

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

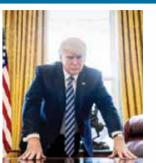
RAJAB 28, 1438 AH

Tangible strides, clear reforms to build economy in Vision 2035



TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017

Nearing 100-day mark, Trump says milestone not 'meaningful'



Syrian refugees are New York tourists for the day



No hurry as inspirational centenarian wins gold





BARRAK URGES RECONCILIATION, REFORMS TO 'RESCUE' KUWAIT

FREED OPPOSITION LEADER EXTENDS OLIVE BRANCH TO GOVT



High Tide 11:07 & 23:29

Low Tide

05:05 & 17:27

RUSSIA INCREASES MILITARY SPENDING DESPITE SANCTIONS

STOCKHOLM: Russia became the world's third largest military spender in 2016 despite low oil prices and economic sanctions, as the global expenditure rose for a second consecutive year, a study said yesterday. Russia's military spending was \$69.2 billion in 2016, a 5.9 percent rise over 2015, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in a report, adding this was the highest proportion of its GDP since it became an independent state. "This increased spending and heavy burden on the economy comes at a time when the Russian economy is in serious trouble due to low oil and gas prices and the economic sanctions imposed since 2014," (by the West over the Ukraine conflict), SIPRI said.

Saudi Arabia was the third largest spender in 2015 but dropped to fourth place in 2016 as its expenditure fell by 30 percent to \$63.7 billion, "despite its continued involvement in regional wars", it added. "Falling oil revenue and associated economic problems attached to the oil-price shock has forced many oil-exporting countries to reduce military spending," SIPRI researcher Nan Tian said — AFP (See Page 10)



KUWAIT: Freed opposition leader Musallam Al-Barrak addresses supporters at a rally yesterday. — Photo by

KUWAIT: Prominent opposition leader Musallam Al-Barrak called yesterday for national reconciliation to rescue the state just days after his release from jail. Barrak, 61, was freed from prison on Friday after serving a twoyear sentence for insulting HH the Amir in public, a charge he had denied. The former lawmaker told thousands of supporters at a rally yesterday that the state had reached "the lowest point in its modern history".

"Kuwait is headed to catastrophe in all fields... It is so close to becoming a failed state," Barrak said. He called on the government to initiate talks to achieve compromise in the state which has suffered bitter political disputes in the past decade. "If the government makes a serious step towards political reforms, we are ready to make many steps," Barrak said.

He said that no one in the opposition was trying to overthrow the regime. "No one disputes the constitutional legality of the Al-Sabah family," he said. But Barrak said that for reconciliation to succeed, the government must reinstate revoked citizenships of opposition figures and scrap all freedom-curbing legislation issued in the past few years. He also demanded amnesty for all activists, that the judiciary should be allowed to handle citizenship cases and called for cleaning security agencies of "corrupt" elements.

As a result of lingering political disputes between the government and opposition groups, the National Assembly has been dissolved seven times since 2006, the last of which was in October. — AFP

QATAR AIRWAYS SLAMS 'BULLYING'

AIRLINE SEES 'MANAGEABLE' DECLINE IN FLIGHTS TO US

DUBAI: The chief of Qatar Airways yesterday accused American carriers complaining over alleged subsidies to Gulf airlines of "bullying", as he announced new US routes in defiance of mounting airport restrictions. US carriers Delta, United and American Airlines have accused Qatar Airways along with Dubai's Emirates and Abu Dhabi's Etihad of benefiting from government subsidies to expand their transcontinental networks. They have urged US President Donald Trump to take action against the Gulf airlines, who deny any form of subsidy.

Speaking to reporters at the annual Arabian Travel Market in Dubai, Qatar Airways chief Akbar Al-Baker said he didn't expect any action from Washington. "President Trump is a wise individual and a very good businessman, and I don't think he will buy into bullying by the three American carriers," Baker said. Qatar Airways was among the airlines affected by the ban imposed last month on electronic devices larger than a smartphone on flights to the United States from 10 airports in the Middle East and Turkey. **Continued on Page 13**



Arabian Travel Market exhibition yesterday. — AP

US BLACKLISTS 271 SYRIAN CHEMISTS OVER SARIN ATTACK

WASHINGTON: The US government put 271 Syrian chemists and other officials on its financial blacklist yesterday, punishing them for their role in the deadly chemical weapons attack on a rebel-held town in early April. In one of its largest-ever sanctions announcements, the US Treasury Department took aim at the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center (SSRC), which it said was responsible for developing the

alleged sarin gas weapon used in the April 4 attack. The attack left 87 dead, including many children, in the town of Khan Sheikhoun, provoking outrage in the West, which accused Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad of being responsible. The sanctions include a freeze on all assets in the United States belonging to 271 individuals on the blacklist, and block any American person or business from dealing with them. According to the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a Washington-based think-tank, the SSRC is Syria's leading scientific research center, with close links to the country's military.

The center itself was already the subject of two sanctions declarations, in 2005 and 2007, due to its alleged role in developing weapons of mass destruction. The Treasury said in a statement yesterday that the SSRC is specifically behind the Syrian government's efforts to develop chemical weapons and the means to deliver them. The 271 either have specific scientific expertise for the program or have been involved in it since 2012, it said.

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OBAMA SAYS READY TO TRAIN NEW LEADERS IN FIRST SPEECH

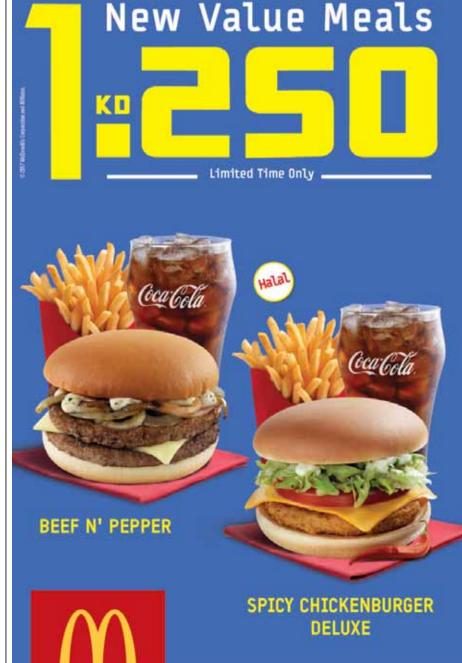
CHICAGO: Former US president Barack power over to Donald Trump - said he yesterday, saying he hopes to spend the next phase of his life helping to "prepare the next generation of leadership". After three months off, Obama broke his silence in his adopted hometown of Chicago, speaking to high school and college students about the need for greater civic engagement. The 55-yearold Democrat, who ended his two terms at the White House in January - handing

McDonald's

Obama returned to the public spotlight was "incredibly optimistic" about the future, and that problems facing America could be solved.

"On the back end now of my presidency, now that it's completed, I'm spending a lot of time thinking about what is the most important thing I can do for my next job?" Obama said in his opening remarks at the University of Chicago, where he once was a lecturer

Continued on Page 13



McDonaldsKuwait

App Store Coogle Day

'FLYING MACHINE' MAKER PLANS DELIVERIES

WASHINGTON: A Silicon Valley "flying car" startup, Kitty Hawk, reportedly backed by Google co-founder Larry Page, released a video yesterday of its airborne prototype and announced plans for deliveries of a "personal flying machine" this year. "Our mission is to make the dream of personal flight a reality. We believe when everyone has access to personal flight, a new, limitless world of opportunity will open up to them," said a statement on the website of the Kitty Hawk company, based in Google's home town of Mountain View, California. "Today we're announcing our first prototype of The Flyer, a personal flying machine that will become available for sale by the end of 2017."

The video showed the single-seat aircraft - with two pontoons and a spider web-like platform - taking off from a lake at an undisclosed location and hovering above the water, where it is meant to be used. The craft, propelled by eight rotors, takes off and lands vertically, like a helicopter. It is said to weigh about 100 kg, fly at speeds up to 40 kph and can hover at 4.5 m high. The company describes the Flyer as "a new, all-electric aircraft", which is "safe, tested and legal to operate in the

Continued on Page 13



Cimeron Morrissey, an outdoor sports enthusiast and freelance writer, flies on the Kitty Hawk Flyer prototype. — AFP

PALESTINIAN LEADER LEAVES KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Palestinian President lowing a two-day official visit to the with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mahmoud Abbas has left Kuwait fol- country, where he held official talks



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas walk hand-in-hand prior to the Palestinian leader's departure yesterday. — Amiri Diwan photos

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The Palestinian leader was seen off at the airport by His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, in addition to senior commanders of the army, police, National Guard and Kuwait Fire Service Directorate. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah bids farewell **Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.**



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meet with Tawadros II, the Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St Mark. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



Tawadros II, the Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St Mark meets with Rev Emmanuel Gharib, Chairman of the National **Evangelical Church of Kuwait.**



Tawadros II, the Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St Mark attends a mass in the Saint Mark Coptic Orthodox Church in

mir meets Tawadros II

Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace Tawadros II, the Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St Mark and his accompanying delegation. His Highness the Amir asserted on the importance of dialogue and understanding in all religions and to bolster a culture of forgiveness and tol-

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah erance among all people. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah

attended the meeting. Pope Tawadros II expressed happiness over his meeting with His Highness the Amir as well as his visit to Kuwait, which is known for its tolerance and kindness of its people. Pope Tawadros II, in a mass in the Saint Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, commended Kuwait-Egypt deep-rooted relations at the official and public levels.

"I have been longing to visit Kuwait which I knew through Al-Arabi Magazine; the gift offered by Kuwait for all intellectuals in the Arab world, which speaks to the mind and speaks about human knowledge," he said. Pope Tawadros II, whose mass was about 'love,' said his love for Kuwait grew stronger following the meeting with His Highness the Amir and some citizens. He urged attendees to spread love in words and deeds.—KUNA

ARAB MEDIA FORUM OFFICIALLY KICKS OFF 14TH EDITION

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of and in the presence of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the 14th Arab Media Forum commenced in Kuwait Sunday evening. Addressing the audience during the opening session, Kuwait's Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah welcomed Arab and international guests participating in the two-day event. He highlighted the great impact of the information and telecommunication revolution on Arab media.

"As it evolved tools and approaches, the telecommunication revolution has also changed ways of thinking and behaviors. It was a surprise for all," he said. During the opening session, Secretary General of the Arab Media Forum Madhi Al-Khamis honored His

Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak in recognition of his patronage to the forum as well as his support to Arab media.

On the sidelines of the main session, His Highness Sheikh Jaber met several Arab media figures participating in the forum. The 14th edition of the forum, held under rubric of 'Media.. Life' witnesses a number of seminars, workshops, and discussion panels related to media, featuring many of the event's most prominent attendees. The forum also features a special exhibition dedicated to media and technology communications, which is expected to witness the attendance of nearly 1,000 distinguished media personalities from Arab and foreign media institutions that were specially invited to this event. The Arab Media Forum was founded in Kuwait in 2003 with the aim of developing Arab media. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Secretary General of the Arab Media Forum Madhi Al-Khamis (left) honors His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during opening session of the 14th Arab Media Forum. — KUNA

ZAIN PARTICIPATES IN ARAB MEDIA FORUM INAUGURATION

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its participation in the inauguration ceremony of the 14th edition of the Arab Media Forum. The company is the Diamond sponsor of the event, which came under the patronage and attendance of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah visited Zain's booth at the event, where he expressed

his admiration of Zain's strategic partnership of the Arab Media Forum during the past six consecutive years. The company is keen on enriching media involvement, being a leading private sector company in the country.

The opening day witnessed the attendance of many Arab ministers, journalists, and media personalities, including the Bahraini Minister of Information Ali Al-Rumaihi, the Omani Minister of Information Dr Abdulmonem Al-Hosni, the former Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Benaissa, and more.

The first day program witnessed a number of seminars, workshops, and discussion panels related to media, featuring many of the event's most prominent attendees, including Saudi Professor of Psychology Dr Treq Al-Habib, Saudi media personality Lujain Omran, Emirati singer Ahlam, Lebanese media personality Raaghda Shalhoob, Jordanian media personality Ola Faris, and more.

Zain participated in the forum through its dedicated booth, where the company hosted and interviewed a number of prominent guests and live-streamed the interviews on this very important sector which carries sigits official YouTube channel. The company was keen on utilizing the latest telecommunications tools to document the event, further highlighting the big role social media plays nowadays in communities all around the world.

Zain's strategic partnership of this forum highlights its social commitment, as the company believes in the importance of the role press and media plays in the development of communities. Zain will continue supporting

nificant and informative messaging to the public at large and the communications world as a whole.

The Arab Media Forum has proven itself to be one of the region's most prominent events that attend to Arab media. Since 2003, the event brought together many ministers, editors-in-chief of local and regional newspapers, media executives, journalists, academics, authors, actors, businessmen, and social figures from all around the Arab world.



KUWAIT: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Bahraini Minister of Information Ali Al-Rumaihi, Omani Minister of Information Dr Abdulmonem Al-Hosni, and former Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Benaissa pose at Zain's booth.



A picture taken from the live-streamed interview of Bahraini Minister of Information Ali Al-Rumaihi.

'AFYA' INSURANCE TO COVER PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

LABOR BODIES' MERGER IN PROGRESS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The parliament's committee for people with special needs affairs approved proposals made to amend law number 8/2010 pertaining with the rights of people with special needs, and agreed to include the disabled in the 'Afya' health insurance project, including stateless disabled people, to provide them with proper health and social care rights. The health ministry-sponsored 'Afya' program is an insurance policy that covers beneficiaries' treatment costs at private medical facilities in Kuwait. It is provided by the government to retired citizens.

Committee Chairman Marzouq Al-Khalifa said approving those proposals would bring justice to stateless disabled people because the law used to include only the children of Kuwaiti women. "Including the disabled in the Afya project also entitles the disabled to treatment at private hospitals," he underlined, adding that a third amendment was suggested on having two family members instead of only one to take care of a family member with severe disability, in addition to reducing the minimum years of service these caretakers have to work before retirement to 15 (instead of 20) for men and 10 (instead of 15) for women. Khalifa said that the disability card's validity would be set between 3 and 10 years according to the severity of the disability.

Merger

The Manpower and Government Restructuring Program's (MGRP) Secretary General Fauzi Al-Majdali stressed that meetings with the Public Authority for Manpower were in progress to finish merging the two bodies. MGRP handles citizens' recruitment in the private sector, while the manpower authority takes care of everything related to foreign laborer's hiring in private companies. He added that the merger's structural plan would be submitted for discussion with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in the coming weeks pending final approval before the end of June. Majdali said that both bodies would be merged under the name of Public Authority for Manpower, which will include a sector for national labor, a sector for manpower and a backup sector for financial and administrative affairs. Majdali added that the Cabinet would issue a decision on merging both bodies by the beginning of June, marking the beginning of the merging process starting with IT and databases. He also stressed that both bodies' budgets would be merged too.

Landfill sites

Kuwait Municipality recently signed a contract with Mazen Al-Sane Engineering Consultancy House to provide consultancy services for three landfill sites in Qurain, Jleeb

and to the north of the Seventh Ring Road, with a total value of KD 431,001. The contract was signed by Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi, engineer Mazen Al-Sane and engineer Joseph Dow from EGIS International in the presence of the municipality's deputy director for projects Nadiya Al-Shereda and the environment affairs manager Adnan Al-Sayyed. Manfouhi explained that the contract's tenure would be 24 months divided into seven stages, and that according to the recommendations made by the study, the three sites would be rehabilitated to be made use of later.

Airport bridge

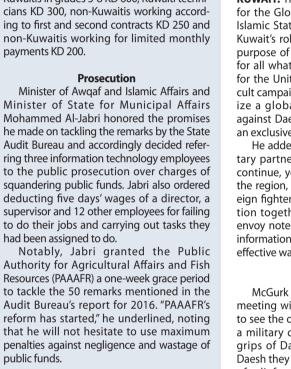
The Ministry of Public Works' assistant undersecretary for road engineering Ahmed Al-Hassan said the airport bridge, which is 1.25-km-long, would be opened next week as part of the fourth phase of the Jahra Road development project. He also noted that the bridge would facilitate traffic flow heading towards Shuwaikh port.

Bonuses

The Ministry of Utilities recently set KD 4.5 million for the outstanding performance bonuses for over 5,000 employees working in the communications sector to be deposited in employees' accounts by the end of May at most. The bonus will be divided into categories according to positions, giving the undersecretary KD 2,500, assistant undersecretaries KD 2,000, directors KD 1,500, supervisors KD 1,250, heads of sections KD 1,000, Kuwaiti employees up to grade four KD 800, Kuwaitis in grades 5-8 KD 600, Kuwaiti technicians KD 300, non-Kuwaitis working according to first and second contracts KD 250 and non-Kuwaitis working for limited monthly payments KD 200.

Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al-Jabri honored the promises he made on tackling the remarks by the State Audit Bureau and accordingly decided referring three information technology employees to the public prosecution over charges of squandering public funds. Jabri also ordered deducting five days' wages of a director, a supervisor and 12 other employees for failing to do their jobs and carrying out tasks they had been assigned to do.

Notably, Jabri granted the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) a one-week grace period to tackle the 50 remarks mentioned in the Audit Bureau's report for 2016. "PAAAFR's reform has started," he underlined, noting that he will not hesitate to use maximum penalties against negligence and wastage of



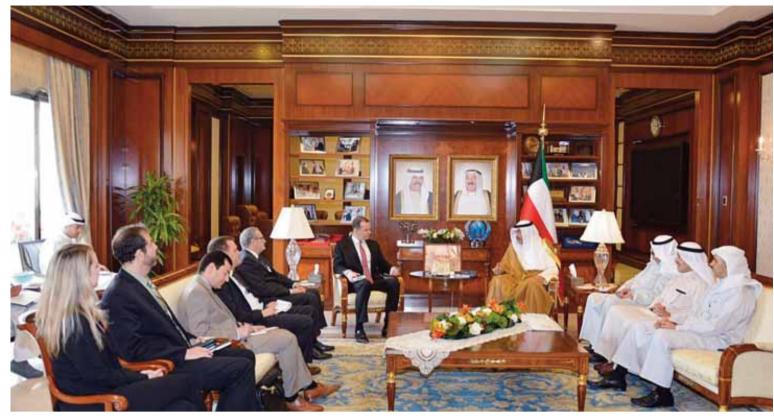


NO INJURIES IN LUMBER WAREHOUSE FIRE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Public Relations and Information Department at Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said firemen put out a fire at a lumber warehouse in industrial Shuwaikh. Firefighters from the industrial Shuwaikh, Shuhada, Ardhiya, South Salmiya and backup fire stations responded to the scene. They managed to control summer, mostly due to lack of or insuffi-

the flames and put out the blaze before it could spread to nearby warehouses. No injuries were reported in the incident. Meanwhile, an investigation was opened to determine the cause of the fire. Frequent fires happen in lumber warehouses and similar locations around Kuwait during the cient measures taken to prevent fires under hot and dry conditions.



KUWAIT: Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with US Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter the so-called (IS), Brett McGurk. —KUNA

KUWAIT PLAYS PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST IS: MCGURK

'We cannot do anything against Daesh without Kuwait'

KUWAIT: The visiting US Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter the So-called Islamic State (IS) Brett McGurk said yesterday that Kuwait's role is pivotal in the fight against IS. "The purpose of my visit is just to say thanks to Kuwait for all what Kuwait has done and continues to do for the United States, particularly in this very difficult campaign against Daesh (IS), so I helped organize a global coalition, we cannot do anything against Daesh (IS) without Kuwait," McGurk said in an exclusive interview.

He added "obviously we have been in close military partners with Kuwait, and I hope this would continue, your critical voice of moderation here in the region, you are a co-chair of what we call a foreign fighter working group within the global coalition together with Turkey and Netherlands." The envoy noted that they were "constantly comparing information about how to go after this enemy in an effective way."

Other side of the battle

McGurk noted that he started his visit in Kuwait meeting with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), to see the other side of the battle, because this was a military campaign "to liberate people from the grips of Daesh (IS), and to make sure that after Daesh they can get on with their lives" with the help of relief organizations. The Special presidential envoy also noted that since late 2014 when they formed the coalition, they have "liberated 50,000 square kilometers of territory from Daesh, but more important than the territory are the people, we've liberated 2.5 million people who had been living under these terrorists.

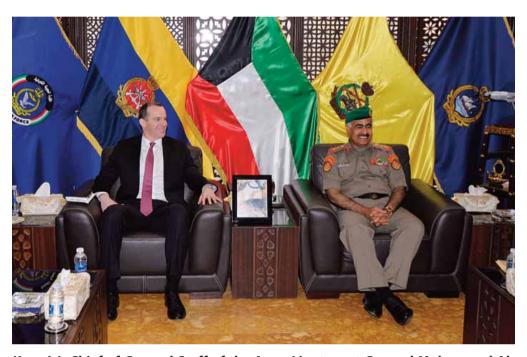
"In Iraq we also helped 1.6 million displaced people return back to their homes" due to the "multifaceted campaign we put together, and because of the extraordinary work that Kuwait has done, particularly in the humanitarian side and stabilization side, so I was very pleased to start my visit with KRCS," McGurk said. McGurk, on a two-day official visit, said he was eager to meet with Kuwaiti officials to know how to step up the anti-IS campaign "even better. "We are grateful for all you've (Kuwaitis) done and for our important partnership," McGurk added.

Mosul liberation operation

When asked about how long the Mosul liberation operation will take, McGurk noted that it was very difficult to put timeline because Mosul is a populated city and the operations aimed at liberating the Iraqi people from IS. He said Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar Al-Abadi, whom he met in Baghdad last Friday, "told me that they were very confident, that they're soon will clear the remaining neighborhoods of Western Mosul from IS.

"Again, we have to keep in mind the tactics IS is using in terms of ... literally using civilians in Mosul as human shields, so they put a sniper on top of a house, when they know they have families and civilians inside, so that is why this is very hard."

The US envoy said the coalition was 'quite proud' of the training of the Iraqi security forces and the level of professionalism, they have shown during the operations. McGurk said eastern Mosul has now been fully liberated from IS, and the UN estimated that 250,000 boys and girls are back in schools. These young boys and girls were living under IS rule only six months ago.



Kuwait's Chief of General Staff of the Army Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khadher meets with visiting US Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter IS, Brett McGurk.

Syria's chemical weapons

On Syria's chemical weapons, McGurk said the US has no doubt that a Sarin gas attack was conducted by the Syrian regime against Khan Sheikhoun. This attack, he added, forced US President Donald Trump to act swiftly and attack the airfield from which the attack on Khan Sheikhoun has launched. Despite the US attack, McGurk added, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had a very important visit to Russia, meeting with Russian leaders, while "we are engaged with everyone here in the region to try to reinforce a political end to this (Syrian) conflict, and that can only happen if we have ceasefires that are enforced. "One thing that Secretary Tillerson reminded the Russians in Moscow is that they are the self-proclaimed guarantor of a ceasefire, that's what was negotiated in (Kazakhstan's capital) Astana, and they're the guarantor for the Syrian regime to live up to a ceasefire, and today those ceasefires are not holding," said McGurk. The Russians, he said, have a real choice here about how they want to go forward and whether they want to help "us resolve this conflict and get to the political solution everybody realizes that we need."

He said the US first priority was to defeat IS which is a "threat to the US, and a threat to the region." First, he added, "we have to remove Daesh from Syria and we are accelerating operations to do that, also we want to work to deescalate the overall conflict to help ensure that ceasefire can hold, and we also work through the Geneva process to enforce the political process" which could happen through UN Security Council resolution 2254. Meanwhile, on Iran, McGurk said the Islamic Republic "is a player in these conflicts in the region and they have a choice to make here, to be a part of the political solution."

McGurk added that his next visit would be to Saudi Arabia and later in the week to Oslo. He said Norway was playing a critical role against IS as it

was funding the demining and clearing operations from areas liberated from IS. Former US President Barack Obama appointed McGurk in October 2015, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Iraq and Syria in 2014.

US Envoy meets FM

In other news, Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received McGurk in his office yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed the progress in the ongoing war against the IS which threatens international peace and security. in addition to finding ways to shore up all international efforts to face this terrorist organization. McGurk hailed Kuwait's role in this war on terror. and its enormous contributions to the Global Coalition against the IS.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister's Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Development Affairs and International Cooperation Nasser Sabeeh Al-Sabeeh and a number of the Foreign Ministry's senior officials.

Later, Kuwait's Chief of General Staff of the Army Lieutenant General Mohammad Al-Khadher met with McGurk. During the meeting, they discussed several issues of mutual concern, mainly military aspects, and fighting the IS, the Defense Ministry's Moral Guidance and Public Relations said in a statement.

The meeting was attended by US ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman, Kuwait's Deputy Army Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans Maj Gen Ahmad Abdulwahab Al-Omairi and Kuwait's Intelligence Chief Brigadier General Fahad Al-Turaiji. Meanwhile, Lt Gen Khadhar also met with a visiting Bangladeshi medical delegation, where they discussed bilateral cooperation, mostly in the military and medical fields. —KUNA

KUWAITI CABINET WELCOMES RELEASE OF SAUDI, QATARI ABDUCTEES IN IRAQ

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday welcomed the recent release and home-return of Qatari and Saudi nationals who were held captives by armed groups in Iraq for over a year. This came during the cabinet's customary weekly meeting held under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The cabinet also offered heartfelt and sincere condolences to the Saudi government and people over the victims of a Saudi military plane crash during a mission in Yemen, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Information Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a press statement following the meeting.

It sharply condemned a recent terrorist attack on a church in Egypt's Sinai, which left a policeman killed and two others wounded, in addition

to another terrorist attack in Paris. In this context, it reiterated Kuwait's denunciation of such acts that run counter to all religions and human values and norms.

Meanwhile, the cabinet congratulated the Turkish government on the success of the recent referendum for the country's constitutional changes, wishing the Turkish people everlasting progress and prosperity.

At the onset of the meeting, the cabinet was apprised of the outcomes of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas visit to Kuwait, which focused on bilateral relations and the latest regional and international developments. First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the ministers on the outcomes of recent visits by the German and Hungarian foreign minister to Kuwait.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also elabo-

rated on his talks with visiting US Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter the socalled Islamic State (IS), Brett McGurk. Afterwards, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh expounded on his participation in recent annual meetings of Arab financial institutions in Rabat.

The cabinet welcomed the visit of Tawadros II, the Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark, to Kuwait within the framework of his efforts to promote peace and amity in the Arab region and entire world.

Furthermore, the ministers approved a draft decree to set up military procurement committees in line with Article 2 of Law 49/2016 regarding tenders, along with another a draft degree pertinent to a memo of understanding (MoU) on industrial cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq. -KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's meeting yesterday. —KUNA

Special report



KUWAIT: Kuwait City skyscrapers seen from Al-Shaheed Park. —KUNA photos



This file photo shows His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah delivering a speech during the inauguration of the first session of the National Assembly's 15th legislative term, in which he addressed the need to take effective measures to mitigate the budget deficit's effects.



Ongoing construction works at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's clean fuel and integrated refining complex projects.

KUWAIT '35 VISION: TANGIBLE STRIDES, CLEAR REFORMS TO BUILD CONTEMPORARY ECONOMY

Empowering the private sector to contribute to national economy

KUWAIT: Supporting and developing the national productive economic sectors are now one of government priorities to achieve an economy based on diversity, sustainability and modernity in 2035. This is part of a structural and economic reform plan, which has been drawn up in accordance with the 'Kuwait 2035' vision.

Kuwait's budget for 2035 will be different than the current ones as the oil revenues in that budget will be limited compared with the revenues collected from productive economic sectors like industry, technology, tourism, services, banking and investment, in addition to the activation of knowledge-based economy, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

After 18 years, the private sector will contribute to the national economy in accordance with several forms, including the partnership with the public sector, or through managing the State's utilities. For this purpose, several specialized bodies and authorities have been established, they include the Kuwait Authority

His Highness the Amir recognized the need to reduce general spending in order to:

- Address imbalances in the state's budget.
- Stop waste in national resources.
- Direct national resources towards the right purpose.
- Alleviate burdens on the lowincome class.

for Partnership Projects (KAPP), the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDI-PA), the Capital Markets Authority (CMA), and the National Fund For Small And Medium-Sized Enterprise Development.

Through these authorities, a sustainable and diversified economy will be achieved which is known as the economy whose pillars are based on empowering the private sector, increasing SMEs and attracting foreign investments so as to provide government with effective and stable financial sectors.

The pillar of sustainable and diversified economy affects citizens directly, therefore the State of Kuwait has paid much attention to it after His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah had called for paying further attention for economic development.

Sharp decrease

During the inauguration of the first session of the National Assembly's 15th legislative term, His Highness the Amir stressed that the country is facing sharp decrease in the State's revenues, which hinder its march, due to the collapse of oil prices all over the world.

His Highness the Amir said this caused a large deficit in the state budget, calling for taking effective measures to address and mitigate the deficit's effects. His Highness the Amir reiterated that it is an inevitable option to reduce general spending through carefully-studied measures to address imbalances in the state's budget, stop waste in national resources, direct them towards the right purpose, and at the same time to alleviate burdens on the lowincome class and take into account social justice. It is part of a comprehensive program of an economic reform, which give a vital role to the private sector, His Highness the Amir noted.

Kuwait seeks to achieve a sustainable and diversified economy based on:

- Empowering the private sector.
- Increasing small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- Attracting foreign investments.

Therefore, achieving the country's sustainable and diversified economy is an imperative matter amid such challenges to guarantee the provision of diversifying sources of national income and not depending on the oil as a main source of income, as it is unstable due to many external effective factors.

Diversification

The diversification of national economy is a shared goal to the parliament, government and the private sector. However, this faces some challenges, mainly the decrease of either foreign or national investments

Kuwait's financial and economic reform program seeks to achieve:

- Rationalizing spending and increasing investment efficiency by selecting projects with high development impacts.
- Increasing public revenues through developing tax system.
- Reviewing, rationalizing and restructuring the current subsidies.

that affected the country's status. Therefore, there is a pressing need to get a clear investment map to investors in the country that provides competitive chances and legislations necessarily required to offer an appropriate environment.

To overcome these challenges, which hinder the achievement of goals of a sustainable and diversified economy, five programs have been set and each one includes several projects in accordance with specific criteria. They are: creating business environment for the private sector, diversifying production base, developing national tourism, knowledge economy and the country's financial and economic reform.

Creating a business environment aims to overcome obstacles facing the private sector, and work on speeding up its contributions to GDP and creating new jobs for citizens. Diversifying production and increasing investment rates seek to raise contribution to non-oil sectors in GDP and reduce dependence on oil to diversify sources of income. Two bodies take part in this program, including Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), which provides some key projects like the clean fuel project and integrated refining complex.

Due to the importance of tourist sector as a main source of diversifying national income, there is a special program for this sector that pays much attention to develop national tourism, which targets encouragement of investment in different activities across the country and the optimal use of tourist services and utilities. The Ministry of Information contributes to this program through carrying out the marketing campaign.

The knowledge economy program aims to encourage relevant industries, marketing them, build capacities and promote skills

required to carry out scientific research programs, including the establishment of a global oil research center. Kuwait University and the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research are carrying out these goals through some projects.

The fifth program seeks to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector through rationalizing spending and increasing investment efficiency by selecting projects with high development impacts, and increasing public revenues through developing tax system, reviewing and rationalizing the current subsidies, and restructuring them.

Through achieving the goals, programs and projects of the sustainable and diversified economy, citizens will find development effects through providing new jobs, increasing GDP, improving services and supporting financial stability. —KUNA

Five programs have been set to help overcome the challenges that hinder the achievement of goals of a sustainable and diversified economy:

- Creating business environment for the private sector.
- Diversifying the production base.
- Developing national tourism.
- Launching a knowledge economy program.
- The country's financial and economic reform plan.



The Central Bank of Kuwait's new head office building.



Ongoing construction works at Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's clean fuel and integrated refining complex projects.



The recently privatized Kuwait stock exchange (Boursa Kuwait).



The Avenues Mall, already one of the largest shopping malls in the region, is an example of how the private sector could contribute to the national economy.

Legalese

THESE ARE NOT **EXCEPTIONS BUT THE NORM**

By Mona Kareem

Migrant-Rights.org

e all saw the video of the Ethiopian worker who was holding to the verge of a window before falling off the seventh floor of a building in Kuwait. People in Kuwait and elsewhere were shocked and angered by the fact that her employer was filming her, instead of trying to save her life. The woman screamed for help "hold me, hold me" and her voice was heard across the globe, reminding us of a bitter reality that domestic workers in Kuwait experience every day.

In videos that circulated on social media in the aftermath, many sympathized with the domestic helper but many more also claimed that she was trying to commit suicide or offered other justifications for the employer's failure to prevent the woman's fall. The helper recorded her own video, soon to be shared across social media, denying the suicide rumors and saying that she had tried to escape because the employer had kept her prisoner inside the home, even after she'd asked to be returned to the recruitment agency.

According to international human rights agreements and declarations, this is 'forced labor.' Reports varied on the details of the worker's circumstances, some reports said she hadn't been paid for months, others said she had only been in the house for 60

Whatever the truth, this case is similar to thousands of others in the Gulf. Reports of mistreatment, forced labor, imprisonment, sexual, physical and verbal abuse, non-payment of salaries and other forms of exploitation against domestic laborers are as common as sunlight and sand in the Gulf Cooperation

A few months ago, a Kuwaiti doctor was sentenced to four years in jail for torturing her domestic worker. Her victim escaped and for weeks she stayed at a local shelter, where many others have arrived with horrific stories of exploitation, harassment, and torture. It turns out that the doctor in that case had allegedly committed prior violations of the same nature against domestic workers, but no case was filed. Last November, we read with horror about the case of a Bahraini woman who received two months in jail for torturing a Sri Lankan woman with an iron. Another Kuwaiti woman got only six months in jail for assaulting her worker. In the UAE, an Emirati woman allegedly tortured her domestic worker on various occasions using scissors, boiling water, and

This is routine violence. It's not an exception. It's not unusual. It's not a rare case. It's every day. Every hour, minute by minute, physical, emotional, verbal and economic violence against the weakest segments of our societies.

This happens because the law fails to protect domestic workers. This is specifically tied to the fact that domestic workers are confined to the household, and when they leave, they're frequently reported as "absconding" and become illegal workers.

When the Kuwaiti parliament was discussing the domestic workers' law two years ago, legislators ignored calls to revise these conditions that continue to make workers vulnerable to violations. They often excuse the lack of change by pointing to 'local culture or society'. The sponsorship system places a worker under the full power of his/her employer. Discourses on 'family values' or 'protecting society' are often deployed to justify the very limited freedoms and rights of domestic workers.

The social and legal structures deny the right of a domestic worker to her body; whether to refuse serving a certain employer, or to take a walk or make a trip outside the household, or to avoid being harmed and assaulted by employers.

Working as a domestic worker in the Gulf is becoming more of a risky adventure, as it lacks the least assurances for safety and wellness. In the Philippines, media documented the story of a Filipina domestic worker who now resides in a mental health clinic, as she tries to recover from years of exploitation and sexual harassment in Kuwait. We also heard about the Sri Lankan worker who had worked for a Kuwaiti family for 11 years without wages, only to be paid her wages in sum, and get deported without much compensation for her freedom and wellbeing.

A domestic worker might be harassed, raped, pushed towards suicide, or even forced to commit a crime. In such conditions, one cannot maintain sanity and good spirits. These are not exceptional scenarios, these are not individual cases. This is the norm. Nothing stops the employer from harming his worker, other than his/her own conscience.

> Kareem, a stateless Arab from Kuwait, is a member of Migrant-Rights.org, a blogger and writer who lives in New York.

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DOMESTIC WORKERS' RIGHTS DISCUSSED AT AUK SYMPOSIUM

'13,000 cases of unpaid salaries resolved in three months'

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Center of Gulf Studies at the American University of Kuwait (AUK), in collaboration with the One Roof campaign, held a symposium called 'Domestic Workers in Kuwait between Local Laws and Social Attitudes' at AUK on Sunday.

Mohammad Al-Ajmi from the Domestic Workers' Department provided a legal view about the new domestic law. "This law was issued on July 23, 2015, and was applied from July 31, 2016. This law improves the rights of domestic laborers, as it allows them to file cases at the labor court, so they do not pay fees as they used to do at the regular courts. This law also gave our department the power to cancel the contract with the sponsor due to improper accommodation," he noted.

He provided some statistics. "Our department received 1,431 complaints that we resolved, while 41 were sent to the court. Also, in the past three months, we solved 13,000 cases of unpaid salaries. We canceled some contracts and allowed the domestic workers to go back home. There are 669,000 domestic workers in Kuwait, while the cases filed in the court by domestic workers are around 1,300, which is around five percent, which is not very high," added Ajmi. The new law brought more benefits for workers.



KUWAIT: A picture showing the keynote speakers at a symposium called 'Domestic Workers in Kuwait between Local Laws and Social Attitudes,' held at the American University of Kuwait on Sunday. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

"This law specified the working hours of workers - not to exceed 12 hours with rest periods in between, and not work more than five hours continuously," he said. The Domestic Workers' Department (DWD) is part of the Residency Affairs Department of the Ministry of Interior that was founded in 1992. "We inspect domestic worker agencies even during holidays, and we shut

down 68 of these agencies for breaking the new law," said Ajmi.

Oppression

Bibi Al-Sabah from the Social Work Society said when she started working at the society in 2005, the new law was not issued yet and domestic workers were oppressed. "We had to beg the sponsor to

pay pending salaries to the maid. But the new law improved this situation through the DWD that forces the sponsor to give the domestic workers their rights, and this simplified our work," she explained.

Falah Al-Mutairi from the foreign workers' shelter said the shelter was founded in 2014 and is the biggest of its kind capacitywise in the Middle East, but many people in Kuwait doesn't know about it. "Currently the shelter is for women only, but we are planning to expand it for men as well. We help domestic workers in need and even victims of human trafficking. We offer psychological services, accommodation, food and personal requirements, in addition to a fully-equipped clinic. It can accommodate 500 workers," he pointed out.

Taher Al-Baghli from the Human Line Organization highlighted some shortages in the new law. "The new domestic law 68/2015 brought many advantages such as forbidding cutting a worker's salary or setting penalties for forcing the workers to work overtime. But there is no mention of blackmailing, for instance. The law also didn't specify the penalties for the sponsor if the worker doesn't get healthcare or indemnity. The penalties for some violations are a six-month ban on getting a domestic worker, but the worker won't benefit from this penalty," he pointed out.

KIB SPONSORS LIGHT EXPO, SUPPORTING FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

KUWAIT: In line with its social responsibility mission to support youth initiatives and local small businesses, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its sponsorship of the 4th 'Light Expo,' the exhibition dedicated to showcasing local Ramadan products. This year's exhibition will take place at Al-Raya Conference Hall from the 24th through 27th of April, featuring the participation of a number of young, local female talents.

Light Expo is an annual event held prior to the holy month of Ramadan, which every year hosts a large collection of handcrafted Ramadan products, designed by local female entrepreneurs and small business owners.

On this occasion, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, commented: "This sponsorship comes as part our leading social responsibility program which aims to support a diverse number of social activities and initiatives, targeting all different segments of our local community. We are particularly proud to be part of an initiative that supports local female creative

talents and entrepreneurs, as we have always dedicated a big portion of our social initiatives to supporting youth and empowering women." Najia also noted that a team from KIB will be present at a booth throughout the exhibition. KIB staff will be on hand to answer all questions related to the Bank's products and services, as well as its new campaigns and offers, which are designed to meet the various needs of all segments of the population.

It serves to note that KIB has continued to support and sponsor the Light Expo and its participants year on year, stemming from its belief in the need to provide moral and financial support to young entrepreneurs and their innovative ideas. The bank has always considered youth initiatives and entrepreneurial programs to be integral components towards empowering and nurturing future generations; by providing employment opportunities in the private sector for young men and women, nurturing the creative ideas of ambitious young minds, and all together helping build a brighter future for the country.

DUO ARRESTED WITH 2KG HEROIN

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Relations and Security Information Department at the Interior Ministry said Drugs Control General Department men arrested two Asians with possession of two kilograms of heroin. Tips were received about a lorry driver bringing heroin from a Gulf country, and he was arrested upon arrival with the 2 kg of heroin hidden in an oil container.





Report

Man lured to trap via social media

KUWAIT: Detectives put an end to the activities of two girls and three men, all Kuwaitis, who lured users of a social media app, then blackmailed them after filming them naked. A citizen was surprised by a request from a girl to be friends on social media. He obliged, and after some days, they agreed to meet. The girl said the first meeting should be in her flat. The man went there on time, only to find her with another girl she introduced as a friend, who left them alone. But she returned later pretending to be scared and told her that her husband was at the door. The man attempted to escape, but was surprised by the alleged husband, who was with two other men. They threatened him with a spray bottle containing a combustible gas, saying that they would set him on fire unless he takes off his clothes and handed over everything he had. He gave them KD 100 and stood in front of them naked as they took pictures of him, before they let him go. Afterwards, the man went to police and told them about what happened, then the case was referred to detectives who were able to arrest one of the suspects, and he led them to the rest. The two girls said they used social media to lure victims and blackmail them. All five citizens were sent to concerned authorities.

Missing girl found

A young girl and a man were taken to criminal detectives in order to continue interrogations after the girl admitted she was living with the man all the time she was absent from her family. Detectives had stopped the girl who was reported missing by her family. The girl said she befriended a man through Snapchat, and family disputes made her escape. The man put her up in several flats.

Stamps stolen

Criminal detectives in Jahra launched an investigation to determine the identity of thieves who broke into Jahra traffic department, pried open two stamp machines and stole stamps and money. They also attempted to steal the department's safe and took stamps and seals belonging to traffic department officials. Policemen who were supposed to guard the place were interrogated and cameras were checked. The possibility of the guards being away at the time of the theft still exists.

Brewery busted

Ahmadi security authorities busted a large illegal liquor brewery run by a Nepalese man in Sabah Al-Ahmad, where they found 150 liquor drums along with 480 bottles ready for sale. Distillation equipment was also found. Police asked the municipality emergency team to help them transfer the liquor drums to concerned authorities.

Dumpster fire

Jahra firemen had an exhausting day as a person deliberately set fire to another metal garbage dumpster every time firemen returned to the center. Fire authorities received a call about a fire in a garbage container near Wara Complex, so firemen responded and put out the fire. While on their way back, they received a call about another garbage fire in Qasr, and the same incident was repeated eight times. Detectives are investigating.

— Translated from the Arabic press



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LOCAL

In **Brief**

PRECIOUS METALS EXAMINED

KUWAIT: Kuwait has examined up to 30 tons of precious metals worth KD 300 million (\$986.5 million) in 2016, said Minister of Commerce and Industry Khaled Al-Roudhan. The ministry testes and stamps gold and diamonds before they are offered for sale, Roudhan who also doubles as Acting Minister of State for Youth Affairs added in a press statement after the opening of the 15th International Gold and Jewelry Exhibition 2017, with the participation of 140 local and foreign exhibitors. —KUNA



E-GOVERNMENT EXPO

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: General Manager of the Kuwaiti Nouf EXPO Yousef Al-Marzouq said Sunday it is imperative for Arab countries to share experience, information and programs in the e-government field. Speaking on the sidelines of Arab forum on e-government in Sharm El-Sheikh, Marzouq said the conference is hoped to come up with a set of recommendations that could contribute to developing e-government programs. E-governments have become part of the future, as conventional governments need some change in order to attain sustainable development goals, he added. — KUNA



AMIR SHOOTING CUP

ROME: Kuwait's Ambassador in Rome Sheikh Ali Khaled Al-Sabah opened Sunday His Highness the Amir of Kuwait International Shooting Cup, a tournament co-organized by Kuwait Embassy and Italy's shooting federation. Sheikh Ali and president of the Italian shooting federation, Senator Luciano Rossi, opened the competitions, which were held at Umbriaverde shooting range in Todi, central Italy, the Embassy said in a statement. More than 460 shooters from Kuwait, Italy, Europe, South America and New



Photo



 ${\tt KUWAIT: Young\ Kuwaiti\ pearl\ divers\ participate\ in\ a\ cultural-themed\ sea\ voyage\ in\ Kuwait.} - {\tt KUNA}$

WARBA BANK PARTICIPATES IN AUM'S JOB FAIR

KUWAIT: Warba Bank participated in the Job Fair organized recently by the American University of the Middle East (AUM). This position reflects Warba Bank's commitment to recruit Kuwaiti graduates and train them to work in Islamic banking, and to improve the capabilities of national cadres in this sector; thus, reflecting positively on enriching the local market with Kuwaiti manpower which is the backbone of solid economic development.

On that regard, Essam Al-Shaya, Chief Human Resources and General Services Officer at Warba Bank, said: "Our participation in the exhibition enabled Warba Bank to share its banking experi-

ence with new graduates seeking to enter the job market. The new graduates interacted with the bank's team that offered full demonstrations regarding the bank's operations and working environment. This also provides added value to staff members in terms of experience and other advantages. Furthermore, they gave students an idea about the skills and other requirements needed to apply for jobs in this field, and offered advice based on Warba Bank's experience in hiring, training, and qualifying national manpower."

Shaya further added: "This is not the first time that Warba Bank participates in career fairs. It has participated previously in several other

important fairs including GUST and Kuwait University job fairs held earlier this year. The bank believes that such exhibitions leave a huge positive impact on the ability to open new horizons for young people in order to enable them to gain advanced professional skills and attain a general idea regarding their future careers."

general idea regarding their future careers."

Warba Bank's participation reflects its commitment to help such activities succeed, considering that they contribute in enriching the labor market. These job fairs are considered a great platform in which job seekers and companies can directly meet and have discussions on the nature of work and other issues.













KUWAIT: Kuwaiti and Iraqi borders officials met at Abdaly land border outlet yesterday. Director General of Land Border Security Department Maj Gen Fuad Al-Athari headed the Kuwaiti side, while Maj Gen Salam Kazem, commander of the fourth zone, headed the Iraqi side. Issues of mutual interest were discussed.

AHLI UNITED BANK PARTICIPATES IN CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

kuwalt: As part of its social responsibility and support for environmental protection initiatives, Ahli United Bank (AUB) participated in the celebration of the anniversary of Earth Day, which falls on April 22nd each year. The bank's management extinguished all lights and unnecessary electric appliances in the bank's main building for six hours, from 6:00 pm to 12:00 am, in support of the environmental conservation process, as well as raising awareness of the importance of energy conservation and environmental

protection in our daily activities.
On this initiative, AUB said in a press release: "The Bank's support for Earth Day is part of the Bank's desire to participate in spreading environmental awareness in rationalizing the use of electric power in private institutions, and its impact on the

rate of general consumption of electricity in particular, and its positive and environmental impact on the national economy in general."

The bank added "Earth Day is also an opportunity to raise people's awareness about the need to adopt different lifestyles and to contribute to the reduction in energy usage highlighting the simple actions that one can take to contribute to energy conservation today."

In the same context, AUB has unveiled the start of its project to transform electric lighting in Head Office and the bank's new branches into a power saving LED lighting system. The management of AUB said it would implement several initiatives aimed at supporting the environment and contributing to sustainable development this year.

International

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017

Trump denounces anti-Semitism on Israel's annual Holocaust day

Maoist rebels kill 24 police in central India

Page

REJECTED MAINSTREAM UNITES BEHIND MACRON

HOLLANDE: 'FAR-RIGHT WOULD DEEPLY DIVIDE FRANCE'

PARIS: France's political mainstream, shut out of the presidency by an angry electorate, united yesterday to urge voters to back centrist Emmanuel Macron in the presidential runoff and to reject Marine Le Pen's populist nationalism. Politicians on the moderate left and right, including French President Francois Hollande and the losing Socialist and Republicans party candidates in Sunday's first-round vote, maneuvered to block Le Pen's path to power in the May 7 runoff.

In a solemn address from the Elysee palace, Hollande said he will vote for Macron, his former economy minister, because the far-right Le Pen represents "both the danger of the isolation of France and of rupture with the European Union." Hollande said the far-right would "deeply divide France" at a time when the terror threat requires "solidarity. "Faced with such a risk, it is not possible to remain silent or to take refuge in indifference," he said.

European stock markets surged, and France's main index hit its highest level since early 2008, as investors gambled that the rise of populism around the world and its associated unpredictability in policymaking - may have peaked. Voters narrowed the French presidential field from 11 to two on Sunday. The contest is widely seen as a litmus test for the populist wave that last year prompted Britain to vote to leave the European Union and US voters to elect Donald Trump president.

Only the defeated far-left candidate, Jean-Luc Melenchon, pointedly refused to back Macron. Le Pen's far-right National Front party, meanwhile, is hoping to peel away voters historically opposed to a party long tainted by racism and anti-Semitism. "The voters who voted for Mr Melenchon are angry voters. They can be in agreement with us," National Front Vice President Steeve Brios told The Associated Press, adding that those far-left voters sought choices "outside the system."

Choosing from inside the system is no longer an option. Voters rejected the two mainstream parties that have alternated power for decades in favor of Le Pen and the untested Macron , who has never held elected office and who founded his own political movement just last



 $PARIS: French \ centrist \ presidential \ candidate \ Emmanuel \ Macron, \ center, \ leaves \ his \ apartment, \ in \ Paris, \ yesterday. \ --- AP$

year. Macron's optimistic vision of a tolerant France and a united Europe with open borders is a stark contrast with Le Pen's darker, inward-looking "French-first" platform that calls for closed borders, tougher security, less immigration and dropping the shared euro currency to return to the French franc.

Le Pen went on the offensive against Macron in her first public comments yesterday."He is a hysterical, radical 'Europeanist.' He is for total open borders. He says there is

no such thing as French culture. There is not one domain that he shows one ounce of patriotism," she said. Le Pen's father, Jean-Marie, made it into a presidential runoff against Jacques Chirac in 2002 and was crushed.

Many commentators expect the same fate for his daughter, but she has already drawn far more support than he ever did and she has transformed the party's once-pariah image. National Front vice president Louis Aliot insisted that Le Pen offers an alternative for anyone

skeptical of the EU and France's role in it."I'm not convinced that the French are willing to sign a blank check to Mr Macron," he said. But Macron's party spokesman, Benjamin Griveaux, scoffed at the idea that Le Pen is a vector of change.

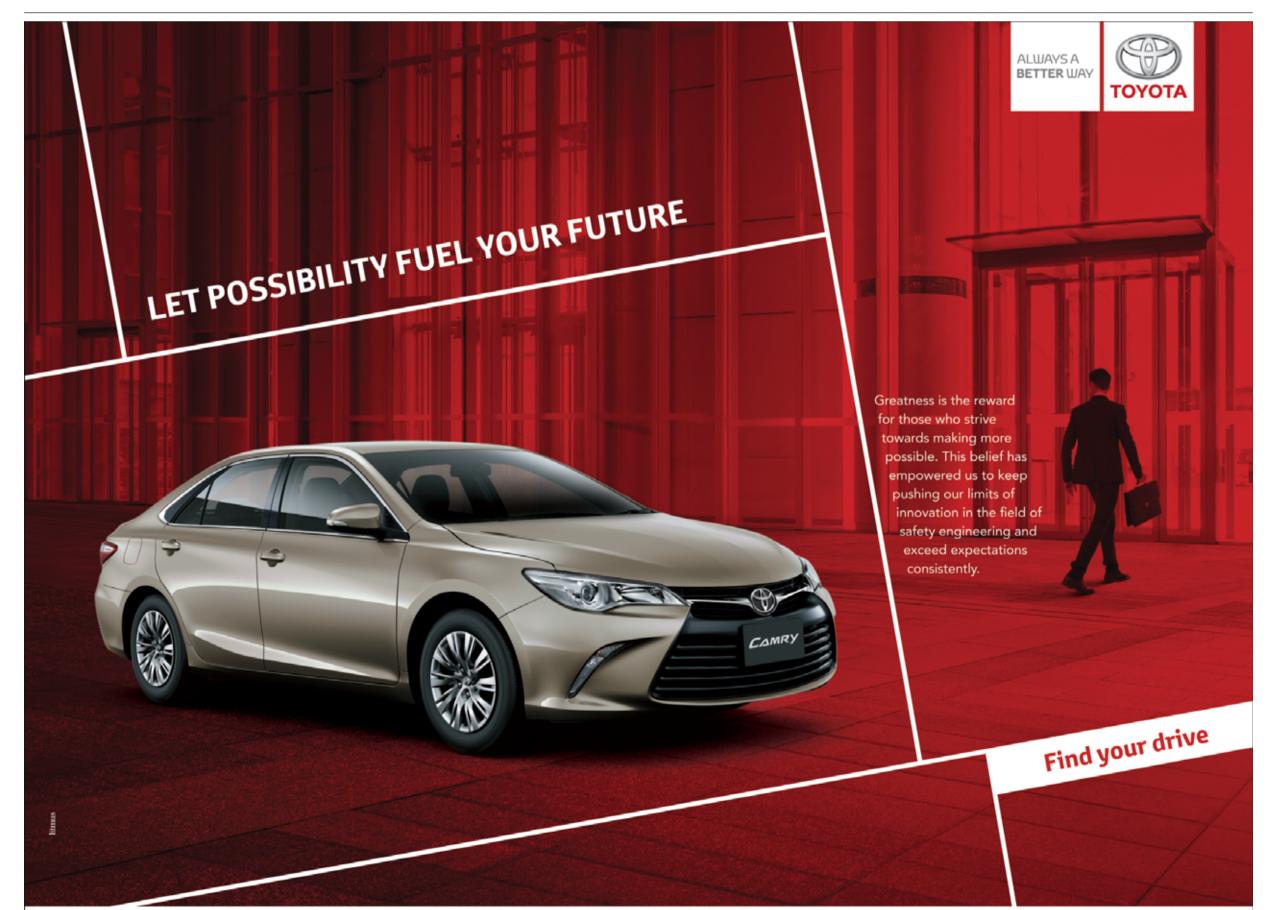
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"She's been in the political system for 30 years. She inherited her father's party and we will undoubtedly have Le Pen's running for the next 20 years, because after we had the father, we have the daughter and we will doubtless have the niece," he said, referring to Marion Marechal-Le Pen. "So she is in a truly bad position to be talking about the elites." German Chancellor Angela Merkel wished Macron "all the best for the next two weeks."

Merkel's chief of staff, Peter Altmaier, tweeted that "the result for Emmanuel Macron shows: France AND Europe can win together! The center is stronger than the populists think!" Macron came in first in Sunday's vote, with just over 23 percent while Le Pen had 21 percent. Francois Fillon, the scandal-plagued conservative Republicans candidate, came in third with just shy of 20 percent of the vote, just ahead of Melenchon. Socialist candidate Benoit Hamon, whose party holds a majority in the legislature, got just 6 percent of the vote.

Turnout for Sunday's vote was 78 percent, down slightly from 79 percent in the first round of presidential voting in 2012. Protesters burned cars, danced around bonfires and dodged riot police overnight at the Place de la Bastille and Republique in Paris. Twenty-nine people were detained at the Bastille, where protesters waved red flags and sang "No Marine and No Macron!" in anger at the results.

"We are in a phase of decomposition, demolition, deconstruction," former Socialist Prime Minister Manuel Valls said. "We didn't do the work - intellectual, ideological and political - on what the left is, and we paid the price." Elaine Ganley reported from Henin-Beaumont. Lori Hinnant, Thomas Adamson, Angela Charlton et Philippe Sotto contributed from Paris. A previous version of this story has been corrected to show that the Socialist candidate was Benoit Hamon, not Manuel Valls.—AP















FROM ASPIRING STYLIST TO JIHADIST WIDOW: ONE WOMAN'S SYRIA STORY

QAMISHLI, Syria: Islam Maytat thought marrying an Afghan-British businessman was her ticket to a new life as a fashionista in London. Instead she became a widow living under jihadist rule in Syria. At just 23, the young Moroccan spent three traumatic years in northern Syria under the Islamic State group's so-called "caliphate". Tens of thousands of foreigners have joined jihadist

encouraged to marry and raise the children of IS fighters.

Some, like Maytat, have been lured unknowingly into marriages with would-be jihadists. Maytat spoke to AFP after fleeing IS's northern stronghold of Raqa to territory controlled by a US-backed alliance fighting the extremist group. Now safe in the Kurdish-



Twenty-three year old Islam Maytat from Morocco poses for a photo with her children Maria (L) and Abdullah in the Kurdish-majority city of Qamishli in northern Syrian on April 13, 2017, after she escaped from Islamic State (IS) group territory following three traumatic years living in the group's so-called "caliphate".—AFP

groups in Syria, including women who are majority city of Qamishli, Maytat holds her gurgling 10-month-old daughter Maria in her lap as she tells her story.

> "Meeting my husband was one of the things that motivated me to study fashion design in Europe, but I had no luck. Everything went wrong," she said. She first met Khalil Ahmed-an Afghan-British trader who worked in Dubai online in early 2014 and they married two months later. He flew to Morocco to marry her and they then went to Dubai, stepping into a complex web of lies and journeys across the Middle East that would eventually take her to Syria.

Going to the caliphate

Ahmed proved to be a strict, controlling husband who did not allow her to wear makeup or bright clothes. After a brief trip to Afghanistan to meet his family, Maytat was eager to get to London and start working as a stylist. Ahmed proposed travelling to Istanbul, convincing a reluctant Maytat that it would be easier to move to London from there. But as soon as they landed in Turkey, Ahmed immediately drove her to the southeastern city of Gaziantep near the border with Syria.

Ankara has long been accused of turning a blind eye to IS fighters using the porous Syrian-Turkish border to transport people, goods, and funds-allegations it vehemently denies. In Gaziantep, Maytat and Ahmed moved into a large house full of ecstatic couples from countries including Saudi Arabia, Algeria and France. "I asked them 'Why are you here?' And they told me they were there to migrate to the caliphate in Syria," Maytat recalls. In June 2014, IS declared a self-styled "caliphate" across Syria and Iraq, where it implemented its literal interpretation of Islamic law. "I began to cry. It was two weeks after the caliphate was declared and the women kept saying 'We're going to the land of the caliphate, the land of the Muslims', and they were all happy," Maytat says. In August, Ahmed and Maytat made their own journey across the border into war-ravaged northern Syria.

'I had no choice'

They settled in the northern Syrian town of Manbij, where Ahmed's brother was already living with his family. "I said to my husband 'Why did you destroy my life like this? You should have told me from the beginning that this is what we were going to do," Maytat recalls. "And he said 'You're my wife-you have to listen to what I say." Tears welling, Maytat says she had felt powerless to resist Ahmed, her only link to her previous life.

By September, she was pregnant with her first child-Abdullah-and Ahmed was sent to a month-long military training before deploying to IS's front in Kobane. On October 8, 2014, Ahmed's brother told Maytat her husband had been killed in combat. "I became more depressed. I said to myself, this is the only person I knew in this foreign land, and now I'm alone here," she tells AFP. Pregnant and alone, Maytat moved into a shared "quest house" for widows of

jihadists, mostly Uzbeks and Russians. This is when the military training started. "When they forced us to do weapons training I was pregnant, but I had no choice," she says. Unable to communicate with many other widows, Maytat was allowed to move into a building housing other Arabic-speakers. "There were French, Tunisians, Moroccans and Algerians. I stayed there until I gave birth to Abdullah."

'Secret route' to safety

Less than a year after her first husband died, Maytat remarried in order to escape the shelter. Her second husband, an Afghan known as Abu Abdullah, took her to Raqa, the de facto capital of IS's caliphate. "I couldn't deal with life there-he wouldn't let me leave the house-so I asked him for a divorce two months later," she says. She then married for the third time in three years, this time to an Indian fighter in Raqa known as Abu Talha al-Hindi. That 18-month marriage produced her daughter, Maria.

When Maytat learned Abu Talha had been killed battling the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, she joined up with another jihadist widow, a Yazidi woman. They escaped IS territory via "a secret route" that she refused to divulge. Traumatized by her past, Maytat is now also worried about her future and that of her two young children. "I still don't know what to do with my life. "I hope to return to Morocco with both of my children, but I don't know if I'll have a future or not there."—AFP

MAOIST REBELS KILL 24 POLICE IN CENTRAL INDIA

DEADLY ATTACK LEAVES SIX WOUNDED

RAIPUR, India: Suspected Maoist rebels killed 24 paramilitary commandos and wounded six yesterday in a remote part of central India in one of the deadliest attacks of a long-running internal conflict. The soldiers were guarding road workers in the Sukma district of Chhattisgargh state, a hotbed of insurgent violence, when they came under heavy fire. "We have recovered 23 bodies from the spot and one jawan (soldier) died in Raipur during treatment," Anand Chhabra, a senior police officer, said, referring to the state capital.

He said six other commandos from the Central Reserve Police Force were critically injured and had been evacuated for treatment. Another police officer, Sunil Tiwari, told AFP that Indian security forces were looking for "some CRPF jawans who are missing", adding that the rebels snatched weapons during the ambush. Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned the attack and offered condolences to the families of the deceased, saying the sacrifice of their loved ones would not be in vain.

"Attack on CRPF India personnel in Chhattisgarh is cowardly and deplorable. We are monitoring the situation closely," Modi posted on Twitter. Fatal attacks by insurgents on security forces in central and eastern India are frequent, but yesterday's assault was among the deadliest in years. Television footage showed injured commandos in their army fatigues being stretchered from ambulances into hospitals for treatment. One soldier who survived the attack, Sher

Mohammed, told reporters from his hospital bed that "almost 300 of them attacked us".

More precaution needed State chief minister Raman Singh said Sukma, where yesterday's attack



INDIA: This handout photo released by the Indian Defense Ministry yesterday shows wounded Indian security personnel being treated in an army helicopter as they are airlifted to a hospital following an attack by Maoist rebels in Sukma district of Chhattisgargh state. —AFP

occurred, was a stronghold for Maoists waging a guerilla war from their jungle bases. The Maoists opposed efforts to build new roads and infrastructure in the remote area because it undermined their longrunning campaign against India's security forces, he added. "In future we will need to take more precautions," said Singh, who called an emergency meeting and rushed back from New Delhi after the attack.

The Maoist insurgency started as a peasant uprising in 1967, and since then has cost thousands of lives in the rebel-dominated "red corridor" stretching through central and eastern India. Tit-for-tat jungle skirmishes often result in heavy casualties on both sides. Last month 11 paramilitary policemen were killed when their convoy was ambushed in Chhattisgarh, while at least 20 troops died in a separate attack in 2015.

In 2010 Maoists killed 76 police in the worst-ever massacre of security forces by the insurgents. The incident shook the country and led to pressure on the government to rethink its tactics. Critics believe attempts to end the revolt through tough security offensives are doomed to fail, saying the real solution is better governance and development of the region.

The guerrillas, who say they are fighting for the rights of tribal people and landless farmers, often collect funds through extortion. Modi had been seeking to stem the insurgency by earmarking development funds for revolt-hit areas and improving policing. In 2015 he urged Maoists to put down their guns and take up ploughs, saying "violence has no future". —AFP



ISTANBUL: A woman looks from a window as demonstrators shout during a protest against the result of the nationwide referendum that will hugely enhance the president Recep Erdogan powers at the Kadikoy district in

PRESIDENT ERDOGAN ACCUSES FRENCH RESEARCHER OF INCITING ASSASSINATION

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's lawyer has lodged a complaint against a former French diplomat accusing him of inciting an assassination of the Turkish leader, the state-run news agency reported yesterday. The move follows comments by Philippe Moreau Defarges about the outcome of the April 16 referendum on controversial constitutional changes that will tighten the president's grip on power.

Defarges, now a senior fellow at the French Institute of International Relations, said all legal paths to challenge Erdogan had been shut off and that the only two options left were civil war or assassination. The 'Yes' camp won just over 51 percent in the vote, a narrower-than-expected victory, but Turkey's top election board last week rejected opposition calls to annul the referendum after complaints of voterigging. Defarges said on French broadcaster BFM on Saturday that Erdogan's strengthened powers would lead "only to catastrophe".

"There will either be a civil war or another scenario... his assassination," he said. Huseyin Aydin, a lawyer representing Erdogan, said in a petition to an Ankara prosecutor that the comments were not a simple expression of opinion, but were "clearly instigating the crime in question". He said the comments showed how far the hostility against Erdogan had reached in the

West, and suggested Defarges should undergo checks for his mental health if he ever came to Turkey.

"And if he is in good health mentally, his alleged links with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) or USbased Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen blamed by the Turkish government for orchestrating the failed July coup should be investigated." Defarges' comments went viral on social media, with a senior Erdogan advisor calling on the French institute to revoke his fellowship. "Former French diplomat openly calls for assassination of President Erdogan. @IFRI_ should terminate his fellowship, apologize," Gulnur Aybet wrote on Twitter.

"What would be the reaction if a former diplomat and senior fellow at a Turkish think tank called for the assassination of the French President? "Defarges on Sunday offered his "sincere apologies" for his remarks. "Some of what I said was clumsy and might have been wrongly interpreted," he said on Twitter. Critics say the constitutional changes will lead to one-man rule in NATO member Turkey. They accuse Erdogan of becoming increasingly authoritarian after 14 years in power as either president or prime minister. There have been a number of prosecutions for insulting Erdogan, with artists, journalists and schoolchildren all targeted.—AFP

PALESTINIAN LEADER ON HUNGER STRIKE SEES HEALTH DECLINE: NGO

RAMALLAH, Palestinian Territories: imprisonment without charge. Palestinian Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti's health has declined seriously over the past week after he joined a hunger strike with more than 1,000 other prisoners in Israel, an NGO said yesterday. Barghouti, 57 and serving five life sentences over his role in the second Palestinian intifada, is refusing medical treatment, according to Amani Sarahneh of the Palestinian Prisoners' Club NGO. He told AFP this was causing his health to decline seriously.

The hunger strike began on April 17, with those taking part ingesting only water and salt. They have issued demands ranging from better medical care to phone access. Asked about Barghouti, however, an Israeli Prisons Service spokesman said that "no decline in his health condition has been observed". "If Barghouti feels bad, all he has to do is eat," the spokesman told AFP.

According to the NGO, authorities at the Jalame prison, where Barghouti was transferred and placed in solitary confinement after the strike began, have pressured him to accept medical treatment and also urged other prisoners to try to convince him. Some 6,500 Palestinians are currently detained by Israel for a range of offences and alleged crimes. Around 500 are being held under Israel's system of

prisoners have mounted repeated hunger strikes, but rarely on such a scale. Barghouti is popular among Palestinians, with polls suggesting he could win the Palestinian presidency. While many Palestinians view him as a hero, Israelis point to the bloody suicide attacks of the second intifada of 2000-2005 and his role in the uprising. He was convicted of attacks that killed five people, though declined to defend himself and did not recognize the court's legitimacy.

For Palestinians, the prisons have become a stark symbol of Israel's occupation. Some 850,000 Palestinians have been incarcerated since the start of Israel's occupation 50 years ago, Palestinian leaders say. Palestinian leaders have denounced Israel's refusal to negotiate with the hunger strikers, warning of a "new intifada" if any of them die.

Demonstrations have been held in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip to support the prisoners, occasionally resulting in clashes with Israeli forces, though they have been limited in number. A Palestinian former minister, Hamas member Wasfi Kabha, released on the fourth day of the hunger strike, said on Facebook that Barghouti had told him "the strike aims to achieve more humane, fairer and administrative detention, which allows for more dignified prison conditions".—AFP

KREMLIN RESPECTS FRENCH VOTE. **DENIES FAVORING** ANY CANDIDATE

MOSCOW: The Kremlin yesterday said it respected the result of the first round of the French presidential election, and denied favoring any candidate in the polls. "We respect the choice of the French people. We are in favor of building good and mutually beneficial relations," said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, quoted by state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

Russia has been seen as a keen backer of Kremlin-friendly far-right leader Marine Le Pen, who met President Vladimir Putin in a surprise visit to Moscow ahead of the vote. But Peskov insisted to reporters that Russia did not have a preferred candidate in the election. "These are incorrect assertions, they are quite primitive," Peskov said. "In this case to say that Russia more or less supports one candidate or another would be wrong." Pro-European centrist Emmanuel Macron and Le Pen claimed the most votes in the election Sunday to progress to a second round run-off on May 7. Macron is clear favorite to become France's youngest president after topping Sunday's ballot with 23.75 percent of votes, slightly ahead of National Front (FN) leader Le Pen on 21.53 percent, according to final results.—AFP

EGYPT SENTENCES 20 TO DEATH OVER POLICE KILLINGS

CAIRO: An Egyptian court yesterday sentenced 20 people to death for the killing of 13 policemen in the aftermath of the ouster nearly four years ago of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi. On August 14, 2013, a month after Morsi was overthrown by the army, security forces forcibly dispersed two pro-Morsi protest camps in Cairo in an operation that killed more than 700 people. Hours later a furious crowd attacked a police station in the Cairo suburb of Kerdassa, where 13 policemen were killed.

A year later a Cairo court sentenced to death 183 Islamists but a higher court scrapped the verdict last year, amid an international outcry, calling instead for the retrial of 149 suspects who were behind bars. Of those 149, yesterday a Cairo criminal court sentenced to death 20 people, a judicial official said, adding that a decision concerning the others would be made at another hearing on July 2.

The death sentences issued yesterday will be submitted to the mufti, Egypt's official interpreter of Islamic law, as his opinion is legally required but not binding. Egyptian courts have sentenced hundreds of Morsi supporters to death since his overthrow, but many have appealed and won new trials. Morsi and other top figures of his Muslim Brotherhood have also faced trial.—AFP

NEARING 100-DAY MARK, TRUMP SAYS MILESTONE NOT MEANINGFUL

WASHINGTON: For nearly 100 days, President Donald Trump has rattled Washington and been chastened by its institutions. He's startled world leaders with his unpredictability and tough talk, but won their praise for a surprise strike on Syria. He's endured the steady drip of investigations and a seemingly endless churn of public personnel drama. "It's a different kind of a presidency," Trump said in an Oval Office interview with The Associated Press, an hour-long conversation as he approached Saturday's key presidential benchmark.

Trump, who campaigned on a promise of instant disruption, indirectly acknowledged that change doesn't come quickly to Washington. He showed signs that he feels the weight of the office, discussing the "heart" required to do the job. Although he retained his signature bravado and a salesman's confidence in his upward trajectory, he dishis own lofty expectations for his first 100 days in office have not been met. "It's an artificial barrier. It's not very meaningful," he said.

Trump waffled on whether he should be held accountable for the 100-day plan he outlined with great fanfare in his campaign's closing days, suggesting his "Contract with the American Voter" wasn't really his idea to begin with. "Somebody put out the concept of a 100-day plan," he said. One hundred days are just a fraction of a president's tenure, and no president has quite matched the achievements of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who set the standard by which all are now judged.

Still, modern presidents have tried to move swiftly to capitalize upon the potent, and often fleeting, mix of political capital and public goodwill that usually accompanies their arrival in

either. A deeply divisive figure, he lost the popular vote to Democrat Hillary Clinton and had one of the narrower Electoral College victories in history. Since taking office on Jan. 20, his approval rating has hovered around 40 percent in most polls.

Trump's early presidency has been dogged by FBI and congressional investigations into whether his campaign coordinated with Russians to tilt the race in his favor. It's a persistent distraction that Trump would not discuss on the record. Furthermore, his three monthsplus in office have amounted to a swift education in a world wholly unfamiliar to a 70-year-old who spent his career in real estate and reality television.

For example, his two disputed travel ban executive orders are languishing, blocked by federal judges. On Capitol Hill, majority Republicans muscled

played an understanding that many of Washington. Trump has never really had through Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court, Judge Neil Gorsuch, but had to blow up long-standing Senate rules to do so. Then there was the legislative debacle when Trump's own party couldn't come together to fulfill its longsought promise of repealing President Barack Obama's health care law.

HW Brands, a history professor at the University of Texas at Austin, said Trump is learning that "the world is the way it is for a whole bunch of complicated reasons. And changing the guy at the top doesn't change the world." Trump won't concede that point.

But he acknowledged that being commander in chief brings with it a "human responsibility" that he didn't much bother with in business, requiring him to think through the consequences his decisions have on people and not simply the financial implications for his company's bottom line.

Tremendous success

"When it came time to, as an example, send out the 59 missiles, the Tomahawks in Syria," Trump said of his decision to strike a Syrian air base in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack. "I'm saying to myself, 'You know, this is more than just like 79 (sic) missiles.

This is death that's involved because people could have been killed. This is risk that's involved." "Here, everything, pretty much everything you do in government involves heart, whereas in business most things don't involve heart," he said. "In fact, in business you're actually better off without it."

As for accomplishments, Trump cited "tremendous success" on an undefined strategy for defeating the Islamic State group. He talked at length about saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars on the price of F-35 fighter jets. — AP

NYC HOUSE FIRE KILLS FIVE, **INCLUDING THREE CHILDREN**

NEW YORK: Investigators are scouring for clues about what sparked a deadly, fastmoving house fire that killed five people, including three children, on a sunny spring afternoon. The fire broke out Sunday afternoon, on a street full of single-family homes in the middle class neighborhood of Queens Village, a neighborhood near Belmont Park, which hosts the Belmont Stakes, the final leg in horse racing's Triple Crown. Television news footage showed flames chewing through the roof of the twostory home and roaring in upstairs rooms of the house as smoke poured from it.

"It was a fire that moved very, very quickly, and the loss was horrendous," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "This is the devastation of a family," he said, adding: "There's a lot we need to know about what happened here." There was no immediate theory on what started the blaze. A burned-out car was found behind one of the homes, and witnesses reported hearing loud booms, but Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said it didn't appear there was an explosion.

Nigro said a passing motorist saw someone tumble from a window as smoke billowed, and called the fire department. The victim, a roughly 46-year-old man, fell onto a porch roof and then a lawn and survived, Nigro said. The wood-frame home burned rapidly and was already engulfed in flames by the time firefighters arrived. They struggled to reach some of the victims who were as high up as the attic, a "super-human" task for firefighters to reach people in a home engulfed by such a massive fire, Nigro said.

Deadly fire

They managed to bring a 2-year-old and someone else from the attic where they had been trapped, he said. But they were too late to save them. Officials were still trying to piece together who the victims were, and how or if they were all related. Police said the victims ranged in age from 2 to 20. They said the man who escaped the fire is in the hospital and is expected to survive. A neighboring home also caught fire and was badly damaged, but no one was inside at the time. Four firefighters suffered minor injuries; no other people were injured.

Neighbor Dorothy Murray told reporters that when she looked out her door and saw the fire, "I could have fainted." "The fire was so intense - there's no way in the world nobody could go over there to save nobody," said Murray. She said she babysat sometimes for one of the children - "cute little fellow," she said. "He's adorable." Firstresponders carried a limp child from the wreckage. "It was the worst thing I've ever seen in my life," neighbor Foster McPhee, 67, told the New York Post.

"The guy who was carrying the baby out, you could just see the stress on his face. I'm just emotional about it because I'm a grandfather and I have kids, too." Firefighters tried to save the family even as the rescuers mourned one of their own, firefighter William Tolley, who died Thursday after falling five stories while battling a blaze in Queens. The fire was the deadliest in the nation's biggest city since March 2015, when a house fire in Brooklyn killed seven children, all siblings. That fire was touched off by a hot plate.

By nightfall Sunday, neighbors who'd been standing in horror outside had gone back into their homes, and first responders had blocked off the street as they continued to investigate. Brenda Lewis, who lives six houses down the fire scene, said she was still in shock. With her iPad in hand, she stood in the evening cold, showing the neighbors the videos she took earlier in the day. "It was something," she said.—AP



NEW YORK: Guests watch video messages from US President Trump as they attend the World Jewish Congress in New York.—AFP

TRUMP DENOUNCES ANTI-SEMITISM ON ISRAEL'S ANNUAL HOLOCAUST DAY

Trump calls Holocaust darkest chapter of human history

wipe out anti-Semitism in a message to mark Israel's annual Holocaust Remembrance Day after his administration was criticized for past statements about the genocide. In a fourminute taped video played to the World Jewish Congress in New York, the US leader called the Holocaust "the darkest chapter of human history" and pledged "never again" would such horror occur.

"Six million Jews, two-thirds of the Jews in Europe, murdered by the Nazi genocide. They were murdered by an evil that words cannot describe, and that the human heart cannot bear," he said. The Republican commander-in-chief went on to pay tribute to Israel and Jewish per-

severance, condemning anti-Semitism."We must stamp out prejudice and anti-Semitism everywhere it is found. We must defeat terrorism, and we must not ignore the threats of a regime that talks openly of Israel's destruction," he said.

"We cannot let that ever even be thought of," he said, adding "America stands strong with the State of Israel."The White House raised eyebrows on International Holocaust Remembrance Day in January by issuing a statement that made no mention of the six million Jews killed in the Nazi genocide. In February, Trump drew fire for remaining silent for several days over a spate of anti-Semitic threats against Jewish community centers, before condemning them as "horrible" and "painful."

When asked by an Orthodox Jewish reported at a White House news conference about the post-election surge in anti-Semitic incidents, Trump reacted defensively, telling his questioner to "sit down." Earlier this month, White House spokesman Sean Spicer sparked outrage around the world after minimizing the atrocities of Adolf Hitler in comments on Syria.

Critics and political opponents in the United States say Trump's rise to the White House has emboldened extreme right, neo-Nazi groups. One of Trump's closest advisors is son-in-law Jared Kushner, the Orthodox Jewish grandson of Holocaust survivors. His daughter Ivanka, who is also an unpaid White House advisor, converted to Judaism in 2009.—AFP

NEW YORK: In this photo provided by the New York City Fire Department, firefighters work to put out a deadly house fire in the Queens Village neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York. —AP

Venezuela protesters plan NATIONWIDE ROAD BLOCKS

CARACAS: Protesters plan yesterday to Court to take over the powers of the block Venezuela's main roads including the capital's biggest motorway, triggering fears of further violence after three weeks of unrest left 21 people dead. The wife of jailed opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez started a vigil Sunday outside the prison where he is being held, pressing for permission to visit him after he spent a month in isolation.

President Nicolas Maduro said Sunday that he wants "elections now," referring to elections for governors which were supposed to be held last December, and those for mayors scheduled for this year. A presidential election is scheduled for 2018. "I am ready for what the Electoral Power says," insisted Maduro, who won the 2013 election by a narrow margin.

Venezuela has seen near-daily protests since the beginning of April, with opponents of Maduro demanding his ouster. Maduro has called for local elections in Venezuela, but the government has ruled out voting this year at presidential level as opposition leaders have demanded. The opposition blames Maduro for the unraveling of the oil giant's once-booming economy, leaving the country with critical shortages of food, medicine and basic goods.

The spark that set off the near-daily protests was an attempt by the Supreme

opposition-dominated Congress. Most of the demonstrations have degenerated into riots and clashes with security forces, who dispersed them using tear gas and rubber bullets.

Trading blame

The government and the opposition have accused each other of fomenting the deadly violence that has also seen hundreds of people detained or wounded and businesses looted. The latest victim, Almelina Carrillo, 47, succumbed to injuries suffered when she was struck in the head by a bottle thrown from a building during the march in Caracas. Interior Minister Nestor Reverol called her "another victim of the Terrorist Right, which is full of hatred." "We will not rest until we capture those responsible for this repugnant crime," he added.

The opposition has said it will use the momentum to keep taking to the streets demanding elections and pushing for the release of political prisoners. Thursday marked one of the most violent days in the latest wave of protests, with the Caracas neighborhood of El Valle the scene of shootings, looting and pitched battles between demonstrators and police officers, who forced the evacuation of a maternity ward. —AFP

PENCE CITES CHALLENGING TIMES TO TROOPS IN AMERICAN SAMOA

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa: US Vice President Mike Pence thanked American service members based in American Samoa, citing "challenging times" for the military in the Asia-Pacific. Completing a visit to the region and en route back to the United States, Pence addressed some 200 soldiers during a refueling stop in Pago Pago. He told the troops the Trump administration was seeking a large increase in military funding.

During his stop, Pence also dedicated a sign that will greet visitors at a veteran's clinic. He met with American Samoan officials and troops and then flew to Hawaii at the last stop on a tour that included a visit to the Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea. The trip offered evidence that Pence has become one of President Donald Trump's chief emissaries on the world stage, patching up relations, reassuring allies still wondering what to expect from Trump and diving into international crises like North Korea.

Meanwhile, it was revealed that the vice president was shortening his stay in Hawaii to a few hours so that he could fly back to Washington in what promises to be a very busy week for the administration and Congress. Pence's office said he would depart Hawaii on Monday afternoon after meeting with US Pacific Command leaders and troops stationed in Honolulu. Plans for today's visit to the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor have been postponed, Pence's office said.

Pence's trip to Asia was planned weeks ago. But it dropped him in South Korea just in time to deliver North Korea a stern warning from the US: that "all options are on the table" when it comes to curbing the North's nuclear ambitions, and that the Trump administration will seek support from its allies to pressure Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.

His foray into the DMZ and his meetings with South Korean and Japanese leaders allowed Pence to shape a key American foreign policy issue, presenting a new challenge for a politician whose prior foreign policy experience was limited to trips to the Middle East as a congressman and trade missions to Japan, China, Israel and Europe as Indiana's governor.

Greetings

Pence's early foreign travel schedule contrasts sharply with a mostly homebound Trump, who is not scheduled to travel overseas until late May for NATO meetings in Belgium and a gathering of the Group of Seven major industrial nations in Italy. Pence partly covered that ground when he visited Germany and Belgium in February. Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, had visited nine countries by late April 2009, his first three months in office, checking in with allies such as Canada, Britain and Germany.

The last first-term president to wait until May to take his first foreign trip was Jimmy Carter in 1977. Enter Pence, whose still-evolving diplomatic playbook includes several components, all steeped in humility, personal ties and his religious faith. In some ways, Pence is the advance team: His earlier trip to Europe and his Asia trip that ends today are partly laying the foundation for journeys being planned for Trump. In other ways, Pence is the face of reassurance, offering in-person outreach to world leaders Trump has clashed with or who have doubted Trump's commitment to them at the start of his presidency.

In meetings with his counterparts, Pence frequently passed along "greetings" from Trump and told his hosts how much America valued their alliance, language that's commonplace in diplomacy but understated compared to the more free-wheeling Trump. On Thursday, for example, Pence told Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo how "proud" he and Trump were to partner with him and spoke of their hopes of working together.—AP



PAGO PAGO: Vice President Mike Pence stands with his wife Karen as they pose for a photo with officials and US service members during a refueling stop in Pago Pago, American Samoa. —AP

INTERNATIONAL

NINE KILLED IN BRAZIL MASSACRE WERE SHOT, STABBED TO DEATH

RIO DE JANEIRO: Nine men, including an Evangelical pastor, massacred in a remote part of western Brazil were knifed and shot to death, police said Sunday after releasing the bodies for burial. No arrests were announced in the slayings which took place Thursday in a hard-to-access settlement in Mato Grosso state. A human rights group said the killings were part of a pattern of brutal pressure from rich landown-

lucrative territories.

The state's security service said in a statement Sunday that the victims, all men, ranged in age from 23 to 57. They were reported to be inhabitants of Gleba Taquarucu do Norte, which is near the border with Bolivia and only reachable on foot or by boat, with no cell phone coverage. One was a pastor from the popular

"Preliminary information is that the victims showed signs of stabbings and gunshots," the police statement said.

CBN radio and other Brazilian media reported that some of the dead had been found decapitated, while Globo news site said there were signs of torture and that some victims had been tied up. Contacted by AFP, a police spokeswoman would not

ers to displace small-scale farmers from Assembly of God church, police said. confirm or deny this. Earlier, police described the raid as the work of "hooded attackers." Globo reported that the victims had been starting to work on unauthorized plots of land and that they were killed inside the huts they'd erected at the site.

The Pastoral Land Commission, which is linked to the Roman Catholic church, and acts on behalf of the rural poor, described a network of armed gangs employed by ranchers using "terror to get the small producers to leave the area." "Gleba has been subjected to conflicts and violence for more than 10 years.

Other murders and attacks have already taken place there," the commission said. According to the CPT's latest annual report, 61 people were killed in land conflicts in Brazil last year, the highest number since 2003. — AFP

GERMANY SEES RISE IN CRIMES BY FOREIGNERS

politically motivated crimes by foreigners including jihadists and Kurdish militants last year, a trend branded "unacceptable" by Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere yesterday. Some 3,372 such cases were recorded last year, up 66.5 percent from 2015, according to the latest crime statistics unveiled by de Maiziere. They include "criminal offences carried out in the name of foreign extremists of the so-called IS, or the (outlawed Kurdish militants) PKK", said the interior minister.

Germany was hit by a string of jihadist

attacks last year, with the deadliest being last December's assault on a Christmas market in Berlin. A Tunisian suspect had rammed a truck into the crowded market in the attack claimed by the Islamic State organization that killed 12. But beyond jihadist attacks, Germany has also seen a rise in violence pitting its sizeable minority communities of Turks and Kurds, as Turkey was increasingly split over President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's rule. Overall, the number of politically driven crimes was also up in Germany, reaching 41,549 such offences in 2016, 6.6 percent more than a year ago. — AFP

RUSSIA, EU FAIL TO MASK **DIVISIONS ON MOGHERINI VISIT**

MOSCOW: The top diplomats from Russia and the European Union struggled yesterday to overcome deep rifts that have plunged ties to a post-Cold War low despite calling for closer cooperation. In her first official visit to Russia, EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini insisted that cooperation between the sides was "not frozen" but said that progress was hampered by profound disagreements on subjects including Ukraine and Syria.

"It would be quite surreal to consider ourselves as strategic partners and to have respective sanctions," Mogherini said after talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. "We share the interest to make our relations better," she added. The EU imposed sanctions on Russia for its annexation of

Crimea in 2014 and support for east Ukrainian rebels. Moscow responded with an embargo on agricultural products from the West.

Mogherini said the EU's sanctions against Russia were "not an objective in themselves" but were meant to help end the crisis in Ukraine, which has claimed more than 10,000 lives since it erupted in 2014. Lavrov meanwhile said the two sides had reiterated the need to fulfill the stalled European-brokered Minsk peace agreements to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine. He also called for a "thorough, quick and transparent" investigation after an American monitor with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe was killed Sunday when a patrol vehicle hit a landmine in the rebel-held east. — AFP



MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, right, shakes hands with Federica Mogherini, the high representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy, after a joint press conference following their meeting in Moscow yesterday. — AFP

ITALIAN REPORTER FREED IN TURKEY

ROME: An Italian journalist arrested in Turkey while researching refugees near the Syrian border has been freed after two weeks in detention, Italy's foreign ministry

said yesterday. Gabriele Del Grande, 34, was expected to arrive at Bologna airport in Italy yesterday and be met by his parents and Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano. "I spoke to him just now and he's on his way back to Italy. I had the great joy of telling his family. We are waiting for him," Alfano said.

Del Grande was handcuffed by Turkish police on April 9 as he was interviewing

people who had fled the war-torn neighboring country for a book he is writing on the conflict and the birth of the Islamic State group. The blogger, writer and human rights activist began a hunger strike last week after claiming he had no access to a lawyer and had been "interrogated" on the content of his research.

Del Grande, who comes from Lucca in Tuscany, was a co-author and co-director of a documentary on Syrian and Palestinian refugees, "lo sto con la sposa" ("On the Bride's Side"), that was presented at the Venice Film Festival in 2014. — AFP



ITALY: Gabriele Del Grande, left, is flanked by his partner Alexandra D, after landing at the Bologna airport, Italy, yesterday. — AP



PARIS: French presidential election candidate for the left-wing French Socialist (PS) party Benoit Hamon reacts after delivering a speech at the Maison de la Mutualite in Paris after the first round of the Presidential election. — AFP

FRANCE'S SOCIALISTS ON ROCKS AFTER HISTORIC DRUBBING

'Socialist Party not in the top three is a disaster'

PARIS: A "drubbing" suffered by the Socialist candidate in France's presidential election on Sunday dealt a devastating blow to the centuryold party, analysts said. Benoit Hamon, 49, who took up the Socialist mantle after the deeply unpopular François Hollande decided against seeking re-election, crashed out in fifth place in Sunday's first round of the two-stage vote, according to projections.

It was the first time the Socialists have lost in the first round since 2002, when Lionel Jospin fell at the first hurdle behind then far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen. And it is the first time in modern history that neither of France's mainstream parties have made it past the first round of a presidential election. "Symbolically, the fact that the Socialist Party (PS) is not in the top three and not even the leading leftist party is a disaster," said political scientist Remi Lefebvre of the northern city of Lille.

The left is not dead

Scoring just 6.2 percent according to the projections, Hamon fared worse than Communistbacked Jean-Luc Melenchon, who was set to finish fourth behind scandal-scarred conservative candidate François Fillon.

Hamon tried to put a brave face on what he admitted was a "historic drubbing" on Sunday. "The left is not dead," he said. "The fight continues... with the parliamentary elections." After the second round of the presidential election, French voters return to the polls to elect a new parliament on June 11 and June 18.

PS chief Jean-Christophe Cambadelis said in all 577 of France's parliamentary districts, adding: "The party still has good days in front of it."Hamon proved unable to sustain the magic that won him the Socialist primary in January, ahead of former prime minister Manuel Valls, with proposals such as a universal basic income. Key Socialist stalwarts deserted him, led by Valls, who last month threw his weight behind Emmanuel Macron, the centrist former Socialist who came out on top in Sunday's vote.

Hamon's poll numbers went into a steady slide from a high of around 17 percent as the charismatic Melenchon steadfastly refused to join forces and Macron also siphoned off support. Melenchon, who enjoyed a late surge in the race after strong debate performances, scored 19 to 20 percent on Sunday.

"Melenchon's political goal, which was to beat the PS, was unimaginable just a few vears ago," Lefebvre said. The party founded in 1905, which first came to power in 1981 with François Mitterrand, fell from a great height since Hollande's 2012 victory brought the left back to power after three rightwing presidencies in a row.

Then, the Socialists were riding high, with a huge majority of France's regions and even a majority in the Senate for the first time. Five

years on, after Hollande failed to turn around a moribund economy and the country suffered a string of terror attacks, the PS heads just five of Friday that the party will be fielding candidates France's 13 regions, and 26 of its 101 departments. The worst defeat was to come in 2014 when the PS lost municipal elections in more than 150 cities of at least 9,000 inhabitants.

Parties don't just disappear

As this year's campaign wore on, party infighting turned into open warfare between diehard leftists and the more centrist, economically liberal wing represented by Valls. The party failed to find a "third way... between social liberalism and the radical left," said Thibaut Rioufreyt, a political scientist based in the central city of Lyon. "They broadly abandoned the intellectual work." The PS joins the ranks of other socialdemocratic forces in Europe that have recently suffered deep losses, such as in Greece, Austria, Spain, Ireland and the Netherlands.

"The problem with social democracy is that it does not have the answers to new changes in modern society such as globalization, the digital revolution and the ecological transition," Rioufreyt said.

But the June parliamentary elections hold out some hope for France's Socialists, Lefebvre said. "Political parties don't disappear just like that. The PS has been around for 100 years, (with) an organizational structure, elected officials, activists, a tradition and a memory." — AFP

SOUTH AFRICAN PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO SLAYING HIS WEALTHY FAMILY

CAPE TOWN: In a case that has gripped South Africa, the 22-year-old son of a wealthy family pleaded not guilty yesterday to slaughtering his parents and brother in a frenzied axe attack. The trial, which opened in Cape Town after several delays, has attracted international interest as police failed to arrest anyone for the grisly killings until Henri van Breda handed himself in

Van Breda is alleged to have killed his brother Rudi and parents Martin and Teresa, and left his sister Marli struggling with near-fatal injuries to her head, neck and throat. The events took place on January 27, 2015 at the family's luxury home at an exclusive golf estate in Stellenbosch outside Cape Town, where they lived after returning from several years in Australia. At the Western Cape High Court, van Breda, dressed in a suit and tie, quietly said "not guilty" to three counts of murder and one of attempted murder.

In a statement read out by his lawyer Pieter Botha, van Breda said that a masked intruder had entered the house and attacked his family with an axe in the early hours of the morning. The accused said he could "make out the silhouette of somebody" attacking his brother in the highsecurity property.

"I shouted for help, shouting to attract attention," he said. Van Breda said his father came into the room "trying to tackle the attacker." "My father was struck as he lunged towards the attacker. He was hit a number of times... I also



CAPE TOWN: Henri Van Breda arrives at the High Court in Cape Town, South Africa, yesterday. — AP

recall the attacker was laughing." Van Breda said he heard his mother's voice, and then the attacker left the room. According to media reports, Rudi, a 21-year-old engineering student, was found on a blood-soaked bed next to his father, 54. Both were killed by savage blows from the axe. His mother, 55, was found with a gaping head wound on the bedroom's balcony.

Disarmed attacker

Marli, then 16, was left in a coma after the attack and suffered memory loss, but she may give evidence during the trial. Van Breda himself had only minor bruises and scratches, which experts say may have been self-inflicted.

Yesterday, he said in his statement that he had passed out after disarming the attacker, who then fled the house. "I later woke lying on the stairs. I was unsure how long I was unconscious... I could see it was light. I then saw Marli moving. I could also hear what sounded like Rudi making gurgling sounds," he said. In a leaked tape of his call to emergency services, van Breda said his family members were "bleeding from the head" before he appeared to giggle briefly. Van Breda in his statement said he was in the toilet playing games on his phone when the intruder broke in.

He described his family as "fairly close-knit" who enjoyed boating and shark cage diving together. Before the attack, they had spent the evening watching a Star Wars movie, while their mother spoke on the phone. The run-up to the trial generated fevered interest over a privileged son allegedly unleashing a savage attack on his family, whose fortune has been estimated at \$16 million.

There is a continuing legal battle over whether the trial can be broadcast live on television. Local reports suggested van Breda had spent time in drug rehabilitation before the deaths. He was enrolled as a science undergraduate at the time. He handed himself in to a local police station 18 months after the attack, during which time the police had made no arrests. Since being arrested, he has been on \$8,000 bail while living with his girlfriend. The trial continued yesterday. — AFP



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XI URGES RESTRAINT OVER NORTH KOREA AS US CARRIER APPROACHES

CHINA, US MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT, EXCHANGE OPINIONS

increase tensions in the Korean peninsula,"

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping urged "restraint" over North Korea in a phone call with Donald Trump yesterday, as Japan joined exercises with an American super carrier heading to the Korean peninsula. The US leader has repeatedly called

Palm Beach, Florida. —AP

on China, the North's sole major ally, to do more to rein in Pyongyang, as tensions in the region soar amid speculation it will conduct another nuclear test. "(China) hopes that the relevant parties can main-

tain restraint and avoid actions that would a timely manner," Xi told Trump.

FLORIDA: In this file photo, US President Donald Trump, left, and more to help.

Xi said, according to the foreign ministry. "The only way to realize denuclearization in the Korean peninsula and quickly

resolve North Korea's nuclear problem is for each relevant party to fulfill its duties."The conversation-the second since their summit at Trump's luxury resort in Florida early this month-highlights rising concern in Beijing that tensions between Washington and Pyongyang could spiral into military conflict. "The international situation is rapidly changing, it is essential that China and the US maintain a close contact and exchange opinions on important matters in

Trump also spoke to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday, discussing the joint drills under way between the US carrier Carl Vinson and Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force. "We completely agreed that we strongly demand restraint by North Korea, which has repeatedly taken dangerous provocative actions," Abe told reporters after the call. Tensions have soared in recent months as North Korean missile tests have brought ever-more bellicose warnings from Trump's administration-and repeated demands for China do

Despite its longstanding ties with the North, China has stepped up pressure, announcing in February that it was halting all imports of coal from North Korea-a crucial earner for Pyongyang-for the rest of the year. It also issued a stern warning earlier this month that a conflict over North Korea could break out "at any moment". The comments came ahead of a failed missile test a day after the 105th anniversary of the birth of North Korea's founder Kim Il-Sung. Missile and nuclear tests are often timed around major dates and speculation is now focused on today's anniversary of the founding of its military.

China can do more

US Vice President Mike Pence said Saturday that the Vinson and its strike group would arrive in the Sea of Japan (East Sea) — which sits between the Korean peninsula and Japan-"in a matter of days". South Korea also said it was considering drills with the carrier group, which is currently conducting joint exercises with Japan in the Philippine Sea. Confusion had clouded the carrier's whereabouts after Trump earlier indicated the "armada" was steaming towards North Korea when in fact it was heading south and was photographed off Java.

The North's ruling party newspaper yesterday called the Vinson's deployment "undisquised military blackmail". "Such threat may startle a jellyfish, but can never work on the DPRK," it said, using the country's official name. A separate editorial on the North's propaganda website Uriminzokkiri said the dispatch of the Carl Vinson signaled "that an invasion of the North is nearing day by day".

In the event of an attack, it said, "The world will witness how Washington's rash nuclear aircraft carriers are turned into a huge pile of steel and buried at sea and how a country called America is wiped out from the Earth." Pyongyang has also detained a US citizen-Kim Sang-Duk, or Tony Kim, who was lecturing at a foreignfunded university in Pyongyang, the university said yesterday. Two other US citizens-college student Otto Warmbier and Korean-American pastor Kim Dong-Chulare currently being held in the North after sentenced to long prison terms.

North Korea has arrested and jailed several US citizens in the past decade, often releasing them only after high-profile visits by current or former US officials or former US presidents. The new US president has indicated he will not allow North Korea to achieve its goal of developing an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to the western United States. Pyongyang insists it needs a powerful arsenal-including atomic weapons to protect itself from what it says is the ever-present threat of invasion by hostile US forces.—AFP

PENTAGON CHIEF VISITS AFGHANISTAN AFTER DEADLY TALEBAN ATTACK

AFGHAN ARMY CHIEF, DEFENSE MINISTER RESIGN

KABUL: US Defense Secretary Jim Mattis arrived in Afghanistan on an unannounced visit yesterday, hours after his Afghan counterpart resigned over a deadly Taleban attack that triggered anger and left embattled security forces facing disarray. Mattis, making his first visit to Afghanistan as Pentagon chief, was due to meet top officials including President Ashraf Ghani less than two weeks after the US dropped its largest non-nuclear bomb on Islamic State hideouts in

tions, along with the announcement of a corps commanders reshuffle, came amid fury over the Taleban assault on an army base outside the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif on Friday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping pause for photographs at Mar-a-Lago in

Gunmen in soldiers' uniforms and armed with suicide vests entered the base in army trucks and opened fire at unarmed troops in the mosque and dining hall in potentially the deadliest-ever Taleban attack on an Afghan military target. Afghan officials have so far ignored calls to

dead as high as 130. The raid, the latest in a series of brazen Taleban assaults, underscores the insurgents'

growing strength more than 15 years since they were ousted from power by the US invasion of 2001. Afghans slammed the government for its inability to counter the attack, though Habibi said at a press conference in Kabul yesterday that his resignation was voluntary, comparing himself to "a soldier who sacrifices in battle". "Nobody in the world has been able to prevent such



KABUL: US Defense Secretary James Mattis, 3rd right, is met by US Army Command Sergeant Major David Clark, left, and General Christopher Haas, 2nd right, as he arrives at Resolute Support headquarters in the Afghan capital Kabul yesterday. —AFP

the country's east.He arrived as Afghan security forces, already paying a heavy price against the resurgent Taleban ahead of the spring fighting season, faced chaos with the resignations of defense minister Abdullah Habibi and army chief Qadam Shah Shaheem. The resigna-

break down the toll it has given of more than 100 soldiers killed or wounded. They have been known to minimize casualties in such attacks in the past.

The US has said that at least 50 soldiers were killed, and some local officials have put the number of

attacks," he said of the base assault. "It is an intelligence war and a war on terrorism. It is very difficult." He repeated that an investigation was ongoing and more information about the death toll would be given when it is complete, though he admitted the casualties were "high."

Afghan security forces targeted

Mattis' visit also comes after the US dropped a GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast, dubbed the "Mother of All Bombs", on Islamic State hideouts in eastern Nangarhar province, killing nearly 100 militants, according to unverified figures from Afghan officials. The attack triggered global shockwaves, with some condemning the use of Afghanistan as what they called a testing ground for the weapon, and against a militant group that is not considered as big a threat as the Taleban. Mattis, who has previously served with the US military in Afghanistan, has said he is compiling an assessment for President Donald Trump on the brutal and seemingly intractable conflict. The Afghan war is the longest in US history but Trump has scarcely given it a passing mention-other than to call the MOAB strike a success-while campaigning or since entering office.

Mattis said in February his commander-in-chief had been "rightfully reticent" on the matter, as he was waiting for input from his generals. The Pentagon chief, who is on a tour of the Middle East and Africa, is the second senior US security official to visit Afghanistan this month: National Security Advisor General HR McMaster arrived in Kabul days after the MOAB was dropped. The US has around 8,400 troops in the country with about another 5,000 from NATO allies assisting a much larger Afghan force in the war against the Taleban and other Islamist militants.

Afghan security forces, beset by killings and desertions, have been struggling to beat back insurgents since US-led NATO troops ended their combat mission in December 2014. According to US watchdog SIGAR, casualties among Afghan security forces soared by 35 percent in 2016, with 6,800 soldiers and police killed. More than a third of Afghanistan is outside government control and many regions are fiercely contested by various insurgent groups, as Kabul's repeated bids to launch peace negotiations with the Taleban have failed. —AFP



DHAKA: Bangladeshi activists chant slogans as they mark the fourth anniversary of the Rana Plaza building collapse at the site where the building once stood in Savar, on the outskirts of Dhaka, yesterday. —AFP

BANGLADESHI WORKERS MARK FOUR YEARS SINCE FACTORY COLLAPSE

anniversary of a factory disaster that killed 1,138 people, demanding justice for the victims and better pay. Four years later, no one has yet been convicted over the collapse of the Rana Plaza factory complex in one of the

world's worst industrial tragedies. Another 2,000 people were wounded in the disaster, which sent shockwaves across the world and highlighted the failure of many top Western fashion brands to protect workers in the poor developing countries where their goods are manufactured. "If four years are not enough to punish the culprits, bring them to us: we will find justice for ourselves," said Marium Akter, whose daughter Shieuly died in the disaster, as she laid a wreath at the site. "I don't need any compensation any more. I want Sohel Rana to be hanged," she said, referring to the owner of the factory complex who has been charged with murder.

A court last year ordered that Rana and 40 others, including factory officials and government inspectors, should face trial for murder. They are accused of falsely certifying the factory complex as safe. Thousands of textile workers were forced to enter the building to start shifts even though some expressed fears after noticing cracks in the structure. Bangladesh has 4,500 textile factories, shipping some \$30 billion worth of garments-the second largest exporter after China-but only a few hundred of these have been certified as safe.

Authorities have provided compensation for the 3,000 victims, including the injured and families of the dead, but many

SAVAR, Bangladesh: Thousands of survivors say it is not enough. "I would Bangladeshi garment workers staged a tear- rather die than live like this," said Nilufa ful demonstration yesterday to mark the Begum, who was rescued 10 hours after the factory collapsed and still needs crutches. "I want to live like a normal human being," said the 37-year-old, adding she had spent 450,000 taka (\$5,700) on treatment. Many survivors were in tears as they protested at Savar on the outskirts of Dhaka, and at a state-run graveyard where many of the workers were buried.

Worst paid in the world

Security was tight, with hundreds of police and water cannon deployed. "Why do they have a water cannon? We came here to honor our departed brothers and sisters," said one angry garment worker. Some shouted slogans demanding an increase in the basic monthly wage of \$68 for the country's four million garment workers. "Bangladeshi workers are the worst paid in the world. We want minimum monthly wages of \$200 to have a decent living," Saiful Islam, a union leader, said.

A survey last week by global charity Action Aid of more than 1,400 Rana Plaza survivors found nearly half were still jobless while roughly 31 percent were too traumatized to work. In the wake of the disaster, authorities pledged to improve working conditions at factories but accidents are still commonplace. Even as workers rallied for safer conditions on Monday a boiler explosion at a factory in the western district of Kushtia killed two workers, said local police chief Shahabuddin Chowdhury. In September a fire at factory just miles from Rana Plaza claimed 34

INDIAN MINISTER RIDICULED AS BIZARRE DROUGHT PLOT BACKFIRES

NEW DELHI: An Indian politician who attempted to cover a dam in sheets of polystyrene has been left red-faced after his bizarre water-saving scheme backfired. Tamil Nadu state minister Sellur K Raju waded into the dam with dozens of sheets of polystyrene, convinced they could help reduce water evaporation in the drought-stricken state. But the noble yet puzzling effort went belly-up almost immediately as strong winds lifted the lightweight sheets into the air, tossing them across the surface of the water.

Footage of last Friday's incident showed officials in rowing boats pursuing the airborne sheets, while others used rocks to try and keep them in place. Elsewhere broken chunks of the white polymer plastic, stuck together with colored tape, were seen washed up on the dam banks. The minister defended the hare-brained scheme-which reportedly cost one million rupees (\$15,500) — saying he had been told "thermocol technology" could reduce water evaporation.

"I learnt about this (technology) from a source," he told reporters, without elaborating. Images of the minister flailing waist-deep in water with the unwieldy sheets attracted widespread scorn on social media, where Indians blasted the botched experiment as a waste of public money. "Instead of using thermocol sheets to cover the entire dam, how about using a huge tarpaulin sheet to cover the sun. Problem solved," one Twitter user wrote sarcastically. "Tamil Nadu's Next project, putting sunglasses to the Sun!" said another. —AFP



MADURAI: In this photograph, Co-operatives Minister for the Indian state of Tamil Nadu Sellur K Raju, center, government officials and civic workers use thermocol polystyrene sheets to attempt to cover the reservoir at the Vaigai Dam in Madurai. —AFP

POLICE FIRE AT STUDENT PROTESTERS IN KASHMIR

SRINAGAR: Police fired into a crowd of stone-throwing students in Kashmir yesterday, as violence in the disputed region intensified. Hundreds of student protesters shouted "We want freedom" and "Go India, go back" as they fought with government forces after taking to the streets of the main city Srinagar. An AFP reporter saw police fire live rounds as well as tear gas and water canon to try to disperse the protestors.

The violence broke out as colleges in the city reopened following clashes last week between students and government forces. "A few students were detained. Three photojournalists and eight policemen were injured with stones," a police officer said on condition of anonymity. Nearly 100 students and around the same number of police were wounded in last week's disturbances, which prompted authorities to temporarily shut down schools and universities.

The students were angered by a raid earlier this month on a college in the southern district of Pulwama in which police attempted to detain the alleged ring-leaders of earlier protests. Government forces are not supposed to enter college or university premises without special permission. Indian-administered Kashmir has been tense since April 9, when eight people were killed by police and paramilitary troops during election day violence.

Footage apparently showing a civilian tied to the front of an army jeep to deter protesters from throwing stones at the vehicle has also caused outrage after it was circulated on social media. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British rule in 1947. Both claim the territory in its entirety. Armed encounters between rebels fighting Indian rule and government forces have become more frequent since the killing of a popular rebel leader by security forces last July sparked widespread unrest. Police and army officials say dozens of local youths have joined the rebel ranks since then. —AFP



US BLACKLISTS 271 SYRIAN CHEMISTS OVER SARIN ATTACK

Continued from Page 1

"These sweeping sanctions target the scientific support center for Syrian dictator Bashar Al-Assad's horrific chemical weapons attack on innocent civilian men, women, and children," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said. "The United States is sending a strong message with this action that we will hold the entire Assad regime accountable for these blatant human rights violations in order to deter the spread of these types of barbaric chemical weapons."

The Treasury's action followed the US military's firing 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at a Syrian airfield on April 7 to punish the government and set a warning against any further chemical weapons attacks. "These sanctions are intended to hold the Assad regime and those who support it - directly or indirectly - accountable for the regime's blatant violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention and UN Security Council Resolution 2118," Mnuchin said.

The attack on Khan Sheikhoun was also debated in the UN Security Council. But Russia, a close ally of Assad,

vetoed a resolution on April 12 demanding the Syrian government cooperate with an investigation of the attack. Assad has denied the attack, branding it a "fabrication" by the West. The US Treasury already had imposed sanctions against 18 Syrian officials in January. The sanctions effectively aim to shut those targeted out of global financial networks, making it difficult for them to do business or even travel. Mnuchin said the administration "will relentlessly pursue and shut down the financial networks of all individuals involved with the production of chemical

weapons used to commit these atrocities".

The US has gradually been expanding its sanctions program against Syria since 2004, when it issued sanctions targeting Syria for a range of offenses, including its support of terrorism, as well as its occupation of Lebanon, efforts to undermine stability in Iraq and pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. More recently, sanctions were expanded in connection with its civil war, now in its sixth year, to target offenses linked to the ongoing violence and human rights abuses. — AFP

side. — AFP

'FLYING MACHINE' MAKER PLANS DELIVERIES

Continued from Page 1

United States in uncongested areas" under US federal regulations for ultralight aircraft. No pilot's license is required, and two hours' training is said to be all that is needed.

The website offered few details about the company, but several reports in recent months have said Page has poured millions of dollars into Kitty Hawk and another electric car startup. Kitty Hawk president Sebastian Thrun, a Stanford University computer science professor who has been called the father of Google's self-driving car, tweeted: "Changing the future of personal transportation. Join us @kittyhawkcorp to get information about #theFlyer prototype." The company announced it was offering three-year "memberships" for \$100 to be

placed on a waiting list and to get a discount on the price of the new transporter. The price is to be announced later this year.

The startup offered only limited details about the company. An email response to an AFP query said the lead engineers were Cameron Robertson and Todd Reichert, who created a startup called Aerovelo which aims to produce the fastest human-powered vehicle. Kitty Hawk said the flyer going on sale later this year will have a different design than the prototype.

A blog post by writer Cimeron Morrissey, who took the flyer for a test run, offered some clues on how it feels. "The prototype looks and feels a lot like a flying motorcycle. You mount the seat and lean forward, just like you would on a bike," she wrote. "I feel light and ecstatic and utterly free.

QATAR AIRWAYS SLAMS 'BULLYING'

Continued from Page 1

Baker, whose carrier is offering free laptops to premium passengers in response to the ban, said Qatar Airways has faced some drop in business to US destinations. "There was some decline. Something manageable. We did not have massive declines," he said. "We still have robust business in the United States... and we will continue our expansion," he added. Baker announced San Fransisco as a new route to be added to its 10 US destinations early next year. A route to Las Vegas will be launched in the second quarter of 2018, he said.

A pressure group called The Partnership for Open and Fair Skies - which includes American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines - said the planned San Francisco expansion represents "another subsidized route into the United States". "Qatar Airways receives billions of dollars in illegal subsidies from its government in order to fly to our country and trash American jobs," said the group's spokesperson Jill Zuckman in a statement.

The blunt and plain-spoken CEO described the US competition as "wicked" for the way their passengers are treated and said they operate in cities where they "can swindle their customers". In a further dig, Baker

البوسفيي YOUSIFI

quipped that if a flight was full, he would travel on a jump seat where cabin crew often sit because the airline's policy is not to remove passengers. He was referring to an incident in which a United Airlines passenger was filmed being dragged off an airplane by airport security officers on an overbooked flight.

"We would never offload a passenger in Qatar Airways even if it is the CEO of the airline that wants to travel," he said. "We would not drag out people out of an airplane." He said Qatar Airways has plans to expand to 26 new global destinations, adding: "The United States is not the entire world." The airline, he said, also has plans to apply with Qatar's sovereign wealth fund for a license to operate a new domestic Indian carrier.

Emirates, the Middle East's largest carrier, said last week it was reducing flights to the United States in response to "weakened travel demand". The US ban went into effect on March 25 on nine airlines in Turkey, Morocco, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Britain followed with a similar ban from five countries from the Middle East, northern Africa and Turkey. The fast-growing Gulf carriers have turned their home airports into major hubs for international travellers, capturing a sizable chunk of travel between the West and Asia and Australasia. — Agencies

Obama says ready to train new leader...

Continued from Page 1

at the law school. "What I'm convinced is that... the single most important thing I can do is to help in any way I can to prepare the next generation of leadership to take up the baton and to take their own crack at changing the world."

Until yesterday, Donald Trump's Democratic predecessor had not given a public speech or an interview since leaving the White House on Jan 20. He has tweeted a few times and issued a few statements through a spokesman, notably to defend his signature domestic policy achievement, health-care reform - which Trump's Republicans are now hoping to dismantle. Obama also spoke up when his billionaire successor accused him of personally ordering the wiretapping of Trump Tower during the 2016 presidential campaign.

But for now, he has abstained from any substantive commentary on how Trump is doing, in keeping with presidential protocol which dictates that past residents of the White House do not step on the toes of the current occupant. That silence comes in the face of accusations by Trump on everything from Syria, with the Republican all but accusing Obama of bearing responsibility for chemical weapons attacks by the Damascus regime, to gang violence in America.

Youth civic engagement and community organizing are at the heart of the mission of the Obama Center, which is located on Chicago's South Side, where Obama started his career as a community activist. On Sunday, America's first black president privately met with

at-risk youth from the South Side to discuss gang violence, jobs and training, according to The Chicago Tribune.

The Obamas are currently renting a house in Washington, where their youngest daughter Sasha is finishing high school. Since leaving office, Obama has gone kitesurfing in the Caribbean with British billionaire Richard Branson. He then spent nearly a month in French Polynesia, where he vacationed on media mogul David

Geffen's yacht - and was reportedly working on his book.

But after yesterday, his public schedule will pick up pace. On May 7, he will receive the 2017 Profile in Courage award from the John F Kennedy Library Foundation in Boston. He will give a private paid speech during a visit to Italy. And then on May 25, he will deliver a speech at a Protestant church gathering at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, with Chancellor Angela Merkel at his



CHICAGO: Former US President Barack Obama smiles as he hosts a conversation on civic engagement and community organizing yesterday at the University of Chicago. —AP



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Kuwait — Times

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PENCE CLEAN-UP ACT IN TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS

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ike Pence has spent many of his first 100 days as US vice president ironing out Trump-induced problems at home and abroad, but he's also been steadily building political capital of his own. Whether it's on an isolated runway in the South Pacific or in a hotel ballroom stateside, a positive meeting or a challenging, Seoul or Sydney, Mike Pence is always "honored" to be there. The 57-year-old former Indiana governor and congressman has spent much of the last 100 days shuttling around Washington and the world, happily representing an administration that seems to stagger from one crisis to the next.

On his travels, Pence is almost always carrying the political equivalent of a mop and bucket. His latest trip - a grueling nine-day swing through the Asia-Pacific - saw Pence try to reassure panicky allies that Donald Trump is not about to rip up decades-old mutual defense pacts that underpin the global order. "His job has been to clean up messes, try to assure foreign leaders and members of Congress and to present the image of governance in times of turbulence," Julian Zelizer, a political expert at Princeton University, told AFP. "He is trying to be the better half of this relationship."

At home, that task has meant trying to rescue Trump's healthcare and tax reforms from the legislative shoals. "He's been willing to do the shuttle diplomacy it takes to get things done in Congress," one Republican told AFP, pointing to Pence's talks with moderates in the so-called "Tuesday Group" and the hardline Freedom Caucus. "It's not uncommon to see Pence and his entourage making their way from one end of the Capitol to the other between meetings with House and Senate leaders. Members seem to like and trust him," the Republican source added.

Style and substance

In many ways, Pence is an unlikely messenger for Trump. A dyed-in-the-wool conservative, Pence is as down-at-home Midwestern nice as his trash-talking New York boss is brash. He rarely eats out, regularly goes to church and only has the odd sip of wine during a toast. While Trump loves action movies, Pence compels staff, Secret Service agents and traveling journalists on Air Force Two to watch "Hoosiers" - the tale of an underdog Indiana farm-boy basketball team made good.

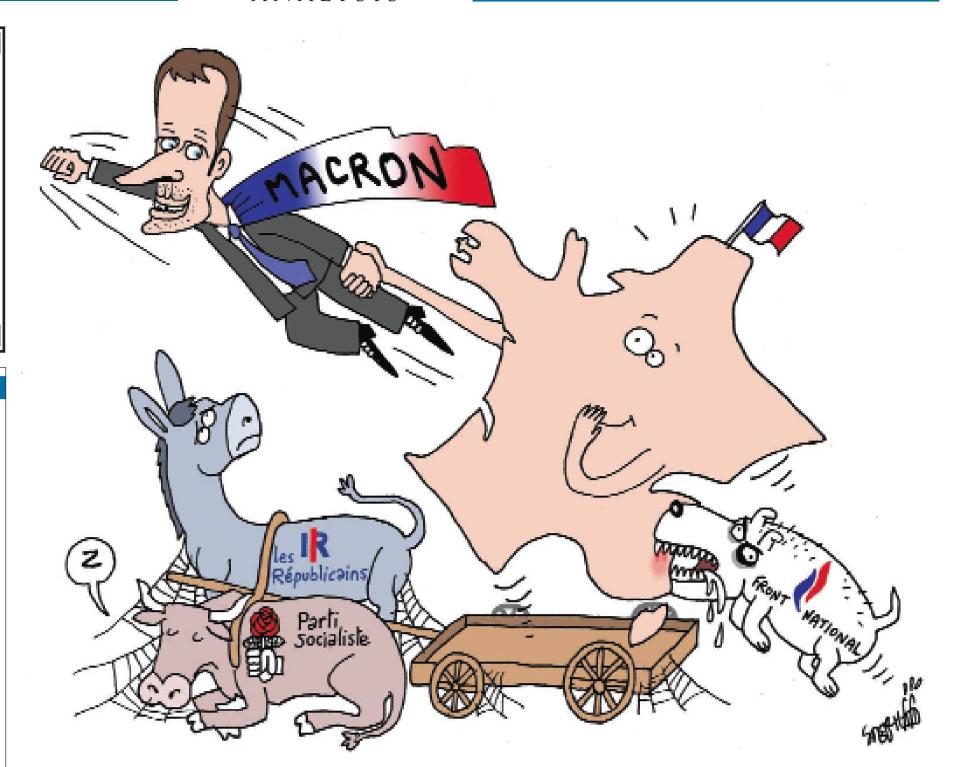
While Trump's family has opted not to join him in the White House, Pence frequently brings his wife Karen and college-aged daughters Charlotte and Audrey on official trips. Many of his staff have worked for him for years, and show none of the stresses and strains from the back-biting that plagues their West Wing counterparts. Most notably, while Trump revels in saying what he really thinks - consequences be damned - Pence is almost painfully scripted.

His stock speech changes little from event to event, country to country - aides can recite it almost verbatim - yet the teleprompter often comes out for the most perfunctory remarks. During his travels, Pence has studiously worked not to eclipse the boss or show any hint of difference with him. "I bring you greetings from the President of the United States of America," he often says, stressing he is only there because Trump asked him to be.

If there is political daylight between the two men, then Pence and his staff do their best to make sure it is never seen in public. "The vice president's role, other than being the president of the Senate, is 100 percent defined by the president," said a senior administration official and aide. "I think you've seen up to this point that the two of them have built a very close relationship - they work very well together," the official said. "The president and the vice president are constantly talking about what message they want to be conveyed and while their styles may be a little bit different in how they do that, the message is the same."

And yet, there is a lingering sense in Washington that Pence's deference may mask a burning political ambition. After all, at just 57 years old, Pence is just a heartbeat away from the presidency. When the time comes, Pence's caution and hard work wooing allies may help him more than Trump can. — AFP

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A LE PEN WINS MORE ACCEPTANCE THAN EVER

Then France last put a Le Pen onto the threshold of the presidential Elysee Palace, one step from power, it could write off the 2002 election shock as a mere accident. Jean-Marie Le Pen squeezed into the winner-takes-all runoff against Jacques Chirac with just 17 percent of the vote, a record low. Ashamed and stunned by the ultra-right leader's breakthrough, French voters of all political persuasions regrouped for round two, filling the streets in protest and rallying at the ballot box to hand Le Pen a humiliating defeat from which his sulfurous political career never recovered.

This time, the presidential election success of another Le Pen, Jean-Marie's daughter, Marine, was anything but accidental. Voters propelled her Sunday into the decisive May 7 duel against Emmanuel Macron with their eyes wide open. The entire political establishment and every poll had forewarned and foretold of Le Pen's first-round breakthrough. That voters pulled the trigger anyway - giving her 1.2 million more votes than in 2012 and, with 21.5 percent of the total, the best score in a presidential race for a Le Pen - showed how ingrained her brand of anti-establishment "French-first" nationalism has become in areas most bruised by and fearful of globalization's blows.

A less divisive and more polished politician than her father, the mother of three has made voting for the National Front party that Jean-Marie founded in 1972

more socially acceptable than ever. Many of his voters kept their far-right political sympathies to themselves, afraid of being labelled racists and anti-Semites by association with the ex-Foreign Legionnaire convicted for describing Nazi gas chambers as a "detail of history".

Marine Le Pen's backers are far less inhibited. Although older voters on the left still sniff that the National Front remains a redoubt of "fachos" - or fascists - she has partially punctured that argument by sidelining much of the party's old guard, including her father in 2015. By consistently hammering on her populist themes that the European Union is straightjacketing and impoverishing France, that open borders are open doors for job-taking migrants and murderous extremism, and that the French political elite is guilty in all this and more, Marine Le Pen is more on-message than her father.

Sharp-tongued like him, she also jumps the tracks of respectability from time to time - for instance, with her denial earlier this month that France was responsible for rounding up more than 13,000 Jews at a Paris cycle track to be sent to Nazi death camps during the Holocaust. Overall, however, she is better packaged and more media-savvy than the cantankerous Jean-

Macron quickly agreed to share the stage with Le Pen in the traditional televised debate between rounds one and two. That showed how she and her expanding

electorate are becoming an increasingly unavoidable force and feature on the landscape, however unsavory that reality is to mainstream politicians who immediately appealed for a repeat of the "all against Le Pen" second-round unity of 2002.

Unchartered Territory

By refusing to debate Jean-Marie Le Pen in 2002, Chirac cast his opponent as a pariah and himself as a champion of French democracy. That Macron couldn't do likewise without looking undemocratic is another measure of how Marine Le Pen is fighting her way into France's political inner circle. By stopping both the mainstream right and left from reaching the second round - a first for modern France - Le Pen and the centrist, pro-EU Macron are redrawing the contours of that circle and taking the country into unchartered territory.

Fifteen years ago, Jean-Marie Le Pen's qualification to the runoff provoked massive street protests - voters' way of making amends for not turning out in sufficient numbers to keep him out in round one. There were scattered protests in Paris on Sunday night, with police reporting 29 arrests. But it appears less likely this time that more than 1 million people will take to streets across France on Monday's May Day holiday as they did against Jean-Marie Le Pen in 2002.

With slow but sure gains at the ballot box since she assumed leadership of the National Front in 2011, Le Pen is planting ever-deeper roots into a broader spectrum of voters - including 18- to 24-year-olds hit hardest by chronic unemployment and, despite her plans to roll back some of their rights, among gays. Those groups largely wouldn't have been seen dead voting for

Sunday's outcome shows a France split almost down the middle. Le Pen outperformed Macron in National Front strongholds along the Mediterranean coast, on the front lines of Europe's efforts to control migration from Africa and the Middle East that she rails against, and in the east and northeast, with rust-belt pockets of despairing working-class voters who see succor in "French first" economic and social protectionism. Le Pen is their whip to sanction the French and EU political establishment - even among some voters who don't otherwise share her politics.

As in 2002, voters probably will come together in sufficient numbers to keep a Le Pen from power. After election setbacks for rightwing populists in the Netherlands and Austria, a Le Pen defeat will signal a halting - at least for now - of the populist wave that crashed over the EU with Britain's Brexit vote last year to leave the bloc and, across the Atlantic, helped put Donald Trump in the White House. But polls suggest Le Pen won't suffer a beating as severe as that endured by her father. At 48, she still has time and, with each passing vote, perhaps a little bit more of France on her side. — AP

SHARAPOVA BACK IN BUSINESS, LIKE IT OR NOT

aria Sharapova returns after a 15-month doping ban Wednesday, desperate to rediscover the glory which brought her five Grand Slams, the world's top ranking and a spectacular multi-million dollar lifestyle. The poster girl of women's tennis won't necessarily be welcomed back with open arms by rivals who were already suspicious of the towering Russian's ice-cold detachment even before her fall from grace. However, Sharapova isn't losing any sleep as the 30year-old prepares for her first match since being defeated by Serena Williams in the 2016 Australian Open quarter-finals

"That is the least of my concerns. I know that I am respected in my field. I see it in how my opponents play against me," said Sharapova who was controversially handed a wild card into this week's Stuttgart event, a clay court tournament sponsored by Porsche, one of her headline backers. She was even given a Wednesday start as that's the day her ban - imposed for testing positive for meldonium at last year's Australian Open comes to an end.

Sharapova, who starts her Stuttgart campaign against Italian veteran Roberta Vinci, had been taking the overthe-counter cardiac supplement when it was within the rules, but was later reclassified as a prohibited drug. Far from being remorseful, Sharapova recently hit out at tennis authorities for failing to give her sufficient warning that meldonium had become a banned substance. The Russian will step onto center court at 1830 (1630 GMT) on Wednesday and could not have picked a better tournament for her return, having won the Stuttgart title three times, and suffering just one defeat.

If she gets through her opener, she could face Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, one of her fiercest critics, in the second round. Radwanska, the sixth-seed in Stuttgart, expects a "fierce" return from the Russian, but says Sharapova should have had to qualify on merit rather than being given a free pass on a wild card.

'Journeyman' rivals

"This kind of entry into the tournament should apply to players who dropped in the ranking because of injury, illness or some other random event. Not for those suspended for doping," said Radwanska. Sharapova's agent Max Eisenbud believes his client's rivals are motivated solely by jealousy especially with Sharapova battling also for a French Open wild card. "All those 'journeyman' players like Radwanska and Caroline Wozniacki who have never won a slam and the next generation passing them. They are smart to try to keep Maria out of Paris," Eisenbud said. "NO Serena, NO Maria, NO Vika, NO Petra, it's their last chance to win a slam," he added, a nod to the absence of pregnant Serena Williams, Petra Kvitova and Victoria Azarenka, expected to return in July after having a baby. Sharapova can expect plenty of support from the Stuttgart organizers as her return is the highlight in the tournament's 40th anniversary celebrations. As an ambassador for Porsche, she is sure of a warm wel-

come. Her confectionary brand - Sugarpova - will have a stand in the tournament's retail village. Tournament director Markus Guenthardt knows her presence will boost ticket sales. "Her return in the Porsche Arena is a fabulous present for our fantastic spectators and is certain to be one of the sporting and emotional highlights of our anniversary tournament," he said. As well as Radwanska, many of her other potential

Stuttgart rivals have made it clear they disapprove of her getting a helping hand into the main draw. Germany's

Angelique Kerber, this year's top seed and the only player to have beaten Sharapova in Stuttgart, said her place should have gone to local talent. "It's a German tournament, and we (have) so many good German players, so this is also a little bit strange," said Kerber. "It's also strange for the players, that she can walk on site on Wednesday and she can play on

Dominika Cibulkova, seeded third but who was forced to withdraw from the tournament yesterday due to a wrist injury, claims Sharapova is benefiting from unfair treatment. "It's not about her, but everyone who was doping should start from zero," said the Slovakian whose spot was taken by Spaniard Garbine Muguruza, the reigning Roland Garros champion. — AFP

AUSTRALIA-BORN MCQUEEN IN ENGLAND SQUAD FOR SAMOA

LONDON: Brisbane-born forward Chris McQueen has been called up by England's Australian coach Wayne Bennett for the mid-season international against Samoa in Sydney on May 6, it was announced yesterday. The 29-year-old McQueen, currently with the Gold Coast Titans but set to join Wests Tigers for the 2018 season in Australia's NRL, was among a 20-man England squad named by Bennett. McQueen, who has made six State of Origin appearances, qualifies through his England-born father. His selection came just days after another former Queensland player, the Auckland-born Ben Te'o, was included in the British and Irish Lions rugby union squad for their upcoming tour of

New Zealand. McQueen previously turned down the opportunity to play for England at the 2013 World Cup. He was one of three uncapped players named in a squad that will be captained by Wigan's Sean O'Loughlin, who missed the 2016 Four Nations tournament through injury. —AFP

MARQUEZ WINS 5TH GRAND PRIX OF THE AMERICAS

WASHINGTON: Spain's Marc Marquez captured his fifth consecutive Moto Grand Prix of the Americas on Sunday, remaining perfect at the US race after beating Italy's Valentino Rossi by 3.069 seconds. Honda rider Marguez, whose Americas wins have all come from the pole, won in 43min 58.770sec with Yamaha star Rossi second in his best-ever finish at the Texas track. Spanish Honda rider Dani Pedrosa was third in his third podium finish over the 5.513km, 20-turn layout in Austin. Marquez, who has won 11 starts in a row on US tracks, rebounded from an early crash out two weeks ago at Argentina as he tries to jump start his bid for a fourth world championship in five years and second in a row. "This was a crucial race because after Argentina it was important to come back in the best way, so we are really happy with this result," Marquez said. "Although I won, it was difficult, because the temperature was much higher than yesterday. Five minutes before the start, I said to my chief mechanic, 'OK, let's use the hard tire' because I knew that I would push the medium front tire a lot. Spaniard Maverick Vinales, the early season points leader after winning the first two races at Qatar and Argentina, crashed out on his Yamaha early and lost the points edge to teammate Rossi, who stands on 56 to 50 for Vinales and Marquez jumping to third overall on 38. —AFP

MATHEWS LEADS SRI LANKA AT ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY

COLOMBO: Angelo Mathews will return as Sri Lanka skipper for the Champions Trophy after missing the ODI series against South Africa, the tour of Australia and the home series against Bangladesh. Sri Lanka Cricket yesterday announced a 15-member squad led by Mathews, who cut short his tour of South Africa after twisting his ankle in January. "I am 100 percent fit now and I also hope to be able to bowl," said the all-rounder who will turn 30 on June 2, a day after the ODI tournament begins in England. He said he was "very happy" with the squad chosen for the tournament and hopeful of making a good impression. "I have got the best squad." he said. "We can do well with this team. I am very happy. I have a lot of confidence. We have an opportunity to bring an ICC trophy to Sri Lanka." Chief selector Sanath Jayasuriya said Lasith Malinga was also being inducted into the squad after nearly two years and was fully fit to play in England. — AFP



BALTIMORE: Vidal Nuno #52 of the Baltimore Orioles pitches against the Boston Red Sox in the seventh inning at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. — AFP/AP photos

BARNES EJECTED AS BOSTON BEATS BALTIMORE 6-2

BALTIMORE: A tempestuous three-game series between the Red Sox and Baltimore wound up with Matt Barnes being ejected for throwing a fastball behind the head of Orioles star Manny Machado in Boston's 6-2 victory Sunday. Barnes' ejection was the latest facet of this tense rivalry between AL East contenders. His high, very inside pitch came two days after Machado took out Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia with a spikes-high slide.

Pedroia watched from the dugout for a second straight day with knee and ankle injuries. Machado apologized with a text message on Friday night, but that evidently wasn't the end of it. Mookie Betts and Hanley Ramirez homered on successive pitches in a four-run first inning, and Andrew Benintendi had a career-high five hits to help Boston avert a three-game sweep. Eduardo Rodriguez (1-1) pitched six effective innings for the win. Machado ended up making the last out, hitting a two-out popup on a pitch from Craig Kimbrel, who got his seventh save. Baltimore right-hander Kevin Gausman (1-2) allowed five runs in 5 1/3 innings.

NATIONALS 6, METS 3

Daniel Murphy hit a grand slam against his former team, Max Scherzer pitched eight fiery innings and the Nationals earned their seventh straight victory. Ryan Zimmerman added a tworun homer for the Nationals, who completed a three-game sweep of the short-handed Mets in the first series this season between the NL East rivals. Missing slugger Yoenis Cespedes and two other injured starters, New York (8-11) has lost four in a row and eight of nine to fall 5 1/2 games behind the Nationals, who own the best record in the majors at 13-5. Scherzer (3-1) struck out nine. Koda Glover got three outs for his second major league save. Michael Conforto and Neil Walker homered for New York. Zack Wheeler (1-2) got the loss.

RANGERS 5, ROYALS 2

Yu Darvish pitched eight innings in his longest outing since elbow surgery two years ago and the Rangers scored the tying and go-ahead runs without a hit, completing a four-game sweep. The Japanese right-hander retired 15 of 16 batters after giving up three consecutive hits in the third. Two of those were back-to-back drives from Mike Moustakas and Jorge Bonifacio, whose first big league homer came two innings after he singled for his first career hit. Darvish (2-2) struck out eight as the Rangers finished their second fourgame sweep of Kansas City in as many seasons. The Royals have lost five of six since a four-game winning streak. Matt Bush pitched a perfect ninth for his first save this season. Kansas City's Jason Hammel (0-2) pitched three-plus innings and was charged with three runs.

ROCKIES 8. GIANTS 0

Kyle Freeland scattered six hits over seven sharp innings, Gerardo Parra hit a two-run homer and the Rockies finished off their first three-game sweep of the Giants at Coors Field since 2002. Freeland (2-1) mixed a wicked sinker with a two-seam fastball to get 12 groundouts and three strikeouts. The Denver native also shattered three bats on a day when the Giants changed their lineup to try to break out of a hitting funk. It didn't work as they lost for the sixth time in seven games. At 6-13, they're off to their worst start since 1983. Jeff Samardzija (0-4) remains winless after going 5 1/3 innings and surrendering seven runs. Colorado leads the NL West with a 13-6 mark. It's tied for the secondbest start in franchise history.

BLUE JAYS 6, ANGELS 2

Marcus Stroman pitched a seven-hitter for Toronto, and Devon Travis hit a go-ahead, tworun homer during a four-run eighth inning. Stroman (2-2) survived a rocky ninth by inducing a game-ending double play in his third career complete game - and his second in 12 days. Albert Pujols delivered a run-scoring single for the Angels in the third inning shortly after Toronto manager John Gibbons' ejection. Los Angeles has lost 10 of 12 with an injury-plagued pitching staff. The Angels clung to a 1-0 lead until Travis connected on a high cutter from Deolis Guerra (0-1) for his first homer.

MARINERS 11, ATHLETICS 1

Nelson Cruz homered and drove in five runs for Seattle, and Taylor Motter hit his first career grand slam. Yovani Gallardo (1-2) pitched into the seventh for his first win with the Mariners, who ended a three-game losing streak and won for only the second time in 11 road games. Oakland had won five in a row. Motter drove a 1-0 pitch from Andrew Triggs (3-1) over the wall in left-center in the third. It was Motter's second homer in four games and No. 5 this season overall.

REDS 7, CUBS 5

Bronson Arroyo pitched six innings of threehit ball, and Cincinnati salvaged the finale of the weekend set. The 40-year-old Arroyo (2-2) allowed Anthony Rizzo's two-run homer - his third of the series - and struck out seven batters for the first time since May 13, 2014. The lanky right-hander has needed more than two years to recover from Tommy John surgery. Raisel Iglesias gave up a pair of runs in the ninth before finishing off the Reds' 3-7 homestand. Patrick Kivlehan's bases-loaded double highlighted a four-run sixth inning off John Lackey (13) and decided a matchup of up-in-years starters. The 38-year-old Lackey and Arroyo have combined for 793 starts in the majors. Despite the loss, the

defending World Series champions took two of three in the series and moved back into first place in the NL Central.

DODGERS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 2 Brandon McCarthy gave Los Angeles a much-

needed strong start, Yasmani Grandal homered in a six-run fifth inning and the Dodgers averted a sweep. After scoring 24 runs in the first two games of the series, the Diamondbacks managed only a two-run homer for Paul Goldschmidt in the first. McCarthy (3-0) allowed five hits in seven innings. Arizona's Shelby Miller (2-2) threw four shutout innings before walking the first two batters and giving up an RBI double to Corey Seager in the fifth. He threw one more pitch and left after a visit to the mound by the Arizona trainer. Miller had tightness in his right forearm.

ASTROS 6, RAYS 4

Brian McCann and Yuli Gurriel hit RBI singles in the 10th inning, and Houston rallied for the road win. Carlos Beltran opened the 10th by drawing a walk from Ryan Garton (0-1). He advanced to second on Jose Altuve's single and reached third on Carlos Correa's fly to center. McCann then singled him home, and Gurriel's two-out single made it 6-4 Astros. Luke Gregerson (1-1) pitched the ninth for the win and Ken Giles got three outs for his fifth save. The Astros tied it at 4 on pinch-hitter Evan Gattis' sacrifice fly off closer Alex Colome in the ninth. Colome was trying for a two-inning save.

PHILLIES 5, BRAVES 2

Cesar Hernandez, Aaron Altherr and Odubel Herrera hit consecutive homers in the eighth, helping Philadelphia complete a three-game sweep. Joey Rodriguez (1-0) got two outs in the eighth to earn the win and Hector Neris finished with a shaky ninth. Neris allowed one run and left the bases loaded. The Phillies have won five of six to even their record at 9-9. Matt Kemp went deep for the Braves, who have dropped six in a row after winning five straight. Arodys Vizcaino (1-1) got the loss.

PIRATES 2, YANKEES 1

Pittsburgh's Ivan Nova gained a measure of revenge over his old team, limiting the Yankees to just four hits over seven innings. Nova (2-2) struck out a season-high seven and walked just one, his lone mistake a home run by Jacoby Ellsbury in the seventh. Tony Watson picked up his sixth save after working out of a bases loaded, one-out jam in the ninth. Andrew McCutchen reached base twice and scored on a double by Gregory Polanco off New York's Jordan Montgomery (1-1). David Freese added a sacrifice fly for Pittsburgh, which won despite going just 1 for 10 with runners in scoring position.

WHITE SOX 6, INDIANS 2

Melky Cabrera drove in a pair of runs, Derek Holland tossed six strong innings and the White Sox busted out of an offensive funk. Avisail Garcia and Leury Garcia each added runscoring hits for Chicago, which managed a total of six hits in the first two games of the series. The win snapped a three-game skid. Francisco Lindor homered for Cleveland, which had won five in a row. Danny Salazar (1-2) allowed four runs and seven hits in five innings. Holland (2-2) improved to 7-1 with a 2.27 ERA against Cleveland in his career. He was charged with one run and three hits.

TIGERS 13, TWINS 4

John Hicks had three hits, including his first career homer, and drove in five runs to lead Michael Fulmer and Detroit to the road win. One day after the benches cleared when Tigers starter Matthew Boyd threw behind slugger Miguel Sano in retaliation for teammate JaCoby Jones being hit in the face, there was no sign of lingering hard feelings. Fulmer (2-1) allowed two runs in seven innings, striking out seven. Jim Adduci had three hits and two RBIs on the day he arrived from Triple-A Toledo and Alex Avila hit a two-run homer for the Tigers. Kyle Gibson (0-3) gave up seven runs in just 2 2/3 innings for the Twins, who went 2-7 on the homestand against AL Central opponents.

CARDINALS 6, BREWERS 4

Mike Leake pitched six effective innings and drove in two runs, leading St. Louis to its sixth win in seven games. Leake (3-1) gave up two runs and three hits. He scored in the third inning and his two-run single capped a three-run fourth. The Cardinals took advantage of six walks by Jimmy Nelson (1-1) and an error by the Brewers for their first four runs. Manny Pina opened the ninth inning for Milwaukee with his first homer and Jonathan Villar added an RBI single. Seung-Hwan Oh got three outs for his fifth save.

MARLINS 7, PADRES 3

Justin Bour capped Miami's six-run sixth inning with a three-run homer. The first six Marlins batters reached and scored in the sixth, helping Tom Koehler (1-1) to his first win of the season. San Diego's Luis Perdomo came off the disabled list and shut down the Marlins through five before hitting the wall in the sixth. Martin Prado hit a leadoff single, Christian Yelich walked and Giancarlo Stanton hit an RBI single to chase Perdomo. Craig Stammen (0-1) came on and allowed Marcell Ozuna's RBI double just past the glove of first baseman Wil Myers and JT Realmuto's RBI single to left before Bour hit a nodoubter to right. — AP

WIELGUS, HEAD OF USA **SWIMMING DIES AT 67**

COLORADO: USA Swimming executive director Chuck Wielgus, who led a federation that brought home 156 Olympic medals during his 20 years at the helm, died Sunday. He was 67. USA Swimming said Wielgus died in Colorado Springs, Colorado, of complications from colon cancer. The cancer was first diagnosed in 2006 and Wielgus underwent regular chemotherapy while leading USA Swimming to record growth. He was due to retire in August. He had announced his planned retirement in early January on the same day he learned he'd been approved to use a new cancer drug that's in clinical trial.

"Chuck fought a long and hard battle with amazing grace and optimism, and will be missed," US Olympic Committee CEO Scott Blackmun said. Wielgus was the longest-tenured leader among US Olympic organizations. The 156 medals represent about one-third of America's overall total from the last five Olympics. During his two decades, USA Swimming's revenue increased by about 600 percent, and its fouryear, Olympic-cycle budget grew from \$35 million to nearly \$160 million. Membership more than doubled, to 400,000-plus, and Wielgus helped turn swimming's Olympic trials into a showcase event. The 2016 trials sold out more than 200,000 tickets.

Wielgus came under fire in recent years for his handling of numerous sexual-abuse cases against the organization, with some calling for his resignation. After saying he had done nothing wrong in a defiant TV interview in 2010, he apologized four years later, writing in a blog: "I wish my eyes had been more open to the individual stories of the horrors of sexual abuse. I wish I had known more so perhaps I could have done more."

The national governing body said current assistant executive director Mike Unger will serve as interim executive director. Unger has taken an active role in helping run the organization while Wielgus was dealing with his illness in recent years.— AP

SNOOKER: CHAMPION SELBY EDGES TOWARDS LAST EIGHT

LONDON: Defending champion Mark Selby looks comfortably placed to reach the quarter-finals of this year's World Championships needing just three frames yesterday to see off Chinese opponent Xiao Guodong. The 33-year-old Englishman leads Xiao 10-6 after Sunday's second session which saw them share the eight frames on offer with the Chinese cueman landing the final two blows of the session.

For Xiao it was a markedly better display than the first session where he was outplayed and trailed 6-2. The winner will play either Australia's former world champion Neil Robertson or Hong Kong veteran Marco Fu, who were embroiled in an engrossing battle. Neither would yield an inch-like the first session, where Fu looking all at sea at 4-1 down, had suddenly crackled into life to win three frames in a row including a break of 118 — and shared the opening two frames of the evening.

Robertson, who revealed last week his form had suffered in past years because of an addiction to computer games, edged back in front to lead 8-7 but 39-year-old Fu took the final one to send them to bed tied at 8-8. Giantkiller Rory McLeod's progress came to an abrupt end as the conqueror of championship favorite Judd Trump was given a salutary lesson with a 13-3 humbling by Stephen Maguire. Maguire, who will be making his first appearance in the last eight since 2012, will play the winner of the second round clash between Graeme Dott and Barry Hawkins. Hawkins looked to have been energized by his 38th birthday in taking a 9-3 lead but the champagne was put on ice as the ever resilient Dott took three consecutive frames. Hawkins won the last frame of the evening to lead 10-6 heading to the final session. — AFP

EMOTIONAL THOMAS FEEDS OFF HIS TEAMMATES' LOVE

CHICAGO: Isaiah Thomas has endured an emotional and difficult week following the recent death of his sister, but he has still managed to elevate his game in the playoffs. Speaking for the first time since his sister, Chyna, died on April 15 in a single-vehicle car crash, the Boston Celtics star said he is thankful for the support of his teammates. "Mentally and emotionally, I'm not here, so I just feed off what the guys give me,"Thomas said on Sunday.



Thomas delivered 33 points and seven assists as the Celtics drew even in their firstround playoff series with a 104-95 victory over the Chicago Bulls. "(My teammates) give me a lot of confidence. I can't do it without those guys. They believe in me," Thomas said. "Being here is what makes me, I guess, sane. It makes me feel somewhat normal through these tough times." Celtics coach Brad Stevens said he is in awe of how Thomas is handling himself both on and off the court.

"I can't believe it," said Stevens. "I tried to say that earlier this week. But what he's been through and the day-to-day, it's been unfathomable the way that he's performed on the court. "It's been really incredible. And it didn't go our way in Boston, but the guys were resilient enough to come back and tie this up. What he has done has been remarkable." But when it comes to basketball not everyone is willing to cut Thomas some slack this week.

Bulls coach Fred Hoiberg is taking exception to Thomas's offensive style and claimed that Thomas regularly gets away with carrying the basketball. "He had a hell of a game tonight. But when you're allowed to discontinue your dribble on every possession, he's impossible to guard," Hoiberg said. "He's impossible to guard when you're able to put your hand underneath the ball and take two or three steps and put it back down. It's impossible to guard him in those situations." Asked about Hoiberg's comments, Thomas said he has no plans to change his style of play. "That's not the reason I'm an impossible cover. I guess (Hoiberg) is just going to continue to say it. I've been dribbling that way my whole life." — AFP

Isaiah Thomas



TORONTO: Braden Holtby #70 of the Washington Capitals stops Tyler Bozak #42 of the Toronto Maple Leafs in overtime in Game Six of the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals during the 2017 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at the Air Canada Centre. —AFP

CAPS WIN SERIES OVER LEAFS, SENATORS SURVIVE OT AGAIN

TORONTO: On paper, it looked as if the Washington Capitals could cruise past the Toronto Maple Leafs as the Pittsburgh Penguins and Columbus Blue Jackets beat each other up on the other side of the bracket. On the ice, the series could not have been more different. Hardly looking as good as they did in the regular season, the Capitals needed six one-goal games - five of which went to overtime - to eliminate the up-and-coming Maple Leafs.

"Give them credit, they battled hard," Alex Ovechkin said after a series that was decided by two total goals and two shots separated the teams. "They're young, but they're strong. They have a very good future." The Capitals' future is a rematch against the defending Stanley Cup champion Penguins, who dispatched the Blue Jackets in five and have been waiting since Thursday night.

After Washington finished off Toronto in overtime Sunday night on Marcus Johansson's second goal of Game 6, it's all set. The Capitals and Penguins will meet in the second round for the second consecutive year with the winner again considered the favorite to come out of the Eastern Conference. It's a showdown of the top two teams in the NHL this season after the Capitals won the Presidents' Trophy with 118 points and the Penguins had 111. "We know how good they are," Washington coach Barry Trotz said. "They knocked us out last year, so we get a chance to go back at them again."

Much like a year ago, the Capitals were tested

in the first round - though this time it was more Toronto's speed than Philadelphia's physicality. The Capitals scored 18 goals to the Maple Leafs' 16 and had one fewer shot (213-212) over the course of the series. "They gave us everything they had, and we had to work hard for it and we had to stick with it for a long time," said Johansson, who was one of the best Capitals players in the series but didn't score until Game 6. "We're ready (to face the Penguins). We're excited. We can't wait to get going. We've worked hard for it. We've worked all year and all summer to get back into this position, and now

Meanwhile, those Penguins again got through the first round in five games largely unscathed because even goaltender Matt Murray's lower-body injury has been shuffled to the back of concerns by the play of Marc-Andre Fleury. Mid-series, Holtby worked on body control and bounced back to allow just two goals in the final two games of the series. "You always say expect the unexpected and you really have to reiterate it in those circumstances to just react," Holtby said. "Don't guess, just react."

Senators survive OT to advance

After five extra periods in four overtime games, the Ottawa Senators will get a chance to rest before meeting the New York Rangers in the second round of the NHL playoffs. They'll need it. The Senators eliminated Boston with a 3-2 victory in Game 6 of their first-round series on rebound for the series-winner. —AP

Sunday, finishing off the Bruins after six straight one-goal games - four of them in sudden death.

"It was quite a fight," Ottawa coach Guy Boucher said after Clarke MacArthur scored a power-play goal 6:30 into overtime to help the Senators advance to the Eastern Conference semifinals against the Rangers. "In overtime, the message was clear - we're not going to play on our heels. We didn't work all year just to sit back and hope things turn out our way," Boucher said. "I thought we played great in the overtime, and instead of being scared to lose, we were hungry to win."

And no one was hungrier than MacArthur. The Senators forward sustained a concussion on Oct. 14, 2015 - Game 4 of last season - and missed 156 games before he finally passed a baseline test in the last weeks of this season and was cleared to return. He played in only four games this year, without recording a point. You've been off for a couple of years and you're thinking, 'Yeah, I should make this play,' or, 'I should be able to do that," he said. "I've just been trying to stick with it and be patient, and you know it's slowly coming."

MacArthur scored in Game 2 against Boston, and then got past David Pastrnak on his way into the Bruins' zone in overtime, tempting the Boston forward into pulling him down from behind. Just 36 seconds into the power play MacArthur grabbed a puck that deflected off goalie Tuukka Rask and beat him on the

CHAPPELL EDGES KOEPKA BY 1 STROKE TO WIN TEXAS OPEN

SAN ANTONIO: Kevin Chappell made an 8foot birdie putt on the final hole to win the Valero Texas Open by one stroke on Sunday. Chappell had a 4-under 68 in the final round to finish at 12 under for the tournament, edging Brooks Koepka at TPC San Antonio to earn his first PGA Tour victo-

ry in his 180th career start. "A big relief," the 30-year-old Chappell said. "There's been quite the monkey on my back for some time now about getting that first win. And to take that off and not have to answer those questions anymore is nice." Koepka, a member of the US Ryder Cup team last year, was aiming for his second PGA Tour win. He had the best round of the day at 65. Before Chappell came down the 18th hole, Koepka had birdied the hole with a 3-foot putt to tie him. "It's hard to win out here - everybody knows that," Koepka said. "I'm knocking on the door to get my second win. It's nice for Kevin to get his first win. That's pretty cool." Second-round co-leader Tony Finau got in a position to tie Koepka when he birdied four of five holes on the back nine. But his par-bogey finish left him to settle for 69 and a share of third place with Kevin Tway (69) at 9 under.

'Pulling the reins back'

Australian Aaron Baddeley fired 68 to finish fourth at 8 under. Brian Gay (70), Sung Kang (68), Ryan Palmer (71) and Cameron Smith (71) were a shot further

back tied for sixth. Koepka, trailing Chappell by a shot coming up the 18th, took a 3-metal out of his bag and considered taking a crack at reaching the 606yard par-5 in two. But he had 293 yards left with a slight uphill shot into the wind with a creek fronting the green.

"I really wanted to go for it - I really wanted to," Koepka said. "But my caddy was kind of pulling the reins back and he wanted me to lay up, and it was probably a good thing that we did." He put the club back in his bag and laid up to create a 90wedge approach. He stuck that to about three feet and made the birdie to go into the clubhouse tied with Chappell. Chappell had almost the same distance for his approach on 18, and he landed it past the hole to set up the winning putt.

"I wouldn't want it any other way," said Chappell, who had been runner-up six times in his career. "Brooks kept me honest out there today. He made me had to do it the right way. There wasn't any question I was going to make 4 (birdie) and win the golf tournament." Finau closed with birdies on four of five holes coming to the 17th. He was just a shot behind Chappell's lead, but he parred there and drove next to a cactus bush on the 18th. He punched out to the fairway, removed cactus needles from his leg, then put his approach into the creek. He took a penalty drop, and his bogey ended his chances. — AP



SAN ANTONIO: Kevin Chappell hits into the wind on the 9th tee during the third round of the Valero Texas Open at TPC San Antonio Oaks Course. — AP

JAZZ BEAT CLIPPERS 105-98 TO EVEN RIVETING SERIES

SALT LAKE CITY: Joe Johnson saved the Utah Jazz - again. "Iso Joe" has become a major problem for the Los Angeles Clippers. Johnson scored 28 points, and the Jazz beat the Clippers 105-98 on Sunday night to tie their first-round playoff series at 2-all. It was Utah's first home playoff win since 2010. "He's so sure with the ball," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "It's not often you find a guy that has that combination of skill, as far as his ability to handle the ball and make plays. And the strength to get to spots on the floor. "The thing that really takes us to a unique place is he's such a willing passer. He basically either scored or assisted on every basket (down the stretch). ... We knew this is who he is and he

knows it's playoff time." Johnson, who hit the winning shot in Game 1, scored 11 straight Jazz points during a crucial stretch in the fourth quarter, including a pull-up iumper for a 91-90 lead with 3:55 remaining after Utah trailed by seven with 7:37 left. The Clippers never led again after controlling the game for most of the night. "Just trying to be aggressive and make plays," Johnson said. "We had to get stops, which kind of fueled our offense. ... We were getting into the teeth of the defense, whether we had layups, dunks or kickouts for 3s, thought we did a good job of making the right decision."

Rodney Hood and Joe Ingles, who had a career-high 11 assists, also hit huge baskets for Utah down the stretch. The Jazz needed all the help they could get after Gordon Hayward left with food poisoning. The series returns to Los Angeles for Game 5 on Tuesday night. Chris Paul had 27 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds for Los Angeles, which played without Blake Griffin after he suffered a toe injury in Game 3. Griffin has been ruled out for the rest of the postseason, increasing the pressure on the rest of the Clippers.

"We let that one slip away," Paul said. "It was 87-80, and that's on me. Being the point guard, I have to manage the game better and make sure we get good shots. "We came here to get back home court. Had an opportunity to get two, but it is what it is." Jamal Crawford scored 25 points, and DeAndre Jordan had 12 points and 10 rebounds. But Los Angeles shot 44 percent from the field, compared to 54.1 percent for Utah.

ROCKETS 113, THUNDER 109

Nene scored 28 points on perfect shooting from the field, and Houston grabbed a 3-1 lead in its first-round playoff series against Oklahoma City. Nene made all 12 of his shots and had 10 rebounds. He helped the Rockets overcome an off night by James Harden, who finished with 16 points on 5-for-16 shooting. Eric Gordon and Lou Williams each scored 18 points for the Rockets. Game 5 is Tuesday night in Houston. Oklahoma City star Russell Westbrook had a triple-double by halftime and finished with 35 points, 14 rebounds and 14 assists. The Thunder said Westbrook joined Wilt Chamberlain as the only players to claim three consecutive playoff triple-doubles. Steven Adams scored 18 points and Victor Oladipo added

CELTICS 104, BULLS 95

Isaiah Thomas scored 33 points, and the Celtics beat the Bulls to tie their first-round playoff series at 2-all. Boston blew a 20-point lead, but Thomas keyed a third-quarter run that put the Celtics back on top after Chicago briefly went ahead. Gerald Green made four 3-pointers on his way to 18 points, helping the top-seeded Celtics return the favor in Chicago after dropping the first two games at home. Al Horford added 15 points and 12 rebounds. Game 5 is Wednesday in Boston. Jimmy Butler carried the Bulls with 33 points and nine assists. — AP



SALT LAKE CITY: Joe Johnson #6 of the Utah Jazz goes up for a shot over Jamal Crawford #11 of the Los Angeles Clippers in the first half in Game Four of the Western Conference Quarterfinals during the 2017 NBA Playoffs at Vivint Smart Home Arena. — AFP

Kuwait Times 55.

SERENA POSTS HEARTFELT BABY MESSAGE ON FIANCE'S BIRTHDAY

LOS ANGELES: US tennis great Serena Williams yesterday marked her fiance's birthday and her return to the world number one ranking by posting an emotional message to her unborn baby on Instagram. Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian turned 34 yesterday, the day that Williams also recaptured the women's top ranking. Williams' social media post showed the 35-year-old sitting on a beach lounger in a black two-piece swimsuit that revealed her growing baby bump.

"My Dearest Baby, You gave me the strength I didn't know I had," Williams wrote on her Instagram account, as she hinted that she expects to be back playing next year. "You taught me the true meaning of serenity and peace. I can't wait to meet you. I can't wait for you to join the players box next year. But most importantly, I am so happy to share being number one in the world with you.... once again today. On

@alexisohanian bday... from the world's oldest number one to the world's youngest number one. -Your Mommy."

Williams is due to give birth in September, the month she turns 36 years old. In December, Williams announced her engagement to tech entrepreneur Ohanian and last week revealed she is expecting her first child and will not play again this year. She was already expecting when she won her record-setting 23rd Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in January-where she beat her elder sister Venus in the final. Kelly Bush Novak, Williams' publicist, had said this week that the US star "looks forward to returning in 2018" and that was echoed by her coach Patrick Mouratoglou. Overtaking Australia's Margaret Court for the all-time record of 24 Grand Slam singles crowns-Williams is on 23 — is also "a determining factor" in her motivation to plough on, the Frenchman said. —AFP

KOHLI PAIN AFTER RCB SETS NEW LOW IN IPL

NEW DELHI: Skipper Virat Kohli said "it really hurts" after Royal Challengers Bangalore slumped to a record low score of 49 against Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League. Chasing a modest 132, the Bangalore batsmen-including Kohli, Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers-crashed in just 9.4 overs to mark a new low for the Twenty20 tournament, now in its 10th edition. Opener Kohli's first-ball duck started the rot for Bangalore, as none of their batsmen reached double digits and Kedar Jadhav top-scored with nine at Kolkata's Eden Gardens. It set an unwanted new IPL record after Rajasthan Royals, currently barred over a spot-fixing scandal, totaled just 58 against Bangalore in 2009.

"Our worst batting performance, it really hurts," a disappointed Kohli said on Sunday, as Bangalore stayed bottom of the eightteam IPL table. "There's nothing to review anything about the second half, it was that bad. We need to forget it and move forward. We're a much better team," he added. Kolkata bowler Nathan Coulter-Nile, who was man of the match for his 3-21, had Kohli caught by Manish Pandey in the very first over to trigger the rout of last year's runners-up. England's Chris Woakes and New Zealand fast bowler Colin de Grandhomme returned figures of 3-6 and 3-4 as Bangalore lost their last six wickets for only nine runs. "I'm sure we won't bat like that again in the tournament... We've got back-to-back games, need to try and win those to get some momentum," said Kohli. For Kolkata, the West Indies' Sunil Narine top-scored with his 17-ball 34 while opening the innings for the home side. —AFP



KOLKATA: Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Virat Kohli reacts after losing his wicket during the 2017 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore at The Eden Gardens Cricket Stadium.—AFP

MERRITT HEADS US DOMINANCE

NASSAU: American veteran Lashawn Merritt showed all his experience to bag a third successive 4x400m gold at the IAAF World Relays on Sunday, as Canadian Andre de Grasse underlined his credentials as Usain Bolt's most likely successor.

The all-powerful US team followed up on victories on Saturday in the women's 4x800m and men's 4x100m relays by clinching gold in both the men and women's 4x400m and men's 4x800m to easily top the medals table. Merritt, whose first senior relay gold dates back to the Helsinki worlds in 2005, had teammates David Verburg, Tony McQuay and Kyle Clemons to thank for putting him out in front.

But he hadn't counted on 18-year-old Botswanan sensation Karabo Sibando, who caught the 30-year-old American up before Merritt battled down the home stretch to hold on for a nerve-racking win in 3min 02.13sec from the Africans, Jamaica taking bronze. "We have a great group of guys here tonight," said Merritt. "They did what they had to do and I did what I do best, that's 'bring it home,' my third time here and third gold!"

On the rise

Canadian De Grasse, who won three medals at last year's Rio Olympics, underlined his coming of age as Jamaican legend Bolt's own tip as world sprinting's next dominant figure by laying down a startling third leg in the 4x200m relay. It was enough to wrest back control for Canada, teammate

Aaron Brown holding off American Ameer Webb for a scintillating victory in the 4x200m relay, Jamaica taking bronze.

Canada's victory, with Gavin Smellie and Brendon Rodney running the first two legs, was the first time a country other than the US or Jamaica had won a sprint relay and made up for the disappointment of not finishing the 4x100m. "It was a great run by all of us," said De Grasse, 22. "We came together collectively, we just wanted to keep the stick around. We told ourselves to trust each other

and be patient."

Canada's win was followed by another upset as Germany picked up an unexpected gold in the women's 4x100m, Alexandra Burghardt, Lisa Mayer, Tatjana Pinto and Rebekka Haase combining to outpace

Jamaica with their winning time of 42.84sec.
The US presence in the race came to an abrupt halt after first leg Tianna Bartoletta tumbled nastily to the floor before baton passover. But otherwise, the US team shone, with self-proclaimed 'relay queen' Natasha Hastings adding yet another gold to her trophy cabinet as she ran in the anchor leg in the 4x400m in the footprints of teammates Phyllis Francis, Ashley Spencer and Quanera Hayes for victory in 3min 24.36sec, Poland taking silver ahead of Jamaica.

And Olympic bronze medallist Clayton Murphy bolted with 150 metres to run in a tactical men's 4x800m to claim an impressive win for the US team also including Brannon Kidder, Erik Sowinski and Casimir Loxsom over a strong Kenyan quartet.—AFP



NASSAU: LaShawn Merritt of the USA and Karabo Sibanda of Botswana run to the finishline in the Men's 4x400 Metres Relay Final during the IAAF/BTC World Relays Bahamas 2017 at Thomas Robinson Stadium. — AFP



KINGSTON: Pakistan's batsman Younis Khan leaves the field after being dismissed on day three of the first Test match between West Indies and Pakistan at the Sabina Park. —AFP

YOUNIS HITS 10,000-RUNS AS PAKISTAN BUILDS REPLY

KINGSTON: Younis Khan became the first Pakistan player to complete 10,000 Test runs as his team reached 201 for four in reply to the West Indies first innings total of 286 at stumps on the third day of the rain-affected first Test at Sabina Park on Sunday. Younis moved on from a painfully slow start to get to 58 while Babar Azam stroked 72 in dominating a 131-run thirdwicket partnership with the former captain to give the tourists the ascendancy into the final session of the day.

However, fast bowler Shannon Gabriel dismissed both in the space of three deliveries to limit Pakistan's progress and leaving captain Misbah-ul-Haq and Asad Shafiq to continue the workmanlike effort heading into the fourth day.

Having confirmed this series as the last before he retires from international cricket, 39-year-old Younis played with exaggerated care at the start of his innings. In contrast, Azam displayed much more aggression and purpose although he once again fell short of a maiden Test century. Possibly mindful of his proximity to the landmark when he started his innings 23 runs away from the cherished goal, Younis took 47 minutes to get off the mark while Azam attempted to keep the scoreboard ticking over at the other end.

Oldest player to break barrier

Playing his first Test in the Caribbean after missing the 2011 tour due to the death of his brother, the former captain eventually started to creep towards his 10,000th run, triggering the celebrations when he swept a delivery from off-spinner Roston Chase in the first over after tea to the backward square-leg boundary to become just the 13th player overall-and the oldest-in the history of the game to scale that summit.

"I thought about bowing out of international cricket three years ago but one of the motivating factors for me to stay was to get to ten thou-

SCOREBOARD

KINGSTON, Jamaica: Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between the West Indies and Pakistan at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Sunday.

| at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Sunday. | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---|--------|--|--|--|--|
| Vest Indies 1st Innings (overnight 278 for 9) | | Bowling: Amir 26-11-44-6, Abbas 22-4-63-1, Riaz 23- | | | | | |
| Brathwaite c Khan b Abbas | 0 | 66-1, Shah 24-5-91-2. | | | | | |
| í. Powell c Khan b Amir | 33 | | | | | | |
| . Hetmyer b Amir | 11 | Pakistan 1st Innings | | | | | |
| . Hope b Amir | 2 | A. Ali c Dowrich b Joseph | 15 | | | | |
| '. Singh c Ali b Riaz | 9 | A. Shehzad Ibw b Holder | 31 | | | | |
| . Chase c Riaz b Shah | 63 | B. Azam b Gabriel | 72 | | | | |
| . Dowrich b Shah | 56 | Y. Khan c Brathwaite b Gabriel | 58 | | | | |
| . Holder not out | 57 | Misbah-ul-Haq not out | 5 | | | | |
| D. Bishoo c Ahmed b Amir | 28 | A. Shafiq not out | 5 | | | | |
| a. Joseph b Amir | 0 | Extras (b4, lb3, nb8) | 15 | | | | |
| . Gabriel b Amir | 5 | Total (4 wkts, 78.2 overs) | 201 | | | | |
| xtras (b4, lb18) | 22 | To bat: S. Ahmed, M. Amir, W. Riaz, Y. Shah, M. Abb | oas | | | | |
| otal (all out, 95 overs) | 286 | Fall of wickets: 1-23 (Ali), 2-54 (Shehzad), 3-185 | (Khai | | | | |
| all of wickets: 1-1 (Brathwaite), 2-23 (Hetmye | er), 3-32 | 4-186 (Azam) | | | | | |
| Hope), 4-53 (Singh), 5-71 (Powell), 6-189 (Chase | e), 7-189 | Bowling: Gabriel 16-5-37-2 (3nb), Joseph 16.2 | -5-35 | | | | |
| Dowrich), 8-264 (Bishoo), 9-274 (Joseph), | 10-286 | (2nb), J. Holder 18-3-40-1 (3nb), Bishoo 15-1-35-0 |). Cha | | | | |

sand runs," Khan said at the end of the day. "I am finished after the series, no matter how many runs I score, but I just hope I have been able to make a useful contribution as a player and also help the younger ones to do as well as I have, or even better."

Hailed as a potential successor to Younis as the permanent occupant of the number three batting position, Azam enjoyed a moment of luck just after lunch when West Indies captain Jason Holder failed to hold on to a caught-and-bowled chance with the batsman on 12. Yet just as it looked as if their partnership would continue until the close of play, Gabriel broke through.

Younis mistimed an off-drive to give to be caught at extra-cover and become the fast bowler's 50th Test wicket. Then in his next over a tentative Azam played on to spark further celebrations among the West Indian players. Earlier, Holder finished unbeaten on 57 after the

delayed start to another rain-affected day as Mohammad Amir completed his best Test innings figures to wrap up the home side's innings after they resumed at the overnight position of 278 for nine.

6-1-25-0, Brathwaite 7-1-22-0.

He bowled last man Gabriel to finish with six for 44, an effort which improved on his previous best of six for 84 against England at Lord's in 2010. Play started 90 minutes later than scheduled due to the continuing effects of heavy, torrential rain on a damp outfield which reduced play to just 55 minutes on the second day. Pakistan started their reply brightly with Azhar Ali looking ominous before he chased a wide delivery from Alzarri Joseph to give a catch to wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich. Ahmed Shehzad, playing his first Test for almost two years, also opened brightly with a flurry of shots, including five boundaries in 31 only to be trapped legbefore on the back foot by Holder. — AFP

The maleficent seven: Drug users in tennis

STUTTGART: Former world number one and five-time major winner Maria Sharapova returns to tennis in Stuttgart tomorrow after a 15-month doping ban. Take a look at seven other highprofile suspensions in the sport:

Mariano Puerta

In 2003, Argentina's Puerta, who was to reach number nine in the world, received a two-year suspension after testing positive for clenbuterol but the ban was cut to nine months after he argued the substance was in an asthma treatment. Two years later, he was banned again after failing a drugs test following his 2005 French Open final defeat to Rafael Nadal. He was banned for eight years but the sanction was cut again to two years when he claimed the substance etilefrine was ingested accidentally after it was in a glass used by his wife. Last played on tour in 2009 on the Challenger level.

Wayne Odesnik

American Odesnik was banned for 15 years in 2015 after a second doping violation having tested positive for steroids. He had already been suspended in 2010 after being caught with human growth hormone. That was later reduced to 12 months after he had co-operated with investigations.

Sesil Karatantcheva

As a precocious 15-year-old, the Bulgarian reached the French Open quarter-finals in 2005, knocking out Venus Williams on the way and ending the year at 35 in the world. However, in January 2006 she was banned for two years after testing positive for nandrolone. Karatantcheva claimed her positive result had been caused by pregnancy but tests showed this not to be the case. She lost her appeal and did not play at all in 2006 and 2007. Karatantcheva has struggled ever since with her ranking now at 216 forcing her to scratch out a living on the second-tier ITF Tour.

Martina Hingis

The former world number one, now 36, had already stepped back from the tour in 2003 after a career which saw her claim five Grand Slam singles titles. Returned in 2005 before announcing in 2007 that she had tested positive for a small amount of cocaine at Wimbledon. "I have tested positive but I have never taken drugs and I feel 100 per cent innocent," she said. Hingis was banned for two

years but returned to the sport in 2013 and has since built a successful doubles career.

Richard Gasquet

The French player tested positive for cocaine in 2009 but was banned for just two and a half months after he successfully argued that he had accidentally ingested the drug when he kissed a girl at a Miami nightclub. "We have found the player to be a person who is shy and reserved, honest and truthful and a man of integrity and good character," the tribunal which cleared him said in its ruling. "He is neither a cheat nor a user of drugs for recreational purposes."

Viktor Troicki

Troicki, the hero of Serbia's 2010 Davis Cup triumph, was banned for 18 months in 2013 after failing to provide a blood sample at the Monte Carlo Masters, claiming he had felt unwell and had a long-standing fears of needles. He did however provide a urine sample. "Despite the misunderstanding between the player and the doping control officer, there was no suggestion that Mr. Troicki intended to evade the detection of a banned substance in his system," said the Court of Arbitration for Sport who cut his ban to 12 months.

Marin Cilic

Before he went on to become a US Open champion, Croatia's Cilic was banned for nine months for testing positive for the banned stimulant nikethamide at the 2013 Munich tournament. Cilic claimed the substance was in an over-the-counter glucose product purchased from a pharmacy. His ban was eventually reduced to four months on appeal. —AFP



MINSK: Martina Hingis, of Switzerland, left, returns a ball as partner Belinda Bencic follows play during their Fed Cup World Group semifinal tennis match against Vera Lapko and Olga Govortsova, of Belaru.—AP





KUWAIT COMES FROM BEHIND TO BEAT INDIA

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Ice Hockey National team came one step closer to winning the title after defeating India with the score of 8-5 in their second match. India scored three unanswered goals, before Kuwait's players came back strongly and scored four goals. Oman defeated Macao 2-1 in the previous match.

Kuwait National team player Fahad Al-Hunaidi said the win against India was possible because of the fighting spirit that distinguished all team members and the strong determination to win and get closer to grabbing the title. He said the most difficult stage of the match was when the Indian team was leading with the score of 3-0, but our determination along with our coach's instructions enabled us to come back. Al-Hunaidi said the final match with Oman will be an opportunity to win the title, and solidify Kuwait's Ice Hockey supremacy which is evidently moving in the right direction.

The 2017 Ice Hockey Challenge Cup of Asia will be concluded today as Kuwait meets Oman at 8:00 pm. Kuwait only requires a draw to win the cup for the second time as they won its first two matches, while Oman needs to win by a large margin while hoping that India loses to Macao in the match that will be held at 4:30 pm.





CITY WILL BE STRONGER NEXT SEASON VOWS GUARDIOLA

LONDON: Pep Guardiola insists Manchester City will be a far more formidable force next season after their FA Cup semi-final defeat to Arsenal left the Spaniard empty-handed for the first season in his glittering career. Guardiola's side wasted their chance to reach the final as poor finishing and sloppy defending allowed Arsenal to come from behind and snatch a 2-1 victory in extra-time on Sunday.

With City trailing 11 points behind Premier League leaders Chelsea, their last realistic chance of silverware vanished at Wembley, leaving Guardiola to face the uncomfortable reality that he has failed to provide the trophies expected from him when he arrived last year.

Having dominated in the Spanish and German leagues with Barcelona and then Bayern Munich, while also winning two Champions League titles, Guardiola has found life much harder in the cutthroat world of the Premier League. The Spaniard admits this season has been a learning process and, with his ego clearly bruised, Guardiola promised City would be much improved next term once he has time to make changes to an underachieving squad.

"We will improve next season. We will be strong, especially in the games away against the Premier League teams," he said. "For what I have done in my past the pressure will be on my shoulders for the rest of my career. "Always in my life and always in the rest of my life I try to be better. That is all. "Some players will stay and some will come in. I will try to be proactive. "That is what I want to do. I'm not a guy who complains." After leading City to 10 successive wins at the start of the season, City have gradually fallen back into the bad habits that prompted the club's Abu Dhabi-based owners to axe Manuel Pellegrini and bring in Guardiola.

FRESH INDIGNITY

While City are always capable of dominating possession, too often poor finishing and a lack of killer instinct means that control doesn't bring enough goals, opening the door for a leaky defence to be fatally breached. City's 4-0 thrashing at Everton in January was the heaviest league defeat suffered by Guardiola in his managerial career, while their Champions League last 16 exit against Monaco was the earliest he had bowed out of that tournament. Losing to Arsenal was a fresh indignity and Guardiola is left with little time to pick up the pieces with City facing a vital derby against Manchester United on Thursday. —AFP

MASTERFUL MBAPPE LEADS MONACO TO LIGUE SUMMIT

PARIS: Teenage sensation Kylian Mbappe produced another stylish winning goal as Monaco climbed back to the top of Ligue 1 with a 2-1 victory at Lyon on Sunday. A seventh straight league win leaves Monaco level with Paris Saint Germain on 80 points but with a game in hand on the champions and a far superior goal difference.

PSG had climbed provisionally top for the very first time this season after their own 2-0 win over Montpellier on Saturday, serving a challenge that the Champions League semi-finalists Monaco rose to with gusto in Lyon. Colombian striker Radamel Falcao pounced on a loose ball for his 19th league goal of the campaign to break the deadlock in the 31st minute of a frantic first-half.

The opener came straight after Memphis Depay had fluffed a chance to give the hosts the lead as the Europa League semi-finalists threw everything at Monaco. Battling midfielder Bernardo Silva then hit the crossbar for Monaco as they flooded forward and the hosts hardly had time to breathe before the outstanding Mbappe made it 2-0. With a brilliantly timed run into the box, the 18-yearold's slick flick rounded off another lightning break from Leonardo Jardim's side, for whom the striker has emerged, mainly in the second half of the campaign, with 13 league goals so far. Lyon's Lucas Tousart however produced a thundering header on 50 minutes to convert a corner and peg Monaco back to 2-1 and ensure a tense struggle all the way to the final whistle. Monaco are looking for a first French title since 2000 and have five matches remaining in a tight race with PSG. "Everything can change from one game to the next so it's straight back to work for us to prepare for our next game with Toulouse," Mbappe told French television after the game. Next weekend, third-placed Nice host PSG, while in the following midweek Monaco play Juventus in a potentially draining Champions League semi-final first leg. Earlier Sunday, Mario Balotelli started on the bench as Nice's own faint title hopes

were all but extinguished in a 1-1 draw at mid-table Toulouse. Fired by the goals of Balotelli, Nice had been the early pacesetters in the French league but they have drawn too many games-the stalemate at Toulouse was their 11th of the season-and Balotelli's form has dipped. A goal apiece from Edinson Cavani and Angel di Maria gave Paris Saint-Germain a 2-0 win over Montpellier on Saturday. — AFP



RHONE: Monaco's French forward Kylian Mbappe Lottin (L) vies with Lyon's defender Mouctar Diakhaby (R) during the French L1 football match between Olympique Lyonnais and AS Monaco. — AFP

News

In brief

Giant smoke bombs

interrupt PSV v Ajax **EINDHOVEN:** Thick black fumes from smoke bombs engulfed stands at PSV Eindhoven's crunch home game against Ajax on Sunday, interrupting the match and leaving several fans with breathing and eye problems. Dozens of people scattered to take refuge as black smoke billowed through the Philips Stadion, forcing the referee to suspend play five minutes into the second half. Ten fans, four security guards and a steward suffered respiratory or eye problems, according to the Dutch press agency ANP. A 35-yearold man was arrested on suspicion of letting off the devices, it added. The game resumed shortly after the interruption but photos and videos of the huge cloud of smoke, spewing out from behind advertising hoardings near the touchline, were shared widely on social media. Players from both teams stood on the pitch watching the smoke cloud after referee Kevin Blom brought the game to a halt. Jurgen Locadia scored the only goal after 25 minutes as defending Eredivisie champions PSV won 1-0, dealing a blow to 33-time winners Ajax who are bidding for

Atletico Madrid to fight transfer ban

LAUSANNE: Atletico Madrid officials were at sport's highest court yesterday to challenge a FIFA transfer ban that prevents the club from signing any players in the coming offseason. The Court of Arbitration for Sport is hearing the appeal, but said a verdict is not expected immediately. Atletico and FIFA previously agreed to seek a CAS verdict by June, before the summer trading period opens. FIFA imposed a one-year ban on registering new players as punishment for Atletico breaking rules introduced to prevent child trafficking and luring youngsters from their home country. Atletico denies wrongdoing, though it agreed not to sign players in January while its appeal went ahead. By appealing to FIFA against the original ban last year, Atletico was able to delay it taking effect last offseason when the club completed the signings of forward Fernando Torres and Kevin Gameiro, and midfielder Nicolas Gaitan. Spain's soccer federation has been criticized for its role in player registrations, with Barcelona and Real Madrid also having served FIFA transfer bans.

4 arrested over Bastia violence

BASTIA: Four people were arrested in Bastia yesterday as part of an investigation into violence which marred the Corsican team's match against French Ligue 1 rivals Lyon, iudicial sources said. A hardcore section of home fans at Bastia's Armand Cesari stadium targeted Lyon's players as they warmed up before the game on April 16, causing it to be delayed by more than 50 minutes, and then again as the two sides went in for the break. Two Lyon players Anthony Lopes and Mathieu Gorgelin have filed police complaints after being attacked by Bastia fans during the game. Bastia's next home game against Rennes on April 29 will be played at a neutral ground with no fans allowed. Other disciplinary measures against the club who are already bottom of Ligue 1 and facing relegation next season could follow on May 4. The violence followed crowd trouble several days earlier at Lyon who hosted Turkish team Besiktas in the Europa League quarter-final.

Toure 'mocks' referees

LONDON: Yaya Toure has said he would "prefer" Thursday's Manchester derby to go ahead without a referee after claiming his City side had been on the wrong end of decisions in their FA Cup semi-final loss to Arsenal. Referee Craig Pawson was in the spotlight after City were denied what appeared to be a legitimate goal before losing 2-1 to the Gunners at Wembley Stadium on Sunday. Sergio Aguero had a goal disallowed after the officials ruled Leroy Sane's cross had gone out of play before reaching the City striker, a decision which replays indicated was wrong and Toure said his side had been denied an early penalty as well. "I think the referees have to stop this. I am very disappointed," said Toure. "It is not the first time, there have been a couple of times." Asked if the ball had stayed in play, Toure was in no doubt: "Definitely, and it was a penalty and something more. "But what can we do? If (we) talk about the referee the FA is going to come in for the punishment if we think like that, but I think I need to sleep and rest and forget this game." — Agencies

BAN REVERSAL OF KUWAIT SHOOTING RECOGNIZED BY GLOBAL FEDERATIONS



Shooter Abdallah Al-Raheedi

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Shooting Sport Club announced the organization of the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah tournament at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex on Thursday 27/4 and will continue until Saturday. The tournament will include skeet, trap, double trap, 10m air pistol and rifle, 50m rifle in addition to Olympic archery. The closing ceremony of the tournament will be held on Sunday at the club premises. Secretary General of Kuwait and

Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi said the late Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah Cup is one of the most important tournaments for shooters. It is also a great opportunity for junior shooters to gain experience by participating and learning from more experienced contestants.

contestants.

Al-Osaimi said the club always commemorates those who had served the country and those who supported and cared for the sport of shooting, which is an integral part of Kuwaiti heritage. He added that the late Sheikh was one of the pioneers



Obaid Al-Osaimi

of the sport and contributed to laying its foundation in the country.

Meanwhile, President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Eng Duaij Khalaf Al-Otaibi received several congratulatory calls and letters for the ruling to lift the suspension of Kuwait Shooting from international events. A letter was received from the President of Asian Shooting Confederation Sheikh Ali Abdullah Al-Khalifa who congratulated HH the Amir and all the people of Kuwait and recognized the importance of KSF's role in all international, continental and Arab levels.



Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi

President of Egyptian and African Shooting Federations Brig Hazim Hosni also expressed his pleasure towards the ruling against the ISSF and recognized Kuwait's important role in the sport. President of the European Shooting Confederation, ISSF Vice-president Vladimir Lisin congratulated Kuwait Shooting and invited KSF to participate in the World Championship to be held in Moscow in August. ISSF Vice-president and President of the Italian Shooting Federation Senator spoke to Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi over the phone and congratulated KSF on the CAS ruling.

DORTMUND HOPE TO END BAYERN'S DOUBLE DREAM

BERLIN: Thomas Tuchel's Borussia Dortmund hope to add to Bayern Munich's recent woes in tomorrow's crunch German Cup semi-final to end Carlo Ancelotti's bid for the domestic double. Both Bayern and Dortmund had their Champions League campaigns ended last week by Real Madrid and Monaco respectively in the quarterfinals, but they meet at the Allianz Arena for a place in Berlin's cup final on May 27.

Bayern are runway leaders in the German league and had been hoping for a place in the Champions League's semi-finals before a Cristiano Ronaldoled Real thwarted their ambitions. As compensation, Ancelotti is hoping to finish his first season as Bayern coach

However, first Dortmund must be overcome in a repeat of last year's final which Bayern won 4-3 on penalties after a goalless draw in Berlin.

"Now we want to spoil Bayern's season a little bit more," quipped Tuchel after Dortmund's 3-2 comeback win at Moechengladbach on Saturday to go third in Germany's top flight. The victory came the day after police arrested a suspect for the April 11 bomb attack on the Dortmund team bus which left defender Marc Bartra needing wrist surgery. "The victory put the wind in our sails and gives confidence for Wednesday," said Dortmund's director of sport Michael Zorc after Raphael Guerreiro's late head-

with the league and cup double. er sealed the win in Gladbach. "I'm proud of the character of this team."

> While Dortmund picked up a moraleboosting victory, Bayern had to twice come from behind as they labored to a 2-2 draw at home to relegation-threatened Mainz. "Of course, the game against Real is still bothering us, even if it shouldn't. We're professionals, but we're also human," said Bayern's stand-in captain Thomas Mueller. "As well as the league title, reaching the Berlin final is our biggest goal, so that means, puff out your chest and show that we deserve to be there!"

SELF-CONFIDENCE IN THE TANK

However, Bayern are winless in their

last four games and picked up their only victory in their last six games, when they romped to a 4-1 win over Dortmund in the league three weeks ago. Bayern's top-scorer Robert Lewandowski scored twice in the thumping home win, but Dortmund have Marco Reus back and the Germany winger has scored in each of his three games after six weeks sidelined by a hamstring injury. Reus is predicting a different type of game when the teams meet again at the Allianz Arena.

"It will be totally different, I see our chance as 50-50. We have a lot of selfconfidence in the tank after our win in Gladbach," said Reus. Both teams have injury concerns. Bayern are already without Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, who has a foot fracture, for the rest of the season and Sven Ulreich will again deputize. Austria defender David Alaba is doubtful with a knee injury having limped off early in Saturday's draw against Mainz, but Ancelotti hopes to have centre-backs Jerome Boateng (groin) and Mats Hummels (ankle) fit again. Tuchel is hoping defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos overcomes a leg knock, while Turkey midfielder Nuri Sahin is out with suspected torn ankle liga-Today, Borussia ments. Moenchengladbach host Eintracht Frankfurt in the other semi with both teams chasing their first final appearance in more than a decade. — AFP

BONUCCI ON TARGET AS JUVENTUS GO 11 CLEAR

MILAN: Premier League target Leonardo Bonucci scored an impressive goal as Juventus moved 11 points clear at the top of Serie A with a comprehensive 4-0 win over Genoa on Sunday. Bonucci, a former target for Chelsea manager Antonio Conte, has been linked in recent days with a big-money move to Manchester City.

And the Italy centre-back underlined his all-round class with a great finish in the 64th minute of a one-sided encounter in Turin that saw Massimiliano Allegri's men take another step towards a record sixth consecutive 'scudetto'. Genoa had stunned Juventus 3-1 at the Luigi Ferraris last September. But days after holding Barcelona to a scoreless draw to advance to the semifinals of the Champions League 3-0 on aggregate, Juve were never likely to buckle. A bright start saw the hosts in front by 17 minutes, when Ezequiel Munoz scored an own goal past his own 'keeper Eugenio Lamanna after Claudio Marchisio had got the slightest of touches to Gonzalo Higuain's delivery in deep from midfield. But if Genoa's fans were aggrieved, they could have little argument two minutes later.

Paolo Dybala, the architect of Juve's quarter-final tie against Barcelona when he scored a first-leg brace-turned on the class to beat Lamanna with a crisp shot from the edge of the area. When Mario Mandzukic picked up his own rebound four minutes before the interval, the Croatian striker pounced from the left of the area to curl a superb shot past the outstretched hands of Lamanna at the far post.

Bonucci had the ball in the net 10 minutes after the restart when he volleyed home a Dybala free kick at the far post, although it was ruled out for a Mandzukic foul. Barely 10 minutes later, Genoa's defence stood off as Bonucci burst through to hit a shot that appeared to take a slight deflection before looping over Lamanna from 20 yards out.

Juve should have had a fifth but hit the woodwork three times. Marchisio's drive came off the crossbar 20 minutes from the end and when Higuain pounced on the rebound, the ball then came off the post. Seven minutes later, Ghanaian midfielder Kwadwo Asamoah's 25-yard drive also came off the upright. Roma face basement side Pescara on Monday but even with a win the capital club will struggle to close an eightpoint gap over the remaining five games.

"It was a good performance in both attacking and defensive terms," Allegri told Mediaset Premium. "Coming a few days after Barcelona, we could have suffered a dip. But the lads really kept their level high. "I don't want to talk about the scudetto, because mathematically nothing's guaranteed. Today we simply had to go out and win." — AFP



MADRID: Barcelona's Lionel Messi is tackled by Real Madrid's Mateo Kovacic during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Barcelona, dubbed 'el clasico', at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. — AP

MESSI SHOWS WHO'S IN CHARGE AT 'EL CLASICO' AGAINST MADRID

MADRID: Lionel Messi took off his shirt and lifted it high in front of him, boldly displaying his name and number to the stunned crowd at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. He stood there for a few seconds, staring at the fans, as if making sure they knew who was really in charge. Messi had just scored a lastminute goal that gave Barcelona a crucial 3-2 comerom-behind victory against Real Madrid, putting the Catalan club back in the Spanish league title race and adding to his dominance in the "clasico."

There's been no one better than Messi when the two Spanish powerhouses meet. He now has 23 goals in games between the two clubs, five more than Madrid great Alfredo Di Stefano and eight more than Cristiano Ronaldo. While Ronaldo faltered throughout Sunday's game at the Bernabeu, failing to score goals that could have given his team a commanding lead over its rival in the league standings, Messi came

through for Barcelona once again. He also scored the team's first goal, helped set up the second by Ivan Rakitic and drew the foul that led to a red card for Madrid defender Sergio Ramos, leading Barcelona to a victory that reignited its chances of winning a third straight league trophy. "Leo's greatness is that he keeps surprising us," Barcelona captain Andres Iniesta said. "After years and years, he continues to be decisive. For us, it's an honor to play with him. And for the club, it's a blessing. We have to try to keep up with him as much as possible so we can all play well and stay in contention in La Liga, which is wide open."

Messi's late winner allowed Barcelona to tie Madrid on 75 points at the top of the Spanish league standings with five rounds to go. Barcelona has the lead on the head-to-head tiebreaker, but Madrid still has a game in hand, at Celta Vigo. "Messi was decisive, as always he always is," Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen said. "He makes the difference. There is not a lot to talk about him. He is a very special player."

SPECIAL PLAYER

Messi is enjoying another remarkable season, with 47 goals in 46 games. He has scored 14 goals in his last 10 Spanish league games, and is the competition's leading scorer with 31 goals, seven more than teammate Luis Suarez and 12 more than Ronaldo. Messi had been going through a scoring drought in the "clasico", unable to find the net in six straight games. The last time he had scored against Madrid was with a hat trick at the Bernabeu in a 4 -3 win in the league in 2014.

Playing with a bloodied mouth after a collision with Madrid left back Marcelo, Messi ended the drought by clearing two defenders with a run inside the area before sending a low shot past Madrid goalkeeper Keylor Navas in the first half at the Bernabeu. His second goal decided the game, a leftfooted shot from the top of the area with 12 seconds left in stoppage time after a low pass by Jordi Alba.

Messi's celebration, parading his shirt, sparked a fierce reaction from many Madrid fans on the stands behind the goal, where only a few people wearing Barcelona colors could be seen. The visitors' section was behind that same goal, but in the opposite side of where Messi ran to celebrate. Messi eventually was shown a yellow card for taking off his shirt. The two goals on Sunday gave the 29-year-old Messi a total of 500 for his career with Barcelona, the most of any other player who has ever played for the club. "Leo's 500th goal had to be special, just like he is," Barcelona defender Gerard Pique said. "I hope he will only retire several years from now." —AP

IBRAHIMOVIC RECOVERY WILL BE VERY HARD: MOURINHO

BURNLEY: Jose Mourinho admitted it to midweek comments from his managwill be "really hard" for veteran striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic to recover from his season-ending knee ligament injury. The Manchester United manager was talking after his side had recorded an impressive 2-0 victory at Burnley just three days after Ibrahimovic and defender Marcos Rojo suffered knee injuries which require surgery during a midweek Europa League win over Anderlecht.

"Everyone is very sad. We were thinking about them. They have to be strong," said Mourinho. "Unfortunately they won't be the first or last players to get an important injury. "No player deserves to be injured but I think in this case it's even more sad because Zlatan, in this stage of his career it's really, really hard. "And Marcos probably at this moment in his career is playing very well for us and also finally getting a position as central defender in the international team, so we're really sad for them."

Reports have suggested that, given his age, Ibrahimovic may not play at the top level again-his United contract is up at the end of the season-although his manager did not want to become involved in such speculation. "Yeah I know but I think it's for the medical department to be more specific and to evaluate over the next few days to seek an expert's opinion and we have to wait and see for that," he said.

'CRAZY MENTALITY'

"I don't care about it in this moment, I just want the player to recover the best he can and we'll see about it. Honestly, I'm not sad for the team, I'm not worried about the impact of not having them. "I don't care about it, I just think about them, and like everybody I'm really sad." United's win at Burnley came with goals from Anthony Martial and Wayne Rooney with the former responding well

er that questioned his work ethic.

"Yes," said Mourinho when asked if Martial had responded as he wished. "Of course, it was a very good performance by him-with the ball, without the ball, in defence, matched in the middle against two strong central defenders and without anyone just behind him supporting him." The win sets up an intriguing Manchester derby trip to City on Thursday in which a United victory would lift them above their rivals, although Mourinho admitted he will rest players with an eye on the Europa League semi-final with Celta Vigo. "I will rotate players again, rest some players again," he said. "And let's see what we can do. "Of course it's important to play in the Champions League but this club wants trophies. We have a 25 percent chance to win the Europa League and have to put everything into it we can."

Paul Pogba, who limped out of the game in injury-time with a muscle injury, is likely to be rested against City. Mourinho also issued a challenge to Phil Jones and Chris Smalling to return from injuries and give in-form Eric Bailly a break. "If I was Smalling or Jones, I would play Thursday with everything. I wouldn't accept one guy to play nine matches in a row," he said. "If they have a crazy men-

tality like I have, they would play. "If they're safe-thinking and surrounded by people with the same mentality as they have, they will be more cautious and it would be more time. If it was me, nobody would stop me playing." Defeat leaves Burnley in real danger of being dragged into the relegation picture at the foot of the table in the final weeks of the season, although manager Sean Dyche remained confident. "For us the challenge is getting points on the board and we're still in good shape, despite all



MANCHESTER: Manchester United's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic reacts after falling awkwardly during the UEFA Europa League quarter-final second leg football match between Manchester United and Anderlecht at Old Trafford. —AFP



Seria A soccer match between Juventus and Genoa at the Juventus stadium. — AP

CHELSEA'S KANTE VOTED ENGLAND'S PLAYER OF YEAR

LONDON: Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante has been voted the player of the year by his fellow professionals, collecting the award at a ceremony on Sunday that honored David Beckham's contribution to English football. The 26-year-old Kante has some way to go to match Beckham's six Premier League titles with Manchester United but he is closing in on the rare achievement of collecting England's top prize with two different clubs.

Kante, a 5-foot-6 (1.70-meter) force in midfield, secured his move to Chelsea last July after his tackles, interceptions and tireless box-to-box running helped 5,000-1 outsider Leicester win the title for the first time. Chelsea has also benefited from Kante running its midfield, with the London side four points out in front with six games remaining.

Chelsea is being pushed for the title by Tottenham, which was also recognized at the Professional Footballers' Association ceremony when Dele Alli won the young player of the year vote for a second straight year. Alli was a surprise omission from the shortlist for the main award, given the 21year-old midfielder's 16 goals and five assists in the league alone. That's the most goals for a player who isn't recognized as a

Instead, Kante topped the PFA poll ahead of Chelsea teammate Eden Hazard, the 2015 recipient and a quartet of strikers: Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez, Everton's Romelu Lukaku, Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Tottenham's Harry Kane. Manchester City's Lucy Bronze topped the voting for women's player of the year for the second time and Birmingham's Jess Carter won the young player accolade. Beckham won the PFA merit award after a career that saw Beckham represent England 115 times and also win titles with Real Madrid, the Los Angeles Galaxy and Paris Saint-Germain. —AP



LONDON: Chelsea's N'Golo Kante, center, competes for the ball with Tottenham Hotspur's Mousa Dembele, left, during the English FA Cup semifinal soccer match between Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley stadium. — AP



Messi shows who's in charge at 'El clasico'



Younis hits 10,000 runs as Pakistan builds reply



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CAPS WIN SERIES OVER LEAFS

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INDIANAPOLIS: Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) shoots against Indiana Pacers' Thaddeus Young during the first half in Game 4.—AP

JAMES HELPS CAVS SWEEP PAST PACERS

INDIANAPOLIS: LeBron James stuck to the old script Sunday. Again, he bailed out the Cleveland Cavaliers. And again, he sent the Indiana Pacers home for vacation. On yet another milestone day for basketball's king, James' crowning achievement was making the go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:08 to play and helping the defending champions hold on for a series-clinching 106-102 victory at

"You have to mentally challenge yourself every year and go out and try to do what's right - putting your body on the line, putting your team on the line and trying to be successful," James said. "It's very hard." But the four-time MVP makes it look easy. He finished with

33 points, 10 rebounds, four assists, four steals and two blocks.

MILESTONES GALORE

By winning his 21st consecutive first-round game, James broke a tie with Michael Cooper, Magic Johnson and James Worthy for the longest streak under the NBA's current playoff format. By sweeping a series for the 10th time, James broke a tie with Tim Duncan for the most in a career, according to Elias Sports Bureau. By going 13 of 25 from the field, he pulled into a tie with Kobe Bryant for the fourth highest postseason field goal total with 2.014.

And by holding on for the win, James improved to 52-0 in the playoffs when

his team takes a double-digit lead into the fourth quarter. James considered the milestones a footnote on a day the Cavs blew a 13-point lead and allowed the Pacers to come all the way back and take a 102-100 lead with 1:31 to go. "They were giving it all they had," James said. "Obviously, a loss would have ended their season. We just had to weather

the storm once again."

Of course that's when James took the cue and came to the rescue. He made the long 3 to give Cleveland the lead, poked the ball away from Young on the next possession, grabbed the rebound when Paul George missed a 3 with 1.9 seconds to go that could have forced overtime and, of course, made 1

of 2 free throws to seal the win. Now Cleveland takes a seven-game winning streak into the conference semifinals against either Milwaukee or Toronto.

CHAPTER OF TORMENT

For Indiana, it will go down as yet another tormenting chapter in their rivalry with James. James' teams have eliminated the Pacers four times in six years and completed the first-four game sweep in Indiana's NBA history. Cleveland finished the season 7-1 against the Pacers, winning the last four with a defensive stand, a rare 25-point game from three players, the largest second-half comeback in playoff history and now James' knockout punch. Lance

Stephenson led the Pacers with 22 points. George had a series-low 15. "It's real frustrating to continue on losing to the same team or same person," George said. "Ultimately, he (James) is who I'm always going to have to see and face." The Pacers sure didn't make it easy, though. They charged back from a 96-83 deficit with a 7-0 spurt early in the in the fourth quarter. Then they methodically continued chipping away until Young tied the score at 100 and then gave them the lead. But James answered with the go-ahead 3.

Now the Pacers' attention turns to the future of George, the 26-year-old All-Star who can become a free agent in 2018. He didn't drop any hints about before finding out who it the second round. Indiana a crucial offseason that could be the franchise's future.—AP

which way he's leaning after the game and there has been rampant speculation he could be traded this summer. "I'm not at that point yet. Next question," George said.

Things got physical and painful Sunday. James stayed down on one knee after taking a shot to the head in the first half. George was writing in pain after taking a knee to the groin. Teague also remained on the ground briefly when he got hit in the head, too. All three finished the game. Cleveland now gets some extra rest before finding out who it will play in the second round. Indiana embarks on a crucial offseason that could dictate



AUCKLAND: 101-year-old Man Kaur from India celebrates after competing in the 100m sprint in the 100+ age category at the World Masters Games at Trusts Arena. —AFP

INDIA'S INSPIRATIONAL CENTENARIAN WINS GOLD

AUCKLAND: With a jaunty victory dance, 101-year-old Man Kaur celebrated winning the 100 meters sprint at the World Masters Games in Auckland yesterday, the 17th gold medal in the Indian athlete's remarkable late-blooming career. Kaur clocked one minute 14 seconds as a small crowd cheered her on-ending a mere 64.42 seconds off Usain Bolt's

100m world record set in 2009.

In truth her dash became more of a gentle amble the closer the diminutive centenarian came to the finish line, with more energy spent beaming at spectators than running. But Kaur was guaranteed victory as the only participant in the 100-years-and-over category at the New Zealand event, which has attracted 25,000 competitors. Participation, not racing the clock, is the priority for Kaur, who has been dubbed the "miracle from Chandigarh" in New Zealand media. "I enjoyed it and am very, very happy," she told reporters via a Punjabi interpreter. "I'm going to run again, I'm not going to give up. I will participate, there's no full stop."

Late bloomer

Kaur only took up athletics eight years ago, at the tender age of 93. She had no prior sporting experience before her son Gurdev Singh suggested she join him in competing on the international masters games circuit. After a medical check-up she was given the all-clear and since then mother and son have taken part in dozens of masters athletics meets around the globe.

Kaur already has a swag of gold medals that would rival Michael Phelps' haul and also plans to compete in the 200m sprint, two kilogram shot put and 400 gram javelin in Auckland, taking her tally to 20. Her son told the Indian Weekender newspaper that Kaur was on a strict diet that included wheat grass juice and a daily glass of kefir (fermented milk).

World Masters Games 2017 chief executive Jennah Wootten said the Auckland organisers were delighted to host such an inspiration. "Man Kaur truly personifies the 'sport for all' philosophy which World Masters Games is all about and we are thrilled to have her here," she told AFP. "I have no doubt that she and many of the other 24,905 athletes competing in these games are inspiring others to lead more active lifestyles and take up a sport."

While Kaur was the only 100-plus athlete to compete in Auckland, there are a surprising number of spritely centenarians still on the sporting stage. Japan's Hidekichi Miyazaki, 106, holds the 100m record in the category with a time of 29.83, earning him the nickname "Golden Bolt" after the Jamaican Flyer. Miyazaki, who credits his daughter's tangerine jam for his age-defying exploits, even mimics Bolt's signature victory pose and is keen to race against the Olympic superstar. Frenchman Robert Marchand, 105, set a cycling record for his age in January, riding 22.547 kilometers in one hour. Afterwards, the former fireman said he was not even tired and said he could have gone faster. — AFP

KUWAIT'S CREDIT GROWTH PICKS UP PACE IN FEB

Stocks, euro surge on hopes of Macron win

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Ageing German population to sap growth: Bundesbank

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Huawei P10 and P10 Plus

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Page 27



BEIJING: A man rides past a China Mobile store in an alley in Beijing Yesterday. The International Monetary Fund on April 18 raised its economic growth forecast for China for this year and next but warned of serious longer-term problems unless it reduces its reliance on credit.—AFP

OOREDOO REPORTS 27% RISE IN NET PROFIT FOR Q1 2017

CUSTOMER BASE UP BY 5% TO REACH 25 MILLION

KUWAIT: National Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P - Ticker: OOREDOO, a member of Ooredoo Group, announced yesterday its financial results for the quarter ended 31 March 2017:

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Chairman of the Board of Directors commented: "Despite a highly competitive environment, Ooredoo increased the customer base by 5 percent to



Sheikh Saud bin Naser Al-Thani

reach 25 million, testament to the company's award-winning network, a wide range of competitive products and good customer service. Ooredoo grew profitability levels during Q1 2017, with Net Profit increasing by 27 percent to reach KD 13 million. Growth for the period was mainly supported by our performance in

Ooredoo Algeria and Ooredoo Maldives.

"Driven by improved efficiency and cost optimization initiatives, Ooredoo increased EBITDA by 14 percent to reach KD 65 million and maintained a healthy EBITDA margin of 38 percent for the quarter ended 31 March 2017.

"Capitalizing on last year's launch of 4G and further expansion of the 3G network, Ooredoo Algeria increased its customer base to almost 14 million customers up by 5 percent over Q1 2016. Ooredoo Algeria also maintained a good grasp on operational efficiencies, increasing EBITDA by 14 percent to reach KD 33.4 million.

"Ooredoo Maldives delivered a strong set of results, increasing Revenues by 14 percent to reach KD 9.5 million and showed significant growth in profitability, with EBITDA up 20 percent to KD 5.6 million in Q1 2017. Ooredoo Maldives is well positioned to continue delivering growth as it is preparing to list on the local stock exchange at the end of this month."

Review of operations

The Group's operational performance can be summarized as follows:

Ooredoo - Kuwait

Ooredoo's customer base in Kuwait stood at 2.3 million at the end of Q1 2017, representing a 2 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2016. Revenues for Q1 2017 were KD 47.8 million, a decrease of 4 percent compared to KWD 50.0 million in 2016. EBITDA was KD 12.4 million versus EBITDA for Q1 2016 of KD 10.2 million.

Ooredoo - Tunisia

Ooredoo's Tunisia customer base stood at 8.0 million at the end of Q1 2017, an increase of 6 percent compared to the same period in 2016.

ooredoo

The most powerful network for your life

Revenues for Q1 2017 were KD 31.8 million compared to KWD 33.8 million in Q1 2016. However, in local currency terms revenue increased by 5 percent. EBITDA was KD 12.1 million compared to KD 11.4 million for the same period in 2016.

Ooredoo - Algeria
Ooredoo's customer base in Algeria increased
to 13.9 million customers in Q1 2017, up by 5
percent compared with the same period in 2016.
Revenues for Q1 2017 were KD 73.8 million compared to revenues of KD 76.9 million for the
same period in 2016. EBITDA for Q1 2017 stood
at KD 33.4 million, an increase of 14 percent on
KD 29.2 million in Q1 2016.

Wataniya - Palestine

The total customer base for Wataniya Mobile Palestine at the end of Q1 2017 was 0.8 million, an increase of 10 percent from the same period in 2016. Revenues for Q1 2017 stood at KD 6.2



million, in line with the same quarter last year. EBITDA for Q1 2017 was KD 1.5 million compared to an EBITDA of KD 1.8 million for the same period in 2016.

Ooredoo - MaldivesAt the end of Q1 2017 Maldives total customer

base was 0.4 million, an increase of 11 percent from the same period in 2016. Revenues for Q1 2017 were KD 9.5 million, an increase of 14 percent compared to KD 8.3 million for the same period in 2016. EBITDA for Q1 2017 was KD 5.6 million, an increase of 20 percent compared to an EBITDA of KD 4.7 million for the same period in 2016.

EMIRATIS, MALAYSIANS REACH DEAL OVER TROUBLED FUND

DUBAI: Emirati and Malaysian officials said yesterday they reached a deal to resolve a legal dispute over the indebted and troubled Malaysian investment fund 1MDB, with the United Arab Emirates set to receive \$1.2 billion over this year. The deal, which still would need to be approved by an arbitration panel in London, resolves merely one part of the sprawling, worldwide investigation into 1MDB. Money from the fund, which was to develop Malaysia's economy, instead found itself funneled through a global embezzlement and money-laundering scheme involving people close to Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, luxury properties and the production of the 2013 film "The Wolf of Wall Street," US investigators allege.

In 2016, the Abu Dhabi-based International Petroleum Investment Co alleged 1MDB defaulted on more than \$1.1 billion in debt it owed to the sovereign wealth fund and its subsidiary, Aabar Investments. It filed a case against the fund in the London Court of International Arbitration.

A filing yesterday on the London Stock Exchange said Malaysian officials agreed to pay the wealth fund \$1.2 billion this year, with half being due by July 31 and the other half by Dec. 31. The filing said Malaysian officials also have agreed "to assume responsibility for all future interest and principal payments" on two \$1.75 billion bonds. The agreement is contingent on the arbitration panel making a consent award on May 31, the filing said.

1MDB released a short statement yester-day saying it was "pleased" by the agreement, saying it "represents the resolution of a significant challenge." Officials with the International Petroleum Investment Co., known as IPIC, could not be immediately reached for comments.

The resolution comes as 1MDB remains the target of investigators in Singapore, Switzerland, Luxembourg and the US American investigators allege officials at the fund diverted more than \$3.5 billion through a web of shell companies and bank accounts.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak started the fund shortly after taking office in 2009 to promote economic development projects, but the fund accumulated billions in debt. Najib has denied any wrongdoing, but the scandal sparked a mass rally in November against his government. — AP

GERMAN DAX INDEX HITS ALL-TIME HIGH

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: Germany's bluechip share index, the DAX, hit an all-time high yesterday, as stock markets across Europe reacted with relief to pro-business French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron's first-round success. The index of 30 leading stocks flirted with levels just below 12,400 points. It briefly touched 12,399.91, only slightly higher than the previous record of 12,391 reached in April 2015.

By 0915 GMT, it had fallen back to around 12,390 points, up 2.85 percent since trading opened in Frankfurt. "We don't expect a sustained jump above the old record," commented Wolfgang Albrecht of LBBW bank. "May is being seen as an especially weak month for markets and that could negatively impact investors' appetite for risk." With gains for almost all the major firms listed on the index, the biggest winners were lender Commerzbank, which gained 9.32 percent by 0915 GMT to trade at 9.09 euros (\$9.88), while bigger rival Deutsche Bank added 7.39 percent to reach 16.72 euros.

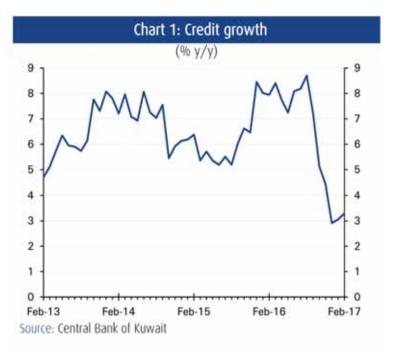
Stock markets across Europe shot up yesterday after pro-business outsider Macron reached pole position in the first round of presidential voting in France, quieting fears

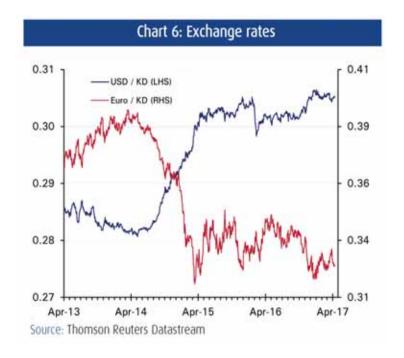


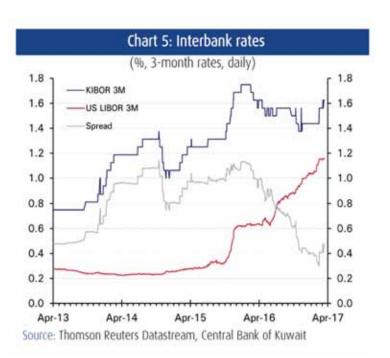
FRANKFURT: The DAX curve on the display panel of the stock exchange is on a record high of 12417,09 points in Frankfurt yesterday. — AP

that the continent's second-largest economy could quit the EU and the euro single currency. While leftwing anti-EU firebrand Jean-

Luc Melenchon is now out of the race, Macron must still face far-right candidate Marine Le Pen in a runoff on May 7. — AFP







KUWAIT'S CREDIT GROWTH PICKS UP PACE IN FEB

KUWAIT: Credit growth picked up pace in February, with the month seeing a healthy increase in outstanding loans. Growth rose to 3.3 percent year-on-year (y/y), on a monthly gain of KD 165 million. The strongest gains were in the business sector, dominated by the oil and gas sector. Private deposits also rose in February, though growth remained weak. Rates were mostly steady in February but have since picked up following March's discount rate hike by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK).

Household lending was weaker in February, though this could have been due to seasonal factors. The sector saw a relatively modest gain of KD 40 million coming exclusively from installment loans. Growth slipped to 6.7 percent y/y.

Lending to nonbank financial companies saw a second consecutive month of decline. Nonbank credit fell by KD 61 million, with growth easing to 2.3 percent y/y. The sector's borrowing has been seeing positive growth over the last year following several years of contraction in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

Business credit rose by a healthy KD 186 million, with growth improving to 1.6 percent y/y. Gains were largely in the oil and gas sector which added KD 126 million in new loans. Construction and real estate were also up KD 30 million and KD 19 million, respectively.

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Industry remained the exception, with a KD 44 million decline, as the sector continued to see a contraction in credit by 8.8 percent y/y.

The business sector has been dragged down by the real estate sector and lending for the purchase of securities. Outside these two sectors, business credit growth has been stronger, accelerating to a robust 8.6 percent y/y, though a large part of that has come from strong growth in the oil and gas sector. Private deposits rose in February, though a drop in government deposits offset some of that. Despite the increase, broad M2 money supply growth slipped to 1.4 percent y/y, though growth in the narrower M1 improved to 3.2 percent y/y. The gains were in KD deposits, led by time deposits which saw inflows of KD 167 million; savings and sight deposits also rose. Meanwhile, foreign currency deposits declined by KD 67 million. A drop in government deposits by KD 88 million offset some of the gains in private deposits, with growth slowing to 15 percent y/y.

Banking system liquidity edged lower in February. Bank reserves (cash, deposits with the CBK, and CBK bonds) lost KD 171 million to

reach KD 4.6 billion or 7.6 percent of total bank assets, the lowest level in six years. The government continued to tap bank liquidity through issuance of domestic bonds; outstanding domestic public debt instruments (PDIs) rose by KD 252 million during February to KD 3.8 billion or an estimated 10 percent of GDP.

Interest rates moved slightly higher in February. The 1-month and 12-month interbank rates were up by 2-4 basis points to 1.19 percent and 2.06 percent, respectively. The 3-month and 6-month rates were steady. Customer deposit rates were mostly unchanged, with rates on longer maturities edging up 1-2 basis points.

More recently, rates have been increasing steadily following the CBK's policy rate hike. The discount rate was raised by 25 basis points effective 16 March to 2.75 percent in tandem with the US Fed's rate hike. The move ensures the CBK policy rate maintains a spread to the US federal funds rate target of 1.75 percent, which is in line with the historic spread between the two rates and helps stave off outflows that could pressure the dinar's peg to a basket of major currencies.

| | Feb-17 | 1-mo | | 3-mo | | 12-month change | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| | KD mn | KD mn | % | KD mn | % | KD mn | % |
| Total bank assets | 60,706 | 431 | 0.7 | 602 | 1.0 | 1,959 | 3.3 |
| Core liquid assets | 4,636 | -171 | -3.5 | -879 | -15.9 | -937 | -16.8 |
| Cash and CBK deposits | 1,115 | -65 | -5.5 | -332 | -22.9 | -154 | -12.1 |
| CBK bonds | 2,946 | -25 | -0.8 | -101 | -3.3 | 1,096 | 59.3 |
| Time deposits with CBK | 574 | -80 | -12.2 | -447 | -43.8 | -1,879 | -76.6 |
| Public debt instruments | 3,790 | 252 | 7.1 | 604 | 19.0 | 2,211 | 140.0 |
| Interbank deposits | 1,190 | -122 | -9.3 | -37 | -3.0 | -960 | -44.7 |
| Credit facilities | 34,399 | 165 | 0.5 | 383 | 1.1 | 1,098 | 3.3 |
| Foreign assets | 12,889 | 282 | 2.2 | 421 | 3.4 | 351 | 2.8 |
| Other assets | 3,801 | 25 | 0.7 | 111 | 3.0 | 196 | 5.4 |
| Total bank liabilities | 52,654 | 417 | 0.8 | 497 | 1.0 | 1,670 | 3.3 |
| Total deposits | 40,703 | 97 | 0.2 | 36 | 0.1 | 1,186 | 3.0 |
| Private sector deposits | 33,953 | 185 | 0.5 | -137 | -0.4 | 322 | 1.0 |
| Government deposits | 6,750 | -88 | -1.3 | 172 | 2.6 | 864 | 14.7 |
| Interbank deposits | 1,151 | -103 | -8.2 | 6 | 0.5 | -846 | -42.4 |
| Foreign liabilities | 4,691 | 321 | 7.3 | 273 | 6.2 | 189 | 4.2 |
| Other liabilities | 6,109 | 101 | 1.7 | 182 | 3.1 | 1,142 | 23.0 |
| Shareholder equity | 8,052 | 14 | 0.2 | 105 | 1.3 | 289 | 3.7 |

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

OIL WORKERS' STRIKE TRIGGERS GASOLINE LINES IN SRI LANKA

COLOMBO: Long lines formed at gasoline stations across Sri Lanka yesterday as workers from a state-run petroleum company went on strike to protest the government's plan to lease out oil tanks to neighboring India. D J Rajakaruna, secretary of the Ceylon Petroleum Common Workers Union, said workers stopped releasing fuel from 12 storage facilities on Sunday night. He said they would stop work entirely at the state-run refinery if the government fails to halts plans to transfer oil tank operations to India, saying such an agreement would benefit only Indian companies.

Rajakaruna said the tanks are a prime asset of the country and that the workers will continue to strike until their demand is met. There are 99 tanks at the site in the eastern port city of Trincomalee. The tanks, built by the British during World War II, were unused until some of them were given to Lanka IOC, a unit of Indian Oil Corporation, in 2002 as part of a privatization deal, giving Indians a presence at the strategic port. Rajakaruna said the government is now trying to lease out 14 of the 99 tanks to Indian companies and to have a joint venture for the other tanks. He said such a move would severely affect Sri Lanka's economy and sovereignty.

Anura Kithsiri, a spokesman for the Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development, said the agreement has not yet been finalized. He said Minister of Petroleum Resources Development Chandima Weerakkody was to meet with trade union leaders yesterday.—AP



COLOMBO: Sri Lankan auto rickshaw drivers and motorists wait to pump gasoline during a strike in Colombo yesterday. — AP

DAE BUYS AIRCRAFT LEASING FIRM AWAS

DUBAI: Aircraft leasing company Dubai Aerospace Enterprise has agreed to buy rival AWAS, more than tripling the size of its fleet. DAE said yesterday it agreed to buy the Dublin-based company from funds managed by its shareholders, Terra Firma Capital Partners and the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board. It did not disclose the purchase price, but said the combined company would have an owned, managed

and committed aircraft fleet of 394 aircraft worth more than \$14 billion.

DAE is majority-owned by the Dubai government holding company Investment Corporation of Dubai, which also controls the parent company of Dubai airline Emirates. DAE reported having a portfolio of 112 aircraft earlier this month. Aircraft lessors lease planes to airlines and other aircraft operators. —AP

GREECE, CREDITORS TO RESUME TALKS IN ATHENS, SEEK SWIFT DEAL

ATHENS: Representatives of Greece's bailout creditors are due in Athens to restart talks on further cutbacks, European officials said yesterday, as they confirmed that the country last year vastly exceeded its budget targets.

Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas said the negotiations are expected to start today and should last several days, with the objective of reaching an agreement "as soon as possible."

That would clear the way for further talks on easing Greece's debt burden, currently at 179 percent of GDP. Following long delays in the negotiations, Greece has already agreed to further slash pensions in 2019 and drastically expand the tax base in 2020 by reducing the current tax-free threshold.

The forthcoming talks are expected to focus on the final details of these measures, which will be worth about 3.6 billion euros (\$3.85 billion). Schinas also noted that Eurostat, the European Union's statistical authority, has confirmed Greece's 2016 budget figures which for exceeded forecasts.

budget figures, which far exceeded forecasts. The primary budget surplus - which percent of annual output, according to the system of calculations used by Greece's statistical authority. According to the terms of the country's bailout, the surplus was 4.2 percent. Either way, it far overshot the initial target of 0.5 percent of GDP.

excludes debt servicing costs - reached 3.9

Schinas said the surplus, which is subject to final verification, "confirms the trends which we at the Commission have been reporting for a while," and expressed confidence the country can meet its budget targets in 2017 and 2018.

Greeks have suffered seven years of repeated income cuts and tax hikes after the public finances imploded in 2010, forcing the country to rely on international bailouts. To secure the rescue loans, successive governments imposed harsh cutbacks, amid a rapidly shrinking economy that has lost a quarter of its pre-crisis value, and record-high unemployment. The current, third bailout signed by the left-led government in 2015 runs until mid-2018 - after which the country is expected to be in a position to start borrowing again from international bond markets.—AP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO. **ASIAN COUNTRIES** Japanese Yen 4.730 Indian Rupees Pkistani Rupees 2.908 2.004 Srilankan Rupees Nepali Rupees Singapore Dollar 219.690 Hongkong Dollar 39.243 Bangladesh Taka Philippine Peso 6.128 8.891 Thai Baht **GCC COUNTRIES** Saudi Riyal 81.428 Qatari Riyal Omani Rival 793.009 810.810 Bahraini Dinar **UAE** Dirham **ARAB COUNTRIES** Egyptian Pound - Cash Egyptian Pound - Transfer 16.777 Yemen Riyal/for 1000 1.226 Tunisian Óinaı 133.540 Jordanian Dinar 430.030 Lebanese Lira/for 1000 2.034 Morocco Dirhan 30.823 **EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES** US Dollar Transfer 305.150 332.310 Sterling Pound

227.130

85.240

Canadian dollar

Turkish lira

| Australian Dollar US Dollar Buying | 232.220 303.950 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | GOLD |
| 20 Gram | 260.990 |
| 10 Gram | 133.410 |
| 5 Gram | 67.550 |
| | |
| | |

Swiss Franc

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

308.230

| DOLLARCO | EXCHANGE CO. I |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Rate for Transfr | Selling Rate |
| US Dollar | 304.800 |
| Canadian Dolla | 226.525 |
| Sterling Pound | 392.135 |
| Euro | 328.485 |
| Swiss Frank | 305.110 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 808.430 |
| UAE Dirhams | 83.380 |
| Qatari Riyals | 84.605 |
| Saudi Riyals | 82.175 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 429.815 |
| Egyptian Pound | 16.978 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 2.005 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.728 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.907 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.742 |
| Philippines Pesso | 6.121 |
| Cyprus pound | 168.208 |
| Japanese Yen | 3.795 |
| Syrian Pound | 2.420 |
| Nepalese Rupees | 3.950 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 70.185 |

Chinese Yuan Renminbi 44.745 Thai Bhat 9.860 Turkish Lira 84.130

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| | Europe | | | | | |
| British Pound | 0.383340 | 0.393340 | | | | |
| Czech Korune | 0.004321 | 0.016321 | | | | |
| Danish Krone | 0.040485 | 0.045485 | | | | |
| Euro | 0.325889 | 0.334889 | | | | |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.031665 | 0.036865 | | | | |
| Romanian Leu | 0.073011 | 0.073011 | | | | |
| Slovakia | 0.009130 | 0.019130 | | | | |
| Swedish Krona | 0.030477 | 0.035477 | | | | |
| Swiss Franc | 0.299342 | 0.310342 | | | | |
| Turkish Lira | 0.078977 | 0.089277 | | | | |
| | Australasia | | | | | |
| Australian Dollar | 0.222210 | 0.234210 | | | | |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.208110 | 0.217610 | | | | |
| | America | | | | | |
| Canadian Dollar | 0.220906 | 0.229905 | | | | |
| Georgina Lari | 0.137777 | 0.137777 | | | | |
| US Dollars | 0.300950 | 0.305350 | | | | |
| US Dollars Mint | 0.301450 | 0.305350 | | | | |
| | Asia | | | | | |
| Bangladesh Taka | 0.003419 | 0.004003 | | | | |
| Chinese Yuan | 0.042801 | 0.046301 | | | | |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 0.037132 | 0.039882 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

0.004272

Indian Rupe

| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000018 | 0.000024 | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|--|--|--|
| Japanese Yen | 0.002682 | 0.002862 | | | |
| Kenyan Shilling | 0.002945 | 0.002945 | | | |
| Korean Won | 0.000259 | 0.000274 | | | |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 0.065645 | 0.071645 | | | |
| Nepalese Rupee | 0.003014 | 0.003184 | | | |
| Pakistan Rupee | 0.002692 | 0.002982 | | | |
| Philippine Peso | 0.006009 | 0.006309 | | | |
| Sierra Leone | 0.000038 | 0.000044 | | | |
| Singapore Dollar | 0.213235 | 0.223235 | | | |
| South African Rand | 0.017413 | 0.025913 | | | |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 0.001636 | 0.002216 | | | |
| Taiwan | 0.009958 | 0.010138 | | | |
| Thai Baht | 0.008510 | 0.009060 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | Arab | | | | |
| Bahraini Dinar | 0.802580 | 0.811080 | | | |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.014043 | 0.019951 | | | |
| Iranian Riyal | 0.000084 | 0.000086 | | | |
| Iraqi Dinar | 0.000195 | 0.000255 | | | |
| Jordanian Dinar | 0.4248948 | 0.433894 | | | |

1.000000

0.000152

0.020378

0.785917

0.082978

0.080260

0.001293

0.124511

0.078977

0.081629

0.000992

1.000000

0.00252

0.044378

0.001031

0.791597

0.084428

0.081580

0.001513

0.132511

0.089277

0.083329

0.001072

Kuwaiti Dinar

Nigerian Naira

Omani Riyal

Qatar Riyal

Saudi Riyal

Syrian Pound

Turkish Lira

UAE Dirhams

Yemeni Riyal

0.004960

Tunisian Dinar

Lebanese Pound





NBK OPENS SMART BRANCH IN KHAITAN

KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malik its first smart branch in Khaitan recently, the first of its Al-Sabah, NBK CEO Essam Jassem Al-Sager, NBK's kind in Kuwait in terms of the technology it uses. The Personal Banking General Manager Suresh Pajpai and his

opening ceremony was held in the presence of Deputy Mohammed Al-Othman.

Speaking on the occasion, Al-Sager stated that this most-densely populated ones. Al-Othman stressed that step comes within the bank's constant efforts to facilitate better services to its clients through its presence in important areas across the country, especially the

modern technology is used in the new branch where tablets are made available to customers to carry out



MANILA: The Philippine National Police Civil Disturbance Unit prepares to reinforce other police officers near the entrance to the Philippine International Convention Center, the venue for the 30th ASEAN leaders' summit in Manila yesterday. The Philippines hosts the summit of the 10member Association of Southeast Asian Nations with the theme: "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World," slated for April 26-29. —AP

LINKEDIN MEMBERSHIP REACHES HALF A BILLION

bership had swelled to 500 million, as its user base showed steady growth following its acquisition last year by Microsoft.

"We recently crossed an important and exciting milestone," LinkedIn vice president Aatif Awan said in a blog post. "We now have half a billion members in 200 countries connecting, and engaging with one another in professional conversations and finding opportunities through these connections on LinkedIn."

Microsoft's \$26 billion acquisition of LinkedIn which was completed in December was the biggest-ever deal for a

WASHINGTON: The professional social social media company. At the time of the network LinkedIn said yesterday its mem- announcement last June, LinkedIn had 433 million registered users. The acquisition aims to position the former tech sector leader as a Facebook-like entity oriented to business, with an array of services centered around cloud computing.

Awan said LinkedIn has some 10 million active job listings, access to nine million companies, and more than 100,000 articles published every week. "A professional community of this size has never existed until now," he wrote. "The impact of half a billion professionals connecting and communicating is very real, and very accessible to anyone who wants to take part today." —AFP

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AL DANAH WEEKLY WINNERS بلك الكليج GULF BANK

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 23 April 2017 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 16 April - 20 April 2017. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

(Sunday 16/4): Ali Ismail Al-Houli, Rashed Abdullah Al-Rahmani

The winners are:

(Monday 17/4): Zahra Najaf Ramadan Mohammed Shah, Khaled Fahad Khaled Al-

(Tuesday 18/4): Mona Abbas Ali Al-Hazeem, Bader Ali Mousa Mohammed

(Wednesday 19/4): Meshaal Issa Mohammed Al-Qattan, Hameed Ahmad Mohammad Al-Rasheed

(Thursday 20/4): Mervat Naser Ibrahim Al-Tuwaijri, Suaad Abdullah Mohammad Al-Failakawi

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2017 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day and each receive KD1,000). Al-Danah's 2nd Quarterly draw for the prize of KD 250,000 will be held on 29 June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD 500,000 will be held on 28 September. The final Al-Danah draw for KD1 million will be held on 11 January, 2018 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced

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

1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million

2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes,

up to KD 500,000 3) Two winners of KD 1,000 every work-

ing day 4) The most chances to win

5) Only Bank that transfers your chances

to win from year to year Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.

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

winner. Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2017 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches. For assistance and quidance.

LAFARGEHOLCIM CEO TO STEP DOWN OVER SYRIA PROBE

Olsen departure expected to 'restore serenity to company'

ZURICH: French-Swiss cement maker LafargeHolcim said yesterday its chief executive Eric Olsen is stepping down following an internal investigation into the company's activities in Syria. His resignation will be effective on July 15, LafargeHolcim said in a statement, adding that its board had agreed to his departure even though an internal probe had determined he was not responsible for any wrongdoings. Olsen's departure follows an inquiry into the indirect financing by Lafarge of armed groups in civil warravaged Syria to keep one of its cement plants operational.

"My decision is driven by my conviction that it will contribute to addressing strong tensions that have recently arisen around the Syria case," said Olsen. "While I was absolutely not involved in, nor even aware of, any wrongdoing I believe my departure will contribute to bringing back serenity to a company that has been exposed for months on this case," he added.

'Unacceptable practices' Last month, LafargeHolcim admit-

d that it had resorted to "unaccept able practices" to continue operations at one of its now-closed factories in Syria, and yesterday it said an internal probe had confirmed that finding. The admission came after sources close to the case told AFP in January that the French government had filed a legal complaint against Lafarge for buying oil in Syria to power the Jalabiya factory, in violation of

French cement maker Lafarge bought the factory in 2007 and invested some \$680 million to get it working by 2010, representing the biggest foreign investment in the country outside the petroleum sector. The plant, located in northern Syria some 150 kilometres (95 miles) northeast of Aleppo, was finally evacuated in 2014, and closed down before Lafarge merged with its Swiss competitor Holcim in 2015. Lafarge is suspected of sourcing oil locally to operate the factory in defiance of a 2012 EU ban on purchases of Syrian oil as part of a sanctions package targeting the regime of Syrian President

According to an investigative piece published in French daily Le Monde last June, Lafarge entered into deals with armed groups in Syria, including the Islamic State group, to protect its business inter-

Yesterday, LafargeHolcim published findings from an independent, internal investigation into the plant, commissioned by its board. "A number of measures taken to continue

agement, selected members of group management were aware of circumstances indicating that violations of Lafarge's established standards of business conduct had taken place," it added.

It stressed though that its internal investigation had "concluded that Eric Olsen was not responsible for, nor thought to be aware of, any wrongdoings that have been identified as part of its review."

Never again The company, which said it who is set to temporarily take over the chief executive seat after Olsen's departure, stressed yesterday that "we are absolutely committed to ensuring that events like those that occurred in Syria must never happen again at LafargeHolcim." Vontobel analyst Bernd Pomrehn meanwhile described Olsen's departure in a research note as "extremely disappointing" at a time when the recently merged company was "gaining traction and delivering on

targeted synergies." But, he said, his departure "high-



ZURICH: In this March 2, 2017 file photo Eric Olsen, CEO of Cement group LafargeHolcim, speaks during a press conference in Zurich, on the company's activities in Syria. —AP

safe operations at the Syrian plant were unacceptable, and significant errors of judgement were made that contravened the applicable code of conduct," it said.

"The findings also confirm that, although these measures were instigated by local and regional manwould begin searching for Olsen's successor "immediately", said it had taken "remedial measures", including the creation of an "Ethics, Integrity and Risk Committe" to strengthen and enhance compliance with its ethics rules. Chairman of LafargeHolcim's board Beat Hess, lights that especially companies being active in politically challenging regions such as Syria have to follow strict code of standard practices."

"LafargeHolcim's decision to create an Ethics, Integrity and Risks committee following the Syria issue came probably too late," he said. —AFP

BRITAIN BACK IN FAVOR FOR CORPORATE DEALS DESPITE BREXIT

LONDON: Britain has reclaimed its place as one of the top five countries that firms look to make deals in, just six months after dropping off the list in the wake of the country's surprise to leave the European Union, according to a survey released yesterday.

In its half-yearly report of business executives, consulting firm EY said Britain has rebounded to be the third most attractive destination for mergers and acquisitions, behind the U.S. and China. Last October, in the wake of the Brexit vote, it had slumped to seventh and out of the top five for the first time in EY's sevenyear history of assessing deal intentions.

Steve Krouskos, EY's global head of transactions, said that irrespective of the Brexit vote, Britain remains a "major force in the global economy and a center of deal-making activity." In the City of London, Britain has the most comprehensive financial sector in Europe and most commentators think the government, whoever wins the upcoming general election, will seek to retain that status in the Brexit discussions and that Britain will remain an open and transparent place to do business.

Last month, before she called the general election for June 8, Prime Minister Theresa May formally triggered the two-year process by which Britain will leave the EU. There's now growing talk that whoever wins the election will be in a better position to get a transitional deal with the EU that might last around three years.

In all, Krouskos thinks that elections can have a short-term impact on the appetite for corporate deals, but that longer-term issues such as rapid technological change are what really drive firms.

"Geopolitical and policy uncertainty is a permanent feature of the boardroom, but technology-enabled disruption poses a greater challenge to many business models," he said. "The exponential pace of disruption and transformation is compelling executives to engage in M&A. Companies need to innovate to follow rapidly changing customer preferences and buying assets can be the fastest way to radically reshape their business for future growth."

As a result, the interest in deals remains high. According to EY's survey of 2,300 executives across 43 countries, the majority of whom are CEOs, 56 percent of companies expect to actively pursue deals in the next 12 months. That's down a percentage point from October, but six points higher than a year ago and way above the survey's long-run average.

"Executives recognize that staying on the deal sidelines could mean they are sidelined from securing future-proofing assets," Krouskos said. EY's findings echo those of specialist Mergermarket, which this month found that global deal-making has remained resilient this year in the face of uncertainties, with deals worth \$678.5 billion announced in the first quarter, 8.9 percent up on the previous year's value.

Already this year, Johnson & Johnson, the world's biggest maker of health care products, has announced its largest-ever acquisition - the pending \$30 billion purchase of Swiss biopharmaceutical company Actelion. And British American Tobacco has offered \$49 billion bid for the nearly 58 percent of rival Reynolds it doesn't already own.

Getting deals through isn't always easy and this year has shown that. Recent failures include the proposed \$30 billion tie-up between the London Stock Exchange and Deutsche Boerse and most dramatically Unilever's rebuff of a \$143 billion approach from Kraft Heinz. And Rupert Murdoch's attempt to consolidate his media empire with Twenty-First Century Fox's purchase of Britain-based Sky is no done deal following the British government's decision to give regulators more time to weigh the matter because of the election.

One concern that's risen in the wake of the Brexit vote and the election of Donald Trump as US president is that the global economy is heading for a period of increasing protectionism. However, despite speculation about trade barriers. Krouskos said cross-border M&A has already been a hallmark of 2017, with a resurgence of deals between the United States and Western Europe. According to the survey, only 36 percent of companies now plan to focus on domestic deals in the next 12 months. —AP

STOCKS, EURO SURGE ON HOPES OF MACRON WIN

LONDON: Europe's stock markets and the euro ing got under way in New York. "Relief. That is surged yesterday after moderate candidate Emmanuel Macron won the first round of France's presidential election and looked set to triumph in the run-off against far-right candidate Marine Le Pen next month. Germany's blue-chip share index, the DAX, hit an all-time high as stock markets across Europe and Asia breathed easier after pro-business French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron's first-round success. The Frankfurt index of 30 leading stocks briefly touched 12,428.62 points, compared with the previous record of 12,391 reached in April 2015.

'Relief' is the word

Wall Street also posted healthy gains as trad-

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

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the word that basically describes the sharp moves in the markets today," said Fawad Razagzada, a market analyst at Forex.com. The euro shot higher to trade above \$1.09 at one point, compared with \$1.0726 on Friday. "European markets are in a buoyant mood... after the French pollsters got it near enough spot on," said Joshua Mahony, market analyst at IG trading group. "The move back into risk assets means the chief losers have been the likes of gold and the Japanese yen, with stock markets moving sharply higher."

The price of gold fell by nearly 1.5 percent on the day. Investors globally had been fearful that

> Low 6,810.63

> > 404.40

Volume

Value (KWD)

a wave of populism, which swept Donald Trump out by the time of the second election round to the White House and saw Britain vote to leave the EU, could lead to a win for the anti-European Le Pen and put the future of the bloc in doubt.

However, Macron is widely expected to gallop to victory over the divisive Front National leader and traders gave a huge thumbs-up. "Markets are happy to buy what they see as the fact-that 39year-old Emmanuel Macron will be confirmed as the next president of the French republic in two weeks' time," Ray Attrill, head of FX strategy at National Australia Bank, said in a commentary.

The bulls are back

Some cautioned that the party mood may fizzle

125,440,973

18,488,740

in two weeks' time, but in the meantime enthusiasm was rampant. "Bullishness has returned to equities," said Mike van Dulken, Head of Research at Accendo Markets.

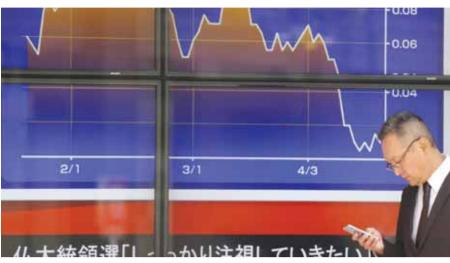
The surge in optimism drove down the yen-considered a safe bet in times of uncertainty-which in turn lifted Japanese exporters. Tokyo's Nikkei ended up 1.3 percent, Sydney added 0.3 percent, Seoul gained 0.4 percent and Wellington put on 0.4 percent.

Hong Kong closed 0.4 percent higher but Shanghai sank 1.4 percent, extending a recent sell-off fuelled by profit-taking, liquidity concerns and regulatory plans. The gains in Asia extended Friday's rally that was built on comments from US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who promised that a tax reform plan would be unveiled soon.

That was followed by Trump saving

Friday that there would be "a big announcement on Wednesday having to do with tax reform". Eyes are now on Washington, where lawmakers have just four days to agree a funding bill to avoid a painful government shutdown that would cost the economy billions of dollars. There are fears Trump will refuse to sign anything that does not contain spending for his controversial Mexican border wall, with Democrats saying they will not back anything that does include such provisions.

Oil had another volatile day as investors mulled the chances of OPEC extending an output cut agreement beyond June. After a firmer start, the oil price fell back into negative territory by the European afternoon on selling by traders doubting that any extension, if agreed, would actually soak up the current glut on oil markets. —AFP



TOKYO: A man walks past an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian stocks were mixed yesterday as investors weighed the results of the first round of the French presidential election. —AP

| That was followed by Th | unip saying | Current glut on on markets | 0.06 |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|------|
| | | | V.04 |
| 2/1 | | | |

| Price index | | A | 12.03 | 6,831.07 | (| 5,819.04 | | 6 | 5,84 |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------|
| Weighted Index | | A | 0.73 | 406.57 | | 405.84 | | | 406 |
| KSX 15 | | <u> </u> | 1.46 | 916.75 | | 915.29 | _ | | 917 |
| | | | | Trades | | | | | |
| Security | High | Low | Volume | Value (KD) | Trades | Last | С | hange | |
| MARIN IPG | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 400 | Ξ | 0.0 | |
| NAPESCO | 1,520 | 1,520 | 196,959 | 299,378 | 23 | 1,520 | _ | 100.0 | - |
| ENERGYH GPI | 43.0 46.0 | 41.5 45.0 | 99,850 4,515,520 | 4,183 204,297 | 21 111 | 43.0 45.0 | ▼ | -0.5 -1.0 | - |
| ABAR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 | _ | 0.0 | |
| Oil & Gas | | | 4,812,329 | 507,858 | 155 | 1075.54 | <u> </u> | 35.83 | |
| KFOUC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 290 | Ξ | 0.0 | |
| BPCC ALKOUT | 580 0.0 | 580 0.0 | 10,276 0 | 5,960 0 | 0 | 580 700 | _ | -10.0 0.0 | |
| ALQURAIN Basic Materials | 335 | 330 | 192,353 202,629 | 64,303 70,264 | 16 19 | 335 1300.31 | <u> </u> | 0.0 -4.79 | |
| KOEM | 500 | 405 | | 202 | | 520 | | | |
| CABLE | 520 450 | 485 430 | 416 772,399 | 202 333,882 | 2 77 | 520 450 | _ | 0.0 -5.0 | - |
| SHIP PCEM | 228 960 | 224 950 | 11,936 | 2,694 | 3 6 | 226 950 | ▼ ▼ | -2.0 -30.0 | |
| PAPER | 0.0 | 0.0 | 13,876 0 | 13,270 0 | 0 | 350 | _ | 0.0 | - |
| MRC | 76 | 76 | 1,800 | 137 | 2 | 76 | = | 0.0 | |
| ACICO HCC | 285 0.0 | 280 0.0 | 33,905 | 9,538 | 6 0 | 280 208 | _ | -10.0 0.0 | |
| KBMMC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 156 | - | 0.0 | |
| NICBM EQUIPMENT | 0.0 56 | 0.0 54 | 1,335,000 | 73,759 | 0 45 | 214 56 | Ξ | 0.0 | - |
| NCCI | 91 | 81 | 78,300 | 6,595 | 12 | 90 | A | 4.0 | |
| GYPSUM SALBOOKH | 0.0 67 | 0.0 64 | 0 248,374 | 0 16,238 | 0 20 | 95 64 | <u>_</u> | 0.0 -3.0 | - |
| AGLTY | 620 | 610 | 621,369 | 381,817 | 24 | 610 310 | _ | 0.0 | - |
| EDU CLEANING | 310 0.0 | 285 0.0 | 493,916 0 | 148,408 0 | 40 0 | 310 50 | _ | 25.0 0.0 | - |
| KGL KCPC | 61 | 60 0.0 | 90,500 | 5,433 0 | 9 | 60 | ▼ | -2.0 | |
| HUMANSOFT | 0.0 3,780 | 3,780 | 300,100 | 1,134,378 | 19 | 174 3,780 | _ | 0.0 100.0 | - |
| NAFAIS GFC | 0.0 62 | 0.0 62 | 2,000 | 0 124 | 0 | 150 62 | _ | 0.0 3.0 | |
| MAYADEEN | 29.0 | 28.5 | 697,340 | 19,880 | 20 | 29.0 | _ | 0.0 | - |
| CGC MTCC | 580 0.0 | 550 0.0 | 1,127,593 0 | 633,268 0 | 87 0 | 560 56 | ▼ | -20.0 0.0 | |
| UPAC | 760 | 690 | 2,007 | 1,385 | 4 | 690 | _ | -50.0 | |
| ALAFCO MUBARRAD | 250 78 | 244 77 | 53,200 | 13,001 | 4 8 | 250 78 | - | 0.0 | |
| LOGISTICS | 67 | 66 | 215,435 114,100 | 16,775 7,531 | 6 | 66 | _ | 0.0 -1.0 | - |
| SCEM | 91 | 90 | 1,160,533 | 104,448 | 16 | 90 | ▼ ▼ | -1.0 | - |
| GCEM QIC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 50,000 | 4,150 0 | 0 | 83 85 | _ | -5.0 0.0 | - |
| FCEM | 90 | 90 | 29,000 | 2,610 | 8 | 90 98 | ₩ | -3.0 | |
| RKWC SPEC | 98 89 | 93 87 | 210 607,829 | 20 53,735 | 22 | 88 | _ | 0.0 -1.0 | - |
| Industrials | | | 8,061,138 | 2,983,278 | 446 | 1786.70 | A | 10.75 | |
| KSH NSH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 188 40.0 | Ξ | 0.0 | |
| PAPCO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 104 | Ξ | 0.0 | |
| CATTL DANAH | 206 89 | 204 88 | 15,283 18,000 | 3,128 1,587 | 5 4 | 204 89 | V | -6.0 1.0 | |
| FOOD | 2,460 | 2,380 | 15,002 | 35,705 | 2 | 2,460 | A | 60.0 | |
| Consumer Goods | | | 48,285 | 40,420 | 11 | 1117.06 | <u> </u> | 5.09 | |
| MHC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 310 | = | 0 | |
| ATC YIACO | 0.0 216 | 0.0 216 | 41,000 | 0 8,856 | 7 | 1,100 216 | _ | 20 | - |
| Health Care | | | 41,000 | 8,856 | 7 | 1356.91 | | 20.23 | |
| KCIN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,400 | Ξ | 0 | |
| KHOT SULTAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250 67 | = | 0 | |
| CABLETV | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22.5 | Ξ | 0 | - |
| EYAS IFAHR | 400 0.0 | 400 0.0 | 40,000 0 | 16,000 0 | 1 0 | 400 192 | _ | 0 | - |
| OULAFUEL | 126 | 124 | 54,502 | 6,842 | 15 | 192 | Ξ | 0 | - |
| MUNTAZAHAT JAZEERA | 81 570 | 78 550 | 626,005 25,515 | 48,830 14,293 | 17 6 | 78 570 | _ | -3 0 | - |
| SOOR | 126 | 124 | 25,515 38,786 | 14,293 4,819 | 19 | 124 | Ξ | 0 | - |
| FUTUREKID ALRAI | 124 176 | 118 174 | 505 4.861 | 60 846 | 2 | 124 176 | _ | 0 | - |
| ALRAI ZIMAH | 176 56 | 174 55 | 4,861 680,000 | 846 38,050 | 2 14 | 176 56 | A | 1 | - |
| Mezzan Consumer Services | 1,000 s | 990 | 116,441 1,586,615 | 116,235 245,975 | 11 87 | 1,000 924.15 | A | 10 -2.28 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| ZAIN OOREDOO | 450 1,180 | 445 1,180 | 2,480,232 250 | 1,110,277 295 | 68 1 | 450 1,180 | _ | 0 20 | - |
| HITSTELEC | 46.5 | 45.0 | 1,793,519 | 81,925 | 53 | 45.5 | ▼ | -1 | |
| VIVA Telecommunication | 850 ns | 840 | 48,548 4,322,549 | 41,096 1,233,593 | 33 155 | 850 628.93 | V | -10 -3.86 | |
| | | 670 | | | | | | | |
| NBK GBK | 680 248 | 670 248 | 1,391,839 357,064 | 941,316 88,552 | 55 5 | 680 248 | = | 0 | - |
| СВК | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 425 | - | 0 | - |
| ABK ALMUTAHED | 310 420 | 305 410 | 662 33,652 | 204 13,943 | 2 8 | 310 415 | _ | 5 | - |
| KIB | 250 | 246 | 3,553,444 | 881,661 | 45 | 248 | ₹ | -7 | |
| BURG KFIN | 315 500 | 305 490 | 520,919 8,639,063 | 161,980 4,250,215 | 23 264 | 310 500 | ▼ | -5 5 | - |
| BOUBYAN | 410 | 405 | 793,113 | 324,409 | 38 | 405 | V | -5 | |
| AUB | 220 50 | 218 48.0 | 2,108,711 14,718,660 | 459,843 721,925 | 62 249 | 218 48.5 | _ | 2 | - |
| | | 70.0 | , , , 10,000 | | 94 | 244 | _ | 0 | |
| ITHMR WARBABANK | 246 | 240 | 817,101 | 199,401 | | | | | 1 |
| ITHMR WARBABANK | | 240 | 817,101 32,934,22 8 | | 845 | 933.27 | A | -1.92 | |
| ITHMR WARBABANK Banks KINS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 32,934,228 | 8,043,449 | 845 0 | 933.27 | Ξ | -1.92 0 | |
| ITHMR WARBABANK Banks KINS GINS | 246 | | 32,934,228 | 8,043,449 | 845 | 933.27 | _ _ _ _ | -1.92 | |
| ITHMR WARBABANK Banks KINS GINS AINS WINS KUWAITRE | 0.0 550 | 0.0 550 | 0 500 | 0 275 | 0 | 933.27 248 550 | = | -1.92 0 0.0 | |

WETHAQ

BKIKWT

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153.346

33

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55 **—** 0.0

355

18 1057.41 🛦

| 7.28 | 908.48 | | Number of T | | 3,569 | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|----------|--|
| | | | | | | | | |
| Security | High | Low | Volume | Trades Value (KD) | Trades | Last | ange | |
| SOKOUK | 49.5 | 48.0 | 1369977 | 66,930 | 55 | 49.5 | <u> </u> | 0.5 |
| KRE | 63 | 63 | 710,000 | 44,730 | 4 | 63 | * | -1.0 |
| URC | 95 | 91 | 81,005 | 7,386 | 8 | 95 | ₩ | -1.0 |
| NRE SRE | 102 375 | 99 375 | 1,031,781 2,500 | 103,138 938 | 16 1 | 102 375 | _ | 0.0 |
| TAM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 425 | _ | 0.0 |
| AREEC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 32,361 | 0 25 | 170 54 | _ | 0.0 |
| MASSALEH ARABREC | 56 37.0 | 49.0 36.0 | 643,206 | 21,985 | 27 | 36.0 | ▼ | 1.0 -1.0 |
| ERESCO | 43.5 | 42.5 | 1,019,400 | 44,008 | 32 | 42.5 | ₩ | -0.5 |
| MABANEE | 820 | 810 | 1,111,262 | 901,540 | 39 | 820 | <u> </u> | 10.0 |
| INJAZZAT INVESTORS | 26.5 | 26.0 | 1,869,177 | 0 48,840 | 32 | 93 26.0 | _ | -0.5 |
| IRC | 37.5 | 35.0 | 1,874,060 | 67,329 | 57 | 35.0 | ₩ | -2.0 |
| ALTIJARIA | 78 | 76 | 177,369 | 13,650 | 12 | 78 | _ | 0.0 |
| SANAM AAYANRE | 0.0 86 | 0.0 85 | 205,009 | 0 17,471 | 11 | 55 86 | = | 0.0 |
| AQAR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 82 | _ | 0.0 |
| ALAQARIA | 42.5 | 41.0 | 1,944,740 | 81,234 | 55 | 42.0 | ₩ | -1.5 |
| MAZAYA ADNC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 807,210 0 | 93,636 | 28 0 | 116 11.0 | = | 0.0 |
| THEMAR | 90 | 90 | 14,686 | 1,322 | 1 | 90 | _ | 0.0 |
| TIJARA | 60 | 56 | 5,905 | 331 | 2 | 60 | _ | 0.0 |
| TAAMEER ARKAN | 42.0 0.0 | 40.5 0.0 | 6,335,371 0 | 258,822 0 | 100 | 41.0 83 | _ | -1.0 0.0 |
| ARGAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 188 | Ξ | 0.0 |
| ABYAAR | 27.0 | 26.5 | 4,206,862 | 111,482 | 72 | 26.5 | _ | 0.0 |
| MUNSHAAT FIRSTDUBAI | 57 59 | 55 58 | 1,855,631 1,192,497 | 104,185 69,225 | 52 58 | 57 58 | _ | 0.0 -2.0 |
| KBT | 53 | 51 | 514,005 | 26,284 | 10 | 51 | ▼ | -2.0 |
| REAM | 275 | 240 | 101 | 28 | 2 | 275 | A | 25.0 |
| MENA ALMUDON | 0.0 47.5 | 0.0 46.0 | 0 4 833 104 | 225.836 | 0 92 | 32.0 46.0 | _ | 0.0 |
| ALMUDON MARAKEZ | 47.5 49.5 | 46.0 47.5 | 4,833,104 45,650 | 225,836 2,190 | 8 | 46.0 49.5 | * | -1.0 -0.5 |
| REMAL | 71 | 68 | 1,980,500 | 137,281 | 41 | 71 | A | 1.0 |
| AWJ Real Estate | 87 | 80 | 362,798 34,799,003 | 29,680 2 511 843 | 17 857 | 83 992.22 | V | -2.0 -1.41 |
| rear Estate | | | 04,7 88,003 | 2,511,843 | 03/ | 332.2Z | _ | -1.41 |
| KINV | 102 | 100 | 33,500 | 3,357 | 3 | 100 | ₹ | -2.0 |
| FACIL | 164 | 162 | 25,000 | 4,060 | 4 | 162 | V | -2.0 |
| NINV | 45.0 104 | 42.0 102 | 7,166,358 710,110 | 311,188 72,431 | 149 23 | 42.5 104 | _ | -1.5 0.0 |
| KPROJ | 420 | 415 | 161,500 | 67,293 | 9 | 415 | _ | 0.0 |
| COAST | 45.5 | 44.0 | 194,065 | 8,720 | 17 | 45.0 | _ | 0.0 |
| SECH | 50 99 | 49.0 99 | 689,070 | 34,353 | 9 | 49.5 99 | _ | -0.5 0.0 |
| ARZAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37.5 | _ | 0.0 |
| MARKAZ | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 106 | = | 0.0 |
| KMEFIC ALAMAN | 30.5 0.0 | 29.0 0.0 | 58,053 0 | 1,713 0 | 6 | 30.0 50 | _ | -1.0 0.0 |
| ALOLA | 51 | 48.5 | 2,894,774 | 142,763 | 70 | 49.0 | A | 0.5 |
| ALMAL | 20.5 | 19.5 | 1,879,051 | 37,770 | 43 | 20.0 | _ | 0.0 |
| GIH AAYAN | 42.5 50 | 41.5 48.5 | 1,784,610 7,785,825 | 74,936 382,842 | 43 84 | 42.0 49.5 | <u> </u> | -1.0 1.0 |
| BAYANINV | 49.5 | 48.5 | 202,002 | 9,882 | 8 | 49.0 | - | 0.0 |
| OSOUL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 74 | 0 | 63 | - | 0.0 |
| KFIC | 49.5 94 | 49.5 90 | 1,500 7,850 | 74 715 | 1 14 | 49.5 94 | ▼ | -1.5 -1.0 |
| NIH | 66 | 64 | 42,700 | 2,733 | 5 | 64 | ₩ | -1.0 |
| UNICAP | 48.0 | 48.0 | 10,000 | 480 | 1 | 48.0 | _ | 0.0 |
| MADAR ALDEERA | 0.0 37.5 | 0.0 35.0 | 0 288,762 | 0 10,257 | 0 25 | 12.5 36.0 | _ | 0.0 -0.5 |
| ALSALAM | 48.5 | 48.0 | 1,715,505 | 83,197 | 26 | 48.5 | A | 0.5 |
| EKTTITAB | 39.0 | 37.5 | 601,184 | 22,947 | 67 | 38.5 | - | 0.0 |
| ALMADINA NOOR | 49.0 52 | 48.5 51 | 95,010 912,510 | 4,640 46,538 | 8 12 | 49.0 51 | ▼ | -0.5 -2.0 |
| TAMINV | 320 | 320 | 50 | 16 | 1 | 320 | <u>,</u> | 10.0 |
| EXCH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 158 | - | 0.0 |
| KSHC ASIYA | 40.0 39.0 | 39.5 39.0 | 870,304 254,000 | 34,378 9,906 | 31 6 | 40.0 39.0 | _ | 0.0 -0.5 |
| GNAHC | 39.5 | 38.0 | 115,570 | 4,425 | 6 | 38.5 | ▼ | -0.5 |
| AMWAL | 71 | 68 | 126,216 | 8,744 | 24 | 70 | A | 1.0 |
| ALIMTIAZ MANAZEL | 176 55 | 172 54 | 6,780,312 1,287,106 | 1,178,749 69,617 | 99 36 | 172 54 | ▼ | -4.0 -2.0 |
| NIND | 120 | 114 | 1,287,106 | 124,054 | 31 | 116 | _ | 0.0 |
| BIIHC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21.5 | _ | 0.0 |
| SENERGY | 45.0 102 | 44.0 102 | 10,632 40 | 470 4 | 8 | 44.5 102 | _ | 0.0 -2.0 |
| KPPC | 102 52 | 102 51 | 52,076 | 2,656 | 5 | 102 52 | _ | 0.0 |
| TAHSSILAT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30.0 | - | 0.0 |
| JEERANH EKHOLDING | 46.5 | 44.5 | 23,275 | 1,039 | 8 | 45.0 192 | _ | 0.0 |
| GFH | 0.0 186 | 0.0 | 84,981 | 15,626 | 12 | 192 184 | = | 0.0 |
| INOVEST | 106 | 100 | 399,295 | 40,711 | 23 | 104 | = | 0.0 |
| Financial Service | es | | 38,330,535 | 2,813,288 | 919 | 734.57 | A | -4.33 |
| Investment Instru | uments | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1081.97 | - | 0.00 |
| 100 | | 6.1- | | | | | | 4 |
| ASC OSOS | 275 140 | 242 140 | 155 20 | 40 3 | 1 | 265 140 | <u> </u> | 10.0 6.0 |
| | 93 | 86 | 149,140 | 12,987 | 44 | 89 | * | -2.0 |
| HAYATCOMM | | | 149,315 | 13,031 | 49 | 718.43 | A | 19.59 |
| Technology | | | | | | | | 0.0 |
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| SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 160 335 | Ξ | 0.0 |
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| SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN MASAKEN DALQAN | 0.0 0.0 38.0 0.0 0.0 | 0.0 0.0 38.0 0.0 | 0 0 1 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 1 0 0 | 160 335 38.0 80 | | 0.0 0.5 0.0 |
| SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN MASAKEN DALQAN ALEID | 0.0 0.0 38.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 | 0.0 0.0 38.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 | 0 0 1 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 1 0 0 0 | 160 335 38.0 80 78 350 86 | Ξ | 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 |
| SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN MASAKEN DALQAN | 0.0 0.0 38.0 0.0 0.0 | 0.0 0.0 38.0 0.0 0.0 | 0 0 1 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 1 0 0 | 160 335 38.0 80 78 350 | Ξ | 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 |
| SANAD AFAQ ALSHAMEL EFFECT AJWAN MASAKEN DALQAN ALEID MIDAN | 0.0 0.0 38.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 | 0.0 0.0 38.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 | 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 | 160 335 38.0 80 78 350 86 1,220 | Ξ | 0.0 0.5 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 |

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| | | Glo | bal St | ock In | dices | | | |
| Index | Previo | us Close | Last | Price | Cha | inge | Daily Performance | Yearly |
| IIIdex | | | | | | T | % | % |
| Dow Jones | | 78.71 | - | 47.76 | -30.95 | * | -0.15 | 3.97 |
| NASDAQ S&P 500 | | 16.78 55.84 | _ | 10.52 48.69 | -6.26 -7.15 | * | -0.11 | 9.80 |
| Financial Times | | 14.55 | | 40.17 | 125.62 | | 1.77 | 1.36 |
| DAX | | 48.57 | - | 11.17 | 362.60 | _ | 3.01 | 8.10 |
| CAC 40 | | 59.20 | | 38.64 | 229.44 | _ | 4.54 | 8.77 |
| Swiss | 8,55 | 53.99 | 8,69 | 96.64 | 142.65 | A | 1.67 | 5.80 |
| Nikkei 225 | 11,3 | 30.12 | 11,3 | 35.53 | 5.41 | A | 0.05 | -2.65 |
| Topix | 1,48 | 88.58 | 1,50 | 03.19 | 14.61 | A | 0.98 | -1.02 |
| Hang Seng | 24,0 | 42.02 | 24,1 | 39.48 | 97.46 | A | 0.41 | 9.72 |
| Straits Times | 3,13 | 39.83 | 3,14 | 44.03 | 4.20 | A | 0.13 | 9.14 |
| | | ME | NA Sto | ock In | dices | | | |
| | | | | | | _ | Daily | Yearly |
| Index | Previou | us Close | Last | Price | Cha | ange | Performance « | Performance |
| Kuwait | 6,81 | 19.04 | 6,83 | 31.07 | 12.03 | _ A | 0.18 | 15.71 |
| Saudi Arabia | | 68.75 | | 59.74 | 0.99 | A | 0.01 | -3.35 |
| Dubai | 3,46 | 69.82 | 3,43 | 30.88 | -38.94 | • | -1.12 | -1.73 |
| Abu Dhabi | 4,52 | 21.63 | 4,53 | 30.81 | 9.18 | A | 0.20 | -0.54 |
| Bahrain | | 36.65 | | 35.56 | -1.08 | • | -0.08 | 9.52 |
| Qatar | | 97.33 | | 53.76 | -43.57 | • | -0.43 | -2.29 |
| Oman | | 74.54 | | 56.61 | -7.93 | • | -0.14 | -5.33 |
| Lebanon | | 70.00 | | 52.93 | -17.08 | ▼ | -1.46 | -3.52 |
| Jordan | | 09.13 | | 96.74 | -12.39 | ▼ | -0.56 | 1.79 |
| Egypt Morocco | | 44.92 30.12 | | 95.40 35.53 | 50.48 | A | 0.40 | 1.62 |
| Tunisia | | 41.88 | _ | 38.38 | -3.50 | A | -0.05 | -2.65 2.79 |
| Tullisia | | and the second | | | 523 132 33 | D 4 | 111111111111111111111111111111111111111 | 2.77 |
| | | | rrenci | es Exc | cnange | e Kate | | |
| Currency | Kuwaiti Dinar | Saudi Riyal | US Dollar | Euro | Sterling | Swiss Franc | Japanese Yen | Australia: Dollar |
| Kuwait Dinar | Dinar | 12.2106 | 3.2696 | 3.0132 | Pound 2.5514 | 3.2549 | 360.37 | 4.3197 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.08190 | 12.2100 | 0.2678 | 0.2468 | 0.2089 | 0.2666 | 29.51 | 0.3538 |
| US Dollar | 0.30585 | 3.7346 | | 0.9216 | 0.7803 | 0.9955 | 110.22 | 1.3212 |
| Euro | 0.33188 | 4.0524 | 1.0851 | | 0.8467 | 1.0806 | 119.61 | 1.4339 |
| Sterling Pound | 0.39195 | 4.7859 | 1.2815 | 1.1811 | | 1.2763 | 141.25 | 1.6937 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.30723 | 3.7515 | 1.0045 | 0.9254 | 0.7835 | | 110.73 | 1.3272 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.00277 | 0.0339 | 0.0091 | 0.0084 | 0.0071 | 0.0090 | | 0.0120 |
| Australian Dollar | 0.23150 | 2.8267 | 0.7569 | 0.6974 | 0.5904 | 0.7535 | 83.43 | |
| | MEN | A Cui | rrenci | es Exc | hange | Rate | | |
| | | Kuwaiti | | Bahraini | Qatari | Omani | Emirates | Egyptian |
| Currency | US Dollar | Dollar | Saudi Riyal | Dinar | Riyal | Riyal | Dirham | Pound |
| US Dollar | | 0.30585 | 3.7346 | 0.3740 | 3.6266 | 0.3831 | 3.6574 | 18.0900 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 3.2696 | | 12.2106 | 1.2229 | 11.8574 | 1.2526 | 11.9581 | 59.1466 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2678 | 0.08190 | | 0.1001 | 0.9711 | 0.1026 | 0.9793 | 4.8439 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 2.6737 | 0.81774 | 9.9850 | 0.400 | 9.6963 | 1.0243 | 9.7786 | 48.3664 |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.2757 | 0.08434 | 1.0298 | 0.1031 | 0.4440 | 0.1056 | 1.0085 | 4.9881 |
| Omani Riyal Emirates Dirham | 0.2734 | 0.79831 | 9.7479 | 0.9762 | 9.4660 0.9916 | 0.1048 | 9.5464 | 47.2176 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.0553 | 0.08382 | 0.2064 | 0.1023 | 0.2005 | 0.0212 | 0.2022 | 1.7701 |
| 371 | | Clai | | | | (1) (1) (1) | 1981/1881 | |
| | | Gloi | bal Int | erest | Kates | | | |
| Currency | 1-Week | 1-Month | | onth | | onth | | Year |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 0.00 | 1.19 | | 16 | | 63 | | .94 |
| US Dollar Euro | 0.94 | 0.99 | | .35 | | .26 | | .76 |
| Euro Sterling Pound | -0.40 0.23 | -0.39 0.25 | | .33 | | 47 | | .68 |
| Swiss Franc | -0.80 | -0.77 | | .73 | | .66 | | .49 |
| Australian Dollar | 1.58 | 1.68 | | .61 | | 60 | | .61 |
| Japanese Yen | -0.02 | -0.02 | | .01 | | 03 | _ | .14 |
| | | | obal B | ond W | olde | | 1441/1949 | |
| | | Glo | obal B | ona Y | ielas | | | |
| Country | | Year | _ | Year . | | Year | _ | Year |
| United States | | .25 | | .84 | | 31 | _ | .95 |
| Europe | - 100 | .73 | | .35 | | 33 | _ | .07 |
| United Kingdom | 0. | .10 | | .53 | | 08 | 1. | .71 |
| | | | Comn | noditie | es | | | |
| | | | | | 1 1 1 1 1 1 | | Daily | Yearly |
| Index | Previo | us Close | Last | Price | Cha | ange | Performance % | Performance % |
| Kuwait Oil | 49 | .74 | 49 | .72 | -0.02 | • | -0.04 | -6.98 |
| Brent | 49 | .04 | 49 | .45 | 0.41 | A | 0.84 | -11.46 |
| West Texas | 49 | .69 | 49 | .59 | -0.10 | ▼ | -0.20 | -8.17 |
| Gold | 128 | 4.00 | 126 | 9.91 | -14 09 | _ | -1 10 | 10.29 |

Gold

1284.00

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1269.91

17.80

-14.09

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-1.10

-0.45

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10.86





LAWRENCE: In this March 3, 2017, photo, a woman works with fabric at 99Degrees Custom, an apparel manufacturer specializing in sewn and bonded sports and activewear, in Lawrence, Mass. — AP

SURVEY OF US ECONOMISTS FINDS **OPTIMISM ABOUT ECONOMY**

WASHINGTON: Business economists are generally optimistic about the US economy with most expecting stronger growth than last year's poor performance.

Economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics also expect improved or unchanged sales and profits at their companies in the second quarter, with most reporting no changes in hiring or investment in response to policy changes expected after the November election. Nearly two-thirds of economists in the poll released yesterday expect gross domestic product growth of 2.1 percent to 3 percent in the next four quarters. That would be a significant improvement from anemic growth of 1.6 percent in 2016, the weakest showing in five years. Since the Great Recession ended in

June 2009, the economy has averaged annual GDP growth of just 2.1 percent, the slowest recovery since the end of World War II. Only 1 percent of the economists expected no growth or a decline in GDP during the next year. President Donald Trump has pledged to boost GDP growth to 4 percent or better, though private economists are doubtful he can achieve that goal given the headwinds the economy faces from an aging workforce and disappointing productivity growth.

The survey also found that 91 percent of those polled expect rising or unchanged inflation-adjusted sales in the second quarter. That's down slightly from the results in January. Fifty-three percent expected sales to rise, down four percentage points from January's survey. — AP

OUTSTANDING RETURNS FOR KIB'S ARZAQ DEPOSIT IN Q1 2017

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced that the performance indicators for its Arzaq Investment Deposit achieved outstanding returns during the first quarter of 2017 in Kuwaiti Dinar, as the deposit recorded an annualized gross profit rate of 2.65% by end of the quarter.

Ramy Khalifa, Assistant General Manager - Retail Distribution Sales Services at KIB, said, "We are always looking to offer the most competitive returns in the market across all our investment products, which is why we are proud to say that our Arzaq Deposit achieved one of the highest returns nationwide during the year 2016 and in the first quarter of this current year."

Khalifa further added: "Our investment



the diverse needs of both retail and corporate customers, as we are fully aware that customers do not only look for high returns on their investments, but also seek flexible solutions that cater to their specific requirements."

Ramy Khalifa The Arzaq Investment Deposit operates in accordance

with the Mudarabah principle, and has been designed to offer customers safe, short-term investments available in Kuwaiti Dinar as well as three major foreign currencies (USD, Euro, GBP). The deposit also offers flexible deposit period options, ranging from one month to one year. Upon completion of the tenure, the investment account can be automatically renewed.

AGEING GERMAN POPULATION TO SAP GROWTH: BUNDESBANK

GERMAN BUSINESS CONFIDENCE EDGES UP IN APRIL

FRANKFURT AM MAIN: Germany's ageing population will undermine potential economic growth by the middle of the next decade as more of the baby boomer generation heads for retirement. the country's central bank predicted yesterday.

"In the medium term, falling population and the ageing of the workforce in Germany will significantly reduce economic growth," economists from the Bundesbank in Frankfurt wrote in their monthly report for April. Based on current trends, the number of people of working age in 2025 will be the same as in 2016, the experts predict-meaning that potential growth will fall to "significantly below 1.0 percent" from the almost 1.25 percent seen between 2011 and 2016.

Germany, once known as the "sick man of Europe", has become the continent's economic powerhouse in recent years, recording 1.9 percent growth in 2016. Meanwhile, the country's unemployment rate is at its lowest since reunification in 1990, at 5.8 percent.

Early-2000s labor market reforms brought many of Germany's jobless back into work, while a high proportion of women are in employment compared to other advanced economies. But the coming years will see the number of Germans in the 60- to 75-year-old cohort grow by more than 3.0 million, as people born during the baby boom lasting until the late 1960s reach retirement age.

Meanwhile, the number of German-born people aged between 45 and 54 will fall by 3.5 million, and there will be 2.5 million fewer between 15 and 29 years old. Relatively high levels of immigration and higher productivity among older workers, who have more experience and training and higher rates of participation in the economy, are expected to compensate for the effects of ageing for a time.

But the number of people available for the labor force will begin falling by 2025 at the latest-even in a very high immigration scenario with some 300,000 new arrivals per year.

Confidence up

Menwhi, German businesses felt more confident in April but were cautious about the future economic outlook, a monthly survey from the Munich-based Ifo institute showed yesterday. Ifo's closely-watched business confidence index climbed to 112.9 points from 112.4 points in March, beating analyst expectations to reach its

highest level since July 2011. Businesses were much more confident about the present economic situation but slightly gloomier about the future outlook, the survey of around 7,000 firms showed.

"The mood in German boardrooms has improved again," commented Ifo president Clemens Fuest, noting that "the German economy is growing powerfully," despite the slightly less positive expectations for the coming months. Looking to different sectors, manufacturers were less upbeat than in March, while retailers, wholesalers and construction firms all saw the mood improve.

"The German economy seems to have entered an almost endless positive cycle," said analyst Carsten Brzeski of ING Diba bank, pointing to "earlier reforms, low interest rates, a weak euro and strong private and public consumption."

"Not only the German economy, but the entire eurozone economy could become the positive growth surprise of 2017," Brzeski went on. Jennifer McKeown of Capital Economics cautioned that "expectations softened slightly, perhaps suggesting that growth may be nearing a peak". But she allowed that "upside risks" to the economic forecasts seemed more likely. — Agencies



BEIJING: Two women walk past shops in a mall in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

SCAMS PUSH FORECLOSURE FRAUD TO LIMIT

Investors from Kuwait, Australia and UK caught up in scams

NEW YORK: The phone call came as Raymond Murray neared the bottom of his luck. His wife had died, his career had been ended by injuries, and struggling to get by on his disability check, he had scraped together just enough to pay a lawyer to avoid imminent foreclosure on his modest Brooklyn home.

The voice on the line offered a godsend: No more attorney fees, no more foreclosure, a lower monthly mortgage, and all this help for free. Murray was soon picked up by a black Mercedes-Benz, off to meet the man on the phone. Not long after, he was back at the office again, property deed in hand and a ring of people around a conference room table, finalizing the supposed fix to keep him in the home he hoped to die in.

Eventually, the blessing Murray thought he had found was revealed as a curse. Amid unfulfilled promises, unreturned calls and unwelcome visitors at his door, the truth became clear: This aging immigrant, who thought he'd realized an American dream, was scammed out of his home.

Around the US, deed theft has emerged as one of the most sophisticated and devastating frauds ever to menace homeowners. Foreclosure "rescue" scams that have stolen thousands of dollars from individual homeowners in the years since the housing collapse have been pushed by savvy perpetrators to their limit. They use lies to convince the desperate to sign over their title, then force them into homelessness or a yearslong legal battle.

"The scammers are no longer content with stealing \$5,000. Now they want the whole house," said Dina Levy, who heads the Homeowner Protection Program in the New York attorney general's office, which has spread word about deed theft and prosecuted culprits.

Although there are no firm numbers on how many cases of deed theft have occurred, they have been reported around the US, particularly in markets that have rebounded from the housing crisis or in neighborhoods that are gentrifying. "It's growing, absolutely," said Kristen Clarke, who heads the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a nonprofit that has researched foreclosure-related fraud. "We're beginning to see these scammers operate in a far

* In San Diego, federal prosecutors netted a guilty plea and a six-year prison sentence last year for a man who forged deeds on at least 15 homes, and then quickly sold them to the surprise of unwitting owners. The ringleader of what investigators called a "tangled web of deceit" netted about \$2.2 million in the scheme. Buyers coaxed into purchasing the homes were left with worthless claims to titles.

In Detroit, the Wayne County Register of Deeds is looking to expand its mortgage and deed fraud unit to deal with a crush of cases. The problem is so severe the office runs a round-theclock property fraud hotline and has a marked deed-theft patrol car used by investigators following up on tips.

Investors in Kuwait, Australia and the United Kingdom looking to capitalize on Detroit's resurgence are among those who have been caught

In Indianapolis, Crystal Francis, an attorney with Indiana Legal Services, tells of deed theft cases sprinkled throughout the area in recent years, with elderly people the preferred targets. One woman victimized by a scam while in the throes of a liver problem and dialysis treatment was overcome with shame. She couldn't muster the strength for a protracted legal fight, choosing to simply walk away from her longtime home and move in with a friend. "She was so discouraged," Francis said. "She just concluded it was too much."

Gravest problem

The problem has been gravest in New York, particularly the ever-pricier neighborhoods of Brooklyn. The New York sheriff's office has taken a lead on the cases and since 2014, the office has amassed more than 1,700 complaints, with hundreds under investigation, and some 32 arrests already tallied. The cases can take investigators years to solve. Sheriff Joseph Fucito points to a graphic of a single case, a snare of lines representing the three partners at the center of the probe, and their ties to 110 different companies and 189 properties. In this case, like many others, Fucito said the perpetrators did a mix of aboveboard and fraudulent business through a series of limited-liability companies, leaving it to detectives to pinpoint victims.

"Some of it's legitimate, some of it's not legitimate, and we have to pick through it," Fucito said. "But all of it smells funny." The sheriff ticks off the ways the thefts happen, from opportunists cobbling together documents on vacant properties to those transferring the home of an unwitting family member into their name, to fake housing assistance businesses that prey on those in financial crisis.

Cases in that final category are the hardest to prove, and the toughest to undo. Companies use misrepresentations to get a home signed over to them and often use licensed professionals to notarize and file legal documents.

"You can just wake up," Fucito said, "and it happened on a piece of paper." Murray came to New York in 1989 from his native Guyana, and dove into long days at work - as a telephone technician sometimes chased by dogs, and later as a police traffic control agent dodging irate motorists. He and his wife Desrie, a teacher, lived in a relative's basement, then rented a home before saving enough to buy. It wasn't much - a two-story brick house with a white metal gate, on a quiet, tree-lined Brooklyn street - but he felt like he finally could see what he'd been working for. "It was an American dream," the 67-year-old says. After two on-the-job accidents, Murray was forced into retirement. Money became tighter, and the couple refinanced their mortgage for \$388,000 in 2006 and took out another \$21,800 loan a year later to stay afloat. After Murray's wife died suddenly of ovarian cancer in early 2009, the real financial pinch set in. He cut back on food, kept the house darkened and found other ways to scrimp.

"I tried and I tried and I tried and I tried with my little savings," Murray said. Before long, his savings were nearly gone and he was falling short on the mortgage, and in time, a default notice alerted him that he was being referred for foreclosure. Turning to an attorney to try to restructure his debt, he spent \$5,000.

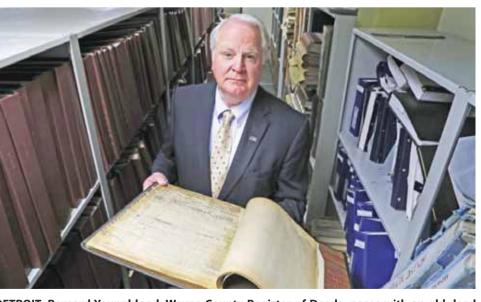
Then came that chance call in January 2014, from a man named Mario Alvarenga whose promises, Murray said, were exactly what he needed to hear. He was impressed by the black Mercedes that picked him up, by the politeness of the woman at the Homeowner Assistance Services office, and by the Alvarenga's professionalism. "These people have class," he thought.

in his home. After signing, Murray left that day awash in relief. That feeling was short-lived. Alvarenga phoned to tell him the loan modification wasn't approved, but pleaded for him to be patient. As Murray grew worried and suspicious, he tried several times to reach Alvarenga, each time turned away by a receptionist, he said. "Well, what do I have to do, call the FBI?" he remembered saying. "Something is funny."

It all climaxed with Murray finding a man on his property taking pictures and informing him the house now belonged to him. An eviction notice was soon posted on the door, ordering him to vacate.

The chilling realization dawned: "They stole my home from me." In many cases, a deed theft does not become evident to the homeowner

until months or even years after it happened. Francis, the Indiana lawyer, said some of her



DETROIT: Bernard Youngblood, Wayne County Register of Deeds, poses with an old deed registry book in Detroit. — AP

Murray left the office that day with a sense of hope he hadn't felt in years. He said Alvarenga told him his mortgage could be restructured to fit his income. It wouldn't even cost anything, so long as Murray fired his attorney.

Because of his poor credit, Murray said he was told, his home would need to go in the name of another company Alvarenga was tied to, Launch Development, for 90 days; then the loan modification would be finalized and the property could be put in the name of one of his children or, as he'd remarried, his new wife.

'Something is funny'

When Murray returned to Alvarenga's conference room, it was full of people - a man he was told was his new attorney, a real estate agent, a notary public and others. Murray, whose vision was blurred by cataracts, struggled to read stacks of documents presented for his signature papers he said he was assured would keep him

elderly clients became aware when strange mail started arriving in their box or when receiving an eviction notice. Deed theft victims are often older, or have some other perceived vulnerability, such as difficulty with English or a limited grasp of finances. "People will say things like, 'I'm really stupid.' They're embarrassed," Francis said. "Having your trust broken is so harsh." Sometimes, the fraud takes place entirely on paper. Bernard Youngblood, the register of deeds in Wayne County, Michigan, tells of a case in his office, when a man came to file a quitclaim deed transferring ownership on a property. A clerk recognized the address and went to a co-worker with a question. "Are you selling your house to

that guy?" she asked She wasn't. Youngblood said he faked a computer outage, leaving the would-be fraudster waiting at the counter. It bought enough time to

get deputies to respond and make an arrest. Today, Youngblood's office has an eight-person "war room" dedicated to fighting deed theft, with representatives of his office working alongside prosecutors and deputies. They've raised awareness for police more used to dealing with stolen purses or cars. "They had never heard of stolen houses," he said.

Undoing deed theft damage can take herculean efforts. Linda Fisher, a law professor at Seton Hall University who runs a legal clinic that frequently litigates mortgage fraud cases, says deed theft typically takes two to three years to resolve. Her first case, she said, took eight years.

While cases are often complicated, they are winnable, said Amy Mix, an attorney with Legal Counsel for the Elderly, a Washington-based affiliate of AARP. Homes are frequently returned to their rightful owners. And since it's often "the only asset of any real value that they have," it's a worthy fight, she said.

After finding the eviction notice on his door. Murray got help from attorneys at JASA Legal Services for the Elderly in Queens, who found a vast paper trail they believe was part of the ruse to make the transaction look legitimate. A real estate agent had even posted Murray's home on the multiple-listing service. ("Property sold 'as is,"" it said, in a listing detailing the brick construction, steam heat and \$170,000 asking price.)

Restructuring

What Murray believed was a mortgage restructuring was actually a sale, meticulously documented in the paperwork, making the fight to undo it a legal challenge. A judge initially ruled against Murray on his eviction, but his attorneys got a stay of that order. There is no resolution yet, but Murray has been allowed to remain in the house even as, on paper, he is no longer the owner. Murray sees the whole ordeal as a battle between good and evil. When he received the call from one of his lawyers, Robert Seewald, telling him Alvarenga and others had been arrested and faced federal charges in the scheme, he says he felt as if he had seen an angel. "These defendants manipulated and took advantage of vulnerable people," then-U.S. attorney Preet Bharara said in announcing the charges. In court papers, Alvarenga's attorneys dismissed Murray's story, saying he had "simply conspired a plan to live for free, for as long as possible." But Alvarenga later pleaded guilty to conspiracy. He awaits sentencing. Six others also face federal charges in the case, two of whom have pleaded guilty.

Jim Druker, one of Alvarenga's attorneys, said, "Mario is just a nice guy who got caught up in something," and that it went "from overzealous salesmanship into the criminal arena."

Murray's lawyers are still fighting in court for the return of the title to his home. Meantime, he worries his neighbors will learn he was scammed and he says it's hard to trust people now, after his bitter experience with those who targeted him. "They see that I was desperate, that I was in need," he said. "But I can see justice coming." — AP



KUWAIT AIRWAYS ADDS 2 ROUTES TO ITS NETWORK FOR SUMMER

KAC ADDS VIENNA AND SHARM EL-SHEIKH AS INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS REACH 38

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways, the official national carrier of the State of Kuwait, has announced that Vienna and Sharm El-Sheikh have been added to its international network, for the IATA Summer Season (26 March - 28 October). These seasonal additions take the airline's total number of destinations up to 38.

Having recently announced a 16 percent increase in frequencies across its network for the Summer Season, the additional routes are in response to Kuwait Airways' increasing passenger numbers and market share, within its domestic market and with transit passengers.

"Vienna has long been a cultural capital, within Europe, and has proven to be a popular destination during the Summer Season. Kuwait Airways is pleased to resume this service for both our loyal passengers and an ever-increasing number of new passengers who are flying with us," said Shorouk Al-Awadhi, Director of Network Planning and Strategy, Kuwait Airways. "Sharm El-Sheikh is a renowned regional holiday destination and popular with Kuwaitis, GCC nationals and many other nationalities. It is a route that has been served by Kuwait Airways before and, because it continues to prove to be in seasonal demand, it is a commerciallyviable route that makes a welcome return to our international network," Al-Awadhi added.



Established in 1953 as a private company, the airline was initially 50 percent owned by the Kuwaiti government; In 1962, the government assumed 100 percent ownership, making it the longest serving, official single-state carrier operating from the Arabian Gulf region.

In 2016, Kuwait Airways announced a five-year transformation strategy with a mandate of reasserting the official national carrier of Kuwait's proud legacy and status within the regional aviation market, while also reclaiming the position as the "preferred airline linking Kuwait to the world".

A member of the Arab Air Carriers Organization and employing over 4,800 people, Kuwait Airways' head office is situated in the heart of Kuwait City, close to Kuwait International Airport. The airline currently provides regular scheduled services to 38 international destinations in the Far East, Middle East, Europe and North America. In 2017, the airline is expected to cross the milestone of serving over three million passengers, per year (TTM). Kuwait Airways' fleet of 25 aircraft currently consists of: 6 x B777-300ER; 7 x A320-200CEO (completed delivery Q2 2015); 5 x A330s (completed delivery Q4 2015); 4 x A340-300s; 2 x Boeing 777-200; and 1 x Boeing 747-400.

In December 2016, Kuwait Airways received the first of 10 Boeing 777-300ERs, with expected completion of delivery of the final aircraft in Q3 2017. Further additions to the fleet will include 15 A320neo's and 10 A350s (delivery to start in 2019).



Once the delivery of these 35 new aircraft are concluded, Kuwait Airways will boast the youngest commercial airline fleet in the world.

GULF BANK'S EXCLUSIVE OFFER FOR PRIORITY CUSTOMERS FROM FAUCHON BOUTIQUES



KUWAIT: Gulf Bank announced yesterday that it is providing an exclusive offer for its Priority Banking customers from Fauchon Boutiques. The new offer will run for one month only, starting 22nd April until 21st May 2017.

Gulf Bank's Priority Banking customers are provided with 15 percent discount on all retail items from Fauchon Boutiques located in Prestige - The Avenues, Salhiya Plaza, and Crowne Plaza - Al-Thuraya City. By only using their premium credit cards including Visa Infinite, MasterCard World, Visa Signature, Visa Platinum and MasterCard Platinum, customers can benefit from the wide selection of premium chocolate gift items. The offer does not include dine-ins.

Gulf Bank is committed to offering its

selection of privileges that match their lifestyle as well providing access to Peacock Concierge's renowned local concierge services. With Gulf Bank Priority Banking, customers enjoy personalized and preferential treatment coupled with a suite of Banking and Investment products and services designed to meet their financial goals. A dedicated Relationship Manager is assigned to manage customers banking requirements in the comfort of dedicated private floors.

In addition, they will receive a branded ATM card that recognizes their status across Gulf Bank Network, premium credit cards with exclusive privileges, discounted fees and waivers on banking transactions and added-value benefits through the Bank's

TOYOTA TOYOTA **GENUINE PARTS**

TOYOTA GENUINE PARTS BRINGS **EXCITING SPECIAL PROMOTION**

AL-SAYER ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE FIRST RAFFLE

Priority Banking customers with a wide premium partner merchants. FLYDUBAI WINS AT 2017 BUSINESS TRAVELLER MIDDLE EAST AWARDS



KUWAIT: Dubai-based flydubai was named "Best Low-Cost Airline serving the Middle East" at the 2017 Business Traveller Middle East Awards held in Dubai on 23 April. Voted by readers of the magazine, the distinction reflects flydubai's comprehensive regional network, evolving business model and its role in



creating trade and tourism flows in previously underserved markets. flydubai currently has a network of 93 destinations in 44 countries, and carried 10.4 million

passengers in 2016. Ken Gile, Chief Operating Officer at flydubai, represented flydubai at the awards

ceremony and is pictured with the award.

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Co (MNSS) Group Spare Parts Division, one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies, held 1st raffle on Wednesday 19 April 2017 at their Canada Dry outlet, to select the winners of the first draw of Toyota Genuine Parts special promotion in the presence of Abdulaziz Ashkanani from Ministry of Consumer Protection Affairs, Mohamed Nasimi Senior Manager After Sales Marketing, Xavier Yesudas Manager Parts and Accessories Sales, Oommen Philip Deputy Parts Marketing Manager along with the members from Group Parts and Marketing.

Be a Winner with Toyota **Genuine Spare Parts**

Customers will be entitled to enter one draw every month for three months upon every KD 5 spent on Toyota Genuine Parts to win exciting prizes. The offer is only available at Toyota Al-Sayer parts outlets and service centers for all invoices issued between 19 March and 18 June 2017. Four lucky winners will be selected in each monthly draw who will be presented with cash prizes in total of KD 2,500. In addition to cash prizes all customers will also have a chance to win 2017 Toyota Yaris through the grand prize draw.

Names of the winners of the first raffle and the prizes won are as follows:

Names of first draw winners

First prize-Shaheen Abdullah Mohammed Al -Husseini - KD 1000,

Othman Abdullah Al-Othman - KD 750,



Third Prize: Bassel Ahmed Al-Khatib - KD 500, Fourth Prize:

Mohamed Haidar Aghaz - KD 250.

Show genuine love for your Toyota by taking care of it with Genuine Toyota Parts

Toyota Genuine Spare Parts reputation and trust among customers are grounded on their highest standards of quality, durability and performance. They are designed to fit





Toyota vehicle's exact specifications. Each part will fit perfectly and meet the high quality standards of Toyota.

All the winners can collect their prizes from Al-Sayer Group Head Quarters at Kuwait Free Trade Zone by presenting the official letter from Ministry. Last date to enter the draw will be the 18th of each month. The remaining draws of this promotion will be held on 21 May and 20 June 2017 respectively.

GE TIE-UP WITH SONELGAZ TO BOOST ALGERIA'S POWER SECTOR

ALGIERS: GE is collaborating with Sonelgaz SPE, a subsidiary of Sonelgaz, in a landmark deal that highlights its Fleet360 total plant solutions capabilities. The largest services contract in GE Power's history, the agreement will lead the digital industrial transformation of Sonelgaz's plants throughout Algeria and strengthen local industrial capabilities.

The landmark collaboration includes longterm operations and maintenance (O&M) services for 10 Sonelgaz plants throughout the country that generate 11 gigawatts of power, a capacity building system for Energy Efficiency that will deliver more than 420 megawatts of additional power with greater fuel efficiency, and the introduction of GE's digital solutions. Together, these capabilities will strengthen the operational efficiency and productivity of the plants. They will also help save up to \$2 billion in gas that can be made available for sale in international markets.

"The Algerian government and Sonelgaz have a clear vision for the future of the country's power sector," Steve Bolze, president and CÉO of GE Power said. "The emphasis on building industrial capacity and the focus on the digital transformation of power plant assets are long-term investments in the future of the country. GE is honored to strengthen our collaboration with Sonelgaz and help create a vibrant local ecosystem for the power sector that will help meet the needs of people and various industries across Algeria."

Joint venture

The agreement was signed by president and CEO of Sonelgaz SPE, Sabri Lezhari; and president and CEO of GE Northwest Africa. Touffik Fredj, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Algeria, HE Abdelmalek Sellal; the Minister of Energy, HE Noureddine Boutarfa; the CEO of Sonelgaz, M Mustapha Guitouni; president and CEO of GE Power, Steve Bolze; president and CEO of GE Middle East, North Africa and Turkey, Nabil Habayeb; president and CEO of GE's Power Services business in the Middle East and Africa (MEA), Joseph Anis; General Manager Sales of GE's Power Services business in MEA, Adel Omrani and other highlevel GE and government representatives.

The signing ceremony took place at the GE Algeria Turbines (GEAT) plant in Ain Yagout, a joint venture created in 2014 by GE and Sonelgaz, which will manufacture gas turbines and steam turbines for Sonelgaz's power generation needs.

The Ain Yagout site in Batna, covering an area of 20 hectares, was chosen by both partners to house this industrial complex, which will annually be able to manufacture equipment with the capacity to generate up to 1.5 GW of power.

GEAT will employ between 300 and 350 people and its construction will create about 600 additional indirect jobs. It will also offer opportunities to develop a local supply chain. GEAT will draw on GE's globally recognized

programs to train its workers, technicians, and engineers, and thus contribute to the development of local expertise and Algerian talent. Activities began at GEAT a few months ago

after Sonelgaz placed the first order of 4 gas turbines and 2 steam turbines. The equipment will be delivered between 2019 and 2020 and will be connected to the national grid by 2021.

Top priority Speaking at the occasion, the Minister of Energy, HE Noureddine Boutarfa said, "The government's top priority is to strengthen power generation in the country through a highly efficient, sustainable, and productive infrastructure. The new GEAT facility, which manufactures high-end equipment for the power sector, and the development of the Maintenance Des Equipements Industriels (MEI) shop to manufacture spare parts are a strong value-add to the economy as they will boost our exports, enhance the efficiency of our power plants and create new jobs for Algerian youth. Further, the digital transformation of the power plants will enable us to optimize the use of our natural resources, and in turn, create added value for the economy. GE's expertise in digital industrial technologies will contribute to enhancing the efficiency of the power sector, as well as the skills of Algerian professionals through knowledge sharing and hands-on training." The collaboration with

Sonelgaz also includes one of the largest

Industrial Internet software deals to date for GE Power. Sonelgaz has selected GE's Asset Performance Management and Operations Optimization software applications to monitor and analyze data drawn from thousands of sensors throughout its power plants.

The software leverages advanced data analytics to predict and eliminate unplanned downtime, and improve power plant productivity. GE's software is built on Predix, a data platform purpose-designed for the scale and complexity of industrial data. "Algeria is focused on building a diversified economy and strengthening the operational efficiency of its power sector and natural gas generation and distribution assets," said Mustapha Guitouni, president and CEO of Sonelgaz. "The opening of GEAT and the digital industrial transformation of our plants are significant steps forward in achieving our economic vision of industrial diversification, boosting productivity, and maximizing asset utilization. GE's advanced suite of digital technologies will help transform our power plants, build local talent, and strengthen the culture of localization."

In a significant contribution to the Algerian economy, the new agreement will drive the development of a local supply chain with MEI, an affiliate of Sonelgaz, to manufacture spare parts for GE's turbines in Algeria. The 'Made in Algeria' initiative will be a part of GE's international supply chain, and create up to 300 high technology engineering jobs for Algerians.

Furthermore, GE will work with Algerian Engineering Services Company's (ALGESCO) engineers to repair its 9FA gas turbine technology locally, creating more than 100 new engineering jobs and building a local center of excellence for turbine repairs. First established in 1993, ALGESCO is a joint venture of GE with Sonatrach and Sonelgaz. GE will also train up to 1,000 Sonelgaz field engineers and operators on industry best practices to strengthen their expertise and competitiveness, which will potentially enable Sonelgaz to collaborate with GE on future O&M projects in Africa.

This agreement builds on GE's long term presence in Algeria. In 2013, GE signed three major contracts to supply heavy-duty gas turbine and aeroderivative gas turbine technology for nine power plants throughout the country.

With over 40 years of presence in the country GE is a strategic partner supporting Algeria's growth aspirations. Today, GE Power's technologies generate nearly 70 percent of the electricity distributed across the country, GE Aviation's jet engines power approximately 70 percent of domestic aircrafts and up to 3,000 advanced solutions from GE Healthcare are deployed in healthcare facilities across the country. GE has four offices and two facilities in Algeria and over 700 employees. Focused on strengthening the skills of its employees and nurturing business leadership skills, GE also provides several training programs in line with the government's vision to promote human capital development.

SOPHOS INTRODUCES NEW ANTI-RANSOMWARE CRYPTOGUARD TECHNOLOGY

DUBAI: Sophos, a global leader in network and endpoint security, yesterday announced, that its next-generation anti-ransomware CryptoGuard technology is



Dan Schiappa

now available with its SophosServer Protection products. With this optimization, Sophos Server Protection now has signature-less detection capabilities to combat ransomware - similar to Sophos Intercept X for endpoints. In September 2016, Sophos launched SophosIntercept X with CryptoGuard, which stop the spontaneous encryption of data by ransomware within seconds of detection.

By adding CryptoGuard to server security, Sophos is closing a critical gap by preventing ransomware attacks that could come in through rogue, guest or remote access users or other weaknesses in a company's network. For example, if a company allows bring-your-own-laptops on the network, remote access for employees or is victimized by an insider cyber threat, servers become highly susceptible to ransomware. Additionally, network shares on servers are high-value targets as

they contain proprietary financials, personally identifiable information and other key data, and should be protected as such.

"Servers are considered the jackpot for cybercriminals, since they can store confidential corporate and employee information, medical records with social security numbers or private customer documents. It would be devastating for organizations to lose this kind of sensitive data to ransomware," said Dan Schiappa, senior vice president and general manager of Sophos' Enduser and Network Security Groups. "Most organizations backup their data, but recovery from a backup is not always easy. Businesses, schools or hospitals do not want the liability, hassle and operational disruption required to restore from a backup. Anti-ransomware technology is a critical layer for the protection and ongoing accessibility of the information that resides on servers. Sophos has optimized its Server Protection products with CryptoGuard, adding another layer of next-gen protection to block this pervasive and highly-damaging cyber threat."

Sophos has also expanded Synchronized Security by adding Sophos Security Heartbeat capabilities to Sophos Central Server Protection Advanced. By adding Security Heartbeat to servers, an IT administrator can now leverage Sophos XG Firewall to automatically isolate infected servers and endpoints to identify and respond to the source of compromises faster. Sophos Central Server Protection also includes Malicious Traffic Detection, which monitors for traffic to Command and Control servers and application white listing with one-click Server Lockdown, which secures servers in a safe state and prevents unauthorized applications from running.

Sophos Server Protection products with CryptoGuard capabilities now includes Central Server Protection Advanced on the cloud-based Sophos Central platform and Sophos Server Protection Enterprise, which is managed with a traditional on-premise console.

Partner and Customer Feedback

"Protection for servers is especially critical for our customers who allow remote desktop connections or have weak desktop credentials, which is a known vulnerability for ransomware attacks. Even our customers who have put every safeguard in place could still have an exposed server, due to that one rogue laptop someone connects into the network. Just one click on a tainted email could encrypt every file with ransomware. We've seen this happen with a customer, so from a technical standpoint, it's exciting to have anti-ransomware capabilities at the server level," said Dan Russell, chief information officer, Pine Cove Consulting, a Sophos channel partner based in Bozeman, Montana. "Sophos also designed its server protection to be 'lightweight.' Many of our customers are educational institutions with older computers, so having an anti-ransomware capability that doesn't impact server performance - no matter how old or new - is a must. The evolution of ransomware is a reality our customers need to deal with right now. We are focused on selling Sophos Central Server Protection Advanced and Sophos Intercept X to guard against ransomware threats."

"At Lifeways, our userslog into servers to access their email and websites, so we definitely need a solution that prevents ransomware. Already, we use Sophos Central Server Protection Advanced for approximately 100 servers. We also have Sophos Intercept X running on roughly 600 endpoints or about 50 percent our estate so far. With Intercept X's root cause analysis feature, we have a holistic view of breaches and the ability to investigate every node that's been infected. We can also reverse ransomware attacks on the endpoints, which is huge," said Andy Pitcher, group infrastructure manager at Lifeways, a Sophos customer in London, England. "Lifeways has been hit by ransomware in the past and it was not fun. The attack came in through an end point and hit the serveras well. We were able to restore quickly, but our business did come to a halt for a while. Sophos Server Protectionand Sophos Intercept X are critical defenses for us, and we plan to use them throughout our entire estate."



In this April 12, 2017 photo, Taiwan's 'digital minister' Audrey Tang speaks during an interview in Seoul. —AP

TAIWAN'S 'HACKER MINISTER' RESHAPING DIGITAL DEMOCRACY

SEOUL: Taiwan's "digital minister" Audrey Tang, a computer prodigy and entrepreneur who taught herself programming at age 8, says she's a "civic hacker," who like a locksmith uses specialized skills to help rather than harm.

helped sweep independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen into office last year, 35-year-old Tang is using her expertise to more directly involve the public in policymaking, and to counter "fake news."

"Just by getting people to listen to the ideas that they don't like, basically, develops their immune systems," Tang said in an interview with The Associated Press while visiting Seoul for the annual Codegate international hacking competition. "If people have already considered carefully even the position of people they don't agree with, they already have some kind of inoculation in their mind, so that they will not fall victim to

rumors," she said. Keeping the public engaged is crucial given Taiwan's status as a self-ruled democracy of 23 million people that separated from the Chinese mainland amid civil war in 1949.

Communist-ruled Beijing insists the two sides are part of a single Chinese nation. Public opinion on the issue is divided. One of Tang's initiatives is an artificial intelligence-powered system called Pol is that aggregates and shares public views on policy issues to help determine the exact degree of support for a particular position. The government can use that data, for example, in negotiations over regulating Uber and other taxi services, Tang says.

The approach reflects an effort to encourage deep thinking and listening on a mass scale, unlike the fragmented and "half-baked" ideas often found in social media posts, said Ming-Yeh Rawnsley, a research associate at Centre of Taiwan Studies, SOAS University of

"It is important that Taiwanese government is thinking about practicing deliberative democracy," said Rawnsley. "While the explosion of social media platforms creates many exciting opportunities for public expression and mass participation, it also leads to a phenomenon where everyone wants to talk, but few care to listen."

Tang's digital-friendly stance includes allowing top-level computer game players in Taiwan to serve an alternative form of the island's compulsory military service. That gives professional e-sports "League of Legend" players the same opportunities an Olympics medalist would get.

Next year, she plans to introduce classes on "information technology and media literacy" for all school years to help students learn to distinguish rumors and falsehoods from facts.

"The idea is not about spotting 'fake news' but about being able to make decisions ... so that people don't get swayed in one way or another based on rumors," Tang said.

Taiwanese are keen on online forums Appointed by leaders hoping to bet- like Twitter, whose 140-character limit er connect with young voters who for posts favors writing in Chinese ideograms that often can say more with fewer characters than in English. Tang objects to the term "fake

news," saying it's unfair to journalists. But she says she finds US President Donald Trump's enthusiastic use of Twitter "refreshing." Trump's short declarations, though often surprising, leave little leeway for misinterpretation, she contends.

"If I make all my messages self-contained and short, then there's no danger of being taken out of context. That's the basic thing I've learned," Tang said. "@realDonaldTrump uses Twitter ... the way it is meant to be (used)," she said.

Tang is Taiwan's first transgender government minister, a rarity especially in East Asia, where outspoken conservative groups often publicly condemn sexual minorities.

Not so in Taiwan, she says. "I would say I'm just post-gender or post-genre, meaning that I don't think there should be things that only one gender should do," said Tang, who early on showed she has a mind of her own.

Seeking ways to streamline math calculations, she taught herself computer programming while only 8. She dropped out of school by the time she was 14. By the time she was 20 she had already started a software company in Silicon Valley.

A dry wit, she quips that sometimes people mistake her height, 180 centimeters, for her apparently genius-level IQ. Tang's involvement in politics took off during Taiwan's Sunflower movement of 2014, when she became well known for helping officials interact with citizens using the internet during the protests against a trade agreement with Beijing.

Given the ever-present risk of cyberattacks, as digital minister one of the first things Tang did after joining the Cabinet was to make government information systems more secure and then rigorously test them for loopholes.

"The utmost importance is to get people to still see the internet as a secure place ... so that people can still form communities where it is still possible to talk with strangers, to learn from strangers," she said. "Basically, if we don't do our job right on security on the internet, it becomes a fragmenting force instead of a community force."

The risk is that the online world would become a place where people live "essentially in their own realities, and that is as undemocratic and as non-humane as we can imagine," she said. —AP

VIVA AND HUAWEI LAUNCH Huawei P10 and P10 Plus

Another milestone in Viva's track record: Al-Badran

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastestgrowing and most developed telecom operator, and Huawei Kuwait, launched Huawei P10 and P10 Plus devices, during a ceremony at Radisson Blu Hotel.

Commenting on this launch, Eng Slaman bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran, VIVA's CEO said: "We are proud of our concrete partnership with Huawei, and joint efforts between VIVA's team and Huawei's team led to announce about those significant devices. This achievement is yet a milestone in VIVA's track record."

"At Huawei, we're always inspired by people's lives and experiences. In today's fast-paced life, it's hard to always be in the moment; taking pictures helps us document and preserve our best moments and memories. It also helps us express ourselves creatively and tell our stories better. With the HUAWEI P10 and HUAWEI P10 Plus, our ambition is to offer people a compelling photography experience by putting the power of a photography studio in their pocket, together with standout features that redefine portrait photography", said Peter Wu, Director Of Consume BG at Huawei Kuwait.

The new Huawei P10 and P10 Plus set a new benchmark in style and craftsmanship. Customers now can enjoy their many exciting features including the new Leica Dual Camera 2.0 Pro edition that produces stunning artistic portrait shots with 20x12 MP. In addition to 3D facial detection for stunning portraits, ultra-memory for higher speed, double download speed and accurate GPS with 4X4 MIMO LTE & Wi-Fi antenna.

As well as redefining portrait photography, the HUAWEI P10 and HUAWEI P10 Plus boast remarkable technology and design features by introducing the powerful Kirin 960 processor, an all-new EMUI 5.1, as well as a fingerprint sensor on the front. With 3,200 for the HUAWEI P10 and 3750 mAh battery for the HUAWEI P10 Plus, both smartphones support HUAWEI SuperCharge technology. The low voltage, low temperature fast charging solution comes with a super safe 5-gate protection mechanism, which offers real-time voltage, current and temperature monitoring to make charging not only fast but safe.

Postpaid customers are now eligible to own those two devices available in different colors, upon signing two years commitments with one of VIVA's postpaid packages: KD 15, KD 20 and KD 30, and enjoy local calls and internet.

9 reasons why you need to get your hands on the HUAWEI P10 Plus & experience amazing portrait photography: Whether you're a photography amateur, an enthusiast



Instagrammer, blogger or just someone who loves to capture precious moments, you deserve the HUAWEI P10 Plus that gives you amazing portraits like no other! Check out 9 reasons why the HUAWEI P10 Plus is the ideal smartphone for your portraits!

1. Rear and front cameras co-engineered with Leica:

Not all smartphone cameras are created equal. The HUAWEI P10 Plus is the world's first smartphone with a rear Leica dual-camera Pro-Edition 2.0 and a Leica front camera co-engineered with the camera giant Leica. The Leica Dual-Camera Pro Edition 2.0 features a 12MP sensor and a 20MP monochrome with fusion algorithm that captures detailed facial features and improves image quality; it also carries a new highclass SUMMILUX-H Leica lenses and a 4-in-1 Hybrid Autofocus system with a larger F/1.8 aperture to capture more light in low-light sit-

2. Intelligent 3D facial detection:

The HUAWEI P10 Plus boasts an all-new intelligent facial recognition system that features over 190 detailed nodes and enables quicker, more accurate identification of facial features.



3. Hybrid Zoom 2x:

The HUAWEI P10 Plus offers an additional new feature that allows you to focus in on specific areas of an image while still keeping the sharpness of image quality. It improves the smoothness, clarify and simplicity of portrait photography.

4. Studio-like Portrait **Enhancements:**

The artistic imaging algorithm in the HUAWEI P10 Plus is based on the extensive research of various different face shapes and skin colors. By understanding the relative position of each facial feature and the uniqueness of skin type, the portrait enhancements can be applied in a customized and more natural way.

5. Dynamic Illumination:

The HUAWEI P10 Plus includes an auto-sensing algorithm that tracks environment lighting changes and automatically adjusts the shooting configuration, including the AWB, shutter speed, and more, to add artistic flair and glow to your portrait shots.

6. Front Camera Sensor:

The HUAWEI P10 Plus is equipped with an all-new front camera sensor that captures twice more light to improve picture quality in low-light conditions.

7. Natural Color and **Monochrome Bokeh:**

HUAWEI P10 Plus' Leica Dual-Camera 2.0 enables wide aperture photography to produce stunning artistic portraits with natural bokeh effect. Coupled with its depth-of-field algorithm, you can capture sharper, clearer edges and vivid color in every shot, while the background remains blurred or out-of-focus.

8. Highlights:

The HUAWEI P10 Plus includes Highlights, which create dynamic slideshows of your photos based on time, location, and shooting mode.

9. Embedded ISP:

Huawei's Kirin 960 with embedded ISP enables real-time viewing of depthof-field changes and facial features.

SAMSUNG TO UPDATE SOFTWARE OVER 'RED SCREEN' SMARTPHONE

SEOUL: Electronics giant Samsung will this week offer an unusually early software update for its newly-released Galaxy S8 phone, it said yesterday after some consumers complained of red-tinted

The launch of the device is a key step for the South Korean tech firm as it seeks to move on from last year's humiliating withdrawal of the Galaxy Note 7 over exploding batteries, which hammered the firm's once-stellar reputation. The Galaxy S8 started over-the-counter sales in the US and its home market but South Korean

users who pre-ordered the phones complained their screens displayed an unusually reddish hue.

Online images of their phones went viral on social media but Samsung denied a hardware flaw and maintained that users could manually adjust the colour range according to their preferences.

As more users voiced doubts, Samsung said Monday that a software update would fix the problem by allowing them to readjust colours over a wider range

than at present. "Samsung... has decided to release a

software update starting from this week which will provide consumers with a further enhanced ability to adjust the colour setting to their preference," it said in a statement. Samsung-the world's largest maker of smartphones-has pinned its hopes on the Galaxy S8 to compete against archrival Apple's iPhone after last year's Note 7 disaster.

The recall debacle cost Samsung billions of dollars in lost profits and hammered its global credibility, forcing it to apologise to consumers and postpone the S8 launch. —AFP



SPACE: In this Jan 13, 2017 file photo made available by NASA, astronaut Peggy Whitson, center, floats inside the Quest airlock of the International Space Station with Thomas Pesquet, left, and Shane Kimbrough before their spacewalk.—AP photos

TRUMP CALLS US ASTRONAUT WHO BROKE RECORD FOR TIME IN SPACE

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida: President Donald Trump made a very long distance phone call to the International Space Station, to congratulate its commander on breaking the record for the most time spent in space of any American astronaut. The president spoke yesterday with Peggy Whitson, commander of the International Space Station, and fellow astronaut Jack Fischer. Whitson, the first woman to command the International Space Station, surpassed the record of 534 days, two hours and 48 minutes for most accumulated time in orbit by an

American. That record was set last year by Jeffrey Williams.

Trump joked that the call was possible because of "great American equipment that works, and that is not easy." He said he's more impressed by the astronauts than by any of the politicians he deals with in Washington. Trump's daughter and close adviser, Ivanka Trump, and NASA astronaut Kate Rubins, joined him in the Oval Office during the call. Whitson says it's a "huge honor to break a record like this," and that it would not have been possible without the

support of NASA. Last month, Trump signed new legislation adding human exploration of Mars to NASA's mission. Whitson said she's excited about the new legislation and said there is equipment being made now in preparation for the launch.

Whitson already was the world's most experienced spacewoman and female spacewalker and, at 57, the oldest woman in space. By the time she returns to Earth in September, she'll have logged 666 days in orbit over three flights. The world record - 879 days - is held by Russian Gennady Padalka.—AP



CALIFORNIA: In this file photo, a man carries a young boy over his shoulder as he walks among beach goers enjoying unusually warm winter temperatures in Encinitas, Calif.—AP

AT LEAST GLOBAL WARMING MAY GET AMERICANS OFF THE COUCH MORE

WASHINGTON: Global warming's milder winters will likely nudge Americans off the couch more in the future, a rare, small benefit of climate change, a new study finds. With less chilly winters, Americans will be more likely to get outdoors, increasing their physical activity by as much as 2.5 percent by the end of the century, according to a new study in yesterday's edition of the journal Nature Human Behavior.

Places like North Dakota, Minnesota and Maine are likely to see the most dramatic increases, usually the result of more walking. But that good global warming side effect is not likely to extend to the deep south and especially the desert southwest because hotter summer days may keep people inside. Arizona, southern Nevada and southeastern California are like-

ly to see activity drop off the most by the year 2099, the study found.

"It's a small little tiny silver lining amid a series of very bad, very unfortunate events that are likely to occur," said study lead author Nick Obradovich , who studies the social impacts of climate change at both Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and MIT. Global warming "almost certainly will be very costly on net for humanity." Any overall benefit for Americans as a whole will probably be far outweighed by many other ways that climate change hurts health, said both Obradovich and outside health experts. For example, deaths from heat waves are expected to increase, allergies are likely to worsen and infectious diseases will be more easily spread, said Dr. Howard Frumkin, a University of Washington environmental health professor. Obradovich said he got the idea to look about what climate change will do to people's activities a few Octobers ago when he was living in San Diego and running regularly in the afternoon. There was a heat wave, temperatures broke 100, and he stayed home. Obradovich looked at government surveys about health activity habits, daily weather data from when they were interviewed and simulations of future climate conditions. The warmer it gets, the more people go outside, which he said makes sense. Until it gets too hot. At about 82 to 84 degrees (28 to 29 degrees Celsius) people start to go out less. For most of America for most of the year, the daily high does not hit 84, so the net effect nationwide is more exercise.

But the affect varies by month and location. Nearly all the country is

likely to be less physically active in July, August and September by the end of the century, but a similar majority would also likely exercise more in November, December, January, February, March and even

April in the year 2099, the study finds. Dr Jonathan Patz, director of the Global Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, faulted the study for not taking into account people who have jobs that require lots of physical activity nor the growing popularity of winter sports. Other outside experts said the study made sense, but the bigger picture is more important. "While milder winters will permit more exercise - a good thing - it's important to put the results of the paper in that broader context," Frumkin said in an email, emphasizing "climate change threatens far more than it benefits."—AP

CROC CLUTCHES IN AUSTRALIA SYDNEY: A man who accidently snorkeled it was illegal to kill the reptiles. "Based on initial inspection, the four meter animal processing in the four meters are initial inspection, the four meters are initial inspection.

MAN LUCKY TO ESCAPE

SYDNEY: A man who accidently snorkeled headfirst into a crocodile in northern Australia escaped with minor injuries as wildlife officers yesterday worked to track down the reptile. The croc, measuring up to two meters (6.5 feet), "reacted defensively" when the swimmer "inadvertently" swum into it on Sunday near popular Lizard Island in Queensland state. "The man suffered minor cuts and abrasions to his head and was treated for his non-life threatening injuries on the island," a department of environment spokesperson said. "Wildlife officers are travelling to the area and will search the area for the crocodile responsible."

The waters surrounding Lizard Island are a known hotspot for crocs with signs in the area cautioning swimmers of the threat. In a separate incident Sunday, a crocodile was found decapitated near Innisfail in Queensland, prompting authorities to warn

it was illegal to kill the reptiles. "Based on an initial inspection, the four meter animal appears to have been deceased for some time," the department spokesperson said.

"(The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection) would like to remind the public that it is illegal to deliberately interfere with, harm or kill crocodiles without authorization." Last month a fisherman was killed by a crocodile near Innisfail while a teenager was lucky to escape with only two broken bones when a croc latched onto his arm after he jumped into a river in the area. Repeated attacks have lead to calls from some parts of the community for a cull of the animals, but the state government has so far resisted, saying it would have little effect on the animals' behavior and give people a false sense of security. People can be fined up to Aus\$27,425 (US\$20,700) for killing a crocodile, which are protected.—AFP

NEW ZEALAND: US DOCTOR MUST PAY REPARATIONS FOR DEADLY CRASH

WELLINGTON, New Zealand: A Wisconsin heart surgeon who was vacationing in New Zealand when he caused a highway accident that killed two people and injured four others was ordered yesterday to make reparation payments but avoided jail time. A district court judge ordered Kenneth Wolnak to pay a total of 165,000 New Zealand dollars (\$116,000) to the victims or their families. Last month, the 63-year-old pleaded guilty to six charges of careless driving after attempting a U-turn on a coastal highway near the town of Nelson. Several vehicles were involved in the ensuing accident.

According to a police summary of facts, Wolnak and his wife, Elizabeth, arrived in New Zealand in mid-February.

They rented an SUV and traveled extensively around the South Island before the Feb. 27 accident. Wolnak's lawyer Tony Bamford said his client suffered a concussion and has no memory of the accident. According to Bamford, the son of one of the victims who died read a statement in court that said: "I hope you are able to continue saving lives and making a real difference in the world. That's what Dad would have wanted, too."

As part of a legal process in New Zealand known as restorative justice, Wolnak met with some of the victims and their families. He also agreed at the request of a woman whose husband died in the accident to participate in an interview with Radio New Zealand. — AP



KIRYANDONGO, Uganda: A patient rests on a bed after being discharged from the malaria ward at Panyadoli Health Center III in Kiryandongo refugee settlement, northwestern Uganda, on April 11, 2017.—AP

FIRST LARGE-SCALE MALARIA VACCINE TRIALS FOR AFRICA

NAIROBI: A new malaria vaccine will be tested on a large scale in Kenya, Ghana and Malawi, the World Health Organization said yesterday, with 360,000 children to be vaccinated between 2018 and 2020. The injectable vaccine RTS,S could provide limited protection against a disease that killed 429,000 people worldwide in 2015, with 92 percent of victims in Africa and two-thirds of them children under five. "The prospect of a malaria vaccine is great news. Information gathered in the pilot will help us make decisions on the wider use of this vaccine," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO's regional director for Africa.

The vaccine should be used alongside other preventative measures such as bed nets, insecticides, repellents and anti-malarial drugs, the WHO said. "Combined with existing malaria interventions, such a vaccine would have the potential to save tens of thousands of lives in Africa," Moeti said. "This vaccine is a weapon amongst others, it is one of the tools at our disposal," she added. The vaccine, also known as Mosquirix, has been developed by the British pharmaceutical GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in partnership with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative, and the large-scale three-country pilot will test it on children aged five to 17 months. The drug passed previous scientific testing-including a phase three clinical trial between 2009 and 2014 — and was approved for the pilot program in 2015.

'Huge impact'

The aim of the trial is to assess the effectiveness of the vaccine as well the feasibility of its delivery to populations at risk as

four successive doses must be given on a strict timetable. The immunization cycle is not in sync with routine childhood inoculations against diseases such as hepatitis, measles and meningitis, with injections required at five months, six months, seven months and two years. Symptoms of malaria include fever, muscle pain and headache as well as vomiting and diarrhea. While RTS,S does not promise full protection against the mosquito-borne disease it is the most effective potential vaccine so far developed reducing the number of hospitalizations and blood transfusions.

Malaria episodes reduced by 40 percent in tests on 15,000 people in seven countries over five years of clinical trials, and could therefore save hundreds of thousands of lives. "It's an efficacy rate which is quite low, but given the amount of affected people, the impact will be huge," said Mary Hamel, who is coordinating the vaccine's implementation program. "There will be other vaccines and they'll be more efficient, but in the meantime, this will have a significant influence."

Moeti emphasized that while the dream is "a vaccine that replaces everything", insecticide-treated bed nets remain the most effective protection against malaria, which remain, "at the moment, our strongest preventive weapon". Kenya, Ghana and Malawi were selected for the trial because malaria rates are high and they have a long history of use of bed nets and other interventions. The large-scale pilot is the latest step in decades of work seeking to eradicate malaria with the numbers dying falling nearly two-thirds since the turn of the century.—AFP



BUDUDA, Uganda: An elderly woman gets tested for Malaria at FIMRC Health Center III in Bududa district, eastern Uganda.—AFP

UK COULD FACE LEGAL BATTLE OVER AIR POLLUTION DELAY

LONDON: The British government is seeking to postpone the publication of its keenly-awaited air-pollution plan due to elections, raising the prospect a legal challenge. The High Court had demanded ministers come up with a plan to tackle illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide pollution, largely caused by diesel emissions, by 3:00 pm (1400 GMT) yesterday. But the Downing Street office of Prime Minister Theresa May said yesterday it had applied to the courts "to publish this plan by 15 September" to allow for local election cam-

paigning, and then for general election campaigning ahead of the nationwide June 8 vote. "Following advice from the Cabinet Office, we sought a short extension to the publication of the draft plans" in order to comply with election rules, said a Downing Street spokesman.

"We remain firmly committed to further improving air quality," he added. ClientEarth, the environmental law firm which brought the original case, said it was considering a legal challenge to the extension. "The unacceptable last minute nature of the government's appli-

cation late on Friday night, after the court had closed, has meant that we have spent the weekend considering our response," said chief executive James Thornton. "We are still examining our next steps.

This is a question of public health and not of politics and for that reason we believe that the plans should be put in place without delay." Air pollution contributes to the death of more than 40,000 people per year in Britain, according to official figures, with nitrogen dioxide a particular problem.—AFP

GUATEMALAN LAND ACTIVIST WINS PRESTIGIOUS GOLDMAN PRIZE

GUATEMALA CITY: Rodrigo Tot, a 60year-old farmer and activist, was awarded the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize yesterday for work in his Guatemala homeland, an honor that comes after two previous Latin American winners were murdered in the last year. The diminutive, soft-spoken evangelical pastor was recognized for defending his indigenous Q'egchi community's lands against a mining company and the government. In a statement, Goldman praised Tot for "intrepid leadership of his people and defense of their ancestral land" and noted his fight has come at great personal cost: In 2012, one of his sons was shot to death in "an assassination that was passed off as a

In an interview with The Associated Press, Tot said he was grateful for the honor but remains the same leader and person as before. "I think this could be a stimulus for the work we do," he said, adding that he considered the award all to be recognition for "the struggle, because we are fighting hard for our land and our natural resources." Latin America is one of the most dangerous regions for environmental activists, with more than 450 of them murdered between 2010 and 2014, according to the London-based group Global Witness.

In March 2016, Goldman honoree Berta Caceres of Honduras was killed by armed men who invaded her home. And in January 2017, Mexican indigenous leader Isidro Baldenegro, another recipient of the prize, was slain in Mexico's northern state of Chihuahua. Tot, leader of the Agua Caliente "Lote 9" community in El Estor in Guatemala's eastern department of Izabal, has fought for decades to try to make the government recognize locals' right to fertile farmlands that are also coveted by mining interests for nick-

el and gold deposits that lie beneath. The struggle began in 1974 in response to a new law requiring landholders to pay about \$4,500 to receive property titles. In 1985 a provisional title was granted to Tot and 63 other indigenous farmers in the community while they completed payment.

But three years later, records of the community's ownership of the land mysteriously disappeared. And when the last payment was made in 2002, the government refused to hand over the legal title. In 2004, the Mines and Energy Ministry granted a mining license for a region covering 16 Maya communities including Agua Caliente, and those rights later passed to Compania Guatemalteca de Niquel. "That is why we defend it, because there are lots of natural resources," Tot said. "There are 10 springs that supply lots of communities. We are preserving the mountain because if it dies, there will no longer be any water." He and the community have fought in the courts to block mining on their land, arguing it poses environmental risks to forests and streams.

Many disappearances

"Tot indefinitely delayed mining in Agua Caliente," Goldman said in its statement. Mining companies have been accused of using violence against those who oppose their projects in Guatemala, often in poor and marginalized indigenous communities. Other lawsuits allege abuses including rape and forcibly removing farmers from their terrain. According to Calas, a Guatemalan environmental and social law nonprofit group, in every case where indigenous communities have opposed mining projects, the government has backed the companies. — AP



GUATEMALA: In this April 18, 2017 photo, Maya Q'eqchi leader Rodrigo Tot poses for photos during an interview in Guatemala City.—AP



FRANKFORT, Kentucky: In this undated photo released by Kentucky Gov Matt Bevin, Bevin takes a self-portrait of his family.—AP

INSPIRED BY OWN FAMILY, KENTUCKY GOV TACKLES FOSTER SYSTEM

'This was never the state's Job. This Job belonged to the church'

FRANKFORT, Kentucky: The little girl was 11, living in a foster care group home, when she ended up playing tag in a Louisville park with the daughters of a wealthy investment manager who would one day be Kentucky's governor. Matt Bevin said he and his wife, Glenna, noticed how the girl attached herself to their daughters, "like she was just one of the kids." Moved by her situation, the Bevins started the process of trying to adopt her from Kentucky's child-welfare system. They had their fingerprints taken, took parenting classes, had their fingerprints taken again, opened their home to an inspection, and were fingerprinted a third time.

The state ultimately rejected their application because, the Bevins said, they had five children and officials worried the girl wouldn't get enough attention. So the Bevins "gave up" and went to Ethiopia to adopt four children, a process they called simpler and cheaper. That was eight years ago, before Bevin became well-known for his failed challenge to US Sen Mitch McConnell in the Republican primary and his surprising comeback win in the 2015 gubernatorial election.

Unnecessary requirementsNow Bevin's in charge of the system he says

failed them and the girl, an experience shaping one of his most ambitious initiatives: An overhaul of Kentucky's child-welfare system. A former state official said privacy rules prevent staff from commenting on the Bevins' case. Health and Family Services Cabinet Secretary Vickie Yates Brown Glisson, appointed by Bevin in 2015, said his "firsthand knowledge of the burdensome bureaucracy and unnecessary requirements" of the system is why it's being transformed. The Bevins and their children split time between their Louisville home and the governor's mansion in Frankfort, where he and his wife sat down with The Associated Press for an interview last month.

Bevin said he wants to "rethink the entire system," a process that - excluding a small raise for state social workers he signed in 2016 - will come without a significant increase in spending. That puts him at odds with many child-welfare advocates who say the program suffers from underfunding and inadequate staffing. "That's just impossible," said Democratic state Rep. Joni Jenkins, co-chairwoman of a committee studying child-welfare system changes. He's also picked a fight with family court judges, saying some "genuinely, I'm convinced, don't even care." "The judges should not have the latitude to

make the decisions that they are making. Because some of them are making terrible, terrible decisions," Bevin said. "They are not looking at what is best for the child."

It's unclear what a governor could do to alter judicial decision-making in child-welfare cases, which Bevin acknowledges would be difficult. He said he's asked his general counsel to "start looking at this." The strategy dovetails with Bevin's broader plans to shake up government, including his aggressive use of executive orders, many of which have been challenged and, in some cases, struck down in court.

Legislative leaders are pursuing their own review of foster-care and adoption policies. Republican House Speaker Jeff Hoover said he'd encourage the Bevin administration "to understand, it is the legislative body that makes the policy." Chief Justice John Minton said he's confident family court judges are qualified and dedicated, and said he and the governor should "provide positive leadership and encouragement." The latest federal review of Kentucky's child-welfare system found the state didn't meet government standards, including ones requiring that "children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect." — AP

AS ORBIT BECOMES MORE CROWDED, RISK FROM SPACE DEBRIS GROWS

BERLIN: Decades' worth of man-made junk is cluttering up Earth's orbit, posing a threat to spaceflight and the satellites we rely on for weather reports, air travel and global communications. More than 750,000 fragments larger than a centimeter are already thought to orbit Earth, and each one could badly damage or even destroy a satellite. Last year, a tiny piece of debris punched a gaping hole in the solar panel of Copernicus Sentinel-1A, an observation satellite operated by the European Space Agency, or ESA. A solar array brought back from the Hubble Telescope in 1993 showed hundreds of tiny holes caused by dust-sized debris.

Experts meeting in Germany this week said the problem could get worse as private companies such as SpaceX, Google and Arlington, Virginia-based OneWeb send a flurry of new satellites into space over the coming years. They said steps should be taken to reduce space debris. Getting all national space agencies and private companies to comply with international guidelines designed to prevent further junk in orbit would be a first step. At the moment those rules - which can be costly to implement - aren't legally binding. ESA's director-general, Jan Woerner, told The Associated Press on Friday that so-called mega-constellations planned by private companies should have a maximum orbital lifetime of 25 years. After that, the satellite constellations would need to move out of the way, either by going into a so-called 'grave-yard orbit' or returning to Earth.

That's because dead satellites pose a double danger: they can collide with other spacecraft or be hit by debris themselves, potentially breaking

up into tiny pieces that become a hazard in their own right. The nightmare scenario would be an ever-growing cascade of collisions resulting in what's called a Kessler syndrome - named after the NASA scientist who first warned about it four decades ago - that could render near-Earth orbits unusable to future generations.

"Without satellites, you don't have weather reports, live broadcasts from the other side of the planet, stock market, air travel, online shopping, sat-nav in your car," Rolf Densing, ESA's director of operations, said. "You might as well move into a museum if all the satellites are switched off." Even if future launches adhere to the guidelines, though, there's the question of what to do with all of the debris already in orbit. "We have to clean the vacuum, which means we need a vacuum cleaner," Woerner said. — AP



GERMANY: In this undated photo provided by the European Space Agency, ESA, analysts at work in the space debris facility located at ESA's ESOC mission control centre, Darmstadt, Germany.—AP

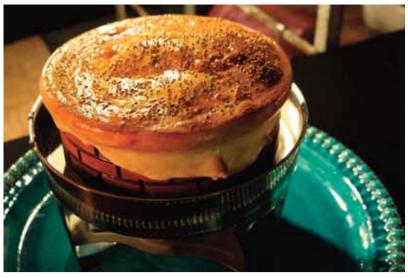


Kuwait - Times
248 33 199











AUTHENTIC TURKISH CULINARY EXPERIENCE IN GARDEN CAFE



Every Friday, Garden Cafe features numerous traditional home-style Turkish dishes with live-cooking stations of grilled meats offering an expansive selection of delights, including the mouth-watering 48-hour braised lamb, baked rice with chicken and almonds, and Turkish spiced kebabs in different combinations such as pistachio, aubergine, adana and lamb.

Specialties also include Lahmacun and assorted Pides. For desserts, aromatic stations cover the signature Nutella flavored Baklava and Cezerye from Southern Turkey, made of

caramelized carrots and enriched with roasted walnuts, hazelnuts and shredded coconut.

The extensive buffet features cuisine from all Turkish regions, cooked by expert Turkish chefs using ingredients imported from their home country and combined with local flavors to enhance the taste for curious diners. The menu also features dishes inspired by the Ottoman Empire, such as dolma - a dish of stuffed vegetables - with five different options available.

Diners are welcomed with a traditional Turkish sherbet drink, while the night is rounded off with a serving of either a special blend of Turkish tea or freshly baked Turkish coffee. With more than 24 cold dishes, 34 hot and 24 delectable desserts there's something to suit all tastes. Turkish Nights are scheduled for every Friday from 7 pm to 11 pm for KWD 15 per person and offer indoor and outdoor seating.





ulf University for Science and Technology announced this week that it has just received its fifth international accreditation, this time for its Mass Communication and Media (MCM) Department from the American Communications Association (ACA), at a press conference on its campus in West Mishref. Accreditation not only confirms the strength of the program to potential employers, but also distinguishes GUST as a respected, leading institution in the region and beyond.

In addition, the accreditation process itself provides very constructive guidance on how



the Department can improve for students, faculty, the whole University, and for Higher Education in Kuwait. The ACA is US-based onprofit professional association, committed to enabling the effective use of new and evolving technologies to facilitate communication instruction, research, criticism, and offer a technologically supportive venue for all who study howhumans communicate. The GUST MCM Department is the first communication and media department in Kuwait, and one of only seven worldwide to receive an international accreditation of this kind.

Professor Donald Bates, GUST President, said, "As a university, our ambition to establish a strong reputation is clear. In 15 short years we have earned four full accreditations, and a ranking that places us as the 73rd university out of 971 in the Arab region, which translates into GUST being the number one private university in Kuwait. Our mission is to go from strength to strength, and continue to provide our students with the best educational experience possible." This accreditation is a demonstration of the international standards at which the department operates.

As a testament to the department's efforts, it has grown from approximately 380 students in 2013 to over 500 today, and faculty numbers have increased correspondingly. During this time, GUST students have broken a world record for charitable donation collections, volunteered in international aid work trips throughout Asia, won second place worldwide in an anti-extremism campaign judged by Facebook Inc. and the US State Department, conducted three national-level student-faculty

collaborative conferences, the most recent of which raised over USD\$60,000 for local children's charities, and have attended numerous national and international events to hone their skills and demonstrate their talents.

Dr Ali Ansari, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said, "Accreditation not only confirms the strength of the program to potential employers, but also distinguishes GUST as a respected, leading institution in the region and beyond. In addition, the accreditation process itself provides very constructive guidance on how the Department can improve for students,

faculty, the whole University, and for Higher Education in Kuwait."

In addition to the new ACA accreditation, GUST also holds accreditations from the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) for its English Foundation Program, the College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) for its Student Success Center, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for its Computer Science Program, and the AACSB-Internationalaccreditation for its College of





ABK ANNOUNCES WORKING HOURS DURING AL ISRAA AND AL-MEARAJ

I Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced that during the occasion of Al-Israa and Al-Mearaj, its branches and the Head Office will be closed on April 27, 2017, in line with the timing set by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA). The Bank will resume its regular working hours on April 30, 2017.

ABK's online services and Call Center will be available 24 hours a day during the holiday and can be reached by contacting a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899. On the occasion of Al-Israa and Al-Mearaj, ABK would like to extend its warmest wishes to the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and to Kuwait and its people.



LINDEN EDUCATION SERVICES GRADUATE FAIR

he Linden US University Graduate Fair will be held at the Marine Museum at the Radisson Blu Hotel tomorrow. The fair will take place from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Prior to the fair, university representatives will give free, brief presentations from 4:00 - 5:30 pm on graduate study in the fields of computer science, business and engineering as well as on 'The Path to Graduate Admissions.'

The fair, organized by Linden Education Services in conjunction with the US Embassy, will host representatives from several universities throughout the United States. The Embassy Educational Adviser will be present to answer questions about applying to American universities. US Embassy Consular Officers will answer questions about the student visa process and will offer a presentation at 7.15 pm. Participating universities include: Ball State University (Indiana), St John's University (New York), University of Minnesota and University of Missouri-Kansas City. The Linden University Fair gives Kuwaiti students a chance to meet with representatives from accredited US institutions to explore the possibilities of higher education in the United States.



FOKE VANITHAVEDI HOLDS 'VANITHA FEST 2017'

riends of Kannur Expats Association Kuwait (FOKE) Vanithavedi, an organization formed by the residents of Kannur currently in Kuwait conducted 'Vanitha Fest 2017' on April 21, 2017 from 9 am to 4 pm in United Indian School, Abbassiya. Several competitions including cookery contest and a variety of cultural programs were held providing an opportunity for Indians in Kuwait to prove their skills. The winners of the event were



honored and prizes were distributed at the closing ceremony which was inaugurated by Dr Reeni Korah MBBS, DVD, Metro Medical Care.

The function was chaired by FOKE Vanithavedi Chairperson Bindu Radhakrishnan. In her speech, she mentioned that Vanithavedi conducted many programs for the welfare of women back home and in Kuwait and the Fest 2017 was organized for a charity purpose. Vanithavedi, Gen Convener, Adv Rema Sudheer, gave a welcome speech and Vanitha Fest Program Committee Convener Leena Sabu proposed a vote of thanks.

The entire function was under the leadership of FOKE Program Committee Gen Convener Jithesh M P and Unit Committee members. Hamza Payanuur, FOKE Vice President Xaviour Antony, FOKE Gen Secretary Saleem MN, FOKE Patron N Jayashanker, and FOKE Vanithavedi Treasurer Bindu Rajeev addressed the audience. Peravoor MLA Sunny Joseph and Shiny Frank, social worker and patron of VIVID Kerala-Kuwait chapter took part in the function and greeted the audience.











ENJOY THE MEMORABLE PERFECT WEDDING AT ARRAYA BALLROOM

be perfect, special, and truly memo-rable. What better place to celebrate this special occasion than at Arraya Ballroom - the epitome of elegance and breathtaking beauty. Located in the heart of the city close to Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait, Arraya Ballroom is one of the most popular wedding venues in the country.

Its idyllic location, aesthetic appeal and picture perfect grounds make it ideal for a regal wedding, leaving a lasting impression on you and your guests. The decor is superlative with mood lights that exude aura and create a serene and elegant ambience. The pre-function area, corridors and banquet lobby- all have been designed to offer a perfect setting for your wedding ceremonies.

Before and throughout your big day,

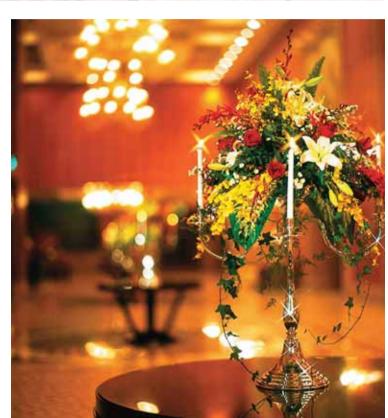
■very couple wants their big day to the professional wedding planners at arrangements and customized wedding Arraya Ballroom will guide you through every step to ensure your special day is truly unforgettable. From stunning flower

cakes tocutting-edge audio-visual technology andhigh speed internet, Arraya Ballroom offers a choice of packages and



options that will surpass everything you have ever imagined. When it comes to cuisine, we satisfy every taste with a wide range of buffet menus designed by our world class chefs.

To ease the stress and take care of every single detail, we offer tailor-made packages that can be individually designed to suit your special needs. The special wedding package includes a complimentary night in one of the deluxe rooms at Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait, a free use of the bridal suite, a customized wedding cake, an upgraded menu featuring an elegant buffet, free parking and a lot more. Whether you dream of an intimate gathering or a grand gala, our experienced team will craft the perfect celebration, allowing you and your guests to relax and enjoy the experience.



JORDANIAN COMMUNITY KUWAIT HOLDS 'JORDANIAN FAMILY DINNER'



nder auspices of the Jordanian ambassador to Kuwait and the community's honorary chairman, Mohammed Al-Kayed, the Jordanian community in Kuwait recently held its 'Jordanian Family Dinner' at Pescado restaurant at the Costa Del Sol Hotel. The dinner

banquet was also attended by embassy staff, the community secretary general, Ghassan Deyab and a large number of the community members of whom were honored for their efforts in serving the Jordanian community in













BURGAN BANK'S AIRPORT BRANCH TO SERVE ITS CUSTOMERS ON AL-ISRA' WAL MIRAJ



Airport branch working hours during Al-Esraa and Al-Mearaj Holiday Thursday 27th of April from 8 am till 10:30 pm.

For more information on the Bank's products or services, customers may contact the call center

Burgan Bank takes the opportunity of Al-Esara and Al-Mearaj to extend its best wishes to all its customers celebrating the Islamic Holiday.

مواعيد عمل فرع المطار في عطلة الإسراء والمعراج، يـوم الخميس 27 أبريل، من الساعة 8 صباحاً إلى 10:30مساءً.

لمزيد من المعلومات عن منتجات وخدمات البنك، يرجى الاتصال ببنك برقان على الرقم 1804080.

يهنئ بنك برقان جميع عملاء البنك بحلول ذكرى الإسراء والمعراج.

urgan Bank takes the opportunity of Al-Isara' Wal Miraj to extent its best wishes to all its customers celebrating the Islamic Holiday and announces that its airport branch will remain open on April 27, 2017 in an effort to accommodate the banking requirements of regular customers and travelers during the Al Isra' wal Miraj holiday. The branch will be commencing operations from 08:00 am to 10:30 pm to ensure that it provides the utmost care to its customers.

DD

ENG



00:15 Snake Sheila 00:45 Bondi Vet 01:40 Gibbons: Back In The Swing

02:35 Tanked 03:25 North America

04:15 Gator Boys 05:02 Snake Sheila 05:49 Gibbons: Back In The Swing Swamp Brothers

07:25 Pit Bulls & Parolees 08:15 Gibbons: Back In The Swing 09:10 North America 10:05 Tanked 11:00 Pit Bulls & Parolees

11:55 Bondi Vet 12:50 Gibbons: Back In The Swing 13:45 Gator Boys 14:40 North America

15:35 Penguins On A Plane: Great Animal Moves 16:30 Snake Sheila

17:25 Meet The Penguins 18:20 Pit Bulls & Parolees 19:15 Wildlife SOS Tyler Henry 20:10 Wildest Islands 21:05 Meet The Penguins Tyler Henry 22:00 Pit Bulls & Parolees 22:55 Gator Boys

crime &investigation

00:00 Killers: Behind The Myth 01:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers 02:00 Homicide Hunter 03:00 Crimes That Shook Australia 04:00 Killers: Behind The Myth

05:00 Measuring Evil: Britain's Worst Killers 06:00 My Crazy Ex 08:00 Evil Up Close 09:00 It Takes A Killer 10:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical

Evidence 11:00 The First 48 13:00 My Crazy Ex 14:00 Evil Up Close15:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence 16:00 It Takes A Killer

17:00 The First 48 19:00 Evil Up Close 20:00 Gangs Of Britain With Gary And Martin Kemp 21:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence 22:00 Crime Stories

Oiscovery

00:30 Redesign My Brain 01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things 02:10 Pick A Puppy 03:00 Destroyed In Seconds 03:50 Beyond Survival With Les

04:40 How It's Made 05:30 Dirty Jobs 06:20 Mythbusters 07:00 Doki 07:25 Kids vs Film

07:50 Bad Dog 08:40 How It's Made 09:30 Redesign My Brain 10:20 Mythbusters 11:10 Bad Dog 12:00 Beyond Survival With Les

12:50 How It's Made 13:40 Dirty Jobs

14:30 Doki

21:50 Running Wild With Bear 22:40 Running Wild With Bear Grylls And President.

00:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 01:50 Botched 02:50 Celebrity Style Story 03:50 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills 05:30 Celebrity Style Story 06:00 Just Jillian

07:10 La Clippers Dance Squad 08:10 E! News 09:10 Rob & Chyna 12:00 E! News 12:15 Revenge Body With Khloe Kardashian

06:55 E! News

15:00 E! News

15:15 Botched 19:00 E! News 20:00 Hollywood Medium With 21:00 Hollywood Medium With

22:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 23:00 E! News

HISTORY 00:20 The Curse Of Oak Island

01:10 The Curse Of Oak Island Mummies Alive 02:50 Storage Wars 03:15 American Pickers 04:05 Pawn Stars 04:30 Pawn Stars

05:00 Mountain Men 06:00 Ultimate Wheels 06:50 Ice Road Truckers 07:40 Counting Cars Counting Cars 08:30 Pawn Stars 08:55 Pawn Stars

09:20 Storage Wars 09:45 Storage Wars 10:10 American Pickers 11:00 Time Team 11:50 Billion Dollar Wreck 12:40 Swamp People

13:30 Ax Men 14:20 Mountain Men 15:10 Alaska Off-Road Warriors 16:00 Ultimate Wheels 16:50 Pawn Stars 17:15 Pawn Stars 17:40 The Curse Of Oak Island

18:30 The Curse Of Oak Island

19:20 Mountain Men 20:10 American Pickers 21:00 Ice Road Truckers 21:50 Fifth Gear 22:40 Swamp People 23:30 American Pickers



00:00 Restaurant: Impossible

Man Fire Food 04:00 Chopped 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games Barefoot Contessa

01:00 Mystery Diners
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:00 Man Fire Food

03:10 Art Attack 03:35 Loopdidoo 03:50 Calimero 04:05 Art Attack 06:30 Barefoot Contessa Henry Hugglemonster

Binny And The Ghost

0:00 00:25 Hank Zipzer 00:45 The Hive 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 01:40 Hank Zipzer

02:05 Binny And The Ghost 02:55 Hank Zipzer 03:15 The Hive 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A

Teenage Witch 04:10 Hank Zipzer 04:35 Binny And The Ghost 05:25 Hank Zipzer 05:45 The Hive The 7D 06:00 Jessie

06:25 Jessie Tsum Tsum Shorts 06:55 The Zhuzhus 07:20 Elena Of Avalor Bunk'd 08:10 Stuck In The Middle 08:35 Bizaardvark

Shake It Up 09:50 That's So Raven 10:15 That's So Raven Sonny With A Chance 11:30 Good Luck Charlie 11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse

Welcome To The Ronks 12:15 Gravity Falls 12:40 Hank Zipzer 13:05 Star Darlings 13:10 Austin & Ally 13:35 Jessie

14:00 Bunk'd 14:25 Kirby Buckets 14:50 Sunny Bunnies The Zhuzhus 15:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir

15:45 Elena Of Avalor 16:10 Liv And Maddie 16:35 Descendants Wicked World 16:40 Girl Meets World 17:05 Stuck In The Middle 17:30 Bunk'd

18:25 Alex & Co. 18:50 Jessie 19:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts 19:20 Backstage 19:45 Austin & Ally 20:10 The Next Step 20:35 Cracke

18:20 Disney Mickey Mouse

17:55 Bizaardvark

20:40 Disney The Lodge 21:05 Girl Meets World 21:30 That's So Raven 21:55 Star Darlings 22:00 Good Luck Charlie 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

DISNED &

23:35 The Hive

23:45 Loopdidoo

06:00 Gravity Falls

07:25 The 7D

07:40 Supa Strikas

08:05 Two More Eggs

08:10 K.C. Undercove

08:35 Counterfeit Cat

09:50 Future-Worm!

10:20 Pair Of Kings

10:45 Pair Of Kings

11:35 Supa Strikas

11:10 Danger Mouse

10:15 Two More Eggs

09:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island

09:25 Lab Rats: Bionic Island

06:25 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

06:50 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero

07:15 Milo Murphy's Law

00:00 Henry Hugglemonster 00:15 Calimero 00:30 Art Attack

00:55 Zou 01:05 Loopdidoo 01:20 Henry Hugglemonster 01:35 Calimero 01:50 Zou 02:05 Art Attack

The Hive 02:40 Loopdidoo 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster RISE OF THE LEGEND ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD 07:50 I Almost Got Away With It 08:40 Young, Hot & Crooked 09:05 Young, Hot & Crooked 09:30 A Crime To Remember

10:20 Evil Online 11:10 Nightmare Next Door 12:00 I'd Kill For You 12:50 I Almost Got Away With It 13:40 Young, Hot & Crooked 14:05 Young, Hot & Crooked 14:30 A Crime To Remember

15:20 Evil Online16:10 Vanity Fair Confidential 17:00 I'd Kill For You

17:50 I Almost Got Away With It 18:40 Bad Blood 19:05 Bad Blood 19:30 A Crime To Remember

20:20 Evil Online 21:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen 22:00 The Darkest Of Nights:

People Magazine... 22:50 March To Justice 23:40 A Crime To Remember



00:10 The Chase 01:00 Emmerdale 01:30 Coronation Street

Coronation Street 02:30 Guess This House 03:25 Vera 05:15 Come Date With Me Australia

06:10 The Chase **Guess This House** 08:00 Vera 09:35 Gino's Italian Escape

10:00 Come Date With Me Australia 10:55 The Chase Guess This House 12:45 Emmerdale

13:15 Coronation Street Coronation Street 14:15 The Chase 15:10 Guess This House The Moorside 17:00 Doctor Thorne

17:50 Come Date With Me Australia 18:20 Come Date With Me Australia 18:45 Emmerdale

19:15 Coronation Street 19:45 Coronation Street Guess This House 21:00 The Moorside 22:00 Doctor Thorne

people ED

00:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet 00:40 The Game Chef 01:05 Raw Travel 01:30 Dog Whisperer

Living Free With Kimi Werner 03:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med 04:00 Patisserie With Michel Roux 04:50 Places We Go

Australia 05:45 My Restaurant In India 06:15 Chasing The Sun 07:10 Raw Travel 07:35 Dog Whisperer Living Free With Kimi Werner 09:25 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med

10:20 Patisserie With Michel Roux

05:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of

11:15 Places We Go 11:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia 12:10 My Restaurant In India Raw Travel

13:05 Dog Whisperer 14:00 Living Free With Kimi Werner 14:55 Places We Go 15:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia 15:50 Chocolate Perfection With

Michel,Ķ 16:45 Croatia's Finest 17:40 My Restaurant In India 18:10 Chasing The Sun 19:05 Places We Go 19:30 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia 20:00 Chocolate Perfection With

Michel,Ķ 20:55 Croatia's Finest 21:45 My Restaurant In India 22:10 Chasing The Sun

09:00 World's Toughest Fixes 10:00 Monster Fish 12:00 Air Crash Investigation

11:00 Wicked Tuna 13:00 Genius 14:25 Brain Games

08:00 Lawless Island

15:00 Alaska Fish Wars 16:00 Monster Fish 17:00 Wicked Tuna 18:00 Air Crash Investigation

19:00 Alaska Fish Wars 20:00 Monster Fish 20:50 Wicked Tuna 21:40 Air Crash Investigation 22:30 Alaska Fish Wars 23:20 China's Grand Canal: A

Photographer's Journey

OM FIRST

00:00 StartUp 01:00 American Crime 02:00 Code Black

03:00 Mistresses 04:00 Pitch 05:00 Good Morning America

07:00 The Chew 08:00 The View 09:00 Notorious

10:00 Pitch 11:00 Rosewood 12:00 The Chew 13:00 The View Live Good Morning America

16:00 Notorious 17:00 Pitch 18:00 The Voice 20:00 24: Legacy 21:00 Quantico

Supergirl

23:00 Better Call Saul

OVA FIRST THE COMEDY

00:00 The Goldbergs 00:30 Two And A Half Men 01:00 Two And A Half Men 01:30 Baskets

02:00 Difficult People 02:30 Ballers 03:00 Scrubs 03:30 Scrubs

04:00 Breaking In 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 05:30 The Mindy Project

06:00 Til Death 06:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers 07:30 Dr. Ken

08:00 Breaking In 08:30 Scrubs 09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 10:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring

NAT GEO

00:20 Betty White Goes Wild!

02:00 Jaguar: Catching The Cat 02:50 Animals Gone Wild

04:40 Ultimate Animal Countdown

08:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown

05:35 Jaguar: Catching The Cat

01:10 Hunter Hunted

03:45 Africa's Deadliest

06:30 Animals Gone Wild

09:15 Animals Gone Wild

Compilations 10:10 Man And The Wild

11:05 Africa's Deadliest

12:55 Asia's Deadliest Snakes

13:50 Animals Gone Wild

16:35 Animals Gone Wild

17:30 Man And The Wild

18:25 Man V. Monster

19:20 A Penguin's Life

20:10 Jobs That Bite! 21:00 Animals Gone Wild

Compilations 21:50 Man And The Wild

NATIONAL

GEOGRAPHIC

CHANNEL

22:40 Man V. Monster

00:10 Scam City

City On The Rise

04:00 Scam City

06:00 River Quest

07:00 Alaska Fish Wars

01:00 Lawless Island

02:00 Primal Survivor

03:00 Reinventing Seoul: Smart

05:00 World's Toughest Fixes

14:45 A Penguin's Life

15:40 Jobs That Bite!

Compilations

12:00 Shark Men

07:25 Africa's Deadliest

Jimmy Fallon 12:00 Til Death 12:30 Breaking In13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

14:00 Scrubs 14:30 Dr. Ken 15:00 The Mindy Project 15:30 Two And Á Half Men

16:00 Two And A Half Men 16:30 Til Death 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 18:00 Scrubs

18:30 Gary Unmarried 19:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine

19:30 New Girl 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 21:00 Two And A Half Men 21:30 Two And A Half Men

22:00 Family Guy 22:30 Bordertown 23:00 Better Things 23:30 Late Night With Seth Mevers

> OM MOVIES HE **FAMILY**

01:00 James And The Giant Peach 03:00 One Christmas Eve 05:00 Beverly Hills Chihuahua 07:00 Brother Bear

09:00 The Land Before Time: Journey Of The Brave 11:00 Beverly Hills Chihuahua 13:00 Atlantis: The Lost Empire

15:00 Turner & Hooch 17:00 Eight Below 19:00 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold 21:00 Hocus Pocus 23:00 Turner & Hooch

OM MOVIES TIE

ACTION 00:00 The Night Crew 02:00 Rise Of The Legend

04:15 Jurassic Hunters 06:00 Insurgent

08:00 Beverly Hills Cop 3 10:00 Bad Company 12:00 Age Of Tomorrow 14:00 Insurgent

16:00 Rivers Nine 18:00 Escape 20:00 The Transporter: Refueled

OWN MOVIES HID

COMEDY 00:00 Top Five

02:00 All About Christmas Eve 04:00 The Beautician And The 06:00 Turbo Kid 08:00 All About Christmas Eve

10:00 The Beautician And The Beast 12:00 Turbo Kid

14:00 Outside Bet 16:00 The Butcher's Wife 18:00 Perfect Match

20:00 Hit By Lightning

22:00 Afternoon Delight

OVI MOVIES

00:15 Moonwalkers 02:00 Changeling 04:30 The Better Angels

06:15 | Believe In Miracles 08:00 | Am Bolt 10:00 Jappeloup 12:15 2001: A Space Odyssey

14:30 Ordinary People16:30 5 Flights Up 18:15 Rio, I Love You 20:00 The Lobster 22:00 A Clockwork Orange

OM MOVIES HE

00:30 V/H/S Viral 02:00 Reign Over Me 04:30 Air Force One 07:00 Quantum Of Solace 09:00 10 Things I Hate About You

11:00 Air Force One 13:30 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Voyage Of The Dawn... 15:30 Skyfall 18:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

19:45 Erin Brockovich 22:00 Indecent Proposal

OM MOVIES HE KIDS

01:00 Big Baby 02:45 Hey Arnold! The Movie 04:15 Daddy I'm A Zombie

06:00 Rugrats Go Wild 07:45 Worms 09:15 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie

10:45 Big Baby 12:30 Hey Arnold! The Movie 14:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion

16:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie 18:00 The Nutcracker Sweet 20:00 Cher Ami

21:45 Dixie And The Zombie

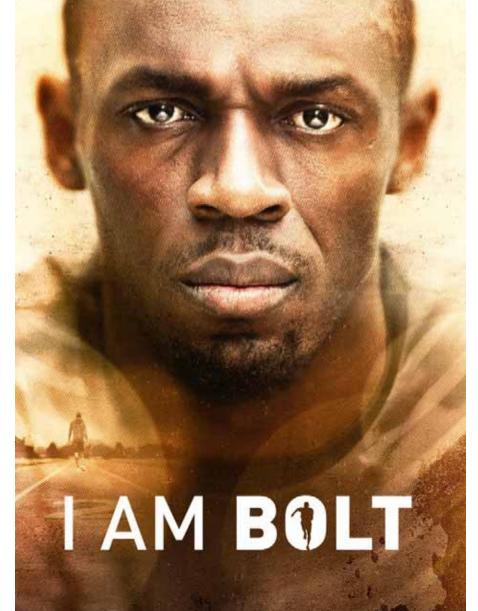
Rebellion 23:30 Worms

01:10 Return To Amish
02:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life 02:50 Love, Lust Or Run 03:15 Cake Boss 03:35 Promzillas

04:20 Little People, Big World 04:45 Little People, Big World 05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress: The

Big Day 06:50 Say Yes To The Dress 07:40 Randy To The Rescue 08:30 Little People, Big World 08:55 Little People, Big World 09:20 Sister Wives

10:10 Love, Lust Or Run 10:35 Cake Boss 11:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life 11:50 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day



I AM BOLT ON OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL



QUANTUM OF SOLACE ON OSN MOVIES HD

07:00 The Kitchen 14:55 Kids vs Film 08:00 The Pioneer Woman 15:20 Mythbusters Cooking For Real 16:10 Redesign My Brain 17:00 React To That 10:00 Siba's Table

19:30 How It's Made 20:20 Mythbusters 21:10 React To That 22:00 World's Funniest Fails 22:50 Destroyed In Seconds 23:15 Destroyed In Seconds

18:40 Destroyed In Seconds

17:50 Now That's Funny

Discovery CHANNEL 00:20 Street Outlaws 01:10 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail 02:00 Idris Elba: No Limits

02:50 Killing Fields B-Story 03:40 Fast N' Loud 04:30 Storage Hunters 05:00 How Do They Do It? 05:30 How Do They Do It? 06:00 Railroad Australia

06:50 Street Outlaws 07:40 Fast N' Loud 08:30 Marooned With Ed Stafford 09:20 Storage Hunters 09:45 How Do They Do It? 10:10 How Do They Do It? 10:35 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail

12:15 Alaska: The Last Frontier 13:05 How Do They Do It? Storage Hunters 13:55 Storage Hunters14:20 Gold Rush 15:10 Marooned With Ed Stafford

Idris Elba: No Limits

16:00 Railroad Australia 16:50 Fast N' Loud Street Outlaws 18:30 How Do They Do It? 18:55 How Do They Do It? Marooned With Ed Stafford 20:10 Storage Hunters

21:00 The Wheel: Survival Games

20:35 Storage Hunters

21:30 Man Finds Food 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives DISCOVERY

00:30 How Do They Do It? 00:55 Food Factory 01:20 How The Universe Works Invisible Worlds 03:00 Prototype This

11:00 The Kitchen

13:00 Siba's Table

15:00 Chopped

16:00 The Kitchen

17:00 Cooking For Real

Chopped

19:00 Chopped Junior

21:00 Man Finds Food

The Pioneer Woman

14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

03:48 Mythbusters 04:36 How Do They Do It? 05:00 Food Factory 05:24 How The Universe Works 06:12 Invisible Worlds 07:00 How Do They Do It? 07:26 Prototype This

09:02 Ecopolis 09:50 How Do They Do It? 10:14 Food Factory 10:38 How The Universe Works 11:26 Prototype This 12:14 Mythbusters

13:02 How Do They Do It? 13:26 Food Factory Invisible Worlds 14:38 Prototype This15:26 How The Universe Works 17:02 Invisible Worlds

17:50 Nextworld

04:45 Zou 05:00 Art Attack Henry Hugglemonster Loopdidoo 06:00 Zou 06:15 Calimero

06:30 Loopdidoo 06:45 Henry Hugglemonster 07:00 My Friends Tigger & Pooh 07:25 Sofia The First 07:50 The Lion Guard 08:15 PJ Masks 08:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 09:05 Goldie & Bear

09:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons

09:35 The Lion Guard 10:00 Sofia The First 10:30 Doc McStuffins 10:55 Miles From Tomorrow My Friends Tigger & Pooh 11:50 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 12:15 Gummi Bears Miles From Tomorrow 13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 13:35 PJ Masks My Friends Tigger & Pooh 14:30 The Lion Guard 15:00 Sofia The First

16:20 Miles From Tomorrow 16:50 PJ Masks 17:15 Sofia The First 17:40 Doc McStuffins 18:05 Jake And The Never Land Pirates 18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

Doc McStuffins

Goldie & Bear

15:30

15:55

19:25 Goldie & Bear 19:50 Doc McStuffins 20:05 Goldie & Bear 20:35 My Friends Tigger & Pooh 21:00 Gummi Bears Miles From Tomorrow 21:30 22:00 PJ Masks 22:25 PJ Masks PJ Masks

Henry Hugglemonster

19:00 Goldie & Bear

13:20 Atomic Puppet 14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse 14:15 Mighty Med 14:40 Disney Cookabout 15:05 Lab Rats

12:00 Supa Strikas

17:15 Mech-X4 17:40 Milo Murphy's Law 18:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 18:10 Gravity Falls 18:35 Mighty Med 19:00 Atomic Puppet 19:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty

21:10 Walk The Prank 21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse 21:45 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron 22:10 Ultimate Spider-Mar

00:30 Blood Relatives Magazine Investigates 03:00 Pandora's Box: Unleashing

Evil 03:48 I Almost Got Away With It 04:36 Young, Hot & Crooked 05:24 A Crime To Remember 06:12 Evil Online 07:00 I'd Kill For You

12:30 Gravity Falls 12:55 Annedroids 13:45 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

15:30 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
15:55 Right Now Kapow 16:25 K.C. Undercover 16:50 Walk The Prank

Much Everything 19:55 K.C. Undercover 20:20 Mech-X4 20:45 Mighty Med

22:35 Boyster

01:20 Deadline: Crime With Tamron 02:10 The Grim Sleeper: People

CLASSIFIEDS

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017





Kuwait-Times

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (20/04/2017 TO 26/04/2017)

| | | Total Control | | • | | • | |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| SHARQIA-1 | | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 12:15 AM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 12:05 AM | COLOSSAL | 7:00 PM |
| GHOST IN THE SHELL | 1:15 PM | | | | | COLOSSAL | 9:15 PM |
| THE BOSS BABY | 1:30 PM | FANAR-2 | | MARINA-3 | | COLOSSAL | 11:30 PM |
| GHOST IN THE SHELL | 3:30 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 11:30 AM | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 11:45 AM | | |
| GHOST IN THE SHELL | 5:45 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 1:30 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 2:00 PM | 360°-3 | |
| UNFORGETTABLE | 8:00 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 3:30 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 4:00 PM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 1:15 PM |
| GHOST IN THE SHELL | 10:15 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 5:30 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 6:00 PM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 3:30 PM |
| UNFORGETTABLE | 12:30 AM | THE BOSS BABY | 7:30 PM | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 8:00 PM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 5:45 PM |
| ON ONGET IABLE | 12.50 /111 | UNFORGETTABLE | 9:30 PM | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 10:15 PM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 8:00 PM |
| SHARQIA-2 | | Real Madrid Vs Barcelona - Live (| | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 12:30 AM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 10:15 PM |
| FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 12:30 PM | 9:45 PM | Jame | GHOST IN THE SHEEL | 12.30 AIVI | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 12:30 AM |
| THE BOSS BABY | 3:15 PM | UNFORGETTABLE | 12:05 AM | AVENUES-1 | | DISTENTINASEE - ATABIC | 12.50 AW |
| THE BOSS BABY | 5:15 PM | UNFORGETTABLE | 12.03 AIVI | UNFORGETTABLE | 12:00 PM | AL-KOUT.1 | |
| FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 7:15 PM | FANAR-3 | | UNFORGETTABLE | 2:15 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 11:30 AM |
| | 10:00 PM | COLOSSAL | 11:30 AM | UNFORGETTABLE | | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 2:15 PM |
| FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 10:00 PM 12:45 AM | SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE | 1:45 PM | SAFRA 5 NJOOM | 4:30 PM 6:45 PM | SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE | 5:00 PM |
| FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 12:45 AW | | | | | | |
| CLIADOIA 3 | | COLOSSAL | 3:45 PM | UNFORGETTABLE | 9:00 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 7:00 PM |
| SHARQIA-3 | 12.15 DM | COLOSSAL | 6:00 PM | UNFORGETTABLE | 11:15 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 9:45 PM |
| BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 12:15 PM | COLOSSAL | 8:15 PM | AVENUES 2 | | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 12:30 AM |
| BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 2:30 PM | COLOSSAL | 10:30 PM | AVENUES-2 | 44 45 444 | AL KOLITO | |
| BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 5:00 PM | COLOSSAL | 12:45 AM | THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX | 11:45 AM | AL-KOUT.2 | 1.00.014 |
| THE BOSS BABY | 7:30 PM | FANIAR 4 | | THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX | 2:00 PM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 1:00 PM |
| BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 9:30 PM | FANAR-4 | 44.00.444 | THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX | 4:15 PM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 3:15 PM |
| FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 11:45 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 11:30 AM | THE BOSS BABY -3D-4DX | 6:30 PM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 5:30 PM |
| | | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 1:30 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX | 9:15 PM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 7:45 PM |
| MUHALAB-1 | | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 4:15 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8-2D-4DX | 12:05 AM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 10:00 PM |
| GHOST IN THE SHELL | 12:45 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 7:00 PM | | | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 12:15 AM |
| GHOST IN THE SHELL | 3:00 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 9:45 PM | AVENUES-3 | | | |
| GHOST IN THE SHELL | 5:15 PM | Real Madrid Vs Barcelona - Live C | ame | COLOSSAL | 1:00 PM | AL-KOUT.3 | |
| GHOST IN THE SHELL | 7:30 PM | 9:45 PM | | COLOSSAL | 3:15 PM | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 11:45 AM |
| UNFORGETTABLE | 9:45 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 12:30 AM | COLOSSAL | 5:30 PM | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 2:00 PM |
| GHOST IN THE SHELL | 12:05 AM | | | COLOSSAL | 7:45 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 4:15 PM |
| | | FANAR-5 | | COLOSSAL | 10:00 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 6:15 PM |
| MUHALAB-2 | | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 11:45 AM | COLOSSAL | 12:15 AM | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 8:15 PM |
| BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 1:15 PM | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 2:00 PM | | | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 10:30 PM |
| THE BOSS BABY | 1:30 PM | SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE | 4:15 PM | AVENUES-4 | | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 12:45 AM |
| COLOSSAL | 3:30 PM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 6:15 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 1:30 PM | | |
| BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 5:45 PM | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 8:30 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 4:15 PM | AL-KOUT.4 | |
| BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 8:00 PM | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 10:45 PM | Special Show "THE BOSS BABY" | 4:45 PM | COLOSSAL | 12:30 PM |
| COLOSSAL | 10:15 PM | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 1:00 AM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 7:00 PM | COLOSSAL | 2:45 PM |
| COLOSSAL | 12:30 AM | | | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 9:45 PM | UNFORGETTABLE | 5:00 PM |
| | | MARINA-1 | | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 12:30 AM | COLOSSAL | 7:15 PM |
| MUHALAB-3 | | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 1:15 PM | | | COLOSSAL | 9:30 PM |
| THE BOSS BABY | 12:45 PM | SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE | 1:30 PM | 360°- 1 | | UNFORGETTABLE | 11:45 PM |
| THE BOSS BABY | 2:45 PM | SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE | 3:30 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 11:30 AM | | |
| THE BOSS BABY | 4:45 PM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 5:30 PM | THE BOSS BABY -3D | 1:45 PM | BAIRAQ-1 | |
| FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 6:45 PM | COLOSSAL | 7:45 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 4:00 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 12:15 PM |
| FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 9:30 PM | COLOSSAL | 10:00 PM | THE BOSS BABY -3D | 6:15 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 3:00 PM |
| FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 12:15 AM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 12:15 AM | THE BOSS BABY | 8:30 PM | THE BOSS BABY -3D | 5:00 PM |
| | | | | THE BOSS BABY | 10:45 PM | THE BOSS BABY | 7:00 PM |
| FANAR-1 | | MARINA-2 | | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 1:00 AM | THE BOSS BABY | 9:00 PM |
| BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 12:45 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 1:00 PM | | | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 11:00 PM |
| MINE | 3:00 PM | GHOST IN THE SHELL | 1:30 PM | 360°- 2 | | | |
| BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 5:15 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 3:45 PM | COLOSSAL | 12:15 PM | BAIRAQ-2 | |
| MINE | 7:30 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 6:30 PM | COLOSSAL | 2:30 PM | BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 11:45 AM |
| BISTERI RAJEL - Arabic | 10:00 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 9:15 PM | COLOSSAL | 4:45 PM | FAST & FURIOUS 8 | 2:00 PM |
| | | | | | | | |



Civil ID (No. 278051605719), Kuwait driving license, ATM card, name of Jogi Pratap Reddy, has been lost in Khaitan area. If anyone found please contact: 51310611. 25-4-2017

FOR SALE

Toyota Prado 2003 - golden color, 4 doors, 4 clr, in excellent condition. KD 1700. Mob: 50994848. (C 5302) 24-4-2017

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Abdullah Abdur Rashid s/o Abdul Rashid, holder of Indian Passport No. J5395474 and Civil ID No. 273022102554 has changed my name to Abdullah Shaikh, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents. (C 5301)

I, Mario Costa R/o H.No. 1310, Cuncolim Voddi Salcete, Goa, hereby change my name from Mario Pedro Costa to Mario Costa, hereafter in all my dealings and documents I will be known as Mario Costa. (C 5300) 23-4-2017



Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988



PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:48 Shorook: 05:11 Duhr: 11:46 Asr: 15:21 Maghrib: 18:20 Isha: 19:42





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

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

| | | its on Tuesday 25/4/2017 | | SVA | 500 | Jeddah | 14:45 | | | ghts on Tuesday 25/4/2017 | | MSR | 611 | Cairo | 14:00 |
|------------|------|--------------------------|-------|-----|------|-------------------|-------|----------|------|---------------------------|-------|-----|------|------------|-------|
| Airlines | Flt | Route | Time | KAC | 788 | Jeddah | 14:55 | Airlines | Flt | Route | Time | KAC | 513 | Tehran | 14:10 |
| | | | | KNE | 529 | Jeddah | 14:55 | AIC | 982 | Ahmedabad/Chennai | 00:05 | UAE | 872 | Dubai | 14:15 |
| THY | 772 | Istanbul | 00:10 | JAD | 301 | Amman | 15:00 | BBC | 044 | Dhaka | 00:10 | KAC | 673 | Dubai | 15:00 |
| SVA | 502 | Jeddah | 00:20 | ETD | 303 | Abu Dhabi | 15:05 | JAI | 573 | Mumbai | 00:30 | KNE | 382 | Taif | 15:00 |
| SVA | 514 | Riyadh | 00:25 | KAC | 562 | Amman | 15:10 | FDB | 072 | Dubai | 00:30 | GFA | 222 | Bahrain | 15:00 |
| KAC | 786 | Jeddah | 00:30 | OMA | 645 | Muscat | 15:10 | PIA | 206 | Lahore | 01:00 | KAC | 775 | Riyadh | 15:00 |
| MSC | 411 | Asyut | 00:30 | KAC | 502 | Beirut | 15:25 | THY | 773 | Istanbul | 01:40 | FDB | 060 | Dubai | 15:05 |
| JZR | 267 | Beirut | 00:35 | KAC | 412 | Bangkok | 15:30 | KAC | 363 | Colombo | 01:55 | QTR | 1079 | Doha | 15:15 |
| RJA | 642 | Amman | 00:45 | | | 3 | | DLH | 635 | Frankfurt | 02:00 | SVA | 501 | Jeddah | 15:45 |
| KAC | | | | ABY | 127 | Sharjah | 15:35 | PGT | 859 | Istanbul | 02:35 | KNE | 530 | Jeddah | 15:55 |
| | 102 | London | 00:55 | UAE | 857 | Dubai | 15:45 | THY | 765 | Istanbul | 02:50 | KAC | 661 | Abu Dhabi | 15:55 |
| DLH | 635 | Doha | 01:00 | RJA | 640 | Amman | 16:00 | ETH | 621 | Addis Ababa | 02:50 | KAC | 743 | Dammam | 16:00 |
| JZR | 539 | Cairo | 01:25 | FDK | 801 | Damascus | 16:00 | KKK | 6505 | Istanbul | 02:55 | KAC | 619 | Doha | 16:00 |
| UAE | 853 | Dubai | 01:40 | JZR | 325 | Al Najaf | 16:15 | KAC | 351 | Kochi | 03:05 | OMA | 646 | Muscat | 16:10 |
| ETH | 620 | Addis Ababa | 01:50 | FDB | 051 | Dubai | 16:15 | UAE | 854 | Dubai | 03:30 | ABY | 128 | Sharjah | 16:15 |
| KKK | 6506 | Istanbul | 01:55 | QTR | 1072 | Doha | 16:15 | OMA | 644 | Muscat | 04:05 | ETD | 304 | Abu Dhabi | 16:20 |
| AXB | 395 | Kozhikode | 02:00 | JZR | 125 | Bahrain | 16:25 | QTR | 1087 | Doha | 04:10 | KAC | 563 | | 16:25 |
| KLM | 446 | Bahrain | 02:05 | NIA | 361 | Alexandria | 16:50 | ETD | 306 | Abu Dhabi | 04:10 | | | Amman | |
| KAC | 358 | Kochi | 04:50 | KAC | 118 | New York | 16:55 | MSR | | | | KAC | 615 | Bahrain | 16:30 |
| KAC | 784 | Jeddah | 05:00 | KAC | 542 | Cairo | 17:05 | | 613 | Cairo | 04:15 | SAW | 706 | Damascus | 16:50 |
| FEG | 953 | Asyut | 05:00 | SVA | 510 | Riyadh | 17:15 | KAC | 417 | Manila | 04:20 | FDK | 802 | Damascus | 16:55 |
| THY | 6376 | Istanbul | 05:05 | GFA | 215 | Bahrain | 17:30 | PGT | 861 | Istanbul | 04:25 | RJA | 641 | Amman | 16:55 |
| THY | 770 | Istanbul | 05:05 | JZR | 777 | Jeddah | 17:35 | JZR | 560 | Sohag | 04:45 | FDB | 052 | Dubai | 17:05 |
| DHX | 170 | Bahrain | 05:10 | JZR | 177 | Dubai | 17:45 | CEB | 019 | Manila | 05:30 | JZR | 266 | Beirut | 17:15 |
| KAC | 414 | Bangkok | 05:10 | QTR | 1080 | Doha | 18:05 | QTR | 1077 | Doha | 05:35 | QTR | 1073 | Doha | 17:25 |
| KAC | 332 | | 05:40 | | | | | UAE | 874 | Dubai | 06:15 | JZR | 240 | Amman | 17:30 |
| | | Trivandrum | | MSR | 620 | Cairo | 18:30 | RJA | 643 | Amman | 06:25 | UAE | 858 | Dubai | 17:40 |
| BAW | 157 | London | 06:05 | JZR | 483 | Istanbul | 18:30 | THY | 771 | Istanbul | 06:25 | KAC | 357 | Kochi | 17:40 |
| KAC | 284 | Dhaka | 06:35 | UAE | 875 | Dubai | 19:05 | GFA | 212 | Bahrain | 06:50 | KAC | 381 | Delhi | 17:50 |
| KAC | 206 | Islamabad | 06:40 | GFA | 217 | Bahrain | 19:05 | FDB | 070 | Dubai | 07:05 | KAC | 331 | Trivandrum | 17:55 |
| KAC | 302 | Mumbai | 06:55 | KAC | 776 | Riyadh | 19:05 | JZR | 164 | Dubai | 07:15 | KAC | 283 | Dhaka | 18:00 |
| KAC | 354 | Bangalore | 07:50 | FDB | 063 | Dubai | 19:10 | KAC | 167 | Paris | 07:15 | SVA | 511 | Riyadh | 18:15 |
| FDB | 053 | Dubai | 07:50 | ABY | 123 | Sharjah | 19:20 | KAC | 501 | Beirut | 07:50 | GFA | 216 | Bahrain | 18:20 |
| KAC | 384 | Delhi | 08:00 | KAC | 154 | Istanbul | 19:30 | KAC | 613 | Bahrain | 07:55 | JZR | 184 | Dubai | 18:20 |
| UAE | 855 | Dubai | 08:25 | KAC | 674 | Dubai | 19:40 | BAW | 156 | London | 08:20 | JZR | 538 | Cairo | 18:35 |
| ETD | 301 | Abu Dhabi | 08:55 | KAC | 616 | Bahrain | 19:40 | FDB | 054 | Dubai | 08:30 | KAC | 785 | Jeddah | 18:45 |
| ABY | 125 | Sharjah | 09:00 | FDB | 057 | Dubai | 19:50 | KAC | 511 | Mashhad | 08:35 | QTR | 1081 | Doha | 19:15 |
| QTR | 1070 | Doha | 09:20 | KAC | 620 | Doha | 19:50 | KAC | 773 | Riyadh | 08:35 | KAC | 345 | Ahmedabad | 19:20 |
| FDB | 055 | Dubai | 09:40 | OMA | 647 | Muscat | 20:05 | KAC | 117 | New York | 09:00 | MSR | 621 | Cairo | 19:30 |
| IRA | 675 | Lar | 09:40 | DLH | 634 | Frankfurt | 20:15 | KAC | 161 | Geneva | 09:10 | GFA | 218 | Bahrain | 19:50 |
| SVA | 512 | Riyadh | 10:00 | MEA | 402 | Beirut | 20:15 | KAC | 787 | Jeddah | 09:15 | FDB | 064 | Dubai | 19:50 |
| GFA | 213 | Bahrain | 10:40 | QTR | 1088 | Doha | 20:15 | KAC | 671 | Dubai | 09:15 | ABY | 124 | Sharjah | 20:00 |
| MEA | 404 | Beirut | 10:55 | KAC | 164 | Rome | 20:55 | KAC | 165 | Rome | 09:20 | FDB | 058 | Dubai | 20:30 |
| PAL | 668 | Manila | 11:00 | | | | | KAC | 691 | Muscat | 09:30 | UAE | 876 | Dubai | 20:35 |
| | | | | KAC | 564 | Amman | 21:00 | JZR | 482 | Istanbul | 09:35 | KAC | 353 | Bangalore | 20:55 |
| JZR | 561 | Sohag | 11:10 | KAC | 172 | Frankfurt | 21:05 | ABY | 126 | Sharjah | 09:40 | DLH | 634 | Doha | 21:00 |
| KAC | 614 | Bahrain | 11:15 | KAC | 168 | Paris | 21:05 | KAC | 101 | London | 09:45 | OMA | 648 | Muscat | 21:05 |
| MSC | 403 | Asyut | 11:15 | ETD | 307 | Abu Dhabi | 21:10 | UAE | 856 | Dubai | 09:50 | KNE | 232 | Riyadh | 21:10 |
| KAC | 742 | Dammam | 11:45 | KLM | 445 | Amsterdam | 21:15 | KAC | 561 | Amman | 09:55 | MEA | 403 | Beirut | 21:15 |
| JZR | 165 | Dubai | 11:50 | ALK | 229 | Colombo | 21:15 | ETD | 302 | Abu Dhabi | 10:00 | KAC | 543 | Cairo | 21:30 |
| JZR | 1331 | Al Najaf | 12:20 | UAE | 859 | Dubai | 21:15 | KAC | 541 | Cairo | 10:00 | KAC | 301 | Mumbai | 21:40 |
| UAE | 871 | Dubai | 12:45 | GFA | 219 | Bahrain | 21:50 | IRA | 666 | Esfahan | 10:15 | QTR | 1089 | Doha | 21:45 |
| THY | 766 | Istanbul | 12:50 | QTR | 1082 | Doha | 22:00 | KAC | 153 | Istanbul | 10:13 | DHX | 171 | Bahrain | 21:50 |
| FEG | 933 | Sohag | 12:55 | NIA | 0161 | Cairo | 22:10 | QTR | 1071 | Doha | 10:35 | KAC | 205 | Islamabad | 21:55 |
| MSR | 610 | Cairo | 13:00 | ETD | 309 | Abu Dhabi | 22:10 | FDB | 056 | Dubai | 10.35 | ETD | | Abu Dhabi | 22:00 |
| AXB | 393 | Kozhikode | 13:10 | AIC | 987 | Chennai/Hyderabad | 22:25 | GFA | 214 | Bahrain | 11:35 | | 308 | | |
| KAC | 672 | Dubai | 13:55 | PIA | 239 | Sialkot | 22:35 | MEA | 405 | | | ALK | 230 | Colombo | 22:20 |
| KAC | 692 | Muscat | 13:55 | JZR | 241 | Amman | 22:55 | JZR | | Beirut Jeddah | 11:55 | KLM | 445 | Bahrain | 22:25 |
| QTR | 1078 | Doha | 14:05 | JZR | 185 | Dubai | 22:55 | | 776 | Jeddah Mangaloro | 12:00 | UAE | 860 | Dubai | 22:35 |
| KAC | 364 | Colombo | 14:05 | JAI | | | | AXB | 890 | Mangalore | 12:05 | KAC | 383 | Delhi | 22:35 |
| | | | | | 574 | Mumbai | 23:00 | KAC | 413 | Bangkok | 13:05 | GFA | 220 | Bahrain | 22:50 |
| GFA | 221 | Bahrain | 14:15 | MSC | 405 | Sohag | 23:30 | JZR | 176 | Dubai | 13:10 | ETD | 310 | Abu Dhabi | 23:00 |
| KAC | 618 | Doha | 14:20 | FDB | 071 | Dubai | 23:35 | JZR | 124 | Bahrain | 13:30 | KAC | 783 | Jeddah | 23:10 |
| | 059 | Dubai | 14:20 | ICV | 675 | Luxembourg | 23:35 | MSC | 402 | Alexandria | 13:30 | QTR | 1083 | Doha | 23:20 |
| FDB QTR | 8511 | Doha | 14:40 | THY | 764 | Istanbul | 23:45 | THY | 767 | Istanbul | 13:45 | KAC | 411 | Bangkok | 23:35 |



CROSSWORD 1589

| 1 | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
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| 15 | | | | 16 | | | | | | | | 17 | | | T |
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ACROSS

- 1. The sign language used in the United
- 4. Genus of North American and east Asian perennial herbs.
- 11. Tropical woody herb with showy yellow flowers and flat pods.
- 15. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar. 16. Abbreviation of a word by omitting the final sound or sounds.
- 17. Cancel, annul, or reverse an action or its effect.
- 18. An ugly evil-looking old woman. 19. A second-rate prize fighter.
- 20. A strong post (as on a wharf or quay
- or ship for attaching mooring lines). 21. The blood group whose red cells car-
- ry both the A and B antigens. 23. German poet (born in Austria) whose imagery and mystic lyricism influenced
- 20-th century German literature (1875-25. The sciences concerned with gather-
- ing and manipulating and storing and retrieving and classifying recorded information.
- 27. A doctor's degree in religion. 28. (Old Testament) The eldest son of
- Isaac who would have inherited the Covenant that God made with Abraham and that Abraham passed on to Isaac.
- 30. Kneading and rubbing parts of the body to increase circulation and promote relaxation v 1.
- 34. By chance.
- 38. A covered passageway.
- 39. A soft silver-white ductile metallic element (liquid at normal temperatures).
- 41. That is to say.
- 42. The money risked on a gamble.
- 43. The father of your father or mother. 44. The seed-producing cone of a pine tree.
- 47. A cruel and brutal fellow.
- 48. An associate degree in nursing. 50. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
- 51. A French abbot.
- 54. A column of light (as from a beacon). 57. With respect to the face.
- 60. The ball-shaped capsule containing the vertebrate eye. 61. Having facets.
- 68. Jewish republic in southwestern Asia
- at eastern end of Mediterranean. 71. Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
- 72. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.
- 73. One of four subclasses or superorders
- of Monocotyledones. 75. A decree that prohibits something.
- 76. A graphical record of electrical activi-
- ty of the brain. 77. Widespread genus or herbs or softwooded arborescent shrubs cultivated
- for their showy flowers. 78. (Hawaiian) A small guitar having four
- strings.

DOWN 1. Title for a civil or military leader (espe-

- cially in Turkey).
- 2. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- 3. The act of slowing down or falling behind.

- 4. A period of time spent sleeping. 5. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
- 6. An especially luminous meteor (sometimes exploding).
- 7. (archaic) Of persons.
- 8. The expression on a person's face.
- 9. Activity involved in maintaining something in good working order.
- 10. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
- 11. 43rd President of the United States.
- 12. A blue dye obtained from plants or made synthetically. 13. A television system that has more
- than the usual number of lines per frame so its pictures show more detail.
- 14. A globular water bottle used in Asia. 22. The seventh month of the civil year.
- 24. A dress worn primarily by Hindu women.
- 26. A genus of Ploceidae. 29. A French river that flows through the
- heart of Paris and then northward into the English Channel.
- 31. A unit of weight used in some Spanish speaking countries.
- 32. Covered with scabs. 33. Wild or seedling sweet cherry used as
- stock for grafting. 35. (anatomy) Opposite to or away from
- the mouth. 36. A thin cylindrical pointed writing implement.
- 37. Hot or warm and humid. 40. A composition that imitates some-
- body's style in a humorous way. 45. Any tree or shrub of the genus Inga having pinnate leaves and showy usually
- white flowers. 46. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a
- durable timber and resinous juice 49. 1/10 gram.
- 52. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- 53. Enchanter's nightshade. 55. Render verbally, "recite a poem".
- 56. Any of various deciduous or evergreen ornamental shrubs of the genus Abelia having opposite simple leaves and cymes of small white or pink or purplish flowers.
- 58. Large American feline resembling a lion.
- 59. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
- 62. United States tennis player who was the first Black to win United States and English singles championships (1943-1993).
- 63. A steep rugged rock or cliff. 64. Remove with or as if with a ladle.
- 65. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- 66. A republic in the Middle East in west-
- ern Asia. 67. An inflammatory disease involving
- the sebaceous glands of the skin. 69. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- 70. A successful stroke in an athletic contest (especially in baseball).
- 74. Being five more than fifty.

Α Α S Α Ν Α Y Ε N 0 v E R L Y U S Е R Α K N 0 L C S C M E Ε L Ι Α D Ε Ρ Η K T Η Η S Α Α 0 Α Α В Ε N N U Ι C Α R Α T C Η Ι Z K Α Ε R H U S C M Ν Ι D В o Α Α C P T M В G Ε Α В Η Α S C E L В Α K Η Ε A Α T S U F Ε Ε C Η R T D K Α D Α Α В Ε D R Ε D O W Α Y N Ε C L Α В L В Α Ν Α N Ι N I Z Α G Α Ι Α Α R D Z D T L Α M Ι Α Α Α С Α Α Ε M U P Ν K L Α Ι Ε D Α Α Ι R M Α Η R Α Η D L Α Α Α Α J

Yesterday's Solution

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Someone near you this morning has a tendency to use hidden messages for self-expression but a customer or new co-worker cuts through to the facts. You are impressed and right away will make quick friends with this new person. You aim to improve your life in all sorts of ways and enjoy people that you can have in your life as a mentor or guide. Get ready-this new person in your life may find things about you from which this person will learn. Practical, effective ideas are the ones that make the most sense now-putting them to good use is a focus for you. You may find yourself analyzing your life situation and surroundings. You have luck with residential matters at this time. Buying or selling property now will get you a good price.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Effective decisions are important and with your leadership status, you will be able to show off your talents in a most extraordinary way this year. You do not stand alone in your company and whether you own a company or you work for a company, this is the year your talents will be acknowledged. You not only use your talents to benefit the company you own or for which you work, you encourage others to do the same thing. This lends itself to good teamwork and dependable, reliable team employees. An old friend appears to you before your day is over and in no time at all a party is formed; you are the guest of honor. You have a lot of things to be grateful for and one of them is yourself. Enjoy the celebration of life.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Communication exchanges with others might lead you toward a teaching career in some way. This could be lecturing, part-time or full-time teaching, tutoring, career guidance, etc. Whatever the case, this new venture will keep you busy as well as satisfied intellectually, financially and socially. You may find you already have the education that is necessary to qualify for an education profession. There is a good feeling about some new ideas you have. You are looking forward to talking over these ideas with a loved one. Tonight may be a good time to have dinner away from home. Tonight is the time you and your mate may also enjoy a bit of shopping. You may finally find a



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

particular item for which you have been searching for a long time.

You push to solve a work problem but some key information may be missing. You will find the answer soon-pace yourself. After you have found what is needed, you may want to take a break from the tension and do a little exercise and have a little refreshment. This afternoon the trend for solving problems seems to continue and you encourage and raise the spirit of a depressed person through the art of listening. You have a positive attitude and can usually spread joy wherever you go. There is nothing that pleases you quite so much as work or volunteer service that can make a difference in somebody else's life. You may find a friend or family member joining you or helping you with a worthwhile project. Tonight is for relaxation and perhaps a good book.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Practical, workable ideas are the ones that make the most sense nowputting them to good use is a focus for you. There are optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances. Today you will be able to stretch your talents farther than usual as you tackle tasks that require real discipline. You could find yourself working successfully-with the flow of energy and being productive. You may have some serious or contemplative moments that help you communicate well with higher-ups. There may be a need for relaxation during the noon meal but you might find a leisure walk beneficial. Opt for some quiet time alone this afternoon and then you will be ready for more interaction in the business world. This evening you share some quiet time with a loved one.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Time will work out most difficulties, particularly if you remain respectful. There is optimism and you take few risks when approaching difficult people. You have a certain way of winning over the most difficult personality and are pleased with the results you discover. Just remember, steer into calm waters and take them with you as you make your presentations. Professional people recommend you because you consistently succeed in your endeavors. This afternoon, at home, is a different atmosphere as you find friends gather to gain your attention. There is a chance to help a friend shop for baby clothes this afternoon; there is an indication this child will come early. This might be a good time to plan the baby shower or at least check and see if one is in the works

Wordsearch Puzzle

Old West 3

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 46 letters spell a John Wayne quotation

| А | Т | R | Α | -1 | Ν | S | Т | Α | Т | 1 | 0 | Ν | S | Т | А | В | L | Е | С |
|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 0 | L | R | Α | W | Н | -1 | D | Е | S | Е | М | Α | J | Ε | S | S | Е | J | U |
| R | А | L | G | Ρ | G | Α | В | Ε | L | D | D | А | S | Ε | L | Т | Т | А | С |
| Ε | Υ | | 1 | S | 0 | В | Е | R | | D | Α | L | Т | 0 | Ν | G | Α | Ν | G |
| Ν | Н | D | Н | R | S | Т | 0 | С | Κ | Α | D | Ε | R | Ε | Т | S | L | 0 | Н |
| Н | А | Е | 0 | G | Α | Υ | Н | S | 0 | С | 0 | Α | L | Μ | | Ν | Е | В | С |
| 0 | Υ | S | R | С | Α | Ρ | Α | Е | Ρ | Μ | R | R | Е | L | G | Ν | Α | R | V |
| R | L | U | S | М | L | Е | S | А | С | Ν | -1 | R | D | Т | Υ | L | 0 | - | |
| S | 0 | 0 | Е | S | Е | L | S | Α | - | Α | С | Ν | R | Α | Т | 1 | R | D | S |
| Е | F | Н | S | Т | - | Т | - | А | S | Α | R | Е | 0 | Н | - | ٧ | 0 | L | Е |
| Т | Т | G | Н | Α | U | L | R | В | Ν | Υ | Т | Υ | Т | R | С | Ν | Т | Е | Т |
| R | Ρ | Ν | 0 | R | Н | Т | ٧ | Т | 0 | Ν | Т | R | Ν | Ρ | Е | Α | С | R | Т |
| 0 | D | - | Е | K | Ν | S | | Е | U | L | Α | U | R | S | G | G | Е | Е | L |
| U | Υ | D | G | 0 | Ε | L | U | Н | R | 1 | Α | Α | Ρ | 0 | D | Α | Ρ | 1 | Е |
| G | Т | R | G | F | Е | R | Υ | R | L | D | Е | F | L | Е | 0 | Н | S | Т | R |
| Н | 0 | Α | Е | D | Ε | Т | 0 | В | В | Т | 0 | D | F | Е | D | С | 0 | Ν | S |
| D | W | 0 | L | ٧ | Ν | Ε | 0 | S | Т | Е | R | L | G | U | Κ | R | R | 0 | J |
| | Ν | В | Ν | U | - | S | D | Α | Е | U | G | Ν | L | Ν | В | U | Ρ | R | Α |
| G | Ρ | L | 0 | W | S | L | Υ | U | S | Ν | Α | Α | Α | Α | Ρ | Н | Α | F | - 1 |
| R | E | В | R | Α | В | W | Ν | Н | Υ | R | E | В | S | W | R | С | Α | Υ | L |
| | | | | | | _ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

ANVIL APOTHECARY BANK BARBER BOARDING HOUSE BOUNTY HUNTER BRIDLE **BUFFALO BILL CODY**

CHURCH

COAL MINE DALTON GANG

DEPUTY DODGE CITY GERONIMO GOLD RUSH HOLSTER HORSE TROUGH HORSESHOE JESSE JAMES

KEROSENE

SETTLERS LIVERY MAYOR SILVER DOLLAR MERCANTILE STOCKADE **PASTURE** PIG FEED TRAIL BOSS PROSPECTOR TRAIN STATION RANGE RAWHIDE WAGON TRAIN WRANGLER SADDLEBAG WYATT EARP SAGEBRUSH SASPARILLA

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Personal and romantic feelings may interfere greatly with your ability to work well. However, once involved in the process of your profession you forget those bothering personal thoughts. This period will bring about good conditions and communication among co-workers. You could be most persuasive with others and charismatic in your communication. You gain your confidence as you process through your day. You will also be confident when you express your viewpoint. Don't always be the last one to leave your place of work; others may take advantage of you. You cannot afford to neglect yourself. This evening the romantic frustrations have been solved and you are more clearheaded and able to know what you want.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your ability to concentrate is better than usual. Technical problems are easier for you to solve as you have learned to be more patient with yourself and feel better about taking more time to decipher the instructions or to do particular research. You successfully ignore the one who keeps telling you to hurry and you come through the day with more results, answers, progress and discoveries than ever before. You will find the person who wants you to hurry will calm eventually and the work atmosphere will build into a more beneficial one in the future. Endurance and patience with yourself is the answer toward your progress. Close relationships on the home front become deeper. You and a loved one laugh together and enjoy the evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

In your professional life, it is ideas that count, much more than narrowly personal concerns. A business will honor the employee that works to improve, enhance and help the business move forward. Intimate ties and business partnerships get the green light today. Business deals and superiors, as you know, can be handled best with tact. Progress is good. An understanding for all the people in your life is admirable and may be one of the reasons you are usually called on to help out in some cause. You might consider ways to help those that are homebound and may have a difficult time in seeing. Perhaps some recorded stories, biographies, etc., would bring much pleasure to those who can no longer drive or read. Music is most relaxing this evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This may be a challenging day in that you will need to become more absorbed in your work. There seems to be a time element that is important today. You are very enterprising and can encourage others to perform well. Creatively, you need to focus on completing projects and seeing things through to a successful conclusion. Mental stimulation is important after work and you seek to find a new game, new music, new restaurant, etc. If you are involved in a relationship you will find all sorts of improvements as your attention is focused on pleasing others. If you are looking for a relationship, the thrill of the chase might be most of the fun for now. This is a successful and progressive day. Your focus brings many rewards.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

All indications lead to your being extremely busy in the workplace today. There may be many instances where you will have to supply a solution to a particular problem. Be prepared to work quickly and take your allocated breaks when you can. You will bring an excellent idea to higher-ups as you write out a plan to adjust a routine or eliminate a step that has slowed a work process. Focus into your day by finding out where your energies can be best applied. You are good at expressing your authority with a sensitivity that many supervisors do not have. In-depth discussions and probing conversations find you at your mental best. The subject of adoption is of some interest to you this evening and you may find yourself attracted to the concept.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are likely to find yourself tuning into some pretty amazing things if you let your visionary side really wake up. This is not a great time for career or vocational decisions, but your creative ideas will bring about motivation for others. Some of your motivating ideas will be beneficial to you in a roundabout way. You seem to take the fluctuation of the day with a grain of salt and a bit of humor. You work with a good focus and are happy not to have any more responsibilities than you have. You are intuitively aware of any adjustments that are needed today, whether it is in the work you do or in how you communicate with the people around you. The need to adapt to the game of work, politics and performing on a personal level is satisfied.

Yesterday's Solution

World Currencies

RIMMARIPMELXOKITINI AXRUEZDY A FALL

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| BALBOA GOLD CORDOBA LEONE PATACA SOM |

HRYVNIA KINA KORUNA KRONA KRONE KROON DENAR DINAR DIRHAM DOLLAR DRAM ESCUDO

GOURDE

GUARANI

GUILDER

BIRR

BOLIVAR

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LEONE LILANGENI LITAS LOTI MANAT

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Yesterday's Solution

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INTERNATIONAL

Lesotho

00266

Sabah Hospital

Amiri Hospital

Chest Hospital

Adan Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital

Al-Razi Hospital

Kaizen center

Rawda

Adaliya

Khaldiya

Shamiya

Shuwaikh

Nuzha

Qadsiya

Dasmah

Shaab

Qibla

Mirqab

Sharq

Salmiya

Jabriya

Bayan

Mishref

Sabah

Jahra

W Hawally

New Jahra

West Jahra

South Jahra

North Jahra

North Jleeb

Ardhiya

Firdous

Omariya

N Khaitan

Fintas

Bneid Al-Gar

Ayoun Al-Qibla

Maidan Hawally

Abdullah Salem

Industrial Shuwaikh

Kaifan

Physiotherapy Hospital

Maternity Hospital

Farwaniya Hospital

Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital

INFORMATION

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Clinics

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

22517733

22517144

24848075

24849807

24848913

24814507

22549134

22526804

24814764

22515088

22532265

22531908

22518752

22459381

22451082

22456536

22465401

25746401

25316254

25623444

25388462

25381200

22630786

24810221

24770319

24575755

24772608

24775066

24775992

24311795

24884079

24892674

24719048

24710044

23900322

PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

| GOVERNORATE | PHARMACY | ADDRESS | PHONE |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| Ahmadi | Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan | Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd | 23915883 23715414 23726558 |
| Jahra | Modern Jahra Madina Munawara | Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92 | 24575518 24566622 |
| Capital | Ahlam Khaldiya Coop | Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop | 22436184 24833967 |
| Farwaniya | New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan | Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11 | 24734000 24881201 24726638 |
| Hawally | Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop | 25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241 |

STATE OF KUWAIT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

no warnings or weather watches

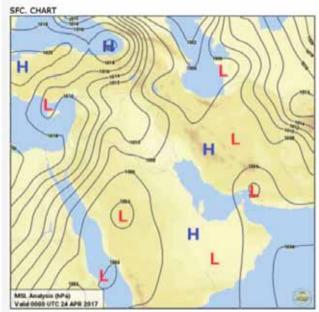


Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 24/04/2017-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 38 °C

By Day: Partly cloudy with light variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h with a chance for haze.

By Night: Partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening gradually at times south easterly changing to north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for blowing dust over open areas



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|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|

| | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------------|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | * | * | -35 | * |
| Expected Weather | partly cloudyto cloudy+scattered light rain+rising dust | partly cloudy | partly cloudy | partly cloudy + scattered rain |
| Min Temp °C | 22 | 21 | 22 | 20 |
| Max Temp °C | 35 | 37 | 38 | 35 |
| Wind Direction | north westerly | north westerly | north westerly to light variable | north easterly becoming south easterly |
| Wind Speed km/h | 15 - 40 | 15 - 38 | 08 - 30 | 10 - 30 |

| Kuwait Forecast | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Station | MIN °C REC | Max °C EXP |
| KUWAIT CITY | 27 | 39 |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 21 | 38 |
| ABDALY | 24 | 39 |
| BUBYAN | 22 | 32 |
| JAHRA | 25 | 39 |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 23 | 36 |
| SALMIYAH | 25 | 33 |
| AHMADI | 27 | 32 |
| JAL ALIYAH | 23 | 39 |
| QAROH ISLAND | 23 | 30 |
| UMM AL-MARADEM | 23 | 28 |
| NUWAISIB | 22 | 35 |
| WAFRA | 20 | 39 |
| SALMY | 24 | 38 |
| MUTRIBA | 24 | 40 |

| Recorded Yesterday at Kuw | ait Airport |
|--|-------------|
| Max Temp (°C) | 41 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 18 |
| Max Rel Hum (%) | 37 |
| Min Rei Hum (%) | 08 |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 28 SW |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR | 0 mm |
| | |

| _ | NOT WELL | 125525 |
|------------|----------|--------|
| Prayer Tin | nes | |
| Fajr | | 03:49 |
| Sunrise | | 05:13 |
| Zuhr | | 11:46 |
| Asr | | 15:22 |
| Sunset | | 18:20 |
| Isha | | 19:42 |

05:13

PRIVATE CLINICS

| Ophthalmologi: | sts | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor | 25622444 | | | | | |
| Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea | 25752222 | | | | | |
| Dr. Masoma Habeeb | 25321171 | | | | | |
| Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy | 25739999 | | | | | |
| Dr. Mohsen Abel | 25757700 | | | | | |
| Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl | 25732223 | | | | | |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly | 25732223 | | | | | |
| Ear, Nose & Throat | Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) | | | | | |
| Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner | 24555050 Ext 510 | | | | | |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali | 25644660 | | | | | |
| Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel | 25646478 | | | | | |
| Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah | 25311996 | | | | | |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory | 25731988 | | | | | |
| Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary | 22620166 | | | | | |
| Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz | 25651426 | | | | | |
| General Practition | ners | | | | | |
| Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi | 24555050 Ext 123 | | | | | |
| Dr. Yousef Al-Omar | 24719312 | | | | | |
| Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem | 23926920 | | | | | |
| Dr. Kathem Maarafi | 25730465 | | | | | |
| Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah | 25655528 | | | | | |
| Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi | 24577781 | | | | | |
| Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae | 25333501 | | | | | |
| Urologists | | | | | | |
| Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy | 22641534 | | | | | |
| Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul | 22639955 | | | | | |
| Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awad | li 22616660 | | | | | |
| Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) | 25313120 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

66703427

Soor Center

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

Dr. Leons Joseph

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

| Plastic Surgeons | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf | 22547272 | | | | |
| Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari | 22617700 | | | | |
| Dr. Abdel Quttainah | 25625030/60 | | | | |
| Family Doctor | | | | | |
| Dr Divya Damodar | 23729596/23729581 | | | | |
| Psychiatrists | | | | | |
| Dr. Esam Al-Ansari | 22635047 | | | | |
| Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan | 22613623/0 | | | | |
| Gynaecologists & O | bstetricians | | | | |
| DrAdrian arbe | 23729596/23729581 | | | | |
| Dr. Verginia s.Marin | 2572-6666 ext 8321 | | | | |
| Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan | 22655539 | | | | |
| Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytam | i 25343406 | | | | |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly | 25739272 | | | | |
| Dr. Salem soso | 22618787 | | | | |
| General Surgeons | | | | | |
| Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer | 22610044 | | | | |
| Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash | ner 25327148 | | | | |
| Internists, Chest & Heart | | | | | |
| Dr. Adnan Ebil | 22639939 | | | | |
| Dr. Mousa Khadada | 22666300 | | | | |
| Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan | 25728004 | | | | |
| Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra | 25355515 | | | | |
| Dr. Mobarak Aldoub | 24726446 | | | | |
| Dr Nasser Behbehani | 25654300/3 | | | | |

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| Paediatricians | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Dr. Khaled Hamadi | 25665898 | | | |
| Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed | 25340300 | | | |
| Dr. Zahra Qabazard | 25710444 | | | |
| Dr. Sohail Qamar | 22621099 | | | |
| Dr. Snaa Maaroof | 25713514 | | | |
| Dr. Pradip Gujare | 23713100 | | | |
| Dr. Zacharias Mathew | 24334282 | | | |
| Dermatology | | | | |
| Dr. Mohammed Salam | | | | |
| Bern University | 23845955 | | | |
| Dentists | | | | |
| Dr Anil Thomas | 3729596/3729581 | | | |
| Dr. Shamah Al-Matar | 22641071/2 | | | |
| Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed | 22562226 | | | |
| Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer | 22561444 | | | |
| Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan | 22619557 | | | |
| Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash | 22525888 | | | |
| Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan | 25653755 | | | |
| Dr. Bader Al-Ansari | 25620111 | | | |
| Neurologists | | | | |
| Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri | 25633324 | | | |
| Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan | 25345875 | | | |
| Gastrologists | | | | |
| Dr. Sami Aman | 22636464 | | | |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly | 25322030 | | | |
| Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali | 22633135 | | | |

Kaizen center

25716707

Noor Clinic

23845955

| | Endocrinologist | | | |
|-----|--|------------------|--|--|
| _ | Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman | 25339330 | | |
| | Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 | 1 | | |
| | Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924 | ļ | | |
| | Physiotherapists | &VD | | |
| | Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 | | | |
| | Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees | 22666288 | | |
| | Rheumatologists: | | | |
| -01 | Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 |) | | |
| 581 | Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah | 25722290 | | |
| | Internist, Chest & Heart | | | |
| | DR.Mohammes Akkad | 24555050 Ext 210 | | |
| | Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medici Head, Division of Cardiology | ne | | |
| | Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital | 25339667 | | |
| | Consultant Cardiologist | | | |
| | Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC | 2611555-2622555 | | |
| | Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123 | | | |

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

| INTERNAT CALL | | P | 9 |
|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | L |
| Afghanistan Albania | 0093 00355 | Lithuania Luxembourg | 00370 00352 |
| Algeria | 00213 | Macau | 00853 |
| Andorra Angola | 00376 | Macedonia Madagascar | 00389 |
| Anguilla | 001264 | Majorca | 0034 |
| Antiga Argentina | 001268 0054 | Malawi Malaysia | 00265 0060 |
| Armenia | 00374 | Maldives | 00960 |
| Australia Austria | 0061 0043 | Mali Malta | 00223 00356 |
| Azerbaijan | 00994 | Marshall Islands | 00692 |
| Bahamas Bahrain | 001242 00973 | Martinique Mauritania | 00596 00222 |
| Bangladesh | 00880 | Mauritius | 00230 |
| Barbados Belarus | 001246 00375 | Mayotte Mexico | 00269 0052 |
| Belgium | 0032 | Micronesia | 00691 |
| Belize Benin | 00501 00229 | Moldova Monaco | 00373 00377 |
| Bermuda | 001441 | Mongolia | 00976 |
| Bhutan Bolivia | 00975 00591 | Montserrat Morocco | 001664 00212 |
| Bosnia | 00387 | Mozambique | 00258 |
| Botswana Brazil | 00267 0055 | Myanmar (Burma) Namibia | 0095 00264 |
| Brunei | 00673 | Nepal | 00204 |
| Bulgaria Burkina | 00359 | Netherlands Netherlands Antilles | 0031 |
| Burundi | 00226 00257 | New Caledonia | 00599 |
| Cambodia | 00855 | New Zealand | 0064 |
| Cameroon Canada | 00237 001 | Nicaragua Nigar | 00505 00227 |
| Cape Verde | 00238 | Nigeria | 00234 |
| Cayman Islands Central African | 001345 00236 | Niue Norfolk Island | 00683 00672 |
| Chad | 00235 | N. Ireland (UK) | 0044 |
| Chile China | 0056 0086 | North Korea Norway | 00850 0047 |
| Colombia | 0057 | Oman | 00968 |
| Comoros Congo | 00269 00242 | Pakistan Palau | 0092 00680 |
| Cook Islands | 00682 | Panama | 00507 |
| Costa Rica Croatia | 00506 00385 | Papua New Guinea | 00675 00595 |
| Cuba | 0053 | Paraguay Peru | 00595 |
| Cyprus (Northern) | 00357 | Philippines | 0063 |
| Cyprus (Northern) Czech Republic | 0090392 00420 | Poland Portugal | 0048 00351 |
| Denmark Diago Correio | 0045 | Puerto Rico | 001787 |
| Diego Garcia Djibouti | 00246 00253 | Qatar Romania | 00974 0040 |
| Dominica | 001767 | Russian Federation | 007 |
| Dominican Republic Ecuador | 00593 | Rwanda Saint Helena | 00250 00290 |
| Egypt | 0020 | Saint Kitts | 001869 |
| El Salvador England (UK) | 00503 0044 | Saint Lucia Saint Pierre | 001758 00508 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 00240 | Saint Vincent | 001784 |
| Eritrea Estonia | 00291 00372 | Samoa US Samoa West | 00684 00685 |
| Ethiopia | 00251 | San Marino | 00378 |
| Falkland Islands Faroe Islands | 00500 00298 | Sao Tome Saudi Arabia | 00239 00966 |
| Fiji | 00679 | Scotland (UK) | 0044 |
| Finland France | 00358 | Senegal Seychelles | 00221 00284 |
| French Guiana | 00594 | Sierra Leone | 00232 |
| French Polynesia Gabon | 00689 00241 | Singapore Slovakia | 0065 00421 |
| Gambia | 00220 | Slovenia | 00386 |
| Georgia Germany | 00995 0049 | Solomon Islands Somalia | 00677 00252 |
| Ghana | 00233 | South Africa | 0027 |
| Gibraltar Greece | 00350 0030 | South Korea Spain | 0082 0034 |
| Greenland | 0030 | Sri Lanka | 0034 |
| Grenada Guadeloupe | 001473 00590 | Sudan Suriname | 00249 00597 |
| Guadeloupe | 00590 | Swaziland | 00597 |
| Guatemala Guinea | 00502 00224 | Sweden Switzerland | 0046 0041 |
| Guyana | 00592 | Syria | 00963 |
| Haiti Holland (Netherlands | 00509 | Serbia Taiwan | 00381 |
| Honduras | 00504 | Tanzania | 00886 00255 |
| Hong Kong | 00852 | Thailand | 0066 |
| Hungary Ibiza (Spain) | 0036 0034 | Togo Tonga | 00228 00676 |
| Iceland | 00354 | Tokelau | 00690 |
| India Indian Ocean | 0091 00873 | Trinidad Tunisia | 001868 00216 |
| Indonesia | 0062 | Turkey | 0090 |
| Iran Iraq | 0098 00964 | Tuvalu Uganda | 00688 00256 |
| Ireland | 00353 | Ukraine | 00380 |
| Italy Ivory Coast | 0039 00225 | United Arab Emirates United Kingdom | 00976 0044 |
| Jamaica | 00225 | Uruguay Uruguay | 0044 |
| Japan Jordan | 0081 00962 | USA Uzbekistan | 001 00998 |
| Jordan Kazakhstan | 00962 | Vanuatu | 00998 |
| Kenya | 00254 | Venezuela | 00582 |
| Kiribati Kuwait | 00686 00965 | Vietnam Virgin Islands UK | 0084 001284 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 00996 | Virgin Islands US | 001340 |
| Laos Latvia | 00856 00371 | Wales (UK) Yemen | 0044 00967 |
| Lebanon | 00961 | Yugoslavia | 00381 |
| Liberia Libya | 00231 00218 | Zambia Zimbabwe | 00260 00263 |

GOSSIP



Gallagher's new album set for November release

November. The former Oasis rocker has been working with producer David Holmes at the music maestro's home in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and at his private studio at his house in London and he has spilled that it will be out by November. Appearing on his close friend Russell Brand's Radio X show, he was guizzed by the comedian as to when fans can expect to hear his next batch of songs. He replied: "I believe it's slated for a November release." When pushed for a song title, he said: "There's one just called instrumental number three." Noel, 49, previously revealed that he expected the third High Flying Birds LP - the follow-up to 2015's 'Chasing Yesterday' - to be finished by June before he makes his annual trip to Glastonbury with his wife Sara MacDonald. And the 'AKA... What a Life!' hitmaker admitted he is very excited about unveiling the album to the world because Holmes - who is famous for his movie soundtrack work - got him to record in a totally different way for him. In a 2016 interview with BBC Radio 6, he said: "I think we're into the home straight now. I've been given the deadline which is to have everything finished - mastered,

oel Gallagher says his new album is scheduled to be released in artwork, videos, the lot done by the time I go to Glastonbury in June". "All the songs that I was writing towards making a record have not been used because when we decided to make a record with David Holmes the way he works is that all the writing gets done in the studio. So I started this record at his house in Belfast. The process is the complete opposite to the way that I've always worked. With this, you have no idea what you've got until it's there, and the end results are great because they're constantly evolving." Noel's younger brother and former Oasis bandmate Liam Gallagher is also putting the finishing touches to his own album. The 44year-old singer is releasing his debut solo LP, titled 'As You Were', and the wild rocker has previously told the band's fans to expect 2017 to be "the vear of the face off" between him and Noel - who he has barely spoken to since the guitarist quit Oasis in 2009 following a backstage fight between the siblings. In a Twitter rant, Liam posted: "2017 the year of the face off Wright vs wrong Real Vs fake Love vs Hate as you were LFUKING x "He's not the messiahs he's a vet NORTY boy ... Chilli putter Carlo void man (sic)"

ED SHEERAN IS RUMORED TO QUIT THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

d Sheeran is rumored to quit the music industry to pursue a "more ■normal life". The 26-year-old vocalist made his comeback earlier this year when he released two new singles 'Shape of You' and 'Castle On The Hill' from his 'Divide' album after taking a one-year hiatus, but it has been reported the flame-haired musician is contemplating taking a more permanent break because he has "achieved everything there is to achieve". Speaking about the award-winning artist - who picked up the gong for Song of the Year at the 2016 Grammy Awards of 'Thinking Out Loud' - a source told the Daily Star newspaper: "Ed has pretty much achieved everything there is to achieve in music. "He absolutely loves what he does and is riding the wave of his success at the moment, but at the same time he wants a more normal life." And it has been reported the 'A Team' hit-

maker, who is currently dating Cherry Seaborn, would gladly put his career on hold for his partner if their relationship was to progress on to the next step and he was to marry and start a family. The insider continued: "When or if he gets married he wants to put his wife and kids first and not his career. If that means going AWOL for years then so be it." Ed is set to headline Glastonbury festival this year, and he is also travelling around the UK as part of his latest tour, but it is rumored his busy work schedule will be a "big test" for him and his girlfriend because "every day" for the next 12 months he is believed to be "practically full". The source said: "The big test is if the relationship survives this album and the tour, "When they got together Ed was on his year off but every day in his schedule for the next year is practically full."



Will Smith to join DJ Jazzy Jeff for UK festival

reuniting to headline the LIVEWIRE Festival this summer. The 48-year-old actor-and-rapper is getting back on stage with his long-time friend whom he performed with under the name DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince, a nod to his TV series 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air' - to top the bill at the music event in Blackpool, England, which will be held over the weekend of August 25 to August 27. Not only will festival-goers see the pair perform their biggest hits, such as 'Summertime' and 'Boom! Shake the Room', but they will also be able to watch The Jacksons and some of the biggest pop hits of the 1980s as part of Pete Waterman's Hit Factory including the producer himself as well as Jason Donovan. A LIVEWIRE spokesperson said: "This is LIVEWIRE Festival's first year and we are thrilled to be launching this fabulous weekend of music. We can't wait to bring Will Smith and DJ Jazzy Jeff, The Jacksons, Jason Donovan and more to Blackpool, the best location in the UK for

Fill Smith and DJ Jazzy Jeff are entertainment." The festival will be held at the Blackpool Headland Arena and tickets go on sale on Tuesday at 10am from livewirefestival.co.uk. Jeff, 51, is a regular on the festival circuit and has made no secret of his wish to get his friend Will back on stage with him. Jeff's dream would be for the duo to bring their brand of hip hop to the world famous Glastonbury Festival. Speaking to BANG Showbiz previously, he said: "We've had interest in Glastonbury, whenever the decision comes down, I'm there. The hardest part of us doing this [reuniting] is the clearing of the schedule. I tour about 180 days out of the year but he makes movies so it's more on his side of having to clear a schedule for us to be able to rehearse and go on the road. Sometimes it gets a little hard with him being one of the biggest movie stars in the world to free up his time. But he absolutely, positively wants to do this."



Lady Gaga is always trying to 'expand' her creative bubble

ady Gaga never stops trying to "expand her bubble" creatively, according to her visual director Richy Jackson. The pair started working together back in 2011 when Richy became her lead choreographer and he has been responsible for helping the pop megastar create some of her most iconic moments, including her unforgettable 'Telephone' video with BeyoncÈ, her Super Bowl halftime show and her headline performances at this year's Coachella Festival. Richy, 38, says the greatest thing about working with Gaga, is that she never wants to stall as an artist and is always determined to push herself and everyone who is part of her team. In an interview with Billboard, he said: "I think we've learned to continue pushing our creative bubbles. She'll challenge me to try this or go with that. I'll say, 'OK, how do we make it faster or slower? How do we turn it another way?' I always think about where we've come from and where we're going on. For instance, for 'John Wayne', I knew that was about her intense relationships with men, so I wanted the dance to feel rougher. I loved the couple section I created for her where she's hopping on the guy's back and still dancing and singing. That's the beauty of our organic, creative relationship: we both keep trying to expand each other's bubble." Richy - who has also worked with Usher, Will Smith, Katy Perry, Nicki Minaj, Missy Elliot and *NSYNC among many more big names - is very proud of the stage show he and Gaga created for Coachella. The dance expert was delighted when their rock vision for the annual event - which is held at the Empire Polo Club in Indio, California - was realized fully by Gaga for her fans. He said: "What we decided to do with this show [Coachella] is play with the many genres within [Lady Gaga]. She can go from a pop vibe to a rock style. We found a way to mix all her vibes with the set. When we performed 'Just Dance' it was more of her and the band, and she remixed it a bit at the top. Normally, we have her with all the dancers. It's usually more of a pop visual, as opposed to Coachella where [we made it] more of a rock visual that allows the band to soar." And Richy is excited for the rest of 2017 which will see Gaga take her 'Joanne World Tour' around the globe. He said: "With Lady Gaga, it's going to be the 'Joanne Tour', I'm really excited about that. It's going to be fun to bring that album to life, so people can see the vision. I love going on tour and seeing all the fans in different cities. They're so excited and wel-

LUPITA NYONG'O AND RIHANNA WANT TO STAR IN A MOVIE TOGETHER

upita Nyong'o and Rihanna want to star in a movie together. An old photograph of the '12 Years A Slave' star and the singer and part-time actress sat next to each other at a 2014 Miu Miu fashion show resurfaced on Sunday prompting Twitter users to inventing a plotline for a potential heist movie featuring the pair. But the hysteria the imaginary project created on Twitter - with 79,000 likes and 28,000 re-tweets - has prompted the two stars to accept the invitation. Nyong'o, 34, tweeted: "I'm down if you are @rihanna (sic)" And Rihanna - who was most recently seen in TV show 'Bates Motel' as Marion Crane, the character who is murdered in the shower by Norman Bates - agreed to get on board for the film too. The 29-year-old Bajan beauty tweeted: "I'm in Pit'z (sic)" One Twitter user set the project in motion by tweeting the picture with the caption: "Rihanna looks like she scams rich white men and lupita is the computer smart best friend that helps plan the scans (sic)." Many fans responded with potential plot and script lines, and even 'Whiplash' producer Helen Estabrook waded in on the filmmaking. She offered to produce, by tweeting: ".@Lupita_Nyongo @rihanna I will more than happily produce this movie". But fans will have to watch this space to see if anything comes of it.



Jon Favreau goes swimming with his kids if his films flop

on Favreau goes swimming with his kids if one of his films is a flop. The 50-year-old actor-and-director's last project was working on the remake of Disney classic 'The Jungle Book', a critical and box office success, but he accepts that not every movie he puts out will do so well. If the response to one of his projects is not what he was hoping for, then Favreau takes some time out with his three kids - son Max, 15, and two daughters, Madeleine, 14, and nine-year-old Brighton Rose, aged nine - and his wife Joya Tillem to get into a different head space. Speaking during a Q&A session at the Tribeca Film Festival where actress Scarlett Johansson was the interviewer, Favreau revealed that every time he "would start to get bummed out" by the reaction to his 2011 sci-fi film 'Cowboys and Aliens' he'd go swimming with his kids as a distraction. Favreau said: "By the end of the summer, I was so tanned. I would look in the mirror and I'd say, 'I'm going out to the pool a lot.' 'Cowboys and Aliens' - which starred Daniel Craig, Olivia Wilde and Harrison Ford - was considered to be a financial disappointment, after it took just \$174.8 million at the box office, despite costing \$163 million to make. It received mixed reviews, with critics praising the acting and production but panning some inconsistencies in the plot. But when he does take the directors' seat for a film, Favreau admits he gets "completely immersed" in the project. He explained: "When you direct it, you have to love it, especially one of those

that takes like two or three years to

do. Love it to the point of obsession. So there are things that I might want to see or be involved with or act in but that's a lot different than I have to live, breathe, sleep it, dream it. If I'm going to do my best work, I have to be completely immersed." Favreau has been entrusted by Walt Disney

again. So, I have to really examine all of those plot points. Also, the myths are very strong in that, so you're hitting something even deeper than the movie sometimes." And in order to tap into the viewers' best loved movie moments, Favreau said he tries to recall his own memories. He said: "I



Pictures to helm the remake of 'The Lion King', which stars the likes of Donald Glover as Simba and James Earl Jones as Mufasa, and he admits he feels the pressure for his work to live up to fans' "expectations" when re-working these Disney animated classics. He said: "What I'm trying to do is honor what was there ... There are certain expectations people have. 'The Jungle Book' was 50 years ago; 'Lion King' was 20, and people grew up with it in an age of video where they're watching it over and over

remember Mowgli and the snake. I remember the snake's eyes. I remember Baloo going down the river and Mowgli riding on him like a raft. I made a big list, and I said those are the images we definitely need ... It's about the audience having the experience they're hoping they have, and if you can surprise them along the way, they'll enjoy it even more, but you gotta live up to what they want, so you get greater pressure with these beloved stories."

MUSIC & MOVIES



A woman having her hair done during an event for fans of China's boy band sensation TFBoys "The Fighting Boys" at a university in Beijing. — AFP photos



A woman holding her mobile phone carrying a picture of Roy Wang from China's boy band sensation TFBoys "The Fighting Boys" during an event.

FOR CHINESE FANS, POPULAR TEEN BAND ARE MAMA'S BOYS

iang Shanshan considers herself a mother of two: one child is her biological son, the other is a 16-year-old ■Chinese teen pop star she has never met. She is a "mother fan" and part of a group of women in their mid-20s to 60s whose maternal instincts are set off by China's boy band sensation TFBoys("The Fighting Boys"). The band has won millions of Chinese followers since their 2013 debut, rapidly amassing a following ardent enough to buy a giant ad in New York's Times Square for a band member's birthday. Liang insists her feelings are no fleeting fancy: Just like a real mother, her devotion to TFBoys' singer Roy Wang (Wang Yuan) is unwavering.

"Our fandom isn't shallow," she explains, adding: "I intend to follow him through his entire career." While tween fans are attracted to the teenagers' boyish good looks, Liang and her friends are drawn to their cherubic personas and wholesome values, with songs that explore the trials of growing up ("Practise Book for Youth," "Imperfect Kid"). Some, like 24-yearold Yang Andan, even make annual pilgrimages to Wang's hometown of Chongqing in southern Sichuan province. "The more I learn about (Wang), the more I like him," Yang said.

Empty nest

Liang's family has embraced her fandom. Her four-year-old refers to TFBoys as his "big brothers," and her husband accompanies her to concerts to see Wang, describing him as their "kid". Anthony Fung, a Chinese University of Hong Kong professor who studies pop culture, said this trend of mothers who "worship young idols" began with teen stars of Korean dramas, which are hugely popular in China. TFBoys are "quite Korean in aesthetic", he pointed out, adding that so-called mother fans are "repeating the same kind of relationship where they will follow an idol... from the beginning to the end".

"They love that kind of healthy, cute boy image," he explained. Nearly a quarter of TFBoys fans are at least 30 years old-double the band members' age, according to a survey by Chinese media giant Sina. Fung says in some cases the obsession with TFBoys is a symptom of empty nest syndrome. "The older fans may have kids who are grown up, so now they're looking for someone else to be at the centre of their attention," he said. Affluent Chinese women, many of whom have



Woman handing out leaflets during an event for fans of China's boy band sensation TFBoys "The Fighting Boys".

A group of women reacting as a poster of Roy Wang from China's boy band sensation TFBoys "The Fighting Boys" blows over during an event for fans.

only one child to spoil thanks to decades of the one-child policy, are more than happy to splash out on their celebrity kids.

To celebrate the birthday of TFBoys member Jackson Yi (Yiyang Qianxi) in November, fans flew a cake-shaped hot air balloon over New York and held a party on a cruise ship in Shanghai. Sometimes, their loyalty is rewarded. On his 15th birthday, Wang debuted a song dedicated to his fans called "Because I Met You."

'My heart hurts'

A recent university graduate who works at a Beijing-based Internet company, Yang said she has learned a lot from the fans in Chongqing to coat the streets with TFBoys posters in

celebration of Wang's birthday, spending several sleepless nights on enormous decorations. She has even seen her idol in person a handful of times, at meet-and-greets and as part of airport welcoming parties. "Every time I see him I feel like I haven't seen enough," Yang said. "But my heart hurts thinking about how hard he works. I hope he'll have more time to rest."

Aside from his entertainment career, Wang also works with several charities and represented China earlier this year at the United Nations Youth Forum in New York. The schedule doesn't leave him much time for his real family, which the star is only able to see a handful of times a year. "My dream has always been to make enough money to buy my parents and singer nearly ten years her junior. Every year, she gathers with grandparents a house," Wang said during a TV interview in

Yang and Liang, who addressed each other by their fan aliases ("Mushroom" and "Goldfish," respectively), both vowed to remain loyal to Wang, whom they firmly believe is more talented and a better person than the other TFBoys. Even when her childlike icon is a child no more, Liang said-in an echo of a TFBoys song-they can indulge in the "very joyful process of growing up together." Like young people everywhere, however, TFBoys's more traditional teenybopper fans are not always happy to share their idols with people of their parents' generation. "A girl at one of the concerts said my husband was too old to be there," Liang said with a shrug. — AFP



In This file photo candles sit near the site where 21 people died and some 500 were injured in a stampede during the Love Parade in Duisburg, western Germany. — AP

German court allows trial over Love Parade disaster

German court ruled yesterday that 10 people will face trial accused on any gently causing a catastrophic stampeople will face trial accused of neglipede at a 2010 "Love Parade" techno music festival that killed 21 people. Overturning a year-old ruling, the court decided that four event organizers and six officials of the city of Duisburg will face charges including negligent manslaughter and causing bodily harm. Prosecutors, victims' relatives and survivors have pointed to chaotic crowd management as the cause of the disaster in which revelers were crushed, trampled to death and suffocated.

More than 650 people were injured in the mass panic as pressure from a heaving sea of hundreds of thousands of young people squashed the victims against fences and walls. A Duisburg court a year ago dismissed the criminal case, casting doubt on an expert report on the disaster, in a ruling that angered victims' groups. But now, after an appeal, a higher panel in Duesseldorf overturned that ruling, saying there was a "sufficiently" high chance of convicting those responsible. It said in a statement there was "cause to believe" that shortcomings in organizers' duty of care caused the deaths and injuries.

The court did not set a starting date for the trial. Negligent manslaughter carries up to five years in prison. Prosecutors blamed serious planning errors for the July 24, 2010 tragedy at the site, a former cargo rail depot in the western industrial city. Eight men and 13 women were killed-included seven foreigners, from Australia, China, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain. The city mayor at the time, Adolf Sauerland, became the prime target of public anger, accused of having ignored warnings that the summer festival was a disaster waiting to happen, and was forced to resign by a 2012 city referendum.

The Love Parade started as an underground event in the former West Berlin in 1989 and was held there most years until 2006, at times drawing over one million people. Following wrangling over permits and arguments over the mountains of trash left behind, the festival moved from Berlin to cities in western Germany's industrial Ruhr region until the tragedy of 2010. The deadly disaster led organizers to declare that the Love Parade would never be held again "out of respect for the victims". — AFP

Ivorian drummer boy turned globetrotting virtuoso

aco Sery was a kibanging on tin cans before a job at a Club Med in Ivory Coast opened the way to drumming for Congo's rumba king Papa Wemba as well as Nina Simone and other jazz greats. The Ivorian drummer has performed with Manu Dibango and Dee Dee Bridgewater, displaying a talent and fervor that could only lead to Paris, a European hub for mixing and merging global styles. French jazzman Eddy Louiss, a genius of the Hammond organ, took him on for a tour. "That was amazing. People made me listen to all the great musicians. I also found myself playing in front of them," recalls Sery, now nearly 61 years old.

In his music career Sery became a core member of Sixun, an experimental jazz fusion band that saw the light of day in 1984 and made a dozen records by 2010, while the musicians also nurtured sideprojects. He befriended Jaco Pastorius and Wayne Shorter, famed US members of the pioneering jazzrock fusion band Weather Report founded by the late Austrian keyboard wizard Joe Zawinul. "Zawinul was a great guy," Sery says. "We played together often." He became drummer in the Zawinul Syndicate, an international ensemble whose release "My People" was nominated for a 1997 Grammy Award for Best World Music album.

In 2009, a live double album by Zawinul's band, called "75" and featuring Sery, won a Grammy for Best Contemporary Jazz Album. Born into a family of 18 children in Divo, a small town 180 kilometres (112 miles) west of Abidjan, Sery would accompany older sister Lucie to local dance contests. "She won little things, a bit of money, and I immersed myself in the music. I wanted to do everything like her," Paco recalls, but he was mostly infatuated with the

"In the end, I built myself a kit with boxes for the



This file photo shows Ivorian jazz drummer Paco Sery performing on a stage during an hommage to the victims of March 13, 2016 terror attack at the resort of Grand Bassam, east of Abidian. — AFP

bass drum, large cans of tomatoes for tom toms, lids for cymbals. I even made a pedal out of wood and elastic for the bass drum." From such makeshift beginnings, Paco was totally self-taught. "I watched the drummers, their movements, the way they did things and later I imitated them."

'Give it a try!'

The racket infuriated his father. "Every afternoon, since I couldn't play at my dad's, I went to play at my aunt's. That was fun for her with her alloco (fried plantain) business. She sold allocos with that!" Paco was just 10 when he tried his luck at a dance hall. "I managed to sneak into the hall and during the break, I asked the bandleader, who was also the drummer and the singer, if I could have a go. 'You're a child, you've got a cheek,' he said. 'Give it a try!' So

I did. All the musicians were surprised. 'We'll hire you,' the bandleader said."

"I told myself that it wasn't worth asking my father and went off with them at the age of 10. We went to Dabou and I earned 30,000 CFA francs (45 euros) a month as well as board. In those days, that was enormous," he added. The child wonder frequented night clubs, concert venues and dances, and he was invited to perform on television. He played with artists of all kinds, from the stars of Ivorian pop to rumba musicians and singers covering American and French hits.

'These are super memories because every singer I played with was a new experience. That's how I got my musical training. When I was young, I didn't want to get stuck in a rut. I wanted to take everything in, discover and play it all. All styles. That hasn't changed. Today I still want to play everything: jazz, coupe-decale, hip-hop, rumba, rock, pop music, rap... it doesn't matter," the musician laughs.

Composing by ear

In the 1970s at Club Med Sery was a "drummer-DJ at the nightclub" and "water-skiing instructor by day", incidentally gaining a part in the cult 1978 French comedy film "Les Bronzes". He remained in Ivory Coast for another half-dozen years before trying his luck in Europe. He frequented the most renowned jazz dens of Paris from the Chapelle des Lombards to the River Bop and Le Chat gui Peche. Once he was established, he had a hand in launching the Sunset-Sunside club in the heart of town.While with Sixun, Sery toured with Pastorius and gained a painful insight into self-destruction with drugs. —AFP



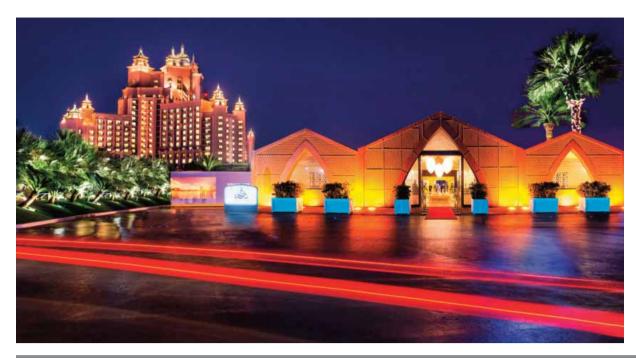
This image released by Disney-Marvel shows Zoe Saldana, from left, Karen Gillan, Chris Pratt, Dave Bautista and Rocket, voiced by Bradley Cooper, in a scene from, "Guardians Of The Galaxy Vol. 2." — AP

James Gunn to write, direct 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 31

arvel's continuing space opera "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" has yet to hit theaters, but plans are already in the works for the third installment.

Yesterday, James Gunn announced on Facebook that he would be returning to write and direct "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3." Gunn also wrote and directed the first and second "Guardians" films. The franchise stars Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista and features the voices of Bradley Cooper and Vin Diesel. In his post, Gunn said that "Guardians 3" will come after 2018's "Avengers: Infinity War" and conclude the story of this iteration of Guardians of the Galaxy, helping to launch Marvel's next 10 years. "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" hits theaters on May 5. — AP

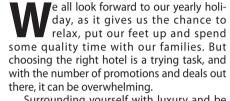
FEATURES





Atlantis, The Palm: A world full of luxury

By Faten Omar



Surrounding yourself with luxury and be treated like celebrities is part of the spoils at Atlantis, The Palm, the luxury hotel resort in the United Arab Emirates. "Atlantis, The Palm is a world full of luxury that everyone seeks. It offers adventure, diving, a water park, mall and hospitality services for families to enjoy," said Linda Abdul Hay, Director, Public Relations of Atlantis, The Palm.

Under the umbrella of Kerzner International Holdings Limited, a leading international developer and operator of destination resorts, Atlantis, The Palm is in Kuwait to meet travel and tourism agencies to discuss the needs of Kuwaiti citizens. "'Understand your customer' is our motto to promote Atlantis, The Palm. Travel and tourism companies are communicating with Kuwaitis on a daily basis - they are our ambas-Linda Abdul Hay, Director sadors in Kuwait who will give us a view of Public Relations of Atlantis, Kuwaitis' priorities," Linda said.

Designed with the theme of the Lost City of Atlantis, The Palm Atlantis Hotel has an underwater tunnel, which is a profound experience. Underwater sights such as ruins of lost civilizations and shipwrecks make it an amazing and memorable experience. Hotel Atlantis provides more than 1,539 rooms and suites, including seven signature suites. Every room offers a spectacular view of the artificial

Hotel visitors can also take advantage of Aguaventure Water Park, one of the top water parks in the Middle East and Europe. The Aquaventure Water Park consists of rides with cascades, tidal waves and rapids, and the Mesopotamian-styled The Tower of Neptune Temple, reaching over 30 m into the sky and featuring seven heart-throbbing water slides two of which catapult riders through sharkfilled lagoons. "At Atlantis we have a vet and specialist nutritionist and professional trainees to deal with marine organisms,"

The Ambassador Lagoon and The Lost Chambers Aquarium combined are home to over 65,000 marine animals and more than 250 species of fish at Atlantis. More than 100 team members care for marine animals at Atlantis. They include aquarists, water quality technicians, veterinarians and even chefs. The Ambassador Lagoon is an 11-million-liter marine habitat and one of the top 10 largest aguariums in the world.

It is also the largest open air aquarium in Africa and the Middle East at just over three million gallons. The fish in The Ambassador Lagoon have their favorite dishes. The baby white tip reef sharks love milkfish, angelfish devour romaine lettuce and bowmouth quitar sharks love blue crab

With many different species of rays in The Ambassador Lagoon, they are a firm favorite with guests. Rays are amongst the oldest surviving group of jawed vertebrates, first appearing in the fossil record during the Lower Jurassic (about 150 million years ago) and during the Ancient Greek times, dentists used the venom from the stingray's spine as

Since Dive Atlantis opened in July 2015, dive teams certified 159 divers in 2015 and 205 divers in 2016. The number of people that snorkel in The Ambassador Lagoon averages about 40 guests per day. On average, 20 guests are lucky enough to dive in The Ambassador Lagoon every week. In order to train, the divers log 110 hours of dives every

It is also a place to attract celebrities and important activities such as Redbull's waterslide skateboarding at Aquaventure. Shahrukh Khan, the king of Bollywood, had an amazing experience shooting 'Happy New Year' at the Atlantis. In 2016, three episodes of "The Real Housewives of Melbourne" were based at the Palm Atlantis and "Housewives of Beverly Hills" was also filmed here. Kim Kardashian West has also been known to stay at the hotel and this year filmed two episodes of "Keeping up with the Kardashians".





Weird clouds may have inspired 'The Scream'

he psychedelic clouds in Edvard Munch's iconic "The Scream" have alternatively been interpreted as a metaphor for mental anguish or a literal depiction of volcanic fallout. Yesterday, scientists hypothesized that the Norwegian painter's inspiration may in fact have been rare clouds which form in cold places at high altitude. The first version of "The Scream" was released in 1893. It depicts a dark humanlike figure clutching its head in apparent horror against the backdrop of a swirling, redorange sky. In 2004, American astronomers theorized that Munch had painted a sky brightly coloured by particle pollution from the 1883 Krakatoa

The Palm.

volcanic eruption. But the new paper, presented at a meeting of the European Geosciences Union in Vienna, said he more likely depicted a rare sighting of "mother-ofpearl" clouds over Oslo. A volcanic outburst does not account for the "waviness" of Munch's clouds, Helene Muri, a researcher at the University of Oslo, told

journalists in Vienna. Furthermore, volcano-tinted sunsets tend to be common for several years after an outburst, "whereas Munch's scary vision was seemingly a one-time experience, the way he described it in his journal," she said. In his diary, Munch wrote of the sky turning suddenly blood red. Mother-of-pearl or "nacreous" clouds, require unusual conditions to form-very cold temperatures in the atmosphere, in a high altitude band of about 20-30 kilometers (12-19 miles). They tend to appear at high latitudes in winter. Because they are thin, these clouds are typically not visible during daytime, but before sunrise or

after sunset. "We do know that there were mother-of-pearl clouds in the Oslo area in the late 19th century," said Muri. At least one scientist documented the phenomenon and wrote "they are so beautiful you could believe you are in another world", she added. Similar sightings of nacreous clouds over southeast Norway in 2014, and their striking resemblance to Munch's painting, is what sparked the latest research.

"Edvard Munch could well have been terrified when the sky all of a sudden turned 'bloodish red'," the researchers concluded. "Hence, there is a high probability that it was an event of mother-ofpearl clouds which was the background for Munch's experience in nature, and for his iconic Scream." Muri conceded the latest was but "another hypothesis". "There are other hypotheses. But of course, we are natural scientists, we tend to look for answers in nature, whilst the psychologists have suggested it was inner torment that made Munch paint 'The Scream'." — AFP



Alia Adi, founder of YouTube cooking channel Basmaty World, poses with her YouTube award at her studio in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. — AP photos



Alia Adi works at her studio in Dubai, United Arab

FROM A SYRIAN KITCHEN TO TV CEO: AN ENTREPRENEUR'S STORY

or Syrian cook and entrepreneur Alia Adi, the kitchen is also a filming set. Here, she creates Arabic-language recipe videos, cooking food ranging from Middle Eastern specialties to all-around favorites like brownies and ice cream. Adi is the founder and CEO of Basmaty World, an Arabic-language cooking channel on YouTube that she is transforming into a network that brings cooks from across the region under one brand. Basmaty generates around 1 million views per month on YouTube and has more than 300,000 follow-

ers on Facebook. She is part of a growing group of entrepreneurs who have chosen Dubai as a ground for growing their business. Two of the region's biggest success stories are based in Dubai. Valued at some \$1 billion, ride-hailing app Careem and Souq.com, which was acquired by Amazon last month, have given the local entrepreneurship scene a boost. Adi started her business in 2011 in her hometown of Damascus, Syria, working with a small team of videographers and Syrian chefs, known in the Middle East for producing some of the most complex and delicious Mediterranean dishes.

"As I was searching for recipes in Arabic, I saw that there was a gap, there was not much out there, so the idea emerged this way, "she said. "I decided why don't I do a website that provides reliable and highquality recipes in Arabic to serve the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region." Soon after the war erupted in Syria that same year, Adi left Damascus. To keep her business running, she quickly taught herself how to shoot and edit videos featuring herself as a passionate cook. For Adi, cooking means potentially big business with lucrative deals. In 2014, Japan's recipe portal Cookpad

acquired Lebanese cooking site Shahiya for a reported \$13.5 million.

Adi's videos take hard work behind the scenes, including collaborating with brands for recipe creation and product placement. She spends hours shooting video and photos of her recipe creations, before editing and posting the mouth-watering final results for her more than 180,000 subscribers on YouTube. On this particular shoot, Adi whips up a popular Levantine dip called lebnah, made fresh from yoghurt she strained overnight. She chops pistachios and apricots before drizzling honey on one lebnah dish. On another, she adds chopped olives, sundried tomatoes drenched in olive oil, and

more olive oil for good measure. Adi says she has saved thousands of dollars in licensing fees and other governmentrelated costs for her business thanks to help from In5, a government-backed incubator that assists entrepreneurs. In5 also offers Dubai-based entrepreneurs access to work space, training and mentorship programs, networking events and investors. "I think one of the major challenges for young entrepreneurs here is related to funding... because ideas, there are a lot of ideas. There's a lot of creativity," she said. Adi initially relocated to London after leaving Syria, but despite it being easier and cheaper to establish her business there, she settled on Dubai to be closer to her customers and clients. "Dubai for me was the best location to do that. It's the country that provides most value for me, as a startup," she said. "Leaving Syria, I was looking for somewhere stable where I could continue and grow my business so Dubai was definitely the number one option." — AP



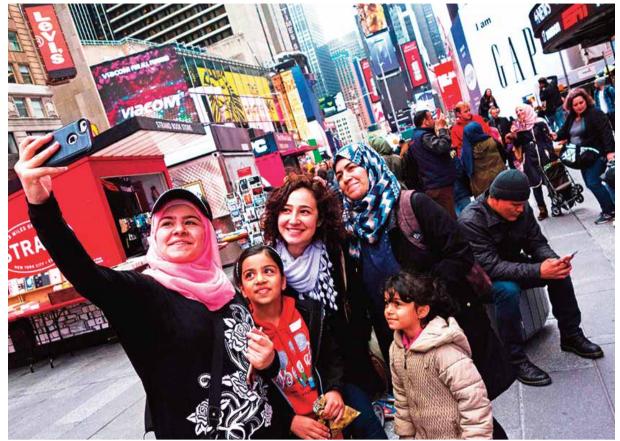
This file photo taken on May 23, 2008 shows a visitor viewing Edvard Munch's painting "The Scream" at the Munch Museum in Oslo.— AFP



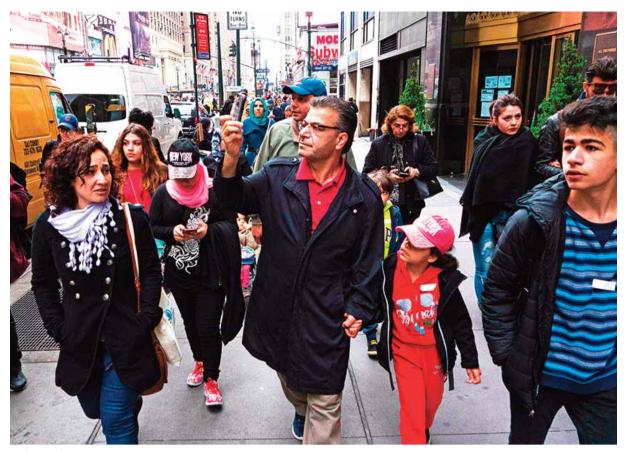


Alia Adi works at her studio in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

FEATURE



A group of mostly Syrian but some Iraqi refugee families take selfies in Times Square during a tour of Manhattan Refugee families take photos as they walk toward Times Square. in New York. — AFP photos





Refugee families gather outside Madison Square Garden for a tour of Manhattan.



Tour guide Luke Miller talks to refugee families gathered outside Madison Square



A group of mostly Syrian but some Iraqi refugee families ride the subways.

Syrian refugees are New York tourists for the day

'My family's happy and my children are happy, so I'm very happy'

fter fleeing war in Syria and arriving in America with her family four months ago, for one day Mona Hafez is not a refugee. She is a tourist seeing the sights of New York. "Coming to the park was really fun. Riding the subway was awesome. I love all of New York City," says the 10-year-old, words tumbling out of her mouth in delight. Hafez was one of 150 refugees last week treated to free tours of the US cultural capital, complete with a pizza lunch, in a charity drive organized by a New York guide desperate to make refugees feel welcome at a time when President Donald Trump wants them banned.

So ugly and so polarized is today's US debate around immigration that organizer Luke Miller received death threats on Facebook while raising money to cover the cost of the day-long tours. "People wrote just really vitriolic, nasty, nasty things," said the 48-year-old, who owns family business Real New York Tours. "Overall the response has just been incredible."

For five days over spring break, he took mostly Syrians but also some Iraqis around the city, treating groups of children, teenagers and parents to stories about New York's history, fun facts and indelible memories.

r one day, the refugees could put as overcoming the language barrier and finding work, and just enjoy themselves after years of living in fear and uncertainty. The tour took in Madison Square Garden, Times Square-where a spot on the Marriott Marguis billboard costs \$2.5 million a month to rent, Miller tells the flabbergasted group-then Central Park to see the sea lions and ride the carousel, ironically operated by the Trump Organization.

'Wonderful'

Then it's back on the subway to head downtown to Battery Park to see the Statue of Liberty across the harbor and eat pizza. "You guys want to see something cool?" asks Miller, inviting the group to crane their necks up to the Empire State Building shrouded in cloud. He whips out pictures of King Kong clambering up the side in the 1933 movie to laughs and tells stories of construction workers laboring at dizzying heights who died in days of relaxed safety standards. Passers-by drop in to listen. Miller does magic tricks to put the children at ease. Five Arabic translators make sure everyone understands. Another volunteer has a bag of snacks-fruit, nuts, cookies and chips-to keep the children energized.

Strolling through Central Park, past lush grass, tulips and blossoms, a busker played "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" on the saxophone, and the children pose at the bronze Balto dog statue. Their parents filmed or took pictures on their phones or selfie sticks. Teenagers were already chomping on gum, US-style. "This has been the most wonderful day I've spent in America. It's been beautiful, it's been amazing," says Mona's mother Rawda, beam-



Refugee families take

selfies in Times Square.

ing under a white headscarf and dressed in a sweater to fend off the April chill. The family lived through the first year of the war in Homs before fleeing to Damascus and onto Jordan where they lived for four years before their visas came through for the United States.

Trump carousel

In Syria her husband owned a shoe store. But like other refugees in the group they have yet to find jobs, first trying to learn English. But the children are flourishing. Mona, a beautiful child with long brown hair tucked into a bun, loves math and science at school in New Jersey. She wants to be a doctor when she grows up. "Now that they're picking up more and more of the language, I get very happy when they're able to communicate," says her proud mother. None of the refugees who spoke to AFP said they had experienced any prejudice in the United States. They live in Elizabeth, a diverse New Jersey town in the shadow of Newark Liberty International Airport.

Miller calls it "divine justice" that Trump's company operates the carousel, saying he did not know that before drafting the itinerary. Certainly the refugees don't care. "My family's happy and my children are happy, so I'm very happy," says Ammar Ahmed, 45, a father of four and accountant who fled war in Iraq by going to Syria, only to move back to Iraq to escape war in Syria. "It's my dream!" he said of living in America. Increasingly confident in English, his next task is to find a job. — AFP



One of the members of refugee families taking selfie near Madison Square Garden.



Tour guide Luke Miller shows a picture of King Kong on the Empire State Building as he talks to the refugee families gathered outside Madison Square Garden for a tour of



Refugee families walk through Central Park.

Kuwait - Times 55.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017

Syrian refugees are **New York tourists** for the day





Christian Borle, center, and cast appear on stage for the Broadway opening night curtain call of Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' at the Lunt-Fontanne Theater on Sunday in New York. — AP





These file photos show the members of the Between Music band performing with a custom-made instrument in a glass water tank during a rehearsal ahead of the AquaSonic underwater concert in Aarhus, Denmark. — AFP photos



Members of the Between Music band performing with custom-made instruments in glass water tank.

Musicians in aquariums make sounds in a silent world

lalk about fluid tunes: A group of innovative Danish musicians submerged like fish in an aquarium have created an underwater concerto with instruments specially adapted to resonate in a silent world. In the central Danish town of Aarhus, a Godsbanen center concert hall looks more like a fish farm than a music set, with its jumble of water tanks, canisters, tubes, pipes and retrofuturistic objects. One after the other, the five members of the Between Music band-Laila, Robert, Morten, Dea Maria and Nanna-descend into their own individual glass-paned water tanks for their latest project AquaSonic, where they play the violin, cymbals, bells, a crystallophone with a pedal, and a kind of hurdy gurdy with a long neck.

Hydrophones, or special microphones that pick up the sound of the music in the water, amplify the soundwaves, producing music that resembles the sounds whales make. A pioneer in the field of aquatic music, Laila Skovmand wears several hats with the ensemble: She is artistic director, music and lyrics writer, and vocalist. She sings both underwater and at the water's surface. Like a siren, her lips at water level, Skovmand releases a captivating chant. "I'm an educated singer and I wanted to explore new songs. I got the idea that if I sang into the surface of the water I might get some other timbre, some delays, so I tried that," she explains.

The group collaborates with engineers and makers of musical instruments to develop waterresistant instruments whose sounds respect the harmonies composed by Skovmand. "There are a lot of musical limitations. There are so many things we can't play because of the struggle with the water, the struggle with the sound, but I think that what the water gives is that special kind of timbre that you can't get in air," she says.

Pink Floyd in slow motion

The resulting effect is a sound closer to an accompaniment for Tibetan meditation than it is to chamber music. And it's far from other well-known tributes to water such as Maurice Ravel's "Fountains" or Luciano Berio's "Water Piano". While the water transports the sound, it also stifles it and slows it down considerably: The effect is a bit like playing Pink Floyd or Jean-Michel Jarre in slow motion. Musician and producer Robert Karlsson plays the violin-made of carbon fibre-and the crystallophone, a distant relative of the glass harmonica invented by Benjamin Franklin. Nanna Bech performs the rotacorda, an instrument inspired by a traditional Byzantine hurdy gurdy. It has six stainless steel strings which can make sound either with a sustained pulling of the string or when fingered. "It's the only one in the world so I don't even have a teacher. And that's a shame!," she jokes.

Skovmand also plays the hydraulophone, a type of underwater organ. "We want to show that the impossible is possible, to discover a new element with live music," says Karlsson. The band spends the entire performance under water, surfacing regularly as part of the choreography to take breaths of air. Ahead of the recent Aarhus concert, the ensemble spent almost six hours in the tanks in one afternoon to prepare for that night's 50minute performance.



A member of the Between Music band performing with a custom-made instrument in a glass water tank during a rehearsal.

The water is kept at 37 degrees Celsius (98.6 Fahrenheit). "We do some diving training, practicing to hold our breath under water," Bech explains. And she has developed a special technique to sing under water. "I can't let the air bubbles get out of my mouth, because they will become bubbles (in the water) and that makes a lot of noise under water. So I can only make short notes." For Karlsson, making music in water has a magical effect on him. "I'm actually not very fond of water personally. I

can feel claustrophobic in a bathtub. But somehow when I get into this tank and am playing an instrument, I get calm and really secure," he says. Between Music is currently performing AquaSonic across Europe. After a world premiere in Rotterdam last year, the band is now touring Denmark, and will take part in the International Diaghilev Festival in Perm, Russia in May. — AFP



A member of the Between Music band performing with a violin and a custom-made instrument a glass water tank during a rehearsal. in a glass water tank during a rehearsal.



A member of the Between Music band singing in