

150 FILS  
NO: 16693  
40 PAGES

# Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015

MUHARRAM 28, 1437 AH

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Policeman kills US, S African instructors in Jordan



'Medicine man' brings pills to the poor in India



Nigerian bags World Scrabble title, in first for Africa



Bryant reigns, but Lakers lose at Madison Square Garden



## AMIR ARRIVES IN RUSSIA FOR 'IMPORTANT' SUMMIT

MIDEAST CRISIS, TERRORISM TOP AGENDA AS KUWAITI, RUSSIAN LEADERS MEET



Min 16°  
Max 25°  
High Tide 11:35 & 23:10  
Low Tide 05:25 & 17:22



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from the editor's desk

### THE SADDEST NEWS

By Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan

myopinion@kuwaittimes.net



Kuwait Times mourns the passing of one of its oldest and most dedicated professionals today after his sad and untimely death yesterday. Xavier Moraes was an exceptional journalist, a hard-working and hard driving editor and dedicated to the newspaper. Xavier joined the paper when I was around six years old. I remember going to the office with my dad and he would call me over to his desk, hand me pens and paper and invite me to color. He was a fixture in Kuwait Times, steady and reliable as a clock and one of the people that contributed to its success for more than the 30+ years.

In his role as Sports Editor, Xavier always knew the important games - and the latest footballer gossip - and how to get the best of sports news to our readers. He was a vital part of the editorial team and a leader in his chosen profession. Personally, I always knew the man to be a polished professional who got the job done even sometimes in the most challenging of circumstances. I cannot thank him enough for his long service and contribution to the Kuwait Times. Neither he nor his stamp on the newspaper will ever be forgotten. My deepest condolences to his family and May God Almighty Rest His Eternal Soul.



MOSCOW: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is received by Minister for the Development of Russian Far East Alexander Galushka, Sochi Mayor Anatoly Pakhomov, Kuwait ambassador to Russia Abdulaziz Ahmad Al-Adwani, and officials of the embassy. — KUNA

MOSCOW: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation arrived in the Russian city of Sochi yesterday on a visit during which he will hold official talks with President Vladimir Putin. On arrival, His Highness the Amir was received by Minister for the Development of Russian Far East Alexander Galushka, Sochi Mayor Anatoly Pakhomov, Kuwait's ambassador to Russia Abdulaziz Ahmad Al-Adwani, and officials of the embassy.

Meanwhile, a Russian diplomat has described the Amir's visit as "important." "The visit of His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait will give a boost to bilateral relations in different spheres," Peter Stegny, who served as Russian Ambassador in Kuwait, said in a statement. He said the Amir's summit talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin would be important because of the critical situation in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf regions, as well as rising threats of terrorism.

Stegny said Kuwait and Russia enjoyed long relationships, citing a visit by a Russian naval ship to the Kuwaiti ports in the early 20th century, when sailors took photos of Kuwait and the then ruler Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah. Kuwait established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in 1963, thus it was the "only window for the Soviets in the Arabian Gulf region," he said. Stegny said bilateral relations were strong that Kuwaiti ships were hoisting the Soviet Union flag while sailing through the Strait of Hormuz during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war. Russia, he noted, also supported Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion and occupation in the 1990-91.

Stegny said he was happy to work as Ambassador in Kuwait during the post-invasion reconstruction period.

He commended the efforts of the Kuwaiti government and people in overcoming the traumatic impacts of the Iraqi seven-month occupation. Kuwait and Russia also cooperated closely in the search for Kuwaiti prisoners and missing. "This humanitarian mission bolstered solidarity between the Russian and Kuwaiti people," he said. Stegny said His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad played an important role to foster relations with Moscow when he was a foreign minister. —KUNA

## CONDOLENCES



### KT SPORTS EDITOR XAVIER DIES AT 54

KUWAIT: Francis Xavier Moraes (54), Kuwait Times Sports Editor, passed away yesterday following a brief illness. Xavier, who worked with Kuwait Times for more than 30 years, is survived by his wife Maria Rita Moraes. Xavier, an Indian national, commenced his career in Kuwait Times in 1983. He became the sports editor subsequently in 1992 after the newspaper reopened following the Liberation. Xavier has covered several major sports events in his career, including traveling to several important sporting events in the region and internationally. His body will be flown to his hometown Mumbai once the formalities are completed.

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,  
Management  
and  
Staff convey their  
deepest condolences  
to the family of

XAVIER MORAES  
(SPORTS EDITOR, KUWAIT TIMES)

May God rest his soul in peace



# YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SYMPOSIUM HELD AS PART OF TMKEEN AWARD

SHEIKH SALMAN: AMIR KEEN TO SUPPORT YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

By Faten Omar and KUNA

**KUWAIT:** The fourth KIPCO Tmkeen award for young entrepreneurs organized the youth empowerment symposium yesterday at Arraya Ballroom. Tmkeen is a strategic partnership between Kuwait Projects Company Holding (KIPCO) and the Youth Empowerment Organization to support Entrepreneurs in Kuwait. The annual award focuses on active young entrepreneurs with established businesses within the media and technology industries.

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said that His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince are eager to bolster the empowerment of youth who constitute key tools for the country's development in various fields.

Addressing the conference on behalf of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the minister said: "The State is keen to encourage young people to contribute to pushing forward economic and social growth."

The government, through its program of action, attaches much significance to young people by means of providing them with all appropriate opportunities for developing their skills and capabilities in various areas and fulfilling their hopes and aspirations for developing their country, he added.

The Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, helped by different state bodies, civil society and the private sector, always seeks to sponsor and support skilled youth and allow them to voice their ambitions in diverse national domains, the minister added.

Sheikh Salman said the ministry's recently launched award for youth excellence and creativity is a sign of the State's relentless backing to Kuwaiti youth, urging them to apply for the KD-100,000 prize involving 10 fields; KD 10,000 each.



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah talks during the youth empowerment conference. — KUNA

### Motivational boost

Meanwhile, Waleed Al-Khashti, CEO of Zain, said in a speech that "These competitions serve as a motivational boost for the future generations, pushing young entrepreneurs to explore, organize and implement their ideas towards creating successful businesses." He added that Zain's sponsorship of this conference sprung from its core belief that the younger generations are in utmost need of support, to eventually grow and prosper their skills and capabilities within a community that holds unlimited potential.

The company will continue to support similar programs that ensure the implementation of its various social commitments and at the same time ensures strengthens its relationship with several institutions and agencies, which organize national initiatives that carry

important messages every year.

Engineer Amal Al-Rashed the Technical Support Representative, said that their Mission is to Create Economic Programs that Educates, Informs & Inspire the Youth. And to Create a Connecting Bridge Between Global and Local Leaders with the Youth of Kuwait.

In order to be eligible to apply for the KIPCO Tmkeen Award, entrepreneurs must be within the ages of 18-33, and have an existing licensed media or technology business that has been established within the last five years.

At the end, Tmkeen honored the Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah and the sponsors. The ceremony recognized the efforts and endless support of all main sponsors of the symposium in making the event a success. The well-organized conference saw a range of activities and seminars.

# WHY IS CLIMATE CHANGE A THREAT TO PEACE?

In his speech delivered in Paris on October 14, 2015 before the 'Climate and Defense Conference', French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius stressed that climate change posed a real threat to peace and security and that 'working for climate is working to protect peace and security'.

Fabius added that global warming had precipitated dearth in various vital resources, namely in food and water, adding that examples of food and water-related conflicts in various ages were endless. "Displacement because of climate change might have serious security impacts," he underlined, pointing out that draughts, famine and

floods resulting from global warming might be very basic reasons for conflicts among the future generations. "The Paris Conference" which is due to be held in less than a month is not going to be merely dedicated to environmental issues, but will also be for peace," said Fabius, underlining that it was becoming a necessity to develop 'better climate immunity' by using renewable energy, respecting the environment, eliminating pollution and recycling. Notably, the French embassy to Kuwait had organized several conferences and seminars on global warming including one due to be held at Kuwait University on November 23.



**French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle**

# VIVA SPONSORS 3RD E-GOVERNMENT FORUM

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced that will take part in the Third E-Government Forum 'Information Management and Security' as platinum sponsor, held under the patronage of Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, at Arraya Ballroom, from 15 to 17 November 2014.

Commenting on this sponsorship, Abdulrazzaq Al-Essa, Director of Corporate Communications Division at VIVA, said: "VIVA, as leader telecom solutions provider, was keen to participate in this forum since its first version as we have interest in technology surrounding information and communication security, confronting the challenges of the security information."

The Third E-Government forum will discuss this year two tracks that are of significant importance to e-government development serv-

ices: Information Management and Information Security. The Information Management track shall cover topics such as Road to Government Data Integration and Governance, Trends of Enterprise Content Management (ECM), Data Analytics in e-Government Solutions, and Record Management in the e-Government services. The Forum will also shed light on the future NoSQL and In-Memory Database Trends and The Paradigm Shift of the Internet of Things (IoT). A core focus of this track is to discuss the Structural Challenges of Service Oriented Governments, and the role of the M-Government programs.



**Abdulrazzaq Al-Essa**

However, Information security is a mandatory factor for the success of e-government programs, as well as for any other electronic systems such as banking, retail, and electronic payment related systems.



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

# CABINET ASKS KIA TO CONSIDER PRIVATIZATION OF SPORTS CLUBS

**KUWAIT:** The cabinet yesterday trusted the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) with considering a suggestion on privatizing sports clubs, said Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

The KIA will make use of specialized international expertise and report the outcome in a study to the cabinet, comprising tools and mechanisms for implementing the proposal, and requirements for success.

The cabinet's customary meeting was held at the Amiri Airport, and chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Sheikh Salman briefed the ministers on efforts by the Public Authority for Sports to promote the sports scene, and developing sports institutions and vital role. Then he proposed privatization of sports clubs with the major goal of upgrading the efficiency of their performance and promoting sports.

The discussions were in line with the elevated directives by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on encouraging sports and paying due care to youth, creating a favorable environment to unleash their creativity and abilities. They were also part of the cabinet's interest in fostering youth capabilities and

potential, especially in sports. The Executive Board (EB) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) had suspended sports activities in Kuwait.

### Arab Economic Charter

At the onset of the meeting, the cabinet was notified of a message from President of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) Prince Al-Hassan bin Talal to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, said Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. The message included a copy of the Arab Economic Charter which the ATF launched last August, offering a host of proposals and initiatives for consolidating the pan-Arab economic ties. Then the ministers were informed of the official visit of His Highness the Amir, and an accompanying delegation, to Russia, invited by President Vladimir Putin. The visit is part of the efforts to boost the distinguished ties between the two friendly countries in all fields, Sheikh Salman said. They will also tackle latest regional and international developments.

Following this, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the meeting on his talks with his counterpart from Bosnia and Herzegovina Igor Crnadak during the latter's

recent visit to Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti-Bosnian talks addressed means of bolstering economic ties, to raise them to the level of the good political relations. Crnadak lauded the major humanitarian role of His Highness the Amir, and his efforts to realize peace and fight terrorism.

### Memorandum of cooperation

In the meantime, the cabinet approved and referred to His Highness the Amir, two draft decrees on a memorandum of cooperation in infrastructure cooperation with Japan and an agreement on cultural ties with Senegal.

The first draft decree aims to foster cooperation with Japan in infrastructure, highways and sanitary drainage systems, besides safety and protection of the environment and construction works. The second one seeks to support and preserve the cultural identity and enhance bilateral cooperation in literature, arts, cinema, architecture, museums and libraries.

The cabinet endorsed a draft decree for transferring Director of Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) Abdullaif Suraie Al-Suraie to the post of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice. Yesterday's meeting was concluded with a review of the current political developments on the Arab and international scenes. —KUNA

# EUROPE MULLS KUWAITI'S SCHENGEN VISA EXEMPTION

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's request to exempt Kuwaiti citizens from having the Schengen visa was being considered by most European Union countries, a senior official said. Kuwaiti foreign minister's assistant for European Affairs Ambassador Waleed Al-Khubaizi was speaking to reporters Sunday night ceremony held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of establishing bilateral relations between Kuwait and Belgium. He stressed that Kuwait's bilateral relations with Belgium were 'very strong' and that Kuwait had many investments there. He stressed the presence of exchanged visits of high-ranking officials from both countries such as a recent visit made by Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, in addition to a visit that His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-

Sabah is scheduled to make by the beginning of next year. he hoped that the premier's visit to Belgium would be effective in finalizing the Schengen visa exemption issue.

### Amir's visit

Responding to a question about His Highness the Amir's visit to Moscow, Khubaizi stressed that it was intended to cement bilateral relations between both countries and revive previous agreements. He added that oil, gas, investments, culture and transport would be discussed during the visit. On his part, Belgium's Ambassador to Kuwait Andy Detaille stressed that bilateral relations between both countries were deep-rooted in various disciplines and said that various cultural events would be held in Kuwait soon to introduce Belgium's culture to Kuwaitis.



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti foreign minister's assistant for European Affairs Ambassador Waleed Al-Khubaizi and Belgium's Ambassador to Kuwait Andy Detaille cut the ceremony's cake. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

# EGYPT KUWAIT TIES STRONG AND FRIENDLY

**KUWAIT:** Deputy parliament speaker Mubarak Al-Khuraiej said Kuwait-Egyptian ties were deep at the political, economic and popular levels, and nothing would undermine these relationships. Khuraiej said the suspected killer of Egyptian worker in Hawally has been arrested "so the incident should be placed in its proper framework, so there is no need to incite feelings of the two people."

The judiciary of Kuwait will conduct investigations in a just manner, said Khuraiej, who extended condolences to the family of the Egyptian worker. He said the Egyptian community in Kuwait was the second largest, and Egyptians were always warmly welcomed by the Kuwaiti government and people.

### Political and economic ties

Khuraiej said Egyptians contributed to development of Kuwait and Egypt stood by Kuwait during the 1990 Iraqi invasion, and sent forces to help liberate the country in 1991.

Kuwait, he said, supported Egypt economically following the 2011 and 2013 events.

### Cairo trust Kuwait judiciary

Alternatively, Egyptian Minister of Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs Nabila Makram expressed trust in Kuwait judiciary, which is examining the case of Ahmad Atef, an Egyptian worker who was killed in a scuffle in Hawally a few days ago. The minister made the remark during a meeting with Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, and Minister of State for Development and Planning Affairs Hind Al-Subaih on Sunday.

Subaih said that the case is before the Kuwait's "just" judiciary, adding the family of Atef will take his rights in accordance with the laws. She called on the family to submit a request so as to complete measures as disciplined, affirming that Kuwait is keen on protecting and preserving rights of all employees from different nationalities.

### Labor issues

During the meeting, the two ministers discussed several labor issues which interest the two countries. Subaih stressed the depth of Egypt-Kuwait relations and her country's keenness on protecting workers as they are playing a key role in enhancing development inside the country. She promised to task a Kuwaiti team to visit Egypt for holding talks with officials in order to coordinate on the possibility of achieving an automatic linkage between the two sides with the aim of preserving rights of workers and curbing fraud. She also affirmed the start of implementing unified labor contracts, referring that workers were given a grace period of two months to adjust their contracts. Concerning some fake companies that import workers without providing appropriate jobs for them, Kuwait's Public Authority for Manpower is coordinating with the labor office in the Egyptian Embassy to identify these companies to avoid dealing deal with them in the future. — KUNA



**Ambassadors attend the event.**



# A tribute to Xavier Moraes

## REMEMBERING OUR COLLEAGUE

**Kuwait Times staff mourn the sudden and unexpected loss of their colleague and friend, Xavier Moraes who served as an editor for the newspaper for more than 30 years.**

I have known Xavier for more than 18 years; as a friend and a colleague who used to sit in his desk next to mine in the newsroom. A cool, no-nonsense guy, I saw Xavier as a practical journalist who never used to lose his cool even under extreme work pressure. He was an active member when we formed the Kuwait Asian Journalists Association (KAJA) a few years ago. Probably the quietest among the editors in the office, Xavier always radiated that knowledgeable calmness. He will be missed and his memory will live on.

- **Sajeev K Peter**

Although I have written a lot of articles, but writing an epitaph for a friend and colleague who - just few days ago was playing and joking with us in the office really staggers my imagination. I wish I never got the call from his wife on this fateful Monday morning about the demise of Xavier. I couldn't call it an 'April Fool' - It is not April, and the voice was that of his lovely wife. I couldn't stop asking these questions What? How? and When? Popularly known as 'Xavier Moraes X' in the office, Xavier was very unique and different. He was so passionate with what he did best: 'Sports Pages'. He was kind - and above all faithful to God. May your gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Adieu 'Mr Xavier Moraes X'.

- **Chidi Emmanuel**

We were good friends for 26 years since I joined Kuwait Times. He was a keen listener and witty. We shared a lot of jokes and discussed many issues related to work and our future plans. He was an introvert and rarely discussed his personal life. Xavier was a real foodie and enjoyed good food. Xavier was excellent with sports pages. Sometimes his headlines baffled me and I used to call him to congratulate him. He told me some months back that he was ready to call it a day after being around in Kuwait Times for 33 years. I will have fond memories of him for some time around but from now he will be missed and we will never ever see him again. Goodbye Amigo, goodbye my friend. May God rest his soul in eternal peace.

- **Tony Coelho**

Xavier was a very quiet guy. He joked once in a while, but he also offered the best advice when necessary; I remember when I was still submitting sports news on my first two years with the Kuwait Times, he was very particular with how it should look particularly with photos, very professional! He was such a brilliant person to work with. The last joke we shared was only last week, he was still jolly and joking; "Ben as if you didn't see anyone," he said while passing by my desk, "Am I dead," he asked again. Then I responded with the usual apology, and I throw back a joke on him...that was it; our last day talking together as colleagues. He'll be missed!

- **Ben Garcia**

I really feel sorry to hear that he passed away. It's been more than 12 years when I joined the Kuwait Times and he was here already. We all got used to him, although he was very quiet guy and never remember hearing him shouting or fighting with anybody. He was easy going and always helpful when we needed help or support. Rest in peace Mr. Xavier.

- **Nawara Fattahova**

I work in the reception desk, I always see him daily, coming and going out of the newspaper. But I was stunned last week when he said he was very tired and ready to go. I don't really understand what he meant by that



**Francis Xavier Moraes**

but I knew, something was wrong, probably health wise... Xavier had this distinct smile on his face; I noticed his silence the past days; so I asked why he seemed to be so quiet the past days, he said, he was tired and ready to go.

- **Marilyn Doroja**

The most important part of an editor's job is to make his pages attractive to readers. The daily challenge is to always keep a 'fresh' look to the pages and give a reason for the reader to check the paper each morning. Xavier, Kuwait Times' longtime sports editor, did exactly that. In the age of up-to-date news and notifications that you can receive instantly on your smart phone, giving a fresh look for a printed newspaper's sports pages becomes a tall task, but one that did not stop our beloved colleague from excelling at what he did. I believe it takes a great deal of passion for what you do in order to achieve that goal. As a sports' enthusiast whose morning schedule includes surfing through ESPN, Yahoo Sports and other websites, checking Kuwait Times' sports pages has always been a stable on my early morning to-do list. His work was just that professional. For that, and for his undeniable passion, pure-hearted smile and unmistakable laugh, he will be missed.

- **Ahmad Jabr**

My interactions with Xavier go back more than 30 years to the time he joined Kuwait Times as a young reporter. An excellent football player and an ardent sports fan, he was always an active participant in

organizing local games and matches for the community. It was only natural that his enthusiasm for sports would lead him to eventually become the Sports Editor of Kuwait Times. I will always cherish the memories of my time spent in his company and deeply mourn his untimely demise. May the Almighty grant that his soul Rest in Peace.

- **NS Das**

I was saddened by the passing away of our colleague Mr Xavier. I have known him for nine years as a good colleague and a very good mentor. Personally, I have known many journalists and editors. But Xavier was completely different from others. As per editor-designer relations, Xavier was a genius. I learnt a lot from him. He has a very good command of his work. He was cool, calm and hardworking. Dear Xavier, We miss you a lot sir. Our thoughts and prayers are always with you. We ask God to grant your family all the support and strength they need."

- **Lenin Polineni**

Xavier served the newspaper longer than any other editor in Kuwait Times history. He was a quiet and thoughtful man who was always professional and dedicated to his work. His death is a sad and tragic loss. May his soul rest in peace. We offer our deepest condolences to his wife and family. He worked late and diligently and his mark on the newspaper will endure.

- **Jamie Etheridge**

He was a very unique, different and a special man. You will be missed so much. May your soul rest in peace.

- **Sahar Moussa**

I came into office yesterday afternoon, with many things on my mind, and the first person I saw was Islam, who told me right away, "he left us" I did not comprehend what he said right away, so he mentioned the name Xavier. Oh! It's that time once again...a quiet, mannered man, who always bore with me when I give a late minute item, as he manages the sports page, many times he took soccer, hand-capped, shooting, handball, squash and many other sports' stories, and he many times told me Abdellatif, I have no space, not enough time, no re-writer, with a very serious face, only to come back 30 minutes later to show me the story already on the proof, as best as it can be. That was Xavier, who is a friend, a colleague, a human being with whom we spent many years together within the family of Kuwait Times, where he will always be remembered. You will be missed Xavier.

- **Abdellatif Al Sharaa**

Yesterday, when my colleague Tony Coelho called me from Kuwait and told me that our colleague Xavier Moraes is no more, I felt like I was kicked in the stomach. I may not be working with Kuwait Times anymore and Xavier and I might not have been best friends but Kuwait Times is one close-knit family and each person has made an impact on everyone whose paths they have crossed. I felt like we lost an important family member and didn't get a chance to even say goodbye. Xavier who was the sports editor was with Kuwait Times even before I was born and did an excellent job with the sports pages. He had a fantastic sense of humor and was always lightning quick with comebacks and witty one-liners which used to crack up all the editors. Even though he wasn't one of the noise-makers at work, he certainly had a strong presence. Xavier, the editorial team and the sports pages won't be the same without you. You'll truly be missed.

- **Priyanka Saligram**

## Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT: Photo shows a Kuwaiti traditional ship. In a change of times, traditional Kuwaiti (boom) ship now uses motor to sail. — KUNA**



# SHAAB'S RED TIDE 'TOXIC'

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Secretary general of Kuwait Environment Protection Society (KEPS) Wejdan Al-Oqab stressed that the black slick spotted Sunday afternoon off Al-Shaab coast consists of dark red poisonous seaweeds that are very harmful for marine species. She added that fish feeding on those weeds would be dangerous for human consumption because they would become highly toxic. She added that such seaweeds form naturally in case they find enough adequate nutrition. The Environment Public Authority had confirmed that the slick was created by a stretch of red tide.

## No heavy rain

Meteorological expert Essa Ramadan strongly denied social media stories about heavy rain and floods in Kuwait which were rumored to happen within the coming few days. He indicated that today's weather would be cloudy to partly cloudy with light to moderate south easterly changing to north westerly winds, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h, and with a chance for scattered rain. Ramadan strongly denied the possibility of having floods like those in Jordan because Jordanian terrain was different and Kuwait's infrastructure was more efficient. Further, Ramadan stressed that winter had not yet start-

ed in Kuwait and that temperatures would rise again to 30 degrees next week, adding that winter would start by December.

## Khairan murder

The criminal court yesterday sentenced four suspects to 10 years in jail with hard labor and two others to five years with hard labor over a murder case that happened at the Khairan resort. The six suspects were arrested hours after the murder, and the first one was charged with first degree murder, four were charged with assault and the sixth was charged as the owner of the crime scene.

# MP URGES SECURING CAMPING SITES

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** In view of the beginning of the annual camping season, MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran yesterday proposed building comprehensive security, firefighting and

ambulance centers in camping areas and along highways.

In his proposal, Jeeran urged the interior minister to build security checkpoints along northern, west and southern borders.



MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran

## Marriage course

Rapporteur of the parliamentary women affairs committee, MP Mohammed Tana Al-Enezi said that the committee agreed to a proposal that calls for conducting pre-marriage medical tests. He also suggested mandating couples-to-be to undergo a two-week training course to be organized by the family affairs experts at the justice ministry in order to eventually avoid and avert the increasing divorce rates.

## Health committee

The parliamentary health affairs committee set its priorities, listing 16 proposals to be made on its next meeting including imposing health insurance on citizens, developing health services and building a medical city.

# KD 1,400 WITHDRAWN THROUGH STOLEN ATM CARD

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A citizen in Bayan told police that an unknown person stole his ATM card and withdrew KD 1,400 from his bank account in three separate transactions. He said that he wrote the pin code at the bottom of the card, allowing the thief to have access to his account. Police are investigating.

was carried out against trucks on Wafra road near Sabah Al-Ahmad area, during which 280 traffic citations were issued for driving in the wrong way and recklessness.

## Residency duration

The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department reminded that the date to implement the new law of linking the residency duration of expatriates with the validity of their passports starts at the beginning of 2016. The department said this action comes as part of efforts to regulate work, adding that it is in the interest of citizens and expats. The department also stated that the period given before its implementation is enough for any person to find out the expiry date of his passport before going to the residency affairs department for the new residency permit.

## Stabbing

A 22-year-old citizen was stabbed in the shoulder, and police arrested the attacked. A case was filed to investigate the circumstances behind the incident.

## Wafra campaigns

Ahmadi's traffic department officers carried out a crackdown in Wafra in coordination with Kuwait Municipality against violating groceries in the area. Another crackdown

# US ARMY DRONE CRASHES IN MUTLAA DESERT

**KUWAIT:** A US Army drone airplane has crashed in the desert of Mutlaa, northern Kuwait, but no-one was hurt, the Ministry of Defense said Sunday. A statement by the Ministry's Moral

Guidance and Public Relations Department did not specify how the plane crashed, or whether it was conducting a military mission or in a simple training exercise. —KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Settled and migratory seabirds such as gulls and herons find sanctuary at secluded shallow spots along Kuwait Bay's Shuwaikh beach where they fish in the serene waters free from people's eyes. —KUNA



# MIKRAD MEETS KFSD INSPECTORS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Director for prevention sector at Kuwait Fire Services Directorate KFSD Major General Khalid Al-Mikrad told KFSD inspectors not be lenient when it

comes to enforcing the law, and asked them to use all their authorities in case of violations to safeguard people's lives. That came during a campaign launched by KFSD to get rid of all violations related to fire prevention.

# MUTLAA CITY FREE FROM RADIATION

**KUWAIT:** Officials from different authorities have confirmed that the Mutlaa City was free from radiation thus suitable for housing purposes. Nasser Khuraibet, Director of Planning at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), said many studies conducted by the Environment Public Authority (EPA), the Ministry of Defense and some of the companies affiliated to the US Army proved that Mutlaa was free from any kind of radiation.

A report by the US army in 2013 reached the same conclusion.

The PAHW was working on building the Mutlaa City, which began following approval of EPA, said Khuraibet at a seminar organized by the Environment Committee of Kuwait Society of Engineers. Khuraibet, citing some of the reports, said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued reports in 2002 and 2008 that concluded Kuwait, Mutlaa in particular, were free from radi-

ation. Dr Ali Khuraibet, General Manager of ECO Environmental Consultants, said it was normal to have certain levels of radiation in any country but these levels should be within international limits. He said his laboratory took samples from different areas in Kuwait and all showed that level of radiation was within the limits. He said the results of the scientific reports should be shared with the public to assure them about the safety of their environment.

Dr Mufarreh Al-Reshidi, a researcher at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), said the new environment law imposed a penalty on any researcher who hid information regarding harmful environmental issues. —KUNA

# INTERIOR PROTECTS, ENFORCES LAW

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior warned Sunday that it rejects illegal interferences or nepotism, and that it would always execute the law. The ministry

was reacting to claims by social media network that the ministry released a Syrian citizen who was recently arrested for wearing a police uniform and

acting as one. The ministry said the release was upon a decision by the judicial authorities awaiting a final verdict against the Syrian. —KUNA





Khaled Al-Duwaisan

## KUWAITIS TO GET ONLINE VISAS TO UK BY MID 2016

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Ambassador to the United Kingdom Khaled Al-Duwaisan has affirmed that the British authorities would begin issuing the charges-free online visas in the middle of next year, clarifying that the new system would be tested this month.

In remarks to the Arabic-language Kuwaiti daily newspaper 'Al-Anbaa' published yesterday, Ambassador Duwaisan indicated that there were some glitches in the new system, but the British authorities "tackled these flaws."

The new visa system will be in effect in January, 2016, but there would be tests on samples of Kuwaiti citizens planning to travel to Britain in December and January. The ambassador turned to other issues noting Kuwaiti investments in Britain stand at \$50 billion, a fact that depicts the distinctive bilateral ties between the two countries.

The Kuwaiti Embassy in London encourages British medical cadres visit Kuwait to present their expertise for the national personnel, he told Al-Anbaa. Moreover, the embassy follows up on cultural activities. Several days, a ceremony was held for the annual award grants by Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mubarak Foundation for the best English books about the Middle East. The diplomatic mission is also involved in helping organize Kuwaiti book fairs in London "with aim of promoting the Kuwaiti society, its culture, our traditions and customs," he said. — KUNA

## KOC TO HOST OIL, GAS FLOW MEASUREMENT CONFERENCE

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) will host the second Flow Measurement Technology for Oil and Gas Conference from 16-18 November, with the participation of regional and international companies. The conference will focus on applying the recent technologies in oil and gas management, showcase the experience of top companies in the field and recent measurement products, KOC's Deputy CEO of West Kuwait Hassan Al-Bunayyan said in a statement yesterday. Head of the conference's technical committee Rashid Al-Murri noted the importance of measurement in oil and gas industries, adding that Kuwait is hosting the international annual event for a second time in a row, representing the Middle East region. — KUNA

## HEALTH MINISTRY TO HOLD PEDIATRIC CONF NOV 12

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Health announced yesterday that it will host an international pediatric conference on November 12. Chairperson of the conference and head of pediatric department at Al-Sabah hospital Dr Eman Al-Enaizi said that conference will include workshops and meetings aimed at developing this branch of medicine. Various ailments affecting children will be addressed during the conference, said the official, adding that the three-day event will be attended by medical experts and physicians from Kuwait, Canada, the US, Germany, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. — KUNA

## KUWAITIS WIN AWARDS FOR GOOD LEADERSHIP

**DUBAI:** Kuwaiti leaders from the public and private sectors were honored for successes in administrative and business. Abdulkarim Taqi Abdulkarim, Kuwait Public Authority for Industry's assistant deputy general director for administrative and financial affairs, was honored by Tatweej Academy, during a ceremony held late on Sunday, the award for the best leader in distinguished sectors in Kuwait. He was also awarded a gold medal for distinguished accomplishments.

Tareq Mohammad Al-Osaimi, in charge of information networks at Kuwait Credit Bank, was awarded a gold medal for wise leadership at the Arab level. Kuwait's Viva telecom was granted the golden award for distinctive achievements in e-commerce at the Arab level. Speaking after the ceremony, Abdulkarim said he won the awards due to team work's efforts, also granting them to the Kuwaiti leadership. — KUNA

## PUBLIC INVITATION

Kuwait Economic Society (KES) is pleased to invite you for a presentation discussing the new Capital Market Law No. 22 of 2015 that comes into effect on 10/11/2015, amending the Capital Market Law 7/2010:

### The expert speakers will be:

Legal Counsel/ Hossam Abdullah - Managing Partner, Adlouni & Partners, Legal Consultants & Attorneys (Al-Hossam Legal)  
Mr. Ali H Khalil - Chief Operating Officer, Kuwait Financial Centre "Markaz"  
Mr. Faisal Mansour Sarkhou - Chief Executive Officer, KAMCO Investment Company

The presentation will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at the premises of the Kuwait Economic Society located at Shuwaikh North, Block 7, Street 71, villa 18. Instant English translation will be available for non-Arabic speakers.

### For inquiries:

Tel: 24847979 - 24847946

50437734 kesocq8 @Kesocq8

E-mail: info@kesoc.org

# OIL MARKET TO REBALANCE ITSELF, PRICES TO RISE: SHEIKH MOHAMMAD

**DOHA:** Even though oil prices might stay low for long, yet demand will very likely increase to support a return to higher prices; hence, "market will rebalance itself and prices will rise," Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah reassured yesterday.

"Oil prices will surge again yet the timing is not certain," the minister said in his speech at the sixth Asian Energy Ministerial Round-Table, held in Qatar. "The world is now re-adjusting to an environment where lower oil prices prevail, and there is great competition from other industries."

He pointed out that over the past year or so, oil prices have dropped by nearly 60 percent and have now hit their lowest levels since early 2009, because of an over supplied market coinciding with signs of economic slowdown around the world, most notably in some major Asian economies.

This current lower oil price environment, the minister explained, has been caused mostly by the significant supply growth from unconventional, expensive oil because of technological advancement. "Production of expensive unconventional oil made economic sense only because of a period ever of sustained high oil prices from 2010 until mid-2014. Oil prices are also greatly influenced by expectations of demand growth especially in emerging markets."

He added that Volatility in equity and foreign exchange markets in Asia have increased uncertainty about the economic growth prospects of many developing nations in Asia, affecting the price of crude oil.

### Equity markets

Equity markets around the world, particularly those in other Asian countries, also declined, reflecting market sentiment that China's economic growth may slow down and affect producers of energy and non-energy commodities who are reliant on demand growth in China.

Oil price collapses in 1981-1986 and 2008-2009 are the only analogues for the present oil price situation. So far, the current price collapse seems more similar to 1981-1986 than to 2008-2009, he pointed out. "Eventually the market will determine acceptable and comfortable prices for both producers and consumers," he said, adding that the market already has shown a shift as crude oil production growth from non-OPEC is slowing down.

US tight oil production has started to gradually fall from July 2015, after rig counts fell significantly due to sustained lower oil prices. On the other hand, demand has been remarkably strong compared to 2014 levels, and that would certainly help market to rebalance.

"Asian and Middle East countries represent a large portion of the world's population, the bulk of the world's oil and gas reserves and the greater part of the surging global energy demand expected in the decades ahead."

Over two-thirds of growth in developing countries will come from developing Asia, with China seeing the largest expansion, followed by India. "This emphasizes the importance of cooperation and dialogue in order to achieve stability of prices and energy markets and provide sufficient



DOHA: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah attends the sixth Asian Energy Ministerial Round-Table. — KUNA

oil supplies, he noted. "The interdependence between Asia and Middle East is obvious and must transform into a strategic partnership between the two regions for their long term mutual benefits."

This interdependence should be supported by transparency and continued open dialogue, an exchange of experiences in the field of energy efficiency, development of alternative and renewable sources of energy as well as development of qualified human resources.

Furthermore, it is essential to stimulate trade without

hurdles in order to ensure the stable flow of oil and gas from producing regions of the world to consuming regions like Asia. Energy efficiency is largely recognized as the most measurable and cost effective manner to meet growing energy demands whilst contributing to climate change mitigation and economic growth. Despite the uncertainties and challenges facing the energy sector, we all agree that our main objective must focus on providing a stable and sustainable energy future for the next generations. — KUNA

## DEVELOPMENT PLAN AHEAD OF BUDGET 'UNPRECEDENTED'

**KUWAIT:** A leading strategist said that the recent adoption of the 2016-2017 development plan ahead of the projected budget was an unprecedented step, noting that the plan is distinguished "with a lot of new features necessary for continuous planning development." Suad Al-Awadh, the director of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development's plans and programs section, said in a statement yesterday that the plan was prepared and endorsed ahead of the budget, "and that is unprecedented. It was also developed so that it

would be easy to follow." The plan, in its new approach, includes challenges that face each sector and means to overcome them. Awadh, who indicated that new methods have been adopted for the 2017-2018 strategy, said projects are divided into three categories; tactical ventures "of high impact," essential projects such as building infrastructural facilities and sectors namely roads and water networks and operational ones that are related to the department responsible for venture's execution. — KUNA



## OPEC'S OIL SUPPLIES HIT 31.68M BPD IN SEPTEMBER

**KUWAIT:** OPEC's daily oil supplies went up from 31.57 million barrels per day in last August to 31.68 million b/d in following month, said the Diplomatic Center for Strategic Studies in its economic report on Sunday. The global oil cartel enhanced its output by 1.5 million b/d since last November to ensure that the market is well-supplied, the report, noted.

This reflects a turn in OPEC's policy which used to cut down its output in order to boost prices, thus bringing down the prices by almost a half to \$48 pb over the last year. However, the continued decline of the output of the US oil rigs could help boost the prices even slightly, the report said, citing recent reports that the number of operating oil rigs in the US went down from 1,609 in October, 2014, to just 614 in last month.

Russia, the world's largest oil producer, has stated desire to discuss the oil prices with OPEC, which could contribute to the upward slant of the prices in the short run. In November, 2014, Russia refused to cooperate with OPEC and cut its output quota in order to boost the prices. In September, 2015, Russia's daily output has hit 10.74 million barrels - a record high since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, despite the fact that the prices hit a low record in six and a half years.

Though the number of operating US oil rigs declined, the country's production grew from 9.3 million bpd in June, 2015, to 9.4 million bpd in the following month, according to figures for the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Nevertheless, this level of US oil output is less than the 9.6 million bpd, registered in April, 2015 - an all-time record high since early 1970s. As the US output continues to increase, the OPEC member states are vying for larger shares from the East Asian markets.

Saudi Arabia reduced the prices of its oil exports after similar steps announced in last September by other OPEC members from the Gulf region, according to the report. Iran and Iraq and other Middle East countries cut down their official oil prices by margins larger than Saudi Arabia's, it added. — KUNA

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## FAKE TITLES

By Nermin Al-Houti

The civil society nowadays is leaning towards correcting titles, be it scientific or practical, that were given to phony individuals who took advantages of circumstances, and used all means to grant themselves fake titles.

That issue was not the product of chance and and is not recent; rather it was the result of and years that piled up and instilled in many people to become an image of those who were a minority yesterday and today they became a majority of fake titles.

Fake titles, as we used to find in the past, are given to those who call themselves doctors or engineers or give themselves similar scientific titles, though they did not complete his studies to deserve such title. That group was limited at one point to some people who are known to our society. But with great regret, these people were not treated from 'self-inferiority', so their society's treatment was to ignore them and pray for them to be cured from their inferiority complex. As days went by without the presence of a legal punishment, the infection spread and most members of our society have the letter 'D' for example ahead of their names. They are buying these titles to become 'dignitaries' in the society. The infection was not limited to that, but some people are now forging certificates and posts, thinking they will be among the society's elite. The infection became widespread to the point in which we no longer know who is phony and who is not, and we became a society characterized by fake titles.

The tragedy was left without solutions to a point where the struggle has become between the title and society. The end is a catastrophe that made the society characterized by fakeness, and the reason is a title. Out of this approach, it is a must that officials pass a law that criminalizes anyone who claims a fake title. Rather, it is a must for concerned authorities to check the scientific and practical papers for all members of the society, be them citizens or expats, to put the suitable person in the suitable place, so our society will become without persons who have fake titles in the future. —Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Jarida

Al-Qabas

## WHAT KIND OF TOURISM DO YOU WANT?

By Iqbal Al-Ahmad

Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Higher Tourism Committee Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah made a good statement recently, in which he said there is an intention to establish a specialized authority for tourism in Kuwait. The decision comes out from the future vision to make tourism one of Kuwait's sources of income, the minister said. The step is being taken after the tourism sector returned from commerce ministry to the information ministry.

Under the current laws that regulate entry and exit of Kuwait as well as the problems that those 'forced' to come to the country face, these news might sound laughable. But Allah may change the situation to the better, which is what we hope. However, that requires showing total seriousness to realize those wishes, as well as serious intentions and effort to eradicate all factors that deter people from visiting and living in Kuwait.

What is important in the issue of tourism in Kuwait, and before talking about easing procedures or consulting experts, is that we must decide what kind of identity is required for tourism in the country.

My column today is not to repeat what I wrote in the past, but to draw the attention to the fact that we in Kuwait will soon receive two cultural centers that will be a precedence in the region and the world in terms of design, content and capacity.

First is the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad cultural center, with its magnificent design, distinguished material used and lightings. It includes an opera house, multiple theaters of various sizes, all fully equipped, and a large library. It will be able to receive thousands of visitors daily, as parking lots and landscapes are made, connecting all buildings together.

Second is the Abdallah Al-Salem cultural center, which is considered the largest museum in the world to be built in one stage. It is made of various types of museums, including the historic, scientific, Islamic museums in addition to a huge aquarium for marine life of all shapes, types and sizes. It also has a capacity for thousands of visitors.

These types of large and distinguished cultural projects makes it necessary to use them to attract visitors from all parts of the region and the world. This type of cultural work and arts has its lovers and followers, including people who might look forward to come to Kuwait to enjoy it.

Let us decide the identity of tourism in Kuwait as cultural tourism, by strengthening all available fields in this regard, which is something that was not thought of so far. This of course requires getting ready to receive thousands of visitors who come from all over the world by easing procedures of entry and visit, provide suitable hotels, comfortable and enough transport. And let our youth manage this authority while seeking the help of foreign and local expertise.

A beautiful future is waiting for this country, as long as we remain serious towards this future, and how to transform dreams into reality, because it is very easy, more than we think. We need a decision and seriousness in execution, nothing more, nothing less. —Translated by Kuwait Times

## Crime Report

### LANDMINE DETONATED IN ABDALI

**KUWAIT:** Army engineers dealt with a land mine that was found in Abdali desert earlier this week. The area was evacuated before explosives technicians detonated the mine.

#### KD 100,000 robbery

A man SAID Sharq police that he was robbed at gun-point by three persons he could not recognize. The suspects robbed the bedoon man of KD 100,000 in cash before escaping. Detectives are working on the case.

#### Counterfeit clothes

Northern ports department men discovered 3 containers full of counterfeit clothes carrying world brand names. The owner was given a choice of either paying a fine and have the shipment destroyed, or be sent for prosecution.

#### Checkpoint

Maidan Hawally police arrested a citizen with two possession of imported liquor bottles and 4 bags of drugs. The arrest was made at a checkpoint in the area as police found the contrabands when the suspect's car was searched. The suspect was sent to the prosecution department.

#### Reckless driving

A campaign carried out by Ahmadi police resulted in impounding 33 cars that were sent to the traffic department's garage. Police's action came after complaints against reckless driving in the area.

#### Break-in and robbery

A man told police that a thief stole money and personal belongings from his car that was parked it in front of his house in Salmiya. A security source said a citizen told police that his car was broken into and the thief stole KD 1,600 and other personal things. Detectives are working on the case.

#### Jewelry theft

A citizen accused an Asian worker of stealing his wife's jewelry, valued at KD 5,200, before escaping from his Abu Hlaifa home. A case was filed for investigations. — Al-Rai

Al-Anbaa

## AVIATION AND POLITICS

By Sami Al-Nisf

Aviation is a relatively modern science that is almost one hundred years old. Therefore, it is considered a highly advanced human science in terms of ideas and principles compared to other human sciences mankind has even known and set the foundations of thousands of years ago such as medicine, engineering, legislation and politics.

In aviation, one learns two basic principles. The first is to expect the worst case scenarios so as to be safe instead of being taken by surprise in any contingency. The second principle is being extremely realistic instead of theorizing things.

When applying those modern rules to regional political developments, we find that we would better adapt the first principle; expecting the worst scenario, and assuming that Iraq, Syria, Libya and probably Yemen are doomed to be eventually and violently divided through wars and acts of violence. We should also assume that Lebanon and Palestine are moving towards the same end through political blockages that can turn into armed conflict and eventually end by division.

Realistic thinking, not the dreaming one, tells us to take the 'division' theory as something that is doomed to happen and to immediately start working on lessening its possible impacts. It would be better for Iraq, Syria and Libya to be peacefully divided with less destruction, blood shedding and grudges and wait for

possible better future circumstances to create developed confederations that grant various regions, sects and ethnicities enough freedom and privacy. This would be much better than destruction, wars, grudges and feuds that may last for decades and even centuries. Finally, one should know that all the militias currently working in various Arab countries have equal roles and work hard on dividing their own countries,

*Realistic thinking, not the dreaming one, tells us to take the 'division' theory as something that is doomed to happen*

despite the so many fake slogans and mottos they use about patriotism, justice and religion. Therefore, they have endless supplies of funds, weapons and highly trained and organized military and intelligence leaders.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



## WARBA BANK HIGHLIGHTS ACHIEVEMENTS, SOLID VALUES DURING STAFF GATHERING

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank has recently organized a staff gathering in the presence of Jassar Dakheel Al-Jassar, the Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, the members of the top management and the Bank's employees. During the event, the management highlighted the achievements added to the Bank's record this year as well as the aspirations for next stage in parallel with the Bank's Strategy Plan for the upcoming years. The Strategy Plan aims at determining the priorities and requirements of the current and next stages while taking into account the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) to Warba Bank and its current market presence in such severe competition with other Banks. This event is an opportunity for communication between the Bank's executive management and employees. The event is also a continuation of the Bank's approach for encouraging, honoring and providing full support to excellent staff for their unique efforts.

#### Achievements and successes

On this occasion, Jassar said: "2015 is very distinctive in terms of achievements and successes accom-

plished thanks first to Allah then to the support and guidance of the board of directors, the executive management team and the efficiency of our employees. This success is embodied in market expansion and conversion to profitability due to the significant growth in the business size and high performance efficiency. Additionally within a short period, Warba Bank has been able to hold prestigious position and firmly build up its image as a modern Islamic Bank marked by service quality and variety of innovative products that take into consideration the highest quality standards and modern technology."

Jassar also added: "Warba Bank will continue honoring, awarding and promoting its excellent employees and fostering their developments for achieving the target goals and availing from their experiences for future trends being the corner stone of the Bank's structure. The Bank has graduated a new group of trainees who passed a program on banking business skills. Warba Bank will continue enhancing the required ratio of national labor and creating opportunities for energetic calibers that have new and innovative ideas."

#### First credit rating

Jassar added: "These successes have contributed to Warba Bank recently receiving its first credit rating by one of the leading international rating agencies that is Moody's Investor Service which assigned a rating of Baa2/Prim-2 for deposits in local and foreign currencies with a stable outlook."

Moreover; Warba Bank has received 'The Fastest Growing Bank in Kuwait for 2015' Award from

Banker Middle East in recognition of the growth achieved and the distinctive results reflected in the Bank's financial statements and key performance indicators. It is worth mentioning that Warba Bank won the 'Best New Bank in the Middle East for 2014' and the 'Best Call Center for 2014' award from the same magazine.

Members of the executive management, each in terms of his respective area, highlighted the key

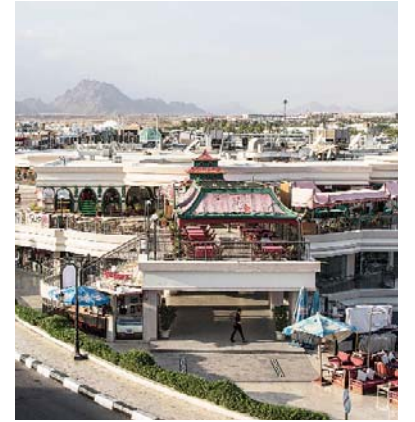
achievements and transactions made during the current year including the awards added to the Bank's record. The event contained entertainment programs within warm and friendly atmosphere among audience where many surprises were made and staff enjoyed competitions on general information winning valuable prizes. The event ended up with a draw on a set of grand prizes then the attendees were invited to dinner.





# Kuwait Times International

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015



**Airliner tragedy  
crushes Egypt  
hopes on tourism**

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AS FLOODS HIT, PAKISTAN'S KALASHA PEOPLE FEAR FOR THEIR WAY OF LIFE



**BARCELONA:** Catalan deputies of the PPC (Popular Party of Catalonia) hold up Spanish and Catalan flags following the vote on a proposed resolution to secede from the rest of the country during a session at the Catalan Parliament in Barcelona yesterday. —AFP

## CATALAN PARLIAMENT KICKS OFF SECESSION FROM SPAIN

### 72 PRO-INDEPENDENCE LAWMAKERS VOTE FOR A RESOLUTION TO SECEDE



**BARCELONA:** A screen shows results following the vote on a proposed resolution to secede from the rest of the country during a session at the Catalan Parliament in Barcelona yesterday. —AFP

**BARCELONA:** Lawmakers in Catalonia officially kicked off a process to secede from Spain by 2017 despite impassioned pleas against independence, in an unprecedented showdown with Madrid's central government. All 72 pro-independence lawmakers—the majority in the regional parliament—voted for a resolution to secede from the rest of the country, drawing huge applause that drowned out opposition MPs holding Spanish flags. Catalonia's independence movement is an increasingly prickly thorn in the side of conservative Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, who said his government would go to the Constitutional Court to challenge the resolution. "I will sign a (legal) recourse of unconstitutionality and will ask for... the immediate suspension of this initiative and all its possible effects," he said in a televised statement shortly after the vote.

**'Construction of a state'**  
The text calls on the regional assembly to start working on legislation within 30 days to create a separate social security system and treasury, with a view to complete independence within 18 months. The resolution has the backing of Catalan president Artur Mas' Together for Yes coalition and the smaller far-left separatist CUP party. "With this resolution, we are solemnly kicking off the construction of a state," Raul Romeva of Together for

Yes told regional lawmakers. "Many people are going to live this day with a lot of emotion."

But Rajoy has the support of the main opposition Socialists and new, popular centre-right group Ciudadanos. "I was born in Catalonia and I want to keep living here," Xavier Garcia Albiol of Rajoy's ruling Popular Party (PP) said during the debate. "While you are spending your time and efforts to break up Catalonia from the rest of Spain, 600,000 Catalans go out on the street every day to look for work," he told pro-independence lawmakers. "While you are dedicating your time to creating state structures, 1.5 million Catalans live in precarious conditions."

#### 'Illegal and undemocratic'

Catalonia, a region of 7.5 million people with its own language that accounts for a fifth of Spain's economic output, already enjoys huge autonomy in education, health and policing. But it demands even greater autonomy, particularly where taxation is concerned, estimating that it gives more to the central government than it receives. A 2010 decision by Spain's Constitutional Court to water down a 2006 statute giving the region more powers has added to the growing pressure for secession.

Rajoy said the government's appeal to the Constitutional Court would be filed on

Wednesday after an emergency cabinet meeting. But those who crafted the declaration had anticipated this, and the resolution states that the secession process will not be subject to any decision made by Spanish institutions, including the court. The government has also raised the possibility of invoking article 155 of the Spanish constitution, which allows Madrid to supersede the authority of a regional government that is acting outside the law or cut off its funding. Catalonia tried to hold an official referendum on independence last year, but judges ruled it was against the constitution, arguing that all Spanish people have the right to decide on matters of sovereignty.

The region pressed ahead anyway and held a symbolic vote. Over 80 percent of the participants (2.3 million) voted in favor of independence. "A referendum would be the ideal tool but the Spanish government blocked it. We have no other option but unilateral action," CUP lawmaker Albert Botran said. While Catalan separatist parties won a majority of seats in the regional parliament in September polls, they failed to win a majority of all votes cast a fact emphasized by their opponents. "Everything is unconstitutional, illegal and undemocratic, because they lie when they say the majority of Catalans back a decoupling," said Ciudadanos chief Albert Rivera. —AFP

## IRANIAN CYBERSPY GROUP HIT IN COORDINATED EUROPEAN RAIDS

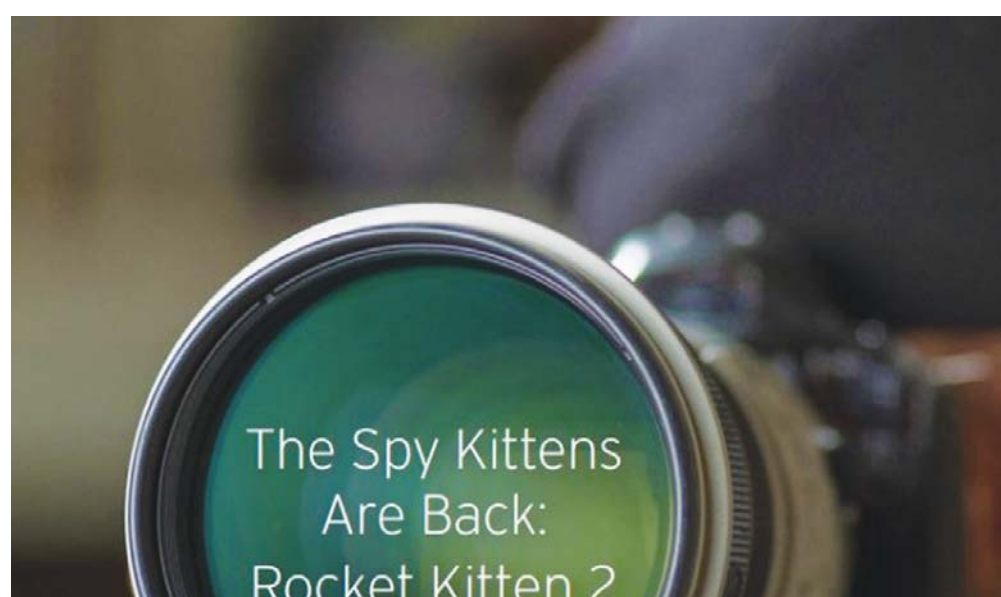
**FRANKFURT:** European authorities have taken action to shut down a cyber espionage operation linked to Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard in the first operation of its kind since Tehran signed a nuclear treaty, according to security researchers who located computers used to launch attacks. The hacker group - dubbed "Rocket Kitten" by security experts who have been hunting the hacker group since early 2014 - has mounted cyberattacks on high-profile political and defense figures globally since that time. The action is likely to hamper Tehran's efforts to gather sensitive intelligence from rivals including Saudi Arabia, Israel, Turkey, the United States and Venezuela, which were among the nations targeted.

Researchers from US-Israeli security firm Check Point Software said the 1,600 high-profile targets include members of the Saudi royal family, Israeli nuclear scientists, NATO officials and Iranian dissidents and even the wives of high-ranking generals from unnamed countries. The company said it had informed national computer security response teams in Britain, Germany and the Netherlands, who in turn alerted police in those countries to the locations of "command and control" servers used to mount attacks controlled from Iran.

Europol, the FBI and Israel's internal security service Shin Bet declined immediate comment. The actions come as US President Barack Obama and

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prepare to meet on Monday for the first time since the Israeli leader lost his battle against the Iran nuclear deal and security issues top the agenda. Check Point plans to issue a report later on Monday. According to

an advance copy obtained by Reuters, the report details how its experts burrowed inside the hacker group's database, giving them a map of malicious software tools and remote-controlled computers used by the group. —Reuters



## SAUDI CARRIES OUT 146TH EXECUTION

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia yesterday executed a citizen convicted of killing a policeman, the Interior Ministry announced, bringing to 146 the number of death sentences carried out in the kingdom this year. Ayed Al-Jahdali was convicted of shooting dead a policeman who was trying to arrest him for drug trafficking, the ministry said in a statement carried by the official SPA news agency. He was executed in the western Mecca region, it said.

Saudi executions are usually carried out by beheading with a sword. According to AFP tallies, his case brings to 146 the number of locals and foreigners executed in the conservative Islamic kingdom this year, compared with 87 in 2014. Rights experts have raised concerns about the fairness of trials in the kingdom.

Meanwhile, Iran has summoned Saudi Arabia's charge d'affaires in Tehran after the Gulf kingdom executed three Iranians convicted of drug trafficking, Iran's official IRNA news agency reported. The Islamic republic "strongly protested" the killings to the Saudi official, said a senior diplomat at Iran's foreign ministry. The diplomat called

on Saudi to abide by "international conventions" governing relationships between countries.

Riyadh on Sunday executed three Iranians convicted of drug trafficking after they attempted to "smuggle a large amount of hashish by sea" into the kingdom. They were executed in the eastern port city of Dammam, the interior ministry said. According to AFP tallies, their cases bring to 145 the number of locals and foreigners executed in the conservative Islamic kingdom this year, compared with 87 in 2014.

Under the kingdom's strict Islamic legal code, murder, drug trafficking, armed robbery, rape and apostasy are all punishable by death. Iran itself has one of the world's highest execution rates, with only China carrying out more death sentences each year, according to rights group Amnesty International. Relations between Iran and Saudi are at their lowest for years due to disputes over several regional crises as well as the deaths of 464 Iranian pilgrims in a stampede at the annual hajj pilgrimage in Makkah in September. —Agencies



## SECOND CYCLONE KILLS 6 ON YEMENI ISLAND



**MUKALLA:** Yemeni men fill plastic jerrycans with water following a tropical cyclone that has slammed into the war-ravaged country in Yemen's Hadramawt province. —AFP

**ADEN:** Cyclone Megh has killed six people on war-ravaged Yemen's Socotra Island, the second rare tropical storm to hit the Arabian Peninsula country in a week, an official said yesterday. The latest deaths since the cyclone made landfall on Sunday "include two women, while three other people have gone missing and dozens were injured," said the official who spoke to AFP by telephone from Socotra.

"Most of the victims died when their homes collapsed," he said, requesting anonymity. The cyclone caused panic and prompted appeals for help for residents on the island, already badly battered by last week's cyclone Chapala. "The wind, rain, and floods have receded during the past few hours but the cyclone has caused

massive destruction to homes," said the official. The Arabian Sea island is located 350 kilometers (210 miles) off the Yemeni mainland.

Fisheries Minister Fahd Kavieen, who is from Socotra himself, urged the United Nations and neighboring Oman on Sunday to "urgently intervene with emergency teams to save residents" on the island "which is now facing a cyclone stronger than Chapala."

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) spokeswoman Clare Nullis said Friday tropical cyclones are extremely rare over the Arabian Peninsula, and two back-to-back was "an absolutely extraordinary event". The UN's humanitarian agency OCHA said on Monday that up to 6,808 families were displaced by Chapala, which

hit mainland Yemen on November 3, triggering heavy flash floods and mudslides.

It warned that Megh is expected to make landfall on mainland Yemen on Wednesday, with the southern provinces of Abyan and Bayda most at risk. Chapala killed eight people in Yemen's southeastern Hadramawt province, where residents reported rain and strong winds yesterday. The country has been riven by conflict since Iran-backed rebels seized control of the capital Sanaa in September last year and advanced into other areas. A Saudi-led coalition launched air strikes against the rebels in March in support of a fightback by forces loyal to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, who had earlier fled to Saudi Arabia. —AFP

## OPPOSITION LEADER ACCUSES ERDOGAN OF SEEKING A 'CONSTITUTIONAL DICTATORSHIP' 'ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR' HURT HDP ELECTION RE-RUN

**ANKARA:** The head of Turkey's pro-Kurdish opposition accused President Tayyip Erdogan of trying to create a "constitutional dictatorship" by pushing for an executive presidential system, and of fostering a climate of fear to win an election landslide. Selahattin Demirtas, who co-leads the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), told Reuters he believed the government could call a referendum as soon as this time next year on a new constitution that would transform what has been a largely ceremonial presidency.

A senior member of the AK Party, which

presidency, which Erdogan has held since stepping up from the prime ministership last year.

"We would have to lose our minds to agree to this," he said in an interview conducted on Sunday. "Erdogan's plan for the executive presidential system is not a model for an executive presidency but one-man rule, a constitutional dictatorship that merges all authority into a single hand." Erdogan's spokesman said after the election on Nov. 1 that an issue such as changing the presidential system couldn't be decided without the nation's support and if a referendum were

and the AKP. But in the re-run, held after coalition negotiations failed, it barely scraped over the 10 percent threshold required to enter parliament, taking 59 seats, or 21 fewer than in June. The rise in AKP support appeared to have been motivated by renewed fighting in the southeast between the security forces and Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants after a ceasefire collapsed in July. Hundreds have since died. Conservative Kurds and liberal Turks who blame the PKK for the unrest turned their backs on the HDP.

Demirtas blamed an atmosphere created by the "presidential palace" for the fall in support for his party. "In order to keep the HDP under the threshold, the Palace decided on a war campaign that put attacks against our party in the centre," he said. "The AK Party and the Palace saw it was possible to increase their support by frightening people. They are going to use it more often now, as they saw that it actually worked." Suicide bombers have targeted HDP sympathizers twice since the June election, including in Ankara last month when more than 100 people were killed in Turkey's deadliest such attack.

AKP Deputy Chairman Ayhan Sefer Ustun rejected the accusations from Demirtas, saying his party's supporters had been threatened in Kurdish areas before the election. "It's not we who created the atmosphere of fear, but the PKK and the groups linked to it. The HDP is the one who benefits from such an atmosphere," he told Reuters. "The AK Party could not run an election campaign in the southeast due to this atmosphere." Erdogan, who will host a G20 summit in a week's time, has said the election outcome was a vote for stability and a message to the PKK and its allies that violence could not coexist with democracy.

With President Barack Obama expected to attend, Washington has said it is deeply concerned that Turkish media and journalists were subject to pressure during the campaign. Erdogan has consistently portrayed criticism of his leadership as part of a foreign-backed effort to belittle him and undermine Turkey's influence in the region. Demirtas said he expected the government would eventually return to peace talks with the PKK. "The negotiations between Turkey and the PKK will eventually restart, you can't keep fighting forever," he said. "I can't name the exact date but I think parties will return to the peace process in the medium term." —Reuters



**Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan**

Erdogan founded, denied the charges of fear mongering, saying that on the contrary it had suffered while trying to campaign in the predominantly Kurdish southeast of Turkey. In the second election to be held this year, the AKP last week regained the parliamentary majority which it lost in June, winning 317 of 550 seats - only 13 short of the number needed to call such a referendum. Demirtas stressed the HDP would oppose the plan of putting more power in the hands of the

needed, then one would be held. Speaking at the HDP headquarters, Demirtas said next summer might be too early for a referendum but it could happen as soon as autumn 2016.

### Fear atmosphere

The HDP stunned pundits and pollsters in June when it won more than 13 percent of the vote, reaching beyond its Kurdish base to secular leftists and others put off by years of rule by Erdogan

## 400,000 SYRIAN CHILDREN NOT IN SCHOOL IN TURKEY

**ISTANBUL:** More than 400,000 Syrian children living in Turkey are not in school, largely because of financial hardship, a plight which could push more refugees into making a desperate journey to Europe or even returning to their war-torn homeland, Human Rights Watch said in a report Monday. It called on the international community and Turkey to act urgently to ensure Syrians who have fled the four-and-a-half year conflict have greater access to education.

"Failing to provide Syrian children with education puts an entire generation at risk," said Stephanie Gee of HRW's refugee rights program. "With no real hope for a better future, desperate Syrian refugees may end up putting their lives on the line to return to Syria or take dangerous journeys to Europe." The UN refugee agency said last week it expected up to 600,000 migrants and refugees to risk the crossing from Turkey to Greece over the next four months alone. Financial hardship was a major obstacle preventing Syrian children going to class in Turkey, HRW said, with refugees not permitted to work legally and often unable to afford any school fees or transport charges.

### 'Child labor rampant'

"Parents are often unable to provide for their families on the minimal income they make in the informal labor market, and as a result child labor is rampant among the Syrian refugee population." Many were also unable to attend school because of the language barrier, while others faced bullying and social integration difficulties and in some cases they were even turned away, HRW said. In total, nearly three million children are out of school both inside and outside Syria, a country where once primary school enrolment was almost 100 percent, according to estimates from the UN children's agency UNICEF. More than four million Syrians have fled the conflict since March 2011, with the number of dead estimated at more than 250,000.

Turkey, which is hosting more than 2.2 million refugees alone, last year agreed to grant Syrian

children access to public schools and to authorize temporary education centers set up by charities or other organizations. But out of a total of 708,000 school-age children from Syria, only 212,000 were enrolled in formal primary or secondary education last year, HRW said, quoting Turkish education ministry figures. Although the enrolment rate inside refugee camps was nearly 90 percent, most Syrians live in towns and cities across Turkey and there the rate was only 25 percent, it said.

Turkey has already spent more than \$7 billion (6.5 billion euros) on the Syrian refugee crisis

since 2011, and \$252 million on education in 2014-2015 alone, Human Rights Watch said. The education ministry said last month it aimed to have 270,000 Syrian children in school by January and 370,000 by the end of the 2015-2016 school year. "Securing these children's education will reduce the risks of early marriage and military recruitment of children by armed groups, stabilize their economic future by increasing their earning potential, and ensure that today's young Syrians will be better equipped to confront uncertain futures," HRW said. —AFP



**ALEPPO:** Syrian government forces walk on a heavily damaged street in the regime-controlled side of the northern city of Aleppo yesterday. —AFP



**SHARM EL-SHEIKH:** A policeman sits under shade in front of a tourism police station in Naama Bay, Sharm El-Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt yesterday. —AP

## AIRLINER TRAGEDY CRUSHES EGYPT HOPES ON TOURISM

**SHARM EL-SHEIKH:** Tourism in Sharm El-Sheikh was picking up again after years of political turmoil, with so many Russians enjoying the sun and fun that local beach aerobics instructors used the visitors' own language rather than Arabic or English. Life was at last starting to look good for residents of the Red Sea resort, but that was before an airliner taking Russian tourists home broke up over the Sinai Peninsula, where Islamic State militants suspected of planting a bomb on the plane are waging an insurgency.

Now the future looks grim for thousands of Egyptians, from taxi drivers to diving instructors, who flocked to Sharm El-Sheikh to find jobs. One tour company official predicted holidays might now have to be discounted by up to 50 percent. "I have been working in Sharm for three years but this is the first time I have ever seen it so empty," said Ahmed Rabie. He spoke outside the cafe he runs in Naama Bay, at the resort's heart. Chairs were stacked on tables and not a single person was sitting inside. "Right now, all these cafes and restaurants would be full."

Rabie pays 30,000 Egyptian pounds (\$3,700) a month to rent the space, in addition to operational costs. He told Reuters many small business owners had shut up shop after Western governments announced that the Airbus 321 was likely brought down by a bomb and then suspended flights to Sharm El-Sheikh, with Russia following suit. "We are waiting for two or three days to see what happens but if it keeps on like this we will shut down and leave," he said. With low prices, cheap package deals and plenty of hotel rooms, Sharm El-Sheikh was a driving force behind Egypt's efforts to lure back visitors. It was starting to buzz.

Then the Russian plane crashed, with Islamic State claiming it was responsible. This immediately alarmed Egyptians, acutely aware of how vulnerable tourism is to such violence. On Nov 17, 1997 Islamic militants descended on Queen Hatshepsut's temple near the Nile town of Luxor. In short order they shot or hacked to death 58 tourists and four Egyptians. The following January and February, visitor numbers were down almost

60 percent from the previous year. The industry staged a remarkable comeback, but it took years.

### Invisible hands

Last month, Tourism Minister Hisham Zaazou said tourism—a pillar of the economy—expected moderate growth this year with the aid of a global advertising campaign. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has restored some stability since the army toppled Islamist President Mohamed Morsi in 2013 following mass protests against his rule, but not enough to persuade large numbers of foreigners that it is safe to return. Last year, 9.9 million tourists visited Egypt, a far cry from the 14.7 million who came in 2010, the year before the Arab Spring revolutions convulsed the Middle East. An official at Sharm Travel Solutions, a British-owned Sharm El-Sheikh tour company, said holidays in the resort could be discounted by up to 50 percent if they can be sold at all. "They may sell these holidays at half price but with flights suspended will anyone buy them?" the official said.

Other tour operators are offering holidays to Sharm El-Sheikh with price cuts of up to 200 pounds (\$300). A walk through Naama Bay reveals idle establishments, all with Russian signs to cater to the resort's largest clientele. The resort's famous beaches fare only slightly better, with most just half full. The prospect of a sharp decline in tourism receipts has left many scrambling to make sense of the sudden air disaster. Some are in denial. "There are invisible foreign hands behind this," said Mohamed Abdelaziz, who runs a safari trip business. "Egypt lies in a strategic location and other countries are spiteful of this. Sharm is very safe, the police are even sometimes unfair to us to make sure it is safe for all guests." Many tourists interviewed agreed that Sharm El-Sheikh felt safe. Airport security was the problem, not the resort itself. "Personally I felt sorry for Sharm as a resort when I heard about the plane crash. I've been here 14 times and I've never had a problem," said British holidaymaker Vini Kneale. If it turns out a bomb brought down the Russian plane, however, it would "discourage me from coming back," he said. —Reuters

## 400 MORE SUDAN TROOPS ARRIVE IN YEMEN'S ADEN

**ADEN:** A 400-strong Sudanese force arrived in Yemen's port city Aden yesterday in support of pro-government forces preparing to confront a possible new offensive by rebels on the country's south. Yemen's loyalist forces, backed by Saudi-led coalition strikes, supplies and troops, pushed the rebels out of Aden as part of an operation launched in July to take back southern territories lost to renegade forces. Four other southern provinces—Lahj, Daleh, Abyan and Shabwa—were also retaken by the forces loyal to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi. But the Iran-backed rebels this weekend retook several positions in the south. "More than 400 Sudanese soldiers landed in Aden" as part of the coalition battling the rebels since March, said a commander of Yemeni forces loyal to Hadi.

These will join 500 Sudanese soldiers who arrived in Aden on October 19, part of whom were deployed in the main southern city and the strategic Al-Anad airbase in adjacent Lahj province, the source said. Their arrival comes amid a mobilization of loyalist forces to block a possible attempt by the rebels to re-enter

Aden. "General mobilization was been declared in Daleh," where the rebels captured the province's second-city, Damt, on Saturday, a local official said. A similar call was made in the coastal city of Dhubbab, near the Bab Al-Mandab strait, where the rebels achieved a "limited advance" during the weekend, a military source said.

The rebels seized a military base in Dhubbab on Saturday following deadly clashes with pro-government troops, according to military sources. Pro-government troops seized Dhubbab early last month, giving them effective control of Bab Al-Mandab, through which much of the world's maritime traffic passes. The rebels overran the Yemeni capital Sanaa last year and then advanced south to Aden, forcing Hadi and his government to flee to Saudi Arabia. Ministers from Hadi's government returned to Aden in mid-September after six months in exile in the neighboring oil-rich kingdom. The United Nations says that around 5,000 people have been killed in Yemen's conflict since it escalated in March. —AFP



## FRANCE FIGHTS SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

PARIS: France launched an awareness campaign yesterday in a bid to halt the crude comments, groping and sexual violence that women face daily on public transport. Posters went up at stations around the country with fictitious metro stops labeled with comments such as: "Hello Mademoiselle. You're lovely. Let's get to know each other. Is that short skirt for me?" The remarks got increasingly aggressive from "You're hot, you're turning me on. Answer me dirty bitch" to "Stop - that is enough".

The scenario is one of several on posters at bus, train and metro stations that the government hopes will raise awareness about sexual harassment, a global problem which has prompted similar campaigns in major cities from New York to London. "A woman's daily life should not look like this," reads a line at the bottom of the poster. Women are advised how to react, such as urging fellow passengers to look up from their smartphones and step in, to reminding their aggressor that touching them in an inappropriate manner can land them in prison from six months to five years.

"The aim is to give everyone the tools to react. To change behavior so that no aggression is trivialized," read a statement from the women's rights ministry.



PARIS: (Left to right) RATP CEO, public transport operator for Paris' area, Elisabeth Borne, Junior minister for Transport Alain Vidalies and French Junior minister for Women's Rights Pascale Boistard answer journalists questions after unveiling the poster of an awareness campaign on gender harassment within public transports yesterday. — AFP

The campaign has also been rolled out on social media. The awareness campaign is one of a series of efforts undertaken by the French government to combat a problem which a report published in April described as "massive, violent and having significant negative impacts." The campaign makes clear that cat-calls and comments on a woman's clothing or physique are unacceptable, while threats, public masturbation, or rubbing up against a woman in public transport are punishable by heavy fines or prison time.

Government launched its national plan to combat sexual harassment in July, after an increased focus on the problem in recent years. Twitter campaigns such as #takebackthetro and another targeting sexual harassment on the street, took off in 2014 as activists urged government to act against the problem. In January, Women's Minister Marisol Touraine asked the High Council for Equality between Men and Women to study the problem and come up with recommendations. The study found that 100 percent of a group of 600 women interviewed had experienced sexual harassment on public transport at some point in their lives. It also showed how women changed their appearance or behavior to avoid such harassment. — AFP

## KOSOVO FAILS IN A BID TO GAIN UNESCO MEMBERSHIP

### RUSSIA HAS WARNED OF USING UNESCO FOR POLITICAL ENDS

PARIS: The United Nations' cultural agency UNESCO narrowly voted against granting Kosovo full membership yesterday in a decision that Serbia hailed as a diplomatic victory. The vote had been fiercely opposed by Russia and Serbia, which attempted to get it postponed earlier in the day. Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had warned on Friday against using UNESCO to legitimize what he called Kosovo's self-proclaimed state.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008 almost a decade after NATO went to war to halt the killing and expulsion of ethnic Albanian civilians by Serbian forces trying to crush an insurgency. Serbia does not recognize Kosovo as sovereign but signed up to an accord in 2013 designed to settle relations between the two as a condition of Belgrade's further progress towards membership of the EU. The new country is so far recognized by 111 states, but not by Serbia or UN Security Council members Russia and China.

To win UNESCO membership, Kosovo needed a two-thirds majority. Of the 142 countries that voted, 92 backed the motion, 50 voted against and 29 abstained, meaning the bid fell short by three votes. "The vast majority of the countries in the world have voted for Kosovo," Foreign

Minister Hashim Thaci wrote on his Facebook page. "Unfortunately, for only three votes we did not win the needed absolute majority." Kosovo is a member of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the Olympic Committee, but has been struggling to join other international organizations due to Serbia's objections. "Kosovo's road is unstoppable and we will apply and join other organizations, including UNESCO once again," Thaci said.

With a wealth of centuries-old Orthodox churches and monasteries, Kosovo has long held almost mythical status for Serbs which considers it the cradle of its faith. Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic described Kosovo's failure to secure UNESCO membership as a diplomatic victory. "This is a just and moral victory in almost impossible conditions," Nikolic said in a statement.

The Serbian Orthodox Church welcomed the decision calling for a dialogue on the preservation of Serbian cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo. "The issue of religious and cultural heritage cannot and should not be solved through politics especially in a situation where so many Christian places of worship and graveyards have been destroyed after the (1998-1999) war," it said in a statement. — Reuters



AMMAN: Jordanian and US special forces take part in a hijacked plane rescue simulation at the King Abdullah Special Operations Training Centre (KASOTC) in the Jordanian capital Amman, during their "Eager Lion" military exercise. A Jordanian policeman shot dead two US instructors and a South African before being gunned down at a police training centre east of the capital yesterday. — AFP

## JORDANIAN POLICEMAN KILLS US, S AFRICAN INSTRUCTORS

### ATTACK COINCIDES WITH 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOTEL BOMBINGS

AMMAN: A Jordanian policeman shot dead two US instructors, a South African and a fellow Jordanian at a police training centre yesterday before being gunned down, the government spokesman said. Mohammed Momani said the shooter also wounded two American instructors and three Jordanians. The assailant was shot dead by colleagues at the centre in Al-Muwaqqar, 30 kilometers east of Amman, Momani, who is also information minister, said in statements carried by state news agency Petra.

Authorities opened an investigation to determine the motive for the shooting, he added. The three foreign instructors killed were on contract with Jordanian police, Momani said. A source close to the family of the shooter identified him as police captain Anwar Abu Zeid. "He has no ties with any terrorist organization like Daesh," the source said, using an Arabic acronym for the jihadist Islamic State group.

"The family is in shock and security forces are questioning them about the incident," the source, who declined to be named said. The US

embassy in Amman said in a statement that the mission is "in contact with the appropriate Jordanian authorities" concerning the shooting at the Jordanian International Police Training Centre (JIPTC). The embassy also posted on its website a message for US citizens reporting a "security incident" at the JIPTC and urging individuals "to please avoid that area for the time being". "Please monitor the news for further developments and maintain security awareness," the message said.

#### Anniversary of hotel bombings

The attack coincides with the 10th anniversary of suicide bombings in Amman hotels that cost 60 lives and wounded dozens more. Yesterday, King Abdullah II and his wife Queen Rania attended a memorial for the victims of the November 9, 2005 attacks. The bombings, which were claimed by Al-Qaeda, had shocked one of the Middle East's most stable countries and a key US ally. Earlier this year Jordan executed an Iraqi woman whose husband was one of the

bombers. Sajida Al-Rishawi was arrested after the attacks and confessed that she was also wearing an explosives belt but had been unable to activate it. She was tried and sentenced to death. She was executed on February 4 along with another Iraqi jihadist who had been on death row in revenge for the killing by IS of fighter pilot Maaz Al-Kassabeh. IS captured the fighter last December and later burned him alive.

The pilot's murder sparked international condemnation and was described by a senior Jordanian official as a "turning point" in the kingdom's fight against IS. Jordan is part of a US-led coalition battling IS, which has seized swathes of territory in its neighbors Syria and Iraq. A key US ally, the tiny desert kingdom has trained tens of thousands of Iraqi, Palestinian and Afghan police officers and announced earlier this year plans to train former Libyan rebels at the police academy. The centre was set up initially after the US-led invasion of Iraq to train Iraqis for their country's post-war police force. — AFP



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama speaks to members of the media as he meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Oval Office of the White House yesterday. — AP

## US, ISRAELI LEADERS SEEK TO MEND TIES

WASHINGTON: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu assured US President Barack Obama yesterday that he remained committed to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as they sought to mend ties strained by acrimony over Middle East diplomacy and Iran. Meeting Obama for the first time since the signing of the Iran nuclear deal, Netanyahu said he backed a vision of "two states for two peoples" but maintained that any Palestinian state must be demilitarized and recognize Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people, a condition Palestinians have rejected.

Patching up relations could help smooth the way for a new 10-year US military aid package, which Obama told Netanyahu he wanted to get a "head start" on negotiating. Israel, Washington's chief Middle East ally, is seeking a record \$5 billion a year, according to US congressional sources. Obama and Netanyahu, who have a history of testy White House encounters, showed no outward sign of tension, looking cordial and businesslike as they held their first face-to-face talks in 13 months.

The meeting was clouded by an ongoing wave of Palestinian stabbing and shooting attacks that have Israelis on edge at a time when Obama has concluded that a peace deal is beyond reach during the final 14 months of his presidency. Obama condemned the latest wave of Palestinian violence and backed Israel's right to defend itself but said he wanted to hear Netanyahu's ideas for lowering tensions and "how we can make sure that legitimate Palestinian aspirations are met."

#### Two-state solution

Netanyahu's recommitment to the two-state solution, the bedrock of US diplomacy

on the conflict for decades, could satisfy the Obama administration's desire that he clarify his position after he appeared to backtrack on his pledge during a hard-fought re-election campaign earlier this year. "I want to make it clear that we have not given up our hope for peace," Netanyahu told reporters allowed in at the start of talks with Obama. US-sponsored peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians collapsed in 2014. The eruption of violence between the two sides last month has made an end to that bloodshed a more immediate priority.

The meeting, the first between the two leaders in 13 months, was widely seen as an effort to move beyond tensions over US-led nuclear diplomacy with Iran, Israel's arch-foe, and differences over how to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Though Obama and Netanyahu sought to play down their disagreements, no one expected that the two leaders would have much success in overcoming their poor personal chemistry. Their worst public moment was a 2011 Oval Office encounter when Netanyahu lectured Obama on the suffering of the Jewish people through the ages.

This time, neither leader wanted a diplomatic blow-up. Netanyahu leaned forward listening intently as Obama spoke, sometimes nodding. Obama, his legs crossed, sometime cradled his chin in one hand. The two exchanged smiles at times and shook hands twice for the cameras. Some of Obama's aides believe, however, that beyond working to firm up security cooperation, Netanyahu is content to wait out the final stretch of Obama's presidency, hoping for a better reception for his hardline approach from the next occupant of the White House. US voters will elect a new president in November 2016. — Reuters

## RUSSIAN ARTIST ARRESTED AFTER STARTING FIRE AT SECURITY HQ

### PAVLENSKY HAS HISTORY OF EXTREME POLITICAL PROTEST

MOSCOW: One of Russia's most radical political performance artists was detained in Moscow yesterday after briefly setting fire to the entrance of the headquarters of the FSB security service, the successor to the Soviet KGB. Video footage showed Pyotr Pavlensky standing on Moscow's storied Lubyanka Square in front of the building where political prisoners were interrogated in the Soviet era as flames licked around its entrance, scorching parts of two heavy wooden doors. Pavlensky, 31, was shown holding a petrol can and staring out onto the darkened square before a policeman grabbed him. His lawyer later told the Interfax news agency that Pavlensky was being held in a Moscow police station and might be charged with arson.

Unnamed law enforcement sources confirmed Pavlensky's detention, saying he could be charged with petty hooliganism, an offence that usually carries a fine and a jail term of up to 15 days. Two journalists filming his actions said they were briefly detained before being released. In a script accompanying the video of the incident, which was released from one of his own social media accounts despite his detention, Pavlensky said his action was called "Threat" and meant to draw attention to what he called the terror tactics employed by the security agency.

"Fear turns free people into a sticky mass of uncoordinated bodies," he said. "The threat of

inevitable reprisal hangs over everyone who can be tracked with devices, have their conversations listened to, and who faces borders with passport control," he wrote. Pavlensky has

attracted attention before, carrying out extreme acts which he says are designed to poke holes in the Kremlin's propaganda machine and draw attention to society's problems. — Reuters



MOSCOW: Russian artist Pyotr Pavlensky poses after setting fire to the doors of the headquarters of the FSB security service, the successor to the KGB, in central Moscow yesterday. — AFP



## CROATIA'S CONSERVATIVES WIN VOTE; COALITION TALKS AHEAD

**ZAGREB:** Croatia's conservative opposition won the country's first election since it joined the European Union in 2013, partial results from Sunday's election showed, but its narrow victory meant lengthy coalition talks were likely to follow in the next days or weeks. The new government will have to nurture a tentative economic recovery after six years of recession and deal with thousands of migrants from the Middle East streaming through the tiny Adriatic state on their way to western and northern Europe.

Preliminary results after counting half of the votes showed Croatia is heading toward a hung parliament, with the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) winning 61 seats in the 151-seat parliament and the ruling centre-left Social Democratic Party and its allies winning 53 seats.

"This victory puts us into position to take responsibility for leading the country. Ahead of us is a struggle to secure a better life in Croatia," the HDZ leader Tomislav Karamarko said. The conservative alliance HDZ favours a tougher stance than its main rival on the migrant issue, seeking stricter border controls to manage the flow of people crossing the small Adriatic state of 4.4 million.

Some 338,000 migrants have passed through Croatia since mid-September, crossing the border from Serbia at a daily rate of 5,000 or sometimes 10,000. Few linger in Croatia, one of the poorest EU states where unemployment is at 16 percent, well above the bloc's 9 percent average. Driven largely by economic concerns, the election follows a landmark victory by opposition conservatives in Poland last month. The Polish Law and Justice party pledges to oppose mandatory quotas for

relocation of migrants within the EU and echoes the HDZ's nationalist undertones.

### National identity

The HDZ, which steered Croatia to independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia in 1991, has accused the outgoing centre-left government of Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic of being soft and ineffectual in handling the migrant issue. "I feel sorry for those people (migrants), but the migrant issue will not determine my vote," Marija, 71, said. "I will vote for economic prosperity, a better life for the young and for the old." The results showed the Most party, Croat for "bridge", emerging as the third strongest group in parliament with 19 seats. Founded three years ago, the party says it will press for reforms of a bloated public sector and for a better business climate.

Bozo Petrov, Most leader, said his party would support a future government only if it went ahead with reforms of the judiciary and public administration, and would seek to improve the business environment. "For each of those reforms we would set deadlines and if deadlines were not met, we would demand a parliamentary no-confidence vote. We know that, as things stand now, we control the majority in the parliament," he told national broadcaster HRT.

"A new election is much cheaper than an incapable government," he said. Milanovic says his party deserves another four-year mandate because the economy, heavily reliant on tourism, has started to grow after six years of recession that wiped out about 13 percent of national output. After results were announced Milanovic called the parties advocating reforms, especially the Most party, to join him and form a future coalition government. "We want to go on, we cannot carry on alone and we need partners," he said. — Reuters



**CESME:** Migrants and refugees walk towards a dinghy to travel to the Greek island of Chios from Cesme in the Turkish province of Izmir yesterday. Nearly 500 people have died trying to cross the Aegean Sea from neighboring Turkey this year, many of them in the narrow but treacherous stretch separating Lesbos from Turkey. — AFP

## EUROPE URGED TO MOVE FASTER ON MIGRANT CRISIS

### EU-AFRICA SUMMIT IN MALTA TOMORROW

**BRUSSELS:** European Union interior ministers faced renewed pressure to deliver on their promises for tackling the migration crisis yesterday as they met to prepare the ground for a crucial summit with African leaders. Dimitris Avramopoulos, the EU migration commissioner, urged them to act quickly on pledges to tighten external borders, relocate refugees from overstretched Italy and Greece, and set up reception centers along the main Balkans route from Greece.

Yesterday's extraordinary meeting came ahead of a special EU-Africa summit in Malta on Wednesday, focused on how to reduce the flow via Libya, the second-busiest migrant route after Turkey and the Balkans. "It is now time for them (the member states) to accelerate the work to make these promises a reality on the ground," the commissioner, a Greek national, said in a statement. The European Commission, the executive arm of the 28-nation EU, proposed a multi-pronged plan in May to tackle the worst migrant crisis in Europe since the Second World War after nearly 800 migrants drowned in the Mediterranean on their way to Italy via Libya.

The problem worsened over the summer when hundreds of thousands more people fleeing wars in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan arrived in Greece and the Balkans via Turkey. More than

3,000 people have drowned among the nearly 800,000 who have reached Europe this year. However, EU states have bickered for months over a joint solution, particularly over plans to relocate a total of 160,000 asylum seekers from frontline countries to other parts of the bloc.

"We need to see more relocations from Greece and Italy as a matter of urgency," said Avramopoulos. The EU finally approved the relocation schemes last month in the face of fierce opposition from Hungary and other eastern member states who are grappling with an anti-migrant backlash. But since then only around 120 asylum seekers have been relocated from Italy and Greece to countries like Sweden and Luxembourg.

### 'Time for delivery'

States like Hungary are putting pressure on Greece to reinforce its sea borders, the first EU port of call on the dangerous Aegean Sea crossing from Turkey. Avramopoulos said member states also need to contribute the staff and equipment needed to set up the agreed reception centers in Greece and Italy where people seeking refugee status will be separated from economic migrants who will be sent back home. There are also plans to set up reception centers in the Balkan countries where migrants can reg-

ister and obtain shelter. "We need to increase reception capacities," Avramopoulos added.

He also called for speeding up the return of economic migrants to their home countries. "Now is the time for delivery on all fronts," he said. The gathering of more than 50 leaders from both the EU and Africa in Malta on Wednesday and Thursday will see an overwhelmed Europe call on Africa to take back more people classed as economic migrants and not refugees fleeing conflict and persecution. In return, Europe will offer up to 3.6 billion euros (\$3.8 billion) in development funds in a fresh thrust by the wealthy EU to tackle the wars and poverty in Africa that are among the root causes of the migration flow.

In Vienna meanwhile, ministers and senior officials from 11 European countries including Germany and Sweden met yesterday to discuss how to better integrate the record numbers of migrants. Sebastian Kurz, integration and foreign minister of hosts Austria, said the integration of migrants into mainstream society was essential to maintain "social harmony" in European countries where people are "unsettled" by the influx. In Cyprus, British officials said yesterday that 114 migrants from the Middle East staying at a military base on the east Mediterranean island will be deported if they do not claim asylum with the Cypriot authorities. — AFP



**IDOMENI:** Migrants and refugees cross the border of Greece and Macedonia near the village of Idomeni, northern Greece yesterday. The European Commission on November 5 estimated that some three million migrants fleeing war and poverty will be entering the EU by 2017 in a development likely to have a marginal positive impact on the economy. — AFP

## SWEDISH SUPPORT FOR MIGRANTS FALLS: POLL

**STOCKHOLM:** A growing number of Swedes want their country to take in fewer migrants, a poll showed yesterday, as Sweden struggles to manage an unprecedented influx of asylum seekers. The poll by Sifo, published in the Svenska Dagbladet newspaper, found 41 percent said Sweden should grant fewer residency permits to refugees compared to just 29 percent in September. Of the 1,000 people questioned on November 2-5, a quarter wanted the number to remain at current levels, while 17 percent wanted an increase and 16 percent were undecided.

Sweden has taken more refugees per capita than any other country in Europe as the continent struggles with its worst migration crisis since World War II, expecting up to 190,000 asylum seekers this year. "When we polled opinion in September, the developments and the debate were completely different. Today the prime minister (Stefan Lofven) is ask-

ing to redistribute (in the European Union) the refugees who have come here," said Toivo Sjoren, head of polling at Sifo. An Ipsos poll published on Saturday in Sweden's Dagens Nyheter newspaper similarly indicated a shift in attitudes, suggesting 26 percent think the Scandinavian country should welcome more migrants, down from 44 percent in September.

Men and right-wing voters tended to take more negative views of migrants, with 96 percent of the far-right Sweden Democrats' supporters saying fewer should be granted residency. Rising opposition to the newcomers can also be seen on social media. According to a study conducted by Svenska Dagbladet, 35 percent of the most shared posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram containing the Swedish word for "refugees" expressed a negative opinion about the issue in October, compared to 21 percent in September. — AFP

## SECURITY HEIGHTENED AFTER NIGERIA ELECTION VIOLENCE

**KANO:** Soldiers patrolled the streets and residents surveyed damage to their homes and businesses in eastern Nigeria yesterday, after deadly violence linked to the appointment of the country's first female governor. At least seven people were killed and 15 injured on Sunday in clashes between supporters of the ousted governor of Taraba state, Darius Ishaku, and Aisha Alhassan in the town of Wukari, according to police. Alhassan, who is a minister-designate in President Muhammadu Buhari's government, appealed against Ishaku's victory in governorship polls in April and on Saturday an election tribunal annulled his win.

Ishaku, from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), indicated he would appeal the ruling, which dismissed his candidacy on the grounds the PDP had not followed correct procedure to nominate him. The tribunal declared Alhassan, a lawyer known to her supporters as "Mama Taraba", the winner. Nigeria has never had a female governor in its 55-year independent history. It would be another first for Nigerian elections this year, as Buhari became the first opposition leader to unseat an incumbent in the presidential vote in March.

Shehu Mohammed, a Muslim community leader in Wukari, some 220 kilometers from the state capital Jalingo, said 21 houses and businesses had been torched in the violence. "So far, it is calm in the town. Soldiers are on the streets on patrol," he said by telephone. "Occasionally they stop by crowds of people discussing the incident and advise them to remain calm and go about their daily business. "All the homes affected in the violence were completely burnt. Nothing can be salvaged from these homes but owners are still going in there to examine the extent of the damage."

Mohammed said those made homeless by the violence were staying in local mosques and security chiefs from the state were in town to talk to community leaders to prevent a fresh outbreak of violence. Muslim supporters of Alhassan clashed with Christian backers of Ishaku in religiously divided Wukari, which has previously been a flashpoint of communal violence. Daniel Musa, a local resident, added: "Fighting stopped yesterday. People are only now counting their losses. Home have been burnt, businesses have been destroyed. "But now soldiers are on the streets, there's no sign of trouble this morning." — AFP

## PORTUGAL GOVT PRESENTS PLANS TO MPs AHEAD OF CRUNCH VOTE

**LISBON:** Portugal's new centre-right government headed by Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho yesterday began presenting its program to a parliament dominated by a leftwing bloc bent on bringing it down. Passos Coelho's coalition won the most seats in the October 4 elections, but lost the absolute majority it had enjoyed since 2011.

Now his fledgling government's existence is hanging by a thread, with the main opposition Socialist Party—which has formed an unprecedented alliance with the radical Left Bloc and the Communists—poised to replace it.

The parliamentary session began around 1500 GMT yesterday and was set to continue into today.

Together, the Socialists, the Communists and the Left Bloc—which is close to Greece's ruling Syriza—hold 122 seats out of 230 in the parliament, giving them the majority needed to pass a motion against the government's program. Such a motion will be tabled today by Socialist leader Antonio Costa, the former mayor of Lisbon.

If the leftists succeed, the vote would force the government to resign after just 11 days in power—which would make Passos Coelho's administration the most shortlived in Portugal's history. The prospect of a leftwing coalition including the Left Bloc and the Communists taking power in Portugal, which is recovering only slowly after emerging from a 78 billion euro (\$88 billion) international bailout last year, has raised concern in Europe.



**LISBON:** Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho (C) sits flanked by Portuguese vice prime minister Paulo Portas (L) and Portuguese finance minister Maria Luis Albuquerque (R) during a debate at the Portuguese Parliament in Lisbon yesterday. — AFP

Anxious to reassure creditors, Costa has repeatedly said that any Socialist-led government would respect Portugal's international commitments.

"All the conditions have been met to ensure a stable, responsible, consistent and lasting gov-

ernment," Costa said late Sunday. The alliance between the Socialists, the Communists and the Left Bloc is the first of its kind since the birth of a democratic Portugal in 1974, and had seemed unimaginable just weeks ago due to the differences between the various leftist groups. — AFP

## RAIN PUTS DAMPER ON HUNT FOR 'NAZI TREASURE TRAIN'

**WALBRZYCH:** Heavy rain yesterday put a damper on moves by experts to begin inspecting the alleged site in Poland of a fabled Nazi train that could contain looted treasure. "We need three days without rain with temperatures above 0 degrees Celsius (32 degrees Fahrenheit)" to begin exploration, said Arkadiusz Grudzien, press officer for the southwestern city of Walbrzych which has authority over the site. "At this point, we have to check whether the train is really there. It's much too early to speak about excavating it," he added.

Treasure hunters Piotr Koper of Poland and Andreas Richter, a German, announced in August they had discovered a 98-metre-long train carriage buried eight to nine metres underground in a railway tunnel.

The two struck by their words Monday, saying they were "convinced" the train exists. "We have

what it takes to excavate it—we have specialists who are working with us," Koper told reporters gathered at the site, adding that up to now he had shared all exploration costs with Richter. Rumors of two Nazi trains that disappeared at the end of World War II have been circulating for years, capturing the imagination of treasure-hunters.

The lore is fuelled by a massive network of secret underground tunnels near Walbrzych—including around the massive Ksiaz Castle—that Nazi Germany built and where legend has it the Third Reich stashed looted valuables. Weather permitting, by next week another group of independent experts will join the operation at the site. "We aren't competing," said Koper.

"I believe their results will be similar to ours." Koper and Richter believe the alleged contents of

the train are mostly weapons prototypes, though according to local legend they could also include artwork and Nazi documents.

Walbrzych spokesman Grudzien insisted all the exploration would have to be "non-invasive," meaning no digging or drilling. "Experts can use various instruments and detectors, but they're not allowed to remove any soil," according to Grudzien.

An army unit including a bomb squad completed tests at the site last month and declared it free of hazardous material. Deputy Culture Minister Piotr Zuchowski said in August he was "more than 99 percent sure" the train exists after seeing ground-penetrating radar images. Officials have since cast doubt on this, saying there was no credible evidence of it, but have not given up their bid to verify the claim. — AFP



## AFGHANISTAN, US CONDEMN BEHEADINGS OF WOMEN, CHILD

**KANDAHAR:** Afghan President Ashraf Ghani yesterday condemned the beheading of a group of Shiite Hazaras, including a child, in the southern province of Zabul, the scene of deadly clashes between rival Taliban groups.

Local officials in Zabul province said the headless bodies of four men, two women and one child, who were kidnapped by armed men in October from neighboring Ghazni province, were found in Khak-i-Afghan district of troubled Zabul on Sunday.

The circumstances surrounding the beheadings are unclear. Some local officials pointed the finger at fighters from the Islamic State group (IS) in the province, but the government does not

have control of the area and the claim could not be independently verified.

Groups associated with IS have made growing inroads in Afghanistan this year, attracting fighters and support away from disenchanted members of the Taliban.

"The heartless killing of innocent individuals, especially women and children, has no justification in any religion or creed," Ghani said in a statement. Ghani, who was "profoundly saddened" by the killing, said he would convene "an extraordinary security meeting to seek ways for tracking down and punishing the perpetrators of this atrocious crime" later yesterday.

The US also issued a statement con-

demning "yesterday's beheading of seven civilians, including women and a child" through its embassy in Kabul. Also yesterday Afghan officials said heavy fighting continued between militants from the two groups of Taliban in at least three districts of Zabul province.

The skirmishes, which first erupted on Saturday, involved fighters loyal to the widely-recognized Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour and fighters led by Mansoor Dadullah.

Dadullah is a deputy in the splinter group announced last week by Mohamed Rasool, in the first formal split within the Taliban since the death of long-term leader Mullah Omar. Islam Gul Seyal, the provincial governor's

spokesman, said the fighting in Arghandab, Khak-Afghan and Daichopan districts continued yesterday, and had left dozens of militants from both sides killed and injured. The extent of the fighting and more precise figures could not be verified.

Meanwhile, rival groups of Taliban militants have clashed in the southern Afghan province of Zabul, killing as many as 80 people in recent days, officials said yesterday, as brewing hostility between factions in the insurgency turned violent. Government officials and spokesmen for the two main Taliban groups said fierce fighting had been underway since the weekend, with each side blaming the other for starting the violence. Insurgents

who have pledged allegiance to Islamic State may also have been involved.

Seven members of the mainly Shia Hazara ethnic group, including three women and a child, were found with their throats cut on Sunday in an incident police blamed on Islamic State militants.

The fighting, in one of the Taliban's traditional southern strongholds, underlined the risk of fragmentation facing the Islamist movement since it announced earlier this year that its founder, Mullah Omar, had died two years ago. A prolonged split in the movement could further complicate the resumption of peace talks with the government, which broke down in July following the announcement of Mullah Omar's death. —Agencies



**CHENNAI:** Indians make their way on a flooded street in Chennai yesterday following heavy rain from an approaching cyclonic system off the coast. Indian meteorological authorities have issued a cyclone alert for the Bay of Bengal coast in Tamil Nadu. —AFP

## NATO PONDERES FUTURE OF AFGHAN MISSION

**KABUL/ZARAGOZA:** NATO partners are considering ways of beefing up their training and assistance mission in Afghanistan as concern grows over the ability of local forces to fight an escalating insurgency by Taliban militants, according to officials in Brussels and Kabul.

The Taliban's success in seizing the northern city of Kunduz in late September and holding it for several days caused shock among Afghanistan's international partners, who have invested billions of dollars trying to create a security force capable of standing on its own.

"The situation is sobering, it is not as stable as we hoped it would be," said General Hans-Lothar Domroese, a veteran of Afghanistan who is Germany's second-most senior general in the NATO alliance. Speaking at the margins of a NATO exercise in Spain, he said weak government control in many areas and corruption were making the job of reinforcing security more difficult, but added: "If we don't stay, they will drift into a maelstrom, and there is a significant danger that they get torn away."

Ministers from NATO countries are due to meet in early December to decide on the future of Resolute Support, the non-combat NATO-led mission launched in January to train, advise and assist the Afghan government and security forces.

Formally the NATO-Afghan agreement is open-ended, but in practice its future depends on member countries' willingness to commit troops and resources.

### "CAN'T HELP FOREVER"

Officials describe a sense of fatigue and doubt about the strategy of the coalition of NATO partners and allies following Washington's announcement it would extend troop levels through most of 2016 due to worsening security.

"Nobody is pleased with the progress," said one NATO diplomat in Brussels, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The alliance's forces can't keep helping forever ... Right now we are helping them more than we'd like."

However, no one Reuters spoke to expected a major overhaul of the mission, or suggested NATO members would send

additional troops back to Afghanistan or return to combat.

There are fewer than 14,000 coalition troops in the country, compared to around 140,000 a few years ago. Previous plans to reduce the numbers further appear to be on hold, and several nations have signalled they will extend their troop levels along with the United States.

National Security Council spokesman Tawab Ghorzang said the Afghan government was happy with Resolute Support, which had proved "very successful". "We hope that our friendly nations, especially the RS mission, continue their support till the elimination of terrorism threats in Afghanistan," he said in a statement. But after 14 years of fighting, with more than 3,000 coalition dead, there is little appetite in Western countries for deeper military involvement in Afghanistan.

"We will not go into a new combat operation," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters recently. At the same time, the tens of thousands of refugees heading to Europe has highlighted one of the results of letting the country slide into anarchy, leaving governments with little choice but to try to make the mission work better.

### "ROBUST ADVICE"

"Robust advice is what we need," Domroese said, adding that as well as improved close air support, thought should be given to giving Afghan forces more access to intelligence and surveillance data held back under existing rules. "If I can see there is somebody coming around the corner and I can't tell the Afghans, can't enable them, then you may have to tackle this issue again politically and rethink Resolute Support," Domroese said. Afghan officials have repeatedly pleaded for help in areas like close air support when forces come under attack by the Taliban, but a lack of equipment and trained personnel has made strengthening the tiny air force difficult.

However, some Western officials express scepticism about the value of extending a mission to support an ill-paid, sometimes demoralised security force riddled with corruption. —Reuters

## SOUL SEARCHING FOR MODI AFTER CRUSHING BIHAR ROUT

### INDIAN PM URGED TO CHANGE TACK AFTER ELECTION DEFEAT

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met leaders of his party yesterday to discuss whether to overhaul policies and priorities in the wake of a humiliating defeat in elections in the eastern state of Bihar. Modi and a dozen senior colleagues of his Hindu nationalist party, including its president Amit Shah, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Home Minister Rajnath Singh, gathered at the party's offices to analyse the reasons for the defeat.

"There are lessons to be learnt," Jaitley told reporters after the meeting, without outlining specifics. "In elections you win some and lose some." Sunday's loss in Bihar, India's third most populous and poorest state, is the most significant setback for Modi since he won a crushing victory in a general election last year. For the first time since he came to power, party leaders are openly starting to question the direction of the government.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) office in New Delhi was virtually deserted yesterday, with only a few workers compiling newspaper clippings on the election defeat. Indian shares, bonds and the rupee opened at six-week lows as investors who had backed Modi worried he would struggle to push economic reforms through parliament against an emboldened opposition. They later regained their footing.

### PARLIAMENTARY SETBACK

The Bihar loss may hamper Modi's reform agenda because he needs to win most state elections in the next three years to gain full control of parliament. India's states are represented in the upper house, where the BJP lacks a majority.

The government announced yesterday that parliament will resume for the winter session on Nov. 26. Over the last year, Modi has struggled to pass laws, includ-

ing tax and labor reforms, and now faces an opposition with political momentum.

The election came against a backdrop of concerns in India over incidents in which Muslims have been targeted by Hindu zealots. There have been protests by prominent intellectuals at what they call a climate of rising intolerance. Some BJP lawmakers called for the party to promote a more unifying agenda focusing on economic development, after a campaign in Bihar that sought to

was that Modi sidelined too many people. "Modi thinks he can do it all at once. He wants economic growth, social and cultural revolution, to win political battles and project himself as a statesman," he said.

"If he wins then every voice of dissent can be silenced, but if he fails then every voice of dissent is going to build."

### AGGRESSIVE TACTICS

The election was one of the most vicious in recent years. At

banned poster showed a young Hindu woman embracing a garlanded cow, an animal sacred to Hindus.

The BJP president was also criticised for comments suggesting that if his party lost, the result would be celebrated in arch-rival Pakistan.

In contrast, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who led the anti-Modi alliance in Bihar, was able to trade on his record of turning around a state that was once widely considered to be among India's most cor-



**PATNA:** Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, center, is surrounded by media personnel as he greets supporters after victory in Bihar state elections in Patna on Sunday. The alliance led by Kumar defeated Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Hindu nationalist party in a crucial election in one of India's most populous states. —AP

polarise voters along caste and religious lines.

"We have to be single mindedly focused on development, development, development," said Chandan Mitra, a BJP member of parliament. "We can't afford to be distracted by anything else."

A senior BJP leader, who asked not to be named, said the problem

one of dozens of election rallies addressed by Modi, he accused rival parties of snatching economic benefits from lower-caste Hindus and handing them over to a religious minority, a comment interpreted as a veiled reference to Muslims. The election commission banned several party posters they said could incite hatred. One

rupt and lawless.

Arun Shourie, a minister in the last BJP government, called for a change in course.

"We should be grateful to the people of Bihar because the direction has been halted," he told NDTV news. Asked what went wrong with the party's Bihar campaign, he said: "Everything". —Reuters

## SUU KYI PARTY CHALKS UP WINS IN FIRST MYANMAR POLL RESULTS

**YANGON:** Supporters of Aung San Suu Kyi's pro-democracy party cheered in growing excitement as early results from Myanmar's historic election boosted hopes of sweeping gains to carry it to power after decades of military dominance.

Election authorities have so far released only a small fraction of the results, but of the 36 announced the National League for Democracy has scooped 35, in a psychological boost to crowds of Suu Kyi supporters gathered in front of her party headquarters in Yangon Monday evening.

"We'll win tonight, we'll stay until we win anyway," said 24-year-old Wanna Htay, sporting a Scarlett bandana with the party's iconic fighting peacock motif as the crowd sung and cheered around him.

Earlier party spokesman Win Htein told AFP that unofficial tallies showed the opposition was

"on track to win more than 70 percent of seats around the country". He did not specify if the percentage would translate into power under Myanmar's complex political system.

Sunday's elections saw millions line up to cast their ballots in what many hope will mark a dramatic leap towards democracy in the Southeast Asian nation, which withered under the iron grip of junta rule for decades. The NLD, which holds a tiny proportion of seats clinched in 2012 by-elections, is shooting for 67 percent of elected seats in the national legislature to be able to select a president and form a government.

That would be enough to overwhelm the USDP and their military allies who are gifted 25 percent of seats by a constitution scripted to ensure they still have a major stake in the future.

The army-backed USDP, or Union Solidarity and Development Party, said it was ready for a wipe-out in the commercial capital Yangon, while sever-

al of its heavyweights—including its chairman—lost their seats. But the NLD shied away from an outright declaration of victory, with election authorities expected to release results in several waves deep into Monday night.

Suu Kyi, who is still barred from the presidency under the army-drafted constitution, remained cautious, but hinted at victory.

"It is not the time to congratulate our candidates who we think have won the election," she told supporters and journalists from the balcony of her party's Yangon headquarters.

But "people have an idea of the result even if I don't say it," she added. Election authorities have said that preliminary figures would be released within 48 hours of Sunday's vote, and a full nationwide count could take 10 days or more.

### Change afoot?

In its Yangon stronghold, the NLD took 12 lower-house seats and 23 more for the regional parliament. The USDP, appearing increasingly beleaguered, has taken just one Yangon regional parliament seat so far.

Early NLD victories includes a win for Naing Ngan Linn, who was injured in a dramatic sword attack while out canvassing on October 29 in Tharketa township on the city's fringes.

The sitting MP was hospitalised with deep gashes to his arms and face after the attack, apparently by a drunken local gang, in what the party described as the worst incident of violence during its campaign. But he was back on the campaign trail just a few days later. Even the state-backed Global New Light of Myanmar declared the "dawn of a new era", while USDP heavyweight Shwe Mann conceded on his Facebook page that he had lost his seat to his NLD challenger.

The junta nominally gave up power in 2011, and the country has since spun through rapid change, with the quasi-civilian USDP government launching reforms that brought the end of most international sanctions. But the USDP was braced for major losses and some local media called on President Thein Sein to concede without delay. —AFP

## GE WINS \$2.6BN CONTRACT TO MAKE TRAINS IN INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian government has awarded a \$2.6 billion contract to General Electric to develop and supply Indian Railways with 1,000 diesel locomotives over a period of 11 years, a company statement said yesterday. In accordance with the contract, GE is set to invest \$200 million to build a factory and maintenance sheds in the country, in what is being touted as the company's largest deal in their 100-year history in India.

"It is a major advancement and milestone for India and for GE, a symbol of our commitment and support of the 'Make in India' initiative," GE Chairman and CEO Jeff Immelt said in a statement.

The "Make in India" initiative is one of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship policies, aimed at seeking larger amounts of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the

country to spur growth in domestic manufacturing. Modi, who won a landslide election last year with the promise of creating jobs by fostering a business friendly environment, has touted India's policy reforms and faster project clearances to seek investment in the country.

India's vast but crumbling railway network has received special attention under Modi's government, with Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu pledging to spend around \$137 billion to modernise it over the next five years.

As a part of this effort, the Indian government last year also allowed 100 percent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the railway sector.

"(The) diesel locomotive project marks one of the first major initiatives of FDI in enhancing India's rail locomotive capacity," GE said in the statement. —AFP



**YANGON:** Supporters of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party cheer as they watch the official results on a giant screen outside the party headquarters in Yangon yesterday. —AFP



## THAI FORTUNE TELLER DIES IN CUSTODY IN ROYAL INSULT PROBE

**BANGKOK:** A Thai fortune teller arrested as part of a high-profile royal insult investigation has died, the government said yesterday, the second suspect in as many weeks to die in police custody.

Suriyan Sucharitpolwong, a well-known soothsayer and former aide to Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, died of natural causes on Saturday, the Department of Corrections said in a statement.

Suriyan, 53, was found unconscious in his cell and taken to a hospital where attempts to revive him proved unsuccessful, the department said. Suriyan, who was known in Thai by the nickname "Mor Yong", was charged with lese majeste, which in Thailand is one of the strictest such laws in the world, along with two other people involved in an alleged conspiracy to exploit the name of Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn.

Thailand's royal insult laws carry up to 15 years in prison for each count for anyone convicted of insulting the king,

queen, heir or regent.

Until his arrest, Suriyan had been seen frequently with top officials. He was also the chief organizer of a cycling event in August which the prince took part in, in honour of his mother, Queen Sirikit.

Another suspect, Prakrom Warunprapa, a prominent policeman, died in custody last month. Police say he hanged himself using his shirt but refused to do an autopsy.

The investigation is part of a crackdown on perceived royal insults launched by the junta, which took power in a coup last year. Ultra royalist Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has vowed to stamp out critics of the monarchy and has repeatedly called for stronger prosecution of lese majeste since taking power but some say the crackdown is aimed at ensuring an orderly succession.

King Bhumibol, 87, is convalescing at a Bangkok hospital after being treated by doctor's for 'water on the brain.' His

frail health has added to the political uncertainty surrounding Thailand since the 2014 coup. "This is a very sensitive time for Thailand and part of the reason that the military is in power is to ensure a smooth royal succession when the time comes," said a Bangkok-based political analyst who declined to be named because of the sensitive nature of the issue. Nervousness over the succession has formed the backdrop to a decade of political crisis in the country. The lese majeste law prevents any open discussion of the succession.

Media in Thailand routinely exercise self-censorship in coverage of the royal family to avoid falling foul of the law. A military court in Bangkok on Monday issued an arrest warrant for Colonel Khachachart Boondee, commander of the army's 1st Artillery Regiment, over charges of lese majeste and abusing his authority for personal gain over the organization of "a forthcoming event". It did not give further details. —Reuters



**BANGKOK:** A file photo shows Thai fortune teller Suriyan Sucharitpolwong (C), 54, also known as Mor Yong, being escorted by commando police during his arrival at a military court in Bangkok. —AFP



**MANILA:** A Philippine Police chaplain from the Roman Catholic faith sprinkles holy water as he blesses explosive ordnance disposal equipment donated by the US Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program, during a turnover ceremony in Manila yesterday. The EOD equipment will be used in preparation for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit to be held in the Philippines later this month. — AFP

## CHINA'S XI TO ATTEND APEC SUMMIT AMID SEA DISPUTES

CHINESE FM YI WILL VISIT THE PHILIPPINES TODAY

**BEIJING/MANILA:** Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group next week, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday, amid tensions between China and the Philippines over the disputed South China Sea. The APEC meeting will take place in Manila from Nov. 17 to 19. APEC's members include the United States, China, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and Canada, and together account for 57 percent of global production and 46.5 percent of world trade.

China has overlapping claims with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei in the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year.

A summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations last week, attended by both the United States and China, failed to produce a

final statement because the delegations could not agree on whether to mention the South China Sea dispute.

China has been particularly angered by a case lodged by the Philippines with an arbitration court in the Netherlands over the South China Sea. China says it will neither recognize nor participate in the case. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi will visit the Philippines today to discuss preparations for Xi's visit and ways to improve Beijing's relations with Manila, China's Foreign Ministry said.

"At present, because of reasons everyone knows about, Sino-Philippine relations are facing difficulties. This is something China does not wish to see," ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a daily news briefing.

"China pays great attention to relations with the Philippines and is willing to appropri-

ately resolve relevant issues on the basis of dialogue and negotiation."

Prior to going to Manila, Xi will attend the G20 summit in Turkey, the foreign ministry added.

A demolition crew yesterday dismantled one of Manila's largest makeshift markets and rounded up homeless families to clean up roads ahead of the summit.

Workers painted sidewalks while dozens of police began patrols around the convention centre where the meets will be held. "We were told to take a vacation for two weeks," Rosa Diaz, a 65-year-old cigarette vendor, said as the wrecking crew dismantled hundreds of stalls selling used clothes, slippers and toys outside a church. "They said we could return after APEC."

A bishop and leftist labor group criticized government's clean-up campaign. "Their solution is temporary," Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo said on radio. "They want to show the visitors that there are no poor people, but why can't we find a permanent solution for our poor people?"

### Security deal

The Philippine Supreme Court is expected to decide that a new US-Philippine security agreement is constitutional and will announce its ruling before President Barack Obama visits Manila next week for an Asia-Pacific summit, a source said.

The deal gives US troops wide access to Philippine military bases and approval to build facilities to store fuel and equipment for maritime security, but it was effectively frozen after left-wing politicians and other opponents challenged its constitutionality last year. The expected ruling comes amid growing tension between the United States and China over Beijing's island-building in the disputed South China Sea.

"I have seen the draft (ruling). The court will uphold its constitutionality, denying the petition to declare it unconstitutional," said a court source who declined to be identified.

The source said the Supreme Court's 15-member panel still needed to discuss the matter on Tuesday. If no decision was announced at that session, it would happen on Nov. 16 when the court next convened, the source added. Obama will attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Manila on Nov 18-19. The Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) was signed just days before Obama last visited Manila in April 2014. — Agencies

## UNREST ERUPTS AT AUSTRALIA'S XMAS ISLAND MIGRANT CENTER

**SYDNEY:** Detainees set buildings alight and armed themselves with baseball bats in a riot at an Australian immigration facility on Christmas Island, people at the center said yesterday, with officials admitting the situation was out of control. The disturbance at the Indian Ocean island center comes after the unexplained death of an escaped asylum-seeker.

Detainees have complained about their treatment at the facility, which currently houses 203 men, among them asylum-seekers awaiting processing and non-citizens being deported because they have criminal convictions.

"Order or control hasn't been regained within the center," Immigration Minister Peter Dutton told Sky News. He added that no injuries had been listed, no damage been done to the perimeter fence and no-one had since tried to escape.

The Department for Immigration and Border Protection described the incident as a "major disturbance" but denied there was a large scale riot. "There is currently no large scale 'riot' involving the majority of the center's population... but the center remains tense and staff have been withdrawn from compounds for safety reasons," a department statement said.

"A group of detainees, believed to be non-citizens whose visas have been cancelled under mandatory cancellation provisions, continue to agitate and cause damage to the facility."

The department declined to specify the number of staff that had been evacuated when contacted by AFP. The trouble followed a peaceful protest by detainees on Sunday after the discovery of the body of an Iranian Kurdish asylum-seeker, named by Australian media as Fazel Chegeni, who had escaped.

Police are investigating the cause of death but Dutton, who was unable to confirm reports that the body was found at the base of a cliff, said he had been advised there were no suspicious circumstances.

The department said other detainees "took advantage of the situation to engage

in property damage and general unrest." "A number of small fires have been lit within the centre," it said. "There is believed to be damage to medical, educational and sporting facilities but a full assessment is yet to be conducted."

### 'It all went haywire'

A detainee told Radio New Zealand (RNZ) some inmates had armed themselves to resist any attempt to re-take the facility. "We're sick of it. We see it all the time, people trying to hurt themselves, kill themselves," the man, who spoke with a New Zealand accent and did not give his name, told RNZ by telephone. "We have a feeling that they're going to send a lot of guards in but a lot of detainees have armed up with baseball bats and poles just in case," he said. Under Australia's hardline immigration policy, asylum-seekers arriving by boat are processed on isolated islands, rather than the mainland.

As well as asylum seekers, Christmas Island's facility has increasingly been used to hold non-citizens awaiting deportation, including criminals after Canberra began cancelling visas of those with criminal records. In particular there has been an influx of Australian-based New Zealanders.

Critics of the policy include New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, pointing out that many are being deported over minor crimes committed years ago and have no ties to their homeland after decades living in Australia. Kiwi detainee Lester Hohua said convicted criminals with cancelled visas joined forces with asylum-seekers.

"It all went haywire," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. New Zealand opposition lawmaker Kelvin Davis, who last month visited the centre, said he had been told the disturbance began after a detainee who questioned guards about the death was punched in the face.

"Things aren't good... I think it's the calm before the storm... one guy I spoke to said they're afraid, they're scared they're going to be shot," he told TV3. —AFP

## INDONESIA PLANS CROCODILE-GUARDED PRISON ISLAND FOR DRUG CONVICTS

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia's anti-drugs agency has proposed building a prison on an island guarded by crocodiles to hold death row drug convicts, an official said yesterday, an idea that wouldn't be out of place in a James Bond film.

The proposal is the pet project of anti-drugs chief Budi Waseso, who plans to visit various parts of the archipelago in his search for fierce reptiles to guard the jail. "We will place as many crocodiles as we can there. I will search for the most ferocious type of crocodile," he was quoted as saying by local news website Tempo.

Waseso said that crocodiles would be better at preventing drug traffickers from escaping prison as they could not be bribed-unlike human guards. But he is banking on the convicts lacking Roger Moore's crocodile-running

skills showcased in Bond movie "Live and Let Die" when he escapes from an island using the reptiles as stepping stones. "You can't bribe crocodiles. You can't convince them to let inmates escape."

The plan is still in the early stages, and neither the location or potential opening date of the jail have been decided. Indonesia already has some of the toughest anti-narcotics laws in the world, including death by firing squad for traffickers, and sparked international uproar in April when it put to death seven foreign drug convicts.

But President Joko Widodo has insisted that drug dealers must face death as the country is fighting a "national emergency" due to rising narcotics use.

Despite the harsh laws, Indonesia's corrupt prison system is awash with drugs, and inmates and jail officials are regularly arrested for narcotics offences. Anti-drugs agency spokesman Slamet Pribadi confirmed authorities were mulling the plan to build "a special prison for death row convicts". He said only traffickers would be kept in the jail, to stop them from mixing with other prisoners and potentially recruiting them to drug gangs. The agency is currently in discussions with the justice ministry about the plan, he added. — AFP



**YOGYAKARTA:** Drug convict Mary Jane Veloso of the Philippines (C) attends a ceremony at a prison in Yogyakarta yesterday. Indonesia's anti-drugs agency has proposed building a prison on an island guarded by crocodiles to hold death row drug convicts, an official said an idea that wouldn't be out of place in a James Bond film. —AFP

## STATE FUNERAL LIST IN N KOREA TRIGGERS PURGE SPECULATION

**SEOUL:** A state funeral in North Korea has sparked another fresh round of purge rumors after one of Kim Jong-Un's most powerful aides was omitted from the official funeral committee list.

Marshal Ri Ul-Sol, who died of lung cancer at the weekend, is to be given a state funeral on November 11, and the list of 107 names published on Sunday-headed by leader Kim Jong-Un-is an official Who's Who of the top political and military hierarchy. A notable absentee, however, is Choe Ryong-Hae, a member of the ruling party's politburo standing committee and seen as one of Kim's closest confidantes.

Even if unwell, Choe would normally be on the list and experts said the omission of someone of his stature could not be put down to oversight. "It's almost impossible that this happened unless Choe ... was removed from key positions," said Cheong Seong-Chang, an analyst at the Sejong Institute think-tank in Seoul.

"I suspect that Choe might have been involved in serious trouble such as a major corruption scandal or defamation," Cheong said. Seoul's Unification Ministry, which handles North Korea affairs, also noted the omission in a regular press briefing yesterday. "We

certainly view it as unusual given past precedent," said ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-Hee. Choe was also absent when Kim paid tribute at Ri's wake Sunday along with several senior military cadres, according to footage from North Korean state TV. Choe was seen as Kim Jong-Un's most trusted envoy, and was chosen to take a personal message to Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013.

And he visited Beijing again very recently, in September, as North Korea's representative at China's giant WWII victory anniversary parade. He was mentioned by state media as recently as October 31, when he made a statement about a ruling party congress to be held next year.

Rumours of political purges and executions regularly swirl around the isolated North-only to be rebutted when the official or officials in question resurface with their posts secure. But Kim Jong-Un has been ruthless in eliminating even the highest-ranking officials whose loyalty may have been brought into question. Kim had his powerful uncle, Jang Song-Thaek, executed in December 2012 on charges of treason and corruption. The Kim dynasty has ruled the impoverished North for more than six decades with an iron fist and almost no tolerance for dissent. —AFP





A Palestinian youth makes a jump near the beach in Gaza City yesterday. — AFP

## MP ASKS ABOUT NUMBER OF EXPATS, EXPECTED GROWTH

CABINET RESHUFFLE EXPECTED - TO SOLVE OIL SECTOR ROW  
By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** MP Khalil Abul yesterday questioned Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Sabeeh about the population of foreigners in Kuwait and their expected growth in the next 10 years. In a series of questions, the lawmaker asked for the number of expatriates based on the latest population census, distributed on various nationalities, type of sex and the educational degrees they hold. He also asked about the number of Kuwaiti citizens distributed according to type of sex and age group. He also asked for the same information about stateless people living in Kuwait who are locally known as Bedoons.

MP Abul asked if the ministry has any plan to deal with the demographic problem in the country where expatriates make up the overwhelming majority. If the answer is yes, he asked for a copy of the said plan which should be based on the country's needs. He also asked if the ministry has any study about the expected growth in the number of expatriates and citizens over the next five or ten years - and demanded a copy of the study if available. The lawmaker said these statistics are important to the development goals in the country. Based on official information from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), the number of expats is 2.9 million and Kuwaitis is 1.3 million.

In another development, the Prime Minister is expected to carry out a limited Cabinet reshuffle in the coming few days - mainly to resolve the standoff in the oil sector between Oil Minister Ali Al-Omar and top

executives at Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) and its subsidiaries. The latest round of the ongoing controversy between Omar and the executive was triggered last week when the minister issued a decision swapping between the chief executive officers of Kuwait Oil Co (KOC) Hashem Hashem and Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co (KUFPEC) Sheikh Fawaz Saud Al-Sabah.

The CEO of KPC Nezar Al-Adasani and the two officials rejected to implement the decision saying that Omar had no powers under the law to take the decision without consulting KPC board of directors and the concerned companies. Omar is also under the threat of two grillings by MPs Khalil Al-Saleh and Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi. According to the proposed solution to the crisis, Omar will likely be moved to another ministry and will be replaced either by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah or Minister of Finance Anas Al-Saleh, with the first more likely.

If Omar rejects the new posting, he will quit and return to the National Assembly as a lawmaker because he is an elected MP. The other part of the solution is dissolving the boards of KPC and other companies and appointing new officials. MP Khalil Al-Saleh who has vowed to grill Omar, has called on him to quit, saying that the questioning was gaining more support from other lawmakers. Omar's confrontation with the top oil executives has stirred a controversy on social media with those supporting the minister claiming he is the victim of highly influential people with huge interests in the oil sector.

## AS FLOODS HIT, PAKISTAN'S KALASHA PEOPLE FEAR FOR THEIR WAY OF LIFE

**CHITRAL:** For Akram Hussain, unprecedented monsoon floods that drenched his Hindu Kush mountain valley this year were a danger to more than just homes and crops. His 4,000-strong Kalasha people, who live in three remote valleys in north-west Pakistan, preserve an ancient way of life, including animist beliefs at odds with Pakistan's dominant Islamic state religion. That has led to threats by the Taliban, who call them kafirs, or non-believers. Outsiders, looking for arable land, also have increasingly moved into their high mountain valleys. Now, worsening extreme weather linked to climate change is making efforts to preserve the old ways even harder, the Kalasha say. "Our culture and language were already under threat and now these floods have devastated half our valley," Hussain said.

Torrential rainfall in July in the district - an area that usually falls outside Pakistan's monsoon belt - sent floodwater pouring down steep mountainsides, damaging infrastructure in the valleys of Bumburet and Rumbur. Birir, the third valley inhabited by the Kalasha, was spared. The floods damaged tourist hotels, shops and houses near the nullah (mountain stream) on the valley floor and swept away crops of ripe maize and orchards full of fruit trees. "This winter is going to be very difficult for us," Hussain said. Around the world, extreme weather and rising seas linked to climate change are presenting a growing threat not just to lives and homes but to cultures, from nomads in the drought-hit Sahel to Pacific Islanders who fear the loss of their entire nations.

### Descendants of Alexander the great?

For Pakistan's Kalasha, struggling to preserve their culture is nothing new. They are the last survivors of the people of Kafiristan, who were mostly converted to Islam in the nineteenth century. Their neighbors across the mountains, in the Afghan province of Nuristan, are the Taleban, who hold sway in parts of that country. Among

the Kalasha, prayers are offered during festivities that commemorate the changing seasons. Their elaborate rites demand the sacrifice of dozens of goats, which is becoming increasingly expensive, particularly as crops are destroyed by extreme weather. "When the livestock comes down for the winter what are we going to feed them? If our livestock goes, our culture goes," Hussain said. In Bumburet Valley, the Kalasha Cultural Centre, built by the Greek government in 2004, houses an impressive museum of Kalash artifacts, including colorful embroidered clothes, musical instruments, jewelry and wooden sculptures.

Greek interest in the Kalasha stems from the belief that they are descendants of the army of Alexander the Great which marched through these mountains centuries ago. The centre was spared by the floods, thanks to a strong stone wall built around its perimeters. For the most part, the effects of climate change simply compound other problems the Kalasha have faced recently as migrants move into their valleys. "Some of these migrants are brainwashing the Kalash people. There have been several conversions to Islam this year alone," Hussain said. The winter ahead - when the valleys are cut off from the rest of the country by snow - will be long and hard this year, the Kalasha warn.

In the village of Krakal, Shahida, a young Kalash woman explains: "We live on goat's milk, cheese and beans during the winter months. Now with our crops washed away by the floods and no fodder for our livestock we are very worried." The sturdy traditional construction of the Kalash homes helped them to survive the 7.5-magnitude earthquake that struck the Hindu Kush on 26 October, although some have cracks that must be repaired before winter. Most Kalash homes were also spared by the summer floods as they are built higher up on the mountainsides. But some tourist hotels and other buildings were washed away. — Reuters

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## Focus

MYANMAR ELECTION,  
RESULTS, TRANSITION

Myanmar voted on Sunday in the first free national election for 25 years. More than 6,000 candidates competed for 1,171 seats in the national parliament and local assemblies. The party of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi was on course for a landslide victory, but it was unclear if that would be enough to deliver a majority in parliament that would allow her National League for Democracy to control the presidency. The period before a new president takes power at the end of March is likely to be one of tension and uncertainty, as Suu Kyi negotiates how to share power with the still-dominant military. Below are some details on the results and transition.

## Results

The Union Electoral Commission (UEC) plans to announce preliminary nationwide results on Nov 10, and final results no later than two weeks after the vote. The commission is making rolling announcements of results by constituency as they come in from around the country on Nov 9. The first batch of results announced on Monday returned 12 out of 12 seats in the lower house to the NLD, all in Yangon. Results from the urban centers, the support bases for the NLD, were expected to come more quickly than those from the rural support base of the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP).

## Voting system; calculations

Myanmar has a first-past-the-post voting system, likely to favor the NLD. The 2008 constitution, drafted by the junta that handed power to President Thein Sein in 2011, reserves a quarter of all seats in parliament for the military. That means that only 75 percent of the seats in parliament were contested in the polls. So to hold an outright majority of 51 percent in parliament, the NLD has to win more than two-thirds of the seats contested.

## Seats in parliament

There are 440 seats in the lower house. 110 of them are reserved for the military. There are 224 seats in the upper House. 56 of them are reserved for the military. There are also 14 legislatures for the regions and states of Myanmar.

## Presidency

Myanmar's president is elected by parliament, not by popular vote. The upper house, the lower house, and the military bloc in parliament put forward one presidential candidate each. The combined houses votes on the three candidates. The presidential candidates do not have to be elected members of parliament. The winner becomes president and forms a government, the losers become vice presidents with largely ceremonial responsibilities. The vote on the presidency will take place after the new members take their seats in both houses in February. The president will assume power by the end of March.

## Cabinet

The president forms a cabinet, but the military controls three of the most powerful ministries. They are the interior, defense and border security ministries.

## PARTIES - USDP

Set up under military rule, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) is packed with former junta members and powerful tycoons keen on maintaining close ties with a new government that is likely to press ahead with privatization. President Thein Sein consolidated his position ahead of the election by removing the powerful parliamentary speaker from the party's leadership. Although not standing for election himself, Thein Sein could be re-elected if put forward as a candidate. The USDP won more than 75 percent of all contested seats in a 2010 general election, widely condemned as rigged. In by-elections in 2012, contested by the NLD, it won one seat.

## National League for Democracy (NLD)

Myanmar's largest opposition party won a 1990 election but the result was ignored by the military. It boycotted the 2010 vote. After Suu Kyi's release from house arrest in late 2010, it took part in by-elections in 2012, winning 43 of 44 seats contested. Suu Kyi has pledged to amend the junta-drafted constitution, accelerate reforms and forge sustainable peace with ethnic minority rebels. Whether the NLD will have enough seats to elect its candidate president is unclear. Suu Kyi is banned from becoming president by the constitution because her two children are British. She has said she will be above the president and described the constitution as "very silly". She has come under fire for not including Muslims as candidates, not nurturing strong party leaders and for being vague about how the NLD would govern. —Reuters



## SANCTION FEARS CHOKE NASCENT US TRADE WITH MYANMAR

By Joel Schectman, David Henry and Timothy McLaughlin

Western banks are cutting trade finance in Myanmar after learning that part of the country's main port is controlled by a man blacklisted by Washington, threatening to stop nascent US economic ties with the Southeast Asian nation in their tracks. US shipments to Myanmar have slowed to a crawl in recent months, after several banks including Citigroup Inc, Bank of America, HSBC and PNC Financial curtailed their financial backing of trade with the country, according to sanctions lawyers and other people familiar with the matter. Studying trade documents, Citigroup noticed in June that the Port of Yangon's main terminal is controlled by Steven Law, who is subject to US sanctions because of his alleged ties to Myanmar's military, they said.

Citi then alerted other banks, and their compliance officers warned that further financing could violate remaining US sanctions, according to several sources, who asked not to be named because they were not authorized to speak publicly. At stake are embryonic, but fast developing economic ties between the United States and Myanmar, which US diplomats see as crucial to maintaining Washington's influence during a critical period in the country's transition to democracy. Myanmar holds a landmark election on Sunday, key for the future of political reforms that started with a formation of a civilian government in 2011 after decades of military rule.

Washington and the European Union started lifting economic sanctions the following year to encourage Myanmar authorities to stay the reform course. Since then, the total volume of trade between the United States and Myanmar has risen from less than \$10 million in 2010 to over \$185 million last year, according to the US Commerce Department. That is still a tiny fraction of the Southeast Asian country's over \$27 billion trade dominated by its Asian partners - Thailand, China,

Singapore, Hong Kong, India and South Korea. But the political importance of trade with the United States goes far beyond what the modest amounts would suggest, said Jose W Fernandez, a former assistant secretary of state who was an architect of sanctions policy in Myanmar. "It is a way for the leaders to prove to the world that they are no longer global pariahs," Fernandez said. Developing economic ties with Washington also helps Myanmar counterbalance the influence of Beijing, said Peter Harrell, a former deputy assistant secretary of state who played a key role in easing the sanctions. "Myanmar doesn't want to be overly dependent on the Chinese." From that perspective, the slump in US exports to Myanmar to \$5.5 million in September from over \$50 million in June, is a source of concern.

## Minefield

Fernandez said Myanmar offers a preview of challenges Washington will face in implementing an international deal that removes some sanctions on Iran in return for curbs on its nuclear program, and in its re-engagement with Cuba. "I think some of these sanctions programs were created at a time when we didn't think about the need to remove them," Fernandez said. Myanmar's trade finance snag highlights how unwinding sanctions while some key economic players remain blacklisted creates a minefield for companies that could undermine Washington's broader political objectives. Law's business conglomerate Asia World is a case in point.

Cutting off financing of shipments handled by Law's firm "could amount to a de facto trade embargo" because half of all Myanmar's trade flows through the Asia World terminal, two banking associations said in a letter to the US Treasury Department in July. Foreign institutions could also be affected. About a dozen international banks that have US presence, mostly European, have been stung by more than \$14 billion in US penalties since 2009 for various sanctions violations.

In the letter, the Clearing House Association and the

Bankers Association of Finance and Trade asked the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, which enforces US sanctions, for a legal workaround that would allow shipments to pass through Asia World. The US State Department and OFAC is considering possible solutions, according to sources familiar with their deliberations. But in the meantime, OFAC warned banks to refrain from financing any shipments that Asia World might handle, according to the letter. Asked about a possible solution, a Treasury spokeswoman said in an emailed statement that the agency was working with the US State Department to support Myanmar's democratic transition, "while also ensuring that illicit actors do not benefit."

More than a hundred individuals and businesses - many, like Law, key players in Myanmar - are still subject to US sanctions. US diplomats have encouraged them to apply for the sanctions to be removed, but the process can take years. So far only nine Myanmar-related entities have been taken off the list - two of those were people who had already died. While they wait for a legal fix, US banks are also freezing or delaying payments for shipments that have already arrived in Yangon, according to those familiar with the matter.

Even when the goods get shipped, exporters faced long delays in payments from the banks, Moe Myint Kyaw, secretary general of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, told Reuters in an interview. Peter Kucik, a former senior sanctions adviser at the US Treasury said allowing trade finance to get squelched was "totally inconsistent with US policy" of bringing western financial institutions into Myanmar. Banks, mindful of record fines for sanctions violations, will play it safe given the relatively little money they make in Myanmar, said Kucik, who is now a principal of Inle Advisory Group that advises US businesses on investments in Myanmar. "If you increase compliance costs it's going to be easier for them to just say 'screw it.'" —Reuters

## FEARS OF AFGHAN WOMAN WHO SECRETLY FILMED TALEBAN ON BUS

By Guillaume Decamme

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."

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 subject,

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. Fatima says she does not believe the Taliban can overthrow the government by force, so they "want to win the hearts of civilians and prove that if they were in power, they would govern better" than President Ashraf Ghani. She is now considering leaving Afghanistan-even though the Taliban appear to be uninterested in what she has done. Many people tell her that "staying puts us all in danger, my family and me," she sighs. —AFP



KABUL: Afghan protesters chant slogans during a protest organized by the Solidarity Party of Afghanistan in Kabul, Afghanistan. A 22-year-old Afghan woman, was thrown in a hole in the ground and stoned to death by a group of men identified as Taliban insurgents after she was accused of adultery, an Afghan official said. —AP

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## RONALDO FILM REVEALS FERGUSON'S 50% PROMISE

**LONDON:** Cristiano Ronaldo has revealed that a promise by former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson that he would play in 50 percent of the club's games prompted him to move to Old Trafford in 2003. In a new documentary about his career, Ronaldo's agent Jorge Mendes says that Ferguson's offer was key in encouraging the winger, then an 18-year-old rising star at Sporting Lisbon, to reject rival offers from clubs including Barcelona and Inter Milan. Speaking at a press conference in London on Monday to mark the launch of the film, Ronaldo said: "When Sir Alex Ferguson says, 'Cristiano, I want you to come to Manchester United, you're going to play 50 percent of the games,' it made me feel comfortable and I said, 'Wow.' Because 18 years old, to play 50 percent of the games, for me it's unbelievable. "I took that decision because Jorge helped me to take that decision and of course the last word of Sir Alex Ferguson was the key to sign for Manchester United." The Real Madrid superstar added: "As I say many times, with Manchester United I have a great passion. I say that every time. What Jorge did to me, with 18 years old, to put me in one of the best clubs in the world, with the words of Sir Alex Ferguson, I never dreamt (it was possible)." — AFP



## MISBAH SIGNS WITH BANGLADESH TEAM

**LAHORE:** Pakistan's Test captain Misbah-ul-Haq said yesterday he had signed a contract with a Bangladesh Twenty20 side, deferring retirement plans after his side's 2-0 win against England last week. The 41-year-old had hinted that last week's Test series could be his swansong, but later said he might be persuaded to return for next year's four-match series hosted by England. The series will be Pakistan's next Test assignment and, having retired from one day cricket this year and Twenty20 internationals in 2012, Misbah is set to face eight months out of national colours. In order to keep his eye in, he said he wants to play domestic cricket and has signed a contract with the Rangpur Riders in the Bangladesh Premier League. "I will be playing in the Bangladesh league and hope that this opportunity helps me carry on," said Misbah. "I need to play to motivate myself for the England tour." Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan had asked Misbah to delay his Test retirement until at least the next tour in order to give Pakistan a longer transition period. "I have to look for ways and means to motivate myself as its tough when you play only one format of the game," Misbah said after the team's win in last week's Test in Sharjah. —AFP

## COLOMBIA FEDERATION CHIEF BEDOYA RESIGNS

**BOGOTA:** Colombian Football Federation president Luis Bedoya resigned yesterday, the organization said, after press reports claimed he was on his way out because of the massive corruption scandal shaking FIFA. "For personal reasons, Luis Bedoya Giraldo has resigned as president of the Colombian Football Federation and member of the executive committee, irrevocably and effective today," the FCF said in a statement. Bedoya, 56, had led the FCF since 2006 and had recently won a new term. He denied last June that FCF officials had ever taken bribes, after US authorities indicted 14 FIFA officials and sports marketing executives for paying and accepting millions of dollars in bribes for the broadcast rights to the Copa America, the South American championship. "There are no secret accounts, no inflated accounts or accounts that the Federation doesn't manage right here in Colombia," he told a press conference. Bedoya presided over a revival for the Colombian national team that included the hiring of Argentine coach Jose Pekerman and an impressive return to the World Cup after a 16-year absence. The news came as Colombia trained in Chile ahead of a November 12 match against the continental champions, their third qualifier for the 2018 World Cup. —AFP



## DOPING, CORRUPTION REPORT SET TO ROCK TRACK AND FIELD

**GENEVA:** Athletics is braced to be rocked yesterday by a damning report into allegations of widespread doping and blackmail in a sport long-viewed as the flagship of the Olympic Games.

Just 270 days out from the start of the 2016 Rio Olympics, an independent commission set up by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) will release its findings into a scandal already viewed as more damaging than the corruption crisis engulfing world football governing body FIFA.

"This is going to be a real game-changer for sport," said the report's co-author Richard McLaren.

"You potentially have a bunch of old men who put a whole lot of extra money in their pockets through extortion and bribes."

The commission, chaired by former WADA president and Canadian lawyer Dick Pound, will report on allegations of doping which were first aired in a German TV documentary in December 2014.

That programme claimed Russian track and field was plagued by doping.

The Sunday Times and the ARD channel also obtained a database belonging to the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) which contained more than 12,000 blood tests taken from around 5,000 athletes between 2001 to 2012.

Allegations snowballed last week when the Mediapart news website claimed that Russian athletics chiefs and the sons of the former world body president Lamine Diack blackmailed athletes suspected of doping to let them keep competing.

Mediapart said it has seen the report which will be made public yesterday. French police last Tuesday charged 82-year-old Diack with corruption over suspicions he took bribes worth over \$1 million.

Mediapart also said six Russian athletes, including top marathon runner Lilya Shobukhova, were the targets of blackmail attempts by Russian athletics federation officials.

It quoted the WADA report as saying Shobukhova, who had her ban reduced after giving evidence to IAAF investigators, handed over \$569,000 between 2012 and 2014 to a Russian coach, Alexey Melnikov, who acted as an intermediary.

The report added that Diack's two sons, Pape Massata Diack and Khalil Diack, were alleged to have asked for \$500,000 from Turkey's 1500m women's Olympic champion Asli Cakir Alptekin in November 2012, but she refused.

Alptekin was suspended in April 2013 for abnormal blood samples and is now serving an eight-year ban and has been stripped of her London Olympics and European titles. Papa Massata Diack will face charges for various alleged breaches of the IAAF Code of Ethics.

He will be joined by three others at a private hearing before a Panel of the Ethics Commission in London on December 16-18. They are Valentin Balakhnichev, former president of the All-Russia Athletic Federation (ARAF), Melnikov, former chief coach of Russia's long distance walkers and runners, and Gabriel Dolle, former director of the IAAF's Anti-Doping Department.

Balakhnichev had stood down as IAAF treasurer at the same time as Papa Massata Diack's resignation, while Dolle was also charged with corruption by French police.

Current IAAF president Sebastian Coe on Sunday expressed his "shock, anger and sadness" at the allegations of high-level bribery.

"I'm shocked, angry and largely saddened," Coe told AFP. "The allegations that we woke up to around the potential for extortion and blackmail came out of the blue and the vast majority in the sport probably share exactly the same emotions I've just expressed. It's shock, anger and sadness."

Coe, a two-time Olympic 1500 metres gold medalist for Britain, insisted that the IAAF's anti-doping strategy was not completely flawed.

"Our sport was the pioneering partner in the blood passport," he said. "It was introduced in 2009 and the very first sanction was in place in 2011."

"Since then, through the use of the blood passport there have been 85 sanctions in the whole of sport and 69 of them have come from athletics. That's more than any other sport and more than every other sport put together and interestingly more than through any national anti-doping agency. So no, we're not complacent." — AFP



# CHINA TOP MEDALS TABLE ON DAY SIX

## 13TH ASIAN SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** China reclaimed its first place on top of the medals list of the 13th Asian Shooting Championship at the end of the sixth day championship which witnessed fierce battles with India and South Korea in the rifle and pistol events, while Lebanon's Ray Basil was outstanding and claimed the women's skeet silver medal.

Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Qsaimi said the 13th Asian Championship is approaching its end,

with an unprecedented success be it organizational or in competition, adding everything came out ideal since the start, and hope things end as they started.

Al-Osaimi considered the praise received by the Organizing Committee is a clear indication on the success in getting the championship to the sought level, especially that all committees members exerted all efforts to remove all obstacles in front of shooters, their coaches and officials, so that all concentrate on action.

Al-Osaimi said the ASC confirmed their unlimited back-

ing to Kuwait in its case with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) or International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), adding that the Asian Community's unity is obvious, and there will not be any deviation from this path under any circumstances.

He said the shooting federation will continue its work to restore the rights of the shooters who participated in the championship and qualified for Brazil 2016 Olympics. He said he will file court cases against the ISSF and IOC and will continue with the support of the ASC.

### Results of the 13th Asian Championship Competition for Sunday 8/11/2015

#### 25 M Standard Pistol Men

1. Dae Kyu Jang - Korea
2. Mahendra Sing - India
3. Oyun Tuguldur - Mongolia

#### 25 M Standard Pistol Men Team

1. Korea
2. China
3. India

#### 25 M Standard Pistol Men Junior

1. Achal Pratap Grewal - India
2. Jungwoo Park - Korea
3. Jack Yoon Lee - Korea

#### 25 M Standard Pistol Men Junior Team

1. India
2. Korea
3. Mongolia

#### 50 M Rifle 3 Position Women

1. Dong Qi Chen - China
2. Naran TUYA Chuluunbadrakh - Mongolia
3. Seo Young Yoo - Korea

#### 50 M Rifle 3 Position Women Team

1. China
2. Korea
3. India

#### Trap Women

1. Yi Chun Lin - TPE
2. Ray Bassil - Lebanon
3. Yingzi Liu - China

#### Trap Women Team

1. China
2. Korea
3. Kazakhstan.





## WILLETT LOOSENS MCILROY'S GRIP ON EUROPEAN NUMBER ONE

**SHANGHAI:** Rory McIlroy is facing a fight to retain his Race to Dubai title after a stunning finish at the WGC-HSBC Champions in Shanghai left Englishman Danny Willett breathing down his neck.

Willett's 10-under-par 62 on Sunday, the lowest round of the week in a world-class field, saw him charge up the leaderboard at Sheshan International Golf Club to finish three strokes behind winner Russell Knox of Scotland.

It cut 2014 Race to Dubai champion McIlroy's lead in the battle to be European number one to just 74,214

points, with Willett set to play one more event than the Northern Irishman. The English world number 26 can strike a potentially decisive blow later this week across Shanghai when he tees up in the \$7 million BMW Masters, which McIlroy is sitting out.

There are more than a million points up for grabs for the winner at Lake Malaren when Willett tees up on Thursday, a week before the season finale in Dubai. McIlroy shot his best round of the week, a six-under 66, on Sunday, but needed a 35-foot birdie

putt at the last to take a share of 11th place and keep his nose in front in the standings.

Willett said his eyes are firmly fixed on stealing the Race to Dubai crown from the four-time major winner and current world number three. "This could be a very big result for me," Willett told AFP after his final round at Sheshan.

"With Rory not playing next week, I could gain a few more points on him and give us a nice buzz going into the final week into Dubai." A finish anywhere in the top 25 in the 78-man BMW

Masters field this week will see the in-form Willett overtake the absent McIlroy.

"I've been determined all year, ever since we got to number one the first week out (when Willett won the Nedbank Championship)," said Willett. "After the big win at the Nedbank, kept winning and pressing hard and we were able to post some really good numbers around the world."

Another victory this week for Willett would mean McIlroy would almost certainly have to win the closing DP Tour

Championship in Dubai and hope Willett finishes outside the top five.

"He's got a great chance to do something next week at the BMW," McIlroy told AFP after his round Sunday. "He's playing next week and has a great chance to creep up on me or overtake."

"I've done well in Dubai before," added the Northern Irish world number three, whose challenge in the WGC-HSBC Champions was hampered by a bout of food poisoning last week. "I'll just go there and try my best to win and hope that will be enough." —AFP

## ASTANA GRANTED WORLD TOUR LICENCE FOR 2016

**PARIS:** Cycling's world body confirmed yesterday that the doping-tainted Astana team will retain its World Tour licence for the 2016 season. The Kazakh-funded outfit, featuring 2014 Tour de France champion Vincenzo Nibali, was one of 11 teams given the green light to compete in the top division next season after meeting the annual registration criteria mandated by the International Cycling Union (UCI).

"After reading the conclusions of (an independent review panel), the Licence Commission has found that the team complied with the measures required of it," read a UCI statement.

Astana's place in the peloton had been under threat since five riders with either the professional World Tour squad or the team's Continental Tour affiliate failed doping tests last year.

In February, the UCI had demanded Astana be stripped of its World Tour Licence which would have barred them from the main international races, including the Tour de France and Tours of Italy and Spain.

But an independent commission agreed to allow them to keep racing in a decision delivered on April 23, subject to strict mon-

itoring over a four-month period from the Institute of Sports Science of the University of Lausanne (ISSUL).

Following the end of the probationary period, ISSUL reported its final findings to the UCI in September, observing that Astana had made considerable efforts to improve the team's infrastructure but also noting that there was still some way to go.

"The situation of the Astana team can be considered as very significantly improved compared with that revealed by the audit report ordered by the (Licence) Commission in December 2014, in terms of the training plans for riders, the team staff, race management and medical care," the commission said in reference to the ISSUL report.

"It would seem possible that if the Astana team were to manage to breathe life into the structures with which it seems to have equipped itself, it could be in compliance with the organisation specifications for professional teams that will be a condition of their registration from 2017."

Seven other teams will also go before the Licence Commission in the coming weeks as part of the standard application process. —AFP



**PITTSBURGH:** Pittsburgh Steelers kicker Chris Boswell (9) kicks the game-winning field goal as Jordan Berry (4) holds in the second half of an NFL football game against the Oakland Raiders, Sunday, in Pittsburgh. — AP

## ROSSI BLASTED OVER MARQUEZ 'LORENZO BODYGUARD' JIBE

**VALENCIA:** Valentino Rossi's accusations that he was robbed of a 10th world title by a Spanish plot were dismissed as "unacceptable" by the powerful head of Honda racing. Jorge Lorenzo claimed his third MotoGP world title amid acrimony and accusations of collusion from vanquished Yamaha teammate Rossi.

Rossi went into the season-closing race in Valencia seven points clear of Lorenzo, but the Italian legend was left with a Herculean task starting from the back of the grid as punishment for pushing Honda rider Marc Marquez off his bike in Malaysia. Rossi surged dramatically through the pack to finish fourth but Lorenzo led from pole to flag, despite intense pressure from his Spanish compatriots, Honda duo Marquez and Dani Pedrosa.

"Incredible work by Honda eh?," said 36-year-old Rossi. "I knew it would be like that and so it was in the end." He accused Marquez of turning into "Lorenzo's bodyguard". "It has never happened in sport and it has been embarrassing," said the Italian.

"Lorenzo deserves the title, but he is not a real champion because something has happened in this sport that had never happened before and Lorenzo can't be happy."

But Honda Racing Corporation (HRC) vice-president Shuhei Nakamoto lashed out at Rossi. "We understand that it's been a very difficult day for Valentino, after leading the championship for 17 races and losing by just five points in the

final race must be very disappointing," said Nakamoto.

"However, on the other side we cannot accept the strong accusations he has directed against our rider and Honda. Today Valentino has alleged that Marc never attempted to pass Jorge, who has clearly had a very good pace all weekend which he demonstrated by taking a strong pole position in qualifying."

"Marc was struggling to stay behind him during the race and both him and Dani have done a great job to not lose too much distance to Jorge."

Nakamoto added: "We cannot accept that these accusations continue to surface time after time, as this is the perception of one person-which we respect-but it is not the reality."

Whilst denying that "any pact" existed with Marquez, Lorenzo intimated that his compatriots had helped him win the title by not passing him. "They knew what I had in play," Lorenzo said. "The fact they are Spaniards like me helped me."

"That helped me because for sure in another kind of race they would have tried to overtake which they didn't this time." He added: "If Valentino had been in my position and with Italians behind they would have done exactly the same."

When asked about Rossi fans thinking he had colluded to help Lorenzo Marquez replied: "For a winner, accusations of letting another person win is a lack of respect and an insult because we always go out to win." —AFP



**CHESTE:** Movistar Yamaha MotoGP's Italian rider Valentino Rossi (L) takes the inside during the MotoGP motorcycling race at the Valencia Grand Prix at Ricardo Tormo racetrack in Cheste, near Valencia. — AFP

## PANTHERS STAY PERFECT, BUT NEED TO HOLD OFF PACKERS

**NEW YORK:** Cam Newton threw three touchdown passes and ran for another as the Carolina Panthers remained unbeaten by holding off the Green Bay Packers 37-29. The Panthers (8-0) continued the best start in franchise history after nearly squandering a 23-point fourth-quarter lead. Green Bay (6-2) lost consecutive games for the first time since November 2013. Carolina linebacker Thomas Davis intercepted Aaron Rodgers' fourth-and-goal pass from the 4-yard line to seal the outcome.

### Colts 27, Broncos 24

Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts spoiled the Denver Broncos' perfect season and quarterback Peyton Manning's potential record-setting day with a 27-24 victory. Adam Vinatieri kicked a 55-yard field goal with 6:13 for Indianapolis (4-5). Cornerback Darius Butler intercepted a Manning pass 13 seconds later, and Denver (7-1) never got the ball back.

Luck, who replaced Manning in Indianapolis following the 2011 season, completed 21 of 36 passes for 252 yards and two touchdowns. Manning finished 21 of 36 for 281 yards and two touchdowns. He needed 284 yards to pass Brett Favre's NFL career record and needed one victory for his 187th, which would break Favre's NFL record.

### Patriots 27, Redskins 10

The undefeated New England Patriots made it eight wins in a row, cruising to a 27-10 victory over the mistaken-prone Washington Redskins. Quarterback Tom Brady threw two more touchdown passes and running back LeGarrette Blount ran for 129 yards and a touchdown as the Patriots scored 14 quick points before the Redskins ran their second play.

Brady was intercepted for only the second time this season, but rebounded with touchdown passes to wide receiver Julian Edelman and running back Brandon Bolden. Blount ran five yards for another score.

### Vikings 21, Rams 18 (overtime)

Blair Walsh connected on a 40-yard field goal with 9:20 left in overtime to lift the Minnesota Vikings to a 21-18 win over the St. Louis Rams.

The win lifted the Vikings (6-2) into a first-place tie atop the NFC North with the Packers. Rams kicker Greg Zuerlein connected on a 53-yard field goal to tie the score with 12 seconds left in regulation. Rams rookie running back Todd Gurley was limited to 89 yards and a touchdown, snapping a streak of four consecutive games of at least 100 yards.

### Titans 34, Saints 28 (overtime)

Quarterback Marcus Mariota returned from a knee injury to throw four touchdown passes, including a 5-yarder in overtime, to spark the Tennessee Titans to a 34-28 victory over the New Orleans Saints. The win

snapped the Titans' six-game losing streak. Saints quarterback Drew Brees completed 28 of 39 passes for 389 yards and three TDs, but they fell to 4-5.

### Steelers 38, Raiders 35

Chris Boswell kicked an 18-yard field goal with two seconds remaining to give Pittsburgh a 38-35 victory over Oakland as the Steelers overcame the loss of quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. Roethlisberger threw for 335 yards and two touchdowns before leaving in the fourth quarter with a foot injury. Antonio Brown's 57-yard catch and run pass from backup quarterback Landry Jones got the Steelers (5-4) to the Raiders' 15 in the final minute. Two plays later, Boswell kicked his third field goal of the day.

### 49ers 17, Falcons 16

Quarterback Blaine Gabbert threw for 185 yards and two touchdowns, leading the San Francisco 49ers to a 17-16 victory against the Atlanta Falcons. Gabbert replaced Colin Kaepernick in the starting lineup for the 49ers (3-6) and completed 15 of 25 passes with two interceptions. Quarterback Matt Ryan completed 30 of 45 passes for 303 yards and one touchdown for the Falcons (6-3).

### Giants 32, Buccaneers 18

Quarterback Eli Manning threw two touchdown passes, and the New York Giants earned a 32-18 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Wide receiver Rueben Randle and running back Shane Vereen caught scoring passes for the Giants (5-4). The Bucs fell to 3-5.

### Bills 33, Dolphins 17

Wide receiver Sammy Watkins and running back LeSean McCoy had their best games as Buffalo Bills in a 33-17 victory over the Miami Dolphins. Buffalo (4-4) ended a three-game home losing streak. Watkins caught eight passes for 163 yards and a 44-yard touchdown. McCoy rushed for 112 yards and scored on a 48-yard run before leaving with a shoulder injury. The Dolphins dropped to 3-5.

### Jets 28, Jaguars 23

Running back Chris Ivory scored a pair of 1-yard touchdowns and the New York Jets snapped a two-game losing streak by beating the Jacksonville Jaguars 28-23. Quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick was 21-of-34 for 272 yards and two touchdowns for the Jets (5-3). Quarterback Blake Bortles went 24-of-39 for 381 yards and two touchdowns for the Jaguars (2-6).

### Eagles 33, Cowboys 27 (overtime)

Philadelphia quarterback Sam Bradford and wide receiver Jordan Matthews connected on a 41-yard touchdown on the first possession of overtime, lifting the Eagles to a 33-27 victory over the Dallas Cowboys. The Eagles not only avenged a Week 2 loss to Dallas but climbed back into the thick of the NFC East race at 4-4. Philadelphia trail the division-leading New York Giants (5-4) by a half-game. Bradford completed 25 of 36 passes for 295 yards with the one touchdown and no interceptions. Matthews had nine catches for 133 yards. —Reuters

## NFL Results/standings

Miami 17, Buffalo 33; Green Bay 29, Carolina 37; St. Louis 18, Minnesota 21; Washington 10, New England 27; Tennessee 34, New Orleans 28; Jacksonville 23, New York Jets 28; Oakland 35, Pittsburgh 38; Atlanta 16, San Francisco 17; New York Giants 32, Tampa Bay 18; Denver 24, Indianapolis 27; Philadelphia 33, Dallas 27.

American Football Conference							National Football Conference						
AFC East							NFC East						
W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT
New England	8	0	0	0	276	1431.000	NY Giants	5	4	0	0	247	226.556
NY Jets	5	3	0	0	200	162.625	Philadelphia	4	4	0	0	193	164.500
Buffalo	4	4	0	0	209	190.500	Washington	3	5	0	1	158	195.375
Miami	3	5	0	0	171	206.375	Dallas	2	6	0	2	160	204.250
AFC North							NFC North						
Cincinnati	8	0	0	0	229	1421.000	Green Bay	6	2	0	0	203	167.750
Pittsburgh	5	4	0	1	206	182.556	Minnesota	6	2	0	0	168	140.750
Baltimore	2	6	0	1	190	214.250	Chicago	2	5	0	1	140	202.286
Cleveland	2	7	0	1	177	247.222	Detroit	1	7	0	0	149	245.125
AFC South							NFC South						
Indianapolis	4	5	0	1	200	227.444	Carolina	8	0	0	0	228	1651.000
Houston	3	5	0	0	174	205.375	Atlanta	6	3	0	1	229	190.667
Jacksonville	2	6	0	1	170	235.250	New Orleans	4	5	0	1	241	268.444
Tennessee	2	6	0	0	159	187.250	Tampa Bay	3	5	0	0	181	231.375
AFC West							NFC West						
Denver	7	1	0	0	192	139.875	Arizona	6	2	0	0	263	153.750
Oakland	4	4	0	0	213	211.500	St. Louis	4	4	0	1	153	146.500
Kansas City	3	5	0	0	195	182.375	Seattle	4	4	0	2	167	140.500
San Diego	2	6	0	0	191	227.250	San Francisco	3	6	0	0	126	223.333





**DHAKA:** Zimbabwe cricket captain Elton Chigumbura (L) plays a shot as the Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim (C) and Mohammad Mahmudullah (R) look on during the second one-day international (ODI) cricket match between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe at the Sher-e Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. — AFP

## AUSTRALIA WRAP UP VICTORY AFTER MCCULLUM DEFIANCE

**BRISBANE:** Australia were held up by Brendon McCullum but dismissed New Zealand for 295 before lunch on the final day of the first test yesterday to win by 208 runs and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

The hosts had dominated the match since their new-look top order racked up 389-2 on the opening day and never looked like losing a first test at the Gabba since 1988.

New Zealand captain McCullum fought a thrilling rearguard with a run-a-ball 80 but once he was controversially dismissed the writing was on the wall for the tourists.

Australia made 556-4 declared in their first innings and declared again on 264-4 in their second, limiting New Zealand to 317 in their first knock. "It's nice to start the summer off on a high," said Australia skipper Steve Smith.

"I think the boys did a great job from day one ... that really set us up for the test match. To be one-nil up in a three-match series is pretty crucial." Opener David Warner was named Man of the Match for his innings of 163 and 116, the best of several fine batting displays from the hosts that formed the bedrock of the victory.

Although New Zealand never looked like reaching their victory target of 504, the prospect of more wet weather and McCullum's exploits had kept alive their hopes of batting out the day for a draw.

Resuming on 142 for three, McCullum took the game to Australia and scored a half century off 44 balls, with seven fours and a single straight six taking him to the milestone.

The aggressive nature of his innings meant the righthander rode his luck at times but while he was firing at the crease, there was still a chance.

Ross Taylor (26) and the injured James Neesham (3) were dismissed at the other end but it was the departure of BJ Watling for 14 that precipitated McCullum's demise.

### Disappointing decision

Nathan Lyon's lbw appeal was confirmed by technology but the use of New Zealand's final review to check the decision cost McCullum dear in the following over. Mitchell Marsh forced the batsman onto the back foot with a low delivery and although umpire Nigel Llong raised his finger in response to the appeal for caught behind, television replays suggested there had been no contact with McCullum's bat.

McCullum called the decision "disappointing" but said it should not detract from a deserved victory for the hosts.

"I thought Australia were outstanding," he said. "Right from ball one, they put us under a lot of pressure (and) we were always chasing the game. "We'll take our medicine, we'll cop it sweet and move onto Perth."

The second test begins in Perth on Friday and the series concludes with the inaugural day/night test in Adelaide. After McCullum's dismissal, Doug Bracewell was dismissed lbw for a golden duck and although all-rounder Marsh (2-25) failed to secure the hat-trick, Tim Southee (5) did not last long.

Trent Boult (15) was the final batsman to fall, giving quick Mitchell Starc figures of 2-69. Off spinner Lyon finished with 3-63.

Neesham batted despite a back injury that New Zealand said would rule him out of the rest of the tour, a second blow after paceman Southee's irritated disc prevented him from bowling in the second innings. The all-rounder's wicket gave quick Mitchell Johnson his 310th test victim to bring him level with Brett Lee as Australia's fourth most prolific wicket-taker in the five-day game. — Reuters



**BRISBANE:** New Zealand's batsman James Neesham avoids a rising ball off Australia's paceman Mitchell Johnson during the fifth and the final day of the first Test cricket match between Australia and New Zealand in Brisbane yesterday. — AFP

## PACERS AND KAYES STEER BANGLADESH TO SERIES WIN

**DHAKA:** Pacemen Mustafizur Rahman and Al-Amin Hossain shared five wickets between them as Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by 58 runs in the second one-day international to take the three-match series 2-0 in Dhaka yesterday.

Chasing a modest target after Bangladesh posted 241-9, Zimbabwe recovered from a top-order collapse of 78-4 to pose a real threat to the hosts before Mustafizur and Al-Amin derailed the visitors again. Mustafizur finished with 3-33 but Al-Amin, who claimed 2-22, had a greater impact in the game with two crucial wickets as Zimbabwe were all out for 183 runs in 43.2 overs.

Al-Amin broke a dogged fifth wicket partnership of 73 runs between Elton Chigumbura and Sikandar Raza when the duo were slowly taking the game out of Bangladesh's control.

He removed Raza (33) and Zimbabwe's top-scorer Chigumbura (47) in successive overs to leave Mustafizur and spinner Nasir Hossain (2-36) to clean up the tail.

Earlier, recalled opener Imrul Kayes hit 76 to give Bangladesh a fighting score on a tricky wicket at the Sher-e-Bangla National

Stadium. Paceman Tinashe Panyangara claimed 3-41 for Zimbabwe, who needed a win to stay alive in the series after losing the opening game by 145 runs on Saturday.

Bangladesh struggled from the absence of big partnerships as Zimbabwe struck at regular intervals after Elton Chigumbura won the toss and elected to field.

Taurai Muzarabani (2-32) and leg-spinner Graeme Cremer (2-41) were the other bowlers to shine alongside Panyangara. Kayes was dropped from the team after a poor World Cup in Australia and New Zealand earlier this year but was brought back after leading all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan took leave to be with his wife for the birth of their daughter. Kayes anchored the Bangladesh innings with six fours and four sixes during his 89-ball knock.

Bangladesh's middle-order tottered in the absence of Shakib as Mushfiqur Rahim fell for 21 after scoring a century in the first match. Sabbir Rahman made 33 and Nasir Hossain struck 41 off 53 balls to boost the total. The third and final ODI of the series will be held at the same ground tomorrow. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play in the second One Day International between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe on yesterday in Mirpur, Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Innings		Zimbabwe Innings	
T. Iqbal c Chakabva b Panyangara	19	C. Chibhabha b Mortaza	14
I. Kayes c Cremer b Williams	76	R. Chakabva lbw b A. Sunny	1
L. Das c Chakabva b Panyangara	7	C. Ervine run out (Das)	26
Mahmudullah c Chakabva b Cremer	4	S. Williams c Nas. Hossain b M. Rahman	14
M. Rahim c Jongwe b Cremer	21	E. Chigumbura c Kayes b A. Hossain	47
Sa. Rahman c Chakabva b Jongwe	33	S. Raza c Kayes b A. Hossain	33
Nas. Hossain c Ervine b Panyangara	41	M. Waller c Rahim b Nas. Hossain	8
M. Mortaza c Chibhabha b Muzarabani	13	L. Jongwe b M. Rahman	11
A. Sunny c Ervine b Muzarabani	3	G. Cremer st Rahim b Nas. Hossain	1
A. Hossain not out	1	T. Panyangara c Mortaza b M. Rahman	4
M. Rahman not out	5	T. Muzarabani not out	1
Extras (b-4 lb-6 nb-1 w-7)	18	Extras (lb-11 w-12)	23
Total (for 9 wickets, 50 overs)	241	Total (all out, 43.2 overs)	183
Fall of wickets: 1-32 T. Iqbal, 2-47 L. Das, 3-79 Mahmudullah, 4-127 M. Rahim, 5-151 I. Kayes, 6-193 Sa. Rahman, 7-231 M. Mortaza, 8-234 Nas. Hossain, 9-236 A. Sunny		Fall of wickets: 1-22 R. Chakabva, 2-23 C. Chibhabha, 3-45 S. Williams, 4-78 C. Ervine, 5-151 S. Raza, 6-156 E. Chigumbura, 7-175 M. Waller, 8-177 L. Jongwe, 9-181 T. Panyangara, 10-183 G. Cremer	
Bowling: T. Panyangara 10-0-41-3(w-1); L. Jongwe 8-0-47-1(w-1); T. Muzarabani 9-0-32-2(w-1); S. Raza 7-0-33-0(w-2); G. Cremer 10-0-41-2(w-1); S. Williams 6-0-37-1(nb-1 w-1).		Bowling: M. Rahman 8-0-33-3(w-3); M. Mortaza 9-1-47-1(w-6); A. Sunny 9-0-34-1(w-2); A. Hossain 8-0-22-2(w-1); Nas. Hossain 9-2-0-36-2.	
		Result: Bangladesh won by 58 runs	

## PAKISTAN, ENGLAND LOOK TO BUILD ONE-DAY FUTURE

**ABU DHABI:** Pakistan and England will be aiming to build one-day sides for the future as they enter a four-match series in Abu Dhabi starting tomorrow.

Pakistan, who won the preceding three-match Test series 2-0, will be in a tight corner as they seek huge improvement in their one-day rankings, in order to lift themselves for the 2019 World Cup to be held in England.

Besides hosts England, seven other top-ranked sides as on 30 September 2017, will qualify directly for the World Cup, the only way Pakistan can move up the order is by winning matches against the higher-ranked sides.

Pakistan, currently ranked eighth as compared to England's sixth, will be hoping they do not repeat their below-par performances they gave in 2012 when they were blanked 4-0 in the United Arab Emirates. Head coach Waqar Younis believes the current series is an important one for Pakistan.

"We know the importance of this series and have to do well to build the side for the future, especially with the Champions Trophy 2017, rankings and the 2019 World Cup all in the mind," said Waqar.

Under Waqar Pakistan had struggled in the 50-over format, losing to Sri Lanka, Australia and New Zealand last year before going down in New Zealand and failing to progress beyond the last eight in the 2015 World Cup.

But the worst came in Bangladesh where Pakistan were routed 3-0 in April—their first series defeat against the neighbours. Since then Pakistan beat Zimbabwe twice (home and away) and Sri Lanka—a progress Waqar wants to build on.

"We have shown progress with some exciting youngsters," said Waqar, whose team lost Misbah-ul-Haq and Shahid Afridi after the World Cup 2015 due to retirement.

Ace spinner Saeed Ajmal is also not in the squad after struggling with a new bowling action, which needed remodelling after it was

questioned last year. His place went to leg-spinner Yasir Shah who will hope to carry his Test form, taking 15 wickets in two matches, into one-days. Waqar said one-day cricket has changed and England have adopted to those admirably. "One-day cricket has changed and now even a 300-plus total is not safe which England have adopted and are a dangerous side," said Waqar.

To their credit, England have shown remarkable progress after being the only top side not to reach the 2015 World Cup quarter-finals.

England beat the 2015 World Cup finalists New Zealand 3-2 before going down fighting 2-3 against Australia—both at home.

England media reported some players are training under a baseball expert Julian Wood in order to develop more hitting techniques. England's director of coaches Andy Flower said Wood's work will help. "Julian has worked with us before, done a really good job," Flower was quoted as saying by Sky Sports. "Part of our job is to offer options to players and they make decisions about whether they want to adopt things."

Both Pakistan and England tuned up for the one-day series with comfortable warm-up wins against Nepal and Hong Kong respectively.

The remaining matches will be held in Abu Dhabi (November 13), Sharjah (November 17) and Dubai (November 20).

### Teams (from):

**England:** Eoin Morgan (capt), Moeen Ali, Jonny Bairstow, Sam Billings, Jos Buttler, Chris Jordan, Alex Hales, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Jason Roy, James Taylor, Reece Topley, David Willey, Chris Woakes, Liam Plunkett.

**Pakistan:** Azhar Ali (capt), Mohammad Hafeez, Ahmed Shehzad, Bilal Asif, Younis Khan, Shoaib Malik, Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Sarfraz Ahmed, Amir Yamin, Anwer Ali, Yasir Shah, Zafar Gohar, Rahat Ali, Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Irfansh. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the fifth and final day in the first Test between Australia and New Zealand on yesterday in Brisbane, Australia.

<b>Australia 1st innings</b> 556 for 4 decl (U. Khawaja 174, D. Warner 163, A. Voges 83no, J. Burns 71)	M. Craig not out	26
<b>New Zealand 1st innings</b> 317 (K. Williamson 140; M. Starc 4-57)	D. Bracewell lbw b M. Marsh	0
<b>Australia 2nd innings</b> 264 for 4 decl (J. Burns 129, D. Warner 116)	T. Southee c Nevill b Hazlewood	5
<b>New Zealand 2nd innings</b> (Overnight: 142-3; Target: 504 runs)	T. Boult c Nevill b Starc	15
T. Latham lbw b Starc	Extras (b-7 lb-5 nb-1 w-2)	15
M. Guptill c Smith b Lyon	Total (all out, 88.3 overs)	295
K. Williamson lbw b Lyon	Fall of wickets: 1-44 T. Latham, 2-98 M. Guptill, 3-136 K. Williamson, 4-165 R. Taylor, 5-205 J. Neesham, 6-242 B. Watling, 7-243 B. McCullum, 8-243 D. Bracewell, 9-249 T. Southee, 10-295 T. Boult	
R. Taylor c Smith b Hazlewood	Bowling: M. Starc 20.3-5-69-2(w-1); M. Johnson 19-6-58-1(w-1); J. Hazlewood 18-3-68-2; M. Marsh 10-3-25-2(nb-1); N. Lyon 21-3-63-3.	
B. McCullum c Smith b M. Marsh	Result: Australia won by 208 runs	
J. Neesham c Burns b Johnson		
B. Watling lbw b Lyon		

## SRINIVASAN TOPPLED AS ICC CHAIRMAN AFTER LOSING SUPPORT

**NEW DELHI:** Narayanaswami Srinivasan's tumultuous tenure as the International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman was cut short yesterday after the powerful Indian board (BCCI) withdrew support for its former president.

BCCI president Shashank Manohar would take over for the remainder of Srinivasan's tenure until June next year, board secretary Anurag Thakur told reporters in Mumbai.

"The BCCI representative to the ICC will be Mr Shashank Manohar. Being the board representative in the ICC, he will take over as the ICC chairman," Thakur said of a move which will see a media-shy lawyer replace a feisty industrialist at the helm of cricket's governing body.

Often described as the sport's most powerful man, former BCCI chief Srinivasan took over as ICC head in June 2014 in controversial circumstances after his son-in-law was indicted in an illegal betting scandal in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Srinivasan's India Cements company owned the lucrative Twenty20 competition's Chennai franchise, which many perceived as a clear case of a conflict of interest.

Since the IPL scandal broke out, BCCI has spent considerable time being admonished by India's top court for being lenient in its handling of corruption that plagued the Twenty20 league.

Manohar returned for a second innings as BCCI president in October and promised to correct the image of the world's richest cricket board, which is perceived as an efficient but opaque body run by officials with conflicting interests.

"We'd clean up the system and would try to run this board in the most transparent fashion. We have done at present whatever we could," the 58-year-old said after the board's annual general meeting in Mumbai.

BCCI also dropped former test player Roger Binny from the selection panel as his son Stuart plays for India, primarily in limited overs cricket. "Perception has to change. There should not be injustice with Stuart Binny also. He is a deserving player. He should not draw flak from media because he is Roger Binny's son. We can't destroy his career," Manohar said.

In other moves, the Indian board appointed an ombudsman to look into cases of conflict of interest and approved six new test match venues. Regarding a possible series against arch-rivals Pakistan in United Arab Emirates next month, Manohar did not sound too optimistic and said the board would go by whatever the government told them. —Reuters



**MUMBAI:** In this combination image compiled yesterday, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President Shashank Manohar (L) speaks during a news conference at the board's headquarters in Mumbai yesterday, and the then-president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Narayanaswami Srinivasan addresses a press conference in Kolkata on May 26, 2013. Narayanaswami Srinivasan was removed as International Cricket Council chairman yesterday after his home board announced it was withdrawing its support, following scandals embroiling the sport in India. — AFP

## WINDIES SPINNER NARINE REPORTED FOR SUSPECT ACTION

**COLOMBO:** West Indies off-spinner Sunil Narine has been reported for a suspect bowling action during Saturday's third and final one-dayer against Sri Lanka, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said. "The match officials' report, which was handed over to the West Indies team management after the match, cited concerns about the legality of the 27-year-old's deliveries," the ICC said in a statement on Monday.

"He is required to undergo testing within 14 days, and, during this period, Narine is permitted to continue bowling in international cricket until the results of the testing are known," it added. The ODI series in Sri Lanka, which the hosts swept, marked Narine's return to interna-

tional cricket after being reported first during the 2014 Champions League Twenty20 tournament in which he represented Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

Even though he was free to bowl in international cricket, his board withdrew him so that he could remodel his action. Narine, who has played six tests and 55 one-day internationals, was subsequently picked for the World Cup in Australia earlier this year but the spinner pulled out saying he needed more time to fine tune his action. The kinks in his action resurfaced again in this year's Indian Premier League Twenty20 competition with the KKR player being reported again. —Reuters



## NEPAL FIVE DENY MATCH-FIXING AFTER TREASON CHARGES

**KATHMANDU:** Nepal's national football captain, goalkeeper and three other players charged with treason appeared in court and denied any involvement in alleged match-fixing in World Cup qualifiers, an official said yesterday.

Skipper Sagar Thapa and goalkeeper Ritesh Thapa are among five players who recorded their statements in court after being taken into custody last month following a series of arrests in the capital.

"While recording their statements, the players denied any involvement in match-fixing and proclaimed their innocence," Bhadrakali Pokharel, Registrar at the Special Court in Kathmandu, which is hearing the case, told AFP. Prosecutors sought life sentences for

all five after they were charged on Sunday under a 1989 act against unlawfully jeopardising Nepal's sovereignty, integrity or national unity.

No media were allowed inside, but Pokharel told AFP each player spoke for about half an hour before the court moved to begin a bail hearing.

The bail hearing will continue on Tuesday, he said, adding that no further details of the players' statements would be released until the court arrived at a decision.

### Latest blow

Detectives said the arrests came after significant sums of money were found deposited in the players' bank accounts

from suspected match-fixers based in Southeast Asia.

In addition to the skipper and goalkeeper, defender Sandip Rai and former national players Bikash Singh Chhetri and Anjan KC were also detained.

Nepal's football association suspended the players-including KC, who has been serving as a coach-pending the outcome of the police probe.

A physiotherapist, Dejuv Thapa, was also charged with treason in absentia, Pokharel said. According to the charge-sheet seen by AFP, Thapa received at least \$1,000 from Malaysian footballer and suspected match-fixer, Kesavan Pattan. "The government has filed a charge-sheet against Dejuv Thapa... (but)

he is not in the country. His name has been added to a list of absconders," Pokharel said. The six men are suspected of involvement in match-fixing over a period of eight years, including several games played in 2011 as part of Nepal's unsuccessful bid to qualify for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Officials are investigating several matches including one against Jordan that Nepal lost 9-0 as well as games with Bangladesh and Afghanistan, played as part of a regional competition.

The scandal is the latest blow to the Himalayan nation's sporting reputation after All Nepal Football Association president Ganesh Thapa was forced to step aside last year over allegations he

embezzled millions of dollars and accepted bribes during his 19-year tenure.

The ethics committee of football's world governing body FIFA launched an investigation last year into Thapa, whose brother Kamal is Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister. The outcome to that inquiry is still pending.

FIFA has itself been rocked by a series of corruption scandals and allegations in recent months, leading to the suspension of its president Sepp Blatter.

Nepal is currently ranked 190 in FIFA's world rankings and has already been knocked out of the qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup in Russia after losing a two-leg qualifier to India 2-0. —AFP

## KALOU HAT-TRICK A WORLD CUP BOOST FOR IVORY COAST

**PARIS:** Former Chelsea striker Salomon Kalou scored his first hat-trick for Hertha Berlin in a 3-1 win over Schalke at the weekend, taking his club to fourth in the Bundesliga.

The German league goals were a timely boost for the 30-year-old, who teams up with Ivory Coast this week for a home-and-away 2018 World Cup qualifying tie against Liberia. Fellow Ivorian Gervinho will join Kalou after continuing a dramatic return to Serie A form in Italy, scoring his sixth goal this season for Roma in a 2-0 derby triumph over Lazio

### ENGLAND

#### DIEUMERCI MBOKANI (Norwich City)

The Democratic Republic of Congo striker helped the Canaries end a run of four straight Premier League defeats by setting up Jonny Howson's 71st-minute winner in a 1-0 victory at home to Swansea when he headed a corner back across the face of goal.

#### RIYAD MAHREZ (Leicester City)

After scoring twice in the preceding 3-2 win over West Brom, the hard-working Algeria winger endeared himself still further to the Foxes' faithful by what he did not do as Leicester's dream start to the season continued with a 2-1 victory at home to Watford. When Jamie Vardy was brought down in the box with Leicester 1-0 up, Mahrez would normally have taken the ensuing penalty. But having placed the ball on the spot, Mahrez let Vardy take the kick. The England striker scored to extend his goal sequence in the Premier League to nine straight games.

#### ODION IGHALO (Watford)

Following the joy of his double strike in a 2-0 win over West Ham, the Nigeria striker endured a frustrating match at Leicester when, with the game still goalless, he crashed a shot against the post and then saw goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel save Almen Abdi's follow-up.

#### YANNICK BOLASIE (Crystal Palace)

The Democratic Republic of Congo forward scored the Eagles' 21st-minute opener in their impressive 2-1 win away to Liverpool with a lethal finish into the bottom corner at Anfield.

#### WILFRIED BONY (Manchester City)

The Premier League leaders' frustration in being held to a goalless draw away to bottom-of-the-table Aston Villa was compounded by the sight of the Ivory Coast forward going off early with a hamstring injury.

### ITALY

#### MOHAMED SALAH (Roma)

Salah was a thorn in the side of Bayer Leverkusen in midweek when Roma edged the Germans 3-2 in the Champions League but, amid a more muted display against Lazio, the Egyptian winger was driven off the pitch on a stretcher with a suspected sprained ankle after a brutal challenge by Senad Lulic. Roma went on to win 2-0 to lie third in Serie A, just a point behind leaders Fiorentina and second-placed Inter. But Roma coach Rudi Garcia was furious about the treatment of Salah, especially as Lulic went unpunished.

#### GERVINHO (Roma)

When Ivorian international Gervinho awoke from his slumber to break a lengthy scoring drought in Serie A last month, critics would have been forgiven for thinking it was a flash in the pan. But in Italy's top flight, reputedly one of the world's most difficult for strikers,

Gervinho has been on fire of late and his purple patch continued against Lazio. After Edin Dzeko fired Roma ahead from the penalty spot on 10 minutes, Gervinho capped a solid performance for the Giallorossi with a superbly-taken goal that saw him power downfield on to Radja Nainggolan's through ball, hold off defender Dusan Basta and beat keeper Federico Marchetti at his near post. Roma won 2-0 and Gervinho has now scored six league goals in 12 games, three less than leaders Eder (Sampdoria) and Gonzalo Higuain (Napoli).

### SERGE GAKPE (Genoa)

Serie A new boys Frosinone looked to be heading for a precious 2-1 home win over Genoa but despite being reduced to 10 men on 36 minutes when Sebastien De Maio saw red, the visitors fought back and snatched a point when Togo international Gakpe hit a 75th-minute leveller to claim his third goal of the season.

### FRANCE

#### BENJAMIN MOUKANDJO (Lorient)

The Cameroonian striker continued his impressive campaign for Lorient with a second-half brace, including a late penalty, as his side beat Troyes 4-1 in Brittany. Moukandjo has four goals in his last two games and nine altogether this season, leaving him level with Zlatan Ibrahimovic at the top of the scorers' charts in France.

#### DIIDER NDONG (Lorient)

The 21-year-old Gabon midfielder, who has been likened to Ghana great Michael Essien, also netted in Lorient's big win against Troyes, the strike his second this season in Ligue 1.

#### JACQUES ZOUA (Gazelec Ajaccio)

The Cameroonian striker is looking to relaunch his career in France with little Gazelec and the 24-year-old, formerly of Hamburg, scored his first goal for his new club in their 2-1 win at Reims. Having failed to win any of their first 10 top-flight matches, the Corsicans have now won three on the bounce.

#### DJIBRIL SIDIBE (Lille)

Full-back Sidibe came off the bench to score a late equaliser, his second goal of the season, to earn Lille a 1-1 draw with Bastia. Born in France and capped at under-21 level by the French, the 23-year-old is also eligible to represent Mali.

### GERMANY

#### SALOMON KALOU (Hertha Berlin)

The Ivory Coast striker was delighted to score his first hat-trick for Hertha Berlin in a 3-1 win at Hanover 96 to go fourth in the Bundesliga. "It's nice to be back scoring again and helping the team. It was important after losing at home last week. We scored early and I was able to take all my chances," said the ex-Chelsea veteran, who has scored seven goals in 12 league games.

#### PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG (Borussia Dortmund)

The Gabon forward claimed his 14th league goal of the season and struck again as Batman when he revealed a Caped Crusader themed T-shirt after scoring Borussia Dortmund's winner in their 3-2 derby victory over Schalke. The Gabon international slotted what proved to be the winning goal on 48 minutes and was booked for pulling off his playing shirt in celebration to reveal a T-shirt bearing the text 'Do you remember?' under the Batman logo. It was referring to the mask-and-cape outfit he donned in last February's derby victory when he also scored in a 3-0 win over Schalke. —AFP

## BRUINS DEFEAT ISLANDERS TO SNAP A THREE-GAME LOSING STREAK

**NEW YORK:** Goaltender Tuukka Rask made 36 saves as the Boston Bruins defeated the New York Islanders to snap a three-game losing streak.

Rask, who won the Vezina Trophy as the league's best goaltender in 2014, entered the game with an .879 save percentage in nine appearances this season. Patrice Bergeron and Ryan Spooner scored for the Bruins.

Islanders goaltender Jaroslav Halak stopped 25 shots.

### Stars 4, Red Wings 1

Left winger Patrick Sharp and center Tyler Seguin had a goal and an assist each to lead the Dallas Stars to a 4-1 win against the Detroit Red Wings. Right winger Valeri Nichushkin and center Cody Eakin also scored for Dallas, whose goaltender Kari Lehtonen made 21 saves. Right winger Gustav Nyquist scored for Detroit. Detroit's Jimmy Howard made 20 saves before leaving with 12:51 left in the third period after taking a knee to the head during a goal-mouth scramble. Howard was replaced by Petr Mrazek, who made two saves.

### Devils 4, Canucks 3 (OT)

Kyle Palmieri's power-play goal with 1:27 left in overtime lifted the New Jersey Devils to 4-3 win over the Vancouver Canucks. Left wingers Adam Henrique, Mike Cammalleri and Sergey Kalinin scored for New Jersey in regulation while left wingers Chris Higgins and Sven Baertschi and defenseman Alex Edler scored for Vancouver. Goaltender Keith Kinkaid made 28 saves for the Devils, while goalie Ryan Miller stopped 24 for the Canucks, who lost their third successive game.

### Blackhawks 4, Oilers 2

Left winger Artemi Panarin tallied two goals and an assist, as the Chicago Blackhawks held on for a 4-2 win over the Edmonton Oilers.

Right winger Patrick Kane added a goal and three assists to extend his point streak to 10 games, which is the longest active streak in the NHL. Center Artem Anisimov also scored. Right winger Jordan Eberle and defenseman Andrej Sekera scored for Edmonton. Chicago goaltender Corey Crawford stopped 34 of 36 shots, while Edmonton goaltender Cam Talbot turned aside 24 of 28. — Reuters



**DETROIT:** Dallas Stars left wing Jamie Benn (14) is checked by Detroit Red Wings center Joakim Andersson (18) in the third period of an NHL hockey game, Sunday in Detroit. — AP

## NHL Results/Standings

Dallas 4, Detroit 1; New Jersey 4, Vancouver 3 (OT); Boston 2, NY Islanders 1; Chicago 4, Edmonton 2.

Western Conference						Ottawa		7		4		3		42		42		17							
Central Division						Tampa Bay		7		7		2		38		38		16							
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	Boston		7		6		1		47		45		15							
Dallas	12	3	0	54	39	Detroit		7		6		1		33		36		15							
St. Louis	10	3	1	40	31	Florida		5		6		3		37		35		13							
Minnesota	8	3	2	38	35	Buffalo		6		8		0		32		41		12							
Nashville	8	3	2	35	31	Toronto		2		8		4		29		45		8							
Winnipeg	8	5	2	42	41	Metropolitan Division						NY Rangers		10		2		42		25		22			
Chicago	8	6	1	39	38	Washington		10		3		0		43		31		20							
Colorado	4	9	1	36	42	Pittsburgh		9		5		0		31		28		18							
Pacific Division	9	5	0	35	29	New Jersey		8		5		1		37		36		17							
Los Angeles	6	4	5	43	36	NY Islanders		7		5		3		40		37		17							
Vancouver	6	7	0	38	36	Philadelphia		5		6		3		28		39		13							
San Jose	7	7	0	35	38	Carolina		6		8		0		30		40		12							
Arizona	6	6	1	35	38	Columbus		4		11		0		35		54		8							
Anaheim	5	7	2	22	33	Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)																			
Calgary	5	9	1	37	59	Eastern Conference						Montreal		13		2		1		59		29		27	
Edmonton	5	10	0	39	47	Atlantic Division																			

# MORE TO COME FROM SOCCEROOS STAR ROGIC

**GLASGOW:** Celtic manager Ronny Deila says the best is yet to come from Tom Rogic after the Australian international put in a man-of-the-match performance in the 4-1 win over Ross County on Sunday. The midfielder opened the scoring with a superb strike in the 38th minute as his dipping drive from 20 yards gave County keeper Gary Woods no chance. Leigh Griffiths took his tally to 18 for the season with two second-half goals in two minutes and Nir Bitton headed home a fourth after Tony Dingwall had pulled one back for the hosts in Dingwall.

Socceroos star Rogic has been in fantastic form this season as his Celtic career finally takes off following an injury-hit spell which saw him sidelined at the Hoops for almost two years.

And his manager thinks the midfielder will continue to improve as he establishes himself as a first-team regular at the Glasgow giants. "In the first half we didn't create very much but it was a brilliant goal from Tom. That was good to take with us into the break," Celtic manager Deila said.

"He's getting better and better. When I first came he was injured for almost a year.

Now he has been injury free for five months and I think we have just seen the start of Tom.

"He has wonderful technique, a good understanding of the game and he's a creator. He just needs to work to get an even better physique but that will come with more games and more training. I think he's going to be very good."

### Turnaround

It is a remarkable turnaround for Rogic, who has endured a frustrating time at Celtic since arriving from A-League side Central Coast Mariners in January 2013.

The Socceroos star suffered several injury problems before being shipped back to Australia for a loan spell with Melbourne Victory. The 22-year-old had not started for Celtic since September 2013 before his return in August and the attacking midfielder, who is expected to start in Australia's crucial World Cup qualifier against Kyrgyzstan at Canberra Stadium on Thursday, said he was playing with a smile on his face again. "I am enjoying my football and this season has been fantastic for me. The manager has been great as have all the coaches and I'm

just enjoying being at the club," Rogic said.

"Off the back of last season this season has been really positive for me and it's going well at the moment."

Rogic, who has scored five times for Celtic this season, said his stunning strike against County rated as one of the best in his career. "It was nice and it came at an important time of the game as well," Rogic added.

"It's tough to come up here so it was nice to score but the most important thing was the win."

The win restored Celtic's six-point advantage over Hearts at the top of the Scottish Premiership and eases the pressure on Deila, who had come in for heavy criticism following his side's 2-1 defeat to Molde on Thursday which left the Bhoys bottom of their Europa League group. "Obviously it was important to bounce back after our mid-week result. This was a great result as it's a tough place to come," the Socceroos star said. "I think it was frustrating in midweek as we didn't perform to the level that we know we can. It's gone and done now and we knew coming here it was an opportunity to show our qualities and give the fans something to cheer about." —AFP



**PARIS:** France's players attend a training session in Clairefontaine-en-Yvelines, near Paris, yesterday, on the first day of their training ahead of the friendly football match against Germany to be held on November 13. — AFP



## GERMAN FA BOSS RESIGNS OVER 2006 WC SCANDAL



**FRANKFURT:** Wolfgang Niersbach (C), President of the German Football Federation (DFB) arrives for a statement to announce his resignation next to Reinhard Rauball, (R) Vice President of the German Football Federation (DFB) and President of the German Football League (DFL) and DFB Vice President Rainer Koch after a committee meeting at the DFB headquarter in Frankfurt am Main, central Germany, yesterday. — AFP

**BERLIN:** German football association President Wolfgang Niersbach resigned yesterday over a 2006 World Cup scandal that has tarnished the reputation of the world's biggest soccer federation.

Niersbach, who is being investigated for tax evasion in relation to the affair, said he was taking the political responsibility for a controversial 6.7-million euro (\$7.22-million) payment to FIFA that was allegedly used to bribe officials of world soccer's governing body to vote for Germany's World Cup bid. He again denied any wrongdoing.

"In order to protect the DFB and the position, I step down as DFB president with a heavy heart," Niersbach told reporters. "I decided to resign because I realised I had to take the political responsibility." At the heart of the investigation is the 6.7 million euro payment from the DFB to FIFA in 2005 that Der Spiegel magazine alleged was a return on a loan from the then Adidas CEO Robert-Louis Dreyfus to

help buy votes for Germany's World Cup bid at the FIFA election in 2000.

"I was there from the first day of the bid for the 2006 World Cup until the end...and in all these years I worked not only in a clean way but also with passion and trust," Niersbach later said in a statement issued through the DFB.

He had been at the DFB for a quarter of a century, climbing up from spokesman to general secretary and then president in 2012.

"That makes it even more depressing and painful to be confronted nine years later with processes I had nothing to do with. I want to make it clear once more that I was not aware of the payments in question. That's what makes the decision to suffer the political consequence so much harder."

Last week more than 50 police and tax investigators raided the DFB headquarters as well as Niersbach's and other officials' private homes. They were searching for evidence to back up suspicions by the Frankfurt prose-

ctor's office that the president, a World Cup 2006 organising committee vice president, and two former committee colleagues did not pay tax on the controversial 6.7-million euro payment. The three are suspected of tax evasion and investigations are ongoing to determine whether they would be charged or not.

German magazine Der Spiegel's report in October had claimed a slush fund had been set up with Louis-Dreyfus' financial support to buy votes for Germany's World Cup bid.

Both the DFB and Niersbach, as well as then organising chief Franz Beckenbauer, had rejected the votes-for-cash claims made by Der Spiegel.

But Niersbach admitted an internal investigation was underway to find out why the amount was paid to FIFA and what was it used for. Asked at a press conference on Oct. 22 why the DFB had paid FIFA the amount, Niersbach said: "I don't know." FIFA are also investigating the issue. — Reuters

## MOYES'S SOCIEDAD REIGN ENDS IN ANOTHER SACKING

**MADRID:** Former Manchester United manager David Moyes was sacked by Real Sociedad yesterday after a turbulent year in charge during which he failed to turn around the Basque side's fortunes.

"Real Sociedad have decided to cancel the contract of first team coach David Moyes," a club statement announced. "The club wish to thank him ... for all he brought to the club, his professionalism and his dedication in carrying out his duties."

Spanish press reports indicate that former Barcelona reserve team coach Eusebio Sacristan is favourite to succeed Moyes. Moyes took charge of the San Sebastian outfit last November, just seven months after being fired by United after for overseeing a disastrous debut campaign following the retirement of club legend Sir Alex Ferguson as United finished outside the top four in the Premier League for the first time in 24 years.

However, Friday's 2-0 defeat at newly-promoted Las Palmas left Sociedad above the relegation zone only on goal difference with just nine points from their first 11 games, exactly the same situation they were in when Moyes was hired 364 days ago.

Moyes's contract was due to run until the

end of the season, but, despite being a personal favourite of president Jokin Aperribay, the pressure from fans and local media was too much to bear for those in charge of the club.

Above all, Moyes was criticised for his failure to adopt to the Spanish style of play and master the language. The 52-year-old regularly complained about the way games are refereed in Spain during press conferences he always gave in English.

There had been moments of promise early in Moyes's reign as he dragged an under-performing squad away from the relegation zone. A 1-0 win over a Barcelona that would go on to win the treble a few months later in January was undoubtedly the highlight.

Yet, a season that began with plenty of optimism after the return of midfielder Asier Illarramendi to the club from Real Madrid for 17.5 million euros (\$18.8 million, £12.5 million) has been a huge disappointment.

Moyes's men managed just two victories, against the league's bottom two sides Granada and Levante, and with the daunting task of Sevilla and Barcelona to come after the international break, a change at the helm became inevitable. —AFP



**SEVILLE:** Real Madrid's Jese Rodriguez, right, and Sevilla's Michael Krohn-Dehli fight for the ball during their La Liga soccer match at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium, in Seville, Spain on Sunday. — AP

## LACAZETTE LEADS LYON TO DERBY VICTORY

**PARIS:** Alexandre Lacazette returned to form in style with a hat-trick as Lyon beat bitter rivals Saint-Etienne 3-0 in the last derby meeting of the teams at the Stade Gerland on Sunday. Last season's Ligue 1 player of the year Lacazette opened the scoring in the first half and added two more after the break on his 150th top-flight appearance as Lyon, who will move to a new 59,000-seat stadium early in 2016, claimed the bragging rights in the Rhone-Alpes rivalry. The victory, Lyon's third in a row in Ligue 1, allows Hubert Fournier's side to go clear in second place, although they remain 10 points adrift of unbeaten league leaders Paris Saint-Germain and also lost captain Maxime Gonalons and centre-back Samuel Umtiti to injury. Saint-Etienne, meanwhile, are fifth, behind Angers on goal difference, after a disappointing display.

Lyon, who are staring at an early exit from the Champions League following a 2-0 home loss to Zenit St Petersburg in midweek, were unlucky not to get the breakthrough late in the first half when Stephane Ruffier made a double save to deny Jordan Ferri and Mathieu Valbuena.

Valbuena was included in the Lyon line-up at the end of a week overshadowed by the arrest of his France colleague Karim Benzema, who was charged with complicity to blackmail and conspiring to commit a criminal act in an extortion case involving a sex tape featuring the little playmaker. He put in a lively performance but Lacazette stole the show, opening the scoring four minutes before the break when he spun away from Loic Perrin and then lifted the ball over Ruffier.

Lacazette collected a Valbuena pass and worked his way into a shooting position before stabbing wide early in the second half, but he did find the net again in the 59th minute.

Ruffier saved from a Rafael piledriver but Lacazette followed in to convert the rebound, and he completed his hat-trick in stoppage

time when he latched on to Ferri's pass before rounding Ruffier to slot home. Scorer of a club record 27 league goals last season, he now has six goals in all competitions in this campaign and his performance was a timely reminder to France coach Didier Deschamps, who left him out of the latest national squad. "I felt that Alexandre Lacazette was coming good in the last few days. And a hat-trick in a derby—that does not happen all the time," said Fournier who was also happy to have selected Valbuena.

"Despite what has happened to him, he is happiest on the football pitch. He had already been punished enough by not being selected for the national team."

### Monaco, Marseille lose

Meanwhile, Bordeaux came from behind to beat Monaco 3-1, inflicting a first defeat in 10 games on the principality side.

Portuguese forward Helder Costa put the visitors ahead at the Matmut Atlantique, but Nicolas Maurice-Belay, Cedric Yambere and former Monaco midfielder Jaroslav Plasil all netted for Bordeaux. Monaco are ninth, while Bordeaux move up to 11th, above Marseille, who were beaten 1-0 at home by Mediterranean rivals Nice earlier on Sunday. Valere Germain, who was born in Marseille when his father Bruno was playing for OM and supported the club as a boy, got the only goal of the game in the 16th minute, collecting a Wallyson Mallmann pass and drilling in a low shot from range that beat Steve Mandanda and found the bottom-left corner. It was a welcome win for Nice, who were recently inspired to a fine run of form by the brilliance of Hatem Ben Arfa but made the trip along France's south coast after failing to win any of their previous three Ligue 1 outings. Claude Puel's side move up to sixth, but there was more frustration for Marseille, who have never really got going under Spanish coach Michel. —AFP



**LYON:** Lyon's Mathieu Valbuena, left, challenges for the ball with Saint-Etienne's Florentin Pogba, center, during their French League One soccer match at Gerland stadium, in Lyon, central France, Sunday. — AP

## DEFEATED MADRID LACKED KNOW-HOW TO FIGHT BACK

**MADRID:** Rafael Benitez lamented his side's inability to react after going behind for the first time this season as he suffered his first defeat as Madrid boss 3-2 at Sevilla on Sunday. Defeat leaves Madrid trailing Barcelona by three points at the top of the table with the two set to face each other next time out at the Santiago Bernabeu on November 21.

Real had got off to a flying start in Seville as Sergio Ramos's spectacular overhead kick fired the visitors into a deserved lead. However, after Ramos had gone off with the recurrence of a shoulder problem, Madrid fell apart as Ciro Immobile levelled before the break. Ever Banega and Fernando Llorente set the seal on a much needed win for Sevilla after their 3-1 thrashing at the hands of Manchester City in midweek before James Rodriguez pulled a goal back in stoppage time. "I think we played very well for 30 minutes. We had a lot of control in every part of the game," said Benitez.

"Then we allowed them to score from a set-piece and that conditioned the game. In the second-half we started well again, but from the second goal we started to commit errors and

they took advantage of that to score the third goal. "We scored again at the last minute but it wasn't enough." When Banega finished off a brilliant team move also involving Immobile and Yevhen Konoplyanka on the hour mark it was the first time Madrid had even been behind in 15 games this season.

And Benitez criticised his side's failure to respond when finally put in an adverse situation. "We lacked know-how in managing the situation. It seemed a matter of time until the second goal in the first half hour.

"It wasn't to be, they regained their confidence with the equaliser and then our errors allowed them to grow further into the game. "We found it difficult to react. In the first-half we should have killed the game off and we didn't."

Ramos had to watch on in anguish as his side threw away the lead and could now be a doubt for the Barca clash after a disrupted two months since he first suffered a dislocated shoulder against Shakhtar Donetsk. The defender admitted he is almost certain to miss Spain's friendly matches against England and Belgium in the next week. "First I have to recover. I hope to have

a scan on Tuesday, but it will be difficult to go with the national team if I couldn't continue today," he told Canal Plus.

"The priority is to recover because it is another relapse. I have played four or five games with injections and this is the type of injury that if you are not careful can cause a lot more problems."

The former Sevilla man insisted the Andalusians deserved credit for their second-half display, but recognised Madrid can't afford many more slip-ups if they are to land just their second league title in eight years. "It's clear we didn't play well in the second-half. This is one of the hardest places to come due to their fans and the quality of Sevilla. You also have to highlight how well Sevilla played as well as a bad match on our part. "In the second-half they had control of possession and managed to take their chances.

"It is in games like this that you lose the league and we've lost three very important points. Now we have to turn the corner, the Clásico always carries a lot of expectations but above all it is an important game for us to win." —AFP

## KLOPP WANTS END TO EARLY EXITS AFTER LIVERPOOL LOSS

**LIVERPOOL:** Jurgen Klopp admitted it is the responsibility of his Liverpool players to keep Anfield supporters glued to their seats after tasting defeat for the first time as manager of the Premier League club in a 2-1 loss to Crystal Palace on Sunday. A late goal from lifelong Liverpool fan Scott Dann gave Palace a win at Anfield for the second consecutive season in front of the watching Steven Gerrard, whose Liverpool farewell ended in a defeat by the same opponents in May.

Dann's headed winner eight minutes from time also had Liverpool supporters heading for the exits "After 82 minutes I saw so many people leave the stadium, I felt pretty alone at that moment," said Klopp.

"We decide when it is over. Between 82 and 94 minutes, you can score eight goals if you want but you have to work for it," added the German manager, who had previously presided over a six-game unbeaten run made up of three straight draws and three successive wins after replacing the sacked Brendan Rodgers on Merseyside.

"I'm not disappointed with the fans," insisted Klopp. "We have to learn that we are responsible and with 82 minutes gone, nobody can leave the stadium. A minute

before the final whistle, anything can happen and that is what we have to show the fans. We didn't."

### Sakho setback

Klopp said fatigue played a part in the defeat, after Liverpool played in the Europa League at Rubin Kazan on Thursday and arrived back in England at 3:30am local time (0330 GMT) on Friday.

But he refused to use the travel itinerary as an excuse. "We have to learn that it is we who decide. We decide how good we are, how awake we are, how tired we are, nobody else," said Klopp. "Today we needed a few minutes (to start) and by then it was too late. We did many, many good things on the day but not enough. Anybody who thinks we gave everything we had tonight is wrong.

"Of course we could do more, maybe not in terms of running, but by being more awake from the beginning. Believe me, we have to learn this," added Klopp, who won back-to-back Bundesliga titles when in charge of former club Borussia Dortmund in 2010/11 and 2011/12.

To make matters worse for Klopp, Liverpool defender Mamadou Sakho limped

out of Anfield on crutches after twisting his knee badly in an awkward fall during the first half.

"That was the worst thing about tonight," Klopp said. "I would rather have lost 4-1 and keep him in the team but we will have to wait and see. Let's hope it's not too serious."

Liverpool's slow start saw Yannick Bolasie shoot Palace in front before Philippe Coutinho equalised just before half-time. But it was Palace who emerged triumphant, with manager Alan Pardew masterminding an Eagles' victory at Anfield for the second time in six months that was sealed by Liverpool fanatic Dann.

"He had about 15 family members here today, he was asking for tickets off everybody," said Pardew of Dann. "The goal summed him up. You could see he was going to win that ball, nobody was going to stop him. "I really think he has been underestimated throughout his career. I wouldn't have said that until I managed him but now I have, I understand how good he is. "But the problem with this whole team it is doesn't trust how good it could be," added Pardew, whose eighth-placed side are now two points ahead of Liverpool. —AFP



# Sports

China top medals table on day six

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Defeated Madrid lacked know-how to fight back

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AUSTRALIA WRAP UP VICTORY AFTER MCCULLUM DEFIANCE

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NEW YORK: New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony (7) gets airborne trying to pass behind himself in the second half of an NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York. The Knicks defeated the Lakers 99-95. —AP

## BRYANT REIGNS, LAKERS LOSE AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

**NEW YORK:** A late three-pointer by Langston Galloway and tough defense in the final minutes ruined what might have been Kobe Bryant's final game at Madison Square Garden. Galloway nailed the basket with two minutes remaining for a two-point New York lead as the Knicks held on to beat Bryant's Los Angeles Lakers 99-95. Forward Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with a game-high 24 points, 11 of them in the fourth quarter, and also grabbed eight rebounds. Jose Calderon added 14 points, center Robin Lopez had 14 points, 13 rebounds and four assists, and Galloway dropped in 14 points off the bench on 5-for-9 shooting. Drawing a roar from the New York crowd on almost every shot attempt, the 37-year-old Bryant finished with a team-high 18 points. Center Roy Hibbert added 18 points and nine rebounds, second-year guard Jordan Clarkson chipped in with 10 points, and forward Julius Randle grabbed 11 rebounds.

### Cavaliers 101, Pacers 97

Kevin Love scored 22 points and grabbed 19 rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers extended their winning streak to six games with a 101-97 victory against the Indiana Pacers. Cavs forward LeBron James had 29 points, six rebounds and four assists, while forward Tristan Thompson had 16 points and eight rebounds off the bench. Cleveland has not lost since their first game against Chicago. Forward Paul George scored 32 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Pacers, while Monta Ellis scored 25 points and Jordan Hill grabbed 11 rebounds. The Pacers had their own three-game winning

streak snapped.

### Heat 96, Raptors 76

Hassan Whiteside outplayed Toronto's Jonas Valanciunas in a battle of young centers with 20 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks to lead the Miami Heat to a 96-76 win over the Toronto Raptors. Valanciunas had 17 points and five rebounds, but he was held to just one point in the second half. The Heat also got contributions from forward Chris Bosh (23 points, eight rebounds) and shooting guard Dwyane Wade (12 points). Wade passed former Chicago Bulls forward Scottie Pippen for 51st place on the NBA career scoring list.

### Thunder 124, Suns 103

Kevin Durant scored 32 points on 12-of-19 shooting to lead Oklahoma City to a 124-103 victory over the Phoenix Suns that snapped the Thunder's three-game losing streak. Durant added 11 rebounds, four assists and three steals, and hit six of seven free throws. Thunder guard Russell Westbrook finished with 21 points and 13 assists, while Enes Kanter and Dion Waiters came off the bench to score 21 and 19 points for Oklahoma City (4-3).

### Pistons 120, Trail Blazers 103

Reggie Jackson scored 26 fourth-quarter points to lead a furious rally, and the Detroit Pistons stormed past the Portland Trail Blazers 120-103 at the Moda Center. Detroit (5-1) outscored Portland 41-11 in the final period to overcome an 18-point third-quarter deficit and start 2-0 on its six-game road trip.—Reuters

## DJOKOVIC VOWS MORE TO COME AFTER WONDER YEAR

**PARIS:** Novak Djokovic says he has reached the peak of his career by taking a "holistic approach", leaving nothing to chance. The 28-year-old Serb put the finishing touches to one of the greatest years in tennis history on Sunday when he swept aside old rival Andy Murray 6-2, 6-4 in the final of the Paris Masters.

The tournament was the final one of the ATP regular season and the victory etched his name in the record books. The first man to win three Grand Slam titles and six Masters Series titles in the same year, the first man to reach eight out of nine Masters Series finals and the first man to record 14 straight finals in the same year, all en route to a win-loss record of 78-5 — the achievements are phenomenal.

Djokovic, who is now firmly in the mix with Rod Laver, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal for the label of the greatest player ever, insists that on sheer talent alone he would never have hit such dizzy heights.

"I think there are a few reasons why I have managed to reach my peak at this stage of my career this year," he said after his defeat of Murray. "I think in terms of physical and mental ability, I have reached my peak experience wise."

"Of course I did go through certain periods that had more doubts and, you know, I wasn't as successful. It all served as a great lesson, as a way to improve and to get better. So this season, everything got together."

"I'm a married man, and I'm a father, as well. I think I have a nice balance and serenity in my private life that reflects on the professional life, and vice versa."

"I have this belief that the holistic approach will definitely get the best out of yourself. 'I'm still determined to improve, to get better. Nobody can be perfect, but, you know, if you are going for the perfection, you might reach excellence."

"That's the kind of mind set I have. Try to work every single day with a purpose." It was not always so controlled and driven for the Serb, who had to leave his hometown of Belgrade at an early age to train in Germany and who had to overcome both physical and mental obstacles when he first entered the pro scene.

There were even charges that he was a choker

and a bit of a hypochondriac as he struggled to deal with the physicality of Nadal and the legend of Federer.

But all that changed with his maiden major win in the 2008 Australia Open and then his wonder run in 2011 when he won the Australian and US Opens as well as Wimbledon.

He now has 10 Grand Slam titles, four shy of Nadal's haul and seven away from the all-time record of Federer. But at 28 and in the peak of his career, overtaking them both is a very realistic target.

"I have been through stages in my life where I struggled a lot physically, especially in the beginning of the professional career. But, all those experiences in the past have helped me to get stronger, to learn from those experiences, to understand

myself, my body," he said.

"I try to take nothing for granted. I try to work on it all the time, because I know that that is the only way I'm managing to stay successful, is to continue progressing."

"I'm not trying to keep the status quo, because for me then that's a regression. 'I just try to progress, improve all the time, work on certain things in my life and my game, and hopefully get better in the process, which I feel I'm doing now.'"

Progressing for Djokovic now means winning the ATP World Tour Finals in London for the fourth time in two weeks' time. "I look forward to it, especially because of the fact that I have had the season that I have had, and the way that I'm feeling confidently. Hopefully I can finish off the season with another great win," he said.—AFP



PARIS: Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with the trophy after winning the final tennis match against Britain's Andy Murray at the ATP World Tour Masters 1000 indoor tennis tournament in Paris on Sunday.—AFP

### NBA Results/Standings

Cleveland 101, Indiana 97; NY Knicks 99, LA Lakers 95; Miami 96, Toronto 76; Oklahoma City 124, Phoenix 103.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB	
Toronto	5	2	.714	-	Utah	4	2	.667
NY Knicks	3	4	.429	2	Minnesota	3	2	.600
Boston	2	3	.400	2	Oklahoma City	4	3	.571
Philadelphia	0	6	0	4.5	Portland	4	3	.571
Brooklyn	0	7	0	5	Denver	2	4	.333
Central Division				Pacific Division				
Cleveland	6	1	.857	-	Golden State	7	0	1.000
Detroit	5	1	.833	0.5	LA Clippers	4	2	.667
Chicago	4	3	.571	2	Phoenix	3	4	.429
Milwaukee	4	3	.571	2	LA Lakers	1	5	.167
Indiana	3	4	.429	3	Sacramento	1	6	.143
Southeast Division				Southwest Division				
Atlanta	7	1	.875	-	San Antonio	4	2	.667
Miami	4	3	.571	2.5	Houston	4	3	.571
Washington	3	3	.500	3	Dallas	3	3	.500
Orlando	3	4	.429	3.5	Memphis	3	4	.429
Charlotte	2	4	.333	4	New Orleans	0	6	0



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Kuwait credit growth slows

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Emirates signs \$16bn engine deal with GE for 777x fleet

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flydubai's 50th Boeing 737-800 on display at Dubai Airshow

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## ECB RATE SETTERS CONVERGE ON DEC DEPOSIT RATE CUT

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DUBAI: Women walk past a US-made F-16 fighter jet displayed at the Dubai Airshow yesterday in the Gulf Emirate. —AFP

## SAUDI ARABIA SEES ROBUST OIL FUNDAMENTALS OPEC MARKET SHARE STEADY AS RIVAL OUTPUT FALLS

**DOHA:** Long-term oil market fundamentals remain robust but prolonged low prices could threaten security of supply and pave the way for a price spike, Saudi Arabia's vice oil minister said yesterday.

The world's largest crude exporter will continue investing in its oil and gas sector, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman said in a speech at an Asian energy conference in the Qatari capital Doha.

"Supply and demand patterns indicate that the long-term fundamentals of the oil complex remain robust," he said. The comments suggest OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia is satisfied with its strategy of not cutting production and allowing low prices to reduce

supplies, without losing market share to competitors.

Oil prices, at around \$47 a barrel, have more than halved since July 2014 on ample supplies.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries meets to review policy on Dec 4. Two other OPEC officials yesterday made upbeat comments about the 2016 outlook, suggesting big changes are unlikely. Prince Abdulaziz said cuts in oil industry investment elsewhere in the world would lead to a drop in crude supplies from non-OPEC countries in 2016 and beyond that was unlikely to be reversed. Meanwhile, growth in demand fuelled mainly by Asia would remain

strong, though slower than in the past.

"Non-OPEC supply is expected to fall in 2016, only one year after the deep cuts in investment," he said. "Beyond 2016, the fall in non-OPEC supply is likely to accelerate, as the cancellation and postponement of projects will start feeding into future supplies, and the impact of previous record investments on oil output starts to fade away."

Prince Abdulaziz said a prolonged period of low oil prices was unsustainable, warning it could "reduce the resilience of the oil industry, undermining the future security of supply and setting the scene for another sharp price rise."

"Just as the assertions, heard a few years ago - that the oil price would reach \$200 a bar-

rel - were proved wrong, so the recent assertion that the oil price has shifted to a new low structural equilibrium will also turn out to have been wrong."

### CONTINUING TO INVEST

Oil companies around the world have deferred some \$200 billion worth of projects including complex, expensive ventures that hold huge resources, such as Canadian oil sands and deepwater projects in Africa and southeast Asia. But Saudi Arabia appears keen to send a message to the market that it is moving ahead with its oil and gas projects.

"As a responsible and reliable producer with a long-term horizon, the kingdom is com-

mitted to continue to invest in its oil and gas sector, despite the drop in the oil price," Prince Abdulaziz said.

While Saudi Arabia sees a robust market over the long term, OPEC has yet to complete a review of its long-term strategy as members disagree about the need to support a fair price and boost revenue, delegates say.

OPEC governors - officials representing the member countries met last week at the group's Vienna headquarters to discuss the latest draft of the long-term strategy document.

"We have not yet finished, next year maybe," said one delegate. "We need more time. It won't be discussed at the conference in December." —Reuters

## EGYPTIAN MARKET KEEPS SLIDING ON FOREX FEARS

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Egypt's stock market went on sliding yesterday because of fears of a currency devaluation and higher interest rates, while most major Gulf markets rebounded.

The Egyptian equities index, which sank 2.6 percent on Sunday, lost a further 2.8 percent yesterday. Strong US economic data at the end of last week suggested a rate hike there next month, pressuring the Egyptian pound.

Meanwhile, Egypt's two largest state banks launched Egyptian pound savings certificates with a high 12.5 percent interest rate. Traders speculated this could be part of preparations for the central bank to abandon a slow, managed depreciation of the pound and instead engineer a large, one-off devaluation. Such an approach might be positive for the stock market in the long run by dealing decisively with a hard currency shortage that has overshadowed the market for years.

But it would be risky; the central bank might find it hard to stabilise the pound at a lower level, and it might need to raise domestic interest rates to deter fresh capital outflows.

"Obviously, higher rates mean more pain to leveraged companies, higher required rate of return, and lower equity valuations," Pharos Securities said in a note. "We are biased to conservatism and hence advise clients to remain cautious."

Yields rose only marginally yesterday at an auction of five- and 10-year government

bonds, which was fully subscribed. But central bank officials did not clarify their intentions and the uncertainty pushed Egyptian debt insurance costs up to 18-month highs.

Growing evidence that last week's crash of a Russian airliner in the Sinai was caused by a bomb may add to pressure for currency depreciation by hurting tourism revenues. London-based Capital Economics estimated Egypt's tourism receipts could fall as much as \$3.5 billion in the next 12 months.

Shares in Commercial International Bank tumbled 6.9 percent yesterday and property developer Palm Hills Development fell 5.5 percent. A few stocks that might benefit from currency depreciation rose. Alexandria Container and Cargo Handling, which could win more business if a weaker currency encourages foreign shippers to use its services, jumped 10 percent in its heaviest trade since June 2011.

Telecom Egypt, which as a telecommunications firm is seen as a defensive stock, outperformed, losing only 0.5 percent.

### GULF

The Saudi stock index, which had dropped 0.6 percent on Sunday in response to the US interest rate threat, bounced from technical support at its August low of 6,921 points. It climbed 1.3 percent to 7,105 points. Petrochemical blue chip Saudi Basic Industries jumped 3.1 percent and insurer SABB Takaful added 4.9 percent.

Saudi Printing and Packaging, which began tumbling on Thursday as a bubble in the stock burst, swung wildly. It plunged a further 10 percent in early trade but closed 10 percent higher. Saudi central bank governor Fahad al-Mubarak sought to reassure the financial markets yesterday, telling Ekhbariya Television that commercial banks had plenty of spare cash and a recent rise in money rates was partly due to seasonal factors.

The three-month Saudi interbank offered rate jumped to 1.00375 percent on Monday, its highest level since 2009, from around 0.78 percent in late July, boosted by the drain on liquidity from government bond issues to cover a huge budget deficit caused by low oil prices.

The Dubai stock index, which sank 3 percent on Sunday, rebounded 1.0 percent. Emaar Properties added 1.5 percent. But healthcare and education investment company Amanat Holdings, which listed last November, fell 0.9 percent after reporting a net profit of 7 million dirhams (\$1.9 million) for the nine months through September. The vast bulk of its earnings came from profits on Islamic deposits rather than investments in other companies. Abu Dhabi's index rose 0.8 percent as Aldar Properties, the most heavily traded stock, rebounded 2.6 percent. Qatar fell 0.5 percent, however, as petrochemical producer Industries Qatar slid 1.3 percent. —Reuters



## FITCH AFFIRMS NBK'S LONG-TERM RATINGS AT AA-, OUTLOOK STABLE

**KUWAIT:** Fitch Ratings, the international credit rating agency, affirmed National Bank of Kuwait's (NBK) Long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'AA-', the highest in the Middle East and North Africa, with a Stable Outlook. Fitch said that NBK's ratings underpins its unique status and systemic importance as the flagship bank in Kuwait and dominant franchise, which supports its revenue generation capacity and ability to finance better quality assets than peers.

Fitch also noted that NBK's ratings also factor in the bank's strong management, consistent strategy and solid funding profile.

The agency also pointed out that the Kuwaiti banks benefit from a fairly stable operating environment. While the banks are not immune to the fall in oil prices, Fitch believes that the government's capital spending plans will partially offset the

pressures. Several major projects have been awarded and financed in 2014 and 2015 which are providing growth opportunities for the sector.

NBK continues to enjoy collectively the highest from the three international rating agencies Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team. NBK was also named among Global Finance's list of the 50 safest banks in the world for the tenth consecutive time.

NBK enjoys the widest banking presence with a local and international network reaching 4 continents. NBK's international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centers including New York, Europe, GCC, Middle East, Singapore as well as China (Shanghai).



## OMV WANTS TO FOCUS IRAN PUSH ON ITS EXISTING OIL FINDS

**VIENNA:** Austrian energy group OMV wants its expansion in Iran to focus on the oilfields it has already discovered and it is prepared to invest only a limited amount there, Chief Executive Rainer Seele said yesterday.

Seele, who is preparing a new strategy aimed at adapting to low oil prices and expanding production cost-efficiently, said he had no interest in a much more expensive gas project in Iran, apparently referring to the massive South Pars gas field. "At the end of the day for us it is not simply about producing oil or gas—we want to make profits," he said at a joint event with Gerhard Schroeder, the former German chancellor who is now an executive for the pipeline consortium Nord Stream.

OMV is jostling with many other companies seeking to do business with Iran as economic sanctions look likely to be lifted under a landmark deal reached this summer between Tehran and world powers over the Iranian nuclear program.

While OMV was keen to move as soon as sanctions are lifted, which he expected to happen in the first or second quarter, Seele said the economic conditions

had to be right, and the company would focus on the fields it knows best. "We discovered two oilfields there," Seele said. "We have the advantage that we are interested specifically in those fields that we discovered ourselves. We do not first have to do a seismic evaluation, and we have a very precise idea of the quality the oilfields have, and of the required development methods."

OMV made a discovery at the Mehr block in western Iran, but the company declined to name the two fields Seele referred to. Seele also appeared to rule out bigger investments in Iran. "There is a very, very big gas field," Seele said, apparently referring to South Pars. "If you want to get involved in such a business in Iran, the first question that will be asked is 'How many billions have you brought with you?'"

OMV would make its big investments elsewhere, he said. "That is certainly not the strategy we are pursuing. We are primarily interested in investing here in Austria, in investing in the North Sea, and in having the rest of the portfolio balanced in such a way that a smaller Iranian activity fits inside it." — Reuters



**BEIJING:** People walking past a restaurant in Beijing. Chinese President Xi Jinping said last week that annual expansion should be no less than 6.5 percent in 2016-2020 if the country is to double the size of its economy and average incomes compared to 2010 levels by the end of the decade. — AFP

## SAUDI BANKS HAVE PLENTY OF CASH, SAYS CB CHIEF

MUBARAK ALLAYS CONCERNS AFTER RATES RISE

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabian commercial banks have plenty of cash, Saudi central bank governor Fahad Al-Mubarak said yesterday after a rise in interbank money rates raised concern about tightening liquidity in the kingdom. Mubarak told Saudi-owned Ekhbariya Television that the increase in money rates, which he described as "slight", was due to expectations for higher US interest rates, and also related to seasonal factors towards the end of each year.

The three-month Saudi interbank offered rate jumped to 1.00375 percent yesterday, its highest level since 2009, from around 0.78 percent in late July. Low oil prices have cut new oil revenues flowing into Saudi banks, while the government has started issuing about 20 billion riyals (\$5.3 billion) of bonds every month to fund a huge budget deficit caused by cheap oil, further pressuring liquidity.

The rise in money rates amounts to a tightening of monetary conditions just as the economy of the world's top oil exporter also faces tighter fiscal policy. The government has said it is reducing spending in some areas to curb the budget deficit. However, Mubarak told Ekhbariya that commercial banks still had

deposits of about 200 billion riyals at the central bank, which they could use to finance their activities.

"As for the slight increase which occurred in the cost of financing between banks recently, it is a result of expectations among local banks for a rise in the US interest rate and the effects of that on the local rate," he said. Mubarak added, "This phenomenon happens every year in the last quarter of the financial year - we see that there is intense competition" for funds. He did not elaborate.

Like other Saudi officials, Mubarak rejected as unjustified the decision of Standard & Poor's at the end of last month to downgrade Saudi Arabia's sovereign debt ratings. The cost of insuring Saudi sovereign debt against default rose last week to its highest level since June 2009, when the global financial crisis was raging, implying investors believe Saudi Arabia is more likely to default in the next five years than the Philippines.

Saudi officials have insisted they have plans in place to stabilize state finances, but have so far not publicly revealed details, beyond saying they are trimming spending and considering steps such as cuts in domestic fuel subsidies. — Reuters

## KUWAIT CREDIT GROWTH SLOWS DESPITE HOUSEHOLD BORROWING

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Credit saw a moderate gain in August, with growth easing slightly to 5.2 percent y/y. Total credit rose by a net KD 102 million during the month. Household borrowing saw an exceptionally strong month, which coincided with the reintroduction of loan rebooking. This helped make up for a drop in business credit, much of it in the real estate sector. Deposits continued to see declines related to the summer season, easing growth in money supply. Meanwhile, interbank and deposit rates held steady.

Household borrowing saw a strong gain in August of KD 185 million, with growth accelerating to 12.8 percent y/y. Installment loans, used primarily to finance housing, continued to be the only source of growth; consumer loans, used to finance cars and other consumer durables, saw a small decline and registered growth of a mere 0.2 percent y/y.

Credit to nonbank financial companies saw a relatively small decline of KD 1.6 million, though this came on the heels of a relatively large drop in July. Nonbank financial companies continued to deleverage, with the sector's credit declining 8.1 percent y/y.

All remaining credit declined by KD 81 million, with growth easing to 2.6 percent y/y. The bulk of the decline was in real estate, industry and "other" sectors. By contrast, construction and oil & gas did well. Real estate and securities lending remained key sources of weaker credit growth, having seen an increase of 0.4 percent and a decline of 2.6 percent y/y, respectively. Excluding them, business credit was somewhat stronger at 6.0 percent y/y in August.

Private deposits saw another large KD 743 million decline in August on seasonal factors. Money supply (M2) growth eased to 3.4 per-

cent y/y. The decline in deposits was across the board, both in dinar and foreign currency, down KD 654 million and KD 89 million, respectively. In KD deposits, all types saw declines including time deposits, KD sight and savings deposits. Growth in narrower money supply (M1) remained relatively low at 0.1 percent y/y due to a basis effect from last year's introduction of the new currency, which temporarily increased the amount of currency in circulation.

Customer interest rates on dinar time deposits and interbank rates were steady in August. Average rates on the 1-month and 6-month time deposits were steady at 0.61 percent and 0.97 percent, while 3-month and 12-month rates added one basis point to settle at 0.78 percent and 1.22 percent. KD interbank rates held steady at 1.00 percent, though they are up 21 basis points year-to-date.

## EGYPT'S TREASURIES ALMOST STEADY, CONFUSING MARKET

**CAIRO:** Yields on Egyptian treasury bonds were little changed at an auction yesterday, a result that confused the market after the country's two biggest state banks raised their interest rates on savings certificates two days ago. Bankers had expected yields in government debt to rise after Bank Misr and the National Bank of Egypt issued saving certificates with a 12.5 percent interest rate, a big jump from the average 10 percent at Egyptian banks.

Some bankers interpreted the moves as an effort by the central bank to use the state banks to prepare the market for change in policy at its meeting on Dec. 17. They speculated a hike in official interest rates or a big devaluation might be coming. "It could be a set-up for an imminent devaluation or could be a set up for a coming hike, but what is clear is that whatever comes, most likely it will be an

aggressive move," one banker said.

The average yield on five-year bonds rose marginally in yesterday's auction to 13.167 percent from 13.163 percent in the previous auction on Nov 2. The yield on 10-year bonds edged up to 15.373 from 15.367 percent.

The central bank had offered 3 billion Egyptian pounds worth of five-year bonds and 2.25 billion pounds worth of 10-year bonds and sold them all.

"When Banque Misr and NBE set the 12.5 percent interest rate, we expected the reaction would be for yields to rise at the auctions, but that's not what happened," one banker said.

A treasury bill auction for three-month and nine-month bills on Sunday also saw steady rates. Yields dipped marginally from the last auction on Nov. 1, to 11.218 percent in the three-month bill from 11.229 percent and to

11.618 percent in the nine-month bill from 11.624 percent.

Bankers told Reuters that private banks had raised their bids by at least 50 basis points in that auction, but the result showed a marginal decline in yields, indicating state banks had bid aggressively lower. Some bankers said they refrained from bidding at Monday's T-bond auction and waited to see the results before deciding how to move in future auctions.

Egypt has been facing a currency crisis many economists say is caused by an overvalued pound. It allowed the pound to weaken gradually to 7.9301 pounds against the dollar in October, but the rate is still far from the black market rate, which was 8.50 pounds to the dollar on Sunday. Pressure on the Egyptian pound has increased since strong US economic data on Friday suggested the US central bank might

raise rates in December. Growing evidence that last week's crash of a Russian airliner in the Sinai was caused by a bomb may also undermine the currency, by cutting Egypt's tourism revenues. Egypt kept interest rates stable for the sixth consecutive central bank meeting on Oct. 29. The overnight deposit rate is 8.75 percent and the overnight lending rate is at 9.75 percent. The meeting on Dec. 17 will be under the leadership of the new central bank governor, Tarek Amer.

The state news agency said on Sunday that Amer had met with Egypt's two state banks and the Minister of Industry and Trade and discussed the importance of coordination between the ministry and the banking sector. He said he was ready to adopt any initiative that aimed to improve growth in industry and exports. — Reuters

### EXCHANGE RATES

#### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.471
Indian Rupees	4.601
Pakistani Rupees	2.887
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.157
Nepali Rupees	2.902
Singapore Dollar	214.920
Hongkong Dollar	39.315
Bangladesh Taka	3.885
Philippine Peso	6.463
Thai Baht	8.502
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	81.310
Qatari Riyal	83.757
Omani Riyal	791.970
Bahraini Dinar	809.750
UAE Dirham	83.016
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	38.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	37.998
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.423
Tunisian Dinar	151.620
Jordanian Dinar	429.470
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.032
Syrian Lira	2.173
Morocco Dirham	31.002
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	304.750
Euro	329.430
Sterling Pound	460.780
Canadian dollar	230.170
Turkish lira	104.440
Swiss Franc	304.900
Australian dollar	216.370
US Dollar Buying	303.550

#### GOLD

20 gram	223.24
10 gram	114.31
5 gram	57.84

#### UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

#### CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000
Australian Dollar	206.73
Canadian Dollar	236.35
Swiss Franc	310.66
Euro	335.72
US Dollar	304.05
Sterling Pound	471.32
Japanese Yen	2.55
Bangladesh Taka	3.891
Indian Rupee	4.634
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.159
Nepali Rupee	2.902
Pakistani Rupee	2.887
UAE Dirhams	0.08274
Bahraini Dinar	0.8080
Egyptian Pound	0.03778
Jordanian Dinar	0.4324
Omani Riyal	0.7895
Qatari Riyal	0.08383
Saudi Riyal	0.08104

#### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	305.000
Canadian Dollar	231.220
Sterling Pound	459.980
Euro	328.955
Swiss Frank	304.310
Bahrain Dinar	809.515
UAE Dirhams	83.335
Qatari Riyals	91.370

Saudi Riyals	82.060
Jordanian Dinar	429.774
Egyptian Pound	37.873
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.161
Indian Rupees	4.631
Pakistani Rupees	2.889
Bangladesh Taka	3.897
Philippines Peso	6.494
Cyprus pound	580.935
Japanese Yen	3.470
Syrian Pound	2.613
Nepalese Rupees	3.891
Malaysian Ringgit	70.729
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	48.377
Thai Bhat	9.483
Turkish Lira	104.513

#### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

COUNTRY	SELL CASH	SELLDRAFT
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.452295	0.461295
Czech Korune	0.004112	0.016112
Danish Krone	0.039882	0.044882
Euro	0.322431	0.330431
Norwegian Krone	0.031197	0.036397
Romanian Leu	0.073414	0.073414
Slovakia	0.009116	0.019116
Swedish Krona	0.030942	0.035942
Swiss Franc	0.296808	0.307008
Turkish Lira	0.102019	0.112319
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.206659	0.218159
New Zealand Dollar	0.193426	0.202926
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.223833	0.232333
US Dollars	0.300650	0.305150

#### US Dollars Mint

0.301150	0.305150	
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003513	0.004113
Chinese Yuan	0.046685	0.050185
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037225	0.039975
Indian rupee	0.004413	0.004803
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002385	0.002565
Kenyan Shilling	0.002971	0.002971
Korean Won	0.000253	0.000268
Malaysian Ringgit	0.066874	0.072874
Nepalese Rupee	0.002920	0.003090
Pakistan Rupee	0.002757	0.003037
Philippine Peso	0.006428	0.006708
Sierra Leone	0.000065	0.000071
Singapore Dollar	0.210758	0.216758
South African Rand	0.015455	0.023955
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001803	0.002383
Taiwan	0.009187	0.009367
Thai Baht	0.008205	0.008755

<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.801144	0.809144
Egyptian Pound	0.037481	0.040311
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000205	0.000265
Jordanian Dinar	0.425839	0.433339
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020694	0.044694
Nigerian Naira	0.000935	0.001567
Omani Riyal	0.785138	0.790818
Qatar Riyal	0.082996	0.084209
Saudi Riyal	0.080630	0.081330
Syrian Pound	0.001292	0.001512
Tunisian Dinar	0.147789	0.155789
Turkish Lira	0.102019	0.112319
UAE Dirhams	0.081991	0.083140
Yemeni Riyal	0.001377	0.001457



## AIRBUS TO DECIDE SOON IF MARKET NEEDS NEW A350 VARIANT

**DUBAI:** Airbus is studying whether there is demand for a larger member of its A350 jet family and expects to make up its mind within a couple of months, its sales chief said yesterday.

The European planemaker is not yet offering a specific design to airlines, but anything that it does decide to build would leapfrog Boeing's 777X, he said, referring to a new 406-seat version of the US company's 777 wide-body series. Airbus's largest twin-engine jet is the 369-seat A350-100, which competes partly with the 365-seat Boeing 777-300ER. Asked about speculation that Airbus could

build a larger version of the A350, sales chief John Leahy told Reuters, "We don't know yet. If I had to bet, the larger part of the market will stay around the A350-1000 or 777-300ER size category."

"I think in the next couple of months we will know if we want to do something." Speaking to Reuters on Sunday, Airbus planemaking chief executive Fabrice Bregier did not rule out expanding the A350 family, but said this was not an immediate priority. In a sign that any new plane would need to be carefully marketed so as to avoid upstaging the existing A350-1000, Leahy denied that the potential

new plane would be called the A350-1100.

"There is nothing called the A350-1100 and I wouldn't call anything the 1100," he said.

Boeing launched its 777X with record orders at the last Dubai Airshow in 2013. The move was widely seen as clipping the wings of the A350, which was designed partly to erode a monopoly enjoyed by the 777-300ER at the top end of the lucrative wide-body market.

Industry sources have said Airbus is studying a counter-move to expand its new A350 family with over 400 seats and power it with the next genera-

tion of Rolls-Royce engines. Leahy said any new plane would be more than a simple effort to plug the gap with the 777X. "It would be sitting right on top of them with similar range and payload and substantially lower seat-mile costs. But before putting our resources into that, we have got to determine if that is a big enough market." "If the market (for) 40-50 more seats is large enough, we don't necessarily want to give that whole thing to Boeing." He said any new plane would have "double-digit better" operating costs per seat than Boeing's in percentage terms. — Reuters

## JET AIRWAYS IN MAJOR DUBAI AIRSHOW BUY

**DUBAI:** India's Jet Airways injected life yesterday into the Dubai Airshow, confirming an order for 75 Boeing 737 planes worth \$8.25 billion at list price. The order, already listed on Boeing's books under an undisclosed client, was the sole large deal for plane purchases to be announced since the show opened Sunday.

Little was expected in terms of sales of new planes at the biennial show, as Gulf carriers — the usual big spenders, already have long lists of orders. Organisers say the last edition of Dubai Airshow generated business of up to \$200 billion (185 billion euros), with orders for planes in the first few hours alone topping \$162.6 billion, beating the show's previous record of \$155 billion set in 2007.

Jet Airways' order, "previously attributed to an unidentified customer, includes conversions of 25 Next-Generation 737s to 737 MAX 8s, as well as options and purchase rights for an additional 50 aircraft", Boeing said in a statement released at a joint press conference.

"The announcement marks the largest order in Jet Airways' history and supports the airline's replacement strategy," the statement said. The Boeing 737 MAX 8 plane costs \$110 million at list price, bringing the total value of the deal to an estimated \$8.25 billion.

The carrier, partly owned by Etihad Airways, has a fleet of 115 aircraft. "This order is an endorsement of our confidence in the long-term prospects of the Indian aviation sector, which reflects the positive forecast for the country's economy, and offers tremendous potential for growth and development," said Natesh Goyal, chairman of Jet Airways.

The single-aisle being developed by the US manufacturer is touted as being more cost effective than its competitors. Meanwhile, Dubai's Emirates airline, which implied it would not be placing major orders for planes, yesterday announced maintenance contracts with GE Aviation

of the United States. The first is a \$16-billion contract with GE Aviation for its fleet of 150 Boeing 777s. The contract covers "the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of the GE9X engines that will power the airline's fleet... over a period of 12 years", it said in a statement, adding that it was Emirates' largest contract of its kind.

Emirates in 2013 signed a \$76-billion contract for the 150 Boeing 777X twin-engine aircraft, powered by GE's new GE9X engine, in what was the single largest order by value in the history of US commercial aviation. The second contract is also a 12-year deal with GE Aviation worth \$36-million for maintenance and inventory support for various avionics, electrical power and mechanical systems on all its Boeing 777s in service and the 44 more on order. Emirates chief Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al-Maktoum told AFP Sunday that Dubai's national carrier made many orders at the last edition of the show in 2013, implying no major deals should be expected.

### Military spending

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), however, opened its coffers for military spending, signing a \$1.27-billion deal with the Swedish defence giant Saab, including the purchase of two surveillance planes and upgrading two others. The two new aircraft are Global 6000 surveillance planes, while the old planes to be upgraded are part of the UAE's fleet of Saab 340s, Major General Abdullah al-Hashimi told reporters.

The date of delivery has not been finalised, but could be within two years, he said. The purchase "supports surveillance capabilities" of the Gulf nation's air force, he said. The UAE has been part of the US-led coalition bombing militants of the Islamic State jihadist group in Iraq and Syria. It has also played a key role in the Saudi-led coalition that launched a military campaign in March against Iran-backed rebels in Yemen. — AFP



**DUBAI:** Men look at an US-made Archangel intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance plane displayed at the Dubai Airshow yesterday in the Gulf Emirate. — AFP

## EMIRATES SIGNS \$16BN ENGINE DEAL WITH GE FOR 777X FLEET

### DUBAI AIRPORTS GET MORE JET FUEL WITH NEW ENOC PIPELINE

**DUBAI:** Dubai's Emirates airlines yesterday said it signed a \$16 billion service contract with GE's aviation unit for engines powering the airline's 777x fleet.

The contract will include maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of the GE9X engines that will power the airline's fleet of 150 Boeing 777X aircraft over a period of 12 years, it said in a statement.

Emirates last year placed a record \$76 billion order for 150 Boeing 777X twin-engine aircraft, powered by GE's new GE9X engine - the only engine available for the 777x wide-body aircraft - valued at \$16 billion at list price for 300 units. Emirates said it also signed a second services contract with GE Aviation for its existing 777 fleet for further 12 years, valued at \$36 million.

Emirates National Oil Co Ltd (ENOC) yesterday announced the completion of a new jet fuel pipeline from its storage terminals to Dubai International Airport (DXB) to cope with an expected increase in demand. The \$250 million project will be able to pump 850 cubic metres of jet fuel per hour to the airport, which is 55 per cent of its total demand, the Dubai government-owned company said in a statement at the Dubai Airshow.

ENOC also plans to extend the pipeline to Dubai's second hub, Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC), CEO Saif Al Falasi said.

Dubai International Airport carried more than 70 million international passengers last year, more than any other airport, and has continued to grow this year. With the primary airport nearing capacity, Dubai is encouraging airlines to expand into Al Maktoum International, a sprawling facility outside the city that currently serves just five airlines, despite a projected capacity above 200 million passengers a year.

Zaid Al Qufaidi, Managing Director of ENOC Marketing, said the new pipeline project was expected to meet growing demand from both airports until the mid-2030s. "We are on the cusp of a steep growth trajectory as airlines around the world take advantage of the depressed fuel market," he said, referring to a slump in oil prices since mid-2014.



**DUBAI:** Visitors look at an Emirates airline's Airbus A380 displayed at the Dubai Airshow yesterday. — AFP

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has bought two Bombardier Global 6000 jets with surveillance equipment from Sweden's SAAB in a deal worth \$1.27 billion, a defence ministry official said yesterday.

Major General Abdullah al-Hashimi, the ministry's executive director of strategic analysis, said UAE was also in talks about upgrading the radar systems of two older SAAB turboprop planes and would decide whether to proceed within two years. "The two radars will be close and similar to each other," Hashimi said at the Dubai Airshow, referring to the new system and the planned systems upgrade of its two Saab 340s, a twin-engine turboprop aircraft.

Saab will deliver the new airborne surveillance system based on "Saab Erieye", which is a high-performance, long-range airborne early warning and control radar system.

It will use Canadian planemaker Bombardier's Global 6000, a long-range and large cabin business jet. Hakan Buskhe, president and chief executive of SAAB, said the company was "heavily invested" in the Middle East.

"Surveillance overall is extremely important here, the market potential is huge," he said at the Airshow. Buskhe declined to comment on whether SAAB had seen any impact on demand from increased conflict in the Gulf or falling oil prices.

"We try to be extremely affordable, but can't speculate on impact from oil prices," he said.

Conflicts in Iraq, Syria and Yemen have increased demand for surveillance and for border security. Weapon makers are looking for opportunities to meet that demand by equipping manned and unmanned sensors for security and surveillance. — Reuters



**AHMEDABAD:** An Indian Jet Airways flight takes off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad. India's Jet Airways confirmed yesterday for 75 Boeing 737 planes previously listed on the US manufacturer's book under undisclosed client. — AFP

## EGYPT'S CDS, BOND MARKETS PRICE IN RISK FROM TOURISM HIT

**LONDON:** Egyptian debt-insurance costs surged to 18-month highs yesterday and dollar bond prices fell sharply as investors priced in the damage done to the country's vital tourism industry by a Russian plane crash in Sinai that killed 224 people. Investigators are "90 percent sure" a noise heard in the final second of a cockpit recording was an explosion caused by a bomb, a member of the investigation team told Reuters on Sunday.

The British, German and Russian governments are evacuating their nationals from the country, a huge blow to tourism around the Red Sea resort of Sharm Al-Sheikh, one of the Egyptian economy's few bright spots.

Five-year Egyptian credit default swaps traded at 383 basis points, up 12 bps from the previous close - the highest since April 2014. Tourism directly comprises 6 percent and indirectly 12 to 13 percent of Egypt's economy. It had just started to recover after political turmoil sparked by the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings.

"The resulting loss in foreign currency revenues will place the country's external position under added pressure and means that a further devaluation of the pound is looking increasingly likely," Jason Tuvey, Middle East economist at Capital Economics told

clients. Tourist arrivals in Tunisia slumped 40 percent after the beachfront massacre of tourists earlier this year, Tuvey noted. A similar decline in Egypt could see export revenues - the category under which tourism receipts are counted - falling \$3.5 billion, or 1.3 percent of GDP, in the coming year, he said. Egypt allowed the pound to depreciate on Oct. 23 to 7.83 per dollar from 7.73, a move that was needed to preserve dwindling reserves. But the currency is changing hands in the parallel market around 8.5 per dollar.

Hard currency reserves have dwindled to just over \$16 billion, enough to cover just three months of imports. The dollar rose 1.6 percent against the pound in the six-month NDF market, putting the exchange rate at 9.55. One-year NDFs quoted the pound at 10.5 per dollar, a move of 5 percent.

Egyptian dollar bonds also fell, with the 2020 and 2025 issues down around one cent on the day. Five- and 10-year treasuries were little changed at a local auction, however. The country is unlikely to default, since it can probably still count on Gulf allies such as Abu Dhabi and Kuwait for support, even if these countries are suffering the effects of lower oil prices. Cairo stocks lost 2.8 percent, adding to Sunday's 2.6 percent fall. — Reuters

## QATAR MUST URGENTLY CONSIDER SUBSIDY REFORMS: MINISTER

**DOHA:** Qatar must urgently consider reforms to its subsidy and tax systems, a senior official said yesterday in a fresh sign that the rich Gulf energy exporting states may make radical changes to cope with low oil and gas prices. Saleh Mohammed Al-Nabit, Qatar's Minister of Development Planning and Statistics, said in a speech that pressure on state finances meant the government had to be more disciplined in spending on all programs and projects.

"It has also become an urgent need to consider issues such as the rationalisation of support and providing it to target groups, development of the tax system, and supporting the revenue side of the budget," Nabit said.

Fuel and food subsidies are part of a lavish social welfare system. Nabit's remarks sug-

gested subsidies might in future be provided to a smaller group of people, perhaps only Qatari citizens or lower-income people rather than the entire population, which includes many foreign workers.

Nabit did not elaborate on possible tax reforms. Among other measures, Qatar has been discussing with neighboring countries the introduction of a regional value-added tax. Qatar, the world's biggest liquefied natural gas exporter, is one of the Gulf's richest countries and is in no financial danger. But the value of its energy exports has almost halved this year. In a report in June, the ministry predicted the government would next year run its first budget deficit in 15 years, of about 4.9 percent of gross domestic product. But

Qatar's emir said last week that the state budget for 2016 would avoid a big deficit, which implied that spending may become more conservative than originally planned. Nabit said yesterday that despite lower energy prices, the government would press ahead with tens of billions of dollars worth of infrastructure and social welfare projects.

But he acknowledged that some projects might be delayed because of logistical difficulties, supply bottlenecks and high costs. International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde visited Doha on Sunday as part of a tour of the Gulf Arab oil states, during which she is urging them to make tax and spending reforms. On Sunday, she said a regional value-added tax should not be delayed further. — Reuters



# US RATE HIKE TALK DOMINATES MARKETS

**LONDON:** Rising expectations that the United States will raise interest rates in December for the first time in nine years dominated world financial markets yesterday, boosting the dollar while capping gains for stocks.

A forecast-busting surge in US jobs last month, revealed in official data on Friday, sent the dollar soaring against the euro and emerging market currencies as traders

banked on a US rate rise next month.

European stock markets were mostly lower in morning deals as brokers pondered the impact of higher US rates. Though London's FTSE crept up 0.1 percent, Frankfurt's DAX 30 eased 0.3 percent and Paris' CAC 40 dropped 0.5 percent.

Stock markets across in Asia had a fairly solid showing despite further weak trade data out of China.

"European equities are trading little changed to slightly lower... in the aftermath of much better than expected US non-farm payroll (unemployment) data last Friday, which pretty much made it a given that a US rate hike will take place after all in 2015," said Markus Huber, senior analyst at broker Peregrine & Black. Financial markets have for months speculated about when the US Federal Reserve will start to raise interest

rates from record-low levels.

The likelihood of an increase in December has lifted the dollar in anticipation of higher returns for those investing in the US currency.

In Asian trading hours Monday, the European single currency slumped to \$1.0707 — the lowest level since the end of April. It later rebounded in European deals.

The US Labor Department on Friday said that the world's biggest economy created 271,000 net new jobs in October, almost twice as many as September, while the unemployment rate fell to a seven-and-a-half year low of 5.0 percent.

ing US rate hike, with 70 percent of analysts now expecting the unwanted Christmas present of a December lift-off."

Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen earlier this year said she expected a rise before 2016, albeit incremental, as the US economy gets back on track.


The situation is less bright in China, the world's second biggest economy after the United States.

Official data Sunday showed that China recorded its highest trade surplus on record last month, as plunging imports highlighted the country's continued struggle to boost domestic demand and prop up sagging growth.

As the planet's biggest trader in goods and a key driver of already subdued world growth, the figures will also add to signs the global economy is facing its toughest year since the height of the financial crisis. The OECD yesterday cut its forecast for global growth to 2.9 percent this year and 3.3 percent in 2016, saying subdued inflation should support a gradual pick up in the world economy. However, the OECD's chief economist called "deeply concerning" a stagnation in global trade that has in the past "been associated with global recession". — AFP

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report										
Monday 09 November 2015										
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low					
Price Index	▲ 10.84	5,187.88	5,173.84	5,194.65	5,167.75					
Weighted Index	▲ 1.05	395.73	391.68	395.73	391.51					
KSX 15	▲ 15.11	950.37	935.26	951.54	934.19					
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
MARIN	114	114	600	66	1	114	▲ 4.1			
IKARUS	02	99	7,347	796	4	102	▲ 2.1			
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0.1			
NAFESCO	810	810	850	525	2	410	▲ 10.6			
FNFRVGH	47.6	47.6	1,500	71	1	47.6	— 0.1			
GPI	54	52	3,893,098	204,411	53	53	▼ -1.8			
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	— 0.1			
Oil & Gas			3,871,005	205,922	91	910.26	▲ 0.4			
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	132	— 0.1			
BPCC	580	570	107,145	61,265	10	570	▼ -10.3			
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	410	— 0.1			
ALQURAIN	92	188	244,216	46,370	20	192	▲ 2.1			
Basic Materials			381,981	107,425	30	1053.17	▼ -2.9			
KCEM	325	385	99,137	39,003	9	395	▲ 15.8			
REPR	325	320	20,122	6,536	3	320	▼ -8.1			
CABLE	405	405	5,548	2,364	4	405	— 0.1			
SHF	144	144	110,220	16,032	10	148	▲ 2.1			
PCEM	1,140	1,120	74,250	84,060	11	1,120	— 0.1			
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	— 0.1			
MRC	54	60	8,433	518	3	64	▼ -1.8			
ADICO	280	280	54,350	15,385	6	280	— 0.1			
GBRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	485	— 0.1			
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	144	— 0.1			
KPAE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	— 0.1			
KBMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	— 0.1			
NICEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	308	— 0.1			
EQUIPMENT	59	68	808,000	56,662	29	68	▼ -1.8			
NCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	— 0.1			
GYPMR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.1			
SALBOOH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	— 0.1			
AGLY	420	600	3,602,804	1,857,620	26	410	— 0.1			
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	216	— 0.1			
CLEANING	45.0	45.5	402,000	18,423	17	45.5	▼ -0.1			
CITYGROUP	390	390	142	55	2	390	▼ -20.3			
KGL	51	48.5	61,219	2,986	10	48.5	— 0.1			
KCPK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	306	— 0.1			
HUMANSOFT	840	840	1,800	840	1	840	▼ -100.0			
NAFIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	162	— 0.1			
SAFYAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	— 0.1			
GFC	89	89	1,300	134	2	89	▼ -5.1			
MAYADEEN	26.0	25.5	2,907,157	74,141	52	25.5	— 0.1			
CGC	790	790	5,900	3,951	1	790	— 0.1			
MTCC	74	72	1,031,000	111,554	35	73	— 0.1			
LPAC	700	700	11,300	7,701	3	700	— 0.1			
ALAFOD	226	224	59,201	13,425	7	226	▲ 2.1			
MUBARRAD	83	82	910,836	74,708	36	82	▼ -2.8			
LOGISTICS	81	78	748,581	58,173	34	79	▼ -1.1			
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	— 0.1			
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	— 0.1			
QCEM	81	81	234	19	1	81	— 0.1			
FCEM	76	75	18,330	1,401	3	76	▲ 1.1			
RWVC	02	102	25,100	2,561	4	102	— 0.1			
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	— 0.1			
Industrials			11,461,094	2,428,107	409	1058.89	▼ -13.19			
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	120	— 0.1			
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	— 0.1			
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.1			
CATL	34	134	1,390	100	1	134	▼ -4.8			
DANNH	82	88	1,345,784	121,525	48	92	▲ 4.1			
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	178	— 0.1			
FOOD	2,300	2,300	20,300	46,000	1	2,300	— 0.1			
Consumer Goods			1,375,174	167,721	50	1135.76	▲ 2.7			
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	— 0.1			
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	120	— 0.1			
WACD	26	124	225,000	28,000	7	124	▼ -4			
Health Care			225,000	28,000	7	910.04	▼ -2.94			
KCIN	850	850	1,431	1,374	1	850	▼ -1.1			
KHCF	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	— 0.1			
SULTAN	73	73	15,300	1,056	2	73	— 0.1			
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.5	— 0.1			
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	— 0.1			
IFARH	16	110	32,170	3,654	9	116	▲ 4			
OULAFUEL	16	112	14,336	1,641	11	114	▼ -2			
MUNTAZAHAT	02	99	523,183	52,308	25	102	— 0.1			
JAZEERA	475	465	80,383	28,563	14	470	▼ -5			
SODR	10	108	108,806	11,861	10	110	▲ 2			
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	— 0.1			
ALNAWADI	75	75	2,483	186	1	75	▼ -5			
ALRA	64	160	86,271	13,948	10	162	▼ -2			
ZWMI	08	102	5,494,771	679,017	248	106	▲ 7			
UFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	— 0.1			
KOUTFOOD	880	950	100,900	56,290	4	880	▲ 10			
Mezan	1100	1,100	150,000	165,000	4	1100	— 0.1			
Consumer Services			6,891,633	914,943	238	916.60	▲ 0.61			
ZAIN	390	395	1,896,138	750,467	86	380	▲ 10			
QOEDDO	1060	1,040	42,128	44,052	9	1060	— 0.1			
HTSTELEG	21.0	30.0	3,080,885	93,225	46	30.5	▼ -1			
VIVA	800	870	1,011,491	900,869	03	900	▲ -3			
Telecommunications			6,015,640	1,749,210	244	578.59	▲ 11.80			
NEK	850	840	4,171,176	3,538,750	87	860	▲ 20			
GBK	375	275	936,600	297,539	31	375	— 0.1			
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420	— 0.1			
ABK	390	375	248,750	96,241	16	385	▲ 15			
ALMUTAHED	350	530	95,783	30,079	8	480	▲ 20			
KIB	232	232	340,142	78,015	16	232	▲ 2			
BURG	405	400	2,077,835	831,139	22	400	▲ 5			
KFIN	590	570	5,454,301	3,161,852	28	580	▲ 10			
BOURJAN	440	435	1,375,819	603,417	37	435	— 0.1			
AUB	214	212	765,200	162,344	16	214	▲ 2			
ITHIR	47.0	46.5	786,048	36,552	19	47.0	— 0.1			
WARBABANH	308	208	209,685	43,814	77	308	— 0.1			
Banks			16,421,038	8,840,609	477	947.29	▲ 11.47			
KIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	— 0.1			
GINS	850	850	169,639	110,265	4	850	▲ 99.8			
AINS	400	400	813	329	1	400	▼ -10.3			
WINS	12	110	20,322	2,236	6	110	▼ -2.1			
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	366	— 0.1			
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	65	— 0.1			
WETHAQ	40.0	39.0	25,300	980	3	40.0	— 0.1			
BKHW	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	165	— 0.1			
Insurance			216,484	113,823	14	1071.86	▲ 10.86			

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**National Bank of Kuwait**  
Financial Markets  
Daily Report  
At 02:00 PM Previous Day

Global Stock Indices						
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %	
Dow Jones	17,863.43	17,910.33	16.90	▲	0.26	0.49
NASDAQ	5,177.70	5,147.10	19.40	▲	0.38	8.68
S&P 500	2,099.93	2,099.20	0.73	▼	0.03	1.96
Financial Times	6,353.81	6,361.19	7.36	▲	0.12	-3.12
DAX	10,988.03	10,966.43	21.60	▼	0.20	





LONDON: British Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne (R) and British Justice Secretary Michael Gove (C) are given a tour by Prison Governor Giles Mason around the exercise yard outside 'A' Wing of HMP Brixton in south London yesterday. — AFP

## UNBOWED BY FLAK, OSBORNE ANNOUNCES NEW GOVT CUTS

LONDON: British finance minister George Osborne announced yesterday a wide-ranging set of government spending cuts as part of his ambitious plan to turn Britain's deficit into a surplus by 2020.

The transport, environment, local government and finance departments will have their day-to-day budgets, excluding capital expenditure, cut by an average of 8 percent each year for the next four years, Osborne said. Osborne, considered the frontrunner to succeed Prime Minister David Cameron, is seeking to shore up his credentials as someone who can deliver his Conservative Party's vision of a smaller state after an embarrassing parliamentary defeat on welfare cuts last month.

Britain's economy has returned to growth under Osborne, but his critics accuse him of crimping its recovery with spending cuts. They also point out he failed to meet his original target to eliminate the deficit by 2015.

In his speech yesterday, Osborne hit back at those critics, adopting an unapologetic stance over spending cuts. "If our country doesn't bring the deficit down, the deficit could bring our country down," he said. "That's why, for the economic security of every family in Britain, the worst thing we could do now as a country is lose our nerve." Britain's deficit was 4.9 percent of GDP in the 2014/15 financial year—still one of the highest among advanced economies.

"(Osborne's) record to date is a disappointing one of cutting investment to the lowest of any developed economy, and the slowest economic recovery on record," said

the opposition Labour Party's finance spokesman, John McDonnell.

The Treasury did not place a value on the latest cuts, but the four departments involved account for around 22.5 billion pounds of the government's 337 billion day-to-day spending. They amount to a 30 percent spending reduction by 2020 and come after five years of austerity that has already seen some departmental budgets cut by more than half.

The cuts will be confirmed in a Nov. 25 spending review, which the government has said will set out a total of 20 billion pounds of reductions in departmental spending by 2020. Health, education and defence are largely protected.

In July, Osborne said he was targeting a 10 billion-pound surplus in 2020 by cutting 20 billion pounds from departmental budgets, saving 12 billion pounds on welfare spending and recouping 5 billion by reducing tax avoidance.

Osborne said yesterday that he was still determined to deliver a surplus. But he refused to confirm whether the next set of independent budget forecasts, also due on Nov. 25, would still predict the same 10 billion-pound figure. "It wouldn't be right for me to try and anticipate those numbers," he said. "A lot can happen over the coming years, and these forecasts move around, so that's why I think you want a reasonably comfortable margin in delivering the surplus." He said his Nov. 25 budget update would include savings larger than were previously estimated, by addressing "avoidance, evasion and imbalances in our tax system." — Reuters

## ACTIVIST STAMPEDE PUSHES BOARD DIRECTORS INTO SHAREHOLDERS' ARMS

NEW YORK: A few days after joining the board of Atlantic Power, private equity veteran Gilbert Palter said he got a flurry of calls from the energy company's top shareholders, who wanted more than just to wish him well. "They wanted to hear my perspective on the company. And they wanted to bend my ear with their own thoughts," said Palter, co-founder of EdgeStone Capital Partners in Toronto. He said he's mindful of not speaking for the company but rather as a member of the board.

The rising power of activist shareholders has added a new responsibility to the role of board director at a publicly traded company: investor relations. From JPMorgan Chase & Co to Microsoft, and Johnson & Johnson to Apache Corp., board directors across North America have increasingly begun serving as a bridge between institutional investors and corporate management teams.

In the role, which barely existed at most companies five years ago, board members must be careful to avoid sharing inside information or to interfere with a CEO's own communication with investors. Director engagement with investors is an evolving trend, though it's developed to the point where board members are now embarking on "corporate governance road shows" in the autumn, to gauge investors' views and to ensure their support at the annual meeting in the spring.

"Most directors do not go out willy-nilly and speak to shareholders," said Wendy Lane, who serves on the board of insurance company Willis Group and investment research firm MSCI Inc. "However, I have become friendly with institutional investors, and when I see them, I pick their brains about what they're thinking about in terms of the companies I serve." Director engagement is yet another sign of how activist hedge funds, equipped with more than \$150 billion of spending power, have changed the dynamic inside executive suites - a dynamic that is now intensely focused on preparing against attacks by dissident shareholders.

The trend also underscores the increasing value and complexity behind the role of board director, which has evolved from attending a few meetings per year to being a hands-on ambassador, schooled in corporate governance issues, pay structures and shareholder views.

Of the S&P 100, 65 companies disclosed specific shareholder outreach initiatives in their most recent proxy statements, compared to 8 in 2010, according to executive compensation data firm Equilar.

### EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

The disconnect between management teams and investors was laid bare when companies starting receiving poor scores regarding executive compensation from mutual and index funds after the 2008 financial crisis. That was followed by a wave of activist campaigns and proxy fights that overthrew boards and re-jiggered balance sheets, thanks in large part to support from big institutional

investors. JPMorgan's lead independent director, former ExxonMobil CEO Lee Raymond, oversees the board's shareholder engagement initiative, which in 2014 included around 90 calls and meetings on governance and compensation topics with shareholders representing around 40 percent of the company's shares, its proxy statement says.

Healthcare company Johnson & Johnson barely passed its 2012 "say on pay" vote on executive compensation. Shortly after, the company's compensation committee chair was among those who went directly to shareholders for feedback, proxy statements show. Two years later, after changes were made, the plan earned 96 percent shareholder support.

After failing its say on pay vote in 2013, feedback from investors helped oil and gas company Apache Corp. pass the test the next year, also with 96 percent support, Apache lead director Charles Pitman said in this year's proxy statement.

For Microsoft, one way the company connects its board with investors is through video. Dating back to 2009, the company has posted an annual video interview with a member of its board. In a May blog entry on the company's website, Microsoft's deputy general counsel, John Seethoff, spelled out the board's investor outreach policy and included a seasonal flow chart which showed a specific plan to have directors speak with shareholders in the summer and fall.

"With the increase in shareholder activism, one effect of this kind of director engagement is the ability to get a feel for nascent shareholder unhappiness," said Richard Grossman, a partner at Skadden, Arps. "Are they unhappy with the direction of the company...or with capital allocation? It's a way for board members to get direct and unfiltered views from shareholders." The threat of shareholder activism, combined with a board's increasing accountability to investors, new pay regulations and a host of other factors has added to the complexity of the director role, said Equilar director Dan Marce.

That complexity has made the role more specialized, more demanding, and, as a result, higher paying, he said. The median annual retainer for lead directors at S&P 500 companies rose 17.8 percent to \$267,000 in 2014. For all directors in the index, median pay rose 16.8 percent in the 2010-14 period to \$233,600, Equilar data show. The dialogue between a board member and investor can be tricky, as U.S. securities law restricts what a director can share. As a result, investor relations officials are careful to walk directors through formal training on what can be said.

"A lot of management teams are reluctant to let management teams interface with shareholders," said Gordon Pridham, who currently serves on six boards, including waste handling company Newalta Corp. "We would never send a director out on their own, without somebody from management participating in the exercise," he said, speaking on a panel last month at the Activist Investing in Canada conference in Toronto. — Reuters

# ECB RATE SETTERS CONVERGE ON DEC DEPOSIT RATE CUT

## CONSENSUS FORMING AROUND RATE CUT

BRUSSELS/FRANKFURT: A consensus is forming at the European Central Bank to take the interest rate it charges banks to park money deeper into negative territory in December, four governing council members said, a move that could weaken the euro and push up inflation. Some argue that a deposit rate cut should even be larger than the 0.1 percent reduction currently expected in financial markets, the policymakers said.

They are keen to exhaust the conventional and more direct monetary policy tool as they also consider amending the 60-billion-euro asset purchase program, a far more contentious issue that they have yet to agree on. The ECB last month raised the prospect of more monetary easing at its Dec. 3 meeting to combat ultra-low inflation, which is at risk of undershooting the target of nearly 2 percent as far ahead as 2017 due to low commodity prices and weak growth.

A rate cut aims to discourage banks from parking money at the central bank and start lending to generate growth. It can also weaken the currency as cash leaves the euro area in search of higher returns, boosting inflation as imports become more expensive.

The ECB cut its deposit rate to -0.2 percent in September 2014 and said it could not go any lower. However, other central banks have cut further, including the Swiss and Danish central banks to -0.75 percent, showing that deeper cuts are possible.

Three of the ECB policymakers said debate is now about the size of the rate cut with some arguing that a 0.1 percent reduction, already priced in by markets, would have little impact.

Two policymakers said the bank should go for a bolder move, in line with its recent tradition of delivering policy moves in excess of expectations. "Let's go for a big cut," one Governing Council member, who asked not to be named, said. "There is no bottom to the deposit rate in the near term, it could be lowered quite sharply

still," he said. "There must be a bottom but it's further out."

Two of the Governing Council members said there was no doubt that the ECB would act in December because inflation is still close to zero while a third one said the deposit rate cut was the least contentious proposal on the table.

Onion forwards, a key indicator of market expectations, suggest a 60 percent chance of a 10 basis points cut in December while analysts see both a 10 basis point cut and an expansion of the asset buys.

The ECB is working with around 20 different action proposals, mostly relating to asset purchases, and its committees are expected to narrow down the options in the weeks leading to the December rate meeting after circulating them among the euro area's 19 central banks, a source familiar with the situation said. A simple extension of the asset buying program would have a limited impact and it is complicated to add new assets to the plan as each asset class has particular set of issues, one policymaker said. Including corporate bonds could disrupt the market, for equities the ECB's share would be too small for it to have a meaningful portfolio, while including a wider range of public agencies' debt raises tricky policy questions, he added.

Overnight deposits with the ECB have risen to 187 billion euros from just 28 billion a year ago, a sign that the ECB is struggling to unblock the lending channel.

### BIG CUT?

Another Governing Council member also argued for a bigger deposit rate cut, saying it could go from -0.20 percent to -0.50 percent or even -0.70 percent after the Danish and Swiss examples. The rate setter said that "zero lower bound", a term meaning the bottom for interest rates, either "no longer exists, or if it does it is well below zero". The risk in the cut is a squeeze

on margins in the banking sector, already under pressure, and it is not clear that banks would boost lending to avoid the punitive rate for parking money with the central bank.

Another problem is that only relatively small central banks tried deeply negative rates and the potential side effects are not understood well enough to properly model. Further complicating the matter is the ECB's earlier communication that the deposit rate was at lower bound so a cut would break the guidance putting some pressure on the bank's credibility.

### GERMANY

One Governing Council member added that while some policymakers argued at last month's rate meeting that easing would be pro-cyclical given the economic recovery, ECB President Mario Draghi countered the argument saying that getting inflation back to the target was the bank's only goal and a boost to growth would be a residual effect.

Although several Governing Council members have been critical of further policy easing, Germany's Bundesbank, a big initial opponent of quantitative easing, has been relatively quiet since the last ECB meeting. One policymaker said that Germany's silence was due in part to its recognition that its own growth momentum and export markets were slowing.

"As you know we don't target the exchange rate and the Germans will never admit that a cheaper exchange rate would suit them, but that's why they are silent," the policymaker said.

Although the impact of putting the deposit rate deeper into negative territory is not totally clear, the ECB is likely to point to Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland as "the canary in the coalmine", said one policymaker.

"It's a nice image, except that we all know what happens to the canary," a non euro area central banker said in response. — Reuters



PARIS: French Economy and Industry minister Emmanuel Macron gives a speech at the Economy ministry yesterday in Paris, to present his draft law #NOE aiming at promoting the new economic opportunities, especially within the digital economy. — AFP

# ANC MAY PAY AS DROUGHT WITHERS BLACK S AFRICAN FARMERS' DREAMS

AMAJUBA, South Africa: Cattle are the traditional asset by which Nampie Motloung, a subsistence black South African farmer, has long measured his wealth. But a blistering drought has made them a liability. "I have no choice but to sell some of my cows. I must do it before they die," Motloung, 62, told Reuters as his 30-strong herd ambled in the distance across the parched landscape.

"It pains me to do so. My cattle are my family's inheritance," he said. The wealth of small-scale farmers and the dreams of emerging black commercial farmers are evaporating as South Africa's worst drought since the end of apartheid rule in 1994 scorches the land.

The state's response could be politically crucial. The ruling African National Congress (ANC) government relies heavily on rural areas and local elections loom next year.

KwaZulu Natal province, an ANC stronghold where Motloung resides and the Zulu heartland where President Jacob Zuma hails from, is one of the worst affected. It has already been declared a disaster for water shortages, which will allow it to access some of the 364 million rand (\$26 million) the National Treasury has allocated this financial year for immediate disaster relief.

Driving through the rolling hills of the province's Amajuba district reveals a stark landscape, the green foliage of hardy thorn trees unfolding over brown and withered fields.

Along one dusty road, a Reuters crew saw a dying cow stuck in the hardening mud, its head beneath the wire of a fence where it had tried to get a last drink from a vanishing puddle.

### SELL OR STARVE

After drought last year cut South Africa's staple maize crop by a third, a powerful El Nino weather pattern - which typically heralds poor rains for the region - is forecast to persist for most of the summer and perhaps extend into the autumn.

South African livestock farmers were urged by the government last week to cut herd sizes as sizzling temperatures suck moisture from pastures, leaving them without the grass or nutrients to accommodate numbers that in some cases have been built up for decades as a store of family wealth.

Commercial agriculture is also affected, including new black farmers who have benefited from a government drive to redress the racial imbalances of the past by buying white-owned farms for redistribution to Africans.

Critics say many of the transferred farms have failed as new-comers lack capital and skills. But there have been success stories, notably in KwaZulu Natal. Analysts say if some of them start failing because of the drought it could erode the ANC's rural base.

"Some of the medium-sized farmers in KwaZulu Natal have been a success story and so it would be quite a blow to the party if they failed now even if it doesn't seem fair because it is weather-related," said political analyst Nic Borain. Talent Cele, an affable 27-year-old Zulu with a self-proclaimed passion

for working the land, is one of the new black farmers who is desperate for rain. The almost 600-hectare farm he manages - formerly white-owned, being worked by a black cooperative - is bleeding its cattle in a vicious cycle. "I have to sell cattle to buy feed because we have been advised to reduce the numbers. But feed is expensive and I also want to plant maize to feed the cows but I cannot. It is too dry," he told Reuters.

Yellow maize, used mostly for animal feed, has been hitting year highs above 3,000 rand a tonne, according to Thomson Reuters' data, because of the weather.

Cele has been selling 25 cattle a month, bringing his herd size to 225 from around 350. The average price for a good animal has also fallen to 6,000 rand from 10,000. — Reuters

## GOLD RISES, STILL NEAR 3-MONTH LOW

LONDON: Gold rose yesterday, snapping an eight-day losing streak as the dollar edged down, but still hovered near its lowest in three months as surging US jobs data boosted expectations of a US rate rise in December.

Spot gold was up 0.5 percent at \$1,093.35 an ounce by 1242 GMT, while US gold futures for December delivery rose \$5.00 to \$1,192.60 an ounce. US data on Friday showed employers outside the farming sector added 271,000 jobs in October, the most in 10 months, and the jobless rate fell to a 7-1/2-year low of 5 percent. Economists had forecast nonfarm payrolls increasing 180,000 and the unemployment rate remaining at 5.1 percent.

As a result, investors increased bets that the first US rate increase in nearly a decade will come next month, sending non-interest-paying gold to \$1,084.90 an ounce on Friday, the lowest since August. "This back and forth on expectation of what the Fed will do is going to keep the market busy in the short term at least," Julius Baer analyst Carsten Menke said. "We really have to concentrate on whether growth is sound in the US (but) we are not going to have an inflation problem, so from that perspective there is no investment case to be done for gold," he added.

Following the jobs report, futures markets

were pricing in a 70 percent probability of a December rate hike, up from 58 percent before the data. "Further downwards pressure is expected on the precious complex in the lead up to the December FOMC meeting," MKS Group trader Sam Laughlin said, referring to the Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee.

With gold's technical picture deteriorating, analysts expect more declines. The next major support level for gold is at a near six-year low, according to ScotiaMocatta analysts.

Assets in SPDR Gold Trust, the top gold-backed exchange-traded fund, fell 0.40 percent to 669.09 tonnes on Friday, the lowest in nearly three months, as investors exited bullion. Hedge funds and money managers cut a bullish stance in COMEX gold as they trimmed a silver net long position from a record high in the week to Nov 3, US Commodity Futures Trading Commission data showed on Friday.

China likely added about 14 tonnes of gold to its reserves in October, according to Reuters calculations from central bank data on Saturday. Among other precious metals, palladium fell 4 percent to \$593.50 an ounce, its lowest in seven weeks. Prices posted the biggest weekly fall since September 2011 last week, hurt by sharp outflows from exchange-traded funds. — Reuters





## FLYDUBAI'S 50TH BOEING 737-800 ON DISPLAY AT DUBAI AIRSHOW

**DUBAI:** Dubai-based flydubai marks its fourth participation in the Dubai Airshow by showcasing its 50th aircraft, the newest and last aircraft to be delivered from the carrier's historic order placed at the Farnborough International Airshow.

In 2008, at the Farnborough International Airshow, flydubai placed an order for 50 Next-Generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft. It was the largest order for this type of aircraft that had been placed by a start-up airline valued at USD 4 billion at list prices. The first flydubai aircraft made its debut at the 2009 Dubai Airshow.

flydubai's Chairman, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, was asked, when the order was placed, whether its business model would follow that of other low-cost airlines and flydubai's Chairman was unequivocal in his response: "We will be flydubai."

The aircraft order was made a year before flydubai planned its first flight or sold a ticket. This confidence continued when flydubai decided to proceed with the launch of the airline at the height of the global economic crisis and it launched in June 2009 with flights to Beirut.

At the 2011 Dubai Airshow, the carrier's fleet had grown to be home to 23 brand new aircraft and created a network of 46 destinations within five hours flying radius from Dubai.

The 2013 Dubai Airshow was a milestone show for Dubai and flydubai. The carrier placed a USD 11.4 billion order for 75 new aircraft as well as purchase rights for an additional 25 737 MAX 8. The new aircraft deliveries will be over a six-year period between 2017 and 2023. The order also included 11 Next-Generation 737-800s and deliveries will start from May 2016.

As it enters its sixth year of operation, flydubai has consistently shown over this time that it has continued to do things differently, challenging the conventions around air travel. flydubai has created a network of 96 destinations in 45 countries, launched Business Class services, signed a number of interline agreements, continued to grow its Cargo division and invest in product enhancements.

Ghaith Al Ghaith, flydubai's CEO: "We knew that carrying Dubai's name set huge expectations. We had to deliv-

er an airline that met the standards of aviation and innovation that the UAE is known for internationally. Like the city it represents, flydubai, strives on imagination and innovation."

"It has been a remarkable journey for what started off as Dubai's first low-cost airline and has continued to challenge the conventions of air travel in the region and to exceed expectations. We remain committed to supporting Dubai's aviation hub and creating free flows of trade and tourism. The fulfilment of the first aircraft order on schedule has been a key factor in supporting flydubai's growth. The new aircraft order will also enable us to continue, with ambition, to open up more destinations and add more frequencies."

In 2015, flydubai took delivery of 8 Next-Generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft, launched 16 new destinations, increased its operation to more than 1,600 flights as well as see the start of its flights out of Al Maktoum International at Dubai World Central (DWC).

### New maintenance facility

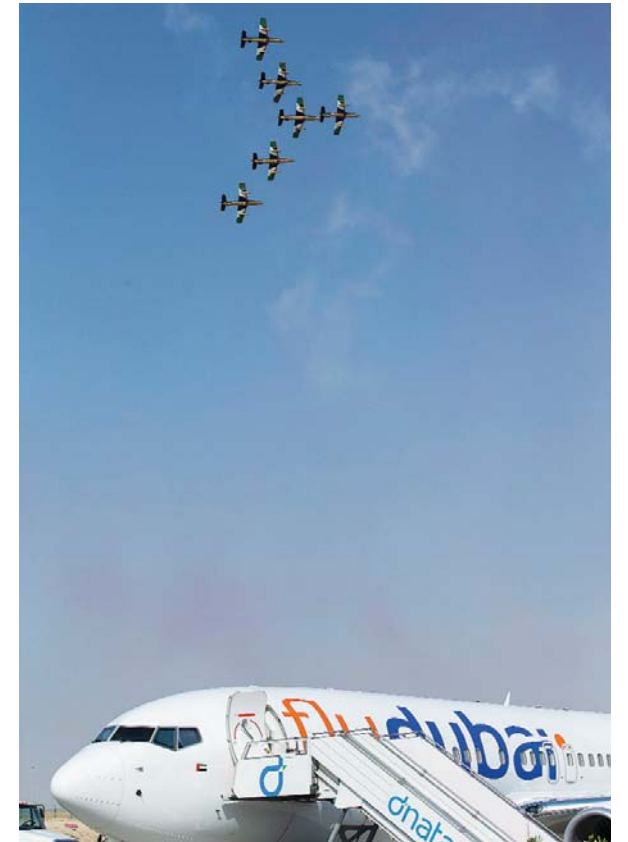
flydubai has announced the launch of its wheel and brake maintenance facility, dedicated to offering a full range of maintenance services for these components installed on Boeing 737 aircraft.

Located within Dubai International Airport over 365.21 square meters, the new flydubai facility is certified as an Approved Maintenance Organization (AMO) from the General Civil Aviation Authority of the UAE.

Capitalising on its efficient workflows and modern equipment, the facility is managed by an experienced team and is capable of processing up to 10 units a day.

flydubai operates a single-model fleet of 50 Boeing 737-800 Next-Generation aircraft. Being one of the

youngest fleets in the skies with an average age of 3.1 years, the airlines is capable of increasing its cost efficiency by bringing down the cost of maintenance and fuel consumption.



## FORD TARGETS PROFITABLE GROWTH IN MEA WITH 30 NEW VEHICLES BY 2020

**DUBAI:** Ford Motor Company yesterday said it plans to accelerate new vehicle introductions in Middle East & Africa, leveraging the company's One Ford global portfolio and targeting opportunities for growth in the car, utility and truck segments.

Speaking on the eve of the Dubai International Motor Show, Ford said it plans to launch at least 30 new vehicles by 2020 in Middle East & Africa as part of a new regional strategy. Ford's product push will start quickly with eight new vehicles throughout Middle East & Africa by the end of

Ford's best-selling vehicle in MEA and produced in Silverton, South Africa.

\* The all-new 2016 Ford Figo compact car, which is currently launching in MEA.

"Middle East & Africa is one of the world's most exciting and growing vehicle markets and we are moving very quickly to expand our range with exciting cars, utilities and trucks," said Jim Farley, Ford executive vice president, Europe, Middle East & Africa. "We are passionate about meeting the diverse wants and needs of the customers in this region - and that's how we

designed to assist the driver in maintaining control of the vehicle and avoiding crashes. These include Roll Stability Control, Lane Departure Warning, Adaptive Cruise Control with Collision Warning and Blind Spot Information System (BLIS) with Cross-Traffic Alert.

The product and technology acceleration comes two years after Ford announced the formation of its Middle East & Africa region at the Dubai Motor Show in November 2013. Since then, Ford has consolidated the sub-regions of Middle East, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Africa, into a single business unit.

As part of its long-term strategy, Ford MEA is strengthening every aspect of its business, including:

- \* Opening 35 new dealerships in the next two years
  - \* Improving customer experiences
  - \* Further tailoring global vehicles to the needs of MEA markets
  - \* Improving its distribution strength and capability
  - \* Identifying efficient sourcing opportunities for global and regional production
  - \* Building and developing its regional organisation
  - \* Building and developing its vehicle finance operation
  - \* Improving cost of ownership and spare parts availability throughout the region
- "It's an incredibly exciting time for Ford in this growing region," said Jim Benintende, president of Ford Middle East and Africa. "We are committed to serving customers in this region with the very best of Ford, and this will drive growth and profitability."

The total Middle East and Africa car market is expected to grow 40 percent by the end of the decade to 5.5 million vehicles. Ford said it expects its sales in Middle East and Africa to outpace industry growth.

"Middle East & Africa spans 67 markets from Saudi Arabia to South Africa, and from Nigeria to Kenya, so customer tastes are as diverse as our markets," Benintende said. "Thanks to our One Ford plan, we can offer vehicles and technology that customers want and value, tailored to the needs of our markets."

are going to profitably grow in 2016 and beyond."

Throughout its broad range of vehicles, Ford has introduced a number of innovative systems and technologies in its vehicles designed to keep drivers and passengers safer on the road. These include Inflatable Rear Seat Belts, Ford SYNC connectivity and infotainment system and MyKey, which helps parents encourage teens to drive more responsibly by managing features like maximum speed and radio volume.

Other newly-launched technologies are



next year, including the following that will be shown at the Dubai show:

- \* The Ford GT super sports car, which is making its regional debut in Dubai this week.
- \* The all-new Shelby GT350 Mustang. The Middle East is one of the biggest Mustang markets outside of North America.
- \* The all-new 2016 Ford Edge SUV that launches next year in MEA.
- \* The new 2016 Ford Explorer SUV, which is launching this month in the Middle East.
- \* The new 2016 Ford Ranger pickup, which is

## OOREDOO GIVES SPECIAL CAMPAIGNS FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, launched a special month-long offer to support small business owners across Kuwait. Business owners who sign up to any of Ooredoo's business plans will receive 6 months of free 100 GB high-speed 4G+ internet, with a free router, in addition to a free advertising campaign on Ooredoo's social media accounts in addition to print media. Customers can sign up to Ooredoo's offers in any of the 35 conveniently-located branches across Kuwait.

Commenting on the new offer, Ooredoo Senior Director of B2B-Sales Division Hamad N Al-Marzouq said: "We're happy to be supporting small and medium businesses, and this stems from our deep-rooted belief in the important role they play in the future of our country's economy. Our Ooredoo Business team has worked diligently on designing these packages that cater especially to the needs of businesses with 10 employees or less." Al-Marzouq reiterated Ooredoo's continuous willingness to provide solutions and services to all companies and corporates, regardless of their size.

The new Ooredoo Business packages cater especially to the needs of small business owners, offering extreme flexibility and numerous options. The packages are divided into Ooredoo Business and Ooredoo Business Pro.

Ooredoo Business packages include discounts on local calls, free local minutes, free local SMS, and local internet. Ooredoo Business Pro packages add international minutes, roaming minutes and roaming internet, catering from frequent travellers.

Users can also benefit from Ooredoo's unique features such as minute rollover

which allow users to take their unused minutes to the following month, priority on the network, and free calls on the network during business hours. Many packages include free smartphones.

Small business services are available in the following branches: Ardihiya, Liwan Mall - Egaila, Cube Mall - Salmiya,



Hamad N Al-Marzouq

Green Tower - Fahaheel, Farwaniya co-op, Dabbous Mall, Arbeed Complex, Beirut Complex, Ibn Khaldoun Street Branch, Bahar Centre, Beirut Street Branch, Jabriya Branch, Jahra Branch, Avenues Branches, Amman Street Branch, Eureka Salmiya Branch, Sanabil Tower, City Centre Jahra, 360 Mall, Sha'ab Branch, Mahboula Branch, Sabah Al-Salem Branch, Jeleeb Branch, and Stock Exchange Branch.

## GERMAN CONSUMERS WANT VW VOUCHERS AS COMPENSATION

**WOLFSBURG, Germany:** Germany's consumer association wants auto giant Volkswagen to give compensation vouchers to German customers affected by its massive pollution cheating scandal, as the company has offered to do in North America. "The group must assume its responsibilities," said Klaus Mueller, president of the Federation of Associations for the Protection of Consumers, in an interview with the Rheinische Post newspaper yesterday.

"A voucher is the minimum that the company can give to compensate affected consumers," he added.

Mueller's call came after a US website reported that VW is planning to offer pre-paid cards worth up to \$1,250 (1,160 euros) to affected American customers as part of a 'goodwill package'.

Part of the sum can be used only at VW dealers for the pur-

chase of a new car or accessories, while the remainder can be spent elsewhere, according to the site "The truth about cars".

VW confirmed that it was offering vouchers to customers in the United States and Canada, without giving details of the sums involved. A spokesman added that the company is developing "an individual package for each market" and that for Germany, consultations are ongoing with the authorities.

VW is engaged in a huge pollution scandal that has so far centred on so-called defeat devices-sophisticated software fitted into diesel engines to skew the results of tests for nitrogen oxide emissions. The carmaker has admitted to fitting 11 million diesel engines worldwide with the rogue software, triggering both regulatory and criminal investigations in several countries, including Germany and the United States. —AFP

## BANK HEAD NOMINATED AS POLISH ECONOMY MINISTER

**WARSAW:** The chief executive of the Spanish-owned bank BZ WBK was nominated yesterday to be economy minister in Poland's new Law and Justice (PiS) party government, a post expected to be given extra powers at the expense of the finance ministry. PiS won a resounding election victory in October, becoming the first party to win an outright majority in Poland since the fall of communism.

Its economic plans, including new bank taxes, a massive increase in social spending and a monetary stimulus plan, have stirred investors' concerns in recent months, driving the Polish zloty to a nine-month low

against the euro and bank stocks to their lowest level in 2-1/2 years.

Yesterday, Polish stocks rose about 0.4 percent following the announcement that the economy ministry would be run by 47-year-old Mateusz Morawiecki, head of BZ WBK, Poland's third-largest bank, owned by Santander.

Pawel Szalamacha, 46, a privatisation lawyer, was nominated to head the finance ministry, which analysts expect to be stripped of some of its economic policy prerogatives, and to focus on tax collection and government finances.

Prime Minister-designate Beata Szydlo named her candidates at a

joint press conference with the party's founder and leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski after a sitting of the PiS political cabinet.

"Morawiecki has extensive knowledge, he is a professional in his area, he will be a strong pillar of the government," said Grzegorz Maliszewski, chief economist at the Warsaw-based Bank Millennium.

BZ WBK's market value has risen by about 80 percent since Morawiecki became chief executive in mid-2007. Witold Waszczykowski, 58, a former ambassador to Iran and NATO, was nominated as foreign minister, and lawmaker Antoni Macierewicz as defence minister. —Reuters



## FACEBOOK RIDES MOBILE WAVE TO BOOST PROFITS, USER BASE

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Facebook said surging mobile advertising lifted its profits and revenues as the world's biggest social network grew to over 1.5 billion people.

Net profit in the third quarter jumped 11 percent from a year ago to \$891 million as revenues leapt 41 percent to \$4.5 billion, despite the negative impact of a strong dollar. The vast majority was from advertising, and mobile accounted for 78 percent of ad revenues in the quarter, compared with 66 percent a year earlier. "This was another good quarter and we continue to grow the size and engagement of our community," said chief executive Mark Zuckerberg on a conference call.

"More than one billion people use Facebook every day," Facebook said the number of monthly active users of the network hit 1.55 billion, up 14 percent from a year earlier. And it counted some

1.39 billion of its members using mobile devices such as smartphones or tablets.

The stronger-than-expected earnings report sparked a gain of 3.7 percent in Facebook shares in after-hours trade to \$107.73. Analysts say Facebook has become an online advertising juggernaut as it leverages its huge base to expand into other applications such as Instagram and WhatsApp, and delve into virtual reality projects through its acquisition of Oculus. Zuckerberg said that "with Oculus we're in a great position to deliver a new generation of shared immersive experiences" and noted that its Rift headset would be on sale early next year.

"Virtual reality has the potential to be the next computing platform that changes all of our lives," he added. "It's important also to recognize that this is going to grow slowly like computers and mobile phones when they first arrived, so we're committed

to Oculus and virtual reality for the long term."

### Growing mobile ads

According to the research firm eMarketer, Facebook accounted for eight percent of worldwide digital ad revenues in 2014 and is expected to reach 9.6 percent by the end of this year.

Google is expected to remain the market leader with a 30.4 percent share this year, down from 32 percent last year, eMarketer estimates. In mobile, Facebook's share of digital ad revenues this year is expected to be around 17.4 percent in a market worth some \$72 billion.

Chief financial officer David Wehner told the conference called that "we have been very pleased by the sustained high growth of mobile advertising revenues," adding that this has been able to grow without hurting "user satisfaction."

He added that the company sees healthy growth opportunities ahead for Facebook and Instagram but that revenues may be hit by currency factors. Facebook recently ramped up its ability to search its trove of online postings, stepping up its battle against Google in the online search domain and against Twitter and others to be the key source of news and conversations about news topics.

Facebook is also testing a shopping tab for its mobile app to get deeper into online commerce. It will begin testing a Shop section where people can "discover, share, and purchase" products. Facebook has also tested "Buy" buttons to streamline purchases at the social network.

The California giant is among those facing possible legal issues in Europe after a court ruling invalidated a legal agreement on cross-border data transfers due to privacy concerns. — AFP

## ARABIAN ITS KEY TO SOLVING IT DEPT'S PERENNIAL PROBLEMS

**KUWAIT:** The way individuals work today is rapidly changing. Where once an individual had a desktop which housed all of the applications and content they needed to do their job, they now use a combination of attributes collectively known as their "workspace." In this workspace they have multiple devices running various operating systems, often running variations of similar applications, accessing content from multiple sources. Technological advances, increases in IT literacy and a rise in non-routine roles in a business have all led to an expanding complexity of these workspaces. For organizations to thrive, they must embrace this change to provide freedom to their employees to work efficiently in this new era.

At the same time, they must be able to understand what users really need to do their jobs, matching the ideal technology / technologies to their work styles to achieve competitive advantage. In the same vein, it is the role of IT to stay compliant with industry standards, prevent intellectual property loss, ensure corporate governance requirements are met and reduce the risk of security breaches, all within a strict budget. IT departments are finding it increasingly difficult to stay on top of this. Because of the rise in non-routine roles, it is unrealistic to deliver a one-size-fits-all solution to all users in a business. It is crucial to understand how users work - what devices they use, what applications they run (locally installed, delivered virtually or via the cloud), what the content is that they create and access and where that content is stored. By doing so IT leaders can effectively plan and prioritize the multitude of tasks they are faced with. They can do this with the aid of a usage analytics solution which automatically combines information about all of these attributes.

Let's picture a familiar scenario for any IT Professional. Your management and monitoring systems indicate that all routers, switches, servers etc. are up and running without any problems - the lights are green. However, the Service Desk Team continues to generate tickets for issues such as slow system performance, non-accessibility to some core applications and other such concerns. By the time the IT Support Engineer reaches the end-user to sort out the issue on hand, the end user has already rebooted the system and the support team can't recreate the issue.

Business IT service portfolios are growing in complexity. Phenomena such as BYOD and the Internet of Things mean that devices and applications are constantly being added to ageing infrastructures. Whilst managing these estates, those responsible for making technology-based decisions within the business are also charged with improving the service they deliver to end-users, despite relying on backend, silo-based monitoring systems that may no longer be fit for purpose.

End-users are experiencing problems with performance as a result, which then lead to a drop in productivity and a lack of confidence in IT support teams.

### Capturing data

Fortunately the rise of end user analytics offers some relief. It's still necessary to monitor different parts of the infrastructure, but end-user analytics offers a fundamental contrast to traditional server monitoring. The distinction is in where data are being captured. By capturing data from individual end-user devices, IT can track any and all activities that occur on a workstation and follow them into the other areas of the infrastructure (and the Internet). This is opposed to tracking activities only from the server outward.

The architectural design for capturing end-user analytics can be surprisingly straightforward. After sending real-time data from end-user devices to a database, you can now use a

web-based tool to view the details that were once missing in analyzing end-user problems. The ability to run investigations across the enterprise, view unusual and/or non-compliant activities, and drill down into specific desktops has surfaced to provide the next level of infrastructure monitoring for IT professionals.

A recent report carried out by Forrester profiled IT decision-makers evaluating the impact that the performance of technology services had on end-users and their wider organizations.

According to the report, almost half of these decision-makers saw the complexity of their IT service portfolio as one of the most significant issues preventing them from delivering better service quality. Also cited as a major issue was the lack of visibility into IT service performance from the perspective of the end-user. It's perhaps unsurprising then that end-users have lost a certain amount of faith in their IT support teams. It is noticed that most users will attempt to resolve an issue on their own before requesting assistance from the helpdesk. Worryingly perhaps, often, workers claim that they didn't believe their IT support desk could solve their performance issues or answer their technical questions and they used search engines to find a solution for themselves.

To combat this lack of faith, and to become more proactive in their approach, it's necessary for IT support teams to employ more sophisticated monitoring and analytics tools that will enable them to detect issues experienced by end-users - before the users themselves do.

Most IT decision makers recognize the importance of products and assets being connected so that IT teams are better able to monitor their identity, location and condition. Indeed, the visibility that end-user analytics provides will allow support staff to understand and proactively address issues at the user's level.

### Improving quality

By investing in end-user analytics, IT organizations can begin improving the quality of the service they deliver. Routinely monitoring the IT infrastructure, automatically generating meaningful reports, and identifying and resolving problems the moment that they occur will offer insight into whether the quality and performance of the service meets the end-users' needs.

Ultimately, this insight will enable IT teams to become more effective in delivering the projects and allocating the budget required to improve those issues in service quality that most greatly affect worker productivity, customer satisfaction, and the bottom line.

One has heard the saying, "You can't fix what you can't measure." Having real-time data to manage a fundamental part of the infrastructure (the desktop) will provide the data needed to succeed.

Arabian Information Technology Solutions Co, Kuwait has partnered with Nextthink, pioneers in the field of End-user Analytics to provide the benefits of such technology to companies looking to achieve greater visibility into their end-user environments and who look to nip the problem in the bud.

Analysts, such as Gartner, have identified a new emerging segment, ITOA (IT Operations Analytics), that organizations are using to address complexity and are set to have a major impact on IT operations management. Nextthink's unique approach to real-time end-user IT analytics has resulted in they being named a Gartner Cool Vendor in ITOA for 2014. The Nextthink End-user IT Analytics platform is supported by a scalable product architecture that fits small, medium and large organizations.



**BANGKOK:** This picture shows models of Turkish-made cruise missiles on display during the Defense & Security 2015 exhibition in Bangkok. French anti-tank missiles, Swedish jets and American assault rifles — Western governments have criticised Thailand's junta for toppling democracy but at a Bangkok arms fair it was business as usual. — AFP

## CHINESE STILL 'JUMPING' FIREWALL TO USE TWITTER

**WASHINGTON:** China's blocking of Twitter has failed to keep activists, journalists and others from using the messaging platform to connect with the rest of the world, said a study.

The study by Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet and Society said it was not possible to estimate the number of Chinese Twitter users but said that "this alternative venue is enjoyed by various groups of people with diverse shared interests that gravitate towards three main areas: politics, technology, and entertainment." The researchers said some "clusters" of people in China are defying government restrictions and using various tools to get around the so-called Great Firewall to use Twitter.

"For Internet users that reside in mainland China, Twitter offers access to news from around the world and a wealth of ideas and perspectives that might otherwise be unavailable there, as well as a platform for building online communities that is not under direct control of the government," the report said.

The report listed "36 clusters that focus pri-

marily on three areas: Politics, technology, and entertainment." In the political arena, the researchers said the political group includes "journalists, lawyers, human rights activists, and scholars" who are free to discuss topics typically not permitted in China such as the Tiananmen Square protests, Tibetan and Uighur issues, political scandals, and pollution.

Other "clusters" of Twitter users include software and technology specialists, people who follow Apple products and services and others keeping tabs on anime, comics, and games.

But it noted that Chinese Internet repression "is clearly succeeding" and that Twitter remains a relatively minor phenomenon in the country.

"The proportion of the Chinese populace with direct access to the debates, communities, and shared resources on Twitter is relatively small, and the avenues by which such discourse might find its way into mainstream political discussion are severely constrained," the study said. "The firewall between Twitter and the much larger social media platforms in China remains

a formidable barrier."

The Berkman report said that while China's Internet filtering system is among the world's most sophisticated, determined Internet users get around it by using proxies or virtual private networks to mask a computer's identity and location. "The government has never succeeded in blocking all circumvention tools, and doing so would be harmful to online commerce," the report said.

"However, jumping the wall entails investing time to identify and install tools that work and requires a level of technological sophistication... Circumventing Internet controls also implies a willingness to defy the government standards for acceptable speech and to take on any perceived risks associated with using circumvention tools."

The report said it remains unclear how many people in China have used circumvention tools. A previous Berkman Center study estimated that fewer than five percent of the online population uses these tools. — AFP

## JAPAN ITS OWN ENEMY IN PUSH TO IMPROVE CYBERSECURITY

**OKINAWA:** Apart from rogue hackers, criminal organizations or even state-backed cyberwarfare units, Japan's businesses and government agencies are facing a unique cybersecurity foe: themselves.

Even with the frequency and severity of cyberattacks booming worldwide, efforts by the world's No. 3 economic power to improve its data security are being hobbled by a widespread corporate culture that views security breaches as a loss of face, leading to poor disclosure of incidents or information sharing at critical moments, Japanese experts and government officials say. Improving cybersecurity practices has emerged as a top national priority for Japan, stung in recent years by embarrassing leaks at Sony Pictures, the national pension fund and its biggest defense contractor, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which possibly suffered the theft of submarine and missile designs.

Toshio Nawa, a top Japanese security consultant who is advising the Tokyo 2020 Olympics organizers, said he encountered a telling instance this summer when he was called to investigate a breach at a major Japanese government agency.

Nawa found that five different cybersecurity contractors employed by the agency had discovered the breach - but that not one reported or shared their findings. With evidence from the contractors pooled together, Nawa matched the digital fingerprints to a Mexican group that he believes was responsible for a previous attack on Japanese diplomatic servers. The breach was patched, but Nawa walked away flustered.

"In the US, if they find a problem, they have to report," he said. "The Japanese engineer feels he fails his duty if he escalates a report."

They feel ashamed." To be sure, the cybersecurity industry around the world, not just in Japan, frequently echoes the call for greater transparency within and among organizations.

The U.S. Senate last month passed the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act to ease data sharing between private companies and the government for security purposes, although civil liberties advocates warned it posed a threat to privacy.

### Lack of understanding of cybersecurity

But the problem may be particularly acute for Japan's private sector behemoths and government ministries - sprawling bureaucracies wrapped in a "negative culture that cuts against wanting to communicate quickly," said William H. Saito, the top cybersecurity adviser to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

While rank-and-file workers fear reports of security lapses may get them punished, the problem reflects a broad lack of understanding of cybersecurity in the Japanese C-suite, Saito said in an interview on the sidelines of the Cyber3 conference in Okinawa.

"This is Japanese culture where in some situations the upper management doesn't know how to use email

and IT integration is voodoo magic," said U.S.-born Saito, also an executive at Palo Alto Networks, a security firm. "The reality is companies either have been hacked or will be hacked. My message is, 'It's not your fault.'" In 2013, the latest year of available data, the Japanese government network faced an eightfold increase in cyberattacks from two years prior, with attacks spreading into civil infrastructure, as well as the telecommunications and energy sectors. Against that backdrop, the Abe administration has pinpointed the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as a chance to upgrade Japan's national security capabilities while calling for a more hands-on government role to nudge companies to take cybersecurity seriously. — AP

## APPLE SETS TO RELEASE IPAD PRO

**WASHINGTON:** Apple said yesterday its iPad Pro goes on sale this week in 40 countries, its new computing device aimed at reviving a slumping tablet market. The California tech giant said in a statement the new iPad - a large-screen tablet aimed at replacing portable PCs - would be available online Wednesday and in stores later in the week.

The new tablet with a 12.9-inch (32.7-centimeter) display, also includes a detachable keyboard and stylus. The iPad Pro starts at \$799 for US customers, with a keyboard option for an additional \$169. "The early response to iPad Pro from app developers and our customers has been incredible, and we're excited to get iPad Pro into the hands of consumers around the world this week," said Apple senior vice president Philip Schiller. The iPad Pro includes a stylus called Apple Pencil - despite insistence from late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs that consumers did not want such an accessory.

A report last month by market tracker IDC showed a 12.6 percent year-over-year decline in

tablet sales in the July-September quarter. IDC analysts said tablet owners are not replacing the devices as frequently as in the past.

And some are shifting to large smartphones, or "phablets," or to lightweight PCs, some of which have detachable keyboards.

But analysts have seen some growth in the "hybrid" category of lightweight computers like the Microsoft Surface which have detachable keyboards. Apple has defeated a class action lawsuit from its California store employees seeking back pay for the time taken to undergo checks of their bags when leaving for the day.

The mandatory searches are designed to ensure that staff do not steal or smuggle out Apple products, but plaintiffs said they should be compensated for the time it took to wait for the search or undergo the search. US District Judge William Alsup, in denying the claim, said Apple employees were free to choose whether or not to bring bags to work, and that not having a bag would mean no exit search. — AFP



**HAVANA:** Picture taken at a stand in the US pavilion at the 33rd Havana International Fair (FIHAV), in the Cuban capital. — AFP



## THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF CHINESE EMISSIONS DATA

**BEIJING:** To get a sense of how hard it is to measure greenhouse gas emissions in China, it pays to visit the Deqingyuan poultry farm on the outskirts of Beijing, where streams of chicken manure are piped from wooden sheds to an industrial gas digester that rises above the ground like a tethered balloon. Turning waste into kilowatts qualifies Deqingyuan for valuable carbon credits under a UN-backed scheme known as the Clean Development Mechanism. The digester turns all that chicken slurry into natural gas, powering a nearby electricity station and supplying fuel to 39 surrounding villages. Yet calculating those emissions requires a 54-page, UN-certified rulebook, a methodology that factors everything from the amount of methane removed from the manure to local temperatures and animal weight to come up with a figure.

And that cumbersome process can mean Deqingyuan's emissions savings vary wildly - sometimes by as much as 20 per cent. "I don't know how they calculate the figure but there were many researchers from universities who came to assess it," said Vincent Wei, a marketing manager at Helee Bio-Energy Technology, which built the plant. Precise data collection is a tricky business everywhere, as the Volkswagen scandal over discrepancies between the German auto company's emissions claims and the real world performance of its engines has shown. But getting accurate emissions data is crucial for governments seeking a global climate accord in Paris this December. Negotiators say that, to succeed, any agreement must be built upon "measurable, reportable and verifiable" statistics in order to assess whether countries are on track to meet their emissions targets. And getting a better grasp of the right numbers is particularly crucial in the case of China, which is widely assumed to be the world's largest carbon emitter. China's energy use is so great that even minute errors in data can translate into a difference of millions of tons of emissions.

No one currently knows how many tons of carbon China emits each year. Its emissions are estimates based on how much raw energy is consumed, and calculations are derived from proxy data consisting mostly of energy consumption as well as industry, agriculture, land use changes and waste. Many outside observers view the

accuracy of those figures with skepticism. "China's contribution (to the global climate plan in Paris) is based on CO2 emissions but China doesn't publish CO2 emissions," said Glen Peters, senior researcher at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research in Oslo. "You're left in the wilderness, really."

Demands for better data played a major role in the failure of the 2009 Copenhagen conference, when China and several developing nations balked at providing the rest of the world with detailed data, claiming it would be an intrusion on their sovereignty. The last time Beijing produced an official figure was in 2005, when it said its emissions stood at "approximately" 7.47 billion tons. And while it has promised that emissions will peak by 2030 at the latest, experts say the statistical uncertainty is so great that forecasts on what that peak means can vary from 11 to 20 billion tons a year. That margin is greater than the entire annual carbon footprint of Europe.

### Counting carbon

At the moment, no country has the technology or the budget to completely track exact greenhouse gas emissions in real time. The International Energy Agency and other energy organizations operate a centralized reporting and analysis system using unified statistical methodologies and reporting schedules. The European Union's emissions trading market, for example, also operates mainly on estimates based on the amount of carbon in energy burned. But the Europeans say monitoring and measurement of the roughly 11,000 power stations and industrial plants in 31 countries that comprise the system are stricter than what occurs in developing nations.

"Every single source that could have emissions connected to it has to be identified and controlled," said Halvor Molland, director of information at Norwegian aluminum producer Norsk Hydro which also follows UN guidelines and says its numbers are verified by outsider companies. "Even if we have a fire drill and we use diesel to set a small fire we have to calculate the amounts," he said. "These are chemical reactions so we know that if you set fire to one liter of diesel you know how much carbon will come out."

China's data reporting is managed by hundreds of

organizations, and the methodologies and data at the local government and industry level often conflict with the country's National Bureau of Statistics. For example, coal production data accumulated from 26 provincial governments in 2013 was 500 million tons more than the NBS report of 3.65 billion tons. There are different understandings about which firms should be monitored. Small-scale businesses that fall below the NBS threshold are routinely excluded from calculations, and many small, illegal coal mines conceal their production in order to avoid shutdowns. China is the only country apart from Russia to use raw coal production rather than sales to calculate overall output, which fails to account for the losses that accrue during processing and transportation and also ignores waste products like gangue, which could account for around 18 percent of raw coal output. These gaps could mean that China's emissions are actually being overestimated, a government researcher said.

All this riddles the system with imperfections. A study published last month by the magazine Nature suggested China's emissions could have actually been exaggerated by as much as 14 percent because of faulty assumptions about the quality of China's coal. Bureaucratic rivalries also lead to clashing data. Climate negotiations are run from the National Reform and Development Commission, which determines what data to publish. "All the emission estimates officially come from the NDRC rather than from the statistics bureau," says Dabo Guan, a professor of climate change economics at the University of East Anglia. "The NDRC is in charge of the whole climate change negotiations and they have to fight for the best position for China, so they have their concerns about what can and cannot be published."

"The Chinese government likes to hold authority over data for fear that different numbers than those from official sources could lead to social unrest," says Angel Hsu, a professor with the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, who has researched the poor quality of Chinese data. "China claims they don't have the human capacity to maintain and run the monitors," she says. "But they were monitoring air quality for over a decade; they just didn't release it because they were worried that it would lead to social unrest."

### Promises

Officially, China says it recognizes the need to produce better data. It promised the United Nations in June to train auditors to collect better data and to produce "regular" national carbon numbers. "The Chinese government has been funding studies into the carbon inventory - it needs to know its real level of emissions in order to reduce it," said Xi Fengming, a researcher with the China Academy of Sciences (CASS) who has spent the last six years researching the country's total carbon levels. Xi says China had made great strides since 2012 to improve the way its numbers are collected, including crackdowns on illegal coal production and the statistical fraud by energy-intensive enterprises. It has been experimenting with drones to detect carbon dioxide build-ups in urban areas, and has launched pilot projects to measure energy consumption levels in real-time at industrial facilities.

Researchers say that measuring emissions from the energy sector, which amount to around 70-80 percent of China's total, is critical to getting a good overall picture of the country's overall emissions. "If China's energy data is good, then the carbon data will be more or less accurate," said Xi. Another impetus for improvement is China's impending cap and trade carbon market, which the country has promised to create by the end of 2017; markets require accurate baselines and data to operate properly. Some observers blame the failure of China's attempt a decade ago to create an emissions market - this one in sulphur permits models on the US sulphur market - on the lack of accurate acid rain data. Getting there remains a daunting task.

"There are more than 30 provinces and 2,000 cities and we need more companies to do third-party work and more specialist staff at companies who know how to report the data," said Xi. And real-time emissions monitoring is unlikely - in even the medium-term. "So far there is no regulation to force companies to install direct GHG monitoring devices on site and I don't think that will be the trend any time soon," said Richard Mao with the Environmental carbon consultancy in Beijing. In that regard, China faces the same constraints as the world's leading economies in the West. "It may," Mao says of the technology needed to get it right, "just be too costly." — Reuters

## TRANSGENDER IN CHINA: SECRETS AND SURGERY

**BEIJING:** At home her son still calls her daddy, at work she dresses in a masculine style, but this Chinese person has a "little secret" - she was born male, but is not any more. She had long identified as a woman, and suffered from depression after starting a family, opting in the end to have a surgical sex change. "I had wanted to kill myself, but then I decided I should do something - if I die, I'd rather die on the operation table," she adds. Chinese society remains deeply traditional in many respects so in public she still has to hide her new identity and does not want her name or occupation revealed, for fear of the consequences.



**JINZHOU, China:** This handout picture released by the subject shows a transsexual woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, in an apartment in Jinzhou, in China's northeast Liaoning province. — AFP

"It will be very easy to find me, and I might lose my job," she explained. US-based NGO Asia Catalyst estimates there are four million transgender people in China, and says they face severe discrimination. Sexually ambiguous characters have a long history in Chinese art and literature, but being transgender is still classified as a mental illness in the country-homosexuality was removed from the category in 2001 — although sex reassignment surgery is legal. Those who come out as transgender to their families risk being rejected or forced to marry and have children.

"I married my wife when I still had a man's body, thinking I could live with her without changing myself physically," AFP's interviewee said. "My wife did not mind my identifying as female. She is from a small

town. Our personalities do not match well, but we both wanted to get married." She says she did not want to become a father but her family persuaded her to have a child, and the couple have not separated since her surgery for the sake of their son. "I tell my nine-year-old boy: 'Daddy has a little secret - daddy is not a man,'" she said. "He is not yet old enough to feel confused about this."

### 'I thought no one would love me'

Now she tries to help others in her position, running an online network from her home in Jinzhou, in the northeastern province of Liaoning, to connect transgender individuals with each other and professionals such as doctors, psychiatrists and lawyers - who can help with divorces. "As I tried to solve problems in my life, I gradually built a safe environment around me," she told a meeting at the Beijing LGBT Centre, a resource center in the capital. "You just have to be brave enough and tell people your trouble - if one doctor doesn't understand you, talk to another. Eventually you will find someone." Transgender issues were given unusual prominence in China last year, when the country's most famous sexologist, Li Yinhe, announced she had been living for 17 years with a partner who was born female but identifies as a man, referring to him as her "husband" and stressing she saw herself as heterosexual.

The couple were profiled by a national magazine and the Communist party mouthpiece the People's Daily said on a microblog: "Respecting the choices of people like Li Yinhe is respecting ourselves." Together with the success of male-to-female transsexual dancer Jin Xing, who often appears on mainstream television shows, the reaction to Li's statement was taken as a sign of slowly shifting attitudes. But many Chinese doctors and psychiatrists know little about how to deal with transgender individuals, the Beijing LGBT Centre's executive director Xin Ying, told AFP. Those who have changed their physical appearance face difficulty getting a job, having a medical operation, or even boarding a train, she said, as there is no established legal procedure to change information on Chinese identity cards.

Hong Kong-based transgender activist Joanne Leung urged the audience at the meeting not to lose hope: "Before I had sex change surgery, I thought no one would love me and I would be single until I die. But I was wrong."

Even so fears about others reactions remain. Fang Yuran, another speaker at the meeting, was born female but wants to become a man. She has only come out to her family as a lesbian, fearing their response if she explained further. She explained: "If I told my parents the truth, they would think I am ill and never let me be." — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** In this picture taken on October 6, 2015, Omkaresh Sharma, known as "Medicine Baba", sits in a room full of medicine collected by him. — AFP

## INDIA'S 'MEDICINE MAN' BRINGS PILLS TO THE POOR

'THE HEALTH CARE COSTS HAVE INCREASED GREATLY OVER THE YEARS'

**NEW DELHI:** It's early morning but already "Medicine Baba" Omkaresh Sharma is pounding the pavement in one of New Delhi's upscale neighborhoods, collecting the well-heeled's leftover pills, capsules and syrups. Like a modern-day town crier, the 79-year-old calls to residents to bring out their medicines, rather than throw them away, to donate to the Indian capital's millions of desperate poor. "All of us have some medicines lying around in our houses but we end up throwing them in the dustbin," said Sharma, whose affectionate title means wise man.

Sharma is hopeful his unorthodox service is making a difference, albeit small, in a country where 65 percent of the population lacks regular access to essential medicines, according to the World Health Organization.

In his trademark bright orange smock, Sharma cuts a familiar figure in Delhi's leafy neighborhoods, and residents routinely carry out handfuls of medicines for him. "This idea struck me a few years back when I saw how the poor struggled to buy medicines. When I first started, I was ridiculed and called a beggar but now people respect what I am doing," he said.

Medical treatment is free in Indian government-funded hospitals, but drug supplies at their dispensaries run out, forcing patients to fork out for medicines at nearby chemists. Overburdened public hospitals blame a lack of resources, saying they can only budget a certain amount for medicines, with funding stretched across the board.

### Mothers clutch sick babies

At his rundown Delhi home, Sharma painstakingly checks and sorts his haul that includes everything from calcium tablets to antibiotics, before the queues form outside. "Some medicines have to be stocked in the fridge, so I have to be very careful," said Sharma, a retired blood bank technician. "All these medicines lying here are worth more than two million rupees (\$30,864)." India spends just 1.3 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on health, according to a 2013 World Bank report, lower than war-torn Afghanistan on 1.7 percent.

"The health care costs have increased greatly over the years," said doctor S.L. Jain, as he examined a newborn at his charity clinic that receives some of Sharma's medicines. "So many people do not seek treatment simply because they do not have the money to pay for medicines," he said as mothers line up clutching their sick babies. More

than 60 percent of the population's out of pocket expenses for health are for medicines, according to government estimates. With her carpenter husband earning just 5,000 rupees (\$77) a month, mother-of-four Pushpa Kamal fears for the future of her family as she waits at the clinic for treatment.

"My youngest son has asthma. He needs regular medication. The other kids also fall sick. Tell me how can I afford to buy so many medicines each time?" India's generic drugs industry is a major supplier to the world of cheap, life-saving treatments for diabetes, hypertension, cancer and other diseases. But experts say even these are out of reach of many of the 363 million Indians living below the poverty line, who make up about 30 percent of the country's mammoth population. "There are hardly any checks and balances because health is unfortunately not a priority in our country," said Ajay Lekhi, president of the Delhi Medical Association. "Consumers are highly vulnerable as their requirement is urgent and they are not in a position to compare prices or bargain," he told AFP.

### Universal health plan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who swept to power at elections last May, promised in his poll manifesto to introduce an ambitious universal health care plan that assures free drugs and insurance for serious ailments. But the plan, pegged initially at \$26 billion over the next four years and envisioned to be fully operational by 2019, has been pushed back because of budget constraints. A senior health ministry official said the scheme, with a planned roll out from April this year, was now on the back burner. "It (the plan) could have been a game-changer," he told AFP on the condition of anonymity. "We are not sure now if it will see the light of the day."

Jagdish Prasad, director general of health services, acknowledged the problem facing those living on the margins, and that the government needed to do more. "People are spending 60 to 70 percent out of their pockets for purchasing medicines which is a great burden for the poor," he told AFP. "We must make a policy so that essential medicines are made available to those who cannot afford it." — AFP

## MEGACITIES HIT HARD BY SURGING SEA LEVELS EVEN AT 2C RISE

**PARIS:** Large swathes of Shanghai, Mumbai, New York and other cities will slip under the waves even if an upcoming climate summit limits global warming to two degrees Celsius, scientists reported Sunday. A 2 C (3.6 Fahrenheit) spike in Earth's temperature would submerge land currently occupied by 280 million people, while an increase of 4 C (7.2 F) — humanity's current trajectory — would cover areas lived on by more than 600 million, the study said. "Two degrees Celsius warming will pose a long-term, existential danger to many great coastal cities and regions," said lead author Ben Strauss, vice president for sea level and climate impacts at Climate Central, a US-based research group.

Sea level rises corresponding to these 2 C or 4 C scenarios could unfold in two hundred years, but would more likely happen over many centuries, perhaps as long as 2,000 years, according to the research, published by Climate Central. Capping the rise in Earth's temperatures to 2 C above pre-industrial levels is the core goal of the 195-nation UN climate summit in Paris from November 30 to December 11. The most effective way to slow global warming is to slash the output of the greenhouse

gases which drive it. But even if emissions reduction pledges-many of them conditioned on financial aid-submitted by 150 nations ahead of the Paris summit are fulfilled, it would still put us on a pathway for a 3 C (4.8 F) world, the United Nations has warned. Achieving the two-degree goal remains a serious challenge. Strauss and colleagues apply on a global scale the same methodology they used for a recent study that focused on temperature-linked sea level rise in the United States, published in the US Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

That study concluded that both Miami and New Orleans are doomed to crippling impacts. In the new report, the country hit hardest by sea level rise under a 4 C scenario is China. Today, some 145 million people live in Chinese cities and coastal areas that would eventually become ocean water temperatures to climb that high. Four of the 10 most devastated megacities would be Chinese: land occupied today by 44 million people in Shanghai, Tianjin, Hong Kong and Taizhou would be underwater. India, Vietnam and Bangladesh do not fare much better. — AFP

## CHOLERA CASE DIAGNOSED IN OMAN: HEALTH MINISTRY

**MUSCAT:** Omani health authorities have urged caution after a woman who had visited Iraq was found to be infected with cholera, local media reported yesterday. "The Omani woman who was diagnosed with the disease had visited Iraq recently," the local Times of Oman daily quoted the health ministry as saying. "The patient is receiving treatment in one of the health institutions in the sultanate" and her condition is stable, it added. "The ministry will continue to pursue precautionary measures for some more time," the ministry said, urging Omanis to ensure they follow strict hygiene guidelines.

Iraqi health authorities launched a major vaccination campaign this month to combat a cholera outbreak that has

infected more than 2,200 people, raising fears of a possible spread to neighboring Gulf countries. Many Shiites in Oman and other Gulf countries travel for pilgrimage in the holy Iraqi city of Najaf. Authorities in Iraq have blamed the cholera outbreak mostly on the poor quality of water caused by the low level of the Euphrates. After a short incubation period of two to five days, cholera causes severe diarrhea, draining the body of its water.

The vaccination campaign in Iraq is focused on people displaced by conflict including the war with the Islamic State group. The United Nations says the number of people displaced by conflict in Iraq since the start of 2014 has topped 3.2 million. — AFP



## 'CATASTROPHE' WARNINGS AS CLIMATE TALKS ENTER FINAL STRETCH

**PARIS:** Large swathes of New York and Shanghai could disappear under the waves and millions driven into poverty, fresh climate reports warned as ministers scrambled yesterday for common ground weeks ahead of a crunch environmental summit. If global warming continues on its present trajectory of 4 C (7.2 F), rising sea levels will claim land inhabited by more than 600 million people, according to a survey by Climate Central, a US-based research group. Such a rise would hit China the hardest, with around 145 million people living in coastal areas that would be submerged, the report warned. Even if the Paris summit, which starts on November 30, succeeds in its goal of limiting temperature rises to 2 C, around 280 million people would find their homes underwater, forecast Climate Central.

A separate World Bank study released late Sunday said there could be "more than 100 million additional people in poverty by 2030" if action was not taken to stem climate change. "The poor are more vulnerable to climate-related shocks than wealthier people," said the report, urging "strong action" from leaders and diplomats at the Paris summit. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, who is hosting the meeting, issued his own dire warnings as ministers gathered in the French capital for eleventh-hour negotiations. "It is life on our planet itself which is at stake," Fabius told journalists as ministers and climate envoys from 70 countries met for pre-summit talks to iron out tough political questions. With the key UN conference just three weeks away, Fabius also announced Russia's President Vladimir Putin would attend the

November 30 opening. Russia, a major oil producer, is seen as a deal-maker or -breaker in the years-long attempt to negotiate the world's first truly universal pact to curb climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions. "There is absolute urgency," said Fabius, to achieve the UN goal of limiting global warming to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels. The UN's climate science panel has warned of an average temperature rise of "four, five, six degrees, if we do not act extremely quickly," he said. "This would have catastrophic consequences because there would be drought... and colossal migration problems, including problems of war and peace."

### Pre-COP

Ministers are aiming to ink a global deal to prevent worst-case-scenario warming at the end of the November 30-December 11 Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris. It will be opened by UN chief Ban Ki-moon and some 100 heads of state and government including US President Barack Obama, China's Xi Jinping, Narendra Modi of India and now also Putin. The three-day ministerial "pre-COP" from Sunday to Tuesday must seek political convergence on key issues still dividing nations, to avoid a repeat of the 2009 Copenhagen summit which ended without a binding global pact. The Paris agreement will be underpinned by national pledges to curb greenhouse gas emissions from burning coal, oil and gas-the best way to slow climate change. But the UN this week issued a fresh warning that pledges submitted to date set the stage for warming of closer to 3 C, or more. —AFP



**PARIS, France :** French Foreign minister Laurent Fabius (center) shakes hands with Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi (right) during a meeting, in Paris, ahead of the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11), also known as "Paris 2015" from November 30 to December 11. — AFP

## NESTLE'S MAGGI NOODLES RETURN TO INDIA AFTER 'CRISIS'

**MUMBAI:** Nestle's hugely popular Maggi noodles returned yesterday to shelves in India five months after the government banned them over lead levels, in one of the biggest crises to hit the Swiss giant. India's food safety watchdog banned the noodles nationwide in June after test results showed packets exceeded legal limits of lead, while criticizing Nestle for failing to list flavor enhancer monosodium glutamate (MSG) on labels.

But the Bombay High Court, the highest court in the western city now known as Mumbai, overturned the ruling two months later, calling it "arbitrary" and ordered fresh tests. Nestle said last month those tests had found that Maggi noodles were safe to eat. It has restarted production at three of its five India plants. Nestle lost more than 75 million Swiss francs (\$74.7 million) over the ban, which forced it to destroy more than 37,000 tons of the noodles, India's leading brand. "What we have been through has been like a life crisis for a human being," Nestle India Managing Director Suresh Narayanan told.

"It will need investments to nurture back the brand into the health that it was," he said

of Maggi, which previously accounted for about 30 percent of the company's Indian sales. Maggi's return comes as Indians prepare to celebrate the Hindu festival of Diwali, a time when food shopping is at its peak. Fans of the brand, which had 80 percent of India's instant noodle market before the crisis, reacted with delight on Twitter. Sony Das posted: "What better way to celebrate this Diwali.. #WelcomeBackMAGGI wid Maggi our lost appetites are also back.. Luv U Maggi".

The noodles will initially return in 100 cities compared with more than 400 previously and in just one flavor, Masala. Nestle's Narayanan yesterday questioned the accuracy of the initial laboratory tests, saying India's regime for heavy metal testing in food was "unreliable" and called for an overhaul. He left open the question of whether Nestle would take legal action against the food safety regulator, saying the company had simply been "focused" on getting the product back on shelves. Nestle has always maintained the product was safe to eat, and has continued to sell it in other countries. Nestle India's stock was up 0.2 percent on the Bombay Stock Exchange in afternoon trade yesterday. — AFP

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## ACK AWARDS 23 STUDENTS IN VOLUNTARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) recently held a special ceremony honoring 23 students who have successfully completed requirements for its 'ACK Award'.

The ACK Award was established by the College in 2014 as a voluntary personal development program and it is available to any student at the College. Participating students work

with a staff mentor in setting life goals and then recording achievements over a two semester period. Students must set goals in four areas of personal development, which include academic achievements; volunteering or participating in projects that benefit the community or environment; internships or work experience; and finally, personal development in activities such as

sports, art, music and so on. The Manager of the ACK Award program, Chris Picone, stated that the first (Bronze) level was being awarded to 12 students, and that 11 other students were being presented with the second (Silver) level for previously obtaining the Bronze level and continuing their participation for an additional period of two semester and completing the

necessary requirements. He encouraged the students to remain in the program and aim to obtain the Gold and Platinum level certificates.

Before presenting certificates to the students, ACK's Dean, Dr Gad Elbeheri, commended participants for their dedication towards personal development and community participation through the ACK Award. He emphasized

that it is very important for students to not only use their time at the College to pursue their academic goals but also to become personally involved within the community.

Dr Elbeheri then acknowledged the commitment given by faculty members who have volunteered to mentor students within the ACK Award. In this regard, he thanked the mentors for their monthly meetings with participants during which students discussed and reviewed progress towards their goals.

The recipients of the Bronze level ACK Award were Mohamed Al-Einawi, Aishah Alsabt, Fatmah Al Dafuri, Maria Seriadarian, Mohammad Al-Mahdi, Abdulhameed Hassan, Zuhoor Omar, Lojien Serhan, Khalil Jamous, Salem Alkudhari, Sarah Al-Shatti and Reham Fadhly.

The recipients of the Silver level ACK Award were Ahmad Alkhudari, Dana Binsabt, Ali Faras, Sonia Rashid Dalmiya, Jomana Namavar, Athari Al-Awadi, Hadi Almutairi, Mashaal Ali, Rubab Ali, Ruqaiya Huseni Jabla and Hissah Al-Salhat.

Certificates were also presented to staff members who were mentors to participants in the ACK Award: Abdullah Al-Mughrabi, Ahmad Ibrahim Ghalib Al-Haj Asaad, Dalya Nabil Fathy Ismael, Rafiq Abdullah Kamal, Dania El-Achmar, Fahad Mallooh and Christine Picone.



## BERCHMANS' 19TH EXTEMPORE SPEECH COMPETITION WINNERS

Alumni Association of St Berchmans College (AASBCO), Kuwait chapter held the Annual Extempore Speech competition for the 19th consecutive year in the United Indian School, Jaleeb Al Shuyoukh. AASBCO lauds all the 159 participants and their parents for the genuine interest that they have evinced in the event.

The program commenced at 1.30 pm with a silent prayer. Thomas Scaria, General Secretary welcomed the gathering followed by Presidential address by President Shibu Pallickal. Former President Kurien Varghese conducted the topic selection and Judges Selection of each category of competition. The former President and present Vice President Thomas Varghese explained the rules of extempore speech competition.

The competition was conducted



**VK Siddhartha**

in 5 categories. The performance of each category was remarkable.

Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan enjoyed a sweeping victory and bagged the Championship Trophy for the fourth time. FAIPS - DPS Ahmadi emerged runner-up.



**Neha Elizabeth**

**Here are the winners:**

Senior category: Duvvuri Rohini Pratyusha (Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan), Vanshika Gandotra (Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan), and Naymah Rahman (Indian Central School Abbassiya), secured I, II, III prizes respectively.



**Anjali Saji**

Junior B category: Shifa Nanda (Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan), Meril Susan Sam (Indian Public School Salmiya) and Rajsi Anant Ashtekar (Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan), secured I, II, III prizes respectively. Junior A category: Anjali Saji (IEAS -Don Bosco Salmiya), Prathik Pratheesh



**Prathik Pratheesh**

(Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan) and Jade Lourdes Vaz (IEAS -Don Bosco Salmiya) secured I, II, III prizes respectively.

Sub Junior B category: Neha Elizabeth (Carmel School Khaitan), Sarah Eliza Thomas (Indian Learners Own Academy) and Sehen Dilkush

Gamheva (Salmiya Indian Model School), secured I, II, III prizes respectively. Sub Junior A category: Dwiti Ponda (FAIPS-DPS Ahmadi), V.K. Siddhartha (FAIPS-DPS Ahmadi) Anna Merin Shaji (United Indian School Abbassiya), secured I, II, III prizes respectively. Duvvuri Rohini Pratyusha, Std. XII, Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan won the St. Berchmans Eloquent Speaker Award 2015 by winning first prize for 3 consecutive years. Dr. Angela Maria Pallickal (2009) and Sharwari Pandit (2011), both former students of FAIPS-DPS are the only other winners of this title in 19 years.

Berchmans - Kuwait thanked all the 16 Judges for their dedicated service and also thanked Thomas Chandry MLA - Chairman, Adv. John Thomas - Administrative Manager and Susan Roy - Director of the United Indian School for providing the school space and facilities for the competition.



## BHAVAN ORGANIZES MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The Indian Educational School (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan) organized a spectacular interschool Model United Nations - A simulation of the United Nations Conference with the support and guidance of UNDP in Kuwait. The awe-inspiring event was organized by the brilliant brainiacs of Bhavan under the aegis of the Social Studies Department of IES. The event was conducted in the IES auditorium. The students, the teachers, and the invitees were present in the auditorium to witness the epic event unfolds in all shades of glory and grandeur.

The preparations of this mega event began well in advance. The remarkable feature of this event was indeed the online registration and an array of train-

ing sessions conducted by the members of the Social Studies faculty. The topics chosen for discussion were 'Socio Economic Impact of the Current Financial Crisis in Greece', 'Disposal of E-waste' and the 'Impact of Falling Oil Prices on the Middle East Countries'.

The students handpicked from nine Indian schools in Kuwait. Adam Aba Husain, Partnership and Liaison Associate at the UN Resident Coordinator Office was the Chief Guest for the day. The presence of this towering personality added luster to the event in abundance. Adam was highly appreciative of the manner in which the event was conducted. He lavished praises on IES for organizing MUN in its campus for the benefit of the student community.

He extolled the confidence of the participants. He also lauded them for their extensive research in connection with MUN. He urged the participants to be the true global citizens of tomorrow.

The event was adjudged by eminent Toastmasters and professionals who have carved a niche for themselves in their chosen fields of career. Baburaj Parakat, Susheel Mathew and Nancy Vijo were the judges for the day who have adjudged the speeches of the participants. The judges congratulated the winners on their remarkable achievements. They did not hide their awe for the well-learned prodigies who impressed the audience with their display of in-depth knowledge of the issues pertaining to international politics and the cur-

rent global socio-economic concerns.

Two of the participants were given an opportunity to share their views on the conduct of the event. They expressed their satisfaction for having been chosen to represent their countries of choice in the MUN. The participants congratulated the organizers for organizing an event of great magnitude in the most spectacular manner. They also thanked them for their congeniality and professionalism.

T Premkumar, the principal, IES presented a memento as a token of reverence and gratitude to the Chief Guest Adam Aba Husain amid thunderous applause. He congratulated the participants on their performance. He thanked the principals and the teachers of the

participating schools for their support. He expressed his gratitude to them for having instilled confidence in the participants to attend MUN and voice their opinions about various international political issues much to the awe of all. The event came to an end with the prize distribution ceremony. The emcee of the event was Miss Rajsi Anant of grade 10. Pratyusha, Secretary General, Vanshika was the chairperson and Master. Sudhrashan Sundararajan was the vice chairperson who controlled the assembly proceedings.

**The winners of the event are as follows:**

- The Best Performing School: Indian English Academy, Salmiya.

- The Best Speaker: Jaived Sriram, FAIPS.
- The Best Speaker (the first runner up): Mariyam Susan Philip, IEAS.
- The Best Speaker (the second runner up): Alistair Dias, IEAS.
- The Best Draft Resolution: Shivgovind Dahima, IES.
- The Best Draft Resolution (first runner up): Karthikeyan Suresh, ICSK.
- The Best Draft resolution (second runner up): Aryan Tewari, FAIPS.
- The Best Position Paper: Aryan Tewari, FAIPS.
- The Best Position Paper (second runner up): Shivgovind Dahima, IES.
- The Best Position Paper (second runner up): Alistair Dias, IEAS.

## BSK HOSTS AWARDS EVENING

The annual Awards Evening for the Year 7-11 students at The British School of Kuwait (BSK) took place in lavish style at the Al Futouh Ballroom at the Regency Hotel, as parents and staff celebrated the many and varied achievements of the school year 2014-15.

The Secondary Head Teacher, Emma Bowie, welcomed parents, staff and students, before delivering her Annual Report, including recent developments and plans for further improvement.

Bowie reviewed both Secondary phase developments and foci for the year ahead. This included: the continued expansion of student data-tracking and performance management systems; the development of mentoring provision and personalized learning; making further refinements to and raising the profile of, the Secondary House System; and a renewed focus on both the environment and issues relating to health.

Parents were delighted to learn that BSK's June 2015 examination results at IGCSE and GCSE were outstanding, with 95 percent A\*-C and an incredible 79 percent of those in the "high pass" range of A\*-B. A 91 percent A-E pass rate at AS Level and a 100 percent A\*-D pass rate at A Level were also highly commendable.

Bowie informed parents and guests that, once again, many Year

13 students had decided to pursue their degree courses in Britain, with destinations including King's College, University College London, the University of the Arts London, the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of Birmingham and Cardiff University. Former Head Boy Ethan Harradine was congratulated, in absentia, on having secured a place to read Liberal Arts at Harvard University in the USA. Other Year 13 graduates opted to pursue their studies elsewhere, their destinations including Ireland, Canada, Australia, Hungary, Switzerland and the UAE.

The prestigious Subject Awards went to the top student in each subject in each year group, many of whom achieved near to 100 percent in their final examinations. The Roll of Honor was read by the Assistant Head Teacher, John Lambert.

The Awards Evening also honored over 230 students who achieved Excellence Awards in 2014-15. Now in their fourth year, the Excellence Awards were conceived to celebrate and encourage a high level of success across a broad range of subjects. The Rolls of Honor were read by Department Coordinators Khadija Broome, Estelle Jones and Dr Clifford Cheung, and Assistant Department Coordinator Helen Graham. The Excellence Award winners were warmly applauded by par-

ents and guests.

The BSK String Orchestra, under the baton of Galina Bojilova, served up a feast of music including the Blue Danube Waltz by Johann Strauss during the interlude, as well as processional music in the form of Edward Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance (No.4) and Thomas Arne's Rule Britannia. Moreover, Simon Amura led the BSK R&B Group in a very well received rendition of Happy by Pharrell Williams.

The Guest of Honor was Brigadier Piers Hankinson MBE, Commander, British Military Mission, who reflected on the significance to students of some of the particular strengths of the education provided by The British School of Kuwait.

The final student awards of the evening were the Head Teachers' Awards, presented by Brigadier Hankinson and BSK Founder Vera Al-Mutawa. Five such awards were conferred, to one student from each of the previous Years 6-11, with the awards for 2014-15 going to Mariam Eskaross, Martin Nakouzi, Poorvi Mishra, Muneera Al-Jeeran and Monica Elias.

BSK Principal, Paul Shropshire, rounded off the evening by proposing a vote of thanks, congratulating the students on their great successes and looking ahead to another year of hard work and exceptional achievements.

## TIES CENTER ORGANIZES BATTLE OF UHUD LECTURE

The TIES Center cordially invites all those interested to another lecture about the Battle of Uhud on Thursday - November 12th 2015 - at 7:00pm.

In this lecture, the focus will be on Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) consultation with his companions before going to the battle, his dream that described the dramatic events that would occur at Uhud, reasons why the companions decided to meet the enemy outside of Medina, and the hypocrites' flimsy excuses to return to Medina, etc. You are encouraged to go with your friends and learn more about the life and times of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in a friendly environment. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or log onto: www.tiescenter.net or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.



## DUA AND MILAD MAHFIL FOR BABY BOY

A dua and milad mahfil was held of new born baby boy Shaikh Md Ali Ahmed Riad of Awwamilig Kuwait leader, poet, journalist, writer and joint sec-

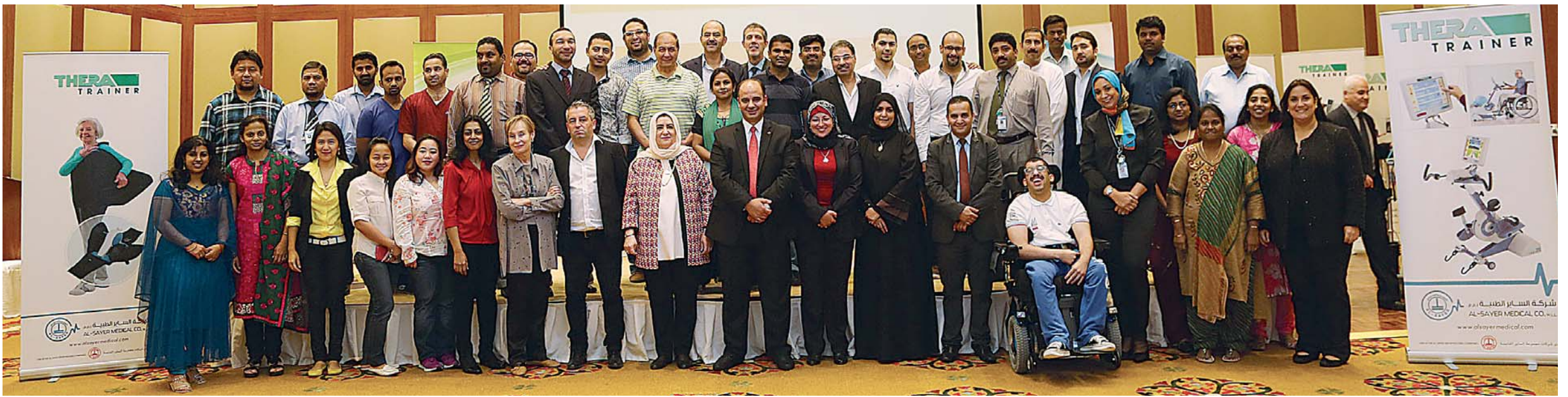
retary Jalalabad somajkollan somitee (Jalalabad welfare Association) Abdul Ahad at Gulshan Restaurant in Kuwait City on 12 September 18 2015 Saturday.

## 'TEXAS KUWAIT' CELEBRATES ONAM

Thiruvananthapuram District Expatriates Association, Texas Kuwait celebrated Onam-Eid Sangamam on November 06, 2015 at Indian Community School, Salmiya. NSS Advisory Board Murali Krishna inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp. Association President Biju Stephen presided over the inaugural function in the presence of the Advisory Board Chairman Sebastian (Uyarangali) Texas General Secretary Arun Rajagopal lead the program. Welcome speech given by Event Coordinator Naushad Vithura and Media Convener Binu Sukumaran expressed vote of thanks. An amazing 'Pookkalam' was arranged at the venue by Hari Pillai and team. The celebration was memorable with the attendance of large number of Audience presence of the eminent personalities of social, cultural, economic

and commercial field of Kuwait with traditional and cultural programs of Kerala including Onam songs, Thiruvathirakali, Mohiniyattam, Bharathanatyam, Kolkali, Pulikali Shinkarimelam, Ganamela, Mappilappattu, Cinimatic dance, Comedy skit, etc. The Kerala Style 'Onasadya' with more than 26 traditional side dishes under the leadership of Murali was the main highlight which was served to more than 750 persons who took part in the celebrations. Maveli, the symbolic representation of king Mahabali blessed all of the association members and was present throughout the day to cherish the celebrations. The participation of large number of members, variety of programs exhibited the great talents of the association members and which made the Onam-Eid celebration to the grand success.





## AL SAYER MEDICAL COMPANY LAUNCHES MOBI EXERCISER

**A**l Sayer Medical, one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies and the exclusive distributor of THERA-TRAINER in Kuwait has launched the innovative small and convenient leg and upper body exerciser "MOBI". Al Sayer Medical Company delegates Dr Hossam Afify General Manager and Dr Maha Magdy Sales Manager welcomed Paul Andreas Mack Head of Product development, Mrs. Ana Basauri Area Sales Manager Europe, Africa and Middle East, representatives from THERA-TRAINER. The launch event was attended by occupational therapists from the ministry of health, private and the rehabilitation school for disabled.

Explaining the business philosophy of the company Mubarak Naser Al Sayer CEO Al Sayer Group Holding said "Our focus always will be improvement of the health-care system in Kuwait, by leveraging success factors such as professional team, market and business expertise, the solid infrastructure, and most important the delivery of advanced pharmaceuticals and cutting-edge medical technologies and supplies."

### Remarkable services

According to Dr Hossam Afify General Manager Al Sayer Medical "We are eager to provide everything new from medical equipment to support physiotherapists in Kuwait in line with the objectives of the Ministry of Health to provide remarkable medical services, also in line with the Al-Sayer Group Holding strategy of offering the latest of quality products of major international companies in all areas and give attention to strengthening the commitment to the community. In tandem with our commitment to offer world class medical products, we have made MOBI available at Al Sayer LifeCare showroom, the biggest and most modern medical showroom in Kuwait."

Paul Andreas Mack Head of Product Development THERA-Trainer commented "Our therapeutic devices, we offer device-based therapy concepts, which include a comprehensive therapy and training concept with practical exercise suggestions. Our vision is to provide you with therapy concepts for every phase of rehabilitation."

Launch event program included presentation of health benefits of MOBI, hands on

training session and a group therapy demonstration.

THERA-TRAINER MOBI - Stay active as you get older

### Daily use

The newly launched product MOBI is designed to serve the mobilization of (older) people with or without physical impairments. It has been specially developed for daily use in the home and for mobile use in medical facilities. Moreover users of walker or cane, can especially benefit from daily exercise.

The small and handy exerciser comes with motor for arms and legs which enables active, assistive and passive movement exercising at home or in your facility - no matter if it's rainy, windy or dusty outside.

The launch program enabled the audience to interact with THERA-Trainer representatives to gain knowledge about the health benefits of MOBI and the other unique products from THERA-Trainer apart from knowing the importance of becoming active and taking preventive steps by exercising daily with THERA-Trainer to promote an independent lifestyle.



## MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS OPENS MIDEAST'S LARGEST JEWELRY SHOWROOM IN ABU DHABI

**M**alabar Gold and Diamonds, one of the world's largest gold and diamond retailers, has opened the largest gold and diamond showroom in the Middle East on 5th Nov at Hamdan Street in Abu Dhabi - spanning a floor space of 10,000 square feet that showcases over 50,000 pieces of jewelry handcrafted by jewelers from over 10 countries. As a part of expansion, the jewelry chain opened a new showroom in Mushrif Mall, Abu Dhabi on 4th Nov.

The Middle East's largest showroom unveils a 30-kilogramme gold replica of Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, worth Dh3.5 million at current price of gold, for people to visit.

Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan leads the star attraction at the showroom to meet and greet thousands of shoppers ahead of Diwali celebrations in the UAE capital.

"Opening of the Middle East's largest gold and jewelry showroom in Abu Dhabi reaffirms our strong commitment to the UAE and the GCC where we are a partner in the region's economic growth," MP Ahamed, Chairman of Malabar Group, said.

"The UAE has remained one of the best performing markets - where sales continued to grow amid varying market dynamics that reaffirmed our commitment to this market. Our continued investment in the UAE market reflects our strong belief in the country's resilience.

### Largest retailer

"The growth story of Malabar Gold and Diamonds will continue regardless of the market situation where ups and downs are part of the business. However, we are here for the long haul and share the UAE government's vision."

Of the total, Malabar Gold and Diamonds is investing Dh223 million in eight stores in the UAE, Dh100 million in five outlets in Saudi Arabia, Dh57 million in three outlets in Oman and Dh20 million in one outlet in Malaysia. In addition to these, the company will add five more outlets in India.

The expansion will see the largest gold and diamond jewelry retailer expand its retail network from 134 to 155 - reinforcing its position as the most preferred jeweler in the world. The move also reflects the fastest growth by a jewelry retail chain in the world - emerging from being a small player to become one of the top 5 jewelry retailer in the world within the span of just a decade.

Malabar Gold and Diamonds, which started its international operations in Dubai just under ten years ago, has recorded phenomenal growth in gold and diamond jewelry sale despite the fluctuating gold price in the market.

Malabar Gold and Diamonds opened the largest jewelry outlet in Dubai at the Gold Souq in Deira, Dubai last year - the success of which has prompted the company to set up a similar facility in Abu Dhabi.

Shamlat Ahamed, Managing Director of Malabar Gold and Diamonds International Operations, said, the company has an aggressive development plan that will spread its wings in new markets while strengthening its presence in the key growth markets such as India, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

"Despite lower market sentiments due to global slow

down, the UAE market has shown strong sales across our networks," Shamlat Ahamed, who spearheaded the company's international expansion, says. "We will continue to invest in the Middle East and other key market, despite the market fluctuations.

"With consumer demand growing by the day, we feel the need to offer greater space, design, collections and options to our customers. The higher footfall and brisk business at our large-format outlet at the Gold Souq, has prompted us to invest in a similar facility in Abu Dhabi, where customers will be spoiled for choice, designs and a wider price point."

### Expansion drive

The move is part of the \$700 million (Dh2.5 billion) expansion drive announced by Malabar Gold and Diamonds in 2013 - that is expected to more than double the number of its outlets to 220 by the end of 2018.

Established in 1993, Malabar Gold and Diamonds have the wealth of experience in serving the discerning customers for over two decades. It is the consistent efforts by their management to deliver more than what they promise that led to their success. Commitment to customer satisfaction, unique designs and value for money are some of the factors that set them aside from their competitors.

Recognizing their potential in the Middle East, they have embarked on expanding their footprints across the region. The group is represented in the Far East with 3 outlets in Singapore and 1 in Malaysia. They are looking for expanding into Hong Kong and Indonesia soon. The company is also planning to spread their wings to European markets starting with UK and US.

The group is in the forefront when it comes to CSR activities also. They set apart a percentage of its net profit to the benefit of needy. The charity projects of Malabar Gold and Diamonds have touched the lives of thousands of people across the world. They focus primarily in five priority areas such as health, education, environment, housing and women empowerment.



## KOREAN STREET FOOD FESTIVAL

Time: November 21 (Sat) 17:00 - 20:30

Venue: Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Multipurpose Hall and Outdoors space etc.

1st Part Event: Selecting King of Gimbap (Dried Seaweed Roll) "Open only to all participants and their invitees"

Time: 17:00 - 17:45

Venue: Multipurpose Hall

Participant: Contest teams "10 teams in total" (2 members in each team, individual participants allowed)

\* All 10 teams have to register before the event as registration closing would be

on first-to-come basis.

\* Each team can invite up to 4 guests.

Content: Explanation by Residence chef (10 minutes) - Gimbap cooking contest (20 minutes) - taste trying and prizes giving

\*Application should be submitted to kfoodkuwait@gmail.com by November 11

2nd Part Event: Korean-Arabic Speaking Contest (Theme: Korean Street Food) "Open to the public"

Time: 18:00 - 18:50

Venue: Multipurpose Hall

Participant: Non-Koreans who have good command of Korean language (4 per-

sons), Korean students invited by Kuwaiti Government (2 persons) (Arabic language)

\*Participants are strongly recommended to use visual presentation (PPT, pictures, videos etc.)

\*Only 4 Non-Koreans among applicants can participate in the event through evaluation process

### Content:

\* Screening video related to Korean food

\* Presentation of each contestant under "Korean street food theme", 5 minutes max-

imum for each contestant (3min to 5min)

\* Prizes giving: 1st - 2nd (Each language)

\* Application should be submitted to kfoodkuwait@gmail.com by November 8

3rd Part Event: Experiencing Korean Street Food

Time: 19:00 - 20:30

Venue: Multipurpose Hall outdoors space and Garden

Content: Distributing coupons on the participants so that they can go to tables where food is prepared and exchange coupons with food (Stimulating buying and eating food from street in Korea)

## Greetings



**F**or you, our beautiful little boy, I have a very special birthday wish. May your 2nd birthday and every day of your life be as wonderful as you are to me. Wishes from relatives and friends.



ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:50 Gator Boys
01:45 Call Of The Wildman
02:15 Call Of The Wildman
02:40 Bondi Vet
03:35 Tanked
04:25 Ten Deadliest Snakes
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 Treehouse Masters
06:49 Gangland Killers
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:00 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Dogs 101: Specials
09:15 Ten Deadliest Snakes
10:10 Treehouse Masters
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Dogs 101: Specials
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Bondi Vet
14:45 Ten Deadliest Snakes
15:40 Treehouse Masters
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Gangland Killers
18:25 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
19:20 Biggest And Baddest
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life
21:35 Shamwari: A Wild Life
22:05 Treehouse Masters
23:00 Biggest And Baddest
23:55 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster

Disney CHANNEL

00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Wolfblood
02:05 Wolfblood
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Wolfblood
04:35 Wolfblood
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Loloock
06:25 Hank Zipzer
06:50 Girl Meets World
07:15 H2O: Just Add Water
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place
08:55 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
09:20 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
09:45 Austin & Ally
10:10 Austin & Ally
10:35 H2O: Just Add Water
11:00 H2O: Just Add Water
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Hank Zipzer
12:20 Hank Zipzer
12:45 Gravity Falls
13:10 Good Luck Charlie
13:35 I Didn't Do It
14:00 Dog With A Blog
14:30 H2O: Just Add Water
14:55 Loloock
15:20 Austin & Ally
15:45 Girl Meets World
16:10 Violetta
17:00 The Next Step
17:25 Mike's Mermaids
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Dog With A Blog
18:40 Gravity Falls
19:05 H2O: Just Add Water
19:30 Violetta
20:20 The Next Step
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 Good Luck Charlie
21:35 Wizards Of Waverly Place
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina: Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Wolfblood
23:35 Wolfblood

Disney CHANNEL

12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:30 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Guy's Grocery Games
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 The Pioneer Woman
18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Guy's Grocery Games
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man Finds Food
22:30 Man Finds Food
23:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
23:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

00:00 Lone Survivor-PG15
02:15 I, Frankenstein-PG15
04:00 Double Take-PG15
06:00 Aeon Flux-PG15
08:00 The Legend Of Hercules-PG15
10:00 Double Take-PG15
12:00 Jaws III-PG15
14:00 Aeon Flux-PG15
16:00 Special ID-PG15
18:00 The Legend Of Hercules-PG15
19:45 Gone In Sixty Seconds-PG15
22:00 Bloodsport-PG15

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:05 Who's Doing The Dishes?
02:00 Emmerdale
02:25 Eggheads
02:55 Coronation Street
03:25 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
05:15 Take On The Twisters
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:05 Coronation Street
07:30 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
08:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
09:20 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
10:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
11:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
12:30 Take On The Twisters
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
15:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
17:00 Kate Middleton: Heir We Go Again!
17:25 Shetland
18:20 Take On The Twisters
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
20:30 Kate Middleton: Heir We Go Again!
21:25 Shetland
22:20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
23:40 Eggheads

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

00:30 The Signal-PG15
02:30 Testament Of Youth-PG15
04:45 Stand Off-PG15
06:30 Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom-PG15
09:00 Breathe In-PG15
11:00 Stand Off-PG15
13:00 Testament Of Youth-PG15
15:15 Little Red-PG15
17:00 Breathe In-PG15
19:00 A Thousand Times Good Night-PG15
21:00 The Fold-PG15
23:00 American Hustle-18

OSN MOVIES FESTIVAL

01:00 Grace Of Monaco
03:00 Collaborator
05:00 Casanova
07:00 Serial (Bad) Weddings
09:00 1911
11:00 Casanova
13:00 The Butler
15:15 The Trouble With Bliss
17:00 1911
19:00 How I Live Now
21:00 Men Of Honor
23:15 The Master

OSN MOVIES HD

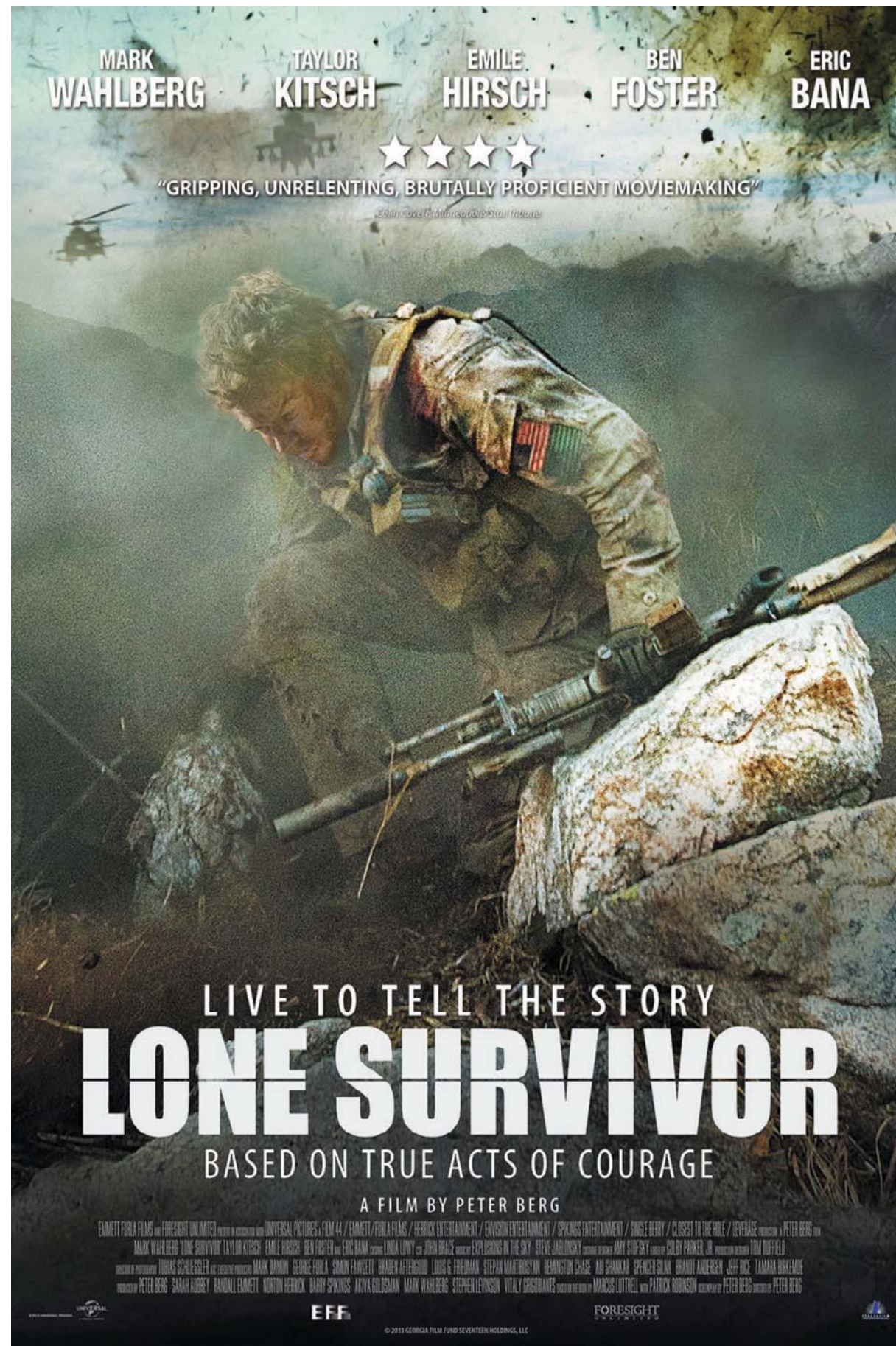
01:00 3 Days To Kill-PG15
03:00 Hours-PG15
05:00 Knight Rusty-PG
07:00 The Lego Movie-PG
09:00 So Undercover-PG15
11:00 House Of Versace-PG15
13:00 Trigger Point-PG15
15:00 The 7th Dwarf-PG
17:00 So Undercover-PG15
18:45 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I-PG15
21:00 Northmen: A Viking Saga-PG15
23:00 The Interview-18

OSN KIDS

01:00 Blue Elephant 2
02:45 The Heart Of The Oak
04:30 Goat Story 2
06:00 Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
08:00 Blackie And Kanuto
10:00 Memory Loss
11:30 Space Dogs
13:00 The Heart Of The Oak
14:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
16:00 Top Cat: The Movie
18:00 Memory Loss
20:00 Crazy Planet
22:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
23:30 Marvel's The Invincible Iron Man

OSN MOVIES PREMIERE

00:00 Outlaw Prophet: Warren Jeffs-18
02:00 Schuks! Your Country Needs You-PG15
03:45 The Past-PG15
06:00 Mr. Peabody & Sherman-FAM
08:00 Stolen Child-PG15
10:00 Hellboy: Blood & Iron-PG
11:30 Captain America: The Winter Soldier-PG15
14:00 Brave-PG15



LONE SURVIVOR ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

16:00 Stolen Child-PG15
17:45 Godzilla-PG15
20:00 Transit-PG15
22:00 Insidious: Chapter 2-PG15
03:14 Grojband
03:35 Johnny Test
05:05 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
05:27 Total Drama: Pahkitew Island
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
16:45 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
17:10 Ninjago: Masters Of Spinjitzu
17:30 Teen Titans Go!
18:00 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
22:40 Adventure Time
01:10 Total Drama World Tour
02:03 Total Drama World Tour
02:26 Total Drama World Tour
02:51 Grojband
20:15 Miles From Tomorrow
12:25 Doc McStuffins
12:55 Loopedoo
13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
14:00 Sofia The First
14:30 Henry Hugglemonster
14:45 Calmero
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
19:55 Cars Toons
19:55 Miles From Tomorrow
19:30 Sofia The First
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:10 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
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 Calmero
00:35 Zou
00:50 Loopedoo
01:05 Art Attack
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
01:45 Calmero
02:00 Zou
02:15 Loopedoo
02:30 Art Attack
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
07:00 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
07:25 Supa Strikas
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 K.C Undercover
08:40 Lab Rats
09:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
09:35 Kirby Buckets
10:00 Kickin' It
10:30 Phineas And Ferb
10:55 Rocket Monkeys
11:20 Booster
11:45 Super Matrak
12:10 Super Matrak
12:40 Mighty Med
13:05 Ultimate Spider-Man
13:30 Supa Strikas
14:00 Kickin' It
14:25 Pokemon: XY
14:50 Phineas And Ferb
15:15 Rocket Monkeys
15:40 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
16:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
16:35 Kirby Buckets
17:00 Mighty Med
17:25 K.C Undercover
17:55 Supa Strikas
18:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
18:45 Mighty Med
19:10 Phineas And Ferb
19:40 Kickin' It
20:05 K.C Undercover
20:30 Supa Strikas
20:55 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
21:25 Kirby Buckets
21:50 Kickin' It
22:15 Mighty Med
22:40 Phineas And Ferb
23:05 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
23:30 Phineas And Ferb
00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am KSA
NAT GEO WILD HD
03:45 The Monster Project
04:30 Ultimate Animal Countdown
05:35 I, Predator
06:30 Dangerous Encounters
07:25 The Monster Project
08:20 Incredible! The Story Of Dr. Pol
09:15 Unlikely Animal Friends
10:10 Expedition Wild
11:05 Swamp Men
12:00 When Sharks Attack
12:55 The Pack
13:50 Dangerous Encounters
14:45 Predator CSI
15:40 The Incredible Dr. Pol
16:35 Unlikely Animal Friends
17:30 Expedition Wild
18:25 Swamp Men
19:20 Predator CSI
20:10 The Incredible Dr. Pol
21:00 Unlikely Animal Friends
21:50 Expedition Wild
22:40 Swamp Men
23:30 When Sharks Attack
00:20 The Pack
01:10 Dangerous Encounters
02:00 Shark Kill Zone
02:50 World's Deadliest Killer Three
TLC HD
03:15 Sister Wives
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 Bakery Boss
07:15 Toddlers & Taras
08:05 Perfect Look
08:55 Our Little Family
09:20 Our Little Family
09:45 Jon & Kate Plus 8
10:10 Little People, Big World
10:35 Sister Wives
11:00 Sister Wives
11:25 Cake Boss
11:50 Perfect Look
12:40 Bakery Boss
13:30 Oprah's Master Class
14:20 Oprah's Master Class
15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8
15:35 Little People, Big World
16:00 Toddlers & Taras
16:50 Sister Wives
17:15 Sister Wives
17:40 Cake Boss
18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
18:30 The Undateables
19:20 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
19:45 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
20:10 Bakery Boss
21:00 Diagnose Me
21:50 Living Without Arms: Body Bizarre
01:35 Psychic Matchmaker
02:00 Mob Wives
02:50 Sister Wives





# CLASSIFIEDS

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

Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time
<b>SHARQIA-1</b> JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION EYAL HAREEFA JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS EYAL HAREEFA JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS PARANORMAL ACTIVITY:	12:45 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM	<b>FANAR-5</b> SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE	9:30 PM 12:30 AM 11:30 AM 2:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:30 PM 11:30 PM	<b>360°-2</b> PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM 11:45 AM 1:45 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 7:45 PM 9:45 PM 11:45 PM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b> SPECTRE HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE	12:30 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM	<b>MARINA-1</b> JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA EYAL HAREEFA JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	1:15 PM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM	<b>360°-3</b> HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 AHWAK AHWAK AHWAK	1:15 PM 3:15 PM 5:15 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b> SPECTRE GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS SPECTRE SPECTRE	1:00 PM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 11:30 PM	<b>MARINA-2</b> SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM	<b>AL-KOUT.1</b> SPECTRE EYAL HAREEFA FRI SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE	12:30 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b> JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS EYAL HAREEFA GOOSEBUMPS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS EYAL HAREEFA JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	12:45 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM	<b>MARINA-3</b> GOOSEBUMPS SPECTRE GOOSEBUMPS SPECTRE NO FRI SPECTRE FRI SPECTRE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM	<b>AL-KOUT.2</b> JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS GOOSEBUMPS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS GOOSEBUMPS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	12:45 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b> SPECTRE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION SPECTRE SPECTRE	11:30 AM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM	<b>AVENUES-1</b> HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA HE NAMED ME MALALA	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM	<b>AL-KOUT.3</b> PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION SPECTRE EYAL HAREEFA SPECTRE EYAL HAREEFA PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:30 PM 1:15 AM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b> SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM	<b>AVENUES-2</b> HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	<b>BAIRAQ-1</b> SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM
<b>FANAR-1</b> JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS GOOSEBUMPS GOOSEBUMPS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	11:45 AM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	<b>AVENUES-3</b> HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA2 SPECTRE SPECTRE THE LAST WITCH HUNTER SPECTRE THE LAST WITCH HUNTER SPECTRE VEDHALAM VEDHALAM THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM 12:15 PM 3:15 PM 6:15 PM 9:30 PM 12:45 AM	<b>BAIRAQ-2</b> JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS HE NAMED ME MALALA JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS HE NAMED ME MALALA EYAL HAREEFA JEM AND THE HOLOGRAMS	1:00 PM 3:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM
<b>FANAR-2</b> PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION EYAL HAREEFA EYAL HAREEFA PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION EYAL HAREEFA PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM	<b>AVENUES-4</b> SPECTRE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE SPECTRE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION	1:15 PM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 7:15 PM 10:15 AM 1:15 AM	<b>BAIRAQ-3</b> SPECTRE SPECTRE GOOSEBUMPS SPECTRE SPECTRE PLAZA SPECTRE SPECTRE NOTUE+WED VEDHALAM TUE+WED SPECTRE	11:30 AM 2:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM 4:15 PM 7:15 PM 7:15 PM 7:15 PM 10:15 PM
<b>FANAR-3</b> THE LAST WITCH HUNTER BURNT SPECTRE SPECTRE BURNT THE LAST WITCH HUNTER	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM	<b>360°-1</b> SPECTRE	12:00 PM		
<b>FANAR-4</b> SPECTRE PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: THE GHOST DIMENSION SPECTRE SPECTRE	12:30 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:30 PM				

**REQUIRED**  
For a Trading Company  
**Clerical Job**  
Contact:  
**66288887**

FOR SALE

**Furniture** for Sale 3 split AC (General) bedroom sofa bed, 2 chairs (IKEA) dining table +5 chairs beufet 3 pcs 2 level bed. Call: 22629161 / 99642993. (C 5070)  
**10-11-2015**

CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Rakesh** holder of Indian Passport No. Z1172230, S/o Pravin Chandra Ratilal, R/o of Flat No. 501, P, Vardhaman Nagar Mulund, (W), Mumbai, have changed my name from Rakesh to Rakesh Pravin Chandra Ratilal. (C 5069)  
**9-11-2015**

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

### FOR RENT

**Deluxe Floor in South Surra (Al Zahraa)**

4 bedrooms - 3 bathroom - maid room with bathroom-elevator

apartment - 3 bedrooms + 3 bathroom + maid room

TEL: **99679188**

### Driver Wanted

Driver wanted for Kuwaiti family. Must have transferrable visa and driver's license. Please email CV and salary requirements to

[driver2016@outlook.com](mailto:driver2016@outlook.com)

**Sheikh Khader**, Indian Passport No. M6101253, change my name to Pathan Khadar Khan. (C 5068)

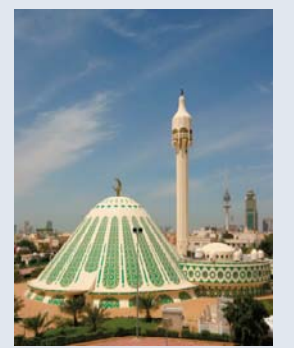
### SITUATION VACANT

**Required** domestic cook (Indian preferred) excellent salary, well spoken English language, excellent experience and transferable visa (20). Contact: 99020008. (C 5067)  
**4-11-2015**

**EMERGENCY 112**

### Prayer timings

Fajr:	04:46
Shorook	06:07
Duhr:	11:32
Asr:	14:35
Maghrib:	16:56
Isha:	18:15



Arrival Flights on Tuesday 10/11/2015				Departure Flights on Tuesday 10/11/2015			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
BBC	143	Dhaka	00:05	JAD	302	Amman	00:15
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	MSC	404	Asyut	00:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	MSC	406	Sohag	01:00
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	BBC	143	Chittagong/Dhaka	01:35
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:35
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
ETH	620	Ababa	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
RJA	644	Amman	03:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	THY	765	Istanbul	05:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	03:25	ICV	673	Hong Kong	05:50
ICV	673	MXP	04:20	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
JZR	503	Luxor	04:25	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:55
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	RJA	645	Amman	07:05
THY	764	Istanbul	05:55	THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
BAW	157	London	06:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	07:15	FDB	054	Dubai	07:15
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	QTR	1087	Doha	08:40
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	BAW	156	London	08:45
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	OMA	642	Muscat	08:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
OMA	641	Muscat	08:00	KAC	513	Tehran	09:45
KAC	354	BLR	08:15	KAC	101	London/New York	09:55
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	KAC	501	Beirut	10:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50	KAC	561	Amman	10:00
KAC	362	Colombo	09:00	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	QTR	1071	Doha	11:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	IRA	674	Lar	11:40
IRA	675	Lar	10:40	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	UAE	874	Dubai	12:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	CKS	9529	Hong Kong	13:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	KAC	679	Muscat	13:00
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	514	Tehran	14:10	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15

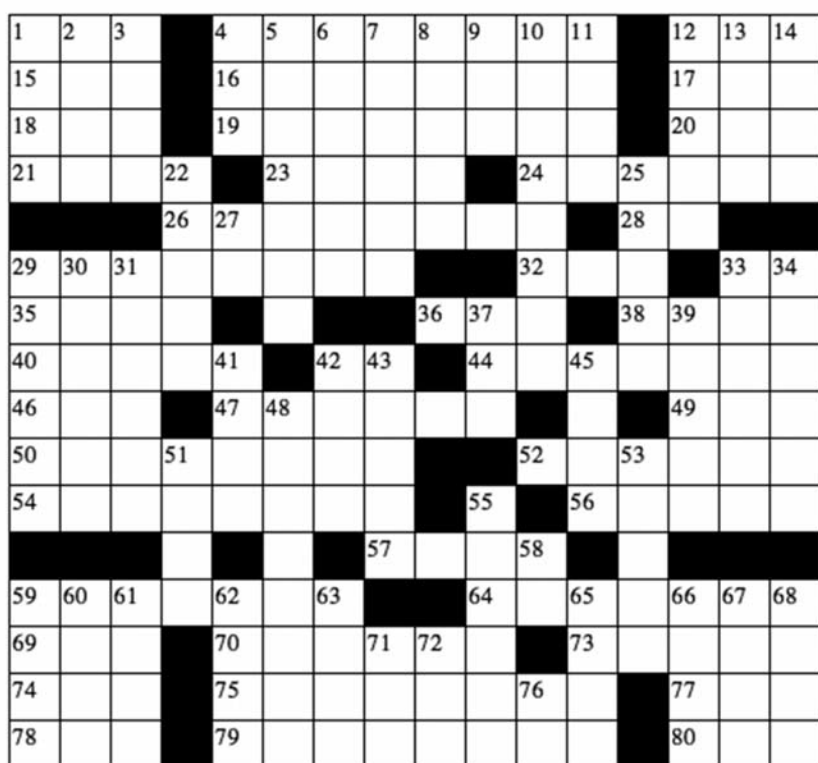
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

**In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats**

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**



CROSSWORD 1075



ACROSS

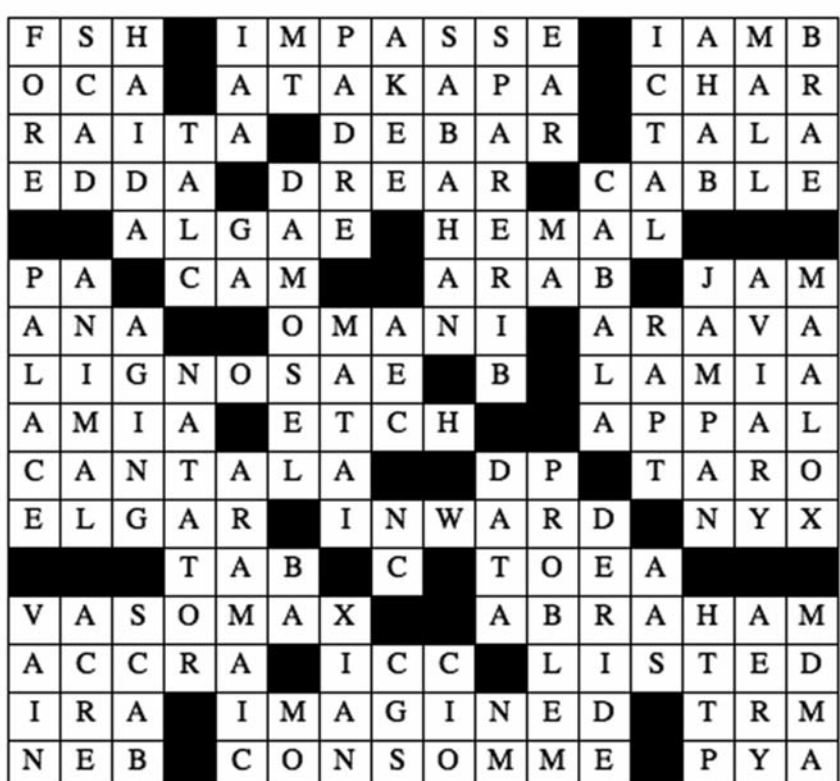
1. The compass point that is one point east of due south.
4. (astronomy) The point in an orbit farthest from the body being orbited.
12. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
15. Affectedly modest or shy especially in a playful or provocative way.
16. Birds with feet adapted for perching on trees.
17. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
18. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
19. Someone who educates.
20. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
21. (informal) Exceptionally good.
23. In the Roman calendar.
24. Moving quickly and lightly.
26. Behavior or language bordering on indelicacy.
28. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
29. A prediction about how something (as the weather) will develop.
32. Hormone produced early in pregnancy by the placenta.
35. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
36. A member of the Siouan people living in the Yazoo river valley in Mississippi.
38. A mixture of mashed malt grains and hot water.
40. To fix or set securely or deeply.
44. Being ahead of time or need.
46. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
47. On a ship, train, plane or other vehicle.
49. Any of various dark heavy viscous substances obtained as a residue.
50. A fee charged for exchanging currencies.
52. A member of the Finno-Ugric-speaking people living in eastern European Russia.
54. Able to read and write well.
56. Like or containing small stick lumps.
57. The capital of Western Samoa.
59. Liable to sin.
64. Get undressed.
69. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
70. Someone who helps to gather the harvest.
73. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
74. Alternative names for the body of a human being.
75. Surpassing what is common or usual or expected.
77. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
78. Used of a single unit or thing.
79. Make by putting pieces together.
80. An informal term for a father.

DOWN

1. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
2. Old World wild swine having a narrow body

3. Long-bodied long-tailed tropical American wildcat.
4. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
5. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
6. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade names Orudis or Orudis KT or Oruvail).
7. Distinctive manner of oral expression.
8. (physical chemistry) A distinct state of matter in a system.
9. (usually followed by 'to' or 'for') On the point of or strongly disposed.
10. Shod or cased with iron.
11. An antidepressant drug that acts by blocking the reuptake of serotonin so that more serotonin is available to act on receptors in the brain.
12. Infestation of the pubic hair by crab lice.
13. Precipitation of ice pellets when there are strong rising air currents.
14. Not in action or at work.
22. Small compact-bodied almost completely aquatic bird that builds floating nests.
25. Molten rock in the earth's crust.
27. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
30. The ohmic resistance of a conductor.
31. Any of various burrowing animals of the family Leporidae having long ears and short tails.
33. A steep artificial slope in front of a fortification.
34. Resembling or containing chert.
37. An interest followed with exaggerated zeal.
39. (Babylonian) Consort of Anu.
41. The specified day of the month.
42. Formerly the chief magistrate in the republics of Venice and Genoa.
43. English monk and scholar (672-735).
45. Large lipoproteins rich in triglycerides.
48. The state of being unclothed and exposed (especially of a part of the body).
51. Of or relating to near the ear.
53. Ritual hand movement in Hindu religious dancing.
55. The vein in the center of a leaf.
58. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
60. Very dark black.
61. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.
62. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
63. (military) Signal to turn the lights out.
65. The general activity of selling.
66. Toward the mouth or oral region.
67. A cord fastened around the neck with an ornamental clasp and worn as a necktie.
68. A town in north central Oklahoma.
71. Liquid excretory product.
72. Electronic warfare undertaken to prevent or reduce an enemy's effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
76. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You're itching to make an escape today because you believe you could lose your chance if you don't act immediately. Unfortunately, you might climb too far out on a limb if you don't stop to think about where you're going. This isn't the best time to test your limits, even if you're sure you can't go wrong. Demonstrate your wisdom by heeding the cosmic signs; gathering experience now is a more reliable path to success than acting on false confidence.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Someone's feelings might appear inflated today and you're not sure how to react without creating more drama. Paradoxically, the issues seem to be more cosmic and less about your personal dynamics. It may even feel as if fate is playing a significant role in the events that are unfolding around you. However, there's no need to worry about loss of control. You are in good hands with joyful Jupiter leading the parade. Follow the energy wherever it goes while letting compassion be your guide.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A complicated issue with a family member continues to require your attention, but this personal matter becomes easier to manage now, even with your busy work schedule. Although your nerves are still on edge, the stress is finally beginning to settle down. The biggest problem is your heightened emotional reactivity. Try something as simple as counting to ten before responding to anyone else's demands. This will give you sufficient time to consider your feelings before saying anything you might regret.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You're uncharacteristically driven to step outside of your normal safety zone today. Staying at home is not a viable option now. Even if you feel blissfully content in your relationships, you have much to gain by exploring new ways of expressing your love. You don't have to take a big risk to reach out a little further than you did in the past. You may be happily surprised with the encouraging response you receive when you simply act from your heart.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your world would run smooth like a clock if only you could catch up and synchronize your internal rhythm to it. It's not like you can alter the world; you must change your inner dynamics. Like Cinderella, you can transform a disappointing set of circumstances into a magical experience by imagining life as you wish it to be. Thankfully, if you put your fantasies in order, there's a good chance they can become real.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

A most auspicious day could be in store for you as the radiant Sun forms a supportive sextile with lucky Jupiter in your sign. Instead of just gazing into your future, move toward the horizon of your choice. Don't let this cosmic opportunity slip by without positive action on your part. Even making a tiny adjustment to your direction today greatly improves your chances of reaching your destination tomorrow.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Looking at your life through a spiritual filter today enables you to reframe a problem from a healthier perspective. Ironically, nothing much has changed on the outside, but your new and improved attitude can make all the difference in the world. You're tempted to share your optimistic outlook with others, but you might only dissipate your energy if you waste time justifying your beliefs. Instead, maximize the current potential by channeling your positive intentions into constructive actions.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Follow your gut instincts today, especially if you're struck with a brilliant idea about doing a repetitive job in an entirely new way. Luckily, you're not restrained by your old patterns now, empowering you to analyze your work methods in a different light. Although your innovative plan might not produce tangible results, you won't ever know what could happen unless you give it a try. Even if you're not immediately successful, don't give up too soon; satisfaction may require multiple attempts before you get it just right.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Nothing will hold you back now if you can find the positive in every situation. However, you may be so confident that you forget to take the time to consider the consequences of your actions. Fortunately, your key planet Jupiter is your guardian angel today, blessing all decisions that impact your career path. Nevertheless, explore each of your options prior to committing to one path. A little bit of planning in the present moment amplifies the long-term positive impact of your current choices.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Dreaming about the future is easier now than living in the present. You're not sure what to make of the stressful interpersonal dynamics at work. It may seem as if you're out of synch with your associates, but you don't know whether or not to confront the differences or let them pass. A flexible attitude can help to a point, but eventually you might need to say what's on your mind. Hold out as long as possible and then speak your peace. Practicing patience helps you clarify your position and improves the chances for a positive outcome.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Oddly enough, you must tread carefully now because the stress level is so low. The extra concern is especially necessary if you fall into a comfort zone where you think everything should just land at your feet because you deserve it. Nevertheless, the golden ring is not going to arrive on its own accord; you must stretch your limits to reach for the prize. Don't settle for the easy way out; satisfaction must be earned with courage and hard work.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your future looks so bright today you have to wear shades, since the resistance you recently faced is history. You might feel as if you spent too much time trying to overcome a single obstacle, but nothing will be gained now by walking down Memory Lane. It's more important to focus on collaborating with someone to accomplish your objectives. The potential to succeed is greater than usual if you follow up on a current opportunity before you lose the cosmic momentum.

WORD SEARCH

FAMOUS PAIRS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



- |                  |                   |                  |                 |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| ADAM AND EVE     | BOW AND ARROW     | FISH AND CHIPS   | LEWIS AND CLARK |
| BATMAN AND ROBIN | BREAD AND BUTTER  | FUZZY DICE       | PUNCH AND JUDY  |
| BERT AND ERNIE   | CHEECH AND CHONG  | GIN AND TONIC    | SNAKE EYES      |
| BILL AND TED     | DAVID AND GOLIATH | JACK AND JILL    | SONNY AND CHER  |
| BONNIE AND CLYDE | DEATH AND TAXES   | LAUREL AND HARDY | TOM AND JERRY   |

Yesterday Solution

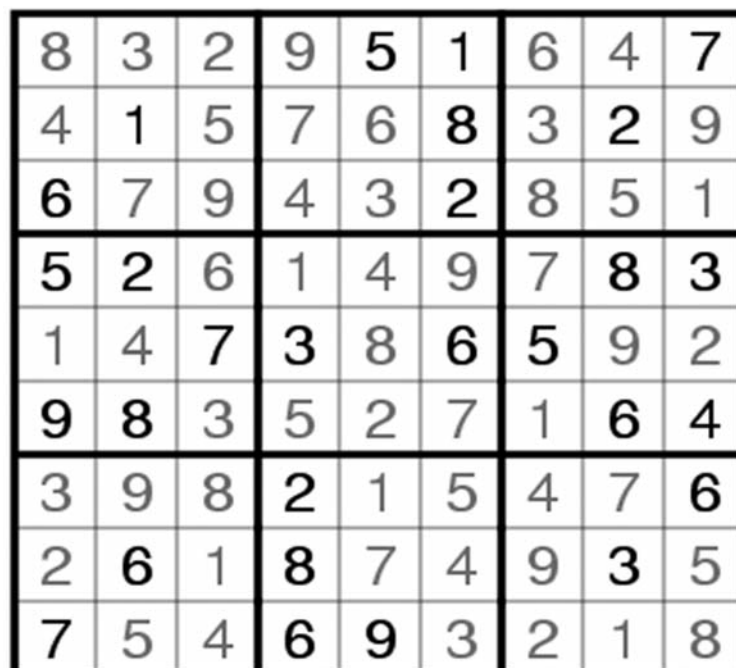
SOLUTION TO THE CAT'S MEOW PUZZLE



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

**Hospitals**

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

**Clinics**

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



**PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY**

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

**INTERNATIONAL CALLS**



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	0060
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Toga	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

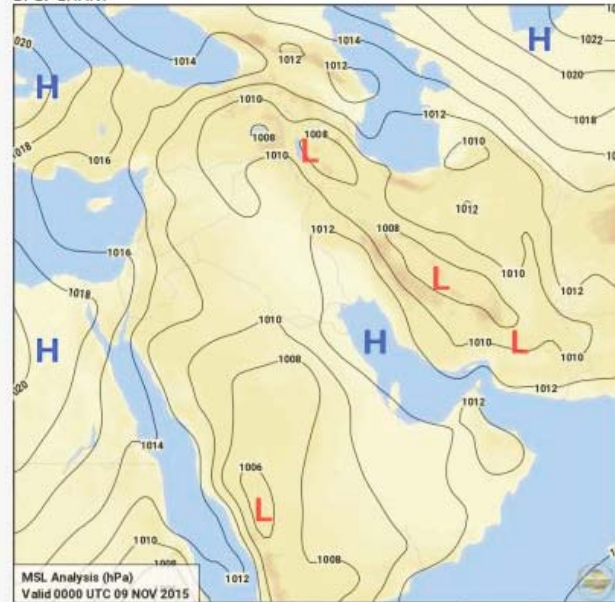


**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**  
Issued 09/11/2015-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

**MAX Temperature 25 °C**

**By Day** : Clouds will increase gradually with variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h with a chance for scattered rain  
**By Night** : Partly cloudy to cloudy with light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h with a chance for scattered rain that might be thundery at times

**SFC. CHART**



**Four-Day Forecast**

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	cloudy + scattered rain	sunny	sunny	sunny
Min Temp °C	16	14	13	12
Max Temp °C	23	25	23	23
Wind Direction	south easterly to light variable	north westerly to northerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	15 - 38	15 - 40	12 - 35

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

**Warnings**  
NO CURRENT WARNINGS

**Kuwait Forecast**

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C
KUWAIT CITY	21		27
KUWAIT AIRPORT	17		25
ABDALLY	17		27
BUBYAN	17		27
JAHRA	18		27
FAILAKA ISLAND	20		27
SALMIYAH	22		26
AHMADI	21		26
JAL ALIYAH	17		25
QAROH ISLAND	24		27
UMM AL-MARADEM	24		27
NUWAISIB	19		28
WAFRA	16		27
MANAGISH	16		25
SALMY	14		22
MUTRIBA	16		27

**Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport**

Max Temp (°C)	26
Min Temp (°C)	20
Max Rel Hum (%)	86
Min Rel Hum (%)	50
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	06:07
Sunset	16:57

**Prayer Times**

Fajr	04:46
Sunrise	06:07
Zuhr	11:32
Asr	14:35
Sunset	16:57
Isha	18:16



**PRIVATE CLINICS**

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammed Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s. Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123



# Gigi Hadid is 'working out like crazy'

Gigi Hadid is reportedly "working out like crazy" ahead of her debut at the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show next month. The 20-year-old model, who was slammed with fat jibes when she walked at various fashion weeks earlier this year, is set to strut her stuff down the catwalk in New York City on December 8 and has been throwing herself into exercise to ensure she's in the best shape she can possibly be in. A source told the HollywoodLife.com: "Gigi can't sleep. She's a combination of both excited and incredibly nervous about her forthcoming appearance at Victoria's Secret Fashion Show. She's been working out like crazy, sometimes three times a day, and is concerned she's too curvy, so she hasn't been eating too much either." Meanwhile, the blonde beauty admitted she was reduced to tears when she was told she'd been picked to take part in the lingerie company's annual catwalk extravaganza. Taking to her Instagram account last week, she wrote: "Couldn't keep back my tears!!!! Anyone that grew up with me knows that getting this show has been a dream of mine forever! THANK YOU @victoriassecret & @ed\_razek! One of the happiest moments of my life. #vsfashionshow2015 (sic)" She also wrote on Twitter: "I'm so overwhelmed with joy, it won't stop bringing me to tears. Thank you all for your love & support. On cloud nine. #V5FashionShow2015 (sic)"



# Klass mows lawn to stay in shape

Myleene Klass keeps in shape by mowing the lawn. The 37-year-old singer, who has daughters Ava, eight, and Hero, four, has revealed her secret behind her svelte curves and washboard abs is doing heavy-duty housework. Speaking to the Daily Mail's FEMAIL, she said: "House work [keeps me in shape]. Mowing the lawn, washing the windows, doing the Hoovering. I find it therapeutic and also helps work up a sweat in no time; that and swimming." She added with a smile: "My dad was a frogman in the Navy and myself and my girls 'spend a lot of time swimming, it's in our blood. We're mermaids." The brunette beauty, who believes her style is "mostly classic with a

little Joan Collins thrown in and a lot of Bet Lynch," has unveiled her ninth collection with Littlewoods. The 10-piece winter line includes stunning floor-length gowns, leather skirts and figure-hugging bodycon dresses, dipped in glitter, perfect for the festive party season. She explained: "This collection is extremely bold", vibrant and chic. It's perfect for the upcoming party season and everything you could possibly need from huge faux fur coats to brave the winter chill in, through to a stunning, leopard print maxi, which I fully intend to live in."



# Sheeran deterred from drugs by John

Ed Sheeran was put off taking drugs by Sir Elton John. The 24-year-old singer admits talking to his friend and mentor about his own experiences of being a cocaine addict has deterred him from dabbling in illegal substances. He said: "His stories about drugs put you off. "You hear Elton talk about his darkest days and he tells you so you don't have those little moments. He has definitely lived it." The 'Drunk' hitmaker - who previously confessed to taking ecstasy - is happy to be honest about his vices because he thinks it is worse if someone considered a "role model" is then caught out indulging in something less-than-clean cut. He is quoted by the Daily Mirror newspaper as saying: "It may be the wrong way to look at it but it's far more important to be honest. "I can either pretend to be something I'm not, or I can be myself. If you're in the position of being a role model and go, 'No, I don't smoke', then get caught smoking, it's far worse." Ed isn't the only star to have been advised by Elton about drugs. Rapper Eminem has previously credited the 'Rocket Man' singer for helping him get clean, while Lady Gaga said she was "saved" by him. She added: "He got me on the straight and narrow."



# Twiggy believes you 'don't have to suffer to look fabulous'

The 66-year-old model - whose real name is Lesley Lawson - has confessed she hates wearing high-heels and cringes when she sees women struggling to walk in them. She explained: "Just recently, I was at a party when I saw two young girls arrive wearing unbelievably high heels. They looked so uncomfortable and, within half an hour, I couldn't help but notice they'd whipped them off and were carrying them over their shoulder instead. "You certainly won't find me making the same mistake: I was wearing one of my many pairs of trusty brogues, my go-to party shoes, in which I could happily stand around all night. "But then, at my age, I've long since learned you don't have to suffer to look fabulous - while I also believe firmly that age is no barrier to style either." The blonde beauty admitted she even refuses to walk around in heels during photoshoots. She told MailOnline: "If I need to wear stilettos on a modeling shoot, I will get someone to place them on the spot where I'm standing and step into them." Meanwhile, Twiggy has insisted she's always been a bit of a tomboy and still prefers wearing trouser suits instead of dresses. She said: "I genuinely think a tuxedo is every bit as sexy as a little black dress, and it's a great look if you're not into anything too frilly, although it's also easy to girlyfy with a sequined bustier or tunic top."

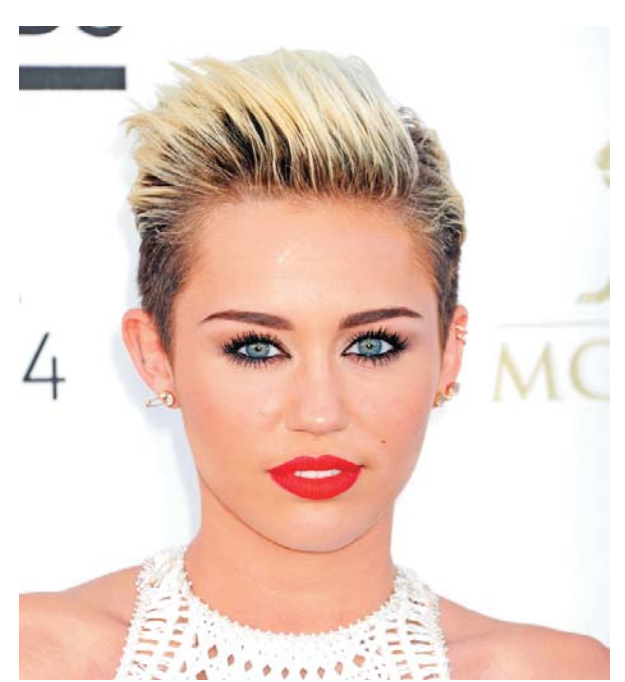
# A piano licked by Cyrus has sold for \$50,000

A piano licked by Miley Cyrus has sold for \$50,000. The 'Wrecking Ball' hitmaker agreed to help Linda Perry sell off the instrument - which was donated by 'Orange is the New Black' star Ruby Rose - at the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Vanguard Awards gala and made a special effort to make the lot more enticing, by adorning it with her own saliva. And it was eventually picked up by a lucky bidder for a staggering \$50,000. Later in the evening, Miley was "beyond grateful" to be presented with the Vanguard Award by staff members from the LGBT Centre and members of her own Happy Hippy Foundation. She said: "I want all of you to know that I feel beyond grateful to be in a room full of so many...people who care so much about others because unfortunately that is way too rare in the world that we live in today. "I'm thinking of tonight not as celebrating what we've already done but what we're doing and what we're going to do in the future." Jane Fonda was also honoured for her work with the LGBT community at the gala, and picked up her accolade from her 'Grace and Frankie' co-star Lily Tomlin. She said: "As I see it, trans women are the frontline warriors in the battle against patriarchy. Because you better believe that any person who gives up penis privilege voluntarily is going to be a threat to the patriarchy." Screenwriter Ron Nyswaner also received an award, while Linda and 'Glee' star Alex Newell performed during the event at the Hyatt Regency Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles.



# Dempsey holding hands with estranged wife

Patrick Dempsey and his estranged wife have been spotted holding hands in Paris. The former 'Grey's Anatomy' star and his make-up artist spouse split in January but appeared to be enjoying a romantic day out in the French capital over the weekend. They visited the Pont des Arts, also known as the Love Lock Bridge, where couples attach padlocks to the railings as a sign of their love. And Jillian shared a picture of herself at the Picasso Mania exhibit at the Grand Palais. Patrick, 49, has been in England recently filming the new 'Bridget Jones' movie, while Jillian has been Jennifer Lawrence's make-up artist on the 'Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2' press tour in Europe. Back in January, Jillian, 48, who married the actor in July 1999, filed for divorce citing irreconcilable differences and is seeking joint custody of their 12-year-old daughter, Tallulah Fyfe, and seven-year-old twin sons, Sullivan Patrick and Darby Galen. She is also requesting spousal and child support, and a source told gossip website TMZ.com: "She's all about the kids." The actor has an estimated \$40 million fortune and the former couple did not have a prenuptial agreement. Patrick, who was married to Rocky Parker from 1987 to 1994, previously credited Jillian for helping him to stay grounded. He said: "The best part about being married is feeling centered. Nothing else matters so much as long as you can come home and be with your family." But he also admitted they were both very independent people. He said: "She'll do things on her own so she can come back and be much more patient with the kids. I go car racing."



# Witherspoon puts family first



Reese Witherspoon has taken a step back from acting to make her family her number one priority. The Oscar winner admits she has scaled back her acting work in order to spend more time with her children Ava, 16, and 11-year-old Deacon - her kids with ex-husband Ryan Phillippe - and two-year-old Tennessee with current spouse Jim Toth. Reese - whose last film 'Hot Pursuit' with Sofia Vergara came out in May - said: "My family comes first. I haven't made a movie probably in a year and a half. I'm focused on my business, but also I want to spend time with my teenage daughter. It's terrifying

that my oldest child is about to leave [home to go to university]. I can't imagine not sitting at the foot of her bed, saying, 'So what happened at school today?' " The 39-year-old actress accepts "it's hard" to raise well-rounded children in Hollywood and she is particularly strict about what they watch on TV. Speaking in Glamour magazine, she said: "You hope you're saying the right things - but also, as a kid becomes a teenager, you feel like there's a ticking clock to tell them everything they need to know. My kids make me laugh every day. And they're so supportive. As I get older, they understand things I wor-

ried about - the guilt of being gone - in a way that's so healing for me, when they say, 'Mom, we know you love what you do. We love to watch you do what you do.' Reese and Jim have been happily married for four-and-a-half years and she insists nothing has "wildly changed" between them since they first began their romance. She said: "I just love him more and more. I want so much for him to be happy, and he wants me to be happy."



## Tomlinson worried weight will balloon when One Direction go on hiatus

Louis Tomlinson is worried that his weight will balloon when One Direction go on hiatus. The 23-year-old singer admitted he is naturally lazy and loves junk food and joked that he is going to have a "big belly" while on a break from the band. He told *Fabulous* magazine: "I'm actually naturally very lazy. So I'm going to get a big fat belly. I'm going to be 24 soon and all these pies are going to catch up on me. You're going to see photos of me with a big belly." Meanwhile, Niall Horan, 22, is planning to go backpacking with his friends during the hiatus.

He said: "I've spent the past few years of my life in planes and on tour buses and I've been through countries I've really loved but haven't had a chance to really see. I want to go back to Australia and definitely Thailand. With the band we stayed in luxury hotels but I want to see these countries like any lad of my age, just staying in hostels and that sort of thing. I don't want to stay at a Four Seasons. I've done that, I want something else." "I did think about dying my hair brown so I won't get recognized, but I genuinely believe that if I'm on my own with my mates

from home, no one will give me a second look." However, despite claims to the contrary, they insist One Direction will be back after their break. Liam Payne, 22, said: "It's not over. And yes, we're taking a break, but we need one. We have done four tours, five albums but we will be coming back. We don't want this to end."



## Angelina Jolie loves getting older

The 40-year-old actress revealed she has no fears about ageing and welcomes getting older because many women in her family died young. Angelina - who underwent a preventive double mastectomy two years ago after learning she had an 87 per cent risk of developing breast cancer - explained: "I turned 40 this year and I am so happy. Most women in my family start to get sick and start dying in their 40s and I am going to be very happy to become 50 and 60. I love getting older." Angelina's mother died of ovarian cancer in 2007 at the age of 56 and her grandmother passed away from the same disease at 45. And Angelina insisted that family, including husband Brad Pitt and children

Maddox, 14, Pax, 11, Zahara, 10, Shiloh, nine, and seven-year-old twins Vivienne and Knox, is the most important thing in her life, taking precedence over her career. She told the *Sunday Telegraph*: "I'm now doing films that really matter to me and I can really enjoy with my children. If something inconveniences my children too much, or takes me away from them, I won't do it. When I was younger I was testing myself and questioning everything but now it's less about that and more about these are the years of my life with my family."

## Nick Jonas is convinced he's seen a UFO



The 'Jealous' hitmaker, 23, believes he witnessed three Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) about eight years ago when he was standing in his back garden in Los Angeles, California, and has been in the hunt for more ever since. Speaking on Britain's *This Morning*, he said: "This was probably eight years ago, I was in my backyard in LA. I looked up in the sky and there was three flying saucers. I looked at my friend and said 'Are you seeing this or am I losing my mind?'. He was seeing the same thing." The former Jonas Brothers singer was so baffled by the sighting that he scoured the internet for evidence. He explained: "I went online and there were three identical sightings two weeks before. There was me, my friend and a bunch of people in LA that all saw it." Despite being slightly "freaked out" by the alleged UFO, Nick can't help but get a little excited when he looks up at the sky. He added: "To me that blue light freaks me out in the best way possible, I'm really excited to get back to LA. I leave in a couple of hours and I'm going to try and find the UFO!"

## Carey 'moves in with new lover'

Mariah Carey has moved into James Packer's house. The 'Hero' hitmaker, 43, has reportedly boxed up her belongings and is now living with her billionaire boyfriend, 48, in his Beverly Hills mansion in California, just five months after they started dating, according to gossip site TMZ.com. The blonde beauty's big move came just a week after she threw a Halloween bash for her four-year-old twins Moroccan and Monroe, with her estranged husband Nick Cannon, 35, and her new beau both in attendance. But, despite her current lover and former flame in the same facility, there was no bad blood between the pair and she said "it was cool. It was nice. It was really good for the kids." Mariah split from Nick, the father of her children, last summer after six years of marriage and has wasted no time throwing herself into her new romance as it is believed she and James are eager to tie the knot in the near future. A source said previously: "James wants to marry her sooner rather than later, and she is very open to the idea." And it seems their romance is travelling fast as the couple are said to have already discussed having a child together. The insider explained: "Mariah feels that having a child with James would be a blessing from God. She wants another child and is telling friends she's not too old." Meanwhile, James - who has been married twice before - already has three children from previous relationships.



## Austin wants bigger bump

Coco Austin wishes she had a bigger baby bump. The 36-year-old reality star is eight months pregnant with her first child - a daughter she and husband Ice T plan to name Chanel - and her shape is only just beginning to change, which the blonde beauty thinks is because she is in such "great shape". She said: "I almost feel like I kind of got gypped a little because women start seeing something of a baby bump at four to five months. I didn't see anything until eight months. I was kinda feeling gypped in a way because when you're pregnant, you want a bump." "I know I'm in great shape, but I want to feel pregnant also. Finally, something is out! She's finally showing herself and I'm loving every moment. I'm actually telling people that no doubt, I could be pregnant for the rest of my life. "I've been a model for my entire life and so concerned about fitness and all that good stuff but I could care less about my body, honestly." Coco is hoping her trim

physique means she will have an "easier" time when it comes to giving birth to her little girl. In her blog for *E! News*, she added: "In response to the critics of my small baby bump, the thing is I constantly ask my doctor, 'Am I healthy? Is the baby healthy? What is going on? Have you seen this before?' "My doctor says yes, athletes look like this all the time because they have such strong abs muscles that it takes longer for a bump to pop out. "My doctors said they just delivered a figure skater's baby and she was smaller than me and she squeezed that baby out in nearly three tries because her abs were so strong. "Strong abs muscles may mean you're going to have an easier delivery. When I heard that, I was like let's cross our fingers that that happens to me."

## Swift's friends will never use her

The 'Blank Space' hitmaker is adamant her close group of pals - which include Gigi Hadid, Karlie Kloss and Selena Gomez - will never use their friendship with the superstar to help their own "social climbing". She said: "I think one of my main goals in trying to preserve my sense of reality has been to surround myself with friends who have their own careers, and who don't need me for any sense of validation or social climbing, or a career statement." The 25-year-old singer also revealed she asks her friends for advice on her music and really "respects" their opinions. She added to Australia's *Vogue* magazine: "My friends have all solidified themselves in their own careers and so if they think that I shouldn't put out a certain

single as a first single, they're going to tell me: 'That wasn't one of my favorites that you've played me Taylor', and I'm going to respect that opinion." Meanwhile, Taylor previously insisted she has no problem with any of her friends dating her exes as "sisterhood" is far more important than her former flames. She explained: "It's almost like the sisterhood has such a higher place on the list of priorities for us. It's so much more important than some guy that it didn't work out with. "Now more than ever we need to be good and kind to each other and not judge each other - and just because you have the same taste in men, we don't hold that against each other."



## Berry and Martinez want painless divorce

Halle Berry and Olivier Martinez hope to make their divorce as "painless as possible". The couple - who announced they were splitting up last month - were spotted taking the 'Extant' actress' seven-year-old daughter Nahla to a party together. A source told *PEOPLE* magazine: "Olivier is very happy that he and Halle are able to keep a good relationship. They want to make the divorce as painless as possible for the kids. "They acted friendly and seemed okay. They keep spending family time together and seem to get along." Meanwhile, the 49-year-old star previously insisted she is doing "OK" following their split and is busying herself by looking after Nahla and her and Olivier's two-year-

old son Maceo. She said: "I'm doing OK, I really am. I, I keep pushing and I'm really happy to be here. Whenever you're going through anything in life, when you step outside yourself and focus on others, that's always the best remedy for any situation that you'd rather not be dealing with." Of their Halloween plans, she added: "Maceo didn't go trick-or-treating because he has the chicken pox, Nahla was a zombie cheerleader and we had a great [time] ... I was a pirate and she [Nahla], she's like, 'You're a sexy pirate mommy! I'm like, 'What do you know about a sexy pirate?'"





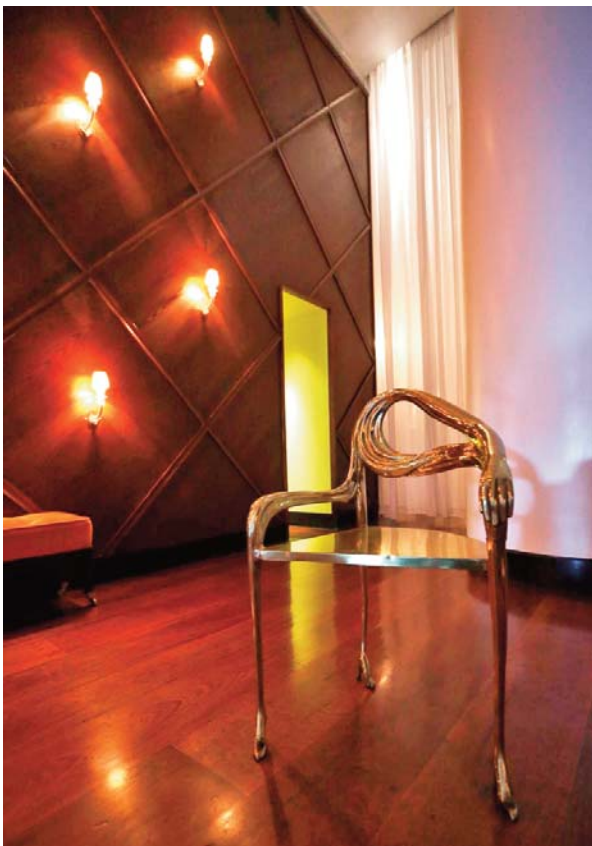


The pool of the Hotel Delano South Beach in Miami Beach, Fla. — AP photos



The Hotel Delano South Beach in Miami Beach, Fla.

# The Delano at 20 still leads boutique hotel design trend



A chair in an area of the lobby.

The white curtains in the lobby at Delano South Beach signal that there's something special about this place. Billowing down from cathedral ceilings, they flit in the breeze flowing through the long, narrow corridor, revealing glimpses of avant-garde furniture and cozy nooks for discreet people-watching. Semi-sheer and seemingly weightless, they transport guests from the harsh gaudiness of South Beach into a dreamier world. "I remember feeling like you had to live up to that space and that environment as a person," said Nathan Lump, Travel + Leisure magazine's editor-in-chief, recalling his first visit to the Delano soon after it opened in 1995. "I remember thinking, you have to be confident to walk in here. And I loved walking in and feeling, I can do this - I can be here."

Even in quirky South Beach, the Delano stood out as an aesthetic anomaly when it opened. Twenty years later, though, the design ideals and social experience offered by the Delano have almost become industry standards, with major hotel chains like Marriott and Hilton launching new "boutique" brands aimed at millennials and design-savvy travelers.

#### Design hubs

The Delano wasn't the first boutique hotel, but its popularity and location in a revived Miami Beach pushed it to the front of a trend just starting in the 1990s to reach beyond design hubs in California and New York. The Delano's look and vibe attracted attention partly "because we really had saturated the market with plain vanilla, four-wall, same-old, same-old," said Michael "Doc" Terry, a lodging expert at the University of Central Florida's Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

Boutique hotels now make up a small but growing percentage of the U.S. hotel industry, with about 103,000 rooms compared to 4.9 million traditional rooms, according to travel research firm STR. More important, Terry said, most major hotel chains have in the last few years launched a boutique hotel or design brand. Averaging 75 to 150 rooms, they tend to share some attributes with the Delano: minimalist designs, restaurants highlighting the farm-to-fork movement, contributions from local artists, unique events and trendy or high-tech amenities. These social experiences draw guests from their rooms to lobbies and pools, redefining hotels as much more than a place to sleep.

There's now a Delano in Las Vegas too, but the Delano in South Beach looks much the way it did when it first opened, with all-white rooms accented with flourishes like fresh green apples and hidden angels, reflecting the influence of designer Philippe Starck. "We were trying to get a rise out of people, to do something distinctive," said hotelier Ian Schrager, who opened the Delano and is largely credited with starting the boutique hotel trend. "A completely white room is more provocative than a white room with dark furniture."

The Delano also helped shift the emphasis among luxury hotels from over-the-top glitz to sleek style and service. "People's sense of luxury

has changed," said J.P. Oliver, general manager of the Delano and a Morgans Hotel Group executive. "Luxury is a sense of place, it's a sense of style, it's a sense of grace and glamour and ultimately speed of efficiency and never saying no."

#### Southern establishments

The boutique trend continues to grow throughout the hotel industry. Starwood launched Aloft hotels, known for modernist design, a decade ago. The InterContinental Hotel Group acquired the trendy Kimpton boutique brand in 2014. And earlier this year, Destination Hotels opened Quirk Hotel in Richmond, Virginia, where demand for a design-focused hotel turned out to be bigger than anticipated in a market dominated by traditional chains and older Southern establishments. "People who are traveling to Richmond and Richmonders themselves have an appetite for something like this because it's not like something they've seen before," said Kate Brown, director of sales and marketing at Quirk.

Schrager, who also co-founded the legendary New York disco Studio 54, has now left the Delano, but continues to champion boutique hotel deals with his own brand, Public, and by collaborating with Marriott on Edition hotels. Marriott also counts its Autograph Collection and AC Hotels, as well as the new Moxy brand, as boutique offerings. While design features may differ across brands, boutique amenities such as keyless entry (using cellphones instead of keycards to get into a room) and local foods are being implemented company-wide because guests now expect them, said Tina Edmundson, Marriott's global officer for luxury and lifestyle brands.

Hilton's Curio brand showcases independent hotels in cities such as Grand Rapids, Michigan, or Providence, Rhode Island, and its upcoming Canopy brand will similarly incorporate local neighborhoods at a lower price point, said Jim Holthouser, executive vice president of global brands for Hilton Worldwide. Meanwhile, other Hilton brands are focused on bringing boutique touches to social spaces. For example, each Hampton by Hilton hotel now displays black-and-white photography of the area. While some guests want "predictability" in their hotel stay no matter where they are, Holthouser said they've found ways to "be consistent with our beds, the friendliness of team members, but still bring in a little bit of local color."

Boutique hotels generally command higher prices and occupancy rates than more traditional hotels. During the first nine months of this year, the average nightly price of a room at a boutique property was \$227.26 compared to \$117.74 for traditional hotels, according to travel research firm STR. Those hotels also saw 76.8 percent of their rooms booked while other hotels only had 67.1 percent. — AP



A bedroom in one of the suites of the Hotel Delano.



The lobby of the Hotel Delano.



A bedroom in one of the suites of the Hotel Delano.



The sushi area of the Hotel Delano.



A piano that adorns an area of the lobby of the Hotel Delano.



A living room in one of the suites of the Hotel Delano.



The south side of the lobby of the Hotel Delano.



# Rolex worn by Bond in 'Live and Let Die' sells for \$363,000

A Rolex watch worn by Roger Moore in the James Bond film "Live and Let Die" has sold at auction in Geneva for 365,000 Swiss francs (\$363,000, 335,000 euros), the auction house Philipps said yesterday. The estimated price for the stainless steel watch, made in 1972, was between 150,000-250,000 Swiss francs. The buyer's

name was not disclosed. In the film, the watch is used to create a magnetic field which deflects bullets fired at the M16 agent. At another point, Bond uses this magnetic force to undress a woman.

At the Sotheby's auction in Geneva on Wednesday, two pieces owned by another ex-Bond star will go under the

hammer. Scottish actor Sean Connery is selling a 15.4-carat pink and orange diamond, which could fetch above \$2 million and a ring boasting 5.18 carats of diamonds, with an estimated sale price of \$250,000. — AFP



Photo provided by Serena Markstrom Nugent, bridesmaids Shanti Markstrom, left, sister of bride, and Angela Bennett (now Angela Jaquette) distribute wings prior to the wedding ceremony, in Eugene, Ore.



Photo provided by Serena Markstrom Nugent, Michele Markstrom, left, the mother of the bride, Serena Markstrom, holds wings representing one of her parents before the ceremony in Eugene, Ore.



A pendant from a special necklace to honor her late grandmother discreetly located inside Hepler's wedding dress, preserving her style and including this piece of family history in her wedding day.

## It's your day - and your family's too

### Creative ways to honor the past and present

Your wedding day? It's "your" day. It's all about you. Your wedding day? Your mother has been planning it since the day you were born. It can be challenging to celebrate your unique romance while somehow pleasing - or at least not alienating - your relatives. Do you plan the traditional ceremony and reception that your family might recommend (what's wrong with a poufy white gown and platters of prime rib?) or do you break the mould, and perhaps some hearts, by doing something completely different?

Fortunately, today's trend toward personalized weddings can make it easier to blend past and present for couples willing to get creative. Five ways to bring some family tradition into your wedding while staying true to your vision for the day:

#### 1. The religious ceremony

Your parents may prefer a more (or less) religious ceremony, or they may expect a different religious tradition to be the focus of the day. Some brides and grooms have found ways to straddle the line by incorporating religious traditions sensitively and selectively. "Religious elements are always the greatest sign of respect for your elders and family," says California-based wedding planner Deborah Moody. "You can bring in that cultural, historic part of who you are," she says, without having a fully religious wedding ceremony.

Britni de la Cretaz and her husband, Ben, opted to get married in a Cambridge, Massachusetts, restaurant rather than at a synagogue. But after researching the meaning of the chuppah, the Jewish wedding canopy, they decided to include one in their ceremony. They also signed a ketubah, a Jewish marriage contract, but opted for a secular, humanist text in English that spoke of their mutual commitment. "My family would have preferred that we have a more Jewish ceremony," de la Cretaz says. But "we wanted the ceremony to represent all parts of ourselves and ultimately, it was our day."

#### 2. Your style, with heirlooms

Melanie Tannenbaum Hepler was just 3 when her grandmother died, leaving her a necklace to be worn on her wedding day. Hepler loved the sentiment, but the necklace wasn't her style. Her mother suggested having the pendant sewn inside Hepler's gown for her wedding on Long Island, New York, in 2014. Christy Cates plans to honor her deceased parents in a similar way at her upcoming wedding. She is choosing a new gown that she likes, but "I have the lace from my mother's dress and a piece of my father's shirt that I am going to have sewn into my dress," she says. Both pieces are heart-shaped.

Cates and her fiance, William Russell, also designed their own engagement ring, but used a stone belonging to his mother and added the same engraving that her parents put on their wedding rings: Eternal Love. "I love that it's a new family heirloom," she says.

Kirsten Han and her husband, Calum Stuart, celebrated their very modern, global relationship by marrying in a cathedral in his native Scotland. He wore a kilt, while she wore a white gown for their ceremony and changed into a Peranakan kebaya gown from her native Singapore for the reception. "I wasn't brought up Peranakan myself," she says, "but because I'm really close to my granddad, it felt right. My bridesmaids had the regular 'Western' gowns, but Peranakan brooches and jewelry."

Beyond dresses and jewelry, Moody, who is executive director of the Association of Certified Professional Wedding Consultants, also encourages

California. To honor her grandfather, a baker who "made the world's best banana cream pie, we gave little jars of banana cream pudding to all our guests." She explained the connections in short paragraphs in the wedding program.

#### 4. Honoring lost loved ones

There are many ways to honor loved ones who have died: Pictures set in empty chairs, charms of remembrance on the bouquet, poetry readings. Rebecca Bridge chose a venue in the Smokey Mountains to honor her deceased mother, who loved the area. Her ceremony, while not traditional-



In this 2014 photo provided by Kirsten Han and Jenniflower Weddings shows Han, left, and Calum Stuart wearing traditional clothing from their native countries for their wedding reception in Dunblane, Scotland. — AP photos

clients to bring family history into the reception through decorative fabrics. Consider using white tablecloths with table runners made from a traditional fabric that echoes your heritage, she says. This "conversation starter for guests" brings "the culture into the reception without it being a dominant theme."

#### 3. Family-inspired foods

Traditional foods or family recipes can be incorporated into part of the reception without dominating the event: think small bites during cocktail hour, on a dessert table or even as a midnight snack to keep the party going.

"My grandmother, who I was incredibly close to, was a major chocoholic. So we had nice chocolates on all the tables and served a chocolate cake," says Julia Moss, who got married last month in southern

ly religious, included the Lord's Prayer to honor her mom and fiance Mike Pantoliano's deceased grandparents.

Serena Markstrom Nugent's creative approach to honoring deceased loved ones at her wedding in Eugene, Oregon: "We made angel wings and wrote the names of the people they represented on them," she says. "We gave the wings to people who were closest to the departed and asked them to save a seat for them. The wings were designed to rest over the back of the chairs and pews as though someone with wings were sitting there." — AP

## HAITI FASHION WEEK 2015

Models present creations by David Andre during the last night of Haiti Fashion Week 2015 held in Port-au-Prince on November 8, 2015. — AFP photos





# Lifestyle

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015

Rolex worn by Bond in 'Live and Let Die' sells for \$363,000

# 39



Human skulls or 'natitas' crowned with flowers are surrounded by offerings of coca leaves, flower petals and cigarettes, outside the Cementerio General chapel during the Natitas Festival, in La Paz, Bolivia, Sunday. Although some natitas have been handed down through generations, many are from unnamed, abandoned graves that are cared for and decorated by faithful who use them as amulets believing they serve as protection. The tradition marks the end of the Catholic All Saints holiday, but is not recognized by the Catholic church. — AP



Andy Warhol's 'Blue Jackie,' right, and Roy Lichtenstein's 'Interior with Yves Klein Sculpture,' left, are among master works being installed.



Roy Lichtenstein's 'Nurse,' left, and Chuck Close's dual paintings 'Leslie and Self Portrait,' right, are among master works installed.



Paul Gauguin's 'Jeune Homme a la Fleur' is installed.

## Christie's auctions poised to set various artist records

Works by Amedeo Modigliani, Roy Lichtenstein and Paul Gauguin are poised to set artist auction records in a curated auction at Christie's. The centerpiece of yesterday's sale is Modigliani's "Reclining Nude," which the auction house estimates will fetch in excess of \$100 million. Considered one of his best known works, the 1917-1918 painting nearly created a scandal when it was first exhibited in Paris. The auction record for a Modigliani now stands at \$71 million.

A Lichtenstein work not seen on the market for 20 years also is on tap. "Nurse," which has a stellar exhibition and provenance history, is estimated to bring \$80 million, exceeding the auction record for the pop artist of \$56 million. Impressionist, modern and contemporary art by well-known artists "do not require a tremendous amount of aesthetic or intellectual risk on the part of the collector," said Sarah Lichtman, assistant professor of design history at Parson School of Design. "They are beautiful paintings - some even exceptional as is the Modigliani - but they are tried and true."

Christie's expects to sell at least \$1 billion of art over a series of evening, day and online sales this week. There is clearly good appetite among collectors for exceptional works of art offered with appropriate estimates, said Brook Hazelton, president of the Americas for Christie's. "This is a very broad and globally diverse market at the moment, with strong interest in paintings, sculpture and works on paper from the \$10,000 level straight up to multimillion-dollar masterpieces at the top end." Spirited bidding also is expected for two major works by Gauguin from his Tahiti period.

"Therese," a carved wooden figure of a Tahitian female, could set an auction record for a sculpture by the artist if it sells for its presale estimate of \$18 million to \$25 million.

The other Gauguin, "Young Man with a Flower," is a painting of a Tahitian youth wearing a white shirt, loose cravat and a white blossom tucked behind his ear. Christie's estimates it could bring \$12 million to \$18 million. The portrait's first owner was Henri Matisse, who paid 200 francs for it in 1900. Later owners included John Quinn and Lillie Bliss, one of the original founders of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The current auction record for a Gauguin painting is \$40.3 million. Among other highlights of "The Artist's Muse" sale is Pablo Picasso's "Man with a Sword," a self-portrait of the artist as a musketeer created in 1969 and estimated to bring as

much \$25 million. Christie's said interest in Picasso's late period musketeer portraits has grown dramatically in recent years. Also of interest are two works by Lucian Freud.

"Naked Portrait on a Red Sofa" is a portrait of the artist's daughter, the fashion designer Bella Freud. Its pre-sale estimate is \$20 million to \$30 million. One of a series of portraits of his daughters, it is the first time it's being offered at auction. Today, Christie's is offering Freud's "Brigadier," a portrait of Andrew Parker Bowles, the former husband of Camilla Parker-Bowles, now the wife of Prince Charles. It was on view at the 2012 retrospective of the artist at the National Portrait Gallery in London and portrays the career soldier wearing his sumptuous army brigadier uniform. It's estimated to sell for around \$30 million.

Today's post-war and contemporary art sale also has a mammoth bronze "Spider" sculpture by Louise Bourgeois, estimated at \$25 million to \$35 million. If realized, that price would exceed the artist's current auction record of \$10.7 million and set a record for a sculpture by a female artist. — AP



Lucian Freud's "The Brigadier" is shown installed.



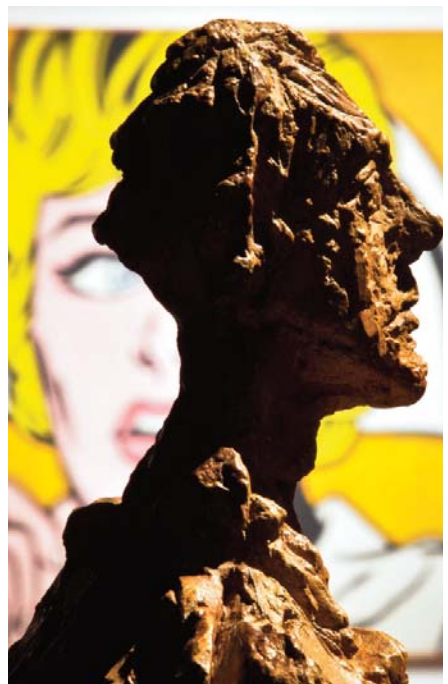
## Nigerian bags World Scrabble title, in first for Africa

Cowboy-hat wearing Wellington Jighere from Nigeria crushed his English opponent 4 - 0 at the World Scrabble Championship in Australia to become first African to bag the world game's global title. Jighere was among more than 120 competitors who travelled to Perth for the World English-language Scrabble Players' Association Championship, which culminated in Sunday's best-of-seven final against England's Lewis Mackay. "He had to battle for four days to emerge on top but once he got there-maybe he was a little fresher, or got a bit of luck-everything fell into place for him and he won four-nil," Adam Kretschmer, one of the organizers of the event, told AFP of Jighere's effort.

The Nigerian used such high-scoring words as "fahlores," "avouched" and "mentored" as he puzzled his way to victory. "It is the first time that an African has won in these world championships," Jighere told The Guardian after the win. But he conceded that "Nigel is still the master. It just happens that today was my day."

It was a reference to New Zealander Nigel Richards who dominates English-language Scrabble, with three world championships, five North American titles and 11 wins at the prestigious King's Cup in Thailand, sponsored by the Thai royal family. Richards stunned the francophone world in July when he also won the game's French version even though he doesn't speak the language and only spent nine weeks studying the official Scrabble dictionary. A trained engineer, Richards reportedly began playing Scrabble at 28 at the request of his mother, who was frustrated that his photographic memory was making their card games too one-sided.

But he proved dazzling at the word game, even though he favored mathematics at school and was never much of an English student. A rival New Zealand Scrabbler once said Richards was "like a computer with a big ginger beard," while Malaysian tournament organizer Michael Tang has called him "the Tiger Woods of Scrabble." On Facebook, Jighere admitted that the Perth tournament in which each player had played 32 games over four days before the finalists were decided-had been exhausting. "I really must endeavor to rest now," he posted late Sunday. "I've not slept well in about a week. The fact that I was able to perform in spite of the sleeplessness still baffles me. It only goes to prove that God was deeply involved in this matter." — AFP



Alberto Giacometti's sculpture 'Homme au Blouson,' is profiled against Roy Lichtenstein's 'Nurse.'



Alberto Giacometti's sculpture 'Homme au Blouson,' is profiled against Roy Lichtenstein's 'Nurse.'



Alberto Giacometti's sculpture 'Femme Debout,' left, and Andy Warhol's 'Gun.'