missile or nuclear tests, they can deny their involvement in attacks in cyberspace and get away with it". Israeli-based security firm Intezer Labs said it agreed with the

North Korea attribution. The group's chief executive Itai Tevet said in a tweet: "@IntezerLabs confirms attribution to North Korea for #WannaCry, not only because of the function from Lazarus. More info to come."

Finder pointing

Europol said the situation was "stable" after attacks that struck

computers in British hospital wards, European car factories and Russian banks. But according to Michel Van Den Berghe, director of telecom group Orange's cyber security arm, a "second wave" is to be expected. Russia, China and India have blamed the United States government for developing the original code. Tom Bossert, President Donald Trump's top

cyber and homeland security adviser, brushed aside suggestions that the attack stemmed from a flaw discovered by the US National Security Agency and later leaked.

"This was not a tool developed by the NSA to hold ransom data," he said, noting that no US government systems had been hit. "This is a global attack," he added. Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier

had suggested the United States bore responsibility. "A genie let out of a bottle of this kind, especially created by secret services, can then cause damage to its authors and creators," the Russian leader said on the sidelines of a summit in Beijing. Russia has recently been accused of cyber meddling in several countries, but Putin said his country had nothing to do with the attack.

Telecoms and carmaking hit

US package delivery giant FedEx, Spanish telecoms giant Telefonica and Germany's Deutsche Bahn rail network were among those hit. The attackers demanded money to unblock their computers. In China, 66 of the country's universities were affected by the global ransomware attack, authorities said. The attack blocks computers and puts up images on victims' screens demanding payment of \$300 (275 euros) in the virtual currency Bitcoin, saying: "Oops, your files have been encrypted!"

Bossert said that paying the ransom provided no guarantee files would be unlocked. He told a news conference that "it appears that less than \$70,000 has been paid in ransoms and we are not aware of payments that have led to any data recovery." Dutch spy chief Rob Berthoole meanwhile said Tuesday that digital threats "are not imaginary, they are everywhere around us". Sabotage of critical infrastructure "is the kind of thing that might keep you awake at night," he told a timely cyber security conference in The Hague. "In my opinion, we might be closer to a serious act of digital sabotage than a lot of people can imagine," he told hundreds of experts and officials at the conference, organized by the Dutch government. —AFP

BITCOIN IS HACKERS' 'ANONYMOUS' CASH

PARIS: The perpetrators of the global cyber attack that caused havoc in 150 countries demanded "ransom" money in bitcoins, but experts believe the anonymity that the virtual currency affords is not necessarily impenetrable. Bitcoin, heavily-coded electronic tokens that take their name from software first put online in February 2009 by several software designers using the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto, essentially allow those who possess them to remain anonymous.

The message that flashed up on hundreds of thousands of screens infected by the WannaCry virus over the last few days demanded payment of \$300 in Bitcoin, saying: "Oops, your files have been encrypted!" It warned that if payment was not made within three days the price would double, and if none was received within seven days the locked files would be deleted. "Bitcoin is digital cash. The transactions are totally anonymous and non-refundable. However they are totally traceable, Nicolas Debock of London-based Balderton Capital that specializes in virtual currencies said. "All the transactions are stored in databases called blockchains. It's anonymous but anyone can monitor a bitcoin address and see how the money moves," Debock said. "No-one can take the money off those who hold it, but it is possible to follow in detail the activity on the account."

That is the problem for investigators, according to Pierre-Antoine Gailly, who compiled a study on bitcoin and other cyber currencies for French state body CESE in 2015. "Bitcoin doesn't need a bank so this monetary flow escapes any supervision and any checks," he told AFP. "The accounts don't have a physical address or a bank address and they are not stored centrally - anonymity comes before anything else."

'Ransom not the point'

The extent of the damage caused to computers around the world, the number of victims and the sheer number of companies concerned is likely to push international investigators and national security agencies to investigate the bitcoin address to which any ransom money has been paid. Adding to the complexity of tracking the hackers, the holders of bitcoins can use services available on the so-called dark web known as "tumblers" which can offer an additional layer of anonymity.

"The tumbler divides the bitcoin amounts into thousands of tiny pieces, spreads them around to millions of different addresses and carries out lots of transactions," said Manuel Valente, the manager of a Bitcoin-selling service in Paris. "Within a week, all of the bitcoins can be put on a new address with the aim of covering (the holder's) tracks. It is essentially money-laundering of bitcoins. And people offer this kind of service on the dark web." Clement Francombe, the director-general of Utocat, a software company that specializes in blockchains, said collecting ransoms was perhaps not the hackers' real aim. "The idea was perhaps to show the rest of the world that they have pulled off a really, really big coup. With an attack like that, they're going to gain notoriety in the international hacking fraternity. They probably don't have any desire to spend the bitcoins, knowing they are being monitored. Their real aim is to use their reputation to sell other services."

And Francombe warned: "This team has made a show of force and I suppose there will be another attack before very long." European police agency Europol said yesterday it was too early to say whether North Korea was involved in the massive cyber attack. —AFP



MOSUL: Displaced Iraqis from Mosul's western Rifai neighborhood flee their homes as Iraqi forces advance into the area during the ongoing offensive against Islamic State (IS) group fighters yesterday. —AFP

IS 'ON BRINK OF DEFEAT' IN MOSUL

MOSUL: Iraqi forces have recaptured nearly 90 percent of west Mosul from the Islamic State group and militants in the city are on the "brink of total defeat", officers said yesterday. Iraqi forces launched the massive operation to retake Mosul from IS nearly seven months ago, fighting their way to the jihadist-held city, retaking its eastern side and then attacking the west.

Brigadier General Yahya Rasool, spokesman for Iraq's Joint Operations Command, told a news conference in Baghdad that IS now controls just over 10 percent of west Mosul. Both Staff Lieutenant General Abdulwahab al-Saadi, a senior Iraqi special forces commander, and Colonel John Dorrain, the spokesman for the US-led international coalition against IS, said that the end was near for militants in the city. "They have two options: Die and go to hell or raise the white flag. They have no third option," Saadi

told AFP at his headquarters in Mosul. "The enemy is completely surrounded," Dorrain told the news conference in Baghdad. "The enemy is on the brink of total defeat in Mosul."

The drive to retake Mosul has been supported by a campaign of coalition air strikes in and around the city. Dorrain said that coalition strikes have destroyed more than 300 explosives-rigged vehicles in Mosul, as well as over 200 IS tunnels and more than a thousand jihadist fighting positions. IS now controls just a handful of neighborhoods around the Old City, one of the country's heritage jewels.

The area's narrow streets and closely spaced buildings make it difficult for federal forces to take on the jihadists, requiring them to fight on foot instead of from vehicles as they have previously done. Half a million people are currently displaced as a result of the battle for Mosul, and some 250,000 civilians are estimated to still be trapped inside the

city's west. The number of those fleeing has been on the rise, with Thursday seeing around 20,000 people fleeing west Mosul, the Norwegian Refugee Council said, in the biggest single-day displacement since the operation began. The presence of a large civilian population, which either chose not to leave or was prevented from doing so by IS, complicates any final assault to seal victory in Mosul. While coalition air strikes have aided the advance of Iraqi forces, they have also reportedly caused hundreds of civilian casualties in the city.

Human shields have become a central feature of the vastly outnumbered jihadists' defenses, and IS has stopped at nothing to deter people from escaping the city, including killing people who seek to flee. Trapped residents reached by AFP inside IS-held areas have also recently warned that hunger was starting to kill more people than the fighting.

In eastern Mosul, life returned to a semblance of normality fairly quickly after Iraqi forces drove the militants back neighborhood by neighborhood until the area was fully recaptured earlier this year.

IS overran large areas north and west of Baghdad in 2014, but Iraqi forces backed by US-led air strikes have since retaken much of the territory they lost to the militants. But while the battle for Mosul is moving ever closer to its conclusion, the city's recapture will not mark the end of the war against IS in Iraq. Losing Mosul would remove from militants' hands the largest Iraqi population center still under IS control, and would be a major blow to their narrative that they have established a cross-border Islamic "state". But IS also holds other territory in Nineveh province, of which Mosul is the capital, as well as in Kirkuk and Anbar, while Syria's Raqqa is also controlled by the militants. —AFP

BRITAIN'S LABOR LAUNCHES 'RADICAL' ELECTION MANIFESTO

LONDON: Promising renationalization of some services, measures to curb corporate excess and end healthcare cuts, Britain's Labor Party made its case yesterday for voters to back its move to the left and throw out the Conservatives at next month's election.

Unveiling what leader Jeremy Corbyn called "a blueprint of what Britain could be", Labor said it was the only party that would make leaving the European Union "work for ordinary people" but would not support a second independence vote for Scotland. Labor wants to fight Prime Minister Theresa May on domestic policies, particularly healthcare, at the June 8 election, which, if the polls giving the Conservatives a runaway lead are right, could reshape the political landscape for years to come.

Critics say the manifesto evokes the party's 1983 offering, described then by a Labor lawmaker as "the longest suicide note in history" for helping the Conservatives win, and the ruling party questioned its funding plans. Corbyn said

his manifesto, which also included scrapping university tuition fees and ending cuts to the National Health Service, accused the Conservatives of stepping back in time by backing fox hunting and new selective schools.

"This manifesto is the first draft of a better future for the people of our country. A blueprint of what Britain could be and a pledge of the difference a Labor government can and will make," he told supporters at a university in northern England. "Our country will only work for the many not the few if opportunity is in the hands of the many. So our manifesto is a plan for everyone to have a fair chance to get on in life, because our country will only succeed when everyone succeeds."

Chaos with taxes

The Conservatives said Corbyn's numbers did not add up and that "every single working family in this country would pay for Corbyn's chaos with higher taxes". "It's clear that proposal after proposal in this manifesto will mean more borrowing and



BRADFORD: (L-R) Kate Osamor, Shadow minister for international development, British opposition Labor party leader Jeremy Corbyn and deputy leader Tom Watson pose with copies of the Labor election manifesto after the launch in Bradford yesterday.—AFP

debt: From promises on benefits, to promises on nationalizing the water network," chief secretary to the finance ministry, David Gauke, said in a statement. Alongside its manifesto, Labor also detailed how it would pay for spending commitments worth almost 50 billion pounds (\$60 billion), through hikes in corporation tax, higher income tax for the top five percent of earners and new levies.

There was no cost provided for the party's renationalization plans for water, mail and rail services and its measure to take some of the energy sector back into public hands. By moving to the left, Labor has cleared the way for May to put her stamp on the centre ground of British politics and appeal for votes from traditional supporters of the opposition party who backed leaving the European Union. Lagging the Conservatives by about 20 points, Corbyn told his supporters in Bradford: "For seven years the Conservatives have been holding Britain back," Corbyn said. "Labor's mission, over the next five years, is to change all that." — Reuters

I COAST REBEL TROOPS END MUTINY AS DEAL CLINCHED

MUTINEERS' FINANCIAL DEMANDS MET: REBEL SOLDIERS

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast: Rebel soldiers in Ivory Coast said yesterday they were ending a four-day mutiny which drew in troops from across the country after reaching agreement with the government over a wages dispute. News of the deal was confirmed by a spokesman for the disgruntled troops, who said their financial demands had been met, ending a dispute which began in January.

diers firing angrily into the air and heavy gunfire in Ivory Coast's two biggest cities, in which one person died.

Heavy gunfire erupted on Monday at the country's largest military barracks in eastern Abidjan, Ivory Coast's economic capital, as well as in Gallieni camp in the city centre where banks, offices and department stores were closed. Troops also seized control of Bouake, the coun-

ernment. That uprising ended when the government agreed to pay the soldiers bonuses of 12 million CFA francs (18,000 euros) each.

At the time, they were given a partial payment of 5.0 million francs with the remainder due to be paid this month. But the last payment never materialized, prompting the latest round of unrest. According to sources among the rebel soldiers, the government has now agreed to give them an immediate payment of 5.0 million CFA francs with the remaining 2.0 million to be paid next month. With the agreement, the soldiers have now secured "everything which had been promised in January," one source told AFP.

On Monday evening, Defence Minister Alain-Richard Donwahi said a deal had been reached but did not give any details, with soldiers continuing to fire their weapons in a show of skepticism. "We do not recognize the agreement. How do you have a baptism without the baby? No representative from Bouake was there on Monday for their 'deal,'" said one mutineer, referring to the city where the rebellion began. But by Tuesday morning, the deal appeared to be confirmed.

Rebels-turned-soldiers

The city of Bouake served as the rebel headquarters following a failed coup in 2002 which split Ivory Coast in half and led to years of unrest. Ouattara took office in 2011 after months of deadly election violence in which more than 8,000 rebels supported him against troops backing ex-head-of-state Laurent Gbagbo, who refused to concede defeat at the ballot box.

Many of the rebels subsequently joined the regular army, which currently numbers some 22,000 troops. After years of unrest, the former French colony has been slowly regaining its credentials as a West African powerhouse and a haven of peace and prosperity.

But falling cocoa prices have hobbled the government's finances. Last year, the government unveiled a plan to modernize the military, part of which would involve the departure of several thousand men, mainly ex-rebels, who would not be replaced. — AFP



BOUAKE: A policeman talks on his mobile phone as he stands in front of trucks and a car as mutinous soldiers prepare to leave the block at the entrance of Bouake yesterday.—AFP

"We have found a basis for agreement. We are returning to barracks," Sergeant Cisse Fousseu told AFP, ending the latest round of unrest which began early Friday. Another spokesman said details of the deal were "top secret" but others confirmed that the mutineers' demands had been fully met.

The mutiny, which sowed disruption across the world's top cocoa-producing nation, saw sol-

diers' second city, where sustained gunfire rang out. And border posts were closed, halting traffic to neighboring Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.

'Everything that was promised'

The mutiny was the latest in a series of armed protests which began in January in the West African country, with troops angered by a wage dispute with President Alassane Ouattara's gov-



BIRMINGHAM: British Prime Minister Theresa May (right) meets pupils at the Nishkam Primary School in Birmingham yesterday. Britain goes to the polls to vote in a general election on June 8. —AFP

FEMALE BOMBERS ATTACK NIGERIA VILLAGE, KILL TWO

KANO, Nigeria: Three female suicide bombers have attacked a herding community in northeast Nigeria, killing two people and injuring seven others, according to a village elder and a civilian militia member.

Ali Musa said the trio, believed to have been sent by Boko Haram jihadists, struck at Shuwari Buri village, 38 kilometres from Maiduguri at around 9:20 pm (2020 GMT) on Monday.

"Two of them rushed into a thatched hut and detonated their explosives, killing two brothers who had retired for the night," he added. "The third bomber detonated her explosives among residents who had gathered ... injuring seven." The three bombers had earlier told villagers they were travellers and asked them for accommodation for the night. But they were refused on security grounds.

Ibrahim Liman, a member of the civilian militia assisting the military with security,

gave an identical account. Shuwari Buri is in the Konduga area, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) southeast of the Borno state capital, Maiduguri, which has been repeatedly hit by suicide bombings and gun attacks.

Boko Haram has increasingly used suicide bombers to attack civilian targets including mosques, schools, markets and bus stations.

Many of the bombers have been women and young girls. The phenomenon has increased as the Islamist militants lost captured territory to the military due to a sustained counter-insurgency that began in early 2015. The rebels' push for a hardline Islamic state in the region has left at least 20,000 people dead in Nigeria alone and displaced more than 2.6 million others. Civilians are still facing the fall-out from the conflict: 5.1 million people are severely food insecure and dependent on handouts from aid agencies. — AFP

NOT SO FAST: EU COURT ENSURES 32 VETOS ON BREXIT TRADE

BRUSSELS: Britain may have to wait - and hope - for every single one of its European Union neighbors to give full legislative consent before it can fully benefit from any post-Brexit free trade deal, EU judges ruled yesterday.

In a verdict that may also delay and potentially obstruct a string of other EU trade pacts, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) said an agreement struck with Singapore in 2014 cannot take full effect until ratified by 33 national and regional parliaments across the 28-nation bloc. The European Commission, which runs trade policy for the EU, had hoped Brussels - where national governments also have a say - might be free to implement deals without having to consult assemblies, such as that of Wallonia in Belgium that nearly wrecked an accord with Canada last year.

The EU's last major trade deal to enter force, with South Korea, took five years to be ratified. The Commission, which sought the ruling, said it clarified divisions between EU and national powers.

A British government spokeswoman, asked for comment, said only that Britain hoped the Singapore deal would now be implemented. London wants a trade agreement to keep much of its current access to Europe's single market once it quits the EU in March 2019. But Brussels negotiators have warned such deals can take a decade or more from start to finish.

Any trade pact with Britain would need to be signed off in Brussels by all 27 EU governments after Brexit, but the ECJ ruling implies that, depending on the deal, national parliaments would also get a veto. So would federal Belgium's five regional assemblies, among them Wallonia and German-speaking East Belgium (population 77,000).

"If the UK wants to sign a swift trade deal with the EU, it may have to get every one of the EU's national governments to agree if the deal falls within their powers. This is no easy task," said Laurens Ankersmit, trade lawyer at environmental activists ClientEarth.

The dispute

Nicole Kar, head of international trade at law firm Linklaters, described the ECJ case as the most significant on EU trade policy for 20 years and said it would have "huge ramifications" for a future UK-EU deal. Britain, she said, would need to decide if it wanted a more modest agreement likely to be backed or the most comprehensive deal possible that risked falling hostage to member states.

The ECJ said large parts of the Singapore deal fell within the centralised powers of the Union. However, a key element that went beyond was its creation of a judicial mechanism to settle disputes between businesses and governments.

The court said that, by removing disputes from the jurisdiction of domestic courts, this required national consent. Such supranational legal powers have been at the heart of opposition in Europe to recent free trade deals, including the last-ditch move by Wallonia's left-wing leaders to halt the EU's CETA pact with Canada last year. EU officials want to ease concerns that such powers favour big multinationals by ensuring future deals more clearly protect states' rights to regulate.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has also made rejecting EU regulation and non-British courts, like the ECJ in Luxembourg, priorities for Brexit. That means negotiations on a UK-EU trade deal could be fraught when it comes to agreeing who supervises and regulates business.

The Singapore treaty was among the first EU agreements to go beyond mutual reduction of customs duties on goods to include investments, public procurement and environmental regulation, and is seen by many as a model of future global trade deals.

Brussels hopes to seal trade agreements soon with Japan, Mexico and the Mercosur quartet of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It was in negotiations with the United States on a pact known as TTIP, though those talks are on hold since Donald Trump became president this year. — Reuters



MOSCOW: A woman speaks on her mobile phone as she walks outside the headquarters of Yandex company, Russia's internet search engine, in Moscow yesterday.—AFP

UKRAINE IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON RUSSIAN WEB COMPANIES

KIEV: Ukraine imposed sanctions on Russia's largest internet group Yandex and other popular online firms yesterday, saying it wanted to guard against cyberattacks, and the Kremlin threatened retaliation. The restrictions froze any assets held by the Russian businesses inside Ukraine and banned hosts there from linking to them, though the websites were all still accessible in Kiev yesterday afternoon.

The ban was imposed partly to protect against companies "whose activities threaten the information and cyber security of Ukraine", the Kiev government's Security and Defense Council said in a statement. They added to a list of more than 400 Russian firms blacklisted by Kiev since Moscow's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the ensuing pro-Russian separatist

uprising in eastern Ukraine. Mail.ru Group, which owns the Odnoklassniki social network and Vkontakte, Russia's version of Facebook, said that around 25 million Ukrainians could be affected by the "politically motivated" decision. "We have never been involved in politics. We have not broken a single law of Ukraine," it said in a statement. It said the Ukrainian market contributed an "immaterial" amount of revenue and so Mail.ru would not revise its financial plans.

Yandex declined comment and there was no immediate comment from other companies on the list. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists that Moscow had not forgotten the principle of reciprocity when it came to such disputes, calling the move "short-sighted."

Many of the affected sites are hugely popular

in Ukraine. Vkontakte was the second-most visited website in Ukraine as of March, according to data cited by the Ukrainian Internet Association. Yandex, Odnoklassniki and Mail.ru were also in the top five most popular sites that month.

In comments to Russian newspaper Kommersant, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Maria Zakharova called the sanctions a "manifestation of politically motivated censorship". Moscow has repeatedly denied accusations from Kiev that it has been waging a "cyber war" on Ukraine at the same time as it fuels Ukraine's separatist conflict by supporting rebels with troops and weapons. Ukraine has also accused Russian computer hackers of targeting its power grid, financial system and other infrastructure with viruses. — Reuters

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TRUMP TO GIVE SPEECH ON ISLAM...

Continued from Page 1

But McMaster stressed that Trump would be visiting sites associated with the world's great religions to stress "that we all have to be united and we have to be joined together with an agenda of tolerance and moderation". After Saudi Arabia, Trump's voyage will take him to Jerusalem, where he will meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and visit the Yad Vashem memorial to the Holocaust. The next day he will pray at the Western Wall, one of Judaism's holiest sites.

On the same day, he will meet President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian territories in Bethlehem on the West Bank "where he will convey his administration's eagerness to facilitate an agreement that ends" the Israel-Palestinian conflict. McMaster failed to answer a direct question as to whether the US government considers the Western Wall to be within Israeli territory, and he said Israeli leaders would not accompany him on his visit to the site in Jerusalem's Old City. "He's going to the Western Wall mainly in connection with the theme to connect with three of the world's great religions," McMaster said.

After Jerusalem, Trump will head to the Vatican for an audience with Pope Francis. The US leader will celebrate the contributions of Catholics to America and the world, discuss diplomatic issues with the pontiff and tour St Peter's Basilica. After the Vatican, the trip takes a secular turn with a visit to Belgium to meet European Union officials and attend the NATO summit on May 24-25. He then heads to Italy and the island of Sicily for the G7 summit on May 26 and 27.

Separately, Trump insisted yesterday he had the right to share "facts" with Russia, one day after bombshell allegations that he divulged highly classified intelligence to Russian diplomats in the Oval Office. According to an explosive report from the Washington Post, Trump revealed highly classified information on the Islamic State group during a meeting last week with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Moscow's man in Washington Sergey Kislyak.

In a shock twist, the information reportedly came from a US ally who had not authorized Washington to share it with Moscow, a potential blow to intelligence relationships based on trust that secrets will be kept. "As President I wanted to share with Russia (at an openly scheduled W H meeting) which I have the absolute right to do, facts pertaining to terrorism and airline flight safety," Trump pushed back in an early morning tweet. Trump wrote that he was motivated by "humanitarian reasons, plus I want Russia to greatly step up their fight against ISIS & terrorism".

The US leader's disclosure of classified information did not break the law, according to the national security blog Lawfare, but such revelations could expose sources and methods and "substantially harm" US intelligence gathering partnerships with foreign governments. "This is perhaps the gravest allegation of presidential misconduct in the scandal-ridden four months of the Trump administration," the blog said. "This story is likely to be immensely consequential."

McMaster denied the president revealed "intelligence sources or methods," but acknowledged that Trump and Lavrov "reviewed a range of common threats to our two countries, including threats to civil aviation". Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov yesterday dubbed the news "nonsense", saying it was not worth confirming or denying.

The Post, citing unnamed officials, said Trump went off script during the meeting, describing details about an Islamic State terror threat related to the use of laptop computers on airplanes, revealing the city where the information was gathered. The Trump administration recently barred the use of laptops in the passenger cabin from several countries in the Middle East and is mulling the expansion of that ban to cover jets originating in Europe.

The revelations are the latest in a wave of crises to hit the White House, which late Monday was in a state of shock, with aides frantically trying to put out the fire and determine the source of such damaging leaks. "I have been asking Director Comey & others, from the beginning of my administration, to find the LEAKERS in the intelligence community," Trump tweeted yesterday.

Political and legal experts said this latest misstep is among the most egregious so far of Trump's presidency. For Trump's already weary allies in Congress, the latest crisis brought more headaches and demanded yet more explanation from an administration that is struggling to leave its legislative mark. "The White House has got to do something soon to bring itself under control and in order. It's got to happen," said Republican Senator Bob Corker. "Obviously, they're in a downward spiral right now, and they've got to figure out a way to come to grips (with) all that's happening," Corker said.

Meanwhile, top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer accused Trump of potentially putting American lives at risk. "If the report is true, it is very disturbing. Revealing classified information at this level is extremely dangerous and puts at risk the lives of Americans and those who gather intelligence for our country," the New York senator said. "The president owes the intelligence community, the American people and Congress a full explanation." — Agencies

FIDGET SPINNERS SPIN OUT OF NOWHERE

Continued from Page 1

"I thought it was a drink," says the bank vice president and blogger from Los Angeles. That store was sold out, and so were several other 7-Eleven locations that she called. The chain says spinners have "been flying off the shelves" since they went on sale in March.

Holden's kids said they needed them before school on Monday so they could practice spinning them. So she signed up for Amazon Prime, paid \$5.99 for one-day shipping and had two \$15 fidget spinners delivered on a Sunday. "I totally got suckered by my kids," she says. At Funky Monkey Toys, owner Tom Jones says he got a phone call about the fidget spinners in April. About 30 minutes later, another person called. "I said, 'Whatever they are, I need to get them.'" Now, the phone has been ringing 20 to 30 times a day with people checking if they're in stock. His shop in Oxford, Michigan, can sell up to 150 in a day. "We run out of them frequently," says Jones, who recently got a shipment of 2,000.

On Amazon.com, 18 of the top 20 best-selling toys and games were fidget spinners, ranging from ones that cost just a few dollars to \$12 versions touting stainless steel bearings. Five Below, which sells items for \$5 or less, says on its website that customers can only buy two fidget spinners at a time. Toys R Us flew fidget spinners in this month from China, rather than wait for ship transport. It says Rubik's Cubes, yo-yos and other toys to occupy restless hands have been hot sellers since the beginning of the year. It also

started selling \$12.99 fidget cubes - the items that made up the rest of the Amazon best-sellers - which fit in the palm of a hand and have clickers, wheels and switches on the sides.

Unlike hot toys at the holiday season, which are often made by one company, manufacturers - mostly in China - are making the fidget spinners as fast as they can. Jim Silver, the CEO and editor-in-chief of toy review website TTPM, expects the fad to last into the summer and then fade as more of them flood into the market. "Demand starts to waver," he says.

Engineer Catherine Hettinger says she came up with a toy that was similar but not exactly the same in the early 1990s, but a patent expired more than a decade ago after she stopped paying the maintenance fees. Hettinger, who lives in the Orlando suburb of Winter Park, Florida, says she is not making any money from the craze. "No one has contacted me. Nobody has sent me a check," she says. "But once a patent expires, it's public, so I wouldn't expect anything at this point."

Despite being marketed as a concentration aid, some teachers say fidget spinners have become a distraction. Rowell, the sixth-grade teacher, says students twirled them too fast, banged them against desks or tried to whirl them on top of each other. She lets students bring them into the classroom, but only if they spin them under their desks and follow the rules she hung on the wall: "YOU MUST BE LOOKING AT THE TEACHER," "YOU MUST BE LOOKING AT YOUR WORK" and "YOU MUST BE DISCREET." — AP

72 PROJECTS TO RESOLVE TRAFFIC WOES

Continued from Page 1

production at others was very high. The committee called on KUFPEC to reassess the method of its acquisitions and making feasibility studies, adding that the company existed from a project in 2012 after losing \$187 million and without taking any action despite administrative and financial violations. KUFPEC crude reserves have reached 453 million barrels, way below its strategic target of reaching 650 million barrels by 2020, the committee said.

The assembly panel also said that Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) posted a net profit of \$237 million in the 2015/2016 fiscal year after years of losses that totaled over \$2

billion. This came after the company sold off loss-making assets - mainly the Rotterdam refinery.

Opposition MP Al-Humaidi Al-Subaie said yesterday that it was time to propose a law to limit the duration of the public prosecutor. MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei proposed a draft law yesterday calling on authorities to give children of Kuwaiti women married to foreigners the same treatment as Kuwaiti citizens. In his proposal, Tabtabaei called on the interior ministry to issue a special travel document to children of Kuwaiti women residing in the country. The draft law calls to allow this category to be employed in government jobs and the right to public schools, healthcare, ownership and practice trade activities.

KUWAIT AIRWAYS APPOINTS KHUZAM CARRIER'S NEW CEO

Continued from Page 1

provide Kuwait's official national carrier with a renewed impetus and drive; steering Kuwait's state airline towards the goals of the "Transformation Plan", as outlined in Sept 2016.

It is understood from airline sources that Khuzam will retain his position on the board of directors; however, his first act - as CEO - will be to invoke a thorough assessment and review on the progress of the five-year strategic plan. Kuwait Airways' "Transformation Plan" has been described

by the airline as a comprehensive strategy for re-asserting Kuwait Airways' pioneering legacy as one of the most respected airlines in the regional aviation industry.

Commenting on his appointment, as CEO, Khuzam said: "It is a great honour and privilege to have been appointed to the position of CEO of Kuwait Airways. I would also like to acknowledge all the good work that our management and employees have achieved in recent times, as we look to position the official national carrier of Kuwait back in its rightful place - as one of the key airlines in the region."

"While it will be my job to assess the

progress Kuwait Airways is making, with regards to the five-year 'Transformation Plan', I would like to assure all passengers, employees and stakeholders, that the ambitious acquisition strategy of 35 new aircraft, by 2021, and a thorough reform of the airline's operations, commercial and service infrastructure will be a consistent guideline for taking the airline forward, over the coming years." Khuzam's first official engagement, as CEO of Kuwait Airways, was to meet with Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) representatives, on May 4; his first full day at the airline's head office was on May 7. — Press Release



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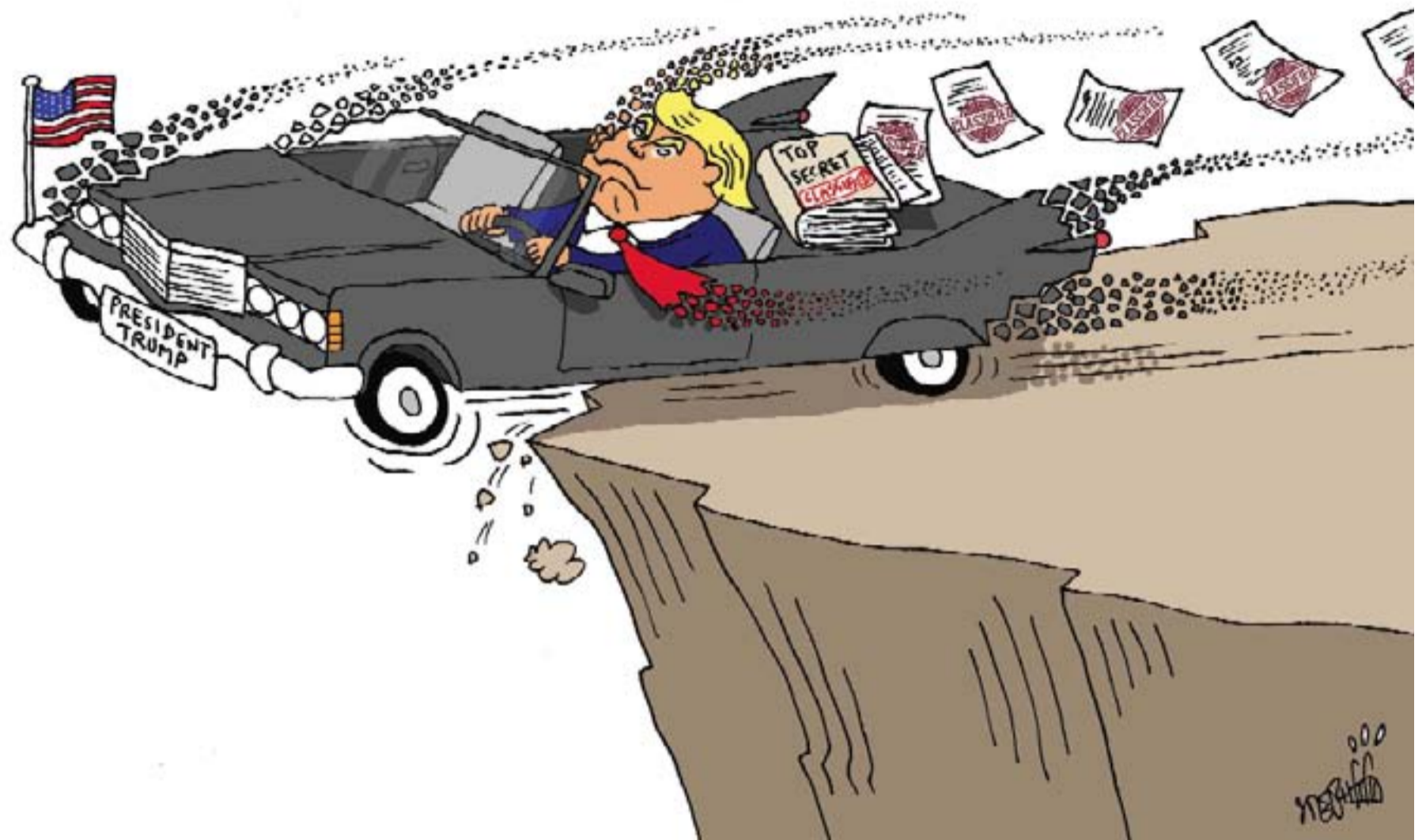
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TRUMP TOLD RUSSIANS CLASSIFIED INFO



TRUMP INTEL SHARING RISKS DAMAGING ALLIANCES

For months, US allies have anxiously wondered if President Donald Trump could be trusted with some of the world's most sensitive national security secrets. Now, just a few days before Trump's debut on the international stage, he's giving allies new reasons to worry. A US official said Trump revealed highly classified information about an Islamic State plot to senior Russian officials during an Oval Office meeting last week. The information had been obtained by a US partner and shared with Washington, according to the official.

"If it proves to be true that the American president passed on internal intelligence matters, that would be highly worrying," Burkhard Lischka, a senior German lawyer, said in a statement to AP. A second European official told the AP that their country might stop sharing intelligence with the United States as a result of Trump's disclosure to Russia.

The revelations - which Trump appeared to verify in a pair of tweets yesterday morning - are sure to shadow the president as he embarks Friday on his first overseas trip as president. After high-stakes visits to Saudi Arabia, Israel and the Vatican, he'll meet some of Washington's strongest European partners at a NATO summit in Brussels and the Group of 7 meeting in Sicily. Some of the leaders he'll meet come from countries the US has intelligence-sharing agreements with.

Trump has a contentious relationship with American spy agencies. He's questioned the competence of intelligence officials, challenged their assessment that Russia meddled in last year's election to help him win, and accused them of leaking information about him and his associates. The leaks have only continued to flow. According to the US official, Trump shared details with top Russian officials about an Islamic State terror threat related to the use of laptop computers on aircraft. The Washington Post first reported the disclosure.

White House officials disputed the report, saying Trump did not disclose intelligence sources or methods with the Russians, though they did not deny that classified information was disclosed in the May 10 meeting. And by Tuesday morning, Trump was justifying his actions, writing on Twitter that he had an "absolute right" to share the information about "terrorism and airline flight safety" with Russia. The US and Western officials all spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to discuss sensitive information.

The White House has looked to Trump's trip abroad as a moment to draw the president out of Washington's hyper-partisan hothouse and put him in a more statesman-like setting. He's expected to be warmly received by Arab allies in Saudi Arabia, who welcomed his decision to launch missiles against a Syrian air base following a

chemical weapons attack, and in Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu views Trump as more favorable to his interests than former President Barack Obama.

Skeptical

But some of the European partners Trump will meet later in his trip have been more skeptical about his policies, including a controversial travel and immigration ban that's been blocked by US courts. Western allies, including Britain and Germany, have also been wary of Trump's warmness toward Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was kicked out of the summit of leading economic powers after Moscow's annexation of territory from Ukraine.

The White House's botched handling of Trump's firing last week of FBI Director James Comey, who was overseeing the bureau's Russia probe, and the president's own volatile statements about his actions are also likely to raise questions among allies about the US leader's standing. Anthony Cordesman, a national security expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said allies will be trying to size up Trump's "actual political strength relative to the divisions with Congress, the problems within his own party." "Can he move forward with his own agenda? That will certainly be a question as he visits any country overseas," Cordesman said. — AP

MERKEL TREADS CAREFULLY WITH TRUMP

Last month, in a phone conversation between Donald Trump and Angela Merkel, the US president shared his views on Turkish leader Tayyip Erdogan. "He's a great guy," Trump told the German chancellor, according to sources familiar with the exchange. Merkel listened politely before pointing out that Erdogan had been lobbying vitriol at Germany and its European allies for weeks, denouncing them as the descendants of Nazis. Trump was surprised, the sources said. He appeared unaware that Ankara and Berlin were in the midst of a fierce diplomatic row over whether Turkish ministers should be allowed to campaign in Germany for a referendum on boosting Erdogan's powers.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment. The German government declined comment, citing the confidential nature of the call. The exchange, weeks after Merkel paid her first visit to Trump in Washington, underscored the challenge the German leader faces as she tries to forge a relationship with a president that half a dozen European officials who spoke to Reuters described as erratic, ill prepared and prone to rhetorical excess.

Six months after Trump's election and a little more than a week before he makes his first trip to Europe as president, officials in Berlin and other European capitals are still unsure about where the Trump administration stands on many of the big issues that concern them. Coupled with this confusion is relief that he has not turned US foreign policy on its head, as some feared, during his first months in office.

Trump is no longer calling NATO obsolete. And he has kept Russia's Vladimir Putin at arm's length. Apart from his suggestion last month that an attack on policemen in Paris would help far-right leader Marine Le Pen in the French election, Trump has not intervened in European politics or sought to undermine the European Union.

His controversial National Security Adviser Mike Flynn has been fired, replaced by H.R. McMaster, who is seen as a smart, steady hand. And the influence of Steve Bannon, the White House adviser Europeans fear most, may be on the wane. "We feel there is now a productive working relationship," said Peter Wittig, the

German ambassador to Washington. But beneath the veneer are lingering questions about the president's character and his policies on a range of issues. German officials remain worried about a shift to protectionism under Trump, despite his less confrontational rhetoric towards China and his decision to drop controversial plans for a border adjustment tax. Several European diplomats expressed concern about what they view as the lack of a coherent US strategy on Syria.

Some of them said the abrupt firing of FBI director James Comey showed Trump was capable of taking rash decisions on issues of major importance. Reports that he revealed highly classified information to Russia's foreign minister at a meeting in the Oval Office last week seem likely to aggravate the level of distrust in European capitals. "The doubts about the professionalism of Trump's team, at least in foreign and security policy, have receded," one veteran German diplomat said. "But the doubts about Trump himself, his character, maturity and trustworthiness, have only grown." A second German official said: "You shouldn't underestimate the influence of Trump on the Trump administration."

Unique Challenge

Few foreign leaders have as much riding on the relationship as Merkel. Germany relies heavily on the United States for its security. And a tit-for-tat protectionist spiral could threaten its export-led economy. In July, just two months before Germany holds an election, Merkel will host a tricky G20 summit in Hamburg, where Trump is expected to meet Putin for the first time. Turkish President Erdogan and China's Xi Jinping will also be there.

Merkel has been sparring with Putin and Erdogan for over a decade and worked with two US presidents before Trump. She formed a close relationship with George W Bush in his Europe-friendly second term. And although she got off to a tricky start with Barack Obama after denying him a chance to speak at the Brandenburg Gate during his 2008 campaign, the two ended up forming a close bond. Before traveling to Brussels to meet Trump on May 25, she will appear with Obama at the landmark in central Berlin.

Trump, her aides acknowledge, presents a unique challenge because of his unpredictability and ambivalent attitude towards Europe. He is deeply unpopular in Germany, making it politically awkward for her to get too close in an election year. Nevertheless, there is satisfaction in Berlin that Merkel and Trump have gotten off to a relatively smooth start, after he accused her of "ruining" Germany with her open-door refugee policies and she responded to his victory by signaling she would only cooperate with him on the basis of common values.

The two leaders have spoken four times on the phone since her visit in mid-March. Both sides have played down the incident that dominated coverage of that visit: Trump's failure to shake Merkel's hand in the Oval Office. Last month, Trump, the brash former real estate mogul from New York, told the Associated Press that he had "unbelievable chemistry" with Merkel, the reserved former physicist from communist East Germany.

German officials speak of a systematic effort by the chancellor to minimize tensions with Trump, pointing to the invitation she extended to his daughter Ivanka to attend a G20 women's summit in Berlin in April. They note that Trump has not pulled out of the Paris climate deal, NAFTA or the nuclear deal between western powers and Iran, as he had threatened during his campaign for the presidency.

Trump has said he will not make a decision on the climate deal until after a G7 summit in late May, where Merkel and other European leaders are expected to lobby him hard to stay in. "There are signs that this administration is capable of being influenced," said a senior French official. "You can talk to the people around Trump and give input. They are perhaps more malleable and open to outside views than many people thought."

Explaining the EU

During Merkel's visit in March, she spent a long time explaining to Trump and his team how the European Union worked, according to participants. By the end of four hours of meetings - including a half hour one-on-one between the two leaders, a meeting with business executives, and a lunch - Trump had dropped his push

for a bilateral trade deal with Germany and accepted that only an agreement with the EU was possible.

Although German officials acknowledge that the prospect of reviving TTIP - the transatlantic trade deal Europe tried to clinch with Obama - seems remote, they were pleased that Trump seemed open to the idea of negotiating with the EU. They were also reassured that Trump proved to be a good listener. At the end of the two hour lunch, when aides to the president reminded him it was time to head off to his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida for the weekend, he demurred, saying the discussion was going well and his departure would have to wait.

Officials in the German chancellery were pleasantly surprised when, 10 days after the visit, Trump called Merkel to congratulate her on a surprise win for her party in the tiny state of Saarland - even if he used the call, one source said, to harp about "fake polls." The White House did not respond to a request for comment. The German government declined comment. Over the past months, German officials have made a concerted effort to reach out to a wide range of officials in Washington, including people in the White House and Congress.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble met with Trump's economic adviser Gary Cohn during the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank last month. His deputy Jens Spahn visited the White House, seeing Bannon and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner. This outreach is especially important, German officials say, because top policy positions in the State Department remain unfilled more than three months since Trump took office.

But it is also a form of hedging. No one knows for sure who Trump is listening to today and whether that might change tomorrow. "You simply can't afford to put all your eggs in one basket with this administration," said Robin Niblett, director of the London-based think tank Chatham House. "Trump is on one day and off the other. One day you have a deal and the next day you don't. You have to hedge. And you have to cover yourself at home because he can dump you in it at any moment." — Reuters

Focus

FOREIGN DIPLOMACY REALITIES MAY IMPEDE MACRON'S AMBITIONS

When Emmanuel Macron rode down the Champs Elysees after his inauguration in a military jeep and not the customary limousine, France's youngest postwar president sent a message that on his watch Paris will be strong and determined in its diplomacy. Yet while the symbolic gesture marked a break with tradition, the substance of the 39-year-old's foreign policy may in fact be more about continuity. A newcomer to international diplomacy, Macron has assumed control of a nuclear power with a permanent seat on the UN Security Council as crises persist in Syria, Libya and North Korea.

His foreign policy drive will focus on Europe. An advocate of closer European Union integration, Macron backs a "multi-speed" Europe, an idea that has seen growing support in Germany and other EU countries since Britain voted to leave the bloc. In the past, France has often been seen by its allies as an intransigent, go-it-alone power because of its military interventions in arenas like Libya, the Middle East and the Sahel. Macron wants deeper security cooperation with Europe, but he may find it hard to break the mould of predecessors Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy.

"We know that in the world in which we live in it's not the president who imposes foreign policy, but foreign policy that imposes itself on the president," said Francois Heisbourg, a Macron adviser and chairman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Macron flew to Berlin in his first full day in office on Monday for talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel over how to inject new life into the Franco-German relationship and the troubled European project.

He expressed hope France and Germany would within weeks draw up a roadmap to deeper EU integration and said reform of the bloc's treaties would no longer be seen as a taboo in France. Later in the week Macron will visit thousands of French troops fighting Islamist militants in West Africa, three years after they first deployed to Mali. Before the end of the month, he will meet US President Donald Trump and attend NATO and G7 summits in Brussels and Sicily. A significant shift in French diplomacy was unlikely, one French diplomat said. "I don't think there will be a major break from the past," the diplomat told Reuters. "All the main subjects will see continuity."

Closer European Cooperation

It is on Europe, said Heisbourg, that Macron wants to be judged. His diplomatic sherpa is seasoned Europhile and career diplomat Philippe Etienne who just spent a three-year spell as ambassador to Germany, and is a fluent Russian speaker. Meanwhile, Macron insiders say that as well as a foreign minister he may nominate an influential European affairs minister.

Macron's wish for deeper European security cooperation sets him apart from his predecessors, Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy, whose top diplomats often privately derided their counterparts in Brussels. "Macron intends to get Europe out of its rut," Sylvie Goulard, a French lawmaker in the European Parliament tipped for a high-ranking ministerial role, told RFI radio.

Diplomats say Macron will want to push for a common EU position on issues from the migration crisis to Syria's civil war, and from US President Donald Trump to Russian leader Vladimir Putin. "Take Russia. Beyond agreeing on sanctions everyone sees things differently," said a diplomat. "A real joint EU position on Trump is also key because that relationship defines so many policies ranging from trade to terrorism or Syria."

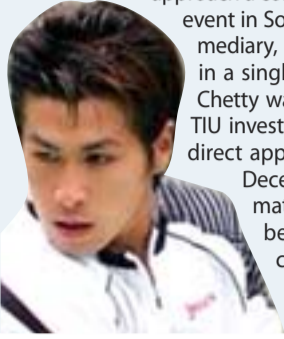
While Macron will remain a reliable ally of Washington, he will not be as close to the White House as Sarkozy and to a lesser degree Hollande were deemed to have been. "We will not take our orders from Washington or Moscow or anywhere else," said a source close to the president. France shoulders the bulk of European military operations overseas. Macron has vowed to increase France's military spending to meet its NATO commitment of 2 percent of national income.

He promises France will not let up in the fight against Islamist militants, and signaled he will decide on military interventions on a case-by-case basis. He also wants to do more to help struggling nations develop, diplomats say. "Macron will not be satisfied by just bombing terrorists and then not following it up with a wider policy to support those countries," said a second diplomat. "That would be a change from now." — Reuters

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MITSUHASHI BANNED FOR LIFE FROM TENNIS FOR MATCH-FIXING

TOKYO: Japanese tennis player Junn Mitsuhashi has been banned for life and fined \$50,000 after being found guilty of match-fixing and betting offences, the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) said yesterday. Mitsuhashi, who peaked at 295 in the singles rankings in 2009, was accused of asking Joshua Chetty, a player he had coached, to approach a competitor during an International Tennis Federation (ITF) event in South Africa in November 2015. Using Chetty as an intermediary, Mitsuhashi offered the player \$2,000 to underperform in a singles match and \$600 in a doubles match, the TIU said. Chetty was banned for life last September following a separate TIU investigation. Mitsuhashi was also found guilty of making a direct approach to another player at an ITF event in Nigeria in December 2015 and asking him to fix certain aspects of a match. The 27-year-old placed 76 bets on tennis matches between October and November 2015 and refused to cooperate with the anti-corruption body's investigation, which are also offences. — Reuters



LYON TO APPOINT SPORTING DIRECTOR TO ASSIST GENESIO

LYON: Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas yesterday defended under-fire coach Bruno Genesio while at the same time announcing the recruitment of a new sporting director. Lyon-Europa League semi-finalists are fourth in Ligue 1 and have failed to qualify for the Champions League next season. "We're not planning on changing coach," said Aulas. "There is no definitive decision, it will be taken after a meeting of the administrative council which will endorse what I request." Bruno Genesio has the qualities which will allow Lyon to prosper in the long run and there is a lot of risk in changing coach. The management committee are of the same view as me," Aulas said however they were going to try a number of things to boost the coaching team with the arrival of a new sporting director. Among those being touted is former star Brazilian playmaker Juninho — a winner of seven consecutive Ligue 1 titles with the club during their golden reign from 2002 to 2008 — and ex-France international and Lyon defender Eric Abidal, now among the backroom staff at Barcelona "Why not," said Aulas of 42-year-old Juninho. — AFP

INDIAN WOMEN SET RECORD 320 OPENING STAND IN ODI

NEW DELHI: India opens Deepti Sharma and Poonam Raut put on a record one-day international 320-run partnership as their country routed Ireland. The mammoth stand was the best in women's cricket and surpassed the men's ODI record for an opening partnership of 286 between Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya and Upul Tharanga against England in 2006. The match, part of a four-nation series in Potchesroom, South Africa, saw the first 300-plus stand in a women's ODI. The previous best was 268 between England's Sarah Taylor and Caroline Atkins against South Africa in 2008. Sharma (188) and Raut (109) played out for 45.3 overs during their epic stand after India elected to bat in Monday's game, which they won by 249 runs. Sharma, who hit 27 fours and two sixes during her 160-ball innings, helped India to 358 for 2 in their 50 overs. Ireland were bundled out for 109. Sharma's knock was the India's highest in women's cricket and second only to Australian Belinda Clark's 229 not out on the all-time list. — AFP



MIAMI: Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve, left, tags out Miami Marlins' JT Riddle (39) during the third inning of a baseball game. — AP

GURRIEL HITS GRAND SLAM AS ASTROS BEAT MARLINS

MIAMI: Short on sleep, the Houston Astros finally stirred in the sixth inning Monday night when Yuli Gurriel hit a grand slam to help beat the Miami Marlins 7-2. The Astros arrived at their hotel at 5 am after a double-header in New York against the Yankees and were listless and hitless against Dan Straily until the fifth inning. Josh Reddick doubled in the sixth off Junichi Tazawa (1-1) and after a walk and a hit batter loaded the bases, Gurriel connected with two outs for a 4-1 lead. It was the Astros' second grand slam in two games. Alex Bregman hit one in Sunday night's win at Yankee Stadium. Jose Altuve homered in the ninth and drove in three runs.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, METS 3

Yasmany Tomas, Jeff Mathis and Daniel Descalso homered in a six-run eighth inning as Arizona handed struggling New York its fifth straight loss. Jake Lamb also went deep for the Diamondbacks, the latest team to take advantage of a beleaguered Mets bullpen. Tomas snapped a 1-all tie with a three-run homer off Hansel Robles (4-1). Mathis' two-

run shot also came against Robles, hit hard for the second consecutive outing after a strong start to the season.

INDIANS 8, RAYS 7

Indians starter Carlos Carrasco left early with an injury but five relievers kept the lead and helped Cleveland hold off Tampa Bay. Carrasco was pulled because of tightness in his left pectoral muscle after giving up an RBI single to Brad Miller. The right-hander allowed five runs in 3 2/3 innings and left with Cleveland ahead 7-4. Boone Logan (1-0) retired both batters he faced. Andrew Miller permitted his first run of the season in the eighth and Cody Allen gave up a solo homer to Peter Bourjos in the ninth before earning his 10th save. Lonnie Chisenhall hit a three-run homer in the first when Cleveland scored five times off Chris Archer (3-2). Francisco Lindor added a solo shot in the eighth.

ANGELS 5, WHITE SOX 3

Mike Trout homered for the fourth consecutive game to help Los Angeles top Chicago.

The Angels scored each of their runs via the long ball. Kole Calhoun hit a three-run homer to right in the fifth inning and Trout followed with a drive to left. Martin Maldonado homered in the seventh inning. Angels right-hander Jesse Chavez (3-5) pitched seven-plus innings and Bud Norris got four outs for his eighth save. Jose Abreu hit a two-run homer for Chicago and Tyler Saladino had an RBI triple. Mike Pelfrey (0-4) allowed four runs and three hits in 4 2/3 innings.

GIANTS 8, DODGERS 4

Eduardo Nunez was credited with a two-run infield single when Los Angeles pitcher Brandon McCarthy lost track of a baserunner as San Francisco beat the Dodgers for its season-high fourth straight win. The hit by Nunez was the key play in a four-run fourth inning that broke the game open and helped Matt Cain (3-1) earn his second win of the season against the Dodgers. San Francisco opened the inning with three straight hits off McCarthy (3-1), with an RBI double by Brandon Crawford putting the Giants up 2-1.

That's when things really got interesting. With runners on second and third, Nunez hit a broken-bat grounder up the middle that shortstop Corey Seager fielded just beyond the infield dirt. Buster Posey easily scored from third and Brandon Crawford scored from second after Seager hurried the ball to McCarthy on the mound and McCarthy didn't realize Crawford was running.

BRAVES 10, BLUE JAYS 6

Freddie Freeman hit his 13th homer and Nick Markakis had three RBIs as Atlanta snapped Toronto's five-game winning streak. Matt Kemp had four hits and scored three times for the Braves, who have won three of four. Freeman matched Washington's Ryan Zimmerman and Milwaukee's Eric Thames atop the National League home run leaderboard with a three-run shot off Leonel Campos in a four-run sixth. Freeman has connected against all 10 teams Atlanta has faced this season. Bartolo Colon (2-4) allowed three runs, two earned, in five innings to win for the first time since April 16. Blue Jays right-hander Mike Bolsinger (0-2) gave up six runs in 4 2/3 innings. Toronto pitchers set a franchise record by hitting five batters.

MARINERS 6, ATHLETICS 5

Nelson Cruz and Kyle Seager each hit a two-run homer and Yovani Gallardo pitched effectively into the seventh inning as Seattle made the most of four hits to hold off

Oakland. Oakland scored twice in the ninth, when closer Edwin Diaz walked four of the five batters he faced to force in a run. Tony Zych relieved and the second run scored on Khris Davis' groundout. After an intentional walk to Yonder Alonso loaded the bases again, Zych struck out Adam Rosales looking on a 3-2 pitch for his first major league save. Cruz's home run, his ninth, put Seattle up 4-0 in the second as the Mariners capitalized on five walks by Sean Manaea (1-3), activated earlier in the day off the disabled list. Oakland pulled to 4-3 on a solo homer by Davis in the fourth and a two-run shot by Stephen Vogt in the fifth. Both came off Gallardo (2-3), who allowed three runs and four hits in 6 1/3 innings.

PADRES 6, BREWERS 5

Hunter Renfroe hit a two-run homer with no outs in the 10th inning to give San Diego a win over Milwaukee. Renfroe's homer to left, his seventh, came off Oliver Drake (2-1) with Erick Aybar aboard on a leadoff single. The Brewers took a 5-4 lead in the top of the inning on Eric Sogard's homer with one out against Jose Torres (2-2). The Brewers tied it at 4-4 in the eighth. Hernan Perez's leadoff fly ball to shallow right off Brad Hand went for a triple when second baseman Cory Spangenberg and right fielder Renfroe both went for it and missed. Perez scored the tying run on Domingo Santana's RBI single to right with one out. — AP



MIAMI: Houston Astros starting pitcher Joe Musgrove (59) messes up the hair of Yuli Gurriel (10) after Gurriel hit a grand slam during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins. — AP

MLB results/standings

San Francisco 8, LA Dodgers 4; San Diego 6, Milwaukee 5 (10 innings); Seattle 6, Oakland 5; LA Angels 5, Chicago White Sox 3; Arizona 7, NY Mets 3; Houston 7, Miami 2; Atlanta 10, Toronto 6; Cleveland 8, Tampa Bay 7.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	24	13	.649
NY Yankees	22	13	.629	NY Mets	16	21	.432
Baltimore	22	14	.611	0.5	Atlanta	14	21
Boston	19	18	.514	4	Philadelphia	14	21
Tampa Bay	19	22	.463	6	Miami	14	23
Toronto	17	22	.436	7			.378
Central Division				Central Division			
Minnesota	19	15	.559	St. Louis	21	15	.583
Cleveland	20	17	.541	0.5	Milwaukee	21	18
Detroit	18	18	.500	2	Cincinnati	19	18
Chicago White Sox	17	19	.472	3	Chicago Cubs	18	19
Kansas City	16	21	.432	4.5	Pittsburgh	16	22
Western Division				Western Division			
Houston	27	12	.692	-	Colorado	24	15
LA Angels	20	21	.488	8	LA Dodgers	22	17
Texas	19	20	.487	8	Arizona	22	18
Seattle	18	21	.462	9	San Francisco	16	24
Oakland	16	22	.421	10.5	San Diego	15	25



PITTSBURGH: Ottawa Senators goalie Craig Anderson, center, reacts to allowing the game-winning goal by Pittsburgh Penguins' Phil Kessel during the third period of Game 2 of the Eastern Conference final in the NHL Stanley Cup hockey playoffs. — AP

PENGUINS KNOT SERIES WITH 1-0 VICTORY OVER SENATORS

PITTSBURGH: Mike Sullivan calls the energetic back-and-forth on the Pittsburgh Penguins bench "a man's argument." If his players have something to say, Sullivan wants them to get it out. Enter Phil Kessel, the mercurial forward with the blistering shot and occasionally blistering tongue. Frustrated by an inability to get anything by Ottawa's Craig Anderson, cameras caught Kessel pounding his fists and ordering his teammates to look for him.

Consider the message delivered. Kessel took a feed from Evgeni Malkin and zipped a wrist shot by Anderson 13:05 into the third period as the Penguins evened the Eastern Conference final with a 1-0 victory in Game 2 on Monday night. Game 3 is Wednesday in Ottawa. "To be honest I think I yelled more than once tonight, so I don't remember that time," Kessel said with a laugh. That's just Kessel being Kessel. If anything, his outburst was simply the physical manifestation of Sullivan's order to stop looking for the perfect shot and just start peppering Anderson looking for a sliver of space. The moment came with just less than 7 minutes remaining when Malkin gained the zone and found Kessel in the slot.

Second playoff shutout

Kessel's first shot smacked off Jean Gabriel Pagueau and came right back to him. It happened so quickly Anderson didn't have enough time to reset, his left pad flailing as Pittsburgh's game-long domination finally resulted in some-

thing tangible: a lead and a tie series. "I caught an edge, simple as that," said Anderson, who finished with 28 saves. "A defenseman or forward catches an edge, he falls down, nothing happens. I catch an edge, it's in the net."

That was enough for Marc-Andre Fleury, who stopped 23 shots for his second shutout of the playoffs and 10th of his postseason career. Fleury's 62nd playoff win moved him ahead of Henrik Lundqvist for the most by an active goaltender, heady territory for a guy who lost his starting job to Matt Murray during the course of the season. Now Fleury is the main reason the Penguins are three wins from a return trip to the Cup finals.

This victory, however, wasn't the byproduct of 60 minutes of brilliance. Fleury spent long stretches with nothing to do as the Penguins hemmed Ottawa in its own end. The Senators went nearly 19 minutes between the second and third period without recording a single shot, a testament to Pittsburgh's ability to play keep-away on the other end of the ice. "We were pleased with the way we dictated the terms out there," Sullivan said.

Lacking pressure

A marked departure from Game 1, as Pittsburgh struggled to generate any sort of extended pressure in a 2-1 overtime loss. The Stanley Cup champions responded by heavily tilting the ice at times, remarkable considering

they spent most of the night down two men after forward Bryan Rust and defenseman Justin Schultz left in the first period with injuries.

Rust was on the losing end of a clean check by Ottawa's Dion Phaneuf 4:58 into the game. Schultz, who has become Pittsburgh's most important blue liner with Kris Letang and Trevor Daley out, slid awkwardly into the end boards after getting bumped off the puck by Senators forward Mike Hoffman about midway through the first. Sullivan offered no updates on either player.

Somehow, the Penguins found a way to make it work. The five remaining defensemen all played at least 20 minutes, including 24:49 from 37-year-old Ron Hainsey, who is in the playoffs for the first time in his career. "After a while the rotation is kind of set and away you go," Hainsey said. "You don't have time to really mentally think about any mistakes good or bad, because you're going right back out there. You don't have any other choice."

Pittsburgh's ability to hog the puck hardly seemed to bother the Senators, who have proven repeatedly during their deepest playoff run in a decade they're just fine sitting back and waiting for an opening to counter. It's a style that produced both goals in Game 1. This time, it eventually caught up to them. "The third period they stepped it up a notch and we didn't," Ottawa coach Guy Boucher said. "They were surging. They were aggressive. We didn't manage it as well." — AP

LAKERS, 76ERS HAVE PLENTY RIDING ON THE NBA LOTTERY

NEW YORK: Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Steve Nash are gone, though they won't be forgotten. The former All-Stars have as much to do with this NBA draft lottery as the players of tomorrow. The Boston Celtics can benefit in a big way from trading two former champions, while the Los Angeles Lakers hope a failed trade for one point guard won't cost them a shot at another.

Even though the Celtics will play in the Eastern Conference finals this season, they have a 25 percent of landing the No. 1 pick. The Lakers had the NBA's third-worst record in the league but are in danger of not having a lottery pick at all if the balls bounce the way the odds say they will. A look at some of the teams to watch Tuesday, and how they got in their spot:

CELTICS

When Boston sent Pierce and Garnett to Brooklyn as part of a draft-night trade in 2013, the Celtics not only acquired the Nets' first-round picks in 2014, 2016 and 2018, but also the right to swap first-round selections in 2017. The timing couldn't have worked out better, as the Nets tumbled all the way to the worst record in the NBA this season. Boston can select no lower than fourth in the June draft.

LAKERS

Nash and Dwight Howard were on the cover of Sports Illustrated in 2012 after the Lakers acquired



LOS ANGELES: In this Aug 23, 2016 file photo, former Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson speaks at a groundbreaking ceremony for a stadium which will be home to the Los Angeles Football Club. — AP

the two stars in separate trades, but Nash made it through just 65 games over two seasons because of back problems. The Lakers only get to keep the pick they dealt to Phoenix as part of the deal if it

lands inside the top three on Tuesday - and there's about a 53 percent chance it won't.

76ERS

The winners of last year's lottery will really "Trust the Process" if they win even bigger Tuesday. If the Lakers fall out of the top three, their pick goes to the 76ers, who would get it from Phoenix per terms of a three-team trade with Milwaukee at the 2015 deadline. And since it starts in the No. 4 spot with its own pick, Philadelphia can arrive at next month's draft potentially owning a pair of top-four selections.

PELICANS

New Orleans made a big move in February when it acquired DeMarcus Cousins from Sacramento, and now the Pelicans will figure out how costly it was. Their pick is only top-three protected, so if the Pelicans don't move up from the 10th spot into the top three spots, the pick goes to the Kings.

MAVERICKS

Dallas is in pretty unfamiliar territory even being in the lottery, where it has appeared just one other time since 2000. The Mavericks start the night in the No. 9 spot and are hoping to move into the top three for the first time since taking eventual co-Rookie of the Year Jason Kidd in 1994. — AP

KIM JOINS ELITE GROUP AND SHOWS WHERE HE BELONGS

PONTE VEDRA BEACH: Si Woo Kim earned access to a room reserved for winners of The Players Championship. He now shares locker No. 4 with Lanny Wadkins, the former PGA champion and Ryder Cup stalwart. Locker No. 5 belongs to Lee Trevino, the six-time major champion. Both are in a far more exclusive club located about 30 minutes away at the World Golf Hall of Fame. Kim is still 21. The strength of The Players Championship is the depth of its field, the size of its purse and the pedigree of so many winners. Now that Kim has joined the list, all but 12 winners in the 44-year history also are major champions. By all accounts, the South Korean is just getting started.

Kim showed remarkable calm amid inevitable chaos at the TPC Sawgrass to become the youngest winner of The Players Championship. He took the lead with a 25-foot birdie putt on the seventh hole and never gave it back. He missed the green 10 times and saved par each time. Playing in the penultimate group, he had the second-best score in the final round (69), and he was the only player in the field to not make bogey.

It will rank as one of the best Sunday performances on the scary Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. And maybe the most surprising. Statistics and scores going into The Players Championship would not have led anyone to pay attention to Kim. The tour's "strokes gained" statistic measures how a player performs against the field and has become the most reliable standard.

Major victories

Going into last week, Kim was ranked outside the top 200 in three categories related to the long game (driving, approach shots and tee-to-green). He was better in putting, the most important category in golf. Kim was at No. 183. As for his results? He did not have a top 20 all year. He had only made two cuts against a full field (Bay Hill and the Texas Open). Kim, who has been dealing with a nagging wrist injury, also withdrew from three tournaments this year after opening rounds of 83, 81 and 76. So is he another Adam Scott or another Craig Perks?

Scott won The Players in 2004, though by then he already had five victories worldwide, including the Deutsche Bank Championship (before it was a FedEx Cup

playoff event). He was No. 18 in the world when the Australian won at Sawgrass. Perks was No. 203 in the world who had never won on the PGA Tour or competed in The Players Championship until the 35-year-old Kiwi chipped in for eagle on the 16th hole, made a 30-foot birdie putt on the island-green 17th and chipped in for par from behind the 18th green to win by two. That turned out to be his only victory. This was the second PGA Tour title for Kim. He shot 60 in the second round of the Wyndham Championship last August and won by five.

By winning The Players Championship, Kim became only the fourth player over the last 25 years with multiple victories before turning 22. The others were Tiger Woods, Sergio Garcia and Jordan Spieth. Not to be overlooked is how Kim reached this stage in the first place. Five years ago, Kim decided to try Q-school on the PGA Tour because it was the final year for players to gain instant access to the big leagues. Kim went through all four stages (starting with a pre-qualifier) and earned his card.

Lost year

The problem was that Kim could not become a PGA Tour member until he turned 18 the following June, so 2013 effectively was a lost year. Kim wound up playing eight PGA Tour events and didn't make a cut. He spent a full year on the Web.com Tour in 2014 and had only one top 10, and the following year he won the Stonebrae Classic and earned his way back to the big leagues.

"I was a little pressured that I qualified at Q-school when I was 17 years old," Kim said through a translator. "Because I was very pressured, I think I didn't do well for two years. However, the Web.com Tour experience actually really helped me to get more experience. And from that experience, I think that made me win this tournament." Kim now has a victory in each of his two seasons.

More importantly, he has a five-year exemption on the PGA Tour, along with a three-year exemption to the Masters, US Open and British Open. He also faces mandatory military service in South Korea unless he wins a major or an Olympic gold medal. For now, that place in the winners-only locker room at the TPC Sawgrass is a good place to be. Kim will have plenty of time to show where else he belongs. — AP



FLORIDA: Si Woo Kim of South Korea, holds the Players Championship Trophy, Sunday, May 14, 2017, in Ponte Vedra Beach. — AP

ALONSO BEGINS INDYCAR CRASH COURSE WITH PRACTICE SESSION

INDIANA: Fernando Alonso was back in an IndyCar and briefly at the top of the timing charts on Monday as the twice Formula One champion continued his buildup to the Indianapolis 500 later this month. Alonso, who flew directly from Barcelona to Indianapolis after a 12th place finish at his home Spanish Grand Prix on Sunday, started the first full day of practice at the Brickyard by setting the pace in the rookie orientation session with a speed of 221.634 mph (357 km/h).

The Spaniard would improve on that performance later in the afternoon, charging around the sun-kissed 2.5 mile oval at 223.025 mph but could only manage the 19th best effort among the 32 drivers taking part. The practice session marked the start of a two-week crash course in IndyCar racing for Alonso, who will miss the next stop on the F1 calendar in Monte Carlo to race the Indy 500 on May 28, the second jewel in motor racing's Triple Crown with

the Monaco Grand Prix and Le Mans. "I think the most difficult thing will be the race itself, all the things that happen in a race like this one, which are the traffic and learning all the little tricks to overtake," said Alonso, already a winner on the streets of Monaco. "I don't have that experience and I don't have that time, so I know that I will be weaker in some of these aspects. I need to learn as quick as I can in the next 10 days, 12 days."

Alonso's McLaren Honda Andretti Autosport team mate Marco Andretti was the fastest on day one with top speed of 226.338 mph followed by 2008 winner Scott Dixon of New Zealand. Ed Carpenter, twice a pole sitter at the Brickyard, was third quickest followed by Frenchman Sebastien Bourdais, who spent parts of two seasons in Formula One with Toro Rosso. It was just the second time in an IndyCar for Alonso, who flew to Indianapolis for a private test earlier in the month. — Reuters



INDIANAPOLIS: Fernando Alonso, of Spain, walks in front of his car during a practice session for the Indianapolis 500 IndyCar auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. — AP

SUPER BOWL HALFTIME COMING TO COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

DALLAS: The College Football Playoff is bringing a Super Bowl-style halftime show to the national championship game without bumping the marching bands. ESPN and the College Football Playoff say that a musical guest will perform at halftime of this season's title game in Atlanta on Jan 8, 2018, and the performance will be aired on ESPN.

The halftime concert will be held in Centennial Olympic Park, near the new Mercedes-Benz Stadium. An artist has not yet been booked, but ESPN is taking the lead on securing what it hopes will be an A-list per-

former with broad appeal. For years the Super Bowl has featured marquee artists such as Bruce Springsteen, Beyoncé, U2 and Prince performing at halftime.

The marching bands for each participating school will still perform in the stadium at halftime of the national title game and that performance will be aired on an ESPN channel to be determined as part of the network's megacast. "Traditions are an important part of college football," College Football Playoff Executive Director Bill Hancock said in a statement to the AP on Monday "This rich

culture includes marching bands performing at halftime."

Hancock said ESPN approached CFP officials with the idea of a concert in Centennial Olympic Park at halftime as part of the national championship game broadcast and live watch party. Fans without tickets to the game will be able to watch the game and attend the concert in Centennial Park for free. "This will be a win-win, enhancing the viewing experience for a broad section of fans at home and in the park, while maintaining the culture of the game inside the stadium," Hancock said. — AP

ENGLAND BEGIN SIX NATIONS TITLE DEFENSE AGAINST ITALY

LONDON: England will start the defense of their Six Nations title away to Italy, it was announced yesterday after organizers published the fixtures for both the 2018 and 2019 Championships. Eddie Jones's men begin their 2018 campaign in Rome on February 4 against an Italy side who, although they finished bottom and without a win, briefly caused England problems with their 'no-ruck' play at Twickenham during this season's Six Nations.

England are then at home to Wales before travelling to Edinburgh for a Calcutta Cup clash against Scotland and playing France away before concluding their Championship at home to Ireland on March 17 — the middle game of 'Super Saturday' when all six teams are in action. Ireland, who denied England

back-to-back Grand Slams this year, begin their Six Nations away to France on February 3 with Wales at home to Scotland on the same day.

The Championship has remained a seven-week competition, with rest weeks after the second and third rounds, despite the likes of England's 2003 World Cup-winning coach Clive Woodward calling for it to be shortened into a five-week event to better replicate what happens at rugby union's major global tournament. France will continue to fly the flag for Friday night rugby, which has been criticised for making life more difficult for away supporters in particular, by hosting Italy in 2018 and Wales in 2019. The 2019 fixture list also has England away to Ireland on the opening weekend—a potentially key game in decid-

ing the title-winners. Friday night rugby remains a part of the competition in both seasons, with France hosting Italy in 2018 and Wales in 2019. The final round of matches on March 16, 2019 sees Italy at home to France, Wales welcoming Ireland to Cardiff and England taking on Scotland at Twickenham.

"We are delighted to confirm the fixture dates for the 2018 Championship, coming shortly after a record-breaking 2017 edition," Six Nations Rugby chairman Pat Whelan said in a statement. "We enjoyed record figures across TV and digital and look forward to continuing that trend over the next two seasons."

IRELAND NAME EIGHT UNCAPPED PLAYERS
Meanwhile in Dublin, Ireland named

eight uncapped players in their squad to face the United States and Japan next month as coach Joe Schmidt handed a number of younger players the chance to impress with 11 regulars touring with the British and Irish Lions. Schmidt picked four forwards for the first time - Connacht hooker Dave Heffernan, Ulster lock Kieran Treadwell and Leinster pair of Andrew Porter and James Ryan, the highly-rated 20-year-old second row who has yet to play a senior game for the province.

Munster centre Rory Scannell, who was called up to the Irish squad during this season's Six Nations but did not win a cap, was included alongside three other potential debutant backs - Connacht scrumhalf John Cooney, Leinster centre Rory O'Loughlin, and Ulster fullback Jacob Stockdale. Ireland

are also missing Jamie Heaslip, Rob Kearney and Jordi Murphy through injury but can count on the experience of Keith Earls, Cian Healy and Devin Toner for the tour starting in the U.S. on June 10.

Schmidt's squad travel to Japan for two tests on June 17 and 24, a preview of their 2019 World Cup meeting having been drawn in the same group last week. There will also be a fresh look to the coaching staff with former internationals Ronan O'Garra, Girvan Dempsey and Felix Jones, who have all recently moved into coaching, joining the touring party for different parts of the trip. "There is a real freshness to the group, including the coaching staff, so we're looking forward to what will be a very challenging summer tour," Schmidt said in a statement. — Agencies

BRAWN WILLING TO WORK WITH MOTOGP ON F1 RACE CALENDAR

LONDON: Formula One has sounded out MotoGP for cooperation and advice as the sport embarks on a period of change under new owners Liberty Media. Ross Brawn, the former Ferrari technical director who has run three teams and is now Formula One's managing director for motorsport, said he was open to learning lessons from any other series. The Briton told Reuters that he and Carmelo Ezpeleta, chief executive of MotoGP rights holders Dorna, had discussed "areas of cooperation and how we can learn from what each of us does" at last weekend's Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona. On a basic level, that means working to limit a clash of calendars.

The first two rounds of this year's Formula One and MotoGP championships were on the same weekends, and six more will clash later in the year. They include MotoGP's final round in Valencia on Nov. 12, the same day as Formula One's Brazilian Grand Prix—both title-deciders in the past. Brawn said such clashes were "not smart". "We're not too proud to consult with other championships and work out the best way forward," he said, speaking in Formula One Management's new paddock hospitality at the Circuit de Catalunya.

"It's difficult to juggle dates, and you can't always achieve what you want, but at least we're having a dialogue to try and work it out." There were other areas where Formula One could learn lessons, he added. "I like the meritocracy that they have between Moto3, Moto2 and MotoGP. I like the progression that they have. "I think it's interesting looking at the commercial side, the way they structure the teams and the deals and the way it works for the customer teams. I think it's an interesting element."

BEST DRIVERS

He said the way in which MotoGP's junior series formed part of the same race weekend was also "a great example of where we should be", with talent rising to the top and a clear career progression that fans could easily follow. Formula One drivers enter the sport from various series and some are chosen by cash-strapped teams more for their financial contribution than talent alone.

"We should have the 22 or 24 best drivers in the world in Formula One," said Brawn. "There are commercial considerations... which means we don't always achieve that. "It's a complex problem because you have to put the teams in a position where they don't have to make those commercial decisions, they just make the decision based on the strongest drivers they can find."

A fairer distribution of revenues among teams, deciding what kind of future engine the sport should have and building cars that allow closer racing are all big long-term items in Brawn's in-tray.

None offer quick solutions, with existing team contracts running to 2020, and the immediate emphasis is putting the people in place to analyze and assess and come up with substantial arguments. Brawn said he was "reasonably happy" with progress.

"There's not going to be a revolution in Formula One where suddenly we come up with a big change and everything gets better. It's going to be a constant process," he said. "Until we get the capacity to really understand the direction the sport should change to, we're not going to change any of the big things. It's just too risky." — Reuters

DUMOULIN FLIES TO PINK, QUINTANA DROPS TO 2ND

MONTEFALCO: Dutchman Tom Dumoulin cruised to victory in the 10th stage time trial of the Giro d'Italia on Tuesday to claim the race leader's pink jersey from Colombian Nairo Quintana. Dumoulin, of the Sunweb team, flew over the rolling, 39.8 km course in the Sagrantino wine-growing region to finish in a winning time of 50min 37sec and live up to his name as the 'Butterfly of Maastricht'.

Britain's Geraint Thomas (Sky), still nursing a sore arm from the effects of a crash on stage nine, was second at 49secs, with Luxembourg's former race leader Bob Jungels (Quick Step) in third at 56sec and Italy's defending champion Vincenzo Nibali (Bahrain) sixth, at 2min 07sec. Movistar climbing specialist Quintana was expected to lose significant time to pre-stage favourite Dumoulin, and kept to the formbook over a rolling route from Foligno to Montefalco whose technical finish prompted a number of riders to crash.

After climbing to victory on the summit

finish at Blockhaus on stage nine Sunday, Quintana-covered from head to toe in pink-dropped to second overall at 2:23 behind Dumoulin after narrowly avoiding disaster when he had to bunny-hop over a traffic divider. Dutchman, Bauke Mollema (Trek), failed to finish among the top ten but remains third at 2min 38sec, nine seconds ahead of Frenchman Thibaut Pinot (FDJ).

Although the race for the pink jersey will be decided in the climb-heavy third week of the race, Dumoulin was delighted with a stage win that boosts his chances of maintaining his challenge. "It's a nice gap to go into the mountains with," said Dumoulin. "But like Nairo Quintana showed on (stage nine to) Blockhaus, he's the better climber, and a lot can happen in the third week. "But this win is in the pocket. It was already a pretty successful Giro for us, but now we have the stage win and the jersey." "It's a little worse than I was hoping for... but we'll find a way to claw back some time," Quintana said at the finish. —AFP



Dale Steyn

STEYN'S QUEST FOR RECORD STALLS

CAPE TOWN: Dale Steyn's quest to become South Africa's all-time leading Test wicket-taker has been put back until at least September after he ruled himself out of a Test series in England during July and August. Steyn, who turns 34 on June 27, has been stuck on 417 Test wickets—four short of Shaun Pollock's national record—since suffering a stress fracture of the shoulder during a Test against Australia last November.

The fast bowler had been included in a South Africa A squad to tour England in June in what was seen as a fitness test ahead of the four-match Test series. But he told journalists in Johannesburg that his recovery has been slower than he hoped and will not be able to join the A team or to play in the Tests. "I am able to do a lot of things—running, hiking, gym work. But bowling is not one of them," he said. Steyn

said he aims to play in two home Tests against Bangladesh in September and hopes to prove his fitness by returning to action when South Africa A play matches against Australia A and India A in August.

It has been a frustrating two years for Steyn, who has only played in five of South Africa's most recent 16 Tests, breaking down in three of them, first with a groin strain and twice because of shoulder problems. During that period he has taken only 15 wickets after looking set to soar past Pollock on the all-time list. Vernon Philander, Steyn's long-time new ball partner, has also had injury problems. He has a contract with English county Sussex, but returned to South Africa last month for treatment on a groin injury. But the county expect him to return to action in a championship match against Durham starting Sunday. —AFP



ROME: Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal serves to Austrian tennis player Dominic Thiem during their ATP Madrid Open final match in Madrid, on May 14, 2017. — AFP

NADAL CAN'T FAULT FEDERER FOR SKIPPING CLAY SEASON

ROME: Rafael Nadal believes the decision by Roger Federer to skip Roland Garros and the clay season is logical as the Spaniard yesterday prepared to start the Rome Masters. The world number four does not begrudge his Swiss rival for skipping the 2017 spring clay season to concentrate on Wimbledon and the grass-court run-up. Federer owns an Australian Open title and Masters 1000 honors in Indian Wells and Miami this season since coming back from a six-month injury lay-off.

"Everybody does what feels better for them," Nadal, who starts in the Foro Italoico second round against Nicolas Almagro, said. "If he doesn't play one tournament before the French (Open), it's normal that he finally skip the French, no?" Nadal suggested that the decision was made well ahead of its announcement and would have been taken as a strategy move by the 35-year-old's coaching team. "Probably he had that decision before. Probably he didn't want to announce before,"

speculated Nadal, who has won three clay titles in three events competed in this season. "But thinking in a logical way, it would be strange if you don't play on clay in one event and then you start on the biggest one, playing best of five."

'VERY EMOTIONAL'

As for his own game, the Spaniard could not be happier as he keeps the chance of a record 10th Paris title next month in the back of his mind after winning Monte Carlo and Barcelona ten each and adding another last weekend in Madrid.

"I already won three tournaments on clay, so I am playing well. I am very happy about the beginning of the season," said the 14-time Grand Slam winner. "Not only on clay. On every surface. I think I am playing great events in all the surfaces since the beginning of the year." "Very emotional events everywhere, because in all of the events I'm playing on clay, I had a lot of success in my career, so I'm trying to enjoy every day, the fact I am playing

again in these events." Nadal added: "It's important for me that the clay court season started very, very well. It's very important part of the season for me." With this week a new challenge, seven-time Rome champion Nadal is not dwelling on past successes. "Here I am in Rome, I'm here to keep trying my best in an event that I love so much. I had some unbelievable memories in this court."

"A lot of important matches in my career I played here. So I'm just trying to be ready for that. "I am happy to be here again, happy the way I am playing, and let's see what happens tomorrow. "I want to be high in the ranking, because if I am high in the ranking means I am playing well. That's all. I said before the season that I'm not gonna try to be number one again. "If it happens because I am playing so well, great. But I am not going to do a calendar to try to be number one. "What worries me is trying to be healthy, try to be competitive, and the most important thing is be happy." — AFP

BEN JOHNSON AD SLAMMED FOR GLORIFYING DRUG CHEATS

SYDNEY: A controversial commercial by an Australian sports betting company featuring disgraced sprinter Ben Johnson has been slammed by the government for glorifying drug cheats. The 90-second advert by gambling firm Sportsbet introduces Johnson, at a desk surrounded by a medal and a trophy, as the 1988 Olympic gold medalist while attempting to make light of the scene by superimposing "For 48 hours" below the fallen star.

"When it comes to performance enhancement Ben really knows his stuff, which is why he is happy to endorse Sportsbet's new juiced-up Android app," the narrator says, claiming the firm's phone betting application was putting "the roid into Android". Australian Sports Minister Greg Hunt blasted the ad as "sending a message that cheating's okay and should be rewarded and laughed at and glorified". "They're glorifying a drug cheat and they're paying a known drug cheat a huge princely sum of money," he told radio station 2GB late Monday. "So it's an insult to clean athletes and, frankly, my view is they should pull the ad and they should pay the same amount to junior sport as they paid a known drug cheat."

Johnson was stripped of his 100-metre gold medal in the 1988 Seoul Olympics after testing positive to steroids. The Canadian is joined in the advert by a range of drug-cheating stereotypes, including a cyclist in a yellow jacket, a muscular swimmer and a Hulk-like body builder. The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority said it



Ben Johnson

had registered an official complaint. "This advert makes light of the use of performance enhancing drugs in sport and sends the completely wrong message that the use of drugs in sport is normal," the doping watchdog said in a statement.

"This advertising campaign belittles the achievements of clean athletes and denigrates those who work to protect clean sport across the

world." Sportsbet laughed off the controversy. "The outrage is so severe you could roast a marshmallow on it," the firm said on its website. "There was just one problem with all of this public outrage though. The public didn't seem to be outraged at all. In fact, people kinda liked it," Sportsbet added, pointing to dozens of social media posts endorsing the commercial. — AFP

CHAMPIONS SPARTAK EYE 2 MORE WINS FOR RECORD

MOSCOW: Newly-crowned champions Spartak Moscow want to win both their remaining matches to equal the Russian league record of 72 points which they themselves set in 1999. Spartak top the league on 66 points, 10 points clear of city rivals CSKA with two matches to go. Their manager Massimo Carrera said he was happy after winning the Russian title in his first season with the club adding he has set Spartak the task of banking three points in today's match with Terek Grozny.

"Nothing has changed for me," he said in an interview with Russian TV. "Of course I'm proud of what we've done. But the championship is not over yet and we're focused on the upcoming match. Spartak want to finish the season in winning style on 72 points. We want to win every encounter that we play."

CSKA Moscow, who are in the race for a place in next season's Champions League third qualifying round, will need to overcome Rubin Kazan, who have struggled

this season from the start. The Red Army side have a disastrous record in Kazan, where they have won only one of their last six matches.

But CSKA head coach Viktor Gancharenko said his team needed to show their top to finish runners-up regardless of the results of third-placed Zenit, who are just a point adrift. "If we manage to keep on winning we shouldn't care about Zenit's results," he told CSKA official site. "CSKA have more points and

naturally the better chance to finish second. But we need to keep full concentration in the season remainder."

Zenit meanwhile will have to pass a tough test on Wednesday when they take on fourth-placed Krasnodar, who also need points to secure their place in next season's Europa League.

Forward Artem Dzyuba expressed disappointment with Zenit's position adding that the team will continue battling for the Champions League spot while they

still have even the slightest chance for a top-two finish. "There's only one goal for Zenit - it's the title," Zenit press service quoted Dzyuba as saying. "And it's hard to find motivation after Spartak have already claimed the title."

"Even in the race for a place in the Champions League not everything depends upon us. But we need to win the remaining games and hope that CSKA will drop points. We have nowhere to retreat." — AFP



PARIS: Co-president of the Paris bid for the 2024 Olympics Tony Estanguet (C) speaks during a press conference at the end of the IOC Evaluation Commission session where the International Olympic Committee visits Paris before the September vote for the 2024 Summer Olympics. — AFP

FIGHT FOR 2024 OLYMPIC SET TO GO TO THE WIRE

PARIS: The fight between Los Angeles and Paris to host the 2024 Summer Olympics is set to go the wire after the head of the IOC's inspection team heaped lavish praise on both cities. Patrick Baumann said neither city presented a risk, saying it came down to a choice of the 95 members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) between "two different visions" on how the Summer Games be held.

Baumann also refused to be drawn on whether the confirmed presence at the decisive vote in Lima on September 13 of newly-installed French President Emmanuel Macron could hand Paris the advantage should US counterpart Donald Trump not be present for Los Angeles. Baumann did say, however, that Macron's presence would mean the Paris bid enjoys "visual and tangible" support from both the government and country.

"We're fortunate that we have two city candidates who do not present major risks that we've been able to highlight to host the Olympic Games," Baumann added at his team's closing press conference in Paris, which last hosted the Olympics in 1924, Los Angeles in 1984. "Both cities have the Olympic tradition, both cities have the venues we need, both cities have very dedicated and motivated teams that want to lead that." But Baumann added: "Both cities are different. These two cities have the capacity to organise the Games."

"But these cities, because they're in different countries with different cultures, have differing visions. It's one of the key elements. IOC members will have to choose between one vision or the other." Baumann insisted that it did not matter whether the respective delegations were "made up of X or Y" when asked about Trump, but at the same time praised his team's meeting with Macron, saying it showed "strong, solid support" from all strata of French public authorities.

Los Angeles bid chairman Casey Wasserman has admitted they are cautious about asking Trump to Lima, recounting the "very bad" stories from the 2009 vote in Copenhagen when some IOC members were said to be furious to be kept waiting outside the venue whilst then-US president Barack Obama's security detail swept the building having flown in to give his support to Chicago. It was said to have cost Chicago votes.

MACRON CONFIRMED IN LIMA

"Emmanuel Macron told Patrick Baumann that he would definitely be in Lausanne for the IOC's debriefing and also in Lima on September 13," said Paris bid team member Guy Drut, France's 110m hurdle champion at the 1976 Games. Macron's commitment to securing the Olympics was underlined by his one-hour meeting with the IOC taking place just two days after his inauguration as France's youngest president at 39 years of age since Napoleon.

"This is evidence of commitment. It is not just a word, there is a unity up to the highest level of the state," suggested Paris 2024 co-president Bernard Lapasset, former head of rugby union's governing body the IRB, now World Rugby. "This could help our candidacy for sure - the new president, who receives the commission just two days after his nomination, and who is the same age as our co-president Tony Estanguet."

Macron is a strong supporter of the Paris bid to host the Olympics for the first time in a century and even before Sunday's investiture he had telephoned Olympic chief Thomas Bach to confirm his support. On Monday, he told Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo the bid stimulated the kind of national optimism he hopes to generate during his mandate. "I'm right with you on your venture for the Olympics, Paralympics and the 2024 objective," he declared.

Baumann, whose team publish their report in Lausanne on July 5, said that the "marriage between the Games and Paris was absolutely obvious". Ever the diplomat, the Swiss head of the world basketball federation added: "The bid team responded to all our questions—all our remarks, as was the case in Los Angeles last week."

The two bid cities will next be in action when they are called up to present their candidacies to the wider IOC on July 11-12 before decamping to Lima for the decisive vote. — AFP

TREBLE-CHASING JUVE NEED FOCUS FOR LAZIO CUP TIE

FOLIGNO: Massimiliano Allegri has called for treble-chasing Juventus to make amends for failing to secure the Serie A title last weekend, by beating Lazio in the Italian Cup final today. Juventus, who face Real Madrid in the Champions League final on June 3, needed just a point at Roma on Sunday to secure a record sixth consecutive Italian league title. But a stunning 3-1 reverse has left the increasingly-shaky Turin giants just four points ahead of Roma with two games remaining, adding unwelcome pressure ahead of their bid for a third successive league and Cup double and, in turn, an unprecedented club treble.

"It will serve us well, because we have to get right back on our feet for Wednesday and then again for Crotona," Allegri said at the Stadio Olimpico, where Lazio will be hoping for a similar result against the champions. "I'm not worried. On the contrary, we have to remain focused on our objective and understand where we went wrong so we avoid the same mistake in future. It's one step at a time: now, we've the Cup final, then we'll concentrate on the league and, lastly, the Champions League."

Juventus will claim an all-time Serie A record of six consecutive titles if they beat relegation-threatened Crotona in Turin next Sunday. But, after losing shape, composure and ultimately the chance to celebrate securing the scudetto at the home of their arch rivals, the pressure is now on to make sure there is no repeat.

REPEATING THE MIRACLE

Winning a treble, seven years after Inter Milan achieved the feat under the helm of Jose Mourinho in 2010, has been Juve's ambition all season. But the pressure is beginning to tell. Juventus have drawn two and lost one of their last three league outings, shipping six goals in the process. "Lately, we've conceded a little more than

we usually do in terms of our defence, although over the course of a season these things can happen," said Juve defender Leonardo Bonucci.

"We should have wrapped up the title tonight (Sunday), now we have to make sure we go and win the Cup on Wednesday and do the same against Crotona." With six Cup wins but their last coming in 2013, Lazio's record in the competition pales in comparison. Juventus have won 11. And though former Juventus striker Ciro Immobile, who has hit 22 league goals for the high-flying capital club, he believes the "perfect match" can put a dent in Juve's ambitions. "They (Juventus) are a great side. They've reached the Champions League final," said Immobile. "We know how strong they are so we're obviously very concentrated on the final. We know we'll need the perfect match."

Allegri is set to welcome Paulo Dybala back to his starting line-up, after the Argentina front man came off the bench against Roma, but is still sweating on the fitness of hard-working Croatian front man Mario Mandzukic (back). In a bid to end Lazio's four-year wait for silverware, coach Simone Inzaghi rested a number of key players, including defender Stefan De Vrij and striker Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, for a trip to Fiorentina that ended in a 3-2 defeat last Saturday. The reverse had no bearing on Lazio's league position following their recent qualification for next season's Europa League, so may well pay dividends.

However, Inzaghi-the brother of former AC Milan striker and coach Filippo—is now sweating on the fitness of midfielder Marco Parolo (knee) and Belgian defender Jordan Lukaku (thigh) after both pulled up injured in Florence. "It's not what we wanted," Inzaghi said. "But that's all part of football. I hope we get both back for the final." — AFP



VATICAN CITY: This handout photo taken on May 16, 2017 and released by the Vatican press office, the Osservatore Romano, shows Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon shaking hands with Pope Francis at the end of an audience with Juventus and Lazio players on the eve of the Tim Cup final. — AFP

BARCELONA PRESIDENT SITTING TIGHT DESPITE NEYMAR TRIAL

BARCELONA: Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu insisted yesterday he would remain in his post despite his upcoming date with a judge concerning the Neymar transfer case. "To all those who have said that the management team or myself are thinking about resigning, I say we haven't the slightest intention of doing so," the 54-year-old Bartomeu told the clubs stake-holding fans known as 'socios'. "We feel we are in a legitimate position to continue making decisions for the club and we shall continue with enthusiasm and energy." Bartomeu took over in 2015 after predecessor Sandro Rosell was forced out amid the scandal surrounding the transfer of brilliant Brazil captain Neymar. Ten days ago Neymar, his former club Santos, Barcelona, Bartomeu and Rosell were all told they would stand trial in an investigation into the 2013 transfer.

The current Barcelona president feels the player and

Barcelona are victims of a conflict of interests between Brazilian tax authorities and Santos. Neymar's arrival from Santos has been a huge success for the Spanish champions on the pitch but a judicial nightmare off it. The case initiated with a complaint from Brazilian investment company DIS, which owned 40 percent of Neymar's sporting rights at the time of his transfer.

DIS received just 6.8 million euros — 40 percent of the 17 million euros fee paid to Santos-with the company claiming it was cheated out of its real share because part of the transfer fee was concealed by Barcelona, Santos and the Neymar family. The court suspects Santos was actually paid 25 million euros, which would mean DIS was cheated out of 3.5 million euros. Barcelona originally published the transfer figure as 57.1 million euros (\$62.6 million), with 40 million euros of that given to the player's family and the rest to Santos. — AFP

SPURS' ROSE HAS KNEE SURGERY AFTER SETBACK

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur left-back Danny Rose has undergone exploratory surgery on his left knee after a setback in his recovery, the Premier League club announced yesterday. The England international, 26, sustained medial ligament damage during Tottenham's 0-0 draw at Sunderland on January 31. He had been expected to return before the end of the season, but with the rehabilitation process taking longer than expected, he has gone under the knife and will not be back until next season. "We can confirm that Danny Rose has undergone exploratory sur-

gery on his left knee today," Spurs said on their official Twitter account. "He recently returned to training, however, the problem has not resolved fully, therefore a decision has been made to proceed to surgery. He will now return to action next season." Wales international Ben Davies has been deputising at left-back in Rose's absence. Spurs' 2-1 win over Manchester United last weekend confirmed they will finish second behind champions Chelsea. They visit Leicester City on Thursday and finish the season at relegated Hull City on Sunday. — AFP

CINCINNATI BENGALS' JONES PLEADS GUILTY TO 1 COUNT

CINCINNATI: Cincinnati Bengals cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones pleaded guilty yesterday to a single misdemeanor charge from an altercation this year, the latest in a history of off-the-field legal issues for the NFL veteran. Municipal Court Judge Dwane Mallory dismissed misdemeanor counts of assault and disorderly conduct at the prosecutor's request after a plea agreement. He sentenced Jones to time already served - two days - on the obstructing official business count. Police said he kicked and used head-butting as he was arrested for allegedly assaulting a downtown hotel employee.

However, Jones, who has twice had lengthy suspensions in his career, still faces potential NFL discipline. "We have been monitoring developments in this matter, which continues to be reviewed under the personal conduct policy," NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said via email. "We have no timetable on any potential discipline."

Jones, 33, apologized in court for his behavior and specifically to Cincinnati police Sgt. Jarrod Cotton. Police video showed Jones in the back of a police cruiser making profane comments and telling the officer: "I hope you die tomorrow." His attorneys said he has been receiving treatment, including for anger management. "I truly apologize for what I did, my actions," Jones said. "I'm trying to get better every day."

He said he also wanted to apologize "to all the kids" for not setting a better example. The judge cited Jones' apologies

among a "multitude of factors" for his sentence. "I don't take into account celebrity," the judge told The Associated Press. "I have 99 percent non-celebrities in my court." The Hamilton County prosecutor earlier dismissed a felony count alleging Jones spit on a jail nurse.

He was suspended as a Tennessee Titan by the NFL throughout the 2007 season, then was suspended again during the 2008 season as a member of the Dallas Cowboys. Jones pleaded an equivalent of no contest

to a misdemeanor charge of conspiracy to commit disorderly conduct in a 2007 Las Vegas strip club melee. Jones was blamed for instigating violence that led to the shooting by someone else of two club employees, one left paralyzed from the waist down. He was ordered to pay more than \$12.4 million in damages. The Titans made the Atlanta native the sixth overall pick out of West Virginia University in the 2005 draft. His NFL career was in doubt by the time the Bengals signed him in 2010. — AP



CINCINNATI: In this Jan 4, 2017, file photo, Cincinnati Bengals cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones speaks to reporters as he is released from the Hamilton County Justice Center. — AP

MANCHESTER UNITED PREDICT RECORD REVENUE FOR 2017-18

LONDON: Manchester United predicted a record rise in annual revenue to between £560 million (\$721.8 million, 652.4 million euros) and £570 million in their latest quarterly financial figures released yesterday. United had previously told investors to expect revenue of between £530 million and £540 million for the 2016-17 financial year. Broadcast revenue for the quarter rose by 12.9 percent to £31.4 million, largely due to the Premier League's new bumper television rights deal taking effect.

"We are forecasting better full-year financial performance than expected and as such have raised our revenue and profit guidance for the year," said United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward in a press release. "We look forward to a strong finish to 2016-17, both on and off the pitch." United failed to qualify for this season's Champions League, but their exploits in the Europa League have helped them to record strong financial results.

They have won the League Cup in Jose Mourinho's first season as manager and will face Ajax in the final of the Europa League, the only tournament they have never won, on May 24. They must win the Europa League to qualify for next season's Champions League, having failed to secure a top-four finish in the Premier League. United will see a 30 percent reduction in their sponsorship deal with Adidas—a loss of £21 million—if they do not reach the Champions League, spread out over the remaining eight years of the contract.

Despite that, Woodward told investors in a conference call that United have made "tremendous progress on and off the pitch" under Mourinho. United will receive 6.5 million euros in prize money if they win the Europa League and 3.5 million euros if they lose the final. The club's operating expenses rose 27 percent to £129.8 million, partly due to the contracts offered to new signings including Paul Pogba and Zlatan Ibrahimovic. United also hired a significant number of non-playing staff members. Net debt rose by £17.6 million to £366.3 million, which the club said was due to the strengthening US dollar.

MATA EAGER TO BUILD MOMENTUM

Juan Mata believes it is imperative Manchester United win their final two Premier League games to make sure they are in peak condition for their Europa League final against Ajax. United's 2-1 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday means they can no longer finish in the top four and leaves the Europa League final in Stockholm on May 24 as their last chance of securing Champions League qualification.

United visit Southampton today before

entertaining Crystal Palace on the season's final day and while there is nothing riding on the games, Mata says he and his teammates cannot afford to take them lightly. "Now it's time to play two good games to close the Premier League and reach the Europa League final in the best shape that we can," the Spanish midfielder wrote on his blog, published on the United website. "It's true that the calendar has been hectic over the last two months, but we have to push hard now to try to win the three remaining games. We really want to."

United manager Jose Mourinho has made it clear that the Europa League is now the club's sole focus, having rested players at Tottenham and in the 2-0 loss at Arsenal that preceded it. He made eight changes to the team that had overcome Celta Vigo in the Europa League semi-finals for the defeat at Spurs, which left United seven points below the top four in sixth place. Mourinho says he already has an idea of the team he would like to align against Ajax and he must now strike a balance between resting his key players and making sure they are fit and firing for the trip to Sweden.

He has already revealed that Daley Blind will be rested for today's rearranged game at Southampton, with the versatile Dutch defender having started six of United's last seven matches. Matteo Darmian, Ander Herrera, Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Marcus Rashford could all come into the starting XI, having started on the bench at Spurs, while Marouane Fellaini returns from suspension.

AVENGING SAINTS

It is not known if Paul Pogba is in contention to play after he was given compassionate leave following the death of his father. Southampton, who won 2-1 at relegated Middlesbrough on Sunday, are in a straight shootout for eighth place with West Bromwich Albion, who currently lead them on goal difference. They are also out to avenge their 3-2 defeat by United in February's League Cup final, which left a bitter taste after Manolo Gabbiadini saw what would have been the opening goal ruled out for a dubious offside.

As well as missing out on the League Cup, Southampton will be unable to improve on the previous season's league placing-sixth-for the first time in eight campaigns. But captain Steven Davis believes an eighth-place finish will still represent an acceptable season. "If we go on and finish the season strongly and get ourselves in that eighth position, then we can look back at it and say it's been an OK season," said the Northern Irish midfielder. — AFP



MARID: Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo, right, celebrates with teammate James Rodriguez after scoring their side's second goal against Sevilla during the La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Sevilla at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. — AP

MADRID DONE ROTATING PLAYERS AS THEY GO FOR THE SPANISH TITLE

MADRID: There is no more rest for Cristiano Ronaldo and his teammates. Zinedine Zidane is done rotating his squad and will use Ronaldo and the rest of the regular starters when Madrid plays at Celta Vigo with a chance to regain the Spanish league lead and move into position to clinch its first title in five years.

A win or a draw in the match postponed from February because of bad weather will move Madrid past Barcelona into first place going into the weekend's final round of matches. Both teams have 87 points, but the Catalan club leads on the head-to-head tiebreaker. Madrid plays at mid-table Malaga on Sunday, while Barcelona finishes its season against eighth-place Eibar on the same day.

"We are prepared," Zidane said Tuesday. "We have two matches to play, two finals, and then it's all over in the league. Everybody is doing very well physically and wishing that the game starts as soon as possible. We are thinking positively and we will give everything we have." Zidane had been rotating the squad the last few months as Madrid also played the decisive

stages of the Champions League. Its latest game in the European competition was against Atletico Madrid in the semifinals last week, when it advanced to the final on June 3.

'CRISTIANO WILL BE WITH US'

Zidane kept regular starters such as Karim Benzema, Casemiro and Luka Modric out of the starting lineup against Sevilla on Sunday, when Madrid won 4-1. Ronaldo was in that match, scoring two goals, and he is also going to play on Wednesday in Vigo. The star forward hadn't played in an away match for Madrid since March, against Athletic Bilbao. He was rested in the team's following four away matches in the league. "Cristiano will be with us," Zidane said.

The game against Celta was originally scheduled to be played on Feb. 5 but was postponed because heavy winds damaged the roof of the Balaidos Stadium, making it unsafe for players and spectators. Vigo authorities at the time accused Madrid of improperly pressuring to play the game despite the security concerns, and the

club had to officially respond by saying that it would never want to put the fans' safety at risk.

Madrid wanted to avoid playing Celta so late in the season. There were no other dates to play the match because Celta was participating in the Europa League and Madrid in the Champions League. Celta, which made it to the semifinals of the Europa League, eliminated Madrid in the quarterfinals of the Copa del Rey after winning 2-1 at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium and drawing 2-2 at the Balaidos in January. The team is currently 13th in the Spanish league standings.

"It will be a difficult game because Celta has a good team. It's going to be complicated, just like it was against Sevilla and like it will be against Malaga," Zidane said. "I expect to face the same Celta team as always." Madrid hasn't won the league since 2012 and is trying to avoid its longest title drought since 1981-85. It's longest winless streak since then was when Barcelona won four in a row from 1991-94. Barcelona is trying to win the league title for the third straight time. — AP



LONDON: Manchester United's Spanish midfielder Juan Mata controls the ball during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United at White Hart Lane. — AFP

I'D HAVE BEEN SACKED AT A 'BIG CLUB': GUARDIOLA

MANCHESTER: Pep Guardiola has suggested the results of his first season as Manchester City manager would have seen him sacked by either Barcelona or Bayern Munich. Guardiola won 14 trophies in four seasons as manager at the Nou Camp, and seven in three years with Bayern. He never finished lower than second while in charge of Barcelona, while winning the Bundesliga in each of his three seasons in Germany. But the Spaniard has found life more difficult in England.

Guardiola can finish no higher than third in this season's Premier League, which will be the lowest final placing of his managerial career. He will also end the campaign without a trophy for the first time as a coach. He has acknowledged that he needs to do better if he is to avoid being labelled a failure in the Premier League.

"I had pressure when I became manager at Barcelona, when I had no reputation to defend myself with," Guardiola said Monday. "At that club, if in six months you don't win, you are really out. At Barcelona or Bayern Munich, you have to win by far. If not, they don't give you a second chance. "Here they gave me a second chance and we will try to do it," he added. "In my situation at a big club: I'm sacked. I'm out. Sure. Definitely. "At the clubs I worked at before, I would not be here now, but here we have a second chance and we will try to do it better than this season."

Guardiola joined City on a three-year contract in July after leaving Bayern Munich, and still has the full backing of club owner Sheikh Mansour and chairman Khaldoon al Mubarak. He admits he has needed time to adjust to English football-speaking several times this season about the high number of contenders for the Champions League spots, and revealing surprise at how challenges that are

in Spain are allowed to go unpunished in the Premier League. But he is adamant he will get it right at City - because he will not be given forever if he does not.

'PROVE MYSELF'

"If what happens next season is not going well, I'll have one more year of my contract. If it's not going well, they are going to change manager," Guardiola said. "What is the pressure? Last season, this season, next season, all the managers in the first five or six clubs they have the pressure. "I put it on myself, to come here, to prove myself, that I am able to do it with a fantastic club. "One team was better, Chelsea, so congratulations to them, they deserve by far to win the league. "Tottenham, the second team, played outstanding football again when they beat Manchester United on Sunday. They played amazing. "The gap is big in terms of points. But when we played against those teams, the gap was not too big and we are going to shorten it next season."

Guardiola reckons his players have been good enough to have achieved more this season, but have paid the price for not being ruthless enough in attack, and for being too generous in defense. Vincent Kompany's return from a series of injury troubles have given City a more solid look, but the manager remains concerned.

"I have to be honest, I notice we are having problems in the boxes and we didn't solve it so I have to analyse it myself this summer," said Guardiola. "I have a feeling with Vincent we are stronger in the box. In football it depends on the quality of the players. The managers don't play—we have to be on the sideline. "It's about the quality of our players. And I think with the quality of our players is enough to have been better. — AFP

CONTE EXPECTS CHELSEA LEGEND TERRY TO PLAY ON

LONDON: Chelsea manager Antonio Conte expects departing captain John Terry to play beyond the end of the season, despite the former England centre-back hinting he may retire. Speaking after scoring in Chelsea's 4-3 victory over Watford on Monday, their first outing since winning the Premier League, Terry said: "I still haven't ruled out Sunday being my last game and retiring."

Chelsea finish the season at home to Sunderland on Sunday, before tackling Arsenal in the FA Cup final, and while Conte has come to terms with Terry's decision to leave, he believes he will not hang up his boots. "No, absolutely not. No, no, John wants to continue to play," said Conte, whose side prevailed courtesy of an 88th-minute strike by substitute Cesc Fabregas. "I wish for him and his family the best. Chelsea will always be his home because John, first of all, is a great man and a great legend and player for Chelsea—and in future for the team he decides to play for." He added: "I'm looking forward to see him lift the (Premier League) cup and I think all the players want to see this. This is the right final for John. "John took this decision to continue to play regularly and play every game and for this reason he preferred to leave Chelsea and to play

every game I don't know where. For sure, for us this is a big loss next season."

Terry, making his 716th Chelsea appearance, put his side ahead in the 22nd minute at Stamford Bridge, but it was from the 36-year-old's loose header that Etienne Capoue equalised two minutes later. Goals from Cesar Azpilicueta and Michy Batshuayi restored and then extended Chelsea's lead, only for Watford to reply through Daryl Janmaat and substitute Stefano Okaka. But Fabregas came off the bench to sweep in Willian's pass and keep Chelsea on course to become the first team to win 30 games in a 38-game season in England's top division. Conte made nine changes to the team that had secured the title by winning 1-0 at West Bromwich Albion on Friday, but suggested he would pick a strong side for the visit of relegated Sunderland.

'A BIT OF CAKE'

"The FA Cup final, you don't play that on Saturday. You start to play the final 10 days before," Conte explained. "For this reason, in my head I have a plan to try to arrive to play the final in the best condition, in the best situation for my players. "At this moment I have 13 or 14 players and they

deserve to play the FA Cup, and many players in good form. "I have to take my time in these 12 days to make the decision. But, for sure, I have to pick the players who, for me, are in better form."

Watford finished the game with 10 men after centre-back Sebastian Prodl received a pair of late yellow cards for untidy challenges on Batshuayi and Pedro. Beaten manager Walter Mazzarri played down an on-pitch argument between Okaka and his captain Troy Deeney that occurred late in the game, but said he would speak to the pair about the matter. "They're friends, they're always together. Nobody told me anything," said the Italian, whose side remain 16th in the table. "I want players with character who talk to teach other on the pitch. Tomorrow I will investigate, but I don't think it was anything."

Conte, meanwhile, feigned offence after being told that striker Diego Costa, who was an unused substitute, had visited the buffet in the media room at half-time. "In this case I'm very angry with him," Conte smiled. "He must think to give me a bit of chocolate cake to share. I was suffering during the game. To eat a bit of cake or chocolate, that would be good. "Next time I'll tell him to think of me as well and share." — AFP



LONDON: Chelsea's English defender John Terry jumps in celebration after scoring the opening goal during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Watford at Stamford Bridge. — AFP

Sports

Fight for 2024 Olympic set to go to the wire

18

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017

Madrid done rotating players as they go for Spanish title

19



GURRIEL HITS GRAND SLAM AS ASTROS BEAT MARLINS

Page 15



BOSTON: Boston Celtics forward Jae Crowder (99) celebrates his basket against the Washington Wizards during the fourth quarter of Game 7 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series. — AP

CELTICS BEAT WIZARDS IN GAME 7, 115-105

BOSTON: Isaiah Thomas said he didn't feel any pressure entering the first Game 7 of his career. His play backed up his confidence and with the help of Kelly Olynyk and the Boston Celtics bench, Thomas earned the biggest win of his career. Thomas scored 29 points and had 12 assists, Olynyk scored a career-playoff high 26 points and the Celtics used a big fourth quarter to outlast the Washington Wizards 115-105 in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals Monday night.

"I knew it would be a big time game tonight. I knew it wouldn't be easy at all," Thomas said. "And we came out on top." Led by Olynyk the Celtics got a huge lift from their bench, outscoring their Wizards' counterparts 48-5. Boston also connected on 11 3-pointers, including 8 of 13 in the second half. "We needed it," Olynyk said. "That's a tough team that we played seven tough games against and they can score. We needed to help out the starters, help out Isaiah." Boston advances to the Eastern Conference finals, where it will host the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 1 on Wednesday. It's the Celtics first appearance in the conference finals since 2012. "What a special opportunity to get a chance to compete against them," Boston coach Brad Stevens said.

ULTIMATE VALIDATION

For Thomas it serves as the ultimate validation for a team that many felt was unworthy of the conference's top seed. It also marked the latest big performance by Thomas, in a playoff run that began in the haze of his younger sister's death in a car accident. The 28-year-old All-Star has called the basketball court his sanctuary, and he continues to credit his teammates for giving him the strength to perform at a high level.

"That says a lot about the team we are and we believe in each other," Thomas said. "The game wasn't always what we wanted it to be and it wasn't a perfect game. But we kept going and stayed the course." Bradley Beal led the Wizards - which was playing its first Game 7 since 1979 - with 38 points, including 24 in the second half. "I don't care how well I played," Beal said afterward. "I don't care if I played bad. The end result...The only thing that matters is getting a win."



BOSTON: Isaiah Thomas #4 of the Boston Celtics reacts against the Washington Wizards during Game Seven of the NBA Eastern Conference Semi-Finals. — AFP

Otto Porter added 20 points. John Wall and Markieff Morris each finished with 18. But Washington also had 15 turnovers, leading to 17 Celtics' points. Boston trailed 76-72 late in the third quarter before ending the period on a 13-3 spurt. The run grew to 22-5 in the opening minutes of the fourth as the Celtics' lead became 94-81. But Washington quickly responded, scoring seven straight in just 51 seconds to get back within six.

Washington stayed close as Beal continued to score, including a four-point play. But Olynyk then took over. He scored 11 of 13 points for Boston as the Celtics stretched their advantage to 110-100. "He just made shots," Marcin Gortat said of Olynyk. "He was the difference today - a huge difference." Brooks played Beal and Wall 46 and 45 minutes, respectively, but said it was necessary to try to stay in the game.

"I knew it would come down to the last six minutes of the game," Washington coach Scott Brooks said. "They had that little run at the start of the fourth quarter." The Celtics had the largest lead of the first half at 10-2, but that gap was quickly erased by Washington as Boston started to accumulate fouls. Marcus Smart, Amir Johnson and Olynyk all were whistled for three fouls in the opening 24 minutes, though Smart did inject some life into a second unit that outscored their Wizards' counterparts 19-5.

Wall and Beal each were beneficiaries scoring eight and nine points, respectively in the second quarter to help the Wizards take a two-point lead into halftime. "It's tough. We came out here Game 7 and gave everything we had. Just came up short," Wall said. "Our goal was to get to Eastern Conference finals and we came up one game short. So it's a not a satisfied season to me."

TIP-INS

Wizards: Dropped to 6-4 all-time in Game 7s. ... Still have not reached a conference final since 1979. ... Outrebounded the Celtics 43-31.

Celtics: Improved to 22-8 all-time in Game 7s and 19-4 all-time at home. ...Outscored the Wizards 58-40 in the paint. ... Lost season series to Cleveland 3-1.

HOME COURT DOMINANCE

The Wizards came up short of becoming the first team in this matchup to win on the opponent's home floor in 2016-17. All 11 meetings this season (four in regular-season and seven postseason) were claimed by the home team. — AP

STRAIGHT OUTTA QUAKER

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Kuwait Times 55th Anniversary BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017

Oil prices extend gains;
euro hits 6-month high

Page 22

Eurozone needs
more than Germany
for breakout growth

Page 23



BAIC BJ40L: Turning every journey into an adventure

Page 25

ZENITH, OOREDOO LAUNCH TV SYNC FOR FIRST TIME IN KUWAIT

Page 26



LONDON: A shopper browsing for clothes at a stall at Whitechapel Market in east London. British inflation hit a 3.5-year high of 2.7 percent in April, official data showed yesterday, owing mainly to higher airfares, but also as a weak pound raises import costs. — AFP (See Page 23)

PRIVATIZATION PLAN LURES BANKS, PE FIRMS TO SAUDI RIYADH AIMS TO RAISE AROUND \$200BN VIA SALE OF GOVT ASSETS

DUBAI: One of the world's largest privatization programs is drawing foreign investment banks and private equity (PE) firms to Saudi Arabia, despite the prospect of low fees and an uncertain regulatory environment. KKR is among the US-based PE firms joining regional companies such as Abu Dhabi's Gulf Capital in the search for opportunities from the government's plan to sell off around \$200 billion in assets on top of a stake in oil giant Saudi Aramco.

Banks are also beefing up their operations. Citigroup obtained a Saudi investment banking license last month and Goldman Sachs is looking into obtaining a Saudi equities license. Credit Suisse intends to apply for a full banking license and JPMorgan is adding bankers.

"We see a lot more opportunities in Saudi Arabia because for the first time the government is looking to partner with firms like ourselves and others," said Kaveh Samie, who heads the Middle East and North Africa region for KKR. For decades, many foreign financial companies kept a minimal presence in Riyadh or shunned it entirely. They chased business related to Saudi Arabia's investment of billions of petrodollars abroad, but saw few opportunities in the Saudi domestic economy.

The kingdom had a reputation for offering low fees to investment banks, while PE firms found few prospects in an

economy dominated by wealthy state enterprises and family conglomerates which jealously guarded control of their assets. But the mood has begun changing since last year's announcement of a privatization drive to help the economy diversify in an era of low oil prices. A vast range of assets will be offered via methods ranging from public offers of shares to PE deals.

Vice economy minister Mohammed Al-Tuwaijri told Reuters last month that Riyadh aimed to raise around \$200 billion over several years - not including an expected tens of billions of dollars for the Saudi Aramco stake. Karim El Solh, chief executive of Abu Dhabi's Gulf Capital, said it had become more proactive seeking Saudi investments and its pipeline of potential deals had grown in three years. JPMorgan, which has around 70 bankers in Saudi Arabia, is adding about 10 across its investment banking, equities and custody businesses. "With economic transformation comes a need for transactional services, capital markets access and advice," said Sjoerd Leenart, JPMorgan's head of Middle East, Africa and Turkey.

HSBC has made staffing changes to help its Saudi business, including the secondment last month of Samer Deghaili, co-head of equity capital markets in the region, to its Saudi subsidiary.

Obstacles

Foreign firms will still tread carefully in Saudi Arabia, and many may try to limit costs and risk by flying in staff from Dubai rather than basing personnel in Riyadh. Productivity levels among the local population are low and hiring foreigners has become increasingly difficult as Saudi Arabia restricts entry for workers. Also, some Westerners are reluctant to move there due to social restrictions. Investors have also been put off by the legal system which does not have laws on bankruptcy.

The government has paid fees as low as 0.1 percentage point of deal value for past privatizations, compared to about 1 percent in developed markets. Riyadh is keen to show it is not being exploited by foreign firms, so fees may not rise much. But the volume of business - HSBC estimates 100 companies will be listed on the stock market in sectors including mining, healthcare and retail - is too large for bankers to neglect.

"Saudi will be probably be a volumes market given the depth of the economy. Plus being the largest economy in the Gulf Cooperation Council, it is not one we can ignore," said Aasim Qureshi, managing director at QNB Capital, the investment banking arm of Qatar National Bank (QNB).

QNB said this month it plans to apply for a Saudi license for its investment bank. One key for PE firms is how much control they will be given to manage their acquisitions. The government has not clarified its position on the size of stakes it will sell in state-owned companies but if it only sells minority stakes this could be unattractive for some PE firms as they generally like to have control.

The government says it welcomes foreign investors but it could balk at measures they might take, such as staff cuts. "There is growing interest among GCC PEs in Saudi deals, but entering the kingdom is not easy for any PE firm, be it international or GCC," said one industry executive.

"Most of the privatizations are expected in education and healthcare, and these sectors have strict national ownership rules." Nevertheless, many PE firms think there are bound to be lucrative deals given the wide range of sectors which Saudi Arabia's economic reforms aim to develop, including tourism, entertainment and auto manufacturing.

"It is exactly the same kind of transformation that China and India went through," said Iqbal Khan, chief executive at Dubai's Fajr Capital. "We see this as a very big opportunity." — Reuters

JAPAN'S ABE REAFFIRMS CONVICTION THAT TPP BENEFITS ASIA-PACIFIC

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's conviction that a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) pact will help bring prosperity to the Asia-Pacific region is unaltered, he said yesterday. After US President Donald Trump pulled out of the 12-nation pact, Japan has been exploring options to revive the pact without the United States, hoping it can eventually convince Trump to reconsider. Negotiators from the remaining 11 members have sought ways to resuscitate talks and deepen economic ties without a United States that appears increasingly suspicious of multilateral deals.

Abe urged global policymakers not to view trade as a "zero-sum" game, but instead seek to remove barriers that hamper innovation from crossing borders. "I don't think TPP is losing momentum," Abe said at a seminar hosted by the Wall Street Journal newspaper in the Japanese capital.

"Japan wants to exert leadership so that we can steer the debate toward a clear direction at a ministerial meeting in Hanoi." However, Abe said he did not rule out the chance of signing a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) with the United States, an option Washington favors.

"It's among the various options available for Japan," he added. "But we need to discuss more what's best for Japan." In a sign of hope for Japan, new US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will attend a meeting of trade ministers from the 21 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries on Thursday and Friday in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi.

Many TPP signatories are expected to attend. Japan's economic revival continues to be Abe's top policy priority, he added. "We're unwavering in standing ready to continue deploying the three arrows of fiscal, monetary and structural measures" to end deflation, Abe said. — Reuters

US HOUSING STARTS FALL; BUILDING PERMITS WEAK

WASHINGTON: US homebuilding unexpectedly fell in April to the lowest level in five months amid persistent weakness in the construction of multi-family housing units, suggesting a slowdown in the housing market recovery.

Housing starts dropped 2.6 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.17 million units also as single-family homebuilding rebounded modestly, the Commerce Department said yesterday. April's reading was the lowest level since last

November and followed a downwardly revised rate of 1.20 million units in March. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast groundbreaking activity rising to a rate of 1.26 million units last month from a previously reported rate of 1.22 million units in March. Homebuilding increased 0.7 percent on a year-on-year basis. The weakness in residential construction will probably do little to change the view that economic activity picked up by early in the second quarter. Gross domestic product increased

at a pedestrian 0.7 percent annualized rate in the first three months of 2017.

Demand for housing remains underpinned by a tightening labor market, characterized by an unemployment rate at a 10-year low of 4.4 percent. A survey on Monday showed homebuilders' confidence rose in May, with bullishness about current sales and those over the next six months.

Strength

The underlying strength in the housing market helped Home Depot Inc, the No 1 US home improvement chain, to report higher-than-expected quarterly profit and same-store sales yesterday.

Home Depot and smaller rival Lowe's Cos Inc have remained a bright spot in the retail sector as a firming economy and higher wages drive new home sales and a rise in the value of existing houses spurs remodeling activity. Prices of US Treasuries increased slightly after the data while the US dollar fell against a basket of currencies. US stock index futures were trading modestly higher.

Single-family homebuilding, which accounts for the largest share of the residential housing market, rose 0.4 percent to a pace of 835,000 units last month. That left the bulk of the 5.1 percent decline in March intact. Single-family starts surged 19.4 percent in the Midwest and advanced 9.1 percent in the West. They fell 3.4 percent in the South and tumbled 29.2 percent in the Northeast to their lowest level since June 2015.

Homebuilders are failing to take advantage of a chronic shortage of properties for sale amid complaints about expensive building materials and shortages of lots and labor.

Some of the drop in starts could be weather-related - parts of the United States experienced snowstorms in March and heavy rains in April. "So Mother Nature had a hand in this. Looking ahead, there is room for growth," said Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets in Toronto.

Last month, starts for the volatile multi-family housing segment dropped 9.2 percent to a pace of 337,000 units. Multi-family starts have declined for four straight months, suggesting that rental increases have probably peaked. Building permits fell 2.5 percent, driven by a 4.5 percent drop in the single-family segment. Multi-family permits rose 1.4 percent. — Reuters



FAIRFAX: This file photo taken on March 8, 2017 shows a construction worker installing a rooftop on a new home being built in Fairfax, Virginia. — AFP

OIL PRICES EXTEND GAINS; EURO HITS 6-MONTH HIGH

SHARES OF OIL COMPANIES SURGE

LONDON: Oil prices gained further yesterday, boosting energy companies' shares, after Russia and Saudi Arabia indicated they could extend an output cut into next year, while the euro struck a six-month dollar high. The world's top two crude-producing nations raised the idea at the weekend, with a deal agreed between OPEC-of which Saudi Arabia is the key player-and Russia coming to an end in six weeks.

The news sent oil prices soaring about two percent on Monday, and a further 0.5 percent yesterday, helping energy groups strengthen global stock markets. Share price gains for Royal Dutch Shell and BP yesterday helped push London's benchmark FTSE 100 to a new record high of 7,505.46 points. "Another day, another record high for the FTSE 100," said Kathleen Brooks from City Index.

Volatility was at "extremely low levels and the oil price (continued) to benefit from the OPEC-effect," she said. Vodafone was the top performer, gaining 4.2 percent, despite registering a 6.1-billion-euros (\$6.9-billion) annual loss, as

traders focused on the increased dividend and optimistic outlook for next year.

But eurozone equity markets-less exposed to commodity-driven stocks-fell back, with Frankfurt down 0.1 percent and Paris down 0.3 percent, despite confirmation that the single currency area's economic growth in the first quarter was a solid 0.5 percent.

Gains in the oil markets come after the commodity was battered earlier this month on worries that the production cut was not enough to make a dent in a worldwide supply glut.

Yesterday, the International Energy Agency said supply and demand in the oil market are close to matching up but warned rising US supply could mitigate the OPEC-led production cuts.

Euro hits heights

In Asia, Tokyo's main shares index edged up 0.3 percent by the close, Hong Kong slipped 0.1 percent on profit-taking following a six-day rally, while Shanghai finished up 0.7 percent, marking

a fourth straight day of gains. On currency markets the euro extended gains to break above \$1.10 — reaching a six-month high-as the dollar wobbled following a series of below-par results out of the US, including on inflation.

"The euro is strengthening as political concerns in Europe ease, while the dollar is being sold" after the weak economic data, Marito Ueda, a senior dealer at FX Prime, told AFP. The European single currency hit \$1.1059 yesterday—the highest point since November 9. Elsewhere yesterday, official figures showed that British inflation had risen to 2.7 percent—its highest level since September 2013 — but failed to boost the pound as investors bet against an immediate rise in interest rates to curb prices.

"With little sign of overheating in the domestic economy, and only one (Bank of England) Monetary Policy Committee member voting for higher rates at last week's policy meeting, it seems rates will be stuck at 0.25 percent for some time," said Ben Brettell from Hargreaves Lansdown. — Reuters



LONDON: A Vodafone logo is seen at a store in central London yesterday. Vodafone logged yesterday a large annual net loss after slashing the value of its troubled Indian division, but underlying earnings soared on a solid European performance.— AFP

VODAFONE DIALS UP \$6.3BN NET LOSS

LONDON: Vodafone logged yesterday a large annual net loss after slashing the value of its troubled Indian division, but underlying earnings soared on a solid European performance.

The British mobile phone giant posted a loss of 6.3 billion euros (\$6.9 billion) for the 12 months to March, after a net loss of 5.4 billion euros in the previous financial year, it said in a statement.

The loss was driven by taxation changes and a 3.7-billion impairment at its Indian division — which Vodafone is spinning off into a joint venture. However, underlying or operating profit excluding exceptional items almost tripled to 3.7 billion euros on cost-cutting and a solid showing in Europe.

Vodafone shares rallied four percent after it also ramped up the shareholder dividend by two percent, taking the total payout to 14.77 eurocents. "Our focus on excellence in customer experience has enabled further improvements in our overall commercial and financial performance during the year," said chief executive Vittorio Colao. Sales declined 4.4 percent to 47.6 billion euros on adverse foreign exchange movements.

Following the deal, Vodafone added yesterday it had partially reversed the Indian impairment-but it still stood at 3.7 billion euros. Colao has sought to reshape the business following his appointment in 2008. The group offloaded its 45-percent stake in Verizon Wireless in 2015 for a colossal \$130 billion, one of the biggest transactions in global corporate history. In 2016, Vodafone sold its Dutch fixed-line business Vodafone Thuis to Germany's T-Mobile for an undisclosed amount.

The sale followed the merger of Vodafone Netherlands with Liberty Global's Dutch division Ziggo into a joint venture. And earlier this year, Vodafone announced the creation of its Indian joint venture.

Second biggest player

Vodafone is the world's second-largest mobile-phone carrier in terms of subscriber numbers, trailing global leader China Mobile. In the first half, Vodafone initially took a non-cash impairment of 5.0 billion euros on its Indian activities and blamed a sharp increase in competition.

However in March, Vodafone announced the merger of its Indian unit with Idea Cellular in order to create India's largest telecoms operator and fight ultra-competi-

Greater strategic clarity

Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell, told AFP that the Vodafone boss had brought "clarity" to the group's overall strategy. "Colao has brought greater strategic clarity to Vodafone, focusing its mobile activities in markets where it either was or had the potential to be top-ranked player, using joint-ventures to augment the company's competitive position in India and the Netherlands, and investing for the long-term so the firm could maximize the potential of 4G and eventually 5G services," he said.

"The decision to withdraw from the USA looks better and better, given the brutal price war which has broken out stateside ... and Colao will now be hoping to reap the benefits of the investments made in service and infrastructure. "A messy set of full-year figures today offers some grounds for optimism on an underlying basis." —AFP



ATHENS: Journalists and media workers march in central Athens during their 24-hour strike yesterday. —AFP

STRIKES HIT GREECE AHEAD OF CUTS VOTE

ATHENS: Greek unions yesterday kicked off two days of labor action, shutting down ferries and news services ahead of a general strike today aimed at a new round of austerity cuts. Journalists walked off the job and sailors began a two-day shutdown that severed maritime links to the Greek islands. Ferry services will be paralyzed

today during the 24-hour general strike that will also shutter the civil service and disrupt flights.

The mobilization is aimed against new pension and tax break cuts forced on Greece by its EU-IMF creditors in return for bailout cash. The leftist government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras grudgingly accepted to legislate another round of pension

cuts and lower tax breaks-applicable in 2019 and 2020 respectively—to unlock the cash payment ahead of looming debt repayments in July.

Athens hopes that the loan payment will be approved by a meeting of eurozone finance ministers on May 22. The bill is to be approved late tomorrow. — AFP

EASYJET LOSSES CLIMB ON BREXIT-HIT POUND, EASTER

LONDON: EasyJet's losses grew significantly in the first half due to the Brexit-fueled slump in the pound and the later timing of Easter, the British low-cost airline said yesterday.

Losses after taxation stood at £192 million (\$248 million, 226 million euros) in the six months to the end of March, EasyJet said in a results statement. That contrasted with a slender loss of £15 million a year earlier.

Pre-tax losses expanded to £236 million compared with £18 million last time around. Sales rose 3.2 percent to £1.8 billion. Easter—a peak-time for holiday-makers-fell in April this year, outside of EasyJet's reporting period. However, it fell in March in 2016.

"The first half loss is in line with market expectations and reflects the movement of Easter into the second half as

well as currency effects which together had an estimated impact of circa £127 million on the bottom line," said chief executive Carolyn McCall.

However, McCall added that summer bookings are ahead of last year and that demand for flights and holidays remains "strong," with consumers prioritizing travel expenditure over "non-essential" items.

One of the biggest consequences of Britain's June 23, 2016 referendum to quit the European Union has been the slump in the pound against the euro and dollar. That has dragged on the profitability of EasyJet.

The collapsing value of the pound weighs on EasyJet's performance because it makes dollar-priced jet fuel more expensive, ramping up the cost of running aircraft. — AFP

INSURANCE KNOW-HOW CAN HELP CITIES CUT DISASTER RISK: EXPERT

LONDON: When torrential rain inundated Copenhagen in 2011, within a few hours city officials realized they needed to be better prepared for the next once-in-a-century down-pour, to prevent a steep rise in damage claims and insurance payouts. Although the Danish capital had some disaster plans in place, the flooding caused 1 billion euros (\$1.09 billion) in damages, according to insurers, and crippled the city for days.

Working closely with insurance companies and other partners, Copenhagen developed a strategy to make the city greener and use its parks, squares and streets to channel excess water rather than relying on walls, barriers and underground tunnels.

Its award-winning "Cloudburst Management Plan" is just one example of how cities are getting smarter at preparing for disasters, said Butch Bacani, head of UN Environment's Principles for Sustainable Insurance Initiative

(PSI). Although the insurance industry plays a big part in paying out for losses, which helps urban households and businesses cope after a disaster, its ability to support cities in protecting themselves from threats is often overlooked, he said.

"There is a lot of risk management expertise in the sector that cities can benefit from but it has been largely contained within the industry itself," Bacani told the Thomson Reuters Foundation at the Resilient Cities conference in Bonn this month.

Launched in 2012 and built around four principles, the PSI is a global framework for the insurance industry to address environmental, social and governance risks.

More than 100 signatories have adopted the principles, including insurers representing more than 20 percent of world premium volume and \$14 trillion in assets under management. The number of disasters affecting cities is expected

to rise amid climate change and rapid urbanization, particularly in Africa and Asia, which will see the share of the global population living in urban areas rise to two-thirds from just over half at present. Globally, 80 percent of the largest cities are vulnerable to severe earthquakes, and 60 percent are at risk from tsunamis and storm surges, according to UN data.

Bacani said insurers can help cities cut their risk, for example, by improving land-use planning and building codes, and by rewarding disaster preparedness through their premiums.

"Linking risk reduction efforts to premiums and insurance coverage is critical to changing behavior and promoting good risk management in urban areas," he said. Over the past few decades, insurers have developed more sophisticated catastrophe risk modelling techniques and detailed weather modelling technologies to assess exposure and vulnerability to disasters, said Bacani. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.689
Indian Rupees	4.758
Pakistani Rupees	2.910
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.997
Nepali Rupees	2.981
Singapore Dollar	218.980
Hongkong Dollar	39.195
Bangladesh Taka	3.757
Philippine Peso	6.148
Thai Baht	8.852
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.428
Qatari Riyal	83.867
Omani Riyal	793.009
Bahraini Dinar	810.810
UAE Dirham	83.136
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.400
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	16.805
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.226
Tunisian Dinar	126.880
Jordanian Dinar	430.150
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.034
Syrian Lira	2.176
Morocco Dirham	31.394
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	305.150
Euro	337.040
Sterling Pound	395.470
Canadian dollar	224.870
Turkish lira	864.800

Swiss Franc	308.230
Australian Dollar	227.790
US Dollar Buying	303.950
GOLD	
20 Gram	251.860
10 Gram	128.850
5 Gram	65.270

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

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
EUROPE		
British Pound	0.387239	0.397239
Czech Koruna	0.004535	0.016535
Danish Krone	0.040752	0.045752
Euro	0.327958	0.336958
Norwegian Krone	0.031594	0.036794
Romanian Leu	0.084611	0.084611
Slovakia	0.009141	0.019141
Slovenia	0.030438	0.035438
Swiss Franc	0.298250	0.309250
Turkish Lira	0.080245	0.090545
AUSTRALASIA		
Australian Dollar	0.217434	0.229434
New Zealand Dollar	0.203352	0.212852
AMERICA		
Canadian Dollar	0.217669	0.226669
Georgina Lari	0.137890	0.137890
US Dollars	0.301200	0.305600
US Dollars Mint	0.301700	0.305600
ASIA		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003414	0.003998
Chinese Yuan	0.042805	0.046305
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037094	0.039844
Indian Rupee	0.004139	0.004827

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002606	0.002786
Kenyan Shilling	0.002947	0.002947
Korean Won	0.000261	0.000276
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066346	0.072346
Nepalese Rupee	0.003016	0.003186
Pakistan Rupee	0.002717	0.003007
Philippine Peso	0.006014	0.006314
Sierra Leone	0.000038	0.000044
Singapore Dollar	0.212098	0.222098
South African Rand	0.016818	0.025318
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001638	0.002218
Taiwan	0.010000	0.010180
Thai Baht	0.008479	0.009029
ARAB		
Bahraini Dinar	0.803243	0.811743
Egyptian Pound	0.014058	0.019966
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000191	0.000251
Jordanian Dinar	0.425248	0.434248
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.00252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020753	0.044753
Nigerian Naira	0.000399	0.001034
Omani Riyal	0.786566	0.792246
Qatar Riyal	0.083047	0.084497
Saudi Riyal	0.080327	0.081627
Syrian Pound	0.001295	0.001515
Tunisian Dinar	0.123523	0.131523
Turkish Lira	0.080245	0.090545
UAE Dirhams	0.081697	0.083397
Yemeni Riyal	0.000993	0.001073

BRITISH INFLATION DRIVES HIGHER AHEAD OF ELECTION

LONDON: British inflation hit its highest level since September 2013 last month, building on its sharp rise since the vote to leave the European Union and tightening the squeeze on living costs for households ahead of a national election on June 8. Consumer prices rose in April by an annual 2.7 percent, the Office for National Statistics said yesterday, and economists said inflation would climb further as the fall in the value of the pound since the Brexit vote pushes up the cost of imports.

Economists taking part in a Reuters poll had predicted a rise of 2.6 percent. Much of the rise in April was due to the late timing of the Easter holiday which pushed up air fares. But the combination of sterling's fall and higher oil prices are pushing up inflation across the board for consumers

and businesses. Last week Bank of England Governor Mark Carney warned this year would be challenging for consumers, saying that wages are about to fall in real, inflation-adjusted terms.

The head of Britain's biggest trade union group said yesterday's inflation data meant living standards should be front and centre of the election campaign. "The last thing Britain needs is another real wage slump. But rising prices are hammering pay packets," Trades Union Congress General Secretary Frances O'Grady said. "Working people are still 20 pounds a week worse off, on average, than they were before the (financial) crash. That's why living standards must be a key battleground at this election." Prime Minister Theresa May is widely expected to defeat the opposition Labour

Party which is calling for an end to strict limits on public sector pay growth and higher minimum wage. Despite the inflation rise, however, the economy is far from overheating-meaning that all but one of the BoE's eight policymakers voted last week to keep interest rates on hold.

Airfares swing in Easter

The latest inflation figures were boosted most of all by rising airfares during the Easter holidays which last year took place in March. Rising clothing prices, higher car tax and electricity also pushed up consumer prices. One-off effects aside, some see more inflation ahead.

"We remain convinced that the market is underestimating the further upside for inflation from here," Scotiabank analyst

Alan Clarke said, adding that he expected utility bills, food costs and the weak pound to put more pressure on prices in future. Sterling briefly spiked to its highest in almost a week against the dollar before falling back. Many economists say the impact of the fall in sterling on consumer prices will be felt more strongly in the coming months, and the central bank expects inflation to peak at nearly 3 percent by the end of this year.

Capital Economics said it expected inflation to exceed 3 percent before the end of the year but saw little sign of domestic inflation pressures becoming entrenched. Excluding oil prices and other volatile components such as food, core consumer price inflation rose to 2.4 percent, the strongest rate since March 2013

and above economists' expectations for it to rise to 2.2 percent.

Services prices - which the BoE uses as a guide to domestic inflation pressures - rose by 3.0 percent, the biggest jump since September 2013, pushed up by the higher air fares. Factory output prices - a guide to future consumer price pressures - increased 3.6 percent, unchanged from the previous month and above forecasts of a 3.4 percent annual increase in the Reuters poll. Prices paid by factories for materials and energy rose at the weakest annual pace since November, up 16.6 percent. The ONS said house prices in March rose at their weakest rate since October 2013, up 4.1 percent on the year. Prices in London alone grew 1.5 percent, the weakest since March 2012. — Reuters



COLOMBO: Sri Lankan workers make clothes at a garment factory in Colombo yesterday. Sri Lankan exporters will have their duty free access to the European Union reinstated from May 19, an official said yesterday. — AFP

SRI LANKA GRANTED EU EXPORT CONCESSION DESPITE RIGHTS CONCERNS

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan exporters will have their duty free access to the European Union reinstated from Friday, an official said yesterday, despite Colombo's failure to fully comply with its human rights obligations.

The 28-member EU last week agreed to restore its generalized system of preferences (GSP Plus) — a favorable tariff scheme to encourage developing nations to comply with human rights to Sri Lanka from Friday after a seven-year hiatus. Sri Lanka was denied GSP Plus status in 2010 after failing to meet its rights obligations. The new administration of Maithripala Sirisena reapplied for the tariff concession after coming to power in 2015. Sirisena has agreed to address concerns identified by the international community but has been slow to deliver accountability for war-time atrocities under his predecessor Mahinda Rajapakse. EU ambassador to Sri

Lanka, Tung-Lai Margue, said exporters could enjoy the duty free status from Friday, despite outstanding concerns. "There are no serious failures (under the new government)," he told reporters in Colombo.

"But that does not mean that everything is perfect. As in the case of all countries benefiting from GSP Plus, the removal of customs duties for Sri Lanka will be accompanied by rigorous (human rights) monitoring." There were still "serious concerns" about the use of torture by law enforcement, child marriages and social discrimination, he added.

Margue said Sri Lanka would reap a 300 million euro (\$331 million) benefit annually from exporting to the EU, a key market for its goods. Sri Lanka's exports to the EU amounted to roughly 2.6 billion euros last year despite the island nation not enjoying the favorable tariff scheme. — AFP

ABSENT FROM AMERICA, FRENCH CARS DRIVE INTO IRAN ELECTION

LONDON/PARIS/FRANKFURT: French carmakers PSA and Renault are turning their US absence into an Iranian advantage by piling into a resurgent market still off-limits to foreign rivals fearful of sanctions under Donald Trump's administration. The French investment has been seized upon by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who is seeking re-election this week, as evidence that his pursuit of a nuclear detente and attempts to attract foreign money will pay off for the economy.

PSA - the maker of Peugeot and Citroens - and Renault have pushed hard into Iran since its 2015 deal with world powers that saw international sanctions lifted in return for curbs on Tehran's nuclear activities. PSA has signed production deals worth 700 million euros (\$768 million), while Renault has announced a new plant investment to increase its production capacity to 350,000 vehicles a year. The French companies, unlike their German, American and Japanese competitors, do not have manufacturing or sales operations in the United States. This makes them less vulnerable to penalties for any violation of US sanctions still in force which ban financial transactions with Iran.

The prospect of a hardened US stance under President Trump a consistent critic of the nuclear deal - has deepened the caution of carmakers with large American exposures. Germany's Volkswagen and BMW are among those that have put Iranian ambitions on hold, industry sources told Reuters.

"We're well aware of the market potential in Iran but we can't afford to take any risks," said a source close to VW. The company declined to comment on specific investment discussions. PSA and Renault declined to comment on their Iranian operations in detail. Earlier this year, PSA's Middle East chief Jean-Christophe Quemard acknowledged that the renewed U.S. pressure under Trump was helping his company stay ahead of foreign rivals who were holding back.

"This is our opportunity to accelerate," Quemard said. "We've opened up a lead and we plan to hold on to it." Early movers to establish Iranian operations could win big in a market deprived for years of affordable state-of-the-art vehicles and where sizeable import duties hand a major advantage to locally built cars. Iranian car sales jumped 50 percent in the first quarter of 2017, according to data provider IHS Automotive, with models from Peugeot, Renault and Iran's SAIPA showing solid gains. Tehran car salesman Mehdi Monfared, whose dealership mostly sells domestic manufacturer Iran Khodro's namesake brand, said he had witnessed an "explosion" in demand in recent months.

"People are being less careful with their money and are spending their savings on cars," he told Reuters by telephone. "And the banks are lending."

Presidential Peugeot

Rouhani pushed the French investment to the forefront of his election campaign when he attended a ceremony this month to mark the production launch of the Peugeot 2008, the first product of post-sanctions manufacturing deals with foreign carmakers.

"When we signed the nuclear deal, critics said it was just a piece of paper that would never be implemented," the president, whose main challenger is a hardline cleric opposed to opening up Iranian markets, said in an Instagram post picturing him behind the wheel of the mini-SUV at the event in Tehran. "But now we can see that auto industry sanctions have been lifted, joint venture agreements concluded and a new car is being built." PSA and Renault have moved swiftly to sign new production deals to upgrade their pre-sanctions partnerships with Iran Khodro and SAIPA. PSA plans to add more Peugeot and Citroen models in coming months, while Renault has introduced its Sandero compact alongside the Tondar sedan.

By contrast VW, which had been considering a production tie-up with Iran's Mammut Khodro, has put the talks on the backburner because of the uncertainty, according to the source close to the group.

"Any company operating in Iran or planning to enter the market needs to ask itself what could happen if there is a fundamental change of course by the U.S.," the person said.

BMW has also studied production, import and distribution opportunities in Iran but concluded that the time was not right, according to a source familiar with the matter.

"Once we see General Motors and Ford set up shop our plans may be revived, but not before," the person said. A BMW spokesman said the company's future entry into Iran "will depend on political and economic developments", adding: "There are currently no concrete plans."

Daimler had announced undated plans for Iranian heavy truck production before Trump's November election victory, but now plays them down. "There is hardly any economic growth in Iran, so demand for commercial vehicles is generally low," the company said. US carmakers withdrew before the 1979 Iranian revolution as ties between the countries broke down. Japanese manufacturers such as Toyota have not signalled any Iranian investment plans since the nuclear deal. — Reuters

EUROZONE NEEDS MORE THAN GERMANY TO EKE OUT GROWTH

REGION GREW BY A QUARTERLY RATE OF 0.5%

LONDON: Germany once again helped the 19-country eurozone eke out steady, if unspectacular, economic growth in the first quarter of the year. The hope is now that others, such as France and Italy, will start to pull their weight more and push growth even higher this year.

Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, confirmed yesterday that the region, which spans from Ireland in the west to the Baltic states in the east, grew by a quarterly rate of 0.5 percent. The update also confirmed that the eurozone performed better than the US in the first quarter. The US economy, according to Eurostat, expanded by a quarterly 0.2 percent. The eurozone's growth rate isn't bad, but it's not great either - roughly in line with its recovery from recession that started four years back. There is evidence, however, that the eurozone could pick up pace in coming months, especially as some of the political worries that clouded its immediate future have dissipated, with the defeat of populist politicians in elections, most recently Marine Le Pen in France.

French President Emmanuel Macron, inaugurated Sunday, is inheriting an economy that appears to be gaining traction, even before any potential boon from his economic agenda, which includes

cutting taxes on companies and labor, investing more in technology and promoting freer trade.

Expectations are high that the French economy will do better in the second quarter than it did in the first, when it expanded by 0.3 percent. That's not enough for France to really dent its unemployment rate, which has stood above 10 percent for years. In particular, surveys of business activity as measured by financial information company IHS Markit are increasingly rosy about France. The country certainly has some catching up to do, particularly with Germany, which has been driving eurozone growth in recent years. That was evident in the first quarter, when Germany's growth was double France's at 0.6 percent.

One of the major problems afflicting the eurozone during the recovery has been how reliant it has been on Germany. The hope in Berlin is that other countries will emerge as pillars of growth, especially now that the region appears to have set aside its debt issues.

Italy, which is one of the region's big debtors but avoided needing a bailout like Greece or Portugal, is another country that has been advancing at a crawl. However, like France, there are signs of improvement there, too.

"Looking ahead, economic data for the second quarter suggest that growth could accelerate as we head towards the summer months," said Oliver Kolodseike, senior economist at the Centre for Economics and Business Research. "Encouragingly, the data signal a broad-based upturn."

Of the large majority that have released first-quarter figures, only Greece showed output declining, albeit by a bare 0.1 percent. Greece has now shrunk for two straight quarters - the technical definition of a recession. The Greek economy is 25 percent smaller than it was eight years ago following a brutal recession associated with its debt crisis and accompanying bailouts.

The latest setback, which followed a period of modest growth, has come as the Greek government and its creditors in the eurozone and the International Monetary Fund haggle over what was needed for the next release of bailout funds.

With Greek lawmakers now set to approve further austerity measures, there are hopes that the ensuing release of more rescue funds. That, in turn, should shore up confidence that Greece won't be heading for another crisis that would see it skirt with bankruptcy and a potential exit from the euro. — AP



JIANGSU: This photo taken on Monday shows trucks lined up at the docks waiting to be exported at a port in Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu province. — AFP

XI SEEKS TO REWRITE GLOBAL TRADE RULES AS US RETREATS

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping wants to rewrite world trade rules and cast himself as a champion of globalization as he capitalizes on a US retreat into "America First" policies, analysts say. But not everyone is buying the rhetoric. Xi's plan was on display this week at an international summit in Beijing to promote his signature foreign policy, the One Belt, One Road initiative that aims to revive ancient land and sea trade routes.

The meeting gave Xi a spotlight to raise his standing abroad and at home, where he faces a crucial Communist Party congress later this year. World leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, heaped praise on the idea which Xi boasted would be "a project of the century" and "unleash new driving forces for global economic growth." Xi emerged as an unlikely capitalist hero at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January when he extolled open trade and denounced protectionism. He now stands in stark contrast to US President Donald Trump whose pursuit of "America First" policies on trade and foreign relations has given China the chance to reshape the global and political landscape in its favor.

"He (Xi) is very anxious to move as early as possible to take advantage of the vacuum created by Donald Trump and show that China has the capacity to be a rule maker," China political analyst Willy Lam said. But Xi's cherished Silk Road plan has raised concerns that he is seeking to expand China's economic and political ambitions abroad rather than open up his own country to further trade and investment.

"Hopefully (One Belt, One Road) is not a one-way street but two-way," European Union Chamber of Commerce in China President Joerg Wuttke told reporters recently.

"I hope China is not just reaching out to the world but actually embracing the world and open-

ing up to foreign trade." Despite claims that it welcomes foreign investment, China has long been criticized for erecting barriers in a wide range of sectors from automobiles to finance, while also subsidizing its own companies. It ranked 84th globally behind Saudi Arabia and Ukraine in the World Bank's ease of doing business index for 2016, and second to last in an OECD report on the restrictiveness towards foreign investment.

Financial risks

Many doubt the motives behind its latest plan. "I don't think many people are buying the spin that this is all in the name of free trade and global prosperity," said Andrew Gilholm from global risk consultancy Control Risks. "I think a lot of countries are going along with it because that's how much significance political leaders attach to trying to benefit from aligning with China's economic priorities." The China-bankrolled project involves a massive network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks spanning some 65 countries across Asia, Africa and Europe. Xi has pledged an extra \$124 billion for the plan, on top of the \$890 billion already earmarked by the China Development Bank for some 900 projects.

The huge spending plan comes as China looks for ways to spur economic growth, which has slowed in recent years as the country transitions away from a debt-fueled investment-driven model to one more reliant on consumer spending. But many of the countries involved in the initiative representing 60 percent of the world population and around a third of global gross domestic product have poor records on corporate and political governance and there are fears China could run into trouble. "If projects are

not commercially viable this becomes a very expensive commitment at a time when domestic financial strain is rising," said Gilholm.

PR coup

But Lam said problems would only start to emerge in the coming years, giving Xi time to use the Silk Road plan to burnish his credentials as a global statesman at home and abroad.

The summit comes ahead of a crucial Communist Party congress later this year. Regarded as the most powerful Chinese leader in a generation, Xi will secure a second five-year term at the congress and will have the opportunity to promote his favoured allies to the country's ultimate decision-making body. Enthusiastic state-media coverage of the two-day Silk Road summit, which was attended by leaders from nearly 30 countries, showed Xi with the sort of attention he craves.

"I think the optics worked out well for him," said Gilholm. "But obviously there's a heck of a lot more to it than just holding an event and having people make nice speeches. It gets harder from now onwards." — AFP

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KUWAIT: The luxury BAIC SUV BJ40L during a test drive near Kuwait Towers. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

BAIC BJ40L: TURNING EVERY JOURNEY INTO AN ADVENTURE

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The beautiful and eye-catching design of the luxury BAIC SUV BJ40L is attracting people to this fashionable vehicle. This extraordinary SUV is luxurious yet affordable, with unlimited ambition and fearless power. One of the most important elements demanded by drivers in Kuwait is a powerful air-conditioning system. The BJ40L provides a cool atmosphere inside the vehicle, no matter how hot it is outside.

The exclusive agent of BAIC in Kuwait is Mutawa Alkazi Co, which provides the BJ40L in five colors including black, white, red, green and dark red. It's available in both automatic and manual transmission, with dual transfer case for off-road driving. BJ40L has a beautifully designed interior, and luxurious leather seats ensure best comfort while driving. Apart from the control buttons under the touch screen, the steering wheel is also equipped with volume, program changing and other control buttons to ensure maximum safety while driving.

This vehicle has smart functions. The operation of BJ40L is easy and convenient thanks to the design and considerate

detail. For instance, a cup holder at the air outlet, panoramic reversing radar, powered foldable side mirrors and overhead stereo system. It also has an off-road survival information system, as the dashboard shows such information as gradient, direction, altitude and atmospheric pressure.

Flexible body arrangement

The roof, doors and windscreens are easily detachable. BJ40L offers a unique experience, so you will never stop looking forward to a change. It offers oversized trunk space and the seats can be adjusted as needed. When the rear seats are turned over, you can have storage up to 600 liters.

This elegant vehicle combines safety and high performance. The BJ40L was manufactured and tested like a military vehicle and comparable to a military vehicle. The SUV employs military technology including metal-embossed brake line and all-floating drive axle. This SUV is available in two versions - 4 cylinder 2.4 liter 143 hp, and 4 cylinder turbo 2.3 liter 250 hp.

The BJ40L was designed in accordance with the classic features of an

absolute SUV; strong, simple, and imposing. The profile is tough, pure, concise, and fashionable. This fashionable SUV is equipped with strong separate frame construction. The BJ40L boasts separate frame construction, which increase its torsional stiffness by 40 percent. The cross-section of its frame put BJ40L in a position to withstand any extreme torque.

The BJ40L has a high-efficiency power output: It reaches 82 percent of peak torque at 1200 rpm and 90 percent at 1600 rpm. It is safe and reliable. It has a standard configuration of ultra-high anti-roll frame in the front and the rear constitutes a natural barrier to protect passengers. The anti-compressive stiffness on the roof is up to 22240N.

The BJ40L has a unique traffic ability. Its approach angle is 37°, departure angle is 33°, ramp-over angle is 24°, and minimum ground clearance is 210 mm. The driver can choose a part-time 4-wheel drive. BJ40L can work under all kinds of weather and topography, and allows torque to be magnified 2.5 times up to 542NM, 2-wheel rear-drive, high-speed 4-wheel drive, and low-speed 4-wheel drive.



ZENITH, OOREDOO LAUNCH TV SYNC FOR FIRST TIME IN KUWAIT



KUWAIT: During the Kuwaiti parliamentary elections that took place last November, when TV viewings is at its highest, Ooredoo Kuwait, one of the leading communications networks in the Middle East, ran a campaign using Zenith's TV Sync tool that linked its TVCs to online videos. The challenge was to tie together the TV ad campaign with engaging online videos to drive higher reach and maximize ROI.

TV Sync enables a marketer to synchronize its above the line TV advertising with different digital channels. When a TV ad ran for Ooredoo Kuwait, it triggered a display ad and videos on tablets, mobiles and desktops - scooping up second-screens, driving incremental reach and delivering relevant messages about the brand to consumers when they were most receptive.

The first of its kind in the market, the campaign achieved more than 200,000 complete views during the span of 28 hours, and received an average view rate of 60 percent. TV Sync achieved 28.5 percent more complete

view rate and 213 percent higher click through rate (CTR) than video campaigns on social platforms.

"As technology changes the speed and way people engage with content across devices, it's imperative that successful marketers are able to connect with consumers in real time. Zenith is committed to being at the forefront of innovation and we believe our insights and in-house capabilities help us map the right course for our clients," says Mohamed Reda, Media Director at Zenith Kuwait.

"Due to the media clutter in Kuwait, we are always trying to find an opportunity where our messages can stand out and reach our target audience efficiently. During elections, when most brands also invest in TV, we needed to be one-step ahead. TV Sync helped us maximize our exposure and achieve higher ROI, while reaching our target audience wherever on multiple platforms," says Talal Al-Fassam, Advertising Manager at Ooredoo Kuwait.

Zenith is The ROI Agency. We blend data, technology

and brilliant specialists to scout out new opportunities, solve complex challenges and grow our clients' businesses. Zenith is part of Publicis Media, one of four solution hubs within Publicis Groupe [Euronext Paris FR0000130577, CAC40], and has offices within Publicis One. We have over 5000 brilliant specialists across 95 markets. We are experts in communications & media planning, content, performance marketing, value optimization and data & analytics. Zenith works with some of the local's leading brands including Ooredoo, Jazeera Airways, National Bank of Kuwait, Abyat, Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) and Fastelco. In addition to the world's leading brands including Acer, Bahrain Economic Development Board, Bel Group, BMW Group Middle East, Creditbank, Coty, Dabur Egypt, Jergens, Kering Group, Nestle Egypt, Omantel, Reckitt Benckiser, SAMBA, Singapore Airlines, Singapore Tourism Board, SCA, Sanofi, TE Data and 21st Century Fox.

UNIQUE OFFERS FROM CADILLAC ALGHANIM AHEAD OF RAMADAN

CADILLAC ALGHANIM PAYS FIRST 6 INSTALLMENTS WHEN BUYING A NEW XT5 2017

KUWAIT: Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the sole distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, continues to uphold the luxury experience it offers to customers. Designed and engineered to give its driver greater comfort and luxury with more entertainment and safety technologies, the XT5 strengthens Cadillac's position as a leader in its field, coupling innovation in design, overall luxury and a new chassis system that improves the stunning performance and makes driving safer.

The Cadillac XT5 engineers were able to design a lighter car to enhance its performance and fuel consumption. The car is 126 kilograms lighter than its predecessor the Cadillac SRX, while the rear seat area has increased by 8.1 centimeters. The rear seat also comes with a forward and backward sliding option as seen in the Cadillac CTS and ATS models,

tion. The aesthetics of the car stand out in its elegant lines that form the edges of every part of the car, from the bonnet to the doors, the front grille, the rear design and headlights. The interior reflects the Cadillac philosophy of elegance, modernity and high-precision professionalism, adding to the comfort features in the enhanced luxury experience. Like all Cadillacs, the stylish and neat tailoring looks truly reflects the brand's passion for luxury away from the ready-made molds found in other cars.

When speaking of the Cadillac power, it is not easily compared to other competitors, as the XT5 engine releases a maximum pulling power of 310 horsepower with a torque of up to 271 lb/ft. This six-cylinder V6 engine operates a timeless, variable-speed valve technology that responds to

area has been added. The dual or dual clutch system also allows driving in four-wheel AWD mode to enhance performance and intelligent response to road conditions and climate.

The Cadillac XT5 also incorporates the latest Cadillac technology for entertainment, information and safety. The mirror and rear camera are patented and have become the industry benchmark, increasing vision by 300 percent, providing a video display that exceeds conventional displays. The rear camera captures the rear of the car at a wide angle and transmits images to a video display on a screen made of liquid crystal. Moreover, the car incorporates Cadillac's Driver Awareness Package which anticipates accidents and possibly helps avoid them. The package includes a number of functions including front and rear brakes at low speeds, an alarm system when leaving the driving lane, traffic warning system behind the car, detection of blind spots in side mirrors, highway fastening system and vehicle parking assistance system.

The CUE information and entertainment system is fully controlled and is improved from previous models, featuring a faster and more accurate powerful data processor console. Like all Cadillacs, the XT5 offers 4G Internet connectivity with WiFi, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto to ensure faster and better synchronization with smartphones. The car also features a technology that reflects the car panel on the interior windshield so that the driver can better focus on the path ahead. All interior and exterior LED lights come with a bird's eye view, provide a wider range viewing area.

Premium Care Program

As part of its commitment to enhance customers' unique Cadillac experience, Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive offers its customers peace of mind with a comprehensive insurance program. In addition, all Cadillac owners will enjoy service and maintenance for four years or 100,000 km, warranty for 4 years or 100,000 km, 24-hour roadside assistance anywhere in the Middle East for four years (unlimited miles) plus a courtesy transportation and a replacement vehicle upon availability.



making them the lightest cars in their category. The lighter design and better strength were also achieved using laser welding technology and strong steel sheets, which are engineered to enhance the performance of the vehicle while driving on the roads and in the event of collisions.

With strength and innovation, the Cadillac XT5 is ready to launch a new phase of innovative design and superior manufacturing to reflect the brand's exclusive engineering and technical design culture, especially when it comes to enhancing performance, driving experience and engine efficiency which reduces fuel consump-

tion. The driver's desire to start or reduce speed. The engine is powered by a smart start button that features a brand-new technology, which is automatic stop and start of the engine in cases of long downtime from traffic, allowing the car to save on fuel. The engine integrates an 8-speed transmission found in all Cadillac XT5 cars, however with a sleek and compact electronic control arm, the first electronic transmission technology to be used in a Cadillac. This technology helps reduce noise and vibration, and provides more space in the car, and especially between the driver and front passenger seat where a new storage



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNER OF AL-THURAYA SALARY ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday Falah Faleh Mubarak Al-Not as the lucky winner of the Al-Thuraya Salary Account monthly draw. The winner was presented with a Nissan Patrol SUV.

The draw rewards new and existing customers who transfer their salary to Burgan Bank by offering them a chance to win a Nissan Patrol SUV every month. With every KD 10 available in the account, the customer receives one chance to enter the draw.

The Al-Thuraya account holders have the option to hold money in Kuwaiti Dinar and any other major currencies and can access other account-related services such as standing orders, loans and credit cards and much more.

Customers wishing to open the Al-Thuraya account can do so by simply visiting the nearest Burgan Bank branch and obtain all the necessary details.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned

subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

Burgan Bank, a subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a strongly positioned regional Bank in the MENA region.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 14 May 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 7 May - 11 May 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners are:
(Sunday 7/5): Faisal Soud Katea Al-Shemmeri, Ghanim Hamad Abdulrahman Al-Najjar

(Monday 8/5): Jaafar Salef Ali Boshohri, Hussain Khaled Ebrahim Al-Halwaji

(Tuesday 9/5): Danah Mohammad Najeeb Al-Fahad, Andrew James Thomas

(Wednesday 10/5): Sami Abdullah Mohammad Hadi Al-Awadhi, Khalil Homoud Marzouq Al-Shimmari

(Thursday 11/5): Haitham Abdulredha Abdulla Kakooli, Abdulla Mohammed Abdulla Al-Saqer

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al-Danah's 2nd quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on 29 June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced.

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

1. Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
2. Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
3. Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
4. The most chances to win
5. Only bank that transfers your chances to win from the previous year to the current year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires. Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al-Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers require a minimum of KD200 to open an account and the same amount must be maintained as for customers to be eligible for the upcoming Al-Danah draws. If the customer's account balance falls below KD 200 at any given time, a KD2 charge will be made on a monthly basis to the account until the minimum balance is met. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the daily draw within two days.



ABK LAUNCHES NEW PRESTIGE SALARY ACCOUNT CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced the launch of a refreshed Prestige salary account campaign, bringing its Prestige customers 'Peace of Mind' with a variety of benefits, rewards and privileges, which aim to meet their requirements and aspirations.

Prestige account is offered for clients wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts and is available to customers aged 21 years and above with a minimum salary of KD 1,000.

Customers opening a new salary account with ABK will be eligible to receive a cash prize up to KD 300 or an interest free loan upon salary transfer for the first time. Furthermore, ABK's new and existing Prestige customers

are eligible to enter the draw upon transfer of their salary and they will get the chance to double their salary every week. They will also be offered free valet parking in locations across Kuwait, free local and international transfers, free credit card issuance and a free safe deposit box.

Additionally, they can also enjoy 24/7 access with multiple e-banking and tele-banking channels, SMS alert services, free cheque book issuance and withdrawal limits for ATM up to KD 2,000 per day offering them easy access to their funds. ABK is keen to offer a unique banking experience to all its customers not only through comprehensive simpler banking solutions, but also by presenting them with value added services and privileges.





HTC UNVEILS NEW FLAGSHIP SMARTPHONE: THE HTC U11

DUBAI: You affectionately squeeze the hand of the one you love. A baby intuitively squeezes her mother's finger. A child squeezes his teddy bear to feel safe at night. Nothing feels as close, connected and personal as the sensation of touch or the warmth of an embrace. And no device is as personal in our lives as our smartphone. Inspired by the power of touch and the Brilliant U, HTC yesterday unveiled HTC U11, the world's first smartphone with revolutionary new squeeze interaction. Made for "U" with design, materials, and experiences that reflect your inner drive, passion, creativity, and individuality.

U touch

Few things are as natural and intuitive as the sense of touch. HTC Edge Sense transforms this fundamental sense into a completely new and revolutionary interaction with your phone. With a simple squeeze, HTC Edge Sense lets you easily engage with your phone in an unprecedented yet intuitive way, helping you more naturally enjoy the things you love like taking photos, opening Facebook, or launching any of your favorite apps.

For example, with HTC Edge Sense, launching your camera has never been easier. No more fumbling for buttons or awkward hand positions. No more worrying about dropping your phone while you pose. Just lift, squeeze, smile, and snap. You can also send texts faster and easier than before. Texting can be impossible when you are on the move, but using HTC Edge Sense for Voice to Text, you can speak your text messages without having to slow down. Lightly squeeze, speak your message and send your texts on the go.

You can even customize the squeeze gesture: open email with just a squeeze. Or launch your favorite game (or any other app). Or pick any one of a host of options. Want even more touch control? HTC Edge Sense gives you the ability to activate advanced touch and use a "short squeeze" as well as a "squeeze and hold" for even more functionality at your fingertips. And because Edge Sense is based on actual pressure applied to the side of the device, it can be used in nearly any condition - including while wearing gloves or in weather such as snow or rain that would normally be a challenge with capacitive buttons.

Reflects U

HTC U11's liquid glass surface is crafted to

impress using Optical Spectrum Hybrid Deposition. By layering highly-refractive precious minerals across the phone's back cover, we've created vivid new colors that transform light with every movement you make. The new seamless, curved look of HTC U11 is achieved with 3D glass on both front and back. Heating and then bending the glass using extreme pressure results in unique, 3-axis symmetry for a phone that is slim no matter which way you hold it.

HTC U11 has a 5.5" Quad HD 3D glass screen designed for vivid, crisp images and text in any light - even direct sunlight. With our best display and true-to-life color reproduction, we provide you a purer full-framed viewing experience. Our display avoids the cropped pictures or distorted colors at the edge that are the results you can expect from a curved screen. Plus, HTC U11 is water-resistant, so no need to worry about splashes, spills, or dunks.

Tuned to U

HTC U11 introduces the latest version of HTC USonic, which now combines Active Noise Cancellation with the ability to tune audio to your unique hearing. By leveraging built-in microphones on the headset and USB-C data connectivity, USonic earbuds map your inner ear with an advanced sonar-like technology and then adapt the sound profile to your unique biology. This creates an incredibly personal and optimized listening experience with vibrant audio shaped specifically for you. USonic now incorporates Active Noise Cancellation, which reduces distractions and distractions around you, so you can stay focused on your music. Active Noise Cancellation continuously monitors environmental sound levels, and quickly adjusts to any new noises or disturbances. You're free to stay focused on your music, videos, or games.

HTC BoomSound Hi-Fi Edition speakers got an upgrade, too. We've improved the speaker design to deliver more loudness and better Dynamic Range Audio. On top, the tweeter now offers an acoustic chamber that allows the highs and mids to sound richer. While below, the woofer sports a new speaker and improved magnetic circuit design for louder, clearer and deeper bass tones. You really have to hear it to believe the power of BoomSound. We didn't forget to upgrade the

microphones, either, using four optimally positioned omni-directional microphones together with our new Acoustic Focus technology. HTC brings you our best 3D audio recording quality yet. HTC U11's microphones work together to record audio from all directions, and when shooting video with Acoustic Focus, you can visually zoom in to target your subject and amplify their specific sounds. Out of the box, we will also ship an HTC USB-C to 3.5mm adapter with a built-in DAC that offers great audio performance and wide compatibility with all other devices and earphones.

Pictures that move U

HTC U11 has achieved the highest ever rating for a smartphone camera for both photo and video by independent metric DxOMark. Our multi-axis optical stabilization system and super-fast autofocus in all lighting conditions make the camera quick, your pictures sharp, and videos smooth. We improved our camera and video for a more dynamic exposure range with HDR Boost without the lag, new white balance enhancement, a major reduction in noise, and excellent detail preservation.

HTC U11 introduces Auto HDR Boost to give you all the benefits of HDR without the lag. HDR Boost offers clearer, more balanced pictures by taking multiple shots that measure the darkest shadows and brightest highlights without any slowdown. HTC U11 enhances textures and colors, increases visible detail and brings out the best in every shot. When shooting video, Temporal Noise Reduction automatically uses information from the previous and next frames to remove unwanted noise and deliver the clearest video. Great news for serious photographers: HTC U11 incorporates the new UltraSpeed AutoFocus with same full sensor auto-focus technology that's found in top DSLR cameras, so you can enjoy significantly faster focus speeds, with snappy and delightful performance.

In addition, HTC U11's exceptional optical and electronic stabilization system will keep your photos and video steady and crisp even when your hand is shaking. The new front camera now combines high-resolution 16MP detail and our UltraPixel light sensitivity for brilliant selfies day or night. It also utilizes the same powerful HDR Boost and noise reduction as the main camera.

WANNACRYPT RANSOMWARE: IMPROVING CYBER DEFENSES

By Steven Malone



The global reach and considerable impact of the WannaCrypt (Wcry) ransomware is a wake-up call for organizations and governments around the world. This on-going cyber threat will continue to adapt to take advantage of weaknesses in IT systems and procedures. New variants of this malware may cause even more damage if you do not act immediately.

At Mimecast our first priority is to help protect our customers against the latest threats. Our services help protect email which has traditionally been the primary attack route for ransomware. Early samples have revealed that the ransomware is spread over local networks and the internet by abusing Server Message Block (SMB) protocol weaknesses. Although no Wcry 'smoking gun' infection emails have yet been found, it is highly likely that future variants will use email. This short guide is designed to help all organizations complete a review of network security, backup and business continuity systems and processes.

We are also providing additional insights into how to make easy and quick configuration changes to ensure your Targeted Threat Protection solution is optimized. As many of you already know, a comprehensive "defense in depth" strategy is the best approach to mitigation of current and future variants of Wcry and other ransomware.

Patching

Every organization must ensure its IT systems are regularly updated. Microsoft security updates are released on the second Tuesday of each month (Patch Tuesday). Microsoft released a security update back in March which addresses the vulnerability that Wcry is exploiting. For those organizations who have not yet applied the security update, you should immediately deploy Microsoft Security Bulletin MS17-010.

If you are using a legacy, now unsupported version of Windows, you should consider upgrading immediately. However, if this is impossible in the short term, Microsoft has taken the unusual measure of releasing a security patch that can buy you time to upgrade. Microsoft has provided its own detailed guidance to defend against Wcry here.

Good security practice dictates remov-

ing or disabling unnecessary services to reduce the potential attack surface. WannaCry has spread quickly by abusing vulnerabilities in Server Message Block network protocol. Unless you have a very good reason not to, disable the SMBv1 protocol on your network, while also ensuring SMB cannot be directly accessed from the internet. Disable or block other legacy protocols on your network that you are not using.

Email security: Mimecast's Ransomware Defense

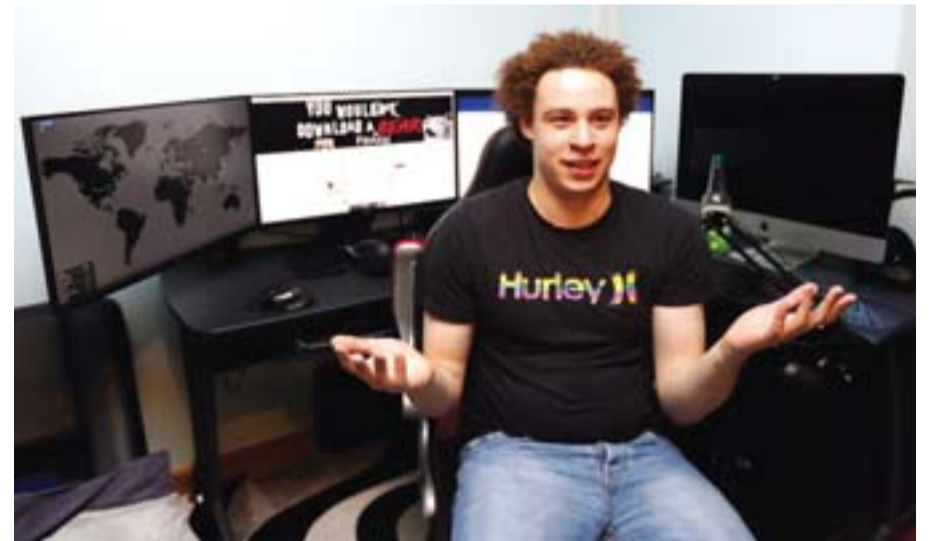
For customers of Mimecast Targeted Threat Protection, we advise a number of activities: URL Protect - configure a policy in line with our best practice guide in Mimecater Central. Ensure a policy is applied to all users. Rewriting all URLs to scan for unsafe content at time-of-click is the best approach to preventing inbound URL-based phishing.

Attachment Protect - configure the "Safe Files" option for all users to ensure inbound Microsoft Office files are converted to a safe and benign format. For users who require editable documents, ensure Attachment Protect's sandboxing is configured. Refer to the best practice guide in Mimecater Central for details.

Internal Email Protect - this service provides protection for URLs and attachments in both outbound email and also mails sent internally. Ensure policies are applied to all users and ensure remediation capabilities are enabled. Refer to our best practice guide for configuration recommendations.

Mimecast customers using Mimecast's secure email gateway, we advise using the most up to date attachment management definition as there are reports of executable files masquerading as Excel files with an administrator hold on dangerous files types. This in conjunction with the Suspected Malware policy with the ability to hold Office files containing macros provides another layer of detection, but does not provide the analysis provided by Attachment Protect. Mimecast's ARMed SMTP (Advanced Reputation Management) combines malware, reputation and anti-spam checks to reject unwanted email.

Since a very high percentage of ransomware is spread by email attachments, we urge organizations to consider using sandboxing and/or safe file conversion services. DNS authentication capabilities such as DKIM and SPF can help stop attackers from spoofing or hijacking the email domains of trusted senders, thus effectively taking away one method attackers use to fool their intended victims. DMARC, the combination of these two services adds an extra layer of defense.



ILFRACOMBE: British IT expert Marcus Hutchins who has been branded a hero for slowing down the WannaCry global cyber attack, speaks during an interview. — AP

UK SURFER WORKED FROM HIS HOME TO BEAT CYBERATTACK

ILFRACOMBE: As a vast "ransomware" attack raced from computer to computer, infecting tens of thousands around the world, a young tech expert worked from his bedroom in England to bring the rampage to a halt. But Marcus Hutchins doesn't consider himself a hero. The 22-year-old credited with cracking the WannaCry cyberattack told he fights malware because "it's the right thing to do."

In his first face-to-face interview, Hutchins, who works for Los Angeles-based Kryptos Logic, said late Monday that hundreds of computer experts worked throughout the weekend to fight the virus, which paralyzed computers in some 150 countries. "I'm definitely not a hero," he said. "I'm just someone doing my bit to stop botnets."

In the first hours after the virus struck Friday, the computer whiz and surfing enthusiast who lives with his family in a small seaside town in southwest England discovered a so-called "kill switch" that slowed the unprecedented outbreak. He then spent the next three days fighting the worm that crippled Britain's hospital network as well as factories, government agencies, banks and other businesses around the world.

WannaCry paralyzed computers running mostly older versions of Microsoft Windows by encrypting users' computer files and displaying a message demanding a ransom of \$300 to \$600 to release them; failure to pay would leave the data mangled and likely beyond repair. Hutchins said he came across the solution when he was analyzing a sample of the malicious code and noticed it was linked to an unregistered web address. He promptly registered the domain, something he regularly does to discover ways to track or stop cyber threats, and found that stopped the worm from spreading. Kryptos Logic chief executive Salim Neino said Hutchins' quick work allowed him to slow the virus on Friday afternoon European time, before it could fully affect the United States.

Combating online threats

"Marcus, with the program he runs at Kryptos Logic, not only saved the United States but also prevented further damage to the rest of the world," Neino said in an interview from Venice, Italy. "Within a few moments, we were able to validate that there was indeed a kill switch. It was a very exciting moment." Neino said the worm was "poorly designed" - patched together and a "sum of different parts" with an unsophisticated payment system.

Kryptos Logic is one of hundreds of companies working to combat online threats for companies, government agencies and individuals around the world. Hutchins himself is part of a global community that constantly watches for attacks and works to thwart them, often sharing information on Twitter. It's not uncommon for members to use aliases, to protect from retaliatory attacks and ensure privacy, and Hutchins has long tweeted under the handle MalwareTech, which features a profile photo of a pouty-faced cat wearing enormous sunglasses. But he realizes his newfound fame will mean an end to the anonymity. "I don't think I'm ever going back to the MalwareTech that everyone knew," said the curly-haired young man, shrugging and flashing a winning smile.

Hutchins' mother Janet, a nurse, couldn't be prouder - and was happy to have the veil of anonymity lifted. When her son made the breakthrough, she said, she wanted to tell the world about it. "I wanted to scream, but I couldn't," she said. And now he's a celebrity. He's been in touch with the FBI, as well as British national cyber security officials. His new life is likely to be a big adjustment. Hutchins works out of his bedroom in the seaside resort town of Ilfracombe on a sophisticated computer setup with three large screens.

The concept of celebrity was clearly foreign to him. He was nervous about giving an interview. — AP

CANON TO HELP BUSINESSES REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL

KUWAIT CITY: Canon Middle East unveiled its new concept of 'Explore, Inspire, Improve' as part of the 'Canon for Business' offering in Oman. The initiative supports businesses in Oman to strengthen productivity, efficiency and sustainable development, and underline their position as a 'Partner of Choice' for their customers. The event was part of a series of 'Canon for Business' events in the Middle East, held as part of Canon's strategy of working closely with its customers.

Canon is exploring the changing world of business and data, and is helping customers to address their challenges and improve their business. 'Explore, Inspire, Improve' provides business process consultancy, with Canon working alongside its customers to build the best solution for their organization based on business priorities.

"This is Canon's first official event in Oman and highlights our commitment to build a stronger presence here. In today's evolving economic environment, we are adapting and growing to support our customers' changing needs," said Anurag Agrawal, Managing Director, Canon Middle East. "In line with our corporate philosophy of 'Kyosei', our strategy has always been to drive sustainable growth and strengthen our core business by being a partner that helps solve the challenges of our customers. Success for us is in delighting our customers as we go the extra mile to ensure that our solutions make a difference to them," Agrawal added.

Oman is a strategic market



Shadi Bakhour addressing partners at 'Canon for Business Oman'

for Canon Middle East, and the company aims to contribute to its economic development and progress by supporting local businesses and other entities achieve their targets. As the government and businesses turn to digitization and a more seamless documentation system, Canon's industry credentials make it a suitable partner to achieve these goals. Oman is diversifying its economy with the goal of reducing its dependence on oil revenue to its GDP from 44% in 2016 to 26% by 2020. In addition, full network connectivity is expected by 2040 to expand opportunities for businesses.

Shadi Bakhour, B2B Business Unit Director, Canon Middle East, said: "Our independent study on the Middle East called 'Office Insights' reveals that 70% of the respondents believe that printing and copying documents are essen-

tial or very important. It confirms that businesses are turning to digitization for efficiency. However, one of the most striking findings from the research is the widespread lack of awareness on how to go about digitization and the cost associated with increased printing and scanning."

"With Canon's expertise and product solutions, we are the right partner to manage these essential business elements cost-effectively, especially if these are related to improving in-house document processing and implementing secure digitization," added Bakhour. At the event in Muscat, attended by more than 200 customers from Oman, Canon highlighted its B2B strategy and showcased an innovative range of products that cater to sectors including healthcare, hospitality, construction, education and government.

AMAZON'S NEW STREAM SOFTWARE POWERING TVS

NEW YORK: Amazon's streaming TV software will appear on a new line of smart TVs designed to blend streaming TV services and over-the-air channels, but not cable packages. The TVs from Element Electronics will be sold under the Element and Westinghouse brands and will cost more than regular smart TVs from either brand. Officials say the TVs have better hardware for reliable streaming and aren't designed for casual viewers who buy TVs only to never hook them up to the internet.

While Samsung and LG are still developing their own smart TV systems, many other manufacturers have abandoned in-house efforts and are turning instead to streaming TV companies such as Roku, and now Amazon. The in-house efforts have largely been weak because few streaming services bother designing apps for them, and they don't have big teams to look for security threats.

For the new TVs, Amazon's Fire TV remote is getting common TV controls such as volume, while the on-screen menu is being adapted to incorporate live TV. Besides the rows of icons for various apps and streaming content, there's now a row just for shows currently available through an antenna. There's also a row for connected devices, such as game consoles and DVD players. Have cable? You can hook that up to the TV, but you won't get the menu integration. You'll also have to use the cable's remote, as the Fire TV one lacks numbers for changing channels. With over-the-air broadcasts, you do that through the on-screen menu.

Though officials say cable integration may come, the decision to focus on over-the-air content reflects the growing practice of "cord-cutting" - ditching cable services in favor of online streaming services, including the ones offered on the Fire TV. Prices range from \$449 for a 43-inch TV to \$899 for 65 inches. The new TVs, called Amazon Fire TV Edition, will be capable of displaying sharper video known as 4K resolution, though most TV shows and movies are available only in high definition, the standard. — AP

IMF AUSTERITY HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

WASHINGTON: Austerity policies imposed by the International Monetary Fund may harm parents' ability to care for their children's health, according to a study published Monday. The steep cuts in social spending the IMF often demands can curtail the availability of education, leaving parents poorer, less employable and more vulnerable to economic change, according to the study. Those who do benefit from an education can suffer from reduced quality teaching with notable consequences for the health of

their children, according to the study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"In the absence of a (IMF) program, children living in an educated household have a reduced odds of being malnourished by 38 percent compared with children of uneducated households," the study's authors write. However, the presence of IMF programs eroded "the protective effect of education against child malnourishment by no less than 17 percent in rural contexts," they said.

An IMF spokeswoman said Monday that the fund had not yet reviewed the new report and could not comment on it, but added that previous research had shown that health spending rises under IMF programs.

Produced by researchers at Cambridge and Oxford universities, as well as the University of Amsterdam and the University of Waikato in New Zealand, the study sampled data covering 2.8 billion people derived from studies conducted within five years of the year 2000 and covering 67 poor and

middle-income countries. "What we are observing in our study is a type of indirect effect," Adel Daoud, one of the report's authors from the Cambridge Judge Business School at Cambridge University, told AFP.

"Our study shows that in those countries with an IMF program, parents in rural areas are struggling a bit more to care for children," he said. "In these groups, the levels of child health are indeed a bit lower than those exact same areas but without IMF programs." The authors said they found no significant

link between IMF programs and child health indicators, only the relationship between parental education and child health. The results were more mixed for urban populations, where some advantages persisted for the children of educated parents. IMF economists last year found that austerity had sometimes exacerbated income inequality, harming growth and stability. But the Washington-based fund said it remained committed to open and competitive markets and financial stability. —AFP

GOVT REPORT: PROGRESS REDUCING US UNINSURED STALLED IN 2016

IT LOOKS LIKE WE ARE KIND OF STICKING A LANDING AND HOLDING ON TO THE GAINS

WASHINGTON: After five consecutive years of coverage gains, progress reducing the number of uninsured Americans stalled in 2016, according to a government report yesterday that underscores the stakes as Republicans try to roll back Barack Obama's law. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 28.6 million people were uninsured last year, unchanged from 2015. The uninsured rate was 9 percent, an

GOP bill passed by the House would limit Medicaid financing and curtail subsidies for many consumers buying their own private policies. Republicans also would repeal the requirement that most Americans carry health insurance or risk fines. The legislation would lead to an estimated increase of 24 million more uninsured people within 10 years, according to congressional analysts. Under

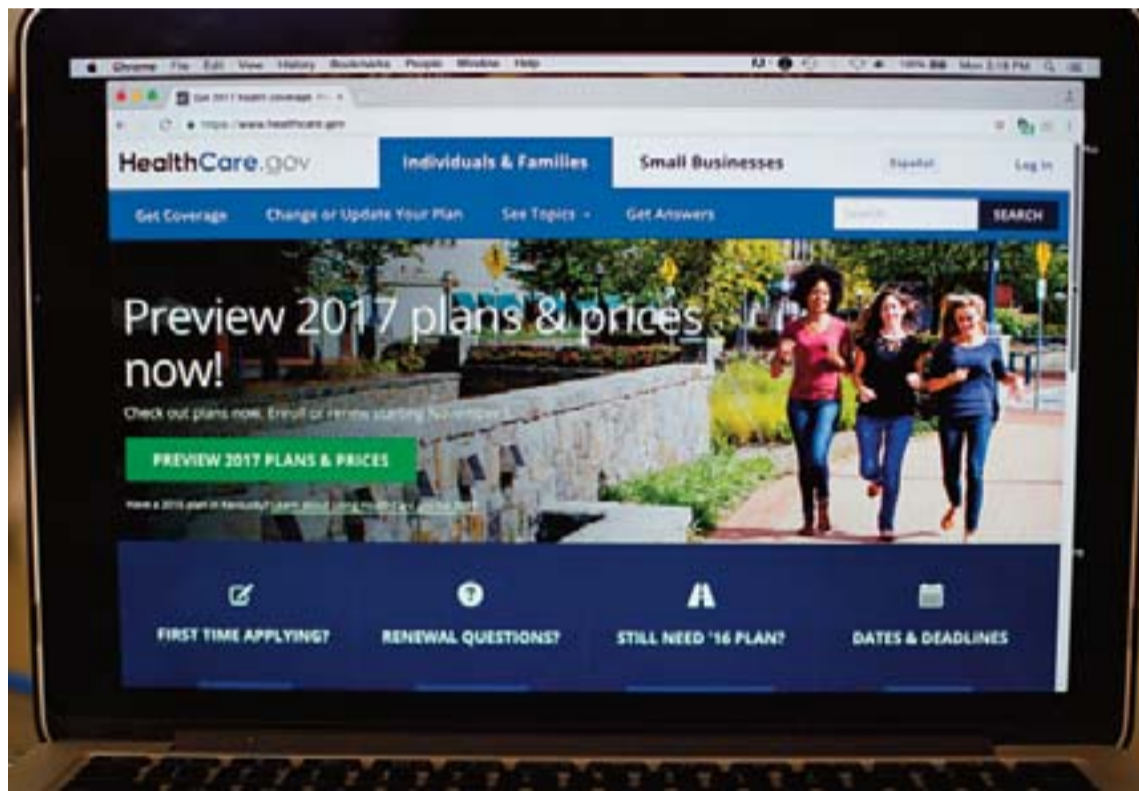
The latest numbers come from CDC's National Health Interview Survey, which is considered an authoritative source, and publishes findings earlier than the Census Bureau. The survey's estimates for 2016 were based on data for nearly 97,500 people. The report validates a trend other major surveys have noted. For example, the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index found that the uninsured rate for US adults edged up slight-

start rising again? Absolutely, say both Wilensky and Hempstead. "This release is really timely because it just helps everybody focus on what's at stake," said Hempstead. The report found a significant increase in the percentage of people under age 65 covered last year through government-sponsored insurance markets like HealthCare.gov. About 11.6 million (4.3 percent) had marketplace insurance in the last three months of 2016, compared with 9.1 million (3.4 percent) in same period the previous year.

States that expanded Medicaid were more effective at reducing the number of uninsured. Of the 16 states with adult uninsured rates significantly lower than the nation as a whole, 15 expanded Medicaid. In that group, only Wisconsin had not extended coverage for low-income people. Conversely, of the nine states that had significantly higher uninsured rates, only New Mexico expanded Medicaid.

The CDC numbers do not reflect any changes directly attributable to Trump, who took office this year on Jan 20. During the campaign and since then, the president has made some expansive promises about health insurance, talking of coverage for everybody and much more affordable premiums and deductibles. But Trump has also embraced a GOP bill that would make more people uninsured, even if it fulfills his campaign promise to repeal "Obamacare." And he's threatened to stop paying subsidies that reduce out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles for people with modest incomes.

Hillary Clinton, who Trump defeated, had promised to increase government assistance for private insurance costs, and also work to convince holdout states to expand their Medicaid programs. "This is really pre-election activity" reflected in the CDC survey, said Wilensky. "It's news because people need to know we seem to have reached a plateau." Whether that will look the same a year from now is unclear, she added. —AP



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, the HealthCare.gov 2017 web site home page is seen on a laptop in Washington. —AP

insignificant difference from 9.1 percent in 2015.

The numbers suggest that the two main components of the Affordable Care Act, or ACA, were reaching their limits in Obama's final year as president. Premiums for private insurance were about to jump, and 19 states continued to refuse the ACA's Medicaid expansion. The number of uninsured could start climbing again under some of the policies now being considered by President Donald Trump.

The politically unpopular

"Obamacare," there are 20 million fewer uninsured since 2010.

"It's disappointing that it's stalled out," said health economist Gail Wilensky, a Republican. "The real question is, will we be able to keep the gains that we have made?" Critical of the ACA and co-author of an alternative plan by GOP policy experts, Wilensky nonetheless supports the goal of expanding coverage. She's concerned about the impact of the House bill on Medicaid, the federal-state program for low-income and disabled people.

ly during the first three months of this year, a period for which there's yet no publicly available CDC data.

"It looks like we are kind of sticking a landing and holding on to the gains," said Katherine Hempstead, who directs research on health insurance at the non-partisan Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "To increase coverage, you would have to see more states take up the Medicaid expansion, and some reforms to increase takeup in the individual (private) market." Could the number of uninsured

TRUMP DETAILS ANTI-ABORTION BAN OVER US GLOBAL HEALTH AID

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump is moving forward with a plan to massively expand a ban on federal dollars going to international groups that perform abortions or provide abortion information. Senior administration officials said Monday a plan to expand the so-called "Mexico City Policy" had gone into effect. The policy would apply broadly to organizations receiving US global health assistance, compared with past versions of the ban which specifically targeted international family planning groups.

In all, about \$8.8 billion in funding could be impacted, far more than the \$600,000 covered under the previous version of the ban, which critics call the Global Gag Rule. The expanded policy is being dubbed "Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance." The officials, who requested anonymity

and were not authorized to speak on the record, said the ban would apply to groups working on HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal and child health, reproductive issues and global health.

Officials said the new policy would be applied immediately to new funding issued and then to existing arrangements as they are amended. To receive funding, health organizations must pledge not to provide abortions or abortion information or provide support to any groups that do. There is an exemption in cases of rape, incest or when the woman's life is at risk. Aid to national and local governments will be exempted, as is humanitarian assistance, migration aid and disaster relief. The Secretary of State could also authorize exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

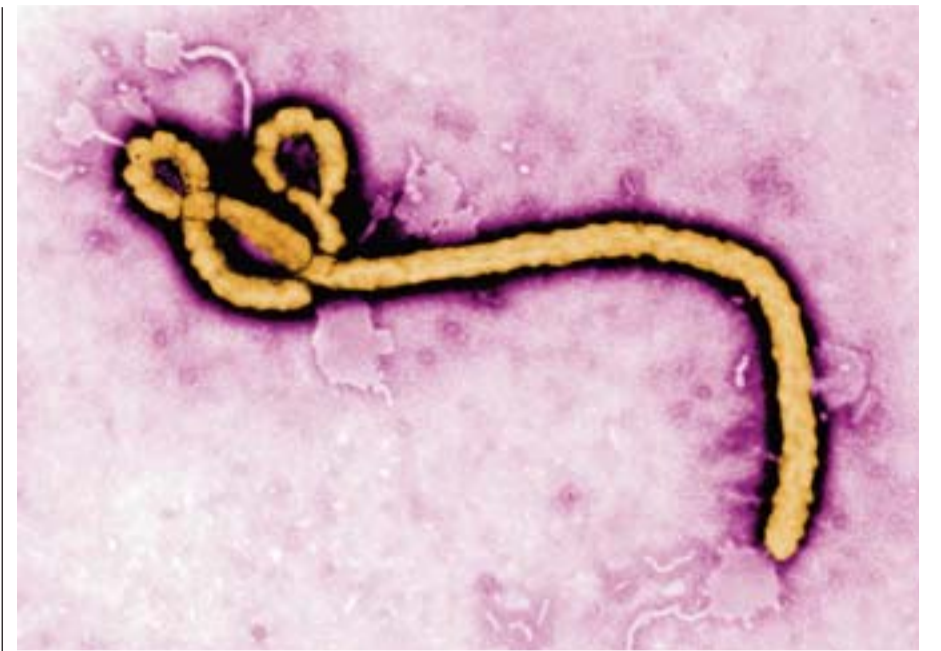
Officials said there will be a comprehensive review of the impact of the changes over the next six months. Trump reinstated the policy - a political football instituted by Republican administrations and rescinded by Democratic ones since 1984 - days after he took office, promising to expand the scope. Obama had lifted the ban when he took office in 2009. Just how many groups will be impacted in the short term was not clear. Administration officials declined to speculate on how many organizations would not meet the new criteria. Health experts noted that in many areas, groups partner with each other to provide more services, so those relationships could come under scrutiny.

Jen Kates, director of global health and HIV policy at the non-partisan Kaiser Family Foundation, said the policy was a significant expansion compared with past Republican administrations. "Right now there's a lot of unknowns," she said. "This is a much bigger expansion. And the US role in global health has increased over time. The U.S. footprint right now is quite big in global health." Suzanne Ehlers, president of Washington-based Population Action International which lobbies in the US and developing countries for women's reproductive health, said in a statement that the change would "cause unspeakable damage to integrated care efforts across all health sectors." "Despite the Trump administration's ludicrous rebranding of the policy, the Global Gag Rule is unmistakably deadlier than ever," said Ehlers.

Anti-abortion leader Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, welcomed the news, saying in a statement that "with the implementation of Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance, we have officially ceased exporting abortion to foreign nations." Some critics noted that the president on Sunday released a statement marking Women's Health Week. He said "we recognize the importance of providing women access to the best, evidence-based health information and care, and growing our medical knowledge through basic and applied research support." —AP



WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump speaks during the 36th annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service, Monday on Capitol Hill in Washington. —AP



KINSHASA: In this undated colorized transmission electron micrograph file image made available by the CDC shows an Ebola virus virion. —AP

2ND EBOLA CASE CONFIRMED AMONG 20 SUSPECTED IN CONGO: WHO

KINSHASA, Congo: The World Health Organization says a second case of Ebola has been confirmed by laboratory testing amid an outbreak in a remote corner of northern Congo. WHO said yesterday that among the 20 suspected cases, two now have tested positive for the virus. Ebola was blamed for more than 11,000 deaths in West Africa during 2013-2016. Congo has already experienced seven much

smaller outbreaks. So far three people have died in Congo's Bas-Uele province, an area more than 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) from the capital, Kinshasa. There is no specific treatment for Ebola, which is spread through the bodily fluids of people exhibiting symptoms. A new experimental vaccine has been shown to be highly effective against the virus, though quantities are currently limited. —AP



ST PAUL, Minnesota: In this file photo, an employee checks a plant at LeafLine Labs, a medical marijuana production facility in Cottage Grove, Minn. —AP

MINNESOTA MEDICAL POT PROVIDERS RUN \$11M IN RED

ST PAUL, Minnesota: Minnesota's two licensed medical marijuana manufacturers have lost a combined \$11 million in just two years of sales, according to financial documents obtained by The Associated Press, continuing losses that hint at systemic problems with the state's tightly regulated program despite a recent expansion that allowed thousands more patients to buy the medication. Minnesota Medical Solutions posted a \$1.2 million loss in 2016, a year after losing more than \$3 million. But LeafLine Labs' losses worsened: The company said it lost \$4.7 million last year, after losing \$2.2 million loss in 2015.

Those figures come from annual financial statements the private companies provided the state that were obtained through an open records request. LeafLine chief executive officer Andrew Bachman said his patients should not worry about the company's performance and what it means for their long-term future, saying that LeafLine was still beating its own financial plans. He chalked up the large loss to a rapid expansion in year two, which included opening three dispensaries and hiring the necessary staff.

"This is the cost of doing medicinal cannabis correctly," Bachman said. "The goal was never to post a profit early. It was to take care of people, always." Minnesota Medical Solutions chief executive Kyle Kingsley painted his company's decreasing losses as a positive, and said he hopes to break even in 2017 as the company continues retooling its business to reduce costs. But the key, he said, was boosting awareness for physicians and prospective patients that medical marijuana is an option.

But the losses add to concerns with Minnesota's medical marijuana program. State lawmakers are moving to crack down on Minnesota Medical Solutions, or MinnMed, after its former executives were charged with illegally shipping \$500,000 of marijuana oils to a New York

subsidiary company - a case still moving through court. The financial constraints on the program led state regulators to seek extra funding to help cover the costs of its patient database and inspections of manufacturers.

Both companies have repeatedly professed little hope in turning a large profit in the early years. They each raised tens of millions of dollars, according to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, to help weather a difficult launch period and lackluster sales when medical marijuana sales began in July 2015, more than a year after the Legislature passed its law. The continued losses are driven largely by Minnesota's program being among the most restrictive of 30 states that allow medical marijuana. Using the plant form is banned, and the state limits the availability of marijuana pills and oils to patients with 10 severe conditions. Each manufacturer is required to perform several rounds of testing on their medication and must run four dispensaries across the state.

Even the decision last summer to allow medical marijuana for people suffering chronic pain - which added thousands more patients - did little to stem the losses, as some lawmakers and advocates expected. Though each manufacturer more than quadrupled revenues, they still posted heavy losses. A top Republican lawmaker involved in medical marijuana issues said the companies may need a full year with that expanded patient count to right the ship. And if not, Rep. Nick Zerwas said they shouldn't look to the Legislature for a major fix. "I don't think there is going to be any appetite for a ... broadening of conditions or delivery forms," Zerwas said, referencing the ban on smoking or vaporizing the plant material. "It's not the job of the state government to create conditions in which private companies can be profitable for selling marijuana." —AP

ASTRONAUTS ACE STATION'S 200TH SPACEWALK, SHORTENED BY LEAK

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida: An equipment water leak shortened Friday's spacewalk by two US astronauts at the International Space Station, but they still managed to replace a faulty electronics box. Despite the initial trouble, it was a milestone moment as Peggy Whitson and Jack Fischer floated outside on the station's 200th spacewalk. The astronauts wasted no time removing the old electronics box, their No. 1 chore, and plugging in a new unit. The device - a bit unwieldy at more than 5 feet long - supplies electricity and data to science experiments on the outside of the station. The pair also whipped through other tasks, leaving only two undone.

During earlier preparations, a small amount of water leaked from the connection point between an umbilical hose and Fischer's suit. The hose is one of two that provide water, oxygen, power, cooling and communications for astronauts before they float outside. The leaky hose had to be disconnected before the spacewalk could begin. The astronauts ended up sharing Whitson's hose while they waited, which reduced their suit battery power. As a result, Mission Control cut the spacewalk from the intended 6 1/2 hours to four hours even before it began.

The change-out went so well and fast 250 miles up that the spacewalkers had time to squeeze in a few other chores including the addition of a special data connector to the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer. Launched in 2011 on the next-to-last shuttle flight, the high-profile particle physics detector known as AMS is still working and has measured 100 billion particles. But it's in need of repairs because of failing coolant pumps; Friday's

work on a bypass route for data should help future efforts.

In the end, Whitson and Fischer accomplished everything but the installation of a high-definition TV camera and wireless communication antennas. As the spacewalk drew to a close, Whitson - the world's most experienced female astronaut - said it was "amazing" to have taken part in the landmark spacewalk. Fischer agreed, saying he was humbled to follow in the legacy. "Today threw us a lot of curve balls," Mission Control said, but noted the astronauts "hit a grand slam."

This spacewalk was supposed to take place in early April, but was put on hold because of delays in launching the replacement box and spectrometer equipment. The parts finally arrived late last month aboard Orbital ATK's commercial cargo ship, the S.S. John Glenn, named after the first American to orbit Earth. It was the first spacewalk for Fischer, who arrived at the station less than a month ago. Whitson has performed more spacewalks than any other woman. This was her ninth. She's also spent more time in space than any other American, 552 days over three missions and counting. She doesn't return to Earth until September. Mission Control stressed throughout the day that Fischer's suit was fine and that the leak was confined to the umbilical hose. Spare parts are on board to restore the system. NASA is especially wary of leaks involving spacesuits. In 2013, an Italian astronaut almost drowned during a spacewalk when water from the suit's cooling system flooded his helmet. Astronauts kicked off space station construction in orbit in 1998. The 200 mark includes assembly and maintenance by Russian spacewalkers as well as US. —AP



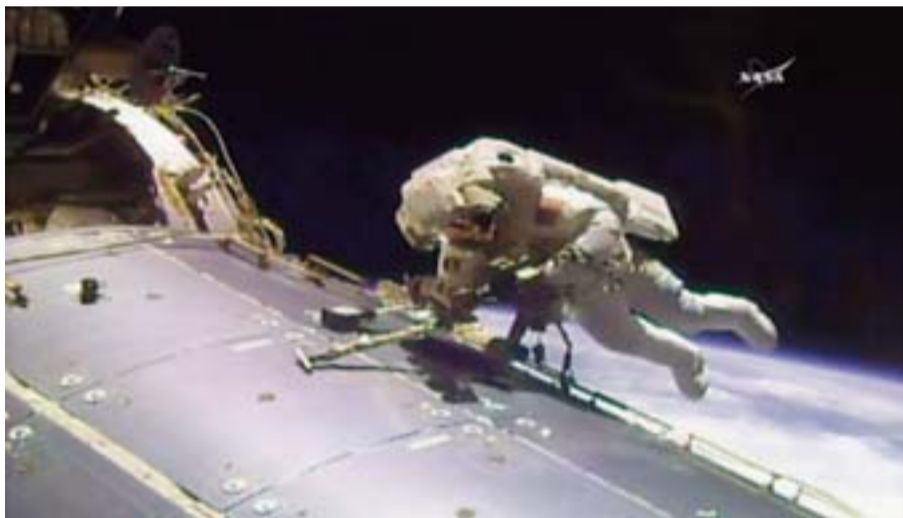
ARGAMAKMUR, Indonesia: This handout photo from the Indonesian Police shows Indonesian police displaying a tiger skin in Argamakmur, North Bengkulu. —AFP

INDONESIANS ARRESTED OVER SUMATRAN TIGER POACHING

BENGKULU, Indonesia: Indonesian authorities have arrested two men on suspicion of poaching Sumatran tigers and seized a skin and bones taken from one of the rare animals, a national park official said yesterday. Awaludin and Sabian, who like many Indonesians go by one name, were detained Saturday by police and forest rangers in a village in North Bengkulu district on western Sumatra island. Authorities acted on a tip-off from villagers who said the men often hunted for protected species in the enormous Kerinci Seblat national park, believed to be

home to some 150 Sumatran tigers. The International Union for Conservation of Nature classifies the Sumatran tiger as critically endangered and estimates as few as 440 remain in the wild. "We tailed the men all day after being tipped off and arrested them late Saturday," national park chief Arief Tongkagie told AFP. "They were carrying a preserved tiger skin and its bones." The men, in their 40s, are still being questioned by police. They could face up to five years in jail if found guilty of breaking Indonesian laws that protect endangered animals.

Police are also investigating whether they were part of a larger wildlife poaching syndicate. Poaching is a major cause of the rapid decline of Sumatran tiger populations. The creature's body parts are used in traditional Asian medicine and fetch a high price on the black market. Apart from being hunted, the animals are also under threat from the destruction of their rainforest habitat to make way for palm oil and paper plantations. The Sumatran tiger is the smallest of the tiger species and is distinguished by thick black stripes on its orange coat. —AFP



In this image made from video provided by NASA, astronaut Jack Fischer works outside the International Space Station on Friday. —AP

NEW SCRUTINY OF POLES AS WORLD BRACES FOR CLIMATE SHIFTS

GENEVA: Scientists will intensify scrutiny of the polar regions as part of an international campaign to improve global weather predictions and minimize risks linked to rapid climate change, the UN said Monday. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said a full year would be dedicated to improving polar forecasting capacities in the Arctic and another year would be spent doing the same in Antarctica. The polar regions are by far the most impacted by climate change, warming at twice the rate of the rest of the world in some areas and facing rapidly retreating glaciers and sea ice.

But because of their harsh climates, these regions are also the most poorly observed by scientists and meteorologists,

impacting the quality of weather forecasts not only for the polar areas but also elsewhere. WMO chief Petteri Taalas said that "because of teleconnections, the poles influence weather and climate conditions in lower latitudes where hundreds of millions of people live." "Warming Arctic air masses and declining sea ice are believed to affect ocean circulation and the jet stream, and are potentially linked to extreme phenomena such as cold spells, heat waves and droughts in the northern hemisphere," he said in a statement. From mid-2017 to mid-2019, a large international and interdisciplinary network of scientists and forecasting centres will carry out intensive observation and modelling in the Arctic and Antarctic, the WMO said. —AFP

LAKE SAIMAA, Finland: Wildlife conservationists in Finland are planning to give endangered seals a spot of online fame by streaming encounters with some of the few hundred remaining mammals in a bid to raise awareness of their plight. The Saimaa ringed seal, named after their home in Europe's fourth-largest lake, is found only in these waters and is one of just five remaining freshwater seal species in the world. But milder winters have left few shoreline snow banks for the seals to burrow into lairs where they give birth to pups, and many get caught in fishing nets.

During the next few weeks, viewers will be able to tune into the seal watch stream known as "Norppa Live," from the Finnish name for seal, although not that much action is expected. Often the seals are difficult to spot, lying motionless on the smooth rounded rocks they resemble. Sometimes all you can see is

just an empty rock. "Not a lot happens," says Joonas Fritze, a conservationist from World Wildlife Fund Finland. "The highlights are seal climbing on a rock, seal turning on a rock, seal scratching itself, but that's the beauty of it... I guess that's part of it, like, real slow TV. So it's kind of like an opposite of the hectic life people live."

The organization is hoping for a large audience after its successful launch last year became an online hit in Finland, where it was broadcast in offices, schools, libraries and hotel lobbies, drawing more than 2 million viewers in the Nordic nation of 5.5 million. The irresistible seal pups, with their furry heads, often find rocks sheltered by tall reeds near the shoreline. Other, bigger specimens, sprawl out like lumps of soft rock, unaware of the hidden camera.

Last year a male seal became so popular that thousands of people sent in sug-

gestions to name him - the winner was Pullervo, which referred to his "chubby" shape. There were hopes of a romance with a popular female seal, but that apparently didn't materialize. As word has spread about the seals' plight, conservationists again expect millions of viewers to tune in hoping to catch a glimpse of one of the remaining 360 Saimaa seals - according to the latest count by Parks and Wildlife Finland.

Although the seals have a fairly carefree existence in the sprawling labyrinth of waterways that make up Lake Saimaa, dotted with more than 1,300 islands, there is one real threat - fishing nets. The lake is a popular venue for Finns, who flock to thousands of summer villas spread along the shores of the country's 180,000 lakes, where fishing plays a major role in everyday activities, including laying nets. Young pups are particularly prone to getting caught in them

and consequently drown. Fritze hopes that seals online will help. "We hope we can raise awareness of this special animal and tell people about the species and its threats," he says. "And people learn that a net fishing is a big threat to the seal." Lack of snow is also causing a worry for conservationists. "The ice came quite early, already in December, and there was time for the snow to accumulate and build those snow banks," said Petteri Tolvanen from WWF Finland. "And now the situation is much worse for the seals and in some years there (are) hardly any natural snow banks."

In 2016, helped by a band of volunteers, conservationists decided to build their own snow banks, creating 211 man-made snowdrifts where 40 seal pups were born. Earlier this year, they constructed 277. "The ringed seal is totally dependent on ice and snow when breeding," Tolvanen said. —AP

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PAGE

248 33 199

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FORMER INDIAN MINISTER KHURSHID RELEASES FRONTLINERS' BOOK

It was a grand evening at The Cambridge English School, Mangaf where thousands of Indians gathered to make the IFL 20 years event a grand success. Indian Frontliners, a non-profit social organization has been in existence since 1997 in Kuwait and help the needy and less-privileged people and participate in various voluntary works.

The funds mobilized during these functions have been donated for various calamities funds, education for the poor, orphanage, hospitals as well as helping the disturbed workers in Kuwait.

Prominent and dynamic Indian Personalities Salman Khurshid - Former Indian Cabinet Minister on External Affairs - India, D Sivanandhan, Former Director General of Police - Maharashtra and the most popular Rangaraj Pandey, Chief News Editor, Thanthi TV made the evening a meaningful one

with their powerful messages to the youngsters and parents and to shape better India and thanking Kuwait for the opportunities given.

The evening was made with variety of Indian dances and songs which brought the patriotic value amongst the budding young school children. It was joyous and colorful and made the crowd enjoy every bit of it. The national integration was well exhibited throughout the 4 hours event. The guests were enthralled with the show made by Jodi-1 fame Mani and Fellina with their flexible movements. Kavipriya Anandan gave a beautiful dance number herself along with taking the show throughout.

Khurshid (grandson of Former President of India Zakir Hussain) urged the students and youngsters to go beyond themselves by working hard make the country proud. He was

thrilled to be a part of such an excellent community in Kuwait. He emphasized the importance of education and stated education is the force that elevates and transforms the young children.

D Sivanandhan, Former Director General of Police gave a presentation for the young teenagers and parents with the hard facts gathered from different walks of life. He was stressing how the internet and social media are taking the life away from us. He was insisting on hard work and discipline to make everyone successful in their lives. The seven mantras are the key success factors.

The achievements of IFL for the past 20 years were recognized by the chief guests from India as a great service to India. The service by Mathi for stopping the death sentence for 2 Indians with the involvement of the Indian

Embassy was well applauded by the guests of honor. The below books released by IFL events were shown through an AV clipping.

Earlier, The President of IFL welcomed the gathering and thanked all the sponsors for their ongoing continuous support for the event. He also extended warm greetings to Raja, Selladurai and to the whole organizing team. TVS Group Chairman Hyder Ali touched with his speech on writer NC. Mohandoss who was serving IFL right from 1998. Without NCM's selfless works, IFL would not have achieved to this height. He praised on his laudable services to the mankind. He thanked Arulmozhi Mohandoss wife of NCM behind all his success.

He was highly appreciative of this great man's achievements. He referred to him as one of the Modern India's heroes in Kuwait and

said the charities with the wealth earned are something unparalleled and hence Arulmozhi and N C Mohandoss have set a perfect example on giving back to the society.

The excitement reached its pinnacle when Rangaraj Pandey started his speech and Q&A sessions. The crowd was uncontrollable with their variety of questions and it was the lime-light of the event. People were asking Pandey on his interviewing skills with famous personalities, his clarity, stubbornness on the subject or the fact, etc., The response to the Q&A was exciting and it was bringing heavy applause from the crowd. His speech was taken in with awe and wonder by all those who listened to his speech.

Truly the Indians in Kuwait were honored to have these special guests from India for IFL's celebrations.



SIS MARKS THE FIRST MILESTONE 'INVESTITURE CEREMONY'

Bhavan's Smart Indian School bestows upon its students the ability to be future leaders of the world. It left a legacy of accomplishment that the leaders are blessed not only to stand upon but are now challenged to build upon during the prestigious event of the school calendar - the Investiture Ceremony. The chief guests of the function Mohammad Dashti - Inspector for English Schools (KG and Primary), Ali Johar and Nabil Gomaa - Inspectors of Private Education and the guests of honor Prem Kumar - the Principal, Indian Educational School together with SIS Public Relations Officer - Saleh Al-Rashedi adorned the auditorium while the flag bearers and the council members paraded smartly into the school auditorium to the beat of the school band.

The SIS anthem was sung by the school choir marking the inaugural

opening of the same during this first and foremost function of the year. The emcees for the program were Joshua and Salwa from 7 Aries who left an indelible mark on the audience. The solemn moment arrived when the student council members marched onto the stage to receive the badges and the sashes followed by the flag alteration ceremony. The oath taking by the council along with the prefects of all classes was radiant as the Principal Mahesh Iyer articulated it to don the mantle of leadership and discharge the responsibilities entrusted to them.

The head boy master Sambhav Jain and the head girl Jemimah Ann George spoke about their aims, aspirations and the ideals that they hold dear as they addressed the assemblage and spoke eloquently on leadership qualities. The award ceremony was part of the Investiture that hon-

ored the academic tradition where the proficiency holders and the NMO gold medalists and the Math wizards of 2016-2017 were awarded with medals and certificates. Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Dashti, Inspector for Private Schools wished the newly appointed council members best of luck and appreciated the marching that wore the brilliant academic regalia of the Institution and he honored this outstanding school and the critical role it plays in the lives of our students and our community.

The vote of thanks was proposed by the Student Editor Master Andrew Rodrigues addressing all the hands who were part and parcel, the heart and soul of this program execution. It was truly a memorable occasion for the young leaders as they looked forward to a new, eventful and enriching academic year.

GSB SABHA KUWAIT CELEBRATES 14TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION 'KONKANI SOURABHA'

GSB Sabha Kuwait takes pride to celebrate its 14th Annual function 'Konkani Sourabha' along with Chief Guest Sujeer Srinivas Rao 'Kasaragod Chinna'. The function was held on 28th April 2017 at Carmel School Auditorium, Khaitan, Kuwait with a lot of exuberance and ardors.

It was truly a day of accomplishments and celebration. The auditorium was filled with GSB member families and invited guest Artist Dr Ravindra Prabhu and invited cine/drama artists Shashibhooshan Kini and Dr H Satish Nayak. The program started invoking the blessings of the Almighty God which was composed by Shamita Bhat and Disha Shenoy.

Sujeer Srinivas Rao 'Kasaragod Chinna' was the honored Chief Guest for the event. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp was performed by the Chief Guest along with the President of the Sabha, Gokuldas Bhat and the committee members, Vice President - Dr Srinivas Prabhu, Gen. Secretary - Dr Vishwanath Prabhu, Treasurer - Dr Ganesh Prabhu B, Joint Secretary - Dr Girish Shenoy, PRO - Dr Shivshankar Nayak and internal Auditor - Dr Prakash Prabhu. In his welcome address, the President thanked and briefed the two years journey during his tenure as president for the year 2016 and 2017.



The Chief Guest Sujeer Srinivas Rao was given a warm welcome. In his address, He reminded the GSB members to impart good culture, values and tradition to be followed in the Konkani kids at this young age. He also said that being parents we should fulfill our duty of leading them from Darkness to Light and Ignorance to Knowledge. Soon after the Chief Guest speech, the Konkani film 'UJJVADU' and the Konkani book 'Thees Kaanio' which was scripted by Dr Sujeer Srinivas Rao, was released by GSB advisory Committee members Haridas Acharya, B Prakash Pai, Rajaram Pai Kateel and Dr Surendra Nayak. Acknowledging the meritorious students of 10th and 12th class and Vihara 2016 (GSB picnic) prizes were distributed respectively by Chief Guest and Management Committee members. During the stage program GSB kids performed scintillating invocation and medley of folk and Kannada songs, duly choreographed by Spoorthy Deepak Kamath and Nayana Girish Shenoy.

Later part of the Program was 'Family Antakshari' which was duly conducted by Dr Aparna Bhat and Dr Srinath Bhat. The attraction of the function was 'Sangeeta Lahari' with a mix of Konkani, Kannada and Hindi songs which was beautifully sung by 'Karaavali Gandarva Dr Ravindra Prabhu Mulky' and followed by a Konkani drama 'Ayilore Ayilo' which was translated into Konkani and directed by chief guest Kasargod Chinna. The Konkani drama was much appreciated by all the audience which points out the corruption in the society and the way it's been handled by the each individual. With its first stage play in Kuwait, the Konkani drama was very well played by local GSB members and invited artists.



SEVA DARSHAN KUWAIT HOLDS ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING



Seva Darshan Kuwait held its annual general body meeting on April 28th at the Indian Community School auditorium. All office-bearers of Seva Darshan and other members attended the day-long meeting. Outgoing president Ajayakumar presented the annual report. Deliberations were held on the presented report and also a road map for the upcoming year was discussed. A new working team comprising over 200 office-bearers were announced. The elected new president Sanjuraj addressed the audience and announced the executive body for the year 2017-18.

Jayakumar will be the new vice-president and Praveen the general secretary. Ajayakumar T K (Secretary - Finance), Sanalkumar (Secretary - events), Radhakrishnan (secretary - welfare), Sundararaman (secretary - cultural) and Vibheesh T (secretary - public relations) were announced as the new executive committee. Kirshnakumar P, Rajarajan G and S Mohankumar will form the advisory council of the organization.



GULF BANK LAUNCHES NEW EXCLUSIVE INSTANT ATMS REWARDS WITH PIZZA HUT

Gulf Bank announced the launch of the third new instant reward campaign on the use of its ATMs, providing an offer in collaboration with Pizza Hut. The new promotion will run until June 30, 2017. Gulf Bank is the only Bank in Kuwait that offers to all its ATM users, across Kuwait, coupons attached on ATM receipts providing special promotions. During the months of May and June,

ATM users will receive coupons offering a free medium pizza with every purchase of any large pizza from Pizza Hut. These coupons will be attached to the front of the ATM receipts giving easy and practical access to enjoy a lunch or dinner from Pizza Hut, and this upon showing the coupons.

The offer, which is exclusive at Gulf Bank ATMs, only, allows customers to benefit from the vicinity of the ATMs and Pizza Hut Restaurants across the country.

With each withdraw or transaction done on Gulf Bank's ATMs, customers will indulge themselves along with their families, in a delicious meal. Gulf Bank is committed to providing the best and most innovative services and offers to its customers, and this campaign is only a proof of its continuous efforts.



POSITIVE THINKING PROGRAM ORGANIZES STUDENTS DEBATE

The first debate for the Bareeq positive thinking program's team was organized recently featuring public high school and Kuwait University students and teachers. Students from the Ahmad Al-Adwani High School for Boys and Bayan High School for Grills spoke about the positive impact that the program left in terms of changing their behavior towards more commitment to their school assignments.

The first season of the program, which lasted for three months, featured participation of 1,600 students and 69 teachers from 13 different high schools, as well as 500 students and eight professors from four Kuwait University colleagues, said head of the program's executive board Sheikha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah. Three participants were also selected to attend training courses on positive psychology at the Berkeley University of California, the United State, Sheikha Intisar added.



The Indonesian Embassy in collaboration with the Indonesian Volleyball Community in Kuwait (IVOC-K) held a one day volleyball tournament this past weekend at Kazma Club's Stadium in Adailiya. The tournament was officially opened by the Indonesian Ambassador to Kuwait Tatang Budie Utama Razak. Twelve comprising members from the Indonesian community in Kuwait took part. The Solomas Nusantara team was eventually crowned champions of the tournament.

OSN MOVIES ACTION

00:45 Vikingdom
02:45 DCU: Justice League vs Teen Titans
04:15 Shark Lake
06:00 Blown Away
08:00 Insurgent
10:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
12:00 Blown Away
14:15 The Throwaways
16:00 Insurgent
18:00 Double Team
19:45 I Am Number Four
21:45 Escape
23:15 The Transporter: Refueled

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:50 River Monsters
01:45 Bondi Vet
02:40 Pit Bulls & Parolees
03:35 Investigation Earth With Jeff Corwin
04:25 Mutant Planet
05:15 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
06:02 River Monsters
06:49 Pit Bulls & Parolees
07:36 Going Ape
08:00 Going Ape
08:25 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
09:15 Pit Bulls & Parolees
10:10 Mutant Planet
11:05 Investigation Earth With Jeff Corwin
12:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Pit Bulls & Parolees
14:45 River Monsters
15:40 Mutant Planet
16:35 Investigation Earth With Jeff Corwin
17:30 River Monsters
18:25 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
19:20 From WAGs To Riches
20:15 Wild Dog Island
21:10 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
22:05 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet
23:00 From WAGs To Riches
23:55 Mutant Planet

BBC FIRST

00:50 Doctors
01:20 Spies Of Warsaw
02:05 Unforgotten
02:55 Silent Witness
03:55 Silent Witness

Patrol
05:15 Lip Sync Battle
05:40 Ridiculousness
06:05 Disaster Date
06:30 Gym Rescue
07:20 Life Or Debt
08:15 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
09:05 Disaster Date
09:30 Disaster Date
09:55 Ridiculousness
10:20 Workaholics
10:45 Disaster Date
11:10 Ridiculousness
11:35 Impractical Jokers
12:00 Hungry Investors
12:50 The Jim Gaffigan Show
13:15 Lip Sync Battle
13:40 Impractical Jokers
14:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
14:55 Ridiculousness
15:20 Tattoo Disasters
15:45 Tattoo Disasters
16:10 Workaholics
16:35 Disaster Date
17:00 Disaster Date
17:30 Ridiculousness
17:55 Lip Sync Battle
18:25 Workaholics
18:50 Gym Rescue
19:39 Impractical Jokers
20:03 Disaster Date
20:27 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef
20:50 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef
21:13 The Jim Gaffigan Show
21:37 South Park
22:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
22:30 Chappelle's Show
23:00 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
23:50 Tosh.0

Discovery Family

00:15 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:40 Ultimate Survival
01:30 Science Of The Movies
02:20 React To That
02:45 React To That
03:10 Now That's Funny
04:00 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:25 Kids Do The Craziest Things
04:50 Ultimate Survival
05:40 How It's Made
06:05 How It's Made
06:30 Storm Chasers
07:20 Mythbusters
08:00 Adventure 8: Zoo Games

01:25 Hank Zipzer
01:45 The Hive
01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
02:40 Hank Zipzer
03:05 Binny And The Ghost
03:30 Binny And The Ghost
03:55 Hank Zipzer
04:15 The Hive
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:10 Hank Zipzer
05:35 Binny And The Ghost
06:00 Binny And The Ghost
06:25 Hank Zipzer
06:45 The Hive
06:50 The 7D
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Jessie
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:55 The Zhuzhus
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Stuck In The Middle
09:35 Bizaardvark
10:00 Austin & Ally
10:25 Austin & Ally
10:50 Good Luck Charlie
11:15 Good Luck Charlie
11:40 Dog With A Blog
12:05 Dog With A Blog
12:30 Gravity Falls
12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
13:00 Welcome To The Tonks
13:15 The Zhuzhus
13:40 Hank Zipzer
14:05 Star Darlings
14:10 Good Luck Charlie
14:35 Austin & Ally
15:00 Jessie
15:25 Hank Zipzer
15:50 Sunny Bunnies
15:55 The Zhuzhus
16:45 Elena Of Avalor
17:10 Liv And Maddie
17:35 Descendants Wicked World
17:40 Girl Meets World
18:05 Stuck In The Middle
18:30 Bunk'd
18:55 Bizaardvark
19:20 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:25 Alex & Co.
19:50 Best Friends Whenever
20:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
20:20 Liv And Maddie
20:45 Hank Zipzer
21:10 Jessie
21:35 Cracked
21:40 Disney The Lodge

22:25 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
22:50 Minnie's Bow-Toons
23:00 Sofia The First
23:30 Sofia The First
23:55 PJ Masks

Discovery Channel HD

00:30 Diesel Brothers
01:20 Street Outlaws
02:10 Todd Sampson's Body Hack
02:30 Marooned With Ed Stafford
03:50 Sail Alive
04:40 Diesel Brothers
05:30 Storage Hunters UK
06:00 How Do They Do It?
06:30 How Do They Do It?
07:00 Gold Divers
07:50 Street Outlaws
08:40 Diesel Brothers
09:30 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
10:20 Storage Hunters UK
10:45 How Do They Do It?
11:10 How Do They Do It?
11:35 Todd Sampson's Body Hack
12:25 Marooned With Ed Stafford
13:15 Sharks vs Dolphins: Face Off
14:05 How Do They Do It?
14:30 Storage Hunters UK
14:55 Storage Hunters UK
15:20 Gold Rush
16:10 Legend Of Croc Gold
17:00 Gold Divers
17:50 Diesel Brothers
18:40 Street Outlaws
19:30 How Do They Do It?
19:55 How Do They Do It?
20:20 Legend Of Croc Gold
21:10 Storage Hunters UK
21:35 Storage Hunters UK
22:00 Abandoned Engineering
22:50 You Have Been Warned
23:40 Deadliest Job Interview

XD

00:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA
07:00 Gravity Falls
07:25 11
07:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
08:15 Milo Murphy's Law
08:25 Danger Mouse
08:40 Supa Strikas
09:05 Two More Eggs
09:10 K.C. Undercover
09:35 Counterfeit Cat
10:00 Lab Rats Elite Force
10:25 Lab Rats Elite Force
10:50 Future-Worm!
11:20 Pair Of Kings
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Danger Mouse
12:35 Supa Strikas
13:00 Supa Strikas
13:30 Gravity Falls
13:55 Annedroids
14:20 Atomic Puppet
14:45 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Mighty Med
15:40 Kirby Buckets
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
16:55 Right Now Kapow
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 11
18:15 Mech-X4
18:40 Milo Murphy's Law
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Gravity Falls
19:35 Mighty Med
20:00 Atomic Puppet
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Mech-X4
21:45 11
22:10 Walk The Prank
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
22:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
23:10 Ultimate Spider-Man
23:35 Boyster

EHD

00:00 E! News
00:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
02:50 E! News
03:50 Celebrity Style Story
04:20 Celebrity Style Story
04:50 WAGs Miami
05:40 WAGs Miami
06:30 Celebrity Style Story
07:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
07:55 E! News

08:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
09:10 E! News: Daily Pop
10:10 WAGs
11:05 WAGs
12:00 WAGs
13:00 E! News
13:15 WAGs
14:10 WAGs
15:05 Second Wives Club
16:00 E! News
16:15 E! News: Daily Pop
17:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
20:00 E! News
21:00 Botched
22:00 Botched
23:00 Botched

food network

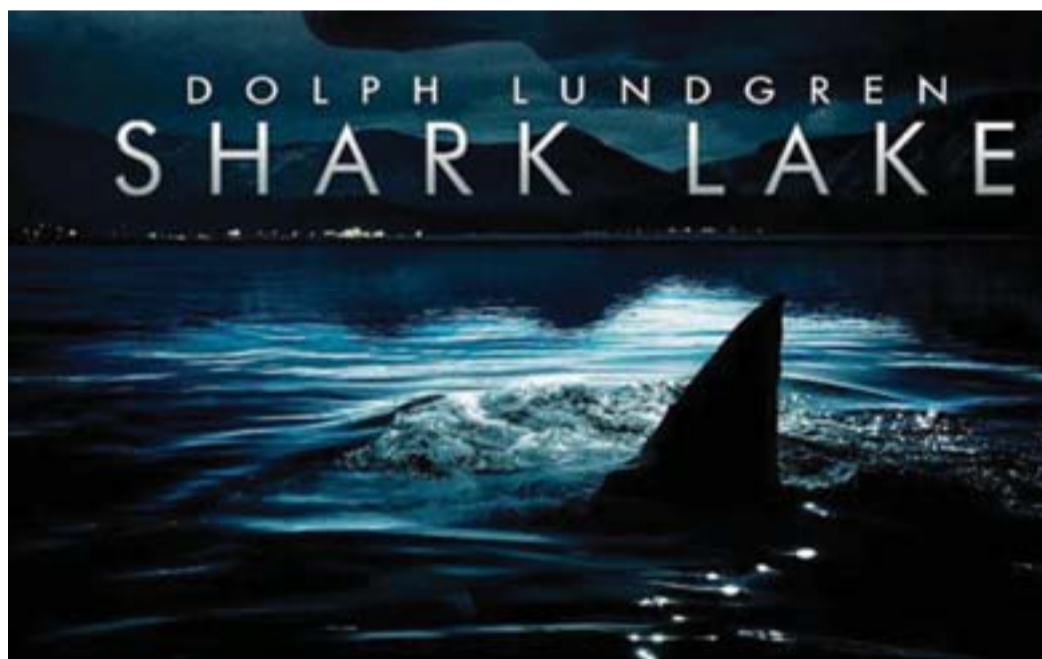
00:00 Guy's Grocery Games
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Man Finds Food
02:30 Man Finds Food
03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
04:30 Man Fire Food
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
07:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:00 The Kitchen
09:00 The Pioneer Woman
09:30 The Pioneer Woman
10:00 Siba's Table
10:30 Siba's Table
11:00 Anna Olson: Bake
11:30 Anna Olson: Bake
12:00 The Kitchen
13:00 The Pioneer Woman
13:30 The Pioneer Woman
14:00 Siba's Table
14:30 Siba's Table
15:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Anna Olson: Bake
18:30 Anna Olson: Bake
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Iron Chef America
21:00 Chopped
22:00 Kids BBQ Championship
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

itv HD CHOICE

00:15 Coronation Street
00:40 Coronation Street
01:10 Cash Trapped
02:00 Emmerdale
02:30 Coronation Street
03:00 Coronation Street
03:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
04:25 Tutankhamun
05:20 Tina & Bobby
06:15 Coach Trip
06:45 Coach Trip
07:10 Cash Trapped
08:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?
09:00 Tutankhamun
10:00 Tina & Bobby
11:00 Coach Trip
11:30 Coach Trip
11:55 Cash Trapped
12:50 Who's Doing The Dishes?
13:45 Emmerdale
14:15 Coronation Street
14:45 Coronation Street
15:15 Cash Trapped
16:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
17:00 Broadchurch
17:55 Broadchurch
18:50 Coach Trip
19:20 Coach Trip
19:45 Emmerdale
20:15 Coronation Street
20:45 Coronation Street
21:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
22:00 Broadchurch
22:55 Broadchurch
23:50 Emmerdale

NAT GEO HISTORY HD

00:30 American Pickers
01:20 Forged In Fire
02:10 Alone
03:00 Swamp People
03:50 Storage Wars
04:15 American Pickers
05:05 Pawn Stars
05:30 Pawn Stars
06:00 Mountain Men
07:50 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
08:40 Counting Cars
09:05 Counting Cars



SHARK LAKE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

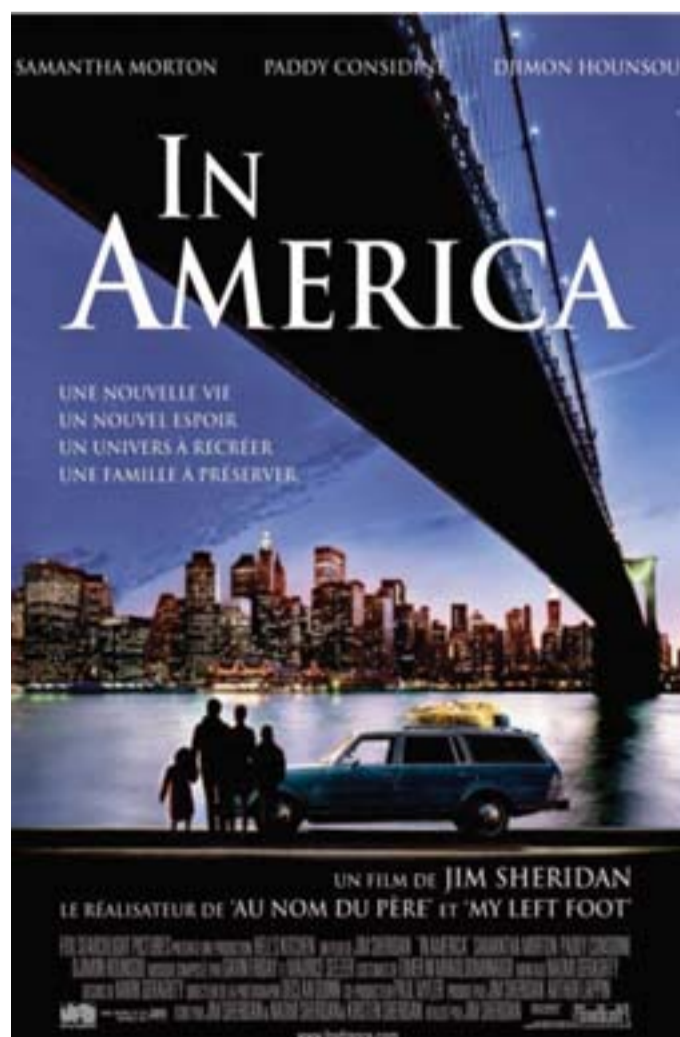
05:05 Doctors
05:35 Doctors
06:10 The Corner
07:00 Death In Paradise
07:55 Doctors
08:25 Doctors
08:55 Dickensian
09:45 The Corner
10:35 Death In Paradise
11:30 Doctors
12:00 Doctors
12:30 Dickensian
13:20 The Corner
14:15 Death In Paradise
15:10 Doctors
15:45 Doctors
16:20 Dickensian
17:10 The Corner
18:00 Death In Paradise
19:00 Doctors
19:30 Eastenders
20:05 Dickensian
21:00 Benidorm
22:00 Sherlock
23:40 The Kettering Incident

08:25 Kids vs Film
08:50 Bad Dog
09:40 How It's Made
10:05 How It's Made
10:30 Science Of The Movies
11:20 Mythbusters
12:10 Bad Dog
13:00 Ultimate Survival
13:50 How It's Made
14:15 How It's Made
14:40 Storm Chasers
15:30 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
15:55 Kids vs Film
16:20 Bad Dog
17:10 Science Of The Movies
18:00 Dogs: The Untold Story
18:50 Everest: Beyond The Limit
19:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things
20:05 Kids Do The Craziest Things
20:30 How It's Made
20:55 How It's Made
21:20 Mythbusters
22:10 Dogs: The Untold Story
23:00 Everest: Beyond The Limit
23:50 Kids Do The Craziest Things

22:05 Bizaardvark
22:30 That's So Raven
22:55 Star Darlings
23:00 Shake It Up
23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

Disney Junior

00:20 Henry Hugglemonster
00:35 The Hive
00:45 Loopedidoo
01:00 Henry Hugglemonster
01:15 Calimero
02:40 Art Attack
01:55 Zou
02:05 Loopedidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Zou
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Loopedidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopedidoo
04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Zou
06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopedidoo
07:00 Zou
07:15 Calimero
07:30 Loopedidoo
07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
08:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
08:25 Sofia The First
08:50 The Lion Guard
09:15 PJ Masks
09:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
10:05 Goldie & Bear
10:35 The Lion Guard
11:05 Sofia The First
11:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
12:05 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
12:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
13:05 Gummi Bears
13:35 Miles From Tomorrow
14:05 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
14:35 PJ Masks
15:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
15:30 The Lion Guard
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:55 Sofia The First
17:20 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
17:50 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
18:15 Sofia The First
18:40 Doc McStuffins
19:05 PJ Masks
19:35 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
20:05 PJ Masks
20:35 PJ Masks
21:05 Goldie & Bear
21:35 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
22:00 Gummi Bears



IN AMERICA ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL



CAS & DYLAN ON OSN MOVIES HD

09:30 Pawn Stars
09:55 Pawn Stars
10:20 Storage Wars
10:45 Storage Wars
11:10 American Pickers
12:00 Search For The Lost Giants
12:50 Duck Dynasty
13:15 Duck Dynasty
13:40 Swamp People
14:30 Ax Men
15:20 Mountain Men
16:10 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
17:00 Storage Wars
17:25 Storage Wars
17:50 Pawn Stars
18:15 Pawn Stars
18:40 Alone
19:30 Swamp People
20:20 Mountain Men
21:10 American Pickers
22:00 Big Easy Motors
22:25 Big Easy Motors
22:50 Forged In Fire
23:40 Forged In Fire

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

00:15 Kim Possible: So The Drama
01:30 Max
03:30 The Borrowers
05:00 Alice In Wonderland
07:00 Snow Day
08:30 The Borrowers
10:00 Frozen
11:45 Kim Possible: So The Drama
13:00 Alice In Wonderland
15:00 Frozen
16:45 Hercules (1997)
18:30 Ice Princess
20:15 Inspector Gadget
21:45 The Last Flight Of Noah's Ark
23:30 Hercules (1997)

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

01:00 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything
02:45 Undercover Brother
04:15 Christmas Eve
06:00 Twins
07:45 National Security
09:15 The Final Girls
10:45 Christmas Eve
12:30 Twins
14:15 National Security
15:45 The Final Girls
17:15 Outside Bet
19:00 Fun Size
20:30 Norbit
22:15 The Out Of Towners
23:45 Ted 2

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

01:00 In America
02:45 Man In The Moon
05:00 Boychoir
07:00 Healing
09:00 Trash
11:00 Days Of Heaven
12:45 Man In The Moon
15:00 Land Of Mine
17:00 Half Of A Yellow Sun
19:00 Masaan
20:45 Spotlight
23:00 Clouds Of Sits Maria

NAT GEO people HD

00:20 Glamour Puds
00:50 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
01:15 Living Free With Kimi Werner
02:10 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
02:40 Croatia's Finest
03:05 The Game Chef
03:35 Chocolate Covered
04:00 Restoration Man
04:55 The Shelbourne
05:25 Rustic Adventures Italy
05:50 Chasing The Sun
06:20 Chasing The Sun
06:45 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
07:15 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
07:40 What's For Sale?
08:10 Croatia's Finest
08:35 The Game Chef
09:05 Chocolate Covered
09:30 Restoration Man
10:25 The Shelbourne
10:55 Rustic Adventures Italy
11:20 Chasing The Sun
11:50 Chasing The Sun
12:15 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
12:45 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
13:10 What's For Sale?
13:40 Croatia's Finest
14:05 Umaid Rocco's Dolce Vita
14:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
15:00 Restoration Man
15:55 The Shelbourne
16:25 Rustic Adventures Italy
16:50 Miguel's Feasts
17:20 Miguel's Feasts
17:45 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
18:15 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
18:40 What's For Sale?
19:10 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
20:05 The Shelbourne
20:30 Rustic Adventures Italy
21:00 Miguel's Feasts
21:30 Miguel's Feasts
22:00 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
22:30 Andy And Ben Eat Australia
23:00 What's For Sale?
23:25 Gok's Chinese Takeaway

crime & investigation network

00:00 Evil Up Close
01:00 It Takes A Killer
01:30 It Takes A Killer
02:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
03:00 Crime Stories
04:00 Evil Up Close
05:00 It Takes A Killer
05:30 It Takes A Killer
06:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
07:00 My Crazy Ex
08:00 My Crazy Ex
09:00 Evil Up Close
10:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
11:00 Homicide Hunter
12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
14:00 My Crazy Ex
15:00 Evil Up Close
16:00 Homicide Hunter
17:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
18:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
19:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
20:00 Evil Up Close
21:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
22:00 Homicide Hunter
23:00 My Crazy Ex
Comedy Central
00:15 Tosh.0
00:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
01:05 Chappelle's Show
01:30 South Park
01:55 South Park

ID

00:40 Jonben?: An American Murder Mystery
01:30 Murder Among Friends
02:20 Killing Richard Glossip
03:10 A Crime To Remember
04:00 Jonben?: An American Murder Mystery
04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
05:36 Beauty Queen Murders
06:24 Swamp Murders
07:12 I'd Kill For You
08:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
08:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
08:50 I Almost Got Away With It
09:40 Beauty Queen Murders
10:30 Swamp Murders
11:20 I'd Kill For You
12:10 A Crime To Remember
13:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
13:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 Beauty Queen Murders
15:30 Swamp Murders
16:20 I'd Kill For You
17:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
18:00 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
18:25 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
19:40 Beauty Queen Murders
20:30 Swamp Murders
21:20 I'd Kill For You
22:10 Evil Online
23:00 Betrayed
23:50 Murder Chose Me

COMEDY CENTRAL

02:20 Tosh.0
02:45 Tosh.0
03:10 South Park
03:35 South Park
04:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
04:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On

Disney HD

00:10 Hank Zipzer
00:35 Binny And The Ghost
01:00 Binny And The Ghost

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

00:45 Robosapien: Rebooted
02:15 The Heart Of The Oak
03:45 Thumbelina
05:15 When Marnie Was There
07:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
08:30 Cher Ami
10:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
11:30 Robosapien: Rebooted
13:15 The Heart Of The Oak
14:45 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
16:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
18:00 The Adventures Of Rocky And Bullwinkle
19:45 Bonta
21:15 Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder
23:00 Cher Ami

OSN MOVIES HD

01:15 Higher Learning
03:30 Dick Tracy
05:45 Make Your Move
08:00 Up Close And Personal
10:15 Cas & Dylan
12:00 Dick Tracy
14:00 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Voyage Of The Dawn...
16:00 Reign Over Me
18:15 When A Man Loves A Woman
20:30 The Fisher King
23:00 The Gambler

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

00:40 Mythbusters
01:30 How Do They Do It?
01:55 Food Factory
02:20 Strangest Weather On Earth
03:10 Race To Escape

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:30 Fish Tank Kings
01:20 The Great Serengeti
02:10 Animals Gone Wild
03:00 Soul Of The Cat
03:50 Wild 24
04:45 America's National Parks
05:40 Natural Born Monsters
06:35 Soul Of The Cat
07:30 Wild 24

CLASSIFIEDS



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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (11/05/2017 TO 17/05/2017)

SHARQIA-1	11:30 AM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	2:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	4:45 PM
A FAMILY MAN	7:00 PM
A FAMILY MAN	9:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	11:45 PM

SHARQIA-2	12:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	2:45 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	5:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	7:45 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	10:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:45 AM

SHARQIA-3	12:45 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	2:45 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	4:30 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	6:15 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	8:00 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	10:00 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	12:05 AM

MUHALAB-1	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	7:15 PM
RADHA -Telugu	4:30 PM
RADHA -Telugu	7:15 PM
SARKAR 3 - Hindi	7:15 PM
RADHA -Telugu	10:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	10:00 PM
NO THU+FR+MON	12:30 AM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	

MUHALAB-2	1:00 PM
A FAMILY MAN	1:30 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	3:15 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	5:15 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	7:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN	9:30 PM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2	12:05 AM
A FAMILY MAN	

MUHALAB-3	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	12:45 PM
A FAMILY MAN	3:00 PM
A FAMILY MAN	5:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN	7:30 PM
A FAMILY MAN	9:45 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	12:05 AM

FANAR-2	1:15 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	3:00 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	5:00 PM

HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	7:00 PM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2	8:45 PM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2	11:15 PM

FANAR-3	12:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	3:00 PM
SARKAR 3 - Hindi	5:30 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	8:45 PM
SARKAR 3 - Hindi	11:30 PM

FANAR-4	12:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	2:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	5:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	7:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	10:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:30 AM

FANAR-5	12:00 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	2:00 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	4:00 PM
THE BOSS BABY	6:00 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	7:45 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	9:30 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	11:30 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	1:15 AM

MARINA-1	11:45 AM
A FAMILY MAN	2:00 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	4:00 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	6:00 PM
HOWARD LOVECRAFT & THE FROZEN KINGDOM	8:00 PM
A FAMILY MAN	10:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN	12:30 AM

MARINA-2	12:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	3:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	5:30 PM
THE BOSS BABY	7:30 PM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2	10:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:30 AM

MARINA-3	11:30 AM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	2:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	4:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	7:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	9:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:05 AM

AVENUES-1	12:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN	2:30 PM
A FAMILY MAN	4:45 PM
A FAMILY MAN	7:00 PM
A FAMILY MAN	9:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN	11:30 PM

AVENUES-2	11:30 AM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX	2:15 PM

THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX	5:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX	7:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX	10:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D-4DX	12:45 AM

AVENUES-3	11:30 AM
THE BOSS BABY	1:30 PM
THE BOSS BABY	3:45 PM
THE BOSS BABY	6:00 PM
THE BOSS BABY	8:15 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	10:30 PM
MONOLITH	1:15 AM

AVENUES-4	11:30 AM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	2:00 PM
THE BOSS BABY	4:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	6:45 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	9:30 PM
Special Show "KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD"	9:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:15 AM

360°- 1	11:30 AM
THE BOSS BABY	1:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	1:30 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D	4:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	7:00 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD -3D	9:45 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	12:30 AM

360°- 2	12:00 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	2:00 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	4:00 PM
SOLUKAR BARAH	6:15 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	8:15 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	10:15 PM
YOU M MIN AL AYAM	12:15 AM

360°- 3	12:15 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 8	3:15 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	6:30 PM
GEORGETTAN'S POORAM- Malayalam	9:45 PM
BAAHUBALI 2: The Conclusion -Hindi	1:00 AM
MONOLITH	

AL-KOUT.1	11:30 AM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	2:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	4:45 PM
THE BOSS BABY	6:45 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	9:15 PM
KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD	11:45 PM

AL-KOUT.2	12:00 PM
A FAMILY MAN	2:15 PM
A FAMILY MAN	4:30 PM
A FAMILY MAN	6:45 PM
A FAMILY MAN	9:00 PM
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2	11:30 PM

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: mjohjohn@yahoo.com (C 5309) 15-5-2017

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:25
Shorook:	04:55
Duhr:	11:44
Asr:	15:20
Maghrib:	18:34
Isha:	20:01

EMERGENCY 112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

Get your news any way you want it

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)															
Flight Schedule						DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION									
Arrival Flights on Wednesday 17/5/2017						Departure Flights on Wednesday 17/5/2017									
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	364	Colombo	14:15	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	CLX	792	Dubai	14:30
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	00:15	FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30	IRC	6512	ABD	14:50
JZR	553	Alexandria	00:15	KAC	618	Dubai	14:20	MSC	406	Sohag	00:30	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:35	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	KNE	382	Taif	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	JZR	357	Mashhad	14:50	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:00
KAC	102	London	00:55	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	KAC	363	Colombo	01:55	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	692	Muscat	14:55	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:25	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:55	MSR	619	Alexandria	02:35	KAC	563	Amman	15:40
MSR	618	Alexandria	01:35	KAC	304	Mumbai	14:55	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:50	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:05	KAC	619	Istanbul	02:55	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KNE	683	Madinah	15:05	KNE	530	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:50	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	KAC	684	Istanbul	03:10	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	KAC	562	Amman	15:10	KAC	775	Dubai	03:30	KAC	775	Riyadh	16:05
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KAC	502	Beirut	15:25	OMA	646	Muscat	03:30	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
QTR	1086	Doha	02:05	KAC	412	Bangkok	15:30	ABY	128	Sharjah	04:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
PGT	830	Istanbul	02:10	KAC	127	Sharjah	15:35	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:30
KAC	618	Manila	02:50	SAW	705	Damascus	15:50	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	SAW	706	Damascus	16:50
OMA	443	Muscat	03:05	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	KAC	417	Manila	04:20	SVA	505	Madinah	16:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	SVA	504	Madinah	16:00	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	KAC	103	London	05:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:05
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	FDB	051	Dubai	16:15	CEB	019	Manila	05:30	KAC	503	Beirut	17:15
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	QTR	1077	Doha	05:35	JZR	266	Beirut	17:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:40	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50	JZR	552	Alexandria	17:25
KAC	544	Cairo	03:50	KAC	118	New York	16:55	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
CEB	018	Manila	04:00	KAC	542	Cairo	17:05	KAC	643	Istanbul	06:25	JZR	240	Amman	17:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	KAC	361	Colombo	17:35
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	KAC	357	Kochi	17:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:05	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:35	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50	KAC	381	Delhi	17:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	QTR	1080	Doha	18:05	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50	KAC	283	Dhaka	18:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:30	BAW	156	London	08:20	KAC	343	Chennai	18:00
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	KAC	741	Dammam	08:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	512	Mashhad	18:40	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	08:35	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	FDB	063	Bahrain	19:10	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:40	JZR	538	Bahrain	18:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	ABY	123										

CROSSWORD 1610



ACROSS

1. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
4. Of or having to do with or belonging to an abbey or abbot, or abbess.
12. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
15. The act of using.
16. A bin for holding coal.
17. The address of a web page on the world wide web.
18. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
19. A rectangular groove made to hold two pieces together.
20. A numerical quantity measured or assigned or computed.
22. The capital and largest city of Japan.
24. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
25. A small cake leavened with yeast.
26. A member of the Semitic speaking people of northern Ethiopia.
28. A genus of Indridae.
31. A symptom consisting of the involuntary expulsion of air from the nose.
34. A starch made by leaching and drying the root of the cassava plant.
37. Characteristic of the classical artistic and literary traditions.
41. The administration of a strong electric current that passes through the brain to induce convulsions and coma.
42. Someone who tells a story.
45. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand.
46. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
48. Of southern United States.
50. Unable to relax or be still.
52. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
53. Of or relating to or consisting of enol.
54. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
55. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
58. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
59. A state in the western United States.
63. A genus of tropical American plants have sword-shaped leaves and a fleshy compound fruits composed of the fruits of several flowers (such as pineapples).
70. A flourish added after or under your signature (originally to protect against forgery).
72. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
73. A doctor's degree in education.
74. Goat grass.
76. Having a toe or toes of a specified kind.
77. A column of light (as from a beacon).
78. A family of birds of the suborder Oscines.
79. Lap that forms a cloth border doubled back and stitched down v 1.

DOWN

1. A bodily passage or tube conveying a secretion or other substance.
2. A genus of European owls.
3. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
4. The outermost point of the spine of the shoulder blade.
5. A long thin fluffy scarf of feathers or fur.
6. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind and raisins and almonds.
7. United States painter born in Germany.
8. An inhabitant of ancient Thebes.
9. A tiny or scarcely detectable amount.
10. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
11. The basic unit of money in Bulgaria.
12. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
13. A popular island resort in the Netherlands Antilles.
14. Tired to the point of exhaustion.
21. True firs.
23. A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
27. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
29. Leave voluntarily.
30. Ludicrously odd.
32. (prefix) Outside or outer.
33. Run away secretly with one's beloved.
35. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
36. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
38. Small cold-water silvery fish.
39. Region of western Asia Minor colonized by Ancient Greeks.
40. A hidden drawback.
43. The seed of the cereal grass.
44. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
47. Crested screamers.
49. The state of being unsure of something.
51. A member of a North American Indian people of central Arizona.
56. Commercially important fish of the North American Pacific coast.
57. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
60. After the expected or usual time.
61. A rye bread made with molasses or brown sugar.
62. Native to Egypt but cultivated widely for its aromatic seeds and the oil from them used medicinally and as a flavoring in cookery.
64. A quantity of no importance.
65. A landlocked republic in northwestern Africa.
66. A compact mass.
67. Profane or obscene expression usually of surprise or anger.
68. Wild plum of northeastern United States having dark purple fruits with yellow flesh.
69. A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
71. Estrangement from god.
75. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Administrative ability comes easily this morning and you are able to help coordinate people and events. This may mean you are now head caterer or you have decided to be on an entertainment committee, etc. You are able to influence and guide others in matters of importance; this could mean a dance contest. You may seek guidance with regard to your own work from higher-ups. Do not be afraid to ask questions today. Others value you for your ability to make practical decisions, but there is no disgrace in learning more by asking questions. You may glean new techniques from your co-workers as well as those you might consider under you. A great person shows greatness by the way that person treats others. This afternoon you enjoy young people.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A conversation around the water cooler has you interested in a subject you had not given much thought to before today. Library visits are usually enjoyable for you and you may make plans to stop by and pick up a book or two on your subject of interest. Work goes well but you look forward to the busy times coming up with your friends. Consideration could be given now to joining a theatrical group. This would help you experience several things at once and afford you the ability to take on new experiences and to enjoy many more people. You attract attention and seek intuitive and intelligent situations where you can use your education to make a positive difference. You might want to send off for a birth chart this year.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are productive and work well with others. Your management abilities are in order. Your intuitive mind comes to your attention and you listen to your instincts. You are guided and motivated to enlarge your scope of understanding when it comes to enlarging your work experiences. There are plenty of co-worker friends that want to help you get ahead since they may appreciate your way of taking care of difficult work issues. You enjoy your job as well as the responsibility it entails. This is what will move you to the front of the line when it comes to promotions. Sometimes you can become sidetracked by meaningless matters, but today you seem to be tuned in to most of the situations around you. You spend time with close friends tonight.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find yourself acting impulsively and spontaneously. You could act first and think about what you have done later. Rushing in where others fear to tread seems to be the mode of this day. This is attention-getting behavior. You could provoke a response from your surroundings and from others. There is something essential that causes something else to happen-a reaction or response. It's about time someone took the initiative to set out a plan or make a suggestion-others have not dared to speak. You make great headway in the workplace for yourself and your co-workers. You want something more imaginative and less mundane. You could receive unexpected help or support from those around you, especially someone younger.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You cherish personal freedom and may have the urge to go exploring during your lunch hour. You may come across a superb investment idea. Channel your energies in the direction of completing the uncompleted. You have a great desire to understand the motivations and actions of your friends or co-workers and will be motivated to help another through giving advice. You possess a penetrating mind that will attempt to sway others to more positive ways of thinking. Your analytical powers are superb and you will enjoy looking for new avenues of inner growth. This is a nice day that should just flow along very well. In particular, this afternoon, you will do well in activities that include children, young people and your home and surroundings.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may spend a great deal of time designing and thinking about ways in which to beautify your surroundings. This may include work as well as home just now. Perhaps you could add a few plants around the office where you work-oxygen is a good thing. You could base many of your decisions on hunches. You are in touch with your own convictions and the beliefs of your friends. You accept others for who they truly are and can gain the confidence of most anyone. The power of attraction and desire for love is great this evening, but you should exercise caution before entering a new relationship just now. Also, you may be inclined to physical activities, like sports, especially with the opposite sex. Try working together in some fun activity.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

There is a tendency to be too strict with your performance in the workplace as well as on the home front. You often may feel that whatever does not contribute to security and other long-term goals is trivial. Your ambition is intensified. There is excitement today because of an opportunity to meet interesting people through unusual means. You accept change well and will be able to take some time to teach others. You have that special ability to change with the expectancy of positive end results. Your relationships with others, especially women, will be most harmonious at this time, particularly with a person that had some recent difficulties. This is a good time to effect subtle changes in your social life. Group travel is in the future.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are very communicative today-not just a little curious. You enjoy talking, speaking or writing and can teach as well. Study, research and investigations of all kinds appeal to you. You are always searching for some kind of answer. Your mind is active and you could be testing and searching for limits. There is something essential that starts or causes something else to happen today. You are lightning fast when it comes to a business deal or business transaction. You seem to have direct insight into what is worthwhile in a situation. You have ways of cutting to the important parts of a situation. You seem to know what each customer, client or co-worker may want or need. You can make a career out of your keen organizational skills at this time.



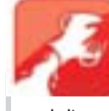
Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This is a very important day with lots of action. You are very focused and attentive in all the appropriate places. Not to worry, you will see the positive results of your actions soon enough. You have lots of physical energy this afternoon and it would be a good time to involve yourself with some fun activity with young people. Being outdoors can be most stimulating at this time of year. This evening you may find your thoughts turn to self-improvement. You may search long and hard to find clever ways in which to improve on something you do or something you feel needs changing. Faith and your abilities will take you far. There is some entertainment coming to your town that you think your friends might enjoy and you hurry to spread the news.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a day in which you will enjoy positive energy all around you. Conference meetings are upbeat and many things are accomplished. With all this going for you and the people around you, you may feel comfortable and right with the world. The next project worth considering just now is better advertising. This may mean you carry through with a business product promotion. Your ideas are traditional and can be quite successful. There is a passion for details, with the desire to do just the right thing this afternoon. You have a burning desire to have a place for everything and everything in its place. This can be hard on the digestive system if taken to extreme! Close relationships take on more emotional depth, now.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

A frustrating morning smooths out quite nicely as you take control and direct events. This may mean that a co-worker is out for the day and someone is waiting for the co-worker's signature or directions. You do, however, have universal energies working in your favor now so that if you hold your thoughts before you speak, focus and harmony can be easily realized. You could be in the spotlight at work because of your accomplishments. A humble attitude will help you win friends and influence people. Any form of communication, including your vehicle, should get special attention today. Telephone conversations and computer transactions may be a bit slow for now. List making will help to keep you on-target all day long.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are at your most practical when it comes to working with others. You develop a knack for organizing things and people, as a sense of ambition takes hold. Work and achieving your professional goals mean a lot to you now. Others enjoy hearing your viewpoint, especially when you take the time to explain the reason for your insights. Because you are so intelligent, it is difficult for you to be patient with others when they seem to be on a different page than you. You have the ability to inspire and lead others through your attitude and your actions. Surprises in a personal relationship may tax your ability to be gracious. Create as many peaceful distractions as possible-you will be ready to listen at the right time. Try to see from another perspective.

WORD SEARCH

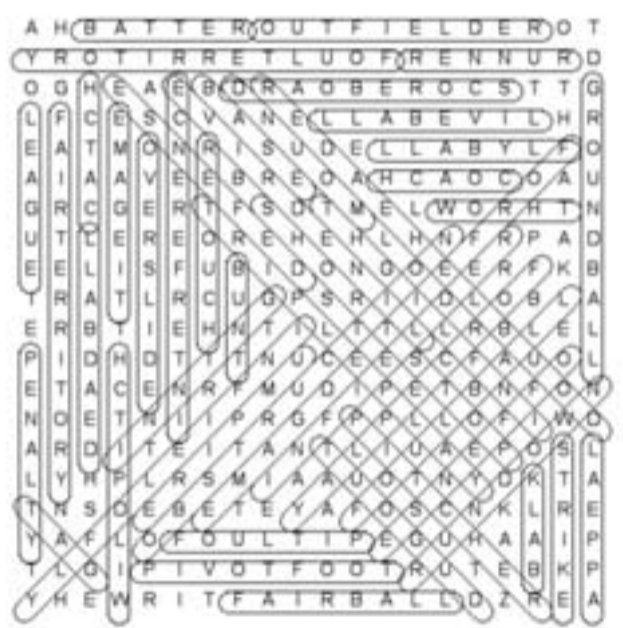
Basketball

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 39 letters spell a piece of Basketball trivia.



- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| ASSIST | FOUL | PASSING | SHOOTING GUARD |
| BACKBOARD | FREE THROW | PLAYER | SHOT |
| BALL | GAME | POINT GUARD | SLAM DUNK |
| BASKET | HALF-TIME | POINTS | SMALL FORWARD |
| BENCH | HOOP | POWER FORWARD | SNEAKERS |
| BLOCK | JERSEY | QUARTER | SUBSTITUTIONS |
| CENTER | LAY-UP | REBOUND | TEAM |
| CLOCK | NET | REFEREE | THREE POINTER |
| COACH | OUT OF BOUNDS | RIM | TIME-OUT |
| COURT | OVERTIME | SCOREBOARD | TRAVELING |
| DRIBBLING | | | |

Baseball



- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| APPEAL | FAIR TERRITORY | INTERFERENCE | RETOUCH |
| BALK | FLY BALL | LEAGUE | RUN DOWN |
| BASE | FORCE PLAY | LINE DRIVE | RUNNER |
| BATTER | FORFEITED GAME | LIVE BALL | SCOREBOARD |
| BUNT | FOUL BALL | MOUND | SHORTSTOP |
| CATCH | FOUL TERRITORY | OBSTRUCTION | STRIKE |
| COACH | FOUL TIP | OFFENSE | TAG |
| DEAD BALL | GROUND BALL | OUTFIELDER | THROW |
| DEFENSE | IN FLIGHT | OVERSLIDE | TIE GAME |
| DOUBLE HEADER | INFIELD FLY | PENALTY | TRIPLE PLAY |
| DUGOUT | INFILDER | PITCHER | UMPIRE |
| FAIR BALL | INNING | PIVOT FOOT | WILD PITCH |

Hidden sentence: A HOT DOG AT THE BALL PARK IS BETTER THAN STEAK AT THE RITZ

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee 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
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

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 16/05/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 45 °C

By Day : Hot with light to moderate south westerly changing to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h
By Night : Fair with light variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h

Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	hot + scattered clouds	hot + scattered clouds	hot	hot + scattered clouds
Min Temp °C	26	27	28	28
Max Temp °C	43	44	45	46
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	north westerly to light variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 32	08 - 28	08 - 28	10 - 32

All times are local time (GHT+3) unless otherwise stated.

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	31		44	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	25		45	
ABDALY	29		45	
BUBYAN	26		40	
JAHRA	29		45	
FALAKA ISLAND	26		42	
SALMIYAH	31		38	
AHMADI	31		39	
JAL ALIYAH	27		43	
QAROH ISLAND	28		35	
UMH AL-MARADEH	27		35	
NUWAISIB	26		44	
WAFRA	27		44	
SALMIY	27		43	
HUTRIBA	26		46	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	42
Min Temp (°C)	22
Max Rel Hum (%)	25
Min Rel Hum (%)	07
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	46 W
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:56
Sunset	18:33

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:26
Sunrise	04:56
Zuhr	11:44
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:33
Isha	20:01



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	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 Maarooof 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gujare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282 Dermatology Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955 Dentists Dr. Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. 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. Foad 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. Mohammed Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667 Consultant Cardiologist Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555 Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123
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GOSSIP

Nick Valensi details rivalry with The Killers

The Strokes have recalled their rivalry with The Killers in a new book. The 'Last Nite' rockers used to think their songs were much better than Brandon Flowers' band, especially their 2004 hit 'Mr. Brightside' from the album 'Hot Fuss', guitarist Nick Valensi revealed in an excerpt of the tome by journalist Lizzy Goodman called 'Meet Me in the Bathroom'. In the paragraph, he says: "We had conversations that went along the lines of 'Gosh, I think our songs are better than 'Mr. Brightside' by the Killers, but how come that's the one everyone is listening to?" The 36-year-old guitarist admits he thinks the reason they had more success was because they approached everything differently to them. He adds: "They did it a different way. They recorded it in a different way. They promoted it in a different way. We could be that big." Meanwhile, Valensi said in October that The Strokes are in the "early stages" of writing for their first full-length since 2013's

'Comedown Machine', which they've been working on in a studio in New York. At the time, he shared: "We are slowly but surely working on an album. I don't know when it's going to be released, we're kind of just in writing sessions. We're writing. I'm actually in New York at the moment, at a studio in New York for that." The band - also comprised of Julian Casablancas, Albert Hammond Jr., Nikolai Fraiture and Fabrizio Moretti - unveiled new single 'Threat of Joy' last year and at the time, frontman Julian hinted that the indie rockers would tour as soon as their record is out. He said: "I don't think there's anything planned, but, I mean, we always do stuff. "No specific news, sorry. It's never ... I feel like we play every year or two years or something like that. I think the idea was if we can get our stuff together to do a record, we can do more proper tours."



CHARLI XCX WRITES ALBUM WITH AG COOK IN A DAY

Charli XCX recently wrote an album in a day - but doesn't think it will ever be released. The pop beauty took to Twitter to share with her 1.9 million followers that she invited music producer AG Cook - who is currently serving as Charli's Creative Director - into the studio on Saturday to bash out nine tracks. However, she doesn't think they will ever make it into fans hands. Sharing her text messages with the 26-year-old PC Music record label owner - whose real name is Alex Cook - she wrote: "I'm gonna make an album in a day 2morrow w @agcook404 just for fun and it will probably never come out but it might be AMAZING who knows? (sic)" Answering a question by Pop Justice, which read: "Well it's 8pm so this album is probably now nearing completion (sic)" The busty brunette unveiled the full track-list of the record. She replied: "this was yesterday. 9 songs. 20 steps/party party/in my arms/happy now/dreams/7 days/everything/I don't wanna know/I got it. (sic)" Meanwhile, fans of the 'Boom Clap' singer may have to wait until next year to hear the

much-awaited follow-up to 2014's 'Sucker'. However, she plans on dropping new tunes in between. She recently said: "I finished my album in the middle of last year and I'm probably not even going to release it until next year now, because I want to release a lot of other music before, that isn't totally linked to the album. For me personally, I don't think albums are the end goal anymore for musicians. Continuously releasing music really suits the way that I work as a songwriter and as an artist. "I'm not going to touch the album until two months before it's going to come out, because if I started working on it again I would probably write another four albums. Maybe more. I just write so much that it becomes confusing. Of course, some of the stuff I write isn't good-some of it is terrible and will never see the light of day-and some of it is good, you know. I might do another mixtape before the album though." Charli dropped the mixtape 'Number 1 Angel' in March.



Travis Scott drops three new tracks

Travis Scott has released three new songs. The 25-year-old rapper - whose full name is Jacques Webster Junior - dropped three new tracks titled 'Butterfly Effect', 'Green & Purple', which features Playboi Carti, and 'A Man', on the streaming site Soundcloud on Monday. The 'Butterfly Effect' features the lyrics: "For this life I cannot change." Whilst his other single 'A man' repeats the chorus: "Got a code on my doors can't get in between. "No way in, no way out cos you do or die ... when I roll it's suicide. "You got to watch, a man." Travis also teased the news he was releasing new music on social media, as he uploaded a string of artistry on his Instagram account. One image of him sitting in a black sports car, with the words "Butterfly

Effect" emblazoned on the door, was captioned: "Travisscott.com (sic)" followed by the butterfly emoji. Travis - who signed to Epic Records in 2012 - released his album 'Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight' in 2016 and has since embarked on his Birds Eye Tour, which has caused a stir as he was reportedly arrested on Saturday at the Walmart Arkansas Music Pavilion for allegedly "inciting a riot". And the artist has acknowledge his tour has been "crazy" and he is surprised by the response he has received. Speaking previously about his current string of concerts, he said: "It's crazy. I'm not going to lie, the vibrations might be more ultra than what I expected. First of all it's a new set for me, and it's a way bigger show, it's like,

playing for way more people. It's, like, whoa. I never knew this many people with the s**t. And down to rage. I get surprised every time. I'm honestly curious to see how this Houston show goes." Travis has revealed he feels like a "fan" of himself when he takes to the stage to perform. He added: "I always just put myself in the fan's shoes, that's my whole thing. So if I was a fan right now, would I be hyped? Is this how I want to feel? I'm a fan of myself when I'm on stage, which is crazy. So I try to look at myself, like, if I was watching me, I got to be entertaining."



Crue tease 'surprises' and Girls, Girls, Girls reissue

Motley Crue are to release a special edition of 'Girls, Girls, Girls' and have hinted that more "surprises" are on the way. The legendary metal band's 1987 studio album turned 30 years old on Monday and the rockers - Nikki Sixx, Vince Neil, Tommy Lee and Mick Mars - took to Facebook to celebrate the milestone. The 'Dr Feelgood' hitmakers have also teased that they are going to release or do something later this year and have urged fans to sign up to their mailing list on their official website. Sharing the music video for 'Girls, Girls, Girls' on the social media site, they wrote: "HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS turns 30 today and we'll be celebrating all year long! Sign up at motley.com now and get notified first about all the surprises coming up this year and how you can celebrate with us. Special anniversary edition of GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS out August 25! (sic)" The Crue are still

regarded one of the most outrageous rock bands of all time. Drummer Tommy previously admitted the mid-1980s, when the record was released, was a "bad" time for the 'All Bad Things Must End' hit-makers because they were all "not waking up", "overdosing" and "like a bomb ready to go off". He said he is amazed the band - who performed their last show as a part of 'The Final Tour' at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on December 31, 2015 - are living to tell the tale and survived, because he was sure "someone was going to die". He told BANG Showbiz: "People were not waking up, people were overdosing. Like a bomb ready to go off, like someone was going to die. The fact we made it through that is really amazing because we had all of the ingredients for bad and for something to go extremely bad."

Ludi Lin lands Aquaman role

Ludi Lin has landed a role in 'Aquaman'. The Chinese actor - who recently starred as the Black Ranger in the 'Power Rangers' reboot - has been cast to play Murk in the upcoming DC External Universe superhero alongside 'Game of Thrones' star Jason Momoa who takes on the titular role. The Warner Bros film, which is being directed by James Wan, was recently pushed back from its original release date of October to December 2018. Deadline reports. According to the film's synopsis, Aquaman finds himself caught between a surface world that ravages the sea and the underwater Atlanteans who are ready to revolt. Lin's character Murk in the DC comics is the leader of the frontline army of Atlantis known as the Men-of-War and Aquaman's ally. The film stars a number of Hollywood superstars including Nicole Kidman, Willem Dafoe, Amber Heard, Patrick Wilson, Dolph Lundgren, Yahya Abdul-Mateen and Temuera Morrison. 'Aquaman' marks the first major casting for the Chinese actor since 'Power Rangers', which brought in \$40.5 million in its opening weekend. Filming for the comic book adaptation began this month with director Wan sharing a photo from the set. Alongside the picture, he tweeted: "Months of intensive prep have led to this. Here we go. #DayOne #Ahab (sic)" The next installment of the DCEU will be 'Wonder Woman' and despite some criticism about previous DCEU movies including 'Suicide Squad' and 'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice', the movie has already received some positive feedback. The

DCEU will come together for the 'Justice League' due for release this November and will see the return of fan favorites Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Flash, Cyborg and Aquaman.



LEATHERFACE SET FOR HALLOWEEN RELEASE

Christa Campbell has confirmed the prequel to 'Texas Chainsaw Massacre' will be released in time for Halloween. 'Leatherface', which serves as the origin story of the iconic killer, reportedly spent two years on Lionsgate's shelf after being shot in 2015, according to screenrant.com. However, now the producer has announced when fans can expect to see the movie in cinemas in the US. Campbell tweeted: "To all our leatherface fans out there. The movie will be released in October #texaschainsaw @latigrobman #LEATHERFACE (sic)" The French directing duo, Alexandre Bustillo and Julien Maury - best known for critically-acclaimed thriller 'Inside', -will be helming the prequel to Tobe Hoopers' 1974 grandfather of the slasher genre. The film follows a teenage version of the titular skin-lover back in 1970 who escapes a mental institution with a group of fellow patients kidnapping a young nurse on their escape. 'Leatherface', which is written by Seth M Sherwood, will star Stephen Dorff who plays the sheriff who attempts to track down the escaped maniacs before they kill more people and Lili Taylor from 'The Conjuring' will portray the Sawyer family matriarch Verna. Former British soap star Sam Strike has been confirmed to star in the origin story as the titular role and 'Iron Fist' star Finn Jones also has a part. 'Leatherface' will be the eighth film in the franchise and isn't the only one to show some of the origin story of the killer, but it will be the first that will go into detail about his teenage years and will develop why he turns into the skin-wearing murderer. Millennium Films, which was behind 2013's 'Texas Chainsaw 3D', is pro-

ducing the film along with Campbell, Lati Grobman and Carl Mazzacone for Lionsgate.



MUSIC & MOVIES



This file photo shows singer Rod Stewart performing in the Esprit Arena in Duesseldorf, western Germany.



This file photo, Billy Joel performs in concert for the grand re-opening of the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, NY.



In this file photo, Alice Cooper, left, performs at Wembley Arena in London.— AP photos

Feels like the 1st time: 77 rock kings kick it 40 yrs later

It's more than a feeling: Many of the rock 'n' roll bands that were huge in 1977 will comprise a big part of the summer concert market 40 years later. Queen, Foreigner, Boston, Aerosmith, Kiss, Alice Cooper, Billy Joel and Rod Stewart are among those launching major tours this spring and summer, even though some of them haven't had a big hit since Jimmy Carter (or at least Ronald Reagan) was in office. Concert industry executives say nostalgia acts are still reliable sellers, with satellite and classic rock radio keeping their hits alive.

"The simple answer is that good music is still good music," said guitarist Tom Scholz, who founded Boston and found immediate stardom with tracks that remain staples of classic rock playlists including "More Than a Feeling," "Peace of Mind," "Long Time" and "Don't Look Back." "It's pretty much still Boston, as long as I'm alive, as long as I can stand up and play." To get a feel for how long ago that was, 1977 was the year that serial killer Son of Sam was arrested in New York, when George Steinbrenner, Billy Martin and Reggie Jackson turned the Yankees into a three-ring circus, when "Star Wars" and "Saturday Night Fever" packed theaters, and

when the King of Rock 'n' Roll, Elvis Presley, died. It was the year Kiss neared the zenith of its popularity, with the "Love Gun" and "Alive II" albums. Fellow shock rocker Alice Cooper scored huge airplay with an unexpected orchestral ballad, "You and Me." Rod Stewart was on every rock and pop station with "Hot Legs," "You're in My Heart" and "I Was Only Joking," and scored the Billboard No. 1 song of the year in "Tonight's the Night." It's easier to list which songs on Joel's 1977 album "The Stranger" WERENT major hits than to list the ones that were. And Foreigner followed Boston's success of a year earlier to become the new overnight sensation with a debut album that sold 4 million copies, powered by classics like "Feels Like the First Time" and "Cold As Ice."

"I never could have imagined when I set out to create Foreigner 40 years ago, that we'd still be touring around the world and performing the music we love all these years later," said guitarist and founding member Mick Jones. "I can't express the gratitude I feel when fans share stories of how our songs have been woven into their milestones and memories over the years." That's a big part of why classic rock bands

remain reliable draws on the concert circuit, said Gary Bongiovanni, editor of the concert industry publication Pollstar.

"The audience that grew up on rock 'n' roll are still rock 'n' roll fans," he said. "They still want to see these acts, whether they have a new record or not. That's a big part of the concert business." And fans are forgiving (or sometimes oblivious) of lineup changes. The original singers for Boston and Queen died, Foreigner vocalist Lou Gramm left in 2003, and Kiss's original lineup last toured in 2000. Aerosmith is the most unlikely band of survivors, given its members' history of drug use. Yet they're still out there with all five original members.

"Anytime I can go see Aerosmith, I will go," said Queen guitarist Brian May. "I love to take my kids to let them see what it was really like to be in a rock concert and have that spontaneity and danger and passion. It's not mapped out; it's all happening right in front of your eyes. It's a live tradition and I'm proud to have been a part of that." — AP



In this file photo, Adam Lambert, left, and Brian May of the Queen + Adam Lambert perform at the Rock in Rio music festival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



This file photo shows LA Reid and Meghan Trainor attending the LA Reid conversation with Gayle King and special guest Meghan Trainor at 92Y in New York City. — AFP

Legendary music boss Reid out amid harassment reports

LA Reid, one of the music world's top executives who helped launch the careers of myriad stars including Rihanna and Justin Bieber, has left Epic Records after reported harassment allegations. The 60-year-old has been chairman and CEO since 2011 of Epic, a unit of Sony Music that has been home to some of the top artists in recent decades from Michael Jackson to Pearl Jam.

Sony Music late last week issued an unusually terse statement of just one line: "LA Reid will be leaving the company." The company offered no further comment. But reports Monday in music magazine Billboard and The New York Post said that Sony management terminated Reid after complaints of sexual harassment. The New York Post, citing an unnamed source, said a female assistant told management of inappropriate remarks and physical advances by Reid including asking her to hug him in bed during a business trip.

A lawyer for Reid declined comment. Reid on Twitter quoted novelist F Scott Fitzgerald, "Never confuse a single defeat with a final defeat." Reid is considered one of music's top tastemakers and last year released a memoir that recounted a who's who of famous artists with whom he has worked. Reid, who formerly headed labels Arista and Def Jam, became known in the late 1980s for producing a smooth pop sound for African American artists and jumpstarted the careers of TLC, Toni Braxton and Usher.

But his influence stretched across genres and he was famous for instinctively sensing who would become massive. He signed Canadian rocker Avril Lavigne, R&B superstar Rihanna and, more recently, pop singer Meghan Trainor after hearing them audition briefly for him. He also inked a contract with a teenage Justin Bieber and worked with Mariah Carey and Jennifer Lopez to revive their careers after their initial fame waned. While mostly behind the scenes, British television viewers saw him for two seasons as a judge on singing contest "The X Factor," an experience he later decried as lowering his artistic bar. Reid's exit marks a strikingly swift move after Sony endured public criticism for declining to respect singer Kesha's requests to exit a contract. Kesha has sued producer Dr. Luke, accusing him of raping her and tormenting her psychologically. He denies the charges and says she remains contractually bound to his Kemosabe Records, a Sony imprint. — AP

COUNTRY SINGER LORETTA LYNN MOVED TO REHAB CENTER AFTER STROKE

Country music star Loretta Lynn has been moved from a hospital to a rehabilitation center as she recovers from a stroke, the singer-songwriter's representatives said Monday. The 85-year-old was admitted to a Nashville hospital on May 5 after suffering the stroke at her home in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee.

"Loretta wants to thank everybody for their prayers, love and support," her representatives posted on the singer's official Facebook page on Monday. "Loretta has been moved from hospital facility in to rehabilitation and we're happy to report she is doing great!" The singer's upcoming shows have been postponed on her doctors' advice while she recovers, a statement on her website said earlier this month.

Lynn, one of the first women to break through to country music stardom as both a writer and a performer, had shows lined up across the United States through November. Born in Kentucky, she carved a career in the country music scene with her down-home twangy voice, writing and singing hits such as 1960's "I'm a Honky Tonk Girl" and "Coal Miner's Daughter," released in 1970. — Reuters



In this file photo, Loretta Lynn performs at the BBC Music Showcase at Stubb's during South By Southwest in Austin, Texas. — AFP

Efron to play serial killer Bundy in upcoming biopic

Zac Efron has signed on to star as Ted Bundy in a biopic about the serial killer. The Hollywood Reporter and Variety report Efron will play Bundy in "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile." The movie will center on Bundy's relationship with his girlfriend.

The reports say the project is set to start shooting Oct. 9. The movie will be directed by Joe Berlinger, who is best known for the "Paradise Lost" series of documentaries. Bundy confessed to killing more than two dozen women and was executed in Florida in 1989. Efron stars alongside Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson in "Baywatch," which opens this month. — AP



Zac Efron arrives at the US Premiere of 'Baywatch' at Lummus Park on Saturday in Miami Beach, Fla. — AP



US singer Lauryn Hill performs during the Mawazine Music festival late on Monday. The festival is expected to attract more than two million spectators. — AFP

In 'Alien: Covenant,' a return to gut-busting horror

Ah, the siren song of John Denver. Who among us can resist it? Certainly, not the crew of the Covenant, a vessel powered by a golden sail cruising through space with 2,000 "colonists" in hyper sleep and years to go until they reach their destination. But when a shock wave from a solar flare jostles the crew awake, they soon begin hearing a faint transmission of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" emanating from a curiously Earth-like planet. Such sonic waves would be expected if this was "Guardians of the Galaxy," but this is the "Alien" universe - no place for sunny '70s singer-songwriters. When the antsy crew deviates from their carefully planned mission to seek the transmission's source, we know it's only a matter of time until cosmic crustaceans begin bursting forth from bodies. Take me home? You betcha.

"Alien: Covenant" is, itself, a homecoming of sorts for a well-traveled franchise. Since Ridley Scott's 1979 original - still the ultimate deep-space horror - "Alien" has passed through numerous directors (James Cameron, David Fincher, Jean-Pierre Jeunet) and a prequel reboot, Scott's "Prometheus." That film, more bloodless and brainy, sought to answer questions of origin with some pretty audacious backstory and - there's just no easy way to say this - eyebrow-less colossuses who created the universe.

In Scott's "Alien: Covenant," taking place ten years after "Prometheus," the so-called Engineers are, thankfully, nowhere to be seen. Back instead are everyone's favorite extraterrestrials, those acid-dripping drama queens so fond of making a big entrance. Like some of the alien offspring, "Covenant" is a hybrid: part gory "Alien"-style scare-fest, part chilly "Prometheus" existentialism. It's a tall order of thrills and theology that the ever gung-ho Scott, working from a script by John Logan and Dante Harper, comes close to pulling off.

But while "Alien: Covenant" has an ace up its sleeve - Michael Fassbender times two - the sheer number of tricks "Alien: Covenant" pulls out, some of them lifted from the five earlier installments, adds to a general sense of deja vu, which is no doubt made worse by the many "Alien" rip-offs that now adorn our galaxy. Yet what was once a slithery straightforward monster movie in space has mutated into an impressively ambitious but overly ornate saga. "Alien: Covenant" has plenty to offer, but unfortunately requires ample study of "Prometheus."

Beautifully mountainous landscape

The captain of the Covenant (James Franco, for a heart-beat) doesn't survive the shock wave, leaving the uncertain Oram (Billy Crudup) to lead the crew that includes Daniels (Katherine Waterston, our more demure, less imposing Ripley), the imprudent pilot Tennessee (Danny McBride) and Walter (Fassbender), an upgraded model of David, the android the actor played in "Prometheus." It's Oram's decision to detour for the John Denver-blasting planet, one that initially looks smart. Once through the stormy atmosphere, they find a beautifully mountainous landscape complete with foggy lakes and fields of wheat.

But there are ominous warnings, like an eerie silence

because of the lack of any animals or birds. And who planted the wheat? When one of the crew members says he's going to "take a leak," he might as well be announcing his imminent death. When things go haywire, the crew freak out and make such poor, emotional decisions that you, as in prior "Alien" films, find yourself rooting for the creatures with bike-helmet skulls. They might not be pretty, but they're not foolish.



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows a scene from 'Alien: Covenant.' — AP

The "Alien" films have always been where our idealistic adventuring and world-conquering hubris are brutally brought down to earth, even in the deep reaches of space. That's why the insertion of an artificial intelligence has been fitting. The lone human(ish) presence on the planet turns out to be David, who has, ala "Apocalypse Now," been living a godlike existence, lording over his creations. Not as intensely mechanical as his newer model, he has clearly developed some unusual glitches. He quotes Byron, with jealousy. Like a robot Brando, he sings "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo" while trimming his hair. He's a kind of frustrated poet who yearns to create like the man who made him.

The scenes between David and Walter have a strange, erotic energy. David, trying to unshackle his fellow android from servitude, urges him to make music and teaches him how to play a recorder. "You have symphonies in you, brother!" he encourages. For Fassbender, an actor capable of precision and madness in equal measure, the dual parts are a feast. There are moments for Daniels and the Alien, too, as "Alien: Covenant" winds along. But by the film's belated end, the franchise has shed its host. This is no longer an "Alien" movie, it's an android one. "Alien: Covenant," a 20th Century Fox release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "sci-fi violence, bloody images, language and some sexuality/nudity." Running time: 123 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four. — AP

FEATURES



Horse riders practice the traditional central Asian sport Kok-boru, known also as Buzkashi or Ulak Tartis ("goat grabbing"), during the Ethnosports Culture Festival in Istanbul. — AFP photos



A Kyrgyz acrobat falls from horse during the Ethnosports Culture Festival in Istanbul.



Horse riders practice the traditional central Asian sport Kok-boru, known also as Buzkashi or Ulak Tartis ("goat grabbing").

Turkey brings back Ottoman sports to revive past glory

'This is the king of sports, it embodies the Turkish spirit'



An archer wearing an Ottoman costume aims at a target.



Turkish oil wrestlers fight during an oil wrestling tournament.



Turkish oil wrestlers fight during an oil wrestling tournament.

Brandishing their javelins and letting out a bloodcurdling war cry, the Ottoman horsemen charge at a thunderous gallop. Suddenly one is hit and thrown from his horse-making dozens of children gasp as they film the scene on their smartphones. It may be 2017, but Istanbul rolled back the years last weekend with the Ethnic Sports Cultural Festival (EKF), which aims to promote the sports practiced by modern Turks' ancestors from the nomadic horsemen of Central Asia to the Janissaries, the elite troops of the Ottoman empire.

More than 800 athletes took part in traditional sports from Anatolia and Central Asia which President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government wants to develop to celebrate the glory days of Turkey's past. The cavalry were taking part in "cirit", a riding sport created in Central Asia in which riders throw wooden javelins at the opposing team's horsemen. "This is the king of sports, it embodies the Turkish spirit," said Erdem, 32, after dismounting.

The festival is part of Erdogan's efforts to revive Turkey's Ottoman roots after decades of Westernization drive following the collapse of the empire. The modern Turkish republic was founded in 1923 after over 600 years of Ottoman rule. "We want to revive our traditional values, beginning with our sports, in order to move forward with these values," Bilal Erdogan, one of the president's sons and an archery fan who is also EKF's sponsor, told AFP.

Art of war

A huge area on the European side of Istanbul usually used for political rallies was transformed into an Ottoman encampment for the four-day event. Wrestlers, archers and riders showed off their skills in between traditional cooking work-



Men wearing Ottoman clothes during an oil wrestling tournament at part of Ethnosports Culture Festival.

shops, Central Asian dancing and carpet-weaving. In front of a yurt, Adnan Balavan takes part in a "sword and shield game" consisting of simulating duels to produce a melody by rattling weapons. "I started at the age of eight. Today, I am 57 but my hair still stands on end like the first day," said Balavan, originally from the northwestern province of Bursa, which was the first Ottoman capital.

Born of the wars that shaped Ottoman life and forged an empire that stretched from the Balkans to the Gulf, most of these traditional sports died when the old order fell after World War I. Their survival today is due in large part to families passing the traditions on from one generation to the next. Turkish Sports Minister Akif Cagatay Kilic promised the government would provide further financial support to develop such activities and suggested it would encourage clubs to show more interest in traditional sports.

'Power of the Turks'

Traditional Turkish wrestling champion Sadi Bakir-bareched and covered in oil-said "interest in the sport has increased in recent times and the state is investing more effort in this field". As a result, he said, "at the last European (wrestling) championships, we won five gold medals. The past power of the Turks is re-emerging." Yakup, a traditional archery instructor, also said interest in the discipline has exploded. "We have over 1,000 members" in his archery club, he said as he put arrows in a leather quiver.

For the master archer, young people's enthusiasm comes mainly from television series about the Ottoman sultans which have multiplied in the past few years. Organizers said 800,000 people came to the festival, voicing hope that it



Horse riders practice the traditional central Asian sport Kok-boru, known also as Buzkashi or Ulak Tartis.

would spark a passion for the sports in schoolchildren visiting with their classes.

They even dream of one day organizing a "Turkish Olympics" bringing together sportsmen and women from Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Balkans. "Some people may not realize the importance of what we are doing here today, but we will reap the fruits one day," Bilal Erdogan said during his opening speech. "And God willing, the 21st century will be ours." — AFP



Turkish President's son Bilal Erdogan (center) and his wife pose in a tent.



Turkish President's son Bilal Erdogan (center) poses next to a tent during the Ethnosports Culture Festival.

Metropolitan Museum of Art works to rebound from money woes

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, a behemoth of culture and wealth, is rebounding from more than a year of internal turmoil and financial problems. As part of its recovery efforts, the museum is considering a mandatory admissions fee for visitors from outside New York state. The set fee, possibly \$25 for adults, would be the first in the venerable museum's 147-year history.

Facing a \$15 million operating deficit, the Met filed a formal proposal with New York City this month to charge visitors who don't live in the state a set admission, instead of the current voluntary contribution. "We've had financial challenges - significant ones - over the last couple of years that have culminated over the past year, and a rather significant need to reorganize the institution and to retrench our finances," said Daniel Weiss, the museum's president.

About 100 staff positions have been eliminated through buyouts and layoffs. The number of special exhibits staged each year is being slashed from 55 to about 40. A \$600 million new wing that had been planned, but not fully financed, is postponed indefinitely. Instead, the Met will be focusing on

more pressing capital needs, Weiss said, including spending as much as \$100 million to replace a block-long "ocean of bad skylights" built in the 1930s over art galleries.

Met director and chief executive Thomas Campbell stunned the art world in February by announcing his resignation, amid criticism of the museum's financial management. "It was clear we were on a path that was not sustainable, and if we didn't deal with it, it was going to get worse in a hurry," said Weiss, who took the reins from Campbell and is now the interim CEO.

He blamed the museum's financial problems on "a perfect storm" of money-sucking factors: too many costly special exhibitions; restaurants and gift shops where revenues declined; and public programming that was overly ambitious. Revenue from admissions and membership also had slipped.

But make no mistake, there's no immediate danger to the museum, which has endowments of \$3 billion. Admissions fees might help ease the current budget deficit, which was about 5 percent of the \$315 million in operating costs in 2016.

Art is so important for our lives

"The deficit is not high compared to the total budget, but remember, these numbers are not just about the money: Donors want to back a winning story, and any indication that it's not makes them skittish," said Andrew Taylor, an arts management expert at Washington-based American University. The details of how the fees would work are the subject of talks with the city, which gives the museum \$27 million in subsidies annually. The city also owns the museum site in Central Park and has approval rights for entrance policies.

An entrance fee of \$25 would be in line with admissions to other New York art institutions, from the MoMA (\$25) and the Guggenheim (\$25) to the Whitney (\$22).

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio gave some generalized support to the idea, saying it was "fair" for non-state residents to pay something. "I'm a big fan of Russian oligarchs paying more to get into the Met," the mayor joked recently. Of the record 7 million visitors in 2016, 67 percent came from outside New York state and 39 percent of the total from abroad.

In recent years, the museum was targeted by a class-action

lawsuit that challenged the Met's "recommended" \$25 admission and accused the institution of obscuring the fact that people could enter for less. The case was settled last year when the Met agreed to say the price is only "suggested," with signs telling visitors that "The amount you pay is up to you."

Visitors have split on whether an entrance fee should be mandatory for some. Angeleka Kunath, 64, visiting from Hamburg, Germany, said she feels foreigners should pay and would gladly do so to keep the Met running at its best. "The price is worth it. Art is so important for our lives and humanity; it gives us inspiration it brings people together," she said. Ken Wilson, 60, who was visiting from Greensboro, North Carolina, said he didn't think anyone would have a problem paying to get in. "It's amazing and educational," he said. But he said it was unfair that New Yorkers would get a discount. And with the search for its new director underway, the museum could maybe discuss cutting the high six-figure salaries of its top executives. — AP



People sit on the steps at the Fifth Avenue entrance to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. — AP photos



Visitors view 'The Theater of Disappearance' by Adrian Villar Rojas, and the Manhattan skyline in the Roof Garden of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York.

FEATURES



Tourist make their own "empanada" during an activity called "The Argentine Experience" in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Photo shows a tourist eats meat during the activity.



A tourist serves himself chorizo, the local sausage, at a dinner during the activity.



Tourist makes his own "empanada" during an activity called "The Argentine Experience" in Buenos Aires, Argentina. — AP photos



People have dinner at a restaurant during the activity.

A homey meal steeped in culture at The Argentine Experience

Let's start at the end, with dessert at The Argentine Experience. The Buenos Aires restaurant that immerses diners in culture offers an abundance of tastes and the stories behind them. On the night my family shared a communal table with another group of US visitors, dessert included a delicacy prepared with sponge-like yacarata wood. Alex Pels, one of the founding co-owners of The Argentine Experience, said in an interview that the earliest inhabitants of what is now northern Argentina chewed yacarata wood because it stored water. Pels' pastry chef sweetens the wood and serves it atop local cheese in precise cubes that wouldn't look out of place in a three-star restaurant anywhere in the world. The architectural treats seemed particularly modernist alongside another dessert we sampled, alfajores cookies, accompanied by the national drink of warm mate (pronounced mah TAY). The herbal infusion is a perfect, bitter complement to the rich pastries.

We also learned a decadent technique for enjoying the alfajores: Slather one buttery cookie with dulce de leche, a caramelized milk concoction popular across Latin America. Layer on another cookie. Roll the cookie sandwich in shredded coconut. Dip in melted chocolate for decadent good measure. The main course was, of course, tender Argentine beef

served with grilled vegetables and several versions of the traditional chimichurri sauce of oil, vinegar and herbs. Pels told me that his partner Leon Lightman, who is from England, had been in Argentina several years before he encountered the pork cut Argentines call matambre.

Cooking techniques

"It's definitely something that Argentines would order and something that foreigners don't," Pels said. In creating The Argentine Experience, Pels and Lightman wanted to showcase food visitors might be missing. One inspiration was chef, restaurateur and author Francis Mallmann. Mallmann was trained in France but gained fame with grilling and other cooking techniques of his native Argentina. Pels and Lightman started out in 2011 serving dinners in an apartment in Recoleta, a neighborhood known for its historic cemetery. The next year they moved to airy, two-story quarters in the trendy Palermo Hollywood neighborhood.

Early on, customers said they were getting too much information from staff who guide diners through prix fixe meals. That's been relaxed, "so that people don't think it's a class," Pels said. Facts about the food shared in English were leavened by family stories and jokes during our visit. We also learned a few Spanish terms, such as how to order a medium rare steak (jugoso, or juicy). The light tone didn't mask a deep understanding and appreciation of the food and its role in the broader culture. The relaxed approach and free-flowing local wine, though, did make it easy for guests to get to know one another, also a goal of The Argentine Experience.

Upon arrival, we donned aprons and chef hats. We assembled the cookie sandwiches as well as empanadas, folding mixtures of meat or cheese into pastry circles. The activities and uniforms created camaraderie among my family, the Israeli-Americans at our table and the Germans and South Africans at the next.

Political scientist

"People don't know how to meet other people when they travel. But that's how stories are created: You meet other people," said Pels, who has managed hotels and hostels and travels frequently himself. Evenings at The Argentine Experience are conducted in English or Portuguese, but not Spanish. The pro-



People have dinner at a restaurant during the activity.

gram doesn't cater to locals because Pels fears they'd be unimpressed by the homestyle cooking. That left me wondering just how authentic my evening was. So I asked around, turning among others to Mariano Bruno, a friend of a friend who is a political scientist and self-described "foodie" and wine enthusiast.

Bruno told me he has watched a revolution in Buenos Aires restaurants in the last decade, with many establishments sharing The Argentine Experience's

awareness of the importance of ingredients. While I had enjoyed beef and local vegetables at The Argentine Experience, Bruno said there was even more to explore. "Not everything is beef," he said. "In this country we have great lamb. The best comes from Patagonia." Argentine-American Lucila Giagrande Lucila's Homemade Alfajores supplies cookies to shops and cafes in the Chicago area. Giagrande was surprised and pleased to hear that a fancy restaurant had served us the pastries and shared the ritual of heaping dried mate leaves into traditional clay mugs, pouring in not-too-hot water and sipping in turn from communal mugs.

"When the tourist or the traveler gets to hang out with Argentines (at their homes), one of the first things they'll do is get to share alfajores with mate," said Giagrande, who like Bruno is not associated with The Argentine Experience. A night out that requires costumes and playing with your food could have been hokey. Instead, our Argentine experience was a friendly and relaxed way to learn about the locals and what and why they eat. — AP



People order beef during dinner at a restaurant while taking part of the activity.



Photo vegetables are set on a table during the activity.

Embraced by Baby Boomers, recliners get a makeover

Including recliners in home decorating projects used to be an interior designer's nightmare, says Bonnie Lewis, founder of 55+ TLC Interior Design in Scottsdale, Arizona. But the easy chair has gotten a face lift, thanks largely to Baby Boomers. "Before, this furniture was strictly about the function - meaning it could recline, but there wasn't much to the aesthetics of it," says Lewis, whose firm specializes in design for older adults. "Because Boomers want that cleaner-line look, it's pushing the manufacturers to get on board."

Recliners used to come in one profile: big and bulky, says Bruce Birnbach, president and CEO of American Leather in Dallas, Texas. "Either you wanted that look or you didn't." Today, he and his competitors offer recliners "in every size and shape and style," he says. Like other manufacturers, La-Z-Boy, which introduced the recliner in 1928 and for years built a reputation more on comfort than on style, has added automation to the chairs, and offers models that are smaller and more stylish. But La-Z-Boy will never stop making the traditional chairs that made the company's name synonymous with recliners, says Penny Eudy, product manager of upholstery for La-Z-Boy in Monroe, Michigan.

Eye-catching

"We want to cast a wider net to attract that more stylish consumer and get them coming in, but we want to do it without alienating the customers that we've always had," she says. Eudy believes recliners are the ideal



This undated photo shows a New Jersey home where interior designer Sarah Dooley helped this baby boomer client incorporate a sectional with reclining pieces into a room that combines comfort and style. — AP photos

chair for the modern home: "We all are living more casually and more comfortably than we ever have," she says. The trend toward open living spaces means that customers are looking for furniture that's less formal but still eye-catching, says Erin Berg, an associate editor at Furniture Today magazine in Greensboro, North Carolina. Open floor plans mean there's nowhere to hide an ugly recliner, and no place for a formal chair that's not comfortable, she says.

New recliners' smaller footprint gives homeowners more flexibility, Berg says. Some

manufacturers offer a "wall-hugger" feature: The seat moves forward when it reclines, allowing the chair to be placed against a wall. Many reclining chairs, sofas and sectionals now plug in or run on battery packs, allowing them to do everything from charging your phone to cooling your drink, while providing an articulated head rest and lumbar support.

"Today's recliners have become sleek and smooth-functioning, combining designer-quality looks with engineer-quality operations," says Patricia Bowling, a spokeswoman for the American Home Furnishings Alliance,

in High Point, North Carolina. "The Baby Boomers love their gadgets. They love being connected and they are doing that in every room of the house." Still, comfort remains a priority - particularly for an aging generation that's active and has "a tendency to overdo it," she says.

New fabrics and styles

Berg says there are many more options now for how the chairs' backs recline and the footrests extend. Four out of every 10 recliners purchased in 2014 were for Boomer households, according to a Furniture Today study released in 2015. The variety of new fabrics and styles - including some recliners with legs - means that designers no longer shy away from the chairs, Lewis says. "Before, when a client wanted a recliner, you worried that it was going to ruin the whole look," she says.

Lift chairs, which rise to help the occupant stand up, have also become more versatile and attractive, she says, moving from institutions into homes as homeowners look for ways to age in place. "They're not as slick as the plain recliner, but they're getting there," she says.

And as Baby Boomers downsize their homes, multi-functional furniture like the recliner becomes more important, says Sarah Dooley, principal designer at Leedy Interiors in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. "The family room becomes the key room in the house," she says. "It's got to be livable and stylish, but function is key." — AP



This photo provided by Bonnie J Lewis Allied ASID, CAPS, of 55+ TLC Interior Design, shows an In-law Suite living room she designed with a recliner at her client's home in Chandler, Ariz.



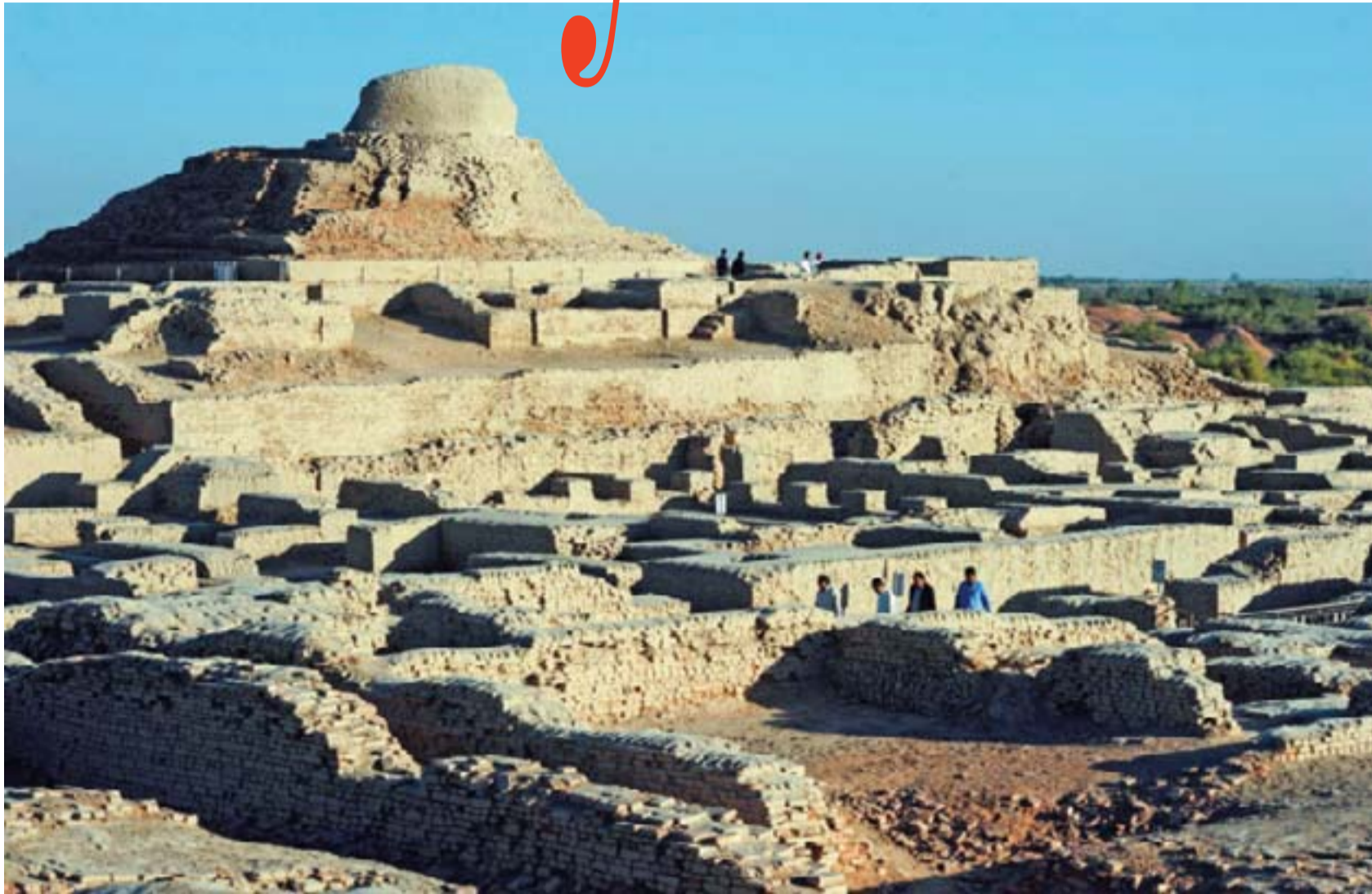
This undated photo provided by American Leather shows their Fallon comfort recliner in Bison Ash leather.

Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2017

Turkey brings back Ottoman sports to revive past glory

38



In this photograph visitors walk through the UNESCO World Heritage archeological site of Mohenjo Daro some 425 kms north of the Pakistani city of Karachi.



Pakistani caretaker at the UNESCO World Heritage archeological site of Mohenjo Daro, Ismail Mugheri, points out a well at the site some 425 kms north of Karachi.



Pakistani policemen take a photograph alongside a Buddhist stupa at the UNESCO World Heritage archeological site of Mohenjo Daro some 425 kms north of Karachi.



visitors walk through the UNESCO World Heritage archeological site of Mohenjo Daro.



Pakistani caretaker at the UNESCO World Heritage archeological site of Mohenjo Daro, Ismail Mugheri, points out arches used to house lanterns used as street lights at the site some 425 kms north of Karachi.



Visitors walk through the UNESCO World Heritage archeological site of Mohenjo Daro.



Pakistani visitor walks through the museum at the UNESCO World Heritage archeological site of Mohenjo Daro.

Saving Pakistan's lost city of Mohenjo Daro

The center of a powerful ancient civilization, Mohenjo Daro was one of the world's earliest cities — a Bronze Age metropolis boasting flush toilets and a water and waste system to rival many in modern Pakistan. Some 5,000 years on archaeologists believe the ruins could unlock the secrets of the Indus Valley people, who flourished around 3,000 BC in what is now India and Pakistan before mysteriously disappearing.

But they warn, if nothing is done to protect the ruins — already neglected and worn by time — it will fade to dust and obscurity, never taking its rightful place in history. "Everybody knows Egypt, nobody knows Mohenjo Daro, this has to be changed," says Dr Michael Jansen, a German researcher working at the sun-baked site on the banks of the Indus river in Pakistan's southern Sindh province.

Jansen is at the forefront of a new effort to promote the site internationally while finding ways to protect what is left. In summer temperatures can soar above 46 degrees Celsius (115 Fahrenheit). "There is enormous thermostress," says Jansen, adding that salt from the underground water table is also damaging the ruins. But it's more than just the weather and time. Pakistan's bloody fight against militancy has also raised the spectre of destruction by an Islamist group, much like Islamic State destroyed the ruins in Syria's Palmyra.

Most horrifying, however, is the wanton disregard for Mohenjo Daro — or "mound of the dead" — by ordinary citizens. In 2014 police stood atop the main stupa as hundreds of people swarmed the site, ironically, commemorate Pakistan's cultural heritage-complete with scaffolding, dancing, fireworks, heavy spotlights and lasers. Sardar Ali Shah, cultural minister in Sindh province, vowed never to let such a thing happen again. "It's like you are jumping on the bed bed of a 5,000-year-old ailing patient," he tells AFP. Yet today curious visitors still roam the remains with impunity, many leaving rubbish in the once pristine-streets and wells.

Foreigners are afraid

Jansen and his Friends of Mohenjo Daro society aim to promote the site internationally, with plans to recruit Pakistanis around the world for conferences, seminars and debates. Dr Kaleem Lashari, chief consultant to the Pakistani government over Mohenjo Daro, said they will also digitally archive the Indus script-which has never been deciphered-in hopes that making it accessible will increase the site's profile. At the site itself, he said, technical reviews are being held to examine the water logging issue and other ways to shore up the ruins, while exploring new, modern technology that allows researchers to ascertain what lies beneath the surface in the portions of the city not yet excavated.

But, Lashari says, perhaps the biggest challenge remains Pakistan's international image, tarnished by extremism, corruption, poverty, and insecurity. "Foreigners are afraid to visit Pakistan and the site because of the chronic issue of law and order," he warns.

All roads lead to equality?

The issues he cites underscore unsettling differences between modern day Pakistan and the civilization found among the ruins. At their peak during the Bronze Age, the Indus Valley people are believed to have numbered up to five million, with Mohenjo Daro their largest and most advanced settlement. Clay and metallic seals, coins, standardized weighing stones, gold and bronze ornaments, toys and whistles-the bric-a-brac of ancient lives have revealed volumes about thriving Indus trade and commerce.



The layout of the city itself suggests an egalitarian people more concerned with cleanliness than hierarchy, says Dr Jonathan Mark Kenoyer of the University of Wisconsin. "In Mesopotamia, the streets went from the city to the palace ... whereas in (Indus) cities all the streets were organized to allow access to the whole city," he says. Mohenjo Daro had a complex water and waste management system which observers have wryly noted was better than in many parts of Pakistan today.

Only a small portion of the site has been excavated properly, but the most important building appears not to have been a palace or a place of worship, but a massive public bath. Houses had tiled bathrooms and their own cylindrical brick wells, sometimes raised to the second floor to allow for a flush system. None of this, however, has yet explained why such a powerful, advanced and flourishing civilization disappeared so abruptly around 1900 BC.

Currently, there is no bid to excavate further among the plans being laid by Lashari and Jansen. "It is actually preserved when it is buried," explains Harvard University's Dr Richard Meadow. Despite their access to new technologies, that puts researchers in a quandary, especially as they try to understand what happened to the Indus people. As Jansen says, the "best way to learn information is to excavate". But mysteries take time to solve: for now, the researchers say, they will settle for ensuring that Mohenjo Daro endures for a few centuries more. — AFP

Visitors walk through the UNESCO World Heritage archeological site of Mohenjo Daro some 425 kms north of the Pakistani city of Karachi.



German researcher Michael Jansen talks near the UNESCO World Heritage archeological site of Mohenjo Daro some 425 kms north of the Pakistani city of Karachi.