

Lawmakers endorse draft for new juvenile law



'No forgiveness' as Pak hangs school massacre convicts



New dad Zuckerberg to give away fortune



Sixers beat Lakers to end losing skid; LeBron stunned



## MP CALLS FOR SUSPENDING TRANSACTIONS FOR INDIANS

### WORKERS' UNION WANTS TO ABOLISH KAFEEL SYSTEM



Min 16°  
Max 29°  
High Tide 03:38 & 18:03  
Low Tide 11:07 & 23:37



## MPs: PROSECUTE 24 EX-OFFICIALS OVER DOW DEAL

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly called on the government yesterday to refer 24 former oil officials to the public prosecution for legal action over the joint venture with US firm Dow Chemical which was scrapped, and as a result, Kuwait paid a \$2.2 billion penalty. A parliamentary probe report charged the officials, including two former oil ministers and ex-top executives, of squandering public funds and making illegal profits. During the debate which began on Tuesday, a number of MPs criticized the report for being one-sided and failing to include the main officials responsible for the issue, including Cabinet ministers and members of the Supreme Petroleum Council.

The \$17.4-billion-dollar joint venture was signed with Dow Chemical in 2008 but under political pressure from the opposition, the Cabinet scrapped the deal. The International Chamber of Commerce, acting as an arbitrator, ordered Kuwait to pay a penalty of \$2.2 billion for scrapping the deal.

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## AMIR PATRONIZES KFAS AWARDS



**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (center), flanked by HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, attends an award distribution ceremony held by the Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) for the winners of 2014 and 2015 at the Salwa Al-Sabah Hall yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 3)

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** MP Kamel Al-Awadhi yesterday called on the Interior Ministry to suspend all residency transactions for the Indian community in retaliation to the Indian Embassy's KD 700 deposit rule for domestic helpers. Awadhi, who has been campaigning against the Indian embassy decision, called on the interior ministry to suspend family visits for Indians living in Kuwait, but insisted that he "respected Indians".

The row was triggered after the Indian embassy in Kuwait implemented a decision by the Indian government that every employer of Indian domestic helpers must deposit KD 700 at the embassy to ensure regular payment of salaries and fair treatment of the workers. Awadhi said that Kuwaiti authorities should not allow the Indian embassy to act as a court and let disputes be solved by the Kuwaiti judiciary.

The lawmaker, who was director of the immigration department, was commenting on an answer by the foreign ministry to his question about the Indian embassy's behavior. He said the foreign ministry said that the embassy should take the deposit from the recruitment offices and not from Kuwaitis, describing the practice as a violation of Kuwait's sovereignty.

In a related development, the head of the expatriate office at the Kuwait Trade Union Federation Mubarak Al-Ardhi said yesterday the office will continue to defend the interests of foreign workers in Kuwait and will focus in the coming phase on the abolishing of the kafeel or

Continued on Page 13



**DOHA:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (left) and Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani shake hands during a ceremony yesterday. — AP

## RUSSIA ACCUSES ERDOGAN OF LINKS TO IS OIL TRADE

### TURKISH LEADER REJECTS 'SLANDER'

**MOSCOW:** Russia yesterday accused Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his family of involvement in illegal oil trading with Islamic State jihadists, ratcheting up the heat in a dispute over Ankara's downing of one of Moscow's warplanes. The Turkish strongman accused Moscow of "slander" over claims his country had bought oil from IS, while Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov agreed to meet his counterpart from Ankara for the first high-level face-to-face talks since the ferocious war of words erupted last week.

Ties between NATO member Turkey and Russia have been strained since

Ankara shot down the jet on its border with Syria on Nov 24, with President Vladimir Putin accusing Ankara of downing the jet to protect oil supply lines to Turkish territory. But the defense ministry accusations against Erdogan are the first implicating the Turkish strongman directly. "The main consumer of this oil stolen from its legitimate owners Syria and Iraq is Turkey," deputy defense minister Anatoly Antonov told journalists.

"According to available information, the highest level of the political leadership of the country, President Erdogan and his

Continued on Page 13

## UK SET TO VOTE FOR SYRIA STRIKES

### CAMERON URGES USE OF 'DAESH' FOR IS

News

in brief

#### Gasoline could see subsidy cut in 2016

**KUWAIT:** Finance Ministry Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada said that petrol would be the first item to lose government subsidies before other goods gradually follow during 2016. Hamada explained that gasoline prices in Kuwait were the lowest in the world and that relatively lifting its subsidies would contribute to saving considerable funds, as well as solve environmental and traffic problems. Hamada stressed that in view of the current budget deficit, the government's continuation of its current spending patterns would destroy the state's general reserves and those of future generations, especially if oil prices remain low for long. "Some subsidies reach non-deserving consumers and pressure the budget," he said.

#### Mol urges caution over foul weather

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior yesterday urged citizens and expatriates to be cautious over bad weather conditions. The ministry, in a press statement, asked people not to hesitate to contact it in case of emergency.

#### Taleban chief 'seriously injured' in internal fight

**KABUL:** Afghan Taleban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was seriously injured in a firefight following a heated argument at a gathering of militant commanders, officials said yesterday, exposing deepening divisions within the fractious militant movement. It was not immediately clear if Mansour survived the clash, which occurred just four months after he was appointed Taleban supremo in a deeply acrimonious leadership succession. Five other Taleban members were killed after a verbal duel cascaded out of control, triggering a gunfight at the meeting near the Pakistani town of Quetta, said Sultan Faizi, the spokesman for the Afghan first vice president. There was conflicting information on the location of the confrontation, with some sources claiming that it took place near the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

#### Iran says IAEA nuclear bomb probe 'closed'

**TEHRAN:** Iran said yesterday it now considers a UN probe into allegations of past nuclear weapons research closed after a watchdog published its long-awaited report. "It can be said that all measures regarding previous issues have been completely concluded and the PMD issue has been closed," Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told state television. He was referring to the "possible military dimensions" of Iran's nuclear program, which has been long investigated by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

**LONDON:** Britain's parliament looked set to vote in favor of joining air strikes on Islamic State (IS) jihadists in Syria yesterday despite angry exchanges which have exposed deep divisions on military action. Prime Minister David Cameron kicked off over 10 hours of debate by urging MPs to "answer the call" from allies like France and the US, adding that bombing the "mediaeval monsters" of IS was "the right thing to do". "The question is this: do we work with our allies to degrade and destroy this threat... or do we sit back and wait for them to attack us?" he told the House of Commons.

Ministers and sources in the main opposition Labour party believe Cameron will win the vote, paving the way for Britain to join air strikes on Syria within days or even hours. But many of the MPs crammed on to the Commons'

benches and walkways spoke against air strikes while thousands of anti-war protesters are expected to protest outside parliament later for the second night running. A new opinion poll yesterday suggested that public support for joining air strikes in Syria had dropped significantly in recent days. A YouGov poll in The Times newspaper found that 48 percent of Britons supported Syria strikes compared to 59 percent last week.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, who opposes military action, condemned Cameron's "ill thought-out rush to war" and said his proposals "simply do not stack up". "The specter of Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya looms over this debate," Corbyn added, referring to unpopular British interventions in foreign conflicts over the last 15 years.

Continued on Page 13



**LONDON:** Protesters hold placards protesting against Britain launching airstrikes against the Islamic State group inside Syria during a demonstration outside the Houses of Parliament yesterday. — AP

## SOME SAUDI WOMEN TO GET MORE LEGAL POWERS

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia will let divorced women and widows manage family affairs without approval from a man or a court order, a state-aligned newspaper said yesterday, a major step to lift some of the legal powers men hold over female relatives. The Al Riyadh newspaper said the interior ministry will issue family identity cards not only to men, but also to divorcees and widows, granting them powers that will include accessing records, registering children for schools and authorizing medical procedures. The newspaper did not give a date for the move.

In a country where men hold legal powers over female relatives in almost all their interactions with the state, the change will significantly change the lives of divorced or widowed women, particularly for those bringing up children alone. Until now, women had to get permission from a divorced husband, and apply to courts if that failed, to perform any of these basic activities. Family status cases account for 65 percent of all those before courts, clogging up an already stretched judicial system, Al Riyadh reported.

Continued on Page 13

## MULTIPLE PEOPLE KILLED IN CALIF MASS SHOOTING

**SAN BERNARDINO, California:** Multiple people were shot and killed yesterday at a Southern California social services center, with reports of 20 victims at the center that provides services for the disabled. Police were searching for up to three gunmen, authorities said. Several law enforcement agencies converged on the scene in San Bernardino, and triage units were being set up in the area. Some people were seen being wheeled away on gurneys, while others walked quickly from a building with their hands in the air. They were searched by police before being reunited with loved ones.

Heavily armed SWAT teams, firefighters and ambulances swarmed the scene, located about an hour east of Los Angeles, as police warned residents away. "Area remains VERY ACTIVE. AVOID!" tweeted the local sheriff

department, which confirmed there were "multiple victims". The city fire department said on Twitter that it was responding to "reports of a 20 victim shooting incident" and was working to clear the scene. Witnesses quoted by local media, said the suspects were seen leaving the scene after the shooting in a black SUV and had left a package behind.

"It appears there is more than one shooter," Sergeant Vicki Cervantes of the San Bernardino Police told CNN. She said she could not confirm the SUV report, nor reports that the shooter or shooters were wearing military-style body armor. CBS Evening News said on Twitter that a bomb squad had been dispatched to the scene to "immobilize what's believed to be explosive device". — Agencies

## KUWAIT INVITES WORLD TO TAKE PART IN DONORS' CONFERENCE

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait invited the international community to participate in Kuwait's fourth donors' conference in February in London to support the Syrian people in their suffering. Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said in his opening remarks at the 6th meeting for major donors aiding Syrian people that international community should unify their efforts to stop bloodshed and destruction in Syria. Jarallah added that it is the responsibility of everyone, especially the UNSC, to find a swift peaceful solution for this man-made disaster. He pointed to repeated warnings against the serious



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah speaks at the 6th meeting for major donors aiding Syrian people. — KUNA

impacts of the Syrian crisis not only on the Syrians themselves but on the whole world as well. Jarallah added that at this stage of the crisis, it is important to connect the efforts of developmental institutions with humanitarian aid organization; a good example of this cooperative effort is a \$150 million project that has been carried out through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Fund (KFAED). He expressed his

appreciation for the UK for hosting the upcoming donors' conference, with a joint chairmanship by Kuwait, Norway and Germany.

Meanwhile, International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) Chairman Dr. Abdullah Al-Maatouq said that the Syrian crisis has been on a standstill position for a long time now, pointing out that humanitarian efforts should not replace political endeavors.

Maatouq, who is also Kuwait's Humanitarian Envoy to the UN, said that Syrian civilians should be provided with protection from ongoing airstrikes and all sorts of violence. There are more than 360,000 Syrian people trapped between areas of disputes, where there is a lack of safety and security, he said. In addition, there are more than 1.2 million people who are internally displaced, he further said. He called on all donors' countries to honor their pledges that were made in previous donors' conferences.

### War against IS

Earlier, Jarallah said that the State of Kuwait welcomes UK's military participation in international coalition against the so-called Islamic State (IS) or 'Daesh'. Speaking to reporters after taking part in opening of the conference, the deputy foreign minister affirmed the State of Kuwait's keenness on backing the coalition, also stressing on the necessity of the UK participation in the alliance against the militant group. His statement coincided with a planned legislative session in London due later today to vote on British military involvement in the global war on the group, also known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). He expressed hope the alliance would defeat terrorism and put an end to Syrian people's hardship. In other news, Jarallah met yesterday Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexi Solomatin.

During the meeting, they discussed several aspects of bilateral relations between both nations and the latest regional and international developments. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets members of the Arab and International Relations Council. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

## AMIR RECEIVES CHAIRMAN OF ARAB, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COUNCIL

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received Chairman of the Arab and International Relations Council Mohammad Al-Sager and council members at Bayan Palace, on sidelines of the fifth meeting of the council board of trustees.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Board Chairman of the Ruling Family, Sheikh Dr. Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah. — KUNA



**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets Deputy Board Chairman of the Ruling Family Sheikh Dr. Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah.**

## MAJOR LANDMARK IN KUWAIT TO BE NAMED AFTER LATE SAUD AL-FAISAL: ACTING PM

**KUWAIT:** A major landmark in Kuwait is to be named after the late Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal, said Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Tuesday night.

This cabinet-approved decision came in recognition of the deceased's rich journey and multifaceted contributions, especially towards Kuwait and its people, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said in a speech at a ceremony held by the Arab and International Relations Council in honoring the late Saudi foreign minister.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled pointed to the fact that he was "honored" to work directly with Prince Saud in the last few years, "and I sensed authenticity of his virtues, abundance of his giving, greatness of his stances and opinions, as well as discretion of his diplomacy."

He carried on saying that the late prince "elevated Gulf and Arab diplomatic standards, and made a noble mission out of diplomatic work." He added that Kuwaitis shall never forget Prince Saud's words during the early days of the Iraqi invasion back in 1990 when he said "we would not sleep until Kuwait returns ... Kuwait will be liberated." The late Prince Saud Al-Faisal carried Arab concerns and causes in his heart and thought, said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, stressing that the Palestinian cause was Prince Saud's main concern, for he was one of the most prominent advocates of the Arab Peace Initiative, as he once said "If this initiative did not provide security for Israel, I assure you that the barrel of a gun will not either." Meanwhile, Chairman of the Arab and International Relations Council Mohammad Al-



**KUWAIT:** Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at a ceremony to honor the late Saudi foreign minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal. — KUNA

Saqr said Prince Saud Al-Faisal passed away after spending 40 years as a foreign minister, during which he showed complete dedication for his job. He said that council members had planned to honor the deceased during the holy month of Ramadan earlier this year but Prince Saud passed away before that. Saqr said Prince Saud would be missed a lot.

Former Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, a council member, praised Prince Saud's "honorable

support of the Lebanese causes, foremost his quest to stop the civil war. He said Prince Saud demonstrated a courageous position when the Iraqi regime invaded and occupied Kuwait in August 1990, when he told a UN meeting in New York that if the Arab countries could not end the Iraqi occupation, the Arabs should work with the international community to free Kuwait and bring back the legitimate leadership. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Warren Hauck, Ambassador of Australia to Kuwait speaks at the seminar.

## AUSTRALIAN ENVOY EXPLAINS INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** The IMF-Middle East Center for Economics and Finance held a talk yesterday about inclusive economic growth and micro-economic policy in Australia to demonstrate its expertise and share experiences with attendees, mostly executive officers and managers of various companies in Kuwait, including some from neighboring countries. Warren Hauck, Ambassador of Australia to Kuwait, was the guest of honor at the event, who was welcomed by Oussama Kanaan, the institute's director.

Hauck was asked by the IMF-Middle East CEF to talk about Australia's inclusive economic growth so as to learn and gain more knowledge from their past economic reforms. Hauck spoke about sources of Australia's inclusive growth, which he mentioned is sustainable and experienced by Australians for the past 25 years, since the early 1990s.

### Economic growth

"We are now in the 25th year of uninterrupted economic growth thanks to several economic reforms which we introduced since 1991. The good news is that we have not been affected by the series of economic crises which took place in the world - the first was the Asian financial crisis in 1997, while the second was the last one in 2008," he said. According to Hauck, Australia's growth average per year after implementing reforms stands at 3.3 percent. "It happened because of substantial reforms which we undertook in the 1980s and 1990s," he said.

The Australian ambassador also cited some sources of economic growth introduced including the floating of the dollar (1993) and the tariff reforms, which reduced tariff to under five percent, in two phases in the 1980s and 1990s. "We also liberalized trade across the board. We dismantled centralized wage fixing, creating more flexible labor markets, but at the same time more

industry focused. We also reformed inefficient government monopolies in telecommunication, transportation and water. The reforms produced more productivity and lower cost; which increased the country's GDP by over 2.5 percent. We also reformed some inefficient taxes, introduced new taxes and several other reforms including in the area of education," Hauck added.

### Gas exporter

By 2020, Australia will be the number one gas exporter in the world, according to Hauck. "Australia nowadays is the biggest exporter of meat in the world. Kuwait for example is the biggest market of our live sheep, so we are very fortunate that we are in the radar of every country in the world. The growth experienced by China is also being felt in Australia because geographically, we are pretty close to China," he mentioned.

Hauck said many economic reforms in Australia were not easily implemented as they needed support from the public and business sectors. "Some debates took place, but we have strong lobbying and support from business sectors," he stressed. Innovations and other programs are being carefully handled by Australia as it continues to invest in the education sector, technical training programs and infrastructure.

"The public and private partnership (PPP) is also being carefully looked into, like in mass-transport. A little bit about on innovation - we will be strongly focusing on innovation - we live in a globalized world now and I think we need to say this: If you have a mobile phone right now and you are using Wi-Fi, just for the info, Wi-Fi was invented by Australians; we also invented the bio-spray that we are now using on burn victims. There are more, like the black box in airplanes. We are trying to develop and innovate so we can contribute to the world. We may have challenges ahead but with 25 years of growth, I think we are in the right position," he concluded.



**KUWAIT:** Canadian Ambassador Martine Moreau and Kuwait's Foreign Ministry official Reem Al-Khaled cut the ceremony's cake.



**Reem Al-Khaled is pictured with ambassadors in attendance. — Photos by Joseph Shagra**

## EMBASSY CELEBRATES CANADA'S NATIONAL DAY

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Canadian Embassy to Kuwait recently celebrated Canada's 148th National Day anniversary and the fiftieth anniversary of establishing Kuwaiti-Canadian

diplomatic relations. A special ceremony was held on the occasion at the ambassador's residence in Jabriya. Speaking on the occasion, Canadian Ambassador Martine Moreau thanked and welcomed her guests, noting that 2015 was very special for both countries and

marked the 50th anniversary of launching historic deep-rooted relations with Kuwait. Ambassador Moreau stressed that Kuwaiti-Canadian commercial relations were rapidly growing in various lines such as oil, gas, health care, defense, infrastructure and education.

## KUWAITI DELEGATION LAUDS KATARA FOR ACHIEVING HUMAN INTERACTION

**DOHA:** A visiting Kuwaiti media delegation lauded Cultural Village Foundation, known as Katarah, in achieving human interaction through art and cultural exchange through many cultural projects. Head of the delegation, and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Anba newspaper, Adnan Khalifa Al-Rashid said yesterday that Katarah has become a niche for local and Arab cultures and a crossroad of international arts.

Director of Sama magazine Zahra Dehdari pointed out that Katarah is a great supporter of tourism in Qatar because it hosts many cultural and sporting events. Sama Editor-in-Chief Dalal Salem Al-Marzouq, meanwhile, said that Katarah is considered a touristic and unique landmark in the Gulf



**DOHA:** Head of Katarah Cultural Village Foundation, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Anba newspaper Adnan Khalifa Al-Rashid, Sama Editor-in-Chief Dalal Salem Al-Marzouq and Counselor at Kuwaiti embassy in Qatar Nasser Sager Al-Ghanim. — KUNA

region. Counselor at the Kuwaiti embassy in Qatar Nasser Sager Al-Ghanim also highlighted the important role played by Katarah to bring different cultures together on a common ground. Director of Katarah was thrilled to receive the Kuwaiti delegation.

The Kuwaiti delegation is visiting Qatar to participate in the Third Business Women Forum. Katarah Cultural Village is the largest and the most multidimensional cultural project of Qatar. It serves as a guardian to the heritage and traditions of Qatar and endeavors to spread awareness about the importance of every culture and civilization and as such, Katarah hosts international, regional and local festivals, workshops, performances and exhibitions. — KUNA

## HIGH-LEVEL AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO VISIT KUWAIT DECEMBER 13

**KUALA LUMPUR:** A high-ranking Australian parliamentary delegation is scheduled to visit Kuwait on December 13th to hold talks with officials and lawmakers on mutual cooperation and bilateral relations between the two countries, Kuwait Ambassador to Australia Najeeb Al-Bader said.

Teresa Gambaro, Chairperson of the Foreign, Defense and Commerce Committee, will head the delegation, said the Ambassador in a phone contact with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), as he emerged from a meeting with the leading legislator.

He noted that talks, during the significant visit, would deal with bilateral ties and mutual cooperation, within the

framework of the distinguished bonds between the two friendly countries.

The Australian delegation, during the visit to Kuwait, will hold talks with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, members of the National Assembly (Parliament), Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry and others.

Ambassador Bader quoted Gambaro as expressing, during the meeting with him, her aspiration to seek to cement parliamentary, commercial and business cooperation between the two countries. The meeting, held at the Parliament House in the Australian capital Canberra, was attended by the Second Secretary at the Kuwaiti Embassy, Mohammad Al-Shaitan. — KUNA

# AMIR PATRONIZES KFAS' AWARD CEREMONY



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is pictured with Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) top officials and winners. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center), His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (second from left), and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem (fourth from left) are seen among top officials in attendance.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday patronized award distribution ceremony held by Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) for winners in 2014 and 2015.

At onset of the event, His Highness the Amir was welcomed at the venue,

Salwa Al-Sabah Hall, by KFAS Director General Dr Adnan Ahmad Shehabeddine and board members. Attendants were His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, senior

Sheikhs, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-

Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and senior State officials.

The ceremony got underway with the National Anthem, followed by the Holy Quran verses, then screening of documentary about the foundation achievements and later a statement by the Director General, expressing gratitude to His Highness the Amir for his sponsorship of the event, boasting that KFAS, founded 36 years ago, has honored up to 106 Arab and Kuwaiti scientists.

And, 25 years after launching the "science innovation" award, the foundation "boasts that it has honored 145 Kuwaiti researchers encouraging them to devote their full time to research, studies, composition and translation. "On behalf of the foundation and its board, I express deep congratulations to the winners of the award for the years 2014 and 2015."

#### Private sector

"KFAS has always prioritized the country's private sector and has introduced various initiatives aimed at assisting young entrepreneurs to hone their skills. It is through such initiatives that we hope to motivate the youth so that they can represent our nation in international arenas," he said.

As part of efforts of disseminating knowledge, KFAS has financed and endorsed various research in numerous fields, he added. KFAS has also put together more than 50 educational events in Kuwait and helped patronize around 150 researchers to take part in international conferences and events.

KFAS also publishes an informative magazine that contains the latest research and breakthroughs in numerous fields of science, he pointed out. "This year was a stellar year in terms of scientific advancement in the country.

Scientific institutions affiliated with KFAS have recorded around 90 new scientific inventions," he said.

Kuwait's Scientific Center now boasts more than 8 million visitors while medical institutions associated with KFAS have made strides with the help of regional and international partners, the KFAS chief added. "All the progress made would not have been possible without our international partners, with whom we have developed a partnership that strives for scientific excellence," he said. The KFAS is also in the process of developing strategic plans to introduce new measures aimed at bolstering the capacity of scientific production in the country, he noted. KFAS is certainly on its way to becoming a regional hub of scientific research and advancement.

As KFAS celebrates the 40th anniversary of its inception, Shehabeddine pledged that KFAS "will continue to encourage the youth to pursue education at all costs." Calling them "the pillars of our nation," the KFAS Director General highlighted the importance of youth contributions to society.

#### Pursuing excellence

Renowned college professor Mahdi Arar joined the festivities Wednesday during the award distribution ceremony. Speaking to the audience, Arar congratulated the winners of the KFAS awards, expressing gratitude for the Kuwaiti leadership and KFAS for organizing an "event of academic prominence."



Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences' (KFAS) Director General Dr Adnan Ahmad Shehabeddine welcomes His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the venue.

"We gather here today to honor a group of talented scientists who have claimed the prestigious KFAS award for the 2014/2015 term. Nine of those honored today are Arabs who have devoted their lives to pursue excellence in their chosen fields.

"The awards given here are tokens of appreciation for the tremendous work

put forth by these researchers and scientists," he said. "A total of ten standouts will be honored here with an award that aims to encourage the pursuit of education and knowledge. We congratulate the recipients of the awards and KFAS for promoting education and science," he added. Wishing KFAS more prosperity and success, Arar called Kuwait "a



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a memorial plaque.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honors Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) award winners.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah previews items displayed at the ceremony.



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah greets Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences' (KFAS) board member Faiza Al-Kharafi, as KFAS Director General Dr Adnan Ahmad Shehabeddine looks on.

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Alghanim Industries' team with the merit scholars.

## CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

**KUWAIT:** The Vice Chair and the Secretary General of the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped and the RI National Secretary for Kuwait, Munira Al-Mutawa said that the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been commemorated on December 3 to promote awareness and mobilize support for critical issues relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development. The theme for this year is "Inclusion matters: access and empowerment for people with all abilities" and the Day works to promote action to raise awareness about disability issues and draw attention to the benefits of an inclusive and accessible society for all. The estimated one billion people living with disabilities worldwide face many barriers to inclusion in many key aspects of society including areas of transportation, employment and education, as well as social and political participation.

Mutawa added that it is important to focus on the ability and not on the disability of an individual. We should note that disability is part of the human condition and that all of us either are or will become disabled to one degree or another, during the course of our lives. By promoting empowerment, real opportunities for people are created. Empowerment involves investing in people - in jobs, health, nutrition, education and social protection. When people are empowered, they are better prepared to take advantage of opportunities for participation in the social life.

The theme for this year comprises three important sub-themes. One of them is "Making cities inclusive and accessible for all". It is estimated that by 2050, 66 percent of the world's population will be living in cities. So the UN organizes the United Nations' Third Global Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development in 2016 to review the progress and design a "New Urban Agenda" that must ensure that future cities, towns and basic urban infrastructures and services are more accessible and inclusive for all people's needs, including persons with disabilities.

The second sub-theme is "Improving disability data and statistics" as the lack of data and information on disability and the situation with persons with disabilities at the national level contribute to the invisibility of persons with disabilities in official statistics. This presents a major obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation. The International Day will be used to highlight challenges and map out strategies to involve persons with disabilities and their organizations in disability data and statistics collection and dissemination.

And finally, the third sub-theme is "Including persons with invisible disabilities in society and development". The International Day draws attention on the situation of persons with invisible disabilities, such as mental health and psychosocial disabilities, intellectual disabilities as well as hearing impairments as they are at risk of exclusion from mainstream activities, education or social activities. Accordingly, social activities and awareness raising initiatives should be organized in order to draw attention of the concerned authorities to those disabilities. Mutawa added that the UN organizes several sessions on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, such as Disability-inclusive development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inclusion of persons with disabilities and a panel discussion on invisible disabilities. She expressed her hope that the concerned authorities related to disability matters in Kuwait will work on improvement of the situation of persons with disabilities, especially in the field of implementation of technical specifications that will ensure access of this category of the society to the new facilities as well as the old ones after their modification according to those specifications. It is a basic precondition for integration of persons with disabilities in the society.

# ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES CONCLUDES ACTIVITIES IN NUKS USA CONFERENCE

**KUWAIT:** Alghanim Industries, one of the largest private companies in the region concluded its sponsorship for the 32nd annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) USA branch, which took place from 25 to 28 of November in San Diego, California, under the slogan 'Awakening Kuwait's Dream'.

The conference was attended by the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa, and Ambassador of Kuwait in the United States, Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah, and Ambassador of the United States in Kuwait, Douglas Silliman, as well as a number of Kuwait National Assembly members and representatives of a number of private sector companies.

As part of the conference activities, Alghanim Industries hosted a special workshop entitled 'Steer Your Career' to a group of merit scholars with varied majors studying in the United States, where company representatives introduced them to Alghanim Industries and presented career advice that will help them professionally, such as time management, goal setting, and writing a good resume. The team also shared some of their personal stories from their vast career experiences. They also showcased the 'Alghanim Industries Future Leaders Program' (AFLP), a program that extends over 12 months, and is designed to provide recent, high-potential Kuwaiti graduates with a comprehensive introduction to the different businesses and support functions in Alghanim Industries and includes world-class training and development activities. The program is comprised of four months of training and workshops, a one-month-long business-based project, and seven months of job rotations and assignments across the company.

### Important role

Senior Director - Corporate Strategy, BD, and M&A at Alghanim Industries, Dari Al-Reshaid Al-Bader said: "I had the pleasure of participating once again at the NUKS - USA conference. Every year when Alghanim Industries sponsors this conference, we meet many of our special students, where we have the opportunity to guide them towards careers that are best suited for them. Education plays an



Alghanim Industries' team with Ali Al-Fudhala and Fahad Al-Mutairi from 228.

important role on the development of the economy and finding creative solutions to the challenges facing us today, this is what we appreciate and what we practice at Alghanim Industries."

Alghanim Industries also participated in the career fair, held before the opening ceremony of the conference, where representatives of the company were present to answer students' questions about the company and job opportunities. Dari Al-Bader was part of the judging panel that evaluated the participants of the 'Business Startup'

competition, taking place during the conference, with Tareq Al-Saleh AGM Investments Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank. Alghanim Industries also sponsored the seminar "A Star Every Day" moderated by student Ali Al-Fadlalah, from 228, the popular 'Snapchat' group, engaged in a dialogue in which he interviewed the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa, Abdulwahhab Al-Muzaini, member of the Board of Trustees in Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority, and the student Fahad AlMutairi.

## GULF BANK DONATES TO THE FOUNDATION OF HOPE

HELPING CHILDREN, ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank recently made a donation to the Foundation of Hope, a volunteer group in Kuwait dedicated to helping other less fortunate. The Foundation of Hope works to help those, both children and adults, who have special needs.

A portion of Gulf Bank's donation to the Foundation of Hope was used to help equip a special needs classroom called the "Green Unit" in the Kuwait English School (KES). The Green Unit is a non-profit facility of the KES that caters to students with special educational needs, aged 6 - 21 years. The Green Unit provides learning support for infants, juniors, sen-

iors, and college students. It offers an all-round education for students in a caring and supportive environment, enabling each person to fulfill their own individual potential.

Gulf Bank's support has also helped the Foundation in producing the "Diary of Hope 2016" which depicts the artwork of intellectually challenged schoolchildren in a calendar format. This diary calendar, along with any other information concerning the activities of The Foundation of Hope may be obtained by emailing foundationofhopeq8@gmail.com. Gulf Bank's support is part of its on-going commitment to charitable activities.



Gulf Bank team during their visit to Foundation of Hope.



Zain's Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti with the sports' panel.



Zain honors students at the event.



Teams competing in the Zain NUKS football tournament.

## NUKS USA HONORS ZAIN FOR PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP OF 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**KUWAIT:** The National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States (NUKS USA) honored Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, for its Platinum sponsorship of the Union's 32nd annual conference that was recently concluded in San Diego, California, under the patronage and attendance of HE the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Badr Al-Essa.

The closing ceremony of the conference witnessed the presence of many prominent national Kuwaiti leaders, where the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the US, Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, presented a token of appreciation to Zain Kuwait, represented by Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti, for the company's support to the conference throughout the years.

As in previous years, Zain took the opportunity to recognize and honor the performances of the top 10 Kuwaiti students studying in the US, with the aim of shedding light on their accomplishments. The company also sponsored a sports symposium in which prominent Kuwaiti sports figures discussed issues relevant to the domestic sporting scene.

Zain also organized several sporting events held in conjunction with the event, where the company honored the "Champions" team, winner of the first place title of "Zain Football Tournament", which the company sponsored for the third consecutive year. The tournament was a way to engage with the youth and share a family-like atmosphere with the students, with immense participation of 20 teams. The company also organized and for the

first time a football tournament dedicated to female students, where the company honored the "Barcelona" team for winning the first place title.

Zain's participation in NUKS USA reinforces the company's commitment to the youth of Kuwait and its desire to see them reach their full potential. The event brought together distinguished national figures from across Kuwait who have had a significant impact on the country's political, economic, cultural and sporting life, and is a rare blend of intellectual and social content for the attendees.

The company sees its annual participation in the conference as part of its responsibility as a leading national company to help provide bright and enthusiastic young Kuwaitis who are looking to enter the job market with suitable development opportunities.

# OFFICIAL APPEALS TO THE PUBLIC TO FOLLOW PASSPORT RENEWAL RULES

## PASSPORT, VISA VALIDITY LINKAGE STARTS JAN 1

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior's (MoI) Director General of the Residency Affairs Department Major General Talal Maarafi said the department is exerting all efforts to develop the systems in order to achieve comfort for citizens and expatriates and ease procedures and transaction processes. Maarafi said the department will start from Jan 1, 2016 the application of article 12 of the foreigners' residency law 17/1959 and article 15A of the implementation rules of law 640/1987 which states that the "residency period should not exceed the validity of the passport of the foreigner." Maarafi appealed to expats to check the validity of their passports and renew them before they expire, then go to the concerned residency department to update the date of their passports. He also appealed to citizens to check passports of those under their sponsorship so that they do not violate the above mentioned law. He said that the interior ministry asked the foreign ministry to inform all embassies in Kuwait about the procedure and start renewing passports of their citizens if the validity of the passports is less than 12 months, so that they do not incur fines.

### Jaber Stadium

Mol Director General of Relations and Security Information Department Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash said Jaber Stadium is considered a 'source of pride' and an achievement that can be added to the achievements of the wise leadership. He said the opening of the stadium will be under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday Dec 18, 2015, and there are several departments supervising the organization of the opening ceremony. Hashash said security men are ready in various sectors to deal with all events and activities, emphasizing maintaining security and order, besides providing security services and organize traffic. He said security authorities have enough experience to perform any duty they may be asked to carry out, adding that such celebrations are followed keenly by Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid Al-Sabah and Undersecretary Maj Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd.

### Traffic campaign

The traffic department carried out a campaign against trucks and concrete mixers on Sixth Ring Road, resulting in issuing 13 citations.



Major General Talal Maarafi

Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash

## MPA WORKS WITH PAAAFR TO INSPECT FARMLANDS

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Manpower Public Authority's Deputy Director for Labor Protection Abdullah Al-Motoutah said that the authority had formed a joint committee with the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) to inspect agricultural land tenancy and the laborers registered on them.

Separately, and following his meeting with the World Bank, the manpower authority's acting director Ahmed Al-Moussa hailed the role it played in conducting local market studies. Moussa added that a proposal was made to the bank to support preparing a database about the labor market in Kuwait. On her part, the World Bank's communication official Zeina Afif stressed the need to set a strategy to boost public awareness on the nature of Kuwait's labor market.

### Farmlands' withdrawal

PAAAFR Director Faisal Al-Hasawi announced that the farms committee has finished preparing the final warnings pending withdrawing 126 unused land tenancies in Abdaly, in addition to land used by 56 sheep and animal fodder companies over violation of lease contract conditions.

### Sit-in postponed

Informed sources said that marine operation guides at the Kuwait Ports Authority decided to postpone a sit-in they had planned until Sunday instead of today. Notably, the guides had planned to stage a sit-in outside the authority director's office to demand resuming payment of rent, achievement and heavy machinery handling allowances. The sources added that a number of the captains met the director who asked them to defer their sit-in until after the board's meeting on Sunday, promising to meet their demands.

### Landline bills

The Ministry of Communications recently urged all subscribers to willingly pay their landline bills before the commencement of the monthly automated service disconnection for December, as usual by sending a warning message on Dec 6 followed by a second one on Dec 13 before disconnecting the service on Dec 20. The ministry also noted that the maximum bill value at which the automated disconnection starts is KD 50 for residential landlines and KD 100 for commercial ones, while subscribers who had already made an agreement to reschedule their overdue bills and pay them in installments would have their lines disconnected immediately over any delay in paying those installments. In addition, the ministry said that those who do not pay their annual subscription fees for six months or more would lose the service. The ministry explained that subscribers could pay the bills online.

### 'Merbeaniya' starts

Meteorologist Adel Al-Saadoun said that next Monday would mark the beginning of one of 12 weather seasons known in Kuwait, noting that this one is known as the Merbeaniya (Forty Days), starting on Dec 7 and ending on Jan 14, a period during which temperatures drop to an average of 0-8 degrees Celsius accompanied by fast northwesterly Siberian winds.



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and MPs meet Kuwait Airways' staff yesterday. — KUNA

## LAWMAKERS ENDORSE DRAFT FOR NEW JUVENILE LAW

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly approved yesterday the draft for a new Juvenile Law and turned it over to the government for its perusal and approbation. The new draft law supplants a 1983 law where the age of a juvenile offender was set at below 18. The new law sets it at below 16.

The thrust of the new law is geared toward rehabilitation not severe punishment and in that spirit it withholds criminal responsibility for any offender below the age of seven. When meting out criminal sentences to juvenile delinquents, the new law separates out two classifications for these juveniles, one group is those whose ages fall between seven and 15, and the other between 15 and 16.

Furthermore, the new law stipulates the necessity for a juvenile court, a police force for juvenile delinquency, centers for detention of delinquents rather than prisons, and centers for their rehabilitation. These rehabilitation centers should be able to equip the offender to take up a meaningful job in a factory, a

business, or on a farm.

No juvenile offender will be sentenced to death or life imprisonment, advises the new law, and in the case the offense is a crime punishable by death, the offender, whose age is between 15 and 16, will get a maximum sentence of 15 years in detention. The new draft law prohibits any publication, print or electronic, from publishing details of crimes perpetrated by juveniles and from showing their photos.

### Agreements

Meanwhile, the National Assembly approved drafts of a number of laws regarding international agreements signed by Kuwait and several countries and international organizations. Among these agreements, a protocol on crimes committed on board airplanes, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Kuwait and UNDP, an accord on marine commerce between Kuwait and Turkey. Also, a military agreement between Kuwait and Canada

regarding the construction of a military base, and an agreement on Kuwait's joining the Arab civil aviation authority.

Other agreements approved by the National Assembly involved one between Kuwait and Egypt on avoiding double taxation, and one between Kuwait and the United States on the implementation of the tax rules of FATCA. Another one was amending some GCC rules regarding commercial dumping. First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah thanked the lawmakers in today's parliamentary session for having endorsed these international agreements.

### KAC staff

Separately, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem met in his office the worker's syndicate of Kuwait Airways and its subsidiaries. The meeting was attended by a number of members of parliament. — KUNA

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| <p>KD. 5.040<br/>Galaxy Jewels 400gm 2's</p>  | <p>KD. 3.990<br/>Quality Street Chocolate 850gm</p>   | <p>KD. 0.620<br/>Pringles Chips 165 gm /Pc (Hot &amp; Spicy &amp; Sour Cream)</p> | <p>KD. 1.290<br/>Heinz Tomato ketchup 20 oz 2's (570gm 2's)</p> |
| <p>KD. 0.740<br/>Indomie Instant Noodles 70gm 10's Assorted</p>   | <p>KD. 0.665<br/>Lulu French Fries 1kg</p>  | <p>KD. 3.595<br/>Lorel White Perfect Day Cream 50ml+ Night Cream 50ml</p>         |   |

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Crime

Report

FARWANIYA SHOPLIFTER ARRESTED

**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya detectives, in cooperation and coordination with The Avenues mall administration, put an end to the activity of a female citizen who frequented the mall during the past few months and stole lightweight expensive items from several shops. A security source said the citizen confessed that she took advantage of being veiled, which made it difficult to identify her, and the fact that women are not searched by guards even if the alarms go off. The source said that several complaints received by Farwaniya detectives were similar - the theft of items from several stores, and when the complaints reached 40, detectives reviewed the cameras in the stores, which revealed that a woman entered stores and stole expensive items by placing them within her clothes. The woman was followed to her car and was identified through the license plate number and arrested.

Ex-con arrested for theft

Farwaniya detectives arrested a bedoon, who was released three months ago, after he committed 14 robberies by posing as a detective. He also stole two 4WD vehicles. A security source said information was received about a person who was released recently after serving a five-year jail sentence, who was involved in robberies by posing as a detective. Investigations resulted in arresting the suspect in a car reported stolen in Sabah Al-Nasser, and he also confessed to stealing another vehicle in Andalus, adding that he committed 14 robberies using both cars.

Drug dealers caught

Drugs Control General Department men arrested a Filipino and his Filipina girlfriend in Salmiya, where they found one kilogram of shabu ready for sale. Both said the drugs belonged to them and was for sale, especially since the price of shabu has gone up lately. Both were sent to the drugs prosecution.

Embezzlement

A money exchange company accused a Filipina who works as a manager of embezzling KD 3,000. A security source said the company manager said the Filipina was busted following the company's annual inventory. She confessed to taking the money, and intended to return it before the inventory but could not. She was sent to concerned authorities. —Al-Rai



Al-Anbaa

OUDEH'S SISTERS

By Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi

In 1938, Kuwaiti girls started going to regular schools. At that time, we did not have female teachers to teach them except for teacher Mariam Al-Saleh, who was still young at that time. For that reason, the 'knowledge ministry' (now the ministry of education) brought three Palestinian female teachers to teach girls. Those teachers were escorted by their brother, Oudeh Essa Oudeh, and that was why they were known as 'Oudeh sisters' thenceforth. We, the men, never knew them or their first names. During a home economics class, one of the three teachers taught the girls how to make beds using clean sheets and pillowcases that must be washed and kept clean all the time. "If the bed is king size for a husband and wife, the wife should sleep to the side closer to the door, leaving the other side for the

husband, putting a chair with an ashtray on it near that corner," the teacher said. All girls giggled shyly on hearing this and reported what they had been taught to their families, which angered them all and they flocked to take their daughters out of that school because it opened up traditionally illicit things to them. However, thanks to the late sheikh Yousef Bin Essa Al-Qenaee, the first principal of Al-Mubarakiya school in 1911, the girls' families were talked out of having their daughters quit schooling, and everything went back to normal and girls schooling continues up till today, when our daughters have managed to get the highest degrees and became teachers, clerks, members of administrative staff, businesswomen, ministers and lawmakers. —Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Qabas

THE LIGHT POLICE AND SPECIALTIES

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

The joke goes that a contractor hired three workers to erect several lampposts on a desert road. The contractor asked the first worker to dig, because he was fast in doing that, and asked the second to place the huge pole in the hole using his strength, and asked the third to fill the hole around the pole and press it. The contractor, after supervising them for few days, each in his own specialty, and making sure that each one of them knew what to do, he left them on their own for few days because of the heat to run some errands. When he returned about a week later, he found out that things were going better than expected at the start of the project, but as he came closer to the workers, he found one of them digging very fast, while another filling it even faster, and they kept doing so without noticing him. The contractor screamed, asking them to stop, and asked them what were they doing, so one of them answered that their third colleague did not come for two days, and they continued according to his clear instructions regardless of any development. I remembered that story when I noticed, five times, over the past two months, the workings of Kuwait

*This reminded me of the digging and dumping workers who continued to perform their jobs honestly, despite the lack of benefit from what they were doing due to the absence of the pole placement man.*

International Airport security. In the past 10 years, they allowed entry to check-in counters only from a certain security gate through which people passed through with their luggage through metal detectors, while passengers left the hall through another gate located on the other side where it had only direction, which is an exit. But the airport administration or security systems changed the check-in procedures, and shut the metal detectors before weighing the luggage, which may have been moved somewhere else, and allowed all people to enter the halls with their luggage without inspection. Yet the exit gate remained in place with its metal rods that allows exit and bans entry, and a security guard that belongs to a private company guards it. When I tried to enter from it and return to the hall, the guard prevented me from doing so, so I told him that I can enter the hall from any other gate. He replied in his Bangladeshi accent, "I know this," and "this is not his business," adding he was asked to keep people from entering from this side. This reminded me of the digging and dumping workers who continued to perform their jobs honestly, despite the lack of benefit from what they were doing due to the absence of the pole placement man. Oh, you nation! —Translated by Kuwait Times

VIVA SPONSORS CAN'S MARATHON TO FOSTER THE AWARENESS ABOUT CANCER

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced its sponsorship of the Marathon organized by Cancer Aware Nation, to foster the awareness about the cancer disease. Marathon will be held on Saturday 25 December 2015, and will start from the Scientific Center and finishes at the Green Island. On this occasion, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi,

Senior Manager Public Relations at VIVA commented: "This event that combines between health and sport meets our CSR plans, as VIVA always keen to support different activities that aim to serve the society and spread the awareness among its members." Since its inception in 2006 under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, CAN

organized several activities, which reflected positive impact about the danger of the cancer disease and its prevention methods. VIVA's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities can be reviewed on the company's website at <https://www.viva.com.kw/csr>. This offers a description of each CSR initiative that VIVA has supported, or taken on since its inception.



Ayman Al-Mutairi

KD 70 MILLION COLLECTED IN TRAFFIC TICKETS

**KUWAIT:** An official security source said the total amount collected in traffic fines for 2015 is around KD 52 million so far, adding that the traffic sector expects the total to reach an unprecedented amount of around KD 70 million, especially after lifting the block on grave violations for 2014 and some for 2015. Meanwhile, traffic officers will form a special team that will carry out campaigns in some areas against vehicles that obstruct traffic by parking in no-parking zones. —Al-Anbaa

MINISTRIES WARNED OF ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS

**KUWAIT:** The government performance apparatus issued stern warnings to seven government bodies over the multitude of the administrative violations they have committed. Informed sources said that the bodies include ministries of health, education, electricity and water, information, communications, municipality as well as the public authority for Quran printing and publication. —Al-Qabas

MP REJECTS ARMING BUDGET

**KUWAIT:** MP Rakan Al-Nisf rejected a government request to approve a supplementary budget of KD 6.2 billion to be withdrawn from the state's general reserve for buying arms. Nisf asked the government to review the weapons budget, adding that the amount is very large. He said under the current oil prices and the expected deficit, it is not possible to accept it under any circumstances. —Al-Rai

'NO ACTION TAKEN' AGAINST STUDENTS IN US

**KUWAIT:** Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa said chants and slogans by some students in the United States were made outside the students' union conference hall, and were during the students' elections, and the aim was to embarrass the competing list. Essa said "we will not take any action against them, and what was said and I heard myself was about revoking nationalities", adding that he did not attend the elections, but only the opening and closing days only. —Al-Rai

AL-ASHRAFIYA CO. SILVER SPONSOR OF HORECA 2016

**KUWAIT:** In collaboration with the Hospitality Services Company, Leaders Group Company for Consulting and Development announced that more and more hospitality, catering and hotel equipment companies have so far announced their intention to take part in Horeca Kuwait 2016 exhibition. The event takes place under auspices of Minister of Information 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. In this regard, Al-Ashrafiya International Foodstuff Company, a

subsidiary of Hamad Mohammed Al-Wazzan Group, announced its intention to participate in sponsoring the HORECA Kuwait 2016 exhibition as a silver sponsor, after the success it achieved in previous participations. Al-Ashrafiya's General Manager Nouf Hamad Al-Wazzan stressed that Horeca had proved the significance of specialized exhibitions in promoting trade exchanges among companies. She also hailed the ideal environment the exhibition provides in the line of hotel, hospitality industry and catering equipment services and stressed that it has been attracting both local and international companies.

Furthermore, Wazzan said that Al-Ashrafiya had branches in most GCC states and is the main importer of seafood, frozen meat and chicken, cheese and other food stuff from international reputed brands. Moreover, Wazzan stressed that Al-Ashrafiya supplies famous hotels, restaurants, coops and supermarkets with their needs of these exclusive products and that it had had a full record of observing the highest storage, transport and distribution quality specifications. Finally, Wazzan underlined that Al-Ashrafiya was so keen on taking part in specialized hotel services and food stuff exhibitions in Kuwait or in other Middle East countries.

KAMCO HOSTS FITNESS SESSION AS PART OF MOVEMBER CAMPAIGN

**KUWAIT:** KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, and winner of the prestigious Kuwait Asset Manager of the Year Award 2015, hosted a fitness session for its employees in collaboration with M31 Gym. As part of KAMCO's Movember campaign to support and spread awareness of various cancers, the fitness session helped in promoting a healthier lifestyle through different exercises and proper techniques. KAMCO employees attended the session that took place at the Al-Shaheed Tower gym, and was carried out by the M31 fitness instructor Bozo Banovic. Banovic holds a master's degree in physical education and sports from the University of Novi Sad, Serbia. Tackling some of the issues that might lead to

prostate cancer, Banovic demonstrated different exercises and techniques that lead to a healthier lifestyle if performed on a daily basis.

detection of various cancers, specifically prostate cancer. Educational activities involving KAMCO employees were organized to help spread awareness of the diseases

the turnout and level of interaction expressed by KAMCO employees and the trainer during this educational session. This is yet another step in our corporate social responsibility initiative to organize events focusing on health, education and the environment, positively influencing our society.



In addition to the fitness session, the marketing department at KAMCO launched an awareness campaign during the month of November under the title, "Movember: Join KAMCO's Move". The campaign included a number of health tips, information and health advice related to early

while indirectly guiding individuals towards a healthier lifestyle. Danah Al Jasem, Head of the Marketing Department at KAMCO said, "We would like to thank Banovic and M31 Gym for their contribution and support towards our Movember campaign. We were very pleased with

The fitness session included a short circuit in which KAMCO attendees got a chance to participate and perform some of the exercises and techniques demonstrated in the session. Banovic assisted each attendee in improving their posture and technique while providing insights on how to work out more effectively. He also emphasized that while exercising will not prevent a person from getting various cancers, it will however help in reducing the risks of developing such diseases.



Al-Anbaa

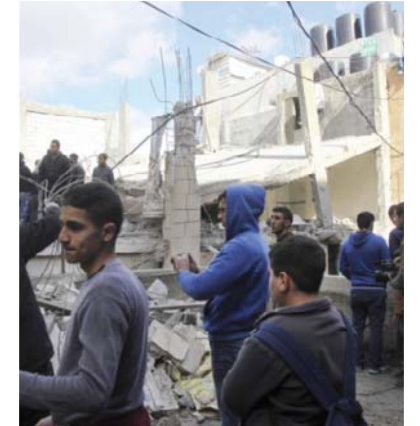
'LIKE' ME

By Saad Al-Motesh

A strange phenomenon has recently started prevailing over social media networks about taking snapshots of people showing their gratitude to their parents - people who ask others to take a photo of them while kissing their parents' feet. I can even go as far as claim that everybody has seen those photos of showing gratitude to a parent or even giving charity to some poor people. I wonder what they are after by posting such photos for the public. Showing respect and gratitude to parents was ordered by Almighty Allah and those who do it will be rewarded for it. Some people may even be doing much more than what those publishing photos about it are. Some others' gratitude is even unrivalled by many people, yet they never bring it to public or tell the people about it because they are only after reward from Allah alone. Those posting such photos are only after having

*Those posting such photos are only after having people 'like' their posts*

people 'like' their posts or photos and win people's approval of such deeds, so that they can eventually be deemed 'wonderful' and 'great' humans. I can bet that the reverence they show is nothing but cheap fake endeavors to win the approval of their peers under the title of 'like me' (press 'Like'). Those scavenging their personal photos remind me of a saying that goes: "Most of those talking about honor are people who never found enough time to actually practice it!" The attitudes taken by most of those talking about corruption have proved that they themselves are the most corrupt. So, beware of them as they are identical to those living with photos showing respect to parents! May your mothers and fathers live long, away from cameras, and down with those claiming to be fighting corruption while they are up to ears in it! —Translated by Kuwait Times



Israel demolishes Palestinian home



PESHAWAR: The parents and siblings of slain Pakistani school student Asfand Khan, who was killed during an attack by Taliban militants at an army public school, pray alongside his photograph at their residence yesterday. — AFP

## PAK HANGS SCHOOL MASSACRE CONVICTS

RELATIVES OF VICTIMS HAIL EXECUTIONS

**PESHAWAR:** Pakistan yesterday hanged four men linked to the Taliban's massacre of more than 130 schoolchildren, with parents of victims saying they deserved "no forgiveness" as the attack anniversary approached. The executions, which officials said were carried out yesterday morning at a prison in the north-western city of Kohat, were the first in connection with the Dec 16 attack on an army-run school in the northwestern city of Peshawar. The army has put the final toll at 151 killed, 134 of them children. Survivors of the assault said they were happy to hear of the executions. But fathers of the victims who gathered in Peshawar yesterday said the hangings should have been carried out in public squares.

"All the nation wanted to see these animals hanged publicly so others would not dare follow their example," said Abid Raza Bangash, an engineer

whose 15-year-old son Rafique Raza Bangash was killed. A Kohat police official named the militants as Maulvi Abdus Salam, Hazrat Ali, Mujeebur Rehman and Sabeel, alias Yahya. The army on Monday issued a so-called black warrant confirming their executions were imminent. Their role in the massacre has not been made public. The gunmen were all reported killed by security forces.

The attack was Pakistan's deadliest, and shocked and outraged a country already scarred by nearly a decade of extremism. "The rest should be caught too, no one should be spared," survivor Waheed Anjum, 18 said. Anjum, who was 17 at the time of the attack, was struck by three bullets, one in each arm and one in his chest. "They shouldn't have been hanged from prisons, they should have been hanged from squares," his father Momin Khan Khattak added. "There is

no forgiveness in our hearts after what they did to our children."

### 'Other Sons will be safer'

Some 20 fathers gathered for an emotional meeting in Peshawar yesterday, with several in tears and many angrily echoing the call for the gunmen to have been hanged in public. Parents of the Peshawar victims meet regularly, and yesterday's gathering had been scheduled before news of the hangings broke. The fathers were seeking to present demands to the government that their children be awarded Pakistan's highest civilian honor, the Nishan-e-Pakistan.

Other parents told AFP the executions would deter future attacks. "The parents of the schoolchildren have long been demanding that the terrorists be severely punished, and today we are satisfied our demands have been met," said Ajoon Khan, who lost his only son. "The hangings won't bring back my son, but now other people's sons will be kept safer," said Tufail Ahmed Khan, who lost one son while another was wounded.

The attack prompted a nationwide crackdown on extremism, with the establishment of military courts and the resumption of capital punishment after a six-year moratorium. In August, after a military trial that took place behind closed doors, the army announced that six militants linked to the Peshawar assault would be executed, while a seventh was given a life sentence. The four executed yesterday were the first to be hanged after those convictions. The International Commission of Jurists has condemned the military courts as "secret, opaque" and in violation of fair trial obligations.

Rights groups have also criticized the resumption of executions, accusing Pakistan of hanging an estimated 300 people in less than a year - the majority of whom had not been convicted of extremism. No official figures are available. Last month Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif directed the president to reject the convicts' appeals against their sentences, saying they deserved "no mercy". An official at the prison said the men had a final meeting with their families on Tuesday night. The bodies have been handed over to relatives, security officials said. — AFP

## US HOUSE TO WEIGH VISA WAIVER CHANGES, 'SMART' PASSPORTS

**WASHINGTON:** The US House of Representatives will take up a bill this week to tighten US border control after last month's Paris attacks by toughening entry requirements for those traveling from "visa waiver" nations, a Republican leader said yesterday. "Now we're looking at the visa waiver program - those gaps and vulnerabilities in that," House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said on CNN. "You're going to see a bill roll out later this week and pass next week as well."

McCarthy then told Fox Business Network the bill would be unveiled on Thursday and would "move through in a very strong bipartisan vote next week". The Obama administration this week announced changes to the program, which allows travelers from 38 countries, including much of Western Europe, to enter the United States without obtaining a visa from a US consulate or embassy. Each year about 20 million visitors to the United States use the program, which allows them to stay 90 days.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, in a statement, said lawmakers will consider several changes, including requiring participating countries "to issue smart e-passports with biometric chips" and screening travelers with databases of lost and stolen passports and criminals. "In the coming days, the House will continue to evaluate these proposals and determine appropriate next steps to ensure we know exactly who is entering our country," the chamber's top leader said.

The visa efforts come after the Nov 13 attacks in Paris that led Western countries to re-evaluate their security. The Islamic State militant group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which killed 130 people.

Authorities are still searching for some of those involved. The White House changes announced Monday require US authorities to collect more information about travelers' visits to countries such as Syria and Iraq, where Islamic State has established a stronghold. — Reuters

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- Purpose of the loan and supporting documents for end usage of the loan. (In line with Loan purpose)

**Type of Loan Facilities & guidelines:**

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- Max Amount: KD 15,000
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  - Treatment Expenses
  - Personal consumables and durables
- Debt Burden Ratio
  - Employed Customer(s): 40% of the net monthly salary (after deductions) - or continuous monthly income
  - Retired Customer(s): 30% of the net monthly salary (after deductions) - or continuous monthly income

### Installments Loans:

- Long term personal loan.
- Max Tenor: 180 months
- Max Amount: KD 70,000
- Purpose of Loan
  - Purchase of a private house.
  - Refurbishment of private house.
- Debt Burden Ratio
  - Employed Customer(s): 40% of the net monthly salary (after deductions) - or continuous monthly income
  - Retired Customer(s): 30% of the net monthly salary (after deductions) - or continuous monthly income



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## HRW CALLS TO PROBE BUSH, OTHERS OVER CIA TORTURE

WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama must investigate his predecessor George W Bush and allies over the CIA's torture of terror suspects, or stand complicit in a government "cover-up", Human Rights Watch said Tuesday. In a scathing report, the international rights group decried the lack of prosecutions of those involved in the Central Intelligence Agency's secret program to torture detainees in the wake of the Sept 11, 2001 attacks. "While the program officially ended in 2009, the cover-up of these crimes appears to be ongoing," said the report, which argues there is enough evidence for the attorney general to order criminal probes.

HRW cited Bush along with top officials including then CIA director George Tenet, former vice president Dick Cheney, former national security advisor Condoleezza Rice and former attorney general John Ashcroft. Kenneth Roth, HRW's executive director, blasted Obama for his administration's failure to act, as the report was presented in Washington. "Without criminal investigations, which would remove torture as a policy option, Obama's legacy will forever be poisoned," he said.

In the years following 9/11, the CIA "rendered" suspects to several countries where torture was tolerated and kept them locked



WASHINGTON: In this December 20, 2006 file photo, US President George W Bush speaks in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. — AFP

up in secret prisons. "Suspects basically disappeared and were subject to horrible brutality," Roth said. "Yet the Obama administration still has refused to act, to prosecute the senior officials who ordered or authorized the torture."

The 153-page report outlines evidence to support the main criminal charges that could be brought against those behind what so-called "enhanced interrogation" techniques, and challenges claims that prosecutions are

impossible. "US officials who created, authorized and implemented the CIA program should be among those investigated for conspiracy to torture as well as other crimes," the report summary states.

### 'Begged to be Killed'

In addition to members of the Bush administration, the report says James Mitchell and Bruce Jessen - who devised the torture program under a CIA contract - should also be investigated. The American Civil Liberties Union in October sued the two psychologists on behalf of a group of former prisoners from the early days of America's "war on terror". The CIA's use of torture was detailed in an explosive Senate report released a year ago that describes the agency's interrogation of Al-Qaeda suspects, including beatings, "rectal rehydration" and sleep deprivation.

"Many detainees were held by the CIA in pitch-dark windowless cells, chained to walls, naked or diapered, for weeks or months at a time," recalled the HRW report. "The CIA forced them into painful stress positions that made it impossible for them to lie down or sleep for days, to the point where many hallucinated or begged to be killed to end their misery," it said. The level of mistreatment was more brutal than had been previously acknowledged -

and did not produce useful intelligence. "It's been a year since the Senate torture report, and still the Obama administration has not opened new criminal investigations into CIA torture," Roth said.

Human Rights Watch said that although much of the abuse took place a decade or more ago, it would still be open to prosecution. "The statute of limitations for the crime of conspiracy may be extended if those responsible conceal a central component of the plot, which was the case with the CIA program," the group said in a statement.

Under the UN Convention against Torture, ratified by the United States in 1988, governments are meant to investigate allegations of torture. "The failure to investigate and prosecute CIA torture increases the danger that some future president will authorize similar illegal interrogation methods in response to an inevitable serious security threat," the group said. Roth said the United States cannot tell other countries to follow "the rule of law if they won't apply that same rule at home". Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump recently called for the return of waterboarding, a simulated drowning interrogation technique widely denounced as torture, saying it was "peanuts" compared to what the Islamic State group is doing. — AFP

## QAEDA FIGHTERS IN 'SHOW OF FORCE' IN SOUTH YEMEN

### ISLAMIST MILITANTS STAGE SURPRISE ATTACKS

ADEN: Al-Qaeda fighters drove pro-government forces out of a town in southern Yemen yesterday in a new show of strength by the jihadists, who have exploited the country's turmoil to expand their territory. Yemen, home to what the United States considers Al-Qaeda's most dangerous affiliate, has been convulsed by unrest since Iran-backed Shiite Houthi rebels seized the capital Sanaa in September last year. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has tightened its control over parts of southeast Yemen, including Mukalla, the capital of the vast province of Hadramawt, imposing a strict form of Islamic Sharia law.

Yesterday, the jihadists briefly took control of Jaar, a town in the southern province of Abyan to the west, in fighting that killed 15 people. A military source described Jaar as a key link between Mukalla and the main southern city of Aden, the base of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi who returned from exile in Saudi Arabia last month. Jaar is a stronghold of the pro-government "Popular Resistance" which includes Sunni Islamists, tribesmen, loyalist soldiers and southern separatists who have been fighting the Houthi rebels.

The Al-Qaeda jihadists blew up the main Popular Resistance headquarters in the town and hunted down pro-government fighters, most of whom fled, witnesses said. A military analyst in Aden, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation, described the assault as an attempt to "send a threat" to Hadi's government.

### 'Emirate of Jaar'

A militant leader announced over loudspeaker from the attacked town's Grand Mosque that

AQAP had full control of "the emirate of Jaar" and that residents were now safe and life could go on normally, locals said by telephone. But hours later, no Al-Qaeda militants could be seen in the town, witnesses said, while eight armoured vehicles deployed by the fighters left. The jihadists withdrew after carrying out an operation that killed a Popular Resistance commander, Ali Al-Sayed, and 10 of his fighters, a government official in Jaar told AFP.

Four Al-Qaeda militants were also killed, the official said. Yemen has been engulfed by growing turmoil with pro-government forces supported by a Saudi-led coalition battling the Houthi rebels and their allies for months. Underscoring the insecurity, two Red Cross workers were kidnapped in the capital on Tuesday by unidentified assailants. One was later released but the other, a Tunisian female staffer, was being held hostage, the International Committee for the Red Cross said.

"The situation in Yemen is extremely fragile for an organization like the ICRC and the national Red Crescent", ICRC Director-General Yves Daccord told AFP in Geneva. Rebel website sabanews.net quoted a source in the Houthi-controlled Supreme Security Council as saying that security services in Sanaa have "intensified efforts... to find the kidnapers and detain them".

Pro-government forces have retaken five southern provinces, including Abyan and Aden, from the insurgents since July. Islamist militants, including AQAP and the Islamic State group, have taken advantage of the turmoil and appear to have gained ground in and around Aden, where jihadists are now visibly present. Since October AQAP has also occupied government

offices in the Abyan provincial capital Zinjibar, located 12 km south of Jaar.

By pushing pro-Hadi forces out of Jaar, Al-Qaeda has secured its position in Zinjibar, according to Yemeni sources. This could allow them to strengthen their presence in Aden, while bringing in reinforcements from Mukalla further east along the coast. The analyst described the move as a "show of force" by Al-Qaeda, warning that "unless there is a decisive response by the coalition and pro-government forces, the militants will carry out more significant operations".

The United States has waged a long-standing drone war against AQAP militants, killing several of its leaders. In contrast, the Saudi-led coalition has not targeted Al-Qaeda and has focused its war on the rebels instead. "The coalition should not turn a blind eye to other dangers," the analyst said, accusing former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, a Houthi ally who was forced to resign in 2012, of using jihadists as a "tool" against loyalists. During an Arab Spring-inspired uprising against Saleh's rule in 2011,

AQAP seized Zinjibar and other parts of Abyan. Its fighters were defeated by local army-backed militias a year later. Saudi Arabia faces growing casualties from the current unrest with eight civilians, including two children, wounded in cross-border shelling from Yemen on Tuesday evening, the civil defence agency said. More than 80 people have been killed in shelling and cross-border skirmishes in the Saudi border zone since coalition operations began in March. The United Nations says more than 5,700 people have been killed in Yemen since then, nearly half of them civilians. — AFP



CHICAGO: Demonstrators pose for a picture in front of the City of Chicago Public Safety Headquarters during a protest over the killing of Laquan McDonald on Tuesday. — AFP

## CHICAGO POLICE CHIEF SACKED

CHICAGO: Chicago's police chief was ousted on Tuesday after days of protest over a white officer's shooting of a black teenager 16 times and the department's refusal to release a video of the killing for more than a year. Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced during a news conference that he had asked Garry McCarthy, police superintendent since May 2011, to resign. Emanuel also said he was creating a new police accountability task force. The white officer, Jason Van Dyke, was charged a week ago with first-degree murder in the killing of Laquan McDonald. The video, from a patrol car's dashboard camera, was released on the same day.

High-profile killings of black men at the hands of mainly white law enforcement officials in US cities have fueled demonstrations for some two years, stoking a national debate on race relations and police tactics. Emanuel, a Democrat and former chief of staff to President Barack Obama, said he was responsible for what happened in the case, the same as the police superintendent. He said the creation of the task force was meant to rebuild trust in the police department of one of the country's largest cities.

The mayor said McCarthy had become "a distraction." In an editorial on Tuesday, the Chicago Sun-Times had called for McCarthy's resignation. The Chicago City Council black caucus and some protesters had also called for him to leave. The Conference of National Black Churches applauded his dismissal. But Dean Angelo, president of Chicago's Fraternal Order of Police, said: "We're surprised that at this time, with everything that was going on, that a change at the top would occur. We thought the mayor was supportive of the superintendent."

### Street Violence an Issue for Mayor

Policing and street violence have emerged as leading issues for Emanuel since his election in April to a second term after being forced into a runoff. The mayor, McCarthy and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez have faced criticism for taking 13 months to release the video of the 2014 shooting and to charge Van Dyke. By naming a commission and removing McCarthy, Emanuel could be hoping to deflect criticism of

his own handling of the case.

Soon after Emanuel's re-election, the city agreed to a \$5 million settlement with the 17-year-old's family. The video shows Van Dyke shooting McDonald in the middle of a street on Oct. 20, 2014, as McDonald was walking away from police who had confronted him. Protests followed the charging of Van Dyke and the release of the video on Nov 24. Van Dyke, 37, was released from jail on Monday after posting bond on a \$1.5 million bail.

A civil rights leader, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, urged an independent investigation led by a special prosecutor. More protests were expected in the city on Tuesday night, according to organizers. Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, said: "Blame Rahm Emanuel. He hired McCarthy, he set his parameters, and he fired him." Cornell William Brooks, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, accused the city of "generational police misconduct and police brutality."

### Five-Member Panel

Emanuel said the new five-member task force will be advised by former Massachusetts Governor and Chicago native Deval Patrick. A former government civil rights lawyer, Patrick said he hoped to help restore the community's confidence in the police and rebuild the system of accountability. The panel, due to make its recommendations by March 31, aims to boost independent oversight of police misconduct, ensure officers with repeated complaints are evaluated and forge a process for releasing videos of police incidents, Emanuel said.

Federal authorities have had an open criminal investigation into the shooting since April, and the US Department of Justice might still investigate the police force, as it did in Ferguson, Missouri, and Baltimore following deaths involving officers and unarmed black men. On Tuesday afternoon, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan called on the DOJ's civil rights division to investigate Chicago police practices, including use of deadly force and the adequacy of its investigation of misconduct allegations. — Reuters



A Palestinian is checked by Israeli soldiers from the elite infantry unit at a bus station at the Gush Etzion junction on the main road between Jerusalem and Hebron yesterday. — AFP

## ISRAEL DEMOLISHES PALESTINIAN HOME

JERUSALEM: Israel yesterday demolished the home of a Palestinian who carried out a deadly car-ramming attack last year, sparking clashes in the east Jerusalem neighborhood where the operation occurred. The Palestinian Red Crescent reported a number of injuries without providing details. Hundreds of Israeli soldiers and police had deployed in the Shuafat refugee camp in east Jerusalem ahead of the demolition and police later distributed an aerial photo of smoke rising above the building.

Such demolitions, heavily criticized by rights groups, have regularly resulted in clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinians. Israel has stepped up demolitions as it seeks to halt a wave of knife, gun and car-ramming attacks that began in October. The home was the residence of Ibrahim al-Akari, who carried out a car-ramming attack on Nov 5, 2014, killing two people, including a border police officer, police spokeswoman Luba Samri said.

The 38-year-old drove his van into a group of police officers before ramming into pedestrians at a tram stop along a road separating east and west Jerusalem. He then jumped out of his vehicle and attacked bystanders with an iron bar before being shot dead by police. Israel says such demolitions act as a deterrent to potential attackers, while rights groups and Palestinians say it amounts to collective punishment, forcing family members to suffer for acts committed by someone else. — AFP

## PM: IRAQ DOES NOT NEED FOREIGN GROUND FORCES

BAGHDAD: Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said Iraq does not need foreign ground troops to defeat the Islamic State group, after Washington announced it would deploy special forces to fight the jihadists. Abadi did not directly reject the deployment, but did insist that any operations must be coordinated with the Iraqi government. "There is no need for foreign ground combat forces in Iraqi territory," Abadi said in a statement released late Tuesday in which he praised the performance of Iraqi special forces. "The Iraqi government stresses that any military operation or presence of any foreign force, special or not, in any place in Iraq cannot be done without its approval and coordination with it," the statement said.

Colonel Steve Warren, the spokesman for the international anti-IS coalition, said that "the Iraqi government was informed" about the planned deployment. Defence Secretary Ashton Carter said Tuesday that the US was deploying a "specialized expeditionary targeting force" to Iraq to work alongside local forces against IS, which overran large parts of Iraq last year. Though the new troops will be based in Iraq, they will have the ability to con-

duct raids across the border in northern Syria. "These special operators will over time be able to conduct raids, free hostages, gather intelligence, and capture (IS) leaders," Carter said.

US President Barack Obama had repeatedly pledged that there would be no "boots on the ground" to fight against IS, but US special forces have already conducted raids against the jihadists in Syria and Iraq, and more are set to follow the new deployment. The US-led coalition has been carrying out air strikes against IS in Iraq since Aug 2014, and has also provided arms and training to forces in the country, but deploying forces with a specific combat mission ups its involvement in the conflict.

Abadi's remarks about the deployment of ground combat forces came a day after he said that Iraq has enough forces to defeat IS, an apparent response to a proposal by US senators to triple the number of American forces in the country. Abadi faces major political pressure to not be seen as too close to Washington, especially from Iranian-backed Shiite militias and allied politicians who oppose the US troops. — AFP



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BRUSSELS: Montenegro's Foreign Minister Igor Luksic (at table, 2nd right) delivers a speech next to Defense Minister Milica Pejvanovic (3rd right) after Montenegro was welcomed as a NATO new member, during a NATO ministerial meeting at the organization's headquarters in Brussels yesterday. — AFP

## NATO INVITES MONTENEGRO TO JOIN ALLIANCE, DEFYING RUSSIA

### NATO BALKAN EXPANSION SEEN BY RUSSIA AS PROVOCATION

BRUSSELS: NATO invited tiny Montenegro yesterday to join the military alliance in its first expansion since 2009, defying Russian warnings that enlargement of the US-led bloc further into the Balkans is "irresponsible" action that undermines trust. In a scripted session at NATO's headquarters in Brussels, Montenegro's Foreign Minister Igor Luksic strode into the imposing conference hall to loud applause from his peers as NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg declared: "This is the beginning of a very beautiful alliance."

US Secretary of State John Kerry said the decision to invite Montenegro was not directed at Russia. "NATO is not a threat to anyone ... it is a defensive alliance, it is simply meant to provide security," Kerry told a news conference. "It is not focused on Russia or anyone else." NATO diplomats said the decision sends a message to Moscow that it does not have a veto on the alliance's eastward expansion, even if Georgia's membership bid has been complicated by its 2008 war with Russia. Moscow opposes any NATO extension to former communist areas of eastern and southeastern Europe, part of an east-west struggle for influence over former Soviet satellites that is at the centre of the crisis in Ukraine. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in September that any expansion of NATO was "a mistake, even a provocation." In comments to Russian media

then, he said NATO's so-called open door policy was "an irresponsible policy that undermines the determination to build a system of equal and shared security in Europe." RIA news agency cited a Russian senator as saying yesterday that Russia will end joint projects with Montenegro if the ex-Communist country joins the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The Adriatic state of 650,000 people is expected to become a member formally next year. Viktor Ozerov, head of the Russian Federation Council's defense and safety committee, said the projects which could be axed included those in military areas, RIA reported.

NATO foreign ministers broke off practical cooperation with Russia in April last year after Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula and sparked the conflict in eastern Ukraine that has killed more than 8,000 people. They can still talk to Russia through political and military channels, however. Still, NATO allies are divided over what message to send to Georgia over its long-delayed membership bid, with some European capitals arguing the alliance would be unable to defend the ex-Soviet state in the event of a conflict with Russia.

#### 'Blatant' contradiction

Those difficulties were underlined by a foreign ministers' joint statement that provided little momentum in

Georgia's membership talks. Ministers repeated their long-held position that Tbilisi must continue to prepare for membership one day, calling for Russia's military to withdraw from Georgia's breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Russia's continued presence there and agreements signed between Russia and the two regions "blatantly contradict the principles of international law," the statement said. NATO's founding treaty deems an attack against one ally an attack against all, giving any member a guarantee of protection. But Georgia, which is a partner but not an ally, does not qualify for any such protection.

NATO membership is also dependent on a country settling any outstanding territorial disputes - another big hurdle for Georgia. After Albania and Croatia joined NATO in 2009, only Serbia, Russia's closest ally in the Balkans, is the only Balkan country not actively pursuing membership of the alliance. Foreign ministers signaled support for Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, but neither are expected to join soon. Even though Montenegro has now been invited, it could take months for it formally to join. But Stoltenberg said he expected accession talks to go quickly, suggesting that the small Balkan state might become a member at the next summit of NATO leaders in July in Warsaw. — Reuters

## ERITREA 'HEMORRHAGING' YOUTH FLEEING ATROCITIES

NAIROBI: Eritrea's claims it has ended indefinite national service are untrue and refugees arriving in Europe should not be labeled economic migrants, Amnesty International said in a report Wednesday, warning of "persistent atrocities" in the Horn of Africa country. Refugees from the repressive Red Sea state make up the third-largest number of people risking the dangerous journey to Europe after Syrians and Afghans, running a gauntlet of ruthless people smugglers to make the treacherous Mediterranean crossing.

There was no immediate response from Asmara to Amnesty's report, but Eritrea has defended the conscriptions from which some 5,000 people flee each month, saying it has "no other choice" given the threat from long-standing enemy Ethiopia. Amnesty dismissed Asmara's claims it had limited compulsory military service to 18 months, an announcement seized on by some in Europe to argue that Eritreans can now safely be sent home. "Conscription continues to be indefinite for a high proportion of conscripts and sometimes lasts for decades," London-based Amnesty said in the report.

"The situation facing conscripts in Eritrea is desperate, and exposes the lie behind claims made by certain host countries that most Eritreans arriving at their borders are economic migrants," Michelle Kagari, Amnesty's deputy regional director for east Africa said. "These people, many of them children, are refugees fleeing a system that amounts to forced labor on a national scale." The report, titled "Just Deserters: Why indefinite national service in Eritrea has created a generation of refugees," describes the conditions that drive Eritreans to leave despite the fact the country is not at war. Those interviewed recounted how the relatives of refugees who fled were sometimes arrested, to try force those who left to return and face punishment themselves.

#### Perpetual forced labor

During service, families are split, conscripts are "abysmally paid" and leave is often withheld for years, it added. Rule breakers can be incarcerated

in "underground cells or in shipping containers." Those who escape describe crawling under razor wire, tiptoeing across minefields or sneaking past armed border guards in their bid for freedom. In the past, entire Eritrean football teams have absconded while playing in tournaments abroad and fighter jet pilots have escaped in their aircraft. "Eritrea is hemorrhaging its youth. Children are walking alone, often without telling their parents, to other countries, to avoid lives of perpetual forced labor on low pay with no education or work opportunities," Kagari said. "That they choose to undertake such precarious and unsafe journeys to supposed safe havens reflects the gravity of the human rights violations they would face if they stayed at home."

#### 'Defend its independence'

Under Eritrean law, conscription is limited to 18 months, but Asmara says it has to rely on its people to defend it from Ethiopia, from whom it broke away from in 1991 after a brutal 30-year independence struggle. The two countries fought a war between 1998 and 2000. Troops still eyeball each other along the frontier, with Ethiopian soldiers defying an international ruling that they should leave Eritrean land. Eritrea was "left with no other choice but to rely on its population to defend its independence and sovereignty," the government said in June.

The Amnesty report, based on interviews with 72 Eritreans who fled the country since mid-2014, said Asmara's change of policy was just rhetoric. "There have been no discernible changes... conscription into National Service continues to be extended indefinitely and conscripts continue to be deployed in a range of civilian as well as military roles," the report read. "The system therefore continues to amount to forced labor, in violation of international law." Sending Eritreans back would see them locked up in dire conditions at home, Amnesty added. "Those who try to escape are arbitrarily detained," the report read. "The same fate would likely befall those forcibly returned from overseas upon the rejection of their asylum applications." — AFP

## GREECE UNDER PRESSURE OVER MIGRANTS; EU WEIGHS THREAT

### CLASHES ERUPT BETWEEN REFUGEES, MACEDONIAN POLICE

ATHENS: Greece hit back yesterday at threats from some EU states to suspend it from the Schengen zone of open border travel because of its failure to control large numbers of migrants entering Europe. Some central European officials, most prominently Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, have suggested excluding Greece from Schengen. Diplomats and European Union officials say some governments have raised the possibility informally but it would be a largely symbolic move, with little impact on migration.

"It is not said officially, but there is pressure," Greek Migration Minister Yannis Mouzalas told reporters, denying a Financial Times report on Wednesday that Athens had, among other things, refused an EU offer of devices designed to share the identity data of incoming migrants around the bloc. "These are very common lies for Greece ... This blame game towards our country is unfair," he said.

The Financial Times said Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn had conveyed a suspension warning on a visit to Athens this week, but Mouzalas and a spokeswoman for Asselborn denied the report. Several diplomats said it had not been formally discussed by EU governments. "We are working to maintain Schengen and make it work properly," an EU official said. "The moment of truth will be the December

European Council," the official said, referring to the next meeting of EU leaders in Brussels in two weeks' time.

Clashes erupted on the Greek-Macedonian border on Tuesday when Macedonian riot police fired tear gas to repel up to 1,000 mostly Pakistani migrants trying to force their way across a newly erected border fence, a Reuters witness said. One Macedonian officer fired warning shots in the air. Frustration has risen in recent weeks in the European Commission, the EU executive charged with ramping up controls on the external borders, and among EU governments that Greece is failing to make use of available EU funds and personnel to ensure people arriving in the Schengen area are documented.

With no land borders with the rest of the 26-nation Schengen area, Greece has allowed hundreds of thousands of people, many of them Syrian refugees, to travel from its islands off the Turkish coast across Greece to the northern border with non-EU Macedonia as they head for Germany. Mouzalas said that as long as Turkey did not shut down people smugglers operating on its coastline, Athens could not stop frail boats packed with refugees from landing on Greek islands in the Aegean Sea. He said he had taken EU ambassadors out to sea to watch arrivals and asked what Athens

should do. "They don't dare to ask us 'drown them', but if you do push-back on a plastic boat in the middle of the sea with 50 or 70 refugees aboard, you're asking me to drown them," the minister said.

#### 'Tool' to push Greece

EU diplomats said suspending Greece from the open-border rules - activating Article 26 of the Schengen treaty so that people arriving at ports and airports from Greece were treated as coming from outside the Schengen zone - could be discussed at a meeting of EU interior ministers on Friday. However, some also said that Greece appeared to be moving now to implement EU measures to control migrants and so a common front against Athens was unlikely as early as this week.

"It's a tool for pushing Greece to accept EU help," one senior diplomat said. Since migrants and refugees have rarely used airlines or international ferries, the main impact of other Schengen states imposing passport checks on arrivals from Greece would be on Greeks and tourists who are vital to the Greek economy. Another senior EU diplomat said: "The Greek position is moving in the necessary direction." As a result, a discussion of suspension from Schengen this week may not be needed. — Reuters



THE VATICAN: (From left) Italian journalists Gianluigi Nuzzi and Emiliano Fittipaldi, public relations expert Francesca Chaoqui and Monsignor Angelo Lucio Vallej Balda sit during their trial inside the Vatican. — AP

## VATILEAKS SCANDAL BROADENS, EMBROILS BERLUSCONI BROTHERS

ROME: A Vatican leaks scandal that was already rich in claims of sex, scheming and spying has widened to embroil Silvio Berlusconi and add allegations of blackmail and computer hacking to the mix. Former Prime Minister Berlusconi denied late Tuesday that he had had any contact with Francesca Chaoqui, an ex-PR consultant to the Vatican who is one of five people, including two journalists, on trial over the leaking of classified Holy See documents.

Berlusconi issued the denial after it emerged that his brother Paolo, a newspaper publisher, had been named in an Italian investigation into Chaoqui and her husband Corrado Lanino which is separate from but related to the Vatican case. Prosecutors suspect that Chaoqui attempted to pressure Paolo Berlusconi into sacking the newspaper Il Giornale's Vatican correspondent Fabio Marchesi Ragona by threatening to expose Silvio for supposedly holding a secret account at the Vatican bank.

Silvio Berlusconi's lawyer Niccolò Ghedini said his client was never informed of such a threat. "Besides, it would have been impossible to make any 'demands' since there is no possible link between President Berlusconi and Vatican affairs or the Vatican bank," he said. Prosecutors suspect the alleged attempt to blackmail Paolo Berlusconi into silencing a journalist whose reports had embarrassed Chaoqui reflected a pattern of behavior in which she used her status as a Vatican insider to secure favors or to provide contacts with access to high-ranking Vatican officials.

#### Conspiracy

Italy's financial police raided Chaoqui's Rome flat on Tuesday evening,

seizing papers and computers. According to media reports, her husband is also under investigation, suspected of using his computer hacking skills to assist his wife. Prosecutors were alerted to Chaoqui's allegedly illicit conduct as they looked into another scandal to hit the Church, related to the sale of the 14th-century San Girolamo castle in Narni, Umbria.

Italian Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia is suspected of conspiring with local officials to buy the castle from the town council at an artificially low price with the intention of later selling it at its true value several years later. Chaoqui is due to give evidence in the Vatican leaks trial when it resumes on Monday. The case was adjourned this week to give her new lawyer more time to prepare her defense against charges that she, Spanish Monsignor Lucio Vallej Balda and his assistant conspired to leak secret documents to which they had access as members of an economic reform commission appointed by Pope Francis.

The documents provide evidence of mismanagement in Vatican spending and some elements of corruption and were used as the basis of books by the two investigative journalists who are also on trial. The Vatican has been widely criticized for pursuing the prosecution of the reporters in a case that has generated many embarrassing headlines for the Holy See. The latest came earlier this week when it emerged that Vallej Balda had made a statement saying he leaked the documents under Chaoqui's influence and that he had been sorely tempted to break his vow of celibacy as a result of her sexual advances. She has rubbished his claims. — AFP



Migrants wait to enter the refugee camp after crossing the Greek-Macedonian border, near Gevgelija yesterday. — AFP

## IN INDIA'S DRY REGIONS, CROWD-FUNDING COMES TO A LAKE'S RESCUE

**YAVATMAL:** When residents of a city in one of India's most water-stressed regions banded together with authorities to de-silt their local reservoir, they were trying to secure the future of their drinking water supply. But the activists discovered that the silt that clogs the Nilona reservoir, 750 km east of Mumbai in Maharashtra state, could also boost harvests in this drought-stricken area, where crop failures have driven thousands of farmers to suicide. Their innovative model of crowd-funded, citizen-led action has become a model for what's possible to protect water supplies in India, backers say. Residents of Yavatmal in Vidarbha district rely for their water on an earth-lined reservoir 10 kilometers away.

The nearly 700 meter-long lake, built in 1972, originally had a capacity of 6.39 million cubic meters, but this has fallen by at least a third as soil has washed into the lake, according to government estimates. Local activists contend that the silt, combined with vegetation growing along the edges of Nilona, has reduced its capacity by as much as half. The monsoon in Maharashtra, as in other parts of

India, has become increasingly erratic in recent years, and this is partly to blame for the silt problem. Although rainfall has been enough to keep the 700-metre-long lake more or less full, heavier than average downpours have washed large quantities of soil into the lake.

In July 2014, authorities in Yavatmal halved the supply of water to the city, from 64 million litres to 32 million liters weekly. Residents now receive piped water for just two or three hours, three times a week. Local farmers do not have access to the reservoir for irrigation, and the unreliable rainfall, combined with prolonged drought, has made planting and harvesting crops unpredictable, as well as damaging crops and playing havoc with livelihoods. In drought-ravaged Vidarbha district, thousands of farmers have killed themselves in the past two decades because of crop failures and debts.

### Inspiration to act

Alok Gupta, a 45-year-old doctor in Yavatmal, was inspired to act after hearing a

talk by a physician-turned-activist who had spearheaded efforts to revive over a dozen reservoirs across Maharashtra. "It was a wake-up call for us," recalled Gupta, who is a member of Prayas, a network of professionals who promote civic action for social causes. "The water supply was already inadequate. How would we survive if it got worse?"

The Prayas members were sure of one thing: reclaiming their reservoir would have to be a collective act. "De-silting Nilona would need huge amount of money, time and hard work. A few of us couldn't do it. We needed a citizen movement," said Kamal Bagdi, a businessman and a member of Prayas. Local government officials initially argued that Nilona would not become completely silted up for another 20 years, at which point they planned to divert water from the Bembla reservoir, 25 kilometers away. The government estimated the cost of digging canals from Bembla to Nilona at 25 million rupees (\$377,000).

But the Prayas members wanted to act sooner, and they proposed an alternative:

Mission Deep Nilona (MDN), a crowd-funded project to de-silt the reservoir at a cost of 3.5 million rupees (\$52,700). The activists published a brochure and roped in young people to tour the city in an open truck singing patriotic songs and appealing to locals to save their only source of drinking water. The response was overwhelming, said Avinash Saoji, founder of Prayas. MDN raised 2.3 million rupees of its 3.4 million rupee budget from private donations. The government provided the remainder and helped get the necessary approvals from agencies.

The rest of the effort depended upon expertise from Prayas members and the contributions of the city's residents. Apart from cash, donations also came in the forms of dredgers, trucks and free labor. "A total of 12,000 people donated labor, helping clear grass, water weeds, pebbles and mud. Some served free food and drinks," Saoji said. MDN was formally launched in April 2015. By the end of May, MDN had removed the first 35,000 cubic meters of the 6.3 million cubic meters of silt clogging Nilona.

### From the lake to the fields

For MDN's leaders, what they did with that silt is a highlight of their story. "Silt increases soil fertility. If farmers use the silt from Nilona, they can get a higher (crop) yield. In turn, we don't have to worry about its disposal," said Gupta, who volunteers as MDN's project director. Farmer Gaju Rawat, who owns a 2-acre farm in Barwada, one of 10 villages around Nilona, agrees. "They offered us tons of silt for free, provided we transported it ourselves. I brought 30 tractors of silt, which is a very good way to increase moisture to my field. Normally I get 15-30 quintals of cotton. But this year, I am expecting at least double that," Rawat said happily.

Dattatreya Gaekwad, a senior government official in the district's agriculture department, described MDN as "a perfect example of people's cooperation for social development." In January the group plans to remove a further 100,000 truckloads of silt. The initial success of the project has inspired the activists to add other improvements to the water system. — Reuters



**CHENNAI:** Indian residents attempt to push a vehicle through floodwaters as others wade past in Chennai yesterday. — AFP

# RECORD RAINS FLOOD SOUTH INDIAN STATE

## HEAVIEST 24-HOUR DOWNPOUR IN A CENTURY

**CHENNAI:** The heaviest rainfall in over a century caused massive flooding across the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, driving thousands from their homes, shutting auto factories and paralyzing the airport in the state capital Chennai. The national weather office predicted three more days of torrential downpours in the southern state of nearly 70 million people. "There will be no respite," Laxman Singh Rathore of the India Meteorological Department told reporters yesterday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has blamed climate change for the rain, injecting urgency into the debate at global climate talks in Paris and highlighting the vulnerability of tropical nations like India to extreme weather. Physician Rupam Choudhury said he and a friend had to wade through neck-deep water to reach high ground from where an army brought him to his hospital in the heart of Chennai. The Dr A Ramachandran's Diabetes Hospital was running out of oxygen for patients and diesel for power generators, he said by phone. Most mobile networks were down in the city and food supplies were running low. Chennai, India's fourth most populous city, is a major auto manufacturing and IT outsourcing hub. Ford Motor, Daimler, Hyundai and Nissan told workers to stay at home, while US listed outsourcing firm Cognizant shut its 11 local offices.

### Flights stopped

Airlines suspended flights into Chennai's flooded international airport, causing wider disruption to air travel. "The biggest challenge is to find a way to clear the inundated airport and main roads," said Anurag Gupta at the National Disaster Management Authority



**CHENNAI:** A man carries a dog and wades through a flooded street in Chennai, in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu yesterday. — AP

(NDMA) in New Delhi. Passengers stranded at the airport said they did not know when they would be able to fly, or where to stay if they could not. "All of us here are getting agitated because none of the hotels nearby are vacant. Where do we go?" traveller Vinit Jain told Reuters Television. No deaths were reported and the

extent of damage would only become clear when the floodwaters receded, another NDMA official said. The federal home ministry said 18 people had suffered flood-related injuries.

Weather experts say the seasonal northeast monsoon was responsible for the flooding in the city of six million, which like many of India's teeming cities lacks adequate drainage. Jatin Singh, founder of private weather forecaster Skymet, said the northeast monsoon was typically more intense in years like this when El Nino - or a warming of the waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean - prevailed. At least twice as much rain fell in the last 24 hours as the average for the whole month of December, Skymet said. Forecasters say the trough of low pressure bringing the rains was very slow moving. Tamil Nadu is a major rice and sugar cane producing region, and a senior member of a local farmers association said floods had washed out up to four agricultural districts.

### Relief effort

Modi has ordered rescue teams and paramilitary forces to launch an extensive relief and rescue operation in Chennai. He had blamed climate change for the heavy rains that hit the southern state last month, tweeting before attending the UN climate summit in Paris this week. "We are feeling the impact of fast-paced climate change." Hundreds of divers and army rescue teams entered inundated homes, taking the injured to hospital. Authorities said more than a million people were affected by the flooding, with some residents bemoaning the slow response of the relief teams. Social media networks carried many appeals for help, while others offered assistance. Siddharth, a popular Tamil film actor who goes by one name, was coordinating a relief effort on Twitter. "The police want to help but there are no boats. We are trying not to panic," said Ramana Goda, who took refuge at a police station after fleeing his home with his family overnight. — Reuters

## BROTHER KILLS SISTER FOR VOTING IN PAKISTAN POLL

**ISLAMABAD:** An angry brother shot his elder sister dead because she voted in Pakistani local elections after he had forbidden her to do so, police said yesterday. The murder occurred in the town of Taxila 25 kilometers west of Islamabad on Tuesday, according to officials. Danish Ali, 20, was furious because his sister Asif Noreen, a 32-year-old schoolteacher, had defied his instructions and cast her vote, local police official Naem Abbas said. "According to a report filed by the deceased's father, Ali shot Noreen with his pistol and she died on the spot at their home," Abbas said.

Police were still hunting for Ali, who is on the run. Women's turnout is usually weak in the most conservative rural parts of Pakistan because of male perceptions that their place is in the home. But incidents of women being killed for voting are rare, although hundreds of Pakistani women are murdered each year in cases of domestic violence or on the grounds of defending family "honor". The Aurat Foundation, a campaign group that works to improve the lives of women in Pakistan's conservative and patriarchal society, says more than 3,000 women have been killed in such attacks since 2008. — AFP

## AFGHANS FACE DAUNTING TASK IN REBUILDING WAR-BATTERED CITY

**KUNDUZ:** Two months after the Taliban rampaged through the northern Afghan city of Kunduz, residents are still sifting through the rubble, wondering how they will ever rebuild and worrying that the insurgents will return. The Taliban swept into the strategic northern city in late September, holding it for three days and looting and destroying shops before being driven out by a massive counteroffensive backed by US airstrikes. The street by street fighting devastated wide swaths of Kunduz at a time when Afghanistan's finances are stretched thin by a seemingly never-ending war. International aid is being scaled down alongside the withdrawal of most foreign troops, who officially concluded their combat mission last year.

The Taliban are meanwhile dug in on the city's outskirts, and many fear they could return. "I lost everything I had - my house, my business and my property," said Ahmad Jan, who sold TVs and DVDs in Kunduz. The Taliban torched his shop, and then his home was demolished during the battle to drive them out, he said. He moved his family to a neighboring province for safety. "I can't trust the government anymore, I have lost my hope in them," he said. During a visit to Kunduz last week, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said the government would protect the city and help residents rebuild. "We won't allow a repeat of what happened to Kunduz," he said, as rocket-fire rumbled off in the distance, where near-daily battles have erupted just outside the city.

### Dismissals

Ghani has ordered the dismissal and military trial of an undisclosed number of intelligence officials, including the provincial intelligence chief, over the failure to anticipate September's attack, which was the latest in a series of attacks on the city. He has also ordered a security review by the newly appointed army division commander. But many residents said they remain fearful, especially after seeing the Taliban make off with armored vehicles and tanks. As winter sets in, local officials and residents are taking stock of the devastation wrought by the fighting. The damage to public infrastructure alone has been estimated at around \$82 million, according to Hamdullah Danishi, the acting governor of Kunduz province.

He said the damage to private property is still being assessed. "It could be that the cost of rebuilding privately owned properties will be several times that of the public infrastructure because they took the brunt of the fighting over several days," he added. Zabihullah Majidi, a civil society activist in Kunduz, said the fighting

destroyed hundreds of shops and homes, including high-rise apartment buildings. Much of the city is still without water or electricity. Half the city's 300,000 residents fled during the fighting, and it's unclear how many have returned.

"The cost of reconstruction will probably be less than it was after the last war with the Taliban, but substantial nevertheless," he said, referring to the 2001 US-led invasion that toppled the Taliban. Among the facilities destroyed in the fighting was a trauma hospital operated by Doctors Without Borders, which was the target of a sustained US air assault that killed at least 30 people and sparked an international outcry. US President Barack Obama apologized for the attack, which came at the request of Afghan forces.

### The losses

Just next door to the hospital was the warehouse where Abdul Maroof stored electronic goods for his trading company. The attack on the hospital destroyed the building and everything inside, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in losses and leaving him unable to pay back loans, he said. "From an economic point of view, I can assure you that for the next five years our Kunduz cannot be the same as it was in the past," he said, adding that many businessmen have quit the town, fearing another attack.

Shopkeeper Sardar Agha said at least 10 shops on his street were destroyed during heavy fighting, estimating that the owners lost hundreds of thousands of dollars. "There's nothing left. Many shops and homes in my neighborhood have been destroyed or hugely damaged," he said. The acting spokesman for the governor of Kunduz, Abdul Wasi Basel, said the top priority was security, followed by restoring water, electricity and other services. Only then, he said, would government offices be rebuilt. A commission has been set up to process applications for the recovery of damaged or destroyed assets, but Basel could not say when funds will be dispersed. "The exact cost of the war is difficult to say at moment," he said.

Mohammad Khan Almas watched as his neighborhood was transformed into one of the main battlefields in the city and airstrikes destroyed eight shops he owned. The \$1,200 worth of monthly rent he had collected from them supported his family, including his 11 children. He said a delegation from the governor visited and assessed his losses at \$320,000, but until now he's received no money. "There are three culprits here - the government, the Taliban and the United States," he said. "They are all guilty of the incidents that ended my business and destroyed my shops." — AP



**KUNDUZ:** Staff members walk through the damaged Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) hospital in Afghanistan's city of Kunduz. — AFP

## AIRASIA FENDS OFF TALK THAT PILOT REVOLT CAUSED CHAOS

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia-based budget carrier AirAsia yesterday sought to quash speculation that a wave of pilots calling in sick, which stranded hundreds of furious passengers, was actually a protest over working conditions. AirAsia has said that around a dozen pilots had called in sick this week, throwing domestic and international flights into disarray on Tuesday as passengers complained that the airline's chaotic handling of the logjam forced many to sleep overnight in Malaysian airport terminals.

AirAsia founder and group chief executive officer Tony Fernandes has publicly blamed a flu epidemic among pilots, combined with teething trouble over a new airline rostering system. "It was a freak day with the new system and 11 pilots were not well for night flights," he was quoted by The Star newspaper's website as saying yesterday, referring to the chaos the day before. An AirAsia spokesman later said that 13 pilots had called in sick. The Star report said Fernandes denied that industrial action was to blame, and quoted him calling AirAsia pilots "super professional".

But reports by Malaysian media have stoked unconfirmed speculation that the pilots were expressing displeasure with working hours and

conditions. AirAsia pilots are not unionized. Asked by AFP to comment on the rumors, Fernandes replied in a text message: "Do you honestly expect me to respond to this?" Hundreds of passengers were reportedly stranded at Kuala Lumpur International Airport and other Malaysian airports Tuesday. Some complained on social media that they were told to wait for hours for new flights, only to see those eventually cancelled. "Hallo!!! ... flight delay for almost 5 hours already!! Do something! People are starving!," one traveler vented Tuesday on Facebook.

The flights affected were mostly domestic, but Malaysian media said an AirAsia flight to Bangkok also was disrupted. The AirAsia spokesman said normal operations had resumed yesterday. "We have over a thousand pilots, 13 is a small number and everything is back to normal now," the spokesman said. The episode came as Indonesian investigators released a report on Tuesday into the crash of Indonesia AirAsia flight QZ8501 last December, which killed all 162 people on board. The report said inadequate maintenance and poor pilot training by the airline were among the reasons for the crash of the Airbus jet into the Java Sea. — AFP

## CHINA BEHIND 'MASSIVE' CYBER-ATTACK ON AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

**SYDNEY:** A major cyber-attack against Australia's Bureau of Meteorology that may have compromised potentially sensitive national security information is being blamed on China, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported yesterday. The Bureau of Meteorology owns one of Australia's largest super-computers and the attack, which the ABC said occurred in recent days, may have allowed those responsible access to the Department of Defense through a linked network. The ABC, citing several unidentified sources with knowledge of

the "massive" breach, placed the blame on China, which has in the past been accused of hacking sensitive Australian government computer systems. "It's China," the ABC quoted one source as saying.

The Bureau of Meteorology said in a statement on its website that it did not comment on security matters, but that it was working closely with security agencies and that its computer systems were fully operational. The Australian Federal Police declined to comment on the matter. The Department of Defense said in a

statement that it was barred by policy from commenting on specific cyber security incidents. China's Foreign Ministry dismissed the accusation, saying the government opposed cyber-attacks and all parties concerned should strengthen dialogue to solve the problem "in the spirit of mutual respect".

"Groundless accusations and speculation are not constructive," ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular briefing. China has long been accused of using its considerable computing resources to infiltrate online busi-

nesses for competitive advantage, as well as conducting acts of cyber espionage. In June, US officials blamed Chinese hackers for compromising the records of up to four million current and former government employees. China called the US comments irresponsible, while President Barack Obama vowed that the United States would aggressively bolster its cyber defenses.

China is Australia's top trading partner, with two-way trade of about A\$150 billion (\$110 billion) in 2013, and they signed a landmark free trade agreement

in 2014 that is likely to further boost commercial ties. Australia needs China's help to transition from a reliance on exports of minerals such as coal and iron ore to expanding its food and agricultural exports to a growing Asian middle class, moving from a "mining boom" to a "dining boom". But Chinese firms have been locked out of sensitive deals in the past over security concerns, most prominently a decision in 2013 to bar Huawei from bidding on Australia's National Broadband Network, a deal worth tens of billions of dollars. — Reuters



**NAYPYITAW:** Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, left, Commander in Chief of Myanmar Defense Services shakes hands with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi during their meeting yesterday. — AP

## IN STEP TOWARDS POWER, SUU KYI MEETS PRESIDENT

DEMOCRACY ICON, MILITARY BOSS MEET, NO AIDES ATTEND

**NAYPYITAW:** Democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi held direct talks with Myanmar's top general for the first time yesterday as her party prepares to form the government in a country where the military retains considerable clout after decades of rule. Earlier in the day, the Nobel laureate also held talks with reformist President Thein Sein to discuss the transfer of power to her National League for Democracy (NLD), which swept a Nov 8 election. But the support of the military will be crucial for the NLD to govern smoothly.

Suu Kyi and armed forces supremo Min Aung Hlaing talked for over an hour at the military chief's office in the capital Naypyitaw. No aides were pres-

ent. Sitting in his car before driving away, the general smiled and said: "We had very nice talks". It was a meeting rich with symbolism - for over two decades, the military persecuted Suu Kyi and the NLD after ignoring a 1990 election victory won by the party. The two sides must now work together - the NLD will form the government but the military runs the interior, defense and border affairs ministries under a constitution drafted before the end of its half-century rule in 2010.

Suu Kyi has not commented on either of the pivotal meetings during the day. Thein Sein's spokesman and information minister, Ye Htut, said her 45-minute talks with the president, a former general, were centered on the

transition. "We have opened a communication channel," Ye Htut told a news conference. "They mainly focused on the smooth and peaceful transfer of the state responsibilities to the future government," he said, describing the change to a new president as "completely unprecedented".

Public jitters about possible turbulence in the months ahead have been eased by endorsements of the election win by Thein Sein and Min Aung Hlaing. The new administration is likely to take over around March. The constitution is likely to be a bone of contention between the military and Suu Kyi, who has been unequivocal in wanting Myanmar to be a fully fledged democracy.

Suu Kyi has faced resistance from the military in attempts to change parts of the constitution, including a clause that bars her from becoming president because her children are foreign citizens. It is uncertain whether the NLD would risk putting itself on a collision course with the military by launching another push to reduce its political power. It has enough legislative seats reserved under the constitution to veto changes to the constitution. Though Suu Kyi has taken a more conciliatory tone towards the military since becoming a lawmaker, she took a swipe at Min Aung Hlaing in June, accusing him of influencing military legislators to rebuff changes to the status quo. — Reuters

## N KOREA GHOST BOATS, IN DEADLY HUNT FOR FISH, WASH UP IN JAPAN

**SEOUL:** Fishing boats carrying decomposed corpses have washed ashore in Japan in recent weeks, leading to speculation they are rickety North Korean vessels that have strayed dangerously far from port under the impoverished nation's push to boost its catch. There has been no mention from secretive North Korea of any missing boats, but its leader, Kim Jong Un, has put a high priority on fishing as a way of earning foreign currency and providing a sustainable food source that is not reliant on harvests and weather.

The Japanese coast guard and police reported 12 incidents of wrecked wooden boats, including some that were in pieces, on the country's shores and waters since October, containing 22 dead bodies, including five skulls. Japanese authorities declined to comment on the origins of the boats or the possible identities of the dead, but a hand-written sign identified one boat as belonging to unit 325 of the North Korean army, according to footage from Japan's NHK Television. Tattered cloth was found aboard the vessel that appeared to come from the North Korean flag, the video showed.

Defectors and experts say fishing boats under the command of the Korean People's Army may have succumbed under pressure from Kim to catch more fish, drifting off course and ill-equipped for rough seas. TV images of some of the boats showed relatively large but otherwise primitive-looking motorized craft and the coast guard said they did not have GPS navigation systems. Those aboard could have died of starvation and exposure to the cold after getting lost. Although Japan's Meteorological Agency said there was not unusually bad weather in the Sea of Japan this November, the waters are rougher at this time of year due to the onset of cold, northwesterly winds.

October through February is also prime season for squid, sandfish and king crab off the east coast of the Korean peninsula, and it is not unusual that there would be high numbers of boats at sea, said Kim Do-hoon, a professor of fisheries science at Pukyong National University in Busan. "Kim Jong Un has been promoting the fisheries, which could explain why there are more fishing boats going out," he said. "But North Korean boats perform really poorly, with bad engines, risking lives to go far to catch more.

Sometimes they drift and fishermen starve to death," he said.

## Deadly incentive system

Over the years, North Korean boats seeking the rich fishing grounds of the Sea of Japan have washed ashore in Japan as well as on the deserted beaches of the Russian Far East. North Koreans looking to defect, on the other hand, typically flee by land into China, or, less often, via coastal waters to neighboring South Korea. Fishing is a vital industry in a country where millions cannot find enough to eat. North Korea's 1.2 million-strong army is heavily engaged in food production, including fishing. "Some of the boats belong to Korean People's Army fishery stations, possibly operating to catch sailfin sandfish," said An Chan-il, who served in the North's army as a junior officer before defecting to South Korea in 1979 and now heads a private think tank on North Korea in Seoul.

"Kim Jong Un is pushing hard to produce more fish. So these boats must have been stranded after overworking," he said. Kim, North Korea's young leader, has made boosting food production a priority for the isolated country since taking office after his father died in late 2011, and recently visited a KPA fishing station on North Korea's east coast, calling for the facility to be upgraded, the official KCNA news agency said. "Modernization of the station will help it catch more fish," (Kim) said, adding: "The station should be turned into an up-to-date fishery base which can be boasted of in the world, thus making our ongoing efforts produce good results for the service persons and civilians," the Nov 25 report said.

Lee So-yeon, a North Korean army defector who arrived in Seoul in 2008, said fish products are a key export for North Korea's army, which hires civilian fishermen to make money. "North Korean army units and security agencies are running many businesses to earn foreign currency from mining gold to catching fish on the west and east coasts," said Lee. Lee Jong-won, professor of international relations at Japan's Waseda University, added: "The North is introducing an incentive system for producers. Fish is one of the main export products to China, which can be a way to get foreign currency. There is a possibility this incentive system led people to take more risks." — Reuters

## SOUTH KOREA ACADEMIC DENIES DEFAMING 'COMFORT WOMEN'

**SEOUL:** A South Korean academic facing trial on charges of defaming wartime sex slaves-or "comfort women"-in a recent book, accused prosecutors yesterday of distorting her work. Park Yu-Ha, a professor at Seoul's Sejong University, was formally charged last month after a group of South Korean comfort women asked prosecutors to launch an investigation. Mainstream historians say up to 200,000 women, mostly from Korea but also from China, Indonesia and other Asian nations, were forced into sexual slavery in Japanese military brothels during World War II.

In "The Comfort Women of the Empire" published in 2013, Park challenged the established narrative-regularly cited by the South Korean media-that all the comfort women were dragged from their homes by Japanese soldiers. Park suggested the reality was more complex, with some of the women volunteering without necessarily knowing what their eventual fate would be. The book said much of the blame lay with the entire "patriarchal social system" in both Japan and South Korea that exploited poor, uneducated women.

It also suggested some women forged an emotional bond with the soldiers they

served. The book made headlines last June when a group of 11 surviving comfort women filed a complaint with the public prosecution service. "The book was not intended to criticize or defame any comfort women... and it did not harm the public interest as claimed," Park told reporters at a press conference. She argued that passages from her book had been taken out of context to build the case against her, and insisted that her only motive had been to encourage public debate.

The fate of the comfort women is a hugely emotional issue in South Korea and a source of much of the bitterness and distrust that has marred relations between Seoul and Tokyo for decades. The defamation case triggered a public backlash against Park, but her supporters argue she was misrepresented and have criticized what they say is an attack on free speech. "The judicial system is trying to put public discourse over comfort women under its control," a group of 190 academics, journalists and artists said in a statement released yesterday. "It is deeply anachronistic to try to make academic arguments a subject of judicial judgment and to try to judge whether they are correct or not," the statement said. — AFP



**SEOUL:** Park Yu-Ha, a literature professor at South Korea's Sejong University, speaks during a press conference on her controversial book "The Comfort Women of the Empire," in Seoul yesterday. — AFP

## SECURITY HEIGHTENED EVEN AS N KOREA WOOS TOURISTS

**PYONGYANG:** So you're thinking of taking an exotic vacation, having a little adventure and coming back with lots of stories for your envious friends and colleagues. Believe it or not, North Korea might just be the place for you. But watch what you bring. And what you do. And what you say. While North Korea is making a strong push to increase the number of tourists who visit the country each year - currently a few thousand come from Western countries and more from neighboring China - it is stepping up its enforcement of a broad set of strict but sometimes ambiguously implemented regulations about what foreign visitors can bring with them or what they can do while in the country.

North Korea's push for tourists began in 2013 and visitors can now enjoy a surprisingly broad array of options, from helicopter rides over the capital to surfing on the country's scenic eastern coast. With winter now setting in, the North is hoping its newly opened luxury ski resort near the city of Wonsan, which was largely empty of tourists last season while Pyongyang closed its borders over Ebola fears, will be a big draw. Even so, the pro-tourism policy, like many other business opportunities that involve dealing with and possibly making concessions to the outside world, poses an obvious conundrum for Pyongyang - the potential of economic gains that require change, versus concerns about how that might undermine regime security.

"Despite the policy of getting more tourists, they still see security, or at least perceptions of security, as a bigger concern, and tourism is pretty far down the list of priorities," said Simon Cockerell of Beijing-based Koryo Tours, which has specialized in North Korea travel since 1993. "It's clear that the restrictions, rules and so on often act against increasing tourist numbers." For those visitors who do break the rules, the risks of detention, arrest and possibly even jail sentences are real enough, especial-



**PYONGYANG:** A North Korean traffic police officer directs vehicles at an intersection yesterday in Pyongyang, North Korea as residents commute at the end of a work day. — AP

ly if the offender is from the United States. The US State Department recently updated and expanded its already blunt warning against North Korean travel. In a nutshell, its advice is simple: Just don't do it.

## Detentions and arrests

"While tourism and the flexibility of travel in the DPRK has expanded, there has been a measurable increase in security at the borders," said Andrea Lee, CEO of New Jersey-based Uri Tours, which has been organizing tours to the North - officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea - for 15 years. Detentions and arrests, while certain to grab international headlines, are actually quite rare. Most involve extenuating circumstances, such as illegal border crossings or religious or political activities that lead to fairly predictable problems. The vast majority of tourists also visit on carefully orchestrated tours arranged by major agencies that specialize in travel to the North and are well versed in the latest

set of dos and don'ts, which they pass on to their clients before anyone boards the flight to Pyongyang.

"I have never heard of anyone getting in trouble by accident or by doing something that they genuinely thought would not cause them any trouble," Cockerell said. "There are rules and laws, of course, that differ from those most visitors are used to, but they are not secret and responsible companies advise their clients in advance what can and can't be done." Just how does one toe the line in one of the world's most authoritarian countries?

For many, the first test comes while they are still in the air. On North Korea's flagship airline, Air Koryo, cabin attendants sternly scold passengers shooting souvenir photos and delete anything they decide is inappropriate. English-language newspapers are available on most flights, but crumpled items will bring a lecture and possibly require a written apology. Newspapers inevitably feature photos

of Kim Jong Un and defacing the leader's image is a serious crime.

## Customs can also be a shock

Scrutiny of books is increasing to the point some agencies advise against bringing any at all. At Pyongyang's new airport, officials recently started to not only turn on laptops but to also at times search whatever is on them extensively. They can and often do, as the most recent State Department warning noted, "inspect USB drives, CDs, DVDs, mobile phones, tablets, laptops, or any other electronic and multimedia devices brought into the country. Internet browsing histories and cookies on travelers' computers and other electronic devices are subject to search for banned content, including pornography or material critical of the DPRK government." Anything pro-South Korea, of course, is a no-no. And heaven forbid taking a Bible. Once inside the country, visitors can expect to have virtually no freedom to roam about unescorted. — AP



An Indian naval band performs during a rehearsal for the forthcoming Navy Day celebrations in front of The Gateway of India in Mumbai yesterday. The Indian Navy will celebrate Navy Day tomorrow as a tribute to the maritime operations of the Indian Navy during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war. — AFP

## UK SET TO VOTE FOR SYRIA AIR STRIKES

Continued from Page 1

Cameron urged MPs not to let the memory of Iraq - which many Britons believe a Labour government under Tony Blair led them into using "sexed up" evidence on weapons of mass destruction - to dictate their decision. "This is not 2003. We must not use past mistakes as an excuse for indifference or inaction," he added.

The prime minister faced repeated calls during a raucous debate to apologize after reportedly telling Conservative MPs not to vote with "a bunch of terrorist sympathizers" against the strikes. Cameron has wanted to extend Britain's role in the fight against IS for months but made a fresh push which led to the vote after last month's Paris attacks which killed 130 people. Britain already has eight Tornado fighter jets plus drones involved in the US-led coalition striking IS targets in Iraq. However, it currently only conducts surveillance and intelligence missions over Syria.

The government will deploy more jets if the bombing is approved and argues that the Royal Air Force's Brimstone missiles will be particularly valuable for precision strikes to avoid civilian casualties. US Secretary of State John Kerry praised Cameron for bringing the vote to parliament yesterday and urged all NATO countries to "step up support" for the fight against IS. Military experts question how much difference Britain would make to the campaign, saying it may be more about wanting to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with allies like France and the United States. Cameron again stressed that British ground forces will not be deployed to Syria as part of the action yesterday, saying that would be a "mistake".

Labour is deeply divided on air strikes. Corbyn opposes the move but has let his party have a free vote on the issue because dozens of his MPs, including his foreign and defence spokespeople, want to support it. A Labour source speaking on condition of anonymity said he expected around 40 of its MPs to support the bombing. "It's expected that the government will win this vote... but it's definitely lost the argument," another Labour source added.

As well as Labour and the next biggest Commons grouping, the Scottish National Party, a handful of lawmakers from Cameron's own Conservative party also oppose joining air strikes. Cameron also fleshed out his claim that there were 70,000 moderate opposition fighters in Syria ready to help fight against IS. He said these were mostly members of the rebel Free Syrian Army but added there were 20,000 Kurdish forces ready to con-

tribute. He conceded that, while they were not "ideal partners" and "some of them do have views that we don't agree with", they could "play a role" in the future of Syria. Also, Cameron adopted the term "Daesh" to refer to IS yesterday and urged others to follow suit to avoid lending the jihadists credibility. Cameron had previously used "ISIL" to refer to the extremist group, which is also known as "ISIS", before switching to Daesh, which has negative connotations and is based on an Arabic acronym first coined by a Syrian activist. "I feel it is time to join our key ally France, the Arab League and other members of the international community in using, as frequently as possible, the terminology Daesh rather than ISIL," he said.

"Daesh is clearly an improvement and I think it's important that we all try to use this language," Cameron told parliament during a debate on whether Britain should join air strikes against the group in Syria. A government Twitter account that had been called "UK Against ISIL" was changed to "UK Against Daesh" as Cameron made the announcement. "#Daesh is Arabic acronym for #ISIL. Daesh hates the term + sounds similar to Arabic words Daes & Dahes: 'to trample' & 'one who sows discord'," read a tweet on the account.

News organizations and international governments have been divided over what to call the group, with French President Francois Hollande referring to it as "Daesh" and the United States President Barack Obama calling it "ISIL". ISIL stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, while ISIS is the abbreviation for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Conservative MP Rehman Chishti, who has led a campaign for the term "Daesh" to be used, said the prime minister had "listened to the strength of feeling across parliament". "I hope that media organisations will now follow the government's lead and also adopt the term," he said. Following calls from some MPs that it should begin using the term, the BBC said: "While people can debate terminology we're sure the British public are under absolutely no illusion about the type of organization this is." "The BBC uses the name the group itself uses, using additional descriptions to help make it clear we are referring to the group as they refer to themselves, such as 'so-called Islamic State' or 'Islamic State group'," it added.

Experts meanwhile weighed in on the debate, with some criticizing the prime minister's call to refer to IS as "Daesh" as irrelevant. "I'm sorry, but they really don't care," British writer and researcher Shiraz Maher tweeted. — Agencies

## MP CALLS FOR SUSPENDING TRANSACTIONS...

Continued from Page 1

sponsorship system. He said the system breaches the standards and principles of the International Labor Organization, human rights, public freedoms and democracy, and also the norms and morals of the Kuwaiti people, who totally reject oppression.

Ardhi said the union considers the scrapping of the kafeel system as a first step towards reforming the

domestic labor market as some people have exploited the system for visa trading and achieving quick and illegal profits at the expense of poor expat laborers. This policy has led to a large increase in the number of unskilled, marginal workers, consequently endangering the security of the country. Ardhi also said the union will press for the implementation of the new domestic helpers' law to safeguard the rights of this section of people.

## RUSSIA ACCUSES ERDOGAN OF LINKS TO IS OIL...

Continued from Page 1

family, are involved in this criminal business." Erdogan angrily dismissed Russian claims that Ankara is trading in oil with jihadist groups, insisting he would resign if allegations were proved true. "No one has a right to engage in slander against Turkey by saying that Turkey is buying oil from Daesh (IS)," he said on a visit to Ankara's closest ally Qatar, where he signed a memorandum of understanding on gas supplies.

The Russian briefing broadcast satellite images of oil trucks on a huge screen but did not provide any specific data on how Erdogan is tied to the activities. Antonov pointed the finger at the recent appointment of Erdogan's son-in-law Berat Albayrak as energy minister and alleged that the president's son runs one of the country's main energy companies. "What a fantastic family business," he said, claiming that "terrorists" in Syria make some \$2 billion each year out of the illegal oil trade.

Still Lavrov agreed to meet his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Belgrade later this week for the first time since the downing. "We will not be evading this contact," Lavrov said during a visit to Cyprus. "We will hear what Mr Cavusoglu has to say. Perhaps there will be something new after what has already been said publicly."

Putin snubbed a meeting with Erdogan at the UN climate conference in France on Monday, after Lavrov had earlier scrapped a visit to Istanbul just after the plane downing. Erdogan has rejected Putin's demands to apologize over the incident, saying that Turkey was acting well within its rights to protect its border. Moscow has announced an embargo on some Turkish food imports, halted the sale of package holidays there and reintroduced visas for Turkey visited in a bid to punish Ankara.

Erdogan said Turkey was pushing for a diplomatic resolution for the crisis to stop further damage to its ties with Moscow but warned that it could retaliate against further retaliatory measures. "We are saddened by the disproportional responses by Russia to an incident in which the whole world agrees we are right," he said. "If these responses continue we will take our own measures," he said, without elaborating.

While Turkey and Russia continued to wrangle, the body of a pilot killed when the jet was blown out of the sky was buried in his hometown some 360 km south of Moscow. Local media reported that thousands of mourners flocked to bid farewell to Oleg Peshkov, who the defence ministry said was shot dead from the ground after parachuting out of the jet. The corpse of the pilot - who has been awarded Russia's highest honor - was flown back from Turkey after it was taken across the border from Syria. — Agencies

## SOME SAUDI WOMEN TO GET MORE LEGAL...

Continued from Page 1

Saudi Arabia is the only country where women are barred from driving, and in which they are the legal wards of a male "guardian", usually a father, husband or brother, who is empowered to make big life decisions for them. "If you asked me which was more important, this or driving, I would tell you a hundred times this. It gives Saudi women the right to identify herself as head of the family, to put her children through school, get them married," said Salwa Al-Hazza, a member of the Shura Council, an appointed body

that advises the government on policy.

The late King Abdullah appointed 30 women to the 150-member Shura Council in 2013, prompting the body to discuss extending the family identity card to women, a debate that prompted the interior ministry's decision, said Hazza. Next week, women will participate in an election, for relatively powerless local councils, as both candidates and voters, for the first time. No changes have yet been proposed for male guardianship of female relatives beyond yesterday's reported plans for widows and divorced women. — Reuters

## MPs: PROSECUTE 24 EX-OFFICIALS OVER DOW DEAL

Continued from Page 1

MPs accused the government of rushing the payment of the fine when it should have been delayed until an investigation was conducted.

Some MPs insisted that sending the investigation report to the government will not yield any positive results because the government will not do anything. They also accused the government of being unwilling to exert efforts to repatriate the penalty, which they said is possible. MP Jamal Al-Omar said the fine cost each Kuwaiti citizen some KD 600, adding the size of the fine is unprecedented.

Several MPs said that the former Cabinet which can-

celled the project should have been interrogated and included in the report as potential defendants. State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah said the government will refer the report to the public prosecution for a legal probe.

MP Ahmad Al-Azemi said members of the Supreme Petroleum Council must also be charged because they approved the deal and its cancellation. MP Mohammad Tana described the fine as "the robbery of the century" and claimed the payment was deliberately rushed for selfish interests. He also accused the government of not taking any action to recover the funds. Islamist MP Hamdan Al-Azemi said the report failed to interrogate the senior officials who took the decisions, in a reference to the Cabinet.

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## VENEZUELA YOUTH AT SHARP END OF CRIME

By Eyanir China

**A**t first sight, Yeyo looks inoffensive: A small, thin adolescent who still wears shorts and talks with a slight stutter. Yet the 15-year-old from the Venezuelan mining city of Puerto Ordaz, on the banks of the Orinoco river, is already a hardened criminal. He stole his first phone at 10, then quickly moved on to robbing homes, carjacking and assaulting customers at banks. For the right money, he kills too. "You just pull the trigger and that's it," the teenager says nonchalantly in the back of a car in the humble neighborhood, or 'barrio', where he is part of a gang of about a dozen members.

"I like the bad life. The power and the money," adds Yeyo, who takes instructions from older leaders aged between 25 and 30. He has left his family and lives alone though his criminal activities enable him to provide for relatives and sometimes throw lavish parties in the barrio. Ever more youths like Yeyo are choosing the gang life in Venezuela where state rehabilitation programs are failing, impunity is widespread, and an economic crisis is weighing heavily on the population.

Crime is a top issue for voters ahead of this weekend's election for a new National Assembly which the ruling Socialists could lose for the first time in 16 years. Children's rights group Cecodap says the number of crimes committed by minors under the age of 18 rose about 70 percent in 2014 and that a child or adolescent was murdered every 10 hours on average, most of them shot dead. UN children's agency Unicef says Venezuela is the world's third worst country for murders of young people, only surpassed by gang-plagued El Salvador and Guatemala.

Alejandro Moreno, a Roman Catholic priest whose years living in a poor Caracas neighborhood have enabled him to study crime close up, needs no statistics. He has witnessed the age of victims and perpetrators dropping in the last two years. "In the barrios, those with weapons and those behind crime are now kids aged 14, 15 and 16," laments the white-bearded septuagenarian priest of the Salesian order in his office at a school for children of low-income families.

### Empty Streets

Violent crime has totally distorted Venezuelan society. City streets are often deserted after dark. Barrio thugs are role models for many children. Reporters camp at morgues to report weekend death tolls. Even Venezuelans'

beloved beaches are no longer a haven, with gangs sometimes arriving on speedboats to hold people up and take their cash and phones. Former President Hugo Chavez was a firm believer that attacking poverty, via a fairer distribution of the OPEC member's oil wealth, would eliminate crime.

But when that did not materialize, his hand-picked successor Nicolas Maduro, who won power in a 2013 election after Chavez's death, took a more aggressive line on crime, sending security forces in to combat the gangs. There are no government statistics yet for 2015, but last year the official murder rate rose to 69 per 100,000 inhabitants, from 39 in 2013. That in itself is one of the world's worst, but local monitoring groups say Venezuela's real rate is twice as high and the government is hiding the scale of the crime crisis.

Teenagers have been prominently involved in some of the nation's highest-profile crimes of recent times such as the 2014 murders of a former Miss Venezuela beauty queen and a local folk singer, plus a grenade attack on a police station this year. In response, the government changed the law to double sentences for violent offenders over 14. But it also protected those under 14 from any legal action, even for serious crimes.

Children's rights groups complain that is helping create the conditions for youngsters to take up a life of crime, while also reducing their chances of rehabilitation later on. The law also provides for problem youngsters aged up to 13 to enter state programs for psychological and academic orientation, but those involved say the schemes are few and far between, and counselors do not have the proper training. "We have had to attend kids who have sexually abused other kids, kids who handle guns and are in crime gangs," said Angegeymar Gil, a children's welfare worker in Caracas' Sucre district, which includes the vast and dangerous Petare slum. "The kids are going to keep committing crimes, we know, because the state is not properly prepared to stop them."

### Politics in Jail

Many young delinquents end up in one of Venezuela's 32 young offenders' prisons. At one in a working-class part of the capital Caracas, youths with shaved heads, black boots and blue uniforms chant pro-government political slogans in unison. "Chavez lives!" a guard shouts. "The fight goes on!" they reply, repeating a popular government refrain before marching to their cells.

Critics say such a rigidly politicized prison regime amounts to brainwashing but government supporters defend it as much-needed discipline and order. "It's a 360 degree transformation of our adolescents," Prisons Vice-Minister Ramon Garcia told Reuters during a rare media visit to the institution. For many young criminals, prison is no deterrent, given that 90 percent of crimes go unpunished and it is easy to avoid justice.

Back in Puerto Ordaz, gang members recount how easy it is to pay off the police and prosecutors if necessary. El Yei is a fellow gang member of Yeyo, older and taller at 17 but lower down the hierarchy because he only joined three years ago. He says he averages at least 150,000 bolivars per month - about 15 times the minimum monthly wage - though one job as a hitman can pay 200,000 bolivars. "If things get complicated, money fixes everything and you negotiate your freedom," he laughs, discussing a carjacking he has just carried out.

Though authorities are quick to solve the highest-profile crimes, such as the murder of beauty queen Monica Spear, Venezuelans complain the majority of crimes awaken little interest from police, especially in the poorest areas. Not far from Yeyo and El Yei's territory, in the neighboring city of San Felix, the mud streets and tin-roofed homes of La Victoria suburb are typical of poor areas all over Venezuela where locals often complain of abandonment by security forces.

Del Valle Ruiz, whose nephew was murdered just before he was to graduate as a lawyer, runs a local group called Mothers Promoting Peace that seeks to organize activities for young people as an alternative to crime and violence in San Felix. Groups like hers have proliferated around Venezuela, trying to combat crime using innovative methods like children's yoga in a Caracas shanty-town or rugby matches between ex-cons at a ranch used for rum-making.

Ruiz estimates 30 percent of local youths are involved in crime, with children as young as eight and nine used as drug "mules" and shootouts common on street corners. "That's our reality. These are desperate days," she says. At a meeting in a church in La Victoria on a recent day, some 50 young people were asked who thought their life was at risk. Almost all responded "Yes". A few also admitted they were tempted to join local gangs. "They killed my two brothers here in the barrio. I wanted revenge," said Jesus, 16. "Then I thought 'I've not met anyone who turns to crime and escapes death'. To die or to suffer, those are the options." —Reuters

## ANSWER TO GLOBAL WARMING BLOWING IN THE WIND

By Daphne Rousseau

**F**or an Israeli start-up, one answer to global warming is blowing in the wind.

The company called NewCO2Fuels, or NCF, has been developing its own version of a technology that allows heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions to be captured and recycled back into useable fuel. It sounds complicated - and it is - but the company's founders say it holds real potential in the fight against global warming. Such capture technologies have gained increased attention as countries seek alternative methods of cutting back on greenhouse gas emissions, the main culprit in global warming.

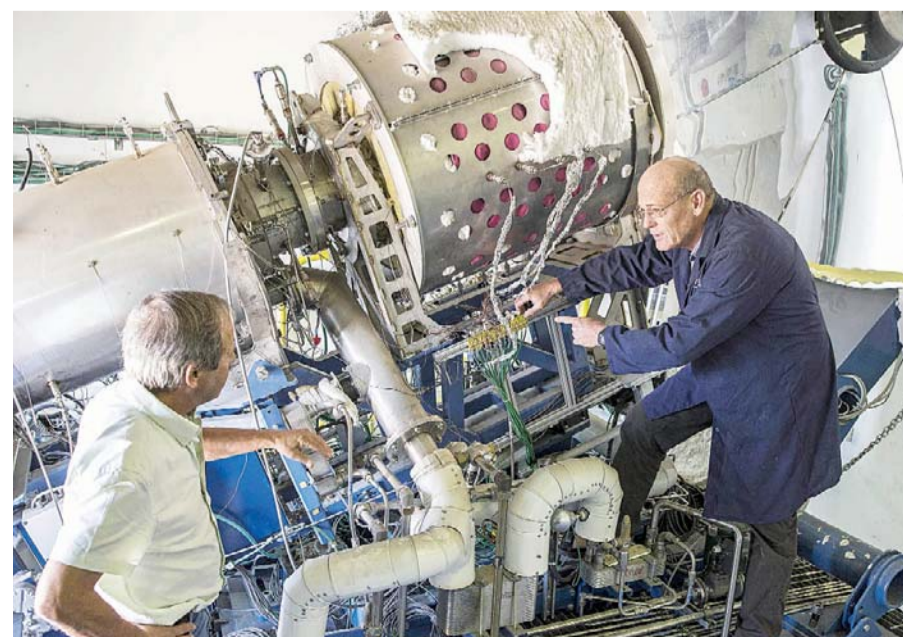
Around 140 world leaders have gathered this week for highly anticipated talks in Paris with the aim of spearheading a climate pact and heading off a disastrous rise in global temperatures in the coming years. "Our concept is to take the residue from the production of CO2 along with heat produced in industries and turn them into profit," chief executive David Banitt said of the company located in Rehovot, south of Tel Aviv. "We cannot only wield the stick and make polluters pay. You also have to hold out the carrot and allow them to see commercial potential."

The company is attempting to position itself in a new market offering what has come to be known as carbon capture, utilization and storage technologies. A global race has been underway to develop such industrial-scale solutions. NCF hopes to

begin offering its technology commercially before 2018 and estimates the global market at a potential \$24 billion annually. "We have to find a proactive solution, and that is where we come in," Banitt told AFP.

### Hi-Tech Recycling Machine

Marie Renner, climate economics



Vice president Uzi Aharoni (right) and chief executive officer David Banitt of the Israeli startup company NewCO2Fuels (NCF) work on a solar test facility on Sept 24, 2015 in the Israeli city of Rehovot. —AFP

researcher at the University of Paris-Dauphine, said there was major enthusiasm over capture and storage technology around 2008-2010, but the economic crisis and collapse in prices of carbon-based fuels dampened interest. She said the NCF technology appeared to be aimed at producing clean-burning fuel and she hoped other

companies would keep the focus on what is good for the environment if such solutions become widespread. "We have to ask if deriving value on CO2 to produce fuel will derail the capture-and-storage plan's philosophy - of its primary role - which is to slow climate change," Renner said.

On a top floor of a building at Rehovot's Weizmann Institute of Science, the NCF team has been carrying out work on its prototype involving a solar power plant capable of producing something called syngas from CO2, water and heat. The syngas can then be used to create synthetic fuels. A field of solar panels surrounds the building along with a mirror to heat the reactor to more than 1,000 degrees Celsius.

Within the reactor, the CO2 and water is used to produce the syngas, said Uzi Aharoni, the company's head of operations. The idea is for the technology to be used by plants that emit heat and CO2, such as steel or coal gasification plants. The CO2 would be captured instead of being sent into the atmosphere, then transformed back into fuel - a hi-tech recycling machine.

In its final form, syngas that fits into a one-cubic-metre tank is equivalent to the photosynthesis energy of 300 trees. "We are transforming these constraints into opportunities," said the 63-year-old Banitt, who calls himself an environmentalist, "but not fanatic". "Treating CO2 and transforming it into a product does not necessarily involve costs, but can instead generate revenue and profits." —AFP

### Focus

## POOR EMERGENCY TRAINING BEHIND AIRASIA CRASH

By Sonia Wolf

**A** new probe into what sent an AirAsia flight plunging into the Java Sea last year, killing all 162 people on board, has pointed the finger at poor pilot training on how to cope with emergencies. The final report from Indonesia's national transport safety agency said an existing fault in the system that controlled the Airbus A320-200's rudder had set off a chain of events that caused the crash. But it was the pilot's decision to reset the system, which turned off the plane's autopilot, and inexperience in flying in such difficult conditions that then sent the aircraft into a sharp roll from which it never recovered.

"The flight crew had not been trained for the upset recovery training on Airbus A320," said the report, adding that the plane had gone into a "prolonged stall condition that was beyond the capability of the crew to recover". The report provides the latest clue into what brought down Flight QZ8501 on Dec 28 last year, during what was supposed to be a routine flight from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore.

The bodies of 56 people have never been recovered, despite a huge and lengthy international search involving ships and aircraft from several nations in often stormy seas. Investigators had previously blamed bad weather for bringing down the plane, but the new findings show both poor equipment and inadequate training for emergency situations were to blame. The fault with cracked soldering in part of the plane's rudder system - which had already caused glitches 23 times in the previous year - sent repeated warnings to the pilots.

The co-pilot was then left to fly as the pilot responded to the fault, but could not cope with the situation, and miscommunication between the pilots as they plunged towards the sea compounded the problem. "It's a scenario that has played out in air accidents in the past," Terence Fan, aviation expert at the Singapore Management University, told AFP. "Pilots are either distracted by a faulty equipment or cannot properly solve the issue and something else is brewing in the background."

### 'AirAsia's Image Dented'

The loss of Flight QZ8501 was the first major crash for Malaysia-based AirAsia, but analysts said the findings could prove a setback after a successful 13-year run. "This will have a detrimental impact on AirAsia as a whole and it comes at the worst time for the airline given the very poor third quarter numbers that came out last week," said Shukor Yusof, analyst with Malaysia-based Endau Analytics. "AirAsia's image will be dented because the report alleges that they don't maintain their aircraft properly and their cockpit crew responded inadequately to such an incident."

Speaking as the report was released, investigator Nurcahyo Utomo said AirAsia pilots were not properly trained on handling Airbus aircraft when they were severely destabilized as it was not recommended by the manufacturer. But the former head of France's aviation authority, the BEA, which governs France-based Airbus, said AirAsia had not followed the agency's rules on training.

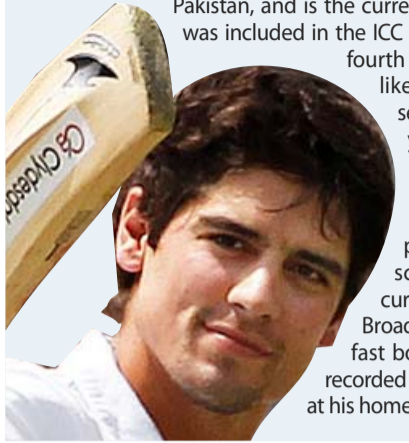
The BEA set new regulations for pilots after an Air France flight between Rio and Paris was lost in the Atlantic Ocean in 2009, under similar circumstances to the AirAsia flight. "Several recommendations of the (BEA) on the subject of pilot training were clearly not implemented by this aviation company," former BEA director Jean-Paul Troadec told AFP.

Gerry Soejatman, an aviation consultant with Jakarta-based consultancy CommunicAvia, said both the AirAsia crash and AF447 had happened after a technical problem followed by the plane stalling. "It's all in the manual, but we still have these two cases where the pilot did not do the right thing in stall recovery," he told AFP. "It's likely that they did not realize they were in a stall or did not have adequate training in how to exit from a very severe stall at high altitude." —AFP

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## COOK CAPTAINS ICC'S TEST TEAM OF THE YEAR

**DUBAI:** England skipper Alastair Cook was named captain of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Team of the Year yesterday, with international team-mates Joe Root and Stuart Broad also selected. Cook, 30, has recaptured his form in 2015, skipping England to Ashes glory against Australia and recently hitting 263 against Pakistan, and is the current leading Test run-scorer for the year. He was included in the ICC team, selected by an expert panel, for the fourth time and the second as captain. "I would like to congratulate all the players for their selection in the Test and ODI teams of the year," said awards selection panel chairman Anil Kumble, the former India captain. "It is an achievement for each of them to be proud of and a recognition for their good performances in the qualifying period." Root scored two crucial Ashes centuries and is currently joint top of the Test batting rankings. Broad, selected for the fifth time, is the leading fast bowling wicket-taker in Tests this year and recorded career-best figures of 8-15 against Australia at his home ground of Trent Bridge.



## KLITSCHKO TO TAKE UP FURY IN REMATCH

**BERLIN:** Former world heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko said yesterday he will take up the contractual option of a rematch against Tyson Fury in an attempt to win back his belts. Britain's Fury, 27, stunned Klitschko last Saturday at Duesseldorf's Esprit Arena with a unanimous points defeat, his first loss for 11 years, which ended the Ukrainian's nine year reign as world champion. Hamburg-based Klitschko, who turns 40 next April, says he banished thoughts of retirement in the wake of the shock defeat. He has vowed to use his chance to win back the IBF (International Boxing Federation), World Boxing Association (WBA) and World Boxing Organisation (WBO) belts he deservedly lost to Fury in a poor performance. "I was really frustrated directly after the fight, but after some short nights I now know that I want to show that I am much better than my performance on Saturday," said Klitschko in a statement. "I couldn't show my full potential at any time. "This is what I want to change in the rematch - and I will. Failure is not an option." Klitschko's manager Bernd Boente said they will now open negotiations with the Fury camp to decide the venue and date. "There will be a huge worldwide interest in this fight which already can be billed as the fight of the year 2016," said Boente. "We received so many questions of fans and journalists after last Saturday. —AFP

## RED SOX AGREE TO \$217M, 7-YEAR DEAL WITH PRICE

**BOSTON:** The Boston Red Sox and ace pitcher David Price have agreed to a deal worth \$217 million over seven years, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday night because the deal has not yet been signed and is pending a physical. Price has a 3.09 ERA in eight major league seasons with 1,372 strikeouts and 104 wins. The left-hander was traded from Detroit to Toronto last season as the Blue Jays made a playoff push in the AL East. One year earlier, he was traded to Detroit from Tampa Bay, where he spent the early part of his career. Price is a serious upgrade for the Red Sox pitching staff, which struggled last season as Boston finished 78-84, last in the division. — AP



## KUWAIT BAGS GOLD, BRONZE AT WORLD BODYBUILDING CHAMPIONSHIP

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Bodybuilding National Team won one gold and one bronze medals during the World Bodybuilding and Physical Fitness Championship that was held in Thailand lately with the participation of 55 teams of various categories and weights. Head of the

team Mohammad Al-Khalaf said upon the team's arrival in Kuwait.

Tariq Al-Shakhs became champion of the 90 kg category while his teammate Nayef Al-Shimmari took third place in the physique category for under 175 cm. Al-

Khalaf said players Yousuf Dashti, Jaber Al-Fadhly and Majid Al-Zaabi took sixth, seventh and eighth place in the same category.

He dedicated this achievement to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the

Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, and Director General of Sports Public Authority Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.



**DURBAN:** Britain's Prince Harry (L) stands by former Rugby World Cup winner Captain John Smit during a visit to the staff and management at the GrowthPoint Kings Park Stadium on Tuesday in Durban. Prince Harry met with the players of the Sharks Rugby team and played a game of tag rugby with local kids from the Rugby Exchange. — AFP

## SEBASTIAN COE UNAWARE OF IAAF CORRUPTION, DEFENDS NIKE LINKS

**LONDON:** A defiant world athletics president Sebastian Coe said yesterday that he had no inkling of corruption within his organisation and defended his links with American sportswear giant Nike. Lamine Diack, Coe's predecessor as International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) president, is being investigated by French authorities over claims he took bribes to cover up doping offences. The World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) is also preparing a report on allegations of corruption within the IAAF, where Coe was vice-president for eight years prior to his appointment as president in August. But when asked by the British parliament's Culture, Media and Sport committee if he had heard any "whispers" about corruption within the organisation, Coe replied flatly: "No."

Coe, 59, had previously described Diack as the sport's "spiritual leader" and said that he reacted with "shock, sorrow and anger" when he learnt of his arrest. But he said he had not asked Diack about corruption allegations levelled at his son, Pape Diack, who stepped down from his position as an IAAF marketing consultant a year ago. "No, because there were no allegations being made about the president (at the time)," Coe explained. When it was put to him that the IAAF was corrupt, Coe replied: "No, it's not a corrupt organisation." Coe was speaking during a three-hour grilling by British lawmakers at London's Houses of Parliament.

He reiterated his stance that his 38-year association with Nike, for whom he worked as an ambassador prior to relinquishing the role last week, was not a conflict of interest.

The BBC last week published an email from a senior Nike executive that suggested Coe had lobbied Diack for the 2021 World Championships to be awarded to Eugene, Oregon, where Nike was founded.

When asked if it had been in Nike's interest for the event to be awarded to Eugene-which it was, without a formal bid process-Coe said: "I don't conclude that."

### 'Horror show'

On the nature of his communications with Nike, Coe said: "I was asked the question. I gave a view that Eugene needed to get back into the competition and get into the next bid cycle."



**LONDON:** A video grab from footage broadcast by the UK Parliament's Parliamentary Recording Unit (PRU) shows IAAF president Sebastian Coe giving evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee of MPs in a meeting room at the Houses of Parliament yesterday on the subject of blood doping in athletics. Sebastian Coe has vowed to guide the IAAF "back to trust" after a series of corruption and doping scandals that has seen global athletics crash into its darkest ever days. — AFP

Asked if his relationship with Nike represented a conflict of interest, he said: "It would have been if it hadn't been properly identified." Coe refused to apologise for describing allegations of doping in athletics as a "declaration of war", having used that phrase in August after the Sunday Times and German broadcaster ARD claimed to have unearthed evidence of hundreds of suspicious blood samples.

An independent WADA commission subsequently published evidence of endemic, state-supported doping by Russian athletes.

Coe said he would not "step back" from his stance, but admitted: "I probably might have chosen different language." Coe expressed regret that Russian whistleblowers Vitaly and Yulia Stepanovs, a former Russian Anti-doping Agency (RUSADA) official and his athlete wife, had been forced into hiding.

"I'm clearly sorry," Coe said. "I want whistleblowers. This is not just lip-service." Prior to

becoming IAAF vice-president in 2007, Coe was appointed as the first ethics commission chairman for world football's governing body FIFA, an organisation currently mired in corruption allegations of its own. He therefore has links to two of the biggest scandals in modern sport, but he was bullish when he was asked why people should believe that he is the right person to clean up athletics.

"Because I have the experience to do that. I have the support of the sport to do that," said Coe, who won two Olympic gold medals in the 1500 metres during a glittering track career. "Have there been failures? Yes. Will we fix them? Absolutely. I'm absolutely focused on doing that. If we don't do that, there are no tomorrows for my sport. This is the crossroads."

Coe described the recent revelations as a "horror show" and said that he was prepared to double the IAAF's anti-doping budget, which currently stands at \$4 million. — AFP

## BUDAPEST REJECTS REFERENDUM ON 2024 OLYMPIC BID

**BUDAPEST:** Budapest's city council yesterday rejected a proposal by members of opposition parties to hold a referendum on the Hungarian capital's bid for the 2024 Olympics. Budapest Mayor Istvan Tarlos rebuffed the idea of a public vote as "political demagoguery" and said it was unclear whether residents had adequate information about the Olympics two years before the host city is chosen.

"The bodies of popular representation were elected to make decisions," Tarlos said. "If decision makers make bad decisions, they won't be elected the next time and if they are incapable of making decisions, they are unworthy of being elected." The proposal for a referendum

came after residents of Hamburg rejected the German port city's bid in a vote on Sunday. The vote was 51.6 against, with 48.4 percent in favor. Hungarian opposition party Egyutt (Together) appealed to Hungarian Olympic Committee president Zsolt Borkai for a referendum.

"We trust he will realize that only a valid and successful national referendum would denote appropriate authority for the Olympic bid," said Marton Patakai, the party's Budapest president.

While Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government has thrown its full support behind the Budapest bid, critics have cited the possibility of cost overruns and the stress on the city's infrastructure as reasons for concern. — AP



XCGC Els winner

## XEROX CORPORATE GOLF CHALLENGE CONCLUDES 2015 QUALIFIERS

**DUBAI:** The 17th edition of the Xerox Corporate Golf Challenge announced the successful conclusion of its last qualifying round at the Els Club Golf, Dubai, UAE, which was played on Thursday, November 26, 2015.

The winners were Srinivasan Satyamurthy and Manish Joshi, with a score of 41. Runners-up, Craig Hanson and Theuns Webb claimed second place with a score of 40 (count back), edging Neil Heywood and Yvette Heywood, who scored 40, into third place. They are the last teams to be selected for the 36-hole, 2-day grand final that will be held at Tower Links and Al Hamra golf courses, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, in December 2015.

Winner of Hole 2's ECCO Nearest the Pin

was Chris Elms, Hole 4's Sport360Nearest the Pin was Robert Barker, and Hole 11's Crystal Gallery Nearest the Pin was Omer I. Khan. East Springer won Aramex Longest Drive at Hole 9, and Cliff MacDonald won PWS Longest Drive at Hole 13.

80 Finalists from 14 Qualifying Rounds across 7 countries will compete in Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) for the opportunity to win the 2015 Grand Prize. The Grand Final will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2015 and Sunday, December 13, 2015, at Tower Links and Al Hamra golf courses, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE. Visit [www.xeroxcgc.com](http://www.xeroxcgc.com) for more information. The tournament's announcements and action can be followed on social media through #XCGC2015.

## KINGS DEALT ANOTHER BLOW, COACH WALKS OUT

**CAPE TOWN:** Embattled South African Super Rugby side the Southern Kings were dealt another blow when head coach Brent Janse van Rensburg resigned yesterday, two weeks after being appointed.

The cash-strapped Eastern Province Rugby Union (EPR), who have temporarily handed over the running of the Port Elizabeth-based franchise to the South African Rugby Union, confirmed they were seeking a replacement.

Janse van Rensburg had led the team in the domestic Currie Cup this year and was appointed to coach the Super Rugby side on Nov 18. Neither he nor the EPR offered any explanation for his resignation.

"We appreciate Brent's commitment to the task assigned to him and the many hours he worked in preparing the team for various competitions this year," EPR president Cheeky Watson said in a statement.

The Kings have lost a number of players in recent weeks after they were able to break their contracts due to the non-payment of salaries.

They included captain Tim Whitehead,

prop Lizo Gqoboka and wing Luther Obi, the latter two to the Bulls who are also said to be in talks with Sylvian Mahuza, Thembelani Bholi and Tim Agaba.

Watson said that despite the setbacks the Kings, South Africa's sixth franchise in an expanded 18-team Super Rugby tournament in 2016, were confident of being ready for their tournament opener against the Sharks in Port Elizabeth on Feb. 27.

"We are in regular discussion with the SA Rugby Union, who have taken over the organisation of the franchise, on the way forward and there is much work being done behind the scenes to ensure the Southern Kings squad is properly prepared for its return to Super Rugby in February," Watson said. Meanwhile, Eddie Jones has missed his first official day on the job as England head coach because he is yet to receive a work visa. The Australian, who was appointed on Nov. 20 and was due to report for work on Tuesday, is still stuck in Tokyo waiting for the Japanese embassy to clear his paperwork, according to a report in the Times. — Reuters

## MERCEDES BOSS SAYS DRIVER DISCORD IS MAJOR WEAKNESS

**LONDON:** The difficult relationship between Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg has become a weakness for Formula One champions Mercedes and it could affect future driver decisions, team boss Toto Wolff warned yesterday.

"We struggle sometimes in winning races on Sunday and having always one (driver) upset," the Mercedes motorsport head told motorsport.com.

"And this spills over into the team. It is something that needs to stop." Hamilton and Rosberg have been rivals since their early teens as team mates in karting but the once-warm relationship has been stretched to breaking point at dominant Mercedes.

The Briton and German were barely on speaking terms at times last season and entered another frosty phase this year after Hamilton clinched his second title in a row and third overall in Texas in October.

Rosberg ended the season in Abu Dhabi on Sunday with his third successive win and sixth pole position in a row, a run that soured Hamilton's mood and left him questioning the strategy.

"We took the decision of having two evenly matched drivers in order to make the team progress faster and better," said

Wolff of the decision to pair Hamilton, who joined from McLaren in 2013, and Rosberg. "Going forward, we will consider if it is the best set-up for the team. Personality and character within the team is a crucial ingredient for the team success. If we feel that it is not aligned with the general consensus, spirit and philosophy within the team, we might consider that when we take a decision, in terms of the driver line-up going forward."

Hamilton has three more years while Rosberg is signed to the end of 2016 with a team that this year won 16 of 19 races and enjoyed a record 12 one-two finishes. While Hamilton has spoken of seeing out his career with Mercedes, Rosberg's position would be weakened anyway if he finished second again next year.

Wolff indicated the drivers' behaviour off the track was also important. "I think it is important to have talented and fast drivers in the car. But we want to work with nice guys," he said. "We are having huge unity within the team, but the difficult relationship of the drivers is one of our weaknesses. And that is not good."

"The biggest weakness is the dynamic of the relationship between the drivers and sometimes between the drivers and the team." — Reuters

# PANTHERS HANDLING TALK OF UNBEATEN NFL SEASON

**CHARLOTTE:** The Carolina Panthers are the NFL's sole unbeaten side at 11-0 following the New England Patriots loss on Sunday. Now the focus is solely on the Panthers. Talk of an unbeaten season has begun to permeate the team's locker room, with players being peppered with more questions after each victory about matching the 1972 Miami Dolphins as the NFL's only unblemished team.

Rather than fight it, some Panthers are just enjoying the ride. "Hey, winning is fun, it's very fun," veteran center Ryan Kalil said. "As far as the undefeated stuff, all I know is it's really hard to win every week."

But not impossible, safety Roman Harper said. "Why can't we?" Harper asked, of going 19-0. "We just have to don't worry about it, and when we get there, we get there." Added defensive tackle Dwan Edwards: "The way our team is playing it's going to take us to not play well on a Sunday for a team to beat us."

Carolina's schedule certainly lends itself to a possible run at perfection. The Panthers travel to New Orleans on Sunday before finishing the season with a home-and away series with slumping Atlanta, at the New York Giants, and at home against Tampa Bay. None of those teams are particularly playing well.

The Saints have lost four straight games, the Falcons three, and the Giants two. The Buccaneers are probably playing the best of their remaining foes having won three of their last five, but they too lost last weekend 25-12 to Indianapolis.

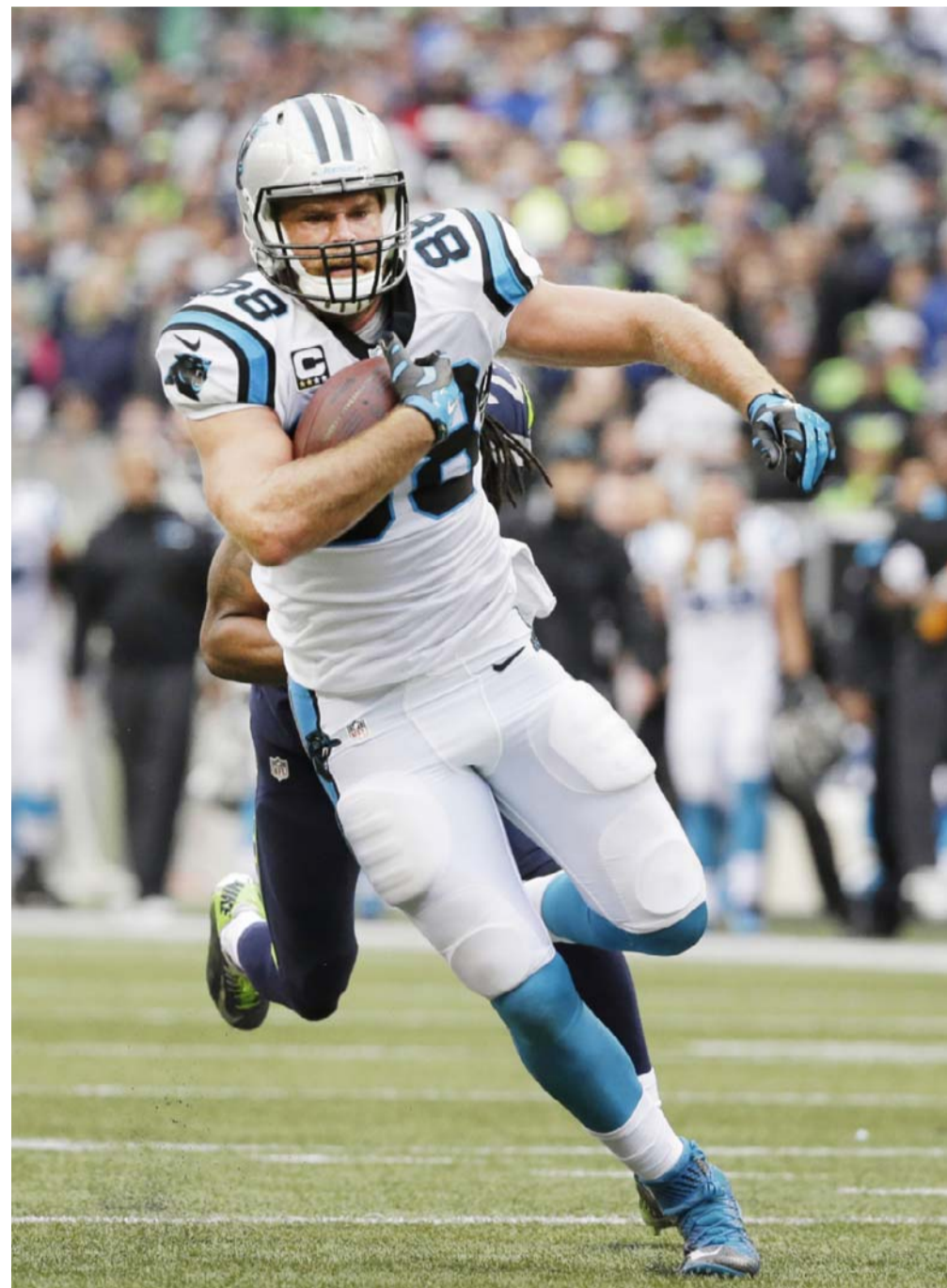
Quarterback Cam Newton said his approach was to remain focused on the Saints, a team the Panthers beat 27-22 at home without Drew Brees in September. "We aren't trying to get lured in by what others may think," Newton said of a potentially perfect season. "Our main focus - and we are already reminded by what coach (Ron) Rivera says - is to become 12-0 first."

The Panthers, who haven't lost a regular season game in more than a full year, returned to practice on Tuesday for the first time since a dominating 33-14 win over the Dallas Cowboys last Thursday. Carolina has the third most points in the NFL and given up the third fewest. Yet, Rivera has kept his players focused by reminding them they haven't played a complete game yet. Rivera has an extra carrot to dangle in front of his players this week: If the Panthers beat the Saints, they'll clinch their third straight NFC South championship.

### Refocused

In some respects, it seems a foregone conclusion, but when you're looking to keep a team from looking too far ahead anything helps. "If you start talking about undefeated seasons and trips to the Super Bowl you're not focusing on the details of what you're doing and who we have to play next," Rivera said. "... Our message here is very clear - we have a ways to go and a lot of things to improve upon."

Rivera was a linebacker for the 1985 Super Bowl champion Chicago Bears, a team that start-



**SEATTLE:** In this Oct. 18, 2015, file photo, Carolina Panthers tight end Greg Olsen, foreground, tries to elude Seattle Seahawks outside linebacker K.J. Wright, in the second half of an NFL football game, in Seattle. When Carolina tight end Greg Olsen and Kansas City safety Eric Berry had life-changing experiences away from football, the logical next step was finding ways to help the causes that helped them. — AP

ed 12-0 before suffering its only loss of the season. The coach said losing that Dec. 2, 1985 game to the Dolphins on a Monday night was actually a good thing for the Bears.

"The Miami loss refocused us," Rivera said. "It was (good) at the time for us. Could we have been a good undefeated team, yeah, the '85 team might have been. But we'll never know."

He doesn't know if a loss would be good for the Panthers or not. Right now, the word losing

simply isn't one that is being tossed around a Panthers locker room that has suddenly been swarmed by national media attention. "We don't want to get ahead of ourselves," said Harper, a member of the 2009 Saints that started 13-0 and went on to win Super Bowl XLIV. "We are in a whole bunch of one-game playoffs. We have to control the controllable. ... (But) we know that if we play the way we're capable of playing we have a great chance of winning every game." — AP

# PENGUINS BEAT SHARKS 5-1 FOR FIRST WIN IN SAN JOSE SINCE '97

**SAN JOSE:** Evgeni Malkin had a goal and two assists and Phil Kessel scored twice to help the Pittsburgh Penguins get their first win in San Jose in more than 18 years, 5-1 over the Sharks on Tuesday. David Perron added a goal and an assist and Matt Cullen also scored for the Penguins, who had lost 10 straight at the Shark Tank. Pittsburgh had gone winless in 12 games here since beating San Jose 5-2 on Oct. 22, 1997, garnering only one tie during the skid. Patrick Marleau scored for the Sharks, who have lost two of three at home following a perfect six-game road trip. Martin Jones made 24 saves.

### CANADIENS 2, BLUE JACKETS 1

Montreal winger Max Pacioretty scored a late power-play goal to give the Canadiens a 2-1 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets at the Bell Centre. Paul Byron also scored for the Canadiens (19-4-3) while Nick Foligno replied for Columbus. Montreal goaltender Mike Condon stopped 22 shots, with Sergei Bobrovsky making 24 for the Blue Jackets.

### FLYERS 4, SENATORS 2

The Philadelphia Flyers extended their winning streak to three games by defeating the Ottawa Senators 4-2 at Canadian Tire Centre. Winger Wayne Simmonds scored the winner late in the second period, and Sean Couturier iced it with an empty-netter 1:45 from the final buzzer. Defensemen Shayne Gostisbehere and Evgeny Medvedev had the Flyers' other goals. Zack Smith and Mike Hoffman replied for the Senators.

### AVALANCHE 2, DEVILS 1

Colorado winger Matt Duchene and defenseman Tyson Barrie scored in the second period to spark the Avalanche to a 2-1 win over the New Jersey Devils at the Prudential Center.

Goaltender Reto Berra made 27 saves as the Avalanche (10-14-1) continued the trend of alternating wins and losses in their last six games. The Avalanche have now won five in a row against the Devils, and eight of their last nine meetings.

### RED WINGS 5, SABRES 4 (SHOOTOUT)

Detroit's Brad Richards scored the only goal of the shootout to give the Red Wings a 5-4 victory over the Buffalo Sabres at Joe Louis Arena.

### PANTHERS 3, BLUES 1

Derek MacKenzie scored twice in the second period as the Florida Panthers scored a 3-1 win over the St. Louis Blues to register their first three-game winning streak of the season. MacKenzie had only one previous two-goal game in his NHL career, on March 12, 2011, when he was playing for the Columbus Blue Jackets against the Carolina Hurricanes.

### PREDATORS 5, COYOTES 2

Taking advantage of loose play by Arizona defensemen, the Nashville Predators rallied with four third-period goals for a 5-2 win over the Coyotes at Bridgestone Arena. Nashville (13-7-4) capitalized on giveaways in Arizona's defensive zone, with Mike Ribeiro notching the equalizing goal at 2:33 after a bad pass by Oliver Ekman-Larsson.



**DETROIT:** Detroit Red Wings defenseman Danny DeKeyser (65) defends Buffalo Sabres center Sam Reinhart (23) as he tries to shoot in the third period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday in Detroit. — AP

### WILD 2, BLACKHAWKS 1

Minnesota defenseman Ryan Suter scored the game-winning goal at 12:04 of the third period to lift the Wild to a 2-1 road victory over the Chicago Blackhawks at the United Center. Suter stuffed the puck into the net after Blackhawks goaltender Corey Crawford had made an initial save on Wild forward Mikael Granlund.

### FLAMES 4, STARS 3 (SHOOTOUT)

Johnny Gaudreau scored the game-deciding goal in a shootout, leading the Calgary Flames to a 4-3 win over

the Dallas Stars. Trailing 3-0 heading into the third period, the Flames waged a furious comeback to force overtime.

### KINGS 2, CANUCKS 1 (OVERTIME)

Anze Kopitar scored the game-winning goal at 2:02 of overtime as the Los Angeles Kings earned a 2-1 victory over the Vancouver Canucks at Staples Center. Kopitar cashed in with his eighth goal of the season, converting an assist from Jeff Carter as the Kings (15-8-1) won for the third time in four games. — Reuters

## NHL results/standings

Colorado 2, New Jersey 1; Montreal 2, Columbus 1; Philadelphia 4, Ottawa 2; Detroit 5, Buffalo 4 (SO); Florida 3, St. Louis 1; Nashville 5, Arizona 2; Minnesota 2, Chicago 1; Calgary 4, Dallas 3 (SO); Los Angeles 2, Vancouver 1 (OT); Pittsburgh 5, San Jose 1.

| Western Conference |    |     |    |    |     | Eastern Conference    |              |     |    |    |     |    |    |
|--------------------|----|-----|----|----|-----|-----------------------|--------------|-----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Central Division   |    |     |    |    |     | Atlantic Division     |              |     |    |    |     |    |    |
| W                  | L  | OTL | GF | GA | PTS | W                     | L            | OTL | GF | GA | PTS |    |    |
| Dallas             | 19 | 5   | 1  | 88 | 66  | 39                    | Montreal     | 19  | 4  | 3  | 90  | 57 | 41 |
| St. Louis          | 15 | 7   | 3  | 66 | 61  | 33                    | Detroit      | 13  | 8  | 4  | 61  | 64 | 30 |
| Nashville          | 13 | 7   | 4  | 64 | 62  | 30                    | Ottawa       | 12  | 7  | 5  | 78  | 72 | 29 |
| Chicago            | 13 | 9   | 3  | 68 | 64  | 29                    | Boston       | 13  | 8  | 1  | 73  | 64 | 27 |
| Minnesota          | 12 | 7   | 4  | 65 | 62  | 28                    | Florida      | 11  | 9  | 4  | 63  | 60 | 26 |
| Winnipeg           | 11 | 12  | 2  | 67 | 80  | 24                    | Tampa Bay    | 11  | 11 | 3  | 59  | 58 | 25 |
| Colorado           | 10 | 14  | 1  | 73 | 76  | 21                    | Buffalo      | 10  | 12 | 3  | 58  | 67 | 23 |
|                    |    |     |    |    |     |                       | Toronto      | 8   | 11 | 5  | 56  | 66 | 21 |
| Pacific Division   |    |     |    |    |     | Metropolitan Division |              |     |    |    |     |    |    |
| Los Angeles        | 15 | 8   | 1  | 60 | 51  | 31                    | NY Rangers   | 17  | 6  | 2  | 74  | 53 | 36 |
| San Jose           | 14 | 10  | 0  | 67 | 63  | 28                    | Washington   | 17  | 5  | 1  | 75  | 51 | 35 |
| Arizona            | 13 | 10  | 1  | 67 | 70  | 27                    | Pittsburgh   | 14  | 8  | 2  | 57  | 55 | 30 |
| Vancouver          | 9  | 9   | 8  | 70 | 71  | 26                    | NY Islanders | 13  | 8  | 4  | 72  | 62 | 30 |
| Anaheim            | 9  | 11  | 5  | 51 | 65  | 23                    | New Jersey   | 12  | 10 | 2  | 57  | 59 | 26 |
| Calgary            | 9  | 14  | 2  | 60 | 90  | 20                    | Philadelphia | 10  | 10 | 5  | 49  | 67 | 25 |
| Edmonton           | 8  | 15  | 2  | 62 | 77  | 18                    | Carolina     | 8   | 12 | 4  | 50  | 70 | 20 |
|                    |    |     |    |    |     |                       | Columbus     | 10  | 16 | 0  | 61  | 78 | 20 |

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



## SMITH, BOULT FEATURE IN ICC TEST AND ODI TEAMS OF THE YEAR

**NEW DELHI:** Australia captain Steven Smith and New Zealand paceman Trent Boult made the International Cricket Council's (ICC) test as well as one-day international team of the year announced yesterday.

England skipper Alastair Cook was named captain of the test side while South Africa's AB de Villiers was put in charge of the one-day team by a special panel headed by former India captain Anil Kumble.

Currently the top-ranked team in the five-day format, South Africa had no representative in the test squad, while Kiwi batsman Kane Williamson was left out of the ODI side despite being the leading run-scorer in the qualification period.

"Testament to the quality of cricket played is the calibre of players to have missed out on selection," Kumble said in an ICC statement. "While selecting these squads, the selectors considered various

combinations and took into account several factors in overall performances," added the former leg-spinner.

Australia, England and Pakistan had three players each in the test squad while New Zealand had two in Boult and Williamson. De Villiers has two compatriots in the ODI squad-batsman Hashim Amla and leggie Imran Tahir-which also included recently retired Sri Lankan great Kumar Sangakkara as the wicketkeeper.

Bangladesh's growing ODI reputation was reflected with 20-year-old left-arm pace bowler Mustafizur Rahman becoming the first player from his country to make the ODI team.

ICC Test Team of the Year: David Warner (Aus), Alastair Cook (Eng-captain), Kane Williamson (NZ), Younus Khan (Pak), Steven Smith (Aus), Joe Root (Eng), Sarfraz Ahmed (Pak-wicketkeeper), Stuart Broad (Eng), Trent Boult (NZ), Yasir Shah (Pak), Josh

Hazlewood (Aus); 12th man: Ravichandran Ashwin (Ind)

ICC ODI Team of the Year 2015: Tillakaratne Dilshan (SL), Hashim Amla (SA), Kumar Sangakkara (SL-wicketkeeper), AB de Villiers (SA) (captain), Steven Smith (Aus), Ross Taylor (NZ) Trent Boult (NZ), Mohammed Shami (Ind), Mitchell Starc (Aus), Mustafizur Rahman (Bang), Imran Tahir (SA); 12th man: Joe Root (Eng). — Reuters

## CAIRNS RESULT HURTS FIXING FIGHT: ANALYSTS



**LONDON:** A file combination image shows former New Zealand cricketer Chris Cairns (L) taken in London on November 30, and ex-Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi (R) taken in London on March 5, 2012. The acquittal of former New Zealand captain Chris Cairns on match-fixing-linked perjury charges is a serious blow for efforts to stamp out corruption in cricket, commentators said yesterday. Charges were brought against Cairns after he sued Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi for libel in 2012 over a 2010 tweet in which the administrator accused him of match-fixing. — AFP

**WELLINGTON:** The acquittal of former New Zealand captain Chris Cairns on match-fixing-linked perjury charges is a serious blow for efforts to stamp out corruption in cricket, commentators said yesterday. A London court on Monday cleared Cairns of perjury and perverting the course of justice after prosecutors failed to convince a jury of his guilt over the course of a nine-week trial.

New Zealand Herald journalist Dylan Cleaver, who originally broke the story that the ICC's anti-corruption unit was investigating Cairns, said the result was a triumph for the former all-rounder.

But he said the treatment of witnesses such as current Black Caps skipper Brendon McCullum would have players questioning why they should come forward to report corruption. "Who's going to want to be the next one to put their heads above the parapet and expose themselves to a skilled advocate who makes a living from shaping words to suit an argument?" he said.

"Nobody, that's who," he concluded, noting that players who cooperated with investigators had confidential testimony leaked, then had their characters assassinated by defence lawyers. Former England captain Mike Atherton, writing in The Times of London, echoed the sentiment.

"The verdict... could impact upon the sport's fight against corruption, if, as a result, players think twice about whistleblowing and authorities long and hard about bringing cases to court," he wrote.

Charges were brought against Cairns after he sued Indian Premier League chairman Lalit Modi for libel in 2012 over a 2010 tweet in which the administrator accused him of match-fixing. The allegations against him resurfaced in December 2013 when the International Cricket Council confirmed it was investigating match-fixing claims involving three former New Zealand inter-

national. Cricket historian Gideon Haigh said the ICC anti-corruption unit already had a credibility problem before the Cairns case, citing the July acquittal of Indian paceman Shanthakumaran Sreesanth and two other players of spot-fixing. Haigh said the case against Cairns was not helped by the fact that the prosecution's star witness, former Kiwi batsman Lou Vincent, was a confessed match-fixer who had been banned from cricket for life. "After the collapse of the three IPL (Sreesanth) spot-fixing cases, the game's anti-corruption ramparts, where they exist at all, appear decidedly porous," he wrote in The Australian broadsheet.

### 'Too much smoke'

New Zealand Cricket Players' Association chief Heath Mills said the case showed the police, not the ICC, needed to be in charge of investigating corruption.

"This is criminal activity," he told commercial radio. "It's run by significant mafia groups around the world. We need experts fighting that and with the powers to fight that." Cricket writer for the London Telegraph Scyld Berry said the Cairns case lifted the lid to give "a tantalising glimpse of the corruption in cricket, before being slammed shut."

"The not-guilty verdict in the Cairns trial allows us to think that the sport is pretty clean... But there is too much smoke, if not outright fire, to be complacent about match-fixing and spot-fixing," he said. Radio New Zealand sports editor Stephen Hewson said the case left Kiwi cricket's reputation "tarnished but not tattered." "Having said that, whenever there are upset results or out of the ordinary performances at cricket matches, there's always that thought at the back of one's mind - is that genuine?" he said. "Hardly good for the ongoing reputation of the game." — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Indian captain Virat Kohli catches a ball during a training session ahead of the fourth Test cricket match between India and South Africa at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

## KOHLI: INDIA WANTS TO BE 'RUTHLESS' IN FINAL TEST

**NEW DELHI:** India aims to be "ruthless" in the final test against South Africa despite having taken a winning 2-0 lead in the four-game series," captain Virat Kohli said yesterday. "We want to be ruthless and will try to go 3-0 up," Kohli said ahead of the match starting Thursday in Delhi. "We will not be experimenting just because we have won the series. We want to create a hard-working side with a winning culture. The team is in a good space and we will go all out for a win."

India won the first test at Mohali by 104 runs, and the third at Nagpur by 124 runs. The second test at Bangalore was a rain-affected draw. The Nagpur pitch, where South Africa folded for only 79 in the first innings, has been termed "poor" by match referee Jeff Crowe in his report to the International Cricket Council which awaits a

reply from the Indian cricket board. "I think the pitches have been discussed too much. No one talks about the Adelaide test (Australia vs New Zealand day-night game) which ended in two and a half days. People don't talk about the number of times teams have been bowled out for less than 100 in South Africa but pitches are highlighted in India," Kohli said. Kohli, who will lead India for the first time on his home ground, said he was not giving a thought to whether the pitch at the Feroze Shah Kotla Stadium will also help turn as much. "We're confident of our abilities whether the game lasts three days or four or five. The pitch being different won't change our mindset. We've come to win," Kohli said.

South Africa captain Hashim Amla hopes to end the series on a high. "Since we started this

tour by winning the one-day internationals and Twenty20 series we would like to win this match and make it 2-1. We've got the England series very close, two weeks after we get back. It's very important for us to get back to winning ways and cap it off well," Amla said.

South Africa had won a five-game ODI series 3-2 and a three-game T20 series 2-0. "It's been a challenge against good bowlers on difficult tracks. It has been exciting with the games condensed into three days. But as a batsman, you are never settled," he added. Amla said pace bowler Dale Steyn would miss a third consecutive test owing to a groin injury he got during the opening test but that the team was not looking to experiment even though the series was already lost. "It's important to win and salvage some pride," said Amla. — AP

## MANZIEL BENCHED AS BROWNS PICK DAVIS

**BEREA:** Johnny Manziel is still grounded. Benched for bad behavior, Manziel will remain on the sideline after Browns coach Mike Pettine picked quarterback Austin Davis to start Sunday against the Cincinnati Bengals.

Manziel was recently stripped of his starting job by Pettine after a video surfaced of the second-year quarterback partying in Texas during the team's bye week. With starter Josh McCown done for the season with a broken collarbone, Pettine had to promote one of his backups and chose Davis, who came off the bench in the fourth quarter of Monday night's loss to Baltimore.

Pettine is only committing to Davis, would went 3-5 in eight starts for St. Louis last season, as his starter for this week. "We'll revisit this," Pettine said Wednesday. "These are two young quarterbacks that we both want to see play is the bottom line. I don't want to declare, 'Hey, this is what it's going to be from here on out.' These are two young quarterbacks that have upside and we want to see what that upside is. Austin's the guy for this week."

Manziel was surprisingly active for Monday's game, serving as Cleveland's No. 3 quarterback. He's

moved one spot up the depth chart but the backup role isn't what he envisioned or what the Browns had in mind when they selected the 2012 Heisman Trophy winner in the first round of the 2014 draft.

Manziel, who spent part of the offseason in a rehab facility specializing in alcohol and drug abuse treatment, is 1-2 as a starter this season. He faced Cincinnati last month and completed 15 of 33 passes for 168 yards and a touchdown in a 31-10 loss. Manziel bounced back the next week and passed for 372 yards against Pittsburgh, a performance that offered a glimpse at his potential.

But after promising Pettine and Cleveland's coaches he would not be a distraction during his time away, Manziel was back in the nightclubs. Pettine said the 22-year-old violated the team's trust and held Manziel accountable by demoting him to third string.

Pettine said his decision on starting Davis this week is not a reflection of his actions against Manziel. "To me, it's more about Austin and seeing what he can do than length of punishment," Pettine said. Davis is the 24th quarterback to start for the Browns since 1999, turnover that underscores the

franchise's woes. On Monday, Davis replaced an injured McCown and threw a tying touchdown pass and moved the Browns into position for a winning field goal. But Travis Coons' 51-yard attempt was blocked by the Ravens and returned by Will Hill 64 yards for a TD as time expired, sending the Browns (2-9) to their sixth straight loss.

Davis completed 7 of 10 passes - he went for 6 for 6 on the scoring drive - for 77 yards. The Browns signed the 26-year-old Davis in September and gave him a two-year contract shortly after he arrived.

Pettine praised Davis' mental approach and work ethic. "He is as prepared as any quarterback that I've been around," Pettine said. "He's relentless in that way so I think he goes into games with, in his mind, I think processing speed that he's rehearsed it so many times in his head that I think he gets the ball out and he's decisive."

Pettine says Davis is also respected, mobile and has some arm strength. "He's young and hasn't had a ton of starts and what he's shown us on the practice field and the little bit that he got in the game has all been encouraging," he said. — AP



**NEW DELHI:** South Africa's Faf du Plessis bats during the training session ahead of the fourth Test cricket match between India and South Africa at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

## WI STRUGGLE IN RAIN-HIT AUSTRALIA TOUR OPENER

**BRISBANE:** The West Indies struggled on the rain-hit opening day of their Australian tour against a modestly talented Cricket Australia XI in Brisbane yesterday. Only 60 overs' play was possible on the first day of the four-day game at Allan Border Field ahead of next week's first Test in Hobart. The Windies were restricted to 154 for six with Darren Bravo not out 46 at stumps.

The inexperienced tourists gave no grounds for optimism about the upcoming three-Test series, even though the CA XI featured six players new to first-class cricket. The lowly-ranked Windies rested pace spearhead Jerome Taylor but their batting line-up was expected to be the same as for the Bellerive Oval Test starting on December 10.

Bravo was dropped on one trying to slog legspinner Cameron Boyce out of the ground but remained unbeaten at stumps. The tourists were 52-2 when lunch was taken early. After resuming they lost three wickets for 31 before Bravo and captain Jason Holder steadied the ship.

Holder struck two fours and a six in his 34-ball knock of 26, dominating a sixth-wicket stand of 32 before being caught behind off Queensland quick Simon Milenko (2-33). Bravo put on 39 for the unbroken seventh wicket with Carlos Brathwaite (25 not out), the highest stand so far of the innings. Rain forced the players off the field for the final time 30 minutes into the last session. — AFP



**NETANYA:** Finland's gold medalist Jenna Laukkanen (C), Belgium's silver medalist Fanny Lecluyse (L) and Russia's bronze medalist Natalia Ivaneeva (R) pose on the podium with their medals won in the women's 50m breaststroke event at the 18th European Short Course Swimming Championships in the Israeli Coastal city of Netanya yesterday. — AFP

## RIO OLYMPIC WATER BADLY POLLUTED, EVEN FAR OFFSHORE

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Olympic sailor Erik Heil floated a novel idea to protect himself from the sewage-infested waters he and other athletes will compete in during next year's games: He'd wear plastic overalls and peel them off when he was safely past the contaminated waters nearest shore.

Heil, 26, was treated at a Berlin hospital for MRSA, a flesh-eating bacteria, shortly after sailing in an Olympic test event in Rio in August. But his strategy to avoid a repeat infection won't limit his risk. A new round of testing by The Associated Press shows the city's Olympic waterways are as rife with pathogens far offshore as they are nearer land, where raw sewage flows into them from fetid rivers and storm drains. That means there is no dilution factor in the bay or lagoon where events will take place and no less risk to the health of athletes like sailors competing farther from the shore.

"Those virus levels are widespread. It's not just along the shoreline but it's elsewhere in the water, therefore it's going to increase the exposure of the people who come into contact with those waters," said Kristina Mena, an expert in waterborne viruses and an associate professor of public health at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. "We're talking about an extreme environment, where the pollution is so high that exposure is imminent and the chance of infection very likely." In July, the AP reported that its first round of tests showed disease-causing viruses directly linked to human sewage at levels up to 1.7 million times what would be considered highly alarming in the U.S. or Europe. Experts said athletes were competing in the viral equivalent of raw sewage and exposure to dangerous health risks almost certain.

The results sent shockwaves through the global athletic community, with sports officials pledging to do their own viral testing to ensure the waters were safe for competition in next year's games. Those promises took on further urgency in August, after pre-Olympic rowing and sailing events in Rio led to illnesses among athletes nearly double the acceptable limit in the U.S. for swimmers in recreational waters.

Nevertheless, Olympic and World Health Organization officials have flip-flopped on promises to carry out viral testing in the wake of the AP's July report. Now, the AP's most recent tests since August show not only no improvement in water quality - but that the water is even more widely contaminated than previously known. The number of viruses found over a kilometer from the shore in Guanabara Bay, where sailors compete at high speeds and get utterly drenched, are equal to those found along shorelines closer to sewage sources.

### Viruses are too high

"The levels of viruses are so high in these Brazilian waters that if we saw those levels here in the United States on beaches, officials would likely close those beaches," Mena said.

Brazilian, Olympic and WHO officials now say Brazil needs only to carry out testing for bacterial "markers" of pollution to determine water quality. That's the standard used by nations around the globe, mostly because it's been historically easier and cheaper. The WHO on Wednesday said it had no comment on the AP's latest findings. The Rio 2016 Olympic organizing committee said in an emailed statement that "the health and safety of athletes is always a top priority and there is no doubt that water within the field of play meets the relevant standards."

"Rio 2016 follows the expert advice of the World Health Organization, whose guidelines for Safe Recreational Water Environments recommend classifying water through a regular program of microbial water quality testing."

However, in recent years technological advances have made it simpler and less expensive to monitor viral levels, too. That's why many in the scientific communities in the U.S. and Europe are pushing for legislation that would require viral testing of water. They argue that repeated studies dating back decades have shown little to no correlation between the levels of bacteria pathogens in water, which quickly break down in salty and sunny conditions like those in tropical Brazil, and the presence of viruses, which have been shown to last for months, and in some cases years.

### Sampling sites

That disparity has surfaced in AP's testing in Rio, where the water often falls within safe levels of fecal bacteria, but the same water sample shows levels of viruses akin to raw sewage. Many of the testing points show spikes in bacterial contamination, too - especially in the Olympic lagoon and in the marina where sailors launch crafts.

Rio's waterways, like those of many developing nations, are extremely contaminated because most of the city's sewage is not treated, let alone collected. Massive amounts of it flow straight into Guanabara Bay. The Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon and the famous Copacabana Beach also are heavily contaminated. Rio won the right to host the Olympics based on a lengthy bid document that promised to clean up the city's scenic waterways by improving sewage sanitation, a pledge that was intended to be one of the event's biggest legacies.

Brazilian officials now acknowledge that won't happen. The AP's first published results were based on samples taken along the shores of the lagoon where rowing and canoeing events will be held. Other samples were drawn from the marina where sailors enter the water and in the Copacabana Beach surf, where marathon and triathlon swimming will take place. Ipanema Beach, popular with tourists and where many of the expected 350,000 foreign visitors will take a dip during the games, was also tested.

Since then, the AP expanded its testing to include offshore sampling sites inside Olympic sailing courses in Guanabara Bay and in the middle of the lagoon where rowing and canoeing lanes were located during recent test events. The tests found the lagoon and bay to be consistently virus-laden throughout, but it also captured a spike in the bacterial fecal coliforms in the lagoon - to over 16 times the amount permitted under Brazilian law.

Mena, the waterborne virus expert, said it makes sense for athletes to think that deeper into the bay and lagoon would be safer, but the testing doesn't bear that out.

"One would expect to see more fluctuations with the levels of any pathogen in the water, but it's not there," she said. As a result, none of the venues are fit for swimmers or boaters, she said. Athletes who ingest three teaspoons of water have a 99 percent chance of being infected by viruses. That assessment was echoed by Brazilian virologist Fernando Spilki, coordinator of the environmental quality program at Feevale University in southern Brazil, who is conducting monthly tests for the AP. "Samples from the sailing courses and inside the lagoon prove that the viruses are present even away from the shore, away from the sources of pollution, and that they maintain extremely high viral loads," he said.

### Rowers got sick

Athletes in Rio test events have tried many tricks and treatments to avoid falling ill, including bleaching rowing oars, hosing off their bodies the second they finish competing, and preemptively taking antibiotics - which have no effect on viruses.

Despite those efforts, athletes at a competition in August still fell ill. The World Rowing Federation reported that 6.7 percent of 567 rowers got sick at a junior championships event in Rio. The International Sailing Federation said just over 7 percent of sailors competing at a mid-August Olympic warm-up event in Guanabara Bay fell ill - but the federation has not conducted a full count of how many athletes got sick in the two weeks following the competition, the rough incubation period for many of the pathogens in the water.

Mena and other experts say it's difficult to put those figures into international context as each geographic location has unique threats. But in the U.S., for instance, the Environmental Protection Agency's maximum illness rate for swimming is 3.6 percent - and many experts say that is too high. The German sailor, Heil, was one of those who got sick at the Rio test event. "I've never had infections on my legs. Never!" he wrote on the German sailing team's blog in late August as he underwent painful treatment to scrape the infections off his hips and legs. "The origin must be the Marina da Gloria. In the future, we will try to travel to Rio right before the start of any event, so that any diseases that show up only occur when we are already back home." — AP



## SIXERS BEAT LAKERS TO END LOSING SKID

**PHILADELPHIA:** Kobe Bryant won over the fans. He just couldn't beat the previously winless Philadelphia 76ers. With the spotlight on Bryant during the final game of his career in his hometown, the Sixers stole the show and defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 103-91 on Tuesday night for their first victory of the season. The Sixers had lost their first 18 games, and 28 overall dating to last season - the longest skid in the history of major professional sports in the United States. But they remained tied for the worst start in NBA history with the 2009-10 New Jersey Nets, who also opened 0-18. It was the first win for the Sixers since March 25 at Denver. Bryant, who will end his 20-year career this season, opened the first leg of his farewell tour in his hometown and was feted with the kind of reverence and gratitude normally reserved for a Sixers great. He buried a 3-pointer off the opening tip and hit another 3 on the next possession. Bryant made it 3 for 3 and had the Philly crowd chanting "M-V-P!" as he turned back the clock to his championship form. He scored 20 points on 7-of-26 shooting and made four 3s. Robert Covington scored 23 points for the Sixers.

### WIZARDS 97, CAVALIERS 85

John Wall scored a season-high 35 points as Washington handed Cleveland its first home loss of the season. The Wizards, who never trailed, scored the first 10 points of the game and went on a 9-0 run to begin the second half in snapping a four-game losing streak. LeBron James had 24 points, but the Cavaliers lost for the first time in 10 games this season at Quicken Loans

Arena. Wall was 14 of 24 from the field and had 10 assists. Bradley Beal scored 18 and Marcin Gortat added 15 points with 11 rebounds for the Wizards.

### GRIZZLIES 113, PELICANS 104

Marc Gasol scored a career-high 38 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as Memphis defeated New Orleans. The Pelicans lost despite the return of starting guard Tyreke Evans and top reserve Norris Cole. Evans had 20 points and 10 assists, but that wasn't enough to overcome a Grizzlies squad that scored 52 points in the paint and missed only one of 26 free throws. Gasol was 11 of 22 from the field and made all 16 of his foul shots. Zach Randolph added 14 points, while Courtney Lee and Matt Barnes scored 13 each. Anthony Davis had 17 points, 14 rebounds and career high-tying nine blocked shots for the Pelicans. But he struggled with his shooting, going 4 of 15 from the field and 8 of 13 on free throws. Ryan Anderson scored 16 for New Orleans, which has lost three straight.

### MAGIC 96, TIMBERWOLVES 93

Nikola Vucevic had 18 points and 12 rebounds as Orlando topped Minnesota for its fourth straight victory. Elfrid Payton had 14 points and eight rebounds, and Andrew Nicholson scored 15 for the Magic, who have won four straight for the first time since December 2012. Andrew Wiggins scored 27 points for the Timberwolves, but missed a free throw with 5.6 seconds to play that would have tied the game. Minnesota shot just 37.7 percent

and fell to 2-7 at home this season. The Magic led by as many as 17 in the third quarter. Minnesota had it tied with 4:30 to play, but went 3-40 without a bucket late in the fourth.

### MAVERICKS 115, TAIL BLAZERS 112

Deron Williams had a season-high 30 points as Dallas won 115 112 in overtime in Wesley Matthews' first trip back to Portland since signing with the Mavericks as a free agent. Dirk Nowitzki added 28 points and Matthews finished with 18 points in his return as the Mavs snapped a four-game losing streak on the road. Matthews hit consecutive 3-pointers to pull the Mavericks to 89-85 as Dallas closed in on Portland in regulation. Nowitzki's 3-pointer narrowed it to 96-94 before his tip shot tied it, and Damian Lillard missed a 3 at the buzzer to send the game into overtime.

### NETS 94, SUNS 91

Brook Lopez scored 23 points as Brooklyn beat Phoenix for its fourth consecutive win at home. Brooklyn reserves Shane Larkin and Wayne Ellington each had 11 points and both made a basket in the brief flurry that helped the Nets win consecutive games for the first time this season. Jarrett Jack also scored 11 and added eight assists. Brandon Knight scored 26 points and Eric Bledsoe had 17 for the Suns, who had a long dry spell from the field in the fourth quarter after leading by nine earlier in the period. They botched their final possession trailing by three with 4 seconds remaining. The Suns fell to 1-1 on their six-game road trip. — AP

## BOUCHARD TO MAKE COMEBACK IN HOBART

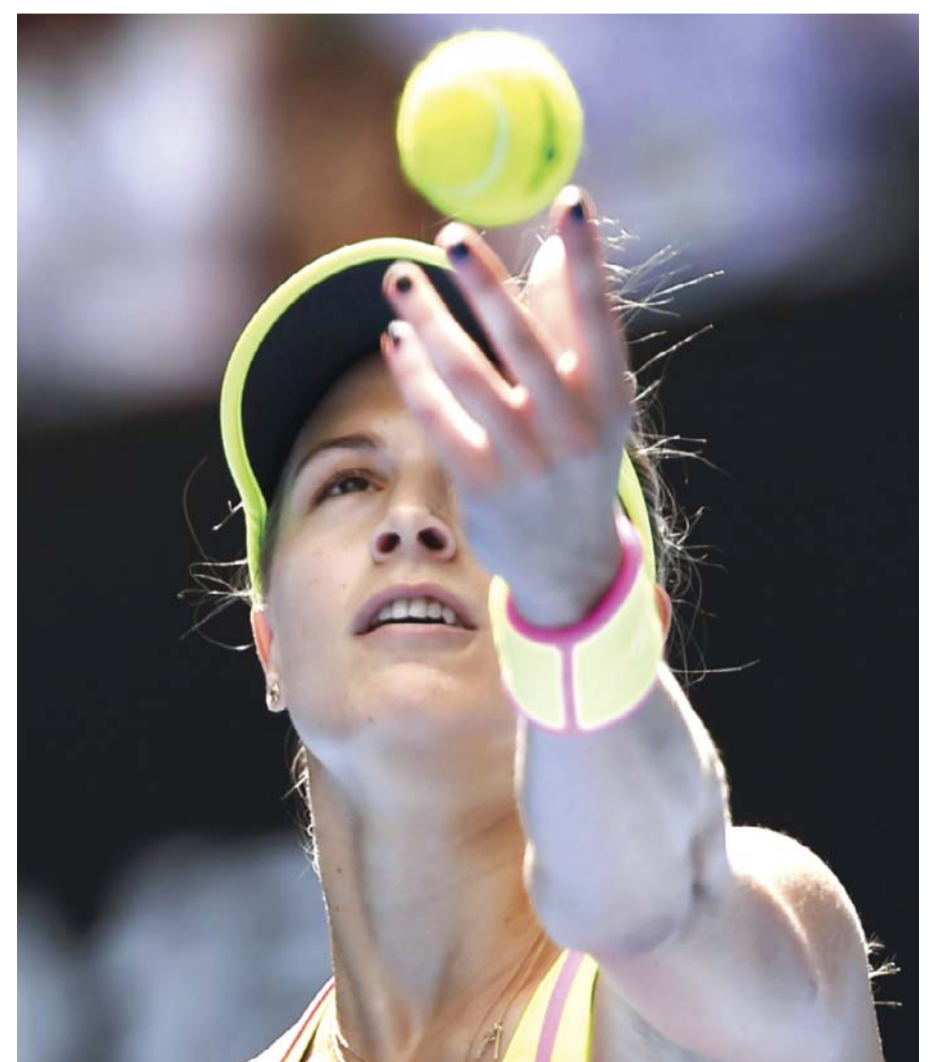
**SYDNEY:** Glamour girl Eugenie Bouchard will attempt to get her career back on track at the Hobart International, she said Wednesday, after a head injury scuppered the end of her 2015 season. The 21-year-old, named one of the most marketable athletes in the world this year, showed her huge potential by making her first Grand Slam semi-final at the Australian Open in 2014.

She followed up that year by reaching the French Open semi-final and Wimbledon final, reaching a career-high world ranking of five in October 2014. But she suffered a big setback at the US Open in September when she sustained a head injury after slipping in the locker room. She was forced to pull out of her fourth-round match at Flushing Meadows with concussion and remained troubled as she later withdrew from an event in Wuhan, China, and retired midway through a first-round match in Beijing with dizziness.

The Canadian did not contest another tour event this year and has slipped to 49 in the world. She has filed a lawsuit against the United States Tennis Association claiming negligence.

"I want to start my 2016 season strongly and am hoping to get high quality matches in Hobart," she said in a statement ahead of the tournament starting on January 10, a lead-up event to the Australian Open in Melbourne the following week.

"The tournament is played on the same surface as the Australian Open and will help me prepare for Melbourne. I've had great success in Australia in the past and can't wait to experience a new city." — AFP



Eugenie Bouchard

## BAD BOYS TOMIC, KYRGIOS TURNED CORNER: TA CHIEF

**SYDNEY:** Bad boys Nick Kyrgios and Bernard Tomic have matured and turned the corner, Tennis Australia chief Craig Tiley says, after a season which will be remembered for all the wrong reasons. Both players endured turbulent years with on and off court controversies, including brushes with officialdom and the law, overshadowing anything they did on court.

Despite being the nation's top-ranked players, neither was considered as nominees for the prestigious Newcombe Medal which rewards Australia's "most outstanding elite tennis player and ambassador". But Tiley said Tennis Australia had mended its fences with the pair and he

expected them to be on their best behaviour at their home Grand Slam, the Australian Open, next month.

"I'd love nothing more than both Bernie and Nick to have a great 2016, as we all would," Tiley, who is also tournament director of the season's first major at Melbourne Park, told Wednesday's The Australian newspaper. "There's no rifts; no animosity between Tennis Australia and those two guys. They are making a real go of a professional tennis career. They know what our expectations are and when they meet them they get rewarded and if they don't, they don't." During the past year Tomic clashed with Tennis

Australia and was suspended for a Davis Cup tie. He was also arrested over a raucous penthouse party in Miami, while outspoken Kyrgios's sex slur at Stan Wawrinka in August sparked stinging criticism from fellow players.

Tiley said he has had conversations with both players. "We've got a good relationship with both of them, no question," he said. "I spent time with Bernie in the UK when he played Davis Cup and in my view he is saying all the right things. They are both different people and they are both extremely talented. We're fortunate in Australia to have them among a group of good male players. That's great for us." — AFP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** In this Nov. 5, 2015 photo, workers take a rest on two "eco-boats," or garbage-collecting barges, at a canal in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The barges are a key part of authorities' efforts to clean up Rio's Guanabara Bay before it and other city waterways host swimming and boating competitions at the 2016 Olympics. — AP

## BENZEMA PLEADS 'MISUNDERSTANDING' IN SEXTAPE BLACKMAIL CASE

**PARIS:** Karim Benzema says his go-between role in the Mathieu Valbuena sextape blackmail case has been misunderstood as the Real Madrid striker prepares to explain himself on French TV yesterday. The pre-recorded interview comes in the wake of comments from French Prime Minister Manuel Valls on Tuesday saying only players with exemplary records should represent France at Euro 2016. "It's all a huge misunderstanding. All I was doing was trying to help. There's nothing to any of it, no blackmail or demands for money," Benzema told a judge in early November, according to a Le Monde article published on Wednesday.

The scandal is a serious distraction to France before they host Euro 2016 next year-Benzema has been banned from meeting Valbuena and neither was called up for France's games against Germany and England recently.

In sporting terms Benzema is seen as France's top striker, but Les Blues have a wealth of other attacking options and a record of leaving troublemakers out of squads for international tournaments. The blackmail case began in June, when Valbuena lodged a complaint with police after being telephoned by a man who said he had the sex tape. Four men, including a friend of Benzema, Karim Zenati, have been charged and detained over the blackmail using the stolen sex-tape. Benzema is alleged to have approached Valbuena about the images at a France national



**RIBEIRAO PRETO:** In this June 10, 2014 file photo, France's Mathieu Valbuena, left, and Karim Benzema, right, chat during a training session of the French national soccer team, at the Santa Cruz Stadium in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil. Speaking publicly for the first time since becoming embroiled in a blackmail scandal, Karim Benzema said yesterday he wants to play again for France and win the 2016 European Championship with teammate Mathieu Valbuena. — AP

training camp on October 5. The former Lyon star says he had no need of money nor did one of the accused, Karim Zenati, as he was employed in one of Benzema's companies.

A police telephone tap however on Benzema and his calls to Zenati cast doubts on their attitude. "I'm mad with myself for having talked that way on the phone, we went too far," Benzema said of comments that appeared to mock Valbuena.

The victim of the affair, Valbuena, in his first public comments told Le Monde last week he was "very, very, very disappointed" by Benzema. Benzema's lawyer Alain Jakubowicz told Wednesday's le Parisien daily newspaper that the player would use yesterday's tv interview to apologise to Valbuena for those unfriendly remarks.

The lawyer also used the Le Parisien to hit out at the French prime minister's comments over his clients potential exclusion from the France squad asking: "Is this a prime minister's words or those of a Barcelona fan talking about a Real Madrid player?" Valls hails from the Catalonia region and was in hot water himself in June for using a French government jet to fly himself and his son to Berlin to the Champions League final featuring Barcelona.

Jakubowicz later told RTL radio he would sue Le Monde for contempt of court for having revealed details of Benzema's testimony, adding the revelations would aid the player's defence. — AFP

## GLOBAL MATCH-FIXER SUSPECT REARRESTED

**SINGAPORE:** Investigations are ongoing into a Singaporean man accused of leading the world's largest football match-fixing syndicate following his rearrest almost a week after being freed, the interior minister said yesterday.

"Dan Tan has now been re-arrested and investigations are ongoing. A decision will be made, one way or another, on what is to be done with him," Home Affairs Minister K. Shanmugam was quoted as saying by local media. He said that if a decision is made again to invoke a special law that allows for Tan's detention without trial, the government will make sure that "it will set out the grounds in full". Tan, 51, was rearrested on Tuesday, just six days after the Court of Appeal, the country's highest court, ordered his release saying his prolonged detention was "unlawful" because he did not pose a danger to public safety in the city-state.

The businessman was first arrested in September 2013 and held for more than two years without any charges under the special anti-gangster law.

The ministry of home affairs had invoked the law against Tan after it became difficult to find enough evidence and witnesses to file criminal charges. Tan's release on November 25 sparked criticism from football's world governing body FIFA and other analysts who said it was a blow to efforts to rid the global sport of corruption.

Police said Tan's rearrest was "for investigations into suspected involvement in criminal activities" but did not give details. But Shanmugam denied that international pressure played a role in Tan's rearrest. "We do what is right. We don't arrest or release people based on international pressure," the Straits Times quoted him as saying.

### No evidence

Legal sources said that once police completed their investigations, the results will be referred to state prosecutors who will decide on the next step, including pressing charges. Tan's defence counsel Hamidul Haq told AFP yesterday: "I am still at the stage where I am trying to get information (on

why he was rearrested). I don't have any new material." The appeals court said in its ruling that while match-fixing was "reprehensible and should not be condoned", Tan's alleged acts "all took place beyond our shores" and no evidence was presented to show that potential witnesses were being intimidated. Former FIFA security chief Chris Eaton lauded Tan's rearrest. A court trial would be the best way to go, said Eaton, now the Qatar-based executive director for sport integrity at the International Center for Sport Security.

"In this way the realities of any case will be open to global scrutiny and therefore helpful guidance on how to prevent match fixers ever hiding in plain sight in Singapore and other countries again," he said.

Asked if Tan can be tried overseas, Eaton noted that Hungary and Italy have built criminal cases against him but said there could be complexities involved in the extradition process. "For now, the world is interested in how his rearrest evolves within the national investigation and public court systems (of Singapore)," he said. FIFA said through its spokesman last week that it was "very disappointed" with Tan's release "given the gravity of his past activities relating to match manipulation".

After Tan's first arrest in 2013, the then-Interpol chief Ronald Noble said the Singapore-based ring he allegedly led was the world's "largest and most aggressive match-fixing syndicate, with tentacles reaching every continent". The home affairs ministry has said that Singapore law enforcement agencies began investigating Tan in 2011 "when he was repeatedly cited in Italian court papers for his involvement in transnational criminal activities in the form of match-fixing".

It described Tan as "the leader and financier of a global criminal syndicate that conducted match-fixing operations out of Singapore". "Investigations indicated that Tan had an extensive network of people under his control-many of whom were recruited in, and directed out of Singapore," the ministry said. — AFP



**ANGERS:** Angers' Guinean midfielder Abdou Camara (C) vies with Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian defender Maxwell (R) during the French L1 football match between Angers (SCO) and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), on Tuesday, at the Jean Bouin stadium, in Angers, western France. — AFP

## PSG DENIED 10TH STRAIGHT WIN IN 0-0 DRAW WITH ANGERS

**PARIS:** Paris Saint-Germain's nine-match winning run in Ligue 1 was brought to a halt on Tuesday as they were held to a 0-0 draw away to promoted Angers. In other matches Lyon battled Nantes to a goalless stalemate in Brittany while there were no goals between Lorient and Nice on a barren night for celebrations in France.

PSG, the reigning champions dropped points for just the third time this season after being unable to break down the division's tightest defence behind that of their own at the Stade Jean Bouin.

The result left PSG on 42 points from 16 matches but still 14 points clear of nearest challengers Caen, who visit Monaco on Wednesday, with Angers one point further back in third.

"I think everyone has seen it and we were fully aware of how this Angers team plays. It's not easy to play a team like that," said PSG coach Laurent Blanc.

"The key to a match like this one is the first 15 to 20 minutes. As long as you don't score the first goal, Angers don't waver from their principles. They've picked up 27 points like that, you have to commend them for it," he added.

With six games in a 19-day stretch leading up to the winter break, Blanc has made no secret of his desire to rotate his squad. Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who drew level with Mustapha Dahleb's club-record 85 top-flight goals over the weekend, dropped to the bench while Serge Aurier made his first league start since October in defence. Blaise Matuidi also returned to the side after being used as a substitute in Saturday's 4-1 win over Troyes, while Adrien Rabiot again kept his place in midfield after impressing in recent weeks.

### Fine stop

PSG were bidding to stretch their unbeaten league run to 25 games and nearly grabbed a fifth-minute lead when Edinson Cavani connected with a corner, only for the Uruguayan's glancing header to bounce back off the near post. Aurier then forced Angers goalkeeper Ludovic Butelle, who had kept nine clean sheets in 15 appearances prior to Tuesday, into a sharp save with a fierce angled drive.

But the home side were again rescued by the woodwork on 33 minutes when Angel Di Maria

weaved his way in from the right side of the penalty area before seeing his curling left-footed strike smack against the far post. Angers also struck the frame of the goal when a looping header from Romain Saiss dropped onto the top of the crossbar and bounced over, although PSG keeper Kevin Trapp appeared to have it covered. The hosts went even closer three minutes into the second half when skipper Cheikh Ndoeye rose to meet a corner, but Trapp made a fine stop from point-blank range to thwart the Senegalese midfielder. Saiss again caused trouble from a set-piece, this time at his own end, as he flicked a cross towards his own goal with Butelle doing well to turn it over. Ibrahimovic replaced Lucas Moura on 71 minutes but PSG were still unable to find a way past Butelle who clawed away Rabiot's low strike late on that was destined for the bottom corner to preserve a hard-earned point for Angers. Nice missed the chance to leapfrog Angers into third when they were held to a 0-0 draw at mid-table Lorient.

Lyon's point at Nantes kept them in fourth position while the Canaries remain 10th after their goalless draw. — AFP

## 2018 WORLD CUP COULD EASE GLOBAL TENSIONS

**MOSCOW:** The 2018 World Cup in Russia could serve as a catalyst for political reconciliation and help ease global tensions, Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko said yesterday.

"Hopefully, it will become a kind of a conciliating event, which will show the world that Russia is an open-hearted, democratic and hospitable country with a rich history and culture," Mutko told R-sport agency.

"It will be a great occasion not only for Russia but for the entire football world," Mutko said. Relations between Russia and the West have been tense since the annexation of Crimea in March last year and an ensuing conflict in Ukraine that has claimed more than 8,000 lives.

There is also bitterness amongst other 2018 candidates over allegations Russia was awarded the rights to host the World Cup after a deal with FIFA was apparently agreed in advance.

Russia's cold war rivals Britain are angry with the 2018 World Cup going to Russia while the United States are also uncomfortable with the 2022 World Cup going to Qatar.

Mutko also said Russia was fulfilling its commitments towards FIFA deadlines on World Cup infrastructure perpetrations despite the economic crisis. "We're doing our best to develop our facilities and to urge the development of football in the country," he said. "I don't see any really outstanding problems."

"Despite the complicated economic situation we have managed to keep to our World Cup investment budget. It will help Russia to fulfil all

of its obligations in full." FIFA has approved 62 of the 64 training bases to be used by teams' for accommodation and practice during the tournament, Mutko confirmed. He also revealed that representatives of certain teams had already visited some of the bases first presented at the preliminary draw ceremony earlier this year. "The

representatives of Germany, Netherlands, England, Brazil, USA, Mexico and some other event favourites have already visited the training bases this year and gave them a positive rating," the minister said. The 2018 World Cup will take place at 12 venues across Russia between June 14 - July 15 2018. — AFP



**LYON:** Nantes' Argentinian forward Emiliano Sala (L) vies with Lyon's French midfielder Corentin Tolisso during the French L1 football match between Nantes and Lyon on Tuesday at the Beaujoire stadium in Nantes, western France. — AFP

## PEP QUITTING BAYERN TO HELP GERMAN LEAGUE

**BERLIN:** Ex-Germany goalkeeper and current TV pundit Jens Lehmann says it would be better for the German league if Pep Guardiola decides against extending his contract at Bayern Munich.

Under Guardiola, Bayern are currently eight points clear in the German league table and have won the Bundesliga for both of his previous two seasons in charge by dominating their rivals. Guardiola's current contract expires next June and Bayern bosses are hoping to persuade the 44-year-old to sign an extension during the winter break, which starts on December 20, with a decision expected to be made before Christmas.

Bayern are again peerless in Germany and Lehmann says the current team is the

strongest the club has ever fielded, having picked up 40 out of a possible 42 points with 13 wins from 14 league matches plus a single draw. "The side which won the treble (in 2013) under Jupp Heynckes was already amazing, but Pep has taken Bayern to the next level," Lehmann told German daily Bild.

"They should set themselves the goal of being the first team to go through a German league season unbeaten." Lehmann said Guardiola signing an extension with Bayern would be bad for the rest of the league. "It would be good for Bayern, because finding an adequate successor would be tricky," said Lehmann. "For the rest of the league it would be better when he goes and perhaps it will become a bit more exciting." — AFP



**KATERINI:** France's Amandine Henry (R) heads the ball to score during the women's Euro 2017 qualifying football match between Greece and France at the stadium of Katerini on Tuesday. — AFP

# Sports

**Kuwait bags gold, bronze at World Bodybuilding championship**



**Kohli: India wants to be 'ruthless' in final test**



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SIXERS BEAT LAKERS TO END LOSING SKID

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MANCHESTER: Manchester City's David Silva, right, fights for the ball against Hull City's Isaak Hayden during the English League Cup soccer match between Manchester City and Hull City at the Etihad Stadium, Manchester, England, Tuesday. — AP

## MAN CITY, STOKE, EVERTON IN CUP SEMIS

**LONDON:** The plucky underdogs were brought down to earth as Manchester City, Everton and Stoke City reached the League Cup semi-finals on Tuesday, ending the hopes of second-tier sides who felled fancied opponents in the last round.

Manchester City were far short of their finely-tuned best at home to Hull City, but still managed a comprehensive 4-1 victory while Everton won 2-0 at Middlesbrough and Stoke beat visitors Sheffield Wednesday by the same scoreline.

Wilfried Bony's 12th-minute goal calmed City's nerves at the Etihad Stadium, but resilient Hull defending ensured it stayed close before late efforts from Kelechi Iheanacho and a Kevin De Bruyne double put a more presentable gloss on the scoreline.

Hull, who grabbed a late consolation from Andrew Robertson, had knocked out surprise Premier League contenders Leicester City in their last League Cup outing and City boss Manuel Pellegrini was not going to take them lightly.

The City side included a number of fresh faces from their league victory over Southampton on Saturday, but was still packed full of talent, including playmaker David Silva who was making his first start in almost two months following injury.

### POACHER'S GOAL

Things looked bleak for the Championship side when Bony broke the deadlock with only minutes on the clock as De Bruyne's effort struck the post and the Ivorian followed up to finish.

That should have signalled the opening of the floodgates, but Hull stubbornly fended off the Premier League leaders and their rearguard were not breached again until the 80th minute.

Raheem Sterling whipped a cross in from the left and Iheanacho tapped in from close range to give City breathing space before De Bruyne grabbed a poacher's goal and wrapped up the tie with a curling free kick from the edge of the box.

"We only had 72 hours to recover (from the 3-1 win over Southampton) so it was a very good answer from all the squad," said City boss Pellegrini, whose side are also through to the last 16 of the Champions League.

"The most important thing is to be involved in all the competitions at this

stage. We were very solid and we didn't allow chances for Hull to score."

Middlesbrough, who knocked out Manchester United in the fourth round, saw their luck run out against Everton while Stoke was the end of the road for Arsenal's conquerors Wednesday.

Everton went in front at the Riverside with a superb piece of individual skill from Gerard Deulofeu after 20 minutes. The Spaniard ran from inside the Middlesbrough half before beating two defenders and finishing low from the edge of the area.

He then set up striker Romelu Lukaku eight minutes later with a delightful cross from the right that the leaping Belgian powerhouse headed superbly into the net.

"It was a fantastic occasion, to be

involved in the cup," Everton manager Roberto Martinez told Sky Sports. "It is a terrific feeling to get through to the semi-final and good memory for our football club."

Yesterday made the biggest splash in the previous round, crushing visitors Arsenal 3-0, but any hope of a repeat at the Britannia Stadium looked faint when Ibrahim Afellay volleyed into the corner on the half-hour for his first Stoke goal.

The tie was wrapped up with 15 minutes to play when Phil Bardsley smashed home a low free kick with Stoke reaching their first League Cup semi-final since they won the trophy in 1972.

Record eight-times League Cup winners Liverpool visit Southampton on Wednesday in an all-Premier League clash to decide the last place in the semi-finals. — Reuters

## NEVILLE NAMED VALENCIA COACH

**MADRID:** England assistant coach and Manchester United legend Gary Neville has been named Valencia boss for the rest of the season, the Spanish side announced yesterday. "Valencia have reached an agreement with English coach Gary Neville for him to be coach of the first team until June 30, 2016," the club said in a statement.

"Neville will officially begin his work on Sunday, December 6 ahead of the Champions League match against Lyon which will take place at Mestalla on Wednesday, December 9." Neville's brother Phil has been at the club since the start of the season, working as an assistant to Nuno Espirito Santo before he left the club after a poor run of results on Sunday.

"I am very excited and feel very proud to have received this great opportunity with Valencia," Neville told the club's website. "It is a huge club of immense prestige and I remember well from my time as a player the great passion and loyalty of their fans. "I am really looking forward to working with the club's talented group of players and I am excited about the challenge ahead." Neville will be presented at a press conference at 4pm local time today.

The role is Neville's first managerial post, but he will continue as part of England manager Roy Hodgson's coaching staff ahead of next year's European Championships.

"I'm delighted that Gary has decided to take this excellent opportunity. It's the right moment in time for him and I'm 100 per cent behind his decision to join Valencia as the new head coach," Hodgson told the Football Association's website.

"As far as I'm concerned, this will be an extra string to his bow and the experience he will gain working in the Spanish league can only be beneficial to our work together with the England team." Neville won 20 trophies in a 19-year playing career at United as well as winning 85 England caps.



Gary Neville

However, he has been just as successful as a widely respected television pundit for Sky Sports since retiring in 2011. Both Nevilles are well known to Valencia's Singaporean owner Peter Lim due to their shared investment in non-league English side Salford City along with other Manchester United legends Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt. "We are delighted to have secured Gary so quickly," said Valencia chairwoman Layhoon Chan in the club statement. "He combines top level coaching experience through his role as a senior coach with the England national team and a world-class playing career with England and Manchester United."

Valencia sit ninth in La Liga, five points off the top four, after a hugely disappointing start to the campaign. Neville will be spared a debut against European champions Barcelona at the Mestalla on Saturday with caretaker boss Voro to take charge with Phil Neville.

However, the 40-year-old's first game in the hot seat against Lyon is a huge one for the club with victory allied to Gent failing to beat Zenit St Petersburg enough to send Valencia into the last 16 of the Champions League for the first time in three years. — AFP

## FIFA DISCUSSES REFORMS AMID NEW SPONSOR ATTACKS

**ZURICH:** FIFA's leadership held talks on reforms yesterday as sponsors who provide hundreds of millions of dollars demanded independent leadership of changes to football's scandal-tainted governing body.

The FIFA executive committee with president Sepp Blatter and vice president Michel Platini both suspended is holding two days of talks to discuss reforms proposed by top sporting official Francois Carrard who was named by the world body.

But top sponsors Anheuser-Busch, Adidas, Coca-Cola, McDonald's and Visa said reforms should be "subject to independent oversight". The multi-nationals are reportedly angry that they have not been given places on FIFA's reform committee. They have in the past threatened to review their football deals.

In October, Carrard's panel proposed limiting president terms at 12 years and barring those over 74 from serving on the executive. It also suggested the pay package of top officials be published annually and independently audited.

### REFORM DOUBTS

The executive committee will decide whether to send the reform package for adoption at a special FIFA congress on February 26, when Blatter's replacement will be chosen.

The meeting is being held on the fifth anniversary of the 2010 vote that controversially awarded the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 tournament to Qatar. That decision set off a cascade of allegations of corruption and political skulduggery.

Swiss authorities are investigating the 2010 votes and also charged Blatter with criminal mismanagement at FIFA. Platini is named in the investigation over a two million dollar payment made for FIFA advisory work for which there was no contract.

In parallel, US authorities have charged 14 FIFA officials and sports business executives over more than \$150 million in bribes paid for marketing contracts.

Seven officials were detained at a FIFA congress in Zurich in May.

Sponsors are not the only group to express concern over the reform measures being undertaken by FIFA. "We urge you to embrace positive changes and also recognize that this is just one step toward creating a credible future for FIFA," the sponsors said in a letter to the world body.

"Transparency, accountability, respect for human rights, integrity, leadership and gender equality are crucial to the future of FIFA. Reforms can set the proper framework for these characteristics, but a cultural change is also needed."

A FIFA spokesman said in response that sponsors had already played "an important part" in the FIFA reform committee and that they would "continue to play an important role in the reform process."

Other groups also doubt the Carrard panel, dominated by officials nominated by regional confederations, will be able to press through convincing reforms. "What is actually needed is an independent set of executives that have no ties in world football, walking in and cleaning this place up," said Declan Hill, author of "The Fix: soccer and organised crime".

The Transparency International activist group's chief Cobus de Swardt predicted Carrard's committee "will likely avoid taking some hard decision about changing the way FIFA does business", because doing so could affect the committee members themselves.

Meanwhile, Jack Warner, a central figure in FIFA corruption accusations, faces a hearing in Trinidad and Tobago on whether he will be extradited to the United States to face bribery charges.

Warner, a businessman, politician and former kingpin in Caribbean football and in the American confederation, is accused of taking millions of dollars in underhand payments from various sources. A former FIFA vice president, he was banned for life by the world body in September. — AFP

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ADDIS ABABA: Photo shows large villas in a new housing development on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, in the Summit neighborhood. — AFP

## TASTE FOR LUXURY: ETHIOPIA ELITE SPUR HOUSING BOOM

ETHIOPIA HAS SEEN AN ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF NEARLY 10%

**ADDIS ABABA:** White fences and manicured lawns surround the villas of an elegant housing estate in Ethiopia, a potent symbol of the emerging elite in a country better known for drought and famine. Just 10 years ago, the affluent suburb of Yerrer View was little more than fields. Today, imposing villas with pillars stand behind neatly-trimmed oleander hedges. A comfortable commuting distance of 20 kilometers from the capital Addis Ababa, the 600-hectare estate has tapped into a growing taste for high-end luxury among wealthy Ethiopians, who are looking for a home which reflects their success in business.

Over the past decade, this Horn of Africa nation has seen an annual growth rate of nearly 10 percent, World Bank figures show, due to a boom in construction, manufacturing, trade and agriculture. For those in Africa's second most populous country who are enjoying that growth, the estate symbolizes much more than a home. "We are selling a lifestyle more than just housing," says Haile Mesele, a civil engineer who heads Country Club Developers, the property firm behind the development.

"We don't do any advertising. We prefer that the residents themselves spread the news, and in a way, chose their own neighbours," he said.

According to a recent study by New World Wealth (NWW), a South Africa-based market research consultancy, there are now 2,700 millionaires in Ethiopia, reflecting an increase of 108 percent between 2007 and 2013 - the fastest growth rate in Africa. "There is a demand for luxury real estate," said Wunmi Osholake, who runs the Ethiopian branch of online real estate platform Lamudi, which focuses on emerging markets, with customers eyeing property costing over \$330,000. The price, she adds, has no upper limit.

### A new Manhattan?

And the luxury boom is not just in the suburbs. In the centre of Addis Ababa, the bustling Kazanchis business district is also undergoing major renovations. Eighteen months ago, May Real Estate Development began a new residential development called the Addis Gojo project, which incorporates 113 apartments in three 10-storey towers

located near several embassies. "For those working for the UN or diplomats, it is very central. The district is a new sort of Manhattan," says project manager Bitania Ephrem. "The lifts work, which is not the case elsewhere," says Bitania, adding they are planning rooftop swimming pools, a gym and a restaurant "so that residents don't need to leave the premises." A standard apartment between 140-170 square metres (1,500-1,800 square feet) rents for about \$1800 per month (1700 euros).

### Villas for locals

Such luxury housing has been designed to meet the needs of Ethiopia's emerging new middle class. At the estate in Yerrer View, hundreds of the homes from stand-alone villas to modern apartments are already occupied with plans for a total of 5,400 houses for some 20,000 people. When completed, the estate will also include a golf course, a five-star spa hotel, a shopping centre, school and clinic and an organic farm covering about 200 hectares. "When we began, economic growth wasn't very strong," recalls Haile. "Half of our clients

came from the diaspora. But since then, the economy has become a lot stronger and nearly 85 percent of our residents are local."

The customers have high expectations. Pushing open the door, Mesele shows off a 500 square meter (5380 square foot) property built on a plot measuring 1,000 square meters. A large open plan kitchen and a curved imitation-marble staircase leads up to the first floor where there are three bedrooms, all en-suite. The master bedroom has a fireplace and a dressing room, while the bathroom has "an open space in case the owners want to install a sauna," he explains.

All that remains is to install surveillance cameras able to read a license plate before opening the gate, smoke detectors and a security system.

And the price tag? \$400,000 (377,000 euros) - a fortune in a country where the gross domestic product per capita is \$565. "No matter what we build, it will always be too little to meet demand," he says. But others have spotted the growing demand, with several other sites popping up nearby.

### Labor challenge

Since the overthrow of a Marxist junta in 1991, Ethiopia's political and economic situation has stabilized, although rights groups have criticized the government for suppressing opposition. The economy is still heavily dependent on agriculture, especially coffee, with the vast majority of the country's workers involved in that sector. Meeting the demand for new housing has called for bringing in foreign workers as Ethiopia lacks a skilled work force. Haile said his firm recruited around a thousand specialist workers from China.

Yoseph Mebratu, the major shareholder in May Real Estate Development, also complains that he had to import 70 percent of raw materials. "Windows, doors, wood paneling... everything comes from China," he told AFP, adding that taxes are "very heavy." Inflation, which hit a record 64.2 percent in July 2008 but has since stabilized at around 13 percent, has also caused delays. "We had to slow down our business and missed deadlines... but since last year, we have become profitable again," Mesele added. — AFP

## WOMEN 'THE FUTURE' OF HERMES WATCHES

**BRUGG:** The new head of Hermes Watches is hoping a more feminine touch, added with the fashion group's own in-house know-how, will help it navigate through the turbulence rocking the sector. Laurent Dordet, who took the helm of the watch division at the famous Paris fashion house last March, told AFP in an interview he wants to focus even more heavily on women's timepieces, which already account for 80 percent of the brand's sales. "We plan to really develop feminine creation," the 47-year-old said, adding that the brand aimed to explore a range of aspects of women's watches, including the use of jewels on the timepieces.

World-famous for its silk scarves and iconic handbags, Hermes is eager to expand its share of the luxury watch market. So Dordet, who took over after his predecessor Luc Perramond moved over to Ralph Lauren after six years at the helm, is planning to shake things up a bit and reorganize. "But not through acquisitions," he stressed, pointing out that the tough times for Swiss watchmakers were not ideal for major new investments.

After years of euphoria with booming sales in Asia, Swiss watchmakers have recently been hard-hit by collapsing watch exports to their top markets China and Hong Kong, as a strengthening Swiss franc has led to exploding production costs. So instead of looking out for new acquisitions, Hermes Watches is taking a good, hard look within. "We have development ideas for certain exceptional skill sets, using our own Swiss and French workshops," Dordet explained.

He pointed to a series of colorful models presented at the Baselworld watch show last year called Arceau Millefiori-or one thousand flowers-created in cooperation with Hermes affiliate Cristalleries de Saint-Louis, France's

oldest glass and crystal manufacturer. The watches are equipped with unconventional crystal dials and covers inspired by 19th century paperweights, giving the illusion of a real bed of flowers. Speaking in Brugg, on the outskirts of the northwestern Swiss town of Biel a tradition-imbued watch metropolis-Dordet said the organisational changes needed included better integrating past acquisitions.

### High-end purchases

Over the past decade, Hermes has made several purchases aimed at boosting its watchmaking credibility. In 2006, it snapped up 25 percent of Vaucher Manufacture Fleurier, a prestigious Swiss watch movement maker, before buying Nateber, which designs and manufactures watch dials, in 2012, and a year later pocketing Joseph Erard, which specializes in luxury watch cases. "Our first step will be to consolidate these skill-sets and digest them." Observers say Dordet's profile gives an indication of the direction Hermes would like to see its watch brand take. While his predecessor Perramond had climbed through the watchmaking ranks, spending part of his career at LVMH-owned Swiss luxury watch brand Tag Heuer, the new Hermes Watches chief has a largely in-house background with little timepiece experience.

Having joined Hermes in 1995, he has spent most of his career working with textiles and precious leathers. "Going for an in-house candidate might mean they are looking at this more from the fashion end," Kepler Cheuvreux analyst Jon Cox said.

The question is whether the female fashion focus will be enough to boost sales in an overall morose market. In October, Swiss watch exports plunged 12.3 percent, according to data from the Federation of the Swiss Watch

## GOODBYE AND GOOD TIMES FOR NORWAY'S OIL CAPITAL

**STAVANGER:** Sparkling wine instead of champagne, companies cancelling their Christmas celebrations, unemployment soaring and real estate prices flagging: with crude prices plunging from record highs, Norway's oil capital Stavanger is hungover after the party. "There you go, another rejection," Roger Schurmeyer holds up the umpteenth job rejection letter he has received on his smartphone.

At 36, this former audiovisual solutions manager for Statoil has been out of work for almost a year, a victim of the state-owned company's savings program. "I've been working since I was 16 and I've never been unemployed until now. It feels quite strange," he says, sitting in his apartment on the leafy outskirts of Stavanger. "I've heard there are about 300 or 400 people applying for the same job. So it's a tough market," he sighs. The oil-rich southwestern region of Norway posts an unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, which looks enviable enough.

But it represents an 81 percent increase from a year ago, and, in a brutal change of fate, is now the highest in the country. Even headhunting firms are letting people go. All because the price of a barrel of oil has plummeted from more than \$100 in early 2014 to around \$45 dollars today, inciting oil companies to slash investments and jobs. Stavanger, once a cozy fishermen's village, has become an opulent town of 130,000 residents after the 1969 discovery of Ekofisk, a giant offshore field still in operation that ushered Norway into an era of unprecedented prosperity.

A sign that the region has fallen on harder times, three oil services vessels now languish in the docks on the edge of town. And Scandinavian airline SAS has just halted its direct flights to Houston, Texas-the United States' oil hub. "I check the oil price almost every day," admits Christine Sagen Vestbo, the Conservative mayor of Stavanger since 2011. When she began



STAVANGER: A sign points to the petroleum museum on the waterfront in the centre of Stavanger. — AFP

her first term, the town's biggest problem was attracting enough engineers to fill all the job openings. It was the place in Norway where Porsche had its highest market share.

### Bleak outlook

Now, the challenge is to hang on to and create jobs, as Norway tries to build a new future less dependent on black gold. "I think it's going to get worse in 2016," says Vestbo. "We have to develop more jobs in technology in general, in healthcare, in renewable (energy). We have the technology from the oil and gas industry, we can use that in offshore wind, in solar, and also of course in onshore wind," she says. At the Cafe de France, a

high-end restaurant where a three-course menu served on Versace plates costs 70 euros (\$75), the decline of the offshore sector's glory days is palpable: reservations for companies' annual Christmas dinners are down, and fewer businessmen are passing through town.

"There will always be business happening but companies have very strict guidelines now for when they can take customers out, and we see more people flying in and out instead of staying the night and dining," the restaurant's owner Emil Heimdal explains. "Now we might cut the champagne, use Cremant de Bourgogne or another sparkling wine instead," he adds. "We were probably living too high on the hog before." —AFP

# OPEC HAWKS PUSH FOR OUTPUT CUTS AS RUSSIA PUMPS RECORD VOLUMES

## SCHLUMBERGER TO CUT MORE JOBS AS LOW OIL PRICE HURTS

**VIENNA:** Saudi Arabia has come under increased pressure from fellow OPEC members to cut output to prop up prices as the group meets this week amid one of the most severe oil gluts in its history. OPEC is widely expected to stick to its policies - enforced by Saudi Arabia's oil minister Ali Al-Naimi a year ago - of defending market share by pumping record volumes to drive rival, higher-cost producers out of the market. But while the Saudis can claim a partial victory over the US shale oil boom, production from top non-OPEC rival Russia has kept surprising on the upside and its own members Iraq and Iran are set to add new barrels. World oil stockpiles are at a record, according to the International Energy Agency.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Wednesday said his country, OPEC's traditional price hawk, would push for a 5 percent output cut to shore up prices when OPEC meets on Friday. OPEC is currently producing some 1.7 million bpd above ceiling "Our (oil) minister Eulogio del Pino will put forth a very clear pro-

posal to respect production ceilings," Maduro said. "The hour has come to put the oil market in order." Iran has also asked OPEC members to respect the production ceiling of 30 million barrels per day. It wants OPEC to be prepared to accommodate new volumes as soon as Western sanctions on the country are lifted next year.

### Feeling pain

Oil prices have more than halved to \$45 per barrel over the past 18 months due to a US shale oil boom and high OPEC production levels. The decline was steep enough to deal a severe blow to the US oil industry - where production costs are some of the highest in the world. Oil services giant Schlumberger said on Tuesday it would cut more jobs, adding to 20,000 already this year, citing low oil prices and a growing oversupply. "It has become clear that any recovery in activity has been pushed out in time," said Schlumberger's president of operations Patrick Schorn.

But outside the United States the signs of a

slowdown in supply are thin. Fresh data on Wednesday showed OPEC's biggest rival Russia held its output steady in November at a post-Soviet high. Russian output has repeatedly surprised OPEC on the upside over the past year. A year ago, Saudi's Naimi said output from ageing Siberian fields was set to decline: "Others will be harmed greatly before we feel any pain," he said.

Moscow has allowed its currency to weaken over the past year to adjust to lower prices and oil firms have ramped up drilling. Last week, US bank Merrill Lynch said Saudi Arabia may have to devalue its currency, pegged to the US dollar, or ultimately cut production to protect its budget revenues. Several non-Saudi OPEC delegates told Reuters they hoped Naimi would listen to other members, whose finances are much more limited than those of Riyadh and need an urgent boost from higher oil prices. "I hope this time it will be different, but I doubt it will be," one OPEC delegate said. Another delegate said he still saw no indication an agreement on cuts could be reached tomorrow. —Reuters



# INFINITI WINNERS ENJOY ULTIMATE TEST DRIVE EXPERIENCE IN DUBAI

**KUWAIT:** Infiniti wraps up the 'Ultimate Test Drive' campaign that started on 10th September, 2015 with a day of adrenaline filled activities at the Dubai Autodrome track on November 16th, 2015. The two lucky Infiniti winners from Kuwait, Faisal Aljadi & Mohamed Ghazi were able to experience a host of thrilling programs organized by Infiniti in collaboration with Infiniti Red Bull Racing. Both winners experienced the adventure of a lifetime and had the chance to participate in a number of thrilling activities that included lessons on braking, cornering, racing lines on track and hot laps with Infiniti Red Bull Racing Test & Reserve driver Sebastian Buemi.

Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co continuously seek to create unique and memorable experiences for their prestigious customers. The event showcases deeper collaboration with Infiniti Red Bull Racing to provide a priceless experience that symbolizes what Infiniti stands for. Reflecting on the experience, Faisal Aljadi said, "I really enjoyed the overall experience, the hospitality and thrills in Dubai, especially the high-speed hot laps with Sebastian Buemi, cornering techniques and racing on the Dubai Autodrome track. Both me and Taha wish to thank and congratulate both Infiniti and YK Almoayyed & Sons for creating this event and giving us this memorable, once in a lifetime opportunity.



| National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report |                |               |             |                     |                      |             |                 |                   |
|--|----------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| At 02:00 PM Previous Day                               |                |               |             |                     |                      |             |                 |                   |
| Global Stock Indices                                   |                |               |             |                     |                      |             |                 |                   |
| Index  | Previous Close | Last Price    | Change      | Daily Performance % | Yearly Performance % |             |                 |                   |
| Dow Jones  | 17,719.92      | 17,888.35     | 168.43      | ▲                   | 0.95                 | 0.37        |                 |                   |
| NASDAQ   | 5,108.70       | 5,156.30      | 47.60       | ▲                   | 0.93                 | 8.87        |                 |                   |
| SP 500   | 2,080.41       | 2,102.63      | 22.22       | ▲                   | 1.07                 | 2.08        |                 |                   |
| Financial Times  | 6,395.65       | 6,424.34      | 28.69       | ▲                   | 0.45                 | -2.16       |                 |                   |
| DAX  | 11,261.24      | 11,298.75     | 37.51       | ▲                   | 0.33                 | 15.23       |                 |                   |
| CAC 40   | 4,914.53       | 4,933.71      | 19.18       | ▲                   | 0.39                 | 15.47       |                 |                   |
| Swiss  | 8,993.24       | 9,036.63      | 43.39       | ▲                   | 0.48                 | 0.59        |                 |                   |
| Nikkei 225   | 20,012.40      | 19,938.13     | -74.27      | ▼                   | -0.37                | 14.25       |                 |                   |
| Topix  | 1,601.95       | 1,602.26      | 0.31        | ▲                   | 0.02                 | 13.84       |                 |                   |
| Hang Seng  | 22,381.35      | 22,479.69     | 98.34       | ▲                   | 0.44                 | -4.77       |                 |                   |
| Straits Times  | 2,870.26       | 2,883.64      | 13.38       | ▲                   | 0.47                 | -14.31      |                 |                   |
| MENA Stock Indices                                     |                |               |             |                     |                      |             |                 |                   |
| Index  | Previous Close | Last Price    | Change      | Daily Performance % | Yearly Performance % |             |                 |                   |
| Kuwait   | 5,803.34       | 5,804.57      | 1.23        | ▲                   | 0.02                 | -12.62      |                 |                   |
| Saudi Arabia   | 7,293.79       | 7,332.85      | 39.06       | ▲                   | 0.54                 | -12.47      |                 |                   |
| Dubai  | 3,193.13       | 3,204.28      | 11.15       | ▲                   | 0.35                 | -15.39      |                 |                   |
| Abu Dhabi  | 4,172.74       | 4,236.39      | 63.65       | ▲                   | 1.53                 | -7.86       |                 |                   |
| Bahrain  | 1,224.67       | 1,225.24      | 0.57        | ▲                   | 0.05                 | -14.15      |                 |                   |
| Qatar  | 10,535.05      | 10,554.60     | 19.55       | ▲                   | 0.19                 | -14.25      |                 |                   |
| Oman   | 5,547.85       | 5,557.73      | 9.88        | ▲                   | 0.18                 | -12.54      |                 |                   |
| Lebanon  | 1,159.21       | 1,151.53      | -7.68       | ▼                   | -0.66                | -2.09       |                 |                   |
| Jordan   | 1,994.13       | 1,999.24      | 5.11        | ▲                   | 0.26                 | -7.91       |                 |                   |
| Egypt  | 6,424.88       | 6,582.56      | 157.68      | ▲                   | 2.45                 | -28.03      |                 |                   |
| Morocco  | 9,081.54       | 9,109.04      | 27.50       | ▲                   | 0.30                 | -5.60       |                 |                   |
| Tunisia  | 4,991.15       | 4,981.72      | -9.43       | ▼                   | -0.19                | -1.94       |                 |                   |
| Global Currencies Exchange Rate                        |                |               |             |                     |                      |             |                 |                   |
| Currency   | Kuwaiti Dinar  | Saudi Riyal   | US Dollar   | Euro                | Sterling Pound       | Swiss Franc | Japanese Yen    | Australian Dollar |
| Kuwait Dinar   |                | 12.2210       | 3.2685      | 3.0852              | 2.1723               | 3.3558      | 402.35          | 4.4579            |
| Saudi Riyal  | 0.08183        |               | 0.2675      | 0.2525              | 0.1778               | 0.2746      | 32.92           | 0.3648            |
| US Dollar  | 0.30595        | 3.7390        |             | 0.9439              | 0.6646               | 1.0267      | 123.10          | 1.3639            |
| Euro   | 0.32412        | 3.9611        | 1.0594      |                     | 0.7041               | 1.0874      | 130.36          | 1.4450            |
| Sterling Pound   | 0.46033        | 5.6257        | 1.5046      | 1.4203              |                      | 1.5454      | 185.22          | 2.0524            |
| Swiss Franc  | 0.29799        | 3.6418        | 0.9740      | 0.9196              | 0.6471               |             | 119.93          | 1.3284            |
| Japanese Yen   | 0.00249        | 0.0304        | 0.0081      | 0.0077              | 0.0054               | 0.0083      |                 | 0.0111            |
| Australian Dollar                                      | 0.22432        | 2.7414        | 0.7332      | 0.6920              | 0.4872               | 0.7528      | 90.26           |                   |
| MENA Currencies Exchange Rate                          |                |               |             |                     |                      |             |                 |                   |
| Currency   | US Dollar      | Kuwaiti Dinar | Saudi Riyal | Bahraini Dinar      | Qatari Riyal         | Omani Riyal | Emirates Dirham | Egyptian Pound    |
| US Dollar  |                | 0.30595       | 3.7390      | 0.3745              | 3.6271               | 0.3835      | 3.6572          | 7.7201            |
| Kuwaiti Dinar  | 3.2685         |               | 12.2210     | 1.2241              | 11.8552              | 1.2535      | 11.9536         | 25.2332           |
| Saudi Riyal  | 0.2675         | 0.08183       |             | 0.1002              | 0.9701               | 0.1026      | 0.9781          | 2.0647            |
| Bahraini Dinar   | 2.6702         | 0.81696       | 9.9840      |                     | 9.6852               | 1.0240      | 9.7656          | 20.6144           |
| Qatari Riyal   | 0.2757         | 0.08435       | 1.0309      | 0.1033              |                      | 0.1057      | 1.0083          | 2.1284            |
| Omani Riyal  | 2.6076         | 0.79778       | 9.7497      | 0.9765              | 9.4579               |             | 9.5364          | 20.1306           |
| Emirates Dirham  | 0.2734         | 0.08366       | 1.0224      | 0.1024              | 0.9918               | 0.1049      |                 | 2.1109            |
| Egyptian Pound   | 0.1295         | 0.03963       | 0.4843      | 0.0485              | 0.4698               | 0.0497      | 0.4737          |                   |
| Global Interest Rates                                  |                |               |             |                     |                      |             |                 |                   |
| Currency   | 1-Week         | 1-Month       | 3-Month     | 6-Month             | 1-Year               |             |                 |                   |
| Kuwaiti Dinar  | 0.00           | 1.06          | 1.31        | 1.50                | 1.75                 |             |                 |                   |
| US Dollar  | 0.15           | 0.24          | 0.42        | 0.66                | 0.98                 |             |                 |                   |
| Euro   | -0.18          | -0.16         | -0.12       | -0.05               | 0.03                 |             |                 |                   |
| Sterling Pound   | 0.48           | 0.50          | 0.57        | 0.72                | 1.02                 |             |                 |                   |
| Swiss Franc  | -0.82          | -0.85         | -0.84       | -0.81               | -0.73                |             |                 |                   |
| Australian Dollar                                      | 2.05           | 2.08          | 2.07        | 2.04                | 2.02                 |             |                 |                   |
| Canadian Dollar  | 0.00           | 0.83          | 0.83        | 0.91                | 0.97                 |             |                 |                   |
| Global Bond Yields                                     |                |               |             |                     |                      |             |                 |                   |
| Country  | 2-Year         | 5-Year        | 10-Year     | 30-Year             |                      |             |                 |                   |
| United States  | 0.92           | 1.60          | 2.16        | 2.92                |                      |             |                 |                   |
| Europe   | -0.45          | -0.21         | 0.46        | 1.34                |                      |             |                 |                   |
| United Kingdom   | 0.53           | 1.14          | 1.73        | 2.44                |                      |             |                 |                   |
| Commodities  |                |               |             |                     |                      |             |                 |                   |
| Index  | Previous Close | Last Price    | Change      | Daily Performance % | Yearly Performance % |             |                 |                   |
| Kuwait Oil   | 38.08          | 37.05         | -1.03       | ▼                   | -2.70                | -34.27      |                 |                   |
| Brent  | 42.33          | 41.81         | -0.52       | ▼                   | -1.23                | -31.04      |                 |                   |
| West Texas   | 40.63          | 40.53         | -0.10       | ▼                   | -0.25                | -31.55      |                 |                   |
| Gold   | 1069.11        | 1066.84       | -2.27       | ▼                   | -0.21                | -10.74      |                 |                   |
| Silver   | 14.20          | 14.17         | -0.02       | ▼                   | -0.16                | -10.66      |                 |                   |

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

| ASIAN COUNTRIES               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Japanese Yen                  | 2.481   |
| Indian Rupees                 | 4.594   |
| Pakistani Rupees              | 2.894   |
| Sri Lankan Rupees             | 2.139   |
| Nepali Rupees                 | 2.873   |
| Singapore Dollar              | 217.340 |
| Hongkong Dollar               | 39.387  |
| Bangladesh Taka               | 3.859   |
| Philippine Peso               | 6.475   |
| Thai Baht                     | 8.520   |
| GCC COUNTRIES                 |         |
| Saudi Riyal                   | 81.443  |
| Qatari Riyal                  | 83.894  |
| Omani Riyal                   | 793.270 |
| Bahraini Dinar                | 811.080 |
| UAE Dirham                    | 83.152  |
| ARAB COUNTRIES                |         |
| Egyptian Pound - Cash         | 38.200  |
| Egyptian Pound - Transfer     | 39.051  |
| Yemen Riyal/for 1000          | 1.425   |
| Tunisian Dinar                | 148.540 |
| Jordanian Dinar               | 430.020 |
| Lebanese Lira/for 1000        | 2.035   |
| Syrian Lira                   | 2.177   |
| Morocco Dirham                | 30.740  |
| EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES |         |
| US Dollar Transfer            | 305.250 |
| Euro                          | 325.240 |
| Sterling Pound                | 461.390 |
| Canadian dollar               | 228.990 |
| Turkish lira                  | 105.620 |
| Swiss Franc                   | 298.830 |
| Australian Dollar             | 224.360 |
| US Dollar Buying              | 304.050 |

| GOLD    |         |
|---------|---------|
| 20 Gram | 219.000 |
| 10 Gram | 112.43  |
| 5 Gram  | 56.90   |

### UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

| COUNTRY           | SELL DRAFT | SELL CASH |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| Australian Dollar | 204.08     |           |
| Canadian Dollar   | 231.95     |           |
| Swiss Franc       | 300.84     |           |
| Euro              | 326.66     |           |
| US Dollar         | 305.45     |           |
| Sterling Pound    | 461.91     |           |
| Japanese Yen      | 2.52       |           |
| Bangladesh Taka   | 3.874      |           |
| Indian Rupee      | 4.578      |           |
| Sri Lankan Rupee  | 2.139      |           |
| Nepali Rupee      | 2.859      |           |
| Pakistani Rupee   | 2.893      |           |
| UAE Dirhams       | 0.08312    |           |
| Bahraini Dinar    | 0.8118     |           |
| Egyptian Pound    | 0.03892    |           |
| Jordanian Dinar   | 0.4344     |           |
| Omani Riyal       | 0.7932     |           |
| Qatari Riyal      | 0.08422    |           |
| Saudi Riyal       | 0.08142    |           |

### DOLLAR EXCHANGE CO. LTD

| Rate for Transfer | Selling Rate |
|-------------------|--------------|
| US Dollar         | 305.500      |
| Canadian Dollar   | 230.865      |
| Sterling Pound    | 461.645      |

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Euro                  | 324.265 |
| Swiss Frank           | 314.635 |
| Bahrain Dinar         | 810.840 |
| UAE Dirhams           | 83.470  |
| Qatari Riyals         | 91.520  |
| Saudi Riyals          | 82.190  |
| Jordanian Dinar       | 430.480 |
| Egyptian Pound        | 38.904  |
| Sri Lankan Rupees     | 2.139   |
| Indian Rupees         | 4.591   |
| Pakistani Rupees      | 2.893   |
| Bangladesh Taka       | 3.861   |
| Philippines Peso      | 6.480   |
| Cyprus pound          | 581.885 |
| Japanese Yen          | 3.480   |
| Syrian Pound          | 2.615   |
| Nepalese Rupees       | 3.865   |
| Malaysian Ringgit     | 72.820  |
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 48.080  |
| Thai Bhat             | 9.505   |
| Turkish Lira          | 105.140 |

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

| COUNTRY         | SELL CASH | SELLDRAFT |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| British Pound   | 0.452774  | 0.461774  |
| Czech Korune    | 0.003958  | 0.015958  |
| Danish Krone    | 0.039328  | 0.044328  |
| Euro            | 0.318280  | 0.326280  |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.031243  | 0.036443  |
| Romanian Leu    | 0.072377  | 0.072377  |
| Slovakia        | 0.009139  | 0.019139  |
| Swedish Krona   | 0.031002  | 0.036002  |
| Swiss Franc     | 0.290543  | 0.300743  |
| Turkish Lira    | 0.100686  | 0.110986  |

| America            |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Canadian Dollar    | 0.222786 |
| US Dollars         | 0.301150 |
| US Dollars Mint    | 0.301650 |
| Asia               |          |
| Bangladesh Taka    | 0.003520 |
| Chinese Yuan       | 0.046310 |
| Hong Kong Dollar   | 0.037292 |
| Indian Rupee       | 0.004344 |
| Indonesian Rupiah  | 0.000018 |
| Japanese Yen       | 0.002394 |
| Kenyan Shilling    | 0.002983 |
| Korean Won         | 0.000251 |
| Malaysian Ringgit  | 0.068512 |
| Nepalese Rupee     | 0.002925 |
| Pakistan Rupee     | 0.002709 |
| Philippine Peso    | 0.006409 |
| Sierra Leone       | 0.000070 |
| Singapore Dollar   | 0.213254 |
| South African Rand | 0.015086 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee   | 0.001773 |
| Taiwan             | 0.009208 |
| Thai Baht          | 0.008219 |
| Arab               |          |
| Bahraini Dinar     | 0.802790 |
| Egyptian Pound     | 0.037250 |
| Iranian Riyal      | 0.000084 |
| Iraqi Dinar        | 0.000201 |
| Jordanian Dinar    | 0.426547 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar      | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound     | 0.000152 |
| Moroccan Dirhams   | 0.022219 |
| Nigerian Naira     | 0.001264 |
| Omani Riyal        | 0.786436 |
| Qatar Riyal        | 0.083133 |
| Saudi Riyal        | 0.080763 |
| Syrian Pound       | 0.001294 |
| Tunisian Dinar     | 0.144840 |
| Turkish Lira       | 0.100686 |
| UAE Dirhams        | 0.082127 |
| Yemeni Riyal       | 0.001380 |

## US DEBT LIMIT THREAT DEFANGED ON WALL STREET

**WASHINGTON:** Wall Street trembled when Republicans first began threatening to force the United States into default by not raising the federal debt limit, but after four years of fiscal standoffs, the threat looks increasingly like a bluff and the markets are calling it. A Reuters analysis, tracking short-term Treasury yields, credit default swaps and market volatility data, showed traders are increasingly less likely to respond to repeated ultimatums from Republicans in the US Congress about the debt limit.

That could spell trouble in the future if politicians see little market consequence from precipitating an unprecedented default, but some analysts were doubtful it would come to that. "The near-death experience we had in 2011 has given us the sense that we're not going to do that again," said Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wells Fargo Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina. "It's taken some of the fear out of the market."

For now, after five years of fighting, the debt limit battles on Capitol Hill have gone quiet. That's due to a 17-month truce forged by former US House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner just before he resigned a few weeks ago. That has silenced the issue, as Boehner hoped, during the 2016 presidential and congressional election campaigns. But hostilities could be renewed in mid-March 2017, just as the next US president will be settling into the White House.

Indeed, some Republican fiscal hawks are itching for another chance to demand cuts

in federal spending as a condition for raising the debt limit, saying Boehner sold them out. "Did we get much out of it? No. We got nothing. We did a clean debt ceiling increase," said Representative David Brat, a Virginia member of the House Freedom Caucus, a hard-right Republican faction known for fiscal brinkmanship.

### Credit downgrade

The United States is one of few nations worldwide in which the legislature must approve periodic increases in the legal limit on how much money the federal government can borrow. Until recent years, Congress generally rubber-stamped such approvals. When Republicans started threatening to force a federal default if their demands for reduced government spending were not met, the goal was to scare their political rivals. As it turned out, the Democrats never flinched, but the markets did.

In August 2011, congressional Republicans demanded that the projected federal budget deficit be cut by \$4 trillion over 10 years or they would not vote to raise the debt limit. Democrats, defending pet spending programs, resisted. Talks to end the dispute collapsed and the US Treasury came close to the first debt default in US history. This was averted by a last-minute deal that was closely followed by Standard and Poor's decision to cut the US credit rating below its top tier for the first time.

The episode triggered the highest reading in the CBOE Volatility Index, sometimes known as the fear index, since the 2008-2009 financial crisis. In October 2013, when another debt-limit fight coincided with a 17-day government shutdown, the VIX was more muted. Just a month ago, another episode barely registered on it. A similar pattern of declining market impact is evident in yields on one-month Treasury bills, the debt security most vulnerable to short-term payments disruptions.

Closing yields, measured in thousandths of a percentage point in recent years with short-term rates effectively at zero, spiked to just under two-tenths of a percentage point during the 2011 episode. They jumped to a third of a point during the 2013 shutdown as uncertainty reigned, but this year's debt limit debate in late October saw a rise of only a tenth of a point. Spikes in the cost of insuring US government debt against default also moderated with each recurring dispute, even in 2013, for both one-year and five-year credit default swaps.

### Ryan takes over

Reduced financial market worry about the debt limit has coincided with increased hesitancy among some Republicans to create standoffs over the issue, though demand for spending cuts remains high in the party. Brat and other fiscal hawks said they expected new House Speaker Paul Ryan to approach the next debt limit deadline more

aggressively and with more advance planning. "One of my high hopes for serving under Paul Ryan, is that we're not going to let these deadlines creep up on us again," said Blake Farenthold, a conservative Texas Republican.

Ryan in October voted for a bill that would prioritize debt payments in the event the debt ceiling is not increased, indicating he does not consider such a scenario unthinkable. The measure, derided by

Democrats as the "Pay China First Act" because Beijing holds \$1.2 trillion in US Treasury debt, drew a veto threat from the White House, which said the proposal would force defaults on other obligations, including payments to Medicare and veterans programs. Even the few remaining moderate Republicans said there will always be threats over the debt limit. "I don't think that has gone away," said Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine. —Reuters



**NEW YORK:** Traders Jonathan Niles (left) and Edward Curran work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. —AP



**SYDNEY:** People carry their shopping bags through Sydney's Pitt Street Mall yesterday as Australia's economy grew 0.9 percent in the third quarter. —AFP

## AUSTRALIA ECONOMY EXPANDS WITH SHIFT AWAY FROM RESOURCE BOOM

### JOBS GROWTH 'STRONG' AND UNEMPLOYMENT NOW AT 5.9%

**SYDNEY:** Australia's economy is on track for healthy growth this year, new figures showed yesterday, with a bounce in exports helping accelerate its shift from an unprecedented resource boom. The upbeat news follows tepid growth in recent months, as Australia's resource-driven economy has been hurt by softening Chinese demand for its commodities. Growth in the September quarter was slightly above analyst expectations at 0.9 percent for an annual rate of 2.5 percent, the Australian Bureau of Statistics said.

This was well above the sluggish 0.3 percent recorded the previous quarter, and Treasurer Scott Morrison hailed it as progress away from the mining boom to broader-based growth. "There are positive signs of a strengthening economy and signs that our economy is heading in the right direction," he said.

"The transition is underway in our economy. The next phase of Australia's growth transition will be for businesses in the non-resources sector of the economy to increase their investment." The data showed the largest contribution to economic growth in the three months was from exports of goods and services, concentrated in mining commodities—the strongest growth in 15 years. But Morrison said household consumption was also up as was housing construction and all these factors had more than offset a fall in business investment.

Jobs growth was strong and unemployment—now at 5.9 percent—falling, he added, while moving forward Australian businesses would benefit from recent free trade deals with China, Japan and South Korea. Analysts had expected a 0.8 percent rise for the quarter and 2.4 percent in the year to September and the share market initially spiked on the news before closing down slightly. The Australian dollar, which has

dropped from around US 85 cents over the past year, was trading at about 73.07 US cents.

### Momentum turning

The latest numbers come after the Reserve Bank of Australia on Tuesday left interest rates on hold at the historic low of 2.0 percent for a seventh month in a row. "Let's not overplay the significance, but the economy is growing," governor

noted weakness in income was a concern. While it was a long way from a recession fears, "GDP growth, whatever way you cut it, remains below-trend and is likely to remain there" as long as the mining investment boom unwinds, he said. The ANZ bank agreed that while overall growth was soft, momentum looked to be turning. "Today's numbers suggest that the non-mining recovery is slowly taking hold," it

had allowed those areas of the economy suppressed by the mining boom "to spring back to life."

But he said the September rebound was unlikely to be repeated, and a further cut in interest rates could be needed to boost growth further in the future. Paul Dales, chief economist for Australia and New Zealand at Capital Economics, said significantly accelerated growth in 2016 was doubt-



**SYDNEY:** Holiday-makers walk towards their cruise ship in Sydney's Circular Quay yesterday as Australia's economy grew 0.9 percent in the third quarter for an annual rate of 2.5 percent. —AFP

Glenn Stevens said Wednesday after the growth figures were released. "The outlook for continued moderate growth—you would still say that's the outlook based on this incremental bit of additional information."

Commonwealth Bank chief economist Michael Blythe said the data deserved its positive spin but

said in a note.

Shane Oliver, chief economist at AMP Capital, said the rebound in the September quarter indicated the economy was rebalancing and finding ways to offset the slump in mining investment and collapsing export prices. He said the historically low interest rates and the depreciation in the Australian dollar

ful. The 0.9 percent figure "overplays the real strength of the economy as growth was driven by a very strong performance from net exports that is unlikely to be sustained," he said. "What happens next depends on whether net exports can continue to more than offset the falls in mining investment that lie ahead," he added. —AFP

## XI HEADS TO AFRICA SUMMIT AS CHINESE INVESTMENT SLOWS

**JOHANNESBURG:** African leaders and Chinese President Xi Jinping will hold two days of talks in Johannesburg starting tomorrow as the continent seeks to secure further massive investment despite China's economic slowdown. A slew of deals are expected to be announced for power plants, infrastructure and agriculture projects, but analysts say Chinese largess in Africa has already been reined in this year. China drove the commodity boom as it bought up oil, iron ore, uranium and copper from around the world over the past decade, but its growth has dipped this year, triggering a sharp slump in prices.

Speaking to reporters in Beijing, vice minister of foreign affairs Zhang Ming billed China's "new normal" as a boon to Africa, saying the continent was now at "the early stage of industrialization." "China-Africa cooperation has now come to a stage where it needs to be upgraded and transformed," he said. But Africa is already feeling the pinch, with Chinese investment falling by more than 40 percent in the first half of 2015, according to official data. "The rhetoric will probably be very excitable, as usual. You have got to separate the rhetoric from reality," Ian Taylor, professor of international relations at the University of St Andrews said. "We are likely to see a more sober meeting point between China and Africa."

Xi will hold talks with South African President Jacob Zuma in Pretoria yesterday before the sixth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) opens at a convention centre in Johannesburg's financial district of Sandton.

"China's packages towards Africa are going to be more diversified," said Yun Sun, China expert at the US-based Brookings research organization. "The Chinese always emphasize that its economic engagement in Africa is not altruistic. In some cases, Beijing is willing to put up with a loss, but I think Xi is going to be very careful. Their foreign reserves aren't unlimited."

### Exports squeezed

China became Africa's largest trading partner in 2009, with volumes expected to exceed \$300 billion this year. Ahead of FOCAC, China emphasized it had delivered more than \$117 million of aid to affected areas during the Ebola crisis in West Africa, and also sent hundreds of medical workers to help. Among many African countries hit by the Chinese slowdown, Zambia exemplifies the impact of falling commodity prices. Its economy relies on exports of copper, the price of which has fallen 30 percent this year.

"We have to find other export products to China. I am certain that China requires something outside copper from us," said Commerce Minister Margaret Mwanakatwe, who will attend the summit. "The price of copper going down has led to job losses in the mines and the kwacha (local currency) to depreciate (by 45 percent)." Zambian President Edgar Lungu last week ordered no new road projects to be started to save on spending. Nigeria, the continent's largest economy, has been another major player in China's recent involvement in Africa.

## QUICKEN MAY QUIT US HOME-LOAN PROGRAM OVER 'BAD MORTGAGES'

**NEW YORK:** Quicken Loans, the third biggest mortgage lender in the US, is considering backing away from a government program that provided critical support to the housing market during the financial crisis, the latest in an exodus of big lenders from the program. The departure of the biggest lenders from the US Federal Housing Administration program, which helps first-time homebuyers, could translate into big losses for taxpayers during the next housing downturn, analysts said.

Officials at the FHA said they are not alarmed by that risk. Quicken along with JPMorgan Chase & Co, Bank of America Corp and Wells Fargo & Co - all of the top four mortgage lenders in the United States - are tussling with the FHA over how the agency deals with loans that sour. The three major banks, not satisfied with the way the FHA resolved their complaints, have scaled back their lending through the program. Now Quicken, the largest FHA lender, is looking at bowing out as well, com-

pany founder and Chairman Dan Gilbert said.

It is also considering cutting the risk it takes in the program, he said. Quicken accounted for almost 6 percent of the FHA's loan volume in the first half of 2015, or about \$6 billion of loans, according to trade publication Inside Mortgage Finance. The FHA is arguing with lenders over when it is entitled to back out of the insurance that its program provides. When a borrower gets an FHA loan, the agency essentially guarantees the mortgage against default, and promises to pay the lender if the homeowner reneges on his or her obligations.

Unlike most other government home-loan programs, borrowers who get FHA loans can make a down payment equal to as little as 3.5 percent of the home purchase price, which makes the mortgages appealing to first-time buyers who may struggle to pull together big upfront payments. Because borrowers are paying for mortgage insurance, they pay higher interest rates on their loans.

### The default claims

The FHA pays out on all default claims almost immediately, and only reviews them later to make sure it got complete and accurate information about borrowers when it first guaranteed the mortgages. If it finds that it did not, it will demand that the lender reimburse it for the insurance payout, the way a life insurer might sue to recover funds paid out on a policy purchased by a smoker who failed to disclose his habit on his application and died of lung cancer.

Lenders including Quicken say the FHA demands repayments for even the most minor of mistakes that a bank may make when extending a loan, to force them to bear the agency's losses, making the government's insurance an illusion. When Wells Fargo and Bank of America balked at the FHA's strict interpretation of the rules, the Department of Justice sued them. The government has settled with Bank of America and JPMorgan Chase over their FHA obligations, but not with Wells Fargo or Quicken.

Quicken, feeling like it was being strong-armed into settling, sued the Department of Justice April 17 before the government sued it six days later. Current fights over the FHA could have a big effect over how the agency weathers the next housing crisis. The smaller lenders that now make up most of the FHA's client base may struggle to stay solvent whenever the next housing downturn comes, meaning when the agency tries to push loans back to them, they may not have the resources to repay the government.

About 80 percent of the loans in the FHA program are made by lenders who are not banks, most of which are relatively small. That figure compares with about 50 percent at the height of the crisis. "It could potentially be an issue in the next downturn," said Tom Lawler, an economist who warned of an impending housing bubble in 2006 when he worked at Fannie Mae. But with mortgage credit quality improving now, "you shouldn't lose sleep over it today," he said. —Reuters



### ANNOUNCEMENT

**Kuwait Airways intends to sell Airplanes along with spares as detailed below:**

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. Airbus A300-600R                     | Qty: 05 |
| 2. Airbus A310-300.                     | Qty: 03 |
| 3. A300/A310 simulator level 4.         | Qty: 01 |
| 4. Engines - General Electric CF6-80C2. | Qty: 03 |
| 5. A300 & A310 spares.                  |         |

**Kuwait Airways has appointed SKYTECH-AIC to market these assets. Parties who are interested to procure, should contact the following address:**

**Annette Wilkinson**  
**Phone: +44 1252 844775 • Fax: +44 1252 845130**  
**Email: annettew@skytech-aic.com**  
**Web site: www.skytech-aic.com**

# ASIAN SHARES SWING ON WEAK FACTORY DATA

**HONG KONG:** Asian markets saw fresh volatility yesterday, with Shanghai experiencing sharp swings, as weak manufacturing data highlighted weakness in the global economy but raised hopes central banks would stick to a loose monetary policy. The dollar recovered from a sell-off against the euro in New York prompted by surprisingly positive euro-zone data, which briefly raised the prospect the European Central Bank (ECB) would delay an expected stimulus boost. Official figures showing that a gauge of Chinese manufacturing activity hit a three-year low in November were followed later in the day by

news that US activity contracted at the fastest pace since June 2009.

While the US economy, the world's biggest, has shown strong signs of recovery, traders remain nervous about the future. Commodity prices are at multi-year lows and the dollar has soared this year, hitting exports. "Traditionally, the manufacturing sector has been the canary in the coal mine when it comes to slowing growth. To what extent does this bleed over into other sectors of the economy-that's yet to be seen," Brett Ryan, a US economist at Deutsche Bank Securities in New York, told Bloomberg News.

All three main indexes on Wall Street ended higher as investors bet that an increase in interest rates-expected to be announced by the Federal Reserve this month-would be slow and gradual. Asian stock markets shifted in and out of positive territory. Shanghai ended 2.3 percent higher after tumbling more than two percent at one point. The benchmark index has moved higher this week after plunging 5.5 percent Friday on news that several top brokerages were being investigated as part of a crackdown linked to the summer's market rout. However, the International Monetary Fund's decision to



**NEW YORK:** A cook prepares an order for a customer at a restaurant in New York. US companies revived up hiring in November to the strongest pace since June, with the massive service sector leading the way, payrolls firm ADP reported yesterday. — AFP

## Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report



Wednesday 02 December 2015

| Index          | Change  | Closing  | Last Closing | High     | Low      |
|----------------|---------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Price Index    | ▲ 1.23  | 5,804.57 | 5,803.34     | 5,808.72 | 5,785.91 |
| Weighted Index | ▼ -0.38 | 391.69   | 392.07       | 393.48   | 391.19   |
| KSX 15         | ▼ -1.72 | 926.87   | 928.59       | 933.46   | 926.28   |

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Volume           | 145,069,046 |
| Value (KWD)      | 10,513,820  |
| Number of Trades | 3,365       |

| Security             | Trades |      |                   |                |            |               |
|----------------------|--------|------|-------------------|----------------|------------|---------------|
|                      | High   | Low  | Volume            | Value (KD)     | Trades     | Last          |
| MARIN                | 0.0    | 0.0  | 0                 | 0              | 0          | 114           |
| IKARUS               | 89     | 87   | 70,000            | 6,199          | 6          | 89            |
| IPG                  | 0.0    | 0.0  | 0                 | 0              | 0          | 238           |
| NAPESCO              | 600    | 600  | 2,340             | 1,404          | 1          | 600           |
| ENERGYH              | 45.0   | 42.0 | 52,950            | 2,288          | 11         | 45.0          |
| GPI                  | 61     | 58   | 11,200,810        | 662,163        | 253        | 58            |
| ABAR                 | 116    | 96   | 9,228             | 976            | 5          | 106           |
| <b>Oil &amp; Gas</b> |        |      | <b>11,336,328</b> | <b>673,031</b> | <b>276</b> | <b>789.40</b> |

|                        |     |     |               |               |           |                |
|------------------------|-----|-----|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| KFOUC                  | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0             | 0             | 0         | 234            |
| BPCC                   | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0             | 0             | 0         | 560            |
| ALKOUT                 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0             | 0             | 0         | 610            |
| ALQURAIN               | 192 | 188 | 75,376        | 14,197        | 21        | 192            |
| <b>Basic Materials</b> |     |     | <b>75,376</b> | <b>14,197</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>1028.91</b> |

|                    |      |      |                  |                  |            |                |
|--------------------|------|------|------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|
| KCEM               | 395  | 395  | 14,792           | 5,843            | 3          | 395            |
| REFRI              | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 315            |
| CABLE              | 390  | 385  | 39,999           | 15,400           | 7          | 390            |
| SHIP               | 146  | 144  | 30,386           | 4,396            | 3          | 146            |
| PCEM               | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 1,140          |
| PAPER              | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 400            |
| MRC                | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 79             |
| ACICO              | 295  | 290  | 10,050           | 2,965            | 4          | 290            |
| GMCM               | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 495            |
| HCC                | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 132            |
| KPAK               | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 365            |
| KBMMC              | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 210            |
| NICBM              | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 232            |
| EQUIPMENT          | 63   | 62   | 365,000          | 22,795           | 11         | 63             |
| NCCI               | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 84             |
| GYPSSUM            | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 102            |
| SALBOOKH           | 80   | 78   | 22,476           | 1,753            | 3          | 80             |
| AGLTY              | 530  | 520  | 1,283,113        | 667,226          | 24         | 520            |
| EDU                | 216  | 216  | 10,000           | 2,160            | 2          | 216            |
| CLEANING           | 42.5 | 42.0 | 92,594           | 3,925            | 3          | 42.5           |
| CITYGROUP          | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 390            |
| KGL                | 47.0 | 47.0 | 120,000          | 5,640            | 6          | 47.0           |
| KPC                | 202  | 192  | 4,060            | 788              | 3          | 192            |
| HUMANSOFT          | 970  | 970  | 110              | 107              | 1          | 970            |
| NAFAIS             | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 198            |
| SAFWAN             | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 325            |
| GFC                | 70   | 70   | 2,987            | 209              | 2          | 70             |
| MAYADEEN           | 23.5 | 22.5 | 1,381,300        | 31,739           | 38         | 23.5           |
| CGC                | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 780            |
| MTCC               | 75   | 71   | 3,354,616        | 245,322          | 114        | 74             |
| UPAC               | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 700            |
| ALAFCO             | 222  | 216  | 155,015          | 33,503           | 4          | 220            |
| MUBARRAD           | 81   | 80   | 417,000          | 33,452           | 13         | 80             |
| LOGISTICS          | 59   | 58   | 413,630          | 23,991           | 26         | 59             |
| SCEM               | 87   | 86   | 308,632          | 26,542           | 4          | 87             |
| GCEM               | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 81             |
| QCEM               | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 80             |
| FCEM               | 74   | 72   | 400,955          | 28,889           | 7          | 74             |
| RKWC               | 108  | 104  | 31,493           | 3,281            | 8          | 108            |
| SPEC               | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0                | 0                | 0          | 87             |
| <b>Industrials</b> |      |      | <b>8,458,208</b> | <b>1,159,925</b> | <b>286</b> | <b>1071.31</b> |

|                       |     |     |                |               |           |                |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|----------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| KSH                   | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0              | 0             | 0         | 220            |
| NSH                   | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0              | 0             | 0         | 62             |
| PAPCO                 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0              | 0             | 0         | 104            |
| CATTL                 | 140 | 136 | 21,600         | 2,938         | 6         | 140            |
| DANAH                 | 92  | 91  | 500,550        | 45,591        | 31        | 92             |
| POULT                 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0              | 0             | 0         | 180            |
| FOOD                  | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0              | 0             | 0         | 2,260          |
| <b>Consumer Goods</b> |     |     | <b>522,150</b> | <b>48,529</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>1107.91</b> |
| MHC                   | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0              | 0             | 0         | 190            |
| ATC                   | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0              | 0             | 0         | 920            |
| YIACO                 | 164 | 150 | 5,000          | 778           | 3         | 164            |
| <b>Health Care</b>    |     |     | <b>5,000</b>   | <b>778</b>    | <b>3</b>  | <b>978.16</b>  |

|                          |       |       |                  |                |            |                |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| KCIN                     | 970   | 970   | 350              | 340            | 1          | 970            |
| KHOT                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                | 0              | 0          | 196            |
| SULTAN                   | 73    | 73    | 21,722           | 1,586          | 3          | 73             |
| CABLETV                  | 25.0  | 25.0  | 50,000           | 1,250          | 1          | 25.0           |
| EYAS                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                | 0              | 0          | 310            |
| IFAHR                    | 160   | 156   | 50,329           | 7,855          | 11         | 160            |
| OULAFUEL                 | 118   | 114   | 19,120           | 2,202          | 20         | 114            |
| MUNTAZAHAT               | 98    | 98    | 100,000          | 9,800          | 2          | 98             |
| JAZEERA                  | 490   | 475   | 69,449           | 3,115          | 7          | 480            |
| SOOR                     | 116   | 112   | 13,405           | 1,526          | 11         | 114            |
| FUTUREKID                | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                | 0              | 0          | 110            |
| ALNAWADI                 | 85    | 80    | 305,000          | 24,485         | 17         | 85             |
| ALRAI                    | 172   | 170   | 1,444            | 248            | 4          | 172            |
| ZIMAH                    | 130   | 118   | 5,258,911        | 659,191        | 252        | 128            |
| UFIG                     | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                | 0              | 0          | 120            |
| KOUTFOOD                 | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0                | 0              | 0          | 800            |
| Mezzan                   | 1,080 | 1,080 | 168,000          | 181,440        | 8          | 1,080          |
| <b>Consumer Services</b> |       |       | <b>6,057,730</b> | <b>923,038</b> | <b>337</b> | <b>1049.39</b> |

|                           |       |       |                  |                  |            |               |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| ZAIN                      | 370   | 360   | 2,476,168        | 901,760          | 91         | 360           |
| OOREDOO                   | 1,060 | 1,060 | 2,559            | 2,713            | 4          | 1,060         |
| HITSELEC                  | 31.0  | 30.5  | 1,800,000        | 54,950           | 29         | 30.5          |
| VIVA                      | 1,060 | 1,040 | 353,892          | 368,086          | 131        | 1,060         |
| <b>Telecommunications</b> |       |       | <b>4,632,619</b> | <b>1,327,509</b> | <b>255</b> | <b>625.86</b> |

|              |      |      |                   |                  |            |               |
|--------------|------|------|-------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|
| NBK          | 830  | 820  | 622,877           | 510,765          | 18         | 820           |
| GBK          | 275  | 270  | 7,564             | 2,057            | 2          | 270           |
| CBK          | 500  | 495  | 101,717           | 50,849           | 6          | 500           |
| ABK          | 370  | 370  | 5,000             | 1,850            | 1          | 370           |
| ALMUTAHED    | 540  | 540  | 76,560            | 41,342           | 3          | 540           |
| KIB          | 228  | 228  | 328,200           | 74,829           | 12         | 228           |
| BURG         | 385  | 380  | 1,039,716         | 399,773          | 22         | 380           |
| KFIN         | 580  | 570  | 908,702           | 517,969          | 38         | 570           |
| BOUBYAN      | 440  | 430  | 290,786           | 125,325          | 28         | 430           |
| AUB          | 218  | 214  | 245,100           | 52,592           | 10         | 218           |
| ITHMR        | 46.5 | 45.5 | 9,835,482         | 453,011          | 135        | 45.5          |
| WARBABANK    | 206  | 204  | 207,906           | 42,463           | 81         | 204           |
| <b>Banks</b> |      |      | <b>13,669,610</b> | <b>2,272,625</b> | <b>356</b> | <b>926.35</b> |

|                  |     |     |              |            |          |                |
|------------------|-----|-----|--------------|------------|----------|----------------|
| KINS             | 310 | 310 | 1,000        | 310        | 1        | 310            |
| GINS             | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0            | 0          | 0        | 750            |
| AINS             | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0            | 0          | 0        | 400            |
| WINS             | 106 | 106 | 225          | 24         | 1        | 106            |
| KUWAITRE         | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0            | 0          | 0        | 200            |
| FTI              | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0            | 0          | 0        | 65             |
| WETHAQ           | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0            | 0          | 0        | 39.5           |
| BKIKWT           | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0            | 0          | 0        | 355            |
| <b>Insurance</b> |     |     | <b>1,225</b> | <b>334</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1094.11</b> |

| Security   | Trades |      |           |            |        |      |
|------------|--------|------|-----------|------------|--------|------|
|            | High   | Low  | Volume    | Value (KD) | Trades | Last |
| SOKOUK     | 47.5   | 46.5 | 504800    | 23,675     | 14     | 47.5 |
| KRE        | 61     | 61   | 350,933   | 21,407     | 11     | 61   |
| URC        | 0.0    | 0.0  | 0         | 0          | 0      | 95   |
| NRE        | 93     | 91   | 448,100   | 41,213     | 23     | 91   |
| SRE        | 0.0    | 0.0  | 0         | 0          | 0      | 345  |
| TAM        | 620    | 610  | 177,000   | 109,320    | 13     | 620  |
| AREEC      | 0.0    | 0.0  | 0         | 0          | 0      | 182  |
| MASSALEH   | 60     | 60   | 100       | 6          | 1      | 60   |
| ARABREC    | 31.5   | 31.5 | 116,000   | 3,654      | 7      | 31.5 |
| ERESCO     | 66     | 65   | 71,565    | 4,663      | 9      | 66   |
| MABANEE    | 930    | 920  | 102,872   | 94,645     | 12     | 920  |
| INJAZZAT   | 93     | 90   | 56,900    | 5,121      | 2      | 93   |
| INVESTORS  | 30.0   | 29.5 | 2,833,056 | 83,610     | 29     | 30.0 |
| IRC        | 31.5   | 30.5 | 161,650   | 4,984      | 14     | 31.5 |
| ALTUJARIA  | 84     | 82   | 709,677   | 58,843     | 28     | 82   |
| SANAM      | 47.0   | 44.5 | 7,799     | 347        | 2      | 47.0 |
| AAYANRE    | 80     | 80   | 933       | 75         | 1      | 80   |
| AQAR       | 0.0    | 0.0  | 0         | 0          | 0      | 80   |
| ALAQARIA   | 23.0   | 22.0 | 49,390    | 1,096      | 10     | 22.0 |
| MAZAYA     | 108    | 106  | 566,458   | 60,085     | 14     | 108  |
| ADNC       | 29.5   | 28.5 | 4,182,100 | 122,000    | 43     | 29.5 |
| THEMAR     | 0.0    | 0.0  | 0         | 0          | 0      | 90   |
| TIJARA     | 42.5   | 42.0 | 813,430   | 34,491     | 23     | 42.5 |
| TAAMEER    | 26.0   | 25.0 | 95,000    | 2,402      | 11     | 25.0 |
| ARKAN      | 0.0    | 0.0  | 0         | 0          | 0      | 108  |
| ARGAN      | 180    | 172  | 10,430    | 1,795      | 10     | 180  |
| ABYAAR     | 31.5   | 30.5 | 408,948   | 12,601     | 17     | 31.0 |
| MUNSHAAT   | 89     | 87   | 521,050   | 45,667     | 22     | 89   |
| FIRSTDUBAI | 51     | 50   | 160,510   | 8,051      | 9      | 51   |
| KBT        | 44.5   | 43.5 | 19,010    | 832        | 4      | 44.0 |
| REAM       | 0.0    | 0.0  | 0         | 0          | 0      | 140  |
| MENA       | 25.5   | 25.5 | 40,300    | 1,028      | 4      | 25.5 |
| ALMUDON    | 35.0   | 34.5 | 1,872,903 | 64,949     | 40     | 34.5 |
| MARAKEZ    | 23.5   | 22.5 | 20,000    | 460        | 3      | 23.5 |
| REMAL      | 3      |      |           |            |        |      |



## CHEAP OIL CAN BE BOTH A BOON AND BANE

**FRANKFURT:** Falling oil prices can be both a boon and bane for the global economy, but for the European Central Bank they are now a major headache because they are keeping euro-zone inflation much lower than it would like. On paper, low oil prices should be positive for the economy because they boost purchasing power. But in the current environment, they could also be seen as a sign of slowing demand, observers argue, posing a challenge for the ECB's monetary policy and putting its credibility to the test. "The weakening of oil prices is currently the most important factor in the ECB's analysis," ING DiBa economist Carsten Brzeski said.

Low oil prices were pushing inflation lower and fuelling concerns within the ECB's governing council about the threat of deflation, or a downward spiral of falling prices,

the expert argued. So far, the drop in oil prices — 60 percent since mid-2014 — has been seen by many central bankers and economists as a result of over-abundant supply, helping to slash energy bills for households and businesses alike. But the ECB's own chief economist Peter Praet said in a recent interview with Bloomberg News that a "significant" part of the decline was attributable to the slowing global economy.

"A lot of the latest wave of commodity price declines is demand related. At some point in the recent past you had a supply side issue, which is a windfall for consumers, but now a significant part is also coming from weak global conditions," he said. ECB president Mario Draghi put forward similar arguments at the end of October. And a global economic slowdown could under-

mine the still very tentative recovery in the 19 countries that share the euro. For the ECB's part, "it's tactically smart to focus the debate on demand shocks," said Gilles Moec at Bank of America. "But the real problem for the central bank is whether it remains credible or not," he said. "Markets' inflation expectations have fallen sharply," he noted, pointing out that only time could tell whether they would prove correct.

### Bank is 'powerless'

But the ECB is concerned that the pessimism of market players reflects a lack of confidence in its ability to counter future oil price shocks, Moec said. Praet hinted as much himself. "We have seen, on occasions, longer-term inflation expectations responding to short-term movements in oil prices. That is

unacceptable for a central bank, insofar as it implies that people's expectations of its reaction function have become less certain," he said. The ECB has unleashed an unprecedented series of policy measures to try and push euro-zone inflation back up to levels conducive to healthy economic growth.

It has slashed key interest rates, made vast amounts of cheap loans available to banks and most recently embarked on a program to buy around 60 billion euros of bonds each month until at least September 2016. But area-wide inflation is still chronically low, standing at just 0.1 percent in October, far below the ECB's target of just under 2.0 percent. November inflation data are scheduled to be published on Wednesday, with analysts penciling in a meagre 0.2 percent. In view of this, the ECB's

governing council is expected to announce a stepping up of the asset purchase program at its meeting on Thursday, and possibly even a further cut in key interest rates, already at historic lows.

"Inflation has now been below target for a long period of time and even probably the most optimistic forecasts suggest that it could well be quite some time before inflation returns to target," said Oxford Economics analyst Ben May. "There's not much the ECB can do to control the oil prices. So to a certain degree, the ECB is powerless," he said. But for the ECB's chief economist Praet it was "essential that uncertainty does not give rise to indecision". In other words, in order to safeguard its credibility and give the impression that it remains in control, the ECB should not hesitate to act. — AFP



**ATHENS:** An elderly street vendor pushes his trolley while health workers and hospitals' medical staff march in central Athens during a 48-hour strike yesterday to protest against cutbacks and understaffing. — AFP

## EURO-ZONE INFLATION REMAINS LOW; ECB PREPARES FOR ACTION

### SPANISH UNEMPLOYMENT DROPS AHEAD OF VOTE

**LONDON:** As if the European Central Bank needed any more incentive to inject another dose of stimulus into the 19-country euro-zone economy, official figures yesterday showed inflation in the region remains worryingly low. The annual rate of price increase across the euro-zone was stuck at 0.1 percent in November, the European Union's statistics agency said. That was below market expectations for an uptick to 0.2 percent and way short of the ECB's target of just below 2 percent.

As a result of weak inflation and growth, the central bank is expected to announce another stimulus for the euro-zone at the conclusion of its policy meeting Thursday despite some reservations within the ECB's governing council. Most economists expect the ECB to make it more expensive for commercial banks to park their cash at the central bank - cutting the so-called deposit rate further into negative territory - and to extend and swell its current 1.1 trillion-euro (\$1.2 trillion) government bond-buying program.

Jonathan Loynes, chief European economist at Capital Economics, said the inflation numbers have given the "green light" to the ECB to announce "much-needed additional stimulus" today. "The ECB is likely to remain nervous that a further period of low inflation will lead to a bigger drop in inflation expectations and take action tomorrow accordingly," said Loynes. He expects the ECB to increase its monthly pace of asset purchases from 60 billion euros to 80 billion and cut

its deposit rate by a further 0.20 percentage point to minus 0.4 percent.

The aim of both measures would be to stoke inflation by giving a boost to economic activity in the region through a combination of low interest rates and more bank lending. Policymakers at the ECB will be particularly concerned by the fact that the core inflation rate, which strips out volatile items such as energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, fell to 0.9 percent from 1.1 percent. The consensus in the markets was the rate to remain unchanged.

The low core rate is likely to fuel concerns that low inflation is becoming embedded in expectations. The euro fell in reaction to the inflation figures, from about \$1.0620 to \$1.0584. That's a sign that traders think the figures make it more likely that the ECB will be bold in its decision on expanding stimulus. Inflation in the euro-zone, as well as many parts of the world, has been low - sometimes even negative - for more than a year, largely because oil and commodity prices have fallen sharply in financial markets.

Among many knock-on effects, that's led to lower domestic energy bills, falling prices at the pump and subdued costs for businesses. Weak economic growth in large parts of the euro-zone has also failed to push up wages, which is one tried-and-trusted way of generating inflation. Inflation could start rising in the next few months largely because last year's drop in energy

prices falls out of the annual comparison. Still, with the euro-zone economy still sluggish, few economists think wages will grow strongly and as such inflation is expected to remain quite a way below target for some time yet.

### Spanish unemployment

Meanwhile, Spanish unemployment fell in November, reversing a three-month upward trend, the labor ministry said yesterday, providing a welcome boost for the government less than three weeks ahead of a general election. Some 27,000 fewer people were registered as jobless than in October, taking the total number of unemployed to 4.15 million. The ministry said the number of unemployed had come down by 362,818 over the last 12 months, and highlighted a 15.8 percent increase in full-time long-term work contracts in November from the same month a year earlier.

But at 21.1 percent Spain's unemployment rate, which is calculated from a separate survey, is still the EU's highest in the European Union bar Greece. Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has centered his re-election campaign on employment, promising two million more jobs over the next five years. Spain goes to the polls on December 20. Economy Minister Luis de Guindos told the El Economista paper that incomes would return to their pre-financial crisis level by the end of 2016 but "employment will take three years longer". — Agencies

## QALAA AGRIFOODS BUSINESS UNIT GOZOUR DIVESTS IN SUDAN, EGYPT

**KUWAIT:** Qalaa Holdings (CCAPCA on the Egyptian Exchange), an African leader in infrastructure and industry, announced yesterday that RIS - a business unit of its agrifoods subsidiary Gozour - has signed a sale and purchase agreement (SPA) for the sale of its two Halawa and Biscuits plants in Sudan to a Sudanese investor at an enterprise value of \$ 4.3 million. Qalaa Holdings currently has an effective ownership of 55% in RIS.

Furthermore, Gozour has signed another SPA for the sale of Misr October for Food Industries (El-Misrireen), an Egyptian manufacturer of cheese products, to a domestic industrial investor at an enterprise value of EGP 50 million. The acquirer will assume all debt, liabilities and obligations of El-Misrireen, including bank debt of EGP 16.5

million. Qalaa had previously fully written-down the value of its investment in El-Misrireen, which ceased operations in 2012.

Qalaa Holdings continues to divest non-core investments across its footprint as it focuses on core business units including Egyptian Refining Company (a \$3.7 billion megaproject that is nearing the 75% completion mark and is on track to begin production in 2017) and TAQA Arabia (Egypt's leading independent energy distribution company). The company also remains watchful for opportunities to create new shareholder value through the acquisition of additional stakes in core subsidiaries and to engage in share buybacks for so long as Qalaa shares trade at a steep discount to their fair value. Pharos Holding was sell-side advisor for the El-Misrireen transaction.

## TEEKAY LNG, SAMSUNG AND GIC INK LNG IMPORT TERMINAL PROJECT IN BAHRAIN

**KUWAIT:** A consortium composed of Teekay LNG Partners LP (Teekay LNG, NYSE: TGP), Samsung C&T (Samsung), Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) have signed with the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain the project agreements for the development of an LNG receiving and regasification terminal in Bahrain. The project, to be developed on a BOOT (build, own, operate, transfer) basis, will be located in Hidd Industrial area of Bahrain and will help the Kingdom meet the increasing demand for gas supplies to satisfy its industrial and urban development.

The Oil and Gas Holding Company (Nogaholding) awarded the project to Teekay LNG-Samsung GIC consortium following an international competitive tendering process. The project will be owned and operated through a new joint venture, Bahrain LNG WLL, owned by Noga holding (30%), Teekay LNG (30%), Samsung (20%) and GIC (20%) and is the first of its kind in the Middle East to be developed on a public and private partnership (PPP) scheme.

The project will comprise a Floating Storage Unit (FSU), an offshore LNG receiving jetty and breakwater, an adjacent regasification platform, subsea gas pipelines from the platform to shore, an onshore gas receiving facility, and an onshore nitrogen production facility. The project will have a capacity of 800 million standard cubic feet per day and will be owned and operated under a twenty-year agreement commencing on 15 July 2018.

Teekay LNG -Samsung-GIC selected GS Engineering & Construction as the EPC contractor of the project. Teekay LNG will supply the FSU vessel which will be modified specifically for this project, through a twenty (20) year time charter to the joint venture. Ibrahim AlQadhi, CEO of GIC stated: "GIC is proud to be a



**Ibrahim Al Qadhi, CEO of GIC**

pioneer investor in GCC infrastructure projects through partnerships with world leading industry partners" AlQadhi further added: "Winning the LNG Import Terminal project reinforces GIC status as the largest private industrial investor in Bahrain and one of the largest private employers of Bahraini nationals"

"We are thrilled to partner with GIC, who has experience with infrastructure project development throughout the Gulf region, and with Samsung, who has developed LNG regasification terminals elsewhere in the world", commented Peter Evensen, Teekay LNG's Chief Executive Officer. "In addition, we are excited to be able to dedicate and long term charter one of our LNG carriers"

Shin Kim, CEO of Samsung, commented, "It is a great honor to have remarkable sponsorships with GIC, a leading investor with extensive experience and insight in the GCC region and also with Teekay LNG, a world class LNG shipping company with the highest technical expertise required for the Project. We will do our best for the successful execution of the Project based on solid collaboration with our partners."

## DUNLOP AL BABBAIN LAUNCHES ALL NEW SP SPORT MAXX 050+

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Express Al Babbain, the sole distributor of DUNLOP tires in the State of Kuwait, launched its all NEW Dunlop Sport Maxx 050+ tires, during a customer event held for more than 200 guests, at the

Regency Hotel, on the 22nd of November, 2015. The Dunlop Sport MAXX 050+ event was attended by General Manager Gulf Express; Ahmad Shihadah, Managing Director Dunlop (SRME); Takeshi Adachi,

General Manager for Sales; Takashi Hara, Senior General Manager Technical Service Department; Toshifumi Yuze, Sales Manager; Angelo Nigli, Technical Service Manager; Jithin Jayachandra and Assistant Manager Sales & Marketing Sreejith Rajan along with many members of the organization attended and showed support from Al-Babbain Group.

On this occasion, General Manager Gulf Express Ahmad Shihadah expressed, "Al Babbain is very proud to be associated with an esteemed brand like Dunlop and is happy to launch all NEW Dunlop SP Sport Maxx 050+ in presence of our esteemed customers who patronized Al Babbain and Dunlop over the past 30 years." Ahmad Shihadah added, "We at Al Babbain will certainly continue promoting Dunlop tires aggressively with utmost commitment and passion by offering the most reliable and safe products through our retail infrastructure facilities and our reputed distribution channels. We currently have 12S retail outlets actively promoting Dunlop tires in all product segments, strategically located in prime locations."

Dunlop takes utmost pleasure in introducing its new generation products such as



Dunlop PT3, VERO 303 & unveiled the prestigious product DUNLOP SP SPORTS MAXX 050+ during the event. A special mention that SRME is confident of Gulf Express Al Babbain will continue striving hard to enhance Dunlop's market share in State of Kuwait and maintain its leadership position in the represented segment. A presentation on the new product line up along with the

technical features was given to portray all the advantages. Which was followed by a recognition ceremony to award the top contributors from the customers' side. The event was concluded with a raffle draw and dinner. At Gulf Express there is a commitment to provide all motorists, dealers and corporations with the best quality and service that Dunlop tires offer.

## TREG OFFERS PREMIUM PROJECTS IN BIRMINGHAM AND LIVERPOOL

**KUWAIT:** Following visits to more than twenty British cities over the last three months, Waleed Al-Qaddoumi, Managing Director, Top Real Estate Group (TREG), said: "from real estate perspective, UK is not London and Milton Keynes only; there are large and medium-sized cities with equivalent investment strengths and importance. Al-Qaddoumi added that what caught my attention during this tour as compared with the tour made in previous years is the significant increase in the volume of activity and urban movement in these cities, particularly in the cities of

Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester and surrounding areas.

He pointed out that this activity is a result of injection of billions of sterling pounds to develop infrastructure in these cities, offer opportunities for private companies to develop old buildings in major cities and convert a large part of the same into residential projects. This enhanced the ability of these cities to attract large segment of investors from around the world. In addition, many banks and major companies in the UK moved their head offices to these cities, in particular

Birmingham and Liverpool given the fact that they are attractive areas and have various up-to-date services as well as lower costs as compared to London.

This, of course, encouraged many employees of these organizations to relocate for living in these cities, which turned to have greater real estate demand than ever before. Al-Qaddoumi said that the Group entered into an exclusive agreement with Seven Capital, a leading real estate company operating in these cities with experience exceeding twenty years during which the Company implemented,

built and acquired a series of hotels and commercial buildings in Birmingham, Liverpool and their suburbs. The Group will market the Company's projects in Kuwait and Qatar.

Al-Qaddoumi pointed out that the projects are located in prime locations and their prices are highly suitable for various investors. Al-Qaddoumi advised individuals interested in investing in UK to target these cities because properties therein are certainly cheaper than London and achieve good returns on lease ranging from 5-7% per annum. On the other hand,

the property value, after the completion of construction, is set to grow up to 25%.

Certain existing properties recorded increase ranging from 5 - 20% depending on their location, advantages and services. Al-Qaddoumi said that Top Real Estate Group always seeks to meet the requirements of its clients and offer them best opportunities. He indicated that TREG is currently in the process of exploring many real estate opportunities that benefit investors and intend to offer projects at the beginning of next year in several cities in UK, Switzerland, France and USA.

## EGYPT JUMPS ON FX PAYMENT TO FOREIGNERS; GULF SLUGGISH

### GLOBAL TELECOM UP 10 PERCENT ON BUYOUT RUMOR

#### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Egyptian stocks rose sharply yesterday after the central bank sought to reassure markets by providing hard currency to foreign investors. Saudi Arabia's bourse climbed but other Gulf markets moved little. The Egyptian index jumped 3.5 percent to 6,650 points, rising above its end-November high, which triggered a minor double bottom that confirmed it has established at least a short-term floor. As it closed, it was testing minor chart resistance on the late November peak of 6,642 points. The central bank changed the way it allocated US dollars at a foreign exchange auction on Tuesday and repaid to foreign funds a backlog of over \$500 million built up during a long-running dollar shortage - clearing the entire backlog.

This appeared to spur some selective buying by foreign investors. Commercial International Bank, one of their favorite stocks, surged 5.6 percent. Overall, however, non-Arab foreign investors remained net sellers of stocks by a large margin yesterday, exchange data showed. There was continued uncertainty over how foreign exchange policy will develop in the future - a devaluation may be inevitable at some stage - and how the central bank obtained the money to repay the

foreign funds; it may simply have started running down its limited reserves faster.

"Foreign investors will be pleased by the clearing of the backlog," said Simon Kitchen, head of regional strategies research at Cairo-based EFG Hermes. "But they will want clarity on the US dollar-Egyptian pound path before coming into the market." Global Telecom surged its 10 percent limit to 1.87 Egyptian pounds in its heaviest trading in five weeks. In a brief statement, it said a newspaper, which it did not name, had published a story on rumors that European firm Vimpelcom had offered to buy out Global at a price of 2.30 pounds per share. Vimpelcom already owns about 52 percent of Global, according to the latest data.

"The company does not respond to rumors and confirms that the company does not have any material events unannounced," Global said without elaborating. Last Thursday, Vimpelcom said it and Global would combine their business in Pakistan with Warid Telecom. Qalaa Holdings climbed 6.8 percent after jumping 4.5 percent on Tuesday when it said its Gozour agrifoods unit had signed deals to sell assets in Sudan and Egypt for about \$11 million, as Qalaa continued to sell non-core assets. Real

estate developers were also big gainers, with Palm Hills Development up 7.0 percent.

#### Gulf markets

Meanwhile, the Saudi stock index rose 0.7 percent. Al Tayyar Travel Group soared 9.3 percent in its heaviest trade for six weeks on what traders said was a rumor that a Saudi investment company would buy a stake in the firm. An Al Tayyar official was not available to comment. Al Jazeera Bank climbed 2.0 percent in unusually heavy volume after it said it had signed a memorandum of understanding to sell land in Eastern Province, and expected a capital gain of 209 million riyals (\$55.7 million) which it planned to book in the first quarter of 2016.

Other Saudi banks and companies may also sell land in coming months after the cabinet last month approved the imposition of a tax on undeveloped land, which could come into effect as soon as the end of next year. Qatar's stock index edged up 0.2 percent in thin trade; Qatar National Bank ended almost flat after dropping 2.4 percent at one stage, dragging the index down. The Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Oman markets were closed for National Day holidays. —Reuters



## AUB HOSTS A SEMINAR ON REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN LONDON

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank hosted a seminar on the latest developments in London real estate market for its Private Banking clients at the Ritz Carlton Bahrain. First speaker of the seminar was Piers Master, Tax Partner with the international law firm Charles Russell Speechlys, who spoke on recent UK tax legislations, most relevant to investors owning or eyeing to own residential property in the UK.

He drew the attention to the proposed changes to the inheritance tax, expected to be introduced in 2017, which will make residential property owned by offshore companies subject to inheritance tax for the first time in the UK. He discussed the criteria for retaining a non-domiciled status for UK tax purposes which significantly lowers one's tax burden, stressing that with the right advisory, international investors can well navigate the UK tax code and better profit from the attractive investment opportunities there.

Next speakers were Patrick Carr, Director, Savills Investment Management and Joy Mcsmithurs, Real Estate Fund Manager, Ahli United Bank (UK) who presented an overview of the London residential property market, underlining the acute supply and demand imbalance in the mainstream London market, driven by the city's growing population and the chronic undersupply of new units available to meet the growing demand.

They highlighted development opportunities arising in the Greater London area, citing as an example the AUB Greater London

Residential Development Opportunity, a fund which has been filed with and acknowledged by the Central Bank of Bahrain, which enables clients to acquire shares in a collective investment vehicle focusing on mid-market residential schemes in Greater London and delivering returns through the development and sale of completed schemes.

Prakash Mohan, Group Head, AUB, commented: "We are pleased by the feedback from our valued clients who attended this seminar, which is part of our efforts to keep our clients updated on developments affecting their current or prospective investments. We are also excited to launch this initiative to invest in the UK residential market through a fund vehicle, instead of direct ownership of property, which benefits the investors with a better tax planning."

He further added that due to AUB's well-established presence and expertise in the London market and our partnership with some of the world's leading fund managers, our clients can access a broader range of investment opportunities whilst always counting on the professional advice and friendly personal service they've come to expect from our teams both in Bahrain and the United Kingdom". AUB's Private Banking & Wealth Management has received a string of accolades and awards over the years, including most recently being best Private Bank in the Middle East, 2015 by Global Finance and Best Private Bank in Bahrain 2015 by both Euromoney and The Banker/PWM's World Private Awards 2015.

## GREAT OFFERS AVAILABLE TO SHREWD REAL ESTATE INVESTORS AT CITYSCAPE KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Visitors to the 2nd edition of Cityscape Kuwait (held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait) - the premier real estate investment and development event, can expect numerous real estate launches and special offers from exhibitors at the event,

Kuwait will cover more than 7,000sqm of exhibition space, a 40% increase from 2014.

Deep Marwaha, Group Director of Cityscape at Informa Exhibitions, the organizers of Cityscape Kuwait, said: "We are delighted to bring a wide variety of local and international developers and brokers to the real estate investment commu-

nity to evaluate a number of different projects at the same time, plus get the best deals possible by negotiating directly with the developers."

Speaking on behalf of Bin Fageeh Real Estate Development Co. who are offering a 15% off properties in Spark Residence, in Bahrain ONLY to all Cityscape

Cityscape we are offering a 15% discount on this project to our visitors" She added: "Cityscape is one of the best venues to reach our clients". As Gold Sponsor of Cityscape Kuwait 2015, Al Mazaya Holding Co. confirmed that the exhibition is an excellent platform to meet potential investors, to exchange the latest information on the local and regional real estate industry, and a great opportunity to network with industry leaders and stakeholders.

Al Mazaya will feature its new collections of investments' projects specially designed to cater to investors and individuals' while offering payment facilities and special discount upon cash payment, exclusively at Cityscape Kuwait. The company will also facilitate the financing process for potential investors and will promote; Q Point, a residential project in Dubai with units starting from KD 41,000 and Rhythm Istanbul in Turkey starting from KD 35,000, in addition to Mazaya Residence in Oman starting from KD 31,600.

Sheikh Mubarak Al Sabah, Assisting CEO for Marketing at Al Mazaya Holding Co. said: "We are in the process of finalizing a huge promotional campaign exclusive for our visitors at Cityscape Kuwait. Our special promos are designed to benefit our customers and potential investors who are looking to invest in potential stable markets with solid return on investment. Other major developers offering exclusive discounts to visitors of Cityscape Kuwait include; IGL Investment and Real Estate Co., Royal Ambassador, Binghatti Developers, GTR Development and Tebyan Real Estate Development who are offering visitors that purchase a luxury Penthouse a free Studio apartment. Cityscape Kuwait also features free to attend seminars which have been developed specifically for Kuwaiti based investors and real estate professionals.

The Cityscape Kuwait Business Forum provides a platform for the regional real estate industry to share knowledge, debate current issues, and form partnerships with policy makers, regional and international investors, business leaders, and real estate professionals. The Cityscape Kuwait Investment Series has been developed to provide both novice and experienced private investors with tangible tools on building a property portfolio, as well as unique insights on global real estate markets that are offering attractive returns. Cityscape Kuwait 2015 returns with support from sponsors: NBK, Al Hamra Real Estate Development, Al Mazaya Holding Co and Al Marjan Island.



according to information from the organizers. With more than 70 exhibitors from the domestic, regional and international markets confirmed to take part in this year's Cityscape Kuwait, the premier real estate showcase in the State of

nity in Kuwait. There is widespread anecdotal evidence that, encouraged by low oil prices, Kuwaitis are diversifying their investments both at home and in overseas markets. Cityscape Kuwait provides Kuwaiti based investors the ideal opportu-

Kuwait Visitors. Nadia Bou Slama, Head of Marketing said: "The Kuwaiti market is a valuable market to Bin Fageeh. We launched Spark Residence to respond to the market needs based on our long experience in Kuwait and exclusively at



## RENAULT-NISSAN ALLIANCE TO PROVIDE WORLD'S ELECTRIC-VEHICLE FLEET EVER

**DUBAI:** The Renault-Nissan Alliance will provide the world's largest electric-vehicle fleet ever to an international conference. As the official passenger-car provider for the United Nation's COP21 climate conference in Paris, the Alliance will provide 200 pure electric vehicles to the annual summit which runs from Nov 30 to Dec 11. Together, the vehicles are expected to cover more than 400,000 km, emitting zero emissions while shuttling delegates during the 21st annual Conference of Parties (better known as COP21).

More than 20,000 UN participants from 195 countries are expected to attend COP21. "Electric vehicles are a practical and affordable mode of transportation. At the same time, they offer a solution for drastically reducing tailpipe CO2 emissions. They also reduce regulated exhaust pollutants, helping us to improve the air quality in our cities. Together, the public and private sectors can accelerate the transition to a zero-emission society," said Carlos Ghosn, Chairman and CEO of the Renault-Nissan Alliance.

The COP21 car fleet will feature the Renault ZOE subcompact car, the Nissan LEAF compact car and the 7-seater Nissan e-NV200 van. The vehicles will be available to shuttle delegates 24 hours, seven days a week to and from the Le Bourget conference venue, as a complement to public transportation. This marks the first time the UN will use a zero-emission or 100% electric fleet for its entire passenger-car shuttle at a climate summit.

200 Renault and Nissan employees volunteer to drive at COP21. The 100% electric cars will be driven by a team of 200 professional drivers and 200 volunteers from Renault and Nissan. In June, the Renault-Nissan Alliance launched a call for volunteers to allow employees in and around Paris the opportunity to be part of COP21 as volunteer drivers.

The response was overwhelming with more than 450 employees applying before the recruitment process was closed. The 200 successful Renault and Nissan applicants, as well as the professional drivers, will undergo a rigorous training program in preparation for the event. "Renault and Nissan employees are at the forefront of the electric-vehicle revolution. Many of them already drive an electric vehicle. They are the best ambassadors to demonstrate the benefits of these cars and what zero-emission mobility is all about," said Ghosn.

The Renault-Nissan Alliance will set up network of 90 quick and standard charging stations in strategic locations with French electric utility company EDF powered by low-carbon electricity. The residual emissions will be offset under an accredited U.N. carbon offsetting program. The quick charging stations will be able to charge the EVs from 0 to 80% capacity in about 30 minutes. The Alliance has sold more than 274,000 electric vehicles around the world, accounting for half of all EVs on the road since its first electric vehicle Nissan LEAF went on sale in late 2010.

## IRS: WON'T USE PHONE-TRACKING TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT WARRANT

**WASHINGTON:** Internal Revenue Service criminal investigators will not continue to use cellphone-tracking technology without first seeking a warrant, the IRS commissioner told Congress in a letter made public Tuesday.

Commissioner John Koskinen said his agency is drafting a policy to abide by the Justice Department's guidance on using the technology, which simulates

cellphone towers to trick nearby phones into revealing their locations. The guidance requires a warrant - which requires probable cause and a judge's signature - except in emergencies or exceptional circumstances.

Koskinen disclosed the new policy in a letter sent Nov. 25 to Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. The IRS said it has used its one cell-site simulator to track 37 cellular

devices as part of 11 federal investigations since 2011. The technology was also loaned out on four non-IRS investigations, including a Drug Enforcement Administration case and three state cases. Koskinen said the device is used only by trained law enforcement agents for criminal investigations and won't be used again until the new policy is in place.

The agency started the process of buying a second cell-site simulator in July but hasn't yet received it. The letter was sent in response to question Wyden asked during a Finance Committee hearing last month.

Wyden and Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, have introduced a bill requiring a warrant for government tracking of Americans' electronic data, which

includes the cell tower simulators. Wyden said in a statement that the IRS efforts were "reasonable steps to protect due process."

"The IRS has an important role to play in combating money laundering, drug trafficking, and international tax dodging, but tax enforcement and protection of personal privacy must not be mutually exclusive," he said. — AP

## FACEBOOK'S CEO, WIFE TO GIVE 99% OF SHARES TO COUPLE'S FOUNDATION

### ZUCKERBERG PLANS TO REMAIN CEO FOR 'MANY, MANY YEARS'

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Mark Zuckerberg will put 99 percent of his Facebook Inc shares, currently worth about \$45 billion, into a new philanthropy project focusing on human potential and equality, he and his wife said Tuesday in a letter to their newborn daughter.

The plan, which was posted on the Facebook founder and chief executive officer's page and has attracted more than 360,000 likes, follows other high-profile billionaires such as Warren Buffett and Bill and Melinda Gates, who have set up foundations to dedicate their massive fortunes to philanthropic endeavors. Zuckerberg, 31, who will control the new initiative and remain in charge of the world's largest online social network, said he would sell or give up to \$1 billion in shares in each of the next three years.

He will keep a controlling stake in Facebook, valued at \$303 billion as of Tuesday's close, for what the company called the "foreseeable future." According to Facebook's most recent proxy statement, Zuckerberg owned 4 million Class A shares and 422.3 million Class B shares, which have 10 times the voting power of A shares. Combined he held 54 percent of the voting power of the company's shares.

Zuckerberg said he plans to remain CEO of Facebook for "many, many years to come." The move is not Zuckerberg's first in the world of philanthropy. When he was 26, he signed the Giving Pledge, which invites the world's wealthiest individuals and families to commit to giving more than half of their wealth to philanthropy or charitable causes over their lifetime or in their will.

"Mark and Priscilla are breaking the mold with this breathtaking commitment," billionaire investor Buffett said on Facebook. "A combination of brains, passion and resources on this scale will change the lives of millions. On behalf of future generations, I thank them."

Buffett himself pledged Berkshire Hathaway Inc stock worth \$31 billion at the time to Gates' foundation in 2006, which was the largest single gift at the time. Zuckerberg is relatively young to commit so much of his wealth. Microsoft Corp co-founder Gates was 45 in 2000, the year he and his wife founded the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Buffett was 76 in 2006, the year he committed to give away all of his Berkshire Hathaway stock to philanthropic organizations.

About \$350 billion is given away each year in the United States by charities, said Stacy Palmer, editor of the Chronicle of Philanthropy. She said Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan's announcement was remarkable not just because of the size of the donation, but because of their ages.

"Our lists of the top donors are usually dominated by people in their 70s or 80s," she said. "This is a message to other young people who are deciding what to do with their great wealth." In welcoming the birth of his first child on his Facebook page, Zuckerberg posted a photo of himself, his wife and their new daughter, Maxima, nicknamed Max, along with a post entitled "A letter to our daughter." (<http://on.fb.me/1MvNGOj>)

In the 2,220-word letter, Zuckerberg and Chan touched on issues including health, education, Internet access and learning before announcing the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, which aims to "advance human potential and promote equality."

They plan to give away 99 percent of their Facebook shares over their lifetimes to advance the initiative, which was formed as a limited liability company controlled by the two. It will

begin by focusing on curing disease, Internet connectivity, community building and personalized learning - or the idea that technology can help students learn at different paces.

Maxima Chan Zuckerberg was born early last week - though Facebook did not specify her birth date - and weighed 7 lbs 8 ounces (3.4 kg) at birth. Last month, Zuckerberg

announced he would take two months of paternity leave after the birth.

Chan and Zuckerberg have so far committed \$1.6 billion to their philanthropy. They have given several donations this year, including to public schools, initiatives to bring better wiring, Internet access and to San Francisco General Hospital, where Chan works as a pediatrician.

Zuckerberg and Chan said they will share more details when they return from their maternity and paternity leaves. Zuckerberg has started his leave, a company representative said, and will be available if "absolutely needed." Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer, and Mike Schroepfer, chief technology officer, will run the company in Zuckerberg's absence. — Reuters



**SAN FRANCISCO:** In this Oct 4, 2010 file photo, a Yahoo signboard is displayed in San Francisco. Shares of Yahoo are up sharply before the opening bell, yesterday, on a report that the company will discuss the sale of its Internet business. — AP

## YAHOO BOARD TO WEIGH FUTURE OF COMPANY: MARISSA MAYER

**SAN FRANCISCO/BENGALURU:** The board of Yahoo Inc is weighing a sale of its core Internet business when it meets this week, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters. The board's meeting comes amid a broader debate about the future of the company and that of high-profile Chief Executive Marissa Mayer.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the possible sale of the Internet business late on Tuesday. People familiar with the matter told the newspaper the board was expected to also discuss during meetings from Wednesday through Friday whether to proceed with a plan to spin off more than \$30 billion in shares of Alibaba Holding Group Ltd. The company could also pursue both options, the paper said.

The company's shares were up more than 7 percent in extended trading. Yahoo's core business, which includes popular services like Yahoo Mail and its news and sports sites, could attract private equity firms, media and telecom companies or firms like Softbank Group Corp, analysts have said in the past.

Yahoo declined to comment on the report. The news comes as Mayer faces growing pressure over the company's performance. Mayer came to Yahoo after a long stint at Google. Her arrival kicked off heightened expectations of a quick turnaround at Yahoo, which had struggled to

grow its advertising business to compete with market leaders Google and Facebook.

Hopes of a comeback crumbled as Yahoo's plan to push mobile, video, native and social media ads - a strategy Mayer introduced in 2014 under the acronym Mavens - failed to increase revenues as desktop search ads continued to decline.

A \$1.1 billion deal in 2013 to acquire social blogging site Tumblr also hit snags, with investors arguing that Mayer overpaid for an unprofitable product. The deal lifted Yahoo's user base to about 1 billion but did not bring in advertisers.

In September, Yahoo's plans for the spinoff of its stake in Alibaba hit a roadblock when the US Internal Revenue Service denied a request to bless the transaction as a tax-free deal. Yahoo said it planned to proceed with the spinoff despite the IRS announcement, but has not yet done so.

In November, activist investor Starboard Value LP asked Yahoo to drop plans to spin off its stake in Alibaba and urged the company to sell its core search and display advertising businesses instead.

During Mayer's 13-year tenure at Google, she led the Google Earth, Gmail and Google News teams and is credited with helping create the company's celebrated search page. — Reuters



**Max Chan Zuckerberg, Mark Zuckerberg, Priscilla Chan Zuckerberg** In this undated photo provided by Mark Zuckerberg, Max Chan Zuckerberg is held by her parents, Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan Zuckerberg. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife announced the birth of their daughter, Max, as well as plans to donate most of their wealth to a new organization that will tackle a broad range of the world's ills. — AP

## FACEBOOK CEO, NOW A FATHER

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Talk about birth announcements: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife say they'll devote nearly all their wealth - roughly \$45 billion - to solving the world's problems in celebration of their new baby daughter, Max.

Zuckerberg's wife, Priscilla Chan, gave birth to a 7-pound, 8-ounce daughter last week. But the couple didn't put out the news until Tuesday, when Zuckerberg posted it on Facebook, of course.

In the same post, Zuckerberg said he and Chan will, over time, commit 99 percent of their Facebook stock-holdings to such causes as fighting disease, improving education and "building strong communities." The couple had previously pledged to give away at least half their assets during their lifetime, but hadn't provided specifics. They are forming a new organization, called the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, that will pursue those goals through a combination of charitable donations, private investment and promotion of government-policy reform. "Like all parents, we want you to grow up in a world better than ours today," the 31-year-old social media mogul and his wife wrote in a letter to their daughter, which they also posted on Facebook.

The announcement stunned the charity world. "It's incredibly impressive and an enormous commitment that really eclipses anything that we've seen in terms of size," said Phil Buchanan, president of the nonprofit Center for Effective Philanthropy.

By comparison, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has an

endowment of just over \$41 billion, which includes wealth donated by the Microsoft founder and his friend, the businessman Warren Buffett. The new initiative will be organized as a limited liability company, however, rather than as a nonprofit foundation. "They want the most flexibility and they are going to use a wide variety of activities to achieve their mission," Rachael Horwitz, a Facebook spokeswoman, said via email. "So in that way this is not a foundation nor is it entirely charitable."

### Promoting equality

The notion of investing money in companies that tackle social issues isn't new, but it has gained more currency among a younger generation of philanthropists, particularly in the tech world.

Zuckerberg has also shown a previous interest in influencing public policy. He led other prominent Silicon Valley figures in forming a group, FWD.us, that lobbied and gave donations to congressional candidates in an unsuccessful effort to promote immigration reforms. Depending on how much of the new effort is devoted to lobbying, it could raise new questions about the influence of money in today's politics, some experts said.

In the letter to their daughter, Zuckerberg and Chan described their goals as "advancing human potential and promoting equality." They added: "We must make long term investments over 25, 50 or even 100 years. The greatest challenges require very long time horizons and cannot be solved by short term thinking." While

Zuckerberg promised to release more details in the future, he said the couple will transfer most of their wealth to the initiative "during our lives." The couple will be in charge of the initiative, although Zuckerberg won't be quitting his day job.

"I have a full time job running Facebook," he told The Associated Press in an interview last month, during which he discussed the couple's approach to philanthropy. Of his job at the social network, he added, "I'm going to be doing this for long time."

The Facebook co-founder is one of the world's wealthiest men. He and Chan, a 30-year-old pediatrician, have previously donated \$100 million to public schools in Newark, New Jersey, and pledged \$120 million to schools in poor communities of the San Francisco Bay Area. They've also given \$75 million to the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, where Chan did her medical training.

In a statement, Facebook said the couple's plan to transfer their shares over time won't affect his status as controlling shareholder of the company. The company said Zuckerberg has committed to dispose of no more than \$1 billion of Facebook stock every year for the next three years.

Zuckerberg and Chan had announced on Facebook last July that they were expecting a daughter, after Chan had three previous miscarriages. Horwitz said the baby was born early last week, but declined to say which day. "Mom and baby are both healthy and doing well," Horwitz added. Zuckerberg has said he plans to take two months of paternity leave. — AP

## GE JOINS HANDS WITH KU TO HONOR WINNERS

**KUWAIT:** GE joined hands with Kuwait University in honoring the winners of the first Kuwait Global Technopreneurship Challenge 2015 organised to mark the 40th anniversary of Kuwait University's College of Engineering & Petroleum in collaboration with Taylors' University of Malaysia. GE was the Innovation Partner of the event held under the patronage of His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Students from 71 countries in 65 teams took part in the Challenge that aimed at identifying innovative solutions to address three of the 14 pressing Global Challenges for Engineering in the 21st Century: Make Solar Energy Economical, Advance Health Informatics and Advance Personalized Learning. Each team had 3 to 5 members with at least one of them with an engineering background. They attended a series of online courses and took quizzes after which 17 teams were short-listed. These teams were mentored by GE at a workshop that provided invaluable insights for students in finalizing their projects, which were presented at Kuwait University.

The winners, adjudicated by a jury of experts and honored at the closing ceremony, are: Legacy Team (Mohamed Ehab, Muhammad Sartaj Khan, Omar Mohammed, Mohamad Bajuniad and Naomi Randall) - First Prize of KD 1,500; E-Innovation Team (Abdullah Osama Abdullah, Mahmood Mohammad Hassan and Ahmed Essam Omar) - Second Prize of KD 1,250; and Diabetes Lifecycle Management System Team (Engin Demirel, Sedat Kesmen, Nedret Kesmen, Hussein Alsaiyegh and Hanaa Hussain) - Third Prize of KD 1,000. The Judges Choice Award went to The Concept Crew (Hessa Al-Wuhaib, Sager Al-Kuwari, Areej Hussain Mulla and Yousef Adel Al-Musalleem); they received KD 500.

### Prosperity

At the event, Mohammed Mohaisen, President & CEO for Gas Power Systems, MENA, spoke on 'Igniting the Spark of Innovation Today.' He said: "Kuwait is one of the regional energy leaders with a clear focus on the efficient utilization of its resources to promote infrastructure development and socio-economic prosperity. Its Vision 2035 clearly promotes the spirit of public private partnership in its goal to

become a financial and commercial hub. A core pillar of Kuwait's growth strategy is to promote human capital development, which is reflected in the Kuwait Technopreneurship Challenge."

Mohaisen added: "GE has been operating in Kuwait for nearly eight decades. We have been working closely with our partners in the government and private sector to support them in achieving their growth goals and to promoting Kuwaiti talent development. As the Innovation Partner of the Challenge, we are contributing to creating a vibrant innovation ecosystem in the country. The solutions that emerge from this Challenge will not only benefit Kuwait but also humanity - as it seeks for more sustainable energy sources and better healthcare. GE will continue to work with Kuwait University and support the student community as we at GE move into the next era of growth as a digital industrial company."

### Commitment

During the event, GE Kuwait Technology Center 'GEKTC' also accomplished yet another milestone by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kuwait University's College of Engineering & Petroleum. The agreement has been developed for the purpose of engaging both parties in mutual beneficial programs and activities to develop and train students and engineers in the Power Generation sector, as well as for applied research related to power generation. This collaboration reinforces GE's commitment to the region by providing high quality educational training and research opportunities in the area of power generation.

Apart from its partnership on the world's largest wastewater plant in Sulaibiya, GE has established long-term partnerships in the healthcare, aviation, energy and oil & gas sectors in Kuwait for nearly eight decades. The company is also focused on driving the competencies of the Kuwaiti professionals through dedicated training programs and knowledge transfer programs. Highlighting its commitment to local research and innovation, GE recently announced its investment in the GE Kuwait Technology Center, one of the first-of-its-kind facilities outside the US that aim to encourage a culture of collaboration and co-creation in energy generation.

## TESLA RACES INTO THIRD POSITION IN INNOVATION SURVEY

**NEW YORK:** Electric car star Tesla has joined Apple and Google at the top of an annual ranking of innovative firms by Boston Consulting Group. Tesla raced into third position in a list of the 50 most innovative companies based on a survey of 1,500 senior executives at a wide array of companies, according to a BCG report released yesterday.

"Apple and Google again hold the top two spots," BCG said in the report, which showed the iPhone maker at the head of the list. "Tesla, which has been moving up the list at the speed of one of its Model S sedans, reached number three." Tesla, one of three car makers in the top ten spots on the list, made its debut on the list in 41st place two years ago. The leading trio was followed in order by Microsoft, Samsung, Toyota, BMW,

Gilead, Amazon, and Daimler. The rankings also took into account how the companies performed for shareholders. The list included 29 US companies; 11 European firms, and 10 based in Asia. Only 12 companies, 24 percent of the group, were in the technology sector, while many were veterans of the industrial era such as General Electric and Dow Chemical.

### Need for speed

Nearly 80 percent of those who responded to the survey cited innovation as a priority for their businesses, with more than a fifth of them labeling it a main priority. "The clearest trend which maybe has been growing over time but really crystallized this year is the importance of science and technology as an underpin-

ning of innovation," report co-author and BCG Boston office director Michael Ringel told AFP.

"The fact that science and technology are becoming more important then drives a need for speed; it becomes a race to be able to commercialize first." Technology platforms and mining valuable insights from the growing mountains of information in data centers are seen as key areas of innovation "We are becoming more and more capable with new technology like big data," said Ringel, who reasoned that an "explosion" of genomics data should help shake up healthcare. Characteristics shared by innovative companies included using new technologies to create value, not increase costs, with new products, services, or ways of operating, according to the report. — AFP

## TOO MUCH TV AS A YOUNG ADULT MAY HARM BRAIN IN MID-LIFE

**MIAMI:** Too much television-watching in young adulthood could lead to cognitive problems in mid-life, suggested a study yesterday that tracked more than 3,000 people for 25 years. People who reported watching more than three hours of television per day as young adults were twice as likely to suffer from poor cognition down the road, compared to those who were more active and reported less screen time. The research tracked 3,247 adults, aged 18-30 when they enrolled in the study

published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Psychiatry.

Scientists assessed cognitive function in the 25th year using three tests of mental processing speed, executive function and verbal memory. Low levels of physical activity and lots of television-watching were linked to slower processing speed and worse executive function, the study found. "Participants with the least active patterns of behavior (i.e., both low physical activity and high television viewing

time) were the most likely to have poor cognitive function," said the study.

Verbal memory, however, did not appear to be affected by the amount of television time. The study was led by Tina Hoang of the Northern California Institute for Research and Education at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San Francisco; and Kristine Yaffe of the University of California, San Francisco. According to Andrew Przybylski, an experimental psychologist at the

University of Oxford, who was not involved in the findings, the study contained shortcomings.

"First, these data rely entirely on a potentially problematic self-reported measure for television time," he said in a statement. Researchers also did not study participants' cognitive function at the beginning of the study, in order to have a baseline for a comparison. He also pointed out that "nearly one in three participants did not complete the study," further

weakening the strength of the findings. "Taken together, the work should provoke continued conversation about the nature of different forms of interactive media and underline the value of open science methodology including open datasets, pre-registered analysis plans, and robust and open peer review process," he said in a statement. "Until these innovations are introduced into this research literature, we will be left scratching our heads at studies like this." —AFP



**CHINA:** Various herbs and ingredients used in Chinese traditional medicine for sale at the Caizhuanyue Market in Yulin, southern China's Guangxi region.



**CHINA:** Mushrooms used in Chinese traditional medicine for sale at the Caizhuanyue Market in Yulin.



**CHINA:** A bag of insects used as an ingredient in Chinese traditional medicine for sale at the Caizhuanyue Market in Yulin.

## TOIL AND TROUBLE IN CHINA OVER NOBEL MEDICINE PRIZE

**BEIJING:** China's Tu Youyou collects her country's first Nobel Prize for medicine next week for extracting an anti-malarial drug from a herb mentioned in a traditional text, but her award has prompted debate over the role of science in the practice. Tu derived artemisinin from sweet wormwood, which she found cited in a 4th century traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) document as a fever treatment, developing a crucial weapon in the global fight against the mosquito-borne disease as resistance to other treatments spread.

Traditional medicine is a source of cultural pride in some Chinese quarters, with Beijing planning to expand its provision, and even Premier Li Keqiang seized on the Nobel award, hailing Tu's discovery as "a great contribution of TCM to the cause of human health". But Nobel committee member Hans Forsberg was adamant: "It's very important that we are not giving a prize to the traditional medicine," he said, stressing that the award was only for scientific work that had been inspired by it. TCM practitioners say her recognition could encourage similar research that may sideline the underpinnings of their theories.

TCM is based on a set of beliefs about human biology, including the existence of a life force, "qi", and that illness is the result of "imbalances" between the five elements—fire, water, earth, metal and wood—in the system. There is no orthodox evidence for such concepts, and the respected scientific magazine Nature has described TCM as "largely just pseudoscience, with no rational mechanism of action for most of its therapies", calling them an "arcane array of potions and herbal mixtures".

In contrast, Tu chemically extract-

ed the active ingredient of a single plant in isolation. "Many fear that the recent Nobel Prize, which celebrates westernized Chinese medicine, will end up doing more harm than good for authentic traditional medical practice," said Lan Jirui, who has a booming TCM private practice in Beijing. Describing her research as a victory for TCM was "reckless," said the state-run China Daily, arguing that would encourage Westernised reforms that ignore traditional theories about the body as a holistic sys-

### Rhino horn

Many mainstream medicines were originally derived from plants, and some researchers are looking for active ingredients in TCM components, even though Tu failed to find other such drugs despite years of efforts. "It's good to look into ethnopharmacology," said Tai-Ping Fan, head of the Chinese Medicine Laboratory at the University of Cambridge. "Medicine has evolved since the dawn of humanity, and science," he added. "We need to have

from endangered species, now officially banned—along with massages, acupuncture and other treatments. "I think it'd be quite good really to find out what is there in rhino horn instead of throwing it all away," said Fan. "Those that have been confiscated can be sent to laboratory and analyzed and synthesized."

### National health

TCM is an enormous industry in China, with a total value in excess of \$91 billion in 2013, a third of the total output of the country's medical industry, according to the official news agency Xinhua. In recent years the government has upped funding and support, even though most health facilities use orthodox medicine, and national healthcare guidelines released in May said every county and municipality should seek to have a dedicated TCM hospital by 2020. "TCM should be China's solution for improving its medical care," especially as it was "relatively cheaper than Western medicine", Wang Guoqiang, director of the State Administration of TCM, told a conference last year.

"TCM is a form of heritage passed down from our ancestors that can offer an instructive approach to modern medical reform," he added. But specialists say there is an internal contradiction between the nationalism implicit in such assertions and TCM's claims of universal applicability. "It is essential to keep the struggle for cultural identity separate from actual medical practice," said Volker Scheid, an anthropologist at London's University of Westminster who has studied TCM for 30 years. "I'd say 95 percent of Chinese would think that I cannot be a very good TCM practitioner because I'm not Chinese, but at the same time, China wants to make Chinese medicine global. "If you want to make it truly global, you have to take it away from China." —AFP



**CHINA:** In this file photo taken on October 8, 2015, Tu Youyou, the first Chinese woman to win a Nobel prize for medicine, delivers a speech at a symposium organized by China's National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFP) and other departments in Beijing. —AFP photos

tem. "You should not use Western science to 'cure' Chinese medicine," Lan said, calling the study of TCM from a rationalist perspective "essentially hopeless." "The human body is very complicated—you cannot see it only as a machine," he added. "The scariest thing is to lack confidence in your own traditions, to allow others to 'update' you, and then destroy what you had."

evidence. But there's the possibility now, thanks to science, to begin to discuss this problem, how we can see East and West come together."

With no standardized guidelines, TCM can offer radically different diagnoses—based on observation and pulse-taking—for the same symptoms. Similarly, prescriptions are highly variable, made up of multiple herbs, minerals and animal parts—sometimes

## FRUIT-FLAVOURED DRUGS TO CUT CHILD TB DEATHS, COMBAT 'SUPERBUGS'

**NAIROBI:** Children will be more likely to survive tuberculosis (TB), the world's most deadly infectious disease, once new strawberry- and raspberry-flavored medicines are available early next year, experts said yesterday. TB killed 140,000 children and 1.37 million adults last year and infected a further one million children, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), but a lack of market incentives has hindered the development of drugs for children, the TB Alliance campaign group said.

Many children with TB do not complete their treatment because they have to take several bitter-tasting medicines every day for at least six months. The dosage is often imprecise as parents have to cut and crush adult-sized drugs for their children. From early 2016, soluble child-sized doses of the three major drugs used to treat TB will be available, helping to save lives.

"The child is really just drinking a fruit-flavored drink," the chief executive officer of the TB Alliance, Mel Spigelman, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "It will make it so much easier for a child and a parent or caregiver to make sure the child takes the treatment and takes it religiously for the full time." When TB patients do not complete their treatment, they fall ill again, often with hard-to-treat drug-resistant "superbug" strains that are rapidly gaining a foothold globally.

Some 32,000 children catch drug-resistant TB each year, and it is often fatal, according to US researchers. TB is spread by bacteria when someone with untreated TB, often a family member, coughs or sneezes. Children who survive can become blind, deaf, paralyzed or mentally disabled. Almost 10 million people were infected with TB in 2014 and 1.5 million died, surpassing the 1.2 million deaths from HIV/AIDS, according to the WHO.

The two diseases often co-exist, as HIV positive people have weak immune systems which make them susceptible to TB. Although most new TB cases occur in southeast Asia, Africa has the largest proportion relative to its population. South Africa has Africa's highest TB rate, with 400,000 new cases each year, the WHO says, two-thirds of whom also have HIV.

"TB is always concentrated among the poorest of the poor," as it spreads in overcrowded places with poor sanitation and nutrition, Spigelman said. "TB is an unbelievably neglected disease... probably the quintessential disease of poverty." As poor people cannot afford medicines, it does not make business sense for pharmaceutical companies to develop drugs to treat diseases like TB, he said. The new child-friendly drugs are largely funded by UNITAID, which also funds HIV/AIDS and malaria treatment in developing nations and is hosted by the WHO. —Reuters

## MYANMAR'S HIV PATIENTS SHUNNED DESPITE PROGRESS IN TREATMENT

**LONDON:** Shortly after Cho's husband passed away at his parent's home his family called to tell her he had died of AIDS and said she should get tested. Cho vividly remembers rushing to a clinic in the sweltering heat to get a blood test. She breathed a sigh of relief when it came out negative. But then she started losing weight and began falling ill more often. In September, the former market stallholder went for another HIV test. It was positive. "As soon as I found out I had HIV, I felt really sad as well as upset," the 43-year-old said, wiping tears from her cheeks.

Within two days, she had admitted herself to a clinic and hospice for HIV patients founded by a member of parliament from the National League for Democracy (NLD). Her family, who live in the impoverished Hlaing Thar Yar township in Myanmar's main city Yangon, did not want her to live with them. Although the virus cannot be transmitted by day-to-day contact, they feared she would infect her younger sister's child. They support her financially, but would rather she never came home, said Cho, whose name has been changed to protect her identity. "My 21-year-old daughter has not come to visit me once since I arrived here, but at least she speaks to me on the phone, so it's not bad," she told Myanmar Now, an independent news service supported by the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The hospice is home to nearly 300 patients, many with similar stories of rejection. Myanmar has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in Asia. Under reforms by a semi-civilian government since 2011, access to medication has improved compared to a few years ago when cash-strapped clinics had to turn patients away. Some 210,000 people in Myanmar live with HIV/AIDS, of whom around 160,000 need life-saving antiretroviral treatment (ART) based on World Health Organization guidelines, according to aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

There is no official data on the proportion of patients with access to ART. MSF, long the main provider of HIV treatment in the Southeast Asian nation, says it currently gives ART to 35,000 HIV patients. Treatment is also becoming available at more state hospitals. "Now you can get ART in government-run hospitals in many states and

regions," MSF doctor Soe Yadanar said ahead of World AIDS Day. Yet the stigma faced by people living with HIV lingers.

### Shunned

Ignorance and fear surrounding the HIV virus which causes AIDS are among the many challenges that will face Myanmar's new government, elected on Nov. 8, in overhauling a neglected health system and changing attitudes fed by misinformation and a conservative culture. A 48-year-old mother from Ayeyarwady Region has a similar tale to Cho. She says her community shunned her family when their HIV status came to light three years ago. "Since I got HIV, nobody asked me to work at their homes anymore," said the woman, a laborer who looks much older than her years.

She and her five-year-old son, also HIV positive, survive on fruits and vegetables from their garden.

"Without a job, we don't have money. Sometimes it's really difficult to find food," she said. Like Cho, the woman only discovered she and her son had HIV after her husband died and a friend who was worried about her health took her to a clinic. The boy has little idea of his condition except that he needs to take regular medication, his mother said. But his friends at kindergarten seem to know. "My friends never ask me to join them when they're playing. They stop playing if I'm included," he said.

MSF's Soe Yadanar said much of the stigma is linked to a lack of knowledge about HIV, and poor families not having anyone to care for people living with HIV. "We've seen cases where if someone looking after a patient with HIV dies while the patient is unwell, other people don't want to take care of the person with HIV anymore," she said.

Soe Yadanar added that while access to ART is becoming easier, there are still challenges in delivering treatment because of a shortage of staff, particularly doctors.

For Cho, who is now on ART, taking care of her health and diet is her main focus. But she has no illusions that her family will ever accept her again. "My daughter is worried that if she gets married, her husband would use my condition against her," she said. "So I think I'm going to spend whatever time that is left of my life in this hospice." —Reuters

# WALNUTS EACH DAY KEEP THE DOCTOR AWAY?

**NEW YORK:** Eating a handful of walnuts each day might help keep the doctor away, at least for some people who are at risk of developing diabetes, a US study suggests. When people in the study added 56 grams of walnuts (2 ounces, or about 14 walnuts) to their daily diet for six months, they had improvements in blood vessel function and reductions in "bad" LDL cholesterol, which builds up in blood vessels and can lead to blood clots and heart attacks.

Blood vessel dysfunction and high LDL cholesterol are both risk factors for type 2 diabetes, which is associated with obesity and aging and occurs when the body can't make or process enough of the hormone insulin. Walnuts, which are rich in fatty acids and other nutrients like folate and vitamin E, weren't linked to weight gain in the study even though

they are a high-calorie food. "Adding walnuts to your diet will improve your diet quality and health - cardiometabolic health specifically - and you can add walnuts without fear of weight gain because they are very satiating and appear to bump out other calories quite reliably and make room for themselves," said study author Dr David L Katz of the Yale University Prevention Research Center in Derby, Connecticut.

The nuts didn't seem to improve high blood pressure and high blood sugar, two other risk factors for diabetes, Katz and colleagues reported in BMJ Open Diabetes Research and Care. For the study, the researchers randomly assigned 31 men and 81 women at high risk for diabetes to follow a reduced calorie diet with or without nutrition counseling. Within these groups, half of the participants were assigned at ran-

dom to add walnuts to their diet for six months. After a three-month break from the experiment, researchers then switched the groups and assigned walnuts to the participants who were previously asked to abstain from eating them.

**Prevent diabetes**

Participants ranged in age from 25 to 75. All had multiple risk factors for diabetes, such as being overweight, or having high blood sugar, blood pressure or cholesterol, or having excess fat around the midsection. After taking into account factors such as age, exercise habits, calorie consumption and fatty acid intake, the study found walnuts were linked to improved diet quality regardless of whether people received nutrition counseling. The California Walnut Commission funded the study

and has compensated Katz for speaking engagements.

One limitation of the research is that participants weren't given specific foods to consume and diets were assessed based on self-reported surveys asking people at several points to recall what they ate in the previous 24 hours, the authors acknowledge. The study also wasn't designed to show whether walnuts could prevent diabetes, which makes the results less reliable.

Even though the data from the study suggest that adding walnuts to the diet can help maintain overall healthy eating habits, more research from larger and longer-term studies is still needed to fully understand the potential benefits of walnuts, said Roberta Holt, a nutrition researcher at the University of California, Davis, who wasn't involved in the study.

Results from the periodic diet surveys

aren't enough to prove walnuts caused the changes in LDL cholesterol or blood vessel function, Holt added by email. "While the intake of walnuts improved LDL cholesterol and vascular function from baseline, the control (no walnuts) also improved," Holt noted. Even so, there is plenty of previous research linking consumption of walnuts to improved markers of heart health and lower risks of diabetes and heart disease, noted Deirdre Tobias, an epidemiologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston. "Walnuts and other tree nuts are a healthful source of plant-based protein and fat," Tobias, who wasn't involved in the study, said by email. "They are a food that (is) consistent with overall dietary recommendations and can easily be incorporated into a patient's diet, if they like walnuts and are not allergic." —Reuters

# CONSERVATIONISTS FLAG LEGAL ACTION OVER JAPAN WHALE HUNT

**SYDNEY:** Japan was facing mounting condemnation yesterday over its decision to resume killing whales in Antarctica, with conservationists saying it was open to another legal challenge. Australia and New Zealand have led criticism of the resumption of "scientific" whaling, with both expressing disappointment. "It's not scientific research, it's straight up commercial whaling, and it's been declared illegal by the International Court of Justice," said Nathaniel Pelle from Greenpeace Australia. Japan announced Monday it would send a whaling research mission to Antarctic waters this month but would cut its annual minke catch by two-thirds to 333.

Its departure, expected today, ends a year-long suspension prompted by the United Nations' International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling in 2014 that the annual hunt was a commer-

cial venture masquerading as research. Japan's Fisheries Agency insisted Monday the upcoming hunt reflected previous recommendations from the International Whaling Commission's scientific committee. But the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Australian Marine Conservation Society said a panel of legal experts asked to consider Japan's proposed new "scientific" whaling had found it broke international law.

The Australian and New Zealand experts said the new mission was inconsistent with Japan's international obligations. "The panel concluded that Japan's new whaling program violates international law and that Australia or other countries still have options to challenge Japan's actions before international courts," said chair and Australian National University professor Donald Rothwell. Australia

has urged a diplomatic solution, with Attorney-General George Brandis saying Monday the government would be taking the matter "to the highest level".

"Australia is urging Japan... not to resume this practice," Brandis told the Senate, adding that sending a boat to monitor the Southern Ocean was a possibility. New Zealand's acting Foreign Minister Todd McClay said the resumption of whaling was deeply disappointing. "New Zealand's longstanding and fundamental opposition to this practice remains unchanged," he said at the weekend. "It is clear that Japan's research objectives can be met using non-lethal means," he said, adding New Zealand was considering "all options". Environmentalists from Sea Shepherd Australia have said they will pursue the Japanese fleet and aim to intervene in any slaughter of the animals. —AFP



**WASHINGTON:** This image obtained yesterday from the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, DC shows Giant panda cub Bei Bei being weighed during a checkup on October 26.—AFP

# US ZOO CONTEST WINNERS WILL GET EARLY PEEK AT PANDA CUB

**WASHINGTON:** The US National Zoo says winners of an Instagram contest will be invited to be among the first to meet panda cub Bei Bei. The cub, who was born Aug 22, is set to make his public debut Jan 16. The zoo said in a statement Tuesday that it will choose 25 people to see the cub as part of a "behind-the-scenes experience." The participants will be able to take pictures of the cub and share

them on Instagram.

The zoo says that to enter the contest, participants must make a 15-second or shorter video using Instagram explaining why they want to be part of the event and fill out a registration form by Monday. The zoo plans to notify winners by Dec 11. The behind-the-scenes event will be Dec 19. —AP



**AT SEA:** This undated handout picture released from the Institute of Cetacean Research on November 18, 2014 shows a minke whale on the deck of a whaling ship for research in the Antarctic Ocean. —AFP

# FLIES, WASPS, BEETLES ARE IMPORTANT POLLINATORS

**MIAMI:** Bees are declining worldwide but other insects are just as important for pollinating certain major crops and may be more resilient to environmental changes, scientists said Monday. The study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a peer-reviewed US journal, was based on 39 field studies from five different continents. Researchers found that flies, butterflies, moths, beetles, wasps, ants and thrips visit provide, on average, 39 percent of visits to crop flowers.

And crops such as mangoes, custard apples, kiwi fruit, coffee and canola depend on non-bee pollinators, said the study led by Australian researchers. Therefore, farmers who use pesticides that

spare bees but kill other insects might be making a mistake, they argued. "We are trying to get the message out there to use scientific findings such as these to promote a change in agricultural practices," said co-author Margie Mayfield, a plant ecologist at the University of Queensland. "The global reliance on honeybees for pollination is a risky strategy given the threats to the health of managed honeybee populations due to pests and diseases such as Varroa mites and colony collapse disorder," Mayfield added.

"Non-bee insects are an insurance against bee population declines." Until now, little research has focused on the role of non-bee pollinators in the multi-

billion dollar agriculture industry. But lead author Romina Rader from the University of New England, Armidale, said the team discovered that non-bee pollinators were crucial to the ecosystem, performing anywhere from 25 to 50 per cent of the total number of flower visits. "Although non-bees were less effective pollinators than bees per flower visit, they provided slightly more visits," Rader said. "These two factors compensated for each other, resulting in pollination services similar to bees." Non-bee pollinators were also found to be less sensitive to habitat fragmentation than bees, offering even more reason to protect them in the future, the authors said. —AFP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

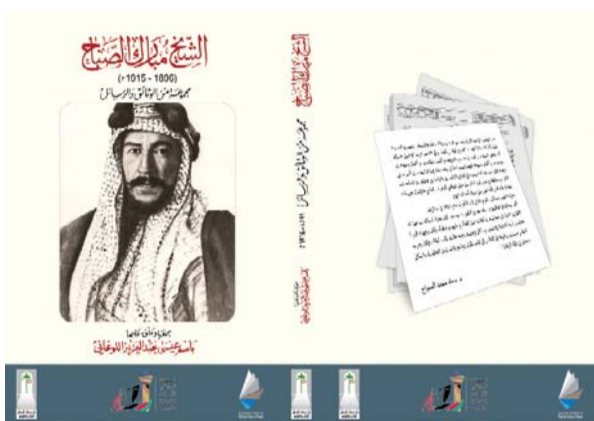
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

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



## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

Under auspices and with the attendance of Sheikha Hessa Humoud Al-Salem Al-Sabah, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Baghdad, Kuwait and Dependencies recently celebrated Christmas. A special ceremony was held and attended by a number of diplomats, dignitaries and prominent religious figures on the occasion. The ceremony also included the annual exhibition for Christmas artifacts usually held in Christmas where the items on display highly appealed to Sheikha Hessa, who hailed the efforts exerted by Metropolitan Ghattas Hazeem in promoting peace and love. Meanwhile, the Metropolitan of Baghdad and Kuwait and dependencies, Ghattas Hazeem stressed that Christmas was a very dear occasion that reminds of peace, love and tolerance amongst people.



In collaboration with Kuwait National Library, the Suad Al-Sabah Publication and Distribution house recently issued a book titled 'Sheikh Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Letters and Documents' with commentary by researcher, Essa Alloghani and an introduction by Dr Suad Al-Sabah. The 400-page book includes rare letters and documents dating back to the reign of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah in the period of 1899-1915. It was published within commemorating the 100th anniversary to Sheikh Mubarak Al-Kabeer's death.

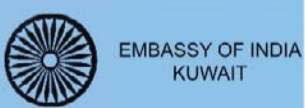
## ALBANIAN EMBASSY ANNOUNCEMENT

Albanian embassy in the State of Kuwait would like to inform on the change of its premises. The new address of the embassy is: Salam area, Block 7, Street 717, Villa 293, Kuwait. For postal services in addition to the address: P.O. Box 3090, Safat 13031 State of Kuwait. Also, the landline phone number of the embassy is the same one: 25240627 and fax: 25240628. The e-mail address: embassy.kuwait@mfa.gov.al. The working hours from Sunday to Thursday, 08:30- 14:00.



Greetings

Happy birthday to our dear Merin Mol and Andrew Mon. May God Almighty shower His choicest blessings upon you both. Loving wishes and prayers from Pappa, Mamma, Reeha, Appachen and Amachi, Gigi and all dear and loved ones.



### PRESS RELEASE

The Ministry of Interior of Kuwait has decided to implement the new guidelines with effect from 01 January 2016 applicable to expatriates residing in the country with regard to the linking of validity of Residence Permit with the validity of the Passport. The new guidelines are as under:-

- (i) The duration of the Residence Permit cannot be for a longer period than the duration of validity of the passport.
- (ii) Residence Permit shall expire on the same date of the expiry of passport.
- (iii) The decision to link the validity of residence with the validity of the passport is applicable with effect from 01 January 2016.
- (iiii) Please avail the remaining period till 1st January 2016 to renew the passport to avoid violation of Residence Permit Law for foreigners.
- (v) Approach Department of Residence Affairs (as per address given in the Civil ID) to register and transfer the data from the old to the new passport.

2. All Indian nationals in Kuwait are advised to ensure that their passports are renewed so as to avoid any violation of the Residence Permit Law in Kuwait for Foreigners.

30 November 2015



## AL-NASSER NEW SHOWROOM OPENING - 4TH RING ROAD



With your trust we grow. This announcement has been declared on the behalf of the Group Marketing director Bassem Jawad. Al-Nasser opened its new showroom in Al-Rai area - 4th ring road, next to the Mashatel. The site has commercial shopping complexes and large parking cars on the main street (fourth ring). This event is an expansion plan for the year 2016. This step has been taken to create a new showroom at this location to meet all of our customer's needs in the neighboring areas.

Al-Nasser opened a new showroom on more than 3000 square meters, includes everything you need from family clothing, shoes, sports and school supplies, accessories and many more in one place and under one roof. Al Nasser: Where quality meets with price. In the new showroom Al Nasser will display a new global brands and diverse assortment of winter season to satisfy all tastes. It is proposed that the opening ceremony will include lots and lots of family fun, competitions and quizzes for children, in addition to many gifts and prizes that you would not want to miss.

HOSTED BY THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
SPONSORED BY CINESCAPE & KOREA FOUNDATION

# KOREAN MOVIE NIGHT

أمسية الأفلام الكورية

WEDNESDAY 9th OF DECEMBER

5:00 PM / FOREVER THE MOMENT  
7:30 PM / HOW TO STEAL A DOG

AT CINESCAPE LAILA-SALMIYA / FREE ADMISSION



The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kuwait will organize the "Korean Movie Night" on Wednesday, 9 December 2014, at Cinescape Laila Gallery, at 5pm. The event is part of the Embassy's efforts to further enhance cultural ties between Korea and Kuwait and promote greater understanding of Korea and its people among the Kuwaiti society.



Amani Al-Wara'a

## CBK PATRONIZES GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced patronizing a golf tournament organized by the Sahara Resort. The sponsorship reflects the bank's commitment to support sports activities featuring participation from different social categories.

From that standpoint, CBK makes sure to sponsor this tournament annually, said Amani Al-Wara'a, Assistant Director, Public Relations and Media Department. She reiterated the bank's commitment to supporting sports and social activities in the framework of its social responsibility programs.

## INDIAN PUNJABI FOOD FESTIVAL AT ORIENTAL RESTAURANT SALMIYA

Oriental is a name well-etched in the minds of food-lovers in Kuwait and the preferred restaurant when choosing to dine out. Quality and taste of great Indian and Chinese cuisines, superior personalized service, soothing ambience and value for money, all come together make dining at Oriental a complete package for a great evening out.

Oriental has two restaurants in Kuwait, one in Kuwait City and the other in Salmiya, both featuring a rich menu of Indian, Chinese and Continental specialties. In addition, Oriental has a number of confectioneries strategically located in various parts of the country.

Now Oriental Restaurant has brought leading Indian chef, Harjinder Singh, popularly known as Sweetie Singh, to Kuwait. With nearly two decades of cooking expertise, Sweetie Singh has introduced unique blends to Punjabi cuisine and has been conducting

Punjabi Food Festivals for the last 15 years. This experience has gained him many awards and accolades, as well as wide coverage in media.

When asked about his first visit



Harjinder Singh

to Kuwait, Chef Singh was quite excited about displaying his culinary magic to Punjabi food-lovers in Kuwait. He said that this profession is not just a source of income, but also a source of immense passion and pleasure for him.

Cooking with a zeal that touches the heart of his guests, the renowned chef says that spices to him are like magical instruments with which he crafts thrilling recipes that are bound to produce the desired magic in the palates of everyone that tastes his creations. He adds that his uniquely crafted dishes are very much like home-cooked food in that besides being delicious, the dishes are also healthy and balanced.

Chef Singh is looking forward enthusiastically to serving the best of Punjabi food at Oriental Restaurant and promises to win the hearts of Punjabi food lovers with his rich heritage of scrumptious Punjabi specialties. Chef Sweetie Singh will be serving his Punjabi dishes at the Salmiya branch of Oriental Restaurant located along Hamad Al-Mubarak Street from 2 to 12 December. Be there and experience the best of Punjabi food, you cannot afford to miss this unique opportunity.



RISE Director, Dr Amir Zeid



(Left to right) Dr Ali Charara; Dr Ridel Jesus Febles Sanabria; Dr Lianet Rodriguez Cabrera; the Ambassador of Cuba in Kuwait, Andres Gonzalez Garrido, and his wife; Dr Amir Zeid and Dr Rawda Awwad.



(Left to right) the Ambassador of Cuba in Kuwait, Andres Gonzalez Garrido, and his wife; Dr Lianet Rodriguez Cabrera and Dr Ridel Jesus Febles Sanabria.

## RISE CENTER AT AUK HOLDS LECTURE ON 'CUBAN BIOTECHNOLOGY VS DIABETIC FOOT'

The Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences and Engineering (RISE) at the American University of Kuwait inaugurated its annual Lecture Series Wednesday with a lecture entitled, "Cuban Biotechnology vs the Diabetic Foot: Strategy, Results and Kuwait Clinical Trials." The event's VIP guest list included the Ambassador of Cuba in Kuwait, His Excellency Andres Gonzalez Garrido, and his wife, in addition to a number of renowned AUK faculty members.

Commencing with welcoming remarks from RISE Director Dr Amir Zeid, and the Dean of the College of Art and Sciences Dr Rawda Awwad, the lecture shed light on the ongoing collaboration between the Cuban Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB) and Kuwait's Dasman Diabetes Institute (DDI). The joint efforts of the two bodies have successfully wielded Cuban research in the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers in Kuwait. "We have chosen to commence our Lecture Series with this beacon of scientific hope," Dr Zeid said of the event. "A little over a year ago we had a dream of creating this intellectual hub for innovators from all walks of life or corners of earth to come voice their visions here at AUK. This is what RISE is about. I'm glad to have witnessed this vision materialize here tonight."

### Latest innovation

Presentations by CIGB Assistant Researchers Dr Lianet Rodriguez Cabrera and Ridel Jesus Febles Sanabria tackled the latest Cuban innovation in Biotechnology, Health Sciences and Medicine. "This is a great opportunity on so



Group photo after the lecture.

many levels," Dr Rodriguez noted, "Getting to share scientific experiences and interact with the Kuwaiti audience here tonight truly is a remarkable leap forward."

Dr Rodriguez obtained her PhD in Biological Sciences with a specialization in Molecular Biosciences from the University of Havana, Cuba, in 2013. Dr Febles on the other hand is an Angiology and Vascular Surgery Specialist at the Cuban Jose R Lopez Tabranes Provincial Teaching Hospital. Both scientists are members of a team of experts currently overseeing the center's clinical trials at DDI.

The evening marked the kickoff of this year's RISE Lecture Series set to cover a plethora of academic disciplines and interests, as the Dean of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences Dr Rawda Awwad said, "For us to advance this process forward, outreach and partnerships between higher education and the economic sector, public and private enterprises are essential in linking new knowledge to development goals."

### Strong connections

A primary source of AUK's interdisciplinary research and development endeavors,



Dr Rawda Awwad presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Dr Lianet Rodriguez Cabrera.



Dr Rawda Awwad presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Dr Ridel Jesus Febles Sanabria.

RISE aims at forging strong intellectual connections among local and international innovators, as well as academia and industry practitioners - whilst concurrently fostering efforts for community engagement and outreach.

The AUK Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences, and Engineering (RISE) serves as AUK's primary source for research and development activities, a bridge to industry, and an important venue for community outreach. RISE adapts an integrative model by forging connections between aca-

demical disciplines, local and international innovators, academia and industry, as well as technology and society.

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.kw](http://www.auk.edu.kw).



Ahmedi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah patronized and attended a ceremony organized recently by the Hadiya Co-operative Society to honor shareholders' outstanding children.

## ASSE ORGANIZES FIREFIGHTING AWARENESS WORKSHOP

The American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter as a part of continuous efforts in its professional journey, organized an Awareness workshop With the support from Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) on Basic firefighting awareness workshop on 28th November 2015 at Salmiya Fire Station, KFSD.

Janet Najare, Deputy Head, WISE Committee welcomed the participants for the Workshop. Sampath Reddy President of ASSE Kuwait Chapter briefed about the program outline and thanked KFSD for their support in hosting the program.

The training program was presented by Major Meshari Al Faras, Head of Planning and Information Center and First Lt Ali M H Ali, PR and Media Department, KFSD.

During the presentation, Major Meshari, informed on the basic com-



ponents of fire, fire classification, types of extinguishers, causes of fires in residences and high-rise buildings etc. He further explained about the importance of knowing the Basic firefighting skills and prevention method to avoid fire occurrence. Ali

stressed on the steps to be taken to operate a portable fire extinguisher by any individual in case of emergency due to fire, the inspection of fire extinguishers. He also described the risk assessment for early detection and elimination of hazard that



can cause fire. The Awareness session was very much interactive; it was followed by Question and Answer session. As a token of appreciation, Ashok Garlapati, ASSE Advisory Committee member and Sampath Reddy,

President of ASSE KC, handed over memento to Major Meshari Al-Faras, KFSD.

Around 30 women, including ASSE Kuwait Chapter member's spouses, women ASSE members, and students participated in the aware-

ness workshop. All the participants were presented with the certificate of participation. FASCO Safety Systems Company sponsored the portable Fire Extinguishers for all the participants at the end of the program.



Osaimi polyclinic in Kheitan organized a special day for the promotion of healthy child. The event included a lecture on how to take care for children from day one, to make sure they are brought up in a healthy state, both mentally and physically. Several activities took place during the event with children being involved.

Discovery Channel HD
03:40 Auction Hunters
04:05 Garage Gold
04:30 Storage Hunters UK
05:00 Americana
05:30 How It's Made
06:00 Alaskan Bush People
06:50 Desert Car Kings
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Auction Hunters
08:55 Garage Gold
09:20 Storage Hunters UK
09:45 Americana
10:10 How It's Made
10:35 Deadliest Catch
11:25 Outback Truckers
12:15 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
13:05 Auction Hunters
13:30 Garage Gold
13:55 Storage Hunters UK
14:20 Ice Lake Rebels: Winter Is Coming
15:10 Desert Car Kings
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 Americana
17:15 How It's Made
17:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
18:30 Dual Survival
19:20 Treasure Quest: Snake Island
20:10 Property Wars
20:35 Storage Hunters UK
21:00 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
21:50 Boy To Man
22:40 River Monsters
23:30 Desert Car Kings

19:05 H2O: Just Add Water
19:30 Violetta
20:20 The Next Step
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
23:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Wolfblood
23:35 Wolfblood

08:00 Chopped
08:30 Guy's Grocery Games
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
11:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Jenny And Reza's Fabulous Food Academy
18:30 Grandma's Secret Cookbook
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Guy's Grocery Games
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man Finds Food
23:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
23:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin

08:05 The Food Files
08:30 Hotel India
09:20 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
09:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
10:10 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
10:35 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
11:00 Warrior Road Trip
11:50 Baking Good, Baking Bad
12:15 Meat v Veg
12:40 Dream Cruises
13:35 Food School
14:00 The Food Files
14:30 Hotel India
15:25 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
15:50 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
16:20 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
16:45 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
17:15 Warrior Road Trip
18:10 Food School
18:35 Meat v Veg
19:05 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
19:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
20:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
20:25 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
20:50 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
21:15 Warrior Road Trip
22:05 Food School
22:30 Meat v Veg
22:55 Dream Cruises
23:45 Food School

Discovery Science
03:10 Cosmic Collisions
04:00 Mythbusters
04:48 NASA's Unexplained Files
05:36 Home Factory
06:00 Home Factory
06:24 Cosmic Collisions
07:12 Weird Connections
07:36 Weird Connections
08:00 Strangest Weather On Earth
08:25 Strangest Weather On Earth
08:50 Food Factory
09:15 Food Factory
09:40 How It's Made
10:05 How It's Made
10:30 NASA's Unexplained Files
11:20 Primal Connections
12:10 Cosmic Collisions
13:00 Mythbusters
13:50 Food Factory
14:12 Food Factory
14:35 Primal Connections
15:20 Cosmic Collisions
16:05 Weird Connections
16:27 Weird Connections
16:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:35 NYC: Inside Out
18:20 NASA's Unexplained Files
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 How The Universe Works
23:00 Food Factory
23:22 Food Factory
23:45 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

03:05 Calimero
03:20 Zou
03:30 Loopedoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:35 Zou
04:45 Loopedoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopedoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopedoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 Calimero
08:10 Zou
08:25 Limon And Oli
08:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:05 Sofia The First
09:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:30 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Sofia The First
11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:55 Miles From Tomorrow
12:25 Henry Hugglemonster
12:55 Loopedoo
13:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
13:35 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
14:00 Sofia The First
14:30 Henry Hugglemonster
14:45 Calimero
15:00 Doc McStuffins
15:30 Zou
15:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
16:15 Sofia The First
16:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
17:10 Aladdin
17:40 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
18:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:55 Cars Toons
19:00 Miles From Tomorrow
19:30 Sofia The First
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
20:45 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:35 Sofia The First
22:00 Aladdin
22:30 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
23:00 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers
23:30 Lilo & Stitch

03:25 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
05:15 Come Date With Me
Australia
05:45 Come Date With Me
Australia
06:10 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
06:40 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
07:05 Coronation Street
07:30 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
08:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
09:20 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
10:10 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
10:40 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
11:05 Dancing On Ice
12:30 Come Date With Me
Australia
13:00 Come Date With Me
Australia
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Coach Trip
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Coronation Street
15:10 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
15:35 Seven Days With A Friend
16:30 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
17:50 Come Date With Me
Australia
18:20 Come Date With Me
Australia
18:45 Coronation Street
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Seven Days With A Friend
20:30 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
21:50 Coach Trip
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Coronation Street
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Dancing On Ice

NAT GEO WILD HD
03:45 The Monster Project
04:40 Ultimate Animal Countdown
05:35 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins
06:30 Dangerous Encounters
07:25 The Monster Project
08:20 The Incredible Dr. Pol
09:15 Unlikely Animal Friends
10:10 Expedition Wild
11:05 Swamp Men
12:00 Shark Men
12:55 Ultimate Animal Countdown
13:50 Dangerous Encounters
14:45 World's Deadliest Animal Apocalypse
15:40 The Incredible Dr. Pol
16:35 Killer Dragons
17:30 Expedition Wild
18:25 Swamp Men
19:20 World's Deadliest Animal Apocalypse
20:10 The Incredible Dr. Pol
21:00 Killer Dragons
21:50 Expedition Wild
22:40 Swamp Men
23:30 Shark Men

Disney Channel
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Wolfblood
04:35 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
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 Read It & Weep
12:05 Phineas And Ferb
12:20 Hank Zipzer
12:45 I Didn't Do It
13:10 I Didn't Do It
13:35 Liv And Maddie
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:30 H2O: Just Add Water
14:55 First Class Chefs
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Girl Meets World
16:10 Violetta
17:00 The Next Step
17:25 Mako Mermaids
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Dog With A Blog
18:40 First Class Chefs

03:15 Escape Club
04:10 E! Entertainment Special
05:05 The E! True Hollywood Story
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 Giuliana & Bill
09:15 Giuliana & Bill
10:15 Giuliana & Bill
11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
12:05 House Of DVF
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 Dash Dolls
23:00 Dash Dolls

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD
03:50 Explorer
04:45 Bad Trip
05:40 Apocalypse: The Second World War
06:35 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
07:30 Monster Fish
08:25 Is It Real?
09:20 Riding Britain's Railways
10:15 Yukon River Run
11:10 Air Crash Investigation
12:05 Hard Time
13:00 Is It Real?
14:00 Monster Fish
15:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
16:00 Yukon River Run
17:00 Air Crash Investigation
18:00 Drugs Inc: Compilations
19:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South
20:00 Yukon River Run
20:50 Air Crash Investigation
21:40 Drugs Inc: Compilations
22:30 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
23:20 Apocalypse: The Second World War

03:00 Young & Hungry
03:30 2 Broke Girls
04:00 The Goldbergs
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Last Man Standing
06:00 Community
06:30 My Name Is Earl
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 The Goldbergs
08:30 Last Man Standing
09:00 Young & Hungry
09:30 About A Boy
10:00 Last Man On Earth
10:30 My Name Is Earl
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
13:00 The Goldbergs
13:30 Last Man Standing
14:00 My Name Is Earl
14:30 2 Broke Girls
15:00 Last Man On Earth
15:30 Melissa & Joey
16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
16:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Young & Hungry
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 Comedians
23:00 Getting On
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

BACKDRAFT 15
Silently behind a door, it waits.
One breath of oxygen and it explodes in a deadly rage.
In that instant it can create a hero...
or cover a secret.
Originalmaster.co.uk
KURT RUSSELL, WILLIAM BALOWIN, SCOTT GLENN, JENNIFER JASON LEIGH, REBECCA DEMORNAY, DONALD SUTHERLAND, ROBERT DE NIRO
A RON HOWARD FILM
BACKDRAFT 15
IMAGINE FILMS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS A TRILOGY ENTERTAINMENT GROUP/BRIAN GRAZER PRODUCTION "BACKDRAFT" WITH HANS ZIMMER SUPERVISOR BECKY MANCUSO AND TIM SEXTON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TODD HALLOWELL PRODUCED BY LARRY DE WAAY WRITTEN BY BRIAN GRAZER AND RAFFAELLA DELAURENTIIS DIRECTED BY DANIEL HANLEY MICHAEL HILL PRODUCED BY ALBERT BRENNER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MIKAEL SALOMON, A.S.C. WORDS BY GREGORY WIDEN PRODUCED BY RICHARD B. LEWIS PEN DENSHAM JOHN WATSON DIRECTED BY RON HOWARD A UNIVERSAL RELEASE



SPECIAL ID ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

OSN FIRST HD MORE
03:00 Tyrant
04:00 Better Call Saul
05:00 Good Morning America
07:00 Emmerdale
07:30 Coronation Street
08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
08:10 Criminal Minds
09:00 The Voice
21:00 Blood & Oil
22:00 Supergirl
23:00 Scream Queens

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION
00:00 Insidious: Chapter 2-PG15
02:00 Getaway-PG15
04:00 Bloodsport-PG15
06:00 Aeon Flux-PG15
08:00 Stranded-PG15
10:00 Bloodsport-PG15
12:00 Special ID-PG15
14:00 Aeon Flux-PG15
15:45 Rage-PG15
17:30 King Arthur-PG15
19:45 Backdraft-PG15
22:15 Hitman-18

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY PREMIERE
02:00 Baggage Claim
04:00 Mousehunt
04:00 Simon Birch
06:00 Titeuf, Le Film
08:00 Foodfight!
10:00 Simon Birch
12:00 Tooth Fairy
14:00 Mr. Wonderful
16:00 Foodfight!
18:00 When In Rome
20:00 Dumb And Dumber To
22:00 All The Wrong Reasons

AMC
01:40 Duplex
03:15 Cannon For Cordoba
05:00 Saved!
06:30 Apache
08:00 One Summer Love
09:40 Bound For Glory
12:05 Big Screen
12:20 Brannigan
14:10 The Adventures Of Buckaroo Banzai
15:50 American Rhapsody
17:35 Apache
19:05 Death Rides A Horse
21:00 Improptu
22:45 Hurly Burly

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA
03:00 The Wee Man-PG15
05:00 My Last Day Without You-PG15
07:00 Transcendence-PG15
09:00 Kon-Tiki-PG15
11:00 My Last Day Without You-PG15
13:00 Breathless-PG15
15:00 Transcendence-PG15
17:00 Kon-Tiki-PG15
19:00 Two Men In Town-PG15
21:00 Middle Of Nowhere-PG15
23:00 Before Midnight-18

BACKDRAFT ON OSN MOVIES ACTION



# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (03/12/2015 TO 09/12/2015)

| Time     | Programme                 | Channel                 | Time     | Programme                       | Channel         | Time     | Programme                      | Channel                        |
|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 11:30 AM | SHARQIA-1V8-2             | CREED                   | 9:45 PM  | AVENUES-3                       | BUS 657         | 11:30 AM | BRIDGE OF SPIES                | BUS 657                        |
| 1:30 PM  | V8-2                      | CREED                   | 12:30 AM | AVENUES-3                       | CREED           | 2:15 PM  | BRIDGE OF SPIES                | BUS 657                        |
| 3:45 PM  | KRAMPUS                   | CREED                   | 12:45 PM | FANAR-3                         | CREED           | 5:00 PM  | BUS 657                        | BUS 657                        |
| 6:00 PM  | V8-2                      | FANAR-3                 | 3:00 PM  | THE LAST SURVIVORS              | CREED           | 7:45 PM  | BUS 657                        | BUS 657                        |
| 8:00 PM  | V8-2                      | THE LAST SURVIVORS      | 6:00 PM  | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | CREED           | 10:30 PM | BRIDGE OF SPIES                | BUS 657                        |
| 10:00 PM | V8-2                      | TAMASHA - Hindi         | 9:00 PM  | THE LAST SURVIVORS              | CREED           | 1:15 AM  | AL-KOUT.4                      | KRAMPUS                        |
| 12:05 AM | KRAMPUS                   | THE LAST SURVIVORS      | 11:00 PM | THE LAST SURVIVORS              | CREED           | 11:30 AM | KRAMPUS                        | KRAMPUS                        |
| 11:30 AM | SHARQIA-2                 | CREED                   | 1:00 AM  | AVENUES-4                       | CREED           | 2:00 PM  | KRAMPUS                        | KRAMPUS                        |
| 11:30 AM | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 1:00 AM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA         | CREED           | 4:45 PM  | KRAMPUS                        | KRAMPUS                        |
| 2:00 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 1:45 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA         | CREED           | 7:30 PM  | CREED                          | KRAMPUS                        |
| 4:30 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 3:45 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA         | CREED           | 10:15 PM | BAIRAQ-1                       | BUS 657                        |
| 7:00 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 6:30 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA         | CREED           | 12:30 PM | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA-3D     | BUS 657                        |
| 9:30 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 9:15 PM  | AVENUES-5                       | CREED           | 3:30 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA        | CREED                          |
| 12:15 AM | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 12:05 AM | CREED                           | CREED           | 5:30 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA-3D     | BUS 657                        |
| 12:00 PM | SHARQIA-3                 | BUS 657                 | 11:30 AM | Special Show "MISS YOU ALREADY" | BUS 657         | 8:30 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA        | BUS 657                        |
| 1:45 PM  | KRAMPUS                   | BUS 657                 | 1:30 PM  | BUS 657                         | CREED           | 10:30 PM | BAIRAQ-2                       | V8-2                           |
| 4:00 PM  | BUS 657                   | BUS 657                 | 3:15 PM  | BRIDGE OF SPIES                 | BUS 657         | 12:30 AM | V8-2                           | V8-2                           |
| 5:45 PM  | KRAMPUS                   | BUS 657                 | 5:15 PM  | BRIDGE OF SPIES                 | BUS 657         | 1:00 PM  | V8-2                           | V8-2                           |
| 8:00 PM  | BUS 657                   | BUS 657                 | 8:00 PM  | BRIDGE OF SPIES                 | BUS 657         | 3:00 PM  | V8-2                           | V8-2                           |
| 10:00 PM | BRIDGE OF SPIES           | BUS 657                 | 10:00 PM | 360°-1                          | BUS 657         | 5:00 PM  | V8-2                           | V8-2                           |
| 12:45 AM | BUS 657                   | BUS 657                 | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 7:00 PM  | BRIDGE OF SPIES                | KRAMPUS                        |
| 12:45 PM | MUHALAB-1                 | V8-2                    | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 9:00 PM  | KRAMPUS                        | KRAMPUS                        |
| 12:45 PM | V8-2                      | V8-2                    | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 11:00 PM | BAIRAQ-3                       | KRAMPUS                        |
| 4:45 PM  | BUS 657                   | BUS 657                 | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 11:30 AM | BRIDGE OF SPIES                | BUS 657                        |
| 6:30 PM  | V8-2                      | V8-2                    | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 2:15 PM  | TAMASHA - Hindi                | KRAMPUS                        |
| 8:30 PM  | V8-2                      | V8-2                    | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 5:15 PM  | BUS 657                        | BUS 657                        |
| 10:30 PM | BUS 657                   | BUS 657                 | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 8:15 PM  | BUS 657                        | BUS 657                        |
| 12:15 AM | BUS 657                   | BUS 657                 | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 11:15 PM | PLAZA                          | CREED                          |
| 11:30 AM | MUHALAB-2                 | KRAMPUS                 | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 11:45 AM | CREED                          | BUS 657                        |
| 1:45 PM  | BRIDGE OF SPIES           | KRAMPUS                 | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 2:30 PM  | PATHEMARI - Malayalam          | KRAMPUS                        |
| 4:30 PM  | SHANKARAABHARANAM -Telugu | KRAMPUS                 | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 5:30 PM  | KRAMPUS                        | KRAMPUS                        |
| 4:30 PM  | TAMASHA - Hindi           | KRAMPUS                 | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 8:45 PM  | LAILA                          | BUS 657                        |
| 7:30 PM  | KRAMPUS                   | KRAMPUS                 | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 11:45 PM | BUS 657                        | BUS 657                        |
| 9:45 PM  | KRAMPUS                   | KRAMPUS                 | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 11:45 AM | NO TUE+WED                     | BRIDGE OF SPIES                |
| 12:05 AM | KRAMPUS                   | KRAMPUS                 | 12:45 AM | BUS 657                         | BUS 657         | 12:15 AM | NO TUE+WED                     | BRIDGE OF SPIES                |
| 11:45 AM | MUHALAB-3                 | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA | 11:45 AM | 360°-2                          | BRIDGE OF SPIES | 11:30 AM | AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY - Malayalam | AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY - Malayalam |
| 2:15 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 12:30 PM | BRIDGE OF SPIES                 | BRIDGE OF SPIES | 10:00 PM | SHANKARAABHARANAM -Telugu      | SHANKARAABHARANAM -Telugu      |
| 4:45 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 2:30 PM  | BRIDGE OF SPIES                 | BRIDGE OF SPIES | 3:45 PM  | SHANKARAABHARANAM -Telugu      | SHANKARAABHARANAM -Telugu      |
| 7:15 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 4:30 PM  | 360°-3                          | TAMASHA - Hindi | 4:30 PM  | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 10:00 PM | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 7:30 PM  | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 12:30 AM | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 9:30 PM  | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 11:45 AM | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 2:15 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 4:45 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 7:15 PM  | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 10:00 PM | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 12:30 AM | IN THE HEART OF THE SEA   | CREED                   | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 12:15 PM | FANAR-1                   | KRAMPUS                 | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 2:30 PM  | KRAMPUS                   | KRAMPUS                 | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 4:45 PM  | KRAMPUS                   | KRAMPUS                 | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 7:30 PM  | A SECOND CHANCE -Filipino | THU+FRI+SAT             | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 10:15 PM | KRAMPUS                   | KRAMPUS                 | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 12:15 AM | KRAMPUS                   | KRAMPUS                 | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 11:45 AM | FANAR-2                   | V8-2                    | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 1:45 PM  | V8-2                      | V8-2                    | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 3:45 PM  | V8-2                      | V8-2                    | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 5:45 PM  | V8-2                      | V8-2                    | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |
| 7:45 PM  | V8-2                      | V8-2                    | 11:30 AM | TAMASHA - Hindi                 | TAMASHA - Hindi | 12:05 AM | THE LAST SURVIVORS             | THE LAST SURVIVORS             |

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I, Shaik Abdulla son of Shaik Hussien Saab, holder of Indian Passport No. M6257412, hereby my name Sunkesula Abdulla son of Sunkesula Hussenaiah door - 5169

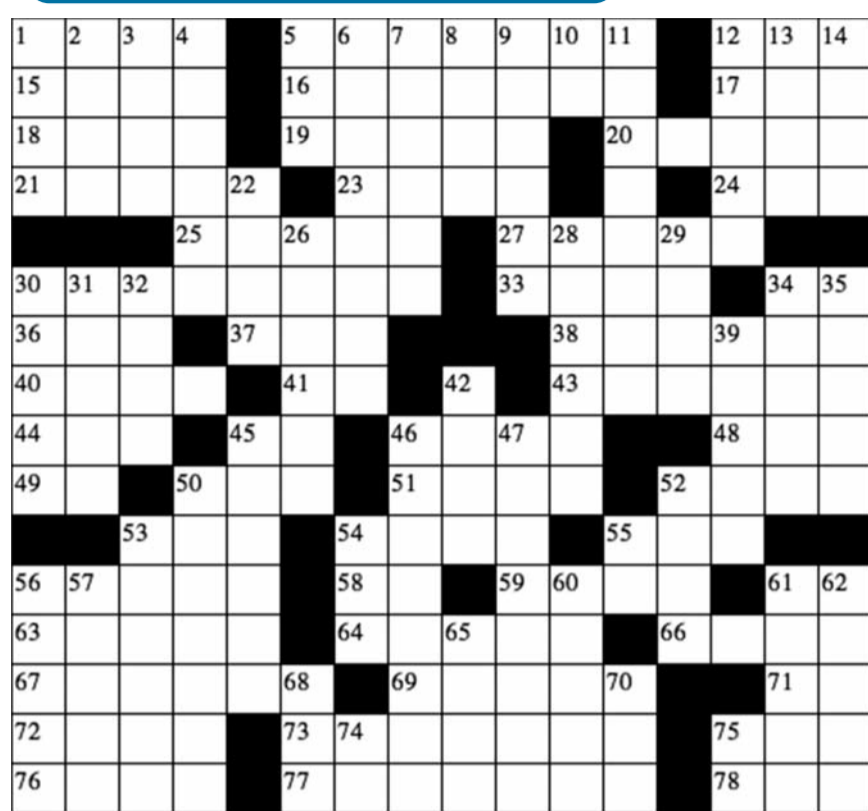
**EMERGENCY 112**  
Prayer timings  
Fajr: 05:02  
Shorook: 06:26  
Duh: 11:38  
Asr: 14:30  
Maghrib: 16:49  
Isha: 18:11

**THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR CIVIL INFORMATION**  
Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is  
**1889988**

## Flight Schedule

| Arrival Flights on Thursday 3/12/2015 |      |                  |       | Departure Flights on Thursday 3/12/2015 |      |                   |       |
|---------------------------------------|------|------------------|-------|---|------|-------------------|-------|
| Airlines                              | Ft   | Route            | Time  | Airlines                                | Ft   | Route             | Time  |
| KLM                                   | 411  | Amsterdam/Dammam | 00:20 | KAC                                     | 672  | Dubai             | 14:45 |
| JZR                                   | 267  | Beirut           | 00:30 | KAC                                     | 538  | Sohag             | 14:50 |
| JZR                                   | 539  | Cairo            | 00:40 | KAC                                     | 788  | Jeddah            | 14:50 |
| FDB                                   | 069  | Dubai            | 00:55 | GFA                                     | 221  | Bahrain           | 15:00 |
| RJA                                   | 642  | Amman            | 01:05 | KNE                                     | 472  | Jeddah            | 15:05 |
| THY                                   | 772  | Istanbul         | 01:05 | OMA                                     | 645  | Muscat            | 15:30 |
| SAI                                   | 441  | Lahore           | 01:30 | NIA                                     | 251  | Alexandria        | 15:30 |
| DLH                                   | 635  | Doha             | 01:35 | KAC                                     | 562  | Amman             | 15:40 |
| ETH                                   | 620  | Addis Ababa      | 01:45 | ABY                                     | 127  | Sharjah           | 15:45 |
| PGT                                   | 858  | Istanbul         | 02:00 | UAE                                     | 857  | Dubai             | 15:45 |
| GFA                                   | 853  | Dubai            | 02:30 | QTR                                     | 1072 | Doha              | 16:10 |
| UAE                                   | 211  | Bahrain          | 02:30 | JZR                                     | 535  | Cairo             | 16:10 |
| OMA                                   | 643  | Muscat           | 02:55 | FDB                                     | 779  | Jeddah            | 16:10 |
| FDB                                   | 067  | Dubai            | 03:05 | KNE                                     | 474  | Dubai             | 16:30 |
| MSR                                   | 612  | Cairo            | 03:10 | ETD                                     | 303  | Abu Dhabi         | 16:35 |
| QTR                                   | 1076 | Doha             | 03:15 | RJA                                     | 640  | Amman             | 16:40 |
| KKK                                   | 6507 | Istanbul         | 03:20 | KAC                                     | 542  | Cairo             | 16:55 |
| ETD                                   | 305  | Abu Dhabi        | 03:25 | SVA                                     | 510  | Riyadh            | 17:15 |
| LMU                                   | 510  | Cairo            | 04:05 | GFA                                     | 215  | Bahrain           | 17:30 |
| JZR                                   | 503  | Luxor            | 04:25 | MSR                                     | 614  | Cairo             | 17:35 |
| THY                                   | 770  | Istanbul         | 05:55 | JZR                                     | 125  | Bahrain           | 17:50 |
| QTR                                   | 8511 | Doha             | 06:10 | KAC                                     | 678  | Muscat/Abu Dhabi  | 17:50 |
| FDB                                   | 5061 | Dubai            | 06:30 | JZR                                     | 777  | Jeddah            | 17:55 |
| BAW                                   | 157  | London           | 06:40 | KAC                                     | 118  | New York          | 17:55 |
| JZR                                   | 529  | Asyut            | 06:50 | UAE                                     | 875  | Dubai             | 18:00 |
| KAC                                   | 412  | Manila/Bangkok   | 07:20 | KAC                                     | 502  | Beirut            | 18:00 |
| KAC                                   | 204  | Lahore           | 07:40 | FDB                                     | 063  | Dubai             | 18:05 |
| QTR                                   | 1086 | Doha             | 07:40 | UAL                                     | 982  | IAD               | 18:15 |
| FDB                                   | 053  | Dubai            | 07:45 | JZR                                     | 177  | Dubai             | 18:20 |
| KAC                                   | 302  | Mumbai           | 07:50 | KAC                                     | 786  | Jeddah            | 18:30 |
| SVA                                   | 512  | Riyadh           | 07:50 | ABY                                     | 123  | Sharjah           | 18:45 |
| KAC                                   | 382  | Delhi            | 08:00 | KAC                                     | 742  | Dammam            | 18:55 |
| KAC                                   | 206  | Islamabad        | 08:25 | QTR                                     | 1080 | Doha              | 18:55 |
| KAC                                   | 352  | Kochi            | 08:30 | KAC                                     | 614  | Bahrain           | 19:10 |
| KAC                                   | 344  | Chennai          | 08:30 | KAC                                     | 774  | Riyadh            | 19:25 |
| KAC                                   | 346  | Ahmedabad        | 08:30 | GFA                                     | 217  | Bahrain           | 19:30 |
| UAE                                   | 855  | Dubai            | 08:40 | KAC                                     | 618  | Doha              | 19:35 |
| KAC                                   | 362  | Colombo          | 08:50 | KAC                                     | 104  | London            | 19:40 |
| KAC                                   | 332  | Trivandrum       | 08:50 | KAC                                     | 154  | Istanbul          | 19:45 |
| IRA                                   | 667  | Esfahan          | 09:00 | KAC                                     | 674  | Dubai             | 19:45 |
| ABY                                   | 301  | Abu Dhabi        | 09:20 | MSR                                     | 618  | Alexandria        | 19:55 |
| QTR                                   | 1070 | Doha             | 09:25 | KNE                                     | 480  | Taif              | 20:10 |
| FDB                                   | 055  | Dubai            | 09:40 | JZR                                     | 189  | Dubai             | 20:15 |
| OMA                                   | 641  | Muscat           | 10:05 | FDB                                     | 061  | Dubai             | 20:20 |
| IRM                                   | 1180 | Mashhad          | 10:10 | OMA                                     | 647  | Muscat            | 20:20 |
| IRA                                   | 673  | Ahwaz            | 10:10 | ABY                                     | 121  | Sharjah           | 20:35 |
| GFA                                   | 213  | Bahrain          | 10:40 | FDB                                     | 5053 | Dubai             | 20:50 |
| SVR                                   | 341  | Damascus         | 10:55 | DLH                                     | 634  | Frankfurt         | 20:55 |
| UAE                                   | 873  | Dubai            | 11:05 | MEA                                     | 402  | Beirut            | 21:20 |
| RBG                                   | 553  | Alexandria       | 11:15 | ETD                                     | 307  | Abu Dhabi         | 21:20 |
| JZR                                   | 165  | Dubai            | 11:30 | ALK                                     | 229  | Colombo           | 21:25 |
| AGY                                   | 682  | Asyut            | 11:40 | UAE                                     | 859  | Dubai             | 21:40 |
| NIA                                   | 151  | Cairo            | 11:55 | GFA                                     | 219  | Bahrain           | 21:45 |
| MEA                                   | 404  | Beirut           | 11:55 | QTR                                     | 1082 | Doha              | 22:00 |
| FDB                                   | 075  | Dubai            | 12:25 | KLM                                     | 417  | Amsterdam         | 22:05 |
| MSC                                   | 401  | Alexandria       | 12:30 | AIC                                     | 981  | Chennai/Ahmedabad | 22:25 |
| JZR                                   | 561  | Sohag            | 12:45 | ETD                                     | 309  | Abu Dhabi         | 22:25 |
| JZR                                   | 241  | Amman            | 12:50 | KAC                                     | 564  | Amman             | 22:25 |
| UAE                                   | 871  | Dubai            | 12:50 | FDB                                     | 059  | Dubai             | 22:30 |
| MSR                                   | 610  | Cairo            | 13:00 | JZR                                     | 185  | Dubai             | 23:15 |
| THY                                   | 766  | Istanbul         | 13:45 | UAL                                     | 981  | Bahrain           | 23:25 |
| KNE                                   | 460  | Riyadh           | 13:50 | JAD                                     | 301  | Amman             | 23:30 |
| FDB                                   | 057  | Dubai            | 14:10 | PIA                                     | 205  | Lahore            | 23:40 |
| QTR                                   |      |                  |       |   |      |                   |       |

CROSSWORD 1098



ACROSS

1. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
5. Challenge the honesty or credibility of.
12. Nut of any of several trees of the genus *Corylus*.
15. An informal term for a father.
16. Large African black-and-white carrion-eating stork.
17. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
18. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
19. Relating to or resembling or made of or adorned with pearls or mother-of-pearl.
20. (of complexion) Blemished by imperfections of the skin.
21. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
23. God of fire.
24. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
25. (anatomy) Any structure that resembles a horn in shape.
27. A painful emotion resulting from an awareness of inadequacy or guilt.
30. An act of scaling by the use of ladders (especially the walls of a fortification).
33. (computer science) A unit for measuring the execution speed of computers.
36. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
37. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring in the air.
38. Conqueror of Gaul and master of Italy (100-44 BC).
40. Clothing of a distinctive style or for a particular occasion.
41. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
43. Stout-bodied insect with large membranous wings.
44. Late time of life.
48. Tag the base runner to get him out.
49. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
51. A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
56. Clearly apparent or obvious to the mind or senses.
58. An associate degree in nursing.
59. Type genus of the Musaceae.
63. Leave or strike out, as of vowels.
64. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
66. A person with an unusual or odd personality.
67. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
69. Capital city of the Piemonte region of northwestern Italy.
71. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
72. Small buffalo of the Celebes having small straight horns.
73. Dragonflies and damselflies.
76. Any of the three Fates or goddesses of destiny.
77. Drawn or pressed close to someone or something for or as if for affection or protection.
78. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
2. East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
3. The sixth month of the civil year.
4. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
5. (folklore) Fairies that are somewhat mischievous.
6. Brain corals.
7. Capital and largest city of the Czech Republic.
8. Earn on some commercial or business transaction.
9. Discrimination in favor of the able-bodied.
10. A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.
11. A member of a North American people formerly living in the Colorado river valley in Arizona.
12. Small and light boat.
13. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
14. English monk and scholar (672-735).
22. Large genus of African trees bearing kola nuts.
26. Someone who takes spoils or plunder (as in war).
28. (usually plural) The state of having reflex spasms of the diaphragm accompanied by a rapid closure of the glottis producing an audible sound.
29. One thousandth of a second.
31. A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
32. One of a set of small pieces of stiff paper marked in various ways and used for playing games or for telling fortunes.
34. Egyptian statesman who (as President of Egypt) negotiated a peace treaty with Menachem Begin of Israel (1918-1981).
35. Any of numerous low-growing cushion-forming plants of the genus *Draba* having rosette-forming leaves and terminal racemes of small flowers with scapose or leafy stems.
39. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
42. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
45. A former British gold coin worth 21 shillings.
46. (Greek mythology) The Greek personification of death.
47. A brimless Scottish cap with a flat top.
50. (British) A paved surface on which cars can be made to skid so that drivers can practice controlling them.
52. (informal) Exceptionally good.
53. Any member of a ship's crew.
54. The cry made by sheep.
55. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
57. An extensive grassy and nearly treeless plain (especially in Latin America).
60. Act in concert or unite in a common purpose or belief.
61. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
62. Jordan's port.
65. Disparaging terms for small people.
68. An argument opposed to a proposal.
70. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
74. A Mid-Atlantic state.
75. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.

Yesterday's Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | A | H |   | C | A | T | A | L | U | F | A |   | A | B | A |
| E | N | E |   | A | R | I | Z | O | N | A | N |   | N | A | B |
| A | T | E |   | I | M | M | O | B | I | L | E |   | D | A | L |
| F | I | L | A | R | E | E |   |   | T | A | L | K | I | L | Y |
|   |   |   | E | N | D |   | A | C |   | F | E | A | R |   |   |
| M | O | L | D |   |   |   | B | L | A | E |   | M | A | G | H |
| A | M | O | E | B | A |   | B |   | F | L | O | E |   | E | A |
| D | A | N | S | E | U | S | E |   | R |   | S | T | A | I | R |
| A | N | E |   | N |   | T |   | N | O | A | H |   | B | S | E |
| M | I | R | I | D | A | E |   | E |   | T | A | K | A | H | E |
|   |   |   | O |   | G | R | A | M | M | A |   | E | D | A | M |
| A | K | A | N |   | E | N | D | E | A | R |   | B | A |   |   |
| M | Y | R | I | A | D |   | O | R | R |   | P | A | N | D | A |
| P | L | E | A | D |   | I | N | T | I |   | A | B |   | A | D |
| L | I | N |   | H | Y | G | I | E | N | I | C |   | M | B | A |
| Y | E | A |   | D | R | A | C | A | E | N | A |   | B | A | D |

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you have given any thought to committing your ideas to a book, journal or periodical, now is the time to put pen to paper. You have a lot of imagination and creativity. Your ideas and thinking, together with your talent for putting your thoughts into words, allow you to captivate and spellbind. Your professional life does not leave you with time for personal projects but you may find yourself writing or creating outlines for a story, poem or jingle to complete and submit later. You are good at using your time well, whether it is for work or for your own personal projects. Do not keep any of those personal projects at the workplace. This afternoon you might find yourself enjoying a good movie with a friend. Friendships are most satisfying now.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Escaping from the everyday, ordinary ways of doing things could prove most enjoyable to you now. You may find it easy to bring a group together with your words or ideas that move others. Poetry and art may be possible this afternoon. Your whole world may seem meditative or dreamy. It may benefit you in many ways to take the time to reflect and truly understand your own particular situation, just how you feel about yourself. Feelings in particular, or the emotions of those around you, may be very clear. You may realize that now would be the perfect time to get a program of self-help started, especially dealing with your work habits, diet and exercise. The bottom line to all of this is simply the enjoyment of your life.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Someone in authority may come to you with a special project that requires a cautious mind. This additional responsibility could put you more in the limelight than usual. Hang in there; this experience will be more enjoyable than you think. New technologies may provide outlets to meet more people and expand your career. A person who is very important to your professional development encourages your self-expression. Some form of flattery regarding your talents comes to your attention. You may find it easy to enjoy and value the path that your life is taking at this time. Your mate encourages you in your work. You spend time in thought, looking for ways to add vitality to life and to instigate methods to achieve a more profound intimacy.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Both projects and people should keep you very busy as well as challenged just now as you assess how to get things organized. You could find this a time of unwavering study and thought, as you are not prone to taking on another's opinion without first investigating that person's motives. People may talk you into some plan or financial decision but must have some form of authority or evidence. You could find those around you feeling a big sense of appreciation or value for your feelings or your position. Young people you know are inventive and can create extremely worthy projects. Some of these youth volunteer to help the handicapped or invent their own television shows on current events, etc. This is where your future may be oriented: encouraging the young.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Being active on the social scene and demonstrating your social graces will be a big step in paving your path to success. This is a time for forging ahead, a time that you can combine business and pleasure and a time to enjoy your career and rewards. Ambition and achievement are qualities that you hold in special regard. As your professional life progresses, there arises a passion for details. There is a need to do just the right thing at just the right time, and a burning desire to have a place for everything and everything in its place. Care must be taken not to take these feelings to the extreme, or you could find yourself battling such things as ulcers or digestive problems as a result. Knowing that you have done a good job will be your reward.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

If you are feeling that you have little control, this can be restored now by making an effort to be more comfortable and appreciative of yourself. You take action to manifest your dreams and this includes your personal life as well as your professional life. In your professional life, you no longer cling to work practices that are not effective. Steer clear of meddlesome colleagues who try to embroil you in office politics. In your personal life a feeling of security comes from your closest friends, morals and social interaction. This self-clearing is part of your personal and professional transformation. You are letting go of the people, situations and attitudes that are counterproductive to your personal development. Share quality time with a loved one tonight.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This particular day is so much fun that your mind may not be on business as much as it should be. You could be a bit distracted from a meeting. Perhaps a phone call lets you know a loan was approved, or someone agreed to sign a contract so you could get that new car, or a new baby was born, for example. Unfinished business in the workplace will be your first priority this afternoon-double check your work before you send it on down the line. Children are not as apt to be a problem at this time, particularly if you allow them some time for craft, responsibilities and rewards and attention for any extra chores they might want to perform. You enjoy your friends and your children's friends. Expand your creative talent... Art is calling.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Work is work, but after the workday is over, you begin the activities you really enjoy. You may be coaching a young soccer team or helping to prepare a competitive group to meet their goals. Work is only the means to get you where you want to go. You may tolerate behavior in the workplace that could be difficult for others to endure. There are steps to solving problems, as well as getting along with troublesome people, and you might consider writing a book about these subjects. You do not have any enemies and can get along with the most difficult of people. The result of your nonjudgmental attitude in the workplace may have a ripple effect that will open the door to better interaction among people. Consider taking this attitude into your off-hours.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today you are feeling the push to complete unfinished business. Time is fleeting and your own personal goals for this whole year seem to come into your mind when you view your calendar this morning. Easy does it... One day at a time you can do anything, particularly when you have a plan and with your determination. A professional project may be moving a bit slow but progress is what today is about. You are focused on your career. Your attitude is achievement oriented. You might consider volunteering in a youth group to teach business techniques, a good thing. Later this evening, a reunion with friends brings about fun conversations. There are lots of pictures and remembering with hugs and fun chatter.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find that your ideas and thoughts run in the opposite direction of today's activity. A little more of a focused effort helps to put you in the moment, however. You look forward to some exciting event occurring soon-this may be where you fight to gain a focus. Regardless of distractions, work proceeds rather well. Evidently, you have done some preliminary work that helps the progress of today's project-not a glitch! A very close friend or relative, whom you care for, could be coming to you for advice concerning a very personal and emotional issue. You may be most helpful through locating some avenue of resources as well as just being available to listen. Help is best when the person in need can help himself or herself.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Sensitivity is needed today; you may be called upon to use your creative insight when an aggressive person doesn't seem to take no for an answer. You know just how to handle a difficult situation. If you are not in a management position, you might consider the possibility. You seem to enjoy stress and appreciate the challenges. However, it would be a good thing to free up a bit of your time for yourself. Make sure there is laughter in that time period. You create a positive influence on others in all areas of your life and enter into a mentor program. This is a time in which you will feel the need to express your talents-a creative awakening. A social gathering will bring just such an opportunity to be expressive and enjoy your friends.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

The folks around you are appreciative of your ability to be able to make constructive suggestions or to help them with practical decisions. This may mean that you are good in some sort of counseling or social work or you could work as a consultant for businesses. Knowing exactly what the public wants at this time is a feather in your hat. Expect to make clear decisions that will affect others. You have a greater appreciation for your fellow workers as well as the business for which you work. You may find yourself gaining a great deal materially. It is most assuredly a time when tangible things are important to you. The feelings of those around you should be quite clear, making it a successful time for any sort of communication needs.

WORD SEARCH

ARTS AND CRAFTS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



- |              |               |                |               |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| BASKETMAKING | DECOUPAGE     | LATCH HOOK     | SEWING        |
| BEADING      | DOLLMAKING    | NEEDLEPOINT    | STAINED GLASS |
| CANDLEMAKING | EMBROIDERY    | PLASTIC CANVAS | STENCILING    |
| CROCHET      | FLORAL DESIGN | QUILTING       | TOLE PAINTING |
| CROSS STITCH | KNITTING      | SCRAPBOOKING   | WOODWORKING   |

Yesterday Solution

SOLUTION TO FLORIDA PUZZLE



Daily SuDoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |   | 3 | 7 |
|   |   | 3 | 5 |   |   |
| 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 |   |
|   | 6 |   | 7 | 9 | 5 |
|   |   |   | 3 |   |   |
|   | 1 |   | 6 | 4 | 7 |
|   |   |   | 2 | 8 | 9 |
|   |   |   | 9 | 7 |   |
| 8 |   | 6 |   |   |   |

Yesterday's Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 4 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| 9 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| 1 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 2 |

For labor-related inquiries and complaints: Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Sabah Hospital            | 24812000   |
| Amiri Hospital            | 22450005   |
| Maternity Hospital        | 24843100   |
| Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital | 25312700   |
| Chest Hospital            | 24849400   |
| Farwaniya Hospital        | 24892010   |
| Adan Hospital             | 23940620   |
| Ibn Sina Hospital         | 24840300   |
| Al-Razi Hospital          | 24846000   |
| Physiotherapy Hospital    | 24874330/9 |

### Clinics

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Kaizen center       | 25716707 |
| Rawda               | 22517733 |
| Adaliya             | 22517144 |
| Khalidiya           | 24848075 |
| Kaifan              | 24849807 |
| Shamiya             | 24848913 |
| Shuwaikh            | 24814507 |
| Abdullah Salem      | 22549134 |
| Nuzha               | 22526804 |
| Industrial Shuwaikh | 24814764 |
| Qadsiya             | 22515088 |
| Dasmah              | 22532265 |
| Bneid Al-Gar        | 22531908 |
| Shaab               | 22518752 |
| Qibla               | 22459381 |
| Ayoun Al-Qibla      | 22451082 |
| Mirqab              | 22456536 |
| Sharq               | 22465401 |
| Salmiya             | 25746401 |
| Jabriya             | 25316254 |
| Maidan Hawally      | 25623444 |
| Bayan               | 25388462 |
| Mishref             | 25381200 |
| W Hawally           | 22630786 |
| Sabah               | 24810221 |
| Jahra               | 24770319 |
| New Jahra           | 24575755 |
| West Jahra          | 24772608 |
| South Jahra         | 24775066 |
| North Jahra         | 24775992 |
| North Jleeb         | 24311795 |
| Ardhiya             | 24884079 |
| Firdous             | 24892674 |
| Omariya             | 24719048 |
| N Khaitan           | 24710044 |
| Fintas              | 23900322 |



### PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

| GOVERNORATE | PHARMACY  | ADDRESS  | PHONE  |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| Ahmadi      | Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan   | Fahaee 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 |

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



|                       |         |                      |        |
|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|--------|
| Afghanistan           | 0093    | Luxembourg           | 00352  |
| Albania               | 00355   | Lesotho              | 00266  |
| Algeria               | 00213   | Macau                | 00853  |
| Andorra               | 00376   | Macedonia            | 00389  |
| Angola                | 00244   | Madagascar           | 00261  |
| Anguilla              | 001264  | Majorca              | 0034   |
| Antigua               | 001268  | Malawi               | 00265  |
| Argentina             | 0054    | Malaysia             | 0060   |
| Armenia               | 00374   | Maldives             | 00960  |
| Australia             | 0061    | Mali                 | 00223  |
| Austria               | 0043    | Malta                | 00356  |
| Bahamas               | 001242  | Marshall Islands     | 00692  |
| Bahrain               | 00973   | Martinique           | 00596  |
| Bangladesh            | 00880   | Mauritania           | 00222  |
| Barbados              | 001246  | Mauritius            | 00230  |
| Belarus               | 00375   | Mayotte              | 00269  |
| Belgium               | 0032    | Mexico               | 0052   |
| Belize                | 00501   | Micronesia           | 00691  |
| Benin                 | 00229   | Moldova              | 00373  |
| Bermuda               | 001441  | Monaco               | 00377  |
| Bhutan                | 00975   | Mongolia             | 00976  |
| Bolivia               | 00591   | Montserrat           | 001664 |
| Bosnia                | 00387   | Morocco              | 00212  |
| Botswana              | 00267   | Mozambique           | 00258  |
| Brazil                | 0055    | Myanmar (Burma)      | 0095   |
| Brunei                | 00673   | Namibia              | 00264  |
| Bulgaria              | 00359   | Nepal                | 00977  |
| Burkina               | 00226   | Netherlands          | 0031   |
| Burundi               | 00257   | Netherlands Antilles | 00599  |
| Cambodia              | 00855   | New Caledonia        | 00687  |
| Cameroon              | 00237   | New Zealand          | 0064   |
| Canada                | 001     | Nicaragua            | 00505  |
| Cape Verde            | 00238   | Niger                | 00227  |
| Cayman Islands        | 001345  | Nigeria              | 00234  |
| Central African       | 00236   | Niue                 | 00683  |
| Chad                  | 00235   | Norfolk Island       | 00672  |
| Chile                 | 0056    | N. Ireland (UK)      | 0044   |
| China                 | 0086    | North Korea          | 00850  |
| Colombia              | 0057    | Norway               | 0047   |
| Comoros               | 00269   | Oman                 | 00968  |
| Congo                 | 00242   | Pakistan             | 0092   |
| Cook Islands          | 00682   | Palau                | 00680  |
| Costa Rica            | 00506   | Panama               | 00507  |
| Croatia               | 00385   | Papua New Guinea     | 00675  |
| Cuba                  | 0053    | Paraguay             | 00595  |
| Cyprus                | 00357   | Peru                 | 0051   |
| Cyprus (Northern)     | 0090392 | Philippines          | 0063   |
| Czech Republic        | 00420   | Poland               | 0048   |
| Denmark               | 0045    | Portugal             | 00351  |
| Diego Garcia          | 00246   | Puerto Rico          | 001787 |
| Djibouti              | 00253   | Qatar                | 00974  |
| Dominica              | 001767  | Romania              | 0040   |
| Dominican Republic    | 001809  | Russian Federation   | 007    |
| Ecuador               | 00593   | Rwanda               | 00250  |
| Egypt                 | 0020    | Saint Helena         | 00290  |
| El Salvador           | 00503   | Saint Kitts          | 001869 |
| England (UK)          | 0044    | Saint Lucia          | 001758 |
| Equatorial Guinea     | 00240   | Saint Pierre         | 00508  |
| Eritrea               | 00291   | Saint Vincent        | 001784 |
| Estonia               | 00372   | Samoa US             | 00684  |
| Ethiopia              | 00251   | Samoa West           | 00685  |
| Falkland Islands      | 00500   | San Marino           | 00378  |
| Faroe Islands         | 00298   | Sao Tome             | 00239  |
| Fiji                  | 00679   | Saudi Arabia         | 00966  |
| Finland               | 00358   | Scotland (UK)        | 0044   |
| France                | 0033    | Senegal              | 00221  |
| French Guiana         | 00594   | Seychelles           | 00284  |
| French Polynesia      | 00689   | Sierra Leone         | 00232  |
| Gabon                 | 00241   | Singapore            | 0065   |
| Gambia                | 00220   | Slovakia             | 00421  |
| Georgia               | 00995   | Slovenia             | 00386  |
| Germany               | 0049    | Solomon Islands      | 00677  |
| Ghana                 | 00233   | Somalia              | 00252  |
| Gibraltar             | 00350   | South Africa         | 0027   |
| Greece                | 0030    | South Korea          | 0082   |
| Greenland             | 00299   | Spain                | 0034   |
| Grenada               | 001473  | Sri Lanka            | 0094   |
| Guadeloupe            | 00590   | Sudan                | 00249  |
| Guam                  | 001671  | Suriname             | 00597  |
| Guatemala             | 00502   | Swaziland            | 00268  |
| Guinea                | 00224   | Sweden               | 0046   |
| Guyana                | 00592   | Switzerland          | 0041   |
| Haiti                 | 00509   | Syria                | 00963  |
| Holland (Netherlands) | 0031    | Serbia               | 00381  |
| Honduras              | 00504   | Taiwan               | 00886  |
| Hong Kong             | 00852   | Tanzania             | 00255  |
| Hungary               | 0036    | Thailand             | 0066   |
| Ibiza (Spain)         | 0034    | Toga                 | 00228  |
| Iceland               | 00354   | Tonga                | 00676  |
| India                 | 0091    | Tokelau              | 00690  |
| Indian Ocean          | 00873   | Trinidad             | 001868 |
| Indonesia             | 0062    | Tunisia              | 00216  |
| Iran                  | 0098    | Turkey               | 0090   |
| Iraq                  | 00964   | Tuvalu               | 00688  |
| Ireland               | 00353   | Uganda               | 00256  |
| Italy                 | 0039    | Ukraine              | 00380  |
| Ivory Coast           | 00225   | United Arab Emirates | 00976  |
| Jamaica               | 001876  | United Kingdom       | 0044   |
| Japan                 | 0081    | Uruguay              | 00598  |
| Jordan                | 00962   | USA                  | 001    |
| Kazakhstan            | 007     | Uzbekistan           | 00998  |
| Kenya                 | 00254   | Vanuatu              | 00678  |
| Kiribati              | 00686   | Venezuela            | 00582  |
| Kuwait                | 00965   | Vietnam              | 0084   |
| Kyrgyzstan            | 00996   | Virgin Islands UK    | 001284 |
| Laos                  | 00856   | Virgin Islands US    | 001340 |
| Latvia                | 00371   | Wales (UK)           | 0044   |
| Lebanon               | 00961   | Yemen                | 00967  |
| Liberia               | 00231   | Yugoslavia           | 00381  |
| Libya                 | 00218   | Zambia               | 00260  |
| Lithuania             | 00370   | Zimbabwe             | 00263  |

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

#### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

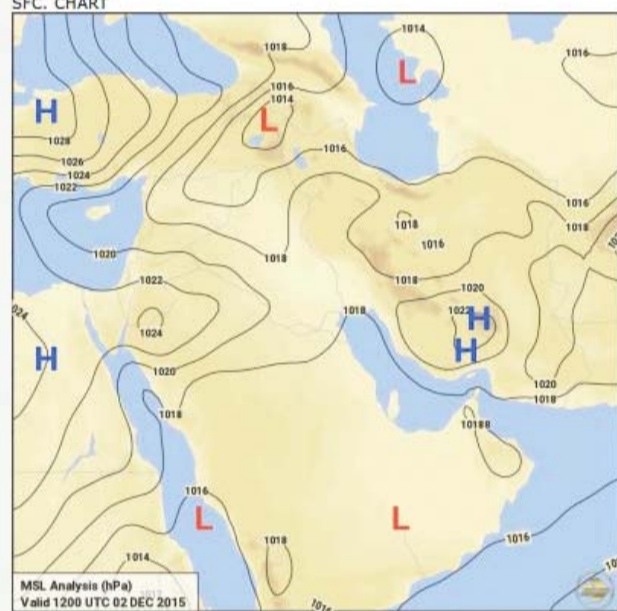
Issued 02/12/2015-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 15 °C

By Night :Partly cloudy to cloudy with moderate north westerly wind freshening at times with speed of 15 - 45 km/h causing rising dust with a chance for scattered rain that might be thundery at times

By Day : Cloudy with decrease in temperature with moderate north westerly wind freshening at times, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h with a chance for scattered rain that might be thundery at times

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

|                  | Thursday  | Friday            | Saturday   | Sunday                              |
|------------------|---|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Expected Weather | Cloudy + temperature will decrease + scattered rain | Fair + high cloud | Cool+partly cloudy + scattered light rain later on | Cool+partly cloudy + scattered rain |
| Min Temp °C      | 15  | 12                | 09   | 06                                  |
| Max Temp °C      | 23  | 21                | 18   | 15                                  |
| Wind Direction   | north westerly                                      | north westerly    | north westerly                                     | north westerly                      |
| Wind Speed km/h  | 15 - 40   | 20 - 45           | 15 - 40  | 20 - 45                             |

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

#### Warnings

Thunder storm

#### Kuwait Forecast

| Station        | MIN °C EXP | Max °C REC |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| KUWAIT CITY    | 19         | 28         |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 15         | 29         |
| ABDULY         | 16         | 27         |
| BUBYAN         | 19         | 23         |
| JAHRA          | 17         | 30         |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 20         | 25         |
| SALMIYAH       | 21         | 24         |
| AHMADI         | 19         | 24         |
| JAL ALIYAH     | 16         | 28         |
| QAROH ISLAND   | 23         | 25         |
| UMM AL-MARADEM | 22         | 25         |
| NUWAISIB       | 15         | 29         |
| WAFRA          | 16         | 29         |
| MANAGISH       | 15         | 28         |
| SALMY          | 15         | 24         |
| MUTRIBA        | 14         | 27         |

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Max Temp (°C)                       | 30   |
| Min Temp (°C)                       | 15   |
| Max Rel Hum (%)                     | 96   |
| Min Rel Hum (%)                     | 26   |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 43 S |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR             | 0 mm |

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Sunrise | 06:26 |
| Sunset  | 16:49 |

#### Prayer Times

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Fajr    | 05:02 |
| Sunrise | 06:26 |
| Zuhr    | 11:38 |
| Asr     | 14:30 |
| Sunset  | 16:49 |
| Isha    | 18:11 |



## PRIVATE CLINICS

| Ophthalmologists               | Plastic Surgeons               | Paediatricians                     | Endocrinologist                 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor        | Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf         | Dr. Khaled Hamadi                  | Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman      |
| Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea             | Dr. Abdul-Redha Lari           | Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed          | Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari             |
| Dr. Masoma Habeeb              | Dr. Abdel Quttainah            | Dr. Zahra Qabazard                 | Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr              |
| Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy            | Family Doctor                  | Dr. Sohail Qamar                   | Physiotherapists & VD           |
| Dr. Mohsen Abel                | Dr Divya Damodar               | Dr. Snaa Maarouf                   | Dr. Deyaa Shehab                |
| Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl         | Psychiatrists                  | Dr. Pradip Gujare                  | Dr. MUSAED FARAJ KHAMEES        |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly         | Dr. Esam Al-Ansari             | Dr. Zacharias Mathew               | Rheumatologists:                |
| Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)       | Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan           | Dermatology                        | Dr. Adel Al-Awadi               |
| Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner         | Gynaecologists & Obstetricians | Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University | Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah          |
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali            | DrAdrian arbe                  | Dentists                           | Internist, Chest & Heart        |
| Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel    | Dr.Verginia s.Marin            | Dr Anil Thomas                     | DR.Mohammes Akkad               |
| Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah          | Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan        | Dr. Shamah Al-Matar                | Dr. Mohammad Zubaid             |
| Dr. Mohammad Al-Daary          | Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami     | Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed              | MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC             |
| Dr. Ismail Al-Foday            | Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly            | Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer              | Assistant Professor Of Medicine |
| Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz            | Dr. Salem soso                 | Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan                | Head, Division of Cardiology    |
| General Practitioners          | General Surgeons               | Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash         | Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital      |
| Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi          | Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer         | Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan          | 25339667                        |
| Dr. Yousef Al-Omar             | Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher     | Dr. Bader Al-Ansari                | Consultant Cardiologist         |
| Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem         | Internists, Chest & Heart      | Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri         | Dr. Farida Al-Habib             |
| Dr. Kathem Maarafi             | Dr. Adnan Ebil                 | Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan              | MD, PH.D, FACC                  |
| Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah      | Dr. Mousa Khadada              | Dr. Sami Aman                      | Inaya German Medical Center     |
| Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi           | Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan         | Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly            | Te: 2575077                     |
| Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae      | Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra            | Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali           | Fax: 25723123                   |
| Urologists                     | Dr. Mobarak Aldoub             |                                    |                                 |
| Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy         | Dr Nasser Behbehani            |                                    |                                 |
| Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul           |                                |                                    |                                 |
| Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi |                                |                                    |                                 |
| Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)   |                                |                                    |                                 |
| Dr. Leons Joseph               |                                |                                    |                                 |

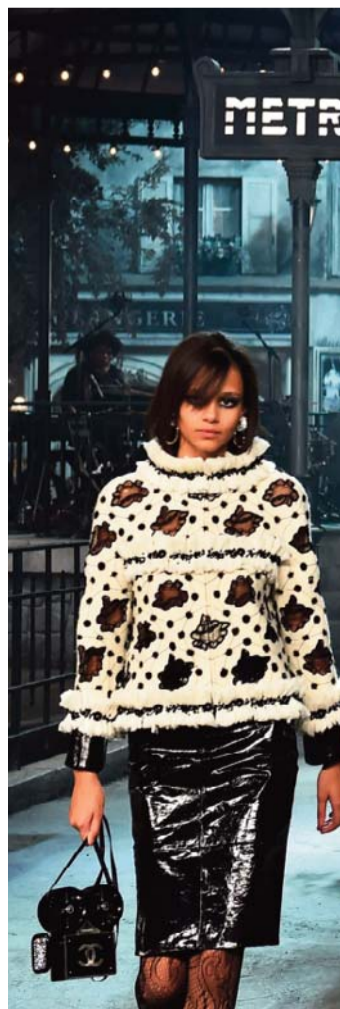
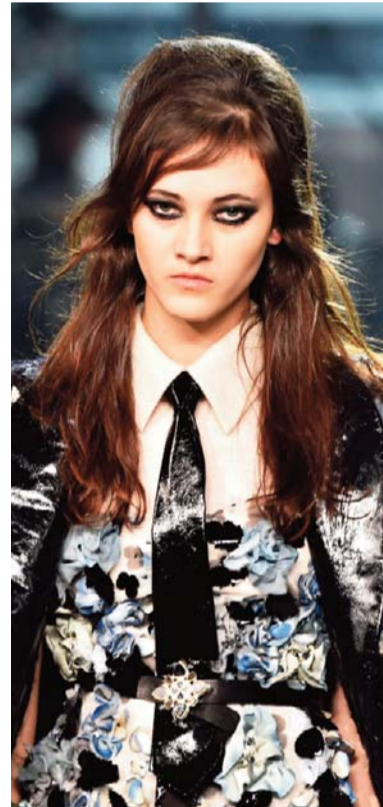
|                                 |   |  |                        |                      |   |
|---------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Psychologists /Psychotherapists | Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688 | info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com | Kaizen center 25716707 | Noor Clinic 23845955 | William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677 |
|---------------------------------|---|--|------------------------|----------------------|---|



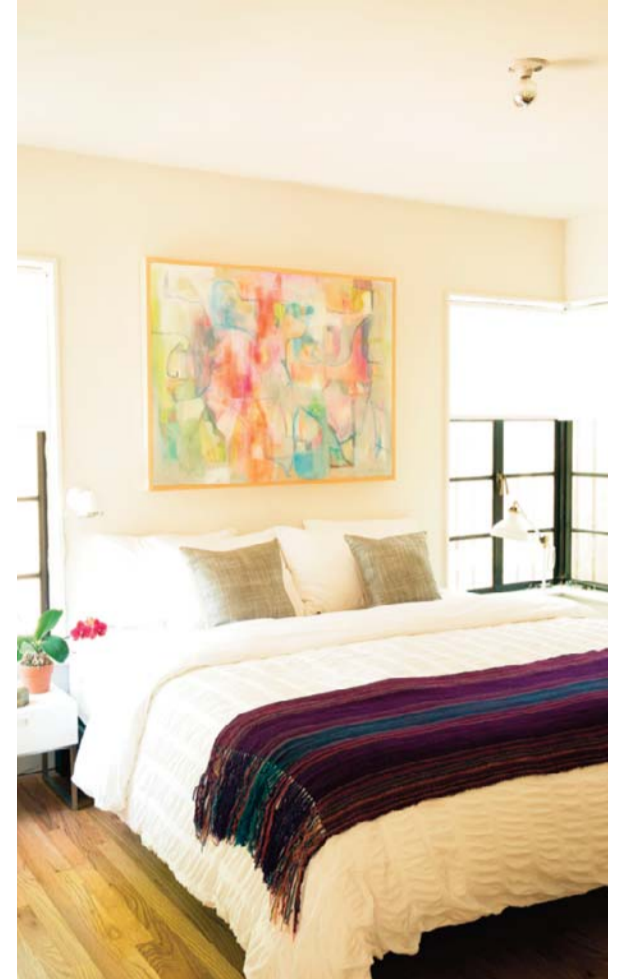
German designer Karl Lagerfeld (center) walks the runway at the end of the 12th Chanel Metiers d'Art show 'Paris-Rome', an annual event to honor craftsmanship that artisan partners bring to the house's collections, on December 1, 2015 at the Cinecitta studios in Rome. — AFP photos

US actress Kristen Stewart (center) attends the 12th Chanel Metiers d'Art show 'Paris-Rome'.

# THE 12TH CHANEL METIERS D'ART SHOW 'PARIS-ROME'



Models present creations during the 12th Chanel Metiers d'Art show "Paris-Rome".



## The pro designer trick that makes homes feel cozy & cohesive

When you're feeling like the rooms of your home are design islands - lovely spaces by themselves but not necessarily connected to the architecture of your home or the entire home itself - you might want to try out this trick in the designer's toolbox.

**Echoing design elements from one room to the next**  
This idea of echoing elements is NOT putting two of the same pieces of something in two different rooms. It's not having carbon copies of the same art adorning walls in all your

rooms. It's not making sure all the furniture in your home matches. It's not just following a "theme" or a specific design style throughout your entire space.

What echoed elements are, are quite literally design echoes - they are focal points, features or design details in a room that show up in different but reminiscent ways in another room. Physically pulling re-imagined ideas into another room.

For example, let's say you have a bold, large-scale paint pattern in a living room, like a graphic angle that starts from one corner of a wall and spreads bright color to the next. You could

copy that same element, and do the exact same thing in another room. Or you could take the spirit of that element's main idea and translate it in a new way in another room, like say, using bold tiles in a bathroom that feature a prominent angled pattern.

Maybe you have a texture on a sofa that you love, that you steal for a DIY wall paint treatment. Perhaps there's a graphic in a favorite art print that mirrors a larger scale pattern in a wallpaper. Maybe fabrics you choose for your dining room feature shapes that are mimicked (or very similar) to fabrics you use in

your bedding. In comedy, a callback is when you make a joke that references something you said earlier in your set. An echoed design element is like a visual callback. That rad feeling you get when you're "in" on an inside joke? You can create that same kind of feeling in your home with echoed elements, making your whole space feel like it's "in" on the same wavelength of style. — AP



Actor Adrien Brody arrives during the annual Art Basel kick off party presented by Jason Binn publisher of DuJour Magazine at the Delano Hotel, Miami Beach on Tuesday in Miami Beach, Fla.

## Hilary Swank, Adrien Brody kick off Miami's Art Basel

Two-time Oscar-winning actress Hilary Swank may be a veteran at her chosen craft, but she admits she's still a newbie art collector. Swank attended a kick-off party Tuesday night for Art Basel Miami Beach, the prestigious extension of the annual contemporary art fair in Basel, Switzerland. The actress said she loves collecting everything from photographs to sculptures and doesn't gravitate to a particular medium or period, but instead chooses the pieces that speak to her.

"I think that art either makes you learn something new about yourself or makes you relate to something in yourself or is simply entertaining and that's the beauty of it," said Swank, who wore a short black, lace dress. "I love how it makes the world bigger and how it expands my whole idea of life." Swank, who is returning from the longest break of her career after caring for her father for the past 18 months following a lung transplant, was one of about three dozen people at an intimate dinner party

at the Delano hotel. The event was hosted by former Ocean Drive publisher Jason Binn for his current magazine DuJour.

Sylvester Stallone, an avid painter, fashion designer Tommy Hilfiger and Ivana Trump also attended the dinner before hitting up an elegant poolside bash. Hilary hugged Binn and gave a short, emotional speech at the dinner, crediting him with giving her one of her first magazine covers before she was famous. The chic magazine has a knack for spotting up-and-comers. Binn also gave Kim Kardashian her first cover. Famed photographer Bruce Weber and Oscar-winner Adrien Brody both made late appearances at the party, which was rather tame compared to most Art Basel bashes.

Miley Cyrus famously performed last year at a nearby hotel wearing only nipple pasties and smoked pot onstage. Art Basel officially opens Thursday, but many independent fairs and events will open days earlier, and

the glitterati are already in town ready to toast them. Brody is showing a collection of paintings this year, "Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Handguns," focusing on violence in society and the desire for instant gratification. It's "a meditation on the fact that violent imagery is as commonplace as fast-food in our society," said the actor, who grew up in a creative home. His mother is a photographer, and his father is a painter.

Brody, who wore a black leather jacket and his hair casually pulled back in a ponytail, said he's less encumbered when he's painting than when he's acting. "I'm elated, I feel renewed and my spirited is reinvigorated, and I get to express so much that I feel is relevant ... and also perhaps have a voice in creating a discussion." — AP



Actress Hilary Swank arrives during the annual Art Basel. — AP photos

## Smithsonian museum initiative explores 'Giving in America'

The Smithsonian museum is launching a new initiative exploring the ways giving is woven into American life, whether it's a multimillion dollar school endowment, nights spent battling blazes by a volunteer firefighter or other contributions of time and money. The National Museum of American History's announcement of a plan to collect, research and exhibit artifacts documenting the nation's legacy of philanthropy coincides with Giving Tuesday, a movement encouraging philanthropy in a season often associated with consumerism.

"Our goal is to help them understand what it means to be American, who we are as a people, and try to characterize what makes us distinctive," said Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs David Allison.

Allison said philanthropy is one element of that and the exploration seems a natural fit for an institution created by the philanthropy of James Smithson. The British citizen left his estate to his nephew, but since the nephew died without an heir, the half million dollar estate went to the U.S. for the founding of "an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge," according to the Smithsonian's website.

"The Smithsonian only exists because of philanthropy," Allison said, noting that Smithson's legacy of giving has been carried on by many others. "That's something that we as an institution should pay more attention to."

A grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and a gift from David M. Rubenstein fund the Smithsonian's Philanthropy Initiative, with an annual symposium, display space and the endowment of a curatorial position, but neither wanted to disclose the amounts contributed.

The idea for the initiative grew out of the museum delving into the history of business in America for its recently opened innovation wing, Allison said.

"The role of philanthropy kept coming up," he said, but there wasn't space to include it then. "It made us think that we should do more on that topic." Just as styles of giving have shifted from coins in a church collection plate to 10Ks and crowdfunding campaigns, so has the way museums engage their audiences, Allison said. This initiative embraces collaboration, putting out a call for artifacts of philanthropy, such as thermometers that organizations use to track progress toward a fundraising goal and inviting the public to share online their stories and photos about giving.

"The Smithsonian is really moving to a different relationship with its audience," he said. It's no longer a situation where the museum knows everything and tells you what you need to know, "those days are gone," he said. New ways of engaging the public, such as social media, create a larger conversation about the topic being explored.

The museum will open a long-term exhibition in late November 2016. In the meantime, "Giving in America" will give a preview of ways giving has shaped civic culture both in the Gilded Age and the present day. Artifacts gathered for the initiative include a nurse's cap from a Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing student circa 1945 and letters from signers of the Giving Pledge, a commitment by some of the world's richest people to dedicate a majority of their wealth to philanthropy.

Items being donated on Tuesday include a firefighter's boot used to collect money from motorists for the "Fill the Boot" campaign for muscular dystrophy and T-shirts, signs and a banner from the #BMoreGivesMore 2013 campaign in Baltimore. — AP



In this photo provided by National Museum of American History, a display from the 'Giving in America' which showcases the role of philanthropy in shaping American civic culture, including museums, libraries, orchestras, universities and hospitals seen in Washington. — AP

## Carpisa unveils its latest capsule collection in collaboration with Penelope and Monica Cruz

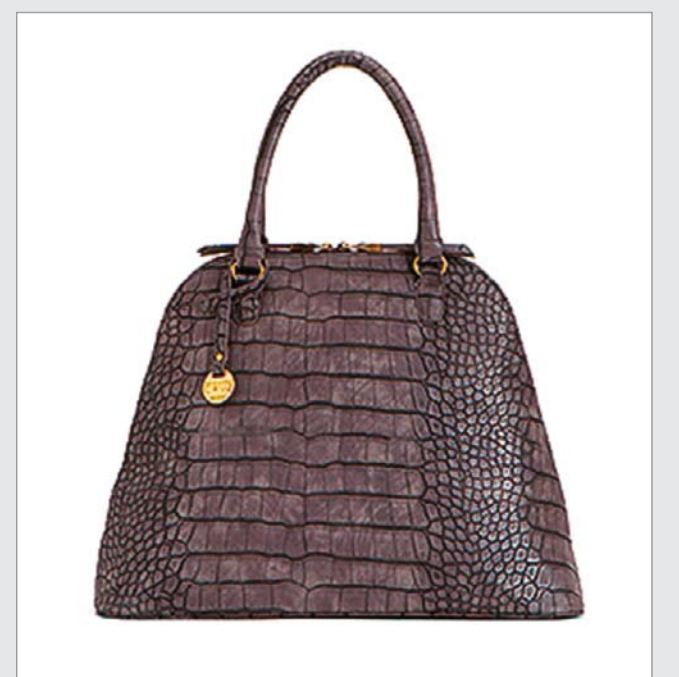
Bag it this season with Carpisa as the famous Italian brand and a leader of handbags and luggage business, sign on yet another sensational capsule collection with the ravishing Penelope and Monica Cruz. Reflecting over a soul that's truly vintage with a flair of urbane sensuality, the Cruz sisters bring in six lines composed by different patterns and colours, all extremely modish and feminine, in perfect harmony with their elegance and charm. Playing protagonists to this chic collection are Bandoliers, shopping, clutches bags, as well as practical backpacks, in coconut and animal print and suede. Whereas, the artistic Cruz sisters have played on classic models by reinventing them to form sophisticated, contemporary and stylish

looks to elevate anytime dressing of the day.

Collaborating international trends with their signature styling; the capsule collection includes transformable bags with ingenious zipper systems that become either a suede bag or a shoulder strap in printed coconut; making them even more attractive for multiple looks. Proposing reverie in designs and vibrancy in colour palettes; the Cruz sisters weave intricacy with a lot of attention to detail when it comes to the choice of materials used to style the exclusive capsule collection. Comfortable and practical models for occasional and everyday wear stand out pretty in autumnal shades such as dark green, burgundy, brown and grey; while, a ultra-mode

range of inventive designs in handbags have been adapted to complement may silhouettes with an amazing, seductive and well-groomed style.

That's not all, the collection also lines up attractive travel companions consisting of a rigid trolley and a travel bag, available in three dapper colours. There are several accessories from beauty cases to wallets with vintage details that are present in the bags for added usability. Give in to the new air as Carpisa's chosen beauties with incredible personalities set foot in the Middle East to broadcast the brand's Italian spirits that are both classy and eclectic. The exclusive capsule collection is available at The Avenues- The Mall.



Awards



K-Pop music band members EXO pose on the red carpet of the 2015 Mnet Asian Music Awards (MAMA), the leading K-pop awards ceremony, in Hong Kong yesterday. — AP/AFP photos



Members of South Korea indie rock band The Koxs.

# K-POP SUPER STARS ATTEND MNET ASIAN MUSIC AWARDS

South Korea's biggest stars gathered in Hong Kong last night at one of K-pop's biggest events. "Gangnam Style" Psy, K-pop boy band Big Bang and South Korean-Chinese heartthrobs EXO are in the line-up for the seventh annual Mnet Asian Music Awards (MAMA) at the AsiaWorld-Expo.

The Koreans joined by Britain's Pet Shop Boys, who performed with girl group f(x), as well as other celebrities such as Taiwanese diva Jolin Tsai and Hong Kong movie star Chow Yun-fat, organizers said. The K-pop genre has made huge inroads into the international music scene in recent years, particularly with the global success of Psy's "Gangnam Style". The song's music video—which features the now-famous horse-riding dance has racked up more than 2.4 billion YouTube views and became its most-watched video of all time.

Seoul's Gangnam district last month announced that a statue modeled after the song's dance moves is to be erected. The night's other attractions include hiphop rapper San E, boy band GOT7, and Hyuna of girl group 4Minute. The MAMA awards ceremony was first held in 2009 and has attracted big international names since then. In 2013 music legend Stevie Wonder performed with South Korean singing star Hyolyn. — AFP



South Korean actress Choo Ja-hyun walks on the red carpet of the 2015 Mnet Asian Music Awards.



South Korea actress Hong Soo-Ah.



US singer and actress Tiffany Hwang (left) and South Korean actress and singer Seohyun (right).



South Korean actor Lee Jung-jae.



South Korean-American singer Jessi.



South Korea actor Yeo Jin-goo, left, and actress Kim So-Hyun.



South Korean actress Han Chae-young.



South Korean actress Park Shin-hye.



South Korean actor Lee Kwang-soo (left) and actress Park Bo-young.



Members of South Korea boy band GOT7.



Members of South Korea boy group BTS.

# Michael Caine reflects on 'Youth' and old age

Michael Caine sits down for lunch at the St. Regis Hotel in midtown New York clutching a copy of the day's Daily News given to him by the hotel doorman, who's earmarked a photo of Caine and his "Youth" co-star Jane Fonda. "You wonder why I stay here," he chuckles. "I always remember the sort of joke thing in the British paper where the journalist said to the duchess, 'What's the best restaurant in London?' And she said, 'Where you're known, dear.' And I apply that to a lot of what I do." Caine, 82, is known just about everywhere. Some know him as the star of British classics like "Alfie," "The Italian Job" and "Get Carter." Others know him as Batman's butler (and a regular of just about every Christopher Nolan movie). Some might even know him just by the ubiquitous impressions of his indelible cockney accent, like Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon's dueling Michael Caines in "The Trip."



Actor Michael Caine poses for a portrait during press day for the upcoming film 'Youth' at The Four Seasons, in Los Angeles. — AP

In Paolo Sorrentino's "Youth," which opens Friday, Caine puts a capstone on a career that has traveled from working-class upstart to cinema institution. Like most things in life, he's enjoying it. Working now and then, Caine lives relatively quietly, focused on his family; he and his wife, Shakira Baksh, are moving from their updated barn outside London, so their 25-minute drive to their grandchildren can be cut down to 5. But he's also soaking up the adulation for his aged classical composer in "Youth," which some think could land him his sixth Oscar nomination.

"I've been nominated (for best actor) four times and I have never won," he says, smiling. "I fly for 11 hours to clap another actor and then go home. It's a long way! So I'm not exactly clearing shelves. I've got two Oscars, anyway." Sorrentino, the Italian director of the Oscar-winning "The Great Beauty," wanted Caine for his combination of authority and levity—a description that hits on Caine's unique blend of good cheer and gravitas. Caine first struck Sorrentino in Woody Allen's "Hannah and her Sisters": "When I saw that, I thought: I would like to be like Michael Caine in life." Wouldn't we all. Though Caine doesn't share his character's melancholy or regret he's similarly reflective — a two-time memoirist and an eager, colorful storyteller. "They say I'm a raconteur but what are you going to do?" he said. "There are stories to tell."

### On retirement

"What am I going to do? Sit around and watch soaps on television all day? That's why I never retired. I retire mentally every time. I regard myself retired now. I don't have another script to do, so I'm retired. I always had this phrase that I said many times to reporters: You don't retire in

movies. Movies retire you. (AP: Yet they're not.) That's the point. I retire and they say, "Oh, no you're not."

### On fighting in Korea

"In Korea, I got into a situation where I knew I was going to die. There were four of us. You always worry that you may be a coward. The four of us found out two things that night. One, that none of us were cowards. And that our attitude to life was that we will make this as expensive as possible."

### On his breakthrough

"Alfie" was a stage play which I auditioned for and never got. I was the last choice of anybody. I shared a flat with Terence Stamp and he was offered 'Alfie.' I spent two days trying to talk him into doing it. Laurence Harvey, Anthony Newley were offered it. Funny enough, everyone turned it down because there was an abortion sequence in it. It was the first time I was nominated for an Oscar. But I had seen Paul Scofield in 'A Man for All Seasons,' so I didn't even bother to turn up."

### On coming to Hollywood

"The first party I went to in Hollywood, Shirley MaLaine gave to welcome me to Hollywood. The first people to walk in were Gloria Swanson and Frank Sinatra. I was dumbstruck. Then she took me to dinner at Danny Kaye's house. There were only two other people there. One was Cary Grant and the other one was Prince Philip. I'm sitting there. I've been in Hollywood for three weeks. I took Shirley home. She lived in the Valley. As we got near to her home, I said, 'Look! Your house is on fire.' She said, 'Michael, that's steam from the pool.'"

### On turning down Alfred Hitchcock

"I knew Hitchcock. We were from the same area, Londoners. When I first went to Hollywood for 'Gambit,' my bungalow at Universal was next to his. We became friends. Then when he offered me 'Frenzy,' he asked me to play a sadistic murderer of women and I wouldn't do it. And he never spoke to me again."

### On Batman and his grandson

"We have very much a father-and-son relationship. When he was about four, I was watching cartoons with him. And a commercial for 'Batman' came on, and he looked at me and he went, 'You know Batman?' I said, 'Yeah' and he said, 'Wow, that's fantastic.'"

### On pool scene of 'youth' with a naked beauty model

"Paolo never told us about that, you know. He said to Harvey (Keitel) and me, 'Get in the pool. There's no dialogue.' He said 'Action!' and Madalina (Ghenea) walked in. Well that's the best acting you've ever seen on our faces because that's absolute reality."

### On improvising on 'youth'

"I had this habit of saying another funny line, which is just stupid. It's not going to be in the movie, but just to get a laugh. I'll do anything to get a laugh. But there was one where my daughter (Rachel Weisz) was sitting crying behind me and I couldn't see her. I just said, 'Stop crying.' And he left it in the movie. I like relaxation on a set, so I'm always going for a laugh. I can't act in a tense atmosphere."

### On playing older parts

"I had had great success in movies. I had done 61, 62. And I got a script and I sent it back to the producer with a note saying I didn't want to do it, the part was too small. And he sent it back with a note saying, 'I didn't want you to read the lover. I wanted you to read the father.' That's when, as I like to say, you stop getting the girl, but you get the part."

### On one similarity with his 'youth' character

"There's a scene at the doctor's where I go to see the results of my exam and he says to me: 'What's it like feeling old?' And what struck me is the line I said to him, which is: 'I don't understand how I got here.' Six years ago I was 35. How the hell have I gotten to be 82? A reporter once said to me, 'How do you feel about growing old?' And I said to him, 'Well, considering the alternative, fabulous.' — AP



## Pearl Jam donates \$100,000 to Brazil mine victims

The US rock band Pearl Jam is donating \$100,000 to victims of a toxic mining spill in Brazil that killed at least 13 people and was the country's worst environmental disaster. The group's singer Eddie Vedder interrupted a show last month in Belo Horizonte, capital of the southeast state of Minas Gerais where the disaster occurred November 5 — and called for the mining company involved to be severely punished. "Pearl Jam will donate \$100k to help the communities impacted by the tragedy in Brazil," the band tweeted on

Tuesday, encouraging fans to join in the donation drive. Brazil's government said last week that it will sue mining giants BHP Billiton and Vale for \$5.2 billion in clean-up costs and damages after the deadly collapse of a waste water dam at the iron-ore mine. The deluge swept down the River Doce to the Atlantic, sparking claims of major contamination, although the mining companies insist there is no serious pollution. — AFP

## 'Star Wars' vs 'Star Trek': Why can't fans just get along?

"May the Force be with you" vs "Live Long and Prosper," lightsabers vs phasers, warp drive vs. hyperdrive. The fan debate over which story, technology, space ships and characters are superior started a long time ago. To casual moviegoers, there is not much difference between "Star Trek," the sci-fi franchise that launched on television in 1966, and "Star Wars," which debuted on movie screens in 1977. Yet to hard-core fans the differences are as significant as those between tribbles and droids.

"Star Trek" fans think "Trek" is better because it portrays a complex, science-based technological future where diverse species unite for the betterment of all. "Star Wars," many believe, is a simple adventure with ray-guns and walking carpets, the good guy wears white, the bad guy wears black, and there's a magic "Force." "Star Wars" fans think "Star Wars" and "The Empire Strikes Back," are "The Godfather" Part I and II of science fiction films — a perfect original followed by an equally great sequel. They can tell you exactly where they were when they first heard "No, I am your father," as a seminal life event. "Trek," for many, is boring techno-babble, everything gets talked to death over tea, Earl Grey, hot, whereas a Jedi with a lightsaber and a rascal with a ship that can make the Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs will always save the day.

YouTube videos debating and lampooning the rivalry abound. Fan polls from the last few years indicate a fairly even split, and for many Hollywood stars the choice is far from unanimous. Josh Hutcherson of "The Hunger Games" picks "Star Wars," as does "Captain America" star Chris Evans. Reese Witherspoon, and Ryan Reynolds pick "Star Trek," according to a 2012 IGN Entertainment video.

### Frequency modulation

Even if the fan base cannot agree, the fathers of the respective franchises admired each other's creations. In the 2013 DVD release of documentary "Trek Nation," George Lucas said that "Star Wars" had "softened up the entertainment arena so that 'Star Wars' could come along and stand on its shoulders." In the same documentary, "Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry said, "I like 'Star Wars.' It was young King Arthur growing up, slaying the evil emperor finally. There's nothing wrong with that kind of entertainment. Everything doesn't have to create a philosophy for you, for your whole life. You can also have fun."

At the box office, "Wars" is to "Trek" what the Death Star was to the planet Alderaan. "Star Wars" has six live action and one animated film cumulatively grossing over \$4 billion worldwide. That's



more than double the take of all "Trek" movies combined, despite "Trek" having nearly twice as many feature films.

But if you're using amplitude and frequency modulation (the colloquial term is television), then "Star Trek" dominates. With five live-action, one animated TV series, and a new streaming series coming in 2017, there will have been at least one "Trek" series in each of the last six decades. Is there anyone who can settle this debate? Someone who has attained Kolinahr, with the wisdom of a Jedi Master, who can unemotionally, yet boldly, make this decision?

Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson is perhaps the closest geeks have to a rock star-type hero. Here's his verdict from an October 2015 Rolling Stone interview: "I'm 'Star Wars' fluent, but I'm a bigger 'Trek' fan. There's a promise of actual science going on in 'Star Trek' but not so much in 'Star Wars.' When all the fibin cards are down, for most fans resistance is futile. There's usually something about the other franchise they actually like. And just like 'The Force,' it appears this debate will be with us, always. — Reuters



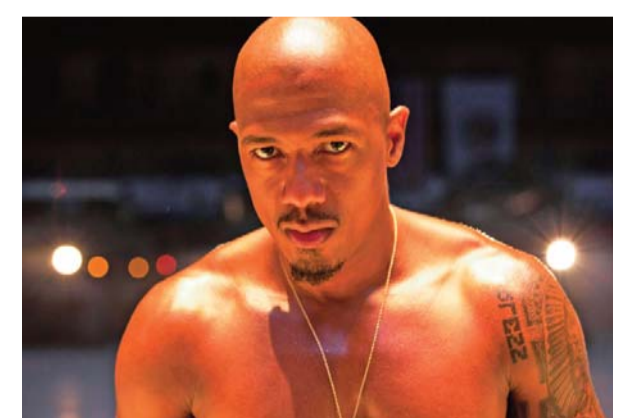
John Cusack, left, and Spike Lee attend the premiere of 'Chi-Raq' at the Ziegfeld Theatre. — AP photos



Nick Cannon, left, and Spike Lee attend the premiere of 'Chi-Raq'.



Filmmaker Spike Lee (left) and the Reverend Al Sharpton lead a march through the streets of Manhattan calling for an end to gun violence.



This photo provided by Roadside Attractions and Amazon Studios shows Nick Cannon as Chi-Raq in Spike Lee's film, "Chi-Raq."

## Spike Lee rips Rahm Emanuel on 'Chi-Raq' orange carpet

Kind words were in short supply for Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel at the premiere of Spike Lee's "Chi-Raq" on Tuesday night. Emanuel fired the city's police superintendent Tuesday after tensions flared over the release of a graphic video that showed a black teenager, Laquan McDonald, being shot 16 times by a white police officer. Lee predicted at the premiere, held before he and cast members participated in an anti-gun violence march, that "some more heads are gonna roll."

The police superintendent "is not going to be the only one," Lee said. Lee's satire is based on the ancient Greek play "Lysistrata" by Aristophanes. This modern adaptation is about the murder of a child hit by a stray bullet in Chicago's South Side, and the group of women that organize a unique way of dealing with the ongoing violence; they hold back sex. Chicago actor John Cusack, who appears in the film, said the shootings and killings in Chicago each year are "unacceptable," and cited political motives.

He said the police officer involved in shooting the 17-

year-old wasn't charged or the superintendent fired until the city's election had passed. Emanuel won a second term earlier this year. The shooting took place in 2014. "It's very tragic that information was suppressed for an election cycle," Cusack said. The Rev Al Sharpton, who walked the film's orange carpet before the premiere, said the power of the satire can send a message to young people about gun violence more than Tuesday's announcement in Chicago.

The movie's kickoff segued into the anti-gun violence march. Lee, Sharpton and members of the film's cast joined about 150 people who marched from a midtown theater to Times Square. Actor John Turturro, who isn't in the movie, marched with them. Activists wore orange beanies with pom-pom tops. The color was chosen from the vests hunters wear as a "don't shoot me sign," said Cleo Pendleton, whose 15-year-old daughter, Hadiya Pendleton, was killed in Chicago in 2013. Lee even wore orange-framed glasses. Actor Nick Cannon, who portrays Chi-Raq in the movie, said the march was being held "for the right reasons." "We've got

to get out here and express our pain the right way," he said. The Rev Michael Pfleger, a Catholic priest and social activist from Chicago who is the basis for Cusack's character in the movie, urged the crowd to pledge to end gun violence.

"Are we going to save our babies or are we going to close our eyes and sit down?" he said before making the crowd repeat an oath: "I make a pledge to stop violence in my home, on my block and in my city." Lucia McBath, whose son Jordan Davis was killed in 2012 in Jacksonville, Florida, called for the mothers of other shooting victims to stand next to her. "We are members of a club no one wants to belong to," said McBath. "We are the faces of everyday violence. It doesn't have to be this way." George Willborn, who plays Tereus in the film, said he was born in Englewood on Chicago's South Side, but he wasn't supposed to make it out of his neighborhood. "I was supposed to die, go to jail or get on drugs," he said. "But I'm standing with people who believe in hope." — AP



Al Sharpton, from left, Teyonah Parris and Spike Lee.



Martin Hansel wears a Santa Claus costume over his diving equipment as he feeds a ray during a promotional event at the Sea Life aquarium in Berlin yesterday. — AFP

## Clean mining yields 'green gold' in Colombia



View of a Cannes Palme d'Or cinema award on display at Swiss Jeweler's Chopard workshop.



View of a fairmined gold and diamond jewel inspired by Cannes Palme d'Or cinema award.



View of a fairmined gold jewel inspired on Cannes Palme d'Or cinema award, on display at Swiss Jeweler's Chopard workshop.



View of a fairmined gold wristwatch at Swiss Jeweler's Chopard workshop.

**G**old mining can be a dirty, bloody business, but a village in Colombia has been rewarded for an ethical model-producing clean "green gold" which has seduced big international jewelers. The gold ground out of the gray rocks of the Andes in La Llanada is worn by Hollywood stars at the Cannes Film Festival, in creations by Swiss jeweler Chopard. The La Llanada operations were certified in October by Fairmined, an international body that certifies ethical mining practices. That opened the way for it to sell its gold to international companies.

"It is a sustainable model that benefits people as well as nature," said Diego Riascos, general manager of the Coodmilla village mining cooperative. "If there is an international market that is much better for us, because the miners will be able to sell their gold at a better price." The La Llanada mines have also been certified as an environmentally-friendly operation, which avoids using toxic chemicals such as cyanide and mercury.

"This is clean gold," Edison Rosero, 23, who works as foreman in one of the mines, run by his uncle Celimo. Like numerous other locals, Edison rides up on a motorbike from the village to the mine. There they descend 100 yards under the rock to the seam to pick up the rocks loosened by explosives.

### Gold without blood

You would think getting the gold out of these mountains, through the dense green forest and away onto the necks and wrists of rich Europeans would be an ordeal. The surrounding Narino mountains are a hotspot of violence in the decades-old armed conflict between rebels and the Colombian government. Yet through a strongly community-based, small-scale production system, the locals here have avoided extortion and kidnappings by armed groups and competition from big firms. The indigenous Abades people mined the gold here centuries ago before they were killed off in the 16th century.

Canadian firms came in the 1930s but left when gold prices fell during World War II and never returned. Ever since, the locals have kept control of the production and profits from the gold they painstakingly extract from the rocks, via the Coodmilla cooperative. "Here there is no violence between miners," says Riascos.

### 'Sustainable luxury'

The Fairmined standard was developed by the Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM), a Colombia-based NGO with operations in Latin America, Africa and Asia. It sets environmental and labor norms and ensures that production benefits local communities. The gold from La Llanada sparkles in the leaves of



the Palme d'Or trophy in Cannes and also in jewelry worn on the red carpet by stars such as the Oscar-winning actress Marion Cotillard.

It is part of what Chopard calls a drive towards "sustainable luxury". Chopard joined forces with the ARM in 2013 to support La Llanada. "For me it was very obvious that the Palme d'Or had to go green," Caroline Scheufele, Chopard's artistic director, told AFP in the jeweler's workshop in Geneva.

### Power to the miners

Regulating mining in a country where nearly two thirds of such operations are estimated to be carried out illegally is a challenge for Colombian authorities. Gold is currently considered even more profitable than the drug-trafficking that funds armed groups. "The Fairmined certificate is a way to formalize production and empower mining communities," said Lina Villa, executive director of the ARM. La Llanada was the second mine in Colombia to be certified by Fairmined. Another cooperative in Iquira, central

Colombia, won the certification in 2014.

"The Colombian government has been working hard to replicate this model throughout the whole country," said deputy mining minister Maria Isabel Ulloa in her office in Bogota, referring to the ethical cooperatives. In the harmonious village with the smoking peak of the Galeras volcano on the horizon, Edison and his friends spend their spare time playing music and singing. Children run around in the street and other miners play volleyball. The rest of the time they labor to lug rock out of the mine, mill them and sieve them, hoping to glean a gram or two of gold-for this is still, despite everything, extremely tough work. "Sometimes you spend more on the work than you earn from it," Edison said. "Mining is always an adventure." — AFP

View of a fairmined gold bar and balls at Swiss Jeweler's Chopard workshop, in Meyrin, near Geneva. — AFP photos



View of Swiss Jeweler's Chopard fine jeweler workshop.



A group of miners head to "La Corte" gold mine in La Llanada, Narino department.