THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

RABI ALAWWAL 11, 1437 AH

Two nabbed in 'largest' marijuana raid



Waste spill buries buildings in China, 91 missing



Israeli director's latest movie is in Farsi



www.kuwaittimes.net Panthers edge Giants in ill-tempered thriller





NOD TO NEW ANTI-GRAFT BILL, KD 600M FOR KAC

DEFENSE BUDGET, GRILLING TOP ASSEMBLY AGENDA



Max 19° **High Tide** 09:37 & 20:50

Low Tide 03:05 & 14:52

MOI REAFFIRMS SECURITY OF CHURCHES

KUWAIT: Ministry of Interior Undersecretary Lt Gen Sulaiman Al-Fahd yesterday reiterated keenness on the security and safety of Christians and their places of worship, thanking them for interacting with such efforts. Fahd received representatives of churches in Kuwait as part of coordination meetings with religious bodies and sects in the country, the ministry's security media department said in a statement. These are a part of efforts to enhance preventive measures and take security and precautionary steps, as well as exchanging views at a time that requires further caution and cooperation to support the ministry's efforts.

During the meeting, Fahd conveyed greetings by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to the representatives, and stressed eagerness that all people in Kuwait enjoy freedom of faith and of practicing religious rituals in stable conditions dominated by tolerance, love and peaceful coexistence, the statement added. Fahd congratulated the representatives on their feasts, expressing pleasure for the good and fruitful meeting.

For their part, the representatives of churches expressed appreciation of the efforts by the Interior Ministry to guarantee security and safety for all people in Kuwait. They underlined the fact that Kuwait "will always remain a land of tolerance and peaceful coexistence". — KUNA



KUWAIT: Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Sulaiman Al-Fahd receives representatives of churches in Kuwait yesterday. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Cabinet in its weekly meeting yesterday approved a new draft law for the Anti-Corruption Authority which was declared unconstitutional by the constitutional court on Sunday. The Cabinet sent the new bill to HH the Amir for his approval before sending it to the National Assembly urgently. The Assembly's legal and legislative committee was scheduled to discuss today the anti-corruption draft law but it delayed the discussion because the government did not send it quickly enough.

It was not clear however whether the committee will discuss the draft law today to be ready for the Assembly debate either today or tomorrow, or it could leave it until after the New Year break. The Cabinet also dissolved the Anti-Corruption Authority and scrapped all decisions and functions that were carried out by the authority after the cancellation of the decree forming it. A new setup is expected to be announced immediately after the Assembly approves the bill. Five MPs also submitted a draft law on the same issue.

The Cabinet also approved and referred to HH the Amir a draft bill that allows the government to withdraw KD 600 million from the monetary reserves to boost the capital of Kuwait Airways, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah said.

The Assembly today starts its two-day session, the last before the New Year break, and is scheduled to discuss a host of important issues including the grilling of the health minister, a government request for additional defense

Continued on Page 13



BEIRUT: Hezbollah members carry the coffin of Samir Kantar as others wave the Palestinian flag during his funeral procession in a southern suburb of the capital yesterday. —AP

HEZB HOLDS MARTYR'S **FUNERAL FOR KANTAR**

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah group yesterday gave a "martyr's" funeral in Beirut for Samir Kantar, who was killed in a suspected Israeli air strike in Damascus. Fighters manned checkpoints as Kantar's coffin, draped in the movement's yellowand-green flag, was carried to its burial place in the capital's Ghobeiri area, a bastion of Hezbollah support. "The Israelis still haven't learned that with all these assassination attempts on leaders they are committing a huge mistake," senior Hezbollah official Hisham Safiedine said.

A thick crowd chanted "Death to Israel!

Death to America!" and waved the Palestinian, Lebanese and Hezbollah flags, as the coffin was carried to a mausoleum reserved for "martyrs". A day after rocket and artillery fire was traded over the border with Israel, Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah later yesterday gave an address on the killing of Kantar, who commanded operations for the group in Syria's occupied Golan. "Samir is one of us and a commander of our resistance and it is our right to retaliate for his assassination in the place, time and a way we see appropriate. **Continued on Page 13**

TALEBAN BOMBER KILLS 6 US TROOPS AS VIOLENCE RISES

KABUL: A motorcycle-riding Taleban suicide bomber killed six US soldiers near Kabul yesterday, in a brazen attack as the resurgent militant group battled to seize a key southern district in Afghanistan's opiumgrowing heartland. The bombing during a joint patrol with Afghan forces near Bagram, the largest US military base in Afghanistan, marks one of the deadliest attacks on foreign troops in the country this year. The Taleban claimed responsibility for the assault, which underscores a worsening security situation a year after NATO formally ended its combat operations in Afghanistan.

"Six (NATO) service members died as a result of a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack, the US-led coalition said in a statement, adding that three others were wounded. A US official said all six soldiers killed were Americans. The attack came as Taleban insurgents in Helmand were closing in on the strategic district of Sangin, tightening their grip on the volatile southern province.

Local residents reported crippling food shortages in the district, long seen as a hornet's nest of insurgent activity, after the Taleban began storming government buildings on Sunday. "The Taleban have captured the police headquarters, the governor's office as well as the intelligence agency building in Sangin," deputy Helmand governor Mohammad Jan Rasoolyar told AFP. "Fighting is escalating in the district," he said, claiming the number of soldiers killed in clashes is "unbelievably high".

Continued on Page 13

BLATTER, PLATINI GET 8-YEAR BANS **ZURICH:** A FIFA ethics tribunal yesterday banned Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini a "masquerade" for an attempt to exclude for eight years, saying they had abused him from world football. The ban, which their positions over a suspect 2 million Swiss franc payment. The court strongly criticized the FIFA president and vice president, saying there was "no legal basis" for the payment that Blatter authorized for Platini in 2011. While fullblown corruption charges were dropped, both men angrily rejected the verdict and vowed to appeal. Blatter said he felt betrayed and declared: "I will fight to the end."

French legend Platini called the verdict starts immediately, could however bring an inglorious end to 79-year-old Blatter's four decades with FIFA. It is also a devastating blow to Platini's hopes of taking over as head of football's world governing body in an election on Feb 26. "I think this is punishment enough, because it means they can never come back," former UEFA president Lennart Johansson told the Swedish daily Expressen.

Continued on Page 13



ZURICH: Suspended FIFA president Sepp Blatter holds a press conference yesterday after the world's football governing body announced its verdict banning him from football for eight years. — AFP (See Page 18)



LAS VEGAS: Miss Philippines 2015 Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach (right) reacts as she is crowned the 2015 Miss Universe by 2014 Miss Universe Paulina Vega (center) during the 2015 Miss Universe Pageant at The Axis at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on Sunday. Miss Colombia 2015 Ariadna Gutierrez (left) was mistakenly named Miss Universe 2015 instead of first runner-up. — AFP (See Page 40)

OIL PRICES HIT 11-YEAR LOW

NEW YORK: Brent crude oil prices hit their lowest in more than 11 years ye, while US crude flirted with sevenyear lows on more signs that swelling global supply looked set to outpace tepid demand again next year. Global oil production is running close to record highs and, with more barrels poised to enter the market from nations such as Iran and Libya, the price of crude is set for its largest monthly percentage decline in seven

Brent's premium over US crude narrowed further as the market braced for the end of a 40-year ban on US crude exports. US President Barack Obama signed a law on Friday that will end the ban. US crude futures fell 53 cents at \$34.20 by 11:14 a.m. EST (1614 GMT) after bouncing off an intraday low of \$33.98. Brent futures were down 61 cents at \$36.27, falling as much as 2 percent during the session to a low of \$36.04 a barrel, its weakest since July 2004.

Brent has dropped nearly 19 percent this month, its steepest fall since the collapse of failed US bank Lehman Brothers in Oct 2008. "The fundamentals are pretty bearish," said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Price Futures Group in Chicago. "Warm temperatures are killing the markets right now and the oversupply is weighing on prices."

Heating oil futures fell to their lowest since July 2004 as US and European weather modes forecast warmer-thanexpected weather through year end.

While consumers have enjoyed lower fuel prices, the world's richest oil exporters have been forced to revalue their currencies, sell off assets and even issue debt for the first time in years as they struggle to repair their finances. OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia, will stick with its year-old policy of compensating for lower prices with higher production, and shows no signs of wavering, even though lower prices are painful to its poorer mem-

"With OPEC not in any mood to cut production ... it does mean you are not going to get any rebalancing any time soon," Energy Aspects chief oil analyst Amrita Sen said. "Having said that, long term of course, the lower prices are today, the rebalancing will become even stronger and steeper, because of the capex (oil groups' capital expenditure) cutbacks ... but you're not going to see that until end-2016." Oil market liquidity usually evaporates ahead of the holiday period, meaning that intra-day price moves can become exaggerated. Those moves may be further exacerbated by the expiration of the front-month WTI contract yesterday. — Reuters



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. —KUNA



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas

ROWN PRINCE RECEIVES OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif palace yesterday Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Deputy Amir also received Deputy Prime Minister,

Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, as well as Chairman of the National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali AlSabah. Meanwhile, Sheikh Nasser Sabah the meeting which was attended by Al-Ahmad met with Vice Minister of Chinese International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Liu Hongcai, along with his accompanying delegation. They discussed issues of common interest during

Minister Anas Al-Saleh, and the Ambassador of China to Kuwait Wang Di. It was also attended by members of Supreme Council of Planning Ahmad Bager, Abdulfattah Ma'rafi, Sayyah Bu Shayba and Khaled Bin Shebaan. —KUNA



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

CABINET WELCOMES SAUDI-LED ANTI-TERROR ISLAMIC COALITION

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti cabinet yesterday welcomed a recent Saudi decision to form an Islamic coalition to fight terrorism and to establish a joint operation center in Riyadh. The antiterrorism coalition is based on the principles and objectives of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), aiming to fight all forms and manifestations of terrorism, the cabinet said in a statement following its weekly meeting.

In this context, the cabinet appreciated the great efforts exerted by Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud in the fight against terrorism and terrorist groups which commit brutal acts that have nothing to do whatsoever with Islam.

Saudi Arabia had announced the formation of an Islamic

groups 34 Islamic countries and will have its joint operations center based in Rivadh where it will coordinate antiterror military operations and develop the necessary mechanism in this regard.

Libyan deal

Meanwhile, the cabinet welcomed a recently concluded UN-brokered agreement to form a national unity government in Libva. The cabinet hailed the agreement as a practical step that would contribute to putting an end to the armed conflict in Libva, and to restore security and stability to the whole of Libya. In this context, the cabinet urged all military coalition to fight terrorism. The Saudi-led coalition Libyan parties to abide by the agreement, to ensure their Union. —KUN

country's interest, and to harness their efforts to rebuild their nation, maintain its territorial integrity and fulfill the Libyan people's hopes.

Libyan political leaders had met in Skhirate city in west Morocco and signed the agreement after more than a year of UN-led negotiations. The accord was signed in the presence of UN Special Representative and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Martin Kobler, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Salaheddine Mezouar and his peers from Spain, Italy, Qatar, Tunisia and Turkey, as well as representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the European



Rania Mashlab

KUWAIT RESPECTS INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW: AMBASSADOR

KUWAIT: Kuwait has always respected international humanitarian law, Director Coordinator of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Nasser Al-Subaih said on yesterday. Subaih made the statement during a seminar entitled 'Kuwait and International Humanitarian Law,' which

was organized by the



Anwar Al-Hasawi

Diplomatic Institute in conjunction with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The seminar is a forum that aims to showcase Kuwait's exemplary humanitarian efforts as the Geneva Conventions obligates nations to generate awareness on international humanitarian laws, Subaih said. The Ambassador called on nations to combat prevalent violations of humanitarian laws amid deteriorating humanitarian conditions across

Moreover, Subaih underscored that Kuwait has always been a bastion of humanity on a regional and international scale. Kuwait has in recent years, hosted three international conferences for Syrian refugees, for which a total of \$7.7 billion was amassed. Kuwait has donated a sum of KD 1.3 billion in aid to Syrian refugees, he noted.

Deputy Chairman of KRCS Anwar Al-Hasawi asserted that abiding by humanitarian law is not a choice but an obligation, calling on increased efforts to protect human rights in light of rampant armed conflicts that have plagued the region.

Deputy Head of Operations of the ICRC Rania Mashlab said that the world this year celebrates 50 years of recognition of humanitarian work, citing Kuwait being ultimately named a 'Humanitarian Center' for its persistent efforts towards humanitarian causes. She also noted that more than 160 nations have approved the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

In September 2014 United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki Moon paid tribute to Kuwait by naming His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah a 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait a 'Humanitarian Center.' — KUNA



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and his Tajik counterpart Shukurjon Zuhurov shake hands after signing an agreement of strategic partnership between the Kuwaiti and Tajik parliaments. —KUNA

KUWAIT, TAJIKISTAN SIGN PARLIAMENT PARTNERSHIP DEAL

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem held discussions yesterday with his Tajik counterpart Shukurjon Zuhurov, who is on an official visit to the country. The discussion tackled bilateral relations and ways to bolster cooperation in various fields, mainly parliamentary ones. Both officials also discussed recent regional and international events

and issues of mutual concern.

Ghanem and Zuhurov signed an agreement of strategic partnership between the Kuwaiti and Tajik parliaments. Senior officials from both nations were also present in the meeting, including Parliament's Observer MP Abdullah Al-Tamimi, and the Tajik Ambassador to Kuwait Zubaydullo Zubaydov, amongst others. —KUNA

ZAIN DIAMOND SPONSOR OF SHEIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD VILLAGE

COMPANY CEO TOOK PART IN INAUGURATION CEREMONY

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its diamond sponsorship of the national project entitled 'Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Village'. The cultural initiative, held for the second year, comes under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and runs from December 2015 - March 2016.

Zain took part in the village's inauguration ceremony, where Sheikh Ali Jarah Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, presented the honoring token to Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan, to highlight Zain's support of this national initiative. The village, a national project that currently runs for the second year, aims at connecting the past and the present through a unique location that uses traditional Kuwaiti architectural

The village aims at being the ideal internal touristic destination, and offers visitors a wide variety of services and activities, including stores, cafes, restaurants, playgrounds, a motorsport circuit, a football pitch, a dedicated section for young entrepreneurs to showcase their products and services, as well as a small scaled museum for GCC countries to showcase their heritage and local traditions.

Zain stressed its keenness on providing the



activities and initiatives that further pushes the national economic and touristic development wheel. The company is committed to continu-

needed support and encouragement to all ing to support all kinds of national projects that support the national economy and offer innovative ideas that contribute to the further progress of Kuwait.

ISLAMIC FORUM AIMS TO COMBAT RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM: MAATOUQ

KUWAIT: A forum on 'Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies' aims to combat widespread religious extremism and radicalization, which would in turn, bring forth a more moderate mindset, a senior United Nations (UN) and Amiri Diwan official said yesterday.

Amiri Diwan Advisor and UN Secretary General's Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq made the comments in a statement to KUNA after the forum's inaugural meeting in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) city of Abu Dhabi.

Maatouq explained that the meeting stressed the importance of initiating events and gatherings that would help shed light on Islam's true image, one that is void of terrorism and violence. The UN Secretary General thanked the UAE leadership for supporting the forum, which was organized to showcase some of humanity's brighter attributes.

Moreover, Maatouq addressed the prevalence of the fatwa, religious edicts that often incite youth into committing acts that are unreflective of Islam's true nature, he said. This leaves leaders of the Muslim faith with no choice but to cooperate and fight the scourge of terrorism, Maatouq added. Islam's image has been marred by extreme ideologies that do not represent the faith in any way, Maatouq said. The forum was put together to rectify this and showcase the true benevolent face of Islam, he added. —KUNA



ABU DHABI: Amiri Diwan Advisor and UN Secretary General's Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs Dr Abdullah Al-Maatouq (right) is seen during the forum's inaugural meeting in the United Arab Emirates city of Abu Dhabi. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi speaks at the ceremony.



Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi honors one physician. —Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

HEALTH MINISTER HONORS PHYSICIANS

KUWAIT: Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi affirmed keenness of his ministry on developing a cadre of highly trained physicians in the framework of the comprehensive healthcare system. "The Civil Service Commission (CSC) approved increasing the number of internships this year," he said Sunday night at a ceremony to honor 100 interns who have finished a specialized medical training course in the framework of Kuwait Board Program for 2015-16.

The ceremony was held under aegis of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The minister appreciated the graduates for their perseverance in gaining expertise and urged them to do their utmost to promote the medical profession.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General of Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization (KIMS) Dr Ibrahim Hadi said the kind patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister for this ceremony indicated that the government attaches great importance to building the capacity of the medical personnel.

"There are 800 interns, males and females, who will graduate in the next five years and shoulder the responsibility of promoting the medical services, whether in the prevention or treatment sectors" he revealed.

KIMS, an affiliate of the Ministry of Health, is responsible for organizing all aspects of post-

graduate training of medical practitioners and other health professionals in Kuwait; it also supervises the overseas internships, he noted.

He added that an agreement was reached

He added that an agreement was reached with the University of Ottawa on a fellowship

program for the Kuwaiti doctors. The interns honored include 92 doctors, males and females who got the certificates of the Kuwait Board Program, and eight physicians who got medical specialization fellowship program. —KUNA



A group picture for some of the doctors honored during the event.



KUWAIT: Communications Ministry's Undersecretary Hameed Al-Qattan, Huawei Technologies CEO Trevor Liu and other officials inaugurate the project. —Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

MINISTER LAUNCHES PHASE 2 OF FIBER OPTIC-OPERATED NETWORKS

KUWAIT: Phase two of distributing fiber optic-operated internet to 34 areas in the country has begun, Minister of Communications and of State for Municipal Affairs Essa Al-Kandari said yesterday. In a speech inaugurating the distribution, he said that the Ministry is working in accordance to a pre-set timeframe, adding that the Ministry will be replacing all traditional landline networks with these fiber optic-operated systems.

The new systems will provide high quality phone services and high speed internet, adding the new systems will provide new service such as digital TV cable. The Ministry's Undersecretary Hameed Al-Qattan pointed out that the fiber optic network will provide fast streaming of audio and video files, up to 70 megabits.

Newly residential areas that are still lacking phone service will have a priority to have these new network installed. He called on citizens and residents to cooperate with the Ministry during the installation process.

Meanwhile, Huawei Technologies CEO Trevor Liu said his company, which is supervising the project, is able to provide the Ministry with all needed technologies and equipment to complete this project as soon as possible. Phase Two of the project will include 34 residential areas: Mishref, Bayan, Midan Hawally, Sabah Al-Salem, Al-Adan and Al-Qusoor, to name a few. — KUNA





Workers install fiber optic lines as part of Phase two of distributing fiber optic-operated internet in Kuwait.

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URGENTLY REQUIRED

Position	Job Description	Requirments
Public Relations Manager (Kuwaiti National)	Launch Huawei PR strategy in Kuwait and ensure to deliver the key messages to our customers, especially government through daily work, PR activities, CSR and so an. Develop cordial working relationships with key governments and medias, monitor and maintain the relationships. Develop and implement strategic programs to achieve significant increases in awareness of Huawei Brand PR manager should have strong understanding of local cultures and community. Research on local business communities and provide national environment watch especially on policy, business and mega projects.	Degree holder or above in corporate communications, public relations. Self-mativated, excellent communication and interpersonal skills, high flexibility and adaptability in work. Presentable with strong project management skills Outstanding English/Arabic writing and verbal communications required. Comfortable working in a global company with a high degree of cultural diversity.
Service Manager (Kuwaiti National)	Technical Approval Support: Support Huawei terminal products in the Middle East market pre-sale technical approval testing to make the TA process get through successfully and timely. Requirement Collection: Responsible for acquiring, confirming and clarifying pre-market product software requirements: Test execution: Execute the internal test such as the software version test as well as field testing. Assist troubleshoot issues. Be responsible for the product quality. Technical communication: Provide technical assistance in products pre-sale period Customer Interface: Set up and keep good relationships and cooperation with technical engineer team of customers. Technical Training: Provide technical training including training material and presentation.	Experiences in field testing and protocol testing Good communication and coordination skills Responsible and detail oriented Must be able to work in a fast paced, rapid change and stressful environment Primary Language skill: English, Secondary Language skill: Arabic or mandarin Chinese is welcome. Basic knowledge on CDMA, GSM, UMTS LTE Good knowledge and skills with Qualcomm QXDM, QPST tools.
Facility/Government Relations Manager (Kuwaiti National)	Counsel the managers on issues leading to license implications. Review company's law and apply the roles and regulations related to trade licenses and municipality licenses. Monitor the implementation of procedures involved in securing/renewing the Government licenses to establish and operate the group. Review documentation prepared by the Officers, Government Relations Commercial to secure e, Import License, Municipality and Firefighting license prior to submitting to the Ministry of Commerce and Chamber of Commerce for approval and registration. Register the company name and logo in the Chamber of Commerce records ofter securing the license from the Ministry of Commerce. Monitor updating of record of all government licenses and business permits. Formulate the updated list of all the government licenses due for renewal and ensure related procedures are completed on time. Formulate and submit the Management Information Reports to the AT. Review the latest legislations affecting the company's licensing and its business.	Educational Qualifications: • Primary: Bachelor degree or equivalent with 6 years of experience. • Linguistic Abilities: English and Arabic is a must.
Telecom Engineers (Kuwaiti National)	Under guidance, support projects including: pre-sales & bidding, startup, monitoring and support Support and track strategies to achieve the project's business objectives Track and report progress towards agreed objectives Ensure compliance with quality objectives Be responsible for the quality of the project Support the relationship with customer Able to take small projects and lead a small team Manage insues and escalate as required Support identification, tracking and managing of risk Drive the project acceptance and invoicing	Good peer and team relationship and good communications skills Ability to conceptualize and perform sequencing and planning Broad understanding of technology and some understanding of integration processes Possess good leadership, team building and cross-cultural communication obilities At least 1 year of project management experience in Telecom
Training Manager (Kuwaiti National)	By analyzing customer requirements and competitors, determine locations of the training center and region and product coverage schemes, organize to make long-term strategies and planning, satisfy training requirements, and increase the brand value. (Training brand) According to training strategies and prediction of demand for training, organize and direct the building of software and hardware environments for training of the Regional Division, to provide sites, devices, facilities, courses, and logistics service for training of customers, cooperation partners and employees, and ensure training is held as required. (Building the platform) According to requirements of contracts and training, provide end-to-end before-sales support for training and deliver training, oversee training quality and manage the process, and ensure timeliness and satisfaction of training. (Managing delivery of training) According to strategies and plans of product sales, organize to recruit, train, and cultivate trainers, cooperative trainers, and part-time trainers of the Regional Division, evaluate and manage skills, build and provide sufficient resources of trainers with high-quality, and ensure timely delivery and satisfaction at training. (Cultivating employees) By researching job responsibilities and skill requirements of people to be trained, organize to develop relative courses, improve quality of course design	Understanding of demand for training raised by customers of the region Understanding of training operation mode of competitors of the communications industry Familliarity with businesses and processes of customer training, training and certification for cooperation partner, and employee training Basic management knowledge and ability for communication and coordination Basic knowledge of telecommunications Ability to communicate effectively, orally, and written Ability to work in cross-cultural environment Ability to make budgets and control expenses

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and training materials, and increase customer satisfaction. (Developing courses)

The suspects arrested for cultivating and trading in marijuana.



An amount of marijuana and firearms found with the suspects.



Senior Interior Ministry officials examine marijuana seedlings busted in the



A man arrested for unlicensed weapons' possession is pictured with his relative who was also detained for keeping the firearms in his house.

TWO ARRESTED IN 'LARGEST' MARIJUANA RAID

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The information technology department of criminal detectives discovered what they described as the largest quantity of marijuana in Kuwait, and arrested two people, Canadian and Kuwaiti, in the process. Information was received that the suspects traded in marijuana, so a team was formed to collect information. Based on the investigations, detectives raided the Canadian man's residence and found 39 marijuana seedlings, along with other quantities ready for sale,

in addition to marijuana seeds. The citizen was arrested with eight seedlings and half a kilogram of the drugs, in addition to seeds and fertilizers. He also had an unlicensed firearm. Both suspects confessed to selling marijuana, and the citizen said he got the seedlings from the Canadian who also gave him instructions on how to plant them. Both were sent to concerned authorities.

Drug suspect caught

Jahra detectives arrested a citizen in his thirties wanted to serve a 27-year jail sentence on drugs cases. The man was rounds in his relative's house. The found with possession of drugs including 17 grams of heroin, 80 grams of heroin injections ready for use in addition to 25 Captagon tablets and a firearm. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Weapons possession

The weapons detectives department arrested a citizen with possession of unlicensed weapons and ammunition. Investigations led to discovering that the citizen had a quantity of AK-47

firearm and four magazines were also confiscated. The suspect and his relative were sent to concerned authorities.

Residency violators

Residency detectives arrested several residency violators in Jleeb Al-Shuviukh, after information was received about them working in houses without official permission. Seventeen women and three men who make them work in houses were arrested. They were sent to concerned authorities for deportation.

ICG JOINS HORECA AS SILVER SPONSOR

KUWAIT: Leaders Group Company for Consulting and Development



Riyadh Al-Atri

announced that more and more hospitality, catering and hotel equipment companies have so far announced plans to take part in Horeca Kuwait 2016 exhi-

bition. In this regard, the International Center Group foodstuffs company (ICG) announced joining Horeca 2016 as a silver sponsor, stressing that the exhibition had proved the significance of specialized exhibitions in promoting trade exchanges amongst companies. Speaking on the occasion, ICG's Development Manager Riyadh Al-Atri said that ICG was in the process of enhancing its status in the local market, and expanding its activities both locally and regionally, especially since it has earned full trust of local

hotels and restaurants thanks to its 46-year long experience. Atri added that ICG has several subsidiary companies such as Al-

Mohannad for Food Stuff; the exclusive agent of international brands such as Nodrex, Luna, Alshifa Honey, subulah, Heinz, Bakemark, Komplet, Bega, Vonk, Cooperlat, Gargil, Gelita-Pavoni, Aviko, Lazaya, France Burre, RS olive Oil, Silikomart, FO and GSM. Atri also noted that another ICG subsidiary is the Universal Center

for Hotel Supply that supplies central kitchens and central equipment companies with French equipment brands like Roller Griller, Italian like CIMA, FORNI, LAMIC and STARMIX and Chinese like INKRICH, KINKOOL and UKERS.

Further, Atri added that the company has a sweets line providing pastry chefs with pastry raw material and tools. He added that ICG also owns the first experimental kitchen in GCC through which it invites world cooking experts and chefs to explain how to use raw material and train pastry chefs in various hotels on the best use of such material. Leaders Group is organizing the event in cooperation with Hospitality Services Company. The event is due to be held under auspices of Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah at Badriya Ballroom, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa in the period of January 18-19, 2016.

OBITUARY



Mr. P.Z. Kurian (Age 80)

Passed away on Dec 19, 2015 at Kochi, Ernakulam Dist, Kerala India. He was a well-known figure in the Kuwait Indian community as he helped several individuals find gainful employment during his 40-year-long work with KREMENCO as

Personnel Manager until retirement in 2002. He was survived by wife. Mary Kurian, and children Anthony Kurian (Reuters, Bangalore), Tina Kurian and husband Dr Alex, Punnoose (Idaho, US), Tija Kunan-(New York, NY), and Albert Kurian (Montreal, Canada). The funeral will commence at 2:30 pm on the 22nd of December at his residence in Kaloor, Kochi followed by service at St Kuriakose Knanaya Church, Vazhakala, Kochi.

SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DISSOLVES TWO CHARITIES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih yesterday issued two decisions on dissolving two charities. According to the decisions, one of the charities was dissolved upon its officials' request because they do not have enough time nor funding to keep it running, whereas the second was dissolved for violating charity rules. Munira Al-Kandari, Charities Department Director at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor said that 80 citations had been reported in 2015 about unlicensed or unauthorized expat individuals collecting charity donations and that special measures were taken against them and against their

Fake fingerprints

Eleven Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) employees currently arrested over charges of using fake fingerprints to sign in and out of

work on behalf of 350 other employees were yesterday interrogated by the public prosecution.

Rainy weekend

The Kuwait Meteorological Center expected rainfall over the weekend starting tomorrow and ending on Friday, in addition to high-speed winds.



Minister Hind Al-Subaih

Abuse of power

Following up a previous complaint about two senior officials at the citizen service centers who had been abusing their powers against female employees, the chairman of the Ministry of Interior's civilian employees syndicate Bader Al-Enezi stressed that despite the complaint filed against them, one of the officials summoned the female employees and interrogated them in an attempt to intimidate them.

Landfill sites

The cabinet's committee for rehabilitating landfill sites urged the municipality to contact the municipal council to reallocate liquid industrial waste landfill sites along Mina Abdullah and Wafra road. In this regard, committee chairman Lt Gen Mohammed Al-Bader pointed out that the municipal council decided allocating the site after waiving it for the Public Authority for Industry and

CONSORTIUM CLOSES IN ON LONDON CITY AIRPORT

KUWAIT'S SOVEREIGN FUND PART OF CONSORTIUM

LONDON: A mega-consortium of some of the world's most powerful sovereign wealth and pension funds is among the leaders in the £2 billion race to buy London City Airport.

A team made up of five suitors, including Wren House Infrastructure, which is an arm of the Kuwait Investment Authority, is believed to be on a shortlist of bidders that will be invited to make second-round offers for the airport in February. The group also includes Canadian funds Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan (OTPP), Borealis Infrastructure, AIMCo and Hermes, the British investment manager.

Borealis, which co-owns the high- speed rail link between London and the Channel Tunnel with OTPP, and AIMCo originally linked up with Allianz to consider a proposal. However, it is thought that the German insurer is now no longer interested in buying the airport, prompting the two Canadian

funds to team up with a rival consortium.

Private-equity giant Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP) announced in August that it was selling City, and hopes to fetch around £2 billion

It has sparked a frenzy of activity in the infrastructure world, with bidders drawn to City amid a relative dearth of assets for sale. The scarcity value of the airport, which is considered a prize asset, is likely to drive up the price. It is unclear which other suitors have also been shortlisted. However, Cheung Kong Infrastructure (CKI), the vehicle of Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-Shing, is rumored to have submitted a first-round bid.

Close to Canary Wharf and easily accessible from the Square Mile, the airport is popular with business travellers and carried 3.7 million passengers last year.

—The Telegraph

In my **view**

A DAY WITH AN EXPAT



By Talal Al-Ghannam

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ood morning my dear and honorable readers. It has been so long since I wrote my previous article. Today I would like to narrate a story or an experience I had encountered few months back here in Kuwait. This experience depicts the misery of many of our expat brothers and sisters who have come here to make a decent living escaping from the harsh conditions in their countries and yet face more

My article's title is 'A day with an expat,' and by looking at the title you would get a hint that the story would be addressing misery and unfortunate conditions. A few months back I was invited by an expat friend who lives somewhere in Kuwait in a tiny and grave-like room. You would not imagine how that room could accommodate the rest of the necessities which should be put in the kitchen rather than in a partition room. That room contained a closet, a mini fridge, a dresser, a TV, satellite receiver, cassette player, hangers, a shoes rack, a clothesline, a tiny stove, spices rack, pots, plates, cups, milk cans, a tea kettle, and many more which I do not remember, not forgetting the person himself.

I came in and sat on the bed and was entertained with coffee and some snacks, and then I asked him how he manages to survive in this place? He replied with tears shedding from his eyes that he was a runaway because he did not receive his salary for almost 6 months, in addition to bad treatment from his sponsor who left him abandoned in the desert with almost nothing for him to survive. He said he used to borrow things from neighbors in order to survive, where his employer would come once a week to inspect the camp and leave him with KD 5 to buy his groceries.

The other thing which I had noticed that the long queue for the restroom, where this poor man would have to wait for at least half an hour in order to use the facility. As for his current work, he said that he does not have a permanent and stable job but he has got few cars which he washes and gets KD 5 for each, saying this helps a bit. When I asked him about his future plans, he replied that he was willing to give himself up to the authorities, but was waiting to collect some money to help his family, including his sick parents.

After a few hours, he wanted to entertain me for an ice cream, so we went down to the grocery shop which he knows and as he entered the shop, he took the worker to a corner and whispered in his ears, which I understood it was about the money which he could not afford at the moment.

The day ended with a big hug and plenty of tears edding from both of us for the kind of misery some people go through in Kuwait. Many sponsors must always put Allah in front of their eyes when treating a human being before Judgment Day; when each one of us would stand along before the Creator of the universe and is asked about those helpless people.

Until the next article Insha Allah

NO IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF LIFTING BAN OF US **OIL EXPORT: ACADEMIC**

KUWAIT: The decision to lift the ban on exports of US crude oil, signed by President Barack Obama on Friday, will not have an immediate impact on the world oil market, said a Kuwaiti academic yesterday. The Gulf Cooperation Council countries (GCC) decision to continue oil production at the same rates of those before the prices started to fall "is sound, and it's an anticipation of what is happening now; the US dumping of the oil market," said Dr Ahmad Bader Al-Kouh, member of the faculty at College of Technological studies, the Department of Petroleum Engineering Technology. Impact of the US decision to lift the ban on the oil export, which had lasted 40 years, will be seen in the future, he told KUNA.

Kouh praised GCC oil exporting countries' decision not to reduce the oil production and their commitment to maintain their market share. US and Canadian oil companies, Russia, Iran and Venezuela will suffer most from the declining oil prices, as compared to the GCC countries that will be the least affected due to the low cost of production. Surplus in Kuwait annual budget, posted when the oil prices were bullish, "might cover what we lost now," he added. It is expected that the deterioration of oil prices will continue until middle of next year. -KUNA

TWO ARTIFICIAL ISLANDS TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITHIN JABER AL-AHMAD BRIDGE PROJECT

KUWAIT: Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works for roads sectors Engineer Ahmad Al-Hassan said on Monday that the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad bridge project includes two artificial islands for investment and government buildings, and that one of them will contain a marina.

In an interview with daily Al-Anbaa, Al-Hassan said that the first section of the project is the South Island which is located west of Kuwait City, pointing out that work in this project is completed, adding that work to improving the soil is now underway which will be allocated for investments.

He said that the other island is 74 percent near completion and is located near the city of Subbiya on the same path of the project, saying it will be designed for administrative buildings and a number of government

agencies and a marina in the future. He said the bridge project is located in Kuwait Bay between Kuwait City and Subbiya which is almost 36 km long and is considered one of the largest projects in the field of transport and infrastructure in Kuwait and the region and one of the longest maritime bridges in the

world. -KUNA



FIFTEEN WOMEN FROM THE GCC DISCOVER BEAUTY OF OMAN'S MOUNTAINS DURING EXCITING TREK

MUSCAT: The Oman Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with the Al-Jebal Al-Hajariya Travel and Tourism (Husaak Adventures) has successfully concluded the Western Hajar mountain range trek, which was held recently in Muscat, Oman. The hike featured a total of 15 female representatives who have gathered together from across the GCC countries to conquer the summit of Jebel Shams. Standing at over 3 km above sea level, Jebel Shams is the highest peak in the GCC where the hikers stood to send a message of love and unity under the slogan "One Nation."

The trip was organized as a demonstration of the unity of the GCC in an adventurous gathering that showcased the stunning landscape of Oman. The women hikers who joined the event braved the challenging trail and trekked for two days to the top of Jebel Shams. The hikers represented their GCC countries and raised their flags in celebration of completing the challenging trek.

Asma Al-Hajri, Deputy Director General, International Tourism Promotions, Oman Ministry of Tourism, said: "This trek provided a wonderful platform for athletic and adventurous women across the region to strengthen their ties with their sisters from neighboring countries in a dynamic and truly unforgettable experience that is both mentally and physically challenging. The trek started on December 10 at the meeting point in Muscat where the ladies then transferred to the location to begin the hike. This adventure stretched over a 20 kilometers path that is suitable and safe for walking and climbing. The ministry's support of this event is part of its active efforts to promote and encourage adventure tourism, which defines the beauty that the Sultanate enjoys."

Thirst for adventure

Ali Husain, Founder of Al-Jebal Al-Hajariya (Husaak Adventures), commended the female group of mountain hikers and their thirst for adventure: "At Husaak adventures, we try to push people out of their perceived boundaries so that they can enjoy nature and appreciate the beauty of the environment while challenging themselves physically. We are all proud of these ladies that attempted and hiked this majestic mountain successfully proved that outdoor adventure can be enjoyed by everyone. We look forward to seeing more people from the GCC enjoy the beauty of Oman, the hidden jewel of the Arabia."

Among those who were included in the hiking trip was Linda Al-Muqaimi, Rumaitha Al-Busaidi and Salsabeel Al-Busaidi representing Oman, Lulu Al-Awadhi, Dalal Al-Omar, Sabika Al-Ayar, Nourah Al-Sabah, Hind Al-



Khatrash, and Aseel Shaheen from Kuwait, Nada Jamsheer, Hadeyah Fathallah and Fatima Fathallah from Bahrain. In addition to Nahid Al-Dosary from Saudi Arabia, Ghaida Al-Suror and Jawaher Al-Mutawa from Qatar and finally Aysha Al-Mamari and Moza Al-Hasani from the UAE. The participants expressed their pride at successfully meeting the summit, which they consider both a personal accomplishment and a fulfillment of their role as citizens of their respective nations.

In this regard, Nahed Al-Dosary from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia said: "I am proud and delighted to represent my country with my fellow GCC sisters as a celebration of the unity of our nations and the power of women to overcome obstacles. We reinforced this message from the summit of Jebel Shams, which is the highest peak in the GCC at the same time that the Summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was being held in Riyadh. I would like to

thank the team of Husaak for organizing this great trip and giving us the opportunity to reach this milestone."

Withstand the challenges

Kuwait representative Noora Al-Sabah, added: "For the past three months I have dedicated myself to achieving this goal. I needed to prepare myself adequately for it so I followed an intensive fitness program and nutrition plan to help my body endure and withstand the challenges in this trek as well as the weather in Oman. Before beginning the journey, I tried to recall the previous difficulties that I had to overcome with team Husaak. This inspired me to put myself in the same mindset to overcome these difficulties. We represented our GCC countries and climbed the summit with determination and persistence, sticking together and making sure to never leave a single person behind. The highlight of this trek was proudly raising my country's flag and I was thankful that the whole thing was documented so we can cherish such a memory. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to team Husaak for organizing the trip as well as to our team leaders, Lulu Al-Awadhi, Dalal Al-Omar and Sabika Al-Ayar who inspired everyone to push their limits."

Linda Al-Muqaimi from Oman said: "The trip brought together the most beautiful women in the Gulf. Our steadfast cooperation and determination drove us during this climb and our collective ability to overcome the obstacles we faced fills me with pride. This is characteristic of the Gulf women of today and this proves that we can be whatever we want to be." Salsabeel Al-Busaidi, also representing Oman said: "The Jebel Shams trek was beautiful and truly unforgettable. I want to thank the leaders in Husaak team who organized this trip and pushed us to our limits. They inspired me to defy my mental and physical boundaries reach the top of the mountain with the help of God. Once we were on the summit we proudly raised the flags of our countries and it was my great honor to meet those beautiful women, work with them hand in hand and encourage each other to build this strong cooperation spirit between us. Gulf Women are strong our ability to achieve is not defined by our age or size. With patience faith and hard work we can achieve any goal in life. I will never forget this trip; it has given me so much positive energy that renewed my confidence. I encourage everyone to visit Jebel Shams and enjoy the charming scenery. Oman is rare gem and has its own unique landmarks. When I was on my way to the top, I stood and pondered over the mountains of Oman soaking in all the beauty of nature and life that I witnessed. I thank the Ministry of Tourism for their efforts to promote effective natural tourism in Oman locally and internationally, and thank the Ministry of Environment for their efforts to spread environmental awareness and preservation. Greeting of gratefulness and love to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said (May God Protect Him) for his permanent support for the Omani women in all aspects, including adventure, sports and defying the odds."

National duty

Qatar representative Jawaher Al-Mutawa and Ghaida Al-Suror says, "This trip provided us with the platform to perform our national duty and raise the flag of Qatar up high. It is not merely a spectacular event set at the highest Gulf peak, it represented the persistence of Qatari women and prove its position and gratitude in light of the celebrations of the country with its National Day."

Aysha Al-Mamari the representative of the UAE said: "The Jebel Shams journey was a big challenge for me. My goal was not just to reach the summit but it was a test to my abilities and enjoy the charming nature of the Oman Mountains, as well as to meet my sisters from the Gulf countries. I was impressed with professionalism of the highly skilled guides and mentors who accompanied us on the trip. I am proud that this is a professionally organized GCC event led by GCC nationals. I also want to extend my gratitude to the Ministry of Tourism in Oman and their efforts in coordinating this trip and ensuring our comfort. I was surprised when Omani police patrol car stopped next to us where I had thought that we committed a traffic violation and was surprised to know that they wanted to show their support and stay with us in case of any emergency. I love to travel and I have traveled to more than 35 countries, however, I can say that this trip is the best travel experience I had."

MUBARAKIYA SCHOOL MARKS 104TH 'VERSARY

KUWAIT: Over the last 104 years Al-Mubarakiya School continued to be a landmark of modern education and enlightenment for all sons of Kuwait away from any form of discrimination. Founded on December 22, 1911 as the first modern education facility training students on arithmetic and commercial skills, the school was named after Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah. It was followed by Al-Ahmadiya School - the first English school in Kuwait, established in 1921. Sheikh Yousof Bin Isa Al-Qena'e, the first principal of Al-Mubarakiya School, was one of the icons of the intellectual enlightenment who advocated compulsory education. He was succeeded by Youssof bin Humoud, Omar Asem Al-Azmeiry, Abdulaziz Al-Rashid and Mohammad Kharashi Al-Manfalouty.

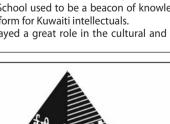
The School's finances used to depend on pubic donations and tuition fees before its annexation in 1936 to the then 'Majlis Al-Maaref' (the council of knowledge) which was later renamed as the ministry of education.

The School continued to provide teaching until 1985 when its building was chosen as venue of the Central Library. Three intellectuals spearheaded lobbying for the launching of the School; these are Sheikh Yousof Bin Isa Al-Qena'e, Sheikh Nasser Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Yassin Al-Tabtaba'ei.

Beacon of knowledge

Speaking to KUNA on the occasion of the School's anniversary, Suleiman Boland, director of the antiquities and museums department of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), said the School used to be a beacon of knowledge that turned to be a platform for Kuwaiti intellectuals.

"The School played a great role in the cultural and scientific



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Teachers and students of Al-Mubarakiya School in a group photo. advancement enjoyed by Kuwait



The first principal of Al-Mubarakiya School Sheikh writing, arithmetic, commerce,



Yousof Bin Isa Al-Qena'e

School was annexed in 1979 to NCCAL which turned it into the Central Library. On January 23, 2012, the site was turned into a museum for the history of education in Kuwait," he added. Al-Mubarakiya School **Financial difficulties** alumnus Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi In similar statements to KUNA, Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi, an

at present. It depended on per-

sonal donations and with Al-

Qena'e donating 50 rupees and

then generous contributions by

philanthropic Kuwaitis followed,"

opening day of the School, a

total of 254 pupils were enrolled

and the enrolment grew to 341

five years later, he noted.

Teaching at the School used to

focus on Arabic reading and

and the Holy Quran sciences,

until the 1936-1937 semester

when a more modern curriculum was introduced and foreign

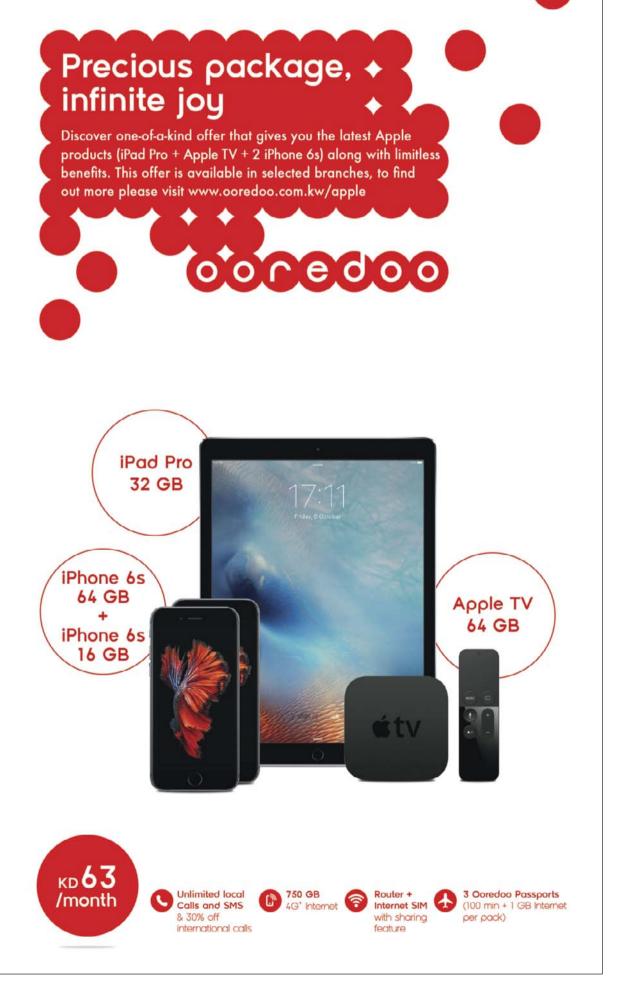
teachers were employed, he went on. "The alumni of the School played a great role in the progress of Kuwait in all fields,

Boland said, noting that the

On December 22, 1911, the

Boland said.

alumnus of the School, recalled his memories in the School and its wonderful architecture. He said Ibn Ibrahim, a Kuwaiti merchant who lived in India, contributed 15,000 rupees, the biggest donation, to the launching of the School. "Despite the generous donations of the Kuwaiti people, the School faced financial difficulties in the early years before the discovery of oil. Nevertheless, it was able to overcome these difficulties and continued to offer proper teaching until 1936 when teachers and books were brought from Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Bahrain and Lebanon," Dr Al- Ojairi added. — KUNA



TEENS BEAT-UP WAITER IN SALMIYA

KUWAIT: Three juveniles wreaked havoc in a Salmiya cafe after they ganged up against a waiter and beat him severely, until they were caught by police who held them prior to sending them to the juvenile protection department.

Liquor possession

Ahmadi police caught an Indian man in Mangaf with 39 bottles of locally-made liquor, and he was sent to the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD). The arrest was made when a patrol found the man roaming the area at night, so police stopped him and found the liquor in the trunk of his car. In another case, a drug user who was asleep in his car was awakened by police, then sent to the DCGD. Police received a call earlier about an unconscious person in his car in Riqqa, so they went and awakened him, and found drugs.

'Missing' girl found

A citizen told Farwaniya police that his daughter has gone missing. Detectives took over the case, and were able to trace her with the use of the GPS to a popular cafÈ in industrial Ardhiya, where she was arrested and taken to concerned authorities.

Attempted kidnap

A beautician lodged an attempted kidnapping complaint against a man after she refused his offer to give her a ride in Abu Halifa. A security source said a Filipina told Abu Halaifa police that when she left the salon, a person stopped and offered her a ride, but she refused, so he attempted to take her by force, but she was able to free herself. Ahmadi detectives are investi-

Fight exposes thieves

A fight between two citizens in Salwa exposed a theft they had committed. The men exchanged blows over the division of the loot. Both were arrested. A call was made about a fight in a Salwa parking lot, and when police arrived, the two fled, but were chased on foot and arrested. The two said they were fighting over items they stole

Forgery

A citizen obtained a replacement civil ID for his wife using her nationality certificate without her knowledge. A citizen in her forties told Surra police that she was a victim of forgery, claiming that her husband got a duplicate ID as well as her nationality certificate, which he used to get the ID. The case was sent to pros-

Domestic violence

A citizen told Waha police that her husband beat her and caused the injuries stated in the medical report she submitted. The citizen said her husband, who works for the social affairs ministry, beat her with a sharp metal object at Jahra cemetery and smashed her car's windshield, before leaving. Police attempted to call her husband but he did not answer. Police are investigating. — Al-Rai

EXPAT DOCTORS CHILDREN ADMITTED TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Education has agreed to admit children of expatriate doctors working in various public hospitals and clinics to public schools starting from the next school year. According to ministry conditions in this regard, the schools accepting those students would be determined by the ministry regardless of the doctors' residence address and according to classroom densities in those school. The ministry also conditioned that the maximum number of doctors' children to be accepted in public schools would be 250. —Al-Anbaa

SUNKEN SHIPS TO BE REMOVED FROM MUBARAK PORT PASSAGE

KUWAIT: Well-informed sources said that a technical committee comprising of elements from the oil ministry, MPW, MOC and EPA is currently coordinating and discussing the removal of two Iraqi oil tankers that had sunk in the 1990s in Mubarak Port's water passage that is being currently built by MPW. The sources added that the concerned bodies had held several meetings over the past few months to determine the best and safest ways to remove the two tankers without causing any damage to the marine environment, especially since both tankers - Rumailah and Ain Zalah - still have oil waste and harmful materials resulting from its shipment's decomposition over years. Further, the sources said that EPA had visited the sunken ships site at Khor Abdullah years ago to decide how polluted the waters there were prior to launching the project and that MPW had conditioned that the company winning the port project would have to remove the two tankers. —Al-Rai

POWER PLANTS' **TENDERS OPENED**

KUWAIT: The Central Tenders Committee opened tenders number 54 and 55 to supply, install and operate the Subbiya and south Zour power generating stations. Informed sources at electricity and water ministry said the Subbiya station project is in the first stage of turning gas turbines to the joint cycle system and the south Zour station is in the third stage of turning gas turbines into the

Sources said the tenders were sent to MEW to form a technical committee to study them and prepare a technical recommendation to issue the awarding decision according to the public tenders law. They said each project is supposed to produce 250 megawatts to be added to the country's total production, which is more than 15,000 megawatts, in order to provide the necessary energy to face the growing demand for electricity in old and new residential areas.—Al-Rai



Al-Qabas

WE WANT MORE

By Iqbal Al-Ahmad

n the midst of fears, doubts, hassles and challenges, then waiting for the event, Kuwait celebrated with ■ its people and guests under skies colored by fireworks and our music and that of Gulf singers, as fans at Jaber Stadium interacted with the guests and international athletes. This was an achievement that we waited many years for, and received much talk and criticism. The words of the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad took us years back when he stirred the feeling of love and longing to him while he was being treated abroad. With HH the Amir's smile, we the people of Kuwait, lived the moments of hope which we cling to every moment and second, despite all the tough circumstances we are going through.

The Jaber Stadium celebration was a dose of patriotism mixed with joy and happiness which we had missed for many years. All efforts of the Ministry of

Interior and the organizing committee were up to the mark, and proved that when we insist on success, we really say and do it, but if we do not want it, then we

We are waiting for the opening of the Jaber Al-Ahmad and Abdullah Al-Salem cultural centers in Shuwaikh and Shaab to announce boosting Kuwait's tourism, culture and art, and waiting for the arrival of music and cultural bands to cut with them the ribbon of going up to the world of taste and advancement, as culture and art are the language of advanced people, and they are the means of civilized people.

We in Kuwait are in need of gathering around achievements that restores our confidences in our country, and proves to us that bygones is bygones, and what is coming is much better and more beautiful.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

NBK OFFERS VISA CARDHOLDERS CHANCES TO WIN TRIPS TO FAVORITE DESTINATIONS

Valid until 29th February 2016

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched its "Win a trip to your favorite destination" campaign dedicated to its Visa Cardholders.

This exclusive campaign runs until 29th of February 2016. NBK Visa Credit, Prepaid and Debit Cardholders will have a chance to win a customized trip to their favorite destination alone or with their beloved ones, including airfare, accommodation and transportation from and to the hotel. Eight draws will be held and one winner will be announced every week.

NBK customers will get one chance to enter the weekly draws for every transaction made locally by using NBK Visa Credit and Prepaid Cards only. Customers will get three chances when using their NBK Visa Credit, Prepaid and Debit Cards abroad. "NBK pioneered many firsts in both the local and regional markets by offering innovative products and value added services," said Mohammad Al-Othman, NBK's Deputy Manager, Consumer Banking Group.

Othman added: "NBK's leadership in the cards market in Kuwait has been established by consistently delivering superior value to our customers. We always strive to develop promotions to reward our customers. The more NBK Visa Cardholders use their cards during the promotion period the more chances they get to win one of the valuable prizes."

NBK Cards are accepted worldwide and are the safest, most convenient and rewarding way to pay. For more information log onto nbk.com or contact NBK Call Center on 1801801, or follow NBK on Twitter @NBKPage, and on Instagram @NBKPage.



Mohammed Al-Othman

اللئنباء

Al-Anbaa

A LITTLE BIT OF QUIET

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

ne, at this time, longs for quietness that he runs after, but regretfully does not find it when needed. This is our issue today -"quietness" - as we live in an era surrounded by worries and problems, be it externally or domestically. Although we live in the era of technology and luxury, if we compare between our era and the eras of those who preceded us, who did not have what we have in luxury and technology, we will find that previous eras had a large percentage of psychological calmness, but for us, in the midst of development and civilization, our era is characterized by psychological tension.

The human being had much time before to think about and enjoy things, words and actions came out after study and thought, and this is because there was enough time of quietness despite his suffering from not having much things. Despite this, we find that action, before it was made, had gone through enough study, but today, with tension and loss of psychological calmness, we find that the majority acts without thinking and studying the action, which results in some people regretting what they have done.

Where does calmness come from? All week long we hear and read about many disturbing events, and they are directly heard and seen by the individual, which results in psychological tension, along with pressure, international conflicts, collapse of behaviors and many decisions and their cancellation, which make the individual psychologically tense, resulting in his inability to take the right decision in the future, and here many come looking for calmness. Some attend business courses that seem to them to have quietness, and believe that when one gets into those courses, he will find calmness.

We find some people say that some types of sports remove tension from the individual, so he goes to them, but to no avail. Many means are offered and advertised under the slogan of calmness, but after the individual carries out all those means that remove psychological tension, he goes out to the society once again, and hears and sees events, and loses the small percentage of quietness he got. The situation remains the same, and the majority is looking for some calm! A last word: We do not adore solitude, but we have become comfortable with it, and seek it.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

BUREAU DEMANDS **INCOME SOURCES** DIVERSIFICATION

KUWAIT: The State Audit Bureau demanded that sources of income should be diversified and efforts should be made on mending the structural defect in the state's budget by reducing dependence on oil revenues through working towards increasing non-oil income and increasing the rate of its contributions to public revenues to reach stability in public finances if Kuwait's oil production dropped or export prices

The bureau recommended, in its report to the National Assembly, to reform the tax system and increase tax revenues through restructuring the current tax system. It also called for amending the fees and financial costs law in exchange of using public facilities and general services, in addition to reviewing the prices of various uses of state property.

The report stressed that the oil sector should achieve its goals and policies with regards to increasing production capacity and work on solving the issue of halting activities in the joint operations zone. The report revealed a new actuarial deficit estimated at KD 8.9 billion, revealed by the 12th test of the financial status of the social security institution in March 2013. — Al-Qabas

BEC, AL-TAMIMI AND COMPANY TEAM UP FOR ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING TRAINING SESSIONS

compliance with Kuwait and international laws and protocols, the Bahrain Exchange Company (BEC) teamed up with Al-Tamimi and Company (Yaqoub Yousef Al-Munayae) in Kuwait for the second year running and arranged training sessions aimed at the continued education of BEC's employees regarding the company's commitment to the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing. The sessions were structured and led by Philip Kotsis, a partner in Al-Tamimi and Company's Kuwait office, who presented on matters related to compliance with Kuwait's laws and instructions against money laundering and terrorist financing. The sessions took place over the course of a month and were attended by over 550 BEC employees and management.

Mathews Varghese, General Manager of BEC and Tipu Sultan, its Senior Manager Compliance and MLRO introduced the sessions, which included key note addresses by key management personnel of BEC, discussed the importance of AML and Counter Financing of Terrorist compliance and BEC's commitment to adhering to Kuwait laws and regulations and by all its employees.

Speaking on the Kuwait laws, Philip Kotsis applauded BEC's dedication to

KUWAIT: Dedicated to its continued continued education and knowledge on these matters stating: "Through sessions like these, BEC demonstrates that it has established strong principals and policies of continuous training for its new and existing employees and management and is committed to compliance with Kuwait AML and CFT laws

and regulations and that it was an honor to be a part of these seminars. "

Within the State of Kuwait, Al-Tamimi and Company operates through a joint venture with registered licensed lawyer Yaqoub Yousef Al-Munayae and is headed by Partner Alex Saleh.

BEC currently has 38 branches across

Kuwait and specializes in sending money around the globe safely and quickly to over 44,000 locations in 30 countries through its own money transfer product - EzRemit. Its global reach is extended to over 200 countries through its partnership with MoneyGram an international remittance company.



International

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2015

CHRISTMAS CAROLS BRING SOLACE TO LIBYA'S FEARFUL CHRISTIANS

Malaysian family holiday turns to tragedy; 13 killed

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HUGE CHINA LANDSLIDE LEAVES 91 MISSING

SHENZHEN: At least 91 people were missing after a giant mound of mud and construction waste spewed out of an overfull dump site in a southern China boomtown and buried 33 buildings in the country's latest industrial disaster. The site should have been closed down in February, but according to local workers, mud and waste had continued to be dumped there, a news portal run by the city government in Shenzhen said.

Premier Li Keqiang ordered an official investigation into Sunday's landslide in Shenzhen, just across the border from Hong Kong. The mudslide smashed into multi-storey buildings at the Hengtaiyu industrial park in the city's northwestern Guangming New District, toppling them within seconds in collisions that sent rivers of earth skyward. Villager Peng Jinxin said the mud came like "huge waves", as residents ran out of the way. "At one point the running mud was only ten meters away from me," Peng told the official Xinhua news agency.

The frequency of industrial accidents in China has raised questions about safety standards following three decades of breakneck growth in the world's second-largest economy. Just four months ago, more than 160 people were killed in huge chemical blasts in the northern port city of Tianjin. State television showed scenes of devastation in Shenzhen, with crumpled buildings sticking up from heaps of brown mud which stretched out across the industrial park.

Over a year ago, a government-run newspaper warned Shenzhen would run out of space to dump the waste left behind from a building frenzy. Besides new buildings, a network of subway lines is being built in Shenzhen, and mounds of earth are being excavated and dumped at waste sites. "Shenzhen has 12 waste sites and they can only hold out until next year," the official Shenzhen Evening Post, published by the city government, said in October, 2014

Once a quiet fishing village, Shenzhen was chosen by Beijing three decades ago to help pioneer landmark economic reforms, and it has boomed ever since. The mudslide at the business park had covered an area of more than 380,000 square meters and was 10 meters deep in parts, Shenzhen Vice Mayor Liu Qingsheng told reporters, according to Xinhua. Almost 3,000 rescuers were at the scene, Xinhua said, with sniffer dogs and drones. Rescuers were focusing on several areas where sensors had detected signs of life, it added.

Unstable Waste Mountain

The Ministry of Land Resources said the accumulation of a large amount of waste meant that mud was stacked too steep, "causing instability and collapse, resulting in the collapse of buildings". Local media said no foreign companies were believed to have been affected. A nearby section of China's major West-East natural gas pipeline exploded, state television added, though it was not clear if this had any

pipeline exploded, state television added, though it was not clear if this had any

SHENZHEN: In this aerial photograph, Chinese rescuers work at the site of a landslide that hit an industrial park in Shenzhen in south China's Guangdong province yesterday. —AFP

OBAMA'S FINAL YEAR TO TEST PRESIDENTIAL POWERS

WASHINGTON: Barack Obama has reveled in defying predictions that 2015 would make him a lameduck president, but securing his final year goals-from closing Guantanamo to enacting gun control-will test the limits of White House power. The last year of a US presidency can be a pitiful thing. Many a commander-in-chief who bestrode Washington like a political Colossus can struggle to command much at all. New crises erupt, and victories won in the spring of an administration unexpectedly provoke a winter of discontent.

In their final years, George W Bush watched the economy fall off a cliff, Ronald Reagan was ensnared by the Iran-Contra scandal, Bill Clinton was impeached and Woodrow Wilson had a stroke. For Obama, a long-avoided morass in Syria and a costly quagmire in Iraq may come to define 2016, as fears grow about the threat from the Islamic State group. But Obama has offered Americans an alternative vision for his own eighth and final year in the Oval Office. "I've never been more optimistic about a year ahead than I am right now," he said before heading to Hawaii for an end of year family vacation. "In 2016, I'm going to leave it out all on the field." Obama has proved himself remarkably adept at cauterizing the loss of power. In 2015, he thwarted a recalcitrant Republican-controlled Congress to reach a landmark nuclear deal with Iran and inked a global environmental accord that, in his words, can begin to "solve the climate crisis." He watched the Supreme Court enshrine gay marriage into law and tentatively agreed a vast trans-Pacific trade deal that gives teeth to his "pivot to Asia" and could shape geopolitics in the Pacific for generations.

His approval ratings-although dented by fears about Islamic State terror after the San Bernardino attack-are around 45 percent, higher than Bush's and roughly the same as Reagan's at the same point. In 2016, Obama will try to keep momentum by deploying all the tools and trappings of office-from the bully pulpit to high-profile presidential visits. His voice will echo across the 2016 campaign, as he hits the road in support of expected nominee Hillary Clinton and a Democratic third term that would emboss his presidency.

Before that, he is likely to become the first sitting president since Calvin Coolidge to visit Cuba. But even that short trip across the Strait of Florida illustrates how much Obama's final year success is out of his hands. A trip to the land Fidel Castro would be rich in symbolism, an echo of Reagan's first visit to the Soviet Union in 1988, or Richard Nixon's visit to China. But without Congress's willingness to end the embargo on Cuba, a visit would not thaw the last frosty remnants of the Cold War in the Americas. Equally, ratifying the landmark trans-Pacific trade deal still requires reluctant Democratic lawmakers to vote in favor. That may have to wait until after the November election.

Ready to deal

Publicly, at least, Obama is optimistic about dealing with the opposition-dominated Congress, even after being repeatedly burnedeven if it is an election year, and even if disdain for the 44th president is a rare issue upon which Republicans can all agree. Yet recent agreements on taxes, the budget and early childhood education have left the White House more hopeful that progress can be made on issues like criminal justice reform. It is a cruel irony that America's first African-American president has struggled to improve race relations, or address sentencing laws that see a disproportionate number of young black and Hispanic men go to prison. There is a confluence of interests, I believe the time is ripe for this issue," said a senior administration official, speaking on condition of

anonymity. "There is a process and it is on track."

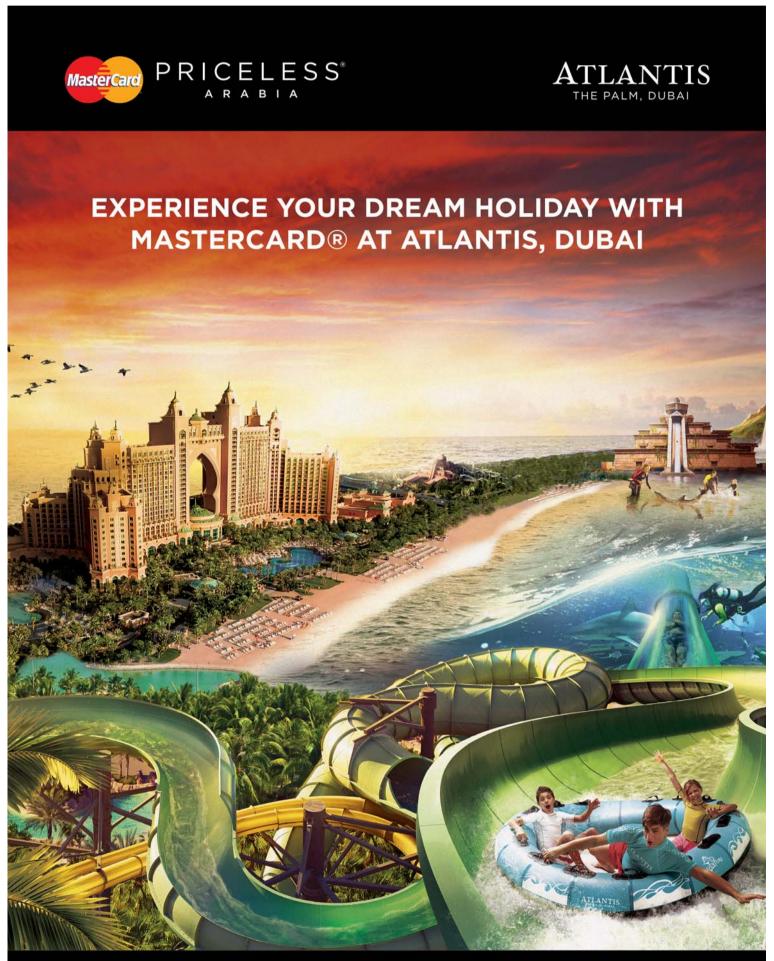
Obama is even holding out hope, however unlikely, that congressional Republicans will relent in their opposition to gun control and on closing Guantanamo. On both issues, the White House is already considering executive orders to bypass Congress and enact reforms, something that would ignite a political and legal firestorm. Obama's efforts to bring a generation of immigrants out of the shadows offers a preview of what those fights could look like. Experts predict lengthy court battles and a possible political backlash, all of which could leave supporters in limbo and a key Obama policy goal in the hands of the Supreme Court. —AFP

impact on the landslide. Xinhua said the pipeline was owned by PetroChina, China's top oil and gas producer, that the 400-meter-long ruptured pipe "has been emptied" and a temporary pipe will be built

PetroChina wrote on its microblog the

pipeline blast had hit at least one industrial user, a Hong Kong power plant operated by Castle Peak Power Co Ltd, a company majority owned by a subsidiary of CLP Holdings, that has now switched to coal for power generation. Fourteen factories, 13 low-rise buildings and

three dormitories were among the buildings flattened. Xinhua said 14 people had been rescued and more than 900 people had been evacuated from the site by Sunday evening. State television said the 91 missing included 59 men and 32 women. —Reuters



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CHRISTMAS CAROLS BRING SOLACE TO LIBYA'S FEARFUL CHRISTIANS

TRIPOLI: In the capital of war-torn Libya, a dwindling Christian community of foreign workers leave their fears and anxieties at the church door as they gather for Christmas carols and laughter. Lisa, a 47-year-old Filipina nurse, said she had just celebrated the festival of lights "for the tenth consecutive year" at Saint Francis Church, referring to the start of advent and the Christmas season. Lisa, who has worked at a private clinic in Tripoli for 15 years, held a candle in one hand and adjusted her Santa Claus hat with the other. Around her, excited children ran around before being directed to Bible class, as rooms in the church filled with the sounds of hymns and laughter.

Since the 2011 fall of dictator Muammar Gaddafi, the small community's fears for its safety have increased, especially after jihadists claimed to have killed dozens of Christians in the country this year. But every Friday-a day off in Libya-they still flock to Saint Francis, one of the capital's only churches still open, to pray and support each other. In a central courtyard, men and women from the Philippines, India and several African nations exchange news as they sell products from their home countries. Jollof rice and peanut soup are on offer beside colorful textiles, home remedies and specialized hair products.

Dwindling numbers

Most Westerners fled Libya after August 2014, when an Islamist-backed militia alliance overran Tripoli, prompting the internationally recognized government to flee to the country's far east. But with little hope of finding work back home, workers from Asia, Africa and other parts of the Arab world opted to stay put. More than 100,000 Christians lived in Libya before the 2011 revolution that toppled Gaddafi, said Father Magdi, an Egyptian priest who arrived in Libya before the uprising. "Today, we're only about 5,000 - and less than 1,000 in Tripoli," he said.

The Islamic State jihadist group has exploited the chaos in Libya since the uprising to expand its influ-

ence in the country. Earlier this year, it claimed to have executed 21 Coptic Christians-all but one of them from Egypt-and 28 Christians originally from Ethiopia. The international community is pressing Libya's two rival administrations to form a unity government and combine their forces against Islamic State jihadists. As rival politicians edge closer to a deal, Christian expats view church as a source of relief from wider political ten-

'Brothers and sisters'

"It's important for me to go to church each Friday," said Benjamin, a Ghanaian security guard who stayed in Libya after the 2011 uprising.

"For a few hours every week, it feels good to be with African brothers and sisters. I forget I'm in Libya... I feel I'm at home." Africans make up the largest and most vulnerable members of Tripoli's Christian community, as they are often undocumented migrants who came to Libya looking for work-or the chance to cross the sea to Europe. The country has long been a stepping stone for Africans in search of a better life in Europe and people smugglers have stepped up their lucrative business in the turmoil following Gaddafi's death.

Joyce, a Nigerian woman who works as a cleaner, said she often fears for her safety when returning home. "I don't like to walk alone in the street late at night or take a black-and-white taxi," she said. "If anything happens, I can't call the police. They don't exist anymore." Fellow worshippers Anthony and Rebecca are among the rare African expats to be staying in Libya legally, and the couple's three sons were born in the country. "What happens to the Libyans happens to us too. When they feel insecure, we do too," said Anthony, a security guard. "Everything is expensive for everybody and no one knows what will happen tomorrow." But Rebecca, who works as a cleaner, remains optimistic: "We pray for Libya every week at church. We pray that this country finds peace." — AFP



KABUL: Wounded Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers sit on beds on a ward at Sardar Mohammed Daoud Khan Military Hospital in Kabul. — AFP photos

TALEBAN FIGHTER TREATED ALONGSIDE ANGRY SOLDIERS IN AFGHAN HOSPITAL

KABUL: The injured Taleban fighter stands shackled, with his face covered by a ski mask and wearing a helmet to block out noise so that, for security reasons, he cannot tell where he is. The insurgent was wounded while battling the Afghan army and is now flanked by soldiers throughout his medical treatment at the nation's largest military hospital. He is cared for alongside the very men whose comrades he once faced in battle, and the troops are furious about the arrangement at Kabul's Sardar Mohammed Daoud Khan hospital.

"We are treated in the same place, it's very strange but there is nothing I can do," says Mohammed, a soldier with a bullet wound to the leg who is just two rooms away from his enemy. "Senior people make these decisions for us. It's appalling," he added. The Taleban "have no dignity... they don't have enough courage to be soldiers so they destroy our country and kill". The policy to treat Taleban fighters who have waged a decade-long insurgency in Afghanistan is a sore point at a time when casualties among security forces are soaring. More than 4,000 Afghan soldiers and police were killed and over 8,000 wounded in the first half of the year, compared to 5,000 who lost their lives in the whole of 2014, and the loss of life continues.

'No dignity'

The issue was brought sharply into the spotlight in October, when 30 people were killed in a US air strike on a hospital run by French charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in the northern city of Kunduz. Afghan authorities have long criticized the charity for treating Taleban fighters as

well as soldiers inside its walls. The US military put the bombing down to "human error", while MSF has branded it a war crime and demanded an independent probe into the strike.

With some 400 beds, the Sardar Mohammed Daoud Khan facility is the jewel in the crown of the Afghan health service and it receives dozens of soldiers every day who have been wounded fighting the Taleban, as well as insurgents. "Where does it hurt?" one doctor asks the wounded militant, a prisoner at the military jail in Bagram, north of Kabul. "Here and there," replies the man, pointing to his chest. A senior hospital official said he has only been brought "to the hospital for a few hours, the time it takes for a consultation".

'I'm a doctor, not a prosecutor'

Kabul has played down the thorny subject, only quietly admitting that Taleban fighters are indeed treated. "It's true, but we don't talk publicly about it," said a government source on condition of anonymity.

The American head of the NATO mission in Afghanistan declined to speak about the practice, despite repeated requests for comment by AFP. That US funds could be paying to treat Taleban fighters is potentially embarrassing for Washington, which spent at least \$185 million on Afghanistan's military health system between 2002 and 2011.

Officials at the hospital say they are abiding by laws enshrined in the Geneva conventions, which says those involved in conflict should not be left without medical treatment regardless of race, political opinion, religion or gender. —AFP



KABUL: Members of hospital staff distribute lunch for wounded Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers at Sardar Mohammed Daoud Khan Military Hospital in Kabul.

IN FAVORING MIDEAST ALLY, US GLOSSED OVER RIGHTS RECORD

STATE DEPT SPARES OMAN FROM EMBARRASSING PUBLIC REBUKE

WASHINGTON: As the United States negotiated this year's nuclear pact with Iran, the State Department guietly agreed to spare the Gulf sultanate of Oman from an embarrassing public rebuke over its human rights record, rewarding a close Arab ally that helped broker the historic deal. In a highly unusual intervention, the department's hierarchy overruled its own staff's assessments of Oman's deteriorating record on forced labor and human trafficking and inflated its ranking in a congressionally mandated report, US officials said.

The move, which followed protests by Oman, suggests the Obama administration placed diplomatic priorities over human rights to pacify an important Middle East partner. In the weeks leading up to publication of the State Department's influential annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, top advisers to Secretary of State John Kerry disregarded findings by its Middle East diplomatic bureau and a US government office set up to independently grade global efforts to fight human trafficking, the officials said.

In April, diplomats in the State Department's Near Eastern Affairs bureau and experts in the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons agreed that Oman would be downgraded from "Tier 2" to a status known as "Tier 2 Watch List", one notch above a level that can incur US sanctions, according to an internal department memo seen by Reuters. Oman, they agreed, had not done enough to improve the plight of migrant laborers and domestic workers who make up a large part of its expatriate community.

In June, when the final report is usually published, the advisers to Kerry took an unusual step. They put the entire 382-page document on hold, two sources with knowledge of the process said. "Oman was the only hold-up," said a State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity. In response to questions, a State Department official declined to directly address Reuters' findings on the Oman TIP process, saying that the department sought to make the report "as accurate and objective as possible" for all countries. The official said the United States speaks to Oman's government on a variety of issues including trafficking, but declined to comment on "private diplomatic cussions" or on the recommendations by its trafficking experts and diplomats. The TIP ranking, the official said, resulted from a "thorough, deliberative process" based on year-round efforts by US embassies, foreign government officials, non-governmental and international organizations to gather information on human

But the case of Oman illustrates how even a small country that is strategically significant to the United States can win concessions despite Washington's public insistence that it bases its ranking system solely on human rights. In its protests over the possible downgrade, Oman stressed its broader strategic importance to the United States, according to US officials.

While it is not unusual for a country's ranking to be contested between the State Department's human rights analysts and political bureaus such as Near Eastern Affairs, high-level intervention to change a ranking after those two parties have agreed is

By the time this year's TIP report was published on July 27, five weeks later than usual, Oman's ranking had been maintained at "Tier 2". "I'm not aware of a case where something like this has happened before," said Mark Lagon, the TIP office's ambassador-at-large from 2007 to 2009 and now president of Freedom House, an advocacy group in Washington. The reprieve has important implications. Watch List countries are defined as those where the absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is "very significant or significantly increasing", according to the State Department. Without showing measurable progress, countries on the Watch List for two straight years are automatically downgraded to the lowest Tier 3, a rank that can trigger sanctions and is shared by some of the world's worst abusers of human rights, including North Korea. Many countries lobby the State Department hard to avoid that designation or to prevent approaching that status. A Western diplomatic source said he believes Kerry is "protecting Oman when it comes to this issue," referring to human trafficking. "John Kerry has a good personal relationship with (Oman Foreign Minister) Yusuf bin Alawi and a good feeling towards Oman. So he doesn't want to see Oman downgraded."

Kerry's press office declined to directly address whether he deliberately shielded Oman in the latest TIP report. A State Department official who took guestions about Kerry's role said the secretary made all the decisions on TIP rankings, including Oman's, "based solely on the content of the report produced by State Department staff". "We stand by the integrity of the process," the official said. A Reuters investigation published on Aug. 3 revealed a high degree of "grade inflation" in this year's rankings.

An unprecedented number of diplomatically sensitive countries such as Malaysia, China, Cuba, Uzbekistan and Mexico wound up with ratings higher than recommended by the State Department's own human rights experts. In the aftermath, lawmakers have questioned at congressional hearings whether this year's report was politicized, an accusation the State Department denies.

Back-channel talks

Oman, a trusted US ally in a strategic location at the toe of the Arabian Peninsula, prides itself as a stable presence and mediator in a region beset by conflict. The country of 4 million people has a "good neighbor" policy with Iran and close relations with the West. Its ruler, Sultan Qaboos, orchestrated secret US-Iran contacts that began in Muscat in 2012, leading to the first formal talks between the United States and Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and helping to pave the way for July's nuclear deal, a legacy-defining foreign-policy achievement for President Barack — asked its embassy in Washington to make "diplomatic Obama. Oman has also won US favor in other ways, including helping to secure the release in 2011 of attempts" to head off a downgrade, the Omani source said. —Reuters

three American hikers held by Iran and taking in prisoners from the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. In recent months, Muscat has also helped facilitate the release of American hostages held in Yemen and has assisted in Syria diplomacy. But it has faced criticism by rights groups over its trafficking record. Many victims are from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Rights groups have reported complaints including unscrupulous recruiters, confiscation of passports by employers and physical abuse.

"The sultanate continues to work hard on TIP issues and we take this very seriously," Badr Albusaidi, secretary-general of Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told Reuters. "When problems are identified, for example a pattern of underage domestic servants coming from a particular country, we intervene actively." He added that Oman was constantly working on 'improving hotlines, care centers, public information and education, and agency coordination." He said if Oman were downgraded, it would be "unfair and unreasonable"

Unusual treatment

Oman has protested its trafficking ranking in the past. When it was downgraded in 2008 to Tier 3, it demanded a retraction, suspending all contacts with the United States on human trafficking issues and threatening to reassess its relationship with Washington, according to diplomatic cables published by Wikileaks. That impasse was resolved when Oman was given a special 60-day grace period to make specific improvements in its anti-trafficking activities and was then elevated to a higher tier.

US embassy officials held a series of meetings beginning in December of last year with the Omani Foreign Ministry, giving the Omanis "a working paper" to shore up their anti-trafficking efforts, an Omani source close to the matter said. The US diplomats initially said they did not want to downgrade Oman because of "strong ties" but "they were not convinced that Oman was taking practical steps," said the source. In those meetings, the Omanis made their case not to be downgraded. The government in Muscat then

TEHRAN SEES ISRAELI LOBBY BEHIND US VISA CHANGES

DUBAI: Iran's foreign ministry said yesterday that Israeli lobbying was behind a new measure passed by the US Congress that will prevent visa-free travel to the United States for people who have visited Iran or hold Iranian nationality. The measure, which President Barack Obama signed into law on Friday, also applies to Iraq, Syria and Sudan, and was introduced as a security measure following the Islamic State attacks in Paris and similar attacks in San

Iran, a Shiite Muslim theocracy staunchly opposed to Sunni radicalism, says its inclusion on the list is intended to undermine a nuclear deal that Tehran reached with world powers, including the United States, in July, known as the JCPOA. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hossein Jaberi Ansari said in a televised news conference that the US measure had been passed "under pressure from the Zionist lobby and currents opposed to the JCPOA". Citizens of 38 countries, most of them in Europe, are eligible for waivers under the US Visa Waiver Program. Under

the new restrictions, citizens who have visited Iran, Iraq, Syria or Sudan in the last five years, and those who hold dual nationality with one of those countries, are excluded.

The measure was introduced after 130 people were killed in the Islamic State attacks in Paris on Nov. 13. Several of the attackers had European passports, and some had traveled to Islamic State's territory in Syria. Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Friday said it was "absurd" that Iran should be included on the list. "No Iranian nor anybody who visited Iran had anything to do with the tragedies that have taken place in Paris or in San Bernardino or anywhere else," he said in an interview with Middle East-focused website Al Monitor.

Iranian officials have said the measure will adversely affect bilateral relations. Some suggest the measure is effectively a new sanction against Iran that could jeopardize the nuclear deal, which Iran only agreed to on condition of sanctions being

STRETCHED THIN, PUMMELED FROM THE AIR, ISLAMIC STATE GOES ON DEFENSIVE

BEIRUT: Stretched thin and under pressure by increasing air strikes, the Islamic State group has been forced into a defensive position in areas under its control in Syria and Iraq. Last year, the jihadist group declared a self-styled caliphate across the borders of Syria and Iraq, sweeping quickly into Mosul and Raqa. It also expanded beyond the Middle East, launching a series of spectacular attacks abroad that left dozens dead. But some experts believe the jihadist group's luck has changed.

"In recent months, IS's positions along most of its fighting fronts in Syria and Iraq have turned defensive," says Iraqi expert Hisham Al-Hashimi, who closely follows jihadist developments. "It has lost the initiative that it depended on to attack its enemies," he adds. Hashimi attributes the transformation partly to military pressure by the air wars against the group, which has been unable to move its forces in large columns the way it did last year.

The US-led coalition fighting IS in Syria has been growing, with Britain and France recently conducting strikes on IS positions the war-torn country. And on September 30, Russia began carrying out its own aerial campaign on the group, as well as other armed groups opposed to Damascus. The raids have destroyed IS military posts, vehicles, and oil infrastructure. Furthermore, IS's "logistical stores have been drained," Hashimi says, and many of its key cross-border supply routes have been cut in recent months. The extremist group has also depleted another key resource: suicide bombers, which proved crucial to IS's lightning attacks on cities in Iraq and Syria, but are in increasingly rare supply.

IS relying on 'heartland'

Despite a slow start, anti-IS efforts have reaped significant benefits in recent months. In Iraq, IS lost control of the town of Baiji and the nearby oil refinery, as well as the flashpoint town of Sinjar, cutting off its vital supply routes between Iraq and Syria. And in Syria, IS has been pushed back from swathes of territory in the northeast Hasakeh province by a Kurdish-Arab alliance, as well as other parts of Syria by regime fighters. "IS is being attacked on numerous fronts by various actors," said

Syria analyst and geographical expert Fabrice Balanche. Together, the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) in northeast Syria and Kurdish forces in Iraq backed by American air support have been able to squeeze IS in the border area.



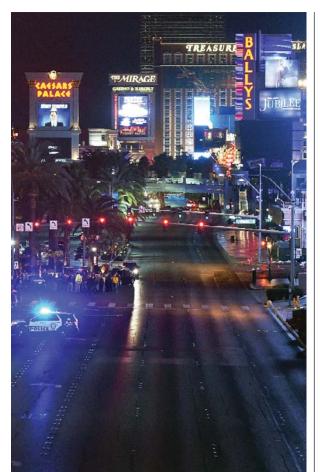
HUSAYBA: Members of the Iraqi security forces point at destruction in the rural Husayba Al-Sharkiya area, east of Anbar province's capital Ramadi, as they undertake military operations to attack Islamic State (IS) group posi-

Syrian government troops, meanwhile, have used the additional boost of Russia's air power to push back against IS in the northern Aleppo province and central Homs. "Daesh is on the defensive. It is relying on its heartland" and launching only local offensives, Balance says, using the Arabic acronym for IS. That area includes the Sunni Arab zone around the Euphrates River in Syria and across the border in northwest Iraq. To continue pushing IS back, its enemies must "understand that Daesh retreats where the population is hostile, which is what is happening in the Kurdish territory," according to Balanche. He says this is why the US-backed offensive in Iraq is focusing on the western city of Ramadi more than Fallujah, where locals support IS.

Propaganda battle

But IS has not lost all momentum, other analysts point out. "While it is true that they are currently consolidating rather than going on the offensive, they are still attracting legions of foreign recruits, they have demonstrated that they were able to strike everywhere," says Karim Bitar, from the Institute for International and Strategic Affairs. The number of foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria has more than doubled since last year to at least 27,000 people, says a recent study by the US-based Soufan Group.

Among those, between 20 and 30 percent were returning to their home countries, a dangerous development as IS in particular eyes more spectacular attacks overseas. IS will seek to "preoccupy the international coalition with its own internal security" and create "racist and religious chaos" between Muslims and the rest of the West, Hashimi says. "Without being able to shoot down coalition planes, IS will organize attacks in the heart of the coalition countries, like France, to try to destabilize us and win the propaganda battle, which is likely to bring it more funding and fighters," Balanche adds. — AFP



LAS VEGAS: Vehicle traffic on the Las Vegas Strip is closed as police investigate the area after a car crashed into a group of pedestrians on the sidewalk in front of the Paris Las Vegas and Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino reportedly injuring at least 35 people and killing one. —AFP

1 DEAD, 26 HURT AS CAR CRASHES INTO LAS VEGAS STRIP SIDEWALK

LAS VEGAS: A woman with a toddler in her car deliberately and repeatedly rammed into pedestrians on the packed Las Vegas Strip Sunday, killing one person and injuring at least 26 others, police said. "This was not an act of terrorism... we've ruled that out," Deputy Police Chief Brett Zimmerman told reporters. But "we have determined that this is an intentional act." The Las Vegas Strip, lined with casinos and fancy hotels, attracts throngs of tourists from around the world and is usually abuzz with activity. The incident occurred on the same night that Las Vegas hosted the popular Miss Universe pageant, which saw the crowning of Miss Philippines.

Witness Rabia Qureshi, a tourist from Wisconsin, told the local NBC station KSNV that the vehicle in question looked like "a bowling ball and the human bodies were like pins." "You think it's a show, because you're in Vegas," Qureshi was quoted as saying. "But then I saw some people fly in the air." The suspect was in custody, speaking with detectives and undergoing several tests, including for alcohol. Police-urging more witnesses to come forward-described her as an African American woman in her 20s who was driving a 1996 Oldsmobile with Oregon license plates. The toddler in the car was unharmed, they said. "She went up off the street, onto the sidewalk, two or possibly three times," Las Vegas police Lt Dan McGrath told reporters.

He said the woman had yet to be charged. Zimmerman told reporters that one person had been killed and that 26 people were taken to area hospitals after the incident. He said six of those injured and listed in critical condition were now stable. Police had earlier put the number of people hurt at 37. Local media outlet 8 News NOW reported that the incident occurred shortly after 6:30 pm between Planet Hollywood, where the Miss Universe pageant took place, and the Paris Las Vegas Hotel."There were men running after her trying to stop the vehicle. They couldn't get to her. They were yelling stop, and she wasn't trying," one witness told CNN.

The suspect initially left the scene, police confirmed. Another local media outlet, KTNV, reported that the University Medical Center, one of three hospitals where the injured were taken, said most of its patients were from Montreal in Canada. Cars were diverted near the Paris Las Vegas hotel, where the Strip was shut down as first responders rushed to the chaotic scene, according to CNN. Images from the scene showed a slew of ambulances and medical personnel attending to the injured amid the backdrop of the city's world famous hotels. Authorities said it was likely that the Las Vegas Boulevard would remain closed for most of the night as the probe into what happened continued. Hours after the incident, live footage showed the usually bustling Strip taped off and eerily still. —AFP

EU EXTENDS SANCTIONS AGAINST DEFIANT RUSSIA

BRUSSELS: The EU extended damaging economic sanctions against Russia yesterday amid sharp differences over relations with Moscow which struck back with a furious tirade and its own import ban against Ukraine. Russia said the move, prolonging sanctions imposed over the Ukraine conflict, gave the lie to EU claims of wanting better relations with Moscow to counter common threats such as terrorism. "It is necessary to point out that instead of building constructive cooperation to counter the key challenges of our times such as international terrorism, the EU in Brussels prefers to continue its short-sighted game of sanctions," the Russian foreign ministry said in a

For its part, the European Council of all 28 EU member states said it rolled over the economic sanctions because the peace accords, agreed by France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia at talks in the Belarusian capital Minsk, would not be fully implemented by the end of this year as required.

"Since the Minsk agreements will not be fully implemented by 31 December 2015, the duration of the sanctions has been prolonged whilst the Council continues its assessment of progress in implementation," it said.

progress in implementation," it said.

EU officials say that while there has been an improvement on the ground in eastern Ukraine where pro-Moscow rebels hold sway, Kiev still does not have control of the border with Russia, a key element in the Minsk accord. There can be no let up in sanctions until Russia uses its influence with the rebels to ensure the ceasefire holds for good, they say. The announcements came as top EU, Ukrainian and Russian officials met in Brussels for talks on the introduction of a free trade pact between Kiev and Brussels from January 1, part of a wider association agreement.

Russia bitterly opposes the 2014 EU association agreement, which sparked the overthrow of Ukraine's pro-Moscow president Viktor Yanukovych, and says the free trade deal will allow a flood of cheap EU products into one of its key markets. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said: "Neither Ukraine nor the European Union are ready to sign a legally binding agreement which would take into account Russia's interests."—AFP

CHINA'S MOST WANTED LIVE OPENLY IN US AND CANADA

OFFICIALS PLEDGE TO TRACK DOWN AND REPATRIATE CHINESE FUGITIVES

NEW YORK: US and Canadian officials have pledged to work with China to track down and repatriate Chinese fugitives living abroad. But that cooperation is proving to have clear limits. So far, only one person on China's Operation Sky Net list of 100 most wanted fugitives - 46 of whom were believed to be in the United States and Canada - has been returned to China from either country. Another woman on the list chose to return to China from the US herself, and at least one more is in a US immigration detention center awaiting deportation. Reuters found that many of the remaining North American suspects on the list, like Florida businessman Wei Chen and British Columbia mushroom farmer Wang Qingwei, are living openly as legal immigrants and have heard nothing from the US or Canadian governments since the Sky Net list was published in April. "The list has ruined my life, but I'm not hiding," said Chen, a US citizen since 2005, in an interview with Reuters. "I don't know about the other 99 people, but I didn't do what they said." Liu Jianchao, China's minister in charge of repatriating corruption suspects said that 17 of 100 Sky Net fugitives have been returned so far, mostly from countries with close ties to China, including Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia and Uganda.

Cooperation with limits

Neither the United States nor Canada has an extradition treaty with China, partly because they question the integrity of its judicial system and treatment of prisoners. That has meant that the only people on China's list who have so far faced deportation in North America are those found to have committed crimes or immigration violations since arriving. One of them, Yang

Xiuzhu, 69 said she entered the US on a fake passport. She is in custody awaiting deportation proceedings and has filed for asylum.

The one corruption suspect on the wanted list returned to China from North America so far was Yang's brother, who was deported for US immigration violations in September. The United States has carefully calibrated its public statements on the assistance it will offer China. A spokesman for the Department of Justice said the US will "vigorously pursue prosecutions" against fugitives sought by China "where there is alleged money laundering or other criminal activity in this country." However, US officials have also made clear that they would need to see China's evidence of crimes before offering full cooperation.

A former US security official, who asked not to be named, said China has provided virtually no evidence so far against the alleged fugitives. Canada, which elected a new federal government in October, has said it will continue to work on a deal with China to return corrupt officials in exchange for a share of the assets seized, which would be considered proceeds of the individual's crimes While Canada does not have an extradition treaty with China, if an individual is found to have lied on a visa application - as in falsely stating that money brought into the country was obtained legally when it was not-residency can be revoked.

At least one corruption suspect in Canada and one in the US have been awarded citizenship, and many more have been granted permanent residency. Those located by Reuters questioned why they were on the list. Miami businessman Chen is accused by China of misappropriating public funds while working at the

state-owned Haomen Group. Chinese authorities declined requests from Reuters to elaborate on the charges.

Speaking publicly for the first time, Chen denied the allegations to a Reuters reporter. Chen said he suspects that officials blame him for the overall decline of Haomen's business after it entered into a poorly-fated joint venture with French company Danone group. He said he expected to hear from US officials after finding himself on the list but has not. He received a call last month from a Chinese anti-corruption officer only after Reuters made inquiries about his case there. Chen said the official would not elaborate on why he is on the list.

Huang Hong, Chen's ex-wife, is also on the Sky Net list. Chen confirmed that Hong is in the US and said she had not been contacted by either Chinese or US officials. He said she never worked at Haomen but declined to talk more about her. Hong did not reply to messages left by Reuters. Evaluating Chen's assertion of innocence or China's accusations is difficult, since the events took place more than 20 years ago. Another of the corruption suspects, Wang, wanted by China for alleged accounting fraud, operates a small mushroom farm in the Canadian town of Chilliwack. He was out making deliveries when Reuters visited, but his brother confirmed that Wang is the man on the Sky Net list and said he was unaware of Wang having been contacted by authorities.

When asked about the allegations against Wang, the brother declined to comment, but gestured toward a sagging 1920s farmhouse, its back porch littered with inexpensive children's shoes and muddy work boots. "He's a farmer," he said. Another man on the list, want-

ed for alleged corruption and bribery, lives in a modest townhouse outside Seattle. He asked not to be identified because he didn't want to attract additional attention to his situation. His wife, who answered the door to two Reuters reporters recently, said he has not been contacted by Chinese or US authorities. She declined to comment on the charges except to say, "If you offend the leadership, the leadership will retaliate."

Hunted across continents

To be sure, some individuals on the list have been pursued more aggressively. Canadian authorities for years denied Vancouver property developer Michael Ching Mo Yeung citizenship, which he claimed in a lawsuit was because of corruption charges leveled against him by China. He has since applied for refugee status. Yang Xiuzhu, the woman arrested and held since last year on immigration violation charges, spoke to Reuters recently at a New York detention facility. Wearing an orange prison jumpsuit, Yang said she was arrested at her sister's New York apartment just a month after she arrived in the United States on a false passport last year.

Yang, accused of stealing \$39 million while deputy mayor of Wenzhou, in Eastern China, denied the charges against her. She called the list a political document targeting enemies of the current regime rather than a roster of true criminals. "I suspect I am a pawn between US and Chinese negotiators," she said. When her brother was returned to China, state-owned media showed him handcuffed, flanked by policemen, being led off a private jet at Fuzhou airport in southeastern China. He has not been seen in public since. —Reuters



RETIRED POLICEMAN HELD OVER FAKE AIR FRANCE BOMB

PARIS: French police yesterday detained a retired policeman over the discovery of a fake bomb on board an Air France flight which made an emergency landing in Kenya, a legal source said. The 58year-old man was taken into custody by border police upon his return to France while his wife was also being questioned as a witness, a day after their flight from Mauritius to Paris was diverted to Kenya. The source gave no further details about the couple, including their nationalities. A passenger alerted crew members to the device found inside a toilet cubicle on Sunday on board the Boeing 777, which was carrying 459 passengers and 14 crew.

The plane landed in Mombasa where passengers were evacuated using emergency slides before navy and police bomb experts were called in to examine the suspicious item. The object, made up of cardboard, paper and a kitchen timer, was found to pose no danger to the aircraft or its passengers, Air France chief executive Frederic Gagey said on Sunday. He said the "deduction" was that the item had been placed in a toilet cupboard by one of the passengers and said the bomb scare appeared to be the result of a "bad joke". Several passengers were questioned in Mombasa before a plane was sent to return all those on board to France.

An Air France spokesman said the airline had taken legal action after the discovery of the suspi-



MOMBASA: Passengers of an Air France plane which made an emergency landing at Moi International Airport walk in front of the airport after being evacuated from the plane in Mombasa. — AP

cious object. The airline "filed a legal complaint against unknown persons for endangering the life of others," the spokesman said. France is on high alert after jihadist attacks in Paris in November left 130 people dead, and is one of many countries taking extra security precautions. Airlines are especially jittery after Islamic State jihadists who claimed the Paris attacks also said they were responsible for downing a Russian jet in Égypt in October after smuggling a bomb onto the plane, killing all 224 people on board.

Gagey said there had been three bomb scares on Air France planes in the United States in the past 15 days. Mauritian Prime Minister Xavier Luc Duval said airport security in the country had been boosted as

"All procedures at the airport have been reviewed and it was confirmed that they are scrupulously respected," Duval said after he met with security and airport chiefs.

Air France's chief executive Gagey said the object was found "in a small cupboard behind the mirror" in the toilet. He said the bits of cardboard and paper and what "appeared to be a kitchen timer" were not items normally found on board. Gagey said crew members had also indicated that in their routine check of the plane before the flight, the cupboard had been empty. — AFP



MOLENBEEK: Abaaoud name is shown on the doorbell on the house of the family of militant Abdelhamid Abaaoud in Molenbeek, Belgium. — AP

PARIS ATTACKS SUSPECT GOT PAST THREE POLICE CHECKS

BRUSSELS: Wanted fugitive Salah Abdeslam, suspected of involvement in last month's Paris attacks, got past three police checks in France as he fled to Belgium just hours after the terror assaults, a source close to the Belgian investigation said Sunday. Confirming a report in the French daily Le Parisien, the source quoted Hamza Attou, suspected along with Mohammed Amri of driving Abdeslam to Brussels the day after the coordinated November 13 attacks in which 130 people died. At the first checkpoint Attou and Amri admitted to police that they had just smoked marijuana, but were let go, the source said. All three are from the gritty Brussels suburb of

The news came as Belgian police on Sunday arrested two people in connection with the probe into the Paris attacks following a raid in Brussels. Abdeslam sent a text message asking Attou and Amri to come for him, and they found him "agitated... uneasy... unwell", the source said. Then came a threat: "He told us to take him back to Brussels or he would blow up the car." Attou said, according to the source. To underscore the threat, Abdeslam bragged about killing people with a Kalashnikov, adding that his brother Brahim had blown himself up. Seven attackers blew themselves up or were killed by police in the course of the evening on November 13. Five of them have been identified.

'Not the priority

To avoid police checks, Abdeslam asked Attou and Amri to take minor roads, but they got lost and wound up on a motorway, Attou said. At the first checkpoint they were asked if they had "consumed" any substances. Abdeslam was in the back seat and said nothing, while Amri and Attou replied "yes" because they had just smoked marijuana. "The policeman said that was not good, but it was not the priority today," Attou said, according to the source.

They were not asked for their papers, but they were at the second and third police checkpoints. At the third stop, near Cambrai in the far north of France, Abdeslam even gave his address in Molenbeek. They stopped for petrol and Abdeslam went to the toilet, walking back with his jacket open, revealing that he was not carrying the explosives which Attou and Amri had been led to believe he had on him, the source said.

Abdeslam had told them he left his brother's ID card in a car-he did not say which car-"so that he would be known the world over like Coulibaly". He was referring to Amedy Coulibaly, who killed a policewoman in Paris on January 8 as part of the series of attacks that began with the massacre at the offices of the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo. The following day Coulibaly took hostages at a kosher supermarket killing four before being gunned down in a police operation. The three days of horror in January left 17 people dead.

'It's on, we've started'

The investigation into the November gun and suicide attacks, claimed by the Islamic State group, is being conducted in both France and Belgium, the home country of several of the attackers. A French source close to the investigation confirmed Le Parisien's report that one of the attackers at the Bataclan concert hall where 90 people were massacred sent a text message to a Belgian number saying "It's on, we've started". Two men are in detention in France on suspicion of providing lodging to the presumed mastermind of the attacks, Abdelhamid Abaaoud.

Abaaoud was killed in a police raid a few days after the attacks. In Belgium, eight men have been jailed including four accused of helping Abdeslam get away in the hours after the attacks. Belgian police on Sunday searched a home in the centre of Brussels and made two arrests in connection with the probe, federal prosecutors said. Special forces and federal police were involved in the raid, which lasted around five hours and took place close to the city's popular tourist centre. Suspected accomplices have also been arrested in Austria. Abdeslam, a 26-year-old French national, remains at large. — AFP

FLU-STRICKEN POPE FRANCIS **ISSUES 'CATALOG OF VIRTUES'**

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis urged Vatican bureaucrats yesterday to show more honesty, humility and sobriety as he issued a Christmas-time "catalog of virtues" for them to follow after having excoriated them last year for a host of sins. A flu-stricken Francis referred repeatedly to scandals that have been convulsing the Vatican in recent months during his annual Christmas greeting to the Vatican administration, showing he was keenly aware of the impact they

were having in the broader Catholic world. At the start of his speech to the cardinals and bishops who run the Holy See, Francis joked that after last year's public diagnosis of the "15 ailments of the Curia" he should have come up this year with the "Curial antibiotics" to treat them. In a way he did, issuing a list of virtues he said should guide their work, including honesty, sobriety, respect and humility. While the speech was more encouraging than last year's astonishing dressing down, it nevertheless implied that problems remained.

He reminded the prelates, for instance, they shouldn't take bribes. He said an honest person "does not act virtuously only when he or she is being watched; honest persons have no fear of being caught since they never betray the trust of others." It was at the usually jovial affair last year that Francis accused the cardinals and bishops of the Vatican bureaucracy of using their careers to grab power and wealth, of living "hypocritical" double lives and of forgetting - due to "spiritual Alzheimer's" - that they're supposed to be joyful men of God.

The past year has seen two blockbuster books based on leaked internal documents detailing waste and mismanagement in parts of the Vatican, the greed of some cardinals and bishops and Francis' efforts to

A high-ranking Vatican monsignor is among five people on trial over the leaks. One of the most egregious scandals that emerged was that the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesu pediatric hospital paid 200,000 euros to renovate the apartment of the former Vatican No 2. This past weekend, the cardinal involved again insisted he knew nothing of the payment but pledged a 150,000 euro donation to the hospital to make amends. —AP

PODEMOS VICTORY IN CATALONIA A **BLOW FOR STRUGGLING SEPARATISTS**

ANTI-INDEPENDENCE PARTIES WELL AHEAD SEPARATISTS

MADRID: Left-wing newcomer Podemos, which opposes a split of Catalonia from Spain, topped polls in the northeastern region in Sunday's Spanish general election, dealing a blow to Catalan separatists already struggling with divisions in their movement. Podemos, the only national party to back a Catalan referendum on independence from Spain although it has said it would recommend voting against secession, won 12 parliamentary seats in the wealthy region of 7 million.

Altogether, parties opposing a Catalan split from Spain, including the Socialists, Ciudadanos and the People's Party (PP), garnered 30 seats. That compared with the 17 seats won by the proindependence camp - nine for leftist party Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya and eight for centre-right Democracia I Llibertat, the party of acting regional government head Artur Mas. Podemos' strong showing in Catalonia echoed its robust results across the country where it surged to register third in number of parliamentary seats, beating fellow newcomer Ciudadanos into fourth place. Catalans hope a new coalition government in Madrid will soften the hardline stance of the centre-right PP administration towards the region, leading to greater autonomy if falling short of full-blown independence. But it is still unclear whether that outcome would be an incentive for Catalan separatists to park their divisions and take advantage of the lack of a strong government in Madrid to push their cause. They could also choose to seek a renewed dialogue with the central government and capitalize on the fact that their combined 17 seats will likely be needed to secure a majority in an investiture

"The message in Catalonia is that the proindependence parties have won less votes than in September's elections," said Lorenzo Navarrete, a professor of sociology at Madrid's Complutense University. "The situation of Catalonia is bad for the nationalists because the vote is split and it's



MADRID: Left wing party Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias gestures as he speaks during a press conference about the results of Spain's general elections in Madrid yesterday. — AFP

there is no majority of the people," he added. The they have also failed to agree on a joint regional separatist movement has become more muddled since the fervor at the height of the economic crisis in 2012 when frustration over taxes, unemployment and recession drove more than one million people onto the streets of Barcelona to clamor for independence. Pro-independence parties in Catalonia voted through a controversial resolution last month calling for secession from Spain and declaring judicial decisions made

not possible to move towards independence if at a state level not applicable in the region. But government. Fringe left-wing party CUP, which did not present at a national level, is due to announce later this month whether it backs Mas, who has led the region since 2010. If the extreme left party, which rejects Catalan membership of NATO and the European Union, opts to support centre-right Mas, the region can form a government. If not, fresh regional elections would have to be held by March. — Reuters

India and Russia eying NUKE, HELICOPTER DEALS

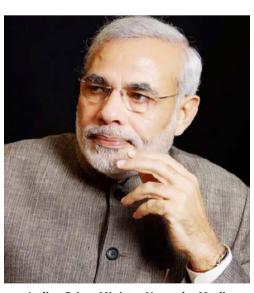
RUSSIA, HIT BY SANCTIONS, TRIES TO REGAIN INDIAN MARKET

NEW DELHI: India's prime minister is expected to promote deals for Russian nuclear reactors and military helicopters worth billions of dollars on a trip to Moscow next week, attracted by promises to transfer technology that Western nations have been slow to make. Russia and India will manufacture 200 Kamov-226T helicopters in a joint venture, a Russian and an Indian government official said, in the first big step for Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign to build a domestic industrial base and reduce the military's dependence on expensive

Modi, who heads for Moscow on Dec 23, will also offer Russia a site in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh to build six nuclear reactors of 1,200 megawatts (MW) each, the same sources added. That is in addition to the six Russia is constructing in neighboring Tamil Nadu state, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press. New Delhi has turned to Russia as US firm General Electric and Westinghouse, a US-based unit of Japan's Toshiba, are still weighing an entry into India's nuclear energy sector because of a law that makes reactor suppliers liable in case of an accident. Modi's "Make-in-India" push for a military that has been the world's biggest importer for the last four years has also made little headway, with negotiations stalled over issues including technology transfer and the local assembly of equipment. For Russia, India offers an alternative, fast-growing outlet for its exports as sanctions imposed by the West squeeze the economy. "While others are making promises, Russia is moving forward with the Make-in-India program," the Russian government source said.

Russia let dominance slip

Moscow, which has maintained close ties with India since the Cold War, has in recent years slipped behind the United States and Israel in securing orders in the Indian defense market,



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

estimated to be worth \$130 billion over the next seven years. Now Russian President Vladimir Putin is banking on India's drive to manufacture at home to regain market share. "The objective is that whatever we do with Russia, that will have a 'Make-in-India' component," said Amitabh Kant, the top Indian bureaucrat leading the push to turn India into a global manufacturing base. Under an inter-government agreement to be signed during Modi's trip, Moscow will set up a production line for the light helicopters that will supply the Indian military but also eventually Russia, the Russian official said.

India's state-run Hindustan Aeronautics and Anil Ambani's Reliance Defense are in the running as local partners for the deal for the 200 twin-engined helicopters, estimated at \$1 billion, to replace India's ageing fleet of Cheetah and Chetak helicopters. "The choice of the Indian partner has been left to the Indian government. We will work with anyone the government nominates," the official said. India is also turning to Russia to secure overseas energy assets to help

fuel its economy. Indian Oil Corp and Oil India, both state-owned, are in talks with Russia's Rosneft to buy up to a 29 percent stake in a Siberian oil project, two sources said on Friday.

Russia has the advantage

The helicopter deal would be the first major contract under Modi's drive to build weapons at home that has excited local defense companies but failed to deliver any significant tenders. As some Indian manufacturers look to Western firms for the tie-ups needed to bring in technology and build locally, Reliance is forging closer ties with Russia to jumpstart its nascent bid to develop a defense business from scratch. A Reliance executive, who asked not to be named, said negotiations to win the joint helicopter venture would not start until the two governments had agreed the deal. Hindustan Aeronautics did not respond to a request for comment.

A source close to Rosoboronexport, Russia's state-owned arms exporter, said India would produce 140 of the choppers and Russia the remaining 60. Pre-contract work is underway and the two sides expect to clarify the agreement during Modi's visit, the source said. An Indian government official confirmed the plan to sign the helicopter deal as well as the proposed offer of Andhra Pradesh as the location of the next set of reactors to be built by Russian state-owned nuclear firm Rosatom.

The two sides have not given any value for the deal. Rosatom spokesman Sergey Novikov said there were no plans yet to sign any contracts during Modi's visit. Nandan Unnikrishnan, an expert on India-Russia relations at the Observer Research Foundation, said that despite New Delhi's tilt towards the West for military hardware in recent years, Russia retained an edge in many areas. "Russia has a distinct advantage over everyone in understanding how Indian bureaucracy works, given the level of trust that exists in the Indian establishment visa-vis Russia," he said. — Reuters



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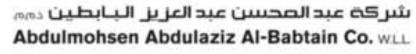
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ISLAMIC STATE TRIES TO BUILD STRENGTH TO REPLACE TALEBAN

IS radio show seeks new recruits in Afghanistan

JALALABAD: Islamic State militants in eastern Afghanistan have taken to the airwaves to win recruits as they try to build strength and replace the Taleban as the leading force in the Islamist insurgency. Officials have been increasingly concerned by the broadcasts, which encourage young people to find a sense of direction in the radical movement. If the broadcasts take hold, officials fear they will feed off a growing sense of hopelessness among many inured to war and struggling to get by in an increasingly tough economic climate. "Most of our people are jobless and this radio will encourage lots of people to join their ranks," said Ahmad Ali Hazrat, head of the provincial council in Nangarhar.

"Now Daesh are seven kilometers outside Jalalabad city and if the government doesn't act soon it will expand its broadcast and recruit even from Kabul," he said, using the term widely used for Islamic State. The 90-minute daily Pashto language broadcast, called "Voice of the Caliphate", consists mainly of interviews, messages and songs about Islamic State. It can be heard in Nangarhar, the eastern province where Islamic State has established its stronghold. It controls several districts wrested from the Taleban. who are seeking to re-establish their hard-line Islamist regime after being toppled by US-led military intervention in 2001.



JALALABAD: Afghan children play with tires in a village on the outskirts of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province. — AFP

In one program, an Islamic State member said the broadcasts were to counter the negative public image of the group fostered by reports of extreme violence. "There are many projects to defame us," the member, identified as Jan Aqa Shafaq, said.

"Most of our young generation, these 'lipstick young' who shave closely and wear the kind of clothing that does not distinguish them from females, create such propaganda." Islamic State is a relatively new force in Afghanistan and there is some dispute about how strong it is, how many members it commands and how closely it is linked operationally to the movement's main arm in Iraq and Syria.

Security officials say many members are former Taleban fighters who have fallen out with the current leadership or who are seeking a more extreme form of

Last week, the commander of international forces in Afghanistan, US General John Campbell, said there were between 1,000 and 3,000 members of the movement in Afghanistan and he said its influence would spread if left unchecked. Officials in Nangarhar say they had so far been unable to block the broadcasts, which appear to shift location regularly. "They move from one place to another," said Attaullah Khogyani, a spokesman for the Nangarhar governor. "It makes it difficult for us." — Reuters



CHIANG MAI: Thai rescue workers try to find survivors following a bus crash in Doi Saket district, 30 kilometers from the northern city of Chiang Mai. — AFP

MALAYSIAN FAMILY'S HOLIDAY TURNS TO TRAGEDY; 13 KILLED

tourists and severely injured several others left four members of the same family dead, while two survived, a report said yesterday. The four dead spanned three generations, including an 85- year-old grandmother and her 39-year-old granddaughter, according to the The Star newspaper. "We are all in shock," a relative of the family in Malaysia told the

Some 22 Malaysians, mostly elderly, had gone to Chiang Mai on December 17 for a five-day tour organized by Malaysian operator Chiu Travel. The accident occurred on Sunday in Doi Saket district 30 kilometers from the northern city of Chiang Mai. Images posted online by local news outlets showed scene of devastation as rescuers battled to reach those trapped inside the smashed bus, which had come to rest in thick foliage with its roof caved in.

In one picture white sheeting had been draped over victims' remains. Chiu Travel manager Terence Yung said that the company had flown 15 Malaysian relatives of victims to Thailand and they were expected to reach Chiang Mai

KUALA LUMPUR: A horrific bus crash in Monday evening to help identify bodies. killed in the accident, 13 Malaysians and one Thai. Malaysia's foreign ministry and Chiu Travel confirmed the number of Malaysians killed in the crash as 13. Chiu Travel said one Thai tour quide had died as well. The Malaysian foreign ministry said in a statement Monday that four Malaysians were severely injured while another five sustained injuries which are "not life threatening".

> Yung said his company was still trying to find out how the accident happened but said, based on information he had received from Thailand, the crash was a result of the driver trying to overtake another vehicle. "The only way we can stop these accidents is for the tour leader to ensure the local (Thai) drivers don't drive recklessly," he said. Prime Minister Najib Razak expressed sadness on his Facebook page. "I am saddened to hear news of the accident in Chiang Mai where 13 Malaysians died and express my condolences to the victims' families," he wrote. "The government would ensure every effort is made in bringing home the victims' bodies and help the victims' families." — AFP

INDIAN FINANCE MINISTER SUES DELHI CHIEF OVER GRAFT CLAIMS

NEW DELHI: India's finance minister yesterday filed a defamation suit against Delhi's leader who had accused him of large-scale corruption in his former role as head of the capital's cricket association. Arun Jaitley personally went to a Delhi court under tight security to sue Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and five other members of his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for making "false and defamatory" statements against him and his family members.

The minister sought 100 million rupees (\$1.5 million) in damages over Kejriwal's "baseless and wrong" allegations that he misused funds during his 13-year tenure as president of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) that ended in 2013. "Jaitley has not taken any pecuniary advantage from DDCA at all. There are DDCA records which can be summoned," his lawyer Siddharth Luthra told the court, according to the Press Trust of India.

"These statements by the AAP leaders are politically motivated," he added. A bitter war of words erupted between the two last week when federal investigators raided Kejriwal's Delhi office in connection with a corruption case involving his principal secretary. Kejriwal in turn accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of waging a political vendetta and branded him as "a coward and a psychopath", alleging officers were sent to find files related to "the DDCA scam that implicates Jaitley". Jaitley has since rejected the claims repeatedly and has described them as the chief minister's "propaganda technique to deflect attention when you yourselves are in the dock".

Kejriwal hit back at the minister on Twitter after the criminal and civil suits, asking Jaitley to prove his innocence to an independent enquiry committee. "Jaitley should not try to intimidate us with court cases. Our fight against corruption will continue," he posted. The party of the firebrand activist-turnedpolitician seized power in February on the platform of providing a corruptionfree government in the capital. But Kejriwal has faced flak several times from opponents over a series of scandals involving his party members. In October he sacked one of his ministers for alleged bribe-taking, months after his law minister resigned following his arrest for acquiring a fake law degree. — AFP

SUPREME COURT REJECTS PLEA TO REVERSE GANG-RAPIST'S RELEASE

'Justice has failed us,' Indian gang-rape victim's father says

NEW DELHI: India's Supreme Court yesterday rejected an appeal against the release of the youngest convict in a fatal gang-rape, sparking fury from the victim's parents who said the ruling was a betrayal of women. Amid growing outrage at the freeing of the 20-yearold, judges said there were no legal grounds to allow a petition by the Delhi Commission for Women, which wanted to reverse his release from a youth correction-

At a hearing presided over by Justice AK Goel and UU Lalit, the court said "there is nothing in the law" that would allow them to order him back behind bars and he therefore could not be detained any longer. The ruling was greeted with despair by the parents of the victim, 23-year-old Jyoti Singh, who has become the symbol of the plight of women in a country with frightening levels of sexual violence.

The father of a student who died after being gangraped said the family had been failed by Indian justice. "What can I say? There are no words to describe our disappointment," Badrinath Singh, the father of the victim Jyoti Singh said. "We don't understand all these laws. We only know that the system has failed us." Her rape and subsequent death from internal injuries three years ago sparked some of the biggest demonstrations in India's recent history, which intensified

after being broken up by heavy-handed police tactics. It also triggered deep soul-searching about the treatment of women in a country where rape victims are often stigmatized and frequently pressured by police and relatives to drop allegations. "There are no words to describe our disappointment," her father Badrinath Singh said. "We don't understand all these laws. We only know that the system has failed us." The convict, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was one of a group of six who abducted the young physiotherapy student after she had spent an evening at the

movies with a male friend. They lured her onto an off-duty bus and then took



NEW DELHI: An Indian protester holds a placard during a demonstration against the release of a juvenile rapist in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

it in turns to rape her and violate her with a metal rod before throwing her onto the road. She died of her injuries nearly a fortnight later in a Singapore hospital. One of the six committed suicide while on remand and the other four adult attackers were given the death penalty, although the sentence has yet to be carried out pending an appeal.

The youngest of the convicts was sent to a juvenile

correctional facility for a three-year term-the maximum allowed under Indian law. Jyoti's mother, Asha Devi, said Monday's ruling showed India had "not learned any lessons from this case" and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to introduce laws with tougher sentences for sex attacks. "They have basically handed young criminals a licence that says before the age of 18 you can rape girls, do whatever you want, because our laws do not have any provisions to punish you," she said. "They only care about men... women are only betrayed, like they always have been."

Both parents were briefly detained on Sunday after police broke up a protest against the release on security grounds. But they attended a fresh demonstration Monday near parliament that drew crowds from far and wide. "Modi is our prime minister and I have just one question for him: 'If a case like my daughter's is being ignored, then what kind of murder, what kind of a rape, will it take for the law to be changed?" the mother said as she arrived at the rally. Some protestors wore T-shirts with slogans such 'Hang the Rapist' while others carried placards with drawings of a

Vikash Sharma travelled from the neighboring state of Haryana to show his solidarity with the parents. "He should at least have been given life imprisonment," Sharma said. "The law must be amended to send the message that those who commit heinous crimes can't get away with it if they are minors." News that he had been freed from the correctional facility and was now being sheltered by a charity was only revealed on Sunday when the juvenile justice board signed his release papers. However police sources said he was in fact handed over to the charity-which has not been named over fears of an attack on its premises-on December 9. Under Indian law, the victim of a sex attack cannot be named but the parents last week called for people to use Jyoti's name in a bid to end the stigma often attached to victims. — Agencies



DHAKA: In this photograph taken on April 25, 2013, Bangladeshi volunteers and rescue workers are pictured at the scene after an eight-storey building collapsed in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital. — AFP

BANGLADESH COURT ORDERS MASS ARRESTS OVER FACTORY DISASTER

DHAKA: A Bangladesh court yesterday ordered the arrest of 24 people and seizure of their assets after they failed to turn up to face murder charges over the collapse of a garment factory that killed more than 1,100 people. Senior judicial magistrate Mohammad Al Amin issued the warrants after his court accepted the murder charges against the 24 fugitives for the collapse in April 2013 of the Rana Plaza factory compound, one of the world's worst industrial disasters.

"The court accepted the charge sheet against 41 people who have been charged with murder over the Rana Plaza disaster," prosecutor Anwarul Kabir said. "The court issued arrest warrants against 24 of them as they have absconded. It also ordered the seizure of their property," he said, adding police have been asked to report on their arrests by January 27. Kabir said the court had accepted the charges against four government factory and building inspectors despite attempts by their departments to shield them from

prosecution by citing public servant immunity rules. The case was delayed by "several months" due to the non-clearance by the various departments, Kabir said, adding that prosecutors now expect the trial to start by April next year. Among the 41 who have been charged with murder is Sohel Rana, the owner of the nine-storey complex on the outskirts of Dhaka which collapsed on April 24, 2013, at the start of the working day. Rana, who is in custody awaiting trial, became Bangladesh's public enemy number one after survivors recounted how they were forced to start work despite complaints about cracks developing in the walls the previous day.

At least 1,138 people are known to have died in the tragedy, the worst in the country's history. Rescue workers struggled for weeks to retrieve the bodies from the ruins but several people are still unaccounted for. More than 2,000 people were injured, including many who lost limbs. Seven owners of factories housed in the complex and 12 government officials responsible for safety and inspections were also charged with murder.

Workers 'slapped'

Rana's parents, who jointly owned the building with him, and the mayor and councilor of the town of Savar where it was located, were also charged. Those facing arrest including "associates of Rana" who "slapped and forced" the workers to join the shift, Kabir said. In a separate case Rana and 41 others have been charged with violating building codes and with illegally extending the six-storey building, which was initially approved as a shopping mall, into a ninestorey factory complex. The disaster highlighted appalling safety problems in Bangladesh's \$30 billion garment industry and triggered global concern as protesters marched to demand action from Western

A host of such retailers had clothing made at the five factories housed at Rana Plaza, including Italy's Benetton, Spain's Mango and the British low-cost chain Primark. The disaster prompted sweeping reforms including new safety inspections and higher wages in the industry which employs about four million workers. Two groups of top retailers such as Walmart and H&M have since launched drives to clean up the sourcing factories. They hired engineers to review fire, building and electrical safety in thousands of garment plants. Under the clean-up campaign, engineers have identified safety problems in each of the plants, and drawn up recommendations for upgrades as well as setting deadlines for the owners to implement remedial measures. — AFP





A fisherman runs on a rocky reef in the Mediterranean sea near the Lebanese border yesterday. — AFP

HEZB HOLDS MARTYR'S FUNERAL FOR KANTAR

Continued from Page 1

We will exercise this right God willing," Nasrallah vowed. Israel has welcomed news of Kantar's death without claiming responsibility for the air strike that killed him, allegedly with four missiles fired from Lake Tiberias in northern Israel. Shortly after Kantar's release from an Israeli prison in 2008, however, a top Israeli security official had warned he was a "target". Hezbollah played a key role in Kantar's release after he had spent 30 years in Israeli jails, becoming known as the longest-serving Arab prisoner. Shortly after his release, he joined Hezbollah.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said he became "head of the Syrian resistance for the liberation of the Golan", a group launched two years ago by Hezbollah in the region, most of which Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war. "In his seven years of freedom, Samir was involved in the resistance (against Israel) in Lebanon and when the first signs of resistance appeared on the occupied Golan front, he was one of the first to join up and Israel tried six times to kill him in Lebanon and Syria," his brother Bassam said in an article published in Lebanese daily Al-Akhbar. — AFP

Taleban bomber kills 6 US troops...

Continued from Page 1

Rasoolyar's comments come a day after he posted a desperate plea on Facebook to President Ashraf Ghani, warning the entire province was at risk of falling to the Taleban. The government in Kabul said reinforcements had been dispatched to Sangin, while denying claims of large casualties and rejecting that the district was at risk of being captured. But trapped residents told AFP that roads to Sangin had been heavily mined by insurgents and exhausted soldiers besieged in government buildings were begging for food rations.

The grim assessment bore striking similarities to the security situation that led to the brief fall of the northern city of Kunduz in September - the biggest Taleban victory in 14 years of war. The fall of Helmand would deal another stinging blow to Afghan forces who have struggled to rein in the ascendant insurgency without the full backing of NATO forces. Sangin, a strategically important district at the center of Afghanistan's lucrative opium trade, has been the scene of fierce fighting for years between the Taleban and NATO forces. British troops fought deadly battles in Sangin for four years to little effect, before US marines replaced them in late 2010 and finally pulled out themselves last year. — AFP

NOD TO NEW ANTI-GRAFT BILL, KD 600M...

Continued from Page 1

funding and the approval of the new anti-corruption law. It will be left for MPs to decide whether to debate the grilling today or tomorrow and then discuss the other two important issues. Health Minister Ali Al-Obaidi still has the right to request a two-week delay for the debate.

MPs Rakan Al-Nasef and Hamdan Al-Azemi have submitted the grilling claiming that the minister committed a number of financial and administrative violations including not taking any action against companies that were charging Indian nurses for jobs in Kuwait's hospitals. The Cabinet

yesterday made no reference to the grilling, a normal practice on the eve of any grilling, which may be an indication that the grilling is not likely to be debated this week. In this case, the grilling will be delayed until after the New Year break.

The Assembly is scheduled to debate a government draft law requesting KD 6.2 billion in additional funding for arms purchases in light of the regional turmoil. Four committees met on Sunday and decided to cut the funds to KD 3.2 billion without any government objection, but still there were differences on whether the allocations should be included in the state budget or in a special budget.

BLATTER, PLATINI GET 8-YEAR BANS

Continued from Page 1

Blatter, FIFA's president since 1998, was fined 50,000 Swiss francs (\$50,000) while Platini, the head of UEFA, Europe's governing body, was fined 80,000 Swiss francs. FIFA suspended the pair and launched an inquiry in October after Swiss prosecutors placed Blatter under investigation for criminal mismanagement over the two million Swiss franc payment that was caught with special software.

A statement by the FIFA tribunal said Blatter and Platini were guilty of "abusive execution" of their powers over the payment the two men said was for consultancy work carried out between 1999 and 2002. The judges said there was a conflict of interest and "no legal basis" for the transfer in any written agreement. "Neither in his written statement nor in his personal hearing was Mr Blatter able to demonstrate another legal basis for this payment. His assertion of an oral agreement was determined as not convincing and was rejected by the chamber." The court said: "Mr Blatter's actions did not show commitment to an ethical attitude, failing to respect all applicable laws and regulations as well as FIFA's regulatory framework."

The judgement was even more damning of the French legend Platini. "Mr Platini failed to act with complete credibility and integrity, showing unawareness of the importance of his duties and concomitant obligations and responsibilities." Neither Blatter no Platini can go near the FIFA headquarters in Zurich. Blatter cannot speak on behalf of the world body and Platini cannot even act as a television commentator for the European Championships he has helped to organize in France next year.

Both strongly deny any wrongdoing. Blatter spent eight hours before a FIFA court last Thursday while Platini boycotted his hearing on Friday saying he had been "condemned" in advance. Blatter told a press conference he felt he had been "betrayed" and used as a "punching ball". He said he would go to FIFA's appeal committee, the Court of Arbitration for Sports and the Swiss courts if necessary. "Something that is not true cannot be proven," he said. "I will fight for me and I will fight for FIFA," said Blatter,

unshaven and with a sticking plaster on his cheek, but defiant. He said FIFA's ethics committee had no right to relieve him of his duties. The committee operates independently of FIFA; its members are appointed by the FIFA Congress and cannot be members of any standing committees. He even ended the press conference, held symbolically at FIFA's old headquarters, with Arnold Schwarzenegger's old line: "I'll be back."

Blatter was campaigning for reelection in 2011 but insisted he had not offered a bribe to Platini. "Never in my life I would offer money to get something. This hurts me really in my heart," he said. Platini said in a statement that the FIFA decision was a "masquerade" intended to "sully" his name. He said he would go to the Court of Arbitration for Sport and civil courts. "This verdict is just a pathetic cover-up for a desire to eliminate me from the world of football."

FIFA said that they had 10 days to appeal to its judiciary. Blatter would be fighting for his reputation. For Platini, the ban rules him out of the FIFA election to be held on Feb 26. The deadline for candidates to be registered and pass an integrity check is Jan 26. With FIFA's reputation in tatters after the arrest of several top officials, Blatter announced four days after winning re-election to a fifth term in May that he would stand down and call a new election.

Seven FIFA officials were arrested in a luxury Zurich hotel two days before the election congress. Now US authorities have charged 39 football officials and sports business executives over more than \$200 million in bribes for football television and marketing deals. Swiss prosecutors are in parallel investigating FIFA's management and the award of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups to Russia and Qatar. Facing pressure from governments and the International Olympic Committee for major reforms, there are currently five candidates to take over FIFA: Asian football head Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa of Bahrain, South African politician and tycoon Tokyo Sexwale, former FIFA vice president Prince Ali bin al Hussein of Jordan, UEFA general-secretary Gianni Infantino and Jerome Champagne, a former FIFA assistant general secretary from France. — Agencies





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SANDERS STRUGGLES TO GAIN EDGE IN PRESIDENTIAL BID

By Lisa Lerer

ne third Democratic presidential debate opened with an apology and ended with compliments. For months, the Democratic primary contest has been a relatively civil affair - offering a tone that party leaders see as a much-needed contrast to the raucous Republican field. A day after a rancorous dispute over a breach of private campaign data by Vermont Sen Bernie Sanders' campaign roiled the Democratic Party, a political truce between Hillary Clinton and Sanders largely held - even as Sanders' aides seemed itching for a more aggressive confrontation with the frontrunner. "I apologize to Secretary Clinton," said Sanders. "This is not the type of campaign that we run."

Mindful of the grassroots support she'll need to fuel a general election bid should she capture the nomination, Clinton accepted his apology, instead, keeping her criticism carefully aimed at her GOP rivals - particularly businessman Donald Trump. "I'm very clear that we have a distinct difference between those of us on this stage tonight and all of our Republican counterparts," she said, in her opening remarks. "We have to prevent the Republicans from rolling back the progress that we've made."

Clinton's brush-off of the data breach controversy underscores her confidence in a race in which Sanders is struggling to regain momentum as it shifts away from an economic message - the core of his campaign - to one over national security, because of attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California. Sanders' pledge to avoid personal attacks in favor of policy disputes has seemed to frustrate his aides at times, who have occasionally gone on the offensive on their own. Earlier this month, they pulled digital ads linking Clinton to Wall Street. Sanders also apologized earlier this year after his senior staffers publicly remarked that Clinton would make a good

The Sanders campaign's handling of the data breach this week emphasized the apparent disconnect between the candidate and his staff. His aides came out swinging on Friday after revelations that their staffers stole some of Clinton's voter data, using a clumsy response by the Democratic National Committee to charge party leaders with favoritism and insinuate that her campaign also lifted some of their information. Sanders did not follow their lead. Instead, he chose to forgo the political opportunity, just as he did in the first debate when he dismissed controversy over Clinton's use of a private email server as secretary of state.

Challenges

The apparent distance between Sanders and his aides may be designed to benefit their candidate by disassociating him from the kind of political tactics that could undermine his truth-telling reputation. But it also highlights the organizational challenges Sanders faces as he tries to turn an insurgent candidacy into a campaign that can topple a world famous political celebrity with a solid double-digit lead.

Clinton has moved quickly to capitalize on the new focus of the race, touting her experience as secretary of state and casting herself as an experienced hand in a dangerous world - an argument her aides believe will play well against both Sanders and non-establishment GOP contenders like Trump. She also tackled economic issues, emphasizing differences, not so much with her Democratic rivals, as with the GOP. "Now, this is getting to be fun," said Sanders, after Clinton resisted efforts by the moderators to cut her off during a dispute over taxes.

Over the next six weeks, it will become clear if Democratic voters agree. But while most polls have Clinton leading by more than 20 percentage points nationally, the contest remains tight in the crucial early voting states of lowa and New Hampshire, the latter in which Sanders has an advantage as the longtime senator of neighboring Vermont. His aides believe that wins in those two states would give them momentum heading into the next contests in South Carolina and Nevada, territory where he's struggled to gain traction over the former first lady.

Sanders' campaign has successfully turned grassroots energy into a sizable war chest, announcing last week that it had received 2 million contributions - a milestone only matched by President Barack Obama in his re-election campaign. But to turn that level of early energy into a national victory, Sanders must find a way to expand his appeal in a race in which economic uncertainty is increasingly taking a back seat to security

Though there were moments of tension over national security in Saturday night's debate, Sanders failed to score a clear hit on Clinton. On national security, he reiterated years-old criticism of her vote for the 2003 Iraq invasion, accusing her of being "too much into regime change". Clinton quickly shot back: "With all due respect, Senator, you voted for regime change with respect to Libya."—AP

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GANG RAPE CONVICT FREED



LEBANON'S TRASH DISASTER CONTINUES

By Philip Issa

ebanon's trash collection crisis which set off huge protests this summer is entering ■its sixth month, but you would hardly know it in Beirut. Not only are the capital's streets kept relatively garbage-free, but the country's politicians appear in no hurry to resolve the catastrophe. Instead, trash is pushed to the periphery, piled in hills near the mouth of the city's river, attracting a fly infestation that has plagued Beirut's easternmost residents since early November

On the other side of the river, trash mounds along the bank reach the height of roadway overpasses. "The situation is disastrous," said Rachid Rahme, a physician at Lebanon's Sacre Coeur Hospital. "I don't like to get involved in politics, but I'm sure they could find a way to deal with it rather than dealing with it in this

Frustration over the mounting garbage sparked a protest movement under the banner "You Stink," an epithet aimed at the government, which brought tens of thousands of demonstrators into Beirut's streets over the summer. The collection crisis erupted in July after authorities closed the primary landfill for Beirut and the surrounding coastal governorate without providing an alternative.

The demonstrations were a catharsis of discontent directed at the political class, which has walled itself off from popular opinion and failed to provide other basic services such as water, electricity and drainage. But those

protests have largely fizzled out, owing to a mix of canny political maneuvering and repressive crackdowns. In September, young men openly identifying themselves as supporters of the country's Parliament speaker descended on the protesters, carrying knives and throwing punches and stones. Every time

violence, twenty-five years after the formal conclusion of its civil war, the threat of disorder scared protesters off. "The political authorities played it smart to defuse us," said Assad Thebian, one of the organizers behind the politically unaffiliated campaign. The state's fastidious efforts to keep the capital's streets



In this Dec 17, 2015 photo, a car passes by a pile of garbage in Karantina in east Beirut. —AP

demonstrators attempted to approach the parliament building, security forces fired their weapons into the air, sprayed tear gas and

water cannons, and arrested dozens. To a country still accustomed to spasms of

clean also helped pacify the population. The latest initiative to solve the crisis, a proposal to export the waste, appears set to run aground, after a minister complained about its exorbitant cost. Prime Minister Tammam Salam's Cabinet will deliberate the proposal Monday, but without a president of the republic, Salam has been hesitant to authorize decrees without consensus.

Agriculture Minister Akram Chehayeb, one of the architects of the plan, says the country has no choice but to export after a tortured national process to open new landfills collapsed. "There's no trust in the government, so the people refused to accept sanitary landfills. And until we restart government institutions and elect a president, we are stuck with the most expensive solution," he said. The country has not had parliamentary elections since 2009 and has failed to elect a president since

With over one million war refugees entering Lebanon from neighboring Syria since 2011 and the country's parties openly allied with rival sides in that conflict, Lebanon's politicians say they have to move cautiously to preserve the fragile political balance. A few municipalities have launched their own recycling initiatives, but many others are simply burning their garbage, often in residential areas. Air contamination in these areas is now more than 400 times worse than pollution in the country's industrial areas, a recent study by the American University of Beirut revealed.

Rahme said the consequences can be disastrous and already gastroenteritis cases are up 30 percent since last year. "There are other diseases that can happen ... It can cause cancer in the long run and asthma in the short term," he warned. —AP

by a data security company. Even if some of the

information was outdated, experts say skilled

hackers could have found a way to update the

passwords and slip past firewalls to get into the

operations network. Eventually, they say, the

intruders could have shut down generating sta-

tions, fouled communications networks and pos-

They also took detailed engineering drawings

sibly caused a blackout near the plants.

US POWER GRID VULNERABLE TO FOREIGN HACKS

By Garance Burke

ecurity researcher Brian Wallace was on the trail of hackers who had snatched a California university's housing files when he stumbled into a larger nightmare: Cyberattackers had opened a pathway into the networks running the United States' power grid. Digital clues pointed to Iranian hackers. And Wallace found that they had already taken passwords, as well as engineering drawings of dozens of power plants, at least one with the title "Mission Critical". The drawings were so detailed that experts say skilled attackers could have used them, along with other tools and malicious code, to knock out electricity flowing to millions of homes.

Wallace was astonished. But this breach, AP has found, was not unique. About a dozen times in the last decade, sophisticated foreign hackers have gained enough remote access to control the operations networks that keep the lights on, according to top experts who spoke only on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter.

The public almost never learns the details about these types of attacks - they're rarer but also more intricate and potentially dangerous than data theft. Information about the government's response to these hacks is often protected and sometimes classified; many are never even reported to the government. These intrusions have not caused the kind of cascading blackouts that are feared by the intelligence community. But so many attackers have stowed away in the largely investor-owned systems that run the US electric grid that experts say they likely have the capability to strike at will.

And that's what worries Wallace and other cybersecurity experts most. "If the geopolitical situation changes and Iran wants to target these facilities, if they have this kind of information it will make it a lot easier," said Robert M Lee, a former US Air Force cyberwarfare operations officer.

In 2012 and 2013, in well-publicized attacks, Russian hackers successfully sent and received encrypted commands to US public utilities and power generators; some private firms concluded this was an effort to position interlopers to act in the event of a political crisis. And the Department of Homeland Security announced about a year ago that a separate hacking campaign, believed by

some private firms to have Russian origins, had injected software with malware that allowed the attackers to spy on US energy companies.

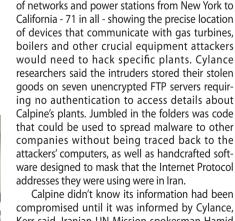
Backdoors

"You want to be stealth," said Lillian Ablon, a cybersecurity expert at the RAND Corporation. "That's the ultimate power, because when you need to do something you are already in place." The hackers have gained access to an ageing, outdated power system. Many of the substations and equipment that move power across the US are decrepit and were never built with network security in mind; hooking them up to the Internet over the last decade has given hackers new backdoors in. Distant wind farms, home solar panels, smart meters and other networked devices must be

Corp, a power producer with 82 plants operating in

18 states and Canada. Private firms have alleged other recent hacks of networks and machinery tied to the US power grid were carried out by teams from within Russia and China, some with governmental support. Even the Islamic State group is trying to hack American power companies, a top Homeland Security official told industry executives in October. The attack involving Calpine is particularly disturbing because the cyberspies grabbed so much, according to previously unreported documents and interviews.

Cybersecurity experts say the breach began at least as far back as Aug 2013. Calpine spokesman Brett Kerr said the company's information was stolen from a contractor that does business with Calpine. He said the stolen diagrams and pass-



Calpine didn't know its information had been compromised until it was informed by Cylance, Kerr said. Iranian UN Mission spokesman Hamid Babaei did not return calls or address questions emailed by AP. Cylance notified the FBI, which warned the US energy sector in an unclassified bulletin last December that a group using Iranbased IP addresses had targeted the industry.

Homeland Security spokesman SY Lee said that his agency is coordinating efforts to strengthen grid cybersecurity nationwide and to raise awareness about evolving threats to the electric sector through industry trainings and risk assessments. As Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas acknowledged in an interview, however, "we are not where we need to be" on cybersecurity.

That's partly because the grid is largely privately owned and has entire sections that fall outside federal regulation, which experts argue leaves the sector poorly defended against a growing universe of hackers seeking to access its networks. As Deputy Energy Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood Randall said in a speech earlier this year, "If we don't protect the energy sector, we are putting every other sector of the economy in



In this May 20, 2015 photo, system control center operator Ryan Cox sits at his computer workstation at an AEP Transmission Operations Center in New Albany, Ohio. —AP

remotely monitored and controlled, which opens up the broader system to fresh points of attack.

Hundreds of contractors sell software and equipment to energy companies, and attackers have successfully used those outside companies as a way to get inside networks tied to the grid. Attributing attacks is notoriously tricky. Neither US officials nor cybersecurity experts would or could say if the Islamic Republic of Iran was involved in the attack Wallace discovered involving Calpine

words were old - some diagrams dated to 2002 and presented no threat, though some outside experts disagree. Kerr would not say whether the configuration of the power plants' operations networks - also valuable information - remained the same as when the intrusion occurred, or whether it was possible the attackers still had a foothold.

The hackers stole user names and passwords that could be used to connect remotely to Calpine's networks, which were being maintained

FORMER NEWCASTLE KEEPER IN CRITICAL CONDITION

PRAGUE: Former Newcastle United goalkeeper Pavel Srnicek is in critical condition after the 47-year-old collapsed while jogging in his hometown near Ostrava, a Sparta Prague football team spokesman said yesterday. The hospital declined to provide further details at his family's request but media reports citing his agent said the current Sparta goalkeeping coach's heart

stopped while he was jogging and that he remained unconscious in a critical condition. "Unfortunately we can confirm that Pavel Srnicek is in a very serious condition at the moment at a hospital in Ostrava," Sparta spokesman Ondrej Kasik said. "We won't be giving any more information as it is sensitive, especially for his family." Srnicek, who also had stints at Sheffield Wednesday, West Ham United and Portsmouth, made 150 appearances for the Magpies between 1991 and 1998. He helped Newcastle to win promotion to the top flight during the 1992-93 season. The former international, who was a member of the national squad at the 1996 European Championship when the Czech Republic lost to Germany in the final, was a fan favourite in Newcastle. —Reuters

BOGDAN ACCEPTS BLAME FOR WATFORD GOAL

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool goalkeeper Adam Bogdan has held his hands up and admitted blame for his clanger that led to Watford's opening goal in their 3-0 victory over the Reds on Sunday. Bogdan dropped the ball in his area when trying to complete what should have been a simple catch from a corner, allowing Nathan Ake to poke the ball home. And although the Hungarian, who was standing in for regular No.1 Simon Mignolet, claims he was fouled by Ake as he went to grab the loose ball, he accepts that he should have never dropped it in the first place. "I dropped the ball, of course," the 28-year-old told Liverpool's official website. "There's a mistake there. "After that I felt my hand was on the ball and I was going to bring it out. "Obviously he knocked it out of my hand-but we are talking about split-seconds. "Through the bodies of course it's hard (for the referee) to see. I'm not blaming anybody but myself to drop the first ball. "Watford were really good but we-and myself-gave them a head start." Odion Ighalo went on to score a brace as Liverpool lost for the third time under new German manager Jurgen Klopp, who actually has a worse Premier League record this season since taking over from the sacked Brendan Rogers than did his predecessor.

HAMMETT NAMED AS SUNWOLVES COACH

TOKYO: Former All Blacks hooker Mark Hammett was unveiled as the head coach of Japan's new Super Rugby side the Sunwolves yesterday, along with an experienced 34-man squad. The Tokyo-based franchise will play in a blood orange kit with a reserve strip of grey, it was announced by southern hemisphere governing body SAN-ZAR. They face South Africa's Golden Lions at home in their first match on February 27. Hammett, who made 29 appearances for New Zealand from 1999 to 2003, previously coached the Wellington Hurricanes (2011-14) in his first spell as a Super Rugby head coach. The 43-year-old disciplinarian faces a major challenge to prepare the side for their opening match in Tokyo following an alarming delay in naming their coaching and playing staff. The Sunwolves will join an expanded 18-team competition next year along with the Southern Kings of South Africa and Argentina's first franchise, the Jaguares who will be based in Buenos Aires.—AFP





BATELCO WIN GULFRUN 24HR KARTING ENDURANCE 5!

KUWAIT: GulfRun 24 hour Karting Endurance 5, powered by Zain, took place over the weekend at Sirbb Circuit in Shuwaikh - starting on Friday at 4:30 pm ending on Saturday 4:30 pm. 20 teams consisting of 180 drivers took part in the practice sessions and the highly competitive and challenging 24-hour endurance race.

After 24 hours of racing, in the Elite class Batelco finished in first place with a total of 1982 laps completed, followed by Zain Racing and Q8 Racing 2. In the Silver class Shamiya Racing team finished in first place with a total of 1967 laps completed, followed by Aston Marting and Ace Racing.

Ahmed Al-Mudhaf of GulfRun said, "We are very proud of the drivers' performance and the atmosphere at the circuit was exceptionally energetic." Ahmed Almajed of Pro-Vision Sports Management added, "We have witnessed an exciting race in which all 20 teams completed the race. The skills of the participating teams have been increasing year on year - and they are capable of competing on an international level."

The GulfRun 24HR Endurance Karting 5 is organized by GulfRun and Pro-Vision Sports Management. The race follows international regulations and certified marshals fly in from the UK to regulate the race in accor-



dance to FIA regulations. The 20 teams comprise of 4 to 12 drivers per team who drive a maximum stint time of roughly 2.5 hours, after which they switch drivers, and keep going for 24 hours of non- stop racing. The GulfRun Karting Endurance Race was first

launched in 2011 to create an exciting competition in Kuwait that aligns with GulfRun's objective to promote automobile racing and training in a safe and secure environment and karting is one of the pillars of motorsports.



GulfRun's and Pro-Vision Sport Management team extend their gratitude to the continuous support by Kuwait's private sector, which acknowledges the important role sport plays amongst Kuwait's youth. GulfRun 24HR Karting Endurance

Race is supported by a wide range of sponsors: Title sponsorship by Zain; GR Karting Pace Car: Audi; Platinum Sponsors Algida and American Tax Bureau; Gold sponsorship by Slider Station, The Correspondent, AlSawan and Moonlight Studios, Kidsville.

ing even closer ties between the organizing com-

Also yesterday, Muto said the cost of the games

will be much higher than the original estimate of

just over 300 billion yen (\$2.5 billion), though he

did not give a specific figure, saying officials are still

mittee and Japan's business community."

RENAULT COMPLETES PURCHASE OF LOTUS FORMULA ONE TEAM

LONDON: Renault have completed their takeover of the Lotus Formula One team and paid debts to creditors including the British tax authorities, the London High Court heard yesterday.

"We have a completion of the share purchase," a lawyer for the French car company told the judge, Mr Justice Birss, at a hearing that formally dismissed an insolvency petition that would have put the team into administration. "We have the keys, so to speak," he added. The share purchase agreement (SPA) that made Renault the controlling shareholder had been due for completion on Dec. 16 but the court heard that the acquisition was finalised only late last Friday.

Jeremy Bamford, counsel for the revenue and customs (HMRC), confirmed payment had been received and cleared on Monday. Other petitioning creditors said they had also been paid in full. Lawyers for Proton, the Malaysian car company that owns the Lotus sportscar brand, did not attend the hearing with the court informed that the petitioner had either been paid or reached an arrangement.

"The insolvency procedure has worked in the way intended," Birss said in summing up, with the company saved and debts paid in full.

The case had been adjourned repeatedly to allow Renault time to decide their Formula One future and complete the takeover of a team that employs some 480 people at their factory in central England.

Renault, an engine supplier to former world champions Red Bull this season, are returning to Formula One as a full constructor by buying back the team they previously owned. The team was sold by Renault to Luxembourg-based Genii Capital, who renamed it Lotus, after a Singapore Grand Prix race-fixing scandal that rocked the sport in 2009. As Benetton and then Renault, the team had won world titles with Michael Schumacher and Fernando Alonso. This season Genii injected only enough cash into Lotus to keep the team on the grid, while leaving a string of creditors waiting to be paid.

Bailiffs impounded the cars after the Belgian Grand Prix in August and the team were denied access to the paddock hospitality in Japan due to unpaid bills.

Genii Capital chairman and current Lotus principal Gerard Lopez told Reuters at the season-ending race in Abu Dhabi last month that he would retain a shareholding in the team. The team have Venezuelan Pastor Maldonado and Britain's Jolyon Palmer as drivers signed for 2016. —Reuters

TOYOTA HEAD RESIGNS FROM TOKYO OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

TOKYO: The head of Toyota Motor Corp. stepped down yesterday as vice president of the organizing committee for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as organizers acknowledged the cost of hosting the games will be far higher than originally thought.

The committee said that Akio Toyoda is expected to be replaced by the president of Panasonic, Kazuhiro Tsuga. Organizers said Toyoda may have been concerned about serving on both commit-

tees, as the Olympic body is seeking support from the business community. Toyota Motor is a major sponsor of the Olympics.

"Mr. Toyoda might have tried to sort out his roles," Tokyo organizing committee CEO Toshiro Muto told reporters. Toyoda said in a statement that he decided to reorganize his roles to intensify his efforts to encourage business support for the 2020 Games He said he is "looking forward to forgate the said he is "looking forwar

that he decided to reorganize his roles to intensify his efforts to encourage business support for the 2020 Games. He said he is "looking forward to forg- (\$15 billion), saying comparing numbers without specific breakdowns is "inappropriate."

Japan's national broadcaster NHK said the increase mainly came from previously unanticipated costs, including 300 billion yen (\$2.48 billion) to set up temporary venues, 270 billion yen (\$1.65 billion) for renting some venues, 200 billion yen (\$1.65 billion) for security, and 180 billion yen (\$1.49 billion) for transportation and infrastructure.

Muto said the initial estimate Japan provided to

the International Olympic Committee was "bare minimum" and that costs for anti-terrorism measures, additional events, transportation, land lease and other necessities would have to be added.

"There is no doubt that a new cost estimate

"There is no doubt that a new cost estimate would swell because of the need for previously unanticipated spending such as counterterrorism measures," he said.

Tokyo Olympics organizing committee chairman and former prime minister Yoshiro Mori has said the total cost could be as much as 2 trillion yen (\$16.5 billion). Muto said the organizing committee plans to submit its latest cost estimate to the IOC by next summer.

Toyoda's sudden resignation and the confirmation of rising costs are the latest in a series of setbacks for the Olympic preparations. Japan had to scrap its original plans for the main stadium because of soaring costs, and then faced a plagiarism scandal over the logo for the games.

A new stadium design will be announced Tuesday from two proposals after Japan canceled the original plan by British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid.—AP



TOKYO: In this March 13, 2015 file photo, Toyota President and CEO Akio Toyoda, left, smiles with International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach as they pose with a signed document during a press conference in Tokyo as the Japanese auto giant Toyota Motor Corp. signed on as a worldwide Olympic sponsor in a landmark deal reportedly worth nearly \$1 billion, becoming the first car company to join the IOC's top-tier marketing program. Toyoda has stepped down as vice president of the organizing committee for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The committee announced the resignation of Toyoda yesterday. — AP

AUSTRALIA'S KHAWAJA SAYS HAMSTRING INJURY WOES OVER

MELBOURNE: Usman Khawaja said yesterday he was confident his recurring hamstring problems were behind him as the batsman works towards a recall to the Australia team for the second Test against the West Indies.

Khawaja returned from a spell on the sidelines in Sunday's Big Bash League Twenty20 match, scoring an explosive 109 off 70 balls for the Sydney Thunder in their one-run win over the Melbourne

game. I feel really good today," Khawaja told reporters.

"Just normal general soreness, the hammies feel really good." The 29-yearold is expected to return to Australia's Test side against the West Indies at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday, at the expense of either Joe Burns or Shaun Marsh.

Pakistan-born Khawaja has been out

Stars. "I'm very happy I got through the for a month since injuring his hamstring during Australia's second Test against New Zealand in Perth. He has spent most of his time out at Cricket Australia's training base in Brisbane, focusing on the troublesome tendons and muscles. "My hamstrings are definitely stronger than they have been in the last three vears. The last testing I had to do on Friday was a hamstring strength test," he said. "My hamstrings came up stronger

than they've been in the last three years. "I did a lot of hard work over the last four weeks, the trainers up at the training base pushed me pretty hard. That's what I needed to do." Test coach Darren Lehmann said last month that Khawaja must "get fit and strong and faster first and make sure we don't have another injury." "I pushed myself pretty hard." Khawaja admitted. "I couldn't go there and try to nurse it or not go 100 percent

because I know that's not what Boof (Lehmann) wants."

Khawaja has been sidelined since scoring 174 and 121 in the first two Tests against New Zealand last month. During his absence, replacement Marsh made a strong case for his retention with his highest Test score of 182 during the first Test against the Windies in Hobart. That could leave Burns as the possible fall

SCOREBOARD

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa: Close of play scores on the second day of a three-day firstclass match between South Africa A and the touring England team at City Oval yesterday.

South Africa A, first innings, 136 **England XI, first innings** (overnight 64-0) A. Cook c Paterson b Maharaj A. Hales b Paterson N. Compton Ibw b Maharaj J. Root c Ramela b Maharaj J. Taylor b Maharaj B Stokes c Maharaj b De Lange J. Bairstow not out Extras (lb2, w1) Total (6 wkts dec, 97.5 overs) 414 Fall of wickets: 1-112 (Hales), 2-178 (Compton), 3-241 (Cook), 4-291 (Taylor), 5-395 (Stokes), 6-

Bowling: Morris 25-3-93-0, De Lange 21-4-99-1,

Paterson 20-3-78-1 (1w), Maharaj 26.5-3-129-4,

Cook 5-0-13-0

Did not bat: M. Ali, S. Broad, S. Finn, M. Footitt South Africa A, second innings S. Cook Ibw b Broad R. Hendricks Ibw b Ali R. Rossouw not out 13 M. de Lange not out Extras (lb1, w1) Total (2 wkts, 11 overs) Fall of wicket: 1-10 (Cook), 2-34 (Hendricks)

Bowling: Broad 3-1-10-1, Footitt 3-1-13-0, Stokes 1-0-5-0 (1w), Finn 1-0-5-0, Ali 2-2-0-1, Root 1-0-1-0

Match situation: South Africa A trail by 243 runs with eight wickets

remaining in the second innings.

COOK, ROOT CENTURIES PUT ENGLAND IN CHARGE

WEST INDIES SPINNER BISHOO

IN FRAME FOR MELBOURNE START

PIETERMARITZBURG: Alastair Cook and Joe Root hit centuries yesterday as the touring England team played themselves into a dominant position on the second day of a three-day match against South

Skipper Cook hit 126 and Root made 117 in an England total of 414 for six declared-a first innings lead of 278 runs. South Africa A lost both opening batsmen as they limped to the close on 35 for two, still needing 243 to make England bat

With James Taylor and Ben Stokes having hit centuries against an Invitation XI in Potchefstroom, four of England's likely Test top six have hit centuries in the first two matches of the tour.

Alex Hales, the only specialist batsman to miss out in Potchefstroom, hit 56 in an opening stand of 112 with Cook as England

MELBOURNE: West Indies are consider-

ing a recall for leg-spinner Devendra

Bishoo as they look to fight their way

back into the series in the second test

all parts of the Bellerive Oval during the

innings and 212 run defeat in Hobart

Warrican, playing only his second test,

took three wickets in Australia's only

innings but they came at the cost of 158

runs as the home batsmen ran rampant.

Australians in the Caribbean earlier this

year and again showed his class in the

drawn tour match against a Victoria XI at

Bishoo took 6-80 against the

which opened the three-match series.

The tourists' bowlers were flogged to

Left-arm orthodox spinner Jomel

against Australia later this week.

continued to show impressive form ahead of the first Test against South Africa, which starts in Durban on Saturday.

Cook made his runs off 194 balls with 16 fours and two sixes, while Root needed just 125 deliveries in an innings which included the same number of boundaries as his captain. Root and Stokes hammered 101 in a 91-ball fifth-wicket stand, with Stokes racing to 66 off 47 balls before he was caught on the boundary.

With South Africa having been trounced 3-0 in a recent Test series in India, the players next in line generally failed to impress. Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj was the only bowler to shine, taking four for 129, while opening batsman Stephen Cook, who carried his bat for an unbeaten 53 in an otherwise dismal first innings for the South Africans, was out for one in the sec-



HAMILTON: New Zealand players pose with the trophy after they defeated Sri Lanka by 5 wickets on the fourth day of the second international cricket test in Hamilton, New Zealand, yesterday. —AP

WILLIAMSON TON STEERS NZ TO FIVE-WICKET WIN OVER S LANKA

HAMILTON: Kane Williamson scored his fifth century in eight tests in 2015 to guide New Zealand to a five-wicket victory over Sri Lanka before lunch on the fourth day of the second test at Seddon Park in Hamilton yester-

The victory gave Brendon McCullum's side a 2-0 series sweep over the tourists after they won the first test in Dunedin by 122 runs.

"It was definitely hard fought and I thought the improvement of the Sri Lankan side was pretty evident throughout the test series," McCullum said in a TV interview.

"Credit to Angelo and Sri Lanka for putting us under immense pressure (in Hamilton) and thankfully we were able to withstand it through an innings of sheer quality.

Williamson finished 108 not out, taking his run tally in 2015 to 1,172 — the most by a New Zealander in a calendar year — at an average of

90.15. The hosts reached their victory target of 189 with five wickets down, wicketkeeper BJ Watling finishing unbeaten on 13 alongside Williamson and scoring the winning run with a sweep for a single off Milinda Siriwardana.

Sri Lanka fast Dushmantha Chameera took 4-68 to go with his first innings haul of 5-47. New Zealand held a slight advantage when they resumed on Monday on 142-5 but both sides had the chance to win the match with Williamson always the player most likely to determine the outcome.

The 25-year-old, whose right knee was heavily strapped during his innings on Sunday, resumed on 78 not out with Watling yet to score having faced the final two balls on day three.

Williamson, however, dominated the strike to dash Sri Lanka's hopes of victory and brought up his 13th test century when he pulled Chameera behind square for his fifth boundary of the day to move to 102.

The shot moved him to 1,166 runs, surpassing the 1,164 his captain McCullum scored in 2014, as well as reducing the target to 20.

Neither side truly got to grips with the wicket throughout the match as short-pitched bowling produced steepling bounce that resulted in numerous mistimed pull or hook shots to fielders in the outfield.

The hosts capitalised on a spectacular collapse by Sri Lanka on Sunday, when they took all 10 wickets for 62 runs either side of lunch to

set up their modest victory target. "I thought we had a chance," Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews said. "We had them under pressure in the first couple of days but they came back strong (and) in the second innings we made a mockery out of our batting.

"We have the talent and the skill is there, it's just a matter of time. "The more they play the more they learn and the more faith we have in them."— Reuters

131, 9-133, 10-133.

Bowling: Trent Boult 7-1-30-0 (1w), Tim Southee 12.3-2-26-

4 (1nb), Doug Bracewell 8-1-31-2 (6w,1nb), Neil Wagner 9-



HAMILTON: New Zealand's Kane Williamson bats on his way to a century against Sri Lanka on the fourth day of the second international cricket test in Hamilton, New Zealand, yesterday.— AP

the weekend, even if his two wickets came at a cost of 60 runs. "He bowled better," West Indies coach Phil Simmons told reporters in Geelong. "There was a lot more drive in his deliveries and everything like that. "We'll see what happens over the next three days and we'll see what the MCG wicket is like, then we can make a decision

about the combination we're going The Guyanan, a wicket-taker in a West Indies squad that appears to have very few of them, made his test debut in 2011

in a maiden campaign that earned him

the ICC's Emerging Cricketer of the Year

After his breakthrough year, however, he lost his mojo in two series on the unforgiving tracks of India and Bangladesh and the second test against England earlier this year was his first in three years.

Another heavy workload against the English in Grenada — 51 overs in the tourists' first innings-took its toll on more than his enthusiasm, leaving him with virtually no skin on his spinning fin-

He was fit again when the Australians visited in June and his six victims in Roseau included Brad Haddin, who was dismissed by a wonder ball that pitched on leg, turned sharply and crashed into

the top of the wicketkeeper's off stump. Comparisons were made with the Shane Warne "Ball of the Century" to dismiss Mike Gatting in 1993 and the delivery illustrated that Bishoo can get as much turn from the ball as any world

class spinner. The drop-in wicket at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) is unlikely to offer too much for the spinners but even if the 30-year-old does not get the nod for the Boxing Day match, he could get the call for the third test in Sydney.

The Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG), which hosts the final test from Jan. 3, traditionally offers some turn and Australia have included two spinners in their squad for that match. — Reuters

LAHORE: Former Pakistani cricketers Ijaz Ahmed(L), Mohammad Akram (2L), Rameez Raja (3L), former Australian batsman Dean Jones (C), and former Pakistani cricketers Mushtag Ahmed (3R) Moin Khan (2R) and Wasim Akram pose for a photograph during the drafting of players for the Pakistan Super League (PSL) in Lahore yesterday. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

HAMILTON, New Zealand: Scoreboard ye cricket test between New Zealand and Sri		the end of the match on the fourth day of th ddon Park.	e second	
Sri Lanka, 1st Innings	292	2-40-3 (1nb).		
New Zealand, 1st Innings	237	New Zealand, 2nd Innings (Overnight: 142-5)		
Sri Lanka, 2nd Innings	133	Tom Latham c Pradeep b Chameera	4	
Dimuth Karunaratne c Southee b Bracewell	27	Martin Guptill c Karunarate b Chameera	1	
Kusal Mendis c Santner b Southee	46	Kane Williamson not out	108	
Udara Jayasundera c Watling b Bracewell	0	Ross Taylor c sub (Vandersay) b Chameera	35	
Dinesh Chandimal c Guptill b Wagner	4	Brendon McCullum c Mathews b Chameera	18	
Angelo Mathews c Watling b Southee	2	Mitchell Santner c Chandimal b Lakmal	4	
Milinda Siriwardana c Boult b Wagner	26	B.J. Watling not out	13	
Kithuruwa Vithanage c Bracewell b Wagner	9	Extras (1lb,5nb)	6	
Rangana Herath b Southee	0	TOTAL (for five wickets)	189	
Dushmantha Chameera run out	2		109	
Suranga Lakmal not out	1	Overs: 54.3. Batting time: 260 minutes.		
Nuwan Pradeep c Watling b Southee	0	Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-11, 3-78, 4-130, 5-142.		
Extras (4b,2lb,7w,3nb)	16	Did not bat: Doug Bracewell, Tim Southee, No	eil Wagner,	
TOTAL (all out)	133	Trent Boult.		
Overs: 36.3. Batting time: 189 minutes.		Bowling: Dushmantha Chameera 17-1-68-4 (2nb), Suranga		
Fall of wickets: 1-71, 2-72, 3-77, 4-87, 5-110, 6-12	23, 7-123, 8-	Lakmal 12-4-20-1, Ragana Herath 11-0-48-0, Nuwan		

Pradeep 12-1-43-0 (3nb), Angelo Mathews 1-0-4-0, Milinda

Siriwardana 1.3-0-5-0.

Result: New Zealand won by five wickets

'DULL' MURRAY WINS BBC SPORTS PERSONALITY AWARD



BELFAST: British tennis player Andy Murray poses with the trophy after winning the 2015 Sports Personality of the Year, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Sunday.— AP

BELFAST: Davis Cup hero Andy Olympic gold and the US Open in Award after bringing his illustrious Murray won the BBC Sports 2012 and Wimbledon a year earlier, career to a close in April. Personality of the Year award for 2015 at a star-studded reception in Belfast on Sunday.

The world number two, who was picking up the honour for the second time, led Great Britain to their first Davis Cup title since 1936 last

Accepting the award the Scot said: "I didn't expect this - a friend actually sent me a message the other day with an article from a newspaper which said Andy Murray is duller than a weekend in Worthing, which I thought was a bit harsh - on Worthing.

"It's very humbling to be up here in front of so many great athletes -I'm just a great sports fan and I'm really nervous." Murray, who won reflected on Britain's rise to Davis Cup fame.

'This has been a five-year journey - we were right down at the bottom level or tennis and now we're ranked number one in the world and I never thought that would be possible." In second place came Kevin Sinfield, who retired from rugby league after an extraordinary career, including winning the Challenge Cup, League Leaders' Shield and the Super League title in his final season, before switching codes to union

Jessica Ennis-Hill, who was crowned world heptathlon champion in August, 13 months after giving birth, came in third.

Jump jockey legend AP McCoy received the Lifetime Achievement

McCoy - who won the main Sports Personality prize in 2010 - retired after riding 4,357 winners and being crowned Champion Jockey 20 consecutive times. Former All Blacks flyhalf Dan Carter picked up the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year award.

The 33-year-old Carter ended his international career by leading New Zealand to a World Cup triumph in England in the summer. Northern Ireland manager Michael O'Neill won the Coach of the Year award after leading his nation to the Euro 2016

And the British Davis Cup team were rewarded for their historic triumph in Belgium by winning the Team of the Year trophy.— AFP

CAPITALS CLOSE WITH 6 STRAIGHT GOALS, BEAT STRUGGLING RANGERS

NEW YORK: Justin Williams had two goals and an assist and Marcus Johansson had a goal and two assists as the Washington Capitals closed with six straight goals to beat the struggling New York Rangers 7-3 on Sunday night. Washington trailed 3-1 after one period but rallied for its fifth straight win. The Capitals are 24 6-2 and tied with Dallas for the NHL lead with 50 points. Evgeny Kuznetsov, T.J. Oshie, Alex Ovechkin and Jason Chimera also scored for the Capitals. Nicklas Backstrom added three assists and Braden Holtby made 33 saves. The Rangers have lost three in a row and six of eight to fall to 19-12-4. J.T. Miller, Chris Kreider and Dan Boyle scored for New York. Henrik Lundqvist made 19 saves before being pulled, and then Magnus Hellberg made four saves in his NHL debut.

BLACKHAWKS 4, SHARKS 3, OT

Jonathan Toews scored at 2:21 of overtime to give surging Chicago a victory over San Jose. Toews skated in with Patrick Kane for a 2-on-1 and tipped home a nice pass for his 11th goal. Kane scored his 21st in the first period to help the Blackhawks win for the second straight day and seventh time in nine games overall. The star forward has two goals and two assists in three games since his 26-game point streak ended last Tuesday against Colorado. Joonas Donskoi had a goal and an assist for San Jose, which has dropped eight of 10. Tommy Wingels and Joe Pavelski also

BRUINS 2, DEVILS 1, SO

Ryan Spooner scored the lone shootout goal and Jonas Gustavsson made 29 saves to lift Boston over New Jersey. Loui Eriksson had a goal in the first period for the Bruins, who improved to 11-1-3 in their last 15 games and pulled within one point of firstplace Montreal in the Atlantic Division. Andy Greene scored in the second for the Devils, who have managed only five goals in the last five games. They've dropped three straight and four of five. Spooner scored over the right shoulder of goalie Cory Schneider on the Bruins' first attempt. Schneider made 38 saves but is winless in his last four starts against Boston.

LIGHTNING 5, SENATORS 2

Mike Angelidis scored his first NHL goal in almost four years, and Tampa Bay beat Ottawa. The Lightning also got a pair of goals from Steven Stamkos, including one of two late empty netters. Nikita Nesterov and Alex Killorn had the other Tampa Bay goals. Zack Smith and Erik Karlsson scored for the Senators, who have lost six of their last seven road games. Angelidis, playing in his second NHL game this season and 12th overall, made it 3-1 at 2:45 of the second period when he beat Andrew Hammond during a goalmouth scramble. It was the second career goal for Angelidis, with the other coming against Columbus on Jan. 24,

RED WINGS 4, FLAMES 2

DETROIT (AP) - Dylan Larkin and Brad Richards scored 45 seconds apart midway through the second period to put Detroit ahead of Calgary. Gustav Nyquist gave the Red Wings a two-goal lead late in the second period and Justin Abdelkader scored an empty-net goal with 30 seconds left. Petr Mrazek made 26 saves for the Red Wings, winless in their previous three games. Dennis Wideman and Dougie Hamilton scored for the Flames, who have lost two straight after winning seven in a

PANTHERS 5, CANUCKS 4

Jaromir Jagr scored his 732nd goal to move past Marcel Dionne for fourth place in NHL history, and Aleksander Barkov tallied the winner in a shootout as Florida beat Vancouver. Barkov scored against Jacob Markstrom, who entered the game after Ryan Miller left with an injury after allowing a goal on two shots in the shootout. Jared McCann scored in the shootout for Vancouver, but Roberto Luongo stopped Sven Baertschi to seal the win. Aaron Ekblad, Vincent Trocheck and Shawn Thornton also scored for the Panthers. Luongo stopped 34 shots. Daniel Sedin scored his team-leading 15th of the season for the Canucks. Derek Dorsett, Sven Baertschi and Jannik Hansen also had goals. Miller made 36 saves. —AP

NHL Results/Standings

Florida 5, Vancouver 4 (SO); Boston 2, New Jersey 1 (SO); Tampa Bay 5, Ottawa 2; Detroit 4, Calgary 2; Washington 7, NY Rangers 3; Chicago 4, San Jose 3 (OT).

	West	ern (Confe	rence			Boston	19	9	4	104	83	42
	Ce	ntral	Divis	ion			Detroit	17	9	7	86	85	41
	W	L	OTL		GA	PTS	Florida	18	12	4	93	80	40
Dallas	24	7	2	114	85	50	Ottawa	17	12	5	104	102	39
St. Louis	20	10	4	87	81	44	Tampa Bay	17	14	3	86	80	37
Chicago	20	11	4	96	83	44	Buffalo	14	16	4	79	89	32
Minnesota	17	8	6	86	73	40							
Nashville	16	11	6	85	85	38	Toronto	11	13	7	77	86	29
Colorado	17	16	1	95	90	35	٨	/letro	poli	tan Di	ivisior	1	
Winnipeg	15	15	2	90	97	32	Washington	24	6	2	103	70	50
	Pa	cific	Divisi	ion			NY Rangers	19	12	4	101	91	42
Los Angeles	20	10	2	81	71	42	NY Islanders	18	11	5	91	80	41
San Jose	16	15	2	88	91	34	New Jersey	16	13	5	79	84	37
Vancouver	12	14	9	89	102	33	Philadelphia	14	12	7	70	89	35
Arizona	15	15	2	87	102	32	Pittsburgh	15	14	3	71	82	33
Calgary	15	16	2	87	112	32	3			_			
Edmonton	14	18	2	88	105	30	Carolina	13	15	5	79	99	31
Anaheim	12	14	5	58	77	29	Columbus	13	19	3	86	107	29
	East	ern (onfe	ence			Note: Overt	ime l	osse	s (OT	L) are	wort	h one
	Atl	antio	Divis	ion			point in the	stand	ings	and a	are not	inclu	ded in
Montreal	20	11	3	103	82	43	the loss colu	mn (L).				



NEW YORK: Washington Capitals' Evgeny Kuznetsov (92), second from left, assists in a goal while New York Rangers goalie Magnus Hellberg, left, and Chris Summers, right, look on during the third period of the NHL hockey game, Sunday, in New York. The Capitals defeated the Rangers 7-3. —AP



CLEVELAND: Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving, right, drives to the basket against Philadelphia 76ers' Jahlil Okafor, left, and Jerami Grant the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, in Cleveland.— AP

IRVING RETURNS, CAVALIERS **ROCK LOWLY 76ERS 108-86**

CLEVELAND: Kyrie Irving scored 12 points and 27 points, lifting New Orleans past Denver. Davis ahead layup with 20.6 seconds left to lift played 17 minutes in his season debut and LeBron had a dominating first quarter, scoring 19 points Milwaukee past Phoenix. Bucks coach Jason Kidd James had 23, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 108-86 victory Sunday over the Philadelphia 76ers, who lost their 10th straight and fell to 1-28. Irving was on the floor for the first time since breaking his left kneecap in Game 1 of the NBA Finals against Golden State. The Cavs managed without him, going 17-7 to start the season. But Cleveland is more complete with the All-Star point guard healthy and back. Matthew Dellavedova made four 3-pointers and added 20 points for the Cavs, who improved to 12-1 at home and are eyeing a Christmas Day game against the Warriors. James didn't play in the fourth quarter, logging a seasonlow 26 minutes. Nerlens Noel had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the brutal Sixers, now 0-17 on the road and on their second double-digit losing streak.

HEAT 116, TRAIL BLAZERS 109

Chris Bosh scored 29 points, Hassan Whiteside shook off a slow first half to finish with 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Miami beat Portland. Dwyane Wade had 18 points and added seven assists for the Heat. They trailed by 12 at one point and were down 10 at the half. The Heat shot 57 percent and played the final 13:37 without Goran Dragic. He was ejected for the first time in his career after arguing two foul calls. Damian Lillard had 32 points and nine assists for Portland.

TIMBERWOLVES 100, NETS 85

Karl-Anthony Towns had 24 points and 10 rebounds in the building where he was taken with the No. 1 pick in the June draft, and Minnesota beat Brooklyn. Gorgui Dieng added 20 points and 10 boards to lead a strong bench unit that blew the game open in the fourth quarter. Andrew Wiggins scored 16 points, and Ricky Rubio had 15 assists. Brook Lopez had 20 points, 12 rebounds and five assists for the Nets.

HAWKS 103, MAGIC 100

Kyle Korver scored 13 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter and Atlanta rallied to beat Orlando. Korver had four 3-pointers in the final period and six overall. Mike Scott added 15 points, and Al Horford and Jeff Teague scored 14 apiece in Atlanta's third straight victory. The Magic had the ball and a chance to tie with 7.3 seconds remaining, but the Hawks smothered an inbounds pass to Evan Fournier. The ball eventually found its way to Nik Vucevic, but he failed to get off a shot. Vucevic led Orlando with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

KINGS 104, RAPTORS 94

Rajon Rondo had 19 points and 13 assists, Rudy Gay scored 19 points against his former team and Sacramento beat Toronto to end a four-game road losing streak. Omri Casspi added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Kings. DeMar DeRozan had 28 points for the Raptors. Toronto point guard Kyle Lowry was ejected for consecutive technical fouls after arguing with referee Scott Wall with 7:22 left in the third quarter.

PELICANS 130, NUGGETS 125

Anthony Davis left after the first quarter with an illness only to return in the fourth and finish with

before leaving after feeling sick. He returned early in the fourth and sparked the Pelicans. Tyreke Evans and Jrue Holiday each added 21 points for New Orleans. Will Barton had 32 points and 10 rebounds for Denver.

BUCKS 101, SUNS 95

Khris Middleton scored 11 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and Greg Monroe hit a spinning, go-

said after the game that he will be taking an indefinite leave to have hip surgery. Assistant Joe Prunty will direct the team in his absence. Eric Bledsoe had his potential tying layup blocked by Michael Carter-Williams with 7.9 seconds left, and Middleton hit four free throws in the final 5 seconds. Carter-Williams had 20 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Bledsoe and T.J. Warren led the Suns



DENVER: New Orleans Pelicans center Omer Asik, right, of Turkey, blocks a shot by Denver Nuggets guard Gary Harris, center, as Pelicans guard Tyreke Evans looks on in the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, in Denver. The Pelicans won 130-125. — AP

NBA Results/Standings

Minnesota 100, Brooklyn 85; Miami 116, Portland 109; Cleveland 108, Philadelphia 86; Milwaukee 101, Phoenix 95; Atlanta 103, Orlando 100; Sacramento 104, Toronto 94; New Orleans 130, Denver 125.

	Eastern Confere	Western Conference									
	Atlantic Divisi	on			Nor	Northwest Division					
	W	L	PCT	GB	Oklahoma City	18	9	.667	-		
Toronto	17	12	.586	-	Utah	11	14	.440	6		
Boston	14	13	.519	2	Denver	11	16	.407	7		
NY Knicks	14	14	.500	2.5	Minnesota	11	16	.407	7		
Brooklyn	7	20	.259	9	Portland	11	18	.379	8		
Philadelphia	1	28	.034	16	P	acific Divis	ion				
	Central Divisi	on			Golden State	26	1	.963	_		
Cleveland	18	7	.720	-			•				
Indiana	16	10	.615	2.5	LA Clippers	16	12	.571	10.5		
Chicago	15	10	.600	3	Phoenix	12	17	.414	15		
Detroit	16	12	.571	3.5	Sacramento	11	16	.407	15		
Milwaukee	11	18	.379	9	LA Lakers	4	23	.148	22		
	Southeast Divi	sion			Sou	thwest Div	/ision				
Miami	16	10	.615	-	San Antonio	23	5	.821	-		
Atlanta	17	12	.586	0.5	Dallas	15	12	.556	7.5		
Charlotte	15	11	.577	1	Memphis	15	14	.517	8.5		
Orlando	15	12	.556	1.5	Houston	14	14	.500	9		
Washington	11	14	.440	4.5	New Orleans	8	19	.296	14.5		

ISOLATED BLATTER DEVASTATED BY FIFA SCANDALS

ZURICH: Facing criminal investigation and banned from VIP tribunes, Sepp Blatter cuts an increasingly lonely figure far from the football president who mixed with political heavyweights and

When the 79-year-old Swiss powerbroker told a stunned FIFA congress this year that officials found guilty of misconduct would be booted out of world football, he would not have been thinking of himself. But an eight-year ban from all football activity over a suspect two million Swiss francs (\$2 million, 1.8 million euros) payment to his former ally Michel Platini has left Blatter desperately battling to preserve his remaining claim to legitimacy as the man who brought untold riches to football.

Unashamedly divisive-some called him a "Jesus" and others a rogue-and supremely confident of his own ability, Blatter was for nearly two decades a global force as controller of the world's most watched sporting event, the World

He repeatedly saw off all-comers after taking over as FIFA president from the scandal-tainted Joao Havelange in 1998.

A useful amateur footballer who turned his hand to marketing, Blatter wheeled, dealed and shrugged off alle-

marched into a Zurich hotel in May and arrested seven FIFA officials.

It was two days before a congress at which he was aiming to secure a triumphant fifth term.

"Let me be clear: such misconduct has no place in football and we will ensure that those who engage in it are put out of the game," Blatter said the day after the stunning arrests carried out under US arrest warrants.

'DISLOYAL' PAYMENT

Blatter got his fifth term but with pressure mounting, announced four days later that he would stand down, with a new election later set for February 26. Some still did not believe that he would give up. But a Swiss investigation into FIFA accounts and the "disloyal payment" of two million Swiss francs to FIFA vice president Platini finally ended the Blatter reign. Both were temporarily suspended in October before they were finally banished on Monday.

Blatter has said many times he believes there is an international plot to oust him and that jealous rivals do not use the notion of fair play in their backroom battles with him.

"In my 40 years at FIFA I have learned

said in one commentary this year. "However, as the German language proverb puts it: sympathy is free, but envy must be earned."

And rivals had a lot to be jealous of. Being head of FIFA for 17 years elevated Blatter to 70th place in the Forbes list of the world's most powerful people.

The former amateur footballer-an old fashioned striker-joined FIFA in 1975 from a post marketing Swiss watches.

Blatter, who also worked as a public relations official for a Swiss tourism department and as general secretary of the Swiss ice hockey federation, claims credit for building up much of FIFA's financial muscle. When he joined FIFA it was in a small Zurich building with about 10 staff. One story says that it was Blatter who went to the bank to get a loan when they could not be paid. But FIFA made about \$5.7 billion in the four years between the 2010 and 2014 World Cups.

Football's world body now has 1,400 staff and is sitting on a cash mountain of about \$1.5 billion.

The workaholic Blatter says his main achievement has been to make football "universal"-the first World Cups in Asia (South Korea and Japan in 2002, although the decision was taken before

gations of chicanery until Swiss police to live with hostility and resentment," he he became president) and Africa (South Africa in 2010) came in his tenure.

Hundreds of millions of dollars are given to national federations and in development grants.

FOOTBALL PROPHET-

But since the day he became president in 1998, accusations of skulduggery have never been far from FIFA. The latest are over the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups to Russia and Qatar.

In 2006 he tried to stop a book on FIFA's scandals being published in Switzerland. And so the football world was divided until the Zurich arrests this year. Just before the FIFA election, Dominican Republic FA president Osiris

Guzman compared Blatter to Jesus, Winston Churchill, Moses, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King.

The Asian, African and North-Central American confederations all backed him. But Europe turned against Blatter, UEFA leader Platini said Blatter lied when he said in 2011 that he would stand down when his fourth term ended in 2015.

Platini, now an arch-rival, said Blatter could not bear a life of "emptiness" without FIFA's power and money.

Blatter, married three times, has relied a lot on his daughter Corinne in recent



ZURICH: Suspended FIFA President Sepp Blatter answers to questions during his press conference to respond to the FIFA ethics committee's verdict, at former FIFA's headquarters Hotel Sonnenberg in Zurich, Switzerland, yesterday. — AP

months. "He has a way of making people dependent or indebted to him, but not in a way that people regret it," one Blatter confidant told. — AFP



LAUSANNE: A photo shows UEFA president Michel Platini answering journalists' questions upon his arrival to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne. Joseph Blatter, president of the Fifa since 1998 and Michel Platini, president of the UEFA since 2007, were banned by FIFA for eight years yesterday. — AFP

PLATINI'S TACTICAL **GENIUS GOES WRONG**

PARIS: Making the right pass at a crucial moment made Michel Platini one of the world's greatest footballers, but poor timing has cost him his place as one of the most powerful men in sport. The 60-year-old Frenchman-banned for eight years on Monday-regularly battled back from injury and other blows to star in some of football's most dramatic moments as a player. Escaping FIFA's corruption turmoil has been a trick too far. The time between his work as an advisor to FIFA president Sepp Blatter between 1999 and 2002 and a two million Swiss francs (\$2 million, 1.8 million euros) payment he received in 2011 was not great tactics. A FIFA court said on Monday that the reason for the payment stretched credibility.

The grandson of Italian migrants, Platini was born and brought up in the small steel town of Joeuf in eastern France. His father Aldo was a local maths teacher and football coach.

The young Michel quickly showed a gift with the ball. But French football nearly missed out on his talents. He missed one trial with local heavyweights Metz because of injury. For the second he failed a medical test because of the club's fears about his heart.

Eventually, Nancy signed him and the rest is football history. Platini won the French Cup with Nancy, a league title with Saint-Etienne and was lured to Juventus in 1982. In Turin, the genius playmaker won two Serie A titles and a European Cup.

The passes were always inch-perfect and for a time, Platini was one of the greatest players in the world. He won the 1984 European Championship with France and the Ballon d'Or in 1983, 1984 and 1985. His retirement at the age of 32 came as a shock. But a year later, Platini had already started a four-year stint as France's national coach. The team crashed out of the 1992 European Championship in the first round and he resigned.

LEGEND

Platini remained a legend, however, and he then turned his hand to football administration. He was co-chairman of the 1998 World Cup organising committee in France and significantly supported Sepp Blatter's bid to take over the FIFA presidency in 1998.

Platini became vice-president of the French Football Federation in 2001 and scored his first major political victory when he took charge of UEFA in 2007 — shoving out longtime leader Lennart Johansson in the first round of voting. For years he seemed Blatter's anointed successor. Chung Mong-Joon, the South Korean tycoon and former FIFA vice-president, said there was a "father and son" relationship between the two.

The distance between them grew as scandal engulfed FIFA under Blatter's imperial rule. But for three years from 1999 Platini was an advisor to the world football leader. Their version is that they reached an oral agreement on the salary of one million Swiss francs a year, which was not all paid at the time. FIFA knew nothing about the deal however and Swiss prosecutors deemed a two million Swiss franc transfer in 2011 to be a "disloyal payment." Under Platini, UEFA's wealth has grown exponentially. The Champions League is one of the world's top sporting brands. The European Championship in France next year will feature 24 countries for the first time. But the Frenchman faces other uncomfortable questions, including his vote for Qatar when the Gulf state secured the 2022 World Cup five years ago. Platini said he wanted to show

that his horizons were not limited to Europe. "I have no regrets at all. I think it was the right choice for FIFA and world football," he told L'Equipe newspaper in 2014. Platini has denied he was influenced by former French president Nicolas Sarkozy or the fact that his son Laurent works for a Qatar-owned sports clothing company. He also courted controversy over his refusal to hand back a watch worth more than \$25,000 that was gifted to him by the Brazilian Football Confederation at last year's World Cup. "I'm a well-educated person. I don't return gifts," said Platini after FIFA called for all watches given to executive members to be handed back over a breach of ethics rules. —AFP

SHOW SOME FIGHT KLOPP WARNS FLOPS

WATFORD: Jurgen Klopp challenged his Liverpool flops to prove they have the stomach for a fight after capitulating in a woeful 3-0 defeat against Watford. Klopp's side fell apart after a blunder from Reds goalkeeper Adam Bogdan was punished by Watford's Nathan Ake in the third minute at Vicarage Road on Sunday.

Showing little resistance against tenacious opponents, Liverpool conceded a sloppy second goal when Odion Ighalo bullied Martin Skrtel into another mistake in the 15th minute.

Liverpool never threatened a response as Watford wrapped up their first home win over the Reds since 1986 when in-form Ighalo headed home in the closing minutes. It was the heaviest defeat of Klopp's two-month reign and by far the worst performance.

Coming after praise was heaped on the German and his players following impressive wins at Manchester City and Southampton, Klopp wants to see what kind of response Liverpool, without a win in four matches, can summon now the going is a little tougher.

"After Southampton and Manchester City everyone thought 'wow'. That was one part of what we can do. Now everyone saw the complete other side," Klopp said. "Maybe the truth is somewhere in the middle, but I know how strong this team can be.

"We don't feel good today of course. We came here to do something really different from what you saw. "We have a few days before the next game and we will work on it.

"The easy game everyone wins. Now we have to win the difficult ones." Klopp had no qualms about criticising Bogdan for his mistake, but he felt referee Mark Clattenburg could have blown for a foul before Ake scored because he virtually kicked the ball out of the goalkeeper's hands. "We made bigger faults than the ref but in my opinion he had both hands on the ball so it is a foul," Klopp said.

"Mistakes can happen, that is football, but the reaction has to be better. We lost our minds after the goal. "I would say hopefully it's the



Jurgen Klopp

most disappointing moment in my whole Liverpool FC life."

SOFT TOUCH

Liverpool looked a soft touch without powerful Belgian striker Christian Benteke, who Klopp dropped to recall Roberto Firmino. Benteke has been linked with a January move to Chelsea, but Klopp insisted there was no chance the former Aston Villa star would be sold just six months after moving to Anfield.

"That is the next problem. If you lose the games everyone is allowed to ask why didn't you play this or that player," he said. "If it is the same probability as all the other transfer rumours Ive read since I've been here then I'd say I'm pretty cool." While Klopp contemplates how to get Liverpool back on track, Watford manager Quique Sanchez Flores was basking in the glow of his impressive side's most complete performance of a remarkable first half of the season. In their first Premier League campaign for eight years, Watford have defied the pundits who tipped them for relegation and head into the Christmas period only one point off the top four.

But Flores is determined to ensure his players don't rest on their laurels. "We are playing against amazing players and managers and we are playing the way I want. I'm very happy," he said. "It's very good for the Premier League what teams like Leicester, Bournemouth and Watford are doing. Every single weekend you don't know what will happen. "But it would be a very big mistake to think about anything else other than trying to grow.

"We need to establish ourselves in the Premier League." Flores also played down speculation that Nigeria forward Ighalo could be lured away from Watford by a bigger club in January. "I think Ighalo is clever. He will stay with Watford, Why? Because it is something special for him I hope," he said.—AFP

CANDREVA DOUBLE 'RUINS CHRISTMAS' FOR INTER

er that beat Davide Bassi at the keeper's near

post. Napoli's Brazilian midfielder Jorginho saw

red for a studs-up challenge, but Higuain hit his

MILAN: Italy international Antonio Candreva struck twice including a late winner as Lazio stunned leaders Inter Milan 2-1 on Sunday to throw the Serie A title race wide open.

Inter welcomed Stefano Pioli's men to the San Siro expected to restore their four-point lead on title rivals Fiorentina and Napoli after their respective wins over Chievo and Atalanta.

But despite Mauro Icardi levelling Candreva's fifth-minute opener just after the hour, Roberto Mancini's league leaders were stunned three minutes from time when Candreva hit his second to end Lazio's seven-game winless streak and bolster Pioli's bid to avoid the chop.

Inter's third defeat in 17 games left the Nerazzurri top of the pile but they now have a lead of just one point on Fiorentina and Napoli, three on champions Juventus and four on Roma, who occupy fifth spot.

AC Milan sit in sixth at eight points off the pace after Sinisa Mihajlovic's men battled to a 4-2 win away to Frosinone. A bad-tempered finish rubbed salt into Inter's wounds, with Brazilian Felipe Melo issued a straight red card in the final minute for a spectacular karate kick on compatriot Lucas Biglia.

Moments later, Lazio midfielder Sergej Milinkovic-Savic was also issued his marching orders, for a second bookable offence. "It's all our own fault," Mancini said. "I'm not angry, I'm just disappointed because it's ruined our Christmas.

"Playing badly can happen, but there's no need to make stupid mistakes and lose the game like we did tonight." In what was the final Serie A game of 2015, Inter's largely unexpected defeat should already have fans champing at the bit for the resumption of hostilities in two weeks' time, with only eight points between the top six

In Florence, Nikola Kalinic broke the deadlock in the 20th minute and strike partner Josip Ilicic doubled Fiorentina's lead with a fine dipping strike to secure their 11th win of the campaign.

Atalanta, who stunned Roma 2-0 in the Italian capital a fortnight ago, had pledged to make life hard for Napoli in Bergamo. But seven minutes into the second half Napoli captain Marek Hamsik struck from the penalty spot and although Atalanta pulled level two minutes later thanks to Alejandro Gomez, Gonzalo Higuain restored the visitors' lead with a flicked-on head-

second to stretch his goals tally to 16 from 17 games. Higuain paid tribute to Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri when he told Sky Sport:

"Few teams have come here and played well, but we did-you can see from the result. "I'm happy for the goals, I'm working hard and if I'm feeling good then it's all down to the coach, to the club and to my teammates." —AFP



MILAN: Inter Milan's Stevan Jovetic, right, is tackled by Lazio's Lucas Biglia during a Serie A soccer match between Inter Milan and Lazio, at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, Sunday. ñ— AP

BOURNEMOUTH STILL IN THICK OF RELEGATION BATTLE: HOWE **LONDON:** Bournemouth cannot get carried ever season alongside the elite of English

away by three successive Premier League wins with just four points separating them from the relegation zone, manager Eddie Howe said. A 2-1 victory at West Bromwich Albion on

Saturday followed on from impressive victories over Chelsea and Manchester United to leave Howe's men 14th in the standings.

"From my perspective, you can't be. That means you're going to be content, potentially sit back and think 'great, job done," Howe told British media.

"We are still in the thick of it, we still have to pick up points and there is no relenting from our perspective. It is hard work and improving the players is key."

Bournemouth had impressed the purists with their style in the early weeks of their first football but their slide into the bottom three had raised doubts about their chances of survival. Despite a rash of long-term injuries to a host of key players, including captain Tommy Elphick and leading scorer Callum Wilson, Bournemouth have found their stride with a five-game unbeaten run.

"There's still a long way to go so we are not getting carried away with ourselves. Football has such a short term view these days and only a few weeks ago we were getting some bad publicity for certain things," Howe said.

"Results had not gone our way but I felt the performances were good and now, I think we have got a little bit of reward for our hard work in that period where we didn't change too much about our team.—Reuters

PORTO GO TOP AS BEATEN SPORTING MISS OUT ON RECORD

LISBON: Sporting Lisbon missed out on a club record eighth straight Primeira League win when they lost 1-0 at Uniao da Madeira on Sunday.

The defeat, their first in the league this season, cost them top spot to Porto who defeated Academica de Coimbra 3-1. Sporting had won 11 and drawn two of their opening 13 matches this season

and Jorge Jesus' side equalled a record set by Domingos Paciencia's 2011 team when they beat Moreirense 3-1 last weekend.

Madeira struck the only goal of the game when Danilo Dias headed past Rui Patricio at the far post.

"Uniao had one shot on goal," said coach Jesus, "and it wasn't even a shot, it

was a header, while their goalkeeper saved three certain goals."

Goals from Danilo Pereira and Vincent Aboubakar, and Hector Herrera's stylish back-heeled effort, gave Julen Lopetegui's Porto a 3-0 lead before Rui Pedro replied late on for visiting

league run to seven games when they saw off Rio Ave 3-1 to remain third on 31 points, five off the pace.

Jonas' fourth-minute opener was cancelled out by Renan Bressan's superb long-range free kick for visiting Rio Ave nine minutes later.

Benfica's superiority eventually told Benfica extended their unbeaten when Jonas bagged his second goal in

the 81st minute with a header and Raul Jimenez added a third. Sixth-placed Rio Ave fell behind Vitoria de Setubal, who moved up to fifth with a 3-1 victory at bottom club Tondela, while Moreirense beat Nacional 2-0.

On Saturday, Arouca defeated Maritimo 4-1 and Vitoria de Guimaraes won 1-0 at Estoril. —Reuters

MAHREZ, IGHALO ON THE MARK IN PREMIER LEAGUE

PARIS: Algerian striker Riyad Mahrez produced a brace of penalties for leaders Leicester City and Nigeria's Odion Ighalo helped Watford despatch Liverpool in the Premier League at the weekend:

ENGLAND RIYAD MAHREZ (Leicester City)

Mahrez confirmed his current status as the Premier League's pre-eminent attacking player with a brace of penalties as Leicester won 3-2 at Everton to guarantee they will top the table on Christmas Day. He opened the scoring in the 27th minute at a rain-soaked Goodison Park, tucking the ball into the bottom-left corner after Ramiro Funes Mori had dragged Shinji Okazaki down, and restored the visitors' lead in the 65th minute, following Romelu Lukaku's equaliser, by finding the opposite bottom corner after Tim Howard had upended Jamie Vardy. The Algeria international has now scored 13 goals in the league this season.

ODION IGHALO (Watford)

The in-form Ighalo took his tally for the campaign to 12 goals with a brace as Watford pulled off a tremendous 3-0 home win over Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool. The Nigeria striker scored Watford's second goal in the 15th minute, running onto strike partner Troy Deeney's lobbed pass and drilling home, before heading in a right-wing cross from Valon Behrami with five minutes remaining.

JORDAN AYEW (Aston Villa)

Ghana international Ayew scored a sensational 61st-minute equaliser to earn bottom club Villa a 1-1 draw at Newcastle United. With Villa trailing to Fabricio Coloccini's first-half opener, Ayew gathered a deep cross from Jordan Veretout on the left side of the area, threw Daryl Janymaat with a dummy back-heel and curled a glorious shot in off the right-hand post. It was his fourth goal of the campaign.

NDRE AYEW (Swansea City)

Ayew was unable to follow his younger brother's lead as managerless Swansea were held to a 0-0 draw by West Ham United that kept them in the relegation zone. The 26year-old went close twice in the first half at the Liberty Stadium, heading over and placing a shot narrowly wide with his weaker right foot, but his influence faded as the match went on.

GERMANY ERIC CHOUPO-MOTING (Schalke 04)

The Cameroon striker claimed only his third league goal of the season in unorthodox fashion on Friday to help Schalke seal a 1-0 win over Hoffenheim to go fifth in the league table. The 26-year-old scored the winner in the 28th minute when his shot deflected off the boot of Hoffenheim's Czech defender Pavel Kaderabek and flew into the back of the visitors' net.

SALOMON KALOU (Hertha Berlin)

The Ivory Coast striker claimed his ninth goal of the season as Hertha Berlin beat Mainz 2-0 in the capital on Sunday to finish 2015 third in the Bundesliga table. Kalou grabbed Hertha's second when a superb diagonal pass from Vedad Ibisevic put him into space and the Ivory Coast striker held off his marker to fire home on 54 minutes.

FRANCE GIOVANNI SIO (Rennes)

Ivory Coast international striker Sio set up the opening goal for Ousmane Dembele on 63 minutes with a sublime pass as Rennes won 2-0 at Guingamp on Saturday. Dembele then returned the favour with 13 minutes left to put Sio through one-on-one with goalkeeper Jonas Lossl. It was Sio's fifth goal this season, four of which have come away from

FLOYD AYITE (Bastia)

Winger Ayite set the Corsicans on the road to a 2-0 victory over Reims that lifted them three points clear of the relegation zone at the halfway mark of the Ligue 1 season. The Togo international took a pass from Seko Fofana on 21 minutes before slotting his third goal of the season into the bottom corner.

MOHAMED LABRI (Gazelec Ajaccio)

As the tiny Corsican side Gazelec Ajaccio feel their way into their first top flight season, Tunisian midfielder Labri scored a decisive brace in Sunday's 2-1 victory over faltering Lyon. His first on 32 minutes came from sheer opportunism while his second on 67 minutes finished off a rapier counter-attack as David Ducourtioux played him in on Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes. The goals took Labri's total to six goals this season.

SPAIN NORDIN AMRABAT, CARLOS KAMENI (Malaga)

Moroccan forward Amrabat set up the winning goal for Charles while Cameroonian goalkeeper Kameni kept his fifth clean sheet of the season as Malaga eased their relegation fears with a 1-0 win over La Liga pacesetters Atletico Madrid on Sunday.

ITALY UMAR SADIQ (Roma)

It may be crisis time at Roma, but the joys of the beautiful game were written large on the face of 18-year-old Nigerian Sadiq when he headed Roma's second goal in a 2-0 win over Genoa at the Stadio Olimpico on Sunday. Umar replaced Egyptian international Mohamed Salah with only eight minutes remaining and the score at 1-0 as Roma sought to end a four-game winless streak. But the towering teenager kept his composure in the final minute to meet a cross from deep on the left and power a header past Mattia Perin for his maiden Serie A goal. — AFP



YOKOHAMA: Barcelona forward Lionel Messi (L) smiles beside forward Luis Suarez (R) on the podium during the awarding ceremony after winning the Club World Cup football final against River Plate in Yokohama on Sunday. — AFP

RIVER COUNT THEIR LOSSES, BARCA COUNT THEIR TITLES

YOKOHAMA: While Barcelona pondered how to jam yet more silverware into their trophy cabinet, River Plate were counting their losses after Sunday's Club World Cup final defeat, which emphasised the difference between club football in Europe and the rest of the world.

Success for a big European club tends to breed more success as they cash in on prize money and television rights. Success for a South American side, however, usually sparks a player exodus to bigger, richer clubs and the breakup

Coach Marcelo Gallardo, who has transformed River since taking over 18 months ago, was already contemplating the departure of Carlos Sanchez and Matias Kranevitter, two of his most influential players, after Sunday's 3-0 defeat. Kranevitter was playing his last game for the club before the 23-year-old moves to Atletico Madrid, while Uruguayan Sanchez, the only regular international in River's team, is

bound for Mexico's Monterrey

"Apart from the sadness and the bitterness for having lost this match, I want to thank the players for their great efforts this year," Gallardo told reporters.

"The match was almost the end of an era, because there are players who are leaving. It was the cherry on the cake and we deserved to get here, but we weren't at our best in football terms and that makes me a little upset."

According to a report by the Swiss-based CIES Football Observatory in October, 929 Argentines currently play professional football abroad, more than any other country apart from Brazil. Barcelona fielded six South Americans, all of them accomplished internationals, on Sunday, including Javier Mascherano, who began his

The stellar cast helped Barcelona to yet another title on Sunday, by coach Luis Enrique's count their fifth in the six competitions they

were involved in this year, the only failure being the Spanish Supercup loss to Athletic Bilbao.

While most countries do not look beyond domestic league and cup competitions and European campaigns, Spain adds one-off match-Spanish sports daily As concluded Barcelona

had won 26 trophies in the last decade: four Champions Leagues, three world clubs, three European Supercups, seven La Liga titles, three Spanish Cups and six Spanish Supercups. AS also said that goalkeeper Claudio Bravo,

who was in Chile's Copa America-winning team, had won six titles in 2015, which it said was an unique achievement.

Lionel Messi and Andres Iniesta featured in all 26 of the titles. "I hope we can win more of them," Messi told reporters. "We are very happy to be in such a big club. We have many dreams and we want to battle for everything, as in every other year." — Reuters

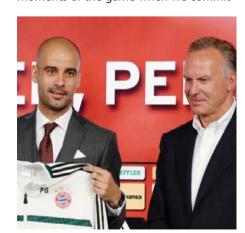
MADRID'S PERFECT 10 CAN'T PREVENT BENITEZ BOOS

MADRID: Real Madrid's under fire coach Rafael Benitez admitted a section of the club's support can't be contented despite his side hitting a historic 10 goals to sweep aside nine-man Rayo Vallecano 10-

2 on Sunday. Gareth Bale scored four for the first time in his Madrid career, whilst Karim Benzema struck his second hat-trick in three games as Real became the first side to score 10 in a La Liga match in 55 years.

However, as in recent matches at the Santiago Bernabeu, Benitez's name was whistled before the start of the game and the calls for him to go grew when Real briefly trailed 2-1 early in the first-half before two Rayo red cards in the opening half hour swung the game in Madrid's

"The fans weren't happy at certain moments of the game when we commit-



MUNICH: Picture taken on June 24, 2013 shows Bayern Munich's Spanish head coach Pep Guardiola (L) posing next to the club's CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge during a press conference in Munich, southern Germany, to introduce Guardiola as Bayern Munich's new coach. — AFP

ted errors no one wants to see, but we solved the problems and knew how to react to the situation presented to us," said Benitez.

The former Liverpool and Chelsea boss has been publicly backed by president Florentino Perez despite rumours that he could be one defeat away from the sack after losing 1-0 at Villarreal last weekend.

And, after his most prolific day in his three-year Madrid career, Bale also offered his support to Benitez. "We get on well and we continue to

work and train hard," said the Welshman. "We need to improve in every area, but we will get better as the season goes on." Madrid captain Sergio Ramos is one of

a number of key figures in the dressing

room to have already clashed with

Benitez, but he admitted the players have to accept whatever Perez decides. "If the president says Benitez is the solution, that is what he will be," said

Madrid captain Sergio Ramos. "We are pawns, he (Perez) is the king." Cristiano Ronaldo also scored twice to take his tally this season to 23, but could be seen asking the fans to get off the team's back when they fell behind.

And Ramos defended the World Player of the Year's right to tell the club's fans what he thinks. "The fans are free to cheer or boo, but so are the players to express their views," he added. "Cristiano is used to saying what he thinks. Today we were booed when the team most needed support. It wasn't there, but we have to remember the good thing which is the team knew how to react.

"It is a complicated situation because we aren't where we want to be. The fans are very demanding and they always want the team to win and play well. "We have to stay calm, united and get the results to achieve our objectives." — AFP

ANGERS LOSE AS PSG MAINTAIN 19-PT LEAD

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain will finish 2015 with a 19-point lead at the top of Ligue 1 after Angers lost 1-0 at Saint-Etienne on

Benjamin Corgnet scored the only goal of the game on 62 minutes, denying Angers the chance of going back above Monaco into second place. PSG won 3-0 at fourth-placed Caen on Saturday to set a new record of 51 points at the halfway stage of the season after an unbeaten first 19 matches during the current campaign.

PSG also set a club-record 28-match unbeaten league run after expensive stars Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Angel di Maria both hit the target in Caen. Monaco are second after a 0-0 draw at winless and rock bottom Troyes on Saturday took them a point clear of Angers.

St Etienne, who have struggled for form this season, moved up to sixth, just three points behind Monaco in the congested race for the European places. "I'm not looking at the top of the table because we're also rather too close for comfort to the relegation zone," Saints coach Christophe Galtier admitted after the

"Today's win was a key result, we really needed those three points," he added. Hubert Fournier may have overseen his last game at Lyon, who were last year's surprise package but who have flopped this season as they prepare to move into their new stadium in the new year sitting in mid-table and having been knocked out of all European competition. The coach and his club President Jean Michel Aulas were stone faced after watching Lyon lose 2-1 at tiny Gazelec Ajaccio, where Mohamed Larbi scored twice before Clement Grenier pulled a goal back late on. Aulas refused to say if the coach would survive the winter break: "It wouldn't be fair to speak about that now. We'll take our time to make any announcements," he said.

"It's not only Hubert Fournier's fault. The players know this and are trying to rally to the cause." In Sunday's late game, 2009 champions Bordeaux and Marseille, who succeeded them to the title in an era before Qatari money helped PSG sweep all before them, drew 1-1. —AFP



CAEN: Paris Saint-Germain's Argentinian forward Angel Di Maria (L) vies for the ball with Caen's French midfielder Vincent Bessat (R) during the French L1 football match between Caen (SMC) and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) on Sunday at the Michel d'Ornano stadium in Caen, northwestern France. — AFP



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Kuwait Times BUSINESS

Supply glut and a stronger dollar keep pressure on oil

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30 finalists converge on Dubai for 'Infiniti Speed Pitching'

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The Mercedes-Benz **S-Class icons**

Page 25

Intersect by Lexus opens in Dubai

Page 26



BAKU: People walk outside a money exchange office in Baku yesterday. Azerbaijan's Central Bank said yesterday's move to let the manat fluctuate was made to "preserve hard currency reserves ... and ensure the national economy's competitiveness on the international arena." Following the move, the manat fell by 32 percent. One manat, which was worth around \$0.95 Friday, was now trading at \$0.65. —AP

EUROPEAN BANKS POISED FOR JOB CUTS IN 2016

RETAIL, INVESTMENT BANKING LIKELY TO BE HIT HARDEST AS PROFITS DIVE

banks across Europe to find more savings in 2016, with jobs likely to be the biggest casualty, according to investors and analysts.

Ten of the region's biggest banks have announced staff cuts of 130,000 since June, according to data compiled by Reuters more than the total number of job losses announced by those banks in 2013 and 2014. But investors believe the industry will need to slim down further and faster to boost profits.

"The perpetrators of 2008 still need to pay a penance and must shrink balance sheets in so doing," said Jamie Clark, co-manager on the Liontrust Macro Thematic team, referring to the banking crisis that triggered a deep global recession from which several of the world's largest economies are still recovering. "We read job cuts as only one sign of the secular, rather than cyclical trend to permanently smaller banks."

Tens of thousands of staff were axed during

LONDON: Regulation, anaemic economic and after the 2007/09 financial crisis but the for a number of years." region's banks are trailing their US counterparts in bringing in structural overhauls. In 2014 and 2013 a combined 78,000 job cuts were announced at eighteen of Europe's largest banks, which represented 4.1 percent of staff, was far less than cuts of 7.3 percent in headcount across six major US banks.

An IMF study last year of 300 large global banks showed that only about 30 percent of euro zone lenders had a structure that was able to make a reasonable rate of return over time, compared with 80 percent of those in the US.

"US banks have mainly done what's needed to be done and are on an upward curve" said Chris Wheeler, bank analyst at Atlantic Equities. "Then you have the 'Road to Damascus banks'. They've finally realized that the market won't bail them out and they have to make some fundamental changes - Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse, Barclays. It's going to be a year of major change that, in most cases, won't be completed

to wield the axe, announcing this month that it would cut 9,000 jobs, joining Deutsche Bank, UniCredit, Credit Suisse, HSBC and Standard Chartered in announcing workforce culls in the second half of 2015.

Banking jobs 'bear market'

While some cuts will come from selling off businesses, new technology is also contributing as banks close branches and shift to systems requiring less manpower.

"We're in a long term bear market for banking jobs as we're finally seeing technology and automation taking out jobs in retail banking," Xavier VanHove, partner at fund manager THS Partners told Reuters.

A lagging European economy is also adding to banks' woes. While the US Federal Reserve has begun raising interest rates its counterpart in Europe is contemplating further monetary easing, which could eat into banks' interest

their investment banks will be, with their trading divisions under the spotlight as greater capital requirements and technological automation squeeze margins.

European banks who make quick cuts to their headcount and business lines could pull their returns closer to their US peers by 2017, Morgan Stanley analysts estimate, narrowing a gap of between 3 to 4 percent percentage points. "European return on leverage exposure is roughly half that of U.S. firms. Pruning underperforming units, intense cost-cutting and revitalizing high return-on-equity (RoE) area will be key," the analysts said in a recent note. A new CEO at Barclays is expected to axe more jobs. and has already started cutting in the invest-

ment bank, mostly in Asia, sources have said. "The crux of cuts in investment banking fall in FICC (fixed income, commodities and currencies), where things are really difficult....It's more structural than short term," said Stephane

margins. Many European banks are soul search-Rambosson, managing director at executive

"It's like in the 80s. There were a million miners who converted into different jobs. I am sure in this industry, they will do that as well." BNP Paribas, France's biggest listed lender may make significant middle and back office job cuts in 2016 as part of a plan to cut costs by 20 percent in its investment bank that includes using "big data" technology to identify customer needs, Reuters reported in October.

That may seem small compared to cuts in coming years. Former Barclays CEO Antony Jenkins has said banks could cut up to half their jobs in the next decade due to the impact of technological and regulatory change, with the people overseeing banks' systems likely to replace investment bankers as their most influential decision makers. "The next CEO for banks is the chief information officer or the chief technology officer. They're the new king or queen," said Bill Michael, global head of banking at KPMG. —Reuters

RECORD US WARMTH BRINGS OUT NATURAL GAS, HEATING OIL BEARS

LONDON: El Nino has helped produce an unusually mild autumn and start to winter across the United States, sharply cutting the demand for heating and worsening the glut in supplies of natural gas and heating oil. Warm weather and surging energy production have pushed heating oil prices down to the lowest level since 2004 and natural gas prices to the lowest since 1999.

El Nino's lingering effects and continued oversupply could keep prices for both fuels under pressure for some time, with the weather impacts persisting well into 2016.

According to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), heating demand has been 23 percent lower than normal so far during the current heating season, which began in July. Between September and November, every state in the continental United States experienced above average temperatures. And temperatures were "much warmer" than normal in 41 states across the Rockies, Great Plains, Midwest, Northeast and Southeast. In many cases, average temperatures have been close to the highest recorded since 1895. The run of exceptionally mild weather has continued into the start of winter. Last week, heating demand was 30 percent below normal for the time of year.

WOPSENING OVERSUPPLY

Unseasonal warmth has sharply cut the amount of natural gas, distillate fuel oil and electricity required to heat homes, offices, schools and factories. Consumption of distillate is down from 4 million barrels per day in October to 3.6 million barrels per day in late November and early December, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

Most distillate is consumed by trucks, trains and in construction vehicles as transport diesel rather than as heating oil and distillate consumption typically declines slightly towards the end of the year. Nevertheless, the drop in consumption has been especially pronounced this November and December, sending consumption to the lowest level for the time of year in more than a decade.

Relative warmth has also cut gas consumption in buildings that burn gas directly in their heating systems, as well as in the power plants that supply homes, offices and other buildings that have electric heaters. Poor demand for both fuels has combined with surging supply to leave the country carrying unusually high stockpiles.

Refineries are running at record rates to meet strong demand for gasoline, leaving the market with a large oversupply of unwanted distillates. And gas production is still increasing as drilling firms sink a new generation of super wells into the highly productive Marcellus and Utica formations beneath the northeast United States. Distillate stocks hit 152 million barrels in the week ending Dec 11, which was 21 million barrels higher than the 10-year average, and 30 million barrels higher than at the same point in 2014.

The amount of gas in working storage is almost 18 percent higher than normal, at a seasonal record, and falling more slowly than usual at this time of year.

EFFECTS SET TO LINGER

Every El Nino is different, and the impact on weather is complicated and still not fully understood, according to NOAA. But the warmer than normal weather could continue for some time. The current El Nino is one of the three strongest since 1950 (the others in the top three occurred in 1997/98 and 1982/83) and will likely last well into 2016.

The biggest impact on the United States is probably still to come ("December El Nino update: phenomenal cosmic powers" NOAA,

"While the warmer-than-average ocean waters are likely reaching their peak about now, they will remain a huge source of warmth for the next several months to drive the main impacts on temperature and rain/snow over North America, which typically follow the peak. The main impacts season is December-March," according to NOAA.

"Most models indicate that a strong El Nino will continue through the northern hemisphere winter 2015/16" followed by a return to more normal conditions by late spring or early summer. —Reuters

DUBAI JUMPS, SAUDI FLAT AHEAD OF BUDGET

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Middle Eastern stock markets were mixed yesterday as Dubai bounced back from the previous day's losses while Saudi Arabia's index was almost unchanged as investors awaited the release of the kingdom's state budget, expected in the coming days.

The Saudi index fluctuated narrowly before ending down 0.01 percent at 6,930 points. Trading volume was modest as many investors were unwilling to trade without knowing the size of spending cuts expected in the budget. However, petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries fell 1.7 percent to 84.75 riyals, heading towards its December low of 83.25 riyals.

"Current market sentiment is fragile and people are not willing to rotate into sectors that are heavily dependent on government spending or those that are export-oriented," said Mohammad al Shammasi, head of asset management at Riyadh-based Derayah Financial.

Saudi Arabia will announce its 2016 budget next Monday, the Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya television channel, which is close to the ruling family of the world's top oil exporter, reported yes-

terday citing unnamed sources. The 2016 budget is being closely watched both inside Saudi Arabia and by world oil markets because it will shed light on how the kingdom plans to approach expected low crude prices next year, with widespread expectations

of big spending cuts. Dubai's index rebounded 2.5 percent to 3,101 points, gathering momentum on higher volumes in the final hour of trade as bargain buyers bought on dips. The benchmark is now

250 points above the year's low.

Gainers outnumbered losers 19 to 7 with all blue chips rising after Sunday's profit taking sell-off. Emaar Properties and builder Drake & Scull recouped all of Sunday's losses, rising 3.2 and 3.5 percent respectively. Both stocks are up over 8 percent from a week ago.

Abu Dhabi heavyweights Etisalat and National Bank of Abu Dhabi jumped 2.9 and 2.5 percent. Abu Dhabi's benchmark climbed 0.9 percent in its fourth session of gains; trading volume was the second heaviest so far in December. On Sunday, it was the heaviest.

Qatar resumed trade after the market was closed for a national holiday on Sunday and the Doha benchmark slipped 0.1 percent. Losers outnumbered gainers 11 to 3, with Gulf International Services - a stock that was removed from MSCI's emerging market index in November - leading declines; it retreated 3.3

EGYPT

Egypt's index rose 0.8 percent, its sixth straight gain, with Commercial International Bank and Orascom Telecom carrying the market higher for a second day. CIB, the bourse's largest bank by market value, rose 2.6 percent. The lender is up 4.6 percent since Thursday's close after agreeing to sell investment banking subsidiary CI Capital to Orascom Telecom for 1 billion Egyptian pounds (\$128 million).

Orascom Telecom, the most heavily traded stock, surged 6.7 percent; it is up 8.5 percent since Thursday's close. —Reuters



in brief

Kuwait Q3 trade surplus shrinks 66%

KUWAIT: Kuwait's foreign trade surplus shrank 66 percent from a year earlier to KD1.84 billion (\$6.1 billion) in the third quarter of 2015 as low oil prices slashed export revenues, data from the Central Statistical Bureau showed yesterday.

US dollar steady against dinar trading at KD 0.303

KUWAIT: Exchange of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar remained unchanged trading at KD 0.303, while the euro went up to reach KD 0.330 compared to Sunday's rates, said a statement by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. Exchange rate of the sterling pound also went up to KD 0.453, the Swiss to KD 0.306 and the Japanese yen was firm, trading at KD 0.002. The dollar kept going down for the second consecutive day amid anticipations of limited loses, due to the decisions of increasing the US interest rate. Meanwhile, the euro went up compared to the dollar, continuing its gains for the second day, as the reformation operations and profit gains are still going, while investors are awaiting economic data about the European economy later today regarding the consumer's trust during this month.

Egypt's 5-yr, 10-yer treasury bonds steady at auction

CAIRO: Yields on five-year and 10-year treasury bonds were steady at an auction yesterday, data from the central bank showed. The average yield on Egypt's five-year bond rose marginally to 13.174 percent from 13.172 percent in the previous auction, on Dec 7, while yields on the 10-year bond dropped marginally to 15.365 percent from 15.373 percent on Dec 7.

Iraq's CB devalues dinar by 1.37% vs US dollar

BAGHDAD: Iraq's central bank increased the sale price of the US dollar to banks and currency exchange companies by 16 dinars, or 1.37 percent, to 1,182 dinars, according to a statement.

FALLING OIL PRICES FORCE AZERBAIJAN TO STOP PROPPING UP CURRENCY

BAKU: Energy-rich Azerbaijan, whose economy has been hit hard by falling oil prices, withdrew support for its embattled currency yesterday and the manat plunged by nearly a third against the greenback. "The central bank took the decision to switch to a floating exchange rate for the national currency as of December 21," the regulator said in a statement.

The central bank said the decision was taken because "falling oil prices and the continuing devaluation of partner countries' currencies has begun to negatively affect the Azerbaijani economy."

The manat was trading at 1.55 against the dollar yesterday, down 32.3 percent from Friday.

The country's central bank has spent more than half of its foreign currency reserves to support the currency, which has been in free fall since the beginning of the year. Following yesterday's move, the bank's currency reserves increased by 3.1 billion manats (\$2.9 billion; 2.7 billion euros).

Azerbaijan's decision came after the energy-rich Central Asian nation of Kazakhstan abandoned its currency band for a free-floating exchange earlier this year. Analysts said the move would not affect the Russian ruble but would negatively impact the majority of regional currencies.

"The move can be considered to be neutral for Russia: the weak ruble, in addition to low oil prices, was itself the trigger for Azerbaijan's currency move," said Oleg Kouzmin, an economist with Renaissance Capital.

He described the prospects for Kazakhstan's tenge as "slightly negative," adding that the Georgian lari-which has lost nearly 45 percent of its value against the dollar since November 2014 — is expected to be most affected. Energy exports constitute up to three quarters of Azerbaijan's state revenues, making the Caucasus country's economy highly dependent on global oil prices. The Caspian nation in February abandoned its dollar peg and switched to a dollar-and-euro basket and also devalued the manat by more than 33 percent.

Oil prices extended losses yesterday, with Brent at one point sinking 2.1 percent to \$36.09 a barrel-its weakest since July 2004. — AFP

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

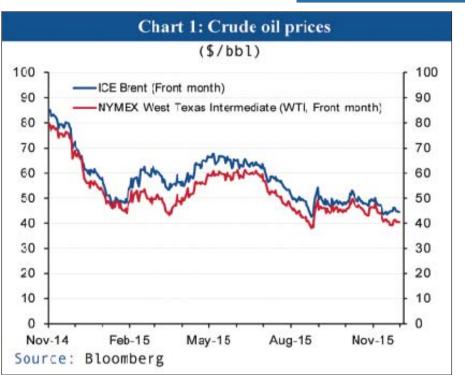
SUPPLY GLUT AND A STRONGER DOLLAR KEEP PRESSURE ON OIL

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

Chart 2: Brent futures curve

Futures price

(\$/bbl)



120

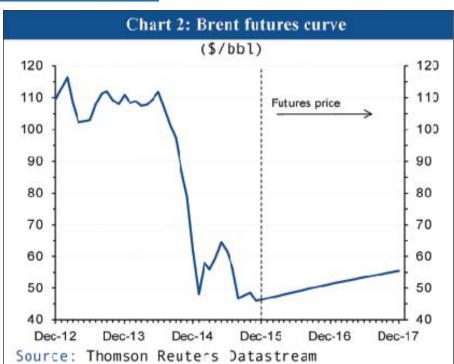
100

90

80

70

60



120

110

100

80

70

60

50

Dec-17

KUWAIT: November saw oil prices remained depressed below the \$50 per barrel (bbl) level for the fourth month in a row as the crude supply glut showed no sign of easing. A strengthening US dollar, which rallied to an 8-month high during the month, and a 5 percent decline in Chinese equities added further downward pressure to oil prices. ICE Brent crude, the international benchmark, closed November at \$44.5/bbl, while NYMEX West Texas Intermediate (WTI), settled at \$41.7/bbl. Both crudes fell by around \$5.0, or 10.0 percent, from the start of the month.

This is the longest stretch that Brent has traded below \$50/bbl since the financial crisis, and comes amid, what the International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates to be, the largest crude surplus in 17 years. Neither the downing of a Russian jet by Turkey nor comments by Saudi officials that the kingdom might move to stabilize prices at December's OPEC meeting managed to chip away at the predominant bearish sentiment. The latter was given extra impetus by continued, counter-seasonal crude stock builds. According to the IEA, commercial crude and petroleum product stocks have swelled to near-record levels of 3.0 billion barrels, which is significantly above historical averages.

OPEC quota

With oil prices firmly range-bound near 6-year lows, markets turned their attention to OPEC and what it might do at its 4 December meeting. The meeting took on added significance in view of Iran's potential return to the oil markets in 2016 and Indonesia's re-admittance to the group after a 7-year absence. Despite speculation that OPEC's de facto leader, Saudi Arabia, might be more amenable this time around to the idea of stabilizing the market, most observers were forecasting policy to remain unchanged; indeed, hedge funds' bets against higher oil prices, for example, reached a year-high in the final week of November, with the volume of short positions increasing to an amount equivalent to 3.5 days of global oil demand.

In the end though, and despite much deliberation at the event, members opted to roll over the group's current 30 mb/d target and to wait until the first half of 2016 before taking any action. By that

Dec-12 Dec-13 Dec-14 Dec-15 Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream time, the thinking went, the situation would become clearer; there would be less uncertainty, for example, over the volume of additional Iranian crude coming to the market once international sanctions are lifted. Indeed Iran and Irag's refusal to accept any limits on production effectively put an end to any possibility of OPEC formalizing production caps or reining in output. Although, at one point, earlier in the meeting, it did seem as if the group might raise its official production

percent, respectively. Since OPEC's decision last November to maintain the official production ceiling, the group's actual output has surged by more than 1 mb/d; OPEC members, led by Saudi Arabia, opted to allow the market to determine prices in the hope that lower oil prices would force higher-cost producers from outside OPEC, such as the US and Canada, to pare back their own production. OPEC output in October, according to the group's most recent secondary source data, came in at 31.3 mb/d. This was a decline of 260,000 b/d, or 3.2 percent, on the previous month, but nevertheless represented the sixth consecutive

> Saudi Riyals Jordanian Dinaı

Egyptian Pound

Indian Rupees

Pakistani Rupees

Sri Lankan Rupees

target by 1.5 million barrels to 31.5 mb/d

to more closely match actual output. By

the end of trading on Friday after the

OPEC meeting, Brent and WTI crude

prices had declined by 1.9 percent and 2.7

month that the group's production had topped 31 mb/d.

Dec-16

Iraq recorded the largest decline in production in October, of 200,000 b/d, to 4.0 mb/d. Bad weather in the northern Gulf, from where the country exports the bulk of its oil, was the primary reason for the decline. Iraqi output had actually climbed to an all-time high of 4.2 mb/d in September, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait also witnessed declines in production compared to September-70,000 b/d and 40,000 b/d, respectively. Kuwait's fall in output to 2.7 mb/d came as a result of scheduled maintenance. The country has been working hard to compensate for the loss of oil from fields the country shares with Saudi Arabia in the divided Neutral Zone. UAE and Qatari production, meanwhile, continued at a steady level, of 2.8 mb/d and 0.7 mb/d, respectively.

Libya, with its increase of 50,000 b/d to 430,000 b/d, witnessed the largest rise in output among OPEC exporters in October. The gain may be temporary, however, as persistent violence and insecurity forced shut the eastern port of Zuetina in early November.

Non-OPEC supply recovers

According to the IEA, non-OPEC supply outside of the US posted healthy gains in October in spite of lower oil prices and

429.300

38.808

2.126

4.589

capex spending cuts. Chief among non-OPEC producers recording sizeable gains was Russia, the second largest non-OPEC oil producer. The country continued to pump at record levels of almost 10.8 mb/d-1.3 percent more than a year agoeven while the country feels the financial strain of lower oil prices and sanctions. Others including China, Vietnam, Oman and the North Sea producers have also been able to boost output.

Nevertheless, US production, which has been the largest source of non-OPEC supply growth in recent years thanks to the shale oil revolution, has clearly declined over the last 6 months. According to weekly estimates provided by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), production fell from a 44-year high of 9.6 mb/d last June to 9.2 mb/d as of 27 November, a drop of 400,000 b/d, or 4.0 percent. (Chart 6.) This has come amid cutbacks in capital spending by oil majors and reductions in drilling activity that have seen US oil rig counts plummet by more than 65 percent since reaching a high last October.

The IEA forecasts US shale production to decline by nearly 0.6 mb/d in 2016, which is a fall of more than 10 percent. Shale production accounted for at least 57.0 percent of total US crude production in August. The agency expects total non-OPEC supply growth to therefore reflect this in 2016 and fall by 0.6 mb/d. This would also reverse the increase in supply, of 1.3 mb/d, that is expected to occur in 2015. (Chart 7.) World demand growth expected to ease towards long-term trend in 2016 after surging to a 5-year high in 2015.

On the demand side, the IEA expects the temporary boost to crude demand provided by low oil prices and betterthan-expected macroeconomic fundamentals in 2015 to prove transitory and global oil demand growth to ease back to its long-term trend rate in 2016. Thus, after reaching a 5-year high of 1.8 mb/d in 2015, the agency is forecasting that demand growth will decelerate to 1.2 mb/d in 2016. With crude supply growth expected to tighten to a greater extent than demand growth in 2016, the 'call on OPEC crude' is projected to increase to 31.3 mb/d next year, according to the IEA. This is a rise of 0.2 mb/d from the agency's last projection, bringing the call closer to OPEC's current output of 31.4 and portending somewhat tighter market conditions than in recent months.

EXCHANGE RATES

333.670

455,990

219.540

104.590

308.820

303.300

Euro

Swiss Frank

Bahrain Dina

UAE Dirhams

Qatari Riyals

ASIAN COUNTRIES 2.507 Japanese Yen **Indian Rupees** 4.597 2.906 Pakistani Rupees 2.125 Srilankan Rupees 2.871 Nepali Rupees Singapore Dollar 216.570 Hongkong Dollar 39.281 Bangladesh Taka 3.867 6.438 Philippine Peso Thai Baht 8.440 **GCC COUNTRIES** Saudi Riyal 81.243 Qatari Riyal 83.688 Omani Riyal 791.320 Bahraini Dinar 809.090 **UAE Dirham ARAB COUNTRIES** Egyptian Pound - Cash 37.700 Egyptian Pound - Transfer 38.955 Yemen Riyal/for 1000 1.422 Tunisian Dinai 151.120 Jordanian Dinar 428.960 2.030 Lebanese Lira/for 1000 Syrian Lira 2.171 31.231 Morocco Dirham **EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES US Dollar Transfer**

Sterling Pound

Canadian dollar

US Dollar Buying

Australian Dollar`219.700

Turkish lira

Swiss France

20 Gram 10 Gram 5 Gram	GOLD 217.860 111.620 56.500
UAE EX	CHANGE CENTRE WLL
CURRENCIES Australian Dollar Canadian Dollar Swiss Franc Euro US Dollar Sterling Pound Japanese Yen Bangladesh Taka Indian Rupee Sri Lankan Rupee Nepali Rupee Pakistani Rupee UAE Dirhams Bahraini Dinar Egyptian Pound Jordanian Dinar Omani Riyal Qatari Riyal Saudi Riyal	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000 210.98 225.20 313.71 338.08 304.10 463.73 2.55 3.852 4.545 2.123 2.837 2.920 0.08275 0.8082 0.03874 0.4325 0.7897 0.08385 0.08106
DOLLARC	o Exchange Co. Ltd
Rate for Transfer US Dollar Canadian Dollar Sterling Pound	Selling Rate 304.750 220.635 455.500

332.480

303.225

83.215

84.430

Bangladesh Taka Philippines Pesso Cyprus pound Japanese Yen Syrian Pound Nepalese Rupees Malaysian Ringgit Chinese Yuan Renmi Thai Bhat Turkish Lira	nbi	3.862 6.420 580.455 3.510 2.610 3.860 71.805 47.375 9.405 104.170
ВАН	rain Exchange Com	PANY
COUNTRY	SELL CASH Europe	SELLDRAFT
British Pound	0.447300	0.456300
Czech Korune	0.004243	0.016243
Danish Krone	0.040315	0.045315
Euro	0.325261	0.333261
Norwegian Krone	0.030803	0.036003
Romanian Leu	0.087349	0.087349
Slovakia	0.009104	0.019104
Swedish Krona	0.031566	0.036566
Swiss Franc	0.300374	0.310574
Turkish Lira	0.099686	0.109986
	Australasia	0.004.054
Australian Dollar New Zealand Dollar	0.209551 0.199004	0.221051 0.208504
New Zealand Dollar	0.199004	0.208304
	America	
Canadian Dollar	0.213059	0 221559

US Dollars	0.300400	0.304900
US Dollars Mint	0.300900	0.304900
Asia	a	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003465	0.004065
Chinese Yuan	0.045383	0.048883
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037187	0.039937
Indian Rupee	0.004325	0.004715
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000017	0.000023
Japanese Yen	0.002430	0.002610
Kenyan Shilling	0.003165	0.003165
Korean Won	0.000248	0.000263
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066981	0.072981
Nepalese Rupee	0.002887	0.003057
Pakistan Rupee	0.002702	0.002982
Philippine Peso	0.006408	0.006688
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.212385	0.218385
South African Rand	0.014193	0.022693
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001767	0.002347
Taiwan	0.009148	0.009328
Thai Baht	0.008122	0.008672
Ara	b	
Bahraini Dinar	0.800802	0.808802
Egyptian Pound	0.034721	0.037847
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000201	0.000261
Jordanian Dinar	0.425485	0.432985
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000153	0.000253
Moroccan Dirhams	0.022135	0.046135
Nigerian Naira	0.001259	0.001894
Omani Riyal	0.784488	0.790168
Qatar Riyal	0.082927	0.084140
Saudi Riyal	0.080313	0.081263
Syrian Pound	0.001291	0.001511
Tunisian Dinar	0.146521	0.154521
Turkish Lira	0.099686	0.109986
UAE Dirhams	0.081923	0.083072
Yemeni Riyal	0.001376	0.001456
•		

30 FINALISTS CONVERGE ON DUBAI FOR 'INFINITI SPEED PITCHING'

Grand Prize of \$40,000 of seed funding for their business

DUBAI: Infiniti, one of the region's fastest grow- Speed Pitching' at the Dubai Autodrome. ing premium automotive brands, announced

"With over 100 applicants submitting their





3 Speed Pitching regional winners.

the feedback has been nothing short of excellent," said Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director, Infiniti Middle East. "Phase one of the competition saw entrepreneurs around the region submit business ideas spanning a range of sectors, products and services."

Held on the 9th of December at the Dubai Autodrome, the 30 finalists were evaluated by a jury of their peers that included senior industry leaders from varied sectors in the region. Each candidate was given the opportunity to pitch their idea to a total of 3 judges (individually) in the rear cabin of the Infiniti Q70 as it was chauffeured around the track for a period of seven minutes.

As points were tallied through each of the sessions, 6 finalists were then further chosen to elaborate on their ideas and present them to the entire panel of judges and more importantly answer the question of 'Why their idea should be chosen as one of the 3 finalists to be sent to Hong Kong?'

Whilst all ideas presented during the day were great - the stand out proposals were delivered by Stefano Fallaha from Lebanon, Zaina Al-bader from Kuwait and Thea Myhrvold from the UAE.

These three finalists will now travel to the "Infiniti Lab" in Hong Kong for a three-day mentorship program. This phase will be a part of Infiniti's broader partnership with Nest. The three shortlisted finalists will undergo an intensive mentoring and coaching program with Infiniti, Nest and international industry leaders. The workshop will culminate with a final day of pitching their business idea to a panel of judges that will include senior Nest & Infiniti executives with one winner being awarded \$40,000 of seed level funding.

To be eligible for the program, participants had to be able to present a thorough intelligent and innovative commercial proposition. The start-up idea could have covered any product- or service-related industry, participants had to be based in the GCC (Jordan and Lebanon included), and the business and related activities had to have had a clear focus on

REID SAW CHANCE TO TICK OFF WISH LIST IN US BUDGET OIL DEAL

WASHINGTON: Locked in budget talks in the twilight of his Senate career, Harry Reid saw an unexpected opening to bargain for his legislative wish list. It had become apparent to Senate Democratic Majority Leader Reid that lifting the longstanding ban on US oil exports was the Republicans' top priority as the two sides tried to find common ground. And while Reid knew scrapping the ban had little support among his own colleagues, he also saw trading it as a chance for Democrats to score some victories.

The Republicans saw freeing crude exports as "something they wanted to do for the oil industry ... for me it was a way of trying to do some other things," Reid told Reuters last week in his office in the Capitol. Reid, 76, was elected to the Senate in 1987 and will not seek re-election in November. "I thought, well, maybe this is an opportunity to do something good about things I've never been able to accomplish."

Both Republicans and Democrats claimed victories in the \$1.8 trillion budget passed by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama on Friday. For Reid, that ranged from tax breaks for families to billions of dollars in new spending for medical research.

But in agreeing to vote for a deal that killed the oil export ban, the Democrats extracted unprecedented five-year extensions to renewable energy tax credits that expired last year for wind, and were due to expire in 2016 for solar. The extensions provide Democrats and Obama ammunition in their strategy to reduce carbon emissions and temper climate change. Investors in renewables said they needed certainty about subsidies if the sector was to secure a greater share of the energy market.

At the start of weeks of secretive budget talks among congressional leaders, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell told Reid that lifting the 40-year-old ban, a relic Congress passed after the Arab oil embargo led to panics over fuel supplies, was the prize he wanted most.

McConnell wanted to lift the ban in an earlier transportation bill but couldn't get enough Democratic support. And Obama opposed freeing exports without winning a major concession that would offset criticism that sending US crude abroad conflicted with its agenda to fight climate change.

But McConnell found a receptive, if unlikely, ally in Reid. The Nevada native was sympathetic to plight of drillers dealing with a glut of domestic crude choking the oil boom, and to the concerns of fellow Senate Democrats, Heidi Heitkamp, from North Dakota and Joe Manchin from West Virginia, who badly wanted the ban lifted. That's where Reid's experience with renewable power entered the equation. Nevada has the country's third-highest capacity of installed solar power per capita, and Reid sponsors an annual clean energy summit in Las Vegas. Last August, he toured a Tesla battery plant that gets power from the

Reid and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi explained to Republicans McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan what they would have to win for oil exports.

Ryan's willingness to negotiate was a major element in the unusually cooperative tone that characterized this year's budget talks, Reid said.

A tumult in global oil markets helped the political case for lifting the ban. The domestic shale oil boom helped lead to a collapse in global crude prices. Resulting low prices for gasoline evaporated a major worry many Democrats had about exports: that they could be blamed by voters one day if fuel prices at the pump spiked upward, for whatever reason. —Reuters

TAKAUD, MIRABAUD SIGN PARTNERSHIP TO EXPAND WEALTH MANAGEMENT SERVICES

KUWAIT: TAKAUD, the specialist various segments. savings, investments and pensions provider for the MENA region and MIRABAUD (Middle East) Ltd Associated with Mirabaud & Cie SA founded in 1819, one of the oldest and most distinguished Swiss private banks, today announce the signing of a business partnership that will see both partners join forces to provide TAKAUD's affluent clients in the GCC markets with a richer and appealing wealth management offering.

The partnership enhances TAKAUD's investment platform with the addition of Mirabaud fund range, including some of the top performing flag-ship funds. Furthermore, the two institutions will work closely to develop new investment solutions in the area of wealth management and corporate retirement services to better serve TAKAUD's clients throughout the region.

Following the signing of the partnership agreement, TAKAUD has received a delegation from Mirabaud for a workshop to introduce the Mirabaud's approach to wealth management and advisory offering the investment solutions universe with the attendance of seasoned fund managers, and discussed areas where a differentiated added value can be offered to TAKAUD's clients in

Mirabaud is an international banking and financial group that provides a clientele of private, institutional and corporate investors with its primary vocation: Wealth Management taking a global, independent and customized view, Asset Management



Luc Metivier

services with an active investment approach driven by strong convictions, along with the Brokerage and Corporate Finance arm acting as financial intermediary and independent adviser for corporations. Established in Geneva in 1819, the Group has offices in Switzerland (Geneva, Zurich and Basel), and Europe (London, Luxembourg, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Seville),

as well as Montreal, Hong Kong and Dubai covering three conti-

TAKAUD, one of more than 60 diversified businesses owned by the KIPCO Group including leading investment and retail banks, asset management companies, insurance companies and other



Olivier Honsberger

media and manufacturing entities, is focused on providing clients with a best-in-class offering, which fuses industry leading financial planning practices from developed markets with regional cultural knowledge and investment expertise.

TAKAUD's innovative advisory platform builds on TAKAUD's respected regional market presence as a leading savings and

pensions advisor, positioning TAKAUD as the 'provider of choice' of wealth management for executives, businessmen, SME owners, and affluent clients who are currently underserved by traditional banking services.

Luc Metivier, TAKAUD's Chief **Executive Officer commented:** "Mirabaud is a first class international private bank with a long history. The newly signed partnership with their fully owned subsidiary in Dubai Mirabaud (Middle East) Ltd signifies TAKAUD's great momentum and potential as the regional 'go-to advisor' for savings, pensions and wealth management solutions".

Olivier Honsberger, Mirabaud's Dubai Chief Executive Officer, said "The Middle East's wealth management industry is entering a period of rapid development, as people increasingly seek better investment solutions and personalized banking services. To meet the demand of TAKAUD's regional clients for diversified wealth management solutions, we will be placing the entire range of Mirabaud funds on TAKAUD's platform supported by our investment philosophy, thus significantly expanding the universe of investment options available to their clientele, in terms of asset classes, currencies, sectors and geographies".



CUBAN ECONOMY GROWS 4% IN YEAR OF DETENTE WITH US

product grew 4 percent in 2015, official media reported yesterday Monday, as internal reforms overshadowed negative trends such as falling commodity prices.

The report did not refer to warming relations with the United States, instead mentioning that growth came despite continued sanctions. Growth was in line with projec-

tions made a year ago, and **Economy and Planning Minister** Marino Murillo attributed it to improved planning and contracting with "all productive sectors growing compared with last year."

Murillo was speaking at a closed session of the Council of Ministers and the report focused on internal economic performance in the productive sectors, not services and external finances.

Despite market-oriented reforms begun five years ago, the Cuban economy grew an anemic 1

HAVANA: Cuban gross domestic percent last year and, on average, 2.3 percent each year from 2011 through 2014.

The government says it needs up to 7 percent growth to attain significant development. The report cited a fall in the prices of imports such as fuel and food, which helped growth, but did not allude to similar steep declines in the prices of key exports such as refined oil products, nickel and sugar.

The United States maintains a trade embargo on Cuba despite President Barack Obama's policy change toward normalizing relations a year ago.

The report did not mention sectors that have most benefited from better US relations, such as tourism and related services and remittances.

The report also failed to mention Cuba's most important foreign currency earner, the export of professional services to oil-producing nations, such as ally Venezuela. Those services accounted for more than \$8 billion in revenue out of \$18 billion last year.

Cuba receives more than 100,000 barrels of oil per day as part of an exchange for Cuban doctors and other professionals. Under terms of the deal, Venezuela is protected from falling oil prices, which in turn punish Cuba. Venezuela's economy is among the worst performing in the world as the value of its oil exports has fallen as much as 60 percent over the last 18 months.

On Dec 6, an opposition coalition critical of Cuba swamped the ruling socialist party in parliamentary elections. But four days later, Moody's upgraded its outlook on Cuba to positive from stable, while leaving its credit with a junk rating of Caa2, saying Cuba's dependence on Venezuela had lessened since 2014 and that reforms and rapprochement with the United States were positive. —Reuters



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We would like to bring to attention of all Residents of Kuwait that there are Fraudsters who are calling or emailing Residents in Kuwait, telling them that they won a lottery or a prize which they can collect from Al Mulla Exchange, and asking them to remit some fees or buy some prepaid phone cards to get the Pin with which they can collect the money from our Branches.

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We ask all Residents of Kuwait to reject all such telephone calls and emails in their own interest.

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EUROPEAN SHARES ADVANCE, SPANISH STOCKS PUMMELED

yesterday, buoyed by carmaker Volkswagen and telecoms equipment manufacturer Ericsson, although an inconclusive Spanish election result hit the Madrid market.

Neither Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservatives nor left-wing parties won a clear mandate to govern in Sunday's poll, casting further uncertainty over the outlook for Spain's reform program and broader economy. Talks to form a coalition gov-

LONDON: European shares gained ground Spain's top-share IBEX 35 index fell 2.1 percent, while Spanish 10-year government bond yields hit one-month highs after the election.

Spanish companies Banco Santander, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, Iberdrola and Telefonica were the top fallers on the European blue-chip STOXX50 index, all down between 1 percent and 2.8 percent. The broader European market, however, was in positive territory, with the FTSEurofirst 300 index up 0.3 percent, ernment are expected to take weeks. while the Euro STOXX 50 rose 0.4 percent.

Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.8 percent, with media group ITV lifted by a report that Comcast was planning an 11 billion pound (\$16 billion) bid for ITV.

"Having been prepared for negativity after Spain, other indexes have shrugged it off. Volumes are low and the holiday exodus is beginning, so we're seeing reasonable moves on low volumes today," said Mark Priest, sales trader at ETX Capital.

Swedish telecom equipment maker Ericsson soared 6.7 percent, after settling a dispute with Apple over patent licensing,

positioning the stock for its biggest daily gain since July 2014.

Volkswagen also rose 2.7 percent. The company said it plans to limit the time staff can remain in certain roles in order to improve oversight at the company, which in September said it had cheated US emissions tests. "Volkswagen have been playing down the impact of the scandal ... I think there will still be volatility moving forward, but if they are addressing the situation moving forward, there will be a light at the end of the tunnel," ETX Capital's Priest said.

The FTSEurofirst and Euro STOXX 50 are both up by around 4 percent since the start of 2015, with economic stimulus measures from the European Central Bank having helped to support stocks in spite of political uncertainty in countries such as Spain and Greece.

Asia markets

In Tokyo scandal-hit conglomerate Toshiba lost almost 10 percent following a weekend report in the leading Nikkei business daily that it would likely record a fiscal year net loss of about \$4 billion.

In a statement after the markets closed yesterday, Toshiba said it

year-old company was this year hit by revelations that executives systematically pressured underlings to inflate profits in a years-long scheme to hide poor results.

Japan's Nikkei stock index ended 0.4 percent lower but pared most of its early losses after falling 1.8 percent at one point, with a pick-up in the dollar against the yen providing some respite for exporters.

Most other regional markets ended in positive territory after falling into the red in the morning. Sydney closed up 0.1 percent, Hong Kong gained 0.2 percent and Seoul ended 0.3 percent higher.

Shanghai closed 1.8 percent higher on fresh hopes Chinese authorities would unveil new measures to reform the economy, particularly the cumbersome state-owned enterprises.

But Stewart Richardson, chief investment officer at RMG Wealth Management in London, warned: "The problems that have been affecting both markets and the global economy for months remain in place. "Commodity prices remain low, corporate debt remains too high and emerging markets continue to struggle. Furthermore, although Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen continues to characterise the US economy as would post a record 550 billion yen strong, it does appear to be slowing



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	- Anna Carlo			3.375			1000000	120	0.0
								_	0.0

				Trades				
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	C	ange
SOKOUK	42.5	40.0	3233388	135.624	80	42.5	A	2.5
KRE	58	57	66,705	3,859	3	58	1	1.0
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	_	0.0
NRE	92	89	414,759	37,118	11	92		3.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	-	0.0
TAM	640	620	15,135	9,504	4	640	•	-10.0
AREEC	166	166	4,091	679	1	166	_	0.0
MASSALEH	59	59	10	1	1	59	A	5.0
ARABREC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.0	-	0.0
ERESCO MABANEE	950	940	133,286	125,601	11	65 950	Ξ	0.0
INJAZZAT	84	80	65,500	5,247	8	80	7	-4.0
INVESTORS	25.5	24.0	5,872,167	145,146	103	25.0	À	1.0
IRC	29.0	28.0	45,010	1,260	2	28.0	_	0.0
ALTIJARIA	82	80	195,000	15,900	7	82		1.0
SANAM	42.0	42.0	2,000	84	2	42.0		-2.5
AAYANRE	80	76	40,000	3,100	6	80		4.0
AQAR	75	75	666	50	1	75	*	-5.0
ALAQARIA	21.0	21.0	15,000	315	3	21.0		0.5
MAZAYA	104	104	50,000	5,200	3	104	A	2.0
ADNC	28.0	26.5	5,921,780	161,952	101	27.5		0.5
THEMAR	0.0 42.5	0.0	0 000	0	0	90 42.5	_	0.0
TIJARA TAAMEER	24.0	40.5 23.5	30,020 100,000	1,216 2,370	3	24.0	_	0.0
ARKAN	114	110	30,975	3,474	8	112	Ť	-2.0
ARGAN	176	176	12,500	2,200	1	176	À	2.0
ABYAAR	29.0	28.5	420,743	12,044	16	29.0	A	0.5
MUNSHAAT	88	82	5,243,867	449,226	108	87	A	4.0
FIRSTDUBAI	45.0	44.5	55,020	2,451	5	44.5	A	1.0
KBT	42.0	41.5	682,613	28,642	37	42.0		0.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136	_	0.0
MENA	23.5	23.0	54,750	1,267	18	23.5		0.5
ALMUDON	33.0	31.0	3,352,770	107,582	61	33.0	*	2.5
MARAKEZ	22.0	21.0	10,500	224	4	21.0	_	0.0
REMAL	36.5	35.5	85,200	3,085	9	36.0		-0.5
MASHAER Book Fototo	106	106	27,783	2,945	622	106	_	0.0 8.58
Real Estate			26,181,238	1,267,362	622	937.42	A	0.00
KINV	99	98	21,000	2,058	5	99	À	1.0
FACIL	180	178	50,000	8,960	3	178		-2.0
IFA	29.5	28.5	1,954,700	56,664	46	29.0	_	0.0
NINV	96	95	391,830	37,586	25	96		2.0
KPROJ	580	580	52,909	30,687	5	580	A	10.0
COAST	33.0	32.5	474,290	15,415	14	32.5		0.5
SECH	38.5	36.0	4,267,859	159,772	122	38.0		0.5
SGC	100	100	273	27	-1	100	•	-10.0
ARZAN	36.0	36.0	530	19	2	36.0		0.5
MARKAZ	102	102	22.075	2.252	2	102	-	0.0
KMEFIC	26.5	26.5	13,761	365	10	26.5	_	0.0
ALAMAN	59	59	500	30	1	59	A	1.0
ALOLA	54	54	14,900	805	3	54	7	-1.0
ALMAL GIH	0.0 27.0	26.0	1,869,400	0 48,951	63	32.5 26.0	7	-0.5
AAYAN	47.0	47.0	183,913	8,644	7	47.0	_	0.0
BAYANINV	33.0	32.5	85,178	2,801	5	33.0	A	1.0
OSOUL	41.0	41.0	14,900	611	2	41.0	Ā	1.0
KFIC	38.5	36.5	3,610	138	6	38.5		-0.5
KAMCO	100	96	61,000	5,890	6	100	-	-2.0
NIH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	_	0.0
ISKAN	31.0	30.0	1,011,534	30,829	20	31.0		1.0
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	-	0.0
ALDEERA	32.5	31.5	177,686	5,669	16	31.5		-1.5
ALSALAM	35.0	33.5	775,014	26,542	27	34.5		1.0
EKTTITAB	31.0	30.0	231,000	6,979	14	30.0	A	0.5
ALMADINA NOOR	34.5 50	33.0 48.5	8,952,410 188,700	306,595 9,200	111	33.5 50	=	0.0
TAMINV								
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420 130	=	0.0
TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	_	0.0
KSHC	25.0	23.5	150,100	3,747	17	25.0		1.0
STRATEGIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.0	_	0.0
ASIYA	37.0	36.0	103,089	3,781	14	37.0		0.5
GNAHC	27.5	27.0	255,810	6,910	14	27.0		0.5
AMWAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	-	0.0
ALIMTIAZ	77	76	289,810	22,115	5	77		1.0
MANAZEL	26.0	23.5	17,921,327	458,300	165	26.0	A	2.5
NIND	128	124	1,097,134	138,753	57	128		4.0
BIIHC	29.5	28.5	435,072	12,580	11	29.5		1.0
SENERGY AGHC	13.5	12.5	1,611,750	20,447	16	12.5 80	=	0.0
KPPC	0.0 54	52	1,351,632	72,743	21	54	_	0.0 -1.0
TAHSSILAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	49.5	_	0.0
JEERANH	60	59	4,400	260	6	60	_	0.0
EKHOLDING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	166	Ξ	0.0
GFH	35.5	33.5	10,197,391	351,194	112	35.0	A	2.0
INOVEST	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	55	_	0.0
Financial Services			54,236,487	1,858,317	962	597.63	A	4.03
Investment Instrum	ents		0	0	0	1081.97	2 000	0.00
100	00-		A 6=4	0.000		***		
ASC	325	325	6,850	2,226	1	325	_	0.0
OSOS FUTURE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82 114	=	0.0
HAYATCOMM	46.5	45.5	51,810	2,382	4	45.5	_	-1.5
			58,660	4,609	5	858.24	7	-3.70

ASC	325	325	6,850	2,226	1	325	-	0.0
osos	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	_	0.0
FUTURE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	_	0.0
HAYATCOMM	46.5	45.5	51,810	2,382	4	45.5		-1.5
Technology			58,660	4,609	5	858.24	7	-3.70
BAREEQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	_	0.0
AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	_	0.0
ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	_	0.0
SAFRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	16.5	_	0.0
AJWAN	27.0	25.5	216,934	5,720	9	26.0	A	0.5
MASAKEN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.5	_	0.0
DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	_	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	_	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	_	0.0
FLEX	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	_	0.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	_	0.0
KCLINIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	29.5	_	0.0
AMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	-	0.0
Parallel Market			216,934	5,720	9	1202.37		1.92

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net

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355

BKIKWT

Index

wait Oil

West Texas

Gold

Previous Close

29.15

37.02

34.77

1065.81

14.07

Last Price

28.66

35.97

34.67

1071.95

Change

-0.49

-1.05

-0.10

6.14

0.11

%

-75.40

-49.84

-53.72

-11.08

-11.66

-1.68

-2.84

-0.29

0.58

0.78

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		Glo	bal Sto	ock In	dices			Ė
Index	Previou	ıs Close	Last I	_		nge	Daily Performance	Yearly
Dow Jones	17.4	95.84	17,12	8.55	-367.29	•	-2,10	-3.90
NASDAQ		2.60	4,92	20000	-79.50	·	-1.59	3.95
S&P 500	2,04	11.89	2,00	5.55	-36.34	•	-1.78	-2.59
Financial Times	758705	2.42	6,10	25 WY00C=	57.50	A	0.95	-6.95
DAX CAC 40	2000000	08.19 5.26	4,65	8.26	145.69 33.00		0.71	9.67
Swiss		8.91	8,64	11/10/10/10	31.77	_	0.37	-3.81
Nikkei 225	18,9	86.80	18,91	16.02	-70.78	•	-0.37	8.40
Topix		7.10	1,53		-5.82	•	-0.38	8.79
Hang Seng Straits Times		55.56	21,79		36.12 -7.29		-0.26	-7.68 -15.44
straits rimes	2,03		NA Sto		1.77	Ť	-0.26	-13.44
		MIL	INA SIC	CK III	uices		Daily	Yearly
Index	Previou	us Close	Last I	Price	Cha	nge	Performance %	Performan %
Kuwait		1.93	5,61		41.73	A	0.75	-17.30
Saudi Arabia Dubai		1.08	6,94 3,10		11.12 75.14	_ A	0.16 2.48	-16.83 -19.82
Abu Dhabi	7,528,635	5.71	4,19	1612	35.54		0.86	-8.24
Bahrain	1,19	4.59	1,18	9.78	-4.81	•	-0.40	-16.26
Qatar	9,91	2.92	9,90	6.00	-6.92	•	-0.07	-19.31
Oman		4.97	5,40	200000000	49.28	A	0.92	-15.58
Lebanon Jordan		0.54	1,15 2,08		1.92 -3.71	A	-0.18	-2.42 -3.46
Egypt	-	7.66	6,77	Discouling of the Control of the Con	65.04		0.97	-24.86
Morocco	8,86	0.92	8,82	1.42	-39.50	•	-0.45	-7.89
Tunisia	4,96	9.59	4,95	5.31	-14.28	•	-0.29	-2.37
	Glot	al Cu	rrenci	es Exc	change	Rate		
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australia Dollar
Kuwait Dinar	- Dillian	12.2474	3.2765	3.0151	2.2001	3.2608	397.44	4.5723
Saudi Riyal	0.08165		0.2675	0.2462	0.1796	0.2662	32.45	0.3733
US Dollar	0.30520	3.7379	4.0047	0.9202	0.6715	0.9952	121.30	1.3955
Euro Sterling Pound	0.33166	4.0620 5.5669	1.0867	1.3704	0.7297	1.0818	131.86	2.0793
Swiss Franc	0.30667	3.7559	1.0048	0.9244	0.6746		121.92	1.4022
Japanese Yen	0.00252	0.0308	0.0082	0.0076	0.0055	0.0082		0.0115
Australian Dollar	0.21871	2.6786	0.7166	0.6588	0.4809	0.7132	86.92	
	MEN	IA Cur	rencie	es Exc	hange	Rate		
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptia: Pound
US Dollar		0.30520	3.7379	0.3743	3.6270	0.3832	3.6576	7.7201
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2765	0.00445	12.2474	1.2263	11.8840	1.2556	11.9843	25.295
Saudi Riyal Bahraini Dinar	0.2675 2.6719	0.08165	9.9872	0.1001	0.9703 9.6909	1.0239	9.7726	2.0654
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08415	1.0306	0.1032		0.1057	1.0084	2.1285
Omani Riyal	2.6096	0.79645	9.7544	0.9767	9.4650	1933.00	9.5449	20.146
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08344	1.0220	0.1023	0.9916	0.1048	0.4720	2.1107
Egyptian Pound	0.1295	0.03953	0.4842	0.0485	0.4698	0.0496	0.4738	
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	oal Int			onth		rear .
Currency Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	3-Mc			63	_	94
US Dollar	0.38	0.41	0.	58	0.	80	1.	11
Euro	-0.26	-0.19	-0.	22		.02		05
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.50	0.	5577	3787	74		05
Swiss Franc Australian Dollar	-0.82	-0.80 2.17	-0. 2.	Elex	0.000	.70 06		.61 01
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.86	0.0	27.00		94		99
		Glo	obal Bo	ond Y	ields			
Country	2-1	'ear	5-Y	ear	10-	Year	30-	Year
United States	$\overline{}$	96	1.0			21		92
CALL WALL TO SELECT		.37	-0.			55		30





THE MERCEDES-BENZ S-CLASS ICONS

KUWAIT: Serving as Mercedes-Benz's top driving comfort. model for over 50 years, the S-Class has redefined technology, comfort and style, with each new model debuting many of the company's latest innovations, interior features and safety systems. Officially introduced in 1972 with the w116 S-Class, the series of models in the flagship S-Class range have since grown to include the Sedan, CoupÈ and now Cabriolet variants, creating an impressive portfolio that has redefined luxury and innovation.

Mercedes Maybach S-Class Pullman

Three engineering priorities "Intelligent Drive", "Efficient Technology" and "Essence of Luxury" have enabled the S-Class to extend the boundaries of technology on many levels. It is not just a technological spearhead for Mercedes-Benz but for automotive development as a whole.

Exclusive general distributor for Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company highlights the S-Class' leadership in the luxury segment. "The S-Class family is a demonstration of all-around excellence. Since its inception, it has consistently set new benchmarks in cutting edge technology and ride comfort, appealing to a class of discerning customers through its variants. Despite aesthetic differences, each S-Class model offers unparallelled luxury rarely seen in the automotive industry," said Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer, of the company.

S-Class Saloon: The best car in the world

The S-Class has long been the yardstick for technological advancement and luxury motoring. Innovative safety systems featured in the S-Class include the DISTRONIC PLUS with Steer Assist and Stop & Go Pilot, which help the driver to stay in lane and even enable the car to drive itself in a traffic jam with only minimal intervention. The sensors of the MAGIC BODY CONTROL are another highlight: They make the new S-Class the first vehicle worldwide that is able to detect surface undulations in the road ahead and prime the suspension accordingly - offering an unparalleled level of

Available in S 400, S 500, S 600, Mercedes-AMG S 63 and S 65 models, the S-Class Sedan is the first vehicle in the world whose interior and exterior do without a single light bulb and sees Mercedes-Benz building on its pioneering role in the lighting sector. The lighting's multilevel functionality is another world first: out of consideration for any road users behind, the intensity of the brake lights is reduced at night or while waiting at traffic lights, for example. Almost 500 LEDs illuminate the road, the vehicle, the interior and the boot.

Mercedes-Maybach: The pinnacle of ultra luxury

There is luxury, and then there is Maybach. Mercedes-Maybach vehicles epitomise peerless exclusivity. Some of the features that distinguish these vehicles from production models include extra spaciousness with lavishly designed, prestigious interiors offering extensive scope for individualisation. As a result, the vehicles fulfil the requirements of even the most discerning customers worldwide.

For those who like to drive or be driven in the equivalent of a first class suite, the Mercedes-Maybach S-Class 600 is the pinnacle of luxury. The new model melds the perfection of the Mercedes-Benz S-Class with the exclusivity of Maybach, from impressive spaciousness and elegant design to premium craftsmanship and extrovert luxury.

The new Mercedes-Maybach Pullman is the second model from the Mercedes-Maybach's ultra-luxurious family of cars. The top-of-therange vehicle, with its face-to-face seating in the partitioned-off passenger compartment, stands as a proud example of the high-end automotive luxury traditionally associated with Maybach. Many governments, heads of state and royal families around the world have for decades chosen Mercedes-Benz saloons with the designation "Pullman" to drive them with the glory and style befitting their status. With its new model, the company is now

extending its unique position in this demanding segment. Its length of 6.50 metres is a sign of the special status of the Mercedes-Maybach Pullman. Providing appropriate space for the tasteful club lounge in the rear, a multitude of superior fittings ensures the chauffeur-driven limousine lives up to today's expectations of total exclusivity and luxury.

S-Class Coupe: The high-end coupe The ultimate in aesthetic sportiness, the S-

Class Coupe combines intense driving pleasure with modern luxury. Available in the S 500, Mercedes-AMG S 63 and S 65, each model offers a choice of three leather interiors and a



Mercedes Maybach S-Class interior

host of trim features in hand-crafted quality, making the touch and feel inside a journey of discovery in its own right. The gently sweeping dashboard appears to hover in space and conjures up an exclusive, modern lounge character. Seven different light moods serve to complement this interior feel. The S-Class Coupe not only has a much quieter interior than its predecessor, but is also the quietest series-production car of all in terms of wind noise.

Like the S-Class Saloon, the new Coupe is available with numerous new assistance systems that make driving even more comfortable and safer. The world premiere of the



Mercedes AMG S65

active curve tilting function also allows the vehicle to lean into bends meaning greater driving pleasure and ride comfort.

S-Class Cabriolet: Open-top luxury

The new Cabriolet arriving in Q3 2016 is the sixth variant of the current S-Class family and the first open-top luxury four-seater from Mercedes-Benz since 1971.

Its Mercedes-AMG S 63 offers a distinctive, sensual and exclusive design, adopting 60 percent of its bodyshell components from its Coupe counterpart. The cutting-edge technology of the S-Class and a comprehensive warmth and wind protection concept includes the enhanced automatic wind protection system AIRCAP, the AIRSCARF neck-level heating system, the heated armrests, the seat heating also in the rear, plus the intelligent climate control ensure, laying claim as the world's most comfortable convertables.

A Standard-fit roll over protection system also detects impending danger of the vehicle rolling over and enables the airbag control unit to send a corresponding signal to the roll over protection system, ensuring the safest drive. Attention to detail is also evident in the luggage compartment concept: when the soft top is opened, it folds away into part of the luggage compartment.

The soft top is separated from the remaining luggage compartment space by means of an electrically operated retractable cover which encloses the soft top.

This luggage compartment partition extends automatically during opening of the soft top. This means that the driver no longer needs to stop in order to operate the luggage compartment cover manually, providing added convenience. When the soft top is closed, the luggage compartment partition can be retracted by pressing a button in the inner panelling of the boot lid, so as to increase the available luggage space.

Customers can visit Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company's showrooms to book a test drive and experience the innovation of the S-Class. Existing Mercedes-Benz customers can enjoy 24 hour test drives by appointment.

GLOBAL DEFLATION STILL A REAL THREAT

By Hayder Tawfik

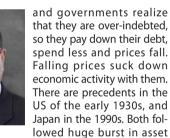
KUWAIT: Central banks dread to mention the word deflation. Over the past few years they have been busy talking about how the long term inflation potential is still intact even though they have been completely wrong. As

much as they admit that inflation is not a problem they should admit that the deflationary wave is still a bigger threat to the world economy. We have been living with falling inflation over the past few years and all the signs indicating that we are not seeing any sustainable pick up of inflation. The worldis most powerful central

bank has just raised interest rates at a time when inflation rate is still way below its own official target. The recent fall in oil and commodity prices should put a cap on any potential inflation fear in the coming months. In the late 2008 and when the financial crises was at their peak, there was already a fierce debate over whether inflation or deflation was the greatest danger for the world economy. As the world economy steadily recovered from crisis conditions, investors have worked on the assumption that those who were arguing about the future inflation threat were right - that the greatest danger was runaway inflation, not a fall in prices. At present investors are worriedly reconsidering the inflation threat.

For investors getting the issue right is very important and it is crucial when making any investment decision. Inflation and deflation require almost totally different responses, from investors, central banks and governments. It is also hard to resolve as both sides have logic and historical precedent on their side. Reducing interest rates down to zero and printing unlimited amounts of money and resort to deficit financing should theoretically lead to inflation. That has happened in numerous developing countries. It happened in Germany during the 1st and 2nd World Wars and also most of the western world in the 1970s specifically during the oil crises.

Over the past two decades the world has experienced a huge debt binge that sadly exploded and ended up in a wave of global deflation. Economic theory also predicts that a debt binge will lead to deflation. As consumers, companies



price bubbles - as happened back in 2008. People in the inflation camp argue that governments have over-learnt the lessons from these disasters, and that so much money has now been printed that inflation is inevitable. Those who are concern about deflation use Japan as an example. They argue that Japan eventually cut interest rates to below zero, and still founding itself trapped in the vicious circle of deflation. My biggest concern is that very few

people these days talking about deflation. But some are still worried about deflation. The European Central banks is one of them. Unfortunately the Federal Reserve is no longer taking the deflation threat seriously. The Fedis own pronouncement reflects the fact that core inflation in the US, stripping out fuel and food, is just over 1% and that is very low rate and way below the Fedis target. The Commodity Research Bureau Index is back were it was in 2006. Admittedly unemployment numbers has been falling over the past few years and now it stands just over 5 percent but this has not led to any spiral in the wage pressure. US housing appears to be on the mend but has not returned to the bubble days of the early 2000. The inflationary environment that the world experienced from 2000 to 2008 came from asset markets themselves. When commodity prices rise, inflation rises with them. Thus, the best evidence for inflation sprang directly from the belief of market participants that inflation was the greatest danger. But the recent collapse of oil and commodity prices should lead to lower inflation and possibly deflation in the coming months.

History taught us that drastically low interest rates for longer time will increase the risk of runaway inflation in the long run. But I think for now the imminent danger is deflation created by the oversupply of oil and commodities. Further rate rises by the Federal Reserve could tip the world economy into recession again. — Rasameel Structured Finance Company.



TOKYO: Pedestrians pass before a share prices board in Tokyo yesterday. Tokyo stocks dropped on December 21 morning on a stronger yen, with Toshiba slumping on a weekend report that the scandal-hit conglomerate will likely post a massive fiscal year loss. — AFP

AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF WEEKLY DRAW AL-HASSAD ISLAMIC SAVING PROGRAM

of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on December 16, 2015. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first and only prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Sharia principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year.

This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000/- is: FAISAL ZAID ALZAID. The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Fatemah M A Almershed, Alok Nigam Nandkishore, Mohamed Egbal Mohamed, Nour Aldeen Amir Aasem, Mohammad Khleaif Aleid, Marvam M S Albahrani, Ahmad Mazed Alotaibi, Iman Ahehab

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw Al Qadiri, Adnan Naser, Adel Akram Alnajar, Abeer T D Aldabous, Yaqoub Abdullah Saad Algattan, Ahmad A A A Alhomoud, MFeehah Hameed Abbas, Jaseem M A Alkazmi, Ahmad Abbas A, Helene Sioufi, Falah Eid Habeeb Alazmi, Mariam Khamees Alsabea, Asmahan Rashid Ibrahim Jameel Ahmed Habib, Sayed Dheva Habib, Sawsan Isa Ali, Hasan Abdulla Hasan, Nada Adel Radhi

The Prize program of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 73 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks. For further information about "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" account, customers may call at any Ahli United Bank branch. or call: "Hayakom" service at Tel.: 181 2000.

EU WATCHDOG BACKS SOFTER BONUS REGIME FOR SMALLER BANKS

LONDON: Staff at smaller banks in the European Union should not have to defer large chunks of their bonuses over several years, the bloc's European Banking Authority (EBA) watchdog said yesterday. After the 2007-09 financial crisis, the European Union introduced rules to stop bankers from taking excessive risks to win bigger bonuses and because state bailouts of failed banks had angered taxpayers. The rules apply to senior management and so-called material risk takers at banks, many of whom are based in London. At least 40 percent of a bonus must be deferred for at least three years, with half of the deferred portion paid in shares or bonds rather

This means that if misconduct is uncovered after the bonus is awarded, the bank can stop some being paid out. Smaller banks have complained that the rules are not "proportional" as the bonuses they pay are very modest and the deferrals create administrative headaches.

The European Banking Authority said the EU should consider amending its law to "explicitly support specific exemptions on the application of deferral arrangements".

"It is the EBA's opinion that the disapplication of these requirements should be possible for small and non-complex institutions and for staff that receives only a small amount of variable remuneration," the watchdog said.

It offered no definition for small and non-complex institutions. The deferred portion of a bonus is paid in a bank's shares or bonds but the EBA said for savings and cooperative banks who have not issued shares, this is difficult and they should get more flexibility. It will be up to the EU's executive European Commission whether to propose an amendment to the law. Any change would need approval from member states and the European parliament.

WAIVERS GALORE

Some 21 of the 28 member states already "neutralize", or grant waivers in one form or another, for deferrals at smaller banks, but their scope differs widely. The EBA said a law change would mean more consistent, specific waivers across the EU.

The bloc has also capped bonuses to no more than fixed pay, or twice that amount with shareholder approval. Britain and France are granting waivers for smaller lenders on applying the bonus cap, which the EBA views as illegal though it is up to the European Commission to take any action. The watchdog also published a revised version of its guidelines on banker pay and said they will not come into force until January 2017, a year later than anticipated to give member states more

The guidelines now spell out what must be categorized as variable and fixed pay for calculating the bonus cap. Several banks had been paying "allowances" to top up fixed pay and blunt the bonus cap. The EBA has already said the bulk of such payments breach European rules, forcing banks to change pay contracts.

The new guidelines will be enforced by banking supervisors in member states on a comply or explain basis, meaning a supervisor would have to say publicly why it was giving waivers. — Reuters





INTERSECT BY LEXUS OPENS IN DUBAI

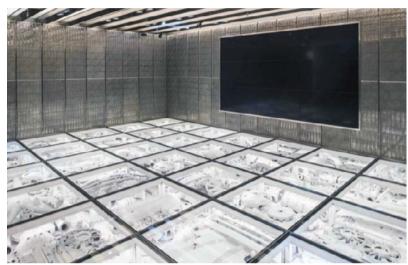
LUXURY BRAND EXPERIENCE SPACE

exus International opened the first Intersect by Lexus luxury brand experience space outside of Japan in Dubai, UAE, with an opening ceremony yesterday to mark the occasion.

Intersect by Lexus is a unique luxury space for the Middle East region where visitors can experience Lexus without get-

ting behind a steering wheel. Neither a dealership, nor a traditional retail space, guests can engage with Lexus while "connecting with the city, and intersecting with other people and cars". The first Intersect by Lexus opened in Tokyo's Minami-Aoyama district in August 2013.

Intersect by Lexus is located at the



Garage and Exhibition Space.

heart of the Dubai International Financial Center (DIFC), and offers a relaxing yet stimulating space for people who are seeking diverse luxury lifestyles enriched by design, art, fashion, culture, film, music and technology. Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, said, "We are very pleased to inaugurate Intersect by Lexus where people from across the region have the opportunity to be part of a distinctive experience. Intersect by Lexus is a comfortable and inspiring space for every individual and they can treat it as their own unique place. At Lexus, we share a tremendous passion for luxury, quality craftsmanship and innovative design. This manifests itself in every corner of Intersect by Lexus to give visitors a sense of the lifestyle associated with a Lexus.

Yoshitsugu added: "We sincerely appreciate the support of our customers who have put their faith in Lexus over the years and we look forward to welcoming em to Intersect by Lexus."

Both Intersect by Lexus experience spaces have been designed by Masamichi Katayama, the worldrenowned designer and founder of interior design firm Wonderwall. They are designed to embody the Lexus brand, and provide a brand experience with surprise and inspiration unique to Lexus. INTERSECT BY LEXUS is composed of two floors. The lower floor features a garage and exhibition space for Lexus concept vehicles and art installations, while the upper floor provides a lounge, a restaurant, a library lounge, and a shop for CRAFTED FOR LEXUS (www.crafted-forlexus.com) lifestyle items.

"This project is not just about creating a restaurant, but rather an environment," explains Katayama, "As an incubation platform generating new innovative ideas and concepts, it has been designed to capture the feeling of a lounge, allowing people with shared values to come together and interact in a relaxed yet inspiring atmosphere."

These spaces will host workshops, exhibitions, and events, acting as the launching point for diverse brand activities. Intersect by Lexus will be further expanded into the global scene, with a space in New York currently being



Library Lounge and Eatery.

UK HELP FOR STEEL MILLS **NOT ENOUGH: REPORT**

LONDON: Government action to address domestic and European Union policies that cripple Britain's steel sector are still not enough to secure the industry's future, a parliamentary committee report said yesterday.

Nearly 4,000 jobs were lost in the British steel industry in October alone-equivalent to about a fifth of the workforce - as Tata Steel buckled under pressure from decade-low steel prices, while SSI UK and Caparo Industries shut up shop. The crisis prompted EU ministers to hold talks at Britain's request, while the UK government pledged action on some of the industry's concerns on high energy costs, green taxes, business rates and cheap imports, notably

from China. "Increased (government) activity has not yet translated into measurable impact. Nor will current measures be enough to provide certainty for the future," said the report from parliament's Business, Innovation and Skills committee. "Government must now work with industry to establish what a sustainable future for UK steel looks like, and then commit to taking the necessary measures to help deliver it." After months of lobbying, Britain received EU approval last week to compensate energyintensive industries such as steel for the cost of green taxes like the renewables obligation, Britain's main incentive mechanism for largescale renewable projects. —Reuters

ETIHAD AIRWAYS EXPANDS CODESHARE AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA'S \$7 AIRLINES

KUWAIT: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, is expanding its codeshare partnership with S7 Airlines to cover eight additional destinations from the Russian carrier's Moscow hub.

Effective 16th January 2016, Etihad Airways will place its EY code on S7 Airlines' domestic services between Moscow and Chelvabinsk. Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk, Novy Urengoy, Omsk, Perm, Rostov-on-Dom and Sochi. Under this revised agreement, S7 Airlines applies its code on routes via Moscow to Abu Dhabi and selected connecting destinations on Etihad Airways' network including Singapore, Bangkok, Phuket and Sydney. The Abu Dhabi-based carrier, which operates daily flights to Moscow, already has codeshare arrangements in place with S7 Airlines covering the Russian cities of Kazan, Krasnodar, Saint Petersburg, Samara, Ufa and Yekaterinburg. Both airlines have been offering joint codeshare fliahts since 2010.

James Hogan, Etihad Airways' President and

Chief Executive Officer, said: "This enhanced codeshare arrangement with S7 Airlines is in line with our strategy to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones. "Etihad Airways has enjoyed a strong working relationship with S7 Airlines and through this enhanced partnership we are demonstrating our commitment to the Russian inbound and outbound market, and providing guests with greater choice and travel con-

Igor Veretennikov, S7 Group Deputy CEO and Head of Strategy Department, said: "By extending our codeshare agreement with Etihad Airways, we open up more travel opportunities for S7 Airlines' passengers, adding destinations such as Singapore to our route network. We look forward to welcoming Etihad Airways' customers on eight more S7 Airlines' routes within Russia." Etihad Airways' daily Moscow flights are operated with a 174-seat Airbus A321 in a two-class configuration of 16 In Business and 158 in

THE BEST DECEMBER OFFER FROM CHEVROLET ALGHANIM

HIGHEST TRADE-IN VALUE PLUS UP TO KD 1000 UPON PURCHASING SILVERADO OR TAHOE

tomers with the best offers to own and enjoy the Chevrolet car of their dreams. The newest December promotion presents this perfect opportunity. Now, customers can get up to KD 1,000 in cash with the highest trade-in value upon buying a brand new Chevrolet Silverado or Tahoe.

Chevrolet Alghanim's December offer has been created to fulfill the dreams of youth who wish to own the larger-than-life Silverado, the powerful drive that can take on any terrain. The limited-time offer also provides all SUV fans that chance to own an exceptional one with the Chevrolet Tahoe, a strong, sturdy and secure SUV that offers the driver as well as passengers a spacious interior that merges innovative design with excellent on-road performance that fits every individual and family's need.

Youths and families alike will also enjoy Chevrolet's signature driving experience owning to the cars' state-of-the-art technology and latest safety standards, ultimately embracing an incredible design and daring creativity at an unsurpassable value. Chevrolet MyLink gives drivers the best of both worlds when it comes to infotainment. It provides easy, intuitive operation of basic functions, yet it is also highly customizable and capable of linking to devices such as smartphones, USB devices and MP3 players, giving users more ways of staying connected, like accessing their favorite music files, photo

albums and videos via Bluetooth or USB/AUX. With its award-winning exterior and interior

KUWAIT: Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive, designs, plus a host of advanced safety features in three trim levels that include LS, LT and LTZ, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in and remarkable towing capacity and perform- the all-new Tahoe has been completely Kuwait, has always been keen on providing its cus- ance, the Silverado is proudly considered redesigned. Featuring premium materials that Kuwait's best-selling pick-up truck, guaranteed to get drivers through the most demanding jobs

ever while being environmentally-friendly.

Everything from Silverado's interior and exterior styling to ergonomics and performance has been re-engineered. The new Silverado is stronger, smarter and more capable than ever. Equipped with three EcoTec3 engines, V-6 4.3L, with the most torque and highest towing rating of any standard V-6, V8 5.3L and an all-new 6.2L V-8, the Silverado proudly features the segment's most powerful engine. The increased torque and efficiency of the new EcoTec3 engine family resulted an unprecedented level of power to take on any high terrains and obstacles.

The new Silverado is also designed to bring new levels of confidence for adventurers and campers alike, thanks to its perfect blend of exterior elegance and exterior ruggedness, making it the best pick-up truck to own. Developed entirely around functionality, the interior cabin meets the needs of the driver and passengers by featuring the smartest technologies and redesigned front seats and forward-opening doors that are built for all-day comfort.

The cabs also feature inlaid doors that fit snugly into recesses in the body sides for reduced turbulence and wind rush. Even the smallest details of the body, such as the roof and tailgate spoiler, were tuned in a wind tunnel to smooth airflow over the truck for reduced noise and improved aerodynamic efficiency. Available

All About Electronics

contribute to the functional, sophisticated design as well as available 8-inch diagonal color touch-screen with 3D navigation, in addition to up to six USB ports to connect smartphones, Blue Ray DVD rear entertainment system and fold-flat third-row seat that provides incredible spaciousness for the whole family. In addition to keyless access, the Tahoe also features a host of available driver assistance technologies, such as Standard Front and Rear Park Assist helps when maneuvering Tahoe in tight parking situations and Side Blind Zone Alert with Lane Change Alert use radar sensors in the rear quarter panels to detect fast approaching vehicles.

Chevrolet Care

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Alghanim will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care, which entails new levels of postsale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 2407 roadside assistance. Customers who want to purchase a new vehicle or upgrade their existing vehicle can now take advantage of this amazing offer. Visit our showrooms in Safat Alghanim Al-Rai, Sharq, Fahaheel, Al-Ahmadi, and Shuwaikh and get the offer today!

Ooredoo, Eureka and EDAM partners in Nojoom Loyalty Program

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, yesterday announced that its award-winning Nojoom Loyalty Program will offer customers the exclusive opportunity to redeem their points for shopping vouchers from Eureka Electronics & EDAM Group's Restaurants & Entertainment Centers in eMall, one of the largest electronic retailers, Restaurants & Entertainment Centers in Kuwait and the region. Nojoom, Kuwait's biggest telecom rewards program, allows customers to earn points as they use Ooredoo services in exchange for a variety of rewards from the program's many partners.

eMall, is a first of its kind shopping experience in the Kuwaiti market designed for the "smart shopper". The eMall is a department store containing a variety of popular international brands in consumer products, restaurants, cafes, entertainment centers, health clubs and fashion. Eureka Electronics serves the customers through several branches across Kuwait.

Nojoom members who have accumulated points during their use of Ooredoo services will be able to redeem their points with Eureka Electronics & EDAM Group's Restaurants & Entertainment Centers (eClub & eJoy), one of Nojoom's leading partners by contacting the call center 121 or visiting the







web portal at www.ooredoo.com.kw.

e Hashion

Commenting on the partnership and its benefits to members, Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "We are excited to bring our customers the many exciting benefits resulting from our partnership with Eureka Electronics, one of the Kuwait and the Middle East's leading electronics retailers & EDAM Group's Restaurants & Entertainment Centers (eClub & eJoy) one of the kind in Kuwait. Through this joint effort under our Nojoom program members will be rewarded with eMall's many benefits including best market value on brands, conven-



ience collection of products under one roof and family-friendly establishment in an easily accessible location. We look forward to bringing our customers the best rewards with our program partners."

The CEO of Eureka, Eng Ahmad Al-Qenaie has said: "Our partnership with Ooredoo stems from our strong belief that the smart shopping option inevitable in light of the evolution of the market and the breadth of choices volumes and Eureka took it upon themselves to be at the ambition level of smart shopper and its aspirations where the customer in Kuwait one of the smartest customers in the region and afford him the first



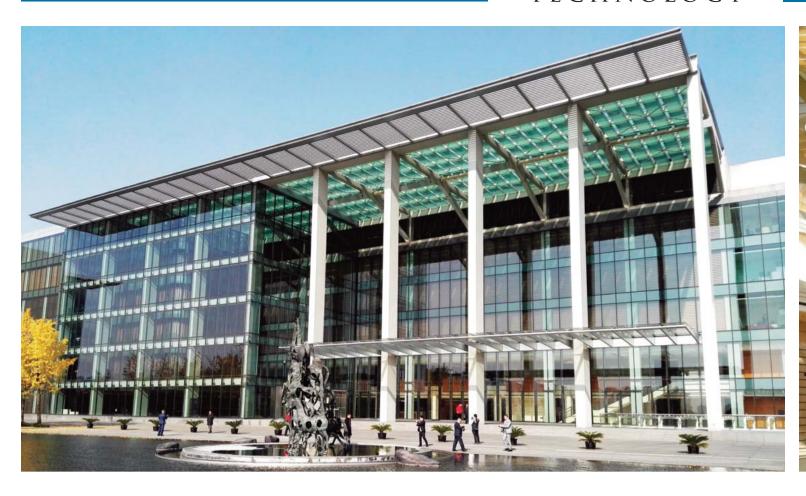
choice is always worth."

And for his part, said the General Manger of EDAM Group, Ashraf Hallal: "We cannot offer Ooredoo clients less than the best in terms that eClub Restaurant at (eMall) is the first Contemporary Technological & Social Restaurant in the Middle East and has given a new dimension of dining and entertainment at the same time, with its international level which befitting Ooredoo's customers. " "And he also noted that the participation of The Safe Family Entertainment Center "eJoy" at (eMall) in the"Nojoom"program is an indication of the trust level of Ooredoo and excellent value provided by "eJoy "to its customers,



Mijbil Alayoub

we in turn appreciate Ooredoo trust and we will work constantly to maintain it." The Nojoom Loyalty Program, part of Ooredoo Kuwait, has previously won Best Loyalty Program in the MEA Award in 2012 by Customer 360 for its customer satisfaction





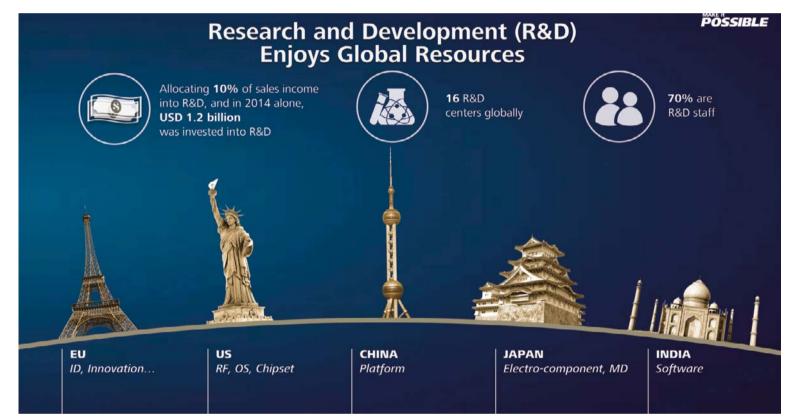
A look at the rise of the brand in 2015



HUAWEI







uawei Technologies Co. Ltd, is the largest telecommunications equipment manufacturer in the world, having overtaken Ericsson in 2012. The company is ranked 228th in the Fortune Global 500 list and netted a sales revenue of 28 billion USD in the first half of 2015. The Huawei Consumer Business Group has had a steady growth in both sales revenue and smartphone shipment. Sales revenue rose from 4.5 billion in 2010 to a targeted 20 billion in 2015 while smartphone shipments for 2015 is expected to exceed 100 million units. A tremendous

improvement over the 3 million units sold in 2010. Huawei was listed on Interbrands 100 Most Valuable Global Brands list again in 2015, moving up to rank 88 rising above both the Heineken and MTV brand. 2015 was the year of many firsts, including making the prestigious BrandZ list. Huawei ranked 70 on the list because the brand invested in its global technology offering, demonstrated with two-third of its revenue coming from markets outside of China. Achieving a rank on the BrandZ list recognizes Huawei's real strengths. Huawei's brand momentum also took a major step forward in 2015. The brand moved way beyond competitors HTC, Lenovo and Sony in terms of brand development while keeping a steady growth in utilization rate. These goals are in line with Huawei's key objective which is becoming the world's most respected brand. Research and development are important pillars of the Huawei brand and enjoys resources derived from a global level. 10% of sales in 2014 (USD 1.2 billion) were allocated to R&D. Today Huawei is proud of its 16 R&D centers located around the world including in China, Japan, India, US and EU all of which are assigned individual tasks to ensure the smooth running of operations.

Huawei also covers a global sales network located in over 170 countries and regions around the world. To get to the actual numbers - there are 3,936 retails stores in Western Europe, 4,853 in Southeast Asia, 1,540 in Northeast Europe and 2,062 in North Africa. For the first half of 2015, the proportion of public sales channels (including online) grew 56%. Further, Huawei is expected to build 32,171 retail stores (premium experience stores, experience stores, dedicated divisions and shops) globally by the end of 2015. The total number of stores meanwhile will increase 100 percent year-on-year. Huawei's new flagship products were a major success for all their customers in 2015. The new P8 had its global launch in London on April 15th while The Mate S and Huawei Watch were both launched in Berlin on September 2nd. Both launches were lauded by both our customers and technology pundits from around the world.

Huawei's Consumer Business Group market share is No.2, No.3 and No.4 in Iran, Saudi Arabia and UAE respectively. When the entire region is taken into consideration, Huawei sits at No.3 behind Samsung and Apple. Huawei was also awarded at the Diamond Awards for Smartphones at DISTREE Middle East for its achievements and growth in the region.

Huawei performance in Kuwait is looking extremely bright. It has made breakthroughs not only for affordable devices but also in mid- and high-end devices. In 2012, Huawei shipped 53,000 units in Kuwait. This number rose tremendously in 2014 where Huawei shipped over 659,000 units. This is a clear indication of Huawei's amazing potential in the smartphone market not only in Kuwait and the Middle East but also around the world.



POSSIBLE





OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ENACTS PROTECTIONS FOR LIONS

WASHINGTON: The Obama administration is expected to extend Endangered Species Act protections for two breeds of lions, in response to a large decline in their numbers in Africa over the past two decades. The listings are to be announced and include an order that appears to touch on circumstances surrounding the killing of a well-known lion named Cecil in Zimbabwe earlier this year. The order states that the Fish and Wildlife Service will deny a permit to import a sporthunted lion to anyone who has been convicted or pleaded guilty to violating federal or state wildlife laws.

Walter Palmer, the Minnesota dentist who shot Cecil with a bow and arrow, had pleaded guilty in 2008 to making false statements to the Fish and Wildlife Service about a black bear fatally shot in western Wisconsin outside an authorized hunting zone. The Fish and Wildlife Service cautioned against linking the order with Cecil's death, describing the action instead as a redoubling of efforts to ensure that violators of wildlife laws don't reap future benefits from importing wildlife and wildlife products.

The administration signaled it would protect lions in Africa long before Cecil's case caught the public's attention. The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed a rule in October 2014 to list the African lion as threatened. After getting feedback, the agency revised its findings. It determined that two subspecies of lions live in Africa. One group, found primarily in western and central countries, is more genetically related to the Asiatic lion. Only about 1,400 remain in Africa and India.

The agency is listing that subspecies as endangered, meaning it risks extinction. A second subspecies, numbering between 17,000 and 19,000 and found across



HARARE: File photo shows a lion named Tommy in the Hwange National Park where Cecil the Lion was killed about 700 kilometers south west of Harare, Zimbabwe. The Obama administration is expected to extend Endangered Species Act protections for two breeds of lions, in response to a large decline in their numbers in Africa over the past two decades. — AP

southern and eastern Africa, will be listed as threatened. The Endangered Species Act requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to list species as endangered or threatened regardless of the country where they live. "If we want to ensure that healthy lion populations continue to roam the Africa savannas and forests of India, it's up to all of us - not just the people of Africa

and India - to take action," said Dan Ashe, the agency's director. The listings will bring extra protection for both subspecies: A permit would be required before importing any live or sport-hunted lions. The bar for an import permit would be highest with the endangered group, with permits granted if importing the animal would enhance the species' survival. The permitting process

for the threatened group would require the import to come from nations that have sound conservation practices and use trophy hunting revenue to sustain lion populations and deter poaching. Currently, sport hunters don't need a permit from the US to bring in a trophy lion.

Ashe said trophy hunting can and does contribute to the survival of species in the wild as part of a well-managed conservation program. The new permitting requirements in the US will encourage African countries to improve their lion management programs. The agency said hundreds of sport-hunted trophy lions are brought into the US each year.

The agency already has authority to deny an import permit to individuals who have violated federal and state wildlife laws. Ashe's order essentially turns that authority into a requirement. "Importing sport-hunted trophies and other wildlife or animal parts into the United States is a privilege, not a right, a privilege that violators of wildlife laws have demonstrated they do not deserve," Ashe said.

The agency said its investigation into the Cecil's killing is ongoing and declined to comment directly on the case. Cecil was a major tourist attraction in Hwange National Park and was being monitored as part of an Oxford University study.

Palmer said he shot the big cat outside the park's borders, but it didn't die immediately and was tracked down the next day. Palmer said he would not have shot the animal if anybody in the hunting party has known of the lion's status. Zimbabwe officials cleared Palmer of wrongdoing in October, saying he did not break the country's hunting laws. — AP



NEW YORK: A homeless woman sits in front of a store hoping for donations on Fifth Avenue in New York. — AFP

HOMELESS PEOPLE BRACE FOR EL NINO RAINSTORMS

LOS ANGELES: As Los Angeles grapples with a huge homelessness problem, El Nino weather patterns are likely to bring torrential downpours in coming months and add to the misery of the thousands of people who sleep on the city's streets. "It is a crisis in LA, and I don't think people realize the magnitude of it," said John Kump, an outreach program manager at the charity People Assisting the Homeless (PATH).

Los Angeles' homeless population is estimated at about 44,000, with many of them concentrated in a bleak and chaotic square-mile patch of downtown known as Skid Row. The others can be seen across the sprawling metropolis of some 10 million people, sheltering under highway overpasses and on vacant lots in ragged tent encampments, and in cars and campers lining streets. The number of makeshift tents and vehicles used by the homeless has shot up by 85 percent in just the last two years to 9,535, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, an independent agency set up by the city and the county.

Mayor Eric Garcetti proposed in September spending \$100 million to combat the problem. But he stopped short of declaring a state of emergency that would lift barriers to housing people, or calling on the governor and federal government for funding. Last month, the city council gave initial approval to a plan to shelter the homeless in public buildings and to allow people living in cars to stay overnight in designated parking lots. But many homeless are reluctant to leave possessions and pets on the streets in exchange for a short night of shelter. The health and meager belongings of the homeless will be even more at risk when the expected rainstorms begin, advocates say.

'Very difficult'

The last two El Ninos, in the winters of 1982-83 and 1997-98, each walloped Los Angeles with more than 30 inches (76 cm) of rain - double the amount that the city normally receives each year - according to William Patzert, a climatologist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory near Pasadena. Gary Blasi, professor of law emeritus at UCLA, wrote in a Los Angeles Times op-ed article last month that many homeless people could die if a state of emergency is not declared that could ensure some short-term housing solutions.

The homeless desperately need pallets to raise their tents off the sidewalks, he wrote, as well as heavy-duty tarpaulins, toilets, trash collection, and portable showers. Blasi also called for the repeal of a ruling that makes it a crime for homeless people in Los Angeles to refuse to break down tents on sidewalks during the day. Even as American cities grapple with a chronic shortage of affordable housing, as well as budget constraints on social programs, many municipalities across the United States have also been clamping down on homeless encampments.

Los Angeles residents pay a higher percentage of their income in rent than any other U.S. city, according to a UCLA study last year. For the thousands in Los Angeles who live in their cars, they may have a roof of sorts over their heads, but basic needs go unmet. Retired trucker Samuel Cole, 85, has lived in a camper for the past two years after his landlord raised the rent by \$100. Vandals broke his generator, so he no longer has electricity. Like so many others, he said that a lack of running water is one of his biggest problems. "I just have to wash off best I can," Cole said. "Very difficult." — Reuters

DENMARK TOWN SEES BIG PICTURE WITH PROFITABLE EMISSIONS CUTS

KALUNDBORG: What do the world's largest manufacturer of diabetes drugs, the biggest industrial enzymes producer and a leading offshore power company have in common? In the Danish seaside town of Kalundborg they have plenty. As pioneers of so-called industrial symbiosis, these companies swap waste and byproducts to cut costs and carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions profitably-an approach that offers big business a financial incentive that could be crucial to nations striving to meet targets agreed at this month's global climate summit.

Their success has attracted attention globally, with more than 30 corporate and municipal delegations from 20 countries visiting the town this year, including mayors from China's fast-growing Guandong province. Drugmaker Novo Nordisk, enzyme producer Novozymes and DONG Energy, together with Denmark's largest oil refinery, run by Statoil, are part of the group profiting from what is essentially a combined waste-management operation. The continually evolving model first attracted academia in the 1990s and prompted the creation of the Symbiosis Centre in the town. Its head, Mette Skovbjerg, says businesses digesting the historic emissions deal could learn from Kalundhorg.

learn from Kalundborg.
"What's attractive is that it's fairly easy for

companies to see themselves in this model. They're not just going green but going on a path that is very similar to how they do business normally," she said. "The driver for this type of collaboration is actually to reduce production costs, not CO2 emissions. The real issue is to achieve primary goals companies have; to secure supplies and access to resources. That's a logic they understand." There are 30 types of materials-ranging from steam, water and condensate to ash, sand, ethanol and biomass-exchanged between companies and utilities in 50 processes at Kalundborg. What's useless for one, is useful for another.

Steam from DONG's power station is pumped along pipelines around town to the Novo Nordisk and Novozymes plants, where it is used as a cleaning agent, and to the refinery, where it is used in several processes. The power station's ash and gypsum waste are moved to a cement company and a plaster-board maker respectively.

Novo Nordisk and Novozymes' waste water is purified for municipal use, while their leftover biomass is converted to fertilizer. Statoil, too, has reduced emissions by turning waste sulphur and nitrogen into fertilizer and also feeds back used water to the power station and a water reservoir. —Reuters

BAR KIDS FROM GRIDIRON

GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCHER WARNS OF HEALTH RISKS

LOS ANGELES: More than a decade after playing a leading role in uncovering the health risks to players in the National Football League, Bennet Omalu hopes his research will lead to a ban on children playing high-impact sports. The Nigerian-born neuropathologist authored arguably the most influential paper in the history of sports medicine in the United States in 2005, when he linked the death of former Pittsburgh Steelers star Mike Webster to a lifetime of taking heavy hits in the NFL.

Omalu's research into the condition known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) was initially dismissed by sceptical voices within the NFL's Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Committee before the league finally acknowledged a connection between concussions and CTE. The case ultimately led to an estimated \$1 billion settlement between the NFL and some 5,000 retirees from the sport, with players suffering from health issues linked to repeated head trauma receiving up to \$5 million. The story of Omalu's research is the subject of a Hollywood blockbuster "Concussion" starring Will Smith, due for release in North America this week. Omalu believes the movie will help raise awareness of the health risks associated with high impact sport, and hopes parents with children who play football will think again.

Deadly arena

"Families and parents need to know that whose son played the sport in school. "Will damage is irreversible." — AFP

when you play this game the way it is being played today that there is a significant risk that you will damage your brain, and that it will manifest sometimes years, decades, up to 40 years later," Omalu said in an interview. In terms of volume of fatalities, high school American football is the deadliest arena in US sport, with 11 deaths reported so far in 2015, including several involving blunt force trama to the head. Omalu says the health and safety questions surrounding American football are a major public health issue of "epidemic" proportions and says he hopes to see an evolution in attitudes towards the sport similar to the shift in attitudes regarding substances like tobacco and alcohol.

"Modern society is evolving," he says. "As we evolve we give up less intelligent ways we did things in the past and embrace more intelligent ways because we are more intelligent. "Knowing what we know now-just like we did with smoking, alcohol, even sex-it is our moral duty as a society to protect the most vulnerable, our children. If we identify a risk, a harmful effect, it would be foolhardy would it not to continue intentionally exposing our children to that harmful effect? "I wouldn't let my son play football. So how could I tell another man's son to play football?"

Unaware of risks

Omalu revealed he had discussed the risks of playing gridiron with "Concussion" star Smith, whose son played the sport in school "Will

(Smith) said he was unaware there was a risk of injury. He believes many parents are unaware just as he was," Omalu said. While Omalu's trenchant views have run into predictable opposition from advocates and fans of America's most-watched pastime, he insists he is neither anti-football nor anti-sport. "If you're an adult and you make a decision to drink alcohol or to play a sport and expose your head to blows, I would be one of the first people to stand by your side and defend your right, your freedom to play if you want to play," he said. "But not if you're a child who has not reached the age of consent and does not understand the implications of what it is they are doing."

Omalu meanwhile is skeptical that NFL statistics which point to a reduction in the number of concussions-down 35 percent in the three years leading to 2015 - necessarily means that the sport has become safer. Omalu argues that brain damage can occur through the cumulative effect of repeated blows to the head without concussion necessarily being recorded. "The NFL or anybody trotting out a number of documented concussions as an indicator that they are doing a good job is a misappropriation of the science," he argues.

"The number of concussions is of no significance if the number of blows to the head remains constant. Repeated blows to the head over several years could number thousands. The damage is irreversible." — AFP

ENRAGED CABBIES UNITE GLOBALLY AGAINST UBER

NEW DELHI: From London and Paris to New Delhi and Sao Paulo, traditional taxi drivers united worldwide against Uber in 2015, a year that saw riots, legal battles and even a kidnapping in protest against the startup. Since first winning customers in San Francisco five years ago, Uber has enjoyed spectacular global growth by allowing customers to hail drivers using a smartphone app and bypass traditional taxi services.

But the company, now operating in 58 countries and valued at more than \$50 billion, has suffered a bumpy ride on the road to success, infuriating conventional cab firms and battling regulators across numerous nations. The firm's safety standards have also been called into question after Uber drivers were accused of abduction and sexual attacks of female passengers in India and the United States. In New Delhi authorities attempted to ban the firm, after it was accused of failing to conduct adequate background checks on a driver who last month was jailed for life for the rape of female passenger in his car. But Uber has flouted the ban much to the out-

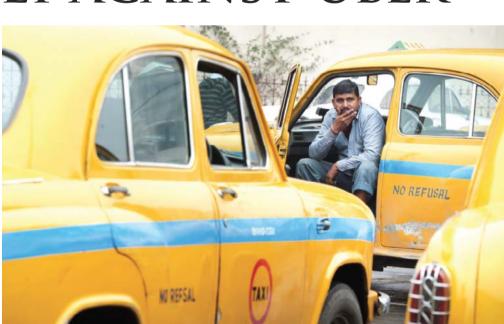
rage of traditional car services.

In many countries, cabbies say Uber represents unfair competition because its drivers are not subject to the often-strict rules and restrictions that govern conventional firms. Their anger boiled over in 2015, notably in Paris where rioting by heavily unionized taxi drivers and the arrest of Uber executives in June led the startup to suspend its low-cost UberPOP service-six months after it was banned. Licensed cabbies, who in some countries must undergo hundreds of hours of training, accuse Uber of endangering their jobs by flooding the market with cheaper drivers who only need a GPS to get around.

'Pushed to the brink'

"Taxi drivers, alright-they've got big mouths-but normally they're not aggressive," said Malia, who has driven a taxi in Paris for three years said of the riots in the city, which included torching of cars. "But these guys have families to feed, debts. They've been pushed to the brink." Uber does not employ drivers or own vehicles, but instead uses non-professionally licensed contractors with their own cars, allowing them to run their own businesses. In London, 1,500 of the city's iconic black cabs blocked streets in September, while Mayor Boris Johnson raised drivers' ire after calling those opposed to new technology "Luddites". Black cabbies spend three years studying for "The Knowledge", a grueling test that requires them to memorise every street in London before gaining a licence, a tradition dating back to the 1800s.

They say they are being squeezed by the popu-



KOLKATA: An Indian taxi driver sits in his vehicle as he waits for passengers in Kolkata. From London and Paris to New Delhi and Sao Paolo, traditional taxi drivers united worldwide against Uber in 2015, a year that saw riots, legal battles and even a kidnapping in protest against the startup. — AFP

lar, cheaper Uber. In New Delhi, the ban authorities set out in the aftermath of the rape case has not been strictly enforced and Uber has continued to operate in the city. Traditional taxi drivers lounge on their black and yellow Ambassador taxis, a familiar sight in the Indian capital for generations, waiting for fares. "I don't get customers for days. We sit idle for hours waiting for customers who book Uber even before they step out of their homes," Sharad Kumar, a driver for 27 years, said at a stand.

"Uber and other taxis are getting money from foreign companies and are providing services at much cheaper rates. We cannot compete with them," he said. The 53-year-old, who earns 15,000 rupees (\$224) a month, acknowledged that old-style cabbies needed to embrace new technology to compete, but said they lacked funds to do so. Simran Singh, 25, represents the new breed of taxi driver. He quit his job as a sales executive two months ago to become an Uber driver, using his own car, and now earns a daily wage of around \$30 through fares and incentive payments, compared to around \$22-a-day previously. "It's only been a few days but the earnings are promising," Singh said.

Legal fightback

Uber pays sums on top of fares to woo drivers, part of aggressive expansion plans that this year saw it reach 22 cities in India alone, its largest mar-

ket by cities outside the United States. Uber chief adviser David Plouffe has defended the firm, saying debate had been heavily focused on the startup's effect on traditional cabbies.

"There has been much less focus on Uber's broader impact on the economy, especially the scale of that impact," he said in Washington, DC in November, with its 1.1 million drivers worldwide earning more than \$3.5 billion this year. Uber has vowed to fight back against a mountain of legal challenges, especially in Europe, after quickly expanding often in brazen violation of local laws. In October police raided the company's European headquarters in the Netherlands while in London, officials proposed a 27-page set of regulations that Uber said made "no sense".

In Germany, a court in March ordered the company outright to stop its service. Fighting back, Uber has turned to the European Union to help undo the bans and filed complaints in Germany, France and Spain. But worldwide, traditional taxis remain fiercely opposed to Uber, with violent protests as far afield as Brazil, including a brief kidnapping of an Uber driver in Sao Paulo. In the capital of neighboring Uruguay, hundreds of cabbies blocked a central street in November to prevent Uber from training new drivers. "They came here to take away all the jobs in the formal sector," taxi union president Oscar Dourado said. — AFP

A YEAR AFTER WORK STARTS, LITTLE SIGN OF NICARAGUA CANAL

RIVAS: A year ago, to much fanfare, a Chinese consortium planning on building a canal across Nicaragua to rival the century-old one in neighboring Panama started initial work with a target completion date of 2020. Today, however, there is no further sign of progress beyond the dirt paths the Hong Kong Nicaragua Development Group carved out near the mouth of the Brito River, meant to be the Pacific Ocean gateway to the \$50-billion canal. HKND has admitted work had been delayed, with excavation pushed off to the end of next year.

It blamed the lateness of an environmental study which was approved by authorities only in November. In the town of Rivas, located near the opening of the Brito River, unease and anxiety has taken hold. Although the government has promised its 200,000 inhabitants the canal would bring them lasting prosperi-

ty, rural folk on the outskirts fear only they will be uprooted to make way for the massive project. "If the canal comes, where will be settle?" asked Ruth Campos, a resident in her 60s in the town of Las Lajas.

Residents uprooted

She is one of 27,000 Nicaraguans who are to be relocated because of the construction of the canal which aims to accept passage of 3,500 cargo ships a year, according to HKND. The consortium was in 2013 given a concession to build and run the Nicaragua canal for 50 years, renewable for another half century. The design for the manmade waterway calls for a canal 278 kilometers long, 280 meters (919 feet) wide, and 30 meters (98 feet) deep. Its goal is to capture five percent of global maritime traffic, especially superfreighters going between America

and Asia whose size prevents them using the Panama canal.

"They can kill me, but I'm not leaving," warned a 95-year-old resident, Cristina Lopez, whose town of La Virgen is to be bulldozed to make way for the canal according to HKND's maps. "This is where I was born, and it's where I will die," she said. A neighbor, Esperanza, 70, said: "Here there will be some deaths because nobody wants to leave their home. How can these people come to force us from our land?"

Environmental fears

The locals, and environmental groups, fear the massive project will destroy Lake Nicaragua, a vast inland body of fresh water that is Central America's biggest, and a key throughpoint for the canal. HKND plans to build a logistics center for the canal in Rivas. In September, work

was meant to have been completed on a first stage that would see five million tons of earth excavated. But the delay attributed to the environmental impact study has pushed that back. The work "may be delayed, may change some plans," Eden Pastora, a member of the government's Great Interoceanic Canal Commission said. "But the project will go on," he said.

Many doubts

HKND, still in what it calls the "conception phase" of the project, is to start building a port early next year on Nicaragua's Caribbean coast, in Punta Gorda, to bring in the heavy machinery needed for the next stage. The Australian head of the project for the HKND, Bill Wild, said late last month that work was "behind schedule" by nearly a year. He said late approval of the environmental impact study was to blame. That study,

carried out for HKND by a British firm, Environmental Resources Management, concluded that the canal would have "significant" consequences, especially for Lake Nicaragua. Parts of the canal are also to be built on earthquake-prone terrain, it noted.

But it stated that, if executed correctly, the canal would have a "positive" impact for the country. A hydrology expert, Salvador Montenegro, highlighted the problem of opening up Lake Nicaragua, whose shallow waters lie above an ancient tectonic zone of seismic and volcanic activity. An Asian affairs analyst, Alberto Aleman, said HKND has left open "many questions about the environmental aspects" of the project. "Apparently not enough capital, not enough investment has been raised, and they have not been able to come up with a study able to dispel all the doubts," he said. — AFP

CLINTON AVOIDS CAMPAIGN DIET PITFALLS WITH HOT PEPPERS, YOGA

WASHINGTON: Gone are the Bojangles fried chicken and biscuits. When supporters offer Tex-Mex, she takes a salad. And forget about cake (most of the time). As Hillary Clinton knows from previous presidential campaigns, politicking means picking your food carefully. When her staff laid out a spread of pulled pork and beans from Whole Hog Cafe after a stop in Little Rock, the Democratic front-runner ate a single tomato slice. Though she forgoes a Fitbit to count her steps, Clinton sends her campaign team to scout out secluded tracks for brisk walks and hotel rooms with space for yoga. And she swears by the weight-loss power of hot peppers, keeping red pepper flakes on hand when on the road.

Since launching her 2016 bid in April, Clinton has embarked on a diet and fitness regimen, hoping to stave off the pounds that afflict most every White House hopeful amid the near-sleepless nights and temptation of nonstop snacking during a campaign. Among supporters, her significant weight-loss - along with a style makeover - are subjects of constant chatter. "She must be doing something right that I couldn't figure out how to do politically and gastronomically," said former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, a Clinton backer who said he added 35 pounds, ballooning up to 195, during his eight-month campaign for president in 2004. "I don't know how people stay trim on the campaign trail."

'I'm not skinny'

All candidates have their tricks for staying fit while hustling for votes. President Barack Obama has often complained about the fried food that is a staple of campaign stops and is a regular at the gym, even when traveling. Kentucky Sen Rand Paul avoids fries. Republican Jeb Bush is a devotee of the Paleo diet, claiming to have lost 40 pounds by cutting carbs and dairy. "I'm not skinny," he said this fall. "I'm perfectly sized." But no

politician's looks have been scrutinized as long or as intensely as Clinton's, whose appearance has been a topic of conversation for decades.

"It's a daily challenge," she said earlier this year to a participant in a Facebook chat, whoo asked how she manages to get camera-ready each morning. "I do the best I can - and as you may have noticed, some days are better than others!" Unlike her self-described "vegan-ish" husband and gluten-free daughter, aides say Clinton doesn't follow a specific diet plan. Instead, they say, she goes by the general rule of "if it looks bad for you, it's probably bad for you." Her one secret: Raw hot peppers. At a farm stand in Davenport, lowa, this fall, Clinton detailed scientific research on the health effects of spicy food, telling a cashier that she finds eating raw jalapenos "so refreshing."

"During 2008, there was not a day or a minute that went by that we didn't have a full plate of raw jalapenos," said Jamie Smith, a 2008 campaign aide, who once received a pep talk from Clinton about her inability to handle their heat. "She ate them like potato chips." Former and current staffers describe her food tastes as surprisingly normal, saying she snacks on cheddar Goldfish crackers.

While she would occasionally indulge when she campaigned for fellow Democrats during the 2014 elections, snacking on fried chicken and Mexican food, Clinton has now adopted more discipline.

Dining with supporters in Washington earlier this month at Etto, an Italian restaurant known for its wood-fired pizzas, Clinton opted for a cauliflower salad. At the lowa State Fair, an annual calorie-rich stop for candidates, she picked up a pork chop on a stick, but ate only three bites in public. (Aides say she later ate the whole chopnot because it was a political obligation, but because she said it was "delicious.") — AP



HOPKINTON: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton gets fresh tomatoes at Dimond Hill Farm between campaign stops in Hopkinton, NH. — AP



BEIJING: A woman wears a mask as she rides her bicycle along a street near Tiananmen Square on the third day of a "red alert" for pollution in

BEIJING SMOG PERSISTS

THOUSANDS OF PLANTS CUT PRODUCTION

BEIJING: Beijing has ordered 2,100 factories to suspend or reduce production as part of its "red alert" measures to deal with smog, the government said yesterday, as the city remained shrouded under toxic haze for the third consecutive day. The Chinese capital imposed the highest tier of a four-color smog warning system for four days starting Saturday, the second time the red alert was applied since Beijing established the pollution precaution scheme in 2013. As part of the "emergency response plan", 2,100 factories in the city and on its outskirts have been ordered to either stop or scale back production in an effort to cut emissions, an official from the Beijing Municipal Commission of Economy and Information Technology, who declined to be

The government was sending inspectors to

the plants on a daily basis, she said. "[The factories] all strictly carried out the measures" as required, she added. Counts of PM2.5 - harmful microscopic particles that penetrate deep into the lungs-were 172 micrograms per cubic meter earlier, according to the US embassy, which issues independent readings. The reading is nearly seven times the World Health Organisation's recommended maximum exposure of 25 over a 24-hour period.

PM2.5 is expected to peak at above 300 micrograms per cubic meter today, the state-run Beijing Daily reported, citing environment authorities. During the red alert, Beijing pulls half the city's cars off the roads, except for buses, taxis, electric cars and vehicles for special purposes such as ambulances, while the public transport system including subways increases

capacity, the report said. Schools and kindergartens in Beijing were advised to close yesterday and today under the red alert and teaching materials were uploaded online for the students, the paper said.

It added that 33 cities in other provinces including Hebei, which surrounds Beijing, Henan in central China and Shandong in the east also imposed similar steps to contain the smog. All the measures reduced the PM2.5 concentration by up to 30 percent compared with a simulation of the situation where no action is taken, said the city's environment authorities, according to the report. Beijing issued its first-ever red alert on December 7, declaring emergency pollution measures following scathing public criticism of the city's weak response to choking smog that settled on the city earlier in the month. — AFP



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(Left to right) Loay Ahmed, Marketing Manager; Khalil Aboud, Brand Manager at Al-Mulla International; Bassam Saleh; Ali Deeb; Imad Malaeb, General Manager of Acura; and Aliaa Jamal



Khalil Aboud, Brand Manager at Al Mulla International announcing the winners



Imad Malaeb, General Manager of Acura presenting the prize to the 1st place winner, Bassam Saleh



Imad Malaeb, General Manager of Acura presenting the prize to the Imad Malaeb, General Manager of Acura presenting the prize to the 3rd place winner, Aliaa Jamal



2nd place winner Ali Deeb

AUK STUDENTS WIN 'ACURA' PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

he American University of Kuwait (AUK) co-organized a photography competition for its students in partnership the Al-Mulla International Auto Trading Company. The competition, called Acura, required participating students to take photographs of the Acura car- the world's first Japanese luxury car since 1986- and share the photos on the social networking platform Instagram for a chance to win

KD 1500, KD 1000, or KD 500 in prize money. The competition was open to all AUK students and ran for one month, during which participants were required to take creative photos of the Acura car and posted them on their personal Instagram accounts.

The winners of the competition were selected based on the creativity of the photographs they posted and the number of organic "Likes" they accumulated on Instagram. Thirty students participated in the competition and the winners were announced during a ceremony held at the AUK campus. The event was

attended by Loay Ahmed, Marketing Manager, and Khalil Aboud, Brand Manager at Al-Mulla International, who presented the winners with the prizes. Bassam Saleh, Ali Deeb, and Aliaa Jamal, won the first, second and third prizes respectively.

Dr Hanan Muzaffar, AUK Dean of Student Affairs, extended congratulations to the winners saying "Bassem, Ali, Aliaa, and everyone else who participated in the photography competition, you make us all proud to belong to AUK. Creativity and dedication are indeed traits that our students excel at, so there was no doubt that the top three winners would be members of our Wolfpack. Great job! Continue to make us shine."

"We at ACURA are always keen to encourage the young generation of Kuwait to get more creative and to excel in all areas, as part of our social responsibilities," said Imad Malaeb, General Manager of Acura, "This won't be the last event, as we still have so many more

events to come in 2016."

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English. More information on the American University of Kuwait can be found at www.auk.edu.

OGILVY PUBLIC RELATIONS CREATES NEW BOARD TO DRIVE INNOVATION AND GROWTH

Saada Hammad to represent Memac Ogilvy PR MENA

emac Ogilvy, the leading advertising and public relations agency in the MENA region, announced the appointment of its Regional Director, MENA Saada Hammad as a member of Ogilvy PR's worldwide Board. The recent formation of the board has been created with two main objectives to advise the

CEO and executive committee and to lead in the development of strategies, which are critical to growth, including talent, innovation, and digital. The Board will report to Christopher Graves, Global Chair of Ogilvy PR.

Commenting on the announcements, Stuart Smith, Global CEO of Ogilvy PR said: "The Board brings together people from a wide variety of backgrounds, demographics and responsibilities. Leveraging a diverse range of skills and talent will generate real value for our people, our clients and our business. Christopher is one of our industry's best disruptive thinkers. Under his leadership, the Board will have a tangible and positive impact on our strategy".

Saada Hammad Saada Hammad has been leading the Memac Ogilvy PR team since 2010, building a commendable infrastructure that has been regarded among the best. During her tenure, business has tripled in volume and the agency has been prolific in the international awards scene, regularly being recognized for outstanding work. Before joining Memac Ogilvy PR, Saada was the Communications Director for General Motors in the Middle

East where she had established and managed an integrated in-house PR department, a first for the region. Saada has been a major player in the communications industry for over twenty years. Born and raised in Lebanon, and educated in Italy, she spent most of her career in Dubai.

"The decision made by the Chairman of Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide Christopher Graves to appoint our own Regional Director Saada Hammad a member in the board brought enormous pride and joy to us. This appointment represents a great opportunity for Memac Ogilvy PR and the industry as it will contribute in re-defining the role of public relations in our region," commented Edmond Moutran, CEO and Chairman of Memac Ogilvy MENA. "I am confident this remarkably PR board will spark fresh collisions of ideas from all over, and new ways to navigate content, social, digital and behavioral sciences to earn influence on behalf of our clients," added

"It is a great honor for me to represent the Memac Ogilvy group on Ogilvy

PR's worldwide board. I believe this is the ideal platform to share the region's experience with the world and to tap into the worldwide network. This position will allow for us to create more value to our existing clients in the region, offering them innovative integrated solutions of international standards", said Saada Hammad, Memac Ogilvy Regional Director of Public Relations for the Middle East and North Africa.



CELEBRATE A MEMORABLE NEW YEAR AT MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT

arina Hotel announced its offerings for the festive season. It has planned a remarkable program with a variety of packages that quarantees its guests a nonforgettable new year's celebration.

At Marina Hotel Kuwait each distinctive restaurant, unique in its culinary mastery, will enchant guests with specially-designed menus amid an atmosphere of good cheer and company. To celebrate the New Year's

Eve there is no place better than the Six Palms restaurant and the Atlantis restaurant to host an evening to remember with a magnificent International buffet dinner all in true Marina style at only KD 28 NET per guest. Marina Hotel invites its guests to indulge in the year end getaway with family and loved ones with a fascinating New Year room package of one night stay inclusive of buffet breakfast and buffet dinner at the Six

Palms restaurant or Atlantis restaurant for two persons starting from KD 170 NET. What better way than to start the first day of the year with your loved ones through a delectable selection of special treats and surprises for the entire family at a delightful international lunch buffet at the Atlantis restaurant. Delight yourself in a lavish experience and visit Marina Hotel Kuwait for the fun and festivi-



cDonald's Kuwait concludes its extremely popular 'Tastes f the World' campaign,

which took customers on a delicious journey of flavors from around the world. After the exotically mouth-



watering 'The Italian' and 'The Spanish, the final leg of this worldwide tour will be in Portugal with 'The Portuguese', which is available now at all McDonald's restaurants in Kuwait until stocks last.

'The Portuguese' burger has a deliciously juicy Halal chicken patty engulfed by two slices of cooling Emmental cheese, lettuce, mayo and tomato slices drenched in peri peri, the world-famous spicy Portuguese sauce, all in a warm bakery style roll.

"This year, Tastes of the World proved to be as popular as ever. It offered our customers the chance to take a worldwide tour and experience delicious exotic new flavors; with 'The Italian', 'The Spanish' and now 'The Portuguese" said Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at McDonald's Kuwait."

He also added: "This campaign continues to be one of our most popular offerings at McDonald's, and I personally can't wait to see what we have in store for next year."





CiK President Ishtiaq Malik



Ambassador of Canada Martine Moreau



US Ambassador Douglas Silliman



Ambassadors of Canada and US present a plaque to CiK President



Welcoming the guests



CiK audience



CiK reception



CiK guests



Gifts presented to children **Ambassadors with the guests**



CANADIANS IN KUWAIT (CIK) HOLDS SEASONS GREETING

anadians In Kuwait (CiK) a social networking organization for Canadian expat community based in Kuwait celebrated the current season for its members and guests with a grand event with pomp and color at Crowne Plaza Hotel - Farwaniya.

Ishtiag Malik - CiK President welcomed Martine Moreau - Ambassador of Canada and Douglas Silliman - US Ambassador, the dignitaries, members and guests on behalf of CiK.

Ambassador of Canada - Martine Moreau addressed the audience by greeting Canadian community in Kuwait with season's greetings and appreciated CiK for holding this event.

US Ambassador - Douglas Silliman wished seasons greeting to all in his speech and enthralled the audience with a Canadian poem. All applauded the Ambassador gesture and enjoyed the poem.

CiK President in his address said that CiK

shares Canadian culture with other expats communities in Kuwait, utilizing the talent and efforts of its members. CiK's top agenda is to promote Canada's national traditions and events in Kuwait. The Past one year was very active, CiK had conducted several successful events for its members to enjoy their time in Kuwait. The membership to CiK has grown substantially. CiK website is proven to be very informative with weekly news updates and is beneficial to its members.

Martine Moreau handed over plaque of appreciation to CiK Executive Board Members: Keith Edwards - Secretary, Reza Mehrabi -Managing Finance, Christophe Holdrinet, Mohammad Al-Shemmari, George Apostolou, Moly Hinh, Tracey Mackenzie and volunteer Angelina Lantaca

Ambassador of Canada - Martine Moreau and the US Ambassador - Douglas Silliman

together presented a plaque of appreciation to the CiK President - Ishtiaq Malik for his services to Canadian community.

Special thanks were extended to CiK sponsors for their generous support to make the event successful: Qatar Airways - Fadi Hijazin (Platinum Main Sponsor), KGL - Taufic Jawhara, Ahmad and Ghazal International - Dr Mohammed Ameen, Marafie - Shaheed Islam, Al-Ahlea Circle Company - Saad Al-Mutawa, Honda AlGhanim Motors, Tim Hortons, Almuthana Nursery, Eclipse Salon and SPA, Kuwait Times - Adnan Saad, KARZ Supermarket - Moussa Hamad, Royal Digital Computer Center, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Movenpick Hotel Al-Bida'a, Radisson Blu Hotel and Safir Hotel -Fintas. CiK President also thanked Scott Beverly and Lorie Beverly for supporting this CiK event. Canadian Community in Kuwait enjoyed the gathering with their families and friends.



CiK audience





A course on self-defense training for police officers, which took place at the Kuwait Olympic Committee Health Club Lion Team Academy, was recently concluded. The course is considered the longest in the history of self-defense trainers in Kuwait. The conclusion ceremony took place in the presence of the president of the sport's international federation and VIP protection coach, who himself is world selfdefense champion.

Kuwait Zimes

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TV PROGRAMS

Discovery

00:20 Fast N' Loud 01:10 Deadliest Catch 02:00 Walking The Nile 02:50 Walking The Nile Auction Hunters 04:05 Property Wars 04:30 Storage Wars Canada 05:00 Americarna

05:30 How It's Made 06:00 Ice Cold Gold 06:50 Kindig Customs 07:40 Fast N' Loud

08:30 Auction Hunters Property Wars 09:20 Storage Wars Canada 09:45 Americarna 10:10 How It's Made

10:35 Auction Hunters 11:00 The Island With Bear Grylls 11:50 The Island With Bear Grylls 12:40 The Island With Bear Grylls 13:30 The Island With Bear Grylls 14:20 The Island With Bear Grylls 15:10 Man vs Expert 16:00 Man vs Expert 16:50 Man vs Expert

17:40 Man vs Expert 18:30 Man vs Expert 19:20 Outback Truckers 20:10 Property Wars 20:35 Storage Wars Canada

21:00 Dual Survival 21:50 Dual Survival 22:40 River Monsters 23:30 Kindig Customs

00:35 Mythbusters

DISCOVERY

01:20 How It's Made 01:44 How It's Made 02:08 How Do They Do It? 02:31 How Do They Do It? 02:55 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 03:42 Stephen Hawking's Grand

Design 04:29 Mythbusters 05:16 How Do They Do It? 05:39 How Do They Do It? 06:03 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 06:50 X-Machines

07:37 How It's Made 08:00 How It's Made 08:23 Mythbusters 09:08 Stephen Hawking's Grand Design 09:53 X-Machines

10:38 How It's Made 11:00 How It's Made 11:23 How The Universe Works 12:08 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 12:53 X-Machines 13:38 Mythbusters

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Wrong? 17:31 X-Machines 18:18 Stephen Hawking's Grand Design 19:05 Mythbusters

19:50 Food Factory 20:15 Food Factory 20:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong? 21:25 How It's Made 21:50 How It's Made

22:15 Stephen Hawking's Grand Design 23:00 Food Factory

23:45 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?



01:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 01:40 Wolfblood 02:05 Wolfblood 02:30 Violetta 03:15 The Hive 03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 04:10 Wolfblood

05:00 Violetta 05:45 The Hive 05:50 Mouk 06:00 Lolirock 06:25 Hank Zipzer 06:50 Girl Meets World 07:15 H2O: Just Add Water

04:35 Wolfblood

07:40 H2O: Just Add Water 08:05 Austin & Ally 08:30 Austin & Ally 08:55 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 09:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

09:45 Jessie 10:10 Jessie 10:35 The Ultimate Christmas Present 12:00 Frozen Fever 12:20 Hank Zipzer

12:45 | Didn't Do It

13:10 | Didn't Do It 13:35 Liv And Maddie 14:00 Liv And Maddie 14:30 H2O: Just Add Water 14:55 H2O: Just Add Water 15:20 A.N.T. Farm 15:45 A N T Farm 16:10 Jessie

16:35 Teen Beach 2: Top 5 Music Videos 16:50 Teen Beach 2 Back To The Beach 17:00 Teen Beach 2

18:40 Gravity Falls 19:05 H2O: Just Add Water 19:30 H2O: Just Add Water 19:55 Liv And Maddie 20:20 Liv And Maddie 20:45 Good Luck Charlie 21:10 Good Luck Charlie

21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place

22:00 Binny And The Ghost

22:25 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 23:10 Wolfblood 23:35 Wolfblood

DISNEP &

00:05 Henry Hugglemonster 00:20 Calimero 00:35 Zou 00:50 Loopdidoo 01:05 Art Attack 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster 01:45 Calimero

02:00 Zou 02:15 Loopdidoo 02:30 Art Attack 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster 03:05 Calimero 03:20 Zou

03:30 Loopdidoo 03:45 Art Attack 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster 04:20 Calimero 04:35 Zou 04:45 Loopdidoo 05:00 Art Attack

05:25 Henry Hugglemonster 05:35 Calimero 05:50 Zou 06:00 Loopdidoo 06:15 Art Attack 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster 06:50 Calimero

07:20 Loopdidoo 07:35 Art Attack 08:00 Calimero 08:10 Zou 08:25 Loopdidoo Henry Hugglemonster 08:55 Jake And The Neverland

Pirates 09:20 Sofia The First 09:45 Miles From Tomorrov 10:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 10:35 Doc McStuffins 11:00 Sofia The First 11:30 Jake And The Never Land

11:55 Miles From Tomorrow 12:20 Henry Hugglemonster Henry Hugglemonster 12:45 Limon And Oli 12:55 Loopdidoo 13:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West 13:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

14:00 Sofia The First 14:50 Miles From Tomorrow 15:15 Jake's Never Land Rescue 16:05 The Adventures Of Disney Fairies 16:35 Miles From Tomorrow 17:00 Sofia The First

17:50 Adventures Of The Gummi **Bears** 18:15 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers 18:40 Jake And The Never Land

19:05 Miles From Tomorrow 19:30 Sofia The First19:55 Doc McStuffins Jake And The Never Land 20:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West

21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Sofia The First 22:00 Jake And The Never Land 22:25 Jake And The Never Land

22:55 Jake And The Never Land 23:20 Lilo & Stitch

00:00 Pop Innovators 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show 01:25 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons 02:20 E! News 03:15 Escape Club 04:10 Ryan Seacrest With The Kardashians 05:05 E! Entertainment Special

06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 06:55 Keeping Up With The

Kardashians 07:50 Style Star 08:20 E! News 09:15 Giuliana & Bill Giuliana & Bill 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills 11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills

12:05 E! News 13:05 House Of DVF 14:05 Fashion Bloggers 14:30 Fashion Bloggers 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 16:00 Keeping Up With The

Kardashians 17:00 Giuliana & Bill 18:00 House Of DVF 19:00 WAGs 20:00 Christina Milian Turned Up

21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 22:00 F! News 23:00 Dash Dolls

food

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

Food Court Wars 02:00 Mystery Diners 02:30 Mystery Diners Man Fire Food 03:30 Man Fire Food 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 05:00 Holiday Baking Championship Chopped 07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin 07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin

Chopped 09:00 Guy's Grocery Games 10:00 The Kitchen Barefoot Contessa

11:30 Barefoot Contessa 12:00 Chopped Guy's Big Bite 13:30 Guy's Big Bite 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

15:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin 15:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin Chopped 17:00 The Kitchen 18:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy

18:30 Grandma's Secret Cookbook Special 19:00 Chopped 20:00 Holiday Baking Championship 21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 22:00 Man Finds Food

Man Finds Food 23:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin Roadtrip With G. Garvin



Australia 01:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs At Christmas 02:00 Emmerdale 02:25 Coach Trip 02:55 Coronation Street 03:25 The Chase: Celebrity

Specials 04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show 05:15 Come Date With Me Australia 06:10 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs At Christmas

07:30 The Chase: Celebrity Specials 08:25 The Jonathan Ross Show 09:20 Peter Andre's 60 Minute

Makeover 10:10 Grantchester 11:05 Coach Trip 11:35 Four Weddings UK 12:30 Come Date With Me Australia 13:25 Emmerdale

13:50 Coach Trip 14:20 Coronation Street 14:45 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover 15:35 Seven Days With,Ķ 16:30 Midsomer Murders

Christmas Special 18:20 Come Date With Me Australia 18:45 Come Date With Me Australia 19:10 Coronation Street 19:35 Seven Days With,Ķ
20:30 Midsomer Murders

Christmas Special 22:20 Coronation Street 22:50 Emmerdale 23:15 Four Weddings UK

NATIONAL **GEOGRAPHIC** CHANNEL HD

00:10 Breakthrough 01:00 Yukon Gold 02:00 Yukon Gold

02:55 Ultimate Airport Dubai

00:00 Men At Work

02:00 Togetherness 03:30 2 Broke Girls 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring

03:50 Breakthrough 04:45 Riding Britain's Railways 05:40 Apocalypse: The Second World War 06:35 Cold Water Gold 07:30 Monster Fish

08:25 Is It Real? 09:20 Ancient Megastructures 10:15 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South 11:10 Air Crash Investigation 12:05 Megastructures 13:00 Is It Real?

14:00 Monster Fish 15:00 Cold Water Gold 16:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South 17:00 Air Crash Investigation

18:00 Drugs Inc 19:00 The Border 20:00 Cold Water Gold 20:50 Air Crash Investigation 21:40 Drugs Inc 22:30 Cosmos: A Spacetime

Odvssev

World War

NAT GEO people **E**

23:20 Apocalypse: The Second

00:10 American Food Battle 00:35 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen 01:00 Dream Cruises 01:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet

02:15 American Food Battle 02:40 The Peninsula: The Making 03:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 03:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

04:20 This Is Brazil 05:10 Tales From The Bush Larder 05:35 Tales From The Bush Larder 06:00 Food Lover's Guide To The

06:25 Meat v Veg 06:50 Dream Cruises 07:40 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet 08:05 American Food Battle

08:30 The Peninsula: The Making

Of A Gala 09:20 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 09:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 10:10 This Is Brazil Tales From The Bush Larder Tales From The Bush Larder

11:50 Food Lover's Guide To The

Planet 12:15 Meat v Veg 12:40 Dream Cruises 13:35 World's Best Chefs 14:00 American Food Battle14:30 Cradle Of Mandopop15:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 15:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 16:20 This Is Brazil 17:15 Tales From The Bush Larder 17:40 Tales From The Bush Larder

18:10 American Food Battle 18:35 Wineroads 19:05 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 19:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen 20:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 20:25 This Is Brazil 21:15 Tales From The Bush Larder 21:40 Tales From The Bush Larder

22:05 American Food Battle 22:30 Wineroads **Dream Cruises** 23:45 World's Best Chefs



00:20 I, Predator 01:10 72 Dangerous Animals 02:00 World's Deadliest

02:50 Man V. Monster 03:45 Wild Case Files 04:40 Built For The Kill 05:35 World's Deadliest 06:30 Man V. Monster 07:25 Wild Case Files 08:20 The Incredible Dr. Pol 09:15 Outback Wrangler

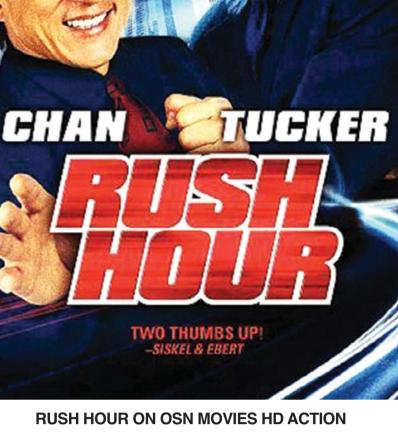
09:40 Outback Wrangle 10:10 Expedition Wild 11:05 Swamp Men 12:00 Sharks In The City 12:55 Africa's Creative Killers 13:50 Man V. Monster 14:45 Wild Case Files

15:40 The Incredible Dr. Pol 16:35 Outback Wrangler 17:00 Outback Wrangler 17:30 Expedition Wild 18:25 Swamp Men 19:20 Wild Case Files

20:10 The Incredible Dr. Pol 21:00 Outback Wrangler 21:25 Outback Wrangler 21:50 Expedition Wild 22:40 Swamp Men 23:30 Sharks In The City

OM FIRST HD COMEDY

00:30 Hot In Cleveland



NEW LINE PLATINUM SERVE

11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

14:00 The Astronaut Wives Club

19:00 The Astronaut Wives Club

15:00 Live Good Morning America

12:00 Drop Dead Diva

17:00 Drop Dead Diva

18:00 Once Upon A Time

21:00 Once Upon A Time

22:00 Devious Maids

23:00 The Leftovers

13:00 Once Upon A Time

06:30 My Name Is Earl 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 10:30 My Name Is Earl 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring

Jimmy Fallon 12:30 \$#! My Dad Says 13:00 Suburgatory 13:30 My Name Is Earl 14:00 2 Broke Girls

15:30 Hot In Cleveland 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers 18:00 Marry Me 18:30 2 Broke Girls 19:00 Modern Family

19:30 Modern Family 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon 21:00 Hot In Cleveland 21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry

Wilmore 22:00 Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll 22:30 You're The Worst 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

ON FIRST HD 00:00 Better Call Saul 01:00 Quantico

03:00 The Casual Vacancy 04:00 Bones 05:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 06:00 Castle

07:00 Bones 08:00 Resurrection 09:00 Quantico 10:00 Castle 11:00 Bones

12:00 Emmerdale 12:30 Coronation Street 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 14:00 Resurrection 15:00 Castle 16:00 Emmerdale

16:30 Coronation Street 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 18:00 Resurrection

19:00 Complications 20:00 The Night Shift 22:00 Supergirl

> **OM** FIRST MORE

00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 01:00 Good Morning America 03:00 Devious Maids 04:00 The Leftovers

05:00 Good Morning America 07:00 Emmerdale 07:30 Coronation Street 08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show 09:00 The Astronaut Wives Club 10:00 Emmerdale

10:30 Coronation Street

MOVIES ACTION

00:00 American Heist 02:00 Days Of Thunder 04:00 Star Trek 06:15 Destruction: Las Vegas

08:00 Rush Hour 10:00 Rage 12:00 Star Trek

14:15 The Aggression Scale 16:00 Days Of Thunder

18:00 Assassin's Bullet 20:00 Rush Hour 22:00 The Courier

ACTION 00:00 Days Of Thunder-PG15 02:00 Star Trek-PG15

04:15 Destruction: Las Vegas-PG15 06:00 Rush Hour-PG15 08:00 Rage-PG15

10:00 Star Trek-PG15 12:15 The Aggression Scale-PG15 14:00 Days Of Thunder-PG15

16:00 Assassin's Bullet-PG15 18:00 Rush Hour-PG15 The Courier-PG15 22:00 Battle Of The Damned-PG15

OM MOVIES HD COMEDY 00:00 Textuality

01:45 Renaissance Man 04:00 Titeuf Le Film 06:00 The Nutty Professor (1996) 10:00 Titeuf, Le Film

11:45 Renaissance Man 14:00 Chef 16:00 UHF 18:00 Roommates 20:00 Walk Of Shame 22:00 Without Men

OM MOVIES DRAMA

01:00 Reclaim-PG15 03:00 Every Day-PG15 05:00 My Piece Of The Pie-PG15 Shadow Witness-PG15

09:00 Chalet Girl-PG15 11:00 My Piece Of The Pie-PG15 The Dependables-PG15 14:45 Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom-PG15 17:15 Chalet Girl-PG15

19:00 Out Of The Furnace-PG15

21:00 Deadfall-PG15

23:00 Parts Per Billion-18

MOVIES FESTIVAL

01:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings 03:00 A Mighty Heart 05:00 Jodorowsky's Dune 06:30 Far And Away 09:00 Grace Of Monaco 11:00 Jodorowsky's Dune 12:30 The Butler 15:00 See Girl Run

17:00 Grace Of Monaco

21:00 Upside Down

19:00 Frank

ON MOVIES HID 01:15 Hot Pursuit-PG15

05:00 Tinker Bell And The Pirate Fairy-FAM 07:00 United Passions-PG15 09:00 Draft Day-PG15 11:00 Godzilla-PG15

13:15 A Christmas Wish-PG15

03:00 Trigger Point-PG15

17:00 Draft Day-PG15 19:00 Blended-PG15 21:00 A Madea Christmas-PG15 23:00 The Amazing Spider-Man 2-

15:00 The Nut Job-FAM

OM MOVIES HID 00:30 Jelly T 02:30 Marvel's Thor: Tales Of

Asgaard 04:15 The Heart Of The Oak 06:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie 08:00 Blackie And Kanuto 10:00 Delhi Safari

11:45 Sir Billi 13:15 Scooby-Doo! Ghastly Goals! 14:15 Justin And The Knights Of The Valour 16:00 Tiny Heroes 18:00 Delhi Safari

20:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama 22:00 Justin And The Knights Of The Valour

23:45 Tiny Heroes **OJN** MOVIES

PREMIERE 00:00 Home Sweet Hell-18 01:45 The Past-PG15 04:00 Mr. Peabody & Sherman-FAM

06:00 The Gabby Douglas Story-08:00 Grudge Match-PG15 10:00 Bully-PG15

12:00 Brave-PG15 14:00 The Numbers Station-PG15 16:00 Grudge Match-PG15 18:00 The Monuments Men-PG15 20:00 3 Days To Kill-PG15 22:00 The Purge: Anarchy-PG15

OUT NEWS

01:00 Live MSNBC Mtp Daily 02:00 Live MSNBC News 03:00 Live NBC Nightly News 03:30 ABC World News With David

04:00 Live MSNBC All In With Chris Hayes 05:00 Live MSNBC The Rachel Maddow Show 06:00 Live MSNBC The Last Word

W/ Lawrence O'Donnell

07:00 NBC Nightly News 07:30 ABC World News With David Muir 07:57 NBC Nightly News 08:18 ABC World News With David Muir 08:39 Live ABC Nightline

09:06 MSNBC The Rachel Maddow Show 10:00 MSNBC The Last Word W/ Lawrence O'Donnell
11:00 Live ABC World News Now 11:30 Live ABC World News Now 12:00 Live NBC Early Today 12:30 Live ABC America This

13:00 Live ABC America This Morning 13:30 Live ABC America This Morning 14:00 Live ABC America This Morning 14:30 MSNBC First Look

Morning

15:00 Live NBC Today Show 18:57 MSNBC Hardball W/ Chris Matthews 19:38 MSNBC The Rachel Maddow Show 20:19 MSNBC The Last Word W/ Lawrence O'Donnell

21:00 Live MSNBC Live With

амс

Thomas Roberts
23:00 Live MSNBC Live With Kate

03:35 Last Light 05:25 Tales Of Terror 06:50 Big Screen Cannon For Cordoba 08:50 The Apartment 10:55 Beachhead 12:25 The Beast Of Hollow Mountain 13:45 Big Screen Hercules 15:40 Adventures Of Hercules

Big Screen 19:25 Waking Up In Reno 21:00 Be Cool The Heavenly Kid 00:30 The Young Savages 02:10 Winners Take All

17:10 The Beautiful Country

03:35 Tanked 04:25 Ten Deadliest Snakes 05:15 Gator Boys 06:02 Treehouse Masters 06:49 Man, Cheetah, Wild Call Of The Wildman

Call Of The Wildman Ten Deadliest Snakes 09:15 Gator Boys 10:10 Treehouse Masters

Tanked 12:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101 12:55 Bondi Vet 13:50 Bondi Vet 14:45 Ten Deadliest Snakes

Treehouse Masters

Tanked 17:30 Man Cheetah Wild Ten Deadliest Snakes 19:20 When Turkeys Attack 20:15 Tanked

Shamwari: A Wild Life 21:35 Shamwari: A Wild Life 22:05 Treehouse Masters When Turkeys Attack 23:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes

00:50 Gator Boys 01:45 Call Of The Wildman 02:15 Call Of The Wildman 02:40 When Turkeys Attack

> BBC entertainment

03:40 My Family: Christmas 2007 04:10 Our Queen 05:00 Teletubbies

The Green Balloon Club Charlie And Lola Teletubbies 05:50 06:00 My Family: Christmas 2007 06:55 My Family: Christmas 2007 07:30 Doctor Who

08:25 Doctors 08:55 Eastenders 09:25 My Family: Christmas 2007 My Family: Christmas 2007

Lapland: Christmas 2011 Doctor Who 11:40 12:40 My Family: Christmas 2007 13:10 My Family: Christmas 2007 13:40 Lapland: Christmas 2011 My Family: Christmas 2007

15:30 My Family: Christmas 2007 16:00 Doctors Eastenders Doctor Who My Family: Christmas 2008 My Family: Christmas 2008 18:00 19:00

Doctors Eastenders 19:30 David Copperfield David Copperfield Sean Lock Live 21:30 The Royle Family: Christmas

2012 Doctor Who 23:25 Doctors 00:50 Eastenders David Copperfield 01:20 David Copperfield



Sean Lock Live

Johnny Test 03:35 Transformers: Robots In Disguise 05:27 Transformers: Robots In Disguise

05:50 Regular Show 06:00 The Amazing World Of 07:00 Adventure Time 07:25 Teen Titans Go!

08:10 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu 08:35 Ben 10 Omniverse 09:20 Regular Show Clarence

11:20 Uncle Grandpa 11:40 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu 12:05 Teen Titans Go! Steven Universe 12:50 Steven Universe

13:15 Regular Show

14:00 Johnny Test

14:50 Adventure Time 15:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball 15:35 The Amazing World Of Gumball

16:00 Ben 10 Omniverse 16:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu 17:10 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu 17:30 Teen Titans Go! Regular Show

19:05 The Amazing World Of Gumball 19:30 Johnny Test 19:40 Johnny Test Adventure Time 19:51 Steven Universe 20:27 Steven Universe

Teen Titans Go! 20:40 Ben 10: Omniverse 21:50 Ben 10: Omniverse 22:15 Uncle Grandpa 22:40 Adventure Time 00:10 Regular Show 01:40 Transformers: Robots In

Disguise 02:02 Transformers: Robots In Disguise 02:25 Grojband 02:51 Grojband



07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero 07:25 Boyster 07:50 Supa Strikas 08:15 Lab Rats

09:10 Kickin' It 09:35 Kirby Buckets 10:00 Lab Rats 10:25 Kickin' It 10:50 Mighty Med 11:15 Supa Strikas

08:40 K.C Undercover

11:40 K.C Undercover 12:05 Boyster 12:35 Kickin' It 13:00 Phineas And Ferb 13:25 Phineas And Ferb 13:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island

14:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island 14:45 Pair Of Kings 15:15 Pair Of Kings 15:40 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero 16:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 16:35 Kirby Buckets 17:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty

Much Everything 17:25 K.C Undercover 17:55 Supa Strikas 18:20 Lab Rats 18:45 Mighty Med 19:10 Annedroids

19:40 Kickin' It 20:05 K.C Undercover 20:30 Supa Strikas 20:55 Lab Rats 21:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything

21:50 Kickin' It 22:15 Phineas And Ferb 22:40 Super Matrak

Super Matrak 23:30 Boyster 00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am KSA





CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2015





KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (17/12/2015 TO 23/12/2015)

SHARQIA-1		STRIKE ONE	1:30 PM	THE GOOD DINOSAUR	9:00 PM
IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	12:30 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	3:45 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	11:15 PM
DILWALE - Hindi	3:00 PM	STRIKE ONE	6:45 PM		
				AVENUES A	
DILWALE - Hindi	6:00 PM	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	9:45 PM	AVENUES-4	
DILWALE - Hindi	9:00 PM	LOAFER - Telugu	3:45 PM	THE GOOD DINOSAUR	11:45 AM
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	12:05 AM	LOAFER - Telugu	6:45 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	2:00 PM
		LOAFER - Telugu	9:45 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	5:15 PM
SHARQIA-2		IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	12:45 AM	Special Show "DILWALE - Hindi"	5:15 PM
	12 20 DM	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	12:43 AIVI		
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	12:30 PM			DILWALE - Hindi	8:30 PM
THE GOOD DINOSAUR	1:30 PM	FANAR-4		STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	11:45 PM
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	3:30 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS -3D	12:30 PM		
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	6:30 PM	THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D	1:30 PM	AVENUES-5	
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	9:30 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS -3D	3:30 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	1:15 PM
				THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D	
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	12:30 AM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	6:30 PM		1:45 PM
		STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS -3D	9:30 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS -3D	4:15 PM
SHARQIA-3		STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	12:30 AM	Special Show "STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS"	4:15 PM
THE GOOD DINOSAUR	12:00 PM			STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	7:15 PM
DARK MOUNTAIN	2:15 PM	FANAR-5		Special Show "STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS"	
			11.20 444	•	
THE GOOD DINOSAUR	4:15 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	11:30 AM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS -3D	10:15 PM
THE GOOD DINOSAUR	6:30 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	2:30 PM	DARK MOUNTAIN	1:15 AM
DARK MOUNTAIN	8:45 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	5:30 PM		
DARK MOUNTAIN	10:45 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	8:30 PM	AVENUES-6	
DARK MOUNTAIN	12:45 AM	DILWALE - Hindi	11:30 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	11:30 AM
DANKWOONTAIN	12.73 AW	DILWALL - HIIIdi	11.30 FW	DILWALE - Hindi	
					2:30 PM
MUHALAB-1		MARINA-1		DILWALE - Hindi	5:45 PM
THE GOOD DINOSAUR	12:30 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	12:15 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	9:00 PM
THE GOOD DINOSAUR	2:45 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	3:30 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	12:15 AM
DILWALE - Hindi	5:00 PM	DARK MOUNTAIN	6:45 PM		
DILWALE - Hindi	8:00 PM	DARK MOUNTAIN	8:45 PM	AVENUES-7	
DILWALE - Hindi	11:00 PM	DARK MOUNTAIN	10:45 PM	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	1:45 PM
DILWALE - HITIGI	11.00 FW				
		DARK MOUNTAIN	12:45 AM	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	4:30 PM
MUHALAB-2				IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	7:15 PM
DARK MOUNTAIN	11:45 AM	MARINA-2		IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	10:00 PM
DARK MOUNTAIN	1:45 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	11:45 AM	IN THE HEART OF THE SEA	12:45 AM
DARK MOUNTAIN	3:30 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	2:45 PM		
DARK MOUNTAIN	5:15 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	5:45 PM	AVENUES-8	
					1.1 F DM
LOAFER - Telugu	4:00 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	8:45 PM	STRIKE ONE	1:15 PM
LOAFER - Telugu	7:00 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	11:45 PM	STRIKE ONE	3:30 PM
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	7:00 PM			ZINZANA (Emirati Film)	6:00 PM
LOAFER - Telugu	10:00 PM	MARINA-3		STRIKE ONE	8:00 PM
DARK MOUNTAIN	10:00 PM	THE GOOD DINOSAUR	11:30 AM	STRIKE ONE	10:15 PM
DARK MOUNTAIN	12:05 AM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	1:45 PM	STRIKE ONE	12:30 AM
				STILL ONE	12.5071111
DARK MOUNTAIN	1:00 AM	THE GOOD DINOSAUR	4:45 PM		
		THE GOOD DINOSAUR	7:00 PM	AVENUES-9	
MUHALAB-3		STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	9:15 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS -3D	11:30 AM
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	12:00 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	12:15 AM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	2:30 PM
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	3:00 PM			STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS -3D	5:30 PM
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	6:00 PM	AVENUES-1		STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS -3D	8:30 PM
			12.45 DM		11:30 PM
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	9:00 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	12:45 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	11:30 PM
STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	12:05 AM	STRIKE ONE	2:00 PM		
		DILWALE - Hindi	4:00 PM	AVENUES-10	
FANAR-1		LOAFER - Telugu	4:00 PM	DARK MOUNTAIN	12:45 PM
STRIKE ONE	1:15 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	7:00 PM	DARK MOUNTAIN	2:45 PM
THE GOOD DINOSAUR	3:15 PM	LOAFER - Telugu	7:00 PM	DARK MOUNTAIN	4:45 PM
THE GOOD DINOSAUR		DILWALE - Hindi	10:00 PM		6:45 PM
	5:30 PM			DARK MOUNTAIN	
THE GOOD DINOSAUR	7:45 PM	LOAFER - Telugu	10:00 PM	DARK MOUNTAIN	8:45 PM
STRIKE ONE	10:00 PM	STRIKE ONE	1:00 AM	DARK MOUNTAIN	10:45 PM
STRIKE ONE	12:05 AM			DARK MOUNTAIN	12:45 AM
		AVENUES-2			
FANAR-2		DARK MOUNTAIN	11:30 AM	AVENUES-11	
DARK MOUNTAIN	12:00 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	1:30 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS - DOLBY ATMO	S 12-30 PM
DARK MOUNTAIN					
	2:00 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	4:45 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS - DOLBY ATMO	
DARK MOUNTAIN	4:00 PM	DILWALE - Hindi	7:45 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS - DOLBY ATMO	
DARK MOUNTAIN	6:00 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS	11:00 PM	STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS - DOLBY ATMO:	
DARK MOUNTAIN	8:15 PM			STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS - DOLBY ATMO:	S 12:30 AM
DARK MOLINITAINI	10-15 DM	AVENUES 2			

SITUATION VACANT

Professional cook for house, good experience all kinds of food, especially Arabic food, good salary, part time. Call: 23901053, 60064934. **(C 5102)** 21-12-2015

A single American-Lebanese male living in Salmiya needs a lady worker to help in cooking and cleaning. She must understand and speak English and her timing and salary are negotiable. Call 6641-7504. **(C 5100)** 19-12-2015

CHANGE OF NAME

I Dheemu Sudeep holder of Indian Passport No. F6768269 resident of Pulapathur (V & P) Rajampet (M), YSR Kadapa Dist, A.P., India. Now I have changed my name as Bheemu Sudeep Kumar Reddy instead of Dheemu Sudeep in future all transaction will be made in Bheemu Sudeep Kumar Reddy only. (C 5101) 21-12-2015

LOST

Original document policy No. 633003315 of Muhammad Mali by the State Life Insurance Corporation Pakistan, Gulf Zone is reported to have been lost. Anyone finding the same or claiming any interest in it should communicate with State Life office Kuwait. Tel: 22452208. **(C 5099)** 16-12-2015



REQUIRED

A reputable private clinic is looking to hire:

Lady Secretary

Qualification Graduate

- Must have experience 3-4 years in a secretarial position
- Have basic knowledge of Arabic and good English.
- Knowledge of Computer applications like MS office etc.
- Job Timings 2pm -10pm
- Salary will be commensurate to experience
- Presentable in appearance

Send CV to email id hrclinicjabriya@gmail.com

THE GOLD CAMP

FOR RENT

For companies and families

Programs: competitions for kids and games. Programs: competitions for grownups. Playgrounds: football, volleyball, Horses & camel Fenced camp + security.

Tel: 96003089 / ****** @The_Gold_Camp

THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL INFORMATION

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is

1889988

Prayer timings

Fajr:	05:12
Shorook	06:37
Duhr:	11:45
Asr:	14:35
Maghrib:	16:53
Ichar	12.16





1:00 PM

THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D

THE GOOD DINOSAUR THE GOOD DINOSAUR -3D

THE GOOD DINOSAUR

12:00 PM

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4:30 PM

6:45 PM

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS -3D

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS -3D

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS -3D

DARK MOUNTAIN **DARK MOUNTAIN**

IN THE HEART OF THE SEA

FANAR-3

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

12:00 PM

3:00 PM

6:00 PM

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Marcian											<u>-</u>	•				
Section 1-10		Arrival Flig	hts on Tuesday 22/12/2015		KAC	672	Dubai	14:45		Departure Fli	ights on Tuesday 22/12/2015		UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
School S	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	JZR	324	Al Najaf	14:25
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Prof. 172	FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KAC	562	Amman	15:40	BBC	143	Chittagong/Dhaka	01:35	KAC	617	Doha	15:45
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OMA 64	GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:30	KAC	381	Delhi	03:30	KNE	473	Jeddah	16:05
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BMM	FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	FDB	063	Dubai	18:05	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
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Kuwait 🗻 Times

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ACROSS

- 1. The compass point that is one point west of due north.
- 4. A substance (as a coenzyme) that must join with another to produce a given result. 12. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
- 15. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike
- part of an organism.

 16. A tall piece of furniture that provides storage space for clothes.
- 17. A rapid escape (as by criminals).
- 18. The range of colour characteristic of a particular artist or painting or school of art". 20. Neckwear consisting of a long narrow
- piece of material worn (mostly by men) under a collar and tied in knot at the front.
- 22. Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing.
 23. The (prehensile) extremity of the superior
- 26. A drug (trade names Atarax and Vistaril) used as a tranquilizer to treat anxiety and motion sickness.
- 27.3 to 30 gigahertz. 29. The capital of the Democratic Republic of
- the Congo on the Congo river opposite 31. A very poisonous metallic element that
- has three allotropic forms.

 33. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the
- alkali metal group. 34. Tag the base runner to get him out.
- 35. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted
- by the anterior pituitary.

 38. Informal or slang terms for mentally irregu-
- 40. The sixth day of the week.
- 42. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- 44. (statistics) Approximating the statistical norm or average or expected value. 46. An explanation or definition of an obscure
- word in a text. 48. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- 50. A spirit believed by Muslims to inhabit the earth and influence mankind by appear-
- ing in the form of humans or animals. 52. An association of countries in the western
- hemisphere. 53. A protocol developed for the internet to get data from one network device to
- another. 55. Small genus of shrubs and subshrubs of western United States having flowers that
- change color as they mature. 57. A ship with a reinforced bow to break up
- ice and keep channels open for naviga-
- 59. An organization of countries formed in
- 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- 60. Annual grass of Europe and North Africa. 61. Leave a camp.
- 63. A Russian river. 65. A ductile gray metallic element of the lan-
- thanide series.
- 66. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
- 67. An early form of modern jazz (originating around 1940). 69. Any of various strong liquors distilled from
- the fermented sap of toddy palms or from
- fermented molasses.
 72. A sandal attached to the foot by a thong over the toes.
- 78. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 80. An Italian woman of rank. 82. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 83. Step on it.
- 84. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling). 86. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- 87. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized
- by behavioral and learning disorders. 88. Small hardy range horse of the western plains descended from horses brought by
- 89. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine

DOWN

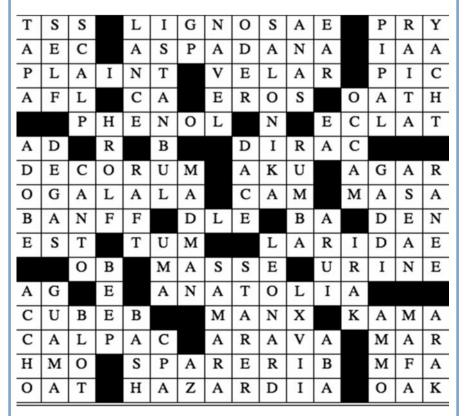
- 1. Plant with an elongated head of broad stalked leaves resembling celery.
- 2. Divulge information or secrets.
- 3. One of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 4. A United States unit of weight equivalent to 100 pounds.
- 5. Profane or obscene expression usually of
- surprise or anger. 6. A person or animal that is markedly unusual
- or deformed. 7. A public promotion of some product or
- service. 8. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metal-
- lic element. 9. A United States unit of weight equivalent to
- 2000 pounds. 10. A religious belief of African origin involving
- witchcraft and sorcery. 11. Of or involving the rectum.
- 12. (used of opinions and actions) Far beyond
- the norm.
- 13. Type genus of the Majidae.
- 14. Á stock exchange in New York. 19. People of the same race or nationality who
- share a distinctive culture. 21. An area in southwestern Asia whose sovereignty is disputed between Pakistan and
- 24. (Sumerian and Babylonian) A solar deity. 25. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
- 28. The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization.
- 30. The compass point that is one point east of due south. 32. The comfort you feel when consoled in
- times of disappointment. 36. Wildly disordered.
- 37. A member of the Uniat Church. 39. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite
- 41. Deeply moved.
- 43. An edge tool used to cut and shape wood. 45. (prefix) Within.
- 47. A minute epidermal pore in a leaf or stem.
- 49. 100 chon equal 1 won. 51. German mathematician (1804-1851). 54. Marine bivalve common in Philippine
- coastal waters characterized by a large thin flat translucent shell.
- 56. A domed or vaulted recess or projection
- on a building especially the east end of a church.
 58. A coffee cake flavored with orange rind
- and raisins and almonds. 62. Skillful (or showing skill) in adapting
- means to ends.
- 64. Ruffed grouse. 68. Type genus of the Percidae.
- 70. Scottish philosopher of common sense who opposed the ideas of David Hume (1710-1796). 71. In bed.
- 73. The probability of a specified outcome. 74. A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of
- his family). 75. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of

the coronary artery and improve the

- blood supply to the heart. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
- 77. A French ábbot. 79. (music) The pace of music measured by
- the number of beats occurring in 60 sec-81. (British) Your grandmother. 85. A bivalent and trivalent metallic element

of the rare earth group.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may soon find a physical move or some other type of change pending. There may be an opportunity for you to be in on the research that it takes to find new land for development. Consider the water systems and how your company will take care to maintain the nearby water system. Putting yourself in a position to gather and share information seems more important to you at this time. You understand hypothetical ideas and you know how to present them to those around you. You may feel that your life is very exciting. You make a big effort not to get your personal life too organized. Your idea is along the line of free flow. You may discover some new talent or aptitude as you help a young person with creative ideas tonight.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

If for any reason you have been procrastinating or having a conversation with an authority figure concerning anything, now would be an ideal time to communicate honestly. The ethers of the universe are working with you in whatever changes you desire. Now is a time you can put your scientific insights into understandable words for others to learn. Taking care of business is a major theme this afternoon and you have every reason to be pleased with the advances you have made in your work. You crave organization and yet you may be your own worst enemy; however, there are people that you can pay that will come in and help you become better organized. You will need to remember to put back whatever you have removed.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may be feeling very good about yourself just now and appreciating your own work in progress. You may see value in or feel love for an older person or someone in authority. You seem to appreciate feelings and movement in general and could possibly find yourself looking for a little romance, or at least comparing notes and making plans with a friend. You may just want to get out and about to walk or exercise at the noon break. It's just a wonderful time to be in the company of others in play or work. A particular job this afternoon may be just right for someone with your credentials. You certainly know how to manage and direct others. Your particular ideas and thoughts are exception ally good today and have not gone unnoticed.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Taking the novel approach, trying out new ideas and advancing in breakthrough thinking could be what you are all about just now. You just simply feel like being different, trying out something new. You may be getting bored with the status quo. Adding a little variety to one's life is what gives it spice and adds interest. You may want to go where no one has gone, make discoveries and write about your adventures. Do a little research on adventure trips and begin to save a little for a trip. Everything is working in your favor to accomplish whatever you set out to achieve. At this time in your life, you will be in the right place to gain the information you need to enjoy your journey. Fear not what awaits you on the other side of any adventure for now; enjoy.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Expect some challenges coming to your attention today. You are able to combine feelings with cognitive thinking to solve problems and you work a problem as one would work a crossword puzzle. Emotion is the instigator or the key that helps one recognize a problem exists. Cognitive thinking will find the truth of a matter and open up any fears or needless worries that can be released. You are pretty much on target when it comes to creating positive results. You may even discover the solution to a long-standing blockage or problem this day. Your mental attitude is very positive. The universal energies are inviting you to write. Perhaps this would be a good time to see a pattern to your recent dreams. Begin a dream journal.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may take on the job of orienting a newcomer to your work area. Your humor may be overshadowed only by your rather eccentric behavior just now. Those around you appreciate your independence and unique qualities. This should give you some new ways of looking at things or discover the changes you want for your living situation. Feel free to allow yourself to be creative today. Since you will not find these days coming too often, you should not ignore the opportunity to let your imagination loose. Maybe a proposal or new advertising idea is in the making. Your ability to risk something may take you into an enchanting place. If you are inclined to enjoy murder mysteries, this place might just set the scene for a good mystery

WORD SEARCH

Songs From the Year 2002

Find and circle all of the songs from 2002 that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 21 letters spell an additional song title from 2002.

VAEHGIRLFRIENDCE

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KHENONINMYPLACEAD

ADDICTIVE **AERIALS** ALL MY LIFE BABY BLURRY BY THE WAY COMPLICATED

DAYS GO BY

DILEMMA

DISEASE

ESCAPE EVERYDAY FOR YOU **FULL MOON GIRL TALK GIRLFRIEND** HALFCRAZY HANDS CLEAN HEAVEN **HELLA GOOD** HERE I AM **HERO** HEY MA IN MY PLACE LOSE YOURSELF MOTIVATION MY LIST

MY SACRIFICE

OH BOY RAINY DAYZ SPIN STILL FLY THE MIDDLE TOXICITY UH HUH WITHOUT ME WORK IT

NOTHIN'

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Sometimes we all take turns at being too oblivious as to what or how we really feel about some person, place or thing. This may not be the most appropriate time for you to make vocational or career decisions or to give practical advice to those around you. However, you are one to bounce back rather quickly from any difficult quandary or experience and you will suddenly gain insights that other people long to see. Today you will have a new understanding. The point of all this chatter is for you to give yourself time and patience before making any final decisions about anything important, particularly with regard to work. You can impress an admirer with a kind word or note this evening. Tonight is indeed a great time to spend with loved ones and family.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You should find yourself in top condition when it comes to any kind of mental activity. You are full of wit and sharp ideas. This could be a time when you find some real discoveries in the idea department. Having a clear-cut idea of what the public wants and needs at this time is beneficial to you in making practical decisions with regard to group issues. Expect to make some crystal-clear decisions that affect others. You may find yourself wading cautiously through some difficulties, blocks or hot spots and not everyone will share your point of view. This will all work out just fine however, so relax-disputes and doubt come with the territory of whatever it is you are trying to do just now. This afternoon is a time of celebration. Your success is obvious.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have your own philosophy and may see the world through multicolored glasses. As a young person, you seemed to be empathetic of others and their emotional suffering. As an adult, you are extremely tolerant of humanity. You are optimistic and attract the love of audiences or groups of people. This may be a time when you find yourself creative in the arts. You are magnetic as your positive attitude captures the imagination. You have ideas that benefit humanitarian or charitable interests and counseling may occupy some of your time. You must be free to travel to places where you are needed, as you enjoy being needed. Medicine, welfare work and the arts are only a few of the areas that attract you.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Openings at work and changes in status give you new options. Follow rules as you work in areas that are new to you. Work ethics are very important and should you choose to take time off work you will probably do so by calling the time away, a vacation. You may find yourself very pleased at the choices you made recently regarding home and property development. The undercover action of the law enforcement in your area lowers the likelihood of being disturbed by difficult people. You might even look for ways to help with school social development programs. News about a health update or miracle vitamins and alternative therapies are subjects of conversation. Stress levels can build now, so laugh at the little problems



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

When some kind of recognition or extra support comes along for you, you can see that your efforts are worthwhile. You may have the feeling that you are very much in-touch with those around you today. All of the support that you need in order to lead or complete some difficult task will be there for you. Wow, what a fantastic natural high this can create for you! If you have a team that consistently backs you in your efforts, now would be a good time to consider a little bonus for them. Your taste in art and gratefulness in general are heightened. Your sense of value is to the fore and investment decisions can be beneficial. This evening is a great time to be around friends. You may be passing around pictures of each other's family.

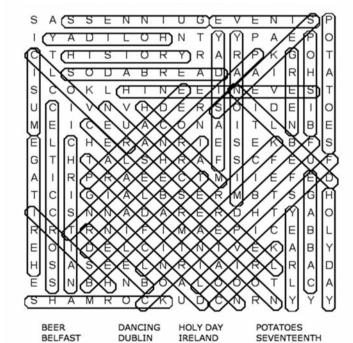


Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Watch out, as an independent streak seems to be surfacing at this time. Others will admire your unique and rather unusual way of perceiving things. Your sense of humor simply shines just now. You give incentive and encouragement to others and you have a good attitude. You should find the benefit of new insights in your living situation or life conditions. Your friends or associates may come to you for help. You may find that circumstances call for you to reorganize and be more conservative. This should all go rather smoothly. Your more reserved qualities make others wonder what has kept you so busy lately; you are not always so guiet. Whistle while you work! Tonight you might dive into some cooking experiment: a candy recipe!

Yesterday Solution

St. Patrick's Day



CORNED BEEF PATRON SAINT HOLIDAY The hidden message is: SAINT PATRICK LIVED IN THE FIFTH CENTURY

IRISH

LEPRECHAUN

MISSIONARY

LIMERICK

MARCH

MUSIC

PARADE

SNAKES

YEARLY

SODA BREAD

TRADITION

EVENTS

FEAST DAY

GUINNESS

HERITAGE

HISTORY

FESTIVAL

BISHOP

CARRAGE

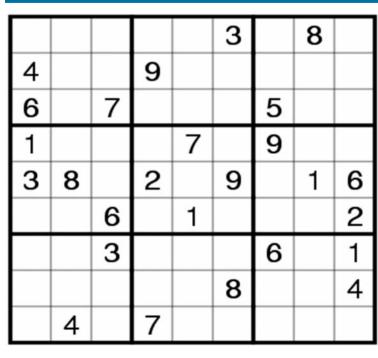
CELEBRATION

CHRISTIAN

CLOVER

CELTIC CROSS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution

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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



For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Clinics

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22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

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24770319

24575755

24772608

24775066

24775992

24311795

24884079

24892674

24719048

24710044

23900322

Soor Center

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688

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



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Lebanon

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Lithuania

00231

00218

00370

Yugoslavia

Zambia

Zimbabwe

00967

00381

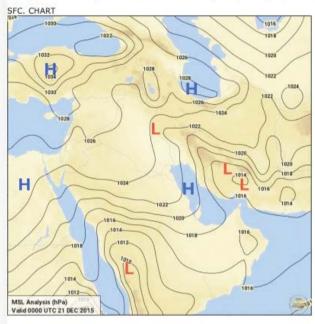
00260

00263

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours Issued 21/12/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

MAX Temperature 19 °C

By Day: Clouds will decrease gradually with light to moderate freshening gradually at times especially over coastal areas north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 42 km/h By Night: Cold with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 38 km/h



Four-Day	Forecast

	Tuesday	wednesday	Inursuay	Friday
	*	*	*	*
Expected Weather	sunny	clouds to increase gradually + scattered rain later on	cloudy +cool+ rain might be thundury at times	partly cloudy - scattered rain
Min Temp °C	08	08	09	09
Max Temp °C	19	17	15	17
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly to light variable	variable wind changing to north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	12 - 35	08 - 35	08 - 38	12 - 38

Warnings NO CURRENT WARNINGS

Kuwait Forecast		
Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	12	18
KUWAIT AIRPORT	11	19
ABDALY	07	17
BUBYAN	10	18
JAHRA	11	19
FAILAKA ISLAND	12	18
SALMIYAH	13	17
AHMADI	14	17
JAL ALIYAH	08	17
QAROH ISLAND	16	20
UMM AL-MARADEM	16	20
NUWAISIB	11	20
WAFRA	10	19
MANAGISH	09	18
SALMY	06	17
MUTRIBA	07	16

Max Tem	p (°C)	19				
Min Tem	(°C)	11				
Max Rel	Hum (%)	99				
Min Rel F	lum (%)	44				
Max Wind and Direc	d Speed (km/h) ction	28 N				
TOTAL R	AINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm				
*	Sunrise	06:38				
0	Sunset	16:54				

ridyer times	
Fajr	05:13
Sunrise	06:38
Zuhr	11:46
Asr	14:36
Sunset	16:54
Isha	18:16

PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologis	its
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	(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	i 22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120

Psychologists

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surge	eons
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doc	tor
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatris	ts
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Ol	ostetricians
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surg	eons
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 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

info@soorcenter.com

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Paediatricia	115			
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				
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924				
	Physiotherapists & VD				
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291				
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288			
	Rheumatologists:				
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060	1			
1	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290			
	Internist, Chest & Heart				
	DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210			
	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology				
	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667			
	Consultant Cardiologist				
	Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555			
	Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123				

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

	TUI	ESDAY, DECEMBER	22, 201
INTERNAT CALL		† C	1
Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania Algeria	00355	Lesotho Macau	00266 00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla Antiga	001264 001268	Majorca Malawi	0034 00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia Austria	0061 0043	Mali Malta	00223 00356
Bahamas	001242	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahrain	00973	Martinique	00596
Bangladesh Barbados	00880 001246	Mauritania Mauritius	00222
Belarus	00375	Mayotte	00269
Belgium	0032	Mexico	0052
Belize Benin	00501 00229	Micronesia Moldova	00691 00373
Bermuda	001441	Monaco	00377
Bhutan	00975	Mongolia	00976
Bolivia Bosnia	00591	Montserrat Morocco	001664 00212
Botswana	00267	Mozambique	00258
Brazil	0055	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brunei	00673	Namibia	00264
Bulgaria Burkina	00359 00226	Nepal Netherlands	00977 0031
Burundi	00257	Netherlands Antilles	
Cambodia	00855	New Caledonia	00687
Cameroon Canada	00237 001	New Zealand Nicaragua	0064 00505
Cape Verde	00238	Nigar	00227
Cayman Islands	001345	Nigeria	00234
Central African Chad	00236 00235	Niue Norfolk Island	00683 00672
Chile	0056	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
China	0086	North Korea	00850
Colombia Comoros	0057 00269	Norway Oman	0047 00968
Congo	00242	Pakistan	0090
Cook Islands	00682	Palau	00680
Costa Rica Croatia	00506 00385	Panama	00507 00675
Cuba	0053	Papua New Guinea Paraguay	00595
Cyprus	00357	Peru	0051
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Philippines	0063
Czech Republic Denmark	00420 0045	Poland Portugal	0048 00351
Diego Garcia	00246	Puerto Rico	001787
Djibouti	00253	Qatar	00974
Dominican Republic	001767 001809	Romania Russian Federation	0040 007
Ecuador	00593	Rwanda	00250
Egypt El Salvador	0020 00503	Saint Helena Saint Kitts	00290
England (UK)	00503	Saint Lucia	001869 001758
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Pierre	00508
Eritrea Estonia	00291 00372	Saint Vincent Samoa US	001784 00684
Ethiopia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Falkland Islands	00500	San Marino	00378
Faroe Islands Fiji	00298 00679	Sao Tone Saudi Arabia	00239
Finland	00358	Scotland (UK)	0044
France	0033	Senegal	00221
French Guiana French Polynesia	00594 00689	Seychelles Sierra Leone	00284
Gabon Polynesia	00089	Singapore Singapore	00232
Gambia	00220	Slovakia	00421
Georgia Germany	00995 0049	Slovenia Solomon Islands	00386 00677
Ghana	00233	Somalia	00252
Gibraltar	00350	South Africa	0027
Greece Greenland	0030 00299	South Korea Spain	0082 0034
Grenada	001473	Sri Lanka	0094
Guadeloupe	00590	Sudan	00249
Guam Guatemala	001671 00502	Suriname Swaziland	00597 00268
Guinea	00224	Sweden	00268
Guyana	00592	Switzerland	0041
Haiti Holland (Netherlands)	00509	Syria Serbia	00963
Holland (Netherlands) Honduras	00504	Taiwan	00381 00886
Hong Kong	00852	Tanzania	00255
Hungary	0036	Thailand	0066
Ibiza (Spain)	0034 00354	Toga Tonga	00228 00676
India	0091	Tokelau	00690
Indian Ocean	00873	Trinidad	001868
Indonesia Iran	0062 0098	Tunisia Turkey	00216 0090
Iraq	0098	Tuvalu	0090
Ireland	00353	Uganda	00256
Italy Ivory Coast	0039 00225	Ukraine United Arab Emirates	00380
Jamaica	001876	United Kingdom	00976
Japan	0081	Uruguay	00598
Jordan Kazakhetan	00962	USA Uzbekistan	001
Kazakhstan Kenya	007 00254	Uzbekistan Vanuatu	00998 00678
Kiribati	00686	Venezuela	00582
Kuwait	00965	Vietnam	0084
Kyrgyzstan Laos	00996 00856	Virgin Islands UK Virgin Islands US	001284 001340
Latvia	00371	Wales (UK)	0044



Gossip

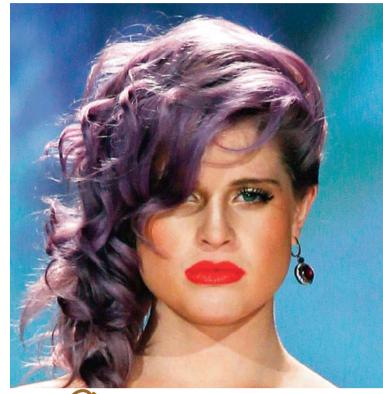
Jenner wants make up line

ylie Jenner wants her own make up line. The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star - whose lip kit sold out in thirty seconds - is keen on expanding the range and making it a huge success. She told Interview magazine: "If I could do whatever I wanted, I would have a successful make up line, and I would want to hopefully start more businesses, and just be, like, a businesswoman."

The news might come as a surprise to some as the 18-yearold beauty recently revealed she "hates" wearing make up. She shared: "I honestly hate wearing make up. Lately, I've just been so over it. I feel like I'm way too young to wear such heavy makeup all the time. "It's just bad for your skin, but I'm always doing photo shoots or red carpets and events, so I just obviously want to look good." Meanwhile,

as well as make up, Kylie admits to having an "addiction" to changing her hair color time and time again. She shared: "I first dyed my hair when I was 16. I dyed it blue and I never even asked my mom. After that, I've just had this addiction to changing my hair. "It makes me feel like a new person. I love feeling different and I love leaving the house knowing that nobody has ever seen me this way."





) Soowne has fractured her foot

■he former 'Fashion Police' star has been left in pain for the festive season after somehow damaging her right foot. Sharing a picture of the bruised and swollen body part on Instagram, she wrote: "All I want for Christmas is not to have a broken foot." The 31-year-old star later shared another image of herself looking sheepish in a wheelchair, with her foot strapped up, being pushed by medical staff, and she revealed in the Instagram post the extend of her injuries. She wrote: I have a fracture, chipped bone and torn tendon!!!! Thank you to the amazing Doctors and nurses for taking such good care of me.(sic)" It is unclear how Kelly sustained the injury as just a few hours before sharing the picture of her foot, she had been showing off her Christmas wrapping and dish washing skills on the photo-sharing website. Kelly hasn't had the easiest few weeks, as last month she feared for her life while travelling back to Los Angeles from Australia with pal Melinda Varga. The star posted on Instagram "Never been so scared in our lives! @melindavargainoz & I just experienced the worst turbulence EVER! we held hands so tight our hands swelled up & I think my wrist is sprained! I genuinely thought this would be my last day on earth. Thank god we were together & we have landed safely! All I want is my mum right now." And earlier that week, Kelly was forced to travel to filming for 'Australia's Got Talent' by rickshaw after losing her car. She posted: "Look how I showed up to work today because I could not find my car! The fresh air was amazing @gottalentau (sic)"

Lovato's vacation with her boys

emi Lovato is vacationing with both her boyfriend and her exboyfriend. The 'Skyscraper' singer and actor Wilmer Valderrama were thrilled to run into Joe Jonas and his brother Nick Jonas while holidaying in St Barts and have been having fun together. Alongside a picture of the three guys, Demi, 23, wrote: "This picture makes me so happy. I love my boys." And Wilmer, 35, also shared a picture of himself and his pals sitting on some steps. He captioned the image: "SharingTheMoment with woes in St Barts or St Barths....Tomato...TomAto (sic)" However, the couple - who have had an on-off relationship since 2010 - have also found lots of time to be alone together. In a selfie in front of a plane with his girlfriend, Wilmer wrote: "Traveling with this lil' angel around the world truly feels like the world just moves around us (sic)" The 'Confident' hitmaker recently admitted she has never felt "more in love". She gushed: "I've never been more in love. I'm so excited to have him in my life as my best friend and my boyfriend." And she also said she is "grateful" for her boyfriend. She said: "We don't share everything with the world. But we do feel comfortable to share a lot. With Wilmer and I and our relationship, he's extremely supportive in everything that I do. He makes me feel confident and beautiful. And I'm just really, really grateful for



Tearful groom Frank Lampard



■ rank Lampard was "very tearful" when he gave his wedding speech. The soccer player tied the knot with longterm girlfriend Christine Bleakley at St Paul's church in London's Knightsbridge yesterday and couldn't hide his emotions as he paid tribute to his new wife at the reception at nearby members-only venue The Arts Club. Guest Piers Morgan told his 'Good Morning Britain' co-host Susanna Reid: "[Frank] was very tearful in his speech. It was very moving". Meanwhile, Piers - who was accompanied to the wedding by wife Celia Walden - admitted he warned Frank that Christine was "out of his league" when he first saw the brunette beauty in 2009. He recalled: "I said a few words [at the wedding], I offered to because I was there when they met at the Pride of Britain Awards with Frank and Kevin Pietersen. "Christine came into the bar and Frank said, 'Who's that? She looks a bit of a sort', which I think is East End for 'She's attractive.' I said,

'She's way above your league mate.' "Anyway, next thing, they get together, he said in his speech, he was away playing for England and they spoke every night for four hours and just fell madly in love in one week." As well as Piers and Celia, famous guests at the wedding - which saw Christine don a stunning Suzanne Neville gown - included Phillip Schofield and his wife Stephanie Lowe, designer Kelly Hoppen, and TV presenters Anthony McPartlin and Declan Donnelly with their respective spouses, Lisa Armstrong and Ali Astall/ Former soccer player Jamie Redknapp, who is a cousin of the groom, and his wife Louise attended, along with Jamie's father Harry and Frank's ex-teammate John Terry.



Billie Faiers has had a 'few' fashion disasters

immune to fashion fails and remembers a particular ghastly outfit she wore when she first joined the ITVBe show. She said: "Oh gosh, I've had a few, I'm sure. One outfit that always sticks in my mind is a blue kaftan dress that I wore when I'd first joined 'TOWIE' and I paired it with these tan ankle boots. I look back now and think, 'What was I doing?" Her fashion disaster didn't discourage the 25-year-old television personality - who has 17month-old daughter Nellie with fiance Greg Shepherd - from launching her own fashion line. Speaking about the new range to the Daily Star newspaper, she added: "I've wanted to do my own range for so long but I've been waiting for the perfect company to collaborate with. I knew I wanted to be heavily involved in the design process and

■he 'Only Way Is Essex' star insists she isn't that's the great thing about In The Style, we're all on the same page with our ideas and they let me have a lot of creative control. "I think the first drop is very festive in the sense that you've got a lot of glamorous dresses in there for Christmas parties. That said, there are also more casual day dresses, playsuits and jumpers, so there's definitely something to cater for all occasions. "I'm really pleased with how it's turned out. When we released the first item from the range - my 'Prosecco' slogan jumper it sold over 1,000 units in two hours, which was a record. So I'm now really excited to see how the full range does."



Bloom deported from India for having incorrect visa

rlando Bloom was reportedly deported from India on Saturday after his visa was rejected. The 38-year-old actor arrived at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on a British Airways flight from the UK to promote tourism as a guest of the state. But he was allegedly sent straight back to London on a turnaround flight after his e-visa, which he applied for weeks in advance, was refused by government officials. A source told the Mail Today in India: "Orlando was invited [to India] for a government program. "The arrogant behavior of Immigration officials has dented India's image globally as they deliberately deported him even when they had other options to allow him to stay here." The 'Pirates of the Caribbean' star was reportedly "upset" about how immigration officers had handled the situation but was later allowed to return to the New Delhi after External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj intervened to ensure the Hollywood hunk was issued an urgent visa. According to the Daily Mirror newspaper, the insider said: "A visa was issued after Sushma Swaraj's reported intervention after which Bloom finally landed in Delhi on Sunday." Despite the mix up, Orlando hasn't let the inconvenient error ruin his trip as he was seen on Sunday posing for photographs in front of the world-famous Taj Mahal.

Aoki marries his girlfriend Cowling

teve Aoki has married his longterm partner Tiernan Cowling. The 38-yearold EDM DJ finally tied the knot after a five year engagement with the Australian model, 24, in Maui, Hawaii on Friday at an "intimate ceremony" attended by family and close pals. A rep for the star told US Weekly: "Steve married his longtime girlfriend in a small, private and intimate ceremony in Maui in front of their families." The Grammy-nominated musicmaker - who is one of the highest-grossing DJs of all time is the brother of actress-and-model Devon Aoki and their father is the late Hiroaki Aoki, who founded the Benihana restaurant chain. As well as a great personal milestone for Steve, 2015 has also been a phenomenal year for the music producer professionally, having released his third studio LP, 'Neon Future II, which features collabo-

rations with Snoop Lion, Rivers Cuomo and rockers Linkin Park. However, Steve feels there is still much to be accomplished in the world of electronic music. Speaking exclusively to BANG Showbiz, he explained recently: "In America, as far as commercial radio is concerned, it's [EDM] not dominating. Maybe one or two songs will come and really dominate, like a Calvin Harris song, an Avicii song, this Major Lazer song ['Lean On'], which has been a number one song ... But it's very rare. I still feel like there's a long way for us to go. "At the end of the day pop is called pop, it's popular. So when people write that kind of music, it's always going to be the dominant kind of music in the commercial space."



Gossip



Teigen's present from Legend is a 'lifetime dream'

dream" for Christmas. The 'Lip Sync Battle' star - who is expecting her first child with the 36-year-old singer has vowed her dinner parties will be better than ever after her husband splashed out on a giant "cheese wheel". Alongside a picture of herself kissing John on the cheek as he held the gift, she wrote on Instagram: "John got me my lifetime dream for Christmas. "A cheese wheel to dump pasta and risotto in for years to come! My tableside serving game is bout to be liiiiiit! Heading out to relax with the fam now woohoo!" She later posted another picture of the wheel in action. She wrote: "If you haven't seen one of these wheels in action oh man, it is a thing a beauty. Hot pasta is tossed around, gently melting the cheese and plat-

ohn Legend has bought Chrissy Teigen her "lifetime ed right at your table. It makes me emotional (sic)" John recently described Chrissy, 30, as the "head chef" in their household. He said: "She's the head chef but I'm her sous chef. And I'm in charge of breakfast usually as well." And the 'All of Me' hitmaker previously praised his wife for being a "great cook". He said: "When she's working on it and I'm home I gain five pounds guaranteed. So, I'm like, sometimes I need to travel so I can lose weight! "[Her best creation] is kind of like when people do those artichoke dips but it's got buffalo chicken and cheese and all these other things in it, too. It's really, really delicious. Chrissy is obviously a great cook."

Kim Kardashian West

to launch own range of emojis

im Kardashian West is set to launch her own range of emojis. The 35-year-old reality TV star took to Instagram to share a preview of the new Kimoji app, an entire series of emojis featuring her, and revealed it will launch today. She did not give any other details on the app, which sees a number of famous Kim pictures turned into emojis, including her taking a selfie in a white bathing suit, Kim's cry face and even a cartoon of her with contouring make-up. Kim also has her own game, 'Kim Kardashian: Hollywood' which sees players aim to increase their fame and reputation, starting on the E-list and rising to the Alist, with the reality TV star's help. Meanwhile, Kim announced her new app after on Instagram after she celebrated reaching 55 million Instagram followers with a pouting selfie. The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star shared a new picture on the image sharing site in order to mark the milestone and wrote a message of thanks to her fans. She captioned the picture: "55 MILLION!!!!!!!OMGGGGG!!!!!! LOVE YOU SO MUCH!!!!!!! (sic)." Kim reached 55 million followers just one day after her mother Kris Jenner got her number up to 10 million. Alongside a collage on her page, she wrote: "Thank you so much for following me ... Can't believe it's 10 MILLION of you!!!! You are amazing!!! I am appreciative and grateful and feeling humbled and blessed... "Merry Christmas everyone, don't forget to tell those you love how special they are.... God Bless You!!! (sic)"



The Rock shows off his newborn daughter

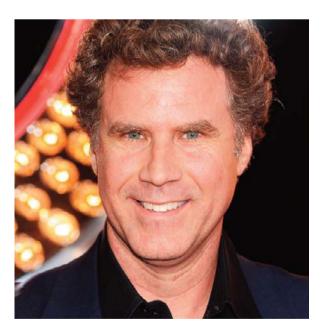
wayne 'The Rock' Johnson has shared the first picture of his newborn daughter, Jasmine. The former professional wrestler and his long-term girlfriend Lauren Hashian welcomed their new baby last week and the proud dad took to Instagram to share a sweet snap of Jasmine lying on his chest. He wrote: "Christmas came early! Within minutes of being born she was laying on daddy's chest. And being a grateful man takes on a whole new meaning...Thank you guys so much for the awesome congratulatory wishes and love you've been sending @laurenhashianofficial and myself. We're extremely grateful." "Kinda crazy but in this cool and powerful skin to skin bonding moment with my newborn baby Jasmine, I had just one wish I asked the universe... Give me the strength to be a better man

today than I was yesterday. If I can accomplish that, then I'd have a good shot at being a great father (sic)." Dwayne is already father to 14-year-old daughter Simone but this is his first child with Lauren. The couple announced the pregnancy news in September, with Dwayne revealing last month they were expecting a girl. He posted a picture of himself cradling Lauren's baby bump, and captioned the image: "I was raised by and live with amazing and strong women, so the universe felt we needed one more... IT'S A BABY GIRL!! THANK YOU guys so much for the awesome support and love you've sent @laurenhashianofficial and myself from around the world. We're so grateful for this blessing and thrilled to share the news with y'all. (sic)"



Will Ferrell: A bank job would have been fine

ill Ferrell would have been "fine" with a "job in a bank". The 47-year-old comedian has written and starred in a string of successful movies, but revealed he almost never tried to make it in Hollywood, because there was a time when he saw a regular career that was stable as very desirable. The 'Anchorman' actor explained: "The stereotype you made fun of as a kid was 'the job in the bank'. But to me that always sounded all right. Nine to five and you know where you're going. You get a decent salary and vacations and get to carry a briefcase. I was fine with that idea." But Will came to realize that if he didn't "give it a shot" at writing comedy, it would "eat away" at him. He told the Observer magazine: "But then I also realized at a young age that I loved writing. I was doing little comedy bits. I never had the guts to realize I might be a performer. But by the time I graduated college I knew that thought would eat away at me if I didn't give it a



Victoria doesn't want soccer star daughter

rictoria Beckham doesn't want her daughter to play soccer. The 41-year-old fashion designer would prefer four-year-old Harper to enjoy pursuits she can also participate in, such as dance or tennis, after watching all three of her sons, Brooklyn, 16, Romeo, 12, and Cruz, 10, share their father David Beckham's passion for the sport. David said: "After having three boys that obviously do want to play football she wants to be able to have one of our children that wants to go and do stuff with her, like ballet or tap [dance]. At the moment Harper plays tennis. "I think Victoria's had 16 years of sitting on cold Sunday mornings on the sidelines, watching the boys. She'd like to sit indoors and watch Harper either play tennis or ballet or tap. But if ever Harper does want to go and play football, Victoria will support her." David recently travelled the world to play his sport across seven continents to promote the work of UNICEF in a new documentary, 'David Beckham: For the Love of the Game', and has vowed his "lucky" children will accompany him on one of his charity visits in the future. Speaking to reporters to promote the film, he said: "Every time I go on a field trip I sit down with them after and discuss every single detail. "My kids have been asking to come with me on these trips for years. At some point they will. "Obviously their priority is their schooling but they are interested in these trips. My children already understand how lucky they are to have the life they have."

'Harry Potter and The Cursed Child' has cast its lead actors

he stage show - a spin-off from the popular novels and movie series - will debut at the Palace Theatre in the heart of London in summer 2016 with Jamie Parker playing Harry, Noma Dumezweni as Hermione Granger and Paul Thornley taking the role of Ron Weasley, the Daily Mail reports. In the movies Harry, Hermione and Ron were played by Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint. Director and co-writer John Tiffany previously insisted the the trio won't be involved in the play. He said: "I would be very surprised if any of the original cast were to feature because the last thing they would want to do is go back to something they did 10 years ago.

"We've been working with actors since the beginning of this year, but the characters are the stars of this - so I don't think we'll be saying a hot Hollywood actor will be playing Harry Potter." Meanwhile, producer Sonia Friedman said the casting was a collective decision involving author JK Rowling, director John, playwright Jack Thorne, producer Colin Callender and herself. She explained: "We were all involved with all the key casting decisions." Discussing the two-part play, which Rowling sees as the eighth in the franchise, she previously revealed it will follow Harry's second son Albus, 19 years after the



Carmichael so happy Beyonce is a 'Downton Abbey' fan

aura Carmichael is thrilled that Beyonce watches 'Downton Abbey'. The 28-year-old actress and her ■co-star in the show Michelle Dockery, 34, find it "surreal" when they get compliments from "really famous people" on the red carpet at award shows, but were amazed when they found out their favorite singer is also a fan. Laura shared: "We've been on lots of red carpets together and to the Met Ball more than once, which was amazing and surreal because all these really famous people, like Mick Jagger, Bruno Mars, Marc Jacobs and P Diddy, were coming up and talking to us. "I'm a huge Beyonce fan, but the first time we went and I saw her, I was too nervous to approach her. The next time, Michelle (Dockery) literally pushed me forward and Beyonce was so sweet and pleased when I told her how much I'd enjoyed her show a few days previously in London." To which Beyonce replied: "I really like your show." And the actress still gets "giggly" when she thinks of her the superstar and her husband Jay Z tuning into the show. She told Stella magazine: "I have a feeling someone told her who were. But still, Michelle and I get giddy imagining Beyonce and Jay Z settling down on the sofa to watch 'Downton".



Features

Israeli director's latest movie is... in Farsi

destruction and Israel threatening a military strike if Tehran acquires nuclear arms, Israeli director Yuval Delshad's new film is entirely in Farsi. "Baba Joon", the first feature film in Israeli cinema to be shot in Iran's national language, tells the story of a family of Iranian Jews living on a farm in southern Israel. In it, the Iran-born Delshad, 43, is basically thumbing his nose at the official stances of both nations in which they view each other as the devil incarnate. Before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, between 80,000 and 100,000 Jews lived in Iran, mainly in Tehran, Isfahan and Mashhad.

By 2011, their number had fallen to 8,700, with the vast majority emigrating to the United States and Israel. "Baba Joon" is not at all political, focusing instead on the everyday lives of its characters. In September, it won the Ophir for Best Picture in Israel's equivalent of the Oscars. In Delshad's movie, the grandfather-the titular "Baba Joon" as he is affectionately known in Farsi-his son and grandson live under the same roof but struggle with incompatible dreams.

The grandfather has moved his Iranian poultry farm to Israel, his grandson Moti is rebelling as he enters adolescence and his father Yitzhak is stuck between generations. The child

espite Iranian leaders speaking of the Jewish state's is played by Asher Avrahami, a 13-year-old Israeli Jew whose parents are of Iranian origin but who did not speak Farsi and had never set foot on a film set before. Navid Negahban, a Muslim actor born in Iran and now living in the United States, plays the father. He is most widely known as the Al-Qaeda leader Abu Nazir in the US hit television series "Homeland".

Nostalgia for Iran

Delshad told AFP the cast bonded together very well. "On the set I said 'cut' and they would all sit in a corner and sing and dance to traditional Iranian music and talk about their areas of origin." "Thanks to Iranian culture-this Iranian link-they got close so quickly, they formed a family. That is what we see in the film and that's what I wanted." The word Israel is not uttered once in the 90-minute film, and just a few lines in Hebrew hint at where the action is taking place. The director spent weeks on his motorcycle navigating the stony tracks of southern Israel looking for arid hills that could also bring to mind the Iranian countryside that Baba Joon left behind.

Generation gaps such as those depicted in the film are "international, I wanted the film to be international, so no one can say (the film) is for Israel or Iran", Delshad said. The first immigrant generation in Israel after the revolution has maintained a strong cultural link and is steeped in nostalgia for Iran, which they are barred from visiting under the laws of both countries. "We had thousands of comments on our Facebook page from Iranians who want to see the film and who say they are proud that an Iranian-born Israeli director has made a film in their language," Delshad said, adding that he hopes Iranians will "hack the Internet" to see the film.

He also voiced the belief that if his film could be seen in Iran, he could one day visit his parents' country. "My generation will see Iran, it's only a matter of time," he said, arguing that an "Iranian Spring" is inevitable. "When I can go, I can assure you that I will go a lot-I probably won't go to any other country." — AFP

> Israeli film director of Iranian descent Yuval Delshad gestures during an interview with AFP reporters at his house in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, on **December 8, 2015. — AFP**





Tetsuya Bessho, a Japanese actor who started a film festival because of his love for short films, poses at the Brillia Short Shorts Theater in Yokohama, near Tokyo. — AFP photos



Rieko Muramoto, executive director for digital business at Japanese entertainment company Avex Digital, speaks during an interview.

Japan festival offers nearly \$1 million to make a short film

Japanese festival focused on the art of the short film is offering a new award of nearly a million dollars to a director from anywhere in the world with a great pitch for a movie. Organizers say short video is where audiences are going, as entertainment increasingly gets consumed on smartphones and tablets. They also believe the format holds potential for novice filmmakers, bringing fresh insight and energy to the industry. The deadline for submitting a 500-word pitch on what's billed as a "thrilling, exciting, moving" storyline is Feb. 29. The pitch must be written in either Japanese or English.

Five finalists will be chosen first. Each gets a 500,000 yen (\$4,000) cash prize. Then one among the five will be picked, and receive 100 million yen (\$800,000) in funding to make his or her movie. That winner will get an additional 1 million yen (\$8,000) award. Rieko Muramoto, executive director for digital business at the Japanese entertainment company Avex Digital, which is providing the contest funds, believes it's a worthy investment for finding fresh content for online services, pioneering a genre and nurturing talent. She stresses she isn't out to make a quick buck.

'I Hate Musicals'

"The short film holds a lot of potential for busy people who are watching video on smartphones, which means a complete story must be told much more quickly," Muramoto said. Scoring success can get tougher than for regular movies and TV shows. Switching to another piece is a mere click away - far easier than walking out of a theater where you paid for a ticket, she added. "Survival is tougher," she said. "You have to move an audience in 15

The winning work will be shown at the 2017 Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, an annual event devoted to short films in Yokohama, a Tokyo suburb, which is running the contest. "Movies aren't about length," said Tetsuya Bessho, an actor who founded the fes-



tival in 1999, likening the best short films to the minimalist but fine-tuned concentration of haiku poetry. "There are Hollywood flops with everything thrown in for marketing. You can't decide if it's a comedy, a love story or an action film. People are getting bored with that kind of movie," said Beshho, whose films include "Godzilla vs. Mothra" and "Solar Crisis," with Charlton Heston.

His festival has showcased the best in short films, such as "Toyland," which won an Oscar, and the light-hearted comedy "I Hate Musicals." It also honors less conventional work from a new breed of creators, including Indonesian auteur Yosep Anggi Noen, who was also featured at the Rotterdam and Busan international film festivals. His "A Lady Caddy Who Never Saw a Hole in One," which depicts how farmland in Indonesia is being destroyed by golf courses, won the Grand Prix at Short Shorts last year. It took just a day and a half to shoot, and involved a team of just six people. "It can be more free, more independent," Anggi said of the short film format. "Nobody tells me how to make that film."—AP

PR manager of Short Shorts Film Festival and Asia, Hideyuki Takahashi looks at display of the Brillia Short **Shorts Theater.**

Finding the 'Joy' in Jennifer Lawrence

ward-winning director David O Russell's latest movie "Joy" is about a woman finding happiness in life despite everyday obstacles. But the word might also be used to sum up Russell's relationship with Jennifer Lawrence, the actress he calls his muse, who has starred in his last three movies. Russell, who directed Lawrence in her 2012 Oscar-winning role as a young widow in "Silver Linings Playbook" and in 2014's "American Hustle," said that as an actress and a person, she inspires him to take risks with film-

"She wants to go to places that are scary for her and do things that haven't been seen. She is smart and challenging but she also inspires me to make something better. I am happy to explore things the way she wants to do them, and she also will trust what I want to do. "It's a deal we make together that we're going to jump off this waterfall and give it everything we've got," Russell told Reuters.

"Joy," out in US movie theaters on Dec 25, is expected to bring Lawrence a fourth Oscar nomination in as many years. It's inspired by the true story of Joy Mangano, the New York inventor of the Miracle Mop who overcame an early divorce and life as a single mother to become a successful 1990s businesswoman. The movie is the first time Lawrence, or any female character, is front and center of a Russell film, and the first time the 25-year-old star plays someone who is not

"It was a challenge for her to play somebody who had become so powerless for the first half of the movie, when you're caring for others but have lost yourself. "This is a very inspiring story that we don't have in the world right now, of a woman that is ordinary, that carries dignity and power in this way. We thought that was cool and kind of bad-ass. So we said, 'Yeah, let's do that," Russell said.

The movie also reunites Russell with Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro for a third time. Russell says all three actors are muses of sorts for him - but Lawrence has something extra special. "I find her to be very real and unpretentious and alive and messy. Somebody who really, really loves life, is very passionate about it," he said. "I will always want to think of some (project) for her, but you've got to let it happen when it's supposed to happen and be magical." — Reuters



This December 18, 2015 file photo shows Star Wars fans as they raise their lightsabers during Lightsaber Battle LA in Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles, California. — AFP photos

Doha Film Institute Financing development of new animation project by Haifaa Al- Mansour

■ aifaa Al-Mansour, considered the first female director to come from cloistered Saudi Arabia and known for groundbreaking female empowerment pic "Wadjda," is developing animation feature "Miss Camel," with financing from the Doha Film Institute. "Miss Camel" turns on "a teenage Saudi camel who challenges the deep-rooted restrictions of her culture by travelling across the kingdom to compete in the Miss Camel beauty pageant in Doha," according to the DFI.

Al Mansour, who in 2013 made waves with "Wadjda," about a 10-year-old Saudi girl who wants to ride a bicycle even though it is forbidden for her in her country, is currently reportedly in preprod on ambitious English-language Mary Shelley drama "A Storm In Our Stars," with Douglas Booth and Elle Fanning, produced by HanWay Films yesterday the DFI announced recipients of the Fall 2015 session of its grants program for projects in various stages.

Below is the complete list:

Feature Narrative / Development "Death Street," by Mohanad Hayal (Iraq)

Tarig, the sniper of Haifa Street in Baghdad, kills Ahmed on his wedding day. While Tariq prevents anyone from approaching the

corpse in the street, an intimate and telling drama unfolds. "Miss Camel," by Haifaa Al Mansour (Saudia Arabia) A teenaged Saudi camel challenges the deep-rooted restrictions of her culture by travelling across the kingdom to compete in the Miss Camel beauty pageant in Doha.

"Pagan Magic," by Fyzal Boulifa (Morocco, France)

A young, poor and uneducated girl works as a maid for a middle-class family in contemporary Morocco. Her use of pagan rites to confront her entrapment and make sense of her world ultimately corrupt her.

"The Search for the Star Pearl," by Hafiz Ali Abdullah (Qatar)

Ali, a 17-year-old pearl diver from Doha, discovers a map to the Star Pearl of Abu Derya, the most valuable gem on Earth, and sets sail with three teenaged friends in search of the pearl. Along the way, they face mythological beasts that challenge their skills and

Feature Narrative / Production

"Cactus Flower," by Hala Elkoussy (Egypt)

A flood leaves three Cairenes homeless. As they journey across the city in search of shelter, they depend upon one another to survive and keep their dreams alive.

"Poisonous Roses," by Fawzi Saleh (Egypt) The world has left nothing to Taheya apart from her brother Saqr. When he disappears, Taheya pursues him in desperation. "The Return," by Meyar Al-Roumi (Syria, France)

A love story blossoms between Taysir and Lina, exiles from Syria, while they drive across their homeland to bury Taysir's brother, a victim of the armed conflict. "Till the Swallows Return," by Karim Moussaoui (Algeria, France) This is the story of three characters who are a product of the conflicted Algeria of the 2000s. Their ideals shattered and their moral strength drained, each now faces a difficult life choice.

Feature Narrative / Post-production

"Bastard" by Uda Benyamina (Morocco, France)

Fifteen-year-old Dounia lives with her mother in a rough Parisian suburb, where she has been saddled with the nickname "bastard".

"The Black Frost," by Maximiliano Schonfeld (Argentina) Soon after a mysterious woman arrives on a plantation, a pernicious black frost ceases to devastate the countryside. Hope emerges. Might she might be a saviour?

"Blue Bicycle," by Umit Koreken (Turkey) Young Ali saves up all the money he can working at a tyre repair shop to buy a coveted blue bicycle. Meanwhile, at school, his love for his schoolmate Elif leads him to defend her dismissal as school president. A story of childish love, dreams and resist-

"The Dark Wind," by Hussein Hassan (Iraq)

Radical Islamists attack a village in Iraq where two young Yazidis are preparing for their marriage. At that moment, their lives become a nightmare.

"The Idea of a Lake" (previously titled Air Pocket), by Milagros Mumenthaler (Switzerland, Argentina)

Ines, a photographer, is creating a book of her work. Gradually, the process becomes a personal exploration of her past and the absence of her father, who was disappeared during the military dictatorship in Argentina.

"The Mimosas," by Oliver Laxe (Spain, Morocco, France)

In the Atlas Mountains in the past, a caravan searches for the path to take a Sufi master home to die. Among the party is Ahmed, a rascal who eventually becomes inspired to lead the caravan to its destination. Along the way, he is assisted by Shakib, a man sent from contemporary Morocco to guide Ahmed on his

"Rey" (King), by Niles Atallah (Chile)

In 1860, a French lawyer dreamed of becoming the King of

Patagonia - and he did just that. Or so it seemed.

"Suspension," by Ala Eddine Slim (Tunisia) N is a candidate for an illegal crossing of the Mediterranean from Tunisia. A supernatural voyage, during which N will confront Nature and himself, begins.

Feature Documentary / Development

"Agnus Dei," by Karim Sayad (Algeria, Switzerland)

In Algeria, Ali and his sheep, bought for slaughter on Eid Al-Adha, are getting ready for the fight. Once the bets are in, the referee invites the owners into the ring...

"Behind the Doors," by Yakout Elhababi (Morocco)

High in the Rif mountains of Morocco, the people survive by growing kif. Beneath the shadow of the ambiguous legality of the crop, 'Behind the Doors' tells the story of a family through its children and their mirroring games.

"The Great Family," by Eliane Raheb (Lebanon)

In 1976, at the age of four, Marlene was put up for adoption in Lebanon and raised in France. In delving into her past, she discovers she is a survivor of the massacre at the Tal Al-Zaatar Palestinian refugee camp, and a family of survivors grows around her. Feature Documentary / Production

"The Colonel's Stray Dogs," by Khalid Shamis (Libya, South

While director Khalid Shamis watched television in his suburban London home, his father was plotting the overthrow of Muammar Gadaffi in his study. When the regime fell, Shamis sought answers about Libya under Gadaffi and his father's role in its failed liberation.



"Ibrahim," by Lina Alabed (Jordan) 'Ibrahim' uncovers the long journey of the director's father as a young man, when he was a secret member of Abu Nidal, a militant Palestinian revolutionary organization.

"Searching for Janitou," by Mohamed El Amine hattou (Algeria) A journey to unravel love in past and contemporary Algeria by exploring the unique phenomenon of a Bollywood film that swept the country in the 1980s.

"To the Ends of the Earth," by Hamida Al Kawari (Qatar)

A Qatari woman travels on an environmental expedition to Antarctica in search of hope, before returning to the Gulf and finding unity and inspiration for positive change. "Weight Throwers," by Hind Bensari (Morocco)

'Weight Thowers' follows the struggles of Azzedine and Youssef, disabled members of Morocco's unemployed and disillusioned young generation, as they struggle to train for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Feature Documentary / Post-production

"Tadmor," by Lokman Slim, Monika Borgmann (Lebanon)

A group of Lebanese men re-enact the ordeals they experienced as detainees in Syria's notorious Tadmor prison. An ode to the human will to survive. "When Two Worlds Collide," by Heidi Brandenburg, Mathew

A story of a man and a people, and of the fate of one of our planet's most valuable natural resources - the Amazon rainforest. Short Narrative / Production

"Behind the Wall," by Karima Zoubir (Morocco)

Nadia, a little girl, lives in a Casablanca slum that is surrounded by a wall. One day, the municipality begins to paint the wall - but why this sudden interest?

"Kashta," by A.J. Al Thani (Qatar)

A father takes his two sons out to the desert to learn about hunting and survival, but the results are not guite what he was expecting.

"Language," by Mortada Gzar (Iraq)

An old blind man walks throught the streets of Baghdad, then falls asleep while reading a book in Braille. When he wakes up, he finds he has become a giant and reads the devastation of the city by touch. "The Waiting Room," by Hind Fakhroo (Qatar) An Arab family and a Western family find themselves sharing a hospital room; the only thing that separates them is a curtain.

- Reuters

Features



A portion of Building 50, the main structure at The Village at Grand Traverse Commons, a former mental hospital that has been converted into a mixed-use neighborhood in Traverse City, Mich. — AP photos



A portion of Building 50, the main structure at The Village at Grand Traverse Entrance to a hiking and biking trail at The Village of Grand Traverse Commons.



Michigan, neighborhood replaces stately mental hospital

n a resort community known primarily for dazzling Lake Michigan vistas and cherry orchards spread across green hillsides, a new attraction is taking shape in an unlikely setting. A state mental hospital operated for more than a century a half-mile from downtown Traverse City and its popular waterfront. It closed in 1989, and the stately but dilapidated buildings appeared destined for the wrecking ball.

Raymond Minervini and his fledgling development company rode to the rescue, hoping to transform the fading landmark into a modern, mixed-used urban neighborhood while retaining its historic character. The gamble is paying off. The 480-acre campus is now The Village at Grand Traverse Commons. It features shops, restaurants, offices and housing amid spacious lawns and a natural area with hiking and biking trails. For anyone needing a break from the beach scene and downtown traffic without fleeing to the countryside, it's the perfect getaway.

Raymond Minervini II, the founder's son and business partner, noted that the mental hospital was built at a time when experts believed attractive surroundings and fresh air were the best treatment. In a sense, he said, the mission hasn't entirely changed.

Fascinating historical

"The word 'asylum' is perceived very negatively these days," he said. "We'd like to take it back. It actually meant 'sanctuary." a beautiful and noble intent to take care of our fellow human beings." To fully appreciate the experience, consider the twohour guided tour. It's a bit pricey at \$25 per person and not available to kids under age 12, but you'll get fascinating historical insights and even wander through spooky underground steam tunnels. Otherwise, explore on your own.

The Village's centerpiece is the former hospital residential and administration building, still known simply as Building 50. Its inelegant moniker may be the only unspectacular thing



The Village of Grand Traverse Commons.

about this five-story structure. Constructed with more than 8 million white bricks and a quarter-mile long, its architecture is Victorian-Italianate, with high ceilings, large windows and red rooftop spires. The basement level, an afterthought during the hospital era, is now the commercial hub. Labeled the "Mercato" (Italian for "marketplace,") its twisting hallways and interconnected boutiques are meant to resemble an oldworld street scene. Locally owned shops offer artwork, books, clothing, antique furniture and more.

If you weren't hungry when you arrived, be sure to work up an appetite while browsing. Trattoria Stella and PepeNero are high-quality Italian restaurants serving lunch and dinner. Less expensive options include Spanglish, which features Mexican fare, and Cuppa Joe, a coffeehouse and cafe. For dessert, head

down the hall to Underground Cheesecake Company, where flavors range from white chocolate marble to blueberry ripple. Then it's time to go outdoors. The Minervinis take some obvious liberties by referring to the Village's grounds as "Traverse City's Central Park," but the comparison somehow seems apt.

Auxiliary buildings

Amble along the tree-lined front lawn, a choice location for festivals, weddings or just tossing a football. For the more adventurous, entrances to the 140-acre trail network are behind Building 50. You'll quickly feel a long way from town while walking, biking, jogging or skiing through woods and meadows. Also worth checking out is a botanic garden under development in a section of the campus where hospital residents once grew vegetables and milked cows.

A street view of a section of The Village at Grand Traverse Commons.

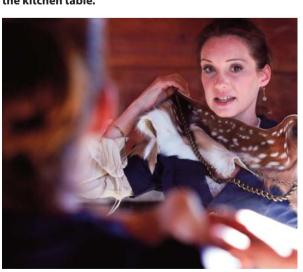
Wind up your visit by relaxing in the "backyard," a miniature village square near the trailheads where some of the hospital's former auxiliary buildings are being refurbished. Test your skills on the bocce courts or savor a cup of organic coffee at Higher Grounds Trading Company. Prefer something stronger? Step next door to Left Foot Charley for a glass of wine or cider, produced on site. Another area winery, Black Star Farms, has a tasting room in the Mercato. On your way out, pick up a loaf of cinnamon raisin bread from Pleasanton Brick Oven Bakery. Now you won't have to worry about breakfast tomorrow morning. — AP



Pam Paquin stitches a fur purse on her manual sewing machine at her home in Central Massachusetts.



Pam Paquin stitches a fur purse on her manual sewing machine, as her daughter works on her homework at the kitchen table.



Pam Paquin tries on a fawn scarf and belt at her home.

'Accidental fur': Boston company rns roadkill into fashion

amela Paquin's source for fashion is either tres chic" or will make you shriek. She creates neck muffs, leg warmers, hats, purses and more from roadkill, or "accidental fur," as she prefers to call it. As owner of Petite Mort Furs, a 2vear-old Boston-area company, she said she's offering the fur industry an alternative to wild fur trapping and large-scale fur farms. "All this fur is being thrown away," Paquin said. "If we can pick that up, we never have to kill another fur-bearing animal again." Keith Kaplan, head of the Fur Information Council of America, said his trade group considers all North American furs to already be ethically and environmentally responsible.

"Production of fur in North America is highly regulated with guidelines set through years and years (and millions of dollars) of scientific study," he said via email, declining to comment on Paguin's company or the general idea of using roadkill for fur. "In fact, the populations of every species used by the industry today are as abundant, or more abundant, than they were a century ago." Animal rights groups also have mixed feelings about roadkill fur.

Fake fur

"We'd just say it's in very poor taste," said Kara Holmquist at the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, declining to elaborate. Lisa Lange, a senior vice president at People for the Ethical Treatment for Animals, or PETA, said that there's "never an excuse" to wear fur, but that it's "far better" to wear roadkill than farmed fur. Others worry her products could only serve to prolong the industry they've spent decades trying to defeat. "A business that promotes wearing real fur as fashionable and acceptable may well create more demand for fur from all sources, and could give all fur wearers a shield from legitimate criticism," said Virginia Fuller, of the Boston-area Citizens to End Animal Suffering and Exploitation, or CEASE. Paquin counters that the stigma around fur has eroded in recent years.

Greater spending power in China, Russia and elsewhere, as well as greater use of fake fur trimmings on clothes and accessories, has revived its



popularity. That demand, she said, is part of the reason she chose to jump into the industry despite having no background in fashion or design, and after working mostly office jobs for environmental and sustainability organizations. The Fur Information Council of America said the US alone recorded \$1.5 billion in fur sales in 2014. Globally, it's part of an over \$35 billion industry.

Handmade goods

"Clearly advocacy had failed," Paquin said. "Alternatives must be found. Making use of animals that would otherwise be thrown away is sensible." Heidi Forbes ?ste, a San Francisco-area resident who purchased a fox fur neck muff from Petit Mort last summer, said she's surprised at the pushback from animal rights groups. "They're being shortsighted," she said. "We should be encouraging people to buy sustainable fur. These are animals that are already dead."

Products by Petit Mort, which means "the little death" in French and also describes the sensation of orgasm, are decidedly high-end, ranging from \$800 to \$2,000, depending on the product and

type of fur used. They can be found online and on Boston's fashionable Newbury Street, where the company rents display space in a handmade goods market. "The value that these products have is that they're handmade, local and last a lifetime," Paquin explains. "That's not just couture and high end, but that's also sustainable." Each piece comes with a personal note explaining where and when the animal was found. Paquin works with animal control specialists to gather the carcasses, but skins many of them herself. She considers the process almost sacred and doesn't care much for the "roadkill" label. "It's a turnoff," Paquin said. "It cheapens my

Pam Paguin examines the paws of a fisher cat while harvesting its fur.



pelt of a fisher cat.

Pam Paguin checks on the progress of the tanning of bear skin fur.— AP photos



Pam Paquin harvests the pelt of a fisher cat.



A "Petite Mort" branding logo is stitched to a fur at Pam Paquin's home.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2015



Miss Colombia 2015 Ariadna Gutierrez (left) is mistakenly named Miss Universe 2015 instead of first runner-up.



Former Miss Universe Paulina Vega, center, takes away the flowers and sash from Miss Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez, left, before giving it to Miss Philippines Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach, right.



Miss Philippines 2015, Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach (center), who was mistakenly named as First Runner-up reacts with other contestants after being named the 2015 Miss Universe.



Miss Philippines 2015, Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach (left), and Miss Colombia 2015, Ariadna Gutierrez (right), wait for the judges' final decision.

Miss Universe mistake crowns Colombia before Philippines

he Miss Universe contestant from the Philippines is this year's winner, but for one brief moment Sunday evening, it appeared as if it might be a repeat win for Colombia. Colombia contestant Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo was already wearing the crown as this year's Miss Universe winner when host Steve Harvey returned to apologize. Harvey said it was his mistake and that he would take responsibility for not correctly reading the card, which said that contestant Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach was this year's winner and Colombia was actually the first runner-up.

He held up the card for Fox network cameras to see up close afterward. Talking with reporters afterward, Harvey and an executive for pageant owner WME-IMG called it human error. "Nobody feels worse about this than me," he said. A mystified Wurtzbach appeared stunned as she walked to the front of the stage alongside the crown-wearing Arevalo before last year's Miss Universe from Colombia removed the crown and placed it on Wurtzbach's head. Wurtzbach later said she felt conflicting emotions as the mistake happened: joy when she was told she had indeed won, concern for Colombia contestant Ariadna Gutierrez Aravelo and confusion at the whole situation.

Enjoy the moment

Wurtzbach said she tried to approach Aravelo onstage afterward but the Colombian was crying and surrounded by a crowd of women. She said she realized it was, "probably bad timing." "I did not take the crown from her," Wurtzbach told reporters after the pageant concluded, saying she wished the contestant from Colombia well and hoped the Latin American community understands that "none of this was my fault." "None of this was done on purpose. It was an honest mistake," she said, apologizing on behalf of the organization she now represents. She said Harvey told her afterward that she "should just enjoy the moment." Harvey also apologized on Twitter, but at first misspelled the home countries of both contestants before also fixing that.

"I'd like to apologize wholeheartedly to Miss Colombia & Miss Philippines for my huge mistake," he wrote. "I feel terrible." Harvey, who was hosting the contest for the first time, said he re-read the card and noticed it said "first

runner-up" next to the Colombia contestant's name before he asked producers if he had made a mistake. "I feel horrible for this young woman," he said after the pageant. An executive with pageant owner WME-IMG, Mark Shapiro, said Harvey caught the mistake and corrected it on his own, saying he wanted to make a wrong into a right. "It was humiliating for the women. It was humiliating for him," he told reporters after the pageant.

As all this was unfolding, a car drove up onto a side-walk and struck dozens of people just outside the Planet Hollywood hotel-casino where the pageant was taking place. The Las Vegas Strip was soon jammed with ambulances and fire trucks, and authorities said 37 people were taken to a hospital to be treated for injuries and one person was killed. Even before Sunday night's oops moment, the pageant was involved in another controver-



sy when a backlash against the pageant's former owner Donald Trump led Univision to pull out of the broadcast and the businessman to sell it in September.

The competition started with women representing 80 countries between the ages of 19 and 27. For the first time, viewers at home weighed in, with their votes being tallied in addition to four in-person celebrity judges. NBCUniversal and Donald Trump co-owned the Miss Universe Organization until earlier this year. The realestate developer offended Hispanics in June when he made anti-immigrant remarks in announcing his Republican presidential run.

Airing the pageants

That led Spanish-language network Univision to pull out of the broadcast for what would have been the first of five years airing the pageants and NBC to cut business ties with Trump. The former star of the "Celebrity Apprentice" reality show sued both companies, settling with NBC in September, which included buying the network's stake in the pageants. That same month, Trump sold the organization that includes the Miss Universe, Miss USA and Miss Teen USA pageants to entertainment company WME-IMG.

Shortly after Sunday night's confusion, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos tweeted a message on his official account to Ariadna Gutierrez. "For us, you will continue being miss universe! We are very proud!" Philippines presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda didn't address the controversial win but said, "in bagging this victory, Ms Wurtzbach not only serves as a tremendous source of pride for our people, but also holds up the banner of our women and of our country-as a true representative of what the Filipina can achieve." It's the third time a contestant from the Philippines has won the title. It could have been the second win in a row for Colombia. The pageant's contestant from the United States, Olivia Jordan, was named second runner-up. — AP

The winner of 2015 Miss Universe, Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach, poses for a press conference.



Other contestants comfort Miss Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez, top right, after she was incorrectly crowned Miss Universe at the Miss Universe pageant.



The top three finalists (from left) Miss USA 2015, Olivia Jordan, Miss Colombia 2015, Ariadna Gutierrez, and Miss Philippines 2015, Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach, stand onstage.



Former Miss Universe Paulina Vega, center, reacts before taking away the flowers, crown and sash from Miss Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez, left, before giving it to Miss Philippines Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach.



Eighty contestants stand on stage during The 2015 MISS UNIVERSE Show at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, in Las Vegas, California.



Contestants stand on stage during The 2015 MISS UNIVERSE Show at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino.