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Saudi crown prince cements power with anti-graft sweep

Bank accounts of arrested princes, ministers, tycoon to be frozen

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia pursued a sweeping purge of the kingdom's upper ranks yesterday, saying it would freeze the accounts of dozens of princes, ministers and a tycoon arrested as the crown prince cements his hold on power. Prominent billionaire Alwaleed bin Talal was among the princes arrested late Saturday, a government source told AFP, immediately after a new anti-corruption commission headed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was established by royal decree. The body was given broad powers to investigate cases, issue arrest warrants and travel restrictions, and seize assets. "The homeland will not exist unless corruption is uprooted and the corrupt are held accountable," the royal decree said.



Prince Mohammed bin Salman

The crackdown also targeted the head of the Saudi National Guard, once a leading contender to the throne, as well as the navy chief and the economy minister, who were replaced and arrested in a series of high-profile sackings that sent shockwaves through the kingdom. The dramatic shake-up comes at a time of unprecedented social

and economic transformation in ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia, as Prince Mohammed steps up his reform drive for a post-oil era.

Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television reported that 11 princes, four current ministers and dozens of ex-ministers were arrested as the commission launched a



Prince Alwaleed bin Talal

probe into old cases such as floods that devastated the Red Sea city of Jeddah in 2009. The government official gave AFP a list of 14 of the most high-profile names including Prince Alwaleed, ranked among the richest men in the world. The information ministry separately said the bank accounts of those arrested will be "frozen



Prince Miteb bin Abdul Aziz

and any assets related to the corruption cases will be registered as state property.

"The suspects are being granted the same rights and treatment as any other Saudi citizen," attorney general Sheikh Saud Al-Mojeb said in a statement, adding that a number of investigations had been initiated. "A suspect's position or status

does not influence the firm and fair application of justice." The royal decree said the arrests were in response to "exploitation by some of the weak souls who have put their own interests above the public interest, in order to, illicitly, accrue money".

Shares in Kingdom Holding, 95 percent of which is owned by Prince Alwaleed, dived 9.9 percent as the Saudi stock exchange opened yesterday after reports of his arrest. The share price later recovered some of its losses to end the day down 7.6 percent. In a statement Kingdom Holding said it was "aware" of Saturday's developments but insisted that it was "business as usual" after the chief executive of the company was assured of support from the government.

Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan said the crackdown "heralds a new era and policy of transparency, clarity and accountability". "The decisive decisions will preserve the investment environment and boost trust in the rule of law," the Saudi Press Agency quoted him as saying.

Continued on Page 11

Panel looks into quotas for expats; Ghanem calls MPs for key meeting

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly's financial and economic affairs committee yesterday reviewed several proposals on amending the demographic composition in the country, which is highly in favor of expatriates, the head of the committee said. MP Salah Khorshed said the panel reviewed a proposal calling to set a percentage cap or quotas for individual expatriate nationalities in the country, among several ideas to help amend the demographic structure.

But the committee took no decision because no minister attended the meeting, as the government is a caretaker Cabinet that can only take urgent decisions. He gave no details on the quotas or percentages, but MPs had in the past submitted proposals calling to impose a 10-percent cap on expat communities, meaning that the number of any particular community should not exceed 10 percent of the Kuwaiti population of just under 1.4 million.

This means that the largest number of any community should not exceed 140,000, a number that is already surpassed by several communities, led by Indians, who number close to one million; Egyptians, who top 700,000; in addition to Filipinos, Bangladeshis and others. Similar proposals had been submitted to previous national assemblies and were not approved.

Khorshed said the committee believes that demographic structure proposals are important to control the security situation in the country, adding that a number of specialists will be invited to future meetings to finalize the issue. The committee also discussed the legal status of the chamber of commerce and industry. Several lawmakers have called for introducing a law to govern its activities.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meanwhile called MPs for an informal meeting tomorrow to convey a message from HH the Amir about the prevailing situation. Ghanem said he will convey the Amir's message and called for unity in the country to face challenges, adding that regional developments are progressing at a fast pace "that require us to be wise and cautious".

Tension between the government and MPs has soared after just one session in the new term of the National Assembly following a no-confidence motion against Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and acting Information Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah after a grilling. A large number of lawmakers declared their support for the motion, after which the government submitted its resignation and HH the Amir

"the safest World Cup in the world". Fears about hooliganism at major tournaments have increased following trouble between English and Russian fans at the 2016 Euros in France. This has led to concerns that such scenes will be repeated at future tournaments.

But Ali said he was hopeful that would not be the case in 2022. "We are working with a lot of national, regional and international organizations, countries, agencies," he said. "We are the only country in the world who have 10 years to prepare for the World Cup." Asked if international police officers with experience of dealing with crowd trouble would be in Qatar to help with any potential problems, he told AFP: "For sure." Officers will be drawn from those countries "that qualify" for 2022, added Ali.

Some 1.3 million fans are expected to visit Qatar - the



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem speaks to the press yesterday. — KUNA

asked Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to form the new Cabinet.

Lawmakers however have warned the premier against retaining several ministers in the new Cabinet, mainly Sheikh Mohammad, threatening that this could trigger a new crisis. A number of MPs yesterday reiterated their calls to the prime minister to adopt a new policy in forming the Cabinet by selecting capable and competent ministers.

first World Cup to be held in the Middle East - equivalent to half the country's population. It will also be the most compact in the modern era with the majority of fans likely to stay in just one city, Doha, which could also present security problems. Qatar has previously said it will restrict the sale of alcohol during the World Cup and convene special courts for fans arrested during the tournament.

The security situation in the region added to current diplomatic tensions in the Gulf, which has seen Qatar politically isolated by neighboring countries for the past five months, has also raised fears. However, Ali, speaking ahead of a "Major Events Security Conference" in Doha this week, said organizers were ready to provide a benchmark tournament. "We have prepared for everything and we are ready and it will be the most safe and secure World Cup," he said. — AFP

News in brief

Guards reject Trump 'slander'

DUBAI: The head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards denied yesterday accusations by Donald Trump that Iran was behind the firing of a ballistic missile at Saudi Arabia from warring Yemen, rejecting it as one of the US president's "slanders". Saudi Arabia's air defenses intercepted the missile, bringing it down near the capital Riyadh's airport on Saturday, and it did not cause any casualties. "A shot was just taken by Iran, in my opinion, at Saudi Arabia ... and our system knocked the missile out of the air" Trump told reporters on Air Force One en route to Tokyo. But Mohammad Ali Jafari, head of the Revolutionary Guards who are in charge of Iran's missile program, said: "Mr Trump has said many baseless things and told many lies and frequently falsely accused Iran and this one of those slanders," Iran's state news agency IRNA reported. "We do not have even the possibility to transfer missiles to Yemen. The missiles belong to them and they have increased their range," Jafari added.

Bahrainis asked to leave Lebanon

DUBAI: Bahrain yesterday urged its citizens to avoid travelling to Lebanon and advised those already in the country to leave immediately for their safety. "Due to the current conditions and developments in Lebanon, the foreign ministry asks citizens present in Lebanon to leave immediately and exercise extreme caution," the foreign ministry said in a statement. It warned its citizens to avoid travelling to Lebanon "for their own safety and to avoid any dangers they might encounter". It gave no further details on the nature of any threat. Its warning came a day after Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced his resignation. His surprise withdrawal from a government that also includes Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah risked plunging the already fragile country deeper into turmoil. Manama has declared Hezbollah a terrorist group and repeatedly accused it of involvement in violent attacks in the tiny Gulf kingdom.

Egypt recovers 354 antiques

CAIRO: Egypt has recovered 354 archaeological objects that were seized by authorities in the United Arab Emirates, the antiquities ministry in Cairo said. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi, ruler of the emirate of Sharjah, had ordered the pieces returned to Egypt after police captured them, the ministry said Saturday. Antiquities Minister Khaled El-Enany inspected the pieces at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo on Saturday, it said, adding that they would be placed on display in a "special exhibition". The recovered pieces include antiques from the Pharaonic era and some from Islamic times, it said. Among them are a pottery container carrying the name of Ramses III, who ruled Egypt around 3,000 years ago, and several bronze statues depicting Egyptian gods including Isis and Osiris.

Qatar to use foreign police at World Cup

DOHA: Police officers from different countries will be on Qatar's streets during the 2022 World Cup in an effort to prevent hooliganism, a senior security officer for the tournament has said. Major Ali Mohammed Al-Ali, deputy executive director for security with the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, the body overseeing the tournament, also predicted that Qatar would deliver

what Lebanon can bear," Hilal Khshash, a professor of political science at the American University of Beirut, said.

Hariri announced his resignation in a broadcast from Saudi Arabia, accusing Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah of taking over his country and destabilizing the entire region. Hezbollah is part of the government, but the clout of a group whose military arsenal outstrips that of Lebanon's own armed forces is far greater than its share of cabinet posts. The resignation of the prime minister, a Sunni, toppled a coalition government that included Hezbollah.

Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah charged yesterday that Saudi Arabia had forced Hariri to resign, and called for calm and patience in Lebanon.

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BEIRUT: A banner bearing a portrait of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri is seen in the capital, a day following the announcement of his resignation. — AFP

Hariri exit raises specter of fresh war

BEIRUT: Saad Hariri's resignation from Lebanon's premiership has raised fears that regional tensions were about to escalate and that the small country would once again pay a heavy price. Analysts said the Saudi-backed Sunni politician's move on Saturday to step down from the helm less than a year after forming a government was more than just the latest hiccup in Lebanon's notoriously dysfunctional politics. "It's a dangerous decision whose consequences will be heavier than

Local

Amir condemns ballistic missile attack on north of Saudi capital

Lebanese President postpones visit to Kuwait

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah strongly condemned the Yemen-originated ballistic missile attack on north of the Saudi capital city, Riyadh, on Saturday. His Highness the Amir, in a cable to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz, commended the Saudi Royal Defense Forces for intercepting the missile thus preventing casualties. This hostile attack against Saudi Arabia and its people is violating international norms, said His Highness the Amir, who supported all measures adopted by the Saudi government to preserve the country's security.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah also sent a cable to King Salman to condemn the ballistic missile attack. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a similar cable. Meanwhile, National Assembly speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem strongly condemned the ballistic missile attack. "We reaffirm our complete solidarity with our Saudi brethren against this deplorable hostile acts," Ghanem said in a cable to Sheikh Dr Abdullah Al-Sheikh, speaker of the Saudi Shura Council. Ghanem also expressed support to all measures to be adopted by Saudi Arabia to maintain security, stability and sovereignty of its territories.

Grave concern

Kuwait said it followed with grave concern the firing of a ballistic missile by the Houthi militias and Ali Abdullah Saleh's forces against the Saudi capital city, Riyadh. The attack, which aimed at undermining security and stability of civilians, "is a dangerous development" committed by the Houthis and Saleh's forces, a foreign ministry source said in a statement.

The attack, he added, was jeopardizing international efforts to reach a political solution for the bloody conflict which was posing a threat to regional and international security. Kuwait, which condemned this attack in strongest terms, is supporting Saudi Arabia's measures to preserve its security and stability.

Visit postponed

In other news, His Highness the Amir received a



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

phone call from Lebanese President Michel Aoun, who asked him to postpone a visit to Kuwait, which was scheduled yesterday, due to political circumstances in Lebanon. Aoun explained to His Highness the Amir that these circumstances required his personal attendance. He wished Kuwait and its people sustainable progress under the leadership of His Highness the Amir.

His Highness the Amir thanked Aoun for his call, and said he understood the circumstances and wished Lebanon would overcome them. His Highness the Amir told Aoun that he was welcomed to visit Kuwait at any time he saw suitable.

Condolences

Separately, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences to Bangladesh President Mohammed Abdul Hamid over the death of his country's ex-president Abdur Rahman Biswas. Two similar cables were



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

also sent to the Bangladesh president by His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister, while Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a cable of condolences to Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, Bangladesh's parliament, Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak as well as First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Seif Palace. — KUNA



Kuwait describes attack as 'dangerous development'

Interior Minister meets diplomats



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with the Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Alaa Al-Hashemi. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah met yesterday with the French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla, accompanied by the military attache at the embassy discussing joint cooperation between the two countries.

Minister Khaled Al-Jarrah also met with the Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Alaa Al-Hashemi, and held talks over issues of mutual interest especially regarding the affairs of the Iraqi community in the country. The Minister of Interior also met with Azerbaijani Ambassador Elkhan Gahraman, discussing joint cooperation and means of enhancing coordination between the two friendly countries. — KUNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with the French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with Azerbaijani Ambassador Elkhan Gahraman.

Protocol signed to empower persons with disabilities

KUWAIT: The General Authority for Youth and the General Authority for Persons with Disabilities Affairs signed yesterday a protocol of cooperation to invest and empower youth with disabilities and prepare them to develop their skills and talents to contribute to the development of the society. Director General of the General Authority for Youth Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said at a news conference that this approach aims to provide opportunities for young people with disabilities and organize joint programs between the two authorities in the fields of innovation,



KUWAIT: Officials attend a news conference to announce signing a protocol to empower persons with disabilities. — KUNA

craft, art, sports and entrepreneurship of small projects.

Mutairi added that the protocol will allow young people with disabilities to benefit from the various facilities rendered by the Youth Authority, pointing out that it has been coordinating with the NGOs sponsoring the disabled to activate these facilities and make the most of it for the development of young people

from such category in all areas of youth work. He said that the two sides started implementing this protocol today through convention of a workshop with the participation of concerned figures, specialists and specialized schools for people with disabilities to explain the objectives of the project which aims to provide a safe and secure environment for young people with disabilities. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the credentials of Tarek Al-Koni as Egypt's Ambassador to the country. — KUNA

FM receives Egyptian envoy's credentials

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received

yesterday credentials of Tarek Al-Koni as Egyptian Ambassador to the country. The minister expressed good wishes to the ambassador and hoped the brotherly relations between Egypt and Kuwait would be boosted further.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah, Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, the Assistant Foreign Minister for the minister's bureau affairs, Ambassador Dhari Al-Ajran, Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocol Affairs, and other ministry officials. — KUNA

KRCS suggests two Arab humanitarian funds

ISTANBUL: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday put up a proposal creating two humanitarian funds under an Arab umbrella, and pledged \$50,000 in contributions. This came in a statement by KRCS Chairman Hilal Al-Sayer on the sidelines of a preparatory

meeting of the Organization of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies (ArabRCRC) in Turkey's resort city of Antalya. The first fund is meant to help and support the families of missing and dead humanitarian workers, while the second fund will provide psychological and social support to children affected by crises and disasters worldwide, he said.

Sayer called on all participants in the preparatory meeting of the ArabRCRC to throw much weight behind this humanitarian initiative in order to attain its noble goals. However, the KRCS chief appreciated the ArabRCRC's efforts to unify Arab efforts and coordinate humanitarian activities with a view to resolving crises and problems in Arab countries. — KUNA



ISTANBUL: KRCS Chairman Hilal Al-Sayer (third left) poses with other participants in the meeting. — KUNA

Local

Legalese

Sexual harassment

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Sexual harassment can be very hard to deal with. Some women feel like they are the ones who are being blamed or they are the ones who should be ashamed, but in reality, it is not just females who have difficulty dealing with sexual harassment or harassment in general. Harassment comes in many different forms - sometimes a woman may harass a man, or a man might harass a woman by making remarks about women in general. The law specifically only punishes sexual harassment though, and today I answer major questions regarding harassment.

Punishments

Question: I would like to know what are the punishments by law for those who sexually harass?

Fajer: The answer differs to the extent of the act of sexual harassment and the circumstances surrounding it. Here are a few examples - if the act is done through hate, threats or deceit, it shall be punished by up to 15 years of imprisonment. If the act is done by a guardian - any guardian and not necessary a legal guardian - such a parent, uncle, teacher, caretaker, etc, then the punishment will be up to life imprisonment. It also depends on the state of the victim. If the victim is under the legal age, not mentally stable, or not mentally capable of understanding the nature of the act, then the punishment will be up to life imprisonment.

You can find below the articles of sexual harassment.

Article 191 of the Kuwait penal code states:

- Any person who sexually harasses another through hate, threats or deceit shall be punished by up to 15 years of imprisonment.
- If the victim is related to the harasser, or is under his/her upbringing (eg uncle, aunt, teacher, domestic worker so on), then he/she shall be punished with life imprisonment.
- If the victim is under the legal age, not mentally stable, or unable to know the nature of the act, then the harasser shall be punished with life imprisonment.

Article 192 of Kuwait penal code states:

- Any person who sexually harasses another without hate, threats or deceit shall be punished by up to 10 years of imprisonment.
 - If the victim is related to the harasser, or is under his/her upbringing (eg uncle, aunt, teacher, domestic worker so on), then he/she shall be punished by up to 15 years of imprisonment.
- As you can see, the punishments are for "any person" regardless of their gender.

Absurd

Question: Recently my boss has been asking me work through text messages, which I am fine with, but as time went on, he kept discussing more private matters. Two days ago, he told me that if I let him in bed with me, he will give me a promotion. This is absurd, so of course I refused, but now I am afraid it will affect my job. What can I do?

Fajer: Please talk to someone and do not keep it to yourself. It is very important to reach out, even if it is just to a friend. It is also important to report the person to the police - as a woman myself, I know how annoying and difficult it is to deal with harassment, but the police are here to help. Also, if you work for a large company and you have an HR department, I suggest you speak to them as they may be able to make changes internally. If you would like to go legal and take it a step further, then you can file a complaint at the police station nearest to where the incident happened.

Virtually

Question: If someone is bothering me virtually and not in person, as in sending me emails with sexual content, is there anything I can do about it?

Fajer: As I mentioned in the first question, this depends on how you feel and how badly it is affecting you. You have to weigh it out. If you think that it is affecting your day-to-day life, then you need to take action, and Kuwaiti law does protect you. In fact the new cybercrime law does discuss situations that can affect victims online, and there is a department under the interior ministry specialized in such cases.

Should you have any questions or concerns, or you require a consultation, please email me at ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

Ministry requests building 100,000 sq m 'gold city'

Would be largest of its kind in the region

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry asked Kuwait Municipality to allocate a plot to build a special 'gold and jewelry city' over a total area of 100,000 sq m, to be the largest of its kind in the region. The ministry's letter to the municipality explained that municipality approval was needed so that the project could be included in the ministry's development plan projects.

The ministry's letter added that the city will include a building to administer precious metals and a parking for employees over an area of 10,000 sq m, in addition to special lounges for both local and imported jewelry, a hall for customer reception, a VIP hall, offices for 300 employees, an archive section, a central well-secure safe, safes in every section, labs for examining diamonds, laser labs, chemical labs and an employee training hall, in addition to parking spaces for 500 employees and 1,000 visitors.

KIA shares

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh said that the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) pays 25-100 percent of the capital of 51 companies headquartered in 16 Arab and foreign countries, including Kuwait. Responding to an inquiry filed by MP Mohammed Hayef, Saleh explained that KIA has up to 100 percent shares in 14 local companies, in addition to others in Egypt, Bahrain, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania, France, Pakistan, US, Bosnia, Malaysia, Spain, Britain, Mexico, Portugal and Holland. Saleh explained that local companies in which KIA owns shares include Kuwait Industrial Bank, Kuwait Investment Company, Kuwait Livestock Trading and Transport Company, Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company, Kuwait Cement Company, Kuwait Public Transport Company, Kuwait Airways Corporation and Touristic Enterprises Company.

Health insurance

During its meeting yesterday, the parliamentary health affairs committee discussed its priorities for the coming period, said the committee chairperson MP Humoud Al-

Khodair, noting that these priorities include the retirees' health insurance law as well as a law on protecting patients' full rights. Khodair added that the priorities will also include building medical cities and hospitals in various governorates, in addition to the psychological health bill that was referred to parliament in 2015 and has not been discussed ever since.

Squander

Chairman of the parliamentary financial affairs committee MP Salah Khorsheed urged the government to stop the high level of waste and squander in various ministries as reported by the State Audit Bureau, instead of calling for more time to pass laws that would help citizens face soaring prices. Khorsheed said the government would have to consider increasing rent allowance from KD 150 to KD 275 and child allowance from KD 50 to KD 75 per kid.

Gas stations

Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) received approval recently from the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) to build 19 new gas stations by the Combined Group Contracting Company with a total value of KD 15.4 million within 15 months. Informed sources said another group of stations would be offered for public tendering soon, with a total value of KD 10 million. The sources said that KNPC currently runs 43 gas stations and that the new ones would have modern designs matching international standards.

Offset Company

The National Offset Company decided extending the period of its liquidation for one more year and reappointing the company's judicial liquidator Talal Yousif Al-Muzaini as the legal representative of Deloitte. The decision was made following a meeting attended by Kuwait Investment Authority, the State Audit Bureau, ministry of commerce and Duajj Al-Kandary law firm representatives. Notably, the company had been subject to liquidation since its extraordinary general assembly meeting held on Oct 29, 2015.

Thieves market

Farwaniya police arrested the Bangladeshi leader of a vendors' mafia at the "thieves market" in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. The suspect used to 'rent' out hawking areas to vendors. Legal procedures are being taken to deport him from the country. The "thieves market" in Jleeb is full of sellers of vegetables and stolen material, and posed a major worry for police. So a plan was made to keep the market under surveillance. Based on a tip, the task force went there and arrested the suspect, who attempted to flee. The other hawkers at the place ran away.

Teen in trouble

Security guards at a mall brought a juvenile to the police station after he fought with an environment policeman for smoking and refusing to stub out the cigarette. The policeman noticed a man smoking in the mall, which is a violation of the new environment law, so he approached him and asked him to stop, but he refused, got angry and started a fight. Guards caught the smoker and took him to the police station.

Policeman offended

A Syrian woman insulted police in Salmiya after she was found without an ID. When police asked her for her ID, she told them she did not have any and refused to board the patrol car. She was forced in and taken to the police station.



Labor strike

Oil Minister and Minister of Electricity and Water Essam Al-Marzouq said that the recent oil employees' strike was not because Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) decided to reduce employees' incentives, but as a result of putting Cabinet instructions stipulated in decision number 1410 pertaining cutting expenses into effect. Responding to an inquiry filed by MP Faisal Al-Kandari, Marzouq explained that KPC had exerted all possible efforts to prevent the strike. He added that he met KPC's CEO and its subsidiary companies' managing directors and executives.

Non-oil revenues

Well-informed financial sources said Kuwait plans to reduce its reliance on oil in its GDP in the fiscal year 2018-2019 to only 45 percent instead of 55 percent. The sources explained that this would be possible through non-oil revenues like fees on public services, balanced taxes, new investments, supporting more industrial projects as well as small and medium projects. The sources explained that Kuwait has allocated \$112.5 billion for 521 development projects in the period of 2016-2020 with the ultimate goal of diversifying its resources.

Housing projects

Reports by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare showed a reduction in the estimated budget of five housing projects by over 50 percent in the period of 2013-2015, from over one billion dinars to KD 447 million. The reports explained that, for instance, West Abdullah Al-Mubarak project cost had been estimated at KD 58 million, which was reduced to KD 46 million.

\$112.5 billion allocated for 521 projects



Man arrested for using late father's POA in forgery

By Hanan Al-Saadoun and agencies

KUWAIT: A citizen was arrested for using a power of attorney (POA) his father gave him before his death and renewed a domestic helper's residency, claiming his father was abroad. The man was charged with forgery.

Crackdown

Mubarak Al-Kabeer general cleanliness department's director Melfi Al-Houli said a campaign resulted in issuing 16 citations while spoil fruits and vegetables were destroyed.

Harassment

Two Egyptian teachers took advantage of crowds and came close to a female citizen and a child in clear instances of harassment, so they were arrested and ordered deported by assistant undersecretary for general security Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Tarrah.

KFSD opens Mangaf fire station



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's (KFSD) Director General Lt Gen Khalid Al-Mikrad opened the Mangaf fire station in the presence of acting deputy director general of the prevention sector Brig Mohammad Al-Mahmeed, public relations and information department's director Col Khalil Al-Amir, director of construction and maintenance Col Abdelmohsen Al-Enezi and director of Ahmadi Fire Department Lt Col Muath Al-Hamadi.

Traffic department officer honored



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Mahmoud Al-Dousary received captain Mohammad BuRabee from the traffic department in the presence of the Kuwait jet-ski team and acting director of Capital governorate's testing department Lt Col Abdelwahab Al-Omar. Dousary honored BuRabee for winning the pro-pen tournament that was held in the US state of Arizona.



KUWAIT: Fruits confiscated during a recent municipality crackdown on roaming vendors.

Local

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: A water droplet falls on a flower. —KUNA

Japan calls for boosting partnership with Kuwait

Kuwaiti Ambassador honors Japanese Foreign Minister

TOKYO: Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono has underscored necessity of boosting the partnership between his nation and the State of Kuwait at the political and economic levels. This came in a statement after a banquet held in his honor by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi.

Kono expressed hope that Kuwait and Japan would reinforce partnership, not only in terms of economic ties but also in political sphere, stressing Japan's support to Kuwait's mediation aimed at easing tensions in the Gulf countries. In his visit to Kuwait on September 10, Kono met First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, discussing ways to further strengthen the relationship between the two countries. He had also visit other Middle Eastern countries, recently.

During the dinner on Saturday evening, Otaibi congratulated Kono on his victory with the largest number of votes in Japan's general election on Oct 22 and his reappointment to the foreign ministry. While expressing appreciation for his efforts in enhancing Japan's relations with Kuwait as well as other Arab countries, the ambassador hoped that Kono would continue to play a great role in strengthening Kuwait-Japan and Arab-Japan relationships.

Guests in the dinner at the embassy included Arab diplomatic corps in Tokyo. "We have ambassadors from Arab countries here today. We are looking forward to getting benefit from Japan's experiences and expertise in a wide range of areas, and its greater contribution" to growing cooperation between the two sides, Otaibi said.

Political Dialogue

Kono recollected his visit to Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt in September, including the first-ever Japan-Arab Political Dialogue in Cairo. "The Middle



TOKYO: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi (left) presents a memento to Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono. —KUNA

East has a special place in my heart," said the minister, who regards the region as one of the five pillars of Japanese diplomacy. "The first Japan-Arab Political Dialogue saw a great success, and I would like to continue the momentum," Kono said, adding that he has set up a study group about relationship between Japan and the Middle East.

The minister also reconfirmed Japan's determination to increase multilayered and strategic relationship with Arab states, including its political and cultural involvement in the region. Kono and Arab diplomats exchanged views on a broad range of bilateral and regional issues of common concern, and ways to develop their partnership to a new



A group photo of guests at a dinner hosted by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi to honor Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono.

height. "Stability in the Middle East is very important for us, and we are willing to provide assistance to the region that will help it achieve stability," he said, reaffirming Japan's strong commitment to peace and prosperity in the Middle East. Kono pointed out Japan's friendly ties with the Middle East regardless of their religion, and its unique position to be able to hold frank talks with the US, which he described as "a key player in the Middle East."

He also shed light on Tokyo's "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative that started 10 years ago with an aim to support independence of Palestinian economy through regional cooperation with Palestine, Jordan and Israel. As part of the plan to upgrade the initiative, Japan is hoping to put agricultural products made in the project to the markets in the Gulf countries and other Arab states, according to the minister. —KUNA

Kuwait's Al-Salam society launches humanitarian projects in Kyrgyzstan

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Al-Salam Humanitarian and Charity Society Director General Dr Nabil Al-Oun has underscored significance of launching Al-Salam charitable compound in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan, to provide humanitarian services for Muslims there as part of the current "Al-Khair" convoy 38. He added in remarks yesterday that the society started constructing this facility last year, explaining that it would secure educational and professional training for the orphans in particular. Three floors will accommodate 420 orphans with full time residency in addition to 720 who are staying temporarily, he said.

The compound includes two schools, Holy Qur'an memorization centers, mosques, a tailoring center, a central market and a playing field, he said. The society also built 35 widows' houses, an automatic bakery, 15 mosques, five Holy Qur'an memorization centers, and five water projects

serving thousands of people in need, Oun added. The society workers and volunteers also distributed tons of coal to poor families and widows to help them face extremely harsh and cold winter, he said. A delegation from Al-Salam Society also visited cancer and burns hospitals offering medications, sheets, blankets, detergents and medical equipment. —KUNA



Local

Zain Great Idea entrepreneurs arrive at Silicon Valley

Program includes workshops and classes to accelerate tech ideas

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the arrival of the Zain Great Idea (ZGI) entrepreneurs to San Francisco to take part in the second phase, the international accelerator program in San Francisco and London with Brilliant Lab and Mind The Bridge in the presence of Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan.

ZGI is a Zain initiative launched in partnership with Brilliant Lab, a startup accelerator service from Kuwait, and Mind The Bridge, a Silicon Valley-based organization specializing in entrepreneurship education for startups, enterprises and investors. The previous three successful programs has seen the empowerment, training, and investment in hundreds of creative and driven young Kuwaitis, of which many now own thriving Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

The ten entrepreneurs will be staying at San Francisco, specifically Silicon Valley - the international capital of technology and startup businesses - for two weeks, where they will be mentored by Mind The Bridge. The entrepreneurs showcased their tech projects to MIB's management as well as Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan, who in return shared their business strategies and experiences with them. The ZGI participants also met a number of local entrepreneurs and discussed founder and success stories together.

The program also included classes and workshops with Orrick legal advisory firm, which is the leading legal firm in San Francisco and is considered the second oldest company in the city. Orrick is known for providing world-class legal advisory services to the biggest tech companies around the world, including Facebook.

The first phase of the program, the ZGI boot camp, lasted for over two weeks at the company's main headquarters, where the participants learned about the tech startup culture and workings from leading mentors from Stanford University, IE Business school, entrepreneurs and regional and international venture capital firms. Speakers included Fadi Ghandour - Founder of Aramex, Mohammad Al-Hajeri - Chief Investment Officer at Impulse International, Abdulaziz Al-Loughani

- cofounder and Managing Partner at Faith Capital, Hasan Zainal - Partner at Arzan Venture Capital, Abdulhameed Shararah - Founder and CEO of RiseUp, Malek Osseiran - head of LinkedIn GCC, Matea Malokanovic - Head of Marketing, Careem GCC, Sammi Hasaan - Assistant General Manager at Careem, Aby Sam Thomas - Editor in Chief of Entrepreneur ME, as well as representatives from the Kuwait National Fund For Small And Medium Enterprise Development, and more.



Zain Great Idea entrepreneurs pose with company officials.



In partnership with Brilliant Lab, Mind The Bridge

8th Technological Innovations Conference and Exposition opens

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: The Tamil Nadu Engineers Forum (TEF) in Kuwait opened the 8th Technological Innovations Conference and Exposition yesterday at Radisson Blu Hotel. The forum has a membership of about 600 engineers from various disciplines and industries in Kuwait. During his speech, TEF President Ramarah G said the forum was founded in 2000 and is the most active professional body in Kuwait. He said TEF has been organizing conferences, technical meetings and outreach activities, and is a step forward in meeting its social responsibility program.

He noted that the objective of the conference is to promote technological innovations in the oil and gas industry in the region by providing a forum for practitioners from industry and academia to share experiences, technological advances and new ideas.

Ahmad Al-Jemaz, DCEO - Petrochemicals and LNGI, said: "The conference's theme of 'Towards Sustainable Development' is what we need to develop and focus on to increase value addition and create new domains for diversification within the organization. We appreciate the efforts by TEF in organizing this conference which provides value addition, enlightens engineers from all sectors and provides scientific, technical and innovative advancements to the conventional engineering approach."

General Secretary Amuthan Ilakkuvan pointed out that for the 8th Technological Innovations Conference and Exposition, the flagship program of the year, TEF put in lots of planning, teamwork, motivation, attention and efforts. He added that the patronage they receive from oil and gas clients year after year is proof of the credibility the Indian community and various engineering and professional bodies in Kuwait have earned over the years.



KUWAIT: Ahmad Al-Jemaz with Anup Singh, Commercial Attache at the Indian Embassy during the opening ceremony. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Ramarah G



Amuthan Ilakkuvan



Ahmad Al-Jemaz

The conference endeavors to raise the quality of debate and enable answers that actually work in transforming the way industries produce and supply energy to the market, as the world economy continues to depend on hydrocarbons as a source of energy despite rapid technological development. The event

was attended by professionals in feed study, operations, maintenance, engineering, technical services, design, project management, reliability engineering, enterprise risk management and environment management. The event featured presentation of papers, posters and products.

Kuwait business climate improvement package in offing, says minister

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan said his ministry was working on a set of business climate improvement laws, primarily a bankruptcy and insolvency bill. Roudhan, who doubles as Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs, made the remark during a press conference on the occasion of Kuwait's recent advance in Ease of Doing Business Index 2018 (DB 2018).

The fresh package is chiefly pertinent to companies, auditors and exchange of information, the minister said. Kuwait's advance to the 96th position in the index is not enough since the ministry is seeking to put the State of Kuwait in the first third of this list in just less than five years, he added. The Permanent Committee for Streamlining Business Environment: Enhancing Competitiveness in the State of Kuwait, led by Director-General of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, is working hard in this regard and has already revised many laws in order to streamline the process of establishing companies, he noted.

The Kuwaiti government has recently taken a package of reform steps with a view to improving the business climate in the country, the minister boasted. On his part, Executive Director and Dean of the Board at the World Bank Group Merza Hussain commended the



KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan (center) attends the press conference. — KUNA

recent efforts by the Kuwaiti government to improve the business climate in the country.

He also hailed Kuwait's advance in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2018 (DB 2018), pointing to a close link between the investment and business atmosphere quality and economic growth. He noted that job creation in any country is mainly based on small and medium-sized enterprises, which are mainly related to the investment atmosphere and business climate.

Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) had announced that the country witnessed

improvement in its position in the Ease of Doing Business Index 2018 (DB 2018), released by the World Bank Group, and in its Distance to Frontier (DTF) score as well.

Kuwait's rank in the Ease of Doing Index 2018 (DB2018), composes of ten topics that measure various regulatory aspects of the lifecycle of business, advanced by six places to 96 out of 190 included in this year's report, compared to 102 in DB2017, holding the eighth rank within the Arab countries, and maintaining a leading sixth rank in the 'Paying Taxes' topic. — KUNA

IMF hails Kuwait's economic policy amid oil prices drop

KUWAIT: Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said yesterday that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has praised the Kuwaiti government's efforts in tackling the impact of the drop in global oil prices through containing public spending. According to a statement, the chamber's board member Dhirar Al-Ghanem made the remarks after discussing Kuwait's economic policy with visiting IMF mission head Stephane Roudet in the light of article four of the country's IMF membership.

During his talks, Ghanem said that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry is targeting a strong private sector that leads the path of economic development efficiently according to state strategies through equal opportunities, fair competition and transparency. Experts reviewed the IMF's report on Kuwait's 2016 economic policy, which showed that the non-oil sector witnessed 3.5 percent growth due to the continuing rise in public spending, he said. Ghanem also expected a 1.2 percent shrink in Kuwait's GDP in 2017. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry board members meet with the visiting IMF mission. — KUNA

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International

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017



Islamic State kills at least 75 Syrians

Philippine bishops lead thousands in call to end killings

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TOKYO: US President Donald Trump (bottom left-back to camera) greets US troops after speaking during an event with US military personnel at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo yesterday. —AFP

Don't 'underestimate' US, Trump warns

Trump arrives in Japan at start of 12-day Asia trip

TOKYO: US President Donald Trump ramped up his tough rhetoric against North Korea when he arrived in Japan yesterday, saying the United States and its allies are prepared to defend freedom and "no dictator" should underestimate US resolve. Trump kicked off a 12-day Asian trip and is looking to present a united front with Japan against North Korea through meetings with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe amid heightened tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests. He told reporters on Air Force One en route to Asia that North Korea would figure prominently in discussions, and also singled out trade, which he said had been "badly handled" in the region for years.

Trump has rattled some allies with his vow to "totally destroy" North Korea if it threatens the United States and with his dismissal of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as a "rocket man" on a suicide mission. A top aide said last week Trump intends to tell Asian leaders the world is "running out of time" in dealing with the nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula. "No dictator, no regime, no nation should ever underestimate American resolve," Trump told hundreds of cheering US and Japanese troops in camouflage uniforms gathered at Yokota Air Base, just west of Tokyo, soon after he arrived.

"Every once in a while, in the past, they underestimated us. It was not pleasant for them, was it?" said Trump, who wore a bomber jacket as he addressed the troops. North Korea's recent actions, including several missiles that flew over Japan and Pyongyang's sixth and largest nuclear test,

have raised the stakes in the most critical international challenge of Trump's presidency. Recent drills over South Korea by two US strategic bombers have further heightened tensions.

"We will never yield, never waver and never falter in defense of our freedom," Trump said. He told reporters earlier on Air Force One that a decision would be made soon on whether to add reclusive North Korea to a list of state sponsors of terrorism. Trump said his administration planned to take a different approach after years of what he termed "total weakness." "It's a big problem for our country and the world, and we want to get it solved." In an apparent attempt to distinguish between North Korea's leadership and ordinary people, he said he thought North Koreans were "great people." "And I hope it all works out for everybody."

Golf diplomacy

Abe told reporters before Trump's arrival that he welcomed the visit as a chance to deepen bilateral ties by

building on the "friendship and trust" between the two leaders, fostered by several meetings that included a round of golf in Florida earlier this year. "I hope we will be able to have thorough discussions about international issues, including North Korea," he said.

Trump and Abe greeted each other with a handshake at a golf course to be used during the 2020 Olympic Games, changing clothes and heading out to play after what media said was a lunch of hamburgers. In an allusion to a Trump campaign slogan, they signed caps that said "Donald and Shinzo Make Alliance Even Greater."

North Korea may be named a state sponsor of terror



world no. 3 pro golfer. A senior White House official said the two leaders have developed a close bond since Trump took office in January.

"Playing golf with Prime Minister Abe and Hideki Matsuyama, two wonderful people!" Trump tweeted. For his part, Abe took to Twitter to say he played golf "with a marvelous friend (President Donald J. Trump) full of spirited

conversation." The two leaders, and their wives, were having an intimate dinner yesterday night. Trump, in brief remarks at the upscale restaurant where they were to dine on grilled Japanese premium beef, said US-Japan ties were closer than ever. But he added: "We'll have dinner tonight. I think we'll insult everybody by continuing to talk about trade."

Trump also said he planned to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin during his trip, the longest Asian tour by any US leader since George HW Bush in 1992. "I think it's expected that we will meet," he said. "We want Putin's help on North Korea." Trump wants a united front with the leaders of Japan and South Korea against North Korea before he visits Beijing to make the case to Chinese President Xi Jinping that he should do more to rein in Pyongyang. Trade will factor heavily during Trump's trip as he tries to persuade Asian allies to agree to policies more favorable to the United States, a point Trump emphasized.

A centerpiece of the trip will be a visit to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Danang, Vietnam, where Trump will deliver a speech in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region, which is seen as offering a bulwark in response to expansionist Chinese policies. "One of the things we're going to be very focused on is trade because trade has not been done well for 25 years by the United States with this part of the world, with any part of the world," he said on Air Force One. "We're going to be discussing reciprocal trade. Fair, free but reciprocal," he said.—Reuters

Saudi under King Salman

RIYADH: King Salman has overseen some important changes in Saudi Arabia since he inherited the throne from his elderly half-brother King Abdullah nearly three years ago. Following the arrest of dozens of figures including princes, ministers and a top business tycoon, here is a look back at some developments during his reign.

Changes at the top

On January 23, 2015 Salman takes the throne at the age of 79 after the death of Abdullah, aged about 90. He makes key changes in the order of succession, choosing his nephew Mohammed bin Nayef as deputy crown prince and promoting his son Prince Mohammed Bin Salman to defense minister. In June of this year, he raises his son, aged 31, to the position of crown prince, completing a gradual removal of powers from Mohammed bin Nayef.

War in Yemen

In March 2015, a Saudi-led military coalition launches an air campaign to prop up Yemen's President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi against Shiite Houthi rebels and their allies. Coalition members deploy troops in Yemen. Rights

groups have harshly criticized the coalition for civilian casualties in its air strikes.

Rupture with Tehran

In January 2016, Saudi Arabia executes 47 people convicted of "terrorism", mostly Sunnis linked to Al-Qaeda, but also including prominent Shiite cleric Nimr Al-Nimr. His execution stirs a diplomatic crisis with regional rival Iran. Riyadh breaks off diplomatic relations with Tehran after its embassy and a consulate are attacked in the wake of Nimr's execution.

Economic reform

In April 2016, the Saudi government approves a major reform plan dubbed "Vision 2030", aimed at diversifying the oil-dependent economy. The plan involves privatizing part of oil giant Aramco and creating a \$2 trillion sovereign wealth fund. Since a mid-2014 plunge in crude oil prices, Riyadh has had to slash subsidies and delay major projects. In December 2016, the Saudi-led OPEC and other non-member producers led by Russia agree to slash crude output to boost prices.

Deals with Washington

US President Donald Trump visits Saudi Arabia in May 2017 on his first foreign trip since taking office. Washington and Riyadh announce contracts worth more than \$380 billion, including a \$110 billion arms deal aimed at countering perceived threats from Iran and radical Islamists.

Qatar crisis

In June 2017, Saudi Arabia and several Gulf allies and Egypt sever diplomatic ties with Qatar, accusing it of supporting "terrorists" and being too close to Iran. They also take economic measures against Doha, including closing air and maritime links and sealing the country's only land border. Qatar rejects the accusations.

More rights for women

In December 2015, Saudi Arabia opens up elections to women as both candidates and voters for the first time. In September this year, a royal decree announces the end of a longstanding ban on women driving as of June 2018. The decree comes days after women are allowed into a sports stadium for the first time in the country's history. Authorities later say they will allow women into several stadiums, long off limits under strict gender segregation rules. However Saudi women must still obtain permission from a male family member to study and travel.

Crackdown

In September, authorities arrest at least 20 people, including prominent clerics Salman Al-Awdah and Awad Al-Qarni, in an apparent crackdown on dissent. Prominent Saudi journalist and writer Jamal Khashoggi says he has been banned from writing in Saudi-owned newspaper Al-Hayat, apparently for defending the Muslim Brotherhood in tweets.—AFP

MBS, reformist Crown Prince with firm vision

RIYADH: Since his emergence in June as crown prince of the world's oil superpower, Mohammed Bin Salman, 32, has set his sights firmly on economic, social and religious reforms in the ultraconservative kingdom. The young and dynamic prince, known by his initials MBS, has already overseen the most fundamental cultural and economic transformation in the modern history of the Gulf state, half of whose 31-million population is aged under 25.

At an investor summit in late October, MBS pledged a "moderate" Saudi Arabia, long seen as an exporter of a brand of puritanical Islam espoused by jihadists worldwide. "We will not spend the next 30 years of our lives dealing with destructive ideas.

We will destroy them today and at once," said the prince, who has sidelined powerful clergy who have long dominated public discourse in Saudi Arabia. In September, a royal decree said women would be allowed to drive. Some conservative clerics—who for years staunchly opposed more social liberties for women—have backpedaled and come out in favor of the decree

allowing them to drive. Under the crown prince, the kingdom is also expected to lift a public ban on cinemas and has encouraged mixed-gender celebrations—something unseen before. The government has also set up an Islamic centre tasked with certifying the sayings of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) in a stated bid to curb extremist texts.

The government appears to have clipped the wings of the once-feared religious police—long accused of harassing the public with rigid Islamic mores—who have all but disappeared from big cities. In tandem with reforms, Prince Mohammed has been shoring up power and over the summer carried out a wave of arrests in a crackdown on dissenters, including influential clerics and some liberals who could block his path.

Sweeping crackdown

On the business front, the prince was named head of a new anti-corruption commission, established by royal decree, late Saturday. Immediately after, 11 princes, including prominent billionaire Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal, and dozens of current and former ministers were arrested, in a sweeping crackdown seen as consolidating the crown prince's hold on power. MBS is the architect of a wide-ranging plan dubbed Vision 2030 to bring social and economic change to Saudi Arabia's oil-dependent economy.



RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman attends the Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference in Riyadh. —AFP

Among his most prominent positions is chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, which coordinates economic policy. Mohammed also chairs a body overseeing state oil giant Saudi Aramco.

He also holds the post of defense minister more than two years into a Saudi-led military intervention in neighboring Yemen. In a dramatic announcement on June 5, Mohammed Bin Salman was named to replace his cousin, Mohammed bin Nayef, as heir to the Saudi throne. He had been second-in-line since early 2015. Born on August 31, 1985, MBS graduated in law from Riyadh's King Saud University, and the dark-bearded prince with a receding hairline is the father of two boys and two girls. —AFP

International

Islamic State's attack kills at least 75 Syrian civilians

Cornered extremists target fleeing civilians

BEIRUT: A car bombing by the Islamic State group killed at least 75 displaced people in eastern Syria, a monitor said yesterday, as the cornered extremists appeared to target fleeing civilians. Saturday's attack in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor killed "at least 75 displaced civilians including children" and wounded 140, said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The scale of the attack showed that despite losing vast swathes of territory it held in Iraq and Syria, the group is still capable of mounting deadly attacks.

Abdel Rahman said "a new convoy of displaced people joined the gathering at the time of the attack". The displaced had fled battles in the province, where Syrian regime forces and the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), are fighting the jihadist group in separate offensives. The Britain-based war monitor, which relies on a network of sources on the ground inside Syria for its information, reported Saturday that dozens died in the bombing. Fighting across Deir Ezzor province has sent thousands of civilians fleeing for their lives, some straight into the desert.

Syrian and allied forces converged Saturday on holdout IS fighters in the border town of Abu Kamal, the jihadists' very last urban bastion after Russian-backed regime forces seized Deir Ezzor city on Friday.

The jihadists, who in 2014 declared a "caliphate" spanning territory in Iraq and Syria roughly the size of Britain, have also lost most of the territory they once controlled in neighboring Iraq, including second city Mosul. On Friday, Iraqi forces retook the border town of Al-Qaim, also on the Euphrates river.

Hundreds of thousands flee

Many of the remaining IS fighters are believed to have fled across the border to Abu Kamal, also in Deir Ezzor province and the ultimate goal of an intensifying Syrian regime campaign. Aid group Save the Children estimates that some 350,000 people have fled the recent fighting in the oil-rich province, half of them children. Some of those displaced had sought refuge in a desert area controlled by the SDF, a Kurdish-Arab alliance, on the eastern bank of the Euphrates River where the Saturday bombing struck, the Observatory said. It was

IS still capable of mounting deadly attacks



not the first attack attributed to IS against civilians fleeing Deir Ezzor. On October 12, a car bombing in the northeastern province of Hasakeh killed at least 18 people, including displaced people and Kurdish security forces, the Observatory said.

The jihadists have been repeatedly accused of targeting those attempting to flee during fighting. The United Nations on Thursday said the group had ex-



DEIR EZZOR: A picture shows the damage in the eastern Syrian city of Deir Ezzor during a military operation by government forces against Islamic State (IS) group jihadists. —AFP

ecuted 741 civilians in the battle for the Iraqi city of Mosul, accusing it of "indiscriminate targeting of civilians trying to flee the city". The Euphrates Valley border area was the heart of IS's so-called caliphate and is now its last redoubt, where a US-led coalition

supporting the military effort said around 1,500 jihadist fighters remained. Despite being driven out from large parts of Deir Ezzor, IS still controls 37 percent of the province and its fighters are deployed in the eastern side. —AFP

Islamic State storms Yemen govt bastion of Aden, killing 15

ADEN: The Islamic State group claimed a major attack on Yemen's government bastion of Aden yesterday which killed at least 15 people, wounded 18 others and sparked a hostage crisis. IS and its extremist rival Al-Qaeda have taken advantage of the war between Yemen's Saudi-backed government and the country's Shiite Houthi rebels, who are allied with Iran, to bolster their presence across much of the south.

While Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has for years been the stronger presence in southern Yemen, IS has recently come forward to claim attacks on both the army and the country's Shiites, whom it considers heretics. The Islamic State group claimed the attack on the criminal investigations unit in an online statement released by the IS Aden and Abyan Wilayah, which said clashes were "still ongoing".

Security officials in the southern province of Aden, where the Yemeni government is based, said an explosives-rigged car blew up outside the investigations unit, killing six officers on the spot along with the driver. Around 30 gunmen then stormed the unit and freed dozens of detainees from their holding cells, some of whom took up arms to fight alongside the militants, according to a high-ranking official. The gunmen also took an unknown number of people hostage inside the unit yesterday afternoon. Two policewomen were killed execution-style by the attackers, the official said. Earlier yesterday, Yemeni security sources had said they suspected Al-Qaeda militants were behind the well-coordinated attack.

End of the calm?

The attack spells an abrupt end to a period of relative calm that has reigned in Aden, where the government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi has been based since it was driven out of the rebel-held capital Sanaa in 2014. Yemen's complex war, which pits the



SANAA: Yemeni men inspect the site of an air strike in the capital Sanaa yesterday. —AFP

Saudi-backed Hadi government against former president Ali Abdullah Saleh and his Houthi rebel allies, has allowed AQAP and IS to flourish in the south of the country.

IS has not claimed a Yemen attack in almost one year. The group claimed responsibility for a December 18, 2016 attack in Aden that killed 48 and wounded 84 soldiers who had lined up to get their salaries. While southern Yemen has long been the target of the a drone war by the United States, which classifies AQAP as the radical network's most dangerous branch, Washington appears to have recently turned its aim towards IS as well. In October, a US drone strike targeted what local officials said was an IS group in the central Bayda province—the second known strike by Washington against the jihadists in Yemen.

The United States has ties to Yemeni Special Forces trained by the United Arab Emirates, a key member of the Saudi-led coalition, who have closed in on AQAP

southern strongholds in recent weeks. The UAE has played a key role in a Saudi-led military campaign to prop up Hadi's government against both AQAP and the Houthis, who forced him into exile back in 2014. More than 8,600 people have been killed in Yemen since Saudi Arabia and its allies joined the war in 2015 to support government forces, according to the World Health Organization.

Another 2,100 have died of cholera this year. Long the poorest country in the Arab world, Yemen now stands steps away from an official declaration of famine, as war, displacement, and port and airport blockades leave Yemenis struggling to secure food. All parties in the Yemen war have drawn harsh criticism for their failure to protect civilians, but the Saudi-led coalition allied with the government has been singled out by the United Nations for civilian casualties. In September, the UN Human Rights Council announced an agreement to send war crimes investigators to Yemen. —AFP

US militants fail to build a significant network, act alone

WASHINGTON: Sayfullo Saipov, the radicalized Uzbek who mowed down eight people on a New York bike path, apparently developed his plot in relative isolation, like most other jihadist attackers in the United States. But in Europe many have had community support, an underground network, or even a hardline Islamist to guide them, as in the twin attacks in Spain in August.

What makes the difference?

Experts say that in part, a better rooted, more affluent US Muslim community shows no tolerance for anyone exhibiting sympathy for causes like the Islamic State group or Al-Qaeda. And tougher and expansive US laws and more aggressive law enforcement than Europe have also made a difference. Together, they leave aspiring jihadists in the United States isolated with their social media links and, at times, just a few friends in the know. Saipov, who crashed a rented truck down a busy New York bike path Tuesday, is so far believed by investi-

gators to have been "self-radicalized" online without any apparent support inside the United States.

Analysts say that's because it is much harder to safely find support. "We tend not to have large clusters in the US... For the most part you are talking about ones and twos," said Seamus Hughes, deputy director of the Program on Extremism at George Washington University. Hughes said one fundamental reason is distance: the country is much farther away from jihadist networks and it is much harder to travel to the Middle East because of official no-fly lists. European Muslims find it much easier to travel to areas where radical groups like Islamic State group operate. As a consequence, he said, "We don't have the kind of in-person recruitment done in Europe."

Tougher law enforcement

Another factor is the expansive use of the charge of "material support of terrorism," a catch-all that "allows the FBI to interject themselves at an earlier stage than our European partners," Hughes said. For critics, the FBI is too aggressive and stretches the law with undercover schemes that entrap people who are not really threats. But the net effect is to prevent them from establishing connections and frightening others thinking of trying to build networks.



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

According to Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank, heavier prison sentences in terror cases in the US makes a difference. US sentences are 15-20 years, compared to four to seven years in Europe, which releases terror convicts back into the community much more quickly. That helps sustain dangerous Islamist cells, he said.

That is not to say the United States has not had its own cells or ringleaders, Gartenstein-Ross notes. Anwar Al Awlaki,

one of the most influential jihadist thinkers and propagandists, was born and raised in the United States before he joined Al-Qaeda in Yemen and was killed in a 2011 drone strike. And in the late 2000s a cell that involved maybe 20 people developed around the Somali community in Minneapolis that became an effective body to recruit people to join IS. "That was clearly a network," like those in Europe, he said. "They have not been prevented, they still exist." —AFP

Italy probes fatal shipwreck with all-female victims

ROME: The bodies of 26 women who drowned attempting the perilous crossing from Libya to Europe were brought to Italy yesterday, where investigators launched a murder inquiry. A seemingly endless line of black plastic body bags were lowered by crane from a Spanish ship onto the portside in Salerno, southern Italy, where they were placed in coffins and loaded onto waiting hearses. Twenty-three of the women died on Friday after the inflatable dinghy they were travelling on sank, and their bodies were recovered by the Spanish ship Cantabria, which was operating as part of the EU anti-trafficking force Sophia.

A Sophia spokesman said another three bodies had been discovered during other life-saving operations in the Mediterranean this week, and transferred to the Cantabria as it headed towards Italy with its grim cargo. There was no immediate explanation as to why all the dead were women, though the crossing is riskier for them. For every five men who drown in the rubber boats trying to cross the Mediterranean, six women also die, according to migrant expert Sine Plambech, adjunct professor at Columbia University. They can have poorer swimming skills compared to men and their attempts to save their children often lead to their drowning, as does the heavier clothing they wear, he said.

'A tragedy'

"It's a tragedy. The prosecutor's office will begin looking into it immediately," Salerno's prefect Salvatore Malfi said. "We will need to see whether there are suspects to concentrate on or whether the murder inquiry will proceed against persons unknown," he said. Investigators would be looking for signs of violence against the women, who are believed to have been Nigerian. "They were on a dinghy that was also carrying men," Malfi told Italian media in response to fears the doomed vessel may have been a sex-trade boat carrying victims destined for prostitution. "The sex trafficking routes are different. Loading women onto a boat is too risky, the traffickers would not do it as they could lose all their 'goods'-as they describe them—in one fell swoop," he said.

The Cantabria was also carrying 375 migrants rescued from the waves, including 116 women—nine of whom were heavily pregnant. According to Italy's interior ministry, more than 111,700 people have reached the country by sea in the first 10 months of 2017, 30 percent down on the previous year. Despite the drop, traffickers are still sending migrant boats out into the Mediterranean: the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said Friday that more than 2,560 migrants had been saved over four days. In all, 2,839 people have died while attempting the crossing so far this year, it said. —AFP

International

Bush Sr voted for Clinton, called Trump a 'blowhard'

Son George W Bush left his ballot blank

WASHINGTON: Former US president George HW Bush voted for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election and called Donald Trump a "blowhard" who was driven by "a certain ego." His son George W Bush left his ballot blank and said of Trump: "This guy doesn't know what it means to be president." The revelations, contained in historian Mark Updegrove's "The Last Republicans," available in bookstores later this month, represent the strongest criticism to date from the Bush clan on why their Republican successor is uniquely unfit to hold office.

"I don't like him," the elder Bush told Updegrove in May 2016 before the elections in November of that year, according to excerpts of the book obtained by AFP. "I don't know much about him, but I know he's a blowhard. And I'm not too excited about him being (our) leader." While traveling to Tokyo on Air Force One, Trump walked

back to the press cabin and responded to the Bushes' criticism. "I don't need headlines. I don't want to make their move successful," he said.

'Doesn't understand the job'

The younger Bush was skeptical about then-candidate Trump's chances in a race in which his younger brother Jeb was an early favorite. "Interesting, won't last," was his initial reaction when Trump entered the race. Once the bombastic billionaire real estate magnate secured the Republican nomination, Bush expressed surprise and worried about Trump's lack of humility, and thus his inability to recognize his own limitations and surround himself with more knowledgeable people. "As you know from looking at my family," Bush said, humility "is a certain heritage, that's what they expect, and we're not seeing that" in

Trump. After Trump said, "I'm my own advisor," Bush quipped: "Wow, this guy really doesn't understand the job of president."

The comments are sure to escalate a long-running feud and come after George W. Bush gave a speech last month that condemned bigotry, bullying and lies in US politics in what was widely seen as a broadside against Trump even though the president was not mentioned by name. The book's title was inspired by the younger Bush's concerns that he had been "the last Republican president"—not just because Clinton was seen as favorite to win the election, but because Trump represented a major break from traditional conservatism.

A White House official hit back, telling CNN: "If one presidential candidate can disassemble a political party, it speaks volumes about how strong a legacy its past two presidents really had." "And that begins with the Iraq war, one of the greatest foreign policy mistakes in American history," the official added. The younger Bush also pushed back hard on the widely-held perception during his time in office that his vice president Dick Cheney and secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld controlled the White House from behind the scenes. They "didn't make one fucking decision," he told Updegrove. —AFP



'I don't like him,' the elder Bush told Updegrove



HOUSTON: Former United States Presidents George W Bush and George H W Bush look on after throwing out the ceremonial first pitch before game five of the 2017 World Series between the Houston Astros and the Los Angeles Dodgers. —AFP

Paris attacks, two years on: What we know

PARIS: Two years after the terror attacks on Paris nightspots that left 130 people dead, seven people are in custody in France while key figures remain at large and may be dead. Among the 10 jihadists who wreaked havoc on the French capital on November 13, 2015, the only survivor is Salah Abdeslam, who is refusing to talk to investigators. The probe into the Paris bloodbath, which was planned in Belgium, overlaps considerably with an investigation into attacks on the Brussels airport and metro four months later that claimed 32 lives.

Key witness silent

Abdeslam's capture in Belgium and transfer to France in April 2016 has not been the boon investigators had hoped for, since the 28-year-old petty criminal-turned-jihadist has refused to cooperate with the investigation. Against all expectations however, he has said he wants to appear at a trial in Brussels to face charges of attempted murder of police officers during his arrest in the Belgian capital, but there too he may refuse to answer questions. Most members of the jihadist cell responsible for both the Paris and the Brussels attacks have been killed or arrested. Requests have gone out across Europe as well as to Turkey and north Africa in an effort to piece together the network that enabled the conspirators to infiltrate the flow of migrants into Europe in the summer of 2015 and plan attacks ordered by the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. Fifteen suspects have been charged or are being sought with arrest warrants.

Belgium-France nexus

Six people besides Abdeslam are in custody in France including two men suspected of having been selected to take part in attacks: Adel Haddadi, an Algerian, and Muhammed Usman of Pakistan. The two men, who travelled from Syria along with two of the jihadists who attacked the national stadium on the outskirts of Paris, were arrested in Austria a month after the carnage. Three associates of Abdeslam accused of helping him flee to Belgium the day after the Paris attacks and a man accused of providing fake IDs to the jihadists are also being held in France. Five suspects are in custody in Belgium who are also wanted for trial in France. One of them, Mohamed Abrini, dubbed "the man in the hat" from CCTV video at the Brussels airport, was transferred briefly to France in January to be charged.

Jawad Bendaoud, who lodged Paris attacks ringleader Abdelhamid Abbaoud, will be tried along with two other defendants in a regular criminal court instead of France's special terror court early next year. A suspected logistician for the November 13 attacks, Mohamed Bakkali, was arrested in Belgium and is wanted in France. He was charged Tuesday in Brussels over an August 2015 attack on a Paris-bound Thalys train that left two passengers injured. France is also seeking the extradition of another suspected logistician, Ahmed Dahmani, a Belgian of Moroccan origin who was arrested in Turkey just after the Paris attacks and thought to be headed to Syria.

Ringleader at large

A suspected kingpin of the network, Oussama Atar, has been identified from a photograph by one of the men arrested in Austria as the mastermind of the Paris attacks, operating from Raqqa, the former Syrian "capital" of IS. The 32-year-old Belgian and Moroccan national, who is at large, is a relative of the El Bakroui brothers who blew themselves up in the Brussels attacks and the brother of Yassine Atar, who is being held in Belgium and also wanted in France.

Conversations found on a computer revealed the "central role" that Atar played in planning attacks in Europe, according to Belgian investigators. Also on the run is Ahmad Alkhad-thought to be an alias-suspected of making the bombs and suicide belts used in the Paris and Brussels attacks. His DNA was found on a suicide vest worn by one of the assailants who blew themselves up outside the Paris stadium. The fall of IS strongholds in Syria and Iraq has kindled investigators' hopes of ensnaring some of the ringleaders of the Paris and Brussels attacks, if they are still alive. —AFP

Russian police detain anti-Putin protesters

MOSCOW: Russian police said they detained 263 activists gathering in central Moscow yesterday for an unauthorized protest against President Vladimir Putin. Radical opposition activist Vyacheslav Maltsev had appealed on his website for his supporters to hold protests across the country, calling for a "people's Revolution" and an immediate end to Putin's rule. "For breaches of public order in central Moscow, 263 people have been detained. They have all been taken to local police stations," Moscow police said in a statement.

Many of those detained were carrying knives, knuckledusters and pistols that can fire rubber bullets, TASS state news agency reported. It said police were detaining activists after searching them. An AFP photographer said police, some in helmets and bullet-proof vests, picked up the protesters one by one in central Moscow close to the Kremlin. A reporter for popular Echo of Moscow radio station, Andrei Yezhov, wrote on Twitter that he had been detained and posted video from inside a police van, saying most of those held were in their early 20s. He was later released without charge. Maltsev ran for parliament last year and has a popular YouTube channel with critical political commentary.

He lives in the regional city of Saratov but fled to Paris earlier this year after a Moscow court issued an arrest warrant for him over calls for extremist activity. His movement called Artpodgotovka was banned by a court in October. The FSB security service said Friday that it had detained a group of supporters of Maltsev who were planning to carry out "high-profile extremist actions" on November 4 and 5 including setting fire to government offices and attacking police officers. It said the detentions took place in Moscow and its surround-



MOSCOW: Russian police detain an opposition activist during a protest rally in central Moscow yesterday. —AFP

ing region. The security service said that police had halted the activities of groups of his supporters in five other cities.

It accused Maltsev of using the Internet for "propaganda of violent actions." Yesterday's protest came after police in Moscow on Saturday detained dozens of people at a nationalist anti-Kremlin march on a public holiday known as the Day of National Unity. In recent months, opposition leader Alexei Navalny has also called supporters onto streets for protests without permission from city authorities, resulting in large numbers of arrests. In June, more than 1,500 Navalny supporters were arrested during a day of demonstrations across the nation against government corruption. —AFP

Regional poll, a barometer for Italy elections

CATANIA: Sicilians casted their ballots yesterday in a regional vote seen as a barometer for Italy's coming general elections, with the populist Five Star Movement (M5S) challenging a resurgent right as a divided left flounders. "The vote is considered decisive not just by the party leaders pounding the streets of the main cities, and not just for the island's future, but for the future of Italy and even Europe," editorialist Marcello Sorgi wrote in La Stampa daily.

A victory in Sicily would give M5S its first region, a boost supporters say could propel it all the way to national leadership. "The choice is simple: us or them, the future or the past, hope or failure, citizens or traditional political parties", comedian Beppe Grillo, the movement's outspoken, wild-eyed founder, wrote on his blog. M5S candidate Giancarlo Cancelleri, 42, is expected to have just one real challenger for the victory podium: Nello Musumeci, 62, who was leading the race in recent polls and could snap up the region for the right.

A bitterly feuding left is expected to fail to get anyway near the top. Analysts say the political dynamic mirrors the situation nationally, and the vote is being closely watched in the euro-zone's third-largest economy for indications of how the general election, due before May, will go. Polls opened at 8:00 am (0700 GMT) and close at 10:00 pm (2100 GMT). The votes will be counted today. "The polling stations open under a dark cloud, amid controversy over the risk of vote-rigging," La Repubblica daily said, referring to claims the decision to wait overnight before beginning the count increased the chances of fraud.

The interior ministry was upping controls in response to the fears, it said. All eyes were on voter turnout figures, with low turnout known to have rewarded M5S in the past. Only 47 percent of Sicily's eligible voters turned out for the last regional elections in 2012, a record low. "If Sicilians don't vote, the scoffing at the trough will continue." M5S



SICILY: A woman votes in a polling station in Palermo, Sicily, Italy yesterday. —AP

bigwig Roberto Fico said yesterday in reference to a "corruption emergency" in Sicily that has seen politicians across the political spectrum mired in scandal.

'Enemies at the door'

A victory for Musumeci could be a boost for former premier Silvio Berlusconi, who recently shrugged off scandals to return to the political fray, portraying himself as a pro-European moderate and the only real defense against populism. His centre-right Forza Italia (Go Italy) party joined forces with its traditional rightist allies the Northern League and the Brothers of Italy for the Sicily vote—a powerful combination which pollsters say could steal the show at the national elections. The anti-immigrant Northern League, meanwhile, sees Sicily as a testing ground for expanding its reach beyond Italy's north-

ern regions. But the ruling Democratic Party (PD) is braced for an embarrassing defeat that could have serious implications not just for the left nationally but also for Matteo Renzi, the former prime minister who wants his old job back.

"Renzi is preparing for the probable Sicilian nosedive like a man whose enemies are at the door and the supplies are running out," political commentator Tommaso Ciriaco said in La Repubblica daily. The 42-year old has been accused of causing a debilitating rift in the left, and has largely abandoned the party's candidate, Fabrizio Micari, 54, on the campaign trail. The worst case for the PD would see it beaten by Article 1 - Democratic and Progressive Movement (MDP), formed in early 2017 by a leftwing split. The MDP's Claudio Fava, 60, was nipping at Micari's heels in the latest polls, with just two percentage points between them. —AFP

International

Floods swamp Vietnam as typhoon death toll hits 27

Two dead, thousands flee as floods hit Malaysia's Penang

HUE: Floods inundated swathes of central and southern Vietnam yesterday in the wake of a typhoon that left at least 27 dead just days before the region is due to host the APEC summit of Asia-Pacific leaders. Typhoon Damrey, the 12th major storm to hit Vietnam this year, made landfall on Saturday with winds of up to 90 km/h that damaged more than 40,000 homes, knocked down electricity poles and uprooted trees.

The communist state's Steering Committee for Disaster Prevention said 27 people were now counted dead and 22 were missing. It said 626 houses had collapsed entirely in a trail of destruction that has forced the evacuation of more than 30,000 people. Heavy rain and high winds lashed the coastal strip yesterday. Some streets in the ancient capital of Hue were waist deep in water while in the old trading town of Hoi An, another popular tourist attraction, people boated in the streets.

"This is the worst it has been for many years. The waters rose very fast," said Nguyen Thi Thuan, 64, sitting on one chair and with her feet on another as waters lapped around and into her clothes shop. The national disaster agency forecast that rain would last until Tuesday and that flooding could worsen. Battle tanks were mobilized to help with rescue efforts in Nha Trang, which bore the brunt of the typhoon. Danang, where the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit is taking place this week, is around 500 km to the north of Nha Trang. It also suffered.

A gateway proclaiming "Welcome to Danang" col-

lapsed in the storm. "I call all officials, soldiers and citizens of Danang city to come together and try their best to clean up after the rains and welcome delegates to APEC," Huynh Duc Tho, chairman of Danang City's people committee said in a message to the city. Danang will host US President Donald Trump from Nov 10, as well as China's Xi Jinping, Russia's Vladimir Putin and counterparts from other APEC members.

The storm moved from the coastal area into a key coffee-growing region of the world's biggest producer of robusta coffee beans. The typhoon had damaged some coffee trees at the start of the harvest season, farm officials said. But farmers in Daklak, the heart of the region, said the damage was limited. The government said on Saturday more than 40,000 hectares of crops had been damaged, including sugar cane, rice fields and rubber plantations. Floods killed more than 80 people in northern Vietnam last month, while a typhoon wreaked havoc in central provinces in September. The country of more than 90 million people is prone to destructive storms and flooding due to its long coastline.



Storm killed more than 80 in October

Floods kill 2 in Malaysia

Separately, at least two people have been killed and almost 2,000 evacuated after a storm triggered serious flooding yesterday in Malaysia's Penang, with the historic state capital under murky brown water. The army was deployed to provide help after a torrential downpour lasting for 15 hours sparked the worst inundations in the northern state for years. Many streets



DAK LAK, Vietnam: People walk through floodwaters on a highway in the central province of Dak Lak brought by Typhoon Damrey. —AFP

in the capital George Town on Penang Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site which attracts hordes of foreign and domestic tourists, were submerged in deep dirty water. Hundreds of houses across the state were flooded, many trees toppled and roads submerged, disaster officials said.

Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng said 1,968 people were evacuated in four districts, most of them on the mainland. The state is divided between the

island and several districts on the mainland. At least two people were killed—one who drowned at home and a second in an old folks' home, state news agency Bernama said. A hospital was also hit by the flooding, prompting the evacuation of over 100 patients and four babies. "We remain fearful that there may still be untoward incidents because of the strong winds, the like of which have never experienced before, and flash floods might recur," Lim said. —Agencies

Thou shalt not kill: Philippine bishops' 'prayer campaign'

MANILA: A top Catholic archbishop yesterday called for Filipinos to choose peace over violence and end a spate of drug-related killings that have divided the nation. Archbishop Socrates Villegas, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, was speaking as the church launched a new prayer campaign to "heal the nation and stop the killings" in the country. Philippine Catholic bishops have been stepping up opposition to killings blamed on a government crack down on drugs. They are now asking the faithful to pray with the rosary for 33 days until Dec. 8, an important Catholic feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The new campaign follows the 40-day ringing of church bells and lighting of candles for thousands of people killed in President Rodrigo Duterte's 16-month war on drugs. More than 3,900 Filipinos have been killed in what the police called self-defense after armed suspects resisted arrest. Critics dispute that and say executions are taking place, with zero accountability, allegations the police reject. In a mass for families of victims of drug-related killings, Villegas said that if the killings continue "a curse awaits a nation that kills its own people".

Symbolically, the mass was held at the Catholic shrine of Mary Queen of Peace which stands on the site where nuns stopped soldiers from attacking mutineers who overthrew dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. "Why do we applaud the killings?" Villegas said in his homily. "We chose violence instead of peace. We chose lies instead of truth. We chose to laugh at obscenities instead of correcting these. We chose to be silent than to be involved." Human rights lawyers, politicians, civil



MANILA: Catholic nuns participate in a healing protest in Manila yesterday. —AFP

society groups and opponents of the president joined the families of victims in a religious procession after the mass to the "People Power" monument, where they held a cultural show.

Harry Roque, presidential spokesman, said the government welcomed "constructive dissent" after hundreds joined the religious activity condemning the killings. "We reiterate that this administration does not - and will never - condone extrajudicial and vigilante

killings," Roque, a human rights lawyer, said in a statement, adding police have been investigating more than 2,200 killings with drug-related motives. "Accountability is essential to good government. The president himself made a clear stance that any violation committed by the police during operations would be dealt with accordingly." Roque asked Catholic bishops to work closely with government on drug rehabilitation and in its anti-drug campaign. —Reuters

Bataclan survivors' tattoos show their pain and defiance

PARIS: Since she was "buried" under the dead and dying at the Bataclan concert hall, Laura Leveque has "carried 130 corpses" on her shoulders. "So I may as well mark it," she said. Like dozens of other survivors of the November 13 Paris attacks, Leveque got herself tattooed. "I was soaked in blood and flesh. The dead seeped into me," she said. But tattoos have helped the 32-year-old—who says that even two years after the attack she still feels "in limbo"—to get her "body back and transform the horror into something beautiful." Now Leveque carries a raven on her shoulder surrounded by smaller tattoos of an eclipse, a snake biting its own tail to symbolize the "cycle or life", and "flowers growing on a battlefield".

Three months after she survived the slaughter, Nahomy Beuchet had the date of the attack and "Peace, Love, Death Metal" tattooed on the inside of her arm. That's the title of an album by Eagles of Death Metal, the Californian band who were onstage at the Bataclan when the gunmen burst in and began the massacre of 90 people. For the 21-year-old, for whom time is now "a little abstract", the tattoo is "a historical anchor".

"This is my scar," says Manon Hautecoeur of her lion tattoo and the motto of Paris—"Fluctuat nec mergitur"

(Battered but not sunk) - which became a defiant slogan after the attacks. "When you are 'only' psychologically hurt you feel you are not a victim because you were not physically injured," said the young woman, who was close to the Petit Cambodge restaurant when it was sprayed with bullets in one of the drive-by attacks by jihadists that night that claimed an additional 39 lives. David Fritz Goepfing, who survived the Bataclan, said he feels the same way.

"I didn't have a wound. I needed something," the 25-year-old said of his tattoo of the date in roman numer-



This is my scar



als. Alexandra, one of several survivors who preferred to give only her first name, was shot in the elbow at the Carillon bar opposite the Petit Cambodge. She had "Fluctuat nec mergitur" tattooed as close as she could to the wound. Ruben, who spent six months in hospital, also had the motto tattooed on his arm. "Without having a big sign saying, 'I was at the Bataclan,' I wanted to mark it," he said.

"Being tattooed is a way of getting yourself a new skin, metamorphosing," said David le Breton, a sociologist who specializes in body art. It allows people "to reclaim what happened, to honor those who died and the emotional impact of having passed so close to death." Often the tattoos also mark "inner scars", he added. Stephanie Zarev, 44, had a phoenix tattooed on her arm where she was hit by shrapnel, to show that "despite the horror of that night, there's lots to live for."

'Illuminate my wounds'

Sophie took two bullets in her leg and now cannot move her foot. She covered her thigh with a huge Mexican Day of the Dead "Catrina" skeleton lady, adding a sunflower tattoo on her foot. "I did not want to sublimate my wounds, I wanted to illuminate" them, the 33-year-old said. Maureen, who has been working on a photo book on the tattoos with the Life for Paris survivors group, took her time before deciding to get one herself on her side.

It reads, "Survive: to be reborn, to grow and to die later." Floriane Beaulieu will never forget how lucky she was to get out of the Bataclan, which was why she went for a four-leaf clover, a dove and "the word 'hope' written inside an infinity sign". "It was Friday the 13th, there were 13 of us in the mosh pit in front of the stage, and we all got out alive," recalled Ludmila Profit, 24, who had the number tattooed inside a clover leaf behind her ear. She added a musical note and "the word fuck, to say 'Fuck the terrorists'" to show her pride and defiance "at being able to live for those who are no longer here." —AFP

News in brief

Smog blankets Pakistan, India

ISLAMABAD: Smog has enveloped much of Pakistan and neighboring India, causing highway accidents and respiratory problems, and forcing many residents to stay home, officials said Saturday. Pakistani meteorologist Mohammad Hanif said the pollution, caused by dust, the burning of crops, and emissions from factories and brick kilns in Pakistan and neighboring India, was expected to linger until the middle of the month. He advised people to wear face masks to protect themselves from respiratory ailments. Mohammad Arshad, a highway police official, said at least 10 people were killed and 25 injured in road accidents linked to poor visibility in various parts of the Punjab province since Monday. Authorities have advised people to limit road travel. Average air pollution in Pakistan's major cities is about four times higher than the World Health Organization limits.

Renegade colonel surrenders

GOMA: Congolese troops clashed with supporters a renegade colonel in Congo's eastern city of Bukavu yesterday before he surrendered and turned himself in to UN peacekeepers. Democratic Republic of Congo army spokesman for South Kivu region, Dieudonne Kasereka, said by telephone that clashes had started after police came to disarm Colonel Abbas Kayonga, who was sacked from his post on Thursday. However, Kayonga, a former rebel from a group that had been disarmed and integrated into the Congolese military, gave himself up at the local base for the UN mission to Congo. "He has just surrendered with 17 people at the base of the mission," Kasereka said, adding that there had been some deaths and arrests but he did not yet have the figures.

Scottish minister resigns

LONDON: A junior minister in Scotland's government resigned on Saturday after admitting "inappropriate behavior", as a sleaze scandal in British politics showed no sign of abating. Childcare minister Mark McDonald said in a statement that he apologized "unreservedly to anyone I have upset or who might have found my behavior inappropriate". "Some of my previous actions have been considered to be inappropriate—where I have believed myself to have been merely humorous or attempting to be friendly, my behavior might have made others uncomfortable or led them to question my intentions," he said. A government spokesman confirmed McDonald had tendered his resignation to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon earlier Saturday. He is expected to remain a lawmaker in the Scottish parliament, representing Sturgeon's Scottish National Party in Aberdeen.

Venezuela's Guevara seeks refuge

SANTIAGO: A top Venezuelan opposition lawmaker on Saturday requested Chile's protection after Venezuela's high court announced he would be prosecuted on charges punishable by a decade in prison. Freddy Guevara, the opposition-stacked National Assembly's number two official, sought refuge at Chile's embassy in Caracas after the pro-government dominated Supreme Court's announcement Friday. Chile's foreign ministry said in a statement that Guevara, 31, was received at the residence of its ambassador "as a guest," and that he "had requested the protection of Chile" based on "what he considers to be imminent threats to his security and personal integrity."

Analysis

Kuwait Times
The First Daily in The Arabian GulfTHE LEADING INDEPENDENT
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E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
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Cambodia grassroots
democracy fight

Sin Rozeth's attempts to show the benefits of grassroots democracy to some of the poorest people in the Cambodian city of Battambang are in peril. The 30-year-old daughter of a vegetable seller became the head of Ochar commune, the equivalent of local council leader, in elections in June. Her victory was part of an "all politics is local" strategy that helped the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) win 40 percent of the 1,646 local seats at stake. Previously it had just 2 percent.

But the authoritarian government of former Khmer Rouge commander Hun Sen is now cracking down at every level on a party that had shown it might beat him at elections due next July. The longest-serving prime minister in the world accuses the CNRP of doing the bidding of the United States. Hun Sen's government has arrested CNRP leader Kem Sokha on treason charges and taken steps to have the party dissolved altogether. Once vocal rights groups have also been silenced and media critical of the ruling party have been repressed.

For Sin Rozeth, it has meant warning letters from city and provincial authorities threatening to remove her. Now voters are showing signs of discouragement in Ochar, a community of 18,000 where Battambang spills into rice fields and dwellings patched from metal sheet and wood sit alongside low-rise cinderblock homes. Few new voters in the commune have registered ahead of next year's national elections, she said.

It is the same picture across Cambodia. The electoral commission estimated 1.6 million people needed to register - either because they had come of age or had been missed before - and barely a quarter have done so ahead of a Nov 9 deadline. At stake is the shaky democracy that Western donors spent billions of dollars trying to build after the genocide of the Khmer Rouge killed an estimated 1.7 million people - around a quarter of the population - between 1975 and 1979.

Hun Sen's dominance dates from 1985, when he became prime minister under the patronage of occupying Vietnamese forces he had helped to drive out his former Khmer Rouge comrades. A 1991 peace deal ended civil war and UN-supervised elections were held in 1993. Hun Sen lost, but maneuvered to keep power and has used force and the courts to undermine opponents ever since.

Budget frozen

Sin Rozeth, who took up politics after dropping out of university for lack of money, said she made some money through helping others with real estate deals in Battambang province to support herself and her single mother, who raised her. Her commune's official budget had been frozen and she had to pay the office's electricity bill from her own pocket, she said. Donors in Cambodia and abroad also helped. They bought a computer and plastic chairs for the office. "It is very hard to work," Sin Rozeth said.

City and provincial authorities have sent three warning letters. Among the accusations: offering services free of charge, discriminating against ruling party officials, usurping the role of the commune clerk and holding meetings on Saturdays. The CNRP's commune chiefs elsewhere complain, too. Va Sam, of Kok Khleang commune in Phnom Penh, said the interior ministry had taken over issuing documents such as land titles and birth certificates, previously a big source of funds for the commune.

Discrimination against CNRP commune chiefs was widespread, said Mu Sochua, a deputy of Kem Sokha who fled into exile fearing arrest. "Other communes face the same targeting if we shine and show too much competence," she told Reuters. Battambang's provincial governor, Nguon Ratanak, from the government of the ruling Cambodia People's Party (CPP), told Reuters local leaders had to obey the law and denied stopping anyone from developing their communes. "They still want to apply the political policies used during the campaign," he said. "Commune chiefs must work under the guidelines of the interior ministry, not their political party."

If the CNRP is banned, with a court decision due on Nov 16, the ruling party would take control of all the communes the CNRP currently leads, based on a change to the election law approved by Cambodia's CPP-dominated parliament last month. The government dismisses criticism that the crackdown ahead of next July's election is turning Cambodia into a one-party state. It says it is only acting against those who have broken Cambodia's laws.

'Color revolution'

Arrested in a midnight raid on Sept 3, CNRP leader Kem Sokha was accused of plotting with Americans to organize a 'color revolution' like those that toppled eastern European strongmen. "We can't let this dangerous revolution happen in Cambodia," said senior interior ministry official Huy Vannak. "You try to put an American jacket onto a Cambodian and it doesn't fit." Among those forced out even before Kem Sokha's arrest was the US State Department funded National Democratic Institute (NDI), which spent 25 years on a democracy-building mission that cost an average \$2 million a year for the past five years.

Sin Rozeth, who was born two years after Hun Sen came to power in 1985, has benefited from its training, as did many members of the ruling party. It included lessons in campaigning - trainers taught her not to attack other parties, she said - and how to present her own policies. —Reuters



Trump opponents race to the courthouse

When US President Donald Trump announced on Oct 12 he would stop subsidies to health insurers critical to the Obamacare law, the response from Democratic state officials was swift and predictable: A lawsuit by 18 state attorney generals was filed within 24 hours. The race to the courthouse in response to presidential actions has become a familiar pattern since Trump took office in January, and early rulings in many of the lawsuits have, at least temporarily, hobbled key parts of the president's agenda.

Many of the Republican president's most significant executive actions, in areas from immigration and transgender rights to energy and the environment, have been impeded by court rulings in cases brought by Democratic state and local officials as well as liberal advocacy groups. "We are more of a check on this administration than Congress," Democratic New York state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said of state attorneys general.

Similarly, important executive actions taken by Trump's Democratic predecessor Barack Obama were stymied by lawsuits filed by Republican state attorneys general, including one eventually decided by the Supreme Court that was intended to protect millions of immigrants in the country illegally from deportation. Since Trump took office, courts have at least temporarily blocked Trump's plans to:

- ban travelers and immigrants from several Muslim-majority countries
- withhold federal funds from so-called sanctuary cities that refuse to cooperate with federal authorities on immigration enforcement
- ban transgender people from serving in the military
- delay implementation of a regulation issued by the Obama administration limiting methane emissions
- put the brakes on an Interior Department rule requiring energy firms to pay more mineral royalties on federal land
- delay compliance with an Obama-era rule aimed at curbing natural gas drilling waste emissions on federal land
- and impede a detained illegal immigrant teenager from obtaining an abortion

Trump has claimed some court victories, too, including on Oct 25 when a federal judge in California refused the request by the state attorneys general to force the govern-

ment to keep the subsidies to insurers under Obamacare, formally known as the Affordable Care Act, in place as the litigation proceeds. That decision was more the exception than the rule.

"President Trump remains committed to protecting our national security and to eliminating excessive regulations that, if implemented, would destroy jobs, harm consumers and provide no meaningful benefit," a White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said in a statement provided to Reuters. "The Trump administration is confident in its legal positions and looks forward to arguing - and winning - before the federal judiciary," the official added.

Trump has
lashed out
at judiciary

Criticism of judiciary

In response to legal setbacks, Trump has lashed out at the judiciary in ways that even his own Supreme Court appointee Neil Gorsuch called disheartening and demoralizing. Trump called US courts "so political," labeled various rulings and proceedings "ridiculous" and "disgraceful," and disparaged one jurist who ruled against him as a "so-called judge." While presidents often face legal challenges over policy initiatives, Trump's administration stands out for the number of suits it has encountered so soon after taking power.

Trump has faced far more litigation than Obama had at this stage of his presidency. A review of legal database Westlaw showed that in Trump's first nine months in office, cities or states filed 24 lawsuits challenging major policy initiatives of the administration. The review showed no

similar lawsuits during the same time period of Obama's presidency. Trump also faces numerous suits by advocacy groups and others challenging such actions as his termination of an Obama program that protected people brought into the United States illegally as children from deportation and the authority of a presidential commission formed to investigate alleged voter fraud. Trump has relied heavily on unilateral executive actions to advance his policy objectives. His fellow Republicans who control Congress have been unable to pass any major legislation he has sought.

Executive actions can be challenged in court more quickly than lengthy federal rule-making procedures, said law professor Jonathan Adler of Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Obama relied on executive actions during the later years of his presidency after being unable to win congressional approval of key initiatives, and some of those actions drew legal challenges. But early in his presidency, he relied on unilateral actions less often because his fellow Democrats controlled Congress and passed major legislation including the 2010 Obamacare law.

'Shoot from the hip'

Some legal experts say the haste with which Trump drafted some of his policy initiatives may have helped those challenging the actions because the orders were not sufficiently vetted. "This administration is more willing to shoot from the hip" when compared with the Obama administration, Adler said. That is how San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera, a Democrat, saw Trump's executive order on sanctuary city funding, which Herrera calculated could jeopardize up to \$2 billion in federal funds for his city.

Herrera said he saw Trump's action as "designed to appeal to a part of the administration's political base without really having been vetted" by lawyers to ensure it was legally airtight. Herrera won an initial ruling in April blocking the measure, and the case is now pending before an appeals court. Trump's actions have appealed to his conservative political base, while the legal challenges have pleased his liberal critics. Speaking at an event at New York University, Schneiderman, New York's attorney general, called Trump's first travel ban, signed in January just a week into his presidency, a "galvanizing moment" for Democratic officials. —Reuters

US 'diversity
visa' in spotlight
after NY attack

A visa program aimed at diversifying the US immigrant population came under attack from President Donald Trump on Wednesday after he learned that the man accused of killing eight people in New York City on Tuesday used it to enter the country. Sayfullo Saipov, who was charged in Tuesday's truck attack, immigrated to the United States from Uzbekistan in 2010 after winning a lottery enabling him to obtain a so-called "diversity visa," two government officials confirmed to Reuters.

The program, established by Congress and coordinated by the State Department, has its roots in efforts to bring more Irish and Italian immigrants into the United States. Citizens of countries that send relatively few immigrants to the United States can enter a lottery that grants winners permanent U.S. residency. Applicants must have at least a high school education or its equivalent, or relevant work experience.

Just under 11.4 million applicants entered the 2016 lottery for 50,000 slots available to winners and their close family members, according to State Department figures. The visa program has succeeded in diversifying the mix of immigrants that come into the United States each year, but has also drawn criticism for being vulnerable to fraud and for posing national security risks. Trump said on Wednesday he

would ask Congress to "immediately" initiate efforts to kill the program, and Republican House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte, who has long called for an end to diversity visas, said in a statement that they pose "a threat to the safety of our citizens."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer helped create the program in 1990 when he was a member of the House of Representatives. But he was also part of a group of lawmakers in 2013 who crafted a bipartisan immigration bill that would have done away with the program. That bill was passed by the Senate but was killed by the Republican-led House. Top congressional Democrats defended the program, saying it subjects all visa recipients "to the same stringent vetting as all other immigrant visa programs."

The only other known instance of a diversity visa beneficiary carrying out a deadly terrorist attack in the United States occurred in 2002. That year, an Egyptian man who had received a diversity visa through his wife years earlier shot and killed two people in a Los Angeles airport. The man had earlier sought asylum in the United States but was rejected. Ultimately, he was allowed to stay in the country after his wife won the lottery.

As early as 2004, the State Department's then-deputy inspector general, Anne Patterson, told Congress her office believed the diversity program "contains significant vulnerabilities to national security" and that terrorists could "attempt to use it to enter the United States as permanent residents." The agency watchdog recommended barring citizens of countries that sponsor terrorism from the program. —Reuters

A year on, Trump
tests limit of UK
'special relationship'

Donald Trump's election was expected to hand Britain a secret weapon in forging a post-Brexit future, but his interventions in British politics and controversial foreign policy have strained the so-called "special relationship". The bond between Britain and the United States has been the backbone of the post-war geopolitical order, but after huge political upheaval in both countries, a status update on the special relationship might now read: "It's complicated".

Trump rode to the White House on a populist wave also seen in the Brexit vote. He appeared keen to help the UK by promising a swift trade deal once it left the European Union, in stark contrast to predecessor Barack Obama who had warned Britain would be "at the back of the queue". Brexit supporters hailed Trump as "the tooth fairy", giving Britain an unexpected card in their negotiations with the EU.

But the US president's split with the international community over the Iran nuclear deal, his war-of-words with North Korea and his withdrawal from the Paris climate accord have strained relations and left Britain in a diplomatic fix. "The idea that Donald Trump is going to come in on a white horse and fix all of Britain's trade problems is a myth," London School of Economics fellow Brian Klaas told AFP. "It's a misplaced optimism because trade negotiations will take years to complete

and Trump says things all the time that he doesn't mean and will never follow through on. Trump might not win in 2020, he might not be the person that the UK is dealing with," he added.

State visit controversy

Relations took a severe blow in September when the US imposed stiff tariffs on Canadian aerospace firm Bombardier, which employs thousands of people in Northern Ireland, following a complaint from Boeing. Former defense secretary Michael Fallon warned the move "could indeed jeopardise our future relationship with Boeing," dashing hopes that the US would offer favourable terms in a future deal, which can only be officially negotiated after Britain leaves the EU in 2019.

"There is still the possibility of a trade deal, but at the moment we can't foresee what that will look like," Russell Foster, foreign policy expert at King's College London, told AFP. "The only indication we have got is what's happened in Northern Ireland with Boeing and Bombardier, where yet again Trump's unpredictable nature means 4,000 jobs are going to be lost."

British Prime Minister Theresa May was the first world leader to visit Trump's White House, and appeared to develop a bond, inviting the US leader for a state visit to stay with the Queen. But hours after the meeting, Trump unexpectedly announced a travel ban from seven Muslim-majority countries, affecting dual British citizens and wrong-footing British officials, according to emails released by the BBC last week. "The dual nationals angle will of course be really difficult for us," read one Foreign Office email. —AFP



A woman walks along plane trees in Darmstadt, Germany, on a rainy Sunday. — AP

Saudi crown prince cements power...

Continued from Page 1

The kingdom's top council of clerics also lauded the anti-corruption efforts as "important", essentially giving religious backing to the crackdown.

An aviation source told AFP that security forces had grounded private jets at airports, possibly to prevent high-profile figures from leaving the country. There was fevered speculation on social media that the arrested figures were being held at Riyadh's Ritz Carlton, a palatial hotel originally planned as a palace for guests of the royal family. The hotel appeared to be closed off to the public yesterday. A Saudi official told AP that other five-star hotels across the capital were also being used to hold some of those arrested. The Ritz Carlton had no availability for bookings until Dec 1, 2017 - a possible sign that an investigation of this scale could take weeks. Marriott International said in a statement that it is currently evaluating the situation at the Ritz-Carlton in Riyadh, but declined to comment further, citing privacy concerns.

"The breadth and scale of the arrests appears to be unprecedented in modern Saudi history," said Kristian Ulrichsen, a fellow at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. "The reported detention of Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, if true, would send shock waves through the domestic and international business community," Ulrichsen told AFP. The purge comes less than two weeks after Prince Mohammed welcomed thousands of global business leaders to Riyadh for an investment summit, showcasing his reform drive that has shaken up the kingdom.

It follows a wave of arrests of influential clerics and activists in September as the 32-year-old prince, often known as MBS, consolidates his hold on power. Analysts said many of those detained were resistant to Prince Mohammed's aggressive foreign policy that includes the boycott of Gulf neighbor Qatar as well as some of his bold policy reforms, including privatizing state assets and cutting subsidies.

The latest purge saw Prince Miteb bin Abdullah sacked as the head of the National Guard, an elite internal security force. His removal consolidates the crown prince's control of the kingdom's security institutions. To analysts, Prince Mohammed's meteoric rise has seemed almost Shakespearean in its aggression and calculation. In June, he edged out a 58-year-old cousin, Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, to become heir to the throne.

Already viewed as the de facto ruler controlling all the major levers of government, from defense to the economy, the prince is widely seen to be stamping out traces of internal dissent before a formal transfer of power from his 81-year-old father King Salman. At the same time, he has projected himself as a liberal reformer in the ultra-conservative kingdom with a series of bold moves including the decision allowing women to drive from next June.

Over the past year, MBS has become the ultimate decision-maker for the kingdom's military, foreign, economic and social policies, causing resentment among parts of the Al Saud dynasty frustrated by his meteoric rise. Other detainees include former Finance Minister Ibrahim Al-Assaf, a board member of national oil giant Saudi Aramco; ousted Economy Minister Adel Fakieh, who once played a major role in drafting MBS' reforms; former Riyadh Governor Prince Turki bin Abdullah and Khalid Al-Tuwaijiri, who headed the Royal Court under the late King Abdullah.

People on Twitter applauded the arrests of certain ministers with some comparing them to "the night of the long knives", a violent purge of political leaders in Nazi Germany in 1934. Bakr bin Laden, chairman of the big Saudi Binladin construction group, and Alwaleed Al-Ibrahim, owner of the MBC television network, were also detained.

Prince Alwaleed, a flamboyant character, has sometimes used his prominence as an investor to aim barbs at the kingdom's rulers. In Dec 2015, he called then-US presidential candidate Donald Trump a "disgrace to all America" and demanded on Twitter that he withdraw from the election. Trump responded by tweeting: "Dopey Prince @Alwaleed_Talal wants to control our US politicians with daddy's money. Can't do it when I get elected." His father, Prince Talal, is considered one of the most vocal supporters of reform in the ruling Al Saud family, having pressed for a constitutional monarchy decades ago. — Agencies

Hariri exit raises specter...

Continued from Page 1

"The resignation was a Saudi decision dictated to prime minister Saad Al-Hariri and forced on him," Nasrallah said in a televised broadcast, adding that there was no domestic reason for Hariri's decision.

Nasrallah urged Lebanese not to hold protests in response to the resignation, saying "this will not lead to any result". "We urge against political escalation," he said. Nasrallah also said "legitimate questions" were being raised in Lebanon over whether Hariri was being detained in Saudi Arabia. Hariri allies in Lebanon have denied suggestions that he had been detained.

For years now, Lebanon has been deeply divided between a camp dominated by the Shiite Tehran-backed Hezbollah and a Saudi-supported movement led by Hariri. "Hariri has started a cold war that could escalate into a civil war, bearing in mind that Hezbollah is unmatched in Lebanon on the military level," Khashan said. The rift in Lebanon's political class led to the assassination in 2005 of Hariri's father Rafiq, an immensely influential tycoon who made his fortune in Saudi Arabia. Investigations pointed to the responsibility of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's regime and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah.

Other political assassinations in the anti-Hezbollah camp ensued, then a month-long war between the powerful militia and neighboring Israel, as well as violent internal clashes that harked back to the dark days of the 1975-1990 civil war. Twelve years on, Lebanese politics remain just as toxically sectarian and the threat of another flare-up very real. Hariri even said on Saturday he feared going the way of his father.

His resignation came in a context of high tension between Saudi Arabia, once the region's powerhouse, and Iran, which has played an increasingly prominent political and military role in the region recently. On Friday, Hariri met Iran's most seasoned diplomat, Ali Akbar Velayati, before flying to Saudi Arabia and resigning from there via a Saudi-funded television network. "The timing and venue of the resignation are surprising... but not the resignation itself," said Fadia Kiwane, political science professor at Beirut's Saint Joseph University. "The situation is developing rapidly and we're at a turning point... there could be a deadly clash between Saudi Arabia and Iran," she said. "In that event, the two main camps in Lebanon will clash too."

Over the past few weeks, a Saudi minister, Thamer Al-Sabhan, has unleashed virulent attacks against Hezbollah on social media. "The terrorist party should be punished... and confronted by force," he wrote last month. Other than just an internal conflict, analysts also do not rule out an external attack on Hezbollah, be it by Saudi Arabia directly or by the Shiite militia's arch-foe Israel. "Hariri is saying 'there is no government any more, Hezbollah is not part of it'... and he is thus legitimizing any military strike against Hezbollah in Lebanon," Khashan said.

Israel and Hezbollah fought a devastating war in 2006, and Israeli politicians have ramped up the rhetoric lately, warning that its military was prepared for war with Lebanon. Any new war damaging key infrastructure would have a disastrous impact on a country already weakened by ballooning debt, corruption and the demographic pressure from a massive influx of Syrian refugees. As soon as the news of Hariri's resignation broke, many Lebanese took to social media to voice their fears of a return to violence. "After Hariri's resignation, a war will be launched against Lebanon," wrote one of them, Ali Hammoud, on Twitter. On the streets of Beirut, even those who had little sympathy for Hariri expressed concern. "We're headed for the worst," said one shop owner. — AFP

Kuwait Times

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Sports

S Lanka drop Mendis, Silva for India Tests

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka yesterday dropped the out-of-form top order batsmen Kusal Mendis and Kaushal Silva from the squad for a three-match Test series against India starting in Kolkata next week. The board brought back all-rounders Dasun Shanaka and Dhananjaya de Silva to the squad led by Dinesh Chandimal. Former skipper and all-rounder Angelo Mathews has recovered from a recurring calf injury and was included in the squad. During Sri Lanka's home series against India, the hosts lost all nine games — three Tests, five one-day internationals and a lone Twenty20 — between July and September. After playing the first Test in Kolkata from November 16-20, the teams move to Nagpur for the second, which starts on November 24. The final Test will be played in Delhi between December 2-6. — AFP



Three Scotland players kicked out of WCup squad

LONDON: Three Scotland players, including captain Danny Brough, have been dropped from their Rugby League World Cup squad after being deemed too drunk to board a flight. Brough, Sam Brooks and Johnny Walker remained in New Zealand while the rest of the players flew to Cairns in Australia for next week's final group game against Samoa. "These players have not adhered to the standards of behaviour," Scotland Rugby League chairman Keith Hogg said yesterday. "They will leave early a tournament it is a privilege to be involved in." Brough, the Huddersfield Giants halfback, became Scotland's most-capped player when he made his 24th appearance in their opening game of the tournament against Tonga. Scotland lost their first two matches in the tournament but could still reach the knockout stages. — Reuters

Dele Alli limps out of England squad

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur's in-form midfielder Dele Alli has had to pull out of the England squad for the upcoming friendlies against Germany and Brazil. Alli's two goals fired Spurs to a famous 3-1 Champions League success over titleholders Real Madrid at Wembley last Wednesday. But the 21-year-old was ruled out of his club's Premier League encounter against Crystal Palace on Sunday with a hamstring injury, and the English Football Association confirmed the setback would also keep him out of this month's World Cup warm-ups. The FA announced on Twitter: "Squad update: the #ThreeLions will be without @dele_official for this month's games. Get well soon, Dele!". Alli's absence means manager Gareth Southgate now has 24 players for the Wembley double-header. Tammy Abraham, Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Joe Gomez have been called up by England for the first time, but Daniel Sturridge. — AFP



Tournament of late Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah Cup concludes

National Guard, Bahraini and UAE shooters participated



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The tournament of the late Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah Cup concluded on Saturday, and the closing ceremony was held at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic shooting complex in the presence of the representative of the ceremony patron Sheikh Abdallah Bader Al-Sabah, Sheikh Abdallah Ahmad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Ali Thamer Al-Sabah, Sheikh Abdallah Thamer Al-Sabah, Acting President of Kuwait Shooting Sport Club Mohammad Mustafa Karam, Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations and board members.

In his speech on behalf of the board of directors, Assistant Secretary Eng Mohammad Miser Al-Ghurba

welcomed guests and appreciated their participation in distributing prizes and medals to the winners. He said that Kuwait shooting is always honored to organize this tournament in memory of Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem adding that the late Sheikh had a major role in launching Kuwait shooting and headed the first Kuwait delegation abroad to the CISM (military sports) tournament. The tournament included the skeet, trap, double trap, 10 meter air pistol and rifle, and was held for three days in which large number of shooters from the club, national guard, Bahraini and UAE shooters.

Results of the tournament are as follows:

Skeet men: Mansour Al-Rashidi, Nasser Al-Daihani, Zaid Al-Mutairi.

Trap men: Tami Al-Rashidi, Abdelrahman Al-Faihan, Khalid Al-Mudhaf.

Double trap men: Mishal Al-Thafiri, Ahmad Al-Afasi, Saad Al-Mutairi.

Trap women: Hajar Abdelmalek, Sumaya Al-Juhail, Asmaa Al-Qatami.

Skeet women: Fatima Al-Nasrallah (Bahrain), Iman Al-Shamma, Latifa Al-Hadi (Bahrain).

Trap juniors - men: Youstuf Al-Mutairi, Dhari Al-Mutairi, Fares Al-Mutairi.

Skeet juniors - men: Nasser Al-Mutairi, Ahmad Al-Awad, Hamad Al-Ablani.

Air pistol - men:

Saad Al-Ajmi, Hassan Abdelmajid, Hamad Al-Namshan.

Air rifle - men: Abdallah Al-Harby, Mohammad Adel, Ali Badi (Bahrain).

Air pistol - women: Israa Bahman, Ayesha Al-Buraiki (Bahrain), Amira Awadh (Bahrain).

Air rifle - women: Safaa Al-Dousari (Bahrain), Mariam Erzouqi, Nouf Al-Dousari (Bahrain).

Air rifle - juniors: Saud Al-Subaie, Mushari Al-Marta, Abdallah Al-Duraibi.

Air rifle - women: Reem Al-Bughaili, Yara Al-Khalaf, Shurooq Al-Duwaian.



Ooredoo successfully concludes Flying Start Triathlon

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait concluded the Flying Start Triathlon sport activities last month with great success. Those activities were kick started with the Pasta Party in the Green Island, in which many famous restaurants participated in offering their delicious meals to help the athletes with their carb loading in order to help them fuel up and build more energy before the big race. The first sports activity that was held is the kids Duathlon that targeted children ages 4 to 12 years old that competed in a fun run and safe cycling race. The race was a first of its kind in Kuwait, where the Flying Start

Duathlon created a friendly and safe sports environment for the children to compete in a running and cycling race. The second and main sporting event was the Flying Start Triathlon targeting participants ages 18 years and above, that that gave hundreds of professional athletes and amateurs the chance to join a professional running cycling and swimming race located in the Green Island.

The triathlon is considered to be the biggest races in the Middle East, and the goal today is to create a new sports culture built on ethics, discipline, and sportsmanship. More than 600 participants joined the tenth edition of the Triathlon this year from all over the world.

During the final ceremony, the winning participants were inaugurated and were awarded valuable prizes based on their ranks in the Triathlon. Ooredoo Corporate Communication Senior Director Mijbil Al Ayoub was also awarded during the ceremony, for Ooredoo strategic partnership with to the Flying Start Triathlon and also the commitment and also full support

given for the youth in sports and many other activities that go in line with the company's CSR values.

It is considerable to mention that Ooredoo had also sponsored and supported their brand ambassador, young Kuwaiti athlete Abdulaziz Al-Rashed that recently won the Xterra Off road Triathlon in Tahiti. Al-Rashed was the only Arab contestant to win this title. Ooredoo also proudly sponsored the Kuwait National Flag Ball Team during the Asia Cup, which was held in the Philippines. The team played against Vietnam, Korea, Japan, Thailand, and the Philippines. Kuwait National Flag Ball Team was the first Arab team to participate in such an international competition in this sport. In notable statement Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Senior Director Mijbil Alayoub reiterated Ooredoo's commitment to supporting youth, as it is one of the most important segments in society. He added that the company is proud of endorsing athletes who play in both national and international competitions.

Iraq dispute kicks off crisis for Kurdish sports

BAGHDAD: Sports clubs and players in Iraqi Kurdistan are facing the threat of a spell on the sidelines as the crisis between the region and Baghdad sees matches suspended and away trips cancelled. For the first time ever, two basketball teams from the region will miss the start of the Iraqi league season, after Kurdish authorities and the central government went from a war of words about a vote for independence in September to armed clashes over disputed territories.

Because of security fears, Iraq's basketball federation suspended matches for a team from the town of Zakho, in a volatile border area with Turkey, and another from the Kirkuk province, which was recently retaken by Baghdad. Secretary General Khaled Najm said that the games had been called off indefinitely as "it isn't in the interest of the teams or players to travel outside Kurdistan". "We're following how things play out and the teams will return if the situation gets better," he said. To avoid any potential combustible clashes, Iraq's volleyball federation has come up with a novel solution—putting all the Kurdish clubs in the league in a sub-division of their own. "The players won't need to go to other towns in Iraq," said sports boss Manaf Fadel. How that pans out in the longer term remains to be seen. Last year Kurdish team Peshmerga—named after the region's famed security force—won the league. Just a week ago, their namesake fighters were exchanging mortar fire with Iraqi troops.

Football coach Sakfan Said is currently gearing up for a crack at the Iraqi championship with his team Zakho, but now he fears that he may not get the chance. In 2015, the Iraqi national team inaugurated his club's new stadium in their home town near the frontier with Turkey. After the latest tensions that seems like a long time ago. "We don't know if we will take part in the championship," the manager said. "It is very important for us to play in the league, but we are ready for all outcomes." Club president Abdullah Majid's beloved Arbil—the team from the Kurdish capital city—are no strangers to the antagonisms that still run deep in Iraq. Last season, the squad withdrew after facing anti-Kurdish chants in the Shiite holy city of Najaf.—AFP

Sports

Anisimov nets late power-play goal, Blackhawks blank Wild 2-0

Predators down Kings on Arvidsson's breakaway goal in OT

ST PAUL: Artem Anisimov scored a power-play goal with 5:42 left in the third period, and the Chicago Blackhawks beat the Minnesota Wild 2-0 on Saturday. Corey Crawford made 24 saves for his second straight shutout as the Blackhawks won their second straight after three straight losses. Devan Dubnyk stopped 33 shots for Minnesota. With Minnesota's Luke Kunin serving a double-minor for high-sticking, Duncan Keith's shot from just inside the blue line was deflected in front by Anisimov just past the halfway point of the man advantage. Alex DeBrincat added an empty-net goal for the second straight game.

AVALANCHE 5, FLYERS 4

Mikko Rantanen scored the winner in the shootout, and the Avalanche kicked off a lengthy road trip with their third straight victory. In the third round, Rantanen made a nifty move and fired a shot past the sprawled-out Michal Neuvirth. Semyon Varlamov stopped 33 shots for Colorado, three on point-blank shots in overtime. The Flyers scored twice and the Avalanche once in a frantic 2:04 stretch early in the third period that ended with Philadelphia tying it at 4 on Dale Weise's goal at 6:37.

CANADIENS 5, JETS 4, OT

Max Pacioretty scored a power-play goal at 3:07 of overtime, lifting Montreal to the win. Jets defenseman Tyler Myers cross-checked Canadiens forward Alex Galchenyuk at 1:54 to give the Habs the man advantage. Some mishandling of the puck by the Jets behind the net led to Pacioretty's fifth of the season from in close on goalie Connor Hellebuyck. Pacioretty also had two assists. The Canadiens peppered Hellebuyck with 50 shots. He made 45 saves as Winnipeg's winning streak ended at three games. Al Montoya started in goal for the injured Carey Price and stopped 19 shots.



consecutive home losses. Jake Guentzel and Greg McKegg scored for Pittsburgh, and Matt Murray made 17 stops.

BLUES 6, MAPLE LEAFS 4

Alex Pietrangolo scored twice for St. Louis, and Brayden Schenn had four assists. Vladimir Tarasenko, Joel Edmundson, Magnus Paajarvi and Vladimir Sobotka also scored for the Blues, who improved to 6-1 at home. Jake Allen had 26 saves. Edmundson and Pietrangolo gave St. Louis a league-best 17 goals from defensemen this season. Pietrangolo's 15 points leads all NHL defensemen. Tyler Bozak scored twice, Andreas Borgman had a goal and an assist and Connor Brown also scored for the Maple Leafs, who lost for the fifth time in six games. Frederik Andersen made 27 saves.

LIGHTNING 5, BLUE JACKETS 4, SO

Steven Stamkos had a power-play goal in regulation and the lone goal during the shootout, helping Tampa Bay to the win. Stamkos is 9 for 38 in the shootout over his career. Brayden Point, Nikita Kucherov and Yanni Gourde also scored for the Lightning. Andrei Vasilevskiy made 30 saves. Columbus got goals from Seth Jones, Zach Werenski, Markus Hannikainen and Brandon Dubinsky, and Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 32 shots.

CAPITALS 3, BRUINS 2

Tom Wilson posted his first two goals of the season. Alex Ovechkin also scored and Washington continued its recent success against Boston. The Capitals have won the last 10 meetings against the Bruins, including two in overtime. Braden Holtby made 31 saves while improving to 12-2 against Boston for his career. David Pastmak scored both goals for the Bruins, who had collected at least a point in their last six games, going 3-0-3. Tuukka Rask stopped 24 shots.

RANGERS 5, PANTHERS 4

Kevin Shattenkirk scored twice for New York, including the winner in overtime. Rick Nash, Michael Grabner and Nick Holden also scored for the Rangers, who won their third straight. Henrik Lundqvist stopped 30 shots. Colton Sceviour scored two goals for the Panthers. Vincent Trocheck and Keith Yandle also scored, and Roberto Luongo made 39 saves in his first game since he injured a hand against Pittsburgh on Oct. 20. Florida dropped its fourth consecutive game. Shattenkirk fired a shot from the right side that beat Luongo 1:08 into overtime.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 5, SENATORS 4

Maxime Lagace made 24 saves for his first NHL victory, and the Golden Knights got three power-play goals. Expansion Vegas snapped a three-game slide and improved to 9-4-0. Erik Haula had two goals and an assist, and Alex Tuch, William Karlsson and Jonathan Marchessault also scored. The 24-year-old Lagace lost his first three games with the Golden Knights. He was 2-2-0 in four games this season for the Chicago Wolves in the American Hockey League. Mark Stone, Alex Burrows, Ryan Dzingel and Erik Karlsson scored for Ottawa, and Craig Anderson stopped 29 shots.

COYOTES 2, HURRICANES 1, SO

Rookie Clayton Keller scored in regulation and the shootout, leading lowly Arizona to its first home win. Antti Raanta had 36 saves in Arizona's second win of the season. Derek Stepan also scored in the shootout, and Raanta stopped Derek Ryan's attempt to end the game. The



PHILADELPHIA: Colorado Avalanche goalie Semyon Varlamov, left, deflects a shot by Philadelphia Flyers' Sean Couturier, right, during the second period of an NHL hockey game. — AP

Perry scored his 900th career game

Joonas Donskoi scored the deciding goal in the sixth round of the shootout and San Jose rallied for their season-high fourth straight win, beating Anaheim. Joel Ward tied the game midway through the third, setting the stage for the shootout that kept the Sharks perfect through three games of this homestand. Martin Jones made 25 saves to win for the seventh time in eight starts. Corey Perry scored to highlight his 900th career game but it wasn't enough to prevent the Ducks from losing their third straight game. Ryan Miller made 44 saves, but couldn't stop Donskoi's nifty stickhandling move in the shootout. Jones then sealed the game when he stopped Brandon Montour.

SHARKS 2, DUCKS 1

Viktor Arvidsson scored on a breakaway at 4:40 of overtime, lifting Nashville to the road win. Mikka Salomaki, P.K. Subban and Craig Smith also scored for Nashville, and Juuse Saros made 36 stops for his first victory in four starts. Los Angeles forced overtime with three goals in the third period. Alex Iafallo, Christian Folin and Alec Martinez scored, and Darcy Kuemper finished with 27 saves.

CANUCKS 4, PENGUINS 2

Rookie Brock Boeser had three goals and an assist, powering Vancouver to the win. It was Boeser's first career hat trick. Bo Horvat had a goal and three assists for Vancouver, and Sven Baertschi also had three assists. Jacob Markstrom made 37 saves as the Canucks snapped a two-game slide where they scored just one combined goal in

NHL results/standings

Nashville 4, Los Angeles 3 (OT); San Jose 2, Anaheim 1 (SO); Vancouver 4, Pittsburgh 2; Arizona 2, Carolina 1 (So); Dallas 5, Buffalo 1; Chicago 2, Minnesota 0; St. Louis 6, Toronto 4; Montreal 5, Winnipeg 4 (OT); Washington 3, Boston 2; Tampa Bay 5, Columbus 4 (SO); NY Rangers 5, Florida 4 (OT); Colorado 5, Philadelphia 4 (SO); Las Vegas 5, Ottawa.

Western Conference						Eastern Conference							
Central Division						Atlantic Division							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS		
St. Louis	11	3	1	50	36	23	Tampa Bay	11	2	2	59	42	24
Winnipeg	7	3	3	42	39	17	Ottawa	6	3	5	51	47	17
Colorado	8	5	0	44	41	16	Toronto	8	7	0	57	55	16
Dallas	8	6	0	41	39	16	Boston	5	4	3	34	37	13
Nashville	7	5	2	37	41	16	Detroit	6	7	1	38	41	13
Chicago	7	5	2	43	34	16	Montreal	5	8	1	39	55	11
Minnesota	5	5	2	37	35	12	Florida	4	7	2	47	56	10
							Buffalo	4	8	2	35	53	10
Pacific Division						Metropolitan Division							
Los Angeles	10	2	2	48	31	22	Columbus	9	4	1	48	38	19
Las Vegas	9	4	0	47	37	18	New Jersey	9	3	0	45	37	18
San Jose	8	5	0	36	30	16	Pittsburgh	8	6	2	42	58	18
Vancouver	7	4	2	35	31	16	Philadelphia	7	6	2	47	43	16
Calgary	7	6	0	30	34	14	NY Islanders	7	5	1	48	42	15
Anaheim	6	6	2	40	43	14	Washington	7	6	1	43	46	15
Edmonton	4	7	1	30	39	9	NY Rangers	6	7	2	47	52	14
Arizona	2	12	1	39	62	5	Carolina	4	5	3	32	37	11

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).

Hurricanes tied it at 1 with 2:25 to play in the third period when Jordan Staal scored off a pass from Sebastian Aho. Scott Darling had 23 saves for Carolina, which dropped to 1-4-2 in its last seven games.

STARS 5, SABRES 1

Tyler Seguin scored his fifth power-play goal of the season in Dallas' four-goal first period. Seguin's goal on a slap

shot from the left faceoff circle made it 4-0 just 12:51 into the game. Remi Elie, Radek Faksa and Stephen Johns also scored in the first, and Antoine Roussel added a second-period goal. Johns' goal chased goaltender Robin Lehner at 10:27. Kari Lehtonen had 27 saves to win his second straight start. Ryan O'Reilly broke up Lehtonen's shutout bid by winning a faceoff and sending a shot between the goalie's legs late in the second. — AP

PNG, Italy, Fiji win at Rugby League World Cup

SYDNEY: Watson Boas scored two minutes from full time to clinch Papua New Guinea's 14-6 win over Ireland at the Rugby League World Cup yesterday, likely propelling the Kumuls into the quarterfinals with co-hosts Australia and New Zealand.

Papua New Guinea held a two-point lead for 52 minutes before Boas pounced on a dropped pass in the Ireland backline, kicked through and won the race to the ball to score. The win kept Papua New Guinea unbeaten after two rounds and atop Group C from which only one team will progress to the playoffs, likely to face England in the quarterfinals.

Italy and Fiji kept their playoff hopes alive with emphatic wins in Group D and will meet on Friday to decide which team progresses from that group. The Italians have a 1-1 record after their 42-6 win over the United States while Fiji are unbeaten after a record 72-6 win over hapless Wales. Wales was beaten 50-4 by Papua New Guinea in its opening match. Fiji scored eight tries to lead 42-6 at halftime and another six in the second half. Suliasi Univalu touched down three times and Taane Milne and Viliame Kikau scored twice.

Milne was man of the match with three line breaks and six off loads but NRL star Jarryd Hayne was also influential, scoring the first try of the second half and creating several others. Fiji ripped apart the Wales defense with 15 line breaks and 18 offloads. "Our forwards really stepped up and made it easy for the boys out wide," said Milne who was named man of the match. "We've still got a bit to work on but we'll focus on Italy now." — AP

Champ Wilder KOs Stiverne in first round of rematch

NEW YORK: Undefeated champ Deontay Wilder destroyed Bernane Stiverne by knocking out the out-of-shape challenger with one second left in the opening round to retain his WBC heavyweight championship on Saturday.

The 32-year-old Wilder delivered an explosive performance as he floored Stiverne two times in the opening round before finishing him off with a punishing right-left to the head as the defenceless Canadian was pinned against the ropes.

Stiverne then slumped to the canvas and stayed motionless for some time before being helped up and into a chair where he was examined by the ring doctor at the Barclays Center arena in New York. "I know I am the best. I just want to prove that I am the best," said Wilder, who has 39 wins and 38 knockouts. "I got the heart of a lion. I am the king."

Wilder was the heavy favourite going into this the sixth defence of his heavyweight title. It was his second win over the 39-year-old former champ Stiverne who came into the rematch 15 pounds heavier and having fought just once since losing the belt to Wilder in January 2015.

He won the first fight with a one-sided unanimous victory and the rematch was even easier. On Saturday, he flattened Stiverne with 45 seconds left in the first round with a left followed by a straight right that landed flush on the face of the Haitian-born challenger.

Just 20 seconds later, he sent Stiverne back to the canvas with a heavy right hand that landed like a club to the side of the head. By this time Wilder was having his way with Stiverne as he sealed the victory with a four-punch combination that sent Stiverne awkwardly back into the ropes as referee Arthur Mercante frantically tried to intervene and stop the onslaught.

The Canadian earned another crack at Wilder in September, taking the rematch on short notice after the scheduled challenger, Luis Ortiz, of Cuba, failed a doping



NEW YORK: Deontay Wilder celebrates after knocking out Bernane Stiverne in the first round of the WBC heavyweight title boxing bout, in New York. — AP

test. "So much frustration. Man ... it just seems like my career has been crazy."

So many guys ducking me and so many guys using PEDs," said Wilder. Wilder was so confident that he would win again that he vowed to retire if he lost. Stiverne blamed health issues for his failure to muster much resistance to Wilder's onslaught in their first meeting but the beefy boxer's biggest mistake the second time around appeared to be spending too much time around the buffet table.

Still Wilder said he respected Stiverne's willingness to accept the challenge. "It took lot of courage to step in ring with someone like me. He was a clean fighter and he did the best he could," Wilder said.

Wilder hopes this win will land him a super fight with

Anthony Joshua in a heavyweight showdown the boxing world is dying to see. Wilder issued a call for British star Joshua, who is the IBF and WBA heavyweight champ, to step up to the plate.

"I been waiting on that boy for a long time now. Listen mate. I know I am the best. Are up for the test? I want Joshua. Joshua come and see me baby," Wilder said.

On the undercard, Kazakhstan's Sergey Lipinets claimed the vacant IBF junior welterweight title with a unanimous decision victory over Akihiro Kondo of Japan. Lipinets improved to 13-0 with 10 KOs as he won on all three judges' scorecards, 118-110, 117-111 and 117-111.

Kondo, the third ranked challenger with a career record of 29-6-1 coming into the bout, was fighting for his first world title in his debut fight on American soil. — AFP

Sports

Sock wins Paris Masters, Goerges wows with comeback in Zhuhai

Sock becomes American number one for first time

PARIS: American Jack Sock battled back from a set down to beat qualifier Filip Krajinovic 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 and win the Paris Masters title yesterday, snatching a place at the World Tour Finals. The 16th seed ended his Serbian opponent's fairytale run in the French capital to break into the world's top 10 for the first time and take the last place for London from Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta.

Despite dropping a tight opening set, the 25-year-old upped his game and stormed through the decider to claim the biggest title of his career. "To be standing here after being so far down in my first match is incredible," Sock, who trailed 5-1 in the third set of his opener against Briton Kyle Edmund, told the crowd after winning his third title of the year.

"This will be my first time in the top 10 and first time at the Tour Finals in London, so much is going on right now," Sock, who was 24th in the 'Race to London' standings before arriving at Bercy, will become the American number one for the first time, after beating the man who knocked out his compatriots Sam Querrey and John Isner earlier in the week.

Krajinovic showcased the game that took him to the brink of becoming the first qualifier to win a Masters title since Albert Portas in 2001, but ultimately he failed to become only the second Serb after Novak Djokovic to triumph at this level.

"This was the best week in my life," Krajinovic said. "I will never forget this moment in my life. Coming from

qualifying to the final was a dream come true."

SOCK FIGHTS BACK

Any worries that the world number 77 would struggle with nerves were quickly put to bed as he held his opening service game with an exquisite drop shot.

Sock had dropped serve eight times going into the final and Krajinovic brought up the first break point of the match in game five. The world number 22 saved it with a drop volley, but the underdog quickly created another opportunity and Sock gifted him the break with a double fault.

The vital breakthrough came shortly afterwards though when Sock crunched two magnificent passing shots from well behind the baseline to leave Krajinovic stunned. Meanwhile, Germany's Julia Goerges stormed to victory at the WTA Elite Trophy yesterday, hammering number two seed CoCo Vandeweghe in the final to claim her second title of the year. The 29-year-old made an unexpected comeback in the first set to take down the fiery Vandeweghe 7-5, 6-1 in one hour and 20 minutes in Zhuhai, China, as fellow German and tennis legend Steffi Graf watched from the stands.

With the title, which comes on the heels of a win in Moscow a fortnight ago, Goerges is set to end the season with a career-high ranking of world number 14. She joins other Elite Trophy winners Petra Kvitova and Venus Williams. "There is no better way to end this season," she told journalists after the match. — AFP

“This will be my first time in the top 10”



PARIS: Winner USA's Jack Sock (R) poses with the trophy next to second placed Serbia's Filip Krajinovic (L) after the final of the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 indoor tennis tournament yesterday in Paris. — AFP

Tottenham edge past Palace with Son winner

TOTTENHAM: Tottenham Hotspur rode their luck before South Korean forward Son Heung-min earned them a 1-0 victory over bottom club Crystal Palace to consolidate their place in the Premier League's top four yesterday.

Mauricio Pochettino's side, fresh from beating European champions Real Madrid in midweek, found Palace a difficult nut to crack at Wembley and could have been behind before Son curled in the winner midway through the second half.

Despite not being at their best, however, Tottenham remained in third position with 23 points having won five of their last six league games. They are behind Manchester United on goal difference before their clash at fourth-placed Chelsea later.

"No point in beating Real Madrid on Wednesday if you can't win at home at the weekend," Tottenham defender Eric Dier said. "We knew it would be difficult today with players missing but we wanted to keep the momentum going."

Palace have four points from 11 games but could count themselves unfortunate as Scott Dann was twice denied by Tottenham's debutant keeper Paulo Gazzaniga while Wilfried Zaha wasted a great chance shortly before Spurs scored.

Gazzaniga also saved well from former Tottenham player Andros Townsend early in the second half while Son could have given a nervy Tottenham breathing space but dragged a good chance wide.

Tottenham were without Dele Alli, scorer of two goals in the 3-1 victory over Real, while keeper Hugo



LONDON: Crystal Palace's Scott Dann, foreground left, vies for the ball with Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-Min, during the English Premier League soccer match between Crystal Palace and Tottenham Hotspur, at Wembley Stadium, in London. — AP

Lloris and his deputy Michel Vorm were both unable to start, handing a first appearance to Argentina's Gazzaniga. The 25-year-old grabbed his chance, making crucial saves to earn the man-of-the-match vote.

Tottenham dominated the first half without being able to break down a stubborn Palace side and they were grateful to Gazzaniga who saved well from Dann's header.

The second half was more open and Palace grew in confidence after Townsend took advantage of a defensive mistake to force another great save from the home

keeper. Tottenham began to commit players forward and Zaha should have punished them when he was clean through but, after going round a poorly-positioned Gazzaniga, he shot wide with the goal at his mercy.

It proved a costly miss for Roy Hodgson's side. A few minutes later a clever Tottenham move ended up with Harry Kane playing in Danny Rose whose shot was blocked. The ball ended up with Son on the edge of a crowded area and he curled a delightful shot past Julian Speroni. — Reuters

Wydad are African champions again after 25 years

JOHANNESBURG: Wydad Casablanca of Morocco became African champions for a second time when they defeated Al Ahly of Egypt 1-0 Saturday in the second leg of the CAF Champions League final. Walid El Karty nodded the lone goal on 69 minutes to give the home team a 2-1 aggregate triumph after they forced a 1-1 draw in Egyptian coastal city Alexandria last weekend.

Achraf Bencharki, who equalised in the first leg, set up the goal with a deflected cross for El Karty to score his third goal of the competition. Victory bridged a 25-year gap for Wydad, who conquered Africa for the first time in 1992 when they defeated Al Hilal of Sudan in the African Cup of Champions Clubs.

The name of the premier African club competition changed to the CAF Champions League in 1997 when a new format and prize money were introduced. Wydad pocketed a record \$2.5 million (about 2.1 million euros) and are guaranteed at least another \$1 million by competing at the FIFA Club World Cup in the United Arab Emirates during December.

Although Ahly dominated possession and territory during the goalless opening half, Wydad came closest to breaking the deadlock with 30 minutes gone. A long clearance from goalkeeper Zouheir Laaroubi set in motion a move that ended with a deflected shot from Abdeladim Khadrout rattling the crossbar.

Relieved Ahly had a great chance to take the lead four minutes later when first-leg scorer Moamen



CASABLANCA: Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club players celebrate their win against Egypt's Al Ahly Sporting Club during the second leg of CAF Champions League final, in Casablanca, Morocco. — AP

Zakaria broke clear to go one-on-one with Laaroubi. But the Egyptian failed to lift his shot sufficiently at Stade Mohammed V and the Moroccan shot-stopper used both hands to make a brilliant block.

Smoke from flares enveloped the pitch as the second half started in the Moroccan commercial capital, making visibility temporarily difficult for the near-capacity crowd. Wydad were more adventurous as the half progressed, using the flanks to put pressure on Ahly, and forcing their first corner with 58 minutes gone. Morocco-born Walid Azaro, battling the make an impact as the lone Ahly striker, was withdrawn on the

hour by coach Hossam El Badry with Ahmed Hamoudi taking his place. As the second leg drifted into the final quarter, play continued to be confined mainly to the final third, with Wydad in pole position thanks to the away goal.

With 69 minutes gone the deadlock finally ended as El Karty struck with his point-blank header evading Ahly captain and goalkeeper Sherif Ekramy. El Badry reacted to his team falling behind by introducing veteran striker Emad Moteab and winger Walid Soliman as he sought the goal that would level the final on aggregate. But it was Wydad who came closest to scoring in a frenetic finish. — AFP

FIFA corruption trial opens in New York

NEW YORK: It was the raid that changed the face of the world's most popular sport. Swiss police swooped in on a five-star Zurich hotel at dawn, arresting seven soccer officials at US request. Two and a half years later, the only defendants detained in the United States who continue to profess their innocence will go on trial. When US prosecutors unveiled a years' long investigation on May 27, 2015, the allegations were dumbfounding: a quarter of a century of endemic corruption in the heart of FIFA, soccer's governing body.

Forty-two officials and marketing executives, and three companies were indicted in an exhaustive 236-page complaint detailing 92 separate crimes and 15 corruption schemes to the tune of \$200 million. It was the biggest corruption scandal in the history of soccer. "Two generations of soccer officials," then attorney general Loretta Lynch said at the time, "used their positions of trust within their respective organizations to solicit bribes from sports marketers in exchange for the commercial rights to their soccer tournaments. They did this over and over, year after year, tournament after tournament." Tens of millions of dollars was hidden in offshore accounts in Hong Kong, the Cayman Islands and Switzerland, US officials said. The charges included racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering conspiracies.

But only three people are actually going on trial—three fabulously wealthy and once formidably powerful South American soccer officials.

BRAZIL EX-BOSS

Jury selection is scheduled to begin Monday at the federal court in Brooklyn. Opening statements could begin on November 13. It will be a hugely complicated trial, expected to last weeks if not months, with prosecutors expected to present 350,000 pages of evidence and dozens of witnesses. The most high-profile defendant is Jose Maria Marin, 85, former president of Brazil's Football Confederation—the sport's organizing body in one of the premier soccer-playing nations in the world.

Since his arrest in Zurich and extradition, he has been out on bail, living in luxury at Trump Tower, the Fifth Avenue skyscraper best known for housing the penthouse and company headquarters of the current US president. Also in the dock is former FIFA vice president Juan Angel Napout, 59, and Manuel Burga, who led soccer in Peru until 2014 and a one-time FIFA development committee member. A US jury will now decide their fate. If convicted they will be sentenced by Judge Pamela Chen. The worst counts against them carry a maximum sentence of 20 years in jail.

Of the 42 individual defendants, 24 have cut deals with prosecutors, hoping for lighter sentences in exchange for cooperating and confessing to a pared-down number of charges.

Two were sentenced last month: Guatemalan ex-soccer official Hector Trujillo to eight months, and British-Greek accountant Costas Takkas to 15 months, 10 of which he has already served.

DEFIANT

"In some ways he destroyed his country," Chen said at Trujillo's sentencing on October 25. "Soccer is the national love and a patriotic endeavor... He should have known better." —AFP

14 Anisimov nets late power-play goal, Blackhawks blank Wild 2-0



14 Champ Wilder KOs Stiverne in first round of rematch



15 Sock wins Paris Masters, Goerges vows with comeback in Zhuhai, wins trophy



LONDON: Chelsea's Andreas Christensen vies for the ball with Manchester United's Marcus Rashford, right, during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Manchester United at Stamford Bridge stadium in London, yesterday. — AP

Chelsea derail United title bid

Morata goal drought ends • Painful setback for Mourinho

LONDON: Chelsea striker Alvaro Morata condemned Jose Mourinho to another damaging defeat against his former club as the champions clinched a crucial 1-0 win over Manchester United yesterday. Morata rewarded an enterprising display from Antonio Conte's side when the Spain striker headed home early in the second half at Stamford Bridge. After losing twice at Chelsea in his first season as United boss, Mourinho, who won three English titles in two spells with the Blues, is growing accustomed to leaving west London empty-handed.

This was an especially painful setback for Mourinho as a second defeat in their last three Premier League games leaves second-placed United lagging eight points behind leaders Manchester City. United haven't

won at Chelsea since October 2012, a barren run that now stretches to eight matches. While Mourinho licks his wounds, Chelsea manager Conte can take heart from a vibrant performance that keeps his fourth-placed team nine points behind City.

Amid talk Conte was in danger of losing the support of his players over his intense training regime, Chelsea's third successive league win was well timed for the Italian in the week when demanding Blues owner Roman Abramovich made one of his ominous visits to the training ground. Having reportedly torn into his players during a lengthy inquest into Tuesday's 3-0 defeat at Roma, Conte wielded the axe as David Luiz and Antonio Rudiger were dropped.

Just as significantly, France midfielder N'Golo Kante returned to provide his steadying influence after missing six games with a hamstring injury. In need of a fast start to set the tone, Chelsea thought they'd taken the lead when Marcos Alonso's cross was turned into his own net by United defender Phil Jones, only for referee Anthony Taylor to disallow the goal for a push by Morata.

United should have been ahead themselves moments later when Ashley Young's cross exposed early fault lines in Conte's revamped defence, but the unmarked Marcus Rashford headed over from close range. Tiemoue Bakayoko was equally profligate at the other end, the Chelsea midfielder firing wide from Davide

Zappacosta's cross. Without a goal in his last six appearances, United striker Romelu Lukaku was searching for the blistering form that followed his pre-season move from Everton. But the Belgian was largely anonymous and even when he turned on the edge of the Chelsea area for a low shot, Thibaut Courtois was able to push it away.

Eden Hazard led the Chelsea response with a stinging 25-yard strike, forcing David De Gea into an agile stop. Mourinho has been criticized for adopting a cautious gameplan in big matches recently and, while he seemed more willing to let United go forward this time, he must have been furious with the way Chelsea were slicing open his defense. —AFP

Aguero on target as Man City sink Arsenal

MANCHESTER: Manchester City's newly-crowned record goalscorer Sergio Aguero was on the mark again, as his second-half penalty helped the Premier League leaders beat Arsenal 3-1 yesterday and maintain their unbeaten start to the season.

Aguero scored via the post after Nacho Monreal was judged to have brought down Raheem Sterling with a clumsy challenge in the 49th minute at the Etihad Stadium. And, after Kevin De Bruyne had given Pep Guardiola's side a first-half lead, it seemed Aguero's latest goal would be enough to secure a club record ninth consecutive league victory for City.

Still, the hosts might have faced an

anxious conclusion to the game after Arsenal substitute Alexandre Lacazette pulled a goal back in the 65th minute with a ferocious finish following sharp passes from Alex Iwobi and Aaron Ramsey.

Home nerves were finally settled in the 74th minute, however, when David Silva pulled the ball back for substitute Gabriel Jesus to score from six yards, although replays suggested one, or possibly both, players were offside, with the result leaving the Gunners 12 points behind City.

It had taken just 18 minutes of open, attacking play, from both teams, for City to start the scoring through Belgian midfielder De Bruyne who maintained his superb recent form. Moments after his powerful shot had forced Petr Cech into the first save of the game, parrying the ball away to his right, City followed up with another attack that paved the way for De Bruyne's opener.

Leroy Sane and Fabian Delph played short, sharp passes to work the ball to the centre for De Bruyne who then played a one-two with Fernandinho before beating Cech with a left-foot shot into the right-

hand corner of the Arsenal goal.

Before kick-off, former City strikers formed a guard of honour for Aguero, who this week became the club's all-time leading goalscorer, and within a minute, the Argentinian might have added another to his 178 City career goals earlier than was eventually the case.

Sterling and De Bruyne led the City charge upfield following an Arsenal corner and Aguero might have expected to do better than shoot wide of the right-hand post. Arsenal looked threatening in the early exchanges but the Gunners' defence was beginning to make the occasional error and, when they gifted the ball to City just before the opening goal, Sane's low cross missed Sterling by inches.

But while Ederson was untroubled in the home goal, City lacked their usual flowing form in attack. Silva rolled the ball across an open net, with no team-mate on hand, after 33 minutes and then Sterling and Sane somehow wasted the chance to convert a two-against-one counter-attack thanks to the former's wayward pass. —AFP

Flanagan, Kamworor win NY Marathon

NEW YORK: Shalane Flanagan became the first American woman in 40 years to win the New York City Marathon yesterday, joining Kenya's Geoffrey Kamworor in winning a first major marathon crown just five days after a deadly Manhattan truck attack that left eight people dead. Flanagan, coming off a back injury that kept her from racing at Boston, captured her breakthrough title at age 36 in 2hrs 26mins 53secs and was in tears on the podium. "This is a moment I've dreamed of since I was a little girl," Flanagan said. "It's indescribable. These are the moments we

dream of to realize our potential and see how incredible we can be."

Expanded security lined the route of the world-famous race, which saw an estimated 50,000 runners from more than 125 nations compete over 42.1km across the city streets. New York's recent tragedy revived memories of the 2013 Boston Marathon that was targeted by bombers, but the carnage also helped inspire Flanagan's triumphant run. "It has been a tough week for New Yorkers and a tough week for our nation and I thought what better gift than to make our nation and our people smile," Flanagan said. "I thought of that when I began to feel the pain." Not since Miki Gorman in 1977 had a US woman won on the "Big Apple" streets.

Kamworor took his first victory at the distance in his seventh marathon start. Two years after losing the lead late in the 26.2-mile race, Kamworor held off compatriot Wilson Kipsang to win in an unofficial time of 2hrs 10mins 53secs. "I'm so happy. I feel so great to be the champion,"

Kamworor said. "This is my first marathon victory. I'm so happy and so delighted." Kipsang, the 2014 New York champion, was three seconds back with Ethiopia's Lelisa Desisa third in 2:11:32.

Kamworor, 24, settled for second in 2015 to Kenyan Stanley Biwott after being overtaken late in the race. Kipsang, 35, won in Tokyo earlier this year but quit after 30km in September's Berlin Marathon. Eritrea's Ghirmay Ghebreslassie, the 2016 winner, started strong in defending his crown, surging ahead twice but being overtaken quickly by the pack each time. Kamworor made his move at mile 21 and held off the fast-closing Kipsang at the line in Central Park. "New York is very amazing. The course is fantastic," Kamworor said. "I'm looking forward to coming back next year."

Flanagan, the 2010 New York marathon runner-up, was sixth in last year's Rio Olympic marathon. She was the 10,000m runner-up at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. —AFP

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RIYADH: This file photo shows a Saudi investor walking past the stock exchange monitors at the Saudi Stock Exchange or Tadawul, in Riyadh. — AFP

Saudi move worries investors, but may push reforms

Stock market recovers after initial tumbling

DUBAI: A purge of Saudi Arabia's political and business elites briefly dragged down the kingdom's stock market yesterday but prices recovered to close higher as some investors bet the crackdown could bolster reforms in the long run. The size of the action — 11 princes, four ministers and tens of former ministers were detained by a newly created anti-corruption committee headed by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman — raised questions about the predictability of the Saudi government.

For foreigners, a major shock was the detention of flamboyant billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, who as a big investor in top Western companies such as Citigroup is known as the international face of Saudi business. Local investors, meanwhile, worried about whether a sustained investigation into corruption could turn up scandals in the kingdom's opaque business world, forcing people implicated to sell off their equity holdings.

Analysts said the move could help the economy by making it easier for Prince Mohammed to pursue radical reforms that include slashing the state budget deficit, putting more women into employment, lifting a ban on women driving, and selling \$300 billion of state assets.

"This is the latest act of concentration of power in Saudi," said Hasnain Malik, global head of equity research at emerging markets investment bank Exolix.

"As unprecedented and controversial as it may be, this centralization might also be a necessary condition for pushing the austerity and transformation agenda, the benefits of which very few investors are pricing in."

After initially tumbling as much as 2.2 percent yesterday, the Saudi stock index rebounded to close slightly higher. Shares related to some of the detained people, such as Prince Alwaleed's Kingdom Holding, sank but most banks rose, a sign of economic optimism.

The action may increase Prince Mohammed's grassroots support by tackling corruption, a problem that has long plagued the economy.

"It's a populist move that makes sense because a lot

of the princes, businessmen and bureaucrats are corrupt, taking kickbacks and being involved in all kinds of shady deals," said Bernard Haykel, professor of Near East studies at Princeton University.

A danger for financial markets, however, is that Prince Mohammed is shaking up business practices and ties that have lasted for decades, a move which could backfire if it triggers an exodus of money and wealthy individuals from the country.

"The fact that some of the country's leading business people were arrested will scare the private sector and there might be even more capital flight than before. And most bureaucrats will now be terrified, perhaps justifiably," Haykel said.

Many corporate executives expect Prince Mohammed to persuade or pressure rich Saudis to repatriate some of the billions of dollars which they are

believed to have transferred overseas for safe-keeping, and which could now help to kick-start the development projects that he plans.

The corruption crackdown may be an initial step in this effort; the decree creating the committee gave it the right, pending the result of investigations, to seize assets at home or abroad and transfer them to the state Treasury.

James Dorsey, senior fellow at Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, wrote that Prince Mohammed appeared to be reacting to growing opposition within the royal family and the military to his reforms and Riyadh's military intervention in Yemen.

"It raises questions about the reform process that increasingly is based on a unilateral rather than a consensual rewriting of the kingdom's social contract."

For many people, however, a unilateral approach is seen as the best chance to push through the reforms. A chief economist at a big regional bank said Prince Mohammed's main motive for acting was frustration that reforms were not moving fast enough.

The privatization program, for example, including the planned sale of 5 percent of national oil giant Saudi Aramco, has been discussed for many months with little action. Now the program may pick up. — Reuters



Skepticism over possible radical reforms

Multinationals grapple with US excise tax shock

WASHINGTON/LONDON: The Republican tax bill unveiled last week in the US Congress could disrupt the global supply chains of large, multinational companies by slapping a 20-percent tax on cross-border transactions they routinely make between related business units.

European multinationals, some of which currently pay little US tax on US profits thanks to tax treaties and diversion of US earnings to their home countries or other low-tax jurisdictions, could be especially hard hit if the proposed tax becomes law, according to some tax experts.

Others said the proposal could run afoul of international tax treaties, the World Trade Organization and other global standards that forbid the double taxation of profits if the new tax did not account for income taxes paid in other countries. The proposed tax, tucked deep in the 429-page bill backed by President Donald Trump, caught corporate tax strategists by surprise and sent them scrambling to understand its dynamics and

goals, as well as whether Congress is likely ever to vote on it.

Reuters contacted seven multinational companies and four industry groups. None would comment directly on the proposal, with most saying they were still studying the entire tax package.

The proposal is part of a broad tax reform bill unveiled by House of Representatives Republicans on Thursday, which promises to lower overall tax burdens and simplify the tax code.

Whether the proposed reforms ever become law is uncertain, with weeks and possibly months of debate and intense lobbying still ahead. The House package overall has drawn criticism for adding too much to the federal budget deficit and too heavily favoring the rich and big business.

However, the corporate tax part, experts said, included some ambitious proposals worthy of further discussion. They said the 20 percent excise tax is one such proposal targeting the abuses of so-called transfer-pricing where multinationals themselves set prices of goods, services and intellectual property rights that constantly move between their national business units.

Under global standards, those prices should resemble those available on the open market. However, if a foreign parent charges US affiliates inflated price, it can reduce its US tax bill and effectively shift profits to a

lower-tax country, reducing the entire corporation's overall tax costs.

Blunt instrument

"Clearly there's a transfer-pricing issue and something should be done," said Steven Rosenthal, senior fellow at the Tax Policy Center, a nonpartisan Washington think tank. "I would view this 20-percent excise tax as a blunt instrument to address the problem. And the problem with blunt instruments is sometimes they hit what you want to hit, and sometimes they hit what you don't want to hit," said Rosenthal, former legislation counsel at Congress's Joint Tax Committee.

Under the proposal, US business units that import products, pay royalties or other tax-deductible, non-interest fees to foreign parents or affiliates in the course of doing business would either pay a 20-percent tax on these or agree to treat the amounts as income connected to their US business and subject to US taxes. As proposed, the new tax rule would apply only to businesses with payments from US units to foreign affiliates exceeding \$100 million. The rule would not take effect until after 2018. European companies that sell foreign-made products into the US market through local distribution units could be among those most affected, said Michael Mundaca, co-director of the national tax department at the accounting firm Ernst & Young. — Reuters

Trump urges Saudis to list Aramco on NY stock exchange

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump on Saturday urged Saudi Arabia to choose Wall Street as a venue for the initial public offering of shares of oil giant Aramco in 2018. Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Tokyo that he had spoken to the Saudi king during the flight, saying he "would like them to consider" US exchanges.

"I know they're looking at London, I know they're looking at others, they're probably looking at themselves, they have a much smaller stock market," the US president said. "So I would like them to consider the New York Stock Exchange or NASDAQ."

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 on the stock market.

Trump's remarks followed a Twitter missive posted from Hawaii ahead of the Asia trip: "Would very much appreciate Saudi Arabia doing their IPO of Aramco with the New York Stock Exchange. Important to the United States!" 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 business.

CEO Amin Nasser said in an interview with CNBC television in October that the listing venue "will be discussed and shared in due course."

Saudi Arabia has posted \$200 billion in deficits in the past three fiscal years due to the slump in global oil prices. — AFP

Business

Makhachkala, Ufa and Voronezh join flydubai's Russian Network

First airline from UAE to operate direct air links to Makhachkala, Voronezh



flydubai flight touches down in Voronezh.



flydubai lands in Podgorica.

KUWAIT: Dubai-based flydubai marks the start of the winter travel season in Russia with four new destinations and increased frequencies on existing routes. The airline's first flight to Makhachkala landed on 31 October and was greeted by a traditional water cannon salute. The carrier also inaugurated flights to Voronezh, resumed services to Ufa and announced the launch of flights to Sheremetyevo International Airport in Moscow from 29 November.

These new routes, together with the increased frequencies from mid-December, will expand flydubai's footprint in Russia to 11 points and 52 weekly flights. The carrier continues to explore new opportunities to service the market while continuing to operate direct airlinks to the remaining points in Russia including Kazan, Krasnodar, Mineralnye Vody, Moscow (Vnukovo), Rostov-on-Don, Samara and Yekaterinburg.



Flydubai network in Russia grows to 11 points

remain committed to further expanding our footprint in the country and providing more passengers between the two countries with affordable and reliable direct air links. We remained true to our business model by opening up underserved markets and that has presented our passengers with more convenient options to explore the flydubai network and beyond. We are looking forward to welcoming our new passengers onboard."

For UAE

Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President Commercial (UAE, EU, ME, CIS) at flydubai, said: "It has been seven years since flydubai entered the Russian market and we continue to expand our footprint in the country. With four additional routes and increased frequencies, we're offering more options to explore Russia for travellers from Dubai and across our network."

All flights to Russia offer the option of a more personalized travel experience with flydubai's Business Class. The premium offering provides priority check-in, comfortable spacious seating, a range of inflight



entertainment, delicious meals and a dedicated 24-hour Business Team to assist with bookings and enquiries throughout the journey. Passengers can relax before the flight at flydubai's dedicated Business Lounge in Dubai and access business lounges in Voronezh and across the airline's growing network. Economy Class offers a variety of services on board including a selection of snacks, hot meals available for pre-order and enjoy more than 1,000 hours of films, television, music and an extensive range of Russian content. flydubai's reward program, OPEN,

allows members to earn points with every flight and spend on other flydubai flights, upgrades and optional extras for any trip, on any day, to any destination. flydubai operates flights to more than 95 destinations in 44 countries, including popular routes among Russian travellers, such as Dubai (UAE), Bangkok (Thailand), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Kathmandu (Nepal) and Zanzibar (Tanzania). Passengers can also benefit from flydubai's interline agreements with other carriers, providing opportunities for onward travel to more than 200 destinations.

BoE's Carney sees slower growth without Brexit deal

LONDON: Britain's economy will grow more slowly in the short term if the country fails to secure a future trading deal with the European Union after Brexit, Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said yesterday. Asked in an interview with ITV television if Britain's economy would take a hit if there is no Brexit deal, Carney said:

"In the short term, without question, if we have materially less access (to the EU's single market) than we have now, this economy is going to need to reorient and during that period of time it will weigh on growth." Carney also said British business investment should be booming now, given the strength of the world economy and other factors, but that it was

just growing instead. "This is because of the uncertainty about the outcome of the Brexit negotiations, he said.

The BoE on Thursday raised interest rates for the first time since 2007, before the start of the global financial crisis, but sterling fell sharply as the central bank also said it expected only "very gradual" rate rises ahead. Britain's economy has slowed sharply this year following the 2016 Brexit vote, but the BoE decided to raise rates in part because it believes that Brexit will create more inflation pressure due to lower migration and weaker investment.

Carney told ITV yesterday that it was possible that in the event of a bad Brexit deal, the BoE would not be able to cut interest rates in future because of that inflationary pressure.

"The scenario you paint is not the most likely, by any stretch of the imagination, but it is a possibility," he said. Carney has come under political pressure from some supporters of the vote to leave the EU, who have been angered by his comments that Brexit is having a negative impact on the economy. —Reuters

Sprint, T-Mobile scrap merger talks

SAN FRANCISCO: US wireless operators Sprint and T-Mobile announced Saturday they had called off merger talks after failing to clinch mutually agreeable terms, ending a potential tie-up that would have dramatically impacted the sector in the United States.

T-Mobile, an affiliate of Germany's Deutsche Telekom, and Sprint, a subsidiary of Japan's SoftBank, are the third and fourth largest US wireless operators, respectively. Together, the pair would have had 131 million subscribers, virtually matching second-ranked AT&T and posing stiff competition to market leader Verizon Communications.

"The prospect of combining with Sprint has been compelling for a variety of reasons, including the potential to create significant benefits for consumers and value for shareholders," T-Mobile US president and CEO John Legere said in a state-

ment. "However, we have been clear all along that a deal with anyone will have to result in superior long-term value for T-Mobile's shareholders compared to our outstanding stand-alone performance and track record."

The two firms had held talks in 2014 on a merger but ended discussions in the face of opposition from US regulators. In the latest round, reports said T-Mobile's German parent group had insisted on a majority stake and that SoftBank did not want to cede control.

"While we couldn't reach an agreement to combine our companies, we certainly recognize the benefits of scale through a potential combination. However, we have agreed that it is best to move forward on our own," said Sprint president and CEO Marcelo Claure.

"We look forward to continuing to take the fight to the duopoly and newly emerging competitors." SoftBank chief executive Masayoshi Son, who was among the first businessmen to meet President Donald Trump after his election victory last year, had been reportedly pushing for the tie-up as part of his effort to invest \$50 billion in business and job creation in the United States. —AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.662
Indian Rupees	4.701
Pakistani Rupees	2.885
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.972
Nepali Rupees	2.944
Singapore Dollar	223.730
Hongkong Dollar	38.908
Bangladesh Taka	3.674
Philippine Peso	5.929
Thai Baht	9.180

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.014
Qatari Riyal	83.441
Omani Riyal	788.981
Bahraini Dinar	806.700
UAE Dirham	82.714

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	0.000
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.159
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.219
Tunisian Dinar	122.420
Jordanian Dinar	428.390
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.024
Syrian Lira	0.000
Morocco Dirham	32.367

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.600

Euro	354.760
Sterling Pound	400.140
Canadian dollar	239.530
Turkish lira	80.320
Swiss Franc	306.050
Australian Dollar	234.990
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	303.250
Canadian Dollar	238.370
Sterling Pound	398.155
Euro	353.600
Swiss Frank	305.075
Bahrain Dinar	804.850
UAE Dirhams	82.995
Qatari Riyals	83.780
Saudi Riyals	81.725
Jordanian Dinar	429.000
Egyptian Pound	17.222
Sri Lankan Rupees	1.974
Indian Rupees	4.699
Pakistani Rupees	2.876
Bangladesh Taka	3.716
Philippines Peso	5.911
Cyprus pound	18.040

Japanese Yen	3.655
Syrian Pound	1.590
Nepalese Rupees	2.941
Malaysian Ringgit	72.430
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.180
Thai Bhat	10.145
Turkish Lira	78.355

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.392102	0.399602
Czech Korune	0.005778	0.017778
Danish Krone	0.043494	0.048494
Euro	0.347576	0.355076
Georgian Lari	0.135223	0.135223
Norwegian Krone	0.033275	0.038475
Romanian Leu	0.065015	0.081865
Russian ruble	0.005231	0.005231
Slovakia	0.009062	0.019062
Swedish Krona	0.032139	0.037139
Swiss Franc	0.297507	0.308507
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.224324	0.236324
New Zealand Dollar	0.203910	0.213410
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.232755	0.241755
US Dollars	0.299500	0.303920
US Dollars Mint	0.300000	0.303920

Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003317
Chinese Yuan	0.044359
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036933
Indian Rupee	0.004159
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018
Japanese Yen	0.002580
Korean Won	0.000262
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067948
Nepalese Rupee	0.003030
Pakistan Rupee	0.002693
Philippine Peso	0.005782
Singapore Dollar	0.218032
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001633
Taiwan	0.010030
Thai Baht	0.008816

Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.798309
Egyptian Pound	0.014259
Iranian Riyal	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000207
Jordanian Dinar	0.423604
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000158
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022816
Omani Riyal	0.782253
Qatar Riyal	0.079101
Saudi Riyal	0.079873
Syrian Pound	0.001287
Tunisian Dinar	0.118130
Turkish Lira	0.073911
UAE Dirhams	0.081234
Yemeni Riyal	0.000987

Business

NBK Money Markets Report

Dollar maintains strength in a highly eventful week

Meetings of three CBs steer global markets

KUWAIT: Last week the market revolved around three major central bank meetings and the monthly US employment report. The Bank of Japan held the first meeting in which it left policies unchanged as expected. With an 8-1 vote and lower inflation forecasts for this year and next, the Bank effectively signaled that monetary policy will probably remain expansionary for some time longer than most major central banks.

The FOMC meeting was held next where it also left interest rates unchanged while pointing out solid economic growth and a strengthening labor market despite the impact of recent hurricanes. Indeed, while below expectations, the US added 261,000 jobs in October reinforcing the Federal Reserve's assessment. The report indicated that the Fed is on track for another hike in December. Although bond yields declined slightly over the week, market expectations for a December hike are now at 90 percent.

In related news, President Donald Trump has nominated Board Governor Jerome Powell as Fed chairman to succeed Janet Yellen in February 2018. Powell, 64, a lawyer and investment banker has worked alongside Yellen for the past five years and backed her direction on monetary policy. He also shared her concerns that weak inflation justified a continued cautious approach to raising interest rates. It is therefore expected that the transition will run smoothly with little changes to current Fed policies.

Finally, the main event of the week was the Bank of England who followed through with their first interest rate hike in ten years. The quarter of a percent increase puts rates back at last year's pre-Brexit vote level of 0.5 percent. While the hike was anticipated, the big disappointment came with the slow path of tightening hinted to follow over the next few years. Markets fear that with inflation in the UK overshooting the BoE's target of 2 percent now close to 3 percent, more aggressive policies are required to combat the appreciation of prices. However, the bank believes that a slower more cautious approach is required as the UK prepares to leave the European Union. Furthermore, the bank expects the recovery in global demand should diminish the effects rising import prices on inflation.

In the currency markets, the US dollar maintained its gains made last week after the dovish European Central Bank meeting. Most developments over the week favored a stronger dollar over other majors. Solid manufacturing and employment economic figure released

Friday saw the US dollar index close the week at a high of 94.917. The British pound had the worst performance this week dropping around 1.6 percent against the USD after the Bank of England meeting. Even optimistic manufacturing and services data weren't enough to stop the fall. The GBP/USD opened the week at 94.834 and closed at 94.941.

The Japanese yen initially appreciated after the Bank of Japan meeting early in the week but eventually gave in to the USD strength. The divergence in monetary policies between the US and Japan and the yen's role as a funding currency also aided in the rise in USD/JPY. The pair opened the week at 113.72 and close at 114.06.

In the oil markets, oil prices are recovering as global demand increases and economic growth in China and the US pick up. In a statement, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said that demand was even strong enough to absorb the increase in shale oil production. Furthermore, OPEC and non-OPEC producers will meet later this month to discuss the future of oil policy. It is expected that the supply curb in place will be extended beyond March 2018. Benchmark Brent crude was up around 2.25 percent in the week to a close of 62.07.

FOMC

The Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged on Wednesday and pointed to solid US economic growth and a strengthening labor market while playing down the impact of recent hurricanes, a sign it is on track to lift borrowing costs again in December. "The labor market has continued to strengthen and economic activity has been rising at a solid rate despite hurricane-related disruptions," the committee said in a statement after its unanimous policy decision.

Personal spending rebound

In the US, personal spending jumped to 1.0 percent reflecting a strong rebound after last month's 0.1 percent increase. The increased spending in September

was broad-based across both goods and services. Much of the gain was concentrated on autos and auto parts as hurricane damage lead to replacement vehicle purchases. As a result, September's robust pace of consumer spending is probably unsustainable. A sharp jump in gasoline prices also lead to higher spending. Consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity.

Consumer confidence high

Consumer confidence increased to its highest level in almost 17 years in October boosted by a consistently healthy labor market. Consumers were also considerably more upbeat about the short-term outlook, with the prospect of improving business conditions as the primary driver. Confidence remains high among consumers, and their expectations suggest the economy will continue expanding at a solid pace for the remainder of the year.

US employment

The US economy added 261,000 jobs in October rebounding from September's hurricane disrupted reading of 18,000. The gain was the largest since July 2016 as 106,000 leisure and hospitality workers returned to work. While being below expectations of 310,000 jobs the number is still very optimistic and supportive of a Fed rate hike. Wages on the other hand, were flat at close to 0 percent in part due to the return of the lower-paid industry workers that were left out of last month's reading. Year on year the increase in wages are now measured at 2.4 percent down from last months inflated reading of 2.9 percent.

Bank of England

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee unanimously hiked rates for the first time in ten years by 0.25 percent to 0.50 percent. This reverses the emergency cut made in August 2016 after the Brexit vote. Although the hike came as expected, the path of tightening was revealed to remain slow with two more



hikes expected by 2020. With regards to the BoE's asset purchasing program, it was left unchanged.

While forecasting sluggish GDP and consumption growth over the next few years, the Bank expects that the recovery in global demand and the depreciation of the pound should help net trade recover. Moreover, the effects of rising import prices on inflation is expected to diminish over the next few years, and domestic inflationary pressures gradually pick up as spare capacity is absorbed and wage growth recovers. The rapid rise in inflation after the Brexit vote is expected to peak above 3 percent in October before gradually falling back towards the 2 percent target as conditioned by future rate hikes. Finally, the BoE's Inflation report highlighted the noticeable impact the decision to leave the European Union is having on the economy. The depreciation of the pound and resulting overshoot of inflation and the growth of Brexit uncertainties that are weighed on domestic activity, which has slowed even as global growth has risen significantly. The report also revealed that monetary policy cannot prevent the effects of the adjustments needed for the United Kingdom to move towards its new international trading arrangements or the weaker real income growth that is likely to accompany that adjustment over the next few years.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30275
The USDKWD opened at 0.30275 yesterday.



BoE hikes rates first time in ten years

Gulfsat and Thuraya sign a cooperation agreement in satellite communications

KUWAIT: Gulfsat Communications Company, a leading company specialized in providing satellite communication and TV broadcasting and re-broadcasting, has announced the signing of a service agreement with Thuraya Telecommunications Company, the provider of satellite communication services (MSS). The agreement is in line with the shared view to expand and diversify communication services in the Middle East and North Africa.

Under this agreement, Gulfsat will be able to launch data services in Kuwait through the diversified portfolio of Thuraya Telecommunications Company services for the benefit of Gulfsat's customers. At the strategic level, the agreement will contribute to combining the efforts of both companies and merge their common interests in order to enhance satellite communication methods. It will also allow them to reach new customers in major sectors such as government, oil, marine and media in the region, eventually strengthening their customer base. The agreement was signed during the Middle East Marine Patrol Vessels Forum (OPV) that was held in Kuwait under the auspices of the Ministry of Defense and the Marine Force.

Expanding data services

Commenting on this agreement, Gulfsat's Chairman and CEO, Mohammed Al-Haj said, "We are pleased to announce the signing of this agreement with Thuraya Telecommunications Company, a leading company in the region, specialized in satellite communication services. Through this cooperation, Gulfsat will be able to cater for the high and increasing demand for data services in Kuwait, particularly for the segment of customers in the marine sector. Gulfsat will also be able to provide uniform solutions to its customers through land-based networks and satellites and improve the quality of its communications, regardless of their location. In addition, the agreement will support the joint objectives of both companies in the area of service provision in the region."

Scope of the agreement

Al-Haj added, "The agreement is a translation of the company's executive management efforts to implement the Board of Director's vision to remain abreast with the most recent technological developments in the field of satellite services and re-broadcasting serv-



KUWAIT:(From the left) Gulfsat Chairman and CEO Mohammed Al-Haj and Thuraya Director Market Development Energy and VIP Fahad Kahoor.

es, of which satellite communications (MSS) are a key element."

Al-Haj noted that the cooperation of Thuraya with Gulfsat reflects a set of key points, the first being the huge credibility that Gulfsat enjoys as a leader in its area of specialization, and the second is the fact that

of specialized technological companies that have close cooperation relations with Gulfsat at the regional level. All this will benefit our own distinguished customer base.

Thuraya to transmit data in Kuwaiti market

Meanwhile, Thuraya's Chief Commercial Officer, Danny Kuttly, said, "We are happy at the prospect of working with Gulfsat, which will enable us to have a foothold in Kuwait and provide services to several major sectors in the country, including its customers in the marine sector. Our joint offerings will also empower our remote operating capabilities for many customers in the oil and gas sector in the Middle East and North Africa. We are confident this alliance will be positively received and we look forward to further cooperation with our new partner through a package of new services including a portfolio of products that Gulfsat's customers can obtain, such as Thuraya broad band devices for data transmission like Thuraya IP Plus, IP Voyager, Orion IP, Atlas IP and others."



Deal to launch data services in Kuwait

Gulf Bank hosts red's monthly draw winners

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank was pleased to host red's tenth monthly draw winners in its head office yesterday where Manal Barakat, Manager of red and Nassour - Consumer Banking, and Mohammad Al-Otaibi, Corporate Communications Manager, greeted them and handed them the prizes.

Winners' names were announced on 23 October 2017 in a draw that was held at the bank's head office, under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The red account draw resulted in the announcement of three students who won prizes ranging from an iPhone 7 plus to an Apple Watch and they are:

- Amal Mohammad Talaq Al-Otaibi - iPhone 7 Plus
- Fatemah Tareq Ali Al Buloushi - iPad Pro
- Anwar Jaber Ali Mohsen - Apple Watch

Gulf Bank's red is a dedicated

account for high school, college and university students aged between 15 and 25, which does not require a minimum deposit. Eligible customers will get the chance to enter the draw automatically and on monthly basis, upon transferring their student allowances.

Each month, an iPhone 7 plus, an iPad Pro, and an Apple Watch will be gifted to three lucky winners until January 2018. The next draw dates are announced as follows:

- November 20, 2017
- January 11, 2018

In addition to the Apple prizes, students will have the opportunity to win a Fiat 500c-Model 2017 at the annual car draw, upon transferring their allowance. Also, movie tickets at all Cinescape theatres will be available for only KD2 seven days a week, red customers can also shop from the USA or the UK with a dedicated company (edfa3ly), which provide a mail box for internet shopping services from their website <https://kw.edfa3ly.co/GulfBank>

Red customers can now also transfer money from anyone, from any local bank into their Gulf Bank account through the all new e-pay service, which also allows customers to pay their mobile bills for Zain, Ooredoo, and Viva and buy iTunes and Google Play cards, instantly using the new 'e-Pay' service available on Gulf Bank's Online Banking and Mobile Banking App.



Business

Wall Street Weekahead

US dollar enters center-stage for earnings

NEW YORK: The dollar has moved from a supporting role to a featured player this earnings season, a boon to US multinationals which have benefited from the biggest quarterly year-on-year decline in the greenback in three years. Since the start of October, at least 35 US companies have cited currency "benefits" or "tailwinds" and "weaker dollar" for boosting quarterly earnings, compared with two mentions a year ago, and some see that extending to the fourth quarter, a Reuters analysis shows. "The quarter was one where the dollar weakened over the course of the quarter, more so than analysts expected," said Jill Carey Hall, equity and quantitative strategist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in New York.

Carey Hall said. "They have seen some of the strongest results so far." The US dollar index's average in the third quarter fell from its year-ago level by about 2.5 percent, the weakest showing since 2014, Thomson Reuters data shows.

The index has recovered from its recent lows, but remains down about 7 percent for the year. US-based multinational companies can benefit the most from declines in the dollar, which make overseas sales more valuable when translated back into the US currency. Among companies citing a positive dollar impact were Alphabet Inc, International Business Machines Corp and other names in technology, which has the highest percentage of foreign sales within the S&P 500.

Others included Axalta Coating Systems Ltd, W.R. Grace, Coca Cola Co and Xerox Corp, which said the third quarter was the first in 13 that a weaker dollar boosted the company's earnings, by about 1 percentage point. "And we're expecting that to improve into Q4 based upon quarter-end rates," Xerox Chief Financial Officer William Osbourn said in the company's Oct. 26 conference call after it reported higher-than-expected results.

The weaker dollar "should help with the discounting pressure from the non-US manufacturers, so that's a good sign," Harley-Davidson Chief Executive Matthew Levatich told investors Oct. 17.

The dollar's weakness has helped offset the impact of a trio of hurricanes that took a heavy toll on companies in

the third quarter. If the benefit continues, it could help companies hit the 11.7 percent profit gains analysts have projected for the fourth quarter.

With results in from more than three-quarters of the S&P 500 companies, third-quarter profit growth is estimated at 8.0 percent, up from 4.3 percent three weeks ago, Thomson Reuters data shows. Much of the improvement has come with stronger-than-expected technology results. Ninety percent of S&P technology index names are beating earnings expectations, while 72 percent are surpassing estimates in the overall S&P 500, the data shows. Materials companies' earnings, which have benefited from higher commodity prices tied to the weaker dollar, have had a high percentage of beats as well. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Thursday 02 November 2017						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing			
Price Index	▼ -80.26	6,488.16	6,548.42			
Weighted Index	▼ -5.18	413.78	418.06			
KSX 15	▼ -11.05	954.31	965.30			

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
IPG	390	390	9,586	3,739	2	390	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	825	780	5,458	4,155	6	825	▲ 1.0
ENERGYH	34.0	31.2	611	19	2	34.0	▲ 1.0
GPI	33.4	31.1	2,346,445	74,333	34	31.9	▼ -1.3
ABAR	60	60	68,910	4,140	12	60	▼ -5.0
Oil & Gas			2,431,819	86,385	56	980.78	▼ -12.48

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KFOUC	290	290	5,682	1,648	1	290	▼ -5.0
BPCO	641	635	315,460	200,987	34	638	▼ -8.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	600	▼ -0.0
ALQURAIN	326	322	158,882	51,731	12	325	▼ -1.0
Basic Materials			480,024	254,366	47	1289.60	▼ -8.60

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	▼ -0.0
CABLE	471	460	42,259	19,472	8	471	▼ -6.0
SHP	210	210	29,237	6,140	7	210	▼ -6.0
PCEM	955	950	39,000	37,095	3	950	▼ -29.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▼ -0.0
MRC	90	90	100	9	1	90	▲ 0.0
ACICO	259	259	36	9	1	259	▼ -4.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	▼ -0.0
NKCBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	▼ -0.0
EQUIPMENT	40.8	38.1	41,928	1,596	6	40.7	▲ 0.3
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▼ -0.0
GYPBUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▼ -0.0
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	▼ -0.0
AGLTU	780	754	1,873,841	1,437,685	234	775	▲ 1.0
EDU	309	309	10,000	3,090	1	309	▼ -0.0
CLEANING	49.1	49.0	90,000	4,412	3	49.0	▼ -3.4
KGL	80	59	118,010	7,011	4	60	▼ -2.0
KCPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	▼ -0.0
HUMANSOFT	3,851	3,850	6,403	24,657	7	3,851	▼ -49.0
NAFAIS	600	600	20	12	1	600	▼ -0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▼ -0.0
SHOOTING	25.0	22.0	118,052	2,607	11	22.9	▲ 0.9
CGC	495	479	40,500	19,443	4	495	▲ 3.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	▼ -0.0
UFAC	610	610	2,957	1,804	1	610	▼ -0.0
ALAFOP	380	381	38,940	14,028	12	380	▲ 2.0
MUBARRAD	72	72	30,000	2,180	1	72	▼ -0.0
LOGISTICS	55	53	487,000	26,343	14	54	▼ -2.2
SCEM	84	84	40,500	3,360	2	84	▼ -0.0
GCEM	79	79	10,000	785	1	79	▼ -2.5
QIC	82	82	840,511	69,660	15	82	▼ -0.0
FCEM	74	69	444,800	31,029	17	69	▼ -3.0
RKWC	80	80	2,500	200	1	80	▼ -0.0
SPEC	84	80	21,300	1,733	10	84	▼ -1.1
Industrials			4,335,394	1,714,342	365	1764.70	▼ -14.50

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOHOUK	55	52	970728	51,452	32	55	▲ 0.3
KRE	61	58	642,745	38,482	24	60	▼ -1.0
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	▼ -0.0
NRE	125	120	297,175	35,842	16	124	▲ 1.0
SRE	300	348	82,100	28,740	7	355	▼ -5.0
TAM	386	384	41,601	16,015	5	384	▼ -2.0
AREIC	191	184	35,500	6,571	7	191	▼ -1.0
MASSALEH	40.0	40.0	200	8	1	40.0	▼ -0.0
ARABREC	33.2	32.1	454,475	14,812	23	32.7	▼ -1.1
ERESCO	38.0	35.0	661,822	24,542	24	38.0	▼ -0.5
MABANEI	773	760	288,383	221,184	35	770	▼ -3.0
INJAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	▼ -0.0
INVESTORS	16.7	15.8	4,314,019	70,002	94	16.4	▼ -0.6
IRC	29.0	29.0	4,000	116	2	29.0	▼ -1.0
ALTUARIA	94	90	919,085	84,846	22	93	▼ -1.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.0	▼ -0.0
AAYANRE	82	80	41,135	3,291	5	82	▼ -0.0
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▼ -0.0
ALAGARIA	37.0	37.0	100	4	1	37.0	▲ 1.0
MAZAYA	110	108	2,364,470	257,584	38	109	▼ -2.0
TUARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	▼ -0.0
TAMEER	32.5	31.8	395,210	12,704	13	32.5	▼ -1.7
ARKAN	86	84	686,800	58,451	17	86	▼ -0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	132	▼ -0.0
ABYAR	23.2	21.7	6,208,940	138,438	121	22.2	▼ -1.2
MUNSHAAT	78	74	3,234,600	243,309	114	78	▼ -0.0
FIRSTDUBAI	47.0	45.0	50,200	2,259	3	45.9	▼ -0.3
KBT	48.6	47.0	411,000	19,739	20	48.0	▼ -1.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▼ -0.0
MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.3	▼ -0.0
ALMUDJON	37.2	37.0	122,000	4,518	4	37.0	▼ -1.9
MARAKEZ	36.4	36.4	600	22	2	36.4	▼ -0.0
REMAI	59	59	610	36	1	59	▲ 2.9
Mashair	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▼ -0.0
Real Estate			22,227,496	1,332,967	631	932.60	▼ -7.30

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KINV	125	121	1,170,785	143,836	56	123	▼ -3.0
FACIL	177	173	231,750	40,130	12	173	▼ -5.0
IFA	32.4	31.0	504,000	17,450	32	32.0	▼ -1.0
NNV	104	100	4,701,468	478,331	155	103	▼ -2.0
KPROJ	344	335	45,480	15,338	8	344	▲ 4.0
COAST	40.2	37.0	784,901	29,889	24	38.3	▼ -1.9
SECH	53	51	2,396,890	123,922	91	52	▼ -1.6
ARZAN	32.1	30.0	240,000	7,412	12	32.1	▼ -1.3
MARAKAZ	102	102	212,200	21,644	5	102	▼ -8.0
KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	▼ -0.0
ALAMAN	55	53	342,755	18,124	9	55	▼ -0.4
ALOLA	44.5	43.5	1,829,087	80,445	28	44.5	▼ -0.0
ALMAL	28.0	26.0	1,430,184	38,001	61	26.4	▼ -1.6
GIH	22.9	22.0	222,304	4,912	9	22.9	▼ -1.1
AAYAN	44.1	41.6	2,239,580	94,559	64	41.6	▼ -2.6
RAYANINV	43.3	42.0	380,010	15,368	16	43.0	▲ 0.2
OSOLU	59	59	20,108	1,186	1	59	▼ -2.9
KPIC	47.0	43.0	29,000	1,319	5	46.9	▼ -0.1
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▼ -0.0
NH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74	▼ -0.0
UNICAP	38.0	38.0	448,399	16,129	16	37.0	▼ -1.4
MADAR	26.7	23.8	2,291,350	57,863	71	26.0	▼ -0.8
ALDEERA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.0	▼ -0.0
ALSALAM	41.9	41.0	290,100	11,894	8	41.9	▼ -3.4
EKTTITAB	33.5	32.0	480,512	14,879	11	32.5	▼ -1.0
ALMADINA	41.5	40.0	387,371	14,372	17	40.0	▼ -3.8
NOOR	64	60	1,677,436	120,160	109	62	▼ -2.0
TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	340	▼ -0.0
EXHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	▼ -0.0
KSHC	33.0	28.2	158,820	4,494	4	33.0	▼ -0.8
ASRYA	38.9	37.0	458,057	17,314	19	38.9	▲ 0.1
GNAHC	39.3	38.5	761,051	29,743	24	38.6	▼ -0.7
AMWAL	37.0	31.0	16,700	629	7	35.0	▼ -3.7
ALUMTIAZ	170	167	7,382,834	1,236,804	101	167	▼ -4.0
MANAZEL	36.2	32.0	427,901	13,900	12	35.0	▼ -2.0
NIND	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	156	▼ -0.0
BIHC	40.0	37.0	258,799	9,006	11	39.0	▼ -1.4
SENERGY	38.0	36.0	85,900	3,103	14	37.0	▼ -2.0
AGHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	▼ -0.0
KPPC	57	55	883,447	49,003	19	56	▼ -1.7
TAHSSKAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	26.2	▼ -0.0
EKHOLDING	226	226	50	11	1	226	▼ -0.0
GPH	131	130	204,252	26,556	11	130	▼ -3.0
INOVEST							

Business

MENA pensions conference to discuss employee benefits with performance

TAKAUD to host Claudia Maldonado to lead HR session

MANAMA: TAKAUD, the specialist provider of pensions, savings, and investment solutions for the MENA region, is pleased to announce that Claudia Maldonado will lead its important HR session on "How to make your employees love their benefits" at the 2017 MENA Pensions Conference taking place on 28 November 2017.

The session deals with effective employee engagement for business success, a subject that is new to the MENA region and which is headlining HR initiatives among leading employers and practitioners globally. Conference registration is free, with an agenda of significant interest to HR directors, managers, remuneration and benefits specialists and finance managers.

Maldonado is Head of Regional Business

Development with Mercer Middle East and has spent 18 years with leading international providers in the areas of employee benefits. She was directly involved in the design, administration and promotion of employee benefit programs and headed a company dedicated to their promotion with SMEs in South Africa.

Session deals with effective employee engagement

"With all the businesses I got involved with, SMEs or large corporates, local companies or multinationals, the appetite for employee benefits varied. Some employers took a paternalistic approach and provided benefits wanted and considered fair by employees. Other employers introduced "minimum" benefits to discharge a perceived obligation. There is a case for improved employee engagement where employers design their employee benefits as part of their overall HR strategy.

And we have seen that improved employee engagement lends itself to improved productivity which contributes to business sustainability," Maldonado said.

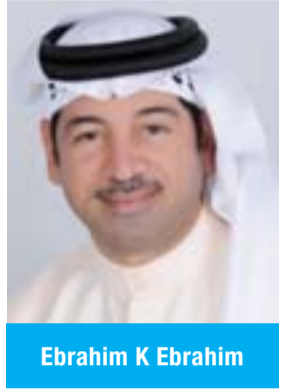
She explained that there is a connection between employee benefits and business productivity, but it's probably one that most organizations do not necessarily measure. Few businesses consider connecting benefits to business outcomes and productivity.

"A growing number of employers recognize the importance of supporting the needs of their employees, with financial wellness as a core pillar of total well-being. These organizations understand that when employees are comfortable with their ability to meet their financial obligations, they are more likely to be productive and well engaged at work," She added.

Ebrahim K Ebrahim, Conference Chairman, said, "We are thrilled to have someone of Maldonado's caliber, experience and dynamism to speak on this important issue at this year's MENA Pensions Conference. We believe that the themes and information she will deliver can make a difference to businesses and SMEs in our region. In fact, it can also be of interest to larger corporations who are already doing the right things but who need to make the links



Claudia Maldonado



Ebrahim K Ebrahim

to productivity and performance much clearer and stronger." Organized by TAKAUD, under the patronage of the Central Bank of Bahrain, the MENA Pensions Conference is a regional platform for thought leadership and information exchange on employee savings and pensions, pension investments, employee benefits administration and employee engagement. The Conference will take place at the Four Seasons Hotel in Bahrain.

KFH: 5 sharia controllers obtain CISSA certificates

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) honored 5 Sharia controllers for obtaining Certified Islamic Specialist in Sharia Auditing- CISSA certification which is a professional certificate in the field of sharia controlling. The certificates are issued and approved by the General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions CIBAFI, and are considered one of the prestigious certificates in the Islamic banking.

The 5 employees had attended extensive course in the Institute of Banking Studies (IBS). The program was in line with the Central Bank of Kuwait's CBK instructions and in compliance with the governance requirements.

Executive Manager Group Shariah Control and Advisory at KFH Isa Abdullah Duwaisan, said these certificates raise the bar for the employees and improve the skills of the Sharia controllers who assume significant role in the bank's businesses and activities in all fields in order to ensure the adherence to Sharia rules and practices.

Duwaisan affirmed the bank's commitment towards complying with the CBK rules and the sharia principles.

Meanwhile, Executive Manager Talent Management at KFH, Imad Mirza affirmed the bank's keenness to build distinguished scientific base of Kuwaiti Youth in the fields banking sciences and other professional and Fiqh fields. He added that the certificates are very important for those who work in Sharia controlling,



NBK offers benefits through Business Titanium credit card

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait announces its supports to entrepreneurs by providing Business Titanium Card which offers various benefits for business account holders. This Card allows entrepreneurs to manage and track transactions with simplicity and ease at anytime, anywhere through NBK's Online Banking which leads to improving the company's cashflow management.

Bader Al-Mutawa, AGM of Business Banking NBK: "We always seek to provide support for young entrepreneurs in Kuwait's business industry by meeting all of their needs including: a Titanium Business Banking card; a flexible tool for business owners where spending can be controlled, attaining money at any time, and enabling the business owners to issue more than one card where each card will have a different spending track.

In addition to the above, the Titanium Business Banking card for business owners allows flexibility of the financial payments and the capability of card spending to reach the full credit limit without interest for 59 days. On the other hand, it also offers hundreds of offers and discounts designed to meet business needs while

also providing the NBK Rewards Program, which includes more than 700 stores. The card also provides free valet car services, free entry to airport lounges, travel insurance, and card protection up to \$2000

annually against any scams and free travel insurance up to \$250,000. Entrepreneurs also receive SMS alerts both inside and outside Kuwait for secure and safe transactions. Free access to the award-winning newly redesigned NBK.com website 24 hours, seven days a week.

Along with the NBK Titanium MasterCard, our business banking services provide a full range of products and services including: Current accounts that can be managed with ease, personal Relationship Officer, dedicated offices in select branches, points of sale, electronic salary transfers, business financing, commercial finance solutions along with alternative banking channels to serve quicker and easier, and many more.

NBK has specialized branches for its business banking services such as: Al-Rayya Tower, Al-Fintas, Ras Al-Salmiya, as well as specialized offices in branches such as: Surra, Industrial Shuwaikh, Hawalli, Jabriya, Head Office, Al-Tadhamun, Sharq, Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Salwa, and Al-Ghazali branch. These branches and offices are characterized by the latest service methods which are provided by a business banking specialized team.



Bader Al-Mutawa

Special service offer from Cadillac Alghanim

KUWAIT: In a move that demonstrates its dedication to customer safety and peace of mind, Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, is excited to offer its loyal customers a fantastic promotion at its Cadillac Service Center. Cadillac owners of 2014 and older models have the opportunity to benefit from Cadillac's springtime service center offer that comprises many money-saving features.

The offer includes 30 percent discount on genuine Cadillac parts, 10 percent discount on labor, free nitrogen refill, 21-points check plus a free car wash. In addition to these great savings, customers can also expect to have all their maintenance needs fulfilled in a timely and professional manner by one of the most expertly trained service team and technicians in the country.

Valid until end of November of this year, Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive has provided all Cadillac owners a substantial window of opportunity that reflects Alghanim Automotive's commitment to customer support, cementing the company's reputation as Kuwait's chief customer-centric automotive company. With great savings on maintenance cost and professional service, customers are guaranteed to enjoy a peace of mind and avoid potential malfunctions and risks that often occur during the upcoming summer weather.

Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive's vision has driven the center to excellence in performance as each and every customer who enters the service center is greeted warmly before the center's members speaks to the customer about his/her car and its needs. The cornerstone of the company's work is focusing on providing unparalleled service and the utmost to its customers so as to provide them with what they need, want and expect. After a customer's car has been serviced, a service program is custom-made according to the customer's needs. The service program is developed by the center's highly skilled team of professionals and experienced technicians who provide high standard and quality results with one main thing in mind: satisfying customer needs and wants that make a Cadillac experience better, safer and more luxurious than ever.

It is worth mentioning that Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive is committed to a professional work and ethic standard under the slogan "I Care" that aims to lead a culture of care through four main pillars that are proactive communication, answering every question a customer has, representing the Cadillac brand as a symbol of quality and going beyond customer expectations by providing



superior quality. The pillars have been applied to all service center staff members, from employees at the welcome desk to service managers and technicians.

The Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Service Center in Shuwaikh is the biggest and most advanced automotive service center in the world, with 73,000 square meter of built-up area, servicing 1,000 vehicles every day. Throughout the facility, advanced technology is used to provide customers with high-quality and efficient service, including a team of technicians highly trained in modern technology who provide necessary advice and support as well as reliable and cost-effective operation of customers' vehicles.

In addition, the service center hosts spacious and comfortable lounges for customers whose cars are being professionally attended and serviced. With a variety of TV channels, ready-to-use Internet stations and free wireless access, customers can relax and enjoy a sip of coffee from the café as they utilize their time more effectively.

Burgan Bank announces winners of Yawmi account draw

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank, the second largest in terms of assets, announced yesterday the names of the daily draw winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a cash-prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners are:

1. Awadh Ghayadh Obaid Al-Enezi
2. Hamad Hasan Ali Banian
3. Abeer Ali Ahmad Al-Ghanim
4. Waleed Saleh Hasan Al Ali
5. Abdulwahab Abdulsamad Taqi Al-Saffar

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, offering the chance to one lucky cus-

tomers to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, wherein the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to the draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The higher the level of the deposit, the higher the likelihood to win.



Technology

VIVA celebrates the launch of iPhone X at The Avenues

Competitive offers attract huge crowd of iPhone lovers



KUWAIT: Kuwait's fastest-growing telecom operator VIVA held a major event at the Avenues Mall on November 3, celebrating the launch of the long-awaited iPhone X. — Photos of the event by Joseph Shagra

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, held a big event at the Avenues Mall on Friday, 3 November, celebrating the launch of the long-awaited iPhone X, the future of smartphone, in presence of VIVA's executive management and staff. VIVA's competitive offers during the event attracted remarkable crowd of iPhone lovers, and many of them participated in the games and competitions featured during the event won free iPhone X.

iPhone X features a gorgeous all-glass and stainless steel design with a beautiful 5.8-inch Super Retina display,

All 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.

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market

through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.



Health

Numerous water shortages parching Moroccan towns, prompt protests

Experts blame growing populations and climate change

MARRAKECH: Taps are running dry in southern Morocco, and the government is searching for solutions after people took to parched streets in anger. Experts blame poor crop choices, growing populations and climate change for the water shortages in towns like Zagora, which saw repeated protests for access to clean water last month.

The shortage of drinking water pushed the impoverished inhabitants of the Zagora region to demonstrate in an unusual outbreak of anger. Twenty-three people were arrested following confrontations with police, and eight were handed sentences last week of two to four months in prison. Moroccan Prime Minister Saadeddine El Othmani made an exceptional public apology during a Parliament session Monday. "I apologize publicly to the people of Zagora, because it's the state's responsibility," he said, promising to solve the problem. Around Morocco, persistent drought in recent years has reduced gross domestic product in this farm-dependent economy. The government is concerned that the issue of water is becoming a threat to national stability in the kingdom, seen as a steady force in a restive region and key ally with the West in the fight against terrorism. "The issue of water has always been a priority for Morocco, but today, after two years of drought, we have to move on to higher gear," said the government's secretary of state in charge of water, Charafat Afailal.



Becoming a threat to national stability

complain about its poor quality. "For the last 15 years, the inhabitants of Zagora have been buying drinking water because tap water is undrinkable. We only use it for cleaning," said Atmane Rizkou, president of the Moroccan Association of Human Rights in Zagora.

But since the summer, "the problem has worsened," he said. Dry taps hit women particularly hard, forcing them to go farther and farther afield to draw water to quench children's thirst and wash family dishes and laundry. One culprit: watermelon farming. With a consumption of 7 million cubic meters of water per year, according to a study by the regional hydraulic basin agency, "the watermelon greatly contributed to the water stress in the region," said Jamal Akchbab, president of the Association of Friends of the Environment in Zagora.

David Goeuru, a geographer at Paris IV-La Sorbonne University, said the problem has been brewing for years and some have sought a ban on watermelon farming. "The problem is that watermelon demands a lot of water, and requires drilling. If the water table is overexploited, its water level will drop or the quality of the water will be altered because it will come into contact with saltwater," Goeuru said.

Zagora "must completely change its drinking water supply model, and get supplies upstream, from a dam," he added. The drought in Morocco has pushed rural people toward the city each year. While 90 percent of Moroccan households in urban areas are connected to the drinking water system, the connection rates in rural areas barely reach 40 percent. Zagora is not the only locality affected by this problem, and residents of the remote villages of Beni Mellal, Khenifra, Taounate and Ouazzane have also demonstrated for access to drinking water.



ZAGORA: Moroccan women fill up containers with water from a hose. —AP

Declining rainfalls

Rainfall across Morocco has been declining, and the country has experienced an "acceleration of extreme events, including droughts and floods, an increasing trend of heat waves and cold waves, and rising sea level," according to a report from the Ministry of Energy, Mining and the Environment. A 2011 report on the effects of climate change on groundwater resources by the International Association of Hydrogeologists said "water deficiency and water quality degradation have important implications for future economic growth and political stability in Morocco, as water authorities are

already struggling to distribute and provide potable water to the domestic and agricultural sectors."

Faced with the proliferation of water demonstrations, King Mohammed VI last month ordered the creation of a commission, tasked with making an emergency plan that lists water shortages and proposing ways to invest in solving the problem. Prime Minister El Othmani told the AP that the commission will also contribute to a longer-term solution: a national water plan for 2020-2050. The Moroccan government is already working to build dams, wastewater treatment plants and desalination plants. —AP

Doctors: Global warming is taking a toll on people's health

WASHINGTON: Global warming is hurting people's health a bit more than previously thought, but there's hope that the Earth - and populations - can heal if the planet kicks its coal habit, a group of doctors and other experts said. The poor and elderly are most threatened by worsening climate change, but there remains "glimmers of progress" especially after the 2015 Paris agreement to limit heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions, according to a new big study published Monday in the British medical journal Lancet.

Comparing the report to a health checkup, four researchers and several outside experts described Earth's prognosis as "guarded." "There are some very severe warning signs, but there are some hopeful indicators too," said co-author Dr Howard Frumkin, a professor of environmental health at the University of Washington. "Given the right treatment and aggressive efforts to prevent things from getting worse, I think there's hope." The report highlighted health problems stemming from more frequent heat waves, disease spread by insects, air pollution and other woes. While the disasters have been costly, deaths haven't been increasing because society is doing a better but more expensive job adjusting to the changing conditions, the researchers noted.

Potentially irreversible

A team of 63 doctors, public health officials and scientists from around the world wrote what they considered the first of a regular monitoring of the health of the planet, similar to having a "finger on the pulse of the patient," said Dr Hugh Montgomery, an intensive care specialist and director of the University College of London's Institute for Health and Performance. Based on 40 indicators, the study said "the human symptoms of climate change are unequivocal and potentially irreversible."

While other disease rates are dropping, cases of dengue fever - a mosquito-borne disease - has doubled every decade since 1990 with 58.4 million cases and 10,000 deaths in 2013. Frumkin, a former environmental health director at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said climate change, which allows mosquitoes to live in more places and stay active longer with shorter freeze seasons, is part but not all of the reason. —AP



PESHAWAR, Pakistan: In this Thursday, Oct 19, 2017 file photo, a patient suffering from dengue fever lies in a hospital bed. —AP

CLINIC

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

What's On

GUST professor awarded 2018 Research Fellowship by London School of Economics and Political Science

Dr Fahed Al-Sumait to conduct research on digital media usage in Kuwait

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) announced that Dr Fahed Al-Sumait, Head of the Mass Communication and Media Department at GUST, has been granted the 2018 Short-Term Visiting Research Fellowship from the London School of Economics (LSE). The annual fellowship is an open competition to all GCC nationals with a PhD in a field of study relevant to the Kuwait Program goals, as set by LSE and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

For his project, Sumait is participating in a global project run jointly through the LSE and Oxford University's Internet Institute which aims to improve the measures and models for evaluating people's use of digital media technologies. More specifically, his research will look at the relationship between people's demographic characteristics like age,

income, education, nationality, and location; as well as the kinds of benefits they get or fail to get from using digital media. The concept behind the research is to help communities to move beyond traditional concerns about the "digital divide", which assume that economics and access are the best predictors of people's digital benefits. As such, Kuwait will be one of several countries in which this research is conducted, and there will be a number of unique circumstances to explore such as high per-capita income (11th worldwide), large and highly transient expatriate community (approximately 70 percent), and young population (40 percent under 24 years of age); all of which result in considerable linguistic, cultural, educational, and economic diversity.

Sumait's research will fit a number of goals set by the Kuwait Program, which aims to establish collaborative research partnerships between LSE

and Kuwait universities, in order to generate high quality research on the challenges facing the country, expand Kuwaiti expertise on these challenges, conduct time-sensitive, and policy-relevant research which will serve as the platform for informed-policy-making in the country and the wider GCC.

While the fellowship is restricted to a three-month summer period in which to draft the research reports, the preparation preceding the appointment involves a full year of adapting the project tools to Kuwait. In the academic year following the fellowship appointment, Sumait and his team will conduct the national-level assessments on digital media use and their outcomes in Kuwait. The findings of the research will be made public for policymakers, academics, and other interested parties.

Sumait said, "We will spend the next year conducting cognitive interviews with selected respon-



Dr Fahed Al-Sumait

dents to determine the applicability and understanding of the questionnaire, and to collect qualitative data showing cultural specificities of engagement with digital media. Following the cognitive interviews and any resultant adaptations, the measures will then be discussed in a series of focus groups, each of which is constructed to represent particular audiences targeted by the

national-level administration. The resultant instrument from all of this testing will be further pilot tested in two different survey waves prior to the end of the 2017-2018 AY. During the following academic year (AY2018-2019), we will focus on distributing the customized measurement tools nation-wide for the full-scale research."

The research conducted will be crucial to drafting laws and policies on digital media use, as there is a dire shortage of reliable data about its use, habits, and outcomes in Kuwait. This will help fill that immediate gap, and will give policymakers and leaders a clearer picture of how digital outcomes manifest differently for different members of society. The findings can also be used for social engagement, entrepreneurship, and as marketing intelligence.

Since its establishment in 2007, the Kuwait Program has become a

world-leading hub for research and expertise on Kuwait and the wider GCC region. It is fully funded by KFAS, and is headed by Professor Toby Dodge, an internationally renowned professor. What's also important to note, is that previous awardees have also hailed from GUST, and include Associate Professor Dr Mariam Alkazemi, also from the Mass Communication and Media Department.

Sumait is an active member of the GUST community, and is currently engaged in a number of other high profile research projects, which include, investigating the role of Western-style higher education in the GCC on students, and has previously worked on the World Information Access Project in the US, UK, and Egypt. Sumait has also published papers, edited books and book chapters exploring various aspects of the media's social implications.

The Hub presents 'Mirrors', a platform for creativity

Under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdulla Al-Sabah, 'Mirrors' platform for creativity was launched on Saturday at The Hub Gallery. Bringing together creative ambassadors from throughout the region, to showcase their translation of the theme 'connecting truth and integrity through art' this two-day event will feature an exhibit and lectures given by a large number of participants, some who have own all the way to Kuwait to participate.

Utilizing their own chosen form of media, these creative minds will help translate the importance of connecting diversity and making it relevant to everyone, illustrating that although the world is full of varied perceptions formed by cultural, religious and social pressures, people can still attend pertinent lessons and feel connected through art, design and other forms of expression.

Ebrahim Al-Qassab, Managing Partner at The Hub expressed his pleasure at hosting and supporting the event and its ambassadors, stating "The Hub's family aims to transmit important messages to society by supporting artists and creative minds who are them-



selves dedicated to living a life of truth and integrity", he also stated "it is important to empower society by enriching dialogue, and promoting diversity of thinking, with the sole aim of highlighting the truth that runs through all of us".

The sixteen Creative Ambassadors are Abdulla Al-Awadhi, Ahmad Al-Ghanim, Amira Behbehani, Dr Anas Al-Omeim, Faisal Al-Beshir, Faisal Dashti, Faisal Al-Duwaisan, Faika Al-Hassan, Hamza Bounoua, Sheikha Marwa Al-Khalifa, Mehdi Darvishi, Nadaalawi, Pooya Aryanpour, Samira Alikhanzadeh, Talal Hamadah and Zaman Jassim, hailing from Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Algeria. The Hub Gallery is a culture for art and creativity that empowers and celebrates cultural development by hosting and arranging artistic events of elite artworks created by local and international artists which contribute to positive change in society.



Palestinian Cultural Week underway

The secretariat general of the National Council For Culture, Arts and Letters in cooperation with 'Kuwaitis for Jerusalem Committee' invites you to the opening ceremony of the Palestinian Cultural Week and Palestinian Heritage Center Exhibition. The event opens today, November 6, 2017, at the Women's Cultural and Social Society Hall in Al-Khaldiya, at 10:00 am. The event's schedule is as follows:

Monday, November 6, 2017: Opening ceremony at 10:00 am, followed by the opening of the Palestinian Heritage Center Exhibition, which opens to the public every day until November 9 in two periods (10:00 am - 1:30 pm and 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm) at the Women's Cultural and Social Society Hall. At 6:00 pm, the Kuwait National Library hosts a three dimensional show of Al-Aqsa mosque, presented by Dr Abdallah Maarouf.

Tuesday, November 7, 2017: The Palestinian heritage musical 'Zaman Koral band,' starting from 8:00pm at Abdelhussein Abdelreda Theater in Salmiya.

Wednesday, November 8, 2017: The Kuwait National Library hosts the 'We Were And We Still Are' initiative by researcher Tareq Al-Bakri, at 6:00 pm.

Thursday, November 9, 2017: The closing ceremony, plus a concert by Dalal Abu Amina and her band, starting from 8:00 pm at Abdelhussein Abdelreda Theater in Salmiya.



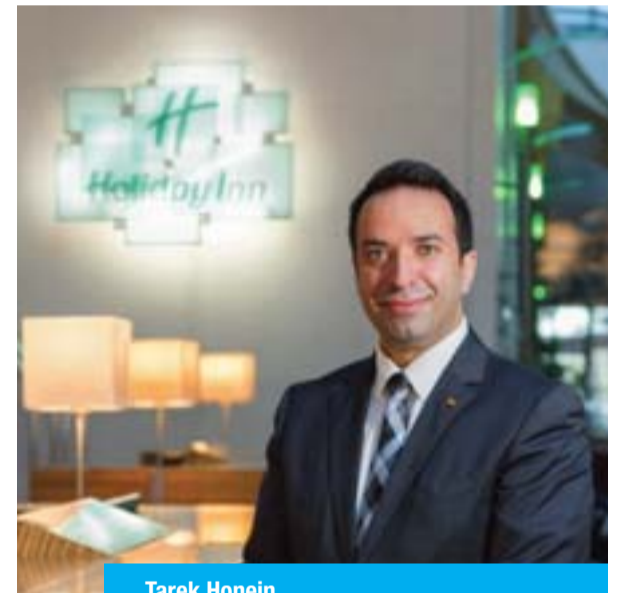
Holiday Inn Salmiya appoints new director of sales and marketing

The Holiday Inn Kuwait - Salmiya Hotel announces the appointment of Tarek Honein, the new Director of Sales and Marketing. In his new role, Tarek's core responsibilities will include maximizing hotel's revenues through implementing smart sales and marketing strategies and exploring business opportunities through a deep market intelligent approach.

A result oriented professional, brings a wealth of experience to this position with a career spanning over 10 years in the hospitality experience and extensive knowledge of the Rooms and MICE sales and marketing in the GCC along to an advanced exposure to the sustainable tourism best practices in Sweden.

Prior to starting at the Holiday Inn, he worked as the Cluster Marketing and communications manager for the Carlson Rezidor Hotels Group in Saudi Arabia. Other experiences include Director of Sales and Marketing for the Park Inn by Radisson Al-Khobar and Assistant Director of Sales for the InterContinental Hotels Group in Khobar and Bahrain.

He received a degree in Political Science and International relations from the Lebanese University in 2003 and later he pursued his studies and earned his two Master degrees in Political science; Leadership and strategy from La Sagesse University in 2005 and the



Tarek Honein

second in Tourism Studies from the Mid Sweden University in 2017. "Tarek is an excellent addition to the team; his experience and expertise make him the perfect fit for the job. With his insight we're in a solid position to strengthen our existing relationships and continuous development of Holiday Inn - Salmiya strategies in the market," said Monjed Salha, General Manager of the hotel. Tarek expressed his delight to be back to the InterContinental Hotels Group, Especially at this well-reputed property in Kuwait.

Ba Yaad-e-Khumar - Int'l Mushaira 2017: A tribute to 'Khumar Barabankvi'

All India Cultural Association (AICA) Kuwait, presented International Mushaira "Ba yaad-e-Khumar" on October 27, 2017 in a jam-packed Jabriya Medical Association hall. This event was dedicated to "Khumar Barabankvi" and the family was represented by his grandson, Faiz Khumar. He enthralled the audience by reciting Khumar's famous ghazals in his unique style. Rich tributes were also paid to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan on his Bicentenary for his contribution towards education and Urdu.

Besides Munawwar Rana, who was the star attraction of the evening, each and every poet presented the best of their literary work. The packed crowd enjoyed the brilliant performances with a thunderous applause. Charan Singh Bashar received standing ovation for his brilliant poetry. The audience were glued to their seats till wee hours in the morning even after a marathon 7 hours in continuation. This itself is a manifestation of the event's success.

The evening started with Kuwait and India's national anthem as per AICA tradition. This was followed by lamp lighting by Anup Singh, the Embassy Representative with the AICA team, brief introduction by Mujeeb Akhtar and brief addresses by Anup

Singh and Sanjay Saxena, the AICA President.

This occasion was marked by a book release by Munawwar Rana authored by Dr Tariq Qamar, an eminent poet and executive producer of ETV Urdu. The book titled "Ganga Jamuna ke sahilon per" is the author's seventh literary creation. AICA Souvenir was released by Mohammad Amir, Mushaira Convener who presented them to all guest shairs and other prominent guests. Mohammad Amir along with Sharif Rangrez, Goldie Chadha and Hasan Iqbal gave away mementos to all guest shairs and also to event media partners AAM pictures and Singh Media.

Mushaira was formally presided by the much celebrated shair Munawwar Rana and hosted by Wasif Farooqi. The evening witnessed intense and exalted performances by Faiz Khumar, Salman Zafar, Munawwar Jafri, Irfan Jafri, Mahshar Afridi, Charan Singh Bashar, Rajesh Reddy, Khursheed Haider, Shabeena Adeb, Azm Shakri, Shakeel Azmi, Juahar Kanpuri, Azhar Inayti and Munawwar Rana.

The evening concluded at a high note after Munawwar Rana choked on his voice while reciting some of his beautiful compositions. Mohammad Amir acknowledged the ingenious audience for their presence and expressed his gratitude for making this event a special one.

This signature event of the highest literary value has added another feather in AICA's cap.

AICA thanks all partners, volunteers, performers and the guests for this successful event.

Keep tuned for more AICA events in the future...



TV



00:00 The Green Inferno
01:45 Blood Circus
03:20 Compadres
05:10 Operation Chromite
07:10 The Reckoning
08:40 Insurgent
10:45 Bermuda Tentacles
12:25 Operation Chromite
14:25 The 5th Wave
16:25 Twister
18:30 Project Almanac
20:25 Bloodsport
22:00 We Still Kill The Old Way
23:35 Under Siege



00:50 Lone Star Law
01:45 Treehouse Masters
02:40 Treehouse Masters
03:35 Treehouse Masters
04:25 Treehouse Masters
05:15 Bad Dog
06:49 Bad Dog
07:36 Gorilla School
08:00 Gorilla School
08:25 Going Ape
08:50 Going Ape
09:15 Treehouse Masters
10:10 Bad Dog
11:05 North America
12:00 Going Ape
12:28 Going Ape
12:55 From Cubs To Kings
13:50 Dogs 101: New Tricks
14:18 Dogs 101: New Tricks
14:45 Bad Dog
15:40 North America
16:35 Lone Star Law
17:30 Treehouse Masters
18:25 Monsters Inside Me
19:20 Catching Monsters
20:15 Bad Dog
21:10 Going Ape
21:38 Going Ape
22:05 Monsters Inside Me
23:00 Mountain Monsters
23:55 North America



00:15 EastEnders
00:45 Kat & Alfie: Redwater
01:40 Line Of Duty
02:40 Unforgotten
03:30 Doctors
04:05 EastEnders
04:35 EastEnders
05:05 New Tricks
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 EastEnders
07:30 Father Brown
08:20 Dickensian
09:15 Doctors
09:45 EastEnders
10:15 Father Brown
11:05 Casualty
12:00 Dickensian
12:45 Call The Midwife
13:45 Doctors
14:15 EastEnders
14:45 Father Brown
15:35 Dickensian
16:25 Call The Midwife
17:25 Casualty
18:15 Casualty
19:10 Father Brown
20:05 Paula
21:00 Rillington Place
22:00 Prime Suspect: Tension
22:50 Prime Suspect: Tension
23:40 Casualty



00:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
01:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
02:00 Homicide Hunter
03:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers
04:00 Homicide: Hours To Kill
05:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
06:00 Homicide Hunter
07:00 The First 48
08:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
09:00 It Takes A Killer
09:30 It Takes A Killer
10:00 Homicide Hunter
11:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
12:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
13:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
14:00 Leah Remini: Scientology And The Aftermath
15:00 It Takes A Killer
15:30 It Takes A Killer
16:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
17:00 The First 48
18:00 The First 48
19:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
20:00 It Takes A Killer
20:30 It Takes A Killer
21:00 Homicide Hunter
22:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
23:00 Jo Frost On Britain's Killer Kids



00:05 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
00:30 Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
01:25 Lip Sync Battle UK
02:10 Problematic With Moshe Kasher
01:45 Inside Amy Schumer
02:10 Another Period
02:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:25 Inside Amy Schumer
03:50 Another Period
04:15 Kroll Show
04:40 Key And Peele
05:05 Tosh.0
05:30 Disaster Date
05:55 Ridiculousness Arabia
06:20 Bondi Ink
07:15 Catch A Contractor
08:05 Impractical Jokers UK
08:30 Disaster Date
08:55 Workaholics
09:20 Kroll Show
09:45 Key And Peele
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Bondi Ink
11:25 Disaster Date
11:50 Ridiculousness Arabia
12:15 Impractical Jokers
12:40 Catch A Contractor
13:30 Key And Peele
13:55 Impractical Jokers UK
14:20 Disaster Date
14:45 Workaholics
15:10 Friends
15:35 Disaster Date
16:00 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef

16:30 Impractical Jokers
16:55 Workaholics
17:20 Impractical Jokers UK
17:45 Disaster Date
18:10 Ridiculousness Arabia
18:35 Catch A Contractor
19:25 Impractical Jokers
19:50 Friends
20:12 Friends
20:35 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
21:00 The President Show
21:30 Comedy Central Presents Comedy Salwagef
22:00 Ridiculousness Arabia
22:25 Detroiters
22:50 Lip Sync Battle UK
23:15 Real Husbands Of Hollywood
23:40 The President Show



00:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things
00:55 Kids Do The Craziest Things
01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
02:10 Pick A Puppy
02:35 Pick A Puppy
03:00 Pick A Puppy
03:25 Pick A Puppy
03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
04:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
05:30 Storm Chasers
06:40 How It's Made
06:50 How It's Made
07:00 Pick A Puppy
07:25 Pick A Puppy
07:50 Storm Chasers
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Mythbusters
10:20 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
11:10 Free Ride
12:00 Kings Of The Wild
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Mythbusters
14:30 Pick A Puppy
14:55 Pick A Puppy
15:20 Storm Chasers
16:10 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
17:00 Free Ride
17:50 Kings Of The Wild
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Now That's Funny
21:10 Free Ride
22:00 Kings Of The Wild
22:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
23:40 Storm Chasers



00:50 American Monster
01:45 Haunted Towns
02:40 Paranormal Lockdown With Nick Groff
03:35 The Accused, Jeffrey Macdonald: People Magazine...
04:30 American Monster
05:25 Six Degrees Of Murder
06:20 The Perfect Murder
07:10 Lauryn Is Lost: A Disappeared Special
08:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
08:25 Disappeared
09:15 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
09:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
10:10 Unravell'd
11:05 Murder Chose Me
12:00 Forbidden: Dying For Love
12:55 Disappeared
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:45 Unravell'd
15:40 Murder Chose Me
16:35 Lauryn Is Lost: A Disappeared Special
17:30 Disappeared
18:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
18:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
19:20 I Almost Got Away With It
20:15 Betrayed
21:10 Murder Chose Me
22:05 Disappeared
23:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
23:55 The Accused, Jeffrey Macdonald: People Magazine...



00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
00:35 Binnie And The Ghost
01:00 Hank Zipzer
01:25 Alex & Co.
01:45 The Hive
01:50 Evermoor Chronicles
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:05 Binnie And The Ghost
03:30 Binnie And The Ghost
03:55 Hank Zipzer
04:15 The Hive
04:20 Hank Zipzer
04:45 Alex & Co.
05:10 Alex & Co.
05:35 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
06:25 Binnie And The Ghost
06:45 The Hive
06:50 Rolling With The Ronks
07:00 Jessie
07:25 Tangled: The Series
07:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts
07:55 The ZhuZhus
08:20 Elena Of Avalor
08:45 Bunk'd
09:10 Stuck In The Middle
09:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
10:00 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
10:25 LoloRock
10:50 LoloRock
11:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
11:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
12:05 Hank Zipzer
12:30 Alex & Co.
12:55 Alex & Co.
13:20 LoloRock
13:45 LoloRock
14:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
14:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
15:00 The ZhuZhus
15:15 K.C. Undercover
15:40 Stuck In The Middle
16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:10 Elena Of Avalor
16:35 Bizaardvark
17:00 Tangled: The Series
17:25 Bizaardvark
17:30 Bunk'd
17:55 K.C. Undercover
18:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
18:45 Girl Meets World
19:10 Star Wars Forces Of Destiny
19:15 Stuck In The Middle
19:40 Best Friends Whenever
20:05 Descendants Wicked World
20:10 Liv And Maddie

20:35 Jessie
21:00 Tangled: The Series
21:25 K.C. Undercover
22:15 Bizaardvark
22:40 Bunk'd
23:05 Rolling With The Ronks
23:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
23:45 LoloRock



00:00 PJ Masks
00:30 Vampirina
01:00 The Hive
01:15 Calimero
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Loopdidoo
02:20 Henry Hugglemonster
02:35 Calimero
02:50 Henry Hugglemonster
03:05 Art Attack
03:30 The Hive
03:40 Loopdidoo
03:55 Henry Hugglemonster
04:10 Art Attack
04:35 Loopdidoo
04:50 Calimero
05:05 Art Attack
05:30 Henry Hugglemonster
05:45 Henry Hugglemonster
06:00 Art Attack
06:30 Henry Hugglemonster
06:45 Loopdidoo
07:00 Henry Hugglemonster
07:15 Calimero
07:30 Loopdidoo
07:45 Henry Hugglemonster
08:00 Sofia The First
08:30 Puppys Dog Pals
09:00 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
09:30 Doc McStuffins
10:00 PJ Masks
10:30 PJ Masks
11:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
11:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:00 The Lion Guard
12:30 The Lion Guard
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Sofia The First
14:00 PJ Masks
14:30 PJ Masks
15:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh
15:30 Doc McStuffins
16:00 Puppys Dog Pals
16:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
17:00 Sofia The First
17:30 Doc McStuffins
18:00 PJ Masks
18:30 Puppys Dog Pals
19:00 Sofia The First
19:30 Mickey And The Roadster Racers
20:00 PJ Masks
20:30 The Lion Guard
21:00 Doc McStuffins
21:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
22:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:30 Doc McStuffins Toy Hospital
23:00 Goldie & Bear
23:30 Puppys Dog Pals



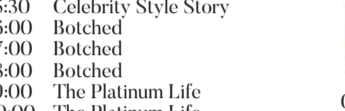
00:20 Street Customs 2008
01:05 Harley And The Davidsons
01:50 Mega Trains
02:35 What On Earth?
03:20 Fast N' Loud
04:05 Deadliest Catch
05:35 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Outback Truckers
06:45 Street Customs 2008
07:30 Fast N' Loud
08:15 Deadliest Catch
09:48 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Street Outlaws
11:45 Carspotting
12:25 Missit Garage
12:48 Extreme Collectors
13:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
13:55 Deadliest Catch
15:25 Fast N' Loud
16:10 Street Customs 2008
17:00 How Do They Do It?
17:25 How Do They Do It?
17:50 Extreme Collectors
18:20 Auction Kings
18:50 Deadliest Catch
19:40 How Do They Do It?
20:10 How Do They Do It?
20:35 How Do They Do It?
21:00 Gold Rush
21:50 Gold Diggers
22:40 Deadliest Catch
23:30 Fast N' Loud



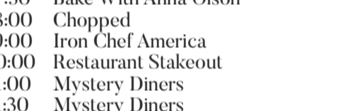
06:00 Disney11
06:25 Supa Strikas
06:50 Marvel's Spider-Man
07:15 Right Now Kapow
07:40 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
07:45 Mech-X4
08:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
08:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
09:00 Supa Strikas
09:25 Supa Strikas
09:50 Walk The Prank
10:20 Walk The Prank
10:45 Gravity Falls
11:10 Gravity Falls
11:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
12:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
12:25 Two More Eggs
12:30 Phineas And Ferb
12:55 Phineas And Ferb
13:20 Zeke And Luther
13:45 Zeke And Luther
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
14:40 Gravity Falls
15:05 Lab Rats
15:30 Milo Murphy's Law
15:55 Star Wars: Freemaker Adventures
16:25 Walk The Prank
16:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:15 Mech-X4
17:40 Marvel's Spider-Man
18:05 Supa Strikas
18:30 Star Wars: The Freemaker Adventures
18:35 Disney11
19:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
19:25 Right Now Kapow
19:50 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
19:55 Mech-X4
20:20 Walk The Prank
20:45 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
21:10 Gravity Falls
21:35 Marvel's Rocket And Groot
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Lab Rats
22:35 Phineas & Ferb
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



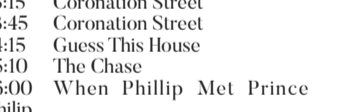
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00:55 Famously Single
01:50 El News
02:50 Celebrity Style Story
03:20 Celebrity Style Story
03:50 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
04:40 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
05:30 Celebrity Style Story
06:00 So Cosmo
06:55 El News
07:25 So Cosmo
08:20 So Cosmo
09:15 So Cosmo
10:10 El News
10:40 Celebrity Style Story
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 El News
15:30 Celebrity Style Story
16:00 Botched
17:00 Botched
18:00 Botched
19:00 The Platinum Life
20:00 The Platinum Life
21:00 The Platinum Life
22:00 Eric And Jessie
22:30 Celebrity Style Story
23:00 El News
23:15 Famously Single



00:45 The Food Files
01:10 Rustic Adventures Argentina
01:40 Cruise Ship Diaries
02:35 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
03:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
03:30 Places We Go
03:55 Chasing The Sun
04:25 Croatia's Finest
04:50 Route Awakening
05:20 Rustic Adventures Argentina
05:45 Rustic Adventures Argentina
06:15 Mago Food
07:10 Cruise Ship Diaries
08:05 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
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11:45 Mago Food
12:40 Trekking The Great Wall
13:35 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
14:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
14:30 Chasing The Sun
15:00 The Food Files
15:25 Route Awakening
15:50 Eat Street
16:20 Hotel India
17:15 A Is For Apple
17:40 A Is For Apple
18:10 Lucky Chow
18:35 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
19:05 Route Awakening
19:30 Eat Street
20:00 Hotel India
21:00 A Is For Apple
21:30 A Is For Apple
22:00 Lucky Chow
22:25 Angelo's Outdoor Kitchen
22:55 Trekking The Great Wall
23:50 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen



00:10 Cold Water Gold
01:00 The Long Road Home
03:00 Yukon Gold
04:00 Cold Water Gold
05:00 Caught In The Act
06:00 The Known Universe
07:00 Hard Time
08:00 Building Invincible
09:00 Caught In The Act
10:00 I Am Rebel
11:00 Highway Thru Hell
12:00 Nazi Megastructures
13:00 The Known Universe
14:00 Building Invincible
15:00 Hard Time
16:00 Facing...
17:00 Live Free Or Die
18:00 Nazi Megastructures
19:00 Reinventing Seoul: Smart City On The Rise
20:00 Facing...
20:50 Live Free Or Die
21:40 Nazi Megastructures
22:30 Reinventing Seoul: Smart City On The Rise
23:20 Building Invincible



00:20 World's Weirdest Creepy Cures
01:10 Freaks & Creeps
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04:40 Sea Of Hope: America's Underwater Treasures
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07:25 Caught In The Act
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11:05 Animals Gone Wild
12:00 Shark Attack Experiment
12:55 Dark Side Of Crocs
13:50 Wild Indonesia
14:45 Going Wild
15:40 Photo Ark
16:35 Monster Frog
17:30 Animals Gone Wild
18:25 Wild Case Files
19:20 Going Wild
20:10 Photo Ark
21:00 Animals Gone Wild
21:50 Wild Case Files
22:40 Shark Attack Experiment
23:30 Shark Attack Experiment



00:00 Bonnie & Clyde
01:00 UFO Files
02:00 How Hunters
03:00 How The States Got Their Shapes
03:50 In Search Of Aliens
04:40 The Greeks
05:30 Bonnie & Clyde
06:20 Ancient Discoveries
07:10 The Universe
08:00 UFO Files
09:00 How The States Got Their Shapes
10:00 In Search Of Aliens
11:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
12:00 How Hunters
13:00 How The States Got Their Shapes
14:00 UFO Files
15:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
16:00 In Search Of Aliens
17:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
18:00 How Hunters
19:00 United Staff Of America
20:00 History's Greatest Blunders
20:30 History's Greatest Blunders
21:00 Engineering Disasters
22:00 Ancient Aliens
23:00 How Hunters



00:20 Swamp People
01:10 American Pickers Best Of
02:00 Mountain Men
02:50 Counting Cars

03:15 American Pickers
04:05 Mountain Men
05:00 Swamp People
06:00 Fifth Gear
06:50 American Pickers
07:40 Counting Cars
08:05 Counting Cars
08:30 Pawn Stars
08:55 Pawn Stars
09:20 Aussie Pickers
10:10 Ax Men
11:00 Fifth Gear
11:50 American Pickers
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 Counting Cars
13:30 Time Team
14:20 Swamp People
15:10 Alone: Lost And Found
16:00 American Pickers
16:50 Counting Cars
17:15 Counting Cars
17:40 Swamp People
18:30 Alone: Lost And Found
19:20 Mountain Men
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 American Pickers Best Of
21:50 WW2 Treasure Hunters
22:40 Time Team
23:30 Alone: Lost And Found



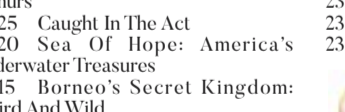
00:45 The Food Files
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20:00 Hotel India
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00:10 Cold Water Gold
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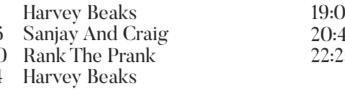
00:20 World's Weirdest Creepy Cures
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18:25 Wild Case Files
19:20 Going Wild
20:10 Photo Ark
21:00 Animals Gone Wild
21:50 Wild Case Files
22:40 Shark Attack Experiment
23:30 Shark Attack Experiment



00:50 Black Beauty
02:25 Houba! On The Trail Of Marsupilami
04:20 Chilly Christmas
05:55 Big Baby
07:25 Black Beauty
09:00 Lego DC Comics: Justice League Cosmic Clash
10:25 Houba! On The Trail Of Marsupilami
12:15 Kung Fu Panda 3
13:50 Pirates Code: The Adventures Of Mickey Matson
15:25 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
17:10 Mousehunt
18:50 Get Santa
20:35 Kung Fu Panda 3
22:10 Pirates Code: The Adventures Of Mickey Matson
23:45 Mousehunt



00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:36 Rabbids Invasion
01:00 Rabbids Invasion
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 Winx Club
02:36 Winx Club
03:00 Harvey Beaks
03:24 Harvey Beaks
03:48 The Loud House
04:12 The Loud House
04:36 Breadwinners
05:00 Breadwinners
05:24 Get Blake
05:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake



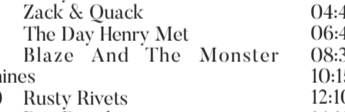
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Sanjay And Craig
09:00 Rank The Prank
09:24 Harvey Beaks
09:48 100 Things To Do Before High School
10:12 Game Shakers
10:36 Regal Academy
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:12 The Loud House
12:36 Rabbids Invasion
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 Sanjay And Craig
13:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
14:12 The Thundermans
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Hunter Street
15:24 School Of Rock
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Hunter Street
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 School Of Rock
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 The Thundermans
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 The Loud House
21:24 Sanjay And Craig
21:48 Rabbids Invasion
22:12 Breadwinners
22:36 Harvey Beaks
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
23:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



00:15 Shimmer And Shine
00:38 Shimmer And Shine
01:00 Max & Ruby
01:23 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:34 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:44 The Day Henry Met
01:49 The Day Henry Met
01:55 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:40 Zack & Quack
03:01 Shimmer And Shine
03:24 Nella The Princess Knight
03:36 Paw Patrol
03:59 Little Charmers
04:11 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
04:23 Dora The Explorer
04:45 Max & Ruby
05:07 The Day Henry Met
05:13 Nella The Princess Knight
05:35 Shimmer And Shine
05:59 Wallykazam!
06:21 Zack & Quack
06:32 The Day Henry Met
06:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
07:00 Rusty Rivets
07:12 Paw Patrol
07:37 Dora The Explorer
08:00 Nella The Princess Knight
08:23 Bubble Guppies
08:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
09:08 Paw Patrol
09:31 Shimmer And Shine
09:54 Nella The Princess Knight
10:15 The Day Henry Met
10:21 Paw Patrol
10:44 Rusty Rivets
11:07 Wallykazam!
11:29 Bubble Guppies
11:53 Team Umizoomi
12:16 Shimmer And Shine
12:38 Shimmer And Shine
13:01 Max & Ruby
13:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:35 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:45 The Day Henry Met
13:50 The Day Henry Met
13:56 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:18 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:41 Zack & Quack
15:02 Shimmer And Shine
15:24 Nella The Princess Knight
15:36 Paw Patrol
15:59 Little Charmers
16:11 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
16:22 Dora The Explorer
16:45 Max & Ruby
17:06 The Day Henry Met
17:12 Nella The Princess Knight
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17:58 Wallykazam!
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21:08 Paw Patrol
21:31 Shimmer And Shine
21:53 Nella The Princess Knight
22:04 Nella The Princess Knight
22:14 The Day Henry Met
22:20 Paw Patrol
22:43 Rusty Rivets
23:06 Wallykazam!
23:29 Bubble Guppies
23:52 Team Umizoomi



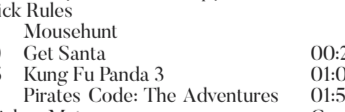
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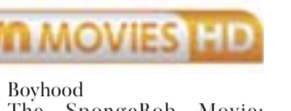
00:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
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06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:00 The Loud House
07:24 Rabbids Invasion
07:48 Get Blake



00:15 Correspondence
02:20 Match
03:55 Oleanna
05:35 My Sister
07:35 Match
09:15 Touched With Fire
11:10 Oleanna
12:50 My Old Lady
14:45 Where Hope Grows
16:35 A Country Called Home
18:20 The Flying Scotsman
20:15 Lucky Them
22:00 A Dangerous Woman
23:50 Electricity



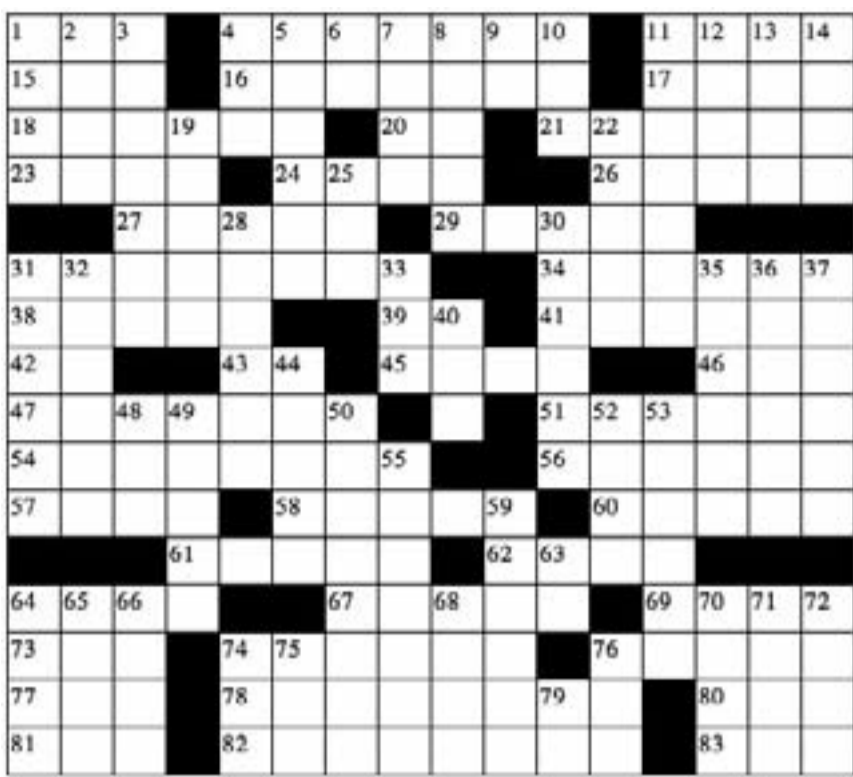
00:30 Last Wizard
01:55 A Town Called Panic
03:20 Lego DC: Justice League Gotham City Breakout
04:45 The Secret Of Kells
06:15 Swan Princess: Royally Undercover
07:45 The Wheelers
09:15 Freddy Frogface
10:45 Ploddy Police Car
12:10 A Town Called Panic
13:35 Lego DC: Justice League Gotham City Breakout
15:00 Moomin And Midsummer Madness
16:20 Freddy Frogface
17:50 An American Tail: Fievel Goes West
19:25 Funny Little Cars
20:35 Moomin And Midsummer Madness
21:55 The Wheelers
23:25 Ploddy Police Car



01:35 Boyhood
04:20 The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water
05:55 Valentine's Day
08:00 A.I. Artificial Intelligence
10:25 Before We Go
12:05 Northpole: Open For Christmas
13:35 It's Complicated
15:35 Joy
17:40 Bridge Of Spies
20:00 Dangerous Minds
22:00 Get Rich Or Die Tryin'

Stars

CROSSWORD 1754



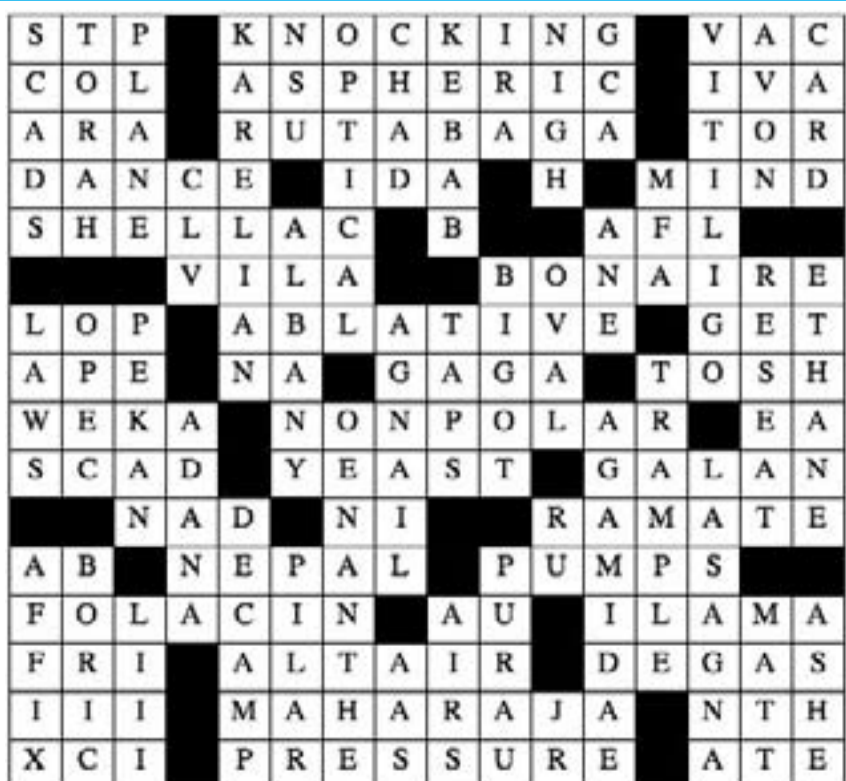
ACROSS

- Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
- In a brash cheeky manner.
- Having been read.
- 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
- Music with a syncopated melody (usually for the piano).
- A shaft on which a wheel rotates.
- Informal terms for journalists.
- An associate degree in nursing.
- The territory of Athens in ancient Greece.
- Type genus of the family Arcidae.
- One of a set of small pieces of stiff paper marked in various ways and used for playing games or for telling fortunes.
- Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- Of or relating to or measured in ohms.
- (Greek mythology) The rarified fluid said to flow in the veins of the Gods.
- Essential equal to suborder Myomorpha with the Dipodidae excluded.
- A genus of tropical American plants have sword-shaped leaves and a fleshy compound fruits composed of the fruits of several flowers (such as pineapples).
- A mountain range in South America running 5000 miles along the Pacific coast.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- 1 species.
- A yellow trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- A unit of power equal to 746 watts.
- Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
- The use of nuclear magnetic resonance of protons to produce proton density images.
- A sail (or either of a pair of sails) immediately above the lowermost sail of a mast and supported by a topmast.
- Of the appetites and passions of the body.
- Appear again.
- A wired or starched collar of intricate lace.
- A river in central Italy rising in the Apennines and flowing through Florence and Pisa to the Ligurian Sea.
- An evergreen tree of the family Ulmaceae that grows in tropical America and Africa and Asia.
- A traveler who actively rides an animal (as a horse or camel).
- An Indian tree of the family Combretaceae that is a source of timber and gum.
- Scottish sea captain who was hired to protect British shipping in the Indian Ocean and then was accused of piracy and hanged (1645-1701).
- A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
- Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
- (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- A serve that strikes the net before falling into the receiver's court.
- Trees or shrubs of the families Ebenaceae or Sapotaceae or Styracaceae or Symplocaceae.
- (used especially of commodities) In the natural unprocessed condition.

DOWN

- An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- A rack for temporarily holding coats and hats.
- Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
- An informal term for a father.
- Report or maintain.
- Capital of the state of New Hampshire.
- An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
- Used of decomposing oils or fats.
- A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- Indicating the most important performer or role.
- Of or relating to or supporting Hinduism.
- A unit of luminous flux equal to the amount of light given out through a solid angle of 1 steradian by a point source of 1 candela intensity radiating uniformly in all directions.
- An affirmative.
- A difficult entangling situation.
- An opening that permits escape or release.
- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- Dearly loved.
- Shrubby tree widely distributed along tropical shores.
- Formerly included in genus Cedrela.
- (informal) Of the highest quality.
- An unpredictable outcome that is unfortunate.
- A large building at an airport where aircraft can be stored and maintained.
- A seducer who ruins a woman.
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- An embroidered rug made from a coarse Indian felt.
- Expose to fresh air, as of old clothing.
- Any member of a ship's crew.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A representation of the Virgin Mary mourning over the dead body of Jesus.
- Cooking utensil consisting of a wide metal vessel.
- English potter who started a pottery famous for its bone china (1754-1827).
- Small free-swimming tunicates.
- An aromatic ointment used in antiquity.
- In the same place (used when citing a reference).
- A chemical agent for use in chemical reactions.
- Remote city of Kazakhstan that (ostensibly for security reasons) was made the capital in 1998.
- A state in midwestern United States.
- In bed.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
- Cut down with an ax.
- The last (12th) month of the year.
- A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
- Inquire about.
- An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Ideals or a sense of belonging to something bigger than the merely personal becomes a greater focus in your life at this time. You may attach more importance to taking part in group activities that center on idealistic goals. Your practical skills are linked to your almost mystical inner vision. You manifest your dreams in an organized and clear-headed manner. You would be great at giving the public a sense of the ideal via films, advertising or spiritual work. You may be able to involve yourself in some charity or volunteer work this winter. Now is the time to organize or become a part of an organization that helps homeless families at this time of the year. You may see value in or feel love for an older person this afternoon. Help others to become independent.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Lovers, children and other people dear to your heart are emphasized at this time. You may be surprised when so many people come up to you with expressions of gratefulness. Some people want to know if you would share some of your knowledge. You may be able to bring a group together with words or ideas that transport others. Poetry and art may be possible now. Movies, books and all other forms of escape could prove very enjoyable. There is extra support for whatever you want to become involved with at this time. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others; the lines of communication are open. Material things have a great deal of importance for you just now and this evening you could be looking at new or barely used cars.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You will find yourself spending most of this day in cleaning and rearranging your living area. There could be a discussion about some new piece of furniture for your home. This is a good time to just appreciate where you are in the world. You may be dealing with a bossy family member later this afternoon. This person means well, so it would be wise for you to point out, as nicely as possible, that you are in charge of your own life. This afternoon you enjoy lighting good-smelling candles or creating some delightful decorations for everyone to enjoy. You are at your most poetic self this evening, able to put your dreams and thoughts into words and communicate them through speaking and writing. You could write a love poem this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There is an instinctive urge to get serious about taking care of yourself at many levels. Preparation and the wise management of your time are very important now. Diet, exercise and work somehow mean more; you want to feel good about yourself and the way you do things. A friend may want to join you in this diet activity. This friend may also help you better understand a difficult person in your life. You are in touch with your ideals now and that helps you find what you want from life. You set examples of living that others can follow. An opportunity for some fun group activity should be enjoyed this afternoon. Relax this evening and enjoy the company of a loved one. A sense of support and harmony makes this a happy time.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are able to organize an unorganized group in positive ways. If a person is unruly, you know just how to handle most disruptions. Many of us could learn from your work techniques. You are wise to be confident and yet humble. Creative ideas that help calm a group are easy for you and you may have found yourself in the middle of a political group this afternoon; one or two nervous types may be frustrated but your creative style may solve problems. You are up-to-date with most of your information and can dissipate most any confusion with factual references. Keep away from the emotional. This evening you may decide to serve someone who usually serves you. This could mean you cook and you have the entertainment.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

In a group project, you are inclined to lead and teach. Be gentle in evaluating the little shortcomings of others. Exercise your good listening skills. People from your past, as well as complicated issues, will easily be understood today. There may be a reunion of sorts. This day there is time to neat up your living quarters, if you have not already done so. Company is usually enjoyed in the afternoon and you want to have all your personal notes and work put away. You could be ready for a love relationship by the end of this month—first, you must get rid of some of those old fears. Home with family this fall and winter may be a very good thing. Bring your joy and you will take away some of the same. Tonight there is time for your favorite hobby.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are inspired and may find yourself decorating and preparing for the busy days ahead. Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to have others help and add a bit of their own personality to the project of decoration. Things may seem almost magical in the way they work out in your favor—everyone works together today. This is a great time to become better organized and get things accomplished. Shopping and general preparations for the week ahead may rank as the most important activity today. In the pursuit of happiness, however, you will enjoy a healing interaction that comes from being with friends or family. Do not worry so much about the details. You may enjoy some light music this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 19)

Meditation is particularly rewarding this morning—perhaps a sunrise has caught your attention. Take a deep breath and allow the natural balance within your mind and heart to be absorbed. Creative visualization works in your favor. Considering the idea that energy follows thought, this would be a good time to focus on a goal or two that you have been thinking about lately. You have a contented heart and a thankful attitude. Continue to give thanks for what you have and see yourself achieving what you need. This is a time during which you are unusually motivated or driven in new and unexpected directions. You could receive unforeseen backing for making your dreams a reality. Socialize with friends this evening—relax through laughter.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

You are future-oriented. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most adaptable. Your friends want to plan your afternoon but your family may have other ideas. This afternoon you will feel the urge to catch up on communications with those distant relatives or seldom seen family members. Your life path involves very close relationships with others. This could be through a marriage or some other connection. Are you holding on to a relationship that needs reevaluation perhaps it is time to finally make that commitment—set a date and purchase a ring or, perhaps, decide it is time to enlarge your family circle. Good results happen when communication skills are exercised—you enjoy your life!



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Someone you care about—a child or lover, perhaps—may be a cause for concern this day. Self-control and setting limits are important in love and other games of chance. Think long-term and be realistic in your approach to these things. Unusual ideas and a novel way of expressing them play a larger than usual part in your life at this time. A neighbor could play a role in this, or perhaps a brother or sister. The ways you get around and stay in touch at the everyday level are changed by technology or social circumstances. The problems and responsibilities of life may be seen in a new light, as part of a larger drama you are living—almost like a dream. You are able to handle difficulties more easily these days, seeing them as part of a larger story.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Phone calls and family discussions about the busy days ahead can be put aside by the end of this morning. Before the noon hour there will be time to dream. These days do not come too often—so do not ignore this opportunity to let your imagination loose. Perhaps a good book or movie will take on that more-than-real dimension. Consider the stars. Your belief system is keynote of a new phase you have begun—the power of ideas and the power they wield over people. Religious, cultural or philosophical controversies have a way of stirring your blood. Faith, optimism and a yearning to explore all kinds of new horizons are some of the focal points in your life. Travel, education and other ways to stretch your horizons open doors of opportunity.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A child or lover may be rebellious or perhaps simply ahead of his or her time. Take the time to talk with this person in order to understand more about his or her goals. Take time to listen—the communication may lead to a better focus. Romance and recreation take on an unusual character, out of step with ordinary expectations. High tech gambles pay off in big ways. You feel a love of order and law—an appreciation for responsibilities and duty. Problems are considered as lessons, rather than as obstacles. There is time to understand difficult or troubled people and to have a close time with someone you love. Good feelings and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time. Firm up your plans for the season ahead—a vacation may be in order.

Wordsearch Puzzle

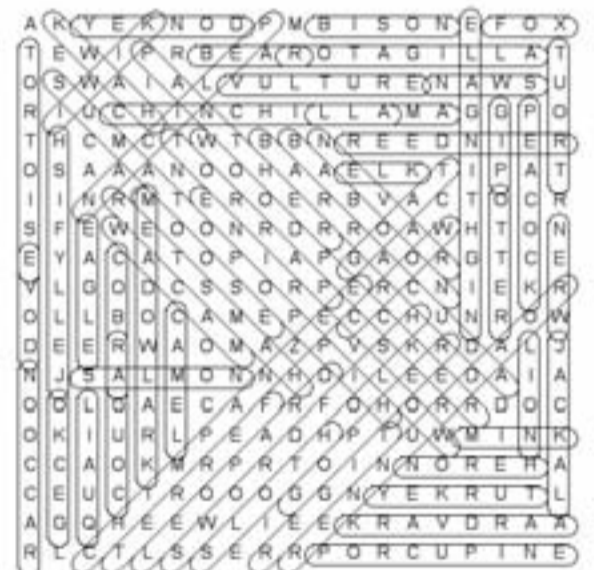
Animals 2

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



- | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| ANTELOPE | ELEPHANT | JAGUAR | ORCA | SHREW |
| BAT | EMU | KANGAROO | PANTHER | STORK |
| BEAVER | FLAMINGO | KOALA | PARAKEET | TURTLE |
| BORCAT | FROG | LAMPREY | PARTRIDGE | WALLABY |
| BUFFALO | GAZELLE | LEMING | PENGUIN | WALRUS |
| CHETAH | GERAFFE | LYNX | PORPOISE | WEASEL |
| CHICKEN | GOOSE | MARLIN | PUMA | WHALE |
| COYOTE | GORILLA | MOCKINGBIRD | RABBIT | YAK |
| CRANE | HEDGEHOG | MONKEY | RATTLESNAKE | ZEBRA |
| DEER | HORSE | MOUSE | RHINOCEROS | |
| DOLPHIN | HUMMINGBIRD | OCTOPUS | ROBIN | |
| DUCK | IMPALA | ORANGUTAN | SHEEP | |

Animals 1



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

The hidden animal is: AMERICAN CROCODILE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Kuwait Times Classifieds

Monday, November 6, 2017

Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

STATE OF KUWAIT
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
 METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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 Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



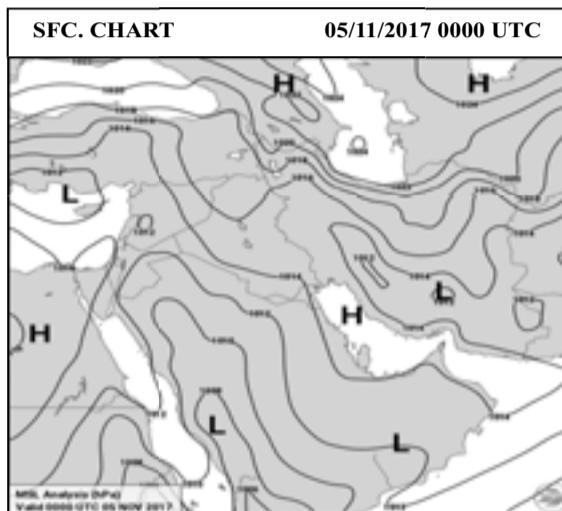
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

BY DAY: Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to southerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

BY NIGHT: Humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly wind to variable wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h with a chance for fog forming over some areas.

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

STATION	MAX. EXP.	MIN. REC.
KUWAIT CITY	34 °C	26 °C
KUWAIT AIRPORT	35 °C	22 °C
ABDALY	36 °C	21 °C
BUBYAN	30 °C	25 °C
JAHRA	36 °C	22 °C
FAILAKA ISLAND	31 °C	25 °C
SALMIYAH	28 °C	26 °C
AHMADI	30 °C	24 °C
NUWAISIB	36 °C	21 °C
WAFRA	35 °C	21 °C
SALMY	36 °C	18 °C



4 DAYS FORECAST						
DAY	DATE	WEATHER	Temperatures		Wind Direction	Wind Speed
			MAX.	MIN.		
Monday	11/06	Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	34 °C	21 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h
Tuesday	11/07	Relatively hot and Relatively humid with a chance for fog forming at night	32 °C	19 °C	VRB	06 - 22 km/h
Wednesday	11/08	Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas with a chance for fog forming at night	33 °C	18 °C	VRB-SE	06 - 26 km/h
Thursday	11/09	Relatively hot and Relatively humid over coastal areas	34 °C	18 °C	SE-NW	15 - 35 km/h

PRAYER TIMES	
Fajr	04:43
Sunrise	06:04
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:37
Sunset	16:59
Isha	18:18

RECORDED YESTERDAY AT KUWAIT AIRPORT	
MAX. Temp.	35 °C
MIN. Temp.	23 °C
MAX. RH	92 %
MIN. RH	19 %
MAX. Wind	SE 53 km/h
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR.	0 mm

AMC مركز الصيد الطبي
 Asayad Medical Group announces vacancies of the following jobs for both genders to work for Asayad Medical Center for the one-day surgery.

Technical jobs

- Anesthesiologist
- Embryo Lab Technician
- Lab Technician
- Radiologist
- Physiotherapist
- Nurses from all specialties

Please send CV to the following e-mail:
Amc.hr@yahoo.com

AMC مركز الصيد الطبي
 Asayad Medical Group announces vacancies of the following jobs for both genders to work for Asayad Medical Center for the one-day surgery.

Doctors

Consultant - Specialist - Registered

- General Surgery
- Gynecologist
- Plastic Surgery
- Orthopedic
- Urology
- Otolaryngology Surgery
- Pediatrician
- Radiology
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Venerel dermatology diseases
- Cardiologist

Please send CV to the following e-mail:
Amc.hr@yahoo.com

लक़री अपार्टमेंट किराए देना है
 दो कमरे, हॉल,
 बॉरूथम, रसोईघर
 सम्पर्क: 69996992, 66804222

FOR RENT

Villa in Nuzha

A 25m front, main street, basement, ground and second floors. 4 master rooms, 2 guest bathrooms, elevator, laundry and maid's room, diwaniya, driver's room, away from the villa.

Tel: 66684558

FOR SALE
 Mitsubishi Gallant fully automatic white 2011 owner driven & maintained immaculate condition. New engine and new tyres. Price KD 1200 - cash. Tel: 99713442 (C 5356)

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Pathan Asif Khan S/o Pathan Shabeer Khan holder of Indian Passport No.

For Rent
In Rumaithiya
 Super Delux apartment plus roof with 3 bedrooms including one master bedroom + large reception + maid room.

For inquiries call **Rajo: 66048094**
 Or **99922262**

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

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 6/11/2017				Departure Flights on Monday 6/11/2017			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:01	RBG	554	Alexandria	13:00
JAI	572	Mumbai	00:05	JZR	176	Dubai	13:40
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	FDB	076	Dubai	13:45
KAC	504	Beirut	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	539	Cairo	00:50	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	102	London	00:50	JZR	1330	Al Najaf	14:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	00:55	JZR	124	Bahrain	14:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	FDB	060	Dubai	15:10
DLH	625	Bahrain	01:45	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:25
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
JZR	555	Alexandria	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:30
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:15	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
QTR	1086	Doha	02:20	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	775	Riyadh	15:50
KLM	446	Bahrain	02:30	KAC	743	Dammam	16:05
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KAC	619	Doha	16:10
KKK	1268	Istanbul	02:55	KAC	563	Amman	16:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
QTR	1076	Doha	03:50	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:40
KAC	382	Delhi	04:15	KAC	615	Bahrain	16:40
KAC	1544	Cairo	04:25	SAW	706	Damascus	16:55
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	QTR	1073	Doha	17:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	04:35	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
FDB	069	Dubai	04:55	KAC	283	Dhaka	17:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	FDB	052	Dubai	17:40
JZR	143	Doha	05:25	UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:25	KAC	357	Kochi	17:45
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	05:30	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:40	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
KAC	358	Kochi	05:40	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:50	JZR	538	Cairo	18:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	06:10	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	362	Colombo	06:25	JZR	184	Dubai	18:30
KAC	678	Dubai	06:30	WAN	115	Bahrain	18:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	06:30	KAC	381	Delhi	18:50
WAN	342	Sohag	06:35	FDB	064	Dubai	19:10
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:50	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
BAW	157	London	07:10	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	204	Lahore	07:10	QTR	1081	Doha	20:00
KAC	354	Bengaluru	07:35	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:35	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:45	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
KAC	384	Delhi	08:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	20:40
UAE	855	Dubai	08:35	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	301	Mumbai	20:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	353	Bengaluru	20:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:10	OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	1543	Cairo	21:20
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00	DLH	624	Bahrain	21:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	996	Bahrain/Abu Dhabi	21:40
WAN	114	Bahrain	11:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
QTR	1074	Doha	11:20	KAC	205	Islamabad	22:05
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	12:15	GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	KAC	783	Jeddah	22:35
FDB	075	Dubai	12:45	KAC	383	Delhi	22:40
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	MEA	403	Beirut	22:50
KAC	742	Dammam	12:50	KLM	445	Bahrain	22:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	UAE	860	Dubai	23:00
KAC	774	Riyadh	13:40	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	692	Muscat	14:15	SVA	503	Jeddah	23:45
KAC	618	Doha	14:15				
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20				

Lifestyle | Gossip

Julianna Margulies had a 'horrific' encounter with Steven Seagal

The 'Good Wife' actress - who starred with the veteran actor in 1991 film 'Out for Justice' - had been reassured by a female casting director that she wouldn't have to be alone with the 65-year-old star, so she was disturbed to find them the only people in the room when she arrived. The 51-year-old star claimed: "When I was 23, a casting director, a woman, said, 'Steven Seagal wants to go over the scene with you in his hotel room at 10 o'clock at night.' 'I lived in Brooklyn, and I said, 'Oh, I don't do that. I don't travel. I don't have money for a cab.' And I didn't. And I said, 'And I don't take subways late at night.' And she says, 'Don't worry we'll reimburse you. And I'm here, a woman.' 'I got to the hotel at 10:40, and she wasn't there. And he was. Alone. And he made sure that I saw his gun, which I had never seen a gun in real life. And I got out of there unscathed.'" Julianna learned from the experience so when a female assistant of Harvey Weinstein asked her to meet with the producer in his hotel room to discuss a recent audition, she refused. She said: "I have my own Harvey story, but I never was raped. And I never was harmed. And I don't know how I got out of that hotel room. It always starts with, 'I'm a healer, I want to massage you' and all. I sorta screamed my way out...But, the point is that for years, years, we all just shrug it off... 'And because of my experience with Steven Seagal in that room, which was horrific, I refused to meet Harvey Weinstein in his hotel room when another woman brought me, saying 'You will absolutely get [a screen test]. ... [The assistant] said 'I'm going to drop you off at the Peninsula,' and I said, 'I'm not going up there alone.' I saw how she started to sweat. She was like, 'Don't be silly, I'm just going to drop you off. It's going to be fine.' And I said, 'Nope, then I'm going home.'"



Kate Moss lives a 'normal' life

The 43-year-old supermodel - who has 15-year-old daughter Lila Grace with ex-boyfriend Jefferson Hack - may be one of the most famous women in the world but she prefers to do low-key things with old friends rather than hang out at glitzy show-biz events. She said: "I like to live a normal life away from work. And it's really important for me to have friends around me who go way back. 'I like hanging out together with my friends and our children who have all grown up together, and we love holidaying together too. It makes it all fun... 'My perfect weekend is in the country, walking with the dogs, doing yoga, cooking a roast dinner and catching up on the TV I've missed in the week.'" Kate tries to keep her life as private as possible and doesn't even have any social media accounts, even though she admit it's unusual in the modern fashion industry. She told Stella magazine: "The whole modeling scene is completely different to when I first started out. 'Everything now is so instant with digital photography and there's no mystique. I don't have any personal accounts on social media, I'm just not into posting about personal stuff online.'" And the British beauty isn't a fan of selfies, though she's impressed with how "professionally" some social media stars can transform their appearance for pictures. She said: "It's quite amazing what some of these girls can do. They use really professional techniques to transform features, but it's not an everyday look I go in for."



Spears opens a children's cancer facility

The kind-hearted singer had donated \$1 million from the ticket sales of her 'Piece of Me' Las Vegas residency to the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation's Britney Spears Campus in Las Vegas, and was "really excited" to cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the "amazing facility". She said: "I'm just really excited to be standing here for our new NCCF campus. 'We started fundraising in 2014 and we've raised \$1 million to build this amazing facility to support the kids and the families everywhere. I'm so thankful to everyone for their generosity in making this a reality and making this happen.'" The 'Womanizer' hitmaker - who was joined by her boyfriend Sam Asghari at the event - was hailed a "special person" for her fundraising efforts for the facility. According to People magazine, NCCF CEO Jeff Gordon said: "We can't thank Britney enough being able to do this. Our dream for many, many years has been to be able to have one one building

that all of our 45 programs can come together in one place. And that we are able to to today. 'And that doesn't happen without someone like Britney Spears. 'We saw a side of Britney Spears that so many people maybe don't have the opportunity to see. You realise what a special person Britney is. 'She's an incredible performer, we know all that, but she does care and the more we've gotten to know her, the more grateful we've become to her, and the kids have adored her.'" Steve Sisolak, the Clark County Commission chair, compared the generosity shown by Britney - who has sons Sean Preston, 12, and Jayden, 11, with ex-husband Kevin Federline - to that shown to the wider Las Vegas area after the Route 91 massacre last month. He said: "35 days ago our community when through something that we will never forget. People around the world got to see a side of Vegas that they had never seen before. They saw the love that Las Vegas has."



Sean 'Diddy' Combs changes name - again

The 'I'll Be Missing You' hitmaker - who is also known by monikers including Puff Daddy and P. Diddy - revealed on his 48th birthday on Saturday that he now wants to be known as Brother Love. He wrote on Twitter: "I decided to change my name again! My new name is LOVE aka Brother Love. #TakeDat." In an accompanying video, the rap mogul admitted the move was "risky" but he no longer feels like the person he used to be. He said: "Hey y'all. I have some very serious serious news. I've been praying on this. I decided that - I know it's risky and I know it's corny to some people - but I decided to change my name again. 'I'm just not who I am before. I'm something different. Some new name is Love aka Brother Love. I will not be answering to Puffy, Diddy, Puffy Daddy or any of my other monikers but Love or Brother Love.'" The 'Can't Hold Me Down' rapper was known as Puff Daddy in 1997, but the following year, he used his real first names of Sean John. In 1999, he opted for Puffy, and in later years he's also been known as P. Diddy and Diddy. Meanwhile, the Bad Boy Records founder recently admitted he feels like the "luckiest man in the world" because of his children, Quincy, 26, Justin, 23, Christian, 19, twin girls D'Lila Star and Jessie James, and daughter Chance, all 10, from past relationships.

Yoko Ono considers herself part of the 'young generation'

The 84-year-old artist - who is the widow of Beatles legend John Lennon - is excited about the future because she thinks people are very wise. She said: "It excites me that the young generation is very wise. And I include myself in that." Yoko is an avid user of social media because she finds it an effective and efficient way to communicate to many people at once. She said: "[Twitter] communicates so quickly to so many. 'When you read 'Grapefruit' there are instructions for pieces where you can see I envisioned a life like that already.'" However, she admitted she isn't thinking about audiences when working on her art. Asked how she keeps her vision fresh and connected to global audiences, she said: "I do not try to, I'm just talking to the universe." While the peace activist has been cited as an influence by many artists, she insists that she has never admired or taken inspiration from other people. She said: "I don't remember admiring any artist and couldn't say that I love any. What inspires me most is nature that surrounds us and nature that does not surround us." Yoko believes all her work has been "important" but that was never her intention. She told Bazaar Art magazine: "I don't really know what made me go through this kind of life. Almost nothing was done with the idea to become important. It came naturally to me to be dated by men, but there are nice people too amongst men."



Kim has been having 'sympathy cravings'

The 37-year-old reality star - who has daughter North, four, and son Saint, 22 months, with husband Kanye West - is expecting her third child via a surrogate but has been experiencing some of the symptoms she had while carrying her other children. A source said: "It's so weird - Kim can't believe it. Kim had a week of feeling so fatigued, just like when she was pregnant with North and Saint. 'She spoke to the surrogate, who said she'd been feeling the same. 'Kim was also obsessed with a Parisian cheesecake when she was pregnant, and she had her chef perfect the recipe. She's been craving it so much again lately. 'Kim says she feels very connected to the baby and is always checking in with the surrogate so she reckons it's no wonder she's getting sympathy cravings.'" But the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star is unlikely to be giving in to her cravings as she's determined to be in better shape than ever when the baby arrives. A source told heat magazine: "She's never been as motivated. She's been on a diet of 700 calories a day for months now. 'She wants to be model skinny and her goal is to get down to [98lbs].' Kim was advised by doctors not to get pregnant again because of medical complications, but she's also previously admitted she found it hard to see her body change. She said: "My body just went crazy. After five months, I swore I'd never get pregnant again. It felt like someone had taken over my body.'" And in another interview, she admitted: "I gained a lot of weight. It was really hard mentally."



Josh Gad would leave his wife for Judi Dench

The 36-year-old actor - who has two daughters with wife Ida Darvish - admitted he has more than just a "crush" on his 'Murder On the Orient Express' co-star and couldn't wait to "look into [her] eyes" on the set of the movie. He said: "It goes beyond a crush. I flat out told my wife that if there was ever an opportunity, I would leave her for Dame Judi and the funny thing is she pretty much agreed to it. The first time she came into the make-up trailer, there was this silence because everyone was so intimidated. But - idiot that I am - I just walked over to her and said, 'Dame Judi Dench?' Only it came out sounding like, 'Damn Judi Dench'. Still, that was it. It broke the ice and allowed us to look into each other's eyes and see what was there... Pure, unadulterated love." Judi wasn't the only co-star Josh was in awe of as he hugely admired the charismatic Johnny Depp, who he shared many of his scenes with. He said: "When Johnny walks onto the set, there's this charisma that's just breathtaking. He was so gracious too, and threw everyone a really lavish party at his place in London. 'I'd hesitate to call it [a bromance] because I'd feel like I was cheating on Luke [Evans] - our entire relationship on 'Beauty and the Beast' press tour was billed as 'the biggest of bromances' - but also because 'm confused about why male always get asked whether they're having bromances.'" Josh's most famous role was voicing Olaf in 'Frozen' and, as a thank you, Disney sent him a lifetime's supply of memorabilia from the movie, much to his and his wife's shock. He told Glamour magazine: "This included life-sized Olaf that arrived at my house packaged like the Ark of the Covenant in Raiders of the Lost Ark. 'When we plugged Olaf in only to discover he could do the hula, my wife almost had a heart attack.'" - Bangshowbiz



Lifestyle | Gossip

Heartache for sale at Vietnam's ex-lovers market



A man strums the guitar as others look through items for sale at a once-a-month ex-lover's market in Hanoi. — AFP photos

At Vietnam's Old Flames market, curious customers peruse love letters and pick through perfumes, candles and clothes-relics from failed relationships put on sale for forlorn lovers. Entrepreneurial exes meet once a month, bringing their baggage-emotional and literal-to a converted cottage on a leafy Hanoi street to find a new home for items they can no longer bear to be looked at. It's also a means of moving on.

"(After a breakup) I'm very sad, I can't drink or eat... but after a while I pick myself up. The past is in the past," said Phuc Thuy, 29, who was selling clothes, purses and even a tube of toothpaste she acquired during a former romance. The market has steadily grown since it opened in February, especially among Vietnam's social-media obsessed youth, unabashed about sharing intimate details of their everyday lives.

"Young people are more open-minded and they want to share deeply and widely to overcome pain, without suffering alone," said founder Dinh Thang, as a visitor strummed love songs on a guitar nearby.

He started the market after a few bitter breakups left him with unwanted paraphernalia from a now extinguished passion. He proudly displays love letters, heart-strewn birthday cards and sentimental

scrapbooks from his ex as a reminder that such memorabilia need not be painful forever.

He's also opened the doors to vendors selling new items, and is planning to duplicate the concept in Vietnam's commercial capital Ho Chi Minh City next

Taboo breakups

Thang hopes the market will make the topic of breakups less taboo in Vietnam, a conservative communist nation of 93 million where just a generation ago arranged marriages were more common. Social attitudes have changed as the country has become increasingly globalised and as its vast young population—more than 50 percent of the country is under age 30—embrace western dating norms. That includes internet dating.

"Many young people meet online, date online and break up online," said Bui Manh Tien, Youth Program Officer at United Nations Population Fund in Vietnam. Today, men and women are waiting longer to get married and divorce rates are also ticking up, according to official figures.

"We don't want to give up our freedom too early and get tied to family responsibility when we're young, we want to enjoy life before getting married," Tien, 25, added. For some, the Old Flames market is simply a place to make new connections, romantic or otherwise. "I came here to meet people and to see the goods, explore why they used to be a very beautiful memory," said Tieu Khuy, before picking up a used copy of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice". — AFP



A market for paraphernalia from extinguished passions

year. For those who haven't quite reached Thang's stage of emotional post-breakup enlightenment, he's set up a message board to pen notes to exes. "To all my ex-lovers, I'm sorry because I feel like we never really knew each other," read one remorse-tinged message. Another was more succinct: "I'M FINE!!!"



A love letter on display at the ex-lover's market.



People visiting the ex-lover's market in Hanoi look for items only on display and which belong to the owner of the market.

The swift unraveling of Kevin Spacey in less than a week

It took less than a week for two-time Oscar winner Kevin Spacey to go from admired stage, TV and film star to a pariah, under investigation by the police and fired from his Emmy-winning role in "House of Cards." Here's a look at key developments in his still-unfolding case.

BLOCKBUSTER CLAIM Sunday, Oct 29

In an interview with BuzzFeed, actor Anthony Rapp said he attended a party at Spacey's New York apartment in 1986, when he was 14. At the end of the night, an inebriated Spacey picked him up, placed him on his bed, and climbed on top of him, Rapp said. Rapp said the 26-year-old was holding him down tightly, but he was able to get away and left the apartment. Rapp said he was inspired to come forward in the wake of allegations swirling around Harvey Weinstein.



In this April 27, 2015 file photo, Kevin Spacey arrives at the Q&A Screening of "The House of Cards" at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills. — AP

APOLOGY... AND MORE Monday, Oct 30

Spacey posted on Twitter that he didn't remember the Rapp encounter. "But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior," he said. Spacey, who has fiercely protected his private life, had never disclosed his sexuality before but said Rapp's story encouraged him to speak and he came out as a gay man. Many observers thought it was an odd time for Spacey to address his sexuality or was even an attempt to deflect blame.

ONLINE FIRESTORM

All day, Spacey faced condemnation from gay activists and fellow performers, including actor Zachary Quinto, comedian Wanda Sykes and musician Lance Bass, as well as the gay rights group GLAAD. Netflix and the "House of Cards" producer, Media Rights Capital, announced the show would end after the conclusion of season six (though they added that such a decision had been made before the allegations) and some show executives arrived in Baltimore, where the series is shot, to make sure actors and crew "continue to feel safe and supported."

ANOTHER ALLEGATION Tuesday, Oct 31

Mexican actor Roberto Cavazos wrote on his Facebook page that he encountered Spacey at the bar of London's Old Vic Theatre, where Spacey was artistic director from 2004-15, and the actor tried to fondle him against his will. "It was more common for this guy, when he was in the bar of his theater, grabbing whoever caught his attention," Cavazos wrote. "I didn't stand for it, but I know some people who were afraid to stop it." In a statement, the Old Vic expressed "deep dismay" at the sexual assault allegations and said "inappropriate behavior by anyone working at The Old Vic is completely unacceptable." Spacey did not respond to requests for comment. Tuesday's episode of the NBC drama "This Is Us," which had initially referred to a Spacey film, was recited to replace him with Christian Bale.

'TOXIC' SET Thursday, Nov 2

CNN reported that eight current or former "House of Cards" workers claimed that Spacey made the production a "toxic" workplace and one ex-employee alleged the actor sexually assaulted him. CNN reported that all of the people described Spacey's behavior as predatory. The report accused Spacey of allegedly targeting staffers who were typically young and male with nonconsensual touching and crude comments. More fallout came when Spacey's talent agency Creative Arts Agency said it was no longer representing Spacey, and his publicist also parted ways with the actor.

DEEPENING CRISIS Friday, Nov 3

London police said they had begun investigating an alleged 2008 sexual assault reportedly linked to Spacey. The Sun newspaper said the new allegation comes from a man who was in his early 20s at the time. In America, Netflix said it would cut all ties with Spacey, and will not be involved with any further production of "House of Cards" that includes him. The company also said it will not release the film "Gore," starring Spacey, which was in post-production. In another blow to Spacey's wallet, a Dutch business forum canceled his headline appearance at their conference Nov 29 in Rotterdam. — AP

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa crowned Kuwait's Leading Business Hotel

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort was recently crowned Kuwait's Leading Business Hotel for 2017 at the World Travel Awards, the third major award for the Hotel this year. This latest award, voted by travel and trade professionals, business and leisure travelers around the world, follows industry recognition for Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa as the Best Business Hotel at the 2017 Business Traveler Middle East Awards and Leading Luxury Business Hotel at the 2017 World Luxury Hotel Awards.

General Manager, Savino Leone, who received the award at the Gala event in Dubai, said: "We are committed to offering our guests world-class facilities and signature services. Our approach to hospitality, with our 'Stay Different' promise, make this Hotel the premium destination for the business travelers and leisure guests. To receive this accolade from the business segment is a tribute to the commitment and dedication of our team and reaffirms Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa's positioning as the preferred choice for international, regional and local corporate and business executives. I would like to thank all our colleagues for their continued support and hard work to ensure we continue excelling across all levels of service."



ing halls measuring 405 square meters each and the five break-out rooms, the luxurious landmark offers flexible versatile venues hosting the most prestigious events and exhibitions. A dedicated and fully trained team is on hand to ensure business meetings and conferences are a memorable success. In addition, the Hotel's 316 well-appointed rooms, 78 serviced apartments with the fully-equipped Health and Fitness Club ensure Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa is the perfect destination for regional and international corporate travelers.

Sheraton Kuwait wins 'Kuwait's Leading Hotel 2017' award

The Sheraton Kuwait, a Luxury Collection Hotel has been chosen Kuwait's Leading Hotel at the World Travel Awards Middle East Gala Ceremony during the event which took place at the Armani Hotel Dubai on 29 October 2017. This prestigious award was received by Mazen Mhanna, Cluster Director of Sales and Marketing of Sheraton Kuwait and the Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait.

Dubbed as "The Oscars of the Travel Industry" The World Travel Award is the travel industry's leading awards program and the benchmark for excellence in the hospitality business globally. The award giving body has bestowed Sheraton Kuwait numerous awards in the past years; for the 7th time in a row as Kuwait's Leading Hotel and twice as Kuwait's Leading Business Hotel which brings more prestige to the hotel.

Continuing to be a pioneer in the hospitality industry, providing the widest selection of accommodation and taking pride in setting up the finest culinary offerings in the country. Since its inception in 1966, the Sheraton Kuwait continues to uphold its consistent finest standards of hospitality, best quality services and promoting the pathway to presenting the most luxurious of standards throughout the country. These services has been extended bringing it closer to our patrons by branching out where they can shop and experience luxury dining right in the premises of Kuwait's largest shopping mall - the Avenues Mall.

Fahed Abushaar - General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait stated "We are extremely honored to receive such a prestigious award for the seventh time, emphasizing the exceptional professionalism and care that our team continues to deliver. With over 50 years of excellence and a year of being under the Marriott International, we are confident that our commitment of service excellence will be kept with the highest standard."



Fahed Abushaar General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait



Traditional carpet weaving unravels in central Iraq



In the shadow of the Imam Hamza mosque in the region of the ancient kingdom of Babylon, a carpet market that was once bustling is now almost empty. The only visitor to Hamad Al-Soltani's small shop in the city of Al-Hamza in central Iraq, some 175 kilometers south of Baghdad, is a local tribal chief.

Nothing in the world can convince Sheikh Hazem Al-Hiyali—a Bedouin scarf on his head, hooded cloak over his shoulders and shawl on his neck—to replace the traditional carpets he receives his guests on for imported versions. Over the past few years, Iraq has been flooded with carpets from abroad—but although they may well be much cheaper they are of a far lower quality, he insists.

Hiyali says he cannot bear to even imagine his "diwan", the traditional reception room where visitors sip tea and chat, without the long rectangular carpets adorned with geometric patterns. "It is by the beauty of its carpets that one can judge a room," he tells AFP, running ring-covered fingers across the merchandise hanging on the walls of the shop. "Our mothers and our grandmothers worked at home to weave" these carpets, says the tribal leader, his beard speckled with grey.

Lost language

Soltani, 32, inherited his carpet shop from his father. He says older generations of women also embroidered saddles for camels and wove covers for their harnesses, but such items are sold nowadays only as decorations. Mehdi Saheb spent 50 years working at a loom and can speak for hours about the rich history and intricacies of carpet manufacturing in Iraq.

As he talks, Saheb, 70, weaves in long-forgotten words from the past that are now unfamiliar to younger Iraqis. Inherited from the Turkish used during Ottoman domination more than a century ago, they describe the different

colors and types of wool used in this agricultural area where keeping livestock is widespread.

"Before, people came from abroad to place orders," he says, wearing a beige robe as he sits in his small house on the verge of a dusty road. By "before", Saheb means before the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq that sparked chaos and bloodshed which still roils the country. "Every day, some twenty groups of tourists would come to visit the ancient sites" of Babylonia and other archaeological treasures, recalls former antiquities official Fallah Al-Jabbawi. Now no tourists come to see this millennia-old heritage. "There are only Iraqis left," laments Saheb, who throughout his working life embroidered patterns passed down from the different civilizations that once ruled this region.

Age-old symbols

Circles, squares, and stylized animals or flowers: the symbols woven into Iraq's carpets



An Iraqi man displays carpets at his textile workshop.

can be traced back to the Babylonians who ruled there some 2,000 years before Christ was born, or the Assyrians who followed. Meanwhile, certain motifs represent the Jewish Star of David or Christian crosses, and others,



found in mosques, are said to be Islamic.

In many houses families jealously guard carpets passed down from their ancestors, while the offices of senior government officials or foyers of luxury hotels are often decorated with the traditional goods. But on the markets, the majority of new models being purchased are now mass-produced in neighboring Iran, Turkey or Syria.

About half as cheap as their Iraqi equivalents, the imports have slowly but surely made their way onto the stalls. Shopkeeper Soltani still has carpets on display that are more than

50 years old, but he struggles to sell many of his wares. An item that he once could have got more than \$100 for, he now has to let go for just \$20, he says. In the rutted streets of the old neighborhood nearby, the impact of the industry's decline can be seen. Some 30 or 40 families who once made their living from weaving now struggle to scratch together \$100 each month. Once a source of pride, this testament to Iraq's varied heritage is now neglected and shunned, bemoans former carpet maker Saheb. "Neither the state nor the private sector support the weavers," he says. — AFP



An Iraqi man looks at carpets at a textile workshop in the Iraqi city of Hilla.

An Iraqi woman looks at carpets at a textile workshop in the Iraqi city of Hilla.

'The World of the Hunger Games' sets the standards of entertainment at Motiongate Dubai



Our trip to MOTIONGATE(tm) Dubai, part of Dubai parks and resorts is the Middle East's largest Hollywood-inspired theme park, was a step into the magical, mythical worlds of some of cinema's most beloved movies. Spread across five zones, MOTIONGATE(tm) Dubai offers guests of all ages an exceptional entertained by 27 key rides and attractions including roller coasters, multi-media dark rides, interactive play labs, media-based theatre shows, plus a full program of roaming entertainment and live dance performances. Inspired by 13 of Hollywood's most beloved live action and ani-

mated films, visitors will be transported into the world of movies including Shrek, Kung Fu Panda, Hotel Transylvania, Ghostbusters, The Smurfs and most importantly the brand new world of The Hunger Games.

The launch of the World of the Hunger Games completes all the rides and attractions at the LIONSGATE Zone, one of the five zones at MOTIONGATE(tm) Dubai, and is the latest addition to the Hollywood-inspired theme park. The first ever World of The Hunger Games launch ceremony was attended by representatives from LIONSGATE and Dubai Parks and Resorts man-

agement, in addition to key local and international media outlets who covered the event. The ceremony also included the first performance of The Hunger Games street show and an exhilarating fireworks show celebrating the official opening. The new destination features rides and attractions from the blockbuster movie franchise that was officially inaugurated on October 20th at Dubai Parks and Resorts, the region's largest integrated theme park destination.

The World of The Hunger Games is composed of two incredible attractions, one high-energy street show, an immersive shopping out-

let with exclusive branded merchandise and a great street-front café taking guests on an immersive journey in the dystopian world of Panem. Thrill-seekers can soar on the high-speed, gravity-defying Capitol Bullet Train which is an adrenaline-fuelled ride aboard a half-pipe rollercoaster that offers a taste of the futuristic technology of Panem. Guests are also graciously invited by President Snow to take the Panem Aerial Tour, an exhilarating hovercraft aerial tour over the districts on the way to the Capitol. Also, District 12's coal miners come together to entertain guests with the creative use of their work

tools in this interactive musical extravaganza. MOTIONGATE(tm) Dubai offers nine family-friendly restaurants, 15 themed retail outlets and the multi-purpose Hollywood Theatre, seating 1,000 guests, as well as multiple kiosks offering light bites and merchandise throughout the park, visitors have a full range of choices for dining, entertainment and relaxation beyond the rides and attractions. As part of its full-service offering, MOTIONGATE(tm) Dubai is enhanced with smart technology, smart queuing, shaded walkways and offers full access for visitors with mobility impairments.





The "95.SY" collection by Deng Zhaoping.

China

Fashion Week



Tissot Chrono XL NBA Collection: Sporty gets smart



The Tissot Chrono XL NBA Team collection, like the players, makes a bold fashion statement, thanks to the large 45mm cases of the watches. This obviously makes for a flawless readability. The collection dedicated to the six NBA teams is full of appealing design quirks, including clear indices and a black dial, which leave the logo and team colors free to be admired. A useful chronograph function adds to the sporty appeal. No detail is left neglected with the Tissot Chrono XL. Slick black PVD coating on the case, colored stitching on the leather strap and sandblasted finishing, which gives a matte finish, ensures the result is ultra-modern. No sports fan will be able to resist this stylish homage to their favorite team.

- Features**
- Swiss Made
 - Quartz Chronograph movement
 - 316L stainless steel case
 - Water resistance up to a pressure of 10 bar (100 m / 330ft)
 - Leather strap with stainless steel standard buckle
 - All black executions are PVD coating
 - NBA logo is engraved on the caseback



The "Day Broadcast" collection by Fu Suqin.

Lifestyle

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2017



People dressed up like zombies participate in the so-called "Zombie Walk" in Mexico City on November 4, 2017. Hundreds of people take the streets of the city to parade like zombies and collect food for the victims of the past earthquake. — AFP

The sweet smell of success for Syrian refugee in Jordan

Aromas of orange blossom, almond and coconut waft from the northern Jordan shop of Mazen Obeido, a 42-year-old Syrian who never imagined he would prosper again far from home. "In Damascus I had several shops and everything was fine, but a year after the outbreak of the war, I left everything behind," said the master pastry chef and father of three who said he no longer felt safe in his home country.

So he decided to start again from scratch and hired a property in Irbid north of Amman, half of which became his kitchen and the other half the shop. Around 200,000 refugees from Syria now live in the town 89 kilometers north of the capital. Jordan hosts about 650,000 people who have fled from neighboring Syria because of the conflict that erupted there in 2011, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The authorities in Amman say the number is double that—at 1.3 million. According to the UNHCR, more than 80 percent of Syrian refugees in Jordan live below the poverty line. "I worked night and day without stop," said Obeido, whose efforts have paid off and meant he could again expand.



His delicacies are created with special implements

Barazek and baklava

"I opened a second shop, then a third, a fourth and then a fifth," he said, proud to continue a trade that was passed down from father to son. Sesame cakes, baklava, semolina cakes sprinkled with pistachios or traditional ice-cream—he makes and sells in Jordan the same products that used to be displayed on large trays in his stores in Syria. There, "Jordanians came in their dozens to my shops. At weekends, they bought up 90 percent of my pastries which were much cheaper than in Jordan," he recalled.

Syria was once a gourmet's paradise, with its barazek—small biscuits sprinkled with pistachio and sesame seeds—its mabrouma baklava rolls and its cheese sweets. In his bakeries and shops where Obeido employs around 100 people, mostly Syrians, his delicacies are created with special implements from his homeland. "In order to make high-quality Damascus sweets, you need special tools from Syria," Obeido said. "Bringing them to Jordan by air cost a lot, but the results are incredible." He is delighted that many compatriots who have learned the trade thanks to his help have gone into busi-



ness outside Jordan by opening pastry shops in Turkey, France, Germany and as far away as Canada and the United States.

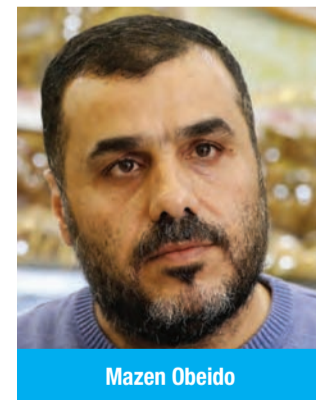
Learning to fish

Recalling the proverb that it is better to teach someone how to fish rather than give him a fish, Obeido said he wants to help his fellow Syrians, hundreds of thousands of whom have fled the war.

"I want to teach them the trade so they can live in dignity—I want them to learn how to fish for themselves," he said. With the help of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Obeido has begun free

training sessions for the most vulnerable refugees, such as widows and girls with no means of support.

"I love my work—the smells here are a constant reminder of my country," said 22-year-old Haifa al-Ali from Aleppo, Syria's one-time commercial capital. A nurse she underwent three months' training before joining one of Obeido's pastry kitchens. Even though pastries prepared in Jordan are a reminder of home, "they taste different at home in Syria, with family and friends," said teacher and mother of three Arwa Nabulsi, summing up the frustration felt by her compatriots forced into exile. — AFP



Mazen Obeido



Syrians work at a factory making traditional Syrian delicacies that is owned by Syrian refugee Mazen Obeido. — AFP photos