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Lebanon PM Hariri resigns, attacks Iran and Hezbollah

Arabiya claims premier was target of assassination plot

BEIRUT: Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced his resignation yesterday, citing Iran's "grip" on the country and threats to his life. The surprise move risks plunging the small and already fragile Middle Eastern country deeper into turmoil. "I announce my resignation from the post of prime minister," Hariri said in a speech broadcast from Saudi Arabia by the Al-Arabiya news network. "I felt what was being covertly plotted to target my life," he said.

Hariri's personal security concerns appeared to gain little traction among the public. Social media were flooded with messages deriding him for choosing to resign from abroad and on a foreign channel. The two-time premier, whose father Rafik held the same position for years and was assassinated in 2005, accused Iran and its powerful Lebanese Shiite ally Hezbollah of seeking hegemony in the region.

The Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya Al-Hadath television channel reported that an assassination plot against Saad Al-Hariri was foiled in Beirut days ago, citing an unnamed source. Lebanon's Internal Security Forces (ISF), responding to reports that one of its branches had foiled an assassination attempt on Hariri, denied that it was the source of the reports and said it "had no information on this". "Those who planned to assassinate

prime minister Hariri deactivated the observation towers while his motorcade was passing by," Arabiya cited the source as saying.

The 47-year-old Sunni politician's resignation comes less than a year after his government, to which Hezbollah's political wing belongs, was formed. "Iran has a grip on the fate of the region's countries... Hezbollah is Iran's arm not just in Lebanon but in other Arab countries too," Hariri said. He accused Tehran of "sowing discord among the children of the same nation and creating a state within the state... to the extent that it gets the final say on how Lebanon's affairs are run". Iran dismissed his accusations as "unfounded". Hariri's "repetition of unreal and baseless accusations... against Iran show that the resignation is designed to create tensions in Lebanon and in the region", Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghassemi said.

Hariri also had harsh words for Hezbollah. "In recent years, Hezbollah has used the power of its weapons to impose a fait accompli," he said, reading a speech from behind a desk. Hezbollah is a vital ally of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad in the war the Damascus regime is waging against the Islamic State group and armed opposition movements.

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BEIRUT: A handout picture shows Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri (right) meeting Iran's Supreme Leader's advisor Ali Akbar Velayati (second right) at the Government Palace on Friday. — AFP

News in brief

No military moves against Kuwait

KUWAIT: Contrary to what has been circulating on social media, there are no military movements in the region heading towards Kuwait, the defense ministry said yesterday. The ministry's public relations department said rumors regarding military action against Kuwait are false. False news and rumors will only threaten Kuwait's stability and security, said the department, adding that those spreading lies will be subjected to legal procedures and questioning.

Curbs on expat graduates

KUWAIT: The manpower authority has issued an administrative decision that will take effect in 2018 banning the recruitment of expatriate holders of diplomas and higher degrees who are under 30 years of age. The decision also bans amending degrees to higher levels except after a worker has left Kuwait, Al-Anbaa reported. Furthermore, the authority announced setting limits to the total number of expat laborers in some marginal professions, to be replaced with modern technology. The authority also contacted various ministries requesting the reduction of current and future security, cleaning and handling contracts by 25 percent, as total government contracts currently number 2,274 and the total number of workers hired by these contracts is 447,077.

Trump: List Aramco on NYSE

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump yesterday urged Saudi Arabia to choose Wall Street as a venue for the initial public offerings of shares of oil giant Aramco in 2018. "Would very much appreciate Saudi Arabia doing their IPO of Aramco with the New York Stock Exchange. Important to the United States!" Trump tweeted from Hawaii, ahead of a trip to Asia. The Aramco IPO is expected to be the largest in history, raising around \$100 billion in much-needed revenue for the kingdom. Aramco, which controls Saudi Arabia's massive energy assets, plans to list nearly five percent of its shares in the stock market. Plans are to list the offering in the second half of 2018 on the Saudi stock market as well as an international exchange, with markets in New York and London vying for the offering.

Saudis intercept ballistic missile

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's air defense intercepted a missile, fired from Yemen, close to the capital Riyadh yesterday, Al Arabiya TV reported. State-owned Al Ekhbariya TV said it was brought down north of King Khaled Airport and there were no casualties reported. "The missile was of limited size (and) no injuries or damage" were reported, it said. Earlier, a Saudi-led military coalition said yesterday an air strike that hit a market in Yemen's northern Saadah province was a legitimate military target. On Wednesday, medics and a Reuters witness said an air strike carried out by the coalition killed 26 people at a hotel and an adjoining market.

Spacey dumped by Netflix, police home in on Weinstein

NEW YORK: Netflix late Friday dropped Kevin Spacey, whose career is in free-fall over spiraling sexual assault accusations as police gather evidence for a possible arrest warrant against Harvey Weinstein for alleged rape. The two-time Oscar winner Spacey, for years considered one of the most gifted actors of his generation, and whose collaboration with Netflix put the streaming giant on the map, has in just days gone

from esteemed actor to entertainment pariah.

Reportedly being investigated by British police for assaulting a man in London in 2008, he has been publicly accused of attempting to rape a 15-year-old boy in New York and of making advances on a 14-year-old. Already dropped by his publicist and agent, Netflix became the latest entity to cut ties with Spacey, saying it would be involved in no further production of its hit series "House of Cards" that includes the 58-year-old. Production of the last and final season, which had been due to air in 2018, has already been suspended.

The streaming service also said it was abandoning the release of an upcoming film "Gore" that had also starred the actor, whose glittering career is now collapsing around him.

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WASHINGTON: This file photo taken on Feb 23, 2016 shows actor Kevin Spacey arriving at the season 4 premiere screening of the Netflix show "House of Cards". — AFP

Scarred by Trump, challengers eyeing 2020 election run

WASHINGTON: One year on from Donald Trump's shock election, US Democrats are still struggling to heal the wounds of Hillary Clinton's calamitous defeat and identify a champion to challenge a deeply unpopular president in 2020. For Democrats it has been a sobering first 10 months under Donald Trump. Republicans control the White House and Congress. With Trump's upset wins in once-liberal bastions Wisconsin and Michigan, the

heartland is trending more conservative.

But with Trump's approval ratings in quicksand, frustration has also grown among divided Republicans. If presidential tumult persists and the investigation into possible collusion between Trump's campaign and Russia gets legs, Democrats may not be the only ones eyeing a White House run. As the Democratic Party of Barack Obama and Bill Clinton struggles to return to relevance, some lawmakers see the political glass half full.

The party is "more united and more energized today than it was a year ago," Democratic Senator Chris Coons told AFP, referring to the Hillary Clinton-Bernie Sanders divide which consumed Democrats. Nearly 1,100 days before the next presidential election, a Democratic shadow campaign is in full swing, with several hopefuls already visiting early-voting Iowa and New Hampshire.

"There's really no heir apparent, no figure who dominates the field," said political science professor Chris Galdieri of Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire.

For Democrats seeking their political savior, another hurdle lies in the way: Reclaiming lost congressional seats in next year's midterm elections. "What happens in 2018 is important for what happens in 2020," Senator Chris Van Hollen said. The potential presidential candidates stretch into the dozens. With Clinton acknowledging she is "done" being a candidate, here are the top likely contenders:

Veterans

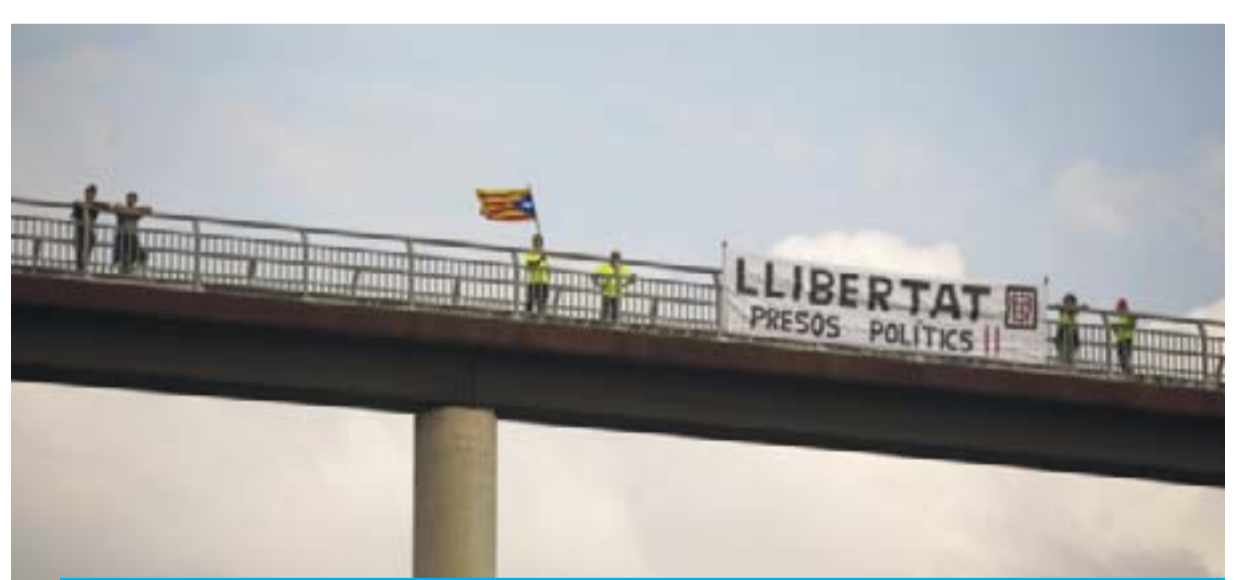
Senator Bernie Sanders, the 2016 also-ran against Clinton, is still a player. He attends political rallies, debates Republicans on television, and maintains a vast grassroots army.

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Catalan leader urges 'unity' as Spain issues arrest warrant

BARCELONA: Catalonia's deposed leader Carles Puigdemont called yesterday for separatists to unite in a December election called by Spain to quell the region's push for independence. Puigdemont's rallying cry came a day after a Spanish judge issued an arrest warrant against him, with prosecutors seeking to charge him with rebellion, sedition and misuse of public funds over his secessionist drive. "The time has come for all democrats to unite. For Catalonia, for the release of political prisoners and for the republic," he said on Twitter.

The 54-year-old has been holed up in Belgium since Monday and ignored a summons to appear before the judge in Madrid, saying he wants guarantees he will receive a fair trial. The judge issued the European arrest warrants late Friday for Puigdemont and four of his allies who are also in Belgium, to force them to return to Spain. The Belgian public prosecutor's office confirmed yesterday it had received the warrants, saying a decision would happen within 24 hours of them appearing before a judge. But the authorities said any appeals process could last for up to three months. "The EU Framework Decision provides that the final decision must be taken within 60 days, with an extension to 90



BARCELONA: A man waves an independence flag next to a banner reading in Catalan "freedom for political prisoners" on top of a bridge on the outskirts of Barcelona yesterday. — AP

days under exceptional circumstances," the Belgian justice ministry said in a statement.

The warrants have further fuelled separatists' anger and frustration after deposed members of Puigdemont's government who did not flee to Belgium, including his deputy, appeared before a Spanish judge on Thursday and were detained pending a possible trial. Protesters in the wealthy northeastern Catalonia region have held frequent demonstrations, chanting and waving Catalan flags, calling for their release and a big pro-independ-

ence march is planned for Nov 11.

Spain's worst political crisis in decades flared up after the regional parliament in Catalonia voted to proclaim an independent republic following a referendum on Oct 1 that was declared illegal by the country's Constitutional Court. The central government responded by dismissing Puigdemont's executive, imposing direct rule on the region and calling fresh elections in Catalonia on Dec 21.

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Local

Kuwaitis wounded in Iraq's road accident transported successfully

Victims receive burial in Al-Najaf

KUWAIT: Commander of Kuwait's Air Force Major General Abdullah Al-Fodari stressed on Friday that the Kuwaitis injured during a road accident in Iraq were successfully transported to the country. Upon instructions by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Chief of Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khodher, an aircraft was dispatched to transfer the wounded from Iraq, Al-Fodari said in statement. The step was made in cooperation with Iraq's Foreign Ministry, he said, indicating that the plane was equipped with an emergency medical team. He noted that the General Staff of the Army has taken all medical preparations at Jaber Al-Ahmad Hospital, stressing that Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Health made joint efforts to deal with the situation professionally. For his part, head of emergency department at hospital, Colonel Salah Al-Nomes said 14 doctors and 20 nurses received the wounded and dealt with their cases, adding that this was up on the directives of the Minister of



Three people in a critical condition

Defense and Chief of General Staff. He revealed that three people were in a critical condition, eight cases were stable, lauding Kuwait's Ambassador to Iraq Salem Al-Zamanan for giving initial information about all cases. He expressed his appreciation to cooperation and coordination among defense, interior, health and foreign ministries to help the wounded.

Meanwhile, Minister of Health Dr Jamal Al-Harbi voiced his appreciation to His Highness the Amir for caring for his sons and daughters, and to all the Kuwaiti bodies for their concerted efforts to transfer the injured. On Thursday, five Kuwaitis were killed and 13 others wounded while visiting the southern Iraqi city of Karbala. A bus, transporting the Kuwaiti nationals, had toppled over while on the road between Basra city and Al-Nasseriya.

Kuwaiti consul to Iraq Redha Dashti had stated on Friday that Kuwaiti nationals who were killed in the accident will receive burial in Al-Najaf city. He explained that the victims' remains would be transported to Karbala first before being laid to rest in Al-Najaf city. — KUNA



KUWAIT: An injured Kuwaiti national is stretchered from the plane upon arrival to Kuwait. — KUNA

scored, noting that a local company had suggested importing water but no deal was made so far.

No dissolution

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) denied dissolving the Oil Sector Services Company (OSSC), noting that the company is specialized in providing services to foreign agencies and following up labor cases filed against the company. KPC added that the Supreme Petroleum Council had only reduced the number of board members from seven to three.

Properties

Well-informed official sources at Kuwait Municipality said valuation of expropriated properties would have to be suspended for the time being due to the Cabinet's resignation and the lack

of a municipal council.

Charities

A report by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) said a total of 17 charities had been dissolved since 2013. The report also noted that despite the regulatory measures taken to organize charity work, the total sums collected as donations in 2017 was KD 40 million, compared to only KD 6 million in 2013. The report also noted that the total number of charities has grown from 10 in 2015 to 29 currently.



Essam Al-Marzouq

Social curse

local spotlight



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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I feel social media is turning into social curse these days. The Hindustan Times newspaper published a sad report about an Indian woman who was raped on the sidewalk in an Indian city in front of pedestrians during daytime (the incident took place around 2 pm) and no one did anything until a man called the police - the rest were videotaping the crime.

The newspaper said the woman had a fight with her husband two days before the incident and left the house. On that fateful day, she was approached by a drunken man and raped when she was on the road in a lamentable state of weakness, and likely hadn't eaten and slept. The passersby not only did not intervene, but whipped out their mobile phones and recorded the terrible incident! A passing motorist informed the police, who arrested the rapist and took the victim to the hospital. There is no information about the state of her health.

There are many more examples that reflect the lack of sense of human responsibility in dealing with an emergency, especially in cases of crimes and traffic accidents, where people gather to photograph the dead or the injured, while others remain as spectators to record the scene so they can share it with their friends! They are mocking others' misery.

One of the negative impacts of social media on the public is that they have lost the feeling and sense of responsibility. Several social sites have become a tool to terrorize innocents. This is why I say it has turned into a curse and not a blessing. Not all social media are alike, I like Facebook, but I don't like WhatsApp, although I use it heavily. I feel that in Kuwait, for example, it has become a means to spread false news and rumors, and people believe what they receive and share it, causing the circulation of many rumors.

Stop making idiots famous! A lot of silly people on social media have become famous without providing moral value to people, especially adolescents. They expose their silly lives and latest updates, but there is no room for confirmation. Clearly, children are heavily influenced by social media because media celebrities have become role models and heroes for children.

Another point of concern is that many users expose their personal lives and health and social problems through social media. This opens the possibility of resolving them through the opinions of non-specialists. In addition, studies have shown that social media sites influence political change, so young people are exposed to extremist ideas.

In a pleasant conversation with my college student son about the high prices at restaurants in Kuwait, he said social media celebs here are the reason. They go to a restaurant and make a video that shows how happy they are with the food, so everyone wants to experience it, so prices go up.

Social media have eliminated all barriers between communication and interaction, where it is easy to send your ideas on various topics, whether political or social, to the world. We have to admit that Facebook, for example, played a role in motivating people to revolt in Egypt, but this does not mean that everything is flawless. The use of these sites by people has made them bad or good. The social media sky is not free of storms.

No deal yet to import freshwater

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Oil minister and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq stressed that Kuwait's water security strategy is basically dependent on desalinating seawater and denied any current plans to import freshwater. "Importing freshwater can only happen if the cost is lower than that of desalinating it," he under-



PARIS: Education Minister Dr Mohammad Al-Fares and Kuwaiti Ambassador to France Sami Al-Suleiman meet with UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova. — KUNA

Kuwait continues adopting initiatives concerning people

PARIS: Responding to instructions by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait will continue providing and adopting several initiatives which concern people, said Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Mohammad Al-Fares.

Fares made the statement in a speech before the 39th session of General Conference of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The State of Kuwait has been assuming its humanitarian and moral responsibility towards problems facing people all over the world, he said.

Kuwait will host an international conference on suffering of the Palestinian child on November 12-13, which will be held amid the Israeli violations to the convention on the rights of the child, Fares, who also chairman of Kuwait National Commission for UNESCO, noted.

Kuwait is also going to host a donor conference to support education in Somalia, as it sees that education plays a key role in the renaissance of peoples and the achievement of sustainable development goals, as well as the expansion of community partnerships.

His Highness the Amir has given instructions to provide \$5 million to back UNESCO's activities pertaining to the Syrian students in Jordan, to fulfill Kuwait's previous support for UNESCO's initiatives worth \$500,000 in favor of the Syrians and Lebanese people, he stated.

The minister indicated that Kuwait is currently working to host a global center for the empowerment of people with disabilities through ICTs in order to complete the UNESCO award of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for "Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities."

On environment, Kuwait hosted, under the auspices of UNESCO, a water-related category II center at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Researches, he said. He said that it is clear the world, with billions of people, is currently experiencing difficult and very disturbing times.

The world is also going through critical and dangerous turning points on various paths and levels due to dramatic changes that have taken place, over the last years, on international and regional arenas, topped with increasing unrest and disputes in several areas of the world, he explained.

He said Kuwait expresses its support for goals and objectives by the organization in its plan of action for the second period (2018-22) of its medium-term plan for the 2012-2021 years that call for collective and coherent action within the UN system, with the aim of addressing challenges and keeping abreast of current global changes as well as consolidating the principles of the 2030 UN sustainable development plan. He urged all Member States and the partners to cooperate with, and support, the organization in order to achieve its developmental goals to benefit humankind and realize "our global dream of building a peaceful and fair world."

The minister voiced Kuwait's deep appreciation to efforts by UNESCO's Secretariat aiming to preserve cultural heritage all over the world, mainly the Old City of Jerusalem. He affirmed that the heritage in this area has been subjected to flagrant and continued violations by the Israeli occupation authorities and continued attacks on the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which has a great symbolism to the Muslims, praying to Allah Almighty that peace and security would prevail all over the world.

Fares conveyed greetings of the Kuwaiti Amir, government and people to UNESCO's officials for their efforts aiming to address problems facing people and resolve their contemporary issues through peace and security among peoples through education, science and culture.

Earlier yesterday, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova lauded Kuwaiti contributions to the organization, saying that His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was a figure keen on development of education and culture worldwide. Bokova's statement came during her meeting with minister Fares. —KUNA

EU, Kuwait trade reaches EUR 4.97 billion early 2017

BRUSSELS: EU imports from Kuwait in the first six months of 2017 reached EUR 2.15 billion, (\$2.49 billion), while EU exports to Kuwait for the same period reached EUR 2.82 billion, (\$3.27 billion), Eurostat reported yesterday. Mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials made up EUR three billion, (\$3.48 billion), or 90.9 percent worth of EU imports from Kuwait followed by chemicals and related products worth EUR 175 million, (\$203 million), or 5.3 percent in 2016.

EU exports to Kuwait in 2016 were led by machinery and transport equipment worth EUR 2.29 billion, (\$2.66 billion), or 42.1 percent followed by miscellaneous manufactured articles valued at EUR 890 million, (\$1.03 billion), or 16.3 percent of EU exports. EU was the 52nd import partner of Kuwait and 39th export partner in 2016. The figures for the last four year show that EU imports from Kuwait have been dropping from EUR 6.23 billion, (\$7.31 billion), in 2013, to EUR 5.45 billion, (\$6.43 billion), in 2014, to EUR 4.19 billion, (\$4.18 billion), in 2015 and EUR 3.30 billion, (\$3.83 billion), in 2016. EU exports to Kuwait have been relatively constant worth EUR 5.29 billion, (\$6.14 billion), in 2013, EUR 5.06 billion, (\$5.87 billion), in 2014, EUR 5.99 billion, (\$6.95 billion), in 2015 and EUR 5.45 billion, (\$6.33 billion), in 2016. — KUNA

News in brief

Lebanese President in Kuwait today

KUWAIT: Lebanese President Michel Aoun is due to arrive in Kuwait today for an official visit and talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. — KUNA

1,501 licenses to bedoons

KUWAIT: Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents' said yesterday that 1,501 driving certificates had been issued in the past nine months to bedoons (stateless people) in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior. New permits were distributed to 759 females and 748 others were issued for males. The new private and public licenses had been issued since January 2017 until last September, in addition to 2,547 renewed licenses, the Apparatus' Director of Information Abdullah Al-Farhan said. The official noted that Al-Jahra governance ranked top in terms of issuing orders for driving licenses for the same period, totaling 920 permits, while Al-Farwania governance came second with 204, followed by the capital with 167 ones. Farhan added Al-Ahmedi governance ranked fourth with 162 licenses, followed by Hawali with a total 29 licenses, and finally Mubarak Al-Kabeer with 25 permits. — KUNA

Zain celebrated the launch of iPhone X at the Avenues

Company held special event for 10 consecutive hours



KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, held a special event at the Avenues Mall in celebration of the official launch of the all-new iPhone X. The event was held on Friday November 3 for ten consecutive hours, from 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm, and witnessed overwhelming numbers of crowds from Zain customers and Apple enthusiasts in Kuwait.

Zain has always been keen on offering its customer base, the largest in Kuwait, with the latest and most advanced products in the tech world. The new iPhone X, considered the future of the smartphone, revolutionizes the smartphone industry through never seen before features and capabilities.

Zain's commitment towards its customers to continuously meet their needs is what enriches their trust in the company and puts it in the leadership position the company enjoys today in the Kuwaiti telecom market. Zain was keen on introducing the latest iPhone X with a portfolio of flexible offerings and plans to meet its customers' personal and professional usage needs. The all-new iPhone X will give Zain customers an unmatched telecom experience on the company's most advanced network.

The event witnessed overwhelming numbers of crowds from Zain customers and Apple enthusiasts in Kuwait, who participated in ten huge raffle draws that were held on an hourly basis from 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Winners received hundreds of valuable prizes, including smartphones, entertainment devices, gold lines, and more.

FM 88.8

During the event, Zain hosted the stars of FM 88.8, who live-streamed a special and exclusive episode LIVE from Zain's Grand Avenue branch for ten consecutive hours and announced the winners in the raffle draws on an hourly basis. Zain also live-streamed the entire event on its official YouTube channel, where the company also interviewed a number of talented Kuwaiti youth, including Tasameem founder Farah Al-Humaidhi, National Jet Ski Team champions Hussain Dashti and Abdulrahman Al-Omar, as well as actress Laila Abdullah and actor Yaqoub

petitive offerings, and will always aim at providing a superior experience on its most advanced network.

Specifications

The iPhone X features a gorgeous all-glass and stainless steel design with a beautiful 5.8-inch Super Retina display, A11 Bionic chip with neural engine for powerful machine learning, augmented reality and immersive 3D gaming experiences, wireless charging and Face ID, delivering an innovative and secure new way to unlock, authenticate and pay. The TrueDepth camera that enables Face ID brings Portrait mode with Portrait Lighting to the front camera for beautiful selfies with a depth-of-field effect and enables Animoji, which captures and analyzes over 50 different facial muscle movements to bring emoji to life in a fun new way.

A redesigned rear camera with dual optical image stabilization includes a new color filter, deeper pixels, an improved Apple-designed image signal processor and features Portrait mode with Portrait Lighting allowing customers to capture stunning photos and videos. The all-glass front and back on iPhone X feature the most durable glass ever in a smartphone in two beautiful finishes, silver and space gray.

The introduction of iPhone X highlights Zain's eagerness in keeping pace with the ongoing changes of needs and wants of its customers. With this latest announcement, Zain strengthens its leading position in providing special services and offerings designed for heavy data users.



Huge crowds participated in raffle draws with valuable prizes

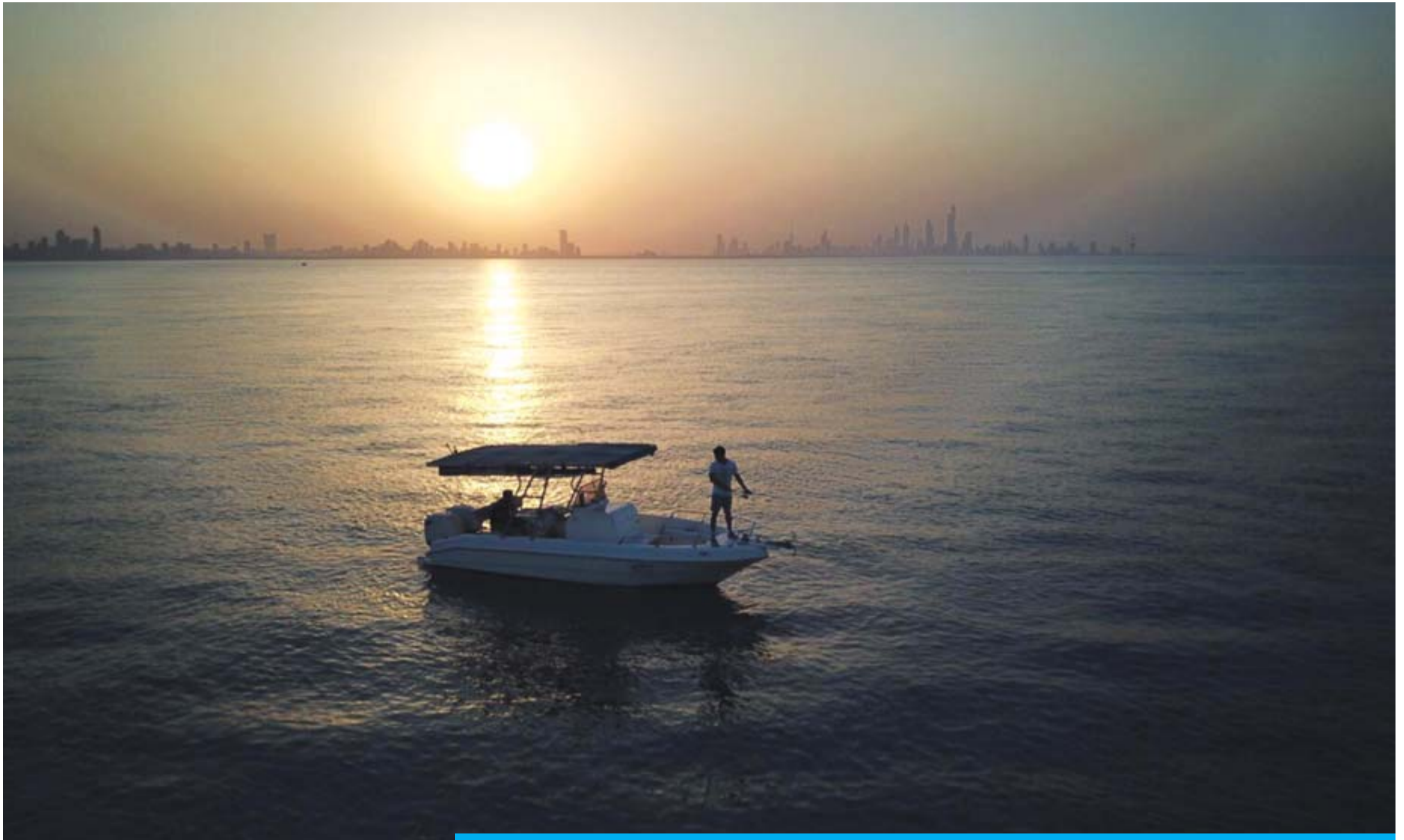
Abdullah who shared their experience with iflix, a world-class Streaming Video on Demand (SVoD) service Zain launched in the Middle East markets.

Zain is keen on introducing the latest and most innovative services and solutions in the market to elevate its customers' experience and offer them convenience while meeting their unique lifestyles. The company is also committed to introducing them with the latest and most com-



Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: The sun and city on the horizon and people fishing on a boat —KUNA

New Kuwaiti poll shows mostly positive views on US policy push, but some splits

85 percent give Iran's behavior an unfavorable rating

KUWAIT: As US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson returns from the Middle East, where he focused on challenges from Iran and intra-Arab divisions, a new poll in Kuwait reveals a mixed yet largely favorable picture of popular attitudes on such issues in that small but strategic Gulf state.

On Iran's "recent policies in the region," Kuwaiti public opinion is as solidly negative as the Trump administration: 85 percent of Kuwaitis give Iran's behavior an unfavorable rating today. This marks a further decline for Tehran since the previous poll, in September 2015, when the figure was 74 percent negative. Notably, even among Kuwait's substantial Shia minority, the majority (63 percent) now voice disapproval of Iran's policies. On the sensitive demographic issue of sectarian distribution among Kuwait's roughly 1.5 million citizens, the survey pinpoints the proportion of Shia affiliation at 28.6 percent. Kuwait's government is thus on solid ground in continuing to take steps against Iranian subversion.

Iran's regional allies also receive highly unfavorable ratings from both Sunni and Shia Kuwaitis. Hezbollah is viewed negatively by a remarkable 94 percent of the country's Sunnis—and by an even more remarkable 85 percent of the Shia. The proportion for Kuwaitis as a whole is 91 percent negative toward Hezbollah, registering a parallel downward trend from the 78 percent recorded two years ago. Similarly, the Houthis of Yemen get poor reviews from 92 percent of Kuwaiti Sunnis, and 72 percent of Kuwaiti Shia.

On the current intra-Arab dispute over Qatar, which Kuwait (like the United States) is attempting to mediate,

the Kuwaiti public takes a correspondingly moderate view. The large majority (77 percent) rejects the boycott of Qatar, as pursued by the Arab quartet of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt. And exactly the same high percentage of Kuwaitis agree that "the best outcome is a compromise, in which all parties make some concessions to each other to reach a middle ground." This too is generally in line with US initiatives on this issue.

Israeli-Palestinian conflict

More surprisingly, Kuwaitis are largely favorably disposed to a mediating role in a different regional dispute: the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Despite strong expressions of anti-Israel sentiment by some Kuwaiti politicians, 60 percent of the country's citizens agree that "Arab states should play a new role in Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, offering both sides incentives to take more moderate positions." Here again this normally aloof Arab public appears broadly receptive to the new US approach on an intractable regional problem. But only a small minority of Kuwaitis, 16 percent, say the time has already come for "Arab states to work with Israel on other issues like technology, counter-terrorism, and containing Iran." Overall, asked about their relations with the

United States, a slim majority (53 percent) of Kuwaitis say it is important for their country to maintain good ties with Washington. Although this percentage might seem low given the US liberation of Kuwait from Saddam Hussein's occupation in 1991, it is among the highest in the region, double that among Saudis or Emiratis. And it probably reflects widespread disappointment with subsequent US policies on the

Mideast: just one-quarter of Kuwaitis approve of US regional policy as a whole right now. Asked to select their top priority for that policy, Kuwaitis divide evenly among three options: countering jihadi terrorism, containing Iran, and resolving the crisis in Yemen. The Palestinian cause comes in fourth, at 11 percent say the best thing would be for the United States simply to "reduce its interference in the region."

Sharp divide

Despite this generally moderate consensus, the survey also reveals some potentially troubling bones of contention in Kuwaiti society. On a few specific questions, the data show a sharp sectarian divide. For example, asked about maintaining good relations with

Iran, 54 percent of the Shia minority say that is important; stunningly, however, a mere one percent of their Sunni compatriots agree. Conversely, asked about the Muslim Brotherhood, which operates openly by a different name in Kuwait's parliament and public life, 37 percent of Sunni Kuwaitis express a positive opinion—but precisely zero percent of their Shia fellow citizens agree with that position.

The good news in these findings is that a majority in both communities agree that "Arabs should work harder for coexistence and cooperation between Sunnis and Shia." That proposition garners support from 64 percent of Kuwaiti Sunnis, and from 84 percent of the country's Shia. At a lower yet still significant level of popular endorsement, 32 percent of the Sunnis, and 50 percent of the Shia, favor "interpreting Islam is more moderate, tolerant, and modern direction." Notably, the overall percentage behind that controversial statement is now double what it was in Kuwait just two years ago.

This poll, completed in early September 2017, was conducted by a reputable, locally licensed regional commercial survey firm, using face-to-face interviews with a representative national sample of 1,000 Kuwaiti citizens, as part of its longstanding market research series. The methodology comprised a standard, stratified geographical probability technique, yielding a statistical margin of error of approximately three percent. Given the firm's professional method, long-term track irreproachable track record, and strict assurances of confidentiality, the findings offer a highly credible and detailed picture of Kuwaiti popular attitudes on these issues today. — Washington Institute



77 percent reject the boycott of Qatar

15 percent. Significantly, only 11 percent say the best thing would be for the United States simply to "reduce its interference in the region."

Warning

Spetco International Petroleum Company W.L.L. ("SPETCO") hereby declares that the following names below, no longer have any relationship whatsoever with SPETCO since 25th October 2017:

<p>Manoj Mathew Manager - Sales & Services Indian national, civil ID#272021800348</p>	
<p>Sri Rama Chandra Reddy Procurement Officer Indian national, civil ID#276080302128</p>	
<p>Ismail Mohammed Mhaisker Procurement Officer Indian national, civil ID# 280120703527</p>	

"Therefore, Spetco shall not accept responsibility to any dealings with them in respect to our business"

Kuwait launches blood bank facility in Dar es Salaam

DAR ES SALAAM: Tanzanian Minister of Health Ummu Mwalimu expressed yesterday for Kuwait for its continuous support and contribution in her country's health sector. Mwalimu's statement came during inauguration of a facility named "Kuwait Blood Bank" in Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI) in Dar es Salaam, former capital and largest city in Tanzania.

Kuwait's Ambassador to Tanzania Jasem Al Najem said that launch of "Kuwait Blood Bank" was a qualitative step for Kuwaiti charitable work in Tanzania, following hard work by the Kuwait Patients Helping Fund Society (KPHFS), in cooperation with the

Embassy, to ensure arrival of adequate equipment and devices-meeting international standers and Tanzanian requirements-for MOI. "Kuwait Blood Bank" has been launched with a \$107,000 donation, through KPHFS and under supervision of the Kuwait Embassy in the nation, Tanzanian officials said.

Meanwhile, Tanzanian Minister for Health said the blood bank would enhance provision of services. "Now MOI can collect its own blood from donors and supply it to regional and district hospitals in need. The government thanks Kuwait for its assistance," she said. According to her, the number of patients flown abroad for treatment decreased from 423 in 2015 to 209.

She pledged government's continued investment in healthcare to ensure treatment for admitted patients, suffering from cancer, heart diseases or in need for kidney transplantation. MOI executive director Respicious Boniface said the institute needs 13-20 units of blood daily. "We always get five to 10 units of blood a day, which is inadequate because the demand is high. I encourage more people to donate blood," Boniface said. —KUNA



DAR ES SALAAM: Kuwait's Ambassador to Tanzania Jasem Al Najem donates blood. —KUNA

Local

CRIMES

Policemen arrested with drugs

KUWAIT: A special forces agent dressed in full uniform was arrested for possession and abuse of drugs, resisting arrest, attempting to escape and assaulting fellow policemen. In a similar incident, two police detectives were arrested in two separate incidents with drugs. The sources explained that the first suspect was arrested in Ahmadi with drugs and a weapon. The sources noted that the suspect was high on drugs and kept screaming blame at the force because he was a 'colleague.' The second suspect was arrested in Mubarak Al-Kabeer after causing an accident, said security sources, noting that on noticing how weirdly he acted, traffic police searched his vehicle and found drugs in it.

'Saddam' arrested

An Egyptian named Saddam was arrested in Farwaniya for violating residency laws and referred for deportation, said security sources. Case papers indicate that the suspect was spotted and arrested while trying to avoid a checkpoint.

Stolen cables

Farwaniya detectives raided a warehouse in Hasawi, where two Egyptians had been storing tons of copper cables stolen from Ministry of Electricity and Water power units. Case papers indicate that a police patrol suspected a truck loaded with copper cables with two Egyptians onboard. The suspects immediately confessed that the cables were stolen and that they had been using a house in Hasawi to store them. A case was filed.

Fugitive caught

A citizen wanted over a criminal case was arrested in Jahra, said security sources, noting that the suspect was stopped by a police patrol for obstructing traffic flow. The sources added that the man had no ID on him, but on checking his fingerprints, he was found wanted and was apprehended and referred to relevant authorities.

Drug possession

Jahra detectives conducted a wide-scale inspection campaign which resulted in arresting a 22-year-old citizen with 13 bags of drugs and some hashish joints.

— Translated from the Arabic press

Al-Anbbaa

الجزيرة Al-Jarida
Saudi women in the eyes of their Mauritanian peers

By Arwa Al-Waqian

I heard about the ban lifted on Saudi women driving while I was in Nouakchott, Mauritania on a trip organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for a group of Arab and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) journalists to cover the situations of refugees in Northern Africa. We were having dinner when a colleague congratulated everybody as Saudi women have finally been allowed to drive, which angered a Saudi journalist who insisted that women have no right to drive.

A long debate went on while the latter kept insisting on his contradicting opinion that Saudi women are free to drive anywhere worldwide except in Saudi Arabia, which led to the problem of double standards and people's wrong beliefs.

The following day when we were on our way to the airport, the flight was cancelled due to weather problems. While waiting for a bus, we had a friendly chat with a Mauritanian family waiting at the airport where one of us mentioned how our Saudi colleague was against women driving, which angered the Mauritanian women who criticized him and noted that women were 'half of societies' and that they are ought to be respected.

They kept fiercely and logically arguing with him that driving is not a privilege and that women were free to choose whatever they wish. This is when I realized how powerful Mauritanian women were, which is rare in Africa. I liked the Mauritanian women's feminist vision.

Even African female refugees in Mauritania have good chances of becoming strong feminists. I met a female refugee from Central Africa who was talking about the importance to educate women, their rights and empowerment, which was really amazing to come across in such a poor country.

Finally allowing Saudi women to drive despite all conditions was a step long awaited by women worldwide which was celebrated even in Africa. Saudi women made great achievements despite social restrictions on their rights. It is high time to let Saudi women fly high into creative skies.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

@m.thalib

م. طالب

Small enterprises



Major projects

الجزيرة Al-Jarida

It is a matter of time

By Ali Mahmoud Khajah

These days people are focusing less on daily politics and more on starting their own business, cultural activities and events such as those organized at Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center. This makes me wonder if this optimism is an illusion or real, however it does make me feel positive. I am not saying that we are heading towards living in a Utopia nor am I claiming that we are surrounded by many things waiting to undermine such optimism. I have started to notice some positive changes that are about to take place in Kuwait. The reason behind such optimism is that people are gradually abstaining from focusing on politics, the parliament and the government's daily actions and developments as they used to a few years back when people knew the tiniest details about lawmakers' opinions on a certain issue. For instance, Scope TV channel allocated a three-hour program during the evening prime time for a debate with MPs or a candidate.

Al-Watan TV channel also showed a political

program at prime time. Al-Adalah TV channel allocated a three-hour program to talk about parliamentary and governmental daily activities. We also went as far as establishing special TV channels to show National Assembly daily activities. All this is slowly fading away. Even if it does exist, nobody pays attention to it anymore. People are no longer eager to watch an interview with an MP or a debate between two candidates.

In addition, the perfect usage of social media networks in showing the flow in various sectors has led to reform, which eventually made some officials compete in winning public opinion satisfaction with their performance to avoid criticism. Also, more and more people have stopped giving in blindly to statements made by clerics or people pretending to be religious. People are currently rejecting illogical sayings and Fatwas and have stopped considering those men solemn, which is a trait they do not deserve.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

'Intercare' co-sponsors Horeca 2018

KUWAIT: Because caring for cleaning systems in restaurants and hotels is a key factor in achieving success in hospitality services, the Intercare General Trading and Contracting Company (Intercare Kuwait) recently signed a contract with organizers of the 2018 Horeca Kuwait exhibition to sponsor the event. Horeca's organizing committee welcomed Intercare into the exhibition's list of sponsors, noting that Intercare Kuwait plays a significant role in securing cleaning services in various hotels and restaurants.

Intercare Kuwait can be credited as an industry leader in the business of innovative professional hygiene solutions in the Middle East. Starting with just two employees in 1998, Intercare has grown phenomenally today, both in status and rank. After having successfully captured the markets of Kuwait, Intercare has launched its world class professional hygiene and



Garish Kumar Nanda

cleaning systems in India and Qatar.

On the occasion of signing the contract, General Manager Garish Kumar Nanda stressed that the company's success was achieved through several elements, including setting rigid standards of quality with a flexible product line and services. Intercare aims to take the edge over its competitors. Specialized

products and hi-tech dispensing systems ensure that the company adheres to its mission of introducing innovative systems and effective cleaning solutions to its client. Nanda added that with strong commitment to its 'Service with Integrity' policy, Intercare continues to fulfill its promise of providing state-of-the-art and modern day solutions to meet the needs of all its customers.

In addition, Nanda stressed that the company is primarily involved in providing innovative hygiene and cleaning solutions to B2B and B2C customers with a major emphasis on the hospitality and food and beverage industry and that its trading activities include washroom, kitchen and property hygiene, maintenance and cleaning solutions. Apart from trading, Intercare also carries out floor restoration services for all types of floors and carpet cleaning services. Notably, Horeca Kuwait 2018 will be organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with the Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref in the period of January 15-17, 2018.

PIC signs agreement for project in Canada

KUWAIT: The Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) signed an initial agreement for a polypropylene project in Canada through the Canada Kuwait Petrochemical Corporation, said an official yesterday. PIC CEO Mohammed Al-Farhoud said that this project in Canada was one of the major endeavors carried out by the company abroad, affirming that this will bolster Kuwait's status within the global petrochemical industry.

Jacobs Engineering Company will work on the initial design of the polypropylene project which is expected to produce around 550,000 tons annually, said Farhoud, adding that engineering company will provide its initial cost assessment for the project by the fourth quarter of 2018. In December, the Canada Kuwait Petrochemical Corporation received a conditional royalty credit of \$300 million from Alberta Energy to go towards the project. Sturgeon County also signed a Municipal Improvement Agreement with the company. — KUNA

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LOCATION MAP

International

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017



Kim portraits and death threats: Life at a North Korean school in Japan

US lawmakers tackle sexual harassment in Congress

Page 8

Page 9



TEHRAN: Iranian schoolgirls chant slogan during an annual gathering in front of the former US Embassy marking the anniversary of its 1979 takeover as a surface-to-surface missile (rear left) is displayed in Tehran yesterday.—AP

Iran displays missile, calls Trump 'crazy'

Iranians mark anniversary of US embassy takeover

BEIRUT: Iran put a ballistic missile on display as thousands marched yesterday to mark the anniversary of the 1979 seizure of the US embassy, with a senior official accusing President Donald Trump of a "crazy" return to confrontation with Tehran. Turnout for the annual Iranian street rallies commemorating the embassy takeover, a pivotal event of the Islamic Revolution, appeared higher than in recent years when Trump's predecessor Barack Obama pursued detente with Tehran.

Last month, Trump broke ranks with European allies, Russia and China by refusing to re-certify Iran's compliance with its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, reached during Obama's tenure. Under that deal, most international sanctions on Iran were lifted in exchange for Tehran curbing nuclear activity seen to pose a risk of being put to developing atomic bombs. Iran has reaffirmed its commitment to the

deal and UN inspectors have verified Tehran is complying with its terms, but Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has threatened to "shred" the pact if the United States pulls out.

"All the governments confirm that the American president is a crazy individual who is taking others toward the direction of suicide," Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, told a rally in Tehran, state media reported. "Trump's policies against the people of Iran have brought them out into the streets today," Shamkhani said. He did not identify the governments he had in mind. The other parties to the nuclear deal - Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany - have voiced disquiet at Trump's opposition to it, fearing this could stir new Middle East instability. But the Europeans share US concern over Iran's ballistic missile program and "destabilizing" regional behavior.

Not negotiable

Senior Iranian officials have repeatedly said that the Islamic Republic's missile program is solely defensive in nature and is not negotiable. In a sign of defiance, a Ghadr ballistic missile with a range of 2,000 km was put on display near the ex-US embassy in Tehran, now a cultural centre, during yesterday's street demonstration, Tasnim news agency said. "That America thinks Iran is going to put aside its military power is a childish dream," said Brigadier General Hossein Salami, deputy head of its elite Revolutionary Guards which oversees the missile development, according to Tasnim.

Fars news agency posted pictures of demonstrators nearby burning an effigy of Trump and holding up signs saying "Death to America". Iran and the United States

severed diplomatic relations soon after the 1979 revolution, during which hardline students seized the embassy and took 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

Shamkhani spoke a few days after Khamenei said the United States was the "number one enemy" of the Islamic Republic. US-Iranian tensions have risen anew at a time when Tehran has been improving political and military ties with Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Tehran on Wednesday.

Khamenei told him that Tehran and Moscow must step up cooperation to isolate the United States and help defuse conflict in the Middle East. Iran and Russia are both fighting on the side of Syrian President Bashar Al Assad against rebels, some of them US-backed, and Islamist militants trying to overthrow him.— Reuters

French car park statue triggers secularism row

PLOERMEL: The peaceful little town of Ploermel is at the centre of a debate over France's secular principles that has taken on international proportions—all because of a statue in a car park. Poland and Hungary have offered to take in the statue of the late pope John Paul II after France's top court ordered the removal of a cross hanging over it, and tens of thousands have signed online petitions against the ruling. Like the furious debate that erupted last year when beach resorts tried to ban the "burkini" Muslim swimsuit, the row is a test of France's strict limits on the role of religion in public life.

"I hope you haven't come to take away our John Paul," said Guy Olszewski, a resident of the town in the staunchly Catholic northwestern Brittany region, getting out of his car after seeing journalists clustered around the statue. "It's beyond me. We are in a Christian country," said Olszewski, who like the late pontiff has Polish roots. French authorities have no problem with mosques being built, he argued. On his way back from the bakery, another local, Michel Pageot, shot back. "It's not the statue itself that's the problem. The pope is a personality like any other," he said. "But putting a giant cross on top of it turns it into a religious monument."

Offer from Orban

Enshrined in a 1905 law and fiercely defended by many French, "laïcité", or secularism, tightly restricts the display of religious symbols in public. In the case of the bronze statue, which has stood at the centre of a car park since 2006 and a legal battle for almost as long, the court had no issue with John Paul himself. But the Christian cross topping the arch that frames the 7.5-metre monument must come down, it ruled.

The decision sparked anger in John Paul's native Poland, with the Catholic country's Prime Minister Beata Szydlo offering to move the statue there to "save it from censorship". Hungary too, where Prime Minister Viktor Orban has vocally defended European "Christian identity" against what he says is a threat from Islamisation, also offered to take the statue in. In Ploermel, home to some 10,000 people, residents are divided. "The statue doesn't bother me—it has its place here, and could even attract tourists," said Denis Robin. "I don't understand this controversy, and unfortunately I don't think it's over."

Death threats

France's secularism laws have repeatedly prompted court cases and heated public debate. The top administrative court ruled in August 2016 that beach resorts could not ban the burkini on the grounds that the garment posed a public order risk following the truck attack in Nice the month before. Christian campaigners also won a victory last year when the courts said public buildings could display Christmas nativity scenes, which had been contested. In Ploermel, the former rightwing mayor who had the statue installed accused the pro-secular camp of trying to make Christians "feel permanently guilty".

"France is France and no legal authority, even the highest, has the right to violate our convictions, our beliefs and above all our culture," Paul Anselin said. Anselin wants a local referendum on the cross row and supports a proposal of current mayor Patrick Le Diffon to privatize the land it sits on so that it doesn't fall under secularism laws.

But Gilles Kerouedan, a local activist whose freedom of thought group fought the case, said privatizing the space would solve nothing. "Clearly it's the prominent nature of the cross that is the problem," he said. Kerouedan filed a legal complaint this week after he received death threats from a group calling for a "nationalist revival".—AFP

Saddam, Castro and Hitler: Controversial Palestinian names

HEBRON: Hitler, Castro and Saddam Hussein meet in a bar. It may sound like the beginning of a joke, but in the Palestinian territories it is actually possible. Palestinians often name their children after famous celebrities, national heroes or backers of their cause. But from time to time, they pick far more controversial names and the children have to live with the consequences. Hitler Abu Hamad is not proud to carry the name of a man responsible for the slaughter of millions.

"There is no relationship between my name and the actions of Adolf Hitler," he said at his home in the city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank. "I hate what he did." "I am against killing, violence and human rights abuses, but I got used to my name and it is part of my character." How the quiet, polite 41-year-old school teacher came to be named after the most hated man of the 20th century says a lot about Israel and the Palestinians. Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967 in a move never recognized by the international community.

Jewish settlers moved into the territory and the occupation continues. When Abu Hamad was born in 1976, his father wanted to send a message, though in perhaps the most offensive way possible: picking the name of the man who systematically murdered six million Jews in the Holocaust. "My father gave me the name to provoke the occupation," he said. "He was not political. He was a simple man who made mistakes. He wanted to make the occupation think with my name."

The father-of-two studied English literature and is a deputy head at a school near his home, while also teaching adults. His name is "weird for the kids at school", he said. He says it also causes him endless problems at Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank. When he was 15 and living in Hebron's Old City, an army officer approached him and asked him his name.

When he told him, the soldier flew off the handle, he alleges. "He said 'you are a criminal'." Abu Hamad said, alleging he was then beaten by soldiers, leaving him with a broken nose still bent out of shape. Israel's military did not



HEBRON: Palestinian Hitler Abu Hamad, deputy head at a school, sits at his office in the Israeli occupied city of Hebron.—AFP

respond to a request for comment. He believes the name also stopped Israelis from giving him permits to study or work outside the Palestinian territories. "We are not against the Jews," he said. "We are against the occupation and don't respect it. It destroys our homes, confiscates our possessions and restricts our freedom."

Saddam Hussein

Many Palestinians have named children after their longtime leader Yasser Arafat, while other names heard include Castro, Guevara and Chavez—after the Latin American figures who supported their cause. In Hebron, there is a Carter Abu Isneyna, named after former US president Jimmy Carter, who tried to get Israel to end the occupation and led the Camp David peace talks between Israel and Egypt. Qais Hussein Omar was born in 1976 under a different name—Saddam Hussein. He alleges he was regularly harassed at checkpoints by Israeli soldiers angered by his name, and was once hospitalized by a particularly brutal beating. "My name was the source of psychological and physical suffering," he said. In other countries, too, he faced issues and it all affected his health, so seven years

ago he changed it. He urges parents not to name their children after famous people as it "won't fit the personality" "His name could be Yasser Arafat and he wants to become a ballet dancer."

In the city of Haifa in northern Israel, an Arab Israeli man is named after Jules Jammal, a Syrian military hero believed to have driven his boat into a French warship during the 1956 Suez crisis. "I am happy with my name," he said. Naji Obeid, a Christian Arab who tries to encourage members of his community to join the Israeli army, named his son after former Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin.

"I loved the leader Menachem Begin and he was my friend, so I called my son Begin Obeid, and he serves in the Israeli navy," he said. Arab Israeli Christian Waheed Nicola named his son Benjamin Netanyahu after the right-wing Israeli leader won elections in 1996. Delivery man Benjamin Netanyahu Nicola, 21, has said in previous interviews with Israeli media the name has caused him no end of problems when he delivers goods in Arab areas. Israeli media reports have said he wanted to change his name but his father, who is a member of Netanyahu's Likud party, refused.—AFP

International

Turkey President Erdogan ousts mayors to boost election hopes

Purge of local officials designed to shore up support

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has in the recent weeks forced from office several of Turkey's big city mayors, in a purge of local officials designed to shore up support for his ruling party. In a fast-moving and sometimes ruthless chain of resignations, four top city mayors have stepped down at Erdogan's request, paying the price for the ruling party's somewhat lackluster performance in the April referendum on constitutional change.

Analysts say that after 15 years in power, the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) of Erdogan is genuinely worried about its levels of support, ahead of a critical election year in 2019. "The dismissals of the mayors are for different reasons but it's all with the aim of improving the electoral position of the party," Ilter Turan, a professor of political science at Istanbul's Bilgi University said. "The party is in a quandary as to why it is losing votes. The erosion of support was evident in the referendum. "The president is trying to develop ways to turn the electoral tide around," he said.

'Impossible to do politics'

First to go was Kadir Topbas, the mayor of Istanbul, a job Erdogan himself used to hold. Next went Recep Altepe, the mayor of Bursa, Turkey's fourth largest city and a key industrial hub. After weeks of resistance, the third big mayor to fall on his sword was Melih Gokcek, in charge of Ankara since 1994 and an ineluctable presence on social media with sometimes mind-bending tweets including blaming western powers for earthquakes. "An order cuts through iron," said Gokcek, emphasizing he was only resigning because of Erdogan's wishes.

The latest big city mayor to resign was Ahmet Edip Ugur of the western city of Balikesir who stepped down on Monday with a lacerating farewell speech that shook Turkish politics to the core. Choking with emotion and cheered raucously by supporters, Ugur said his family had been threatened amid the pressure to resign and the situation "had got beyond toleration". "Unfortunately, it has become impossible to do politics within the AKP," he concluded. "I thank you all. Goodbye!" he said, sobbing. Erdogan denied there had been any threat made to Ugur and said he had been "saddened" by the outgoing mayor's comments, adding that no-one was "untouchable".

'Not proof of control'

The changes come after the 'no' vote came out on top in both Istanbul and Ankara in the April 16 referendum on expanding Erdogan's powers. While the 'yes' was victorious nationwide, the outcome in both the Turkish capital and the country's biggest city rang alarm bells for the AKP as the two very diverse cities are seen as a microcosm for Turkey as a whole. The resignations also follow a wide-ranging purge of Turkish society. Over 50,000 people have been arrested since last July, accused of links to the Gulen movement-which



ISTANBUL: People hold the detained leader of Pro Kurdish Peoples Democratic Party (HDP) Selahattin Demirtas' book 'Seher', during a symbolic book signing yesterday in Istanbul. —AFP

Erdogan blames for last year's failed coup-while more than 140,000 public sector employees have been sacked or suspended.

The wider political context is also giving the AKP and Erdogan more than just food for thought. While growth has impressed and surprised at over five percent, the economy remains brittle with inflation nudging 10 percent and much of the activity upsurge based on cheap credit which may yet unwind. Analysts see growing frustration with the judicial and education systems while Kurdish support for the AKP could be dented by Ankara's staunch opposition to the Iraqi Kurdish independence poll and the jailing of Kurdish politicians in Turkey.

The AKP's political ally, the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), is performing woefully and a dissident anti-Erdogan nationalist force led by the charismatic ex-minister Meral Aksener founded last month may represent a new threat. Marc Pierini, visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe and former EU ambassador to Turkey, said the situation was bleak for the AKP, with its alliance with the MHP shaky, some "muted dissidence" within the ruling party and the new Aksener faction risk-ing eating into its votes. He said the "vast rejuvenation operation" at the top of the AKP was a "demonstration of force, but not necessarily proof of solid control."

'Snap polls possible'

The referendum paved the way for a double helping of presidential and parliamentary elections in November 2019 where Turkey will for the first time choose a president who will rule without a prime minister. These will be preceded by local elections in March 2019. Capturing Istanbul and Ankara from the AKP could give the opposition intensified momentum. —AFP

'Left everything behind'

Moulay Dadi, 72, served tea in a large traditional tent, a vestige of the Sahrawis' nomadic past, and cooler than the nearby family cottage with its zinc roof. He recalled his life back in his desert homeland herding the family's animals. He was 30 when the Moroccan forces arrived. "We fled and we left everything behind us, our animals, our property, the houses," he said. "We left everything behind us." He settled in Algeria's Tindouf region with his wife and parents, who did not live to see their homeland again. Some 100,000 Sahrawi refugees live today in the camps around Tindouf.

They belong to a mosaic of nomadic tribes who have for centuries plied the sandy expanses of the Sahara with their camels. The Dadi family's Boujdour camp, which, like the other camps, bears the name of an area of the Western Sahara controlled by Morocco, is dotted with brown-walled houses the color of the surrounding desert, one of the most inhospitable in the world. Their home consists of a large living room, a small dining room and a kitchen. The shower and toilets are in a separate building.

There is intermittent electricity and no running water. Trucks pass regularly to fill a large canvas water reservoir. Like the Dadis, many Sahrawis have set up traditional tents next to their houses in the camp, where life moves slowly. After the morning prayer, Selembouha Dadi and her mother, in her sixties, cook and clean. The youngest of the children, 12-year-old Mellah, goes to school. Some of her brothers work on building sites and the others are in the army of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. Sahrawi refugees in Algeria live mostly on funds from exiled relatives in Europe and on international aid.

The European Union provides some, \$11.6 million (10 million euros) a year, despite the Polisario Front being accused of embezzlement in recent years. Some residents have set up small shops-groceries, bakeries, fruit and vegetable stalls-in the camps. Others work as officials for the SADR, which has its central administration in Rabouni, not far from Tindouf. Isolated for decades and largely forgotten by the world, many Sahrawis still believe that they will one day return to the lands of their ancestors. "We want our land whatever we find there," Selembouha said. —AFP

called soldiers," she told the Senate. But she warned: "Daesh's swansong will be accompanied by new clandestine terrorist acts, sometimes spectacular ones, and the group's online influence will absolutely endure."

She pointed to Africa's unstable Sahel region along the southern rim of the Sahara, as well as Yemen, Nigeria, the Levant and the Philippines as areas where "the cancer of blind hatred is still spreading". In Iraq, IS may have been drastically weakened, but "the military victory is not being accompanied by a political vision for after Daesh in terms of re-integrating the Arab and Sunni populations into politics," warned Jean-Pierre Filiu, a professor at Sciences Po university in Paris.

'From insurgents to terrorists'

In Syria, he said, "the prospects are even worse". "This absence of a long-term strategy leaves Daesh a lot of room for regrouping in the near future, while continuing to work its networks of supporters around the world." Analysts expect IS to revert to tactics it used in its earlier incarnation as the Al-Qaeda in Iraq insurgency of 2004 to 2008. In the coming months or years, they warn, it could potentially then re-emerge as a reinvigorated IS. —AFP

Refugees in Algeria yearn for homeland in Western Sahara

BOUJDOUR CAMP: Selembouha Dadi can only imagine the homeland she dreams of but has never seen, agonizingly out of reach beyond the Algerian refugee camp where she has spent her whole life. "They tell me it was beautiful," the 25-year-old said. The territory that Dadi yearns for is Western Sahara, a sprawling swathe of desert on Africa's Atlantic coast that has been disputed by Morocco and independence fighters from the Polisario Front for decades. Her father Moulay abandoned everything and fled 42 years ago when Moroccan troops arrived in 1975 during the rush to claim the former Spanish colony as Madrid let it go.

Now, along with tens of thousands of other refugees, their family of nine lives in one of a string of refugee camps just 50 kilometers away, beyond the Algerian border and a "defense wall" erected by Morocco in the 1980s. Morocco and Mauritania were meant to share Western Sahara when Spain relinquished control, but in 1976 the Polisario proclaimed the independence of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic-and was determined to fight for it.

Mauritania in 1979 gave up its claim, leaving Morocco to seize most of the 266,000 square kilometer territory, but it was not until 1991 that a UN-backed ceasefire came into force. Rabat considers Western Sahara an integral part of Morocco and proposes autonomy for the resource-rich territory, but the Algerian-backed Polisario Front insists on a United Nations-backed referendum on independence. The 2,700-kilometre barrier erected by Morocco slicing from north to south divides the 80 percent of Western Sahara controlled by Morocco from the 20 percent held by the Polisario.

Islamic State 'may survive' Deir Ezzor

PARIS: The Islamic State group may have just lost the last major city of its self-proclaimed "caliphate", but experts and officials warn this is far from being the jihadists' deathblow. Analysts say the Syrian army's recapture of Deir Ezzor announced Friday will push IS underground after losing territory once as large as Italy spanning the Iraq-Syrian border. The most widely predicted scenario is that the group will transform into a guerrilla force on the ground in Sunni areas remaining outside the full control of Baghdad and Damascus.

At the same time, its "cyber-caliphate" will continue to churn out jihadist propaganda of the kind that inspired Tuesday's deadly truck attack in New York. "Daesh is cornered," French Defense Minister Florence Parly said Tuesday, using an Arabic acronym for IS. "It has lost its two capitals. The final offensives are under way to annihilate this pseudo-caliphate and its so-

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International

Lawmakers tackle sexual harassment in Congress

US Congressional leaders call for harassment training

WASHINGTON: Leading lawmakers are calling for mandatory training and other steps to prevent sexual harassment in Congress as the national spotlight on gender hostility in the workplace falls on Capitol Hill. The calls from House Speaker Paul Ryan and others follow a series of news reports about women staffers and lawmakers experiencing harassment and sexual advances on the job. The Associated Press reported Friday on the experiences of one current and three former female lawmakers, who said they had fended off unwanted advances, sexual comments and, in one case, physical contact from a male colleague in Congress.

The issue was already in the national spotlight because of the sex assault allegations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein and a growing list of bold-face names in entertainment and the media. On Friday, Ryan sent lawmakers a letter urging them to undergo sexual harassment training and make it mandatory for their staffs. "Any form of harassment has no place in this institution. Each of us has a responsibility to ensure a workplace that is free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation," wrote Ryan, R-Wis. "We can and should lead by example."

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called for passage of Democratic-sponsored legislation that would require anti-harassment training, enhance anti-retaliation protections for staffers who report harassment, and streamline dispute resolution. The recent focus on the issue has made clear that Congress' tendency to self-police has resulted in lax rules, a patchwork of policies that vary from one office to another, and a complaints clearinghouse lodged in an Office of Compliance that requires a lengthy counseling and mediation period - and that many staffers have not even heard of.

Pelosi said all that needs to change. "I think we are at a tipping point in our country," the California Democrat said. "For a long time the Congress was a place where every congressional office had its own rules. ... The system needs to be changed." The House Administration Committee, which oversees the operations of the House, also announced plans to convene a hearing Nov. 14 focused on training, policies and mechanisms in place to guard against and report sexual harassment.

In the Senate, New York Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand, who went public several years ago with accounts of inappropriate comments from male senators, also announced legislation on the issue. Gillibrand's bill would streamline the reporting process within the Office of Compliance, remove the current mediation requirement and give interns the same resources as full-time staff. "Congress should never be above the law or play by their own set of rules. The current process has little accountability and even less sensitivity to victims of sexual harassment," Gillibrand said.

GOP Rep Mary Bono told AP she once confronted a male colleague on the floor of the House

after he made repeated suggestive comments, including telling her he'd thought about her in the shower. The behavior stopped, but the lawmaker remains in the House, she said. Rep Linda Sanchez described being propositioned repeatedly in years past by one lawmaker who still serves, and ogled and groped by a second who's since left the House. Former Rep Hilda Solis disclosed repeated come-ons from a lawmaker, but declined to go into detail, while former Sen Barbara Boxer described a years-ago incident at a hearing where a lawmaker made a sexually suggestive comment about her from the dais that the committee chairman seconded.



WASHINGTON: Chairman of House Ways and Means Committee Rep Kevin Brady (R-TX) (2nd left) shares a moment with Speaker of the House Rep Paul Ryan (R-WI) and other lawmakers during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. —AFP

The female lawmakers declined to identify the men they were talking about, and did not report the incidents, with a couple of them noting it was not clear where they would have lodged such a complaint. On Friday, additional female lawmakers offered public comments on the situations that can result in an environment that is only 20 percent women and still beholden in some ways to out-of-date traditions.

Rep Cheri Bustos, D-Ill., said she has asked friends and colleagues in the House whether they knew of any woman who had advanced in their careers without being

sexually harassed. "Without exception, they don't know of anybody," Bustos said. "We are all talking about it because it's rampant. It's absolutely rampant." As to whether she herself had been harassed by any fellow member, Bustos said: "It depends on how you want to define harassment." "How I've chosen to handle it is I just sort of dismiss it and I don't give it another thought," Bustos said. "I hope what happens out of all of this news coverage is it changes some people's behavior as far as comments they make, or if it's worse than that. I hope something good comes out of it." —AP



Spotlight on gender hostility in workplace

News in brief

Malnourished or obese

LONDON: Almost every country in the world now has serious nutrition problems, either due to over-eating leading to obesity or a lack of food leading to under-nutrition, according to a major study published yesterday. Researchers behind the Global Nutrition Report, which looked at 140 countries, said the problems were "putting the brakes on human development as a whole" and called for a critical change in the response to this global health threat. The report found that while malnutrition rates are falling globally, their rate of decrease is not fast enough to meet the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

AI 'boy' gets residency

TOKYO: An AI character was made an official resident of a busy central Tokyo district yesterday, with the virtual newcomer resembling a chatty seven-year-old boy. The boy named "Shibuya Mirai" does not exist physically, but he can have text conversations with humans on the widely used LINE messaging app. Tokyo's Shibuya Ward, an area popular with fashion-conscious young people, has given the character his own special residence certificate. This makes him Japan's first, and maybe the world's first, artificial intelligence bot to be granted a place on a real-life local registry. Mirai, whose name means "future" in Japanese, is supposed to be a first grader at an elementary school.

10-year-old released

HOUSTON: US authorities on Friday released a 10-year-old immigrant girl with cerebral palsy who had been detained by border agents after surgery because she is in the US without legal permission. The ACLU and US Rep Joaquin Castro said that Rosa Maria Hernandez was returned Friday afternoon to her family. Her parents brought her into the US from Mexico in 2007, when she was a toddler, and they live in the Texas border city of Laredo. A cousin who is an American citizen took Rosa Maria from Laredo to a children's hospital in Corpus Christi on Oct 24, where she was scheduled to have emergency gallbladder surgery. To get to Corpus Christi, about 150 miles away, she had to pass through an interior checkpoint in South Texas operated by the Border Patrol.

Monsoon rains kill 12

NEW DELHI: Thousands of people took refuge in relief camps as torrential monsoon rains flooded parts of southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, killing at least 12 people this week, the government said yesterday. Schools in Chennai, the state capital, and other coastal towns have been closed with the weather office warning of intermittent heavy rains this weekend. A government statement said over 10,000 people were living in 105 state-run relief camps as rains flooded low-lying areas in Chennai and its suburbs on Thursday and Friday. The northeast monsoon season in the region set in on Oct 27 and is expected to last until early December.

Central Asia terror suspects, attackers radicalized abroad

BISHKEK: When Sayfullo Saipov used a truck to mow people down on a New York street, ultimately killing eight according to terror charges, he guaranteed his former homeland Uzbekistan would receive the worst kind of headlines. People from ex-Soviet Central Asia have been at the heart of high-profile attacks this year in the United States, Russia, Sweden and Turkey. Yet Saipov, according to official accounts, came into contact with radical Islamic ideologies not in the country of his birth, but in the one he adopted seven years ago: the US.

Saipov moved to America in 2010 under a visa program-President Donald Trump's response to Tuesday's attack was to announce tougher vetting for immigrants. "Most of these attackers come from rather secular backgrounds and tend to radicalize in their country of destination rather than origin," said Yan Matusевич, research officer at the Vienna-headquartered International Centre for Migration Policy Development. Thousands of former residents of the region's five countries known as the "stans" - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have joined the ranks of the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq since 2011. However incidents involving violent extremism at home have been relatively rare.

Global form of radicalization

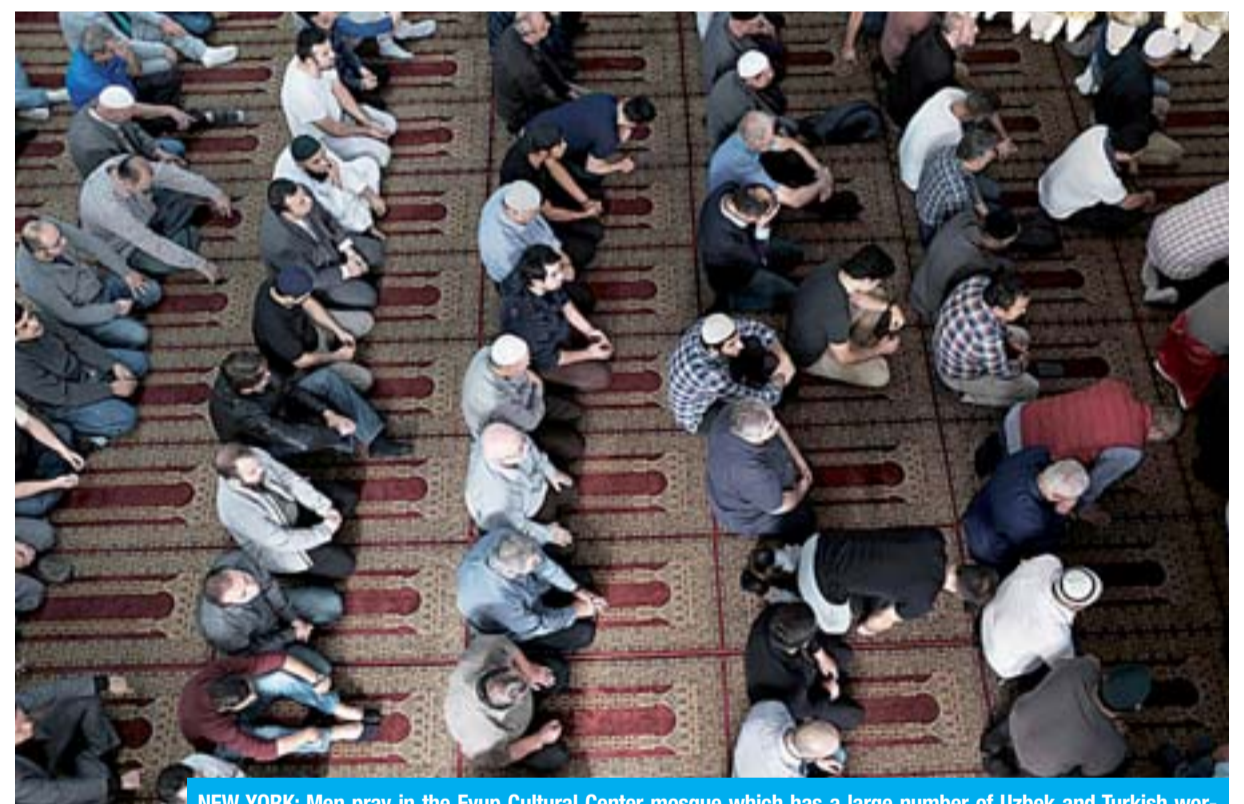
But if one single theme does link the Central Asia-born assailants of very different backgrounds accused of attacks this year in New York, Istanbul, Saint Petersburg and Stockholm, it is migration. Uzbek national Abdulgadir Masharipov, who killed 39 people in a January 1 attack on a nightclub in Istanbul had lived and trained as a militant in

Bloodshed in South African province as ANC tensions rise

DURBAN: In the South African province of KwaZulu-Natal, local politics is a deadly game, with at least 40 people killed in politically motivated shootings since last year. A battle for control is raging ahead of a conference of the African National Congress to choose a new leader when President Jacob Zuma steps down as ANC chief in December. Violence has spread across the province on the country's east coast, but much of the killing can be traced back to hitmen hired from the notorious Glebelands complex of hostels in the provincial capital Durban.

The 71 lawless hostel blocks-originally built to house migrant workers are home to about 20,000 people, often crowded into decrepit accommodation, sleeping more than 30 to an apartment and sharing a single toilet. "Hitmen here are being used by the politicians," one Glebelands resident, a father of five dressed in a grey tracksuit and sitting under a bullet-scarred shelter said.

"It looks like we have no government. We have been forgotten," said the 48-year-old man, adding that giving his name would put his life in danger. Vanessa Burger, a community rights activist who works with Glebelands victims' families, has kept a detailed log of each killing by hitmen living in or hired from the hostels. Burger's log now stands at 93 dead since 2014, with many of the victims linked to politics through factional fighting, tit-for-tat revenge killings



NEW YORK: Men pray in the Eyup Cultural Center mosque which has a large number of Uzbek and Turkish worshippers from the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn in New York City. —AFP

Afghanistan and Pakistan, according to Turkish authorities. Another Uzbek, Rakhmat Akilov, who ploughed a truck into a crowd of pedestrians in Stockholm in April, killing five, was a failed asylum seeker reportedly at risk of deportation.

Akbarjon Djaliyov, identified as the 22-year-old bomber behind the Saint Petersburg metro blast in April that killed 16 people including himself was born in Kyrgyzstan but left for Russia with his family aged 17. While the series of

attacks appear to form a "Central Asian pattern" Matusевич argues they are part of "a broader, more global form of radicalisation" and the attackers' "actual life situations were quite diverse". Saipov worked as an Uber driver in New Jersey. Uzbekistan's government has said that there was nothing to indicate he was an extremist before leaving. Saipov was described by his former neighbors in the capital Tashkent "in very positive terms" said the government's statement on Wednesday. —AFP

and criminal associates. But there have been few arrests. The low number fuels allegations that murders are sanctioned by some parts of local ANC branches and ignored by the police.

"If you are using hitmen from a specific area to take out rivals... that must have political support, otherwise they would have been removed a long time ago," said Burger. "It needs political will to change the situation and I don't see that happening in the near future." After sitting for a year, a judicial inquiry into the killings was due to complete its hearings last month, but has asked for more time to gather evidence. "We have to extend until March next year because it's only now that the commission is gaining momentum," said Solo Mdledle, secretary of the Moerane Commission.

Culture of violence

KwaZulu-Natal is the ANC's heartland. Whoever controls the province could determine the party's next leader from December. In the run-up to the party conference, few weeks go by without an ANC provincial official or elected councilor being murdered in the struggle for power, jobs, money and lucrative government contracts. The victims are gunned down in their cars, shot dead outside their homes or killed at public events, but the police and authorities seem helpless. When former ANC Youth League secretary-general Sindiiso Magaqa died in September after being shot 15 times in an ambush in July, his family laid the blame squarely with the party. "We love [the ANC] but when they do this we are scared... Everything points to December," Magaqa's uncle said at his funeral.

The culture of violence in KwaZulu-Natal was graphically demonstrated recently by an internet video of two bodyguards of an ANC regional secretary bragging they were

about to kill someone. "That dog is going to die today," one said as they sat in a car and cocked their pistols and an assault rifle. KwaZulu-Natal is not new to political unrest. It endured the worst of the violence in the final days of apartheid as the ANC fought against another black party, the Inkatha Freedom Party. Zuma, who was born in KwaZulu-Natal, will remain in office after giving up the party chief post in December, but the new ANC leader will have a strong chance of succeeding him as president in 2019 elections.

'Shockingly commonplace'

The province is seen as divided among supporters of Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, Zuma's ex-wife Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Zweli Mkhize, the party's treasurer. Speaking in the small town of Harding, where four government officials have recently been murdered, Dlamini-Zuma told AFP that the killings must stop. "We cannot continue with this kind of culture. Killing is a crime... so we cannot tolerate it," she said after addressing party supporters. Graca Machel, widow of former ANC leader Nelson Mandela, has also voiced disgust at the bloodshed, saying political assassinations were "shockingly commonplace".

"Death threats is a completely normal mechanism for enforcing political control in that part of the country," said Richard Pithouse, a professor at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. The country's Police Minister Fikile Mbalula recently said he was "very much confident that we will make major breakthroughs in relation to the killings". But many analysts and activists worry that the violence points to a volatile general election in 2019. The ANC provincial leadership, which admits that corruption and the battle for local positions are fuelling the assassinations, have vowed to stamp out the killings. —AFP

International

Facing tumult at home, Trump sets out on lengthy Asian trip

12-day, 5-country trip, the longest Far East itinerary

HONOLULU: On his most grueling and consequential trip abroad, President Donald Trump stands ready to exhort Asian allies and rivals on the need to counter the dangers posed by North Korea's nuclear threat. The 12-day, five-country trip, the longest Far East itinerary for a president in a generation, comes at a precarious moment for Trump. Just days ago, his former campaign chairman was indicted and another adviser pleaded guilty as part of an investigation into possible collusion between his 2016 campaign and Russian officials.

With Trump set to arrive today in Japan, the trip presents a crucial international test for a president looking to reassure Asian allies worried that his inward-looking "America First" agenda could cede power in the region to China. They also are rattled by his bellicose rhetoric about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The North's growing missile arsenal threatens the capitals Trump will visit. "The trip comes, I would argue, at a very inopportune time for the president."

He is under growing domestic vulnerabilities that we all know about, hour to hour," said Jonathan Pollack, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "The conjunction of those issues leads to the palpable sense of unease about the potential crisis in Korea." Trump's spontaneous, and at times reckless, style flies in the face of the generations-old traditions and protocol that govern diplomatic exchanges in Asia.

The grand receptions expected for him in Tokyo, Seoul, Beijing and beyond are sure to be lavish attempts to impress the president, who raved about the extravagances shown him on earlier visits to Saudi Arabia and France. The trip will also put Trump in face-to-face meetings with authoritarian leaders for whom he has expressed admiration. They include China's Xi Jinping,

whom Trump has likened to "a king," and the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte, who has sanctioned the extrajudicial killings of drug dealers.

Trump may also have the chance for a second private audience with Russian President Vladimir Putin, on the sidelines of a summit in Vietnam. The White House is signaling that Trump will push American economic interests in the region, but the North Korean threat is expected to dominate the trip. One of Trump's two major speeches will come before the National Assembly in Seoul. Fiery threats against the North could resonate differently than they do from the distance of Washington.

Trump will forgo a trip to the Demilitarized Zone, the stark border between North and South Korea. All US presidents except one since Ronald Reagan have visited the DMZ in a sign of solidarity with Seoul. The White House contends that Trump's commitment to South Korea is already crystal clear, as evidenced by his war of words with Kim and his threats to deliver "fire and fury" to North Korea if it does not stop threatening American allies. The escalation of rhetoric, a departure from the conduct of past presidents, has undermined confidence in the US as a stabilizing presence in Asia.

"There's a danger if there is a lot of muscle flexing," said Mike Chinoy, a senior fellow at the US-China Institute at the University of Southern California. "Trump has been going right up to the edge and I wouldn't rule out some sort of forceful North Korean reaction to Trump's presence in the region," he said. The White House said Trump would be undeterred. "The president will use whatever language he wants to use, obviously. That's been of great reassurance to our allies, partners and others in the region who are literally under



SEOUL: A South Korean supporter holds a sign reading 'We believe in Trump,' during a pro-US rally in Seoul yesterday, ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to South Korea. Trump will arrive in Seoul on November 7, on a leg of his first trip to Asia. —AFP

Face-to-face meetings with authoritarian leaders in Asia



Kim portraits and death threats: Life at N Korea school

TOKYO: Portraits of North Korea's late leaders hang proudly in the classrooms of the Korean High School in Tokyo, where the recent surge in tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program have seen faculty and staff subjected to death threats. It is one of 60 so-called "pro-Pyongyang" schools in Japan catering to an ethnic Korean community that over decades developed and maintained a link to North Korea despite never living there.

There are around 500,000 ethnic Koreans in Japan—mostly descendants of civilians taken from their homes during Japan's brutal colonization of the Korean peninsula from 1910 until Tokyo's defeat in World War II in 1945. The division of the peninsula into North and South and the devastating 1950-53 Korean War that followed also divided the community, and schools like Korean High emerged with backing from pro-North organizations and funding from Pyongyang. They continue to teach Korean language and history under the guidance of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, which acts as the North's de-facto embassy in Japan in the absence of formal diplomatic relations. Ethnic Koreans have long suffered discrimination in areas like employment and social welfare, and principal Shin Gil-Ung said anger over North Korea's nuclear program—expected to dominate US President Donald Trump's visit to Japan starting Sunday—has only made things worse.

Bomb scares

"Every time news (about North Korea) breaks, we get anonymous calls threatening to bomb the school or kill students at a nearby station," Shin said. "Female students have had to stop wearing the ethnic school uniform on their commute," he adds sadly. Japan has been at the sharp end of recent provocations from Pyongyang, which fired two missiles over its northern islands in quick succession, prompting terrified residents to rush for shelters. And with the belligerent regime in Pyongyang threatening to "sink" Japan into



TOKYO: Hwang Song-Wi, a Tokyo Korean high school student commutes in a subway train to go home after the school in Tokyo. —AFP

the sea, the sense of tension and anxiety has left many ethnic Koreans feeling conflicted—especially the younger generation for whom modern Japan is the only home they have known.

One Korea High student, 17-year-old Hwang Song-Wi, says he watches the news with "mixed feelings", and that he both "trusts and doubts" reports from both sides in the crisis. Ri Chun-Hui, a Tokyo-based lawyer, said the anger directed at his community as a result of Pyongyang's provocations are nothing new—noting a similar backlash that followed the abduction of a number of ordinary Japanese citizens by North Korean agents in the late 1970s and early 80s.

"Koreans were once thought of as victims of Japan's colonization but we are now treated as if we were all perpetrators of the abductions," said Ri. "The sentiment that you can attack anything linked to North Korea now prevails in Japan," he added. The kidnapped citizens were taken to the North in order to train spies in Japanese language and culture. Then-leader Kim Jong-Il later allowed five of them and their families to return to Japan, but many believe Kim did not come clean

about other abductees, including Megumi Yokota who vanished when she was 13. Trump, who mentioned Yokota in his recent UN General Assembly speech, is scheduled to meet abductee families during his trip.

"I don't think the president really modulates his language, have you noticed?" At each stop, Trump will urge his hosts to squeeze North Korea by stopping trading with the North and sending home North Korean citizens working abroad. That includes China, which competes with the US for influence in the region and provides much of North Korea's economic lifeblood. The White House is banking on the close relationships Trump has established with some Asian leaders to help make his demands more palatable.

Officials acknowledge that Trump does not yet have a

feel for Moon Jae-in, South Korea's newly elected liberal president. But Trump has demonstrated cordial relations with Xi and struck up a friendship with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with whom he planned to golf on Sunday. While Xi and Abe have recently tightened their control on power, Trump arrives weakened by low poll numbers, a stalled domestic agenda and the swirling Russia probe. Many in the Asian capitals will view Trump warily. His early withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership demolished the Obama administration's effort to boost trade with some of the world's fastest-growing economies and sustain America's post-World War II strategic commitment to Asia. —AP

News in brief

Typhoon Damrey kills 19

HANOI: Typhoon Damrey killed at least 19 people in central and southern Vietnam yesterday, the government said, after the storm swept into the country just days ahead of the APEC summit of Asia-Pacific leaders. Damrey reached land at 4 am local time with winds gusting at up to 90 kmph that tore off more than 1,000 roofs, knocked down hundreds of electricity poles and uprooted trees. At least 12 people were missing and over 370 houses had collapsed, the Communist state's search and rescue committee said. Over 33,000 people had been evacuated. The government earlier said six ships had capsized with 61 people on board in the South China Sea and that 25 people had been rescued, but gave no details as to the possible fate of the others.

31 sexual abuse cases

UNITED NATIONS: Thirty-one new cases alleging sexual abuse or exploitation by United Nations personnel, nearly half of which involve the UN refugee agency, were filed between July and September for events stretching back at least three years, the UN said on Friday. Not all of the allegations have been verified and some are in preliminary assessment phase, said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric in a press briefing. During the three month period, 14 investigations have been launched and one case has been proven, he said. Of the 31 cases, 12 involve military personnel from peacekeeping operations including those in the Central African Republic and Mali. The majority of the civilian staff cases, 15, involve the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Insulting anthem 'criminal'

BEIJING: China's rubber-stamp legislature yesterday made disrespecting the national anthem a criminal offense punishable by up to three years in prison amid rising nationalist appeals from the ruling Communist Party under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress passed an amendment to the country's criminal law outlining punishments for people found "seriously" disrespecting the national anthem in public. The move follows Xi's appointment to a second five-year term as party leader, for which he has touted a vision of achieving a "Chinese Dream" of a powerful, prosperous nation.

US strikes IS in Somalia

WASHINGTON: The US conducted a pair of drone strikes against Islamic State fighters in Somalia on Friday, the first time America has hit the jihadists in the Horn of Africa nation, officials said. The strikes occurred in northeastern Somalia and killed "several terrorists," the US military's Africa Command said in a statement. According to Voice of America, which cited the chairman of the town of Qandala in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, six missiles hit an IS base in Buqa village, 60 kilometers away. "Local residents and pastoralists were shocked and fled from the area," Jama Mohamed Qurshe told VOA. AFRICOM spokesman Lieutenant Commander Anthony Falvo said no civilians were in the vicinity of the strikes. "They struck their intended targets," he told AFP, noting these were the first anti-IS air strikes in Somalia.

'Fake News, Crooked Hillary, Rocket Man': Trump's list of foes

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump makes no bones about calling out his perceived foes, most frequently using Twitter. From the moment he launched his campaign for the White House, the New York real estate tycoon has embraced a no-holds-barred style which includes flinging insults at those he sees as his opponents. Trump's thin-skinned displeasure has focused on targets far and wide, from the "fake news" media to fellow politicians—both Republican and Democrat—to Hollywood celebrities and star athletes. Here is a non-exhaustive list of subjects of Trump's ire:

'Fake News' media

Trump's most frequent target of complaint is the mainstream media—particularly CNN and The New York Times—which he claims treat him unfairly. "Wow, so many Fake News stories today. No matter what I do or say, they will not write or speak truth. The Fake News Media is out of control!" he tweeted in October. In February, Trump went so far as to call the press the "enemy of the American people." "The FAKE NEWS media (failing @nytimes, @CNN, @NBCNews and many more) is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American people. SICK!" he said in a tweet. Trump removed that tweet but reposted it soon afterward adding another two broadcasting outlets — @ABC and @CBS—which he had apparently initially overlooked. Trump has also called out members of the media individually, describing MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski as "dumb as a rock" and dubbing her co-host Joe Scarborough "Psycho Joe."

'Crooked Hillary'

Trump's attacks on Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton were relentless during the 2016 campaign, during which he would refer to her as "Crooked Hillary." But even now that he is ensconced Trump has not stopped firing jabs at Clinton. "Crooked Hillary Clinton now blames everybody but herself, refuses to say she was a terrible candidate," Trump tweeted in May. He mocked her again in October saying: "I was recently asked if Crooked Hillary Clinton is going to run in 2020? My answer was, 'I hope so!'"

'Witch hunt'

The FBI—and now special counsel investigation into whether members of Trump's campaign colluded with Russia to get him elected has been a frequent target of the president's fury. He has repeatedly derided it as a "witch hunt," a "hoax" and a "charade." "The story that there was col-

lusion between the Russians & Trump campaign was fabricated by (the Democrats) as an excuse for losing the election," he tweeted in May. "You are witnessing the single greatest WITCH HUNT in American political history—led by some very bad and conflicted people," Trump tweeted in June.

'Toxic and WEAK'

Two Republican senators—Bob Corker of Tennessee and Jeff Flake of Arizona—have come out strongly against Trump and have been targets of his Twitter tirades. Trump has referred to Corker, who is not particularly tall, as "liddle" Bob Corker, and dismissed him as a "lightweight" and claimed he "couldn't get elected dog catcher in Tennessee." "People like liddle Bob Corker have set the US way back," he said last month. As for Flake, Trump said he's "toxic" and "WEAK on borders, crime and a non-factor in Senate." —AFP

Analysis

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Washington Watch

Balfour: Shame and dangers of ignoring Arab opinion, rights

By Dr James J Zogby

In 1919, following the first World War, the victorious Allied Powers met in Paris to remake the world. The prime ministers of Italy, France, and Great Britain as well as US President Woodrow Wilson, collectively known as "The Big Four," were the decisive diplomatic players at the meeting. Under their leadership, the lands of the defeated Central Powers were picked apart. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was dissolved into smaller central European nations. Germany lost territory and was served with an extremely punitive and expensive peace treaty. In several cases, the triumphant Big Four parceled out bits of land to themselves.

It was in this context of post-war imperial conquest that the fate of the Arab lands of the defeated Ottoman Empire was decided. During WWI, the Allies had overcome the Ottomans with the important assistance of local Arabs who had rebelled against Turkish rule. Among these formerly Ottoman subjects was Emir Faisal, the son of Sharif Hussein of Makkah. Faisal arrived in Paris seeking assurance that the British would honor the commitment they had made to his father: post-war independence for all the Arab lands that had been liberated from Turkish control.

The conference also heard from Chaim Weizmann, a leader of the British Zionist movement. Weizmann argued for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in the Arab territory known as Palestine. During his presentation, Weizmann cited in its entirety the Balfour Declaration - the 1917 promise made to the Zionist movement by British Foreign Secretary, Lord Balfour, stating that the British government favored the establishment of a Jewish Homeland in Palestine.

It was exactly this conflicting maze of treaties and agreements that led to the outbreak of the World War. And it was with the very aim of preventing another such calamity that in 1919 Woodrow Wilson proposed the foundation of a League of Nations - a body designed to bring international diplomacy into the light of day and rule of law. Wilson believed that by promoting international agreement and democracy, sovereignty, liberty, and self-determination, an environment for a lasting peace would be created. Wilson, therefore, did not arrive in Paris with an agenda of expanding US territory in the East, but with the idea that a lasting peace was achievable and the best outcome.

So when the Ottoman question arose, Wilson made a proposal in keeping with his ideal of self-determination: Ask the people who live there what they want. This was, of course, an idea completely alien to the imperial ambitions of France and Britain and certainly out of place at the Paris conference, where the unofficial motto was "To the victor belong the spoils." Yet Wilson was not daunted by the radical nature of his suggestion. Instead, he declared that the newly liberated Arabs should shape their own destiny and that any settlement "of territory [or] of sovereignty [should be determined on] the basis of the free acceptance of that settlement by the people immediately concerned."

Survey

With that, Wilson commissioned the first survey of Arab opinion. In June of 1919, an American commission, led by the President of Oberlin College, Dr Henry King, and a businessman and diplomat named Charles Crane, arrived in the Mediterranean coastal city of Jaffa to begin the first-ever Arab public opinion survey. The Commission traveled throughout what was then known as Greater Syria, including modern-day Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Palestine. They visited three dozen towns, met with representatives of 442 organizations and received nearly 2,000 petitions.

At each stop they tried to ascertain what the local population wanted for their political future - to be independent or placed under the mandate of a foreign power. They asked how the people viewed British and French plans to divide their region. They also questioned local populations about Britain's intention to support the Zionist goal of a "Jewish Homeland" in Palestine. At the time, the population of the region in question was 3,247,500, of whom 2,365,000 were Muslim, 587,560 were Christian, 140,000 were Druze and 11,000 were Jewish.

The results were particularly adamant on certain issues. Among them: "The non-Jewish population of Palestine - nearly nine-tenths of the whole - are emphatically against the entire Zionist program [...] There was no one thing upon which the population of Palestine were more agreed than upon this." This feeling was also shared by the broader population of the entire Arab East: "Only two requests - those for a united Syria and for independence - had a larger support," continued the King-Crane report.

Based on the responses of the local populations, the King-Crane report made a series of suggestions. With regard to the fate of Palestine, they suggested that the Zionist project, to which they had been initially sympathetic, should be dramatically scaled back-both by limiting Jewish migration and by dismissing the eventual goal of a Jewish state in Palestine. The report's suggestions continued on for pages on certain specific issues, but strikingly, what comes across is the recognition that local, in this case largely Arab, opinions mattered.

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



How Russians pried into Clinton emails

It was just before noon in Moscow on March 10, 2016, when the first volley of malicious messages hit the Hillary Clinton campaign. The first 29 phishing emails were almost all misfires. Addressed to people who worked for Clinton during her first presidential run, the messages bounced back untouched. Except one. Within nine days, some of the campaign's most consequential secrets would be in the hackers' hands, part of a massive operation aimed at vacuuming up millions of messages from thousands of inboxes across the world.

An Associated Press investigation into the digital break-ins that disrupted the US presidential contest has sketched out an anatomy of the hack that led to months of damaging disclosures about the Democratic Party's nominee. It wasn't just a few aides that the hackers went after: it was an all-out blitz across the Democratic Party. They tried to compromise Clinton's inner circle and more than 130 party employees, supporters and contractors.

While US intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia was behind the email thefts, the AP drew on forensic data to report Thursday that the hackers known as Fancy Bear were closely aligned with the interests of the Russian government. The AP's reconstruction - based on a database of 19,000 malicious links recently shared by cybersecurity firm Secureworks - shows how the hackers worked their way around the Clinton campaign's top-of-the-line digital security to steal chairman John Podesta's emails in March 2016. It also helps explain how a Russian-linked intermediary could boast to a Trump policy adviser, a month later, that the Kremlin had "thousands of emails" worth of dirt on Clinton.



Clinton campaign was profoundly destabilized by sudden exposures

Phishing for victims

The rogue messages that first flew across the internet March 10 were dressed up to look like they came from Google, the company that provided the Clinton campaign's email infrastructure. The messages urged users to boost their security or change their passwords while in fact steering them toward decoy websites designed to collect their credentials.

One of the first people targeted was Rahul Sreenivasan, who had worked as a Clinton organizer in Texas in 2008 - his first paid job in politics. Sreenivasan, now a legislative staffer in Austin, was dumfounded when told by the AP that hackers had tried to break into his 2008 email - an address he said had been dead for nearly a decade. "They probably crawled the Internet for this stuff," he said. Almost everyone else targeted in the initial wave was, like Sreenivasan, a 2008 staffer whose defunct email address had somehow lingered online.

But one email made its way to the account of another staffer who'd worked for Clinton in 2008 and joined again in 2016, the AP found. It's possible the hackers broke in and stole her contacts: the data shows the phishing links sent to her were clicked several times. Secureworks' data reveals when phishing links were created and indicates whether they were clicked. But it doesn't show whether people entered their passwords.

Within hours of a second volley emailed March 11, the hackers hit pay dirt. All of a sudden, they were sending links aimed at senior Clinton officials' nonpublic 2016 addresses, including those belonging to longtime Clinton aide Robert Russo and campaign chairman John Podesta. The Clinton campaign was no easy target: several former employees said the organization put particular stress on digital safety.

Work emails were protected by two-factor authentication, a technique that uses a second passcode to keep accounts secure. Most messages were deleted after 30 days and staff went through phishing drills. Security awareness even followed the campaigners into the bathroom, where someone put a picture of a toothbrush under the words: "You shouldn't share your passwords either."

Two-factor authentication may have slowed the hackers, but it didn't stop them. After repeated attempts to break into various staffers' hillaryclinton.com accounts, the hackers turned to the personal Gmail addresses. It was

there on March 19 that they targeted top Clinton lieutenants - including campaign manager Robby Mook, senior adviser Jake Sullivan and political fixer Philippe Reines. A malicious link was generated for Podesta at 11:28 am Moscow time, the AP found. Documents subsequently published by WikiLeaks show that the rogue email arrived in his inbox six minutes later. The link was clicked twice. Podesta's messages - at least 50,000 of them - were in the hackers' hands.

A serious breach

Though the heart of the campaign was now compromised, the hacking efforts continued. Three new volleys of malicious messages were generated on the 22nd, 23rd and 25th of March, targeting communications director Jennifer

Palmieri and Clinton confidante Huma Abedin, among others. The torrent of phishing emails caught the attention of the FBI, which had spent the previous six months urging the Democratic National Committee in Washington to raise its shield against suspected Russian hacking. In late March, FBI agents paid a visit to Clinton's Brooklyn headquarters, where they were received warily, given the agency's investigation into the candidate's use

of a private email server while secretary of state. The phishing messages also caught the attention of Secureworks, a subsidiary of Dell Technologies, which had been following Fancy Bear, whom Secureworks code-named Iron Twilight. Fancy Bear had made a critical mistake. It fumbled a setting in the Bitly link-shortening service that it was using to sneak its emails past Google's spam filter. The blunder exposed whom they were targeting. It was late March when Secureworks discovered the hackers were going after Democrats.

"As soon as we started seeing some of those hillaryclinton.com email addresses coming through, the DNC email addresses, we realized it's going to be an interesting twist to this," said Rafe Pilling, a senior security researcher with Secureworks. By early April Fancy Bear was getting increasingly aggressive, the AP found. More than 60 bogus emails were prepared for Clinton campaign and DNC staffers on April 6 alone, and the hackers began hunting for Democrats beyond New York and Washington, targeting the digital communications director for Pennsylvania Gov Tom Wolf and a deputy director in the office of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The group's hackers seemed particularly interested in Democratic officials working on voter registration issues: Pratt Wiley, the DNC's then-director of voter protection, had been targeted as far back as October 2015 and the hackers tried to pry open his inbox as many as 15 times over six months. Employees at several organizations connected to the Democrats were targeted, including the Clinton Foundation, the Center for American Progress, technology provider NGP VAN, campaign strategy firm 270 Strategies, and partisan news outlet Shareblue Media.

As the hacking intensified, other elements swung into place. On April 12, 2016, someone paid \$37 worth of bitcoin



A portion of a phishing email sent to a Hillary Clinton campaign official on March 19, 2016.



This June 29, 2016 photo shows signs posted in a bathroom at Hillary Clinton's campaign headquarters in the Brooklyn borough of New York, reminding campaign workers to keep their computers and passwords secure. —AP photos

to the Romanian web hosting company THCServers.com to reserve a website called Electionleaks.com, according to transaction records obtained by AP. A botched registration meant the site never got off the ground, but the records show THCS received a nearly identical payment a week later to create DCLeaks.com.

By the second half of April, the DNC's senior leadership was beginning to realize something was amiss. One DNC consultant, Alexandra Chalupa, received an April 20 warning from Yahoo saying her account was under threat from state-sponsored hackers, according to a screengrab she circulated among colleagues. The Trump campaign had gotten a whiff of Clinton email hacking, too. According to recently unsealed court documents, former Trump foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos said that it was at an April 26 meeting at a London hotel that he was told by a professor closely connected to the Russian government that the Kremlin had obtained compromising information about Clinton. "They have dirt on her," Papadopoulos said he was told. "They have thousands of emails." A few days later, Amy Dacey, then the DNC chief executive, got an urgent call. There'd been a serious breach at the DNC.

'Don't even talk to your dog about it'

It was 4 p.m. on Friday June 10 when some 100 staffers filed into the Democratic National Committee's main conference room for a mandatory, all-hands meeting. "What I am about to tell you cannot leave this room," DNC chief operating officer Lindsey Reynolds told the assembled crowd, according to two people there at the time. Everyone needed to turn in their laptops immediately; there would be no last-minute emails; no downloading documents and no exceptions. Reynolds insisted on total secrecy. "Don't even talk to your dog about it," she was quoted as saying.

Two days later, as the cybersecurity firm that was brought in to clean up the DNC's computers finished its work, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange told a British Sunday television show that emails related to Clinton were "pending publication". "WikiLeaks has a very good year ahead," he said. On Tuesday, June 14, the Democrats went public with the allegation that their computers had been compromised by Russian state-backed hackers, including Fancy Bear. Shortly after noon the next day, William Bastone, the editor-in-chief of investigative news site The Smoking Gun, got an email bearing a small cache of documents marked "CONFIDENTIAL". "Hi," the message said. "This is Guccifer 2.0 and this is me who hacked Democratic National Committee." —AP

News

Catalan leader urges 'unity' as...

Continued from Page 1

Puigdemont said Friday he was ready to run as a candidate in the poll - which he can do even if detained - and yesterday called for separatist parties to form a united front. In a tweet, he referred to an online petition calling for the creation of a combined independent candidate list, which by lunchtime yesterday had received nearly 35,000 signatures. During the last regional election in Sept 2015, Puigdemont's conservative PdeCat and the far-left ERC party stood together in a "Together for Yes" coalition. But there have been growing tensions between the two allies over strategy and it is not clear if they will stand together again.

Separatist parties have a slim majority of 72 seats in the 135-seat parliament, and opinion polls suggest they might again win a majority in the December poll. "It's absolutely indispensable that we have a joint strategy to battle the repression," Sergi Sabria, a spokesman for the separatist ERC party, told Catalunya Radio, in a sign the two main parties might work together. Parties that wish to stand together in a coalition in the polls must announce this by Nov 7.

Whether Puigdemont and his colleagues in Brussels, Maria Serret Aleu, Antoni Comin Oliveres, Luis Puig Gordi and Clara Ponsati Obiols, will be able to take part in the election is an open question. The Belgian justice ministry said there are "some situations" where European arrest warrants can be refused, but added: "If the decision is to execute the (warrant), the person is in principle surrendered to the authorities of the issuing state within 10 days following the decision."

Puigdemont has repeatedly called on the international community to back him, but apart from Scotland's separatist First Minister Nicola Sturgeon criticizing the "jailing of political opponents", there are



Carles Puigdemont

no signs that other countries will recognize the independence move. Spain's allies in Europe have voiced steadfast support for the nation's unity and said they back the independence of the judiciary.

The 7.5 million people of Catalonia, which until this past week had considerable autonomy, are fiercely proud of their language and culture but are also deeply divided about the wisdom of independence. Even though Catalonia is one of Spain's wealthiest regions, Spain's central bank has warned of a possible recession and unemployment in the region rose strongly in October. Despite the negative economic headwinds, Peter Ceretti at the Economist Intelligence Unit said pro-independence parties might win the December election, as the jailed ministers could deliver an "important propaganda" boost. — AFP

Arabia and Iran and called for intensifying diplomatic efforts to solve the feud. "Lebanon is too small and vulnerable to bear the economic and political burden that comes with this resignation," he said on social media. "I will continue to call for dialogue between Saudi Arabia and Iran."

Even as he resigned, Hariri warned his foes: "Our nation will rise just as it did before and the hands that want to harm it will be cut." "Hariri's resignation was done with planning by Donald Trump, the president of America, and Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, to destabilize the situation in Lebanon and the region," said Hussein Sheikh Al-Islam, adviser to Iran's supreme leader, in remarks to a state broadcaster. Saudi Arabia's influential Gulf Affairs Minister Thamer Al-Sabhan echoed the language of the Lebanese politician saying in a tweet: "The hands of treachery and aggression must be cut off."

Earlier last week, Sabhan sharply criticized Hezbollah, calling for its "toppling" and promising "astounding developments" in the coming days during an interview with the Lebanese TV station MTV. Sabhan met with Hariri in Saudi Arabia when the now resigned prime minister was visiting earlier this week. Hariri abruptly returned to the kingdom later Friday before his bombshell announcement yesterday. In tweets after meeting Hariri, Sabhan described it as "long and fruitful meeting" that resulted in agreements over many issues that concern the Lebanese. "What's coming is better, God willing," Sabhan tweeted on Tuesday. In a series of tweets, Sabhan criticized the Lebanese government for tolerating Hezbollah's criticism of the kingdom. He earlier said that those who cooperate with Hezbollah must be "punished".

Lebanese political analyst Hilal Khashan argued that Saudi Arabia had been piling the pressure on its protegee lately and "summoned" him to Riyadh. He said Hariri's move could start "a cold war in Lebanon that could escalate into a civil war" or even a regional offensive on Hezbollah. It is unclear who could replace Hariri at this stage. Under a power-sharing system that helped end Lebanon's 15-year civil war, the president must be a Christian, the prime minister a Sunni and the speaker a Shiite. — Agencies

Scarred by Trump, challengers eyeing...

Continued from Page 1

In an October New Hampshire poll of 2020 Democratic primaries, voters put Sanders first. Popular former vice president Joe Biden, a crucial party bridge to white working-class voters, came second, and if there is a veteran Democrat waiting in the wings, it could be him. He has acknowledged that his son's death from cancer in 2015 was the sole reason he did not pursue the nomination last year. Sanders would be 79 on election day, and Biden 77.

Rebels

Firebrand Senator Elizabeth Warren, 68, would have a tangible base of support should she run. Like Sanders, she is among the party's popular, sharp-tongued liberals. But her politics align with Sanders - she backs his universal healthcare plan. Senator Sherrod Brown is a populist flying under the radar, but he has firm progressive credentials. Being from the crucial state of Ohio, he could help Democrats win back support in the Rust Belt.

Up-and-comers

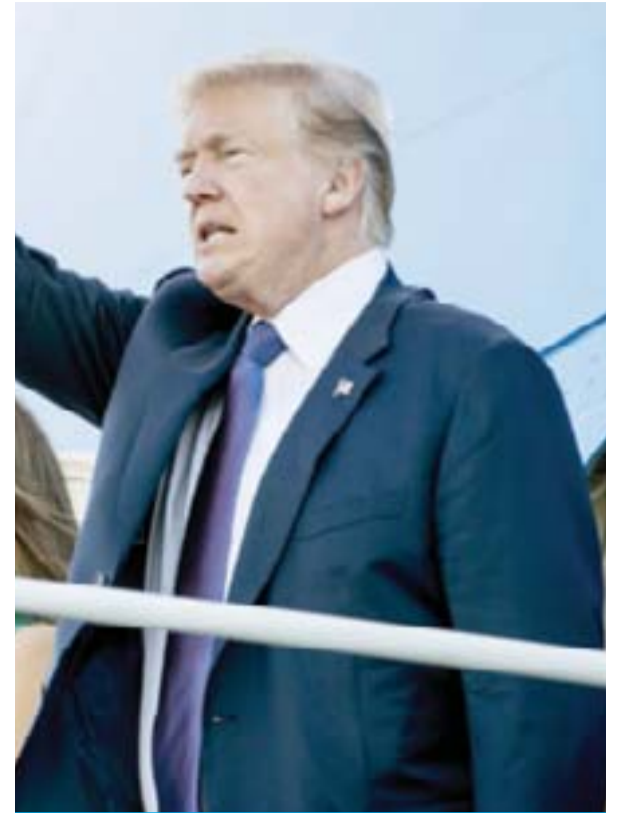
Senator Cory Booker is already a star, but there is room to grow on the national stage. A gifted speaker and champion of the poor, the youthful African-American is hailed as Obama's heir. Kamala Harris is the new charismatic US senator from California, a fervent supporter of immigrant and civil rights who has already courted major donors at fundraisers and meet-and-greets. Also in this category: Senators Chris Murphy of Connecticut and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Montana Governor Steve Bullock.

Celebrities

If Democrats want to fight Trump fire with fire, billionaire TV icon Oprah Winfrey is their likeliest option. She has extraordinarily deep pockets and massive name recognition. Business and entertainment mogul Mark Cuban and wealthy environmental activist Tom Steyer are also mulling runs.

Long-shots

These are not household names, but that may change. Congressman John Delaney of Maryland is the first Democrat to declare his 2020 candidacy. As an economic centrist with hardscrabble roots who made millions start-



US President Donald Trump

ing successful businesses, he could appeal to frustrated Trumpists. Massachusetts congressman Seth Moulton is a military veteran with a Harvard business degree, and Ohio's Tim Ryan raised his profile last year by challenging Nancy Pelosi for her House leadership job. Americans might want such newcomers to carry the baton, said Matt Paul, who ran Clinton's 2016 campaign in Iowa. "I think there will be pressure and interest in a new face, a new story, someone who... energizes and builds out this base again," he said.

And Republicans?

Internal revolts are rarely successful, but Trump's hostile takeover of the Republican Party has all but invited a 2020 challenge. Senators Jeff Flake and Bob Corker have announced they are not seeking re-election, freeing them up to criticize the president and possibly mount insurgent campaigns. Ohio Governor John Kasich, a 2016 candidate, has not ruled out a run. Other 2016 holdovers to watch: Senators Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio. — AFP

Lebanon PM Hariri resigns, attacks...

Continued from Page 1

It enjoys broad support from Iran and is the only Lebanese party to have kept its weapons after the 1975-1990 civil war.

Hezbollah's arsenal has since grown exponentially and now outstrips that of the nation's own armed forces. The group claims it is the only credible rampart against neighboring Israel, and its refusal to disarm is the main political crux in Lebanon. Hezbollah members have been accused over the 2005 assassination in a massive car bomb blast of Rafik Hariri, the dominant figure in Lebanon's post-war political landscape. He made his fortune in Saudi Arabia, where his son Saad was born.

Saudi Arabia is Iran's main regional rival, and the two powers' tussle for influence has played out in ongoing conflicts in Iraq, Syria and Yemen. The office of Lebanese President Michel Aoun, a veteran Christian leader allied to Hezbollah, issued a statement saying it was waiting for Hariri's return to Lebanon "to enquire about the circumstances of his decision and decide on the next steps". Aoun's office said Hariri had called him from "outside Lebanon" to inform him of his resignation.

Hariri flew to Saudi Arabia on Friday after a meeting in Beirut with Ali Akbar Velayati, the top adviser to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Afterwards, Velayati described Hariri's coalition as "a victory" and "great success". Hariri said in his speech that the political climate in Lebanon was reminiscent of that which prevailed before his father was killed. The Feb 2005 assassination triggered political upheaval that led to Syria's military withdrawal from Lebanon.

Walid Jumblatt, one of Lebanon's political heavyweights and the country's most prominent Druze leader, said Hariri's resignation could adversely affect a country already under huge strain. He argued it was the latest manifestation of the tug-of-war between Saudi

Spacey dumped by Netflix, police...

Continued from Page 1

"Netflix will not be involved with any further production of 'House of Cards' that includes Kevin Spacey," a spokesperson said. The channel said it would work with the show's production company, MRC, "to evaluate our path forward as it relates to the show". Eight current or former employees on the award-winning "House of Cards" told CNN that Spacey turned the set into a "toxic" environment through a pattern of sexual harassment of younger, male crew members.

In London, police said that they had opened an investigation into an allegation of sexual assault. Officers do not publicly identify the subject of an inquiry unless they are charged, but British media said it was Spacey. Since the allegations first surfaced Sunday, Spacey has made no comment other than declaring he was "beyond horrified" by the first allegation dating back 31 years, which he claimed not to remember.

It remains unclear if "House of Cards" can now go ahead in any form. Actor Anthony Rapp opened the floodgates by saying the actor tried to "seduce" him and lay on top of him when he was 14 years old at Spacey's New York apartment 31 years ago. A 48-year-old East Coast artist told Vulture he began a sexual relationship with Spacey when he was 14 that ended when he was 15 after the actor, then 24, allegedly tried

to rape him. Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos was another who claimed he fended off "unpleasant" advances while at The Old Vic, the London theater where Spacey was artistic director from 2003-2015.

Weinstein, once one of the most powerful men in Hollywood, and Spacey are the most high-profile scalps in a month-long torrent of allegations bringing down like dominoes male power players from the worlds of politics, finance, entertainment and journalism. Some 100 women have since early October accused Weinstein, a father of five, of sexual misconduct ranging from harassment to rape, sparking police investigations in London, Los Angeles and New York.

On Friday, New York police confirmed that officers were gathering evidence for a possible arrest warrant in connection with Weinstein's alleged double rape of "Boardwalk Empire" actress Paz de la Huerta at her New York apartment in late 2010. "She put forth a credible and detailed narrative to us," NYPD Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce told reporters. The former producer, his career in tatters, denies any non-consensual relations.

"If this person was still in New York and it was recent, we would go right away and make the arrest, no doubt. But we're talking about a seven-year-old case and we have to move forward in gathering evidence first," said Boyce. "We have an actual case here," he added. "Mr Weinstein is out of state. We would need an arrest warrant to arrest him. So right now we're gathering our evidence. We continue to do so. Every day." The Manhattan district attorney's office confirmed it had assigned a senior sex crimes prosecutor to the case. — AFP

Kuwait Times

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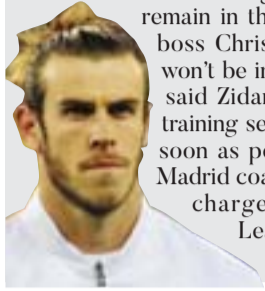
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• Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahsheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

Sports

Bale to sit out
Wales friendlies

MADRID: Gareth Bale will be kept in Madrid to work on his fitness rather than meeting up with the Wales squad for friendlies against France and Panama next week, Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane confirmed yesterday. Bale returned to training with the European champions this week after five weeks on the sidelines with a calf injury. However, he will again miss out for Real's La Liga clash at home to Las Palmas on Sunday and will remain in the Spanish capital despite being included in Wales boss Chris Coleman's 24-man squad earlier this week. "He won't be in the squad and he won't go with his national team," said Zidane. "After 35 days with his injury, he has had two training sessions and we want him to stay here to be ready as soon as possible." Zidane is facing his first troubled time as Madrid coach after a spectacularly successful first 22 months in charge that have included back-to-back Champions League wins and last season's La Liga title. —AFP

Keita accused of using
forged driving licences

BERLIN: Liverpool-bound midfielder Naby Keita could face a six-figure fine after allegedly twice using forged licences to try to obtain a German driving permit, a report claimed yesterday. The RB Leipzig defensive midfielder and Guinea international, who is joining Liverpool for 2018/19, is accused of two counts of forgery which carries a minimum penalty of 100,000 euros (\$115,195), according to Bild. The daily newspaper claims Keita, 22, is also under investigation for driving in Germany without a valid licence. German prosecutors accuse Keita of using forged Guinean licences at the licensing centre in Leipzig in December 2016, then again six weeks later in January, in order to get a permit. The drivers licences from the West African nation were apparently so badly forged that employees in Leipzig became suspicious and handed them to police. "Both documents were identified as complete forgeries," a court official told Bild. "It's a six-figure penalty," confirmed the official when asked how much a potential fine would be. —AFP

Cavendish sprints
to victory in Japan

SAITAMA: Britain's Mark Cavendish produced a blistering late surge to win the Tour de France's Saitama Criterium yesterday, overshadowing crowd favourite Chris Froome in a sprint finish. The Olympic medallist and 30-time Tour de France stage winner pipped Japanese riders Fumiuyuki Beppu and Yusuke Hatanaka to claim victory in the fifth edition of the criterium, held just north of Tokyo. Froome, who captured his fourth Tour de France title this year, had no response as Cavendish broke away from a peloton that also included Marcel Kittel and Greg van Avermaet to win the 19-lap race over a three-kilometre course. "It was a flat course so I was expecting it to be a sprint," said Cavendish, who finished runner-up in the morning's keirin-style event. "I tried to save my energy for the final and lucky I did because when the breakaway went, I was fortunate to get them before the end." —AFP



Flanagan wants New York Marathon show of 'resilience'

'May consider retiring if she stuns the field with victory today'

NEW YORK: American runner Shalane Flanagan hopes today's New York Marathon will be a show of resilience as the city recovers from the deadly truck attack that left eight people dead in Manhattan.

Blanket security will line the route of the world-famous race, which will see an estimated 50,000 runners pound the pavements of the Big Apple. Flanagan, the 2008 Olympic silver medallist over 10,000m, said Tuesday's carnage in New York had hit her hard as a veteran of the 2013 Boston Marathon targeted by bombers.

"It's obviously devastating and very concerning," Flanagan said of the New York attack, which also left 12 people injured. "I've been in a terrorist attack in 2013 in Boston. I was there that day and had just completed my race. So it very much hits home and is very personal to me having been a part of a terrorist attack."

Flanagan, who finished sixth in last year's Olympic marathon in Rio de Janeiro, said she hoped Sunday's race would provide an opportunity to put on a show of strength. "What I do know, 100 percent, is that we're a very resilient nation and I don't think there are many tougher people than New Yorkers, and marathoners are pretty tough too," Flanagan said.

"So I think it's an opportunity to show resilience and strength and coming together. "And when you come together as a community it really empowers people and helps people heal." Flanagan, 36, meanwhile said she may consider retiring if she stuns the field with a victory today. "I can think of no better way to end my career and my story with a major win," she said. "If I was in the position of winning today, this would be my last marathon. That's how I want things to end." Standing in Flanagan's way however is defending champion Mary Keitany of Kenya. Keitany is chasing a fourth consecutive victory in New York after wins in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

The men's race meanwhile will see Eritrea's Ghirmay Ghebreslassie return hoping to make a successful defence of his title. The 21-year-old is likely to face a tough challenge from Kenya's Wilson Kipsang, the 2014 champion. Kipsang raced in the Berlin Marathon in September but quit mid-race citing the damp, humid conditions. The 35-year-old however is confident that his body will last the course today.

"Currently I'm feeling well, all my preparation has been going on well," Kipsang said. "I'm ready for a tough race today." —AFP



Shalane Flanagan



Blanket security will line the route of famous race

groups and companies sending teams to the event. We encourage our staff to have a healthy work-life balance and know that fun group activities like this foster a sense of teamwork. Therefore, we look forward to welcoming more teams and groups to the event this year. The group rate offer is valid until Tuesday, 7 November and the minimum number of team participants must be 30 persons and the discount increases as the number of team members increases. Other benefits include your team logo onsite at the event and a post on social media, depending on number of team participants."

The walk/run event enables participants to tour Kuwait's beautiful landmarks in an atmosphere that is filled with energy and excitement. The event starts and ends at Souq Sharq, and the race route is on Gulf Road, passing by Souk Al Mubarakiya, the Gulf Bank head office, the Grand Mosque, Al Seif Palace, the National Assembly, Kuwait Towers, as well as other landmarks.

The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' is the first road race in Kuwait to have three of its longer distance race categories accredited by the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) meaning that those races appear in the international calendar of races and serve as qualifying race for the major international marathons.

To find out more about the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon', visit the dedicated website at: www.gulfbank642marathon.com or its Instagram account @GulfBank642, or through Gulf Bank's social media channels.

Discounts for group rates on 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon'

KUWAIT: The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon', which is set to take place at 7 am on Saturday, 18 November at Souq Sharq, is offering groups and companies with multiple registrants an exclusive discount on their registration fees for this Kuwait's most exciting walk/run event. The tickets can be purchased in bulk through the dedicated website www.gulfbank642marathon.com.

The 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon' caters to all levels, from beginners to challenging athletes and even families because it has four different distances to walk or run: Family Fun Walk/Run (5KM); Souq Run for regular runners (10KM); Half Marathon for more advanced runners (21KM); and a Full Marathon (42KM). To get ready for the 'Gulf Bank 642 Marathon', Gulf Bank and Pro-Vision Sports Management are organizing weekly runs to train participants, in cooperation with leading running clubs in Kuwait.

Ms Laila Al-Qatami, Assistant General Manager for Corporate Communications at Gulf Bank said: "At last year's Marathon the day was filled with excitement and camaraderie and we saw strong participation from

Hassan signs agreement to establish Anderlecht Academy in Kuwait



Ahmad Hassan seen with officials and children after signing the agreement.

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Former Egyptian soccer star Ahmad Hassan signed an agreement to establish the Anderlecht Academy in Kuwait in the presence of Director General of Al-Nahar Royal Company Amro Hindi, board member of Egypt Soccer Association Magdy Abdelghany, and board member of Presentation Company Ibrahim Al-Tahawi.

Hassan said during a press conference "it is an honor to be in Kuwait to establish Anderlecht Academy, in order to discover talent." He added "due to my relation with the Belgian club, I got the rights to establish academies in the Middle East, and we have many branches in Egypt, and negotiations began with our friends in Kuwait a short time ago through Ibrahim Al-Tahawi and things went smoothly, and an agreement was reached during a record tie." Abdelghani on his part said "Kuwait is the first Arab state that broke the sports siege against Egypt in 1983, when the national team received an invitation from Martyr Fahad Al-Ahmad to play a friendly match in Kuwait, then received several invitations from Arab countries.

Abdelghani spoke about Egypt's qualification to the World Cup, adding that we qualified due to the unity between all sides and hiring an



The signing of agreement of Anderlecht Academy.

outstanding coach the Argentinean Hector Cooper, and hoped that Egypt end in an easy group during the draw, while all officials have hopes that Egypt will reach the round of 16.

He expressed regret that the generation of Ahmad Hassan Mohammad Abu Taika, Mohammad Barakat, Wael Jumaa and Hosny Abdel Rabu were not able to qualify for the World Cup.

Meanwhile Amro Hindi said the aim of this academy is to teach children sports, besides the

educational aspect.

He said that he suffered from many drawbacks in some academies in Kuwait, so he decided to establish the academy and is keen to avoid the drawbacks, and that Ahmad Hassan was the best man that an agreement can be signed with due to his tremendous popularity. He said the academy was keen on signing with accredited coaches, and agreed with Salmiya Sports Club to provide the play grounds and there is a good interest in the athletes clothes.

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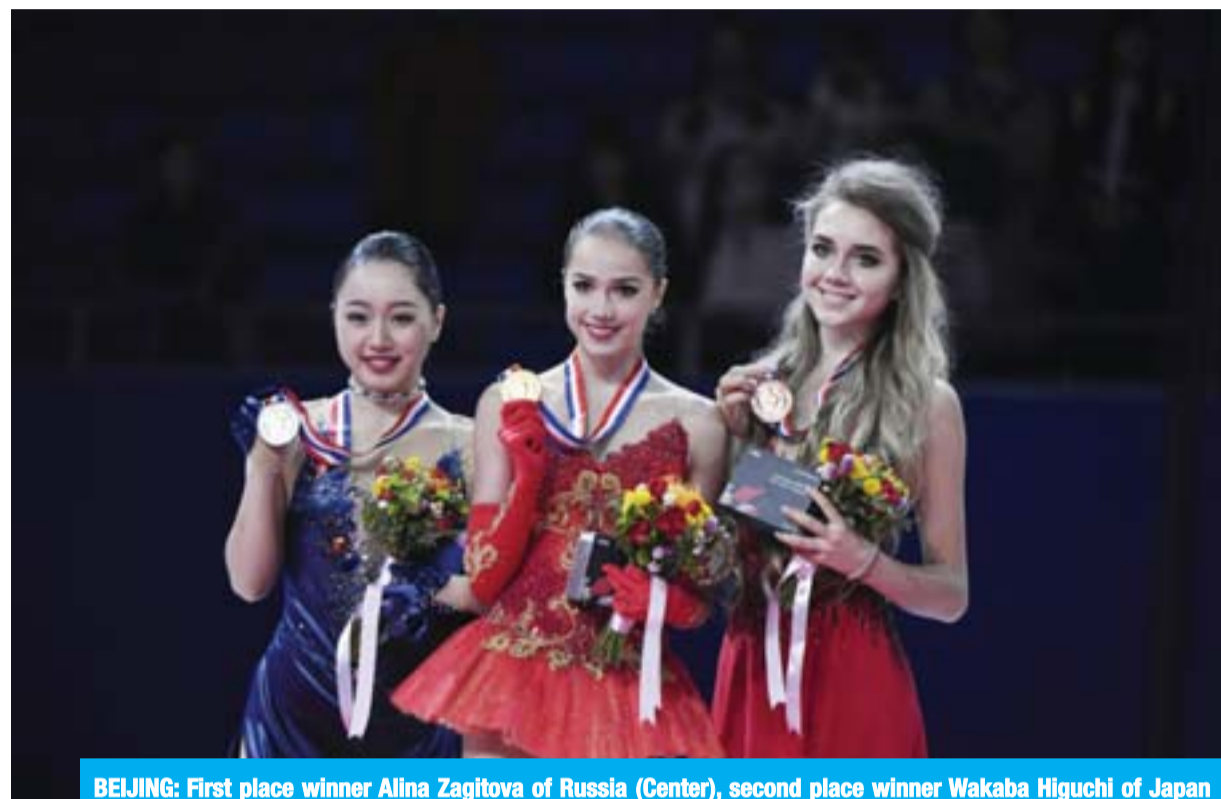
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Sports

Russians dominate as Kolyada wins Grand Prix on debut

French pair, first ice-dance team to break 200-point barrier



BEIJING: First place winner Alina Zagitova of Russia (Center), second place winner Wakaba Higuchi of Japan (L) and third place winner Elena Radionova of Russia (R) show their medals. — AFP

BEIJING: Russia dominated the figure skating Cup of China as 15-year-old Alina Zagitova won gold on her grand prix debut and Mikhail Kolyada triumphed in the men's competition yesterday in Beijing. The French pair Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron meanwhile became the first ice-dance team to break the 200-point barrier as they blazed their way to a record victory.

The starlet Zagitova's victory is all the more significant with February's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea looming large. The 2017 World Junior Champion catapulted from fourth to first in the ladies

free skate in the Chinese capital, the third of six events in the ISU Grand Prix series.

Second overall was Japan's Wakaba Higuchi (212.52 points) and another Russian, Elena Radionova, took bronze (206.82). Performing to "Don Quixote", Zagitova nailed a triple Lutz-triple loop combination on her way to a score of 144.44 points and total 213.88.

"To win the gold medal in my first grand prix means a lot to me, but I need to continue to work and I cannot rest on my laurels," the teenager said. "I was not pleased with my short programme (69.44 on Friday) but I was pleased with the free skate as I did every-



BEIJING: First place winner Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron of France (Center), second place winner Madison Chock and Evan Bates of the US (L) and third place winner Ekaterina Bobrova and Dmitri Soloviev of Russia (R) show their medals during an award ceremony at the Cup of China ISU Grand Prix. — AFP

thing." Kolyada made it a double Russian gold with his total of 279.38 points, with home Chinese hope Jin Boyang taking silver (264.48) and the American Max Aaron — who came first in the free skate-bronze (259.69). The 22-year-old Kolyada, who dazzled in his short programme on Friday, held on to his overnight lead to seal a maiden grand prix victory. There was a major surprise in the disappointing form of Spain's two-time world champion Javier Fernandez, who finished well off the podium, down in a modest sixth.

Two-time world champions Papadakis and Cizeron were untouchable over the two days, racking up a per-

sonal-best score of 119.33 points on the night and a record 200.43 in total. The Americans Madison Chock and Evan Bates took a distant silver and Russia's Ekaterina Bobrova and Dmitri Soloviev won bronze.

"It was a great performance for us and we are happy with how we performed and with our score," Papadakis said after their faultless skate to Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata". "This is our third time in China and we have always skated well here, it feels like a lucky place for us." The ISU Grand Prix series consists of six events and climaxes at the final in Nagoya, Japan in December. — AFP

Felipe Massa to retire from F1 at end of season

LONDON: Formula One driver Felipe Massa will retire at the end of the season. The 36-year-old Brazilian was originally going to retire from the Williams team last season, but changed his mind after Valtteri Bottas suddenly left Williams to join Mercedes.

Massa has 11 wins and 41 podiums from 268 races. His last race is at the Abu Dhabi GP on Nov. 26, and he will bid goodbye to home fans at the Brazilian Grand Prix next week at Interlagos. "I have now enjoyed four great years with the team, but my career in Formula One will finally come to an end this season," Massa said yesterday in a team statement. "I take so many great memories with me as I prepare for my final two races in Brazil and Abu Dhabi, and although they will be emo-

tional, I am looking forward to ending on a high note."

Massa was in tears last year as he walked around the track in Brazil carrying the national flag, thinking that it was his farewell. But after Bottas was drafted in as an emergency replacement for retired world champion Nico Rosberg at Mercedes, he stayed on another year. This time it really will be his last home race.

He is in 11th place in the standings this season with a best finish of sixth, at the season-opening Australian GP and then in Bahrain two races later.

Massa, one of the most well-liked drivers on the circuit, overcame a serious head injury sustained at the Hungarian GP in July 2009. He never won the F1 title, missing out in 2008 in the cruelest fashion. After winning the season ending GP in Brazil, he thought the title was his and his Ferrari team began celebrating wildly. But Lewis Hamilton moved up to fifth place on the last lap and beat him to the title by one point.

Massa was third in the 2006 championship, also for Ferrari, behind teammate Michael Schumacher and champion Fernando Alonso. But since that dramatic defeat in 2008 he has never been close again. Williams did not announce who will replace Massa next season to drive alongside 19-year-old Canadian Lance Stroll,



Felipe Massa

who is 10th in the standings.

But Polish driver Robert Kubica is touted as a possible replacement for Massa, in what would be a sensational return to F1 after his right hand was partially severed during a rally race in 2011. — AP

Participants to receive numbers from Nov 23 at Walkathon center

KUWAIT: The registration for National Bank of Kuwait's (NBK) November 23rd Annual Walkathon continues online through NBKWalkathon.com.

Applicants can then receive their assigned T-shirt and number at the NBK's registration point beside the Scientific Center on the Gulf Road in Salmiya starting from Thursday, November 23. The number for each participant will contain a step-counting chip.

"The participation in NBK's Walkathon is increasing year after year, and we are extremely thrilled to take our involvement with this exciting event to a new level. NBK walkathon webpage continues to receive participants till 22nd of November 2017," said Talal Al Turki, NBK Public Relations Team Leader.

Al Turki added "NBK's 2017 Walkathon that will be held on 9th December 2017 aims to encourage each individual to believe in their ability towards making a change 'We're Stronger... With Every Step'".

NBK will award more than 100 participants in the 23rd Annual Walkathon alongside the grand draw for two new Renault cars from Al Babbain Group. Ten winners will be selected from each of the 10 categories of participants. For the first time this year, NBK initiated a new racing category for participants aged 60 years old and above to encourage a healthier lifestyle among all members of the society.

It's worth mentioning that, the walk for both the female and male participants will start from the Green Island on the Gulf Road to the Shuwaikh Beach Park, parallel to the Gulf Road, next to KPC building for a distance of 11 Km.



Talal Al Turki

Drapac team folding in September after a seven-million-dollar funding shortfall in their 2018 budget.

A deal was finally struck with EF Education with the team 'hours away' from disappearing and Vaughters believes a franchise-based system, together with greater financial fairness, would ensure stability and create more fan appeal. "Over the past four, five years there has always been at least one or two World Tour teams that have collapsed. It's something that cycling, as a sport, needs to address," Vaughters told Reuters at the Rouleur Classic cycling exhibition in London after the launch of the team's new kit.

"Structurally there is a problem that needs to be corrected. Fans of Manchester United or the Denver Broncos don't worry about them just going away. It's not something that fans are used to or can understand.

"There are a number of different ways to go about it. One is cost control, or financial fairness, which is what I



call it. The other is creating a structure where franchises are guaranteed the biggest races such as the Tour de France. "If there is a guaranteed entry into those races in the lifetime of the business, then at that point you have created a limited market, you have created scarcity and when you create scarcity sponsors come in and gravitate towards that scarcity."

"What we have now is if you come up with 20 million pounds you can start your own team, there is no scarcity of the commodity," added Vaughters. "It's just a matter of who can scrounge up the money, whether they come up from a very disreputable source or a reputable source, it doesn't matter."

Things became so desperate for Cannondale-Drapac that Vaughters Tweeted in August: "At the risk of colossal spam, if anyone out there has a lead on some financial support for our team, email: press@slipstreamsports.com." — Reuters

Kurt Busch, 4 other drivers top 200 mph in Texas qualifying

FORT WORTH: Kurt Busch went faster than anyone has ever gone in NASCAR Cup qualifying on a 1 1/2-mile track. While out of championship contention and uncertain who he will drive for next season, he is still trying to win races.

"The sensation of speed is, it's unbelievable," Busch said. Busch averaged a record 200.915 mph on his only lap in the final round of qualifying Friday at Texas Motor Speedway. The Stewart-Haas driver was in one of the five cars that broke the 200-mph mark, with Denny Hamlin qualifying second and the highest of the remaining championship contenders.

"Development, that's the biggest thing. That's just the biggest thing," Hamlin said, when asked about the high qualifying speeds. "And trust me, I don't know of any driver that is comfortable running at the speed where running right now. Kevin Harvick walked by and as soon as that was over, he said, 'I'm glad that is over.' It's crazy speed."

The top five all surpassed the previous qualifying record at the track, Tony Stewart's 200.111 mph before the fall race three years ago. Hamlin qualified at 200.617 mph, with the others going over 200 mph on the high-banked track being Harvick (200.372 mph), Erik Jones (200.326 mph) and Kyle Busch (200.252 mph). Hamlin, Harvick and Kyle Busch, the only driver locked into a title shot at Homestead, are all championship contenders.

Martin Truex Jr., leading in points, qualified seventh at 199.431 mph, directly ahead of fellow title contenders Ryan Blaney (199.380 mph), Jimmie Johnson (198.727 mph) and Brad Keselowski (198.478 mph) in the eighth through 10th spots.

The only championship contender starting outside the top 10 was Chase Elliott, who was among seven drivers who didn't make any qualifying laps after not making it through tech inspection in time. He will start 34th today.

Harvick obviously made it through inspection, though it was a rush to get through the first round of the three-stage qualifying. "This is a little bit of a nerve-racking lap because it is so fast," Harvick said. "For me, my heart rate has been up since I started because of the anxiety of getting in the car late, not having time to prep yourself getting in and calm down and then you get in there and it is just lap after lap, but it worked out fine."

Kurt Busch said he saw old friend Friday who had his two sons with him. The two boys were in awe of the surroundings on pit road when Busch winked at them and gave a prophetic word. "I said, 'It's going to be over 200 miles per hour today.' And they were like 'woah' and then I was able to back it up," Busch said. "So I feel impressed." — AP

Vaughters wants guaranteed Tour spots for team franchises

LONDON: World Tour cycling teams should become franchises with guaranteed entry into the sport's top races to avoid financial meltdowns, according to Cannondale EF Education First-Drapac chief Jonathan Vaughters. American former professional Vaughters fought a desperate battle to stop his Cannondale-

Sports

LeBron scores 57, Cavaliers top Wizards 130-122 to end skid

Irving's big second half leads Celtics past Thunder

WASHINGTON: LeBron James scored 57 points - the second-highest total of his career and an NBA-best this season - and the Cleveland Cavaliers stopped a four-game slide with a 130-122 victory over the Washington Wizards on Friday night. James hadn't scored this much since getting a career-high 61 for the Miami Heat on March 3, 2014, against the Charlotte Hornets. And the four-time league MVP did it efficiently Friday, making 23 of 34 field-goal tries and all nine free throws, while adding 11 rebounds and seven assists. James did it with style, too. He hurdled over a seated Bradley Beal while dribbling, swatted a shot by John Wall off the backboard, and looked for a camera to wag both index fingers in the midst of a three-point play. Beal had 36 points for Washington, and Wall finished with 13 points and 15 assists. But Wall was 4 for 13 from the field and 5 for 12 at the line.



Phoenix lost forward Warren to a head injury

Charlotte's 64-16. Jeremy Lamb led Charlotte with 27 points. The Hornets had won three in a row.

KNICKS 120, SUNS 107

Kristaps Porzingis scored 37 points, and Knicks coach Jeff Hornacek got his first victory over his former team. Porzingis fell just shy of the career-best 38 points he scored Monday against Denver, getting his final points with a highlight-reel, end-to-end possession with just under 5 minutes remaining. He raced back in transition for an emphatic block on rookie Josh Jackson, and then got the ball back in transition for a powerful dunk while being fouled. The Suns swept the two-game series last season, Hornacek's first coaching the Knicks. He spent 2 1/2 seasons coaching the Suns from 2013-16. Devin Booker scored 34 points for the Suns, who had won four of five. Phoenix lost forward T.J. Warren to a head injury in the first half, a game after he scored a career-best 40 points.

ROCKETS 119, HAWKS 104

James Harden scored 21 of his 29 points in Houston's high-scoring first half, and the Rockets handed the Hawks their eighth straight loss. Eric Gordon and Luc Mbah a Moute each scored 20 points for Houston, which improved to 6-1 on the road. Kent Bazemore scored 18 points for the Hawks (1-8), who have not won since their season-opening victory at Dallas. Houston led 69-51 at halftime with its highest-scoring half of the season. The Rockets went 11 for 22 from 3-point range in the first half and 16 for 47 from beyond the arc for the game. Dennis Schroder and Taurean Prince each had 16 points for Atlanta.

PELICANS 99, MAVERICKS 94

Anthony Davis had 30 points and 13 rebounds. DeMarcus Cousins added his second 20-20 game of the season and the Pelicans started a four-game trip with a victory over the last -place Mavericks. Harrison Barnes scored a season-high 26 points for the Mavericks, who are 1-9 for the first time since 1993-94. Cousins had 20 points, 22 rebounds and seven assists for the Pelicans, who were coming off two straight home losses. The 6-foot-11 center, who tied his career high with 20 defensive rebounds, had season highs of 41 points and 23 rebounds in a win at Sacramento last week.

NUGGETS 95, HEAT 94

Paul Millsap had 27 points for Denver, including three straight free throws with 11.9 seconds remaining. Nikola Jokic added 19 points and 14 rebounds as the Nuggets shook off some late struggles at the line to win their second straight on a six-game homestand.

CELTICS 101, THUNDER 94

Kyrie Irving scored 22 of his 25 points in the second half, and the Celtics rallied from 18 down for their seventh straight victory. Al Horford scored 17 of his 20 points after halftime and Jaylen Brown added 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Celtics. Boston has allowed 94 or fewer points in every game during its winning streak. Paul George had 25 points and 10 rebounds, and Russell Westbrook added 19 points and 11 assists for the Thunder. Carmelo Anthony had 10 points and 14 rebounds but shot just 3 of 17.

76ERS 121, PACERS 110

J.J. Redick scored 31 points, Ben Simmons had a triple-double and Philadelphia moved above .500 for the first time in nearly four years. Redick was 8 of 12 from 3-point range, including the go-ahead shot with 2:06 left, another 3 to barely beat the shot clock with 1:08 remaining and a third from the left corner to make it 119-110 with 46 seconds left. Simmons had 14 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his second triple-double in a rookie season delayed a year because of injury. The Sixers (5-4) hadn't had a winning record since they were also 5-4 on Nov 13, 2013, but their painful rebuild appears near an end as they won their fourth straight game. Victor Oladipo had 31 points for Indiana, which had won three in a row.

SPURS 108, HORNETS 101

Bryn Forbes had 22 points, helping San Antonio stop a four-game skid. The Spurs played without Kawhi Leonard and Tony Parker, who are out with quadriceps injuries. Charlotte was without Nicholas Batum and Michael Carter-Williams, who also have not played this season, along with Michael Kidd-Gilchrist. Rudy Gay scored 20 points and Dejounte Murray had 10, joining Forbes to help San Antonio's reserves outscore



WASHINGTON: Washington Wizards forward Kelly Oubre Jr., left, reaches for the ball against Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game. — AP

Millsap delivered at a key moment. After missing three of his previous four foul shots, the Nuggets' big offseason acquisition was fouled at the 3-point line by James Johnson and sunk each of his free throws. Dion Waiters nearly won it for Miami on the other end with a 3-pointer that rattled in and out in the final second. Goran Dragic scored 23 points for the Heat.

LAKERS 124, NETS 112

Brook Lopez hit six 3-pointers and scored a season-high 34 points against his former Brooklyn teammates, and rookie Kyle Kuzma had 21 points and 13 rebounds during his first career start in the Lakers' victory. D'Angelo Russell had 17 points, seven rebounds and seven assists in his first game against the Lakers since they traded him to Brooklyn last summer in the four-player deal that brought Lopez and Kuzma to Los Angeles. Allen Crabbe scored 25 points for the Nets in the opener of a five-game road trip, and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 21.

PISTONS 105, BUCKS 96

Andre Drummond scored 14 of his 24 points in the third quarter, powering Detroit to the win. Drummond, who has shot under 40 percent from the free-throw line in his career, went 10 of 12 in the third, drawing a roar of approval from fans. He went 14 for 16 on the night, the most he's ever made in his career, and is shooting 78 percent from the line this season. Avery Bradley scored 19 of his 23 points in the first half for the Pistons,

who went on a 21-5 run late in the second quarter and led 59-48 at halftime. Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 29 points for Milwaukee.

RAPTORS 109, JAZZ 100

DeMar DeRozan scored a season-high 37 points, and Toronto finished its longest road trip of the season with a victory. DeRozan made all 14 of his free throws and added a trio of 3-pointers to complement his mid-range offensive game. His 17 third-quarter points helped stake the Raptors to a lead they never relinquished in handing the Jazz their first loss in six home games. Toronto went 3-3 on its Western Conference road swing. Rookie guard Donovan Mitchell scored 25 points for Utah, and Rodney Hood had 17 on 6-for-19 shooting.

BULLS 105, MAGIC 83

Justin Holiday scored 19 points, Robin Lopez had 11 points and 10 rebounds, and the Bulls earned their first road win of the season. Chicago had seven players score in double figures. David Nwaba had 16 points, and rookie Lauri Markkanen made three 3-pointers on his way to 13 points. Evan Fournier led Orlando with 21 points, and Nikola Vucevic had 14 points. Aaron Gordon added 11 points and seven rebounds. The Magic led 45-44 at halftime, but the Bulls pulled away with a big second half. Lopez scored each of his 11 points in the third as Chicago outscored Orlando 29-15 in the period. — AFP

England fight off Lebanon as Kiwis set up showdown

SYDNEY: England wore down Lebanon for their first win at the Rugby League World Cup while New Zealand and Tonga set up an explosive showdown with victories yesterday. England named Brad Fittler's Lebanon 29-10 in Sydney in a match marred by a biting allegation lodged by Lebanon's skipper Robbie Farah against England winger Jermaine McGillivray in the second half.

McGillivray was placed on report for allegedly biting Farah's arm after Farah made an official complaint on-field. Wayne Bennett's team led early after a try by centre Kallum Watkins before Lebanon hit back with a Farah grubber kick leading to Nick Kassis pouncing on the loose ball to level at 6-6.

The prospect of a possible boilover soon dissipated when England scored three tries in eight minutes, setting up England's 16-point advantage going into the break. Lebanon can make the quarter-finals out of Pool A if England down winless France in Perth next weekend. Tonga set up a combustible Pool B showdown with New Zealand next week when they held off fast-finishing Samoa to take the much-anticipated clash of the Pacific island heavyweights 32-18 in Hamilton.

The star-studded Tongans remain unbeaten after they put 50 points on Scotland last week and have already qualified for the last eight along with New Zealand. Tonga were in control at 26-6 midway through the second half but the Samoans closed the gap to eight points with two converted tries before Manu Ma'u scored three minutes from time to secure the outcome for Tonga.

After a week of street violence involving fans from both sides in the lead up to the match, the players calmed tension when they hugged and joined in prayer before kick off and the match was played in a lively atmosphere. New Zealand's classy off-loading proved too much for a hapless Scotland as they ran in 14 tries in a commanding 74-6 victory in Christchurch.

The Kiwis pulled off an amazing 40 off-loads, with Martin Taupau and Nelson Asofa-Solomona prominent, to inflict the heaviest defeat ever suffered by a Scotland team. — AFP

Wallabies hit 60 against Japan in European warm-up

YOKOHAMA: Injury-hit Australia crushed Japan 63-30 in Yokohama yesterday to kick off their northern hemisphere tour in impressive style. The Wallabies ran in nine tries in a lopsided encounter as they followed up wins against world champions New Zealand and the Barbarians with a clinical display against the 2019 World Cup hosts.

Tevita Kuridrani muscled over for a hat-trick of tries and Samu Kerevi added two more, while utility back Reece Hodge slotted a perfect nine from nine with the boot in his first test at flyhalf. "We were really happy with probably about 60 minutes of our game," said Australia captain Michael Hooper.

"Japan's players fought hard and were really strong in the breakdown. They turned us over too many times and put 30 points on us - we've got to be better than that. "But it was a great experience playing here," he added. "The fans were loud and you can feel how big it's going to be here for the World Cup." Kerevi's second provided the game's highlight, the bulldozing centre collecting a no-look pass from Kurtley Beale to cap a stunning move started by Henry Speight deep in Australia's own half. Japan lost 47-27 to a world select side last week in a butter-fingered display but ill discipline cost the Brave Blossoms against the Australians, who scored further tries through Speight, Tatafu Polota-Nau, Nick Phipps and Rob Simmons.

The Asian champions were left stunned when Speight burst clear to score Australia's second try after just 11 minutes as the floodgates threatened to spring open. Trailing 35-3 at halftime, Japan improved after the break with locks Wimpie van der Walt and Amanaki Mafi grabbing tries before Kazuki Himeno bundled over after the final buzzer to help Japan hit the 30-point mark, to the joy of 43,000 in Yokohama.

'DIFFERENT LEVEL'

Japan captain Michael Leitch pulled no punches in summing up the match. "We were up against one of the top four teams in the world and we felt the difference between our level and theirs," he said. "Discipline in that first 20 minutes hurt us and we have to improve in a lot of areas before the World Cup."



YOKOHAMA: Scott Sio (C) of Australia is tackled during the rugby union test match between Japan and Australia in Yokohama, suburb of Tokyo, yesterday. — AFP

Despite missing key players, Australia were never threatened at the venue for the 2019 World Cup final in what proved to be a gentle workout for tougher tests away to Wales, England and Scotland this month. Hodge was calmness personified with regular flyhalf Bernard Foley out sick and made several pinpoint passes that led to tries, while second-choice scrumhalf Phipps looked solid in place of the injured Will Genia. "Between the last game and this game we lost five or six players but our mindset and attitude were very good from the start," said Australia head coach Michael Cheika, whose side take on Wales in Cardiff next week-

end. "We dropped off a bit toward the end but Japan played very well. It was a fantastic atmosphere and a great place to play rugby." Japan, who were destroyed 91-3 by Australia the last time they met at the 2007 World Cup, have struggled since winning three games at the 2015 tournament under Eddie Jones.

"It was a really disappointing start to the game," said Japan coach Jamie Joseph. "We gave penalties away in the first half and couldn't really get our game going. But in the second half we showed what we can do when we create some pressure on the opposition and play our type of rugby. — AFP

Sports

Valencia put pressure on La Liga leaders, Atletico bounce back

Eighth straight win to close to within a point of Barca

MADRID: Valencia swept aside Leganes 3-0 yesterday as they continued their stunning form with an eighth straight win to close to within a point of La Liga leaders Barcelona.

Marcelino Garcia Toral's side also moved ahead of Barca as the league's top scorers with 30 goals in their first 11 games as Dani Parejo, Rodrigo and Santi Mina found the net. Barca can reopen a four-point gap at the top of the table when they host Sevilla later at the Camp Nou. "No one will go undefeated through 38 games, but we are going to enjoy the moment," said Marcelino. "In the dressing room there is no euphoria, there is realism and constant analysis."

"We know how difficult it will be to keep this up, it's practically impossible." After travelling to Espanyol following the international break, Valencia host Barca at Mestalla on November 26.

Parejo has been one of many players rejuvenated by Marcelino's arrival at Mestalla after two seasons in the doldrums for Valencia. The captain's clever free-kick that skidded underneath the Leganes wall got Valencia off to a perfect start on 14 minutes.

On loan Paris Saint-Germain winger Goncalo Guedes has been Valencia's star performer in recent weeks and the Portuguese was inches away from his fourth goal of the season when he struck the post early in the second period. The hosts had to wait until 19 minutes from time to seal the points with a blistering counter-attack that ended with Spanish international Rodrigo heading home Manchester United loanee

Andreas Pereira's cross.

And the team-spirit in this Valencia side was demonstrated when habitual penalty-taker Parejo let Mina take responsibility from the spot eight minutes from time to round off the scoring. "It was a phenomenal (gesture). They worked it out themselves and I prefer it like that," added Marcelino. "It goes to show the atmosphere there is within the group, which is the foundation for us to perform like this."

PARTEY BAIL OUT

By contrast, Atletico Madrid's struggle for goals continues but Diego Simeone's men were bailed out by Thomas Partey's 91st-minute winner in a 1-0 victory at Deportivo la Coruna. A 1-1 draw at home to Azerbaijani champions Qarabag all but ended Atletico's Champions League campaign in mid-week amidst a run of one win in eight games.

And they suffered from a familiar lack of creativity at Riazor with Simeone even substituting star frontman Antoine Griezmann 10 minutes from time. However, a relieved Simeone punched the air in delight when Ghanaian midfielder Partey curled home Gabi's layoff from a free-kick on the edge of the box to pass Griezmann and join Angel Correa as Atletico's top scorer this season on four goals.

Victory moves Atletico three points clear of cross-city rivals Real Madrid in third. The European champions aren't in action until today when they host Las Palmas. — AFP



VALENCIA: Leganes' Argentinian defender Ezequiel Munoz (L) vies with Valencia's Italian forward Simone Zaza during the Spanish league football match Valencia CF vs Club Deportivo Leganes SAD at the Mestalla stadium in Valencia. — AFP

“In the dressing room there is no euphoria”

Peerless Celtic break British unbeaten record

GLASGOW: French striker Moussa Dembele scored one and created another two as Celtic thrashed St Johnstone 4-0 to break their own 100-year British record of unbeaten domestic matches. The Scottish champions extended their domestic unbeaten record to 63 to eclipse the Celtic team of Willie Maley who won 62 league games unbeaten-pre-League Cup whilst the Scottish Cup was not played during World War I-between 1915 and 1917.

Brendan Rodgers's team are joint-third now in UEFA's all-time domestic unbeaten records list, alongside Moldovan side Sheriff Tiraspol. Gibraltar's Lincoln Red

Imps (88) — who ironically began Rodgers tenure last year with an embarrassing defeat in a Champions League first leg match-and Romania's Steaua Bucharest—who won the European Cup in 1986 and reached the final in 1989 — of the late 1980s lead with 104. "To have actually beaten what was a British record-and obviously Celtic were the holders of that already-means it's a truly special day for the players and the club," said Rodgers.

"It means everything. It's an incredible feat by the players and a wonderful example of professionalism," added the 44-year-old Northern Irishman. St Johnstone had been the last side to defeat Celtic on domestic duty back in May 2016, but they never looked like repeating that feat. Scott Sinclair opened the scoring in the 28th minute before Dembele added a second in the 72nd minute.

Steven Anderson turned a Dembele cross into his own net two minutes later before Olivier Ntcham added a late fourth. Celtic were unchanged from their Champions League 2-1 home defeat by Bayern Munich on Tuesday but they showed no signs of a European hangover as they quickly warmed to the task in the autumn sunshine. A sluggish St Johnstone, without a goal since 23 September,

went behind from Celtic's first corner of the match.

Stuart Armstrong fired the low corner to the centre of the penalty area where there was plenty of space for the unmarked Sinclair to fire the ball high into the net beyond the despairing Zander Clark. Celtic began the second half as they ended the first and came close to adding a second shortly after the restart.

An Armstrong corner in the 53rd minute was met by Dedryck Boyata but his looping header was nodded off the line by Aaron Comrie at the back post. Celtic doubled their lead when Dembele struck, the French striker started the move on the half-way line and burst into the box to get on the end of Armstrong's cut-back to finish confidently past Clark. Dembele proved to be a thorn in St Johnstone's side as he set up Celtic's third two minutes later. Australian midfielder Tom Rogic fed the ball to the striker on the left wing and his attempt to pick out Sinclair with a cut-back came off Saints defender Anderson and trundled into his own net.

The French striker wasn't finished as he then teed up substitute Ntcham to rifle a low strike past Clark with just a minute left as Celtic finished in style. — AFP

Burnley flying after win at Southampton, boost for Bournemouth

LONDON: Burnley's remarkable start to the season continued as they moved level on points with Premier League champions Chelsea thanks to a 1-0 victory at Southampton yesterday. Sam Vokes pounced late on for Sean Dyche's side to move them into sixth spot with 19 points-the same as Chelsea, who host Manchester United on Sunday, and Arsenal.

Burnley have already won three league matches on the road this season compared to one in the whole of last season. "I am delighted to be where we are but there are a lot of challenges coming our way and the group know we will have to work hard for every point we get," Dyche, who has been linked with the vacant

Everton manager's job, told the BBC.

"We still have to fight for every chance we get but we are willing to do the graft." Liverpool can move back above Burnley into sixth place with victory at West Ham United in the late kickoff.

Bournemouth grabbed a last-gasp winner at Newcastle United to move out of the bottom three, above Swansea City who slumped to a home defeat by Brighton and Hove Albion.

Steve Cook sealed Bournemouth's 1-0 win with a 90th-minute header while Brighton's 1-0 win in south Wales came courtesy of Glenn Murray's first-half shot. Swansea have lost three in a row in the Premier League and were booed off at the end as they fell to 18th place with eight points from their opening 11 matches.

Huddersfield Town beat struggling West Bromwich Albion 1-0 at home to stay safely in mid-table-Dutchman Rajiv van La Parra deciding it with a curling shot just before halftime. The hosts hung on in the second half after having defender Christopher Schindler sent off in the 57th minute. West Brom are without a win in nine Premier League games and, after an impressive opening to the season, are only two points above the relegation zone. —Reuters



NEWCASTLE: Newcastle United's US defender DeAndre Yedlin (top) vies with Bournemouth's English midfielder Marc Pugh during the English Premier League football match between Newcastle United and Bournemouth at St James' Park. — AFP

Blistering Munro ton helps NZ to level series

RAJKOT: Opener Colin Munro smashed a career-best 109 not out to help secure New Zealand's series-levelling 40-run victory in the second Twenty20 International against India yesterday. Munro smacked seven sixes and as many boundaries in his 58-ball blitz to help New Zealand post a commanding 196-2 in a match they needed to win to stay alive in the three-match contest.

India, who won the preceding one-day series against New Zealand, wobbled early in their chase and eventually managed 156-7 despite skipper Virat Kohli's defiant 65. Thiruvananthapuram hosts the decider on Tuesday.

Munro and Martin Gupthill gave New

Zealand a flying start after skipper Kane Williamson opted to bat at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot. The openers tore into the Indian attack during their 105-run stand in 11 overs.

Gupthill clobbered three sixes in his breezy 45 before being dismissed by Yuzvendra Chahal. Munro brought up his fifty in 26 balls and was on 79 when Chahal dropped him at deep cover. The opener took 54 balls to complete his second Twenty20 century.

Debutant Mohammed Siraj claimed his maiden international wicket when the paceman dismissed rival captain Kane Williamson for 12. India's reply got off to a contrasting start with the hosts losing both their openers inside the first two overs of their innings.

Kohli and Shreyas Iyer raised 54 runs for the third wicket before Munro struck, dismissing Iyer for 23. Mahendra Singh Dhoni (49) struck three sixes but the mounting run rate prompted Kohli to try to accelerate and he perished in the process.

Paceman Trent Boult claimed 4-34, while spinners Ish Sodhi and Mitchell Santner also bowled tidy overs. —Reuters



RAJKOT: New Zealand's Colin Munro bats during the second Twenty20 cricket match against India in Rajkot. — AP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace	15:00
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Manchester City v Arsenal	17:15
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Chelsea v Manchester United	19:30
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Everton v Watford	19:30
beIN SPORTS HD 1	

SPANISH LEAGUE

Levante v Girona	14:00
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Celta de Vigo v Athletic de Bilbao	18:15
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Real Sociedad v Eibar	20:30
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Villarreal v Malaga	20:30
beIN SPORTS HD 3	
Real Madrid v Las Palmas	22:45
beIN SPORTS HD 3	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Internazionale Milano v Torino	14:30
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Fiorentina v Roma	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Juventus v Benevento	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
Lazio v Udinese Calcio	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 8	
Chievo Verona v Napoli	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Cagliari Calcio v Hellas Verona	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 8	
Atalanta v Spal	20:00
beIN SPORTS HD 4	
Sassuolo Calcio v Milan	22:45
beIN SPORTS HD 4	

GERMAN LEAGUE

Koln v Hoffenheim	17:30
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Wolfsburg v Hertha Berlin	20:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Nice v Dijon	17:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Olympique Marseille v Caen	19:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Metz v LOSC Lille	19:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Saint Etienne v Olympique Lyonnais	23:00
beIN SPORTS HD 6	

13 Russians dominate as Kolyada wins Grand Prix on debut



14 Wallabies hit 60 against Japan in European warm-up



15 Valencia put pressure on La Liga leaders, Atletico bounce back



STOKE-ON-TRENT: Leicester City's Danish goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel catches the ball during the English Premier League football match between Stoke City and Leicester City at the Bet365 Stadium in Stoke-on-Trent. — AFP

Leicester stretch unbeaten run

‘It is an encouraging game which is important for the future’

STOKE-ON-TRENT: Former England striker Peter Crouch came off the bench to rescue a point for Stoke City in a 2-2 draw yesterday, denying new Leicester manager Claude Puel a second consecutive win of his young managerial reign.

The 2015-16 Premier League champions are now unbeaten in six games in all competitions after early season struggles but will be disappointed they twice let their lead slip and in the end were indebted to goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel, who made a fantastic flying stop in the dying seconds. Leicester parted company with Craig Shakespeare last month after slipping into the relegation zone but have recovered

strongly under caretaker boss Michael Appleton and ex-Southampton boss Puel and were in 10th spot before a clutch of matches that kicked off later. In an entertaining game Jamie Vardy and Riyad Mahrez posed a constant threat and winger Demarai Gray earned another start just days after signing a new deal at the club.

“I am happy with the attitude of my players, it was a good game, good intensity and passion,” said Puel. “We had a lot of chances today. It is difficult to accept one point but Kasper saved well at the end so then OK, we take a point. It is an encouraging game which is important for the future.”

Stoke manager Mark Hughes praised Crouch for turning the game around. “Peter Crouch was effective when he came on. He always gets himself in a good position and he understood what was required. He changed the game for us,” he said.

Puel's side took the lead just after the half-hour mark when Vicente Iborra lashed home a half volley after the ball fell at his feet following a corner and Leicester had clear chances to stretch their lead. First, Jack Butland saved superbly from Shinji Okazaki, in for the injured Ben Chilwell, and Iborra headed over from another corner. But Leicester were made to rue their profligacy six minutes after their opener when

Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting played an incisive defensive-splitting ball first time into the feet of Xherdan Shaqiri, whose left-footed shot from the right side of the penalty area found the net via the inside of the post. Mahrez put Leicester back in front with half an hour to go, moments after Schmeichel pulled off an impressive save from Ryan Shawcross. But they were pegged back again when Crouch, brought on just three minutes earlier, headed in a Shaqiri corner in the 73rd minute to earn a point. Only three other players—Jermain Defoe, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Nwankwo Kanu—have more Premier League goals than Crouch as a substitute. — AFP

Krajinovic stuns Isner to reach Paris Masters final

PARIS: Qualifier Filip Krajinovic reached the Paris Masters final after an upset 6-4, 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5) win against ninth-seeded John Isner yesterday. The 25-year-old Serb slid onto his back and sobbed, his arms raised, after sealing victory on his first match point. Krajinovic then knelt and kissed the court.

The defeat ended the big-serving Isner's bid to reach the season-ending ATP Finals in London. Isner was a runner-up in Paris last year and again falls short of an elusive first Masters title. Krajinovic is the lowest-ranked

player in a Masters final since 191st-ranked Andrei Pavel in Paris in 2003.

The 77th-ranked Krajinovic had only won 17 matches in his whole career - thwarted by a wrist injury - before this tournament. He will play for his first career title against either 16th-seeded American Jack Sock or home favorite Julien Benneteau, who play later. Neither has won a Masters title, either. Sock can still qualify for London if he wins the tournament.

Krajinovic, who looked fresher on court than Isner, is the first qualifier to reach a Masters final since Jerzy Janowicz in 2012, also in Paris. Krajinovic was helped by not having to play his quarterfinal because top-ranked Rafael Nadal pulled out with a right knee injury. Nadal has not said whether he will be fit enough to play in the season-ending ATP Finals, starting Nov. 12 in London.

Serving for the first set, Krajinovic held to love when Isner sent a two-handed backhand into the net. With Isner serving at 4-4 and 40-30 in the ninth game of the second

set, the match was halted for six minutes when several medical staff attended to a female spectator, who was then taken away.

She appeared fully conscious and had her eyes open. Isner dominated the second-set tiebreaker and clenched his fist after leveling the match with an ace. The 32-year-old Isner forged a break point at the start of the third set, but missed it with a wasteful forehand which went long.

A powerful forehand gave Isner another chance on Krajinovic's serve at 30-40 in the ninth game, but Krajinovic saved that one, too. In a tense decisive tiebreaker, Isner led 3-0 but Krajinovic rallied to move 5-4 ahead. Isner's 31st ace steadied him but a superb return to Isner's feet on the next point gave Krajinovic match point on his serve.

A whipped forehand winner into an open side of the court was enough, prompting wild celebrations from Krajinovic's coach, Petar Popovic, who was topless as he shook his fists in delight. — AP



PARIS: Serbia's Filip Krajinovic celebrates winning against USA's John Isner during the semi-final round at the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 indoor tennis tournament in Paris. — AFP

Business

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017

18 Why US pay raises are elusive even with jobless rate so low**19** Yellen's impact on the Fed and US economy to stay**21** Boubyan receives 'Best Islamic Digital Bank Award Worldwide'

CARACAS: Gloria Villamizar (left), and Luisa Quintero journalist of newspaper TalCual speak during an interview at their headquarter in Caracas. Editors and reporters at the scrappy, independent newspaper say they are ending their print edition and will publish only online. — AP

Crisis-hit Venezuela calls creditor meeting

Credit-rating agencies deal another blow with double downgrades

CARACAS: Venezuela on Friday called foreign creditors to a November 13 meeting in Caracas aiming to restructure its estimated \$150 billion debt, as credit-rating agencies dealt the crisis-stricken country another blow with double downgrades. Standard & Poor's cut the nation's long-term foreign currency rating to "CC" from "CCC-" over growing concerns of the risk of a debt default in the oil-producing country, while fellow agency Fitch cut the long-term debt rating to "C" from "CC."

The increasingly dire warnings followed President Nicolas Maduro's calls to "investors across the whole world and to holders of Venezuelan debt" to attend a Caracas meeting November 13 "to start a process to refinance and renegotiate the external debt."

His vice president, Tareck El Aissami, who is leading a commission tasked with the restructuring, said the government is seeking "sovereign commitments" for a debt renegotiation.

Flanked by the ministers in charge of the economy, finance and energy, El Aissami confirmed the country had on Friday started to pay out \$1.2 billion due to service the debt of state oil company PDVSA. Maduro announced Thursday that Venezuela would begin talks to refinance the debt immediately after that payment was made.

El Aissami, one of the Venezuelan officials sanctioned by the United States due to alleged ties to drug trafficking, said the talks with creditors will "establish the groundwork to renegotiate the terms of the foreign debt of the Republic and of PDVSA."

"We will begin a sovereign renegotiation of our debt and we will continue to comply fully, transparently, as our government has done historically," he said in a televised statement. He noted that since 2014 Venezuela, which has the largest proven crude oil reserves in the world, has paid nearly \$72 billion in principal and interest payments on the debt.

Blasting US sanctions

Maduro has repeatedly blamed the United States for the country's woes, saying Washington is trying to strangle Venezuela with sanctions. US sanctions imposed on

Venezuela in August ban US trade in any new bonds issued by the Venezuelan government or PDVSA—a needed step in any restructuring.

El Aissami denounced the "continued aggression, permanent sabotage, blockade and financial persecution" he said US President Donald Trump has imposed on the people of Venezuela. But he said the sanctions really hurt bondholders and financial institutions.

Much of Venezuela's debt is held by China and Russia, to be paid off in oil the resource that underpins the Venezuelan economy. The country has less than \$10 billion in foreign currency reserves.

Analysts were pessimistic about Venezuela's chances of successfully restructuring its debt.

"Venezuela's options to keep up with its payments are shrinking rapidly, mainly because any restructuring needs to be matched with clear and credible economic

reforms capable of winning the trust and support of bond-holders," said Diego Moya-Ocampos, an analyst at London-based IHS Markit. Another analyst, Asdrubal Oliveros, director of Ecoanalitica in Caracas, said that while investors had anticipated a debt renegotiation, they wanted "a plan of restructuring and reorganization, of putting accounts in order—this isn't that plan."

Sinking economy

According to estimates by private consultancies, Venezuela has a debt mountain of \$150 billion, of which \$45 billion is public debt, \$45 billion is owed by PDVSA, \$23 billion is owed to China, and \$8 billion is owed to Russia. A default could see investors try to lay claim to PDVSA assets, including tankers, oil in shipment and subsidiaries such as the Citgo refiner and service station network in the US. "The government has mortgaged the future of Venezuelans in an irresponsible way," said Stalin Gonzalez, head of a grouping of opposition lawmakers who dominate Venezuela's parliament.

Venezuela's economy is in dire shape, shrinking by 36 percent in the past four years, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and is now suffering hyperinflation estimated to top 2,300 percent next year. — Agencies



Country seeks to restructure \$150bn debt

Why tax plan might not put US firms' overseas cash to work

WASHINGTON: The House Republican tax bill is meant to send trillions in corporate profits overseas pouring back home and, in the process, give the US economy a healthy boost.

It may be more likely to land with an economic thud and provide a windfall to tax attorneys scouring the Byzantine bill for tax breaks on behalf of corporate clients. "Every tax lawyer in town is going to get a new car," says Martin Sullivan, chief economist for Tax Analysts and a former US Treasury Department economist.

The bill is designed to solve a vexing problem: Many big US companies earn fat profits overseas. But they don't want to return the money to the United States because they would have to pay the hefty 35 percent US corporate tax. So an estimated \$2.6 trillion remains stranded abroad.

"You don't have to pay US tax as long as



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump holds an example of what a new tax form may look like during a meeting on tax policy with Republican lawmakers in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, with House Speaker Paul Ryan, and Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee Rep Kevin Brady (right). — AP

you leave it offshore," says Kimberly Clausing, an economist at Reed College. "But your shareholders get upset if you leave it there forever."

Enter the House Republican tax plan. Besides reducing the US corporate tax rate to 20 percent, the plan would let companies repatriate their existing overseas profits at much lower rates - 12 percent for profits that have been kept in cash and 5 percent for

profits from investments that are hard to sell.

Once the bill took effect, most overseas profits could be returned to the United States tax-free. Some very high overseas profits would incur a US tax of 10 percent.

"For a lot of these companies you are talking about tens of billions, or in the case of Apple, hundreds of billions of dollars," says Scott Kessler, analyst with CFRA Research, referring to untaxed profits overseas. — AP

CB chief urges China to root out 'zombie' companies

SHANGHAI: China's central bank boss spelt out his strategy to prevent a future financial crisis, urging broadened equity funding and direct finance to reduce corporate leverage and eliminate "zombie" companies, official media reported yesterday. Zhou Xiaochuan, Governor of People's Bank of China, said that the market should play a "decisive role" in allocating financial resources, but also stressed the importance of stronger regulation and Communist Party leadership in guiding financial reform, according to the Shanghai Securities News.

In warding off systemic financial risks, China should deal with "both

cause and symptoms", and be active in "both preemptive measures and reactive solutions." Zhou wrote in an article aimed at helping the public deepen understanding of last month's 19th Communist Party Congress report.

During the Congress, Zhou, who is widely expected to step down soon, spoke of the risks of a "Minsky moment", referring to a sudden collapse in asset prices after long periods of growth, sparked by debt or currency pressures. China has so far avoided a sharp slowdown in its economy, but analysts and global economic bodies such as the International Monetary Fund warn Beijing that China is over-indebted. Rating agencies estimate the overall debt burden at almost three times annual economic output.

In his article, Zhou said that China should "actively develop equity financing, and steadily increase the proportion of direct finance."

In direct finance, borrowers borrow funds directly from the financial markets without using intermediaries, potentially reducing risks in the banking system. — Reuters

Business

Why US pay raises are elusive even with jobless rate so low

October jobs report shows pay gains remain sluggish

WASHINGTON: With US unemployment at a 17-year low and businesses complaining that they can't fill jobs, you might expect pay to be rising sharply as companies try to attract or keep workers.

It's not. The October jobs report showed that pay gains remain sluggish, and the explanations include weak worker productivity and a still-low proportion of adults with jobs. These are long-running trends that still bedevil the economy despite its steady improvement.

Employers added a solid 261,000 jobs last month, the government said Friday, in part because many businesses in Texas and Florida re-opened after having been forced to shut down in September when hurricanes Harvey and Irma struck. The unemployment rate reached 4.1 percent, the lowest level in nearly 17 years, from 4.2 percent in September. But the rate dropped for a less-than-encouraging reason: Many people stopped looking for work and so were no longer counted as unemployed.

Still, Friday's data showed that the hurricanes, for all their fury, hardly knocked the economy or the job market off course. Over the past three months, job growth has averaged 162,000 - similar to the pace of hiring before the storms.

"Looking through the volatility from the hurricanes, the US job market is in good shape," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial. Normally, with the unemployment rate ultra-low, businesses are forced to raise pay significantly to fill jobs or to retain existing employees. The last time the jobless rate was this low, in 2000, average hourly pay was surging at a 4 percent annual pace.

Then was then. In October, by contrast, wages crept up just 2.4 percent from a year earlier, the government said Friday. Though that's double the pace of five years ago, it's nearly a half-point less than the year-over-year rate in September.

It's particularly surprising given that some employers say they're desperate to hire. Mike Bolen, chief executive of McCarthy Building Companies in St. Louis, said he needs more electricians, carpenters, and laborers, as

well as engineers, marketing and IT support. McCarthy has 16 offices and employs 4,000.

"We like to say there is no unemployment," Bolen said. "We have a shortage of everything, everywhere." Four years ago, there would be about 30 potential employees in a union hall waiting for job postings, he said. Now, the halls are empty, and there are posted jobs with no takers.

Bolen is working with high schools and community colleges to train and recruit young people. He says he's raised pay in recent years and offers attractive wages: An entry-level laborer in Denver can start at \$16 to \$20 an hour and earn up to \$30 after one year.

Homebuilders also say they would construct more homes - which could relieve a housing shortage that is depressing sales - if they could find more workers.

Still, the construction industry as a whole isn't raising pay much: Wages rose just 2.2 percent in October from a year earlier, Friday's report showed. That's even lower than the economy-wide average. Reed Nyffeler, CEO of Signal 88 Security, is similarly frustrated. He says job applications have fallen 90 percent since the recession. The company, which provides security in 200 US markets, needs security officers and professional staff.

Homebuilders to construct more houses

"We have franchisees telling me every day they are turning down contracts because they can't find workers," Nyffeler says. Signal 88 has raised starting pay for security officers from \$9.25 an hour to \$11.25 in the past two years. But other low-wage employers have also lifted pay, Nyffeler said, thereby creating new competition for Signal.

Many potential applicants can't pass drug tests, Nyffeler says, while others can live off government benefits. His ability to raise pay, Nyffeler says, is limited because his clients are reluctant to pay more for his company's services. Signal 88 bills at \$17 an hour, on average. The company tries to raise prices each year when it renews contracts, but many of its clients then threaten to seek alternatives.

are giving Republican members of Congress pause, too.

Another major feature of the GOP plan being considered would nearly double the standard deduction to \$24,000 for married couples. That would simplify taxes for many people, while also wiping out the benefits of itemizing deductions for some. In Roseville, Minnesota, Craig Stilen and his wife itemize their tax returns. But in part because of the way the GOP proposal gives with one hand and takes with the other, Stilen hasn't been able to work out what the tax overhaul could mean for his family financially.

"There are a lot of moving parts that me, as Joe Consumer, is trying to digest," said Stilen, a 56-year-old who works in information technology. Richard Middleton, an accountant in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, said the phone hasn't exactly been ringing off the hook with concerned clients - most of whom are higher-income.

But one member of his firm redid the 2016 taxes for a wealthy client using the proposed changes. The change, Middleton said, a bill \$116 smaller.

Middleton said the \$10,000 cap on property tax deductions won't have as big of an impact as it might sound in a state where the average bill was \$8,300 last year.

That's because many New Jersey residents are now subject to the federal alternative minimum tax. The AMT is intended to keep high-earners from using lots of deductions to reduce their tax bills.

The majority of households that earn more than \$200,000 are subject to the AMT, which would go away under the legislation. Pharmaceutical company scientist Sean Kohler and his wife bought a \$380,000 three-bedroom house in the Philadelphia suburb of Voohees, New Jersey, a couple of years ago with plans to stay for good and have kids. They make about \$160,000 but are still paying off student loans and have an annual property tax bill of about \$15,000. He said that if the GOP plan goes through, their tax hit could run into the thousands, and



DALLAS: In this Friday photo, a potential job candidate takes a flyer from a human resources representative at a Target store in Dallas. The US government issued the October jobs report on Friday. —AP

Other companies appear in similar circumstances: Price increases throughout the economy are weak. Inflation rose just 2.2 percent in September from a year ago and would have been lower without a spike in gas prices.

One way out of the conundrum would be to raise worker efficiency. When workers become more productive - when their output per hour rises - companies can afford to pay more without raising prices. Yet productivity growth has been weak since the recession ended in 2009. It grew just 1.2 percent a year, on average, in the past decade. That's less than half the growth rate before the recession. One reason productivity has been so sluggish is that companies haven't invested much in machinery, technology and other equipment that could boost workers' output.

The Trump administration and Republican Congress are pushing a steep cut in the corporate tax rate from

35 percent to 20 percent in hopes of encouraging more productivity-boosting investment. But some economists argue that the increased profits stemming from the tax cut will be used mainly to boost dividends and share buybacks.

Jed Kolko, chief economist at Indeed, the job listing website, notes that the proportion of adults with jobs remains below pre-recession levels. That raises the possibility that there are more Americans available to work than the unemployment rate suggests. It also means that if employers can hire them, they may not feel pressure to raise pay.

Last month, 78.8 percent of adults aged 25 through 54 had jobs. That figure has risen 1.5 percentage points in the past two years. Yet it topped 81 percent in 2000, the last time unemployment was this low. "By that measure, the labor market is not unusually tight," Kolko said. —AP

In high-tax states, worries about pain from GOP tax plan

SOUTH ORANGE, NJ: Homeowners in high-tax states like New Jersey, where a modest house within commuting distance of New York City can easily carry property taxes of over \$15,000 a year, are wondering whether the Republican bill being sold as a tax cut would actually result in higher bills for them.

At issue are provisions that would end deductions for state and local sales and income taxes and would cap the property tax deduction at \$10,000.

James Ledoux, a computer programmer who lives in South Orange with his veterinarian wife and their toddler and is expecting a second child, said he now has \$46,000 in itemized deductions - around \$19,500 from property taxes, \$7,000 in state income taxes and the rest from mortgage interest. He estimates that losing those deductions would drive up his federal taxes by \$4,000 a year - enough to call into question whether they can continue to afford the \$630,000 house they bought three years ago.

If not for the mortgage interest deduction, "I would have rented," he said. "We did the math, said, 'Hey, we could afford this. It's a great school district, quiet neighborhood. We'll have a bedroom for each child and a bedroom for ourselves.' It's not an extravagant mansion."

The changes could hit hard in New Jersey and other high-tax states such as New York, Massachusetts and California. Those are places dominated by Democrats. But the deduction changes

US services sector posts strongest gains in 12 years

WASHINGTON: US services companies in October grew at the best rate in more than a dozen years. The Institute for Supply Management said Friday that its services index rose last month to 60.1 from 59.8 in September. Any reading above 50 signals expansion. The October reading was the biggest since August 2005. The services sector has reported growth for 94 consecutive months. The strength in the services sector is emblematic of a US economy that looks increasingly healthy. Employers added a robust 261,000 jobs in October, the Labor Department said Friday. Economic growth climbed above an annualized level of 3 percent for the past two quarters - and appears to be solid for the final three months of 2017.

There's no question that the US economy appears to be stronger than it was a year ago, said Anthony Nieves, chair of the ISM non-manufacturing business survey committee. "The question that remains is how sustainable is this," Nieves said. For services companies, measures of business activity and employment improved last month. But a measure for new orders - while still positive - weakened slightly. —AP

Mexico makes 'major' 1.5-bn barrel oil find: President

MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said Friday state oil company Pemex has made a "major" oil and gas discovery with an estimated 1.5 billion barrels of crude equivalent, its largest onshore find in 15 years. The new field, dubbed Ixachi-1, is located in the eastern state of Veracruz near existing Pemex infrastructure, meaning it can be tapped "relatively soon, and at low costs," said Pena Nieto. The estimated volume makes it "the largest onshore find the company has made in the past 15 years," he said to applause from invitees at an event in the central state of Hidalgo.

The field's proven, probable and possible reserves - an estimation of the amount of oil and gas that can be brought to market near-term - are 350 million barrels, the president said. Pemex said the size of the find may prove to be larger, and even double.

Industry experts urged caution, however. "It's very early to talk about reserves... More work needs to be done to see how big it is," said Gonzalo Monroy of Mexico City energy consultancy GMIEC.

But he said any new find is good news for Pemex, Mexico's largest company, which has struggled with declining production in recent years. "Pemex has discovered there is still considerable exploration potential" in Mexico, he told AFP. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.682
Indian Rupees	4.679
Pakistani Rupees	2.875
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.971
Nepali Rupees	2.928
Singapore Dollar	223.830
Hongkong Dollar	38.891
Bangladesh Taka	3.688
Philippine Peso	5.890
Thai Baht	9.147

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.961
Qatari Riyal	83.386
Omani Riyal	788.462
Bahraini Dinar	806.160
UAE Dirham	82.659

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	19.500
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.148
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.219
Tunisian Dinar	122.090
Jordanian Dinar	428.110
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.023
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.277

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.400

Euro	354.670
Sterling Pound	402.460
Canadian dollar	237.400
Turkish lira	80.910
Swiss Franc	306.160
Australian Dollar	234.380
US Dollar Buying	302.200

GOLD	
20 Gram	260.520
10 Gram	133.180
5 Gram	67.430

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.600
Canadian Dollar	236.995
Sterling Pound	398.745
Euro	352.840
Swiss Frank	303.565
Bahrain Dinar	803.125
UAE Dirhams	82.775
Qatari Riyals	83.600
Saudi Riyals	81.550
Jordanian Dinar	428.080
Egyptian Pound	17.185
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.971
Indian Rupees	4.653
Pakistani Rupees	2.870
Bangladesh Taka	3.713
Philippines Peso	5.838
Cyprus pound	18.006

Japanese Yen	3.650
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.910
Malaysian Ringgit	72.275
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.945
Thai Bhat	10.080
Turkish Lira	79.610

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.393036	0.399536
Czech Korune	0.005775	0.017775
Danish Krone	0.043487	0.048487
Euro	0.347517	0.355017
Georgian Lari	0.135201	0.135201
Norwegian Krone	0.033269	0.038469
Romanian Leu	0.065001	0.081851
Russian ruble	0.005231	0.005231
Slovakia	0.009060	0.019060
Swedish Krona	0.032133	0.037133
Swiss Franc	0.297457	0.308457
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.224286	0.236286
New Zealand Dollar	0.203875	0.213375
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.232716	0.241716
US Dollars	0.299450	0.303870
US Dollars Mint	0.299950	0.303870

Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003316	0.003900
Chinese Yuan	0.044352	0.047852
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036927	0.039677
Indian Rupee	0.004158	0.004799
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002579	0.002759
Korean Won	0.000262	0.000277
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067936	0.073936
Nepalese Rupee	0.003029	0.003199
Pakistani Rupee	0.002693	0.002983
Philippine Peso	0.005781	0.006081
Singapore Dollar	0.217995	0.227995
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001633	0.002213
Taiwan	0.010029	0.010209
Thai Baht	0.008814	0.009364
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.798177	0.806677
Egyptian Pound	0.014256	0.019974
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000207	0.000267
Jordanian Dinar	0.423533	0.432533
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000156	0.000256
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022810	0.046810
Omani Riyal	0.782123	0.787803
Qatar Riyal	0.079088	0.084028
Saudi Riyal	0.079860	0.081160
Syrian Pound	0.001287	0.001507
Tunisian Dinar	0.118110	0.126110
Turkish Lira	0.073897	0.084197
UAE Dirhams	0.081220	0.082920
Yemeni Riyal	0.000987	0.001067

Business

Yellen's impact on the Fed and US economy to stay

First US woman to lead Fed in its 100-year history

WASHINGTON: After she steps down in February, Janet Yellen will go into history books as the first woman to have led the Federal Reserve in its 100-year history. But Yellen, who has earned widespread praise for her stewardship of the Fed, will be remembered for much more than breaking a glass ceiling at the world's leading central bank.

Here are three areas where Yellen made her mark on the Fed and the US economy:

Crisis management

Before becoming the Fed chair in 2014, Yellen served six years as president of the Fed's San Francisco regional bank and then as vice chair during Ben Bernanke's second term as Fed chairman from 2010 to 2014. Yellen was among the first Fed officials to recognize the gravity of the risk posed by the subprime mortgage crisis and to grasp the severity of the Great Recession - the worst downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s.



Champion of aggressive stimulative policy

Transcripts of the Fed's policy meetings during the fall of 2008, when Lehman Brothers' collapse ignited the scariest phase of the financial crisis and deepened the recession, show that Yellen was a leading advocate for aggressively slashing interest rates to help buttress the financial system and support the economy.

As the recession deepened and millions lost jobs, Yellen was also a vigorous supporter of Bernanke's drive to take emergency actions that the Fed had never

before attempted. With the Fed's benchmark rate already at a record low near zero, Bernanke, with Yellen's backing, turned to buying Treasury and mortgage bonds to further drive down long-term borrowing rates. The bond purchases swelled the Fed's balance sheet five-fold to \$4.5 trillion and raised alarms among critics. But the lower rates helped the job market heal and the economy recover.

Transition management

By the time Yellen took over as Fed chair in February 2014, the recession had ended and the economy had entered its fifth year of expansion. Yet the pace of growth remained anemic. And the job market had yet to recover all of the 9 million jobs that had vanished during the recession.

So Yellen proceeded to guide the Fed to maintain an aggressively stimulative policy, with record-low rates and bond purchases that were intended to hold down long-term loan rates. Some critics, inside and outside the central bank, warned that the Yellen Fed was setting the stage for runaway inflation or dangerous asset bubbles. But Yellen's approach carried the day. She argued that the frailty of the economy justified maintaining ultra-low borrowing rates.

The Fed kept its benchmark rate near zero until December 2015. Since then, it has raised its rate just four times, each time slightly. In December, economists expect the Fed to raise its benchmark rate again and in

October, it began paring its balance sheet with initial small monthly reductions.

Thus far, Yellen's gamble that the Fed could leave rates at low levels for years longer than some had thought has paid off. The unemployment rate, which peaked at 10 percent in 2009, is now just 4.1 percent - the lowest point since Bill Clinton was president in 2000.

Jerome Powell, the Fed board member whom President Donald Trump tapped to succeed Yellen, is expected to extend Yellen's policies of gradual modest increases in rates and slight reductions in the Fed's bond holdings.

History's judgment

Yellen's belief that rates could stay at record lows because inflation posed no immediate threat has so far proved a winning formula. Inflation, in fact, has stayed chronically too low - below even the Fed's 2 percent target. And the Fed is forecasting that annual inflation won't reach 2 percent before 2019.

Some of Yellen's critics, including conservative Republicans in Congress, remain unbowed. That assert that by refusing to move earlier to normalize Fed rates to shrink the Fed's bond holdings, Yellen might have elevated the risk of future high inflation or of dangerous bubbles that could form in stocks or other assets. These critics say they fear that a worsening inflation picture might then compel the Fed to raise rates so quickly as to tip the economy into a recession.

Yellen has to hope that future economic trends are kinder to her than they were to one of her predecessors, Alan Greenspan. When he stepped down as Fed chairman in early 2006 after nearly two decades, Greenspan was being hailed as the "maestro" for having skillfully managed the economy.

But by the next year, the first tremors from the sub-



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, US Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen speaks during the G30 International Banking Seminar in Washington. —AP

prime mortgage crisis were being felt. And by 2008, the economy was enduring a painful recession and its worst financial crisis in seven decades. Greenspan's reputation as an astute economic manager suffered a severe blow.

Yellen can, if she chooses, stick around to help shape Fed policies after her term as chair ends on Feb. 3. Her separate term on the seven-member Fed board runs until Jan. 31, 2024. Marriner Eccles, the legendary Fed chairman whose name adorns the central bank's headquarters building in Washington, is the only chairman to have remained on the board after serving as chairman.

Yellen could broaden her place in history if she became the second person to remain on the Fed's board after stepping down as its leader. So far, she has been mum about her plans once her term as Fed chair ends. —AP

NBK's KD 125,000 Al Jawhara winner announced for October

KUWAIT: Since 2012, National Bank of Kuwait has rewarded some of its most loyal customers with the Al Jawhara weekly, monthly and quarterly prizes reaching up to KD 250,000!

On Tuesday, 31 October 2017, NBK awarded another amazing KD 125,000 cash prize for the October Al Jawhara draw. Bader Abdullah Awadh Al Khudhair was announced the winner of Al-Jawhara monthly prize live on air during a draw that took place on live radio Marina FM's 'Dewaniya' show at 1:30pm. The drawing was held in the presence of Ministry of Commerce and Industry representatives as well as representatives from National Bank of Kuwait. So far this month, NBK has awarded four KD 5,000 prizes to the Al-Jawhara weekly winners: Faten Fahad Alanjeri, Muneera Salem Al-Qattan, Binah Mohammad Saad Alajmi and Ahmad Mahdi Al-Qattan.

The fabulous weekly, monthly and quarterly prizes are always awarded with a draw held in the presence of a ministry official and full names of the winners published. NBK believes in rewarding its most loyal customers through transparent prizes and promotions as part of its long term strategy to create lasting relationships with customers built on trust and confidence.

Al-Jawhara account holders are automatically entered into



draws for the KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and KD 250,000 quarterly grand prizes. Every KD 50 deposited into your Al-Jawhara account gives you a chance to be the next lucky winner. Customers must have a minimum opening balance of KD 400 and a maximum of up to KD 500,000. If no withdrawal or transfers occur in the account during the required period, customers will get an additional 1 extra chance for each KD 50 held in the account.

"I never dreamed I would win such an amazing prize but I'm delighted to bank with NBK and will continue doing my business with them," said Bader Al-Khudhair.

The National Bank of Kuwait offers a variety of cash prizes and rewards as part of its long term focus on building lasting relationships with customers.

Over 42,000 new jobs posted on Bayt.com in the Q3 of 2017

DUBAI: As the third quarter of 2017 concluded, Bayt.com - the Middle East's #1 Job Site - revealed that more than 42,000 new jobs were announced on the job site between July and September of 2017. Job seekers across the Middle East and North Africa are making use of the opportunities available on Bayt.com every day with a fully online job search and application process.

The number of new jobs announced on Bayt.com during the third quarter of 2017 represents a 29.1 percent increase in online job postings in comparison to quarter one of 2017 and a 13.72 percent increase in comparison to quarter two of 2017. Overall, the number of jobs announced online has increased by 21.25 percent.

In addition, thousands of additional vacancies are filled every day through Bayt.com's flagship CV Search technology, through which employers directly contact and hire candidates without necessarily posting their vacancies.

"We are very thrilled to be working with more employers and business leaders to bring even more job opportunities to the Middle East region," said Suhail Masri, Vice President of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "Given that our mission and ultimate goal is to empower people to build their careers and lifestyles of choice, we continuously strive to bring more opportunities to our community of job seekers. With nearly 30,000,000 CVs registered on our job site, we exponentially increase our efforts and our strategies to make new career opportunities available and easily accessible. As we quickly approach the end of the year, we look forward to a continued growth in career building and a stronger and healthier job market. We will be reaching out to even more job seekers and employers to facilitate the connections and provide them with the tools and information they need." As Bayt.com continues to grow and diversify its portfolio of employers, the number of jobs available increases.

CBK kicks off fourth 'Double Welcome Avios' campaign for CBK-BA cardholders

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait announced the launch of its fourth "Double Welcome Avios" campaign for new CBK British Airways cardholders.

All customers who successfully apply for a CBK British Airways card between 1st of November and 31st of December 2017, will have the chance to double their welcome bonus Avios after spending a predefined amount on their card, and that during the first three months from card issuance date. Cardholders will receive a total of Avios that might reach a full flight from Kuwait to London and back (Tax and Fees excluded), provided the required spend thresholds are met.

As the only MasterCard British Airways-branded cards in the Middle East, the products combine a world-leading card concept with a global loyalty program, offering cardholders the opportunity to collect Avios (the reward currency of the British Airways Executive Club) and redeem them for flights and upgrades.

The cards are filled with benefits that MasterCard provides to customers such as Lounge access, global travel Insurance, Free nights in more than 1200 hotels of luxury Starwood Hotels around the world (SPG hotels). Customers will be able to collect Avios from regular purchases, booking flights, paying for dinner or fuel, or everyday shopping and exchange them with flights onboard British Airways or any of the 13 airline partners of oneworld. The new co-branded credit cards feature a number of value-added benefits, including access to MasterCard Priceless Cities, which offers VIP treatment and unique experiences in entertainment, dining, hotels and shopping in cities around the world. MasterCard World and Platinum cardholders also benefit from lounge access and concierge services, and all cards benefit from travel insurance.

Ladder Deposit

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Business

Bayan Weekly Market Report

Boursa Kuwait equities end trading on a bearish note

Average daily turnover increases by 36.08% last week

KUWAIT: Boursa Kuwait ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 6,548.42 points, down by 1.13 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 2.36 percent after closing at 418.96 points, whereas the KXS-15 Index closed at 965.36 points down by 3.29 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 36.08 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 15.53 million, whereas trading volume average was 80.35 million shares, recording an increase of 20.79 percent.

In addition, Boursa Kuwait lost during the last week around KD 650 million of its market capitalization, as it reached by the end of the week KD 28.01 billion, down by 2.27 percent from its level in a week earlier, where it was KD 28.66 billion. Also, the market cap gains since the beginning of the current year contracted to reach 10.26 percent compared to its value at end of 2016, where it reached then KD 25.41 billion. (Note: The market cap of the listed companies in the primary market is calculated based on the average number of outstanding shares as per the latest available official financial data).

The red color continued to prevail over the market indicators for the second consecutive week, as it continued recording grouped losses amid a continuation of the selling trend in controlling the trading activity in light of the absence of positive motivators that contribute in supporting the traders' spirits and push them to buy. The selling pressures witnessed by the market during most of the last week's sessions concentrated on the leading stocks in particular, which appeared clearly from the performance of the Weighted and KXS-15 indices, as it ended all the week's sessions in the red zone, which increased its weekly losses, whereas the losses of KXS-15 Index reached by the end of the week 3.29 percent, while the decline in the Weighted Index reached 2.36 percent, and the Price Index ended the week's trading down by 1.13 percent. In addition, the green color was not absent from the market indices during

the last week, as some daily sessions witnessed random purchasing operations and quick speculations executed on some small-cap stocks, which pushed the Price Index to record some daily gains that lightened, to a certain extent, its weekly loss.

As per the daily trading activity, Boursa Kuwait initiated the first trading session of the week with a drop in all its indicators, especially the weighted ones that were negatively affected by the continuous selling operations on the leading and heavy stocks, especially in the Telecommunication sector, the most declining sector by the end of the session. The Boursa continued recording losses for its three indices on the second

session, however at stronger pace, as a result to the increased selling pressures on the leading stocks accompanied by the decrease in the number of small-cap stocks too, which caused all the market sectors to drop, except for two sectors where no activity was recorded on its stocks.

On the mid-week session, the Boursa witnessed an increased selling pressures on many leading and small-cap stocks together, and its three indices continued its negative performance and declines to low levels, especially the Price Index that ended the session at its lowest level since last January.

Moreover, Wednesday and Thursday's sessions witnessed the appearance of the green color for the first time, however fluctuation was mastering, whereas the Price Index was able to detour to the green zone and end the two sessions with some gains, supported by the random purchasing oper-

ations that included some small-cap stocks, which relatively contracted its weekly losses; while the Weighted and KXS-15 indices could not redirect its path and continued recording losses amid the continued selling operations that targeted the leading stocks.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last week recording 13.92 percent annual gain compared to its closing in 2016, while the Weighted Index increased by 10.23 percent, and the KXS-15 recorded 9.08 percent growth.

Sectors' indices

All of Boursa Kuwait's sectors ended last week in the red zone except the Health Care sector's index which closed with no change from the previous week. The Oil & Gas sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 3.72 percent to end the week's activity at 993.20 points. The Insurance sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 3.64 percent, closing at 1,070.77 points, followed by the Banks sector, as its index closed at 930.76 points at a loss of 2.30 percent. The Consumer Goods sector was the least declining as its index closed at 976.07 points with a 0.23 percent decrease.

Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 138.38 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 34.45 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 23.09 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 92.74 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 25.47 million or 32.80 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Telecommunications sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 22 million representing 28.33 percent of the total market trading value. — Prepared by Studies & Research Department - Bayan Investment Co.



Cap gains contract significantly

BOURSA KUWAIT INDICES				
	Price Index	Weighted index	KXS 15	
Weekly	Last week	6,548.42	418.96	965.36
	Previous week	6,623.49	429.09	998.18
	Change (Point)	-75.07	-10.13	-32.82
Annual	Last year	5,748.09	380.09	885.02
	Change (Point)	800.33	38.87	80.34
	Change (%)	13.92%	10.23%	9.08%



Wall Street Weekly Roundup

Rising tech stocks send S&P 500 to record

NEW YORK: Another spurt higher for Apple and other technology stocks helped the Standard & Poor's 500 set a new record on Friday, and the index closed out an eighth straight week of gains.

It was another mostly calm day for markets after a report showed that the US job market strengthened last month, though not by as much as expected. Bond yields held relatively steady, stock markets around the world rose modestly and the price of oil climbed to its highest level in more than two years.

The S&P 500 rose 7.99 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,587.84 after flipping between modest gains and losses earlier in the day. The push higher helped it clinch its longest weekly winning streak in nearly four years. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 22.93 points, or 0.1 percent, to 23,539.19, and the Nasdaq composite climbed 49.49 points, or 0.7 percent, to 6,764.44.

Technology stocks led the way, as they have for most of this year. Apple was at the forefront after it reported stronger revenue and earnings for the latest quarter than analysts forecast. A new iPhone model debuted on Friday, and Apple said it expects the \$1,000 phone to make this holiday season its best quarter ever. Apple shares rose \$4.39, or 2.6 percent, to \$172.50.

On the losing side was American International Group, which fell to one of the sharpest losses in the S&P 500 after it reported weaker results for the latest quarter than analysts expected. The insurer's shares dropped \$2.98, or 4.6 percent, to \$62.00. AIG was an outlier in what has been a better-than-expected earnings season. Most companies have delivered higher profits for the July-through-September quarter than Wall Street had forecast, with growth particularly strong for the technology sector.

Early in the day, gains for the market were more tentative after the government released the most highly anticipated economic report of each month: the jobs report.

Employers added 261,000 jobs in October, and the unemployment rate dipped to 4.1 percent, its lowest level in nearly 17 years. But job and wage growth were weaker than economists forecast. Average hourly earnings were up 2.4 percent from a year earlier, a slowdown from September's 2.8 percent rate. While the jobs report offered a mixed bag, other economic reports on Friday were more encouraging, including ones that showed better-than-expected growth in the nation's service sector



NEW YORK: Trader Gerard Farco watches a television on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange showing the rate decision of the Federal Reserve. —AP

and factories, said Phil Orlando, chief equity market strategist at Federated Investors. That has him and other investors confident that the economy is continuing to strengthen, which should translate into higher corporate profits.

"I think these numbers will clean themselves up in the next month or two," Orlando said. Economists said the last two months' jobs reports have been difficult to parse because of the damage that hurricanes did across broad swaths of the economy. The government initially said employers cut 33,000 jobs in September, but on Friday it said that employment actually grew by 18,000 during the month.

The mostly encouraging reports on the economy bolstered expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates at its next meeting in December. It would be the third increase this year.

The Fed is slowly reining in the stimulus it provided the economy following the Great Recession. Besides gradually raising interest rates, it's also trimming its bond-investment portfolio. Economists expect the slow pace to continue, even as a new chairman arrives. President Donald Trump on Thursday nominated Jerome "Jay" Powell to succeed Janet Yellen, whose term expires in February.

Interest rates held relatively steady. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note dipped to 2.33 percent from 2.35 percent late Thursday. The two-year yield was unchanged at 1.61 percent, and the 30-year yield slipped to 2.81 percent from 2.83 percent. In the commodities market, benchmark US crude jumped \$1.10 to \$55.64 per barrel, its highest settlement price since July 2015. Brent crude, the international standard, rose \$1.45 to \$62.07.

Natural gas rose 5 cents to \$2.98 per 1,000 cubic feet, heating oil gained 3 cents to \$1.89 per gallon and wholesale gasoline climbed 2 cents to \$1.79 per gallon. Gold fell \$8.90 to \$1,269.20 per ounce, silver lost 30 cents to \$16.83 per ounce and copper dropped 3 cents to \$3.12 per pound.

In overseas stock markets, the French CAC 40 rose 0.1 percent, Germany's DAX gained 0.3 percent and the FTSE 100 in London added 0.1 percent.

South Korea's Kospi index rose 0.5 percent, and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong gained 0.3 percent. Japan's market was closed for a holiday. The dollar rose to 114.16 Japanese yen from 114.00 yen late Thursday. The euro dipped to \$1.1608 from \$1.1659, and the British pound rose to \$1.3069 from \$1.3060. — AP

China border traders losing money amid N Korea sanctions

BEIJING: For Yu Kaiguang, harsh new United Nations sanctions on North Korea are a disaster. The trader in the Chinese border city of Dandong has seen business all but dry up, and he spends his days scrambling to obtain payment from the suddenly broke North Korean state companies to whom he sold on credit.

"They have no money to pay us in cash, and the worst is that because of sanctions they can't settle the bill with goods such as coal, as they did in the past," said Yu, reached by telephone at the offices of his Dandong Gaoli Trading Company.

Yu said he's owed about \$1 million in all for deliveries of toothpaste, instant noodles and other household items. He's trying to avoid laying off staff by continuing to export foodstuffs such as pine nuts and red beans. "If they become unemployed, it would be bad for both the state and society."

Yu's plight appears increasingly commonplace across Dandong, where the bulk of the cross-border trade is handled. Interviews with four trading companies and recent media reports indicate Chinese companies are hurting in a city where North Korean trucks used to rumble across the Yalu River bridge several times a week delivering metal scrap and returning with everything from televisions to toilet bowls. The owner of another firm, Dandong Baoquan Commerce and Trade Co, which used to import iron ore and coal and export

basic consumer goods, said he was still owed around \$200,000 by his North Korea clients. "I had to lay off about 10 staffers, but I had no other choice because it was the government policy," Han Lixin said, referring to the sanctions. "I'm still in business hoping to trade with other countries, but it takes a lot of time and efforts to develop customers."

Large-scale trade involving North Korean resources such as iron ore and coal has been banned entirely under the sanctions, dealing a big blow to Dandong's port, whose operator defaulted on a \$150 million corporate bond this week in part because of cratering revenues.

"The sanctions have a broad effect, and both the economies of North Korea and China are suffering a lot," said Jin Qiangyi, professor at the Institute of Northeast Asia Studies at Yanbian University in Northeast China. "Chinese companies doing business with North Korea may see quite a lot of losses, and the companies that have already invested in North Korea will suffer more."

Dealing with North Korean companies was never easy. Wang Chengpeng, former manager of Dandong Hongwei Trading Company, quit doing business with the North entirely because of hassles, restrictions and low-profit margins, even before the latest sanctions began to bite.

Despite that, China has long been the North's biggest economic partner. Beijing accounted for more than 90 percent of its neighbor's foreign trade of about \$6.5 billion in 2016, according to the South Korean-owned Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency. China continues to be a key source of food and fuel aid to help keep North Korea's weak economy from collapsing, and Chinese officials say they won't agree to measures that could cut off basic life necessities and possibly cause Kim Jong Un's dictatorship to topple. —AP



In this Sept 11, 2017 photo, Chinese custom officials inspect trucks loaded with goods to and from North Korea in Dandong in northeast China's Liaoning province. — AP

Business

Boubyan receives 'Best Islamic Digital Bank Award Worldwide'

The Best in the world alongside Citi Bank

KUWAIT: Boubyan Bank continues to make new achievements in the digital banking domain by winning the Best Islamic Digital Bank Award for the third year in a row from Global Finance in addition to receiving the award for the Best Islamic Digital Bank in Kuwait.

Dr Waleed Eisa Al-Hasawi, General Manager - Information Technology Group, received both awards in a grand ceremony held in London in the presence of a great number of representatives of international banks, many of whom praised the achievements made by Boubyan Bank over the past years.

Abdulla Al-Najran Al-Tuwajri, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, stated that the significance of that achievement was the placement of Boubyan Bank, an Arab and Islamic bank, among the great banks, which was a new achievement for Kuwaiti banks.

Global Finance has already named the list of winning banks worldwide which included Boubyan Bank alongside Citi Bank.

Al-Tuwajri added: "The most prominent aspect of this award is that it comes from a global institution renowned for its impartiality and credibility, and this

crowns our efforts over the past years where we invested in the fields of IT and digital banking services."

"Boubyan was one of a few banks in the region, and may be in the world, to satisfy the conditions for entering into the competition to win the prize as all the criteria set by Global Finance were met by Boubyan Bank's experience over the past years," he added.

Why Boubyan Is Among the Best Worldwide?

In its report, Global Finance referred to its selection criteria set by a world-class panel of judges, which are as follows:

- Strength of strategy set by the bank for attracting and servicing digital

customers.

- Success in getting clients to use digital offerings.
- Growth of digital customers who use digital banking services throughout all channels whether online or via smart phones.
- Innovation in providing banking and non-banking services via electronic channels.

As per Global Finance, many Islamic banks were shortlisted for the Best Islamic Digital Bank Award, however, the panel of judges selected Boubyan Bank as

the Best Islamic Bank Worldwide.

Digital Clients Base

Dr Waleed Eisa Al-Hasawi, General Manager - Information Technology Group, stated: "The past years have witnessed an unprecedented increase in Boubyan clients' base for clients who use our digital banking solutions whether online or via Boubyan mobile banking App."

"The most prominent challenges that faced Boubyan Bank was returning to the basics of banking, which necessitated re-planning and building of special infrastructure for customer service, whether for retail or corporate customers, and this required more investments in the development of the bank's network of services," he stated.

Dr Al-Hasawi further added: "This has been linked with the huge growth of the number of our customers and, accordingly, the number of banking transactions completed through all our channels which has multiplied over the past years compared with the moderate growth rates for other banks. This is considered another challenge coupled with the other challenges faced by the bank."

He went on to add that the executive management was well aware of such challenges and that was the reason why they decided to invest heavily in the various banking channels in order to keep up with the developments witnessed by both the services and products.



Dr Waleed Eisa Al-Hasawi receiving the award.

He also stated that Boubyan's leadership in the banking industry over the past years was achieved through offering many banking services and products for the first time in Kuwait where the phrase "for the first time in Kuwait" became a synonym of the digital achievements made by Boubyan Bank.

“ New achievement for Kuwaiti banks ”

Agility reports 17% increase in Q3 earnings

KUWAIT: Agility, a leading global logistics provider, yesterday reported third quarter earnings of 14.2 fils per share on net profit of KD 17.8 million, an increase of 18.1 percent and 17.4 percent respectively over the same period in 2016. Agility EBITDA grew 18.3 percent to KD 34.2 million. Revenue increased 15 percent to KD 358.5 million.

Through the first nine months, earnings were 39.1 fils per share, up 14.2 percent, and net profit was KD 49.2 million, up 13.7 percent. EBITDA for the first nine months was KD 97.6 million, an increase of 16.5 percent; revenue was KD 1,021.1 million, up 11.1 percent. The results are in line with the company's long-term guidance.

Tarek Sultan, Agility Vice Chairman and CEO, said: "We remain on track to meet our 2020 EBITDA target of \$800 million. Agility's Infrastructure portfolio of companies continue to drive performance, and we are heavily investing in further growing their footprint in emerging markets across the Middle East, Asia and Africa."

Agility's global logistics business has shown double-digit growth in air and ocean tonnage, and contract logistics revenue growth. "Even so, it's a tough market because capacity constraints and higher freight forwarding rates continue to affect profitability," Sultan said. "Looking ahead, we are investing in technology so that we can better serve our customers online, and drive productivity, efficiency, and operational excellence."

Third quarter revenue for Agility Global Integrated Logistics (GIL), the company's core logistics business, grew by 19.4 percent

	Q3 2017 (Million KD)	Q3 2016 (Million KD)	Variance (%)	9M 2017 (Million KD)	9M 2016 (Million KD)	Variance (%)
Revenue	358.5	312	15%	1,021.1	919.2	11.1%
Net Revenue	115.5	107.2	7.7%	344.1	316.7	8.7%
EBITDA	34.2	28.9	18.3%	97.6	83.7	16.5%
Net Profit	17.8	15.2	17.4%	49.2	43.3	13.7%
EPS (fils)	14.2	12	18.1%	39.1	34.2	14.2%

to KD 273 million. GIL's commercial strategy is to drive growth by committing to defined solutions and customer segments, improved sales productivity, and development of efficient trade lanes. That strategy has increased revenue across all products and generated growth in all customer segments. Air and ocean posted revenue increases of more than 20 percent, as a result of a 16.1 percent growth in air tonnage and 12 percent increase in ocean TEUs. Project Logistics also improved revenue by 27.3 percent.

Net revenue in Q3 increased 2.4 percent primarily as a result of growth in contract logistics, which has been performing well in the Middle East and Asia Pacific. This growth is occurring at both new and existing warehousing facilities. Net revenue margins shrunk to 22.6 percent compared with 26.3 percent in Q3 2016, because capacity constraints and higher freight market rates adversely affected yields for freight forwarding.

As a result, Q3 EBITDA was almost flat (it grew only by 1.4 percent) vs the prior year. EBITDA was further affected by foreign exchange rates. Excluding foreign exchange impact, GIL's EBITDA grew 3.4 percent in Q3.

GIL continues to refine its approach to its customer segments and product lineup, improve operational performance and cost discipline, and invest in technology and systems that will enhance its efficiency and productivity. It is developing tools to better serve customers online.

Agility's Infrastructure Companies

Agility's Infrastructure group EBITDA rose 24 percent, to KD 29.4 million in Q3. Revenue grew 4 percent to KD 91 million. Agility Real Estate posted healthy revenue growth as it focused on improving efficiency of the existing assets and its development of new warehouses across the Arabian Gulf countries and Africa. Tristar continues to drive growth in its shipping business. In Q3, Tristar issued new shares and received a \$100 million capital injection from Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) for a consideration of 19.4 percent of the company's capital, implying a post-money valuation of \$515 million, which crystallizes the value created over the years since its acquisition in 2003. This deal will help position Tristar for further growth and value creation for its shareholders.

Gulf Bank salary account draw tomorrow live on 88.8 FM's 'Rabaa Al-Diwaniya' show

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced holding its second quarterly Salary Account Draw tomorrow (November 6, 2017) live on 88.8 FM 'Rabaa Al-Diwaniya' show at 2PM, to announce the lucky winner of its KD 25,000 cash prize, in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Gulf Bank's salary account is tailored for Kuwaiti customers, and allows them to benefit from a number of unique offers by transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank. The salary account offer gives new customers the opportunity to either receive a KD 100 cash gift upon transferring their salaries to Gulf Bank or an interest free loan. Customers must have a minimum salary

of KD 500 and are fully eligible for the offer following their first salary transfer to Gulf Bank.

Customers can also enjoy a one year free of charge Visa or MasterCard credit card, as well as a chance to apply for loan up to KD 70,000, or a consumer loan up to KD 15,000.

Existing and new customers who transfer their salaries to Gulf Bank are automatically enrolled in the quarterly draws and have the chance to win valuable cash prizes, including three quarterly prizes of KD 25,000, in addition to Kuwait's largest salary prize of KD 250,000 in the last draw.

The final Salary's draw for the largest prize of KD 250,000, will be held on 8 February, 2018.



KFH, KFH-Capital hold investment forum

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) and KFH-Capital have organized a forum themed "Investment Opportunities & Markets Development" for customers. The forum demonstrated the major economic development in the region and the world, while introduced the investment and banking services KFH-Capital offers to its customers such as asset management, wealth management, restructuring consultancies, specialized financial and investment consultancies, managing and arranging merger and acquisition operations, brokerage in trading, in addition to listing companies on the stock exchange.

The forum witnessed huge participation of high net worth individuals, investors and officials from the bank and KFH-Capital. Abdullah Al Haddad-Chief Investment Banking Officer at KFH-Capital said that the GCC economy is witnessing a restructuring stage where most of the GCC countries are heading towards diversifying their income resources by depending on financial assets rather than oil as a main source of income especially after the sharp drop of oil prices over the past years which put pressure on the budgets of those countries; thus led to reducing some forms of subsidies, imposing new taxes and fees while borrowing through Sukuk and bonds.

The total funds borrowed by the GCC since the beginning of the year account for nearly \$50 billion. This makes an opportunity to stimulate capital markets



for debt instruments. The vision 2030 of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was set to stimulate the economy. Saudi Arabia set up a \$2 trillion sovereign wealth fund. He added that the Kuwaiti economy is one of the best economies in the region despite some challenges.

"KFH is one of the largest Sukuk issuers in the region and the world, and has successfully participated in leading the issuance of sovereign Sukuk to the governments of Hong Kong, South Africa, Turkey and Sharjah, in addition to several companies and financial institutions" said Al Haddad, indicating ALAFCO closes \$300 million murabah facility where the transaction

was advised by KFH-Capital.

Meanwhile Portfolios Department Senior Manager at KFH-Capital, Abdulaziz Alhumaidhi said the Company follows prudent criteria based on technical principles in portfolio management. He demonstrated the stages and criteria of building a portfolio, which depends on diversification, risk management, quality of assets and the returns, pointing out that the returns of some of the company's portfolios reach 11 percent annually.

Senior Dealer - Trading Services at KFH-Capital, Mohammad Aladsani said that customers can open a



KFH trading account through KFH branches or at the company's headquarters. Customers can also use the KFH trading application for trading in the GCC markets. KFH Trading offers multiple services to dealers. Saleh Al Khomees- Chief Real Estate Officer at KFH-Capital said that the real estate assets managed by KFH are valued at \$2.5 billion and are distributed across the GCC, North America and Europe in all sectors: residential, industrial, logistic, offices and health care. He added that the annual distributions of real estate funds range from 5 percent to 7.5 percent annually.

Technology

Ooredoo launches iPhone X, achieves highest sales in Kuwait

Ooredoo hosted 22 participants from youth projects



Staff members.



Dr Hamad Al-Nu'aimi with employees.



Mejbel Al-Ayoub and Fatima Dashti.

Ooredoo Kuwait continued its achievement of one success after another, and one again within one month only it held a highly successful major event, as it launched the distinguished and totally new iPhone X on Friday with a large presence of customers who went to its main premise in the heart of Kuwait city from the early hours of the morning to get the phone within an exclusive and unprecedented package that formed an outstanding mark in the country's communications sector in an event considered the largest and most exciting in Kuwait.

The main premise of the company at its tower received thousands of customers who were keen to attend and take advantage of the exclusive offer the company presented from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm Friday which is Shamel package for KD35 per month only with unlimited local minutes and messages, unlimited internet, unlimited roaming internet in all gulf countries. This offer was available in its Kuwait International Airport and the Avenues mall at the same time.

Several social media personalities, besides the heavy presence of customers, participated in the launch activities including Abboodka, Uhoud Al-Enezi, Danah Tuwaresh, Fatima Al-Mo'men, Hussa Al-Loughani, Vintage Bazza, Mohammad Mirza, Yacoub Bushehri, Omar Al-Othman, Hamad Qalam and Fatima Al-Nassar and they were all keen to broadcast a live coverage of the launch activities. The event was also attended by Ooredoo ambassador Kuwait fence jumping champion horseman Rakan Al-Hasawi in addition to many active youth personalities in the society.

Apple company representatives participated with Ooredoo officials, employees and customers attended the

event of launching the new phone and lauded the activities of the celebrations and praised the efforts of company workers and affirmed the continuation of the strong partnership between Apple and Ooredoo Kuwait.

Ooredoo, out of its social responsibility towards the society and in encouragement of Kuwait youth, it hosted 22 participants from the youth projects in "Ooredoo market" for small projects during the launch ceremony of the iPhone and they presented distinguished products, handicrafts, food and other services to customers and visitors.

The company in cooperation with "Chips Store" presented covers and screen protection for each customer after his subscription process in the exclusive package is completed, with customers expressing their appreciation of the gifts and selected what they like from the largest selection of distinguished and multicolored covers for the new Apple phone.

Due to the large demand for subscribing in the packages and presence of thousands of customers at the company premise Ooredoo was keen on having its employees participate in the ceremony and a large number of them volunteered during the ceremony that lasted more than 12 hours on Friday, and they contributed to organizing the lines in and outside the branch besides the Ooredoo voluntary program as they gave an example in facilitating entry, exit, assistance of customers besides answering their queries and guiding them.

Meanwhile, "Fast Telco" company, which is owned by Ooredoo, was keen to share with its mother company the success and offered the customers who benefited from the exclusive X iPhone offer a three month free internet subscription.



Main premise received thousands of customers



Some clients

Senior Director, Corporate Communications Mijbil Alayoub said, "We are happy to celebrate with our customers for the fifth consecutive time to launch the iPhone X which is a major event in communications technology this year. We were keen on continuing to present the best and most modern for our customers for competitive prices and advantages, and this comes out of our policy that is based on interest and communications. We also presented outstanding gifts to all our customers who subscribed to the offer which is considered the strongest in Kuwait during the first day as an appreciation for them".

It is worth mentioning that Ooredoo reintroduced the usual Shamel package after the exclusive offer which lasted for one day only ended, customers can get the new iPhone with Shamel package for KD45 per month in all its branches and accredited distributors in Kuwait.

New generation from iPhone

The new phone comes with a glass back surface with italicized metal characters and the main button on the screen will become as a virtual one instead of being on the phone body. The screen size is 5.8 inches with wireless charging. The Face ID is available on the front side of the phone with several sensors and the camera. Ooredoo thanked the interior ministry represented by the capital traffic department as officers were available throughout the event and contributed to the organization of traffic outside the building as well as entry at the entrance. The company also thanked medical emergencies teams who were also available during the event.

Ooredoo Geo-Filter on Snap Chat

Ooredoo designed a special filter for this occasion on Snapchat in addition to the company logo and it was used heavily by those present and customers who were on site.



Social media celebrities.



Volunteers took part in organizing Ooredoo campaign.

Health

Malnutrition soaring among Rohingya children in Bangladesh

Rohingya children caught up in a catastrophe

GENEVA: Life-threatening levels of malnutrition have risen dramatically among Rohingya refugee children who have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh, the United Nations warned Friday. The UN children's agency said preliminary data indicated a full 7.5 percent of the children crammed into one of the camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district were at risk of dying from severe acute malnutrition. More than 600,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar's Rakhine state since late August during military operations that the United Nations has described as ethnic cleansing and the world's most acute refugee crisis.

Around half of them are children. "It's very worrying to see the condition of children who keep arriving," UNICEF spokesman Christophe Bouliere told reporters in Geneva after a recent trip to the camps. The agency and its partners are already treating more than 2,000 acutely malnourished children at 15 treatment centers, and are in the process of setting up six additional centers. AFP correspondents on the ground also witnessed scores of obviously malnourished children near treatment centers in several refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

"He cannot eat enough food as he suffers from pneumonia, fever and diarrhea," Rohingya woman Fahima Bibi said as she emerged from one centre with her two-year-old grandson Mohammad Javed, who is suffering from severe acute malnutrition. UNICEF said its preliminary findings were based on a nutrition assessment conducted last week of children under the age of five in 405 households in the Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar.

Catastrophe
"The Rohingya children in the camp, who have survived horrors in Myanmar's northern Rakhine State and a dangerous journey here, are already caught up in a catastrophe," UNICEF Bangladesh Representative Edouard Beigbeder said in a statement. "Those with severe malnutrition are now at risk of dying from an entirely preventable and treatable cause," he warned. Malnutrition rates among children in northern Rakhine were already above emergency thresholds before the latest crisis erupted.

"The condition of these children has further deteriorated due to the long journey across the border and the conditions in the camps," the UNICEF statement said. The journey by boat is particularly treacherous, with the International Organization for Migration on Friday putting the number of drowning since August at around 250. Some 26,000 people now live in the Kutupalong camp, where they are faced with an acute shortage of food and water, unsanitary conditions and high rates of diarrhea and respiratory infections, the agency said.

UNICEF said it was planning two additional assessments in other sites in Cox's Bazar this month to help determine if the numbers found in Kutupalong might apply to the entire area. Bouliere however said the agency was concerned by the preliminary findings, since the Kutupalong camp has existed for a long time and the services there are believed to be better than in the many new, makeshift camps. The overall rate of



UKHIA: Rohingya Muslim refugee children look on as they stand inside Kutupalong refugee camp in the Bangladeshi district of Ukhiya. —AFP

life-threatening malnutrition could therefore turn out to be even higher than what was found in Kutupalong, he said.

The influx of refugees is continuing, with the UN refugee agency estimating that some 3,000 people

crossed through a single border crossing at Anjuman Para between Wednesday and Thursday alone. "We need far more attention to the crisis, and far more resources for the response," Beigbeder said, stressing that "these children need help right now." —AFP

“ Those with severe malnutrition are at risk of dying ”

Experts demand better prevention, treatment for children with hepatitis

SAO PAULO: Experts at the second World Hepatitis Summit Friday called for improved preventative measures and treatment for 52 million children suffering from the disease, on the final day of the three-day event in Sao Paulo. Of 325

million confirmed patients worldwide, 52 million are minors—a number far higher than the 2.1 million children suffering from AIDS, according to figures provided at the summit. "Most infected infants and children are not diagnosed, prioritized or treated effectively," Raquel Peck, CEO of World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA), said in a statement. Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver caused by a virus. There are five types, but B and C are responsible for more than half of all new cases of liver cancer, according to the World Health Organization. Often transmitted from mothers, 48 million children have type B. But experts drew attention to increased diagnoses of hepatitis C, for which no vaccine exists—and expressed concerns about the lack of pre-

ventative measures. Data released at the summit indicated 84 percent of countries offer hepatitis B vaccines—but only 39 percent provide the necessary dose at birth.

"Enough is enough. Governments and global health organizations must ensure all children are vaccinated for hepatitis B and provided with DAAs (direct-acting antivirals) for hepatitis C, and that all pregnant women are screened," said Charles Gore, President of the World Hepatitis Alliance. Last year, 194 countries pledged to take steps to eradicate hepatitis—a liver inflammation which kills 1.3 million people each year-by 2030. However, only nine are now honoring that commitment, according to figures released Wednesday. —AFP

Niger closes 14 health establishments for 'alarming' flaws

NIAMEY: The West African state of Niger has ordered the closure of 14 privately-run health establishments after inspectors uncovered "alarming" failings, Health Minister Idi Illiassou said Friday. A months-long check

of privately-run clinics, physicians, pharmacies and maternity hospitals, mainly in the capital Niamey, resulted in "36 summons, of which 14 entailed immediate closure while 22 resulted in warnings," he said on television. He said inspectors had uncovered an "alarming situation... (in which) regulations, legislature and procedures for opening (medical) establishments are not respected". "(Ordinary) treatment rooms are being used for bed patients or to carry out surgery and doctors' consulting rooms are being used as laboratories," he said. Illiassou also complained of "anarchy" in pricing among pharmacies, with as much as a three-fold variation in prices for the same drug. "It

doesn't make sense," he said.

Clinics and laboratories sometimes "defrauded sick people" by recommending tests that were costly, unnecessary and of doubtful accuracy, he added on Saturday, in comments to lawmakers. "We are going to be relentless in upholding the laws and current regulations," he said, adding that the campaign would spread from Niamey to "all health services across the country". One of the poorest countries in the world, Niger is burdened with many flaws in its health infrastructure. In January, the health ministry closed down a major clinic and two ancillary buildings that, it said, had been working for years without any authorization. —AFP

Colombia mothers stage 'nurse-in' to defend breastfeeding

BOGOTA: Hundreds of mothers gathered to breastfeed their babies in a park in Bogota Friday, in a "nurse-in" demonstration aimed at raising acceptance of the practice and promoting its health benefits. Nearly 1,000 families met in the city's Parque de Los Novios for the fourth event of its type in the city, organized by the mayor's office. Similar protests have taken place elsewhere in Latin America and around the world in recent years, often in response to cases of women being told to stop feeding their babies in public places.

"The message is not only the importance of mothers breastfeeding their children due to its nutritional quality, but also that society should accept it without discrimination, understanding that it is a right for children and mothers," said Maria Consuelo Araujo, Bogota's social integration secretary. Mother-of-three Yuri Corredor, 32, said another woman recently told her to cover up while she was feeding her seven-month-old baby. —AFP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
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What's On

LAPA organizes 2nd Peace Festival



On the third night of the 2nd Peace Festival organized by LOYAC's Academy for Performance Arts (LAPA), the Ibn Arabi band and Abdullah Al-Mansouri Al-Khalee' attracted a large number of audiences at the Shaheed Park's amphitheatre. The concert was also attended by a delegation from the Moroccan embassy to Kuwait led by ambassador, Mohammed Al-Idrissi.

The band was dressed in Moroccan folkloric attire playing enchanting music accompanying Al-Khalee's songs of lyrics written by the most prominent Sufi poets such as Ibn Al-Fareedh, Rabe'a Al-Adawiya and Saadi. Both the band founder, Ahmed Al-Khalee' and the singer Abdullah expressed happiness to perform before a Kuwaiti audience noting that they really appreciate this form of art.

GUST Teams win at Kuwait Collegiate Programming Contest



Gulf University for Science and Technology hosted the 5th Kuwait Collegiate Programming Contest (KCPC) which is a sub-regional contest of the Arab Collegiate Programming Contest (ACPC) on its campus last week, which was attended by Dr Ziad Najem, Manager of the Math and Science Education Program at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), and CEO of the KFAS Academy, GUST team members Karim Al Maghraby, Amr Ahmed, and Ebraheem AlMuaili, which competed under the name, "Nameless", were the champions of the contest, and also won the Solid Programmers' Award, and the Extreme Programmers' Award.

Also winning medals for GUST were third place winners, Talal Al Ammar, Ali Almusawi, and Mohammad Al Essa, who competed under the name "Bounty", and in fourth place were Zainab Al Arbash, Shareefah Al Ghanem, and Munera Tawfiqi who competed under the name "Punny=Null". All GUST teams were coached by Fadi Deeb, a faculty member in the Computer Science department at GUST.

The competition, which was sponsored by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, and hosted by GUST, provided an opportunity for 27 participating teams to demonstrate their skills in programming and problem solving. It also engenders creativity, teamwork, and enables students to test their ability to perform under tough time constraints. In order to win, the student teams had to solve the most problems correctly in the shortest time. All of the winning teams from GUST have now qualified to participate at the Arab Collegiate Programming Contest, hosted by Arab Academy for Science

Technology & Maritime Transport in Sharm El Sheikh, before advancing to International Collegiate Programming Contest, due to take place in Beijing in April of next year.

GUST President, Professor Donald Bates, said, "I am extremely proud of the positions all of our teams secured in this rigorous competition. They demonstrated skill, finesse, and creativity in their approach to each of the problems, and came up with excellent solutions to all. Having secured 1st, 3rd, and 4th place feel invigorated and encouraged that our curriculum and faculty were able to produce such competent programmers. This makes me very confident that our teams will do well at the next stage of the competition."

The head of Computer Science department, Dr Taher Ali, said, "The department of Computer Science is adhere to organize, participate and support events that motivate self-learning skills. Competition based learning enriches the educational system. We have seen evidences of dramatic changes in students' performance after participating in such events. Thanks for every single person who partici-

pated in making the event successful."

Manager of the Math and Science Education Program at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), and CEO of the KFAS Academy, Dr Ziad Najem, said, "It gives me great pleasure to see so many teams participate with such enthusiasm and creativity. The spirit of teamwork, encouragement, and volunteering is very much alive, and I am glad to see such a healthy environment being fostered by GUST."

The competition also doubles as an opportunity for public and private companies seeking to employ talented programmers and developers, in a sector which has seen exponential growth locally. This is especially true as more and more companies move to digitize their services, and find new and innovative methods to connect with their clients and expand their businesses. GUST continuously encourages its students to participate in such events to build their skills and character, in order to become a better-rounded individual, capable of reaching their full potential upon graduation.

Beach Cleaning Event



Operation Turtles

Saturday Nov. 11th from 10:30 A.M

Venus: SANWAIQA Beach Park

Organized by: Japanese Society Association

NCCAL to organize Palestinian Cultural Week

In collaboration with the "Kuwaitis For Jerusalem" Committee, the National Council for Culture, arts and Letters (NCCAL) will organize the Palestinian Cultural Week and the Palestinian heritage Center Exhibition

on November 6, 2017. The four-day activities will start at 10:00 am at the Women Cultural and Social Society in Khaldiya and will include various cultural activities like concerts and lectures.

Indonesian Batik expo opens at Al-Sadu society

By Ben Garcia

A two-day expo showcasing 'Indonesian Batik', an Indonesian weaving and cloth dyeing technique, took place recently at Al-Sadu Society in Kuwait City. The event was inaugurated by Indonesian Ambassador to Kuwait Tatang Budie Utama Razak and many ASEAN ambassadors. On the sideline of the exhibition, Indonesian Ambassador Tatang said such an event being organized by the embassy in Kuwait strengthens bilateral cooperation with the host country.

"We know that the Sadu House facilitates the exhibition. Batik is not only a cultural heritage but also part of our lifestyle. There are more than 5,000 models and motifs already recognized by UNESCO. So, this is part of our job to promote our culture and then work together with the Sadu House. Last year, we collaborated with National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) for cultural performance and this year with Sadu House for cultural exhibition," he said.

Batik is both an art and a craft. It is a traditional textile of Indonesia. The art of decorating batik using wax and dye has been practiced by Indonesian people for centuries, especially the province of Java, wherein they are recognized as the center and heart of the finest batik in the world today. Sheikha Bibi Duaj Al-Sabah, the chairwoman of Sadu Society lauded Indonesian Embassy for the wonderful exhibition. Those who would like to see the display of original batik from Indonesia can visit the venue located next to Kuwait Museum and Kuwait National Library.

"We have been hosting events organized by different embassies with different textile



— Photos by Joseph Shagra

arts and giving them a platform to showcase what they have to offer as artistic endeavors and as a country," Sheikha Bibi mentioned. "This time we collaborated with the Indonesia Embassy. The event mainly exhibits a fashion show with a live demonstration workshop and it also shows how to use traditional textiles in modern setting."

According to Sheikha Bibi, such expo of beautiful batik from Indonesia is a demonstra-

tion of openness and great character of Indonesian people. The embassy is also providing two batik workshops (one was done yesterday and one is set for today from 10:00 am - 4:30 pm) at Al-Sadu Society led by batik experts Sri Eka Suryantingsin, a graduate of Faculty of Art and Design, and Saftiyantingsin Ken Atik, a graduate of textile design at Institute of Technology in Bandung, Indonesia.



TV



01:25 Age Of Tomorrow
02:55 In Time
04:45 Drop Zone
06:30 Blackhat
08:45 Batman Unlimited: Mechs vs. Mutants



00:50 Lone Star Law
01:45 Escape To Chimp Eden
02:13 Escape To Chimp Eden
02:40 Escape To Chimp Eden
03:08 Escape To Chimp Eden



00:10 EastEnders
00:40 The Durrells
01:30 The Durrells
02:20 Kat & Alfie: Redwater



00:00 Escaping Polygamy
01:00 Paranormal State
01:30 Paranormal State
02:00 My Haunted House



00:05 Problematic With Moshe
Kasher
00:30 The Half Hour
01:50 Tosh.0

15:55 Comedy Central Presents
Comedy Salwafef
16:25 Impractical Jokers
16:50 Workaholics



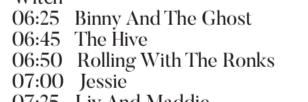
00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things



00:50 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
01:45 Forbidden: Dying For Love
02:40 Southern Fried Homicide



00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binnie And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer



00:05 Problematic With Moshe
Kasher
00:30 The Half Hour
01:50 Tosh.0

22:35 Bunk'd
23:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir



00:00 PJ Masks
00:30 Vampirina
01:00 The Hive
01:15 Calimero



00:15 Supertruckers
01:05 Fast N' Loud
01:45 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
02:30 Street Customs 2008



00:00 Disney I
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Avengers: Secret Wars

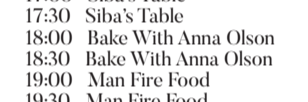
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Mariah's World
04:40 So Cosmo



03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Mariah's World
04:40 So Cosmo
05:30 Celebrity Style Story



00:00 Man Fire Food
00:30 Man Fire Food
01:00 Restaurant Stakeout
02:00 Mystery Diners



00:05 Coronation Street
00:30 Coronation Street
01:00 The Chase
02:00 Coronation Street

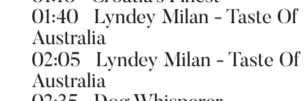


00:00 What Really Happened
01:00 Ancient Aliens
02:00 Ancient Aliens
03:00 Ancient Aliens

13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Time Team
14:20 Swamp People



00:15 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
00:45 A Is For Apple
01:10 Croatia's Finest
01:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia



00:15 Shimmer And Shine
00:39 Shimmer And Shine
01:05 Rusty Rivets
01:17 Blaze And The Monster Machines



00:10 Highway Thru Hell
01:00 Big Fish, Texas
02:00 Cold Water Gold
03:00 Pond Stars

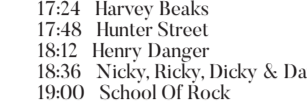


00:20 Sea Of Hope: America's Underwater Treasures
01:00 Dr. K's Exotic Animal ER
02:00 Ultimate Animal Countdown



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbits Invasion
01:00 Rabbits Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig

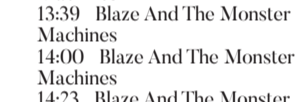
School
15:00 Hunter Street
15:24 School Of Rock



01:50 The Finest Hours
03:40 Twins
05:35 I Am Number Four
07:35 13 Going On 30



00:15 Shimmer And Shine
00:39 Shimmer And Shine
01:05 Rusty Rivets
01:17 Blaze And The Monster Machines



00:00 Project Runway
01:00 Project Runway
02:00 Wedding Band
03:00 House Of DVF



01:25 Clockstoppers
03:05 Mostly Ghostly: One Night In Doom House



01:40 Requirem For A Dream
03:25 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine



00:40 The Apple & The Worm
02:05 Get Squirrelly
03:40 Emilie Jolie
05:05 Moomins And The Comet Chase



01:50 The Finest Hours
03:40 Twins
05:35 I Am Number Four
07:35 13 Going On 30



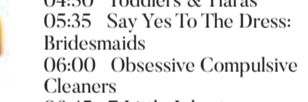
00:40 Dangerman
01:30 Dangerman
02:20 Junkyard Wars
03:10 Junkyard Wars



00:00 Project Runway
01:00 Project Runway
02:00 Wedding Band
03:00 House Of DVF



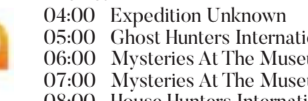
00:20 I'm Fat: What's Your Problem?
01:05 Botched Up Bodies



01:25 Clockstoppers
03:05 Mostly Ghostly: One Night In Doom House



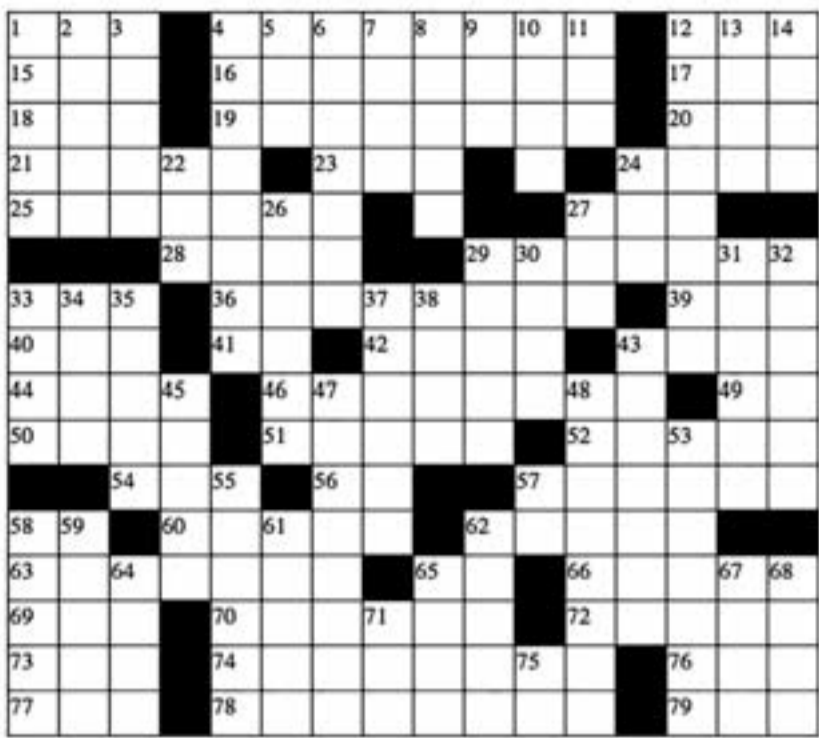
01:40 Requirem For A Dream
03:25 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine



00:40 The Apple & The Worm
02:05 Get Squirrelly
03:40 Emilie Jolie
05:05 Moomins And The Comet Chase

Stars

CROSSWORD 1753



ACROSS

- Standard temperature and pressure.
- The sound of knocking (as on a door or in an engine or bearing).
- British informal term.
- A pass between mountain peaks.
- (optics) Varying slightly from a perfectly spherical shape.
- Any of various coarse shrubby plants of the genus *Iva* with small greenish flowers.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- The large yellow root of a rutabaga plant used as food.
- A prominent rock or pile of rocks on a hill.
- An artistic form of nonverbal communication.
- An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- Lac purified by heating and filtering.
- Capital of Vanuatu.
- Cut off from a whole.
- (linguistics) Relating to the ablative case.
- Come into the possession of something concrete or abstract.
- Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
- A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- Mentally or physically infirm with age.
- Flightless New Zealand rail of thievish disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.
- Not ionic.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- A commercial leavening agent containing yeast cells.
- A mountain peak in the Andes in Argentina (21,654 feet high).
- A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
- A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- A small Asian country high in the Himalayas between India and Tibet.
- A B vitamin that is essential for cell growth and reproduction.
- Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
- The sixth day of the week.
- Double star 15.7 light years from Earth.
- Remove gas from.
- Being one more than two.
- A great raja.
- Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series.
- Being one more than ninety.
- The force applied to a unit area of surface.
- Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.

DOWN

- A large number or amount.
- The first of three divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures comprising the first five books of the Old Testament considered as a unit.

- Having a horizontal surface in which no part is higher or lower than another.
- A member of the Finnish people living in Karelia in northwestern European Russia.
- Inflammation of the urethra of unknown cause.
- Relating to or using sight.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of the Republic of Chad or its people or language.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
- Being on the left side.
- Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- An acquired skin disease characterized by patches of unpigmented skin (often surrounded by a heavily pigmented border).
- A river in southwestern England rising in Gloucestershire and flowing through Bristol to empty into the estuary of the Severn.
- One of a set of small pieces of stiff paper marked in various ways and used for playing games or for telling fortunes.
- Being five more than one hundred fifty.
- A master's degree in fine arts.
- State capital of New York.
- Used of a single unit or thing.
- A prejudiced person who is intolerant of any opinions differing from his own.
- Provide with a new seat, as of a chair.
- A colorless odorless gas used as fuel.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- Large dark brown North American arboreal carnivorous mammal.
- A loose narrow strip of skin near the base of a fingernail.
- (military) Signal to turn the lights out.
- The sound of heavy treading or stomping.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- Poisonous herbs.
- An Old World reptile family of Sauria.
- Baked dish of layers of lasagna pasta with sauce and cheese and meat or vegetables.
- Leave a camp.
- A rare polyvalent metallic element of the platinum group.
- Of or relating to or derived from or containing boron.
- Of or relating to a hair.
- Shrubby tree widely distributed along tropical shores.
- Being three more than fifty.
- Affected manners intended to impress others.
- Not reflecting light.
- United States tennis player who was the first Black to win United States and English singles championships (1943-1993).
- An associate degree in applied science.
- A son who has the same first name as his father.

Friday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a good time to consolidate and organize your affairs or rearrange your living situation. You may be put in charge of the children or the yard work or some other chore that does not usually make up your day but this may call for a fair exchange and you are ready to help. General good feelings and a sense of support create a happy time. You have a clear vision into your own inner sense of values: how you appreciate and love. Take the time this afternoon to relax... Perhaps a movie or a bicycle ride through the park would be fun. If you are still sitting with children, a ballgame could be considered. If the weather is good, consider grilling the evening meal. With kids around, they might fetch what you need if you are the cook.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Perhaps this is the best time to think and study, for you have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts. You may find yourself enjoying a long conversation with a friend—writing a letter, or making a special phone call. There are sudden insights into some of the most sensitive and vulnerable areas of a puzzling situation or person this day. Contemplating what you have heard and understanding that there may be more to the story will get you happily through the day. Dispute what you hear too soon, and the truth could be lost, as well as a real understanding of a difficult individual. Be patient and in a few days you will have a new understanding. Ask questions and listen to the answers very carefully. A wish comes true tonight.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There is an instinctive imperative to be in control—pulling the strings. You may be the head of the household or think you are in charge, but others have their ideas and need your listening ear. This understanding may lead to greater interest or experience in healing and investing and gaining better insight into the people living around you. You may be reminded of your various responsibilities. Check your anxieties at the door and come into a room with your good attitude. Take care of any business you had previously postponed. A meeting with someone older or in authority is at hand this afternoon—with a listening and patient attitude, a satisfactory agreement can be met. You could find that you are appreciated for your many achievements.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Refinement and relationships are the keys to emotional satisfaction. You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation at this time or feel especially kind towards a friend or loved one. You have an opportunity to show this friend or loved one that you understand the words and the goals that are expressed. Your artistic talent and appreciation are heightened beyond words. You have a clear vision into your own inner sense of values and how you want your life to progress. This is a good time to examine and think about what is important, perhaps share your ideas. This is a very nice day that is filled with some renewed appreciation for all that is beautiful and fine. Visitors in your home this evening may compliment you on your tastes or belongings.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Family, home, relatives and real estate gain your attention today. You enjoy your family and want to help provide the best. You contribute a lot of energy to your family group that encourages confidence and trust. Matters of health come to your attention and you may decide to begin an exercise program—perhaps with a loved one. Early morning walks are a good thing. Today, someone new may come into your living surroundings. This could be a birth or the agreement to have someone in your home for a while. You could have compassion for a student or a young person who opens to you. You are able to dispense with the unessential in order to develop what is most basic in your environment. Planning can go on paper this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are very expressive and outgoing when it comes to your feelings and emotions; you may even be a little too sensitive at times. You could, however, be successfully working with some new creative expression to reveal the real you, perhaps through sports, art, theater, etc. Teaching, other than your professional work, may be where you find your thoughts today. This could be as a tutor or a teacher of some creative subjects. It may be a good time to teach a young person how to ride a bicycle. Creativity and time to create are important for you. You may find yourself leaving things undone around your living area so that you can complete a craft or art project this afternoon. Your attention may be focused on animals later. Take a few pictures or a video.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Religious, philosophical and cultural matters are likely to have special appeal. These things have a way of stirring your blood. A meeting with someone older or in authority gets you thinking about gaining more insight through continued education. The ability to listen and express yourself in clear messages is most important to you. You will be pleased with some of the courses that are offered and you might even decide to continue your education so that you can teach others or work in the school system. This afternoon you can relax and just sit back and enjoy what you have—to live life. Your desires are strong and you will want to enjoy yourself this evening. There is a basic drive to appreciate and taste life.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

Your grasp for many subjects and ideas helps you to convey important messages to others, particularly when no one else can succeed. You may receive a challenge from someone in the business field who wants to break away and try new things. A business consultant or employee advisor may be a consideration for next week. If you are looking to improve your health, begin by reading the ingredient list on the products you love. Products with high-fructose corn syrup are the most important to mark off of your grocery list. For now, you might enjoy a walk, a little exercise—shampoo the dog. This activity will help you to better focus and gain a more confident and positive sense of being. You have a lot of energy for improving your life situations.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

There is an opportunity to understand those around you and to have a fun time with friends and family today. General good feelings and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time. A young person may need lessons in managing money and you are providing a plan. Careful, do not become too carried away—he or she will learn about the state of the economy soon enough. You find yourself feeling more private and in a stay-at-home mood later today. You have a great social drive and love to work in a group or with close friends but this afternoon you may prefer to spend some time with your loved ones and family members. Games or some sort of sports activity would not be an unusual activity for you and your loved ones together.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You possess, at your center, an intensity that burns through any inconsistency; searching for opportunities to understand the world and all of the many secrets therein is a search you love to perform. This may mean you listen to a special radio show or you read particular books about space travel, time, underwater living, stocking up the food shelves, survival techniques, technology that is new on the market, etc. Deep conversations may be disturbing, stimulating and enlightening and may encourage investigation. You enjoy the light-bulb effect these long talks promote. You could meet with some opposition with some of your own ideas. On the whole, this can be a great opportunity for all involved to widen the scope of understanding.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You may appear very tranquil this morning. Everything seems to be working together and you may find yourself expressive and able to communicate well. In-depth discussions and probing conversations find you at your top performance. Your investigative abilities are high. This afternoon you could find yourself in a hobby store buying parts, games or an addition to your favorite pastime. Before you begin to play with those hobbies of yours, clear away some of the things that no longer serve a purpose for you. Some other person may appreciate the items you no longer use—a garage sale or a contribution to a thrift store is in order. Friends may visit this evening and you find yourself involved in the picking-things-up-before-they-come routine.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find that you have been chosen or volunteered as a guide for someone or several people that do not come to your town very often. Smile—this may be an opportunity to grow professionally. A friend may want to invest in real estate. This is generally a fruitful period for real-estate investments and you may want to invest as well. Your most respectable self is showing today. You have the ability to communicate well with others. Family, home and the other roots in your life give you a sense of mission. There is growth and gain through these things. Being appreciated and admired for your gifts and talents are powerful needs. Taking chances can bring big rewards. A new understanding between loved ones is possible.

Wordsearch Puzzle

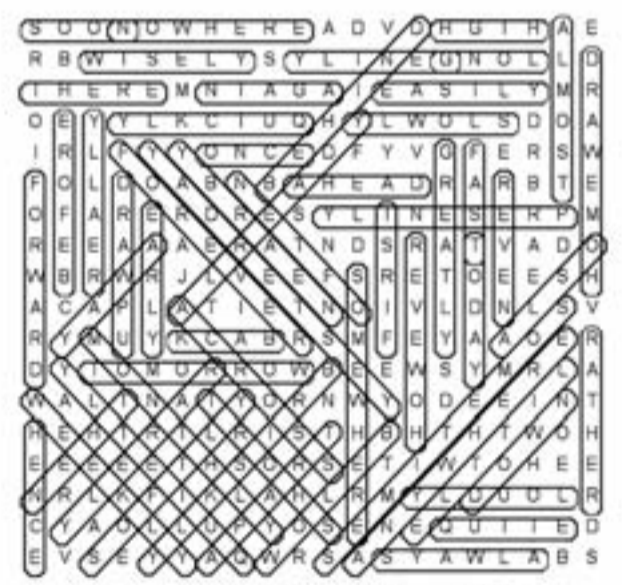
Animals 1

Find and circle all of the animals that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional animal.



- | | | | | |
|------------|---------|-------------|------------|------------|
| AARDVARK | DONKEY | HIPPOTAMUS | OTTER | SALMON |
| ALLIGATOR | DOVE | JACKAL | PANTHER | SLOTH |
| BABOON | EAGLE | JELLYFISH | PARROT | SWAN |
| BARRACUDA | ELK | KIWI | PEACOCK | SWORDFISH |
| BEAR | FERRET | LEOPARD | FELICAN | TIGER |
| BISON | FOX | LION | FIG | TORTOISE |
| CAMEL | GECKO | LLAMA | PORCUPINE | TROUT |
| CHIMPANZEE | GOAT | MACAW | QUAIL | TURKEY |
| CHINCHILLA | GOPHER | MEADOWLARK | RACCOON | VULTURE |
| COBRA | HAMSTER | MINK | RAVEN | WOLVERINE |
| COUGAR | HAWK | MOOSE | REINDEER | WOODPECKER |
| CROW | HERON | NIGHTINGALE | ROADRUNNER | WREN |

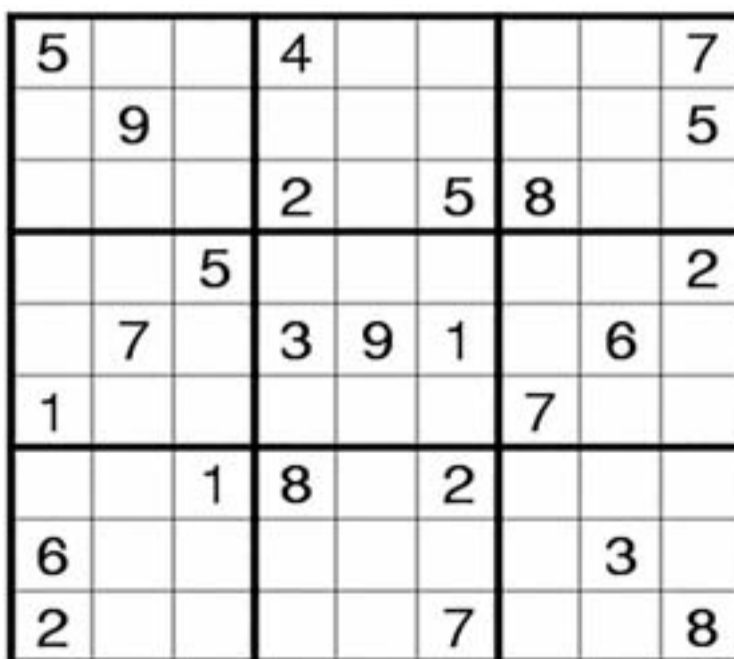
Adverbs



- | | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| ACROSS | BEHIND | HENCE | ONCE | SOMETIMES |
| AGAIN | BELOW | HIGH | PRESENTLY | SOMEWHERE |
| AHEAD | BRISKLY | HOMEWARD | QUICKLY | SOON |
| ALMOST | DOWN | HOWEVER | QUIETLY | THEN |
| ALREADY | EARLY | LITTLE | QUITE | THERE |
| ALSO | EASILY | LONG | RARELY | TODAY |
| ALWAYS | FAST | LOUDLY | RATHER | TOMORROW |
| ANYWHERE | FIRST | MONTHLY | REALLY | UPWARD |
| APART | FOREVER | NEARBY | SHORTLY | WEEKLY |
| AWAY | FORWARD | NEVER | SLOWLY | WISELY |
| BACK | GENTLY | NOWHERE | SOFTLY | YESTERDAY |
| BEFORE | GREATLY | OFTEN | | |

The hidden message is: ADVERBS MODIFY VERBS AND ADJECTIVES AND OTHER ADVERBS

Daily SuDoku



Friday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Sunday, November 5, 2017

Kuwait Times
Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
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Fax: (+965) 24348714
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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

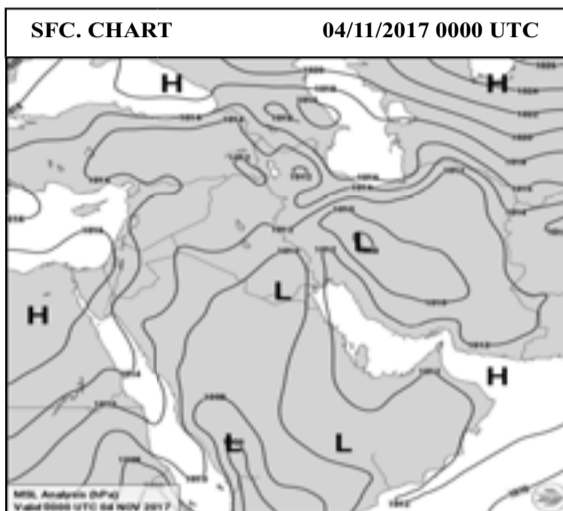
BY DAY: Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times southerly wind to south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 45 km/h causing rising dust over open areas and

BY NIGHT: Humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate freshening at times south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for light fog forming over some areas.

WEATHER WARNING	No Current Warnings
-----------------	---------------------

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	35 °C	27 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	36 °C	23 °C
ABDALY	36 °C	24 °C
BUBYAN	29 °C	26 °C
JAHRA	36 °C	22 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	32 °C	26 °C
SALMIYAH	28 °C	27 °C
AHMADI	30 °C	24 °C
NUWAISIB	36 °C	21 °C
WAFRA	35 °C	20 °C
SALMY	34 °C	20 °C

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	35 °C	27 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	36 °C	23 °C
ABDALY	36 °C	24 °C
BUBYAN	29 °C	26 °C
JAHRA	36 °C	22 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	32 °C	26 °C
SALMIYAH	28 °C	27 °C
AHMADI	30 °C	24 °C
NUWAISIB	36 °C	21 °C
WAFRA	35 °C	20 °C
SALMY	34 °C	20 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Sunday	11/05	Relatively hot	35 °C	23 °C	S-SE	12 - 35 km/h
Monday	11/06	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas with a chance for light fog	34 °C	21 °C	S-SE	08 - 32 km/h
Tuesday	11/07	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	34 °C	19 °C	VRB-SE	08 - 30 km/h
Wednesday	11/08	Relatively hot and Relatively humid specially over coastal areas	34 °C	20 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 28 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:42
Sunrise	06:03
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:38
Sunset	17:00
Isha	18:18

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	36 °C
MIN. Temp.	21 °C
MAX. RH	98 %
MIN. RH	10 %
MAX. Wind	SE 53 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AIRLINES

- American Airlines 22087425
- 22087426
- Kuwait Airways 171
- Jazeera Airways 177
- Jet Airways 22924455
- FlyDubai 22414400
- Qatar Airways 22423888
- KLM 22425747
- Air Slovakia 22434940
- Olympic Airways 22420002/9
- Royal Jordanian 22418064/5/6
- Reservation 22433388
- British Airways 22425635
- Air France 22430224
- Emirates 22921555
- Air India 22438184
- Sri Lanka Airlines 22424444
- Egypt Air 22421578
- Swiss Air 22421516
- Saudia 22426306
- Middle East Airlines 22423073
- Lufthansa 22422493
- PIA 22421044
- Alitalia 22414427
- Balkan Airlines 22416474
- Bangladesh Airlines 22452977/8
- Czech Airlines 22417901/2433141
- Indian Airlines 22456700
- Oman Air 22958787
- Turkish Airlines 22453820/1
- Aeroflot 22404838/9

REQUIRED

- Civil Engineer**
(Roads) 8 years experience, any nationality.
- Civil Forman**
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EMERGENCY

112

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 5/11/2017				Departure Flights on Sunday 5/11/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
JZR	125D	Bahrain	00:25	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	00:30	MSC	406	Luxembourg	00:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:35	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KAC	504	Beirut	00:45	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
KAC	102	London	00:55	KAC	677	Dubai	01:45
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:15	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:35
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	THY	765	Istanbul	02:50
UAE	853	Dubai	01:40	KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
KKK	6506	Istanbul	01:55	UAE	854	Dubai	03:30
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:05	KLM	446	Amsterdam	03:30
QTR	1086	Doha	02:10	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	QTR	1087	Doha	04:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
KAC	418	Manila	02:50	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	417	Manila	04:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:25
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	560	Sohag	04:45
FDB	069	Dubai	03:15	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
KAC	382	Delhi	03:15	KAC	103	London	05:00
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:25	QTR	1077	Doha	05:30
QTR	1076	Doha	03:45	KAC	303	Mumbai	05:50
KAC	1544	Cairo	03:50	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	THY	771	Istanbul	06:25
JZR	553	Alexandria	04:05	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	04:15	QTR	8512	Beirut	06:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
KAC	358	Kochi	04:50	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	05:00	JZR	1442	Doha	07:35
QTR	8511	Doha	05:20	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC	501	Beirut	07:50
KAC	344	Chennai	05:30	KAC	613	Bahrain	07:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	BAW	156	London	08:20
KAC	362	Colombo	05:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
BAW	157	London	06:05	KAC	741	Dammam	08:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:25	KAC	773	Riyadh	08:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:35	KAC	513	Tehran	08:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:40	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	09:00
WAN	342	Sohag	06:40	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:55	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:15
KAC	156	Istanbul	07:05	KAC	117	New York	09:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	165	Rome	09:20
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:50	KAC	561	Amman	09:30
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	691	Muscat	09:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	08:55	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	101	London	09:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	KAC	541	Cairo	10:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	KAC	617	Doha	10:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
IRC	528	Ahwaz	10:55	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:30
MEA	404	Beirut	10:55	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
PAL	668	Manila	11:00	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
QTR	1074	Doha	11:00	MSC	416	Sohag	11:15
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	1443	Doha	11:10	MEA	405	Beirut	11:55
JZR	1443	Doha	11:10	IRC	529	Ahwaz	11:55
KAC	614	Bahrain	11:15	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:00
KAC	742	Dammam	11:45	QTR	1075	Doha	12:10
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	413	Bangkok	12:20
SAW	701	Damascus	12:30	VIZ	201	TQD	12:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
KAC	774	Riyadh	12:45	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10

Lifestyle | Gossip



THE WEEKND ADOPTS PUPPY FOLLOWING GOMEZ SPLIT

The 'Starboy' hitmaker was left heartbroken when his former flame rekindled her relationship with her on/off ex Justin Bieber just days after they called time on their romance, but it looks like the 27-year-old singer has found companionship elsewhere as he has taken in a beautiful male Doberman Pinscher. The hunk uploaded a photograph of his new addition on his Instagram account but failed to give any other details - including his name, age, and where he came from. The Weeknd - whose real name is Abel Tesfaye - reportedly dumped Selena following almost a year of dating last month because they'd barely seen each other. Shortly afterwards, Selena, 25, and Justin - who dated on and off from 2011 to 2015 - reportedly reconciled after recently spending time together. An insider said: "Selena and Justin are back together."

"Selena and The Weeknd just fizzled and ended amicably - it wasn't dramatic and it wasn't about Justin. But Selena always had feelings for Justin." However, Selena's pals are said to be hoping she treads carefully with the 23-year-old star because she is "in a good place" after undergoing a kidney transplant. The insider added: "Her friends want her to be cautious because she has been in such a good place post-surgery." The Weeknd previously dated model Bella Hadid from May 2015 but their romance was short lived as they split that December. However, there was obviously still some chemistry there as they decided to give their romance another go before calling it quits for good in November last year.

Daisy Ridley is dating Tom Bateman



The 25-year-old actress and the handsome star reportedly hit it off while filming their current movie 'Murder on the Orient Express' but, although they were keen to keep their romance under wraps for a little while longer, the film's producer has accidentally let slip that "something kinda happened" between them during shooting. Speaking on the red carpet at the film's premiere in London, according to the Daily Mirror newspaper, Judy Hofflund let slip: "Something kinda happened with Tom and Daisy... but that's public news, right? I should keep my mouth shut." But when pushed on whether the rumour was true, Tom, 28, skirted around the question and claimed the producers just like to "create a buzz" sometimes. Daisy - who previously dated Charlie Hamblett - refused to comment last month when she was asked by press

whether she had a man on the scene. She coyly replied at the time: "I'm not saying." However, she once revealed that the late great Carrie Fisher - who passed away two days after Christmas last year - gave her some dating advice by telling her stardom would impact her search for love and that her personal life would be complicated. Carrie - who played the role of Princess Leia in the sci-fi movies - told her before her passing: "It's hard to date once you're a 'Star Wars' star because you don't want to give people the ability to say, 'I had sex with Princess Leia'." Daisy then responded: "Someone asked me if I found it easier to date now because I'm in the film. I was like, 'What the hell?'"



HARRY JUDD'S BABY SON WAS RUSHED TO HOSPITAL

The McFly singer's wife Izzy took to her Instagram account on Friday night to give fans the lowdown on Kit's condition after she worried fans the day before when she uploaded a photograph of tiny tot with a hospital band around his leg. She wrote: "There's no place like Home. Thank you so much for all your caring and comforting messages. On Tuesday morning I was home alone with Lola when Kit suddenly deteriorated and started struggling for breath. I was terrified and had no option than to phone for an ambulance. The paramedics arrived within minutes, however those minutes were the longest and the worst of my life. Poor little man has bronchiolitis, a really nasty virus so needed help with his breathing and feeding. We are now home and I'm trying to recover from the trauma! Thank you again and I'm sending love and strength to all the parents out there with poorly bubba's tonight xxxx

#ournsrocks #nhs (sic)" Her positive message came after she worried her followers a few hours before when she revealed the two-month-old baby was "really poorly" with a mystery illness. She said: "A seriously tough week... Kit has been a poorly boy and we ended up in hospital. The little man is doing better tonight and we're hoping to get home tomorrow. Whilst I sit by his bed I just want to take a moment to say how amazingly lucky we are to have the #nhs who in our hour of need came to our rescue. We have been looked after by the most amazing paramedics, doctors and beautifully caring nurses. A very frightening experience was eased by a very kind and reassuring nurse who held my hand when my little boy was very distressed."

Nicole Scherzinger has 'a few' televisions

The 'X Factor' judge rarely ever watches TV because she takes the programs too seriously so it is never a relaxing experience for her. She said: "I never watch TV. I wish I could but my brain just doesn't work like that. I take it all very seriously. I believe in everything that's going on and I end up crying or getting really angry. The only time I ever sit down and watch a box set is when I'm travelling on a plane. As an actress, it is important to stay on top of the things that are out there and to see how they're being filmed. I have a few televisions at home but I don't even know how they work." The 'Poison' hitmaker is finding renovations on her new home to be all-consuming at the moment because she's

determined to get it finished after so long without a proper home. She told OK! magazine: "I've been without somewhere to live for two years because my last house flooded so I had to move out. I've built somewhere new in Los Angeles but it's a work in progress, there's still a lot to do. I recently had two weeks downtime so I used it to make as many decisions about the house as possible. It's all I can think about at the moment." The 39-year-old singer likes to cook and eat out, but when she's working on 'The X Factor', she has to be careful about what she eats because she "doesn't know" how to restrict herself to a small portion. She said: "I don't cook very often but when I do I make sure it's the best."



Megan Fox expects to be contacted by aliens

The 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' actress - who has sons Noah, five, Bodhi, three, and 14-month-old Journey, and stepson Kassius, 15, with husband Brian Austin Green - has never felt like she fits in with the world so she's convinced she's one of the first people an otherworldly being would want to get in touch with. She said: "[There was always] a feeling I don't belong to anything - even to the world. Feeling apart, for me, has been exacerbated by fame. I think that's a lesson I've had to learn. I'm one of those people who thinks, if aliens are real, when they come back to earth I'm one of the humans they'll contact. It's me - I know it's gonna be me. I've always had that feeling." The 31-year-old beauty always felt like an outsider at school and admitted her class-

mates were "freaked out" by her quirky personality". She told Cosmopolitan magazine: "I wasn't popular. Everyone thought I was very strange - eccentric - and it freaked people out that my personality is the opposite of how I look." Megan isn't the only star interested in aliens, as Happy Mondays frontman Shaun Ryder previously claimed to have seen a "20ft by 10ft" space ship in his back garden whilst filming in South America. He said at the time: "We were filming in South America at the time. I remember I got back to my house at about 5am and I saw a craft outside my house. It was huge. Around 20ft by 10ft. It looked plastic - like a toy. I didn't believe it at first. I thought our production team were playing a trick on me. But nobody else saw it."

Kendall is "serious" about Blake Griffin



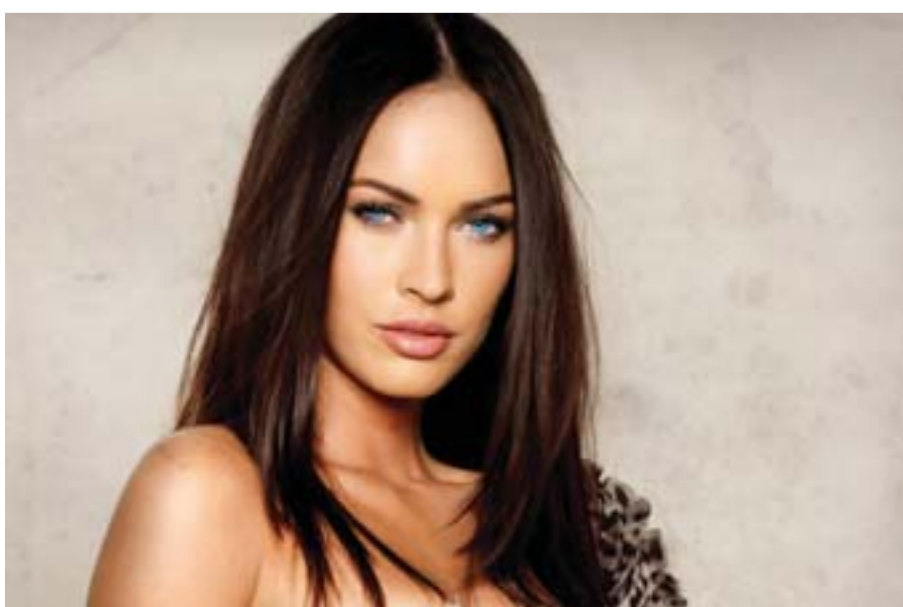
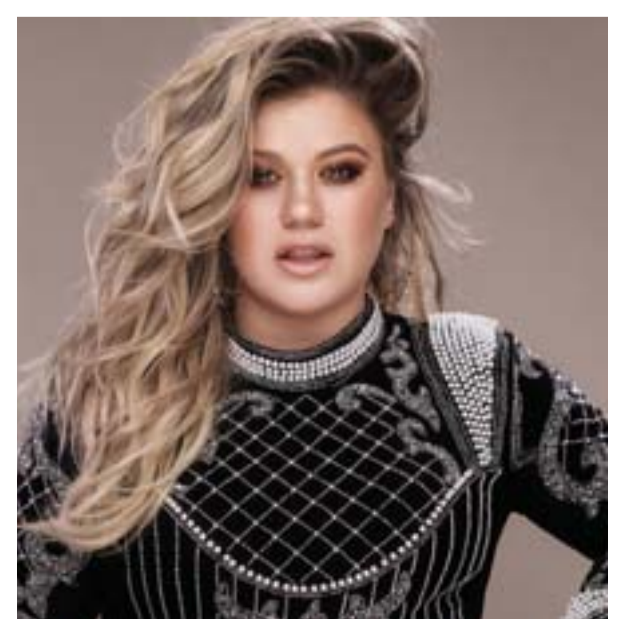
The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star has been growing close to the basketball player and whilst they started off in a more "casual" romance, things are said to be heating up between the pair. A source told People magazine: "Kendall was in a great mood [at her party]. She and Blake hung out, but they also mingled separately ... Kendall is very happy with Blake. They started out more like friends, and then it was very casual. But it seems more serious lately. When they are not together, they keep in touch over the phone. Her family has accepted Blake. They are spending time getting to know him." It had previously been claimed that Kendall was enjoying "playing the field" by going on dates with Blake while still talking to her ex-boyfriend rapper A\$AP Rocky, who she

dated briefly last year. An insider said at the time: "Kendall and Blake have been hanging out quite a bit and are having a good time. They met in passing a few times and hit it off. She's still talking to Rocky as well. But he isn't the type to settle down or be a good boyfriend, so she's playing the field too. She's seeing Blake romantically. It's nothing serious. She has been in LA a lot lately, and is having fun. Work will soon take over her life again, so who knows what will happen with Blake then. She is having fun right now and that's all that matters to her. She takes her career very seriously and that's her number one priority right now. Kendall is keeping her options open. She's still dating A\$AP Rocky as well, but she and Blake are hanging out, and there's potential there."

KELLY CLARKSON ISN'T BOTHERED BY CRITICISM

The 'Second Hand Heart' hitmaker has learned not to take any notice of those who try and tear her down and wants to show her children - River Rose, three, and 18-month-old son Remington Alexander - the importance of building an "armor of confidence" around them. She said: "[Criticism] does not bother me. I'm very fulfilled in my life ... I'm a mother and I care what is said to my kids and I want them to build an armor to wear, an armor of confidence." And the 35-year-old singer - who has River and Remington with her husband Brandon Blackstock - admits she has never felt "sexier" or more confident since she became a mother. Speaking to Willie Geist in an upcoming interview for Sunday Today, she added: "Becoming a mother and wife, I've never felt sexier, I've never felt more confident, I've never felt more empowered. I don't think you have

to get married or have to have children to have those things to have those things, it's just that's what happened to me personally." It comes after Kelly admitted becoming a mother has made her worry about the "pettiness and trivial things a lot less". She shared: "It's so funny, because I talk to all my mom friends about this all the time. I've always been a confident girl, I've always felt sexy and intelligent. But after becoming a mother, the amount of s**t that you get done, you're so impressed with yourself! It's the most empowering feeling, because it makes you want to worry about the pettiness and trivial things a lot less. I think that trickled down to the messages and sassiness that are on this record. Art is a reflection of your life, so this record is happy and empowering, and I love that." - Bangshowbiz





CHINA

FASHION WEEK

The "Shangshou Huatian" collection by Ren Yi.



The "ZIJUE" collection by Wang Yuanyuan.

Lifestyle | Features

CUBA'S NATIONAL DANCE LIVES ON... IN MEXICO

Gliding in a yellow lace dress, Carolina Salinas fans herself languidly while the band burns through the sultry rhythms of the "danzon," Cuba's national dance. But this is no Havana night club. In fact, danzon has virtually vanished from Cuba. Today, it is being kept alive thanks largely to a passionate group of Mexican fans like Salinas. Danzon, a music and dance style blending European and African influences, was born in Cuba in the 19th century.

Its birthday is often given as January 1, 1879 — the date of a New Year's concert where Cuban composer Miguel Failde premiered a new song, "Las Alturas de Simpson," that took the traditional French contredanse and injected it with spicy Latin beats. The dance that grew up around this new genre is characterized by upright posture, swaying steps and repeating refrains during which the couples strut arm in arm or the women fan themselves coquettishly.

In the Mexican port of Veracruz, across the Gulf of Mexico from Cuba, couples gather four times a week to dance danzon, twirling around the central square in fedoras and evening gowns that evoke a bygone era. "In

danzon they teach you that image and posture are important for both the lady and the gentleman. Elegance, that's danzon," said Salinas, a 26-year-old teacher, her hair and make-up impeccable as she fanned herself during the "rest period" of the refrain. Mexicans have breathed new life into the tradition even as it has faded in Cuba. "If Mexico hadn't adopted danzon as an important part of its popular culture, it would have disappeared," said Miguel Zamudio, director of the National Center for Research and Promotion of Danzon, based in Veracruz.



Mexicans have breathed new life into the tradition

where it leapt to fame after featuring in a series of Mexican movies in the 1940s. The genre took on a life of its own in Mexico, whose musicians added many classics to the danzon canon. They include "Danzon No. 2," by the composer Arturo Marquez, a piece that has been performed by some of the world's top symphonies. The dance continues to develop in different ways across Mexico.

Flashy new moves

Danzon arrived in Mexico soon after it was born, traveling first to the Yucatan peninsula, then Veracruz. Eventually it reached Mexico City,



People gather to dance "danzon" at "Sociales Romo" dance and night club.

"In Veracruz they've kept alive a performance and dance style that is similar to the Cuban original, while in Mexico City danzon has blended with other genres and evolved," Zamudio said. In the capital, danzon lovers have made it their own, incorporating acrobatic turns and moves. But one constant that always remains is the "rest" during the refrains. "There are many legends about the rest: that it's when couples fall in love, that Cubans used it to pass on information about the revolution," said Zamudio.

When I'm 92

After the 1959 revolution, which toppled dictator Fulgencio Batista and brought Fidel Castro to power, danzon began a long decline in Cuba. But an aging handful of die-hard aficionados keep the flame burning. Ninety-two-year-old Oscar "The Prof" Penader is one of them. He still shows up regularly in a crisp suit and tie to dance at the Orange Creek Club, on the south side of Havana, where there are dances two Sundays a month.

Penader laments that most of the songs are trendy salsa numbers, instead of danzon. Interest in danzon "has declined a lot," he said. "If we don't keep it going, it will be a pity. We can't just talk about it, we need groups that practice it, and bands that play it well," he said. When the band does play danzon, he tosses away his cane and takes to the dance floor. "The music carries me," he said. "I feel it in my bones, in my soul." His fellow fans include Lazara Genes, 74, and Claudio Hernandez, 73, who met at the club 15 years ago — the start of a love affair for the two widowers. "He started flirting with me, very discreetly," said Genes.

It also turned out to be the start of a prize-winning run as dance partners that has seen the couple win danzon championships. A younger Cuban hoping to keep danzon alive is Ethiel Fernandez Failde, the 25-year-old great-great-grandson of the genre's founding father. Himself a musician, Fernandez Failde has a danzon band and promotes an annual festival celebrating the genre in the city of Matanzas. He hopes to see his reggaeton-obsessed generation rediscover danzon. "In Mexico, they dance danzon every day, there's a youthful movement around it," he said. "In Cuba, we don't have that anymore." — AP



A couple dances "danzon" at "Sociales Romo" dance and night club, in Santa Maria La Ribera neighborhood in Mexico City.



A couple poses at "Sociales Romo" dance and night club. — AFP photos

Greta Gerwig comes of age with 'Lady Bird'

Greta Gerwig has been an actress in 25 films, a co-writer on five and co-director of one. She's assembled wardrobes, done makeup and - thanks to her 5 foot-9-inch height - held the boom mic. She has, in a sense, been building up for a long time to her directorial debut: "Lady Bird."

"I was accumulating my 10,000 hours," Gerwig said in a recent interview in a tucked-away room at Lincoln Center. "When I finished this script, I thought: You're still going to learn things but you're not going to learn anything more by not doing it. Whatever learning happens now is going to happen by doing it. I just decided to take the leap." It's at this moment while contemplating the culmination of her professional life that a famished Gerwig first spies her lunch. "Oh my goodness it's a sammy," she exclaims - a revelation quickly followed by another. "Oh my feet are so dirty from standing outside barefoot."

For Gerwig, it comes naturally that the most earnest inner ambitions can appear, from the outside, a little funny, too. Gerwig's "Lady Bird," which opened Friday in New York and Los Angeles, is a loosely autobiographical coming-of-age story about a high-schooler named Christine with the self-proclaimed nickname "Lady Bird" (Saoirse Ronan) who aspires beyond her middle-class Sacramento life. From Roman Catholic school, she dreams of New York or at least "Connecticut or New Hampshire, where writers live in the woods."

'Incredibly open'

The film - richly detailed, shrewdly observed, altogether a beauty - has already found some of the best reviews of the year, placing it among the early awards-season favorites. It boasts numerous revelations - including the performances by Ronan and her fictional mother, Laurie Metcalf - but none more so than this one: Gerwig is an exceptional, fully formed filmmaker, right out of the gate.

"She nailed it in the way that she did because she's incredibly open to people and characters and places," says Ronan, speaking by phone from London. "One of the reasons why she's such a fantastic storyteller is because she's incredibly sincere. Everything that comes out of her, whether it's on the page or when she acts or when she directs, it only comes from the most genuine place."

Gerwig is also a proud cinephile. Claire Denis's "Beau Travail" first awakened her to cinema as something more than theater-on-film. "I thought, 'That is its own country,'" she remembers. During production on "Lady Bird," her email was overrun with screen grabs she snapped of relevant films. A sampling of inspirations: the low-key naturalism of Mike Leigh, Agnes Varda's "Cleopatra from 5 to 7," Eric Rohmer's blocking, Howard Hawks' dialogue ("I make talkies," says Gerwig), "America Graffiti" (shot in nearby Stockton, California), Chantal Akerman's rendering of a woman doing housework in "Jeanne Dielman." "Plainness with a purpose never gets rewarded the way it should," she says. "Our catchphrase for the way the film looked was: 'Plain and luscious.'"

Bittersweet thrill

A short description of "Lady Bird" tends to undersell it. While it has the basic framework of a teenage high-school film, Lady Bird's story - one of the bittersweet thrill of fumbling toward a much-yearned-for future - isn't told in isolation. Her relationship with her mom, an overworked nurse, is strained. The movie's working title was "Mothers and Daughters" - a conflict "as old as the hills," sighs Gerwig. "To me," she says, "that was always the central love story of the film."

"The movie is a bit of a Trojan horse, in a way," says Gerwig. "Around the middle, it catches and you kind of realize there's something very aching and sad at the core of it even though it's funny and fast-paced. It's about young people but it's just as much about the other generation. It's about this whole community. It's not just this pinhole of this teenage girl. I've always disliked the coming-of-age title given to it. Every coming-of-age story in life is equally the story about the parent, the person who's letting go. It's secretly as much the mother's movie as much as it's her movie."

After first Skyping, Gerwig first met Ronan at the Toronto Film Festival in 2015 where they did a late-night read-through of the script, with Gerwig reading every character but Lady Bird. She came away so certain that the "Brooklyn" actress was ideal that she delayed the movie a year to fit Ronan's schedule. The meeting, Ronan says, was giddy and giggly. "We sobbed all the way through," said Ronan. "I was so, so nervous going into it. We had at least two glasses of white wine before we went so we were definitely on the vulnerable side. We were clutching each other one minute and laughing the next." — AP



DISNEY BARS LA TIMES FILM COVERAGE AFTER CRITICAL PIECE

In response to a Los Angeles Times series about the relationship between the Walt Disney Co. and the city of Anaheim that Disney claims is "biased and inaccurate," the company is barring the paper from advance screenings of its films and access to its talent. The editors of the Times said Friday that Disney declined access to its slate of films for the paper's holiday film preview citing "unfair coverage" of its business ties with Anaheim. Upcoming Disney films include "Thor: Ragnarok," "Coco" and "Star Wars: The Last Jedi."

The paper ran a two-part series in late September looking into what it characterized as a complicated and increasingly tense relationship between the city and the Disneyland Resort. The Times says it will review and cover Disney films when they become available to the public. Disney responded in a state-

ment Friday that the Times' series showed, "a complete disregard for basic journalistic standards."

"Despite our sharing numerous indisputable facts with the reporter, several editors, and the publisher over many months, the Times moved forward with a biased and inaccurate series, wholly driven by a political agenda," the statement continued. The Times reporter who wrote both pieces, Daniel Miller, tweeted that, "Disney never asked for a correction." Hillary Manning, the communications director for Los Angeles Times, said the paper had "no further comment" to the allegations made by Disney. Disney representatives have not responded to The Associated Press's request for details on which facts it is contesting in the series. — AP

Music Review

Sam Smith's 'Thrill of It All' is a thrill indeed

When Sam Smith debuted on the music scene in 2014, he sang beautiful and searing songs about love lapses and loneliness. There are moments you'd feel sad for him, but then you'd remind yourself not to pity the guy too much, because, wow, he has THAT VOICE. On his sophomore album, he's still singing emotional songs, but his growth is evident. And perfectly executed.

"The Thrill of It All" is simply that - a thrill - as Smith's piecing voice and vivid lyrics tell stories about his relationships and experiences over the last three years - the good, the bad, the sad and more. "Burning," which hits straight to the heart, is one of the brightest spots on the album, as Smith sings about the after effects once a relationship has ended. "I've been burning/Yes I've been burning/Such a burden/This flame on my chest," he sings on the piano tune, where a choir - or layered vocals - later comes in, bringing on a chilling feel.

Another highlight is "HIM," where Smith sounds powerful and most confident. "Don't you try and tell me that God doesn't care for us/It is him I love," he sings in a commanding tone, followed by a choir again - coming in at the right time. There's not a miss on the 10-track album. "Say It First," about wanting your partner to say they're in love before you do, is soft and relatable, while "No Peace," a duet with unsigned singer YEBBA, is a winner.

There are groovier jams, too, that will move your spir-

it, including "One Last Song," a song for the ex you're still in love with but need to be away from, and "Baby, You Make Me Crazy," with its sing-a-long hook. At times the latter track sounds like an advice column. "When the person that you love just says no?/Boy, get yourself together/Move on with your life," he sings.

Smith co-wrote each of the 10 songs, and even recruited new collaborators to help him out. Malay, who has worked with Frank Ocean and Zayn, lends his magic to "Midnight Train" and "Say It First"; Poo Bear, who has written many of Justin Bieber's hits, co-wrote "Burning"; Timbaland co-produced the closing track, "Pray"; and Grammy-nominated country singer Cam co-wrote "Palace." Jimmy Napes, who worked heavily on Smith's debut "In the Lonely Hour" and won the best original song Oscar with the British singer last year, also worked on seven songs. But at the core of it all, it is Smith, and that voice that emotes the lyrics so perfectly. "The Thrill of It All" is everything, and more. — AP





with
Gulf Air 
طيران الخليج
Gulf Air

By Eiad A. Al-Ahad
Photos by Sherif Ismail

My flight to Tbilisi capital of Georgia aboard Gulf Air was one of the most enjoyable ones I have ever made, which made me want to share this experience with Kuwait Times readers telling them about a number of this beautiful country's characteristics.

On 22nd June 2017 Gulf Air became the first full service carrier from the GCC region to transport passengers from the GCC, via Bahrain, to Tbilisi. Gulf Air's impressive regional network, and double daily flights or more to 10 regional cities, in addition to select destinations in the Indian Subcontinent and Europe, from Bahrain International Airport affords travelers with convenient, efficient and seamless transport from across the region to and from Georgia.

Borgomi is famous for being the home of Eban mineral waters that were used for healing during the reign of the Russian Empire. Borgomi now houses a considerable number of modern hotels, such as the Biltmore Hotel, providing spa services.

Security

Georgia is one of the safest countries one should visit. You almost hear nothing about kidnapping, robbing or murdering tourists there. The police is doing its work properly and are highly trained to protect you.

Old Tbilisi

The ancient part of Georgia's monumental heritage is in Old Tbilisi which is full of historic buildings that go back to the 17 and the 19th centuries and, despite their beauty, need to be renovated. However, beauty lies in this obsolescence, which provides a romantic atmosphere like that near the Narikala Fortress.



Places to see

Museum of Georgia

for a glimpse into the country's history and culture
Narikala Fortress – offering up spectacular views over **Tbilisi**, the **Narikala Fortress** dating back to the 4th century, dominates the Old Town skyline.

Botanical Gardens

These picturesque gardens stretch more than a kilometre up the valley beneath the cliffs of Narikala Fortress.

Mosque

near the Botanical Gardens you will find the only mosque in Tbilisi, dating from 1895.

Abanotubani

famed Russian poet Alexander Pushkin and French author Alexandre Dumas enjoyed these hot sulphur baths in the late 19th century.

Peace Bridge

an elegant glass-and-steel footbridge over the Mtkvari River, designed by Italian Michele De Lucchi, the Peace Bridge is arguably one of the most eye-catching structures in Georgia.

Cable Car

Tbilisi's cable car transports you over the Mtkvari River and Old Town up to Narikala Fortress.

Why would you travel to Tbilisi?

Does the secret lie in the delicious Georgian cuisine, the breath-taking historic sites and nature this country houses or because the Georgian people are courteous and hospitable?

Georgian Hospitality

One of the main reasons that would make one repeatedly travel to Georgia is its amicable, friendly, hospitable guest-respecting people with all their conversational skills and dedication to showing hospitality.

Charming Nature

Despite its small size, Georgia enjoys diverse picturesque natural scenes. To the North, one will enjoy places like Kazbegi and Mestia in addition to the ice-tipped Caucasian Mountains. One would also find valleys and jungles surrounding the city of Kutaisi, therapeutic springs in Borjomi and wonderful beaches overlooking the black sea in Batumi and Poti.

Low Budget

In comparison with other cities, it is considered one of the cheapest cities in terms of expenses and the cost of hotels, shopping and restaurants there.

Luxurious Hotels

There are many options of luxurious and comfortable stays all over the country, namely in Tbilisi.

Moderate Climate

Temperature rises up to 35 degrees centigrade in Tbilisi during the summer while in winter, it drops and snow can be seen tipping mountains throughout the country, which provides perfect venues for skiing in Gauduri.

Fancy Restaurants

Georgian dishes are deliciously rich because each city has its own major fancy restaurants such as those in the capital Tbilisi with their modern interior designs that are mixed with the ancient Georgian styles were both traditional and international dishes.

Spa Resorts

The Georgian capital, Tbilisi is built around the Abanotubani region where many sulphur baths which are located providing massaging, bathing and skin peeling services using the healing power of this water.



Cuisine

The Georgian capital has a distinctive cuisine that features notable dishes including:

Georgian bread (Puri) and its infinite variations such as Khachapuri, Imeruli khachapuri, Megruli khachapuri and Acharuli khachapuri.

Veal chashushuli a traditional Georgian dish that is essentially a delicious tomato-based stew that is full of flavor.

Lagidze Water or Georgian Soda a fizzy flavored soda invented by the Georgian pharmacist Mitrofan Lagidze in the late 1800s. It is composed of natural syrups and soda and comes in a host of unique flavors such as cherry, tarragon, pear and more.



Lifestyle

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017



A model parades a creation from the "Creative Rongchang Grass Cloth" collection by Zhang Yichao during China Fashion Week in Beijing. — AFP

(see more on page 29)



A granary of a fortified village.



A view of the fortified village rehabilitated by Salima Naji.

MOROCCO ARCHITECT FIGHTS CONCRETE WITH TRADITION

An unexpected gust of cool air greets visitors to the new archives centre in Tiznit in the mountains of southern Morocco, even without air-conditioning despite extreme heat outside its walls. That is thanks to the ancestral building methods used by Salima Naji, a French-educated Moroccan architect who specializes in construction that blends in with the environment and local traditions. Rather than concrete, she used adobe and mudbrick, and built in high air vents for circulation.

"First I look at what's available on the scene, rather than bring things in from elsewhere," said the architect who has a second degree in anthropology and who has restored several historical buildings. The priority is always two-fold: to protect local traditions

and the environment. Naji said she was baffled as to why "at a certain time people stopped building with local materials" and how they had "turned their back on this heritage".

'Landscape falling apart'

Adobe, rock, limestone, palm tree wood — this is the heritage that she refuses to abandon. Naji, 47, daughter of a Moroccan father and French mother, started working with traditional construction methods and materials for private clients. Then she realized that "it's all very well building for the rich but the landscape is in the process of falling apart," she said.

She started to restore old ksours, or fortified villages, former mosques and communal granaries at the



Moroccan architect Salima Naji poses for a picture.



A picture taken on September 14, 2017 inside the museum in the village of Amtoudi near the city of Tiznit shows a view of a fortified village rehabilitated by a Moroccan architect committed to traditions and the environment. — AFP photos

oasis settlement of Amtoudi. In Tiznit, a town about 100 kilometers south of Agadir where she lives in a small traditional house, she has stayed loyal to tradition with a new museum, the archives centre and a community hall. Despite her aversion to the material, she had to use some concrete to respect Morocco's urban code for public buildings. "I don't understand how we can credit this material that has no value, not historical, not in terms of climate control, not aesthetically, and its expensive!" she said. "It's cold in winter, hot in summer."

'Traditions are alive'

The essential thing for Naji is that "in Morocco, traditions are alive, slowing down of course, but not dead like elsewhere". She worked on the Amtoudi granaries with local artisans, although it was a challenge to persuade the youngest among them to learn old methods. Apart from being an architect and anthropologist, she has also had to serve as an advocate for the use of local materials and ancestral techniques.

She was warned that her constructions would not hold up to the rains. But she insists that sound construction and good maintenance provide a longer-term foil to the elements than concrete, as proven by the ancient ramparts of the Moroccan capital Rabat where she was born. Her campaign is to find "alternatives to an all-concrete way of life" and she remains optimistic. "I've seen people who want change in this country, who want something beautiful, intelligent, something which turns to the future without forgetting the past," she said. — AFP