

**FREE**

# Kuwait Times **Friday Times**



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# New Airbus 350 visits Kuwait



Local Spotlight

# RACISM!!



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

A dispute between a Kuwaiti man and an Egyptian sales man ended in tragedy this week. According to reports, a Kuwaiti man allegedly ran over and killed an Egyptian after a dispute over an electronics game at a shopping mall in Hawally. The incident provoked many responses online and in social conversations across Kuwait. Now it is before the courts to investigate and decide the crime.

But in the court of public opinion, debate continues to rage and there have been a lot of hateful comments on both sides. Because the issue is not just a disagreement that ended with death but also revealed the ugly shameful truth of racism here.

Kuwait is a small country with a majority of expatriates from different communities so the occurrence of a violent conflict between a citizen and an expatriate often draw media attention and the people of both nationalities involved. Several threats were published on social media platforms where users vowed to avenge the death and threatened Kuwaiti sites in Egypt.

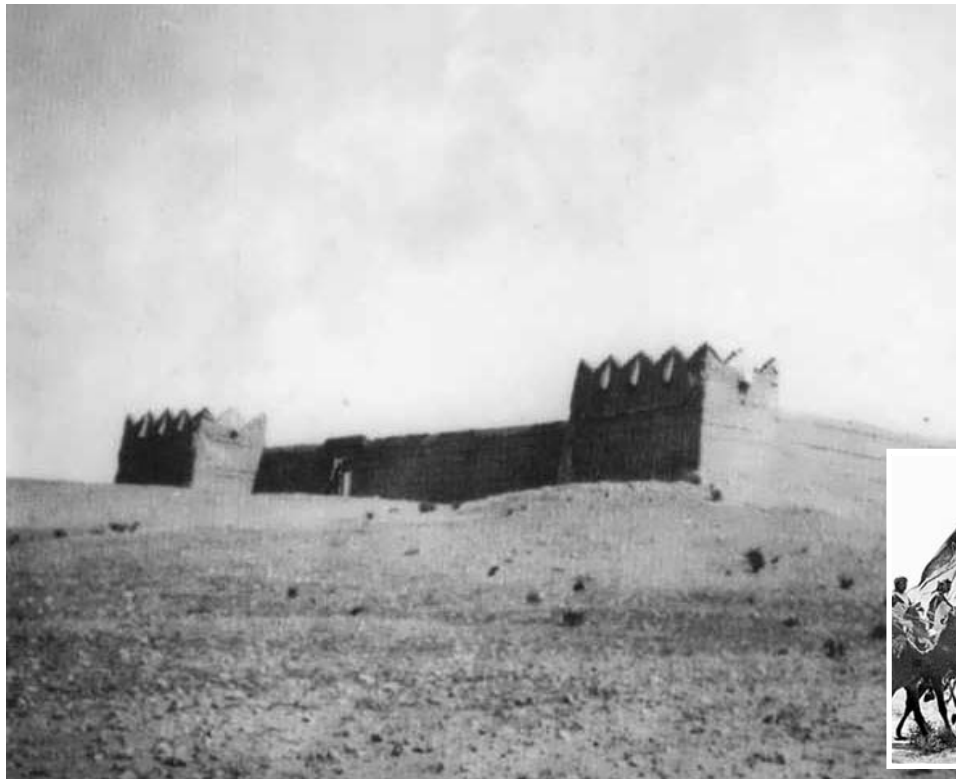
I think that racism is sweeping the world today more than ever. While we are calling on communities to strengthen laws for the protection of human rights, we should work to find solutions to deal with this ugly phenomenon in a clear and explicit way.

In recent weeks Kuwait has witnessed numerous ugly disagreements between Egyptian workers and others of different nationalities such as Syrians and locals, something that can happen in any country.

I think most public reactions about the events in Hawally were often illogical and unjustified. Some point to the large number of Egyptian expatriates in Kuwait as the cause of crime and the many problems facing the country. But this is a silly excuse because there are other communities other than Egyptians who serve as an important and necessary source of labor whether workers, doctors, bankers, nurses, accountants, teachers, engineers, architects, editors, lawyers and professionals of every industry.

It was very disturbing to me to read the comments made by some Kuwaitis to accuse Egyptians that they are the cause of corruption and problems in the country and that those who do not like the situation must leave. And in return for some Egyptian media channels have used the subject to attack the government, the Egyptian embassy and all Kuwaitis.

I am a Kuwait citizen and I reject the justification of the crime, nor sympathize with the killing of a citizen or non-citizen. I will not be surprised at the recurrence of such crime soon because most reactions are adding anxiety and stress. I think we do not need to further tension and I hope that the Interior Ministry stops all those making provocative statements or posts on social media. Egyptians are brothers, sisters, friends and guests of our country and we should not forget this ever.



## JAHRA: AN ABUNDANT OASIS AND HOME OF RED PALACE

By Esraa Jamaladdin

**KUWAIT:** Known since the olden days for being an abundant oasis, Jahra governorate, northwest of Kuwait City, is also renowned for being the historical location for the Red Palace, the main stage where the battle of Jahra took place.

Jahra began as a small oasis village characterized by the availability of underground water, fertile soil, and moderate climate. Home of the red palace, Al-Jahra city was the ground for the battle between the people of Kuwait and the Ikhwan (the brothers) army from the Arabian Peninsula.

The Red Palace was built between 1914-15 during the era

of the seventh ruler of Kuwait Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah or Mubarak Al-Kabeer (the Great). It was named after the red mud which formed the main material in its construction.

In the 1920s, Al-Jahra was attacked by an Ikhwan army of 4,000 men. Led by the then-Amir Sheikh Salem Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, 1,500 Kuwaitis fought against the invaders. The battle ended in a victory for the Kuwaitis against their foes.

Following the battle, a wall was constructed to protect the area from invaders. The wall was demolished in 1957 and while the remnant of the structure was left as a famous landmark immortalizing the Kuwaiti people's patriotism and sacrifice. — KUNA

Just kiddin', seriously

## LEARNING THE HARD WAY



By Sahar Moussa

sahar@kuwaittimes.net

At school, I don't remember having taken classes on 'how to protect ourselves from bullies'. I had to figure it out on my own when one of the students started calling me names and we ended up fighting and slapping him on his cheek. This incident, of course, led to detention, strict parental supervision and also newfound respect from friends. Had there been classes to teach us how to deal with such situations, I wouldn't have earned the nickname 'troublemaker'!

At university, you believe your personality has matured and are bold enough to take decisions and handle unsavory situations that crop up between friends, teachers and others. You are clueless about communicating with individuals whose personalities clash with yours. You end up wishing that a special course would be created to teach to survive this stage or even free your mind from the regret that you didn't register for psychology classes!

After scraping through life experiments at school, college and university you are faced with the biggest test ever - finding a job and building a successful career. So you decide to search for new opportunities and travel abroad - in my case, it was Kuwait. I was very excited, as I considered it as an adventure to meet new people from different places and discover new places.

But no one tells you in advance how it is to live alone in a country that is completely different from yours, with different cultures, traditions and language or dialect. I learned

the hard way. In the beginning, I thought I will not survive in Kuwait and wanted to go back home, because I couldn't fit at all. How many times I wished while facing these challenges that there was a survival manual to teach me how to make it without going through all the troubles and pain!

On your first job interview, you think you are ready because of the advantages you have over rival candidates - youth, freshness and enthusiasm. You feel assured that no force on earth can stop you because you have a degree in hand. Your confidence is crushed when you realize that while answering the interviewer's questions, you failed to take a course on how to answer job interview questions, and even doubt if you are properly dressed! If you are lucky, you could pass your first job interview successfully. If you aren't, you will after a second or third trial.

Once again, you are full with the false assurance that your life is secure. Since the university does not equip you with life skills, your new workplace is nothing but a lion's den where you are trying to survive every day. No one teaches you about who you can trust at the workplace, how to behave in an extremely competitive atmosphere, cope with work pressure, how to develop communication skills, or what to do if you are dragged into a fight with a colleague, or for that matter, if it is healthy to be part of a clique. No one teaches you the rules on standing up for yourself when harassed by a colleague or even your boss.

I think it's very important to have a life skills course in school and university. This will help children get a clue about what awaits them in a real-life setting. In school, the lessons are taught first and tests taken later. In life, we take the hardest tests first and learn the lessons later. But although we face ups and downs, trip, fall and get up again in our lives, the journey is full of excitement, passion and something to look forward to every day we wake up.





# New **Airbus 350** visits Kuwait

By Mesh'al Al-Enezi

**A**irbus presented the Airbus A350-900 XWB to Kuwait Airways officials during a demonstration of the plane at the Kuwait International Airport yesterday. Kuwait Airways has ordered 25 Airbus aircraft including 10 A350-900, though it will not receive delivery of the first of the new A350s until 2020.

Part of Airbus' all-new family of widebody aircraft, the A350 is part of a larger strategy by KAC to modernize the state-owned airlines aging fleet. Chairman of KAC Rasha Al-Roumi said in a speech that the presentation marks a crossroads, not only for Kuwait Airways but "in the history of aviation in Kuwait..." She said KAC had adopted a long term strategy to rebuild the loss-making airline which has not turned a profit in more than two decades.

She concluded by saying that, KAC has carried out wide ranging improvements on its fleet of aircraft and concentrate on safety and security in the first place, apart from providing a high quality service and maintenance.

Director General of Airbus Middle East Fuad Attar said Kuwait is one of the most notable markets in the region, and "We are proud to present our distinguished planes to KAC, our strategic partner, which will be a successful representative for us as usual."

"The A350 XWB" Attar said, "it is the most advanced discov-



eries by civil aviation of the new generation of commercial aircraft, and it is the result of research and development and scientific innovation to present a plane that combines comfort and highest efficiency".

KAC's decision to purchase the aircraft stirred controversy in Kuwait in 2013 when the airline inked the \$4.4 billion deal. Long running opposition plans to privatize the airline and allegations of corruption continue to plague KAC's modernization efforts.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Airways and Airbus officials along with distinguished guests and members of the media check out the visiting Airbus A350-900 XWB presented to Kuwait Airways officials during a demonstration of the plane at the Kuwait International Airport yesterday. Kuwait Airways has ordered 25 Airbus aircraft including 10 A350-900 which it will begin receiving by 2020. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



# Child's Play

In the race for our future we should not neglect our past: Waleed Shaalan

By Ben Garcia

Kuwait recently took part in the Dubai Design Week expo - showcasing Kuwait's creativity and design talent through one of the Abwab Pavilions. The pavilion, a unique creative concept created with an exterior made from the abundance of Middle Eastern sand which served as natural mushrabia (veil) aimed to highlight traditions of play and culture in the region.

Kuwait Times interviewed architect Waleed Shaalan, lead curator from Kuwait pavilion about the theme, the importance of children's play and design and creativity in Kuwait.

## The games children played

**KT: How did you guys come up with the idea for the theme of children's games in Kuwait?**

**Shaalan:** The organizer for the Dubai Design Week introduced to us the 'Abwab pavilion' for this particular expo. The pavilions were especially dedicated to traditional games for children of countries such as Kuwait; so as participants we decided to take a look at the traditional games children in Kuwait used to play. Many of our old games were undocumented so from the start it was a challenge to come up with specific games and showcase them.

We used pictograms to demonstrate traditional Kuwaiti children's games. It's interesting to watch kids play, they're creative and they always want to innovate; those games which we showcased here are now obsolete in the presence of computer games and gadgets. Those old games were not preserved although they are not completely forgotten.

But we want to revive those games. Maybe to come up with a collection of old games and put it together as one book.

**KT: Can you give more details on the games?**

**Shaalan:** Most games for girls had something to do with the house. For example, preparing tea, coffee or socializing and most of the games related to girls are played indoors. You know, girls were allowed to play but in limited space since they are protected by their male counterparts. Female games are usually less physical but they were more into socializing and preparing food.

Boys, on other hand, were free to go anywhere. They even had games like 'hide and seek under the shadow of the moon', since for many months they could not play during the day because of the terrible heat. For example, the games that are very famous before for boys were hiding bones in the sands; and kids would have to find them. The skills of finding something is developed in this game; the mind and the physical activities are used so a person who will spot the hidden bones must run to the home base and be declared the winner.



DUBAI: Curator Waleed Shaalan, second to the right, briefing visiting media at the Kuwait pavilion with designers Osama Hadeed, Liane Al-Ghusain and Abdulaziz Al-Kandary.

## From play to life

**KT: What are the main games and how did you translate them into 'design' elements?**

**Shaalan:** We have different types of games. One was called 'tagga ib tagga' (move by move). When you start to play with an opponent, you have to use mental abilities. In this game you have to draw six dots, and the opponent challenge you to connect the specific dots without crossing the lines. If you managed to do it you are the winner. So it's a mental skills game. There is also a famous game 'tying and untying knots'. It strengthen your skills in problem solving capabilities. Another one is holding your breath while under water. The longer you hold your breath, the better and you should be the winner. No one really plays these games any more, they are mostly from the pearl diving era and they were essential games at that time. There are many games connected to pearl diving, and many of the physical games were important for survival.

If you notice games children play in recent years, they are all computer-based games, not physical. The problem is we tend to focus in when we play physical games. For instance, football. You forget that you are running while you are playing and that is very good for the body. On the treadmill, you know you are running. Many games of the past were related to pearl diving because that was our source of revenue and our forefathers before had to survive and so even when they were still kids, our games were mostly related to pearl diving. Sadly, they are gone now.

**KT: How do you see this connecting with the renaissance in design/creativity/entrepreneurship happening in Kuwait now?**

**Shaalan:** Games used to be a way for children to rehearse for life. For example, if you see animals, young lions are rehearsing in preparation for adulthood: attacking, hunting, chasing. It looks like play but they are developing skills which they need later.

Today we don't know if the skills we needed for pearl diving



Pull-along starfish	العوعو
Leapfrog	طگ واطمر
Spinning Top	الدوامة
Wheelie	الدرايچ





skillful games. So see it as a tool not just only to entertain but at the same time acquiring knowledge and skills.

**Remember the past**

**KT: What was the message you hope to send with this theme to the visitors of the Dubai Design Week? And what is the story you hope to tell about Kuwait then and now?**

**Shalaan:** In the race with our future we should not neglect the past. We don't have to hold onto the past but we can certainly look to the past for inspiration. There are lessons that are learned over the experiences of the past generations that we can use as a source to build and shape our future. No need to totally discard the past.

The message that I would like to bring to the Kuwaiti people is that it is a great nation, has history of being an innovative people, when it comes to the past Kuwait created the fastest dhow in the Gulf in the place which is considered scarcest in the world. But still Kuwaitis managed to survive.

We must incorporate the past into the present to shape the future. Hold on to that spirit and be proactive, we are seeing it now slowly though but as you see, from the businesses thriving in Kuwait certainly we are learning a lot. We can continue to build and contribute to the output design of the region and the world because of that heritage. A good designer can work with lots of constraints. I think the post oil era should not take that spirit of innovation away from us.

Racquetball	الدغة	Boules	اللومية
		Dodgeball	البي
Tug of War	اشتط	Touchbase	اعظيم ساري

are still important (for kids of today). Today is the era of computer games. There are games which can train entrepreneurship, a friend of mine expressed his concern about my son spending too much time playing video games. But how do you know what the future holds? Maybe those games which he's playing are needed in the future. The skills which we see from the kids today might be very important for their future. Today playing games is important for education. You can certainly use the skills in the future, it's not only about academic but games are important. Design and concept can be acquired from playing



Waleed Shaalan at the Kuwait pavilion in Dubai. — Photos by Ben Garcia

**Games used to be a way for children to rehearse for life.**

Night chant declairing gameover  
الإعلان عن نهاية اللعبة ليلا



LOYAC

# Oil barrels turn into art promoting peace

A photo feature by Ghazi Qaffaf



**KUWAIT:** Graffiti art is no longer restricted on the walls but has gone a little further ahead to include empty oil barrels to carry an artistic message of peace. This magnificent effort was made possible by a group of fine arts youths and children gathered by 'LOYAC'. A nonprofit organization, LOYAC works towards the overall development of youth in order to spread artistic culture and community awareness of the role of art in the peace industry and the importance of re-recycling and environmental preservation through works of art. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Gallery of 'LOYAC' barrels of oil art for peace and environmental preservation.



# A disappointing trip to Failaka

**Unreliable ferry service, lack of facilities and a mostly abandoned island leave little to do on one of Kuwait's (former) gems**

By Nawara Fattahova

It's been 25 years since the residents of Failaka, the only inhabited Kuwaiti island were forced to move onto the mainland. The idea, back then, was that the island would be developed and serve as a major tourist destination for Kuwait and the region. More than two and half decades later it stands mostly abandoned, with only a small resort for visitors and a few chalets. Some of the original inhabitants have returned to their abandoned properties and weekends especially see a small but steady influx of day tourists visiting via the Failaka ferries.

Apart from private boats, visitors have only two options to reach the island. They can either sail onboard the ferry of the Kuwait Public Transport Company (KPTC), which also allows them to transport their vehicles onboard to Failaka. This ferry trip usually takes about 90 minutes or a little longer and the ticket costs KD 5 roundtrip per person and about KD 30 per vehicle. A second option is the ferry boats of a private company which sails from the Marina Crescent and costs KD 15 per person. On board of this boat, a passenger can reach Failaka in around 40 minutes.

The ferries, however, aren't as reliable as they used to be. When this reporter took a recent day trip to Failaka, I was surprised to find that the ferry departed only a few minutes after arrival - without any notice or warning, although it should leave after an hour, and left me and my companion stranded. It took a few worried phone calls and a wait of an hour to get back to the mainland.

According to the ferry captain who returned in a small boat to rescue us, the shortened departure times are due to the fact that the ferries can only dock or exit the Failaka port during high tide due to damage sustained to the harbor there.

Captain Columbus (who requested we use a pseudonym as he wasn't authorized to give interviews to the press) started working as a captain in 2007. The ferry sails daily but he is not the captain every day. "I'm usually standby captain and some days I'm the main captain. The trips rotate on all the captains. Depending on the reservations one or two ferries sail to Failaka. The ferry is not equipped with autopilot, so the pilot should be controlling the ferry manually all the time. I have to be cautious and ready for any situation," he explained.

Preparedness is much needed because overall the deterioration in services reaches far beyond the timing of the tides. Ferry rides are unreliable. Trips can take up to more than an hour and a half. Some days the ferries don't run at all, even though no changes in the weather would warrant a suspension of service.

In the past, the ferry would dock at the Island for around six to seven hours, enough time for visitors to tour the island and do some sightseeing including visiting the petting zoo, renting paddle boats in the lake, visiting historical areas including the cemetery, the traditional village, historic ruins, as well as camel riding or renting ATV vehicles. Visitors could also hang out at the beach and get a tan, play pool, smoke shisha or have a picnic at the beach.

But nowadays, the ferry departs shortly after arrival and its never clear if it will make a second journey on the same day. This leaves little time for visitors to tour the island. So either they must aim to stay in Failaka overnight or leave after only a short visit. There is a hotel but for those without a vehicle, getting around is impossible as there is no transportation available except for the hotel bus.

More changes. Also the ATVs that used to be for rent are no longer available. The small restaurant that was selling two or three kinds of sandwich meals closed up a few months ago according to the grocery shop next to it. In this case, hungry visitors can only dine in the historical village, where one restaurant, saag shop, cafe, and ice cream shop, are available.

I didn't have fun or enjoy my recent trip to Failaka in the way I used to which is a shame because this used to be one of the gems of Kuwait.







**KUWAIT:** Dozens of women's rights campaigners, activists, local leaders and politicians including former lawmaker Safa Al Hashem attended the Women and Social Change symposium at the American University of Kuwait on Wednesday evening.



**KUWAIT:** Rana Hussein, an award-winning journalist and human rights campaigner and Dr. Alanoud Al Sharekh, professor, researcher and women's rights advocate at the seminar at AUK. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

## SEMINAR TACKLES WOMEN'S RIGHTS, HONOR KILLINGS

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Several local organizations including WEORITU, Soroptimists and members of Abolish 153 hosted a seminar entitled 'Symposium on women and social change', on Wednesday night at the American University Of Kuwait (AUK). The aim of the seminar was to raise awareness about a variety of issues facing women including domestic violence, so-called honor killings and how women can leverage engagement with the media to further women's rights.

Rana Hussein, award-winning journalist and human rights activist, talked at the seminar about the symposium on women change makers, provided a platform for individuals and organizations to introduce their vision for social transformation.

Hussein brought the issue of honor crimes against women to public attention, as our keynote speaker and she shared her journeys and her methods

towards fulfilling her goals. By telling her experience in Jordan Hussein said that until the mid-1990s, the press shied away from reporting on these crimes and issues such as female genital mutilation and domestic violence in the region. The issue of domestic violence and so-called honor crimes remained a secret but the exposure encouraged a group of young men and women to conduct several grassroots activities to highlight these issues and as a result the Jordanian National Committee to Eliminate so-called honor crimes was established in the late 1990s.

"One activity was a public march to the parliament in Jordan in the late 1990s that was led by two male princes demanding changes in laws that offered leniency to killers and discriminated against women. Activists visited various governorates to collect signatures and spoke to people face-to-face about the problem and succeeded in convincing many. And as a result of the many activi-

ties, there were several editorials, letters to the editor, columns and articles that appeared in the print press that addressed the issue, with and against it. This eventually steered a public debate and broke the taboo around this issue forever," She explained.

Hussein added that the result of activism in Jordan started to show as the issue drew more and more local and international media attention and forced the government to acknowledge the problem and take action. "Police and the criminal prosecutors became more serious in investigating crimes against women, and the government opened the first shelter for women. Then in July 2009, a specialized tribunal was established at the criminal court to try perpetrators of so-called honor crimes." Hussein called on people in Kuwait to similarly fight to improve women's rights. "We need to constantly address the problem of domestic violence in a global manner. Leaders should become more vocal in addressing

and condemning violence against women. And we should try to focus on one of the perpetrators to become an outspoken figure in this matter, and continue to involve more men in the campaigning against these crimes. Also laws should be changed to better protect women, and constant training for judges and criminal prosecutors," she said.

At the end of the seminar, she noted that the education is the key word, and the government should focus on improving the education system and rehabilitating teachers, especially in Third World countries. Women in leadership positions have leveraged their influence in business, philanthropy, education and the arts to align their passion and expertise to resolve key social challenges and amplify the voice for change. Hussein has recently published a book entitled Murder in the Name of Honor: The True Story of One Woman's Heroic Fight Against An Unbelievable Crime, which sheds light on the sensitive subject.

## COURT DELAYS MOSQUE BLAST CASE TILL NOV 12

**KUWAIT:** The Court of Appeals, presided over by Judge Hani Al-Hamdan, adjourned yesterday the case of the Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque blast till November 12th to allow the suspects' lawyers to deliver their defense.

Earlier yesterday, the court began the proceeding on the case to listen to the civil claimants' pleadings. On October 29, the court heard the testimony of the case's officer in a closed-door-session. On October 25, the Court of Appeals heard the testimony of defendant Abdulrahman Aidan who was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court, where he and other defendants denied their previous confessions.

The Criminal Court had sentenced seven suspects to death, eight to two-15 years in prison, but acquitted another 15 suspects. The defendants are accused of spreading terror, committing murder, joining an internationally-banned group that promotes toppling the ruling system with illegitimate means, namely terrorism,

thus threatening the country's national unity.

The court had held its first session on the explosion on August fourth, to look into the cases presented against seven Kuwaiti defendants, five Saudis, three Pakistanis, 13 illegal residents and one fugitive with unidentified nationality. The Public Prosecution had demanded tough sentences against the defendants, as the prosecution's representative had presented thorough details on the case. They also provided visual evidence on the role of the 29 defendants in the blast, including hiding vital evidence and helping the driver, Abdulrahman Aidan, to escape.

The terrorist attack took place on June 26 during the holy month of Ramadan, leaving 26 worshippers dead and 227 others wounded. The blast sparked wide-scale condemnations from Arab, Muslim and other world countries which rejected all forms and manifestations of terrorism. —KUNA

## AMIR'S RUSSIA VISIT 'HISTORICAL', CLAIMS RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's upcoming visit to Russia is "historical and critical" in every sense and is made by "an old and exceptional friend to Russia," Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexey V Solomatn defined yesterday.

Solomatn told KUNA that his country has been looking forward to this visit for a long while, especially since the last visit paid by His Highness the Amir was in 1991. The visit will tackle promoting bilateral ties in the realms of politics, economy, trade, military, gas and culture. It will see the signing of many agreements and will touch on the subject of purchasing weapons from Russia, he noted.

One of the anticipated topics of discussion will be terrorism, Solomatn added. The Russian envoy pointed out that even though the volume of trade between the two countries has been increasing; nonetheless, it has not reached to the desired level yet.

His Highness the Amir's visit, on November 10, comes upon the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin to add a new chapter to the already strong relations linking the two countries. The visit will be the first made by

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah since he assumed power in 2006.

Kuwait is the first Gulf country to establish ties, during the 1960s, with the former Soviet Union; however, these diplomatic ties go back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Kuwaiti-Russian ties truly began with Russian naval vessels (Varyag, Askold and Boyarin) landing on the shores of the pre-oil Gulf country in 1901, 1902 and 1903, respectively. Bilateral ties continued to develop until Russia and Kuwait opened their respectful embassies in 1963; these ties have gotten stronger even after the collapse of the former Soviet Union and Kuwait was among the first countries to recognize the sovereignty of the Russian Federation in 1991. Then, broader cooperation was established between the two countries, especially in the military and technological realms. In addition, the late Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah paid a significant visit to Russia in 1992 to express his appreciation to the support given by the Russians to Kuwait's liberation from the Iraqi invasion in 1990. —KUNA



Crime

Report

**EIGHT ROMANIAN WOMEN ARRESTED BY VICE POLICE**

**KUWAIT:** Vice police arrested eight Romanian women and a homosexual who came into Kuwait and began illegal sexual activities. According to sources, each woman was charging KD 200 per hour. They confessed that clients were to fill an electronic form and provide a picture of themselves and they would get an answer within 48 hours. Information about the Romanians and their activities was received by the Vice and Human Traffic Department Director Lt Colonel Haitham Al-Otham.

**'Captagon' tablets found**

Nuwiseeb customs officers found "captagon" tablets in the inspection area just before entering the center. The illicit tablets were found inside a telephone charger. According to investigation reports, the owner threw it before arriving in the area. The 13 tablets were sent to Drugs Control General Department.

**Citizen caught with expat**

A citizen and an Arab expat who was registered absconding at Fintas police station, were arrested after finding them in an indecent situation in front of a building. Police responded to a call about the two, and the Arab lady was also reported absconding by her sponsor. Both were taken to the police station.

**Pakistani stalker**

An Egyptian woman filed a complaint against a Pakistani for sending her a large amount of disturbing and erotic messages on a social media website. She filed the complaint in Salmiya police station. Detectives are working on the case to find the perverted Pakistani.

**RESISTANCE GROWS AGAINST OIL MINISTER'S SHUFFLING DECISIONS**  
**CONTROVERSY INTENSIFIES OVER ABDALY CELL**

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Resistance against Oil Minister Ali Al-Omair appears to be gaining momentum with more MPs and trade unions criticizing the minister's decision to shuffle the top executives of the oil sector but he insists this is an integral part of his authority.

The latest standoff in the vital oil sector was triggered by the minister's decision to swap the positions of the chief executive officers of Kuwait Oil Co (KOC) Hashem Hashem and Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co (KUFPEC) Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Sabah, both subsidiaries of Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC). The decision was rejected outright by the CEO of KPC Nezar Al-Adasani who told the minister that such a decision was not within his authority and refused to implement it.

Several MPs and trade unions have criticized the minister's decision including MP Ahmad Al-Qhudhaibi and Khalil Al-Saleh who vowed to grill the minister.

MP Abdullah Al-Tameemi said yesterday that the council of ministers will unlikely allow Omair's decisions to go through because they violate the law. The lawmaker advised the minister to seek the approval of the KPC board and to compromise with the oil sector. The lawmaker refused that the oil sector, which contributes 95 percent of the country's rev-

enues, should fall hostage to political rivalry. The trade unions of KUFPEC and Kuwait Petrochemicals Industries Co (PIC) strongly rejected the minister's decision with PIC union insisting it is an attempt by the minister to control the oil sector. The union said in a statement that the minister is ignoring laws and the authorities of the Supreme Petroleum Council and KPC board.



Oil Minister Ali Al-Omair

But the minister insisted on his Twitter account that the decision is within his authority and powers and said that he intends to continue with his reformist decisions. The minister also published legal opinion from the government legal department which said that he can change the oil companies' CEOs.

MP Faisal Al-Kundari said the minister's decision is legal and within the constitutional powers of the minister, adding that

he totally backs the minister in his decisions. Kundari also criticized KPC chief Adasani's letter to the minister in which he rejected to implement the decision, saying that this represents a challenge to the state's authority.

In another issue, reporter of the assembly human rights panel MP Askar Al-Enezi said the committee will launch a transparent investigation into complaints by members of the so-called Abdaly cell or the Iran-linked terror cell. But Enezi rejected accusations made in the assembly session on Wednesday that members of the cell were tortured by police and the investigation was not neutral.

He was referring to a speech by leading Shiite MP Adnan Abdulsamad who said that no one should rush judgments on the cell members until after a final court ruling had been issued. Abdulsamad's speech triggered heated arguments between Sunni and Shiite MPs. Shiite MP Abdulhameed Dashti meanwhile criticized lawmakers who interrupted the speech of Abdulsamad in the assembly, saying the actions are unacceptable.

The criminal court meanwhile heard yesterday defense witnesses in the case involving 25 Kuwaiti Shiites and one Iranian. Two Kuwaitis and the Iranian are still at large. The court set the next hearing for November 26 for defense lawyers to make their arguments.

**MASSIVE WEAPON STOCKPILE DISCOVERED ON THE BORDER**

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Following the capture of 60 shotguns with two Iraqis at Jraishan border crossing, weapons detectives were able to reach a bedoon who was located around the border area. His house was raided and ammunition was found there. He said that he is used to smuggling weapons, and did it three times during October, with another suspect who is still at large. He said they go to the ranch of a citizen in the Liyah area, and transfer the weapons to another vehicle. Police went to Liyah where two persons were arrested. When the ranch was searched, 1300 boxes of shotgun cartridges were found in a Mercedes truck along with 3 shotguns, AK-47, 5 AK-47 magazines and other ammunition.

**Young Kuwaiti murders maid**

A Sri Lankan maid in Ali Sabah Al-Salem was killed by the son of her sponsor. He told police that his 28 year old



son killed her then escaped. Police were looking for the suspect and he was arrested two hours after the crime. He is being questioned about his motives.

**Illicit tablets gone nuts**

Airport customs officers found 7000 illicit tablets with an Asian who attempted to smuggle them in nuts bags. He was sent to concerned authorities.

**Bus-stop heart attack**

A 58 year old Bangladeshi died of a heart attack while waiting for a bus in Fintas area. The body was recovered by the coroner.

**Wanted women found**

A citizen was arrested in the Sharq area for being wanted for KD 3564, and she was sent to concerned authorities. While a Saudi woman was also arrested on a KD 6500 case, and another Dominican woman was arrested on KD 5632.

**TWO FINGERPRINT FORGERS ARRESTED**

**KUWAIT:** Criminal detectives arrested two guards at the ministry of electricity and water, while 37 citizens were sent to the public prosecution for forgery. Two Arabs had agreed with employees, all Kuwaitis, to make fingerprints for them in exchange of KD 15 per month. The fingerprints were made in South East Asia.





# International

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2015

**Suicide bomber kills 5 on Lebanon border with Syria**



**Cameron: Bomb 'more likely than not' caused plane crash**



**Protest against Trump hosting 'Saturday Night Live' grows**



A file picture shows the French Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier sailing off the Libyan coast, during the Harmattan operation, the codename for the 2011 French military intervention in Libya. —AFP

## FRANCE TO DEPLOY AIRCRAFT CARRIER IN GULF

### SYRIAN REBELS SEIZE TOWN IN WEST IN BLOW TO REGIME

**PARIS:** The French presidency yesterday said it would deploy its Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier to boost its operations against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

The presence of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the flagship of the French navy, will add to the six Rafale jets stationed in the United Arab Emirates and the six Mirages flying out of Jordan. The Charles de Gaulle did a two-month stint in the Gulf from February, from where strikes against IS in Iraq were carried out, before returning to its base in the French port of Toulon.

During this time about 20 aircraft carried out 10-15 combat sorties a day, according to the army. France launched air strikes against the jihadists in Syria in October, after a year of bombing IS in Iraq, saying it was acting in self-defense.

France was hit by a jihadist attack in January that left 17 dead and has foiled several other attempted attacks. The country fears hundreds

of citizens that have left to fight with IS in Iraq and Syria will return to launch attacks on home soil. Since beginning operations in Iraq, French fighter jets have carried out 1,285 aerial missions, resulting in 271 strikes and the destruction of 459 targets. Only two known strikes have so far been carried out in Syria.

#### Town falls

Meanwhile, Syrian insurgents captured a town on a major highway in the west of the country yesterday and fought fierce battles with pro-government militias around it, rebels and the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said. The town of Morek is located north of Hama city on a major highway that is crucial to control of western Syria, where the Syrian army backed by allied militia and Russian air strikes has been attempting to wrest back territory from rebels.

Its capture marks a significant blow to the Russian-backed campaign that has also been

supported on the ground by Iranian forces. The Russian air force began air strikes in support of President Bashar al-Assad on Sept 30. Warplanes believed to be Russian were bombing Morek and its surroundings following the capture, the Observatory said.

"This morning, it was completely liberated," Fares Al-Bayoush, whose rebel group Fursan Al-Haq is taking part in the fighting, told Reuters. The group is fighting under the Free Syrian Army banner. A second rebel commander also said the town had been seized.

Bayoush said the town was strategically important. "It was a centre for the gathering of regime forces and a point of departure for its operations," he said. Government forces fought for months to take control of the town in October 2014 and lost many fighters, the head of the Observatory Rami Abdulrahman said. He said fighting was continuing inside parts of the town.

"They worked hard to retake it last year and

now they lost it in a few hours," he said, adding that insurgents entered the town easily, through government checkpoints, and seized large parts in the west. Syrian state media made no immediate mention of Morek's capture.

#### 'Hama is aflame'

Dozens of pro-government fighters were killed and insurgents seized vehicles, heavy machine guns and 10 tanks, said a media activist in the rural region of Hama province where Morek is located. "The whole countryside of Hama is aflame... The offensive started two days ago, launched by Jund Al-Aqsa," the activist, who asked to remain anonymous, said via an internet messaging service.

"They started the offensive with heavy mortar shelling as preparation before storming. This was followed by fighters who broke into the town, then heavy machine gun fire and shelling," he said, adding the capture took around eight hours in total. —Reuters



## IN GAZA AND ISRAEL, DANGER OF INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE LURKS

**JERUSALEM:** In Gaza, a clothing store called "Hitler 2" has mannequins posed outside holding knives and dressed in T-shirts with "Stab!" written across the chests. In Israel, a news website closely followed by religious Jews hosted a video game in which children were urged to "neutralise" attackers dressed as Arabs. After six weeks in which Palestinians have killed 11 Israelis in stabbings, shootings and other violence, and Israeli forces have shot dead 68 Palestinians, including 41 alleged assailants, both sides accuse the other of incitement. While there are some signs of the violence dying down, with the frequency of attacks slowing, there is little let-up in the anger and hatred that have long stoked the 70-year conflict.

In Gaza, the Islamist group Hamas that controls the territory has openly encour-

aged violence, publishing videos online that urge Palestinians to join a new "knife intifada", or uprising, against Israeli occupation. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has been more circumspect, but has praised those killed by Israel as martyrs and been vilified by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for not seeming to do enough to halt the violence.

Outside "Hitler 2", whose owner declined to be interviewed, young Palestinians this week said they liked the shop and were eager to carry out attacks. "The name of the shop is Hitler and I like him because he was the most anti-Jewish person," said 20-year-old Hijaz Abu Shanab. "It is better for us now to go and die since we are living like the dead. I like the clothes and the name."

This week, Israel shut down a radio station in Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West

Bank, accusing it of glorifying attacks on Israelis. Palestinians said the station had urged people to join stone-throwing demonstrations but nothing more. In a conflict with two diametrically opposed narratives in which words and history have long been used as weapons, Netanyahu has also been accused of fuelling tensions.

Before a visit to Germany last month, he asserted that the Palestinian mufti of Jerusalem in the 1940s instigated the Holocaust, saying he gave Adolf Hitler the idea. His comment drew strong criticism from Holocaust experts, who accused him of distorting the historical record.

Palestinians acknowledge that there has been widespread incitement on social media, including Facebook and WhatsApp, encouraging people to attack Israelis. Israelis have also highlighted cases in which

websites and social media have carried unsavoury content.

Arutz Sheva, a news site popular among Israel's religious community and its largely rightist Russian immigrant population, on Thursday took down a video game on its children's pages in which players used sticks and umbrellas to "neutralise" bearded and robed attackers bearing knives and guns.

"It was a mistake," an employee told the Jerusalem Post.

After an eight-month-old Palestinian child died near Bethlehem last week, some people wrote comments in Hebrew on Facebook praising his death, which was initially thought to have been caused by tear gas fired by Israeli forces. The exact cause of death remains unclear, but doctors said the baby had a pre-existing health problem involving water on the brain. — Reuters

## FREE SYRIAN ARMY REPS TO MEET RUSSIAN OFFICIALS NEXT WEEK

**MOSCOW/BEIRUT:** A Free Syrian Army delegation has agreed to meet Russian officials in Abu Dhabi late next week to discuss the Syrian crisis, a Russian news agency said yesterday, but representatives of four FSA rebel groups dismissed the report. The Sputnik news agency cited a coordinator of the talks as saying the FSA delegation would meet Russian foreign and defence ministry officials.

In late October, the Free Syrian Army (FSA), a loose alliance of rebel groups, denied its delegations had visited Moscow amid heightened diplomacy on Syria. The FSA does not operate with a centralised command structure. According to the coordinator cited in the Sputnik report, Mahmoud Al-Afandi, 28 FSA brigades in the suburbs of Damascus, Quneitra, Hama and the western suburb of Homs, as well as from the northern front and from the suburbs of Aleppo and Idlib, had agreed to meet Russian officials.

He was quoted as saying that the meeting would discuss the creation of a joint operating centre to fight Islamic State and the Nusra Front, as well as the search for a political solution. But representatives of FSA-affiliated groups that receive backing from foreign states opposed to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad dismissed the report, with one saying the Russians had been meeting Syrians who falsely claimed to be FSA.

Bashar al Zoubi, a prominent rebel figure, said there was no sign that the Russians wanted an 'honest solution' to the war, and therefore there was no contact with them. Zoubi, who is head of the political office of the FSA-affiliated Yarmouk Army, added that he had not heard anything of the meeting and that Russia had been searching for allies in the rebellion and political opposition to strengthen its position. — Reuters

## PKK TEARS UP TURKEY TRUCE AS VIOLENCE RAGES

**ISTANBUL:** Kurdish rebels in Turkey tore up a unilateral ceasefire yesterday over a surge in deadly violence following an election that swept President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party back to power, fanning fears of a return to all-out war. The announcement from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) came after a spate of deadly clashes and days of Turkish bombing raids targeting its fighters in southeastern Turkey and across the border in northern Iraq. "The unilateral state of inaction has ended due to the AKP (Justice and Development Party) government's latest attacks," said a PKK statement carried by the pro-Kurdish news agency Firat. "After the election, the AKP has demonstrated it is going to be a war government," said the PKK, considered a terrorist organization by Ankara and its Western allies. Erdogan vowed on Wednesday that Ankara would press ahead with its military campaign against the rebels in a conflict that has plagued Turkey for more than three decades. About 45,000 people have been killed since the PKK launched an armed campaign for greater autonomy in southeastern Turkey in 1984.

Violence flared up in July between after a deadly bombing against activists in a Kurdish majority town, shattering a 2013 ceasefire reached after secret talks between Ankara and jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan. The rebels had however said after the devastating suicide bombings on a pro-Kurdish peace rally in Ankara last month that it would suspend all attacks, except in self-defence—a move seen as aiming to ease tensions ahead of last Sunday's poll. — AFP



**ARSAL:** A general view of Arsal, a Sunni Muslim town eastern Lebanon near the Syrian border. A bomb exploded in the Lebanese town of Arsal yesterday, killing and wounding several people including clerics who were holding a meeting at the time, security officials and state media said. — AP

## SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 5 ON LEBANON BORDER WITH SYRIA BLAST TARGETS SYRIAN CLERICS

**BEIRUT:** A bomb exploded in a Lebanese town near the Syria border yesterday, killing and wounding several people including clerics who were holding a meeting at the time, security officials and state media said. The security officials said the bomb exploded in Arsal, near the office of the Qalamoun Clerics Association that is active in helping refugees. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to brief reporters, said 10 people were killed or wounded in the blast.

State-run National News Agency said the bomb was placed on a motorcycle that blew up outside the association's office, killing five and wounding six. NNA

said the dead included the head of the group, Syrian cleric Osman Mansour.

Qalamoun is a mountainous region in Syria that borders Lebanon. Most of it was captured over the past year by Syrian troops and Lebanese Hezbollah fighters. Arsal is home to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees and the town was briefly captured last year by Islamic State fighters and al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria known as the Nusra Front.

During last year's raid the militants captured more than 20 Lebanese soldiers and policemen. The Qalamoun Scholars Association tried to mediate for the release of the Lebanese troops. Earlier yesterday, Amnesty International said the

Syrian government's widespread and murky policies of disappearances have spawned a thriving market of bribery and exploitation.

Tens of thousands of people have vanished since 2011 and are believed to be in government detention. Families often don't know if their relatives are still alive or where they're held.

Families pay brokers up to tens of thousands of dollars for news of their disappeared relatives, sometimes receiving false information in return. The London-based rights group said bribes trickle down to officials and have become a steady source of income for the government. — AP



## NATO CHIEF SOUNDS ALARM OVER RUSSIAN BUILDUP

**TROIA, Portugal:** NATO's secretary-general sounded the alarm yesterday over the build-up of Russian military forces from the Baltic Sea to the Mediterranean and called on the US-led alliance to come up with a response.

Jens Stoltenberg said the Russians have concentrated military forces in Kaliningrad, the Black Sea and the eastern Mediterranean, where they are assisting beleaguered Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Speaking at a news conference during NATO war games in Portugal, Stoltenberg said experts believe the Russian build-ups could lead to Moscow's ability to limit the access of the United States and its allies to certain regions. "We have to be sure that we are able to overcome these capabilities, so we can reinforce, so we can move and we can deploy forces if needed," Stoltenberg said. The NATO chief said this challenge was now "the question on our agenda."

Earlier in the day, NATO put some of its naval and special forces capabilities on display at this naval base south of Lisbon, and also showcased the ability of armed forces from its 28 member nations to work together. As Stoltenberg and other VIP guests looked on, British and Spanish marines riding landing craft stormed a beach. Portuguese marines fast-roped from a helicopter onto the bow of a ship, simulating the retaking of a vessel seized by terrorists or pirates. The Portuguese were reinforced by units from Polish special forces, who also checked for the presence of chemical, biological or nuclear hazards. For the past three weeks, more than 36,000 personnel from NATO allies and partner nations have been taking part in exercises across a swath of southern Europe stretching from Portugal to Italy. —AP

## HITLER MARBLE BUST BY OFFICIAL SCULPTOR FOUND IN POLAND

**WARSAW:** Polish construction workers have dug up a marble bust of Adolf Hitler by one of the Third Reich's official sculptors during work at a museum in the northern city of Gdansk, officials said yesterday.

Measuring 50 centimetres (20 inches) in height, the bust by sculptor Josef Thorak was buried in the ground and was hit by a shovel during work in the interior garden of the National Museum in Gdansk, according to Lech Lopuski, an official in the sculpture department.

"We can see it was hidden on purpose," he told AFP of the bust signed Thorak and dated 1942. "It's an important sculpture because we didn't know it existed. Thorak was a gifted sculptor and we can see that he did a good job." Gdansk, or Danzig in German, was a free city between the two world wars, with mostly German residents. The building where the bust was found was at the time home to the municipal museum.

"The bust was perhaps part of the (museum) director's office furnishings, but it's still too early to tell," Lopuski said. "We still don't know whether it will go on display. It's a delicate issue." —AFP



**GDANSK:** A marble bust of German dictator Adolf Hitler is pictured at the National Museum in Gdansk, Poland, yesterday. —AFP



**SITNYA:** Nina Lushchenko's nephew Pavel and daughter Veronika react at her grave, after her funeral at a cemetery in the village of Sitnya, 80 km (about 50 miles) of Veliky Novgorod, yesterday. —AP

## CAMERON: BOMB 'MORE LIKELY THAN NOT' CAUSED PLANE CRASH

### EGYPT DENIES SECURITY LAPSES AT AIRPORTS

**LONDON:** British Prime Minister David Cameron declared yesterday it was "more likely than not" that a bomb brought down a Metrojet flight packed with Russian vacationers - a scenario that officials from Russia and Egypt have tried to dismiss as premature speculation. Cameron said he had grounded all flights to and from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, stranding thousands of British tourists at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, because of "intelligence and information" indicating that a bomb was the likely culprit in the crash Saturday that killed 224 people.

Islamic State group has claimed that it brought down the plane in the Sinai, a report rejected by Russian and Egyptian officials as not credible. Egypt is fighting an Islamic insurgency in the area where the plane crashed. Cameron said he had "every sympathy" with the Egyptians, who rely so heavily on tourism, but added he had to "put the safety of British people first."

"We don't know for certain that it was a terrorist bomb ... (but it's a) strong possibility," Cameron said at his London office at 10 Downing St. shortly before a previously scheduled meeting with Egypt's president. "There's still an investigation taking place in Egypt. We need to see the results of that investigation."

#### Putin talks

He said he would call Russian President Vladimir Putin later yesterday to discuss the crash. A British team is working to tighten security at the Sharm el-Sheikh airport with an eye toward resuming flights. Cameron said "we want to start as soon as

possible" to bring tourists home, and empty planes will be flying out from Britain to do that, but it would take some time.

British Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin said Egypt will have to put in place tighter long-term security measures before British flights will resume flying. He told the House of Commons on Thursday that British security teams sent to Sharm El-Sheikh "will be working intensively with the Egyptian authorities to allow normal scheduled operations to recommence."

McLoughlin said short-term measures, including different luggage-handling arrangements, would allow the estimated 20,000 British citizens in the Sharm el-Sheikh area, many of them tourists, to fly home. Germany's Lufthansa Group announced Thursday it would cancel flights of its subsidiary airlines - Edelweiss and Eurowings - to Sharm el-Sheikh. Flights to Cairo would not be affected, the company said.

Egypt's minister of civil aviation, Hossam Kamal, insisted yesterday that the country's airports do comply with international security standards and said "the investigation team does not have yet any evidence or data confirming this hypothesis" of a bomb bringing down the plane.

A spokesman for Putin, Dmitry Peskov, insisted that aviation investigators were working on all possible theories as to why the Airbus A321-200 crashed Saturday in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula 23 minutes after taking off, killing everyone on board. He said naming just one possibility was mere speculation.

"One cannot rule out a single theory, but at this point there are no reasons to voice just one theory as reliable - only

investigators can do that," Peskov told reporters in Moscow.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said if Britain had information about a bomb on the plane, it's "really shocking" that hasn't been shared with Russia. She urged Britain to immediately give any such information to the investigators.

#### Cairo concerns

Egyptian officials have condemned Britain's travel ban as an overreaction. Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi, who was in London on a visit yesterday, has called the IS claim "propaganda."

Russia's top aviation official, Alexander Neradko, said investigators are pursuing several theories as to why the plane crashed, including looking for traces of explosives on victims' bodies, their baggage and the plane debris as well as studying other "aspects linked to a possible terrorist attack onboard."

Neradko said yesterday the probe is likely to take several months and called for caution in speculating about the likely causes of the crash.

In the ancient city of Luxor, Egyptian Antiquities Minister Mamdouh Eldamaty rejected the US and British bomb allegations outright. "(The crash) is not a terror act. It was an accident," he declared as authorities opened three tombs to the public for the first time in an effort to encourage tourism. "(It's) very sad what happened, but we have to wait for the result of the investigation." Metrojet suspended all flights of Airbus A321 jets in its fleet after the crash, the Russian Federal Transport Agency said Thursday. —AP



## SECOND COMPLAINT AGAINST PRO-RUBIO SECRET DONOR GROUP

**WASHINGTON:** Conservative Solutions Project, a nonprofit group funded by secret donors that has so far spent \$8 million in ads promoting Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio, has drawn another complaint from Washington watchdog groups.

Democracy 21 and the Campaign Legal Center yesterday asked the Justice Department to investigate the group, alleging that it was set up primarily for the benefit of the Florida senator.

That would be a potential violation of tax law, because nonprofits face restrictions on political activity in exchange for the benefit of being able to shield their donors' identities from the public.

"The Conservative Solutions Project is flaunting the tax laws and flaunting the interests of the American people by using its improper claim of non-profit tax status to keep secret the donors financing its campaign activities," Democracy 21 president Fred Wertheimer said in a statement.

Two weeks ago, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington complained to the Internal Revenue Service that the Rubio-boosting activity by Conservative Solutions Project violated tax law.

Neither the IRS nor the Justice Department would confirm whether investigations were underway.

Jeff Sadosky, a spokesman for Conservative Solutions Project, has said the nonprofit is doing nothing wrong and that Rubio was among the candidates the group has highlighted. Yet the group's emphasis on Rubio, one of more than a dozen major Republicans competing for the presidential nomination, is evident.

While the group mentions several conservative politicians on its website, only Rubio has appeared in its TV and radio ads - and there have been more than 3,000 on air so far. In fact, Conservative Solutions Project is the second-largest advertiser in the 2016 race, according to Kantar Media's CMAG advertising tracker.

In addition to the \$8 million it had spent on Rubio-centric commercials through this week, Conservative Solutions Project has reserved nearly \$2 million worth of advertising time on satellite television to begin airing next month and continue through the first three primary elections next year, information provided by CMAG shows.

The ad aired most frequently has the look and feel of a campaign message. It's a 30-second clip of a speech Rubio gave to a conservative group, and is set to a soundtrack of soaring music and interspersed with patriotic images such as flags fluttering and a rocket launching. "If ever there has been an era in human history tailor-made for us as a people, it is the 21st century," Rubio says in the ad. "What is standing in the way are outdated leaders that refuse to let go of the past."

This week, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington filed a supplement to its IRS complaint noting that Conservative Solutions Project characterized all of its ads as "supporting Marco Rubio" when it signed contracts for the television time.

The nonprofit shares key leaders with a super political action committee specially designed to benefit only Rubio. Unlike the nonprofit, that similarly named PAC, Conservative Solutions PAC, must regularly disclose its donors to the public through the Federal Election Commission.

Sadosky is spokesman for both groups. Warren Tompkins, a South Carolina operative who is business partners with Rubio's campaign manager, formed the nonprofit in 2014. He now leads the super PAC. —AP



**CESME:** A group of refugees, led by Turkish police, are escorted to buses in place of sailing to the Greek island of Chios via raft, at a beach in the western Turkish coastal town of Cesme, in Izmir province, yesterday.—AFP

## SYRIAN AMERICANS PUSH TO ALLOW REFUGEE HAVENS IN US HOMES

**NEW YORK:** Syrian-American Lina Sergie Attar, a mother of two, has a spare bedroom in her suburban Chicago home, which she would like to use to host a Syrian refugee family. But like many Syrian-Americans willing to pay out of their own pockets to care for resettled refugees directly, she cannot.

For although the United States has promised to resettle at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in the coming year, this can only happen through government channels at present, prompting calls for change as the refugee crisis escalates. "I would absolutely host a family in my home if I could have that option," said Attar, 40, who lives with her husband and pre-teen daughters in upscale Lake Forest, Illinois. If she lived a few hours drive further north in Canada, it could be a different story. The system there allows so-called private sponsorship of refugees.

As winter arrives, advocates in the United States are calling for a system like that in Canada where private citizens can buttress government efforts by footing the bill themselves. Under the US model, private donations can be made to non-government groups working with authorities to host refugees. But there is no way people can pick up the tab without going through this system.

Attar, who heads the Karam Foundation, a non-profit group providing aid for Syrians, supports the calls for a private sponsorship program in the United States. One of the 170,000-strong community of US residents of Syrian descent, Attar was raised in Syria but earned graduate degrees at the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Her parents, both physicians, left Aleppo in 2012 due to the conflict and moved to Lake Forest with just four suitcases. This year, after taking a smuggler's boat from Syria, her cousins trekked to Germany from Greece, sending photo

updates of their blistered feet to worried relatives around the globe.

### PEOPLE WANTING TO GET INVOLVED

Syria's war, which erupted in 2011, has killed some 250,000 people, uprooted 11 million from their homes and created more than 4 million refugees in a country of about 23 million people.

Since 2011, the United States has admitted some 1,900 Syrian refugees, according to the US Department of State. Meanwhile Canada has resettled roughly 2,600 Syrian refugees since the start of the conflict, mostly through private sponsorship, officials said. They joined the ranks of the more than 40,000 Canadians of Syrian descent.

For the duration of the sponsorship period, 12 months or until refugees become self-sufficient, Canadians who act as sponsors commit to providing them with a range of care, from lodging to clothing and introducing them to the community.

An organization called 'Lifeline Syria' is trying to help bring 1,000 Syrians to the Toronto area as permanent residents. More than 300 groups have formed to help through private sponsorship in just five months, the group said.

"The people are just lining up to try to get involved," said spokesman Peter Goodspeed. "How to sponsor a Syrian" was the top query relating to the Syrian refugee crisis in Canada according to search engine Google for one 24-hour period in early September. Niskanen Center, a libertarian think-tank in Washington DC, is promoting private sponsorship in the United States.

"Even if this program is small, it will be a significant contributor to dealing with this issue," said David Bier, its director of immigration policy. Among the politicians who support private sponsorship is Congressional Democrat John Conyers, whose Michigan district has been home to

generations of Arab-born people.

But others in Washington oppose Syrians coming into the United States, saying they pose a security risk. Last month, a coalition led by the Syrian American Council sent a letter to Obama requesting private sponsorship.

It seeks an unlimited number of privately sponsored refugees and at least 100,000 government-sponsored refugees. Sponsoring groups would cover all costs for 18 months or until a refugee becomes self-sufficient.

Some organizations have refrained from joining the campaign for private sponsorship, including the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants which prefers to focus on calls to increase the government-sponsored number to 100,000.

"We feel the establishment of a new and separate avenue will dilute efforts to increase the number of Syrian refugee arrivals," said spokeswoman Stacie Blake.

Campaigners say money is not lacking in the US Syrian-American community, which has hubs in Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit and New Jersey suburbs to the west of New York City. Nearly one in five hold graduate or professional degrees, and the median family income is more than 10 percent higher than that of the overall population, US Census Bureau data shows.

In Canada, the government estimates the costs of private sponsorship over a year begin at about CA\$12,600 (US\$9,572) for a single refugee and CA\$29,700 (US\$22,563) for a family of five.

"It could take a family from a situation of despair to building a new future, so it's a worthwhile investment," said Attar. But resettlement is more than a matter of dollars and cents and entails vetting refugees by means of interviews, medical exams and security checks, the US State Department said.

"Resettling refugees requires time, staff and other resources," said spokeswoman Danna Van Brandt. — Reuters





**MASSACHUSETTS:** Republican presidential candidate, former Florida Gov Jeb Bush (left) addresses an audience at a campaign event held in a barn belonging to former Sen Scott Brown, in Rye. Bush is raising his voice, and has a new rasp in his voice to show for it after a day of campaigning in early voting states this week. — AP

## BUSH STICKS WITH BASICS BUT STEPS UP ENTHUSIASM

**WOLFEBORO, NH:** Jeb Bush has a new rasp in his voice, thanks to a little more shouting on the stump. And he's punctuating his points a little more often with a well-placed, PG-rated curse word.

The former Florida governor is trying to reboot a campaign for president mocked by his most notable rival as "low-energy" by providing a new burst of enthusiasm. But as he pounded across New Hampshire this week, Bush was working even harder at something beyond a zestier stage presence.

It's having the patience to wait out the anger among voters that's boosted billionaire Donald Trump to the head of the Republican race for president. It's keeping his faith that the anger will evolve into clear-eyed decision-making in less than three months, when the voting gets started in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"You've got to give people a chance to make a point about what they feel, their frustrations," Bush said aboard his campaign bus on Wednesday. "They're making their point right now. But ultimately they're going to elect a president."

And that's why, despite the higher volume and somewhat more colorful language, Bush's much-touted campaign reset finds him sticking with the fundamentals of his pitch.

"It's not about the personalities on the stage. It's not about if you've got a quick, you know, wit or your sound byte is perfect," he told a group of about 75 voters in Moultonborough. "It's about leadership."

In Florida, South Carolina and especially on a three-day trip across New Hampshire that wraps up Thursday, Bush has strayed not an inch from the policy-heavy message he's offered since his campaign's launch last summer. At its core is an argument that the U.S. can unshackle its economy by increasing talent-based immigration, reducing regulation and embracing the nation's natural energy resources. "Two percent growth? It means more people stuck in poverty! It means 1 in 5 children on food stamps!" he told more than 200 voters at a Tuesday evening cookout. "That's the new normal? I hope you agree with this, that we need to reject that out of hand!"

While Bush said it with a new hoarseness in his voice at an event sponsored by former Sen. Scott Brown in a picturesque barn near New Hampshire's seacoast, he still followed up - as he has for months - with his hopeful refrain that America is "on the verge of greatness."

"That's what I believe," he said. "I believe I can see what the future looks like." Bush's swing thought New Hampshire comes after a weak debate performance in Colorado last week, when a planned attack on Florida Sen. Marco Rubio fell flat and he got less time to talk than almost any of the candidates on stage. Last weekend, Bush admitted he needed to improve - and fast - as a candidate if he had any hope to regain his place atop the field of more than a dozen GOP candidates for president.

"I got to get better. I know I've got to get better," Bush said during a stop in Iowa. Bush senior adviser Sally Bradshaw said Wednesday that means "we're going to let Jeb be Jeb" - encouraging Bush to show off his personality's combination of dry humor and irony and a policy wonk's fix-it attitude. And sticking with the message he's had all along. —AP

## ALABAMA CHILD MISSING FOR 13 YEARS FOUND IN OHIO

**BIRMINGHAM, Alabama:** A 5-year-old boy who went missing from his home in Alabama 13 years ago has been found unharmed as a young man living with his father in Ohio, thanks in part to red flags raised when he tried to apply to college, authorities said. Julian Hernandez's mother reported him missing from the Birmingham area in 2002. The case cracked open with a tip on Oct. 30, officials said this week.

Hernandez was applying to several colleges, but there was an issue with his Social Security number, said Lt. Kevin York of the Vestavia Hills Police Department, near Birmingham. He approached a school counselor, who was trying to help when she realized Hernandez was listed as missing by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, District Attorney Brandon Falls in Jefferson County, Alabama, told local media outlets. Apparently, Hernandez had been living with his father, 53-year-old Bobby Hernandez, in Cleveland, on the city's west side, authorities said. He was living under an assumed name, York said.

A woman and two other children lived in the home, according to the Cleveland Division of the FBI.

Bobby Hernandez has been charged with tampering with records in Ohio to get a driver's license in 2012, and police say

he'll face additional charges in Alabama. He's being held in Ohio on a \$250,000 bond. "We are in the process of getting charges on him and when that happens, when he is adjudicated in Ohio, then he will be extradited back to Jefferson County," said Lt. Johnny Evans of the Police Department in Vestavia Hills, outside Birmingham.

Falls told local media outlets he's seeking charges involving interference with custody. That's a class C felony carrying a prison term of one to 10 years. Court records show that Hernandez was declared indigent in Ohio, and the court appointed attorney Ralph DeFranco to represent him. A message seeking comment was left at DeFranco's office in Cleveland yesterday.

Prosecutor's spokesman Joseph Frolik said the investigation is ongoing, but he had no additional comment Thursday. A preliminary hearing is set for Nov 12. York said police in Alabama have been in contact with the young man's mother, who still lives in the Birmingham area. He said she has asked police not to release her name or address and has requested privacy.

"She was very happy that he had been found, quite ecstatic, but she was also somewhat hesitant because there had been so many false leads through the years," York said. — AP

## PROTEST AGAINST TRUMP HOSTING 'SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE' GROWS PRESSURE CONTINUES TO MOUNT ON NBC

**NEW YORK:** Pressure continued to mount on NBC to cancel Donald Trump's guest-host appearance on this weekend's "Saturday Night Live" as a coalition of advocacy groups delivered petitions to the network Wednesday calling for him to be dropped from the show.

The petitions delivered to 30 Rockefeller Plaza, home of NBC and "Saturday Night Live," marked the latest attempts to dissuade the network from allowing the Republican presidential hopeful to host the show, with the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda earlier asking that NBC reconsider the decision.

"There's mounting evidence that Donald Trump's racist demagoguery is resulting in real-world violence and physical and verbal intimidation," Mushed Zaheed, deputy political director of Credo Action, one of the participating groups, said in a statement.

In advance of the show, NBC released promotional spots featuring Trump that included one in which he refers to a Republican opponent, Ben Carson, as "a complete and total loser."

Trump drew fire early in his campaign when, as the billionaire developer announced his candidacy, he described some Mexicans who are in the United States illegally as criminals and rapists, prompting NBC to sever its Miss Universe ties with Trump while declaring he would never again appear on "The Celebrity Apprentice."

"It is shameful for 'SNL' and NBC to think that racism can be repackaged as comedy," said Juan Escalante, digital campaigns manager for America's Voice, another group participating in the coalition. Other participating groups included the National Hispanic Media Coalition, MoveOn.org and National Council of La Raza. About two-dozen protesters were on hand as the petitions were delivered to NBC's midtown Manhattan offices. Some chanted "dump Trump" and carried signs



**NEW YORK:** Protesters opposed to the appearance of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's appearance as a guest host on this weekend's "Saturday Night Live," shout anti-Trump slogans as they demonstrate in front of NBC Studios where the show is taped and broadcast, on Wednesday in New York. — AP

bearing the same phrase.

The coalition is accusing NBC of reversing itself for the sake of a ratings windfall while granting Trump "a free national platform to bolster his racist and xenophobic campaign," Zaheed said.

Alex Nogales, president of the National Hispanic Media Coalition, said after delivering the petitions that the protest effort was not over. His group and others would use the days leading up to the broadcast to call on "SNL" sponsors to remove their commercials from Saturday's show, he said. NBC declined comment on the petitions and did not immediately comment on the attempt to get ads pulled.

Meanwhile, Trump drew sharp criticism in an online letter with the names of dozens of prominent writers, filmmakers, academics and others from the United States, Spain and Latin America attached

to it, including Oscar-winning writer-director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu ("Birdman: Or The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance").

"We refuse to keep silent in the face of the alarming declarations of the candidate for the presidency of the United States Donald Trump," the letter posted Tuesday reads. "His hate speech appeals to the lowest passions like xenophobia, machismo, political intolerance and religious dogmatism." The letter calls on the American people to "cease to tolerate his absurd positions." Trump has played a major role in delivering record-breaking ratings to the first three Republican debates and has been a sought-after guest on talk shows and newscasts. Asked about the opposition to his upcoming appearance while promoting his new book in New York on Tuesday, Trump said he was pleased to hear demonstrations were already underway. —AP



## JUDGE ALLOWS SEALED REPORT ON US TERROR PLOT SUSPECT

**CINCINNATI:** A federal judge is allowing attorneys for a man accused of plotting to attack the US Capitol to file a sealed report about his mental competency.

Attorneys for 21-year-old Christopher Lee Cornell of Ohio have asked US District Judge Sandra Beckwith for a hearing to determine his competence to stand trial, stating in a filing that there's "reasonable cause" to believe he suffers from a mental disease or defect. Beckwith ruled Wednesday they can file a competency report under seal to keep private medical records and personal and family information. The FBI arrested Cornell on Jan. 14 on charges alleging he planned to attack the Capitol with pipe bombs and to shoot government officials and employees.

Cornell attorneys Martin Pinales and Candace Crouse also represent Michael Hoyt, who was accused this year of threatening to kill then-House Speaker John Boehner. He was ruled not guilty by reason of insanity. Cornell, being held without bond, has pleaded not guilty to four charges, including attempted murder of US officials and employees. No trial date is set, pending evidence deadlines in early 2016.

The FBI has said Cornell wanted to "wage jihad" and sent messages on social media and posted video in support of Islamic State militants and violent attacks by others. The FBI said he had just bought two M-15 assault weapons and hundreds of rounds of ammunition when arrested. — AP

## POLICE PROBE SHOOTING THAT LEFT CHILD DEAD

**MARKSVILLE, La:** After 12 hours of examining forensics in a shooting that left a 6-year-old boy dead, Louisiana investigators will meet with the city marshals who fired on the car in which the boy was riding with his father. Col Mike Edmonson, head of the Louisiana State Police, said he would travel to the central Louisiana city of Marksville yesterday to speak with the marshals as well as to discuss the shooting with his investigative team and the city's police chief.

The marshals were chasing a vehicle driven by Chris Few on Tuesday night after Few fled when they attempted to serve a warrant, Avoyelles Parish Coroner Dr LJ Mayeux said. Few reached a dead end and was backing into the marshals when they fired, Mayeux said.

Mayeux said Few's son, 6-year-old Jeremy Mardis, died from multiple gunshot wounds to the head and chest. The boy, he said, was "caught in the line of fire" and killed. Few was listed in serious condition Wednesday, hospital officials said. Edmonson said he will sit with his investigative team and the Marksville police chief to determine what happened. "Anytime an individual is killed, especially a child, it's a tragedy," he said. "The investigative team spent 12 hours Wednesday going through the entire scene from a forensic standpoint to get the trajectory of the bullets, find and count the casings and generally put the scene together."

Edmonson said investigators received a written statement from the marshals, but hadn't yet spoken to them. "I'm sure it's been traumatic for them but it's our intention to talk with them," he said. The city marshals work for the city courts and serve warrants, carry firearms and have police powers, according to the mayor's office. It was not immediately clear what type of warrant they were trying to serve Few. Blaine Dautat, the Avoyelles superintendent of schools, said Mardis moved to the school district from Mississippi at the end of his kindergarten year last April. — AP



**CHICAGO:** A makeshift memorial site where Tyshawn Lee was fatally shot in Chicago. Lee, 9, was shot Monday in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood. — AP



**ANTIOCH, IL:** A tribute to Fox Lake, Illinois police officer Lt Joe Gliniewicz remains outside a home in Antioch, Illinois. — AP

## ILLINOIS VILLAGE SHOCKED, OVER NEWS ABOUT OFFICER EMPLOYEES PULL DOWN BLUE RIBBONS

**FOX LAKE, Ill:** Public works employees were pulling down the blue ribbons that residents had tied to trees and poles as a tribute to their slain hero. Signs around the small town that had praised the cop known as "GI Joe" suddenly disappeared, replaced in one case by another that labeled him "GI Joke."

The friends and neighbors of police Lt Charles Joseph Gliniewicz reacted with disbelief and dismay to authorities' announcement on Wednesday that the popular Fox Lake, Illinois, officer not only meticulously staged his own suicide to make it look like he died in the line of duty, but had been stealing for years from a police club for youth that he oversaw.

"It's breaking my heart," said Mark Weihofen, a 41-year-old school bus mechanic. "There is a 'We love you, Joe' sign that I pass by every day. ... It was already down." Investigators said they believed the 30-year police veteran - whose death prompted a weeklong manhunt and whose funeral drew thousands of mourners - killed himself because his criminal activity was about to be exposed.

Recovered text messages and other records now show Gliniewicz embezzled from the village's Police Explorer program for seven years, spending the money on mortgage payments, travel expenses, gym memberships, adult websites and loans to friends, Lake County Major Crimes Task Force Commander George Filenko said.

"Gliniewicz committed the ultimate betrayal," Filenko said. "We completely believed from Day One that this was a homicide." The revelations stunned people in Fox Lake, a village of 10,000 about 50 miles north of Chicago where the 52-year-old married father of four had long been a role model.

"I haven't got my thoughts together yet. It's shocking," said Fox Lake Mayor Donny Schmit, a friend of Gliniewicz who said the officer wanted to meet the day before his

death to ensure that the Police Explorer program would continue after what he said was his planned retirement at month's end.

"You never thought he was this kind of man," said Kathy Pederson, a single mother who considered Gliniewicz a father figure to her son in the Explorer program. Now, she said: "People are outraged and they are taking down the posters. ... They want their money back."

The reaction to Gliniewicz's deception extended beyond Fox Lake. A Washington, DC-based organization responsible for collecting the names of officers killed in the line of duty - the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund - quickly removed Gliniewicz's name and photo from its website and said his name would no longer be etched onto a marble monument dedicated to fallen officers. After his death, pundits had called Gliniewicz a victim of an increasingly dangerous environment for police as some citizens challenge what they see as overzealous enforcement.

An organization that assists survivors of officers killed in the line of duty, the 100 Club of Chicago, asked the Gliniewicz family to return a \$15,000 donation. And Motorola Solutions, which announced in September it would put up a \$50,000 reward toward information leading to the arrest of Gliniewicz's killer, said that the money will be donated to the Explorer program to replace stolen funds, the Chicago Tribune reported. Still, 24-year-old Ashley Scott said there are a number of people in Fox Lake who don't believe the officer killed himself.

"I say he died of police corruption - either his corruption or somebody else's," she said. Investigators said Gliniewicz's death was carefully staged. Minutes before he died, he radioed he was chasing three suspicious men into a swampy area. Backup officers found the Army veteran's body about 50 yards from his squad car. The first

bullet from his handgun had struck his cellphone and ballistic vest. The second pierced his upper chest, under the vest. The swampy terrain was otherwise undisturbed, Filenko said.

And he left a trail of equipment leading to his body: his pepper spray, baton and glasses. His precise motive for faking a homicide remains unclear. Asked whether a suicide would prevent his family from receiving benefits, Filenko said he didn't know. Gliniewicz, who was well regarded in the community, may also have been concerned with preserving his reputation.

Filenko did say that the officer had the kind of intimate knowledge of crime scenes needed to pull it off and that it was clear he did it intentionally to mislead investigators. An intense and costly manhunt followed, with hundreds of officers searching houses, cabins and even boats on area lakes. Helicopters with heat-sensing scanners and K-9 units scoured the area for days. More than 100 investigators stayed on the case for weeks. When questions arose about the investigation in September, Gliniewicz's family dismissed the suggestion of suicide. He "never once" thought of taking his own life and was excited about his retirement plans, his son DJ Gliniewicz insisted.

Incriminating texts and Facebook messages that Gliniewicz sent tell a different story, revealing his increasing anxiety after Fox Lake hired its first professional administrator, Anne Marrin. She began auditing all the village departments, including the Explorer program.

Gliniewicz deleted the messages, but investigators recovered them, and released some of them verbatim on Wednesday, without identifying whom he sent them to. "If she gets ahold of the old checking account, im pretty well f(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)ed," the officer wrote in May. — AP





LAHORE: Pakistan army soldiers take part in a rescue work with volunteers. — AP

## RESCUERS SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS OF PAKISTAN FACTORY COLLAPSE

### MANY OF THE WORKERS CHILDREN

LAHORE: Pakistani rescuers have pulled more than 100 survivors from the rubble of a collapsed factory and are searching for dozens of others believed still trapped in a disaster that has killed at least 19, officials said yesterday.

Soldiers and rescuers in Lahore were carefully cutting through steel and using cranes to lift the debris of the building in a bid to find people still alive, with survivors telling AFP that many of the workers had been children. Medics had to amputate one man's leg on the site before rushing him to hospital.

"One of his legs was trapped in such a way that it was not possible to retrieve him with both legs," an official who did not want to be named told AFP. "We had no other option." One worker still trapped in the rubble told SAMAA TV early yesterday that he is pinned under a girder, but alive and feeling thirsty. Families on the scene were struggling to reach the site, crying and at times scuffling with police and soldiers holding them back. "I have to go there, even if they are going to shoot me," one elderly man said.

#### Dead-or-alive

It was unclear how many people were in the building when it collapsed or how many dead or alive may still be trapped. Officials have put the total number of those involved at

around 150-200. Rescue services spokesman Jam Sajjad Hussain said yesterday it was "difficult" to give a specific number, but said workers had told officials that around 200 people had been inside at the time of the collapse, including the owner, though that was unconfirmed.

"Rescue work is ongoing and I fear that the death toll may increase," he said. Factory employee Mohammad Navid told AFP yesterday that dozens of shift workers may have been sleeping in a part of the building that rescuers had not yet reached, and that children as young as 12 had been working in the factory. Another employee, 18-year-old Mohammad Irfan, told AFP from his hospital bed that the workers were "mostly" were aged between 14 and 25.

Chief doctor Zia Ullah at Jinnah Hospital, where some survivors were taken, said Wednesday that the majority of the victims were young workers, with many suffering head injuries and fractured limbs. Mohammad Usman, the top administration official in Lahore who is coordinating the response to the disaster, said yesterday that 102 people had been rescued, and that the focus of the operation remained the search for survivors. Rescuers were using audio and video technology as they searched, he said. Cranes and

machinery provided by the army were also being used. The collapse occurred at the four-storey Rajput Polyester polythene bag factory in the Sundar industrial estate, around 45 kilometers southwest of Lahore's city centre.

#### Earthquake damage?

The factory may have suffered structural damage in the October 26 quake which killed almost 400 people across Pakistan and Afghanistan, Punjab chief minister Shahbaz Sharif said. "I have heard about the earthquake affecting the building, but according to laborers the owner continued to build an extension," he told reporters. "Some of the pillars of the building had been weakened in the earthquake," 22-year-old Navid said, adding that workers had informed the owner of the problems. "The building caved in with a big bang and I fell unconscious on the ground," he said, adding that he had regained consciousness after some 15 minutes. "I heard people screaming and shouting for help."

Pakistan has a poor safety record in the construction and maintenance of buildings. At least 24 people died last year when a mosque collapsed in the same city, while more than 200 people lost their lives, mostly due to collapsed roofs, following torrential rain and flooding in 2014. — AFP

## BOTCHED CATARACT SURGERY BLINDS 14

MUMBAI: At least 14 people in western India have lost sight in one eye after botched cataract surgeries, doctors and officials said yesterday, the latest example of poor medical care in the country. Authorities in the state of Maharashtra blamed hospital staff for failing to sterilize equipment properly and causing the blindness, following what is generally considered to be a low-risk operation.

"Sheer negligence was shown by doctors and the civil surgeons," Maharashtra Health Minister Deepak Sawant said. "We have suspended three doctors and some supporting staff. We have launched a high-

level inquiry and if they are found guilty they will be removed from the health services," he added.

Twenty three patients were affected by the bungled operations, which took place over a couple of weeks at a district hospital in Washim, around 450 kilometers east of India's commercial capital Mumbai. After complaining of pain and loss of vision, they were then taken to Mumbai on October 31 where eye specialists were able to fully restore the sight of four patients.

"We operated on all of them and four have had their sight restored. But up until now 14 have lost their vision in one eye.

For the other five, we are trying," the dean of J.J. Hospital, TP Lahane, told AFP. Lahane, a cataract expert, said the patients had all suffered from a highly infectious strain of bacteria called "pseudomonas". The case raises fresh concerns about hygiene standards in India's severely stretched health-care services.

It comes after around 20 people were blinded by free cataract surgeries in northern Punjab state in December last year. That incident came just weeks after the deaths of 13 women following mass sterilization surgeries at a health camp in central India. — AFP

## PM MODI CLOSE IN BIHAR VOTE

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationalists and opposition parties were running neck-and-neck in elections in India's pivotal eastern state of Bihar yesterday, according to exit polls. The vote is being viewed as a referendum on Modi's premiership after he addressed at least 30 campaign rallies, a departure from tradition in state elections, which usually centre on local issues and leaders.

"His reputation is really on the line," said N Bhaskara Rao, an analyst at the Centre for Media Studies in New Delhi. A defeat for Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party in India's third-largest state, home to 104 million people, would dent his chances of building the parliamentary strength he needs to push through reforms. His party is in a minority in the upper house.

Four polls released after voting ended showed a coalition of regional parties would win the largest number of seats in the state. Two showed Modi ahead. The coalition of local parties led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is expected to win 124 out of 243 seats in Bihar's assembly, giving them a majority, according to a simple average of the exit polls calculated by Reuters.

The Hindu nationalist BJP and allies are expected to win 112, the polls showed - a worse performance than last year when the same alliance in the general election captured three-quarters of the state's parliamentary seats. The record of pollsters is patchy, however, because India's first-past-the-post system can exaggerate the impact on seat shares of swings in the popular vote. Party leaders will have a nail-biting wait until official results are announced on Sunday.

The Bihar election is seen as a barometer of many key issues shaping Indian politics; the changing roles of caste and religion and the rising aspirations of many Indians. Modi's campaign started with a message of economic development but, as the race tightened, shifted to appealing to religious and caste alliances in a region where these have been dominant themes.

He has disappointed some supporters who voted for him in the hope that he would accelerate an economic transformation that began in the 1990s. His administration has faced criticism for failing to rein in hardline Hindu groups that are campaigning on issues, such as a banning eating beef, that cut against the grain of secularism in multi-faith modern India. This election is critical for Modi's efforts to win control of parliament so he can pass tax and labor reforms. The upper house is selected on the basis of parties' strength in state assemblies. — Reuters

## INDIAN GANGSTER GETS DEPORTED

DENPASAR: An alleged Indian gangster nabbed on Indonesia's resort island of Bali was deported and headed to India yesterday after eluding authorities for years. Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje's deportation, due earlier this week, was delayed after a volcanic eruption on a nearby island forced authorities to ground all flights from Bali for two days. Nikalje was transferred amid heavy police guard from his holding cell to a military airport and departed for India late on Thursday, hours after the Bali airport reopened for flights. "His plane has just departed, at around 9pm," a police source said.

An official in charge at the airport declined to reveal the flight route or the exact location where Nikalje will be taken citing "safety precautions for the suspect". The 55-year-old, known in India as Chhota Rajan, had been evading police in several countries for years, with Interpol flagging him as a wanted man back in 1995. He was arrested in Indonesia earlier this week upon arrival from Sydney, following a tip-off from Australian police, who confirmed in September the fugitive had been living there under another identity.

Nikalje was the alleged former right-hand man of Mumbai crime kingpin Dawood Ibrahim, who is suspected of being behind the 1993 bomb blasts in the city that killed more than 250 people. Nikalje later became Ibrahim's rival, accused of running one of several underworld outfits that had a grip on India's financial and entertainment capital in the 1980s and 1990s until a police crackdown. Among other crimes, police accused Nikalje in 2011 of ordering the murder of a prominent Mumbai crime reporter, who was gunned down in a drive-by shooting the same year. — AFP



## IS CLAIMS BANGLADESH POLICEMAN'S MURDER

**DHAKA:** The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the murder this week of a Bangladesh policeman, as fears of Islamist violence grow in the moderate Muslim-majority country. A group of unknown men stabbed a police officer to death on Wednesday just outside the capital Dhaka, while another was badly injured, the second such attack in less than a month.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan blamed local hardline Islamists, whom

the government also suspects are behind a series of murders this year of secular bloggers and a publisher of secular books. But the Islamic State group (IS) said its "soldiers of the state in Bangladesh" carried out Wednesday's killing, according to the US-based jihadist monitor group SITE.

"The soldiers of the Caliphate withdrew safely, and unto Allah is all praise and gratitude," IS said in a statement late on Wednesday. In recent weeks, IS

has also claimed responsibility for murders of an Italian aid worker and a Japanese farmer, along with a blast at the country's main Shiite shrine which left two people dead. If the latest claims are true, it would be the first time IS has targeted an arm of the Bangladesh government.

The government has rejected the jihadist group's previous claims, saying it does not have any presence in the country. An Al-Qaeda branch has also

claimed responsibility for the blogger and publisher attacks, calling the victims "atheists and blasphemers". The government has instead blamed local Islamists, along with the main opposition party and its Islamist ally, for orchestrating the violence to destabilize the country. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government launched a crackdown on local Islamist groups after facing Western criticism this year of failing to stop the bloodshed. — AFP

## MALDIVES SACKS VP, PRESSURE MOUNTS

**MALDIVES:** The Maldives parliament yesterday approved a state of emergency imposed by President Abdulla Yameen and used extraordinary powers to sack his estranged deputy despite mounting international concern. Lawmakers loyal to President Yameen voted to remove Ahmed Adeb, who was arrested last month in connection with a September blast aboard the presidential speedboat that the government says was an assassination attempt.

All 61 parliamentarians present voted in favor of the impeachment, while opposition members in the 85-strong house stayed away, knowing the government had enough votes to carry the decision. The impeachment was rushed through in line with the state of emergency, which suspended several rights enshrined in the constitution, including freedom of assembly and freedom of movement. The United States and Britain expressed deep concern after the state of emergency was imposed, saying it curtailed vital civil liberties and urged the release of jailed opposition leader Mohamed Nasheed.

"The United States calls on the government of Maldives to restore immediately full constitutional freedoms to its citizens by terminating the state of emergency," US State Department spokesman John Kerby said. Britain, a former colonial power in the Maldives, echoed Washington's concern at the imposition of a state of emergency for the first time in 11 years and called on it to "release all political prisoners".

Yesterday's impeachment of Adeb, formerly a close ally of the president, is the second in just under four months—Yameen sacked former vice president Mohamed Jameel in July. The former vice president Jameel, who was Yameen's running mate at the controversial November 2013 election, is still on the run after the president accused him of trying to topple the government.

Adeb, who had a meteoric rise in politics, was also a hate figure for the main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), which accused him of dispatching underworld gangs to launch attacks against dissidents. Addressing the nation soon after Adeb's arrest, Yameen justified the move saying it was carried out "for the safety and security of the nation". The government has said security forces found another bomb near the president's residence last week.

### Planned rally

There has been no word from the opposition MDP on whether it would defy the state of emergency to hold a planned rally today. The Maldives' Foreign Minister Dunya Maumoon earlier denied that the move was intended to suppress the protest, but said it was unlikely to go ahead "because of the security" in Male.

The Maldives has been in political turmoil since the country's first democratically elected President Mohamed Nasheed was forced to step down following a mutiny in February 2012. The unrest heightened after Yameen had Nasheed jailed in March on a charge of "terrorism" following a rushed trial which the UN says was seriously flawed. A UN panel last month called for Nasheed's freedom, a demand rejected by Yameen.

Despite the turmoil, tourism—the archipelago's mainstay—is booming, with more than one million visitors flocking to its golden beaches and clear seas every year. The country's tourism ministry sought to allay fears yesterday, saying tourism-related businesses would be operating as usual. "The situation in the Maldives remains stable," the ministry said in a statement. Holidaymakers who pay top dollar to relax on the Maldives' atolls are usually whisked away by seaplane or boat, bypassing the restive capital Male where extra police have been deployed in recent months. — AFP



**KABUL:** In this photograph taken on October 29, 2015, Afghan psychologist Fatima Sadat Alawi, 23, walks along the road next to the Wazir Akbar Khan Park. — AFP

## FEARS FOR AFGHAN WOMAN WHO SECRETLY FILMED TALEBAN ON BUS RARE INSIGHT INTO TALEBAN'S 'CHARM OFFENSIVE'

**KABUL:** Halfway through the journey home to Kabul, a Taliban militant stopped Fatima's bus, boarded, and began making a speech so extraordinary that the 23-year-old began to surreptitiously film it on her phone. The footage, partially obscured by Fatima's fingers as she tried to hide what she was doing, offers rare insight into what appears to be a "charm offensive" by the insurgents as they attempt to shed their brutal image in the minds of ordinary Afghans.

It shows the thickly bearded and turbaned militant speaking gently in a mix of Dari and Pashto, Afghanistan's two national languages. "Peace be upon you, I hope you aren't too tired, welcome," he begins, exchanging a few words with passengers before requesting any government employees-taken to mean officials as well as soldiers-to "please resign" from their posts. "Do not be worried," he tells the group, before adding: "Some people say the Taliban are cannibals, I am a Taliban, but not a cannibal. But I would eat the heads of the Americans."

### Viral video

Video of the incident, which took place in late October at a Taliban checkpoint in Baghlan province as Fatima travelled home from the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, went

viral after she posted it on her Facebook page. "I was very anxious," recalls Fatima, who declined to give her last name.

Now a psychologist, she grew up as a refugee in Iran in the late 1990s during the Taliban's brutal reign in Afghanistan. "My perception about the Taliban was formed by their actions, like the suicide attacks they carry out in Afghanistan," which kill many civilians, she says. Once safely in Kabul, she showed the video to friends who found it "very interesting". After three days, she uploaded it to her Facebook page, with most commenters telling her things like "you are a brave girl", she said.

The Taliban, meanwhile, do not seem to have taken notice of the attention the video is attracting—a relief for the young woman, who, despite the militant's gentle speech, does not believe the group have changed their violent methods. Fatima's skepticism was solidified following the insurgents' brief capture of northern Kunduz city in late September, where they set fire to a refuge for women and, according to residents, sacked a girls' school and vandalized the offices of a women's rights agency. "If the Taliban come back... based on what happened in Kunduz, I would be very scared," she said.

### 'Gap between words and actions'

Female, young, educated, and a member of a minority Shiite sect, Fatima is everything the Sunni Taliban have traditionally hated. During their five-year hold on power, which was ended in 2001 by a US-led invasion, they were widely condemned for their treatment of women.

"We were not allowed to go out without a male companion. We could not go to school," recounts Hasina Safi, director of the Afghan Women's Network. She is far from convinced by the video—or by the rhetoric of new Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour, who in September described modern education as a "necessity". "There is a huge gap between words and actions," she said, citing the recent alleged violence in Kunduz.

Beyond Mansour's speech, the Taliban ordered fighters to help victims and provide aid to charities after last month's 7.5 magnitude earthquake in the country's north that left thousands homeless. They also denied claims of atrocities in Kunduz, and used their official Twitter account to blast the US for its bombing of a Doctors Without Borders hospital which left 30 people dead, contrasting the attack with their own "protection" of aid workers. — AFP



## CHINA'S XI VISITS VIETNAM TO DISCUSS STRONGER TIES

**HANOI:** Chinese President Xi Jinping's meetings in Vietnam beginning yesterday follow the communist countries' efforts to repair ties strained over disputes in the South China Sea. Bilateral relations plunged last year following China's parking of a giant oil rig near the disputed Paracel islands, which sparked deadly anti-Chinese riots in Vietnam.

The two countries have since tried to repair ties with high-level contacts including Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong visiting China in April. Xi was given a red-carpet welcome and a rare 21-gun salute upon arrival before the two leaders headed for talks behind closed doors.

"I hope my visit could help cement our traditional friendship, outline future development of our relations, and lift China-Vietnam comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership to a new level," Xi said in a statement carried by China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Vietnamese state media quoted Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh as saying that leaders will discuss strengthening of relations as well as the South China Sea and other disputes. Trong and Xi witnessed the signing of a dozen cooperation agreements covering party-to-party relations, investment, infrastructure, culture and a bank loan worth \$200 million from China Development Bank to the Bank of Investment and Development of Vietnam. But analysts say Xi's two-day visit is unlikely to mark much progress in addressing territorial tensions.

### 'Territorial disputes'

"I personally think it's difficult to resolve the issue of territorial disputes when Vietnam and China still maintain their positions," said Duong Danh Dy, former Vietnamese consul general in Guangzhou, in southern China. Xinhua said in a commentary that settling their territorial disputes depend on "the two neighbors' will and ability to properly manage their differences," and that they should not allow the outside world to interfere.

Witnesses said about 30 people protested briefly in front of the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi yesterday morning before authorities took them away in buses. Jonathan London, a professor at Hong Kong's City University, said it's in Vietnam's interests to have good relations with its big neighbor to the North and that Vietnam could take the opportunity of the visit to send a message to the Chinese president.

China says almost all the South China Sea is its territory, overlapping with claims of its neighbors. Vietnam and China both claim the Paracel islands, which are under Chinese occupation after it ousted the US-backed Saigon government in 1974, one year before the end of the Vietnam War.

The two countries along with the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei claim all or parts of the Spratly islands, which lies on one of the world's busiest sea lanes and are believed to be rich in oil and gas and fish resources. China's massive land reclamation over the past 18 months in the South China Sea has rattled countries in the region and caused concerns in the United States, which supports the freedom of navigation and overflight in the area.

Despite the territorial disputes, China is Vietnam's largest trading partner with the two-way trade volume reaching \$58 billion last year. Xi is scheduled to give a speech to the Vietnamese lawmaking National Assembly today, a rare address by a foreign head of state at the Communist dominated body. The Chinese President is scheduled to travel on to Singapore on Friday where he is expected to meet with Taiwan's leader, the first such meeting since Taiwan split from mainland China since 1949. — AP



**YANGON:** Supporters of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) set up a stage outside the main train station ahead of a rally. — AFP

## MYANMAR'S SUU KYI EYEING POST 'ABOVE THE PRESIDENT'

'I'LL MAKE ALL THE PROPER AND IMPORTANT DECISIONS'

**YANGON:** Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday that she will be the true power above the country's president if her party wins historic elections this Sunday, circumventing a constitutional clause that bars her from the top job.

"It's a very simple message," Suu Kyi said, when reporters pressed her to explain what she meant. While another member of her National League for Democracy party would hold the presidential title, "I'll make all the proper and important decisions." "I'll be above the president," she said, appearing bemused as she spoke to hundreds of reporters gathered at the lakeside villa that was her prison before the country began its transition from dictatorship to democracy five years ago. "I'll run the government." She insisted her plan was legal because "the constitution says nothing about being 'above the president.'"

Although the comments run contrary to democratic norms, which Suu Kyi has always stood for, they represent the reality in Myanmar's present ruling

structure. The current president takes instructions from the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party and if a military person were to become president, he would be beholden to the army commander.

### Widespread suppression

The Sunday elections are billed as Myanmar's best chance ever for a free and credible vote, with experts noting the nation experienced widespread suppression of dissent and violence even before the 1962 coup that plunged the country into military rule for the next half-century.

However, the constitution, drafted under military control, guarantees that the armed forces maintain control over 25 percent of the seats in parliament and the key security portfolios. In a clause widely seen as custom-tailored for Suu Kyi, it also bars her from the presidency because her late husband was British and her two sons hold foreign passports.

The 70-year-old opposition leader said Thursday that the run-up to the

vote had been seriously flawed and that she hoped the international community would not be too quick after ballots were counted to declare it free and fair, noting the US and others have at times been overly enthusiastic about political and economic reforms. "I ask them," she said, beyond the veneer, "what has changed?"

The Union Election Commission, which oversees the voting, is headed by a vocal supporter of President Thein Sein's ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party. Suu Kyi said the commission had ignored repeated complaints about irregularities in advance voting, the illegal use of religion by her political opponents, and the disenfranchisement of migrant workers.

She did not mention the country's 1.3 million Rohingya Muslims, who have been denied the right to vote for the first time since independence. The government says all are illegal migrants from neighboring Bangladesh, though many of their families arrived generations ago.—AFP

## 'EMERGENCE' OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE IN AUSTRALIA

**SYDNE:** Australia is experiencing an "alarming emergence" of religious intolerance, Attorney-General George Brandis said yesterday, calling for greater efforts to counter discrimination, particularly against Muslims and Christians. Brandis, who spoke at an inaugural Religious Freedom Roundtable, said he was fearful for religious freedom and tolerance in Australia.

"Members of the Islamic community are sometimes the victims of suspicion and hostility directed against them by those ignorantly seek-

ing to blame terrorist violence upon Koranic teaching," Brandis told the gathering of religious representatives in Sydney. "Members of Christian faiths-in particular the Catholic faith-are routinely the subject of mockery and insult by prominent writers and commentators.

"It is the work of this roundtable to identify some of the challenges which this alarming emergence of intolerance of religious faith... presents," the nation's top law officer added as he called for the development of strategies to

promote tolerance and understanding.

Brandis' comments came as a report reflecting on the 40th anniversary of the Racial Discrimination Act, and which surveyed Muslim Australians, found they experienced "daily or regular" discrimination due to their beliefs.

"Many participants in the public consultations observed a rise in anti-Muslim sentiments, reflecting increased public attention on terrorism and national security," said the report released yesterday by the Australian Human Rights

Commission. "Many participants labeled anti-Muslim discrimination a daily or regular occurrence, particularly following the Sydney Lindt cafe siege in December 2014 and heightened concerns about national security." The cafe stand-off, where Iranian-born gunman and self-styled cleric Man Haron Monis and two hostages were killed, took place amid growing fears about home-grown extremists and the movement of dozens of Australians to the Middle East to fight with jihadist groups such as Islamic State. —AFP



# Lifestyle

[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)

Rockette Tori Schelling poses with a camel yesterday during a welcome event for the camels, sheep and donkey to Radio City Music Hall for their starring role in the 'Living Nativity' in the 2015 Radio City Christmas Spectacular. His Eminence Timothy Michael Dolan, Cardinal, Archbishop of New York blessed the animals before they entered Radio City for their first day of rehearsals.— AFP

## Timberlake shines at CMAs, hosts joke about Shelton divorce





Sting performs at the David Lynch Foundation Benefit Concert at Carnegie Hall. — AP photos



Katy Perry performs at the David Lynch Foundation Benefit Concert.



Angelique Kidjo performs at the David Lynch Foundation Benefit Concert.

# Sting, Perry perform at Lynch Foundation concert

Sting played it cool for a New York benefit concert dedicated to Transcendental Meditation. Katy Perry added some volume. They and Jerry Seinfeld were featured performers Wednesday at “Change Begins

Within,” a Carnegie Hall event presented by the David Lynch Foundation. Lynch is an advocate for Transcendental Meditation, popularized by the Beatles in the 1960s and now used for treating post-traumatic stress, depression

and other afflictions. The benefit raised money to offer meditation for 10,000 at-risk New Yorkers. Sting looked relaxed and happy in a dark blazer and an open blue shirt as he sang “Fields of Gold” and other

songs. Perry wore a peach-colored gown. Between performances of “Teenage Dream,” “Firework” and other favorites she preached the virtues of Transcendental Meditation, which she says has changed her life. — AP

## Screenwriter for ‘E.T.’ Melissa Mathison, dies at age 65

Melissa Mathison never wrote down to her audiences. Known for her family friendly films, like the unequalled “E.T. the Extra Terrestrial” and the elegant “The Black Stallion,” Mathison’s stories were rich with symbolism, adventure, depth, and darkness. With their intricate plots and grown up themes of loneliness and loss, her films enchanted a generation of kids, and their parents. Mathison died Wednesday at age 65 after a bout with neuroendocrine cancer, her sister, Melinda Mathison Johnson, confirmed.

She might never have matched the heights of her

sophomore success “E.T.,” which came out when she was in her early 30s, but the film’s cultural resonance continues to reverberate even over three decades later. Steven Spielberg may have come up with the idea, but Mathison made it into a story. As far as Hollywood currency goes, she crafted one for the ages. “Melissa had a heart that shined with generosity and love and burned as bright as the heart she gave ‘E.T.’,” Spielberg said in a statement.

The Los Angeles native had a humble but high-profile start - her first credited work was in assistant roles on “The Godfather: Part II” and “Apocalypse Now,” before she broke out with her script for “The Black Stallion.” Carol Ballard directed the warmly received adaptation, which came out in 1979. It was on the set of “Apocalypse Now” in 1976 that she met Harrison Ford, who she married in 1983 and divorced in 2004 after multiple separations. She and Ford had two children, Georgia and Malcolm.

Throughout her career, she often collaborated with producers Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall under their Amblin Entertainment banner and worked with directors like Frank Oz on “The Indian in the Cupboard” and Martin Scorsese on 1997’s “Kundun,” a biographical film about the Dalai Lama. “Kundun” struck close to Mathison’s personal passions. An active support of Tibet freedom, she was also on the board of the nonprofit advocacy group International Campaign for Tibet.

But history will most fondly remember her for fleshing out the story of that friendly, homesick alien E.T. The film, directed by Spielberg and released in 1982, would become one of the highest grossing of all time. According to Hollywood lore, Spielberg and her then-boyfriend Ford convinced her to write the screenplay on a 207 mile-drive through the Tunisian desert from Nefta to Sousse during the shoot for “Raiders of the Lost Ark.” The script for “E.T.” earned Mathison her first and only Oscar nomination. She lost out to John Briley’s “Gandhi” screenplay for the prize.

In a 1995 interview with the Los Angeles Times, Mathison, who was one of five children born to a journalist father and a mother who sometimes worked in publicity, remembered the Hollywood Hills household in which she grew up as a place where independence and creativity were encouraged. —AP



In this Feb 5, 1998 file photo, Harrison Ford and his wife Melissa Mathison arrive at the White House for an official dinner for the British Prime Minister hosted by President Clinton in Washington. — AP

## Bollywood figures, writer Roy join protest over intolerance

Booker Prize-winning novelist Arundhati Roy and two dozen Bollywood award winners added their voices to the artists, scientists and historians who say they are alarmed by a climate of religious intolerance and violence in India. Filmmaker Sanjay Kak, who was among Indian film industry figures returning National Film Awards in Mumbai yesterday, said that those protesting “have deployed their visibility - and credibility - to articulate the growing anxiety of a vast number of Indians, those who may remain less visible but are no less perturbed at what is going on around them.”

Roy, most famous for her 1997 novel “The God of Small Things,” said in a sharply worded editorial in The Indian Express that millions of minority people including Muslims, Christians and members of low-caste or tribal communities “are being forced to live in terror, unsure of when and from where the assault will come.” Already dozens of writers have returned awards to the country’s top literary institution, the Sahitya Akademi, over disappointment that it has not condemned the killings of atheist activists who campaigned against religious superstition or Muslims rumored to have slaughtered cows or eaten cow meat. Among India’s majority Hindu population, cows are considered sacred.

Roy said she was “so ashamed of what is going on in this country” and was pleased to return her 1989 national screenplay award and “to be a part of the political movement.” “I believe what artists and intellectuals are doing right now is unprecedented, and does not have a historical parallel. It is politics by other means,” said Roy, who in recent years has become a civil rights activist. Many of those protesting have



Booker Prize-winning novelist Arundhati Roy listens to a speaker during a press conference organized by People’s Union for Civil Liberties, PUCL, in New Delhi, India. — AP

also criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bhartiya Janata Party for not speaking out against religious attacks, saying their silence has encouraged Hindu hard-liners to justify the attacks and assert Hindu superiority.

### Horrific riots

Communal violence and prejudice are nothing new for India, born as a secular democracy in 1947 amid deadly Hindu-Muslim riots that killed an estimated 1 million people as Muslim-majority Pakistan was carved out of mostly Hindu India. Since then, horrific riots and clashes have erupted at intervals, mostly between Hindus and Muslims. Yet, India has largely been seen as overwhelmingly tolerant, with a cacophony of cultures that have lived side by side for centuries. —AFP





File photo shows CeeLo Green poses for a portrait in Los Angeles. — AP

## CeeLo Green: 'Heart Blanche' a 'prequel' to more new music

CeeLo Green says "Heart Blanche," his first studio album of new music in five years, is only the beginning of what he has planned. Green is returning to the spotlight after a professional hiatus that began last year with his departure from NBC's "The Voice" following a felony drug charge. The past few years have been a time of introspection and creativity, Green says, and "Heart Blanche" is among the results. "This album is a prequel to the rest of the music I want to release in the very near future," Green said in a recent interview. "(It's) the start of a new beginning."

The 40-year-old entertainer, who recently revealed his year-old engagement and desire to return to "The Voice," talked with The Associated Press about his new album, to be released Friday. The remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

### AP: Is "Heart Blanche" your most personal album yet?

**Green:** It's always personal to some degree, but much more introspective this time around - more introspective than I've been able to be, had the opportunity of being, the pleasure of being, over the last five years professionally. The last time I did it to this degree was under the alias Gnarl Barkley.

### AP: What was your process making this album?

**Green:** I've been recording this album for about three years. I did some recording in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Atlanta, the Bahamas, Palm Springs, California. I've been all over the world recording this record. I'm proud to say that I was very proficient and prolific and I got an awful lot of work done. I have amassed a large amount of material, and I'll be able to use it in increments.

### AP: Did you always know you would be a musician?

**Green:** I would say so. Elton John, for example. Or Earth, Wind & Fire, or KISS and Sly Stone - these people who were - like David Bowie - these people who were iconic images (and) fashionistas, I'm cut from their cloth. I'm encouraged from their era of entertainment. I do feel like I represent that for a new generation.

### AP: Does the little kid in you freak out now that these artists are essentially your peers?

**Green:** It makes sense to me and I'm cool around these people. I get a chance to be with Prince and I'm cool around him. Because I feel like I know him. I feel like I grew up with him. They feel like extended family, like uncles and aunts.

### AP: How creatively satisfying has this new album been?

**Green:** I'm content with the album but I'm not complacent with the album. I can do more and I want to do more. I want to first be reintroduced, and I want the people to be reminded of who I am in an artistic capacity, and they will see my generosity, because my cup just runneth over with song: with melody, with harmony, with sentiment and a sweetness for all. — AP

## Diddy surprises with New York 'hustler's fairy tale'

One of the biggest forces in hip-hop, Diddy has long since made his mark in the world of business. In a surprise return to music, he asks: what if street hustlers similarly redirected their talents? The New York rap mogul-also known by his stage name Puff Daddy and his real name Sean Combs-celebrated his 46th birthday Wednesday with a gift to others in the form of an unexpected free album. Entitled "MMM," the mixtape brings together Diddy and younger talent in the hip-hop world including French Montana, Future and Wiz Khalifa.

"MMM" takes as its inspiration "Money Making Mitch," a character from the 2002 movie "Paid in Full" that depicted drug-dealing in New York before the crack craze of the 1980s. Explaining "MMM" on his Instagram account, Diddy described the mixtape as a "sonic motion picture" and an "ultimate hustler's fairy tale." Diddy, who was born in a public housing project and is now estimated to be the richest person in hip-hop, dedicated the album to all people aspiring to make ends meet who "know that one day they are going to be the greatest because they have something special."

### Summing up career, but not last word

Diddy-who only recently began to speak about his father, a drug dealer shot dead when the future rapper was three years old-opens "MMM" with a reimagining of Mitch and the "fairy tale" that the film character represented. "The fairy tale of it is most brothers and sisters end up dead or in jail," Diddy says in a spoken-word introduction. "But check this out, with this fairy tale I created in my brain: Imagine if Mitch had survived, took those different talents and attributes and business skills and applied it to the world of business," he says. As if drawing a direct link, Diddy envisions a



P.Diddy

flight of "Combs Air" as the plane descends on New York.

From the fictional window, Diddy offers a highly personalized vision of the metropolis. Harlem, one of the great hubs of African-American culture, is identified as the home of Puff Daddy while the flight attendant sums up Brooklyn as the base of the Notorious B.I.G., the slain rap giant who was signed by Diddy when he was a young record label entrepreneur. "MMM" partly mirrors a long-awaited work by a sometime rival-"Compton" by Dr Dre, another rapper turned businessman.

Dr Dre released the album in August as a career-capping ode to the benighted Los Angeles-area city as Hollywood released the biopic "Straight Outta Compton" on his former group N.W.A. Much like "MMM," "Compton" drew on new talent-in Dr Dre's case, Kendrick Lamar-and reminisced about a late rap collaborator, Eazy-E. But Diddy has long spoken of the "MMM" mixtape project and it does not appear intended as his last work. While the distinction between albums and mixtapes has increasingly become blurred in hip-hop, Diddy has said he is working on a sequel to his debut 1997 work "No Way Out" to serve as his final album.

### Wealthiest rapper

Diddy has rarely performed in recent years and has not released an album of his own since "Last Train to Paris" in 2010. He worked on a 2011 album with Israeli DJ Guy Gerber, and the electronica influence can be heard subtly throughout "MMM," with Diddy equally comfortable with techno-inspired beats as he is with classic hip-hop. Wealth magazine Forbes earlier this year estimated that Diddy was the richest person in hip-hop, with a worth of \$735 million, topping fellow moguls Dr Dre and Jay Z.

In addition to music, Diddy has pursued movie production, a clothing line and a venture that sells French-made Ciroc liquor. "See my Oscars and Grammys, yachts in Miami," Diddy boasts on the title track of "MMM." But Diddy also makes clear how he earned his wealth-and why he is often heard rather than seen-on his track "Workin'." "Don't bother me," he raps. "I'm workin'." — AFP



US singer Madonna performs on stage in Cologne, western Germany, on November 4, 2015 during a concert starting her European tour. — AFP





Luke Bryan, winner of the award for entertainer of the year, kisses his award.



Justin Timberlake, left, and Chris Stapleton perform on stage.



Chris Stapleton accepts the award for new artist of the year. — AP photos



Miranda Lambert accepts the award for female vocalist of the year.

# Timberlake shines at CMAs, hosts joke about Shelton divorce

Justin Timberlake, who grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, tapped into his country roots with a show-stopping performance at the Country Music Association Awards. Timberlake sang alongside popular songwriter and singer Chris Stapleton at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee, on Wednesday night. They strummed their guitars while singing "Tennessee Whiskey," which Stapleton wrote, and followed that with Timberlake's tune, "Drink You Away." The audience was in awe: Timberlake's wife, actress Jessica Biel, watched excitedly and bopped her head, while Keith Urban recorded the performance with his phone.

Stapleton went on to win new artist and album of the year for "Traveller." "This is unbelievable. I don't know what to say. I don't know what to think," said Stapleton who has written for Kenny Chesney, George Strait and others. "Thank you so much for the love." Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley were also show-stoppers with their opening jokes - including about Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert's divorce. "And of course we can't ignore the breakup that rocked our world," Underwood said, as the camera panned to Miss Piggy and Kermit the Frog.

"On a completely unrelated topic, howdy Blake?" Paisley replied. The camera panned to Shelton who laughed and clapped his hands, along with the audience. "Did you hear that duet that Blake did with Ashley Madison?" Paisley asked, earning laughs from the audience at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee. "That was with Ashley Monroe," Underwood replied. Shelton confirmed Wednesday just hours before the awards show that he and his fellow "Voice" mentor Gwen Stefani are dating. He and Lambert announced their divorce in July.

Lambert, who is also at the CMAs, is nominated for entertainer of the year, while Shelton will perform later in the show.

Duets kicked off the awards show: Eric Church and Hank Williams Jr performed "Are You Ready for the Country" and John Mellencamp and Keith Urban strummed their guitars during "Pink Houses." Sam Hunt won over the audience with his performance of "Take Your Time," while Underwood sang "Smoke Break." Little Big Town, who also earned applause for their performance of "Girl Crush," won the first award of the live telecast for single of the year for their No. 1 hit. The writers of "Girl Crush" won song of the year. "This is about being brave and being bold," Karen Fairchild said onstage with her group. "Country radio, thanks for having the guts for playing it."

The foursome, along with Church, walked into the arena as the most nominated act with five. They lost music video of the year to Maddie & Tae's "Girl in a Country Song" and musical event of the year to Church and Urban. The group, which includes Kimberly Schlapman, Jimi Westbrook and Phillip Sweet, is also nominated for vocal group of the year, which it has won for the last three years. Little Big Town is not up for the biggest honor: entertainer of the year. Church, who announced he released a surprise album called "Mr. Misunderstood" on Wednesday, is nominated for the top prize, pitting him against Garth Brooks, Lambert, Chesney and last year's winner, Luke Bryan. Kacey Musgraves, Jason Aldean, Reba McEntire and Dierks Bentley will also perform during the three-hour show, airing live on ABC. — AP



Singer/songwriter John Carter Cash accepts Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of his father, Johnny Cash.



Lori McKenna, from left, Liz Rose and Hillary Lindsey accept the award for song of the year for 'Girl Crush,' performed by Little Big Town.



Brian Kelley, left, and Tyler Hubbard, of Florida Georgia Line, winners of the award for vocal duo of the year.





(From left) Phillip Sweet, Kimberly Schlapman, Karen Fairchild, and Jimi Westbrook of Little Big Town accept the award for Vocal Group of the Year onstage.



Keith Urban performs at the 49th annual CMA Awards.



Madison Marlow, left, and Taylor Dye, right, of Maddie and Tae, and director TK McKamy, winners of the award for music video of the year for "Girl In A Country Song," pose in the press room.



Hosts Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood speak onstage.



Co-host Brad Paisley, actor William Shatner, and co-host Carrie Underwood speak onstage.

## Winners

**Entertainer of the year:** Luke Bryan  
**Male Vocalist of the Year:** Chris Stapleton  
**Female Vocalist of the Year:** Miranda Lambert  
**Song of the year:** "Girl Crush"  
**Single of the year:** Little Big Town, "Girl Crush"  
**Album of the year:** Chris Stapleton, "Traveller"  
**New artist of the year:** Chris Stapleton

**Vocal group of the year:** Little Big Town  
**Vocal duo of the year:** Florida Georgia Line  
**Music video of the year:** Maddie & Tae, "Girl In a Country Song"  
**Musical event of the year:** Keith Urban featuring Eric Church, "Raise 'Em Up"  
**Musician of the year:** Mac McAnally — Reuters



Kacey Musgraves performs on stage.



Brad Paisley performs on stage.



Blake Shelton performs on stage.



Justin Timberlake performs on stage.





# Moving **meringue** beyond lemons in this delicious pumpkin pie



By Alison Ladman

**T**his Thanksgiving pie is deliciously deceptive. Until you cut into it, it looks like your classic lemon meringue pie, piled high with billows of whipped and toasted egg whites. But once the knife slices through that sweet topping, the real deal is revealed. Hidden under the meringue is a classic pumpkin pie spiked with just a hint of citrus.

This pie is best made the day you plan to serve it, then held at room temperature. But if you'd rather get a jump on things, prepare the pumpkin pie base the day before, then cover and refrigerate. The day you plan to serve it, uncover it, use paper towels to pat dry the top, then proceed with the meringue steps.



## CITRUS PUMPKIN MERINGUE PIE

### Ingredients

Start to finish: 1 hour 15 minutes (20 minutes active)  
Servings: 8  
1 prepared (raw) pie crust, homemade or purchased  
3/4 cup packed brown sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
5 eggs, divided  
1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice  
15-ounce can pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie mix)  
1 cup heavy cream  
Zest of 1 medium lemon  
Zest of 1 medium orange  
Pinch of cream of tartar  
1/2 cup granulated sugar

### Preparation

Heat the oven to 325 F. If the pie crust is not already in a pie pan, set it in a 9-inch pie pan and crimp the edges. Set the pie pan on a rimmed baking sheet.

In a medium bowl, beat together the brown sugar, salt, 1 whole egg, 4 egg yolks (reserve the whites for later), pumpkin pie spice, pumpkin puree, cream, lemon zest and orange zest. Once the mixture is smooth, pour into the prepared pie crust and transfer to the oven to bake for 40 to 50 minutes, or until the center of the pie is just barely set. Remove from the oven and increase the temperature to 425 F.

To make the meringue, in a large bowl combine the 4 reserved egg whites with the cream of tartar. It is very important that the egg whites be free from any trace of yolk and that the bowl be immaculately clean. Use an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment to beat on medium-high until foamy. Add the sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time, while continuing to beat.

Once the sugar is all incorporated, beat until stiff, shiny peaks form, a total of 6 to 7 minutes. Dollop the meringue on the top of the cooked pie, completely covering the surface, swirling to make peaks. Return the pie to the oven and cook for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the meringue is lightly browned. Allow to cool at room temperature before serving.





# For real fall flavors, get your winter squash on the grill

By Elizabeth Karmel

Just because the weather has turned crisp, doesn't mean you have to put away your grill. Frankly, fall is my favorite time to grill. When the weather is cool, there is nothing more satisfying than grill-roasted or smoked meats and veggies.

One of my favorite things to grill is winter squash. It is a very modern and savory way to prepare squash and a nice change from the usual brown sugar-maple syrup-marshmallow recipes. Those dishes have their place at the table, for sure, but try savory squash

and you may never go back.

My two favorite varieties are acorn and delicata, and both work well for this recipe. But you could substitute any thick-skinned squash, such as butternut or red kuri or even spaghetti squash. If you choose spaghetti squash, mix the cranberry-sage butter in with the strands as you separate them once the squash is cooked. That way, you can serve it (almost) like buttered noodles!

The beauty of this recipe is that you let time and the convection cooking of your grill's indirect heat bring out the best in the squash. Since you are cutting the squash in half and grilling it

open, the cut flesh gets beautifully caramelized in spots and the sweet, natural flavors are concentrated. A little olive oil protects the squash and keeps it juicy and the fresh sage leaves gently perfume the orange flesh.

While the squash is cooking, make the compound butter. You also can make the butter up to three days in advance and keep it in the refrigerator. I've added dried cranberries to my usual sage butter to provide a sweet tartness and also because the red-and-green-flecked butter is so festive and pretty. This is one fall squash dish you will make over and over again.

## GRILLED ACORN SQUASH WITH CRANBERRY-SAGE BUTTER

### Ingredients

Start to finish: 1 hour (10 minutes active)

Servings: 8

2 medium acorn or delicata squash (about 3 pounds total), halved and seeded

8 fresh sage leaves

Olive oil

Salt and ground black pepper

### For the Cranberry-sage butter

This compound butter is best if it is made ahead and given time for the flavors to combine. Three hours is ideal. The recipe makes extra; try it on toasted rye or sourdough.

Makes 3/4 cup

1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1 teaspoon dried sage

Zest of 1/2 lemon

3 tablespoons chopped dried cranberries

2 teaspoons apple brandy or bourbon (optional)

Pinch of salt

### Preparation

Prepare a grill for medium heat, indirect cooking. For a charcoal grill, this means banking the hot coals to one side of the grill and cooking on the other side. For a gas grill, this means turning off one or more burners to create a cooler side, then cooking on that side.

Carefully trim off a slice of the rounded side of each squash half so that it will rest flat. Lightly bruise the sage leaves, then rub a quarter of them into the cavity of each squash, leaving the leaves in the squash. Drizzle the cut sides of the squash with oil, then season with salt and pepper. Wrap the bottoms of the squash with foil, leaving the tops (cut sides) uncovered.

Place the squash halves on the cooler side of the grill and cook for 40 to 60 minutes, or until the squash is tender when pierced with a knife. Cut each piece of squash in half, then dollop with slices of the cranberry-sage butter. Serve with additional butter on the side. — AP







## Definitive Sandra Bullock movies

**H**er rise to fame in the mid 1990s was followed by a box office drought so profound that it was hard not to wonder if she'd ever find her way out of it - but the 21st century has been pretty good to Sandra Bullock so far, granting her successes both commercial (Miss

Congeniality, The Proposal) and critical (Crash, Gravity). To celebrate that resurgence, as well as the arrival of her latest release, the political dramedy 'Our Brand Is Crisis' take a look at some of Sandra Bullock's most highly acclaimed films.

### SPEED (1994)

**I**t shouldn't have worked, really. Six years after Die Hard, audiences had been subjected to variations of its wildly successful theme that transplanted the action everywhere from a boat (Under Siege) to a mountain (Cliffhanger), and by the time Speed came along, the news that it was "Die Hard on a bus" should have kept moviegoers away in droves. But a funny thing happened instead: Speed turned out to be a lot of fun, not only for the audiences who bought \$350 million in tickets, but most critics, too. One of the year's most successful films, Speed acted as a cinematic coming-out party for Bullock, who stars as a bus passenger roped into helping SWAT explosives expert Jack Traven (Keanu Reeves) figure out how to outwit a maniac (Dennis Hopper) who has wired the vehicle with a bomb that will detonate if the bus dips below 50 mph. Though not a few critics were quick to point out the film's various plot holes, the direction (courtesy of Die Hard cinematographer Jan de Bont) and script (featuring work from an uncredited Joss Whedon) were set to run with such mechanical precision that the movie only needed a pair of charismatic leads to make it work.



### WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING (1995)

**W**hen you're hot, you're hot - and in the mid 1990s, Sandra Bullock was on a roll, going from 1994's Speed to While You Were Sleeping in 1995, and vaulting herself into something like Meg Ryan/Julia Roberts status in the America's Sweetheart sweepstakes. Though many of the script choices she'd make immediately following this period slowed her career momentum considerably, Sleeping was an enjoyably frothy, perfectly timed scoop of romantic comedy that did such a fine job of highlighting Bullock's strengths that it might as well have been written for her. Though critics hastened to point out the relatively mindless nature of the script (Janet Maslin of the New York Times murmured that it "has the kind of good cheer and fine tuning that occasionally give slickness a good name"), Bullock's winsome turn as a lovelorn fare collector on the Chicago el was too much for them to resist.





## A TIME TO KILL (1996)

**B**ullock was given top billing in this 1996 adaptation of John Grisham's first novel, but that was just a ruse; the film's true star, future noted bongo enthusiast Matthew McConaughey, was a virtual unknown when he was cast, and although a mountain of buzz piled up around him before *A Time to Kill* was released, it's easy to understand why Warner Bros. chose to emphasize Bullock and Samuel L. Jackson in the movie's marketing materials. And okay, so Sandra Bullock isn't really the star of *A Time to Kill*, but she is rather integral to the plot; she does, after all, play the young, passionate law student who strong-arms McConaughey's character into letting her help him represent Samuel L. Jackson against the double murder charges he faces after gunning down his daughter's rapists in the county courthouse - and it's her character's predilection for wearing relatively immodest garb that gives *Kill* a little distaff eye candy to supplement McConaughey's baby blues and toned pecs.

## MISS CONGENIALITY (2000)

**T**he late 1990s weren't particularly kind to Sandra Bullock's filmography. Although many of her movies made money, critical praise proved increasingly hard to come by as she wavered between big-budget misfires like *Speed 2* and well-meaning failures like *28 Days*, and when she signed on for *Miss Congeniality* to play an FBI agent who infiltrates a beauty pageant in order to bust up a bomb threat, it seemed like she might have finally reached her nadir. But in the capable hands of Mystic Pizza director Donald Petrie - and bolstered by a generally impeccable cast that also included Michael Caine and Candice Bergen - the final product proved just the sort of well-assembled, cheerfully undemanding fare that audiences were looking for over the Christmas holiday in 2000.



## THE BLIND SIDE (2009)

**M**ake movies long enough, and you'll get your shot at starring in an inspirational sports drama; with 2009's *The Blind Side*, Bullock took that ball and ran with it all the way to more than \$300 million at the box office - as well as an Oscar, a Golden Globe, and a SAG Award. Inspired by Michael Lewis' nonfiction book about the evolution of the offensive left tackle position - particularly the portion focusing on future NFL player Michael Oher's poverty-stricken upbringing and subsequent adoption by a married couple who helped him along the way - *The Blind Side* overcame generally lukewarm reviews while snowballing into a relatively slow-building word-of-mouth success that shattered records for football films, sports dramas, and movies toplined by a sole female star, definitively opening a new chapter in Bullock's career along the way.

## GRAVITY (2013)

**I**t takes incredible amounts of luck, hard work, and talent to land a starring role in a movie. To score a gig where you're pretty much alone on screen for the duration of the film? That's really special. Bullock entered that elite club with Alfonso Cuarón's *Gravity*, playing an astronaut who finds herself horrifyingly marooned in space after a series of mishaps sends her mission spiraling further and further out of control - a role that allowed her the opportunity to deliver a masterclass in solo dramatic acting while serving as the audience's constant companion in a film that runs the gamut from big-budget visual thrills to quiet moments of one-on-one (or one-on-none) drama. A critical and commercial smash, *Gravity* earned almost universal acclaim while racking up more than \$700 million at the box office - and an impressive 10 Oscar nominations (including Best Actress for Bullock). ([www.rottentomatoes.com](http://www.rottentomatoes.com))





Friday Times

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2015

# Travel



## Kuala Lumpur

for free:

Exploring Malaysia's  
capital on a tight budget





**You might get more roti for your ringgit in Kuala Lumpur than in many other big Asian capitals, but who doesn't love a freebie? There are plenty of worthwhile attractions in Malaysia's buzzing capital that won't cost travellers a single sen.**

**Join a walking tour**

Slip on some comfortable shoes and take in Kuala Lumpur's essential sights on foot. Potential trails include the colonial heart of the capital, Merdeka Square; Kampung Baru, a green Malay village within the metropolis; and Brickfields, KL's vibrant Indian district. Free walking tours are available for each of these parts of the city (usually run by KL City Hall; visitkl.gov.my) - just remember to tip your guide.

**Visit KL's most underrated museum**

While the Bank Negara Malaysia Museum & Art Gallery may not sound enthralling, prepare to be pleasantly surprised. Situated with-

in the Central Bank of Malaysia's Centre of Learning Excellence, the interactive displays and exhibitions charting the nation's role in the global economy, along with the Central Bank's striking art collection, are well worth perusing.

**Find sanctuary in KL's green spaces**

KL Forest Eco Park - also known as Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve - is a patch of partly indigenous rainforest in an unlikely location at the bottom of the Menara KL tower. Visitors can explore its nine hectares of jungle via trails, and the 200m-high canopy walk is an exciting way to remove yourself from the bustle of the city.

Another peaceful spot is Lake Perdana at Perdana Botanical Garden. The man-made lake amid a 92-hectare nature haven is an idyllic place to relax, surrounded by immaculate gardens where tropical and medicinal plants thrive. Free guided walks of the gardens take place from 8am-10am on weekdays.

Finally, KLCC Park is the perfect setting to chill at sunset and gaze upwards as the majestic Petronas Towers begin to glow. The 20-hectare park in the heart of the capital is home to 1900 species of plant life, as well as a jogging track, a paddling pool and Lake Symphony - a series of musical waterfalls that come to life twice daily.

**Learn about crime-busting through the ages**

The fascinating Royal Malaysian Police Museum chronicles the evolution of policing in Malaysia. More than 8000 artefacts are on display here, including historic uniforms, police boats, patrol vehicles and myriad weaponry - from knuckledusters to rifles. Gallery C presents some curious items that were recovered from police operations to bust organised crime outfits and secret societies.

**Enjoy serenity in KL's places of worship**

Masjid Jamek is a visually striking mosque, admired for its distinctive Indo-Saracenic







design features. Surrounded by palm trees, it's a magnificent edifice to explore and an important icon of KL, where around 46% of the population is Muslim. Remember to dress modestly and remove your shoes when entering the building.

The temples of KL's Chinatown may appear understated compared to those in Penang, but they're impressive nonetheless. There's Guandi (or Kuan Ti), a busy yet beautiful red-columned temple dedicated to the Taoist god of war; Guan Yin, a colourful fusion of European baroque and oriental styles; and Chan She Shu Yuen, with elaborate terracotta friezes depicting Chinese mythology.

Finally, travel 13km north of the capital to reach awe-inspiring Batu Caves, a series of iconic limestone landforms that have come to house Hindu shrines. The main cave is free to visit, and the psychedelic Ramayana Cave is

only RM2, and well worth forking out for. The 272-step climb at the cave's entrance - past the gigantic golden statue of Hindu deity Lord Murugan - offers a sensational vista across the city.

#### Admire eclectic Malaysian architecture, old and new

Merdeka Square (or Independence Square) is surrounded by attractive colonial buildings that tell tales of Malaysia's past. The stunning Sultan Abdul Samad Building dominates the square, and exemplifies British Raj era architecture with its arched balconies and domed turrets. Look out for the 100m-high flag pole that proudly marks the spot where the Malay flag was first raised in 1885 to signify the nation's independence from British rule.

Also located on Merdeka Square is KL City Gallery ([klcitygallery.com](http://klcitygallery.com)). Its exhibitions give

an overview of KL's history, its attractions, as well as its diverse architecture - a miniature model of the Petronas Towers lights up, glittering just like the real cityscape does at night. To see a slightly more humble colonial remnant, pay a visit to the headquarters of national heritage society, Badan Warisan Malaysia. Here you'll find a 1920s stilt bungalow that formerly housed British officers - its carved teak walls and wooden shutters are a stark contrast to the neighbouring steel skyscrapers.

#### Peruse national artwork and traditional crafts

Housed in a grandiose Mughal-style building off Merdeka Square, the National Textiles Museum is worth popping in to. The rich embroidery and tapestries present motifs from a cross-section of Malaysian regions as

well as beautiful examples of traditional clothing from headdresses to chastity belts. Visitors can also learn about the origins of batik, tie-dye and block printing in Malaysia, and how these methods have developed over centuries.

Finally, the tiny Art House Gallery Museum of Ethnic Arts in KL's Central Market Annexe has the feeling of an attic full of treasures. Claiming to be the first privately-owned 'mini-museum' for Malaysian artwork, it is a great place to educate yourself on the rich and varied artistic styles of the nation. There are also pieces sourced from the Indonesian archipelago, some of which share similarities with artwork from Borneo. The gallery is full of dreamlike watercolours, tribal print tapestries and other curious crafts, making it a delightfully colourful finale to your budget tour of KL.

— ([www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com))





WORD SEARCH

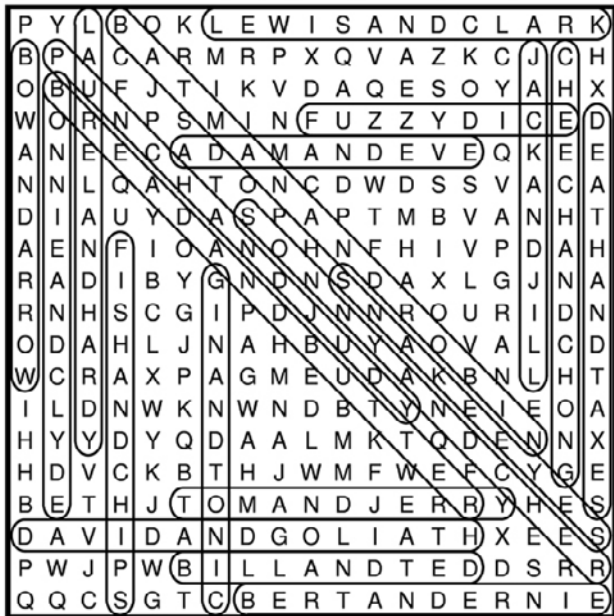
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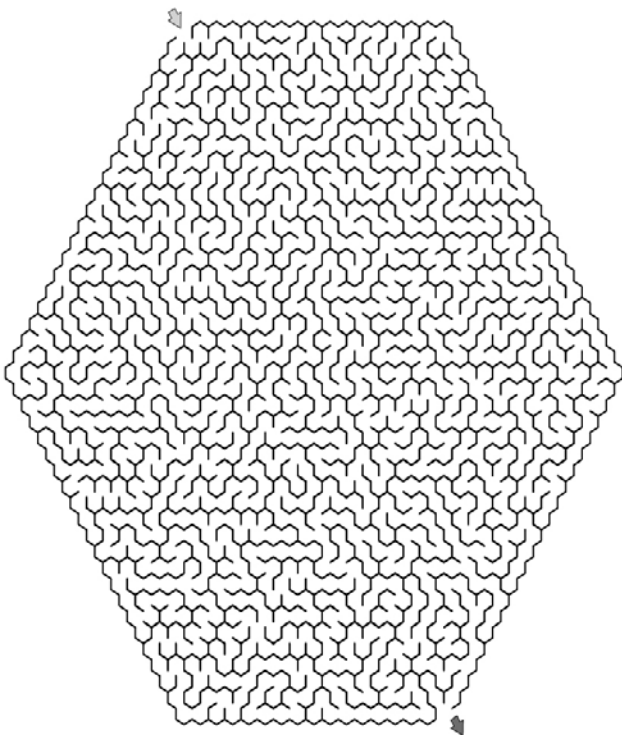
- ARIZONA
- GUANO POINT
- MOHAVE POINT
- ROOSEVELT
- BACKCOUNTRY
- HAVASUPAI
- MULE DEER
- SCENIC VIEWS
- BIGHORN SHEEP
- HIKING
- NATIONAL PARK
- SKYWALK
- CAMPGROUNDS
- HOPI HOUSE
- PACK MULES
- SOUTH RIM
- COLORADO RIVER
- HUALAPAI
- RAFTERS
- TOURISTS

Yesterday's Solution

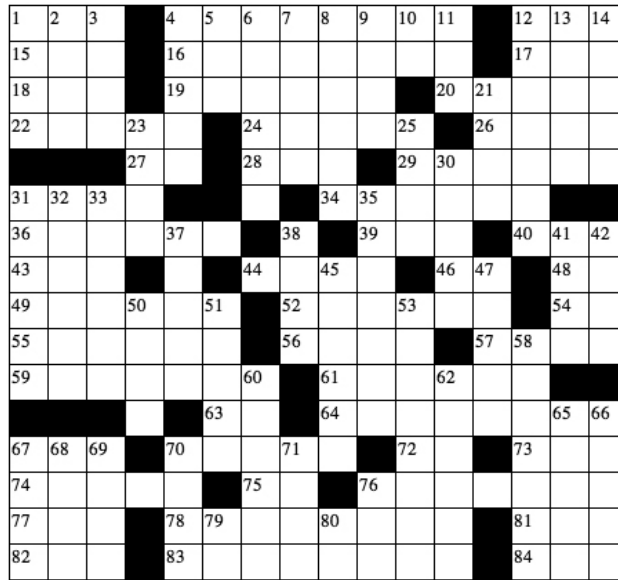
SOLUTION TO FAMOUS PAIRS PUZZLE



CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1071



ACROSS

1. The federal department that administers federal program dealing with better housing and urban renewal.
4. In a legible manner.
12. Standard time in the 6th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 90th meridian.
15. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
16. Plants having flowers in umbels.
17. Legal document setting forth rules governing a particular kind of activity.
18. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
19. A characteristic language of a particular group (as among thieves).
20. Dwell (archaic).
22. A port in western Israel on the Mediterranean.
24. The words that are spoken.
26. A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
27. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
28. Used of a single unit or thing.
29. An indication of approved or superior status.
31. An antidepressant drug that acts by blocking the reuptake of serotonin so that more serotonin is available to act on receptors in the brain.
34. Any member of Athapaskan tribes that migrated to the southwestern desert (from Arizona to Texas and south into Mexico).
36. A short synopsis.
39. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
40. A light touch or stroke.
43. The starting place for each hole on a golf course.
44. United States educator who introduced reforms that significantly altered the system of public education (1796-1859).
46. A rare polyvalent metallic element of the platinum group.
48. Informal terms for a mother.
49. Of or involving the rectum.
52. A man who serves as a sailor.
54. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
55. Canna grown especially for its edible rootstock from which arrowroot starch is obtained.
56. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
57. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
59. Teaching reading by training beginners to associate letters with their sound values.
61. A sweet liquid secretion that is attractive to pollinators.
63. The atomic weight of an element that has the same combining capacity as a given weight of another element.
64. A port city in northeastern Greece on an inlet of the Aegean Sea.
67. A long thin fluffy scarf of feathers or fur.
72. The square of a body of any size of type.
73. An unabridged dictionary constructed on historical principles.
74. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
75. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
77. The cry made by sheep.
78. Peruvian shrub or small tree having large glossy leaves and cymes of fragrant yellow to green or red flowers.

81. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
82. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
83. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Clinoril).
84. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

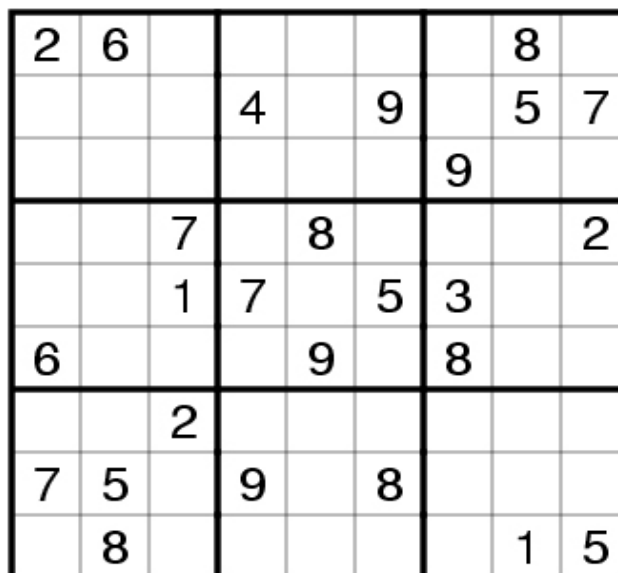
DOWN

1. A pilgrimage to Mecca.
2. The inner and longer of the two bones of the human forearm.
3. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
4. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
5. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
6. A duct that provides ventilation as in mines.
7. (Phoenician and Philistine) God of agriculture and the earth.
8. Absence of the pupil in an eye.
9. A circular segment of a curve.
10. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
11. An affirmative.
12. Repeated regularly without thought or originality.
13. The 18th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
14. A weak chirping sound as of a small bird v 1.
21. German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
23. Free from favoritism or self-interest or bias or deception.
25. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
30. The capital and largest city of Ghana with a deep-water port.
32. A formal spoken communication delivered to an audience.
33. Echo repeatedly, echo again and again.
35. Hypothetical remedy for all ills or diseases.
37. An African river that flows northwest into Lake Chad.
38. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
41. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
42. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
45. German physicist and chemist who formulated the third law of thermodynamics (1864-1941).
47. Cause to lose one's nerve.
50. A light clear metallic sound as of a small bell.
51. Closed with a lace.
53. East Asian perennial herbs.
58. A genus of Stromateidae.
60. Sudden violent winds.
62. An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
65. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
66. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
68. Toward the mouth or oral region.
69. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
70. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
71. Being three more than fifty.
76. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
79. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
80. A silvery malleable metallic element that resists corrosion.

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





## BBC lifestyle

- 00:05 Bill's Kitchen: Notting Hill
- 00:30 Marbella Mansions
- 01:15 Antiques Roadshow
- 02:55 Bargain Hunt
- 04:30 Hairy Bikers: Meals On Wheels
- 05:25 Marbella Mansions
- 06:10 Fat & Fatter
- 07:00 Antiques Roadshow
- 07:50 Bargain Hunt
- 08:35 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent
- 09:25 Bill's Kitchen: Notting Hill
- 09:50 Marbella Mansions
- 10:35 Antiques Roadshow
- 11:25 Bargain Hunt
- 12:15 Hairy Bikers: Meals On Wheels
- 13:10 Fat & Fatter
- 14:00 Antiques Roadshow
- 14:50 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent
- 15:40 Bill's Kitchen: Notting Hill
- 16:05 Hairy Bikers: Meals On Wheels
- 17:00 Bargain Hunt
- 17:55 Come Dine With Me
- 18:20 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent
- 19:10 Bill's Kitchen: Notting Hill
- 19:35 Marbella Mansions
- 20:20 The Planners
- 21:10 Antiques Roadshow
- 22:05 Come Dine With Me
- 22:30 Bargain Hunt
- 23:20 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent

## Discovery Channel HD

- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
- 01:10 Deadliest Catch
- 02:00 Outback Truckers
- 02:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
- 03:40 Container Wars
- 04:05 Auction Hunters
- 04:30 Baggage Battles
- 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 05:30 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Ice Cold Gold
- 06:50 Extreme Car Hoarders
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud
- 08:30 Container Wars
- 08:55 Auction Hunters
- 09:20 Baggage Battles
- 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Deadliest Catch
- 11:25 Outback Truckers
- 12:15 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
- 13:05 Container Wars
- 13:30 Auction Hunters
- 13:55 Baggage Battles
- 14:20 Ice Cold Gold
- 15:10 Extreme Car Hoarders
- 16:00 Fast N' Loud
- 16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 18:30 Dual Survival
- 19:20 Survive That!
- 20:10 Dallas Car Sharks
- 20:35 Baggage Battles
- 21:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 21:50 Kings Of The Wild
- 22:40 River Monsters
- 23:30 Amish Mafia

## E!

- 00:00 Fashion Police
- 00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
- 01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 02:20 E! News
- 03:15 Escape Club
- 04:10 THS
- 05:05 Beyond Candid With Giuliana
- 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 07:50 Style Star
- 08:20 E! News
- 09:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 10:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 11:35 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 12:05 E! News
- 13:05 Dash Dolls
- 14:05 Fashion Bloggers
- 14:30 Fashion Police
- 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

- 16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 17:00 Giuliana & Bill
- 18:00 The Grace Helbig Show
- 18:30 We Have Issues
- 19:00 WAGs
- 20:00 Hollywood Cycle
- 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:00 E! News
- 23:00 Dash Dolls

## itv choice

- 00:10 The Chase
- 01:05 May The Best House Win
- 02:00 Emmerdale
- 02:25 Eggheads
- 02:55 Come Dine With Me Ireland
- 03:25 Keep It In The Family
- 04:20 Tricked
- 05:15 Murdoch Mysteries
- 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 07:05 Come Dine With Me Ireland
- 07:30 Keep It In The Family
- 08:25 Tricked
- 09:20 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 10:15 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here
- 11:10 Come Dine With Me Ireland
- 11:35 May The Best House Win
- 12:30 Murdoch Mysteries
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Eggheads
- 14:20 Come Dine With Me Ireland
- 14:45 The Chase
- 15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 16:30 Doc Martin
- 17:25 Shetland
- 18:20 Murdoch Mysteries
- 19:10 Come Dine With Me Ireland
- 19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 20:30 Doc Martin
- 21:25 Shetland
- 22:20 I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here
- 23:15 Come Dine With Me Ireland
- 23:40 Eggheads

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 00:10 Megastructures
- 01:00 Building Wild
- 02:00 Cabin Fever
- 02:55 Megastructures
- 03:50 Megastructures
- 04:45 Bad Trip
- 05:40 Alien Deep

- 06:35 Taiwan: Island Of Fish
- 07:30 Megacities
- 08:25 Food School
- 08:50 Food School
- 09:20 Bad Trip
- 10:15 Ultimate Survival Alaska
- 11:10 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
- 12:05 Wicked Tuna
- 13:00 Is It Real?
- 14:00 Monster Fish
- 15:00 Wicked Tuna
- 16:00 Ultimate Survival Alaska
- 17:00 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
- 18:00 Drugs Inc
- 19:00 Wicked Tuna
- 20:00 Ultimate Survival Alaska
- 20:50 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
- 21:40 Drugs Inc
- 22:30 Wicked Tuna
- 23:20 Alien Deep

## OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Bad Judge
- 00:30 About A Boy
- 01:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
- 01:35 The Brink
- 02:00 Ballers
- 02:30 Getting On
- 03:30 The Goldbergs
- 04:00 Mulaney
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 06:00 Men At Work
- 06:30 Til Death
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Mulaney
- 08:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 09:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- 10:30 Til Death
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 Men At Work
- 12:30 Mulaney
- 13:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 13:30 Til Death
- 14:00 The Goldbergs
- 15:30 About A Boy
- 16:00 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore
- 16:30 Men At Work
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- 18:30 The Goldbergs
- 19:00 Hot In Cleveland

- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:00 About A Boy
- 21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore
- 22:00 Veep
- 22:30 Brickleberry
- 23:00 Family Guy
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

## OSN FIRST HD

- 00:00 Tyrant
- 01:00 Quantico
- 02:00 Homeland
- 03:00 The Leftovers
- 05:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 06:00 Unforgettable
- 07:00 Backstrom
- 08:00 Chicago Fire
- 09:00 Quantico
- 10:00 Unforgettable
- 11:00 Backstrom
- 12:00 Emmerdale
- 12:30 Coronation Street
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Chicago Fire
- 15:00 Red Band Society
- 16:00 Emmerdale
- 16:30 Coronation Street
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Chicago Fire
- 19:00 The Voice
- 21:00 Blood & Oil
- 22:00 Downton Abbey
- 23:00 American Crime

## OSN FIRST HD MORE

- 01:00 Good Morning America
- 03:00 Bates Motel
- 04:00 Grimm
- 05:00 Good Morning America
- 07:00 Emmerdale
- 07:30 Coronation Street
- 09:00 Criminal Minds
- 10:00 Emmerdale
- 10:30 Coronation Street
- 11:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 12:00 Parenthood
- 13:00 Supernatural
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Criminal Minds
- 17:00 Parenthood
- 18:00 Supernatural
- 19:00 Criminal Minds
- 20:00 Parenthood
- 21:00 Supernatural
- 22:00 Bates Motel
- 23:00 Grimm

## OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 00:00 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit
- 02:00 Grace: The Possession
- 03:45 Outpost: Black Sun
- 05:30 The Perfect Storm
- 08:00 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit
- 10:00 Clockstoppers
- 11:45 Shaolin
- 14:00 The Numbers Station
- 15:45 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit
- 17:45 The Core
- 20:00 I, Frankenstein
- 22:00 Ender's Game

## OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 00:00 Grace: The Possession-18
- 01:45 Outpost: Black Sun-PG15
- 03:30 The Perfect Storm-PG15
- 06:00 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit-PG15
- 08:00 Clockstoppers-FAM
- 09:45 Shaolin-PG15
- 12:00 The Numbers Station-PG15
- 13:45 Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit-PG15
- 15:45 The Core-PG15
- 18:00 I, Frankenstein-PG15
- 20:00 Ender's Game-PG15
- 22:00 Special ID-PG15

## OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 She Wants Me
- 02:00 Last Vegas
- 04:00 For Better Or For Worse
- 06:00 Napoleon Dynamite
- 08:00 Cuban Fury
- 10:00 For Better Or For Worse
- 12:00 Last Vegas
- 14:00 Mousehunt
- 16:00 Cuban Fury
- 18:00 Admission
- 20:00 High Road
- 22:00 Pretty Woman

## OSN MOVIES DRAMA

- 01:30 See Girl Run-PG15
- 03:00 The Invisible Woman-PG15
- 05:00 Chalet Girl-PG15
- 07:00 Stone Markers-PG15
- 09:00 The Citizen-PG15
- 11:00 Chalet Girl-PG15

- 13:00 Stand Off-PG15
- 15:00 Song For Marion-PG15
- 17:00 The Citizen-PG15
- 18:45 Foxcatcher-PG15
- 21:00 The Disappearance Of Eleanor Rigby: Her-PG15
- 23:00 Before Midnight-18

## OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 01:30 Far And Away
- 04:00 Rushmore
- 06:00 One Chance
- 08:00 Safe Haven
- 10:00 Rushmore
- 12:00 Far And Away
- 14:45 Sunshine On Leith
- 16:45 Safe Haven
- 19:00 Won't Back Down
- 21:00 Diana
- 23:00 Choke

## OSN MOVIES HD

- 01:00 3 Days To Kill-PG15
- 03:00 Bad Parents-PG15
- 05:00 The Boxtrolls-PG
- 07:00 Mine Games-PG15
- 09:00 Get On Up-PG15
- 11:15 A Gift Of Miracles-PG15
- 13:00 Mr. Peabody & Sherman-FAM
- 15:00 Song For Marion-PG15
- 16:45 Get On Up-PG15
- 19:00 Blended-PG15
- 21:00 All The Wrong Reasons-18
- 23:15 Carrie-18

## OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 01:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 02:45 Oggy & The Cockroaches: The Movie
- 04:30 Marvel's Doctor Strange
- 06:00 From Up On Poppy Hill
- 08:00 Scooby-Doo! Frankencreepy
- 10:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
- 11:30 Pororo: The Racing Adventure
- 13:00 Oggy & The Cockroaches: The Movie
- 14:30 Marco Macaco
- 16:00 Hammer Boy
- 18:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
- 20:00 Imaginum
- 22:00 Marco Macaco
- 23:30 Hammer Boy

## OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

- 00:00 Shiver-PG15
- 02:00 Searching For Sugar Man-PG15
- 04:00 Appleseed: Alpha-PG15
- 06:00 A Common Man-PG15
- 08:00 The Outsider-PG15
- 10:00 American Warships-PG15
- 12:00 Grudge Match-PG15
- 14:00 House Of Versace-PG15
- 16:00 The Outsider-PG15
- 17:45 X-Men: Days Of Future Past-PG15
- 20:00 Hummingbird-PG15
- 22:00 Transit-PG15

## STAR MOVIES

- 01:15 My Bollywood Bride
- 03:00 Dark Water
- 04:45 The Village
- 06:30 Scary Movie 5
- 07:45 School For Scoundrels
- 09:30 Love Happens
- 11:15 Shanghai
- 13:00 Oz The Great And Powerful
- 15:15 Monsters University
- 17:00 My Bollywood Bride
- 18:45 Scary Movie 5
- 20:00 Transporter 3
- 21:45 Pearl Harbor

## STAR WORLD

- 00:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 01:00 MasterChef - The



JACK RYAN: SHADOW RECRUIT ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION



- Professionals  
 02:00 Private Practice  
 04:00 Grey's Anatomy  
 05:00 Cougar Town  
 06:00 The Simpsons  
 06:30 The Simpsons  
 07:00 Lost  
 08:00 Grey's Anatomy  
 09:00 MasterChef - The Professionals  
 10:00 Private Practice  
 11:00 Private Practice  
 12:00 Grey's Anatomy  
 13:00 Cougar Town  
 13:30 Cougar Town  
 14:00 The Simpsons  
 14:30 The Simpsons  
 15:00 Lost  
 16:00 Grey's Anatomy  
 17:00 MasterChef Australia  
 18:00 Revenge  
 19:00 Revenge  
 20:00 Bones  
 21:00 Scrubs  
 21:30 Scrubs  
 22:00 The Simpsons  
 22:30 The Simpsons  
 23:00 Lost



KEVIN COSTNER AMBER HEARD HAILEE STEINFELD  
**3 DAYS TO KILL**

### 3 DAYS TO KILL OF THE FIVE ARMIES OSN MOVIES HD

- 00:00 American Restoration  
 00:30 American Restoration  
 01:00 Pawn Stars  
 01:30 Pawn Stars  
 02:00 American Pickers  
 03:00 Hitler's Island Madness  
 04:00 Shipping Wars  
 05:00 American Pickers  
 06:00 Ax Men  
 07:00 Ice Road Truckers  
 08:00 Alone  
 09:00 Duck Dynasty  
 09:30 Duck Dynasty  
 10:00 Down East Dickering  
 11:00 The Legend Of Shelby The Swamp Man  
 11:30 The Legend Of Shelby The Swamp Man  
 12:00 American Pickers  
 13:00 Storage Wars  
 13:30 Storage Wars  
 14:00 Pawn Stars  
 14:30 Pawn Stars  
 15:00 Shipping Wars  
 15:30 Shipping Wars  
 16:00 Pawn Stars  
 16:30 Pawn Stars  
 17:00 American Pickers  
 18:00 American Pickers  
 19:00 Storage Wars  
 19:30 Storage Wars  
 20:00 Duck Dynasty  
 21:00 Pawn Stars  
 22:00 Storage Wars  
 23:00 Storage Wars: New York

- 20:00 Silent Witness  
 21:40 Alan Carr: Chatty Man  
 22:25 Getting On  
 22:55 Watson & Oliver  
 23:25 The Weakest Link  
 00:10 Doctors  
 00:40 Casualty  
 01:30 Silent Witness



- Cartoon Network  
 03:14 Grojband  
 03:35 Johnny Test  
 05:05 Total Drama World Tour  
 05:27 Total Drama World Tour  
 05:50 Regular Show  
 06:00 The Amazing World Of Gumball  
 07:00 Uncle Grandpa  
 07:25 Adventure Time  
 07:50 Teen Titans Go!  
 08:35 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu  
 09:00 Ben 10 Omniverse  
 09:45 Regular Show  
 10:30 Clarence  
 10:55 Dreamworks Dragons: Riders Of Berk  
 11:20 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island  
 11:40 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island  
 12:05 Johnny Test  
 12:50 New Steven Universe  
 13:02 Steven Universe  
 13:15 Uncle Grandpa  
 13:40 Regular Show  
 14:25 Adventure Time  
 15:10 The Amazing World Of Gumball  
 16:00 Ben 10: Omniverse  
 16:20 Ben 10: Omniverse  
 16:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu  
 17:10 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu  
 17:30 Teen Titans Go!  
 18:20 Regular Show  
 19:05 The Amazing World Of Gumball  
 19:51 Adventure Time  
 20:15 New Steven Universe  
 20:27 Steven Universe  
 20:40 Uncle Grandpa  
 21:00 Teen Titans Go!  
 21:50 Ben 10: Omniverse  
 22:15 Ben 10: Omniverse  
 22:40 Adventure Time  
 00:10 Regular Show  
 01:40 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island  
 02:03 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island  
 02:26 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island  
 02:51 Grojband

- 05:30 The Haunted  
 06:20 Forensic Detectives  
 07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite  
 Jones  
 08:00 Nightmare Next Door  
 08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
 09:40 Fatal Encounters  
 10:30 Murder Shift  
 11:20 Forensic Detectives  
 12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite  
 Jones  
 13:00 The Will  
 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
 14:40 California Investigator  
 15:05 Nightmare Next Door  
 15:55 Fatal Encounters  
 16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
 17:35 Murder Shift  
 18:25 I Almost Got Away With It  
 19:15 Forensic Detectives  
 20:05 True Crime With Aphrodite  
 Jones  
 20:55 California Investigator  
 21:20 The Will  
 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 23:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 23:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 23:50 Blood Relatives  
 00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 01:30 The Haunted  
 02:20 Ghost Lab



- 03:10 Food Factory  
 03:35 Food Factory  
 04:00 How It's Made  
 04:23 How It's Made  
 04:48 NASA's Greatest Missions  
 05:36 Race To Escape  
 06:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
 07:12 How Do They Do It?  
 07:37 How It's Made  
 08:00 Mythbusters  
 08:50 Bang Goes The Theory  
 09:15 Bang Goes The Theory  
 09:40 Building The Biggest  
 10:30 Food Factory  
 10:55 Food Factory  
 11:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 12:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
 13:00 NASA's Greatest Missions  
 13:50 Bang Goes The Theory  
 14:15 Bang Goes The Theory  
 14:40 Building The Biggest  
 15:30 How It's Made  
 15:54 How It's Made  
 16:20 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
 17:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
 18:00 Bang Goes The Theory  
 18:25 Bang Goes The Theory  
 18:50 Mythbusters

- 19:40 Deadly Dilemmas  
 20:05 Deadly Dilemmas  
 20:30 Food Factory  
 20:55 Food Factory  
 21:20 How It's Made  
 21:45 How It's Made  
 22:10 How Do They Do It?  
 22:35 How Do They Do It?  
 23:00 Deadly Dilemmas  
 23:25 Deadly Dilemmas  
 23:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
 00:40 NASA's Greatest Missions  
 01:30 Mythbusters  
 02:20 Deadly Dilemmas  
 02:45 Deadly Dilemmas



- 03:05 Calimero  
 03:20 Zou  
 03:30 Loopdidoo  
 03:45 Art Attack  
 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
 04:20 Calimero  
 04:35 Zou  
 04:45 Loopdidoo  
 05:00 Art Attack  
 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
 05:35 Calimero  
 05:50 Zou  
 06:00 Loopdidoo  
 06:15 Art Attack  
 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
 06:50 Calimero  
 07:00 Zou  
 07:20 Loopdidoo  
 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 Miles From Tomorrow  
 10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
 11:00 Sofia The First  
 11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
 11:55 Miles From Tomorrow  
 12:25 Doc McStuffins  
 12:55 Loopdidoo  
 13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
 13:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
 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  
 18:10 Chip n Dale Rescue Rangers  
 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  
 00:00 Nina Needs To Go  
 00:05 Henry Hugglemonster  
 00:20 Calimero  
 00:35 Zou  
 00:50 Loopdidoo  
 01:05 Art Attack  
 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
 01:45 Calimero  
 02:00 Zou  
 02:15 Loopdidoo  
 02:30 Art Attack  
 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster



- 06:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero  
 06:25 Supa Strikas  
 06:50 Supa Strikas  
 07:15 K.C Undercover  
 07:40 Lab Rats  
 08:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
 08:35 Kirby Buckets  
 09:00 Kickin' It  
 09:30 Phineas And Ferb  
 09:55 Rocket Monkeys  
 10:20 Boyster  
 10:45 Super Matrak  
 11:10 Super Matrak  
 11:40 Mighty Med  
 12:05 Ultimate Spider-Man  
 12:30 Supa Strikas  
 13:00 Kickin' It  
 13:25 Pokemon: XY  
 13:50 Phineas And Ferb  
 14:15 Rocket Monkeys  
 14:40 Boyster  
 15:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
 15:35 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero  
 16:00 Mighty Med  
 16:25 K.C Undercover  
 16:55 Supa Strikas  
 17:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island  
 17:45 Kirby Buckets  
 18:10 Phineas And Ferb  
 18:40 Kickin' It  
 19:05 K.C Undercover  
 19:30 Supa Strikas  
 19:55 Lab Rats  
 20:25 Kirby Buckets  
 20:50 Kickin' It  
 21:15 Mighty Med  
 21:40 Phineas And Ferb  
 22:05 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero  
 22:30 Phineas And Ferb  
 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



- 03:45 World's Deadliest Animals  
 04:40 Secret Life Of Predators  
 05:35 Ultimate Predator  
 06:30 Man-Eater Of The Congo  
 07:25 World's Deadliest Animals  
 08:20 Wild Russia  
 09:15 Hidden Worlds  
 09:40 Hidden Worlds  
 10:10 The Living Edens  
 11:05 World's Weirdest  
 12:00 Orca Killing School  
 12:55 Secret Life Of Predators  
 13:50 The Croc Catchers  
 14:45 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pol  
 15:40 Wild Russia  
 16:35 Hidden Worlds  
 17:00 Hidden Worlds  
 17:30 Wild Yellowstone  
 18:25 Ultimate Animals  
 19:20 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pol  
 20:10 Wild Russia  
 21:00 Hidden Worlds  
 21:25 Hidden Worlds  
 21:50 Wild Yellowstone  
 22:40 Ultimate Animals  
 23:30 Orca Killing School  
 00:20 Secret Life Of Predators  
 01:10 The Croc Catchers  
 02:00 Wild Case Files  
 02:50 Jaguar: Catching The Cat



- 03:40 The Undateables  
 04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8  
 05:00 Little People, Big World  
 05:30 Cake Boss  
 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress  
 06:25 Cake Boss  
 06:50 Cake Boss  
 07:15 Cake Boss  
 07:40 Cake Boss  
 08:05 Bakery Boss  
 08:55 Bakery Boss  
 09:45 Toddlers & Tiaras  
 10:35 Toddlers & Tiaras  
 11:25 Say Yes To The Dress  
 13:30 Oprah's Master Class  
 14:20 Nida'a  
 15:10 Little People, Big World  
 17:15 Say Yes To The Dress - Bridesmaids  
 18:05 Cake Boss  
 18:30 Cake Boss  
 18:55 Cake Boss  
 19:20 My Five Wives  
 20:10 Nida'a  
 21:00 My Five Wives  
 21:50 Our Little Family  
 22:40 Long Island Medium  
 23:05 Mob Wives  
 23:55 Mob Wives  
 00:45 My 150lbs Tumour: Body Bizarre



- 03:10 Last Tango In Halifax  
 04:00 Watson & Oliver  
 04:30 Rev.  
 05:00 The Green Balloon Club  
 05:25 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll  
 05:45 Jollywobblers  
 05:55 Jollywobblers  
 06:05 The Green Balloon Club  
 06:30 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll  
 06:45 Nuzzle & Scratch: Frock n Roll  
 07:05 Jollywobblers  
 07:20 The Weakest Link  
 08:05 Moone Boy  
 08:30 Moone Boy  
 08:50 Eastenders  
 09:20 Doctors  
 09:50 Moone Boy  
 10:15 The Mystery Of Edwin Drood  
 11:05 The Mystery Of Edwin Drood  
 12:00 The Weakest Link  
 12:45 Moone Boy  
 13:10 Moone Boy  
 13:30 The Mystery Of Edwin Drood  
 14:25 The Mystery Of Edwin Drood  
 15:15 Moone Boy  
 15:40 Moone Boy  
 16:05 Doctors  
 16:35 Eastenders  
 17:05 The Weakest Link  
 17:50 Moone Boy  
 18:15 Moone Boy  
 18:40 Doctors  
 19:10 Casualty



- 03:10 Unravalled  
 04:00 March To Justice  
 04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?





### Aries (March 21-April 19)

There's little chance of you being very logical today as the cosmos lures you deep into Fantasyland. Common sense is difficult to find, but you could play this to your advantage if you stop trying to make practical decisions. Even if you must report to work, you can still find time to drift off and contemplate spiritual mysteries. Slipping back and forth between parallel universes is easy now if you don't give a play-by-play commentary of your wanderings. Talk less, dream more.



### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Although unresolved issues may linger in the air, it's tempting to convince yourself that everything is copacetic in a relationship. Even if you probably realize a serious conversation is in order today, you still prefer to avoid the facts so you don't have to deal with the emotional fallout. It's a gift to see potential in others that's not yet manifested, but it's unwise to substitute your hopes and dreams for reality. Take care of the business right in front of your nose before it's too late.



### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Intense emotions spring forth from your subconscious today, but they might make you so uncomfortable that you bury them as fast as they show up. Although you seek less complexity in your life these days, your desires are rather complicated now. Your intentions may still be misunderstood even if you believe you're being completely transparent. Don't assume others know what you need. Confirm that your message has been accurately received and then patiently wait for the other shoe to drop.



### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You can share your feelings in an imaginative manner today, but might struggle getting your point across as a blurry Mercury-Neptune trine muddles your words. Your daydreams may be deliciously sweet as long as you don't assume they are practical enough to pursue. Wait until your clarity returns tomorrow before attempting to express something that has lasting significance. In the meantime, channel your passion into a creative endeavor since your best work comes from the heart.



### Leo (July 23-August 22)

Staying home and losing yourself in a project might sound enticing today, but more practical concerns demand your attention. Nevertheless, you're still likely to spend time envisioning everything else you wish you were doing now. Unfortunately, fun and games may need to wait for the weekend with strict Saturn running the show in your 5th House of Play. Rather than fretting about missing out on the action, be thankful for what you can actually accomplish if you put your mind to it.



### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You're immersed in an idyllic multi-colored bubble today. But it's tricky to bring a fantasy into reality while irrational Neptune dances with cerebral Mercury. Regretfully, you may realize your daily life is overflowing with pressing responsibilities once you open your eyes. Although you're tempted to wander aimlessly in imaginary realms now, it's unwise to avoid your current obligations. Bringing your attention back to the real world can make a positive difference when you need it most.



### Libra (September 23-October 22)

Relinquishing your preconceived notions about what the day holds in store for you is a simple test of your willpower today. However, it's crucial to your future success to move beyond your fantasies and finish your chores. Reality is elusive as a four-leaf clover now because logical Mercury has difficulty working under the influence of dreamy Neptune. Let the most important decisions slide until tomorrow. Once the fog clears you will be more capable of choosing your battles wisely. Fighting the inevitable is pointless; roll up your sleeves and get to work.



### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You realize it's important to wrap up old business now, but you prefer the idea of pursuing pleasure while mental Mercury connects with starry-eyed Neptune in your 5th House of Fun and Games. This never-ending conflict between work and play might be especially aggravating today, so seek out activities that soothe your nerves and encourage your creativity. You can always catch up on your work after the weekend when you have a fresh perspective. Take a magic carpet ride to another dimension and explore to your heart's content.



### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You might feel as if you're trapped in a rut today, motivating you to take a risk in order to shake things up at work. Unfortunately, changing your routine without a solid strategy could be more upsetting than exciting now. Use your imagination to picture the ideal outcome and then create an ambitious plan to manifest your vision as you see it in your mind's eye. Don't try to do a complete makeover in one day; success is more likely if you let your ideas mature before coloring in all the details.



### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Fulfilling your obligations is your top priority, but you could be easily pulled off course by your friends or coworkers today. Their big ideas sound extremely enticing, but grandiose plans are not likely grounded in reality. Don't believe everything you're told now; if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. Nevertheless, it doesn't hurt to dream as long as you wait a few days before investing your reputation in the future. In the end, you won't be happy unless you build your foundation on solid ground.



### Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You don't like feeling disoriented, yet today's ethereal Mercury-Neptune trine could prompt you to waste time trying to reestablish your bearings. Unfortunately, stability is elusive now, but this cosmic uncertainty is beneficial if you use it to question your assumptions about your career goals. There's no need to make any life-changing choices yet; answers will appear as early as tomorrow. In the meantime, the gold at the rainbow's end is yours to dream about.



### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your fantasies seem real enough to touch while surreal Neptune in psychic Pisces aligns with mischievous Mercury. But your ideas only appear plausible until you actually attempt to make them tangible. Although it's wise to listen to your intuition, it's also critical to rely on facts when you're trying to create your ideal future. Give yourself temporary permission to meander through your imagination without any pressure now. Paradoxically, floating in the symbolic realms today leads to more rational planning tomorrow.

## COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antigua	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina Faso	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00236	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Niger	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tome	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976



# SIERRA LEONE EMERGES FROM EBOLA NIGHTMARE

**FREETOWN:** The Ebola epidemic is expected to be declared over in Sierra Leone on Saturday, when the west African nation will have gone 42 days without any new infections. But jubilation over ending the outbreak in the impoverished nation, where almost 4,000 deaths have been reported, has been tempered by caution, with neighboring Guinea still battling the virus. Ebola was found in a 25-year-old pregnant Guinean woman and two of her children in Forecariah district, near the Sierra Leone border, in mid-October.

Her baby was delivered during her treatment and also tested positive, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in the latest of its weekly updates on the crisis on Wednesday. Guinea is now monitoring 382 possible contacts, 141 of them deemed "high risk", it said. Palo Conteh, the head of Sierra Leone's Ebola response, told a news conference in Freetown on Wednesday there were no plans for "an elaborate celebration". Instead, the WHO will deliver a formal declaration in the capital on Saturday of the end of the epidemic.

"I feel proud that I was, with the support of my staff, able to save the nation from the virus. If I had not tackled Ebola with my team, the nation would have perished," he told AFP. "We have to be vigilant as it is not the end of Ebola but the end of the current outbreak. We have fought the disease and we have won." Since emerging in December 2013, the worst outbreak of Ebola in history has infected a reported 28,500 people, with 11,300 deaths registered. The real toll is widely believed to be significantly higher than the official data, however, with under-reporting of probable Ebola cases rife in the early stages.

Saturday's announcement marks the official end of a battle which was prematurely

thought to have been nearing its conclusion on previous occasions. President Ernest Bai Koroma led a festive ceremony on August 24 celebrating the discharge of Sierra Leone's last known patient but the optimism was shattered by the deaths of a 67-year-old woman and, two weeks later, a 16-year-old girl. The 42-day countdown began again



**KAILAHUN:** A file picture taken on August 15, 2014 shows an MSF medical worker, wearing protective clothing relays patient details and updates behind a barrier to a colleague at an MSF facility.—AFP

after the last case was confirmed free of Ebola after a second consecutive negative test on September 25.

### 'Unprecedented' recession

While the primary cost of the outbreak has been in human life, the crisis has also wiped out development gains in Sierra Leone, which was devastated by 11 years of civil war end-

ing in 2002. The World Bank estimates that Sierra Leone will lose at least \$1.4 billion in economic growth in 2015 as a result, leading to an "unprecedented" GDP contraction of 23.5 percent. The economic damage has been exacerbated by a sharp decline in global iron ore prices and the collapse of the mining sector amid an exodus of foreign investors.

Ebola spread to Sierra Leone 18 months ago, when a young pregnant woman and an older housewife were diagnosed as the country's first cases. Both had attended the funeral of a widely-respected faith healer known as Mendinor, whose "powers" were renowned on both sides of Sierra Leone's border with Guinea. The grandmother, whose real name was

Finda Nyuma, had been treating sick patients in her home village, the diamond-mining community of Koindu, a few hours' walk from Guekedou in Guinea, where the outbreak began. "She was claiming to have powers to heal Ebola. Cases from Guinea were crossing into Sierra Leone for treatment," Mohamed Vandi, the top medical official in Kenema, told AFP in August last year.

### Chain reaction

Fourteen women were infected by two distinct strains of the highly infectious virus during Nyuma's traditional burial rites—which involve "laying hands" on the body—according to subsequent scientific studies. Before they died they fanned out across the Kissi tribal chiefdoms, starting a chain reaction of infections, deaths, funerals and more infections which reached Freetown in July. At the peak of the outbreak in the second half of 2014, Sierra Leone and its neighbors were reporting hundreds of new cases a week, their health services overwhelmed and social order on the brink of collapse. The International Crisis Group (ICG) highlighted in a report last week a variety of exacerbating factors linked to poverty and weak healthcare, but also a lack of trust in the governments of the affected countries.

"In its initial phase, many west Africans thought Ebola was a ploy to generate more aid funding or reinforce the position of ruling elites," it said. "And when Ebola proved real enough, political machinations and manipulation needlessly hindered the early response." ICG also pointed to a failure of the international community, including the WHO, which it said "stalled for far too long on declaring an international health emergency, then proved incapable of mounting an effective response".—AFP

CLINIC  
PAGE



Kuwait Times  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
د. فهد علي المخيزيم  
Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368





## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM FRIDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/11/2015 TO 11/11/2015)

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**I, HOZEFA** (old name) holder of Indian Passport No. L1165262, R/o B-241, Saheli Nagar, near Bheruji, Udaipur (Raj.), changed my name as **HUZEFA PARSOLA. (C 5066) 3-11-2015**

**I, Modapothula** Elamma holder of Indian Passport No. G1689507 has converted Islam by name Shaik Ayesha, address 3/65, K.S Agraharam Chitvel, Kadapa, A.P. **(C 5064) 28-10-2015**

**I, Morasudhakar**, holder of Indian Passport No. L5934350, R/o Nakkapalli Village, Kumpinipuram Post, Nandalur Mandal, Kadapa Dist, A.P., Changed my name as Muhammad Mora. **(C 5063)**

**I, Potturi** Harshavardhana Naidu, holder of Indian Passport No. M7062597, R/o Diguvanallaguttapalli Village, Guttapalli Post, Sambepalli

Mandal, Kadapa Dist, A.P., Changed my name as Muhammad Arshad. **(C 5063)**

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**112**

### Prayer timings

<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>04:43</b>
<b>Shorook</b>	<b>06:04</b>
<b>Duhr:</b>	<b>11:32</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>14:36</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>16:59</b>
<b>Isha:</b>	<b>18:18</b>





# Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2015



EU predicts 'modest' recovery next year

Commission européenne  
European Commission

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'PEAK DEMAND' MEANS WORLD MAY NEVER SEE OIL AT \$100 AGAIN

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EVERETT: Akbar Al Baker (center), CEO of Qatar Airways, takes questions from reporters as he is photographed on Wednesday in the economy class cabin of the 25th Boeing 787 airplane purchased by the airline, following a delivery ceremony in Everett, Washington. —AP

## CHEAP OIL EATS INTO SAUDI CORPORATE PROFITS

### TOTAL NET PROFITS SHRINK 14% ON YEAR IN Q3

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabian corporate earnings shrank during the third quarter of this year as low oil prices began hurting the wider economy, and are unlikely to achieve anything more than modest growth while the energy market languishes. The slowdown comes at an awkward time for the world's top crude exporter, which has so far made little headway in attracting more international money to the bourse since opening it to direct purchases by foreign institutions in June.

Combined net income at 166 listed companies for which data was available dropped 14.0 percent from a year earlier to 27.6 billion riyals (\$7.4 billion) in the July-September quarter, Reuters calculated after the firms finished issuing earnings statements last week. As expected, petrochemical producers' earnings, a big chunk of the stock market, fell sharply as cheap oil pushed down selling prices for their products, hurting profit margins.

But earnings in some other sec-

tors such as construction and banking also shrank or rose only modestly, suggesting cheap oil is now making itself felt throughout the economy in the form of tighter monetary conditions and less generous state spending.

Standard & Poor's cut Saudi Arabia's long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit rating last Friday, citing a "pronounced negative swing" in the government's budget balance. Riyadh criticized the one notch drop to 'A-plus/A-1' as unjustified. While petrochemical product prices may have little room to fall further, pressure on other industries' earnings may grow next year as cheap oil forces further state spending cuts. Officials have indicated public sector wage growth may be curtailed and subsidized domestic fuel prices raised slightly, both of which could eat into consumers' disposable income.

The result, analysts and fund managers say, is likely to be a protracted period of slow earnings

growth in Saudi Arabia unless oil prices recover sharply. "We're not going to see the same 5-plus percent growth next year as we have in the last three to five years," said Fahad Alturki, chief economist at Jadwa Investment, an investment bank in Riyadh. "We're looking at 2 to 3 percent now."

Partly because of low oil prices, investors' response to the market opening in June has been sluggish. Foreigners now own about 1.1 percent of Saudi equities through direct and indirect means, according to exchange data - barely changed from the level before June.

#### DECLINE

The third-quarter drop in earnings follows a 10.1 percent fall for the first half of this year. Combined earnings of the largest seven petrochemical companies shrank 32.5 percent in July-September to 5.8 billion riyals. That performance was better than many in the market had feared; the sector anticipated the oil

price squeeze by cutting costs aggressively.

"Things got quite murky once oil prices dropped, but in terms of overall performance, especially the major companies have performed better than expected," said V Gowribalan, head of asset management of Ahli Bank Oman.

But other sectors fared poorly. Profits at the top three telecommunications firms tumbled 39.1 percent from a year earlier to 1.9 billion riyals, partly because of an earnings restatement scandal at Etihad Etisalat. Earnings at the three big construction and real estate development firms dropped 15.0 percent to 286 million riyals. The government says it is delaying spending on "non-essential" building projects and has been pressing suppliers to cut costs.

Private consumption has been a bright spot for the Saudi economy, but there are signs that growth may be moderating here too as consumers anticipate tougher times

ahead. Earnings at the kingdom's five major retail chains dropped 2.6 percent to 409 million riyals. The nine largest Saudi banks saw their earnings rise 3.9 percent to 9.8 billion riyals. That was impressive, and some analysts think banks' profitability will be supported in coming quarters by their purchases of relatively high-yielding bonds that the government began issuing this year to fund a huge budget deficit.

On the other hand, the banks' core business looks likely to slow with weaker state spending. This process may already have begun; bank lending to the private sector grew 7.1 percent from a year earlier in September, the lowest rate since April 2011, the latest central bank data shows. Meanwhile, slower profit growth at the banks' corporate customers may cause loan quality to deteriorate. "Going forward, they'll need to readjust to the new reality, which is increasing systemic risk and diminishing liquidity," said Gowribalan. —Reuters



## US PRODUCTIVITY SLOWS IN Q3

**WASHINGTON:** US productivity slowed in the summer, while labor costs rebounded yet stayed at a level suggesting only modest inflation pressures. Productivity rose at an annual rate of 1.6 percent in the July-September quarter, a slowdown from a 3.5 percent increase in the second quarter, the Labor Department said yesterday. Labor costs rose at a modest annual rate of 1.4 percent in the third quarter after having fallen at a 1.8 percent pace in the second quarter.

Productivity, the amount of output per hour of work, has slowed significantly in recent years. Economists are divided on the causes for the weakness. Over the past year, productivity is up just 0.4 percent compared to average annual growth of 2.2 percent from 1947 through 2014. Productivity saw a jump for a decade starting in 1995, gains that were attributed to improvements in computer software and the introduction of a number of high-tech products that helped workers do their jobs more efficiently. But in recent years, productivity growth has slowed significantly.

Some economists believe that reflects a temporary drop in business investment in a new equipment, and they forecast a rebound in productivity growth to higher levels. However, other analysts worry that the country could be stuck in a prolonged period of weak productivity growth.

Productivity is a key factor to rising standards of living. It allows employers to pay their workers more to reflect the increased production without having to boost the cost of their products, which can trigger higher inflation. The Federal Reserve closely monitors the rise in labor costs to see if inflation pressures are starting to build. However, the gains logged since the Great Recession have been modest.

### US jobless aid

More Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week, but levels remain near historic lows as employers are hesitant to let go of workers.

The Labor Department said yesterday that a seasonally adjusted 276,000 people sought jobless aid last week, up from 260,000 in the prior week. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, rose 3,500 to 262,750. Jobless claims are a proxy for layoffs. Recent multi-decade lows indicate that employers expect the economy to continue to improve despite global pressures on growth, prompting them to hold onto workers. The four-week average has stayed below 300,000 since late March, achieving levels traditionally linked with a healthy job market.

The government releases the October jobs report Friday. Economists surveyed by FactSet expect that employers added a net 182,000 jobs last month. This would follow a sharp slowdown in hiring in September and August when hiring averaged just 139,000 jobs, a sharp slowdown from gains earlier in the year that routinely exceeded 200,000.

The strong dollar and weak economic growth abroad have weighed on the US economy since August. US factory output has also dropped because lower energy costs have led oil and gas drilling companies to reduce their spending on machinery and equipment.

As a result, the economy grew at a tepid annual rate of just 1.5 percent over the summer, the Commerce Department said last week, down from a much healthier pace of 3.9 percent in the April-June period. But the slowdown in growth and hiring has yet to correspond with an increase in lay-offs, a sign that employers expect the economy to strengthen in the coming months. — AP



**ROSEVILLE:** A worker washes a car at Bob's Car Wash in Roseville, California. The Labor Department releases third-quarter productivity data yesterday. —AP

## 'PEAK DEMAND' MEANS WORLD MAY NEVER SEE OIL AT \$100 AGAIN

**LONDON:** Just as the energy industry has brushed aside concerns that the world could run out of oil, industry executives now say they believe it is demand, rather than supply, that is nearing its apex.

In 1985, Ian Taylor, today the chief executive of the world's largest oil trader Vitol, was part of a team at Royal Dutch Shell that forecast oil prices would rise five-fold to \$125 a barrel in 2015 as global reserves were expected to become more scarce. Now he says it is unlikely to ever reach those levels again.

Oil today stands at around \$50 a barrel, having more than halved since June 2014 after global supplies dramatically rose due in large part to the US shale oil boom but also due to the unlocking of huge offshore reserves in Brazil, Africa and Asia.

"We all talk about 'peak supply' and maybe with shale that is becoming a disabused concept. I have begun feeling that... we are coming to peak demand towards 2030," Taylor said on Wednesday at The Economist Energy Summit in London.

"I believe we may not see \$100 (a barrel) ever again," Taylor said. Such forecasts come at a time when oil companies have slashed billions off their budgets and scrapped more than \$200 billion of oil and

gas projects to cope with the sharp price drop.

Lower future demand for fossil fuels could wreck the finances of producing countries like Saudi Arabia, Russia and Venezuela that depend on high oil prices to fund public spending, but would be an overall boon for the world. The overwhelming majority of people live in countries - whether rich like the United States, middle-income like China or poor like Bangladesh - that consume more energy than they produce. The United Nations believes sharp reductions in fossil fuel use are also necessary to protect the earth from catastrophic effects of climate change.

Higher fuel efficiencies for cars and the industry's switch towards less-polluting sources of energy such as gas, biofuels, solar and wind power, mean that oil demand could plateau in the coming decades. Fossil fuel consumption could be further clipped if governments tighten regulations in order to combat climate change at a UN conference in Paris next month.

BP earlier this week said the world is no longer at risk of running out of oil or gas for decades ahead. Existing technology is capable of unlocking so much fossil fuel

that global reserves would almost double by 2050 to 4.8 trillion barrels of oil equivalent (boe), the British giant said. With new exploration and technology, the resources could leap to a staggering 7.5 trillion boe, it said.

### BACK TO THE PAST

"Peak demand" does not mean people will consume less energy overall. On the contrary, global energy consumption is expected to soar in the coming decades as the planet's population grows and Asian and African economies develop.

But while the world's total energy consumption is set to increase by more than one third from 2012 to 2040, oil's share is set to shrink from 31 percent to 26 percent, according to the International Energy Agency's 2014 World Energy Outlook.

The IEA forecasts global oil demand to rise modestly by around 0.5 percent per year through to 2040 to 103.9 million barrels per day, driven by non-OECD countries. Eldar Saetre, Chief Executive Officer of Norwegian oil company Statoil, sees oil demand actually declining, although oil companies will still have to invest to replace existing capacity as it declines. —Reuters

## OIL EDGES UP, BUT SIGNS POINT TO GROWING GLUT

**LONDON:** Oil prices rose yesterday, paring some of the losses incurred a day earlier after data showed US inventories had risen for a sixth week and weakness spread through the physical market.

On Wednesday, oil fell nearly 4 percent after the Energy Information Administration said US crude inventories added 2.85 million barrels last week, in line with forecasts, despite a drop in imports to their lowest level since 1991. Brent crude futures were up 17 cents at \$48.75 a barrel by 1135 GMT on Thursday, nearly 4 percent below four-week highs above \$50 hit two days

earlier. US crude futures rose 10 cents to \$46.42 a barrel, having lost 3 percent the day before. "Production was a bit higher in the US. It wasn't a good number and I think that kind of killed the sentiment," Petromatrix analyst Olivier Jakob said.

"For me, (Brent) is still really in a range. Each time it goes up \$2, people get a bit excited, but then it goes back down \$2. Technically, there is no trend," he said. The discount in the price of oil for immediate delivery relative to that for delivery in a year, or contango, neared its largest in nearly two months this week, touch-

ing \$7 a barrel. This gap in price can often reflect the perception that near-term demand is falling short of supply.

Ample supply of North Sea crude, which underpins the benchmark futures price, has pushed physical prices to their lowest since June. "The contango in Brent futures could widen more than the current levels ... just looking at the weight of the physical market," Jakob said. Contributing to the generally bearish sentiment was an internal OPEC document seen by Reuters that showed weaker demand in the next few years for oil from the group.

OPEC oil ministers will meet on Dec. 4 to decide whether to extend their year-old strategy of allowing prices to fall to slow higher-cost rival supply. OPEC, along with Russia, is unlikely to change tack, BMI Research said in a note yesterday. "Our view remains that OPEC and Russia will continue on their strategy of producing as much oil as possible to squeeze out higher-cost producers," BMI said.

"With oil production of major producers strong, falling output from US shale will be insufficient to balance the oversupplied oil market over the next two years," it said. —Reuters



## LUFTHANSA CABIN CREW UNION SAYS STRIKES UNAVOIDABLE

**FRANKFURT:** The head of Lufthansa's main cabin crew union said strikes at the carrier are now "unavoidable", after the union reviewed the latest proposals on pensions and early retirement benefits from management. Lufthansa is negotiating with various staff groups as it tries to reduce costs and talks over pensions and early retirement benefits in particular have met with opposition from staff keen to protect their pensions. Lufthansa had tried to encourage the

cabin crew union, which represents around 19,000 flight attendants, back to the negotiating table by sending across on Wednesday some new variants of a deal based around previous proposals and suggesting talks for 1300 GMT yesterday. "There's nothing new in it," Nicoley Baublies, the head of the UFO union, told Reuters yesterday morning.

The union had on Monday said that it would call for a week-long strike from

Friday if Lufthansa management did not make a better offer by 1600 GMT on Thursday. It has not yet said which flights the strike will target.

Lufthansa, which has taken a 130 million euro (\$141 million) hit to profits from strikes so far this year, said it was "pulling out all the stops" to try and stop the strike, which at a week-long would be the longest the carrier has ever seen. The airline is also due to hold talks with union Verdi, representing

around 33,000 ground, cargo and other cabin crew staff, on pensions.

The pilots' union has also staged over a dozen strikes in the last 18 months over early retirement benefits and the carrier's low-cost expansion plans. The last strike in September was halted by a court, which ruled the pilots did not have the right to strike over a strategic decision such as low cost expansion. Lufthansa shares were down 0.5 percent yesterday. — Reuters

## INDONESIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH PICKS UP IN Q3

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia's economy has staged a slight comeback, recovering from dismal growth figures earlier in the year, but analysts said yesterday it was still nowhere near enough to meet the ambitious promises of President Joko Widodo. Spending on infrastructure projects, a driver of Indonesia's sagging economy, helped push third quarter growth figures back from recent lows, though the result still didn't meet expectations.

Analysts were nonetheless cautiously optimistic that Indonesia's economy, the largest in Southeast Asia, could ride the momentum into the final quarter of the year after a tough 12 months. In a statement yesterday, the Statistics Agency said the economy grew 4.73 percent in the period of July to September, after slipping to 4.67 percent in the previous three months, the lowest in six years.

"The momentum for a pickup has begun to appear," Bank Central Asia's economist David Sumual told AFP. Increased government spending and the kick-starting of key infrastructure projects, coupled with a spike in the cement production, had helped carry things along in recent months, he added.

But far more will be needed to push growth above the 7 percent promised by Widodo upon taking office 12 months ago. His image as a "man of the people" who would fulfil his commitments has been dented as he has struggled to turnaround the ailing economy and weather economic headwinds at home and abroad. The slowdown in China's economy, coupled with the shock devaluation of the yuan and uncertainty over a possible US Federal Reserve rate hike, has battered Indonesia's market and currency in 2015.

Factors at home haven't helped, with the country's Statistics Agency blaming widespread haze from raging forest fires across the country for disrupting the local economy.

Indonesia had enjoyed above 5 percent growth in recent years with the exception of 2009 due to a global slowdown. Economists said that despite a slight uptick of the recent quarterly growth, Indonesia will post the slowest growth of under 5 percent for full year 2015. — AFP



**TOKYO:** A worker walks past an electronic stock indicator showing the Nikkei 225 was up 1 percent at 19,116.41 in Tokyo yesterday. Chinese stocks surged for a second day yesterday as confidence grew that stimulus measures are helping the world's No 2 economy to stabilize. — AP

## JAPAN PLANS TO ENCOURAGE SELF-DRIVING CARS, DRONES GOVT TO EASE REGULATIONS ON CAR DEVELOPMENT

**TOKYO:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will ease regulations to allow for self-driving cars to be tested on public roads from fiscal 2017 with the aim of companies providing the service for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Abe's decision, which came from a meeting with the head of Toyota Motor Corp and other executives, could be a boon for Japan's auto sector as they catch up with Google in the development of self-driving cars. Promoting the technology could also spark innovation and capital expenditure, two elements that economists say are essential if Japan wants to break out of its decades-long cycle of bouncing in and out of recession.

"Investment holds the key to higher productivity, and based on this investment we can take the lead in sparking the next industrial revolution," Abe said yesterday. Toyota, Nissan Motor Co and Honda Motor Co, all hope to bring a car to market around 2020 that the driver can switch to autopilot mode and want to use the Tokyo Olympics as a platform to unveil their cars of the future.

This vision should become easier to realize now that Abe has come out in support of the plan, because this commits the govern-

ment to scaling back Japan's often onerous regulations, a government official told reporters. The government is not planning to offer subsidies related to the development of self-driving cars, the official said.

Abe will also ease regulations to allow small drones to deliver packages in three years, which could encourage innovation in another field that Japan has lagged behind in recent years. — Reuters

## TURKISH ENERGY REGULATOR SEES PICK-UP IN FDI

**ANKARA:** Mergers, acquisitions and investment in Turkey's energy sector will accelerate after an election on Sunday restored single-party rule and ended a period of political uncertainty, the head of Turkey's EPDK energy market regulator said yesterday. Sunday's general election saw the ruling AK Party regain a parliament majority it had lost only five months earlier, causing an initial rally in financial markets, with investors relieved at the prospect of a return to stable government. "Naturally, foreign investors place a lot of importance on political stability. I strongly believe that foreign investment is going to increase in the period ahead," EPDK chairman Mustafa

Yilmaz told Reuters in an interview in Ankara.

Chinese firms were considering investments in renewable energy and coal plants, while Japan's Sumitomo Corp was eyeing investments in compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, Yilmaz said. "The Chinese want to build renewable energy and coal plants. They are eyeing a 1,320 megawatt (coal) plant and looking for additional investment for the project," Yilmaz said. Turkey is a major and growing energy consumer but heavily dependent on imports, one of the main causes of its wide current account deficit. — Reuters



**STRASBOURG:** An employee of Clestra uses a media-wall at the company's headquarters in Illkirch-Graffenstaden, eastern France. Founded in 1913 in Cleveland, Clestra (a contraction of Cleveland and Strasbourg, home to its headquarters) has equipped the Empire State Building and more recently the highest skyscraper in Dubai. — AFP



## WORLD FOOD PRICES UP 3.9% IN OCTOBER: UN

**ROME:** World food prices rose in October, spurred by weather-driven concerns about sugar and palm oil supplies, but remained well below their equivalent level a year ago, the United Nations food agency said yesterday.

The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy, meat and sugar, averaged 162 points in October against 155.9 the month before. The FAO said this was the sharpest increase since July 2012, although food on international markets in October was still 16 percent cheaper than a year earlier.

The FAO's sugar price index led the rise, jumping 17.2 percent from September because of fears of heavy rains in the main sugar-growing regions of Brazil, as well as concerns of drought in India and Thailand. The vegetable oil price index rose 6.2 percent, partly on worries the El Nino weather phenomenon would hit Indonesian palm oil supplies in 2016.

The FAO cut its forecast for world cereal output in 2015 to 2.530 billion tons - some 1.1 percent below last year's record - from a previous estimate of 2.534 billion tons given last month. "Half of the forecast cut reflected dimmer expectations about maize crops in India and Ukraine, mostly due to adverse weather," the FAO said in a statement.—Reuters

## EU PREDICTS 'MODEST' RECOVERY NEXT YEAR

**BRUSSELS:** The European Union yesterday predicted the region's economic recovery will continue at "a modest pace" next year thanks to low oil prices and central bank stimulus, but remains hampered by low investment and high debt.

In an official forecast, European Commissioner Pierre Moscovici warned of uneven improvements across the 28 member states but said that for 2016, the EU economies will "see growth rising and unemployment and fiscal deficits falling."

The recovery is being supported by several temporary factors, including low energy prices, the euro's drop in currency markets - which helps exporters - and monetary stimulus from the European Central Bank. Moscovici noted the global economic outlook remains uncertain, meaning EU nations should not let up in their efforts to reform their economies.

The 19-nation euro-zone is expected to see its economy grow by 1.6 percent this year, 1.8 percent next year and 1.9 percent in 2017. The 28-nation bloc, taking account of Britain and other non-euro nations is expected to see growth of 1.9 percent, 2.0 percent and 2.1 percent over the same periods.

Greece, which received a new three-year bailout program, is expected to see its economy shrink by 1.4 percent this year and 1.3 percent in 2016, before seeing growth of 2.7 percent the next year.

Greece is also expected to have the highest unemployment rates over the next years, with 25.7 percent this year easing only slightly to 24.4 percent by 2017.

Overall in the EU, "unemployment will continue to fall while remaining too high," Moscovici said. Eurozone unemployment is forecast to ease from 11 percent this year to 10.3 percent in 2017. For the EU, joblessness is predicted to fall from 9.5 percent this year to 8.9 percent in 2017.



**ATHENS:** Police officers stand by the closed entrance to the labor ministry in central Athens yesterday after students threw tomatoes during a protest to call for more teachers and funds for education and against the further austerity measures.—AFP



**BRUSSELS:** European Union Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs Pierre Moscovici gives a press conference to announce the European Union Autumn 2015 Economic Forecast at the European Union Commission headquarter in Brussels yesterday.—AFP

## BOE SEES LITTLE INFLATION PICK-UP, RATES ON HOLD

### STERLING, BOND YIELDS FALL ON DOVISH SIGNAL

**LONDON:** The Bank of England gave no sign that it was in any more of a hurry to raise interest rates yesterday, predicting near-zero inflation would pick up only slowly even if borrowing costs stay on hold all of next year. Sterling fell sharply after the BoE's announcement, which contrasted with the tone of the US Federal Reserve, whose chair Janet Yellen said on Wednesday that a US rate rise was a prospect for December. Only one BoE policymaker, Ian McCafferty, voted to raise interest rates this month, as most economists had expected, while the other eight on the Monetary Policy Committee opted to keep them at a record-low 0.5 percent, where they have been since March 2009.

The BoE trimmed its forecast for economic growth for this year and 2016 and warned emerging markets could get stuck in a rut of slower growth. "The outlook for global growth has weakened since the August Inflation Report," the BoE said in its quarterly forecast update. "There remain downside risks to this outlook, including that of a more abrupt slowdown in emerging economies."

The central bank also said it would continue to reinvest the proceeds of bonds maturing from the 375 billion pounds of quantitative easing assets that it bought to spur growth until it had raised interest rates to around 2 percent. The BoE message on inflation surprised investors, who in recent days had started to price in a rate move earlier than they had in recent weeks.

Sterling fell more than a cent against the dollar and government bond yields dropped sharply. Ross Walker, an economist with RBS, said he was sticking with his view that the BoE would raise interest rates in August next year.

"It's not a radically different signal versus (the BoE's outlook published in) August, but if the Bank was teeing up a February rate hike, it would not have

produced this set of forecasts," he said.

BoE Governor Mark Carney has previously said a decision on whether to raise interest rates would become clearer around the turn of this year. Financial markets have been betting on a rate hike further out than most economists, and in recent days most money was on a first rate increase at the end of 2016. The BoE used recent market forecasts of no move until 2017 as its working assumption for its new outlook. It predicted that inflation, currently below zero, would nudge above 2 percent in two years' time on a so-called 'modal' projection basis.

This was only a fraction higher than its August forecast, which had been based on rates rising in the middle of next year, the market assumption at the time. Indeed, a slightly different BoE forecasting basis—which looks at the 'mean' outcome for inflation, including downside risks—still saw inflation at the Bank's 2 percent target in two years' time.

Economists have said they expect a first interest rate rise by the BoE in the

second quarter of 2016, according to the average forecast in a Reuters poll.

The Bank said inflation was likely to stay below 1 percent until the second half of 2016, due overwhelmingly to lower costs for energy, food and other imports. The slow pick-up in inflation comes despite relatively robust growth forecasts. Growth, as measured on a modal basis, is seen at 2.7 percent this year, 2.5 percent in 2016 and 2.7 percent in 2017, only a whisker weaker over the three-year period than the Bank predicted in August and above most economists' expectations.

But the warning on emerging markets may in part reflect the concerns of the BoE's chief economist, Andy Haldane, who recently warned that China's sharp stock market falls could prove the start of a third act of the global financial crisis which started in 2008.

Minutes of the MPC's discussion this month showed there was "a wide spread of views" about the outlook for growth, inflation and the impact of the slowdown in emerging markets.—Reuters

## OPEC, RUSSIA OIL BATTLE HEATS UP

**LONDON:** The Saudi-Russian battle for Europe's crude oil buyers intensified this week as Swedish refiner Preem bought its first cargo of Saudi Arabian crude oil in around two decades, trading sources said. The purchase from another traditional buyer of Russia's Urals crude will heat up the contest for market share that Saudi Arabia has effectively brought to Russia's backyard in the Baltic region.

Already, Poland's two refineries, PKN Orlen and Lotos, have turned to Saudi crude at the expense of Urals. The deputy head of Lotos earlier this

week told Reuters that the purchase "made our negotiation position much stronger" with its traditional supplier, Russia.

State oil company Saudi Aramco yesterday also dropped its official selling prices for crude oil to northwest Europe. Preem, which also predominantly runs Russia's Urals crude, confirmed the purchase but declined to elaborate on details. Market sources said the company would run the crude through refinery units by the end of November to see if it could take Saudi crude more frequently in the future.—Reuters



## PACIFIC TRADE PARTNERS PROMISE NOT TO CHEAT ON CURRENCIES

**WASHINGTON:** Pacific trade partners have pledged not to deliberately weaken their currencies to win an export edge as part of a new free trade pact, the US Treasury said on Wednesday.

All 12 members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) promised to publicly report data on currency intervention and foreign reserve holdings, as part of a declaration accompanying the deal.

The new rules fall short of the trade sanctions that US unions, car makers such as Ford Motor Co and some lawmakers demanded for countries which devalue their currencies in an effort to make their exports cheaper. A senior US Treasury official said, however, that countries would have to defend their policies in front of a group of peers, with meetings of TPP officials on currency and economic policy scheduled at least once a year.

"It will put a great deal of pressure on them with regard to the policies they are undertaking," he told reporters, in comments yesterday.

"If a country within TPP, let's say in Southeast Asia, is taking steps to devalue their currency, while that's a problem for us, it's probably even a larger problem for the other countries in TPP that are in their region." The pledge echoes a non-binding commitment by Group of Twenty (G20) members, including the larger TPP part-

ners, not to engage in competitive devaluations.

Most TPP countries already report reserve holdings to the International Monetary Fund, but the Treasury official said Malaysia and Singapore would provide data on currency intervention for the first time. The rules will come into effect at the same time as the wider trade deal and also apply to new members, which might include Indonesia and eventually China. — Reuters

## DETAILS OF PACIFIC TRADE DEAL SET STAGE FOR RAUCOUS DEBATE

**WASHINGTON:** Details of a sweeping Pacific Rim trade deal released yesterday set the stage for a raucous debate in the US Congress but also may provide reassurances to those who worried the agreement could gut protections for the environment, public health and labor.

The text of the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement between the US and 11 other countries including Japan and Mexico runs to 30 chapters and hundreds of pages. It is mind-boggling in its detail, laying out plans for the handling of trade in everything from zinc dust to railway sleepers and live eels.

Governments of the 12 member countries released the complete text online yesterday, making public the specifics of an agreement that critics complain was forged in secrecy.

The documents show the pact reached Oct. 5 in Atlanta after several years of talks is chock full of good intentions. Negotiators agreed to promote environmental sustainability, respect the rights and needs of indigenous peoples, and temper protections for drug patents with safeguards for public health and access to medicines.

It also emphasizes the intention of the trading bloc to abide by earlier commitments made under the World Trade Organization and other international treaties.

That's no guarantee the pact won't raise hackles with US lawmakers who have questioned whether it will help US exports and create jobs or just expose more American workers to low-wage competition, giving multinational corporations excessive power.

Under a trade law passed earlier this year, President Barack Obama must give the public time to review the text before he signs the agreement and turns it over to Congress for approval. Lawmakers can't nitpick the deal with amendments. They must simply vote yes or no. Congress is likely to take up the issue next year in the heat of the presidential election campaign.

Obama faces fierce resistance to the deal from within his own Democratic Party. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination, has said she's against it. Her opposition may make it harder for Obama to round up votes.

If all 12 countries have not ratified the agreement within two years, provisions allow for it to take effect if six countries comprising 85 percent of the GDP of the bloc have signed. That means U.S. ratification as the world's biggest economy is essential.—AP



**WASHINGTON:** White House press secretary Josh Earnest uses a graphic to discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington. Officials released details of a sweeping Pacific Rim trade deal on Thursday. —AP



**MANILA:** Student leader Charice Banez addresses the crowd during a brief protest outside the University of the Philippines in Manila denouncing the upcoming APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Summit of leaders yesterday in the Philippines. The APEC Summit of leaders by 21-member nations will be held in Manila Nov 18 and 19, 2015.—AP

## WATCHDOGS STRUGGLE TO EXPLAIN 'OPTIMISM BIAS' IN ROSY FORECASTS

'WORLD ECONOMY HAS BEEN IN WORSE SHAPE THAN THOUGHT FOR YEARS'

**LONDON:** Chances are, the world economy has been in worse shape than you thought for years. Especially if you were reading the headline forecasts from the IMF, World Bank and OECD.

Having repeatedly overestimated the world economic rebound since the 2007-08 crisis, they say they are gradually gaining a better understanding of why their forecasts were so wrong, and are working to fix their models. Forecasting gross domestic product precisely can be a lottery for even the best of economists. But the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have not just been wrong; for years they have all been wrong in the same direction, persistently forced to revise down predictions that proved too rosy.

"There's an inbuilt 'optimism bias,'" said Stephen King, senior advisor to HSBC and a former economic adviser at the British treasury. "But facts have to dominate a forecast eventually."

Twenty-eight out of the 30 initial calendar year forecasts by the IMF and World Bank for global, developed market and emerging market GDP growth for 2011-2015 proved too optimistic, in many cases wildly so.

It's a similar picture at the OECD, which mostly tracks the world's industrialised nations. Of its 10 initial growth forecasts for the U.S. and global economies over the same period, all have been too optimistic. In some cases, growth turned out to be half the pace originally estimated.

There's no single answer for why, but economists say explanations include an under-appreciation of the damage done by the 2007-2008 financial crisis both to consumer demand and to banks' willingness and ability to lend; the poorly-understood effects of increased global debt levels and a failure to predict surprisingly weak productivity.

Olivier Blanchard, chief economist at the IMF from 2008 to October of this year, recognized that forecasts have been consistently revised down over the past five years but denied there was any structural bias to them. Forecasters just made the same mistakes. "We and others misinterpreted permanent adverse shocks for temporary ones," Blanchard said.

### "WRONG ALL ALONG"

The IMF, World Bank and OECD told Reuters that post-crisis forecasting has become particularly complex and that they have each carried out research into

why this is. Researchers concluded that models were underestimating the damage wrought by the 2008 crash and overestimating the durability of the subsequent recovery. The IMF points to the "poorly understood" slowdown in productivity growth across developed economies, and a "protracted slowdown" in emerging economies, among other reasons for the persistent overestimates.

All say their models are constantly updated, which means that just because they have repeatedly overstated growth in the past, investors should not expect them to continue to do so forever.

"For the post-crisis period, say from 2012 onwards, events are still unfolding, but we are continuing to make adjustments and reassess all the time the models we use," said Sebastian Barnes, senior economist at the OECD in Paris. Economists have known for some time that recessions following banking collapses are longer and deeper than other recessions, and recoveries are slower and shallower. But they still failed to predict the lasting impact of the 2007-2008 crisis on demand for goods and credit, on businesses' ability and desire to borrow to invest, and on banks' willingness to lend.—Reuters



## MURRAY SENDS OUT DAVIS CUP WARNING

**PARIS:** Andy Murray handed out a tennis lesson to David Goffin at the Paris Masters yesterday, three weeks before the two are due to go head-to-head in the Davis Cup final opposing Britain and Belgium. It was vintage Murray as the Scot dominated from the opening exchanges, sweeping a bewildered opponent aside 6-1, 6-0 in just 53 minutes to reach the quarter-finals. The two had met just once before, Murray winning in straight sets in the first round at Wimbledon 2014, when he was defending the crown he won in dramatic fashion the previous year.

That was on grass, while the Davis Cup final from November 27-29 in Ghent will be on clay, which the Belgians chose, believing it gives them a better chance of countering the world number three. Yesterday's match-up, in contrast, was on a hardcourt, but there were valuable psychological points to be won with the final in mind. Those went totally to Murray, who will now go on to play either Kei Nishikori of Japan or Richard Gasquet of France on Friday for a first ever Paris Masters semi-final appearance.

Murray said he was expecting a different challenge when the two national number ones face off in Ghent on a claycourt surface chosen by the Belgians to aid their players. "Obviously clay is seen as being my worst surface, but I still feel like I play well on that court," he said. "I don't know what speed the court's going to be. You know, if it's quick, then I think that that will help my serve a lot. If it's slow, then I feel like I can track a lot of balls down on the clay which is positive.

"But it was good for me to get the chance to play him before the Davis Cup and see his game and the speed of his shots and where he maybe makes some mistakes from and things that he likes to do." Obviously with the result, that's a positive. I mean, mentally for me it's a positive win." Goffin put as brave a face as possible on the loss, saying he would take a few days' rest to recharge his batteries before joining up with the Belgian team at the end of next week. "Andy was extremely efficient today," he said. "This didn't help me to get into that match. This is why that match was the way it was," he said. "As far as I was concerned, I thought this would be my last match of the (ATP Tour) season, so it's really tough to really put all your energy into it." — AFP



**CHICAGO:** Jonathan Toews #19 of the Chicago Blackhawks and Scott Gomez #93 of the St Louis Blues battle for the puck at the United Center on November 4, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois. The Blues defeated the Blackhawks 6-5 in overtime.—AFP

## LOCAL BOY LI SHINES AMONG WGC STARS

**SHANGHAI:** China's young rising star Li Haotong once again showed he has the temperament and the talent to compete with the world's best as he shot a six-under par 66 at the WGC-HSBC Champions yesterday. It left the 20-year-old in sole possession of eighth place in the world-class 78-man field after a first round in which he thrilled large galleries of local fans at Sheshan International Golf Club in Shanghai.

Li is three strokes behind leader Branden Grace, but an impressive two shots clear of some of golf's biggest stars in Jordan Spieth, Rory McIlroy and Bubba Watson, who have won eight majors between them. "Actually, today, before, my feeling wasn't that good, so I don't know why, but today I played very well. It's very exciting," he told AFP after his opening round in the \$8.5 million event. Li has endured a busy time lately, playing consecutive weeks in Macau, Hong Kong and Turkey after spending most of the summer struggling for form on the US PGA's second-tier Web.com Tour.

But he finally demonstrated some of his prodigious ability at last week's Turkish Airlines Open where he finished seven-under par in a share of 26th place. The big-hitting youngster also clearly enjoyed yesterday being able to fire into greens that had been softened by two days of rain. "The greens were way softer than (when I played here) before so this helped a lot. Today, my irons were pretty good, giving me a lot of putts under 10 foot. Also, I made a lot of putts. Very lucky," he added.

He first rose to prominence at another European Tour event on Chinese soil, the Shenzhen International in April this year, when as a 19-year-old he outshone double Masters champion Watson with whom he played three rounds. He was eventually pipped to the title by Thailand's Kiradechn Aphibarnrat in a play-off. His home club is Shanghai's nearby Lake Malaren, the venue for next week's BMW Masters, and Li enjoyed some vociferous support as he bounced back from a bogey at the first hole to card eight birdies. "I'm getting more comfortable (with the crowds)," he said. —AFP

## TARASENKO LIFTS BLUES PAST BLACKHAWKS 6-5

**CHICAGO:** Vladimir Tarasenko scored at 3:54 of a whistle-free overtime to give the St Louis Blues a 6-5 come-from-behind win over Chicago Blackhawks on Wednesday night. Tarasenko, who also had an assist, beat Corey Crawford on the glove side from the slot for his seventh goal after taking a nifty behind-the-back centering pass from Alex Pietrangelo. Alexander Steen scored twice goals, and Robby Fabbri, Jay Bouwmeester and David Backes each had a goal and an assist in regulation for St Louis, which allowed more than three goals for the first time this season. Patrick Kane, Brent Seabrook, Teuvo Teravainen and Andrew Shaw each had a goal and an assist and Marko Dano - recalled from the minors on Monday - got his first goal to help the Blackhawks take a 5-2 lead after one period.

### DUCKS 3, PANTHERS 2, SO

Chris Stewart scored in the second period and again in the fourth round of the shootout as Anaheim claimed consecutive wins for the first

time this season. Corey Perry tied it on his first goal of the season with 5.1 seconds left in regulation for the Ducks. Frederik Andersen stopped 23 shots for Anaheim, denying Jonathan Huberdeau on the decisive shootout try. Jakob Silfverberg also scored in the shootout for the Ducks, who could be turning around their nightmare start with the NHL's lowest-scoring offense and worst power play. Roberto Luongo made 36 saves in a strong performance for Florida. Erik Gudbranson and Orange County native Rocco Grimaldi scored as the Panthers opened a three-game California road trip with a heart-breaking loss.

### PENGUINS 3, CANUCKS 2

Sidney Crosby scored his second goal of the season and Marc-Andre Fleury made 18 saves as Pittsburgh held off Vancouver. David Perron and Eric Fehr also scored, and Phil Kessel had two assists as the Penguins won their fifth straight. Daniel Sedin and Jannik Hansen had goals for Vancouver, and Ryan Miller

stopped 20 shots. Crosby scored on a 4-on-3 power play after taking a nice feed from Kessel in front and beating Miller on a slick backhand to make it 2-0 at 7:17 of the third. Fehr gave the Penguins a three-goal lead less than 3 minutes later on a wrist shot for his second of the season. Sedin made it 3-1 with 6:01 left as he deflected Matt Bartkowski's point shot past Fleury. Hansen pulled the Canucks within one with 1:07 to go.

### JETS 4, MAPLE LEAFS 2

Alexander Burmistrov scored the tiebreaking goal late in the third period to lift Winnipeg past Toronto. Dustin Byfuglien and Mark Scheifele also scored and Bryan Little added an empty-netter in the final minute for the Jets, who bounced back nicely after a 5-1 loss at Montreal on Sunday. Toby Enstrom, Mathieu Perrault and Blake Wheeler had two assists each, and Ondrej Pavelec finished with 24 saves. PA Parenteau and Leo Komarov scored for Toronto, and James Reimer had 30 saves.— AP



# LEBRON SCORES 23, RIPS JERSEY IN CAVALIERS WIN OVER KNICKS

## CURRY SCORES 31 AS WARRIORS EDGE CLIPPERS

**CLEVELAND:** LeBron James scored 23 points and did some quick tailoring on Cleveland's tight, sleeved uniforms, while Mo Williams added 22 as the Cavaliers won their fourth straight, 96-86 over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night. James made a 3-pointer and dunked off a nice pass from Williams while scoring 11 in the fourth quarter, when the Cavs outscored the Knicks 26-17. Tristan Thompson grabbed 13 rebounds and Kevin Love had 12 boards for Cleveland, which hasn't lost since opening night in Chicago.

Carmelo Anthony scored 17 and rookie Kristaps Porzingis 13 for the Knicks, who were even at 75-all in the fourth when James went to work. James, who earlier this week became the youngest player in NBA history to reach 25,000 points, had an off night from the field, going just 9 of 23. He might have an excuse. During the first half, an irritated James performed an in-game alteration on Cleveland's new sleeved jerseys. The four-time MVP, who has complained in the past that the retro-looking tops are too tight for his arms and shoulders, tore the sleeves open midway through a 4-of-11 shooting performance in the opening 24 minutes. The Cavs were wearing the black, body-hugging uniforms for the first time.

### RAPTORS 103, THUNDER 98

DeMar DeRozan scored 10 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter as Toronto overcame an eight-point deficit in the final 6 minutes to beat Oklahoma City and remain undefeated. Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points and 12 rebounds and Kyle Lowry added 17 points for the Raptors (5-0), who beat Dallas the night before. Toronto shot 42 percent from the field, but benefited from 19 Oklahoma City turnovers. Russell Westbrook scored 20 of his 22 points in the second half and finished with 16 assists. Kevin Durant had 27 points and Enes Kanter added 15 for the Thunder, who lost their second straight. It was the first time this season the Thunder scored fewer than 100 points.

### WARRIORS 112, CLIPPERS 108

Stephen Curry scored 31 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer with just over a minute to go that led defending champion Golden State to its fifth straight win to open the season. Harrison Barnes added 17 points and sparked the big run that helped Golden State overcome a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter to knock off perhaps its most hated rival. Chris Paul scored 24 points and Blake Griffin added 23 for the Clippers, who also had won their first four games of the season to give extra meaning to this early season matchup. An offseason war of words that has been waged between Clippers coach Doc Rivers and several Warriors about what role luck played in their championship last season only added to the drama.

### BUCKS 91, 76ERS 87

Khris Middleton scored 21 points as Milwaukee welcomed back forward Jabari Parker from a left knee injury with a victory over Philadelphia. Parker, the second pick in the 2014 draft, started and played 16 minutes in his first game since tearing his



**CLEVELAND:** Cleveland Cavaliers' Kevin Love (top) drives to the basket against New York Knicks' Robin Lopez during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday Nov 4, 2015. — AP

ACL on Dec 15. He shot 1 of 6 for two points, and his jumper looked a little rusty. Middleton picked him up down the stretch. Greg Monroe's layup with 1:29 left gave the Bucks an 86-85 lead. Middleton hit a fall-away 3-pointer with 48 seconds remaining to make it a four-point game. He sealed the win with two foul shots with 1.4 seconds left. Philadelphia rookie Jahlil Okafor finished with 21 points and six rebounds. Giannis Antetokounmpo added 17 points and shot 7 of 11 for the Bucks.

### HAWKS 101, NETS 87

Al Horford scored 21 points and Dennis Schroder added 20 as Atlanta beat Brooklyn for its fifth straight win. Brook Lopez finished with a season-high 27 points and Thaddeus Young had 14 for the Nets, who dropped to 0-5. Joe Johnson went 1 for 10 and finished with five points against his former team. Jeff Teague had 16 points and six assists, and Paul Millsap had 12 points and nine rebounds for the Hawks.

### ROCKETS 119, MAGIC 114, OT

James Harden scored 28 points, including seven in overtime, to help Houston outlast Orlando. It was a wild, back-and-forth game that was tied 18 times and featured 22 lead changes. Dwight Howard and Harden made consecutive layups to get the Rockets going in overtime and make it 114-110. Evan Fournier had a basket for the Magic before a three-point play by Harden pushed the lead to 117-112. Shabazz Napier cut it to 117-114 with a jump shot with 2 1/2 minutes left in OT. But the Magic didn't score after that and Harden made a pair of free throws with 0.9 seconds left to secure the victory. Fournier finished with 29 points and four assists. He tied it at 110 with two free throws with 1.1 seconds remaining in regulation. Howard had 23 points and 14 rebounds.

### WIZARDS 102, SPURS 99

Bradley Beal made a 3-pointer with 0.3 seconds remaining to give Washington a victory over San Antonio. Beal finished with 25 points, and John Wall had 17 points and 13 assists for Washington. Wall had 13 points in the fourth quarter, and the duo scored the Wizards' last 15 points. Otto Porter added 19 points to help Washington win its second straight over San Antonio dating to last season. The Spurs had previously won 17 straight against the Wizards. Kawhi Leonard led San Antonio with 23 points, Tony Parker scored 11 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, and LaMarcus Aldridge had 10 points and 14 rebounds. The Spurs had won three straight.

### PACERS 100, CELTICS 98

Paul George had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Jordan Hill added 16 points and 10 rebounds to help Indiana beat Boston. Monta Ellis made two free throws with 13.7 seconds left to snap a 98-all tie. Avery Bradley, who had fouled Ellis, missed a potential winning 3-point attempt for the Celtics. Isaiah Thomas led Boston with 27 points on 9-of-19 shooting, and Bradley added 21 points.

### TRAIL BLAZERS 108, JAZZ 92

Damian Lillard had 35 points and CJ McCollum added 27 as Portland defeated Utah. Lillard shot 14 of 27 for his second consecutive 30-point game. Al-Farouq Aminu finished with 13 points and Mason Plumlee added 12 points and 16 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who shot a season-high 53.2 percent from the field. Gordon Hayward scored a season-high 19 for the Jazz, and Trey Burke had 17 off the bench.

### SUNS 118, KINGS 97

Eric Bledsoe scored 19 points and Brandon Knight added 17 as Phoenix routed Sacramento. Alex Len had a season-high 16 points and T.J. Warren added 13 for the Suns, who put six players in double figures and never trailed. Phoenix snapped a two-game skid against the Kings. Kosta Koufos led the Kings with 16 points off the bench. Sacramento played without All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins for the second consecutive game because of a strained right Achilles. — AP



# SOUTH AFRICA'S ELGAR WRECKS INDIA IN FIRST TEST

**MOHALI:** Dean Elgar was the unlikely bowling hero for South Africa as the tourists skittled India for 201 on the opening day of the first Test in Mohali yesterday. The part-time left-arm spinner, who had managed just six wickets in 17 previous Tests, grabbed four for 22 runs on the dry, dusty pitch which he later described as not being good for cricket. South Africa were themselves reduced to 9-2 in reply before ending an eventful day's play on 28 without further loss at the IS Bindra stadium. Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin claimed Stiaan van Zyl leg-before for five and left-arm slow bowler Ravindra Jadeja bowled Faf du Plessis for no score with his second delivery.

Elgar (13 not out) and skipper Hashim Amla (nine not out) warded off the immediate threat from the Indian spinners to ensure there were no further setbacks for the tourists. Opener Murali Vijay was the lone top-order Indian batsman to offer resistance, making 75 before he was sixth out, leg-before while trying to sweep off-spinner Simon Harmer. India were reduced to 154-7 before Jadeja (38) and Ashwin (20 not out) lifted the total with a 42-run stand for the eighth wicket.

## 'Not a good cricket pitch'

Elgar slammed the wicket as one that teams would usually encounter on the fourth day of a Test despite recording his best-ever Test figures. "It is not a good cricket pitch but it is wicket that will produce a result either way," he said.

SCOREBOARD	
Scoreboard at stumps on the first day in the first Test between India and South Africa yesterday in Chandigarh, India.	
<b>India 1st innings</b>	
M. Vijay lbw b Harmer	75
S. Dhawan c Amla b Philander	0
C. Pujara lbw b Elgar	31
V. Kohli c Elgar b Rabada	1
A. Rahane c Amla b Elgar	15
W. Saha c Amla b Elgar	0
R. Jadeja lbw b Philander	38
A. Mishra c Steyn b Elgar	6
R. Ashwin not out	20
U. Yadav b Tahir	5
V. Aaron b Tahir	0
Extras (b-6 lb-1 nb-3)	10
Total (all out, 68 overs)	201
Fall of wickets: 1-0 S. Dhawan, 2-63 C. Pujara, 3-65 V. Kohli, 4-102 A. Rahane, 5-102 W. Saha, 6-140 M. Vijay, 7-154 A. Mishra, 8-196 R.	
Jadeja, 9-201 U. Yadav, 10-201 V. Aaron.	
Bowling: D. Steyn 11-3-30-0; V. Philander 15-5-38-2; S. Harmer 14-1-51-1; K. Rabada 10-0-30-1 (nb-3); D. Elgar 8-1-22-4; I. Tahir 10-3-23-2.	
<b>South Africa 1st innings</b>	
D. Elgar not out	13
S. van Zyl lbw b Ashwin	5
F. du Plessis b Jadeja	0
H. Amla not out	9
Extras (lb-1)	1
Total (for 2 wickets, 20 overs)	28
Fall of wickets: 1-9 S. van Zyl, 2-9 F. du Plessis	
To bat: A. de Villiers, D. Vilas, V. Philander, S. Harmer, D. Steyn, K. Rabada, I. Tahir	
Bowling: R. Ashwin 7-3-4-1; U. Yadav 3-1-5-0; V. Aaron 3-1-4-0; R. Jadeja 5-0-7-1; A. Mishra 2-0-7-0.	

"We sorted of expected it to play like that but we didn't expect it to crumble the way it already has. "It was right up there with the hardest ever Test cricket I've played. Lets hope that it can backfire (on India) and turn out to be a great victory for us."

Indian batting coach Sanjay Bangar said his team's total of 201 was not inadequate on what

he said was a "challenging" pitch. "I am not saying it is a good wicket or a bad wicket, but it is a challenging wicket where run-making is not so easy," said Bangar. "It may look that we have only 201 on the board but it is worth much more than that in these conditions." South Africa, the number one Test side, claimed three wickets in the morning session after India won

the toss and gained the advantage of batting first on a pitch that is expected to deteriorate further. The first wicket fell before a run had been scored when Shikhar Dhawan hung his bat out to a swinging ball from Vernon Philander and edged a catch to Amla at first slip. Cheteshwar Pujara and Vijay retrieved the situation with a 63-run partnership for the second wicket when Elgar stepped up with the ball and, an over later, with a low catch to make it 65-3. Elgar trapped Pujara leg-before for 31 with his fourth delivery when he was summoned by Amla to bowl the 22nd over. Four balls later, Elgar dived in the covers to remove Indian captain Virat Kohli for one on his 27th birthday-also giving debutant fast bowler Kagiso Rabada his first Test wicket.

## Two in two for Elgar

India, who went to lunch at 82-3, were set back once again by Elgar who took two wickets off successive deliveries spread over two overs to reduce the hosts to 102-5. Both Ajinkya Rahane (15) and Wriddhiman Saha (0) were snapped up by Amla in the slips, but Ravindra Jadeja denied Elgar a hat-trick by defending the next ball. Elgar claimed his fourth wicket when Amit Mishra holed out to Dale Steyn in the deep, soon after Vijay was dismissed. Leg-spinner Imran Tahir, who was brought on as the sixth bowler, bowled Umesh Yadav and last man Varun Aaron in the space of four balls to terminate the innings. — AFP

# WARNER, KHAWAJA TONS AS AUSSIES BATTER BLACK CAPS

**BRISBANE:** David Warner backed up his feisty words with runs as he hit his 13th Test century and Usman Khawaja claimed his maiden ton as Australia took an iron grip on day one of the first Test against New Zealand yesterday. The outspoken Warner, who had derided the Kiwis as "Mr. Nice Guys" and vowed an aggressive approach, lived up to his promise with his second-highest Test score against an underwhelming New Zealand attack at the Gabba. With Warner plundering 163 runs off 224 balls, the Australians pounded the ragged Black Caps to go to stumps at 389 for two-their highest first-day score at the Brisbane ground.

Khawaja also cashed in, reaching his first Test century just before the close and finishing the day unbeaten on 102 with skipper Steve Smith not out on 41. Along the way Smith raised 1,000 Test runs in the calendar year as Australia eased doubts about their new-look side after a host of retirements at the start of the three-match series. "We knew if we could grind away and bring their strike bowlers back it'd make it a lot easier at the end of the day and I think the scoreboard reflects how well we actually played," Warner said. "With each individual we built big partnerships. I think it's always important as an opening

batsman just to come out here and do a good job."

Warner was finally out to one of his few false strokes of the day, but it took Ross Taylor's marvelous one-handed catch above his head at slip to snare the prized wicket off James Neesham. The irrepressible left-hander smashed 22 fours and one six for his second-highest Test score, after his 180 against India in Perth almost three years ago. Only four Australian openers-Matt Hayden (30), Mark Taylor (19), Justin Langer (16) and Michael Slater (14) - have amassed more Test centuries than Warner's 13. Warner shared in two mammoth stands with Joe Burns (161) and Khawaja (150) to have the Australians in full flow at a ground where they have not lost a Test match since 1988.

## Stylish Khawaja

Pakistan-born Khawaja deposited a huge down payment on a regular Test spot with a silky hundred after a stop-start career in his previous nine Tests since making his debut against England in Sydney in 2011. The stylish Khawaja kept the runs flowing with his maiden Test ton off 123 balls after new opener Burns had shared in a substantial opening stand with Warner to overpower the Black Caps on the opening day of the series. It was a bold statement from Smith's unfamiliar Australian team, after the post-Ashes departures of former skipper Michael Clarke along with stalwarts Shane Watson, Chris Rogers, Brad Haddin and Ryan Harris.

Burns and Khawaja fitted seamlessly into the revamped Australian batting line-up, providing prolific support for the freewheeling Warner. The Australians scored briskly against the unthreatening bowling and shoddy fielding, clocking up their 300 at almost a run a minute. It was a deflating opening day for Brendon McCullum's Black Caps, who are looking for their first series win in Australia for 30 years. "Obviously, it's a tough day of cricket. Two very good innings that hurt us," Kiwi wicketkeeper BJ Watling said. "We're obviously not in the ideal situation. If we hang in there for long enough, and take this game deep, we'll see where it goes."

Burns completed his third consecutive Test half-century before he edged Tim Southee to Watling for 71. Burns, opening the innings after batting at number six in his previous two Test appearances against India last home season, made the most of his opportunity after being bypassed by selectors for this year's Ashes series in England. —AFP

SCOREBOARD	
Scoreboard at close of play on the fifth and final day in the third and final. Test between Pakistan and England yesterday in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.	
<b>Pakistan 1st innings 234</b> (Misbah-ul-Haq 71; J. Anderson 4-17)	
<b>England 1st innings 306</b> (J. Taylor 76; S. Malik 4-33)	
<b>Pakistan 2nd innings 355</b> (M. Hafeez 151)	
<b>England 2nd innings</b> (Overnight: 46-2; Target: 284 runs)	
M. Ali lbw b Malik	22
A. Cook st S. Ahmed b Malik	63
I. Bell b Malik	0
J. Root lbw b Shah	6
J. Taylor c Y. Khan b Babar	2
J. Bairstow lbw b Shah	0
S. Patel lbw b Babar	0
A. Rashid b R. Ali	22
S. Broad c Malik b Shah	20
B. Stokes st S. Ahmed b Shah	12
J. Anderson not out	0
Extras (b-7 nb-1 w-1)	9
Total (all out, 60.3 overs)	156
Fall of wickets: 1-34 M. Ali, 2-34 I. Bell, 3-48 J. Root, 4-57 J. Taylor, 5-58 J. Bairstow, 6-59 S. Patel, 7-108 A. Rashid, 8-138 S. Broad, 9-150 A. Cook, 10-156 B. Stokes	
Bowling: R. Ali 5-1-23-1; W. Riaz 5-0-25-0 (nb-1 w-1); Z. Babar 18-5-31-2; S. Malik 15-4-26-3; Y. Shah 17.3-2-44-4.	
Result: Pakistan won by 127 runs	

# SPINNERS GIVE PAKISTAN A SERIES WIN OVER ENGLAND

**SHARJAH:** Pakistan's spinners handed their team a 2-0 series victory after ripping through England's batting line-up on the fifth day of the third and final test at Sharjah yesterday. Leg-spinner Yasir Shah took four wickets for a match-haul of seven while retiring all-rounder Shoib Malik grabbed three as England were all out for 156, 40 minutes into the second session of the final day. Shah, who missed the opening test in Abu Dhabi due to an injury, was adjudged the player of the series for his 15 wickets in two matches. "If you look back at the whole series, there was contribution from everyone. That's really pleasing for me as a team," Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq, 41, said at the presentation, while adding he was still undecided on his international future.

England had resumed the day on 46-2 chasing 284 for a series-leveling win at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium but the tourists were reduced to 59-6 after the first seven overs of the morning. Shah made the opening breakthrough by dismissing Joe Root (six) leg

before wicket in the second over of the day and then trapped Jonny Bairstow (zero) in front of the stumps as the batsman attempted a sweep shot. Left-arm spinner Zulfiqar Babar provided able support by dismissing James Taylor (two) and Samit Patel for a duck as England lost four wickets for 13 runs in the morning. Captain Alastair Cook did offer resistance, completing his 46th half century in tests, with a stand of 49 runs for the seventh wicket with Adil Rashid, who was out shortly before the lunch break.

Stuart Broad was then removed by Shah for 20 with Cook (63) following shortly after to Malik, who was playing in his final test before retirement. Ben Stokes (12) came out to bat despite a broken collarbone before being the last man out. Cook said his team's failure to win the key moments in the game proved crucial.

"It's a hard place to come and play. We competed really well in all three of the games but at critical moments we couldn't dominate Pakistan," Cook said. —Reuters

## SCOREBOARD

BRISBANE, Australia: Scores at the close on the opening day of the first Test between Australia and New Zealand at the Gabba yesterday.

### Australia 1st innings

J. Burns c Watling b Southee	71
D. Warner c Taylor b Neesham	163
U. Khawaja not out	102
S. Smith not out	41
Extras (6lb, 3w, 3nb)	12
Total (2 wickets; 88 overs)	389
Fall of wickets: 1-161 (Burns), 2-311 (Warner)	
To bat: A. Voges, M. Marsh, P. Nevill, M. Johnson, M. Starc, J. Hazlewood, N. Lyon.	
Bowling: Southee 19-5-63-1 (1nb), Boult 19-2-90-0, Bracewell 18-2-79-0 (1nb, 1w), Craig 21-3-96-0, Neesham 7-1-36-1 (2w, 1nb), Williamson 4-0-19-0.	





# CHINA TOP MEDALS TABLE IN 13TH ASIAN SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP



By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** China continued its dominance of the medals table of the 13th Asian Shooting Championship, and extended the gap in first place - winning 6 gold medals in the Rifle and Pistol events. The winning of world record holder, Chinese Haoran Yang in the 10M Rifle Event proves that he is targeting World Championship. Yang defeated his compatriot Yifei Cao and Iran's Pourya Noroziyan. The teams event was won by China, followed by South Korea and Iran respectively. Korea's Geongook Lee won the 10 Meter youth gold medal while silver went to Iran's Alireza Davoodabadi and Sanghun Chu from Korea grabbed the bronze. Another team's event was won by South Korea followed by Iran and India respectively.

In the 10 Meter Junior Men Event, China's Xuechao Qian won the gold medal, followed by the Indians Akhil Sheoran who won silver and Prashant Prashant who won bronze. China won the teams gold followed by India - and then Korea. Kazakhstan's Zhanel

Serikbayeva won the 50 M Rifle Prone event after fierce competition with Thailand's Sununta Majchacheep and Malaysia's Muslifa Zulkifli. In the teams event Kazakhstan won the gold medal, while Thailand won silver and China took the bronze. Iran's Fatimah Karamzadeh won the junior 50 meter Prone Rifle followed by Indian Gaithri and Iran's Nejme Khadamati. Iran won the team's event while India got silver - and Mongolia took bronze.

Meanwhile, the Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federation Obaid Al-Osaimi said the competitions were very exciting. "All the shooters targeted the first place, but it was obvious the Chinese and Koreans were dominant. In the second day, five shooters may qualify for Brazil 2016 Olympics - reflecting the strong competition," he said. Al-Osaimi asked countries who won quota place for Brazil to go after their rights and coordinate with the organizing committee in order to restore the stolen right and cancel the unfair and illegal decision by the ISSF.





## SPANISH LEAGUE PREVIEW

## MADRID, BARCELONA VIE FOR LEAD AHEAD OF CLASICO

**MADRID:** Real Madrid plays at Sevilla and Barcelona hosts Villarreal in the Spanish league this weekend, with both teams looking to stay in front before they face each other for the first time this season. In their final games before the "clasico," Madrid travels to Sevilla looking to defend its lead at the top of the table with Barcelona trailing on goal difference. The Catalan club will look to keep up the pace when it faces fifth-place Villarreal at the Camp Nou. The Spanish powerhouses have 24 points each from 10 matches, three points more than third-place Celta Vigo and four more than fourth-place Atletico Madrid and Villarreal. Celta hosts seven-place Valencia on Saturday, while Atletico Madrid hosts Sporting Gijon. Here's what to watch for at the Spanish league this weekend:

## Top form

A victory against Sevilla at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan Stadium on Sunday will likely be enough for Real Madrid to stay in front heading into the Nov 21 game against Barcelona at the Santiago Bernabeu. Rafa Benitez's team is the only unbeaten side after 10 rounds and is coming off an important 1-0 win over Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League, a result that allowed it to reach the competition's knockout round in advance. "The next game in Seville will be really difficult but we know that we must give everything to maintain this run of results," Real Madrid goalkeeper Kiko Casilla said.

## SOUTH AMERICAN DUO

Barcelona remains without the injured Lionel Messi but it has been thriving under the command of Brazilian forward Neymar and Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez. The duo has combined for 17 of the team's last 20 goals. Neymar scored twice and Suarez netted once on Wednesday in Barcelona's 3-0 win over BATE Borisov in the Champions League. "Last season was the best in my life, but now I am in a great moment," said the 23-year-old Neymar, who is the Spanish league's leading scorer with nine goals.

## Benzema doubts

Real Madrid's team has been depleted by a series of injuries this season and now it also has to face an off-the-field problem with striker Karim Benzema, who is involved in a blackmail investigation in France. Benzema is back in his home country facing preliminary criminal charges as part of the probe over a sex tape involving France teammate Mathieu Valbuena. Benzema spent about 24 hours in custody in Versailles and it remains uncertain when he will return to Madrid. Real Madrid is yet to comment on the striker's situation, but he most likely won't be available for the trip to Seville.

## Marcelo setback

In addition to the absence of Karim Benzema, Real Madrid coach Rafa Benitez will also be without left back Marcelo, who injured a left leg muscle in the first half against Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday. Madrid doctors still haven't disclosed the extent of the injury, but the Brazilian defender is in danger of missing the game against Barcelona in two weeks. In the Champions League game, Marcelo was replaced by Nacho Fernandez, who eventually scored the winner for the Spanish side.

## Rakitic's absence

Barcelona also has been plagued by injuries this season and it could be without one of its regular starters in the game against Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu. Croatia midfielder Ivan Rakitic tore a right leg muscle in the first half against BATE Borisov on Wednesday and has already been ruled out of Sunday's game against Villarreal. There was no official indication as to when he would be fit to return for the Catalan club, but he might not make it to the "clasico." — AP

## GERMAN LEAGUE PREVIEW

## BAYERN HOSTS STUTTGART AS DORTMUND FACE SCHALKE

**FRANKFURT:** Thomas Mueller is cementing his position as one of Bayern Munich's key players with his versatility and an uncanny instinct for scoring. Sometimes overlooked on a star-studded squad with Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben, among others, Mueller has been in outstanding form this season. He has scored 10 goals in 11 Bundesliga matches and with his two in a 5-1 win over Arsenal on Wednesday, Mueller has become the club's second most prolific scorer in European competitions. His namesake, the great Gerd Mueller, is far ahead with 66, but with 32 goals Mueller has now passed Karl-Heinz Rummenigge on Bayern's all-time list and is also far ahead of Ribery and Robben, who have 20 each. Mueller's latest scoring achievement came one day after Gerd's 70th birthday. The club has revealed that Gerd Mueller has Alzheimer's and has withdrawn from public. "I worked with him when I was still an amateur and you can only tip your hat to what he's done," Mueller said. Under former coach Louis van Gaal, Mueller became a regular, with the Dutchman saying, "Mueller always plays."

That wasn't always the case under current coach Pep Guardiola, who has a deep squad and likes to rest players. Mueller likes to have the freedom of movement, to roam the field and poach goals. One of the few Bavarians in a Bavarian club, Mueller's outgoing personality makes him a favorite with the fans. His value to the club was underlined before the season, with Bayern reportedly rejecting a huge offer from Manchester United - now coached by Van Gaal - for Mueller. Bayern, whose 10-match winning streak was ended last weekend by the 0-0 draw at Eintracht Frankfurt, next meets Stuttgart. Here are some things to know about this weekend's matches:

## Stuttgart's rise

Stuttgart beat promoted Darmstadt 2-0 to finally lift itself from the relegation zone. But it could plunge right back in with a loss in Munich. Stuttgart has been playing better than its results show and is the fourth-highest scoring team in the league despite converting only about 18 percent of its chances. The bad news is that attacking midfielder Martin Harnik has a

right-knee injury that could keep him out until the end of the year. The good news is that speedy left wing Filip Kostic is back in training after a hamstring injury and should be ready to play in Munich.

## The Ruhr derby

Borussia Dortmund used Bayern's slip in Frankfurt to cut the gap to five points. It plays Schalke on Sunday in the 168th edition of the always emotional and often bad-tempered Ruhr Derby. Led by Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's 13 goals, Dortmund is the highest-scoring team in the league after Bayern (33). Schalke, on the other hand, only has 14 goals, although it is in fourth place. Schalke's revelation of the season has been teenager Leroy Sane, the son of former Bundesliga player and Senegal international Souleyman Sane. Leroy Sane has four goals, which is more than the other two strikers, Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (2) and Franco di Santo (0) combined. Sane said his pre-season target was eight goals, but he looks well poised to surpass that. — AP

## BAYERN ROUT EXPOSES ARSENAL'S LIMITATIONS

**LONDON:** Arsenal's 5-1 thrashing by Bayern Munich reflected the extent of their current injury problems, but it also emphasized the underlying vulnerability that continues to undermine Arsene Wenger's team. Defenders Hector Bellerin and Laurent Koscielny were the latest players to succumb to injury, meaning that Arsenal were missing 10 senior players for Wednesday's game at the Allianz Arena.

But for a side nurturing Premier League title aspirations, it was a humiliating loss-Arsenal's joint-heaviest in the Champions League-and left their hopes of reaching the last 16 dangling by a thread. "They came on the pitch just like, 'Beat us,'" said unimpressed former Arsenal midfielder Emmanuel Petit. "No character, no passion on the pitch." The British press did not mince their words on Thursday either, with "Mullered"-a play on the name of two-goal Bayern forward Thomas Muller-the headline of choice on several back pages.

While acknowledging Bayern's clear superiority, the verdicts were all the more damning because Arsenal's recent form has sparked hope that this may be the season that they end their 11-year wait for a league title. A run of five straight wins, including a ruthless 3-0 defeat of Manchester United, has left Arsenal level on 25 points with leaders Manchester City after 11 games. With Chelsea flatlining and United enduring a chronic goal shortage, Arsenal are widely seen as City's most credible rivals, but it is often a case of one step forward, two steps back. Arsenal can outclass United and beat Bayern 2-0, in the reverse fixture, but also lose to Olympiakos and Dinamo Zagreb and crash out of the League Cup after a 3-0 defeat at second-tier Sheffield Wednesday. It is a paradox that means that, in spite of their nascent title ambitions, they have now lost six times at this stage of the season, across all competitions, for the first time since 1991.



**MUBICH:** Arsenal's French defender Mathieu Debuchy and Bayern Munich's German striker Thomas Mueller (right) vie for the ball during the UEFA Champions League Group F second-leg football match between FC Bayern Munich and Arsenal FC in Munich on November 4, 2015. — AFP

Arsenal badly missed Bellerin and Koscielny in Munich, with Koscielny's deputy Gabriel at fault for the opening goal and stand-in right-back Mathieu Debuchy repeatedly embarrassed by Kingsley Coman and Douglas Costa.

## Weak links

Wenger admitted that Arsenal had been "extremely poor defensively". He added: "The funny thing was that when we went forward every time we looked like we could create chances, but with a defensive performance like that you are going nowhere." Any team would be weakened by such an injury glut, but it remains a peculiar quirk of Arsenal's that they seem unable to conceal their own

weaknesses, be it exposing themselves to counter-attacks by flooding forward in cavalier fashion or, as against Bayern, not doing enough to protect their vulnerability at the back. "Arsenal's full-backs had little or no protection and that is where all the chances came from," said former Liverpool defender Mark Lawrenson, analyzing the match for BBC radio. "You cannot give a team so much width and not expect them to create so many chances. Against the top teams, you cannot have one weakness. They will keep exposing it." With Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Aaron Ramsey and Theo Walcott also currently sidelined, Arsenal's right flank has been decimated ahead of Sunday's north London derby against in-form Tottenham Hotspur. — AFP



## EMOTIONAL MOURINHO SALUTES NEVER-SAY-DIE CHELSEA'S FANS

**LONDON:** Jose Mourinho paid an emotional tribute to Chelsea's loyal fans as the beleaguered Blues boss savoured the dramatic 2-1 win over Dynamo Kiev that earned him a stay of execution. Mourinho has been under siege from critics who claim his side's woeful run has left him on the verge of the sack. And with Chelsea's defense of the Premier League title in tatters amid rumors of a dressing room mutiny against his leadership, Mourinho looked a dead man walking when Dynamo's Aleksandar Dragovic cancelled out his earlier own goal in the closing stages on Wednesday's Champions League tie.

But Brazil winger Willian came to Mourinho's rescue when he unleashed his latest fabulous free-kick in the 83rd minute to secure a vital victory that put Chelsea's bid to reach the last 16 back in their own hands with two Group G fixtures remaining. Willian's wonder strike was greeted with unrestrained glee in the Stamford Bridge stands as the Chelsea supporters who had spent the entire match chanting "Stand up for the Special One" and singing Mourinho's name over and over were rewarded for their faith in the 52-year-old. "This is my moment. When I came back to this club and we played the first match against Hull, the way the stadium welcomed me was amazing, but it is not comparable to today," Mourinho said.

"This comes at a moment when the results are not good and you (the media) are asking for my head. 'The fans read newspapers, they watch TV, they listen to pundits', commentators' opinions, they read blogs and it's quite unbelievable what they tried to say today. 'They tried to say, 'we want you here' and probably they also want to say to all of you 'we want him, let him work'. 'It's a fantastic feeling. To support the manager shows respect and passion for the club. It's amazing. 'With Chelsea this is my moment. The club has to be very proud of their fans. 'I don't have another way to thank them other than to give everything, which I have always done and always will do.'"

### Small mercies

Although Chelsea were still well short of the dominant form that made them Premier League champions just six months ago, Mourinho has to be grateful for small mercies after their second win in nine games. For once his players didn't fold under duress and the Chelsea chief took heart from the way they refused to settle for a draw which would have pushed him closer to an unwanted exit. "It was acceptable to draw but the team showed it wanted to win and emerged from a negative moment," Mourinho said. "From a mental point of view it was important. When the negative moment arrived in the past the team feels it too much. 'Today was the perfect situation. We conceded with 15 minutes left and the team emerged. We wanted to win and felt confident to do that.

"I spoke a lot with the players. When the difficult moment arrives, face the difficult moment, don't crumble. And they did. They were fantastic." Chelsea are now up to second in the group and Mourinho challenged them to catch leaders Porto by winning their final two matches. "Now we can still finish first in the group. That is not the most important thing, which is to qualify, but we can still finish first," he added. Dynamo manager Sergei Rebrov refused to give up hope of overhauling Chelsea's two-point lead over them in the race to reach the last 16. "This is the most prestigious tournament. It is very important for the players to be in it," Rebrov said. "Of course the situation isn't great for, but we will be fighting to stay in the competition." — AFP



**MUNICH:** Bayern Munich's Dutch midfielder Arjen Robben scores the fourth goal past Arsenal's Czech goalkeeper Petr Cech during the UEFA Champions League Group F second-leg football match between FC Bayern Munich and Arsenal FC in Munich, southern Germany on November 4, 2015. — AFP

### UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ROUNDUP

## BAYERN HAMMER ARSENAL

**PARIS:** Arsenal's hopes of reaching the Champions League knockout phase were left hanging by a thread on Wednesday after they were thrashed 5-1 by Bayern Munich, while Chelsea revived their faltering campaign with a nervy 2-1 victory over Dynamo Kiev. Zenit St Petersburg became the third team to reach the last 16 of the competition as the Russian champions maintained their 100 per cent record with a 2-0 win at Lyon, while Barcelona edged closer towards qualification after strolling past BATE Borisov 3-0.

Bayern's unbeaten start to the season was ended by a 2-0 defeat at Arsenal a fortnight ago but Pep Guardiola's side exacted revenge and then some at the Allianz Arena. Robert Lewandowski headed Bayern into a 10th-minute lead as Arsenal's attempt to catch the Poland striker offside backfired. Thomas Mueller added a second just before the half hour as his shot deflected off Per Mertesacker and crept in at Petr Cech's near post. David Alaba effectively put the game beyond reach just before the break as the Austrian curled home a third after stealing the ball from Santi Cazorla on the edge of the area.

Substitute Arjen Robben then smashed

home an Alaba cutback early in the second half while Olivier Giroud's acrobatic effort pulled one back for the Gunners. But Mueller compounded Arsenal's misery a minute from time to condemn the Gunners to their joint-heaviest European defeat, equalling the 4-0 drubbing at AC Milan in the last 16 of the 2011/12 edition. A chastening evening for the Londoners was made all the more damaging as Olympiakos recovered from a goal down to beat Dinamo Zagreb 2-1, leaving Arsenal six points behind the Greeks, and Bayern, with two games to play.

### Willian to the rescue

Meanwhile, beleaguered Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho was a much-relieved man after Willian helped steer the Blues past their Ukrainian opponents. Chelsea took a first-half lead at Stamford Bridge when Willian's right-wing cross was headed into his own net by Aleksandar Dragovic, only for the Austrian to atone with a 78th-minute equalizer. But Willian curled in a superb free-kick seven minutes from time to hand the hosts all three points and bump them up to second in Group G, two points above Kiev. Porto remain top of the section after easing to a 3-

1 win away to bottom side Maccabi Tel-Aviv-Cristian Tello, Andre Andre and Miguel Layun all on target for the Portuguese outfit in Israel. Neymar netted a 31st-minute penalty and added a late second with Luis Suarez also grabbing a goal at the Camp Nou as Barcelona cruised past BATE Borisov to leave the holders five points clear atop Group E. Roma prevented Barca from qualifying with two games to spare as the Italians recovered from letting a two-goal lead slip to second. Bayer Leverkusen 3-2 and climb to second.

First-half strikes from Mohamed Salah and Edin Dzeko put Roma in control at the Stadio Olimpico but, just like in their previous meeting in Germany, Leverkusen fought back with goals from Admir Mehmedi and Javier Hernandez just after half-time. Miralem Pjanic's penalty 10 minutes from the end proved the difference though as Rudi Garcia's side picked up their first victory of the campaign. Artem Dzyuba netted twice to power Zenit past a listless Lyon at the Stade Gerland as the Russians joined Real Madrid and Manchester City in the last 16, while Gent kept their qualification dreams alive in Group H with a 1-0 home win over second-placed Valencia. — AFP

## BARCA'S NEYMAR, SUAREZ SHINING IN MESSI ABSENCE

**BARCELONA:** The link-up play and understanding that Barcelona strike duo Neymar and Luis Suarez have developed in the absence of Lionel Messi was emphasized again in the Champions League victory over BATE Borisov. Over the last few years there has been continual talk of a dependency on the magical skills of Messi at the Camp Nou, but with the Argentine out injured the attack has shown that it can shine without him. Brazilian Neymar and Uruguayan Suarez between them have scored 18 of the

last 21 goals for Barca and they have particularly come into form in recent matches with 13 goals from five games.

The pair set each other up for goals in the second half against BATE after Neymar had put Barca ahead from the penalty spot in the 3-0 win on Wednesday. It means Barca are on the verge of qualifying from Group E with ten points from four games. Still, Barca coach Luis Enrique reinforced the value of the four-times World Player of the Year Messi to the team. "At the moment we

are getting the results and we are playing well but we will always miss Messi," Luis Enrique told reporters. "We are showing at the moment that we do have other options."

While Neymar and Suarez have been the driving force behind the side, Luis Enrique also pointed out the value of Sergio Busquets again having described him as the best midfielder in the world last week. "I was happy with the game and the danger that we caused. Sergio had a perfect game,

it is not possible to do any better than that, it was spectacular," he said. The only downside to the evening was an injury to midfielder Ivan Rakitic with important La Liga games coming up against Villarreal on Sunday and then the 'El Clasico' with Real Madrid on Nov 21. Barca have been stretched by injuries this season and the FIFA transfer ban over the last two windows but they are still on course in La Liga, joint top with Real with 24 points from ten games. — Reuters



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## Bayern Munich hammer Arsenal

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MUNICH: Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski falls on the pitch during the UEFA Champions League Group F second-leg football match between FC Bayern Munich and Arsenal FC in Munich, southern Germany on November 4, 2015. Bayern won the match 5-1. — AFP