

GENFORWARD POLL: HALF OF BLACK YOUTH FACE JOB DISCRIMINATION

WASHINGTON: Qymana Botts saw white colleagues with the same amount of experience getting promoted to cashier ahead of her at the Indiana discount store where she worked. When she asked her supervisors why, they told her she didn't project the image that they wanted from their cashiers: straight hair - not her natural Afro - and more makeup. "When it came time for promotions and raises and things like that, I was told I need to fit into a more European kind of appearance," Botts said of her 2010 experience. "They wanted me to straighten my hair, but I wasn't willing to do that." Botts, 25, is not alone.

Race and ethnicity

Almost half of young African-Americans say they've experienced racial discrimination while looking for a job and while on the job, and one-third of young women of all races and ethnicities say they've faced employment-related gender discrimination. This information comes from a GenForward survey of young adults conducted by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago with The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The first-of-its-kind poll pays special attention to the voices of young adults of color, highlighting how race and ethnicity shape the opinions of the country's most diverse generation.

The poll, taken in September, showed that 48 percent of blacks age 18-30 say they've experienced discrimination while looking for a job or at work, which was higher than all other races and ethnicities. About one-third of Asian-Americans and Latinos also said they experienced discrimination at work or while looking for a job. Just 10 percent of whites say they experienced employment-related racism.

Joy Holloway, 24, of Durham, North Carolina, said she clearly has seen racism during job interviews. Holloway, who is biracial and identifies as black, said she usually does well getting through the application phase and the phone interview phase. "I can get called in for an interview, and everything will be perfect but as soon as they see me, I can see it in their face: 'Oh, no, she isn't who I thought she was.' And then I never get a call back," Holloway said.

Getting ahead

On top of facing discrimination, young blacks are more likely to think their race has made it more difficult to get ahead economically. Fifty-four percent say being black makes it harder, the highest among those polled. Thirty-nine percent of Asian-Americans and 34 percent of Latinos say their race or ethnicity has made life harder. Young whites are the only group more likely to say their race has made life easier at 31 percent. But more than half, or 53 percent, say their race has made no difference. Still, most



MISSOURI: Students Elizabeth (L) and Marni study outside the site of the second US Presidential debate on October 8, 2016, at Washington University in St. Louis. — AFP

young people across racial and ethnic lines say whites in general have at least some advantage getting ahead economically.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, black men's average hourly wages were 31 percent lower than white men in 2015, and black women's average hourly wages were 19 percent lower than white women that same year. In addition to racism, the GenForward poll also showed that 31 percent of young women say they've experienced gender discrimination in looking for a job and in the workplace itself. In 2015, women made about 80 cents for every dollar made by men, according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Holly Berkey, 18, of Lincoln, Nebraska, said she experienced it firsthand while working in an ice cream shop. Her male co-workers would make sexist, disparaging remarks in her presence, she said - for example, that Berkey should be the one doing the washing and the cleaning instead of them because she's a woman. Berkey said when she complained to a manager, she was told, "it's just boys being

boys." The final straw, Berkey said, came when she complained about a male co-worker she had trained, who then began acting rudely toward her after a leave. "I was told to just tough it out," she said. So she quit. Berkey said she hears similar stories from her female friends. "I know a lot of boys who are like this," she said. "I wish it wasn't like that but it is."

Survey demographics

The poll of 1,851 adults age 18-30 was conducted Sept. 1-14 using a sample drawn from the probability-based GenForward panel, which is designed to be representative of the US young adult population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.8 percentage points. The survey was paid for by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago, using grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation. Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods and later interviewed online or by phone. — AP

News

in brief

Auh's Waha hires ex-BNP Paribas banker as COO

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi investment firm Waha Capital said yesterday that it had appointed a former BNP Paribas investment banker as its new chief operating officer. Alain Dib will lead Waha's investment businesses after a 20-year career with BNP Paribas, the company said in a statement. Dib's last position was head of equity capital markets for Europe, Middle East and Africa at the French bank. He also worked previously at Deutsche Bank as managing director in its European leverage finance group.

Saudi's Almarai Q3 profit up 10 percent

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's Almarai, the Gulf's largest dairy company, reported a 10 percent rise in third-quarter net profit yesterday, broadly meeting analysts' forecasts with the help of cost controls it said would remain a priority. Saudi retailers will in coming quarters have to weather the impact of austerity measures imposed to curb a huge state budget deficit, including reducing financial allowances for public sector workers. Almarai - the second Saudi retailer after Jarir Marketing to report third quarter earnings - said the changing economic environment and increasingly competitive conditions meant it would continue to focus on cost controls and preserving cash flow. Its profit in the three months to Sept. 30 was 654.6 million riyals (\$174.6 million), up from 595.1 million riyals in the year-earlier period, according to a bourse statement. That was broadly in line with the average of five analysts' forecasts polled by Reuters of 627.8 million riyals.

Qatar's Katara Hospitality raising \$500 million loan

DUBAI: Katara Hospitality, a Qatari hotel developer, owner and operator, is raising \$500 million in debt through a syndicated loan, banking sources said. A company spokesperson said Katara does issue international loans for projects, but declined to comment further. HSBC is the lead bank in the transaction, the sources said, with one of them noting that the loan has a five-year maturity. The deal has not been completed yet, the sources said. Katara Hospitality, headquartered in Doha, has a portfolio of 34 properties in operation or under development, and plans to add 26 more by 2026, according to its website. Its properties are located in countries including Qatar, Egypt, Morocco, Britain, France, Germany, Singapore and Thailand.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY RESUME GAS TALKS

MOSCOW: Moscow and Ankara have resumed talks on the price of Russian gas for Ankara, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said in an interview with Turkey's Hurriyet newspaper. A gas price dispute between Turkish pipeline operator Botas and Russia's state gas producer Gazprom led to Botas launching international arbitration proceedings against Gazprom in October 2015.

The row had led to talks on their joint Turkish Stream natural gas pipeline project to be suspended earlier that year. In November 2015, most contact between Russia and Turkey were halted after the downing of a Russian fighter jet by Turkish military, although since then Moscow and Ankara have made significant progress towards restoring relations.

"Talks about gas price have resumed, I hope the sides will come to a common position," Novak said, according to the text of the interview published on the Russian Energy Ministry's website yesterday. Botas says it was promised a discount on the price of gas in February 2015 but that Moscow never signed off on the deal. Novak said he expected the first hearing in the case to be held in 2017.

"It is possible that by then Russia's Gazprom Export and Turkey's Botas will be able to resolve their disagreements related to the price of gas," Novak said. Novak also told Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency that an intergovernmental agreement on Turkish Stream was almost complete and would be finalised before the meeting of the presidents of Turkey and Russia in Istanbul this week.

Novak is due to attend the World Energy Congress in Istanbul this week, and plans to meet representatives of key OPEC producers and OPEC secretary general for informal talks on oil output. — Reuters



BEIJING: An employee stands on a stepladder as she stocks boxes of mooncakes at a supermarket in Beijing, Wednesday, Sept 14, 2016. Four employees at Chinese internet giant Alibaba have lost their jobs after being accused of reprogramming an internal system to steal more than 100 boxes of mooncakes, a traditional delicacy shared during this week's Mid-Autumn Festival. — AP

FACEBOOK PAYS MORE UK TAX AFTER OUTCRY

LONDON: Facebook paid £4.17 million (\$5.18 million, 4.63 million euros) in British corporation tax last year, up from just £4,327 in 2014, accounts showed yesterday. The sharp increase reflects how the US technology giant has changed the way it records

advertising revenues following public criticism. It began declaring sales from its top British clients in Britain rather than Ireland, where it has its European headquarters and where corporation tax is lower.

However, the tax paid is still only a fraction of

the £211 million revenues that Facebook reported in Britain last year. "We are proud that in 2015 we have continued to grow our business in the UK and created over 300 new high-skilled jobs," a company spokesman said. "We pay all the taxes that we are required to under

UK law." US multinationals Apple and Google, which also run large parts of their international operations via Ireland, have also faced intense scrutiny over their tax affairs. The corporate tax rate in Ireland is 12.5 percent, one of the lowest in the EU. In Britain it is 20 percent. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2,942
Indian Rupees	4,543
Pakistani Rupees	2,894
Sri Lankan Rupees	2,071
Nepali Rupees	2,849
Singapore Dollar	221.230
Hongkong Dollar	39.022
Bangladesh Taka	3,860
Philippine Peso	6,274
Thai Baht	8,706

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.776
Qatari Riyal	83.207
UAE Dirham	786.772
Bahraini Dinar	804.440
UAE Dirham	82.471

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29,900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34,480
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1,216
Tunisian Dinar	137,160
Jordanian Dinar	427,160
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2,020
Syrian Lira	2,0159
Morocco Dirham	31,635

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	341.080
Sterling Pound	385.400
Canadian dollar	229.700

Turkish Lira	99.920
Swiss Franc	311.790
Australian Dollar	231.450
US Dollar Buying	301.550

GOLD

20 Gram	254.460
10 Gram	130.150
5 Gram	65.920

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	229.875
Sterling Pound	386.145
Euro	340.240
Swiss Frank	296.490
Bahraini Dinar	801.000
UAE Dirhams	82.725
Qatari Riyals	83.940
Saudi Riyals	81.520
Jordanian Dinar	426.955
Egyptian Pound	34.024
Sri Lankan Rupees	2,069
Indian Rupees	4,545
Pakistani Rupees	2,893
Bangladesh Taka	3,854
Philippines Peso	6,268
Cyprus pound	159.700
Japanese Yen	3,920
Syrian Pound	2,420
Nepalese Rupees	3,835
Malaysian Ringgit	74.125
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.780
Thai Bhat	9,675
Turkish Lira	99.195

IRAQ OIL MINISTER WANTS TO INCREASE OUTPUT IN 2017

BAGHDAD: Iraq's oil minister has urged oil and natural gas producers operating in the country to continue increasing output next year, the oil ministry said in a statement yesterday. Jabar Al-Luaibi's comments came as OPEC nations are trying to implement an agreement to curb oil output for the first time since the 2008 financial crisis, in order to push up crude prices.

The ministry's statement quoted remarks Luaibi made to a meeting of Iraq oil industry executives in the southern oil city of Basra to review the ministry's oilfields' development plans. It made no mention of the decision by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries on Sept. 28 to reduce output to a range of between 32.50 million barrels per day and 33.0 million bpd. OPEC's production stood at around 33.6 million bpd in September, according to a Reuters survey that put Iraq's output at 4.43 million bpd.

The minister "has affirmed the need to proceed forth with

increasing oil and gas production through enhancing the national effort and those of the licensed companies for the remainder of 2016 and also for 2017," the statement said.

Foreign companies' oil output targets "should be reached within the assigned periods," the ministry quoted Luaibi as saying. The ministry also aims to increase associated gas output by adding 350 to 450 million cubic feet a day to the nation's production in 2017, Luaibi said. Natural gas output levels in Iraq's southern region are tied to crude production levels as the two are produced from the same reservoirs.

Shunning talks

The oil ministers of Iran and Iraq will not attend informal talks between OPEC and non-OPEC producers in Turkey this week, sources familiar with the matter said yesterday. OPEC sources and the Russian energy minister had said on Thursday that ministers from the two countries would be

among representatives of OPEC states at the meeting in Istanbul, which is hosting the World Energy Congress.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed on Sept. 28 a deal to limit crude production and is looking to secure the cooperation of non-OPEC members such as Russia to help support oil prices.

The meeting in Istanbul is expected to be more bilateral gatherings rather than one single meeting of both OPEC and non-OPEC states, one OPEC source said on Sunday, dismissing prospects of any decisions being taken in the Turkish city.

Energy ministers who will be present in Istanbul as it hosts the congress include those of the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Venezuela and Qatar, which holds the OPEC presidency. The agreement reached in Algiers is expected to be implemented this year and OPEC ministers will next meet in Vienna on Nov 30 to set the group's supply policy. — Reuters