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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015

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## KUWAIT, RUSSIA LEADERS INK AGREEMENTS, MOUS

AMIR, PUTIN DISCUSS ECONOMIC, OIL, MILITARY COOPERATION



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### THE APPEALS COURT OVERTURNS EX-MP'S CITIZENSHIP VERDICT

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The Appeals Court yesterday overturned a Lower Court verdict in which it ordered the government to return citizenship to a former Islamist MP and ruled that it was not competent under the law to handle sovereign issues like citizenship. Earlier this year, the Lower Court ruled that the government's revoking of former MP Abdullah Al-Barghash citizenship along with 56 members of his family, was illegal and ordered the government to re-instate all citizenships.

The government took the action last year as part of a crackdown on the opposition but based its decision on an article in the nationality law which speaks about cheating in obtaining the nationality. The government challenged the Lower Court ruling in the Appeals Court and insisted that courts have no power on the so-called sovereign issues like nationality under the Kuwaiti law. The Appeals Court accepted the government argument and said that the law clearly stipulates that the court have no jurisdiction over nationality law and accordingly cancelled the Lower Court decision.

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SOCHI: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and President Vladimir Putin seen during the signing ceremony. — KUNA

**SOCHI:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah held official talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the presidential palace in the Russian city of Sochi. During the talks, His Highness the Amir offered heartfelt and sincere condolences to the Russian president over the victims of the recent Russian passenger plane crash in Egypt's Sinai. The talks focused on ways and means of promoting existing cooperation between Kuwait and Russia in economic, investment, oil and military cooperation, reflecting the depth of friendship and size of mutual interests between both sides.

Also discussed during the talks were ways of developing distinguished relations between both friendly countries in all fields, and the latest regional and international developments, primarily the Middle East and anti-terrorism efforts. The talks were held in a friendly manner that reflected mutual understanding and friendship, with both sides voicing willingness to develop bilateral relations up to the level that fulfills the ambitions of both friendly peoples and their aspired goals.

Meanwhile, Kuwait and Russia yesterday signed a host of bilateral agreements. The signing ceremony, held at the presidential palace in the Russian city of Sochi, was attended by His Highness the Amir and President Vladimir Putin. These include an agreement between the two governments for the exemption of entry visa for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports, signed by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

Continued on Page 13



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KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday the Deputy Board Chairman of the Ruling Family, Sheikh Dr Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah. He also received His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. —KUNA

## IFC FORUM FOR GLOBAL DIALOGUE FOR SUSTAINED GROWTH OF ISLAMIC FINANCE: CBK GOVERNOR

**KUWAIT:** Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Mohammad Yousef Al-Hashel said the Islamic Finance Conference (IFC) to be hosted by Kuwait today can provide a forum for global forum to develop a vision for the sustained growth of the Islamic financial industry.

The conference will build a platform for continued work in order to further cultivate and exploit the core competencies of Islamic Finance that make sustainable growth possible, he said in an interview with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published on its website yesterday.

Although still a comparatively small share of all global financial assets, the role and relevance of Islamic finance in the global financial system is gaining significance, he added. He noted that the first theme concerns increasing financial inclusion through access to finance, which is vital in stimulating the economy and improving the welfare of the underprivileged, adding research suggests that over one third of the world's adult population-about 2.5 billion people-lacks access to formal financial services.

Islamic finance can help remedy this situation by promoting Islamic microfinance, financing to small and medium-sized enterprises, and micro Takaful (pooled insurance where shareholders contribute money to protect against loss or damage), he said, indicating that nevertheless, financial inclusion also requires enhancing access to basic banking services, creating a conducive regulatory environment, and promoting public awareness on financial matters.

### Financial stability

He further said second, we will discuss how to strengthen regulation and supervision to foster financial stability, elaborating a recent IMF study noted that Islamic standard setters, including the Islamic Financial Services Board, have established "rules of the road," but these are not being applied consistently, potentially stifling the development of Islamic finance and creating systemic vulnerabilities.

He added that continued efforts are needed to refine regulatory frameworks for Islamic finance institutions in line with recent recommendations of both the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and the Islamic Financial Services Board-while ensuring greater consistency in their application.

The governor said the third theme will cover the development of Sukuk (the Islamic equivalent of bonds) and other long-term Islamic finance instruments for infrastructure financing and sustainable development.

Sukuk have the potential to serve as high quality liquid assets, which is of increasing importance to regulators in the implementation of Basel III liquidity and capital adequacy frameworks, he said, noting that developing the Sukuk market requires further improvements to legal, regulatory, and disclosure norms, and stronger market infrastructure-including developing the secondary market.

Asked about the success factors that have led to the recent growth of Islamic finance, Al-Hashel said the key success factors anchoring the recent growth of Islamic finance have evolved over time and, to a certain extent, have changed the landscape of the industry.

He added there are many main reasons for the success: First, the characteristics of Islamic finance - such as the concept of sharing profit and loss, investments that are socially responsible and environmentally sustainable, and linking finance with real economic activities - have grown in popularity since the global financial crisis of 2008, and provide an alternative to more traditional financial products.

Among the reasons is the demand for sharia-compliant financial services and products (retail, corporate), or for building infrastructure projects, in both Islamic and non-Islamic countries, has been on the rise, resulting in a large number of institutions entering the Islamic finance field

for the first time, he said, referring that some of these institutions have been conventional banks eager to capture a share of a promising market through their Islamic window operations.

The third reason is the development of a broad range of innovative products and instruments by Islamic financial institutions, he stated, indicating such innovation has provided additional services to clients, but has also brought some added challenges to those institutions, as well as to their supervisors.

He said the fourth is the availability of a conducive regulatory framework and enabling infrastructure has been a key factor in the development of Islamic finance, adding this factor is prevalent in many countries where legal and regulatory amendments have been undertaken to accommodate Islamic finance.

### Challenges ahead

Despite these positive developments, Islamic finance is still fragmented and many challenges lie ahead, Hashel said, adding it remains to be



Governor of Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Mohammad Yousef Al-Hashel

seen whether the past successes can be sustained, particularly in light of the recent decline in oil prices. Continued innovation and the collective effort of all stakeholders will be required to ensure sustainable growth and success going forward, he said.

Concerning key challenges facing Islamic finance, Hashel said there are two interrelated challenges: one related to market development; and the other, establishing robust supervisory and regulatory frameworks.

With regards to market development, despite the notable strides that have been made, market penetration remains low - with Islamic financial assets accounting for only 1 percent of global financial assets, he explained.

Further, the structure of the Islamic finance industry is still very bank-centric and concentrated in a few countries, he noted. "In addition, we face two types of regulatory and supervisory challenges. The first relates to the foundation of Islamic finance, including ensuring an enabling supervisory, regulatory and legal environment; a suitable accounting and auditing framework; supportive financial market infrastructure; and, capacity building. Addressing these is a pre-requisite for the successful development of Islamic finance," he said.

"We also face a number of regulatory challenges that are more evolving in nature, such as ensuring a level playing field for Islamic finance; implementing Basel III reforms; complementing micro with macro-prudential regulations; cross-sector and cross-border supervision; and safety nets and resolution regimes," he pointed out.

All the stakeholders, including Islamic financial institutions and regulators, are well aware of the ongoing challenges and of the need to address them, he stated. "However, we should keep in mind that improving market development and regulatory regimes are continuous

processes in the context of changing industry needs and macroeconomic and demographic environments," he said.

Asked about the role of IMF with respect to Islamic finance, he said "the IMF has long been involved in Islamic finance. It has played a key role in the establishment of the Islamic Financial Services Board". The establishment of an Interdepartmental Working Group for Islamic finance also demonstrates the IMF's recognition of the importance of Islamic finance for many of its members, including the broader financial stability implications, he mentioned.

### Critical role

"While the IMF has made many contributions to Islamic finance, I believe, that it can endeavor to play an even more critical role for Islamic finance in the following areas:

"Providing policy advice and capacity building in a broad range of areas. Technical assistance and training can help countries strengthen the regulation and supervision of their Islamic financial institutions, and develop domestic Sukuk markets. This engagement could usefully focus on providing a set of key regulatory practices, in areas such as liquidity and Shari'ah governance, with a view to achieving further convergence.

"Promoting further integration of Islamic finance with international financial standards to foster financial stability and improve prudential regulations across jurisdictions, including in the context of the IMF's annual economic consultations and Financial Sector Assessment Programs (FSAPs). In this respect, the IMF might wish to take into account the implications of Islamic finance for those members where Islamic finance is growing in significance.

"Facilitating the assessment of the regulation and supervision of the Islamic banking sector using the Islamic Financial Services Board Core Principles for Islamic Finance Regulation. These principles are aimed at providing a framework for the assessment of the quality of the regulatory and supervisory framework for the Islamic banking industry," he said.

As for Islamic finance in Kuwait, Hashel said Kuwait has a bank-centric financial system, with the banking sector accounting for about 84 percent of the domestic financial sector. The Central Bank of Kuwait has also played a vital role in the establishment of the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) and the International Islamic Liquidity Management Corporation (IILM)- as it was a founding member of both institutions, he explained.

Further, the Central Bank continues to play an active role through its membership in the board of directors and participation in working groups and technical committees using its extensive experience to contribute to the development of Islamic markets and regulatory frameworks, he said.

He said the growth in market demand for Islamic finance has been accommodated by establishing appropriate regulatory policies, noting in 2003, the Central Bank of Kuwait promoted a legislative framework by adding a special section to existing Law No. 32 of 1968, to establish prudent regulatory and supervisory policies and procedures for Islamic finance.

This reflects "our view that Islamic banks, while being unique in their structure, remain an integral part of the financial industry, and that their services need to be regulated under one supervisory umbrella," he made clear.

The legislation has allowed "our Bank to formally develop prudent regulations for Islamic banks that are consistent with, and drawn from, the work of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and the Islamic Financial Services Board, he said. Doing so has established a level playing field for Islamic and conventional banks, while facilitating the development of more Islamic banks on a coherent and sustainable basis, he concluded. —KUNA

## KUWAIT HAS POTENTIALS TO BECOME HUB OF ISLAMIC FINANCE: EXPERT

**BRUSSELS:** There is currently a tremendous opportunity for Kuwait to profile itself as a hub for Islamic finance and Islamic banking, according to a prominent expert. Professor Laurent Marliere, head of ISFIN, the world's leading advisory for the Islamic Markets, said that Kuwait has "a wonderful card to play" and that the Global Conference organized by Central Bank of Kuwait on November 11 in Kuwait can define the guidelines towards this goal. "With the new vision of the Central Bank, Kuwait could take a challengers position in the region and benefit from the numerous advantages of the country to pioneer new ways of conceiving Islamic finance. It comes at an appropriate time as Islamic finance itself is being challenged to redefine its model, not to mimic conventional finance," he told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) in an interview.



Professor Laurent Marliere

aware that growth is not a one-way street and the shrinking oil prices are a second reminder," he said.

"After the first Blessing of Oil, Kuwait could find in Islamic Finance and the Islamic Economy a second blessing. With oil prices going down, it is the moment to invest carefully its sovereign and corporate resources into the right markets and seize the opportunity. It takes vision and power to achieve this," opined the expert on Islamic markets.

He noted that "Islamic Finance in Kuwait relies heavily on the domestic retail sector, saving and consumer lending market in the country. That is not going to be enough. Islamic Finance industry in Kuwait needs to target and work outside Kuwait.

He said that "unfortunately most of the Islamic Banks and finance companies focus entirely on the local market. If this sector wants to grow they have to compete in global markets. But, more companies are now coming into the Kuwaiti market targeting the same retail segment," said the Belgian academic. "It is clear that the Islamic Finance sector is not growing as much as we had expected. On a global level, the Islamic Finance sector is growing, but the size of the sector is very small," he added.

Brussels-based ISFIN is considered as the world's leading platform of advisory firms specializing in Islamic Finance, investments from and to the Muslim world and the Halal industry. The alliance covers more than 60 jurisdictions around the world. —KUNA

## KUWAIT ANTI-CORRUPTION AUTHORITY SIGNS MOU

**KUWAIT:** Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said the two ministries fully support the efforts of the Public Anti-Corruption Authority (PACA).

It is very important to have a specialized body that can protect society against corruption and bring awareness on the matter, Sheikh Salman said yesterday on the sidelines of a ceremony to sign two memorandums of

understanding (MoU) between the ministries and PACA. Meanwhile, PACA Chairman Abdulrahman Al-Nemash noted that the memorandums aim to create coordination between the authority and the media to spread awareness on the dangers of corruption and ways to prevent it. "Cooperation between these bodies include producing radio and TV programs, organizing workshops and training courses for employees in the field," he said. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and PACA Chairman Abdulrahman Al-Nemash are seen during the signing ceremony. — KUNA

## 'KUWAIT KEEN ON CEMENTING RELATIONS WITH ASIAN STATES'

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The newly appointed foreign minister's assistant for Asian affairs Adel Al-Saeed recently stressed that Kuwait and Cambodia share strong and developing relations, bearing in mind that Cambodia had won its independence from France; a country whom Kuwait already had very good and strong ties with.

Speaking to reporters at the sidelines of a ceremony organized by the Cambodian embassy in Kuwait to celebrate the country's national day, Saeed stressed that His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and top officials at the foreign

ministry show great interest in cementing Kuwait's relations with Asian countries in general. He added that he would carry on and catch up where his predecessor had left off in order to achieve substantial shift in the Kuwaiti-Asian relations.

Meanwhile, the Cambodian Ambassador to Kuwait Sman Manan said November 9th would always be a dear historic occasion for every Cambodian citizen as it commemorates his country's independence from France back in 1953. He added that his country had always adapted a non-alignment policy ever since, and that such policy had won Cambodia the international community's support. He also commended the outstanding relations between his country and Kuwait.



KUWAIT: Foreign minister's assistant Adel Al-Saeed and Cambodian Ambassador to Kuwait Sman Manan cut the ceremony's cake. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Ambassadors are pictured in attendance.



The vehicle's remains twisted around a light post.



One part of the car left in the middle of the road.



The victims' bodies lie on the ground.

## THREE WOMEN KILLED IN HORRIFIC CRASH

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Three women were killed in an accident at the King Fahad Road which left their car cut into three pieces from the severity of the impact. Preliminary investigations indicate that the car was driving at high speed when the driver lost control and it crashed right into a light post, ripping it into pieces. The three victims are Kuwaiti aged 25, 19 and 18. Police, paramedics and fire department officers dealt with the case. An investigation was opened to determine the circumstances behind the accident.

### 18,000 liquor bottles

Shuwaikh customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle liquor into Kuwait, as thousands of bottles were found hidden in car tires in a shipment that arrived from the United Arab Emirates. The shipment was initially estimated to contain around 5,000 bottles at a value of KD 250 thousand, but later estimations revealed that it contained nearly 18,000 in six containers. A prime suspect has reportedly been identified.

### Truck accident

A truck transporting nitrogen near North Shuaiba Port's gate flipped over, prompting Ahmadi fire center men to respond. The truck was moved to another carrier. No injuries were reported.

### Driver unharmed

A car fell into a hole in a gas station in Ishbiliya, prompting Farwaniya fire department to respond. Firemen lifted the car using a hydraulic machine, and managed to get it out of the hole without harming the driver. No injuries were reported in the incident.

**Armed robbery**  
A man told Fintas police that he was robbed inside a grocery store. He added that a person carrying an axe entered, headed to the cash register and took KD 500 before escaping. Investigations are ongoing.

**Drug possession**  
Ahmadi police arrested two men with possession of drugs. A security source said patrol officers saw a car in the parking lot of a mosque and became suspicious, so they asked for the IDs of the two persons inside. Then, they searched them and found 60 brown tablets in one man's, in addition to one blue tablet as well as KD 718. One of them was also found to be wanted for failure to pay KD 424 to a telephone company.

**Ahmadi arrests**  
Police arrested a man with 20 bottles suspected of containing liquor in Ahmadi. Meanwhile, Ahmadi police arrested a man under the influence of drugs, and was found with possession of drugs. A security source said that patrol officers caught a citizen with possession of a black bag containing a green substance mixed with a crystalline white material suspected of being drugs. He was sent to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD).

**Traffic statistics**  
Traffic department statistics during the first week of November indicated that 2,065 cars and 44 motorcycles were impounded, while 95 persons were detained for committing violations including crossing red lights, over-speeding, recklessness, and not having a driving license. Meanwhile, 10 expats were deported for driving without a license.



A truck transporting nitrogen pictured after being involved in an accident near North Shuaiba Port's gate.



A picture taken yesterday showing a pond created by rainwater in Abdali.

## WINTER STARTS END OF MONTH

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Veteran Kuwaiti astronomer Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi said that, in view of recent thunderstorms and changing weather, temperatures were expected to drop to 15-20 C degrees by the last week of November, marking the true beginning of winter. Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry had issued a statement yesterday warning road users, sea and desert goers of bad weather conditions experienced in Kuwait. The Interior Ministry's public relations department called on the public to use the 112 hotline in case of emergency.

**Taima clinic**  
A 22-year-old stateless person was recently arrested for robbing the Taima clinic in Jahra, said security sources, noting that the suspect showed fierce resistance to his arrest.

In my view

## SORRY KUWAIT

By Talal Al-Ghannam

local@kuwaittimes.net

**G**ood morning my dear and honorable readers and I wish you all a happy rainy season. In this article, I would like to talk about many odd behaviors that are taking place in Kuwait, which must be dealt with seriously by the concerned authorities. Here in Kuwait, we have so many stiff rules and regulations that once implemented, Kuwait would become one of the most advanced countries in the world. Our problem here in Kuwait is the so-called wasta (connection) which turns out to be a tool of oppression sometimes rather than a tool of assistance.

1 - Why do we still see parents putting their young ones on their laps while driving? If that is done in the US, that would constitute a serious crime and the parents would be locked up behind bars. Whereas here, I think parents are teaching their children how to drive starting at a very early age.

2 - Why are we seeing so many crimes related to anger nowadays? A man can be killed for a parking space or a DVD. A housemaid kills her sponsor's daughter or son for no reason. Why many of us have reached that point of irresponsibility? We are lacking religious and social discipline for sure.

3 - Why do we have pedestrian crossings if many people do not respect them, while innocent people can be killed if they use them because an arrogant maniac is driving recklessly and does not care to stop for an old man, woman or even a family. The problem is that the person who violates the law can escape prison because he has that special vitamin (wasta).

4 - Why doesn't Kuwait impose a toll around the country's most visited places such as the beach road, malls and other sites. This is not to put more burdens of people, but to limit the unwanted cars which roam the roads with no purpose, such as many youngsters who tend to bother the families in the malls or at the traffic lights.

5 - When will we see your transaction be finished in a 10-minute time period with a smile at the social affairs ministry or at the traffic department in Shuwaik or Farwaniya?

6 - When will we see some policemen greet you politely, ask for your car's documents and tell you what you did wrong, instead of asking you in a humiliating way, making you feel as if you were a criminal?

7 - When will we see our roads smooth and can tolerate a few drops of rain?

8 - When will we see the mosques not guarded as if we are entering a security building? It is so sad to see the mosques being guarded by policemen on Fridays.

9 - I would like to dedicate my last point to my brothers and sisters from Pakistan who are still suffering as a result of the ban imposed on the family visa for their relatives. What I can tell you is to exercise patience and Allah can make the impossible become possible.

Sorry Kuwait for all the bad things and bad people who are defaming your image to the world. Stay blessed.  
Till the next article Insha Allah

## KUWAIT'S AL AHLI BUYS EGYPT'S PIRAEUS BANK

**DUBAI:** Kuwait's Al Ahli Bank has closed a deal to acquire a 98.5 percent stake in Piraeus Bank's Egypt unit, it said in a statement yesterday. Al Ahli paid \$150 million for the stake in the Greek lender's Egyptian unit, the statement said. The unit will be rebranded ABK Egypt, subject to name change approval by the official authorities, with the new identity to be rolled-out over the entire 39 branch network in the first half of 2016, it added. JP Morgan acted as financial advisor on the deal, with Ernst & Young acting as transaction and tax advisor, the statement added.— Reuters

## FIREMEN BREAK FREE CHILDREN LEFT ALONE IN FAMILY'S HOME



### KUWAITI MILITARY OFFICIAL EXTOLS COOPERATION WITH US ARMY

**KUWAIT:** The National Guard's Protection and Reinforcement Commander Major General Faleh Shuja' Faleh has commended cooperation and exchange of expertise with the US army. At the conclusion of the Kuwait-US joint military exercise at Kazma Camp over a week, Faleh stressed yesterday the importance of the joint exercise in raising morale of army personnel and their combat readiness.

The exercise provided personnel with

required expertise and procedures taken to secure vital posts, combat rioting and pursue the outlaws, he said in a speech at the end of the event. He underlined the need to upgrade training in collaboration with the institutions of friendly countries to cope with the latest developments so as to meet the directions of the supreme command of National Guard. He expressed his gratitude to personnel who took part in the exercise, urging them to raise their skills. — KUNA

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Firefighters yesterday managed to rescue a child and a baby who had been locked off and left alone at their family residence in Salwa, said security sources. They noted that neighbors had heard the kids' cries and screams, but received no response when they knocked the door. Accordingly, firemen were called and they got a public prosecutor's warrant to break the door open. They entered the house and found the two kids locked alone.

**Schools jam-packed**  
Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa said that public schools' capacity does not currently allow accepting any additional students, especially after accepting the sons of bedoon military personnel. Essa also explained that, even if the government paid all the cost, afternoon schools needed special human resources and members of teaching and administrative staffs.

**Hospitals expansion**  
The Farwaniya committee at the Municipal Council recently approved a request made by Health Minister Dr Ali Al-Obaidi to increase Farwaniya hospital's floors to eight, and the infectious diseases hospital's to six. Moreover, committee chairman Nayef Al-Sour said that the committee also approved a request made by the communications ministry to build a mobile signal boost-station.

**Committees meet**  
Rapporteur of the parliamentary

educational affairs committee MP Humoud Al-Hamdan said that on its first meeting, the committee had set its priorities for the next three months including discussing the e-media, the authors and patent right bills that had been referred by the government for discussion. Meanwhile, MP Khalil Abdullah revealed that the parliamentary human resources committee agreed to review a proposed bill on the appointment of senior officials including the selection conditions, privileges, assessment, selecting their advisors and selecting boards of directors. Speaking to his constituents on resuming his weekly Diwaniya meetings, Abdullah said that the committee also agreed on the wages strategic alternative. And with the attendance of the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Development and Planning Affairs Hind Al-Subaih, the parliamentary priorities committee yesterday discussed the topics to be discussed on the coming parliamentary session, said the committee Rapporteur MP Ahmad Lari. He pointed out that the topic would also include amending the laws of the public authority for the disabled and juveniles. He added that the government filed 43 priorities, of which 13 were already on the agenda. Separately, chairman of the parliamentary sports affairs committee MP Abdullah Al-Maayouf said that the committee yesterday discussed its working mechanism and its agenda in addition to the measures to be followed in view of the current sports activities' suspension.

## DASMAN DIABETES INSTITUTE HOLDS WORLD DIABETES DAY 2015 CELEBRATION

**KUWAIT:** Tarek Aleryan, Director of Public Relations and Media Services at Dasman Diabetes Institute which was founded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences announced that the Institute which is a leading campaigner for diabetes awareness in Kuwait, will hold an informative event to commemorate World Diabetes Day tomorrow, 12 November at its premises, from 5 pm till 9 pm. The event will allow visitors to interact with diabetes specialists and dieticians as well as gather information from booths that will explain various facets of diabetes, using illustrative methods, TV presentations and brochures.

Many of the booths at the event are about educating visitors on proper dietary habits and oral health. At this event there will be informative booths by the Kuwait Diabetes Society, Kuwait Pharmacists Society, Oral Health Program (Ministry of Health), and others that will provide assistance to people living with diabetes. This event will be sponsored by Kuwait Finance House.

As part of diabetes management, lectures will be organized in the hall/auditorium to deliver additional information about diabetes care. As some diabetic patients are unable to cook healthy food, so a live cooking demonstration emphasizing cooking nutritious International and Kuwait recipes will be included in collaboration with the Peruvian Embassy in Kuwait. The event is anticipated to reflect an exciting environment for everyone and will be tailored to inform even young children through fun shows featuring clowns.

Dasman Diabetes' Awareness event also will provide free testing by professional staff, who will conduct screenings for blood glucose and HbA1c, as well body measurements. These tests will help physicians to single out diabetic patients for advice and guide at risk patients. The event also will help visitors to meet representatives from Dasman Diabetes to learn to lead healthier lives and manage their diabetes in the correct manner.

In Brief

**HASHIM AWARDED AT ENERGY CONFERENCE**

**ABU DHABI:** The Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) Awards have announced the 11 winners of its 2015 edition, among them Hosnia Hashim, Vice President of Operations at the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC). "I believe that such recognition reinforces the message to all women that there is room for them to achieve success in the oil and gas industry," said Hashim, who won the 'Oil Gas Woman of the Year' Award. - KUNA



**DONATIONS TO IRBIL REFUGEES EXTOLLED**

**IRBIL:** Representative of the High Commissioner of the United Nations for Refugees (UNHCR) in Iraq Bruno Guido praised yesterday Kuwait's generous donations for the refugees which helped improve lives of many. Guido said that Kuwait's \$20 million donation was allocated for the Commission and was used to provide non-food items to the Kurdistan region, indicating that more donations will be given to them. — KUNA



**ENTERTAINMENT CITY WINTER TIMINGS ANNOUNCED**

**KUWAIT:** The Entertainment City began receiving visitors in winter operational hours, said Saqer Al-Bader, Public Relations and Media Department Manager at Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC). The winter hours start on 4:00 pm and end on 12:00 am on weekdays, and on 1:00 pm and 10:00 pm on weekends. Access to the Entertainment City is exclusive to female visitors on Mondays, Bader said.



Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** Clouds seen over Kuwait City's skyline yesterday morning. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

**KOTC WINS BEST OPERATOR AWARD**

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) has been awarded a prize for being the best operator in tankers offshore industry at the regional level (the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent).

A KOTC statement yesterday said that Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, CEO of KOTC also won an award for the organization of maritime trade for the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent and Africa for 2015, and was announced winner of this international award in Dubai for the second time, where Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled received the same prize in 2013 in recognition of his achievements in motivating the workers over several years.

Maritime Trade Organization for the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent and Africa has awarded Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled the prize for being an influential leader in the vicinity of his work both in the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company and the oil sector generally in Kuwait, where he was chosen from among five senior figures working in the field of maritime transport in the Middle East, Indian sub-continent and Africa. The nominees were carefully chosen by the jury and the voting came in Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled's favor, it added.

This award aims to honor individuals, organizations and companies across different categories for their outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of maritime trade and shipping industry in the different regions of the world, said the statement.

It pointed out that nominated individuals, organizations and companies are selected for the award based on the decision issued by a committee composed of elite international arbitrators who are professional in the marine transportation industry. On this occasion, Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled said that winning the award came

as a result of the directives of the political leadership, and its continual support in addition to efforts and excellence of the workers in the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company and the Kuwaiti oil sector, and the prevailing teamwork spirit, which in the end leads to raising the name of Kuwait high in international forums in general and in the maritime industry in particular.

Sheikh Talal Al-Khaled pointed out that winning the award for the second time also came out of the company's eagerness to continue to raise the level of its services and to provide superior performance and due to possessing a modern fleet that has great capabilities and is considered to be advanced on both regional and international levels.

He stressed that KOTC will go ahead in providing its services on global record levels with Kuwaiti hands that possess admired expertise and ambition, and giving on admirable levels. He said that he dedicates the award to the wise political leadership, the people of Kuwait and all the workers in the oil sector and KOTC, expressing his happiness with this award which reflects the efforts of the workers in the oil sector and the company.

The KOTC is nominated to win several awards in the maritime industry this year that are awarded by recognized international organizations in several areas, including safety and environment, training and best manager and owner of ships.

These nominations are due to the novelty of the company's fleet as one of the most modern fleets in the world, as well having a group of trained personnel at the highest level, in addition to its great reputation among global companies in the field of maritime transport. These are the fruits of great efforts made by workers in the company over the past years. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) representatives receive the award for being the best operator in tankers offshore. — KUNA



A group photo of participants in the tour.

**EQUATE HOSTS TOUR FOR LOCAL CUSTOMERS**

**KUWAIT:** EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, hosted a tour for its local customers who represent plastic manufacturers in Kuwait. Throughout the years, EQUATE has organized several events, at its industrial complex and other locations, for its business partners to exchange knowledge, share industrial practices and develop overall ties.

EQUATE President and CEO Mohammad Husain said, "With national plastic manufacturers being key contributors to our 'Partners in Success' slogan, overall business ties between local customers and EQUATE are built on a solid foundation of mutual cooperation, transparency and trust. Such ties are viewed by EQUATE as a sustainable partnership which we will continue to nurture and grow through achieving mutual objectives. Throughout 1998 to 2015, this partnership has increased the size of Kuwait's local plastic manufacturing market by over 400 percent. In addition, EQUATE is proud to provide local customers with the highest level of quality products and services within a framework of innovation and high reliability. EQUATE continuously supports your efforts in supplying the local market's demands, as well as growing your presence in other countries by exporting your made-in-Kuwait finished plastic products."



EQUATE President & CEO addressing attendees of the tour.

Meanwhile, EQUATE Polyethylene Business Director Ahmad Al-Saleh said, "Our supplies to local plastic industry partners has witnessed an average annual growth of 13 percent during the last five years. In total, the Kuwaiti manufacturing sector has grown by eight percent in the past decade, and most of this growth is attributed to the petrochemical industry. Through innovative solutions, high-

quality products and top in-class services, EQUATE has ensured having an overall reliable partnership with its local customers."

With the attendance of over 20 local plastic manufacturers and several management members of EQUATE, the tour included discussions with participants, an overview of EQUATE production plants and R&D facilities, as well as a number of presentations on a variety of industrial and technical topics.

**MINISTER MEETS HOTEL OWNERS UNION MEMBERS**

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday discussed with the Hotel Owners Union ways of enhancing joint cooperation to serve the tourism sector in Kuwait.

Participants in the meeting that was attended by the Union's Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr Ghazi Al-Nafisi, Dr Hamad Al-Tuwaijri, Jawad Bukhamseen and Mohammed Abdulelah discussed the importance of regulating the cooperation relationship between the Ministry of Information

and the Union, the Minister of information said in a statement.

They also discussed the importance of establishment of the General Authority for Tourism in order to serve and promote tourism in the country as one of the important components of the economy. — KUNA

# 'BE THE NEXT ARAB SUCCESS STORY': ZAIN GROUP, COMMUNITY JAMEEL UNVEIL COMMERCIAL TO DRIVE ENTREPRENEURS TO ENTER MIT COMPETITION

**KUWAIT/BEIRUT/JEDDAH:** Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator across the Middle East and Africa in partnership with Community Jameel International, the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of Abdul Latif Jameel Group, announces the launch of an inspiring television commercial inviting applicants to come forward and register their interest and ideas in taking part in the ninth edition of the MIT Enterprise Forum (MITEF) Arab Startup Competition before the January 4, 2016 deadline.

The competition, which is organized by the MITEF for the Pan Arab Region, is based on supporting and boosting innovation worldwide and engaging aspiring entrepreneurs in mentorship and networking.

The impactful television commercial, produced in both Arabic and English versions, will be telecast across regional satellite TV channels and will be available across all of Zain Group, Jameel Community and MITEF Pan Arab Region respective online platforms.

The video highlights a number of the innovative ideas that have been successful in previous years of the competition, which then went on to be commercialized, aiming to encourage others to take the initiative and set new standards of creativity across all industries. These ideas include the discovery of a solution for fast drying cement in Saudi Arabia; the establishment of an exclusive online Middle East photo library in Jordan; the creation of a cloud system for faster rendering in Bahrain; a device that replicates movement in 3D in Iraq; set up of the first medical directory in Sudan; invention of a device for remote cardiac supervision in Lebanon; the first online educational portal in Kuwait; and the launch of a service



for the packaging and sale of pre-ordered food in Morocco.

The commercial ends with the words, 'Be the next Arab success story', which is a rallying call for young people around the region to be inspired and come forward with their startup ideas that could change the world. The English and Arabic versions can be seen on: [www.youtube.com/zain](http://www.youtube.com/zain)

#### Success story

Commenting on the launch of the television commercial, Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said: "Ideas and the ability to turn them into something useful and sustainable has been the success story of modern man. This television commercial

highlights some of the actual businesses that have been created out of thoughts from the minds of talented young people, and we hope that it inspires a next wave of young entrepreneurs to heed the call and submit their applications to this year's MIT Enterprise Forum Arab Startup Competition."

Commenting on Community Jameel International's support, President Fady Jameel said: "As a founding partner of the MITEF Arab startup competition, we're deeply committed to creating a fair and inclusive environment where all inviting applicants can come forward and register their interest and ideas. We will continue to work closely with our partners to promote and encourage young entrepreneurs."

He added: "We're proud to be a company dedicated to volunteering in the community; the goal of our commitment is to reconnect 'opportunity' to pathways that lead to employment."

#### Successful ideas

Meanwhile, Hala Fadel, Chair of the board of MITEF Pan Arab said: "We are delighted with the launch of an inspiring television commercial that celebrates the commercialized and successful ideas of previous competition participants, one we hope will inspire many other (aspiring) entrepreneurs to apply to this year's edition. We look forward to helping them establish and grow viable businesses by providing them with cash prizes, top-notch training, mentorship, networking, and media exposure, and to sharing the next wave of success stories with the world."

This year's competition includes three different tracks: Ideas, Startups, and Social Entrepreneurship, with total prize money on offer in excess of \$150,000. Each of the three tracks will award the first three ranked winners with cash prizes in addition to many other benefits including: top tier training, mentorship, coaching, media exposure, and great networking opportunities. The competition's website [www.mitarabcompetition.com](http://www.mitarabcompetition.com) opened for applications on October 6, 2015 with the deadline for receipt on January 4, 2016. Informative roadshows promoting the competition will be held in Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Sudan and the UAE, and seventy semi-finalist teams will be announced on February 1, 2016.

The semi-finalists will be invited to attend pre-bootcamp activities scheduled to take place in February and March, 2016

in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and the UAE. The competition will culminate in a five-day event in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from April 11 - 15, 2016, with the announcement of the competition winners scheduled to take place during the final award ceremony on April 14, 2016, with a one-day MIT Technology Review Pan Arab conference being held on April 15, 2016.

The 2014/2015 eighth edition of the competition that saw the final ceremony held in Kuwait, received an outstanding 4,275 individual and team applications (representing a record participation of over 12,000 entrepreneurs) from 21 Arab countries.

For more information on this year's MIT Enterprise Forum Arab Startup Competition eligibility and judging criteria, as well as the planned roadshows, visit [www.mitarabcompetition.com](http://www.mitarabcompetition.com)

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## HYATT, TAMDEEN GROUP ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR GRAND HYATT KUWAIT

**CHICAGO:** Hyatt Hotels Corporation announced that a Hyatt affiliate has entered into a contract with Tamdeen Group to develop a 261-room Grand Hyatt hotel in Kuwait. Expected to open in 2020, the newly built hotel will be an integral part of 360 MALL, an iconic premier luxury shopping destination that integrates retail, leisure and entertainment under one roof. Grand Hyatt Kuwait will mark the fifth Grand Hyatt hotel in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), after the opening of Grand Hyatt Abu Dhabi in 2016. Located seven miles from downtown on 6th Ring road, Grand Hyatt Kuwait will be within close reach of various embassies, a number of government ministries and the Kuwait International Airport. Grand Hyatt Kuwait will offer standard rooms of 130 square feet (40 square meters), four food and beverage outlets where guests can enjoy inventive cuisine, and first class meeting and events facilities that will cater to government, business and social events in the city.

"Kuwait is increasingly becoming a major gateway city, so we are delighted to announce this plan to bring the Grand

Hyatt brand to this global business and cultural hub," said Peter Norman, senior vice president, acquisitions and development for Hyatt - Europe, Africa, and Middle East. "We are honored to work with Hyatt as the brand continues to expand its presence in the Gulf region," said Mohammed Jassim Khalid Al Marzouq, chairman, Tamdeen Group.

The state-of-the-art facilities available to guests at Grand Hyatt Kuwait will extend beyond the hotel, as it forms part of 360 MALL's expansion comprising the new state-of-the-art Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Sabah Tennis Complex. With the expansion, 360 MALL will grow to more than 390,000 square feet (120,000 square meters). This new leisure complex marks an important milestone in the growth of Kuwait's luxury market, and Grand Hyatt guests will be able to enjoy its facilities right at their doorstep. The Tennis Complex will have combined stadium seating for more than 7,600 people across two main arenas, each with the capacity to hold 4,000 people and 1,600 respectively, eight indoor courts with more than 500 seats and eight outdoor courts with 1,500 seats.

## MABANEE SAYS SAUDI UNIT GETS NOD FOR \$1.9 BLN RIYADH SHOPPING COMPLEX

**DUBAI:** A subsidiary of Kuwaiti developer Mabaneer has received approval to build a 7 billion riyal (\$1.9 bln) retail, residential and commercial complex in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh, the parent firm said yesterday.

Shumoul Holding Co, 55-percent owned by Mabaneer, will begin work on the 1.7 million-square-meter project in the next few months, according to a statement to the Kuwait stock exchange. The Avenues Riyadh will include a shopping mall, plus residen-

tial and office units and has now been approved by the city's authorities, the statement said.

Mabaneer expects the project to be completed in 2019, but did not say how it would be funded. However, its 2014 annual report states it incurred costs of 106 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$349 mln) that year to buy the land for The Avenues Riyadh and conduct some work on the scheme. Mabaneer has interests in real estate, construction and investments. — Reuters

## KUWAIT TO CRACK DOWN ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY THEFT

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is seeking to lift Kuwait's international rating in combating intellectual rights' crimes through bolstering cooperation with various states and specialized organizations, a ministry official said yesterday. Sheikh Nimer Al-Sabah, the assistant undersecretary for international organizations' affairs and external trade, said in a statement a recent meeting that grouped Kuwaiti officials with specialists from the Arab states regional bureau of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) discussed "inauguration of the second phase for overhauling the intellectual property sector in the State of Kuwait."

The meeting which involved officials

from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry tackled technical aid that could be provided by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to the member states.

WIPO has recently set up a data base for the trademarks bureau, the patents and industrial samples at the ministry, he said, indicating that the organization is ready to take follow-up steps to overhaul the trade sector in tune with Kuwait's international obligations.

Kuwait was among the first Arab states that had joined the WIPO. It officially signed the WIPO treaty in April 1998. Since then, it has adopted a series of international accords in the same sector. — KUNA

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Crime

Report

WIFE STABBED IN DOMESTIC DISPUTE

**KUWAIT:** A man stabbed his wife during domestic dispute in Rabiya, according to police. Local police station officers were approached by a bedoon woman who said that her husband, Kuwaiti, stabbed her. She handed them a medical report documenting the injury she sustained as a result of the stabbing. Police are investigating. Separately, a woman called police saying that her husband threatened to kill her, and filed a complaint against him. The woman, Kuwaiti, went to Waha police station and said that she received insulting messages and a murder threat from her husband's phone number. Investigations are ongoing in the case.

Neighbors row

A woman accused her two neighbors of insulting and attempting to beat her when she scolded them for gossiping about her behind her back. A security source said a citizen went to Salmiya police station and told them that she had a dispute with her neighbors who reportedly talked negatively about her behind her back. When she confronted them for what they did, they insulted her in front of their building's residents, and where about to beat her before residents rescued her, she said. Investigations are underway.

Damaged cars

A female driver drove in the wrong direction in Abdallah Al-Mubarak area and collided with three cars in the process. A security source said police went to the site and found out that a woman was driving in the wrong way and damaged three vehicles. Police took the driver to the police station, where a case was filed.

Home robbery

Investigations are ongoing to identify and arrest a man who reportedly broke into a Maidan Hawalli apartment and robbed its contents. The tenant, Syrian, told officers that she returned home to find out that the door was broken. When she went inside, she discovered that gold rings and cash were missing. Crime scene investigators went to the apartment to collect evidence. —Al-Rai

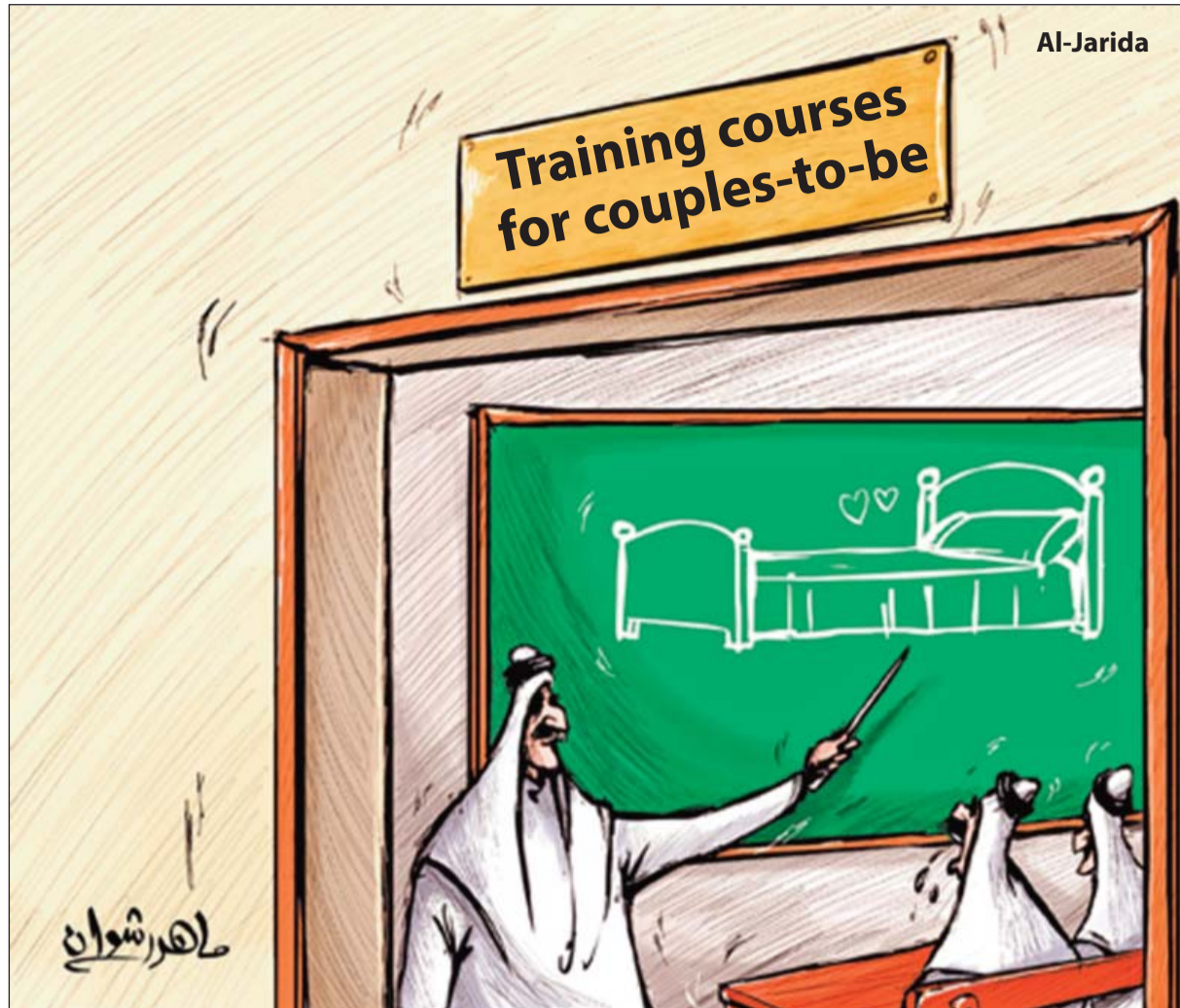
Car stolen

A man hung on his car when a thief stole it and dragged him several meters. He suffered several bruises and scratches as a result, while the suspect escaped. A security source said the man, Egyptian, who works as a delivery man, was in Ardhiya when he left his car briefly with the engine running. Suddenly, he saw a person getting inside the car but before he drove away, the man hung on it. Detectives are working on the case.

NEW MECHANISM FOR GOV'T PROJECTS' WORK PERMITS

**KUWAIT:** A team from the Manpower Public Authority led by Director Ahmad Al-Moussa recently met with bodies concerned with government contracts in order to set a new mechanism to issue work permits for laborers working in governmental projects, said informed sources.

The sources explained that the new mechanism adopts issuing those work permits gradually according to the project's phases and the type of labor needed for each phase. The sources added that the number of laborers needed in each phase would be determined by the body responsible for the project, not the company executing it. "Governmental bodies and the Central Tenders Committee will also be automatically connected to monitor and follow up the workers registered on each project," explained the sources, noting that work permits for laborers needed in each phase would not be issued unless the previous one was concluded. Finally, the sources expected another similar meeting to be held by the end of this week to approve the new mechanism and issue its execution decision. — Al-Anbaa



TATWEEJ ACADEMY RECOGNIZES VIVA FOR ITS BEST "E-STORE" IN THE ARAB REGION

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, won the Golden Medal of Merit from "Tatweej" Excellence Awards Academy for best "E-Store" in Arab region.

Ahmad Al-Nowaibt from VIVA received the award during an event held recently in Dubai under the patronage of the minister of economy in UAE, Sultan Bin Saïd Al-Mansouri, and in the presence of the president of "Tatweej" academy, Pierre Mukarzel, the ambassador of the Arab cooperation in the Arab organization for Social Responsibility Affairs, Dr Mohamad Essa Al-Adwan, a number of government officials in Arab countries, companies and organizations in public and private sectors and media

public figures, to recognize leaders and business sectors for their successful contributions in the development and economy.

E-Store, a full-fledged online shopping facility for its customers. It simplifies the challenges of E-commerce by providing the customers with an engaging and dynamic experience throughout the checkout experience.

Through the new online E-Store, VIVA's customers can select from any of VIVA's products and services, or any of its latest promotions, place them into a shopping basket and then proceed to the checkout to a secure payment portal in accordance with current payment security regulations and policies.

VIVA's E-Store will be available 24

hours a day throughout the week, allowing its customers the ease to browse through all its products, services, packages and promotions. Customers will also be able to view product images as well as video pertaining to the manufacturer's release preview of products and services. In addition, VIVA's E-Store customers will be able to conveniently select a preferred delivery date for the products they purchased which will be delivered right to their doorstep.

To find out more about VIVA's new prepaid packages, or any of its other competitive promotions, products and packages, visit one of the 70 VIVA branches, or the VIVA website at www.viva.com.kw, or call VIVA's 24 hour call center on 102.

Al-Rai

Al-Rai

WHERE ARE YOU DINING TONIGHT?!

By Dr Hamad Al-Asidan

I am not going to talk about the 'brooms' battle at Shuwaikh industrial area, the Ardhiya scuffle nor the Hawalli murder and the disastrous aftermath of each of these incidents in addition to the consequences that made some people dare criticize Kuwait and instigate law violation, which were handled by the interior ministry according to law to maintain law and order.

What I am talking about are the statements made by an official who is supposed to be careful about the words he uses in addressing the public, because he knows that he would be accountable for each word he says, as such statements are usually deemed reflecting official viewpoints when made through an official media channel. The mistake was great especially since neither the official nor the ministry he represents did anything to reduce the impact of such statements and avoid the bad image about the policies that ministry adapts in dealing with expatriates.

Speaking to Kuwait TV channel about residency laws and expats residing in Kuwait, the official made major mistakes while talking about them expressing his own personal view point. He said that there is a large number of the expats living in Kuwait without the state having any need for them. Well, I might agree to that. Yet, along with so many citizens, I strongly disagree with degrading and insulting expats, let alone that insult coming from an official.

That official reviewed the luxuries expats enjoy by living in Kuwait, claiming that they receive free services. He even claimed that they get free dinners by swarming to wedding halls to enjoy various buffets there. Furthermore, he talked about services the ministry he represents does not provide and he knows nothing about, that is health services. He also deduced that all expat males have their wives work to earn more money 'Mashallah', as he said. In short, this official made himself a judge and accordingly made a study to increase the fees expats pay, ending the 'free' services he believes they get. He argued that other GCC states 'milk down' expats making them reach a 'minus' state in terms of monthly wages by the end of each month, while expats in Kuwait spend nothing.

I believe that the official's statements about expats were way beyond rational official ones. Did he in person study the numbers of expats flocking to wedding halls to dine for free? How many expats can dine for free if we know that 3 million expats live in Kuwait? Does Kuwait actually include all that number of wedding halls? These are mere rhetoric inquiries to refute the official's statement concerning free dinners.

In addition, do all expats, half or even one quarter of them need meticulous careful health care involving radiology and tests that cost the state millions of dinars? Then, what about the hundreds of millions, or even up to one billion Kuwaiti dinars, the state has so far collected from health insurance imposed on expats and the loss of considerable sums of those into the pockets of influential tycoons and the health ministry's helplessness to get them back? What happened to the health insurance hospitals they were to be built by those millions and allocated for expats, especially since the health ministry approved building three of them, but they only remained in blueprints?

I believe, and many citizens agree with me, that the official was absolutely wrong and abusive in what he said about expats who contribute to developing Kuwait. If 'His Excellency' had seen one, two or ten expats seeking free dinner outside a wedding hall, that does not mean that all expats dine freely. If expats living in other GCC states reach a 'minus' budget by the end of the month, so many of them reach that state before the 15th of each month here in Kuwait!

You are an official and have the right to make any decision and impose any fees you see fit in your line of work because that is part of your job's duties, and your seniors are the only ones who decide to approve or reject what you propose. Yet, you have no right to slander large numbers of people living with us and co-servicing our country with us. We do hope you would reconsider what you said and explain yourself in a way that respects the dignity of so many expats who were offended by what you said. We also hope the interior minister would say some good word about this issue because expats are used to that from him!

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager, Human Resources at Gulf Bank is pictured along with employees at the Operational Awareness Training program.

GULF BANK ORGANIZES EXTENSIVE OPERATIONAL AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ITS EMPLOYEES

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank announced the successful conclusion of its Operational Awareness Training program. The program was conducted for all of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, where 654 employees successfully completed the training with the objective of improving employees overall operational performance and to have a better understanding on violations prevention.

The Operational Awareness Training program supervised by the Gulf Bank's

Learning and Development department and led by the Internal Audit and Internal Control Departments that provided practical methods for improving accuracy when conducting financial operations, as well as excellence in performance.

Salma Al-Hajjaj - General Manager for Human Resources at Gulf Bank said: "At Gulf Bank, we place great emphasis on the training and development of our employees through HR's learning and development

department. The bank is committed to continually review employees' procedures and administrative knowledge to enhance their performance to deliver the highest level of service for our customers."

"The Operational Awareness Training program is conducted annually to help ensure that our employees are up to date with the latest operational services, policies, procedures, and are well equipped to provide customers with the service standards

they expect and deserve."

Gulf Bank has a long-term commitment to investing in its employees and encouraging them to take up training opportunities to develop their skills. The bank benefits from this investment through increased employee knowledge and loyalty, and improved performance, which is reflected in the high level of service standards and efficiency that the bank provides its customers.

Al-Anbaa

Al-Anbaa

WHAT A SHAME!

By Saad Al-Mo'tesh

The Kuwaiti people strongly blame the government for not making a single tangible achievement! This very same blame is one big joke everybody circulates while are absolutely unaware that by doing that, he or she is actually blaming themselves because each and every one has to reform what they are doing before they would have the right to stone the government.

We are all familiar with a poetry line that urges us 'not ask people not to do something which we already do' because this would otherwise be a great shame. It is hence that the problem starts. We are asking the government to make achievements without knowing that we are actually part of the problem. Those asking others to work have to accomplish their duties first!

This was clear when the government first started applying the fingerprint punch in and out systems for public employees. So many employees sought wasta (connections) to be exempted from using them and some influential people have already started making such pleas. Some of them wanted to use me personally to ask for such favors!

I wonder how one could ask a government to achieve something while its employees do not show up to their offices and are not committed to their official working hours. Some of them even tried to delay transactions and make harder for applicants. Those demanding work and achievement ought to start working and achieving things themselves because Islam tells us that 'Allah does not change people unless they themselves willingly change.'

I am personally fully committed to the fingerprint system and found out that so many are as punctual as I am to punching in and out on time, but only spend their working hours at restaurants and malls. Therefore, I suggest that the State Audit Bureau demands asking employees to fingerprint in every two hours to prove that they are actually present at their offices!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

# Kuwait Times International

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015



**No country for young men: Mali loses its youths**

Page 8

## SHOOTINGS AT MEXICO COCKFIGHT, FOOTBALL FIELD KILL 16

Page 9



**SHARM EL-SHEIKH:** A tourist walks past sunbeds on a beach in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh yesterday. As visitors stranded after the crash of a Russian airliner stream home from Egypt, Sharm El-Sheikh is scrambling to keep its lucrative tourism sector alive. — AFP

## RUSSIA SEES POSSIBLE 'TERROR' LINK IN JET CRASH

**SHARM EL SHEIKH:** Moscow has acknowledged for the first time a terrorist attack could have caused last month's Russian plane crash in Egypt, as thousands more tourists were evacuated from the country. Britain and the United States, as well as international investigators, suspect a bomb exploded on board the Metrojet A-321 plane, but Egyptian officials insist there is no evidence yet of an attack on the aircraft which jihadists claim to have downed.

Russia had also previously refrained from blaming the crash, which killed all 224 people on board, on terrorists until Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's admission. "The possibility of an act of terror is of course there as the reason for what happened," Medvedev said in an interview with Rossiyskaya Gazeta state newspaper. A growing international chorus has backed the theory that the plane was downed in an attack, with British Foreign Minister Philip Hammond saying Monday it was "more likely than not" that the plane was downed by an "explosive device placed on

board". On Monday, Israel—which has strong intelligence links to neighboring Sinai where the Airbus came down while en route from Egypt's resort of Sharm El-Sheikh to Saint Petersburg—joined in. "There is a strong probability that this is an attack," Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon told Israeli reporters on Monday. And Airbus chief Fabrice Bregier said no technical fault has yet been detected for the crash of the A-321. "I can say that so far, what we got from the investigation didn't trigger any action, technical action on our side, regarding the A-321 fleet," said Bregier. "But we need to wait for the conclusion of the investigations."

Sources close to the probe have told AFP that experts involved in the investigation, with the exception of the Egyptians, "strongly favor" the theory of a bomb on board. Egypt has pushed back against mounting international concerns that a bomb brought down the plane, with Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry saying it was too early to form a "hypothesis".

### IS operative killed

Amid the tourist exodus from Egypt, a senior operative of the Islamic State jihadist group, Ashraf Ali Ali Hassanein al-Gharabli, was shot dead in an exchange of fire in Cairo after police tried to arrest him, the interior ministry said. The IS group's branch in the Sinai claimed responsibility after the Russian plane crash. IS said it downed the plane in retaliation for Russian air strikes in Syria, but has not said how. The IS affiliate in Egypt is waging a bloody insurgency in north Sinai that has killed hundreds of policemen and soldiers.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of foreign tourists, including some 80,000 Russians and 20,000 Britons, were stranded in Egypt after flights were cancelled over security fears. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday suspended all flights to Egypt. Moscow said Monday that about 25,000 Russian tourists had so far returned on more than 100 flights,

while London said some 5,000 Britons had returned home. Hammond said he hoped flights to Sharm could resume soon, once "robust" security arrangements are in place.

Flight numbers have been limited because both Russia and Britain have banned tourists from bringing their check-in luggage, which will be flown home separately. That restriction has prompted Egypt to limit the number of daily repatriation flights because it says there is only so much baggage its airports can accommodate. The crash has led to calls for greater security at airports in regions near where jihadists operate. It has also raised fears for Egypt's vital tourism industry, which had already been suffering from years of unrest. Local tourism chiefs insist, however, that Sharm is secure. "Sharm is safe. There is no problem inside Sharm El-Sheikh," said Givara El-Gafy, head of the south Sinai tourism chamber. —AFP

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## TREASURE TROVE OF 'ANCIENT' ARCHAEOLOGY TUCKED AWAY IN GAZA

**GAZA:** Nafez Abed's cramped workshop is filled with sculptures and mosaics with patterns from the Byzantine, Greek and Roman periods. It is an emporium of Middle Eastern antiquity tucked away in Gaza. And none of it is real. Abed, 55, is a self-taught archaeologist, preserver and restorer who crafts reproductions of ancient pieces he finds or has seen in museums. He gives his work so much authenticity that international experts have been wowed by his skills.

A fair-haired, intense man, he spends almost all his time in his studio, built on the roof of his unfinished house in a refugee camp in northern Gaza. Its windows are covered in plastic to keep out the rain that blows in from the nearby Mediterranean. "The Museum of Mosaics" is written on the wooden door that leads into his workshop. On a large table in the middle of the dark room stands a reproduction of a statue of Alexander the Great, looking as if it truly dated from 300 BC, amid oil-fired lamps and copies of coins dating back more than 2,500 years.

"My fixation with archaeology runs in my veins," said the father of seven, who trained as a blacksmith before deciding 30 years ago to dedicate himself to a more refined art. "I spend more than 10 hours a day here, sitting among my works and reproductions," he said with a sense of wistfulness. His room was lit by one small lamp, plugged into an extension cable that stretches from the floor below. It was

Abed's father who got him started, imbuing him with a love of antiquity and the rich ancient history of Gaza, where the blinded Biblical hero Samson lived.

Over the millennia, Gaza has served as a trading port for ancient Egyptians, Philistines, Romans and Crusaders. Beneath its sands lie ruins from Alexander the Great's siege of the city, Emperor Hadrian's visit, Mongol raids and the arrival of the Islamic armies 1,400 years ago. Napoleon and the Ottomans camped here and British armies passed through in World War I. Abed frequently tours Gaza's beaches looking for ancient remains.

Sometimes he restores pieces he finds and other times he uses the clay in a reproduction, treating the material in such a way that it looks to be centuries old. Via extensive reading on archaeology in Arabic and English, he has developed a range of techniques for restoration and aging. To a visitor's eye, everything looks ancient. "Some clients, some visitors, including scientists who have visited me, thought some of the pieces were real before I told them they were imitations made by my own hand," he said.

#### Museum quality

As his skills grew, he gained wider acclaim. By presidential decree, he was appointed deputy director of rehabilitation at the Palestinian Ministry of Archaeology in 1995 and he has also been in charge of the mosaic department. He has travelled to Jericho and

Jenin in the West Bank to work with Italian and Dutch experts on archaeological sites there, and made trips to the Louvre in Paris and museums in Arles and Geneva to help with restorations.

In 2005, the head of the Geneva museum visited Gaza with his wife and talked at length with Abed about his skills. "He offered me a job at the museum, but I turned it down," said Abed, making clear his regret. "It was a mistake." In 2007, the Islamist group Hamas seized control of Gaza. Since then, travelling abroad has become much harder and life inside the territory has grown tougher, with restrictions on the import of goods and a series of short wars with Israel. In his studio, Abed works intensely on a range of mosaics. One depicts a beautiful woman riding a charging bull, a copy of an original based in Naples, Italy.

Another set of seven mosaics show the ancient gates to Palestine and there are also reproductions of pieces he has seen while visiting the Netherlands and France. Most Gazans cannot afford his works, but Abed has a few local clients, including hotel owners and other wealthy people who want to decorate their homes with ancient-looking artifacts. While that is something, business is not as it once was. "I used to be visited by foreigners, by consuls and ambassadors, by international businessmen and tourists," said Abed. "There are no foreigners nowadays. The situation got bad." — Reuters



**GAZA:** School children cross a street in the town of Khan Yunis in the Gaza strip, flooded by heavy rain. — AFP

## IRAQ PM'S REFORMS HINDERED BY DIVISIONS AMID IS THREATS

## BATTLE AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE AT STAKE

**BAGHDAD:** Facing resistance from within his own party, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi is struggling to sustain support for a political shake-up he says is critical to efforts to counter Islamic State militants. In an attempt to regain momentum after parliament last week blocked his government from passing important reforms without its approval, Abadi reached out over the weekend to Iraq's powerful Shi'ite Muslim establishment, which has previously backed his anti-corruption push.

But he returned from meetings with senior clerics in the sacred Shiite city of Najaf without securing fresh support, raising the prospect of further isolation as he seeks to head off the threat of a no confidence vote by disgruntled lawmakers. In Najaf, Abadi notably did not meet with Iraq's top Shiite religious figure, Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani. Sistani and the other clerics have backed Abadi but seem to have become impatient with the slow pace of reform. "It's as though he is walking through a minefield," said Baghdad-based political analyst Ahmed Younis, citing pressures from parliament, the public, and Shiite religious authorities. "He is now obligated to work in a way that pleases all sides."

History suggests he should proceed with caution. Abadi's predecessor, Nuri Al-Maliki, was also perceived as a leader who did not consult before taking decisions. He was pushed out last summer after alienating his own party and fellow Shiites, as well as American allies and regional power Iran, which has wide sway in Iraq. Iraq's power

brokers, including the Shiite religious establishment, supported Abadi as the new prime minister after concluding he was a consensus builder who had a chance of healing political and sectarian divisions.

The biggest challenge for Abadi is reforming Iraq's notoriously corrupt military — which has largely collapsed in the face of Islamic State advances and streamlining a government seen as inept. Emboldened by popular protests in Baghdad and other cities and a call for action by Sistani, Abadi unilaterally launched a reform campaign in August. He moved to dismantle Iraq's patronage system and root out incompetence and corruption undermining the major OPEC oil exporter's battle against Islamic State militants who have seized nearly a third of the country's territory. Those measures soon got bogged down by legal challenges and opposition from entrenched interests. Frustrated by inaction, protesters demanding an end to corruption and better water and electricity services began to call Abadi weak and ineffective. Sistani has also expressed displeasure with delays in enacting reforms, calling on Abadi to take bolder action in the face of resistance. Though the reclusive octogenarian rarely hosts politicians, a meeting in Najaf would have shored up Abadi against the increasingly popular Iranian-backed Shiite militias and politicians like Maliki, who have sought to maintain privileges targeted by the reforms.

Their aims are causing a split among Iraq's Shiite leaders, further fragmenting a country

struggling to contain Islamic State, the biggest security threat since a US-led invasion toppled autocrat Saddam Hussein in 2003. "It was a setback," Sami Askari, a lawmaker from the ruling State of Law coalition, said of the Najaf trip. "I'm sure Abadi came back unhappy, because if he had been able to see Sistani it would balance all the movement of the parliament." A spokesman for Abadi said no such meeting was ever requested, but a source close to the prime minister described the fact that he did not meet Sistani as "negative".

#### Faded mandate

With his once indisputable mandate from the protesters and Sistani faded, Abadi may no longer be in a position to challenge those who oppose his reform drive. The toughest demands could come from within his own State of Law coalition, which led last week's vote asserting parliament's authority after it demanded wider consultation from Abadi. While the lawmakers' resistance is focused on the reforms, it stems from larger disagreements between two camps inside State of Law headed, respectively, by Abadi and Maliki.

Maliki's supporters, who are allied with Iran, regard Abadi as too close to the United States, which arms and trains Iraqi forces and is leading an air campaign against Islamic State. Maliki himself is popular with the Iranian-backed militias, seen as a bulwark against the Sunni insurgents. "Abadi sometimes feels that this is a threat to his

authority and he tried hard to weaken Maliki," said Askari. Abadi has failed to enforce one of his main reforms which would have removed Maliki and the two other vice presidents from their positions. Instead Maliki is holding on, setting himself on a collision course with Abadi. "The more (Abadi) pressures Maliki, the more he will lose the support of the State of Law," said Askari.

State of Law members dismiss speculation that Abadi has begun courting outside parties to form a new coalition to support his reforms. They warn such a move would require major concessions and expose him to attacks from his own base. But lawmakers say Abadi may still need broader support to ensure his proposals pass through parliament smoothly and to prevent the possibility of a vote of no confidence, which lawmakers have not ruled out. Backing from Shiite clerics Abadi met over the weekend, who are largely opposed to Maliki, could prove critical in any future confrontation, but this seems unlikely under present circumstances. Meanwhile, backing from other Shiite groups, such as the Sadrist or the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, would enable Abadi to block a coup from within his own electoral alliance, said the source close to the prime minister. "It's just to make sure that he's got members in parliament that would block any move down the road to withdraw confidence," the source said. "A smattering of support from the Kurds or from a Sunni party means you're making sure they won't reach the 60 percent they need. It's a preemptive motion." — Reuters

## News

in brief



**MARIB:** An armed Yemeni tribesman from the Popular Resistance Committees, supporting forces loyal to Yemen's Saudi-backed President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, walks past bullet casings in the area of Sirwah west of Marib city. — AFP

#### Gulf air strikes on Islamic State down due to Yemen

**DUBAI:** Air strikes by Gulf Arab members of the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Syria have diminished since they launched an air war against Yemeni rebels in March, a US general said yesterday. Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have carried out air strikes against IS in Syria but the three Gulf Cooperation Council members are also involved in an air and ground campaign in Yemen in support of exiled President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi. "There is a mix of GCC that is participating in Yemen as well as in the operations in Iraq and Syria," said US Air Forces Central Command chief Lieutenant General Charles Q Brown. "Less so since March because they've been occupied with the Yemen operation," he told reporters at the Dubai Airshow. Washington has been leading mainly Western allies in carrying out air strikes against IS in Iraq since August last year.

#### US man sentenced for anti-gay slurs

**SEATTLE:** A Washington state man who yelled anti-gay slurs and threatened to stab three men in a Seattle neighborhood with a sizable gay community has been sentenced to 30 months in prison, the Justice Department said on Monday. Troy Deacon Burns, a 38-year-old from Bremerton, Washington, pleaded guilty on Aug 5, admitting in a plea deal that he attacked three gay men who were walking in the Capitol Hill neighborhood, the department said. During the plea hearing, Burns said he was under the influence of drugs and alcohol at the time of the assault and claimed that he did not remember his actions, the department said. An attorney for Burns could not immediately be reached for comment. He was charged in August under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr, Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the Justice Department said. Burns, holding a knife raised over his head in a stabbing position, approached the men just after midnight and yelled homophobic slurs. The men ran, but Burns caught up to one and again used a gay slur and threatened to stab him. As the second man helped the first away, their friend found Seattle police officers, who arrested Burns, the department said.

#### Knife attacks, unrest returns to Jerusalem

**JERUSALEM:** Alleged Palestinian assailants carried out two knife attacks in Jerusalem yesterday, police said, as a wave of unrest in Israel and the Palestinian territories returned to the city after a lull. In one incident, a Palestinian carried out a knife attack at the Damascus Gate, the main entrance to Jerusalem's Old City, and was "neutralized", police said. In the other, two knife-wielding Palestinian boys aged 12 to 13 attacked a security guard in a settler neighborhood of annexed east Jerusalem, with one shot and wounded and the other arrested, police said. The security guard was wounded and treated at the scene, police spokeswoman Luba Samri said. The attack took place as the guard was on duty on a tram line. After the first suspect was shot, "passengers on the tram rushed to the second terrorist and overcame him," Samri said. While other knife and car-ramming assaults have continued in the occupied West Bank amid a weeks-long surge of violence, Tuesday's attacks were the first in Jerusalem in more than a week.

#### 2 Indians wounded in Saudi region shooting

**RIYADH:** Two Indians and a Saudi policeman were wounded by gunfire in the east of the kingdom as authorities hunted suspects linked to unrest by minority Shiites, the interior ministry said yesterday. A police traffic patrol "came under heavy fire from a farming area" in the Shiite-populated Qatif district on Monday evening, the ministry's spokesman said. The Indians were passers-by, he said. An Indian embassy official confirmed that two nationals were wounded and are in stable condition. "We are following it up," he said. The ministry spokesman did not identify the perpetrators but warned the public not to provide assistance to people on a list of 23 wanted suspects issued in 2011 after Shiite unrest. Saudi Arabia's Shiite minority, who complain of marginalization in the Sunni-dominated kingdom, began protests that year in Eastern Province, where most of them live. Many suspects on the wanted list have already been detained or killed in shootouts.

## TURKEY URGED TO RESUME TALKS WITH REBELS, LIFT MEDIA CURBS

**BRUSSELS:** The European Commission urged EU candidate Turkey yesterday to lift restrictions on media freedom, respect human rights and relaunch peace talks with Kurdish militants in the violence-racked southeast of the country. In its annual progress report on Turkey, which decade-long accession talks with the European Union have largely stalled, the Commission also noted with concern President Tayyip Erdogan's push for a constitutional overhaul that would give him much greater powers.

But the EU executive's criticisms were cloaked in diplomatic language, reflecting the political sensitivity of dealing with a large, strategically important country whose cooperation Brussels sorely needs in tackling Europe's migrant crisis. "Turkey needs to move because there are many areas where they need to deal with basic principles, the fundamentals," EU enlargement commissioner Johannes Hahn told the European Parliament, referring to human rights and freedom of expression. The Commission report comes at a difficult time for Turkey, where fighting has resumed between security forces and militants of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) after the collapse of a ceasefire. Turks have also just handed Erdogan's AK Party, in power since 2002, a further four years in power in a Nov 1 election that saw a sharp rise in social and political tensions. "The Commission hopes to see an end to the escalating violence in Turkey and the return to negotiations on a lasting solution on the Kurdish issue," said Hahn, an Austrian politician from the centre-right.

As Hahn spoke in Brussels, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told state broadcaster TRT his new government would pursue major economic, social and judicial reforms in the next six months, without giving details. He also called for an executive presidential system. Erdogan's critics say his push for a stronger presidency in a country where the head of state has mainly played a more ceremonial role is evidence of his growing authoritarianism.

#### Migrants

The EU criticism of Turkey and of Erdogan, who served as prime minister for a decade before moving to the presidential palace, has been relatively muted due to the migrant crisis. The progress report, whose publication was delayed until after the election to avoid upsetting Erdogan and the mildly Islamist AK Party, praised Turkey for sheltering millions of refugees fleeing the civil war in neighboring Syria. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who visited Istanbul before the vote, says there can be no solution to the migration crisis without Turkey, which shares a long border with Syria and Iraq.

The Commission is negotiating a deal for Turkey to absorb more Syrian refugees in return for easier visa access to the EU, cash and an acceleration of membership talks. As well as Turkey, the Balkan countries of Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia, Albania and Kosovo are all seeking membership of the EU, the world's largest trading bloc. But admitting Turkey, a mainly Muslim nation of 75 million people, has always been much more controversial. — Reuters



**KODJAN:** Two women pound grain as other villagers gather in Kodjan, some 60 kilometers west of Bamako. The village of some 2,000 inhabitants has seen many of its youth leave to seek their fortunes in Europe and to help those left behind financially. — AFP

## NO COUNTRY FOR YOUNG MEN: MALI LOSES ITS YOUTHS TO MIGRANT CRISIS

**KODJAN:** Once bustling with sinewy young men like any other farming village in rural Mali, Kodjan is starting to look distinctly grey. Little by little, the demographics of the settlement are altering as its youth join the exodus of African migrants looking for a better life in Europe. "My three grandchildren went off in search of adventure in Spain, because here there is nothing," a 72-year-old woman tells AFP in front of her shack. "If they had not gone, we would have died of hunger."

Across the village of around 2,000, some 60 kilometers west of the capital Bamako, the story is the same. An unearthly quiet suffocates the streets lined with straw and mud huts that once rang with the laughter of husbands, sons and fathers. Nearly 140,000 migrants arrived in Italy from Africa by sea in 2015, the bulk of them Eritreans but sizeable numbers from west Africa too, according to International Organization for Migration figures.

The heads of state and government from most of the EU member countries and

more than 30 African nations including Mali are due in the Maltese capital Valletta on Wednesday for talks on tackling Europe's migration crisis. African leaders will be asked to approve an action plan aimed at tackling the root causes of mass migration, according to a draft obtained by AFP. While Eritreans are fleeing a bloody and repressive dictatorship, the exodus from Kodjan, where the local economy is almost entirely reliant on agriculture, is about money.

#### 'Dying of shame'

"At the end of the winter season, there is nothing left to do, and young people would rather leave than remain idle, dying of shame," says farmer Ousmane Diarra. He tells AFP that in every family at least three young men are "on some foreign adventure, earning money for their relatives". Assistant village chief Moussa Diarra, 77, explains the situation to Kodjan's council as he sits in a wooden chair under trees in a yard among chickens pecking for grain and women pounding millet. "The villagers scrape

together the money the young people need to travel," he says.

"Last month for example, we sold an ox and, with the money raised, three young people left." According to the official, young people travel to Mali's cities to look for work and, when they have saved enough, set out across the desert to Libya or Morocco, and onward across the treacherous Mediterranean Sea. "When young people arrive in Europe, this is a really happy event for us here. It solves our problems," says Oumar Diarra, 62, another villager. Nearby, Sika Diarra proudly points out a satellite dish on his roof. "I have a son who is in Spain. It is an adventure. He sends us money and it is thanks to him that we have the satellite dish," he says. "We pray to God that his little brother will also make it to Europe. That's all that can save us."

Nothing else," adds his wife. Nearby, a girl aged 15 with a baby on her back explains anxiously that her husband went to Spain two years ago and she has since heard nothing. — AFP





**DOUMA:** A Syrian man and his son drive in vehicle battered by years on conflict in the rebel-held area of Douma, east of the capital Damascus yesterday. — AFP

## WAR ON IS NEEDS 'BOOTS ON THE GROUND': US AIR FORCE

AT LEAST 22 DEAD IN ATTACK ON SYRIA REGIME BASTION

**DUBAI:** The air campaign against the Islamic State group has made progress in degrading the jihadist organization but will not be enough without local boots on the ground, the US air force secretary said yesterday. The comments from Deborah Lee James come just days after Pentagon chief Ashton Carter raised the possibility of deploying additional US Special Forces personnel to Syria if more partners can be found among local forces on the ground.

"Air power is extremely important. It can do a lot but it can't do everything," James said. "Ultimately it cannot occupy territory and very importantly it cannot govern territory," she told reporters at the Dubai Airshow. "This is where we need to have boots on the ground. We do need to have ground forces in this campaign." James cited the "Iraqi army, the Free Syrians and the Kurds" as forces to support in the fight against IS.

A US-led coalition has been carrying out air strikes against IS in Iraq and Syria for more than a year in a campaign that has seen the jihadists lose some territory but also make new gains. The White House announced on October 30 that US President Barack Obama had authorized the first sustained deployment of "fewer than 50" special force personnel to Syria, reversing a longstanding refusal to put US boots on the ground.

And in an interview on Sunday, the Pentagon chief said that more US troops could "absolutely" be deployed to Syria if Washington identifies more "capable local forces" as partners in the fight against IS. While US troops are believed to have carried out covert missions in Syria before, they had not previously been deployed there on a continuous basis.

### 22 dead in attack

In another development, at least 22 people were killed in mortar fire yesterday on Syria's coastal city of Latakia, in one of the bloodiest shellings there since the country's war began, state media reported. The toll rose to "22 people killed and 62 wounded" in the attack on eastern neighborhoods of the regime bastion, state television said. Earlier, state news agency SANA had said 12 people died and 57 were hurt when two mortar rounds struck residential neighborhoods.

Latakia lies in the heartland of the minority Alawite sect to which Syria's ruling clan belongs and has been largely spared attacks during four and a half years of civil war. A rare car bombing in September killed 10 people and wounded dozens in Hamam Square in the provincial capital. Rebels and jihadists, including Al-Qaeda's Syria affiliate, have long targeted the region, in part for

its symbolic value as a regime stronghold. According to a Syrian security source yesterday's attack took place near Latakia's Tishreen University, "where many students were gathered". Abir Selman, a 24-year old literature student at the university, said she was waiting for the bus when the mortars struck. "I saw blood everywhere and people running in every direction," she said. "I passed by a corpse that had nothing left except for its legs... We wait at this bus stop every day", Selman added.

Syrian state television broadcast video footage of blood-stained streets littered with broken glass and mangled cars. Meanwhile, one person was killed and five wounded in a mortar attack on residential areas of Damascus, state television said. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights at least 10 mortar rounds struck various neighborhoods of the capital. The Britain-based Observatory said another four people, including a child, were killed in government rocket fire on the flashpoint town of Douma, east of Damascus. The toll was likely to rise as some of those wounded were in critical condition, the monitoring group said. Douma lies in the opposition bastion of Eastern Ghouta, which is regularly bombed by regime forces. Suspected Russian strikes on the town last week killed at least 23 civilians. — Agencies

## SHOOTINGS AT MEXICO COCKFIGHT, FIELD KILL 16

**ACAPULCO:** A weekend of violence killed at least 16 people in Mexico's troubled southern state of Guerrero as shootings erupted at a cockfight and a football field, police said Monday. Twelve people were killed, including two minors, and five others were wounded when a gunfight erupted between armed civilians at Sunday night's cockfight in Cuajinicuilapa, the state prosecutor's office said.

The prosecutor's office said in a statement that the cause of the gun battle was under investigation. A senior state police official told AFP that "some of the dead were taken away by their relatives minutes before security forces arrived" while the wounded were taken to a nearby hospital. Authorities had earlier reported that 10 people were killed and seven wounded. Cuajinicuilapa, which lies near the state of Oaxaca, is famous for its mixture of cultures derived from descendants of African slaves. The area is not known for the type of violence that has plagued other parts of Guerrero, such as the Pacific resort of Acapulco or mountain regions of the interior beset by drug cartel turf wars.

Acapulco has become Mexico's murder capital, with the violence leaving four dead

and three wounded after an amateur football game on the outskirts of the city on Sunday, municipal police said. The attack took place in broad daylight when gunmen burst onto the field and shot at the players as they were relaxing after the game. Relatives of the victims removed the bodies before the authorities arrived, police said. Authorities found bullet casings matching the caliber of AR-15 assault rifles as well as shotguns and handguns. There were no apparent links between Sunday's two shootings.

### Remains found in pit

Guerrero is the state where 43 teacher college students disappeared after they were abducted by local police in the city of Iguala on September 26, 2014. Prosecutors say the officers handed the students over to the Guerreros Unidos drug cartel, which killed them, incinerated their bodies at a landfill in the town of Cocula and threw bags of remains in a nearby river. The case has renewed interest in the plight of the 25,000 people who remain missing across Mexico. It also led to the discovery of more bodies buried in clandestine graves around the region. — AFP

## DEATH ROW - LAST STOP FOR MANY US VETERANS

**WASHINGTON:** Executed in 2015 in the US state of Georgia, Andrew Brannan is one of thousands of US soldiers who serve, come home from battle with mental scars, commit murder and are put to death. At least 10 percent of those executed in the United States are military veterans, according to a report out yesterday. Alarming, courts hardly take into account the psychiatric conditions of the military veterans, according to the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC). A video of Brannan's behavior when he was stopped for speeding on January 12, 1998 gives some insight into his state of mind. In the video, taken by the dashboard camera of police officer Kyle Dinkheller, Brannan emerges from his pickup truck and starts dancing crazily, trying to provoke the officer and refusing to follow orders. Leaving a vehicle when stopped by a police officer is forbidden in most US jurisdictions. "Fuck you!", Brannan shouts, "I am a fucking Vietnam Veteran!"

Once back in his car, Brannan grabs a weapon. Gunfire breaks out. Dinkheller is hit nine times and dies on the spot. Brannan, with a wound in the abdomen, gets back in his pickup. The video is shown at police training academies. At the trial, Brannan's lawyers tried unsuccessfully to get lenient treatment

based on extenuating circumstances. Decorated for his bravery, Brannan had been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

### From glory straight to infamy

"Given that less than seven percent of the US population are veterans, very often judges, juries, prosecutors and even defense attorneys are essentially unfamiliar with the military experience," Art Cody, Legal Director Veterans Defense Program at the New York State Defenders Association said. "There may be a perfunctory acknowledgment of veteran status, but very often judicial decision makers lacks sufficient understanding of how the military background and experience has affected the veteran-defendant and the crime with which he or she is charged," he said.

Some 300 veterans are on death row across the United States, and any were decorated soldiers before their downward spiral. Such was the case of Robert Fisher, a Vietnam War veteran. President Lyndon Johnson awarded Fisher a Purple Heart for combat wounds he received in 1967. Thirteen years later, deeply affected by mental illness, Fisher killed his partner. — AFP

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI CHIEF RESIGNS AFTER RACE PROTEST

**COLUMBIA:** The University of Missouri's president stepped down on Monday after protests by the school's football team and other students over what they saw as his soft handling of reports of racial abuse on campus. Tim Wolfe's high-profile resignation was the latest shock to the state of Missouri, and the United States at large, which has been roiled for more than a year by racial tensions after police shot and killed an unarmed young black man in the state.

Unrest at the university, widely known as "Mizzou", started on Sept 12 when Peyton Head, president of the Missouri Students Association, said on his Facebook page that he was repeatedly racially abused on campus by someone riding in a pickup truck. His post went viral, and the lack of any strong reaction by Wolfe led to demonstra-

disgusting and vile that we find ourselves in the place that we do," Butler told reporters on campus after Wolfe announced his resignation. Protests on campus had been led by a group called ConcernedStudent1950, which says black students have endured racial slurs and believes white students benefit from favoritism in many aspects of campus life.

The group, which takes its name from the year the university first admitted black students, on Monday demanded an immediate meeting with the university's faculty council, Board of Curators and the governor of Missouri to discuss shared governance of the school. "While today may seem bright to some, this is just a beginning in dismantling systems of oppression in higher education, specifically the UM system," Marshall Allen, a member of the group, told more than 500 people gathered on campus.

"This was the right decision to help the university turn the page, and for its leaders to recommit to ending racism on campus," US Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri, a Democrat and a graduate of the school, said in an emailed statement. Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, also a Democrat, welcomed the move. "Tim Wolfe's resignation was a necessary step toward healing and reconciliation on the University of Missouri campus, and I appreciate his decision to do so," Nixon said in a statement. A majority of the approximately 35,000 students at the university in Columbia, about 125 miles west of St Louis, is white. Total enrollment at the university is 35,488, according to the school's website, including undergraduate, graduate and professional students. Last year, in the school's most recent figures available, about 7 percent of students were black. Racial tensions in Missouri flared last year when a white policeman in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson killed an unarmed young black man and a grand jury brought no charges against the officer. The shooting kindled nationwide soul-searching and protests about the treatment of blacks by law enforcement.

Recent problems at the university started with the shooting in Ferguson, Justin Honore, a 20-year old sophomore from Dallas, told Reuters amid celebrations on campus. "There was a lot of racial tension around the Ferguson issue. A lot of the student body are from the St. Louis, Ferguson area," said Honore, who is black. "When a lot of that was going down, they felt very hurt and judged that people were jumping to conclusions about their community, about who they were." Racial tensions have dogged other American schools as well recently. Yale University saw small-scale protests last week after a fraternity turned away black guests at a Halloween party, saying, according to reports at the time, that only white women would be admitted. — Reuters

versity would create the role of Chief Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Officer and start a full review of the school's policies on staff and student conduct within the next three months.

### Tigers threatened strike

The football team, known as the Tigers, suspended practice on Saturday and Sunday, and more than 30 black players had vowed not to return until Wolfe resigned or was fired. That would have been a financial hit to the university, which, under its contract, would have had to pay \$1 million to next weekend's opponents, Brigham Young University, if the Tigers failed to play.



**COLUMBIA:** Tents remain on the Mel Carnahan quad on the campus of University of Missouri - Columbia in Columbia, Missouri. University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe resigned yesterday amid protests over racial tensions at the university. — AFP

tions at the school's homecoming parade the following month, when protesters blocked the university president's car, according to local news reports.

Later that month, a swastika drawn in human feces was found in a university dorm building, according to the Residence Halls Association. Protests reached a critical point this weekend when the university's black football players refused to practice or play until Wolfe stepped down, and some teachers and students threatened to walk out of class. In a televised news conference on Monday held to announce his resignation, an emotional Wolfe said, "I take full responsibility for this frustration and I take full responsibility for the inaction that has occurred." "My decision to resign comes out of love, not hate," he added, quoting passages from the Bible. "Please, please use this resignation to heal, not to hate."

Wolfe, a former software executive who joined the university in 2012, is the 23rd



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 Professional HR Consultants  
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You will be responsible for ensuring the organization is aware of and complies with current health & safety and fire safety legislation, approved codes of practice, best industry practice and guidance in relation to employment and service provision, as well as, working proactively with managers to establish and maintain systems that promotes a culture of safe working practices across the Organization.

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**Integration Advisor**  
 Professional HR Consultants  
 Qatar

You will be responsible for setting resolution strategies with all discipline managers within, production and maintenance of the interface register, representing at stakeholder meetings, workshops and Joint Working Groups, as well as, managing the integration team and arranging additional recruitment as necessary and day-to-day liaison with all technical services managers.

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**Programme Director**  
 Huxley Banking & Financial Services - Qatar

You will be required to have extensive experience in project / program management within the banking industry sector, experience implementing end to end projects in Retail Banking, as well as, relevant certification in this area such as Prince2, PMP, etc.

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# INDIA'S MODI HEADS TO BRITAIN SEEKING INVESTMENT

**NEW DELHI:** Narendra Modi will begin his first visit to Britain as Indian prime minister yesterday, seeking to boost investment in his booming country and win the backing of a large and influential diaspora community. Modi will have lunch with Queen Elizabeth, an honor usually only accorded to heads of state and address parliament as Britain rolls out the red carpet for the leader of one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

Around 60,000 British Indians are expected to attend a sell-out rally at Wembley Stadium billed as the biggest reception ever given to a foreign leader in Britain.

It is a remarkable turnaround for a politician who was effectively banned from visiting the former colonial power for nearly a decade over anti-Muslim violence in his home state of Gujarat in 2002. Britain was among the first Western countries to end its boycott of Modi, who has denied any wrongdoing over the violence that killed more than 1,000 people, mostly Muslims.

Prime Minister David Cameron will come under pressure to raise the subject of human rights in India after 40 lawmakers including opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn signed a motion for parliament to debate a host of issues. They range from alleged abuses by police in Indian-administered

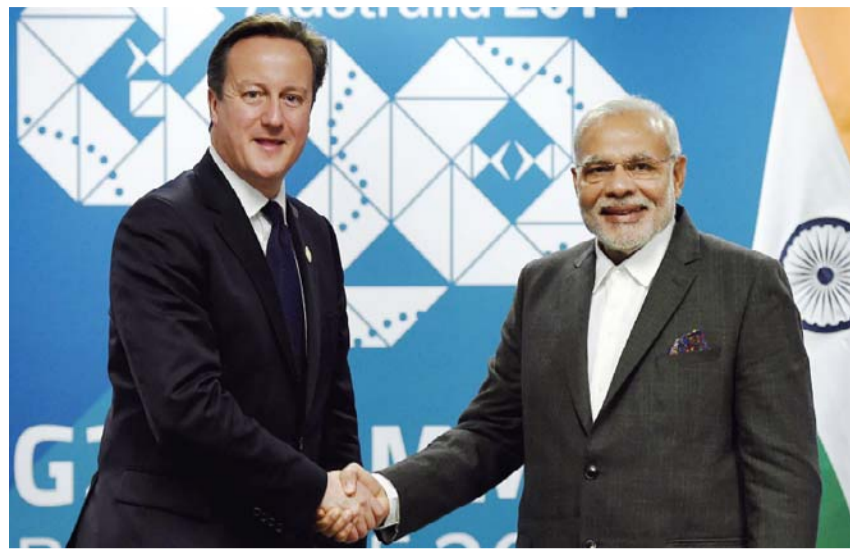
Kashmir to an Indian government ban on a BBC documentary about a 2012 gang rape in New Delhi that shocked the world.

### 'Safe and stable bet'

But investment and trade will be the main focus of the visit. Cameron has visited India three times as prime minister, eager to boost trade with the rising Asian power, which reached \$14 billion in 2014-15 according to Indian government figures.

A Downing Street spokeswoman said "nothing is off the table." "Our focus is on how can we work together on challenges facing our countries from economic prosperity to security," she told AFP. Modi will meet chief executives for a roundtable discussion in London, seeking investment to maintain a pace of economic growth that has hit around seven percent.

"My message to the business community is clear-come, make use of the opportunities India is offering and invest in India," he said in a Facebook post. Analysts said the Indian premier, who swept to power last year on a promise to create jobs for a growing young population, would seek to sell India as a safe bet to investors in London-one of the world's main financial centres. "The main thrust will be on leveraging investors," said Sreeram Chaulia, Dean of the Jindal School



**BRISBANE:** In this file photo Britain's Prime minister David Cameron (L) shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibitions Centre (BCEC) in Brisbane. — AFP

of International Affairs. "India stands out as a rare beacon and the prime minister will play that up, focus on that really, and say, 'look, India's a safe and stable bet.' Mitigating against that message is an

ongoing tax dispute between Indian authorities and Britain's Vodafone that has become a symbol of the problems foreign firms face in doing business in Asia's third-largest economy. That will likely feature on the

agenda, as will Indian plans to market rupee-denominated "masala bonds" in London. Defence deals are also on the cards as India undertakes a multi-billion-dollar upgrade of its ageing military hardware. Among the \$15 billion worth of deals reportedly expected to be signed during Modi's stay is an agreement for Britain's BAE Systems to sell 20 more Hawk trainer aircraft to India.

India remains the world's largest importer of defence equipment, but Modi has made clear his determination to boost the domestic industry, lifting a cap on foreign investment in defence production.

"India is now looking at purchases that involve technology transfer and manufacturing in India," said Neelam Deo, a former Indian ambassador and now director of the Gateway House think-tank in Mumbai.

### Protests planned

Modi will also inaugurate a London memorial to the low-caste leader of the struggle for Indian independence, Bhimrao Ambedkar, during his three-day visit.

It comes as the Hindu nationalist leader faces criticism at home over what critics see as rising intolerance after a spate of violent attacks on secular intellectuals and Muslims. — AFP



**YANGON:** Fans designed with the image of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi are seen at a souvenir shop of the National League for Democracy party (NLD) in Yangon yesterday. — AFP

# SUU KYI PARTY SET FOR MAJOR WIN IN MYANMAR ELECTION

SUU KYI SAYS SHE, NOT NEW PRESIDENT, WILL CALL THE SHOTS

**YANGON/MANDALAY:** Myanmar democracy champion Aung San Suu Kyi made it clear yesterday that she was ready to defy the powerful military's attempts to clip her wings, as fresh results from Sunday's historic election showed her party heading for a resounding win.

As vote tallies trickled in, Suu Kyi's long-oppressed National League for Democracy (NLD) looked set to take control of most regional assemblies as well as forming the central government, a triumph that will reshape the political landscape. Under the constitution drawn up by Myanmar's former junta, Suu Kyi is barred by the constitution from taking the presidency because her children are foreign nationals, a clause few doubt was inserted specifically to rule her out.

But in two interviews yesterday, the Nobel peace laureate said that, whoever was appointed president by the newly elected houses of parliament, she would call the shots. She told the BBC that she would be "making all the decisions as the leader of the winning party" and Channel News Asia that the next president would have "no authority". The ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), which was created by the junta and is led by retired soldiers, has conceded defeat in a poll that was a milestone on Myanmar's rocky path from dictatorship to democracy.

### A CLEAR WIN

The NLD said its tally of results posted at polling stations showed it was on track to take more than two-thirds of seats that were contested in parliament, enough to form Myanmar's first democratically elected government since the early 1960s.

The party would win more than 250 of the 330 seats not occupied by the military in the lower house of parliament, NLD spokesman Win Htein predicted yesterday. Under the junta-crafted constitution, a quarter of the seats are unelected and reserved for the armed forces.

Reuters was not able to independently verify the party's own estimates of its performance.

The election commission said the NLD had won 78 of the 88 seats declared so far for the 440-strong lower house. No seats have been declared in the upper house. Official results also showed that Sunday's election had handed the NLD a landslide win in the battle for regional assemblies, with Suu Kyi's party winning 143 of the 165 seats declared so far for local legislatures and the USDP just 12.

"The difference between the parties is huge. It's a clear win," said Sitida, a 37-year-old Buddhist monk in the central city of Mandalay who marched in the country's 2007 "Saffron Revolution" protests that were

bloodily crushed by the junta. Sitida, who was sentenced to 70 years in prison for his role in the demonstrations but was given amnesty as part of political reforms in 2011, said the military would now have to accept the NLD's win and negotiate an orderly retreat from politics. "Daw Suu can make this happen. Daw Suu can convince them," he said, referring to Suu Kyi with an honorific.

However, while the USDP has been cut down and much of the establishment shaken by the extent of Suu Kyi's victory, the army remains a formidable power.

In addition to his bloc of parliament seats, the commander-in-chief nominates the heads of three powerful and big-budget ministries - interior, defense and border security - and the constitution gives him the right to take over the government under certain circumstances.

The military has said it will accept the outcome of the election, and Suu Kyi said times have changed since the 1990 election she won a landslide that the military ignored. She spent years under house arrest following that poll.

"I find that the people are far more politicized now than they were ... so it's much more difficult for those who wish to engage in irregularities to get away with it," she told the BBC. — Reuters

# THOUSANDS PROTEST AFGHAN KILLINGS AS SECTARIAN FEARS RISE

**GHAZNI, Afghanistan:** Around 2,000 members of Afghanistan's Hazara ethnic minority held an angry protest yesterday after militants killed seven members of their community at the weekend and dumped their partially beheaded bodies. The killing of the seven Hazara, including three women and two children, during fighting between rival Taliban factions and Islamic State sympathisers, highlighted the risk that worsening sectarianism could add a lethal twist to daily violence sweeping Afghanistan.

The mainly Shia Hazaras have long suffered ill-treatment and persecution in Afghanistan, with thousands massacred by al Qaeda and Taliban militias in the 1990s.

This year, a series of kidnappings and murders of Hazara fuelled fears that the group was being deliberately targeted, and the latest killings in the southern province of Zabul triggered a furious wave of reaction on social media. In a sign of anger among the Hazara, the bodies of the dead were taken to Ghazni, a city in central Afghanistan with a large Hazara community, where crowds marched to the provincial governor's compound in protest.

Bearing the coffins of the dead aloft and chanting slogans against the Taliban, Islamic State and the government in Kabul, the crowd demanded punishment for the killers.

"We ask the government to find the reason behind this serial killing of Hazaras in Afghanistan

and bring the perpetrators to justice," Ghulam Ali, a protester, said. Since the killings of the 1990s, the Taliban has largely avoided specifically targeting Hazaras or Shia Muslims, but the rise in the number of fighters claiming allegiance to the even more hardline Islamic State movement may change that. Afghanistan is divided among a patchwork of ethnic groups, including Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks and Turkmen, mainly in the north and west, as well as Pashtun, the largest single group, located mainly in the south and east.

While sectarian violence has regularly broken out in the past, it has not been a major feature of the fighting in recent years and any resurgence would add a dangerous new complication for the government of President Ashraf Ghani.

The Taliban's success in seizing control of the northern city of Kunduz and holding it for three days a few weeks ago delivered a huge blow to public confidence in the government's ability to control security. But in recent days, the Taliban has been caught up in troubles of its own after a splinter faction defied Mullah Akhtar Mansour, who assumed the leadership in July following confirmation of the death of the movement's founder Mullah Omar.

Fierce fighting between the rival factions continued on Tuesday and spread beyond the southern province of Zabul into Herat and Farah in the west, according to Mullah Abdul Manan Niazi, a spokesman for the breakaway faction. — Reuters



**Afghan men gather around the coffins with the headless bodies of a group of Shiite Hazaras in Ghazni province yesterday. — AFP**

# CHINA SOFTENS TACTICS IN GLOBAL HUNT FOR CORRUPTION FUGITIVES

**LONDON:** China has changed tactics in its global man-hunt for fugitives wanted at home for corruption, after complaints from countries that objected to Beijing's practice of sending investigators to track them down, a top Chinese anti-corruption official said.

Liu Jianchao, in charge of repatriating Chinese corruption suspects who flee abroad, said in an interview Beijing had deepened cooperation with foreign governments and no longer sent officials abroad without clearance from the host country to try to convince the suspects to return home.

China has brought home more than 600 officials this year in a campaign dubbed "Operation Fox Hunt", pursuing them abroad as part of a wider crackdown on deep-rooted graft which Liu called "an arduous task". Seventeen of the top 100 suspects on which China's Interpol office issued a red notice in April have been repatriated, he said.

"The Chinese authorities at different levels ... didn't really mean to make any harm to the country that they were visiting, but then we got these complaints, we realised there's room for improvement in doing this job," Liu told Reuters on Monday on a visit to Britain to seek better legal cooperation.

"So now we are talking to the authorities of the relevant countries to seek their assistance and their understanding and we tell them in explicit terms that China will ... comply with the legal procedures, with the rules of your country," he said, in an unusually frank admission of the challenges Beijing has faced in trying to repatriate economic fugitives.

### 'DAUNTING' TASK

Western diplomats in Beijing say their governments have been infuriated by China send-

ing agents to their countries to try to convince suspects to return, and that if China wants their help it must use above-board, legal methods and local courts.

The United States in particular has warned China about Chinese agents it says were operating on US soil to pressure fugitives to return. Western nations have balked at signing extradition deals with China, partly out of concern about its judicial system. Rights groups say Chinese authorities use torture and that the death penalty is common in corruption cases.

President Xi Jinping has driven the corruption crackdown since taking over the leadership of the Communist Party in late 2012. Since then dozens of senior officials have been investigated or jailed.

The Chinese government has given periodic updates of its progress in bringing graft suspects back to China, in some cases announcing batches of several dozen officials being returned.

However, the fight has been hampered by China's difficulty in getting suspected corrupt officials and assets from overseas. "The task remains daunting," said Liu, who is Vice Minister for the National Bureau of Corruption Prevention. He also heads the Department of International Cooperation within the party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

Among those still overseas is Yang Xiuzhu, a former senior construction official in eastern Zhejiang province charged with corruption, who has been taken into custody by immigration authorities in the United States but has applied for asylum.

Her brother, regional official Yang Jinjun, was repatriated to China in September, the first time Beijing succeeded in bringing back a suspect from the United States. — Reuters

# CHINA NOT AWARE OF PLAN TO DISCUSS SOUTH CHINA SEA

**BEIJING:** China is not aware of any plan to discuss the disputed South China Sea at an Asia Pacific leaders' summit next week in Manila, a senior Chinese diplomat said yesterday, amid tensions between China and the Philippines over the waters. For its part, the Philippines said it had no plan to raise the issue at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit from Nov. 17 to 19.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is to attend the meeting of APEC, which includes the United States, China, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and Canada and together accounts for 57 percent of global production and 46.5 percent of world trade.

"Everyone knows that APEC is primarily about discussing trade and financial cooperation in the Asia Pacific," Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong told reporters in answer to a question.

"As far as I know, at this year's summit, there are no plans to discuss the South China Sea."

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.

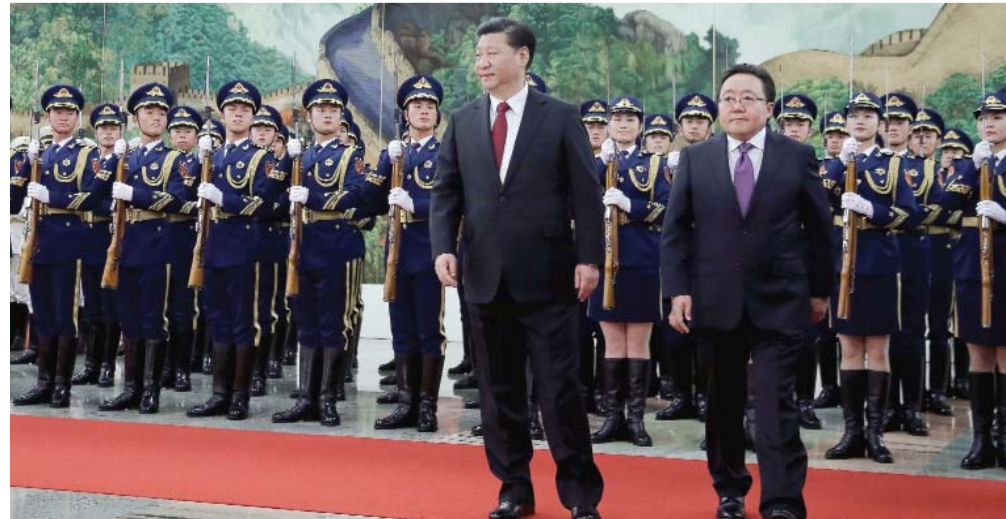
A summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations last week, attended by both the United States and China, failed to produce a final statement because the delegations could not agree on whether to mention the South China Sea dispute.

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. Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Manila for the first high-level talks between the two neighbors since 2011.

"They expressed hope the contentious issues will

not be raised (at APEC) and we said we will endeavor on our side not to raise contentious maritime issues," Charles Jose, Manila's foreign ministry spokesman, told a news conference. He said Manila would not raise the South China Sea issue because of the arbitration case in The Hague and because APEC was "not the proper forum". — Reuters



**BEIJING:** Mongolian President Elbegdorj Tsakhia, right, walks with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday. — AP



RIYADH: Saudi officials stand in front of the flags of countries being hosted by Saudi Arabia to attend the 4th summit of Arab States and South American countries, during the welcoming ceremony held at King Khalid International airport in Riyadh yesterday. — AFP

## LATIN, ARAB LEADERS HOLD SUMMIT TO STRENGTHEN TIES

RIYADH: Arab and South American leaders converged on Saudi Arabia yesterday for a summit aiming to strengthen ties between the geographically distant but economically powerful regions. United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon is expected to attend the opening in Riyadh of the Fourth Summit of South American-Arab Countries, set to begin at 1600 GMT. State television showed the arrival of President Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela, whose country belongs to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries along with Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter.

President Rafael Correa of Ecuador, OPEC's smallest member, also arrived. It was not immediately clear whether other Latin American heads of state would be present. Arab presidents who arrived included Omar al-Bashir of Sudan, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt and Fuad Masum of Iraq, as well as Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas, state media said.

Other leaders include Gulf rulers and King Abdullah II of Jordan. Ahead of the two-day meeting, Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour said windows of cooperation have long existed "but haven't been open

enough to take advantage of the capabilities" of both regions. For example, Sudan has land and water "that could enable it to become the Arab and South American food basket". The summit between the 22 Arab League members and 12 nations from South America was first held in 2005. The gatherings were an initiative of then Brazilian president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, whose country hosted the first summit.

### 'Moving forward'

Ahead of the summit, Arab League Secretary General Nabil al-Arabi told Kuwait's KUNA news agency that "trade between both regions has amounted to \$30 billion after it was no more than \$6 billion in 2005". Peru, which hosted the third meeting in 2012, last month became one of 12 Pacific rim countries to seal the world's largest free trade area, known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Chile is the only other South American nation included in that deal. Saudi columnist Abdulateef Al-Mulhim, writing in Monday's Arab News, said that together, the Arab and South American regions can help bring prosperity and stability to the

world. "The whole of the continent is moving forward with many visible and modern reforms to their political, economic, social and educational systems," he wrote of South America.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir spoke of a "convergence of positions" between countries of the two regions on many issues and commended the Latin American nations' "positive stance" towards the Palestinian question. Jubeir told a pre-summit meeting that the previous three summits tried to develop trade, investment and transport links. There remain "promising opportunities for collaboration", he said, according to a written text of his Monday speech. Two South American nations, Argentina and Brazil, belong to the Group of 20 world's largest economies, as does Saudi Arabia. The

kingdom and its Gulf neighbors pump much of the world's oil, but Brazil and Venezuela are also major producers.

There are also cultural ties, as Chile hosts about 350,000 Palestinian immigrants and their descendants who have settled there over the past century. Recent immigration has taken more than 2,000 Syrian refugees fleeing the war in their homeland to Brazil since 2011. The figure is far more than for any other Latin American state, although some pledged open doors and Venezuela's President Maduro said 20,000 were welcome in his country. However, Maduro is a staunch ally of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, who is facing rebel forces supported by Saudi Arabia and other Arab states. — AFP

## KUWAIT, RUSSIA LEADERS INK AGREEMENTS...

Continued from Page 1

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Russian Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky for cultural and artistic cooperation between Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) and the Russian Ministry of Culture. A cooperation MoU between the Kuwaiti Ministry of Communications and the Russian Ministry of Transportation was also signed. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Anas Khaled Al-Saleh signed it with Russia's Minister of Transportation Maksim Sokolov. A statement of intent was signed between the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense and the Russian firm Rosoboronexport for military equipment.

Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh

Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah signed the statement with Rosoboronexport's Director General Anatoly Isaikin. Finally, CEO of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Nizar Al-Adsani signed a MoU with Chairman of Russia's Gazprom Board of Directors Alexey Miller for cooperation between both firms. A joint investment MoU was signed between the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) and the Russian Direct Investment Fund. It was inked by KIA Managing Director Bader Al-Saad and Director of the Russian fund Kirill Dmitriev.

In another development, Russian President presented yesterday His Highness the Amir with an old copy of the Russian Pravda newspaper dated on March 13, 1962, which handled the forging of diplomatic relations between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the State of Kuwait. — Agencies

## THE APPEALS COURT OVERTURNS EX-MP'S...

Continued from Page 1

Barghash and his family members still have a last chance to go the Supreme Court whose rulings are final. Barghash was in the Palace of Justice waiting for the ruling and said he accepts the verdicts of the judiciary but hinted at a challenge. In its ruling, the Appeals Court said that the only aspect in the nationality law that Kuwaiti courts can handle is when authorities refuse to grant children of Kuwaiti fathers their citizenships and not other aspects. It said that Barghash and his brothers and sister obtained their nationality in the early 1960s in a different way.

It said that their father had lived in the country since before 1920 but at the time of implementing the nationality law in 1959, he was very ill and died before registering himself and his children. Later, his children obtained the citizenship after witnesses testified to authorities that they were living in the country before the Nationality Law and their father died before registering, the court said. Accordingly, their father was not Kuwaiti and the court cannot handle their case, it said. The court had revoked the citizenship of several opposi-

tion members and even deported Saad Al-Ajmi, an activist with the opposition Popular Action Movement, after withdrawing his nationality.

In another development, Oil Minister Ali Al-Omir appears to be headed out of the ministry after two years in the post following non-stop controversies with top oil executives. The most likely scenario, expected to be announced today or early next week, is to move Omir to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs while the State Ministry for National Assembly Affairs will remain with him. The solution involves dissolving the board of directors of Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) and appointing new executives. The next oil minister is likely to be State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah or Anas Al-Saleh.

MP Ahmad Al-Qhudhaibi, who was at loggerheads with Omir and was preparing to grill him, welcomed the news about the minister's planned exit and said this proves that his decisions in the oil sector were not correct. The lawmaker said that the plan proves that oil ministers have no powers to move top oil executives out of their positions. He said the plan shows that the supremacy of law in Kuwait has emerged the winner.



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## Kuwait Times

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DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
ESTABLISHED 1961

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EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
FAX : 24835620/1  
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## Issues

## THE MYANMAR ELECTION: WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

Myanmar's opposition looked poised yesterday for a landslide poll win, but even if Aung San Suu Kyi's party does form a majority, governing a impoverished nation where the military retains huge influence will be no mean feat. Here's what we know so far about the election and what it means for the nascent democracy.

## Who won?

Right now it's hard to say unequivocally, as full results aren't in. But from the few seats declared, Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party is sweeping the board. Her party has won 78 of the 88 seats announced so far in the lower house, which has a total of 323 seats up for grabs. They have done particularly well in their Yangon stronghold, taking all the city's declared seats, as well as making strong gains in the important Mandalay region. And they've even taken a few seats in Myanmar's ethnic minority regions. That suggests the NLD may mop up in regions where many thought the vote was more likely to go to smaller ethnic parties. The NLD is also dominating many regional parliamentary seats — 142 out of 162 declared so far—which could give them significant influence over important local authorities. There are a total of 652 regional parliamentary seats to fill. No upper house results have been released yet, nor do we know yet whether Suu Kyi has won in her own constituency of Kawhmu.

## Will NLD form the next govt?

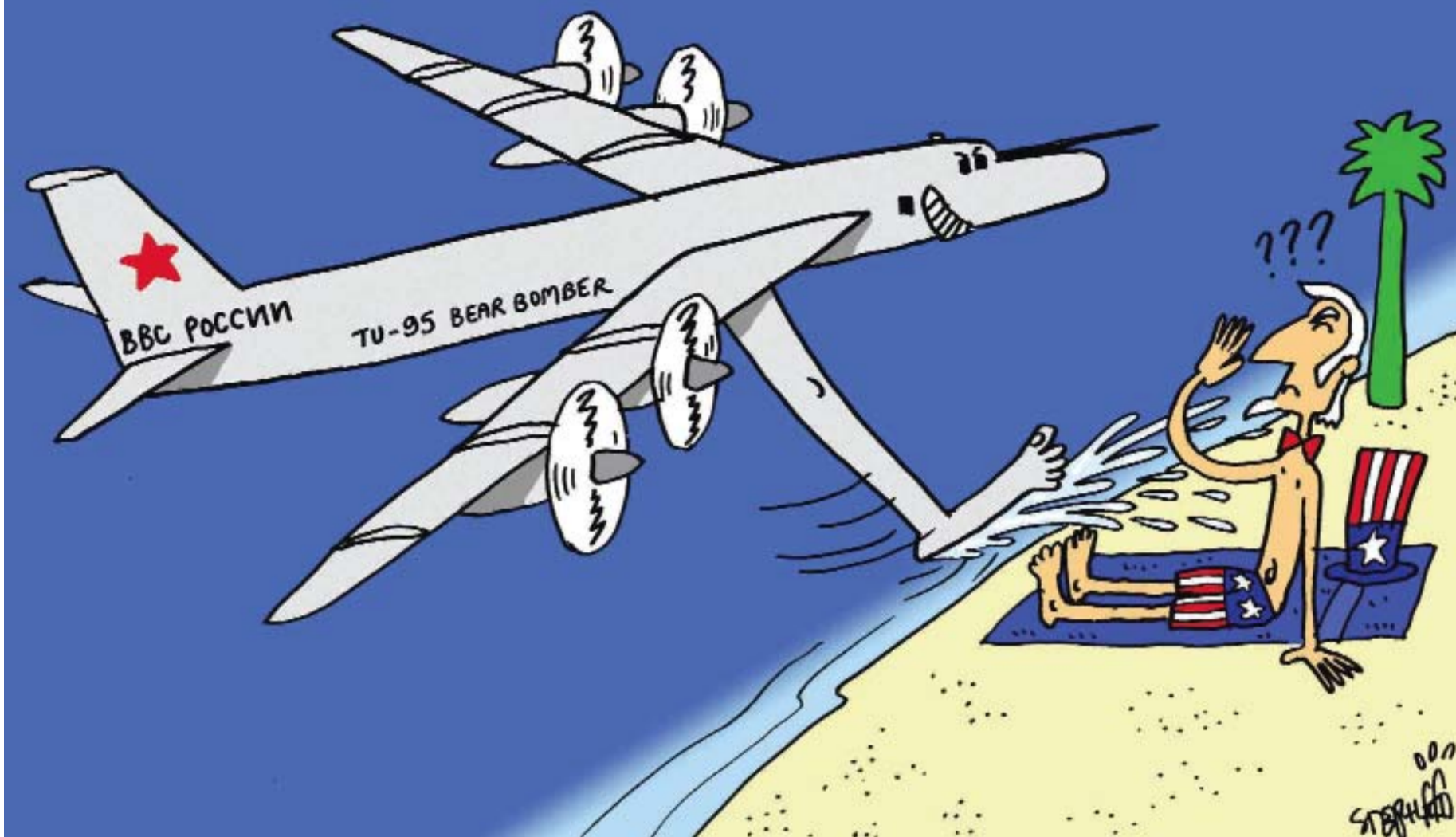
At the current rate of results, it certainly looks like it. Under Myanmar's complicated 2008 military-crafted constitution, the NLD needs to take at least 67 percent of seats in both the lower and upper houses to form a government. Its rivals, the army-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), only needs to win a third. That's because a quarter of seats in the legislature are reserved for military appointees. In a BBC interview yesterday, Suu Kyi said she believed the NLD were on track to take 75 percent of seats, which would push her party well over the 67 percent threshold. Challenges ahead? Firstly, Suu Kyi can't be president—she is currently forbidden from taking the top spot under the constitution, which bans those with foreign children. Her two sons are British.

Secondly, even if she forms a majority, any major constitutional reform is going to be very difficult. The army bloc within the legislature can effectively veto any changes to the charter. That means a Suu Kyi presidency remains a distant prospect—an obstruction the powerhouse politician cryptically vowed to circumnavigate by being "above the president". A third issue is that the military still holds other constitutional cards, including the top security posts at the home, defense and border affairs ministries. "There are lots of levers of power and they control the ones they need to," said Richard Horsey, an independent Myanmar analyst.

## How will the president be chosen?

Myanmar's president is directly elected by the legislature. With the existing parliament sitting for a final session from Monday, new MPs won't take their seats until the end of January. Once the new parliament is up and running, electing the new president can begin, some time around February or March 2016. The lower and upper houses will each put forward a candidate, as will the military bloc. The whole parliament then votes on the three—the winner becomes president and the losers vice presidents. Even if the NLD's chosen candidate wins, he or she will likely have at least one military-backed vice president. Nicholas Farrelly, director of the Myanmar Research Centre at the Australian National University, said the NLD is well aware of the uphill struggle they face. The NLD "has thought about governing for more than a quarter of a century. That's a long time to wait", he said.— AFP

## U.S. INTERCEPTS RUSSIAN BOMBERS OFF COAST OF ALASKA, CALIFORNIA ...



## PUTIN'S DAUGHTERS AND RUSSIAN 2ND-GENERATION ELITE

By Stephen Grey, Andrey Kuzmin and Elizabeth Piper

Since Vladimir Putin began cementing his grip on Russia in the 1990s, many of his friends have grown famously rich. Not so the president himself, say his supporters, who insist Putin is above the money grab that has marked his reign. His public financial disclosures depict a man of modest means. In April, Putin declared an income for 2014 of 7.65 million roubles (\$119,000). He listed the ownership of two modest apartments and a share in a car parking garage.

His daughter Katerina is doing considerably better, supported by some of the Russian president's wealthy friends, a Reuters examination shows. After unconfirmed media speculation about Katerina's identity, a senior Russian figure told Reuters that she uses the surname Tikhonova. Andrey Akimov, deputy chairman of Russian lender Gazprombank, said he had met Katerina when she was little and more recently, and that Tikhonova was Putin's daughter.

Reuters has also learned that earlier this year Katerina, 29, described herself as the "spouse" of Kirill Shamalov, son of Nikolai Shamalov, a longtime friend of the president. Shamalov senior is a shareholder in Bank Rossiya, which US officials have described as the personal bank of the Russian elite. As husband and wife, Kirill and Katerina would have corporate holdings worth about \$2 billion, according to estimates provided to Reuters by financial analysts. That wealth stems mainly from a large publicly disclosed stake in a major gas and petrochemical company that Kirill acquired from Gennady Timchenko, another longtime friend of Putin.

Also among the young couple's holdings is a seaside villa in Biarritz, France, estimated to be worth about \$3.7 million. That asset, too, was acquired by Kirill from Timchenko, a commodities trader who has known the president since at least the 1990s. Katerina is also thriving in academia and running publicly funded projects at Moscow State University. A Reuters examination of public documents shows that the president's younger daughter has signed contracts worth several million dollars from state-owned organizations for work at the university to be carried out by organisations she directs. There is no indication she has made any personal financial gain from this work.

She holds a senior position at the university, and helps direct a \$1.7 billion plan to expand its campus. Katerina's official advisers at Moscow State University include five members of Putin's inner circle - including two former KGB officers who knew her when she was a toddler. They served with her father in the 1980s when he was deployed to Dresden, East Germany. Putin's elder daughter, Maria, is linked to Moscow State University as well. She is a graduate of the school's Fundamental Medicine Department and is forging a career in endocrinology, according to publicly available documents.

Katerina, Maria and Kirill Shamalov all declined to comment for this article. Asked about the Biarritz home, a spokesman for Timchenko said he would not comment on personal matters. The stock acquisitions, state business deals, French property and oligarch connections offer a rare glimpse into the lives of Putin's children. The president has been very protective of his private life and his daughters, who seldom appear in the media. The transactions also provide insight into the family finances of Russia's most powerful man and the elite that has formed around him.

Katerina and Kirill, 33, are among a new generation of Russians enjoying a rapid rise in the wake of their well-connected parents. The phenomenon bears similarities to the "princelings" of China - the children and grandchildren of Communist Party leaders who have gone on to gain positions of power and amass great wealth. Olga Kryzhanovskaya, a sociologist and former member of Putin's United Russia political party, told Reuters that a "new aristocracy" was emerging in politics and state companies, with

a second generation inheriting the status of the current circle around Putin. "Many in society think they haven't worked for it, and they question who these people really are," she said.

Among other children of the Putin circle with growing influence are: Boris Kovalchuk, son of Yuri Kovalchuk, the largest shareholder of Bank Rossiya and a close Putin associate; Gleb Frank, son of former transport minister Sergei Frank and son-in-law of commodity billionaire Timchenko; Igor Rotenberg, son of the billionaire Arkady Rotenberg, Putin's former judo partner; Sergei Ivanov, son of Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergei B Ivanov.

In an interview with Reuters, Alexei Navalny, a Russian opposition leader, described what he called a "neo-feudal system" that threatens to dominate state offices and big business. "Today in Russia, it is absolutely normal that the boards of directors at state banks are headed by children of security service officials, who aren't even 30 years old when they are appointed," he said. "It is more than just a dynastic succession. Children don't just inherit their parents' posts, but also the right to choose any other post they fancy. The danger is that very soon all key resources will end up in the hands of five to seven families."

Reuters asked the Kremlin whether Katerina Tikhonova was the daughter of Putin and

rapid progress since her Oriental studies as an undergraduate.

According to the website of Moscow State University, she is attached to the Mechanics and Mathematics Faculty. Under the name Tikhonova, she is listed as an author, along with other academics, of a chapter in a maths text book and at least six scientific papers since 2011. The papers include studies on medicines and space travel; one is listed as a study of how the human body reacts to zero gravity. Most of the papers were co-authored with the university rector, Viktor Sadovnichy. He did not respond directly to requests for comment, but the university issued a statement.

It said Tikhonova had proved to be a "talented researcher" who had "reported results of her research at scientific seminars and conferences many times." The statement added: "We do not have information about the private life of employees." Tikhonova is also the director of two initiatives connected to the university, the National Intellectual Development Foundation (NIDF) and the National Intellectual Reserve Centre (NIRC). She became director of the non-profit NIDF in May 2013 and later became director of the NIRC as well.

The NIRC and NIDF created and run a project at the university called Innopraktika, which is also headed by Tikhonova. It sponsors and sup-

The university's rector, Sadovnichy, said in a May 2014 presentation published on the university website that NIDF, along with other entities, would be tasked with conducting an expert review of the expansion of the university. Tikhonova's role is to confer with and represent the views of the wider business community, she told Interfax in an interview this month. The \$1.7 billion expansion plan involves both public and private funding, and aims to double the size of the university campus by 2018 with new laboratories, academic buildings, schools, student accommodation, and a museum.

The NIDF did not respond to a request for comment. In an email, Innopraktika referred questions about its activities to Moscow State University and said it could not comment on Tikhonova's private life. The university said in a statement that many people were involved in its expansion plan, including university employees and outside experts. According to Russian state public records, since 2013 the NIDF has won contracts worth 182 million roubles (\$2.8 million) from Rosneft, Rosatom and Transneft, all state-owned companies. Of 10 contracts reviewed by Reuters, eight were awarded without competitive tender. The contracts were mostly to carry out research at the university.

Transneft declined to comment. A spokesman for Rosatom said: "Rosatom cooperates with Innopraktika as well as other institutions ... As part of its strategy Rosatom aims at developing new projects." He said contracts were awarded openly and transparently. A spokesman for the oil company Rosneft said it was cooperating with Moscow State University on 17 projects that were worth a total of 530 million roubles.

In March 2015, Tikhonova was appointed as a deputy vice-rector of the university. It is not known whether the post pays a salary. Tikhonova's role in the expansion project, though not her family tie to Putin, was laid out in a report in January by Russian business news channel RBC TV. Her title at the university was first reported by opposition leader Navalny. Her appointment is noted in an official order by Sadovnichy posted on the university website. She does not appear on the ordinary list of staff, but she is listed as a member of the university's scientific council.

Asked about Tikhonova's title, pay and role, the university said in statement: "The National Intellectual Reserve Centre supports specifically young people in innovative activity of MSU, and that is why its activity is coordinated by the Rector's office ... Consequently the Centre's director Katerina Tikhonova is the deputy vice-rector within this department."

## Ocean views

Tikhonova is active beyond the university. Under that name, she has competed for years as an acrobatic rock'n'roll dancer. In 2013, she and her dancing partner came fifth in a world championship event in Switzerland. Today, she is chairman of two organising committees of the All-Russian Acrobatic Rock'n'Roll Federation, according to its website. The Federation's sponsors include Sibur, Novatek and Gazprombank - companies that are owned or co-controlled by friends and associates of the president. These people include Timchenko; Kirill Shamalov; and Kirill's elder brother, Yuri Shamalov. The same companies are also mentioned on Innopraktika's website as among its corporate partners.

A spokesman for Sibur said: "As for sponsoring the (Acrobatic Rock'n'Roll) Federation - the motives are the same as in partnerships with other types of sport. At different times Sibur has supported the Russian basketball federation, Formula One team, many Russian hockey and football teams and many others." The spokesman said Sibur provided advice but not money to Innopraktika, and had long collaborated with Moscow State University. Novatek did not respond to requests for comment.— Reuters



Russian President Vladimir Putin

whether she is married to Kirill Shamalov, and other questions. Dmitry Peskov, press secretary of the Russian Federation, replied: "We have no information whatsoever about the personal life, family connection, marital status, academic activities, involvement in particular projects and family tree of Ms Tikhonova, or about other individuals mentioned in your letter." In recent years there has been an enormous quantity of gossip on the subject of the family ties of V. Putin, and, in particular, his daughters. The proportion of accurate information in all these publications is laughably small."

## Talented researcher

Katerina has largely escaped public attention since her father became president in 2000. In 2011, Putin told Russian television that Katerina had read Oriental studies, specializing in Japanese and history, at St Petersburg University. Little else was known about her adult life until a Russian blogger, Oleg Kashin, reported in January that the president's younger daughter was active at Moscow State University and had taken the surname Tikhonova, derived from the name of her grandmother, Yekaterina Tikhonovna Shkrebnaya.

As well as Gazprombank's Akimov, two senior academic sources one at Moscow State University and one scientist with close contacts there - also confirmed to Reuters that Tikhonova is Putin's daughter. She has made

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## LIVERPOOL'S IBE HOPING TO FLOURISH UNDER KLOPP

**LONDON:** Liverpool's teenage winger Jordan Ibe believes he can flourish and become a world-class performer under the guidance of new manager Jurgen Klopp. Ibe scored his first goal for the Premier League club in last week's 1-0 Europa League win over Rubin Kazan and is encouraged by Klopp's track record of nurturing young talent. Klopp, who twice led Borussia Dortmund to the Bundesliga title and also to the final of the Champions League, honed the talents of players such as Robert Lewandowski, Mario Goetze and Marco Reus. "He obviously did a great job at Borussia Dortmund. The fact that the young players he brought in were a big part of the success is very encouraging for guys like me," Ibe told the club's website (www.liverpoolfc.com). "Of course, those youngsters at Dortmund didn't just become a little bit better either—some of them, like Robert Lewandowski, have become players who are operating at the highest level in the Champions League. "Hopefully he can help me and some of the lads here do the same. I'm hoping my attributes—pace and strength and being able to go past people—will suit the way he wants to play and I can get some opportunities," the 19-year-old added. — Reuters

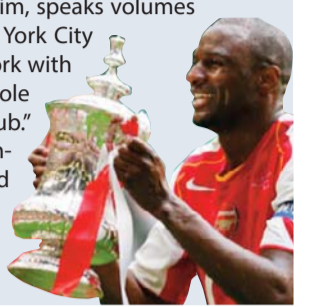


## BENZEMA FILES COMPLAINT OVER FRENCH SEX TAPE PROBE

**PARIS:** Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema will lodge a complaint for violation of judicial confidentiality after French radio Europe 1 published extracts of phone taps that could incriminate the France international, his lawyer said yesterday. Benzema was placed under formal judicial investigation last week in connection with an alleged attempt to blackmail fellow French soccer international Mathieu Valbuena using a sex video. "Which extracts were chosen? The worst," Sylvain Cormier told Europe 1. "We're done playing now and we are announcing that we will file a complaint for violation of judicial confidentiality." Cormier has previously said that Benzema was "totally innocent" and "played no part in any blackmail or attempted blackmail". Benzema has been ordered to not make contact with others linked to the affair. — Reuters

## VIEIRA JOINS NEW YORK CITY AS HEAD COACH

**NEW YORK:** Former France international Patrick Vieira has joined New York City FC as head coach on a three-year deal from parent club Manchester City, it was announced Monday. Vieira, who had been head of Manchester City's Elite Development Squad and had been talked of as a possible candidate to take the top job at the Etihad, replaces sacked coach Jason Kreis. It follows a disappointing season in the MLS for New York City, who invested heavily in star names such as Frank Lampard and Andrea Pirlo yet failed to make the postseason playoffs. "Patrick's ability, vision and the respect in which he is held by everyone who works with him, speaks volumes for his character and capacity to succeed," New York City FC President Tom Glick said. "I am excited to work with him and I know the energy he will bring to the role will have a hugely positive impact across the Club." Former France and Arsenal captain Vieira, a member of Les Bleus victorious 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000-winning squads said he was looking forward to starting his new job. — AFP



### FedEx Cup rankings

1. Justin Thomas (US)	688	16. Patrick Rodgers (US)	173
2. Kevin Na (US)	631	17. David Toms (US)	170
3. Russell Knox (Britain)	631	18. Daniel Summerhays (US)	169
4. Smylie Kaufman (US)	572	19. Tyrone Van Aswegen (S Africa)	167
5. Emiliano Grillo (Argentina)	534	20. Tony Finau (US)	166
6. Kevin Kisner (US)	388	21. Scott Piercy (US)	163
7. Jason Bohn (US)	315	22. Branden Grace (S Africa)	163
8. Peter Malnati (US)	313	23. Hideki Matsuyama (Japan)	160
9. Adam Scott (Australia)	301	24. Ryan Moore (US)	155
10. William McGirt (US)	258	25. Patrick Reed (US)	154
11. Patton Kizzire (US)	216	26. Jhonattan Vegas (Venezuela)	150
12. Cameron Tringale (US)	215	27. James Hahn (US)	127
13. Brendan Steele (US)	213	28. Charl Schwartzel (S Africa)	123
14. Alex Cejka (Germany)	207	29. Chad Campbell (US)	122
15. Brett Stegmaier (US)	185	30. Daniel Berger (US)	120.

## ISRAEL LOOKS TO THE US FOR BASEBALL TUTORS

**WASHINGTON:** Baseball is known as the national pastime of the United States. The same cannot be said in Israel, but a new program enlisting American Jewish ballplayers is aimed at honing the skills of Israeli hopefuls and elevating the game in the Jewish state. The Israel Association of Baseball is hoping its "Israel Baseball Experience" program, importing the American players for five months starting in January to play in the top Israeli baseball league, will turn out to be a grand slam. "We want guys to come over just to raise the level of playing and coaching in the country," said Nate Fish, the association's head national team coach. "If you can take 10 or 20 Division I college baseball players and you put them in the Premier League it would drastically impact the level of play. I'm not really worried about having too many of these guys." Art Shamsky, an outfielder with the 1969 World Series champion New York Mets who in 2007 served as manager of a team in a now-defunct Israeli baseball league, said his Israeli players "didn't understand the nuances of the game." "Baseball is a very subtle game in a lot of ways," Shamsky said. "Sure, there's run, throw, hit, pitch and field. But there are parts of the game you learn playing Little League or in high school. They didn't have that." Shamsky, who is Jewish, said there are some Israeli players who have some ability. "I wouldn't rule out some player over there eventually playing minor league ball and then make it to the big leagues (in the United States). This program could help make it happen."

Shamsky, 74, said the program could help Israel qualify for the World Baseball Classic (WBC), an international tournament sponsored by Major League Baseball.

### 'NOT SO FAR-FETCHED'

"It's not so far-fetched to think that the game can get developed there and kids can play it at a competitive level," Shamsky said. "Who knows what can happen? At one

point they said that about Japan, about China and Australia. It can be done." The American players, ages 18 to 29, will be set to play in the Premier League and go into communities around Israel to help promote and develop the game, the program's organizers said. The Americans are due to work with Israeli coaches and children in five cities, including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The Israeli national team, ranked 22nd in the world in baseball and sixth in Europe, is preparing to try to qualify next year for the 2017 WBC.

Few of the Israeli national squad's players are on Israel's WBC team, which consists mainly of American Jews who qualify to play for Israel in the tournament. WBC rules allow players to represent a country if they are merely eligible for citizenship. Israel lost in the WBC qualifying round in 2012, losing to Spain in the finals.

Shawn Green, 42, a retired two-time Major League Baseball all-star outfielder who is Jewish, said baseball "has started to take off in Israel" and that "the key is to get American players there." "Not only can they help instruct and show the Israeli players how to play the game, they can also go out there and demonstrate what it takes to perform as a professional baseball player and exemplify the right way to play the game," Green said.

Fish acknowledged that current Premier League attendance is little more than "a few parents and friends scattered around," with no stadium announcer or concessions. He also noted that Israel's current security problems can intrude on sports.

"Baseball is an escape," Fish said. "We've had a lot of problems over the last month. For the kids that play, it's essentially a time where they don't have to think about it." Fish added, "We were running summer camps last year and almost every day the sirens would go off and we'd have to hustle kids into the bomb shelter behind the third-base dugout. It's just a reality that we deal with." — Reuters



SHANGHAI: Sergio Garcia of Spain tees off during the final round of the WGC-HSBC Champions golf tournament in Shanghai. — AFP

## ROSE EYES CHINA DOUBLE WITH DUBAI GLORY BECKONING

**SHANGHAI:** Three weeks ago Justin Rose declared last month's Hong Kong Open would be his last event on the European Tour in 2015. Then he won it, and everything changed.

The Englishman now finds himself looking for back-to-back wins on Chinese soil with one goal in mind, winning the Race to Dubai. "Sometimes you make decisions based on what you know at the time, right?" Rose told AFP yesterday at Lake Malaren, Shanghai, venue for the \$7 million BMW Masters which starts on Thursday. "Obviously things changed for me."

"Winning in Hong Kong got me closer up the board and made it a realistic prospect to win the Race to Dubai." There are two events remaining, this week's BMW Masters in Shanghai and next week's season-ending DP Tour Championship in Dubai. World number six Rose is fifth in the European Tour Race to Dubai standings on 2,528,224 points — 865,699 behind leader Rory McIlroy.

But with 1,333,330 points up for grabs for the

winner both this week and next, Rose knows the Race to Dubai is still in his own hands.

"I'm going to have to win one of these last two tournaments, that's all I know," Rose said. "I think if I win one of them and play solid in the other then I'm hard to beat."

"If I go win-win then I'm unbeatable so it's in my hands, which is the good thing."

### 'Modern era'

Rose won the old European Tour Order of Merit and the Harry Vardon Trophy back in 2007, two years before it was reincarnated as the Race to Dubai.

It's clear that he has a burning desire to add the newer version to his bulging CV that includes the 2013 US Open and a combined 34-under-par score in this year's majors, the lowest ever recorded by a player who didn't win.

"Any time you have an opportunity to achieve something like winning the Race to Dubai or the Order of Merit, as it was when I last

won it, you have to take it. I would love to win it in the 'modern era' as I call it," said Rose.

But the 35-year-old will not have it all his own way against a high-class field containing the top five challengers to McIlroy, who is not playing this week.

Englishman Danny Willett, in second place, needs a top-25 finish to overhaul McIlroy after closing the gap to just 74,213 points with third place across the city at the WGC-HSBC Champions last week.

Then come Ireland's Shane Lowry (727,579 points behind McIlroy), South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen (791,816 behind), Rose and another South African Branden Grace (926,625 behind).

All can hit the number one spot before the season's climax next week with a win on Sunday. "I need to play well enough this week that if I win next week I don't have to worry about who finishes second," Rose said. "That probably means finishing second at worst this week to control my own destiny." — AFP

## MALNATI WINS PGA TOUR BY ONE STROKE OVER TOMS, MCGIRT

**MISSISSIPPI:** Peter Malnati churned through the Mississippi mud to clinch a one-stroke victory at the \$4.1 million Sanderson Farms Championship in Jackson on Monday. In his 22nd start on the PGA Tour, Malnati sank a three-foot par putt at the last to card 67 and finish at 18-under 270, edging fellow Americans David Toms (69) and William McGirt (68) at the soggy Country Club of Jackson.

The PGA Tour sophomore, 28, became the fifth winner in as many tournaments in the new 2015-16 PGA Tour season, joining Emiliano Grillo (Frys.com Open), Smylie Kaufman (Las Vegas), Justin Thomas (CIMB Classic) and Russell Knox (WGC-HSBC Champions).

Knox, at 30, is the oldest of the quintet. Malnati said he had not been mentally ready for his first season on tour in 2014-15, but returned this time better prepared.

"Two years ago when I was on this tour, it was so hard for me to be in the moment," he told Golf Channel. "I knew the work I've put in would prepare me for this moment when it came. This is pretty cool right now." Torrential rain earlier in the week sent the event to a Monday finish on the saturated course, where preferred lies were allowed.

A dozen or so players looked capable of winning at one stage or another during the final round, but none rued what might have been more than joint runner-up McGirt, who agonisingly missed a 30-foot birdie putt at the last that would have forced a playoff.

His ball looked headed for the bottom of the cup, only to break to the right at the very end and stop just short of the hole. "It just kind of ran out of steam and fell off the hole instead of falling in for me," said McGirt, who was also seeking his first win. "It somehow missed."

McGirt, whose wife is expecting on Friday, closely watched the leaderboards after learning from his mistake at the 2012 Canadian Open, where he was unaware of his position down the stretch and bogeyed the final hole to

finish one shot back. A few weeks later, he received some blunt advice from Tiger Woods.

"We had a nice little conversation and he (Woods) goes, 'you're an idiot.' I took that and kind of learned from it," McGirt said. — Reuters



BEIJING: Germany's Mari Vartmann and Ruben Blommaert compete in the Pairs Free Skating program during the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating at the Capital Gymnasium in Beijing, China. — AP



MISSISSIPPI: Peter Malnati hoists the trophy following a victory at the Sanderson Farms Championship in Jackson, Mississippi. — AFP



# KOREA LEAPS OVER INDIA, CHINA TO GRAB TOP SPOT

## KUWAITI SHOOTERS BAG GOLD, BRONZE MEDALS

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait shooters were outstanding once again and snatched one gold and 2 bronze medals during the seventh day of competition, while Korea was able to leap over China and India to take first place in the medals standing of the 13th Asian Shooting Championship, which comes to a close today at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex.

World Juniors Champion, Kuwait's Talal Al-

Rashidi in 2011, defeated India's Mana Singh Sandhu, who was world champion in 2006, 2010 and 2014 in a shoot off and took the trap's bronze.

Meanwhile Talal Al-Rashidi dedicated his medals in the individual and team events to HH the Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH The Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Kuwait shooting federation. He said the three medals are the result of collective work, adding that he is work-

ing hard in order to raise his level and always have Kuwait's flag flying high. Shooter Khalid Murad lauded the competition and said it makes them all gain experience and improve their skills. Lebanese player Edmond Jalakh said he was happy to win the gold medal for his country in the trap event, as this made him feel the tremendous responsibility. He added that he wish to participate by Kuwait in the future, as organization here is great and is no less than world or Olympic events.

### Results of competition of the 13th Asian Championship for November 9, 2015

#### Trap Men - Individual

1. Sik Young Lee - Korea
2. Alexander Hagen Topacio - Philippines
3. Talal Al-Rashidi - Kuwait

#### Trap Men - Team

1. Kuwait
2. China
3. India

#### Trap Men - Junior

1. Artyom Chikulyayev - Kazakhstan

#### 2. Lakshay Lakshay - India

3. Patrick Akoury - Lebanon

#### Trap Men - Junior Team

1. Lebanon
2. India
3. Kuwait

#### 50 M Rifle 3 Position - Men

1. Jonghyun Kim - Korea
2. Qinan Zhu - China
3. Zicheng Hui - China.



## NEPAL PLAYERS BAILED IN WORLD CUP FIXING CASE

**KATHMANDU:** A court granted bail yesterday to Nepal's national football captain and four other players charged with treason over alleged match-fixing in World Cup qualifiers, a lawyer for one of the defendants said.

"The Special Court has ordered the players to be released on bail," said Nani Babu Budhathoki, representing former national footballer Bikash Singh Chhetri.

All five players, including skipper Sagar Thapa and national goalkeeper Ritesh Thapa, have denied any involvement in match-fixing following their arrests last month in the capital.

Prosecutors have sought life sentences for the five, including defender Sandip Rai and coach Anjan KC, after they were charged on Sunday under a 1989 act against unlawfully jeopardising Nepal's sovereignty,

integrity or national unity.

"The court has declared bail in the amount of 500,000 rupees (\$5,000) for Anjan KC and Ritesh Thapa, 100,000 rupees for Sagar Thapa and 50,000 each for Sandip Rai and Bikash Singh Chhetri," Budhathoki told AFP. A physiotherapist, Devij Thapa, has also been charged with treason in absentia.

Detectives said the arrests came after significant sums of money were found deposited in the six suspects' bank accounts from suspected match-fixers based in Southeast Asia.

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.—AFP



**KATHMANDU:** Nepalese national football team goalkeeper Ritesh Thapa kisses his son as he arrives during ongoing hearings into a corruption case at court in Kathmandu yesterday.—AFP

# 'LEGENDARY' CHAMPION EDDERY DEAD AT 63

**LONDON:** Pat Eddery, the legendary 11-time British flat champion jockey, has died at the age of 63, the racing manager for owner Prince Khalid Abdullah announced yesterday.

The Irish-born horseman won over 4,600 races before retiring in 2003. Among his haul of big race wins were four Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and three Derbys, making him one of the greatest jockeys of all time.

"It is extremely sad news," said Teddy Grimthorpe, racing manager to Juddmonte owner Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. "Everyone at Juddmonte is very shocked and saddened by it."

"He spanned the greatest era for jockeys ever. Lester Piggott, Steve Cauthen, Willie Carson, all were exceptional, yet Pat's ability was unquestioned."

In total Eddery triumphed in 14 British Classics, including three Derbys aboard Grundy (1975), Golden Fleece (1982) and Quest For Fame (1990). Perhaps his finest hour came aboard Dancing Brave in the 1986 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, when he made a late charge down the centre of the track to snatch a sensational victory against a glittering field.

His other Arc winners came aboard Detroit in 1980, Rainbow Quest (1985) and Tremolino (1987). He achieved other memorable successes with Pebbles at the Breeders' Cup and Silver Patriarch in the St Leger, which gave him his 4,000th win, in 1997.

Silver Patriarch was trained by John Dunlop who said: "Pat rode his first winner for me in

1973 at Bath and in all had nearly 400 winners for me. "I was lucky to be training in a vintage era of jockeys and the fact Pat rode for me on and off for 30 years tells you everything." Dunlop added: "He was a delightful man to spend time with, he had huge success but was great company at the same time. Above all, he just worked harder than the others I think. "Silver Patriarch was special. To come back from being beaten a nose in the Derby and win the St Leger, and for it to be his 4,000th winner made it a very memorable day." Carson, the five-time champion and a close friend and rival of Eddery, said: "Part of my life has gone because I knew Pat for a very long time. He was an absolute gentleman and one of the greatest jockeys to ever put a leg over a horse. "He was a born rider and always did the right thing and got horses running for him." Pebbles' trainer Clive Brittain recalled: "He was ice cool in any situation and nothing bugged him. There was nobody stronger and as a tactician he was out on his own."

"You didn't instruct Pat—he was natural. Whatever happened in the race Pat would adjust to and I'll miss him greatly." Tony McCoy, the 20-time champion jump jockey, tweeted: "Very sad news to hear of the passing of Pat Eddery, true genius in the saddle #legend."

Another multiple flat champion, Johnny Murtagh, wrote: "Sad to hear the passing of legendary jockey Pat Eddery. Everybody looked up to him in the weigh room, real pro



**Pat Eddery**

and a gentleman RIP!" After retiring from the saddle Eddery took up training, sending out Hearts Of Fire to claim a Group One victory in Italy. Jockeys held a minute's silence in his honour before racing at Lingfield.—AFP

## LAPASSET BACKS JAPAN INCLUSION IN RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

**BENGALURU:** World Rugby chairman Bernard Lapasset has voiced his backing for Japan's inclusion in the Southern Hemisphere Rugby Championship competition alongside New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and Argentina.

The sport is enjoying a surge in popularity in the country that will host the next World Cup in 2019 and after securing a franchise in the Super Rugby tournament, Lapasset believes

a similar deal at international level is a distinct possibility. Japan beat off a bid from Singapore to enter next year's expanded 18-side tournament and will get their first taste of Super Rugby action at the Prince Chichibu Memorial Stadium in Tokyo on Feb. 27 when they host the Lions of Johannesburg.

"Japan is part of the total global vision of the rugby that we are promoting in the world, especially in the South with Argentina, South Africa,

New Zealand, Australia," Lapasset told reporters in Tokyo on Monday. "That's the top five with Japan. Not just Tier 2 and Tier 1, the top five," the Frenchman added.

"We need to achieve the process that all five will be pushing together to develop the southern competition and to promote the best rugby ever that we can do in the South."

"We did the same in the North with the Six Nations. Now it will be the five

nations in the South."

The popularity of rugby in Japan has rocketed after the Brave Blossoms stunned two-time world champions South Africa with a last-gasp 34-32 win at the recent World Cup in England.

They went on to become the first team to bow out of the pool stages with three wins but had better luck in completing a second-half rally against hosts Hong Kong on Sunday to book a berth at the 2016 Olympic rugby sev-

ens tournament in Rio.

Television viewing figures in Japan soared after the South Africa game and Lapasset has fixed his sights firmly on increasing the sport's popularity across the rest of Asia.

"The Super Rugby is a good format to promote rugby in the South that includes some matches in Singapore. That's important to extend the value and the quality of the game in Asia," he said.—Reuters





## INFANTINO 'TO WITHDRAW' FROM FIFA ELECTION IF PLATINI STANDS

**MILAN:** UEFA General Secretary Gianni Infantino vowed yesterday to withdraw from FIFA's presidential election if Michel Platini, the UEFA president who is serving a 90-day ban from all football-related activities, is allowed to stand.

"Platini is my president and I've worked with him for nine years. It's clear that I have his support, otherwise I would not be running," Infantino told Italian daily Gazzetta dello Sport.

"And there is another thing that must be clarified," he added.

"My candidacy is not in opposition to Michel. If he is able to stand, I will withdraw. It's a simple principle of loyalty. But right now I am a candidate 100 per cent and I'm moving forward, not

only for Europe but for world football."

Speaking of his plans to run for world football's lead role, Infantino acknowledged he shared "lots of points in common" with Platini in relation to "development and reforms" but that he also had his own ideas. "I am Infantino and Platini is Platini. It's my programme. The priorities are the same but there will be some differences."

Yet Infantino said that in principle he, as a candidate, was focused on several key reforms, one of which is the "indispensable" reform of world governing body FIFA.

"The reform of FIFA. It's indispensable. We need financial transparency, so that we know what money is coming in and which is going out," he said. "Also,

the separation of powers. The Executive will soon become known as the Council and will become a political body, separate from the administration. We also have to put limits on mandates and the age at which they can be held.

"Secondly, decisions have to become democratic. There are 209 national federations, big and small, and each one should have a say, not just every four years to elect the president.

"And we need made-to-measure plans in terms of investing in development. In recent years we've spoken very little about football. "FIFA has huge revenues from the World Cup and should be investing them, taking into account the different needs. Germany,

for example, has different needs compared to Burundi." The African vote is expected to be crucial for whoever is standing for the FIFA presidency and Infantino said the world's governing body could do more to help the continent.

"FIFA can do a lot for Africa, helping them by investing in basic necessities," he said. "Sometimes they even struggle to organise games because the travel costs are too expensive: that shouldn't be happening."

Seven candidates are in the running to succeed Sepp Blatter as FIFA president for the February 26 election next year. The other five candidates are Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein, Musa Bility, Jerome Champagne, Sheikh Salman

bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa and Tokyo Sexwale. Asian football head Sheikh Salman is expected to step aside should Platini emerge unscathed from the investigation. But until then Infantino said he will continue to act as though he was a candidate: "Maybe it's premature to be having that discussion. All I can say is relations with Asia and South America are good.

"But before talking politics, I have to talk about football. I have to convince the others my arguments are solid and make them understand the Europeans are not just rich and arrogant. "To do this, I will soon travel around the world: to talk with the federations, try to understand their problems and to garner their support." — AFP



**OAKLAND:** Stephen Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors shoots over Andre Drummond #0 of the Detroit Pistons at ORACLE Arena on November 9, 2015 in Oakland, California. — AFP



**ATLANTA:** Al Horford #15 of the Atlanta Hawks defends against Karl-Anthony Towns #32 of the Minnesota Timberwolves at Philips Arena on November 9, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia. — AFP

## WOLVES BLOW 34-POINT LEAD, STILL TOP HAWKS

**MINNESOTA:** The Minnesota Timberwolves held on to end the Atlanta Hawks' seven-game winning streak and, in the process, they stopped a stretch of futility that went back 13 years. Guard Andrew Wiggins scored 33 points, including eight down the stretch, and the Timberwolves won 117-107 despite letting a 34-point lead temporarily slip away. "Those last minutes, Andrew was unbelievable," Minnesota interim coach Sam Mitchell said. "We tried to get the ball in his hands, and he was feeling it. ... He was amazing." The Hawks (7-2) took a 107-106 lead on a basket by forward Paul Millsap, but Wiggins converted a three-point play with three minutes left, and the Timberwolves (4-2) pulled back away from there. The Timberwolves had lost 22 straight in Atlanta since recording a 103-93 victory on Nov. 20, 2002. Forward Kevin Garnett, in his 21st season, played in that game, but more than a few of his present Minnesota team mates were in elementary school at the time. It looked as if the Timberwolves' inexperience might prove costly. Minnesota led 81-47 before the Hawks closed the third quarter on a 37-12 run behind 14 points by guard Jeff Teague to pull within 93-84 going into the fourth. Atlanta then kept up the comeback.

"We got frazzled," Mitchell said. Wiggins, though, pulled the Timberwolves through as they improved to 4-0 on the road. The reigning NBA Rookie of the Year sank 15 of 22 shots and got support from rookie center Karl-Anthony Towns, who finished with 17 points, 12 rebounds and three blocked shots. "We stayed confident," Towns said. "We just had to weather the storm." Wiggins scored 31 points in an overtime victory at Chicago on Saturday, and he wouldn't be denied with the game on

the line again. "He was a superstar who wanted to end the game on his terms," Towns said when asked about Wiggins. "That's what I saw." "He made plays after we were able to get up a point," Hawks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "He did a little bit of everything."

The Hawks, who scored 19 points off 10 Minnesota turnovers in the third-quarter rally, shot 72 percent in the third, with Teague going 6-for-8 and Millsap making all four of his shots. "They were shooting the ball so well that I knew it was going to be tough to come all the way back," Teague said. "But we made it a dogfight." Teague finished with 24 points and a game-high nine assists. Millsap added 22 points.

For the game, Minnesota shot 57.5 percent and Atlanta hit 51.2 percent from the floor. The Wolves compiled a 40-27 rebounding advantage. The Timberwolves shot 63.8 percent and beat the Hawks 22-11 on the boards while building a 72-42 halftime lead. "They came out playing very aggressively, and we came out without a lot of energy," said Hawks guard Kyle Korver, who was held to five points. "We're a team that has to play with a lot of energy, and we finally responded in the second half."

Asked what the difference was, Korver had a simple answer. "You just get mad once you're embarrassed," he said.

### Bulls 111, 76ers 88

Forward Nikola Mirotic scored 20 points and grabbed a season-high 10 rebounds as the Chicago Bulls beat Philadelphia 111-88, extending the 76ers' losing streak to 17 games. Forward Doug McDermott scored 18 points and center Pau Gasol added 16 points, nine rebounds and six blocked shots for the

Bulls, who were without Joakim Noah because of a sore left knee. Rookie center Jahliil Okafor finished with 21 points and a season-high 15 rebounds for the Sixers, who were without Nerlens Noel because of injuries to both wrists. Philadelphia, 0-7 this season, also lost their final 10 games of the 2014-15 season. Their last victory came on March 25 against Denver.

### Pacers 97, Magic 84

Forward Paul George scored 27 points while guard George Hill added 23, as the Indiana Pacers dominated the final 6-1/2 minutes in a 97-84 victory over the Orlando Magic. The Pacers trailed 81-78, but during the final 6:28, they outscored the Magic 19-3.

### Nuggets 108, Trail Blazers 104

J.J. Hickson had 19 points and 13 rebounds against his former team and the Denver Nuggets beat the Portland Trail Blazers 108-104. Rookie guard Emmanuel Mudiay finished with 18 points, including two free throws with 18.3 seconds left, to hold off the Trail Blazers for Denver's first home win of the season. Kenneth Faried also scored 17 points for the Nuggets.

### Spurs 106, Kings 88

Kawhi Leonard scored 24 points and Patty Mills came off the bench to score seven of his nine points during a key run to start the fourth quarter as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Sacramento Kings 106-88 at Sleep Train Arena on Monday. Mills hit two layups and a 3-pointer to help San Antonio open the final period with an 23-12 blitz that made the difference. The Spurs twice pulled away after Sacramento rallied from double-digit deficits.

### Warriors 109, Pistons 95

Leandro Barbosa and Harrison Barnes combined for 12 points in an 18-6 run to start the fourth quarter, and the Golden State Warriors were down the Detroit Pistons 109-95 Monday night for their eighth consecutive win. The Warriors, the NBA's last remaining unbeaten team for the second year in a row, moved within one of their franchise record for consecutive season-opening wins, set in 1960-61 while the club was playing in Philadelphia.

### Clippers 94, Grizzlies 92

Blake Griffin scored 24 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, leading the Los Angeles Clippers to a 94-92 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies at Staples Center. Guard J.J. Redick had 16 points as the Clippers (5-2) ended a two-game skid. Point guard Chris Paul returned after missing Saturday's loss to the Houston Rockets with a sore right groin, and he scored 14 points. Center DeAndre Jordan had 13 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks. — Agencies

## NO TAKERS FOR SERIE A SCUDETTO AMID JUVE WOES

**MILAN:** The battle for Serie A supremacy is the closest in years but Juventus sitting nine points off the pace is not enough for the Turin giants' potential successors.

After 12 games, only five point separate the top five teams, four of whom can harbour serious scudetto ambitions following Juve's disastrous start to their title defence. But like poker players knowing they could be on a winning hand, none are giving much away.

Roberto Mancini, who won seven trophies including three consecutive league titles in his previous spell with Inter Milan, was dismissive after seeing his side pull level with leaders Fiorentina after a 1-0 win at Torino on Sunday. Fiorentina are playing some great football but Portuguese coach Paulo Sousa claims he just wants other teams to recognise the team's "quality". Roma now have no excuses as they go in search of a first league trophy since 2001, but two years of being humbled by Juventus has seen coach Rudi Garcia swap a tone of defiance for one of cautious optimism. As for Napoli? Try mentioning the word 'scudetto' around Maurizio Sarri and you'll be reminded they haven't won the title since Diego Maradona led them to the second of their two titles in 1990.

Treble winners in 2010, when Jose Mourinho led them to the league, Cup and Champions League titles, Inter are finally back in the hunt after years in the domestic wilderness.

### Quality

Inter are the only team in the top five not involved in Europe this season, but that added bonus means little for Mancini. "I would say the others (title challengers) have a slight advantage because they've been playing together for longer," said Mancini. "This squad has only really been together since August.

We're trying to create a quality squad that includes younger players that can develop down the line."

Although Italian football's 1990 heydays are long gone, this season could help rekindle a forgotten love for watchers of 'calcio'. Fiorentina haven't been champions since winning a second league crown in 1969, when they finished ahead of a Cagliari side steered by Italy legend Luigi 'Gigi' Riva.

But under Sousa, Fiorentina are flying, with Nikola Kalinic (7) and Josip Ilicic (4) hitting 11 of the team's 24 league goals so far. Sousa is among a select few players to have won back-to-back Champions League titles, triumphing in 1996 with Juventus then a year later with Borussia Dortmund.

But when it comes to Fiorentina's title chances, he is modest: "We want to challenge every side in the league, but the best prize we can have at the end of the season is for our rivals to recognise our quality." Roma, who have hit a league-leading 27 goals in 12 games, sit one point behind Fiorentina and Inter after Sunday's 2-0 derby win over Lazio, but Garcia admits it's no longer a two-horse race.

"Inter and Napoli are both very strong this year, but you can't forget about Juventus, either," he said. Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri admits his side now have to go "step by step" to revive their title hopes. If Napoli end their 25-year wait for the league title, it would be the story of the season.

Naples-born Sarri failed to make the grade in top level football and became a banker, but regularly swapped his shirt and tie after office hours for the tracksuit that has since become his trademark to coach. He worked his way up the ladder, led Empoli into Serie A last season and made such a good impression he hit the jackpot by replacing Rafael Benitez when he left Napoli. — AFP

### NBA Results/Standings

Indiana 97, Orlando 84; Chicago 111, Philadelphia 88; Minnesota 117, Atlanta 107; Denver 108, Portland 104; San Antonio 106, Sacramento 88; Golden State 109, Detroit 95; LA Clippers 94, Memphis 92.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Toronto	5	2	.714	-	Utah	4	2	.667	-
NY Knicks	3	4	.429	2	Minnesota	4	2	.667	-
Boston	2	3	.400	2	Oklahoma City	4	3	.571	0.5
Brooklyn	0	7	0	5	Portland	4	4	.500	1
Philadelphia	0	7	0	5	Denver	3	4	.429	1.5
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	6	1	.857	-	Golden State	8	0	1.000	-
Detroit	5	2	.714	1	LA Clippers	5	2	.714	2.5
Chicago	5	3	.625	1.5	Phoenix	3	4	.429	4.5
Milwaukee	4	3	.571	2	LA Lakers	1	5	.167	6
Indiana	4	4	.500	2.5	Sacramento	1	7	.125	7
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Atlanta	7	2	.778	-	San Antonio	5	2	.714	-
Miami	4	3	.571	2	Houston	4	3	.571	1
Washington	3	3	.500	2.5	Dallas	3	3	.500	1.5
Orlando	3	5	.375	3.5	Memphis	3	5	.375	2.5
Charlotte	2	4	.333	3.5	New Orleans	0	6	0	4.5



**LIMA:** Paraguay's national football team players take part in a training session at the Alianza Lima Club Stadium in Lima on November 9, 2015. Paraguay will face Peru in a FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 qualifier football match on November 13. — AFP



KATWIJK: Dutch national football players attend a training session in Katwijk yesterday. The Netherlands will face Wales on November 13 and Germany on November 17 in friendly matches. — AFP

## US BANS UNDER 10S FROM HEADING OVER SAFETY FEARS

**LOS ANGELES:** Football players under the age of 10 will be banned from heading as part of a series of safety measures aimed at tackling head injuries in the sport, the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) has announced, ending the threat of a proposed class-action lawsuit.

The revised safety measures will also limit the amount of headers in practice for players aged between 11 and 13, a statement on the US Soccer website confirmed.

The new rules will be followed strictly by USSF Soccer youth national teams and the youth sections of Major League Soccer teams but are only recommendations for teams and associations outside US Soccer control.

The guidelines were drawn up to resolve a legal case launched in federal court in California by a group of parents and players alleging not enough was being done to treat and monitor head injuries.

No damages were sought in the suit, only amendments to rules governing the sport in the United States.

As part of the resolution, the USSF has developed an extensive program to improve concussion awareness and education amongst youth coaches, referees,

parents and players, a statement said.

Rules governing the maximum number of substitutions would also be tweaked to ensure they did not act as an impediment to the evaluation of players who have suffered a concussion during matches.

"In constructing the concussion component, US Soccer sought input from its medical science committee which includes experts in the field of concussion diagnosis and management, as well as from its technical advisors, and worked with its youth members to develop a true consensus-based program," US Soccer chief executive Dan Flynn said in a statement.

Steve Berman, lead counsel for the plaintiffs, said the new safety measures met the objectives of the case, which would now be dropped.

"We are pleased that we were able to play a role in improving the safety of the sport for soccer-playing children in this country," he said. A recent study by scientists in Denver looked at concussions in US high school soccer between 2005 and 2014. The study reported that while rules outlawing heading would likely reduce the number of concussions, the main causes of head injuries involved athlete-to-athlete contact. — AFP

## PRESSURE GROWS ON BECKENBAUER IN 2006 WORLD CUP SCANDAL

**BERLIN:** Franz Beckenbauer is under growing pressure to explain his part in Germany's 2006 World Cup scandal amidst reports of a document pointing the finger at the legendary player and coach. German football has lurched into a crisis over magazine Spiegel's report last month alleging that the votes of four members of FIFA's executive committee were bought in 2000, when Germany narrowly won the vote to host the 2006 finals.

At the centre of the scandal is a 6.7 million-euro (\$7.2m) payment, which is alleged to have been used to purchase the support of FIFA's executive committee.

The scandal took a dramatic twist last week when police carried out raids at the Frankfurt headquarters of the German Football Association (DFB) and led to Wolfgang Niersbach resigning as DFB president on Monday. State prosecutors have revealed three men including Niersbach, ex-DFB president Theo Zwanziger and ex-general secretary Horst Schmidt are being investigated for serious tax fraud surrounding the FIFA payment. Despite his pivotal position in the 2006 World Cup-first in leading the successful bid and later as chairman of the tournament's organising committee — Beckenbauer, 70, has stayed tight-lipped in the last fortnight, even as Niersbach took "political responsibility" in resigning as DFB boss. But now German daily Bild claims to have seen a draft agreement, signed in part by Beckenbauer, which it says was aimed at "buying votes for the German bid".

Munich-based Sueddeutsche Zeitung also quoted sources having seen the same document, reportedly signed in July 2000, just four days before Germany beat South Africa by 12 votes to 11 for the right to host the 2006 World Cup finals. Beckenbauer is already being investigated by FIFA's ethics committee, which is looking into the controversial awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cup finals to Russia and Qatar respectively.

But "the Kaiser" is under increasing pressure to shed some light on the 2006 World Cup scandal in Germany. "I expect those who can contribute to the cleaning up, to do so," said Germany's Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere on Tuesday.

### 'Shock and dismay'

The Kitzbuehel-based agency representing Beckenbauer refused to comment yesterday to



ZURICH: A photo taken on July 6, 2000, shows German bidding committee leader Franz Beckenbauer (C) posing with FIFA president Joseph S Blatter (L) and German delegation member Fedor Radmann after Germany was designated to host the 2006 FIFA World Cup by the vote of the FIFA executive committee in Zurich. Franz Beckenbauer is under growing pressure to explain his part in Germany's 2006 World Cup scandal amidst reports of a document pointing the finger at the legendary player and coach. — AFP

SID, an AFP subsidiary, but last month the German legend admitted making a "mistake" in the bidding process.

"In order to obtain a FIFA grant, we accepted a proposition coming from FIFA's finance commission that the implicated parties should, in retrospect, have refused," said the 'Kaiser', who captained the West Germany team that won the 1974 World Cup and then coached the side that won the trophy in 1990. "As president of the organising committee at that time, I take responsibility for this mistake."

Niersbach has said the 6.7 million-euro payment was to obtain a FIFA grant to fund the 2006 World Cup finals and insisted "votes were not bought and there was no slush fund". Vice-presidents Reinhard Rauball and Rainer Koch will now take over as interim co-chiefs of the DFB.

Ex-Germany striker Oliver Bierhoff, 47, has ruled himself out of the running to replace Niersbach as head of the German FA, but said news of the resignation had stunned the team who are preparing for Friday's friendly against France in Paris.

"It's not a subject for me, I am helping to prepare the Germany team for the 2016 European Championship and have an academy project, which I am enthusiastic about," said Bierhoff on Tuesday in Munich. "It's been an intensive three weeks for everyone at the DFB. "Even if you had counted on the fact that anything can happen, we're still shocked and affected by news of (Niersbach's) resignation."

"There is respect for him taking political responsibility, but also dismay, as it's no secret that Wolfgang Niersbach had a particularly close relationship with the squad." — AFP

## NEYMAR, RODRIGUEZ, CAVANI BACK FOR WC

**SAO PAULO:** Neymar, James Rodriguez and Edinson Cavani return to the international fold this week as Brazil try to extend Argentina's winless run in World Cup qualifying while Ecuador meet Uruguay in a table-topping clash.

Neymar and Cavani were banned for violent conduct at this year's Copa America and Brazil have stuttered without their talismanic striker.

They were knocked out of the Copa in the quarter-finals by Paraguay and looked toothless when losing their opening World Cup qualifier 2-0 in Chile.

Brazil bounced back to beat Venezuela 3-1 but will be relieved to have Neymar back for Thursday night's 'classico' in Buenos Aires. The Brazilians won the corresponding fixture with ease last time and Dunga, who coached them to that 3-1 win in Rosario, is under pressure to produce a settled side that plays attractive football.

He will be aided not just by Neymar's return but by the home side's problems. Argentina have picked up one point from their first two qualifiers and will be without Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguero and Carlos Tevez.

Uruguay have Paris St Germain striker Cavani back against Ecuador on Thursday after a two-game ban and are looking to maintain a good run.

The Uruguayans beat Bolivia away and Colombia at home in the first two qualifiers, their best start for years.

### NO SUAREZ

They are again without Luis Suarez who is still serving a ban for biting Giorgio Chiellini in the 2014 World Cup. Abel Hernandez or Diego Rolan will therefore partner Cavani up front. Ecuador are the surprise team of the competition, having beaten Argentina 2-0 in Buenos Aires and Bolivia at home by the same scoreline.

However, they are missing four top players in attacking midfielders Michael Arroyo and Renato Ibarra and English Premier League pair Enner Valencia and Antonio Valencia. "We've been a bit unlucky with injuries to players who can all play in the same position," said coach Gustavo Quinteros as he named Jaime Ayovi and Jonathan Gonzales as replacements.

"I think the men we have can replace them with no problems." Among the other players returning is Real Madrid's Rodriguez who will go to Santiago with Colombia on Thursday to face a Chile side that is one of only three teams to have won both matches.

The Copa America champions will be at full strength but Rodriguez's presence is balanced out by the loss of their top scorer Radamel Falcao. Felipe Pardo has been called up for the first time.

Bottom teams Bolivia and Venezuela meet in La Paz on Thursday while Peru, the third nation yet to win a point, take on Paraguay in Lima on Friday. — Reuters

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO CHELSEA'S DIEGO COSTA?

**LONDON:** Diego Costa has turned into a pale imitation of the player who took the Premier League by storm last year and Chelsea must get him firing on all cylinders again to have any hope of salvaging their wretched season. The 27-year-old striker could scarcely have believed his luck when he discovered last week that he had been recalled to Spain's squad for the friendlies with England in Alicante on Friday and Belgium in Brussels four days later. He has scored only three times in 15 appearances for his club this season and the swashbuckling, battering ram of a centre forward who notched 20 league goals for the champions last term appears but a distant memory. Chelsea fans, already mystified by their team's dramatic loss of form, are now wondering what has happened to Diego Costa.

Although the Londoners slumped to their third straight league defeat at Stoke City on Saturday, they produced a much-improved performance that suggested some key players are beginning to find form after a torrid start to the campaign. Eden Hazard, the 2014-15 Premier League Player of the Year, again showed the tricky, ball-playing skills that tormented defences last season but more often than not, Chelsea's attacks petered out when the ball went to Costa. Former Newcastle United target man Alan Shearer, a lethal international striker for England in his prime, said the temperamental Costa could learn a lot from Leicester City's red-hot marksman Jamie Vardy.

Vardy has netted in each of his last nine league appearances and will equal the 2003 record of former Manchester United and Netherlands striker Ruud van Nistelrooy if he scores in Leicester's next game at Newcastle on Nov. 21. "Right now one (Vardy) looks full of energy while the other (Costa) is barely mobile," said Shearer.

### LACK OF MOVEMENT

"I studied Chelsea's performance on Saturday and actually thought they played as well as they have done for some time. What frustrated me about Costa was the lack of trouble he gave Stoke's back four."

Shearer, who scored 30 goals in 63 matches

for England, bemoaned Costa's lack of movement. "Costa is constantly coming towards the ball now whereas you look at Vardy and he is always looking to run in behind the back four," he said.

"If you have Costa's ability there is only one place you should be, up front, facing defenders and running on to through balls."

Costa looks to be spending more time winding up opposition defenders than getting into the penalty box and if his barren run in front of goal continues, Chelsea may have little option

but to seek a replacement in the January transfer window. Jose Mourinho has received constant criticism for a remarkable slump in form that has seen Chelsea slump to fifth from bottom with 11 points from 12 league matches. For someone who has shown little patience with managers in the past, owner Roman Abramovich appears keen to give Stamford Bridge hero Mourinho every chance to pull his team round. The Portuguese will now be keeping his fingers crossed that Costa can get back on the goal trail with Spain over the next few days. — Reuters



STOCKHOLM: Sweden's forward John Guidetti (L) and Abdul Rahman Khalili (R) take part in a training session of the Swedish national football team at Friends Arena in Stockholm, Sweden, yesterday. Sweden will play against Denmark in the Euro 2016 play-off in Stockholm on November 14 and in Copenhagen on November 17. — AFP

## SAMPDORIA SACK ZENGA: OFFICIAL

**MILAN:** Serie A side Sampdoria have announced the sacking of coach Walter Zenga amid reports former Fiorentina handler Vincenzo Montella will take over at the Luigi Ferraris stadium. Sampdoria dropped to 10th place in Serie A, 11 points behind leaders Fiorentina, following a 2-0 home defeat by La Viola on Sunday. It was Samp's first home defeat of the season and after fans called for Zenga's sacking at the final whistle, club president Massimo Ferrero obliged on Tuesday.

A club statement said: "Sampdoria announces that Walter Zenga has been relieved of his duties as first team coach. "President Massimo Ferrero and the club are disappointed this relationship came to an end prematurely and wish Walter Zenga all the very best for the future."

Zenga's sacking came after the former Italy goalkeeper, known as L'Uomo Ragno (Spider Man) in his playing days, travelled to Dubai for a short holiday on Monday

without telling club officials.

Italian media reports quoted Zenga as saying he had no ill feeling towards the club, for whom he played from 1994 to 1996, having spent the bulk of his career with Inter Milan.

"I don't feel betrayed, I'm happy I had the chance to coach a team that I also played for in the past," said Zenga. "When you're a coach, you expect to constantly come under scrutiny. It's part of the game."

Montella, sacked by Fiorentina at the tail end of last season, is now tipped to take over with reports claiming Ferrero is negotiating with the Florence-based club, with whom Montella still has a contract until 2017.

Zenga's sacking was the second to come in Serie A yesterday, during the break for international football, following Palermo's announcement that Giuseppe Iachini had been sacked and replaced by Davide Ballardini. — AFP

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SAN DIEGO: San Diego Chargers tight end Antonio Gates (85) runs as Chicago Bears cornerback Kyle Fuller (23) and outside linebacker Jonathan Anderson (58) defend during the second half of an NFL football game Monday, in San Diego. — AP

## CUTLER RALLIES BEARS TO WIN OVER CHARGERS

CHICAGO: Trailing by nine points after three quarters, the Chicago Bears rallied to beat San Diego 22-19 on Monday, handing the Chargers (2-7) a fifth consecutive loss.

Chicago (3-5) quarterback Jay Cutler hit tight end Zach Miller for a 25-yard touchdown with 3:19 left, and running back Jeremy Langford rushed over for the two-point conversion to open up the three-point cushion, the Bears' first lead of the night. The Chargers' skid is their longest since they dropped six in a row in 2011.

Cutler completed 27 of 40 passes for 345 yards and two touchdowns. He also lost a fumble and was intercepted once. Bears receiver Alshon Jeffery caught 10 passes for 151 yards. Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers was 26-for-42 passes for 280 yards with one touchdown and no interceptions. It was the first time he did not throw for at least 300 yards in six games. San Diego running back Danny Woodhead produced 111 total yards and a touchdown.

Kicker Josh Lambo's second field goal, this one from 22 yards, increased the Chargers' lead to 19-14 with eight minutes to play. Before Lambo's kick, San Diego had a touchdown pass from Rivers to tight end Antonio Gates wiped away when right guard D.J. Fluker was flagged for being downfield. The Bears pulled within 16-14 with 14 minutes remaining on Langford's one-yard touchdown run. It capped a 93-yard, 15-play drive in which Chicago converted four third downs, the final one on rookie Langford's score.

Lambo's 31-yard field goal in the half's waning seconds pushed the Chargers' advantage to 16-7. The Bears sliced their deficit to 13-7 when Cutler clicked with tight end Martellus Bennett on a 1-yard pass midway through the second quarter.

Earlier in the quarter, Chicago cornerback Tracy Porter stripped wide receiver Dontrelle Inman of the ball, and it was recovered by linebacker Christian Jones, with the Bears taking over at the San Diego 41-yard line.

Two plays later, though, cornerback Jason Verrett went 68 yards for a pick-six and a 13-0 Chargers advantage. Lambo missed the point after. It was Verrett's first touchdown and second interception of his career off Cutler's second turnover of the first half.

The Bears appeared poised to score late in the first quarter, when they advanced to the Chargers' 10-yard line. However, Chicago retreated 5 yards on an offside penalty, then linebacker Melvin Ingram sacked Cutler and forced a fumble, which was recovered by safety Eric Weddle. The Chargers weren't able to convert the turnover into points.

The Chargers struck first after Gould was wide left on a 47-yard field goal attempt to end the game's first possession. Gould also missed from 34 yards in the third quarter. Rivers found Woodhead for a 14-yard scoring pass and a 7-0 lead. Woodhead ran a wheel route from the left side of the formation and was wide open for the score as the Bears bungled their zone coverage. — Reuters

### NFL results/standings

Buffalo 23, Baltimore 20; Arizona 13, Tampa Bay 10; Minnesota 34, Pittsburgh 27; Kansas City 31, NY Giants 7; Indianapolis 37, Jacksonville 3; Seattle 23, Houston 20 (OY); Cleveland 17, Cincinnati 6; Detroit 40, Chicago 32; Tennessee 38, NY Jets 13; Washington 24, Oakland 14; Denver 52, Philadelphia 20; San Diego 30, Dallas 21; New England 30, Atlanta 23.

American Football Conference							National Football Conference								
AFC East							NFC East								
W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	Dallas	2	2	0	0	104	85	.500	
New England	4	0	0	0	89	57	1.000	Philadelphia	1	3	0	0	99	138	.250
Miami	3	0	0	0	74	53	1.000	Washington	1	3	0	0	91	112	.250
NY Jets	2	2	0	0	68	88	.500	NY Giants	0	4	0	0	61	146	0
Buffalo	2	2	0	0	88	93	.500	NFC North							
							Chicago	3	1	0	0	127	114	.750	
AFC North							Detroit	3	1	0	0	122	101	.750	
Cincinnati	2	2	0	0	81	81	.500	Green Bay	1	2	0	0	96	88	.333
Baltimore	2	2	0	0	91	87	.500	Minnesota	1	3	0	0	115	123	.250
Cleveland	2	2	0	0	64	70	.500	NFC South							
Pittsburgh	0	4	0	0	69	110	0	New Orleans	3	0	0	0	70	38	1.000
AFC South							Carolina	1	2	0	0	68	36	.333	
Indianapolis	3	1	0	0	105	51	.750	Atlanta	1	3	0	0	94	104	.250
Tennessee	3	1	0	1	98	69	.750	Tampa Bay	0	4	0	0	44	70	0
Houston	2	2	0	1	90	105	.500	NFC West							
Jacksonville	0	4	0	0	31	129	0	Seattle	4	0	0	0	109	47	1.000
AFC West							San Francisco	2	2	0	0	79	95	.500	
Denver	4	0	0	0	179	91	1.000	Arizona	2	2	0	0	69	89	.500
Kansas City	4	0	0	0	102	41	1.000	St. Louis	1	3	0	0	69	121	.250
San Diego	2	2	0	0	108	102	.500								
Oakland	1	3	0	0	71	91	.250								



ST PETERSBURG: A file picture taken on July 25, 2015 shows Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko (L) arriving to attend the preliminary draw for the 2018 World Cup qualifiers at the Konstantin Palace in Saint Petersburg. Russia yesterday pledged to cooperate with anti-doping and international athletics authorities after a damning report into allegations of doping and corruption in athletics in the country. — AFP

## RUSSIA RESPONDS AS DOPING SCANDAL THREATENS TO SPREAD

MOSCOW: Russia rejected yesterday explosive accusations of doping and corruption and promised a rapid response to avoid suspension from the 2016 Olympics due to the scandal that threatens to spread far beyond the borders of Russia and athletics.

"Until any proof has been put forward it is hard to accept any accusations as they seem rather groundless," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated. Meanwhile, the Moscow anti-doping laboratory was stripped of its accreditation by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in the first concrete measure taken since the publishing of a damning report by a WADA independent commission.

Athletics was rocked by allegations of Russian "state-sponsored" doping contained in the report published on Monday. IAAF president Sebastian Coe has given the Russian athletics federation (ARAF) "until the end of the week" to respond or risk possible suspension. Despite the Kremlin's dismissive reaction, ARAF assured Coe that it would contact the IAAF "in the very near future" outlining its anti-doping programme and "its reaction to the

deductions and conclusions" in WADA's report. Calls for Russia, fourth in the 2012 London Olympics medal table, to be banned from next year's Olympic Games are growing. UK Athletics chief Ed Warner told BBC Radio 4: "Lord Coe... says that his (IAAF) council is meeting on Friday or Saturday to consider sanctioning Russia and possibly to suspend them. My strong advice would be: you've absolutely got to do that."

That view was echoed by Australia's national Olympic Committee. "We would very much support Russian track and field athletes not being allowed to compete in Rio if their federation is not code-compliant to WADA," the 2016 Australian Olympic team's chef de mission Kitty Chiller said in Sydney. "If Russia is not in Rio, I think the reputation of athletics will be enhanced because the public will know every athlete competing is clean and is competing in the true spirit of the Olympic Games." The crisis engulfing the sport long-viewed as the flagship of the Olympic Games comes hot on the heels of FIFA's own corruption turmoil. And worryingly according to WADA, the athletics scandal is by no means confined to Russia nor athletics.

"Russia is not the only country, nor athletics the only sport, facing the problem of orchestrated doping in sport," the report, triggered by German broadcaster ARD's documentary last December, warned. WADA's independent commission chairman Dick Pound added: "We certainly do not think that Russia is the only country with a doping problem and we don't think athletics is the only sport with a doping problem. It seems pretty clear from both the ARD programme and subsequent developments that Kenya has a real problem. It's been very slow to acknowledge that there is a problem."

"If they don't do a good job (investigating doping) then I think somebody else will do a job for them." According to several anti-doping specialists, the risk of abuse is especially high in countries with strong rulers.

"Frauds like this can only be State-run with secret service involvement," a specialist who wished to remain anonymous told AFP. He raised the case of China, recalling that in the build-up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics a German reporter posed as a swimming coach in search of finding ways to improve performance. — AFP

# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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keeps prices suppressed

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Triple win for  
Mercedes-AMG

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MILLENNIUM HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE OPENS 'EXTRAVAGANT BALLROOM'

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QINGDAO: A customer buying fish at a food market in Qingdao, eastern China's Shandong province. China's consumer price inflation fell to a five-month low in October, the government said yesterday. — AFP (See page 23)

## OIL PRICE SLUMP A 'WAKE-UP CALL': LAGARDE OIL MAJORS SEE LOW PRICES PERSISTING FOR MONTHS AHEAD

**DOHA:** The head of the International Monetary Fund said yesterday that the global slump in oil prices was a "splendid wake-up call" for energy-producing countries to restructure their economies. Speaking at Georgetown University in major gas producer Qatar, Christine Lagarde said those countries reliant on oil and gas revenues had to change to maintain their economic position.

"I would say the current situation is a splendid wake-up call to restructure," she said. "In the face of this new situation, triggered by the price of the oil which we see as not a short-term phenomenon but a longer-term phenomenon... measures have to be taken." Lagarde said those measures included finding new sources of revenue and tax, and keeping a tight control on spending.

Although not specifically mentioning any countries, she also encouraged more private sector involvement. "How do you welcome the private sector, how do you make the environment more business friendly so that the private sector feels welcome and encouraged and takes the baton from the public sector," she said. "So, it's a whole series of measures that

need to be considered."

Lagarde delivered a similar message to ministers of the six Gulf Cooperation Council states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as well as Qatar, on Sunday.

The IMF projects that growth in the GCC states will fall from 3.2 percent this year to 2.7 percent in 2016. It forecasts that export revenues will be \$275 billion (256 billion euros) lower this year than in 2014. The price of oil has dropped by more than half since the beginning of last year.

### Oil glut to persist

The global oil glut is likely to take longer than expected to clear and may depress oil prices for many more months if not years despite steep investment cuts and project cancellations around the world, executives from oil majors said yesterday. The views from the top ranks of Exxon Mobil, BP and Total were given at an industry conference in Abu Dhabi as key officials from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said they expect better prices in 2016. The

discord in views comes as most global majors are slashing their budgets and investments with the aim to be able to generate cashflows with prices as low as \$60 per barrel.

And while major producing nations are also reducing spending, they are often facing much tougher choices to keep governments popular. "I'm not sure we will exit from low prices before many months," Total's chief executive Patrick Pouyanne told the conference.

Oil prices more than halved in the past 18 months because of a global oil glut which arose on the back of a US shale oil boom and a decision by OPEC not to cut output to fight for market share with higher cost producers.

BP's and Exxon Mobil's heads of exploration and production Lamar Mckey and Jack Williams both said low oil prices would stay for a while and BP's head of the Middle East Michael Townshend said the group saw oil fluctuating around \$60 per barrel for the next 3 years.

The views are more pessimistic than those of OPEC with secretary general Abdullah Al-Badri saying yesterday he saw a positive momentum for oil markets building in 2016. The glut

is persisting even though oil majors alone have cut their capital investments by a combined \$22 billion this year while scrapping some 80 projects, double the number abandoned in 2014, according to Mckay.

Townshend said he saw Iraq — a major source of additional supply over the past two years — unlikely to be adding to the glut next year. "It is difficult to see a massive ramp up in production next year because of the way the contracts are structured," he said referring to ongoing talks with the government of Iraq about lower investment plans for next year to reduce paybacks to oil majors and thus leave more money for the Iraqi budget.

But as the oil industry becomes more efficient it is quickly learning how to recover more resources from existing fields. "The new reality is that giant fields will produce for much longer," said Mckay.

Williams said his example of rising efficiencies was the cost of well drilling in North Dakota — one of the key US states behind the shale boom — being down 36 percent in the past four years while generating higher production. — Agencies

## ZAIN GROUP LEADERSHIP HOSTS STOREHOUSE CO-FOUNDERS

**KUWAIT:** Zain Group announced that it welcomed Mark Kawano and Timothy Donnelly, cofounders of popular social media app Storehouse, the mobile app that turns a collection of photos and videos into a shareable story, at the company's main headquarters in Shuwaikh. Group Vice Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi and Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer alongside a number of officials and Head of the Organizational Committee of the Youth Empowerment Symposium Ali Al-Ebrahim hosted the social media entrepreneurs with the visit coming as part of Zain's strategic partnership with the fourth edition of the Youth Empowerment Symposium held in Kuwait.

Kawano and Donnelly are currently visiting Kuwait to take part in the Youth Empowerment Symposium, which is held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The symposium is considered an ideal opportunity for young people to gain valuable insights from a number of internationally and locally renowned industry pioneers, academics, and experts who will share exclusively their experiences during the event.

The recent visit witnessed discussions between Al-Kharafi and Gegenheimer with Kawano and Donnelly about the challenges that face the telecommunications and information technology sectors and how social media is quickly penetrating those markets. The officials also exchanged their views about the amount of change social media pioneers and youth are bringing to entrepreneurship and the role of leading companies and organizations in supporting them.

Al-Kharafi and Gegenheimer took Storehouse cofounders in a tour at Zain headquarters to learn more about the nature of its daily operations as it is the leading telecommunications company in the country. The guests expressed their admiration of the high standards of service quality they found in Zain's various departments and divisions, especially in the main branch and contact center (107).

Zain Group Vice Chairman Bader Al-Kharafi commented: "We were delighted to welcome the masterminds behind one of social media's most popular creative apps. Our meeting with Mark Kawano and Timothy Donnelly reconfirms our support of and belief of the effects social media platforms such as Storehouse have on the way we look at the world and

the way we communicate with each other".

Al-Kharafi expressed his admiration of the efforts the two cofounders exerted in going through the journey to make their dreams come true: "They worked hard to transform a mere idea into a real platform that millions enjoy around the world in a time where social media competition is at its highest".

Al-Kharafi expressed his delight to open the doors of future partnership with Storehouse Media, as any future cooperation between the two companies will perfectly fit Zain's strategic vision into becoming an integrated digital lifestyle operator.

Al-Kharafi added: "Zain has sponsored the Youth Empowerment Symposium since its inception four years ago, and this comes in line with the company's long term strategy of providing the necessary support to national initiatives aimed at uplifting the capabilities and skills of Kuwaiti youth".

During the discussions, Zain Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer said: "We believe information technology plays a key role in future business restructuring, and that is a main reason why Zain is increasing its investments in IT platforms. With the expected major rise in smartphone and tablet usage, it is a necessity for any leading telecom operator to pursue a strategic vision that embraces technological innovation. Mark Kawano and Timothy Donnelly's work is a great example on the way information technology and social media transform the digital world".

Storehouse Media Cofounder and CEO Mark Kawano commented: "We were very delighted to take part in this visit, which gave us a chance to learn about one of the leading telecommunication companies in the Middle East".

Kawano added: "Zain Group possesses a clear and ambitious vision towards complete digital transformation, which is the future of IT and telecom. The informative tour that my colleague and I took part in showed us the great potentials and resources Zain possesses, and we were really impressed by the high service quality standards we found".

Storehouse is a mobile application that turns a collection of photos and videos into a shareable story. It provides users with a fast and easy way to share a collection of photos from their iPhone or iPad by creating a collage, album or telling a story and sharing all of the

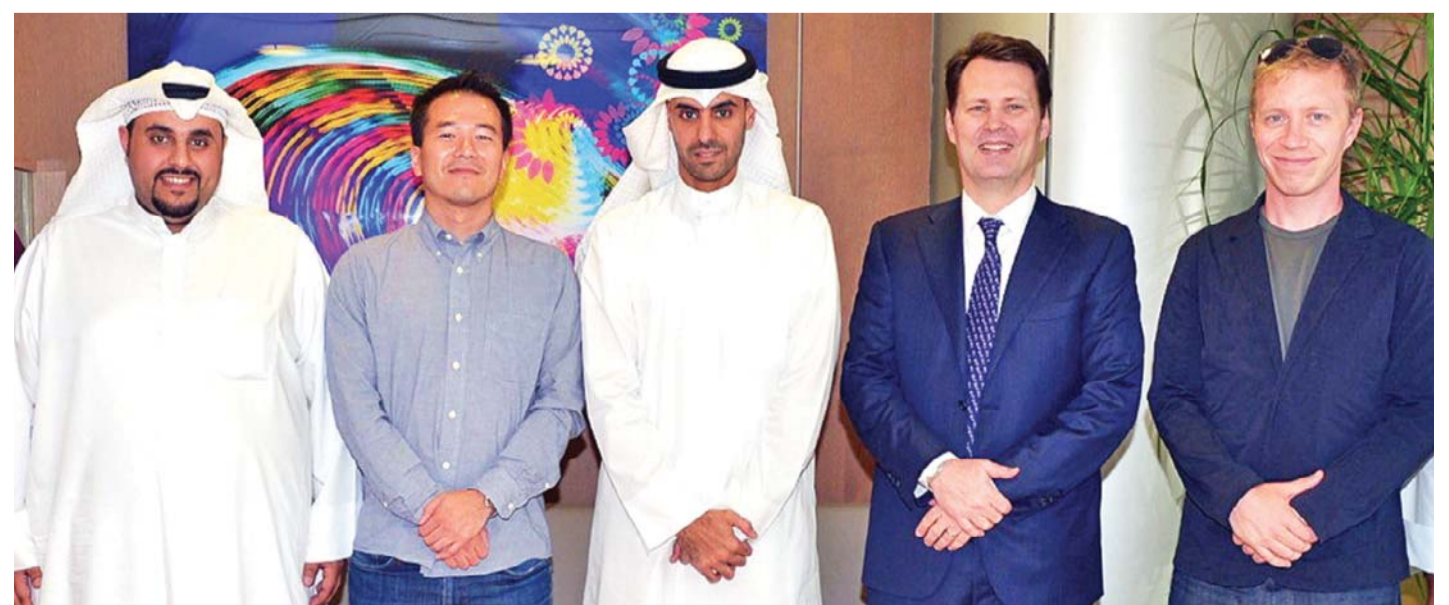
moments that made the memory. Mark Kawano's passion for photography and innovative storytelling drove him to develop the app, which was awarded the Apple Design Award for the year 2014.

Kawano will be delivering an exclusive seminar for Zain employees, where he will be sharing his experience in following his dream and developing Storehouse to becoming one of the most successful social media applications.

This year's fourth Youth Empowerment Symposium will be attended by a number of local and international experts and pioneers who will share their personal experiences with participants and highlight the importance of building oneself through education. Zain's presence in this national event showcases the company's dedication to empowering the entrepreneurial skills of youth in Kuwait. The symposium delivers outstanding knowledge to talented young people to be able to progress in their fields of interest as well as to spark the light of enthusiasm within them.



KUWAIT: Zain Group Vice Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi with Mark Kawano and Timothy Donnelly.



KUWAIT: Zain Group leadership with Storehouse co-founders



## News

in brief

**Al-Baraka Banking Group Q3 profit up**

**DUBAI:** Al-Baraka Banking Group, the Bahraini Islamic lender with operations in more than a dozen countries, posted a 4 percent increase in third-quarter net income yesterday. The bank, which has operations across the Middle East, Asia and Africa, made a net attributable profit of \$36 million for the three months ending Sept. 30, it said in a statement. This compares with a profit of \$35 million in the corresponding period of 2014. Total assets stood at \$24 billion as of Sept. 30, up 2 percent from the end of 2014.

**Egyptian pound steady at dollar sale**

**CAIRO:** The Egyptian pound was stable at a dollar sale yesterday, with the central bank selling \$40 million at a cut-off price of 7.9301 pounds per dollar, while the currency weakened on the parallel market. The official cut-off price was unchanged from Sunday's dollar sale, but two traders said the dollar changed hands at 8.6 pounds in the parallel market yesterday, compared with 8.50 pounds on Sunday. "There is demand for dollars from gold shops because gold prices dropped so they are seizing the opportunity to buy gold at low prices. The price went down by 7.5 percent in 10 days," one banker said. Egypt announced in October that Hesham Ramez would be replaced as central bank governor this month by senior banker Tarek Amer. The move was welcomed by traders, who expect a new approach to the country's currency crisis.

**Abu Dhabi gas firm plans expansion**

**ABU DHABI:** Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction (ADGAS) said yesterday it expects to complete expansion of its natural gas processing facilities by mid-2018 to help meet rising local demand. The project will develop and expand facilities to boost gas transfer from offshore to onshore as part of the UAE's plans to meet demand in the Gulf state. ADGAS said the expansion project at Das Island will add around 400 million cubic feet of gas per day to the current 1 billion cubic feet per day from the offshore fields. It would also include extending an offshore pipeline. State-run Abu Dhabi Gas Industries Co (GASCO) and ADGAS said in February they had awarded about \$1.6 billion worth of contracts for the project. ADGAS, majority-owned by Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC), said last year that it planned to increase gas production to as much as 2.4 billion standard cubic feet (scf) per day by 2017, from 2 billion scf per day.



**BRUSSELS:** German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble (right) speaks with Liechtenstein Prime Minister Adrian Hasler during an Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) meeting at the European Council, in Brussels yesterday. — AFP

## EGYPT FALLS, AUSTERITY WORRIES HIT QATAR

## MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Egypt's stock market dropped sharply for a third straight day yesterday because of speculation about a possible currency devaluation or rise in local interest rates. Gulf markets fell, with Qatar hit by concern about looming austerity policies. The Egyptian index tumbled 4.4 percent to 6,825 points, bringing its losses in the past three trading days to 9.5 percent. It broke through technical support at its September low; the next support is its August low of 6,641 points.

Strong US economic data on Friday raised expectations for a US rate hike next month. Meanwhile, the Russian airliner crash in the Sinai threatens to slash Egyptian tourism revenues. With sagging foreign exchange reserves, Egypt is in poor shape to cope with either threat. Its debt

insurance costs surged to 18-month highs on Monday and its dollar bond prices fell sharply. Two more Egyptian state banks said yesterday they were raising interest rates on their three-year savings certificates to 12.5 percent from 10 percent, bringing the number of banks doing this to four. Investors think this could be a prelude to a devaluation, a domestic interest rate rise or possibly both. The central bank has not clarified its intentions, leaving investors uncertain.

Property firm Palm Hills Development plunged 6.3 percent and investment firm Qalaa Holdings lost 4.4 percent. Commercial and International Bank sank 6.2 percent. There were rises for a few companies that might benefit from a weaker currency. Exporter Suez Cement gained 3.5

percent while Alexandria Container and Cargo Handling Co rose 6.2 percent after a 10 percent leap on Monday.

## GULF

Qatar, usually among the most stable of Gulf markets, dropped 2.0 percent in a broad-based sell-off. Petrochemicals and metals producer Industries Qatar sank 2.4 percent. Saleh Mohammed Al-Nabit, Qatar's Minister of Development Planning and Statistics, said in a speech on Monday that the government must urgently consider reforms to its subsidy and tax systems in light of low oil and gas prices. He also said the government had to be more disciplined in spending. Wealthy Qatar is in no danger of running out of money, but top officials' comments since last week have

pointed to a new mood of austerity.

Other Gulf markets were depressed by low oil prices and weak global equities. The Saudi index dropped 0.4 percent, although miner Ma'aden stood out, climbing 3.0 percent. Dubai's stock index dropped 2.4 percent as Emaar Properties fell 3.7 percent. Abu Dhabi lost 0.6 percent as Aldar Properties sank 2.6 percent, despite reporting a 9.4 percent rise in third-quarter net profit to 634.3 million dirhams (\$172.7 million), beating SICO Bahrain's forecast of 490.7 million dirhams.

In Kuwait, logistics giant Agility climbed 2.0 percent after reporting a 5 percent rise in third-quarter net profit to KD13.7 million (\$45.1 million); SICO Bahrain had forecast KD12.7 million. Kuwait's stock index was almost flat. — Reuters

## CHINA DATA SHOWS RISING DEFLATIONARY PRESSURE

**BEIJING/SHANGHAI:** China's October inflation data showed persisting if not intensifying deflationary pressure, spurring analysts to expect more moves to stimulate the slowing economy by year-end. The October consumer price index (CPI) cooled more than expected, rising 1.3 percent from a year earlier, compared with 1.6 percent in September, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed yesterday. A Reuters poll expected a 1.5 percent rise.

The producer price index (PPI) fell 5.9 percent in October from a year earlier, equal to the September decline and slightly worse than economists' forecasts of a 5.8 percent drop.

On a monthly basis, consumer prices fell 0.3 percent, compared with a 0.1 percent increase in September. Analysts agreed the weak inflation readings raised the odds of further stimulus soon, but were divided on whether that meant further rate cuts, greater fiscal outlays or both. "While it is rational to argue China should ease monetary policy further, China appears to intend to stimulate demand via more proactive fiscal policy," wrote Zhou Hao, senior emerging markets economist at Commerzbank in Singapore. "Further cut in policy rates before the end of this year might be difficult especially as Fed is about to hike. The recent statement by deputy minister also indicates that China will do more on fiscal side in the coming year."

On Friday, Caixin Magazine quoted China's vice minister of finance indicating a fiscal deficit of 3 percent, well above the current planned 2.3 percent for 2015, might still be considered within a safe range. China is already in its biggest

easing cycle since the height of the financial crisis, but low inflation means that real interest rates remain high for many firms, especially manufacturers who have endured years of falling factory gate prices.

The central bank has cut benchmark interest six times since November 2014 and repeatedly reduced banks' reserve requirement ratio. Yesterday's weak inflation print continues a well-established trend of falling producer prices and tepid consumer price rises, in part a result of sharply lower commodity prices in 2015 but also reflecting slowing demand growth for many goods.

## PROBLEM OF OVERCAPACITY

"The PPI data continued to point out weak domestic demand and the overcapacity problem in the real economy," said Li Huiyong, an economist at Shenyin & Wanguo Securities in Shanghai. "We think the government needs to step in to intervene with more support as the outlook of the economy is not so optimistic. We expect more interest rates and RRR cuts in coming months."

Heavy industrial firms and miners, hit by an extended slump in the real estate sector which drives final demand for many of their products, have fared particularly poorly. The Luan Group, a state coal miner, said last month it had no choice but to cut output and put workers on extended unpaid leave. Although consumer price inflation in China is highly seasonal due to the outside index weight of food prices, economists also highlighted weakening sequential momentum as a concern. —Reuters



**NEW DELHI:** An aircraft of Indian airline IndiGo lands at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. Shares in India's largest carrier IndiGo soared almost 18 percent above their listing price on the airline's trading debut yesterday as investors bet on the country's growing appetite for air travel. — AFP

## INDIGO SHARES SURGE ON AIRLINE'S TRADING DEBUT

**MUMBAI:** Shares in India's largest carrier IndiGo soared almost 18 percent above their listing price on the airline's trading debut yesterday, as investors bet on the country's growing appetite for air travel.

In early morning trade, shares of InterGlobe Aviation, IndiGo's parent company, touched 898.00 rupees (\$13.54) — up 17.38 percent from their 765 rupee listing price on the Bombay Stock Exchange. The stock later tapered to close at 878.45 rupees, a rise of 14.83 percent on the starting price.

IndiGo's initial public offering last month was India's biggest in three years and raised

almost \$460 million for the budget carrier. Shares were sold at between 700 rupees and 765 rupees each, with the money raised to be used for trimming the airline's debt and paying for 250 Airbus planes it ordered earlier this year. IndiGo also plans to use the IPO war chest to fund an expansion in services as increasingly wealthy Indians shun the country's creaking rail network in favour of cheap air travel.

In October, India's government unveiled a plan to make air travel affordable for millions of its citizens, with schemes to revive ailing airports and connect rural areas that it said would "take flying to the masses". — AFP

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EUROPEAN STOCKS EXTEND LOSSES, ASIA DOWN

LONDON: European stock markets fell for a second day running yesterday as more weak Chinese data added to concerns about a looming US rate hike...

"A key feature of global economic developments since the 2007 crisis has been the absence of inflation in the major economies," VTB Capital economist Neil MacKinnon said yesterday.

close. Traders are meanwhile betting on the US central bank tightening monetary policy in December despite broad weakness across the global economy.

rate hike, following much better-than-expected US jobs data on Friday, has meanwhile boosted the dollar's attractiveness that saw it reach six-month highs against the euro on Friday.

latest in a string of reports pointing to a growth slowdown in the country. Officials said prices rose 1.3 percent last month, down from 1.6 percent year-on-year in September.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Tuesday 10 November 2015. Includes tables for Index, Trades, Security, Oil & Gas, Industrials, Consumer Goods, Health Care, Telecommunications, Banks, and Parallel Market.

Asia drops. A further slowdown in Chinese inflation compounded worries about the world's number-two economy yesterday, adding to selling pressure in Asian markets and extending a global retreat as talk of a December US interest rate hike increases.

The below-forecast reading on China's consumer price index-the weakest since May-comes days after Beijing data showed a sharp fall in imports and exports, and is the

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. Includes charts, Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, and Global Bond Yields.

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## MILLENNIUM HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENS 'EXTRAVAGANT BALLROOM'

**KUWAIT:** Millennium Hotel & Convention Centre officially opened its door yesterday for its newest and 'the most extravagant ballroom' available in Kuwait today. The event was held amid live classical music played live on stage by invited foreign guest performer and sumptuous international buffet. Millennium Hotel & Convention Centre Kuwait hosted its first 'Get Together Dinner for VIPs, Media Representatives and selected invitees to showcase the newly-opened hotel to the public.

Dani Saleh, Area General Manager of Millennium & Copthorne Hotels Kuwait, provided the guest an overview of the 5-star hotel, which offers 295 stylish rooms and

suites along with business and events facilities, encompassing 21 high-tech function rooms and a dedicated management team. Saleh explained that Millennium Hotel & Convention Centre is able to accommodate the needs of large-scale international conferences, weddings and exhibitions.

Guests were also informed about the hotel's own Lamar International Restaurant, a haven for international cuisine featuring live cooking stations with modern decor. Separately, the hotel operates the one-of-a-kind Library Cafe, where premium teas, coffees and light food items are served. The Library Cafe's most distinguishing quality is a tempting book selection

that is on offer for guests to enjoy while they soak in the relaxing atmosphere. Moreover, Saleh announced that the hotel will soon unveil Big Fish, a prestigious international seafood restaurant due to open its doors in early 2016. By the end of 2015, the hotel will have completed a new road entrance in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works leading directly from Fahaheel Expressway to ensure rapid and safe passage. Millennium & Copthorne Hotels plc is a dynamic, global hotel company, which owns, asset manages and/or operates over 120 hotels worldwide. With almost 40,000 rooms worldwide, the company is present on all continents with a portfolio of



Dani Saleh  
—Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

brands which serve different market segments, representing quality and value in every class.

From a single property in Abu Dhabi, Millennium & Copthorne, Middle East & Africa has expanded into various neighboring destinations and is now recognized as one of the fastest growing regional hotel management companies in the Middle East & Africa. Along the way, the company has cultivated partnerships with reputable and respected owners. Millennium & Copthorne currently operates 22 hotels, has over 10 hotels due to open within the next year and aims to operate 50 properties within the next three years for the MEA region.

## FALKEN TIRES UNVEILS NEW BRAND IDENTITY AT KUWAIT DEALER MEET

**KUWAIT:** AUTO1-Tires (Al-Ghannam Tires Co), the exclusive distributor for Falken Tires in Kuwait since 1985 recently concluded the 2015 annual dealer summit, at the Crowne Plaza that was attended by the entire fraternity of FALKEN channel partners in Kuwait and the principles led by Takashi Adachi, Managing Director - Sumitomo Rubbers Middle East (SRME).



Takashi Adachi

The highlight of course, in addition to product and technical updates, was the official announcement on FALKEN's new brand identity that aimed at delivering the brand's core positioning in terms of its high quality products and its strong association with youth & motorsports.

The event proceedings officially began with a short and crisp welcome note by S. Jaishankar, Vice President - AUTO1-Tires, Kuwait; followed by a video presentation on AUTO1. The Chief Guest of the event Takashi Adachi, Managing Director-SRME addressed the gathering and mentioned that FALKEN was extremely pleased to be associated with AUTO1-Tires over the years and greatly appreciated their efforts in establishing FALKEN as a top tier tire brand. He stated,

"as a part of our ongoing efforts to continuously outperform our competition, we have redefined and renewed our brand identity which will reflect the brands desire to engage with the younger generation in Kuwait, for which we are quite positive & excited."

Angelo Shelton Nigli, Sales Manager-SRME (Kuwait, Levant & African Region), introduced the new brand identity for FALKEN. The brand logo sported with the new tag line "ON THE PULSE" reflecting the brand's aspiration to stay relevant in an ever changing landscape, allowing the brand to always be aligned with the



present and staying ahead in the future. The new brand identity would focus towards intense engagement with motorsports and youth related activities on global, regional and specific markets, to build stronger connection with fans, partners and consumers.

The new brand's values will continue to pursue development of premium high quality products like the FK453's in the passenger car segment under the title 'From Racetrack to Road'; which originated in the racetracks.

N S Suresh, President-AUTO1 Tires Global Business, delivered the key note address. He was quite emphatic on the importance of such dealer meets that would enable exchange of key information which would help FALKEN channel partners to face the emerging challenges and industry dynamics. He also greatly appreciated every single person in the network for their efforts in making FALKEN a leading brand in Kuwait. Lastly he encouraged all channel partners to take advantage of the attractive dealer scheme that was announced during the evening and urged their continued earnest support and patronage both to Falken and AUTO1.

## GE PARTNERS WITH KU TO LAUNCH 'KUWAIT GLOBAL TECHNOPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE 2015'

**KUWAIT:** GE has joined hands as 'Innovation Partner' of the first Kuwait Global Technopreneurship Challenge 2015 organized by Kuwait University in collaboration with Taylors' University of Malaysia to mark the 40th anniversary of its College of Engineering & Petroleum.

More than 650 students from over 70 nations are taking part in the Challenge that aims to identify innovative solutions to address three of the 14 pressing Global Challenges for Engineering in the 21st Century: Make Solar Energy Economical, Advance Health Informatics and Advance Personalized Learning.

Governments, industry and educational institutions across the world have extended support to the Challenge. The organizing committee short-listed 17 teams to travel to Kuwait for a series of mentoring and coaching workshops from November 14 to 16, where these teams will present their project for the final competition. As the 'Grand Partner' for the 'Make Solar Energy Economical' Challenge, GE will support the teams with technical and knowledge resources to create innovative solutions. GE will also be extending its all-round support to Kuwait University students offering technical counsel to address all the three Global Challenges.

Prof Tariq Aldowaisan, Vice Dean for Planning & Career Development at the College of Engineering & Petroleum at Kuwait University, and also the event chair of the Kuwait Global Technopreneurship Challenge, said: "It is widely accepted that entrepreneurial skills and behaviors are among the key survival skills for the young generation in the 21st Century. Developing entrepreneurial individuals is a key global priority that can positively contribute to sustainable development and job creation. As the College of Engineering & Petroleum at Kuwait University celebrates its 40th Anniversary, we are proud to host this global innovation and entrepreneurship event, which will enable the participants to discover their true potential and develop entrepreneurial acumen. GE brings a wealth of experience that will benefit the participants in innovating new solutions for addressing the three Global Challenges."

Rania Rostom, Chief Innovation Officer at GE Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey said:

"Our partnership on the Kuwait Global Technopreneurship Challenge highlights our commitment to strengthen the innovation ecosystem and to drive a culture of localized innovation by working with the student and research community to co-create solutions that address the worlds' most pressing challenges."

It builds on our long-term presence in Kuwait, where we have been working with our partners to share knowledge and promote localized research & development. We will continue to work with Kuwait University's College of Engineering & Petroleum and support the student community as we at GE move into the next era of growth as a digital industrial company."

Through its association on the Kuwait Global Technopreneurship Challenge, GE is setting the foundation for long-term partnership with Kuwait University and other educational institutions in the country. The goal is to promote a co-creation model of innovation that will drive positive transformation of businesses and help the community in addressing their challenges in energy, healthcare and other sectors.

All projects by the short-listed teams at the Kuwait Global Technopreneurship Challenge will be evaluated by a distinguished panel of judges and the winners will be awarded prizes.

The Global Challenge to 'Make Solar Energy Economical' aims to unlock the potential of solar energy which now provides less than one percent of the world's total energy, while 'Advance Personalized Learning' aims to develop teaching methods that are tailored to a student's individual needs. 'Advance Health Informatics' seeks to acquire, manage and use the information in health to enhance the quality and efficiency of medical care and the response to widespread public health emergencies.

Apart from its partnership on the world's largest wastewater plant in Sulabiya, GE has established long-term partnerships in the healthcare, aviation, energy and oil & gas sectors in Kuwait for nearly eight decades. The company is also focused on driving the competencies of the Kuwaiti professionals through dedicated training programs and knowledge transfer programs.



## NISSAN LAUNCHES PATROL DESERT EDITION AT DUBAI INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW

**KUWAIT:** As the motoring industry descends for the 13th Dubai International Motor Show, Nissan has announced the world premiere launch of its Nissan Patrol Desert Edition, which was developed in partnership with UAE Rally Champion, Dr Mohammed Ben Sulayem, FIA Vice President and President of the Automobile and Touring Club UAE, specifically for regional consumers.

The global debut of the Nissan Patrol Desert Edition affirms the Japanese auto maker's strong commitment to delivering tailored models for customers in the region. It follows a GCC research study that showed demand for a bespoke version of the Nissan Patrol that takes its already legendary off-roading abilities to even greater heights.

"At Nissan we have a strong commitment to the region and are believers in understanding the specific demands of our Middle East customers," said Managing Director of Nissan Middle East, Samir Cherfan. "We received resounding feedback calling for even more luxury and performance, both on the road and off it. We are therefore extending our range with some extremely special, bespoke versions of the Nissan Patrol. With the world premiere launch of the Nissan Patrol Desert Edition at the Dubai International Motor Show we are delivering a tailored vehicle that fits our regional customers' requirements."

Nissan's regional research survey, which was conducted in 2014, also highlighted that its GCC customer's demanded for an even more luxurious and sporty version of the Nissan Patrol. This insight led to the development of the newly revealed Nissan Patrol NISMO, which the automaker announced today will be available before the end of its fiscal year\*. The Patrol NISMO will be priced from \$100,470 USD in the UAE. Prices per market will vary from region to region.

"It gives me great pleasure to share the price and availability details for the iconic Patrol NISMO," continued Samir Cherfan. "The Nissan Patrol already occupies a unique place in the hearts and minds of off-road enthusiasts in the Middle East. With the addition of both the NISMO version and the Desert Edition, Nissan is engaging directly with its customers and delivering incredible vehicles that fit their exact requirements."

With a continued focus on 'Innovation that



Excites', Nissan also used the Dubai International Motor Show to announce its partnership with Etisalat. Headed by Nissan, and powered by Etisalat's network and M2M Control Center Platform, the 'Nissan SmartCar' application enables customers to control key features of their car using their phone, a first for the region. Owners of the Nissan Patrol MY16 and all-new Nissan Maxima 2016 will be able to turn on the AC, lock and unlock their cars remotely and track them, among other capabilities. 'Nissan SmartCar' will offer the ultimate in convenience, security and control.

To add to its packed agenda, Nissan Middle East also showcased the world premiere launch of its 'Nissan Patrol: The Movie' experience, where visitors get the chance to star in their own action movie, featuring the 2016 Patrol. Visitors are coached by a director to complete unique shots in front of a special green screen, before exiting to receive their personalized trailers and movie posters. For those still fancying their five minutes of fame, the 'Nissan Patrol: The Movie' experience will be available to all visitors throughout the Dubai International Motor Show at Nissan's outdoor stand located in the courtyard next to Sheikh Saeed Hall Entrance.

Nissan Middle East's indoor stand is packed with an exciting range of vehicles that appeal to

this region's love of engineering excellence, cutting-edge design and true value for money. In addition to both the NISMO range and the Nissan Patrol Desert Edition, the all-new Nissan Maxima is also taking center stage. The complete Nissan range includes the MY2016 versions of the Nissan Patrol, 370Z, Altima, Juke, Pathfinder, Pathfinder Hybrid, Sentra, Sunny and X-Trail.

In addition, Nissan is providing a wide array of engaging stand activities using the latest in interactive technology. These include a UEFA Champions League Penalty Shoot-out Challenge, the GT-R Racing game where visitors will play using their mobile devices and fun Z-elfie booth that will capture exciting motoring moments. There will also be an opportunity to take part in the first interactive after-sales experience, which will visually represent the importance of using genuine Nissan parts and the effects of non-genuine parts on a vehicle's performance, safety and resale value. "Nissan goes from strength to strength, not only in this region but around the world," says Cherfan. "We engage with our customers and the result is an astounding range of models that appeal to everyone, no matter what their requirements are. With the embracing of new technologies, Nissan will continue to be at the forefront of this great industry."





Most powerful series-production four-cylinder turbo engine in the world.



Mercedes GT

# TRIPLE WIN FOR MERCEDES-AMG

AMG CLA 45 AWARDED 'BEST COMPACT EXECUTIVE PERFORMANCE' \* AMG S 63 COUPÈ AWARDED 'GRAND TOURER'

**DUBAI:** In a demonstration of all-around performance Mercedes-AMG has garnered three awards at the 2015 Middle East Car of the Year (MECOTY) awards, held at the Raffles Hotel in Dubai on Thursday, 29 October 2015. Mercedes-AMG's CLA 45 was awarded for the "Best Compact Executive Performance" while the GT S claimed the title of "Best Premium Performance Coupe" and S 63 Coupè "Grand Tourer".

The Mercedes-AMG CLA 45, the Mercedes-AMG GT S and the Mercedes-AMG S 63 Coupè are all definitive representatives of the AMG's Driving Performance brand claim, embodying driving performance like no other vehicles in their segments.

Commenting on the three awards Dirk Fetzer, Director Sales and Marketing at Daimler Middle East & Levant, said: "To receive three awards at the Middle East Car of the Year awards is a true honor for Mercedes-Benz and affirms our leadership position in the luxury automotive seg-



## Mercedes-Benz

ment but at the same time also our clear leadership with AMG in the high performance segment. We are delighted to see that our S-Class model - now as coupè - continues to win for the second consecutive year. This is a demonstration of its leading position in the premier luxury segment. Like no other trademark in the automotive sector, the Mercedes star stands for an unparalleled combination of fascination, perfection and responsibility - The best or nothing."

Models included in the MECOTY categories underwent a stringent review process over a seven month period by a select panel of judges across the Middle East region. This makes MECOTY one of the most inde-

pendent recognitions for car manufacturers.

Criteria on which entries were evaluated included: Design & Quality (Exterior & Interior), Emotional Appeal & Driver Satisfaction, Handling and Drivability, Value for Money (New Purchase & Resale), Safety & Durability, Comfort & Practicality, Performance & Capability, Environmental Friendly, Technological Innovation and Regional Appeal.

The Mercedes-AMG CLA 45 is available in the GCC with a starting price of \$65,100. The Mercedes-AMG GT S is available in the GCC with a starting price of \$155,500. The new S 63 Coupè is available in the GCC with a starting price of \$203,400.



Mercedes-AMG S 63 Coupè

## NBK OFFERS BUSINESS BANKING CUSTOMERS ONLINE SALARY PORTAL TO INSTANTLY TRANSFER SALARIES

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) offers its Business Banking customers a dedicated online salary portal to instantly transfer their employees' salaries and allowances.

NBK Business Banking customers can access this advanced service through NBK's website. Once registered, NBK customers can start executing the salary and allowance payments securely at any time in a fast, easy and more convenient way.

"NBK Business Banking customers can benefit from the online salary portal

advanced service to transfer their employees' salaries and allowances at any time from the comfort of the office or home without the need to visit the branch anymore," said Ahmed Al-Khader, NBK General Manager, Consumer Banking Group.

Al-Khader added: "At NBK, we understand that today's competitive business environment requires unique and innovative banking services. Customers are looking for the most convenient banking solutions to guarantee their success. NBK is their partner for success."



Ahmed Al-Khader

NBK has dedicated Relationship Officers to help customers process their forms and register for this service. NBK's Business Banking customers can also directly send salary transfer reports to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor via this service.

This developed service is one of many provided by professionals through dedicated Business Banking Branches and offices. NBK Business Banking Branches are Arraya, Tadhmun, Fintas, Ras Assalmiya and Sharq. In addition, NBK has dedicated Business Banking desks located at Surra, Hawalli, Jahra Commercial and Fahheel branches. NBK Business Banking provides a comprehensive set of products and services including easy-to-manage current accounts, dedicated relationship officers, dedicated desks at select branches, point of sale, business banking credit cards, business loans, trade finance solutions, convenient alternative banking channels, and much more. For more information, please refer to your Personal Banking Officer or visit any of our dedicated business banking desks.



Transfer Your Employees' Salaries Every Month Easily

Now Business Banking Customers can transfer salaries and allowances through the Online Salary Portal.

- Instant salary transfer
- Salaries' statement
- Salaries' statement for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor
- Available 24/7



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## ETIHAD AIRWAYS DEEPENS STRATEGIC COOPERATION WITH AIR FRANCE-KLM

**DUBAI:** Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has expanded its strategic cooperation with Air France-KLM through a several hundred million US dollar component maintenance agreement for its Boeing 777 fleet.

The 10-year deal, effective February 2016, provides Etihad Airways and its equity partners with access to an extensive global pool of components offered by Air France-KLM's maintenance arm, Air France Industries KLM Engineering & Maintenance (AFI KLM E&M), for the wide-body aircraft through the 777 Component Services Program (CSP) jointly operated with Boeing. Etihad Airways currently operates a fleet of 33 long-range and extended-range passenger and cargo Boeing 777 variants.

The maintenance agreement is the latest phase of a partnership struck between Etihad Airways and Air France-KLM in October 2012. The carriers have a commercial alliance involving codesharing on flights across their networks over hubs in Abu Dhabi, Paris and Amsterdam. The wide-ranging codeshare agreement sees Etihad Airways and Air France-KLM offering joint codes on destinations in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Australia.

Jeff Wilkinson, Senior Vice President Technical of Etihad Airways, said: "Through this latest phase in our relationship with Air France-KLM, we are confident Air France Industries KLM Engineering & Maintenance will provide easy, quick, reliable and cost-effective access to components for our triple seven aircraft which are the backbone of our rapidly-growing fleet.

"It builds on an excellent commercial agreement we have enjoyed with Air France-KLM over the past three years helping to provide the high level of effi-

ciencies required in a competitive environment."

Franck Terner, Executive Vice President of Air France KLM Engineering & Maintenance, said:

"We are very pleased with the trust placed by Etihad Airways in our services. This agreement further demonstrates the competitiveness of our component support offer, and AFI KLM E&M's ability to tailor maintenance solutions exactly matching its customers' needs."

The agreement provides Etihad Airways with access to AFI KLM E&M's extensive component maintenance network and a significant upgrade of its service offering. Through its global MRO

network, AFI KLM E&M will maintain pool stock in the UAE and around the world to support Etihad Airways' Boeing 777 fleet. In addition, the partnership includes a framework for further collaboration with Etihad Airways' partners and a tie-up with Etihad Airways Engineering for additional maintenance services.

Etihad Airways and Air France-KLM together provide a combined codeshare network of over 40 destinations. The strategic alliance is aimed at exploring areas of potential cooperation, including joint procurement, maintenance and repair collaboration to identify cost savings and achieve economies of scale.



**DUBAI:** Jeff Wilkinson, Senior Vice President Technical of Etihad Airways, pictured right, with Franck Terner, Executive Vice President of Air France KLM Engineering & Maintenance, after signing a 10-year agreement for a component maintenance agreement for the carrier's Boeing 777 fleet.

## IN AFRICA, LOCAL COMPANIES OUTPLAY MULTINATIONALS

**JOHANNESBURG:** Local African companies have gained a competitive edge on the continent over their multinational counterparts and are making inroads where overseas players once dominated, said a report released yesterday. The study by the US-based Boston Consulting Group said African firms had a better understanding of local markets, and had seized opportunities to increase their market share. "In emerging markets, there is no substitute for on-the-ground experience," said a report titled "Dueling with Lions".

"To win new ground, multinationals need to understand how Africa's business has shifted."

The report cited improved economic and political conditions and the adapt-

ability of African businesses, with companies allocating resources to grow domestic operations and develop market-specific products. "African Lions"-such as South Africa's mobile telecommunications firm MTN-were seen to have captured some valuable emerging African sectors.

The report said MTN made a bold move to Nigeria, Africa's biggest economy, "when western carriers were holding back".

The company has tens of millions of subscribers in Nigeria, but its recent experience in the country has also highlighted the challenges of doing business in Africa.

It has been hit with a \$5.2 billion fine imposed by the government over unregistered SIM cards it had failed to deacti-

vate. Nigeria's Dangote Cement, owned by Africa's richest man, has also upped its market share, and has ambitious plans to expand across the continent including in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### Local positioning

"In Africa, some markets have had very strong growth this decade. Local actors have seized opportunities which the big multinational companies didn't even notice," said Patrick Dupoux, one of the report authors. "One of their key factors of success is their local positioning, their knowledge of the field, of distribution networks, consumers and the supply network," he told AFP.

"The multinationals have to adopt a real African strategy and can't afford to

consider the African continent as a marginal place."

Between 2009 and 2013, multinational companies saw an increase in sales, but their market share dropped. In Kenya's cement industry, multinational firms increased revenue from \$287 million in 2009, to \$397 million in 2013, however, their market share declined from 55 percent to 40 percent.

Bottled water industries run by international companies in Egypt and Morocco also saw a dip in market share.

African companies have benefitted from a more educated workforce as "highly skilled Africans have been returning to their homelands", the report said. "Students in countries such as Nigeria, Kenya and Morocco still emigrate, but

nowadays they're more likely to come back after they've gotten their education." According to the report, African economies in 2014 and 2015 recorded growth above the world average, despite falling oil and commodity prices, the outbreak of Ebola and some regions hit by militant unrest.

"Even now, as low oil prices threaten the continent's energy exports, Africa's long-term positives are too big to overlook," it said. Two weeks ago, the International Monetary Fund forecast growth in sub-Saharan Africa to dampen from 5.0 percent in 2014 to 3.75 percent this year. Countries such as Ivory Coast, Ethiopia and Mozambique are still expected to post growth rates of at least 7.0 percent this year and next. — AFP

## END OF AN ERA: SONY TO STOP MAKING BETAMAX TAPES

**TOKYO:** Sony announced yesterday the company will stop making Betamax video tapes, ending the storied four-decade history of the product that had been ousted decades ago by the more popular VHS format.

"Sony will stop the shipment of Betamax video cassettes and micro MV cassettes in March 2016," the company said in a Japanese-language statement.

"With this step, all of our firm's shipment will end

for recording media using the Betamax format and the micro MV cassette format," which is also a Sony-produced video standard, it said.

Sony first launched its Betamax products in 1975 as a household, magnetic video format for consumers to record analogue television shows. The popularity of Betamax tapes peaked in 1984 when some 50 million cassettes were shipped, according to Sony.

However, the format, initially supported by Toshiba and other electronics makers, is most remembered as the loser of the tense corporate battle in the 1970s and 1980s over setting the de facto household video standard, which was won heartily by the VHS format that was developed by another Japanese electronics maker that now is a part of JVC Kenwood. VHS gave way to digital formats, such as DVDs, that have largely

been replaced by online streaming technology.

Sony stopped making Betamax recorders in 2002, but it kept making tapes for die-hard fans. Sony said it has sold more than 18 million units of Betamax devices worldwide since its launch. Sony added it could stop shipping Betamax tapes earlier than the scheduled March end, "depending on the demand conditions." — AFP

## FOR A HAPPIER LIFE, GIVE UP FACEBOOK

**COPENHAGEN:** Always envious? Got a non-existent social life and struggle to concentrate? All this might be down to Facebook if you believe a study showing those who go a week without using the social network feel happier than others.

Carried out by the Happiness Research Institute, the study involved a sample of 1,095 people in Denmark who were divided into two groups, half of whom continued using Facebook while the others stopped. "We focused on Facebook because it is the social media that most people use across age groups," Meik Wiking, HRI's chief executive told AFP yesterday in Copenhagen, the Danish capital.

After a week, those people who hadn't been on Facebook said they were more satis-

fied with their lives, with 88 percent of them describing themselves as "happy" compared with 81 percent from the second group. Some 84 percent said they appreciated their lives compared with 75 percent in the other group, and only 12 percent described themselves as dissatisfied, compared with 20 percent among those who continued using Facebook. At the end of the experiment, the abstainers reported having a richer social life and fewer difficulties in concentrating, while the others reported no such change.

"Instead of focusing on what we actually need, we have an unfortunate tendency to focus on what other people have," the authors of the study wrote. In other words, Facebook users are 39 percent more likely to feel less happy than non-users. — AFP



This undated image provided by Google shows the Tag Heuer Connected luxury watch. Tag Heuer has partnered with Intel and Google to produce the computerized wristwatch billed as the "world's smartest luxury watch." — AP

## SNAPCHAT VANISHING VIDEO VIEWING HITS 6 BILLION DAILY

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Snapchat on Monday confirmed that six billion vanishing videos are viewed daily at the service in a three-fold surge from early this year. The highly-valued startup declined to comment on what it thought was powering the rapid growth.

"It is a huge number for them," analyst Rob Enderle of Enderle Group said of the Snapchat video viewing number. "But, you have to be concerned about the nature of the videos; and if they are illicit in nature, a huge number could go away." The analyst considered it challenging to make money from videos that vanish after being sent from one person to another, instead of lingering for arrays of people to watch the way they do at online venues such as YouTube or Facebook.

Facebook revealed during a quarterly earnings call last week that more than eight billion videos are viewed daily at the leading social network, jumping to a level twice as high as it was early this year. Videos are considered viewed at Snapchat after being displayed for fractions of

seconds, while it takes several seconds to achieve that status at Facebook and approximately half-a-minute at YouTube.

### Stories and replays

Snapchat's appeal has been the promise that messages shared disappear shortly after being viewed, providing users a sense of being able to keep pictures or videos private and ephemeral.

Snapchat last month introduced a "replay" feature for those disappearing messages, giving users an option to get another look at three "snaps" for a fee of 99 cents. The feature was the first by the Los Angeles-based social network to get revenue from its user base in addition to advertising messages.

Snapchat in May said it raised \$537 million in a new round of equity funding. The vanishing-message service did not disclose who bought stakes in the Los Angeles-based company, which came at a price estimated to give Snapchat a value of more than \$15 billion, according to media reports. Snapchat rejected a \$3 billion takeover

offer from Facebook in 2013. Snapchat rocketed to popularity in the United States, especially among teenagers, after the initial app was released in September 2011.

Smartphone app Snapchat late last year began letting users in the United States send money to friends by simply typing dollar amounts into new "Snapcash" messages.

The new feature came from a collaboration between Snapchat and Square, a mobile payments company headed by Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey.

Smartphone app Snapchat has since added features such as letting users in the United States send money to friends by simply typing dollar amounts into new "Snapcash" messages.

The feature came from a first collaboration between Snapchat and Square, a mobile payments company headed by Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey. Snapchat also added a "Stories" feature that strings together a series of "snaps" to create a narrative that is available for repeated viewing by recipients for 24 hours. — AFP



**NEW YORK:** In this Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015, photo, Sebastian Sobczak, CEO of Tsu.co, poses in his company's New York office. Tsu.co is winning converts to its social network by paying them for their posts. Facebook currently blocks all links from the smaller network, claiming they're low quality links that border on spam. — AP

## KCB POWERS SERVICE EXCELLENCE, FASTER TIME-TO-MARKET WITH EMC

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait-EMC Middle East yesterday announced that the Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) has invested in a transformational IT project aimed at empowering the institution's vision and strategy to revolutionize financial services and customer experience across the State.

KCB has selected EMC VMAX(r) enterprise storage in addition to the EMC Avamar(r) backup and recovery solution to provision the performance, agility and reliability to support the bank's objectives for excellence and innovation.

Powered by EMC solutions, KCB is leaping ahead in its journey as the transformation project allows the bank to drive time to market for new products and services, reduce costs and improve both employee productivity and workflows to extend their service excellence to customers.

### Customer Benefits

\* Fuelled Performance: EMC VMAX has helped enhance overall storage performance and EMC Fully-Automated Storage Tiering for Virtual Pools (FastVP) has helped drive the performance of mission-critical applications to expedite service delivery and response times for internal users and customers.

\* Increased Scalability: KCB has established a strong foundation to effectively manage and support 50% to 70% anticipated data growth

\* Maximum Reliability: EMC Avamar allows the bank to provision high levels of data availability by creating a comprehensive end-to-end back-up and recovery infrastructure. The solution facilitates compliance with regulations and policies, extending an environment of reliability.

\* Enhanced Efficiency: Following this storage and disaster recovery deployment, KCB has been able to drive lower total cost of ownership (TCO) from better storage utilization and heightened automation. The bank has successfully optimized allocation of resources and personnel otherwise

needed for administration.

\* Foundation for competitive growth: The deployment allows KCB to provision better workflows, accelerate time to market and enhance the overall customer experience.

### Customer Challenges

A specialized financial institution, wholly owned by the State, Kuwait Credit Bank's vision and strategy is directed to extend industry-leading services to citizens.

The bank strives to establish a benchmark in the financial services industry built on a strong ICT foundation that drives employee productivity, processes and overall customer experience. With that aim in mind, the bank selected EMC VMAX 10K to avail the benefits of the tight integration with VMware to support mission critical applications and provision the scalability to meet steadily growing workloads. EMC FAST VP significantly improved the performance of mission-critical applications for internal users and customers, by intelligently managing data placement according to activity levels.

In addition to revamping its storage architecture, KCB aimed to establish a trusted backup and recovery environment to better protect data and applications. EMC Avamar has successfully improved backup windows without adding any costs or complexity to the existing environment. The integrated variable-length deduplication technology allows KCB to create a centralized and highly automated backup and recovery environment to encompass remote branches and enterprise applications.

The end to end deployment has enabled KCB to create a strong automation backed foundation that provisions the agility to meet 50%-70% anticipated data growth every year. The consolidated storage and backup and recovery environment has significantly reduced managerial complexity allowing IT teams to focus on extending innovation for business growth.

## REAL-WORLD 'INDIANA JONES' WINS COVETED TED PRIZE

### ARCHEOLOGIST VOWS TO USE TED PRIZE TO PROTECT TREASURES

**SAN FRANCISCO:** A technology-wielding archaeologist billed as a modern world "Indiana Jones" won a coveted million-dollar TED prize Monday for her work tracking antiquities and the looting of such wonders.

Sarah Parcak was named winner of a 2016 TED Prize that provides a million dollars to kickstart a big-vision "wish" and opens a door to call on the nonprofit organization's innovative, influential and ingenious community of "tedsters."

Parcak is to reveal her wish at an annual TED Conference in Vancouver in February. "I am honored to receive the TED Prize, but it's not about me; it's about our field and the thousands of men and women around the world, particularly in the Middle East, who are defending and protecting sites," Parcak said.

"The last four and half years have been horrific for archeology," Parcak bemoaned extensive looting and destruction at archaeological sites that she has mapped using a method she created for processing satellite imagery.

The archeologist vowed to use the TED Prize to rally the world to find and protect such treasures. "At a moment when so many ancient sites are under threat and being destroyed-it feels particularly poignant that we are awarding the TED Prize to a brilliant mind, committed to finding, sharing and protecting these gems," said TED Prize director Anna Verghese.

### Hidden tombs

Parcak was introduced to aerial photography through her grandfather's use of it in forestry work. She was studying Egyptology at Yale when she began exploring the potential for using more modern tools to apply her grandfather's approach to archeology, according to TED.

Parcak was pursuing an advanced degree at Cambridge University when she created a technique for processing infrared imagery from satellites that helped her detect undiscovered archaeological sites in Egypt. She has since turned to mapping looting. Her work has caused some to refer to Parcak as a modern-age, real-world version of the Indian Jones character made famous in films starring Harrison Ford.

"TED is committed to the ancient tradition of storytelling, and making it relevant to a modern, global audience," Verghese said.

"Sarah's work honors that she uses 21st century technology to make the world's ancient, invisible history visible once again."

Parcak is a professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she founded the Laboratory for Global Observation. She has won attention for her work satellite mapping Egypt and uncovering hidden pyramids, tombs and settlements. Parcak and her team have been credited with also discovering ancient sites in Europe, the Mediterranean and North America as well as exten-

sively mapping looting in Egypt.

The annual TED Prize has grown from \$100,000 to a million dollars since it was first awarded in the year 2005, to U2 band leader Bono and his vision of fighting poverty and disease.

The list of previous winners includes oceans-defender Sylvia Earle and StoryCorps founder Dave Isay, whose wish was to use smartphone applications to archive the spoken wisdom of humanity.

The TED community includes scientists, celebrities, politicians, artists, and entrepreneurs. Since being born in California in 1984, the gathering has grown into a global forum for "ideas worth spreading."

TED has won a worldwide following for trademark "talks" during which accomplished speakers deliver thought-sparking presentations. Videos of talks are available for free online at ted.com. — AFP



This undated photo provided by Google shows chief business officer Omid Kordestani. Twitter has named Kordestani as its executive chairman, the company announced. — AP

## LETV TO RELEASE PHONE, SMART TVs, 4K STREAMING BOX IN US

**LOS ANGELES:** Chinese online video and consumer electronics heavyweight LeTV is getting ready to enter the US market with a number of products, including an Android-based smartphone, a bike with an integrated GPS device as well as smart TVs, a 4K video streaming box and a VR headset. The company could introduce, and possibly even start to sell, its products to US customers as early as this week.

LeTV is little known in the US, but has emerged as a significant player in the Chinese online video market. Last year, LeTV generated an estimated \$1.6 billion in revenue with online content as well as sales of smart TVs in China. Earlier this year, it launched its first smartphones in the country. LeTV Holdings vice chairman Zhang Zhao said at Variety's

recent Big Data Summit that the company plans to bring its phones and TVs to the US as well. "We consider ourselves a global company," he said.

Recent teasers posted on LeTV's own website and social media accounts suggest that the company may be looking to sell a number of additional products to U.S. consumers: LeTV published videos to its YouTube account last month that briefly show off the Le1 Pro smartphone, a VR headset, a smart bicycle dubbed the Buzzard Super Bike and its Super TV.

A number of these products have also been approved by the FCC in recent weeks, giving us further clues as to what LeTV is up to. Earlier in October, a VR headset based on LeTV's smartphone passed the FCC. And at the end of

October, LeTV gained FCC approval for two smart TV sets, with one featuring a 55-inch LED screen, and the other coming in at 65 inches. Both TV sets will deliver a 4K resolution, and ship with two sets of 3D glasses. Both will also come with a smart TV remote that features an integrated microphone for voice search.

In addition to its smart TVs, LeTV also got the FCC approval for a Roku-like streaming media player. The LeTV Box U3 is also capable of streaming video in 4K, and also comes with a remote control with voice search. However, the user manual included in the FCC filing mentions that "currently, only Mandarin is supported in voice control."

That may seem like a major limitation,

especially if LeTV is trying to compete with devices like Apple TV, Roku and Fire TV. However, focusing on Chinese expats first actually seems to be part of the company's strategy. LeTV has long emphasized content as a driver for device sales, and LeTV VP and GM JD Howard told Variety earlier this year that the company may at first concentrate on Chinese-language content when it enters the US.

There are more than three million people who speak Chinese at home in the US, according to census data, and many are looking to watch content in their native language. In addition to licensing and producing Chinese content, LeTV has also been investing in the production of US movies and titles that appeal

to both audiences. Just this week, the company's content subsidiary Le Vision signed a two-picture deal with the "Lion King" director Rob Minkoff. LeTV isn't the only Chinese consumer electronics giant looking to enter the US market with its products. The company is closely competing with Xiaomi, which has become the No. 1 smartphone seller in China within just a few years through a direct sales model that lets consumers order devices online, cutting out retailers and carriers to keep device prices low. LeTV is using the same model in China, and is apparently looking to take the same approach as it enters the US. The company's nascent US ecommerce website Lemall.com has been teasing a big unveil for this coming Wednesday. — Reuters



## YOUR EYES CHOOSE THE CLEANSING EXPERT

**DUBAI:** Applying makeup is a very important part of many women's daily routine. Here in this region especially, applying kohl is a strong Arabic tradition that goes back to Ancient Arabs, and remains an important part of women's make-up regime. However, removing stubborn eye makeup can irritate the skin, especially since some kohl and mascaras can require incessant rubbing to get it off due to oil or fat based ingredients

that repel water.

NIVEA, the number one face cleansing brand, has the solution with its NIVEA Face Care Double Effect Eye Make-Up Remover that eliminates even the most resilient waterproof mascara with a gentle swipe while protecting the eye-area at the same time.

Suitable for all skin types, the NIVEA Double Effect Eye Make-Up Remover is also suitable for contact lens

wearers. The oil phase, particularly extracted from sunflowers, effectively removes even waterproof mascara and eye-make-up, while the aqueous phase protects and cares for the eye lashes with its caring formula, without leaving an oily residue.

With an objective to unleash the secrets of Arabian beauty, NIVEA Face Care has partnered with Emirati make-up & skin care expert Asma Lootah. As part of

the campaign, Asma will help women learn the right cleansing and make-up techniques and reveal the secrets behind cleansed radiant skin. These are revealed in videos exclusively available on Nivea Middle East's website.

NIVEA Double Effect Eye Make-Up Remover is the perfect addition to every woman's Arabian Beauty regimen! Available in leading supermarkets across the GCC.



Irvine, California: 13-year-old chef Chase Bailey poses for photos in the kitchen in Irvine. — AP photos

## AUTISTIC TEEN CHEF TURNS FOOD AVERSION INTO COOKING PASSION

**IRVINE, California:** When Chase Bailey was diagnosed with autism at 2, his mother feared he'd never enjoy a typical childhood. Indeed, he hasn't. Between appearances with celebrities and hosting his own cooking show, Bailey's life feels anything but typical. During the past two years, the 13-year-old has spiced up ramen noodles with Korean-American street food guru Roy

After her son's diagnosis, friends and acquaintances prepared Mary Bailey for the worst. He'd never be able to have a job, some said. He'd probably never learn to socialize. And he'd never be independent. "You just hear a lot of things that are downers," she said. She immediately placed her son in school and therapy. At home, she struggled to get him to eat. Like many on the

years later, he confided to his mother that one day he wanted to have his own cooking show. "She was like, 'Why wait?'" Chase Bailey said.

Setting out with her home camcorder and using a friend's kitchen, they recorded the first episode of "Chase 'N Yur Face" and posted it to YouTube. The show quickly caught the attention of autism groups and, realizing the impact they could have, Mary Bailey began looking for ways to enhance the production. She hired a professional film crew and started incorporating cooking and shooting episodes into her son's homeschool curriculum.

### Tape episodes

Chase Bailey, using the cooking shows he watched as inspiration, started reaching out by email to chefs he admired and invited them to tape episodes with him. "It was no big deal," Bailey said nonchalantly. "I'm like, 'If they're doing it, I'm doing it.'" In the show, a confident, charismatic Chase whips up everything from cupcakes to braised rabbit. The show - which now

has more than 30 episodes online - has garnered tens of thousands of views. "I love that there's a story behind it," said Sumner, an actress living in Los Angeles. She recently taped a holiday special with the teen. "Food is emotional."

The most challenging part, Mary Bailey said, has been learning how to produce a show. She spent 20 years in the corporate world before leaving a management position to focus full-time on her son. Chase Bailey said his biggest challenge was learning how to fry chicken while talking in front of a camera.

"To see your child go from little to no speech, no eye contact ... having extreme food aversions, all of these symptoms, to almost the exact opposite," Mary Bailey said, "I don't know, it feels miraculous." Chase Bailey dreams of one day seeing his show on television and wants to open his own restaurant. He also hopes his experience can help others with autism. "Don't be afraid to be you," Chase Bailey said. "Hear, hear," Sumner said. "Be yourself because everyone else is taken." — AP



Irvine, California: Photo shows a holiday spice pound cake with some strawberries baked by autistic chef Chase Bailey.

Choi, simmered butternut squash soup with Sting's daughter, Fuschia Sumner, and baked hundreds of bright blue frosted cookies for guests at an Autism Speaks gala in Los Angeles where he was introduced by Conan O'Brien.

The days when Bailey would eat nothing but pizza, chicken, french fries, chocolate chip cookies, and chips with dip almost seem like a faint memory. "He wasn't even eating food until he was 8 years old," said Nick Shipp, executive chef at The Upper West, the Santa Monica, California, restaurant where Bailey helps cook dinner once a week. "For him to go from that to cooking and eating all kinds of different things, it's pretty remarkable."

autism spectrum, Chase found food overwhelming. The sight, smell, feel and taste of almost everything put on his plate tipped his sensory system over the edge. "I didn't like how it looked," he said. "I didn't like how it smelled."

Then he started watching cooking shows with his grandfather. He got hooked on seeing people enjoy the food they were eating. Within six months, he started asking to try some of the foods he saw on shows like Cooking Channel's "Eat St." and Food Network's "Chopped." Among his early requests: fried alligator, frog legs and beef tongue. "He was just devouring it," Mary Bailey recalled with a laugh. Two



Irvine, California: Chef Chase Bailey, left, and actress Fuschia Sumner, who recently taped a holiday special with Bailey, pose for photos.

## WORLD ENERGY USE TO GROW ONE-THIRD IN 25 YEARS

**PARIS:** Global energy use is set to grow by one-third over the next 25 years, driven mostly by emerging economies, the International Energy Agency said yesterday. Energy consumption in the most developed nations is expected to decline over the same period, it said in its annual World Energy Outlook. The main drivers for increased overall energy consumption will be India, China, Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, the report said. But energy use is projected to drop by 15 percent by 2040 in the European Union, 12 percent in Japan and 3 percent in the US on the back of increased energy efficiency, energy savings and demographic trends. The use of low-carbon fuels and technologies is on the rise, and the share of non-fossil fuels in the total mix is set to increase to 25 percent by 2040 from 19 now, the Paris-based

IEA said. This trend confirmed what the IEA called a "tantalizing hint" that economic growth will longer systematically translate into higher CO2 emissions.

"Pledges made in advance of COP21 promise to give new impetus to the move towards a lower-carbon and more efficient energy system, but do not alter the picture of rising global needs for energy," the IEA noted. COP21 refers to a key UN climate change summit taking place in Paris from the end of this month, tasked with producing a climate rescue pact. Among fossil fuels, natural gas, the least carbon-intensive, is the only one expected to see its share rise, the IEA report added. "Where it replaces more carbon-intensive fuels or backs up the integration of renewables, natural gas is a good fit for a gradually decarbonising energy system," the IEA said.

As demand for oil picks up, the oil price is expected to recover gradually to reach \$80 per barrel in 2020, the IEA said. In the following two decades oil demand is likely to level off as governments continue to reduce subsidies and there is further momentum towards energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. With less than three weeks to go before the crucial COP21 conference, the IEA said an ongoing policy shift was not enough to avoid the worst effects of climate change. "There are unmistakable signs that the much-needed global energy transition is underway, but not yet at a pace that leads to a lasting reversal of the trend of rising CO2 emissions," it said. The world still needed a "clear and credible vision of long-term decarbonisation" to combat climate change. — AFP

## CLIMATE CHANGE TIED TO LOWER BIRTH RATE IN US

**NEW YORK:** Climate change has likely been contributing to a steady decline in the US birth rate, researchers said, predicting as many as 100,000 fewer babies born each year by the end of the century. Data shows the number of babies born drops in the eight to 10 months after a spate of days on which the average temperature exceeds 80° F (26.6° C), according to research by the National Bureau of Economic Research, a non-partisan group based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The reason remains unclear, researchers said. People may have fewer sexual relations during warmer weather, or more likely such weather affects reproductive health, they said. For men, exposure to extreme heat can negatively affect semen quality and testosterone, and in women it could have an impact on menstruation, ovulation and implantation of fertilized eggs. The data showed that on average between 1931 through 2010, each hot day resulted in 1,165 fewer baby births across

the United States some nine months later. The trend could result in some 100,000 fewer babies born per year in the United States by the end of this century, according to the study.

"We still don't know exactly how these temperature shocks are going to impact developing countries," said Alan Barreca, a co-author and professor of economics at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. The US birthrate has largely been on the decline over several decades, although the number of births increased slightly in 2014, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Air conditioning could mitigate some of the impact of climate change on fertility, the study said. However, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), the potent greenhouse gases used in air conditioning, would contribute to global warming, Barreca said. World leaders meet in Paris later this month to work on a plan to reduce the effects of climate change. — Reuters



ARCTIC OCEAN, at sea: Members of the Canadian Coast Guard assist scientists in deploying a device to collect sediment from the Arctic ocean seabed on board the CCGS Amundsen ice-breaker September 20, 2015, to study the composition of the Arctic Ocean. — AFP photos

## MELTING ARCTIC ICE CAP COULD ALTER GLOBAL THERMOSTAT

**ABOARD CCGS AMUNDSEN, Canada:** The Arctic ice cap is melting faster than ever before, threatening to push so much fresh water into the North Atlantic that it could disrupt how the ocean regulates global temperatures, a prominent oceanographer has warned. As the head of a 40-member climate mission to the Arctic aboard the Canadian Coast Guard ice breaker Amundsen, Belgian researcher Roger Francois is concerned about how the pace of climate change may affect the future of deep water pools and currents, and how this imbalance may worsen the effects of global warming.

Over the course of the past two million years, temperatures have risen and fallen in 100,000-year cycles, with a sheet of ice forming over the Arctic cap each time followed by a rapid melt, he told AFP. The last warming occurred between 20,000 and 15,000 years ago, and led at that time to a rise in sea level of 130 meters (425 feet). "This really is the trend with the thaws in Greenland and Antarctica," said Francois, who is a professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

"The biggest difference with today is the time scale. It has never been faster." Each cycle is marked by an increase in carbon in the atmosphere. At the last change, the rate of carbon dioxide in the air increased from 180 parts per million to 280 ppm over 5,000 years. Until the Industrial Revolution, the level remained at 280 ppm, and since then it has skyrocketed to more than 400 ppm in 2015, he explained. "If we continue this way, and that's what seems to be happening, we'll end up by the end of the century with rates we have not had since the days of the dinosaurs, the Mesozoic Age," with 1,000 ppm, Francois warned.

### 'Feedbacks'

The last deglaciation, or disappearance of ice from an area that was formerly covered by it, was followed by a much longer than usual period of climate stability, which allowed Homo sapiens to flourish. "Our civilization, as we know it, is actually a direct result of climate change," said Francois. At the heart of this climate are "deep water" masses that are created in the North Atlantic off Greenland when surface seawater evaporates and cools as wind blows over it, resulting in increased salinity. The remaining water becomes heavier and more dense and sinks into deep

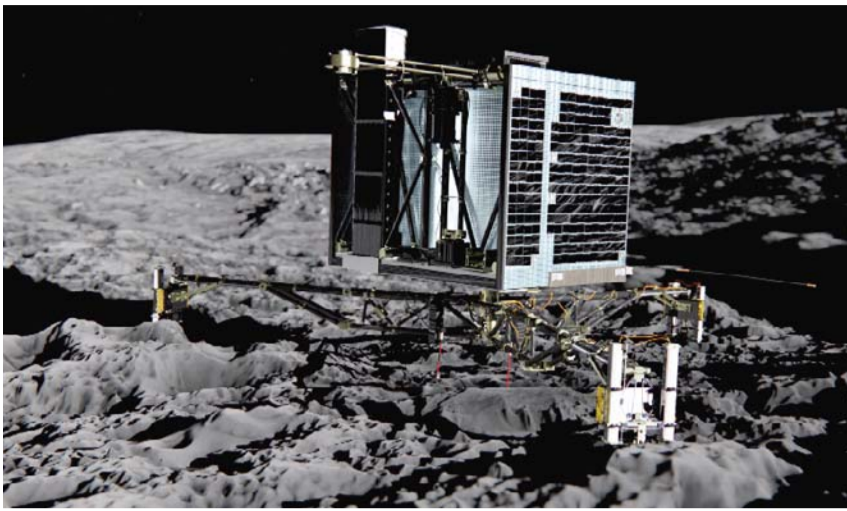
basins. The water then flows southward along deep abyssal plains and back, creating currents that are "a major mechanism for transporting heat from the equator to the poles," said Francois. With the melting of the ice cap, dilution in the sea of icebergs made of fresh water "lowers salinity, and makes more difficult the formation of deep water masses," he explained. But if the heat transfer between the equator and the poles is interrupted because this deep water circulation is broken, then "high latitudes become much colder," he said. Such a scenario already happened during the last global warming.

"It was still colder in early deglaciation than during the Ice Age in northern Europe in particular," said the oceans researcher. Changing of the deep water formation is only one of several climate phenomena that can amplify the effects of global warming. These so-called "feedbacks" can cause climate change to spiral out of control. An oft-cited example of this is the melting of sea ice due to warming exposing darker seas that absorb heat instead of reflecting sunshine, which hastens warming. — AFP



ARCTIC OCEAN, at sea: Members of the Canadian Coast Guard assigned to the CCGS Amundsen, assist scientists to deploy a pump through the hull of the ship.

## ONE YEAR AFTER COMET TOUCHDOWN, WHAT'S NEXT FOR PHILAE?



**SPACE**: This file picture released by the European Space Agency on December 20, 2013 of an artist's impression of Rosetta's lander Philae (back view) on the surface of comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. — AFP

**PARIS**: A year ago on Thursday, the world held its collective breath as a European spacecraft dropped a tiny robot lab onto the surface of a comet hurtling towards the Sun. The 12 months since that bumpy landing have yielded many exciting scientific finds, and more than a little drama, as Philae intermittently phoned home from its alien host between long bouts of sleep. Now, after four months without word, perched on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, ground controllers are hoping for a last chance to make contact and even do some science before the lander finally runs out of steam. "We hope to resume a series of scientific operations with Philae in the coming weeks," lander scientist Jean-Pierre Bibring told AFP.

Assuming the lab's instruments are working and its solar panels tilted at the right angle, "we could have several contacts with the robot beginning this week" and instruct it to run experiments, possibly even the drill it has not

yet successfully deployed. Conditions will be best in the period from the end of November to the beginning of December, scientists say. Philae touched down on 67P on November 12 last year after a 10-year, 6.5-billion-kilometre (four-billion-mile) journey through space, piggybacking on European mothership Rosetta, now orbiting the comet.

The landing was bumpy-the washing machine-sized lab bounced several times on the craggy surface before ending up at an angle in deep shade, deprived of battery-replenishing sunlight. Philae sent home data from about 60 hours of comet sniffing and prodding with eight of its 10 instruments, before going into standby mode on November 15, 2014.

### Status unknown

The lander's power pack was recharged as 67P drew closer to the Sun on its elliptical orbit, and Philae woke up on June 13, to great

excitement on Earth. It made eight intermittent contacts, uploading data, only to fall silent again on July 9. The robot lab's current status is unknown. Part of the problem is that Rosetta had to move into a more distant orbit, out of radio reach, as its sensitive star-navigation system became confused in the outpouring of dust from 67P as it shaved past the Sun.

So Philae may be awake and trying to establish contact, without anyone knowing. The comet passed its closest point to the Sun, or perihelion, in August this year, and Rosetta has now started descending as the dust has diminished. By Monday, it was at about 200 km-down from some 300 km at its widest orbit, and 10 km at its narrowest. In theory, Philae should have enough solar power at its current distance from the Sun-some 270 million kilometers-and a healthy core temperature. But the window for contact is short, said Mark McCaughrean, senior science advisor at the European Space Agency. — AFP

## PUTIN'S ELDER DAUGHTER: A SPECIALIST IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

**LONDON/MOSCOW**: Vladimir Putin's elder daughter, Maria, has kept out of the spotlight even more than her sister. Reuters was unable to find any recent, confirmed photographs of Maria. Born on Apr 28, 1985, Maria studied biology at St Petersburg University and medicine at Moscow State University. According to Russian and Western media reports, she married a Dutch businessman called Jorrit Joost Faassen. Some reports claimed she lived in the Netherlands for a while, but this could not be confirmed.

Earlier this year, Putin said both his daughters were living in Moscow, but gave no further details. Maria now uses the surname Faassen, and under that name she is pursuing a biomedical career specializing in the endocrine system, which controls the body's hormones, according to academic listings and publications. On the website of Istinia, a directory of scholars and their work at Moscow State University, she is listed as co-author of five studies published in the past two years, with titles including "The status of blood antioxidant system in patients with active acromegaly".

She is also the co-author of a book about "Idiopathic stunting" in children, published earlier this year by Lambert Academic Publishing.

Maria is a PhD candidate at the Endocrinology Research Centre in Moscow, which runs a charity project, Alfa-Endo, that helps children affected by endocrine ailments. The project's website includes a presentation by Maria. Maria told Reuters in an email that requests for information about the centre should be directed to its leadership. She did not respond to questions about when she was married or whether her father's position had affected her career.

Alfa-Endo is funded by Alfa Bank, a large Russian bank with subsidiaries in the United States, Britain and Cyprus. The largest shareholder is Mikhail Fridman, a billionaire with interests in banking, energy and telecoms. An official at the bank said: "Alfa Bank, and broadly speaking Alfa Group, act as financial sponsors for the project and that's it ... We are not aware who else is participating in the project otherwise." Maria's husband used to work for Gazprombank, a large lender with strong links to the elite around Putin. And until at least August this year, Jorrit Joost Faassen was listed on the website of MEF Audit, a Russian consulting group, as its deputy chairman. He no longer appears on the website and did not respond to requests for comment. — Reuters



## AL-JOTHEN PIONEERS THE BEAUTY EDUCATIONAL INDUSTRY

**KUWAIT**: Al-Jothen, one of the top distributors of world-leading professional beauty brands across the Middle East and in Kuwait, recently joined venture with Al-Muzayen Academy to launch the brand new hair care academy in Kuwait, powered by Kemon; The Italian hair care brand that has gained international awareness as being the trendiest and most innovative brand in the world of hair coloration, treatment and styling.

Al-Jothen's beholding brands will service Al-Muzayen Academy's educational workshops and classes, thus adding value to the students' acquired education, knowledge and therefore catering to the best expertise yet to shine within the professional beauty industry.

The announcement of the brilliant newly joined venture took place on November the 2nd, 2015 through a ribbon cutting ceremony that was well attended by the beauty industry VIPs, Al-Jothen management, Al-Muzayen management, hair care trainers, nail care trainers, make-up artists, salon owners, influencers and

certainly the media. The guests took a full tour within the beautifully renovated academy whereby they were able to witness all the different academy compartments be it the hair care hall powered by Kemon; nail care hall powered by LCN (Europe's number one nail care brand of German origin); Make-up hall powered by Masters professional and finally the Lecture hall where all the beauty theories and practiced and preached.

Al-Jothen CEO and management team expressed their gratitude to partner with Al-Muzayen and re-launch the academy. Abdul Majid Madi, Al-Jothen CEO, expressed his full confidence and belief in the continuous educational investments within the industry and promised to continue sourcing the best in the world to enhance the beauty industry in Kuwait. Fayeze Al-Muzayen, Academy GM, similarly expressed his happiness to join efforts with Al-Jothen - which is the hub of beauty in Kuwait. Following to a heartwarming speech, the guests enjoyed a cocktail reception whilst mingling along.



## SCIENCE'S 'BREAKTHROUGH' WINNERS EARN OVER \$21 MILLION IN PRIZES

**MOUNTAIN VIEW, California**: Academia just turned a little more glitzy for a select group of scientists. Russian billionaire Yuri Milner on Sunday handed out seven Breakthrough Prizes, the award for scientific accomplishment he created three years ago alongside technology giants including Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, 23andme founder Anne Wojcicki and Google co-founder Sergey Brin. The prizes are worth \$3 million, around three times the sum a Nobel Prize winner receives.

For one group of Breakthrough recipients, the honor will carry more prestige than cash. Some 1370 physicists are being honored as part of a single \$3 million prize for their work confirming the theory of neutrino oscillation, a phenomenon in quantum mechanics. Seven team leaders will split two-thirds of the prize. That leaves \$1 million to split among the others, or around \$700 to each physicist. "I would love to give \$3 million to each one, but we're not there yet," Milner said in an interview on Friday. Increasingly, he added, breakthroughs are made through vast consortiums rather than a handful of scientists working in relative isolation, raising the chances of such shared prizes in future.

Five prizes went to researchers in life sci-

ences for advances in areas ranging from optogenetics to sequencing of ancient genomes. A prize in mathematics went to a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, for work in low dimensional topology and geometric group theory.

Eight scientists early in their mathematics and physics careers won awards of \$100,000. Milner has set his sights on giving the sciences the same cultural resonance as sports or entertainment, but on Friday, he said it was too early to see if his work was having any effect. He pointed to the ceremony's broadcast on a major US network, Fox, for the first time as a sign things were moving in the right direction. A onetime physics PhD student in Moscow who dropped out to move to the United States in 1990, Milner has backed some of the world's biggest technology companies, including Facebook. Seth MacFarlane, creator of the hit TV series "Family Guy," is hosted the black-tie ceremony, held at the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif. Hollywood celebrities like pop star Christina Aguilera hobnobbed with Silicon Valley celebrities like Theranos chief Elizabeth Holmes, whose blood-testing company has come under fire in recent weeks. — Reuters

# CLINIC PAGE



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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
فهد علي المخيزيم

إستشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



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



## HILTON KUWAIT RESORT CELEBRATES OKTOBERFEST WITH GERMAN AMBASSADOR

To celebrate this year's Oktoberfest - the popular German festival celebrated by millions of people around the world - Hilton Kuwait Resort hosted over 150 guests, including the German Ambassador to Kuwait Eugen Wollfarth, in a traditional celebration at the hotel's Palm Court terrace.

With thousands of Europeans living in Kuwait, Oktoberfest is celebrated by the local expat community each year and this year Hilton Kuwait Resort welcomed guests to celebrate Oktoberfest with gusto.

Adorned in festive decorations, the terrace was bustling with families and friends, as children danced to the live music

and shouts of glee could be heard as guests won dining vouchers as part of a raffle.

Attendees arrived in style, dressed in traditional German lederhosen's and dirndl's, ready to celebrate the occasion with live cooking stations serving an array of sumptuous traditional German delights, including pretzels and bratwurst and good-cheer.

Ziad Tantawi, General Manager of Hilton Kuwait Resort said: "We love to celebrate occasions such as Oktoberfest with the local community. This year's event built on the success of the previous year and we look forward to hosting Wollfarth, his wife and the German community at future celebrations."



## ENJOY THE OUTDOORS WITH THE SULTAN CENTER

The outdoor season is here, and The Sultan Center has everything needed to gear up for the season. For nature enthusiasts and those who want to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors, TSC has launched its outdoors promotion at all TSC Sultan Centers and TSC Wholesale Centers, from premium grills and tents to sleeping bags and portable stoves, TSC has a range of all the essentials and more. But before you embark on your outdoor adventure, let us help you map out the essentials:

finest rattan and acacia wood or the most durable aluminum. Our patio sets and gazebos will most definitely make your family gatherings more enjoyable.

### Tents

We know that camping is rooted in Kuwaiti tradition, therefore we make sure to provide our clients with the latest camping solutions, from tents, camping backpacks to sleeping bags. Our camping range includes the most renowned brands such as Wenzel, Picnic Time, Coleman and Swiss Gear. We make sure to provide our clients with everything they need to have an enjoyable camping experience.

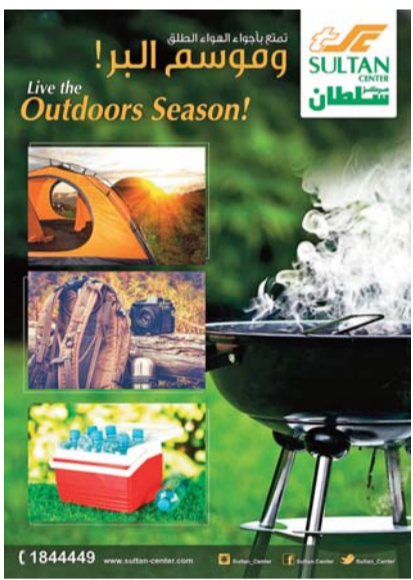
### Food

The outdoor season is not complete without enjoying delicious steaks and burgers. TSC has prepared complete BBQ boxes and all the trimmings from The Butcher's Den and Pickle part of TSC Group of Restaurants. Don't forget to stock up on your favorite snacks and drinks!

### Meats

A large variety of meat products from various origins are available to satisfy customers' grilling needs. Grass-fed, hormone-free New Zealand beef tenderloin, rib eye and strip loin steaks make the best grilling companions. For premium meat lovers, our certified Black Angus US beef assortment comprises of prime grade products such as tenderloin, strip loin, rib eye, short loin and short ribs. The same is complemented with the largest variety of meats with different grades and origins like Wagyu Beef, Argentinian, Egyptian Veal, Milk Fed Dutch Veal and many more. The grilling options available at TSC are sure to please everyone at your table, for those who do not want meat customers can select from a wide range of chicken and seafood options.

Makram Malaeb, Group International and Non Food Commercial Director said "we have always delighted our customers with their Outdoor favorites. This year, we bring a large exclusive variety of the latest industry trends in the US and Europe." Stop by your favorite TSC store today for all your outdoor needs, and let us help you and your family gear up for the season.



### BBQ Grills

For all grilling fans out there, TSC has a wide range of BBQ grills and grilling accessories. Our grilling assortment ranges from heavy duty gas grills to small and portable charcoal grills, spanning everything in between. We bring you the leading grilling brands to Kuwait such as BeeFeater, Charbroil, Picnic Time, Weber and many more.

### Gazebos and Outdoor Furniture

The Sultan Center believes that the ultimate outdoor experience is all about having the right outdoor furniture. Therefore, we always make sure to offer our clients the highest quality patio sets, outdoor chairs and gazebos. Our patio sets are made with top quality materials, be it the

## GULF INSURANCE GROUP CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE PROTEGES PROGRAM

Gulf Insurance Group, the leading insurance services provider in Kuwait and the Middle East, is proud to continue to support and mentor members of the Proteges Program. This is the third year that GIG has supported the program, under the umbrella of Kuwait Projects Company - KIPCO.

As part of efforts to inspire the future leaders of Kuwait, GIG CEO Khaled Al-Hasan held a thought-provoking discussion session with the young Proteges. He spoke about his 30 year

career in Gulf Insurance, which he began as a sales officer and the many challenges he had to overcome in order to rise to his current position as the leader of a group of insurance companies spanning the Middle East.

Hasan spoke with passion about the personal satisfaction that comes when hard work pays off, and the gratification that one feels when he watches the organization he is loyal to grow and have faith that he too will grow with it.

He went on to advise the Proteges to work hard and do what they believe is best for them, regardless of the many distractions that life may bring. He invited them to embrace work in the private sector, where companies like GIG give importance to the development of young people and shaping them to become our country's future leaders and influencers. Hasan concluded by wishing the students well in building prosperous futures for themselves as well as their community.



## IDAK ORGANIZES PAINTBALL TOURNEY



The Indian Dental Alliance in Kuwait's (IDAK) sports council conducted their first paintball tournament on 30th October at Kuwait Paintball near the Kuwait Towers. The event was sponsored by Gulf Advanced Trading Company (GAT), a leading medical and dental equipment supplier. Participants were divided into four groups. The Commandos led by Dr Devipriya lifted the trophy defeating the Assassins led by Dr Thomas Thomas. Dr George Mathew of team Assassins was adjudged as the player of the tournament (Top Gun).

## AL MULLA EXCHANGE ANNOUNCES 'PREMIER LOUNGE' CAR WINNER

Al Mulla International Exchange, the leading money remittance company in Kuwait, has recently announced the winner's name in the largest promotional campaign draw for "Premiere Lounge" clients, which gave a chance to win any car of the clients' choice, equivalent to the value of KD 15,000. At the end of the campaign, the lucky winner Ashraf Ebrahim Ali Mustafa won the grand prize during a gala event for the draw held by the company in its Fahaeel branch. The winner chose to receive his prize car from the Lexus Company (a 2016 Lexus ES250) for the equivalent cash value of the prize. Al Mulla exchange

opened this campaign to its distinguished customers in the Qurain, Salmiya, Abbasiya and Fahaeel area branches, who transferred over KD 1000 through the "Premiere Lounge" service in the branches mentioned above.

Commenting on the subject, General Manager Rakesh Joshi expressed his pleasure at declaring a winner, adding that the company's clients can rest assured that Al Mulla Exchange will continue to constantly offer promotional campaigns while consistently providing convenient services to them as well, wherever they may be, as they represent the company's priority. This principle is what makes Al Mulla

Exchange the favorite company among its customers.

He added: "I would like to thank all of our customers who have transferred their money through our branches in general, and "Premiere Lounge" clients in particular, which we provide with exclusive employees to serve them to the fullest degree, while sitting in a private section with a specific employee who is keen to provide the highest standards of service to them, without the hassle of waiting in the branch."

Joshi also pointed out that customer satisfaction is the basis of the company's work and is the main strategy that

underlines the company's policies, stressing the importance of these campaigns in strengthening the affiliation of existing customers to the company, and in attracting more new customers through creating and adopting all ideas that contribute to creating an atmosphere of intimacy with customers.

The company offers free insurance services and loyalty points on each transaction, as well as transfer confirmations through short text messages (SMS). The company also provides transfer of funds from home or the office through the Internet with speed and security, at: www.amxremit.com.





The top ten finalists in the KIPCO Tmkeen Award with the Minister of Information and KIPCO's Vice Chairman Executive, Faisal Al Ayyar



Co-founder of the KIPCO Tmkeen Award Winning Business, Shaheen Alkhudhari (center), receiving his award from KIPCO's Vice Chairman Executive, Faisal Al Ayyar



(From left) Ali Al-Ibrahim, Eman Al Awadhi and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.



(From left) KIPCO's Vice Chairman Executive Faisal Al-Ayyar, Ali Al-Ibrahim and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

## 'AJAR ONLINE' WINS KIPCO TmKEEN AWARD FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PRIZE WORTH \$100,000 IN SERVICES FROM THE KIPCO GROUP

Ajar Online, an online platform for the payment and collection of rent co-founded by young Kuwaiti entrepreneurs Shaheen Alkhudhari and Talal Alyaseen, was named the winner of the first-ever KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs. The announcement was made at the opening of the Youth Empowerment Symposium (Tmkeen), held under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The award is a collaboration between KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - and Tmkeen. The prize is worth US\$ 100,000 in services from the KIPCO Group, including financial, strategic and operational consultation sessions, market studies,

insurance coverage and advertising services.

Ajar Online is a cloud service build for the real estate market in Kuwait and the GCC. It offers users a quick and efficient online rent collection service via Sand email. Besides the co-founders, the team includes Mohammad Eid Ebrahim and Ali Ahmad Taqi. Ten young entrepreneurs running media and technology businesses in Kuwait had qualified in first judging round. They then presented to the final judging panel, which included the Co-Founder and CEO of Storehouse, Mark Kawano; Co-Founder of Storehouse, Timothy Donnelly; Founding Director of the American United School of Kuwait, Dr Jennifer J. Beckwith; Kuwaiti IT expert, Eng. Manar Al-Hashash; and General Manager

of Ghaliyah Technology, Abdulrazag Al-Mutawa.

Eman Al-Awadhi, KIPCO's Group Communications Director, said: "KIPCO is a strong believer in the important role that young people can play to make the future of Kuwait a brighter one. Our collaboration with Tmkeen has allowed us to engage in a dialogue with Kuwait's talented, young business community and to understand how we can support them to make their businesses more sustainable. This has been an exciting journey for us at KIPCO, and we look forward to seeing the businesses that participated with us grow and prosper."

On his part, Ali Al-Ibrahim, CEO of the Youth Empowerment Organization, said: "Empowerment of young people is the driver

at Tmkeen, and this award has given us the opportunity to work more closely with young Kuwaitis who require mentorship and support in order to take their businesses to a higher level. KIPCO's expertise in diverse sectors has made it possible for us to provide such support. We look forward to seeing the fruits of these efforts as we continue to inspire our young generation to pursue their passion in business."

KIPCO Group companies - including Burgan Bank, OSN, Gulf Insurance Group, KAMCO Investment Company, United Real Estate, Qurain Petrochemical Industries, AUK, AUS, United Networks and Marina FM - are supporters of the KIPCO Tmkeen Award for Young Entrepreneurs.



Sixth grade students from the Kuwait International English School visited Kuwait Times yesterday. Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad took the school's team, which included 50 students and four teachers, in tours around the newspaper's different sections. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

## SHERATON KUWAIT, FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON KUWAIT HOLDS BLOOD DONATION DRIVE 'TOGETHER AS ONE'

Coinciding with one of Starwood's initiatives towards community "Together as One" program where all Starwood Hotels and Resorts participate in hundreds of different unique volunteer activities making a positive difference in local communities, Sheraton Kuwait, a Luxury Collection Hotel and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait recently conducted a blood donation drive in coordination with the Central Blood Bank of Kuwait. The hotels took the initiative to donate blood out of the fact that transfusion of blood helps saving millions of lives every year, in addition to supporting complex medical and surgical procedures and helps patients suffering from life threatening conditions to live longer with a higher quality of life. This also contributes to CBBK's national blood supply to be ready for all who might need it in the beloved state of Kuwait whether citizens or residents. Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait believe that they play a vital role in supporting humanitarian programs that take into consideration the circumstances and challenges that are faced by the community that has accompanied the hotels for almost 5 decades.

Al Soor ballroom at Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait was designated to hold this drive, where donation stations and all required

equipment were set up for the event. Many employees waited for their turn to roll up their sleeves to donate blood where the General Manager and the directors of different departments joined given the hotels' important role in encouraging volunteerism.

On this occasion, Fahed Abushaar - General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait expressed his sincere gratitude and pride to all of the employees who donated, as he stated that every minute someone in the world needs blood, and there is nothing better than Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait having a role in giving hope and life to each patient. In addition, Abushaar extended his regards and paid tribute to The Central Blood Bank of Kuwait who works continuously to secure blood supply to the beloved State of Kuwait and its valued people. Mounir Amer - General Manager of Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait added that these charitable initiatives are part of the hotels' moral and ethical values noting that Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait have been always supportive and playing remarkable roles in charitable and humanitarian activities that aim to solve different problems, whether health, environmental or social.





- 00:50 Gator Boys
01:45 Call Of The Wildman
02:40 Biggest And Baddest
03:35 Tanked
04:25 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
05:15 Gator Boys
06:02 Treehouse Masters
06:49 Shamwari: A Wild Life
07:36 Call Of The Wildman
08:25 Dogs 101: Specials
09:15 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
10:10 Treehouse Masters
11:05 Tanked
12:00 Dogs 101: Specials
12:55 Bondi Vet
13:50 Biggest And Baddest
14:45 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
15:40 Treehouse Masters
16:35 Tanked
17:30 Shamwari: A Wild Life
18:25 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
18:50 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
19:20 Natural World
20:15 Tanked
21:10 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
22:05 Treehouse Masters
23:00 Natural World
23:55 Snake Crusader With Bruce George



- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
02:00 Kings Of The Wild
02:50 River Monsters
03:40 Auction Hunters
04:30 Garage Gold
04:30 Baggage Battles
05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
05:30 Alaskan Bush People
06:50 Classic Car Rescue
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Auction Hunters
08:55 Garage Gold
09:20 Baggage Battles
09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
10:10 How It's Made
10:35 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
11:25 Kings Of The Wild
12:15 River Monsters
13:05 Auction Hunters
13:30 Garage Gold
13:55 Baggage Battles
14:20 Alaskan Bush People
15:10 Classic Car Rescue
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
17:15 How It's Made
17:40 Troy
18:30 Superhuman Science
18:55 Superhuman Science
19:20 Dual Survival
20:10 Garage Gold
20:35 Baggage Battles
21:00 Troy
21:50 Superhuman Science



- 00:40 NASA's Greatest Missions
01:30 NASA's Unexplained Files
02:20 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
03:10 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
04:48 Mythbusters
05:36 You Can't Lick Your Elbow
06:24 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
07:12 Strangest Weather On Earth
08:50 Food Factory
09:15 Food Factory
09:40 How It's Made
10:30 NASA's Unexplained Files
11:20 Home Factory
11:45 Home Factory
12:10 NASA's Greatest Missions
13:00 Mythbusters
13:50 How It's Made
14:40 Food Factory
15:30 Home Factory
16:20 NASA's Greatest Missions
17:10 You Have Been Warned
18:00 How It's Made
18:50 Food Factory
19:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
20:30 NASA's Greatest Missions
21:20 Mythbusters
22:10 NASA's Unexplained Files
23:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
23:50 NASA's Greatest Missions



- 00:00 Violetta
01:15 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 Lollipop
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 Jessie
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 Lollipop
15:20 Austin & Ally
15:45 Girl Meets World
16:10 Violetta
17:00 The Next Step
17:25 Mako Mermaids
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Dog With A Blog
18:40 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

- 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 Chopped
22:00 Rachael vs. Guy: Celebrity Cook Off
23:00 Iron Chef America



- 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 Kate Middleton: Heir We Go Again!
04:20 Shetland
05:15 Take On The Twisters
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:05 Coronation Street
07:30 Kate Middleton: Heir We Go Again!
08:25 Shetland
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?
16:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
17:25 Lewis
18:20 Take On The Twisters
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Who's Doing The Dishes?
20:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
21:25 Lewis
22:20 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
23:40 Eggheads



- 04:00 Marry Me
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Marry Me
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:30 Marry Me
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
19:00 Hot In Cleveland
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



- 00:00 Better Call Saul
01:00 Blood & Oil
02:00 Downton Abbey
06:00 Parenthood
12:00 Emmerdale
12:30 Coronation Street
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
16:00 Emmerdale
16:30 Coronation Street
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
19:00 The Voice
20:00 Supergirl
21:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
22:00 The Flash
23:00 Tyrant



- 00:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
07:00 Emmerdale
07:30 Coronation Street
08:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:00 Emmerdale
10:30 Coronation Street
12:00 Graceland
23:00 Banshee



- 00:00 Bloodsport
02:00 Pawn Shop Chronicles
04:00 The Legend Of Hercules
06:00 Special ID
08:00 Gone In Sixty Seconds
10:15 Jaws III
12:00 Special ID
14:00 Jaws: The Revenge
15:45 Gone In Sixty Seconds
18:00 The Outsider
20:00 Rage
22:00 Last Passenger



- 00:00 Pawn Shop Chronicles-18

- 02:00 The Legend Of Hercules-PG15
04:00 Special ID-PG15
06:00 Gone In Sixty Seconds-PG15
08:15 Jaws III-PG15
10:00 Special ID-PG15
12:00 Jaws: The Revenge-PG15
13:45 Gone In Sixty Seconds-PG15
16:00 The Outsider-PG15
18:00 Rage-PG15
20:00 Last Passenger-PG15
22:00 Enemies Closer-PG15



- 00:00 Multiplicity
02:00 The Ladykillers
04:00 Problem Child
06:00 Mousehunt
08:00 Simon Birch
10:00 Problem Child
12:00 The Ladykillers
14:00 Problem Child 2
16:00 Simon Birch
18:00 The Naked Gun: From The Files Of Police Squad
20:00 Fading Gigolo
22:00 Welcome To The Jungle



- 01:15 Breathe In-PG15
03:00 A Thousand Times Good Night-PG15
05:00 Little Red-PG15
07:00 The Fold-PG15
09:00 Penthouse North-PG15
11:00 Little Red-PG15
13:00 My Piece Of The Pie-PG15
15:00 Wrath-PG15
17:00 Penthouse North-PG15
19:00 God Help The Girl-PG15
21:00 Blood-PG15
23:00 Night Train To Lisbon-18



- 01:30 1911
03:15 How I Live Now
05:00 The Trouble With Bliss
06:45 The Butler
09:00 Rushmore
11:00 The Trouble With Bliss
13:00 Mr. Pip
15:00 Till Human Voices Wake Us
17:00 Rushmore
19:00 McCanick
21:00 To Write Love On Her Arms
23:00 Bessie



- 01:00 The Last Of Robin Hood-PG15
03:00 House Of Versace-PG15
05:00 Trigger Point-PG15
07:00 The 7th Dwarf-PG
09:00 The Fault In Our Stars-PG15
11:15 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I-PG15
13:30 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend-PG
15:15 The Boxtrolls-PG
17:00 The Fault In Our Stars-PG15
19:15 St. Vincent-PG15
21:00 Only God Forgives-PG15
23:00 Rush-18



- 01:00 Blackie And Kanuto
02:45 Krazy Planet
04:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
06:00 Memory Loss
10:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend
11:30 Top Cat: The Movie
13:15 Krazy Planet
14:45 Ghatotkach - Master Of Magic
16:30 Hatching
18:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend
20:00 Back To The Sea
22:00 Ghatotkach - Master Of Magic
23:45 Hatching



- 00:00 The Skeleton Twins-18
02:00 Stolen Child-PG15
04:00 Hellboy: Blood & Iron-PG
06:00 Brave-PG15
08:00 The Numbers Station-PG15
10:00 Hellboy: Sword Of Storms-PG
11:45 Godzilla-PG15
14:00 Tactical Force-PG15
16:00 The Numbers Station-PG15
18:00 Closed Circuit-PG15
20:00 Hummingbird-PG15
22:00 The November Man-18



PAWN SHOP CHRONICLES ON OSN MOVIES ACTION



- 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 World Tour
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!
18:20 Regular Show
18:25 The Amazing World Of Gumball
19:51 Adventure Time
20:15 New Steven Universe
20:25 Steven Universe
20:40 Uncle Grandpa
21:00 Teen Titans Go!



- 03:10 Deadly Affairs
04:00 Deadly Women
04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
05:30 The Haunted
06:20 Forensic Detectives
07:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
08:00 Nightmare Next Door
08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
09:40 Fatal Encounters
10:30 Murder Shift
11:20 Forensic Detectives
12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
13:00 The Will
13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
14:40 California Investigator
15:05 Nightmare Next Door
15:55 Fatal Encounters
16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
17:35 Murder Shift
18:25 I Almost Got Away With It
19:15 Forensic Detectives
20:05 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
20:55 California Investigator
21:00 The Will
21:20 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
23:00 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion
23:50 Blood Relatives
00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
01:30 The Haunted
02:30 Ghost Lab



- 03:05 Calimero
03:20 Zou
03:30 Loopydoo
03:45 Art Attack
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
04:20 Calimero
04:35 Zou
04:45 Loopydoo
05:00 Art Attack
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
05:35 Calimero
05:50 Zou
06:00 Loopydoo
06:15 Art Attack
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
06:50 Calimero
07:00 Zou
07:20 Loopydoo
07:35 Art Attack
08:00 Calimero
08:10 Zou
08:25 Limon And Oli
08:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:05 Sofia The First
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow
10:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
10:30 Doc McStuffins
11:00 Sofia The First
11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:55 Miles From Tomorrow
12:25 Doc McStuffins

- 12:55 Loopydoo
13:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:35 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
14:00 Sofia The First
14:30 Henry Hugglemonster
14:45 Calimero
15:00 Doc McStuffins
15:30 Zou
15:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
16:15 Sofia The First
16:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
17:10 Aladdin
17:40 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
18:10 Chip N Dale Rescue Rangers
18:40 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:55 Cars Toons
19:00 Miles From Tomorrow
19:30 Sofia The First
19:55 Doc McStuffins
20:10 Jake's Never Land Rescue
21:05 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
21:35 Sofia The First
22:00 Aladdin
22:30 Adventures Of The Gummi Bears
23:00 Chip N Dale Rescue Rangers
23:30 Lilo & Stitch
00:00 Nina Needs To Go
00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
00:20 Calimero
00:35 Zou
00:50 Loopydoo
01:05 Art Attack
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
01:45 Calimero
02:00 Zou
02:15 Loopydoo
02:30 Art Attack



- 03:45 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo
04:40 Attack Of The Big Cats
05:30 Shark Kill Zone
06:35 World's Deadliest Killer
07:25 World's Weirdest: Animal Taboo
08:20 The Croc Catchers
09:15 Built For The Kill
10:10 Speed Kills
11:05 World's Deadliest
12:00 Big Blue
12:55 Brutal Killers
13:50 World's Deadliest Killer
14:45 World's Weirdest Pets
15:40 The Croc Catchers
16:35 Built For The Kill
17:30 World's Deadliest GPU
18:25 World's Deadliest
19:20 World's Weirdest Pets
20:10 The Croc Catchers
21:00 Built For The Kill
21:50 World's Deadliest GPU
22:40 World's Deadliest
23:30 Big Blue
00:20 Brutal Killers
01:10 World's Deadliest Killer
02:00 Planet Carnivore
02:50 Ultimate Animals



- 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 & Tiaras
08:05 Oprah's Master Class
08:55 Oprah's Master Class
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 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
12:15 Say Yes To The Dress: Randy Knows Best
12:40 Bakery Boss
12:55 Cake Boss
13:30 Cake Boss
13:55 Cake Boss
14:20 Perfect Look
15:10 Jon & Kate Plus 8
15:35 Little People, Big World
16:00 Toddlers & Tiaras
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 Oprah's Master Class
20:10 Bakery Boss
21:00 Monsters Inside Me
21:50 Outrageous 911
22:15 Outrageous 911
22:40 Psychic Matchmaker
23:05 Mob Wives
23:55 Monsters Inside Me
00:45 Outrageous 911
01:10 Outrageous 911
01:35 Psychic Matchmaker
02:00 Mob Wives
02:50 Sister Wives



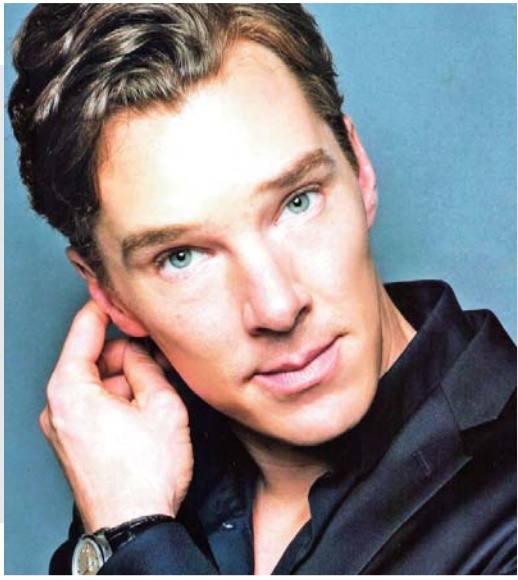
HOUSE OF VERSACE ON OSN MOVIES HD











## Cumberbatch receives honor from Queen

**B**enedict Cumberbatch was honored with a CBE from Britain's Queen Elizabeth yesterday. The 'Sherlock' star arrived at Buckingham Palace in London with his wife Sophie to receive his accolade - Commander of the Order of the British Empire - from the 89-year-old monarch after he made it onto the Birthday Honors List for his work as an actor and his charitable efforts. Benedict, 39, admitted afterwards that he was riddled with nerves before meeting the queen and being presented with his honor.

Speaking to the BBC, he said: "It's fantastic, it's quite nerve-racking, there is nothing really that prepares you for it. It's a unique occasion and I feel very privileged to be here and flattered to be recognized in this way. "It was wonderful, it was the first time I've ever met her and to meet her and be honored by her was extraordinary." Meanwhile, it's been a busy year for the handsome actor as he's just wrapped up his three-month stint as Hamlet in the Shakespearean production at the Barbican in London. The 12-week project

managed to raise an estimated £150,000 for the Save the Children charity. He also married his long-time lover Sophie in a romantic ceremony in March following a two-month engagement, and the pair welcomed their first child, son Christopher, in June. And the star shows no signs of slowing down any time soon as he's currently filming upcoming Marvel Studios movie 'Doctor Strange', set for release in 2016.

## Atkinson finalizes his 'quickie' divorce from his wife Sunetra

**R**owan Atkinson has been given a "quickie" divorce from his wife of 24 years Sunetra. The 'Mr Bean' actor - who separated from the BBC make-up artist in 2014 - was granted a decree nisi by District Judge Stephen Alderson at London's Central Family Court today at a hearing neither he nor Sunetra attended. The couple's divorce was given on the grounds of "unreasonable behavior" and was reportedly finalized in less than a minute. Rowan, 60, and 54-year-old Sunetra met in the 1980s when she was working as a BBC make-up artist and he was one of the corporation's main comedy stars and they went on to tie the knot in 1990. They have two children together, daughter Lily Atkinson, 20, and son Benjamin Atkinson, 22. The couple were planning to build an £11 million home in Oxfordshire when they split in 2014 and Sunetra has since moved to a £21 million London mansion while Rowan has a £4 million base in the UK capital. He is currently dating 32-year-old comedian Louise Ford - who stars in Sky TV sitcom 'Chickens'.



## Swift settles Lucky 13 legal battle

**T**aylor Swift has reportedly settled her Lucky 13 legal dispute with the Blue Sphere. The 25-year-old singer will no longer face deposition after she called for the case to be put to bed following allegations that she copied the US-based clothing company's trademarks, according to The Hollywood Reporter. Robert Kloetzly filed a lawsuit against the 'Trouble' hitmaker in May 2014 claiming she had used the company's Lucky 13 shamrock design for her T-shirts and greeting cards. He was seeking damages and all of her profits as he believed the blonde star had "confused" buyers and put his business, which he launched

in 1991, in jeopardy. However, Taylor and her legal team hit back, arguing that her merchandise was totally different and the company, which she believes is little known across the US, hadn't suffered any losses nor damage to its name. The legal dispute stepped up a level earlier this year when the company tried to reach out to the companies the starlet had worked with in the past on a promotional basis. Taylor's team then went back to the courts and alleged Blue Sphere was "harassing" her, but the claim was thrown out.



## Cave hears how his son fell to his death after taking LSD

**N**ick Cave's 15-year-old son had taken LSD before he fell to his death. The 58-year-old musician learned at an inquest held at Woodvale Crematorium in Brighton, East Sussex, England yesterday that Arthur Cave had the hallucinogenic drug - known as Lysergic acid diethylamide - in his system when he plunged 60ft down Ovingdean Gap in Brighton at around 6pm on July 14, according to a report by MailOnline. The youngster - who has a twin, Earl - was rushed to the Royal Sussex County Hospital with a fractured skull, broken legs and bleeding on the brain after he was discovered by motorists in slow-moving traffic. A full inquest into Arthur's death will commence on November 20. At that hearing, statements will be read from people, including the person who was with Arthur on the day he died. Following the news of the tragedy in July, Nick - who was born in Australia - and his wife Susie paid tribute to their "beautiful, happy" son. They said in a joint statement: "Our son Arthur died on Tuesday evening. He was our beautiful, happy loving boy. "We ask that we be given the privacy our family needs to grieve at this difficult time." Both Arthur and Earl appeared in Nick's 2014 biopic '20,000 Days On Earth'.



## Busted reforming for a 2016 tour and a new album

**F**rontman Charlie Simpson, who quit the rock/pop group in 2005, has finally rejoined his bandmates Matt Willis and James Bourne after previously vowing to never go back to Busted and admits he was convinced to get the band back together by the prospect of recording fresh music during a trip to Philadelphia with James for secret songwriting sessions earlier this year. Speaking at a press conference at The Soho Hotel in London this morning Charlie said: "I honestly think I've lost count of how many times I said I would never do this again and I generally meant that. There was a time where I said I couldn't do this again and I wholeheartedly believed that. I have changed my mind and that is due to circumstance. The circumstances changed. We went to Philadelphia, we wrote new music and that changed everything. I was very ready to go away from Philadelphia thinking this just doesn't feel right. And the fact that it did feel right is much of a shock to me as it is to anyone in this room. It's been a weird journey and a very natural one and it's nice that we've been able to connect as friends again and it all feels right. We are not doing this for any other reason than we are just very excited about what could happen in the future." The chance of a full Busted reunion

seemed impossible after Charlie snubbed the chance to be part of super-group McBusted - comprised of Matt and James and the members of McFly. Bassist Matt - a founding member of the 'Air Hostess' hitmakers - admits it's a dream come true to have the original group back together again. He said: "Charlie has no idea how much it meant to us (hearing Charlie him sing again). We are definitely going to be releasing new music. We have started working on it already. We are really stoked about it. We are excited about it. But we are going on tour first, there might be new music before that who knows. Hopefully if we get our act together. We are really excited about next year." And drummer James echoed his bandmate's sentiments insisting they always remained friends and only disbanded because Charlie wanted to try a different type of music with him eventually fronting hard rockers Fightstar. James stated: "We didn't fall out as people. It was creative reasons. We understood each other's decisions." Busted will tour the UK and Ireland next May, kicking off their run of shows on May 11 at The SSE Wembley Arena and ending on May 31 at the 3 Arena in Dublin. Tickets for the concerts go on sale this Friday.



## Lawrence washes her hands when using the toilet

**J**ennifer Lawrence has insisted she does wash her hands when using the toilet. The 'Hunger Games' star, who left the world stunned when she shared her lack of personal hygiene, has been forced to set the record straight about how she abolishes the germs after relieving herself. Taking to her Facebook account, the 25-year-old beauty poked fun at herself by posting a video of her flushing the chain and dousing her hands with water in her hotel room. She accompanied the hilarious clip with the caption: "Of course I wash my hands after going to the bathroom! (I can't believe I've put myself in a situation where I even have to say that.) Anyway with all the rumors I've ever heard about myself this is the one I really had to put to rest." The blonde actress hit the headlines a few weeks ago when she shared her bathroom habits during a Q&A with her co-stars Liam Hemsworth and Josh Hutcherson. She said at the time: "I don't wash my hands after I go to the bathroom." Liam, 25, added with a shudder: "And then she likes to put her hands over your face." And the revelations didn't stop there as she admitted also opts to urinate in bathroom basins when she's out with her pals so she doesn't have to wait around to use the toilet. She said with confidence: "I've peed in some sinks. When two girls go into a bathroom, someone's gotta take sink. I actually like taking a sink. One could wait, but if the one waiting is me, she's going to the sink."



## Kylie Jenner has got a new tattoo

**T**he 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star filmed tattoo artist to the stars Bang Bang - who lists Rihanna and Justin Bieber among his clients - etching a few words onto her delectable derriere but refused to divulge what the body art stands for. The 18-year-old brunette beauty - who is dating rapper Tyga - documented the inking session on her Snapchat account and couldn't help but give her fans a sneak peek at the design. Lowering the camera towards her lower back, Kylie captured Bang Bang using the needle on her flesh, before she whipped the device back up and placed her finger in front of her mouth. But Kylie didn't feel completely satisfied sitting in the tattoo chair and later snatched the ink from Bang Bang - whose real name is Keith McCurdy - and began scribbling on him. The stunner - who uses the nickname 'King Kylie' - pulled on her latex gloves and got to work on her design. After several minutes, Kylie began to carve out the letter K under a crown - seemingly in reference to her - on his ankle. This isn't Kylie's first tattoo as she also had a heart permanently inked onto her skin in the summer.



## Elton John, Bon Jovi to headline 24-hour climate concert

Elton John and Bon Jovi will headline a 24-hour performance this month aimed at urging environmental action ahead of key climate change talks in Paris, organizers said Monday. The event, spearheaded by former US vice president Al Gore and known as "24 Hours of Reality and Live Earth," will feature artists, scientists and politicians and will air



In this May 6, 2015 file photo, singer Elton John, founder of the Elton John AIDS Foundation, testifies about global health programs during a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

online November 13 and 14. "Each hour, the broadcast will be punctuated by thought-provoking, knockout appearances from an all-star lineup," organizers said in a statement.

"The broadcast is aimed at urging world leaders to push for the strongest possible climate agreement at the upcoming UN conference in Paris, and at urging people to take action in their own communities and homes." Back in May, Live Earth—a set of global concerts backed by Gore—announced a delay to planned shows on each inhabited continent. Live Earth was initially intended to consist of concerts on June 18 in Australia, Brazil, China, South Africa and the United States, as well as Paris. The November 13-14 broadcast is a partnership between the Climate Reality Project and Live Earth, designed to "include an unprecedented artistic lineup and distribution platform to maximize its global reach," organizers said.

Among those scheduled to appear are French President Francois Hollande, Mexican President Felipe Calderon, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, California Governor Jerry Brown, actors Ryan Reynolds, Jared Leto and Ed Begley Jr, and former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. The first Climate Reality broadcast aired in 2011. Gore won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts on climate change. A slideshow presented by Gore about the dangers of climate change was the basis of the popular 2006 documentary "An Inconvenient Truth," which won two Academy Awards. — AFP



In this September 21, 2013 file photo, Jon Bon Jovi (center) and David Bryan (left) of the American rock band Bon Jovi perform during the Rock in Rio music festival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AFP

## New Orleans R&B legend Allen Toussaint dead at 77

R&B legend Allen Toussaint, one of the signature forces in New Orleans music whose songs have been played by a who's who of rock greats, has died, local television said yesterday. The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, who was 77, died hours after a performance Monday in Madrid, his family told New Orleans station WWL. Raised in a humble home, Toussaint from a young age mingled with many of New Orleans' leading musicians and helped make the city best known as the birthplace of jazz—a global center for R&B production of popular songs.

Artists who came to Toussaint included Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton, Elvis Costello, Joe Cocker and The Rolling Stones, whose early hit "Pain in My Heart" was penned by the New Orleans great. "He brought the New Orleans sound to the national stage, and it remains a vital and ongoing part of our musical heritage to this day,"

reads his biography at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, where was inducted in 1998.

A lifelong New Orleans resident, the songwriter and pianist reluctantly fled in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina devastated the city, temporarily relocating to New York. But he returned and has since been active in reconstruction and other humanitarian projects. After his European tour, he had been scheduled to perform in New Orleans on December 8 at a charity benefit with Paul Simon against homelessness and hunger.

US President Barack Obama recognized his contributions both to music and development when he presented him with the National Medal of the Arts in 2013. "After his hometown was battered by Katrina and Allen was forced to evacuate, he did something even more important for his city—he went back. And since then, Allen has devoted

his musical talent to lifting up and building up a city," Obama said. In an interview at the time with The Wall Street Journal, Toussaint said he could not quite believe what he had achieved over the years.

"On my 14th birthday... for whatever reason, I said to myself, 'I'm 14 and every 10 years I'm going to check back with this 14-year-old and tell him how I'm doing,'" he said.

"I have no idea how I came up with that, but from then on I had those chats. They don't last long," he said. "I often say how surprised I am at how far I've come. The 14-year-old at the piano just listens—but he always seems as surprised as I am." —AFP



In this July 18, 2009 file photo, Jazz pianist Allen Toussaint performs during the Jazz Vitoria festival in the northern Spanish Basque city of Vitoria.



In this July 10, 2013 file photo, US President Barack Obama greets 2012 National Medal of Arts recipient musician Allen Toussaint as he arrives on stage during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP photos

## Folk star Alela Diane finds new voice in duo

Indie folk singer Alela Diane last released an album amid full personal crisis, putting into verse a painful divorce. Two years later, she is back—not only with a new husband and child, but with a new musical partner. Diane—who was born in the arid Gold Rush town of Nevada City, California, but has found a particularly strong following in Europe—won critical acclaim for her intensely personal 2013 album "About Farewell" on the disintegration of her first marriage.

The 32-year-old has since moved on, remarried and had a child, but found herself in a musical rut until she encountered Ryan Francesconi, a fellow artist based in the indie music capital of Portland, Oregon. "My daughter's almost two now, but when we started she was about one and I wasn't ready to make another solo album. I didn't feel like I had that inside of me," she told AFP on a recent trip to Paris. "But I was ready to make some art again. I was missing singing," she said. Francesconi's proposal to work together eased some of the initial pressure, she said. The result was an album, "Cold Moon," that came out last month. "We weren't trying to make a record. It wasn't planned," he said.

### An ecological approach

Diane—who has worked in the past with Joanna Newsom, another star born in Nevada City who made an impact in the indie folk scene—first won a following a decade ago with "The Pirate's Gospel," an album of meditative songs with a slight twang on a self-taught guitar. Francesconi's musical interests lie farther away, with a primary focus on Balkan folk music but also a fondness for traditional Greek dances. "Cold Moon" consists of eight songs with a contemplative, autumnal mood, with some tracks stretching to seven minutes.

Asked to describe Francesconi's style, Diane said: "I don't want to say the word sophistication, but I do: it has just a real musicality behind it. It's a lot more complex than anything I'm capable of creating on my own." Francesconi, who is generally known for instrumental music, said that the collaboration with Diane in turn gave him the chance to "actually do songwriting." He described his approach as allowing space inside the music for words. "You have to write enough, but not too much," he said.

Such an ecological way of thinking is fitting for Francesconi, who is married to an environmental activist and travels within cities exclusively by bicycle. The ecological theme is felt throughout "Cold Moon." Without overt political messages, much of the lyricism revolves around nature and criticism of development. On "Shapeless," for example, Diane voices her regrets at not seeing the stars at night due to the urban lights. After an album on divorce, "It was an opportunity to get outside of myself a bit and think about bigger things," she said.

Diane is touring Europe with Francesconi, followed by concerts across North America with Newsom. But she is performing for now without her father, a presence in her music since "The Pirate's Gospel," which was initially home-recorded and self-released. "He always feels like my dad, but in a lot of ways my dad is like a big kid. And I don't like being a boss!" she said. — AFP



Photo shows US singer-songwriter Alela Diane as she looks on during an interview in Paris. Indie folk singer Alela Diane last released an album amid full personal crisis, putting into verse a painful divorce. — AFP

## Cannes film fest laureate Jacques Audiard tackles western

After winning top honors at the Cannes Film Festival for his refugee movie, French filmmaker Jacques Audiard is now working on a western set during the California Gold Rush. "What I like about westerns and which you find in 'The Sisters Brothers,' is the birth of democracy, the end of savagery, where you leave your guns at the village entrance," Audiard told AFP. The director spoke in Los Angeles, where he was presenting "Dheepan," which captured the Palme d'Or prize at Cannes.

Audiard's new project is an adaptation of a book by Canadian author Patrick

deWitt, and recounts the story of two brothers—Eli and Charlie—hired to kill a prospector who has stolen from their boss. The story takes place in Oregon and California during the Gold Rush in 1851. "That period was incredibly savage," said the 63-year-old director, who hopes to begin filming what will be his first English-language project next summer.

"Nothing was off-limits then," he added. "One killed his father, mother, children, in the quest for money and I think this can resonate (with what we see happening in today's society)." The film will star US actor John C Reilly, whose production company bought the rights to the novel. "If I am able to push ahead, I will have a script by the end of December and shoot this summer," said Audiard, whose film credits include "The Beat That My Heart Skipped," "Rust and Bone" and "A Prophet." "Dheepan" is about a former Sri Lankan soldier's struggles in a French housing project after fleeing the separatist war.

Audiard, whose father Michel Audiard is also an acclaimed screenwriter and film director, said the prize had not particularly opened doors for him. "I always say that I am privileged and the Palme doesn't change much except that you suddenly find yourself part of a club that you always watched from afar," he said. And besides, Audiard added as he drew on a cigarette, the Cannes prize doesn't seem to impress much in Hollywood. "Over here what counts are the Golden Globes and the Oscars," he said. — AFP



French director/screenwriter Jacques Audiard poses for a portrait session, in West Hollywood, California. — AFP

## Sarandon boards Lamarr documentary

Susan Sarandon and Reframed Pictures are partnering with American Masters and Submarine on a documentary about Hedy Lamarr. "This is the story of a Hollywood actress, defined by her appearance, who is secretly a brilliant inventor and changes the course of history," said Sarandon. Alexandra Dean will direct the film with the working title "Hedy: The Untold Story of Actress and Inventor Hedy Lamarr." Katherine Drew and Adam Haggiag will produce, Sarandon and Michael Kantor will exec produce, and

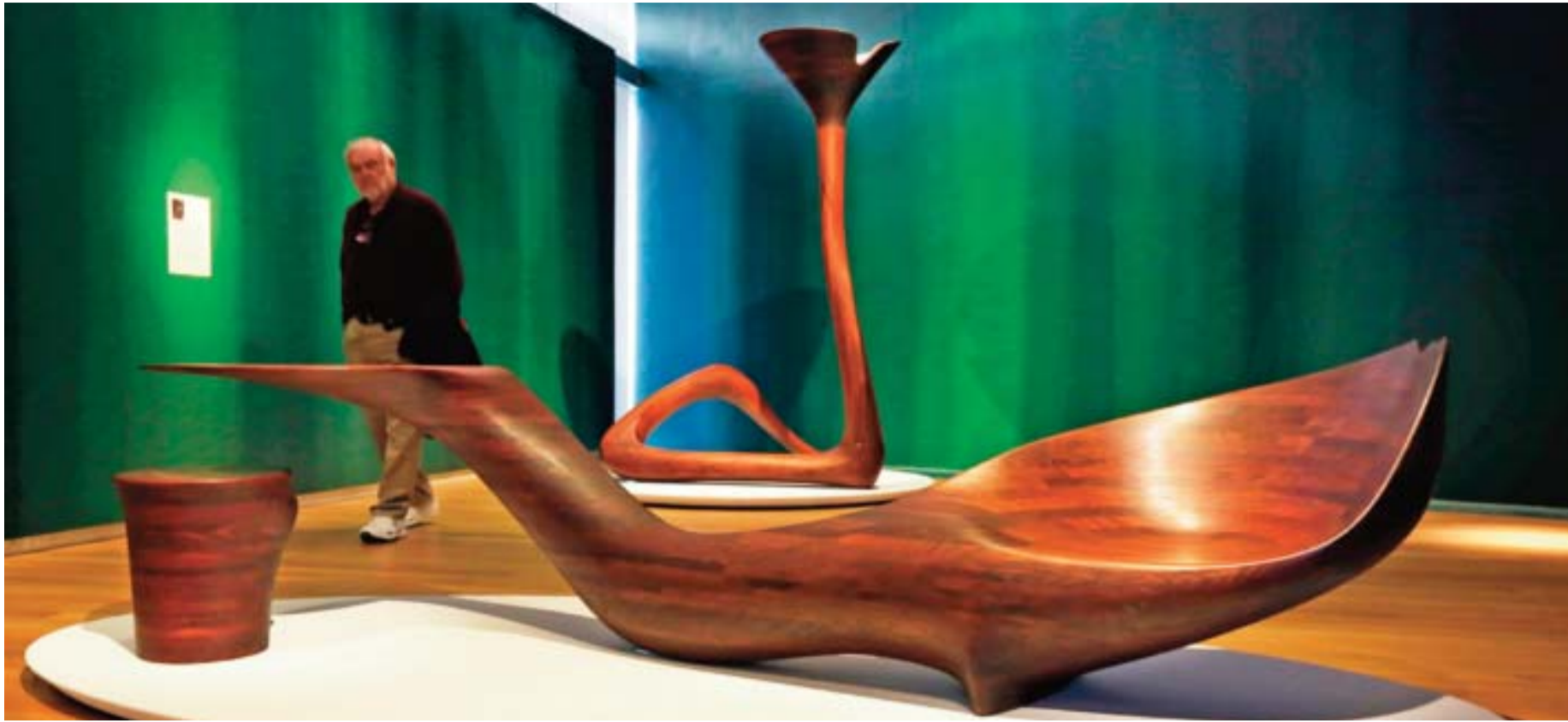


Susan Sarandon

David Koh and Dan Braun of Submarine will co-produce.

The film will be produced in association with Thirteen Productions LLC's American Masters for WNET, and have its exclusive US broadcast premiere on the "American Masters" series on PBS. The documentary received funding from the Alfred P Sloan Foundation. Lamarr, who would have turned 101 on Monday, is celebrated today with a Google doodle. Lamarr appeared nude at the age of 17 in the 1933 Czech film "Ecstasy" and later married a prominent Austrian businessman who became a weapons dealer to the Nazis. Lamarr, who was born Jewish, fled her husband in the middle of the night, boarding a boat for America with nothing to her name except a single designer gown. She eventually convinced MGM boss Louis B. Mayer to sign her to a deal.

She married six times. Lamarr was also a secret inventor who helped the Allies win the war with a wireless form of communication called "frequency hopping," which would go on to revolutionize communications all over the world. Submarine has pre-sold the German and Austrian rights to NFP Films; pan-Scandinavian rights to NonStop Entertainment; Canadian rights to Films We Like; and UK distribution rights and the rest of the world to Dogwoof. The deal was announced at the American Film Market. Submarine is representing theatrical and the rest of the rights, minus television, for the US. — Reuters



'Table-Chair-Stool,' foreground, and 'Serpentine Floor Lamp,' part of the Wendell Castle Remastered exhibit, are displayed at the Museum of Art and Design, in New York. The museum show explores the recent work of Wendell Castle, 83, sometimes called the father (or grandfather) of the American art furniture movement for pieces that are both sculpture and furniture. — AP photos

## WENDELL CASTLE NEW COLLECTION

Born in Kansas in 1932, Wendell Castle received a B.F.A. from the University of Kansas in Industrial Design in 1958 and an M.F.A. in sculpture, graduating in 1961. He moved to Rochester, New York to teach at the School of American Craftsmen and established a permanent studio in the area, which is where he still works today. Wendell Castle's work can be found in the permanent collections of more than 40 museums and cultural institutions worldwide, including: Art Institute of Chicago, (IL); Los Angeles County Museum of Art, (CA); the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, NY); Museum of Modern Art (New York, NY); Minneapolis Institute of Arts, (MN); Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal (Quebec, Canada); Museum of Arts and Design (New York, NY);

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, (MA); Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (TX); Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, (KS); Philadelphia Museum of Art (PA); Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; (Washington, DC); the Victoria & Albert Museum, London.

Castle has been the recipient of many honors and awards, including four National Endowment for the Arts grants, three honorary degrees, a Visionaries of the American Craft Movement Award from the American Craft Museum (1994), the American Craft Council Gold Medal (1997), Master of the Medium Award from The James Renwick Alliance of National Museum of American Art, (1999), and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brooklyn Museum of Art (2007). — AP



A display of the artist's creative process, is installed as part of the Wendell Castle Remastered exhibit.



'Runaway,' left, and 'Like a Dream,' part of the Wendell Castle Remastered exhibit.



Photo shows 'Walnut Sculpture,' 'Scribe's Stool,' and 'Stool,' from left, part of the Wendell Castle Remastered exhibit.



Visitors view part the Wendell Castle Remastered exhibit, including 'High Hopes,' foreground, at the Museum of Art and Design, in New York.



Dining Table," part of the Wendell Castle Remastered exhibit.



Examples of 'Cloud Shelf' and 'Benny,' part of the Wendell Castle Remastered exhibit.



'Remembering You,' part of the Wendell Castle Remastered exhibit.



"Suspended Disbelief," right, part of the Wendell Castle Remastered exhibit.

## Teen fashionistas on 'Project Runway Junior' make it work

Tim Gunn said he was apprehensive about participating in a bite-size version of "Project Runway" featuring teen designers as young as 13. "I thought," he recalled in a recent interview, "will I have to soft-pedal my critiques? Is it all going to be watered down? Are they going to be emotional wrecks and very fragile?" Gunn was pleasantly surprised by the freshman class on "Project Runway Junior," which premieres Thursday at 9 pm EST on Lifetime. And yes, he DOES employ his signature catchphrase: "Make it work!" The mentor, former educator at the Parsons design school and adult wrangler on the long-running "Project Runway" called the new show's young contestants lovable, sweet to each other and respectful of the process swirling around them.

That's saying a lot, considering the age range - 13 to 17 - among the 12 contestants from around the country. Gunn saw bits of his younger self in them all, as did his co-host, model Hannah Davis, and two of the three judges, Christian Siriano and Kelly Osbourne. Aya Kanai, the executive fashion editor at Cosmopolitan and Seventeen magazines, rounds out the judges' crew. "These young people ... are all loners. There's no one like them who comes home from school and plays with a sewing machine," Osbourne said. "They've been put in a room of their peers, with kids just like them, for the first time in their life." Gunn agreed.

### Accept responsibility

"For the boys on the show, you know they were the picked upon, bullied, odd people out in their schools, and yeah, I was that kid," he said. The 62-year-old Gunn recalled his own miserable childhood. Growing up in Washington, DC, he had a debilitating stutter that went untreated until he was 19. It was a time in his life when he was "coming to terms with the importance of being a responsible citizen of the world and not fleeing it, which is what I spent almost the first 20 years of my life doing." He saw none of that in the kids on the show.

"Compared to the designers on a regular season of 'Runway,' these teens ... accept responsibility for their actions," Gunn said. "There's never any factor that comes into their interaction with the judges or with me about why this isn't going as well as they had wanted it to go, versus regular 'Runway' when there's nothing but excuses." The entire cast got a high-level treat. The Dec. 10 episode will feature a video appearance by first lady Michelle Obama to announce a challenge supporting education for girls.

Bella Thorne is a guest judge for the final challenge. Siriano, Osbourne and Davis didn't put in the work room time with the kids like Gunn did and were shocked to learn they, like adult 'Runway' contestants, had no help, did the work themselves and produced designs quickly, over a tight span of 10 hours for some challenges.

### Mixed results

"It's almost cooler working with kids than adults because they were figuring it all out along the way," Davis said. Siriano added: "We were told to give them real criticism like they would get if they were presenting to an editor or to anyone else in the industry." Food TV and other networks have spun off adult competitions into kid versions with mixed results. "I think kids could just be a big flop," Gunn said. "There has to be some substance." They saw an abundance of that in the youngest contestant, 13-year-old Maya from Maumee, Ohio.

"She's amazing," Siriano said. "Everything she makes on the show is unreal." Cast through open auditions, the contestants competed for a full scholarship to one of the country's top design schools, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, and other prizes. Getting to a winner was gut-wrenching for the judges, considering children are involved. When they got down to the final six, emotions ran extra high, Gunn said. "The judges and I didn't want to eliminate anyone at that point and said, 'Can we just send all six of them forward to the finale? Please? Please!'" Producers nixed that idea, as they did Gunn's Plan B of trimming the final six to four by letting the two kids cut leave together, hand in hand. "With the grown-ups on 'Runway,'" Gunn said, "it's like, 'Don't let the door hit you on the way out!'" — AP



In this Saturday, Sept 12, 2015, file photo, designer Christian Siriano acknowledges the audience after his Spring 2016 collection show during Fashion Week in New York. — AP

# Weak ruble makes Russia more accessible for budget travel

The ruble's weak. The warnings about a complicated visa process were wrong, at least with a travel agency's help. And current geopolitical tensions make this a good time to temper headlines about Russia with everyday people and places. Consider the prices, at least outside the summer tourist rush: A round-trip air ticket between New York and the lovely St Petersburg this fall was less than \$600, and winter prices are looking about the same. Hostel beds start at around \$6. A balcony ticket to the ballet at the famous Mariinsky Theatre is about \$10. Tickets for most runs of the high-speed, four-hour train between St Petersburg and Moscow are around \$55.

Three weeks of exploring western Russia left me with the following impressions, along with a number of useful words and phrases. By the way, make the effort to learn the Cyrillic alphabet, which doesn't take long. It helps in getting adjusted and in buying tickets for the train, which is the best, and most social, way of getting around.

#### Gdye? (where?)

St Petersburg makes for a soft landing in Russia. Peter the Great's vision of a Europe-facing nation plays out here among the miles of canals, the fantastic art-filled Hermitage overlooking the Neva River and a younger generation more comfortable with the world abroad. The Soul Kitchen hostel, which overlooks one of the city's waterways, has both dorm and private rooms and thoughtful touches like freshly baked apple cake in the collective kitchen every morning and classical music playing in the bathroom. Highly recommended.

A nice surprise was Kaliningrad, a fragment of Russia tucked between Poland and Lithuania on the Baltic Sea for which I found same-day flights for as low as \$40 from Moscow. I easily filled a couple of days with a bus tour for about \$17 to the Curonian Spit, a fragile sand dune peninsula on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and with places like Kwartira, a cafe-art spot in an apartment building that would hold its own in Brooklyn. Don't be surprised if people try speaking to you in German, as Kaliningrad was once the German city of Königsberg.

#### Chto? (what?)

Art, more art, Orthodox churches, urban exploration and cherry dumplings. A bluff overlooking the Volga River is about as much altitude this part of Russia offers, so go for the culture instead of the sweeping views. Moscow has plenty to offer beyond its high-end shopping and nightclubs. Be prepared for long weekend lines of art lovers at both branches of the State Tretyakov Gallery. And there's always the Kremlin.

In St Petersburg, the Russian Museum is a worthy afternoon if the Hermitage left you wanting more, and the Erarta museum is a good collection of more modern art with the rare benefit of detailed descriptions in both Russian and English.



The Neva River waterfront in St Petersburg.

The word "hipster" has entered the Russian language - just aspirate the "h" and roll the "r" - and you can feel like one at places like the Red October cultural complex in Moscow or the Museum of Soviet Lifestyle in Kazan. The owner aspires to make the collection of late-Soviet-era cultural items a kind of Russian rock-and-roll hall of fame as well. Also in Kazan, as well as in Moscow and St Petersburg, you can fill your pocket with old 15-kopek coins and play at the Museum of Soviet Arcade Machines.

#### Pochemu? (why?)

Need more reasons to go? Consider the historic small town of Suzdal outside Moscow. The stunning changing skies over the Neva in St Petersburg. The Soviet-era "pishki" donuts and sweet coffee (25 rubles, or about 35 cents, a cup) at 25 Bolshaya Konushennaya in St. Petersburg. The caviar on but-

tered bread at the Mariinsky Theatre. The chandeliers. Your first view of Red Square from the Resurrection Gate.

The inexpensive but classy stolovaya, or cafeteria, at the lavish GUM department store in Moscow. The ubiquitous color red, from meaty borscht to creaky-old trams. The collection of old Soviet statues in the park near the new Tretyakov gallery in Moscow. The honey-spiced hot drink called sbiten. The old Lada cars here and there. Near-strangers gifting you books.

#### Kogda? (when?)

If you're a budget traveler, fall and winter are when you'll find bargains. Of course that also means bundling up in gloves and down jacket. Hot drinks and ever-warming drinks help too. Hard-core travelers wrap themselves in blankets to cruise the St Petersburg canals on the decks of small boats in fall

and at night as well. Being near the sea keeps St Petersburg and Kaliningrad temperatures more moderate than places like Kazan and Nizhny Novgorod in the interior. — AP



Photo shows the Hermitage in St Petersburg, Russia.

### If you go ...

It's useful to download free apps like SpeakEasy Russian and iTranslate, add a Russian-language keyboard to your smartphone and even get a Russian SIM card to stay online and benefit from Google Translate. Most locals appreciate the effort.



Photo shows a church under dark skies in Vladimir, Russia, with crosses silhouetted atop a cluster of onion domes.



Photo shows souvenirs, including the famous Russian nesting dolls, for sale in St Petersburg, Russia. — AP photos



A subway station in St Petersburg, Russia.

## Heritage tourism: Using travel to explore roots and culture

Luong La's family fled the communist regime in Vietnam in 1979. Now a father of three living in Santa Barbara, California, he and his wife decided they wanted to spend one of their family vacations bringing the kids back to his native country to learn about it. So they spent a month on a heritage tourism trip to the Southeast Asian country to visit not just traditional tourist sites but also the places where he had grown up in the Mekong Delta.

"My husband thought that by seeing the places he had grown up in, the kids would have a better understanding of him," said Luong's wife, Michelle Robin La. "My husband's extended family keeps their heritage alive in America with food, language and celebrations like the Lunar New Year. By traveling in Vietnam for a month we immersed the kids in the place these traditions came from." Their family trip to Vietnam is an example of heritage tourism, which The National Trust for Historic Preservation defines as traveling to experience a place, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present.

#### Authentic experiences

Heritage tourism sites can be as varied as a revitalized downtown or a Civil War trail. "For a number of years, the idea was to build interstates and get people to where they're going and then people gradually began to realize they were missing out on something - authentic experiences," said Carolyn Brackett with The National Trust for Historic Preservation's Cultural Heritage Program. "And that's a word that we hear over and over that people want a feeling of authenticity, meaning they want a sense of place."

As travelers became more interested in authentic experiences, communities and officials are taking notice, asking what they can do to share their story, Brackett said. A 2013 national survey conducted by Mandala Research showed that 76 percent of all leisure travelers in the US will take part in some sort of cultural or heritage activity while they are traveling, Brackett said. That translates to 130 million people.

Tourism boards and sites are taking note. In Oklahoma, the state's Tourism and Recreation Department has released a guide and web portal about the state's African-American histo-

ry and heritage sites. The Texas Historical Commission has released a free 100-page guide showcasing the state's Hispanic heritage sites. Aside from well-known destinations like the Alamo, the Texas guide, which is organized by geographic regions and was released in May, includes off-the-beaten path sites as well, said Chris Florance, spokesman for the Texas Historical Commission. "The Hispanic cultures have left their imprint on the state for 500 years, and it has impacted almost every aspect of Texas culture - certainly our history, architecture, music. It's just such a vital and important part of our history and where we are today and where we're going as a state," he said. The commission has also released a mobile app so visitors can access thematic tours, including one focused on African-American heritage sites in Texas.

#### Family's heritage

"There's an enormous interest in heritage tourism. It's a really important part of Texas' tourist economy," he said, adding that an economic impact study found that about 10 percent of travel in Texas is related to cultural heritage. Maresa Thompson has

taken several trips based around cultural heritage, most notably a trip to Ireland and England to see stone formations and other ancient sites. Thompson's ancestors were Queen Victoria's Irish bodyguards, she said, and she describes herself as being more interested in museums, history and culture than in other types of sightseeing.

Thompson's grandfather emigrated from Czechoslovakia and she next hopes to take a trip to the region to learn more about that part of her family's heritage. "All travel enriches your life, but the contrived travel - the Vegas and the Disneyland and all of that - just doesn't appeal to me as much as it does really thinking I have ancestors or people in my lineage who came and possibly could have stayed here before," said Thompson, who lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is the creative director for Heritage Hotels & Resorts, a group of hotels that showcase New Mexico's history, art and culture. "I think it's just a deeper, holistic experience for travel." — AP



This 2007 photo provided by Michelle Robin La shows her, rear left, with her husband Luong La and their three children at the Citadel in Hue, Vietnam. — AP photos



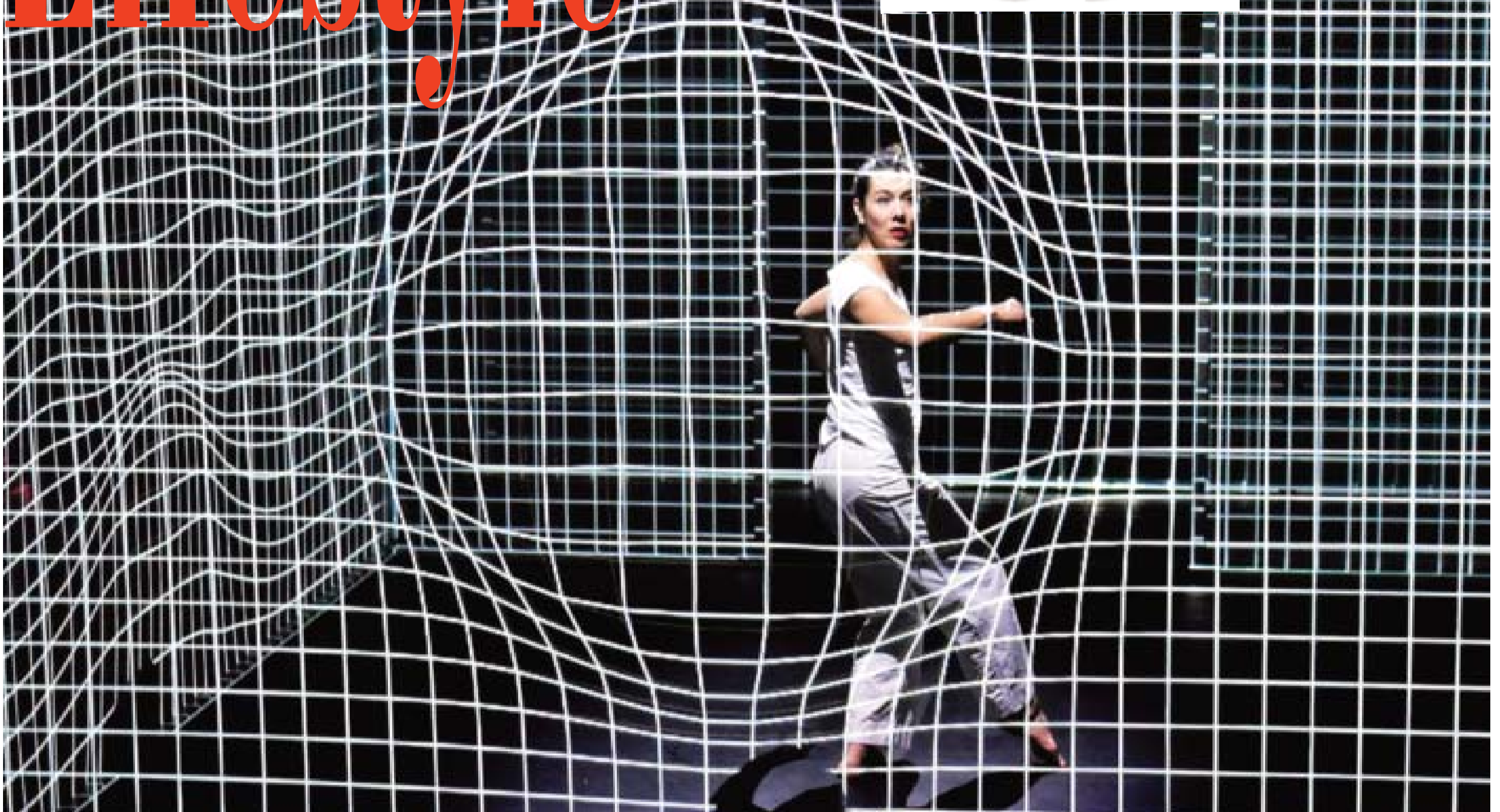
In this October 2011 photo provided by Maresa Thompson, Thompson examines a stone circle in Cornwall, United Kingdom.

# Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015

Weak ruble makes Russia more accessible for budget travel

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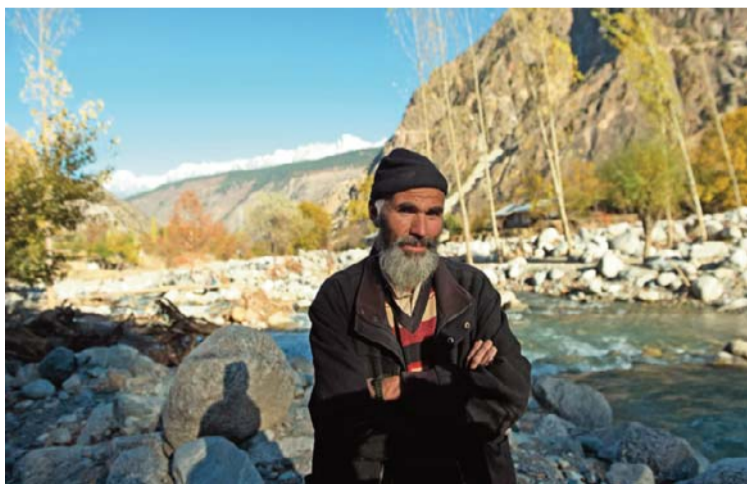
A dancer of Adrien M / Claire B Company from France performs during the 2nd International Dance Biennial of Cali, yesterday in Cali, department of Valle del Cauca, Colombia. 26 Colombian companies and 12 international companies with 800 dancers will perform from November 6 to 11 in Cali. — AFP



Kalash girl Diana walks at her house in the Brun village in Bumburate valley. — AFP photos



Kalash activist Luke Rehmat speaks during an interview with AFP.



Shaikh Abdul Rehman, a Kalash resident who converted to Islam, speaks during an interview with AFP.

## Blaming the Kalash for calamity in northwest Pakistan

Conservative Muslims in Pakistan's northwest are blaming the animist Kalash for a powerful earthquake that flattened entire villages in October, claiming their immoral ways provoked Allah's wrath, in the latest attack on a diminishing tribe fighting to keep its identity alive. Residents of Chitral district are still reeling from the 7.5 magnitude quake, which ripped through Afghanistan and Pakistan killing more than 390 people and leveling thousands of homes. It came just three months after floods also devastated Chitral, leaving thousands of families camping in the open as winter approaches.

Chitral's verdant, plunging valleys have long attracted tourists for their natural beauty and their brush with legend as the home of the ancient, polytheistic Kalash, many of whom are fair with light-coloured eyes. Pakistan's smallest religious minority, they speak their own language and celebrate their gods through music, dance and alcohol, which they brew themselves for rituals and consumption, but many Muslims in the region feel Allah, angered by such un-Islamic practices, has smited the region with natural disasters.

"People are saying that the earthquake came because of the Kalash," says student Shira Bibi, who spoke to AFP in the village of Brun, nestled in the Bumburate area of the valleys. Shira's direct gaze and confident, melodic way of speaking are typical of Kalash women but distinctive in conservative, patriarchal Pakistan. Her face is uncovered and her clothing, a deep black, is intricately embroidered across the shoulders, as is the wide belt slung across her waist. Her long, dark hair is braided beneath a beaded headpiece in the traditional Kalash style. Shira, who studies at a college in Chitral town some 100 kilometres (60 miles) away, came back to Brun after the quake.

"An old man in Chitral town said 'Look, daughter,

don't walk around like that, don't you see earthquakes are striking, floods are coming, because of you?'" Shira said. "I was wearing Kalash dress when he said this. People keep saying things like that."

### The 'superior religion'

Academics have speculated the Kalash might be descended from the ancient Middle East or even from soldiers of Alexander the Great's army, which conquered the area in the fourth century BC. Centuries ago they ruled Chitral but now they are a minority in the valleys, with their population reduced to just a third of the 12,000 residents, according to the Kalash Peoples Development Network (KPDN), a local organization. KPDN chair Luke Rehmat said the Kalash are being subjected to "institutional conversion".

"The Kalash people are being discouraged in society and told to get rid of their religion in a systematic way," he said. Until this year, Kalash was not recognized as a religion under the National Database and Registration Authority, and Rehmat says that in schools Kalash are given no alternative to Islamic studies. "In other parts of Pakistan non-Muslims have ethics as a subject in lieu of Islamic studies, but here the students have no choice." Teachers in Kalash tell the students that Islam is a "superior religion", he said, branding it "brainwashing".

"Ultimately when they grow up, they don't have knowledge of their own Kalash culture and traditions, religions. And they are turning to other sides." Up to 100 Kalash have converted to Islam in the past few years, according to Rehmat, sometimes causing a strange family dynamic. Diana Bibi, who lives in Brun, has an elder sister who converted to Islam and married in Peshawar. Now her sibling wears a niqab even when visiting her parents in Kalash, and refuses to attend the family's religious ceremonies. "It's a big problem," Diana said. Asked

if she might also convert, Diana giggles: "Yes! I will go to heaven and have 70 virgins."

### Suffering for Kalash sins

Osama Ahmad Warraich, Chitral deputy commissioner, denies any Kalash are being forced to become Muslim. "They are basically poor people belonging to a low income group and people from other parts of the country give them money to convert," he tells AFP in particular, "rich Muslims who want to marry Kalash girls". He also says the government is carrying out a number of local projects to help preserve Kalash culture, including donating land for a graveyard and recognizing their economic potential. "We are trying to revive tourism in the region by preserving the Kalash culture as it's the best tourist attraction in the country," he says.

Zafar, a Kalash who goes by only one name, said not all Muslims in the valleys blame his tribe for the disasters. "The trend of discouraging Kalash people from practicing their faith is very old and I would not blame all Muslims for it, neither do all the Muslims here see the Kalash as being behind all the doom and destruction," he said. However villager Nazai Gai said locals will not stop blaming his fellow Kalash for the disasters. "Three months back Allah saw the Kalash practicing their faith and there was a flood, then he saw them again and there was an earthquake. In a month he will see them again and there will be a blizzard in the valley," he said with a sardonic grin. Later adding quizzically: "Why would Allah make Muslims suffer for the sins of the Kalash?" -AFP



Kalash residents drive towards the Bumburate valley.



Muslim devotees offer Friday prayers at a mosque.



Kalash girl Shira Bibi, 20, walks from her house in the Brun village.



Kalash girl Diana poses for a photograph at her house in the Brun village.